



General

This section provides the basic information about the park or trail and the organizations responsible for it.

Park/Trail ID # 14-005D	Funding Application 18-005F	Park/Trail Name Memorial Park
Last Update May 09, 2018		
Project Name Infrastructure Improvements Phase 3 III	District 3	Existing Acres or Miles 141

Project Description

The re-envisioned Granite Falls Memorial Park transforms the currently underutilized public amenity into a regional destination for outdoor recreation and environmental exploration. The proposed master plan divides the park into 11 zones to offer visitors a diversity of camping opportunities, trail experiences and day-trip amenities while enhancing the ecological character of the park that highlights and preserves its rich cultural, ecological, and geologic history. Phase 1 of the Memorial Park's infrastructure improvements addressed the top three priorities outlined in the Memorial Master Plan. Phase 2 addressed the south section of Memorial park which includes a new campground, a new nature-based playground, ecological restoration, the rustic gravel trail to the outlook and directional signage. Phase 3 includes improvements focused on the north side of the park. The historic Main Picnic Shelter is in need of further rehabilitation to complete the comprehensive preservation of the building. The rehabilitation scope in this phase of work focuses on tuckpointing and other exterior envelope improvements to prevent further water infiltration and insure the stability of the structure for next generations of users. Final interior rehabilitation will include restoration of the fireplace. The landscape around the shelter supports the historic integrity and programming of the park. Proposed improvements include rehabilitation of the historic park entrance piers, replacement of the concrete sidewalk leading to the Main Picnic Shelter entrance, and repair to the historic stone and precast concrete stair connecting the Main Picnic Shelter to the river access. Stormwater management improvements for the vehicular parking and circulation pavement will prevent unfiltered pollutants from entering the river. Further improvements will provide additional usable space for events, an improved playground and riverside picnic area, an enclosure for seasonal portable toilets, and a more usable kayak launch. The landscape surrounding the paved trail on the north side of Highway 67 contains the highest quality ecological communities in the park and is home to several rare plant species. This area will be restored, enhanced and preserved with the goal of reinforcing and supporting the current high level of interest in hiking and bird watching. This phase also includes development of remote camping sites on the south side of Highway 67 which will be located during phase 02. The improvements include: SHELTER AREA IMPROVEMENTS 01 Main Picnic Shelter Rehabilitation - exterior masonry tuck pointing to severely degraded stone mortar, Interior and exterior fireplace, boarded up windows with a weather-tight solution, new doors, completion of preservation of the Main Picnic Shelter. 02 Historic Park Entrance Piers: Rehabilitation of electrical conduit and wiring, column mounted light fixtures, tuck pointing 03 Concrete sidewalk replacement – includes replacement of the concrete sidewalk leading to the Main Picnic Shelter entrance, and repair to the historic stone and precast concrete stair connecting the

