

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 5, 2019

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2022 (COVID related extension)
For the Period Ending February 15, 2022

PROJECT TITLE: Long Lake Trail

PROJECT MANAGER: Julie Lammers

AFFILIATION: City of Vergas

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 32

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Vergas MN 56587

PHONE: 218-302-5996 Ext 1

E-MAIL: jllammers@cityofvergas.com

WEBSITE: www.cityofvergas.com

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09I

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$290,000.00

AMOUNT SPENT: \$290,000.00

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$0

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

This project restored the ecological functions of the Long Lake shoreline and protected the banks against erosion. Bank restoration and stabilization efforts within the project restored the physical, biological, and chemical functions of the shoreline improving water quality through reduction of chronic sedimentation.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Citizens of the City of Vergas needed a safe way to walk from the business district to the boat access to Long Lake. The trail was completed from the city to the edge of Long Lake, County Hwy 60 was within feet of the Lake and the highway surface does not contain a shoulder. With speed limits of 50 miles an hour it was not safe for walkers, bikers or wheelchairs to move along the lake. A boardwalk was designed and with the help of LCCMR the city of Vergas was able to install a safe way to travel around the lake.

Before the boardwalk was completed there were seniors taking their senior pictures on the boardwalk. Bike traffic has greatly improved in Vergas as it is now safe to travel to our community from Perham and Frazee. The Vergas-Frazee school district brings a busload of 7th and 8th graders to Vergas Trail each spring to clean debris and rake along the trail. Seniors are able to use their motor scooters and wheelchairs along the trail and enjoy looking at the lake.

Minnesota benefits from this trail by protecting lakeshore and providing a place for everyone to enjoy the outdoors year-round. Hundreds of people enjoy the trails in the spring, summer and fall as a place to explore, view the lake, birdwatch, and safely walk around the lake. Daily people are snow shoeing or cross-country skiing along the trail in the winter. The environment and our natural resources have been protected with lakeshore erosion restoration. Our park board has continued to use what we have learned through this project to restore the lakeshore in our park area.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The City of Vergas has an existing page on their website for the Vergas Long Lake Trail (www.cityofvergas.com). This existing page will be utilized for the dissemination, presentation, documentation, and sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products. The City of Vergas will acknowledge ENRTF support on all project publications, signage, and other public communications and outreach related to work completed using the appropriation, adhering to the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines regularly.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2019 ENRTF Work Plan – “Final Report”

Today's Date: March 16, 2023

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 5, 2019

Project Completion Date: March 31, 2022

PROJECT TITLE: Long Lake Trail

Project Manager: Julie Lammers

Organization: City of Vergas

College/Department/Division: Clerk-Treasurer

Mailing Address: PO Box 32

City/State/Zip Code: Vergas, MN 56587-0032

Telephone Number: 218-302-5996 EXT 1

Email Address: jlammers@cityofvergas.com

Web Address: www.cityofvergas.com

Location: The Long Lake Trail Project is located in the City of Vergas bordering Long Lake. Vergas is located in Otter Tail County in the Central Region of Minnesota.

Total Project Budget: \$290,000

Amount Spent: \$290,000.00

Balance: \$0.00

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09I as extended by M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 18 as extended by M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 18

Appropriation Language:

\$290,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Vergas to construct a bicycle and pedestrian bridge, trail, and floating boardwalk along Long Lake including shoreline restoration and stabilization with native plants. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2021, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 18. ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND; EXTENSIONS. [to June 30, 2022]

I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The City of Vergas requested \$291,000 through the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to construct the third phase of Long Lake Trail, connecting the Long Lake Beach to the Long Lake Boat Access. The intent of the Long Lake Trail Project is to construct a recreational trail, but the overall goal of the project is the protect the area bordering Long Lake from private development, restore and stabilize the existing Long Lake shoreline, and enhance shoreline habitat for wildlife.

The Long Lake Trail Project includes a 10-foot wide paved trail that will connect to Vergas Park, which includes a public beach, picnic area, and fishing pier to the Long Lake Boat Access. The paved trail will be .31 miles in length total. In addition to paved trail along the lake, this project includes a floating boardwalk which will cross a corner of Long Lake that is unsuitable for a paved trail. The section of shoreline that the floating boardwalk will span was deemed too steep to construct a paved path. A floating boardwalk will eliminate the need for significant grading along the shoreline and below the normal high watermark of Long Lake. The proposed boardwalk will be 8' wide and 735 feet in length.

Shoreline protection efforts consist of restoring and protecting banks of Long Lake against erosion by incorporating slopes at 4:1 versus the current 3:1 and re-vegetating the shoreline with native plants. These efforts will regenerate sustainability and restore the ecological functions of the Long Lake shoreline. Bank restoration and stabilization efforts within the Long Lake Trail Project will restore the physical, biological, and chemical functions of the Long Lake shoreline and will improve water quality through reduction of chronic sedimentation.

Engineering plans and specifications will be prepared so competitive bids can be received. Items previously identified as "In-Kind Donations" will be excluded from the contract but noted in the plans as By Others.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES: See Below

Project extended to June 30, 2022 by LCCMR 6/30/21 as a result of M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 18, legislative extension criteria being met.

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: Trail Construction to devote and maintain lake shore for public access, Shoreline Restoration and Bank Stabilization

Description: The Long Lake Trail Project will construct a .31 mile 10-foot-wide paved trail that will connect to Vergas Park to the Long Lake Boat Access. In addition to paved trail along the lake, this project includes a floating boardwalk which would cross a corner of Long Lake which will be 8' wide and 735 feet in length. Will also restore and protect banks of Long Lake against erosion by incorporating slopes at 4:1 versus the current 3:1 and re-vegetating the shoreline with native plants.

The \$290,000 request includes traffic control, turf establishment, erosion control, stripping and spreading of topsoil, excavation, 8" gravel base, planting, and signage. Engineering plans and specifications will be prepared so competitive bids can be received. Items previously identified as "In-Kind Donations" will be excluded from the contract but noted in the plans as By Others.

The project has been difficult as the park and trail usage increased faster than we could get the trail and boardwalk completed. It has been wonderful to see the usage of the boardwalk for pictures and people enjoying nature. If we were going to do this project again, we would discuss how to keep people out of the area while work is being completed. While putting in the trail and restoration we would have people drive down and put canoes and kayaks in the lake causing damage to trail area and making the installation more difficult.

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$290,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Design Plans completed	09/10/2019
2. Trail Construction to protect area from development	06/01/2021
3. Shoreline Restoration and Bank Stabilization Completed	08/04/2020

First Update March 1, 2020

We have the permits from the following: Otter Tail County, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources and we have purchased wetland replacement.

Mn Boardwalks was awarded the bid for the \$385,620.00 for the boardwalk. Mn Boardwalks was awarded the bid for the \$385,620.00 for the boardwalk and they have completed approximately 75% of the boardwalk.

We are working with Soil & Water Conservation in Perham for the Shoreline Restoration and Bank Stabilization.

Second Update September 1, 2020

We have completed the boardwalk and the gravel portion of the trail. We have not completed the paving of the trail.

We have completed the shoreline restoration with the help of Soil & Water Conservation in Perham for the Shoreline Restoration and Bank Stabilization.

Third Update March 1, 2021

We have begun discussion with Mark Sand and Gravel regarding paving of the trail. Once trail is paved the project will be complete.

Fourth Update September 1, 2021

Sonnenberg Excavating has prepared the trail for paving and packed the area down for trail to be used on gravel. The Long Lake Trail Project constructed a .31 mile 10-foot-wide paved trail connecting Vergas Park to the Long Lake Boat access. IN addition to paved trail along the lake, this project included a floating boardwalk which crosses a corner of Long Lake which is 8 feet wide and 735 feet in length. We restored and protected banks of Long Lake against erosion by incorporating slopes at 4:1 verses the current 3:1 and re-vegetated the shoreline with native plants. We will continue to work with the shoreline.

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

Mark Sand and Gravel paved the trail.

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

Have installed markers to keep snowmobiles off boardwalk and signage for the trail.

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description: The City of Vergas has an existing page on their website for the Vergas Long Lake Trail (www.cityofvergas.com). This existing page will be utilized for the dissemination, presentation, documentation, and sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products. The City of Vergas will acknowledge ENRTF support on all project publications, signage, and other public communications and outreach related to work completed using the appropriation, adhering to the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines regularly.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the [ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).

First Update March 1, 2020

We have not completed any dissemination currently.

Second Update September 1, 2020

We have purchased and installed a sign acknowledging the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF).

Third Update March 1, 2021

Information regarding the trail can be found at www.cityofvergas.com with acknowledgment of Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF).

Fourth Update September 1, 2021

This trail segment was discussed at City Council meetings and in the Vergas-Frazee Forum having done articles regarding the boardwalk. This boardwalk on Long Lake has brought many tourists to our community. The boardwalk is a great asset to the City of Vergas Economic Development, planning commission has discussed. The trail promoted the Vergas Community Club and the Vergas Lions. After the trail was completed, the City started a park board to enhance the Long Lake Park and completed a comprehensive plan. Website: www.cityofvergas.com

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

Trail and shoreline restoration is completed, and community is enjoying the trail. This was a very successful project, and the boardwalk is used daily. This trail has brought a large amount of people to our community.

Citizens of the City of Vergas needed a safe way to walk from the business district to the boat access to Long Lake. The trail was completed from the city to the edge of Long Lake, County Hwy 60 was within feet of the Lake and the highway surface does not contain a shoulder. With speed limits of 50 miles an hour it was not safe for walkers, bikers or wheelchairs to move along the lake. A boardwalk was designed and with the help of LCCMR the city of Vergas was able to install a safe way to travel around the lake.

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Minnesota benefits from this trail by protecting lakeshore and providing a place for everyone to enjoy the outdoors year-round. Hundreds of people enjoy the trails in the spring, summer and fall as a place to explore, view the lake, birdwatch, and safely walk around the lake. Daily people are snow shoeing or cross-country skiing along the trail in the winter. The environment and our natural resources have been protected with lakeshore erosion restoration. Our park board has continued to use what we have learned through this project to restore the lakeshore in our park area.

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000:

The Long Lake Trail Project projected a cost of \$276,000 to construct .31 miles of a 10-foot-wide paved trail that will connect to Vergas Park to the Long Lake Boat Access, and a floating 8' wide boardwalk 735 feet in length

that will cross a corner of Long Lake. In addition to the construction costs, the Long Lake Trail Project included \$15,000 for design plans and specifications.

Engineering plans and specifications will be prepared so competitive bids can be received. Items previously identified as "In-Kind Donations" will be excluded from the contract but noted in the plans as By Others.

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:

Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project:	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: None
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for entire duration of project:	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: None
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners outside of project manager's organization receiving ENRTF funding: N/A

B. Partners outside of project manager's organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding: Vergas Trail Committee: This is the fund raising body for the project which has successfully raised significant community funding.

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

The City of Vergas will assume fiscal responsibility and will oversee project implementation. If additional work is needed, outside the current scope, the City is prepared to cover those costs.

The City of Vergas Trails Committee has fundraised for this project and will continue doing so. The Vergas Trail Committee is an integral leader in fundraising and generating community understanding and support for the project.

A local construction company and gravel pit contractor, Marks Sand and Gravel has expressed interest in the project and donated hot mix asphalt for the trail and installed at no cost to the City.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- A final report and associated products is being submitted.

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

- A. Budget Spreadsheet-** Attached
- B. Visual Component or Map-** Attached
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet-** N/A
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements**
- E. Research Addendum-** N/A

Attachment A:
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2019 Budget Spreadsheet
 Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09I
 Project Manager: Julie Lammers
 Project Title: Clerk
 Organization: City of Vergas
 Project Budget: \$290,000
 Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years - November 30, 2021
 Today's Date: March 16, 2023



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts			
Construction of a 8 foot by 800 foot boardwalk. This will be established through a competitive bid process.	\$ 290,000	\$ 290,000	\$ -
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL	\$ 290,000	\$ 290,000	\$ -

OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State: Trail Committee; The City of Vergas has \$80,000 in funding already raised by the Trail Committee ready for this project.	Secured		\$ -	
Traffic control, turf establishment, erosion control, stripping and spreading of topsoil, excavation, 8" gravel base, planting, and signage. This will be established through a competitive bid process.		\$ 42,300	\$ 51,994	\$ -
Engineering plans and specifications will be prepared so competitive bids can be received. Items previously identified as "In-Kind Donations" will be excluded from the contract but noted in the plans as By Others.		\$ 15,000	\$ 17,400	\$ -
State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
In kind: Marks Sand & Gravel Hot Mix Asphalt Donation; A local construction company and gravel pit contractor, Marks Sand and Gravel, has expressed interest in the project and is willing to donate hot mix asphalt for the trail.		\$ 13,300	\$ 13,300	\$ -

PAST AND CURRENT ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
Current appropriation:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Past appropriations:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

VERGAS TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

