



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2025 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2025-118

Proposal Title: Mississippi Gateway Shoreline Stabilization and Fishing Improvements

Project Manager Information

Name: Brian Vlach

Organization: Three Rivers Park District

Office Telephone: (763) 694-7846

Email: Brian.Vlach@ThreeRiversParks.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The project will improve water quality and shoreline fishing access through the stabilization of the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Shoreline Area within Mississippi Gateway Regional Park, Brooklyn Park.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$735,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Methods to Protect or Restore Land, Water, and Habitat (F)

Project Location

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

Region(s): Metro

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

Region(s): Metro

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.

Mississippi Gateway Regional Park includes 1.5 miles of natural shoreline within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area. This portion of the river corridor is experiencing severe/significant erosion where there is a loss of riparian habitat as well as water quality impacts. A feasibility study (2021) identified five major areas of erosion contributing 500 tons of sediment to the Mississippi River each year. The Mississippi River-South Metro and downstream Lake Pepin areas are impaired for turbidity and nutrient concentrations. The site is also upstream of the Drinking Water Supply Management Area where erosion was identified as a high priority contaminant in the Minneapolis Source Water Protection Plan. This project is an opportunity to resolve the shoreline erosion issues and restore riparian habitat while improving water quality and protecting/preserving the natural biological/ecological significance of the river.

Mississippi Gateway Regional Park is also a popular destination (472,900 annual visitors) for under-represented communities. The project will improve access opportunities for shoreline fishing and outdoor recreational programs. This project will further compliment the on-going redevelopment (2023-2026) of the Regional Park where visitation is expected to increase at least 50% with a new Gateway Visitor Center and overall improvements in amenities.

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.

Three Rivers Park District is requesting funding for stabilization of 2100 linear feet of Mississippi River shoreline at five highly erosive areas (Design Plan Work Areas 1-5). The project will stabilize each of these areas with bioengineering best management practices consisting of grading/re-sloping of banks, vegetated riprap, native plantings/seeding, rock deflectors, and toe wood. The project will improve water quality by reducing sediment (302 tons/yr) and phosphorus (257 lbs/yr) loading to the Mississippi River. The project will also restore nearshore fish and wildlife habitat negatively impacted by sediment accumulation as well as improve water quality for native mussels. The adjacent upland areas will receive native plantings to further enhance critical riparian habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. A concurrent benefit of the project is improving water based recreational opportunities for the public. Shoreline fishing is a popular activity within the regional park receiving 8,800 annual summer fishing visitors (95/day). This project will improve shoreline fishing opportunities through the construction of fish habitat and ADA accessible fishing platforms at two locations (Work Areas 1 & 4). Mississippi Gateway Regional Park provides inclusive/equitable access to outdoor recreational programs and activities for under-represented communities.

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 project is within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area and Mississippi National River Recreation Area where there is an emphasis to protect/preserve the natural ecological and historic cultural significance for the public benefit. The proposed project will restore riparian habitat for migratory birds, mammal, and amphibian/reptile species that use the Upper Mississippi River corridor. Reductions in sediment/nutrient loading benefits fish and mussel habitat as well as drinking water supplies for the metro region. The restoration/stabilization of these erosive areas protects these communities while creating a more resilient river corridor ecosystem for public benefit.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Construction - Shoreline Stabilization

Activity Budget: \$662,500

Activity Description:

The project will stabilize 2100 linear feet of Mississippi River shoreline at five highly erosive areas (work areas 1 - 5). The project will stabilize each of these areas with bioengineering BMPs consisting of grading of banks, vegetated riprap, native plantings/seeding, rock deflectors, and toe wood. The project will improve water quality by reducing sediment (302 tons/year) and phosphorus (257 pounds/year) loading as well as enhancing nearshore fish and native mussel habitat in the Mississippi River. The adjacent upland areas will receive native plantings to further enhance critical riparian habitat for pollinators and wildlife. The requested ENRTF funds will entirely be used for construction of this phase of the project (Phase I). The construction activity will be completed by a licensed contractor through the public bidding process. The contractor will complete restoration under the administration of WSB Engineering and Three Rivers Park District staff. The stabilization of two additional erosive areas (Work Areas 6 & 7) will be completed in the future (Phase II) when additional funds become available.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Archaeological Survey - Phase I - Field Investigation to identify archaeological resources	June 30, 2024
Preconstruction River Corridor Survey - update survey from 2023 spring flooding event	July 31, 2024
Final Design Plans - Revise 90% Shoreline Stabilization Design Package	November 30, 2024
Permitting - Aquatic Resource Impact Permitting	March 31, 2025
Bidding Services - Bid Packet completion - Advertising - Award of Contract	August 31, 2025
Pre-construction meeting - Construction - Inspection - As-Built Survey	March 31, 2026

Activity 2: Construction - Shoreline Access and Fishing Improvements

Activity Budget: \$72,500

Activity Description:

The project will improve shoreline fishing opportunities through the construction of ADA accessible fishing platforms at two locations (Work Areas 1 & 4). The project will construct ADA accessible aggregate trails to the fishing platform areas. Access to the Mississippi River for the upstream fishing platform (Work Area 1) will include an ADA accessible aggregate trail and concrete stairway; and access to the downstream fishing platform (Work Area 4) will include an ADA accessible aggregate trail. The requested ENRT Funds will entirely be used for the construction of ADA accessible trails and fishing platforms. The construction for access and shoreline fishing improvements will be conducted by the same contractor that was awarded the shoreline stabilization portion of the project. It will be important to complete milestone tasks simultaneously with the tasks identified for shoreline stabilization. There was an additional ADA accessible shoreline fishing platform located furthest downstream (Work Area 6) identified for the project, but will be completed as a different phase of the project (Phase II) when funds become available. The project will improve public access to the Mississippi River for shoreline fishing, aesthetic viewing, and outdoor recreational programs.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Archaeological Survey - Phase I Field Investigation	June 30, 2024
Final Design Plans	November 30, 2024
Permitting	March 31, 2025

Bidding Services - Bid Packet Completion - Advertising - Award of Contract	August 31, 2025
Pre-construction Meeting - Construction - Inspection - As-Builts	March 31, 2026

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Matthew Blythe	National Park Service	The proposed project is within the boundary of the Mississippi National River Recreation Area. National Park Service is a financial contributing partner to the project and has provided letter of support to improve habitat and protect the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.	No
Gerald Butcher	West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission	The proposed project is within the West Mississippi Watershed. The West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission has provided a financial contribution toward the project and a letter of support to reduce excessive sediment and nutrient loading to the Mississippi River through the implementation of river bank stabilization practices.	No
Mayor Jeffery Lunde and City Manager Jay Stroebel	City of Brooklyn Park	Cooperative Agreement (2020) between City of Brooklyn Park and Three Rivers Park District for the joint development/operation of the Three Rivers Park District Mississippi Gateway Regional Park and adjacent Brooklyn Park Environmental Nature Area.	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?

Three Rivers Park District has contracted with a consultant to assist with final design, permitting, and construction administration of the project (\$72,577). Additional funding sources to assist with the implementation of the project include National Park Service Grant (\$150,000) and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission partnership cost-share program (\$75,000). As-built surveys will be completed to ensure stabilized areas are designed according to specifications. Three Rivers Park District maintenance/natural resources staff will provide long-term monitoring and maintenance of the sites. Three Rivers Park District will also conduct visitor surveys every five years to evaluate project public benefit.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Shoreline Stabilization, Fishing, ADA Improvements At Silverwood Park	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08o	\$200,000
Karner Blue Butterfly Insurance Population Establishment in Minnesota	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08b	\$405,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Brian Vlach

Job Title: Senior Manager of Water Resources

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

Brian Vlach-Senior Manager of Water Resources for Three Rivers Park District

Bachelor Degree in Biology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Master Degree in Fisheries with an emphasis in Limnology and Water Resources from the University of West Virginia-Morgantown

Brian Vlach has 29 years of professional experience in the natural resources field. After graduate school, he was a fish

biologist in the Research Division of the Arizona Game and Fish Department for 3-years where he worked on a rainbow trout and striped bass study below the Hoover Dam; and also worked on a telemetry habitat preference study for the endangered razorback sucker on the Lower Colorado River. After moving to Minnesota to pursue a professional career in water resources, Brian worked for the Coon Creek Watershed District for 1-year regulating the wetland conservation act and permitting development projects; and has been working for the Three Rivers Park District the past 25 years in the Water Resources Department. He has been actively managing and implementing projects to improve the water quality of lakes, streams, and wetlands within Three Rivers Park District. Several of these projects include the restoration and stabilization of stream/river channels and lake shorelines similar to the proposed project. The implementation of these projects have been dependent upon the partnerships/relationships established with various state and federal agencies, counties, municipalities, watershed districts/commissions, and lake associations. Brian has also been successful with the administration and acquisition of several grants to secure funding for similar projects including BWSR Clean Water Legacy Funds, MPCA 319 Grants, MNDNR Grant Funds, Outdoor Heritage Funds, and Hennepin County Opportunity Grants. Brian has been committed to the mission of the Three Rivers Park District to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources based park system.

Organization: Three Rivers Park District

Organization Description:

Three Rivers Park District was established by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1957 and is the only special park district in Minnesota. The Three Rivers Park District encompasses over 27,000 acres and serves over 14 million visitors every year. The mission of Three Rivers Park District is to "promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources based park system." Three Rivers Park District is governed by an independent seven-member Board of Commissioners. Five members of the board are elected from districts in suburban Hennepin County, and two members are appointed by Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. The Park District recognizes the value of a Regional Recreation Open Space System as a means of acquiring, preserving, protecting, and developing a comprehensive system of parks for public use by metropolitan area residents. The Park District has a natural resources department where the primary goal of management efforts is to restore, preserve, and protect natural resources, native wildlife populations, and aquatic ecosystems.

The Water Resources Section specifically works collaboratively with other agency partners to preserve and protect ecological and recreational quality of lakes, streams, and wetlands within and outside of park boundaries.

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	Entity will be providing construction work defined in formal bid process and awarded construction contract. The total estimated construction cost (with contingency) is \$960,000. TRPD requesting \$735,000 from ENRTF for construction. Additional funds secured include National Park Service (\$150,000) & West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission (\$75,000).				1.25		\$735,000
							Sub Total	\$735,000
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	\$735,000

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	National Park Service Grant	Grants Funds - Stabilization of erosive areas and shoreline fishing improvements on the Mississippi River within Mississippi Gateway Regional Park.	Secured	\$150,000
Cash	West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission	Cost Share Program Funds - Stabilization of erosive areas and fishing improvements on the Mississippi River with Mississippi Gateway Regional Park.	Secured	\$75,000
Cash	Three Rivers Park District	Feasibility Study Completed in 2021	Secured	\$23,350
Cash	Three Rivers Park District	Survey and 90% Design Plans Completed in 2022	Secured	\$60,000
Cash	Three Rivers Park District	Archeological Survey - Phase I to be completed in 2024	Secured	\$7,500
Cash	Three Rivers Park District	Final Design & Permitting to be completed in 2024	Secured	\$65,077
			Non State Sub Total	\$380,927
			Funds Total	\$380,927

Total Project Cost: \$1,115,927

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Mississippi Gateway Regional Park - Three Rivers Park District	Hennepin	Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area & Mississippi National River Recreation Area - Project proposes shoreline stabilization and fishing improvements	Restoration	2.35	0.4	\$960,000	Public	Three Rivers Park District	Has Not Begun
Totals				2.35	0.4	\$960,000			

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 will occur within Mississippi Gateway Regional Park on land permanently in public ownership by Three Rivers Park District. The project area is within the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area and the Mississippi National River Recreation Area where there is an emphasis to protect and preserve the natural ecological and historic cultural significance for the public benefit. Since the project area may have unique cultural significance, Three Rivers Park District contracted with Two Pines Resource Group to conduct a Phase I Archeological Survey to determine whether the project area contains any intact archaeological resources subject to Federal or State preservation laws. The Phase I archeological survey will be completed the spring/summer of 2024.

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 project will have a restoration and management plan prior to the stabilization of erosion areas. The restoration plan will be included in the final design plans and specifications for the project to guide both construction and ongoing management efforts. The restoration plan will be site specific for each of the five erosion areas taking into consideration the soil, geology, and topography that ensures the best chance for long-term success of the restoration project. The plan will document the existing conditions along with a photo inventory of each erosive area prior to construction. The restoration plan will include proposed timetable for construction of stabilization practices as well as restoration seeding and planting of rooted/live stake material.

The project proposes to stabilize five highly erosive areas (work areas 1-5 identified on attached design plans). The stabilization of erosive areas will consist of grading/re-sloping of banks, vegetated riprap, native plantings/seeding, rock deflectors, and toe wood. All erosive areas will require some bank grading/re-sloping at a desirable 3:1 slope to support planting of vegetation or stabilization practices. Native plantings for each area will vary based on stabilization method, but will consist of a combination of rooted materials (trees & shrubs) to live stakes (willow & dogwood) with native seed mixes that will benefit wildlife and pollinator species. Vegetated riprap will be used at three of the erosive areas (Banks 1,2, & 4) to protect banks during flooding events. There are two erosive areas (Banks 3 & 5) that will be stabilized with toe wood and will have rock deflectors to protect restored banks from high flows. Soil lifts will be installed on top of toe wood for native plantings to provide additional stabilization.

As-built surveys will be completed and certified by the engineer at each restored site location after construction. There will be documentation with photo inventory of each area describing post-construction conditions. All of the plans for this project and documentation will be kept on file archived within the Three Rivers Park District project file. Three Rivers Park District will be the primary contact for resolving any issues after the construction of the project.

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.

Restoration will use native plant species within restored riparian areas according to the Board of Water and Soil Resources native vegetation establishment and enhancement guidelines. All of the restoration areas will have planting plans that will identify native species, planting distances, planting depth, and location. Native plantings and seeding will include an appropriate diversity of native species to provide habitat for pollinators throughout the growing season where growing conditions are suitable and practical. Three Rivers Park District will contract with a consultant (WSB) to administer that restoration plan guidelines are followed to ensure long-term success of the project. Three Rivers Park District staff (wildlife, forestry, and water resources representatives) will have a post-construction final site inspection with the consultant and contractor.

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.

The long-term maintenance and management of the restored project areas will be the responsibility of the Three Rivers Park District. The Three Rivers Park has a nursery (Crow Hassan Park Reserve Nursery) that is able to provide native plant material (seedlings, rooted plants, and live stakes) for those areas that do not successfully vegetate properly. All replacement planting will be conducted by experienced Three Rivers Park District nursery, wildlife, or forestry staff. Three Rivers Park District Water Resources staff will be responsible for administration of the long-term success and maintenance of the restored sites regarding native plantings as well as the long-term shoreline stabilization infrastructure. Maintenance and management activities are funded by the Three Rivers Park District operations and capital budget are supported by the state and Metropolitan Council through regional parks operations and maintenance funding.

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

The Conservation Corps of Minnesota will be contacted to see if they are interested in assisting with restoration activities for the native planting and long-term maintenance of the project areas.

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.

Three Rivers Park District will periodically inspect bioengineered shoreline stabilization infrastructure and evaluate restoration success.

A certified as-built survey will be conducted immediately after construction is completed. Inspection of shoreline stabilization and restoration areas will occur every year for the first five years. All site stabilization infrastructure and conditions will be compared to the certified as-built survey. If there is evidence of significant erosion or infrastructure failure, then maintenance actions will be implemented to re-stabilize the site. Site inspections will also include the evaluation of the long-term health and viability of native planting success for the restored areas. Those areas that do not vegetate successfully may require additional maintenance as well as replacement planting to ensure successful restoration. It will become critical to establish vegetation growth with healthy root mass for these restored areas to provide additional soil stabilization for these sites. All inspection information will be documented with corresponding photos of the sites; and will be available to improve implementation of future restoration efforts for similar projects.

The Three Rivers Park District Water Resources Division will also conduct back-pack electrofishing surveys at each stabilized site location to compare fish diversity and Index of Biological Integrity for pre-construction and post-construction conditions. The post-construction electrofishing surveys will occur annually over a 5-year time period.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [3a123c90-428.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map of Mississippi Gateway Stabilization and Fishing Improvements Phase I - The project is proposing to stabilize five areas of erosion (work areas 1 - 5) and construct two ADA accessible fishing platforms (work areas 1 & 4). Work Areas 6 & 7 will be bid alternatives for future stabilization (Phase II)....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Three Rivers Park District Annual Financial Report	15e5cb2a-10b.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Three Rivers Park District Board Resolution to Support MGRP Shoreline Stabilization LCCMR Grant Proposal	a8ae5677-5da.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
MGRP LCCMR Capital Construction Project Questionnaire	6a55cba2-e04.pdf
MGRP Shoreline Stabilization Design Plans - 90%	16680efd-e0e.pdf
MGRP Fishing Improvements Design Plans - 90%	0e5b4483-540.pdf
National Park Service Letter of Support	14657668-71b.pdf
West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission Letter of Support	5361274c-2a7.pdf
TRPD & Brooklyn Park Cooperative Agreement	f2486bd1-f37.pdf
MGRP Shoreline Feasibility Report & Photos	11cbedfc-837.pdf
MGRP Visitor Report 2018	e379f781-7b6.pdf
MGRP Archaeological Phase I Survey - Scope of Work Contract	189e3602-d4c.pdf
MGRP Final Design - Scope of Work Contract	61770961-022.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration,

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?

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

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Jami Markle - Director of Natural Resources for Three Rivers Park District

Luke Skinner - Associate Superintendent of Recreation, Education, & Natural Resources for Three Rivers Park District

Jonathan Vlaming - Associate Superintendent of Planning, Design, and Technology for Three Rivers Park District

Matt Swenson - Design Project Manager for Three Rivers Park District

Kelly Grissman - Director of Planning for Three Rivers Park District

