



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-532

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

Project Manager Information

Name: Ronald Gregg

Organization: Fillmore County

Office Telephone: (507) 765-3854

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The project will improve the connection for the future Root River Trail between Forestville State Park and Historic Site by rehabilitating the 1899 Historic Forestville Bridge, owned by Fillmore County.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$1,494,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2030

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 Root River State Trail, which will extend from Preston to the Forestville State Park and Historic Site and enter the Site and Park via the bridge.

The historic bridge is a key connector of the State Park and the 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 and recently moved away from the river. 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 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?

Under various statutory definitions, historic resources, including the Historic Forestville Bridge and Historic Site, are defined as natural resources, and are worthy of protection and eligible for ENRTF / LCCMR funds. 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.)

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

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, 2028
Design & Engineering and Construction Administration	December 31, 2028
Bridge Restoration / Construction Completed	June 30, 2030

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

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

The project partners will ensure that ENRTF funding is acknowledged and celebrated.

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 accessible recreation by reconnecting the Forestville State Park and the Forestville Historic Site and prepare for future use by the Root River Trail providing region-wide and statewide recreational opportunities. 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	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
							Sub Total	\$1,494,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Equipment								
							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	\$1,494,000

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
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Federal Recreation Trail Program (FRTTP)	engineering costs	Secured	\$200,000
Cash	TBD	engineering and construction	Potential	\$299,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$499,000
			Funds Total	\$499,000

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, 2024	cb05ba0e-493.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Fillmore County Resolution 26-010 Forestville Bridge	688ed2f3-1f7.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Budget Addendum - 2027-532	efb234f0-257.pdf
Forestville Bridge Capital Construction Project Questionnaire 2027	8d5f504b-17b.pdf

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