

# Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application



## Instructions

After completing the form, applications and supporting documentation may be submitted by e-mail to [ndicgrants@nd.gov](mailto:ndicgrants@nd.gov). It is preferred that only electronic copies are submitted.

You are not limited to the spacing provided, except in those instances where there is a limit on the number of words. If you need additional space, please indicate that on the application form, answer the question on a separate page, and include with your submission.

The application and all attachments must be received by the application deadline. You may submit your application at any time prior to the application deadline. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications prior to the deadline for staff review in order ensure that proposals will be complete when submitted on deadline date.** Incomplete applications may not be considered for funding.

**Please review the back of this form to determine project eligibility, definitions, budget criteria, and statutory requirements.**

Project Name: UWP Educational Prairie Trail

Name of Organization: Audubon Great Plains

Federal Tax ID# 13-1624102

Contact Person/Title: Joshua Lefers, Director of Conservation

Address: 3002 Fiechtner Dr. S, Ste A

City: Fargo

State: North Dakota

Zip Code: 58102

E-mail Address [joshua.lefers@audubon.org](mailto:joshua.lefers@audubon.org), [lindsey.lee@audubon.org](mailto:lindsey.lee@audubon.org)

Web Site Address (If applicable) [greatplains.audubon.org](http://greatplains.audubon.org)

Phone 701-298-3373

List names of co-applicants if this is a joint proposal  
Fargo Parks District, United Prairie Foundation

**MAJOR Directive:**

Choose only one response

**Directive A.** Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

**Directive B.** Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

**Directive C.** Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

**Directive D.** Conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

**Additional Directive:**

Choose all that apply

**Directive A.**

**Directive B.**

**Directive C.**

**Directive D.**

**Type of organization:**

State Agency

Political Subdivision

Tribal Entity

Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation.

**Abstract/Executive Summary.**

Summarize the project, including its objectives, expected results, duration, total project costs and participants. (no more than 500 words)

The Educational Prairie Trail Project will expand on urban conservation work done through the Urban Woods and Prairies project. The Educational Prairie Trail will include high-diversity plug plantings and interseeding at Urban Plains Park, an extension of the current trail system, and interpretive signage to expand the footprint of prairie in Fargo and provide a central location for education and outreach.

**Project Duration:**

**July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027**

**Indicate the intended schedule for drawing down OHF funds.**

Site has already been identified, and plans created with United Prairie Foundation, and Fargo Parks District. We anticipate starting work in 2024, and having most reimbursement in 2025. As weather and permitting can delay progress, Audubon proposes a three year project to give project partners time to complete deliverables in the case of any delay.

**Amount of Grant request: \$ 149,292**

**Total Project Costs: \$ 262,072**

Note: in-kind and indirect costs can be used for matching funds.

**Amount of Matching Funds: \$ 102,780**

**A minimum of 25% Match Funding is required.** Indicate if the matching funds will be in-kind, indirect or cash. Please provide verification that these matching funds are available for your project. Note that effective as of July 1, 2015 no State General Fund dollars can be used for a match unless funding was legislatively appropriated for that purpose.

Amount of Match	Funding Source	Type of Match (Cash, In-kind or Indirect)
\$15,000	Fargo Parks District	Cash
\$3,500	Fargo Parks District	In-Kind-watering in plugs
\$15,000	Cass County Conservation District	Cash
\$20,000	City of Fargo	Cash
\$7,500	Volunteers	In-Kind labor for plug planting
\$5,000	Audubon Great Plains	In-Kind labor
\$36,780	Audubon Great Plains	In-Kind Indirect

Note that ND Game and Fish has committed \$10,000 toward this project, which will be reflected in the budget. This contribution is not eligible to be counted as match, but represents additional funds toward the completion of the project.

**Certifications**

I certify that this application has been made with the support of the governing body and chief executive of my organization.

I certify that if awarded grant funding none of the funding will be used for any of the exemptions noted in the back of this application.

