
Sponsor: Parks & Recreation

Meeting Date: 3/12/2024

Title: Resolution to Support Environment and Natural Resource Trust
Fund Grant Application

File Number: 2024-059

Background and Rationale:

Tamarack Nature Center's animal ambassadors provide profound and meaningful contact with live native wild animals for preschool and school-age students and the general public, as part of a robust nature education program. None of these encounters is more awe-inspiring than the two owls under Tamarack's care, but the current raptor mew (the location where the owls are kept when not actively involved in programming) does not provide adequate space, is beginning to be in disrepair and is not visible to the public. Adding a raptor mew that meets the needs of the care and husbandry of the animals, as well as providing public viewing to give visitors an owl experience even when not actively involved in programming will be an exciting new added feature at the nature center, as identified in the approved long-range plan. This raptor mew has already been designed by Shelter Architects as a building addition and would be built onto the west end of the building, overlooking the prairie.

In order to apply for and accept the Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund monies if awarded, a resolution template and letter provided must be signed. This acknowledges that Parks & Recreation resources will be used in the project management, and ongoing maintenance of the facility. Both activities fit within current resources of the Planning Division, as well as Park Operations Division. Funding is needed to prepare construction drawings, and to provide construction resources.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Adopt a resolution to support Parks and Recreation's application to the Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant Program for \$150,000 to redevelop Tamarack Nature Center Raptor Mew.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Frethem, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.
Motion passed.

Aye - 7: Frethem, Martinson, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

By: 
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board