

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on January 6, 2025

M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

Project Title: Accessible Fishing Piers and Shore Fishing Areas

Project Manager: Nancy Stewart

Affiliation: MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

Mailing Address: 500 Lafayette Road

City/State/Zip: St. Paul, MN 55155

Phone: (651) 259-5616

E-mail: nancy.stewart@state.mn.us

Website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/parks_trails/index.html

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

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

Appropriation Amount: \$340,000

Amount Spent: \$312,598

Amount Remaining: \$27,402

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Seven new fishing piers and a two new shore fishing stations will be available to anglers thanks to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. All projects are accessible and improve fishing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Seven fishing piers and two shore fishing stations have been purchased, installed and open for use by anglers. The sites with new fishing piers are Cascade Lake in the City of Rochester, Lake Osakis in the City of Osakis, Redwood Reservoir in the City of Redwood Falls, Dutch Lake in the City of Mound, St. Louis River in the City of Floodwood, Lake Bemidji, Diamond Point Park, in the City of Bemidji, Bass Lake, campground, Itasca County and two shore fishing stations on the Sauk River in the City of Melrose.

Accessible fishing pier and shore facilities make fishing safe, convenient, and fun for all ages especially children, elderly, disabled, veterans, families, organized groups, and anyone who doesn't own a boat or just wants to enjoy being near the water. Fishing piers are often used at outdoor classrooms to teach angling skills and aquatic science education and aid in statewide efforts to recruit and retain anglers. A secondary benefit is the protection of shorelines, by removing foot

traffic there is healing as shoreline vegetation fills in. Fishing from a pier can be both relaxing and exciting; one minute everyone is enjoying nature and the next celebrating a fish reeled in.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

In the spring of 2025, a press release will go out sometime before the fishing opener to let anglers know these new accessible fishing piers and shore fishing areas are available. Each local government who partnered on the project is also requested to do a local story. Signs acknowledging the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund are installed on or near the completed fishing piers and shore fishing stations. All new fishing locations will be added to DNR online and paper maps and made available to the public.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: January 13, 2025

ID Number: 2021-380

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Project Title: Accessible Fishing Piers and Shore Fishing Areas

Project Budget: \$340,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Nancy Stewart

Organization: MN DNR - State Parks and Trails Division

Office Telephone: (651) 259-5616

Email: nancy.stewart@state.mn.us

Web Address: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/parks_trails/index.html

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: January 6, 2025

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: January 6, 2025

Project Completion: December 31, 2023

Legal Information

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

Appropriation Language: \$340,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to provide accessible fishing piers and develop shore fishing sites to serve new angling communities, underserved populations, and anglers with disabilities.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: Provide 4-8 accessible fishing piers and 1-2 developed shore fishing sites in locations that have a high potential to serve new angling communities, under-served populations and anglers with disabilities.

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

The estimated economic impact of fishing in Minnesota is \$2.4 billion and supports more than 35,000 jobs. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) estimates that about 40% of people with Minnesota fishing licenses do not own a boat, this is approximately 480,000 anglers. The requests to the DNR for funding and technical assistance with installing fishing piers and developing shore fishing facilities has been increasing.

Providing angling opportunities and increasing angling participation of youth and families, especially those from under-served populations, is one of the primary goals of the DNR Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation program. Fishing piers and developed shore fishing sites, when available, are often used as classrooms for fishing skills and outdoor education lessons. Three DNR programs will benefit from this project including: MinnAqua; "I Can Fish"; and Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN). Various groups will also benefit including girl and boy scout organizations, 4-H clubs, local conservation clubs, youth camps, park visitors and surrounding neighborhoods.

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.

Accessible fishing piers and developed shore fishing sites make fishing safe, easy, and fun for all ages, especially children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, veterans, and anyone who does not own a boat. Fishing piers and shore fishing areas help overcome two core barriers of beginning anglers: access (having a safe place to go) and confidence (having fish to catch). Adding new fishing piers and shore fishing sites to lakes and rivers will remove these core barriers, providing additional opportunities and allowing more people to participate.

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?

Fishing piers and developed shore fishing areas provide many positive impacts. They provide a safe and convenient place to fish, instead of from fragile, overgrown or rip-rapped shorelines. Fishing pier and shore fishing areas can help in eliminating shoreline erosion caused by repeated angling foot traffic. Around the fishing pier and shore fishing sites, native shoreline and aquatic vegetation can thrive, especially if the projects are paired with shoreline restoration efforts. Fishing piers can also help reduce the carbon footprint by providing an area for people to fish close to home and without a boat.

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?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Provide 4 accessible fishing piers and 1 shore fishing site in partnership with local government units.

Activity Budget: \$200,000

Activity Description:

Using existing public lands, the MN DNR will work with various local government unit partners to place fishing piers and shore fishing areas at locations that will: 1) meet ADA requirements; 2) provide an opportunity to catch fish; and 3) serve under-served populations. Through a joint powers agreement, the local government unit partner will assist the MN DNR in maintaining the fishing pier/shore fishing sites for 20 years. Projects locations are identified as high-priority locations for accessible fishing piers and shore fishing sites. The project list may be modified if a project partner is not able to provide ADA path or maintenance commitments. Changes would be made through a work plan amendment. Program staff are involved in providing technical expertise, developing and managing partnership agreements, ordering fishing piers and other supplies, installing fishing piers or shore fishing structures. Including fleet costs for vehicles and equipment and the DNR direct and necessary costs associated with this funding.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Install fishing pier at Cascade Lake, Olmstead County, partnership with the City of Rochester.	June 30, 2022
Install fishing pier at Fish Lake, St. Louis County, partnership with MN Power	December 31, 2022
Install fishing pier at Sauk River, Stearns County, City of Cold Spring	December 31, 2022
Install fishing pier at Kraemer Lake, Stearns County, Kraemer Lake County Park	December 31, 2023
Develop shore fishing area at Rum River, Sherburne County, City of Princeton, Riverside Park	December 31, 2023

Activity 2: Provide 1-4 additional accessible fishing piers and/or 1 additional shore fishing area in partnership with local government units

Activity Budget: \$140,000

Activity Description:

Using existing public lands, the MN DNR will work with various local government unit partners to place fishing piers or shore fishing areas at locations that will: 1) meet ADA requirements; 2) provide an opportunity to catch fish; and 3) serve under-served populations. Through a joint powers agreement, the local government unit partner will assist the MN DNR in maintaining the fishing pier/shore fishing site for 20 years. Projects locations are yet to be identified and will be added through a work plan amendment. Program staff are involved in providing technical expertise, developing and managing partnership agreements, ordering fishing piers and other supplies, installing fishing piers or shore fishing structures. Including fleet costs for vehicles and equipment and the DNR direct and necessary costs associated with this funding.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Identify and finalize locations and agreements for additional fishing piers and/or shore fishing site	December 31, 2022
Develop the shore fishing area	December 31, 2023
Install accessible fishing pier #1	December 31, 2023
Install accessible fishing pier #2	December 31, 2023
Install accessible fishing pier #3	December 31, 2023

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Kraemer Lake Fishing Pier	Stearns County	As the land land owner and site administrator, Stearns County will enter into a partnership agreement for installation and maintenance of the fishing pier with the DNR. Potential monetary and in kind donations for the project are to be determined.	No
Rum River Shore Fishing Area	City of Princeton	As the land land owner and site administrator, the City of Princeton will enter into a partnership agreement for installation and maintenance of the fishing pier with the DNR. Potential monetary and in kind donations for the project are to be determined.	No
Fish Lake Fishing Pier	Minnesota Power	As the land land owner and site administrator, Minnesota Power will enter into a partnership agreement for installation and maintenance of the fishing pier with the DNR. Potential monetary and in kind donations for the project are to be determined.	No
Sauk River Fishing Pier	City of Cold Springs	As the land land owner and site administrator, the City of Cold Springs will enter into a partnership agreement for installation and maintenance of the fishing pier with the DNR. Potential monetary and in kind donations for the project are to be determined.	No
Cascade Lake Fishing Pier	City of Rochester	As the land owner and site administrator, the City of Rochester will enter into a partnership agreement with the DNR for the installation and maintenance of the fishing pier. Potential monetary and in kind donations for the project are to be determined.	Yes

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.

The project coordinator will ensure that a press release, complete with photo's is submitted to appropriate news outlets upon project completion. The press release will acknowledge the use of ENTRF funding. A sign acknowledging the use of ENTRF funds will be posted on the fishing pier or at the shore fishing site.

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?

Game and Fish funds are used to operate and maintain the DNR's fishing pier program. The funds pay for staff time, parts, supplies, maintenance and replacement of fishing piers statewide. The program is successful because of the many partnerships with local units of government who provide the day to day maintenance. Fishing piers will be maintained a minimum of 20 years and shore fishing sites 30 years. Two and half years will be needed to complete the fishing pier and shore fishing projects in order to take advantage of the open water season.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Accessible Fishing Piers	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09f	\$320,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
Technicians and Laborers		Site preparation and installation of piers			30%	0.4	X	\$20,000	-	-
							Sub Total	\$20,000	-	\$20,000
Contracts and Services										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Capital Expenditures										
		Shore fishing area construction and supplies (1-2)	Accessible structure on shore, usually along rivers, to provide safe access and increase angling opportunities.	X				\$6,300	\$5,300	\$1,000
		Fishing piers (4-8)	Floating fishing piers of various lengths for installation at project location to provide safe access and increase angling opportunities..	X				\$305,000	\$298,700	\$6,300
							Sub Total	\$311,300	\$304,000	\$7,300
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel In Minnesota										
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Miles - Fleet charges for vehicle and heavy equipment	For the site preparation and installation					\$102	-	\$102

							Sub Total	\$102	-	\$102
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Other Expenses										
		DNR Direct and Necessary	Support (people, safety, financial, communications, IT, planning)					\$8,598	\$8,598	-
							Sub Total	\$8,598	\$8,598	-
							Grand Total	\$340,000	\$312,598	\$27,402

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Personnel - Technicians and Laborers		Site preparation and installation of piers	Classified : Existing staff with experience will be used for the project site preparations and installations, staff are needed who can operate heavy equipment. There will be other work not performed by these staff in order to complete these projects. The positions often have a variety of funding sources and project priorities from year to year.
Capital Expenditures		Shore fishing area construction and supplies (1-2)	Shifting funds to fishing piers Additional Explanation : Shore fishing areas will be simple concrete plank and metal railing structures. The railings can be removed for winter so the concrete can be easily cleaned of mud and debris. These structures can last 30 years or more.
Capital Expenditures		Fishing piers (4-8)	Adding funds from shore fishing to fishing piers Additional Explanation : MNDNR purchases fishing piers from MINNCOR industries who holds the state contract, offers competitive pricing and meets specifications. The benefit is that every fishing pier has the same parts and components and is easy to repair. It is proven that fishing piers last 20 years or more with proper maintenance.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
In-Kind	Labor and supplies provided by partners as agreed upon in the cooperative agreements.	Site preparation, installation of accessible paths and foundations, installation of fishing piers,	Secured	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$10,000
Cash	Donations/partner contributions for the projects	Funds will be used as agreed upon in the cooperative agreement, most likely for the purchase of the fishing pier or construction of the shore fishing area.	Secured	\$46,000	\$46,000	-
			Non State Sub Total	\$76,000	\$66,000	\$10,000
			Funds Total	\$76,000	\$66,000	\$10,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [172b5250-324.docx](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Accessible approach to the Lake Osakis fishing and the St. Louis River, City of Floodwood Fishing Pier...

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
ENTRF Background Check Certification Form	ab5e0b2e-837.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

The recommended funding amount was reduced by \$60,000 from the proposal. The main changes are to the budget to account for this change. The activities and milestones are basically the same, although the range of fishing pier projects was adjusted to 4 - 8 (from 6 -8) as potential donations and shore fishing project costs may cause a lower range of successfully completed projects.

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?

Yes

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

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"> Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies 	Request to shift funding under capital expense category. Removing \$75,000 from shore fishing and adding same amount to fishing pier. A couple more fishing pier projects can be funded and only one simple shore fishing project is planned. Total capital expense spending estimated to be around \$280,000 at this time.	March 8, 2024	Yes	June 18, 2024
2	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 12/31/2023 New Completion Date: 12/31/2024	Staff work around to approve amendment from March 2024	June 18, 2024	Yes	June 18, 2024
3	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 12/31/2024 New Completion Date: 12/31/2023	Staff work around to reset completion date.	June 18, 2024	Yes	June 18, 2024
4	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attachments Other Budget - Personnel Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies Budget - Travel and Conferences Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed 	Another shift of funding to capital expense. Did not need to spend from personnel budget, so shifted funds to capital to match project spending. Also adjusted non-ENRTF funds contributed.	September 27, 2024	Yes	October 15, 2024

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update February 14, 2024

Date Submitted: September 27, 2024

Date Approved: October 15, 2024

Overall Update

Seven fishing pier projects and one shore fishing project are complete. These are the locations that received new fishing piers: Cascade Lake in the City of Rochester, Lake Osakis in the City of Osakis, Redwood Reservoir in the City of Redwood, Dutch Lake in the City of Mound, St. Louis River in the City of Floodwood, Lake Bemidji, Diamond Point Park, in the City of Bemidji, and Bass Lake, in Itasca County. One location, the Sauk River the City of Melrose, received shore fishing stations.

Activity 1

In addition to the Cascade Lake and Lake Osakis piers, two additional projects are complete. The Redwood Reservoir fishing pier in the City of Redwood Falls is complete and the Dutch Lake Fishing Pier in the City of Mound is complete.

Activity 2

A lot of progress was made spring and summer. The St. Louis River, City of Floodwood fishing pier is complete. A fishing Pier on Lake Bemidji at Diamond Point Park is complete. The Bass Lake Campground fishing pier in partnership with Itasca County is complete. The shore fishing stations on the Sauk River in the city of Melrose have recently been installed.

Dissemination

The DNR is planning a press release now that all of the fishing pier projects are completed. Signs acknowledging the Natural Resources Trust Fund are in place (or will be soon) on or near the completed fishing piers and shore fishing stations. All new fishing locations will be added to the maps and made available to the public. Still waiting on completed pictures of some of the projects.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update February 14, 2024

Date Submitted: March 8, 2024

Date Approved: June 18, 2024

Overall Update

Two fishing pier projects are complete: Cascade Lake in the City of Rochester and Lake Osakis in the City of Osakis. Three fishing pier projects are in process as agreement are done and the fishing piers have been ordered: Redwood Reservoir in the City of Redwood, Dutch Lake in the City of Mound, and St. Louis River in the City of Floodwood. A couple of new projects are lined including a fishing pier in partnership with the City of Bemidji at Diamond Point Park, a fishing pier at Bass Lake Campground in partnership with Itasca County and two shore fishing stations on the Sauk River in partnership with the City of Melrose.

Activity 1

An agreement with the City of Floodwood for a fishing pier that can be removed for the winter is complete and funds are encumbered. An agreement with the City of Redwood Falls for a fishing pier on the Redwood River complete and the fishing pier is ordered and delivered. An agreement with the City of Mound has been completed and the fishing pier is ordered and delivered. Installation of both fishing piers are expected to take place in the spring of 2024.

Activity 2

An agreement with the City of Bemidji for a fishing pier on Lake Bemidji at Diamond Point Park is signed and the pier will be ordered soon. An agreement with Itasca County for a fishing pier at Bass Lake campground is in process and the pier will be ordered soon. The agreement with the City of Melrose for two shore fishing stations on the Sauk River will be in process soon.

