

Dakota County

Spring Lake Park Reserve

Church's Woods Restoration and Enhancement





20276 Delaware Avenue
Jordan, MN 55352

Nov 1, 2024

Max Samuelson
Natural Resource Specialist
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952-891-7965
Western Service Center
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124

RE: Spring Lake Park Reserve: Church's Woods Restoration and Enhancement

Dear Mr. Samuelson,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a proposal for the ecological restoration of areas within the Church's Woods portion of Spring Lake Park Reserve. RES commends the county for continuing the restoration, enhancement, and management activities within a unique park such as Spring Lake. The following represents our experience, approach, and costs for this project. RES has the unique background of having completed work within the park, including adjacent to many of the proposed work areas. Our experience and references prove that we know how to implement a special project like this and adapt to have successful outcomes.

We would be happy to discuss our proposal in more detail.

This proposal is valid for 120 days and no addendums were received.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matthew Lasch'.

Matthew Lasch

Operations Manager
mlasch@res.us | 952.210.8452

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1.0 Firm Introduction

As the nation's largest nature-based solutions company, Resource Environmental Solutions ("RES") supports the public and private sectors with durable, resilient infrastructure for communities through solutions for environmental mitigation, stormwater and water quality, and climate and flooding resilience. RES has a unique operating model for delivering ecological uplift, based on science-led design, full delivery, long-term stewardship, and guaranteed performance. From headwaters to coastal shores, RES designs, builds, and sustains sites that preserve the environmental balance, lifting impaired ecosystems into restored health and ultimately, self-sufficiency. These projects restore sensitive wetland, prairie, and species habitats as well as floodplains, streams, river valleys, and coastal and tidal systems. The result is nature-based systems that cleanse water, shelter wildlife, buffer storms, and sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

RES works closely and creatively with municipalities, developers, operators, landowners, and regulatory agencies to balance the needs of clients, communities, and resources. Our operating model is built around this approach. We employ teams covering the full project lifecycle, combining in-house analytics and technical expertise with implementational resources and capabilities.

We have helped clients successfully permit more than 3,900 projects, creating rich, high-functioning ecosystems as part of each permit. Our clients include local and state governments, large mining operators, energy production companies, energy transmission companies, Fortune 500 companies, departments of transportation, and other public-sector organizations. RES now employs 918 dedicated staff in 48 operational hubs across the country, including a regional office in Jordan.

RES delivers customized solutions tailored to our clients' needs. RES' internal resources include environmental, health, safety, and security (EHS&S) staff, land acquisition specialists, wildlife biologists, Rosgen IV certified stream designers, professional wetland scientists, engineers, hydrologists, QA/QC oversight teams, field ecologists, regulatory project managers, analysts, certified foresters, arborists, landscape architects, construction managers, superintendents, and field crew members as well as supporting project controls, government affairs, public relations, financial, legal and analytical staff.

RES' experience includes:

- Restoration, enhancement, and preservation of 76,150 acres of wetlands
- Restoration of over 678 miles of streams
- Rehabilitation, preservation, and/or management of over 20,392 acres of special-status species habitat
- Currently conducting monitoring and maintenance (including invasive species management) for over 50,225 acres of mitigation and restoration habitat
- Successful close-out of over 117 mitigation sites
- Permitting and development of over 210 permittee-responsible mitigation projects
- Design, permitting, management, and development of 197 wetland, stream, species, and conservation banks
- Delivery of 20,000 acres of custom, turnkey mitigation solutions
- Design and construction of over 356 stormwater management facilities
- Reductions of over 499 tons of water quality nutrients
- Planting of over 26,911,001 trees across all operating regions
- Development and operation of nurseries in six states including the largest coastal nursery in Louisiana
- Facilitation of compensatory mitigation and nutrient offsets for over 3,980 federal and state permits
- Long-term protection and conservation of over 87,202 acres
- Restoration of over 391 miles of shorelines and levees

We draw on our dedicated, in-house resources and deep experience across all phases of ecological restoration projects in defining our project approach, which seeks to balance performance and cost in the manner that is most beneficial to our clients.



