

Request for Funding

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Fiscal Year 2015 / ML 2014

Program or Project Title: Habitat Enhancement in the Sauk Lake watershed

Funds Requested: \$115,500

Manager's Name: Vicki Willer

Title: Administrator

Organization: City of Sauk Centre

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City: Sauk Centre, MN 56378

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Organization Web Site: www.ci.sauk-centre.mn.us

County Locations: No Counties Listed

Ecological Planning Regions:

- Prairie

Activity Type:

- Enhance

Priority Resources Addressed by Activity:

- Habitat

Abstract:

The City of Sauk Centre would like to re-vegetate an open upland area with trees, shrubs and forbs, to prevent sediment loading to Sauk Lake, improve habitat both on land and water while creating a nature spot for our community.

Design and Scope of Work:

The shallow, silt bottom, Sauk Lake is listed on the State's TMDL list for oxygen depletion and is showing signs of grave concern for total suspended solids loading due to runoff. The City of Sauk Centre has worked with the local watershed district to address this concern in two areas of the City by installing a shoreline buffer zone in one of its parks and placing a sediment pond to collect industrial park runoff before entering the lake in another area. Funds have run out from the watershed but the City would like to continue its efforts by converting a bare upland area to a vegetated habitat with a rain garden which would collect the soil runoff before entering the lower basin of the lake which is located across the street from the proposed area.

Sauk Lake has seen a drop in fish population which a watershed study partially contributed to sediment loading and water temperature variations at stormdrain inlets. The City would like to re-vegetate the proposed area to break the momentum of rain water, provide a root system to reduce sediment loading and rain gardens to further trap runoff. In addition, the trees, shrubs and forbs will allow wildlife habitat de-fragmentation by connecting the shoreline of Sauk Lake with the Lake Wobegon bike trail which has habitat along its banks. The new vegetation in the park will provide a natural area for trail users to use as and a direct path to Sauk Lake for recreational activities.

The City will begin outreach efforts on the impact of human land use practices on the population, reproduction and feeding ability of the fresh water fish in Sauk Lake through newspaper articles beginning in January of 2014. Articles will include how runoff carries in silt and sediment into the water column contributing to the clogging and abrasion of the fish gills, behavioural changes such as migration and poor egg development based on turbidity. Other articles will include best management practices to avoid introducing silt and sediment into the lake for the homeowner and professional people.

By developing this open city lot into an area with plenty of vegetation, the community will have visual connectedness with the outdoors, new habitat will be created and area runoff will be greatly reduced to Sauk Lake. The City will work with the Sauk River Watershed District in constructing the rain garden, vegetation selection, control of erosion issues, and public outreach opportunities.

Planning

MN State-wide Conservation Plan Priorities:

- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H4 Restore and protect shallow lakes
- H7 Keep water on the landscape

Plans Addressed:

- National Fish Habitat Action Plan
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework
- State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

LSOHC Statewide Priorities:

- Ensures activities for "protecting, restoring and enhancing" are coordinated among agencies, non profits and others while doing this important work; provides the most cost-effective use of financial resources; and where possible takes into consideration the value of local outreach, education, and community engagement to sustain project outcomes
- Provide Minnesotans with greater public access to outdoor environments with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities
- Restore or enhance habitat on permanently protected land

LSOHC Prairie Section Priorities:

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes
- Restore or enhance habitat on public lands
- Protect, restore, and enhance shallow lakes

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Clean Water Fund
- Parks and Trails Fund
- **Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund:** It supports the goals by protecting the fragile Sauk Lake from runoff contaminants, promoting habitat through land use practices, and by providing critical information to assist in understanding and wise management of natural resources.
- **Clean Water Fund:** The project supports this cause by protecting the lake, creating parks and trails and enhancing the upland area of a water body.
- **Parks and Trails Fund:** It will connect people to the outdoors, educate individuals on the link between human impacts on our shallow lake, and connect a state bike trail to the Sauk Lake.

Accelerates or Supplements Current Efforts:

This project supports the strategic framework of the L-SOHC and directly supports the area of emphasis in 2014 for the protection of fish habitats. It will “improve conditions of habitat on public lands”, “restore and enhance upland habitat”, “improve access to public lands” (boat launch area and park), and “water is kept on land to reduce flood potential and degradation of aquatic habitat.” It will also “protect the shallow Sauk Lake” and “provide Minnesotans with greater public access to outdoor environments”.

Sustainability and Maintenance:

This project will be maintained by the adjacent campground manager on a daily basis during open water season and by the City of Sauk Centre parks department to ensure plants are watered, cared for, and replaced if necessary. Different planting beds will be maintained by different clubs or groups such as the Master Gardeners and 4-H clubs. The streets department will ensure the street surrounding this area is vacuum swept with a street sweeper.

Permanent Protection:

Is the activity on permanently protected land and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15? - Yes
(County/Municipal)

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Article submission to the local paper- each month during project	January 15 2014
Irrigation system installed to water upcoming vegetation	May 2014
Installation of rain gardens	June 15, 2014
construction of designated trail	June 15, 2014
Trees, shrubs, forbs planted	August to September 2014

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands *By planting vegetation and using rain gardens, the tss loading should be decreased thereby enhancing the aquatic environment.*
- Restored and enhanced upland habitats *Planting of vegetation will increase wildlife habitat evident by animal homes seen and the community will have visual connectedness with the outdoors.*
- Water is kept on the land to reduce flood potential and degradation of aquatic habitat *With the use of a rain garden, sediment loading reduction can be calculated based on the amount of fill measured during clean outs.*

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$115,500

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	City of Sauk Centre; Sauk River Watershed District	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$95,500	\$84,500	City of Sauk Centre; Sauk River Watershed District	\$180,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$115,500	\$84,500		- \$200,000

Output Tables

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	3	3
Total	0	0	0	3	3

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$115,500	\$115,500
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$115,500	\$115,500

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	3	0	3
Total	0	0	0	3	0	3

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$115,500	\$0	\$115,500
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$115,500	\$0	\$115,500

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles

0 miles

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Stearns

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
City of Sauk Centre #94.57866.0000	2	2	\$115,500	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.