Dissemination

The DNR is planning a press release when the fishing pier projects are completed. Signs acknowledging the Natural Resources Trust Fund will be place on all the completed fishing piers and shore fishing locations.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2023

Date Submitted: March 8, 2024

Date Approved: June 18, 2024

Overall Update

Two fishing pier projects are complete: Cascade Lake in the City of Rochester and Lake Osakis in the City of Osakis. Three fishing pier projects are in process as agreement are done and the fishing piers have been ordered: Redwood Reservoir in the City of Redwood, Dutch Lake in the City of Mound, and St. Louis River in the City of Floodwood. A couple of new projects are lined including a fishing pier in partnership with the City of Bemidji at Diamond Point Park, a fishing pier at Bass Lake Campground in partnership with Itasca County and two shore fishing stations on the Sauk River in partnership with the City of Melrose.

Activity 1

An agreement with the City of Floodwood for a fishing pier that can be removed for the winter is complete and funds are encumbered. An agreement with the City of Redwood Falls for a fishing pier on the Redwood River complete and the fishing pier is ordered and delivered. An agreement with the City of Mound has been completed and the fishing pier is ordered and delivered. Installation of both fishing piers are expected to take place in the spring of 2024.

Activity 2

An agreement with the City of Bemidji for a fishing pier on Lake Bemidji at Diamond Point Park is signed and the pier will be ordered soon. An agreement with Itasca County for a fishing pier at Bass Lake campground is in process and the pier will be ordered soon. The agreement with the City of Melrose for two shore fishing stations on the Sauk River will be in process soon.

Dissemination

The DNR is planning a press release when the fishing pier projects are completed. Signs acknowledging the Natural Resources Trust Fund will be place on all the completed fishing piers and shore fishing locations.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2023

Date Submitted: September 15, 2023

Date Approved: January 17, 2024

Overall Update

Progress is being made, albeit slowly. Some of the initial project partners who were interested in fishing piers have requested delays in project timing due to other projects. A fishing pier or shore fishing site on the St. Louis River in the City of Floodwood is being considered, however spring flood conditions make the site challenging. Two projects are complete, and two projects are in progress. Lining up the remainder of the projects will be a high priority for in the next couple months.

Activity 1

An agreement with the City of Osakis for a fishing pier on Lake Osakis complete, and the fishing pier has been installed. An agreement with the City of Redwood Falls for a fishing pier on the Redwood River complete and the fishing pier is ordered. Expected completion by October 31, 2023. A partnership with the City of Mound has been completed and the fishing pier is ordered, expected completion date is October 31st.

Activity 2

Several potential sites and partnerships are being reviewed. Expect to have projects lined up by December 31st, 2023.

Dissemination

The DNR or partner will plan a press release when the fishing pier projects are completed. Signs acknowledging the Natural Resources Trust Fund will be placed on all the completed fishing piers and shore fishing locations.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2022

Date Submitted: December 29, 2022

Date Approved: January 30, 2023

Overall Update

As of December 1, 2022 the Cascade Lake Fishing Pier in Olmstead County has been completed and several locations for new fishing piers have been identified.

Activity 1

The fishing pier for Cascade Lake in Olmstead County is installed and complete. A partnership with the City of Redwood Falls for a fishing pier on the Redwood River is in progress. The fishing pier will be ordered January 2023 with expected completion by June 30, 2023. A partnership with the City of Osakis for a fishing pier on Lake Osakis is in progress. The fishing pier will be ordered January 2023 with expected completion by June 30, 2023. A partnership with the City of Lengby for a fishing pier on Spring Lake is in progress. Expected completion date September 2023.

Activity 2

Several potential sites and partnerships are being reviewed. Expect to have projects by the next project report.

Dissemination

The Cascade Lake Fishing Pier was completed in September. A press release will be planned for the spring around the time of ice off

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2022

Date Submitted: June 13, 2022

Date Approved: July 6, 2022

Overall Update

of June 1, 2022 progress has been slow. Only one fishing pier has been ordered and a second project location has been identified. Many partners were not ready to commit to the projects. A new list of potential projects has been created and conversations with partners are starting.

Activity 1

The fishing pier for Cascade Lake in Olmstead County has been ordered. The partnership agreement with the City of Rochester has been signed, Waiting on delivery and installation. There has been no movement on the other potential projects.

Activity 2

Several new sites and potential partnerships have been identified. Not enough progress made to report at this time.

Dissemination

At this time there has not been an opportunity to disseminate information completed projects.