



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2025 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2025-012

Proposal Title: Eagle's Nest: Where the World Becomes Your Classroom

Project Manager Information

Name: Jodee Lund

Organization: Glacial Hills Elementary School

Office Telephone: (320) 244-3336

Email: jlund@glacialhills.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Creating an innovative approach to improve people's mental health and wellbeing while developing an appreciation for, conservation of, and preservation of nature!

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$130,000

Proposed Project Completion: July 31, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary Category: Environmental Education (C)

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 and In the Future

Narrative

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

Starbuck is not racially diverse, but economically diverse. Over 60% of our students qualify for free and reduced meals, and many come to us with trauma. Currently, the childhood poverty rate is 11.5% in Starbuck. Poverty creates social stress for families, hindering their ability to support their children's proper development. Additionally, children are spending less time outdoors and more time inside, leading to increased mental health concerns and a lack of appreciation for, conservation of, and preservation of nature.

The current conditions of our city parks and amenities are poor. They fail to attract children and families for outdoor learning or recreation. Due to poverty and financial limitations, opportunities to expose students to outdoor learning and recreation beyond our community are limited. Our families lack access to strategies, resources, and spaces to nurture their children's social and emotional skills. Children who explore the outdoors develop better motor skills, enhanced decision-making and problem-solving abilities, and an understanding of their connection with surrounding ecosystems. Both our school and the wider community are ill-equipped to proactively address these issues.

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.

Help Glacial Hills Elementary provide families with resources, programming, and a space to collaboratively develop healthy children and families through the use of nature. We will generate programs to engage people of all ages in environmental education, exploration, and play; naturally instilling a love and concern for nature to ensure the preservation and conservation of nature for generations to come.

The school is building an outdoor learning center called the Eagle's Nest to include an outdoor classroom, trails, gardens, and other restorative habitats and ecosystems. This is being completed in phases. The first phase requires our 3rd-6th grade students and staff to design and build the outdoor classroom, trails, observation stations, and training staff on Project Learning Tree, our new environmental education curriculum. This phase will be completed by Fall 2024.

It is our hope that this proposal supports Phase 2 of the project which includes interactive natural playground/landscaping features and staffing for environmental education programming outside of regular school activities. All landscaping and natural playground features look like miniature natural landscapes, encouraging play and learning! The programs and events within the Eagle's Nest will focus on the school's environmental literacy plan to preserve and conserve the environment.

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?

Through the outdoor learning center, the Eagle's Nest, and the programs hosted by the school within this space, area students and families will recognize their own interconnectedness with the ecosystems that surround them. Both students and area residents will work collaboratively to maintain this space to conserve and preserve the rehabilitation of the species and habitats developed in this land. The school will integrate this space into the daily curriculum to naturally embed environmental education into everyday learning opportunities and host a variety of programming outside of school hours.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Summer Nature Camp

Activity Budget: \$35,665

Activity Description:

Glacial Hills Elementary would like to offer a two week summer camp that integrates environmental education and the MN state academic standards. Teachers will use nature to teach math, ELA, science, and social studies standards. This will be open to students free of charge and will accept up to 60 students. This camp will be hosted at our environmental learning center called the Eagle's Nest, but will include field trips to local farms, marina, state park, museums, and zoos. The budget supports a two year nature camp led by four certified teachers and assisted by two paraprofessionals. It also provides the staff with funds for field trips and materials for activities.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Planning and Preparation: Lesson Plan, Order Materials, Schedule Days	May 31, 2026
Host Summer Nature Camp	June 30, 2026
Planning and Preparation: Lesson Plan, Order Materials, Schedule Days	May 31, 2027
Host Summer Maker Camp	June 30, 2027

Activity 2: Nature Maker Camp

Activity Budget: \$16,650

Activity Description:

A maker camp is driven by curiosity, exploration, problem-solving, and perseverance. These characteristics will be embedded into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), environmental education, and project-based learning curriculum. In this three-day camp, students will identify an environmental problem or design a component to enhance the environmental education experiences in the outdoor learning center called the Eagle's Nest. This will not only require students to gain a general knowledge of environmental education but also engineering skills. The funding for this camp includes three teachers, two paraprofessionals, and material costs for two years. At the same time, this activity allows the school to maintain the Eagle's Nest properly with the help of students, instilling the importance of nature preservation!

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Planning and Preparation: Lesson Plan and Order Materials	May 31, 2026
Host Nature Maker Camp	July 31, 2026
Planning and Preparation: Lesson Plan and Order Materials	May 31, 2027
Host Nature Maker Camp	July 31, 2027

Activity 3: Family Outdoor Nights

Activity Budget: \$10,547

Activity Description:

Open to families in the surrounding area, these events will provide family fun for all ages, as environmental education stations will be offered in our Eagle's Nest. This will not only build people's knowledge of the relationship between the

environment and human life, and how to sustain a healthy environment, but give families safe, fun, and healthy activities they can replicate at home. This budget supports staffing for the one-night event and materials for each station for two years.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Planning and Preparation: Develop stations and assign staff leaders for each one, advertise event	April 30, 2026
Host Family Outdoor Night	June 30, 2026
Planning and Preparation: Develop stations and assign staff leaders for each one, advertise event	April 30, 2027
Host Family Outdoor Night	June 30, 2027

Activity 4: Natural Playgrounds and Landscaping

Activity Budget: \$67,138

Activity Description:

Help us build an appreciation for nature through purchasing and installing natural playgrounds throughout our outdoor learning center. It is not surprising that kids need nature and nature makes children more resilient! However, in this age of technology, it is difficult to disconnect kids and get them outside. Help us build intriguing and exciting playground spots that reflect the environment! This includes embankment hill slides, rocks and boulders, hollow log tunnels, log stepping blocks, musical fences, tree decks, shade arbors, stilts, rock climbing wall, sandboxes, water tables, and so much more!

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Review catalog, generate wish list based on student input, generate quote	February 28, 2024
Order equipment	July 31, 2025
Install equipment and landscaping	October 31, 2025

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?

Since this space is meant to host environmental education programs and events, it naturally makes sense to incorporate the maintenance of this area into those programs and events. The school will use our Young Roots classes, the Conservation Crew afterschool program, Summer Nature Camp and Maker Camp to expand and repair the outdoor learning center. Findings and results will be used to guide future projects and curriculum development. This work will be funded through our general fund, fundraisers, and grants. Administration is committed to sustaining this project with time, resources, and money.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Jodee Lund

Job Title: Director

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

Jodee Lund, the school director, leads a small rural school. She takes on many responsibilities, but does so responsibly and successfully. She has helped the school receive over \$400,000 in grant funding for different projects including renovating many areas of the school. For each grant awarded, Jodee Lund manages them through the usage of organized folders in Google Drive and shared spreadsheets where finances are tracked. She also isn't hesitant to utilize grant resources, attend webinars, and ask for help to ensure grant management is compliant.

Organization: Glacial Hills Elementary School

Organization Description:

