



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-170

Proposal Title: Mississippi Riverwalk Restoration and Public Access Enhancement Project

Project Manager Information

Name: Luke Langner

Organization: City of St. Cloud

Office Telephone: (320) 650-2915

Email: luke.langner@ci.stcloud.mn.us

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This project will restore and enhance the Mississippi Riverwalk corridor by improving public access, connectivity, and recreational opportunities while protecting St. Cloud's drinking water supply and supporting long-term environmental stewardship.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$6,100,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2030

LCCMR Funding Category: Water (B)

Project Location

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

Region(s): Central

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

Region(s): Central

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.

The Mississippi Riverwalk is a vital recreational and environmental asset for the City of St. Cloud and the region, providing public access to the Mississippi River while supporting outdoor recreation, tourism, and environmental education. However, aging infrastructure, deteriorating shoreline features, and gaps in trail connectivity limit safe access and threaten the long-term health of the river corridor.

A critical concern is a failing retaining wall along the Mississippi River shoreline that was originally constructed to stabilize the riverbank and support adjacent infrastructure. The wall is located just upstream of the St. Cloud Water Treatment Facility which uses the river as its sole source water. Continued deterioration has contributed to shoreline instability, localized erosion, and increased risk to St. Cloud's drinking water supply, public safety and nearby natural resources. If not addressed, further failure could result in shoreline erosion, water quality degradation, and damage to aquatic life and riparian habitat.

Additionally, concentrated pedestrian use in areas lacking infrastructure demonstrates a desire to connect with this vital waterway but has led to informal trail creation, user conflicts, and stress on sensitive riverbank areas. The lack of trail connection has limited user's access to the river and reduced meaningful engagement with nature.

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.

The failing retaining wall will be replaced with a newly engineered retaining system using careful consideration to protect the drinking water intake station. 5th Avenue North will undergo a road diet to rework the street configuration and, near the Water Treatment Facility, will transition to a one-way private drive to create space for a separate multi-use pedestrian walkway. Thoughtfully designed access points and scenic overlooks with educational stations focusing on source water protection and environmental stewardship will provide safe, meaningful connections for visitors on the trail. The shoreline along the corridor will be restored, stabilized, and reinforced to withstand extreme weather events while protecting riparian habitat and aquatic life.

The project will complete connection of the Beaver Island and Wobegon Trail systems creating a linear park that may feature naturalized water transitions and river access for viewing, fishing and canoeing/kayaking. The primary bike and pedestrian portion of the Riverwalk will extend the Beaver Island Trail by following 5th Avenue North past the Water Treatment Facility, and up the hill toward the St. Cloud Hospital. The trail will move across the northern portion of Hester Park and then travel south to connect to the Wobegon Trail at 11th Street North.

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 presents an opportunity to replace the failing retaining wall, restore shoreline stability, and improve trail connectivity in a coordinated manner that protects drinking water and natural resources while improving public access.

Connected trail systems increase public safety and accessibility while providing opportunities to access, view, experience and touch the river. Enhancing the corridor's native ecology provides water quality benefits and improved riparian habitat while improving recreational opportunities and increasing the health of the community and river.

The proposed improvements support sustainable recreation, preservation of natural resources and water quality, and strengthened long-term stewardship of the Mississippi River corridor.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Project Planning, Design and Community Engagement

Activity Budget: \$130,000

Activity Description:

Project planning and design will be completed in Activity 1. The project scope includes restoring and enhancing the Mississippi Riverwalk corridor by improving public access, restoring the failing retaining wall, completing trail connectivity, and introducing new recreational and educational opportunities. Project stakeholders and community members will be re-engaged using public meetings to take advantage of unique viewpoints, knowledge, and visions of various user groups that are likely users of the Riverwalk.

The City will work with various state entities to ensure project design meets established requirements. These entities may include Department of Administration, State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Board of Soil and Resources, and the Legislative-Citizen Commission of Minnesota Resources.

