



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-498

Proposal Title: Ecological Riverbank Restoration at St. Anthony Falls

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 restores approximately 850 linear feet of degraded, low habitat shoreline upstream of the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock, extending restoration at the lock by Owámniyomni Okhódayapi.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$290,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2030

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (G)

Secondary Category: Land (F)

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.

St. Anthony Falls, known to Dakota people as Owámniyomni, has evolved in profound ways since the arrival of Europeans. Once the fastest eroding waterfall in the world, its power fueled the development of Minneapolis, and it became industrial infrastructure. Today, the area is returning toward the natural origin of the falls, with greenspace flanking the waterways and native grassland being re-established on the slopes of the gorge. Yet, until the recent closure of the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock, the shoreline along the west bank of the Mississippi River was inaccessible due to the danger of the lock operations and the hydraulic vortex created in the lock's lagoon. Fencing currently precludes access, and the landscape is dominated by turfgrass, non-native vegetation, and steep slopes. Erosion impacts river water quality, and turfgrass encourages the proliferation of Canada geese, who foul the land and water.

In a groundbreaking move, the Federal government will transfer some land around the lock to the Dakota-led non-profit organization Owámniyomni Okhódayapi (O.O.). The area around the lock will become a mosaic of Dakota and MPRB lands, and these two entities are collaborating to create a cohesive ecological vision of the Mississippi shoreline.

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.

With the elimination of navigation at the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock, MPRB will pursue a restoration of the west bank of Mississippi River between the lock and the Third Avenue Bridge. The project intends to transform approximately 850 linear feet of the highly disturbed riverbank. This project is being designed in coordination with and will extend the landscape restoration being undertaken by Owámniyomni Okhódayapi (O.O.). The parkland will support education and awareness of Dakota cultural and spiritual practices, including employing concepts used by O.O. in its reimagining of the lands at the locks. Work will be closely coordinated with O.O. to create a continuous landscape and cultural experience for visitors to the area.

On MPRB lands and with match funding from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO), this project will soften grades adjacent to the river, restore an original ecosystem, and set the table for possible future recreational access to the river, once that is considered fully safe. In coordination with O.O., this MPRB project will constitute one portion of a larger, privately funded restoration effort extending downstream past and beyond the lock.

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?

This project will address active erosion along the river and provide habitat for numerous animal species, including mammals, birds, insects, and other pollinators. It will create an even more beautiful and varied experience for the millions that enjoy the area around Owámniyomni / St. Anthony Falls every year. It will also set the table for future direct access to the river in a location that has been inaccessible for recreation for nearly a century due to the operations of the lock. The continuity between the MPRB and O.O. projects will expand the overall benefits of ENRTF funding.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Restoration Planning

Activity Budget: \$60,000

Activity Description:

MPRB will hire an ecological restoration professional through a competitive process and work with them to prepare a restoration plan for the site. The restoration plan will become part of the construction plans for the project that will be publicly bid (Activity 2). The restoration plan will guide all construction, the process for ongoing monitoring, and long-term maintenance. Construction plans will be prepared by MPRB staff and will be based on the restoration plan. 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.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Selection of Restoration Professional	September 30, 2027
Environmental Site Assessment	November 30, 2027
Completion of Restoration Plan	December 31, 2027
Consultation with MN State Historic Preservation Office	December 31, 2027
Completion of Construction Plans for Bidding	February 28, 2028
Permits secured	March 31, 2028

Activity 2: Site Preparation and Construction

Activity Budget: \$229,000

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 restoration under the observation of the MPRB hired consultant and MPRB staff that will oversee Construction Administration activities. Construction will likely include one year of site preparation to remove established turf grass and other invasive species, with seeding and planting taking place in the second year. Demobilization from the site will occur when the contractor has completed the Work as described in the bidding documents. This activity will also include final permitting from applicable local, state, and federal agencies.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction Contract Award with All Construction Funds Legally Secured	March 31, 2028
Construction Commencement	May 31, 2028
ENRTF signage/logo installed	May 31, 2028
Completion of Site Preparation	June 30, 2028
Completion of Plant Installation	October 31, 2028
Notification of Funding Restriction (NOFR) recorded	October 31, 2028
Site Open for Intended Use	April 30, 2029

Activity 3: Ongoing Monitoring

Activity Budget: \$1,000

Activity Description:

A baseline plant survey will take place after germination in the first growing season after construction. The only existing plant material on site is mown turf grass so a pre-construction survey is not necessary. The area will be monitored for plant health and diversity for three years after construction, with annual plant surveys taking place for that same duration. Initial survey work will be performed by the same consultant hired by MPRB under a competitive process to create the restoration plan. Ongoing monitoring after the expiration of the grant will be managed by MPRB natural resources staff. 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

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Kevin Reich, Executive Director	Mississippi Watershed Management Organization	MWMO will fund the match to the restoration project, and will review and advise on the restoration plan.	No
Kjersti Duval, Project Advisor	Owámniyomni Okhódayapi	Leading restoration of adjacent property, and will consult on restoration plan to ensure ecological continuity across multiple sites.	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.

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 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. Additional restoration and enhancement work after the warranty period will be funded by MPRB.

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		\$265,000
Restoration Professional to be determined	Service Contract	Working as part of an overall design team, the restoration professional will prepare a restoration plan that will be included in the construction documents for the project, will provide some construction administration services, and will prepare initial plant surveys upon project completion.				0.2		\$25,000
							Sub Total	\$290,000
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	\$290,000

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				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Mississippi Watershed Management Organization funds	This source will contribute funds to consulting and construction tasks.	Pending	\$250,000
In-Kind	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board General Fund	MPRB staff time to manage the project and provide plant monitoring after the conclusion of the grant.	Secured	\$40,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$290,000
			Funds Total	\$290,000

Total Project Cost: \$580,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park	Hennepin	Degraded shoreline with potential for restoration. This property is a public park in Minneapolis	Restoration	12	2.75	-	Public	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Has Not Begun
Totals				12	2.75	-			

Restoration

1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

All restoration activities will occur on land permanently in public ownership (owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board).

2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.

Components of the restoration and management plan will include a description of current conditions, with a focus on soil type and quality (no native vegetation currently exists on the site); description of the target restoration community, a shoreline system including emergent and upland species; a timeline for restoration; and guidance for ongoing management of the restored areas. The restoration plan will be included in the creation of construction plans for the project and will guide both construction and ongoing management. This plan will be kept both in MPRB staff project files and in the MPRB archive, as well as posted publicly on the MPRB website.

3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

MPRB and its partners will fully utilize BWSR's guidance document. Because this project occurs in an urban site but envisions "habitat for multiple wildlife groups," we expect that the minimum recommended number of plant species will be 20, per the "Disturbed Site with High Invasive Species Risk" row according to Table 2.1. The project will utilize and source seed as recommended for the project location (Ecological Section 8, Big Woods Subsection). Primary project type guidance will come from the section on "River and Stream Bank Stabilization."

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

Long term maintenance and management will be performed by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board as part of its overall 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.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

Prior to the commencement of construction activities, the project manager will contact the Conservation Corps of Minnesota to determine desire and availability to perform applicable work.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

As described in Activity 3, evaluations of plant germination and ongoing health will be performed after the first germination after construction, and then annually for three years. Though this timeline extends beyond the allowable grant window, this work will be accomplished by MPRB natural resources staff. Analyses will focus on the long term viability of the restoration and will recommend corrections if problems arise. The three-year summary report will be made public on the MPRB website.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [bf8d0978-2d1.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Aerial image of St. Anthony Falls, with restoration area highlighted as a thick red line....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
MPRB 2024 Audit Report	3e3baf2d-7ac.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
MPRB Resolution 2026-22	fc397c86-bd9.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Capital Construction Budget Addendum	f35cbcf-d-635.pdf
Capital Construction Project Questionnaire	420a19c6-7b8.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration,

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:

Michael Schroeder, MPRB Planning

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