

LCMR FINAL STATUS REPORT

I. Crosby Farm Park Nature Program - Environmental Education Program (i)

Program Manager: Ed Olsen  
Division Of Parks and Recreation  
City of Saint Paul  
1224 N. Lexington Pkwy.  
St. Paul, MN. 55103  
(612) 488-7291

A. M.L. 91 Ch. 254, Art. 1, Sec. 14, Subd: 5 (i)      Appropriation: \$84,601  
Balance: \$5,000 as of 6/22/93

Crosby Farm Park Nature Program: This appropriation is to the commissioner of education for a grant to the city of St. Paul to institute a nature study program at Crosby Farm Park to introduce inner city residents and minorities to learning opportunities concerning natural resources and how to conserve and protect those resources.

- B. Compatible Data: Not applicable.
- C. Match Requirement: Not applicable

II. Narrative

According to a Metropolitan Council leisure interests survey of this region, nature study programs is one of the activities where less than half of the interest is satisfied. While there are many nature centers in the Metropolitan area, they are all located in suburban areas of the Twin City metro area. Many inner city families and minorities lack the transportation capabilities to reach these outlying nature centers. This interpretive nature program will be offered at the only inner city nature park that is readily accessible by public transportation, and will introduce inner city families, adults, children, and minorities of all ages to learning opportunities concerning Minnesota's natural resources and how to conserve and protect those resources.

III. Objectives.

A. Institute a nature study program at Crosby Park.

- A.1. Narrative: A naturalist will be hired to conduct year round nature classes and programs for adults and children in order to provide park visitors with the opportunity to learn about nature and wildlife.
- A.2. Procedures: Year round nature programing will be developed for adults, children, families, and minorities. In addition, summer workshops for children K through 6, will be offered at the park. Interpretive exhibits will also be developed, including photos, slide shows, animals, and historic information. In addition, contracts with professional instructors will be utilized to present programs on certain specialized subjects where special knowledge or information is necessary to teach the subject. Particular importance will be placed on the development of programs for people whose cultural background is different from mainstream Minnesotans. Special efforts will be made to recruit low income program participants, as many of the people who live in the vicinity of Crosby Farm Park are low income families. Because of this, and in an attempt to attract as many people as possible, most of the programs at the park will be offered at little or no cost. Marketing efforts will be made to assure that those people who most need low cost programs are aware of them. Special emphasis will be made to recruit at schools, recreation centers, and daycare centers that serve this part of Saint Paul. An introductory brochure describing the programs that will be offered at the park will be developed and widely distributed throughout the service area of Crosby Park. Volunteers will be recruited to help with all aspects of the program; ie. to greet visitors, answer questions, teach, and distribute information, etc.

A.3. Budget

- a. Amount Budgeted: \$41,476
- b. Balance: \$2,000

A.4. <u>Timeline for Products/tasks</u>	July 91	Jan 92	June 92	Jan 93	June 93
Hire naturalist & develop nature classes for children and adults	.....				
Conduct summer daytime nature classes for children	.....		.....	.....	
Conduct evening and weekend nature programs for families	.....				
Interim program evaluation and report			.....		
Final program evaluation and report					.....

- A.5. Status: Numerous interpretive exhibits have been developed for the Nature Program. Exhibits developed include live native reptile and native fish displays, various mounted animal displays including two trophy bucks with their antlers locked, assorted "touch and feel" displays, and a fossil display with fossils from Lilydale Park. Nature programs for adults and children have been very successful. During the two years of this program, 742 adults and 2,518 children have participated in nature programs at Crosby Park. Funding was received from the LCMR to continue and expand this program for another two years.
- A.6. Benefits: Because many inner city families and minorities lack the transportation capabilities to reach outlying nature centers; this interpretive nature program will give inner city adults, children, and minorities an opportunity to gain an appreciation of the natural environment that they will not be able to attain otherwise. This program will assist park users in learning to preserve and care for our dwindling natural resources, and will give many inner city families, adults, children, and minorities a positive outdoor experience.

B. Develop an Environmental Education curriculum suitable for St. Paul elementary schools.

- B.1. Narrative: A naturalist will formulate and teach an environmental education curriculum which will meet or exceed the State of Minnesota's environmental education requirements for elementary school children.
- B.2. Procedures: An education curriculum will be developed to meet the State of Minnesota's environmental education requirements for elementary students. This will include formulating a written curriculum and creating interpretive exhibits; including photos, static displays, live animals, and craft projects. This curriculum will be promoted with the applicable school officials, and field trips to Crosby Farm Nature Park will be arranged. An introductory program will be developed and presented in the classroom, to acquaint teachers and students with the nature program being offered at the park. In addition, an introductory brochure describing the programs that will be offered at the park will be developed for distribution to Saint Paul elementary schools. Professional instructors will be contracted with to present specialized or unique nature subjects such as Native American Philosophy, History, and Crafts.
- B.3. Budget
  - a. Amount Budgeted: \$33,628
  - b. Balance: \$2,000

B.4. <u>Timeline for Products/tasks</u>	July 91	Jan 92	June 92	Jan 93	June 93
Begin development of Environmental Education curriculum	.....				
1st draft curriculum	.....				
Meet with school officials and present curriculum					
Conduct environmental curriculum classes	.....			.....	
Meet with school officials and evaluate/modify curriculum as necessary	.....				
Program Report			.....		
Review program year with school officials					
Evaluate/modify curriculum as necessary					
2nd draft curriculum			.....		
Present revised curriculum to school officials					
Meet with school officials and evaluate/modify curriculum as necessary				.....	
Final evaluation and review of curriculum with school officials					.....
Final draft of environmental educational curriculum					
Final program evaluation and report					

B.5. Status: A brochure was developed and distributed to all the schools in St. Paul, both public and private; describing the programs that are offered at Crosby. During the first six months of the program, school participation was very low, with programs being given to only 496 school children at their school. No classes were able to come to Crosby Park for programs. While low participation was expected during this start up period, the actual numbers were still disappointing. However, as knowledge of the Crosby Nature Program spread, these numbers soon increased. During 1992, classroom programs were given to 1,741 children, and an additional 2,008 school children attended programs given at the park. During just the first half of 1993, classroom programs have already been given to 1,389 children, and 1,088 school children have attended programs at the park. The total number of children that have participated in this portion of the program, are 3,626 children for the classroom programs and 3,096 children have attended programs at the park. This program has become so popular with teachers in St. Paul, that the naturalist has many more requests for programs then she is able to accommodate. Funding has been received from the LCMR that will enable St. Paul to continue and expand this program for 93-95.

B.6. Benefits: This program is primarily orientated towards the Saint Paul Public schools, which have a minority enrollment of 41%, many of whom are Southeast Asians. This program will help introduce Southeast Asians to Minnesotans land stewardship values. A written curriculum will help teachers prepare for, and follow up their students visits to the nature program. Because Crosby Nature Park is within Saint Paul, having the program at the park will reduce the travel time and cost for the school district.

C. Establish an Outreach Nature Program for children and adults who are in situations that make an actual outdoor experience impossible.

- C.1. Narrative: The naturalist will develop and teach a nature program suitable for an indoor setting, to invalids, handicapped people and others who are homebound, in classrooms, hospitals, institutions, etc.
- C.2. Procedures: Programs will be developed for children and adults who are unable to partake in an outdoor experience in the usual fashion. Marketing efforts will be made to assure that those people who most need these types of programs are aware of their existence. The program and curriculum will be promoted at local hospitals, schools, institutions, and other agencies where people unable to participate in a traditional outdoor nature center may be located. A brochure describing the outreach program will be developed and distributed. Other instructors will be brought in as necessary to present programs on specialized subjects whenever appropriate.

C.3. Budget:

a.	Amount Budget	:	\$9,875
b.	Balance:		\$1,000

C.4. <u>Timeline for Products/tasks</u>	July 91	Jan 92	June 92	Jan 93	June 93
Begin development of Outreach Program	.....				
Conduct Outreach Program	.....				
1st interim program evaluation and report		.....			
2nd interim program evaluation and report			.....		
3rd interim program evaluation and report				.....	
Final program evaluation and report					.....

C.5. Status: Outreach programs have been developed and given. It has been determined that a tailor made program is not necessary for this audience. Outreach programs have consisted of program material targeted for the specific audience the program is being given to. This is the same as for the other programs given, every effort has been made to mainstream these groups into the other programs, therefore this program has been incorporated into the the other two objectives of this project to meet the intent and spirit of the A.D.A. legislation. Special efforts will continue to be made, in order to accommodate groups with special needs.

