

Date of Report: January 1, 1995 - Work Program

**LCMR Work Program 1994**

**I. Project Title:** Birch Lake Regional Bikeway/Walkway  
**Project Manager:** Mark Burch  
**Agency Affiliation:** City of White Bear Lake  
**Address:** 4701 Highway 61, White Bear Lake, 55110  
**Phone:** (612) 429-8563

**A. Legal Citation:**

Funding for this project approved by the Minnesota Legislature, M.L. 1993 Chpt. 172, Sect. 14, Subd. 10(e), as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

**Total Biennial LCMR Budget:** \$450,000                      **Balance:** \$ 85,089.03

We submitted our latest request for reimbursement at the end of October for \$278,091.96 this has not been received yet but we expect it soon. There are a number of additional costs that we have incurred but not yet submitted. A submittal will take place in late winter for those and any additional costs up to that time. The balance above indicates the amount remaining after our October submittal.

**Appropriation Language as drafted 7/27/93:**

This appropriation is from the trust fund to the Commissioner of Natural Resources for a contract with the metropolitan council for a subgrant to Ramsey County which shall cooperate with the City of White Bear Lake to develop a bikeway/walkway linking trunk highway 96 regional bikeway with Tamarack Nature Center and business centers, and a trailside interpretive program. This appropriation is contingent on this facility being designated part of the metropolitan regional park and open space system.

**B. LMIC Compatible Data Language:** Not applicable

**C. Status of Match Requirements:** Not applicable

**Match Required:** Not applicable

**Funds Raised to Date:** Not applicable

**II. Narrative:**

This proposal is to develop 2.7 miles of safe and accessible bikeway/walkway linking TH96 regional trail with Tamarack Nature Center and business centers. Also to develop a trailside interpretive program, that will instill the notion of preservation and restoration of the natural

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environment. Birch Lake Regional Bikeway/Walkway will provide a pleasant interactive recreational experience in an improved natural environment.

**III. Statement of Objectives:**

The two key objectives for the successful fulfillment of the Birch Lake Regional Bikeway/Walkway are:

- A) Regional Access to Work and Recreation
- B) Public Education of Natural Amenities

**IV. Objectives:**

**A. Title of Objective: Regional Access to Work and Recreation**

**A.1. Narrative:**

To develop key portions of a regional trail network which will allow access from TH96 regional corridor to Tamarack Nature Center (part of the Otter Lake Regional Park), completing a regional connection. The trail will also connect business centers and community centers, local schools, sports facilities, parks and trails.

**A.2. Procedures:**

- Install base material for Birch Lake Blvd N portion of trail.
- Survey critical portions of trail alignment and record for base map.
- Develop final plan, working drawings and specifications.
- Take project to City Council to order advertisement for bids.
- Send advertisement to *White Bear Press* and *Construction Bulletin*.
- Send plans out to prospective bidders and receive bids.
- Council will award contract to the lowest qualified bidder.
- Construction begins.
- Stake trail alignment.
- Install erosion control.
- Excavate and clear alignment to proper grade.
- Construct retaining elements.
- Lay base material.
- Lay bituminous surface.
- Restore the site to its natural state.
- Inspect project and complete punch-list.
- Complete final details and final inspection.

**A.3. Budget:**

**a. Amount budgeted:** \$ 425,000

**b. Balance:** \$ 68,164.03

June 30, 1995

A.4. Timeline:	7/93	1/94	6/94	1/95	6/95
Install base material (Birch Lk Blvd N).		x			
Survey and develop base maps.		xxx			
Develop final drawings and specs.		xxx			
Council order project ads.			x		
Ads for bids.			xx		
Receive bids.				x	
Council awards contract.				x	
Start construction.			xx		
Stake trail alignment.			xx		
Install erosion control.			xx		
Excavate.				x	
Construct retaining elements			xx		
Install base material.			xx		
Install bituminous.			xx		
Restore disturbed areas.				xx	
Inspection.	xx		xxxxxx		
Final completion date. (100% completed)			xx		

**A.5. Status:**

After the trail was designated regional by Met Council on October 7, 1993 we started the process of laying the base material for the partially developed Birch Lake Blvd North portion of the trail. The winter weather restricted us to only the base work leaving the remainder of the job for spring. The base materials work has recently been submitted for reimbursement.

We are currently working on the surveying and base map development. We will submit this portion near the end of winter just prior to construction.

Over the late winter and early spring months, the trail issues were researched and resolved, the trail was designed in detail and plans were produced. On March 8, there was a Public Hearing to announce the ordering of the project and for citizens to voice their concerns. The hearing went on without any problems and the council approved a resolution to order the project. On April 12, a resolution approving the plans and specifications and authorizing advertisement for bids was approved. Advertisements were published in the White Bear Press and Construction Bulletin from May 4 to May 20 for a bid opening scheduled for May 24. The bids were open on May 24 and that evening the Council awarded the contract to Forest Lake Contracting.

Construction began in early June. The City's engineering technicians laid out the trail and retaining wall locations. Erosion control was put in place and the walls were started immediately. The trail contractor graded and prepared the alignment for the laying of the base material. Base material was laid and soon after bituminous was put down. Within the month of June the major portions of the trail were completed. Reimbursement documents for work completed since March will be submitted during the month of July.

The problem areas of the trail, those that needed retaining walls, were worked on extensively in late summer. All the walls were completed and backfilled and the remainder of the paving was finished. The trail open for use by mid-fall. We had a ribbon cutting ceremony to announce it's opening on October 20. Reimbursement documents were submitted in late October for the incurred costs through August.

**A.6. Benefits:**

- Trail will create an important connection between the TH96 regional bike corridor and Tamarack Nature Center thus, further developing the overall trail network.
- The trail will provide an alternative form of access to business centers, local parks and schools, sports facilities and a proposed community center.
- It will provide a system of safe and accessible trails in an attractive environment for people of all ages and physical capabilities.

**B. Title of Objective: Public Education of Natural Amenities**

**B.1. Narrative:**

Provide the public with an innovative interpretive stations and signage program to further educate them on the importance of preserving and maintaining natural environments.

**B.2. Procedures:**

- Develop a layout plan, design and specs for the signage system and overlook station.
- Take project to City Council to order advertisement for bids.
- Send advertisement to *White Bear Press* and *Construction Bulletin*.
- Send plans out to prospective bidders and receive bids.
- Council will award contract to the lowest qualified bidder.
- Manufacture signs.
- Layout signs and station according to approved plan.
- Construct station.
- Install signage program.
- Restore site to natural conditions.
- Inspect project and complete a punch-list.
- Complete final details and final inspection.

**B.3. Budget**

- a. Amount budgeted: \$ 25,000
- b. Balance: \$ 16,925

June 30, 1995

**B.4. Timeline:**

	7/93	1/94	6/94	1/95	6/95
Design and specifications		xxxx			
Council order project ads.		xx			
Ads for bids.		xx			
Receive bids.		x			
Council award contract.		x			
Manufacture signs.			xxx		
Layout signs and platform.			xx		
Construct station platform.			xxx		
Install signage.			xx		
Inspection.			xxxxxxx		
Final completion date. (100% completed)				xx	

**B.5. Status:**

City staff and park commissioners have been researching various signage techniques to find the most vandal resistant and attractive signs for the trail and nature preserve. Design details for the overlook structure are also being explored at this time.

Signage options and contractor s are being explored along with the proper language for the interpretive signs. We are currently receiving bids to design and construct the signs. The overlook platform design was completed and the structure constructed in early fall.

**B.6. Benefits:**

- Interpretive signage system will encourage the users to respectfully interact with the natural environment of the area thus developing an appreciation for its value.
- The proposed educational program will provide a sequence of stations which will become destinations for the area schools and club programs.

**V. Evaluation:**

Success of the Birch Lake Regional Bikeway/Walkway will be evaluated for its ability to aid in the safe transport of users to their select destination through an expanded network of trails leading to regional and local facilities including schools, parks, trails, sports complexes and a proposed community center. The trail will also be evaluated for its success in educating and informing users on the natural environment's value both aesthetic and functional.

**VI. Context:**

**A.** Currently, access from TH96 to the Tamarack Nature Center is undirected and unsafe. Bikers and pedestrians must travel on non-designated roadsides to reach their destinations. This project will allow a safe and easily accessible alternative to the motor vehicle creating a pleasing trail system that both fascinates and educates with trailside interpretive signage.

**B.** The City of White Bear Lake will work to develop a joint powers agreement with White Bear Township and Ramsey County to coordinate responsibilities regarding implementation and maintenance.

The City will also prepare a master plan with Ramsey County's assistance that will be approved by them and the Metropolitan Council prior to the beginning of construction.

**C.** The City of White Bear Lake has been working to improve its trail system for years.

- 1) Recently we purchased 36 acres of open space with a significant portion consisting of natural wetland and have begun to make the site more accessible to the public by constructing a parking lot, restroom facilities and trails. Birch Lake Regional Trail will pass through this nature preserve.
- 2) The TH96 roadway improvements for 1994 will include the segment of the TH96 Regional Trail from I35E to TH61 which will connect to the Birch Lake Regional Bikeway/Walkway.

- 3) Presently we are in the process of rebuilding Ninth Street which will include an on-street bikeway also connecting to the Birch Lake Regional Trail.
- 4) For the proposed trail the City's Engineering and Planning Departments will contribute all engineering and design. This will include: field survey to record existing data, input into computer to create base maps, master planning and layout of trails and interpretive stations and signage, construction details and documents and project coordination.

This is the City's first LCMR proposal but we will continue to submit proposals in the future. Our next submission may be a joint venture with the neighboring communities to develop a trail system around White Bear Lake, (the lake) itself. For the communities involved and for both Ramsey and Washington counties this will be a valuable and positive project. It will further improve alternative access to a major recreational lake and become part of an historic tour of the lake and surrounding area.

## VII. Qualifications:

### 1. Program Manager:

Mark Burch

- a. Director of Public Works - Designed and constructed municipal improvements for 15 yrs. including; sidewalks, bikeways, nature centers and boardwalks.
- b. Iowa State University, Professional Civil Engineer

### 2. Cooperators/Other Investigators:

Jim Robinson

- a. Community Development Director - City planning and community development for the past 12 years.
- b. University of Minnesota, Landscape Architect

### 3. Chuck Stifter

- a. Urban Design Specialist - Designed and coordinated municipal improvements for 3 yrs. including bikeways, highway corridor landscape and nature preserve.
- b. University of Minnesota, Landscape Architect

### 4. Steve Duff

- a. Engineering Technician - Construction management of municipal construction projects for 12 years.
- b. Duluth Vocational Technical College

## VIII. Reporting Requirements:

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than Jan. 1, 1994, July 1, 1994, Jan. 1, 1995 and final status report by June 30, 1995.