

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2020 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 285-GH

Chippewa Acquisition, Recreation and Education

Category: H. Proposals seeking \$200,000 or less in funding

Sub-Category: G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 160,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2023 (3 yrs)

Summary:

Chippewa County will acquire 51 acres of riverine wetland/floodplain forest complex, floodplain and abandoned gravel pits along the MN River to provide water filtration, education and recreational opportunities.

Name: Scott Williams

Sponsoring Organization: Chippewa County

Job Title: _____

Department: _____

Address: 629 N 11th St
Montevideo MN 56265

Telephone Number: (320) 269-2653

Email swilliams@co.chippewa.mn.us

Web Address: co.chippewa.mn.us

Location:

Region: Southwest

County Name: Chippewa

City / Township: Montevideo

Alternate Text for Visual:

The map identifies the two parcels to be acquired as well as the tax forfeited parcel identified in the proposal. These parcels are South of Montevideo, MN near the MN River and US Highway 212

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL	_____ %



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2020 Main Proposal Template**

PROJECT TITLE: Chippewa County Acquisition, Recreation and Education.

PROJECT STATEMENT: Chippewa County will acquire 51 acres of riverine wetland/floodplain forest complex, floodplain and abandoned gravel pits along the MN River southwest of Montevideo. Following acquisition, Chippewa County and partners within the DNR, will develop an implementation plan to protect and expand the ecological benefits the land has to the areas ecosystem. Lastly, portions of the land will be developed to provide recreational access and educational opportunities along the MN River.

The 51 acres to be acquired, plus the adjacent 45 acres of tax forfeited land, provide multiple benefits to numerous native species of fish and wildlife, including nesting, spawning, and feeding, resting, and winter cover. Public ownership of these two parcels would allow for active management of the habitats through partnerships with the MN DNR and the US FWS. Habitat segmentation due to historical diking and abandoned roadways could be mitigated. Future management activities that restore more natural connectivity between the wetlands and the Minnesota River would be beneficial, especially for numerous native fish species that rely on riverine wetlands for numerous life history functions. A Minnesota's Natural Heritage Information (NHIS) review was completed on January 25, 2019. Within a one-mile radius of the proposed project area, there are 18 documented features including threatened mussel species (mucket, elktoe, spike and fluted-shell) and special concern species (Iowa skipper, creek heelsplitter, black sandshell and round pigtoe).

Both parcels provide water quality benefits to the Minnesota River by filtering water that flows through them. As cumulative impacts of upstream drainage continue to impact water quality in the Minnesota River, any amount of riverine wetlands that can be restored or protected will have cumulative impacts that will help mitigate the impacts of drainage. The filtering value of these wetlands could be enhanced by restoring more natural water pathways through them that have been disrupted by the abandoned roadways, resulting in additional water quality benefits.

These parcels also provide numerous opportunities for environmental learning studies relating to water quality, insects, fish and wildlife, to name just a few. The flow-through nature of the riverine wetland complex provides a unique opportunity to evaluate how wetlands filter nutrients and sediment from water. Water enters the upstream end of the wetland complex from the Minnesota River during high flow events and exits downstream, resulting in improved water quality.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1 Title: Land Acquisition

Description:

This property also provides an important function of water filtration of upland runoff before it flows into the river. Preservation of these filter lands are crucial to improving water quality on the MN River. A management plan will be developed considering the natural benefits of the area and to identify additional practices that could be implemented in the future.

Both of the properties to be acquired became available from willing sellers in an effort to continue the conservation practices currently on their land. Due to the proximity of these properties in relation to the tax forfeited properties adjacent to them, these pieces become part of a much bigger puzzle in the MN River valley.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$85,000



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Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquire two parcels of land totaling 51 Acres	December 31, 2020

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 2 Title: Management Plan and Implementation

Description:

Chippewa County will hire an expert or firm to study the property acquired and develop a long term management plan to protect water quality and benefit the many species native to the specific area. Working with MN DNR Fisheries specialists from Ortonville, the plan will address water quality, spawning and nesting grounds and general ecological concerns. Based on the plan recommendations, projects will be implemented to address the goal.

Contracts for Plan development as well as implementation will be carried out following a competitive bid process.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 60,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Develop Plan to manage terrestrial and aquatic habitats to benefit natural heritage features in the area	August 2020 to June 2021
2. Implementation Projects	June 30, 2022

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 3 Title: Recreation

Description:

Chippewa County will, through a competitive bid process, award a contract to construct and install a 40’ long fishing pier with a 30’ long cross dock at the end. This pier will be handicapped accessible and will be installed by the County Highway Department.

Chippewa County will construct a parking area in the most upland portion of the acquired property. The parking area will have access from the adjacent township gravel road and provide space for approximately 10 vehicles. Chippewa County will utilize existing funds in the County Park Reserve fund to pay for the parking lot along with in kind design work from the Chippewa County Highway Department.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$15,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Fishing Pier	June 30, 2022
2. Parking Area	June 30,2022

III. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS: MN DNR Fisheries Ortonville, MN DNR Wildlife, Spicer, MN DNR Trails, Spicer, Chippewa County Commissioners, Chippewa County Park Board.

IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING: Chippewa County includes an allocation in its annual budget to support the county parks. Long term funding for this area and future development will come from budget allocations of the county and private donations made to the parks.



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2020 Main Proposal Template**

V. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

- A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet** Attachment A
- B. Visual Component or Map** Attachment B
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet** Attachment C
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements** Attachment D
- E. Research Addendum (Not required at proposal submission stage. Required later in process, if proposal is recommended. Staff will provide further information at that time)**
- F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description** – Attachment F
- G. Letter or Resolution** – Attachment G
- H. Financial Capacity** -

Attachment A: Project Budget Spreadsheet
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2020 Budget Spreadsheet



Legal Citation:

Project Manager: Scott Williams, Director Land & Resource Mgmt

Project Title: Chippewa County Acquisition, Recreation and Education.

Organization: Chippewa County

Project Budget: \$160,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2023

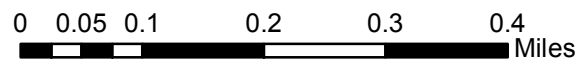
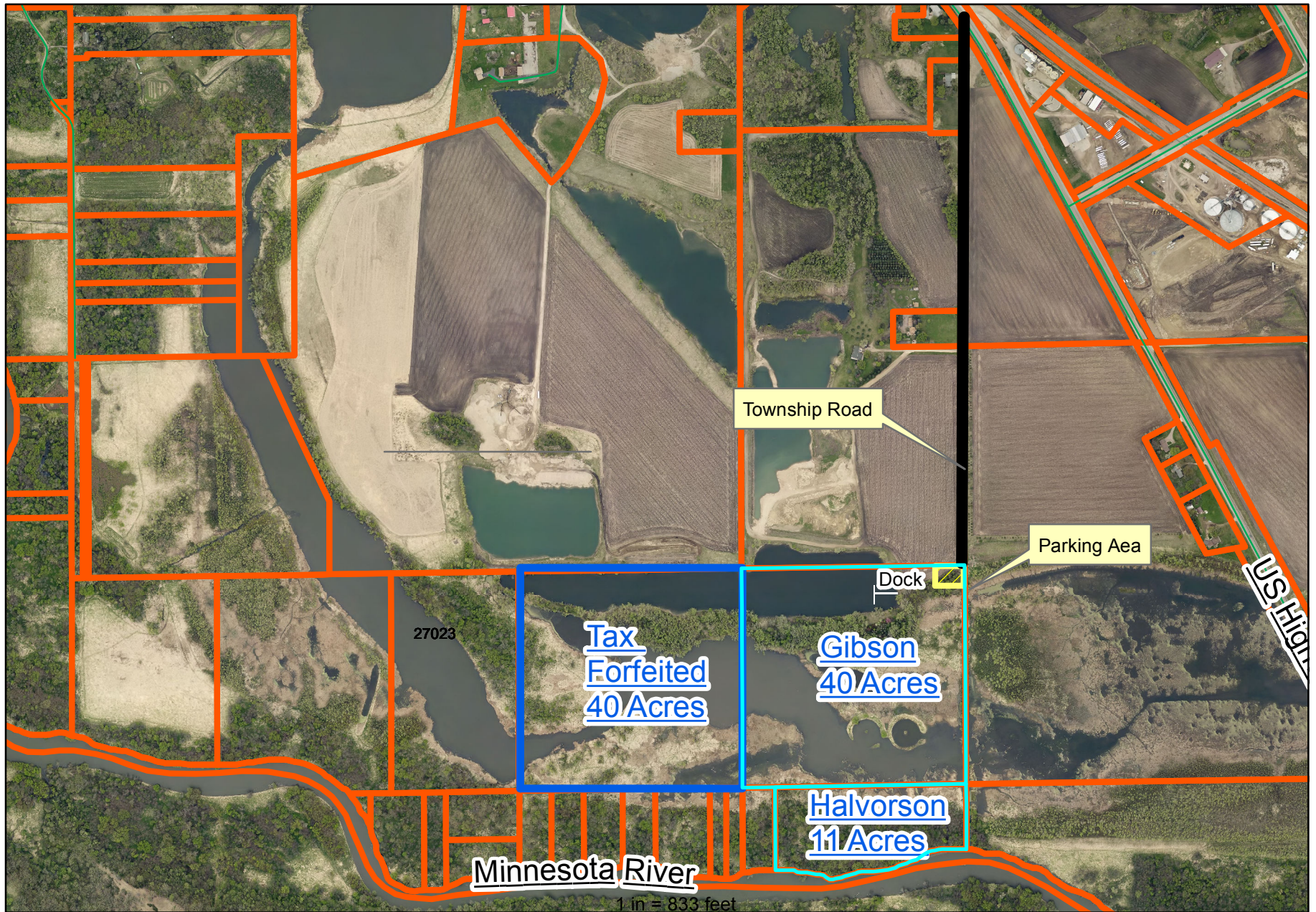
Today's Date: April 15, 2019

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts			
Implementation - A contract will be awarded to implement conservation and restoration practices identified in the Management Plan. The contractor will be selected through a competitive bid process.	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Management Plan - A contract will be awarded to complete a management plan through a competitive bid process.	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
<i>Fishing Pier</i>	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fee Title Acquisition			
<i>Gibson Parcel and Halvorson Parcel 51 acres at \$1500 per acre</i>	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000
Easement Acquisition			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Services for Acquisition			
<i>Closing/Attorney Fees/appraisal</i>	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
Printing			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Travel expenses in Minnesota			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other			

COLUMN TOTAL	\$ 160,000	\$ -	\$ 160,000
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SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State: County Park Budget for Fishing Pie	Secured	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Non-State: County Park Budget Parking Area	Secured	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
State:			\$ -	\$ -
In kind: County Land & Resource Mgmt Director time and overhead	Secured	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
In Kind: County Highway Dept. Parking Area Construction	Secured	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Chippewa Acquisition, Recreation and Education



Attachment C: Template

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Acquisition/Restoration Parcel List Spreadsheet

Project Title: Chippewa County Land Acquisition for Water Quality, Recreation and Education

Legal Citation: Staff will update the legal citation upon work plan approval by the LCCMR following the MN Legislative Session.

Project Manager: Scott Williams

Organization: Chippewa County

College/Department/Division:NA

M.L. 2020 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ Fill in your appropriation amount (this is the amount recommended for funding by LCCMR)

Project Length and Completion Date: 2 years

Today's Date: March 12, 2019



Instructions: Please include on the following list all targeted parcels that you are currently considering for acquisition (fee title or easement) or restoration (all phases) using the appropriation. The list may include more parcels than you will ultimately acquire or conduct restoration work on with the funds. To be eligible as part of your project, however, a parcel must be included on the list. Changes may be requested through the amendment process. Please update the status column and submit with your periodic workplan updates. Include any significant issues related to any particular parcel in your activity and project status sections of your Main Workplan Document.

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (preferably from the center of the parcel) Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance (please include what ecosystem (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna) is represented as well as the ecological significance, site importance, conservation value, and public benefits)	Activity Description (e.g. fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, restoration)	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner (private individual or trust, non-profit organization, for-profit entity)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status of work (e.g. engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway)
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Gibson 40	44.90714	-95.69923	\$ 60,000	\$ -	Chippewa	riverine wetland, forested wetland	fee title	40		Private	County	engaged with landowner
2	Halverson	44.9047	-95.69879	\$ 16,500	\$ -	Chippewa	riverine wetland, forested wetland	fee title	11		private	County	engaged with landowner
3													
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
9													
10													

NOTES:

Attachment D. Additional Work Plan Information for Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration

Acquisition/Restoration Information:

Fee Title Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

The landowners of these two parcels contacted the county inquiring as to our interest in purchasing these properties. Following conversations with the DNR, it became apparent that this property could have significant impact on the area and that county ownership and protection would be a positive goal.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified. Include a link to the plan if one is available.
3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.
 - a. Components and Outcomes –
 - i. US Highway 212 crossed through these parcels at one time. Because road was abandoned and not removed, the old road bed remains on the easterly boundary of the properties. Removal of the road bed will allow the natural flow of water to be restored providing positive impacts on water quality and retention. A management plan will be developed by hiring a qualified contractor to study the area and come up with conclusions that can be implemented to accomplish this goal. A competitive bid process will be utilized to hire a qualified individual/firm.
 - b. Record Keeping – All records will be kept by the Chippewa County Land & Resource Mgmt. Director. The management of the property will become part of the annual work plan of the dept. and will be subject to all Chippewa County plans and procedures.
 - c. Long Term Implementation – Activities on this property will maintain the natural and original character of the area. While some improvements in accessibility will be completed, minimizing impact will be the front and foremost goal.
 - d. Long Term O & M – Long term and continuing expenses will be budgeted by the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners. The property will likely be designated as a new county park once title is acquired.
4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

The ownership of this property will be retained by Chippewa County. The County will hold title to this land for perpetuity.

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

Chippewa County will seek out the written approval from the DNR Commissioner 10 days prior to any final acquisition.



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2020 Main Proposal Template**

F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners will be responsible for this project by making policy and financial decisions. Day to day activities and management of the site will be delegated to Scott Williams as Project Manager.

Scott Williams, Director of Chippewa County Land & Resource Mgmt. Williams has over 20 years' experience managing Chippewa County's zoning, solid waste, and water planning and park activities. Williams is currently responsible for managing the two county parks in Chippewa County and will be responsible for managing the new parcels when they are acquired.