**PROJECT TITLE:** *Silver Bay Multi-Modal Trailhead Center*

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT:**

The project consists of engineering and constructing a $3.8 million multi-modal trailhead center that would include the redevelopment of a community center into a recreational trailhead center and wayside rest. The purpose is to provide safe and separate trail access for both non-motorized and motorized traffic all in one location. The facility would be open to the public, be handicap accessible, and also include the following: lavatory and shower facilities, ample parking for cars/trucks and trailers (169 sites); outdoor gathering plaza, playground, and picnic areas; open green spaces for recreational fun or primitive overnight stay; convenient location to local businesses and other community recreational amenities.

Currently, those looking to access the trails are required to park along the roadways because there is not ample parking to accommodate the amount of traffic the city receives from trail users and the issue is getting worse due to the increase in visitor traffic. There is a small parking lot on the Northwest side of the City that overflows on to the Highway by people accessing the hiking and the ATV/Snowmobile trails. This forces people to get out of their vehicles, walk along, and remove motorized equipment directly on to the highway. This causes bottlenecking in this area and is simply unsafe for people trying to access the best trails on the North Shore of Lake Superior. The proposed trailhead will remove those safety issues, make it more convenient to amenities and businesses within our community, promote healthy living, and enhance economic development opportunities.

The proposed Multi-Modal Center would be located along two scenic byways, the Superior National Forest Scenic Byway and the North Shore Scenic Byway, as Silver Bay is the connecting point of both Byways. People visiting will have direct access to the State-owned Gitchi-Gami Bike Trail, the Superior Hiking Trail, the CJ Ramstad Snowmobile/ATV trail, and other local trails. It will also have access to Black Beach Park on Lake Superior, Scenic Overlooks, tennis courts, and safe walking on city sidewalks. It will also complement the new Black Beach Municipal Campground being constructed in summer 2019. Although there are other primitive parking areas and small wayside rests along the North Shore, there is no center that is all encompassing and providing the level of amenities for tourism as Silver Bay’s proposed Multi-Modal Trailhead Center.

Per the Bureau of Economic Analysist, the September 20, 2018 stats from the Outdoor Recreational Satellite Account (ORSA), shows that outdoor recreation economy account for $412 billon of current dollar GDP in 2016, which grew 1.7% faster than the growth for the overall US economy. Silver Bay is projecting the Trailhead to be used by more than 20,000 people on an annual basis. Although these numbers are hard to predict and we feel they are conservative, information used to support this estimate include MnDOT average daily traffic counts (3600 vehicles along the Superior National Forest Scenic Byway and 4100 along the North Shore Scenic Byway); The Gitchi-Gami Bike trail 2015-2016 usage study showing an average daily count of 1,640 people for just that portion of Silver Bay to Gooseberry State Park; MnDOT report for visitors to the Silver Bay Marina, and the increase in Silver Bay’s lodging tax, which increased 27% in January/February timeframe compared to the same period LY and is even higher when compared to the same time frame in the last 10 years.

All of the property is currently owned by the City of Silver Bay and is located at 109 Outer Drive, Silver Bay, and legally described as Parcel A and Parcel B registered as is evidenced by Certificate of Title Nos. 13824 and 13399, so there is no need for any land acquisition. The property is also properly zoned as Recreational. The City has completed a topographic survey and conceptual planning. In closing, there are over 30 miles complete of the proposed 89-mile Gitchi-Gami bike trail, more than 150+ miles of the CJ Ramstad ATV/Snowmobile trail, 310+ miles of the Superior Hiking Trail, and plenty more miles of local ATV, snowmobile, and biking trails completed and/or proposed which can all be safely accessed from the proposed location.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity 1 Title: Engineering and Construction of the Multi-Modal Trailhead Center**  **Description:** Final Design and Engineering, Bidding, Vetting of Bids, Award of Bids, Construction Management, and Reporting/Closeout Management, to be conducted by Bolton & Menk, Inc., who were chosen through a competitive bid process. The construction will include site preparation, site utilities, site amenities (curb, gutters, trails, playgrounds, landscaping, lighting, bituminous, sidewalks, trail connections, picnic areas, and signage), Construction of the Trailhead building and picnic shelters, landscaping, and other miscellaneous items (tables, chairs, benches, signage). The Contractor will be chosen through a competitive bid process. All engineering and construction will meet required funding requirements, building code requirements, environmental code requirements, and be completed on-time and on-budget.  **ENRTF BUDGET:** $ 1,400,000 | | |  |
| **Outcome** | **Completion Date** |
| *1. Engineering/Bidding* | *March 30, 2021* |
| *2. Construction Completion* | *Dec 30, 2022* |
| *3 Project Closeout* | *June 30, 2023* |

**III. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS:**

Partners receiving funding:

City Engineering Firm: Bolton & Menk, Inc., determined through a competitive bid process

Role: Project Design and Final Engineering, Bid Documents, Construction Administration, Project Management

General Contractor: To be determined through public competitive bid process

Role: Site Preparation, Site Utilities, Site Amenities, Buildings and Structures, Landscaping, and other miscellaneous construction requirements.

Partners NOT receiving funding:

City of Silver Bay: Grant/Project Administration (Council and Administration), on-going maintenance of facility (Parks and Rec Department, Public Works Department, and Public Utilities Department), and security (Police Department).

Lake County: Sponsoring Agency

**IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:**

The grant application is for the full project to be completed and therefore, no additional work would be required. The City of Silver Bay is making a commitment to operate and maintain the Multi-Modal Trailhead Center into future years. The City will monitor the use of the trailhead on a daily basis by visual observation, by sporadic traffic counts, by revenues generated from use of the facility, and by the impact to local business sector. Funding will be part of the Parks and Recreation Department, which receives a General Fund transfer on an annual basis. Any revenues generated from the Trailhead Center will be placed into the Parks and Recreation Fund to offset the Trailhead funding need. The long-term goal is to help make Silver Bay a destination point for tourism along the North Shore where there is easy access to state trails and parks throughout the Arrowhead Region. It will have a positive impact on the economy in Silver Bay, Lake County, neighboring Cities and Counties, and the State of Minnesota.