



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-295

Proposal Title: Historic Forestville Bridge - Preserving Recreational Connections

Project Manager Information

Name: Ronald Gregg

Organization: Fillmore County

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The project will rehabilitate the failing 1899 Historic Forestville Bridge, located in and owned by Fillmore County, connecting Forestville State Park to the Historic Forestville State Historic Site.

Funds Requested: \$1,993,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2026

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?

In the Future

Narrative

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

The Historic Forestville Bridge is a key connector of the Forestville State Park and the Forestville State Historic Site -- the bridge crosses the Root River and serves as the entry point to the 19th century village of Forestville. The bridge is part of County Road 118, owned by Fillmore County and is individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places within the Iron and Steel Bridges in Minnesota (1873-1945) context, one of more than 200 bridges listed on MN/DOT's list of historic bridges. The bridge is a contributing feature of the Forestville Historic District, listed in the National Register.

The bridge is in critical condition and has been closed to all vehicular, pedestrian and equine traffic. In addition to the structural elements of the bridge itself, abutments which support the bridge are deteriorating and in danger of failing. If the region were to experience a significant flood event, the impacts could be devastating to the historic bridge.

Repairing the historic bridge will provide a key connection for the Bluffland Segment of the Root River State Trail, which will extend from Preston to the State Park and Historic Site and enter the Site and Park via the bridge.

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 Historic Forestville Bridge is in critical need of repairs. If repairs are not made in the near future, the bridge will likely experience critical structural failure or suffer significant damage if the Root River experiences major flood events. This significant historic bridge could very well be lost forever.

Project funding will support design and engineering work; environmental and cultural resource compliance, including archaeological work, Federal and State regulatory reviews; and rehabilitation/construction of the historic bridge.

Without this river crossing, access to the historic site from the park is challenging, requiring a long detour. If this repair is not made, access to this state historic site will be significantly reduced. Currently, the State Park serves approximately 92,000 day visitors and 10,500 horseback riders each year, many of whom use the bridge to access trails within the park. The Historic Site averages 10,000 visitors each year.

Fillmore County, the MN Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Historical Society are closely collaborating on this LCCMR application in recognition of the importance of this bridge to the significant recreational and historic resources in the park and historic site, which contribute to the regional tourism economy.

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 Forestville Bridge, as a key connector of the Forestville State Park and the Historic Site, promotes and enhances recreational activities at these two locations. Visitors to the Forestville park and historic site enjoy hiking, biking, horseback riding and learning about our state's history, all connected via this important bridge.

Under various statutory definitions, historic resources, including the Historic Forestville Bridge and Historic Site, are defined as natural resources, and are worthy of protection. In addition, the State Park and Historic Site are part of the statutorily defined outdoor recreation system in Chapter 86A (86A.05, subdivisions 2 and 11).

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Historic Forestville Bridge Preservation

Activity Budget: \$1,993,000

Activity Description:

This activity will provide funding for:

- Environmental / Geotechnical Investigations & Cultural Resource Regulatory Reviews by State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and other required reviews
- Design & Engineering and Construction Administration
- Construction/rehabilitation of the historic bridge, replacement of decking for pedestrian, bicycle and horse traffic and reconstruction of abutments.

The ultimate outcome of the project will be rehabilitation of the Historic Forestville Bridge that will be used for visitors to the Forestville / Mystery Cave State Park and Historic Forestville Historic Site. This historic bridge is the major method of travel to the historic site from the park entrance and parking areas, and the bridge is used extensively by horse riders within the State Park.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Environmental / Geotechnical Investigations / Cultural Resource Regulatory Reviews Completed and Restoration/Construction Contract Executed	June 30, 2025
Design & Engineering and Construction Administration	June 30, 2025
Bridge Restoration / Construction Completed	June 30, 2026

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
David Kelliher or Ben Leonard	Minnesota Historical Society	Project Partner (with adjacent state historic site)	No
Phil Leversedge or Kent Skaar	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Project partner (with adjacent state park)	No

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?

Preservation of this important historic bridge will help to promote recreation by reconnecting the Forestville State Park and the Forestville Historic Site and prepare for future use by the Root River Trail. The bridge will be focused on recreational use after rehabilitation, rather than vehicle traffic. After rehabilitation is completed, Fillmore County, the DNR and the MNHS will continue to collaborate on ongoing maintenance and future ownership options for the bridge.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Ronald Gregg

Job Title: Ronald Gregg, PE, Fillmore County Engineer

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

Ronald Gregg, PE has worked in the capacity of a County Engineer for the past 24 years managing numerous road and bridge projects. Fillmore County has produced several multi-million dollar award winning projects over the last 11 years, with no signs of slowing down. Ronald has worked on projects with multiple funding sources such as State Aid, Federal Aid, Local Road Improvement funds, Highway Safety Improvement funds, Town Bridge funds, as well as Safe Routes to School funding. Ronald has worked with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on two other structures within Fillmore County which required archeological surveys. Ronald and the Fillmore County Highway Engineering staff are well seasoned professionals that can assist in all phases of road and bridge projects.

A good Project Manager will find the right people to do the job to produce an excellent outcome if he or she does not have the expertise to do so. Ronald Gregg, PE is motivated to take on this important task of rehabilitating this valuable piece of history for our future generations to enjoy.

Organization: Fillmore County

Organization Description:

Fillmore County, population 21, 271, is located on the southern border of Minnesota, and is the second county west of the Mississippi River. Named for Millard Fillmore, the 13th President of the United States, Fillmore county is both agricultural and historic. Tourism plays an important role in Fillmore County with the Root River State Trail and Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park, the Root River State Trail and Historic Forestville State Historic Site contributing recreational and educational experiences and economic impacts to Fillmore County communities.

The Fillmore County Highway Department will play a key role in rehabilitation of this historic bridge, which is currently a part of County Road 118.

Fillmore County Mission Statement: Fillmore County's mission is to provide quality services to its citizens in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

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	Permitting and Environmental/Cultural Resource Investigations and Reviews				0		\$150,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Engineering, Design, Construction Inspection and Construction Administration				0		\$220,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Construction - Bridge Rehabilitation including moving and repairing existing historic bridge, constructing bridge supports / abutments and returning bridge to original location for use as a recreational crossing.				0		\$1,623,000
							Sub Total	\$1,993,000
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	\$1,993,000

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: [73741826-f93.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Fillmore County Board resolution authorizing County staff to submit application to LCCMR for rehabilitation of CR118 Historic Forestville Bridge...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Fillmore County Board resolution authorizing County staff to submit application to LCCMR for rehabilitation of CR118 Historic Forestville Bridge	eeb0ddf6-cae.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Historic Forestville Bridge and State Park	e69f6e91-8cb.jpe
Historic View of Forestville Bridge - 1900	13d6a673-2c9.jpe
Historic Forestville Bridge view looking north	df50dd72-b6a.jpe
Historic Forestville bridge Eye Bar detail	c5e660ea-b78.jpe
Historic Forestville Bridge view looking west	f7b9cf6a-015.jpe
Map of Forestville State Park and Historic Site with photo of historic bridge	2f178343-024.jpe

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

