



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-529

Proposal Title: Babbitt Community Beach Access and Recreation Development

Project Manager Information

Name: Nancy Sanford

Organization: City of Babbitt

Office Telephone: (218) 827-3647

Email: cityadmin@babbittmn.gov

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The Community Beach Access & Outdoor Recreation Development seeks to add inclusivity to the City of Babbitt's Public Beach, making outdoor recreation amenities easily accessible and safe for all.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$3,057,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 31, 2028

LCCMR Funding Category: Education and Outdoor Recreation (C)

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?

Region(s): NE

When will the work impact occur?

In the Future

Narrative

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

Through a generous 2024 ENRTF grant for the Birch Lake Marina Design, the City of Babbitt designed improvements to the Babbitt Beach area for a marina and parking lot improvements. This request is for the next phase of the Beach Recreation Area improvements and will focus on construction of the designed parking lots and improvements to the beach/recreation area. The project provides more parking overall, including more ADA parking, improved ADA accessible paved trails, visitors of all ages and abilities will enjoy access to the city beach and outdoor recreation areas using all means of mobility. Repairs and replacement of aging equipment along with new equipment and experiences, users will have access to enhanced recreation opportunities. The beach house will receive much needed interior, exterior and utility updates. It's aging well and septic system will be replaced with city water/sewer connection. Additionally, the project provides for the replacement of previously removed playground equipment (removed due to safety hazards), replacement of outdoor lounge and seating areas for community gathering, installation of outdoor pickleball courts projected to be widely utilized, and other general recreation. A new fishing pier is also included.

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.

The city plans to expand and improve current parking availability at the west end of the beach and add paved pathways throughout the beach to make outdoor recreation amenities and the public beach accessible and compliant with standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The excavation process for pavement of the parking lot and pathways includes plans for city water/sewer infrastructure connections in the city's beach house to eliminate the current well & septic system that is non-compliant with Clean Water Standards. Also included in the excavation and groundwork process is the remediation of stormwater drainage through the city's public beach to help alleviate shoreline erosion. These plans also include the replacement and installation of recreational amenities to increase outdoor recreation in the community and implement necessary safety enhancements to currently existing amenities. These include a permanent fishing pier, playground expansion, pickleball courts, swimming areas for people and pets, and hammock/lounge greenspace.

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 improved parking and pathways will enhance the public access to outdoor recreational amenities within the City of Babbitt. Throughout the excavation process, enhancements to stormwater runoff will be implemented to prevent shoreline degradation and reduce runoff throughout the beach. The recreational amenities being replaced or added to the vicinity will enhance safety and usage abilities for anyone utilizing the outdoor recreation opportunities provided. The scope of this project is implemented with focus on enhancement of Minnesota's natural resources and utilization of the areas greenspace while promoting outdoor recreation and education and overall wellness within the community.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Community Input & Planning

Activity Budget: \$44,000

Activity Description:

As a project facilitated for public use and inclusiveness, it is of the utmost importance to include the needs of those the city services. To promote inclusivity and community wellness, the Babbitt Recreation Committee will hold a public meeting to encourage input and ideas from members of the public to contribute their opinions and suggestions in relation to the project. From there, the committee and recreation department will incorporate the public commentary to make any necessary adjustments to the overall project plan.

Plan adjustments may include structure locations, facility amendments, or other generalized ideas. Once necessary adjustments are agreed upon and made, the city council will further review and approve the project plan in an open forum for any final public input.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Recreation Committee Review of Project Scope	April 30, 2026
Public Input Idea & Planning Session	June 30, 2026
Council & Public Input Study Session	July 31, 2026
Recreation Committee to Continue Project Planning	December 31, 2026

Activity 2: Engineered Designs & Project Bids

Activity Budget: \$250,000

Activity Description:

