

RECREATION, LIBRARIES AND AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

13-0546R

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT  
A GRANT FROM LLOYD K. JOHNSON FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT  
OF \$1,500.

CITY PROPOSAL:

RESOLVED, that the proper city officials are hereby authorized to accept  
a grant from the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation in the amount of \$1,500, payable  
into 205-Parks, 130-Community Resources, 1219-Parks Operation, 4207-Other Grants.  
Payments will be made from 205-Parks, 130-Community Resources, 1219-Parks  
Operation, 5103-Other Grants.

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director

Approved for presentation to council:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor

PARKS KB:rb 11/01/2013

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The city submitted a grant application to the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation September 2013 for funding to retain the skills of Stephanie Gibeau, a GIS intern. Ms. Gibeau is paid a \$15 dollar per hour stipend. Our budget doesn't allow hiring her as staff. The support of the foundation was sought to allow completion of the project by Ms. Gibeau. Ms. Gibeau will continue to oversee and coordinate the Buckthorn Tracking project at Hartley Park. The time to complete the tracking and mapping of the Buckthorn density in Hartley Park is estimated to 100 hours.

Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation  
~Short Form Application~

(To use the Short Form application process, nonprofit organizations **must first** submit a Letter of Intent to the Foundation and be invited to submit the Short Form. Projects must be under \$2,000 to use the Short Form application).

Instructions for submission - [Click Here](#)

**ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION**

Date: 9/13/2013

Name of Organization: City of Duluth - Parks and Recreation

Legal Name if Different: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: City Hall - Ground Floor, 411 W. First Street

<u>Duluth</u>	<u>MN</u>	<u>55802</u>
City	State	Zip Code

Employer Identification Number (EIN): \_\_\_\_\_

<u>218-730-4334</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>www.duluthmn.gov</u>
Phone Number	Fax	Website

Name of Top Paid Staff: David Montgomery

<u>Chf Administrative Officer</u>	<u>218-730-5039</u>	<u>dmontgomery@duluthmn.gov</u>
Title	Phone	Email

Contact Person Regarding this Application: Cheryl Skaffe

<u>Volunteer Coordinator</u>	<u>218-730-4334</u>	<u>cskafe@duluthmn.gov</u>
Title	Phone	Email

Is your organization an IRS 501(c)(3) not-for-profit?  Yes  No

If No, is your organization a public entity/unit of government?  Yes  No

**PROPOSAL INFORMATION**

*(Attach a separate sheet if needed)*

- 1. Please provide a brief summary of the organizations history, mission, goals and current programs.**

See attached.

- 2. Please describe the opportunity, challenges, issues or need that your current proposal addresses.**

See attached.

- 3. What are the specific activities that you are seeking funding for and who will carry out those activities?**

See attached.

**4. When will the activities take place and how will the activities benefit the community?**

See attached.

**5. How will you evaluate the success of the project?**

Success of the Hartley Buckthorn Project will be evaluated by on-time completion of our target deadlines:

- Completion of data collection by mid-November
- Published maps demonstrating tracking results by early-February
- Published documentation of the tracking process and methodology by early-February
- Published replicability standards for future use of the methodology by early-February
- Published narrative of lessons learned and best practice by early-February

Long-term success will be evaluated when the tracking process is repeated in 3 to 5 years and we are able to demonstrate a reduction in Buckthorn density in Hartley Park.

**BUDGET INFORMATION**

1. What is the dollar amount that is requested? \$ 1,800.00
2. What is the total budget for the project? \$ 1,800.00
3. Please provide a budget for the project which includes secured and anticipated income sources and a listing of all expenditures.

<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>Source:</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Lloyd K. Johnson Foudation	\$ 1,800
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	\$

**EXPENSES**

<b>Item:</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Stipend for Ms. Gibeau (100 hours x \$15/hour)	\$ 1,500
Two (2) Handheld GPS Units	\$ 200
Grant administration and printing/office supplies	\$ 100
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
<b>TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	\$

Please provide the following items with your application:

- ✓ A copy of your current IRS determination letter indicating your tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) status.
- ✓ Your most recent audit or Form 990.
- ✓ A list of board members and their affiliations.

1. The City of Duluth is an incorporated city in Minnesota, boasting the fourth highest population in the state. Of the 86,000 residents of Duluth, most live within a half mile walk of a city-maintained park. The value of this extensive system was demonstrated in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan which cites that "94 percent of residents surveyed agreed that Duluth's parks, trails, recreation opportunities and public open spaces are key elements in quality of life and the quality of the community." To this end, in 2012, voters passed the Parks Referendum, electing to institute a Parks Fund to provide dedicated resources to our treasured park and trail system.

In 2012, the City of Duluth hired a Volunteer Coordinator to move the mission and vision of Parks and Recreation forward. As a Department, Parks works to fulfill the essential recreational, educational, cultural, and environmental needs that create a dynamic community. Parks recognizes that in order to achieve our mission we must inspire and engage the community in our work to provide recreational programs and facilities that contribute to the health of the people and the earth.

"Service" is a strategy the City employs to meet the extensive needs of our park system. The City of Duluth is currently engaged in the process of developing a comprehensive service plan to document our key service initiatives in the areas of education, environment and emergency preparedness. Utilizing the best practices of "impact volunteering", Duluth is looking not just at the number of volunteers engaged in our park system, but the impact that those volunteers are making towards our initiative goals. Current initiatives in our environment focus priority area include:

- Duluth Invasive Species Council: Dedicated to educating the community, tracking and mapping invasive plant populations, eradicating invasive species and restoring land to its native state. *See the listing of Fall 2013 Buckthorn Brigade events.*
- reLEAF Duluth: Dedicated to educating the community on the importance of our urban forest, as well as supporting the inventory and planting of trees.
- Clean and Green: Dedicated to providing opportunities to the community to be partners in cleaning and beautifying our public spaces through landscaping, gardening, weeding, litter removal, recycling, and other on-going maintenance projects.
- Let's Grow - Edible Duluth: Dedicated to increasing the amount of public edible landscapes on public land including community gardens, orchards, and fruit bearing trees and shrubs, as well as building relationships with community partners to engage neighbors and citizens in the harvest and consumption of the food.

2. The City of Duluth is committed to managing the invasive plant populations located on public land, as well as educating the public about the threat that invasive plant populations pose to our native habitats. It is estimated that nearly 20 percent of the plants on public land are non-native and invasive. While this number may seem low, the City is learning lessons from other Minnesota communities that are fighting invasive plant populations where 80 percent of plants are non-native.

The City of Duluth's Invasive Species Council (DISC), a community advisory group, is working to develop a system for tracking and mapping invasive plant populations, formalizing eradication and removal standards, creating community education materials and events, and planning volunteer activities. These topics will be detailed in a local "invasive species management plan" (currently in process).

Key successes of our efforts to date include: recruitment and placement of seven invasive species interns since Fall 2012, development of a "top ten" list of targeted invasive plants, placement of over 20 volunteer groups through summer 2013, an increased number of community education events on Japanese Knotweed and Garlic Mustard and the development of new community outreach materials including doorhangers.

One of the most significant endeavors that the Council has taken on is the implementation of a tracking methodology for Buckthorn density. The invasive shrub, Buckthorn, is one of the most prevalent and pervasive non-native plants in Duluth. The Buckthorn population thrives in shade and sun. It is quickly growing and out-competing native vegetation throughout Duluth, both on public and private land.

This past summer - with the support of DISC, city staff, interns, Hartley Nature Center staff and local university experts - volunteer efforts were targeted in Hartley Park to track and map the Buckthorn population. While it may seem counterintuitive to invest resources in tracking Buckthorn, it is critical that baseline data is established to ensure that we can demonstrate our success in pushing back the population through our eradication efforts. To date, we have tracked over 20 segments- nearly half of the park. As we move into the fall season, tracking becomes easier as native trees lose their leaves and Buckthorn retains its dark green leaves.

3. Funds are sought so that Steph Gibeau may continue to oversee and coordinate the Buckthorn Tracking project at Hartley Park. Ms. Gibeau is a senior GIS student at the University of Minnesota - Duluth. Ms. Gibeau has received Departmental Honors, a distinction awarded by the GIS instructors, for three semesters. She is also the recipient of the Emma Goldman Scholarship in Geography (Fall 2011) and the Matti Kaups Geography Scholarship (Spring 2011). She has served as an intern with the City of Duluth's invasive species program since the Fall of 2012.

According to her University instructors, GIS interns are highly sought after and organizations often pay anywhere from \$15 to 20 per hour for their work. The City of Duluth has been lucky to have Ms. Gibeau's service and expertise toward our project. However, as our city budget does not allow for us to hire her as staff, we are seeking foundation support to allow Ms. Gibeau to finish the project this fall.

The specific activities will include 100 hours of Ms. Gibeau's time to complete the tracking and mapping of the Buckthorn density in Hartley Park. Ms. Gibeau's responsibilities include: 1) training volunteers in the tracking methodology; 2) assigning volunteers to track segments in Hartley; 3) preparing and programming handheld GPS units used for tracking efforts; 4) imputing collected data into ArcGIS; 5) developing maps; and 5) formally documenting the tracking process, developing replicability standards for future use of the methodology; and 6) preparing a narrative paper of lessons learned.

