



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2025 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2025-055

Proposal Title: Cannon River Preservation and Access

Project Manager Information

Name: Lisa West

Organization: Dakota County

Office Telephone: (952) 891-7018

Email: Lisa.West@CO.DAKOTA.MN.US

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The project includes rehabilitating the historic Waterford Bridge for the Mill Towns State Trail, protecting and restoring land for habitat and improving recreational access to the Cannon River.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$3,032,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2028

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): Metro

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

Region(s): Metro

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.

Designated as a state Wild and Scenic River in 1980, the Cannon River is bounded by rolling hills, bluffs, farmland and woods, providing scenic, recreational, and historic value to the surrounding area. Constructed in 1909, the Waterford Bridge was open for crossing the Cannon River in rural Waterford Township until it was closed in 2018 due to need for structural improvements. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010, the bridge has been recognized as a significant community landmark, a critical link in the planned Mill Towns State Trail from Faribault to Cannon Falls, and a place for wildlife viewing and fishing.

Currently, there is no public river access on the twelve-mile stretch of the Cannon River Water Trail between the City of Northfield and Lake Byllesby. 83.5 acres of land adjacent to the Cannon River and the Waterford Bridge has become available for conservation and recreational improvements. This collaboration between Waterford Township, Dakota County and the Department of Natural Resources will allow the historic Waterford Bridge to be rehabilitated and opened to the public as a future section of the Mill Towns State Trail, protect and restore habitat, and provide public access to the Cannon River.

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 proposed project will:

- a) Rehabilitate an historic and culturally significant bridge to provide a pedestrian and bicycle crossing of the Cannon River. Structural repairs will include gusset plate strengthening, deck removal and replacement, and installation of a temporary railing, allowing the re-opening of the historic Waterford Bridge for the Mill Towns State Trail.
- b) Permanently protect 0.85 miles of the Cannon River shoreline and 83.5 acres of adjacent land.
- c) Stabilize riverbanks and restore cropland, and upland and floodplain forest to support habitat for migratory birds, wood and Blanding's turtles, and other wildlife.
- d) Develop a new trailhead and public water access to support the Mill Towns State Trail and Cannon River Water Trail. A small parking lot, spur trail connection, carry-in access to the river, shore fishing area, and interpretive kiosk will be constructed. Interpretive elements will celebrate the history of the Waterford Bridge, tell the story of the surrounding land, which has been farmed continuously for five generations, and provide information on the significant wildlife habitat of the river corridor.

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?

This project will have four primary outcomes:

- a) Rehabilitation of the historic Waterford Bridge, a state and national landmark, will provide a critical connection for the Mill Towns State Trail across the Cannon River.
- b) Protection of 0.85 miles of Cannon River shoreline and 83.5 acres of adjacent land.
- c) Restoration of shoreline, floodplain, cropland, and upland woodland/forests will be restored to provide improved wildlife habitat.
- d) Development of the trailhead and public river access will enhance the state-designated Wild and Scenic River, Cannon River State Water Trail and the future Mill Towns State Trail.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Rehabilitation of Waterford Bridge for Public Use - Capital Construction Project

Activity Budget: \$2,295,000

Activity Description:

This activity is focused on completing Phases II and III of the full rehabilitation of the historic Waterford Bridge, with the completion of Phase I (repair and reconstruction of abutments and replacement of truss bearings) completed in 2021. Phase II will include repairs to strengthen the gusset plates of the bridge structure. Phase III will include removal and subsequent replacement of the bridge deck, as well as installation of a temporary railing so the bridge will be safe for pedestrians and bicyclists using the Mill Towns State Trail, as well as wildlife enthusiasts visiting the area. This activity includes completion of updated engineering documents required for Phase II and III construction, permitting, project bidding, awarding of contract to specialized bridge rehabilitation contractor, construction administration, staking, mobilization, erosion and site control, punch list completion, and final inspections.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction documents, project bidding and contract award for Phases II and III	October 31, 2025
Completion of SHPO consultation, permitting and agency review	October 31, 2025
Completion of Phase III bridge deck removal and replacement	December 31, 2026
Bridge open to full public use by pedestrians and bicyclists	April 30, 2027
Completion of Phase II gusset plate strengthening repairs	July 31, 2027

Activity 2: Land Protection

Activity Budget: \$380,000

Activity Description:

This activity is focused on securing 1.5 acres of donated property for the Cannon River Trailhead and Water Access, and acquisition of conservation easements to permanently protect 0.85 miles of Cannon River Shoreline and 83.5 acres of adjacent land. Activities will include property subdivision approval by Waterford Township, appraisals, developing legal descriptions, title work, environmental and natural resource assessments, drafting and finalizing deeds, landowner negotiations, County Board approvals, development of preliminary Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMP), completion of easement Property Reports, and closing.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Donated land quit claimed to County for eventual transfer to State	September 30, 2025
Completion of preliminary Natural Resource Management Plans	October 31, 2025
Acquisition of conservation easements	November 30, 2025

Activity 3: Restoration

Activity Budget: \$187,000

Activity Description:

This activity will be based on the initial development of preliminary Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) for the 1.5-acre donated land and 83.5 acres protected by permanent conservation easements. These NRMPs, signed by the

property owner and County, include natural resource assessments, development of management units, recommended plant communities, restoration priorities, schedule, and estimated costs. Requests for Proposals for implementing the NRMPs will be distributed to contractors, with the winning bid(s) becoming the basis for finalizing the NRMPs and developing Management Agreements between the landowner and the County that describe restoration activities, responsibilities, attributed costs, and schedule. Expected restoration activities will include conversion of former cropland to wet and mesic prairie, riverbank stabilization and shoreline restoration, invasive species removal from floodplain and upland forests, seeding, installing vegetative plugs, and planting trees and shrubs of native species. An evaluation of the restoration activities will be completed with adaptive management recommendations.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Restoration of former cropland to prairie	June 30, 2028
Riverbank stabilization and restoration	June 30, 2028
Initial restoration of floodplain and upland forest	June 30, 2028
Evaluation of restoration activities completed	June 30, 2028

Activity 4: Cannon River Trailhead and Access Development - Capital Construction Project

Activity Budget: \$170,000

Activity Description:

This activity is focused on the development of the Cannon River Trailhead and Water Access. The 1.5-acre public area, adjacent to two local roads, the Cannon River and the historic Waterford Bridge, will be owned and developed in partnership with the Minnesota DNR. The planned improvements include a small parking lot, spur trails to the State Trail, carry-in access to a watercraft landing, shore fishing area, interpretive kiosk, seating and native landscaping. Interpretive elements will celebrate the history of the Waterford Bridge, tell the story of the surrounding land (which has been farmed continuously for five generations), and provide information on the significant wildlife habitat of the river corridor. This activity will include completion of the final design and construction documents for the site design, project bidding and award of the construction contract, oversight and construction administration during construction, all necessary permits and inspections, and native landscaping. The final milestone will result in a publicly accessible trailhead that supports passive outdoor recreation in the Cannon River Valley.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Complete design and construction documents	October 31, 2025
Project bidding and award of contract	March 31, 2026
Construction of trailhead and access improvements	November 30, 2026
Trailhead and access open to the public, including signage installed with ENRTF language and logo	April 30, 2027

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Jody Rader	HKGi	Project Collaborator	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?

Bridge restoration contracts will be administered by the Dakota County Transportation Department. Land donation and acquisition of the easements will be conducted by the Dakota County Real Estate Office. Initial and on-going restoration will be coordinated by the Dakota County Parks Department Natural Resource Unit. Construction of the Trailhead and Access will be through a cooperative agreement between the DNR and Dakota County, with future operational management and maintenance becoming the responsibility of the Minnesota DNR. Waterford Township has committed to owning the bridge, including the final phase of bridge restoration (painting) through additional fundraising and grant seeking efforts.

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: Lisa West

Job Title: Senior Project Manager

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

Lisa has been with Dakota County for over 33 years, with over 35 years of public sector experience, and additional years of private sector experience in program and project management, environmental planning, environmental policy development and implementation, community planning, and facility permitting. Lisa has over ten years of grant project management experience for multiple state grants. Lisa is currently managing three Outdoor Heritage Fund grants and two new ENRTF grants. Lisa has managed ENRTF grants in the past; she is qualified and knowledgeable in state grant management and familiar with the MN DNR administrative and reporting requirements.

Organization: Dakota County

Organization Description:

Dakota County is part of the 7-county metropolitan area with an operating budget of \$308 million in 2023. Dakota County employs approximately 2,000 staff at three primary service center locations. Approximately 1/3 of the land area in the County is considered developed as urban/suburban and 2/3 remains as rural/agricultural. Dakota County is the third most populated county in the state, estimated at 442,038 people in 2021. Dakota County is bordered by three rivers - the Minnesota River on the West, the Mississippi River on the east, and the Cannon River to the south. Additionally, the Vermillion River, part of the largest watershed in the metropolitan area, traverses the entire County from southwest to northeast.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Construction and Grant Administration		Staff to provide construction and grant administration, and oversight for bridge rehabilitation, trailhead and access construction, and administration for natural resource restoration.			20%	50		\$120,000
							Sub Total	\$120,000
Contracts and Services								
Bridge Rehabilitation Contractor Phase II	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Contractor to be competitively awarded to perform construction related to the bridge rehabilitation for Phase II. Contractor will have demonstrated experience and proper insurance to work with concrete and steel, and perform historic bridge construction per the plans and specifications.				0		\$620,000
Bridge Engineer	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Professional Engineer licensed in the state of Minnesota will have experience with historic bridge rehabilitation. Will provide updated construction documents and will coordinate and provide oversight for bridge rehabilitation work.				0		\$17,000
Trailhead Contractor	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Contractor to be competitively awarded to perform construction related to the trailhead and river access improvements. Contractor to have demonstrated experience and proper insurance to perform grading, installation of design elements and restoration to complete the project.				0		\$170,000
Natural Resource Restoration Professional	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Natural resource restoration professional will provide services related to river bank restoration, prairie establishment, and woodland forest restoration, and advise on management planning.				0		\$187,000
Title and Easement Acquisition Professional	Acquisition costs	Fee title, easement acquisition, survey and land records for conservation easement and fee title transactions. Anticipate up to 6 transactions to complete the project.				0		\$51,000
Bridge Rehabilitation	Professional or Technical	Contractor to be competitively awarded to perform construction related to the bridge rehabilitation for Phase III. Contractor will have demonstrated				-		\$1,538,000

Contractor Phase III	Service Contract	experience and proper insurance to work with concrete and steel, and perform historic bridge construction per the plans and specifications.						
							Sub Total	\$2,583,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Conservation Easement Acquisition	Acres: 83.5 Parcels: 4						\$329,000
							Sub Total	\$329,000
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$3,032,000

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				
Cash	Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant (MHS)	Funds used to complete Phase 1 of the Waterford Bridge rehabilitation, which was completed in 2021.	Secured	\$639,000
In-Kind	MN DNR	MN DNR has committed funds to be used toward the design and engineering of the Cannon River Trailhead and Access.	Secured	\$30,000
			State Sub Total	\$669,000
Non-State				
Cash	Waterford Township	Waterford Township has committed funds to be used for the rehabilitation of the Waterford Bridge, as described in Activity 2 (gusset strengthening, deck removal and replacement).	Secured	\$30,000
In-Kind	Land Donation	Private landowner has committed to donating 1.5 acres of land to be used for the Cannon River Trailhead and Access.	Pending	\$13,000
In-Kind	Dakota County	Personnel costs for providing professional services for construction and grant administration	Secured	\$105,000
In-Kind	Dakota County	Personnel costs for providing professional services for restoration work	Secured	\$63,000
Cash	Dakota County	Acquisition costs for conservation easements	Secured	\$130,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$341,000
			Funds Total	\$1,010,000

Total Project Cost: \$4,042,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Conservation Easement Central	Dakota	Riverbank restoration, floodplain restoration, cropland conversion to restored prairie, upland forest restoration	Conservation Easement	27.5	0.41	\$112,000	Private	Dakota County	Negotiations In Progress
Conservation Easement East	Dakota	Riverbank restoration, floodplain forest restoration, cropland conversion to restored prairie, upland forest restoration	Conservation Easement	19.3	0.2	\$112,000	Private	Conservation Easement	Negotiations In Progress
Conservation Easement South	Dakota	Upland forest restoration	Conservation Easement	18.9	0	\$112,000	Private	Dakota County	Negotiations In Progress
Conservation Easement West	Dakota	Riverbank restoration, floodplain forest restoration, cropland conversion to restored prairie	Conservation Easement	17.8	0.2	\$110,000	Private	Dakota County	Negotiations In Progress
Trailhead and Cannon River Access	Dakota	Future trailhead facility to serve the Mill Towns State Trail, support Waterford Bridge as a destination, and provide access to the Cannon River for recreation	Fee Title	1.5	0.04	\$13,000	Private	Minnesota DNR	Negotiations In Progress
				-	-	-			
Totals				85	0.85	\$459,000			

