

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2014 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 188-G**

Connecting the Minnesota River Water Trail and Morton

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**Category:** G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 198,200

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 Years, July 2014 - December 2016

**Summary:**

Connects State Trail paddlers to significant area sites by providing the only potable water between New Ulm and Granite Falls, and provides connecting trails, amenities, interpretation, and a campground.

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**Name:** Carl Colwell

**Sponsoring Organization:** City of Morton

**Address:** PO Box 127  
Morton MN 56270

**Telephone Number:** (507)697-6912

**Email** mortoncityhall@mchsi.com

**Web Address** http://www.mortonmn.com

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**Location**

**Region:** Central, Southwest

**County Name:** Redwood, Renville

**City / Township:** Morton/Birch Coulee

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_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL _____%



## I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project will connect the many and varied natural, cultural, and historic sites in Morton to the Minnesota River State Water Trail. It will provide paddlers their only access to potable water between New Ulm and Granite Falls (86 river miles). Paddlers cannot now access the Morton Outcrops SNA, home to the oldest accessible thing on the planet; Morton Gneiss, or access the historic sites at the heart of the US-Dakota War, or learn about the impact of the Glacial River Warren. This project will connect paddlers to all of these rich natural and cultural sites, and to the land and the historically significant culture of Morton. It will purchase the necessary land, construct the needed amenities and trails, provide for the design and construction of interpretive kiosks, and purchase bicycles for paddlers for their use during their visit. This will be the Phase I of the Charles Eastman – Ohiyesa Trail Network. Phase II will complete the network connecting paddlers to the Lower Sioux Reservation, Interpretive Center, Birch Coulee Battlefield, and many other significant sites.

Project Goal: Enhance and connect existing cultural, recreational & natural resource assets by acquiring connecting pieces of land building a network of connecting trails, a trailhead, and interpretive kiosks.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

**Activity 1:** Design & make Construction Drawings for CCM Crews, Interpretive Package.

**Budget: \$50,000**

Outcome	Completion
Design of Interpretive Package: Includes graphic signature and 16-20 kiosk panel designs Design of the following Network Elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN River State Water Trailhead Complex: Canoe landing, water, toilet, parking, kiosk, bicycle racks, and canoe campsite.</li> <li>• 1862 War Monument Trail: .4 mile hiking/biking trail sited along existing city streets with glacial River Warren kiosk.</li> <li>• Morton Rock Outcrops interpretive trail and kiosk.</li> <li>• Morton City trails along existing city streets with downtown kiosk.</li> </ul>	December 2015

**Activity 2:** Acquire 31 acre site for MN River Water Trailhead/canoe landing.

**Budget: \$62,000**

Outcome	Completion
Parcel connects Gneiss SNA, 1862 War Monument to the Minnesota River and allows for the development of both a trailhead and canoe campground with City of Morton ownership.	December 2015

**Activity 3:** Purchase used bicycles.

**Budget: \$1,000**

Outcome	Completion
Bicycles will be available for canoe travelers at the landing/campground for touring the connecting natural, cultural and historic sites.	December 2016

**Activity 4:** Build the Designs Created in Activity 1

**Budget: \$85,200**

Outcome	Completion
Youth and Young Adult Conservation Corps Minnesota crews staffed with young adults and at-risk youths (local youth given preference) will build the designs created in Activity 1. Local contractors will augment the work where necessary, and the Center for Changing Landscapes will be available for advice. <b>Proposed Elements: Morton &amp; Renville County (see attached map):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN River State Water Trailhead Complex: Canoe landing, water, toilet, parking, kiosk and canoe campsite.</li> <li>• 1862 War Monument Trail: .4 mile hiking/biking trail sited along existing city streets with glacial River Warren kiosk.</li> <li>• Morton Rock Outcrops interpretive trail .3 mile light on the land trail and kiosk.</li> <li>• Morton City trails along existing paved city streets (1.1 miles) with downtown kiosk.</li> </ul>	December 2016



### **III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

#### **A. Project Team/Partners**

##### **Partners receiving ENRTF money:**

- Center for Changing Landscapes: site, interpretive package, & interpretive element design, construction drawings and construction consultation.
- Conservation Corp of Minnesota, Youth & Young Adult Corps: site construction.

##### **Partners receiving ENRTF money and providing in-kind:**

- City of Morton: fiscal agent, fee title acquisition, construction management and in-kind city trails.

##### **Partners not receiving ENRTF money:**

- DNR: in-kind design consultation.
- Green Corridor, Inc: in-kind land acquisition services.
- Minnesota Valley History Learning Center - interpretation consultation.
- Renville County – construction management consultation.

