

# Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on October 14, 2024

## M.L. 2020 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2023

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

**Project Manager:** Rebecca Jaeger

**Affiliation:** City of Babbitt

**Mailing Address:** 71 South Drive

**City/State/Zip:** Babbitt, MN 55706

**Phone:** (218) 827-3647

**E-mail:** cityadmin@babbitt-mn.com

**Website:** <https://www.babbitt-mn.com/>

**Funding Source:**

**Fiscal Year:**

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09v

**Appropriation Amount:** \$350,000

**Amount Spent:** \$350,000

**Amount Remaining:** -

### 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 project allows area residents and tourists from around the country and

### 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, 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 opened 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 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



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Final Report

### General Information

**Date:** November 8, 2024

**ID Number:** 2020-097

**Staff Lead:** Michael Varien

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

**Project Budget:** \$350,000

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Rebecca Jaeger

**Organization:** City of Babbitt

**Office Telephone:** (218) 827-3647

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

**Web Address:** <https://www.babbitt-mn.com/>

### Project Reporting

**Final Report Approved:** October 14, 2024

**Reporting Status:** Project Completed

**Date of Last Action:** October 14, 2024

**Project Completion:** January 31, 2023

### Legal Information

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09v

**Appropriation Language:** \$350,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to the city of Babbitt to expand the Birch Lake Recreation Area by adding a new campground to include new campsites, restrooms, and other facilities. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2025.

**Appropriation End Date:** June 30, 2025

## Narrative

**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.

**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? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & 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.

## 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

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Construction Administration

**Activity Budget:** \$100,000

**Activity Description:**

Construction administration will be performed by the consulting engineer. The activities will include oversight of all work done on the campground and amenities sites to make sure the work is completed in accordance with all plans and specifications, verify all materials will meet specifications and quantities and will assist in any issues between the city and the general contractor. A representative of the engineering firm will be onsite until all construction is completed.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction Administration Will Be Ongoing Until The Project Is Completed	June 30, 2024

### Activity 2: Project Construction Will Be The Responsible Of The General Contractor That Will Be Hired Through A Competitive Bidding Process

**Activity Budget:** \$250,000

**Activity Description:**

Construction of the camp sites, campground buildings and campground infrastructure. The General Contractor will be responsible of all construction activities related to the project. General Contractor will work very closely with the City of Babbitt staff and council, the Consulting Engineer and all neighboring land owners.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Project Bid	May 31, 2021
Construction Start	August 31, 2021
Construction Complete	June 30, 2024

## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
MN DNR Staff	MN DNR	Project Advisor and Potential Funder	No
IRRRB Staff	IRRRB	Project Funder	No

## 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.**

Description: Upon receipt of a signed grant agreement, the City will issue a press release announcing the project, the plans for the reconstruction of the Campground project and will include special thanks and acknowledgement to the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for their assistance.

The City of Babbitt shall use the City web site to disseminate project updates through commentary, photos of progress of project, and status updates. On the webpage, an acknowledgement will be located at the bottom of the page that states “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)”.

The City’s Facebook page will be used to advertise trail closures, project updates, address comments and questions, etc. Each post by the City related to this project will include the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo or acknowledgement such as “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)”.

At the project site, in at least two (2) locations, signage will be constructed approximately 30 days prior to construction and shall remain until completion of the project 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.

At the time of bid solicitation and contractor selection, the City shall include in all documents language that acknowledges Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as a participating sponsor of the project.

## 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?**

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
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Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09h	\$350,000
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## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
<b>Personnel</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Contracts and Services</b>										
Consulting Engineer Hired Through A Qualifications Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Consulting Engineer Will Be Responsible For Construction Administration Including Onsite Observation, Plan And Specifications Monitoring And Working Closely With The City Staff, The General Contractor And Adjacent Land Owners				4		\$100,000	\$100,000	-
General Contractor Hired Through A Competitive Bidding Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The General Contractor Is Responsible Of All Aspects Of The Project Construction				24		\$250,000	\$250,000	-
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	-
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>										



							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>										
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-	-	-
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	-

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	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
<b>State</b>						
Cash	Bonding Bill Funds	Project Construction	Secured	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	-
			<b>State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,300,000</b>	<b>\$1,300,000</b>	-
<b>Non-State</b>						
Cash	City	Project Construction	Secured	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	-
Cash	IRRRB	Construction	Secured	\$500,000	\$500,000	-
			<b>Non State Sub Total</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	-
			<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>\$3,800,000</b>	<b>\$3,800,000</b>	-

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [d6707744-280.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

Visual Shows Campground Layout...

