

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on January 28, 2026

M.L. 2023 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2025

Project Title: City of Biwabik Recreation

Project Manager: Shannon Mackey

Affiliation: City of Biwabik

Mailing Address: Po Box 529 321 N Main Street

City/State/Zip: Biwabik, MN 55708

Phone: (218) 865-4183

E-mail: srmackey@cityofbiwabik.com

Website: www.cityofbiwabik.com

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09k

Appropriation Amount: \$1,306,000

Amount Spent: \$1,201,820

Amount Remaining: \$104,180

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The Biwabik Recreation Area on Embarrass Lake was significantly improved through reconstruction of pathways, parking, and amenities, plus construction of a new accessible bathroom building, enhancing safe multi-modal access and user comfort for visitors, locals, families, and elderly users.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project addressed safety and accessibility challenges at the popular Biwabik Recreation Area on Embarrass Lake, a key destination for visitors staying at the city campground or nearby lodging, as well as local residents using the swimming beach, fishing pier, walking/biking trails, and boat access. High vehicle traffic created conflicts with pedestrians, bicyclists, families with strollers, and elderly users in a compact space. Existing bathroom/shower facilities were inadequate, outdated, and located over 700 feet away uphill, with only four toilets/sinks/showers.

The solution involved a comprehensive reconstruction: resurfacing and realigning driving, biking, and walking surfaces throughout the area to reduce vehicle-pedestrian conflicts, especially around boat launching and parking; constructing new connecting walkways; rebuilding the parking lot for better flow and separation of uses; demolishing a dilapidated,

out-of-service concrete bathroom building; and erecting a new modern bathroom facility with safe, hygienic toilets, sinks, showers, and changing rooms closer to the beach and public access points.

These improvements enhanced access to nature and outdoor recreation by making the site's amenities—including campsites, picnic shelters, grills, beach, playground, fishing pier, boat docks, volleyball and basketball courts, and trails—safer and more inclusive for users of all ages and abilities, whether arriving by vehicle, on foot or bike from the Mesabi Trail, or by boat on Embarrass Lake. The project preserved and improved public land access, promoted conservation through better management of high-use recreational space, and supported environmental stewardship by upgrading infrastructure to reduce erosion, improve drainage, and encourage sustainable use of the lake and surrounding natural resources.

The completed project holds significant value for the local Biwabik community and broader Minnesota residents, providing an enhanced, family-friendly gateway to Embarrass Lake recreation that draws visitors statewide, supports tourism, boosts quality of life, and ensures equitable enjoyment of Minnesota's natural assets.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Signage acknowledging LCCMR/ENRTF funding has been installed at a prominent location within the Biwabik Recreation Area. On the Parks and Trails section of the City website, the ENRTF logo and a statement of thanks has been and continues to be displayed. Additionally, project information has been shared with the City Council and public throughout the project during City Council meetings and Planning and Zoning meetings.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2023 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: January 30, 2026

ID Number: 2023-207

Staff Lead: Tom Dietrich

Project Title: City of Biwabik Recreation

Project Budget: \$1,306,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Shannon Mackey

Organization: City of Biwabik

Office Telephone: (218) 865-4183

Email: srmackey@cityofbiwabik.com

Web Address: www.cityofbiwabik.com

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: January 28, 2026

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: January 28, 2026

Project Completion: June 30, 2025

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09k

Appropriation Language: \$1,306,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Biwabik to reconstruct and renovate Biwabik Recreation Area's access road, parking area, and bathroom facilities.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2026

Narrative

Project Summary: Reconstruction of amenities and pathways within the Biwabik Recreation Area consisting of the campground, beach, boat access, fishing pier, and walking/biking trails at a cost of \$1,306,000

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

This area is a popular destination on Embarrass Lake for visitors from all over who come to stay at our city operated campground or other local establishments.

It is also an important amenity for local users who come to enjoy the swimming beach, fishing pier, or walking/biking trails. There is lot of vehicle traffic in and out the recreation area; much of it consisting of RVs, towed campers, or vehicles pulling boat trailers. Many people come in to the recreation area via the Mesabi Trail which runs along the north boundary of the area and connects in to our paths. Others visit via powerboats or canoes/kayaks from other areas of the lake. Many of the people who use this facility are either elderly or are families with smaller children.

The compact space results in pedestrian, bicyclists, and parents with strollers/wagons needing to maneuver around vehicular traffic coming and going as well as vehicles launching boats in to Embarrass Lake.

The bathroom/shower/changing room facilities are currently inadequate. The closest facilities to to the beach and public access areas with running water are over 700 feet away and uphill. That facility only has 4 toilets/sinks/showers.

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.

We are seeking funding to reconstruct the driving/biking/walking surfaces throughout the recreation area and construct new walkways connecting the existing amenities in the area. The parking lot would be reconstructed to reduce conflict between vehicle traffic, boat launching, and pedestrians.

We also plan to remove an old dilapidated concrete building that was formerly used as a bathroom facility, but has been out of use for several years use due to extensive costly repairs that are needed.

We intend to replace the old building with a new bathroom building which would provide safe, hygienic toilets, sinks, showers and changing rooms.

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 improvements allow users of all ages to safely use the area for a variety of outdoor recreational activities. The campsites, picnic shelters and grills, beach, playground, fishing pier, boat docks, volleyball court, basketball court, and trails will be more accessible to all users whether they arrive by vehicle off HWY 135, on foot or by bicycle from the Mesabi Trail, or by boat via Embarrass Lake.

The new bathroom building would provide safe, hygienic toilets, sinks, showers and changing rooms.

Project Location

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

City(s): Biwabik

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

Region(s): NE

When will the work impact occur?

In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Renovation and Reconstitution of Driving Lanes, Non-Motorized Pathways and Parking Area

Activity Budget: \$881,000

Activity Description:

We intend on resurfacing and properly signing the roadway and parking area to reduce conflict between motorized and non-motorized traffic as much as possible. We will have concrete walkways connecting amenities to increase the safety for all ages.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Accept engineering plans from City engineer for resurfacing driving and parking areas	December 31, 2023
Advertise for bids on resurfacing driving and parking areas	January 31, 2024
Award bid for resurfacing of driving and parking areas, and update contractor name in budget	February 28, 2024
Remove 2,400 square yards of old asphalt from parking lot	June 30, 2024
Pave 4,500 square yards of driving surface and parking area	July 31, 2024

Activity 2: Demolish Old Bathroom Facility

Activity Budget: \$25,000

Activity Description:

The old, unusable concrete block building would be removed to provide space for a new facility

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Consultation with SHPO	January 31, 2024
Verify utilities have been disconnected and there is no hazardous waste	June 30, 2024
Select demolition contractor	June 30, 2024
Obtain demolition permits and file MPCA intent to demo paperwork	June 30, 2024
Place barriers to prevent the public from accessing demolition site	June 30, 2024
Have contractor remove building and bring debris to construction landfill	July 31, 2024
Fill and grade former building site	August 31, 2024

Activity 3: Construct New Bathroom Facility

Activity Budget: \$400,000

Activity Description:

We will construct a new bathroom building would provide safe, hygienic toilets, sinks, showers and changing rooms. The building will be centrally located very close to the beach, fishing pier, and boat launch. The building will be 30 feet by 30 feet and contain 1 men's bathroom, 1 women's bathroom and 1 family bathroom. There will also be 2 larger changing rooms; 1 for men and one for women. The building will have storage for the lifeguards' equipment.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Approve building design as created by engineer	January 31, 2024

Site design, plans, and construction administration plan approved by City	January 31, 2024
Consultation with SHPO	January 31, 2024
Advertise for Bids	February 28, 2024
Award construction bid and update name in budget field	March 31, 2024
Construction oversight and construction observation begin	March 31, 2024
Get building permit approval from local and state inspectors	May 31, 2024
Break ground on building	July 31, 2024
Complete building construction	September 30, 2024
Pass final inspection by building official	September 30, 2024

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 City website and signs on-site at the campground will state: "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)." and "The Trust Fund is a permanent fund constitutionally established by the citizens of Minnesota to assist in the protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources."

The ENRTF logo will be included on the City website, campground reservation website, and will be included on print publications that we distribute through the Iron Range Tourism Bureau.

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 City of Biwabik will budget annually to maintain and repair the infrastructure and amenities within the recreation area.

The City's Capital Improvement Plan will include needed maintenance and upgrades. The proposed building will have a lifespan of 25-30 years. The surface material will have a lifespan of roughly 20 years, which we will extend as much as we can with proper crack sealing.