Main Picnic Shelter to the river access. 04 Parking and Drop-off Improvements/stormwater management/pavement removal - Stormwater management improvements for the vehicular parking and circulation pavement will prevent unfiltered pollutants from entering the river. 05 Kayak/boat launch below Main Picnic Shelter providing access to the Minnesota River. 06 Event lawn (grading and turf establishment), Earthwork prior to lawn seeding 07 Playground Upgrades and Picnic area improvement and Portable Toilet screen 08 Rustic Trails - New trails connecting the picnic/play area north of highway 67 to some inaccessible portions of that section of the park. SIGNAGE/WAYFINDING 09 Monument Entrance Signage at Park Boundaries (E & W). This signage includes large monument signs at the east and west entrances to the park along Highway 67. 10 Directional Signage - Direction signage will correlate to the work in this request. Phase 3 signage will be for the new walking trail in the rustic camping sites and some mapping for the existing bike/walking trail north of 67. 11 Interpretive Signage - This signage will be along the walking trail and the Main Picnic Shelter that shares cultural and ecological interpretation. Some concepts could include the new stormwater management in the area explaining the benefit of removing pavement and filtering the stormwater. FAMILY/GROUP CAMPING 12 Clearing, Grading, & Landscaping for family/group camping area 13 Fire Pits, picnic tables and other improvements in the family/group camping area REMOTE CAMPING SITE AREA 14 Rustic Gravel Trails to camping sites 15 Establishment of remote camp sites, including clearing, fire pit, tent pad, picnic table ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION 16 Ecological Restoration: Initial Enhancement & Restoration + Short-term (3 yr establishment) Management in the paved bike trail area (north of 67 side of park). The ecological restoration will follow the recommendations and guidelines outlined in the Natural Resource Management Plan in the Memorial Park Master Plan. Vegetation communities in the phase 3 improvement areas primarily include Woodland, Woodland Outcrop, Bedrock Prairie, Mesic Prairie and a small area of mixed emergent marsh. Enhancing these native habitats will begin with the removal of invasive and undesirable species in addition to regular management activities such as manual cutting, selective herbicide use, and prescriptive burning. Restoration activities will also consist of enhancement planting to further stabilize and support biodiversity of the native plant communities. Enhancement planting will not only include seeding and planting in the natural habitat areas but will also include strategic landscape planting in the development areas to reduce erosion and impacts of other human-use activities. The use of native plant species throughout the developed areas of the park will draw from the adjacent plant communities to support wildlife habitat and maintain the natural character of the park's occupied spaces.

Project Area Maps

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-005F/Memorial_Park_Grant_Funding_Map_f08716.pdf

Organization City of Granite Falls	Lead Contact Full Name Crystal Johnson	Lead Contact Title City Manager
Mailing Address 641 Prentice Street	City Granite Falls	State Minnesota
Zip 56241	Phone 320-564-3011	Email crystal.johnson@granitefalls.com

Funding

Development Type Both	Acres of Park Land to be Acquired 0
New Trail Miles to be Acquired 0	Types

New Trail Miles Developed

1

Miles of Trail Restored or Improved

0

Trail head facilities developed

0

Number of trail bridges/culverts to be developed/restored

0

Number of Connecting People to the Outdoors Programs created/administered

1

Project Outcomes**Evaluation of Impact**

The GMRPTC must evaluate the outcomes of these improvements, as well as the outputs, to fully evaluate the resulting value of the funding investments it recommends. There must not only be efforts after the improvements are made but also before improvements are made to establish baseline benchmarks.

The City of Granite Falls will approach evaluation through several efforts. The City of Granite Falls will assist the GMRPTC with larger system evaluations. The City of Granite Falls will also utilize the DNRs usage for nearby Lac qui Parle and Upper Sioux Agency State Parks. Currently, the Upper Sioux Agency State Park receives 48,000 annual visitors and Lac qui Parle State Park receives 95,000 annual visitors. Adding and improving amenities within Memorial Park should add additional visitors to the Lac qui Parle and Upper Sioux Agency State Parks. This impact could be measured by analyzing the DNRs data year over year.

Memorial Park aligns with themes one and two of the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission Strategic Plan (2015). Principle/theme one places a priority on near-home park and trail projects in areas that are more densely settled and/or an established regional center. This could be measured by analyzing the census and ACS data to ensure that Granite Falls continues to be a densely populated regional center. Principle/theme one's goal to maintain confidence that top ranked projects are in alignment with what people really value could be measured by usage numbers for the park. The easiest way to measure if the park provides what the region deems valuable is to measure if they utilize the park. Since the park is a county park, there is no formal registration or counts. To measure usage efficiently, random sample days could be chosen and compared with previous years.

Principle/theme two relates to developing facilities with a keen focus on quality outdoor recreation, education, health, cultural, scenic, and historic interpretation experiences. This theme could be hard to measure quantitatively, so a qualitative approach may be more favorable. This will be accomplished by distributing surveys to park users inquiring about their perceived value of the park before and after the improvements are made to measure the perceived value of the improved park and the improvements themselves.

