MINNESOTA VALLEY TRUST
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RESTORATION PLAN & CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION - IKE'S CREEK

Project Overview:

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., in cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, is contracting for engineering design and construction administration for habitat restoration of Ike's Creek located in Hennepin County, Minnesota. Contractor will provide a comprehensive restoration plan for the entire creek from the headwaters to Long Meadow Lake, including data collection and analysis, permitting and approvals, hydraulic analysis, engineering design and bid documents, and construction administration. See the attached Scope of Work for full details.

The proposal should provide separate construction cost estimates for each distinct project element, including proposer's estimated construction administration. We anticipate needing to complete the overall project in multiple phases.

Timeline:

Proposers are encouraged to attend a pre-proposal meeting at the site on Tuesday July 18, 2023 at 10:00 am. The gate at the parking area will be opened and proposers will be allowed to drive down the hill for the meeting (see map in Attachment A). Please RSVP to pre-proposal meeting to vicki_sherry@fws.gov.

The restoration plan should be completed by October 31, 2023 to accommodate a construction RFP in fall 2023 and possible construction activities starting winter of 2024.

All construction activities will need to be completed by June 30, 2025 to meet the deadline of the grant funding the project.

Submissions & Selection:

Proposals will be accepted until Friday, August 11, 2023 at 5:00pm. Please submit proposals and questions to Vicki Sherry, Project Manager, at vicki_sherry@fws.gov. Please submit proposals by email.

Proposals must include an itemized cost for each task and proof of liability insurance. Contractors are encouraged to attend the above pre-proposal meeting before submitting proposals. Contractors will be held to their proposal and price unless major unforeseen circumstances develop on-site after the contract has been signed, which will require a formal contract amendment. Factors considered for selection will include cost, industry experience, qualifications and reputation.

Insurance Requirement: Contractors submitting proposals must maintain, at their sole expense, general or business liability insurance during the term of this contract with a minimum coverage amount of

$1,000,000. Insurance shall name the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as additional insureds. Bid submittals must include proof of insurance.

Prevailing Wages: Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 177.41 to 177.44 and corresponding Minnesota Rules 5200.1000 to 5200.1120, we anticipate the construction activities will be subject to prevailing wages as established by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. Accordingly, construction cost estimates should reflect prevailing wages.

See next page for Scope of Work

SCOPE OF WORK

Engineering and Design of a Restoration Plan for Ike's Creek and Associated Waters, Bloomington, MN

Project Overview/Background

Ike's Creek is a small (< 1 mile long) trout stream in Bloomington, Minnesota. It runs from City of Bloomington property near the Mall of America, briefly through property in private ownership and onto the Long Meadow Lake Unit of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge near the Bass Ponds (see map). Minnesota Wild strain brook trout were stocked in the stream in 2007 and the population has been thriving. Ike's Creek is the only known trout stream in Hennepin County and one of only a few trout streams in the metropolitan area.

Although the trout population has been doing well, there are concerns about bluff erosion, constriction points that often clog with sediment and debris, and lack of downstream habitat. In addition, Ike's Creek has overflowed in recent years onto Refuge trails. Water managers believe that the existing water control structure and culvert that once supported holding ponds to raise fish are constricting the stream and collecting debris, causing the creek to overflow. These structures also impede the natural streamflow needed to flush sediments and debris from the creek.

The original water control structures were constructed in 1926 (but likely have been modified since then) when the land was owned by the Izaak Walton League to create holding ponds to raise fish. The ponds have not been used for fish-rearing since the mid-1960s and silted in over time. The creek has since changed course. The Refuge acquired the area in the 1970's and used the existing structures for water management until the structures filled with silt and debris.

Following the 2007 fish stocking, the Refuge worked with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Trout Unlimited, and several other partners to improve fish habitat on the creek. However, additional improvements to the creek are needed to maintain and enhance this resource to sustain the brook trout population.

One of the most recent projects was near the old water control structure. In 2012 Ike's Creek was re-meandered 200 feet upstream of the structure. At this time, boards were removed from the structure to lower the barrier height for fish passage. Due to its historic origin, the maintenance of the water control structure required clearance from the Regional Historic Preservation Office (RHPO) for the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The structure was not removed at that time since more historic structure clearance was needed to see if it could be completely removed. The stream below the outlet structure looks like it was previously ditched and has minimal habitat for fish.

In 2023, the Minnesota Valley Trust (Trust) received approval from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) to develop a plan and complete improvements to Ike's Creek and its associated waters using an Outdoor Heritage Fund grant previously awarded to the Trust. The primary focus of this project is to develop a comprehensive restoration plan for the entire creek from the headwaters to Long Meadow Lake and initiate identified restoration efforts to eliminate the barrier for fish passage on the creek and enhance the quality and sustainability of creek habitat. The plan should address all needed restoration activities, including erosion control, removal of the water control structure, removal of the

existing culvert underneath the trail crossing, and any other activities recommended to improve the habitat downstream of the construction points.

