



General

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

Park/Trail ID # 14-002D	Funding Application 19-020F	Park/Trail Name Robinson Park
Last Update July 26, 2019		
Project Name Robinson Park Phase 1 Recreational Redevelopment	District 1	Existing Acres or Miles 65

Project Description

The Phase 1 project focuses on critical infrastructure improvements to lower Robinson that will set the stage for remaining improvements to be phased in as future funding becomes available. This includes providing necessary vehicular separation from pedestrian circulation for a safer park experience and protection of historical elements. The entrance drive will implement initial improvements to make the tight corner around the abutment more visible, move the parking lot away from the edge of the river, and create a new parking lot that will provide better access to the main active areas of the park and define vehicular boundaries. The existing motorized boat ramp, which is very steep and difficult to use, will be removed as part of this process. This also provides an opportunity to divert existing runoff that is currently flowing into the Kettle River down the boat ramp. This will improve the quality of the water entering the river and will continue to provide non-motorized boat access to the river. The Phase 1 project also includes trail improvements, specifically the Kettle River Trail that extends from the north end of the park to the south end of the park, following the Kettle River and adjoining up to Banning State Park property. The parking lot improvements will provide space for an improved river edge and bank stabilization in erosion prone areas. The Kettle River Trail will create accessible pedestrian travel along the scenic Kettle River and will improve pedestrian access to both boat portages, seating overlooks along the river, the climbing wall in select areas, and trail connections to the other portions of the park, thereby improving overall pedestrian access to various types of recreation within the park. The trail will be paved with bituminous in the northern half of the park where the more centralized active use spaces are located and will remain natural surfaced in the southern portion to blend with the natural surroundings. The trail system will provide improved access to outdoor recreation, a variety of settings will create various loops, which are highly desirable park features by users. The existing picnic shelter will be removed and replaced with a new picnic shelter relocated to the central portion of the park. This will create a better relationship with the more active use areas of the park and will highlight an existing historical display, numerous historical quarry elements and rock climbing activities along the wall. The new shelter and location will better accommodate groups, park events, and day-to-day activities with flexible overflow space. A new restroom building, if budget allows, is proposed to replace an existing restroom building that is outdated and has a strong odor. The new restroom facility will utilize improved technology for a cleaner and more pleasing restroom that will be complementary to the picnic shelter. Phase 1 improvements include two improved non-motorized boat portages located north and south of the previous dam location. Appropriate gathering and storage space will be incorporated at both locations to create more accessibility to the river. Additional site

work will include continued work on natural resource management to control invasive species with select clearings for safety and visibility and identifying locations of historical elements for future interpretation.

Project Area Maps

Project Location (regional context)

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/03006-000_Robinson_Final_MP_Context_8ff615.jpg

Phase 1 Map

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/03006-000_Robinson_Phasing_Exhibit_2019_0730_c75864.pdf

Park Location Map

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/google_park_map_089fa8.pdf

Organization City of Sandstone	Lead Contact Full Name Kathy George	Lead Contact Title City Administrator
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Funding

Development Type Both	Acres of Park Land to be Acquired 0
New Trail Miles to be Acquired 0	Types
New Trail Miles Developed 0.63	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 500	

Project Outcomes

Evaluation of Impact

Robinson Park is the location of a previous quarry owned and operated by James J. Hill from 1885-1919. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991 due to the numerous historical quarry remnants that still exist on the site. The historic artifacts are continually in danger of destruction due to vandalism, inadvertent damage caused by vehicles encountering hidden artifacts due to lack of vehicular separation, and environmental impacts. A lack of proper separation between pedestrians and vehicles also creates conflicts for park pedestrian users, creating ongoing safety concerns when both are using the same paths in the park

with limited visibility.

Vehicular circulation will be separated from pedestrian circulation to improve overall safety for the park users and to protect historic artifacts that are currently susceptible to damage by vehicles. The new drive and parking areas separate pedestrian and vehicle uses while improving ADA access to various locations of the lower Robinson recreational areas. Drop-off areas in select locations of the new park entrance drive and parking lot will improve access to the recreational areas of the park and will accommodate a multitude of user groups and events that take place in the park. Open lawn areas will accommodate overflow parking during the larger events that take place in the park, such as Quarry Days, the Kettle River Paddle Festival and the Sandstone Ice Festival, while remaining flexible open green space for daily park uses.

The phase one project moves the existing parking areas away from the edge of the Kettle River, including removal of the existing motorized boat ramp. This modification will allow stormwater runoff that is currently flowing directly into the Kettle River to be captured for pretreatment utilizing filtration methods. Protection of the water quality of the Kettle River is highly important to the community and park users given its status and scenic value.