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Resolution	<a href="#">ed6c2e0f-16d.pdf</a>

### Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	<a href="#">b60fddb1-12b.pdf</a>
2020 Abstract	<a href="#">aef3ce1c-b03.docx</a>
Final Abstract	<a href="#">e4f25eba-366.docx</a>
Campground Construction	<a href="#">7978dfbd-72e.jpe</a>
Campground Construction	<a href="#">012ec219-1d1.jpe</a>
Campground Construction	<a href="#">41703fa9-d3d.jpe</a>
Campground Construction	<a href="#">67f23283-44b.jpe</a>
Campground Construction	<a href="#">c1401dae-15b.jpe</a>

#### *Media Links*

Title	Link
Campsite Photos	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/u/3/folders/1S3HEf9kdvxQVDEAP3rIjHJcM-glzRfF">https://drive.google.com/drive/u/3/folders/1S3HEf9kdvxQVDEAP3rIjHJcM-glzRfF</a>
Campsite photos	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1S3HEf9kdvxQVDEAP3rIjHJcM-glzRfF?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1S3HEf9kdvxQVDEAP3rIjHJcM-glzRfF?usp=sharing</a>

## Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

### *Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage*

The budget was upgraded to reflect actual award, activities upgraded, budget upgraded, project collaborators upgraded

## Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

**Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?**

N/A

**Do you agree travel expenses must 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

## Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 07/31/2024 New Completion Date: 01/31/2023	LCCMR Completion Date change to get projects that finished prior to final reporting functionality being available in the online. See Activity Log for notes on final report approval.	May 23, 2023	Yes	May 23, 2023
2	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Cathy Hoheisel (cathy@babbitt-mn.com) New Manager: Rebecca Jaeger (cityadmin@babbitt-mn.com)	New staff, LCCMR change to close out the project in the online system. Note project was completed and final reporting approved outside the online system prior to system final reporting functionality being built.	February 14, 2024	Yes	February 14, 2024

# Status Update Reporting

## Final Status Update July 7, 2023

**Date Submitted:** August 11, 2023

**Date Approved:** August 17, 2023

### Overall Update

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. Worked with LCCMR staff to update final reporting project completed spring, 2023.

### Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### 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 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 funding 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.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2023

**Date Submitted:** March 27, 2023

**Date Approved:** May 15, 2023

### Overall Update

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.

### Activity 1

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### 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 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 funding 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.



# Additional Status Update Reporting

## Additional Status Update February 13, 2023

**Date Submitted:** February 13, 2023

**Date Approved:** February 13, 2023

### Overall Update

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.

### Activity 1

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### Activity 2

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### 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 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 funding 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.

# Additional Status Update Reporting

## Additional Status Update December 19, 2022

**Date Submitted:** January 26, 2023

**Date Approved:** February 13, 2023

### **Overall Update**

This project consists of expanding the existing Birch Lake Recreation Area to add a new 22 acre campground that will include 49 campsites and will accommodate recreational vehicles/tents. The campground has reached substantial completion and will open for business Spring, 2023.

### **Activity 1**

S.E.H. is the consulting engineer. Oversight of the work done at the campground was done by our engineering firm. All materials met specifications and quantities were verified. A representative was onsite for all construction.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### **Activity 2**

The general contractor was responsible for all construction activities related to the project. They worked closely with the City of Babbitt and Engineer.

*(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

### **Dissemination**

The City of Babbitt will hold a ribbon cutting in the Spring, 2023 and will make sure LCCMR representatives are invited. Our web page will also give thanks to the funding received.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update October 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** October 12, 2022

**Date Approved:** October 28, 2022

### **Overall Update**

Project construction is approximately 90% complete. The contractor is scheduled to be substantially complete in late October, 2022 with final completion in November, 2022. The City intends to have the campground operational and open for the spring, 2023 season.

### **Activity 1**

Inspection and construction administration continues.

### **Activity 2**

Water & sewer are almost complete. Visitor Center Building and the Maintenance Building are up. Electrical work being done.

### **Dissemination**

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 and are publicly posted. All meeting notices and minutes are available on the City's website.

# Status Update Reporting

## Status Update April 1, 2022

**Date Submitted:** March 29, 2022

**Date Approved:** March 29, 2022

### **Overall Update**

Water & sewer lines are almost completed from the City of Babbitt to the Campground. Foundations have been constructed for the Visitor Center Building and the Maintenance Building.

### **Activity 1**

Materials testing and staking has been completed. Inspection and construction administration continues.

### **Activity 2**

Water & sewer lines are almost complete. Foundations have been constructed for the Visitor Center Building and the Maintenance Building.

### **Dissemination**

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 and are publicly posted. All meeting notices and minutes are available on the City's website.