



General

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

Park/Trail ID # 15-094D	Funding Application 18-018F	Park/Trail Name Belle Prairie Park
Last Update July 12, 2018		
Project Name Belle Prairie Park Master Plan Enhancement/Mississippi River Access Restoration	District 4	Existing Acres or Miles 138.20

Project Description

Professional Consulting for the Enhancement of the Belle Prairie Park Master Plan. Contract with professional consultant to enhance and improve the Master Plan of Belle Prairie Park (BPP) in Morrison County by conducting additional planning, design and cost estimates for projects. Develop and update the Mississippi River Access Points. The current river access points are in need of repair and pose a safety hazard for those interested in getting close to the water. It is recommended that stairs and railings leading down to the water are replaced or repaired to a high quality ends state using design guidelines and engineering standards that include reasonably meeting accessibility requirements and design standards.

Project Area Maps

Location Map

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/2017ParkRegionalMap_0bf8d0.pdf

Facilities Map

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/Existing Park Facilities_b3c8ae.pdf

Organization Morrison County Public Works Department	Lead Contact Full Name Steven C. Backowski	Lead Contact Title Morrison County Engineer
Mailing Address 213 First Avenue Southeast	City Little Falls	State Minnesota
Zip 56345	Phone 320-632-0120	Email steveb@co.morrison.mn.us

Funding

Development Type

Restoration

Acres of Park Land to be Acquired

0.00

New Trail Miles to be Acquired

0.00

Types

New Trail Miles Developed

0.00

Miles of Trail Restored or Improved

0.00

Trail head facilities developed

0.00

Number of trail bridges/culverts to be developed/restored

0.00

Number of Connecting People to the Outdoors

Programs created/administered

0.00

Project Outcomes

Evaluation of Impact

Belle Prairie Park Master Plan Enhancement

The intent of this project is to enhance the existing Belle Prairie Master Plan by conducting additional planning, design and cost estimations. The effort will work towards developing Belle Prairie Park in a way that provides reoccurring desire to use the facility while preserving the natural environmental and pristine beauty of Belle Prairie Park.

Restoration Project Mississippi River Access Points

River Access Points are developed, restored and updated. The current river access points are repaired to professional design standards or requirements to alleviate any safety hazards for those interested in getting close to the water. Landing/overlook, stairs and railings leading down to the water are replaced or restored/repared to a high quality ends state using engineering standards and design guidelines. The goals and objectives of the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission are substantially achieved. The intent and priorities of the Belle Prairie Master Plan are substantially achieved.

The project outcome will be evaluated based on adherence to all current industry and State of Minnesota design standards and state regulations, engineering standards, the design specifications and guidelines, as well as number of users benefitted, perceived quality of the facility and protection of the Mississippi river as a resource. The project will be evaluated against the anticipated cost is \$60,000, project estimates and bid documents, and final budget to expense reconciliation.

Long term evaluation will be via public outreach and technology for deliverables regarding the number of users benefitted, perceived quality of the facility and protection of the Mississippi as a resource. Emerging technology may/will additionally be used to determine the number users benefitted, perceived quality of the facility and protection of the Mississippi river as a resource as well. The infrastructure will be measured by project completion standards and across time, the operations and maintenance costs gauged against promised deliverables.

Legacy Pillars:

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

Connection to Pillars

Belle Prairie Park Master Plan Enhancement

Connect People and the Outdoors - If approved, funding for professional consultant will substantially facilitate and ensure that priority projects will be developed to the high standard consistent with the desire to promote reoccurring use of the facility by a regional clientele while promoting the natural environmental and historic attributes of Belle Prairie Park. This Park provides the public natural resource based recreational opportunities that are not otherwise available of this nature, in one location, within a reasonable distance. The park serves a regional clientele (multiple communities within Morrison County - 16 cities and 30 Townships), as well as visitors from outstate Minnesota. This is the only County Park within a 30-40 mile radius of multiple communities, providing hiking trails, boat landing and parking, picnic areas with fire rings and/or grills, picnic shelter, playground, restrooms, scenic overlooks, as well as a 9-Hole Disc-Golf Course, all within one public complex. This is a no cost site that attracts a regional clientele to the park from communities within this radius and beyond. Greater scope of use for Belle Prairie Park will be provided as the park is open in the winter as well, in a limited scope, to allow for access to ice fishing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing activities within the park. Access to high-quality outdoor recreational experiences and activities at a regional level, show youth they are valued. Belle Prairie County Park is a park with a keen focus on quality outdoor recreation, education, health, cultural, scenic, and historic interpretation experiences.

