



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-598

Proposal Title: Watershed Resilience: Youth, Science, and Dakota Cultural Knowledge

Project Manager Information

Name: Anne Conway

Organization: Izaak Walton League of America - Will Dilg Chapter

Office Telephone: (808) 269-3564

Email: president@willdilg-iwla.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The Will Dilg Chapter engages youth, families, and volunteers in watershed monitoring, habitat stewardship, outdoor education, and Dakota-led learning to strengthen community resilience and protect water, land, fish, and wildlife.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$300,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2030

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (G)

Secondary Category: Education and Outdoor Recreation (C)

Project Location

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

Region(s): SE

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

Region(s): SE

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.

The Mississippi River watershed in Southeast Minnesota faces threats from land use that contributes to nutrient pollution, sedimentation, habitat loss, and the spread of invasive species, jeopardizing water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and ecological resilience. State, county and municipal agencies have limited resources and capacity to care for and monitor the environment; for example, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency surveys each watershed once every ten years, leaving gaps in data needed to protect and guide restoration priorities.

Prairie Island Park and the surrounding WinLaC watershed provide an ideal setting for community engagement in stewardship. The area includes vulnerable floodplain forests, marshes, prairies, and backwaters, as well as coldwater trout streams and sensitive karst landscapes.

The Will Dilg Chapter looks to Dakota perspectives in order to strengthen long-term stewardship through centering on relationships with the land, respect for ecological balance, and responsibility to future generations. Dakota-led teachings foster cultural understanding and ethical connections to local landscapes, enhancing the approach, therefore impact of conservation efforts.

Expanding community participation in outdoor learning, habitat restoration, and participatory science not only strengthens ecological resilience but also addresses social isolation, improving well-being and fostering a culture of long-term stewardship across generations.

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.

Programming presented here engages youth, families, and community members in hands-on watershed stewardship through participatory science, habitat restoration, outdoor recreation, art, and Dakota-led teachings that foster being in relationship with the land. By directly involving residents in monitoring, restoration, and educational activities, the project will increase public understanding of regional watershed threats, and equip participants with the skills and confidence to take meaningful action, including support for implementation of the recommendations of the state WinLaC Comprehensive Water Management Plan and the City's Prairie Island Habitat Improvement Plan.

The project will conduct semiannual Save Our Streams volunteer monitoring at more than 20 streams, rivers, and a lake, generating chemical, physical, and biological data. Partners and staff will develop regionally relevant analysis and reporting of volunteer-collected benthic macroinvertebrate data in alignment with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Additional annual outcomes include two Dakota-led educational programs; 26 youth engagement sessions through Prairie Island Adventure Club and Youth Green Crew; 25 youth-led Swamp Oak Wanderers family programs; 12 volunteer habitat restoration events; 10 community meetings; 2 stakeholder gatherings sharing monitoring and land stewardship results; and a quarterly newsletter communicating research findings and community stewardship stories.

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?

Annually, 1,000+ participants will engage in environmental programming that protects, conserves, and enhances natural resources:

- 40+ Save Our Streams monitoring events generating water quality data for regional restoration.
- Two Dakota-led programs, 26 youth mentoring sessions, and 11 elementary outdoor learning sessions.
- 250 participants reached through educational presentations.

- 25 phenology observation events submitted to Nature's Notebook; 3 pollinator bioblitzes over 50+ acres uploaded to iNaturalist.
- Enhancement of 20 acres of habitat at Prairie Island Park, strengthening local ecosystems.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Broaden Community-Based Watershed Monitoring and Reporting

Activity Budget: \$61,100

Activity Description:

Volunteers with the Will Dilg Chapter have collected water system health data in Southeast Minnesota using the Save Our Streams monitoring program of the Izaak Walton League of America since 2018. These activities provide both environmental data and educational experiences that help community members understand how aquatic ecosystems function and how water quality reflects land use and habitat conditions. Shared field experiences foster relationships among volunteers, strengthening community connections and a shared sense of stewardship for local waters.

Currently, this data is not fully integrated into broader watershed assessment and communication efforts led by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Because the MPCA monitors each watershed once every ten years, there is a need to increase monitoring frequency. Through participation in the MPCA Biological Monitoring Partner Program, project program leaders will become certified to collect and upload chemical, physical, and biological monitoring data from streams and lakes across the WinLaC watershed to MPCA data systems.

Aligning volunteer monitoring with state protocols will strengthen the regional value of community-collected data. The sharing of data in Chapter meetings, community gatherings, as well as in quarterly newsletter will strengthen overall reach.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Initiate 1st year of MPCA training and conduct 20 monitoring events.	December 31, 2027
Expand monitoring into 2nd year including 40 events.	December 31, 2028
Sustain monitoring and expand community stewardship engagement.	December 31, 2029
Conduct a final monitoring, synthesize multi-year data, and publish findings.	June 30, 2030

Activity 2: Youth Environmental Education and Leadership Development

Activity Budget: \$98,310

Activity Description:

This activity sustains environmental education programming that has engaged 25–30 youth from underserved communities annually since 2023. The program is designed as a multi-year pathway supporting youth as they grow—from early outdoor exploration to leadership and mentorship—building ecological literacy, social-emotional skills, leadership capacity, and long-term stewardship of land and water. Intergenerational mentorship is central to the model, providing internships for college students pursuing degrees in human services and education while creating opportunities for returning youth to assume leadership roles as peer mentors and junior counselors.

The Prairie Island Adventure Club, founded in 2023, provides elementary-aged youth with weekly five-hour outdoor learning sessions during the summer. Participants explore watershed ecology, wildlife habitat, and conservation practices at Prairie Island Park and nearby natural areas along the Mississippi River. Youth gain confidence outdoors while learning the connections between healthy land, water, fish, and wildlife. In partnership with Winona State University, they experience outdoor adventures such as mountain biking, paddling, high-ropes courses, and indoor rock climbing.

The Youth Green Crew, founded in 2025, extends this pathway by mentoring middle- and high-school participants in leadership, teamwork, and environmental stewardship. Youth contribute ongoing ecological observations in participatory science.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Initiate first year of YGC supported 5th cohort of PIAC programming.	September 30, 2027
Initiate 3rd cohort of YGC and expand participation in the 6th cohort of PIAC.	September 30, 2028
Deepen leadership and stewardship with the 4th YGC cohort, adding new program partners.	June 30, 2029
Sustain and deepen impact with the 7th cohort of PIAC, continuing the junior counselor model.	September 30, 2029
5th YGC cohort, increasing independence in youth leaders to support environmental education and stewardship.	June 30, 2030

Activity 3: Habitat Stewardship, Environmental Education, Cultural Learning, and Community Engagement

Activity Budget: \$140,590

Activity Description:

Annually, this activity will engage 1,500+ youth and adults, and volunteers over three years in hands-on habitat stewardship, culturally grounded environmental learning, and long-term ecological monitoring that strengthens ecological resilience and deepens community relationships with land and water. Programs will take place primarily at Prairie Island Park along the Mississippi River, where floodplain forests, marshes, prairies, and backwater habitats provide opportunities for restoration, environmental education, and ongoing biodiversity observation.

Volunteer stewardship events will build a dataset that tracks ecological conditions in the Mississippi River bottomlands. Each year, participants will document biodiversity through 3 community bioblitzes using the iNaturalist, contribute 30 seasonal observations through Nature's Notebook, and record 8 bird observation lists through eBird.

Two Dakota-led programs will be facilitated by the Honoring Dakota Project and led by Dakota knowledge keepers who share Traditional Ecological Knowledge related to water stewardship, native plants, seasonal cycles, and relationships with land and wildlife. These teachings will provide cultural context for watershed protection and complement scientific monitoring and habitat restoration activities at Prairie Island Park. Through storytelling, land-based learning, and seasonal teachings, participants will gain a deeper understanding of Dakota perspectives on caring for land and water while strengthening community relationships and stewardship.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Launch of community habitat stewardship efforts	December 31, 2027
Second year expanding and refining community habitat stewardship programs.	December 31, 2028
Sustain and deepen 3rd year of community engagement in stewardship projects.	December 31, 2029
Conduct a final program season and prepare a comprehensive summary.	May 31, 2030

