



Mayor and Council Communication

September 11, 2017

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SUBJECT: Resolution of Support and Application for Audubon Dakota Submittal of a Urban Conservation Partners Legacy Grant

RECOMMENDATION: The Mayor and City Council are asked to consider a resolution to approve submittal of a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant by Audubon Dakota in support of the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative.

BACKGROUND / KEY POINTS: The Moorhead River Corridor Master Plan, approved by the Mayor and City Council in May of 2014, identified *Habitat Enhancement and Water Quality* as a key principal along the corridor. Audubon Dakota initiated the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative (herein referred to as "Initiative"). Goals of the Initiative include:

- Habitat creation, enhancement and restoration, and
- Creating urban native prairie habitat areas that benefit birds and other wildlife, are aesthetically pleasing, allow for community recreational and educational opportunities, increase flood resiliency and improve water filtration.

There are six UWPI sites in Fargo and seven sites in Moorhead, including:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Oakport Prairie Site* | 5. Horn Park |
| 2. North River Drive | 6. Riverview Circle |
| 3. Homestead Prairie | 7. River Oaks |
| 4. Riverfront Park | |

**Property owned by the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District*

Audubon Dakota staff presented the sites and information on the Initiative to the Moorhead Parks Advisory Board at their January 20, 2015 meeting and the PAB was supportive of the Initiative. The Watershed District is also supportive of the Initiative.

Many activities have occurred at the sites over the past few years. Audubon Dakota, through donations and sponsorships, obtained funding and implemented prairie restoration at two sites – North River Drive and Riverview Circle South – which were planted with native plantings in 2015-2016. Audubon Dakota has teamed up with NDSU and Concordia College to conduct avian, vegetation and woodland monitoring at the sites. In 2017, Audubon Dakota organized the planting of a Pollinator Garden at Horn Park by 2nd graders from Ellen Hopkins and new native plantings were planted by 7th graders from Horizon Middle School near Wall Street Avenue North and the Red River.

Audubon Dakota proposes to submit a Minnesota Conservation Partners Legacy Grant for:

- Prairie restoration (18.4 acres): Homestead Prairie, Horn Park, North River Grasslands
- Prairie enhancement (125.7 acres): Homestead Prairie, Horn Park, North River Grasslands, North River Drive, Oakport Prairie, Old Homestead Park, Riverfront Park, Riverview Circle
- Woodland restoration (131.9 acres): Homestead Prairie, Horn Park, North River Drive, North River Grassland, Oakport Prairie, River Oaks, Riverfront Park, Riverview Circle, Cassel Woods (NDSU site)

These efforts will include a focus on removal of common buckthorn and other invasive species.



Riverview Circle – 2017



Student Planting
Event - 2017



North River Drive – 2017

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: The Buffalo Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), NDSU and Riverkeepers are working with Audubon Dakota to provide monetary or volunteer grant matches.

The current project estimates include:

Total Project Cost:	\$164,743
BRRWD Contribution:	\$8,237
NDSU Volunteer Contribution:	\$6,981

With the enhancements these projects will bring to the river corridor, staff suggests the City contribute \$7,500 to this grant application. The funding source is suggested to be the River Corridor Fund.

2017 River Corridor Fund balance:	\$141,337.50
Pending Project Commitment – Midtown Trail*:	\$113,000 (estimated)
Proposed Project Commitment – UWPI:	\$7,500
Balance:	\$20,837.50

*Midtown Grant application has been submitted but has not been approved for funding.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS: Three-Fourths of Council (6)

Disclaimer: Voting requirements may be subject to changes in the law, parliamentary procedural matters, or other unforeseen issues. The City Attorney provides opinion on questions of voting requirements in accordance with the Moorhead City Code, Minnesota State Statutes, and parliamentary procedure.

Respectfully Submitted:



Christina Volkens
City Manager

Department: Planning, Parks, Public Works
Prepared by: Kristie Leshovsky, City Planner and Zoning Administrator
 Larry Anderson, Parks and Forestry Division Manager
 Steve Moore, Public Works Director
 Holly Heitkamp, Parks Director

Attachments: Draft Resolution
 Proposed Minnesota Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Site Map



Request for Council Action

AGENDA SECTION: Parks and Recreation Department		ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation	MEETING DATE: September 11, 2017
ITEM NO. 16.	ITEM DESCRIPTION: Resolution of Support and Application for Audubon Dakota Submittal of a Urban Conservation Partners Legacy Grant		PREPARED BY: Leshovsky

DRAFT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Moorhead City Council approved the Moorhead River Corridor Master Plan (herein “Plan”) in May of 2014; and

WHEREAS, Habitat Enhancement and Water Quality was a key principal outlined in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, upon unanimous recommendation of the Park Advisory Board, the Moorhead City Council selected multiple sites for the Audubon Dakota Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative, which aims to provide habitat creation, enhancement and restoration along with native prairie habitat areas that benefit birds and other wildlife, are aesthetically pleasing, allow for community recreational and educational opportunities, increase flood resiliency and improve water filtration; and

WHEREAS, Audubon Dakota anticipates submitting a funding request through the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant that would provide funding for prairie restoration, prairie enhancement and woodland restoration on multiple sites in Moorhead including Urban Woods and Prairies initiatives sites owned by the City of Moorhead as outlined within the September 11, 2017 Mayor and Council report; and


WHEREAS, the City of Moorhead is supportive of the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant application and has reserved \$7,500.00, financed through the River Corridor Capital Improvement Fund, to be applied to the Audubon Dakota Conservation Partners Legacy Grant project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Moorhead, Minnesota that the City of Moorhead is supportive of Audubon Dakota’s submission of a funding request through the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant that would provide funding for prairie restoration, prairie enhancement and woodland restoration on multiple sites in Moorhead including Urban Woods and Prairies initiatives sites owned by the City of Moorhead and herein authorizes the Mayor and City Manager to execute such documents as are necessary to apply for the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Moorhead, Minnesota that, upon approval of the Audubon Dakota application, the Mayor and City Manager are authorized to execute such documents as are necessary to enter into agreements for the above-referenced project.

PASSED: September 11, 2017 by the City Council of the City of Moorhead.

Minnesota Conservation Partners Legacy Grant UWP Initiative: Red River Riparian Restoration in Moorhead, MN

 Moorhead UWP Sites

UWP Initiative Moorhead, MN Sites

- Cassel Woods: 14 Acres woodland restoration
- Oakport Prairie: 49 acres woodland restoration, 63.3 acres prairie enhancement
- North River Drive: 8.6 acres woodland restoration 9.3 acres prairie enhancement
- North River Grassland: 2.7 acres woodland restoration 8.2 acres prairie restoration and enhancement
- Horn Park: 9.5 acres woodland enhancement 6.4 acres prairie restoration and enhancement
- Old Homestead Park: 17.2 acres prairie enhancement
- River Oaks: 32.9 acres woodland restoration
- Riverfront Park: 16.9 acres woodland restoration 1.5 acres prairie restoration and enhancement
- Riverview Circle: 9.8 acres woodland restoration 16 acres prairie enhancement

