

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**

# 2021 Request for Proposal

## **General Information**

**Proposal ID:** 2021-419

**Proposal Title:** Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground

## **Project Manager Information**

**Name:** Cathy Bissonette

**Organization:** City of Babbitt

**Office Telephone:** (218) 827-0364

**Email:** cathy@babbitt-mn.com

## **Project Basic Information**

**Project Summary:** This project consists of expanding the existing Birch Lake Recreation Area to add a new 22 acre campground that will include 49 new campsites that will accommodate recreational vehicles/tents.

**Funds Requested:** $750,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** 2023-06-30

**LCCMR Funding Category:** Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation (G)

## **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?** Region(s): NE

**When will the work impact occur?** During the Project

## **Narrative**

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

The City of Babbitt has an existing recreation area that is used by residents of the region and visitors throughout the state. The Babbitt region is lacking camping sites. The City of Babbitt is undertaking this project to create additional camping opportunities and outdoor experiences for people of all ages throughout the region. 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 area along Birch Lake. The area includes a new parking area with handicapped parking, two new docks, a new concrete boat landing ramp, a boat cleaning area and a rain garden for storm water runoff.

**What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.**

This project consists of expanding the existing Birch Lake Recreation Area to add a new 22 acre campground that will include 49 new campsites that will accommodate recreational vehicles as well as tent campers. Two restrooms and a camp office/shower/restroom facility will be constructed at the campground to serve campers. City utilities (water, sewer, electrical) will be extended to the campground and to the existing facilities in the recreation area. The extension of this infrastructure will also open up areas for new commercial and housing development. The Birch Lake Recreation Area sits on a 37 acre, city owned parcel located on Birch Lake. The campground will be connected to an existing paved pedestrian/bike trail that connects to the City of Babbitt and eventually to the Mesabi Trail. The campground will also connect to the new Prospector ATV trail that will serve campers looking for off trail vehicle opportunities. The City of Babbitt and the surrounded area are very limited in camping sites and the existing sites are always filled.

**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 Birch Lake Recreation Area is located on the shores of Birch Lake. Birch Lake is a 7,000 acre lake that is one of the most heavily fished lakes in the Tower Fisheries Management Area. The lake is 75% undeveloped and provides a BWCA experience. The BWCA is only two portages away from Birch Lake. Birch Lake and the Birch Lake Recreation Area serves numerous tourists from all over Minnesota, the U.S. and Canada.

## **Activities and Milestones**

### **Activity 1: Construction Administration**

**Activity Budget:** $200,000

**Activity Description:**Material Testing, Staking, onsite observation and construction administration.

**Activity Milestones:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Completion Date** |
| Material Testing/Staking | 2020-11-30 |
| Construction Administration | 2022-12-31 |

### **Activity 2: Project Construction**

**Activity Budget:** $550,000

**Activity Description:**Construction of the camp sites, campground buildings and campground infrastructure.

**Activity Milestones:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Completion Date** |
| Project Bid | 2020-05-31 |
| Construction Start | 2020-08-31 |
| Construction Complete | 2022-12-31 |

## **Project Partners and Collaborators**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organization** | **Role** | **Receiving Funds** |
| General Contractor | General Contractor Hired Through A Competitive Bidding Process | The General Contractor Will Be Responsible For All Aspects Of Project Construction. | Yes |
| Consulting Engineer | Consulting Engineer Hired Through A Qualifications Project | The engineer will be responsible for project design and construction administration. | Yes |
| IRRRB Staff | IRRRB | Project Funder | No |
| MN DNR Staff | MN DNR | Project Advisor and Potential Funder | No |

## **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 be funded?**The long-term implementation consists of constructing a new campground at the Birch Lake Recreation Area in Babbitt that will provide a high quality nature and recreation experience for people of all ages. The campground will be open to the general public and will be open annually from May – September. The campground will provide a variety of activities including water recreation, access to non-motorized trails, access to an ATV trail system and tent and RV camping sites. The future funding for the maintenance and/or expansions of the campground will be provided by the City of Babbitt through their annual budget.

## **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 |

## **Project Manager and Organization Qualifications**

**Project Manager Name:** Cathy Bissonette

**Job Title:** Clerk-Treasurer

**Provide description of the project manager’s qualifications to manage the proposed project.**The overall manager for this project will be the City of Babbitt under the direction of the Mayor/City Council and City Staff. Additional project management and over-site will come from the consulting engineer. Cathy Bissonette (City Clerk-Treasurer), Joe Scherer (Parks and Rec Director) and the city park committee have been overseeing the development of this project since its initial inception and have many years of experience in overseeing large city construction projects.

**Organization:** City of Babbitt

**Organization Description:**Babbitt is a small community of 1500 residents located at the eastern end of the Mesabi Iron Range near Birch Lake in Northeastern Minnesota. Babbitt lies approximately 100 miles north from the City of Duluth. The vast majority of the land surrounding the City of Babbitt is comprised of forested land, unique geological formations, and abundant water resources which provide much of the scenic beauty of the area.   
  
Only two portages from the BWCA, its location offers a unique combination of access to outdoor activities and cultural and business opportunities. Outdoor amenities in Babbitt include beaches, little league fields, softball fields, parks, golf course, fishing piers, youth center and an ice arena. The area also offers excellent opportunities for viewing or photographing wildlife such as wolves, moose, deer, bear and a wide variety of birds.  
  
The economy of Babbitt has been built around the traditional resource-based industries of taconite, timber, tourism and transportation.   
  
The City of Babbitt is governed by a Mayor and four council members. Their staff includes a clerk-treasurer, deputy clerk-treasurer, fire chief, library director, parks and recreation director, planning and

## **Budget Summary**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category / Name** | **Subcategory or Type** | **Description** | **Purpose** | **Gen. Ineli gible** | **% Bene fits** | **# FTE** | **Class ified Staff?** | **$ Amount** |
| **Personnel** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Contracts and Services** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Consulting Engineer Hired Through A Qualifications Process | Professional or Technical Service Contract | Material Testing, Staking, Inspection and Construction Administration |  |  |  | 4 |  | $200,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **$200,000** |
| **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** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | General Contractor Hired Through A Competitive Bidding Process. | General Contractor Is Responsible For All Aspects Of The Project Construction |  |  |  |  | $550,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **$550,000** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Grand Total** | **$750,000** |

### **Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category/Name** | **Subcategory or Type** | **Description** | **Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request** |

### **Non ENRTF Funds**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Specific Source** | **Use** | **Status** | **Amount** |
| **State** |  |  |  |  |
| Cash | Bonding Bill Funds | Project Construction | Secured | $2,650,000 |
|  |  |  | **State Sub Total** | **$2,650,000** |
| **Non-State** |  |  |  |  |
| Cash | City | Project Construction | Secured | $250,000 |
|  |  |  | **Non State Sub Total** | **$250,000** |
|  |  |  | **Funds Total** | **$2,900,000** |

## **Attachments**

### **Required Attachments**

#### ***Visual Component***

File: [d6707744-280.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/map/d6707744-280.pdf)

#### ***Alternate Text for Visual Component***

Visual Shows Campground Layout

#### ***Board Resolution or Letter***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **File** |
| Resolution | [ed6c2e0f-16d.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/ed6c2e0f-16d.pdf) |

## **Administrative Use**

**Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?**   
 No

**Does your project have patent, royalties, or revenue potential?**   
 No

**Does your project include research?**   
 No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**   
 No