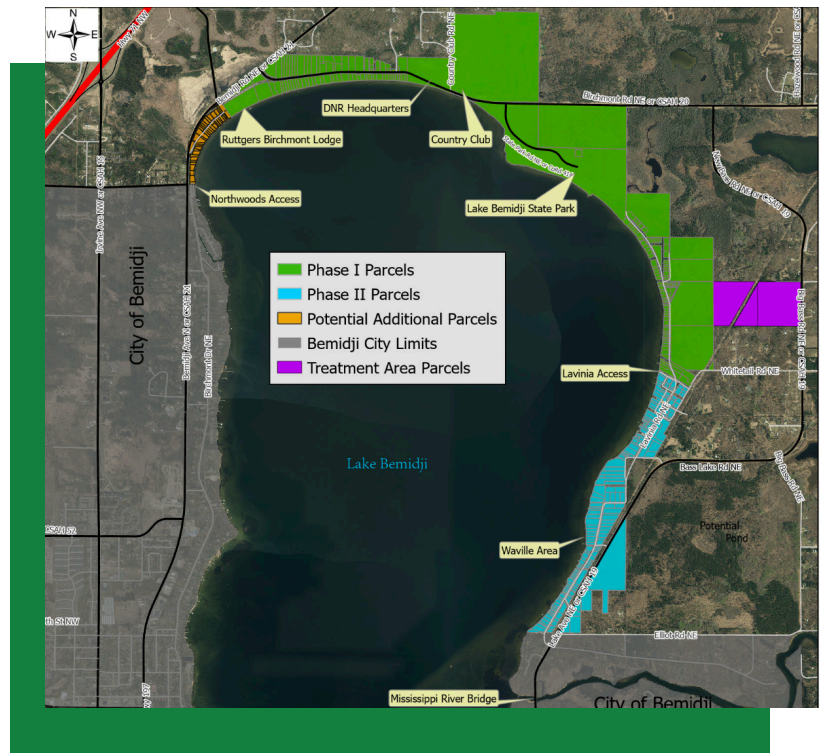


# HF1528: Northern Township Sanitary Sewer Project

March 2025

**100%**  
OF SHORELINE

- ◆ Protecting 100% of Lake Bemidji shoreline within Northern Township
- ◆ Sewering over 80% of the entirety of Lake Bemidji
- ◆ Preserving the water quality of Lake Bemidji, first residential hub on the Mississippi, and helping protect the entire Mississippi River ecosystem
- ◆ Accomplish 50+ year regional planning goal
- ◆ Upgrading major end-of-life systems including the Lake Bemidji State Park, DNR Regional Headquarters, and Ruttger's Birchmont Resort
- ◆ Servicing over 400 properties, most with systems over 20 years old



## Project Overview

Northern Township is requesting funding for a critical infrastructure project to install a sanitary sewer system along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 20 in the Lake Bemidji area. This project aims to address long-standing regional planning goals and environmental concerns related to aging septic systems around the iconic Lake Bemidji.

The proposed sewer line, approximately 5 miles in length, will run through Lake Bemidji State Park and extend to the Township's border along the east side of the lake. Timely execution of this project is crucial, as it aligns with Beltrami County's concurrent reconstruction plans for CSAH 20, including storm sewers, curbs, gutters, and a multi-use trail. **By coordinating these efforts, the Township can potentially save \$1.5 million in project costs.**

Lake Bemidji, the first city on the Mississippi River, serves as the cornerstone of the vibrant Bemidji region, home to over 40,000 residents and a hub for economic development in northern Minnesota. This valuable natural resource attracts hundreds of thousands of recreational visitors each year. **As stewards of the Mississippi headwaters basin, the community plays a crucial role in maintaining the water quality of the entire Mississippi River.** However, the lake's water quality is at risk due to aging individual septic systems in the area.

The proposed sewer project will provide a long-term solution by connecting several key facilities, including the Lake Bemidji State Park, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Regional Headquarters, and Ruttger's Birchmont Lodge resort to a reliable sanitary sewer system. This initiative will help protect Lake Bemidji from future degradation and ensure its preservation for generations to come.

By securing funding for this project, **Northern Township can address vital infrastructure needs, safeguard a precious MN state natural resource,** and support the region's economic and recreational interests, all while realizing significant cost savings through strategic coordination with county construction plans.

# High Level Budget For Sanitary Sewer System

Sanitary Sewer Lines and Incidental Mechanical Packaging Plant	\$ 12,600,000.00 \$ 3,500,000.00
Subtotal	\$ 16,100,000.00
Contingency 10% Engineering	\$ 1,610,000.00 \$ 2,290,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,000,000.00</b>
Congressionally Directed Spending Funding	\$ 6,000,000.00
<b>Total Outstanding Needed for Project</b>	<b>\$ 14,000,000.00</b>