

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**

**Projects completing in 2023**

**Data as of 12/6/24**

|   | Appropriation End Date | RFP Year | Subd. | Proposal ID # | Project Title w/link to Final Report                                                        | Organization                      | Project Manager | Amount Appropriated | Soundbite of Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---|------------------------|----------|-------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 6/30/2023              | 2015     | 06a   | ----          | <a href="#">Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center</a>                      | U of MN - MITPPC                  | Robert Venette  | \$ 5,000,000        | The Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center (MITPPC) funded 20 research sub-projects through this appropriation to better protect Minnesota lands from the harmful effects of 14 priority invasive species, such as garlic mustard, soybean aphid, and oak wilt. MITPPC discoveries improved TIS management across Minnesota.                       |
| 2 | 6/30/2023              | 2016     | 06a   | ----          | <a href="#">Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center - Phase III</a>          | U of MN - MITPPC                  | Robert Venette  | \$ 3,750,000        | The Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center (MITPPC) funded 10 research sub-projects through this appropriation to protect Minnesota lands from the harmful effects of 11 priority invasive species such as common buckthorn, emerald ash borer (EAB), and several knotweeds. Results from these projects were featured prominently by local media. |
| 3 | 6/30/2023              | 2017     | 03n   | ----          | <a href="#">Pollinator Research and Outreach</a>                                            | U of MN                           | Daniel Cariveau | \$ 500,000          | We installed 20 pollinator plantings in the Minnesota tallgrass prairie regions to study the effectiveness of restorations for conserving native bees. We collected nearly 25,000 native bee specimens from approximately 156 species. We found at least three new state records. We also organized a grower-led field day.                                        |
| 4 | 6/30/2023              | 2017     | 07d   | ----          | <a href="#">District Heating with Renewable Biomass at Camp Ripley Training Center</a>      | Department of Military Affairs    | Jay Brezinka    | \$ 1,000,000        | The scope of this project was to install a biomass heating plant that would service seven buildings, including mechanical and distribution systems. We received an architect estimate and the base cost for the project in total was \$7,122,035. The project was therefore canceled and funds returned to ENRTF.                                                  |
| 5 | 6/30/2023              | 2017     | 08k   | ----          | <a href="#">Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Outreach and Implementation</a> | Board of Water and Soil Resources | Dusty VanThuyne | \$ 6,000,000        | This project assisted farmers and landowners in enrolling in conservation practices on environmentally sensitive lands by enrolling in the MN CREP program. Through this project, locally trusted staff in 49 counties were able to promote the MN CREP program and assist landowners in permanently protecting 29,350 acres.                                      |
| 6 | 6/30/2023              | 2017     | 08l   | ----          | <a href="#">Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)</a>                             | Board of Water and Soil Resources | Sharon Doucette | \$ 13,500,000       | MN CREP is a federal/state partnership to improve water quality and provide habitat in 54 counties in southern and western Minnesota by establishing buffers, restoring wetlands, and protecting groundwater resources. This \$13.5 million ENRTF project leveraged \$16.5 million from USDA to restore and protect over 3,900 acres on 74 easements.              |

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| 7  | 6/30/2023              | 2017     | 09h   | ----          | <a href="#">Tower Trailhead Boat Landing and Habitat Improvement – Phase II</a>                        | City of Tower                                  | Nancy Larson    | \$ 600,000          | Construction of a trailhead and kiosk, a connecting trail to the Mesabi Trail, and an accessible kayak launch, plus natural habitat development will connect existing recreational and natural resource assets on the East Two River waterway to Lake Vermilion and enhance the outdoor recreation experience for multiple users in northeast Minnesota.                                                                                                                  |
| 8  | 6/30/2023              | 2018     | 03i   | ----          | <a href="#">Improve Trout-Stream Management by Understanding Variable Winter Thermal Conditions</a>    | U of MN                                        | Rebecca Swenson | \$ 400,000          | Conservation plans are based largely on summer dynamics between fish, food sources, and water temperatures. Yet, winter-emerging aquatic insects, primarily Chironomidae, are a locally abundant and critical resource for trout. This project provides insights about winter air and water temperatures, lifecycles of aquatic insects, and impacts on stream food webs.                                                                                                 |
| 9  | 6/30/2023              | 2018     | 05I   | ----          | <a href="#">Increase Diversity in Environmental Careers to Serve Minnesota’s Changing Demographics</a> | MN DNR                                         | Mimi Daniel     | \$ 550,000          | The Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers (IDEC) program fosters the next generation of environmental and natural resources professionals and enthusiasts. From 2019 to 2023, 45 students enrolled in the IDEC program learned about and gained hands-on experience in the environmental/natural resources field. As a result, as these students become professionals, they will bring diversity and innovation to natural resources management and conservation. |
| 10 | 6/30/2023              | 2018     | 09h   | ----          | <a href="#">Protecting North-Central Minnesota Lakes</a>                                               | Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District | Andrew Seagren  | \$ 750,000          | A correlation between forestland protection and water quality has been identified. We provided funding to restoration practices on public lands and protected 1,982 acres of private lands via conservation programs. Land protection efforts were guided by atlases that provided a method to prioritize and target high quality parcels.                                                                                                                                |
| 11 | 6/30/2023              | 2018     | 09i   | ----          | <a href="#">Easement Program for Native Prairie Bank</a>                                               | MN DNR                                         | Judy Schulte    | \$ 2,000,000        | Permanently protected 249 acres of high-quality historically undisturbed native prairie, which house state threatened and special concerns species, Species in Greatest Conservation Need and a wide variety of pollinators. Prairie enhancement (903 acres), outreach, monitoring and research activities were implemented across the state to improve prairie habitat.                                                                                                  |
| 12 | 6/30/2023              | 2018     | 09j   | ----          | <a href="#">Minnesota State Trail Development</a>                                                      | MN DNR                                         | Kent Skaar      | \$ 2,500,000        | Pending                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| 13 | 06/30/2023                | 2018        | 09k   | ----             | <a href="#">Minnesota State Parks and State Trails</a>                                                    | MN DNR                  | Shelby Kok         | \$ 2,500,000           | Acquisition of Minnesota State Park and State Trail land provides permanent, effective and consolidated protection and management of pristine natural areas representative of diverse landscapes throughout the entire state of Minnesota for perpetual enjoyment by State Park and Trail users.                                                                                                                               |
| 14 | 6/30/2023                 | 2018        | 09l   | ----             | <a href="#">Scientific and Natural Areas Program</a>                                                      | MN DNR                  | Judy Schulte       | \$ 3,250,000           | Volunteers and contractors with Minnesota DNR completed enhancement activities on over 1,300 acres on 73 Minnesota SNAs. The new 215-acre Little Mantrap Lake SNA with over a mile of undeveloped shoreline, 14 native plant communities and a known population of an extremely rare orchid was protected for all to benefit.                                                                                                  |
| 15 | 6/30/2023                 | 2018        | 10b   | ----             | <a href="#">Chronic Wasting Disease Targeted Outreach Engaging Culturally-Diverse Hunting Communities</a> | U of MN                 | Tiffany Wolf       | \$ 270,468             | Our project advances inclusive chronic wasting disease (CWD) management through collaboration with Tribal, southeast Asian, and Amish communities. Insights from surveys and interviews inform culturally-attuned CWD outreach, endorsing thriving deer populations while honoring cultural heritage. Our efforts promote community-engaged CWD response strategies to protect Minnesota deer health and community well-being. |
| 16 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 03a   | ----             | <a href="#">Minnesota Biological Survey</a>                                                               | MN DNR                  | Bruce Carlson      | \$ 1,500,000           | The Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) collects, interprets, and delivers foundational data on native and rare plants, animals, plant communities, and functional landscapes. These data help prioritize actions to conserve, manage, and restore Minnesota's biological diversity and ecological systems.                                                                                                                      |
| 17 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 03e   | ----             | <a href="#">Spruce Grouse as Indicators for Boreal Forest Connectivity</a>                                | U of MN - Raptor Center | Julia Ponder       | \$ 350,000             | We suggest that forest management to promote dense understory structure in boreal forest may provide climate refugia for various species of early successional forest wildlife. The landscape context should also be considered in forest planning in a changing climate to ensure that landscape connectivity is managed to meet wildlife needs.                                                                              |
| 18 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 03f   | ----             | <a href="#">Understanding Brainworm Transmission to Find Solutions for Minnesota Moose Decline</a>        | U of MN                 | Tiffany Wolf       | \$ 400,000             | We created new knowledge regarding the ecological context of Parelaphostrongylus tenuis transmission that will aid wildlife and forest managers considering management actions as they try to conserve Minnesota's at-risk moose population.                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| 19 | 6/30/2023              | 2019     | 03h   | ----          | <a href="#">Accelerated Aggregate Resource Mapping</a>                       | MN DNR            | Heather Arends     | \$ 700,000          | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources completed and distributed aggregate maps for the following four counties: Sibley, Swift, Redwood, and Kandiyohi. Maps assist governments in planning and conserving of competing resources. Knowing where aggregates are located, supports resilient communities and informed land use decision-making.                                         |
| 20 | 6/30/2023              | 2019     | 03k   | ----          | <a href="#">Implementing Conservation Plans for Avian Species of Concern</a> | Audubon Minnesota | Alexandra Wardwell | \$ 124,000          | Audubon established benchmark survey sites, to guide future conservation activities within Important Bird Areas, for three species of conservation concern: Black Tern, Common Tern and Yellow Rail. Audubon established these important benchmark survey locations for these species, while also working closely to build increase collaboration and communication with many partners.   |
| 21 | 6/30/2023              | 2019     | 03l   | ----          | <a href="#">Mapping Aquatic Habitats for Moose</a>                           | U of MN           | Joseph Bump        | \$ 199,000          | This project mapped key water habitats used by moose in northern Minnesota, assessed relationship of moose to aquatic plant and fish diversity, and developed research & educational materials about moose ecology and conservation. The primary outcome is a better understanding of important moose habitat in Minnesota.                                                               |
| 22 | 6/30/2023              | 2019     | 03s   | ----          | <a href="#">Native Bee Survey</a>                                            | MN DNR            | Jessica Petersen   | \$ 600,000          | This project greatly expanded the conservation status of bees in the Laurentian Mixed Forest. We identified 255 species from 9,000 specimens. We made five new state records including one new record for the United States, many new county records, and new plant associations. From these data we will build a list of species in need of conservation.                                |
| 23 | 6/30/2023              | 2019     | 03t   | ----          | <a href="#">Diagnostic Test for Chronic Wasting Disease</a>                  | U of MN           | Peter Larsen       | \$ 1,804,000        | We invented the world's first portable 24-hour CWD test (Minnesota-QuIC) and a 4-hour microfluidic CWD test. These tests will undergo USDA validation and will be made available to agencies tasked with controlling the spread of CWD. Our innovative CWD outreach activities and products reached over 28,000 Minnesotans.                                                              |
| 24 | 6/30/2023              | 2019     | 04a   | ----          | <a href="#">Determining Influence of Insecticides on Algal Blooms</a>        | U of MN           | William Arnold     | \$ 350,000          | Neonicotinoid and fipronil insecticides are present in lakes, rivers, springs, and shallow groundwater across Minnesota often at concentrations exceeding chronic toxicity thresholds for aquatic invertebrates. The compounds were detected in wastewater, stormwater, and rain/snow, indicating multiple sources to Minnesota waters. No clear association with algal blooms was found. |

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| 25 | 6/30/2023              | 2019     | 04b   | ----          | <a href="#">Benign Design: Environmental Studies Leading to Sustainable Pharmaceuticals</a> | U of MN                            | William Arnold   | \$ 415,000          | Insight into how fluorinated pesticides and pharmaceuticals present in Minnesota's waters degrade when exposed to sunlight was gained. Some compounds degrade to non-toxic fluoride, while others lead to fluorinated byproducts that may continue to impact the environment. The knowledge was used to help design new medically relevant fluorinated molecules.                                                 |
| 26 | 6/30/2023              | 2019     | 04e   | ----          | <a href="#">Improving Nitrogen Removal in Greater Minnesota Wastewater Treatment Ponds</a>  | U of MN                            | Paige Novak      | \$ 325,000          | Inadequately treated wastewater in rural communities contributes to environmental/human health issues. We studied how to improve rural wastewater treatment pond performance. Our results suggested that manually increasing oxygen supply when temperatures are greater than 10°C should improve ammonia biodegradation; if temporary, total nitrogen removal should be possible, improving rural water quality. |
| 27 | 6/30/2023              | 2019     | 04f   | ----          | <a href="#">Improving Drinking Water for Minnesotans through Pollution Prevention</a>       | U of MN                            | Raymond Hozalski | \$ 345,000          | This project comprehensively studied the spatio-temporal occurrence of N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA, a potent carcinogen) precursors in the Crow River watershed as well as treatment approaches for NDMA precursor removal. The project results will aid in evaluation and mitigation of potential risks from NDMA formation during disinfection of drinking water with chloramines.                             |
| 28 | 6/30/2023              | 2019     | 04g   | ----          | <a href="#">Protecting Minnesota Waters by Removing Contaminants from Wastewater</a>        | U of MN                            | Matt Simcik      | \$ 250,000          | It is possible to drive microplastics and some PFAS into the biosolids of a wastewater treatment plant using stabilized powdered activated carbon. However, the amount required may make the technology cost prohibitive, and may affect the operation of the plant. Further improvements may bring costs down and enable unencumbered operation.                                                                 |
| 29 | 6/30/2023              | 2019     | 04h   | ----          | <a href="#">Reducing Municipal Wastewater Mercury Pollution to Lake Superior</a>            | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency | Scott Kyser      | \$ 250,000          | This study identifies wastewater treatment technologies and mechanisms that municipalities can use to treat mercury to low-levels. Cost-effective wastewater technologies that treat solids can be leveraged to also treat mercury to low-levels and this information can be used to reduce discharged mercury which protects the environment and human health.                                                   |
| 30 | 6/30/2023              | 2019     | 04j   | ----          | <a href="#">Transformation of Plastic Waste into Valued Resource</a>                        | U of MN                            | Brett Barney     | \$ 225,000          | Our project identified prominent strains within microbial communities obtained from Minnesota waters that are able to degrade problem plastics such as polyethylene. In many cases, individual microbial strains were isolated and sequenced to provide a blueprint of strain features that enable this ability to degrade plastics.                                                                              |

SOURCE: LCCMR Staff

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| 31 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 04l   | ----             | <a href="#">Farm-Ready Cover Crops for Protecting Water Quality</a>            | Central Lakes College - Ag and Energy Ctr   | Keith Olander      | \$ 741,000             | By integrating Kura Clover and Camelina into row crop production we were able to supply producers with data about crop production and water quality impacts to influence adoption. Camelina demonstrates promise when double cropped with soybeans and Kura Clover can be an aggressive nitrogen scavenger and offer opportunities in forage production.                                     |
| 32 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 04q   | ----             | <a href="#">Restoring Impaired Lakes through Citizen-Aided Carp Management</a> | Carver County Water Management Organization | Andrew Dickhart    | \$ 106,000             | This project demonstrated new innovative methods of carp management that includes local volunteer residents. The use of baited box nets and an electric guidance system produced an integrated and multi-faceted approach to long term carp management, which we know is important given the longevity of the species.                                                                       |
| 33 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 04r   | ----             | <a href="#">Spring Biological Nitrate Removal to Protect Drinking Water</a>    | City of Fairmont                            | Tyler Cowing       | \$ 175,000             | The city constructed a passive nitrate removal system optimized for spring low temperature treatment and partnered with the University of Minnesota to evaluate this field scale model. The results show that the concept of warming the water for early spring treatment works; however, treatment was hindered by algae growth in the greenhouse.                                          |
| 34 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 04s   | ----             | <a href="#">Degrading Chlorinated Industrial Contaminants with Bacteria</a>    | U of MN                                     | Paige Novak        | \$ 150,000             | A group of bacteria exist that can “breathe” chlorinated pollutants. Naturally occurring chlorinated compounds are formed when leaves and pine needles break down. We discovered that these naturally occurring compounds can speed the rate at which chlorinated pollutants are degraded when added as an amendment.                                                                        |
| 35 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 05b   | ----             | <a href="#">Connecting Students to the Boundary Waters</a>                     | Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness   | Chris Knopf        | \$ 450,000             | This project connected over 6,000 Minnesota students to the wildlife, ecology, and history of the Boundary Waters through online resources, classroom visits, and provided opportunities for students to develop deep connections to the wilderness, leadership, and positive peer relationships through overnight wilderness trips.                                                         |
| 36 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 06a   | ----             | <a href="#">Building Knowledge and Capacity to Solve AIS Problems</a>          | U of MN - MAISRC                            | Nicholas Phelps    | \$ 4,000,000           | This project continued MAISRC’s work to develop research-based solutions that can reduce the impacts of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota. Through this appropriation, MAISRC has supported 12 subprojects on many of Minnesota’s most important AIS, significantly advanced our scientific understanding and ability to manage AIS, and engaged thousands of stakeholders and partners. |

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|----|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 37 | 6/30/2023                         | 2019                | 06c          | ----                     | <a href="#">Noxious Weed Detection and Eradication</a>                       | Minnesota Department of Agriculture | Mark Abrahamson            | \$ 1,000,000                   | This project supported noxious weed management on priority species at both the State and local levels and helped to establish and build support systems that will assist noxious weed management efforts beyond the conclusion of the project.                                                                                                                                 |
| 38 | 6/30/2023                         | 2019                | 06d          | ----                     | <a href="#">Emerald Ash Borer Response Grants</a>                            | MN DNR                              | Emma Schultz               | \$ 300,000                     | Minnesota's community forests will lose 2.65 million ash trees due to the impacts of the invasive pest emerald ash borer. These funds were used to administer \$300,000 in grants to local units of government for planting ecologically appropriate trees to address ash loss on public land.                                                                                 |
| 39 | 6/30/2023                         | 2019                | 07c          | ----                     | <a href="#">Sustainable Solar Energy from Agricultural Plant By-Products</a> | U of MN - Morris                    | Ted Pappenfus              | \$ 185,000                     | New materials were developed from agricultural byproducts for use in the fabrication of printed organic solar cells that will lead to a more sustainable, low-cost, renewable energy source in Minnesota.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 40 | 6/30/2023                         | 2019                | 07d          | ----                     | <a href="#">Morris Energy and Environment Community Resilience Plan</a>      | City of Morris                      | Blaine Hill                | \$ 150,000                     | This project added capacity in west central MN and Morris to think about sustainability initiatives including clean energy, community resilience, gathering and analyzing building performance data, and community outreach and education focused on MN's changing climate and how it affects west central Minnesotans.                                                        |
| 41 | 6/30/2023                         | 2019                | 08b          | ----                     | <a href="#">Promoting and Restoring Oak Savanna Using Silvopasture</a>       | U of MN                             | Rebecca Montgomery         | \$ 750,000                     | We evaluated cattle grazing as an oak savanna restoration tool, compared to prescribed burning and tree thinning. Adaptive targeted grazing reduced overgrown shrubs with minimal impacts on wildlife, water quality, or soil health. We promoted this grazing strategy by developing training workshops, webinars, online resources, and a farmer-to-farmer learning network. |
| 42 | 6/30/2023                         | 2019                | 08d          | ----                     | <a href="#">Conserving and Monitoring of Minnesota's Rare Arctic Plants</a>  | U of MN - Duluth                    | Briana Gross               | \$ 135,000                     | Through three years of genetic and field study, we found that the rare arctic relict plants of Minnesota have retreated northward since the 1900s. They will likely decline into the future, and one species is threatened by an aggressive invasive species. Protection and education are critical to preserve these unique species.                                          |

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| 43 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 08e   | ----             | <a href="#">Nongame Wildlife Program Acceleration</a>                | MN DNR                            | Kristin Hall       | \$ 513,000             | Project outcomes for the Nongame Wildlife Program Acceleration project include: 1) improved management and delivery of foundational information on nongame species. 2) new research on declining species and increased status assessment surveys of priority nongame species. 3) increased recreational opportunities through community science, and 4) the creation of a repeatable survey to measure public support for the of the Nongame Wildlife Program. |
| 44 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 08f   | ----             | <a href="#">Lawns to Legumes</a>                                     | Board of Water and Soil Resources | Dan Shaw           | \$ 900,000             | The Lawns to Legumes Program is focused on building a movement to support at-risk pollinator species. The project resulted in over 2,300 high diversity residential plantings covering, 4.3 million square feet, and a large numbers of DIY projects across Minnesota inspired and guided by the program.                                                                                                                                                      |
| 45 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 09b   | ----             | <a href="#">Grants for Local Parks, Trails and Natural Areas</a>     | MN DNR                            | Audrey Mularie     | \$ 3,000,000           | Provide 20 matching grants to local units of government for local parks, acquisition of locally significant natural areas and trails to connect people safely to desirable community locations and regional or state facilities. Park development includes nature-based recreation facilities and does not include playgrounds, sports courts or sport fields.                                                                                                 |
| 46 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 09h   | ----             | <a href="#">Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground</a>                | City of Babbitt                   | Cathy Bissonette   | \$ 350,000             | The City of Babbitt has completed a new 22-acre campground in the Birch Lake Recreation Area that will include 49 new campsites to accommodate recreational vehicles and tents. The completion of this projects allows area residents and tourists from around the country and Canada to enjoy the unique outdoor experience of Northern Minnesota.                                                                                                            |
| 47 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 09k   | ----             | <a href="#">Bailey Lake Trail and Fishing Pier</a>                   | City of Virginia                  | Britt See-Benes    | \$ 550,000             | The completion of the Baileys Lake Trail and fishing pier provides the community a safe way to enjoy outdoor recreation activities, such as biking, walking, and bird watching, within a city setting. The new pier allows for safe fishing on Baileys Lake without the need for water craft.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 48 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 09p   | ----             | <a href="#">Rainy Lake Recreational Access and Boat Wash Station</a> | City of Ranier                    | Sherill Gautreaux  | \$ 200,000             | A new accessible boat launch and accompanying dock was installed. A city owned property was converted into a parking lot for vehicle and trailer parking. A permanent waterless AIS boat wash station and an animal proof receptacle for disposal of bait and boater garbage were also installed.                                                                                                                                                              |



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| 49 | 6/30/2023                 | 2019        | 09q   | ----             | <a href="#">Historic Bruce Mine Park and Mesabi Trailhead</a> | St. Louis & Lake Counties<br>Regional Railroad<br>Authority | Bob Manzoline      | \$ 1,000,000           | The project entailed redeveloping a former mine site into a trailhead for the Mesabi Trail and provide an interpretative center and park for the Bruce Mine Headframe Historic Site located in Chisholm, MN. A self-guided tour includes an interpretive center and plaques explaining how the relics operated in the past by using the remaining structures including the headframe, railroad track and various structural foundations. The Park serves as a trailhead for the Mesabi Trail providing parking, restrooms and information to travelers and trail users. |