**Narrative**

**Organization Information – Briefly summarize your organization’s history, mission, current programs and activities.**

Audubon Great Plains is the regional program for North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska within the National Audubon Society. Since 1905, the National Audubon Society has been focused on conserving bird habitat, promoting avian education, and engaging individuals and communities in a variety of activities and opportunities. Audubon Dakota as a North Dakota state program was instituted in 1997, however Audubon's role in the Dakotas spans back to the mid-1970s.

The mission of the National Audubon Society is to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation.

Audubon seeks partnerships that advance its habitat conservation goals, including supporting grassland habitat projects and the ranching industry. Audubon has five full time staff members in North Dakota, and Audubon Great Plains' Advisory Board includes eight North Dakota citizens. Currently, Audubon directly manages roughly 5,000 acres within the state and partners with landowners to inform management on an additional 150,000 acres in North Dakota. In all of our programs, the efforts and cooperation of our supporters is crucial to our success and the conservation of bird habitat in the Great Plains.

### **Purpose of Grant – Describe the proposed project identifying how the project will meet the specific directive(s) of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program**

The proposed Educational Prairie Trail will be an extension of the prairie planting around the perimeter of the south section of Urban Plains Park. These plantings provide immediate floral resources in grass-dominated landscapes and, create an Ecological Habitat Area. Ecological habitat areas in city parks provide a location for outreach events and promotion of diverse prairie habitat and wildlife that depends on it.

For Phase 1, the entire west sidewalk of the north section will be planted with native prairie plant plugs, featuring a large percentage of liatris species, which will attract monarch butterflies during their migration period. Within this strip of native plants, a central portion will be densely planted with a high number of species to demonstrate the incredible diversity of native prairies. Additional sections of the west strip will be planted with drifts of individual species and will include signs identifying the plants.

Phase 2 will install more pollinator habitat long the inner trails of the park, and will complete the perimeter of the north section. Ten permanent education signs will be installed along the trails and sidewalks featuring a range of prairie-related subjects. The Educational Prairie Trail will be unique for the Fargo Area, and the state, because it will provide a central location for observing native prairie plants on a self-guided educational trail.

The sidewalk trails will be planted using mature bare root plants and greenhouse grown plugs. Site prep will require herbicide application to eliminate the existing turf, and installation of landscape fabric to prevent weeds after establishment. Additional seed will be added after fabric is removed. Within the inner trail system, herbicide will be used to terminate dominating grasses in strategic areas, and diverse species will be planted to represent different types of prairies (i.e. dry, mesic, moist). The entire Urban Plains Park (12 acres) will also be interseeded with high diverse, local ecotype prairie seed mixes.

The project will expand the footprint of prairie in Fargo and provide a central location for education and outreach. A large portion of this project will be planted with volunteers. United Prairie Foundation will host community outreach events at Urban Plains to plant plugs. This expansion project will also increase opportunities for community seed collection and replanting on-site and in other city parks.

Is this project part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?  Yes  No

If yes, provide a copy with the application.

*Note: Projects involving buildings and infrastructure will only be considered if part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Please refer to the “Definitions” section at the back of the form for more details.*

**Management of Project – Provide a description of how you will manage and oversee the project to ensure it is carried out on schedule and in a manner that best ensures its objectives will be met.**

Project Team:

Joshua Lefers, Director of Conservation for Audubon Great Plains, will provide oversight of grant activities and expenses.

Juli Bosmoe, Senior Range Ecologist for Audubon Great Plains, will lead partnership development and contractor engagement.

Sam DeMarais, Park Forester for Fargo Parks District, will lead development and project planning on UWP sites for Fargo Parks.

John Devries, Project Manager at United Prairie Foundation, will lead project implementation and outreach activities for planting.

The team has already identified a location for the trail, developed a site plan, and engaged partners. The work is slated to start in 2024, with completion in 2025. The team has extensive experience in implementing urban conservation projects and managing contracts and grants associated with habitat restoration and management.

**Evaluation – Describe your plan to document progress and results.**

Audubon Great Plains will work with contractors and partners to ensure the work is completed on time and appropriately. Audubon will report biannually to OHF on project progress and milestones.

