11030 - Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative Expansion Phase II

Application Details

Funding

Opportunity:

7583-Outdoor Heritage Fund May 2021 - Round 18

Funding

May 3, 2021 11:59 PM

Opportunity Due Date:

Program Area: Outdoor Heritage Fund

Status:

Under Review

Stage:

Final Application

Initial Submit

May 3, 2021 4:46 PM

Date:

Initially

Sarah Hewitt

Submitted By:

Last Submit

Date:

Last Submitted

By:

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes

Type: External User

Name: Salutation Sarah Middle Name

First Name

Hewitt

Last Name

Title: Conservation Programs Manager

Email*: sarah.hewitt@audubon.org

Address*: 2315 University Drive N

Ste. 15

Audubon Dakota

Fargo North Dakota

City State/Province

58102

Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: 701-298-3373 Ext.

Phone

###-###-####

Fax: ###-####

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: Audubon Dakota

Organization

Type*:

Tax Id: Audubon Dakota

Organization

Website:

Address*: 2315 University Drive N

Ste. 15

Fargo North Dakota

City State/Province

In-State Non-Profit

58102-___

Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: 701-298-3373 Ext.

###-###-####

Fax: ###-####

Comments:

Budget

Objective of Grant

Objective of Grant:

The Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative Expansion Phase II will restore idle urban flood lands and riparian areas to create healthy habitat for birds and other wildlife, reduce public landowner maintenance output, and provide unique outdoor recreation and education opportunities.

Summary

Grant Request: \$620,760.00

Matching Funds: \$207,360.00

Total Project Costs: \$828,120.00

You must have at least 25% match

Percentage of Match: 25.04%

Project Expenses

Project Expense Description	OHF Request	Match Share (Cash)	Match Share (In-Kind)	Match Share (Indirect)	Other Project Sponsor's Share	Total Each Project Expense
Restoration and Resource Management	\$591,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$177,360.00	\$768,560.00
Project Management	\$29,560.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$49,560.00
Interpretive Signage	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
	\$620,760.00	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$177,360.00	\$828,120.00

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

10 new sites will be enrolled into the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative and will be restored/enhanced and managed throughout the project period. Audubon Dakota collected estimates from Minnesota Native Landscapes to calculate the restoration/ enhancement and 3-year resource management expenses based on acreage and industry standard costs for urban conservation throughout the project cities. In total, Audubon Dakota is requesting \$591,200 to impact 320 acres throughout the grant period.

Audubon Dakota?s Urban Conservation will lead project management. This position?s salary is estimated at \$45,000/year, with 32% fringe at \$14,400. Audubon Dakota is requesting support for a portion of this position?s time and fringe benefits, for a total of \$29,560.

Audubon Dakota will commit \$20,000 of in-kind match through staff time dedicated to the UWP Initiative, including partnership development, administration, and project management. Additionally, Audubon Dakota will commit \$10,000 of cash match toward interpretative signage to be installed at each UWP nature park to provide educational opportunities for park visitors.

Landowning project partners will be responsible for conducting site preparation (mowing, tilling, and herbicide application) among other maintenance costs, in addition to outreach and planning activities associated with the enrolled sites. Their in-kind match is estimated at \$177,360.

Bid Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
Example quote from MNL for potential UWP	Jamestown Buckthourn	pdf	209	05/03/2021 04:11
projects in Jamestown.	Quote.pdf		KB	PM
MNL estimates for new project sites.	MNL Site Estimates.pdf	pdf	42 KB	05/03/2021 04:12
				PM

Match Funding

Match Amount Funding Source	Match Type
\$177,360.00 Landowning Partners	In-Kind
\$20,000.00 Audubon Dakota	In-Kind
\$10,000.00 Audubon Dakota	Cash

\$207,360.00

Description

Directives

Major Directive*: Directive C

Choose One

Additional Directive: Directive D

Choose All That Apply

Type of Agency*: Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation

Choose One

Abstract/Executive Summary

Abstract/Executive Summary*:

The Urban Woods and Prairies (UWP) Initiative is the premier urban habitat restoration program in the Northern Great Plains. Established by an OHF grant in 2014, the project has grown from 150 acres along Fargo?s Red River to over 750 acres across 5 cities. Currently, the 33 enrolled sites are in various stages of restoration and development. Pilot sites restored in 2015 have transitioned to minimal maintenance plans, as they are fully established with high quality native grasses and wildflowers that local communities enjoy exploring. Sites enrolled between 2017 and 2021 are undergoing integrated prairie management, which includes practices such as spot spraying, mowing, and enhancement seedings with the goal of controlling invasive species and increasing native vegetation composition.

