

Natural Resource Advisory Group

5.23.2024 Agenda

3:15 pm.

City Hall Conference Room

Present

- I. Review Minutes from April

- II. Old Business -
 1. Dog Park update
 2. Wagon Wheel sign
 3. Garlic Mustard Pulling Efforts - Marge and Betsy
 4. Wagon Wheel Trail Usage
 5. Blue Lake Canoe/Kayak Project
 6. Migratory Bird Day

- III. New Business-
 - A. Review Conservation Partners Legacy Grant project – Stoney Point property and Horse Track Meadows property. Information included.
 - B. Trail Maintenance Guidelines.

- IV. Additional Discussion Items-

- VIII Next Meeting:

I

Natural Resource Advisory Group

4.25.2024 Minutes

3:15 pm. City Hall Conference Room

Present: Betsy Knowles, Marge Loch-Wouters, Jason Ludwigson, Ruth Nissen, Bill Waller

Old Business

- I. Minutes from 3.19.2024 approved
- II. Dog Park update - currently waiting on reviews from the appropriate agencies before next steps.
- III. Wagon Wheel sign - no updates
- IV. Garlic Mustard Pulling Efforts - Pulling has happened on three days with community volunteers for a total of 18 volunteer hours. One additional day is planned for April 27, and then we will evaluate whether another date is feasible.

New Business

- V. Invasive Terrestrial Species List - Jason discussed the DNR list for reference. The City is working with Fish and Wildlife to cut and treat invasive exotic grass along Wagon Wheel trail and bike path.
- VI. Jason explained the information provided by My Tree Tool. Discussed how this could be an interesting link to demonstrate the impact of tree planting in the city.
- VII. Memorial planting at Pine Creek prairie with Quail Forever chapter - discussed options for including this memorial that would preserve the prairie.
- VIII. Invasive species plant removal. Discussed use of signs to communicate where invasive species work is being completed. With the approval of the CPL (Conservation Partners Legacy Grant - MN DNR) grant, this signage may be helpful for park users to understand the approach to reestablishment of the forest.
- IX. Migratory Bird Day - the license has been extended for a year, so it may be possible to schedule a bird banding date - to be determined.
- X. Minnesota Driftless Hiking trail has received funding. The library is planning an informational meeting this summer about the trail.