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										
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.	Service Contract	Firm will be responsible for design and construction administration. The engineer will be selected through a qualifications based selection process.				4		\$173,311	\$173,311	-
Mesabi Bituminous Inc	Service Contract	The general contractor will be responsible for all aspects of project construction.				13		\$1,036,689	\$1,028,509	\$8,180
							Sub Total	\$1,210,000	\$1,201,820	\$8,180
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										
		Contingency	Contingency will only be used for unforeseen expenses after approval by LCCMR					\$96,000	-	\$96,000
							Sub Total	\$96,000	-	\$96,000
							Grand Total	\$1,306,000	\$1,201,820	\$104,180

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						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
			Non State Sub Total	-	-	-
			Funds Total	-	-	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [663a7e4b-81b.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Overhead view of entire recreation area showing areas to be resurfaced, the location of the new walkways, and the bathrooms to be demolished and replaced with new....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City Council Resolution	f232af04-71d.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Letter of Support from Rep. Dave Lislegard	7cdb74bc-58a.pdf
Background Check Form	17c6727e-cda.pdf
SHPO Consultation Letter	b3daa6be-362.pdf
Photo of On-Site Signage 1	4f0082dd-7b6.jpe
Photo of On-Site Signage 2	9a09fc28-cd1.jpe
Completed showerhouse	d020e7e7-fa3.jpe
showerhouse	9b293a16-07d.jpe
showerhouse	18477c30-168.jpe
ENRTF Signage Installed	4abc41c1-fd5.png

Media Links

Title	Link
Logo on Website	https://www.cityofbiwabik.com/index.asp?SEC=DC075A23-E5B8-4BBA-905D-8C3FF5ADF08F

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Resurfacing was scaled back to reflect budget

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 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?

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

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand

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 - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Other • Attachments 	This is an update to include actual construction bid cost after bids were opened. The original amount was based on the engineer's estimate. The City Council approved the bid from Mesabi Bituminous as low bidder.	March 24, 2025	Yes	March 25, 2025
2	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Jeff Jacobson (administrator@cityofbiwabik.com) New Manager: Shannon Mackey (srmackey@cityofbiwabik.com)	Previous project manager left the organization.	August 12, 2025	Yes	August 12, 2025

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2025

Date Submitted: October 7, 2025

Date Approved: October 22, 2025

Overall Update

The progress that has been made towards our original goal of allowing users of all ages to safely use our campground area as a whole has been achieved through the completion of the reconstruction of the amenities and pathways. Users are able to access the playground, beach, picnic areas and trails more easily with the work that has been done. All physical improvements are now complete. We are now working on completing the final paperwork with the contractor in order to release final payment. The new bathroom facility was tested and is now in use. New driving lanes, parking area, and trails are complete. Everything is complete and has been in use.

Activity 1

The resurfacing of the roadway into the campground and the parking area and the concrete walkways have subsequently helped achieve the safety at the campground. The newly resurfaced road and lines with the speed bumps have helped significantly with the safety of everyone using the campground area. Final payment has been made to the contractor.

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

Activity 2

The old bathroom facility has been demolished and the new bathroom facility has been constructed and has been utilized by all ages this summer. Final payment has been made to the contractor.

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

Activity 3

The new bathroom facility has been constructed and has been in use this summer and has been a great addition to our campground facility. Final payment has been made to the contractor.

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

Dissemination

.The appropriate signage is in place. The ENRTF logo is included on the city website.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update March 13, 2025

Date Submitted: March 13, 2025

Date Approved: March 25, 2025

Overall Update

All physical improvements are now complete. We are now working on completing the final paperwork with the contractor in order to release final payment. The new bathroom facility was tested and is now in use. New driving lanes, parking area, and trails are complete. We will have everything completed well in advance of June 30, 2025

Activity 1

New driving lanes, parking area, and trails are complete. Turf has been restored. All inspections have been completed. We are now working on completing the final paperwork with the contractor in order to release final payment.

Activity 2

This activity was covered under the bid that was awarded to Mesabi Bituminous on March 11, 2024. The City public utilities department verified that all electric, water, and sewer services were disconnected and there was no hazardous waste. The contractor filed a 10 day intent to demolish permit with the MPCA, put up barricades and fencing around the demolition area, and then demolished the building and hauled it away to an appropriate facility. The contractor also backfilled and graded the former building site.

The State Historic Preservation office determined that there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project. All physical improvements are now complete. We are now working on completing the final paperwork with the contractor in order to release final payment.

