

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on April 2, 2024

M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

Project Title: Sauk Rapids Lions Park Riverfront Improvements

Project Manager: Todd Schultz

Affiliation: City of Sauk Rapids

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City/State/Zip: Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Phone: (320) 258-5315

E-mail: tschultz@ci.sauk-rapids.mn.us

Website: <https://www.ci.sauk-rapids.mn.us/>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

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

Appropriation Amount: \$463,000

Amount Spent: \$463,000

Amount Remaining: -

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

This project has occurred on the banks of the Mississippi River in Sauk Rapids. This project enhanced access and expanded users experience in the park while protecting natural features. All of the elements added or improved with the LCCMR grant have both improved the quality/usage of this park.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The LCCMR grant was intended to support a larger park project that the City of Sauk Rapids undertook to enhance the user experience and increase the use of the park. In the before, this area was largely underutilized land adjacent to the Mississippi River. The goal was to make improvements to the park area that would create some appeal for everyone.

We added Canoe/Kayak access improvements to the Mississippi River in Southside park as well as to the north of Lions Park. The old portages were unimproved and difficult to access for people with disabilities. The 520 feet of trails added with the LCCMR funding allow the two existing fishing piers to be accessible for everyone and also allowed for people to get closer to and in some cases actually interact with the river. A unique attributes of this park. The project also added four lights on the new trails making the park safer and increasing the hours of the day that the park can be utilized.

In the middle of the park is a topographically unique area that has a grade that is above the rest of the park and extends to the river creating an overlook with amazing views of the river/rapids. The landscaping done makes this area more inviting and eliminated 16,044 square feet of invasive species.

The two shade structures around the splash pad have been a hit with parents and kids trying to escape the hot sun in the summer. The number of users in the park since the improvements amaze us!

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The City has taken every opportunity to talk about this project and how it was ultimately funded which included local option sales tax and the LCCMR grant. The City is very proud of this improvement and due to the event center in the middle of it we have many opportunities to tell people how it happened.

The City has mounted LCCMR funding signs in the park as well as the northerly access.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: November 21, 2024

ID Number: 2021-069

Staff Lead: Mike Campana

Project Title: Sauk Rapids Lions Park Riverfront Improvements

Project Budget: \$463,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Todd Schultz

Organization: City of Sauk Rapids

Office Telephone: (320) 258-5315

Email: tschultz@ci.sauk-rapids.mn.us

Web Address: <https://www.ci.sauk-rapids.mn.us/>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: April 2, 2024

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: April 2, 2024

Project Completion: November 30, 2023

Legal Information

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

Appropriation Language: \$463,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Sauk Rapids to design and construct a second phase of upgrades to Lions and Southside Parks including trails, lighting, riverbank restoration, and a canoe and kayak launch to enhance access to the Mississippi River.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: Lions Park improvements. Park is located on the rapids area of the Mississippi River. Enhance interaction with the river regionally with access points in this park.

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

To upgrade the city owned Lions and Southside Parks. Phase 1 construction is scheduled for summer 2020 with a \$9.1 million dollar investment from the city. The Phase 1 improvements include a pavilion, trails, splash pad and other amenities that support a regional park. Due to budget reasons, many important aspects of the project have been left out of the Phase 1 improvements. These items would include trails, lighting, riverbank stabilization, a canoe/kayak launch, and relocated picnic shelters and a monument entry feature.

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.

One of the major Phase 2 features is to have an accessible portage area for launching of canoes/kayaks in the one of the few places with rapids in the Mississippi River. We want to improve this access (currently only a primitive dirt path). The portage accesses, paths (with lighting) would also allow access to an area with interactive piers that is currently not accessible by all and the spurs would allow for quiet areas for people to relax or reflect in the park. There are few areas in MN along the Mississippi that allow for people to interact with the river. Proposed amenities will allow for this. Areas now do not have paved access and or lighting in areas for safety. The banks in this area have been experiencing erosion and need to be stabilized with rock rip rap and vegetation. We want to preserve this area for many years to come with rip rap and protecting the shore for our piers, trails and interactive areas with Phases 1 and 2. Also two park shelters need to be relocated to more appropriate areas and an entrance feature will be added.

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?

To provide this regional park with more amenities that appeal to a broader group of users and to make this park more accessible to people of various abilities. In addition, we would like to better stabilize the shoreline were needed and to encourage people to interact with the river through canoeing, kayaking, fishing, sightseeing, etc.

Project Location

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

Region(s): Central

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

Region(s): Central

When will the work impact occur?

In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Trails and Lighting

Activity Budget: \$219,882

Activity Description:

Install secondary trail for better access to the river interactive area. Install trail and lighting for safety and to allow access to the trail network, portages, river interactive area, and piers for observation. Add modified sidewalk areas at the promenade and amphitheatre which will include some electrical work and some site restoration.

Major work items include:

TRAIL LIGHTING UNITS (INCLUDES CONCRETE BASES, HANDHOLES, CABLES) \$140,000.00. Current engineers estimate is less than \$140,000. Balance to be used for Promenade Improvements in Activity 3.

GUARDRAIL LIGHTING AT PROMENADE (INCLUDES HANDHOLES, CABLES) \$20,000.00. This lighting appears not needed. Balance to be used for the Promenade Improvements in Activity 3.

SECONDARY TRAIL (8' WIDE, 3.5" BITUMINOUS SURFACING, 8" AGGREGATE BASE AND SIDEWALK MODIFICATIONS ON THE PROMENADE) \$35,000.

TRAIL SPURS (3" STABILIZED DECOMPOSED AGGREGATE) \$14,000. Trail Spurs seem redundant at this point. Balance to be used for the Promenade Improvements in Activity 3.

RELOCATE AND REPAIR PICNIC SHELTERS (INCLUDES CONCRETE SLABS, REMOVALS, ASSEMBLIES) \$19,000. This has proven to be unfeasible. Balance to be used for the Promenade Improvements in Activity 3.

Construction total for this activity is \$162,875

Contingency, Professional Services, misc. \$57,007

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Substantial Completion of Phase 2 - Trails, Picnic Shelters, and Lighting	August 31, 2022
Start Work On Phase 2 - Trails, Picnic Shelters, and Lighting	October 31, 2022

Activity 2: Kayak/Canoe Launches

Activity Budget: \$82,187

Activity Description:

Install portage areas, improving access, safety, and mobility for kayak and canoe launching. Major work items include:

KAYAK/CANOE LAUNCH/ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS (INCLUDES MODULAR CONCRETE ACCESS SYSTEM, RIP RAP BOULDER ELEMENTS, OUTCROP STEP FEATURES): This item has been modified by the need to move the north access to a point identified by the DNR as a more appropriate location for an access. Also system may not be modular but more similar to a DNR access based on Engineer's recommendations. Current engineer's estimates for this activity are less than \$193,000. Balance to be used for the new improvements as described in Activity 3.

MONUMENT ENTRY FEATURE: \$14,000 City has decided to eliminate this activity. Balance to be used for the new improvements in Activity 3.

NATIVE GRANITE OUTCROP FEATURES AT PROMENADE: \$19,000 After the the first phase of the project, much granite was encountered so this phase has already been completed outside of the LCCMR grant. Balance to be used for the new

improvements in Activity 3.

Construction for this activity to be \$60,879

Contingency, Professional Services, Misc \$21,308

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Complete Phase 1	August 31, 2021
Start work on Phase 2 - Kayak/Canoe Launches and Landscape Features	May 31, 2022
Substantial Completion on Phase 2 - Kayak/Canoe Launches and Landscape Features	August 31, 2022

Activity 3: Promenade Improvements and Shade Structures,

Activity Budget: \$160,931

Activity Description:

Based on modifications to Activities 1 and 2, the City proposes to add landscaping improvements to the promenade both on top as well as on the steep slopes which are largely made up of invasive species and highly erodible soils. The top improvements will include overstory trees, replacement turf, irrigation repairs, and perennial plantings that meet BWSR planting guidelines.

These improvement will help stabilize the slope and provide for invertebrate habitat. The vegetation will meet the BWSR planting guidelines. This activity will also result in some restoration of turf and irrigation repairs.

Because the picnic shelters cannot be moved there is a need for shade structures at the interactive water feature/splash pad.

Construction for this activity: \$119,208

Contingency, Professional Services, Misc: \$41,723

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Begin work mid summer 2022	October 31, 2022

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
david krueger	SEH	consultant	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.

All council meetings are public and reports discussed are available to the general public.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines.

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?

On going efforts in the park will be funded and managed by the public works/ park department of the city and through funding of the city. If additional work needs to be done the city will fund those efforts.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Contracts and Services										
Short Elliot Hendrickson, 2351 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 300, Sartell, Minnesota, 56377	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The Engineering Firm Will Be Responsible For Project Design And Construction Administration				1		\$85,000	\$85,000	-
							Sub Total	\$85,000	\$85,000	-
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										
		Rice Contracting and Development, 10100 Sucker Creek Road NE, Rice, MN 56387	General Contractor Will Be Responsible For Constructing Phase 2					\$378,000	\$378,000	-
							Sub Total	\$378,000	\$378,000	-
							Grand Total	\$463,000	\$463,000	-

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	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
Cash	City bonding, half cent sales tax, and utility funds	Move current lift station in the park to new location outside the park. It will be more accessible and will reduce noise, odors and visually be better in the new location and not impede the park.	Secured	\$1,700,000	\$1,587,942	\$112,058
Cash	City Bonding and half cent sales tax for project \$9.1 million	The Park Project is \$7.5 million while the coinciding River Avenue project which includes the parking is \$1.6 million for a total of about 9.3. The rendering of the Phase 1 project is in the attachment. It includes a indoor pavilion, education area, splash pad, band shell and areas for celebrations. It is designed to be a regional area for events and celebrations along the river. The community will use it heavily for recreation, celebration and access to the Mississippi River.	Secured	\$9,100,000	\$9,100,000	-
			Non State Sub Total	\$10,800,000	\$10,687,942	\$112,058
			Funds Total	\$10,800,000	\$10,687,942	\$112,058

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [9018ed00-c80.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Rendering of the site plan and details for all the project and phase 2 areas....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City Council Resolution	f7c43d28-cb1.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	4a84fc77-8d7.pdf
Southside/Lions Park Lower Trail Construction	3d94d1b5-6e2.jpe
Lions Park Lower Trail	6c3b21ee-c4f.jpe
Southside Lower Trail	8a27f3d4-583.jpe
Shade Structure At Lions	b9b44519-e9e.jpe
North Canoe Kayak Launch	acbdadac-821.jpe
South Canoe Kayak Launch	81bf1b5b-a4f.jpe
Promenade Improvements	b2aa508f-500.jpe
Promenade Steep Slopes	3d7c1d3a-a0b.jpe
North LCCMR sign	9d6cb012-b30.jpe
South LCCMR sign	c1904728-81c.jpe
North LCCMR sign	d3ac5dd5-efe.jpe
Map of Park City Level	bf282530-5e5.jpe
Park May Local Level	991ec459-0cc.jpe
Park Map State Level	710b97e1-8f4.jpe
Bank before Rip Rap	e4689628-b3b.jpe
South Canoe Kayak Launch before	0e93bbb8-f95.jpe

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Changes from proposal to work plan were altered in activity action 1 with more budget in additional lighting units, and in activity action 2 a decrease in budget for outcrop boulder features. Also added language allowing for picnic shelters to be rehabilitated.

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	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities and Milestones 	<p>Items to remove: Have encountered lots of rock and used this to achieve the native outcropping component. Relocate picnic shelters not cost effective. Eliminate cable lighting because lighting on promenade is sufficient. Trail spurs removed. Many places fit this need already. City will not have an entry feature.</p> <p>Items to add: shade structures by splash pad. Slope stabilization at promenade. Remove invasive's/replace with wildflowers. Promenade improvements: overstory/ornamental trees/shrubs, irrigation, modification of sidewalk.</p>	June 8, 2022	Yes	June 10, 2022
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts Budget - Other 	The contractors and engineers have been identified and the budget needs to be updated to reflect that. The contractor is Rice Contracting & Development while the engineer is Short Elliot Hendrickson.	January 5, 2023	Yes	January 9, 2023
3	Completion Date	<p>Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2024</p> <p>New Completion Date: 11/30/2023</p>	The project is complete	December 4, 2023	Yes	January 4, 2024

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update January 14, 2024

Date Submitted: February 26, 2024

Date Approved: March 4, 2024

Overall Update

The Project is complete

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)

Activity 3

This activity was previously marked complete.

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

Dissemination

The LCCMR Signs have been installed in two different locations. The City has communicated publicly on numerous occasions regarding the LCCMR funding which allowed for additional improvements in the park that otherwise couldn't have happened.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2023

Date Submitted: December 18, 2023

Date Approved: December 27, 2023

Overall Update

The project is complete at this point. All punchlist items remaining as of the last update have been addressed. These items included monitoring of various aspects of the project for warranty purposes. For example, the landscaping, inspecting concrete and bituminous trails for cracks, look for settling of filled areas. Some additional fill was brought to the promenade. The last payment (retainage) was made to the contractor.

Activity 1

This activity is complete at this point. The improvements were monitored for warranty purposes with no issues found. *(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

Activity 2

This activity is complete at this point. The improvements were monitored for warranty purposes with no issues found. *(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

Activity 3

This activity is also complete. Warranty items weathered the summer and previous winter without issue (landscaping). Some additional fill was added. *(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)*

Dissemination

The only dissemination item remaining since the last update was the signage which was installed this summer so this item is complete.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2023

Date Submitted: June 7, 2023

Date Approved: June 12, 2023

Overall Update

The project is substantially complete at this point and is largely being monitored for warranty purposes.

Activity 1

This activity is essentially done. Largely punchlist items remain and warranty

Activity 2

This activity is largely complete. Punchlist items remain. The canoe kayak launches weathered the Mississippi floods this spring with no issues.

Activity 3

This was the last activity with substantial work left after 2022 due to supply issues related to the shade structures. This activity was completed in May. So this activity is essentially complete. There may be punchlist items as well as warranty items to monitor. Especially for the landscaping installed last year.

Dissemination

Dissemination has been completed except for the signage which has been ordered

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2022

Date Submitted: January 5, 2023

Date Approved: January 9, 2023

Overall Update

The project is about 70% complete. Largely the canoe/kayak access are complete as is most of the lighting. The shade structure is the only large part of the project that hasn't seen any significant progress due to supply chain issues. We are expecting to finish that up in the spring. I haven't submitted any pay requests yet. Hoping to do that in the spring when the project is complete. Other than supply chain issues with the shade structures, the project has been going smoothly. The trail improvements and canoe/kayak access improvements were heavily used late last summer and were used by two different groups that were on a journey from Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico. The LCCMR improvements are a continuation of an overall project that began in 2020 so there has been construction activity for two plus years and people are generally used to it. The park overall has been a tremendous hit! Weekly concerts generate attendance numbers of well over a 1000 people and growing and the playground/interactive water feature is attracting people from all over Central Minnesota. The use of this park from start until now has gone up hundreds of times!

Activity 1

This activity is largely complete. The secondary trail is installed as is the trail lighting. There may be some punch list items left for the spring.

Activity 2

This activity is largely complete. The Kayak/Canoe Launches/Accessibility Improvements have both been completed. May be punch list items in the spring.

Activity 3

The landscaping on top of the promenade is largely complete. The project on the steep slope is underway but not yet completed. Should be finished in early 2023. The shade structures next to the interactive water feature had supply chain issues last summer. This is also expected to be completed in early 2023.

Dissemination

The City has discussed this project numerous times at Council meetings in terms of staff reporting to the Council progress and status reports of the various ongoing construction activities. The City largely avoids social media for liability and archiving reasons. There have been both concerts and weddings in the park last year. The concerts happen weekly starting at the beginning of June and extending to September although these activities had began prior to the LCCMR grant.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2022

Date Submitted: June 8, 2022

Date Approved: June 10, 2022

Overall Update

The LCCMR portion of the project hasn't begin yet. It was approved for bidding yesterday. We are in our third year of construction on this project and some items have changed. Therefore we are requesting an amendment to our work plan as described below.

Activity 1

We have encountered a great deal of rocks during excavation and have used them to already complete the native granite outcropping component without the use of LCCMR funds. We have also discovered that moving the picnic shelters is not cost effective and may ruin the shelters therefore we would like to add some shade structures around the splash pad. We also have discovered that we have enough light at the end of the promenade and don't need to light the railings. Also the trail spurs will be eliminated because we have ended up with many quiet respite areas for people to enjoy the park. We would like to replace these items with slope stabilization of the promenade by replacing invasives with wildflowers. We would also like to add some landscaping, irrigation, and sidewalk modifications to the promenade.

The more expensive components of the plan remain the same.

Activity 2

see above

Dissemination

N/A at this time