Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-205

Proposal Title: Spring Lake Park Reserve- Indigenous Messaging Plan Implementation

Project Manager Information

Name: Autumn Hubbell

Organization: Dakota County

Office Telephone: (651) 554-6536

Email: autumn.hubbell@co.dakota.mn.us

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Install interpretive signage in SLPR to acknowledge Dakota and Indigenous sacred sites, share Indigenous history and stories, and educate visitors about the park's cultural and ecological significance.

ENRTF Funds Requested: $316,000

Proposed Project Completion: March 31, 2030

LCCMR Funding Category: Education and Outdoor Recreation (C)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): Metro

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): Metro

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Spring Lake Park Reserve (SLPR) is a 1,100-acre regional park located in the City of Rosemount and Nininger Township. With 5 miles of Mississippi River shoreline, rare ecosystems, and expansive views, SLPR is a destination with local, regional, state, and national significance. SLPR is within the NPS Mississippi River National River Recreation Area; host to local, regional, state, and national trails and greenways including the Mississippi River Greenway (MRG); and a member of the Minnesota State Bison Conservation Herd and part of the Mississippi Flyway, a migratory corridor for 40% of North America's waterfowl and shorebirds.

SLPR contains Dakota sacred spaces and is a significant historic and enduring cultural site. Dakota County has developed goals and designs to honor these sites, spaces, and histories where appropriate throughout the reserve in the SLPR Messaging Plan, created in partnership with a Dakota Advisory Group of community leaders and educators and informed by the SLPR Master Plan. Through this grant, the County seeks to improve the park user experience and address the lack of acknowledgement for Dakota sacred places within the Reserve using interpretive signage that shares local Indigenous stories and teaches about the connected human and environmental history of the space.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

This grant will fund the finalization, fabrication, and installation of interpretive messaging throughout the SLPR. Finalization of the design and content of the interpretive messaging will be completed in collaboration with Dakota community members and the Dakota Advisory Group of Dakota community leaders and educators.
With an overall focus on acknowledging Dakota and Indigenous sacred places in SLPR, this project will highlight two key messaging themes:
• Caring for relatives: Acknowledging and understanding caves and mounds as sacred burial sites, and identifying native plant species
• Dakota connections: Recognizing the region's cultural significance and sharing authentic history and stories

The physical messaging elements that would be funded by this grant are:
•Park Kiosk Adaptations
•Teaching Stones
•Story Thread Trail Markers

This signage will recognize the sacred Indigenous landscape and highlight its history and ongoing cultural caretaking. Signage is designed to uplift Indigenous stories and sites within the context of the region, existing park features, and ongoing plantings and restoration efforts, with messaging written in English and Dakota languages. A complete summary of the feature designs and messaging are included in the SLPR Messaging Plan and Schematic Design Package which is included as a supplemental attachment to this application.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

- Acknowledge and identify sacred spaces of significance to the Dakota and Indigenous community when appropriate within SLPR
- Engage and educate park visitors about the interwoven human and ecological history of the area and share local Indigenous stories with interactive and memorable interpretive messaging installations, including 8 park kiosk adaptations, 6 teaching stones, and 5 story thread trail markers.
- Preserve natural and cultural spaces of significance to the Dakota community, such as sacred burial sites, by informing park users of proper etiquette and appropriate behavior around these sites.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Final design of interpretive signage

Activity Budget: $105,000

Activity Description:
The objective of this activity is to finalize the design and content for the interpretive messaging within SLPR, including the park kiosk adaptations, story thread trail markers, and teaching stones. This activity includes content development of the final English text, acquisition of artwork, photos, or other graphics, and translation to the Dakota language. Dakota County Staff will continue to work with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and Dakota partners as the final sign content is developed. This activity includes up to four virtual meetings and one site visit with up to four Dakota partners/advisors.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
RFP for services	December 31, 2027
Finalize content and design for signage	December 31, 2028
SHPO consultation	January 31, 2029

Activity 2: Production and installation of interpretive signage

Activity Budget: $211,000

Activity Description:
The objective of this activity is to produce and install the signage that was finalized in Activity 1. Dakota County will work with a contractor to complete this activity which includes the base/hardware fabrication, the production of direct embed graphic boxes, folded direct embed panels, and direct embed panels, landscape interventions, and the installation of the signage itself. Once complete, this activity will result in 8 park kiosk adaptations, 5 story thread trail markers, and 6 teaching stones.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
All construction funds legally secured	January 31, 2029
Advertisement for bid	February 28, 2029
Construction contractor selected	April 30, 2029
Construction, oversight, and administration begins	May 31, 2029
Signage installed with ENRTF logo	November 30, 2029
Construction, oversight, and administration ends	December 31, 2029
Project close-out with notice of funding restriction recorded	March 31, 2030

