



P&TC Friends Group Grants – Planning Discussion Guide

A. Purpose

This discussion guide was developed by P&TC and the MnDNR to assist in the application process for the habitat restoration grant program. It is meant to be used as a planning tool to determine suitable projects and sites that meet the grant program parameters, maximize positive impact on natural communities, and navigate the DNR resource review process. Please use this discussion guide (along with the application) in a meeting with the DNR site manager, DNR Resource Specialist, and friends group volunteer.

B. Project Type

- **Keep in mind these DNR resource management priorities:**
 - *Priority 1: Protecting, maintaining and restoring high quality or rare natural communities*
 - *Priority 2: Protecting Rare Species and their Habitats*
 - *Priority 4: Controlling the spread of harmful invasive species and preventing the introduction of new invasives.*
 - *Priority 6: Maintaining and improving water quality and quantity by protecting wetlands and public waters*
- **Are there plant or animal communities that are rare or threatened at this park or trail?** *Encourage projects that are truer habitat restoration rather than use area enhancement.*
- **Different project types may require different types of resources reviews.** *For example, planting of seedlings using planting bars would require less review than planting of large, potted trees.*

C. Site Selection

- **Are there known cultural resource sites?** *The resource specialist can check for this. Projects within known sites may not be allowed or may be much more challenging to implement, so it may be best to avoid them.*
- **Are there areas that have recently been developed?** *These areas had an archeological review, maybe even shovel testing, so it may not be necessary for an archeologist site visit if a project falls within that area.*
- **Are there sites that would not require a site visit by archeologists?** *Typically, these would be places that are low potential archaeologically, such as away from shorelines or high areas.*
- **A project location map is required.** *A DNR staff person will need to create a shape file for the Division's resource assessment review and potentially to obtain an archeological license.*

D. Supplies and Materials

- **What tools and materials are needed to make this project happen?**
 - *What tools or equipment does the DNR or friends group already have that could support this project?*
 - *Are there tools needed that could help ongoing restoration efforts beyond this grant project?*
- **Where would plants, seeds, or trees be sourced from?** *The DNR likely has a list of recommended vendors.*

E. Volunteers

- **Which activities could volunteers do vs. what staff needs to do?**
- **Do volunteers need any specific training to work on this project?** *E.g. planting trees with a planting bar or species identification for seed collection.*
- **What volunteer forms or requirements would be needed for a project like this?** *E.g. background checks.*