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Chad Ubl	City of Winona	Provides leadership, aligns project with city priorities, and supports partnerships in order to advance stewardship goals through policy, communication, and resource alignment.	No
Neal Mundahl	Winona State University Department of Biology	As a biology professor & researcher, will adapt the Izaak Walton League's Save Our Streams macroinvertebrate assessment protocol for streams in southeastern Minnesota, to better align with and contribute to the professional monitoring program used by the Mn Pollution Control Agency to assess stream water and habitat quality in Minnesota	Yes
Mike Henderson	Winona State University - Outdoor Education & Recreation Center	Facilitates hands-on outdoor adventure experiences for youth, including high ropes, indoor climbing and mountain biking activities, enhancing engagement, teamwork, and environmental learning. He also coordinates the seasonal leasing of paddle sport equipment to Front Porch Management for public access.	No
Sadie Nueman	Restoravore	Coordinates community gatherings around stewardship of land and water, reporting out on habitat project progress and monitoring.	Yes
Jennifer Biederman	Minnesota Trout Unlimited	As habitat improvement project coordinator and fisheries biologist, Jennifer will train volunteer monitors as well as collaborate in the Save Our Streams volunteer monitoring of MNTU projects within the WinLaC Watershed area.	Yes
Sarah Ventura	Kids First Winona HRA	As Director, will support recruiting and participation of youth in both the Prairie Island Adventure Club and Youth Green Crew programs. Works directly with families and community networks to ensure that they are aware of these opportunities and assists in coordinating communication to ensure consistent participation.	No
Nicky Bick	Honoring Dakota Project	Uplifts Dakota knowledge, culture bearers, and community leadership while building relationships between Dakota and non-Dakota communities, facilitating the sharing of Dakota teachings related to land stewardship, seasonal cycles, native plants, and water protection at Prairie Island Park and beyond.	Yes
Brittany Hennessy	Recreation Alliance of Winona	As coordinator of Bluffs 2 Backwaters canoe race and outdoor recreation festival, schedules opportunities for the Will Dilg Chapter to facilitate environmental education experiences for the participants.	No
Jamie Schell	Front Porch Management	As owner, Jamie provides oversight and scheduling of services, partnerships and activities, and supports staff and volunteers in implementing project programming effectively, safely and sustainably in spaces within the campground.	Yes

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.

Project results will be widely disseminated to ensure accessibility, usability, and long-term value. Water quality and biological monitoring data collected through Save Our Streams will be shared with local, regional, and state partners, including watershed districts and resource managers, and uploaded to platforms such as the MPCA database and IWLA Clean Water Hub for integration into broader assessments and planning efforts.

Findings and lessons learned will be presented through community meetings, stakeholder gatherings, and partner coordination sessions to support resource management decisions and implementation of local and regional plans. Public-facing communication will include a quarterly newsletter, social media, and presentations designed to reach diverse audiences and promote stewardship behaviors.

Ecological observations and datasets will be archived on publicly accessible platforms such as iNaturalist, Nature's Notebook, and eBird to ensure long-term availability. Habitat restoration outcomes will inform ongoing land management at Prairie Island Park and beyond.

All materials, signage, and communications will acknowledge the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund in accordance with ENRTF guidelines, ensuring transparency and public awareness of funded work.

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?

Project results will be implemented through continued environmental education, watershed monitoring, and habitat stewardship, generating measurable outcomes like water quality data, youth leadership, habitat improvements, and community engagement. Save Our Streams data will be shared with partners and uploaded to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and IWLA Clean Water Hub, informing local watershed assessments, restoration priorities, and WinLaC Watershed Plan implementation. Habitat restoration and ecological observations on iNaturalist, Nature's Notebook, and eBird will guide ongoing management. Sustained programming will be supported through an environmental educator, a growing chapter endowment (\$500,000), annual fundraising (\$15,000), and grants (\$20,000/year).

