

MEMORANDUM

TO: Natalie Finnie, Director

FROM: Ann Holtrop, Chief, Division of Natural Heritage

DATE: August 2, 2023

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SUBJECT: Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Committee Recommendation

The Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Review Committee met on July 18 and 19, 2023, to review the IDNR grant proposals for funding from the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund for fiscal year 2024. This funding directed to conservation land trust partners supports stewardship projects exclusively located on Illinois Nature Preserves Commission-protected lands. There is an estimated \$750,000 available for projects, and there was a total of \$1,013,970.41 in requests.

The Review Committee recommends that \$747,387.14 in funds be encumbered for the following eleven (11) projects, listed below in priority order:

PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING - Natural Areas Stewardship Grants

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Applicant	INPC site(s)	Stewardship Action	Request
Parklands Foundation	Ridgetop Hill Prairie Nature	Enlist contractual services and	\$41,984.06
÷	Preserve, Merwin Savanna Nature	support staff to perform	
	Preserve, Weston Cemetery	ecological restoration through	
	Prairie Nature Preserve, and	prescribed fire implementation	
	Chinquapin Bluffs Land & Water	and invasive species removal.	
	Reserve		
Prairie Hills RC&D	Nenawakwa Land & Water	Purchase equipment and	\$89,784.68
	Reserve, Thistle Hills Land & Water	supplies and support staff time	A
	Reserve, Stony Hills Nature	to perform ecological	
	Preserve/Jamar Haven Land &	restoration through prescribed	
	Water Reserve, and Short Fork	fire implementation and	
	Seep Nature Preserve	invasive species removal.	
Grand Prairie Friends	Embarras Ridges Land & Water	Purchase a truck and support	\$92,817.88
	Reserve, Warbler Woods North	staff time to perform ecological	
	Land & Water Reserve, Warbler	restoration through prescribed	
	Woods Nature Preserve, Warbler	fire implementation and	
	Bottoms North Land & Water	invasive species removal.	
	Reserve, Warbler Bluff Land &		
	Water Reserve, and Warbler		
	Landing Land & Water Reserve		
The Conservation Foundation	Dayton Bluffs Land & Water	Enlist contractual services,	\$51,282.00
	Reserve	purchase equipment, and	
		support staff to perform	
		ecological restoration through	
		prescribed fire implementation	
383		and invasive species removal.	

Jo Daviess Conservation	Rutherford Refuge at Twin Bridges	Purchase a truck to support	\$76,000.00
Foundation	Nature Preserve, Casper Bluff Land	efficient and effective	\$70,000.00
	& Water Reserve, Apple River	performance of ecological	
	Canyon Land & Water Reserve,	restoration.	
	Sentinel Nature Preserve, Hanover	restoration:	
	Bluff Nature Preserve, Apple River		
	Canyon Nature Preserve, and Rall		
	Woods Land & Water Reserve		
The Land Conservancy of	Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow	Enlist contractual services,	\$61,991.40
McHenry County	Nature Preserve, Yonder Prairie	purchase equipment, and	301,331.40
menenty country	Nature Preserve, and Irish Oaks	support staff to perform	
	Savanna Nature Preserve	ecological restoration through	
	Savatilla Nature Freserve	prescribed fire implementation	
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The Nature Institute	John M. Olin Nature Preserve and	and invasive species removal.	470.500.00
me Nature institute		Hire staff and purchase	\$78,500.00
	Mississippi Sanctuary Nature Preserve	equipment to support ecological	
	rreserve	restoration through prescribed	
		fire implementation and	
Illiania Austria		invasive species removal.	
Illinois Audubon Society	Gremel Nature Preserve	Enlist contractual services to	\$52,000.00
		perform ecological restoration	
	İ	through invasive species	
T M		removal.	
The Nature Conservancy –	Nachusa Grasslands Nature	Purchase a knife-style brush	\$54,327.00
Nachusa	Preserve and Nachusa Grasslands	mower attachment for a skid	
	Land & Water Reserve	steer to thin invasive woody	
		plants.	
Lake Forest Open Lands	Middlefork Savanna Nature	Enlist contractual services,	\$67,609.12
	Preserve and Skokie River Nature	purchase equipment, and	
	Preserve	support chainsaw training to	
		perform ecological restoration	
		through prescribed fire	
		implementation and invasive	
		species removal.	
The Nature Conservancy –	Pembroke Savanna Nature	Purchase a skid steer to support	\$81,091.00
Kankakee Sands	Preserve, Hopkins Park Nature	efficient and effective	
	Preserve, Tallmadge Sand Forest	performance of ecological	
	Land & Water Reserve, Mskoda	restoration.	
	Land & Water Reserve, and		
	Guiding Star Savanna Land &		
	Water Reserve		

Please let me know if you desire any additional information on any of the proposed projects. Upon your decision, the Review Committee will seek release of the funding.

DIVISION RECOMMENDATION	Ann Marie Holtrop	Digitally signed by Ann Marte Hottrop Date: 2023,00.03 12/5 t:25 -05'00'	8/3/23	☑ APPROVE
	Ann Holtrop,	Chief	Date	☐ DISAPPROVE
	Division of N	atural Heritage		
AGENCY DIRECTOR SIGN-OFF	Natar	lie Finnie	8/8/23	APPROVE
	Natalie Finni		Date	☐ DISAPPROVE