



General

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

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|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Park/Trail ID # 14-002D | Funding Application 20-014F | Park/Trail Name Robinson Park |
| Last Update July 15, 2020 | | |
| Project Name Phase 1(a) Restroom & Picnic Shelter | District 1 | Existing Acres or Miles 65 acres |

Project Description

Restroom: A vault or vault evaporator style restroom facility is proposed to replace the existing restroom building that is outdated and emits a strong odor. The existence of bedrock in Robinson Park makes water and sanitary sewer services unlikely or very costly. The new restroom facility will utilize improved technology for a cleaner and more pleasing restroom experience that will be complementary to the picnic shelter area.

Picnic Shelter: A large group shelter that will be sized to accommodate up to 80 people with additional room available on a connected plaza. This shelter/plaza would be located in the historic portion of the park with the existing memorial and river on one side, and the existing quarry guy derrick and cliff walls on the other side for optimal view. This is a central location in the park which will create a relationship with the more active use areas of the park and will highlight an existing historic display and numerous historical quarry elements and rock climbing activities along the wall. The new shelter and location will accommodate groups, park events, and day-to-day activities with flexible overflow space.

Project Area Maps

Phase 1 Improvements Map

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Robinson Park Phase 1 Improvements_9aadb5.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Robinson_Park_Phase_1_Improvements_9aadb5.pdf)

Location Map

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Location Map_5ad164.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Location_Map_5ad164.pdf)

Potential Restroom Facility

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Green Flush_007d3c_8e6d70.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Green_Flush_007d3c_8e6d70.jpg)

Potential Shelter Example 1

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Potential Shelter 1_153b36.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Potential_Shelter_1_153b36.jpg)

Potential Shelter Example 2

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Potential Shelter 2_405776.jpg](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Potential_Shelter_2_405776.jpg)

Phase 1(a) Site Map

[http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Phase 2 Site Map_76ae55.pdf](http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Phase_2_Site_Map_76ae55.pdf)

Organization
City of Sandstone

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Funding

Development Type
Development

Acres of Park Land to be Acquired
0

Funding Category:

- Park
- Connecting People to the Outdoors

**Anticipated number of participants/users in
Connecting People to the Outdoors project**
1000

New Trail Miles to be Acquired
0

Types
Existing Easement

New Trail Miles Developed
0

Miles of Trail Restored or Improved
0

Trail head facilities developed
0

**Number of trail bridges/culverts to be
developed/restored**
0

Number of vault toilets built

Number of Shower/restrooms

Number of campsites built

Acres of prairie restored

Acres of invasive species removed

**Number of Connecting People to the Outdoors
Programs created/administered**
0

Project Outcomes

Evaluation of Impact

Deliverables include the construction of a new open-air shelter/pavilion with picnic tables, adjacent grills and concrete plaza space which will accommodate up to 80 users at any given time and the installation of a new prefabricated modular vault restroom building with potential to include propane heating to winterize for year-round use and include space for changing clothes for water-related activities.

Many of the existing recreational amenities in the park, including the picnic shelter and restroom building 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 City of Sandstone was awarded funding in the previous grant round for Phase 1 improvements. The Phase 1 project includes (1) reconfiguring parking which will improve water quality measures, separate vehicles from pedestrian traffic, provide multiple drop-off locations for individuals and groups, and protect historic remnants; (2) defining flexible spaces for larger gatherings, game spaces, picnic activities, and overflow parking; (3) creating a 10' wide bituminous trail along the Wild & Scenic Kettle River, connecting to Banning State Park on the north and south ends of the property, with some existing and future seating overlooks; (4) creating 5' and 8' wide aggregate trails within the park for improved access to recreational use spaces and to connect to the 10' wide bituminous trail creating an internal loop trail system; (5) improving two portages for pedestrian access to the Kettle River, identifying locations for group gatherings and equipment spaces, with improved access to drop-off locations; and (6) select clearing and removal of vegetation, undesirable and invasive species, and stabilizing the river bank to include erosion control measures.

The Phase 1 project proposal included the removal and replacement 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. However, these items were eliminated in the funding award due to the requests for funding received by GMRPTC outweighing what was available. GMRPTC focused our Phase 1 funding award on the infrastructure work phase of the project and encouraged the City to apply for funding for the restrooms, picnic shelter, tables, and concrete shelter plaza in the next round.

The 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 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-today 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 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.

Legacy Pillars:

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

Connection to Pillars

Connect People to the Outdoors:

The 2016 Master Plan was a direct result of the community and park user's 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(a) project that will connect people to the outdoors.

Robinson Park is located approximately half way between the Twin Cities metro area 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 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 (funded in the Fiscal Year 2021 funding cycle) will reconfigure the parking areas to be located further away from the river's 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 recreation enthusiasts, 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 (proposed in this Phase 1(a) application), 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 recreation enthusiasts and outfitting groups who utilize this park for programmed activities, including festivals and educational sessions that encourage these sports and develop future users. The Phase 1 project (funded in the FY21 cycle) 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 Kettle River Trail (included in the Phase 1 project being funded in the FY21 cycle) 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 user's 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 (funded in the Phase 1 project) 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 these

sites/features 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 farmed 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 and Girl 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 (funded in the Phase 1 project) 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 historic 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 (funded in the FY21 grant cycle) 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 lack of feeling safe in the park. Efforts will be made to promote stewards for protection of historic 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 Osprey Wilds (formerly known as Audubon Center of the North Woods) and, more recently, scouting groups that are integrating the park's 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.

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 didn't realize it even 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 (funded in the

FY21 cycle) includes a focus on the removal and replacement of some key park facilities, including parking lots, trails, and non-motorized watercraft access (portages) to the Kettle River. The Phase 1(a) project continues this work with creating a new picnic shelter/plaza area and replacing the existing restrooms. 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 will be 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, at both portage locations, and at the historic dam location. There is also an existing historical display that can be visually tied to the new picnic shelter building as a starting point for a historic site tour. The proposed picnic shelter will allow 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(a) project includes a new vault restroom with better design features that make the interior like that of a full water-serviced restroom facility and enhances 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. The restroom will be handicap accessible and will be sufficient for water recreation enthusiasts to use for a changing room in relation to the river portage.

The historic elements throughout the park need to be properly protected. The Cultural Landscape Report that will be done to inform 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 (funded in the FY21 cycle) 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 (funded in the FY21 round) 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 includes select clearing of vegetation to accommodate the new amenities, remove undesirable or invasive species, and create improved sight lines, recreational use areas and flexible park spaces.

The existing access locations to the Kettle River for non-motorized watercraft (portages) 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 will improve this experience. Additionally, lawn gathering areas are being 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, Phase 1 and Phase 1(a) projects 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 Phase 1(a) project will enhance these efforts by creating a new, centrally located picnic shelter/plaza

area and replacing the out-dated restrooms.

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, Phase 1, and Phase 1(a) project include many of the residents of Sandstone, Vertical Endeavors Guided Adventures, Midwest Mountain Guides, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, Positive Energy Outdoors, University of Minnesota Minneapolis Campus, Minnesota Climbers Association, Banning State Park, scouting troops, Rapid Riders Group, Osprey Wilds (formerly Audubon Center of the North Woods), Sandstone Chamber of Commerce, Hardwater Sports, 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 in Robinson Park. 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 continues 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 has recently submitted an application to the Minnesota State Historical Society for funding the Cultural Landscape Report and is waiting for a determination. 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, Phase 1 project (funded in the FY21 cycle), and Phase 1(a) 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 (funded in the FY21 cycle) 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 (picnic shelter & restroom proposed in the Phase 1(a) project, 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 (such as cleats on shoes), and hiking through different natural settings from remote sections, wooded areas, scenic views, historic features, etc.

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.

Historic 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 historic 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.

The Phase 1(a) project continues the work of the Phase 1 project and includes:

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, allowing use as a changing room, and located in relation to the main park use areas.

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 and Phase 1(a) 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(a) project as part of this funding application and is ready to begin the project upon approval. Implementation of the Phase 1 project is projected to begin in January, 2021 with the design and planning portion of the project. The timing of the Phase 1(a) project, if funded, will fall in line nicely with the implementation phase of the Phase 1 project.

The City has submitted an application to the Minnesota State Historical Society for funding to complete a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for Robinson Park, which is the site of the historic Kettle River Sandstone Quarry Company. The City of Sandstone has selected the professional consultants for the CLR and documentation for State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) review and approval.

The City has also selected a professional planning and design firm with expertise in the preparation of construction documents and oversight of construction of the Phase 1 project, which will be the same professionals involved in the Phase 1(a) project as outlined, to include required permits. The professional design consultant team includes 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(a) project will begin upon official approval to proceed, anticipated for July of 2021. 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.

