

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on October 14, 2024

M.L. 2020 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2023

Project Title: Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground

Project Manager: Rebecca Jaeger

Affiliation: City of Babbitt

Mailing Address: 71 South Drive

City/State/Zip: Babbitt, MN 55706

Phone: (218) 827-3647

E-mail: cityadmin@babbitt-mn.com

Website: <https://www.babbitt-mn.com/>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09v

Appropriation Amount: \$350,000

Amount Spent: \$350,000

Amount Remaining: -

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The City of Babbitt has completed a new 22-acre campground in the Birch Lake Recreation Area that will include 49 new campsites to accommodate recreational vehicles and tents. The completion of this project allows area residents and tourists from around the country and

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The completion of the campground has provided 49 new ADA compliant campsites for a variety of camping activities and users. The new campground is located along the shores of Birch Lake,. one of the most heavily fished lakes in the Tower fisheries Management Area. The lake is 75% undeveloped and provides a Boundary Waters Canoe Area experience. Along with the new campsites, this project includes a new camp office as well as restrooms and showers. The campground is adjacent to ATV trails and an existing paved pedestrian/hiking trail that connects to the downtown of Babbitt and continues to the Mesabi Trail. As a part of this project, the City of Babbitt extended city water, sewer and electrical services to the campground. The campground is also adjacent to a new boat landing and new road access that was constructed by the city in 2018. This project was planned, designed, and constructed due to the lack of camping sites in the Babbitt area as well as in Northern Minnesota. The total cost of this project was approximately \$5,000,000.

The funding partners for this project included the LCCMR, MN State Bonding Bill, Iron Range Resources (IRRRB) and the City of Babbitt. The campground opened the spring/summer of 2023.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The City of Babbitt conducted numerous public meetings through the planning, design funding, and construction phases of this project. The project's updates were discussed in regular council meetings and were open to the general population. The City of Babbitt also updated all of the funding partners during the design and construction phases of the project. At the project site, in at least two (2) locations, signage will be constructed and shall remain in order to identify project name, scope, and parties that funded the project. These signs will include the verbiage "Funding for this project



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: November 8, 2024

ID Number: 2020-097

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Project Title: Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground

Project Budget: \$350,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Rebecca Jaeger

Organization: City of Babbitt

Office Telephone: (218) 827-3647

Email: cityadmin@babbitt-mn.com

Web Address: <https://www.babbitt-mn.com/>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: October 14, 2024

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: October 14, 2024

Project Completion: January 31, 2023

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09v

Appropriation Language: \$350,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to the city of Babbitt to expand the Birch Lake Recreation Area by adding a new campground to include new campsites, restrooms, and other facilities. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2025.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2025

Narrative

Project Summary: This project consists of expanding the existing Birch Lake Recreation Area to add a new 22 acre campground that will include 49 new campsites that will accommodate recreational vehicles/tents.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

The City of Babbitt has an existing recreation area that is used by residents of the region and visitors throughout the state. The Babbitt region is lacking camping sites. The City of Babbitt is undertaking this project to create additional camping opportunities and outdoor experiences for people of all ages throughout the region. The existing recreation area has a beach house equipped with changing rooms, restrooms, life guard/first aid room and a concession stand. The beach area has two rafts, a water slide, a picnic area with shelters, outdoor grills, a fully equipped playground area with activities for all ages and area lighting. The City of Babbitt has completed a total reconstruction of the boat landing area along Birch Lake. The area includes a new parking area with handicapped parking, two new docks, a new concrete boat landing ramp, a boat cleaning area and a rain garden for storm water runoff.

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.

This project consists of expanding the existing Birch Lake Recreation Area to add a new 22 acre campground that will include 49 new campsites that will accommodate recreational vehicles as well as tent campers. Two restrooms and a camp office/shower/restroom facility will be constructed at the campground to serve campers. City utilities (water, sewer, electrical) will be extended to the campground and to the existing facilities in the recreation area. The extension of this infrastructure will also open up areas for new commercial and housing development. The Birch Lake Recreation Area sits on a 37 acre, city owned parcel located on Birch Lake. The campground will be connected to an existing paved pedestrian/bike trail that connects to the City of Babbitt and eventually to the Mesabi Trail. The campground will also connect to the new Prospector ATV trail that will serve campers looking for off trail vehicle opportunities. The City of Babbitt and the surrounded area are very limited in camping sites and the existing sites are always filled.

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?

The Birch Lake Recreation Area is located on the shores of Birch Lake. Birch Lake is a 7,000 acre lake that is one of the most heavily fished lakes in the Tower Fisheries Management Area. The lake is 75% undeveloped and provides a BWCA experience. The BWCA is only two portages away from Birch Lake. Birch Lake and the Birch Lake Recreation Area serves numerous tourists from all over Minnesota, the U.S. and Canada.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): NE

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Construction Administration

Activity Budget: \$100,000

Activity Description:

Construction administration will be performed by the consulting engineer. The activities will include oversight of all work done on the campground and amenities sites to make sure the work is completed in accordance with all plans and specifications, verify all materials will meet specifications and quantities and will assist in any issues between the city and the general contractor. A representative of the engineering firm will be onsite until all construction is completed.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction Administration Will Be Ongoing Until The Project Is Completed	June 30, 2024

Activity 2: Project Construction Will Be The Responsible Of The General Contractor That Will Be Hired Through A Competitive Bidding Process

Activity Budget: \$250,000

Activity Description:

Construction of the camp sites, campground buildings and campground infrastructure. The General Contractor will be responsible of all construction activities related to the project. General Contractor will work very closely with the City of Babbitt staff and council, the Consulting Engineer and all neighboring land owners.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Project Bid	May 31, 2021
Construction Start	August 31, 2021
Construction Complete	June 30, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
MN DNR Staff	MN DNR	Project Advisor and Potential Funder	No
IRRRB Staff	IRRRB	Project Funder	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.

Description: Upon receipt of a signed grant agreement, the City will issue a press release announcing the project, the plans for the reconstruction of the Campground project and will include special thanks and acknowledgement to the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for their assistance.

The City of Babbitt shall use the City web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement will be located at the bottom of the page that states "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)".

The City's Facebook page will be used to advertise trail closures, project updates, address comments and questions, etc. Each post by the City related to this project will include the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo or acknowledgement such as "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)".

At the project site, in at least two (2) locations, signage will be constructed approximately 30 days prior to construction and shall remain until completion of the project in order to identify project name, scope, and parties that funded the project. These signs will include the verbiage "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)" as well as the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo.

At the time of bid solicitation and contractor selection, the City shall include in all documents language that acknowledges Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as a participating sponsor of the project.

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?

The long-term implementation consists of constructing a new campground at the Birch Lake Recreation Area in Babbitt that will provide a high quality nature and recreation experience for people of all ages. The campground will be open to the general public and will be open annually from May – September. The campground will provide a variety of activities including water recreation, access to non-motorized trails, access to an ATV trail system and tent and RV camping sites. The future funding for the maintenance and/or expansions of the campground will be provided by the City of Babbitt through their annual budget.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
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Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09h	\$350,000
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Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Contracts and Services										
Consulting Engineer Hired Through A Qualifications Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Consulting Engineer Will Be Responsible For Construction Administration Including Onsite Observation, Plan And Specifications Monitoring And Working Closely With The City Staff, The General Contractor And Adjacent Land Owners				4		\$100,000	\$100,000	-
General Contractor Hired Through A Competitive Bidding Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The General Contractor Is Responsible Of All Aspects Of The Project Construction				24		\$250,000	\$250,000	-
							Sub Total	\$350,000	\$350,000	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Capital Expenditures										
							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	\$350,000	\$350,000	-

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	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
Cash	Bonding Bill Funds	Project Construction	Secured	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	-
			State Sub Total	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	-
Non-State						
Cash	City	Project Construction	Secured	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	-
Cash	IRRRB	Construction	Secured	\$500,000	\$500,000	-
			Non State Sub Total	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	-
			Funds Total	\$3,800,000	\$3,800,000	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [d6707744-280.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Visual Shows Campground Layout...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Resolution	ed6c2e0f-16d.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	b60fddb1-12b.pdf
2020 Abstract	aef3ce1c-b03.docx
Final Abstract	e4f25eba-366.docx
Campground Construction	7978dfbd-72e.jpe
Campground Construction	012ec219-1d1.jpe
Campground Construction	41703fa9-d3d.jpe
Campground Construction	67f23283-44b.jpe
Campground Construction	c1401dae-15b.jpe

Media Links

Title	Link
Campsite Photos	https://drive.google.com/drive/u/3/folders/1S3HEf9kdvxQVDEAP3rIJhJcM-glzRfF
Campsite photos	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1S3HEf9kdvxQVDEAP3rIJhJcM-glzRfF?usp=sharing

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

The budget was upgraded to reflect actual award, activities upgraded, budget upgraded, project collaborators upgraded

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you agree travel expenses must 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

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 07/31/2024 New Completion Date: 01/31/2023	LCCMR Completion Date change to get projects that finished prior to final reporting functionality being available in the online. See Activity Log for notes on final report approval.	May 23, 2023	Yes	May 23, 2023
2	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Cathy Hoheisel (cathy@babbitt-mn.com) New Manager: Rebecca Jaeger (cityadmin@babbitt-mn.com)	New staff, LCCMR change to close out the project in the online system. Note project was completed and final reporting approved outside the online system prior to system final reporting functionality being built.	February 14, 2024	Yes	February 14, 2024

