

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on October 7, 2024

M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

Project Title: Lake Brophy Single-Track Trail Expansion

Project Manager: Brad Bonk

Affiliation: Douglas County Parks

Mailing Address: Po Box 398

City/State/Zip: Alexandria, MN 56308

Phone: (320) 762-2966

E-mail: bradbo@co.douglas.mn.us

Website: www.co.douglas.mn.us

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

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

Appropriation Amount: \$100,000

Amount Spent: \$100,000

Amount Remaining: -

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

This project produced a return trail for the jump line area, a yet to be named black downhill trail on the east side of the park, and the blue trail named the Brand Bomber. The trails are typically open April - November during daylight hours.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project was a combination of LCCMR and Federal Recreation funds. Pathfinder trails was selected as the contractor. The LCCMR portion was started and completed in June, 2022. The federal portion of the project was started in early June 2022 and wrapped up on June 30 2023. We strategically built into our construction schedule to coincide with a freeze/thaw cycle to let the dirt work settle and ensure no maintenance issues arose. One amendment was made to the project to drop the pump track and add another downhill trail. This was done because the cost to construct an all weather pump track was greater than our entire 250,000 from the LCCMR and the federal grant. The trails that were completed during the summer of 2022 held up very well through the winter and the spring thaw. Th trails system in a large asset to our large number of tourist as well as locally. It is the practice site of our high school mountain bike team and will be hosting a Minnesota State High School race in August of 2024.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

These trails have been a great addition to our community and an attraction for tourists visiting our ever popular Lakes Area. We had a grand opening celebration for Brophy Park on July 18, 2023. We thanked our elected officials (including Torre Westrom and Bill Ingrebretson who served on the LCCMR) in person as well as county officials. We listed all the places funding was secured for the park (including LCCMR). We had a crowd of around 3,500 people who came out to celebrate this public space. It was and will be the highlight of my working career. Thanks you



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: November 8, 2024

ID Number: 2021-222

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Project Title: Lake Brophy Single-Track Trail Expansion

Project Budget: \$100,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Brad Bonk

Organization: Douglas County Parks

Office Telephone: (320) 762-2966

Email: bradbo@co.douglas.mn.us

Web Address: www.co.douglas.mn.us

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: October 7, 2024

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: October 7, 2024

Project Completion: July 31, 2023

Legal Information

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

Appropriation Language: \$100,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Douglas County in partnership with the Big Ole Bike Club to design and build new expert single-track segments and an asphalt pump track for the existing trail system at Lake Brophy Park to improve outdoor recreation experiences in west-central Minnesota.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: The project is a downhill trail and an uphill trail.

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

- Communities with trail access tend to be healthier, wealthier and more attractive to those wishing to visit or relocate
- The existing expert downhill is the most popular trail in the park and there is demand for more trail options at the park.
- There is not a direct uphill trail with access to the existing downhill trail and the proposed downhill trail.
- With a large playground, there is a need for activities for older kids such as pump track.
- A pump track safely introduces kids to mountain biking and improves their riding skills
- There is limited trail access in west central Minnesota, consequently a demand for high quality sustainably designed trails
- Because of single track trail development, Alexandria is hosting a Minnesota High School Cycling League race on 8/29-30/2020 at Lake Brophy Park.
- Single track trails benefit trail runners, cyclists (particularly mountain bikers), and hikers. Trails are already bringing more trail users to the park and area and this is anticipated to continue with the trail expansion.

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.

design and construct another expert downhill trail and a new uphill trail to access existing expert downhill single track trail in Lake Brophy Park. The additional trails will help to provide more opportunity to ride, run, hike in a very busy Brophy Park. COVID-19 has forced many to recreate outdoors, crowding our limited public space. The Pump track will help new users learn how to ride the mountain bike trails, but will also be a safe entry point to try mountain biking. This is especially true of young families that probably can't afford to outfit the entire family with bikes all at once.

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?

Both parks where we have developed single track trails thereby protecting, conserving, preserving and enhancing the states natural resources have seen increased park usage.

Several team member's parents have purchased bikes and now ride with their kids on existing trails in the two parks. Big Ole Bike Club members along with the county park's employees, using a groomer purchased by Douglas County Parks to groom trails for winter biking or what is known as "fat tire" biking.

Project Location

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

County(s): Douglas

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

Region(s): Central

When will the work impact occur?

In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Design and construct expert downhill trail and an uphill trail to directly access the existing downhill expert trail.

Activity Budget: \$50,000

Activity Description:

design and construct another expert downhill trail (approximately .75 Mile) and a new uphill trail approximately .75 mile) to access existing expert downhill single track trail in Lake Brophy Park. Trails will be designed and built by a professional trail builder that has been approved per the state bid. The expectation for both the downhill and uphill trail would be to provide a technically challenging ride for users. This could include but is not limited to rocks, drops, climbs, rollers, berms etc. Most of our current 6 miles is of the beginner or green level trail. These trails will add an element for users to use advanced skills. Some of the work (selection of contractor) will be initiated with non-ENRTF funds before ENRTF funds become available; this work will be done at Douglas Counties own risk; and the work will comply with ENRTF funding requirements. The contract selection process will abide by state contracting rules according to the ENRTF funding requirements.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Contact trail builders off the state approve bid site and interview for possible selection. T	February 28, 2021
Select trail builder and design project	July 31, 2021
Construct trails	November 30, 2022

Activity 2: Design and Construct surfaced pump track

Activity Budget: \$50,000

Activity Description:

Design and construct a surface pump track that would allow for all weather riding. Douglas County would hire a trail builder with previous experience is building a surfaced pump track to design and build. The pump track would be located near a large (destination) playground that attracts large numbers of family, and sit's directly next to the Central Lakes State Trail. The track would allow beginning riders to be introduced to mountain biking, and the skill of pumping (using momentum build by the riders shifting of weight and not peddling). A facility like this would be used by our Learn to Mountain Bike classes, our High School Mountain bike team for practice, and new riders of all ages who are curious. Some of the work (selection of contractor) will be initiated with non-ENRTF funds before ENRTF funds become available; this work will be done at Douglas Counties own risk; and the work will comply with ENRTF funding requirements. The contract selection process will abide by state contracting rules according to the ENRTF funding requirements.

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Construct pump track	November 30, 2022

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Jeff Brand	Big Ole Bike Club	Providing public input during design phase of project. Will be providing trail maintenance for the project area into the future.	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.

Research on trail usage will be conducted through the Legacy Advisory Committees Street Light Data. This research will be shared and made public. Douglas County will also use trail counters to gauge usage. Acknowledgement of the ENRTF will be included in all project communications and outreach – including press releases, media interactions, signs, publications, event advertisements & invitations, websites, newsletters, printed materials, presentations, and social media. Acknowledgement will be made through use of the ENRTF logo, attribution language, or by tagging the ENRTF on social media.

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?

Trails will be maintained by the Douglas County Parks (DCP) and Big Ole Bike Club (BOBC). DCP have dedicated employees for trail maintenance and development. BOBC, together with our Cycling League team has volunteer days for trail building and maintenance for existing trails.

It is estimated that maintenance may be necessary every 5-6 years consisting of repairing erosion or any minor reroutes that need to be performed. Two people, professionally trained, would be able to do a mile for 800 dollars. Funding is through Douglas County Parks and Big Ole Bike Club, which has over \$50,000 for trail related expenses.

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. Douglas County will award a contract for the trails project	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The awarded contractor will design and construct two single track trails that will be blue or black in difficulty level. As describe through the IMBA standards of trail building.				0		\$100,000	\$100,000	-
							Sub Total	\$100,000	\$100,000	-
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	\$100,000	\$100,000	-

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	Federal Recreational Grant	To Create skills park and single track trails at Brophy Park	Secured	\$150,000	-	\$150,000
			State Sub Total	\$150,000	-	\$150,000
Non-State						
			Non State Sub Total	-	-	-
			Funds Total	\$150,000	-	\$150,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [373fb341-02f.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

A Project Site Map of Lake Brophy Park

o The Uphill trail is marked in yellow/black as is the proposed downhill trail. The asphalt pump track is in yellow/black and in the lower right of the map. The existing trails are marked in green/black....

Financial Capacity

File: [dd854bd2-90e.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Resolution	00bfd3a4-804.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Jake Capstrant, Jake's Bikes, Local bike shop	12ef5952-d8f.docx
o Bryan Swenson, Winter bikes and Minnesota High School Cycling League team	ffa2dabf-5b7.docx
o Tara Bitzan, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce	e10c194f-aa4.docx
background check form	7dd61f2a-23f.pdf
Skills Park	93d20b16-f95.jpe
Skills Park 2	5708d2a6-9c7.jpe
Pathfinder Playground downhill area	2ccfdae2-a7f.jpe
Downhill single track	8058acd7-aec.jpe
uphill trail	1fd1abdd-7a4.jpe
LCCMR Sign at trail head	f635298f-f1c.jpe
LCCMR sign at Trail Map	d97db8c4-ffa.jpe
Ribbon Cutting with State Reps and county officials	9567313e-9de.jpe
Ribbon Cutting Crowd	b2bf35e4-5d6.jpe
Brophy park Trail Map	88e74a8c-688.pdf

Media Links

Title	Link
High School Mountain Bike Race 2024	https://www.echopress.com/sports/prep/alexandria-mountain-biking-team-shines-at-season-opener
Letter to editor	https://www.echopress.com/opinion/letters/commentary-lake-brophy-county-park-is-a-gem
Explore Alexandria Lake Brophy Park Home Page	https://explorealex.com/dt_places/lake-brophy-park/

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Have answered and revised questions ask of project. I added the comment below to each of the activities areas.

The selection of the contractor will follow State Guidelines detailed in the grant application filled out to apply for the LCCMR Grant. Costs associate with staff time to do this work will be covered by Douglas County.

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	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative • null • Activities and Milestones • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Attachments 	Move \$50,000 budgeted funds from Pump track into the Single Track trails budget. Creating a \$100,000 budget for single track trails. Because of increased prices of fuel and materials to surface pump track estimates have come in 3 times higher and not feasible with our current budget. Single track trail construction has also increased in price and this will ensure we get the single track trails complete.	July 11, 2022	Yes	July 12, 2022
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed • Attachments 	The website will not allow me to submit a status update without updating the budget and I can only update the budget by doing a amendment request. All funds have been spent and the project is complete. We will work on reimbursements in August once all invoices are paid and documented in our financial system.	September 14, 2023	Yes	October 9, 2023

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update September 14, 2023

Date Submitted: August 29, 2024

Date Approved: September 26, 2024

Overall Update

Project was a combination of LCCMR and Fed Rec funds. The LCCMR portion was complete in June on June 30, 2022. The Fed Rec portion was wrapped up on June 30 2023. One Amendment was made to the project to drop the pump track and add another downhill trail. This was done because the cost to construct an all weather pump track was greater than our entire 250,000 from the LCCMR and the Fed Rec grant. The trails that were completed during the summer of 2022 held up very well through the winter and the spring thaw. These trails have been a great addition to our community and an attraction for tourists visiting our ever popular Lakes Area. We had a grand opening celebration for Brophy Park on July 18, 2023. We thanked our elected officials (including Torre Westrom and Bill Ingrebretson who served on the LCCMR) in person as well as county officials. We listed all the places funding was secured for the park (including LCCMR). We had a crowd of around 3,500 people who came out to celebrate this public space. It was and will be the highlight of my working career. Thank you.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete on June 30 2023. The public has been using the site since that date. We had a park grand opening celebrating all the accomplishments at Brophy Park over the last 10 years on July 18. LCCMR was thanked along with thanking Torre Westrom and Bill Ingrebretson in person. Pictures have been uploaded.

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

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete on June 30 2023. The public has been using the site since that date. We had a park grand opening celebrating all the accomplishments at Brophy Park over the last 10 years on July 18. LCCMR was thanked along with thanking Torre Westrom and Bill Ingrebretson in person. Pictures have been uploaded.

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

Dissemination

Signage has been placed at the park. Pictures are attached.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2023

Date Submitted: September 14, 2023

Date Approved: October 9, 2023

Overall Update

Trail is complete. Contractor returned in June and finished the Fed Rec portion of the trail. We have a complete and open trail system that is being used by the public.

Activity 1

Complete. Trail came through the winter well. No need for additional maintenance. Trail in Complete and open to the public.

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

Activity 2

Complete. trail came through winter and spring melt well. No need for further maintenance. Trail is Complete and open to the public.

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

Dissemination

Signs have been placed at trail head and on Trail maps in the park.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2022

Date Submitted: December 14, 2022

Date Approved: December 20, 2022

Overall Update

Construction was successful during the summer months and a expert downhill trail was constructed as well as the layout for an uphill return trail. We have spent \$75,000 of the 100,000. We plan to submit for reimbursement over the winter for that amount. The rest will be spent in the spring on the final construction of the uphill trail.

Activity 1

The Downhill trail was laid out and constructed and has been ridden heavily by the public. The uphill section was laid out but not completed as we ran out of time in the work schedule for this season. The plan is to come back in the spring to check for any erosion on the Federal Recreation grant portion of the project and at that time finish the uphill trail. Work should be complete by June 30 2023.

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

Dissemination

We have structured the construction of the system to occur over a freeze/thaw cycle to see how the material holds up. We feel by understanding this before finishing some of the larger features it will give us better longevity. Once the project is completed in the spring we will be using the Alexandria Area Mountaineers High School Mountain Bike team to gain further information on rider satisfaction, as well as the general public to see where they are traveling from to ride our system.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2022

Date Submitted: July 11, 2022

Date Approved: July 12, 2022

Overall Update

Project is currently waiting for contractor to show up on Site. We are hoping for a June 2022 start.

Activity 1

Contractor has been Selected to do proposed work Pathfinder Trail Builders will be doing said work. Design work is done, cost estimates have come in slightly higher than budgeted but to be expected is this market.

Activity 2

Contractor has been Selected to do proposed work Pathfinder Trail Builders will be doing said work. We have found some issues with the surfaced pump track as cost are upwards of 3 times higher than previously thought. Currently working on alternatives

Dissemination

Currently with no work progressing no media descriptions of the project have gone out. Once work starts we will start getting the word out about the work.