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Anne Conway

Job Title: Chapter Program Coordinator

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

Anne Conway brings extensive experience in project management, program coordination, financial administration, and community-based environmental education, making her well-suited to oversee this watershed resilience initiative. Her 15 years in landscape design and construction provided practical expertise in ecological enhancement, habitat restoration, and land stewardship practices, directly supporting the project's habitat improvement and monitoring goals.

With 10 years of teaching youth ages 6–20, Anne excels at translating scientific and ecological concepts into engaging, hands-on learning experiences—critical for leading the Prairie Island Adventure Club and Youth Green Crew programs. Her eight years managing programming and bookkeeping at a municipal campground included coordinating public programming, budgets, and environmental education events, preparing her to support the environmental educator in overseeing volunteer monitoring, community engagement events, and partnership coordination with organizations such as Restoravore, Winona State University, Minnesota Trout Unlimited and the Honoring Dakota Project.

Additionally, Anne's three years as a recreation technician with the U.S. Forest Service strengthened her skills in outdoor safety, facility management, and logistical planning in backcountry settings, ensuring safe and effective delivery of field-based monitoring and educational programs. Grounded in fostering meaningful connections between people and place, Anne is committed to expanding community access to outdoor experiences, mentoring youth in environmental stewardship, and ensuring long-term sustainability of watershed monitoring, habitat restoration, and Dakota-led cultural programming at Prairie Island Park.

Organization: Izaak Walton League of America - Will Dilg Chapter

Organization Description:

Founded in 1923, our Chapter has a century-long legacy of stewarding the Mississippi River watershed in the Winona region. Members have supported major conservation efforts, including the establishment of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service and the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, while advancing local conservation, education, and outdoor engagement.

Founding board member John A. Latsch donated over 2,000 acres to the City of Winona, including the river bottom lands of Prairie Island Park, reflecting a lasting commitment to pairing public access with education and stewardship.

Today, community engagement remains central to our work. In partnership with Front Porch Management, we deliver environmental education, youth development, outdoor recreation, and habitat restoration programs that engage more than 775 community members annually. Our quarterly newsletter, Great River Soundings, and a developing Mississippi River support program—implemented with resource management agencies—extend this impact by sharing data, elevating community voices, and increasing public understanding of regional natural resources.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
1 Project Manager		\$65,940 - Oversee grant tracking and reporting while supporting environmental educator			9.25%	18.75		\$12,363
1 Environmental Educator		\$54,575 - Program and volunteer coordinator, delivering and overseeing education, youth development, monitoring, and habitat enhancement activities, synthesizing data collected and reporting out at meetings and newsletter.			9.25%	192		\$102,258
1 Program Assistant		\$33,821 - Support Environmental Educator in delivery of all programming			9.25%	81		\$27,708
1 Social Worker		\$69,940 - Collaborate with Environmental Educator in youth programming to deliver social emotional learning and coaching as needed with youth			9.25%	21.3		\$14,076
4 Youth Program Assistance		\$22,703 - Graduates from the Youth Green Crew that assist Environmental Educator in facilitating youth development and community programming			9.25%	69		\$15,586
							Sub Total	\$171,991
Contracts and Services								
Honoring Dakota Project	Subaward	A total of 6 Dakota-led educational events over 3 years: Dakota knowledge keeper honorarium \$1,200 Additional Dakota cultural practitioner \$600 HDP program leadership & coordination (3 staff) \$2,400 Travel \$300 Materials / supplies \$300 Total Per Event: \$4,800				12		\$28,800
Front Porch Management	Service Contract	Contract with Front Porch Management for 12-person van transportation services annually for 26 - youth programs as a unique service in the Winona area over three years.				15		\$11,700
Restoravore	Subaward	Collaborate to host 6 total community gatherings with landowners, community members, and volunteers to report out on the restoration of perennial native groundcover and data collected				3		\$2,400

