

Request for Council Action

Originator Parks and Recreation	Item Funding Approval for Natural Resources Restorations Projects and Equipment
Agenda Section Consent	Date 11/16/2015

Description

Staff requests Council approve \$54,000 in funding from the Parks Capital Fund for natural resources restorations projects and equipment. Staff is planning to undertake the following with this funding:

- Pond Dakota Mission Park – Hopkins Landing Savanna Restoration Project - occurs along the trail system between Pond Dakota and Hopkins Landing in the Minnesota River valley. Reduce standing canopy and dead down woody material in order to increase sunlight to the groundlayer, stabilize bare soils with native groundlayer vegetation. Work in partnership with Great River Greening who will coordinate the project, recruit volunteers and contribute approximately \$60,000 in grant dollars for the project. The City's share of costs would be approximately \$30,000 plus \$10,000 in in-kind services.
- Bush Lake/Izaak Walton Road Restoration Project – conduct ecological restoration work on approximately 1.8 acres of Bush Lake shoreland adjacent to Izaak Walton Road. The project would qualify for a Conservation Partnership Legacy grant which, if awarded, would provide up to \$25,000 towards the project. The City's share of costs would be approximately \$5,000. The Izaak Walton League – Bush Lake Chapter will provide volunteer labor for the project.
- Invasive Species Removal Equipment – purchase equipment to be used by staff and volunteers to remove invasive species such as Buckthorn. The equipment would include weed wrenches, loppers, saws, gloves, protective eye gear, etc. The cost for this equipment is estimated at \$5,000.
- Other Natural Resources Restorations Projects – undertake additional natural resources restoration projects throughout the parks system. Approximately \$14,000 would be allocated for this work.

The natural resources restorations project is included in the approved 2015 City Community Investment Program. There is currently \$351,781 in undesignated dollars in the Parks Capital Fund.

Requested Action

Approve \$54,000 in funding from the Parks Capital Fund for natural resources restorations projects and equipment.

Attachments: