

July 1, 1993

LCMR WORK PROGRAM - Final Report

I. Restore Thomas Sadler Roberts Bird Sanctuary

Program Manager: Jeffrey T. Lee
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
3800 Bryant Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409
(612) 348-4448

A.	M.L. 1991, Ch 254, Art 1, Sect 14, Subd: 9(n)	Appropriation:	\$ 50,000.00
		Balance:	\$ 50,000.00
		Total	\$100,000.00
		Expenditures	\$ 87,944.65
		Balance	\$ 12,055.35

Restore Thomas Sadler Roberts Bird Sanctuary: Funding for this project approved by the Minnesota Legislature [M.L. 1991 Ch 254, Art 1, Sect 14, Subd: 9(n)] as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Funds will be provided to the Commissioner of Natural Resources for a grant to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to restore and improve public access to the Thomas Sadler Roberts Bird Sanctuary. This appropriation is matched by \$50,000 of local money.

B. Not applicable

C.	Match Requirement:	\$ 50,000
	Funds Raised to Date:	\$ 50,000
	Balance	\$100,000

Appropriation must be matched and for which the match has not been committed by January 1, 1992, must be canceled. Amounts canceled to the Minnesota future resources fund are appropriated to the contingent account created in subdivision 15.

II. Narrative

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board proposes to restore Thomas Sadler Roberts Bird Sanctuary. Work carried out as part of this project will aid public access to the site for interpretive and educational opportunities. The sanctuary is part of the Chain of Lakes Regional Park. The sanctuary provides a natural area composed of upland woodland and cattail marshes within a largely urban environment. This project will provide for greater public access and use of the sanctuary, as well as provide educational opportunities for visitors. This project represents the final phase of the restoration project; earlier phases involved the plantings in the upland areas and creation of type 3 wetland ponds.

III. Objectives

A. Install nature boardwalks and trails for public access.

A.1. Narrative

Increase public access to the wetlands through the installation of nature boardwalks.

A.2. Procedures

Boardwalks will be installed to create a loop trail for visitors from the south peninsula out to the ponds. Park and Recreation Board staff and/or Teen Teamworks crews will install.

A.3. Budget

	LCMR Funds	Matching Funds	Funds Expended
a. Amount Budgeted:	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 21,257.40
b. Balance:	\$ 0	(\$ 1,257.40)	(\$ 1,257.40)

A.4. Timeline	July 91	Jan. 92	July 92	Jan 93	June 93
Design trail system	[]				
Boardwalk installation	[]				
Trail upgrading	[]				
Development of trail maps	[]				

A.4. Timeline	July 91	Jan. 92	July 92	Jan 93	June 93
Design trail system	[completed]				
Boardwalk installation	[completed]				
Trail upgrading	[---completed----				
Development of trail maps	[--completed--]				

A.5. Status:

Project timeline altered to reflect new project schedule. Project contract DNR - Parks has been executed. Governing body resolutions to proceed with the project and contracts have presented to the Board of Commissioners. Purchase requisition issued for boardwalk materials bids. Trail system designed in conjunction with neighborhood residents and the Minneapolis Chapter of the Audubon. Board walk system installed, partially completed trail upgrading and completed trail map on MPRB GIS system. CYC youth employment crews installed the boardwalks; the labor expenses were not billed to this project.

A.6. Benefits:

Sanctuary visitors will be able to explore the flora and fauna of the wetlands with minimum impact on these resources.

C. Design and construction of a visitor center.

C.1. Narrative

Design and construct a seasonal visitors shelter where visitors can observe both historical and environmental displays pertaining to the sanctuary.

C.2. Procedures

Staff will select the building site and work with architects and planners to design the structure.

C.3. Budget

	LCMR Funds	Matching Funds	Funds Expended
a. Amount Budgeted:	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$ 54,897.10
b. Balance:	\$ 5,102.90	\$ 0	\$ 5,102.90

C.4. Timeline July 91 Jan. 92 July 92 Jan 93 June 93

Site Selection []
Design of Shelter []
Site Preparation []
Construction of Shelter []

C.4. Timeline July 91 Jan. 92 July 92 Jan 93 June 93

Site Selection [completed]
Design of Shelter [completed]
Site Preparation [completed]
Construction of Shelter [-----]

C.5. Status:

Timeline shifted to reflect new project schedule. Conceptual design of shelter completed and location chosen. Architect selection process for design of visitor shelter has been completed. Site survey, soil borings and concept design completed. Concept design approved by neighborhood organization and Audubon groups. Due to the high cost of lumber in spring of 1993, the project was redesigned and rebid. The entrance, handicap accessible walkways and building foundation were completed in July/August 1993. Building costs are presently be raised ny MPRB-People for Parks foundation.

C.6. Benefits:

Visitors will become informed of the history of both the Roberts Bird Sanctuary and Thomas Sadler Roberts' effect on the historical knowledge of birds populating and visiting Minnesota. Changing natural history displays will provide visitors with more detailed information on specific flora and fauna.

B. Development, design and placement of interpretive signage.

B.1. Narrative

Provide educational, interpretive signage at the two entrances to the Sanctuary that will orient visitors to their upcoming experience.

B.2. Procedures

Staff will work with the Cartography Laboratory at the University of Minnesota to develop detailed multi-color topographic/habitat maps for the site.

B.3. Budget

	LCMR Funds	Matching Funds	Funds expended
a. Amount Budgeted:	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,399.05
b. Balance:	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,299.05	\$ 5,600.95

B.4. Timeline July 91 Jan. 92 July 92 Jan 93 June 93

Selection/preparation of locations []
Mapping of locations []
Printing/construction of signs []
Placing of Signs []

B.4. Timeline July 91 Jan. 92 July 92 Jan 93 June 93

Selection/preparation of locations [--completed--]
Mapping of locations [-completed-]
Printing/construction of signs [completed]
Placing of Signs [completed]

B.5. Status:

Timeline shifted to reflect new project schedule. Interpretive signage design incorporated into the preliminary shelter design and entrance redesign. Locations digitized onto GIS mapping system. Map design finalized and printed in conjunction with the guidebook (costs part of guidebook printing). Mapping worked completed by MPRB-Planning and was not billed to the project.

B.6. Benefits:

Visitors will be better able understand and explore the various habitats within the Sanctuary.

D. Development, printing and distribution of a Thomas Sadler
Roberts Bird Sanctuary guidebook.

D.1. Narrative

Develop a detailed visitors guidebook for the sanctuary featuring notes for marked stations along the various trails.

D.2. Procedures

Staff will work with local Audubon groups to outline, write and illustrate the guidebook. The major focus for the guidebook will be on the wildlife that are either permanent or migratory visitors to the sanctuary. Once prepared the guidebook will be printed and installed in boxes at both sanctuary entrances.

D.3. Budget

	<u>LCMR Funds</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u>	<u>Funds Expended</u>
a. Amount Budgeted:	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 8,445.81	\$ 7,451.10
b. Balance:	\$ 2,451.10	\$ 0	\$ 2,548.90

D.4. Timeline July 91 Jan. 92 July 92 Jan 93 June 93

Manuscript Writing	[]
Art Work	[]
Layout	[]
Typesetting	[]
Printing	[]

D.4. Timeline July 91 Jan. 92 July 92 Jan 93 June 93

Manuscript Writing	[---completed---
Art Work	[----completed----
Layout	[completed]
Typesetting	[completed]
Printing	[completed]

D.5. Status:

Timeline shifted to reflect new project schedule. Organizational meetings have been held with volunteer groups to coordinate guidebook preparation. Staff person responsible for coordination of guidebook started May 18, 1992. Preliminary layout, outline of contents and draft manuscript completed. Artwork selection and bird list preparation underway. Guidebook design and layout completed. Typesetting donated by the South West Journal. Bids solicited June 7, 1993. Books printed July 1993.

D.6. Benefits:

Visitors will have a more thorough understanding of the specific flora and fauna they will encounter. The detailed information and illustrations will enable visitors to recognize these same plants and animals in other sites throughout the city and state.

IV. Evaluation:

The project schedule has been shifted to reflect the delays in the project due obtaining funding and completing the necessary contracts and resolutions. For the FY 92-93 biennium the project can be evaluated through the completion of each of the tasks associated with each project objective. Long-term evaluation will be based upon greater visitor access and thus increased usage of the bird sanctuary. Visitor numbers, as well as visitor satisfaction will be evaluated to determine the projects effectiveness.

V. Context:

- A. Previous projects were targeted at restoring the plant communities to increase habitat quality. Placement of boardwalks and improvement of trails was involved, but limited in scope.
- B. This project will increase visitor access and provide greater interpretive and educational opportunities for visitors.
- C. Previous projects involved no LCMR funds, but Metro Council funds were used for the wetland recreation projects. No future funding requests are anticipated.
- D. Not applicable

VI. Qualifications:

1. Program Manager:

Jeffrey T. Lee
Manager, Environmental Programs
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

B.S. Biology, University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse, 1977
M.E. Secondary Education, U.W. - LaCrosse, 1987

2. Cooperators:

Mary Maguire Lerman
Coordinator of Horticulture Programs
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

B.S. Horticulture, University of Minnesota - St. Paul, 1974

Marcia Holmberg
Environmental Aide
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

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 June 30, 1993.

TITLE: Restore Thomas Sadler Roberts Bird Sanctuary
PROGRAM MANAGER: Jeffrey T. Lee
ORGANIZATION: Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
LEGAL CITATION 9(n)
APPROPRIATION: \$ 50,000.00

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES:

To restore Thomas Sadler Roberts Bird Sanctuary to aid public access to the site for interpretive and educational opportunities. This project provides for greater public access and use of the sanctuary, as well as provide educational opportunities for visitors in upland woodlands and cattail marshes within a largely urban environment. This project represents the final phase of the restoration project.

RESULTS:

Trail system was designed in conjunction with neighborhood residents and the Minneapolis Chapter of the Audubon to increase public access to the wetlands boardwalks. ADA compliant boardwalks and entrance were installed to create a loop trail for visitors from the south peninsula out to the ponds. Sanctuary visitors will be able to explore the flora and fauna of the wetlands with minimum impact on these resources. The project provides educational, interpretive signage at the entrance to the Sanctuary to orient visitors to their upcoming experience. Park and Recreation Board staff developed detailed multi-color topographic/habitat maps for the site that are part of the interpretive display and guidebook. Interpretive displays will allow visitors to be informed of the history of both Roberts Bird Sanctuary and Thomas Sadler Roberts' effect on the historical knowledge of Minnesota birds. Changing natural history displays will provide visitors with more detailed information on specific flora and fauna. Staff worked with local Audubon groups to write and illustrate the guidebook. The major focus for the guidebook is the wildlife that are either permanent or migratory visitors to the sanctuary. The detailed information and illustrations will enable visitors to recognize these same plants and animals throughout the city and state. The guidebook will be available to visitors at sanctuary entrances.