



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

## 2024 Request for Proposal

### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2024-107

**Proposal Title:** Wildcat Park and Landing Improvements

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Brian Pogodzinski

**Organization:** Houston County

**Office Telephone:** (507) 725-3925

**Email:** brian.pogodzinski@co.houston.mn.us

### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** Houston County is proposing a roadway access rehabilitation project and bathroom addition to Wildcat Park located on the banks of the Mississippi River in Southeastern Minnesota.

**Funds Requested:** \$500,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** October 31, 2025

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

### Project Location

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

Region(s): SE

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

Statewide

**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.**

Wildcat Park and Landing is located just south of Brownsville, MN on land leased by Houston County from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Houston County has established specific Rules and Regulations regarding camping and day-use of the facility. At the present time, Wildcat Park features 94 campsites, 3 picnic shelters, 2 boat landings, and one fishing pier. Over 2/3 of the campsites include water and electricity. This campground is an access point to the Mississippi River and attracts visitors from across the tri-state region. Currently, there is one bathroom located on the northern side of the campground and portable toilets on the southern side. There is only one access road into Wildcat Park, with the roadway pavement condition deteriorating rapidly.

### **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.**

Houston County is proposing a roadway access rehabilitation project that will greatly improve the accessibility to the campground. The single access to the park is located on State Trunk Highway 26 and must cross the railroad tracks to access this area. The pavement condition on this access is rapidly deteriorating and Houston County looks to resurface the entrance road. Additional bituminous surfacing includes installing pavement at the campground entrance, parking lot area used by boaters and park visitors, and the RV dump station. This project will provide the visitors with better access to the river and facilities located at Wildcat Park.

Houston County is also looking to upgrade the restroom facilities at the south side of the park. Currently, the park uses portable bathrooms in this location, which are pumped weekly. The portable bathrooms are not an ideal use based on the proximity to the river and the amount of use that they generate. The project would include the construction of a permanent restroom facility with in-ground holding tanks. This project will provide visitors with a permanent restroom facility near their campsites and picnic shelter.

### **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 roadway access improvement and restroom facility at Wildcat park will provide visitors access to the Mississippi River for hunting, fishing, and recreation. The project will provide better facilities for entering and exiting the park, parking, and using the RV waste disposal area. The restroom addition will eliminate the use of portable bathrooms, which will be a betterment to the natural resources of the Mississippi River basin. The restroom building will also provide park users with an updated facility which will enhance their experience at Wildcat Park.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Project Construction

**Activity Budget:** \$500,000

**Activity Description:**

The roadway access rehabilitation project will construct the single access point located off State Trunk Highway 26 and will cross the railroad tracks into the park. The project will remove the existing pavement and provide subgrade preparation of the area to be surfaced. The pavement will then be placed on the access road to provide the structural support and smoothness for the new entrance.

The project will also include the construction of a new restroom on the south end of the park. The project will consist of extending utilities to the location, placing in-ground storage tanks, and a new restroom building structure. Utility hookups, a handicap accessible walking route, and general landscaping items will be completed to finalize this portion of the project.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Project Bids Awarded	February 28, 2025
Construction Start	May 31, 2025
Construction Completion	August 31, 2025
Facility Open to the Public	September 30, 2025

## 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?**

The proposed project will provide the initial construction of the access road and restroom facility. The facilities will be opened to the public after the completion of the project. Houston County will provide the long-term maintenance of the roadway and building at Wildcat Park.

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Brian Pogodzinski

**Job Title:** County Engineer

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

The County Engineer oversees the Highway Department, which includes the operation and maintenance of the roadway, airport, and park systems within Houston County. The County Engineer oversees the overall budget and management of this division and is qualified to draft proposals and manage projects starting from capital improvement planning and project design through inspection and construction closeout. Managing multiple contracts throughout the year, many similar to the project that is being proposed, is a matter of routine business for Houston County. The Engineer is responsible for ensuring the Contracts that are awarded meet the requirements of the various funding sources.

**Organization:** Houston County

**Organization Description:**

Houston County - Department of Transportation: The Houston County Highway Department is responsible for the design, construction, inspection, maintenance, and repair of the Houston County highway system. The Department also manages and oversees the Houston County Airport and County Parks.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
General Contractor	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The general contractor will be responsible for all of the construction activities. The general contractor will be hired through a competitive bidding process.				8		\$500,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	\$500,000
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>								

							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
							<b>Grand Total</b>	\$500,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
---------------	---------------------	-------------	--

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-



## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [ed1644db-e44.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

Map of Wildcat Park and Landing showing proposed area to be paved and restroom facility area....

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
LCCMR Letter	<a href="#">846e99a5-657.pdf</a>
Board Resolution	<a href="#">66380b12-ff5.pdf</a>

## Administrative Use

**Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?**

No

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

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 design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset costing \$10,000 or more?**

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?**

No