		around that work. Labor for each event: Executive Director - \$150 Liason with landowners - \$150 Researcher - \$100						
MN Trout Unlimited	Service Contract	Annually conduct Save Our Streams volunteer monitoring of fresh water systems trainings for 25-30 participants				3		\$2,250
							Sub Total	\$45,150
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Testing strips and kits for nitrates, phosphates, dissolved oxygen, and pH) and replace worn out gear as needed (kick nets, d-ring nets, folding tables, etc)	waer quality monitroing of physical, chemical, and biological conditions					\$3,000
	Tools and Supplies	winter weather - snowpants, jacket, boots, gloves (6 - \$300 = \$1800), neoprene water shoes (20 x \$50=\$1000), youth life jackets (10 x \$50=\$500)	Youth Green Crew (YGC) and Prairie Island Adventure Club (PIAC) gear cache not to be distributed but kept on hand as needed					\$3,300
	Tools and Supplies	youth life jackets (15 x \$32 = \$320) general program supplies, general crafting supplies (paper, paint, brushes, colored pencils, paint pens), safety kit replenishment	Support youth programming					\$1,500
	Tools and Supplies	general crafting supplies (paper, paint, brushes, colored pencils, paint pens)	Community environmental education programming					\$4,500
	Tools and Supplies	taps. collection bags, stainless sap storage tanks, firewood	Sugar bush community event					\$2,034
	Tools and Supplies	Hand saws (10x\$125 = \$1,250) herbicide (\$700)	Habitat improvement work					\$1,950
							Sub Total	\$16,284
Capital Equipment								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-

Travel In Minnesota								
	Conference Registration Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	5 trips, 100 miles, 3 people	MPCA Training					\$500
							Sub Total	\$500
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Printing and laminating educational materials	Environmental education					\$2,250
	Printing	Printing educational materials	Community education gatherings					\$1,500
							Sub Total	\$3,750
Other Expenses								
		MN Pollution Control Agency train and certify up to 3 staff/volunteers in evaluating aquatic life in Minnesota's rivers and streams in order to support the MPCA Biological Monitoring Partnersership Program (macroinvertebrates)	Water quality monitoring					\$1,500
		Neal Mundahl, PhD in Biology and Professor at Winona State University, to complete benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring protocol and analysis side-by-side with MN State approach and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for southeastern MN to be submitted to Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) Save Our Streams (SOS) national coordinator as he has been working on this for several years.	Water quality monitoring program - be submitted to Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA) Save Our Streams (SOS) national coordinator as he has been working on this for several years.					\$5,000
		Facility rental costs support 36-community meetings, 6-volunteer training sessions, 78-youth programming sessions, and 75-environmental education programs. Rental spaces are safe and accessible locations. Meeting and training spaces are equipped with technology and are well-suited to minimize distraction.	Rental of space for meeting and programming					\$43,350

		Subaward with IWLA national SOS coordinator to redesign the Clean Water Hub platform for Minnesota to be able to upload and evaluate regionally specific macroinvertebrate data	Water quality monitoring data platform update					\$5,000
		Honoraria for 44 - \$150 educational presentations at community meetings and programming over 3 years	supporting community outreach and engagement of professionals					\$6,600
		Background checks for staff and volunteers working with youth (20 x \$35 = \$875)	Protection of youth in programming					\$875
							Sub Total	\$62,325
							Grand Total	\$300,000

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	Storm the Day Race Proceeds	Prairie Island Adventure Club	Potential	\$6,000
In-Kind	Volunteers	Volunteer Monitors: phenology (32 events x 2 hours x 2 volunteers = 128 hrs) bioblitzes (3 events x 20 volunteers x 3 hours = 120 hrs), SOS water quality (40 events x 6 volunteers x 2 hours = 480hrs), bird surveys (8 events x 2 hours x 5 volunteers = 80 hrs) TOTAL hrs = 808 x \$35.61 = 28,773	Potential	\$86,319
In-Kind	Volunteers	Volunteers over 36 habitat improvement events (10 x 36 x \$36.31 = \$13,072)	Potential	\$13,072
In-Kind	Volunteers	Volunteers youth programming & environmental education: Prairie Island Adventure Club (33-sessions x 1 volunteer x 8 hrs = 264 hrs), Youth Green Crew (15 sessions x 1 volunteer x 4 hrs = 60 hrs) Swamp Oak Wanderers events that are not bioblitzes-3, bird surveys-8, nor water quality-4 (10 sessions x 1 volunteer x 3hrs = 30hrs) TOTAL hrs = 354 x \$35.61 = \$12,606 x over 3 years.	Potential	\$37,818
In-Kind	Winona State University - OERC	Winona State University Outdoor Education and Recreation Center host youth in experiences in climbing, high ropes course, and mountain biking over 3 sessions at \$500 per session annually, over 3 years	Secured	\$4,500
In-Kind	Front Porch Management	Front Porch Management equipment rental (paddling equipment 3 sessions x \$375 = \$1125, bikes 5 sessions X \$375) = over 3 years	Secured	\$4,500
In-Kind	Front Porch Management	Front Porch Management trains paddle sport guides (\$500 ACA Trainer) & pays 50% (\$40 x 6 guides) of First Aid/CPR expense annually over 3 years	Secured	\$2,220
In-Kind	Will Dilg Chapter Newsletter	Great River Soundings, a 6-8 page regional electronic newsletter will publish the results of this project's efforts in engagement and restoration alongside individual stories of folks on the river. The issues are published in email, in website, and on social media 4x per year.	Secured	\$17,706
			Non State Sub Total	\$172,135
			Funds Total	\$172,135

Total Project Cost: \$472,135

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
Prairie Island Park	Winona	floodplain forest, prairie, marsh and river backwater area	Restoration	1,100	-	-	Public	City of Winona	No Longer Being Considered
Totals				1,100	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.

All volunteer habitat restoration activities at Prairie Island Park funded through this proposal will occur on land that was gifted to the City of Winona by John A. Latsch for the purpose of public access and recreation, therefore is permanently protected through public ownership at Prairie Island Park, ensuring long-term conservation.

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.

Volunteer restoration activities are intended to be in addition to City of Winona's contracted restoration efforts and will follow site-specific plans as laid out in the Prairie Island Habitat Improvement Plan and discussed with the City of Winona offices of Sustainability and Natural Resources and Park & Recreation, detailing prairie and forest improvements, species selection, invasive species management, and monitoring schedules. These plans are maintained in both digital and physical formats by the City of Winona. Implementation includes volunteer stewardship events of coordinated planting, invasive species control, and ongoing biodiversity monitoring to guide adaptive management and long-term habitat enhancement.

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 restoration activities will follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines." Tree and shrub plantings and seed mixes will be selected by the City of Winona staff and will prioritize native species to support pollinator habitat, wildlife food and cover, soil stabilization, and hydrological integrity, ensuring restored areas are ecologically resilient and regionally appropriate.

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.

Maintenance will be ensured through a combination of ongoing volunteer stewardship events, Youth Green Crew involvement, and partnership support from the City of Winona and regional conservation organizations such as the Prairie Enthusiasts. Long-term funding will be supported through chapter-led fundraising, grants, and endowment contributions, enabling continued management of restored habitats through programming beyond the grant period.

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

This grant is focused just on coordinating educational and volunteer efforts that contribute to restoration of forest and prairie habitat of Prairie Island Park. These efforts could be considered a match for larger scale restoration will be designed, managed and contracted out by the City and supported by other grant funds.

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.

Overall evaluation of restoration efforts at Prairie Island Park will be completed by the City of Winona as a part of the overall habitat improvement plan.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [2ff28ec9-d36.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Organization Resolution, Annual IWLA Questionnaire, Statement of Financial Position, 2 maps of Prairie Island Park area, 1 map of WinLaC Watershed area....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
IWLA Division Annual Questionnaire	75f12a39-01f.pdf
Will Dilg Chapter 501(c)(3) status letter from national	796a23f4-d1e.pdf
Will Dilg Chapter Statement of Financial Position	257b854a-c3c.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Will Dilg Chapter Board Letter & Resolution	a24e213c-17c.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Front Porch Management Letter of Support	8da9c96d-8ff.pdf
Kids First Letter of Support	b1abae4-dab.pdf
HDP Letter of Support	2c7387df-811.pdf
Neal Mundahl	9af614a7-9ca.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?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

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")?

Yes

Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?

Yes

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

Will Dilg Chapter of Izaak Walton League of America

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