Once the scope of the project and a general plan is outlined, the City will seek proposals from Engineering firms to begin formal design process. The engaged Engineering firm will design, in cooperation with City staff and City Council, the detailed plans, project feasibility, and necessary steps in the construction process. Further permitting and testing requirements will be fulfilled by the engaged engineering firm and all progress will be relayed to the city council and recreation department in an open forum for public inclusion.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Advertise Engineering Bids & Hire Engineer	September 30, 2027
Engineered Design	February 28, 2028

Activity 3: Purchasing & Implementation

Activity Budget: \$163,000

Activity Description:

Once engineered plans are finalized, the project will be opened for bid and publicly advertised. Once submissions for construction are adjourned, the city council will open all bids and select the candidate to proceed with the project construction, under the jurisdiction of the engineering firm. This will further outline construction start-date and completion timeline.

Once the construction process is fully implemented and hired, ordering will begin for all necessary equipment and construction supplies in accordance with construction timelines.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Award Contractor Bid(s) through Engineer Firm	April 30, 2028
Equipment Purchasing	April 30, 2028

Activity 4: Construction & Installation

Activity Budget: \$2,600,000

Activity Description:

General Construction will begin May of 2028 and conclude November of 2028. Construction will be done in phases to alleviate construction impact on public use of the beach during it's busier season (June - August 2028). Construction project to be completed May - August of 2028 include interior construction & cleanup of beach house, trenchin & water/sewer infrastructure connection, recreational dock and water craft replacement, general seating/lounge area construction. August - November 2028 construction will focus on the parking lot and pathway pavements, excavation & grading of playground area & pickleball courts, and other excavation work focused on stormwater drainage and erosion control.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction Completion	November 30, 2028

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.
none.

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?

Throughout the construction process, the city intends to hold interactive, committee-based discussions open to the public for input and consideration on project layout and construction as the project progresses.

The City's Recreation Department budgets annually to account for regular beach maintenance and operation. Once the project is complete, the recreation department will remain responsible for the upkeep of the facilities. If further work is needed, the city is willing and able to apply for additional funding opportunities to continue these enhancements.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Birch Lake Marina Design	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 09i	\$197,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Nancy Sanford

Job Title: Clerk-Treasurer

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

The City Clerk-Treasurer supervises/performs all departmental work and projects, administrative work and support, financial records, coordination of city government as the chief administrative officer of the city, and serves as the agent of the city council. She is working directly with the city's Recreation Coordinator and Administrative Assistant in the facilitation and implementation of the project plan, as well as bid awarded engineers and construction companies.

Organization: City of Babbitt

Organization Description:

The City of Babbitt is responsible for all public city facilities, land, buildings, departments, residents, and more.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
General Staff		project management/committee/financials			25%	0.25		\$44,000
							Sub Total	\$44,000
Contracts and Services								
Engineering Firm	Service Contract	Design and Construction Management				0		\$250,000
Contractor	Service Contract	Construction/Installation				0		\$2,517,000
Close/Contingency/Restore	Service Contract	Closing out project; Contingency spending, Management and restoration of area.				-		\$37,000
Engineering Firm	Service Contract	Construction Project Management				0.5		\$66,000
							Sub Total	\$2,870,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Equipment								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								

		Contingencies	Unexpected expenditures					\$87,000
		Project Close-Out, Inspections, Testing	Closeout of project					\$56,000
							Sub Total	\$143,000
							Grand Total	\$3,057,000

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				
Cash	To be applied for from IRRRB and/or federal ADA grants	To be applied to project costs	Potential	\$76,430,300
			Non State Sub Total	\$76,430,300
			Funds Total	\$76,430,300

Total Project Cost: \$79,487,300

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [2cad9f8c-7fd.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Map of Babbitt Beach...

Financial Capacity

Title	File
City of Babbitt 2024 Annual Audit	100b8ab0-682.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City of Babbitt Resolution No. 2026-07	c9e46458-e58.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Budget Addendum	82960665-5c2.pdf
Capital Construction Project Questionare	9926f321-b29.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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

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

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Kirsten Traut, City of Babbitt and Nancy Sanford, City of Babbitt

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