



Lumberjack Grant Application

#6
Approve

PROJECT TITLE: Friends of Townline Lake Park Combination ADA Fishing Pier/Kayak Launch

Submitted by (name):	Dave Schmitz, Fundraising Chairperson
Organization:	Friends of Town Line Lake Park
Address:	3808 Townline Lake Rd, Rhinelander, WI 54501
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Email:	<u>dschmitz@newnorth.net</u>
Counties:	Oneida

Mission Statement: Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., a multi-county, nonprofit in Northeastern WI, strives to enhance area natural resources, promote a higher standard of living and improve the quality of life for area citizens by fostering partnerships between public and private sectors and strategically investing in area natural resources.

SUMMARY:

Review the Lumberjack Mission Statement above. How does your project align with Lumberjack's mission? Be specific. The more alignment points, the better your project is viewed.

Answer: This project aligns on several levels. First, there are no public fishing piers on Town Line Lake and this project would enhance the natural resource by giving two more safe recreational opportunities for the lake: a safe ADA-compliant canoe/kayak launch and a safe ADA-compliant fishing pier. Second, Town Line is a small lake and perfect for canoeing/kayaking, but the landing is rocky, has areas with debris and is unlevel. Giving those with disabilities the opportunity to launch and fish safely on a smaller, less crowded lake would add immensely to their quality of life. Third, our group, Friends of Town Line Lake Park (FTLLP) has already fostered both public and private partnerships including the Oneida Co Bike & Walking Trails Council, Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association, Northern Paddle Club, Newbold Outdoor Recreation Committee, Oneida County Forestry Department and Committee, WDNR, Oneida County Land/Water Conservation. We feel building this pier and launch is a fantastic way to strategically invest in our area natural resources because it would bring more people to our area. For these reasons, we feel our project aligns well with your mission.

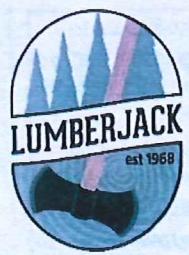
OBJECTIVES:

What problems, concerns or opportunities will this project address? You will be asked to show how your objectives were met when you present your follow-up presentation to the Council.

Answer: There are no ADA-compliant amenities at Town Line Lake Park. This park would be perfect for this addition as it is a natural, serene park, just a mile from town. It has abundant fish and wildlife. As described above, there is currently only shore fishing and with an uneven shoreline, it can be dangerous. A safe fishing pier would alleviate concerns for those with disabilities or those unsteady and allow them the freedom to fish a great, healthy lake. Another concern is the unsafe boat launch for canoes/kayaks. There is not a good level spot to launch and there is debris in area. Providing an ADA-compliant, safe, secure, and accessible launch would provide the opportunity for more people to recreate on the lake. At the end of the application are a rendering and a quote. Our budget also includes two signs. Following current signage statutes, we will place one sign at the entrance and another larger interpretive sign at the gangway. Our hope

Also maintain - put in & put out
Fluctuations on Lake →
Seepage Lake

#66



Lumberjack Grant Application

PROJECT TITLE:

**Mass Rearing of Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Agents:
Improving Efficiency and Numbers in 2023**

Submitted by (name):	Derek Thorn and Rosie Page
Organization:	Lumberjack's FLOW AIS program and Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP)
Address:	315 S. Oneida Ave, Rhinelander, WI 54501
Phone:	313 590 4419
Email:	Rpage19@gmail.com and FLOWAIS@lumberjackrcd.org
Counties:	Forest, Vilas, Oneida

Mission Statement: Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., a multi-county, nonprofit in Northeastern WI, strives to enhance area natural resources, promote a higher standard of living and improve the quality of life for area citizens by fostering partnerships between public and private sectors and strategically investing in area natural resources.

SUMMARY: Review the Lumberjack Mission Statement above. How does your project align with Lumberjack's mission? Be specific. The more alignment points, the better your project is viewed.