GHEs has the mission to create an innovative, dedicated, safe, and caring environment for students in preschool through sixth grade. This is accomplished by collaborating with families and staff to achieve academic success and environmental literacy through hands-on-learning and individualized instruction. We embrace experiential learning, student-centered instruction, and learning outside the classroom to teach Minnesota State Standards and environmental education. We believe instruction should reflect the real world.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Maker Camp Teacher		Teacher			14%	0.06		\$3,434
Maker Camp Teacher		Teacher			14%	0.06		\$3,434
Maker Camp Teacher		Teacher			14%	0.06		\$3,434
Maker Camp Administration		Advertising, hiring, program organization, enrollment for listed program only			14%	0.02		\$580
Maker Camp Paraprofessional		Assist teachers and students during camp			13%	0.04		\$884
Maker Camp Paraprofessional		Assist teachers and students during camp			13%	0.04		\$884
Summer Nature Camp Teacher		Teacher			14%	0.1		\$6,867
Summer Nature Camp Teacher		Teacher			14%	0.1		\$6,867
Summer Nature Camp Teacher		Teacher			14%	0.1		\$6,867
Summer Nature Camp Teacher		Teacher			14%	0.1		\$6,867
Summer Nature Camp Administration		Advertising, hiring, program organization, enrollment for listed program only			2%	0.06		\$580
Summer Nature Camp Paraprofessional		Assist teachers and students during activities			13%	0.06		\$2,358
Family Outdoor Night Teachers		18 Teachers to lead stations			14%	0.02		\$6,180
Family Outdoor Night Administration		Advertising, lead stations, program organization, enrollment for listed program only			14%	0.02		\$464
Family Outdoor Night Paraprofessionals		7 Paras to assist teachers and students at stations			14%	0.02		\$2,403

Summer Nature Camp Paraprofessional		Assist students and teachings during activities			13%	0.06		\$2,358
							Sub Total	\$54,461
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Equipment	Ultima ZT1 50 in. Fabricated Deck 23HP V-Twin Kawasaki FR Series Engine Dual Hydro Drive Gas Zero Turn Riding Lawn Mower	To groom trails					\$3,599
	Equipment	Qty 2 - Slab Bridge 15in x 10'	Provide paths across difficult and wet terrain					\$920
	Equipment	Log maze	Outdoor engagement activity/large motor skills					\$1,900
	Equipment	Log Hurdles (set of 6)	Nature engagement activity/large motor skills					\$555
	Equipment	Tree Cookies (bulk set of 25)	Nature engagement activity/large motor skills					\$495
	Equipment	Hallow logs 4' long 23in interior	Environmental education and nature activities/large muscle activities					\$2,900
	Equipment	Qty 2- Caves	Environmental education and nature activities/large muscle activities					\$1,370
	Equipment	Shade Arbors 8x8	Provide shade and house a collection of nature-based items					\$1,696
	Equipment	8ft Teepee	Indiginous learning, acts as a garden for vine plants, and provides shade for outdoor learning					\$1,000
	Equipment	Balance Edge	Nature engagement activity, large muscle activities					\$240
	Equipment	Rope Pull Up 16' Long	Climbing accessory for tree deck or climbing wall					\$770
	Equipment	Qty 4 - Teepees Slat Panel Inserts	Assessories for 8ft Teepee					\$752
	Equipment	Qty 2 - Solid panel insert for TP with climbing handholds	Assessories for Teepee					\$490
	Equipment	Climbing Walls In Ground and Attached to Decks	Climbing wall for tree deck					\$1,665
	Equipment	Closed back ladders	Assessory for tree deck					\$640

	Equipment	Net Climb for Tree Decks	Assessory for tree deck					\$825
	Equipment	6ft Embankment Slide	Nature engagement activity					\$2,745
	Equipment	Shipping and Handling	Ship items directly to our school					\$3,644
	Equipment	Notched Log Climb	Nature Engagment Activity/Large muscle motor skills					\$1,760
	Equipment	Fort 8' Octagonal	Nature-based play, engagement activity					\$2,146
	Tools and Supplies	Nature Maker Camp Materials for 2 years	Wood, tools, rock, nails, screws, etc (depends on the project the students identify)					\$4,000
	Tools and Supplies	Summer Nature Camp for 2 Years	Tools, wood, nails, screws, etc					\$2,900
	Tools and Supplies	Family Outdoor Night for 2 Years	Supplies for nature station activities					\$1,500
							Sub Total	\$38,512
Capital Expenditures								
		Embankment Slide 16'	Outdoor Learning Center Slide	X				\$7,445
		Tree Decks 15' Octagonal 6' H	Environmental education and nature activities/large muscle activities	X				\$11,400
		Gazebo with Decks 10'	Provide shade and spot for outdoor learning	X				\$6,997
		12ft TeePee	Indiginous learning, acts as a garden for vine plants, and provides shade for outdoor learning	X				\$5,500
		Embankment Climbing Walls	Large muscle/motor activity, built into a hill for natural experiance	X				\$5,685
							Sub Total	\$37,027
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	\$130,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Capital Expenditures		Embankment Slide 16'	Natural playground/landscaping equipment Additional Explanation : It will be built into the side of our hill and remain there.
Capital Expenditures		Tree Decks 15' Octagonal 6' H	Environmental education and nature activities/large muscle activities Additional Explanation : This will be placed strategically in our Eagle's Nest where it will not need to be moved and we will only use in the OLC.
Capital Expenditures		Gazebo with Decks 10'	Provide shade and spot for outdoor learning Additional Explanation : This will be strategically placed so it will not have to be moved and will only be used in our OLC, the Eagle's Nest
Capital Expenditures		12ft TeePee	Indigenous learning, acts as a garden for vine plants, and provides shade for outdoor learning Additional Explanation : Will be installed in the Eagle's Nest and will not be moved.
Capital Expenditures		Embankment Climbing Walls	Large muscle/motor activity, built into a hill for natural experience Additional Explanation : This will be installed into a hill and will not be moved. This hill will be located in our Eagle's Nest.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
Cash	No Child Left Inside Grant	Outdoor Recreation Equipment, Environmental Education Curriculum	Secured	\$19,801
In-Kind	GHES Staffing and Labor	All phase 1 activities were completed during school hours and incorporated into our school curriculum.	Secured	\$6,000
In-Kind	GHES Curriculum Development and Professional Development	Training on Project Learning Tree, Time to Develop Lessons to Include Eagle's Nest	Secured	\$16,380
In-Kind	GHES Staffing and Labor	Check out/in system for outdoor equipment to community members (skates, skis, snowshoes, fishing rods, sleds, etc). Equipment from No Child Left Inside Grant.	Secured	\$1,560
			State Sub Total	\$43,741
Non-State				
Cash	Donations	Tools and materials to build outdoor classroom, observation stations, etc	Secured	\$13,000
Cash	West Central Initiative Resilient Communities Grant	Outdoor classroom, trails, observation stations, equipment, tools, etc.	Secured	\$15,000
Cash	Prairie Care Fund Grant	Training, Outdoor Learning Center Equipment	Pending	\$19,423
Cash	Gladys Brang Foundation	Training, Outdoor Learning Center Equipment	Pending	\$14,000
Cash	Casey's Cash For Classrooms	Training, Outdoor Learning Center Equipment	Secured	\$6,500
In-Kind	Westwood Professionals	Surveyed the land, landscape architect and engineers to assist with project design and questions. Westwood Professional Services donated their time as part of their Westwood Cares Program.	Secured	\$7,500
			Non State Sub Total	\$75,423
			Funds Total	\$119,164

Total Project Cost: \$249,164

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [6309ba1a-651.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

This an overview of what was given to 3rd through 6th grade students to develop design proposals of the outdoor learning center called the Eagle's Nest. In small groups, students generated proposals, and elements of each proposal was taken to create one final design to bring to life....

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Letter of Support	fee3ef76-551.pdf
Media Updates of Work Accomplished	5a821861-81b.png
Media Updates of Work Accomplished	c4e76eab-22a.jpe
First Day of Work on Eagle's Nest	cab042bf-775.png
Media Update of Work Accomplished	60962bc1-12a.png
2022-2023 Audit	e6dcf1b6-59b.pdf
Original Idea (subject to change pending student input and designs)	5289a619-71b.jpe
Letter of Support	8cfa902b-f79.pdf
Board Resolution	a2104ebd-65a.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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?

No

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:

Jodee Lund | Glacial Hills Elementary School

