

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application

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Project Contact

Project Name:	Robinson Park Invasive Species	Project Manager:	Sam Griffith
Organization Name:	City of Sandstone	Title:	City Administrator
Organization Type:	Government	Phone:	320-245-5241
Mailing Address 1:	P.O. Box 641	Email:	samg@sandstonemn.com
Mailing Address 2:	119 Fourth Street		
City:	Sandstone		
State:	MN		
Zip Code:	55072		

Project Summary

Project Location Summary

Primary County: **Pine** Secondary Land Ownerships:
Project Site Name: **Robinson Park Invasive Species**
Primary Land Ownership: **Local**

Project Activity Summary

Primary Activity **Restoration** Primary Habitat Type **Forest**
Additional Activities: **Enhancement** Additional Habitats:
Total Project Sites: **26**
Total Project Acres: **65**

Project Funding Summary

Grant Type: **Statewide**
Grant Request Level: **over \$25,000**
Total Grant Amount Requested: **\$43,500**
Total Match Amount Pledged: **\$7,788**
Additional Funding:
Total Project Cost: **\$51,288**
Estimated Project Completion Date: **2017-06-30**

Summary

The purpose of this grant is for the City of Sandstone to let a contract to seek professional help to eradicate the existing small patches of invasive Buckthorn, and Garlic Mustard in Robinson Park, to develop a management plan for the park vegetation and install additional native plantings. The areas of invasion have been identified on a map by the DNR regional ecologist for the area and attached to the photo portion of this application. The first step is a three year eradication plan. Then the City will then work with the contractor and volunteers to implement the restoration, control, and management plan developed as part of this process. The City will be able to restart planting the appropriate native species using community support and advice from public agencies.

Problem Statement

Invasive species primarily Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard have established themselves in at least 26 locations in Robinson park. Despite persistent volunteer efforts to remove them (documented in the support letters) the terrain and the reliance on volunteers and cutting and pulling the plants only has not been sufficient to eradicate them. This project is urgent. At this time an eradication program is possible because of the limited invasion and the relatively limited number and areas impacted within the Park. Failure to act in a timely fashion could increase the potential to spread of these two invasive into Banning State Park which is immediately adjacent to Robinson Park. In addition to Banning State Park Robinson Park is adjacent to the Kettle River a state designated Wild and Scenic River whose scenic qualities would be threatened by a replacement of native species with invasives adversely effecting the viewshed of the Kettle River.

Project Objectives

Objective 1. Eradicate Buckthorn and Garlic mustard from sites not accessible to volunteers. Annual Collaborate DNR ecologist/and or SCWD walk through of the site with the contractor to identify remaining sites during the 3 year eradication process. Measurement: Number of sites: Objective 2: Plan that can be implemented and maintained to prevent the return of these species Post project walk though 3 years after implementing the management plan: Measure: number of sites identified. Objective 3: Replant native species that provide benefits to wild life. Measure: Species and plants planted - photos of initial planting area Objective 4: Self sustained native species Measure: Photos of the original planting areas 3 years after the plants are planted to compare growth.

Methods

Methods used will be the "What's working: Invasive Species Control" identified on the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources references and links found at: http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/practices/whats_working-invasivespecies.html Restoration plantings will be guided by both the Mille Lacs Upland forest guidance found in region c34 http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/npc/fire_dependent_forest/fdc34.pdf This area was identified by Rick Dunkley the former DNR Regional Forester and current St. Croix Park Manager as appropriate for Robinson Park. Plantings close to the riparian area will follow the same guidance as the SWCD used found on the Pine County Shoreland restoration plantings guidance for the shore areas found here: <https://webapps8.dnr.state.mn.us/restoreyourshore> Special consideration will be given to incorporating when possible habitat that supports the goals of: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/nrplanning/bigpicture/cwcs/profiles/mille_lacs_uplands.pdf

Project Timeline

Time Frame	Goal
Fall 2014	Start maintenance manual + park committee cord
Fall 2014	Eradication
Winter - 2014	Complete management manual - control section

Spring - Winter 2015
Spring - Winter 2016
Spring 2017
Spring -Summer 2017

Eradication
Eradication
Eradication - Native plant selection
Replanting Finalize manual

Project Information

1. Describe the degree of collaboration and local support for this project.

There are seven letters of support for this project attached to his application almost all off these organizations have been actively involved with the City of Sandstone in making improvements to Robinson Park and are concerned about the health of the ecosystem and the impact further spread of invasives will have on their primary areas of concern. Many of these organizations have supported the City by providing volunteer expertise and labor. Sandstone is a small community (approximately 2500 persons approximately half of whom reside in the Federal Correctional facility) with limited resources. While an in-kind and cash payment of over \$7,500 may not seem like a large amount in a community this small it is a substantial amount. There is no identified opposition to this project.

2. Describe any urgency associated with this project.

This project is urgent. While Community volunteer resources have been persistent in addressing the problem their expertise has been exhausted. It is now time to address the problem of the invasives while eradication using professional methods is a very likely outcome. Continued maintenance and enhancement as outlined in the management manual will be of sufficient scale to keep the problem in check. Addressing the problem now will reduce the potential of these invasives spreading to remote areas of Banning State Park and significantly reducing quality habitat in the park.

3. Discuss if there is full funding secured for this project, the sources of that funding and if CPL Grant funds will supplement or supplant existing funding.

The City can not afford this project on it's own. The piecemeal approach with small grants and volunteers has not yielded the desired results. Without the CPL grant the City has neither the funds nor the expertise to implement the same program that professionals can implement. The commitment of \$5,250 in cash and \$2,538 in in-kind services is a substantial commitment. The CPL grant will supplement existing funds.

4. Describe public access at project site for hunting and fishing, identifying all open seasons.

The park open to all fish facilitate bank fishing boat launch and park and canoe/ kayaking. Because on the rapids on the river this is the only access for boats other than kayaks and canoes for this portion of the river for much of the year. The river is open for fishing for all seasons identified in the Minnesota Fishing regulations as being open on this portion of the Kettle River however ice fishing is not advised because of the flow of the water. Hunting is prohibited in the Banning State Park property that is adjacent to Robinson Park. In order to avoid conflict with Banning because of the blurred boundaries hunting is also prohibited in Robinson Park.

5. Discuss use of native vegetation (if applicable).

The City has worked with DNR Forestry and with SWCD it to remove plants and to replant shore land vegetation. It was their input and the potential acquisition of the lands across the Kettle River to increase the states holdings within the Banning State park boundary that encouraged the City to apply for this grant. All native plantings that have been added to the park which started as a highly disturbed site have been suggested by reference to the planting pages identified in the methods section of this application.

6. Discuss your budget and why it is cost effective.

A general budget has been developed by an experience restoration and removal firms and using the "what works" section of the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources references and links found at: http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/practices/whats_working-invasivespecies.html The site has many physical challenges because to the terrain and accessibility was a consideration in putting together the costs. No unnecessary costs of work have been added and the scope of the project will go out for bid making it more cost effective.

7. Provide information on how your organization encourages a local conservation culture. This includes your organization's history of promoting conservation in the local area, visibility of work to the public and any activities and outreach your organization has completed in the local area.

The accessibility of the park for people of all ages and physical abilities, the ability to get close to the river and the bluffs make it ideal place for educational opportunities. Gretchen Miller, Area Resource Specialist for MN DNR Parks & Trails provided three "workshops" including two for youth in Robinson Park to volunteer work groups in identifying and removing invasive species. She also provided education materials for use by the City which were sent out to City residents. MN Climbers Association and Vertical Endeavors have both brought youth groups to Robinson Park and required them to perform some community work before their climbing lessons. St Cloud State has used the park as an outdoor classroom on numerous occasions for both climbing and other outdoor education. Pine SWCD have gotten grants on behalf of Robinson Park. Their agreement with the City always require signage to educate the public and two of them have required public workshops on native plants.

Site Information

You may group your project sites together as long as land ownership, activity and habitat information is the same for the land manager

Land Manager

Name:	Randy Atterbury	Phone:	320-245-5355
Organization:	City of Sanstone	Email:	samg@sandstone.com
Title:	Mayor		

Site Information

Land Ownership:	Local	Acres:	65
Site Name(s)	Robinson Park	Open to Public Hunting?	No
Activity	Restoration	Open to Public Fishing?	Yes - all
Habitat	Forest		



Budget Information

Organization's Fiscal Contact Information

Name:	Sam Griffith	Street Address 1:	P.O. Box 641
Title:	City Administrator	Street Address 2:	119 Fourth Street
Email:	samg@sandstone.com	City:	Sandstone
Phone:	320-245-5241	State:	MN
		Zip Code:	55072

Budget Subtotals

Budget Item	Grant	Match	Total
Personnel	\$2,000	\$2,538	\$4,538
Contracts	\$41,500	\$5,250	\$46,750
Fee Acquisition with PILT			
Fee Acquisition without PILT			
Easement Acquisition			
Travel (in-state)			
Professional Services			
DNR Land Acquisition Cost			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Additional Budget Items			
Total:	\$43,500	\$7,788	\$51,288

In-kind Total Cash Total

Details

Personnel

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title / work to be completed</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Grant/Match</u>	<u>In-kind/Cash</u>
Sam Griffith	Project Manager	\$2,000	Grant	
Sam Griffith	Grant Administration	\$1,038	Match	In-kind
Volunteers	Manual Review/ Plantings	\$1,500	Match	In-kind
Totals	Grant: \$2,000 Match: \$2,538	Total: \$4,538		

Contracts

<u>Contractor Name</u>	<u>Contracted Work</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Grant/Match</u>	<u>In-kind/Cash</u>
TDB by bid	Remove of invasive + plant	\$41,500	Grant	
TDB by bid	Remove of invasive + plant	\$5,250	Match	Cash
Totals	Grant: \$41,500 Match: \$5,250	Total: \$46,750		

Project Review and Approval

At least one Land Manager Review and Approval form is required for each grant application. There must be one submitted for each Land Manager named on the site information tab. You may attach as many as needed to this page.