Take Care of What We Have - If approved, funding for the Consultant will provide for high quality, experienced professionals that will enhance and improve on the existing Master Plan priority projects that achieved Belle Prairie Park regional designation. This effort will work toward planning, design and cost estimation for developing high quality projects at Belle Prairie Park while preserving its high quality pristine environment.

Coordinate Among Providers - Belle Prairie Park is a County funded endeavor. However, if approved, funding for the consultant will provide a professional experienced consultant firm to developed the enhanced Master Plan of Belle Prairie Park. The process is expected to include the necessary stake holders that will be needed to accomplish the comprehensive enhancement of Belle Prairie Park Master Plan.

Morrison County would expect to work closely with many Federal, State, Local Government Unit (LGU), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and partner commissions and organizations in enhancing the Belle Prairie Park Master Plan. Federal agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), State Agencies such as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), County agencies like the Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District (MC S&WCD), partner organizations like the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC), Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB), Great River Greening, as well as the adjoining LGUs, the City of Little Falls and Belle Prairie Township provide for exceptional coordination among provides to BPP.

Mississippi River Access Points

Connect People and the Outdoors - This park provides public natural resource based recreational opportunities that are not otherwise available of this nature, in one location, within a reasonable distance. The park serves a regional clientele (multiple communities within Morrison County - 16 cities and 30 Townships), as well as visitors from outstate Minnesota. This is the only County Park within a 30-40 mile radius of multiple communities, providing hiking trails, boat landing and parking, picnic areas with fire rings and/or grills, picnic shelter, playground, restrooms, scenic overlooks, as well as a 9-Hole Disc Golf Course, all within one public complex. This is a no cost site that attracts a regional clientele to the park from communities within this radius and beyond. This park has been used for family, community, educational, government, and business activities, relating to a broad spectrum of events from outdoor, educational, sporting and social activities. It is also a waypoint for many rock hounds, biking enthusiasts, motorists, and tourists that consistently generate

economic impact from outside the local area while seeking nearby historical settlement areas, historical churches and cemeteries, historical markers, as well as Goecaches. Greater scope of use for these Mississippi River Access Points will be activity/opportunity multipliers for BPP, as the park is open in the winter as well, in a limited scope, to allow for access to ice fishing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing activities within the park. Access to high-quality outdoor recreational experiences and activities at a regional level, show youth they are valued. Belle Prairie County Park is a park with a keen focus on quality outdoor recreation, education, health, cultural, scenic, and historic interpretation experiences.

Take Care of What We Have - The current river access points need to be repaired to professional design standards and requirements to substantially alleviate any safety hazards for those interested in getting close to the water. Stairs and railings leading down to the water will be replaced or restored/repared to a high quality ends state using engineering standards and design guidelines, With best management practices, state-of-the-art design guidelines and engineering standards, the new Mississippi River Access Points will have an estimated life cycle expectancy of 20 years.

Coordinate Among Providers - Belle Prairie Park is a County funded endeavor. However, Morrison County works closely with a number of Federal, State, Local Government Unit (LGU), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and partner commissions and organizations in executing the Belle Prairie Park Master Plan goals and objectives. Federal agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), State Agencies such as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), County agencies like the Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District (MC S&WCD), partner organizations like the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC), Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB), Great River Greening, as well as the adjoining LGUs, the City of Little Falls and Belle Prairie Township provide for exceptional coordination among provides to BPP.

Connection to a Regionally Substantial Component of the Master Plan

Belle Prairie Park Master Plan Enhancement

If approved, funding for the Consultant will substantially facilitate and ensure that an enhanced Master Plan will be developed and provides for the goals and objectives of the Morrison County Board of Commissioners in the overall development of Belle Prairie Park. With the Mississippi River as the western border of BPCP, visitors have access and connectivity to the second largest river in the United States. The development of an enhanced Master Plan will support to the highest level the economic development and tourism opportunities and initiatives that Belle Prairie Park can achieve.

Belle Prairie Park for all practical purposes is on the Mississippi River State Water Trail, as well as right in the pathway of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway, the Camp Ripley Veterans State Trail (CRVST), and the Mississippi River Trail (MRT, U.S. Bicycle Route 45). These accesses are well-located and the connected location of BPP to these National and State level trail systems, coupled with the synergy created by these interconnected recreational opportunities within 10 miles or less of the Park is extremely and mutually supportive in fostering economic development and tourism within the region making the enhanced Master Plan impactful and needed to meet the parks potential.

The enhanced Belle Prairie Master Plan intent is to build upon existing success and foster new and innovative projects that support changing trends and gaps in service while preserving the natural, ecological, historical and cultural background of the park.

Mississippi River Access Points

With the Mississippi River as the western border of BPCP, visitors have near-home access and connectivity via three accesses to the second largest river in the United States. With the River Access Points developed, restored and updated to current design standards, any safety hazards for those interested in getting close to the water will be substantially alleviated, providing new and enhanced opportunities for a user-friendly,

regionally substantial and impactful component of the Belle Prairie Park (BPP) Master Plan accomplished. The BPP Master Plan outlines Development Features that included developing and updating the River Access Points and in corresponding with public survey results, the most urgent need according to the survey is facilities and maintenance. These considerations, coupled with immediate needs to address safety concerns inherent in the current structures, this priority component of the Master Plan significantly matches the phased planning of the BPP Master Plan and supports the economic development and tourism opportunities and initiatives laid out in the Plan. BPCP for all practical purposes is on the Mississippi River State Water Trail, as well as right in the pathway of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway, the Camp Ripley Veterans State Trail (CRVST), and the Mississippi River Trail (MRT, U.S. Bicycle Route 45). These accesses are well-located and the connected location of BPCP to these National and State level trail systems, coupled with the synergy created by all of these interconnected recreational opportunities within 10 miles or less of the Park is extremely and mutually supportive in fostering economic development and tourism within the region make this development project an impactful component of the Master Plan.

Invariably, like any plan, the BPCPMP will be fluid to some degree, as projects identified in the mid-term category could be built before others in the short-term category for example. Changing trends and accompanying gaps in service will drive changes in priorities and timeframes for implementation. And because all proposed park features and facilities are intended, as feasible, to meet most current regional designs and applicable accessibility standards, additional requirements could impact the implementation plans as well, as is indeed the case for the new proposed Mississippi River Access Points. The key is to identify needed improvements that the County and can implement as opportunities arise, whether that is through local funding, grants, or other reconstruction projects.

Similarly, the Belle Prairie County Park Master Plan (BPCPMP) implementation plans are to keep existing BPCP facilities in good condition. The overall implementation plan intent is to build upon existing success and foster new and innovative projects that support changing trends and gaps in service. The implementation plan for the park and corresponding development strategy and implementation priorities will be accomplished in within a phased approach. Within BPCPMP, the phasing is described as implementation timeframes of Short Term (0-5 years), Mid-Term (5-10 years), and Long-Term (10+ years). The basis for the phasing is to facilitate the County identified as important to stakeholders, focus efforts and prioritize park improvements in a systematic manner based on associated variable, factors and funding, yet, take advantage of emerging opportunities for improvement project implementation as they arise.

Project Readiness

Project Lead

Belle Prairie Park Master Plan Enhancement

The Morrison County (MC) Public Works Department (PWD) coupled with the County Engineer is the lead applicant/agency and Project Lead. The MC Engineer is a registered Professional Engineer (Certified Professional Engineer, License Number 18286), working with a degreed Deputy County Engineer and Staff which are all Associate Degreed Engineer Technicians, providing project oversight. This team will develop a Request for Proposal to determine the most qualified consultant to lead the project through the process of enhancing the Belle Prairie Master Plan. MC will work with well-established and experienced Consulting firms with credentials in the areas of interest and concern for successful project accomplishment.

If funding approval is granted the Morrison County Public Works would work to complete a request for proposals by the end of 2019. The Morrison County Public Works Department (MC PWD) and County Engineer would work to be ready to execute in FY 2020. The MC PWD has had oversight of BPP for twenty-five-plus (25+) years and uniquely qualified and experienced in delivering this type of project, has established significant and ongoing partnerships with State, County, Local Government Unit (LGU), partner organization, as well as private entities to establish agreements, other mechanisms and relationships to ensure project success in a number of project endeavors.

Mississippi River Access Points

The Morrison County (MC) Public Works Department (PWD) coupled with the County Engineer is the lead applicant/agency and Project Lead. The MC Engineer is a Certified Professional Engineer (License Number 18286), working with a degreed Deputy County Engineer and Staff which are all Associate Degreed Engineer Technicians. MC will work with well-established and experienced Engineer Consulting firms and contractors with credentials in the areas of interest and concern for successful project accomplishment.

County design estimates are completed for submission to civilian engineering for opportunity to bid as soon as possible. The Morrison County Public Works Department (MC PWD) and County Engineer are ready to execute in FY 2020.