Audubon Dakota is seeking support from the ND OHF of \$620,760 to further expand UWP in the cities of Fargo, Minot, Jamestown, and Valley City to impact 320 acres. By establishing the first UWP sites in Jamestown and Valley City, Audubon aims to create a UWP nature park within walking distance of 70% of ND?s population by 2023 to promote a more extensive initiative around restoring habitat in urban areas, increase outdoor recreation for the communities, and valuable outdoor education space. With this project, Audubon Dakota will build upon the proven UWP model and success of the 2018 UWP Expansion OHF grant, which will be completed and fully expensed by June 30, 2021, impacting a total of 429 acres.

Through the UWP Initiative, communities across ND will benefit from the variety of ecological services that native habitat provides, such as erosion control and water filtration. In addition, flood resiliency within each city is expected to be enhanced. Adding and improving native habitat to these cities will also increase wildlife presence and provide breeding habitat for woodland birds, grassland birds, waterfowl, and our State bird? the Western Meadowlark. With an increased number of species inhabiting these areas, there comes more opportunity to perform environmental education and nature-based outreach events to educate the public about the importance of the project and improve understanding of native habitat?s role in the environment.

The UWP Initiative Phase II is a 5-year project. Year 1 is designated for site selection, planning, and seedbed preparation. Year 2 will focus on the implementation of habitat improvements. Years 3 through 5 are reserved for the 3-year integrated prairie management practices necessary for habitat establishment success. After the professional installation and management, maintenance responsibility is turned over to the landowning partners who commit to adapting and following the habitat management plan as needed with support and guidance from Audubon Dakota. The key partners in this project will be Audubon Dakota, Fargo Park District, City of Fargo, Minot Park District, City of Minot, City of Jamestown, and Barnes County Park Board.

Project Duration

Project Duration*:

July 1, 2021 ? December 31, 2026.

Year one (July 1, 2021 ? June 30, 2022) will be primarily focused on developing site plans, executing Memoranda of Understanding with partner landowners, and preparing site seed beds. Initial habitat installation and improvements will begin in the spring of year two. Years three through five are reserved for the 3-year integrated prairie management practices necessary to achieve success during native prairie establishment.

Narrative

Narrative

Briefly summarize your organization's history, mission, current programs and activities. Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement.

Organization Information*:

Audubon Dakota is the state office of the National Audubon Society serving North Dakota, South Dakota, and parts of Minnesota, Nebraska and Montana. Since 1905, the National Audubon Society has upheld the mission of protecting birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Audubon Dakota was instituted in 1997, though Audubon?s role in the Dakotas spans back to the mid-1970s. Currently, Audubon Dakota has helped conserve over 350,000 acres in the Dakotas through various programs focusing on the conservation priority strategies of Working Lands and Bird Friendly Communities. Working Lands programs include the Outdoor Heritage Fund supported Prairie Management Toolboxes and Conservation Forage Program as well as the North Dakota Prescribed Fire Cooperative and Audubon Conservation Ranching Initiative. Bird Friendly Communities programming is achieved through the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative and comprehensive engagement efforts.

Audubon fosters partnerships that advance its habitat conservation goals, including supporting grassland habitat projects, Private Lands Open to Sportsmen, and the ranching industry. As a state office, Audubon Dakota has eight full time staff members for the two-state region (North and South Dakota). Audubon Dakota?s Advisory Board is comprised of eight North Dakota citizens with backgrounds ranging from agriculture, science, politics, medicine, law, finance, and education. Through multiple annual volunteer events focused on stewardship and education, Audubon Dakota organizes nearly 50 volunteers each year and engages 30,000 people. For all of our programs, the efforts and cooperation of our supporters is crucial to our success and the conservation of bird habitat in the Dakotas.

Describe the proposed project identifying how the project will meet the specific directive(s) of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program.

Identify project goals, strategies and benefits and your timetable for implementation. Include information about the need for the project and whether there is urgency for funding. Indicate if this is a new project or if it is replacing funding that is no longer available to your organization. Identify any innovative features or processes of your project.

Note: if your proposal provides funding to an individual, the names of the recipients must be reported to the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund. These names will be disclosed upon request.

If your project involves an extenuating circumstance to exempted activities please explain.