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update July 7, 2023

Date Submitted: August 11, 2023

Date Approved: August 17, 2023

Overall Update

The City of Babbitt has an existing recreation area that is used by residents of the region and visitors throughout the state. The Babbitt region is lacking camping sites. The City of Babbitt is undertaking this project to create additional camping opportunities and outdoor experiences for people of all ages throughout the region. The existing recreation area has a beach house equipped with changing rooms, restrooms, life guard/first aid room and a concession stand. The beach area has two rafts, a water slide, a picnic area with shelters, outdoor grills, a fully equipped playground area with activities for all ages and area lighting. The City of Babbitt has completed a total reconstruction of the boat landing area along Birch Lake. The area includes a new parking area with handicapped parking, two new docks, a new concrete boat landing ramp, a boat cleaning area and a rain garden for storm water runoff. Worked with LCCMR staff to update final reporting project completed spring, 2023.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

The City of Babbitt conducted numerous public meetings through the planning, design, funding, and construction phases of this project. The project's updates were discussed in regular council meetings and were open to the general population. The City of Babbitt also updated all of the funding partners during the design and construction phases of the project. At the project site, in at least two (2) locations, signage will be constructed and shall remain in order to identify project name, scope and parties that funding the project. These signs will include the verbiage "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)" as well as the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo. The City of Babbitt will hold a ribbon cutting in the Spring of 2023 and will be sure that LCCMR and all other funders will be invited.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2023

Date Submitted: March 27, 2023

Date Approved: May 15, 2023

Overall Update

The City of Babbitt has an existing recreation area that is used by residents of the region and visitors throughout the state. The Babbitt region is lacking camping sites. The City of Babbitt is undertaking this project to create additional camping opportunities and outdoor experiences for people of all ages throughout the region. The existing recreation area has a beach house equipped with changing rooms, restrooms, life guard/first aid room and a concession stand. The beach area has two rafts, a water slide, a picnic area with shelters, outdoor grills, a fully equipped playground area with activities for all ages and area lighting. The City of Babbitt has completed a total reconstruction of the boat landing area along Birch Lake. The area includes a new parking area with handicapped parking, two new docks, a new concrete boat landing ramp, a boat cleaning area and a rain garden for storm water runoff.

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Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update February 13, 2023

Date Submitted: February 13, 2023

Date Approved: February 13, 2023

Overall Update

The City of Babbitt has an existing recreation area that is used by residents of the region and visitors throughout the state. The Babbitt region is lacking camping sites. The City of Babbitt is undertaking this project to create additional camping opportunities and outdoor experiences for people of all ages throughout the region. The existing recreation area has a beach house equipped with changing rooms, restrooms, life guard/first aid room and a concession stand. The beach area has two rafts, a water slide, a picnic area with shelters, outdoor grills, a fully equipped playground area with activities for all ages and area lighting. The City of Babbitt has completed a total reconstruction of the boat landing area along Birch Lake. The area includes a new parking area with handicapped parking, two new docks, a new concrete boat landing ramp, a boat cleaning area and a rain garden for storm water runoff.

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Dissemination

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Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update December 19, 2022

Date Submitted: January 26, 2023

Date Approved: February 13, 2023

Overall Update

This project consists of expanding the existing Birch Lake Recreation Area to add a new 22 acre campground that will include 49 campsites and will accommodate recreational vehicles/tents. The campground has reached substantial completion and will open for business Spring, 2023.

Activity 1

S.E.H. is the consulting engineer. Oversight of the work done at the campground was done by our engineering firm. All materials met specifications and quantities were verified. A representative was onsite for all construction.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

The general contractor was responsible for all construction activities related to the project. They worked closely with the City of Babbitt and Engineer.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

The City of Babbitt will hold a ribbon cutting in the Spring, 2023 and will make sure LCCMR representatives are invited. Our web page will also give thanks to the funding received.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2022

Date Submitted: October 12, 2022

Date Approved: October 28, 2022

Overall Update

Project construction is approximately 90% complete. The contractor is scheduled to be substantially complete in late October, 2022 with final completion in November, 2022. The City intends to have the campground operational and open for the spring, 2023 season.

Activity 1

Inspection and construction administration continues.

Activity 2

Water & sewer are almost complete. Visitor Center Building and the Maintenance Building are up. Electrical work being done.

Dissemination

The Campground Committee continues to meet regularly followed up by updates at City Council meetings. All of the Council meetings are open to the citizens and are publicly posted. All meeting notices and minutes are available on the City's website.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2022

Date Submitted: March 29, 2022

Date Approved: March 29, 2022

Overall Update

Water & sewer lines are almost completed from the City of Babbitt to the Campground. Foundations have been constructed for the Visitor Center Building and the Maintenance Building.

Activity 1

Materials testing and staking has been completed. Inspection and construction administration continues.

Activity 2

Water & sewer lines are almost complete. Foundations have been constructed for the Visitor Center Building and the Maintenance Building.

Dissemination

The Campground Committee continues to meet regularly followed up by updates at City Council meetings. All of the Council meetings are open to the citizens and are publicly posted. All meeting notices and minutes are available on the City's website.