



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-602

Proposal Title: Bayview School Forest Restoration and Stewardship Plan

Project Manager Information

Name: Michael Jensen

Organization: Waconia Conservation Club Booster

Office Telephone: (763) 221-1858

Email: mjensen@isd110.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The Bayview School Forest Restoration and Stewardship Project is working to restore and enhance a 13-acre urban forest located at Bayview Elementary School in Waconia, Minnesota.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$141,000

Proposed Project Completion: May 31, 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): Metro

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

Region(s): Metro

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

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

Beyond its ecological value, the Bayview School Forest represents an important opportunity to prepare students and the broader community to actively participate in sustaining and restoring natural systems. As environmental challenges intensify across the Twin Cities metro area—including invasive species, climate-related stressors, and development pressure—there is a growing need for accessible, community-based sites where education and hands-on stewardship can build long-term ecological resilience. Immediate implementation will ensure that students and community members can actively participate in hands-on restoration, fostering long-term stewardship and ecological literacy at a time when these skills are increasingly vital

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.

Establish and sustain a safe, healthy, and resilient forest that serves as a shared natural resource for all community stakeholders. This forest will continue to support outdoor learning, ecological function, and community use as the City of Waconia and its schools grow, evolve, and adapt over time.

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?

Create a safer and more accessible space for students and the community to use for outdoor learning, environmental education, and recreation

Improve forest health and diversity through invasive species management and removal of declining or hazardous vegetation

Strengthen and restore the Big Woods ecosystem by planting native trees and shrubs and promoting the regeneration of existing native species

Maintain and improve the trail system to support safe, sustainable access

Build and strengthen relationships with adjacent landowners and community stakeholders to encourage active stewardship and reduce impacts such as encroachment and unauthorized motorized use

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Activity 2 – Invasive Species Removal and Forest Preparation

Activity Budget: \$74,000

Activity Description:

Purpose: Prepare the forest for restoration

Tasks

Remove buckthorn and invasive shrubs

Manage hazardous or declining trees

Prepare planting areas for native seedlings

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Initial invasive species removal	September 30, 2027
Remove hazardous and declining trees (ash, elm, etc.) Create canopy gaps	December 31, 2027
Continue invasive removal Prepare planting areas	March 31, 2028
Follow-up invasive species management and monitoring	September 30, 2028

Activity 2: Activity 3 – Native Tree Planting and Habitat Restoration

Activity Budget: \$21,000

Activity Description:

Purpose: Restore native forest structure and biodiversity

Tasks

Plant approximately 4,000 native tree seedlings

Plant larger native tree species

Create wildlife habitat features such as snags and shrub layers

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Initial large-scale seedling planting	March 31, 2028
Supplemental planting (as needed)	September 30, 2028
Additional seedling planting and infill	March 31, 2029
Plant larger native tree species Establish habitat features (snags, shrubs)	May 31, 2030

Activity 3: Activity 4 – Trail Improvements and Outdoor Education Infrastructure

Activity Budget: \$16,000

Activity Description:

Purpose: Improve access and support environmental education

Tasks

Improve existing trails

Create outdoor learning spaces
 Install interpretive signage

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Begin trail improvements and stabilization	March 31, 2028
Install initial outdoor learning areas	September 30, 2028
Continue trail improvements Install interpretive signage	March 31, 2029

Activity 4: Activity 5 – Student Stewardship and Community Engagement

Activity Budget: \$30,000

Activity Description:

Purpose: Ensure long-term sustainability and community participation

Tasks

Engage students in restoration work

Partner with Waconia High School Conservation Club

Host volunteer stewardship events

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Begin structured student involvement in planting and restoration	March 31, 2028
Host initial volunteer stewardship events	September 30, 2028

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Waconia Public Schools	Waconia Public Schools ISD110	Site of project	No
Andy McGuire	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division	Forester	No
Brett L. Anderson	MN DNR - Program Forester	Program Forester	No
Kris Baumann	Certified Arborist	Arborist	No
Mike Mawdsley	City of Waconia	City Contact	No
Tim Bisek	Waconia Schools	Director of Buildings and Grounds	No
Ann Swanson	Waconia School	Bayview Elementary Principal	No
Brett Seiber	Three Rivers Park District	Naturalist	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.

see attached plan

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?

see attachment

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Michael Jensen

Job Title: Waconia Schools, Science Teacher / Conservation Club Advisor

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

18+ years as a MN Licensed (Biology) High School Science Teacher. Responsible for executing short and long term curriculum instruction for high school science courses including Earth Science, Life Science, Environmental Science, and Engineering. 18+ years as a Waconia Conservation Club Advisor. Responsible for organizing, planning, and executing a variety of service projects, activities, and adventures related to our club motto "Explore, Expand, and Protect our Natural Resources."

Organization: Waconia Conservation Club Booster

Organization Description:

This project will restore the forest ecosystem through invasive species removal, reforestation with native tree and shrub species, and long-term stewardship activities that enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. Immediate intervention is necessary to prevent further degradation of the forest ecosystem. Delaying restoration could allow invasive species to dominate, reduce biodiversity, and limit the success of future plantings. Approximately 4,000 native seedlings and additional larger native trees will be planted to restore the historic Big Woods forest community while replacing canopy loss from Emerald Ash Borer impacts.

In addition to ecological restoration, the project will strengthen environmental education and community stewardship by expanding the Bayview School Forest outdoor learning space used by Bayview Elementary School and the Waconia High School Conservation Club. Students and community volunteers will participate in hands-on conservation work including tree planting, invasive species removal, and habitat monitoring.

The project will produce long-term environmental benefits including improved wildlife habitat, increased forest biodiversity, enhanced watershed protection for nearby lakes and wetlands, and expanded outdoor environmental learning opportunities for students and residents of the Waconia community, further improving the resilience of this habitat with changing ecological threats.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Tree Boss	Service Contract	Remove buckthorn and invasive shrubs Manage hazardous or declining trees Prepare planting areas for native seedlings				1		\$74,000
Plymouth MN Tree Sale	Service Contract	Plant approximately 4,000 native tree seedlings Plant larger native tree species Create wildlife habitat features such as snags and shrub layers				1		\$21,000
							Sub Total	\$95,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Improve access and support environmental education	Improve existing trails Create outdoor learning spaces Install interpretive signage					\$16,000
	Equipment	Can-Am Defender PRO XT (2026)	Engage students in restoration work Partner with Waconia High School Conservation Club Host volunteer stewardship events					\$30,000
							Sub Total	\$46,000
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	\$141,000

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				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Total Project Cost: \$141,000

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
				-	-	-			
Totals				0	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

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.

see attached plan

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.

see attached plan

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.

see attached plan

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

see attached plan

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.

see attached plan

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [72271d81-7dc.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Bayview School Forest Restoration and Stewardship Plan: entire outline...

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Financial Capacity Information	09348ec5-466.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Resolution or Letter	393e752a-4e8.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Habitat Restoration Equipment	e65e10de-e25.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?

Yes, Waconia Public School ISD 110

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:

Wayne Trapp, Alana Keil, Michael Jensen

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