Many of the existing recreational amenities in the park, including but not limited to, the picnic shelter, restroom building, and portages are at the end of their useful life and in need of replacement or repair to adequately meet the needs of the park users. The Phase 1 project will take the initial steps necessary to restore or replace aging amenities to meet the current needs of the park users while highlighting and protecting the important historical, cultural and natural resources this regionally significant park offers. The Phase 1 improvements indicate removal of the existing park shelter and restroom building, built in the 1970s, due to the proposed parking lot modifications and the addition of the Kettle River Trail, as well as their aging condition. A new shelter building is proposed closer to the main active recreational use areas of the park, centrally located in lower Robinson. This location will also highlight the existing historical interpretive display and some of the prominent historical quarry elements, such as the guy derrick and dam remnants. The proposed shelter will accommodate up to 60-80 users when combined with the adjacent plaza space for additional seating. The shelter may be reserved through the City of Sandstone for groups and numerous special events that take place in the park and will also be available on a first-come basis for the typical day-to-day user.

The existing restroom building is not utilized to its full potential due to the existing age, condition and continuous complaints of unpleasant odors. The proposed alternate restroom facility will provide an updated and more appealing facility. Several options are being considered to reduce the propensity for odor issues and potentially allow for winter use. This would be a considerable asset due to the popularity of the park for winter activities, such as ice climbing that attracts regional and even international users. This improved facility is also beneficial to the river activities and allows room for changing clothing for water-related activities. Due to the number of year-round groups that utilize the park, this updated facility is a highly desirable amenity that will greatly improve the overall park experience for all users.

The Phase 1 project includes improvements to the north and south portages along the Kettle River for non-motorized watercraft, improving access on both sides of the existing dam remnants, which currently poses water hazards. The portages will be sited for ease of access based on the riverbank grades and proximity to the vehicular drop-off areas. Portage improvements will also include space for group gatherings and storage areas, which will be beneficial to the individual river users as well as the outfitting companies that bring groups of kayakers and canoeists to and from the park.

Trails are the most desired recreational amenity to meet local and regional needs in the park and improve overall health and wellness. Moving the parking and vehicles away from the edge of the river improves pedestrian access the entire length of the Kettle River in the park, identified on the plan as the Kettle River Trail that will connect up to Banning State Park on both ends. This trail segment will be 10 feet in width to account for future regional trail connections through Banning State Park on the north and south ends of the park, with an opportunity to continue a regional trail to St. Croix State Park and beyond. The Kettle River Trail within Robinson Park will allow for future seating overlooks and interpretation sites, corresponding with the numerous artifacts that are present along the river and also making use of the scenic views of the river setting. As the future interpretive elements are incorporated, there are many opportunities to tie them to historical and educational programs or self-guided tours.

Additional trails in the park will contain a mixture of aggregate or natural surfaces, depending on location. These trails will improve overall pedestrian access to the various recreational areas of the park for climbing

activities, water activities, fishing along the shoreline, or just strolling through the park to enjoy the historic and scenic features. The natural surfaced trails will connect to the Kettle River Trail in order to create internal loops which are highly desired by park users. Trail routes to buildings and specific recreational elements will meet handicap accessibility standards with a hard and level surface, while some of the natural trails will be field fit according to existing terrain in order to limit disturbance to historic or natural features.

The proposed Phase 1 development project will improve the overall park experience and recreational amenities for a broad range of park users of varying demographics, ages and abilities. The improvements will set the stage to allow for future improvements to be implemented while encouraging ongoing stewardship of the park, including protection of natural and built features.

The City of Sandstone will continue to gather feedback from park users and user groups in order to document and evaluate the improvements as they affect park users, function and activities. This information will aid the City in developing priorities for future phases that can more precisely meet additional needs.

Phase 1 Improvements to Robinson Park will continue to meet and enhance the following criteria for a regionally significant park:

Provides a special high quality outdoor recreation experience

Provides a natural and scenic setting offering a compelling sense of place

Well located to serve a regional need and/or tourist destination

Fills a gap in recreational opportunity within the region

Protects vital historical aspects of the park through interpretation and preservation

Legacy Pillars:

- Connect People and the Outdoors
- Acquire Land and Create Opportunities
- Take Care of What We Have
- Coordinate Among Providers

Connection to Pillars

Connect People to the Outdoors:

The 2016 Robinson Park Master Plan Amendment was a direct result of the community and park users desire to improve the park site in terms of accessibility, usability and regional connectivity.