By implementing these evaluation criteria, it should allow the GMRPTC and the City of Granite Falls to collect data that will assist in understanding the outcomes of the investments made by the City and recommended by the Commission. It should also assist in determining whether the principles/themes outlined by the Commission and identified by the City are perceived by park users are being adequately addressed.

DELIVERABLES

The following are the deliverables of this project:

Main Picnic Shelter will be completely rehabbed, stabilized and water tight for the next 20+ years

The area around the Main Picnic Shelter will be improved: Landscaping, parking, historic park entrance piers, kayak boat launch, event lawn and all directional and interpretive signage around the Main Picnic Shelter.

Playground area will be enhanced with new play equipment, picnic tables and a portable toilet screen.

Rustic trail for access additional areas of the park near the playground area.

Group campground developed.

Family picnic area developed.

Rustic campsites with rustic trails

Ecological restoration on the north side of the park around the paved trail.
Entrance monuments at east and west park boundaries

Legacy Pillars:

- Connect People and the Outdoors
- Take Care of What We Have

Connection to Pillars

CONNECT PEOPLE TO THE OUTDOORS

Welcoming environment

The interpretive signage around the Main Picnic Shelter will provide visitors with more information about the park. It will create interpretation that celebrate past and present cultures in Minnesota and their unique heritage and values relate to outdoor recreation. Dakota language will be used when possible to celebrate the culture and history of the Dakota people.

Access

All park facilities will be designed to accommodate all abilities. The concrete sidewalk replacement around the Main Picnic Shelter will create a better surface for ADA access. Parking and drop-off improvements will also accommodate people with different abilities. The area is current accessible, but the sidewalks are slightly different heights and is difficult for those with ADA needs. This project will improve this area.

This phase also addresses some of the remote camping areas that are currently not accessible. Rustic trails will accommodate users.

Quality

The infrastructure improvements will be well thought out and utilize the latest design techniques. This will give visitors a high-quality experience.

These final improvements on the Main Picnic Shelter will stabilize and make the building water tight for the next 20+ years. The fireplace rehabilitation will complete the rehab on the shelter and the quality of the experience will be increased. This building gets the most use in the park and will continue to enable high-quality programming.

The historic park entrance piers will be rehabbed to allow the lights to work which will increase the quality in look and use.

The event lawn area will be more useful and give visitors and programming a higher quality experience.

The improvements in the playground area on the north side of the park will provide users with a new playground, picnic area and portable toilet screen for a high-quality experience.

The restoration of the native plant species and the removal of the invasive and undesirable species will provide an incredible transformation of the view shed in the park, and the quality of the natural resource will be improved.

All signage and interpretation will assist in providing a high-quality experience as guests find their way around the park.

The monument signage to the east and west will increase the quality of the park by allowing traffic to know they are entering a park. It is hoped that drivers will be more cautious, which will calm traffic. This will increase the quality of the experience for users of the park.

Programming and special events

The historic Main Picnic Shelter improvements will complete work where most of the parks private programming is held.

The landscape around the shelter supports the historic integrity and programming of the park. Proposed improvements include rehabilitation of the historic park entrance piers, replacement of the concrete sidewalk leading to the Main Picnic Shelter entrance, and repair to the historic stone and precast concrete stair connecting the Main Picnic Shelter to the river access. Interpretive panels will assist in the programming.

Development and redevelopment

Under the design, develop, and redevelop parks and trails facilities section of the development and redevelopment strategy, using a context-sensitive approach to design that takes into consideration flexibility along with universal design, community involvement, visual quality and stewardship is identified. The Main Picnic Shelter cement improvements will take this into account to redevelop the parking and access area with high quality surfaces.

Developing infrastructure and amenities that meet the lifestyles of our target markets was also identified. The new playground and picnic area near the Main Picnic Shelter addresses the needs of the target markets.

TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE

Protect the public's investment in built infrastructure and natural resources

The Main Picnic Shelter improvements will protect the building for another 20 years with the exterior rehabilitation to prevent further water infiltration and insure the stability of the structure for next generations of users. The fireplace is also in need of rehabilitation, which this phase will address.

