



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Daylighting Phalen Creek - Phase 2

ML 2027 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 06/24/2026

Proposal Title: Daylighting Phalen Creek - Phase 2

Funds Requested: \$6,781,400

Confirmed Leverage Funds: \$770,900

Is this proposal Scalable?: Yes

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Gabby Menomin

Title: Director of Land and Environment

Organization: Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi

Address: 590 4th St E

City: Saint Paul, MN 55107

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Mobile Number:

Fax Number:

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Location Information

County Location(s): Ramsey.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Phalen Creek is a long-buried waterway that previously flowed through Saint Paul's East Side from Lake Phalen to the Mississippi River. Until the early twentieth century, it was a thriving wildlife corridor and cultural resource for Dakota people. Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi, with support from LSOHC and others, has built strong momentum to daylight Phalen Creek. We are requesting a) habitat restoration support during the establishment period of the first daylighted stretch, b) 100% design development for the portion of the creek within Wakan Tipi Sanctuary, and c) 60% design development of the remaining creek channel between these two sites.

Design and Scope of Work

Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi (WTA) is nearing completion of engineering design to daylight a ¼-mile creek stretch south of Lake Phalen with previous support from LSOHC and others. We begin construction of this first section in 2027. Daylighting the full creek will restore aquatic habitat and reconnect Lake Phalen, Wakan Tipi Sanctuary, and the Mississippi River. The ecosystems to be restored include wet meadows, shallow fresh marshes, and seasonally flooded wetlands. The creek restoration at Lake Phalen is 1,500 linear feet/approximately 9 acres is planned for habitat restoration. Within Wakan Tipi Sanctuary, there will be approximately 3,230 linear feet /16 additional acres brought to 100% design. The remaining creek channel will be designed to 60% between Lake Phalen and Wakan Tipi Sanctuary - a stretch that is 11,135 linear feet/anticipated 12-15 acres.

Previous LHOSC and other funding supported design, engineering, and construction of the creek channel at the south end of Lake Phalen. We are requesting additional support at that site for a 5 year habitat establishment period which will provide a range of ecological, recreational, and educational opportunities for the community.

We also request support to complete 100% design reintroducing the creek to ongoing habitat restoration efforts at Wakan Tipi. Currently, the sanctuary includes mesic prairie, oak savanna, woodland bluff, riparian and wetland ecosystems that are under active habitat restoration outside of this proposal. Some considerations for the design of this creek section will be connecting water from Swede Hollow to Wakan Tipi and continuing into the Mississippi River through existing culvert systems. During design, we will analyze options to determine the optimal water flow in consultation with the railroad and MNDOT. Wakan Tipi Center opens to the public this month. We are actively managing the sanctuary and ready to implement this work.

Finally, we're requesting funding to complete 60% design for the last creek section. This is critical to ensure the project coordinates with community projects and developments within the corridor, including the Bronze Line BRT, Hamm's Brewery redevelopment, habitat work in Swede Hollow and Eastside Heritage Park.

The 5 year scope includes:

Habitat Restoration (Reaches 7 & 8): Establishment period at Lake Phalen site.

Site Investigation (Reaches 1-6): Topographic survey, geotechnical investigation, and environmental (soil) analysis to support design, permitting, bidding, and construction phases. The survey includes topography, transportation/recreation infrastructure, existing utilities/easements, soil conditions, and major vegetation.

Design (Reaches 1-6): Engineering, ecological, soil, and geomorphic assessment and design of the proposed restored channel, associated wetland, and upland areas. Deliverables include concept through 60% design for

Reaches 4-6 (the central section of the creek), and final construction drawings and bid documents for Reaches 1-3 (Wakan Tipi Sanctuary). Construction drawings will be signed by a Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Minnesota. Construction costs will also be estimated as part of the design process.

Permitting: Submittal for future construction.

Public Outreach/Stakeholder Engagement: Meetings, engagement events, website updates, volunteer efforts, and emails to guide the design effort and inform the public.

Explain how the proposal addresses habitat protection, restoration, and/or enhancement for fish, game & wildlife, including threatened or endangered species conservation

Daylighting will restore lost aquatic habitat and support the ecological health of a lake and stream system that once formed the ecological backbone of the local environment. The restoration of the creek and riparian habitat will support the return of a range of terrestrial, avian, insect, and aquatic species formerly endemic to this area.

It will restore the specific aquatic habitats including stream, inland shallow fresh marsh, inland deep fresh marsh, inland open fresh water, and inland fresh meadow.

Planned creekbed design at the Lake Phalen site incorporates standing dead wood in the naturalized area, which will provide immediate habitat opportunities for bats, including the Eastern Pipistrelle, Northern Long-eared Bat, and Big Brown Bat (species of Special Concern).

Insect species we anticipate to colonize the creek channel include aquatic macroinvertebrates and terrestrial species like Monarch Butterflies. Insect species listed as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern in Minnesota, which are anticipated to return, include Rusty Patched Bumblebee, Caddisfly, Ghost Tiger Beetles, Iowa Skipper, Leadplant Flower Moth, Regal Fritillary, and Whitney's Underwing.

The creek will provide habitat for a range of endemic turtle species, including the SGCN "threatened" status Blanding's Turtle. The restored naturalized shoreline will be paired with areas allowing for nesting sites.

The creek outfalls to the Mississippi River and will provide enhanced forage and spawning habitat for many fish species including green sunfish, pumpkinseed, large-mouth bass, and bluegill. The proposed stream habitat will have sections that will be fishable for these species, offering a unique fishing experience to the residents and visitors.

Lake sedge, white turtlehead, and joe pye weed are a few of the native species that will help with the establishment of healthy native plant communities. These will help stabilize shoreline conditions, trap sediment to improve water quality and enhance the terrestrial and aquatic habitat value. Upland areas are also being re-established with native plant and pollinator species. Flowering species such as Bottle Gentian, asters, butterfly milkweed and white wild indigo - a state-listed species of special concern native to prairie habitats- provide critical forage and nesting habitat for specialist pollinators.

What are the elements of this proposal that are critical from a timing perspective?

The community has been advocating for creek restoration since 1997. Over the past decade, WTA has made significant progress with support from LSOHC and a broad coalition of partners. Continued momentum is critical for future phases of this restoration. Urban development pressures are ever-present; including development of the Bronze Line BRT, Eastside Heritage Skate park, and Hamm's Brewery Redevelopment. Developing and advancing

design for the full creek corridor will ensure this vision is included in local projects and in larger regional planning documents. Since receiving previous support from LSOHC, WTA has secured additional public funding, additional support from private and corporate foundations, and a broad base of individuals invested in the project. Beyond the phase outlined in this request, we anticipate a future final phase of the project to complete creek construction at Wakan Tipi and to accomplish design/construction for the remaining creek (Reaches 4 - 6).

Describe how the proposal expands habitat corridors or complexes and/or addresses habitat fragmentation:

Similar to the efforts at the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary, 2 miles to the west, this project continues the process of creating and planning for expanding north-south habitat corridors that enhance and support the overall Mississippi River flyway. There is a distinct lack of connectivity between the Mississippi River and riparian resources to the north of Saint Paul. This project will restore and plan for critical habitat to reduce the isolation and fragmentation, bridging the gap between resources north and south of Saint Paul. To achieve those goals, Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi previously completed a feasibility study (2017) which included the scientific evaluation of geology (surficial and bedrock) hydrology, topography, and soil types to identify the likely location of the lost riparian and creek habitat resources. Based on these foundational elements, WTA has identified targeted habitats and appropriate locations to leverage the natural site conditions to achieve the ecological restoration goals.

