Winnipeg

COMMUNITY INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM
APPLICATION EVALUATION

Applicant: Charleswood Rotary Club

Project Description: The Assiniboine Forest Drainage and Wetland Enhancement Project

Date of Application:

Total Project Cost: $138,980

Grant Requested: **$25,000**

Maximum Allowed: $69,490

% of Total Project Cost: 17%

Funding Sources:	**Amount**	**Confirmed**
Environment Canada – Eco Action	25,000	YES
Manitoba Conservation - SDIF	20,000	YES
Unilever - Evergreen	6,000	YES
City of Winnipeg – Insect Control	10,000	YES
Manitoba Ed. And Training – Urban Green Team	19,300	YES
City of Winnipeg – Naturalist Services – In Kind	15,000	YES
PAWS – In Kind	5,000	YES
Charleswood Rotary Club – In Kind	13,680	YES
Total	113,980	

	Meets Program Eligibility and Selection Criteria	**Yes**	**No**
1a)	Organization is a **non-profit community organization offering sport or recreation services** or is a non-profit community organization that **contributes to the health and well-being of the community**;	X	
b)	through the development of a **sport or recreation capital project**;	X	
c)	that is **accessible to the community**.	X	
2	Makes a significant contribution to the **long-term benefit** of the community at large in terms of **improved facilities.**	X	
3	Does not compete with or duplicate other community facilities.	X	
4	**Benefits the community at large** and remains **accessible to all members of the community**.	X	
5	Includes confirmation of sufficient resources to maintain and operate completed projects.	X	
6	Clearly articulates a plan of activities including projected work schedules, material, labour, equipment and other project requirements. Project leads to the completion of a substantial physical product.	X	
7	Is feasible within the project management capabilities of the applicant.	X	
8	Total project funding is confirmed.	X	
9	**Does not include any funds from the City**.	X*	

Criteria Exceptions:
This applicant is receiving $10,000 from the City of Winnipeg, Insect Control Branch. However, the total amount of funds requested do not exceed 50% of the total project cost.

Department Financial Implications:

Departmental Recommendations:
That this application be approved subject to the following conditions:
1. Confirmation of other funding sources
2. Approval of final plans and specifications for the project by the City of Winnipeg
3. The applicant entering into a formal agreement with the City of Winnipeg

Prepared by: Community Services Department
Date: December 20, 2004
Application Evaluation Revised September 25, 2003

The Rotary Club of Charleswood

"Keepers of the Forest"

THE ASSINIBOINE FOREST DRAINAGE AND WETLAND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

December 3, 2004

Charleswood Rotary Club
c/o 5006 Roblin Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB.
R3R 0G7

Community Incentive Grant Program
Community Services Department
8th Floor – 395 Main St.
Winnipeg, MB.
R3B 3N8

RE: Assiniboine Forest Drainage and Wetland Enhancement Project

Attached is a grant application relative to a project we have titled, "The Assiniboine Forest Drainage and Wetland Enhancement Project".

The Charleswood Rotary Club is a non-profit organisation, with a proud history of supporting worthwhile projects. In 1991, the Charleswood Rotary Club proposed to act as "Keepers of the Assiniboine Forest". With support from the City of Winnipeg's, Naturalist Services Branch we have continued to commit both financial and human resources toward the custodianship of Assiniboine Forest over the last decade, and provide preservation, education, and year round recreation without sacrificing the integrity of this natural area. We appreciate having the opportunity to formally apply for the Community Incentive Grant Program and are confident that our project will be of interest to you.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to discussing this with you further in the near future.

Sincerely,

T. Towle

Tracey Towle
Project Coordinator

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THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
COMMUNITY INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM
APPLICATION

Please refer to the "Guide to Applicants" for assistance completing this form.

1. Name of Organization: Charleswood Rotary Club

2. Mailing Address: c/o 5006 Roblin Blvd

   Postal Code: R3R 0G7 Phone No.: 986-7234

   Fax No: 986-7236 Email: nswayze@winnipeg.ca

3. Name of designated officials to be contacted about this application:

   Name: Natalie Swayze Phone (Res.): 475-0810

   Position: _____ Phone (Bus.): _____ 228-1915 (cell)

   Name: Tracey Towle Phone (Res.): 831-5191

   Position: Project Coordinator Phone (Bus.): 938-5212

4. How long has the organization been in operation? incorporated in 1985

5. **CIGP Requested Amount** $ 25,000 (Max. 50% of Total Project Cost)

LIST OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING	**AMOUNT**	**CONFIRMED**
SOURCE # 1. Environment Canada - EcoAction	$ 25,000	YES ☑ NO ☐
SOURCE # 2. Manitoba Conservation - SDIF	$ 20,000	YES ☑ NO ☐
SOURCE # 3. Unilever - Evergreen	$ 6,000	YES ☑ NO ☐
SOURCE # 4. City of Winnipeg, Insect control	$ 10,000	YES ☑ NO ☐
Total Project Cost	$ 138,980	

Has this project received prior funding under the Community Incentive Grant Program? YES ☐ NO ☑

6. Name of Project: The Assiniboine Forest Drainage and Wetland Enhancement Project

7. Location of Project: The Assiniboine Forest is located within the community of Charleswood

   Preferred Start Date: February 2005 End Date: July 2006

8. **Detailed Project Description: Attach on separate sheets or use the reverse side of this application.**

APPLICANT SIGNATURES

I/We hereby certify that I/we am/are the authorized signing officer(s) of the applying organization and this application is accurate to the best of my/our knowledge.

T. Towle	Project Coordinator	Dec. 3/04
SIGNATURE	TITLE/POSITION	DATE
SIGNATURE	TITLE/POSITION	DATE

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COMMUNITY INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM
APPLICATION

PROJECT TITLE: *Assiniboine Forest Drainage and Wetland Enhancement Project*

TIME FRAME OF PROJECT: *February 2005 – July 2006*

DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Assiniboine Forest is one of the largest urban nature parks of its kind in Canada. Situated in one of the nation's largest metropolitan areas, it represents one of the few remaining areas of aspen parkland in western Canada. However, the location of the Assiniboine Forest within an ever-expanding urban environment poses some difficult problems from a management perspective. One such problem identified by the original Assiniboine Forest Task Force, circa 1974, is imperfect drainage resulting from previous clearing, construction, and widening of roadways adjacent to the Forest.

Several areas within the southern section of the Forest have now experienced problems with flooding and standing water, and large expanses of the Forest assume a swampy situation throughout the spring months and well into summer. This has resulted in drowning of many species of vegetation when extremely wet conditions prevail for several consecutive years. In one area in particular, approximately one acre of the native aspen/oak tree species has died as a result of permanent flooding. However, the resulting climatic changes have given way to a new dominant ecological community. Preliminary site inspection and assessments conducted by the City of Winnipeg Naturalist Services Branch, have determined that early successional stages of a functional wetland are now present in this area, which is composed primarily of native wetland vegetative species (please see attached *Habitat Assessment*).

The other widespread swampy, shallow areas throughout the Forest however provide excellent breeding grounds for mosquitoes, a situation which is not only a significant nuisance but has also more recently become a potential health risk factor for residential areas outside the park. With the recent outbreaks of the mosquito-transmitted, West Nile Virus in Manitoba, mandatory implementation of chemical control measures by the City of Winnipeg's, Insect Control Branch has resulted. By addressing the overall drainage conditions that have created this situation, we intend to reduce the need for chemical control, thereby protecting health of the resident wildlife as well as community residents. The Assiniboine Forest Drainage and Wetland Enhancement Project will therefore seek to both develop the ecological functionality of this wetland area and provide a sustainable solution to the existing drainage problems by incorporating the natural drainage pattern of the area and the locations of existing standing

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water into the overall project design. This project promises to improve the health and well-being of residents from both the local community and the greater City of Winnipeg by reducing mosquito breeding grounds and the need for chemical mosquito control, while creating a new attraction and learning resource in the Assiniboine Forest.