#### **B. Timeline Requirements**

The project requires two and one half years to complete because it needs to be built during construction season, after trail and land acquisition is accomplished.

#### **C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

This is Phase I of the two-phased Charles Eastman – Ohiyesa Trail Network Project. When complete, Minnesota River State Water Trail users will be connected to the Lower Sioux Reservation, Interpretive Center, Birch Coulee Battlefield and the area's many other significant sites.

## 2014 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Connecting the Minnesota River Water Trail and Morton

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Personnel: None All work by Contract</b>	\$ -
<b>Contracts:</b> Conservation Corp of Minnesota 4 weeks of crew work at \$4500 per crew week	\$ 18,000
<b>Contracts:</b> City of Morton Fiscal Host @1% of project not including in kind land value	\$ 1,700
<b>Contracts:</b> Project Construction Manager @ 5% of project not including in kind land value	\$ 8,500
<b>Contract:</b> Design Center for Changing Landscape U of M	\$ 50,000
<b>Contracts:</b> Local Contractor for Earth Moving and Heavy Equipment as needed	\$ 5,000
<b>Contracts:</b> Local Contractor for carpentry and cement work for rest rooms	\$ 5,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Locally sourced crushed granite for parking area	\$ 10,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Vegetative Barrier for trails and parking surfaces	\$ 2,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Used bicycles for use by paddlers	\$ 1,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Building Materials for Trailhead Restrooms, Picnic Area Amenities, SNA interpretive trail, Interpretive signage	\$ 35,000
<b>Acquisition Fee Title</b> 31 Acres Morton Trail Head Trailhead Purchase from willing seller	\$62,000
<b>Travel:</b> Public Employees will be compensated by employer others will be volunteers	\$ -
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b>	\$ -
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 198,200</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	
<b>In-Kind Services:</b> City of Morton Street marking, Curb Cuts	\$ 10,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>In-Kind Services:</b> DNR design consultation	\$ 3,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>In-Kind Services:</b> Minnesota Valley History Learning Center interpretive consultation	\$ 3,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>In-Kind Services:</b> Renville County construction management services	\$ 3,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Funding History:</b> None	\$ -	-

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**  
**2014 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List**

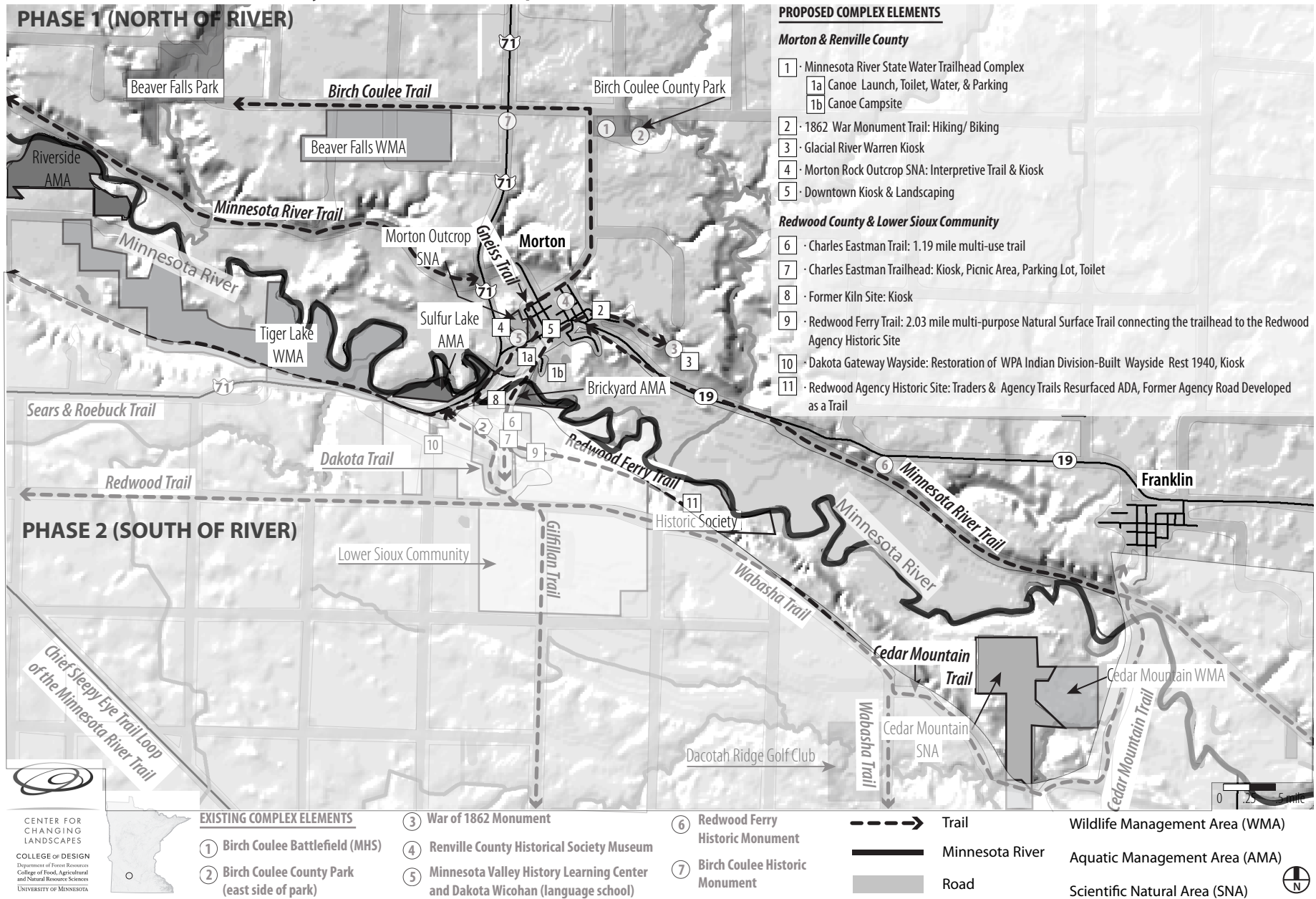
**Project Title:** Connecting the Minnesota River Water Trail and Mortor

