

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on October 15, 2024

M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

Project Title: City of Brainerd - Mississippi Landing Trailhead

Project Manager: Jessie Dehn

Affiliation: City of Brainerd

Mailing Address: 501 Laurel Street

City/State/Zip: Brainerd, MN 56401

Phone: (218) 454-3411

E-mail: jdehn@ci.brainerd.mn.us

Website: <https://www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

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

Appropriation Amount: \$2,850,000

Amount Spent: \$2,724,655

Amount Remaining: \$125,345

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The completed park project includes implementation of trailhead, canoe/kayak launch, river overlook, natural playscape, and other facilities, serve as a connection point for the public to trails and the Mississippi River while preserving and enhancing natural habitats through stormwater treatment, pollinator-friendly plantings and landscapes, and riverbank restoration.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The project aimed to construct the new Lyman P. White Park to provide better access to low-cost recreational opportunities such as walking, biking, and canoeing/kayaking while providing an accessible connection for residents and visitors to the Mississippi River through recreation, education, and restoration. With its completion, the project was successful in achieving those goals and the City of Brainerd has begun to see the growth of that connection of the community to the river and trails through this park. The park project has provided an effective connection to the Cuyuna Lakes and Paul Bunyan State Trails with trailhead amenities such as restrooms and a bike repair station. We have seen additional engagement with both individual kayak enthusiasts as well as organized kayaking groups begin to interact and utilize the kayak launch in the park. Following the opening of the park, there have been several event engagements that

have made utilization of the amphitheater including live music and other performances that have engaged the public within the park. It has also been used to tie the facilities into adjacent events such as the 4th of July parade and fireworks. In addition, the project has made several natural habitat improvements such as planting of pollinator-friendly landscapes throughout the park. Also included is a stormwater treatment basin which provides treatment of the stormwater runoff from the site before it encounters the Mississippi River. Additionally, enhancements to the riverbank have been made including removal of invasive vegetation and poor condition trees which have helped re-connect the public to the Mississippi River. Finally, the project has performed some important restoration items along the riverbank to both stabilize the riverbank but to also provide for fish habitat along the river shoreline.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The project has been widely advertised as a successful project as completing the goals set forth from the beginning with website and social media postings. A grand opening event was held on June 3, 2023 to celebrate the opening of the park. As mentioned, there has also been ties of the project to adjacent events, such as the 4th of July parade and fireworks, which have continued to add to the public outreach. As an addition, the City has included an ENRTF-funded sign as you enter the park for permanent acknowledgment of the grant funding to make the project possible.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: November 22, 2024

ID Number: 2021-092

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Project Title: City of Brainerd - Mississippi Landing Trailhead

Project Budget: \$2,850,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Jessie Dehn

Organization: City of Brainerd

Office Telephone: (218) 454-3411

Email: jdehn@ci.brainerd.mn.us

Web Address: <https://www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: October 15, 2024

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: October 15, 2024

Project Completion: June 30, 2024

Legal Information

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

Appropriation Language: \$2,850,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Brainerd to design and construct Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park to help connect residents and visitors to the Mississippi River through recreation, education, and restoration.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: The Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park will help connect residents and visitors to the Mississippi River through recreation, education, and restoration; providing an accessible connection to the river for everyone.

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

Brainerd seeks to design and construct a new park, the Mississippi Landing Trailhead (MLT) on a 3-acre, city owned parcel adjacent to the Mississippi River. Brainerd has little public land on the river. With a median income of only \$33,415, low cost recreational opportunities are needed like walking, biking, and canoeing/kayaking. There is no centralized trailhead to access the Mississippi River State Water Trail and Cuyuna Lakes & Paul Bunyan State Trails, and to draw trail visitors to downtown businesses. Brainerd's existing canoe launch is difficult to use and muddy. Brainerd lacks an outdoor community gathering space for public events & concerts. The city now holds public events in downtown parking lots. The historic Gregory Park bandstand is small and has limited grass seating space and no parking. Schools have no easy access to the river for environmental education; public information is also lacking. The underutilized park site includes only a paved city trail and an old asphalt parking lot that drains 797,000 gallons of stormwater directly into the river per year. The riverbank is becoming overrun with invasive species. Finally, in the County's recent Health Needs Assessment 65% of residents did not meet physical activity guidelines.

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.

The project will remove the existing parking lot and construct:

- 1) Paved hike/bike trails, and a natural surface hiking trail: these will connect via short spurs to the two State Trails & downtown ¼ mile away and other City trails
- 2) Hillside improvements to support community performances on a natural hill, terraced seating, open turf space, and a paved promenade with electric hookups, providing a park setting with great river views and ample seating & parking for concerts, farmers markets, and community events
- 3) An ADA-accessible canoe/kayak launch, offering a sandier, safer canoe/kayak launch with a convenient loading zone and shorter access trail
- 4) A space for outdoor education; the site is 800 ft. from the High School building & ½ mile from Central Lakes College—convenient for classes at both institutions
- 5) Two river overlooks, a trailhead kiosk, benches, restroom building, and interpretive signs
- 6) Rain gardens for stormwater filtration & riverbank habitat restoration including clearing of invasive vegetative species and replacement with native plantings

All facilities will meet ADA accessibility guidelines. The City will construct angled, on-street parking & an enhanced crosswalk to the high school in a separate project to be completed before the park opens (not part of this project)

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?

Trailhead and canoe/kayak launch shall pay tribute to the site history as a point of departure and arrival for the public while preserving its continued use by/for the public.

Stormwater flows shall be slowed, captured and cleansed, thereby enhancing river water quality and protecting sensitive aquatic species.

Site plantings benefit bird and insect habitat conservation in the Mississippi River flyway corridor:

- 1) Degraded shoreline forest shall be enhanced by litter removal, ecosystem restoration and erosion/slope stabilization
- 2) Vegetation richness/diversity shall increase with native tree, sedge, and forb species plantings
- 3) Pollinator friendly landscapes

Project Location

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

City(s): Brainerd

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

Region(s): Central

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: DESIGN - Landscape Architecture, & Civil Engineering

Activity Budget: \$285,124

Activity Description:

The project will include landscape architecture and engineering design for all project elements. Design will include site grading, site utilities, riverbank restoration, erosion control, bituminous trails, sidewalks, design of structures (outdoor classroom, gateway feature), site amenities (curb, gutter, nature play area, lighting, signage, trailhead elements, hillside seating, retaining walls, stormwater treatment facilities, site furnishings, and landscape plantings). A&E firm will be chosen through competitive RFP process. This consultant will lead the City of Brainerd through the design development stage; evolving the conceptual master plan provided into a final design. The selected firm will provide a public presentation, estimated costs, final plans, bidding and construction management to the project. A preliminary concept plan is attached and is the basis for advancing this project. The project non-construction cost items include design/engineering (survey, geotechnical engineering, final design and construction documents, and permitting) and construction management.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Request for Proposal - Select Design Consultant	August 31, 2021
Design Process - Concept & Design Development	December 31, 2021
Testing and Permitting - Complete all site testing for the site design & permitting	April 30, 2022
Construction Documentation - Develop plans, sections, details, quantities, and specifications	April 30, 2022

Activity 2: CONSTRUCTION - Site Improvements, Construction & Construction Administration

Activity Budget: \$2,564,876

Activity Description:

Construction will follow final plans and specifications developed by the A&E firm. Contractors will be solicited through the public bidding process that adheres to the City of Brainerd's policy, which adheres to state statute guidelines and requirements. Construction will include mobilization, site demolition, site clearing and grubbing, trenching, site preparation, grading, hardscape construction (backfilling, compaction, pavement, curb, gutter, sidewalks, site utilities), softscape installation (trees, shrubs, mulch), erosion control, fixtures (gateway construction, water bottle filling station, ADA-accessible canoe/kayak launch, lighting), and other miscellaneous construction items. In addition to the site-specific construction items, the City of Brainerd would solicit an A&E firm to perform a riverbank stabilization plan. This plan would describe improvements to the riverbank including the area adjacent to the site and continuing adjacent to the paved trail south to College Drive. The City of Brainerd would solicit a contractor to complete the riverbank stabilization work, likely including removal of invasive vegetation species and replacement planting of native species along the riverbank area. This activity will also include construction management, a service provided by the awarded consultant.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Bidding - Advertise for bid and award construction contractor through RFP process	June 30, 2022
Construction Completion	June 30, 2023
Project Closeout	June 30, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Ashley Kaisershot	Sourcewell	Ashley Kaisershot serves as a consulting planner for the City of Brainerd a variety of planning and trail development initiatives. Ashley has been a part of this project since 2016 and will continue to assist in the development and oversight of the Mississippi Landing Trailhead project (through 2020).	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 ENTRF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

AK comment: The city will create a project page for the Mississippi Landing Trailhead; a landing page highlighting the progression of the project, site development, clearly indicating the collaborative nature of the project and funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The ENTRF logo will be included in this project page. On the project landing page, city staff will share the status of construction and highlight the important elements of the site. At the completion of each large project phase, staff will develop a brief publication to be shared via social media, sharing photos branded with the logo - following the ENTRF acknowledgment guidelines.

In addition, a site construction sign will be installed to identify the funders of the project, with the ENTRF logo.

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 project will be completed and implemented when the Mississippi Landing Trailhead park is officially opened to the public. After construction, the City of Brainerd Parks Department and City Council have committed to operating and maintaining the park in perpetuity.

Parking is not included in this project but will be constructed as a part of a new improvement project. On street parking will replace the removal of the parking lot. If the project is funded, the city will complete the road improvements through a separate capital project by the time the park opens.

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										
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	SITE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING: The first step in constructing the Mississippi Landing Trailhead is developing the final site design, engineering, and construction specifications for the park. A conceptual design has been completed through collaboration with the National Parks Service, and a preliminary cost estimate has been conducted by SEH.				0		\$285,000	\$270,908	\$14,092
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	FEATURE CONSTRUCTION/INSTALLATION: The Mississippi Landing Trailhead park will have numerous features with which the community can engage. Such features include restroom facilities, water stations, bike repair stations, art, outdoor education facility, and more. A main element of the park's construction will be constructing/building/installing these features.				0		\$1,800,000	\$1,799,701	\$299
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	SITE PREPARATION AND LANDSCAPING: Once the design and engineering for the Mississippi Landing Trailhead is complete, the next step will be to prepare the site for construction. This portion of the project also includes conducting ecological improvements and overall landscaping.				0		\$595,000	\$535,835	\$59,165
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION: While the City of Brainerd has a number of qualified staff from engineers to planners to building officials who could effectively manage the construction of the Mississippi Landing Trailhead, it is generally the City's				0		\$170,000	\$118,211	\$51,789

		practice to contract for construction administration services for such projects.								
							Sub Total	\$2,850,000	\$2,724,655	\$125,345
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	\$2,850,000	\$2,724,655	\$125,345

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	Minnesota Investment Funds - 2020 Fund Rollover	MIF funds to be allocated to the project.	Secured	\$100,000	-	\$100,000
			State Sub Total	\$100,000	-	\$100,000
Non-State						
In-Kind	Staff time allocated to the oversight and management of the grant project.	Staff from various departments will provide in-kind assistance in addition to their duties between the acceptance of the grant and the completion of the project. Departments include Administration, Finance, Community Development, and Public Works (Engineering and Parks).	Potential	\$100,000	-	\$100,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$100,000	-	\$100,000
			Funds Total	\$200,000	-	\$200,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [9b7104a7-819.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

This document includes the Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park master plan, updated project estimate, and certificate of survey....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Mississippi Landing Trailhead Supporting Resolution	3ae40f5a-9b1.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Support Content	db7ccf78-8aa.pdf
Mississippi Landing Trailhead Letters of Support	772120d8-e12.pdf
2018 City of Brainerd CAFR	435986a4-628.pdf
MLT Cost Estimate	64684b04-c64.pdf
2021-092 Background Check	84515ff0-0a4.pdf
Final Project Photos - Lyman P. White Park	b1f2c422-389.pdf

Media Links

Title	Link
Project Web Page	https://www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/Facilities/Facility/Details/Lyman-P-White-Park-29

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Omission of the amphitheater structure, targeted for a city capital campaign effort (seating to remain); temporary stage will be constructed through local partnerships. Removal of river steps, transition to phase II of project. Lowered the cost of the restroom facility to align with allocated funds. Changes in the project timeline to account for spring advertisement for bids for the construction work, planting unit installation schedule spring/fall (avoiding summer months), and positioning the project where construction will begin in June 2022 and end June 2023. This shift allocates more time for the design phase.

Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park will serve as a connection for the community to the river. An important aspect to this park will be creating outdoor recreational and learning opportunities through establishment of native habitat. Our goals for the park include the following: wildlife habitat, plant diversity, stormwater treatment, restoring natural disturbances, providing habitat for pollinators, and managing invasive species. The Mississippi River serves as a wildlife corridor within the City of Brainerd. The design of this park will keep intact and enhance the native forest area along the riverbank through native plantings. Selecting a diverse and native planting plan will also be important for creating a resilient habitat. Native and diverse plant communities along the river will help prevent invasive species and maintain forest health from environmental stressors. Also, the city is currently working on a public tree inventory mapping program to foster a resilient tree community. This Park project will plant trees according to our management plan that

will be adopted after our public tree inventory is completed. There are stormwater filtration basins planned for the park. These stormwater areas will help filter contaminants from the adjacent road and serve as wildlife and pollinator habitat. This stormwater/ raingarden habitat may be a good project to partner with the local mater garden's club for implementation and maintenance. There will also be an emphasis on creating resilient and bee friendly lawns in some of the turf grass areas. Once established, the Brainerd Parks Department will work on maintaining the natural environment. This includes detection and eradication of invasive species. The native habitat will serve Brainerd well as an outdoor classroom for community members and school aged children. The City will utilize the skills of the Assistant Planner in the Community Development Department, who is a landscape architect by trade, as well as partners with the Crow Wing County Master Gardeners in designing and maintaining these natural areas.

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	Project Manager	Previous Manager: David Chanski (dchanski@ci.brainerd.mn.us) New Manager: Connie Hillman (chillman@ci.brainerd.mn.us)	Previous PM David Chanski Changed Jobs	July 7, 2022	Yes	July 7, 2022
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Collaborators - Project Manager Info • Narrative • Activities and Milestones 	Clarification on additional work regarding water bottle filling station, ADA-accessible canoe/kayak launch, and riverbank stabilization including removal of invasive vegetative species and replacement with native plantings. The amendment request also specifies the limits of the riverbank stabilization work to occur from the park area south to College Drive.	February 27, 2023	Yes	March 20, 2023
3	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Connie Hillman (chillman@ci.brainerd.mn.us) New Manager: Jessie Dehn (jdehn@ci.brainerd.mn.us)	In direct charge of the implementation/construction phase of the project.	February 27, 2023	Yes	March 20, 2023
4	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Collaborators - Project Manager Info • Other • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts 	Adjustment on Budget Items 2 and 3. Budget Item 2 exceeded nearly \$25,000. However, Budget Item 3 underran roughly \$85,000. If an amendment could be made to raise the budget for FEATURE CONSTRUCTION/INSTALLATION by \$25,000 to a total of \$1,800,000, SITE PREPARATION/LANDSCAPING can be reduced by the same \$25,000 to a total of \$595,000 to accommodate. Total budget of \$2,850,000 would remain the same.	June 28, 2024	Yes	August 23, 2024

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2024

Date Submitted: June 28, 2024

Date Approved: August 23, 2024

Overall Update

The Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park project is complete through construction, and the Park Board authorized final payment to the contractor after the final acceptance was granted. The Riverbank Restoration Project that was added through an amendment to this grant adjacent to this park has just completed construction and been accepted. Activities 1 and 2 for both projects is now considered complete.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Activity 2

All of the work for the original park project as a part of this LCCMR grant has been completed and the final payment authorized by the Brainerd Park Board. The project was accepted by the consultant and City staff, and maintenance bonds are in process for the park project. The riverbank restoration project, as added through the amendment process, was just recently completed by the awarded contractor, Minnesota Native Landscapes. The work for the riverbank restoration project has been accepted by the consultant and City staff.

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

Dissemination

The City held a grand opening of the new Park Project on June 4, 2023 and recognized all the stakeholders and funding agencies publicly in that process. There were a couple of articles in the Brainerd dispatch along with a couple of news stories posted on Lakeland PBS regarding the opening of the Park. City and Consultant staff also presented this project in front of the APWA annual fall conference at the Mystic Lake Center in November and acknowledged the funding from LCCMR at that conference in front of more than 500 attendees. The city has created a project page for the Mississippi Landing Trailhead highlighting the progression of the project, site development, and clearly indicating the collaborative nature of the project and funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund w/ the ENTRF logo displayed. The project page is located at <https://www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/Facilities/Facility/Details/Lyman-P-White-Park-29>. In addition, a permanent, 2 foot x 2 foot ENTRF logo sign has been installed at the park.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2024

Date Submitted: June 28, 2024

Date Approved: August 23, 2024

Overall Update

The Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park project is complete through construction, and the Park Board authorized final payment to the contractor after the final acceptance was granted. The Riverbank Restoration Project that was added through an amendment to this grant adjacent to this park has just completed construction and been accepted. Activities 1 and 2 for both projects is now considered complete.

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Activity 2

All of the work for the original park project as a part of this LCCMR grant has been completed and the final payment authorized by the Brainerd Park Board. The project was accepted by the consultant and City staff, and maintenance bonds are in process for the park project. The riverbank restoration project, as added through the amendment process, was just recently completed by the awarded contractor, Minnesota Native Landscapes. The work for the riverbank restoration project has been accepted by the consultant and City staff.

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

Dissemination

The City held a grand opening of the new Park Project on June 4, 2023 and recognized all the stakeholders and funding agencies publicly in that process. There were a couple of articles in the Brainerd dispatch along with a couple of news stories posted on Lakeland PBS regarding the opening of the Park. City and Consultant staff also presented this project in front of the APWA annual fall conference at the Mystic Lake Center in November and acknowledged the funding from LCCMR at that conference in front of more than 500 attendees. The city has created a project page for the Mississippi Landing Trailhead highlighting the progression of the project, site development, and clearly indicating the collaborative nature of the project and funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund w/ the ENTRF logo displayed. The project page is located at <https://www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/Facilities/Facility/Details/Lyman-P-White-Park-29>. In addition, a permanent, 2 foot x 2 foot ENTRF logo sign has been installed at the park.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2023

Date Submitted: December 15, 2023

Date Approved: January 30, 2024

Overall Update

The Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park project is complete through construction, and the Park Board authorized final payment to the contractor after the final acceptance was granted. The Riverbank Restoration Project that was added through an amendment to this grant adjacent to this park was just awarded to the low bid contractor, and we expect to start construction beginning of December. Activity 1 for both projects is now considered complete, and we will be moving into Activity 2, in which is construction and construction administration of the riverbank project.

Activity 1

All design work for the park project is completed. The additional design for the riverbank restoration project is also completed, and the award of the project was granted to Minnesota Native Landscapes.

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

Activity 2

All of the work for the original park project as a part of this LCCMR grant has been completed and the final payment authorized by the Brainerd Park Board. The project was accepted by the consultant and City staff, and maintenance bonds are in process for the park project. The riverbank restoration project, as added through the amendment process, was just awarded to a contractor, Minnesota Native Landscapes. It is anticipated that construction will start in the beginning of December and the project completed by the grant deadline of July 1, 2024.

Dissemination

The City held a grand opening of the new Park Project on June 4, 2023 and recognized all the stakeholders and funding agencies publicly in that process. There were a couple of articles in the Brainerd dispatch along with a couple of news stories posted on Lakeland PBS regarding the opening of the Park. City and Consultant staff also presented this project in front of the APWA annual fall conference at the Mystic Lake Center in November and acknowledged the funding from LCCMR at that conference in front of more than 500 attendees. The city has created a project page for the Mississippi Landing Trailhead highlighting the progression of the project, site development, and clearly indicating the collaborative nature of the project and funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund w/ the ENTRF logo displayed. The project page is located at <https://www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/Facilities/Facility/Details/Lyman-P-White-Park-29>.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2023

Date Submitted: June 15, 2023

Date Approved: July 25, 2023

Overall Update

As a part of the original proposal, the outcomes were to help connect residents and visitors to the Mississippi River through recreation, education, and restoration; providing an accessible connection to the river for everyone. This project consisted of removing a large amount of impervious surface (parking lot) and turning it into a City Park that can provide access to the Mississippi River. The outcomes of the project have been a success, as the project is substantially complete and consist of a river overlook, hillside overlook, promenade, amphitheater, learning center, restrooms, and ample greenspace, plantings, stormwater basins and features, and access to the river through river steps and a canoe/kayak launch. All of these distinct aspects of this space touch on the projected outcomes of the project. Through a collaborative community driven process, the community needs and accessible river access, in which was the largest outcome, has been fulfilled through the construction of this park. The intention of the additional riverbank restoration project is to further meet objectives of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources through providing habitat, removal of invasive species, and further bank stabilization through this area near the park.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Activity 2

Activities as a part of Activity 2 are considered at a substantial completion stage, including the installation of all major park elements including river overlook, hillside overlook, promenade, amphitheater, learning center, restrooms, and ample greenspace, plantings, stormwater basins and features, and access to the river through river steps and a canoe/kayak launch. The contractor on site is currently working through a punchlist of items to be accepted by the owner before the park is considered complete and includes seeded areas being established to a 70% vegetated, weed free grass area. At the point of full restoration and germination of the grasses, it is the intent of the owner to accept the improvements and await the 1-year warranty period for plantings to conclude. The Riverbank Stabilization project that is an additional part of this project has just reached its initial design stage through topographic survey. Final design will take place throughout this summer, with construction starting in the fall. Final completion is expected for the spring of 2024 for that portion of the project.

Dissemination

The City has created a project page for Lyman P. White Park found here <http://www.ci.brainerd.mn.us/625/Lyman-P-White-Park>; a landing page highlighting the progression of the project, site development, clearly indicating the collaborative nature of the project and funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The ENTRF logo is included in this project page. On the project landing page, city staff will share the status of construction and highlight the important elements of the site. At the completion of each large project phase, staff will develop a brief publication to be shared via social media, sharing photos branded with the logo and following the ENTRF acknowledgment guidelines.

In addition, a site construction sign will be installed to identify the funders of the project, with the ENTRF logo.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2022

Date Submitted: December 8, 2022

Date Approved: December 16, 2022

Overall Update

Construction of the trailhead/kayak launch is substantially underway. Excavation activities at the canoe/kayak launch finished, the River Overlook cantilever structure complete, riprap has been placed and bottom edge of launch walkway, stairs at the river steps completed and retaining wall block has been installed at the landing. The site grading has been completed, storm sewer installed, and the stormwater detention basin has been excavated and is collecting stormwater to enhance water quality. The site has been temporarily stabilized for the winter, trees, turf and planting will be installed in the spring/summer of 2023.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Activity 2

Construction is approximately 80% complete. Construction has paused for the winter and will resume in the spring of 2023.

Dissemination

The city has created a project page for the Mississippi Landing Trailhead highlighting the progression of the project, site development, and clearly indicating the collaborative nature of the project and funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund w/ the ENTRF logo displayed. The project page is located at <https://ci.brainerd.mn.us/625/Mississippi-Landing-Trailhead>. The project page also provides a link to related new paper publications, progress photos, project renderings, etc.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2022

Date Submitted: July 15, 2022

Date Approved: August 16, 2022

Overall Update

The City of Brainerd has hired WSB to design and engineer the plans and specifications for the Park. Upon the approval of WSB as the engineer on the project, the project team held project management team (PMT) meetings and went through conceptual, preliminary, and final design of the park. Included in the park plans were all of the elements of the work plan. The PMT consisted of elected and appointed officials along with city staff. Upon completion of the plans and specifications, the city subsequently let bids for the work and awarded the project construction to Custom Builders, Inc. Custom Builders has a long history of park construction, and with the unique elements of this project, the city is confident in their ability to finish the project. As part of the design process, the city was able to acquire a small piece of property that it did not own in the park footprint from the school district. As stated above, the park plans include all of the elements as included in the narrative, and meet all accessibility guidelines as outlined in the project description.

Activity 1

All design of the proposed park has been completed. The plans and specifications were let in the late winter/early spring of 2022, and subsequently, construction has started with removals, building foundations, and construction of the riverbank elements as proposed in the work plan. All necessary MnDNR and MPCA permits have been obtained for the construction.

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

Activity 2

Construction of the project began on May 13, 2022. The contractor on site has performed all removals, began site grading, and has begun the installation of building foundations for the erection of the amphitheater, learning center, and restrooms. Site utilities will begin the week of July 11.

Dissemination

1) The city will create a project page for the Mississippi Landing Trailhead; a landing page highlighting the progression of the project, site development, clearly indicating the collaborative nature of the project and funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The ENTRF logo will be included in this project page. Currently will be establishing the landing page in August of 2022.

2) On the project landing page, city staff will share the status of construction and highlight the important elements of the site. At the completion of each large project phase, staff will develop a brief publication to be shared via social media, sharing photos branded with the logo - following the ENTRF acknowledgment guidelines. This information will be included on the landing page in August of 2022, this will include the current work that has been completed in July of 2022.