



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2026 Approved Work Plan

## General Information

**ID Number:** 2026-288

**Staff Lead:** Tom Dietrich

**Date this document submitted to LCCMR:** May 25, 2026

**Project Title:** Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge Replacement

**Project Budget:** \$3,674,000

## Project Manager Information

**Name:** Kent Skaar

**Organization:** MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

**Office Telephone:** (651) 259-5636

**Email:** kent.skaar@state.mn.us

**Web Address:** [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/parks\\_trails/index.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/parks_trails/index.html)

## Project Reporting

**Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR:** June 17, 2026

**Reporting Schedule:** April 1 / October 1 of each year.

**Project Completion:** June 30, 2030

**Final Report Due Date:** August 14, 2030

## Legal Information

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2026, Chp. 104, Sec. 2, Subd. 05w

**Appropriation Language:** \$3,674,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to replace the Baptism River Bridge in Tettegouche State Park and ensure ongoing accessibility for Minnesotans to recreational opportunities in areas of the park accessed by the bridge. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2030, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

**Appropriation End Date:** June 30, 2030

## Narrative

**Project Summary:** This project proposes the replacement of the Tettegouche State Park / Baptism River Bridge, a steel truss bridge originally constructed in 1923.

**Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) is legislatively authorized under MS 85.012 to establish, develop, maintain, and operate State Parks as specifically identified. As broadly defined by MS 85.012, the authorized State Park System is comprised of 67 individual State Parks. This project proposes the removal and replacement of a significant, vehicle and trail bridge located within the boundaries of Tettegouche State Park. The existing bridge was constructed in 1923/1924 as part of the TH 1 project, later designated US 61. Following realignment of US 61 in the late 1960s, the bridge was repurposed for pedestrian and snowmobile use, then transferred to the MNDNR in 1974. From 1979 to 1986, the bridge was incorporated into Tettegouche State Park and reconstructed to accommodate a realigned park entrance. Subsequent work in 2004 addressed structural deterioration and deck resurfacing. Given condition and design, annual inspection is required to comply with federal regulations and maintain safe operation. This Bridge has been prioritized by the MNDNR due to the structural concerns and the significant public impact given much of the State Park would be inaccessible were the bridge to fail or be closed. The new bridge will meet modern design standards.

**What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.**

This proposal will provide for the completion of the required engineering, design, and construction of a new, multi-span steel bridge with a concrete deck over the Baptism River within Tettegouche State Park. As proposed, the new structure will carry both vehicle, pedestrian, and State Trail traffic over the Baptism River. This existing State Park bridge is a multi span steel bridge with a Baltimore Deck Truss main-span and steel girder approach spans. To advance the necessary replacement, the MNDNR completed preliminary engineering, design, and environmental analysis for the replacement structure in 2024. It is the intent of the MNDNR to complete the final engineering, including the development of the final plans and specifications, during 2025-2026. Historical architectural evaluation has previously determined the existing bridge to not be historically significant. The replacement of the existing bridge is critical to ensure safe, continued public access to those portions of Tettegouche State Park located inland of TH 61, including the Baptism River Campground and the Baptism High Falls Observation areas. The new bridge also represents a critical connection for the future Tettegouche State Park Segment of the Gitche Gami State Trail, for which preliminary plans are anticipated to be complete in 2027.

**What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?**

This project proposal will result in the completion of the required engineering, design, and construction for the replacement of the existing Tettegouche State Park, Baptism River Bridge. The existing bridge, constructed in 1923. The demolition of the existing bridge and the installation of the replacement bridge will be conducted to ensure potential impacts to the State Park, the Baptism River and surrounding resources are limited to the extent possible. Should the existing bridge be closed due to further deterioration both public and Park staff access to those portions of Tettegouche State Park inland of TH 61 could be closed.

## Project Location

**What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?**

Region(s): NE

**What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?**

Statewide

**When will the work impact occur?**

During the Project and In the Future

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Tettegouche State Park – Baptism River Bridge Replacement

**Activity Budget:** \$3,674,000

**Activity Description:**

This project proposes the replacement of Bridge 3459, a 5-span, 383-foot-long, steel truss bridge located within Tettegouche State Park. This bridge was originally developed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Minnesota Highway Department) in 1923 and subsequently transferred to the MNDNR in the 1980s for use as a State Park Bridge, following the upgrading of TH 61. The current bridge is considered “fracture critical” due to design and requires annual inspection given the nature of the deficiency and the potential for failure. Given the structural deficiencies, the MNDNR has completed preliminary engineering and design for a proposed replacement bridge. The replacement bridge is to be a 3-span, steel structure with a concrete deck containing two 13-foot traffic lanes and a 12-foot trail that is separated from the traffic lanes. Given the presence of TH 61 and the associated constraints, the replacement bridge includes a broad horizontal curve. It is the intent of the MNDNR to complete the final plans and specifications for the new bridge during 2025-2026, including extensive geotechnical analysis given the nature of the area’s bedrock. With the MNDNR commitment to complete all required engineering, the requested ENRTF funding will be used solely for the new bridge’s construction.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Final Engineering Design Consultant Secured - Tettegouche State Park / Baptism River Bridge Replacement	December 31, 2025
Final Engineering and Design Complete - Tettegouche State Park / Baptism Bridge Replacement	December 31, 2026
Completion of State Historic Preservation Office Consultation – Tettegouche State Park / Baptism River Bridge Replacement	June 30, 2027
Completion of Final Project Permitting – Tettegouche State Park / Baptism River Bridge	June 30, 2027
Construction Funding Secured – Tettegouche State Park / Baptism River Bridge Replacement	June 30, 2028
Construction Contract Awarded - Tettegouche State Park / Baptism River Bridge Replacement	June 30, 2028
Project Pre-Construction / Contractor Meeting - Tettegouche State Park / Baptism River Bridge Replacement	August 31, 2028
Project Construction Initiated - Tettegouche State Park / Baptism River Bridge Replacement	August 31, 2028
Project Construction Complete - Tettegouche State Park / Baptism River Bridge Replacement	June 30, 2030
Project Closeout / Final Reporting / ENrtf Acknowledgement Signs Installed / Open for Public Use	June 30, 2030
Notice of Funding Restrictions Completed	June 30, 2030

## Dissemination

**Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.**

All Minnesota Department of Natural Resources public notifications regarding the proposed replacement of the Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge will reference the support of the LCCMR. All engineering plans and specifications will include specific reference to the LCCMR through the inclusion of the Trust Fund Logo placed on the Construction Plan Title Sheet. When complete the bridge will also have a plaque affixed to each end of the structure that clearly displays the Trust Fund Logo.

## Long-Term Implementation and Funding

**Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?**

Each State Park is a component of Minnesota's Outdoor Recreation System and the proposed project will be implemented through the MnDNR Parks and Trails Division staff. All project engineering, design, contract administration, and construction inspection will be completed by or under the direct oversight of the MN DNR Operation Services Division. The MnDNR Parks and Trails Division will operate, maintain, and protect the new bridge when complete. The implementation of this project will immediately and significantly decrease the Parks and Trails Division's annual operational costs for several decades, given the required annual inspections will no longer be required.

## Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i	\$994,000
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09s	\$4,266,000
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 09g	\$7,387,000
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e	\$4,952,000
Minnesota State Trails Development	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 09h	\$5,036,000

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
Project General Contractor	Service Contract	The Project General Contractor will provide demolition and construction services for the replacement of the Tettegouche State Park / Baptism Entrance Bridge				0		\$3,629,135
							Sub Total	\$3,629,135
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Capital Equipment</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							Sub Total	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>								

							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
		MN DNR Direct and Necessary Costs	Pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated programs/projects. Direct and necessary costs cover HR Support (~\$0), Safety Support (~\$0), Financial Support (~\$41,596), Communication Support (~\$1,902), IT Support (~\$0), and Planning Support (~\$1,371) that are necessary to accomplishing funded programs/projects					\$44,865
							<b>Sub Total</b>	\$44,865
							<b>Grand Total</b>	\$3,674,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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## Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount
<b>State</b>				
Cash	Capital Bond Appropriation - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Asset Preservation (ML 2026 - 2028)	Representing one of the Departments priorities, this funding is intended to provide for the required engineering, construction administration and partial construction funding for the development of the replacement Tettegouche State Park Baptism River Bridge.	Potential	\$6,876,000
Cash	Land and Water Conservation Funds (MS 84.0264)	Representing one of the Departments priorities, this funding is intended to provide for the required engineering, construction administration and partial construction funding for the development of the replacement Tettegouche State Park Baptism River Bridge	Secured	\$950,000
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$7,826,000</b>
<b>Non-State</b>				
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	-
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$7,826,000</b>

**Total Project Cost: \$11,500,000**

**This amount accurately reflects total project cost?**

Yes

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [dbf98867-dd3.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

2026 LCCMR MN State Parks Tettegouche Entrance Bridge Location Map...

### Supplemental Attachments

#### *Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other*

Title	File
Capital Projects Questionnaire - Tettegouche State Park Bridge Replacement	<a href="#">c194a21c-9d3.pdf</a>
Photo of the Tettegouche SP Entrance Bridge under Inspection	<a href="#">ff1fec09-6be.jpe</a>
Preliminary Plan Exhibit - Tettegouche SP Bridge Replacement	<a href="#">21cf55c3-1d9.pdf</a>
Engineers Rendering of Proposed Tettegouche SP Entrance Bridge	<a href="#">67e0a730-231.pdf</a>
Capital Projects Questionnaire - Tettegouche State Park Bridge Replacement / Revised	<a href="#">a78f64ef-309.pdf</a>
Capital Construction Budget Addendum . Tettegouche State Park Bridge Replacement	<a href="#">32fc0b4a-98a.xlsx</a>

## Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

### *Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage*

Revision from the proposal as submitted, include modifications required to address the recommended ENRFT Project appropriation, including changes to the Non-ENRFT funding contribution. A change in the award of the associated construction contract, reflecting the additional time anticipated to secure the additional funding required. Addition revision to address service contract vs capital expenditure and expanded project milestone

## Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

**Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?**

N/A

**Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?**

N/A

**Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?**

No

**Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?**

N/A

**Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?**

N/A

**Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?**

No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**

No

**Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?**

Yes

**Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?**

No

**Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this project:**

MNDNR Parks and Trails Division and Operations Services Division staff

**Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements**

Yes, I understand