Audubon Great Plains and partners will carry out a focused marketing and awareness campaign around this project in order to educate the public on the mutual benefits of native plantings, assuage any concerns relative to the transition of the sites, and ensure increased public usage of the new habitat parks. As proven by existing UWP nature parks, these sites provide incomparable educational opportunities to engage the community. Interpretive signage and programs are aimed at generating greater general understanding of natural resources, management objectives, and increased interest in nature. Public use of the restored sites will be monitored by maintaining lists of participants in outdoor programming, which will be conducted by the landowner partners and Audubon Dakota’s Engagement Coordinator.

**Financial Information**

**Project Budget – Use the table below to provide an itemized list of project expenses and describe the matching funds being utilized for this project.**

Indicate if the matching funds are in the form of cash, indirect costs or in-kind services. The budget should identify all other committed funding sources and the amount of funding from each source. **A minimum of 25% match funding is required.** An application will be scored higher the greater the amount of match funding provided. (See Scoring Form.)

Certain values have been identified for in-kind services as detailed under “Budget Information” at the back of this form. Refer to that section and utilize these values in identifying your matching funds.

**NOTE: No indirect costs will be funded. Supporting documentation for project expenses, including bids, must be included or application will be considered incomplete.**

Project Expense	OHF Request	Applicant's Match Share (Cash)	Applicant's Match Share (In-Kind)	Applicant's Match Share (Indirect)	Other Project Sponsor's Share	Total Each Project Expense
Prairie Plugs	\$90,392	\$	\$	\$	\$26,500	\$116,892.00
Site Prep					\$5,000	\$5,000
Interseeding	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$7,500	\$7,500
Interpretive Prairie Signs (10)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$10,000	\$30,000
Trail (1300 ft crushed gravel)	\$30,000	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$30,000
Planting support/events	\$4,000	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$4,000
Volunteer planting-500 hours	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$7,500	\$7,500
Site Maintenance	\$10,000				\$14,500	\$24,500
Staff costs	\$14,900	\$	\$5,000	\$	\$	\$19,900
Indirect	\$	\$	\$	\$36,780.03	\$	\$36,780.03
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$149,292</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$36,780.03</b>	<b>\$71,000</b>	<b>\$258,346.53</b>

Note: Costs for seeding, fencing, pipelines, wells, and cover crops cannot exceed NRCS Field Office Tech Guide without justification. Projects involving perimeter fencing must follow NRCS eligibility standards.

**Budget Narrative – Use the space below to provide additional detail regarding project expenses.**

The educational prairie trail area in Urban Plains Park will be restored and enhanced throughout the project period. Audubon collected estimates from United Prairie Foundation to calculate the cost of the restoration and management. In total, Audubon is requesting \$149,292 for the development of the Educational Prairie Trail.

The primary costs are for seed and prairie plugs to be placed at the site. \$90,392 is requested from OHF to purchase prairie plugs to plant along the educational prairie trail, with \$26,500 in cash from project partners to purchase the remaining plugs. These plugs will feature local ecotype native prairie forbs that will provide high quality wildlife and pollinator habitat. \$26,500 for seed as well as site prep and interseeding of portions of the park will be covered by other project partners contributing cash listed under matching sources. \$30,000 will be used to extend the existing trail system by 1300 feet, using crushed gravel as a base, by hiring a contractor to complete the project.

Additional funds will be used to extend the existing trail system to allow visitors to explore more of the restored prairie. 1300 feet of trail will be created using crushed gravel at a cost of \$30,000 for a contractor to complete the project. \$4,000 is requested for hosting volunteer planting events, to secure personnel and equipment from United Prairie Foundation to host 250 volunteer hours per year in year 1 and 2 to install the prairie plugs. This volunteer effort will provide \$7,500 in-kind match toward the project, 500 hours at \$15/hour. Audubon requests \$10,000 to cover a portion of the maintenance costs associated with the project over the first

three years, with \$3,500 coming as in-kind from Fargo Parks District to water in the plugs in the first year, and the remaining \$11,000 cash coming from other project partners.