The Refuge would like to maintain the trail crossing, so the plan should include a bridge near the current trail that would allow fish passage but maintain access to hiking trails for Refuge visitors and Refuge maintenance staff.

Since the area is owned by several different landowners (Figure 1), additional permissions will be needed before actual construction can occur. The engineering and design plan should include itemized cost estimates for each different restoration activity, including the construction management costs for each activity. It is likely that budget constraints will require the actual restoration to occur in phases.

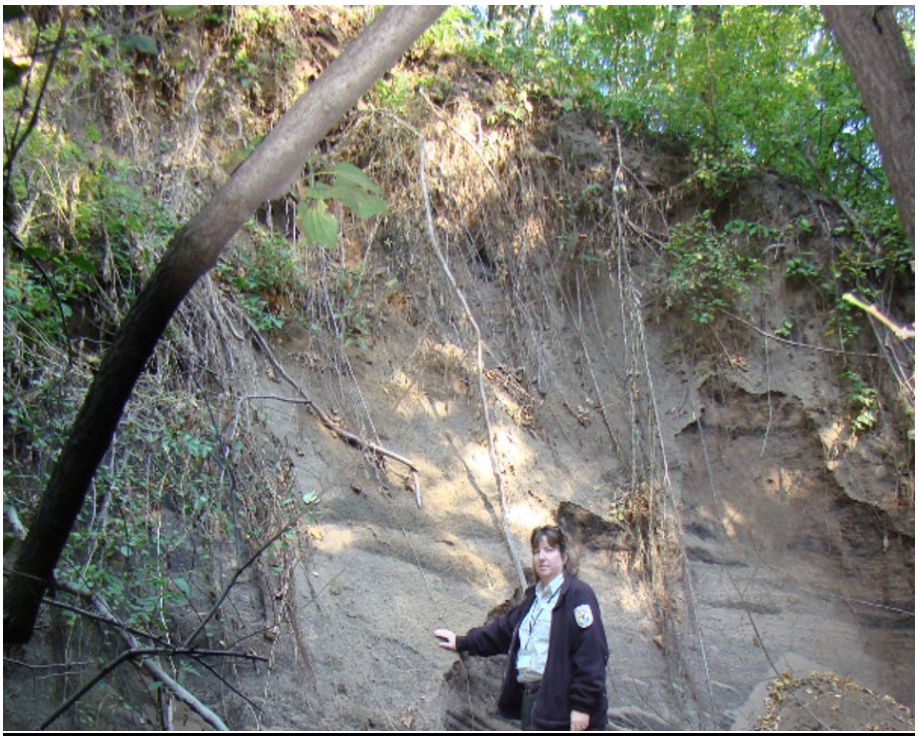
The following photos illustrate the water control structure and culverts needing removal, as well as some of the erosion concerns.

Photograph 1. Downstream view of culvert.

Photograph 2. Upstream view of culvert.

Photograph 3. Control structure looking upstream from culvert.

Photograph 4. Control structure close-up looking upstream from culvert.



Photograph 5. One example of ravine erosion within the watershed.

Work Area & Objectives

Work Area Description:

The project is located within Refuge's Long Meadow Lake Unit, Bass Ponds Environmental Study Area on Ike's Creek in Hennepin County, Minnesota (near section 12, T.27 N., R.24 E). The culvert and control structure are located on Ike's Creek upstream of Big and Little Bass ponds. The approximate location of existing trail crossing is shown in Figure 1.

Natural Resource Objectives: To restore the geomorphology of Ike's Creek and allow for brook trout passage within the creek. The plan should improve stream habitat for fish, invertebrates and allow for increased sediment transport along the length of the stream.

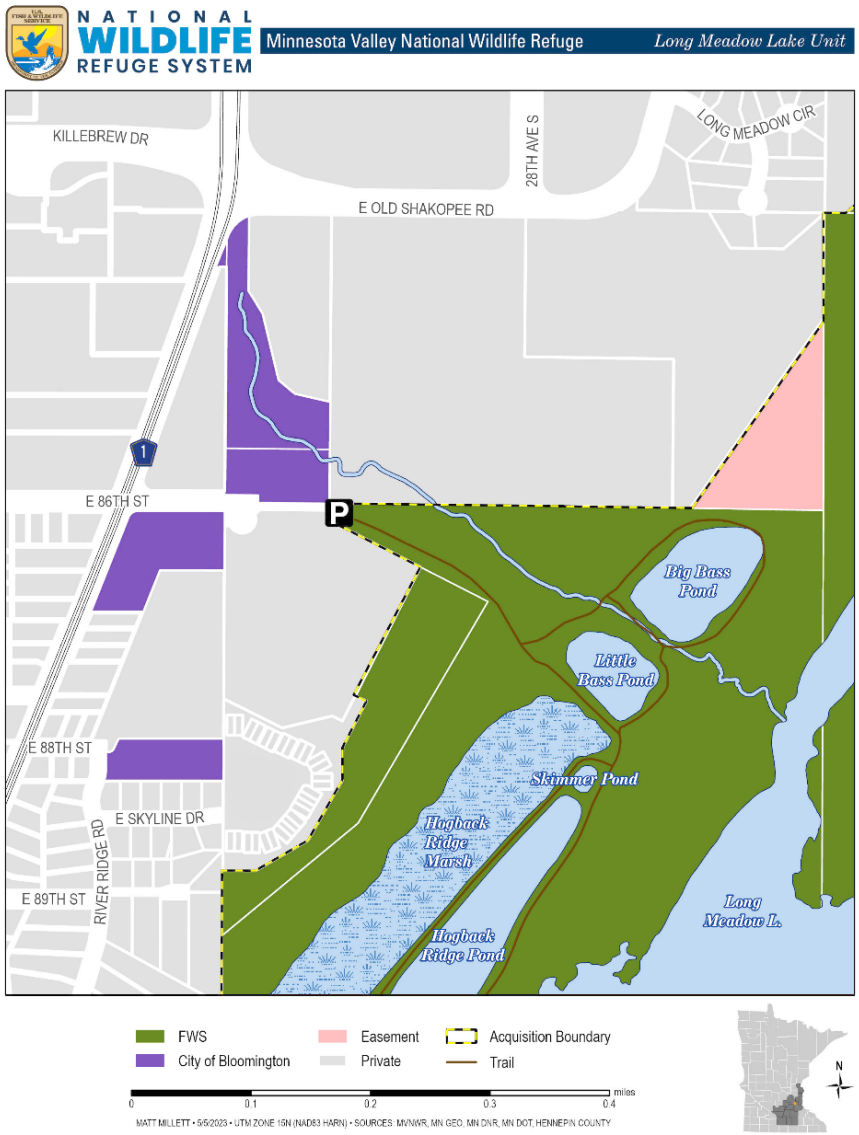


Figure 1. Ownership map of Ike's Creek as it meanders through public and private land.

Work Specifications

Work shall address the following specifications. A pre-bid meeting will occur on site on July 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. to answer any contractor questions about the project's scope prior to bid submissions. This is an adaptive project and proposals must include a priority of needs approach to construction with consideration of costs. The final methods, locations, and timing of work items are at the discretion of the Project Manager after due consultation with the Contractor. Cost estimates should be provided separately for all elements including but not limited to:

A. Comprehensive restoration plan for the entire creek from the headwaters to Long Meadow Lake, including data collection and analysis, permitting and approvals, hydraulic analysis, engineering design and bid documents, and construction administration for the following potential needs/projects:
    1. Ike's Creek Culvert and Dam Removal
        a. Determine whether the existing water control structure above the culvert is of historical significance and obtain National Historic Preservation Office clearance prior to construction.
        b. Remove the culvert and associated structure on Ike's Creek near Bass Ponds and replace it with a bridge crossing the creek. The bridge needs to meet specifications for public access and be robust enough to allow truck passage for maintenance of dikes around ponds and trail.
        c. Modify the stream channel adjacent to the bridge to allow conveyance of 100-year high flows and remove constrictions that impede fish passage. Enhance the creek habitat from approximately 200 feet (or whatever distance is appropriate) above the water control structure to the confluence with Long Meadow Lake. Work associated with the stream channel modification must be performed using approved techniques and materials that minimize damage to the creek channel and downstream resources. Equipment and installed structures will be removed and exposed soils will be reseeded with approved native plantings. Temporary erosion-control structures will be used as dictated by approved guidelines and statutes.
        d. Remove the water control structure above the culvert and grade the streambanks to conform to a natural streambank cross section that is continuous with the adjacent upstream and downstream creek channel.
    2. Little Bass Pond Water Control Structure Modifications
        a. Determine if the water control structure on Little Bass Pond adjacent to Ike's Creek could be removed or modified to allow water levels in the creek to return to natural, pre-impoundment levels. This modification, if adopted, would use the same restoration criteria specified for the previous items.
    3. Trail Improvements
        a. Determine if an access trail may be provided for visitors to access and view the upper part of the creek. If an access trail is possible, determine whether access to the upper reaches of Ike's Creek should be restricted so trampling does not cause excessive damage to the creek channel and streambanks. The unofficial trail presently used has been eroding into the creek. The loop trail that connects

to the lower area trail crossing will be retained and not be part of this restricted access evaluation. If it is determined that an access trail along the upper creek would be beneficial, provide a conceptual plan for the trail to allow visitors to observe the creek.

4. Ravine Stabilization on Private Property
    a. Ravines located on adjacent private property need stabilization to reduce degradation of downstream habitat. Plan should include solutions but priced as a separate line item.

5. Ravine Stabilization on City of Bloomington Property

    a. Ravines and areas managed by the City of Bloomington need stabilization to reduce degradation of downstream resources. Plan should include solutions but priced as a separate line item.