



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-419

Proposal Title: Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground

Project Manager Information

Name: Cathy Bissonette

Organization: City of Babbitt

Office Telephone: (218) 827-0364

Email: cathy@babbitt-mn.com

Project Basic Information

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

Funds Requested: \$750,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2023-06-30

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

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): NE

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Narrative

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

The City of Babbitt has an existing recreation area that is used by residents of the region and visitors throughout the state. The Babbitt region is lacking camping sites. The City of Babbitt is undertaking this project to create additional camping opportunities and outdoor experiences for people of all ages throughout the region. The existing recreation area has a beach house equipped with changing rooms, restrooms, life guard/first aid room and a concession stand. The beach area has two rafts, a water slide, a picnic area with shelters, outdoor grills, a fully equipped playground area with activities for all ages and area lighting. The City of Babbitt has completed a total reconstruction of the boat landing area along Birch Lake. The area includes a new parking area with handicapped parking, two new docks, a new concrete boat landing ramp, a boat cleaning area and a rain garden for storm water runoff.

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

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

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

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

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Construction Administration

Activity Budget: \$200,000

Activity Description:

Material Testing, Staking, onsite observation and construction administration.

Activity Milestones:

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

Activity 2: Project Construction

Activity Budget: \$550,000

Activity Description:

Construction of the camp sites, campground buildings and campground infrastructure.

Activity Milestones:

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

Project Partners and Collaborators

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

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this be funded?

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

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Birch Lake Recreation Area Campground	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09h	\$350,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Cathy Bissonette

Job Title: Clerk-Treasurer

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

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

Organization: City of Babbitt

Organization Description:

Babbitt is a small community of 1500 residents located at the eastern end of the Mesabi Iron Range near Birch Lake in Northeastern Minnesota. Babbitt lies approximately 100 miles north from the City of Duluth. The vast majority of the land surrounding the City of Babbitt is comprised of forested land, unique geological formations, and abundant water resources which provide much of the scenic beauty of the area.

Only two portages from the BWCA, its location offers a unique combination of access to outdoor activities and cultural and business opportunities. Outdoor amenities in Babbitt include beaches, little league fields, softball fields, parks, golf course, fishing piers, youth center and an ice arena. The area also offers excellent opportunities for viewing or photographing wildlife such as wolves, moose, deer, bear and a wide variety of birds.

The economy of Babbitt has been built around the traditional resource-based industries of taconite, timber, tourism and transportation.

The City of Babbitt is governed by a Mayor and four council members. Their staff includes a clerk-treasurer, deputy clerk-treasurer, fire chief, library director, parks and recreation director, planning and

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Consulting Engineer Hired Through A Qualifications Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Material Testing, Staking, Inspection and Construction Administration				4		\$200,000
							Sub Total	\$200,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-

Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		General Contractor Hired Through A Competitive Bidding Process.	General Contractor Is Responsible For All Aspects Of The Project Construction					\$550,000
							Sub Total	\$550,000
							Grand Total	\$750,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

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

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

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

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Visual Shows Campground Layout

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Resolution	ed6c2e0f-16d.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Does your project have patent, royalties, or revenue potential?

No

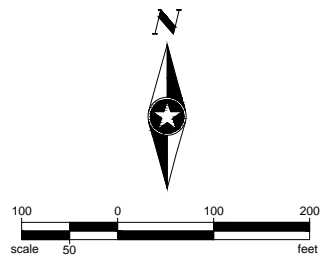
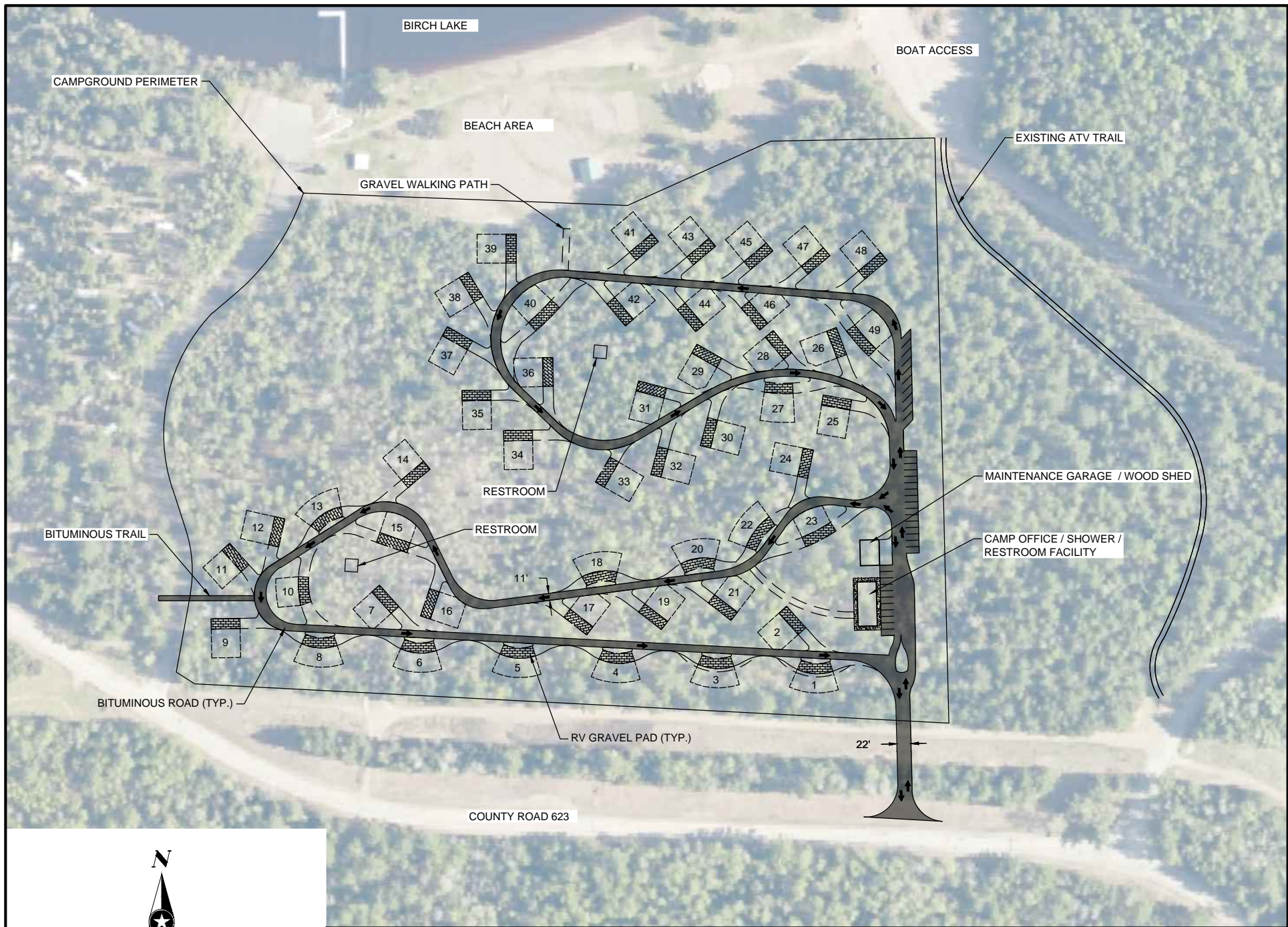
Does your project include research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

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FILE NO.
 BABB 144900

DATE:
 03/02/2018

**CONCEPT LAYOUT
 BIRCH LAKE CAMPGROUND
 BABBITT, MN**

**EXHIBIT
 NO. 1**