C.6. Benefits: Many groups of people are unable to participate in a traditional outdoor nature center setting due to illness, disability, or situational circumstances. This program will give these groups of people an opportunity to acquire an understanding and concern for their natural surroundings that they will not be able to achieve in any other way.

IV. Evaluation:

Surveys will be given to program participants to determine their level of satisfaction with the program. Students participating in the educational curriculum will be given a short quiz before the program to determine their level of knowledge concerning that programs subject matter. Following the program they will be given a different short quiz to determine if their level of knowledge concerning that subject has changed. Evaluations will be done throughout the various programs in order to determine if any changes are necessary.

V. Context:

A. At the present time, except for Crosby Farm Nature Park, all of the nature parks in the metro region are located in suburban areas. This has resulted in many city families, adults, and children, primarily low income and minorities, not having the opportunity to experience nature in a manner many Minnesotans take for granted; walks in the woods, listening to birds singing, or canoeing across a lake in the Boundary Waters Wilderness area. This is mainly due to the fact that while Minnesota has many areas in which to enjoy nature, most of these areas are outside the inner city region, and many inner city families lack the transportation facilities which would enable them to take advantage of all the opportunities to enjoy nature that exist in Minnesota. While elementary students have had some exposure to nature through the environmental education curriculum offered in the school system; this has not helped the inner city adults, children, and minorities who are not in the elementary school system. The nature program at Crosby Farm Nature Park will enable these people, who up to now, have been deprived of experiencing the wonders of nature, an opportunity to participate in a positive outdoor experience.

B. Not applicable

C. A summer nature interpretive program was begun at Crosby Farm Park in August 1988 by a student intern. A grant was received in 1989 that enabled the city to continue the nature program through 1989, this grant expired in March 1990. A grant was also received from the Minnesota Humanities Commission in 1989, for a program on the past and present role the Mississippi River played in shaping the Twin City area. Fiscal year 92-93 will be the first funding received from the LCMR for this program.

D. Not applicable.

## **VI. Qualifications**

### **1. Program Manager:**

Ed Olsen  
Environmental Services  
Division Of Parks and Recreation  
City of Saint Paul

## **VII. Reporting Requirements**

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 1992, July 1, 1992, January 1, 1993 and a final status report by June 30, 1993.

**1991 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ABSTRACT**  
**FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1993**

This project was supported by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

**TITLE:** Crosby Farm Park Nature Program  
**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Ed Olsen  
**ORGANIZATION:** City of Saint Paul  
**LEGAL CITATION:** M.L. 91 Ch. 254, Art. 1, Sec.14, Subd:5(i)  
**APPROP. AMOUNT:** \$85,000

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES**

To institute a nature study program at Crosby Park, to develop an environmental education curriculum for St. Paul elementary schools, and to establish an outreach nature program for children and adults who are unable to experience an outdoor program.

**RESULTS**

A full time naturalist has been hired and year round programming has been developed at Crosby Park. Interpretive exhibits have been developed, including both static, live animal, and interactive displays. Weekend, after school, and vacation programs for families and children, as well as special event programs such as Halloween and Earth Day events have also been developed. Over the two years of the program, 742 adults and 2,518 children have participated in nature programs at the Nature Park.

A diversity of environmental education curriculum have been developed for schools. Classes have been conducted both in the classroom and at Crosby Park. As of June 1993, 6,722 school children and their teachers have participated in Crosby Park Nature programs either at their school or at the Nature Park. Program requests have reached the point where the park naturalist is not able to accommodate all the requests for programs that are received.

Outreach programs have been developed and given, however; it has been determined that a special program is not necessary for this audience. Every effort has been made to mainstream these special groups into the regular programming offered at the Nature Park. Therefore, this portion of the program has been incorporated into the other two objectives of this project. Special efforts have been made and will continue to be made to accommodate all groups with special needs in order to meet their environmental education requirements.

**PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION**

General program brochures for weekend, after school, and vacation programs have been distributed to over 21,000 residences in St. Paul every year.

School brochures have been developed and have been distributed to every elementary school, both public and private, in St. Paul

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