



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2025 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2025-043

Proposal Title: Carey Lake Recreation Area Enhancement Project

Project Manager Information

Name: Nick Arola

Organization: City of Hibbing

Office Telephone: (218) 421-5565

Email: nickarola@hibbingmn.gov

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Development of Carey Lake Recreation Area consisting of multiple enhancements including the construction of new trails, a bog walk, playground structure, beach enhancement, pavilion construction, and maintenance building construction.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$1,155,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 31, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Land Acquisition, Habitat, and Recreation (G)

Project Location

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

Region(s): NE

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

Statewide

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.

In 1995, the City of Hibbing conducted a parks and recreation needs assessment. In this report, the opportunity for new development at the Carey Lake Recreation Area, with appropriate facilities within the eleven hundred and thirty-nine (1,139) acres, near the one hundred and thirty-nine-acre lake of the park was noted and described.

More recently, in the city's 2023 parks masterplan, Carey Lake Park is highlighted for providing public access to mostly pristine natural, undeveloped, and forested areas within the city limits. Residents and visitors use thirteen (13) miles of trails throughout the park for hiking and cross-country skiing, bird watching, and accessing the public beach during summer months. When survey respondents were asked for their suggestions for how they felt the community could better use the park, specific ideas emerged: development of a campground, alignment of the internal park trails with external regional trail systems, new trails, addition of public facilities to the beach area, and increased activities and events. These developments would enhance use of the park by residents and visitors and create a recreation destination area.

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.

Our main priority in this phase of project is to expand on the improvements that the City has already committed to at Carey Lake and supplement the experience for the users. The City is currently constructing a campground in the Carey Lake Recreation Area. This next phase of the project is putting icing on the cake and will tie everything together providing a destination location for local residents and visitors to the Hibbing area. First, we will aim to enhance our trail system. We will work to add additional trails, rehab current trails, and to provide more hiking opportunities along with fat tire biking and cross country trails. We will also ensure that alignment of the trails will connect with regional systems adjacent to the park (Redhead Trail). The highlight of the trail construction will be a bog walk/boardwalk that will be constructed for enhance wildlife viewing opportunities. A new play structure will be added along with a pavilion near the beach to provide more amenities for day-use visitors and park campers. Lastly, we plan to construct a maintenance garage in the park to allow for safe and secure storage of park equipment and the maintenance supplies.

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?

By investing in recreation amenities and services, within our eleven-hundred-acre space we are focused on creating an environment that is attractive to both existing and potential residents. Additionally, we want to connect residents and visitors alike with the outdoors and allow them to experience this wonderful natural resource within the City of Hibbing. Finally, through this thoughtful development, the preservation of the remainder of the pristine undeveloped wetland and forested spaces will ensure that we are protecting, sustaining, and improving the Carey Lake Recreation Area for generations.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Conduct feasibility and Pre-Design/Design related services.

Activity Budget: \$2,500

Activity Description:

Work will first include a phase 1 ESA along with a survey and delineation of work to be included in the scope of the project. Work will also include engineering design for work related to the Carey Lake Recreation Area. Complete the civil, landscape, architectural, mechanical, and electrical designs needed for the project. Design for trail and bog walk specifications, alignments, construction, and rehabilitation. We will also secure all permitting, consult with SHPO, and account for any B3 related activities needed and track all B3 required items.

Develop a construction project manual for competitively bidding the entire project. Provide bid advertisements, conduct pre-bid meetings, tabulate bids, and award the project.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Feasibility & Pre-Design Services	October 31, 2025
Phase 1 ESA	October 31, 2025
Final Plans & Advertise for Bids	December 31, 2025

Activity 2: Pre-Construction

Activity Budget: \$2,500

Activity Description:

Survey and delineation work to begin along with work for compliance with B3 and SHPO regulations. All permitting to be secured working towards draft and final plans.

Develop a construction project manual for competitively bidding the entire project. Provide bid advertisements, conduct pre-bid meetings, tabulate bids, and award the project.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Survey and Delineation	October 31, 2025
B3 & SHPO consultation and compliance	October 31, 2025
Secure all permitting	December 31, 2025
Final construction Documents	December 31, 2025
Awarding of bids and begin construction work	January 31, 2026

Activity 3: Construction

Activity Budget: \$1,150,000

Activity Description:

Construction will begin by contractors. Project oversight and administration begins for the entire project. Change orders and final punch list will be managed by construction manager and city staff. Earth work and the construction of the bog walk will take precedence in the priority of the construction timeline, followed by beach enhancements, trail work, maintenance garage, and lastly the rehabilitation of the roads.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction to begin by contractors	February 28, 2026
Substantial completion date	December 31, 2026

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Mayor Pete Hyduke	City of Hibbing	Project Oversight	No
Hibbing City Council	City of Hibbing	Project Oversight	No
Shelly Hanson	Hibbing Chamber of Commerce	Public Relations and Promotions	No
Greg Pruszinske	City Administrator	Project Oversight	No
Jesse Story	City Engineer	Project Oversight	No
Pete Kero	Barr Engineering	Project design, management, and Construction Administration/Oversight	No
Nick Arola	City of Hibbing	Project Oversight	No
Miriam Kero	Miriam Kero Consulting	Community Engagement	No
Betsy Olivanti	City of Hibbing	Economic Development	No
Beth Pierce	Iron Range Tourism Bureau	Data and Information Gathering	No
Kelly Grinsteiner	City of Hibbing	Marketing Manager	No
Andrea Wedul	Barr Engineering	Landscape Architect	No

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?

The Carey Lake Recreation Area is owned and maintained by the City of Hibbing, and this will continue in perpetuity. This development will be funded through a mixture of public and private dollars to ensure the quality, cost, and delivery are commensurate with what our community expects. Funds to operate and maintain the various trails, facilities, and the campground will be provided through the annual city budget. Additionally, we have community organizations that are committed to assisting the city in maintaining the various areas through volunteer efforts within the Carey Lake Recreation Area to ensure its viability in perpetuity.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Nick Arola

Job Title: City Services Director

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

In my current position as Director of City Services with the City of Hibbing, I am responsible for the management and operation of multiple city owned properties. Facilities for the City of Hibbing include Hibbing Memorial Building (Hockey Arena & Community Center), City Hall, Greyhound Bus Museum, 30 city parks, Hibbing Municipal Golf Course, and various pavilions & sports complexes. I currently manage a department budget of roughly three million dollars and am responsible for capital improvements and project management to existing and future facilities.

Currently in 2024, I am overseeing the completion of a construction project of \$2.5 million dollars within one of our

current city parks and a \$1.7 million dollar renovation of Hibbing City Hall. I am also on the city team that will help oversee a \$29.6 million dollar public safety building project and a \$7-\$10 million dollar industrial building construction for the City of Hibbing.

In previous employment positions, I was apart of a \$15 Million dollar hockey arena construction project where I was one of the lead City representatives on the project and worked hand in hand with architects and general contractors from the concept stage to completion of the project.

Taking on the addition of the Carey Lake Recreation Area enhancement project is a welcomed opportunity. I look forward to seeing this project through to the end. This eleven hundred acre park is a staple of pride and tradition of the Hibbing community and I take pride in providing quality oversight of all Hibbing facilities.

Organization: City of Hibbing

Organization Description:

Hibbing is organized as a full-service Statutory City in Northern MN, a part of St Louis County, MN with an estimated population of 16,230 residents. The Hibbing City Council, Boards, Commissions, and Staff are committed to providing a community environment that is managed in an effective, accountable and efficient manner. Further, we shall enhance that quality of life which characterizes our community by providing Hibbing's residents with the amenities that make it a desirable place to live, work and play.

We are the people-oriented organization that will reflect the highest standards of public services consistent with the trust and responsibilities given us. We strive to inform all residents of public issues and listen to their concerns for consideration in community policy. Because city government is its people, we are constantly striving for excellence and are committed to quality and professionalism in providing the best in public services to the citizens of Hibbing. Hibbing openly embraces growth and change. The people of Hibbing encourage enhancement of economic, educational, recreational, and cultural opportunities by focusing their vision on: Character, Commitment, and Opportunity. The development of the Carey Lake is rooted in our 2018 City Comprehensive Plan and 2023 Park Master Plan.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Project Contractors TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Construction				0		\$1,100,000
Pre Design / Pre Construction	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Pre Design and Final Design work				-		\$5,000
							Sub Total	\$1,105,000
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								
		Contingency funds	5%					\$50,000
							Sub Total	\$50,000
							Grand Total	\$1,155,000

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				
Cash	City of Hibbing	Pre-Design / Design	Secured	\$72,500
Cash	City of Hibbing	Pre-Construction	Secured	\$72,500
Cash	City of Hibbing	Construction	Pending	\$150,000
Cash	City of Hibbing	Project Contingency	Potential	\$15,000
Cash	City of Hhibbing	Project Management / Oversight	Potential	\$30,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$340,000
			Funds Total	\$340,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,495,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [05ea913c-95a.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Carey Lake Recreation Area Masterplan...

Financial Capacity

Title	File
City of Hibbing Audit	35493046-0d5.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Resolution	825966db-488.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Capital Const. Project Questionnaire	a2f96a04-551.pdf
Project Budget Addendum	b009015d-79d.xlsx
LOS	5acfabc7-b60.pdf
LOS	ba552943-9e4.pdf
LOS	7b57a9ac-9bb.docx
LOS	2d438513-6b5.pdf
Carey Lake Masterplan Enhancement Map	7494fe74-731.pdf
Carey Lake Programming Needs Masterplan	900391ca-872.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?

Yes

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

Yes

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF? If so, describe here (1) the source and estimated amounts of any revenue and (2) how you propose to use those revenues:

Yes, Maintain recreation area capital needs and sustain operations into the future.

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?

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")?

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:

Greg Pruszinske, Betsy Olivante