2.0 Team Organization

The project team personnel and contact information will be provided to the county when preparing to start work. The staffing structure will include a Restoration Manager, Restoration Supervisor, and Restoration Technicians. The Restoration Manager will be the primary contact and project manager. The Restoration Supervisor will lead the daily tasks and complete work along with Restoration Technicians. RES anticipates crews to range from 1 to 6 people depending on the tasks being completed.

Matt Lasch is the Operations Manager and will be the initial point of contact. Upon awarding, he will provide the project team that will manage and execute work. The Restoration Manager will be Eric Glaser. Below is a list of RES staff that will potentially work at Church's Woods. All RES field crew have 4-year degrees in natural resource or related fields. Coursework includes general plant identification, so the RES field crew has baseline knowledge of native and non-native species. Furthermore, RES Contracting conducts weekly plant identification with all crew members during the growing season. Identification includes native and non-native species and management approaches for each. During the dormant season, RES conducts woody plant identification of trees and shrubs. There are also numerous identification guides available to field crew year-round.

Table 1. Key Staff

RES Staff	Position	Experience (years)	Pesticide License	% Involvement
Matthew Lasch	Operations Manager	19	20093749	25%
Eric Glaser	Restoration Manager	6	20226697	75%
Steve Salaba	Operator	7	20178484	50%
Jake Filo	Restoration Operator	5	20188370	75%
Thomas Kohn	Restoration Supervisor	3	20244913	100%
Brady Schutz	Restoration Supervisor	2	20257942	100%
Greg Albrecht	Restoration Technician	3	20220096	100%
Guinevere Wilkens	Restoration Technician	2	20256609	100%
Jared Johnson	Restoration Technician	1	20258368	100%
Andy Harrison	Restoration Technician	1	20266180	100%
Shykala Brinkman	Restoration Technician	0.5	IP	100%
Dylan Holven	Restoration Technician	0.5	IP	100%
Austin Johnson	Restoration Technician	0.5	IP	100%
Ella Stone	Restoration Technican	0.5	IP	100%

IP = In Progress



3.0 Qualifications & Experience

Additional references and projects can be provided upon request.

Table 2. Project Experience

Client	Relevant past project work performed
Jack Distel <i>Water Resources Specialist</i> City of Bloomington 1800 West Old Shakopee Road Bloomington, MN 55431 952-563-8748 jdistel@bloomingtonmn.gov	Ecosystem Enhancement: RES began working with the city in 2021 to restore and enhance several natural areas around the city including Bogen Pond, Bush Lake Shoreline, and 98 th Street Median. Work has included invasive brush removal, site prep, native seeding, vegetation management, and native plantings.
Warren Tuel Minnesota Department of Transportation 395 John Ireland Blvd, Mail Stop 620 St Paul, MN 55155 651-366-3624 Warren.Tuel@state.mn.us	I-494 Woodland Restoration: In 2022, RES worked with MNDOT to remove invasive brush within a section of the MN River Valley Refuge. Work included a combination of forestry mowing where applicable and cutting/treating in steeper areas. Piles were also made in areas not accessible with equipment. All cut stumps were treated and follow-up management will occur as it is part of the contract.
Becca Tucker Great River Greening Program Manager 651-272-3982 rtucker@greatrivergreening.org	Garlough-Marthaler Parks: Great River Greening, along with Dakota County, and other partners selected RES to complete woody removal and follow-up of invasive brush within Garlough and Marthaler Parks. While the removal work was relatively straightforward, there was a lot of coordination and communication that needed to happen given all of the parties involved. Work was also completed in and around schools. Work included woody removal using a combination of equipment and hand work, and follow-up management.
Dawn Pfarr Metropolitan Council 390 North Robert Street St Paul, MN 55101 612-756-1900 Dawn.pfarr@metc.state.mn.us	System-Wide Maintenance: RES has maintained various open spaces within the Metropolitan Council system since 2009. Staff meets with a representative each spring and fall to determine maintenance needs and execute the work. Sites include water treatment plant facilities, stormwater basins, rain gardens, pump stations, and natural areas. Work completed has included spot herbicide, mowing, native seeding, prescribed burning, native planting, erosion control, and invasive brush removal.
Gregg Thompson <i>Watershed Specialist</i> City of Eagan 3501 Coachmen Pt Eagan, MN 55122 651-675-5335 gthompson@cityofeagan.com	Open Space and BMP Maintenance: Since 2015, RES has worked with the city of Eagan to conduct annual maintenance activities for various sites throughout the city. City staff provide their site-specific needs each spring and RES implements the plan. Maintenance activities include spot herbicide, mowing, hand pulling, and prescribed burning. Sites include stormwater ponds, basins, natural areas, and rain gardens.



