



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-286

Proposal Title: Implementing the Mississippi River Greenway Interpretive Plan

Project Manager Information

Name: Autumn Hubbell

Organization: Dakota County

Office Telephone: (651) 554-6536

Email: autumn.hubbell@co.dakota.mn.us

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Dakota County seeks to develop the final design plan for, and fabricate and install, the four remaining interpretive sites or exhibits conceptualized in the Mississippi River Greenway Interpretive Plan.

Funds Requested: \$1,800,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Environmental Education (C)

Project Location

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

Region(s): Metro

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

Region(s): Metro

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 Mississippi River Greenway is a recreational trail that when completed, will travel 27 miles along the west side of the Mississippi River valley in eastern Dakota County, connecting to trail systems beyond the county's borders. The greenway provides benefits to water quality, habitat enhancement, recreation, and non-motorized transportation. In addition, it provides an opportunity to connect visitors to the natural and cultural history of the Mississippi River corridor. The design of the trail includes trailheads, picnicking, and wayside rests which provide ideal spaces for outdoor interpretation.

In 2014, Dakota County completed the Mississippi River Trail Interpretive + Experience Design plan which researched the stories of the Mississippi River Valley, developed interpretive themes, outlined specific natural and cultural history messaging for 10 interpretive sites along the greenway, and created conceptual design plans for delivering the messaging onsite. The interpretive theme for the greenway overall is the "River of Dreams", with the subthemes of "Movement and Connection", "Transformation and Change", and "The Pull of Place".

Dakota County has the opportunity to raise awareness among greenway visitors regarding their natural environment, habitat restoration and the river ecosystem, as well as the human connections to the Mississippi River, past and present.

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.

Since 2014, Dakota County has completed design development and fabrication and installation for a portion of the interpretive sites but is seeking funding for the remainder (those listed below). Funding would allow for the design development process to move forward, which would include finalizing content development for interpretive panels and moving any conceptual design to final design for installations. Dakota County would hire a consultant to facilitate the process, engage with communities whose stories are represented, and develop the design plans.

The site locations or nodes include (with the interpretive themes in parentheses):

- Kaposia Landing
- o The Working River, Then and Now (MOVEMENT AND CONNECTION)
- Spring Lake Park Reserve 1
- o River as Resource (THE PULL OF PLACE)
- Spring lake Park Reserve 2
- o Connect to the Land (THE PULL OF PLACE)
- Town of Nininger
- o Then and Now (THE PULL OF PLACE, TRANSFORMATION AND CHANGE)
- Lock and Dam No. 2
- o Working the River (MOVEMENT AND CONNECTION, TRANSFORMATION AND CHANGE)
- Hastings
- o Why Here? (THE PULL OF PLACE)

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?

Raise awareness and educate visitors to the Mississippi River Greenway on the natural history of the Mississippi River valley. Help trail users explore the ecosystems of the Mississippi River and its corridor. Provide opportunities to learn about stewardship efforts that visitors can be a part of. Interpret restoration projects along the greenway.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Design Development

Activity Budget: \$225,000

Activity Description:

Hire a consultant to build on the conceptual design found in the Interpretive Plan to finalize design development and produce print ready graphic panel files and shop drawings/construction documents for interpretive installations.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Research and Inventory	September 30, 2024
Development of Interpretive Framework for Nodes	December 31, 2024
Draft Design of Panels and Installations	April 30, 2025
Engagement with Represented Communities	June 30, 2025
Final Design of Panels and Installations	June 30, 2025

Activity 2: Fabrication and Installation

Activity Budget: \$1,575,000

Activity Description:

Through a competitive bidding process, hire a firm for administration, fabrication and installation of the interpretive nodes.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Preparation	October 31, 2025
Bidding Process	January 31, 2026
Fabrication	April 30, 2026
Site Preparation	June 30, 2026
Installation	October 31, 2026

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?

As a regional park implementing agency, Dakota County is well equipped to implement and maintain completed installations. The County currently maintains similar interpretive sites in many of its parks and greenways utilizing its existing operating and capital improvement budgets.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Reintroduction Of Bison To Spring Lake Park Reserve	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08q	\$560,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Autumn Hubbell

Job Title: Outdoor Education Supervisor

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

Autumn Hubbell has been the outdoor education supervisor with Dakota County Parks for over ten years. During this time, she has managed the implementation of a self-guided interpretive program that has included the engagement, planning, design, and fabrication of interpretive exhibits in nine parks and greenways within Dakota County Parks. Hubbell has managed projects funded with Legacy funding (Minnesota Historic and Cultural Heritage funds) and is a National Association for Interpretation certified interpretive planner.

Organization: Dakota County

Organization Description:

Located in the southeast corner of the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, the Dakota County Park System serves the state's third most populous county. With more than 5,000 acres and a rapidly growing network of greenways, Dakota County Parks is a nature-based system that exists to help meet the needs of over 400,000 county residents. Dakota County Parks has an active and professional capital development program that oversees park development to provide residents with facilities to enable natural resource-based recreation, a natural resource program that is restoring, maintaining, and enhancing hundreds of acres of prairie, forest and woodland, and a professional outdoor education program that manages and interprets the cultural and natural sites within the Dakota County Park System.

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	A contractor specializing in interpretive design will be selected by a competitive proposal process and will perform all needed work for the design development of the four interpretive nodes or exhibits.				0		\$225,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	A contractor specializing in fabrication and installation of interpretive nodes or exhibits will be selected through a competitive bidding process to perform all needed work for the fabrication and installation of the interpretive nodes or exhibits.				0		\$1,575,000
							Sub Total	\$1,800,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
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	\$1,800,000

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				
Cash	Dakota County Parks Capital Improvement Program	10% cash match for all project elements	Secured	\$200,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$200,000
			Funds Total	\$200,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [b206ff82-37b.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Image depicting the Mississippi River as it travels through Dakota County with icons indicating the locations of interpretive sites along the greenway corridor....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Dakota County Board Resolution 23-130	712489e4-40d.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Mississippi River Greenway Interpretive Plan	6193f3a3-bc6.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