Activity 3

The new building is complete and has passed the final inspection. We obtained plumbing approval from the MN Department of Health on May 24, 2024. All physical improvements are now complete. We are now working on completing the final paperwork with the contractor in order to release final payment.

Dissemination

The appropriate signage is in place. The ENRTF logo is included on the city website.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2025

Date Submitted: March 13, 2025

Date Approved: March 25, 2025

Overall Update

All physical improvements are now complete. We are now working on completing the final paperwork with the contractor in order to release final payment. The new bathroom facility was tested and is now in use. New driving lanes, parking area, and trails are complete. We will have everything completed well in advance of June 30, 2025

Activity 1

New driving lanes, parking area, and trails are complete. Turf has been restored. All inspections have been completed. We are now working on completing the final paperwork with the contractor in order to release final payment.

Activity 2

This activity was covered under the bid that was awarded to Mesabi Bituminous on March 11, 2024. The City public utilities department verified that all electric, water, and sewer services were disconnected and there was no hazardous waste. The contractor filed a 10 day intent to demolish permit with the MPCA, put up barricades and fencing around the demolition area, and then demolished the building and hauled it away to an appropriate facility. The contractor also backfilled and graded the former building site.

The State Historic Preservation office determined that there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project. All physical improvements are now complete. We are now working on completing the final paperwork with the contractor in order to release final payment.

Activity 3

The new building is complete and has passed the final inspection. We obtained plumbing approval from the MN Department of Health on May 24, 2024. All physical improvements are now complete. We are now working on completing the final paperwork with the contractor in order to release final payment.

Dissemination

The appropriate signage is in place. The ENRTF logo is included on the city website.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2024

Date Submitted: March 13, 2025

Date Approved: March 25, 2025

Overall Update

The project is nearly complete the old building was removed and the new one is completely finished. The old asphalt was removed and new driving lanes and parking lot bituminous asphalt is nearly complete. New concrete pathways are in place.

Activity 1

We were issued an NPDES permit on April 11, 2024. This permit was required because of the proximity of the project to Embarrass Lake. The selected contractor, Mesabi Bituminous, has removed 2,495 square yards of old asphalt material from the parking lot and driving surfaces. They then prepped the site and repaved with 2,109 tons of new bituminous asphalt. We had a slight delay due to heavy rains, but the contractor has not fallen noticeably behind.

Activity 2

This activity was covered under the bid that was awarded to Mesabi Bituminous on March 11, 2024. The City public utilities department verified that all electric, water, and sewer services were disconnected and there was no hazardous waste. The contractor filed a 10 day intent to demolish permit with the MPCA, put up barricades and fencing around the demolition area, and then demolished the building and hauled it away to an appropriate facility. The contractor also backfilled and graded the former building site.

*Note, we did not have a response from SHPO at this time, but did receive it later.

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

Activity 3

The City applied for and received a building permit in conformance with the MN State Building Code. The new building is complete and has passed the final inspection. We obtained plumbing approval from the MN Department of Health on May 24, 2024.

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

Dissemination

The appropriate signage is in place. The ENRTF logo is included on the city website.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2024

Date Submitted: March 13, 2025

Date Approved: March 25, 2025

Overall Update

On February 12, 2024 the City Council reviewed the plans for the project that were completed by our City Engineer, Matt Reid of S.E.H. Engineering. The City Council authorized an advertisement for bids and set a bid opening date of March 7.

On March 11, 2024 the City Council awarded the bid to Mesabi Bituminous for a total of \$1,036,689.21. Our City Public Works department completed the necessary tree clearing in the month of March.

Activity 1

The City Council awarded the bid for this project at the March 11, 2024 City Council meeting. The City received a signed acceptance of the bid award from the contractor on March 26, 2024. The contractor will start as soon as the snow melts. The substantial completion date noted in the notice to proceed is August 31, 2024. The final completion date is set for September 28, 2024.

Activity 2

The City Council approved the building plans on February 12, 2024 and advertised for sealed bids. The City Council awarded the bid for this project at the March 11, 2024 City Council meeting. The City received a signed acceptance of the bid award from the contractor on March 26, 2024.

Activity 3

The City Council awarded the bid for this project at the March 11, 2024 City Council meeting. The City received a signed acceptance of the bid award from the contractor on March 26, 2024. We submitted the plumbing plans to the MN Department of Labor and Industry on February 9, 2024.

Dissemination

The appropriate signage is in place. The ENRTF logo is included on the city website.