



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-561

Proposal Title: Excelsior Commons Park Shoreline Restoration

Project Manager Information

Name: Tim Amundsen

Organization: City of Excelsior

Office Telephone: (952) 653-3676

Email: tamundsen@excelsiormn.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Excelsior Commons Park is heavily utilized by the public with degrading lakeshore in addition to consistent programming and aging facilities has impacted our natural resources and visitor experiences.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$654,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2029

LCCMR Funding Category: Fish and Wildlife (D)

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

Narrative

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

Excelsior Commons Park is an iconic and historic public open space on the southern shore of Lake Minnetonka. The park is one of the first public commons established in 1854 and is both a cherished community asset and a destination within the greater region. The Excelsior Commons and Port of Excelsior are historic, dating to the origins of the city, and are widely recognized as Excelsior's chief assets. The 13-acre park includes open recreation areas, picnic sites, playgrounds, two swimming beaches, tennis courts, baseball fields, a band shell, bathhouse, public restrooms, and docking for public excursion boats that provide lake access for those who do not own personal boats. The park's heavy public use, erosive lakeshore, consistent programming, and aging facilities have impacted existing natural resources and visitor experience which requires a need for changes to the park. A number of phases of the overall project have been completed which include design and construction of the Pavilion/Bandshell, Concessions Plaza, Oak Knoll Picnic Area, and Baseball Field Improvements. The City of Excelsior's objective is to continue forward with stakeholders to pursue funding for the lake shoreline improvements.

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.

Our proposed capital construction project is part of an overall phased restoration project for Excelsior Commons Park. This project phase concentrates on lake shoreline improvements and natural resources educational outreach. The following project elements are included in the funding request; East Beach improvements include installation of a plug plantings of cordgrass and manna grass along the upper slope to stabilize sand placements and prevent sand from eroding down to the beach and Lake Minnetonka. East and West Knoll, hazard trees will be removed to allow for more sun exposure to assist with establishing a native plant community to protect the topsoil from further erosion. Stabilization activities on the West Knoll include removing invasive species, such as buckthorn and creeping bellflowers, and restoring native plant communities. Shoreline improvements include living shoreline or a combination of vegetation and riprap along the lake shoreline to establish native plant communities and protect the existing shoreline.

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?

Restoration techniques that will be utilized removing invasive species, such as buckthorn and creeping bellflowers, and restoring native plant communities. A shade-tolerant native pollinator mix, and a woodland edge seed mix will be planted in areas where foot traffic has eroded the existing soil in addition to use of Proganics Biotic Soil Control to aid establishment of plant species. Shoreline improvements include a combination of vegetation and riprap along the lake shoreline or living shoreline to reference the desired balance between establishing a native plant community and protecting the existing shoreline.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Final Design, Engineering, Permitting and Construction Administration of Lake Shoreline Restoration

Activity Budget: \$149,000

Activity Description:

Activity includes engineering, design, permitting, construction administration and as-built survey.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Engineering/Construction Plans and Bid Specification	June 30, 2028
Permits (MNDNR, MPCA, USACOE, MNWCA and Watershed District)	October 31, 2028
Construction Administration	June 30, 2029
Project Closeout (As-built Survey, Construction Finalization)	June 30, 2029

Activity 2: Construction - Lake Shoreline Restoration

Activity Budget: \$445,000

Activity Description:

The activity includes construction materials and construction services for the shoreline improvements.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Contractor Selection and Project Kickoff	October 31, 2028
Construction of Shoreline Restoration	June 30, 2029

Activity 3: Education and Public Outreach

Activity Budget: \$60,000

Activity Description:

This activity includes development of educational materials and signage to be placed in naturally restored areas along the trail segment.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Development of educational materials and signage	June 30, 2029
Public Outreach Events	June 30, 2029

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
James Wisker	Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	Collaborator in support of the Shoreline Restoration Project. The watershed district has been part of the feasibility assessment, design process and will continue through final design and implementation.	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.

City of Excelsior will include ENRTF on educational outreach and signage as a project partner providing information to Minnesotans the work being accomplished is with help from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

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 restoration project is designed for long-term ecological and hydraulic stability. Once the project is completed and vegetation well established, some maintenance will be required to sustain project outcomes. We anticipate that long-term monitoring of the integrity of the improvements will be done in conjunction with routine inspections by the City of Excelsior. Monitoring and maintenance will not require separate funding. In the event that there are other maintenance costs, volunteer labor and other funds sources will be obtained to complete required maintenance.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Tim Amundsen

Job Title: Public Works Director

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

As the public works director for the City of Excelsior, we rely on multiple funding sources including a local option sales tax and multiple partnerships. These partnerships include Community for the Commons, Hennepin County, Clean Water, MN State Bonding and Federal Funds. We utilize funding from our partnerships on numerous city projects each year. The City of Excelsior in cooperation with Hennepin County, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) and the MNDNR continue yearly watershed monitoring and reporting results. Longstanding partnerships with these groups allow available funding and commitment sources needed to achieve goals set to improve and maintain city projects.

Organization: City of Excelsior

Organization Description:

The City of Excelsior operates under the council-manager plan. Under this form of government, all legislative power is vested in the elected, part-time City Council. This Council consists of a mayor and four councilmembers who are elected at large. The mayor is elected for a two-year term and the councilmembers are elected for four-year staggered terms. The Council adopts policies and ordinances and appoints a professional, full-time city manager to carry them out. The city manager is solely responsible for the administration of city business and may delegate authority to promote efficient use of staff time.

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	Design, Engineering, Permitting, Construction Administration				5		\$149,000
TBD	Service Contract	Construction of Lake Shoreline Improvements				5		\$445,000
TBD	Service Contract	Educational Materials, Signage and Public Outreach Events				2		\$60,000
							Sub Total	\$654,000
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	\$654,000

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				
In-Kind	City of Excelsior (Local Option Sales Tax)	Excelsior Commons Park Shoreline Restoration Feasibility Study	Secured	\$25,000
In-Kind	City of Excelsior (Local Option Sales Tax)	Excelsior Commons Park Master Plan	Secured	\$50,000
In-Kind	City of Excelsior (Local Option Sales Tax)	Pavilion/Bandshell	Secured	\$1,400,000
In-Kind	City of Excelsior (Local Option Sales Tax)	Concessions/Plaza	Secured	\$3,900,000
In-Kind	City of Excelsior (Local Options Sales Tax)	Oak Knoll Picnic Area	Secured	\$100,000
In-Kind	City of Excelsior (Local Option Sales Tax)	Baseball Field Improvements	Secured	\$1,600,000
Cash	City of Excelsior (Local Option Sales Tax)	15% Contingency for Shoreline Improvement	Secured	\$67,000
Cash	City of Excelsior (Local Option Sales Tax)	Inflation for Shoreline Improvement	Secured	\$92,000
			State Sub Total	\$7,234,000
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	\$7,234,000

Total Project Cost: \$7,888,000

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
City of Excelsior - Excelsior Commons Park (PID#2711723440031)	Hennepin	Excelsior Commons Park Lake Minnetonka shoreline restoration will improve lake shoreline and inlake habitat in addition to education of the public on the importance of lake shoreline preservation, restoration, and conservation.	Restoration	12.59	-	-	Public		Has Not Begun
				-	-	-			
				-	-	-			
Totals				12.59	0	-			

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.

The Excelsior Commons Park is protected by public ownership.

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.

A long-term monitoring/maintenance plan will be implemented to assure all constructed restoration measures are adequately functioning as designed for the project.

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.

All live plant material and seed planted purchased for the project will be regionally native plant species. Installation of seed and live plant material will follow MNDOT and MNBWSR specified planting guidelines.

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.

A long-term monitoring/maintenance plan will be implemented by the City of Excelsior to assure all constructed restoration measures are adequately functioning as designed for the project. This will include long term vegetative monitoring to identify the progress of native vegetation establishment in addition yearly evaluations of fish and wildlife populations. All required yearly maintenance completed will be documented in the yearly monitoring reports.

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

Conservation Corps will be contracted regarding removal and management of invasive species and potentially live plantings within the project area.

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 part of the annual monitoring reporting for the project; Year 1 monitoring includes existing conditions prior to restoration, site evaluation during restoration and post restoration. Year 2 monitoring includes evaluation of vegetation and required maintenance. Year 3 monitoring includes evaluation of vegetation and required maintenance. Year 4- Ongoing Yearly vegetation monitoring. All maintenance required for the project will be complete by the City of Excelsior.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [71be809e-022.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Excelsior Commons Park Site Plan/Master Plan...

Financial Capacity

Title	File
City of Excelsior Executive Governance Summary	e10933ae-9ed.pdf
City of Excelsior Financial Capacity	2245ca0d-7fe.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Resolution	ecbb67b8-309.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Project Questionnaire	f9ae6178-eea.pdf
Uncommon Garners Letter of Support	33518def-dfa.pdf
Excelsior Mens Garden Club Letter of Support	c3c7ad86-912.pdf
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Letter of Support	bbc527de-86b.pdf
Donation Yoga Excelsior Letter of Support	21e53c51-f99.pdf
Excelsior Morning Rotary Letter of Support	fee62b46-fec.pdf
City of Excelsior Letter of Support	1fd61ecb-c33.pdf
Budget Addendum	8eec18d6-9dd.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:

Kevin Quinn, City of Excelsior

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