



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2019 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: 6/4/19

Date of Next Status Update Report: __ First Update March 1, 2020

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 5, 2019

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2022 (3 yrs)

Does this submission include an amendment request? no

PROJECT TITLE: National Loon Center: State Bird Survival and Protection

Project Manager: Leah Heggerston

Organization: National Loon Center Foundation (501c3)

College/Department/Division: n/a

Mailing Address: 35770 Allen Ave Suite 1 PO Box 642

City/State/Zip Code: Crosslake, MN 56442

Telephone Number: 218-839-9042

Email Address: fishes@crosslake.net

Web Address: <https://www.nationallooncenter.org/>

Location: proposed location is the US Army Corps of Engineers Cross Lake Recreation Area 35507 COUNTY RD 66, PO BOX 36 CROSSLAKE, MN 56442-0036

Total Project Budget: \$4,000,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$4,000,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Art. 4, Chp. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e

Appropriation Language:

\$4,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the National Loon Center Foundation, in partnership with a fiscal agent to be approved by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, to construct an approximately 15,000-square-foot National Loon Center in Cross Lake dedicated to loon survival, loon habitat protection and research, and recreation. Of this amount, up to \$1,449,000 is for planning, design, and construction of

approximately six outdoor demonstration learning kiosks, interpretive trails, boardwalks and boat docks, a fishing dock, and native landscaping along approximately 3,100 feet of shoreline. Any remaining funds are for planning, engineering, and constructing the building and indoor exhibits. A land lease commitment of at least 25 years and fiscal sponsorship must be secured before any trust fund money is spent. This project requires a match of at least \$6,000,000. At least \$2,000,000 of this match must come from nonstate sources. If naming rights will be conveyed, the National Loon Center Foundation must include a plan for this in the work plan. All matching funds must be legally committed before any trust fund money may be spent on planning activities for or construction of the building and indoor exhibits. Net income generated from admissions, naming rights, and memberships to the National Loon Center as a result of trust fund contributions may be reinvested in the center's long-term loon conservation efforts as described in the work plan approved by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources according to Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.10.

I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

National Loon Center (NLC) dedicated to survival of loon, habitat protection, recreation, and environmental research establishing Minnesota as the premiere destination to experience the freshwater ecosystem we share with native wildlife. With an estimated 12,000 loons in Minnesota, more than any other state in the continental US, the Whitefish Chain of Lakes hosts one of largest migratory gatherings of loons. The National Audubon Society and other states have declared that the Common Loon is in danger of extinction before the end of the century. This clearly attests to the need for a NLC dedicated to the protection of the Minnesota state bird. The National Loon Center Foundation (501c3) will build a 15,000 square foot National Loon Center including water quality and wildlife habitat exhibits, a loon and freshwater education research center, and interactive technology to provide hands-on experiential education in an onsite partnership with the Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce (BLACC) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE). Site related features will include a 3,100 feet shoreline habitat protection project with environmentally-friendly public docks, boardwalks and trails, and educational interpretive areas. These features will provide physical viewing only access to the habitat protection demonstration sites, water quality initiatives, invasive species prevention, boater and water safety, and loon rafts. The US ACE has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to create the NLC to be developed on seven acres of federal lands (estimated market value of \$2,600,000) at the US ACE and Crosslake Recreational Area (230,000 visitors in 2017). The NLC Real Estate Application is being processed by US ACE District office in St. Paul, MN winter 2018-19. This will allow us to utilize public land already developed once our lease with US ACE is signed in 2019. The NLC will ultimately serve as an environmental hub and economic engine. Based on research from the National Eagle Center, Wabasha, Minnesota has realized a \$2,500,000 increase in spending in their city and an estimated additional 80,000 wildlife enthusiasts, birders, outdoor recreationalists, and eco-tourists annually learning and visiting in the region. The NLC will be revenue generating for operations and maintenance in partnership with the Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. In order for this center to be completed, an additional four million dollars is needed in pending grant, and a professional corporate and private fundraising goal of two million dollars is under way with \$250,000 committed in local financial contributions for planning to date. With over 200 local, state and federal partners, the NLC is a community driven project led by the National Loon Center Foundation, ENRTF/LCCMR request is \$4,000,000 (Site Habitat Protection projects and Center Construction @ \$6,165,581 + Exhibits @ \$2,750,000 + In Kind Land Value @ \$2,600,000 + Working Capital, programming, and misc@ \$1,239,419 = **Total Project Value @ \$12,755,000**). See "Loon Center Totals/sources & uses" separate spreadsheet provided

www.nationalllooncenter.org LCCMR video presentation available.

Any net income generated from admissions, naming rights, and memberships to the Loon Center as a result of Trust Fund contributions will be reinvested in the Loon Center's long-term loon and water conservation efforts.

ENRTF/LCCMR will have the first opportunity for naming rights of NLC components included in Activity One (shoreline restoration, boardwalk, docks, outdoor exhibits/kiosk, birding piers, trails, and bird sanctuary). Naming rights will be available to donors or sponsors who contribute toward all other components of the National Loon Center creation or maintenance.

Fiscal Agent is the City of Crosslake subject to final approval by DNR and LCCMR.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

First Update March 1, 2020

Second Update September 1, 2020

Third Update March 1, 2021

Fourth Update September 1, 2021

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

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

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: Habitat protection, outdoor education and recreation, planning, and construction (seven acres+/-, 3,100 feet shoreline) of site related features for the National Loon Center.

Description:

The first NLC activity will plan for and establish site related features creating interpretive trails, educational signage, public docks and boardwalks that will provide physical viewing access to the shoreline and habitat protection project (3,100 feet of shoreline) and will include native landscaping surrounding the center and trails. Also included will be outdoor learning and research kiosks, demonstration areas for water quality initiatives, invasive species prevention, boater safety, loon raft(s), best practices for loon survival and environmental recreation opportunities connecting the Whitefish Chain of Lakes to the town's center and new community school.

Our objective is to create several projects to protect and increase migratory bird habitat, increase loon survival rates, and assist water quality initiatives such as erosion control, storm water runoff, and "get the lead out" education, while providing educational tourism and environmental recreation. Visitors will benefit from habitat protection and water quality demonstrations that can be applied on other lakes and heavily used recreational areas. Citizen science programs and statewide data collection coordinated by the National Loon Center will also play an important role. All these measures will help produce more loons and will help lower loon mortality.

NLC tasks include planning for architecture, engineering, survey, exhibits, and construction of outdoor features including five outdoor demonstration learning kiosks, approximately 3,100 feet of interpretive trails, boardwalks and docks, an outdoor educational loon nesting exhibit, fishing dock and aquatic invasive species prevention exhibit, native landscaping installation and implementing 3,100 feet of shoreline protection. The NLC habitat protection, outdoor education and recreation project features will be evaluated bi-annually through the collaboration of National Loon Center staff, US Army Corp of Engineers, Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of

Commerce, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), NLC visitors, and lake associations in regard to loon habitat and water quality education, research and recreation.

Activity 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$1,449,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Secure Land Lease with USACE for 7 acre day use	April 2019
2. Planning and architecture for all outdoor features complete; National Park Service planning assistance, competitive bidding begins to builders	July 2019
3. Construction of 5 Loon Best Practices and associated informational kiosks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Native plantings and stabilization complete for 3,100 feet of shoreline b. Boater Safety kiosk c. Loon raft kiosk d. Renovation of fish house for water quality and AIS exhibit and kiosk e. Fishing pier and kiosk for future “get the lead out” programming f. Main demonstration kiosk 	May 2020
4. Construction of boat docks to buffer boats from shoreline habitat	May 2020
5. Construction of boardwalk to prevent foot traffic on shoreline habitat	May 2020
6. Construction of 3 birding piers for loon viewing	May 2020
7. Construction of trails from beach to National Loon Center Building and piers	May 2020

Activity 2: National Loon Center (NLC) planning and construction (15,000 square feet)

The second NLC activity is planning for and construction of the NLC facility. ENRTF funds will be used for planning and construction of the National Loon Center building exterior and interior features. Other raised funds will also be used for planning and construction of the National Loon Center building exterior and interior features. Fundraising will be completed using non- ENRTF funds and it is expected that naming rights for the building may be offered for gifts of a certain size with annual giving as a goal. The sustainably-designed NLC will provide hands-on, experiential education in a state of the art facility that directly connects visitors with actions they can take for loon and wildlife conservation. Bringing the outdoor environment inside, the year-round facility will offer learning experiences that incorporate science, technology, arts and culture. The primary task of activity 2 will be planning, developing, and construction of the 15,000square foot NCL facility and exhibits. The facility will include water quality and wildlife habitat educational exhibits, a loon and freshwater educational research center laboratory and classroom (citizen science), and interactive technology to provide hands-on experiential education. The NLC will serve as the nation’s educational destination to experience the freshwater ecosystem we share with our Minnesota state bird and all native wildlife; provide visitors an opportunity to learn and participate in best practices for wildlife conservation, habitat protect, responsible recreation and environmental research they can apply in their own communities; and will ultimately serve as an economic engine for the region. The NLC facility and educational offerings will be evaluated bi-annually using both quantitative and qualitative data through the collaboration of National Loon Center staff, US ACE, BLACC, MN DNR, NLC visitors and lake associations in regard to loon habitat, water quality protection education, research, recreation, as well as revenue generation for sustainability.

Activity 2 ENRTF BUDGET: \$2,551,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1) All non-ENRTF matching funds legally committed	April 2020

2) Traffic Study completed	June 2020
3) Engineering and architecture planning complete for NLC building	Sept 2020
4) Indoor exhibits design complete	Sept 2020
5) Bidding for construction of NLC building complete	Sept 2020
6) Construction of the National Loon Center (15,000 square feet) complete	Sept 2021
7) Construction of exhibits complete	May 2022
8) Grand Opening !!	May 2022

First Update March 1, 2020

Second Update September 1, 2020

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Fifth Update March 1, 2022

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

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description: The National Loon Center has a website, social media, email blast, press releases as well as several public presentations over the past year (2018) for dissemination of information and sharing. (community input and master planning began summer 2017 with grant from UMN and other partners). <https://www.nationallooncenter.org/> Additionally, we are updating a “project tracking” report to share with our partners with TASK, TIMING, CONTACT PERSON and COSTS. As soon as we receive funds we agree ... “A recipient of an appropriation from the trust fund under this section must acknowledge financial support from the Minnesota environment and natural resources trust fund in project publications, signage, and other public communications and outreach related to work completed using the appropriation. Acknowledgement may occur, as appropriate, through use of the trust fund logo or inclusion of language attributing support from the trust fund.”

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

Second Update September 1, 2020

Third Update March 1, 2021

Fourth Update September 1, 2021

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

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

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: \$4,000,000 capital investment for creation of National Loon Center and site related features

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: n/a	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE:n/a
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: TBD by WSN	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE:TBD by WSN
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners outside of project manager’s organization receiving ENRTF funding
US Army Corps of Engineering- St Paul for Real Estate Application Review, Exhibit creators and product development creators, Brainerd Lakes Area Chambers of Commerce, TBD fiscal agent, and professional/contractors to plan and build

B. Partners outside of project manager’s organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding
The City of Crosslake, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Whitefish Area Propoerty Owners Association, Whitefish Yacht Club, North Central Small Business Development Center at Central Lakes College, National Park Service US Department of the Interior, Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District, University of Minnesota

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

The National Loon Center’s long-term implementation and funding will be realized through admissions, memberships, donors, grants and promotional sales revenue (based on data from the National Eagle Center Business model).

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Project status update reports will be submitted March 1 and September 1 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2022

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

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

Attachment A: National Loon Center ENRTF ID 252-G

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2019 Budget Spreadsheet

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Art. 4, Chp. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e

Project Manager: Leah Heggerston

Project Title: National Loon Center

Organization: National Loon Center Foundation (501c3)

Project Budget: \$4,000,000

Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2022

Today's Date: 6/4/19



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Activity 1 Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Activity 2 Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	TOTAL Budget	TOTAL Amount Spent	TOTAL Balance
BUDGET ITEM									
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts									
Fiscal Agent (City of Crosslake)	\$ -		\$ -						\$ -
Planning and engineering for outdoor features including trails, docks, boardwalks, piers, and shoreline plantings- to be competitively bid and/or in-kind services and/or partnerships	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000
Planning and design for outdoor exhibits, including 6 kiosks- to be competitively bid and/or in-kind services and/or partnerships	\$ 91,494	\$ -	\$ 91,494	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 91,494	\$ -	\$ 91,494
Construction for trails, docks, boardwalks, piers, and shoreline plantings- to be competitively bid and/or in-kind services	\$ 1,341,393	\$ -	\$ 1,341,393	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,341,393	\$ -	\$ 1,341,393
Planning and engineering for 15,000 s.f. National Loon Center Building- to be competitively bid and/or in-kind services and/or partnerships		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000
Traffic study (possible partnership with County)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,500	\$ -	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500	\$ -	\$ 12,500
Exhibit Planning		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 160,000	\$ -	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ -	\$ 160,000
Construction for 15,000 s.f. +/- National Loon Center Building- to be competitively bid and/or in-kind services and/or partnership	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,079,613	\$ -	\$ 2,079,613	\$ 2,079,613	\$ -	\$ 2,079,613
Equipment/Tools/Supplies							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL	\$ 1,447,887	\$ -	\$ 1,447,887	\$ 2,552,113	\$ -	\$ 2,552,113	\$ 4,000,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000

OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance					
Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group (Dept of Interior/BP Oil spill- round two of settlement) and/or a combination of Corporate Sponsors		\$ 4,000,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000,000					
*Planning and construction of building and inside exhibits	pending								
State: MN DNR (program & educational dollars Loon Study/British Petroleum Oil Spill Settlement Round One of settlement)		\$ 450,000	\$ -	\$ 450,000					
In kind: US Army Corps Land Value	pending	\$ 2,600,000	\$ -	\$ 2,600,000					
Private Philanthropy- these cash and in kind funds will be used for activities including: *any fundraising and marketing activities not eligible for payment by ENRTF *Archeaology study (required by US ACE) *Environmental Assessment & Admin by US ACE	pending	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000					
PAST AND CURRENT ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance					
Current appropriation: na		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					
Past appropriations: na		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -					