November 22, 2013

North Dakota Industrial Commission
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capitol - Fourteenth Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave, Dept 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Grant Review Committee:

Enclosed please find the application for Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant for the Valley City Riverfront Restoration & Greenway Project. Thank you for taking the time to review our application and give it your sincere consideration.

The City of Valley City is proactively working to mitigate flooding within the City to protect the citizens and property. City officials and volunteers are working with the State Water Commission (SWC) to put in permanent flood protection after the record setting devastating floods of 2009 and 2011 and the many preceding floods. With help from the SWC, the City has started by buying out houses in the affected areas along the river. With the houses removed, the City can begin work on flood protection, bank stabilization and developing the riparian areas for fishing, canoeing and wildlife observation. This project will create new public access areas as well as greatly enhance the current parks and existing areas. This will provide direct benefit for the City as well as residents and visitors!

Thank you for your consideration of our Outdoor Heritage Fund application. Outside funding is critical to the success of this project. Due to repeated flooding, home buyouts, and the installation of permanent flood protection, the City's resources are tapped to a maximum. The Outdoor Heritage Fund would provide the resources necessary to ensure the project is completed in a way that provides the greatest public benefit. The City looks forward to working with you to ensure the preservation of our North Dakota heritage, ensuring space for public recreation, sporting opportunities and connecting to nature. Please contact me with any questions regarding this application.

Sincerely,

David Schenkoph, City Administrator
City of Valley City
Contents
1. Applicant Information .................................................................................................................. 2
2. MAJOR Directive .......................................................................................................................... 2
3. Additional Directives ................................................................................................................... 2
4. Type of organization ..................................................................................................................... 2
5. Project Name ................................................................................................................................ 3
6. Abstract/Executive Summary ........................................................................................................ 3
7. Grant Request .................................................................................................................................. 4
   a. Amount of Grant request .............................................................................................................. 4
   b. Total Project Costs ....................................................................................................................... 4
   c. Amount of Matching Funds .......................................................................................................... 4
   d. Source(s) of Matching Funds ..................................................................................................... 4
8. Certifications .................................................................................................................................... 4
9. Organization Information ............................................................................................................... 5
10. Purpose of Grant ............................................................................................................................ 5
    a. Project Goals: ............................................................................................................................... 5
    b. Need for the Project: .................................................................................................................... 6
    c. Project Benefits and Relation to Outdoor Heritage Fund Directives: ....................................... 6
    d. Timeline: .................................................................................................................................... 7
11. Management of Project .................................................................................................................. 7
12. Evaluation ....................................................................................................................................... 7
13. Financial Information .................................................................................................................... 8
14. Sustainability ................................................................................................................................. 8
15. Partial Funding ............................................................................................................................... 8
16. Appendixes ..................................................................................................................................... 9
   A. Budget ......................................................................................................................................... 9
   B. Maps .......................................................................................................................................... 9
   C. Photos ........................................................................................................................................ 9
   D. Support Letters ........................................................................................................................... 9

OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND GRANT APPLICATION

Valley City Riverfront Greenway & Restoration Project
1. Applicant Information

Name of Organization *  City of Valley City
Federal Tax ID# *  45-6002171
Contact Person/Title *  Dave Schelkoph, City Administrator
Address *  PO Box 390
City *  Valley City
State *  ND
Zip Code *  58072
E-mail Address *  dschelkoph@valleycity.us
Web Site Address  www.valleycity.us
Phone *  701.845.1700
Fax # (if available)  
List names of co-applicants if this is a joint proposal: NA

2. MAJOR Directive

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

3. Additional Directives

Directive C. Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and

Directive D. Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

4. Type of organization

- State Agency
- Political Subdivision
- Tribal Entity
- Tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation, as described in United States Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. § 501 (c)
5. Project Name

Valley City Riverfront Greenway and Restoration Project

6. Abstract/Executive Summary

The Valley City Riverfront Greenway and Restoration Project is a comprehensive project designed to establish a sustainable recreation zone between the Sheyenne River and permanent flood protection in select areas of Valley City, ND. The project will be implemented in conjunction with the installation of permanent flood protection and will provide the opportunity to implement public recreation and sporting access, development of new park area, bank stabilization and habitat restoration.

This project will restore access for people who want to fish and bird along the river. Bank erosion along the Sheyenne has led to the loss of habitat and the loss of access to the river. Bank sloping with natural plantings will provide increased access while limiting erosion. Tree plantings will re-establish the habitat needed for varied birds, mammals and fish. The City will work directly with the Barnes County Soil Conservation District and ND Forest Service to include plantings most suitable to the area.

Public access amenities include 10 foot asphalt trail, garbage receptacles, lighting, benches, fishing piers, canoe landings, and boat ramps. Other elements include bank sloping to limit erosion and native vegetation plantings. These elements are shown in graphics included in Appendix B. The project will be broken into three areas to provide for priority implementation and accommodate the potential for partial funding.

Area 1 is located along the flood control sections slated for construction in the summer of 2014. This area is located along College Street and 5th Avenue SW. As shown in Appendix A, Area 1 has an estimated project cost of $732,000.

Area 2 is located in an area that is ready for construction in 2014, but permanent flood control will not be constructed until 2016. This area is located east of Central Avenue along 4th Street SE. As shown in Appendix A, Area 2 has an estimated project cost of $595,000.

Area 3 is located in an area that will not be ready for construction until 2016 due to issues with existing housing. This area is located west of Central Avenue on 4th Street SW. As shown in Appendix A, Priority 3 has an estimated project cost of $806,000.

The Valley City Park system will be enhanced as part of the project is close to several of the Park’s well used facilities. These include the Parks & Recreation Building which houses an exercise center, Frisbee golf course, and current skate park. The park system is already well utilized and these enhancements will continue to improve the recreation areas within our city, making them accessible and equitable and providing a wonderful place for residents and visitors alike.
The City of Valley City will work hand in hand with numerous entities that will either assist with the design of the project, construction or maintenance. These include Valley City Beautification Committee, Valley City Parks & Recreation, Valley City State University – Fish & Wildlife Department, Biology Department and Prairie Waters Education & Research Center, Barnes County Soil Conservation District, Barnes County Wildlife, and North Dakota Forest Service.

7. Grant Request
   a. Amount of Grant request
      $1,863,500
   b. Total Project Costs
      $2,133,000
   c. Amount of Matching Funds
      Matching funds of $200,000 over four years are available. In addition, City staff and volunteers will contribute $69,500 of in-kind labor and equipment.
   d. Source(s) of Matching Funds
      Matching funds of $50,000 each year starting in 2014 will come from Valley City's Food and Beverage Tax proceeds.

The City of Valley City has invested substantial resources in recent years to both fight major floods as well as initiate substantial protective measures to protect the City against future floods. The unreimbursed costs for the flood of 2009 and 2011 are over $2 Million. Within the last two years, almost $1.5 Million in matching funds have been spent by the City to buy out homes in flood prone areas. Another $500,000 is anticipated to be spent on home buy outs in the next 12 months. Additional funds will be required for the construction of permanent flood protection as well as home buy outs in other flood prone areas. This investment has left the City with very little funding available for projects such as this. This grant program would assist the City in continuing its diligent efforts to be good stewards of our river and good neighbors to our downstream communities while protecting the City's infrastructure, residents and businesses. Additional funding will be solicited from other grant sources. These sources include ND Game and Fish Department, ND Forest Service and others.

8. 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 on Page 1 of this application.
9. Organization Information

The City of Valley City is proactively working to mitigate flooding within the City to protect the citizens and property. City officials and volunteers are working with the State Water Commission (SWC) to put in permanent flood protection after the record setting devastating floods of 2009 and 2011 and the many preceding floods. With help from the SWC, the City has started by buying out houses in the affected areas along the river. With the houses removed, the City can begin work on flood protection, bank stabilization and developing the riparian areas for fishing, canoeing and wildlife observation. Because of a very tight budget, mainly due to the cost of recent floods, the City has had few funds available to develop wildlife and recreation areas. Through a variety of grants, Valley City Parks and Recreation has been working to enhance Pioneer Park in the northwest area of Valley City. This project would offer additional recreational opportunities in the center of town.

The City of Valley City has a five member commission with a City Administrator. Public Works, under the direction of the Administrator and Commission, will be the city department directly involved with the project and maintenance. The City’s Beautification Committee and Erosion Committee will serve as advisors and volunteers. The Barnes County Wildlife Club and Valley City State University’s Prairie Waters Education and Research Center and VCSU students and staff from the Fisheries and Wildlife and Biology programs will contribute to the project.

10. Purpose of Grant

a. Project Goals:

This is a new project with the following goals:

1. Promote easily accessible outdoor recreational opportunities such as fishing, bird watching, wildlife photography, walking and others by adding user friendly amenities such as benches, path, and boat and canoe landings.

2. Create a sustainable riverfront riparian area populated with native vegetation which will provide improved fish and wildlife habitat.

3. Provide additional high water holding capacity inside permanent flood protection structures to decrease water levels throughout the city.

4. Improve water quality by limiting sediment loading from erosion and filtering of runoff by vegetation.

5. Rehabilitate a section of the Sheyenne River bank affected by frequent flooding; disturbance during flood buyout home removal; and temporary and permanent flood protection measures.
b. Need for the Project:
This project is needed for various reasons which include access, conservation, and recreation.

Erosion along the Sheyenne River has accelerated with the major flood events of recent years. The erosion has made the river inaccessible due to severe slopes. In some areas the riverbank is as high as a 10' sheer drop-off. Not only is access to the river difficult, it is dangerous. The Valley City Riverfront Greenway & Restoration Project will provide public access for sporting and recreation activities as well as develop, enhance, conserve and restore wildlife and fish habitat along the banks of the Sheyenne River.

Permanent flood protection will be established within the corridor affected by this project. Without a plan to revitalize the area and use the green space adjacent to the flood protection structures, planning will implement flood control strategies only. This project aims to rehabilitate the riverfront, creating a sustainable riparian zone with habitat for wildlife and public space for recreational activities and sportsmen. Bank stabilization is a concern along certain segments of the Sheyenne River. This project will assure eco-friendly stabilization measures are implemented. Timing of this project and funding to accomplish it is urgent in order to match the timing of State Water Commission funding for permanent flood protection.

North Dakota's 2013-2017 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) lists campgrounds, non-motorized trails (modern trails for walking/running/bicycling), and playgrounds/picnic areas/open space parks as primary needs. Secondary needs included water access and canoe/kayak facilities. This project will directly address these needs.

c. Project Benefits and Relation to Outdoor Heritage Fund Directives:

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

1. Substantial additional shoreline will be opened to public access through a walking path and public area.
2. Barnes County Wildlife will partner with the City to install fishing docks for improved access.
3. An enhanced boat ramp and canoe landing are planned.

**Directive C.** Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands

4. Wildlife habitat will be restored and improved through eco-restoration and riparian zone plantings. Mink, turtles, beaver, heron, eagles and a multitude of waterfowl have been seen in town. With improved habitat, otters and fishers seen on other parts of the river will also likely appear.
5. Flora included within the project will support native butterflies and bees.
6. Valley City State University will have the ability to increase their use of the river and riverbank area for research, biological test plots, and education.
Directive D. Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

7. Valley City's greenway space will be greatly increased providing substantial recreational opportunities:
   a. Walking/Running/Hiking, rollerblading, biking on the new asphalt path
   b. Canoeing, boating, fishing through canoe landings and boat ramp
   c. Fishing on the river, along the shore and off safe fishing piers
   d. Bird and wildlife watching along the river corridor
   e. Picnic areas
   f. Additional open space for families and pets to enjoy nature

d. Timeline:
   This project would be implemented with the same timeline as permanent flood protection. Area 1 would include final design in early 2014 and construction in summer of 2014 if permitting with all state and federal agencies allows. Area 2 would be constructed in 2014 if funding allows and Area 3 in the summer of 2016.

11. Management of Project

City Engineers – KLJ will be overseeing the project. They will report directly to the City Administrator and give bi-monthly reports to the City Commission. Key partners will be updated via email and in conjunction with City Commission meetings which are open to the public and televised via local cable.

KLJ is a Civil Engineering firm of 700 professionals with offices across North Dakota, including Valley City. KLJ provides multi-disciplinary engineering-based solutions for large-scale projects, with the local expertise to drive projects forward and deliver successful results. Over the last 35 years, KLJ has been the City Engineer for the City of Valley City. This experience has helped KLJ in addressing the needs of the community. The Riverfront Greenway and Restoration project fits within the expertise of KLJ and their team of sub-consultants.

KLJ is managing the flood control project in Valley City and the riverbank project would tie directly to that project. KLJ has worked with many state and federal funding sources and is familiar with the documentation required for these funds.

12. Evaluation

Project success will be measured in a number of ways:
1. Construction of the project will be measured in comparison to the final project timeline which will be finalized once all funding is secured.
2. Public use of the area for a wide array of activities and utilization of amenities included in the application: the riverbanks will be accessible to fishermen and the general public, boats and canoes will access the river, and pedestrians/bicycles will utilize the shared
use path. The use of these amenities will be measured by public surveys regarding existing and future park facilities.

3. Sustainable riparian zone areas which provides habitat, are low maintenance, and are able to survive through mild-moderate high water events. These areas will support vegetation that will reduce erosion along the riverbanks. Success of these areas will be measured by the Project Manager, KLJ, during periodic inspections of the project as part of their role as City Engineer.

13. Financial Information

Please see Project Budget attached as Appendix A

☐ I certify that a project budget will be sent to the Commission*

14. Sustainability

The City of Valley City will be responsible for the long term maintenance and sustainability of the project. The project will be designed to incorporate plant materials that assist with bank stabilization, provide habitat, are very low maintenance, and will strengthen with time. The Public Works Department will work with the Valley City Beautification Committee to ensure proper maintenance is performed. Steps will also be taken to minimize damage by removal of structures as feasible prior to high water and any damage due to high water will be included in the City’s post flood cleanup process.

15. Partial Funding

Due to the timing of the installation of permanent flood protection, the need for this project is immediate. However, if decreased funding is awarded, the City has developed the project into three areas, prioritizing those areas that will have the most substantial benefit to the public recreation and environmental sustainability.
16. Appendixes

A. Budget
B. Maps
C. Photos
D. Support Letters
   - Valley City Parks & Recreation
   - Valley City Convention & Visitors Bureau
   - Valley City Beautification Committee
   - Valley City State University – Prairie Waters Education & Research Center
   - Barnes ON THE MOVE Partnership
   - Barnes County Wildlife
   - Sheyenne River National Scenic Byway/North Country National Scenic Trail
### Valley City Riverfront Greenway and Restoration Project

#### Project Budget

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Appendix A
Valley City Riverfront Greenway and Restoration Project

Project Budget

Applicant's Match Share (Cash)  Food & Beverage Tax proceeds, approximately $50,000/year.

Applicant's Match Share  
(In-Kind)  Volunteers to plant trees and shrubs at $15/hour rate.  
Valley City Electrical Department to install lighting.  Electrical Lineman at $29/hour, Excavator at $65/hour, and boom truck at $50/hour.
Dear Grant Review Committee:

Valley City Parks and Recreation District would like to offer its support of Valley City’s Outdoor Heritage Fund application. The Valley City Riverfront Restoration & Greenway Project is a great addition to Valley City’s well established park system.

The mission of VC Parks & Recreation includes promoting broad based Parks and Recreation opportunities in order to improve the quality of life for citizens of Valley City and its visitors. This project will enhance the current facilities and provide substantial new opportunities. Additional asphalt trails, fishing areas, water access, and open space for numerous activities increase the options residents and visitors have to have a healthy and vibrant lifestyle. The potential for expansion of our facilities such as the Frisbee golf course are exciting components of this project.

We will work closely with the City of Valley City during planning and implementation of the project to ensure that users of all ages and abilities have the best possible amenities possible. Thank you for your consideration of this worthy project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tyler Jacobson, Director
Valley City Parks & Recreation District
To Whom It May Concern:

The Convention & Visitors Bureau of Valley City asks for your support of the Valley City Riverfront Restoration and Greenway Project. This is an important project for the beautification and development of green space along the Sheyenne River. The total project is adjacent to four of the scenic bridges in Valley City.

Providing additional recreational opportunities near the scenic bridges entices visitors to stay in the area for a longer period of time which is one of our organizational goals. Our mission is to promote Valley City and would be a great amenity to boast about. It is taking a scarred area due to housing buyouts for permanent flood protection and making it an asset instead of a liability to the City.

We hope you be willing to provide funding for the entire project as it would help make the City whole after the stupendous effort put out to protect the citizens during two record breaking floods. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Pederson, Chairperson
Valley City Convention & Visitors Bureau
November 22, 2013

North Dakota Industrial Commission
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capitol - Fourteenth Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave, Dept 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Grant Review Committee:

We are excited to lend our support to the Valley City Riverfront Restoration & Greenway Project. This project will be an asset to the Valley City community and our efforts to create a beautiful and sustainable landscape.

The Beautification Committee has worked on numerous community tree planting beautification projects in Valley City and at the three (3) Interstate 94 exits accessing Valley City. The Beautification Committee has worked closely with various entities throughout Valley City in completing past beautification projects and will work with the City on this project. The committee looks forward to completing this project to further enhance the beautification efforts in the community.

Thank you for your sincere consideration for funding approval for this important public project.

Sincerely,

Bobby Koepelin, Chairperson

Thank You!
November 22, 2013

North Dakota Industrial Commission
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program
State Capitol - Fourteenth Floor
600 East Boulevard Ave, Dept 405
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Grant Review Committee:

Valley City State Universities Prairie Waters Education and Research Center supports the application for Outdoor Heritage Funds for the Valley City Riverfront Restoration & Greenway Project. Conservation and restoration of the habitat in and along the Sheyenne River is critical and this project takes an important step.

The purpose of the Prairie Waters Education and Research Center is to provide environmental education and research opportunities for students, teachers and professionals in North Dakota. The Center is located in Kathryn, ND but utilizes a number of waterways throughout the area. Programs are available for students of all ages. The Center also utilizes the Riverwatch program which allows high school students and their teachers to monitor water quality of a river in their area. The additional riverfront access provided by this project will provide the Center additional areas to carry out its activities and its mission to get more youth involved and educated about the health of our waterways.

We would like to offer our support to this project. Center staff, as well as Valley City State University Biology Department, and Fisheries & Wildlife Department will work with the City of Valley City during the planning and implementation of the project to ensure the project incorporates the most ecologically strategic elements. The close proximity of the project to VCSU campus provides a unique opportunity to incorporate test plots or other learning elements into the project. Please consider funding this important project to the greatest extent possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andre Delorme,
Chair VCSU Science Department
Director - Prairie Waters Education and Research Center
November 25, 2013

To whom it may concern:

Barnes ON THE MOVE Partnership consists of 16 non-profit and government organizations. The Partnership originated in 1998. We represent the young, the old, working people, retired individuals, people with needs and handicaps - all of our citizens in Valley City and Barnes County. A key aspect of our mission is to create a healthy environment in which people can exercise.

