



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-495

Proposal Title: Enhancing Mississippi River Access in North Minneapolis

Project Manager Information

Name: Adam Arvidson

Organization: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Office Telephone: (612) 230-6470

Email: aarvidson@minneapolisparcs.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This project will accelerate implementation of a community-driven vision plan for North Mississippi Regional Park, helping to connect underserved neighborhoods to the river and a variety of enhanced landscape types.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$1,852,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 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?

In the Future

Narrative

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

North Mississippi Regional Park attracts 350,000+ visitors each year, serves the north metro, and is adjacent to Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACP) with 50% or more of the residents below the poverty line. It is the primary access point to the Mississippi River in North Minneapolis. The park features a variety of intact ecosystems, and through the Kroening Nature Center delivers immersive, hands-on nature experiences to thousands of youth and adults each year. Program participants might search for macroinvertebrates, investigate native mussels, or learn the fundamentals of fishing. These experiences nurture curiosity, environmental literacy, and the next generation of park stewards.

However, access to the river shoreline is currently for the agile and able-bodied. Physical barriers to the river include challenging grades, steep slopes, and uneven terrain. Informal trails and river access points create erosion and fragmentation of habitat. For some visitors, natural, unmanicured landscapes with dirt trails do not feel welcoming or invite safe exploration. Furthermore, the entire park is disconnected from nearby neighborhoods by Interstate 94, with only a few dark tunnels and roadway bridges providing access between north Minneapolis and the state's greatest river.

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.

Beginning in 2024, MPRB has been working with community to create a new long-range vision for the regional park. Extensive community engagement is leading to new ideas for how to connect neighborhoods to the river and enhance the diverse ecology in the park. This planning work will be complete in 2026, and MPRB has allocated funding to immediately implement selected elements. By adding ENRTF funding, MPRB can dramatically accelerate the plan's implementation.

Though the vision is not yet final, the general direction for the park is becoming clear. Improvements are likely to include accessible features such as boardwalks, floating platforms, docks, and outdoor classrooms. New and enhanced connections to neighborhoods will bring people more easily into contact with the river and its adjacent woodlands, prairies, and wetlands. Opportunities to fish, paddle, bike, and walk will be improved, with wayfinding throughout, so those new to natural spaces can feel confident and safe.

When MPRB transitions from the planning process to implementation, it will continue to engage the community around what elements of the plan should be built first. With ENRTF funding, the community will be able to select almost twice as many improvements to accessibility, ecological enhancement, and recreational opportunities.

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?

Guided by the forthcoming long-range vision plan, all the specific improvements built in the park will remove barriers to accessing the Mississippi River and its associated ecosystems. This is important because the park largely serves neighborhoods that have been cut off from the River for decades. Implementation will enhance the forest, prairie, wetland, and shoreline in the park, and protect them from human use through clear wayfinding, pathways, and boardwalks. This will extend project benefits to the plants, mammals, insects, and reptiles that call the area home, and the numerous birds that use the Mississippi flyway.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Long-Range and Restoration Planning and Design

Activity Budget: \$1,000

Activity Description:

MPRB will hire a landscape architecture professional through a competitive process and work with them to prepare community-engaged long-range plan for North Mississippi Regional Park, under requirements set forth by the Metropolitan Council. Subsequent to MPRB and Met Council approval, which will take place prior to and outside of the LCCMR request, MPRB and its selected design consultant will prepare construction plans for the totality of the project scope, as determined through community engagement. The construction plans will be publicly bid. The construction plans will be prepared using MPRB's matching funds and will be largely complete in advance of LCCMR funding availability, which allows for an acceleration of expenditure of LCCMR funds. As part of this activity, MPRB will lead the consultation process with applicable state and federal agencies as deemed necessary by the project scope. Construction permitting bridges this activity and Activity 2. A very limited ENRTF budget is provided for this Activity because it will be entirely match-funded (the on-line system requires a number be entered here), and many milestones will pre-date funding availability.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Selection of Design Professional	December 31, 2023
Completion of community engagement	July 31, 2026
Completion of Community-Engaged Long-Range Park Plan	September 30, 2026
Environmental Site Assessment Completed	December 31, 2026
Complete Predesign Review through the Department of Administration	February 28, 2027
Completion of Construction Plans for Bidding	May 31, 2027
Permits secured	May 31, 2027

Activity 2: Site Preparation and Construction

Activity Budget: \$1,850,000

Activity Description:

The construction phase will include the hiring of a construction contractor through the public bidding process. Following construction contract award by the MPRB Board of Commissioners, permitting and construction mobilization will commence. The contractor will complete the construction under the observation of the MPRB hired consultant and MPRB staff that will oversee construction administration activities. Specific tasks will be refined once a final overall construction scope is determined, based on priorities developed from the long range planning process. All administrative and consulting costs will be paid from MPRB's matching funding, leaving LCCMR funds to be directed to construction tasks only. This activity will also include final permitting from applicable local, state, and federal agencies.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction Contract Award with Construction Funds Legally Secured	July 31, 2027
Construction Commencement	August 31, 2027
ENRTF signage/logo installed	August 31, 2027
Completion of Construction Work	October 31, 2028
Notification of Funding Restriction (NOFR) recorded	October 31, 2028