Purpose of Grant*:

Trending towards Audubon Dakota?s strategic plan of establishing an Urban Woods and Prairies (UWP) Initiative nature park within walking distance of 70% of North Dakota?s population, the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative Statewide Expansion will restore and enhance up to 320 acres across 10 sites in North Dakota. While not new as a concept, expanding UWP to new cities beyond North Dakota?s most urbanized communities is a new project focused on the restoration of woodland and grassland habitats for outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, and environmental education. In doing so, this proposal will carry out the Outdoor Heritage Fund?s Directive C to develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; as well as Directive D to conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

In 2014, with essential support from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, Audubon Dakota and partners developed the UWP Initiative to create healthy grassland, wetland, and riparian habitat for declining bird species within the urban landscape as well as create natural space for the community to enjoy. Currently, there are 750 acres of riparian woodlands and uplands enrolled in 33 sites across five cities as UWP nature parks, open to the public. The establishment of native vegetation provides a variety of ecological services that is lacking in traditional turf grass regimes. Native plants have extensive root systems that help increase water quality and bank stabilization, decrease soil erosion, and sequester carbon while also requiring little maintenance. Restored wetlands also facilitate in flood mitigation.

Through UWP?s second expansion, land that is otherwise idle due to flood buyouts or frequently mowed to control invasive species can be managed through native seeding and directed invasive plant species removal. The most common species seen in these areas include Kentucky Bluegrass, Smooth Brome, Canada Thistle, Leafy Spurge, and Common Buckthorn. Not only do these species diminish the quality of avian and wildlife habitat, but if left unchecked can spread rapidly and degrade even the most maintained gardens. Native species, such as Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indian Grass, and Switch Grass are desirable for wildlife habitat and are native to the region. By restoring areas with higher forb seed densities, wildflowers such as Black-eyed Susan, Purple Prairie Clover, and Common Milkweed can promote habitat for pollinators and create esthetically pleasing areas for the community to explore.

To aid in the initial establishment and three-year management of these sites, Audubon and partners will work with local contractors to install native vegetation through seeding and maintenance of each site for 3 years including herbicide application and prescribed burning. These contractors will also take an aggressive approach to dealing with invasive woody species, such as Common Buckthorn and Russian Olive in more wooded areas through manual removal and chemical application. Following those 3 years, responsibility of the maintenance would be turned over to the landowner. Audubon Dakota will create a management toolbox for the partners to outline future management goals and objectives of the sites and highlight appropriate management practices while still allowing for adaptive management.

Please list the counties that would be impacted by this project:

Counties*: Barnes, Cass, Stutsman, Ward

Is This Project Part of a No

Comprehensive Conservation

Plan?*:

If Yes, Please Provide Copy of

Plan:

Does Your Project Involve an No

Extenuating Circumstance?*:

Please Explain:

that best ensures its objectives will be met. Include a brief background and work experience for those managing the project.

Management of Project*:

From Audubon Dakota, the staff members associated with the project will be Marshall Johnson, Sarah Hewitt, and an urban conservationist.

Marshall Johnson is the Executive Director of Audubon Dakota and has been doing conservation within North Dakota for the past 11 years. His background in business and his leadership skills make him a natural manager for this project.

Sarah Hewitt, Audubon Dakota?s conservation programs manager has been with Audubon Dakota for 5 years, and has had technical training in grassland restoration and management in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota through North Dakota State University and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Urban Conservationist will manage and execute grant goals of expanding the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative across the state. This position will be essential for successful expansion and management of currently enrolled UWP nature parks in all program cities (Fargo, West Fargo, Grand Forks, Bismarck, Minot, Jamestown, and Valley City).

Indicate how the project will be funded or sustained in future years. Include information on the sustainability of this project after OHF funds have been expended and whether the sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management or additional funding from a different source.

Sustainability*:

Funding from the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund will support the initial habitat restoration and management of the newly enrolled nature sites. Audubon Dakota and our landowning partners will be responsible for preparing each restoration site under the guidance of the hired contractor, which will include a combination of mowing, tilling, and herbicide application for prairie restoration. After restoration establishment, the native vegetation will require less overall maintenance work than what is currently spent on these areas (mowing hours, staffing, fuel, etc.) which has proven to be extremely cost efficient for landowning partners. Audubon Dakota, having a vested interest in the continuance of habitat on these sites, will also take on financial and management responsibility for the UWP Initiative in order to ensure its sustainability for many years to come.

In addition to strictly financial funding, Audubon Dakota would promote the use of the areas for outdoor recreation and education. This will help gain public favor of the areas and help assure the sustainability of these sites through general community approval. Audubon Dakota will also take on administrative tasks such as scheduling contracted management work to ensure the project is completed in a timely manner.

Indicate how the project will be affected if less funding is available than that requested.

Partial Funding*:

If partially funded, financial burden of this project would be shifted more heavily onto Audubon Dakota and landowning partners. Largely, this would translate to only being able to restore a limited number of acres in each of the cities. Audubon Dakota will seek funding from sources outside of OHF to aid in the UWP Expansion.

If you are a successful recipient of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars, how would you recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership? * There must be signage at the location of the project acknowledging OHF funding when appropriate. If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be.

Partnership Recognition*:

At each participating site within the UWP Expansion, signage will be installed recognizing the financial support provided by OHF and other project supporters. Additionally, as the project becomes fully implemented, Audubon Dakota will create maps and brochures that will highlight funders of the program.

Do you have any supporting documents, such as maps or letters of support that you would like to provide? If so, please provide

them in a single file.

Supporting Documents*: Yes

If Yes, Please Provide Copies in UWP Expansion II Support Letters and Potential Site Maps.pdf

a Single File:

Awarding of Grants - Review the appropriate sample contract for your organization. Sample Contract

Can You Meet All the Provisions Yes of the Sample Contract?*:

If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be:

Provisions Unable to Meet:

Tasks

Tasks

Task	Start Date	Completion Date
Enroll 320 acres into the UWP Initiative	07/01/2021	12/31/2026
Perform site management on 320 acres	08/01/2021	12/31/2026
Restore/enhance enrolled acres - 320 acres	08/01/2021	12/31/2026

Description of Tasks

Please Describe Tasks:

During the first year of implementation Audubon Dakota and project partners will focus on enrolling at least 320 acres into the UWP Initiative. Audubon Dakota will hire and manage a professional contractor to restore and/or enhance all enrolled acres. For prairie restoration sites, landowning partners will complete site preparation and contractor will complete seeding. The contractor will remove invasive species at woodland sites. Each site will receive annual integrated pest management.

Deliverables

Deliverables

Deliverable Quantity Unit of Measurement, if applicable

Conduct annual site management on 320 acres. 320.000 acres

Enroll at least 320 acres into UWP over the project period. 320.000 acres

Restore/enhance 320 acres across new UWP nature parks 320.000 acres

Certification

Certification

Certification:	Yes
Name:	Sarah

Hewitt

First Name Last Name

Title: Conservation Programs Manager

Title

Date: 05/03/2021

Internal Application Number

#/ID: 18-01



Office: 218-498-0260 Fax: 218-498-2862

Cell:612-708-4057 email: Blaine.Keller@MNLcorp.com

JOB QUOTATION

Landowner: Audubon Dakota Attn: Attn: Sarah Hewitt Address: Jamestown, ND

Activity: Forestry Mow Buckthorn & various other brush species

Date: 4/30/2021

Item	Category	Description	Price/Unit	Unit	Quantity	Total Price
		Forestry mow Buckthorn & various other brush				
1	Forestry Mow	species	\$ 890.00	Ac	110.00	\$ 97,900.00
		Foliar spray Buckthorn regrowth 1st growing season				
2	Spray	after initial cutting	\$ 275.00	Ac	110.00	\$ 30,250.00
		Foliar spray Buckthorn regrowth 2nd growing season				
3	Spray	after initial cutting.	\$ 275.00	Ac	110.00	\$ 30,250.00

Project Price: \$ 158,400.00

 Note: This quote is for budgeting and price may be subject to change depending on when the project work would begin.

If you accept the proposal as written and want to proceed with the project, please sign and return.

Site Lead / Construction Manager

Accepted By

Signed

Signed

		Acr	eage	Costs				
City	Park	Prairie	Woodland	Pr	airie	Wo	odland	Notes
Jamestown	7 parks	-	110			\$	158,400.00	\$890/acre foresty mowing & \$275/acre foliar spray of regrowth (2 times)
Minot	-	30	-	\$	120,000.00			\$1,100 for seed and seeding & \$950/acre for 3 IPM visits per season (3 seasons)
Valley City	Monson	-	20			\$	28,800.00	\$890/acre foresty mowing & \$275/acre foliar spray of regrowth (2 times)
Fargo	SW Pond	160	-	\$	284,000.00			\$725 for seed and seeding & \$350/acre for 3 IPM per season (3 seasons)
	•	•		_	404 000 00	_	407 200 00	•

\$ 404,000.00 \$ 187,200.00



April 30, 2021

North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund State Capitol, 14th Floor 600 E Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405 Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

Dear North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund,

I write on behalf of the Fargo Park District in support of the Audubon Dakota North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund grant proposal, titled Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative. This project aims to restore and improve 320 acres of urban parkland in North Dakota. Audubon Dakota will create habitat for urban birds/wildlife, promote flood resiliency, and provide the communities of North Dakota a connection to nature. We strongly support this grant application and the focus on enrolling additional acres into the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative and improving urban wildlife habitat.

