



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-021

Proposal Title: Soo Line Trail Trestle Bridge

Project Manager Information

Name: Dillon Hayes

Organization: Mille Lacs County

Office Telephone: (320) 983-8232

Email: dillon.hayes@millelacs.mn.gov

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Replace the existing Soo Line Trail trestle bridge to improve habitat connectivity, mitigate shoreline erosion and degradation of the river channel, and expand outdoor recreational opportunities.

Funds Requested: \$725,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2022-10-31

LCCMR Funding Category: Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation (G)

Project Location

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

Region(s): Central

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

Region(s): Central

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Narrative

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

The existing Soo Line Trail trestle bridge was installed approximately 100 years ago when the railroad was constructed. The bridge utilizes many pilings, with additional pilings from earlier renditions of the bridge still in place. These pilings restrict passage by fish species, individuals traversing the Rum River State Water Trail, and organic debris exiting Lake Onamia. These restrictions have negatively impacted habitat connectivity and resulted in excessive erosion of the adjacent shoreline; necessary efforts to address these issues by entering the River with heavy equipment have only furthered degradation the surrounding habitat and downstream water quality. The pilings have also modified the stream flow, resulting in accumulation of sediment at the base of the pilings and erosion of the stream bed; this also serves to restrict fish passage and habitat connectivity. Additionally, the perceived instability of the bridge has limited use of the bridge by wary pedestrians and motorized recreational vehicles.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.

By replacing the existing trestle bridge with a new bridge many pilings can be eliminated. The pilings or supports that will be utilized for a new bridge will be designed in accordance with currently-accepted engineering practices to minimize their impact. The adjacent stream bank will also be restored, providing a resource and recreational benefit. This will restore connectivity of both the in-stream and riparian habitats, and further serve to promote utilization of this recreational resource. The embankments will also be constructed in a manner which will enable them to be utilized in the event that equipment is required to remove organic debris, serving a dual benefit by enhancing recreational opportunities provided by the structure and eliminating the need to enter the water if organic debris need to be removed.

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?

The project will conserve natural resources by eliminating the loss of vegetation and soil matter caused by stream bank erosion. The project will also enhance habitat connectivity, eliminating the existing impediments to fish passage caused by the pilings and associated changes to stream morphology. The project will also enhance and expand recreational opportunities by promoting safe passage of the Soo Line Trail and utilization of the bridge location for other recreational uses.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Engineering & Permitting

Activity Budget: \$25,000

Activity Description:

The bridge, embankments, and associated earth work will be completely engineered and plan sets will be developed. These plans will be utilized to complete necessary environmental review and obtain necessary permits. This work will include coordination with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to develop plans for stream bank and stream bed restoration.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Engineering	2021-10-31
Environmental Review	2021-11-30
Permitting	2022-01-31

Activity 2: Bid Letting & Construction

Activity Budget: \$700,000

Activity Description:

The project will be let, awarded, and the selected contractor will complete construction.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Bid Letting	2022-03-31
Award Project	2022-04-30
Construction	2022-10-31

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 be funded?

The results will be implemented after receipt of the award by completing necessary engineering and permitting. The project would be let the following winter for construction to be completed in 2022. Necessary maintenance of the bridge would be funded by Mille Lacs County and maintained as a part of Soo Line Trail infrastructure.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Dillon Hayes

Job Title: Environmental Resources Manager/Land Commissioner

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Dillon Hayes has been employed with Mille Lacs County for approximately five years. In that time he has managed approximately \$1.5 million in county infrastructure projects and is responsible for the oversight of the county's parks, trails, and tax-forfeited properties. Dillon holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Minnesota, and a Master of Public Administration from St. Cloud State University.

Organization: Mille Lacs County

Organization Description:

Mille Lacs County is a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Engineering of the bridge structure, including necessary surveying and environmental review and permitting.				0.01		\$25,000
							Sub Total	\$25,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
		Bridge	Transportation Across Rum River					\$700,000
							Sub Total	\$700,000
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-

Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$725,000

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
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
In-Kind	Mille Lacs County	Staff time utilized to coordinate engineering. Staff time for project management during the construction project.	Secured	\$25,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$25,000
			Funds Total	\$25,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [246a2cae-079.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

The visual component indicates, with aerial photography, the physical location of the bridge to be replaced and how it is situated in relation to the Rum River. The visual component also includes a location map showing where the City of Onamia, where the bridge is situated, is located within Mille Lacs County.

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Resolution	fef74736-2bf.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Most Recent Financial Statement	4291bce1-a52.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Does your project have patent, royalties, or revenue potential?

No

Does your project include research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