Fee Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

Twenty-four Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs) were developed as part of the Land Conservation Plan for Dakota County (adopted 2020) and are based on an overlay analysis of protected status, natural features, connectivity, hydrology, and land ownership with an emphasis on water. The parcel to be acquired in fee is located within the Cannon River CFA.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

Land Conservation Plan for Dakota County <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/LandConservation/Plan>

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

A modified, site-specific Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) will be created for land acquired by fee as part of this project due to its small size and intended improvements. The modified NRMP will define management units, tasks, priorities, estimated costs and schedule. NRMPs are kept on file by the County Parks Department and are updated every five years or as needed based on annual or seasonal monitoring and progress reporting (adaptive management). Land protection and restoration budgets are implemented through annual workplans developed by the County Parks Department. Annual program budgets are subject to County Board review and approval.

4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

Dakota County Board approval will be obtained for the parcel to be conveyed to the State of Minnesota (MN DNR).

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

Written approval from the MN DNR Commissioner will be obtained within 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction per Minnesota Statute 116P.17.

Conservation Easement Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

Twenty-four Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs) were developed as part of the Land Conservation Plan for Dakota County (adopted 2020) and are based on an overlay analysis of protected status, natural features, connectivity, hydrology, and land ownership with an emphasis on water. The conservation easements to be acquired are located within the Cannon River CFA.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

Land Conservation Plan for Dakota County <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/LandConservation/Plan>

3. For any conservation easement acquired, a restoration and management plan must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

A Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) is created for each conservation easement acquired as part of this project. The NRMPs will define management units, tasks, priorities, estimated costs, and a schedule of work. A five-year Management Agreement (MA) that includes restoration activities, responsibilities and cost-sharing between the County

and the landowner is then finalized to begin implementing the NRMP. NRMPs and MAs are kept on file by the County Parks Department and are updated every five years or as needed based on annual or seasonal monitoring and progress reporting (adaptive management). Land protection and restoration budgets are implemented through annual workplans developed by the County Parks Department. Annual program budgets are subject to County Board review and approval.

4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

Dakota County Board approval will be obtained for the parcel to be conveyed to the State of Minnesota (MN DNR).

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

Written approval from the MN DNR Commissioner will be obtained within 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction per Minnesota Statute 116P.17.

6. Provide a statement addressing how conservation easements will address specific water quality protection activities, such as keeping water on the landscape, reducing nutrient and contaminant loading, protecting groundwater, and not permitting artificial hydrological modifications.

Dakota County natural area conservation easements include specific language addressing water quality as follows:

A. Agricultural Use - No plowing, construction of agricultural wells or new drainage ditches, new tiling or grazing of the Protected Property for cultivating commercial crops or pasturing commercial livestock is allowed.

B. Water - No hydrological modifications, including alteration or manipulation of natural rivers, creeks and streams, surface or subsurface springs, and shorelines of lakes, ponds, or wetlands, or other surface or sub-surface water bodies on the Protected Property is allowed. Alteration or manipulation to restore or enhance water quality, wildlife habitat, native biological communities or ecological functions, which are approved in writing by Grantee and consistent with the NRMP is allowed. Increased storm water volumes or flow rates to the Protected Property due to changes in the topography, land use, buildings, or drainage systems on and from adjacent or nearby properties after the date of this NA Easement is not allowed unless it improves the Conservation Values of the Protected Property and is approved in the NRMP. No activities or uses of the Protected Property that cause soil erosion or are detrimental to water quality are allowed.

C. Topography and Surface Alteration - There shall be no change of the topography of the Protected Property, including ditching, draining, filling or excavation of soil or other material.

7. Describe the long-term monitoring and enforcement program for conservation easements acquired on parcels by your organization, including explanations of the process used for calculating conservation easement monitoring and enforcement costs, the process used for annual inspection and reporting on monitoring and enforcement activities, and the process used to ensure perpetual funding and implementation of monitoring and enforcement activities.

