

FINAL REPORT

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S/M

2001 Project Abstract
For the Period Ending June 30, 2003

PROJECT TITLE: Forest History Center Interpretive Trail
Project Manager: Robert "Skip" Drake
Affiliation: Minnesota Historical Society,
Mailing Address: Forest History Center, 2609 County Road 76, Grand Rapids, MN
55744
Telephone Number: 218-327-4482
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Web Address: www.mnhs.org/foresthstory

Total Biennial Project Budget: \$90,000

LCMR Appropriation: \$ 90,000

Amount Spent: \$49,714.43 6-30-2003

Balance: \$40,285.57 6-30-2003

Legal Citation: LAWS 2001, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Section 14,
Subd.5(l).

Appropriation Language: Forest History Center Interpretive Trail--\$90,000 is
from the future resources fund to the Minnesota Historical Society to design and
upgrade trails at the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids.

24 [The complexities and mysteries of the forest are better understood when one
can become immersed in wooded surroundings and experience nature's
solitude. For a physically challenged person, the natural barriers associated
with heavily wooded forests make it nearly impossible for them to experience
these feelings. The newly redesigned and re-engineered Forest of Today Trail
at the Minnesota Historical Society Forest History Center makes this
possible for all persons regardless of their physical limitations.

The one mile long, Forest of Today trail, an integral part of a 3-mile trail
system, has been re-graded and resurfaced with class five aggregate to be
fully ADA wheel chair accessible. It has been augmented with two Minnesota
Historical Society funded learning stations designed to enhance the usability
of the trail and to increase educational programming opportunities for all
persons.

Twenty thousand people, including between 4000-5000 students visit the
Center annually and experience how the Center connects people to forests
through educational, meaningful and entertaining experiences so they
appreciate and understand the importance of forests past, present and future
to their lives. To fully integrate the upgraded trail and learning stations, new
educational programs are being developed by forestry experts and exhibit
professionals that will take students and the public into the woods for
meaningful and memorable immersion experiences.

WORK PLAN Project Status Completion Report

June 30, 2003

LCMR WORK PROGRAM UPDATE REPORT

Date of Final Report: August 6, 2003

Date of Workprogram Approval: June 29, 2001

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2003

LCMR Work Program 2001

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Appropriation Language: Forest History Center Interpretive Trail--\$90,000 is from the future resources fund to the Minnesota Historical Society to design and upgrade trails at the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids.

I. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS: Upgrade one mile of existing trail. This trail has reached the end of its useful life, and needs resurfacing to meet current standards, including compliance with ADA requirements. The trail will be reconstructed with crushed aggregate and linked to an existing ADA compliant trail completed in 1997. This trails services the Forest History Center as a self-guided nature trail and is part of the Center's Woodland Stewardship - Public Education program to enhance the public awareness of goals, methods and quality of life issues of forest management decisions and actions. Once completed this trail will be used by 20,000 visitors to the Forest History Center including 5,000 students on school field trips studying a multidisciplinary course of study including social studies, natural sciences and environmental science.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY:

Staff from the Northern Department—Historic Sites and Forest History Center appointed a Forest History Center Interpretive Trail Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is comprised of professionals knowledgeable in public nature trail layout and construction, forestry and forest resource management, ecology and environmental education and will assist the Center in the trail project. The five-member Advisory Committee met on June 18, 2002 with Forest History Center staff and discussed interpretive trail layout and design concepts, areas along the trail that will match the site's Woodland Stewardship Plan goals and the mission and goals for the Center. The Committee members also discussed how the trail would best serve multiple uses such as: school groups, natural resource and forestry students and the general public. Center staff will incorporate those ideas into the overall trail project. The Advisory Committee will meet with the project's landscape design architect in July of 2002. Due to a delay in signing the contract, the Advisory committee Meeting was postponed until Sept. 17, 2002.

Society staff also prepared a Request for Proposals for Professional Planning, Design & Engineering Services for the Interpretive Trail Project. The RFP is currently out for proposals from landscape design and architectural firms. All proposals are required to be returned by July 15, 2002. The Society awarded the design and engineering contract on August 27, 2002.

S E H was awarded the design and engineering contract and has completed survey work and trail renovation specifications. The bid package was prepared and the notice published in the State Register, Construction Bulletin and the Grand Rapids Herald Review as well as being sent directly to several area contractors. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2003 with the bid opening on January 14, 2003. (12-23-02)

503 Request for Purchases were written to encumber funds to cover estimated construction trail renovation--\$49,000; to S E H for \$8905 for design and engineering plus an additional \$1000 for added design work for a trail spur and \$1000 for design of 2 shelters along the trail; and \$700 to multiple vendors for the advertising for bids. (12-23-02)

Summary of expenditures:
S E H trail design \$10,905

Architectural Resources structure design \$7450
 Archeology review \$619.65
 Advertising for bids \$850.00
 3 B's Construction completed the trail work per contract specifications \$24,070.70
 Trail spur construction \$608.40 3 B's Construction
 Trail Shelter groundwork preparation including excavation, landing pads, aggregate
 3 B's Construction \$5210.68
 Total \$49,714.43 LCMR funded
 Trail Shelter Construction funded by Minnesota Historical Society \$46,104.65
 Total project value \$95,819.08

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

- Result 1: Upgrade one mile of existing trail. The trail will be reconstructed with crushed aggregate and linked to an existing ADA compliant trail completed in 1997. Once completed this trail will be used by 20,000 visitors to the Forest History Center including 5,000 students on school field trips studying a multidisciplinary course of study including social studies, natural sciences and environmental science.