The landscape around the shelter supports the historic integrity and programming of the park. Proposed improvements include rehabilitation of the historic park entrance piers, replacement of the concrete sidewalk leading to the Main Picnic Shelter entrance, and repair to the historic stone and precast concrete stair connecting the Main Picnic Shelter to the river access. Stormwater management improvements for the vehicular parking and circulation pavement will prevent unfiltered pollutants from entering the river. Further improvements will provide additional usable space for events, an improved playground and riverside picnic area, an enclosure for seasonal portable toilets, and a more usable kayak launch.

Maintain the quality of natural resources in parks and trails of state and regional significance

The landscape surrounding the paved trail on the north side of Highway 67 contains the highest quality ecological communities in the park and is home to several rare plant species. This area will be restored, enhanced and preserved with the goal of reinforcing and supporting the current high level of interest in hiking and bird watching.

Two of the key benchmarks identified by the GMRPTC Strategic Plan are acres of natural areas preserved, restored & reconstructed at parks & trails and number of parks & trails mapped for terrestrial invasive plants. The ecological restoration outlined in the proposed improvements would address both of these key benchmarks.

Connection to a Regionally Substantial Component of the Master Plan

NINE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

There are the nine guiding principles in the Memorial Park Master Plan. Details about these are in the Master plan. Below is how Phase 03 improvements address these guiding principles to implement the Master Plan:

01. Improve access and connectivity

Rehabilitation of the historic park entrance piers, replacement of the concrete sidewalk leading to the Main Picnic Shelter entrance will improve access and connectivity. Universal access is a focus and will be address in all improvements such as the playground equipment and camping facilities.

02. Improve orientation

The monument signage at the east/west entrances will help visitors know they are entering a park. Signage and interpretation will assist with orientation.

03. Restore ecological integrity

The ecological restoration surrounding the paved trail on the north side of Highway 67. This area contains the highest quality ecological communities in the park and is home to several rare plant species. This area will be restored, enhanced and preserved.

04. Upgrade infrastructure

Final improvements on historic Main Picnic Shelter is a priority. This phase addresses details such as the fireplace, historic park entrance piers, replacement of the concrete sidewalk leading to the Main Picnic Shelter entrance, and repair to the historic stone and precast concrete stair connecting the Main Picnic Shelter to the river access.

This phase also replaces the playground and picnic equipment that is currently very dated.

05. Celebrate the unique sense of place

Interpretive signage will work towards telling the stories of Memorial Park.

06. Improve safety

The monument signage to the east and west will allow traffic to know they are entering a park. It is hoped that drivers will be more cautious, which should calm traffic.

07. Strengthen Minnesota River recreational opportunities

This phase includes a kayak launch which gives both paddlers and park users easy access to the water to enjoy the Minnesota River.

08. Expand traditional recreational opportunities

Existing recreational facilities are tired and dated, and they do not accommodate people with disabilities. Play and exercise are important roles for the park. This phase replaces the dated playground equipment next to the Main Picnic Shelter. This equipment will include universal access.

09. Expand camping options

This phase includes the remote camping sites that will be identified in Phase 02 as well as the family/group campground amenities.

Project Readiness

Project Lead

The city of Granite Falls will be the project lead.

Both Damon Farber (Landscape Architect) and the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission are available to assist with this project.

Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC):

The UMVRDC provides professional planning staff to assist their local units of government.

Damon Farber:

Damon Farber Associates is located in Minneapolis, Minnesota and since 1981, has provided hundreds of

clients with Landscape Architecture, Site Planning and Urban Design services. They are an award-winning landscape architecture and site planning firm that delivers high quality design, offers a collaborative approach, and places an emphasis on creating exceptional outdoor environments that reflect sensitivity to the natural environment and an uncompromising dedication to the needs of our clients. Damon Farber Associates offers the full range of services associated with the design and planning process.

Implementation Timeline

Design and Planning Process: July 2019- January 2020

Bidding & Award: February 2020 March 2020

Site Construction: April 2020 November 2020

Ecological Restoration Activities will be performed as a design/build project. RFP will be issued once funding is secured for construction start July 2019 and will continue for a three-year maintenance period.

Availability for Public Use

Memorial Park does not charge an entrance fee. The park is open and available for general public use and is open year-round as weather and road conditions allow. All facilities are available to public.

The campground is available to rent from May 1 Oct 1st. There are fees for camping.

The Main Picnic Shelter is also available to reserve and rent. Most programming is held in the Main Picnic Shelter. There is no charge to rent the shelter unless it is after 12:30 am, used only to discourage late night use.

All projects completed in Memorial Park will be ADA compliant. Universal accessibility is a primary goal of the plan and to the extent possible; this will guide the redesign of recreation and infrastructural components.

Design Standards

All projects completed in Memorial Park will be compliant with ADA regulations. Universal accessibility is a primary goal of the plan; to the extent possible, this will guide the redesign of recreation and infrastructural components.

A licensed Landscape Architect will design and develop the trails and playground equipment to align with standards set in MDNRs Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines. A historical architect will develop and design improvements to the Main Picnic Shelter and Historic Park entrance piers. Ecological restoration will be directed by a licensed landscape architect and performed by a certified restoration practitioner or a practitioner with previous experience on similar projects. Road and parking improvements will be designed and drawn by a licensed civil engineer. All projects will meet the qualifications and design standards to meet ADA and state regulations.

Project Cost Breakdown

Below is a basic project cost breakdown prepared by Damon Farber, a professional licensed architect.

01 Main Picnic Shelter Rehabilitation

Exterior Masonry, Interior and exterior fireplace. Replace boarded up windows, new doors, final touches on exterior rehab: \$85,000 + \$65,000
\$150,000

02 Historic Park Entrance Piers

Rehabilitation of electrical conduit and wiring, top mounted light fixtures, tuck pointing

\$55,000

03 & 04 Sidewalk and Parking improvements

Concrete sidewalk replacement. Parking and Drop-off Improvements/stormwater management/pavement removal: \$18,720 + \$168,480

\$187,200

05 Kayak/Boat Launch

Kayak/Boat launch site improvements

\$12,480

06 Event lawn area

Event lawn (grading and turf establishment). Earthwork prior to lawn seeding: \$12,250 + \$6,240

\$18,490

07 Playground and picnic area improvements

Playground, picnic area and portable toilet screen: \$62,400 + \$37,440

\$99,840

08 Rustic Trails

New trails connecting the picnic/play area north of highway 67 to some inaccessible portions of that section of the park.

\$6,552

09 Monument Signage

Entrance Signage at east and west park boundaries

\$70,000

10 & 11 Directional and Interpretive Signage: \$3,370 + \$4,493

\$7,862

12 & 13 Family Picnic and Group Camping

Establish group campsites with fire pit and picnic table: \$56,160 + \$24,960

\$81,120

14 & 15 Remote Camping

Rustic Gravel trails, establish campsites with fire pit and picnic table: \$93,600 + \$31,200

\$124,800

16 - Ecological Restoration

Ecological Restoration: Initial Enhancement & Restoration + Short-term (3 yr establishment) Management:

\$66,473 + \$19,844 + \$39,044 + \$28,096 + \$4,643

\$158,100

Design/Engineering: \$97,456

Total Project cost: \$1,072,021

GMRPTC 90%: \$964,819

City 10% match: \$107,202

Funding Request Breakdown

Grant Funding Request

Budget Worksheet

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-005F/ProjectBudgetTemplate - Memorial park_e840b4.xlsx

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Funder Resolution One		http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-005F/Resolution - city of Granite Falls Phase 03_baf07e.pdf
Budget Worksheet		http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-005F/ProjectBudgetTemplate - Memorial park_e840b4.xlsx
Project Area Map		http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-005F/Memorial Park Grant Funding Map_f08716.pdf