



RED LAKE FALLS, MN

Water System Rehabilitation Project

INTRODUCTION

Red Lake Falls is located in northwestern Minnesota and serves as the county seat of Red Lake County. Established in the late 19th century and shaped by agriculture, rail access, and river crossings, the community developed as a gathering place for commerce, local government, and essential services. Today, the City continues to play a vital role in **supporting the surrounding agricultural economy while maintaining its historic connection to the region's natural resources** and outdoor recreation opportunities.

The City's current population is approximately 1,300 residents. Minnesota State Highway 32 serves as a primary transportation route through the community. Given its location in a highly productive agricultural area, Red Lake Falls' residents and businesses directly support the region's farming economy while also contributing to outdoor recreation activities tied to the beautiful Red Lake River and Clearwater River.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The City's drinking water and wastewater systems are aging and in need of significant upgrades. Much of the water distribution system was installed decades ago, **with some mains exceeding 70 years of service**. These aging pipes are prone to breaks and service interruptions, which can compromise the safety and reliability of the community's drinking water supply. Undersized water lines further limit fire protection capabilities, posing additional safety concerns for residents and local businesses.

The wastewater system is similarly challenged, with deteriorating sanitary sewer lines experiencing excessive infiltration and inflow. During heavy rainfall or snowmelt, this can overload the treatment facilities, **increasing the risk of sewer backups into homes and businesses and potential untreated discharges to nearby waterways**, including the Red Lake and Clearwater Rivers. These conditions represent serious public health, sanitation, and environmental risks. Maintaining safe and reliable utility systems is critical for protecting residents, supporting local agriculture, and safeguarding regional natural resources.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project will rehabilitate Red Lake Falls' critical water and wastewater infrastructure while reconstructing associated streets, curbs, and gutters. Water system improvements include replacing aging and undersized mains to restore adequate pressure, improve redundancy, and reduce the likelihood of service interruptions and emergency repairs. Wastewater upgrades will replace deteriorated sanitary sewer lines, reducing infiltration and inflow, minimizing the risk of overflows, and ensuring the wastewater treatment system can operate effectively under all conditions.

Street reconstruction will occur alongside utility replacement to provide safe driving surfaces and protect the new infrastructure. By addressing failing and undersized utilities, the project directly improves public health and safety, enhances fire protection, and reduces environmental risks associated with wastewater overflows. Federal funding support is justified under Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code §1926(a), as the project ensures that residents have safe, reliable, and compliant utility services. Strengthening these core systems also preserves Red Lake Falls' role as a regional hub supporting the agricultural economy and surrounding rural communities.

PROJECT COST	
USDA RD	\$906,000
MN PFA	\$1,682,000
City Funds	\$1,100,000
Special Assessments	\$2,719,000
FY27 CPF Request	\$5,947,000
TOTAL	\$12,354,000

PROJECT CONTACTS

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