

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2009 Phase 2 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 049-B1

Project Title: Preventing Nonpoint Pollution in Cannon, Rum, Mississippi Rivers

Total Project Budget: \$ \$150,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 years, July 2009-July 2011

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$100,000.00

Priority: B1. Reduce Soil Erosion

First Name: Wayne

Last Name: Ostlie

Sponsoring Organization: Great River Greening

Address: 35 W Water Street #201

Saint Paul MN 55107

Telephone Number: 651-665-9500

Email: wostlie@greatrivergreening.org

Fax: 651-665-9409

Web Address: www.greatrivergreening.org

Region:

County Name:

City / Township:

Metro, SE

Chisago, Isanti, Rice, Wright

NA

Summary: Some critical waters exist in county parks without staff experts in practices affecting water quality. Partners will demonstrate best practices for erosion, siltation, stormwater pollution along Rum, Cannon, Mississippi.

Main Proposal: 1008-2-013-proposal-2009_main_proposal_template.doc

Project Budget: 1008-2-013-budget-RFP_2009_Project Budget.xls

Qualifications: 1008-2-013-qualifications-Project Manager Qualifications.doc

Map:

Letter of Resolution: 1008-2-013-resolution-signed resolution letterhead.doc

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Preventing Nonpoint Pollution in Cannon, Rum, Mississippi Rivers

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Minnesota Statewide Preservation and Conservation Plan identifies nonpoint source pollution and shoreline disturbance as major threats to the quality of Minnesota's water resources. Some of the state's most sensitive and critical waters exist within and adjacent to county parks, and for many Minnesotans, county parks provide unparalleled access to the state's water resources. However, park managers responsible for their protection are unable to use best management practices (BMPs) to safeguard these treasures.

Targeting the root causes of this problem—insufficient funding and lack of expertise—this project will:

- 1) Conduct assessments of 8 major county parks to identify threats to critical water resources/shorelines and provide solutions to abate or ameliorate these threats.
- 2) Complete demonstration projects for at least three of the parks. Implementation will include a public outreach with signage and project sheets. A presentation to the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association annual meeting will build further awareness.

We propose to focus our body of work on at least 8 county parks bordering some of Minnesota's most critical waters: Mississippi River State Wild and Scenic River (2 parks in Wright County), Cannon River State Wild and Scenic River (1 park in Rice County), Rum River State Wild and Scenic River (1 park in Isanti County), and 4 with important shallow lake and wetland features in Chisago, Wright, Isanti, and Rice counties.

Great River Greening has years of demonstrated capacity and expertise in natural resource management affecting land-water connections and ongoing relationships with the counties involved. Partnering counties include: Rice, Wright, Isanti and Chisago Counties. Other federal and state experts will be involved in evaluation and dissemination. \$100,000 of matching funds is anticipated.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Completed assessments and recommendations to address threats to critical waters and shorelines within or adjacent to at least 8 county parks in the partnering counties of Rice, Wright, Isanti and Chisago.

Budget: \$72,100

Deliverables

1. At least 8 assessments and recommendations addressing threats to the targeted waters and shorelines.

Description: Working with park managers, ecologists will identify threats to these resources and sources of these threats, review current management practices and patterns of visitor usage at each park, and craft holistic solutions for protection of shoreline and water resources. BMP recommendations will be developed through:

- 1) conducting an assessment of current status/condition of shoreland and critical water resources within or adjacent to the targeted parks.
- 2) identifying the sources of impacts to these resources stemming from park use and associated management activities. Source of impacts includes shoreline erosion, siltation, stormwater runoff, and non-sediment pollution such as from fertilizers, boat launches, and pet waste.
- 3) developing new or retrofitting existing management plans to incorporate best management practices to address and ameliorate impacts.

Completion Date: June 30, 2010.

Result 2: Demonstration projects targeting a suite of priority threats to waters and shorelands occurring in at least 3 parks

Budget: \$77,900

Deliverables

1. Targeted protection/restoration of shoreland and critical waters for at least 3 parks, improving at least 900 acres that impact at least 6 miles of lakeshore and riverfront.

Description:

Working with park managers, ecologists will execute a suite of restoration activities designed to abate major threats and achieve demonstrable improvements to water and shoreline resources. These may include the planting of buffer strips, modifications to existing trails, shoreline plantings, boat launch retrofits, and rain gardens. Public dissemination of the results will occur through at least three venues: on-site signage, project sheets, and presentation at the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association annual meeting.