Specific areas of habitat connectivity included in the design of Reaches 1-6 are the connection to the Mississippi River, which was previously lost when the creek was buried in the 1930s. As well as connecting to the already established habitat restoration in Wakan Tipi and the creek and woodland habitats located in Swede Hollow. For the creek site at the south end of Lake Phalen, the continued habitat restoration will expand on the already existing Lake Phalen aquatic and shoreline habitat and beyond into the large chain-of-lake system.

WTA has also conducted a series of preliminary habitat evaluations in the project area, with support and consultation from wildlife ecologists at the University of Minnesota, conservation professionals with Saint Paul Natural Resources, the DNR and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, technicians from Capitol Region and Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed Districts, and other knowledgeable stakeholders. Additional research has been conducted to ensure that the daylighting of Phalen Creek is designed for targeted habitat improvements and expansions for Species of Greatest Conservation Need, in addition to the expansion of valuable riparian habitat.

Which top 2 Conservation Plans referenced in MS97A.056, subd. 3a are most applicable to this project?

Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

Metro / Urban

Protect, enhance, and restore riparian and littoral habitats on lakes to benefit game and nongame fish species

Describe how this project/program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife:

The project will restore more than 9 acres of restored upland, riparian, and 1,500 linear feet of in-stream wildlife habitat, at the south end of Lake Phalen. The proposed project also includes 100% design planning of an additional 3,230 linear feet of daylighted stream channel with approximately 16 acres of habitat restoration at Wakan Tipi

Sanctuary and 60% design for the remaining 11,135 linear feet (anticipated 12-15 acres) between the two sites. This habitat is critical to both migratory and resident species that evolved to utilize the Mississippi River flyway and ecological corridor. As noted in other parts of this document, the list of species that may benefit from the restoration of this lost habitat is extensive. The project will demonstrate that fish and wildlife can be restored in ecologically critical yet infrastructure-challenged sites within urban areas. This localized restoration process of targeted areas of our urban landscape will offer hope to change the long-term trajectory of sterilization and homogenization of the landscape.

The creek channel will be constructed to harbor a wide range of fish and aquatic-dependent species. The intersection of aquatic and terrestrial ecology is the crux of why this site is anticipated to be particularly productive for wildlife. The establishment of a fishable channel will support the LSOHC priority of reconnecting urban communities with fish and wildlife. Planning for the remaining portions of the creek will build on the success of these first two sites.

If this project/program does not have permanent outcomes, describe why it is important to undertake at this time:

N/A

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *Success for this project is measured in the length of the restored stream channel and in the acreage of restored riparian habitat. The daylight stream channel will be assessed based on similar IBI indexes and hook and line surveys. Vegetation community will be assessed with transect surveys and/or confirmation of the presence of targeted plant species on-site. WTA will also conduct regular wildlife habitat surveys to track presence of indicator species in the project area. University of Minnesota and additional academic institutions will act as partners in these studies, surveys, and evaluations.*

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

This request is not supplanting or substituting for any previous funding not from legacy funds or used for the same purpose.

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

This project will apply U.S. Fish and Wildlife Strategic Habitat Preservation principles throughout the project to ensure that project outcomes are achieved and maintained after the listed funding period. Namely, this project: (1) is prepared to monitor and encourage the positive watershed-wide impacts of extending riparian habitat from the north metro to the Mississippi River; (2) will continue a legacy of collaboration by working in partnership with community members, government entities, scientists, conservation professionals, and other stakeholders; (3) will utilize an adaptive management framework that incorporates biological planning, conservation design, and monitoring and research in the project and post-project activities; and (4) will rely on science and related tools to evaluate gaps in knowledge and implement best management practices.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2031	LCCMR ENTRF - Co-Management between WTA and City of Saint Paul	Maintenance of riparian plantings	Routine water-quality monitoring	IBI assessment
2032	Public, Corporate, Private Foundation Grants and Individual Donor support	Maintenance of riparian plantings	Routine water-quality monitoring	IBI assessment

