

[M.L. 2019] Project Abstract
For the Period Ending June 30, [2023]

PROJECT TITLE: Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground

PROJECT MANAGER: Cathy Bissonette

AFFILIATION: City of Babbitt

MAILING ADDRESS: 71 South Drive

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Babbitt/MN/55706

PHONE: 218-827-3647

E-MAIL: cathy@babbitt-mn.com

WEBSITE: <https://www.babbitt-mn.com/>

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L.2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09h as extended by M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19 (c.1) [to June 30, 2023].

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$350,000

AMOUNT SPENT: \$350,000

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$0

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

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.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The completion of the campground has provided 49 new ADA-compliant campsites for a variety of camping activities and users. The new campground is located along the shores of Birch Lake, which is one of the most heavily fished lakes in the Tower Fisheries Management Area. The lake is 75% undeveloped and provides a Boundary Waters Canoe Area experience. Along with the new campsites, this project includes a new camp office as well as restrooms and showers. The campground is adjacent to ATV trails and an existing paved pedestrian/hiking trail that connects to the downtown of Babbitt and continues to the Mesabi Trail. As a part of this project, the City of Babbitt extended city water, sewer, and electrical services to the campground. The campground is also adjacent to a new boat landing and new road access that was constructed by the city in 2018. This project was planned, designed, and constructed due to the lack of camping sites in the Babbitt area as well as in Northern Minnesota. The total cost of this project was approximately \$5,000,000. The funding partners for this project included the LCCMR, MN State Bonding Bill, Iron Range Resources (IRRRB) and the City of Babbitt. The campground will open the spring/summer of 2023.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The City of Babbitt conducted numerous public meetings through the planning, design, funding, and construction phases of this project. The project's updates were discussed in regular council meetings and were open to the general population. The City also updated all of the funding partners during the design and construction phases of the project. At the project site, in at least two locations, signage will be constructed and shall remain in order to identify project name, scope, and parties that funded the project. These signs will include the verbiage, "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)" as well as the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo. The City will hold a ribbon cutting in the Spring of 2023 and will be sure that LCCMR and all other funders will be invited.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2019 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: 2/6/23

FINAL Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/5/19

Project Completion Date: 6/30/23

Does this submission include an amendment request? No

PROJECT TITLE: Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground

Project Manager: Cathy Bissonette

Organization: City of Babbitt

College/Department/Division:

Mailing Address: 71 South Drive

City/State/Zip Code: Babbitt/MN/55706

Telephone Number: 218-827-3647

Email Address: cathy@babbitt-mn.com

Web Address:

Location: Statewide

Total Project Budget: \$350,000

Amount Spent: \$350,000

Balance: \$0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09h as extended by M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19 (c.1) [to June 30, 2023]

Appropriation Language:

\$350,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Babbitt to expand Birch Lake Recreation Area by adding a new campground for recreational vehicles and tent campers. This project requires a match of at least \$2,800,000 that must be secured before trust fund money is spent. At least \$800,000 of this match must come from the city of Babbitt. Net income generated from admissions to the campground created as a result of trust fund contributions may be reinvested into the campground's long-term operations as described in the work plan approved by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources according to Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.10.

M.L. 2022 - Sec. 2. ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND; EXTENSIONS. [to June 30, 2023]

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

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.

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.

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.

The total estimated cost of this project is \$4,300,000. The City of Babbitt is requesting \$700,000 from the ENRTF and has submitted applications to the IRRRB, State Bonding Bill and Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails Commission (See Budget Page).

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

First Update March 1, 2020

The design, plans and specifications are approximately 95% completed at this time and will be fully completed by the end of May 2020. The project will be bid in July 2020 with construction starting in August 2020. The estimated project completion is June 2022.

Second Update September 1, 2020

The design, plans and specifications are 100% completed at this time. The project is currently in the permitting process. The project will be bid in December 2020 with construction starting in May 2021. The estimated project completion is June 2022.

Third Update March 1, 2021

The design, plans and specifications are 100% completed at this time. Permits have been received. We are waiting for one easement document to be signed. The project will be bid April, 2021 and construction will begin in June, 2021. The estimated project completion date is June 2022.

Fourth Update September 1, 2021

Easements have been received. Project was bid. Construction has begun.

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

Water & sewer lines from the City to the Campground are almost complete. Foundations for the Visitor Center Building and Maintenance Building are complete.

Update as of June 30, 2022:

Project extended to June 30, 2023 by LCCMR 6/30/22 as a result of M.L. 2022, Chp.94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19, legislative extension criteria being met.

Sixth Update as of September 1, 2022:

The project construction is approximately 80% complete. The contractor is scheduled to be substantially complete in late September or early October, 2022, with final completion in November, 2022. The City intends to have the campground operational and open for the spring, 2023 season.

Final Report as of January 26, 2023 (to be submitted before August 15, 2023):

The completion of the campground has provided 49 new ADA compliant campsites for a variety of camping activities and users. The new campground is located along the shores of Birch Lake. Birch Lake is one of the most heavily fished lakes in the Tower Fisheries Management Area. The lake is 75% undeveloped and provides a Boundary Waters Canoe Area experience. Along with the new campsites, this project includes a new camp office as well as restrooms and showers. The campground is adjacent to ATV trails and an existing paved pedestrian/hiking trail that connects to the downtown of Babbitt and continues to the Mesabi Trail. As a part of this project, the City of Babbitt extended city water, sewer and electrical services to the campground. The campground is also adjacent to a new boat landing and new road access that was constructed by the city in 2018. This project was planned, designed, and constructed due to the lack of camping sites in the Babbitt area as well as in Northern Minnesota. This total cost of this project was approximately \$5,000,000. The funding partners for this project included the LCCMR, MN State Bonding Bill, Iron Range Resources (IRRRB) and the City of Babbitt. The campground will open the spring/summer of 2023.