July 2021: Project approved

August 2021 to December 2021: Project start-up; design development

January 2022 to February 2022: Final design and permits

February to March 2022: Bidding

May 2022: Construction begins

September 2022: 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, Minnesota Climbers Association Fall Fest, 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 (funded in the FY21 cycle) also includes creation of informal lawn and gathering spaces to allow for additional picnic related activities. The new Phase 1(a) picnic shelter/plaza and restroom buildings will be open during normal park hours. The restroom building will have a safety lock 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 and \$30 per night for each group 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 (funded in the FY21 cycle) 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(a) 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 (funded in the FY21 cycle) includes access routes from handicap parking stalls to primary recreational amenities meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements. These amenities include the Phase 1(a) project features of the picnic shelter/plaza and the restrooms.

The City of Sandstone has hired professional consultants for the archaeological studies that will conduct the Cultural Landscape Report which may necessitate subsequent investigations, as deemed necessary by the Phase 1 and Phase 1(a) construction projects. 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): \$5,000

Construction Surveying (layout and grade staking & as-builts): \$1,500

Clearing & Grubbing: \$2,000

Erosion Control & Stormwater Drainage: \$5,000

Removals (removal of pavement, restroom building): \$5,000
Vault Restroom Building (based on budget for prefabricated modular vault restroom building with potential to include propane heating to winterize for year-round use): \$157,500
Picnic Shelter & Plaza (open air shelter, concrete plaza, tables and grills): \$147,000
Restoration (seeding): \$2,000
Design & Engineering Costs (10%): \$32,500
Total Project: \$357,500

Non-eligible project costs include:
Cultural Landscape Report, which includes site survey with historical elements identified in project area and Phase 1 archaeological survey and Determination of Effects (DOE): \$89,000

Funding Request Breakdown

Grant Funding Request

\$321,750

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Local Match #1 | Funder #1 |
| \$35,750 | 0 |
| Local Match #2 | Funder #2 |
| 0 | 0 |
| Local Match #3 | Funder #3 |
| 0 | 0 |
| Local Match #4 | Funder #4 |
| 0 | 0 |
| Local Match #4 | Funder #5 |
| 0 | 0 |

Non-Eligible Local Match

8900

Non-Eligible Item Description

An application for funding has been submitted to the Minnesota State Historical Society for the Cultural Landscape Report. The total project cost is \$89,000. The grant request is for \$80,100. The City of Sandstone is providing the local match of \$8,900.

Total Funding

\$357,500

Percentage of local match

0.10

Completion Timeframe

14 months

Funder #1

City of Sandstone

Funder #1 Resolutions

Funding Resolution

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Funding Resolution Signed_54c34d.pdf

Funder #2

n/a

Funder #3

n/a

Funder #4

n/a

Funder #5

n/a

Budget Worksheet

Project Budget

http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/ProjectBudgetTemplate_fbaca4.pdf

Attachments

| Doc Name | Description | Url |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Project Area Map | Phase 1 Improvements Map | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/RobinsonParkPhase1Improvements_9aadb5.pdf |
| Project Area Map | Location Map | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/LocationMap_5ad164.pdf |
| Project Area Map | Potential Restroom Facility | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/GreenFlush_007d3c_8e6d70.jpg |
| Project Area Map | Potential Shelter Example 1 | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/PotentialShelter1_153b36.jpg |
| Project Area Map | Potential Shelter Example 2 | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/PotentialShelter2_405776.jpg |
| Additional Attachment | Cultural Landscape Report Proposal from LHB | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/LHBProposalforCLR_21819d.pdf |
| Additional Attachment | LHB Proposal for Phase 1 Project | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/LHB_SandstoneRobinsonPark200209_R04_aaf666.pdf |
| Budget Worksheet | Project Budget | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/ProjectBudgetTemplate_fbaca4.pdf |
| Additional Attachment | Robinson Park Camping Data | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Robinson |

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| | | Park Camping Data June 2020_b9181e.pdf |
| Additional Attachment | Picture of Ice Climbers | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/IceClimbers_c10649.jpg |
| Additional Attachment | Picture of Kettle River1 | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/KettleRiver1_4dba32.jpg |
| Additional Attachment | Picture of Kettle River2 | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/KettleRiver2_49a9c7.jpg |
| Additional Attachment | Picture of Kettle River3 | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/KettleRiver3_6a71f5.jpg |
| Additional Attachment | Picture of Kayaker | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/kyaker_4359b7.jpg |
| Funder Resolution One | Funding Resolution | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/FundingResolution_Signed_54c34d.pdf |
| Additional Attachment | City Council Resolution 20200715-02 | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Resolution_20200715-02_1af489.pdf |
| Project Area Map | Phase 1(a) Site Map | http://dms.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/funding/20-014F/Phase_2_Site_Map_76ae55.pdf |