Provide an assessment of how your program may celebrate cultural diversity or reach diverse communities in Minnesota, including reaching low- and moderate-income households:

The project to daylight Phalen Creek represents a unique opportunity to restore a natural resource with longstanding cultural value to the Dakota people of Minnesota, and presents a rare opportunity for stream restoration in the urban core. The project directly serves environmental justice and social equity needs. More than 1,000 community members will be directly engaged during this project. Community engagement will parallel the development of compelling graphics and renderings, and community members will have direct input on project designs throughout the process. This is of particular importance to the East Side, where many residents lack access to naturalized public green spaces, and to the knowledge and health benefits these spaces provide. The area has the second-highest vacancy rate among all Racially Concentrated Areas of Poverty in Minnesota; 40% of households report an annual income of less than \$35,000, and over 64% of residents identify as People of Color. In the Payne-Phalen neighborhood alone, 37% of residents are Asian or Pacific Islander; 14% are Black or African American; 13% are Hispanic or Latino, and the neighborhood’s 400+ Native American and Alaska Native residents are bolstered by a strong East Metro Indigenous community. Consistent engagement will ensure that community interests shape how the creek channel is designed and best utilized by residents. According to the EPA, residents living within ½-mile of the Phalen Creek corridor are, statewide, in the 90th percentile or higher for wastewater discharge, traffic proximity and volume, respiratory hazards, and cancer risk. For nearly 25 years, WTA has engaged local residents about restoring Phalen Creek. Numerous community surveys and targeted outreach events have shown overwhelming support for bringing Phalen Creek back to the surface—to recognize and celebrate the creek’s value to the Dakota people, to whom this land has belonged for time immemorial and which holds unique value as a trade route and resource cache; to improve access to natural spaces and water resources in a heavily industrialized area of the city; and to align with regional watershed management plans surrounding water quality, storm-water runoff, and flood risk mitigation.

Activity Details

Requirements

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?

Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

County/Municipal

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?

No

Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this proposal either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?

No

Previous OHF Appropriations

Have you received OHF dollars through LSOHC for this program or project in the past?

Yes

Are there any of these past appropriations still OPEN?

Yes

If needed, please include any explanation of unspent funds.

We received LSOHC funding in 2022 for design, engineering, and construction of 1/4 of creek channel at the south of Lake Phalen. We have \$2.3M left to spend on this grant and that will be utilized during construction of the creek channel and infrastructure for surrounding habitat in 2027. We currently have an extension for this grant due to timeline setbacks when negotiating design and long term maintenance for the infrastructure with the watershed district and Met Council.

Open OHF Appropriations - Data from Most Recent Status Update

Project	Funding Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Funding Remaining	% Spent to Date
ML 2022 - Daylighting Phalen Creek	\$3,312,000	\$1,002,500	\$2,309,500	30.27%
Totals	\$3,312,000	\$1,002,500	\$2,309,500	30.27%

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Habitat Restoration at Lake Phalen - Reaches 7 & 8	July 2032
Site Investigation - Reaches 1 - 6	July 2028
Design - Reaches 1 - 6	June 2030
Permitting - Reaches 1 - 3	July 2030
Public Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement	July 2032

Budget

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$588,300	\$235,000	CRWD in-kind labor / staff-time donation, RWMWD in-kind labor / staff-time donation, In-kind labor from staff & volunteers, City of Saint Paul in-kind labor / donation	\$823,300
Contracts	\$4,975,300	\$257,000	Private and Public grant support	\$5,232,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	\$1,217,800	\$513,900	Private and Public grant support	\$1,731,700
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$6,781,400	\$1,005,900	-	\$7,787,300

