

LILYDALE BLUFFS COMMUNITY PLANNING & EDUCATION

Presented by Great River Greening

OVERVIEW

Great River Greening is pleased to submit this proposal to support City of Lilydale in furthering bluffland vegetation management. Deliverables proposed: vegetation management plan, citizen education, and initial implementation. While we have partnered with several communities for bluffland and other vegetation management, we are especially excited about the community process that will be part of this effort.

The Objective

- Improve a degraded resource that is undermining aesthetic, ecological and wildlife benefits.
- Leverage outside resources.
- Engage landowners, residents, government and adjacent communities who all have a stake in improving the bluff vegetation.
- Engage technical experts to produce a scientifically supported vegetation management plan that is required before restoration on MnDOT property.

The Issues

- Currently the bluff vegetation is degraded, undermining aesthetic, ecological and wildlife benefits for the city.
- Invasive non-native species including honeysuckle buckthorn, and garlic mustard outcompete native shrubs and flowers, and shade out tree seedlings.
- Restoring native understory plants to the bluff has the potential for a modest reduction in erosion.
- MnDOT, the majority owner of the bluffland west of 35E, has stated a comprehensive plan is required before they consider allowing any restoration work on their land.
- Longterm stewardship of the bluffland by the community is hampered by changing residents and different opinions on vegetation management.

The Solution

- Community leadership: Led by Great River Greening, a steering committee of residents will oversee the process of development a vegetation management plan, supported by a technical advisory committee of various resource experts and government agencies, including MnDOT.
- Community education: Education of the steering committee and of other residents will include education presentations on bluff views, vegetation management, and the geology and biodiversity of the bluff.
- Community engagement: Great River Greening will also train citizen scientists to collect bluff information as part of the vegetation management plan, as well as engage them in restoration implementation.
- Ecological support: Great River Greening will take the lead in developing the vegetation management plan, working with a technical advisory committee to ensure that the final plan has the buy-in of all the appropriate authorities.

OUR PROPOSAL

Project Deliverables & Overall Schedule (see also flow chart at end of document)

Note: schedules assume match is hand before the start of that deliverable. See Cost Schedule

Deliverable	Description
Citizen Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall 2014 	Series of three (3) presentations (by Great River Greening and USGS): what a healthy bluff looks like; 2) issues in bluff views; and 3) geology of the bluff
Vegetation Restoration and Management Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee work 2015 Presentation Fall 2015 Final December 2015 	Written plan including maps and figures based on data collection, portions of which come from development and training of a Citizen Science Group. The process of developing the plan also includes recruiting and leading a Technical Committee, facilitating and working with a Steering Committee, and hosting public presentation.
Initial Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan 2016 to May 2017 	Specification development, permits, RFP management for subcontracts, and contractor oversight.

Detailed Timelines for Different Components

Timeline: Education Series

Description	
Geology of the Bluffs	September 2014
Issues in Bluff Views	October 2014
What is Healthy Bluff Vegetation (and does it have anything to do with bluff stability?)	November 2014

Timeline: Steering Committee

Description	
Kick-off meeting	Summer 2014
Goals and Objectives	February 2015
Overall Strategies	April 2015

Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities	June 2015
Public Presentation	September 2015
Finalize after public presentation	December 31 2015

Timeline: Technical Committee

Description	
Goals and Objectives	January 2015
Strategies	March 2015
Issues	May 2015
Final draft	July 2015

Timeline: Citizen Science Group

Description	
Training on vegetation mapping, with GPS	Fall 2014 Spring 2015
Training on overhanging roots/trees, with GPS	November 2014
Training on water spots, with GPS	November 2014

Timeline: Vegetation Management Plan

Description	
Write Plan	Summer 2015
Public Presentation	Fall 2015
Finalize	December 31 2015
Action Guide: Roles and Responsibilities	February 2016

Timeline: Implementation

Description	
Permits	February 2016
RFP Process	March 2016
Restoration Implementation	Spring 2016 – Fall 2016
Establishment/maintenance	May 2017

COST

\$30,000 Match

\$30,000 Trust Fund 2014-2017*

**Note: Trust Fund requires that the project includes on the ground restoration (prices assume 1 ac of restoration; LCCMR to give final approval in February for acreage requirement). City liable for full cost of project if it does not culminate in implementation).*

Note: Schedule as outline previously will need to shift if match is not raised in time.

Deliverable	Price	Match Needed
Citizen Education	\$6,000	\$4,000 by 9-1-14
Vegetation Management Plan (including facilitating steering committee, technical committee, and citizen science group)	\$40,000	\$24,000 by 1-1-15
Initial Implementation	\$14,000	\$2,000 by 1-1-16
TOTAL	\$60,000	\$30,000

Lilydale Blufflands