4.0 Work Plan

Below is a brief description of work. RES has no significant changes from the Request for Proposal (RFP) regarding scope of work or approach. The description of anticipated work below is broken down by like work units – enhancement and restoration – unless specifically called out. RES knows that for projects like Church's Woods which have a variety of existing conditions and quality of vegetation, there needs to be adaptability to the work. Any modifications will be discussed with county staff prior to implementation.

Units 4518, 4519, 4520, 4521, 4522, 4523, 4524, 4525

These units are higher quality and have minimal invasive removal, both woody and herbaceous. All units will be scouted for invasive woody species. Individuals will be cut and treated by hand. Material less than 4 feet high or 3/4" in diameter will be bucked and scattered to naturally decompose. Any material larger than 4 feet in height and 3/4" in diameter will be removed from the work unit. Observed invasive woody species include common buckthorn, non-native honeysuckle, and winged burning bush. Dead downfall woody material will be removed per the specification related to distance from the trail and on top of Canada Yew. This removal will be completed using a combination of hand work and tracked skid steers with grapples during frozen conditions. Material will be piled and burned on site, except in 4518 and 4519. If needed, material will be moved to adjacent units with lower-quality vegetation. Burn pile locations will be confirmed with county staff when beginning work to ensure no damage to desirable trees and vegetation.

Herbaceous invasive species will be scouted in the spring and summer. Individuals will be hand-pulled. For individuals or isolated pockets that cannot be hand-pulled, spot treatment using a backpack sprayer will be completed. Scouting will be completed twice per year to ensure controlling cool-season and warm-season species.

Prescribed burning is included as an alternate task for units 4518, 4520, 4522, 4523, and 4525. Burning will be conducted using industry-standard practices for permitting, breaks, ignition, and fire suppression. Special attention will be paid to preparation of the burn units to ensure desirable trees are saved from fire damage. This includes clearing debris, leaves, and other material from around the trunks. Wetting them or using fire suppression techniques to avoid them from catching. The approach will be balancing the maximum amount of fuel consumed without damaging desirable trees and avoiding significant mop-up activities.

Canopy clearing is included as an alternate task. Material will be targeted and removed per the RFP. The intent of these areas is to improve the understory trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation. All cutting and treating will be completed by hand using brushsaws and chainsaws. Material will be handled using a tracked skid steer and grapple and burned on-site using piles identified in the invasive woody removal. RES feels it is important for a thorough clean-up of these areas to avoid them becoming overgrown with less desirable species that thrive on canopy openings. This includes initial removal and thinning, along with follow-up management during the growing season, primarily including mowing 1-2 times per year as needed to keep these areas open.

Unit 4526, 4527, 4528, 4529, 4530, 4531

These units are at varying levels of degradation and in need of significant removal and control of non-native species. RES proposes the same approach for all units given the target plant community is similar. The key element is aggressive removal and treatment without encouraging new species of weedy trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. This is done by removing smaller, understory, and less desirable woody species. A clear-cutting of all non-oak trees is not proposed or recommended as this can encourage a response from aggressive weedy species and would move the units away from the woodland. Below is the overall approach to restoration. Please note there may be individual nuance areas that a modified approach will be discussed with the county for those particular instances. Work includes woody removal, aggressive herbaceous control, native seeding, and vegetation management.