The designated engineer will be responsible for project design meeting all requirements of outside agencies, public meetings/communications, environmental assessments and survey work for design of plans/specifications. The outputs of this activity are a site-specific ecological restoration and management plan, final plans/specifications, and an updated cost estimate that will be used to advertise for bids. Activity outcomes will be evaluated by completeness of the bid packet and the project's adherence to scope, timeline and budget.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Re-engage project stakeholders and community regarding prior Riverwalk design recommendations to advance final design.	June 30, 2027
Complete PreDesign Review and Consult SHPO. Conduct consultant selection on environmental/design/survey work.	July 31, 2027
Approve final plans and advertise for bids with updated cost estimate.	December 31, 2027

Activity 2: Project Contract Administration

Activity Budget: \$21,000

Activity Description:

Project contract administration will be completed in Activity 2. The City team will use a qualifications-based scoring system to select a responsible contractor to complete this project. Selection criteria will be included in the advertisement for bids; consideration will be given to anticipated cost of service, relevant work history, and demonstrated ability to complete a project on time and within the established budget.

The designated City engineer will be responsible for working with the selected contractor to obtain any necessary permits to complete the work. The engineer will also be responsible for completing a preconstruction meeting with all project stakeholders. This meeting is vital for coordination among project stakeholders and provides for early identification of conflicts in plans, specifications or schedules.

The outputs of this activity are selection of a contractor, completion of permitting activities, development of a project

timeline, and coordination of project stakeholders. Activity outcomes will be evaluated by the project’s adherence to scope, timeline, and budget.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Selection of responsible contractor and administer contract documents.	February 28, 2028
Apply for any necessary permits with contractor.	March 31, 2028
Conduct preconstruction meeting for project coordination.	April 30, 2028

Activity 3: Project Construction and Corridor Enhancements

Activity Budget: \$5,800,000

Activity Description:

Project construction and corridor enhancements will be completed. The designated City engineer will be responsible for staking and onsite observation of all project activities which include replacing the failing retaining wall with a newly engineered retaining system, connecting the Beaver Island and Wobegon Trails systems to create a linear park, and restoration and stabilization of the river shoreline to withstand extreme weather events while protect riparian habitat and aquatic life.

At the start of construction, durable and fixed signage will be displayed at a prominent location at the main entrance(s) of the construction site to acknowledge ENRTF. Construction tasks will be completed according to the defined project plans/specifications, the site-specific ecological restoration and management plan, and within the established project timeline. Regular construction meetings will be held with project stakeholders to evaluate progress and identify potential conflicts.

The outputs of this activity are a new retaining wall system that protects water quality and St. Cloud’s drinking water source; connected trail systems that increase public safety and accessibility; and a bio-stabilized shoreline that features enhanced natural habitats and native plantings to improve river health. Activity outcomes will be evaluated by the project’s adherence to scope, timeline and budget.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
On-site observation, inspection and staking of project construction.	November 30, 2028
Construct retaining wall; trail; in addition to shoreline restoration, and environmental improvements.	November 30, 2028

Activity 4: Project Closeout

Activity Budget: \$149,000

Activity Description:

Project closeout tasks will be completed in Activity 4. The designated City engineer will be responsible for the final inspection and preparation of punch lists along with completion of project closeout documentation.

Following site restoration, the City of St. Cloud will complete evaluation of the project area to determine whether goals established in the site-specific ecological restoration and management plan have been met. Installation of thoughtfully designed educational and art stations at access points and scenic overlooks will focus on source water protection and environmental stewardship. Long-term maintenance and management will be the responsibility of the City of St. Cloud.

Routine inspections, repairs, landscape management, shoreline stabilization, trail upkeep and public amenity maintenance will be incorporated into established City programs.

The outputs of this activity are a restored project site and a completed project that has improved public access, connectivity, and recreational opportunities while protecting St. Cloud’s drinking water supply and supporting long-term environmental stewardship. Activity outcomes will be evaluated by the project’s adherence to scope, timeline, and budget.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Complete site restoration.	September 30, 2028
Install permanent ENRTF signage, complete final site inspection, and develop project punch lists.	November 30, 2028
Install permanent educational and art references throughout project area.	November 30, 2028
Implement long-term maintenance plan.	December 31, 2028
Complete project closeout documentation.	June 30, 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.

