

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

Funding Report

General Section

Park or Trail Name: Quarry Hill Park & Nature Center

Park ID: 14-016D Funding Application #: 15-039F

Date Designated: 2015-10-07 District6

Lead Organization: Rochester

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Project Name: Exploration Hall Renovation

Project Description:

Phase 1 of the Quarry Hill Park & Nature Center Master Plans identifies the renovation and revitalization of the nature center's Exploration Hall as a top priority. The Exploration Hall at Quarry Hill Nature Park & Center (QHP&NC) is one of the park's most popular attractions. The Exploration Hall serves as a gateway for further exploration and recreation in the park. However, the well-loved yet aging exhibits are no longer serving the needs of park staff and a growing base of diverse audiences. Outdated interpretation cannot successfully convey the story of QHP&NC and Southeast Minnesota habitats. The need for fresh and relevant content sparked plans for renovation and revitalization of exhibits in Exploration Hall. As Rochester grows in population as well as diversity, QHP&NC strives to be a welcoming, inclusive community resource that connects all visitors to the natural world. It is in this spirit that QHP&NC strives to take nature-based education and discovery with the Exploration Hall to new heights. Project Objectives Include: * Update the nature center to reflect the growth, community profile and positioning of QHP&NC * Strengthen connections between visitors' park and nature center experiences * Focus content and experiences in the nature center to reflect the specific unique natural landscape surrounding * Create interactive experiences that have a wide variety of tactile, visual, and auditory elements * Create exhibits that facilitate informal and exploratory learning, appeal to wide array of audiences and meet the needs educational programs * Tell the story and maintain the legacy of QHP&NC Desired Outcomes Include: * Interactive design will reflect the uniqueness of Quarry Hill * Increased visitation to QHP&NC * Exhibits develop a compelling, informative, unique and meaningful visitor experience, with the intent of giving visitors the knowledge and tools needed to get outside and explore the park and greater Southeastern Minnesota region. For further information see the Quarry Hill Park and Nature Center Master Plan. Here you will find more details on the various components of this renovation and revitalization. Due to schedules in the park and the nature center, activities will commence immediately but the timing of completion will need to work around the schedules in place for school and programming.

Funding Section

Project Cost Breakdown: The cost estimate is shown in the attachment

Grant Funding Request: 1200000

Local Match: 300000 Funder: City of Rochester/Friends of Quarry Hill

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Local Match: 0 Funder:

Total Funding: 1500000 Percentage of Local Match: 20.0%

Completion Timeframe: 17 months