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Rita Trapp	HKGi	Grant Writing Assistance	No
Beth Richmond	HKGi	Grant Writing Assistance	No
Ryan Kadet	HKGi	Grant Writing Assistance	No

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.
Information about this project and ENRTF funding will be presented on Dakota County's parks website, during interpretive programs, with interested media, and to natural resource and land management professionals using either the ENRTF logo or attribution language. In addition, Dakota County will acknowledge grant funding and display the ENRTF logo on select interpretive features.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?
The elements of this grant will be accomplished through full construction as proposed. Additional capital improvements identified will be funded through the annual capital improvement budgeting process. Long-term maintenance and management of the restoration and improvements will be performed by the Dakota County Parks and Facilities Department as part of the County's ongoing management program. These activities are funded by tax levy and external grant funding.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Reintroducing Bison to Spring Lake Park Reserve	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08q	$560,000
Completing the Mississippi River Greenway: Dakota County	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 08h	$657,000
Spring Lake Park Reserve Restoration and River Access	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 09g	$2,925,000
Cannon River Preservation and Access	M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	$2,717,000
Lake Byllesby Regional Park Restoration and Recreation	M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i	$1,120,000
Thompson County Park Restoration and Accessibility Improvements	M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09j	$867,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Autumn Hubbell

Job Title: Outdoor Education Supervisor

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.
Autumn Hubbell has been with Dakota County in the Parks department for nineteen years and is currently the Outdoor Education Supervisor. She supervises both guided environmental education and recreation programming and self-guided interpretation within the parks and greenway system. Autumn has a B.S. from the University of Minnesota College of Natural Resources in Environment and Natural Resources, focusing on Environmental Education, as well as a B.A. from St. Olaf College in History and Psychology. She is a National Association for Interpretation Certified Interpretive Planner. Autumn has been planning, designing, and implementing interpretive projects for Dakota County for twelve years, including as project manager for 7 projects grant funded through the Minnesota History and Cultural Heritage large and small grant program, also Legacy funded.

Organization: Dakota County

Organization Description:
Located in the southeast corner of the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul area, the Dakota County Park System serves the state's third most populous county. With more than 6,000 acres and a rapidly growing network of greenways, Dakota County Parks is a nature-based system that exists to help meet the needs of over 400,000 county residents. Dakota County Parks has an active and professional capital development program that oversees park development to provide residents with facilities to enable natural resource-based recreation, a natural resource program that is restoring, maintaining, and enhancing thousands of acres of prairie, forest and woodland, and a professional outdoor education program that manages and interprets the cultural sites within the Dakota County Park System.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	**-**
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Service Contract	This service contract is for the development of the final design and shop drawings of the interpretive messaging features, including content development, graphics acquisition, and language translation.				0		$105,000
TBD	Service Contract	This service contract is for the production and installation of the interpretive messaging features.				0		$80,800
							Sub Total	**$185,800**
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	**-**
Capital Equipment								
		8 kiosk adaptations with ENRTF logo	Inform and educate the public	X				$67,200
		5 trail markers with ENRTF logo	Inform and educate the public	X				$31,500
		6 teaching stones with ENRTF logo	Inform and educate the public	X				$31,500
							Sub Total	**$130,200**
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	**-**
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	**-**

Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	**-**
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	**-**
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	**-**
							Grand Total	**$316,000**

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Capital Equipment		8 kiosk adaptations with ENRTF logo	The kiosk adaptations include the interpretive messaging signage outlined in this project and the necessary mounting hardware. **Additional Explanation :** The kiosk adaptations will be permanently installed in the park through their entire useful life.
Capital Equipment		5 trail markers with ENRTF logo	The trail markers include the interpretive messaging signage outlined in this project and the necessary mounting hardware. **Additional Explanation :** The trail markers will be permanently installed in the park for their entire useful life.
Capital Equipment		6 teaching stones with ENRTF logo	The teaching stones include the interpretive messaging signage outlined in this project and the necessary mounting hardware. **Additional Explanation :** The teaching stones will be permanently installed in the park for their entire useful life.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	**-**
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	**-**
			Funds Total	**-**

Total Project Cost: $316,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: ac38a333-7f1.pdf

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Map of SLPR showing the locations of the kiosk adaptations, story thread trail and markers, and teaching stones area within the reserve boundary and along the Mississippi River Greenway....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report	5b0ec387-057.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Dakota County Board Resolution	dc8eee7b-5c6.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
SLPR Master Plan	3898b718-0a6.pdf
SLPR Interpretive Features Schematic Design Package	17b81e41-ca3.pdf
SLPR Interpretive Messaging Plan	40a283ac-f84.pdf
Project Summary	d915845e-4b1.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing $10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Autumn Hubbell, Beth Richmond, Ryan Kadet

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand