



Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake*

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To: Ariana Didion, Grants Specialist, Department of Administration
cc: Naomi Munzner, Department of Administration
Greg Hubinger, Director, Legislative Coordinating Commission
Legislative Coordinating Commission, Sally Olson, Commission Assistant
Representative Kurt Daudt, Chair, Legislative Coordinating Commission
Senator Michelle Fischbach, Vice-Chair, Legislative Coordinating Commission
Senator Carrie Ruud, Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy
Finance Committee
Senator Chris Eaton, Ranking Minority Member, Senate Environment and Natural
Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee
Representative Bob Gunther, Chair, House Legacy Funding Finance Committee
Representative Leon Lillie, DFL Lead, House Legacy Funding Finance Committee

From: Lori Ahlness, President-Board of Directors
Disabled Veterans Rest Camp, administrator of Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake

Date: 13 January 2017

Subj: Annual Report for State Fiscal Year 16 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016) grant funds per:

- [M.S. 3.303, Subd. 10](#)
- [M.S. 129D.17, Subd. 2 \(d\)](#)

I. Recreation area and boardwalk to connect trail system.

The grant is to create recreational spaces for families visiting Veterans Campground, and a boardwalk over wetlands to connect existing trails at Veterans Campground. This grant will allow the historic camp (established in 1926) to further develop its programs for veteran families, and allow more disabled veterans access to the woodland trails. The camp receives between 12,000 and 14,000 visitors annually.

Visit the *only* YELLOW RIBBON camp at
vetscampmn@live.com www.vetscampmn.org

* Under administration of the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp Association Board of Directors
Charitable Status 501 (c) (3) Tax ID Number: 41-0795253

II. Governing body and contact information of funding recipient.

The Disabled Veterans Rest Camp Association is the managing organization for Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake. The camp is located at 11300 180th Street North, Marine on St. Croix (Washington County), MN, 55047. Telephone: 651-433-2699.

Board members are all veterans, all volunteers, and each is appointed by either a county or veteran service organization to represent that particular organization/county. The Camp Office has on file for review all documents and receipts pertaining to this grant project.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Lori Ahlness	President	American Legion, 4th District
Richard Drude	Vice President	American Legion, 3rd District
Sheldon Sandmann	Secretary	Disabled Am Vets, Ch 2
Jerry Boettcher	Treasurer	Ramsey County
Kevin Gunderson	Board Member	Ramsey County
Ken Gibson, Jr.	Board Member	Disabled Am Vets, Ch 2
Kirk Carson	Board Member	Disabled Am Vets, Ch 1
Chuck Cronquist	Board Member	VFW, 4th District
Eric Ahlness	Board Member	VFW, 4 th District
Dick Drude	Board Member	American Legion, 3rd District
Mickey Ostrum	Board Member	American Legion, 4th District

III. Amount of grant funding.

The total funding for the two projects is \$113,000 for State Fiscal Year 16, less 2%, for the State Entity's administrative costs, for a total of \$110,740, which is to be given to the Grant Recipient as a grant for parks, trails, and recreation areas. Approximate allocations are:

A. Playground Area Project	\$55,740.00
B. Boardwalk Connecting Trail System	\$55,000.00

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IV. Amount and source of any additional funding.

The camp entered into a partnership with Ironworkers Local 512 to upgrade from a wooden boardwalk to two steel bridges to ensure lifetime durability of structures that will connect the trail system. Ironworkers provided additional grant funding in the amount of \$35,000 to offset the additional costs of steel materials. This grant amount was paid directly from Ironworkers IMPACT to LeJeune Steel for materials and equipment.

V. Duration of the Projects.

The first part of the grant project consisted of building a recreational playground area. The land preparation of this project began fall 2015. Between April and July 2016 the playground equipment and overhang was erected. The playground area was completed by fall 2016, and minor landscape additions are scheduled for spring 2017. Labor for erecting the playground equipment was performed by volunteers. Grant funds were used for land preparation, materials, and equipment. Remaining budget amount for landscape will be used in spring 2017 to complete this project.

The second part of the grant project—erecting an overpass over wetland to connect the trail system—began with land preparation in April 2016 and continued through September 2016. It was determined that a portion of high ground among the wetland could be used to bridge two shorter spans. The foundations of the bridges were erected October and November 2016. The remaining construction of the bridges will occur beginning in spring 2017, after the winter freeze of the wetland. The majority of labor for this part of the grant project was performed by volunteers from the trades' community. Grant funds were used for land preparation, materials, and equipment.

VI. Number of full-time equivalents funded under the project.

The project grant will not be used for personnel salaries. Overall supervision is by both the camp manager, whose salary is from camp rental fees, and the president of the camp's board of directors, who is a volunteer.

VII. Direct expenses and administration costs of the project.

The State of Minnesota's administrative cost was 2% of total grant: \$2,260. To date, expenses have totaled and have been reimbursed for the following costs:

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Vendor	Date	Amount Paid	Category	Project Notes:
Washington Cty	6/8/16	\$37.50	Land Prep Permit	Trail Boardwalk
Menards	5/9/16	\$570.00	Supplies	Trail Boardwalk
Menards	5/9/16	\$59.00	Delivery	Trail Boardwalk
Menards	5/12/16	\$609.48	Landscape	Trail Boardwalk
Menards	7/26/16	\$4,598.09	Supplies	Trail Boardwalk
Helke's Tree Svc	8/1/16	\$4,500.00	Land Prep	Trail Boardwalk
All City Irrigation	9/12/16	\$2,500.00	Land Prep	Trail Boardwalk
All City Irrigation	9/12/16	\$600.00	Land Prep	Playground Area
Winnick Supply	9/30/16	\$382.76	Land Prep	Trail Boardwalk
All City Irrigation	10/29/15	\$19,385.00	Land Prep	Playground Area
Midwest Playscapes	5/13/16	\$29,927.00	Supplies	Playground Area
Midwest Playscapes	5/23/16	\$2,240.00	Contracted Svcs	Playground Area
Midwest Playscapes	5/13/16	\$2,900.00	Delivery	Playground Area

Per category, expenses to date are deducted below, with balance of grant monies listed.

Budget Item	Budgeted Amount	Invoices to date	Balance
Contracted Services	\$2,500.00	\$2,240.00	\$260.00
Supplies	\$68,500.00	\$35,095.09	\$33,404.91
Deliver	\$4,200.00	\$2,959.00	\$1,241.00
Land Prep	\$31,340.00	\$27,405.26	\$3,934.74
Landscaping	\$4,200.00	\$609.48	\$3,590.51
TOTALS	\$110,740.00	\$68,308.83	\$42,431.17

VIII. Actual measured outcomes and evaluation of projects.

Both projects have four phases: 1) Produce design; 2) Purchase materials; 3) Land prep and assemble materials, and 4) Incorporate into existing landscape. The camp manager and president of the camp's board director are managing & providing monthly updates to the board of directors for Veterans Rest Camp Association, Inc. Additionally, representatives from the State of Minnesota Office of Grant Management conducted an on-site visit to the camp in June 2016 to

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review projects. Outcomes to date are:

Playground: Phases 1, 2, and 3 are complete. Phase 4 (Landscape) is 90% completed, with the remaining plantings to occur in Spring 2017 with donated plants and volunteer labor. Benches will also to be purchased and set in Spring 2017.

Boardwalk: With a partnership of Ironworkers Local 512 and area construction companies (Lametti & Sons, McGough Construction, LeJeune Steel, structural engineers, etc.), the designed boardwalk has been replaced by 2 shorter steel bridge designs. This upgrade from one long wooden boardwalk to two steel overpasses will ensure lifetime durability of structures that will connect the trail system.

Phase 1 (Design) has been completed, and the bases for the overpasses have been erected. The remainder of land prep and materials required for Phase 2 (Land prep/materials) will take place in Spring 2017, when the continuation of Phase 3 (Assemble) resumes (after winter freeze). Phase 4 (Landscape) will occur once overpasses are complete in late spring 2017 by volunteers. The total cost for this upgrade in design remains the same as the original grant budgeted amount of \$55,000, as the majority of the materials and labor is being donated by this community of construction companies and ironworkers. The Supplies category may need to be amended to allot for additional budget amounts toward land prep and landscaping categories. This determination will be made in spring 2017.