

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 270-G**

Winona's 1st Recreation Bridge over Highway 61

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

**Sub-Category:**

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 3,375,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** June 30, 2021 (2 yrs)

**Summary:**

Winona's 1st Recreation Bridge over Highway 61 offers safe passage and connects the Mississippi River Trail and downtown bike trails to Bluffsides Park and Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest.

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**Name:** Brian DeFrang

**Sponsoring Organization:** City of Winona

**Title:** City Engineer

**Department:** Engineering Department

**Address:** 207 Lafayette St, Rm 205 (PO Box 378)

Winona MN 55987

**Telephone Number:** (507) 457-8269

**Email** bdefrang@ci.winona.mn.us

**Web Address** www.cityofwinona-mn.org

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**Location**

**Region:** Southeast

**County Name:** Winona

**City / Township:** Winona

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

Winona's 1st Recreation Bridge over Highway 61 offers safe passage and connects the Mississippi River Trail and downtown bike trails to Bluffsides Park and Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge Base
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extent of Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific/Tech Basis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urgency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capacity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOTAL <input type="checkbox"/> %
<input type="checkbox"/> If under \$200,000, waive presentation?							

Project Activity. Winona's first Recreation Bridge over Highway 61 would offer safe passage and connect the Mississippi River Trail and downtown bike trails to Bluffside Park and Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest. This forest heralds above and within the Paleozoic Plateau, comprising 1,016,204 acres throughout seven counties in Minnesota. The people of Winona have made ardent efforts to provide numerous recreation opportunities in Minnesota's Driftless Region, and Winona has been awarded by the League of American Bicyclists for being a bicycle friendly community (Bronze 2013-2017).

Winona is a vibrant town situated between the Mississippi River to the north and bluffs to the south. Highway 61 divides the city, with posted speeds of 45 mph (west) and 55 mph (east). Map 1. According to MN DOT's Traffic Count Office there are on average 18,500 vehicles using Highway 61 daily between the intersections of Highway 14 (west) and Mankato Avenue (east).

Outcome 1. 2021. A bridge between Parks and Mankato Avenues will connect 5.5 miles of Lake Park Trails to 9.5 miles of Bluffside Park Trails on Lake Boulevard. The proposed bridge site will also connect trails in town over the highway to Lake Boulevard, where a well worn path has been used precariously for decades. There is a community need for a safer option to cross the highway. Last fall a petition collected almost 300 signatures.

The trails are frequently used during all hours of the day by walkers, runners, strollers, cyclists, longboards, rollerblades, rollerskis, and hosts many 5K races, a triathlon, and special events throughout the year. Currently ten 5K/10K races are known to be scheduled between mid April and June. Now in its 10th year, Winona's own Trinona Triathlon is nationally attended by 650 participants and hundreds of volunteers. The Beethoven Festival is in its 12th year and their free concert on Lake Park gathers up to 5,500 people. (No official data for trail use exists.)

Outcome 2. 2021. This recreation bridge will offer safe transport over Highway 61 by also connecting up to 70 miles of road routes through the forest designated for bikes in the Winona area that cross the highway at some point if heading away from, or towards the city. In addition, The Mississippi River Trail's (MRT) 16 mile leg in Winona begins at Prairie Island Park along the river and continues across the highway winding through the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest towards Pickwick Mill.

Outcome 3. 2021. Parks Avenue is on a direct path to the site of a new YMCA facility being built along the north side of the highway. The Winona YMCA was founded in the 1880's and today continues to be a pillar of this community. Last year on average 548 members used the Y daily. This new facility will increase foot and bike traffic (as well as car traffic) along this area. The current Y building has been sold, ground breaking activities for the new site are scheduled to commence this summer. Y members and staff are enthusiastic about a bridge and how it will improve safety near their campus while offering an alternative to driving.

Winona State University's campus is in town, and Saint Mary's University and Minnesota Southeast Technical College are on the other side of Highway 61. According to U.S. Census

Bureau 2016 data, Winona's total population is 27,372. The combined college and university populations make up close to a third of the total population and represent a substantial user base for the Lake Park Path north of Highway 61 and the trails in the bluffs south of Highway 61 and need a convenient, safe connection between the trails.

Outcome 4. 2021. In addition to recreation access, this bridge would also provide a safe crossing for highschool (north of Hwy 61) and middle school students (south of Hwy 61) who bike to school and cross the highway, and for many others who walk or bike to school or work. Track, cross-country and ski teams run across the highway, and during the Trinona bike race the highway is closed and police officers direct traffic. This connection would also serve as a key transition from the Lake Park Path onto the Lake Boulevard Bike Boulevard that is planned to be implemented in the future by the Complete Streets Policy and Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan (this plan is still to be designed and will likely incorporate the proposed bridge).

The impact of these outcomes will increase access to: 1. Recreation activities in forests, parks and trails and 2. a commuter link for activities of daily living that promote a healthy lifestyle. The impact of these outcomes will empower youth, promote independence for all ages and abilities, encourage earth friendly options and reduce the carbon footprint. Building the bridge with the Legislative Citizens Commission for Minnesota Resources will positively highlight democratic efforts of local citizens and opportunities of state programs. These fundamental values are invaluable and far reaching in a globally aware society. To evaluate outcomes MN DOT has offered the use of their bicycle/pedestrian tube and infrared counter to measure traffic once this bridge is built.

The City of Winona is the Project Partner and assumes responsibility for ongoing upkeep of the bridge. Winona's City Engineer Brian deFrang will serve as Project Manager working with MN DOT and the bridge contractor, and City Manager Stephen Sarvi will oversee operations and public communications. The proposed type of bridge will have a painted steel truss span over the highway and galvanized stay-in-place decking (poured concrete deck) with a life expectancy of 50 years. MN DOT has conducted a very preliminary review. MN DOT will have final determination after a preliminary engineering investigation with its specialty offices. The west side of Parks Avenue is owned by the city, 323204290. Other possible sites are 2 acre parcels 323207460 and 323207480, and the approximate 175 foot MN DOT Right of Way.

The consideration of the Legislative Citizens Commission for Minnesota Resources to fund this project with proceeds from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund is gratefully acknowledged. We thank you for this opportunity and for your thoughtful consideration, the city of Winona looks forward to making this bridge a reality.

## 2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Winona's 1st Recreation Bridge

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
Personnel: Project Assistant(s): Environmental Natural Resource / Recreation Management Undergraduate Internship(s) (2 FTE @3 months, or 1 FTE @6 months; 20,000 salary, 5,000 benefits)	\$ 25,000
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: A complete in place project with a General Contractor (such as Minnowa in Harmony) entering into contract with the City for the entire project. The GC would hire the subcontractors and pay for any materials to complete the project.	\$ 3,000,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Not Applicable	\$ -
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): 323207460 2 acre Carabelli Properties LLC, 323207480 2 acre Winona Community Memorial Hospital	\$ 50,000
Travel: Not Applicable	\$ -
Additional Budget Items: Engineering and Inspection Costs	\$ 300,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 3,375,000</b>

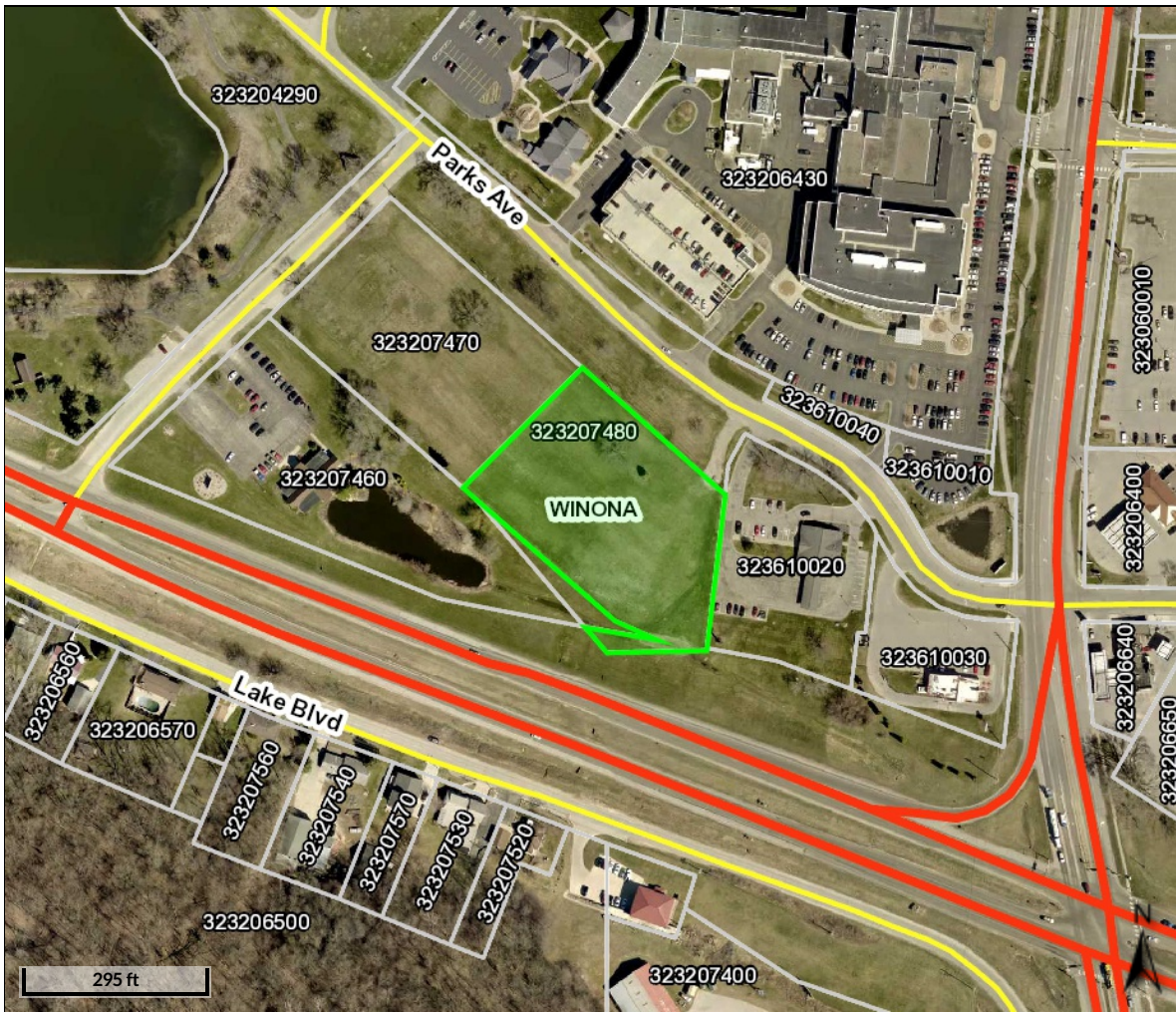
### V. OTHER FUNDS (This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: Not Applicable	\$ -	
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: DNR Park & Trail Fund can not be combined with the ENRTF. Not Applicable.	\$ -	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: City Project Administration	\$ 95,000	secured
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation: Not Applicable	\$ -	
Other Funding History: Not Applicable	\$ -	

Attachment C:  
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
M.L. 2019 Acquisition/Restoration Parcel List Spreadsheet  
Project Title: Winona's 1st Recreation Bridge over Highway 61  
Legal Citation: TBD  
Project Manager: Brian deFrang  
Organization: City of Winona  
College/Department/Division: Engineering  
M.L. 2019 ENRTF Appropriation: Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation  
Project Length and Completion Date: 2021  
Today's Date: 11 April 2018



#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (preferably from the center of the parcel) Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance (please include what ecosystem (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna) is represented as well as the ecological significance, site importance, conservation value, and public benefits)	Activity Description (e.g. fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, restoration)	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner (private individual or trust, non-profit organization, for-profit entity)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status of work (e.g. engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway)
		Latitude	Longitude										
1													
2													
3													
NOTES: Hwy 61 was originally a railroad, this portion is 100' wide and is owned by the state. The state has easements of the land under the highway from private property owners. The property owners are subject to the public's ROW. The city of Winona is guardian of public easement. The property owners on Lake Boulevard (south of HWY 61) own 66' towards the highway from the boulevard. Lake Boulevard is in favor of the public, the highway is in favor of the state, both are under easements. The caveat will be determining who owns the underlying property. MN DOT has 200' ROW on Hwy 61. According to Kleinschmidt Surveying, technically easements for right of passage are interpreted fairly broadly because the bridge can be considered part of the highway without having to acquire adjacent easements. Using ROW for the structure may or may not fall within the confines of easements, and additional rights may have to be purchased. An ADA compatible bridge requires 1-2% grade. The best possible outcome would be to use MN DOT's ROW on HWY 61. Outcome of acquisition / easement requirements for this project will be determined after MN DOT's full preliminary engineering investigation and site identification.													



#### Overview



#### Legend

- Municipalities
- Winona Boundary
- Roads**
  - Other
  - Interstate
  - US/State Highway
  - City Streets
  - County Road
  - Township Road
  - Private Drive
  - Parcel

<b>Parcel ID</b>	323207480	<b>Alternate ID</b>	n/a	<b>Owner Address</b>	WINONA COMMUNITY MEM HOSPITAL
<b>Sec/Twp/Rng</b>	35-107-007	<b>Class</b>	920 - HOSPITAL-PUBLIC		855 MANKATO AVE
<b>Property Address</b>	WINONA	<b>Acreage</b>	n/a		WINONA, MN 55987
<b>District</b>	WINONA CITY				
<b>Brief Tax Description</b>	Sect-35 Twp-107 Range-007 LIMITS PAR IN N 1/2 NE 1/4 COMMENCING SW COR NE 1/4 NE 1/4 E 163' L 82 DEG 216' L 55 DEG 283' L 85 DEG 250' SE 315' TO BEG				
	(Note: Not to be used on legal documents)				

**Note:** This map is created from data contained in Winona County GIS and is for reference purposes only. While significant effort has been invested to depict boundary extents as accurately as possible per existing records, this map should not be considered a replacement for professional land survey.

Date created: 4/10/2018  
Last Data Uploaded: 4/10/2018 12:29:29 AM



Developed by  
The Schneider Corporation





## ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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April 4, 2018

The Legislative Citizen Commission for Minnesota Resources  
Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Room 65 State Office Building  
Saint Paul MN 55155

To Whom It May Concern:

As part of the grant submittal criteria we are responsible to list the credentials of the listed Project Manager. The Project Manager for this project would be Brian DeFrang, P.E.. He has been City Engineer for the City of Winona since July of 2004. In that time he has administered numerous grants such as MnDOT Waterways, MnDOT State Aid, FHWA, DNR, MPCA and other grant sources. He has been project manager for over 100 projects in his career at the City of Winona and in the private sector. The experience he possesses aligns itself well with what is needed for this project.

Regarding the Organization Description it is as follows:

The City of Winona is governed by its Home Rule Charter which was approved by the city's voters in 1968. Under this system, the Mayor and City Council are responsible for development of overall policy while the City Manager is responsible for the implementation of this policy in the city's day-to-day operations.

Please contact me for any clarification needed or for any other questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian DeFrang".

Brian DeFrang, P.E.  
City Engineer

