OHF FINAL REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Number: 011-120

Recipient: Bismarck Parks and Recreation District

Award Amount: $21,830.00

Total Project Costs: $25,069.64

Total OHF Funds Received: $9,194.26

Goal of Project:

Atkinson Nature Park was donated to Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD) by the Myron Atkinson family for use as a conservation and recreational space. The 138 acres are predominantly wooded with a few clearings and includes a waterway that winds through the site. The wooded nature of the park makes it a unique natural area in the Bismarck-Mandan community. The proposed project, designed with input from the Atkinson family, includes the addition of a hiking trail, interpretive program, an overlook area and has a conservation component. The plan includes a small gravel parking lot and trailhead signs, which will increase public access to this park.

Work Accomplished:

All the proposed work planned for was completed this summer. A new concrete driveway, gravel parking lot, interpretive panels, fence and new trials were all installed.

Project Results:

As a result of this project being completed, we feel it has enhanced the community's access to a little-known part of Park District's amenities. Residents now have a location to access the property, walk through an urban forest, witness wildlife in the deciduous forest and riparian wetlands of the Missouri River.

Value to North Dakota:

As a public entity BPRD works with many partners in the community, for this project we were able to leverage Doosan/Bobcat's Day of Caring and complete most of the proposed work with volunteer labor. This resulted in a reduction in project costs as well as a reduced amount requested in grant funding. This project also provides an opportunity for visitors to learn about to ecosystems in the region. Visitors are immersed in the environment and given the opportunity to walk through a native Missouri River bottom woodland and view waterfowl in an old river channel of the Missouri River.