Answer:

Habitat change from invasive species is recognized as one of the most harmful forces affecting our native plants, animals, and landscapes. This is even more pronounced in the Northwoods, because invasive species can significantly alter the success of three main local industries: forestry, tourism, and recreation. Lumberjack recognizes the importance of preventing invasive species from damaging our area natural resources and residents' lifestyles in our rural communities, and therefore Lumberjack currently employs several individuals to work on protecting area natural resources, focusing on the control of invasive species.

Through this grant proposal, Rosie Page (Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership) and Derek Thorn (FLOW AIS) wish to collaborate in 2023 on the control of invasive purple loosestrife (PL or *Lythrum salicaria*), an exotic plant found on hundreds of shorelines and wetlands in the Lumberjack RC&D area. For the past roughly ten years, Lumberjack RC&D employees have been involved with raising biocontrol beetles for this species. Now, we are proposing an updated growing system known as a "mass rearing cage", in which beetles are reared in a tent on plentiful PL plants, then transferred to infestations in the wild where they feed and keep PL numbers manageable.

This project will enhance our area's natural resources by directly addressing aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention and control in Forest and Vilas Counties. Purple loosestrife is a highly opportunistic species that colonizes gaps in vegetation quickly and can transform shorelines and wetlands from wet to dry in very little time. Changing our landscape and damaging waterways will directly degrade the quality of our natural resources, but it also changes the experience of area residents, who

Another advantage of our new method is that the WI DNR has interest in starting overwintering projects to study these starter beetles, and this would position Lumberjack as an ideal partner on this work. Leading biocontrol researcher Bernd Blossey (Cornell University) has found that PL plants and beetles that are kept outside during the winter perform more efficiently and feed more successfully in the following season, compared with those kept or reared in a greenhouse. In addition, our DNR colleagues report high demand for biocontrol beetles from lake associations and there are many examples of successful donations received from private groups in exchange for beetle deliveries.

FORMULATION & EVALUATION: Why is this project the best way to address the issues described above? How will the outcome be evaluated? Be specific – outcomes that can be measured are viewed more favorably.

Across the Midwest, this is becoming the favored approach for handling biocontrol of PL because it streamlines the process of rearing and releasing beetles. On a local level, this approach will enhance our ability to collaborate and be efficient with our resources, as detailed below.

Mass rearing cages allow:

- Faster and more efficient beetle collection
- Easier sharing with partners
- No need to drive multiple pots to multiple locations across large rural counties
- Much less plastic to collect at end of season and a decreased cost for new pots
- Potential for overwintering of plants in pots, for an earlier headstart on growing in spring

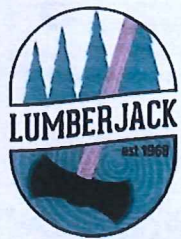
A Lumberjack mass rearing cage will help to:

- Prepare plants for overwintering
- Streamline our work and mileage costs
- Ease the burden on our volunteers who are aging
- Have greater confidence in beetle supply to control PL
- Inform the DNR and other groups regarding success and new ideas

Measurable Outcomes:

- Minimum of 15 known sites supplied with beetles
- Plentiful beetle supply reared in cage (enough for 200 per site)
- Fewer hours spent readjusting nets and pots due to weather (compared with 2022)
- Fewer volunteer hours spent carrying heavy pots with wet soil (compared with 2022)
- Minimum of 10 new sites supplied with beetles

Answer:



Lumberjack Grant Application

PROJECT TITLE: TOWN OF CRESCENT NEIGHBORHOOD POLLINATOR & NATURALIZATION PROJECT

Submitted by (name):	Joel Knutson: Chair, Town of Crescent
Organization:	Town of Crescent, Wisconsin
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Counties:	Oneida

Mission Statement: Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., a multi-county, nonprofit in Northeastern WI, strives to enhance area natural resources, promote a higher standard of living and improve the quality of life for area citizens by fostering partnerships between public and private sectors and strategically investing in area natural resources.

SUMMARY: Review the Lumberjack Mission Statement above. How does your project align with Lumberjack's mission? Be specific. The more alignment points, the better your project is viewed.

