



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2024 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2024-090

Staff Lead: Tiffany Schaufler

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: June 10, 2024

Project Title: Restoration of Riverside Park

Project Budget: \$141,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Ted Gray

Organization: City of Long Prairie

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 20, 2024

Reporting Schedule: June 1 / December 1 of each year.

Project Completion: November 30, 2026

Final Report Due Date: January 14, 2027

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2024, Chp. 83, Sec. 2, Subd. 08d

Appropriation Language: \$141,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Long Prairie to improve water retention, increase native habitat, and enhance footpaths for recreation at Riverside Park in Todd County, Minnesota. The project must create a net increase in habitat, and this appropriation may not be used to meet the conditions of any permits received for the project.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2027

Narrative

Project Summary: Project will mitigate the effects of climate change by restoring water retentive capabilities to 7 acres on the Long Prairie River while also creating both recreational and educational opportunities.

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

Riverside park was designed by the Minnesota DOT as a tourist park and constructed by the WPA in 1936. Water was diverted into a ditch which was dug by WPA workers to deliver water to 2 ponds dug for ice skating. The ditch then delivered overflow back to the river. Three concrete bridges were constructed on paths which crossed the ditch. The Sportsmen's Club financed the building of a clubhouse made of fieldstone, and a fieldstone tower provided light for evening skating. During WWII, the park flooded. Neither men nor machines were available to maintain the park. In 1953 the land was sold to a private individual. It was sold again in 1960 to a contractor who used part of the north pond as a dump for demolition debris. Over the years, the ditch filled with sediment and tree roots. The stonework became a canvas for graffiti, and the ground became littered with trash. The land changed hand several times. The most recent owner offered to give the land to the city if funding became available for restoration and in 2017 following his death, his family gave the land back to the city.

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.

Today the ponds at Riverside present an opportunity to offset predicted extreme events of climate change by providing a reservoir. The ditch will be cleaned and sediment removed from the ponds so that the ponds can retain more water and mitigate future flooding. Two culverts will be placed where park paths have been washed out. Park paths will be leveled and seeded to prevent future erosion. Plant life in the park has been inventoried by a MN Master Naturalist; invasive species listed will be removed accordingly while pollinator plants and other native species will be encouraged during the restoration of the 7.68 acres park. The park is has demolition debris in a section of the north pond will be leveled in order to create a parking area for visitors.

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?

The outcomes of this project will be to enhance the water retention of this area and restore native vegetation while providing a nature area for public hiking and biking in the summer and ice skating or x-country skiing in the winter.

Project Location

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

City(s): Long Prairie

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 and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Restore the Original Park Paths

Activity Budget: \$45,000

Activity Description:

The original park paths were 12 feet wide and provided an entrance and exit loop from Riverside Drive as well as a path to the Sportsman's Lodge. During the past 87 years, trees and bushes have grown on the paths in some places while dirt and demolition debris have been dumped in other places. These paths will be cleared, leveled, parking area established and maintained for walking use and ADA Compliance. Approaches to Riverside Drive will be provided. Two culverts will be installed to allow the flow of water under the paths. The City of Long Prairie has received permitted approval from Todd County Soil and Water and has completed the removal of debris and re-established existing paths based on historical aerial imagery.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Paths will be cleared of brush and tree stumps.	July 31, 2024
Signage Installation	September 30, 2024
Obtain Permits From Todd County Soil & Water and the DNR	September 30, 2024
Selection of Contractors	October 31, 2024
Engineer Design for Culvert Installation	January 31, 2025
Invasive Species Management	August 31, 2025
Two culverts will be installed.	September 30, 2025
Paths will be graded and seeded	September 30, 2025

Activity 2: Clear the Waterways and Ponds.

Activity Budget: \$96,000

Activity Description:

During the last 84 years, the ditch leading to the ponds and back to the river has partially filled with sediment and tree roots. The ponds have partially filled with sediment and demolition debris. The current size of the North Pond is about 200'x150' or 30,000 sq. ft. The size of the south pond is about 20,000 sq. ft. Kasen Christiansen, Wetland & Conservation Technician for Todd County suggested that the greatest depth of the ponds should be no more than 8 ft. and that the edges of the ponds should be "such that a turtle could crawl out." Based on these dimensions, the water retained in the ponds could be as much as 150,000 cubic ft. The ditch will be dredged. Debris and sediment will be removed from the ponds. Testing of the debris will be completed prior to any removal.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Design and Engineer Review	August 31, 2024
Obtain Appropriate Permits	September 30, 2024
Selection of Contractors	October 31, 2024
Debris Environmental Testing	June 30, 2025
Tree roots and sediment will be removed from the ditch.	September 30, 2025
Sediment will be removed from the north and south ponds	September 30, 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Ted Gray	City of Long Prairie	Project Manager	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.

With this project the goal is to promote changes in behavior to better protect, conserve or enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources. This is completed by cleaning out the ponds to allow for overflow water from the Long Prairie River to be held for an extended period of time, which all allow for wildlife to continue to flourish in this area and serve as additional water retention. Other improvements to the trails and added updated drainage systems, culverts will all share accessible way for members of our community and others interested in viewing the work being accomplished with help from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Since the City re-obtained the park in 2017, there was as an establishment of a Facebook page called, "Friends of Riverside". This has been a very accessible way to share information about Riverside Park. In the past, posts have included, Boy Scouts, church groups and the Sentenced to Serve crew helping with clean-up. Data collected from the USGS stream monitoring station on the Long Prairie River across the river from the park and data from the DNR aquatic inventory on the river at Long Prairie has been shared. Many photos of native plants and animals found at the park have also been posted. The Friends of Riverside website currently has 571 members. Riverside is also within walking distance of the Long Prairie Public School and St. Mary's private school as well as the Area Learning Center. Students can walk the paths and view the native vegetation and wildlife. If funding for "The Restoration of Riverside" is approved by the legislature, photos of work being accomplished will be posted with acknowledgment of the help from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Along with this the City of Long Prairie will continue to work with Todd County Soil and Water, Department of National Resources and the other government entities that are related to Riverside Park. We will work hand in hand with them to obtain all the proper permitting and provide any data/information that is obtained through this project.

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?

Private contractors will be hired to level the demolition debris, reconstruct the original paths and clean the waterway and ponds. Riverside Park will be maintained by the Public Works Department of the City of Long Prairie and managed by the Long Prairie Park Board with seasonal help from local volunteers and the Sentenced to Serve crew.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	These services will be obtained to update and restore the walking paths. Services will also be obtain to install 2 culverts. Contractors will be selected following the State Contracting Rules and Regulations				0		\$45,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	This company will clean the ditch leading from the river to the ponds, the ponds, and back to the river as well as cleaning the waterway between the ponds. Contractors will be selected following the State Contracting Rules and Regulations				0		\$96,000
							Sub Total	\$141,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							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				
In-Kind	City Budgeted Park Funds	Funds are to be used to cover administrative and project management costs	Potential	\$15,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$15,000
			Funds Total	\$15,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
36-4024100	Todd	Flood plain with potential for natural habitat. water retention & recreational opportunities.	Restoration	7.68	-	-	Public	City of Long Prairie	In Progress
Totals				7.68	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 restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently 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.

The water retentive capability of the ponds will be restored. The original paths through the park will be cleared and leveled and native vegetation will be established or enhanced. The restoration of this park will provide an opportunity for the public to observe native plants and animals in a natural environment along a peaceful river. The plans for the restoration of the brook, ponds and trails will be kept on file by the City of Long Prairie.

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.

BWSR Vegetation Specialist/Landscape Ecologist will help local resource staff make informed decisions about appropriate shoreline vegetation to be planted or encouraged. Ash trees in the park will be monitored for Emerald Ash Borer.

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.

In the future, Riverside Park will be managed by the Long Prairie Park Board and maintained by the Long Prairie Public Works Department with guidance from Todd County Soil and Water personnel and the area hydrologist from the DNR.

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

The City of Long Prairie will contract with the CCM to assist in establishing native species of plants, as well as assist in the removal of invasive species. We also intend to request their services and expertise in trail/[path restoration.

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.

An evaluation of the restoration activities will be completed in 2023 and again in 2026. The evaluations will report on improvements to the paths and ponds as well as the establishment or enhancement of native vegetation. The USGS stream monitoring station at Long Prairie, directly across the river from Riverside Park, will provide an indication of improvement in the water retentive capabilities of the ponds.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [f16b197c-cf7.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

This map shows a satellite view of Riverside Park in 2018....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City Council Approved Resolution for Park Grant	18304f9c-b21.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Our proposal has not changed in regards to scope of work.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you agree travel expenses must 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 Long Prairie

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