



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2024 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2024-174

Staff Lead: Tom Dietrich

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: June 13, 2024

Project Title: Birch Lake Marina Design

Project Budget: \$197,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Rebecca Jaeger

Organization: City of Babbitt

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 20, 2024

Reporting Schedule: June 1 / December 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2026

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2026

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2024, Chp. 83, Sec. 2, Subd. 09i

Appropriation Language: \$197,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Babbitt to design a new marina at the Birch Lake Recreation Area in Babbitt, Minnesota.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2027

Narrative

Project Summary: This project consists of the design of a new marina/dock complex on Birch Lake in Babbitt Minnesota. The City will own and operate the marina/dock complex.

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

The City of Babbitt has been developing their recreation area along Birch Lake for several decades. The recreation area and Birch Lake has provided unlimited outdoor experiences for people of all ages throughout the region, state, and nation. The existing recreation area has a beach house equipped with changing rooms, restrooms, life guard/first aid room and a concession stand. The beach area has two rafts, a water slide, a picnic area with shelters, outdoor grills, a fully equipped playground area with activities for all ages and area lighting. The City of Babbitt has completed a total reconstruction of the boat landing adjacent to the recreation area. The city has also completed a new campground adjacent to the recreation area that has 49 sites that will accommodate recreational vehicles and tent campers. The recreation/campground and Birch Lake are used by numerous people from all over the world to experience all of the activities provided by the lake and recreation area. The city has heard from visitors over the past several years that although there is a variety of amenities in the recreation area and around the lake, there is a real shortage of short term or overnight docks.

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.

Due to the lack of short term and overnight dockage availability, the city council and park and recreation committee have decided to begin the process of designing and constructing a new marina complex. This project will be completed in two phases. Phase 1 would consist of the design of the marina and completion of a site analysis evaluation. Phase 2 would include all of the costs associated with the construction of the marina complex itself. The total cost of the design and site evaluations is estimated at \$197,000. The city is requesting the \$197,000 from the LCCMR through this application. Phase 2 will begin upon completion of the design, site evaluation and fundraising phase. Once completed, the marina would include docks, parking area, access trails, lighting, signage and electrical service. The marina will be connected to an existing paved pedestrian/bike trail that connects to the City of Babbitt and eventually to the Mesabi Trail. The marina will also connect to the new Prospector ATV trail that will serve visitors looking for off trail vehicle opportunities. Phase 2 is currently estimated at \$3,900,000, which is subject to change based on unforeseen site conditions and inflationary factors.

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?

1. The outcomes of Phase 1 include:
 - a. Final plans and specifications that will be used to advertise the project for construction.
 - b. Obtain permits from regulatory agencies.
 - c. Public information meetings, including an open house.
 - d. Local government approval of the project.

Project Location

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

Region(s): NE

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

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Marina Design and Site Evaluation

Activity Budget: \$197,000

Activity Description:

The project will provide up to 16 floating docks and a 12-foot-wide fixed dock that is up to 300 feet long. The overall facility will accommodate up to up to 32 fishing and recreational boats, generally ranging from 12 feet up to 26 feet in length. An improved parking lot will provide up to 55 parking spots for vehicles, including up to 8 parking spots for vehicles with boat trailers. Low impact lighting will be provided for the parking lot and fixed dock. A 10-foot-wide trail will be provided from the parking lot to the dock. The 10-foot-wide trail and fixed dock will be ADA accessible. At this time, the fixed dock supports are anticipated to be bin walls sitting on the lake bottom. However, the geotechnical exploration will further inform the fixed dock foundation type.

Permits will be required by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. As the design progresses forward, it is possible that the overall footprint of the project may change depending on site conditions and design constraints. The need for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet will be assessed as the design progresses. See attachment for milestones and completion dates.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Engineer selected through a qualifications process	July 31, 2024
Wetland Delineations	September 30, 2024
Surveying	September 30, 2024
Geotechnical Borings	February 28, 2025
30% Plans	June 30, 2025
SHPO Consultation	June 30, 2025
Public Open House	June 30, 2025
Public Meeting	November 30, 2025
Agency Pre-Application Meeting	November 30, 2025
City Council Approval	December 31, 2025
Apply for Permits	December 31, 2025
Permit Approvals	February 28, 2026
Final Plans and Specifications	February 28, 2026
Final Grant Report to LCCMR	April 30, 2026
Permits secured	June 30, 2026
Engineering plans and specifications completed	June 30, 2026
All work approved by the city	June 30, 2026

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Mayor Duane Lossing	City of Babbitt	Project Administration	No
Tony Chamberlain	City of Babbitt - Public Works Director	Project Oversight	No
Caitlin Stern	City of Babbitt - Parks and Rec Coordinator	Project Team Member	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.

The City has regular project meetings. Documentation of these meetings are developed in the form of meeting minutes that are presented and approved by the City Council. All Council Meetings are public and reports discussed are available to the general public.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

The long-term implementation consists of constructing a new marina at the Birch Lake Recreation Area in Babbitt that will provide a high quality nature and recreation experience for people of all ages. The marina will be open to the general public and will be open annually from May – September. The marina, along with the surrounding facilities, will provide a variety of activities for everyone. The future maintenance and operation of the marina will be provided by the City of Babbitt through their annual budgets. All funding activities will be the responsibility of the city and their stakeholders.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09h	\$350,000
Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09v	\$350,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Consulting Engineer Hired Through A Qualifications Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Design, site analysis, permitting, plans/specs, wetland delineations				4		\$197,000
							Sub Total	\$197,000
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	\$197,000

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

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [96e79e98-507.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Visual Shows Marina Layout...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Resolution	9cf8f4d8-8a3.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Work Plan Response	a95bab24-ae3.docx
Milestones and Completion Dates	5a423279-bac.docx

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

We added our dissemination description.

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?

Yes

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

No

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF? If so, describe here (1) the source and estimated amounts of any revenue and (2) how you propose to use those revenues:

Yes, Revenues will be reinvested in to the operation and maintenance of the Marina once constructed (Phase 2).

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

Yes

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No