The MC PWD has had oversight of BPP for twenty-five Plus (25+) years and uniquely qualified and experienced in delivering this type of project, has established significant and ongoing partnerships with State, County, Local Government Unit (LGU), partner organization, as well as private entities to establish agreements, other mechanisms and relationships to ensure project success in a number of project endeavors. For example the Morrison County (MC) portion of the SOO Line Recreational Trail (SLRT) has noteworthy and remarkable projects that are testimony to this agency's qualifications and experience in delivering this type of project to a successful end state. The MC SLRT requires operations and maintenance on one of the largest legacy railroad bridge river crossings over the Mississippi in existence, where because of private and government ownership and jurisdiction requires complex project management and synchronization among Minnesota Power's areas of responsibilities in maintenance of the bridge's lower pier-footings, MC's responsibility for the main structure above the pier-footings, as well as coordination and approval from the Army Corps of Engineer (ACE) and oversight from the Minnesota (MN) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Pollution Control Agency (PCA, as well as the MC Soil and Water Conservation District (S&WCD) to fully execute a structure maintenance project.

In this particular case for these Mississippi River Access Points, MC will work closely with the MN DNR in design, contracting, and project execution to ensure to engage the full measure of working experience available for projects of this nature. The initial designs will be fashioned after a pre-engineered, MNDNR-approved, overlapping Timber Step stairway design. The Mississippi Headwaters Board will also be coordinating partners in project design to ensure a high quality outdoor experience while still ensuring the River Access Points are developed, restored and updated to current industry and State of Minnesota design standards and state regulations, engineering standards, design specifications and guidelines.

Implementation Timeline

Belle Prairie Park Master Plan Enhancement

The Morrison County Public Works Department (MC PWD) and County Engineer will be ready to execute in FY 2020. The implementation timeline is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. The Morrison County Public Works Department is the Project Lead and is poised to execute oversight of high quality request for proposals and support the selected consultants process for developing the enhanced Master Plan.

Mississippi River Access Points

The Morrison County Public Works Department (MC PWD) and County Engineer are ready to execute in FY 2020. The implementation timeline is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022. The Morrison County Public Works design estimates are completed for submission to civilian engineering consultants and contractors, and the County as the Project Lead is poised to execute oversight. The initial designs will be fashioned after a pre-engineered, MNDNR-approved, overlapping Timber Step stairway design, which will greatly support a deliberate timeline.

Availability for Public Use

Belle Prairie Park Master Plan Enhancement

The process to develop the enhanced Belle Prairie Park Master Plan will have no impact on the use of the

facilities as the project is worked through the process.

Schools, local organizations, clubs or individuals can use the facilities on a first-come, first-serve basis during typical park hours as well, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. BPP is a no cost site and there is no County fee charged for use of the park facilities and/or access to the park.

Mississippi River Access Points

All facilities will be designed and available for general public use and open during typical park hours as well, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. This includes the public boat landing, river accesses, hiking trails, scenic overlooks, playgrounds, as well as the 9-Hole Disc Golf Course, natural-historic areas, and other structures. For BPP that includes all amenities within Belle Prairie Park (BPP); parking areas, picnic shelter, fire rings and/or grills, and restrooms.

Schools, local organizations, clubs or City programs are allowed to use the facilities on a first-come, first-serve basis during typical park hours as well, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. This availability has little or no impact on the Mississippi River Access Points availability to the general public.

BPP is a no cost site and there is no County fee charged for use of the park facilities and/or access to the park.

Design Standards

Belle Prairie Park Master Plan Enhancement

The process of developing the Request for Proposals for the enhanced Belle Prairie Park Master Plan will utilize industry standards that will be conducted in a competitive process and utilize a selection committee appointed by the Morrison County Board of Commissioners. The request for proposal will require the consultant firm to provide the process and deliverables they will achieve in developing the enhanced Belle Prairie Park Master Plan. The County will work with Greater Minnesota Parks and Trail Commission in developing a Request For Proposal that will meet the mutual needs of the Commission and the County's desired results.

Mississippi River Access Points

River Access Points are developed, restored and updated to professional design standards or requirements to alleviate any safety hazards for those interested in getting close to the water. Landing/overlook, stairs and railings leading down to the water are replaced or restored/repared to a high quality end state using engineering standards, design guidelines and accessibility considerations. The project will adhere to all current industry and State of Minnesota design standards and state regulations, the design specifications and guidelines, as well as when relevant, reasonably meeting accessibility design standards requirements, all with the ethos of protection of the Mississippi river as a resource. The initial designs will be fashioned after a pre-engineered, MNDNR-approved, overlapping Timber Step stairway design, which will greatly support acceptable Design Standards. The Certified Professional who will be signing off on this project is the Morrison County Engineer who is a Certified Professional Engineer, License Number 18286.

Project Cost Breakdown

Belle Prairie Park Master Plan Enhancement

The cost to complete an enhanced Master Plan for Belle Prairie Park is expected to be in the approximately \$65,000 range. Morrison County is proposing to provide the in-kind cost to develop, review and select the request for proposals and the necessary labor support, and facilities to take the project through the process with final deliverables an enhanced Belle Prairie Master Plan that better meets the GMPTC requirements and reflects the Morrison County Board of Commissioners vision of Belle Prairie Parks future.

Mississippi River Access Points

Two (2) Mississippi River Access Points (north and center access points) are currently being proposed to be developed, restored and updated. The current river access points will be repaired to professional design standards or requirements to alleviate any safety hazards for those interested in getting close to the water. Landing/overlook, stairs and railings leading down to the water will be replaced or restored/repared to a high quality ends state using engineering standards and design guidelines that include reasonably meeting accessibility standards. The initial designs will be fashioned after a pre-engineered, MNDNR-approved, overlapping Timber Step stairway design.

Mississippi River Access Project - Key Development Elements - Associated Costs (less Engineering).
 Anticipated Total Project Cost is \$60,000.00.

* Construction Fees and Costs for BPP North Mississippi River Access Site = \$30,000.00

* Construction Fees and Costs for BPP Center Mississippi River Access Site = \$30,000.00

It is anticipated that all park construction costs will be prepared by professional licensed architects or engineers. All funding along with associated costs will be allocated to the Mississippi River Access Points development, and with the Mississippi River as the western border of BPCP, local and regional visitors have access and connectivity via these accesses to the second largest river in the United States, undoubtedly a key element helping to achieve BPP's regional purpose. With the River Access Points developed, restored and updated to current industry, State, engineering and accessibility standards and guidelines, any safety hazards for those interested in getting close to the water will be substantially alleviated, providing new and enhanced opportunities for a user-friendly, regionally substantial and impactful component of the Belle Prairie Park (BPP) Master Plan accomplished.

Funding Request Breakdown

Grant Funding Request

\$110,000

Local Match #1

\$15,000

Funder #1

0

Local Match #2

0

Funder #2

0

Local Match #3

0

Funder #3

0

Local Match #4

0

Funder #4

0

Local Match #4

0

Funder #5

0

Non-Eligible Local Match

0.00

Non-Eligible Item Description

None

Total Funding

\$125,000

Percentage of local match

0.12

Completion Timeframe

September 2019

Funder #1

Morrison County

Funder #1 Resolutions

<http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/>

Funding Resolution 1

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/MC Resolution 2018_052_BPP Funding Application_b48d51.pdf

Funder #2

Morrison County

Funder #2 Resolutions

Funding Resolution 2

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/MC Resolution 2018_053_BPP 2018 Funding Application_2c8df7.pdf

<http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/>

Funder #3

None

Funder #4

None

Funder #5

None

Budget Worksheet

River Access Restoration

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/Copy of project budget template \(002\)_4508ae.xlsx](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/Copy of project budget template (002)_4508ae.xlsx)

Project Engineering Design

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/Project budget BPP Master Plan Enhancement Pro ENG Con_749045.xlsx

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Budget Worksheet	River Access Restoration	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/Copy of project budget template (002)_4508ae.xlsx
Additional Attachment	Existing Landing Stairway	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/Existing Landing Park Steps_355911.pdf

Additional Attachment	Existing North Stairway	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/Existing North Park Steps_14834f.pdf
Project Area Map	Location Map	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/2017Park RegionalMap_0bf8d0.pdf
Project Area Map	Facilities Map	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/Existing Park Facilities_b3c8ae.pdf
Budget Worksheet	Project Engineering Design	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/Project budget_BPP Master Plan Enhancement_Pro ENG Con_749045.xlsx
Funder Resolution One		http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/
Funder Resolution Two	Funding Resolution 2	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/MC Resolution 2018_053_BPP 2018 Funding Application_2c8df7.pdf
Funder Resolution Two		http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/
Funder Resolution One	Funding Resolution 1	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/18-018F/MC Resolution 2018_052_BPP Funding Application_b48d51.pdf