



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

### 2026 Request for Proposal

#### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2026-533

**Proposal Title:** Preserving Recreational and Trail Connections: Historic Forestville Bridge

#### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Ronald Gregg

**Organization:** Fillmore County

**Office Telephone:** (507) 765-3854

**Email:** rgregg@co.fillmore.mn.us

#### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** The project will improve regional trail connections between Forestville State Park and Historic Forestville State Historic Site by rehabilitating the failing Historic Forestville Bridge, owned by Fillmore County.

**ENRTF Funds Requested:** \$1,494,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** June 30, 2028

**LCCMR Funding Category:** Education and Outdoor Recreation (C)

#### 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.**

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

The historic bridge is a key connector of the State Park and the 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.

**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, particularly if the Root River experiences major flood events.

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:** \$1,494,000

**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 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 (SHPO) Completed and Restoration/Construction Contract Executed	June 30, 2027
Design & Engineering and Construction Administration	June 30, 2027
Bridge Restoration / Construction Completed	June 30, 2028

## 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
<b>Personnel</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
TBD	Service Contract	Permitting and Environmental/Cultural Resource Investigations and Reviews				0		\$150,000
TBD	Service Contract	Engineering, Design, Construction Inspection and Construction Administration				0		\$20,000
TBD	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		\$1,324,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,494,000</b>
<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>								

							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$1,494,000

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
<b>State</b>				
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Non-State</b>				
Cash	Federal Recreation Trail Program (F RTP)	engineering costs	Secured	\$200,000
Cash	TBD	engineering and construction	Potential	\$299,000
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$499,000</b>
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$499,000</b>

**Total Project Cost: \$1,993,000**

**This amount accurately reflects total project cost?**

Yes

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [953790aa-ffa.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

Historic Forestville Bridge images and site map...

#### *Financial Capacity*

Title	File
Fillmore County - financial statements - Balance Sheet 2024	<a href="#">9d71fc5d-5d1.pdf</a>
Fillmore County - financial statements - CY23 Audit Report	<a href="#">818b5cd2-168.pdf</a>
Fillmore County - financial statements - CLA cover letter	<a href="#">25390b15-223.pdf</a>
Fillmore County financial statements -- statement of revenues	<a href="#">fa5c6fd2-97b.pdf</a>

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Fillmore County resolution of support for CR118 Historic Forestville Bridge March 2025	<a href="#">771f0a34-0bc.pdf</a>

### Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Historic Forestville Bridge Capital Construction Budget Addendum spreadsheet	<a href="#">b2d07715-426.xlsx</a>
Historic Forestville Bridge - image of bridge on Root River	<a href="#">66923156-9f0.jpe</a>
Capital Project Questionnaire - Historic Forestville Bridge	<a href="#">6c59ef0c-2c2.pdf</a>

## Administrative Use

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

No

**Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?**

N/A

**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

**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:**

David Kelliher, MN Historical Society; Kent Skaar, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

**Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements**

Yes, I understand

