

HEALTHY COMMUNITY PLAN

Community/Team Name: Big Lake LAMP (Lakes Area Multi-Purpose) Project

Geographic Area: Big Lake, Big Lake Township in Sherburne County

HCP Round/Years: Round 1, May 1997 – April 1999 (with an approved extension through June 2000)

Project Focus: Planning for development of a multi-functional, intergenerational recreational complex.

Vision/Purpose Statement:

To excite the Big Lake community, to promote citizen involvement and create community pride by empowering citizens.

Priorities:

- To identify Big Lake as a community of the future.
- To increase community pride, encourage involvement and promote citizen participation in community activities.
- Collaborate with existing local organizations to provide community recreation complex, tie project in with developing school-to-work component, and expand potential for economic growth as a result of the increased use of a recreational complex, responsible growth and economic security.

Follow Up Grants and Loans:

- \$5,000 - Youth Mentoring grant (May 2000)
- \$5,000 - To support planning efforts for the intergenerational multi-purpose center (Feb. 2001)
- Expansion loan (I.F.) for Eighth Street House which is a group foster home (2000)
- Expansion loan (I.F.) for A.J. Machinery Company, Inc., which is an equipment distributor (2002)
- Expansion loan (I.F.) for Injection Mold Technology, Inc., which is a manufacturing business (2002)

Key Accomplishments:

- Big Lake Association is a participant in the 2002 Elk River Watershed HLRP Round
- Involved over 100 people in the planning process for the multi-purpose center
- Made over 10 presentations to local groups to involve them/update them on progress
- Increased the number of team members on the HCP team
- Incorporated the HCP team into a designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit, which included electing officers and getting board insurance
- Conducted a serious fundraising effort and raised over \$50,000 for the LAMP project (including pledges from individuals, Big Lake City and Township, Snowmobile Club, and NSP). Came very close to acquiring the land for the center, but didn't go through due to some easement/annexation issues. The group is pursuing other options. Had plat drawings completed (partially pro bono)
- The HCP/LAMP project sponsored a queen candidate for Miss Big Lake in 1999 and 2000 to raise awareness of the group's efforts
- Worked closely with the youth group to involve youth more in the effort
- Allocated up to \$6,000 towards the effort of developing a skateboard park for youth, with the contingency that the youth conduct matching fundraising efforts. LAMP allocation to be released only when equal match is met
- Youth Project produces custom skateboards for resale with part of proceeds going to Skateboard park project
- Funds and site for skate park secured. Construction began May 18th, 2002, completed Summer 2003
- Minnesota Design Team Visit, April 2002
- Working with Becker/Big Lake Ice & Hockey Associations to buy a piece of land for Hockey Arena (2005)

Date Updated: January 24, 2007