Audubon seeks staff costs of \$14,900, 10% of overall project costs, to cover staff time associated with managing the grant and implementing the project. 10% was used to calculate allowable staff time request as total OHF request is below \$250,000. Audubon will provide \$5,000 in-kind staff labor. Indirect costs at Audubon's NICRA of 25.49% are the remainder of match funds. Note that only the first \$25,000 of the trail extension contract is used to calculate indirect in line with Audubon's NICRA.

**Sustainability – Indicate how the project will be funded or sustained in future years.**

Funding from the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund will support the initial habitat restoration and management of the educational prairie trail. Audubon Great Plains and our partners will be responsible for preparing each restoration site under the guidance of the hired contractor. 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 cost efficient for landowning partners.

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.

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

If the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund is unable to fund a portion of this project, program implementation will be delayed and/or reduced in scope, which could lead to missed opportunities for future urban nature parks.

**Partnership Recognition - 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.***

At each UWP site that utilizes OHF dollars and approves signage use, program signs will be installed recognizing the financial support provided by OHF and other project supporters.

**Awarding of Grants - Review the appropriate sample contract for your organization on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm>.**

Can you meet all the provisions of the sample contract? X Yes  No

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

## **ABOUT OHF:**

The purpose of the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund is to provide funding to state agencies, tribal governments, political subdivisions, and nonprofit organizations, with higher priority given to projects that enhance **conservation** practices in this state by:

**Directive A.** Providing access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and provide access for sportsmen;

**Directive B.** Improving, maintaining and restoring water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems and by supporting other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;

**Directive C.** Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

**Directive D.** Conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

## **EXEMPTIONS**

Outdoor Heritage Fund grants may not be used to finance the following:

- Litigation;
- Lobbying activities;
- Any activity that would interfere, disrupt, or prevent activities associated with surface coal mining operations; sand, gravel, or scoria extraction activities; oil and gas operations; or other energy facility or infrastructure development;
- The acquisition of land or to encumber any land for a term longer than twenty years; or
- Projects outside this state or projects that are beyond the scope of defined activities that fulfill the purposes of Chapter 54-17.8 of the North Dakota Century Code.

OHF funds may not be used, except after a finding of exceptional circumstances by the Industrial Commission, to finance:

- A completed project or project commenced before the grant application is submitted;
- A feasibility or research study;
- Maintenance costs;
- A paving project for a road or parking lot;
- A swimming pool or aquatic park;
- Personal property that is not affixed to the land;
- Playground equipment, except that grant funds may be provided for up to 25% of the cost of the equipment not exceeding \$10,000 per project and all playground equipment grants may not exceed 5% of the total grants per year (see Definitions/Clarifications for how this will be calculated);
- Staffing or outside consultants except for costs for staffing or an outside consultant to design and implement an approved project based on the documented need of the



applicant and the expenditures may not exceed 5% of the grant to a grantee if the grant exceeds \$250,000 and expenditures may not exceed 10% of the grant to a grantee if the grant is \$250,000 or less (see Definitions/Clarifications for how this will be calculated);

- A building except for a building that is included as part of a comprehensive conservation plan for a new or expanded recreational project (see Definitions/Clarifications for definition of comprehensive conservation plan and new or expanded recreational project); or
- A project in which the applicant is not directly involved in the execution and completion of the project.

The goal of the Industrial Commission is that at a minimum 15% of the funding received for a biennium will be given priority for recreation projects that meet Directive D.

The following projects are not eligible for funding, unless there is a finding of exceptional circumstances by the Industrial Commission include:

- Construction or refurbishment of indoor/outdoor ice rinks,
- Construction or refurbishment of indoor/outdoor athletic courts and sports fields,
- Other substantially similar facilities.
- Infrastructure that is not part of a comprehensive conservation plan.
- Projects not meeting a minimum funding request of \$2,500.

## **Budget Information**

In-kind services used to match the request for Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars shall be valued as follows:

- Labor costs \$15.00 an hour
- Land costs Average rent costs for the county as shown in the most recent publication of the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Services, North Dakota Field Office
- Permanent Equipment Any equipment purchased must be listed separately with documentation showing actual cost. (For example: playground equipment)
- Equipment usage Actual documentation
- Seed & Seedlings Actual documentation
- Transportation Mileage at federal rate
- Supplies & materials Actual documentation

More categories will be added as we better understand the types of applications that will be submitted. We will use as our basis for these standards other State and Federal programs that have established rates. For example, the North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program has established rates. If your project includes work that has an established rate under another State Program, please use those rates and note your source.

## **Definitions/Clarifications:**

Building - Defined as "A structure with a roof either with walls or without walls and is attached to the ground in a permanent nature."

Comprehensive Conservation Plan - Defined as "A detailed plan that has been formally adopted by the governing board which includes goals and objectives--both short and long term, must show how this building will enhance the overall conservation goals of the project and the protection or preservation of

wildlife and fish habitat or natural areas.” This does not need to be a complex multi-page document. It could be included as a part of the application or be an attachment.

New and Expanded Recreational Project means that the proposed building cannot be a replacement of a current building. The proposed building must also be related to either a new or expanded recreational project--either an expansion in land or an expansion of an existing building or in the opportunities for recreation at the project site.

Playground equipment calculation - Only the actual costs of the playground equipment (a bid or invoice showing the amount of the equipment costs must be provided) - cannot include freight or installation or surface materials or removal of old equipment, etc.

Staffing/Outside Consultants Costs - If you are requesting OHF funding for staffing or for an outside consultant, you must provide information in your application on the need for OHF funding to cover these costs. For example, if you are an entity that has engineering staff you must explain why you don't have sufficient staff to do the work or if specific expertise is needed or whatever the reason is for your entity to retain an outside consultant. If it is a request for reimbursement for staff time then a written explanation is required in the application of why OHF funding is needed to pay for the costs of that staff member(s)' time. **The budget form must reflect on a separate line item the specific amount that is being requested for staffing and/or the hiring of an outside consultant.** This separate line item will then be used to make the calculation of 5% or 10% as outlined in the law. Note that the calculation will be made on the grant less the costs for the consultant or staff.

Maintenance – Activities that preserve or keep infrastructure in a given existing condition, including repairs. Repair means to restore to sound condition after damage, to renew or refresh; except repairs due to damage caused by Acts of God.

## Scoring of Grants

**Oral Presentation.** Please note that you will be given an opportunity to make a ten-minute Oral Presentation at a meeting of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board. These presentations are strongly encouraged.

**Open Record.** Please note that your application and any attachments will be open records as defined by law and will be posted on the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund website.

All applications will be scored by the Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board after your ten-minute oral presentation. The ranking form that will be used by the Board is available on the website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/outdoor-infopage.htm> .

## Awarding of Grants

All decisions on requests will be reported to applicants no later than 30 days after Industrial Commission consideration. The Commission can set a limit on duration of an offer on each application or if there isn't a specific date indicated in the application for implementation of the project, then the applicant has until the next Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board regular meeting to sign the contract and get the project underway or the commitment for funding will be terminated and the applicant may resubmit for funding. Applicants whose proposals have been approved will receive a contract outlining the terms and conditions of the grant.

## Responsibility of Recipient

The recipient of any grant from the Industrial Commission must use the funds awarded for the specific purpose described in the grant application and in accordance with the contract. The recipient cannot use any of the funds for the purposes stated under Exemptions on the first page of this application.

If you have any questions about the application, the Commission can be reached at 701-328-3722 or [outdoorheritage@nd.gov](mailto:outdoorheritage@nd.gov).

Revised: November 4, 2019, April 12, 2023

March 22, 2024

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

Dear Outdoor Heritage Fund Advisory Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum Board of Directors to express our support for the proposed educational prairie trail system at Urban Plains Park.

We are an emerging science museum slated to open in 2027 adjacent to the park. We are interested in partnering to develop interactive programming which will utilize the educational prairie trail and provide opportunities for community members to experience the biological diversity of a prairie ecosystem in an immersive urban setting.

We believe this free public space will have a positive effect on our region by providing exciting new educational and recreational opportunities that promote ecological literacy and positive, healthy, and active outdoor lifestyles. Our science advisory panel can assist with developing scientific content for interpretive signage and wayfinding, and our mobile outreach platform will enable us to facilitate recurring events and programs in collaboration with other community partners.

In closing, the Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum fully supports the efforts of Fargo Park District as they seek external funding to design and build the educational prairie trails at the Urban Plains Park. We trust it will benefit our community and we look forward to engaging with community members and visitors as they gain an appreciation for prairie landscapes and explore the natural history of our region.

Thank you for considering this project as a worthy recipient of North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Funds.

Sincerely,



Jessie Rock  
Board of Directors  
Fargo-Moorhead Science Museum



1665 43<sup>rd</sup> Street S Ste. 103  
Fargo ND 58103  
Phone: (701) 282- 2157 extension 3  
Fax: (701) 282-9203  
Website: [www.casscd.org](http://www.casscd.org)

Fargo Parks Education Trail  
Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

The mission of the Cass County Soil Conservation District is to inform, educate, and provide leadership in conservation and stewardship of soil, water and related natural resources. In keeping with that mission, it is important for us to partner with and support other organizations that can help promote our mission. The Educational Prairie Trail has our full support, including the donation of \$5,000 for three years.

The conversion of non-native lawn type grasses to native grasses and forbs not only beautifies an area but it also offers critical habitat for pollinating insects, birds and other wildlife.

The Cass County Soil Conservation District offers our full support for this important project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey D. Miller".

Jeffrey Miller  
Director  
Cass County Soil Conservation District

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS	Kelli Bowen Casselton	Warren Solberg Horace	Terry Hoffmann Wheatland	Brad Kellerman Davenport	Jan Russell Davenport
DISTRICT STAFF	Jeffrey Miller Director	Amy Cole Office Manager	Tony Peterson Programs Manager	Eric Dahl Soil and Water Resources Mgr	

*Cass SCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer  
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*

The Fargo Park District has funds secured in the amount of \$15,000 for the Educational Prairie Trail Project at Urban Plains Park. Furthermore, the Park District will utilize in-kind labor and equipment for watering, installation projects and project management.

Sincerely,

Sam DeMarais

Sam DeMarais

**Park Forester**

**Fargo Park District**



Office: (701) 499-7778

Main: (701) 212-0838

Website: [FargoParks.com](http://FargoParks.com)

*Improving the lifestyle of the community through a comprehensive system of parks & programs.*

*Our Core Values: **Intentional Leadership | Passion | Sincerity | Solution Engineers***

Hi Sam.

Per previous discussions, we are comfortable contributing up to \$10,000 for projects annually. 2025 and 2026.

Thank you.

Scott Liudahl

Fargo Public Works

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**From:** Sam DeMarais

**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2024 12:21:40 PM

**To:** scott liudahl ([SLiudahl@cityoffargo.com](mailto:SLiudahl@cityoffargo.com)) <[SLiudahl@cityoffargo.com](mailto:SLiudahl@cityoffargo.com)>; Benjamin Dow <[BDow@FargoND.gov](mailto:BDow@FargoND.gov)>

**Cc:** Lefers, Joshua <[Joshua.Lefers@audubon.org](mailto:Joshua.Lefers@audubon.org)>

**Subject:** Urban plains project

Scott and Ben,

We are submitting an OHF grant through Audubon to continue to expand and improve the native prairie area at Urban Plains. Would you be willing to commit funds to the project in 2025 and 2026? We are utilizing the funds you made available this year but we hope to add more flowers to the trail system, interpretive signage and a few extensions to the gravel trail. If you are willing to commit funds to the project could you state so in a short email that we can utilize as verification of support in our OHF grant application? Thanks Gentlemen.

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John/Sam, thanks for giving me a little more background and helping me “get up to speed” on the Educational Prairie Trail project (2024) when I called each of you last Friday. The project very much “ties-in” with the goals/objectives of the ND Game and Fish Department’s Pollinator Plots grant program. For that reason, we would certainly be glad to cooperate in the project by providing the \$10,000 requested in the proposal John provided. I drafted up a grant agreement between the ND Game and Fish Department and the United Prairie Foundation (see attached); however, if this agreement should actually be with the Fargo Park District, just let me know? Basically, I guess the real question is, to whom will Game and Fish be making reimbursement payments? Let me know if this draft works or we need to tweak anything; otherwise, I will finish cleaning it up and send it back for John’s signature to finalize it.

We can continue to visit and coordinate through the summer/fall regarding Phase 2 and the potential for Game and Fish Department’s involvement.

Thanks!

G.Link

Greg Link

*Division Chief, Conservation and Communications*





**United Prairie**  
FOUNDATION

## ***Making Prairie Common Again***

**Educational Prairie Trail:** an accessible, high-profile prairie planting that demonstrates prairie gardens and promotes native plant species

### **Project Summary - Phases 1 and 2**

The proposed Educational Prairie Trail will be an extension of the prairie planting around the perimeter of the south section of Urban Plains park, pictured to the right. These plantings provide immediate floral resources in grass-dominated landscapes, and fit our definition of an Ecological Habitat Area (EHA). EHAs in city parks provide a location for outreach events and promotion of diverse prairie habitat and wildlife that depends on it.



For phase 1, the entire west sidewalk of the north section will be planted with meadow liatris, which will attract monarch butterflies during their August-September migration period. Within the strip of liatris, a central portion will be densely planted with a high number of species to demonstrate the incredible diversity of native prairies. Additional sections of the west strip will be planted with drifts of individual species and will include signs identifying the plants.

Phase 2 will install more pollinator habitat along the inner trails of the park, and will complete the perimeter of the north section. Approximately nine permanent educational signs will be installed along the trails and sidewalks featuring a range of prairie-related subjects. The Educational Prairie Trail will be unique for the Fargo area, and the state, because it will provide a central location for observing native, local ecotype prairie plants on a self-guided educational trail.

### **Establishment**

The sidewalk trails will be planted using mature bare root plants and greenhouse-grown plugs. Site prep will require herbicide application to eliminate the existing turf, and installation of landscape fabric to prevent weeds after establishment. Additional seed will be added after fabric is removed.

Within the inner trail system, herbicide will be used to terminate dominating grasses in strategic areas, and diverse species will be planted to represent different types of prairies (ie. dry, mesic, wetlands). The entire park (12 acres) will also be interseeded with high diverse, local ecotype prairie seed mixes.

### **Outreach and Events**

This project will expand the footprint of prairie in Fargo and provide a central location for education and outreach. A large portion of this project will be planted with volunteers. UPF will host several community outreach events at Urban Plains in 2024. This expansion project will increase the amount of habitat where visitors can observe prairie plants, birds, monarch butterflies, and other insects for community science. It will also increase opportunities for community seed collection and replanting on-site and in other Fargo parks.



# Urban Plains - North Section Educational Prairie Trail Master Plan



Inner trails = 6,200 sq ft  
(9 @ 600 sq ft,  
4 @ 200 sq ft)  
x 1.25 plants/sq ft  
7,750 plugs

5 signs

360 ft trail addition

dry/mesic mix 2.5 acres  
wetland mix 1.7 acres

West sidewalk, 2024  
(800x5) 5,000 plugs

East sidewalk (855 x 5)  
5,345 plugs

North sidewalk (230 x 5)  
1,437 plugs

South sidewalk (385 x 5)  
2,406 plugs

# Urban Plains - South Section Educational Prairie Trail Master Plan



Inner trails = 5,700 sq ft  
(4 @ 600 sq ft,  
1 @ 1,300 sq ft  
1 @ 2,000 sq ft)  
x 1.25 plants/sq ft =  
7,125 plugs

4 signs

940 ft trail addition

dry/mesic mix 4 acres  
wetland mix 2 acres