The Assiniboine Forest Drainage and Wetland Enhancement Project not only benefits the health of the forest itself, but also improves the quality of life of all citizens of the City of Winnipeg. The project has potential to impact the 685,000 residents of Winnipeg, including school groups and local community residents. The Assiniboine Forest has also incorporated a section of the Trans-Canada Trail into the south portion of the forest (please see attached map), resulting in a broader Regional significance for the Forest in terms of both recreational and habitat connectivity.

The need for this project has been verified by the City Naturalist, Cheryl Heming, who responds to a number of public inquiries about the organization of activities in the Assiniboine Forest. She anticipates that by enhancing this natural habitat, it will continue to be a gathering area for many to come and learn about the ecology of a forest community and how it affects our environment. This will also aid in creating increased support for our desire to protect this important wildlife habitat.

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- *PROJECT GOALS:*

1. To preserve and enhance the early successional wetland area along the East border of the Forest.
2. To address the larger drainage issues in the entire south section of the Forest, reducing mosquito breeding the need for chemical mosquito control.

These two overarching goals are complimentary and will make productive use of the previously forested area that has been negatively impacted by high water levels. Our intention is to facilitate not only an alleviation of the problem of numerous smaller areas of standing water, but also ensure a consistent water supply for the wetland region, without compromising any of the established vegetative structures or community dynamics.

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- *PROJECT OBJECTIVES* - With the general objective of designing and implementing an ecologically sound strategy to achieve project goals, the detailed objectives and associated activities are as follows:

1. OBJECTIVE: Enhancing the existing wetland region by incorporating the natural drainage pattern of the area, and the locations of existing standing water. This may include some drainage off site to peripheral ditches, towards Eve Werier pond, or to the new wetland area as appropriate.
   - TASK: Hiring Native Plant Solutions to work with project partners in finalizing overall project design. Final design will be implemented in the winter of 2005 following freeze-up and may involve channelization, excavation and installation of water control structures as prescribed in project design.
2. OBJECTIVE: Performing all operations with minimal impact to existing habitat and wildlife populations.
   - TASK: Establishing competitive native vegetation in any disturbed or newly opened areas will be critical to maintaining/enhancing biodiversity and significantly reducing the potential for weedy invasion, and outlining the physical/construction elements required to minimize impact to existing habitat. This will be an ongoing task throughout the duration of the project.
3. OBJECTIVE: Increasing aquatic plant species diversity and restoring damaged vegetation.
   - TASK: Planting native wetland plant species with volunteers from local schools and the community. This will take place in May 2005 and will be overseen directly by the City of Winnipeg's Naturalist Services Branch.
4. OBJECTIVE: Ensuring long-term success of the project and sustainable results.
   - TASK: Providing ongoing monitoring and mitigation for all project operations for at least 15-20 years.
5. OBJECTIVE: Involving local residents and volunteers and maintaining community support.
   - TASK: Continuing to provide public awareness and updated information by distributing a newsletter to the surrounding community, and updating information in the existing interpretive kiosks.

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➢ *This project will demonstrate measurable progress towards achieving the following:*

UNDERSTANDING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Our project enhances the understanding of nature, and the importance of sustainable forest management for school children and the general public. Funding support enables us to prepare, deliver and communicate information and continue partnerships with local schools as well as provide regular educational tours. Educational and awareness elements will focus on conveying the ecological and sociological benefits of the Drainage and Wetland Enhancement Project and providing opportunities for community members to contribute and participate in project activities as appropriate. We will also continue to provide seasonal educational newsletters and informational brochures and maps to Assiniboine Forest visitors. Project sponsors will be recognized for respective contributions in any print or digital awareness materials related to the project.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The key to preserving this natural habitat is to generate and maintain public and community support and involvement. By seeking a sustainable solution to the drainage problems in the Forest and reducing existing mosquito breeding areas, we will continue to encourage community support for this valuable community resource.