The park has been broken down into 46 segments. Within each segment, points have been randomly selected. The number of selected points are dependent on the size of the segment. Using handheld GPS units that have the points pre-programmed, volunteers trek out into the park. Once at the point, the volunteer counts the number of Buckthorn that is located within a 20 x 2 meter swath, north of the point. The Buckthorn must be of a size larger than ones thumb and systems of Buckthorn are counted as "one." These numbers are recorded, along with observations, and imputed into ArcGIS.

Our methodology was developed based on previous research conducted by Ethan Perry, Plant Ecologist/Botanist, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. It has also been reviewed by our university-partners, including David Schimpf, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, University of Minnesota-Duluth, who has indicated that the project is methodologically sound.

4. The City of Duluth intends to complete the tracking project this Fall, between late-September and early-November. Buckthorn becomes much easier to identify in the fall after the majority of other trees have lost their leaves. Buckthorn retains its dark green leaves well into the fall season. Analysis of the data collected, along with the writing of the reports, will be completed throughout winter, with an anticipated publication date of early-February.

The fight against invasive plant populations, like Buckthorn, is a long-term one. The City of Duluth has been in communication with other Minnesota communities who are fighting similar battles. Those that are winning indicate that it is a long and tedious fight; one that can go on for years. The Duluth Invasive Species Council aims to be on the front lines providing community education to increase awareness, working to eradicate invasives where they grow and restoring land to its native state. However, invasive species are everywhere. Without a baseline to show what the population is currently, we won't be able to demonstrate if our initiative is having an impact. Thus, the tracking work being coordinated in Hartley Park is so valuable to our effort. By tracking one of the hardest and most Buckthorn-populated landscapes in our Duluth Parks system, the City hopes to develop an effective system for creating baseline data, informed by the lessons learned.

The landscape of Duluth is changing. Invasive plant populations are growing. The tracking project, along with the eradication and restoration activities it informs, will help preserve our urban forest for generations to come.

## Press Release

October/November Buckthorn Brigade Events - 2013

The City of Duluth invites residents to join in on the ongoing fight against the invasive shrub - Buckthorn.

Buckthorn is a common invasive plant that is prevalent not only in City parks and on trails, but also in backyards and front lawns. Buckthorn was first introduced into our area in the early 1800's when it was used as a popular hedging plant. Now, it is illegal to import, sell or transport buckthorn in Minnesota.

Buckthorn poses a threat to other plants, provides a host to other pests, forms an impermeable layer of vegetation, and grows rapidly due to the lack of natural controls, such as insects and disease that would curb its growth.

"Once you learn how to identify the shrub, you'll begin to see it everywhere," explained Steph Gibeau, Invasive Species Management Intern for the City of Duluth, who has been working on a Buckthorn Tracking Project in Hartley Park. "Buckthorn will remain dark green well into the fall, after all other trees turn color and lose their leaves. This makes the next six or seven weeks prime time for both identifying and removing the buckthorn from public areas," Gibeau added.

The Buckthorn Brigade events are sponsored by the City of Duluth's Duluth Invasive Species Council, organized by Duluth Parks and Recreation.

Community members are invited to attend a public informational meeting to learn more about buckthorn identification and control methods on the following dates:

**Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>** – *Informational Session* - 5-6 PM @ Hartley Nature Center

Meet at the Hartley Nature Center at 3001 Woodland Avenue

**Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>** – *Informational Session* - 5-6PM @ Hartley Nature Center

Meet at the Hartley Nature Center at 3001 Woodland Avenue

Duluth residents can assist in the removal and eradication of buckthorn during the Buckthorn Brigade events on the following dates:

**Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>** – 10AM-12PM @ Hartley Nature Center

Meet at the Hartley Nature Center information kiosk at 3001 Woodland Ave

**Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>** – 2-4PM @ Chester Bowl

Meet at the Chester Playground at 1801 E. Skyline

**Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>** – 2-4PM @ Lakewalk @ 21<sup>st</sup>

Meet at the parking lot located at 21<sup>st</sup> Ave E and Water Street

**Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>** – 10AM-12PM @ Keene Creek

Meet near the Keene Creek Dog Park parking lot, located in West Duluth near

Grand Avenue and I-35, accessible by a paved walkway to the fenced area.

**Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>** – 2-4PM @ Western Waterfront Trail

Meet at Indian Point Campground at 7000 Pulaski Street