The City of St. Cloud will formally acknowledge ENRTF throughout every stage of the project, from design through construction and final completion. The City will use the ENRTF logo and attribution language provided by ENRTF in the Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines and on the ENRTF website.

Acknowledgement will include the use of official logos and/or attribution language on project signage, display boards, printed materials, presentations, press releases, media interactions, publications, public announcements, bid documents, community outreach efforts, event advertisements & invitations, and digital communications including website and social media postings. During construction, durable and fixed signage(s) will be displayed at a prominent location at the main entrance(s) of the construction site and will acknowledge ENRTF. Upon completion, permanent educational stations along the Riverwalk corridor will include the ENRTF logo to promote changes in behavior to better protect, conserve, and enhance the environment and natural resources.

These coordinated efforts throughout the project will provide transparent, visible acknowledgment of the ENRTF.

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?

Following project completion, all ongoing operations and maintenance will be the responsibility of the City of St. Cloud. Routine inspections, repairs, landscape management, shoreline stabilization, trail upkeep and public amenity maintenance will be incorporated into established City programs. City staff will oversee long-term asset management to ensure the retaining systems, pedestrian infrastructure, educational features and restored natural areas remain safe, functional and accessible. Funding to support these activities will be allocated through the City's General Fund budget. Using dedicated resources, the City will ensure reliable, sustainable financial support for continued operations, preservation efforts and the long-term success of the improvements.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Luke Langner

Job Title: Public Services Director

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

Director Langner is a senior municipal public services professional with extensive experience managing complex, multidisciplinary infrastructure and natural resource projects within the City of St. Cloud. In his role overseeing public services and utilities, Director Langner is responsible for planning, budgeting, design coordination, construction oversight, regulatory compliance, and long-term asset management for projects that directly affect public land, water resources, and community use of the Mississippi River corridor.

Director Langner has demonstrated expertise in managing capital improvement projects from concept through completion, including coordinating consultants, contractors, and internal staff; administering project schedules and budgets; and ensuring compliance with state and federal requirements. His experience includes integrating infrastructure improvements with environmental stewardship goals, such as protecting water quality, enhancing public

access to natural resources, and minimizing environmental impacts during construction.

Director Langner routinely collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders, including state agencies, regulatory partners, elected officials, community organizations, and the public. This collaborative approach ensures projects are responsive to community needs while advancing long-term environmental and recreational benefits. He is also experienced in public engagement and communication, providing clear and transparent updates to decision-makers and residents throughout the life of a project.

Additionally, Director Langner has significant experience administering publicly funded projects, including those supported by state bonding and grant programs. This includes fiscal oversight, documentation, reporting, and accountability to funding agencies. His leadership, technical knowledge, and proven ability to deliver projects on public lands position him well to successfully manage this project and achieve the environmental, recreational, and community outcomes envisioned by the LCCMR.

Organization: City of St. Cloud

Organization Description:

The City of St. Cloud is located on the banks of the Mississippi River just 70 miles northwest of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The mission of the City of St. Cloud is to provide high quality public services for our residents in a cost effective, responsive, innovative and professional manner given the changing needs and resources available

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 and Contract Administration				30		\$151,000
tbd	Service Contract	Construction Contract - Roadway Enhancements				30		\$2,970,000
tbd	Service Contract	Construction Related Services				10		\$149,000
tbd	Service Contract	Construction Contract - Mississippi Shoreline Restoration, Education, and Art Enhancements				20		\$2,500,000
tbd	Service Contract	Construction Contract - Trail Enhancements				5		\$330,000
							Sub Total	\$6,100,000
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	\$6,100,000

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	Bonding Bill (Bill No.)	Project Management, Infrastructure, Roads, and Utilities	Pending	\$3,150,000
			State Sub Total	\$3,150,000
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	\$3,150,000

Total Project Cost: \$9,250,000

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
Butler Park	Stearns	City park along the shoreline of the Mississippi River	Restoration	0.32	0.05	\$250,000	Public	City of St. Cloud	Has Not Begun
Hester Park	Stearns	City Park that will contain the connection point for Wobegon and Beaver Island Trails.	Restoration	2.53	0.09	\$80,000	Public	City of St. Cloud	Has Not Begun
St. Cloud Water Treatment Facility	Stearns	Drinking water facility along the shoreline of the Mississippi River	Restoration	4.22	0.36	\$2,500,000	Public	City of St. Cloud	Has Not Begun
Totals				7.07	0.5	\$2,830,000			

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 being completed during this project will occur on permanently protected public land that is owned by the City of St. Cloud.

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.

The Riverwalk will selectively re-introduce natural and artificial infrastructures and processes. A bio-stabilized shoreline will be created by enhancing natural habitats and may incorporate vernal pools, native vegetation, and fish structure. Shorelines will be kept natural and may include segments of stone shoreline to promote healthy engagement with the river. Sight lines will be kept open using low vegetation and minimal visual barriers allows for River views to be maintained from multiple vantage points. Expected outcomes include improved biodiversity and health of the river, increased resiliency to future stressors and climate change, and increase public engagement with the river.

City staff will oversee long-term asset management to ensure the retaining systems, pedestrian infrastructure, educational features and restored natural areas remain safe, functional and accessible. Operations and maintenance will be incorporated into established City programs.

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.

The City will reference Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines and related technical documents to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement at the project site during restoration work. General planning considerations, project site preparation, planting and maintenance, and standards and guidance documents will all be used when developing the site-specific ecological restoration and management plan.

The City will not plant invasive species and will work to ensure that selected native plantings are functioning at a high level. Selected native plantings will be diverse so that protective habitats for pollinators are maintained throughout the growing season. The City recognizes that careful plant selection will ultimately support project goals to increase the health of the river corridor and improve water quality.

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 the responsibility of the City of St. Cloud. Routine inspections, repairs, landscape management, shoreline stabilization, trail upkeep and public amenity maintenance will be incorporated into established City programs. Funding to support these activities will be allocated through the City’s General Fund budget. Using dedicated resources, the City will ensure reliable, sustainable financial support for continued operations, preservation efforts and the long-term success of the improvements.

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

The City of St. Cloud will engage the Conservation Corps of Minnesota during the Request for Proposal process to determine if the project scope and schedule would be applicable for available Conservation Corps crews. If there is alignment, the City of St. Cloud will complete the Conversation Corps’ online project request form to obtain information needed to include the Corps as a proposer/bidder. The project work will be awarded based on specific qualifications that will be defined in the Request for Proposal.

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.

The City of St. Cloud will complete evaluation of the project area during project closeout and again three years later as a follow up. The City will reference the 'Restoration Evaluation Project Vegetation Monitoring Protocol Part 1' and 'Vegetation Monitoring Tool – Protocol Part 2' to complete both evaluations. The evaluations will be used to determine whether goals established in the restoration plan have been met which include repair of the failing retaining wall, effective shoreline stabilization and restoration, increased water quality and source water protection, and increased community engagement with the river. The evaluation will also include identifying problems with implementation of this project and opportunities to improve implementation of future restoration projects.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [d1a92133-7f4.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

The map visually identifies the proposed Riverwalk restoration and public access project along the west bank of the Mississippi River in St. Cloud, highlighting its location relative to nearby parks, trails, neighborhoods, and downtown....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
2024 Audit Report	e79fcada-79f.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Council Resolution	8b594dc0-ec8.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Budget Addendum	b487b748-bca.pdf
Capital Construction Project Questionnaire	970724a2-fbf.pdf
Riverwalk Overview Rendering	a8444443-fec.pdf
2019 Riverwalk Presentation	a535adc6-7f5.pdf
Letter of Support	ab6cc318-773.pdf
Letter of Support	5ee877f5-372.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, City of St. Cloud

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:

Shanna Czeck, City of St. Cloud and Cheryl Malikowski, City of St. Cloud

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