



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-123

Proposal Title: Kanabec County PLS Corner Restoration

Project Manager Information

Name: Chad Gramentz

Organization: Kanabec County

Office Telephone: (320) 679-6302

Email: chad.gramentz@co.kanabec.mn.us

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Restore 63 Public Land Survey corners in Kanabec County, located in 4 Townships (Ford, Peace, Knife Lake, and Arthur Townships)

Funds Requested: \$152,000

Proposed Project Completion: July 31, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary Category: Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information (A)

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 and In the Future

Narrative

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

The Public Land Survey (PLS) was performed in Minnesota from 1847 to 1905. Most of these PLS corners were originally wooden posts. The Government Land Office (GLO) originally set these corners and gave the power of maintaining them to the State. The State gave that responsibility to the Counties. Kanabec County estimates that 80% of the PLS corners in the county have been certified with geodetic coordinates determined.

These corners affect every land owner in the County. PLS monuments are necessary to accurately depict land ownership and interest in real property, which has impacts on land transfers, parcel subdivisions, property taxation, hunting and mineral rights and granting of easements. The environmental or land tie to this proposal is clear in that all resources, their use and delineation, require some description related to the corners of the PLSS. With the loss of one ¼ section corner every parcel of land within two sections are affected, the loss of one section corner has the same adverse effect in four sections.

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.

The Kanabec County Surveyor will restore and certify the remaining corners of the PLS in Ford Township (T.42N, R. 23 W), Peace Township (T.41N, R.23W), Knife Lake Township (T.40N, R24W) and Arthur Township (T.39N, R.24W). By certifying and collecting highly accurate geodetic coordinates on these monuments, we will preserve their position and also allow them to be utilized in GIS dataset to improve the accuracy of related GIS data. This information can also be easily imported into the MNGEO Statewide Database as well.

Ford Township- 32 remaining corners

Peace Township- 16 remaining corners

Knife Lake Township- 10 remaining corners

Arthur Township- 5 remaining corners

Total of 63 corners to be restored by this application.

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 MN DNR, MNDOT and Kanabec County rely on these corner positions to manage and delineate State School Trust land, State Forest land, State Wildlife Management areas, public water accesses, public highway easements, mark timber harvests and prepare easement/access agreements. Examples include management of the Snake River State Forest, Bean Dam Wildlife Management Area, Hay-Snake Wildlife Management Area, Vasaloppet Ski Trails, Knife Lake Dam easements, Ann Lake Wildlife Management Area, and Historical Sites along the Snake River, Ann River, and Knife River. These corners will aid in the purchase of conservation land and easements.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Records Research

Activity Budget: \$15,000

Activity Description:

PLSS Remonumentation requires extensive research prior to commencing with field work. The Kanabec County Surveyor will collect various records and compile them into preliminary corner coordinates in order to determine search areas and complete preliminary analysis. . By thoroughly examining the records, the prudent surveyor can be confident that the proper location of the corner has been monumented.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Preliminary Research and search area computations	October 31, 2024

Activity 2: Field Search and monumentation

Activity Budget: \$116,000

Activity Description:

A thorough field search for corner evidence and final monumentation of the PLSS position. The goal is to find the position of the original monument that the GLO surveyor set.

Field reconnaissance of the area using the record research data of the Public Land Survey methods is necessary in order to narrow the search area for exploring the area for evidence. Much reconnaissance can be completed utilizing GIS maps and imagery overlays, but it cannot replace a site visit. Checks to nearby natural feature calls or other known information can often reveal alternate positions to consider in the field. In some instances excavations with backhoe equipment may be necessary to search for buried monumentation, especially in roadways.

A retracement survey is made in order to locate existing monuments, occupation lines, possible corner locations and natural feature calls from PLSS field notes and historical corner positions which were identified in the research process.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Verify any known adjacent corners required for restoration	February 28, 2026
Initial Search for unknown corners and corner excavations	November 30, 2026
Final determination and monumentation	March 31, 2027

Activity 3: Corner Certification

Activity Budget: \$21,000

Activity Description:

A Certificate of Location of Government Corner shall be prepared and filed for each PLSS corner recovered and/or monumented according to Minnesota Statutes 381.12. This certificate shall be a complete document relating to the location, monumentation, perpetuation and history of a corner. The certificates will be recorded in the Kanabec County Recorder's office and available on the Kanabec County Surveyor's web page. A certificate of survey map will be prepared that shows the extent of the project. The survey will be recorded in the county recorder's office and available

at the county highway department. This survey ensures all stakeholders will be able to see the work completed by searching the public record.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Final Certificates recorded at the Kanabec County Recorder's office	July 31, 2027
Certificate of Survey recorded at the Kanabec County Recorder's office	July 31, 2027

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Tyler Kroschel	Kroschel Land Surveyors, Inc.	County Surveyor	Yes

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?

Once certified and recorded, the corner positions will be added to the Kanabec County GIS database and other foundational data will be able to be updated. Any funding needed for long term maintenance of the corners will be provided by Kanabec County. In the future, Kanabec County intends to request additional funds through the LCCMR to restore PLS corners in other Townships of the county. At present, there are approximately 200 corners left to restore in Kanabec County. This proposal would restore 63 of those corners.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Chad Gramentz

Job Title: County Surveyor

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.
part time County Surveyor (private contractor for Kanabec County)

Organization: Kanabec County

Organization Description:
County Government (County Highway Department)

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
County Surveyor		Land Surveyor			0%	0.3		\$64,500
Survey crew		Field crew			0%	0.3		\$64,500
							Sub Total	\$129,000
Contracts and Services								
Backhoe Operator, if necessary (Private Firm, or County Operator)	Sub award	Digging with backhoe during excavation searches				0.06		\$20,000
							Sub Total	\$20,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	63 rebar monuments, 63 aluminum caps, 63 steel posts	Permanent materials to mark PLS corners					\$3,000
							Sub Total	\$3,000
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
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	\$152,000

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				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [36057450-f62.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Section Corner Map and County Board Resolution...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
County Board Resolution	c0d49337-35d.pdf

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?

No

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