The master plan for Robinson Park identifies improvements for development, redevelopment and protection to provide necessary connections to the park from a local and regional perspective, while also accounting for connections to the various active and passive use areas within the upper and lower portions of the park.

These connections improve the health and livability of the community and account for various ages, abilities and demographics. The following identifies the park improvements in the overall master plan and the phase 1 project that would connect people to the outdoors.

Robinson Park is located approximately half way between the Twin Cities metro and Duluth, located less than two miles east of Interstate 35, following highway 23 to highway 123. This location allows easy access to the park by two main high population centers and has been known to be a great halfway meeting point. Highway 23 is part of the St. Croix Scenic Byway and a designated trail route that connects to the Willard Munger State Trail. The park location is highly advantageous in terms of access for reaching a multitude of population areas.

Recently the City of Sandstone has replaced the main park entrance sign for Robinson Park located at the intersection of the historic Old Wagon Road and Highway 123 to improve identification of the main park entrance to lower Robinson. The master plan also accounts for future phases of improvements to include a secondary access to the park with its own monument sign. This secondary access creates a direct connection to the park from the adjacent community which is currently lacking. Future trails and stairs will connect the upper and lower portions of the park together for improved connectivity.

The phase 1 project will reconfigure the parking areas to be located further away from the rivers edge and remove the existing motorized boat ramp. This will improve the quality of the water entering the river and improve pedestrian access to the river. The parking modifications will also create a distinct separation of vehicular and pedestrian circulation, improving overall safety for the users and protecting significant artifacts

in the park that are currently endangered by vehicular activity.

The parking in lower Robinson will include standard and handicap accessible parking stalls. The main entrance drive continues to the north leading to a turn-around loop with various drop-off areas strategically located adjacent to group gathering locations. These will improve the function and accessibility for group activities and associated gear, such as large gatherings in the primary shelter building, outfitting companies bringing groups to and from the park for programmed excursions, water recreationists, and climbing groups. There is flexible lawn space created that can be used for overflow parking and event space for the larger events that take place in the park which is in close proximity to the large group shelter, the river, and the rock walls where numerous activities take place.

Robinson Park is a regionally significant park due to numerous and unique factors, including the nationally designated Wild and Scenic Kettle River that runs the entire length of the park. There are a number of water recreationists and outfitting groups who utilize this park for programmed activities, including festivals and educational sessions that encourage these sports and develop future enthusiasts. Phase 1 improves access to the river for non-motorized watercraft on both the north and south ends of the dam remnants where two portages are identified, as this is a current difficulty in some locations of the park. The portage improvements will be in locations that provide ease of access into and out of the river and will create space for groups to gather before and after use of the water, resulting in a significantly improved experience for park users. The proposed Kettle River Trail will connect up to Banning State Park on the north and south ends of the park, creating a regionally significant trail system as future trails are implemented. The Kettle River Trail will also accommodate future overlooks, seating, and historical and natural interpretation opportunities along the trail to enhance the users experience. It will connect to additional smaller width or natural surfaced park trails to create internal trail loops. The trails will improve accessibility and ease of use by creating more level surfaces and will connect to recreational spaces and unique natural features of the park with varying scenic and historic qualities. There are prime areas for viewing the Kettle River and associated activities, enjoying the water going over the dam remnants, wooded locations, viewing areas of the rock walls and climbing activities, interesting landforms, bird watching, and numerous historical remnants throughout the park waiting to be discovered and highlighted. Trail routes from handicap parking stalls will meet accessibility standards to specific park amenities. Some of the smaller trails through natural areas will likely need to be built according to the terrain to minimize disturbance to the site and significant historic features, though the intent is to make them as accessible as feasible.

Robinson Park is well-known for the sheer rock cliffs running along most of the park perimeter. The rock cliffs accommodate a variety of skill levels related to rock climbing, bouldering and formed ice climbing activities. This creates year-round recreation in the park that attracts enthusiasts from a local, regional and even international level. The ice climbing activities are one of the main attractions of the park, as this type of recreational activity is difficult to find, and the quality and scenery surrounding these park cliffs are very attractive to users. Organized climbing groups utilize the park on an ongoing basis through formal and informal activities. These groups organize events and volunteer efforts to improve the park. More recently, this park activity has attracted use from colleges, universities and small organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, to provide education on climbing activities for varying skill levels. These activities and groups provide ways for people to either view or participate in climbing activities, develop future enthusiasts and create an appreciation for these sports and unique park features. The trails illustrate improved connections to specific group use areas along the rock cliffs for users and viewers who love to just watch the sport.