The Naturalist Services Branch has agreed to provide ongoing technical assistance and support throughout the duration of this project, including the hiring of contractors and other professional consultants, as well as monitoring and evaluating project success (please see attached *Letter of Support-City Naturalist*). This Branch has an extensive history of providing the required assistance and guidance to local stewardship projects, to ensure environmentally sound and sustainable results are achieved.

In-kind technical and labour support will continue to be provided by Charleswood Rotary Club members and the City of Winnipeg's Naturalist Services Branch throughout the duration of the project, including long-term monitoring and any required remediation. The Charleswood Rotary club annually sponsors 4-5 summer students to work in the Assiniboine Forest under the Urban Green Team Program. These students will also be actively involved in any required trail repairs, weeding and other activities as directed by the City Naturalist. Public information will regularly be provided through seasonal newsletters and postings on existing informational kiosks in order to ensure sustained community support for, and involvement with, the project.

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ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION

With this project, the Charleswood Rotary Club hopes to enhance the habitat quality within the Assiniboine Forest while increasing public understanding of the importance of natural habitat preservation and urban forest management. The Assiniboine Forest represents one of the few remaining areas of aspen parkland in western Canada, and preservation of this valuable natural resource and wildlife habitat involves within an urban environment poses unique challenges. As a result, successful conservation of this ecosystem requires not only the guidance of local experts and other regional authorities, but also significant community involvement and support. This project will effectively meet these requirements and therefore ensure that the area is maintained as a viable aspen/oak community.

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PROJECT WORKPLAN

WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

Ducks Unlimited Canada has a long history of successful restoration and enhancement of wetland areas, including their previous contributions to the creation of Eve Werier pond in the Assiniboine Forest. Their involvement with this component of the project will be crucial, as well as the ongoing technical assistance provided by the City of Winnipeg's Naturalist Services Branch. In addition, the City of Winnipeg's Insect Control Branch will be involved in providing recommendations as to optimal conditions for natural mosquito control, thereby reducing the use of chemical pesticides.

Previous discussions with these three parties have resulted in the establishment of the following preliminary list of components, which will be incorporated in design and implementation of the enhancement of the existing wetland area:

- Creation of an irregular shore line with shallow side slopes (<3 feet in depth) to optimize growth conditions for emergent vegetation;
- Overall average depth of >3 feet to ensure sufficient wave action necessary for natural mosquito control;
- Varied water depth with a mix or deep and shallow areas;
- Saving topsoil from excavation activities, to be redistributed on the surface of the basin floor;
- Use of soils with adequate, natural water holding capacity;
- Vegetating wetland – combination of hand planting and natural proliferation of existing vegetation;
- Ensuring a sufficient, permanent water supply for the wetland;

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Under the direction of Native Plant Solutions, the contracted engineering firm, construction would commence during the fall of 2004 season. Specific activities may consist of verifying location of and opening up existing culverts, systematic impounding, and/or installation of a weeping tile system, as is determined during the planning phase of the project. All project operations will be closely monitored by the Naturalist Services Branch to ensure that construction activities adhere to established guidelines and regulations in order to minimize environmental impacts.

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PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

Public information will regularly be provided to ensure community awareness, involvement and support for the project. Newsletters will be generated in the spring, summer and fall months and signage will be posted on the existing informational kiosks at the Forest entrances.

➢ *The following organizations will be involved with the implementation of this project:*

❑ All project activities will be under the direct supervision of the City Naturalist, Cheryl Heming. This would include consultation with all qualified engineering, planning, and impact assessment consultants that would be approached to assist with the technical requirements of this project. In-kind technical and labour support would also continue to be provided by both Charleswood Rotary Club members and staff from the City of Winnipeg's Naturalist Services Branch throughout the duration of the project.

❑ In addition, the City of Winnipeg's Insect Control Branch has expressed interest in participating in this project, and has tentatively committed both technical and financial assistance, pending approval of initial funding for contractor fees (developmental planning, inspections etc.).

❑ Representatives from Ducks Unlimited Canada have also expressed interest in providing technical assistance with the wetland enhancement component of this project, in order to maximize the site's potential as a viable wildlife habitat and wetland community.

One of the primary objectives of the Assiniboine Forest Drainage and Wetland Enhancement Project is to perform all operations with minimal impact to existing habitat and wildlife populations. In order to meet this objective, Native Plant Solutions, an affiliate of Ducks unlimited Canada, will be hired to manage the design and construction phases of this project. Native Plant Solutions has a strict no-net loss policy and ensures preventive measures are taken to minimize potential environmental effects during excavation. The City of Winnipeg's Naturalist Services Branch will also be directly involved in overseeing all project operations including monitoring for negative impacts and prescribing required remedial activities. Following completion of the project, a third party audit will be conducted to enable timely response to any negative environmental impacts.

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COMMUNICATIONS, PROMOTION, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

Project details and opportunities for public involvement will be communicated through seasonal newsletters distributed to the community, partnership groups and schools, and made available at the main Forest entrance in a dispenser. Updates will be posted in the eight notice boards in the Forest as well as information on who to contact for further details or to participate in upcoming work parties. Similar up-to-date information will also be conveniently available off of the Assiniboine Forest website. Volunteer appreciation and recognition measures will ensure sustained support for the project.

The results and benefits of the project will be communicated through several methods. Seasonal newsletters will be distributed to the surrounding community, partnership groups and schools. Newsletters and maps will also continue to be available from a dispenser at the front entrance to the Forest. The eight informational kiosks will also be changed regularly to provide visitors with updates on matters related to the project. Visitors will also continue to be notified as to how to reach the Forest Coordinator to find out further information.

In addition, the Assiniboine Forest web site, which is currently under development will increase the accessibility of information related to the Forest and the Wetland Enhancement Project. With permission from the City Naturalist's Office, the site will be linked directly to the City of Winnipeg web site, making it convenient for the public to access and retrieve up-to-date news on the all Forest activities.

PROJECT BUDGET

A : Project Funding

Funding Sources	Cash	In-kind	Total
Environment Canada – EcoAction	$25,000		$25,000
SDIF	$20,000		$20,000
Unilever Evergreen	$6,000		$6,000
City of Winnipeg, Insect Control Branch	$10,000		$10,000
Manitoba Ed. And Training - Urban Green Team	$19,300		$19,300
City of Winnipeg, Naturalist Services		$15,000	$15,000
PAWS		$5,000	$5,000
Charleswood Rotary Club		$13,680	$13,680
Community Incentive Grant Program	$25,000		$25,000
TOTAL	$105,300	$33,680	$138,980

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B : Project Expenses

Expense Category	Cash	In-Kind	Total
Project Personnel Costs			
▪ *Manitoba Ed. And Training - Urban Green Team*	$19,300		$19,300
▪ *Charleswood Rotary/PAWS - Volunteer Services*		$12,280	$12,280
Management/Professional Fees			
▪ *City of WPG, City Naturalist – Tech. Assistance*		$8,000	$8,000
▪ *Charleswood Rotary –Accounting services*		$6,400	$6,400
Materials/Supplies			
▪ *Drainage Enhancement and Revegetation Materials*	$21,360		$21,360
▪ *City of WPG, Naturalist Services Branch – Various tools and equipment*		$2,000	$2,000
Equipment Rental			
▪ Portable Toilet	$640		$640
Office Costs			
▪ *City of Winnipeg, Naturalist Services Branch*		$5,000	$5,000
Other (Identify)			
▪ *Design and Construction fees, GPS Survey*	$61,000		$61,000
▪ *Awareness and Interpretation Costs*	$3,000		$3,000
TOTAL	$105,300	$33,680	$138,980

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Appendix

- Maps:
  - MAP A – Location of the Assinibione Forest within the City of Winnipeg
  - MAP B – Assiniboine Forest South
- Habitat Assessment – early successional wetland area
- Letter of Support from project partners and sponsors

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MAP A - Location of Assiniboine Forest within the City of Winnipeg