WOODY REMOVAL

Aggressive woody removal will be completed targeting non-native, invasive species and less desirable, native species. The intent is to open the understory, allow light to the ground layer, encourage growth of target and desirable species, and make long-term management easier using fire and mowing. RES proposes to remove all non-oak species under 4 inches in diameter, remove 50% of all non-oak species 4-6 inches in diameter, remove 25% of all non-oak species 6-8 inches in diameter, and remove select individuals (approximately 5-10%) of non-oak species larger than 8 inches in diameter. With



the exception of invasive species, trees within the dripline of oak trees or hazard trees (both safety and long-term management), or isolated individuals, no trees over 10 inches are to be removed. Select larger trees may also be girdled or frill cut to stop seed production but left standing for habitat. RES will work with the county to identify any less desirable native species 4-10 inches in diameter that may be left such as hackberry, maple, basswood, hickory, or aspen. No boxelder, elm, or ash will be left under 6 inches.

Targeted species under 4 inches will be forestry mowed with a tracked skid steer and drum-style forestry cutter. Material will be mulched and left in place not to exceed 2 inches in depth. Removal of target species over 4 inches will be cut using a tracked skid steer and front-mounted tree shear or by hand. All cut stumps will be treated using backpack sprayers. Cut material will be piled and burned on site using tracked skid steers.

Dead and downed material that is already decomposing will be left in place. Additional forestry mowing of the material may be done to aid in decomposition. Material smaller than 4 inches lying flat on the ground will be left in place. Any material not in contact with the ground will be forestry mowed and mulched in place. Larger windfalls or debris not in contact with the ground will be piled and burned on site. Large logs over 12 inches will be bucked up and trimmed to ensure contact with the ground and left in place to decompose with all limbs and branches removed. RES will ensure that the larger logs are laid in such a way that will not interfere with future management activities.

As part of the woody species management, RES proposes to brush mow all of the areas the following growing seasons after removal to keep resprouts and seedlings to a minimum. Please note that the timing of the mowing may align with management mowing of herbaceous species also, and this cost is included in the establishment management task.

HERBACEOUS CONTROL

Many of these units have a high infestation of non-native herbaceous species, particularly garlic mustard. RES proposes an aggressive approach to reducing and controlling these species. This will be done through a combination of herbicide treatment and timely mowing to stop seed production. Because native seeding is proposed in these areas, management will shift to mowing and spot herbicide following installation of native seed. The weed seed bank cannot be exhausted during the duration of this initial contract, so the intent is to reduce coverage of species like garlic mustard, encourage establishment of native species, and make future management of spot herbicide and spot mowing easier to target these invasive species.

Initial herbicide application will be completed using ATVs. Spot herbicide will be completed using backpack sprayers. Mowing will be completed using tracked skid steers and front-mounted mowers. Hand cutting or hand pulling will be used where equipment cannot access.

NATIVE SEEDING

Following initial woody removal and aggressive herbaceous control, native seed will be installed. Due to site conditions, stumps, and equipment used, all seed will be broadcast using tractors, ATVs, and by hand. Seeding will be completed at a time when natural freeze and thaw cycles will ensure good soil-to-seed contact. Minor raking or harrowing will be completed in areas as needed.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Establish management will follow the specifications in the RFP. These units are more degraded, and management will be more focused on site-wide mowing and aggressive management of non-native species with spot herbicide. Targets for spot treatment will be herbaceous invasive species and resprouting woody species. Mowing will be completed using tracked skid steers with front-mounted mowers and brush saws. Spot herbicide will be completed using ATVs and backpack sprayers.

Prescribed burning is included as an alternate task for units 4526, 4527, 4528, 4529, 4530, and 4531. Burning will be conducted using industry-standard practices for permitting, breaks, ignition, and fire suppression. RES will work with county staff to determine if fuel loads will carry fire following aggressive removal and management activities, along with assessing the timing of any burning.

Unit 4046

This unit is a degraded grassland with volunteer trees encroaching. RES will remove woody encroachment per the RFP. Site prep will be completed through a combination of herbicide application and mowing. Seed will be installed using a no-till drill. Establishment will focus on mowing during the first two years with spot herbicide targeting perennial, problematic species.



5.0 Schedule

Below is a tentative schedule of activities. This is subject to change. RES will provide regular updates to the county and can discuss a more detailed schedule upon awarding.

Table 3. Schedule

Tasks	2024	2025				2026				2027		
	Winter	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Task A. Tree and Shrub Removal				Follow up brush mowing as needed				Follow up brush mowing as needed				
Task B. Herbaceous Invasive Plant Removal												
Task C. Seed Installation							If needed					
Task D. Establishment Management of Seeded Areas												
Alternate Task E. Additional Prescribed Burning												
Alternate Task F. Small Canopy Gap Enhancement												



6.0 Budget

Please see the Budget Tab labeled "Budget Tab-RES" attached to our submission email.



7.0 Exceptions and Deviations

RES has no exceptions to the requirements of this RFP.

Appendix A

Non-Collusion and Conflict of Interest Statement

Trade Secret Form

ATTACHMENT D: NON-COLLUSION AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Please print or type (in ink)

CONTRACTOR NAME: RES Great Lakes, LLC FEDERAL TAX ID NUMBER: 29-1611274

Company Address: 20276 Delaware Avenue

City: Jordan State: MN Zip Code: 55352

Contact Person: Matthew Lasch Title: Operations Manager

Phone Number: 952.210.8452 Fax Number: _____ email: mlasch@res.us

In signing this bid, proposal or quote, Contractor certifies that it has not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of the competition; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a bid, proposal or quote; that this bid, proposal or quote has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other party submitting a bid, proposal or quote, competitor or potential competitor, that this bid, proposal or quote has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of the bids, proposals or quotes to any bid, proposal or quote competitor; that the above statement is accurate under penalty or perjury.

Contractor also certifies that to the best of its knowledge none of its owners, directors, officers or principals (collectively, "Corporate Executive") are closely related to any County employee who has or may appear to have any control over the award, management, or evaluation of the contract. A Contractor's Corporate Executive is closely related when any of the following circumstances exist:

1. A Corporate Executive and any County employee who has or appears to have any control over the award, management or evaluation of the contract are related by blood, marriage or adoption; or
2. A Corporate Executive and any County employee who has or appears to have any control over the award, management or evaluation of the contract are current or former business partners, co-workers, or have otherwise previously worked closely together in the private or public sector; or
3. A Corporate Executive and any County employee who has or appears to have any control over the award, management or evaluation of the contract share a personal relationship that is beyond that of a mere acquaintance, including but not limited to friendship or family friendship.

If one or more of the above circumstances exist, Contractor must disclose such circumstance(s) to Dakota County in writing. Failure to disclose such circumstances invalidates the Contract.

Contractor will comply with all terms, conditions, specifications required by the party submitting a bid, proposal or quote in this Request for Bid, Proposal or Quote and all terms of our bid, proposal or quote response.

<u>Lucas Lilly</u>	<u>Regional General Manager</u>	<u>11/01/2024</u>
Authorized Signature	Title	Date

You are advised that according to Dakota County Board Resolution 18-485 and Policy 2751, if there is a question as to whether there may be an appearance of a conflict of interest, the contract shall be presented to the County Board for approval, regardless of the amount of the contract. Whether a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest exists is a determination made by Dakota County.

Submit this form as part of the Bid, Proposal or Quote response.

V.7 Revised: MMH (06-19)

ATTACHMENT E: TRADE SECRET FORM

Trade Secret Information Form

The following form must be provided by Responder to assist the County in making appropriate determinations about the release of data provided in Responder's bid or proposal.

All responders must select one of the following boxes:

- ☒ My bid/proposal **does not** contain "trade secret information", as defined in Minn. Stat. § 13.37, Subd. 1(b). I understand that my entire bid/proposal will become public record in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 13.591.
- ☐ My bid/proposal **does** contain "trade secret information" because it contains data that:
1. (a) is a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique or process; **AND**
(b) is the subject of efforts by myself or my organization that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy; **AND**
(c) derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use.
 2. I have submitted one paper and one digital copy of my bid or proposal from which the confidential trade secret information has been excised. The confidential trade secret information has been excised in such a way as to allow the public to determine the general nature of the information removed while retaining as much of the document as possible **AND** I am attaching an explanation justifying the trade secret designation.

Please note that failure to attach an explanation may result in a determination that the data does not meet the statutory trade secret definition. All data for which trade secret status is not justified will become public in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 13.591.

Submit this form as part of the Bid or Proposal response

Revised: 6/28/2018

Lucas Lilly,
Authorized Signature



Regional General Manager
Title

11/01/2024
Date