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
WTA Staff - Volunteer Coordinator	0.5	5.0	\$169,000	-	-	\$169,000
WTA Staff - Environmental Restoration Manager	0.25	5.0	\$104,900	-	-	\$104,900
CRWD Design Engineer Support	-	4.0	-	\$100,000	CRWD in-kind labor / staff-time donation	\$100,000
RWMWD Design Engineer	0.25	4.0	-	\$100,000	RWMWD in-kind labor / staff-time donation	\$100,000
WTA Staff - Director of Land and Environment	0.5	5.0	\$279,400	-	-	\$279,400
Volunteer Labor for habitat establishment	-	2.0	-	\$20,000	In-kind labor from staff & volunteers	\$20,000
City of Saint Paul Project Design Member	0.1	4.0	\$35,000	\$15,000	City of Saint Paul in-kind labor / donation	\$50,000

Amount of Request: \$6,781,400

Amount of Leverage: \$1,005,900

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 14.83%

DSS + Personnel: \$588,300

As a % of the total request: 8.68%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

Leverage Funding Table

	Leverage Amount Committed	Leverage Amount Confirmed (of Committed Funds)	Leverage Amount Anticipated	Total Leverage
Amount:	\$770,900	\$770,900	\$235,000	\$1,005,900
% of Total Leverage:	76.64%	76.64%	23.36%	

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:

250,000 Hardenbergh Foundation, 50,000 MPCA, 218,000 BWSR Clean Water, 32,895 Earth Fund, 40,000 Marbrook Foundation, 180,000 Mortenson Foundation

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?

Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

We would reduce the project scope and not complete 60% design development for the stretch of the creek between the Lower Phalen Creek site and the Lake Phalen Creek site.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

Personnel and design costs would be scaled to accomplish 60% design for Wakan Tipi site.

If the project received 30% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

We would only accomplish habitat establishment for reaches 7 & 8 and only 30% design development for reaches 1 - 3. This would hamper our ability to have a shovel ready project at Wakan Tipi at the end of this grant period and reduce overall success for daylighting the full creek.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

Personnel and design costs would be scaled to accomplish 30% design for Wakan Tipi site.

What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this proposal?

Clean Water Fund

Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?

Yes

Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?

Staffing levels at WTA have grown between our previous LSOHC and this request. This funding supports 50% one FTE Director of Land and Environment (this position has grown from manager to director in the last year). Additionally, we are requesting 25% support for Restoration Manager and 50% support for Volunteer Coordinator who both work across our restoration and volunteer-supported habitat stewardship.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

This task includes the completion of site investigation (survey and geotechnical); 30/60/90 and bid-ready construction plans sealed by a professional engineer, specifications, and cost estimates; and construction administration and oversight on behalf of WTA. Civil Design with Interfluve and Project Management by Milestone. It also includes Habitat Restoration work with MNL.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Other : Partners for consulting support include Landmark, Milestone and Damon Farber.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

No

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	9	9
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	0	0
Total	0	0	0	9	9

Restoration/Enhancement Acres Breakdown of Existing Protected Lands (Table 1a.2)

	RESTORE: Lands acquired with OHF	RESTORE: Lands NOT acquired with OHF	ENHANCE: Lands acquired with OHF	ENHANCE: Lands NOT acquired with OHF
DNR Lands (WMA, State Forests, etc.)	-	0	-	0
Non-DNR Lands (city, state, federal, etc.)	-	9	-	0
Easements	-	-	-	-
Total	-	9	-	0

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	\$6,781,400	\$6,781,400
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	\$6,781,400	\$6,781,400

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	9	0	0	0	0	9
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	0	0	0
Total	9	0	0	0	0	9

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	\$6,781,400	-	-	-	-	\$6,781,400
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$6,781,400	-	-	-	-	\$6,781,400

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	\$753,488
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	\$753,488	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