Select vegetative clearing will improve event, gathering and viewing spaces throughout the park without detrimentally affecting the overall character. This will improve the city's ability to continue ongoing management and restoration efforts, it will protect endangered quarry remnants and it will improve the sense of safety for the users in the park.

There are numerous programs and activities that take place in Robinson Park. The phase 1 improvements will accommodate these uses better than current conditions allow for a wide range of park users with varying abilities and interests. The improvements will help raise awareness of the park through these activities and draw in users who were otherwise less inclined to use the park due to outdated amenities, lack of skill for a particular sport, or a lack of feeling safe in the park. Efforts will be made to promote stewards for protection of historical elements in the park. Programming in the park will be easier to accommodate with the inclusion of flexible multi-use gathering spaces, improved amenities and experiences, and inviting spaces. Other potential partners for future park programs may include the educational institutions and the local Audubon Center of

the North Woods and, more recently, scouting groups that are integrating the parks features into their programs. Future outreach is anticipated to further identify programming that meets the needs of the various stakeholders based upon changing demographics, diversity, user groups, and recreational trends.

Acquire Land & Create Opportunities

The Robinson Park master plan and phase 1 project do not include the acquisition of additional lands, though a future easement may be necessary for one segment of trail in upper Robinson. Robinson Park connects to Banning State Park on the north and south ends of the park and the State also owns land across the Kettle River. Connections to Banning State Park will create greater opportunities for future regional trail systems along with creating opportunities to encourage and create new park and trail users.

The phase 1 project for Robinson Park contains flexible spaces that allow for recreational uses and programming to change in line with recreational trends. This also creates greater opportunities to redevelop and improve the lower portion of the park for local and regional visitors. The improvements start to highlight the historic and cultural aspects of Robinson Park in a more meaningful and relevant manner, which are currently in danger of being lost as degradation and vandalism continues. There are numerous hidden artifacts throughout the site. The phase 1 project begins the process of uncovering and documenting some of these artifacts so they can be protected and their stories told. By making improvements and highlighting some of the more historical pieces of the park, there will be greater opportunities to implement additional park programming or even a self-guided tour from varying levels that will make the historical pieces more integral to the user experience.

Future trail connections between upper and lower Robinson will improve the overall connectivity within the park, and also to the adjacent community that is currently lacking in adequate recreational amenities within walking or biking distance with a focus on improvements specifically meant to serve the day to day needs of the community, as well as visitors

Take Care of What We Have

The Robinson Park site was abandoned in 1919 following the end of the quarry operations, leaving behind a site mainly devoid of vegetation with piles of rubble, equipment and random buildings left standing and prone to vandalism. The vegetation that started growing back in was mainly pioneer or undesirable and invasive species, and has become quite dense, overtaking much of the site. The park had become known for more undesirable activities taking place for numerous years. Many people avoided the park, and some didnt realize it existed.

Some climbing groups found this hidden treasure with its enticing rock walls that are perfect for climbing. Within the climbing community the park became well-known and appreciated. Through joint efforts between climbers and the City of Sandstone, eventually some park improvements were made that brought awareness of the park back to the community and improved the safety of the park by addressing the undesirable activities. The residents and park users want to ensure that Robinson Park receives the necessary infrastructure improvements that will prevent the site from further degradation. Necessary improvements include addressing the outdated amenities, which will encourage stewardship of the park for many more years to come.

Most of the park improvements were implemented in the early 1970s, and many of these are in need of repair or complete replacement in order to meet the needs of current users.

The phase 1 project includes a focus on the removal and replacement of some key park facilities, including the main group picnic shelter building, the restroom building, parking lots, trails, and non-motorized watercraft access (portages) to the Kettle River.

The existing picnic shelter building is dark, uninviting and reaching the end of its useful life. The proposed improvements under the phase 1 project for the relocation of the parking areas and inclusion of the Kettle River Trail make it necessary to remove the existing picnic shelter building. The new group picnic shelter is located further north, more central to the main active use areas of the park. This is in better relation to some of the main group activities and community events that take place along the rock wall, both portage locations, and the historic dam location. There is also an existing historical display that can be visually tied to the new shelter building as a starting point for a historic site tour. The proposed picnic shelter will let more natural light under the shelter, making it more inviting and pleasing to use. It will have an adjacent patio space for additional seating. The shelter can accommodate large groups or day-to-day informal uses and will fit with the character of the park.

The existing restroom building is uninviting due to its condition and ongoing complaints of odor. The phase 1

project includes an alternate for a new vault restroom with better design features that make the interior like that of a full water-serviced restroom facility and the ability to control odor more effectively. There is also potential to look into options for winterizing the restroom for year-round use which would greatly improve the experience for the winter park activities that take place here. The restroom would be handicap accessible and would be sufficient for water recreationists to use for a changing room in relation to the river portage.

The historic elements need to be properly protected. The phase 1 project starts this process by identifying and documenting the locations of historical elements, along with their stories, for future reference and interpretation. The phase 1 project delineates vehicular circulation to protect the artifacts from destruction. Future efforts can be made to incorporate interpretation or even reuse/reconstruct some of the elements in order to highlight their importance, enhance the overall park character and expand park programming through an educational and interpretive experience.

The phase 1 project also continues ongoing efforts to improve the natural resources of the site through removal and treatment of invasive and undesirable plants and protection of the unique natural features. Some unique features include the rock cliffs themselves with drill bit marks and historic signatures along some of the cliffs, rubble piles, lichen covered rock and exposed bedrock with water ripple patterns.

The phase 1 project will include select clearing of vegetation to accommodate the new amenities, remove undesirable or invasive species, and create improved sightlines, recreational use areas and flexible park spaces. The phase 1 project may include relocation or replacement of previous initiatives to raise awareness regarding natural resources, such as educational signs and shoe cleaning devices that help park users identify and control the spread of invasive species.

The existing access locations to the Kettle River for non-motorized watercraft are in poor condition with the northernmost location being the most difficult. It is very steep, lacks developed infrastructure and is located far from parking, making access challenging. Improved portages on both the north and south sides of the dam remnants in close relation to either parking or drop-off locations improve this experience. Additionally, lawn gathering areas are developed for larger user groups to gather with their gear.

Robinson Park contains numerous plant communities, some previously noted as containing rare species, and the site is located along a bird migratory route. The master plan and phase 1 project will protect known sensitive areas. Planned features are meant to work around wetlands and waterways and will protect sensitive areas through either avoidance or education. Future planned trails include the use of boardwalks in select areas to create more level walking areas and to keep park users out of areas requiring protection including lichen covered rocks and bedrock with the water ripple patterns.

The phase 1 project is meant to highlight the importance of the numerous natural, cultural and recreational elements of the park to create more stewards who will help self-police park activities for ongoing protection. The City of Sandstone will continue their ongoing commitment to maintain the park amenities, invest in improvements and continue natural restoration efforts related to the various natural resources.

Coordinate Among Partners

Robinson Park is a regionally significant park due to the diverse and unique recreational amenities and experiences that are provided in a historic and highly scenic setting. This has created an extensive list of stakeholders and partners.

Supporters of the master plan and phase 1 project include many of the residents of Sandstone, Vertical Endeavors Guided Adventures, Minnesota Climbers Association, Banning State Park, various universities and colleges, scouting troops, Rapid Riders Group, the Audubon Center of the North Woods, Sandstone Chamber of Commerce, and numerous others. These stakeholders have been advocates for the park and willing partners who sponsor and volunteer time, money and additional efforts to continually make improvements to the park, educate people about the park, and encourage new recreational enthusiasts.

The Robinson Park master plan includes information related to community wayfinding, overall marketing of the park and provides park information in different forms to meet varying user preferences and abilities. Since the adoption of the master plan, the City of Sandstone has prepared and adopted a wayfinding signage program and has begun implementing some of the wayfinding measures. This includes holding developers to design characteristics reflective of the park and community for improved placemaking. At a key location in the downtown district, the city installed a kiosk in 2019 with community information that includes a significant display for Robinson Park. The city intends to continue the implementation of wayfinding measures as well as coordinating efforts and materials with the different agencies and stakeholders for consistency in materials, information and marketing efforts (publications, news, printed materials, and websites).

The City of Sandstone has applied for, and routinely received, grants related to natural resource management efforts that have aided in overall removal of invasive species, educational signs, and shoe cleaning stations. Climbing and rafting groups promote the park through their users, outfitting groups and park programs. This includes finding sponsors that allow for the yearly park events showcasing the recreational aspects of the park and also volunteering to clean the park, remove invasive species, etc.

The City will continue to coordinate with stakeholders to keep these partnerships successful and will look for additional grants that can effectively implement other portions of the master plan. One opportunity includes the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant for the interpretive components of the master plan, along with continued DNR grants for natural resource management.

The City also encourages partnership and coordination with Banning State Park for improved connectivity.

Connection to a Regionally Substantial Component of the Master Plan

Robinson Park is a city owned park but is designated as a regionally significant park due to the diverse and unique recreational amenities and experiences that are provided in a historic and highly scenic setting located along the Wild and Scenic Kettle River. The park is bordered on three sides by Banning State Park and located directly adjacent to the City of Sandstone in an easily accessible regional location that continually draws in local, regional and international users.

The Robinson Park master plan establishes the overall vision for the park based upon its appealing setting and unique park features that make it regionally significant. The master plan and phase 1 project create additional opportunities to strengthen and improve the significance of the park regionally with potential for greater connectivity, as identified in the overall master plan, while making strategic improvements to the park to increase its appeal.

The phase 1 project focuses on the higher priority improvements that are necessary to allow future phases to be implemented while focusing on strategic improvements that will enhance the existing recreational uses for a better park experience across different types of both active and passive recreation. The phase 1 project includes the following:

Reconfigured Parking and Access: Parking is moved away from the river with improved water quality measures, separation of vehicles from pedestrian traffic, multiple drop-off locations for individuals and groups and protection of historic remnants.

Flexible Spaces: Lawn spaces allow for larger gatherings, game spaces, picnic activities and overflow parking for larger events.

Kettle River Trail: The main park trail running parallel to the Kettle River and connecting to Banning State Park on the north and south ends of the park with some existing and future seating overlooks along the trail (and future interpretive areas). This creates opportunity for an extension of the trail regionally to the north and south, and improves pedestrian access to the rivers edge.

Park Trails: Trails in select areas of the phase 1 project create improved access to recreational spaces of the park and amenities (shelter, restroom, rock wall, portages, etc.). They will connect to the Kettle River Trail, creating internal loop trail systems, and will allow for future interpretive/educational information. Some sections will allow for unique user needs (ie: cleats on shoes), and hiking through different natural settings from remote sections, wooded areas, scenic views, historic features, etc.

Picnic Shelter: A new accessible shelter building that can accommodate large groups, large park events or typical day-to-day uses, with adjacent plaza space. It is more centrally located in relation to recreational use areas while highlighting an existing historical display.

Restroom: A new accessible restroom building with new technology for an improved experience (low odor), potentially winterized to accommodate the year-round park activities and recreation, allows use as a changing room, and located in relation to the main park use areas.

Portages: Two portages (north and south of dam remnants) to create improved pedestrian access to the river with locations for group gathering and equipment, and better /shorter access from drop-off locations.

Restoration & Natural Resources: Select clearing and removal of vegetation, undesirable and invasive species, restoration of select areas to more historic character, select stabilization of river bank, and erosion control.

Historical Remnants: Locate and document historic artifacts on site for protection and future interpretation. The phase 1 project focuses on the infrastructure needed to separate vehicular and pedestrian uses that will improve overall safety in the park while protecting the cultural and historical resources that make the park

regionally significant. It will greatly improve the regionally significant recreational activities in the park with highly desirable amenities, access and use areas, and will improve and/or protect the natural resources of the park that contribute to the unique and highly aesthetic setting.

Project Readiness

Project Lead

The City of Sandstone, led by its City Council and City Administrator, has been successful with past funding applications, coordinating with partners, and implementing development and improvements through various funding sources. The City of Sandstone has undertaken ongoing efforts to highlight and improve Robinson Park, including obtaining a regionally significant park status, listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the creation and adoption of the original Robinson Park Master Plan, the Robinson Park Master Plan Amendment, implementing wayfinding signage initiatives, and coordinating with project partners. The Robinson Park Master Plan Amendment, prepared in 2016, has resulted in the identification of the phase 1 project parameters based upon priorities set by project stakeholders and a strategic plan for phasing. The city has since set aside local funds to put towards the phase 1 project as part of this funding application and is ready to begin the project upon approval.

The City of Sandstone will hire professional consultants for the archaeological Determination of Effects (DOE) studies and documentation for SHPO review and approval. The city will also hire professional planning and design consultants with expertise in the preparation of construction documents and oversight of construction of the phase 1 project as outlined, to include required permits. The professional design consultants will include registered and licensed professional landscape architects specializing in park and recreational design, historic sites and public recreational spaces, professional engineers for transportation, water resources, environmental design and utilities, and natural resource specialists. The consultants will coordinate with the city and project partners who will have specific expertise in some of the more detailed aspects of the park design to create a project that meets the high expectations of the users while remaining within budgetary constraints and regulatory requirements set by the funding. Final design for construction will include meeting applicable design standards. The City of Sandstone will provide oversight and administration of the contract for the grant funding and will provide the required documentation.

Implementation Timeline

If recommended for funding and approved by the Legislature, the phase 1 project would begin upon official approval to proceed, anticipated for July of 2020. While the overall timeline of the project will be dictated by the archaeological studies, SHPO approval and other regulatory agency requirements, the following is a general anticipated guideline for the project timeline with some non-eligible funding items that may be conducted prior to funding approval.

2019-2020: Initial project topographical and existing conditions survey (identify found historical elements in project area)

2019-2020: Determination of Effects for submittal to SHPO

July 2020: Project approved

August 2020 December 2020: Project start-up; data collection & design development

January 2021 February 2022: Final design and permits

February March 2022: Bidding

June 2022: Construction begins

June 2023: Construction complete

Availability for Public Use

The park is open year-round with no entrance fee. There are several special events throughout the year in Robinson Park including the Sandstone Ice Festival, Kettle River Paddle Fest and Quarry Days. The park remains open to the public during these special events outside of specific areas of the park that are reserved for special event activities. There are no fees to attend the special events.

The large group picnic shelter can be reserved through the city and currently there is no charge for reserving

the shelter, though if ongoing demands dictate, a reservation fee structure may need to be incorporated for larger groups in order to cover maintenance and operations for these activities. The shelter will remain free for day-to-day users on a first come basis. The future phases of the master plan include additional smaller shelters to be implemented as necessary to help meet demands for picnic space. The city will monitor use and reservation of the shelter building and may need to account for changes in reservation policies to ensure the shelter is available for general first-come uses for a specific percentage of the spring to fall season. The phase 1 project also includes creation of informal lawn and gathering spaces to allow for additional picnic related activities.

The new phase 1 shelter and restroom buildings would be open during normal park hours. The restroom building would have a safety locking ability to ensure no one is locked in overnight.

There are three primitive camping sites available in lower Robinson that will remain and two group camp sites were added in 2018-2019. The City of Sandstone currently charges \$10 per night for each primitive camp site. Campers are limited to a maximum of 7 days for reserving the primitive sites.

Future phases will create improved camping facilities with access to restrooms and water in upper Robinson which would likely include a fee higher than that for the primitive sites. There is a possibility of including future camper cabins in upper Robinson which would likely be phased in with a higher fee structure, if needs dictate. Due to the attraction of private enterprising activities in the park, the City of Sandstone requires a permit for commercial use of Robinson Park for a fee of \$50 per year if there are 3 or fewer events and a fee of \$100 per year for more than 3 events.

The phase 1 project includes redesign of the parking areas and includes limited parking for drop-off areas for park users with supplies and gear. Parking will also delineate handicap accessible stalls meeting local and federal guidelines. There are parking stalls equivalent to existing numbers with stalls identified for standard cars and stalls identified for vehicles with trailers.

Phase 1 plans will improve the ability for groups and the city to conduct park programming and special events more effectively with opportunities to expand park programs and education across numerous types of active and passive uses (historic tours, nature programs, birding, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, etc.).

Design Standards

The phase 1 project will be designed by professional design consultants commissioned by the City of Sandstone consisting of registered and licensed professional landscape architects specializing in historic park and recreational settings, and professional engineers for transportation, water resources, environmental design and utilities, and natural resource specialists who will sign off on all construction documents and specifications, as approved by the City of Sandstone. These professionals will have necessary expertise to develop construction documents meeting all grant requirements, State Aid design standards and applicable regulatory permitting agencies, including The Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. These design professionals will also provide professional construction oversight to ensure the contractors comply with the construction plans and methods, including construction and materials testing and environmental compliance.

The phase 1 project will include access routes from handicap parking stalls to primary recreational amenities meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements. The design intent for the main Kettle River Trail will include constructing the main sections of trail from the northern border south to the main parking areas and boat launch with bituminous pavement to withstand temporary flooding, to a 10-foot width and meeting accessibility requirements, as feasible. The Kettle River Trail from the new parking areas will remain as natural surfaced trails in their existing alignment to the southern border that provide access to the primitive camp sites and shoreline fishing. To the extent possible, the remainder of the park trails ranging from 5 to 8 feet in width will be designed to accessibility recommendations as feasible, though some of the smaller natural surfaced trails will be designed to fit with the terrain to avoid detrimental impacts to the site by minimizing site disturbance. Natural surfaced trails will be designed and built according to sustainable rolling grade trail design as illustrated in the Trail Planning, Design, and Development Guidelines, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Trails and Waterways, copyright 2016, for sustainable trails, in order to minimize ongoing maintenance issues. Trail routes over existing bedrock will be identified by trail markers and may be replaced in the future with sections of boardwalk.

The parking lot modifications will provide opportunities to capture more water runoff from paved surfaces before water enters the Kettle River. The site cannot support infiltration, so filtration measures will be

implemented.

The City of Sandstone will hire professional consultants for the archaeological studies that will conduct Phase I Cultural Resource Survey and may necessitate subsequent investigations, as deemed necessary by the phase 1 construction project. This will also include report documents and a Determination of Effects for submission to the SHPO for review and comment.

Project Cost Breakdown

The following project costs are based on the preliminary master plan and are subject to modifications that will be based on actual site conditions and applicable regulatory requirements to improve the regionally significant activities of Robinson Park. Estimates were prepared by a Registered Professional Landscape Architect in the State of Minnesota.

General Earthwork (excavation, subgrade preparation, backfilling, compaction and final grading): \$150,000
Construction Surveying (layout and grade staking & as-builts): \$20,000
Clearing & Grubbing: \$20,000
Removals (removal of pavement, boat ramp, restroom building, picnic shelter & misc. amenities and does not account for any hazardous materials or environmental concerns): \$35,000
Erosion Control (silt fence, biorolls, flotation silt fence, construction entrance rock drive and inlet protection per NPDES requirements): \$118,500
New Parking Lot & Drive (bituminous pavement with aggregate base, curbing, striping, pedestrian ramps, signage, and fencing): \$225,000
Stormwater System & Filtration (budgetary number, final design will dictate extent feasible and rock excavation necessary): \$127,500
North and South Portage Improvements (budgetary number to account for improved non-motorized watercraft access): 2 @ \$30,000 = \$60,000
Vault Restroom Building (alternate item based on budget for prefabricated modular vault restroom building with potential to include propane heating to winterize for year-round use): \$150,000
Picnic Shelter & Plaza (open air shelter, concrete plaza, tables and grills): \$140,000
Restoration (seeding), Bank Stabilization (erosion control mats or reinforcement): \$48,000
Kettle River Trail (10 wide paved): \$60,000
Park Aggregate / Natural Trails (5-8 wide): \$15,600
Design & Engineering Costs (10%): \$116,960
Total Project: \$1,286,560

Non-eligible project costs include:

Site survey with historical elements identified in project area: estimated at \$20,000

Phase 1 archaeological survey and Determination of Effects (DOE) estimated at \$20,000

Additional Construction Administration and Engineering Requirements: estimated at \$30,000

*Any necessary requirements for additional archaeological studies, full-time construction administration and testing procedures as required, and permits beyond an NPDES and watershed district permit are yet to be finalized or determined.

Funding Request Breakdown

Grant Funding Request

\$1,157,654

Local Match #1

\$128,906

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

70000

Non-Eligible Item Description

Project area topographical survey with historical elements identified
Additional construction observation requirements beyond allowable match
Phase 1 cultural report with Determination of Effects

Total Funding

\$1,286,560

Percentage of local match

0.10

Completion Timeframe

36

Funder #1

City of Sandstone

Funder #1 Resolutions

Resolution

<http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/Council Resolution 2019 562b08.pdf>

funding resolution page

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/funding_resolution_signature_final_05292019_Sandstone_93d74c.pdf

memo agreement page

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/Memo Agreement_City of Sandstone_884238.pdf**Funder #2**

N/A

Funder #3

N/A

Funder #4

N/A

Funder #5

N/A

Budget Worksheet

Budget Application

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/project_budget_2019_Application-Robinson

Attachments

Doc Name	Description	Url
Funder Resolution One	Resolution	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/Council Resolution_2019_562b08.pdf
Project Area Map	Project Location (regional context)	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/03006-000_Robinson_Final_MP_Context_8ff615.jpg
Project Area Map	Phase 1 Map	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/03006-000_Robinson_Phasing Exhibit_2019_0730_c75864.pdf
Project Area Map	Park Location Map	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/google_park_map_089fa8.pdf
Budget Worksheet	Budget Application	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/project_budget_2019_Application-Robinson_Park_10d29a.xlsx
Additional Attachment	letter of support	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/2019-7-29_Ltr_in_Support_3479f7.pdf
Additional Attachment	letter of support	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/20190726_142101119_78670a.pdf
Additional Attachment	letter of support	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/Letter_of_Support_Sandstone_Legacy_Grant_App_f235e4.pdf
Additional Attachment	letter of support	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/MCA_Sandstone_Support_cc4546.pdf
Funder Resolution One	funding resolution page	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/funding_resolution_signature_final_05292019_Sandstone_93d74c.pdf
Funder Resolution One	memo agreement page	http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/19-020F/Memo_Agreement_City_of_Sandstone_884238.pdf