Barnes ON THE MOVE Partnership establishes programming to help our citizens increase their physical activity and also works for policy and environment change to provide opportunities for citizens to become more active.

The Valley City Riverfront Restoration and Greenway Project is just such an environmental project that would allow citizens in and around Valley City to increase their physical activity.

The project will provide exercise opportunities for the community via the multi-use trail in the summer (walking, running, rollerblading and hiking on the trail) and potentially an expanded Frisbee Golf course. In winter the area will be used for snowshoeing and cross country skiing. The multi-use trail will connect with other paths. The project will also promote exercise through canoeing via the canoe landing.

Our sixteen partners are excited about this opportunity to develop a wilderness and recreational area in the heart of Valley City, making access to exercise easy through fun opportunities.

We support the Valley City Riverfront Restoration and Greenway Project and ask you to approve this grant application which will greatly help our citizens.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sharon E. Buhr, MPH, LRD
Chairperson
North Dakota Industrial Commission  
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program  
State Capitol - Fourteenth Floor  
600 East Boulevard Ave, Dept 405  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Grant Review Committee:  

Please accept Barnes County Wildlife’s enthusiastic support of Valley City’s Outdoor Heritage Grant application. This project provides direct and significant improvements to access for sportsmen as well as habitat preservation and restoration.  

Barnes County Wildlife is a sportsman group that is 600 plus members strong. We work hard with other agencies to enhance outdoor facilities and habitat through out the state of North Dakota.  

We would like to offer our support to this project. We will work with the City of Valley City to coordinate the placement of fishing piers or other facilities within the project area. Through our partnership with ND Game and Fish we will look at potential additional funding for the fishing piers. Please consider funding this important project to the greatest extent possible.  

Thank you for your consideration.  

Sincerely,  

Perry Kapaun  
President  
Barnes County Wildlife
North Dakota Industrial Commission  
ATTN: Outdoor Heritage Fund Program  
State Capitol - Fourteenth Floor  
600 East Boulevard Ave, Dept. 405  
Bismarck, ND  58505  

Dear Grant Review Committee:  

Two organizations that work together, the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway and the Sheyenne River Chapter of the North Country National Scenic Trail, ask for your support of the Valley City Riverfront Restoration & Greenway project. We see this project as a wonderful amenity for the Byway and Trail.  

The Sheyenne River Valley Scenic Byway was one of the first state byways designated in North Dakota. It was also the first byway in North Dakota to be nationally designated. In order to attain state or national designation a byway must have intrinsic qualities. The Valley City Riverfront Restoration & Greenway project includes three of the intrinsic qualities: scenic, natural, and recreation. We developed the Byway around the river hoping to develop recreational use. This project enhances the beauty and habitat along this area of the river.  

This project also complements our North Country National Scenic Trail system in Barnes County. The area will be included as part of the North Country Trail in Valley City. The North Country National Scenic Trail goes from Crown Point, New York to Lake Sakakawea in North Dakota. Sheyenne Chapter members have been busy developing trail and are willing to help with the greenway project.  

As part of the support of this project our two nationally recognized organizations will help promote the use of the area by byway visitors and trail hikers. It is a unique project that not only enhances recreation for residents but it will also be a tourism draw bringing in visitors to help the community economically. Please support this project to the fullest extent possible to assist the City of Valley City in turning a permanent flood protection project into a beautiful asset to be shared.  

Thank you for your consideration.  

Sincerely,  

Mary Lee Nelson  
Marketing Coordinator, Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway  
Member of the Sheyenne River Chapter of the National Scenic North Country Trail
Valley City Greenway and Restoration Project
Plan View
Appendix B.2
Valley City Greenway and Restoration Project

Typical Section
Appendix B.3
VALLEY CITY RIVERFRONT GREENWAY & RESTORATION PROJECT

Area 1 ↑  Area 2 ↑  Area 3 →

Riverbank with access & erosion issues ↓