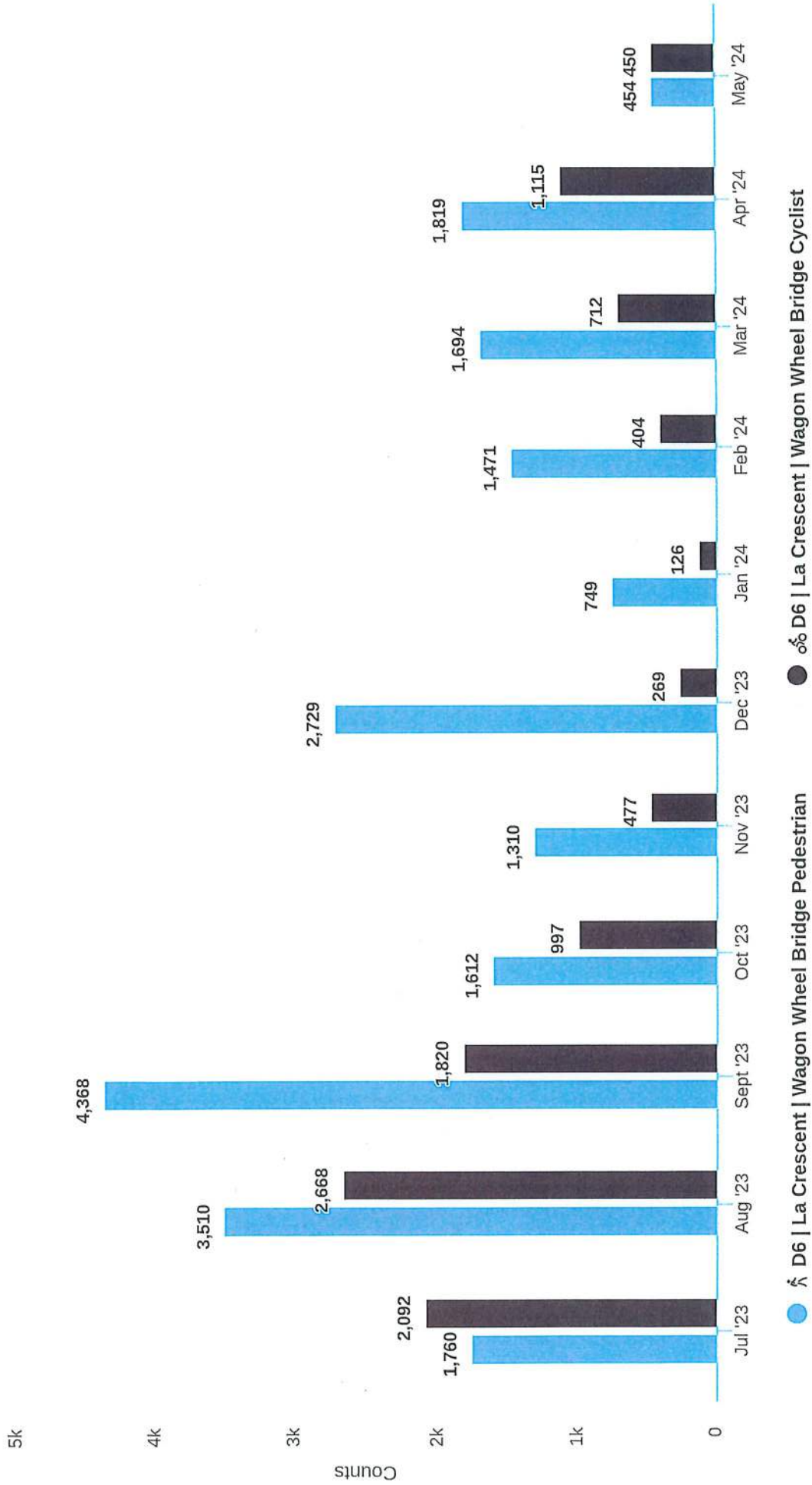
- XI. Discussed the function and purpose of Natural Resource Advisory Group, and how to address requests from the public for changes/modifications to the City's open and natural spaces.
- XII. Blue lake canoe/kayak access dock is in. Discussed need for signage to protect secretive marsh birds (rails, bitterns,) black terns and waterfowl. If plans are considered for a future canoe trail this would require cooperation with Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge.
- XIII. Next Meeting - Thursday May 23 at 3:15.

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Knowles

II-4

Wagon Wheel Bridge

July 12, 2023 12:00 AM → May 8, 2024 12:51 PM



● D6 | La Crescent | Wagon Wheel Bridge Pedestrian ● D6 | La Crescent | Wagon Wheel Bridge Cyclist



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

III - A.

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT

Revision: 20191104

Data Date: March 20, 2024

PROJECT CONTACT

Project Name: Forest and Prairie Habitat Improvement
Organization Name: City of La Crescent
Organization Type: Government
Mailing Address 1: 315 Main Street
Mailing Address 2: N/A
City, State ZIP Code: La crescent, MN 55947

Project Manager: JASON D LUDWIGSON
Title: Sustainability Coordinator
Phone: 507-313-9633
Email: jludwigson@cityoflacrescent-mn.gov

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Sites / Location

County Name: Houston
Project Site Name: Bluffland Parks and Pine Creek
Total Project Sites: 2
Total Project Acres: 16

Land Ownership

Primary Land Ownership: Local Government
Additional Land Ownerships: (N/A)