The Urban Woods and Prairies (UWP) Initiative is a restoration project aimed at improving riparian urban habitat across North Dakota. Beginning in 2014, Audubon Dakota and partners began restoring wetlands, grasslands, and riparian woodland areas in an urban landscape, primarily focused on enhancing habitat for target bird species and increasing flood resiliency and water quality. Today, 33 sites are enrolled within the UWP Initiative across nearly 1,000 acres in North Dakota and Minnesota.

Additionally, there is a great opportunity in partnership with the City of Fargo, Fargo Park District, and Audubon Dakota to collaborate on a new Southwest Metro Regional Pond project that can add additional acreage into this program.

As an organization which has numerous acres of land under its management, we are impressed with the outcomes of the properties we have enrolled within the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative. Not only have these acres resulted in lower input and long-term maintenance costs form an operation standpoint but they have increased the benefits to the environment as well as to our park users.

The Fargo Park District therefore fully supports the goals and commitments presented within Audubon Dakota's North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund and look forward to seeing the projects goals fulfilled in the future.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dave Bietz Parks Director Fargo Park District



Engineering Department

225 4th Street North Fargo, ND 58102

Phone: 701.241.1545 | Fax: 701.241.8101 Email feng@FargoND.gov

www.FargoND.gov

May 3, 2021

North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund State Capitol, 14th Floor 600 E Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405 Bismarck, ND 58505-0840

Dear North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund,

I write on behalf of the City of Fargo, in support of the Audubon Dakota North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund grant proposal, titled Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative. This project aims to restore and improve 320 acres of urban parkland in North Dakota. Audubon Dakota will create habitat for urban birds/wildlife, promote flood resiliency, and provide the communities of North Dakota a connection to nature. We strongly support this grant application and the focus on enrolling additional acres into the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative and improving urban wildlife habitat.

The Urban Woods and Prairies (UWP) Initiative is a restoration project aimed at improving riparian urban habitat across North Dakota. Beginning in 2014, Audubon Dakota and partners began restoring wetlands, grasslands, and riparian woodland areas in an urban landscape, primarily focused on enhancing habitat for target bird species and increasing flood resiliency and water quality. Today, thirty three sites are enrolled within the UWP Initiative across nearly 1,000 acres in North Dakota and Minnesota.

Many of these previously enrolled thirty three sites are located within the City of Fargo and have become a great asset to our community. The success of these projects can easily be seen by the frequent use of them by our residents and would have not been possible without the knowledge and expertise of Audubon Dakota.

The City of Fargo fully supports the goals and commitments presented within Audubon Dakota's North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund, and look forward to the continued collaboration with them on the additional opportunities to further expand the UWP Initiative within the city.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Nathan Boerboom Division Engineer

NAB/jmg

North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund State Capitol, 14th Floor 600 E Boulevard Ave. Dept. 405 Bismarck, ND 58505-0840



Dear North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund,

I write on behalf of Minot Park District in support of the Audubon Dakota North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund grant proposal, titled Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative. This project aims to restore and improve 320 acres of urban parkland in North Dakota. Audubon Dakota will create habitat for urban birds/wildlife, promote flood resiliency, and provide the communities of North Dakota a connection to nature. We strongly support this grant application and the focus on enrolling additional acres into the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative and improving urban wildlife habitat.

The Urban Woods and Prairies (UWP) Initiative is a restoration project aimed at improving riparian urban habitat across North Dakota. Beginning in 2014, Audubon Dakota and partners began restoring wetlands, grasslands, and riparian woodland areas in an urban landscape, primarily focused on enhancing habitat for target bird species and increasing flood resiliency and water quality. Today, 33 sites are enrolled within the UWP Initiative across nearly 1,000 acres in North Dakota and Minnesota.

As an organization we worked with Audubon Dakota on our Woodland Trail restoration as well as the clearing of buckthorn from Camp Owetti in Oak Park. We look forward to working with Audubon Dakota on more projects in our future.

Minot Park District therefore fully supports the goals and commitments presented within Audubon Dakota's North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund and look forward to seeing the projects goals fulfilled in the future.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ron Merritt Minot Park District 420 3rd Ave SW

701-857-4136