Completion Date: June 30, 2011.

III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

A. Project Partners

BMP Site Partners: Laird Mork, Chisago County Parks; Jim McGough, Rice County Parks; Marc Mattice, Wright County Parks; Barry Wendorf, Isanti County Parks.

Evaluation of deliverables and assistance in public dissemination: Dana Raines, Onanegozie Resource Conservation & Development; Jim Onstad, Mid-Minnesota Mississippi River RC&D; Jerry Spetzman, Chisago County Water Resource Manager; Craig Mell, Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District, Brian Sanoski, Wright Soil and Water Conservation District; Hannah Texler, Central Region Ecologist, DNR; Michelle Snyder, Minnesota Parks and Recreation Association, and Chuck Wocken, Minnesota County Parks Association.

Project manager and supervision of Great River Greening ecologists: Wayne Ostlie, Director of Conservation Programs, Great River Greening.

B. Project Impact

This project will build and improve capacity to implement appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for critical land and water resources, specifically county parks along the Cannon, Mississippi, and Rum Rivers designated as Wild & Scenic Rivers. Such practices that look comprehensively at all the park stressors on water quality have never been fully developed, assembled into a central location, or made easily accessible to park managers and their staff. Furthermore, resources are insufficient relative to the need and cumulative expertise is difficult given the temporary seasonal nature of many park management staff.

C. Time

Two years is necessary to include field seasons for evaluating particular shorelines for the selected parks, develop the recommendations, and then implement and disseminate.

D. Long-Term Strategy (if applicable)

The next phase to this project will be broadening of the project beyond the first three demonstration projects to implementation of all targeted parks. The partners involved are committed to raising the necessary matching funds from county and private sources for that expanded work. In addition, we foresee expansion of this body of work to other county parks in the metro and southeast region and are working with the soil and conservation and the park organizations to that end.

Project Budget

Preventing Nonpoint Pollution in Cannon, Rum, Mississippi Rivers
Great River Greening

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT	% FTE
Personnel:	\$ -	%
Project director (project management, reporting)	\$ 7,000	2%
Accounting assistant (budget accounting)	\$ 1,500	1%
Business director (budget management)	\$ 3,900	2%
Field technicians (crew of 3 for implementation)	\$ 9,200	5%
Restoration ecologist (assessment & supervision of implementation)	\$ 74,900	60%
Equipment/Tools:	\$ -	
Acquisition (Including Easements): NA	\$ -	
Restoration: 900 acres (materials are many and include: coir logs, coconut erosion blanket, wooden stakes, native trees, shrubs and plugs, live stakes)	\$ 50,500	
Other: Printing and map creation	\$ 500	
Mileage	\$ 2,500	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 150,000	

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation (NA):	\$ -	
Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period: County funds; federal funds	\$ 100,000	Pending
Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period: NA	\$ -	
In-kind Services During Project Period: County staff inkind	\$ 39,000	Committed
Past Spending: previous county park natural resource expenses	\$ 35,000	

PROJECT TITLE: Preventing Nonpoint Pollution in Cannon, Rum, Mississippi Rivers
Project Manager Qualifications & Organization Description

Wayne Ostlie, Conservation Director (M.A., Botany) is a 20-year veteran in the field of natural resource conservation with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and now Great River Greening. As Science Director of the Conservancy's Iowa program, Wayne managed the chapter's preserve portfolio, along with staff and an extensive volunteer network. Later, as Science Director for the Conservancy's Great Plains Program and then through various roles within its Central Science Program, Wayne led and managed an array of programs and high-level projects in furtherance of the Conservancy's regional and global objectives. In his new role as Director of Conservation Programs, Wayne directs new initiatives, projects, and partnerships for Great River Greening, building the organization both geographically and programmatically.

The nonprofit **Great River Greening** leads and promotes community based restoration of natural areas and open spaces. Our team of experienced ecologists and landscape designers bring over 50 years' combined experience managing native habitats, conducting natural resource inventories, fundraising for restoration projects on public lands, and engaging nearly 20,000 volunteers.

We have a regional reputation at all levels of community and government. For example the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has come to us for numerous partnerships: management for the Eagle Creek Aquatic Management Area (AMA) adjacent to private housing, the landowner incentive program for the Franconia – Scandia corridor, and restoration of Afton State Park, to name only a few. We are also a member of the Metro Conservation Corridors, a government-nonprofit collaboration of ten partners that has legislative funding for metro area protection and management.