Answer:

The Crescent town board, its town crew, and pollinator-hosting residents have a strong connection to local conservation and wish to place value on projects that protect natural resources. Residents expressed interest in creating natural preserves where insect pollinators will be protected from leading dangers such as habitat loss and roadside mortality; in response, in 2021 the Town experimented with "no-mow" and "reduced mow" areas on town roads to conserve milkweed growth and emerging wildflower populations. During the summer Town chair Joel Knutson and volunteers monitored newly-conserved milkweed patches for monarch activity, and through June and August seven "foster" families collectively reared and released over 200 monarchs from roadside-adjacent plots. Having identified areas conducive to pollinator success, in 2022 the Town continued its selective mowing practices, investing in specialized "boom" mowers that allow for specific targeting of brush and grasses; although monarch populations declined in 2022, the areas identified for protection continued to thrive and expand, generating additional local interest in expanding the concept and integrating the concept of naturalization to additional town spaces, including high profile sites at the town hall along Highway 8. The Town's goal in 2023 and beyond is to expand community interest by committing to creating at minimum six native planting zones throughout Crescent neighborhoods in the rights-of-way that will provide refuge for important pollinator species in decline and provide a boost to the walkability and interest of our residential areas with destination gardens for families to learn and be inspired to include natives in their landscapes. In 2023, we look to include a 7th "flagship" site at the town hall that will also serve as the anchor to a memorial garden, a high visibility site where the Town will include a public workshop for residents and families at the town hall to learn about the project and how they can participate.

...and a public workshop at the Crescent Town Hall in early summer 2022 to engage as many volunteers and town residents as possible, and provide outreach on native gardening and the ways we can help monarch butterflies and other species on our own land.

- Distribute a brochure to Town residents about the project.
- Show our neighboring Towns an example of citizen science and encourage them to participate

FORMULATION & EVALUATION: Why is this project the best way to address the issues described above? How will the outcome be evaluated? Be specific – outcomes that can be measured are viewed more favorably.

Answer:

This is “phase II” of what the Town hopes will be a long-term commitment to encouraging native restorations; as a work-in-progress, the Town expects to serve as a model (what works/what doesn’t) for peer towns and villages. As such, the Town is fully committed to making all its work available and be guided in future efforts by researchers and professionals – for example, our first efforts at monitoring suggested the Town’s agricultural-adjacent milkweed plots did not produce nearly the volume of monarch caterpillars as non-agricultural, forest-adjacent sites. As a town-wide project, we expect to engage in ongoing conversations with residents about the possibility of protecting native species not just by decreasing the amount of mowing done in our Town but supporting efforts with examples and seed giveaways to further encourage native plantings on private property. As chair, I am personally very familiar with the plight of the Monarch butterfly having reared them in concert with other area volunteers for several years. The Town is well prepared to host fun, engaging workshops to not just “share information” with residents but to generate long-term permanent positive activity.

Outcomes will be evaluated by (but not limited to!):

- Tracking the native plantings (number and species diversity) and rate of growth success
- Monitoring Monarch butterfly numbers by sighting, using volunteers and town chair
- Holding a successful workshop to engage Town residents
- Successful completion of invasive species management and surveying
- Working with partners: County Land & Water, WHIP, North American Butterfly Association

ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Why is assistance needed from Lumberjack? Who within your organization will run the project? Describe the assistance you are receiving from other partners. Include Letters of Support as outlined in Lumberjack’s Granting Policy.

Answer:

The Town is requesting assistance from Lumberjack in recognition that our goals and missions align. We feel that the Town commitment to improve the natural resources of our area is a good and supportive example of Lumberjack’s work in Oneida County, and will build on what the county conservation department has accomplished to date. The Project will be spearheaded by Joel Knutson, Town Chair, with input and oversight from the Town board, clerk, and crew. Volunteers will be recruited at Town meetings, community group meetings (e.g., lake associations) and other online community platforms such as NextDoor and Facebook. **The Town is requesting \$10,000.** This will enable the Town of Crescent to work with a landscape and plant cultivating company as a consultant, purchase appropriate varieties of native plants for planting and growth in 2023, secure supplies such as topsoil, and would include hours for a professional to survey and control any invasive species that may be present in the planting zones.