

DATE: January 13, 2025
TO: City of Marshall Public Improvement/Transportation Committee
FROM: Redwood Riverbank Workgroup
RE: Request for Cost-Share on Pilot Streambank Restoration Project
112 Park Avenue, Marshall MN

Beginning in September 2023, a group of interested parties began meeting to discuss the condition of the Redwood River through the City of Marshall, and the deterioration that is occurring. This group consists of citizens, City and County officials, and DNR representatives. Group discussions have involved the history of the river along with a 1930's era WPA project that placed much of the riprap/armoring that is in the river. DNR and SWCD staff kayaked the stretch of river within the city limits and documented areas of concern. Severe erosion has occurred as shown in the photo below.



Some of the long-range goals are:

- 1) to remove unneeded low-head dams in the river (ex. golf course) and replace with rock structures that allow fish passage
- 2) design and implement streambank restorations along several adjacent properties to eliminate the vertical drops and increasing erosion caused by flooding and Spring ice break-up
- 3) Promotion of the BWSR *Lawns to Legumes* program, reminders to not place lawn clippings in the river, Marshall's water softener rebate program, and other educational programs/events.

A pilot restoration project has been identified at 112 Park Avenue, the Dan and Paula Giles residence. The location below (circled in red) shows the erosion and illustrates the difficulty to access the project site.



DNR is willing to waive the \$1,200 permit fee for the pilot project. The City of Marshall has granted permission to access the site along the river on the Liberty Park site. DNR staff designed the restoration which the Owners obtained a quote from D&G Excavating for the work.

The quote is \$40,800 for the work including: remove the existing rock wall structure, haul and place fill on riverbank, place geotextile fabric and riprap, repair any tracks through the park, and reseed. The riverbank area is approximately 100 feet in length; and it is the difficulty in accessing the site and the need to haul all the materials stockpiled at Marshall Street that impacts the cost.

In order to get this pilot project moving forward and for it to become the “showcase” project to encourage other landowners to be proactive, we need to identify a source for cost-share. The Lyon County Commissioners were approached on December 17, 2024 with a request for 90% cost-share.

The consensus of the commissioners is that this project is very viable and worthy, however City involvement is needed in addition to the County to truly make it a pilot project. Lyon County proposed the following:

- 1) 80/20 cost-share with the landowner providing 20% of the cost
- 2) Lyon County would provide 40% cost-share (not to exceed \$16,320) contingent upon the City of Marshall doing the same.

The Workgroup understands that this is an unusual request to the City of Marshall and that the City welcomes the educational opportunity regarding the river through city limits.

On behalf of the Redwood River Workgroup, the Public Improvement/Transportation Committee's consideration of this worthy project is appreciated, and we look forward to meeting with the Committee on January 23rd to provide information about this project, as well as the condition of the Redwood River as a whole.