Site Opens for Intended Use	December 31, 2028
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Activity 3: Ongoing Monitoring

Activity Budget: \$1,000

Activity Description:

Though the exact project scope is unknown at this time, it is likely that the work will include landscape restoration activities, plant installation, and other ecological enhancement tasks. At the completion of this work, a baseline plant survey and aquatic biota survey (if applicable) will take place after germination in the first growing season after construction. The area will be monitored for health and diversity for three years after construction, with annual surveys taking place for that same duration. The construction contractor will be responsible for maintenance and management of plant material for the first three years. This timeline extends beyond the grant request window, but it will be managed by MPRB natural resources staff and the hired contractor. The information gained from these studies will be made public on the MPRB website. A very limited ENRTF budget is provided for this Activity because it will be entirely match-funded (the on-line system requires a number be entered here).

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Post-Construction Plant Survey	May 31, 2029
Commencement of Annual Plant Health Surveys and Ongoing Monitoring	May 31, 2029

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.

MPRB performs significant community engagement alongside any capital improvement project, and this work will be no different. Multiple electronic notices, a project website, meetings with stakeholders, flyers, and attendance at local events and gatherings will inform the community about the project and solicit input on design elements. During construction, on-site signage will describe the project. All digital, print, and on-site materials will include the ENRTF logo, as required under state statute. Information on plant and animal surveys will be maintained on the project website for public view, then archived at MPRB to be available on request. Permanent signs will be installed on site acknowledging ENRTF. The type and placement of these signs is yet to be determined at this early project stage.

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?

Long term maintenance and management will be performed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board as part of its overall asset management and natural resources maintenance programs. Such activities do include paid staff work, volunteers, and partnerships with nonprofit organizations. Maintenance and management activities are funded by the MPRB tax levy and are supported by the state and Metropolitan Council through regional parks operations and maintenance (O&M) funding. Additional work necessary after initial construction will be covered by the contractor's warranty and will not require additional funding. A

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Invasive Carp Management Research in Lake Nokomis Subwatershed	M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 06g	\$189,000
Expanding Nature Knowledge and Experience with New Interactive Exhibits at North Mississippi Regional Park	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 05h	\$500,000
Above The Falls Regional Park Acquisition	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09q	\$950,000
Bohemian Flats Savanna Restoration	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 08i	\$286,000
Bioblitz Urban Parks: Engaging Communities in Scientific Efforts	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05h	\$198,000
Enhancing Habitat Connectivity within the Urban Mississippi Flyway	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08p	\$190,000
Above the Falls Park Acquisition and Restoration Planning	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09m	\$1,376,000
Shingle Creek Aquatic and Shoreline Habitat Enhancement	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 08l	\$1,100,000
Minnehaha Park South Plateau Oak Savanna Restoration	M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08p	\$242,000
Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement at Minneapolis Lakes	M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08r	\$819,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Adam Arvidson

Job Title: Director of Strategic Planning

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Mr. Arvidson is MPRB's Director of Strategic Planning, in which role he is responsible for large-scale planning of public lands. He is a registered landscape architect with 20+ years of experience in the public and private sector and has worked on numerous habitat and environment projects, including several funded through LCCMR and the Lessard-Sams Council.

Organization: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Organization Description:

With 185 park properties totaling more than 7,000 acres of land and water, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) provides places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment. Each year, more than 20 million visits are made to the nationally acclaimed Minneapolis park system. Its urban forests, natural areas, and waters endure and captivate. Its Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway, neighborhood parks, recreation centers, and diversified programming have made the Minneapolis park system an important component of what makes Minneapolis a great place to live, play and work.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Construction Contractor to be determined	Service Contract	Contractor will be selected by competitive bid and will perform all construction work, as directed by the approved construction plans. Contractor and hired sub-contractors will provide site preparation, planting, erosion control, and other construction tasks.				0		\$1,852,000
							Sub Total	\$1,852,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Equipment								
							Sub Total	-
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	\$1,852,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
Cash	Parks and Trails Legacy Funds, granted to MPRB by state formula	MPRB will utilize Parks and Trails Legacy Funds to complete a new long-range plan for North Mississippi Regional Park, and then to construct priority recreational opportunities from that plan to better connect park users and north Minneapolis residents to the benefits of the Mississippi River.	Secured	\$3,260,271
			State Sub Total	\$3,260,271
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	\$3,260,271

Total Project Cost: \$5,112,271

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [37556ba1-08b.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

The boundary of North Mississippi Regional Park, shaded in green, over an aerial photograph of the area....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
2024 MPRB Audit Report	2ea2c44a-4a0.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
MPRB Resolution 2026-22	b35fc820-4d9.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
North Mississippi Regional Park Plan initial concepts	ad088203-454.pdf
Budget Addendum	5b965528-42d.pdf
Capital Construction Project Questionnaire	22acee86-c29.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?

Yes

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:

none

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