- Result 2: Construct two trail shelters as designed with LCMR funding. Funds for the shelters provided by the Minnesota Historical Society

Amendment:

Design for the one mile trail upgrade and ¼ mile trail spur
 \$10,905 S E H

Design for trail shelters/learning stations. Trail structures must be ADA compliant and accessible from the trail. \$7,450 Architectural Resources

Bid advertising for trail and trail shelters \$850

Archeology prior to trail construction \$619.65

Trail construction \$24,070.70 3-B's Construction

Trail spur construction \$608.40 3 B's Construction

Trail shelter groundwork i.e., excavation, landing pads, aggregate

\$5210.68 3 B's Construction

Total 49,714.43

Two handicapped accessible trail shelters/learning stations were built with Minnesota Historical Society dollars. The MHS contribution is \$46,104.65. The total value for the project is \$95,819.08

Result 1 LCMR Budget: \$ 90,000

Balance: \$40,285.57

■ Personnel: \$ 0

■ Equipment: \$ 0

■ Development: \$ 81,000 \$79,095 (\$49,700 encumbered as of 12-16-02)
\$49,714.43 expended as of 6-30-2003

■ Acquisition: \$ 0

■ Other: Architectural and engineering design services will be secured to draw up plans, create construction drawings and help oversee project contractors.

Result 1 LCMR Budget: \$9,000 \$10,905 (\$10,905 encumbered as of 12-16-02)

Balance: \$0

Completion Date:

■ Result 1 on or before June 30, 2003

Result Status: NA

V. Total Project Budget:

■ All Results: Personnel: \$ 0

■ All Results: Equipment: \$ 0

■ All Results: Development: \$81,000 \$ 79,095 12-23-02
\$95,819.08 complete 6-3-2003 Includes all matching dollars from MHS

■ All Results: Acquisition: \$ 0

■ All Results: Other: \$9,000 \$ 10,905 (increase from original \$9,000 to cover increased architectural fees for additional plan review and survey work—note development phase decreased by \$1,905. 12-23-02

■ Total Budget: \$ 95,819.08

VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:

A. Past Spending: The Society has funded the ADA compliance on one mile of and existing public trail in 1997 (\$51,000) with crushed aggregate and leveling grades to meet ADA and public needs. The Society annually funds trail upkeep and maintenance through its Forest History Center maintenance line item budget. Over the years, cash and in-kind contributions of materials, equipment, labor and technical assistance have been provided by Blandin Paper Company, Potlatch—Minnesota Wood Products, Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Conservation Corps.

B. Current and Future Spending: The Society has sought funding from other private and public sources to enhance the Woodland Stewardship Program—Public Education project. This funding will be utilized to construct a ¼ mile new trail to interconnect the existing trail system with the LCMR funded trail reconstruction project. Once completed this new

trail will connect and complete the Center's Woodland Stewardship Trail Program. Additional funding has been sought to construct and place a total of 18 wayfinding informational-directional signs along the trail system to enable visitors to easily maneuver through the trail system and become active participants in its messages. To aid in this effort, the Trail Guide Brochures will be created to give visitors a physical sense of the overall trail system and information to aid their understanding of forest issues of the past, present and future. This is a \$58,5000 fundraising effort and initial indications are that the Society will be successful in raising those funds. In addition, the Forest History Center will continue to invest its annual maintenance budget to maintain these trails.

C. Project Partners: The Society's Woodland Stewardship Program - Public Education project has great appeal with the timber industry and organizations. Project partners which will provide in-kind and granting support are: Itasca Community College - Natural Resource Program, Independent School District # 318 - Forestry Technical Program, Department of Natural Resources - Region I, Minnesota Forestry Association and UPM - Blandin Paper Company. The Society of American Forester's is considering a partnership with the FHC to provide assistance with a trail signage program identifying the Forest History Center as a state forest education site.

D. Time: NA

VII. DISSEMINATION: The Society views this project as the kickoff project for the Forest History Center's mission of addressing Minnesota's forest management issues and public education. Program information dissemination will occur daily on the enhanced Woodland Stewardship Program Trails through wayfinding - informational signs and trail brochure. The Forest History Center will incorporate the Woodland Stewardship Program into its annual Special Event portfolio and daily special events. School groups (5,000 students annually) will utilize the Woodland Trails in curricula based educational programming. The Center is presently seeking a major grant to expand its land base and establish new trails to add to its Woodland Stewardship Program and expand its public education and forest partnerships. The Society has dedicated staff resources to the redevelopment of the Forest History Center's exhibition program at the Interpretive Building within the next five years to expand on sharing and teaching the forest management program. The Center will be used as an information dissemination site for other forest management venues throughout northern Minnesota. Staff from the Forest History Center and MHS Education Department are developing an outreach program to schools based on the successful "Historian in the Classroom" program. This program will work with regional schools to take the message of forest change, challenge and responsibility out to Minnesota's students, beyond the Forest History Center's walls. MHS exhibits trail team has begun the process of researching and writing trail text for the signs. Trail sign furniture has been ordered with MHS exhibit funds. Sign fabrication and installation is expected by June 2004. Blandin Paper

has been approached about a hands-on paper making activity utilizing the trail entrance shelter. Plans call for education activities focusing on forest management, plants, animals, insects and river ecology to be based out of the riverside screen house. Classes are being planned for Spring 2004

VIII. Location: The Forest History Center and site of the Woodland Stewardship Program - Public Education is located @ 2609 County Road 76, Grand Rapids, Itasca County, MN 55744. All of the program project will take place on land owned and operated by the Minnesota Historical Society. Site map attached.

IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic workprogram progress reports will be submitted not later than:

- June 30, 2002
- December 31, 2002
- June 30, 2003 upon completion of project
- Final report due August 6, 2003

X. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA