



Legislation Text

File #: 24-0481R, **Version:** 1

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE BOARD OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES HABITAT ENHANCEMENT LANDSCAPE PROGRAM FOR A GRANT OF UP TO \$240,354 TO RESTORE HABITAT IN HARTLEY NATURAL AREA.

CITY PROPOSAL:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the proper City officials are authorized to submit an application to the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program for a grant of up to \$240,354 to restore habitat in Hartley Natural Area, with said funds to be deposited into fund 205-130-1220-4220-02-CM205-NATRES (Parks fund, community resources, Parks capital, State of Minnesota operating, capital maintenance fund 205, natural resources).

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Duluth has the legal authority to accept these funds and the financial, technical, and managerial capacity to ensure proper planning and maintenance of the project.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that, if the grant is awarded, the City of Duluth will meet the required match of 10% from fund 257-025-3000-5441 (energy management, sustainability, 2021 allocation, other services & charges).

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Duluth City Council names the fiscal agent for this project as Jen Carlson, City of Duluth Finance Director, 411 West First Street, Duluth, MN 55802.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution authorizes application to the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP) for a grant of up to \$240,354 to restore habitat in Hartley Park and Natural Area. If awarded, the HELP grant will require a 10% match, which will be met from sustainability funding.

If awarded, the grant funding will support habitat restoration on 5 acres of pollinator meadow and 15 acres of understory planting with native trees and shrubs in existing pine forests at Hartley, as well as interpretive signage at the sites and proper maintenance of the restoration plantings for two years.

Proliferation of invasive plants diminishes the value of the park for recreation and environmental education. Over the past several years, there have been extensive investments by an array of intergovernmental partners and volunteers to systematically remove and control invasive plants within Hartley Park and Natural Area. Lands where invasive plants have been removed must now be planted with native species to restore habitat and prevent re-establishment of invasive species.