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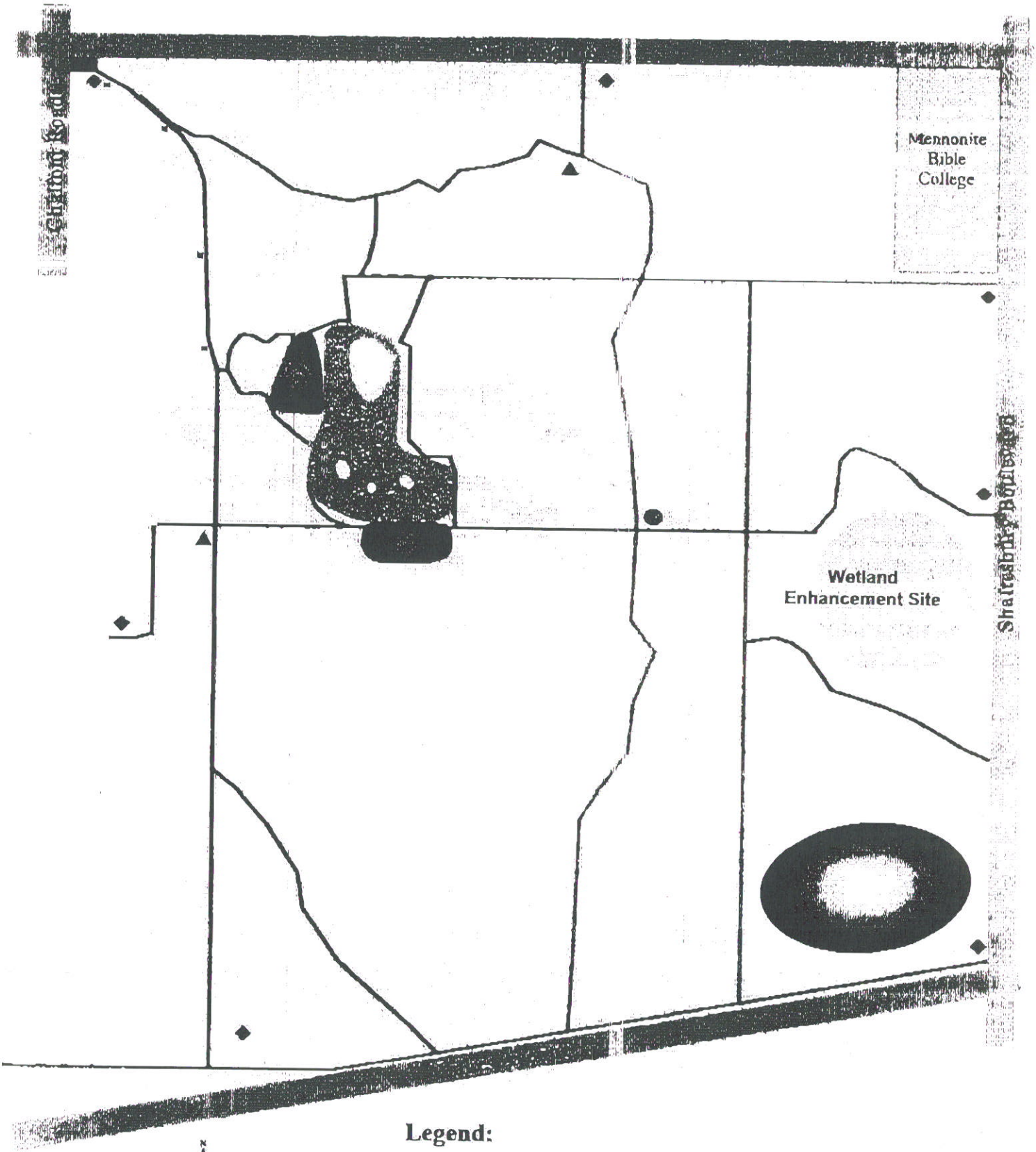
MAP B – Assiniboine Forest South



Legend:

- Paved Sagimay trail
- Woodchip trails
- Proposed woodchip trails
- boardwalk
- Eve Werier Memorial Pond
- Prairie restoration sites
- Interpretive signs
- Interpretive kiosks
- Salt lick
- Fire Hydrant

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0 50 100 200
Metres

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