**Project Manager Name:** Carl Colwell

**ENRTF \$ Request:** \$ 198,200

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		County	Estimated Cost	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
		Latitude	Longitude								
1	Morton Trail Head	46-293816	94-619258	Renville	62000	Minnesota River	Fee Title	31	0.5	Private	City of Morton
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
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9											
<b>NOTES:</b>											

# Charles Eastman (Ohiyesa) Trail Complex





## **Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**

### **2014 Main Proposal**

#### **Project Title: Connecting the Minnesota River Water Trail and Morton**

**Project Manager.** Carl Colwell will be the Project Manager.

#### **Education:**

- **Saint Mary College (Leavenworth, KS)**  
Master of Science degree in Management (4.0 GPA)
- **United States Military Academy (West Point, NY)**  
Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering (Dean's List)

#### **Achievements:**

- **Current Bush Fellow**  
Charged with developing rural leaders capable of affecting sustainable change in Southwestern Minnesota
- **Joint Staff Directorate 2001 Action Officer of the Year**  
Briefing the President of the United States and working with the National Security Council to develop National Security Strategy during a critical period of U.S. history.

#### **Experience Relating to this Project Proposal:**

- Managed all operational, marketing, and funding aspects of a multi-year, multi-million dollar, strategic planning software development contract as a Principal in an International Corporation.
- Began, and currently serve as the Director of the Minnesota Valley History Learning Center which brings a new industry to the area focused on compelling, local, natural and cultural resources. The concept will draw, educate, and entertain students from all over the State, and create opportunities for local businesses for years to come.
- Worked with the Department of Natural Resources, and the Green Corridor to preserve and develop a Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) for the State of Minnesota consisting of over 14 acres of ancient geologic formations, and rare flora, and fauna.
- As the Director of the Renville County Historical Society, designed and erected a series of interpretive panels concerning the 1862 US-Dakota War.

**Organization.** The City of Morton will serve as the sponsoring organization.

**Morton** is a small, rural community in Southwestern Minnesota and is home to a Department of Natural Resources Scientific and Natural Area focused upon a large, natural outcrop of Morton Gneiss, the oldest accessible thing on Planet Earth. Morton is also in the flow of the Glacial River Warren, and very near many of the historic sites of the 1862 US-Dakota war. Morton is also very near a number of State Wildlife and Aquatic Management Areas. We do not have the resources to optimize the State's investment in the area.

**Vision (written in 2007, validated every year since).** We intend to create a beautiful town that is considered a destination for tourists, businesses, new residents, and shoppers. Our town will be a vibrant business community that will include retail businesses, craftsmen, manufacturing, services, agriculture, arts and tourism. Our town will provide opportunities for people to better themselves through meaningful work and provide an adequate housing supply for people starting out in life, those in midlife, and those in retirement. Our town will respect and care for our seniors and our kids alike. Our town will provide quality basic municipal services at affordable costs. Our town will always be our home.