Habitat

Primary Type: Forest
Additional Types: Prairie

Activities

Primary Activity: Enhancement
Additional Activities: (N/A)

PROJECT FUNDING SUMMARY

Grant Type: (N/A)
Grant Request Level: (N/A)

Total Grant Amount Requested:	\$36,430
Total Match Amount Pledged:	\$5,000
Additional Funding Amount:	\$3,000
Total Project Cost:	\$44,430

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Stoney Point property was acquired by the City of La Crescent in 2014. The city has developed the Stoney Point property to include an extensive network of public hiking trails. Since taking ownership of the property the city has been working on efforts to tackle small patches of invasive species in the park. These have included round leaf bittersweet and buckthorn. Workdays have included efforts by volunteer crews and city staff. Unfortunately, the lower sections of the bluff have more extensive woody invasive species. Historical imagery from the 1950's shows that the lower sections of the Stoney Point property were an apple orchard. At some point the orchard was removed from its existing area in Stoney Point. Once the orchard was removed the site exploded with invasive woody plants such as common buckthorn (*rhamnus cathartica* L.) glossy buckthorn (*frangula alnus* Mill.) and amur honeysuckle (*lonicera maackii* (Rapr.) Herder). The project site has large swaths of honeysuckle and round leaf bittersweet. The city consulted with the local DNR forester Val Green for best practices to remove this invasive woody vegetation. Forestry mowing was suggested as the most cost-effective method to remove the woody vegetation. The forestry mowing would be accompanied by a two-to-three-year effort to use systemic herbicides targeted to the woody invasive plants using foliage sprays. Once woody invasive areas are eradicated the city would plant a diverse selection of native hardwood species on this site to reestablish the forest. Those native hardwood species include hackberry, hickory, red oak, sugar maple, and white oak. Each of the trees planted would be covered by rigid tree protector tubes. The tree plantings would be done by volunteers and the city Sustainability Coordinator.

The other site in the application is the Horse Track Meadows Pine Creek Property. The 7.9-acre area was deeded to the city as a part of the Horse Track Meadows development. The current site is dominated by reed canary grass and smooth brome.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

(CPL Grant Application ID = 2389)

CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT

PROBLEM STATEMENT *(Continued)*

Forestry Mowing - mow and mulch invasive brush, invasive vines, and woody debris.

Hand-cutting - areas too steep to mow and mulch hand-cutting and spraying of stumps with appropriate herbicide at the time of cutting. Move debris from hand cut areas so it can be mulched.

Mulching - use of forestry mower to mulch remaining brush, branches from hand-cutting.

Follow-Up Work- Follow up #1 (year #2) monitor site to determine best time for follow up backpack foliar herbicide application on resprouting woody invasives. Perform applications as needed to obtain full coverage of the site.

Follow up #2 (year #3) monitor site to determine best time for follow up backpack foliar herbicide application on resprouting woody invasives. Perform applications as needed to obtain full coverage of the site.

Tree Planting - The tree plantings would be done by volunteers and the city Sustainability Coordinator. Each of the trees planted would be covered by rigid tree protector tubes. the species planted would be hackberry, hickory, red oak, sugar maple, and white oak.

Interseeding - The city would complete interseeding of the grass on the Horse Track Meadows Pine Creek Property with a short grass prairie mix. The mix would be interseeded using a native seed drill.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The City of La Crescent does not have funds to complete this project. The project price tag is very high for a small city like La Crescent. The forestry mowing project would be the first of its kind in La Crescent. The city does not have forestry mowing equipment. We have volunteers who can assist with small areas of invasive species removal, but the project area is much too large and densely vegetated to enable volunteers to successfully tackle the woody invasive problem. If not funded the woody invasive species will continue to propagate in the lower portions of the Stoney Point property. The woody invasive species will likely expand and start to cover healthier areas of the Stony Point Forest.

