
Sponsor: Parks & Recreation

Meeting Date: 3/18/2025

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

File Number: 2025-098

Background and Rationale:

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation is seeking an Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund (ENRTF) grant to help reduce disparities for those unable to access the benefits of nature education. Nature education is the foundation of the county's strategic priority of responding to climate change and increasing community resilience.

This grant will:

1. Support an outreach specialist at Tamarack Nature Center.
2. Continue to develop culturally relevant and inclusive curriculum events at Tamarack Nature Center.
3. Expand on current partnerships, such as Saint Paul Public Schools and develop new partnerships.
4. Expand and extend current Legacy Amendment-funded programming of Dakota artists-in-residence Marlina Myles and Tanáǵidaŋ Tó Wíŋ, at Battle Creek Regional Park to include plant walks, nature education programming, and medicinal plant workshops through an Indigenous lens.
5. Engage Marlina Myles and Tanáǵidaŋ Tó Wíŋ as consultants to develop open-source nature interpretive signage through an Indigenous lens to be used by any Minnesota park agency.
6. Install nature interpretive signage at Battle Creek and Tamarack Nature Center.

In order to apply for and accept the ENRTF monies, the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources requires a board resolution and signed resolution letter from the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. This acknowledges that Parks & Recreation resources will be used in the project management and ongoing maintenance of the signage. The Interpretative Signage project requires a county match of \$18,750. Programming activities, which account for \$375,000 of the grant ask, do not require a county match.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Adopt a resolution to support and authorize the Parks & Recreation department application to the Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant Program for \$450,000.
2. Authorize the Ramsey County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to agreements in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of the grant funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McMurtrey, seconded by Commissioner McGuire. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

By: Jason Yang
Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County Board