The County currently monitors more than 120 conservation easements on an annual basis. Rotational on-site/remote site visits are conducted by Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District staff or contractors hired by the County, using annual aerial photography, and drone technology to assist in the monitoring. Monitoring staff completes each report and submits a summary of findings, including any minor or significant Areas of Concern (AOC) to the County Real Estate Office. A monitoring report is completed by County staff. Landowners with an AOC are contacted by County staff alerting them of an issue and to discuss how to resolve it. This process is described in the County's Easement Monitoring Protocol. If the landowner does not resolve an AOC, the County Attorney's office becomes involved in any enforcement action. Fortunately, there have been relatively few issues and issues encountered have been resolved satisfactorily over the years. Easement monitoring is considered one of the core programs and services that the County provides and is included in the base operating budget.

Restoration

1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

All restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land protected by a permanent conservation easement or publicly owned.

2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.

A Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) is created for each conservation easement acquired as part of this project. The NRMP will define management units, tasks, priorities, estimated costs, and a schedule of work. A five-year Management Agreement (MA) that includes restoration activities, responsibilities and cost-sharing between the County and the landowner is then finalized to begin implementing the NRMP. NRMPs and MAs are kept on file by the County Parks Department and NRMPs are updated every five years or as needed based on annual or seasonal monitoring and progress reporting (adaptive management).

The initial NRMP implementation will be more intensive and will establish the foundation for overall restoration. Based on the results of the initial restoration and required maintenance by the landowner, additional implementation will be discussed and determined by the landowner and the County. Future MAs would be developed to achieve additional natural resource improvements based on mutual landowner and County interest and resources.

3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

Dakota County utilizes and follows the guidelines of BWSR’s “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” for all of our restoration and enhancement efforts in County parks, greenways and conservation easements. We will continue to restore and enhance these proposed projects in accordance with these guidelines for seed and plant sources, diversity levels, cultivar use, protecting plant communities, preventing the introduction of invasive species, and planting and management strategies for climate change.

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

For all restoration and enhancement projects implemented by the County on County-owned property, we are committed to long-term maintenance and management. The initial completion of the project with the grant period is just the beginning of the process and commitment. In subsequent years, we ensure that these sites continue to become well-established and do not revert to their former degraded condition. The County hires and contracts with professional ecological restoration firms that provide experienced crews to maintain these sites. We also use volunteers and Conservation Corps of Minnesota/Iowa crews to assist with these efforts. The County has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars maintaining these restored and enhanced sites in the County over many years, and the Dakota County Board of Commissioners continues to be committed to maintaining these sites in perpetuity. For conservation easements acquired by the County on private property, our practice has been to continue to partner with the landowner to maintain the easement area when the restoration process transitions to maintenance within restored easement areas to protect the public investment made on private property.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

Dakota County has an ongoing, multi-year partnership with Conservation Corps Minnesota/Iowa. We host a full-time crew to perform project work within our parks. Our approach for these projects will be to include them where the required tasks align with their skills, mission and equipment.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

Dakota County has a robust monitoring and evaluation program for restoration and enhancement project sites. Vegetation is monitored at these sites by established scientific methods, including Relevé method surveying, transects and timed-meanders. Staff collect data each year for at least ten years following project completion and evaluate it by the Floristic Quality Assessment method. In addition, restoration activities such as site preparation methods, seeding rates, seed mixes/lists, planting methods, watering methods, establishment management efforts during the project, prescribed burning, mowing, etc. are documented. The restoration process is evaluated, discussed and documented and we use the Adaptive Management approach to guide and improve our future implementation efforts. Animals of various classes are also surveyed to determine impacts on animal assemblages of the habitat type associated with the restoration efforts.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [e29cd431-53c.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map of regional context showing the project location within Dakota County, a local context map showing the project area in relation to recreational destinations, and a project area map showing the conservation easement, trailhead, bridge and trail route included in the project proposal....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Dakota County Financial Capacity Document	148cb0f5-3ec.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Dakota County Board Resolution	4f575227-fd8.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Waterford Township Resolution of Support	3dccd3da-06b.pdf
Capital Project Questionnaire	de5e0900-4d1.pdf
Waterford Bridge Informational Brochure	b7cb80be-6b6.pdf
Waterford Bridge Photos	d9bef3b9-1c6.pdf
Capital Construction Budget Addendum	5d538e58-27d.xlsx
Full Project Budget Summary	d1b458a9-659.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration, Conservation Easement Acquisition, Fee Acquisition,

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

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 pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

Yes

Is the purpose of the acquisition for construction of a building(s), trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration, either now or in the future?

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 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Jody Rader, HKGi and Al Singer, Dakota County Real Estate Office Manager