The other site in the application is the Horse Track Meadows Pine Creek Property. The 7.9-acre property would continue to be a very monoculture site. The current site is dominated by reed canary grass and smooth brome. Traditionally this project would be funded by general funds from the city budget. These funds are not available in the city budget.

METHODS

(N/A)

EXPERIENCE / ABILITIES

(N/A)

PROJECT TIMELINE

Time Frame	Goal
Fall 2024	Forest Mowing Stoney Point
Spring 2025	Prairie Interseeding
Fall 2025 and 2026	Follow up hand-cutting and herbicide treatment
Spring 2026 and 2027	Planting forest seedlings

Estimated Project Completion Date: 2027-06-01

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Describe the degree of collaboration and local support for this project.

(N/A)

2. Describe any urgency associated with this project.

(N/A)

3. Discuss if there is full funding secured for this project, the sources of that funding and if CPL Grant funds will supplement or supplant existing funding.

(N/A)

CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT

PROJECT INFORMATION *(Continued)*

4. Describe public access at project site for hunting and fishing, identifying all open seasons.

(N/A)

5. Discuss use of native vegetation *(if applicable)*.

(N/A)

6. Discuss your budget and why it is cost effective.

(N/A)

7. Provide information on how your organization encourages a local conservation culture. This includes your organization's history of promoting conservation in the local area, visibility of work to the public and any activities and outreach your organization has completed in the local area.

(N/A)

BUDGET INFORMATION

Organization's Fiscal Contact Information

Name: JASON D LUDWIGSON
 Title: Sustainability Coordinator
 Email: jludwigson@cityoflacscent-mn.gov
 Phone: 507-313-9633

Street Address 1: 175 Eagles Bluff Road
 Street Address 2: N/A
 City, State ZIP Code: La crescent, MN 55947

Budget Details

Personnel

Name	Title / Work to be completed	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Jason Ludwigson	Sustainability Coordinator	\$1,000	Grant	(N/A)
Jason Ludwigson	Tree Planting	\$5,000	Match	In-Kind

Professional Services

Professional Name	Description of Services	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Ku-le Region Forestry Inc	Brush Removal	\$12,000	Grant	(N/A)

Equipment/Tools/Supplies

Item	Purpose	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Follow up herbicide spraying	Brush Removal	\$8,000	Grant	(N/A)
Hackberry Seedlings	Forest enhancement	\$490	Grant	(N/A)
Hand-cutting	Brush Removal	\$6,000	Grant	(N/A)
Hickory Seedlings	Forest enhancement	\$375	Grant	(N/A)
Mulch brush	Brush Removal	\$3,870	Grant	(N/A)
Prairie Seed Mix	Intersseding	\$1,980	Grant	(N/A)
Red Oak Seedlings	Forest enhancement	\$375	Grant	(N/A)
Rigid Seedling Protector Tubes	Seedling protection	\$1,590	Grant	(N/A)
Sugar Maple Seedlings	Forest enhancement	\$375	Grant	(N/A)
White Oak Seedlings	Forest enhancement	\$375	Grant	(N/A)

Additional Funding

Additional Funding Amount: \$3,000

Budget Overview

Item Type	Grant	Match	Total
Personnel	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$6,000

CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT

BUDGET INFORMATION *(Continued)*

Budget Overview *(Continued)*

Item Type	Grant	Match	Total
Contracts	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition with PILT	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition without PILT	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-
Travel (in-state)	-	-	-
Professional Services	\$12,000	-	\$12,000
DNR Land Acquisition Cost	-	-	-
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$23,430	-	\$23,430
Additional Budget Items	-	-	-
Totals:	\$36,430	\$5,000	\$41,430

SITE INFORMATION

You may group your project sites together as long as land ownership, activity and habitat information is the same for the land manager.

Land Manager

Name: Tyler Benish
 Organization: City of La Crescent
 Title: Public Works Director

Phone: 507-895-4627
 Email: tbenish@cityoflacrescent-mn.gov

Site Information

<p>Habitat: Forest</p> <p>(1) Site Name: Stoney Point DOW Lake #: (N/A) Acres: 8 PLS Section: Township - (N/A), Range - (N/A), Section - (N/A)</p>	<p>Activity: Enhancement</p>	<p>Land Ownership: Local Government</p> <p>Open to Public Hunting? No Open to Public Fishing? No</p>
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Site Information

<p>Habitat: Prairie</p> <p>(1) Site Name: Horse Track Meadows Pine Creek Property DOW Lake #: (N/A) Acres: 8 PLS Section: Township - 104, Range - 4W, Section - 9</p>	<p>Activity: Enhancement</p>	<p>Land Ownership: Local Government</p> <p>Open to Public Hunting? No Open to Public Fishing? No</p>
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NATURAL HERITAGE DATABASE REVIEW

Natural Heritage elements were found within my project site(s): Yes

Natural Heritage Sites and Managers: (N/A)

Natural Heritage Elements: (N/A)

Natural Heritage Mitigation: Vertebrate Animal, Invertebrate Animal, Vascular Plant, Native Plant Community (NPC). The forestry mowing will be done in the fall when more of these animals and plants are dormant. In order to restore the site some impacts on these plant and animal communities are inevitable. Interseeding the prairie site should have minimal impact on the animal and plant species.

ATTACHMENTS

CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT

ATTACHMENTS *(Continued)*

Additional Documentation

Attach additional documentation as applicable using the appropriate categories below. If you exceed the size limit while uploading, contact CPL Grant staff to discuss your options.

Letter of Support

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
City_of_La_Crescent_Letter_of_Support.pdf lac_CPL_memo_(1).pdf	Farm Bill Biologist Letter of Support MN DNR Forester Letter of Support

Photo

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
IMG_20240311_132234259_HDR.jpg	Existing woody invasives
IMG_20240311_132247649.jpg	Existing woody invasives
IMG_20240311_132329456.jpg	Existing woody invasives
IMG_20240311_132350347.jpg	Existing woody invasives

Restoration Plan

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
CityofLaCrescent_Estimate_20240308_(1).pdf	Project restoration plan Ku-le Region Forestry

Engineering/Survey/Design Plan

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
Project_Site_Map_Forestry_Mowing.pdf	Site Map Forestry Mowing
Project_Site_Map_Prairie_Interseeding.pdf	Site Map Prairie Interseeding

Easement Information

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
SKM_C36818080207550_-_Norquist_Easement_Doc..pdf	(N/A)

FINAL APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- P** I certify that I have read the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program Request for Proposal, Program Manual and other program documents, and have discussed this project with the appropriate public land manager, or private landowner and easement holder.
- P** I certify I am authorized to apply for and manage these grant and match funds, and the project work by the organization or agency listed below. I certify this organization to have the financial capability to complete this project and that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
- P** I certify that all of the information contained in this application is correct as of the time of the submission. If anything should change, I will contact CPL Grant staff immediately to make corrections.
- P** I certify that if funded I will give consideration to and make timely written contact to Minnesota Conservation Corps or its successor for consideration of possible use of their services to contract for restoration and enhancement services. I will provide CPL Grant staff a copy of that written contact within 10 days after the execution of my grant, should I be awarded.

CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT

FINAL APPLICATION SUBMISSION *(Continued)*

P I certify that I am aware at least one Land Manager Review and Approval form is required for every application and at least one Public Waters Contact form is required for all public waters work. I am aware I must submit all completed forms by uploading them into this application. I have attached the required type and number of forms as necessary for this project.

P I am aware that by typing my name in the box below, I am applying my signature to this online document.

Signature: Jason Ludwigson

Organization / Agency: City of La Crescent

Title: Sustainability Coordinator

Date Signed: March 14, 2024

(CPL Grant Application ID = 2389)