If you are working within a public water, you must ALSO submit a Public Waters Project Form. One form is required for each DNR Hydrologist you must consult. See the Request for Proposal for more information about working in public waters.

Answer the following questions, then attach the form(s)

Natural Heritage elements were found within my project site(s): No

Project Review and Approval Forms

Uploaded Form 1

Uploaded Form 2

Additional Information

Attach all documentation here including (but not limited to): Engineering, survey and/or design plans, restoration plans, partner letters, etc. If you exceed the size limit while uploading, contact CPL staff to discuss your options.

Describe your organization's ability to successfully complete this work, including experience in the area of interest and ability to successfully implement the proposed project. Include descriptions of your most recent grant experience and if the expected outcomes were achieved.

Sam Griffith has been the City Administrator in Sandstone since 1999. The City has no specialized staff so Mr. Griffith has planned and completed a number of successful housing, recreation, and commercial projects using tax credits and tax abatement. He was instrumental in seeing Robinson Park recognized as one of the best rock and ice climbing parks in the upper Midwest. He has assisted a local developer with State and City funds to develop the infrastructure for a successful \$1,000,000+ commercial development. Current planning efforts include the development of a medical campus with a new hospital facility for Essentia HC, and the development of a passenger rail station stop and maintenance facility for the Northern Lights Express JPB. He oversees a city staff of eight and manages a General Fund budget of \$ 1,200,000. He routinely manages several grants a year ranging from \$2,000 to \$40,000 for single year efforts and contracts in excess of \$400,000 annually. Several grants require documentation of outcomes. Most relevant to the CPL grant are two grants received in the last two years for environmental work in Robinson park. In 2012 the Clean Water Fund provide \$11,121 for bank stabilization a followed up for Shoreland Stabilization for \$11,618 to reestablish riparian communities in Robinson Park. There are letters of support from the grant agency for this project demonstrating their confidence that it will be done correctly and with expected outcomes.

Supplemental Documents

Upload additional information here (limited to Partner Commitment Letters, Letters of Support, Easement information, etc.). If you exceed the size limit with these required documents, contact CPL Grant Staff prior to the application deadline to discuss options. Contact information can be found on the CPL website or by clicking here.

- Uploaded Document 1
- Uploaded Document 2
- Uploaded Document 3
- Uploaded Document 4
- Uploaded Document 5
- Uploaded Document 6
- Uploaded Document 7
- Uploaded Document 8

Supplemental Photos

Upload photos of project sites. Use the Description fields to provide further detail, or identifying information.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Robinson_Park_invasive_map.pdf | Description Location of Invasive Species on the Park Map |
| Fig03_ParkAreaContours_11x17p.pdf | Description Park Contours |
| Invasive_species_signage.jpg | Description Newly added invasive species signage at each entrance to the park |
| Shorline_restoration.jpg | Description Draft restoration signage for existing project at the park |
| ice_climbing_take.JPG | Description Ice Climbing in Robinson Park |

Final Application Submission

This completes your CPL Grant Application. Please take the time to revisit the previous sections and make sure you have entered everything completely and correctly. Once you hit the submit button below, you will not be able to return to this application to make changes.

- ✓ I certify that I have read the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program Request for Proposal, Program Manual and other program documents, and have discussed this project with the appropriate public land manager, or private landowner and easement holder.
- ✓ I certify I am authorized to apply for and manage these grant and match funds, and the project work by the organization or agency listed below. I certify this organization to have the financial capability to compete this project and that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
- ✓ I certify that all of the information contained in the application is correct as of the time of the submission. If anything should change, I will contact CPL Grant Staff immediately to make corrections.
- ✓ I certify that if funded I will give consideration to and make timely written contact to Minnesota Conservation Corps or its successor for consideration of possible use of their services to contract for restoration and enhancement services. I will provide CPL staff a copy of that written contact within 10 days after the execution of my grant, should I be awarded.
- ✓ I certify that I am aware at least one Land Manager Review and Approval form is required for every application and at least one Public Waters Contact form is required for all public waters work. I am aware I must submit all completed forms by uploading them into this application. I have attached the required type and number of forms as necessary for this project.
- ✓ I am aware that by typing my name in the box below, I am applying my signature to this online document.

Signature:

Sam Griffith

Organization / Agency:

City of Sandstone

Title:

City Administrator

Date:

2013-09-16