1,500 feet of riparian stream habitat

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

No

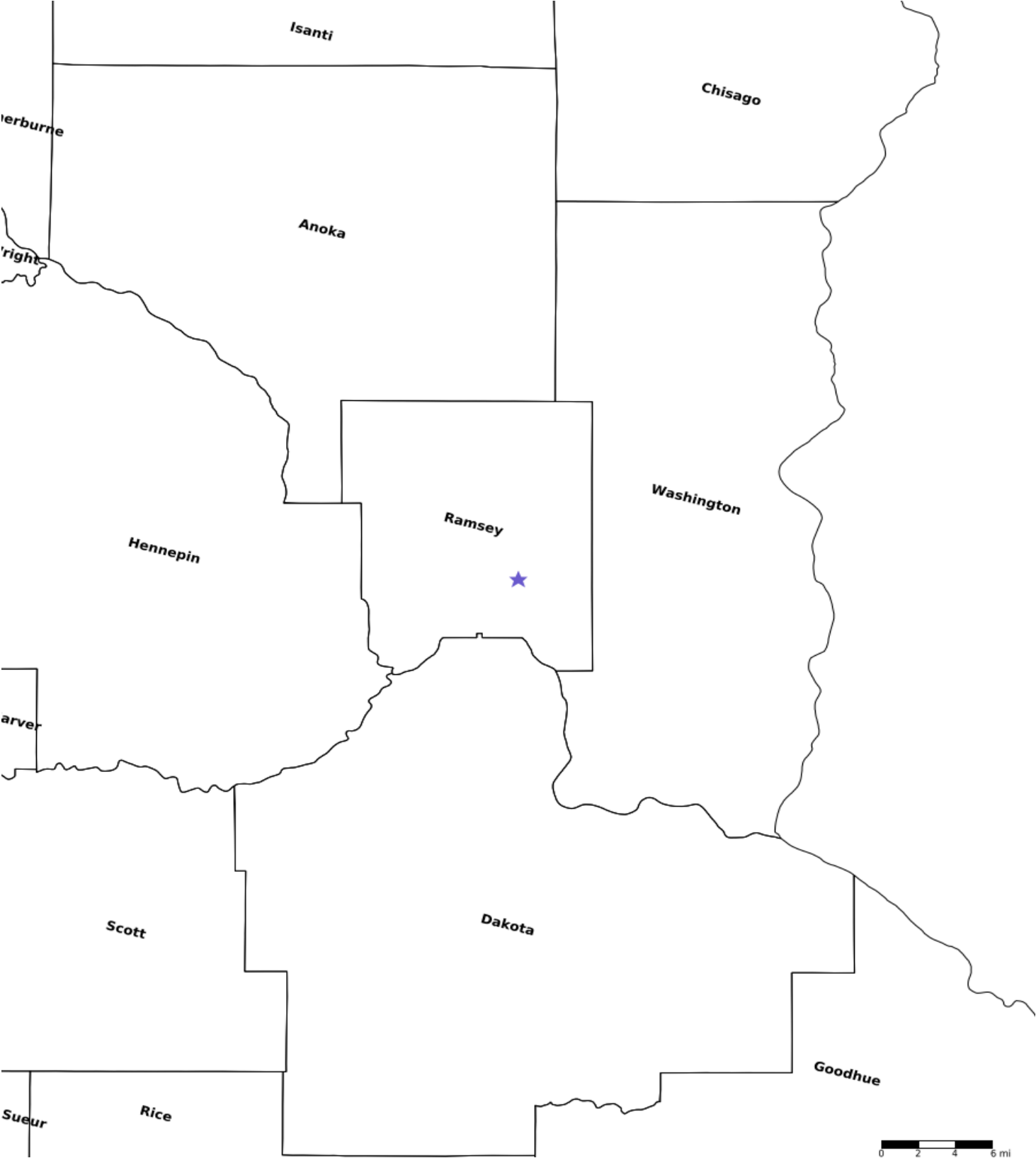
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

The project area encompasses an urban parcel south of Lake Phalen and near Maryland Avenue. The parcel was identified during a 2017 feasibility study commissioned by WTA to evaluate ideal portions of Phalen Creek to be daylight.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Phalen Creek	Ramsey	02922228	9	\$395,965	Yes	Habitat restoration for establishment period.

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ⊕ Other



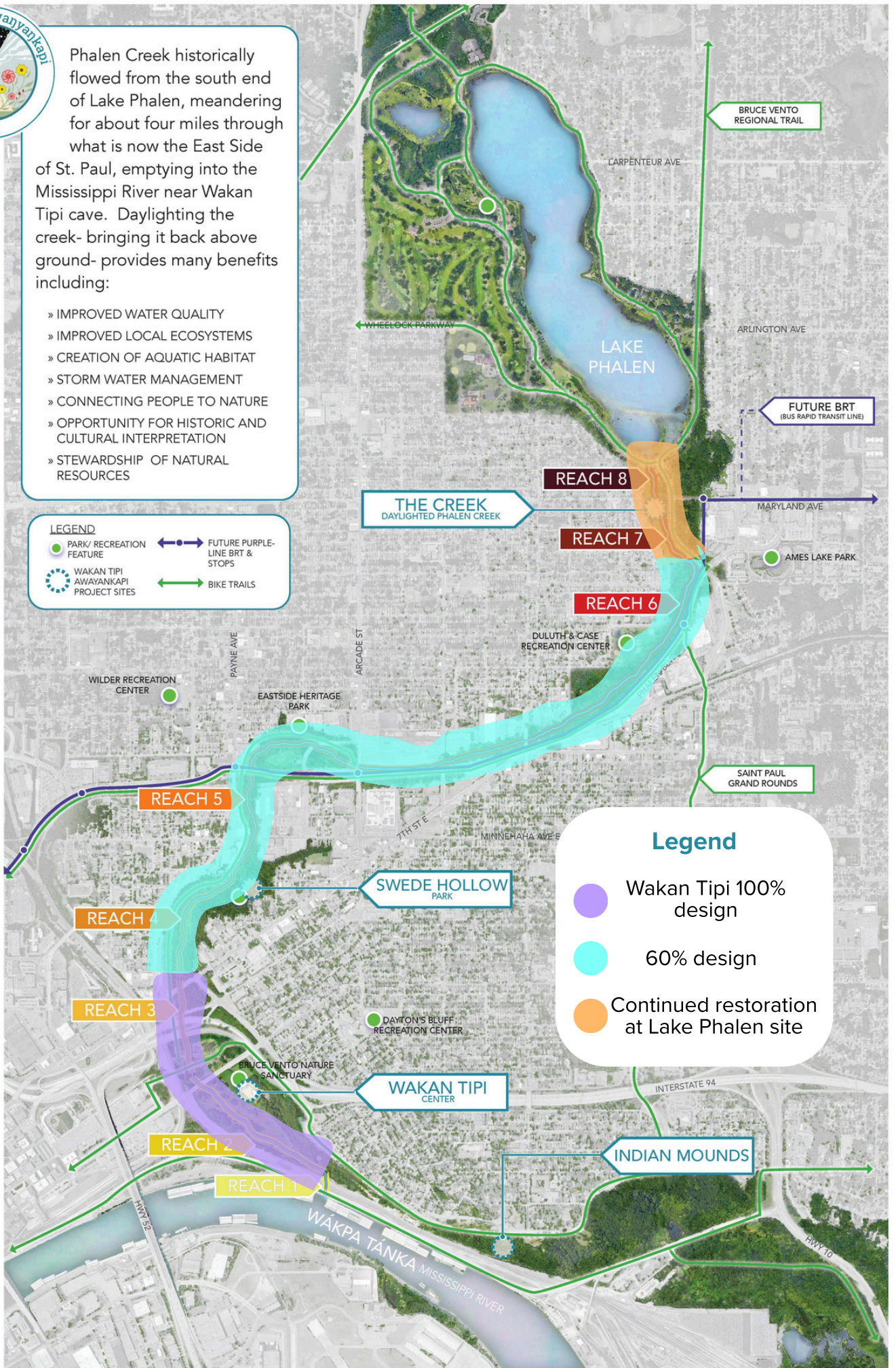
Phalen Creek historically flowed from the south end of Lake Phalen, meandering for about four miles through what is now the East Side of St. Paul, emptying into the Mississippi River near Wakan Tipi cave. Daylighting the creek- bringing it back above ground- provides many benefits including:

- » IMPROVED WATER QUALITY
- » IMPROVED LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS
- » CREATION OF AQUATIC HABITAT
- » STORM WATER MANAGEMENT
- » CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE
- » OPPORTUNITY FOR HISTORIC AND CULTURAL INTERPRETATION
- » STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LEGEND

- PARK/ RECREATION FEATURE
- FUTURE PURPLE-LINE BRT & STOPS
- WAKAN TIFI AWAYANKAPI PROJECT SITES
- BIKE TRAILS

DAYLIGHTING THE CREEK PHALEN CREEK



Legend

- Wakan Tipi 100% design
- 60% design
- Continued restoration at Lake Phalen site

History of the Creek



Phalen Creek historically flowed from the south end of Lake Phalen to the Mississippi River near Wakan Tipi. Dakota people used the creek as a travel corridor to get to psig (wild rice) beds in Bde Mato Ska (White Bear Lake).

By the 1930's, the creek was directed into a large underground storm pipe to make way for housing and other development.

Daylighting the Creek



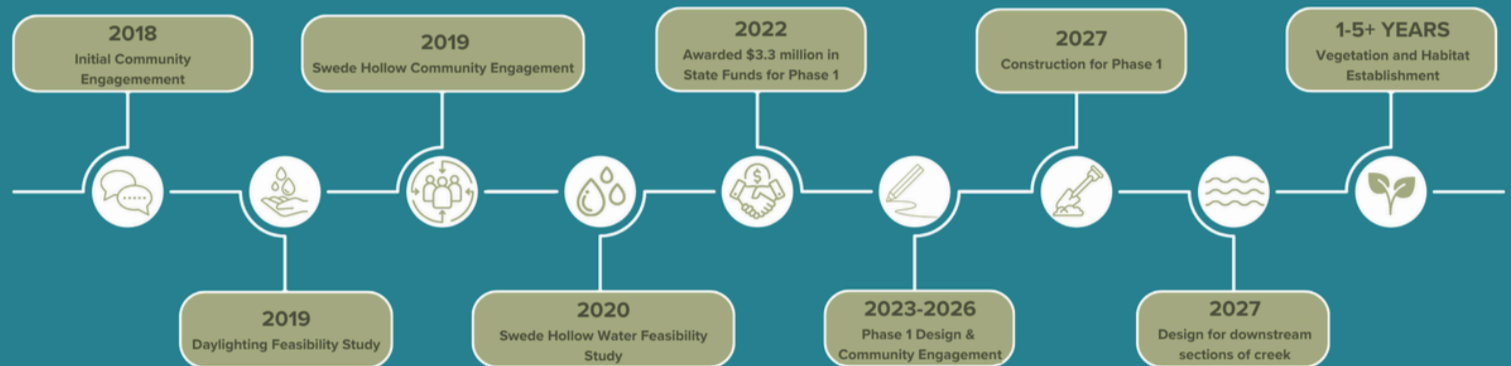
Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi is restoring the creek by “daylighting” or bringing it back above ground. Our goal is to restore native aquatic, riparian, and upland ecosystems and habitats along the corridor and incorporate public access and recreation opportunities. Currently, we are completing work for Phase 1 (first quarter mile) of the creek.

Phase 1 Project Site



Why Daylight?

- Reconnect with water & nature
- Bring back habitat for
 - aquatic wildlife
 - semiaquatic wildlife
 - migratory birds
 - pollinators
- Reconnect with medicinal plants & traditional foods
- Environmental, cultural and historical education
- Promote community stewardship



Between 2018 and 2025 over 4,000 community members have been engaged as part of the project