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: Design and Construction Administration

Description: Project Engineering, Design, Staking and Construction Administration for the Campground Sites/Campground Buildings/ Municipal Utilities

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$150,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Completion of Plans and Specifications	May 2020
2. Final Design Review	May 2020
3. Completion of Bidding Documents	May 2020

First Update March 1, 2020

Plans and Specifications are 95% complete.

Second Update September 1, 2020

Plans and Specifications are complete.

Third Update March 1, 2021

Plans and specifications are complete. Final Design Review is complete. Bidding documents are being completed. Project will be bid in April, 2021.

Fourth Update September 1, 2021

Plans and Specifications are complete. Bidding documents are complete.

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

Plans and Specifications are complete. Bidding documents are complete.

Update as of June 30, 2022:

Project extended to June 30, 2023 by LCCMR 6/30/22 as a result of M.L. 2022, Chp.94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19, legislative extension criteria being met.

Sixth Update as of September 1, 2022:

Plans and Specifications are complete. Bidding documents are complete.

Final Report as of January 26, 2023 (to be submitted before August 15, 2023):

Plans and Specifications are complete. Bidding documents are complete.

ACTIVITY 2 Title: Construction

Description: Expand Birch Lake Recreation Area by constructing a 22-acre campground.

ACTIVITY 2 ENRTF BUDGET: \$200,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Project Bid	May 2021
2. Construction Commencement	June 2021
3. Construction Completed	June 2022

First Update March 1, 2020

The project will be bid in July 2020 and construction is estimated to begin in August 2020.

Second Update September 1, 2020

The project will be bid in December 2020 and construction is estimated to begin in May 2021.

Third Update March 1, 2021

The project will be bid in April, 2021 and construction is estimated to begin in June, 2021

Fourth Update September 1, 2021

The project has been bid and construction commenced in August, 2021.

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

The project is 40% complete. Water & Sewer lines are almost complete. Foundations have been constructed for the Visitor Center Building and Maintenance Building.

Update as of June 30, 2022:

Project extended to June 30, 2023 by LCCMR 6/30/22 as a result of M.L. 2022, Chp.94, Sec. 2, Subd. 19, legislative extension criteria being met.

Sixth Update as of September 1, 2022:

The project construction is approximately 80% complete. The contractor is scheduled to be substantially complete in late September or early October, 2022, with final completion in November, 2022. The City intends to have the campground operational and open for spring 2023 season.

Final Report as of January 26, 2023 (to be submitted before August 15, 2023):

The work covered under the LCCMR Trust has been completed earlier than anticipated. The city signed off on completion of the campground in late fall 2022.

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

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](#).

First Update March 1, 2020

The Campground Committee continues to meet regularly followed up by updates at City Council Meetings. All of the council meetings are open to the citizens are publicly posted. All meeting notices and minutes are available on the City's website.

Second Update September 1, 2020

The Campground Committee continues to meet regularly followed up by updates at City Council Meetings. All of the council meetings are open to the citizens are publicly posted. All meeting notices and minutes are available on the City's website.

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Final Report as of January 26, 2023 (to be submitted before August 15, 2023):

The City of Babbitt conducted numerous public meetings through the planning, design, funding, and construction phases of this project. The projects updates were discussed in regular council meetings and were open to the general population. The City of Babbitt also updated all of the funding partners during the design and construction phases of the project. At the project site, in at least two (2) locations, signage will be constructed and shall remain in order to identify project name, scope, and parties that funded the project. These signs will include the verbiage "Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and

Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)” as well as the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo. The City of Babbitt will hold a ribbon cutting in the Spring of 2023 and will be sure that LCCMR and all other funders will be invited.

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000:

Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000 will be used for the design and construction of the campground.

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:

“N/A”

Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

“N/A”

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project:	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE:
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for entire duration of project:	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE:
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners outside of project manager’s organization receiving ENRTF funding

Consulting Engineer – Role: Project Design/Construction Administration/Project Management
 General Contractor – Role: Project Construction – Hired Through Competitive Bidding Process

B. Partners outside of project manager’s organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding

City Mayor and Clerk – Role: Project Administration
 City Parks and Recreation Director – Role: Park Maintenance
 City Campground Manager – Role: Park Operations
 City Campground Committee – Role: Park Planning and Funding

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

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 and through campground user fees. Any revenue generated from the campground will be reinvested in the campground.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Project status update reports will be submitted March 1 and September 1 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2023.

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

- A. Budget Spreadsheet
- B. Visual Component or Map
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements
- E. Research Addendum

X. Final Visual: Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground



Campsite 7



Campsite 8



Campsite 41



Attachment A:
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 FINAL M.L. 2019 Budget Spreadsheet
 Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09h
 Project Manager: Cathy Hoheisel
 Project Title: Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground
 Organization: City of Babbitt
 Project Budget: \$350,000
 Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2023 (4 yrs)
 Today's Date: 2/6/2023



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Project Engineering/Design/Construction Administration	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ -
Project Construction	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -
A competitive bidding process will be used.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ -

OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
State: General Obligation Bonding	Secured	\$ 3,289,954	\$ 3,289,954	\$ -
State: General Obligation Bonding	Secured	\$ 1,170,000	\$ 1,170,000	\$ -
State: IRRRB Phase 1	Secured	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -
State: IRRRB Phase 2	Secured	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -
State: IRRRB Cost Overrun awarded due to water/sewer lines - big rocks/boulders	Secured	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -
PAST AND CURRENT ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
Current appropriation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09v Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground		\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ -
Past appropriations:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -