Version

A bill for an act

relating to waters; appropriating money for a study of the Rapidan Dam in Blue Earth County.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

$60,000 is appropriated from the general fund, to be equally matched by Blue Earth County, to the commissioner of natural resources to conduct a feasibility study in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the foundation of the Rapidan Dam in Blue Earth County. The appropriation is available until expended.

Sec. 2. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Section 1 is effective June 30, 2006.

Senators Chaudhary, Betzold, Marty, Foley and Langseth introduced--
S.F. No. 1936: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; appropriating money to redevelop the Springbrook Nature Center in the city of Fridley; authorizing the sale of state bonds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER.]

Subdivision 1. [APPROPRIATION.] $2,500,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to the city of Fridley to redevelop and expand the Springbrook Nature Center. This appropriation is not available until the commissioner has determined that at least an equal amount has been committed from nonstate sources.

Subd. 2. [BOND SALE.] To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $2,500,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 2. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

This act is effective the day following final enactment.

Malcolm Mitchell - Board
Mayor of Fridley
Jr. Fridley High School

Mr. Sinclair
Dir Spring Nat

Fridley: Springbrook Nature Center (SPRING)

2006 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: $2,500,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 1 of 1 (City of Fridley)

PROJECT LOCATION: City of Fridley

Project At A Glance

This request is for $2.5 million in state funding to renovate and expand the Springbook Nature Center located in the city of Fridley.

Project Description

This request is for $2.5 million in state funding to predesign, design, construct, furnish, and equip a redeveloped and expanded interpretive center and surrounding landscaped and natural area at Springbrook Nature Center, in Fridley, Minnesota. The purpose of the SPRING project is to enhance Springbrook Nature Center as a learning center and as a destination and gathering place for people from the metropolitan area, the state, and Fridley, while managing the site's social carrying capacity to allow sustainable growth in use, as well as preservation of the natural beauty and habitat of the site's wildlife sanctuary.

This project will upgrade and expand diverse environmental education capacity, visitor viewing, and exhibit space. It will provide expanded community celebration and memorial areas, as well as outdoor classrooms, circular pathways, wellness areas, picnic and pavilion space, and expanded parking.

The Springbrook project will be a public demonstration of environmental and energy stewardship and will create the following smart growth and high performance building practice areas:

- Inspirational indoor theatre/teaching/day meeting space (12,000+sq.ft.)
- Interpretive exhibits on environmental responsibility
- Outdoor classrooms (1 ½ acres)
- Accommodations for outdoor community events and gatherings (amphitheatre, electrical, event vendor pads, circular path/road, seating, lighting, rest rooms)
- Memorial garden/plaza (1 ½ acres)
- Pavilions, shelters, and picnic areas (3,000 sq.ft. -- 2 acres)
- Expanded demonstration parking areas that are water permeable and minimize or eliminate water run-off (1 ½ acre)

Total Project Cost

The total cost for the project is estimated at $5 million. Of this amount, half is requested from the state and the other half will be acquired through fundraising activities.

Springbrook Nature Center has been in operation for over 25 years with use increasing exponentially in that time to approximately 180,000 visits per year. The Metropolitan Council's Regional Parks Policy Plan 2005 projects that by 2030 the number of households within a 16 minute drive of Springbrook Nature Center will increase by 25% to 250,000. This project will focus existing and projected high impact visitor use into the interpretive center building and improved areas around it which will significantly reduce the overuse impact on Springbrook's 127 acres.

Springbrook Nature Center impacts the local, regional, and state community in diverse areas. It preserves open space in an increasingly urban inner ring suburb. It is an attraction for businesses and families to locate and live in the north metro area, having an economic impact on property values. The National Audubon Society in November 2004 designated Springbrook Nature Center one of eight "Important Bird Areas" in Minnesota. The Blanding's turtle, a state threatened species, is found in Springbrook's wetlands. Improving the quality of Springbrook's impacted wetlands has recently been the focus of a multi-city six-year Clean Water Partnership Grant project. This project improves water quality before the water leaves Springbrook Nature Center and enters the Mississippi River, just upstream from the St. Paul and Minneapolis city water intakes.

Schools and other groups from over 35 communities participate in environmental education programming at Springbrook each year. A TEA-21 funded trail corridor to be constructed during the winter of 2005-2006 will

travel through Springbrook's northern boundary and main entrance. This trail will connect Springbrook with a nearby mass transit hub and existing regional bike trails. Guest book signatures in recent years show visitors from over 300 Minnesota communities, all 50 states, and 60 foreign countries.

This project will not compete with any other nature center programs in the area. It will allow Springbrook Nature Center to improve its services to the greater community and assure the sustainability of its well-recognized natural resource base in the face of long term increasing intense use. The resulting programs, spaces, and demonstration areas will serve a diverse cross section of community, business, family, and individual needs.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

None.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

None.

Other Considerations

The facility is owned and operated by the city of Fridley.

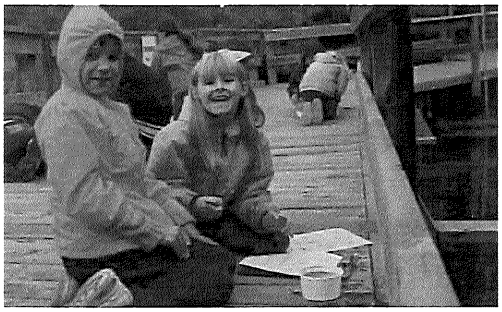
Project Contact Person

Siah St. Clair, Director
Springbrook Nature Center
City of Fridley
6431 University Avenue
Fridley, Minnesota 55432
Phone: (763) 572-358
Fax: (763) 571-1287
E-mail: stclairs@ci.fridley.mn.us

Governor's Recommendations

The Governor does not recommend capital funds for this project.

Springbrook Nature Center



Springbrook Nature Center Is:

Regional Destination

- Although a City of Fridley Park, Springbrook is a regional resource with more than 150,000 visits each year.
- Hosted visitors from more than 300 Minnesota communities, all 50 states and 60 foreign countries.
- A *Star Tribune* "Must See" destination to bring visitors.
- #1 Park/Nature Center for Families — *Minnesota Parent Magazine.*
- One of "13 Hot Spots" in the Twin Cities to view wildlife, according to the Minnesota DNR.

Educational Resource

- Each summer, hundreds of children from all over the Metropolitan area attend Springbrook summer Day Camps.
- Partners with the Fridley School system, as a part of the curriculum for nearly 2,400 students. This program saves the local school district significant money.
- Offers classes as diverse as environmental protection, winter survival, hunter safety and Scouting activities.
- Instills positive life values and goals in an interactive natural setting, frequently for troubled teens.

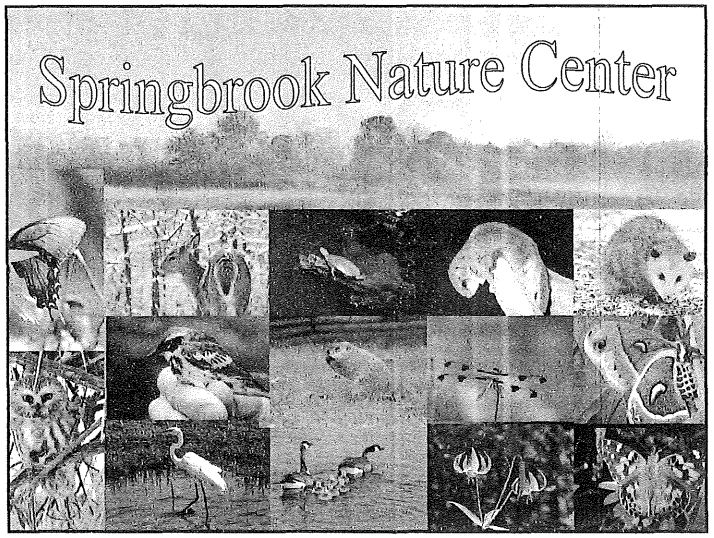
Open Space Preserve

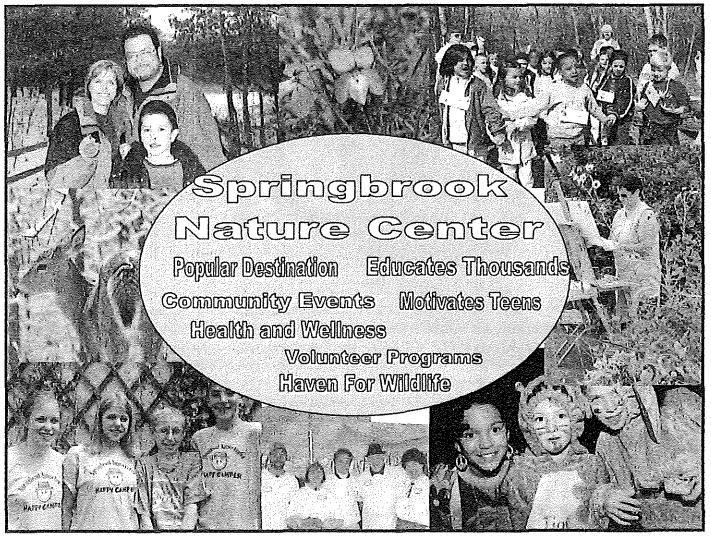
- Champion of Open Spaces Award in 2005 awarded by the McKnight Foundation and 14 partner organizations.
- Preserves a peaceful refuge for tens of thousands of visitors each year to experience nature and the natural environment by preserving the natural land, plants and wildlife.
- Home to one of the oldest, all-volunteer federal bird-banding projects in the state.
- Designated as an Important Birding Area (IBA) by the National Audubon Society.
- Home to more than 2,000 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, trees, shrubs, wildflowers and other plants.

Springbrook Nature Center

S.P.R.I.N.G. Project

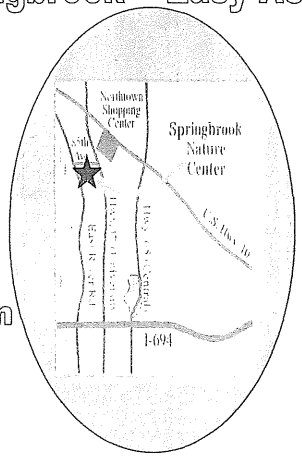
Sanctuary Protection and Renewal Into the Next Generation

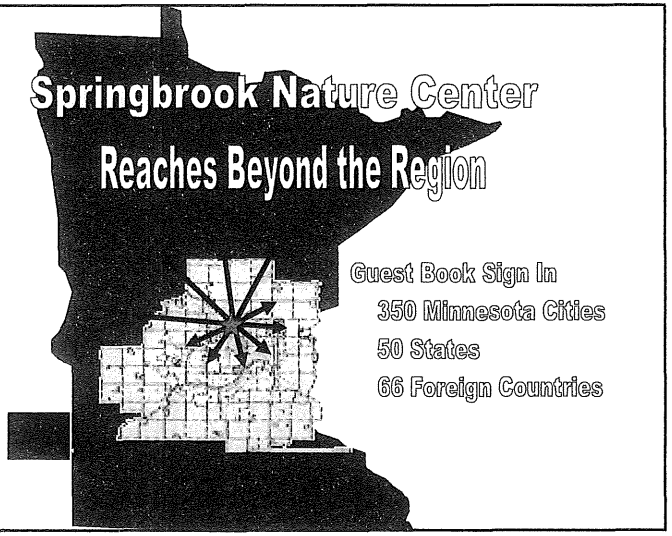




Springbrook = Easy Access

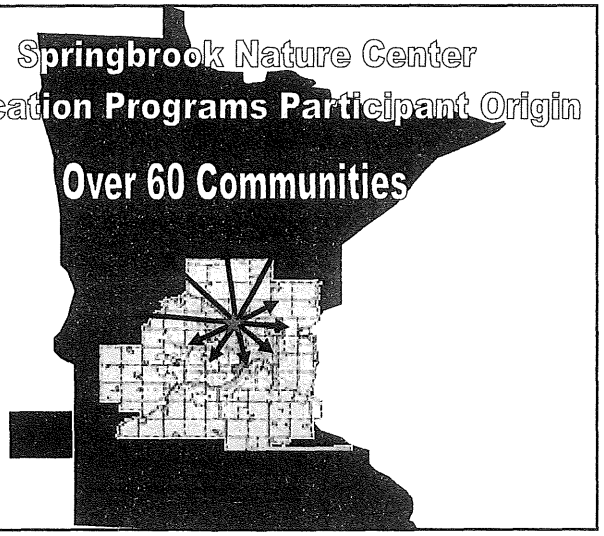
Auto
Bus
Bicycle
Rail
Pedestrian





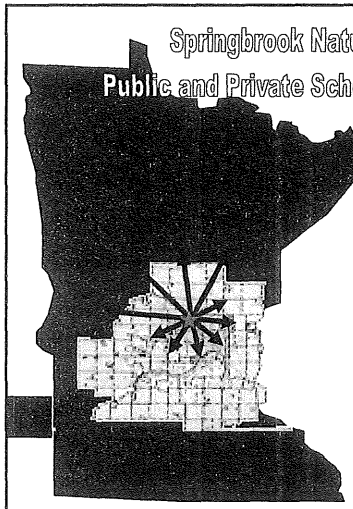
Springbrook Nature Center
Education Programs Participant Origin

Over 60 Communities



Springbrook Nature Center
Public and Private School Group Origin

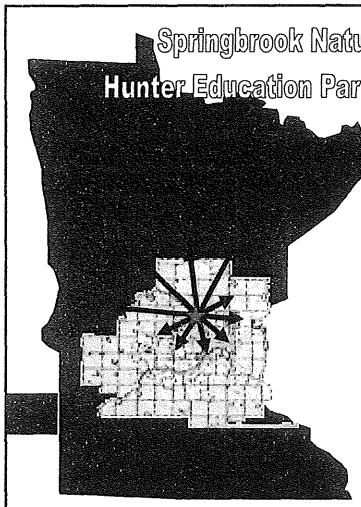
38 Communities



Albertville
Andover
Anoka
Arden Hills
Blaine
Brooklyn Center
Brooklyn Park
Cambridge
Centennial
Circle Pines
Champlin
Columbia Heights
Coon Rapids
Elk River
Forest Lake
Fridley
Ham Lake
Lino Lakes
Maple grove
Minneapolis
Mounds View
New Brighton
North Oaks
Oak Dale
Oak Grove
Osseo
Prior Lake
Ramsey
Rosemount
Roseville
St. Anthony
St. Francis
St. Michael
St. Paul
Shoreview
Spring Lake Park
White Bear Lake

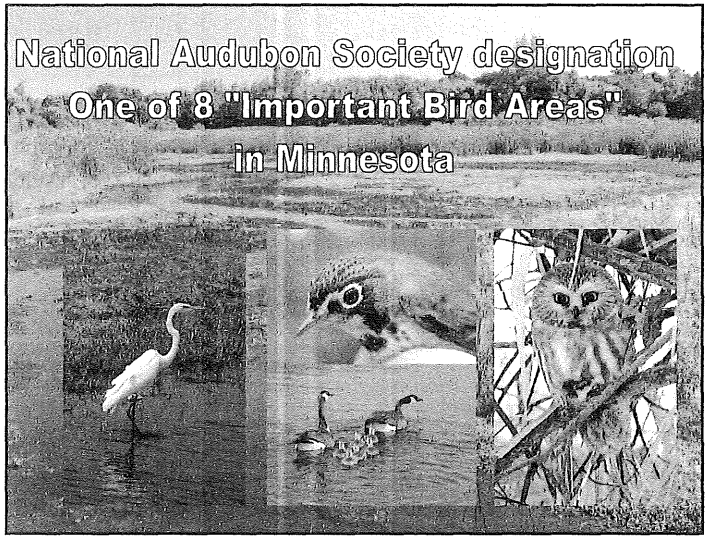
Springbrook Nature Center
Hunter Education Participant Origin

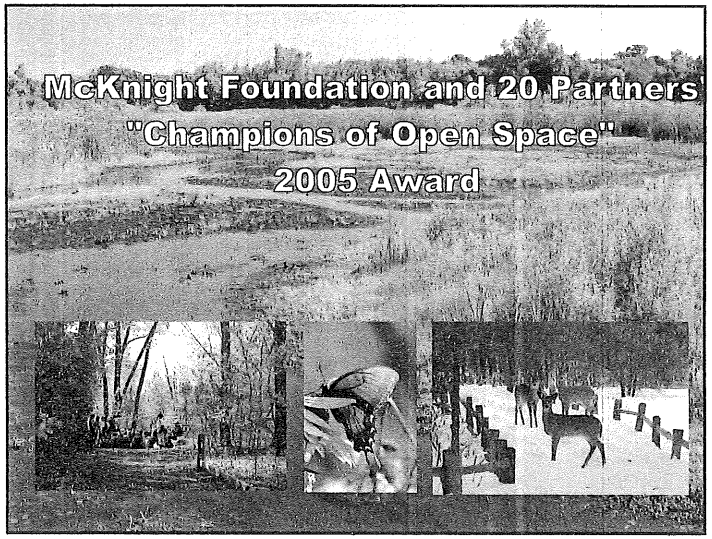
39 Communities

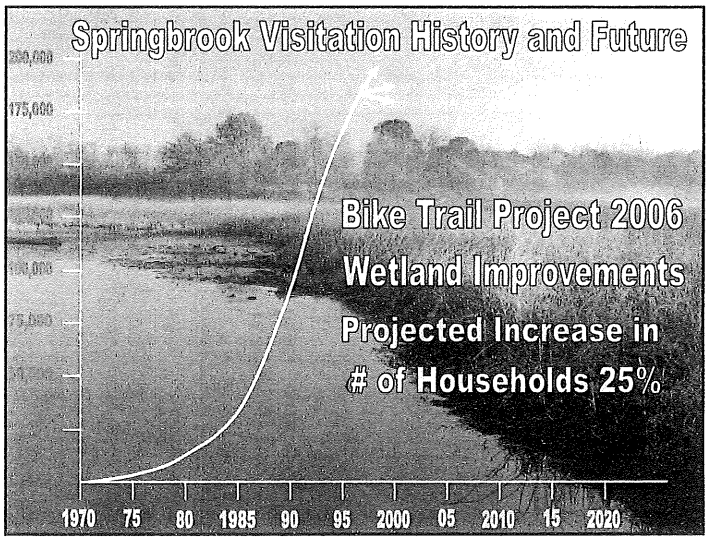


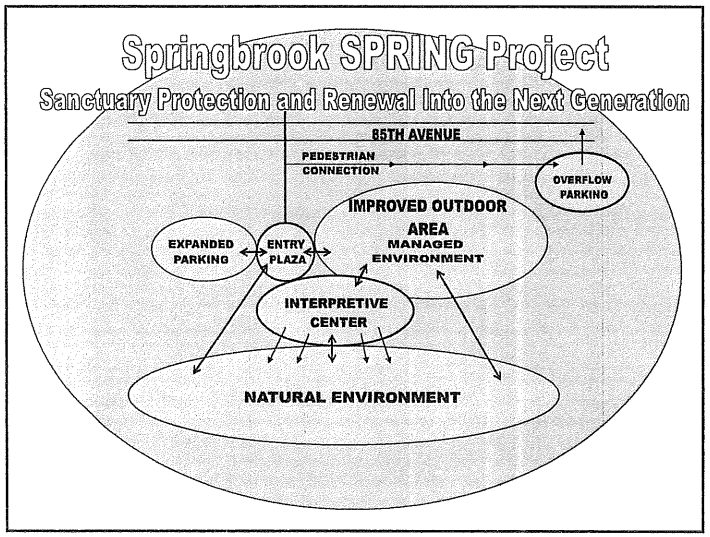
Albin
Andover
Anoka
Bethel
Blaine
Brooklyn Park
Buffalo
Cambridge
Cedar
Chisago City
Champlin
Circle Pines
Columbia Heights
Coon Rapids
Crystal
Dayton
Duluth
Elk River
Fridley
Forest Lake
Gaylord
Golden Valley
Ham Lake
Hopkins
Hugo
Isanti
Lexington
Maple grove
Minneapolis
Mora
Mounds View
New Brighton
New Hope
Oakdale
Plymouth
St. Louis Park
St. Paul
Spring Lake Park
Vadnais Heights

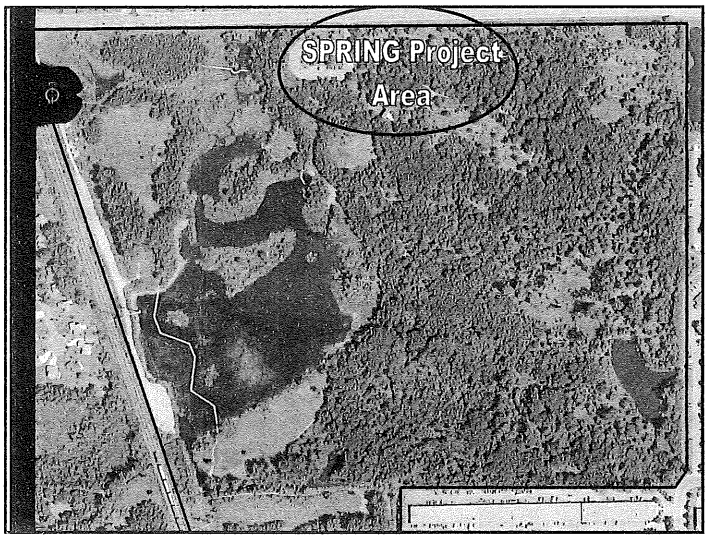
National Audubon Society designation
One of 8 "Important Bird Areas"
in Minnesota



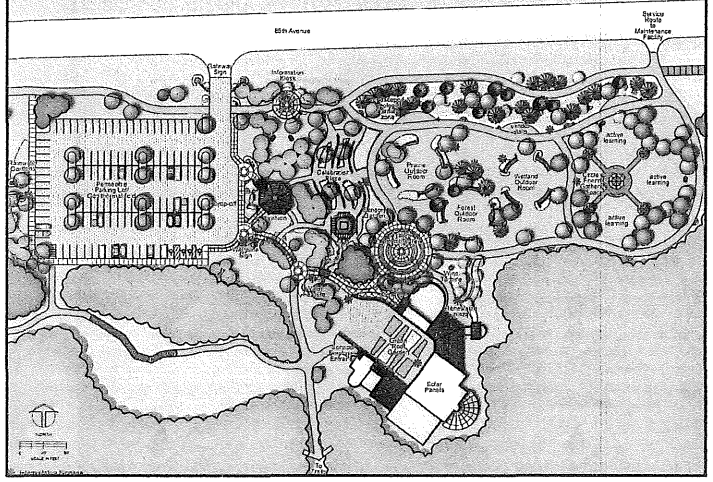

McKnight Foundation and 20 Partners
"Champions of Open Space"
2005 Award


Springbrook Visitation History and Future
175,000
Bike Trail Project 2006
Wetland Improvements
Projected Increase in
# of Households 25%
1970 75 80 1985 90 95 2000 05 2010 15 2020

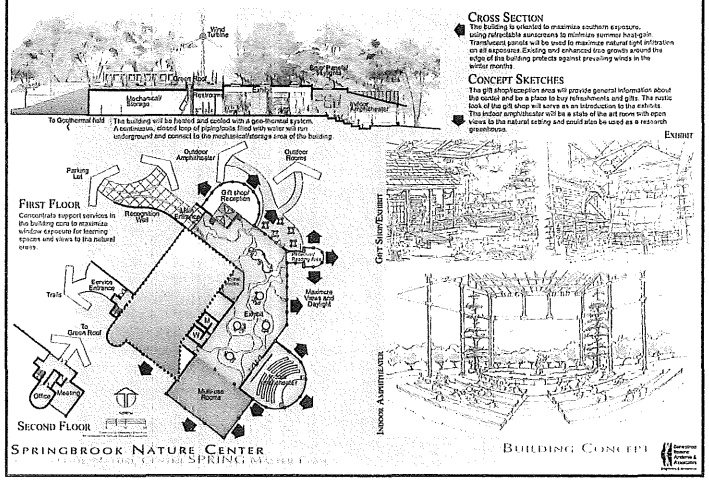

Springbrook SPRING Project
Sanctuary Protection and Renewal Into the Next Generation
85TH AVENUE
PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION
OVERFLOW PARKING
IMPROVED OUTDOOR AREA
MANAGED ENVIRONMENT
EXPANDED PARKING
ENTRY PLAZA
INTERPRETIVE CENTER
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT


SPRING Project
Area

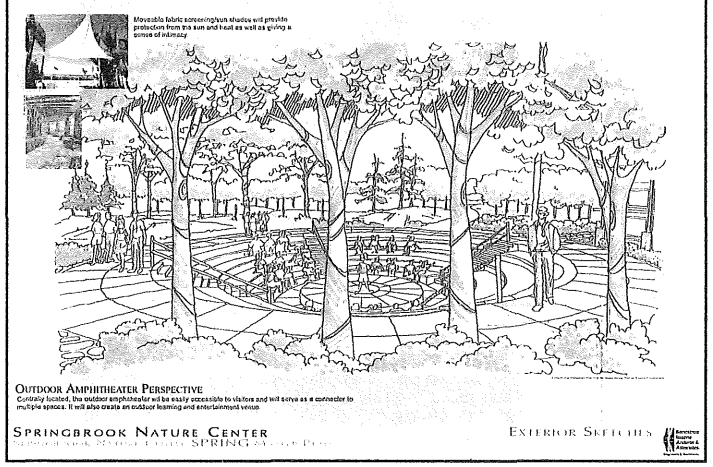
Overall Layout Springbrook SPRING Project



Building drawings



Outdoor Amphitheater



Springbrook Nature Center SPRING Project

- Budget $5 million
- State bonding bill provide $2.5 [illegible]
- Private fundraising provide 2.5 [illegible]
- Capital campaign begins in 2006

Project Cost Details

Pre Design	(Completed - SNC Foundation $55,000)
Design	$500,000
Construction	$4,281,000
Occupancy	$219,000
Total	**$5,000,000**

Future Operating Costs

Permanent Operating Levy Passed by Fridley Voters in 2004

Minimal Business Plan	Budget Increase of 18% ($78,000)
Preferred Business Plan	Budget Increase of 54% ($225,000)

Increases Covered by Activity Fee Revenue and Donations

SPRING Project Impacts

After 6 years we will Increase:

- 66% --Number of Programs - from 600 to 1,000/ year
- 66%--Program Participation from 20,000 to 35,000/year
- 100%--Exhibit Room Visits - from 35,000 to 70,000/year
- Site Hikers and Visitors - Up to 50,000/year
- 50%--Volunteering - from 12,000 to 18,000 hours/year
- 30%--Hours Open to Public - from 64 to 84 hours/week
- Community Activities
- Life Celebrations
- Natural Area Quality

Senators Higgins, Sams, Jungbauer, Pariseau and Kiscaden introduced--

S.F. No. 1161: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; appropriating money for identification, removal, and replacement of diseased shade trees; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

$30,000,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for grants to municipalities and park and recreation boards in cities of the first class for the identification, removal, disposal, and replacement of dead or dying shade trees lost to forest pests or disease. For purposes of this section, shade tree means a woody perennial grown primarily for aesthetic or environmental purposes with minimal to residual timber value. The commissioner shall consult with municipalities, park and recreation boards in cities of the first class, nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties in developing eligibility criteria.

Subd. 2. [BOND SALE.] To provide the money appropriated in section 1 from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $30,000,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections

4 to 7.

Sec. 2. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

This act is effective the day following final enactment.

Senator ..... moves to amend S.F. No. 1161 as follows:

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

"Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

$30,000,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of agriculture for the shade tree pest and disease control program under Minnesota Statutes, section 18G.16.

Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

To provide the money appropriated in section 1 from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $30,000,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This act is effective the day following final enactment."

Senators Higgins, Sams, Jungbauer, Pariseau and Kiscaden introduced--
S.F. No. 1161: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

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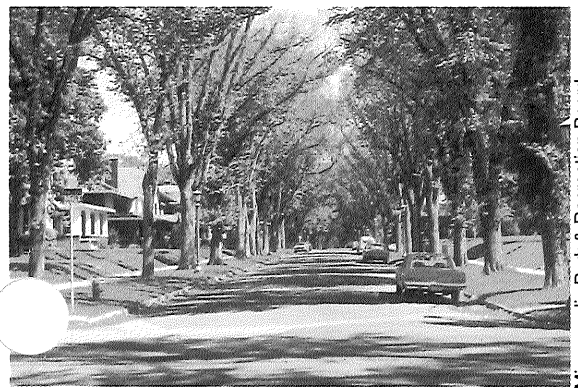
EMERGENCY!

Public Alarmed Over Loss of Trees!



Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Minnesota neighborhood before trees lost to Dutch elm disease.

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Same neighborhood after trees lost to Dutch elm disease.

"Keeping our community forests healthy costs money and local governments are bearing the brunt of it, even as unfunded mandates continue. We need help! If we don't protect the resources we currently have, the ultimate cost increases exponentially."
—Judy Johnson, Mayor, City of Plymouth

"I find it disheartening to pay for someone to remove my trees when I want to take care of them but can't get the information I need to do so."
—Trevor Miyamoto, Resident of Minnetonka

MINNESOTA DUTCH ELM DISEASE FACTS

- Tree loss in 2004 was the worst in 30 years!
- Losses in 2005 and 2006 are expected to be twice as high!

MnSTAC Forestry Alert 2005

Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee

"Beautification be damned, it's economics!"
—Don Willeke, Founding Chair, MnSTAC

Value of trees at risk in Minnesota:

- The 128 million trees in Minnesota communities have a total compensatory value of $80 billion*
- Forest products manufactured in Minnesota exceed $7 billion per year**

It's economics:

- Jobs
- Property Values
- Forest Industry
- Clean Water and Air
- Tourism
- Recreation
- Energy Conservation
- Wildlife Habitat
- Safety
- Health
- Neighborhoods

Deborah Rose, MnDNR

No trees = No benefits!

* Nowak, D.J., D.E. Crane, and J.F. Dwyer. 2002. Compensatory Value of Urban Trees in the United States. Journal of Arboriculture 28(4):194-199.

** MN DNR. 2004 Minnesota Forest Health Highlights.

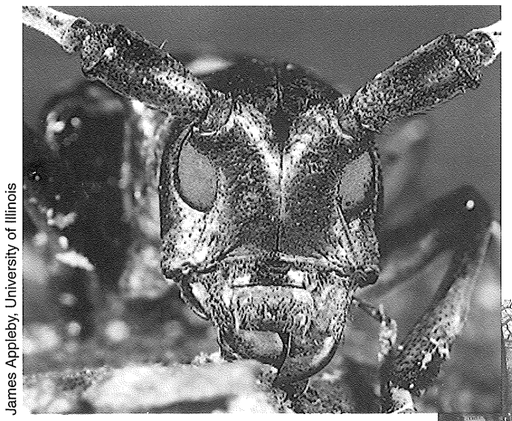
The Bad Ones Are Here...
The Worst Ones Are Coming!

Trees are being lost and threatened by increasing numbers of devastating insect and disease problems!

Gypsy moth is established in Wisconsin and the leading front is approaching Minnesota.

Emerald ash borer was first found in the Detroit metropolitan area in 2002 and has been carried by humans to other locations in Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.

Asian longhorned beetle was found in New York City in 1996 and in Chicago in 1998. Early detection and rapid response in Chicago was key to the current successful eradication program.



James Appleby, University of Illinois

Asian longhorned beetle

Larry R. Barber, USDA Forest Service

Trees being cut due to Asian longhorned beetle infestation in Chicago.

ACTION IS NEEDED NOW!

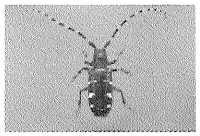
The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee recommends that the Minnesota Legislature and Governor act to:

- Establish dedicated funds for forest health to implement Minnesota Statute 18G.16, Subd. 8. Grants to municipalities. "… for partial funding of municipal sanitation and reforestation programs to replace trees lost to disease or natural disaster … and for acquisition or implementation of a wood use or disposal system."
- Fund LCMR's 2005-2007 recommendation for Minnesota ReLeaf, to leverage local funding and citizen volunteer support.
- Provide emergency bonding funds to protect communities' capital investments in their urban forest from the current outbreak of Dutch elm disease and other devastating insect and disease problems, established and coming, to control tree loss in 2005-2007.
- Support and direct the Minnesota Forest Resources Council to help create, with funding, a 7-County Metro Area Forest Landscape Plan that would include strategies for forest health.

Tree Trust

Don't let a devastating pest take away their quality of life!

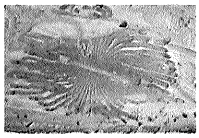
THREATS TO MINNESOTA'S TREES


Donald Duerr, USDA Forest Service

Asian Longhorned Beetle—an exotic wood borer that poses an enormous threat to urban and rural forests killing hardwoods—primarily maples, elms and willows. Early detection is critical. http://www.uvm.edu/albeetle/


John H. Ghent, USDA Forest Service

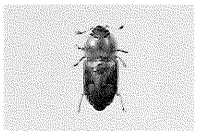
Gypsy Moth—an exotic defoliator of hardwoods that prefers oaks and is spreading into Minnesota. Benefits of slowing the rate of spread exceeds the costs of treatment and monitoring by 3 to 1. http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/morgantown/4557/gmoth/


Missoula Archives, USDA Forest Service

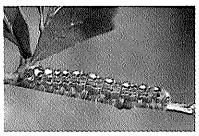
Elm Bark Beetle (larval galleries)—spreads Dutch elm disease. Native and exotic elm bark beetles are serious pests to American, Siberian, and red elms. Prompt identification, removal and disposal of dead and dying elms is critical. http://www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/delmdisease/default.htm


David Cappaert, Michigan State University

Emerald Ash Borer—an exotic wood borer that kills all species of ash, a major component of our urban and rural forests. At least 8 million ash trees have been killed in IN, MI, and OH. The potential for spread to Minnesota is high. Early detection is critical. http://www.emeraldashborer.info/


USDA Forest Service, NCRS

Sap Beetle—native and exotic sap beetles spread the oak wilt fungus affecting all species of oak. There are active infection centers in 21 counties. Prompt identification, removal and disposal of dead and dying oaks is critical. http://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/zoning/environ/oakwilt.htm


Ronald F. Billings, Texas Forest Service

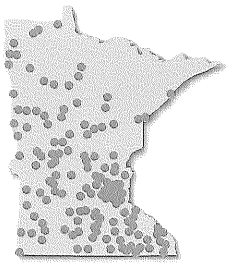
Forest Tent Caterpillar—a native cyclic defoliator that can kill oak, aspen, and birch if stressed by drought. It is a major pest in urban and rural forests. In 2004, identified 27,500 acres of dead aspen and 22,900 acres of dying aspen. Birch had 3,200 acres of mortality. Strong forestry programs can reduce the impact. http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG7563.html


Scott Tunnock, USDA Forest Service

Pine Bark Beetle (larvae in galleries)—a native beetle killing red pine stands and plantations during drought periods. Awareness and prevention is critical. http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/forest_health/barkbeetles/index.html


Kate Drewry, MnDNR

Bulldozers—represent negative human impacts to urban and rural forest health. Urban sprawl and improper construction techniques impact forest health. Awareness, land-use planning, and best management practices are critical. http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/maintenance/construction_damage.html



Minnesota ReLeaf is a matching grant program that provides funding to local units of government, non-profits, and schools to incorporate a more comprehensive approach in planning and managing their community forest resource. MN ReLeaf has helped over 200 communities throughout the state.

Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee

The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC) was established in 1974 to address the health and well-being of Minnesota's community forests, initially focusing on Dutch elm disease. Today, the organization has a diverse membership of over 420 representing a broad spectrum of tree-related interests. MnSTAC is recognized throughout Minnesota and the nation for its expertise, innovation, counsel, coordination, and support relative to urban and community forestry issues.

For More Information

Related web sites:

2004 Minnesota Forest Health Highlights—http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/fhm/fhh/fhh-04/mn/mn_04.pdf

MN Dept. of Agriculture—http://www.mda.state.mn.us/

MN Dept. of Natural Resources—www.dnr.state.mn.us

MN Shade Tree Advisory Committee —www.mnstac.org

TreeLink—www.treelink.org/

Tree Trust—www.treetrust.org

USDA Forest Service—www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/

University of MN-Extension—www.extension.umn.edu/

Ken Simons, President
Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee
c/o Tree Trust
2350 Wycliff Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55114
763-717-9366
or visit: www.mnstac.org

Printed on recycled paper

MnSTAC Forestry Alert 2005

Placing a Price on Nature's Free Services

The Challenge

In order to compete successfully for limited city funding, municipal foresters need compelling evidence that urban forests are worth the investment of citizens' tax dollars. Typically municipal foresters have relied on data that analyzed trees' contributions to property values and community aesthetics, as well as the support of community tree advocates. However, as municipalities continue to tighten their purse-strings, urban foresters need additional tools to continue comprehensive urban forestry programs.

The Solution

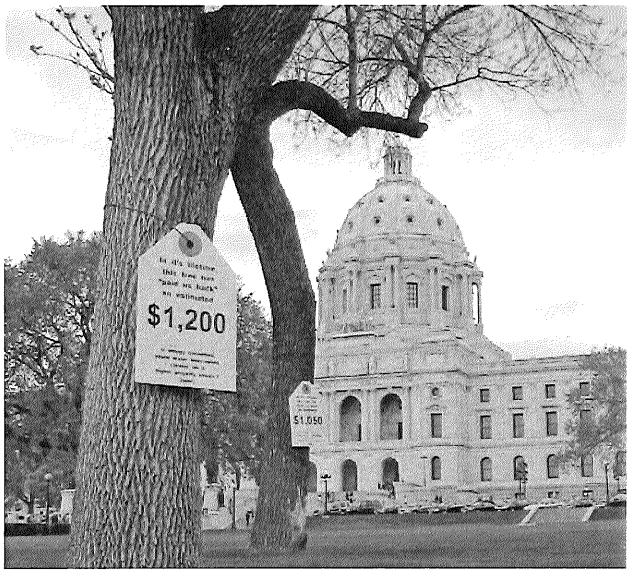
The US Forest Service Northeastern Area and the Pacific Southwest Research Station collaborated on a research study with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board to determine whether the accrued benefits of public trees in the Midwest justified their annual expenditures.

Resulting Benefits

The research study found that every tree planted in the right place and given the proper care provided $3 to $7 in annual benefits for every dollar invested in their care! For the first time ever, municipal foresters have data as well as a model to support urban forests' contributions to energy savings, carbon dioxide reduction, net air pollutants removed, reduced stormwater runoff, as well as increased property values. All of these benefits have been calculated into dollars providing a full accounting of the value of urban trees.

Based on the study, street trees in Minneapolis:

- *Saved citizens $6.8 million dollars in energy costs*
- *Reduced 55,125 tons of carbon dioxide valued at $827,000*
- *Removed 2 lbs. of air pollutants per tree*
- *Intercepted 1,685 gallons of stormwater saving $9.1 million dollars in stormwater treatment*
- *Added $7.1 million dollars to aesthetics and property values*



"Trees Pay Us Back" was the theme of Minnesota's 2005 state-wide Arbor Day Celebration. Each tree on the capitol grounds was tagged with the price of the benefits they provide to the citizenry.

Sharing Success

"Trees Pay Us Back" and the research summary report, "Midwest Community Tree Guide," were featured at the statewide Arbor Day Celebration at the Minnesota State Capitol. The results of the study were featured in 7 newspaper articles, 3 radio spots, and 23 television teases and segments. The Minnesota Conservation Volunteer will feature a full-length magazine story on the study. In addition, over 80 Minnesota volunteers assisted in collecting the data that was ultimately used in the research study.

The results of the report have been shared throughout the national urban forestry and municipal forestry network. Cities in the Midwest can use this model to calculate the exact benefits trees provide to their communities. In addition, the US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station is duplicating this study in approximately 19 cities across the country to develop a model for other climate zones.

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

For more information, contact:

Kathryn P. Maloney, Area Director
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
Phone: 610-557-4103
E-mail: kmaloney@fs.fed.us

Michael W. Prouty, Field Rep.
1992 Folwell Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
Phone: 651-649-5276
E-mail: mprouty@fs.fed.us

January 2006

Senators Anderson, Moua and Sams introduced--

S.F. No. 2304: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for the Como Zoo.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

$10,000,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the city of St. Paul to predesign, design, construct, furnish, equip, and redevelop infrastructure at the Como Zoo.

Sec. 2. [BOND SALE.]

To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $10,000,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.

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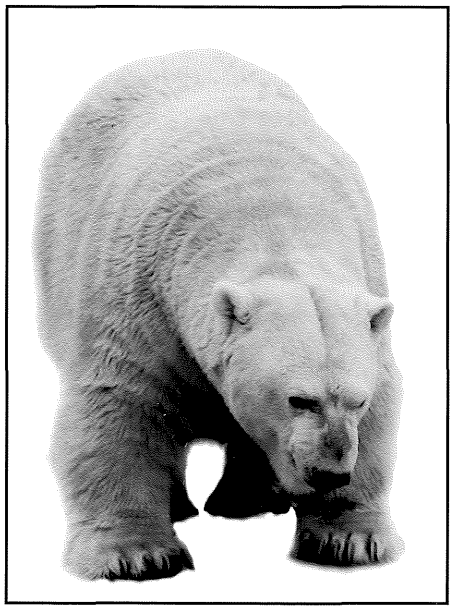
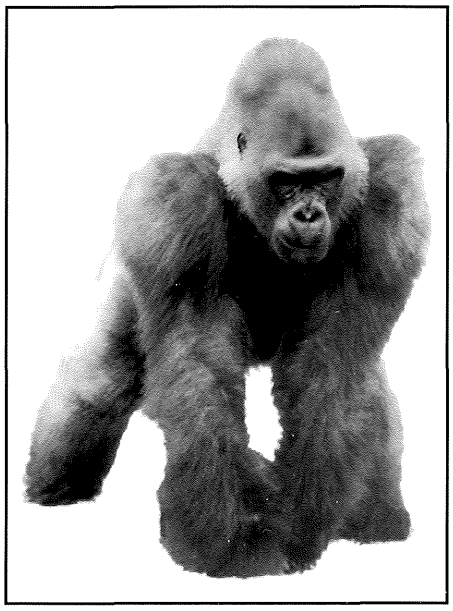
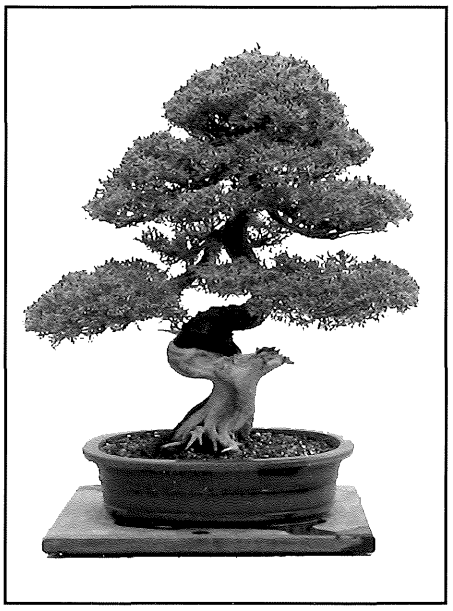
Como Park Zoo and Conservatory



Polar Bear
Exhibit



Gorilla
Exhibit



Bonsai
Exhibit

COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY

CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

390 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Telephone: 651-266-8510
Facsimile: 651-228-8513

February 3, 2006

Dear Friends:

Enclosed please find an executive summary of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory's plans for renovation of Como Zoo's polar bear and gorilla exhibits. We have also included plans for a new bonsai garden addition to the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. Funds for this garden will be raised privately.

Como Park is one of Minnesota's premier parks, with an annual estimate of 2.4 million visitors. The centerpiece of Como Park is its zoo and conservatory, which brings together plants and animals in an intimate setting conducive to easy viewing, as well as unmatched educational opportunities highlighting the interrelationships between plants and animals.

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory have come a long way from an 1897 gift of three deer, followed by a donation from Lieutenant Governor Thomas Frankson in 1900 of two buffalo from his collection! Today visitors will be charmed and enchanted by our new visitor Center, which houses state-of-the-art education facilities, and impressed by the updated and award-winning conservatory, and delighted with our zoo filled with animals from around the world, which may be viewed "up close" for a feeling of personal interaction with these exotic creatures.

Please take some time to examine our plans for much needed updates to our polar bear and gorilla exhibits, which have not undergone major renovation for more than twenty years. In the intervening time, zoo standards have changed greatly, and in order to house and display animals according to emerging American Zoological Standards, we must upgrade our facilities to meet these new expectations.

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory are truly part of the "people's park," a retreat in the middle of the city where people from all walks of life may enjoy the many recreational and educational opportunities provided by this venerable institution.

We ask for your support for these much-needed upgrades.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor
City of Saint Paul

Liz Anderson
Como Campus Manager
City of Saint Paul

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory Background

"Inspire our public to value the presence of living things in our lives."

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory are located within Como Regional Park, an historic urban park in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The jewel of the St. Paul Park System, the 300 acre park has many components: the pavilion on Como Lake, a golf course, picnic areas, swimming pool and ball field complexes. The best loved features, however, are the Como Zoo and the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory located on the western edge of the park.

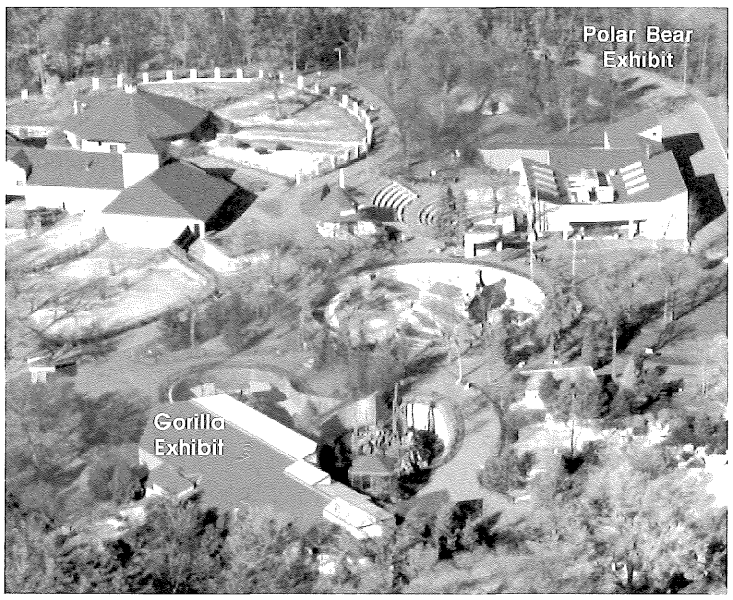
The park itself was founded in 1873, and by the turn of the century formal gardens and the rudiments of a zoo were constructed. The conservatory dates to 1915. Since that time the zoo and conservatory have grown in stature and greatly expanded their collections.

Como Conservatory has gained a national reputation for the quality of it's horticulture garnering in 1999 the coveted Hortlandmark Award from the American Society for Horticulture Science.

Como Zoo was the first zoo in the country to successfully hand raise Siberian Tigers and their collections include many endangered species such as Siberian Tigers, orangutans and gorillas. Today Como Zoo is a pioneer in research concerning the social dynamics of male gorilla groups.

Throughout their long history, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory have undergone a number of renovations and upgrades, the most recent being the renovation of the conservatory and the construction of the Visitors Center which was opened in 2005. This renovation was funded in large part through the generosity of the Minnesota Legislature and by private contributions given through the auspices of the Como Zoo and Conservatory Society.

However, with the exception of the recently completed Animal Support Building which primarily houses off display and quarantined animals, no major renovation of the zoo has occurred for more than twenty years.



Recognizing the need for long range planning, a planning team was put into place to direct and design a Framework Plan for the Como Campus. The most pressing needs identified at the zoo were for major renovations to the polar bear and gorilla exhibits. CLR Design, Incorporated, zoo exhibit designers based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, were hired in conjunction with local architects Rafferty, Rafferty Tollefson to put together a design which would greatly improve these exhibits within the footprint of the existing zoo. The most pressing need identified for the conservatory was improved accessibility to the Como Ordway Memorial Japanese Garden and an outdoor Bonsai Display.

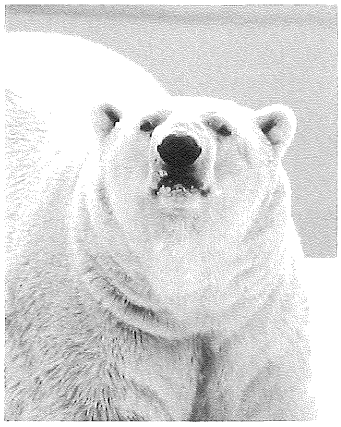
COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY

Polar Bear Exhibit

Como Park
Zoo & Conservatory

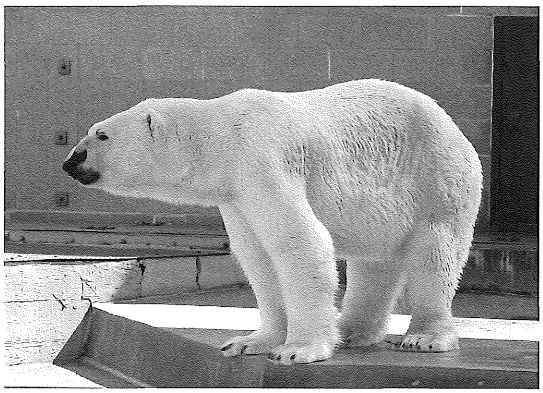
Polar Bear Exhibit

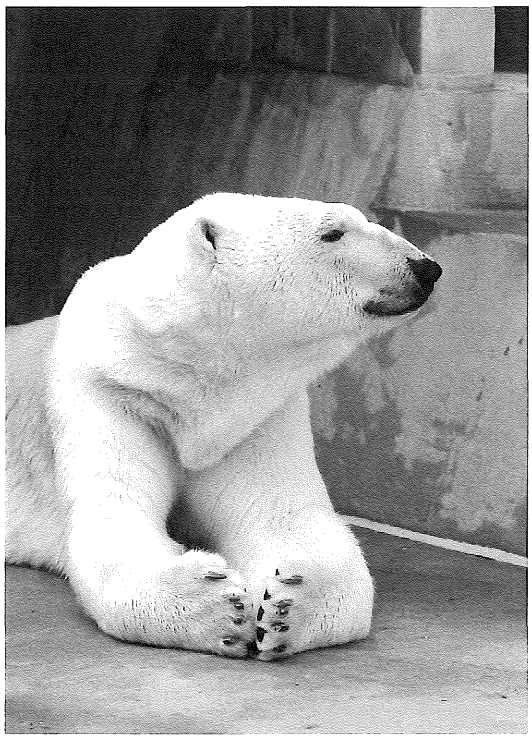
narrative description



The proposed Polar Bear Exhibit at the Como Zoo creates a completely new visitor experience and places the bears in a natural immersive exhibit environment. The new project utilizes the existing space of the outdoor exhibit (± 3500sf) but significantly increase and improves this space by incorporating the presently unused bear grottos to the west. The new Polar Bear Exhibit 1 is approximately 11,000sf including the moat area and Exhibit 2 is approximately 4500sf. A new state of the art bear holding building is located between the exhibits providing four bear holding spaces, group room, and cubbing den in addition to keeper and animal support spaces. This facility will meet and exceed all AZA and USDA standards in addition to providing a facility that is appropriate for polar bear breeding.

Adjacent to the holding building will be an interpretive/ viewing building. This climate controlled space will provide exciting underwater and above water views for the public of the polar bears. This space will also have a "behind the scenes" view of keeper/polar bear interaction and training. Behind a glass wall the public will view daily bear husbandry and training sessions. A scrim projection screen/shade could roll down when no sessions are planned or when the behind the scenes view is not desired. The viewing building will be "buried" beneath a natural green roof to minimize its presence.

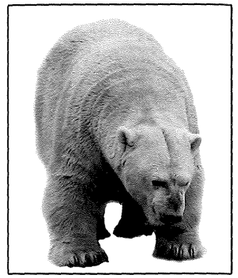




The polar bear exhibits will provide numerous choices for the animals to dig, to forage, to swim, and to feed. Both shallow water and deep water will be provided to the bears in a natural tundra setting. Based on animal requirements the pools will be salt water and will be filtered to provide crystal clear underwater viewing.

A small themed retail building will provide a gateway to the exhibit from the east and a themed artic trapper's cabin on the west side of the exhibit will provide multi-purpose space for rental events, presentations, and educational activities. Public restrooms will also be provided here filling a significant deficiency in this part of the Zoo.

COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY



Polar Bear Exhibit

Planting Buffer

Service Road

Filtration Building

Exhibit 1
9200 SF + Moat

Service Gate to Exhibit 1

Future Restroom Building

Education Building

Moat

Service/Storage Area

Main Visitor Path

Location of Existing Stair

Polar Bear Holding Building

Shallow Pool

Viewing Overlook

Keeper Demonstration Area

View Path

Isolation Yard 1180 SF

Bear Den Viewing

Service Gate to Exhibit 2

Viewing & Interpretive Building

Isolation Holding

Exhibit 2
4500 SF

Deep Pool

Existing Loading Dock

View Path

Underwater View

New Trellis Entry

Viewing & Demonstration Area

Existing Aquatics Building

New Themed Retail

Sparky Theater

Polar Bear Exhibit Site Plan

0′ 20′ 40′ 80′

CLR design inc.
Rafferty Rafferty Tollefson
T.A. Maranda Consultants
CPMI

Polar Bear Exhibit
Como Park Zoo and Conservatory

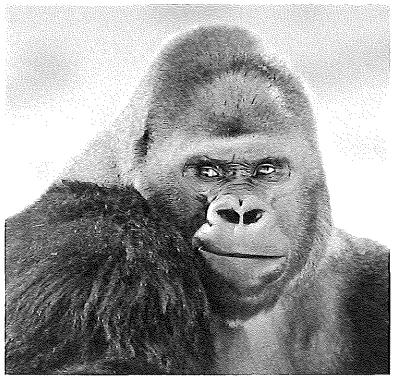
Como Park
Zoo & Conservatory

Gorilla Exhibit

COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY

Gorilla Exhibit

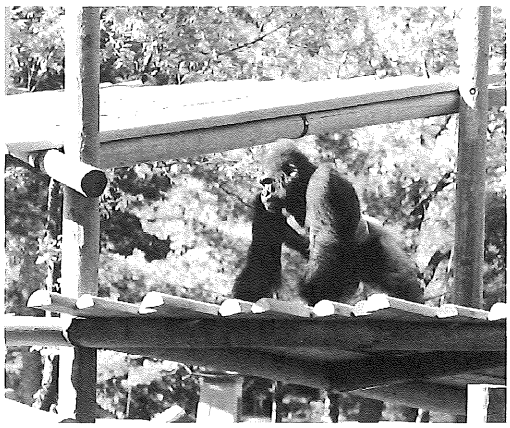
narrative description

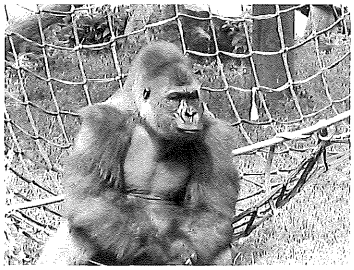


The proposed improvements to the existing Gorilla Exhibit provide a significant increase to the quality as well as the quantity of space available for gorilla holding, husbandry, and exhibition at the Como Zoo. A new gorilla holding building will be located on the south side of the existing primate building. This space will provide five new, natural light filled, two story spaces for the animals with view windows and perches so the gorillas can view out. The re-glazing of existing skylights will increase natural light (as well as UV light) in the indoor habitat. Improvements to the existing artificial rockwork and trees will provide more horizontal space for the gorillas and planned family groups.

Improvements to ventilation, lighting, drainage, and a new rainforest mural on the dayroom wall will create a significantly improved environment for the animals and an improved viewing experience for the public. This work will represent the first phase of redevelopment of the gorilla project. The proposed improvements will exceed all AZA and USDA requirements for holding, managing, and exhibiting great apes. In addition the new facilities will permit Como Zoo to obtain family groups of gorillas with the potential of mating these majestic endangered species.

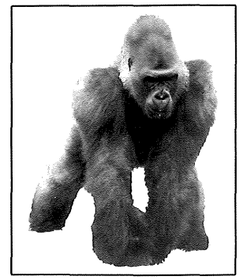
The second phase of development will include the construction of a major new outdoor exhibit for the gorillas where they can play, climb, forage, and display their extraordinary family/social dynamics to the public in landscape immersive natural habitats. The new 24' high, mesh topped exhibit will provide soaring, vertical spaces for the animals. The larger space of 10,000 sf is approximately two and a half times bigger than the current exhibit. The smaller space of 2000 sf will be used for mothers with babies and for isolating gorillas when necessary. The level of the outdoor exhibit floor will be raised so that visitors will get eye to eye, up close and personal views of the gorillas. The animals will be above and in a superior position to the guests creating less stress for the animals and a more exciting viewing experience for the visitor.





View structures and view shelters designed in a West African rainforest theme will provide ample viewing space including views through glass assuring up close experiences. School groups will meet in the view structure to learn about primates. A "behind the scenes" view of gorilla husbandry will be created where the public can view daily keeper/gorilla interaction and training. Descriptive interpretive graphics and exhibits will tell the story of gorilla behavior, conservation, and the Como Zoo's involvement in gorilla research.

COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY



Gorilla Exhibit

Group Gathering Area
(Benches with Mulch Paths)

Hoofstock
Exhibit

Seals/Sea Lion
Exhibit

Main Visitor Path

Proposed Tree (typical)

New Main Entry Path
from Como Town

Existing Tree to
Remain(typical)

Service Entry

Children's Activity Areas
(Sculpture with Mulch)

Existing Entry
from Como Town
to be Abandoned

Existing Como
Town Ticket Booth

New Visitor Path

Existing Fence

Service Entry

View Blind

Climbing Logs
(typical)

Mesh Structure
(typical)

Orangutan
Exhibit

View Window with
Artificial Log

Planter Wall to Remain,
Add Rockwork

Exhibit 1
(1900 SF)

Exhibit 2
(10300 SF)

View Structure
FF 249

Planter

New
Planter

Proposed Gorilla
Holding Addition

Service
Road

A

B

Gorilla Exhibit Site Plan

0' 15' 30' 60'

N

CLR design inc.
Rafferty Rafferty Tollefson
T.A. Maranda Consultants
CPMI

Gorilla Exhibit
Como Park Zoo and Conservatory

Como Park
Zoo & Conservatory

Bonsai Exhibit

COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY

Bonsai Exhibit

narrative description

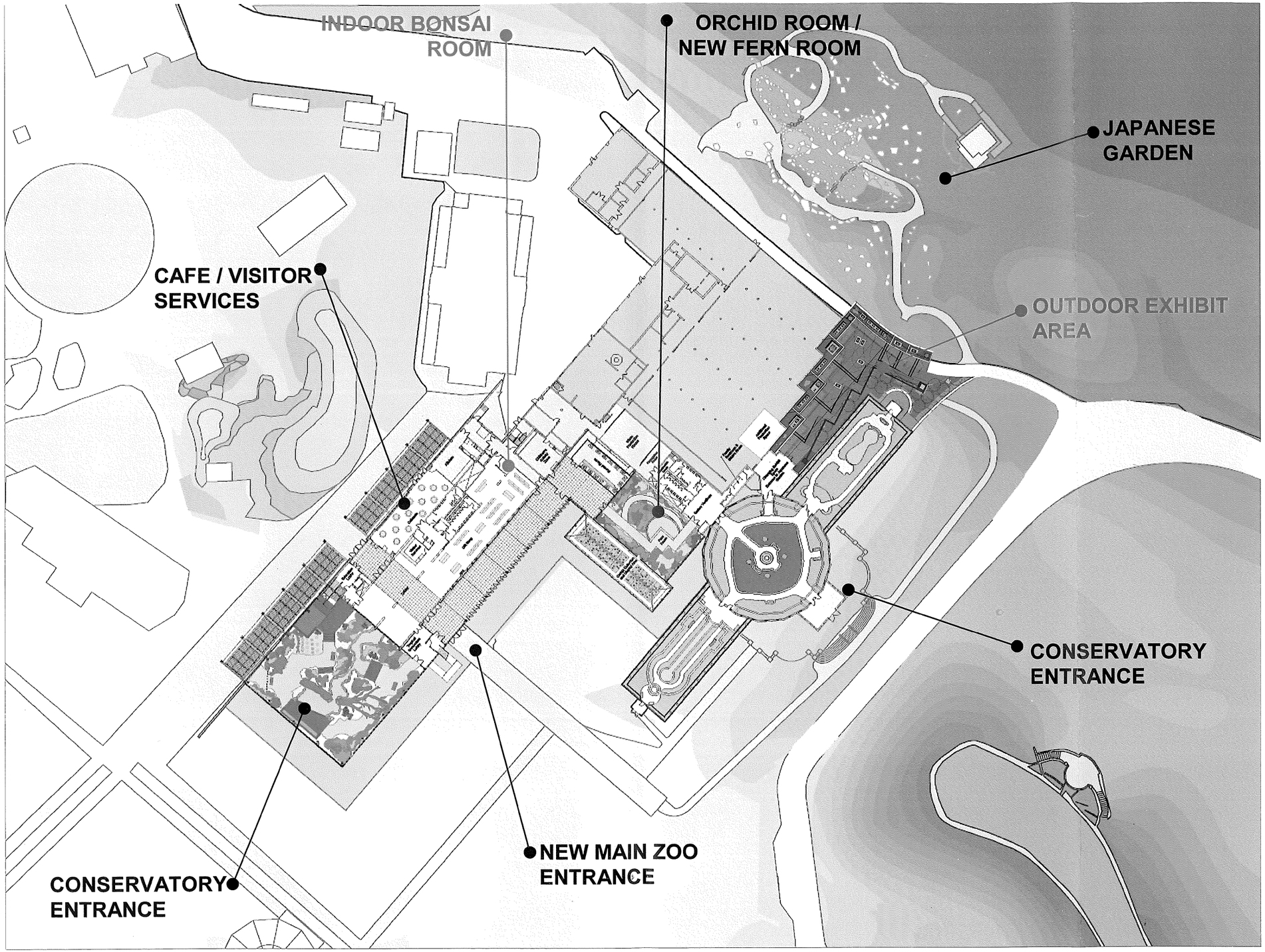
A beautiful atrium-like space formerly occupied by the Conservatory Gift Shop will provide an entrance to the authentic Japanese Garden from the Conservatory.

An outdoor Bonsai Gallery will be located along a beautiful series of descending platforms between the conservatory's North Garden and production greenhouses. This garden is designed to take advantage of the fourteen foot drop in grade between the conservatory and the entrance to the Japanese Garden. In addition, walls reminiscent of traditional Japanese stucco walls will control views and replace the unsightly chain link fencing along the eastern edge of this space.

The Japanese Garden is currently open for just five months of the year. It is our goal to take advantage of the Japanese Garden during the beautiful seasons of fall and winter.

Fall and winter highlight the stark beauty of this garden with the snow laying gently on the fir trees and bare tree branches bearing witness to the careful pruning methods employed by our staff of trained gardeners. **The winterization of this garden including our water features will enable visitors to enjoy this unique garden for ten months of the year.**

COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY



Bonsai Exhibit

HGA, Inc.

Bonsai Exhibit
Como Park Zoo and Conservatory

Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

Project Support:

This project is endorsed and supported by the City of Saint Paul and Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County

CREDITS

Planning Team:
Liz Anderson, Como Campus Manager
Victor Camp, Large Animal Curator
John Dee, Small Animal Curator
Janet Dieterich, Legislative Coordinator
Susie Exner, Education Manager
Don Gange – St. Paul Parks and Recreation – Design Section
Roberta Sladky – Conservatory Curator
Jackie Sticha, Como Zoo and Conservatory Society Executive Director

Zookeeping staff
Sarah Cuellar
Geoff Jungheim
Cindy Swanson
Krista Webber

Gardening Staff
Karen Klebber Diggs
Paul Knuth
Joan Murphy

Bruce Jacobson, Close Landscape Architecture
CLR Associates, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – Zoo Exhibit Designers
Rafferty, Rafferty, Tollefson Architects
Minnesota Bonsai Society - Como Committee
Loren Ahles & Kara Hill, HGA

For more information contact:
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Como Park Zoo and Conservatory
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#651-487-8241
e-mail – janet.dieterich@ci.stpaul.mn.us

February 3, 2006

Capital project at Como Campus
Polar Bear and Primate Improvements

Phase 1

Renovation of Polar Bear Exhibit	$13M
Renovation of indoor Primate Spaces	$4M
Total	$17M

Funding request	
State of Minnesota Bonding 2006	$10M
Funding from the Private Sector	$7M*

Phase 2

Outdoor Primate Renovation	$11M

Funding request	
State of Minnesota Bonding 2008	$10M
Funding from Private Sector	$1M*

*The Como Zoo and Conservatory Society has passed a resolution strongly supporting the project and pledges to participate in the project by raising funds from the private sector to complete the projects as designed. The listed private sector goals are anticipated contributions.

Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources

Legislative Fact Sheet • 2006 Session

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program II

Quick facts

- Phase I funding: $20 million easements, $3 million implementation (approved in 2005 session)
- Phase II funding request: $30.15 million ($25.4 million easements; $4.75 million implementation)
- Federal share for entire project: $200 million
- Project leveraging approaches $4 federal for every $1 state

Minnesota CREP II

Goal

- Enroll up to 120,000 acres to enhance water quality, protect rural water supplies, reduce flood damages, and enhance wildlife habitat in the Red River Watershed, the Lower Mississippi River Watershed, and the Missouri River and Des Moines River Watershed. Sign-up began June 6, 2005, and continues until enrollment is met, or through Dec. 31, 2007, whichever comes first.

Background

- CREP II provides financial incentives for farmers and ranchers to restore wetlands or retire environmentally sensitive cropland from production and convert the land to native grasses, trees, or other native vegetation.

Benefits

- Reduce sediment loading in the three watersheds by 420,000 tons per year.
- Reduce phosphorus loading in streams and rivers by 530,000 pounds per year.
- Establish 61,897 acres of riparian buffers; this will protect 2,500 linear miles of streams, rivers, and ditches.
- Enroll 8,195 acres of land in sensitive groundwater protection areas.
- Restore 24,000 acres of wetland and associated upland; in addition to water quality and wildlife benefits, wetland restorations will increase water storage capacity of the targeted watersheds by 10,000-20,000 acre feet.
- Enroll 5,000 acres into flood-damage reduction projects to reduce agricultural flooding impacts and enhance natural resource benefits.
- Establish 120,000 acres of long-term wildlife habitat in the targeted watersheds.

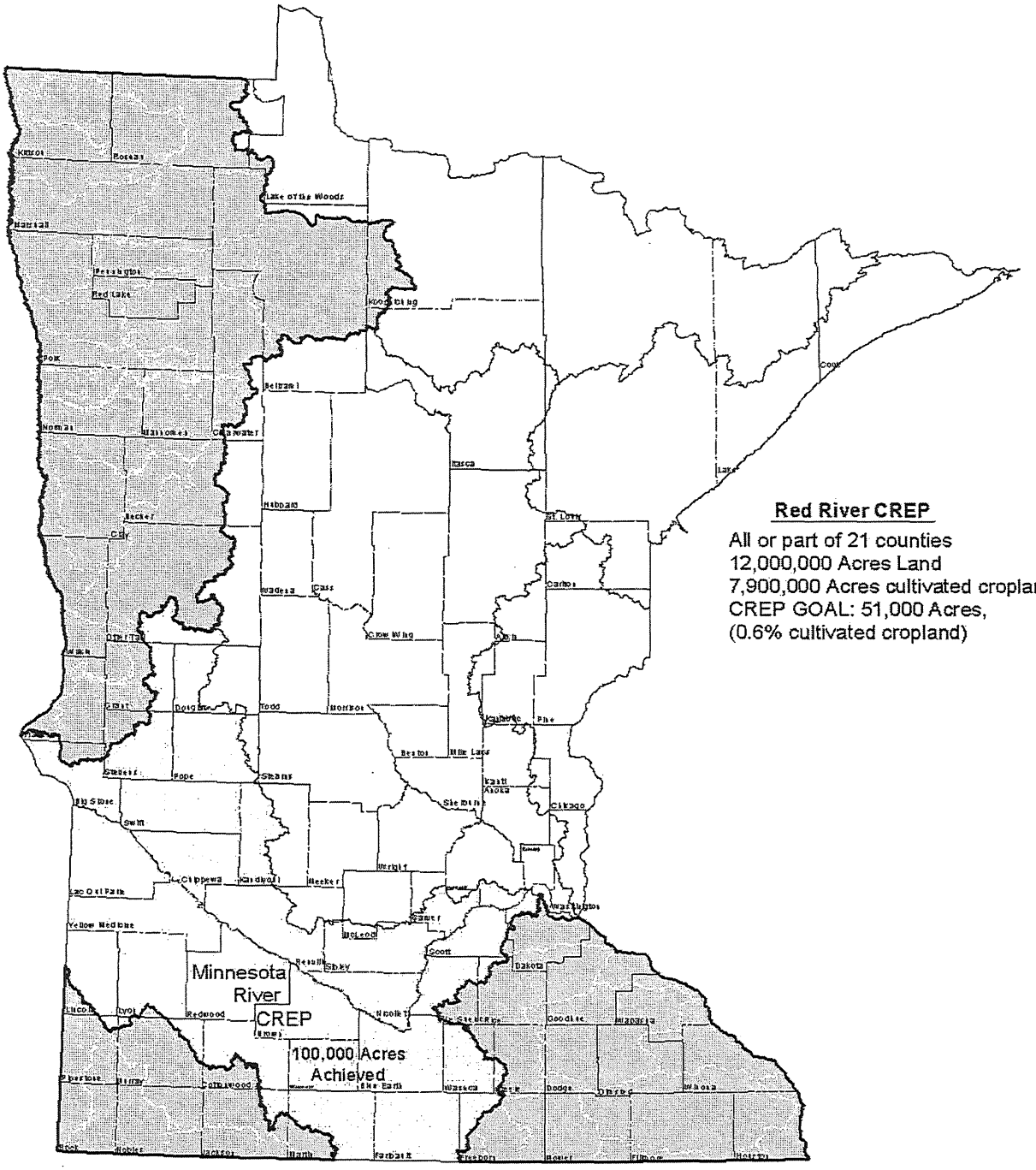
Contact

- For more information, contact Ron Harnack, 651-296-3767.

520 Lafayette Road North ■ St. Paul, MN 55155 ■ www.bwsr.state.mn.us ■ 651-296-3767; Fax: 651-297-5615

Minnesota's CREP II

CREPs are reauthorized in the 2002 Federal Farm Bill through December 31, 2007



Red River CREP

All or part of 21 counties
12,000,000 Acres Land
7,900,000 Acres cultivated cropland
CREP GOAL: 51,000 Acres,
(0.6% cultivated cropland)

SW Minnesota CREP

All or part of nine counties
2,100,000 Acres Land
1,800,000 Acres cultivated cropland
CREP GOAL: 18,000 Acres,
(1.0% cultivated cropland)

SE Minnesota CREP

All or part of 17 counties
4,650,100 Acres Land
3,000,000 Acres cultivated cropland
CREP GOAL: 51,000 Acres,
(1.7% cultivated cropland)

Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources

MINNESOTA'S CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM: THE SECOND GENERATION

120,000 Acre Total
91,000 Acres 30 year Limited Duration RIM Easement
24,000 Acres Perpetual RIM Easement - Wetland Restorations
5,000 Acres Perpetual RIM Easement – Flood Damage Reduction

Watershed		**Easement Options**
Easement Location/Type	**Acre Targets**	**Duration**
RED RIVER BASIN CREP [1]		
Riparian	35,435 Acres	15 yr. CRP + 30 yr. RIM
Wetland Restoration [2]	13,440 Acres	15 yr. CRP + Perpetual RIM
Flood Damage Reduction [3]	2,125 Acres	15 yr. CRP + Perpetual RIM
subtotal	**51,000 Acres**	
SOUTHEAST MN CREP		
Riparian Zones	14,828 Acres	15 yr. CRP + 30 yr. RIM
Groundwater Protection	6,179 Acres	15 yr. CRP + 30 yr. RIM
Highly Erodible Land	18,058 Acres	15 yr. CRP + 30 yr. RIM
Rotation Contour Strip	2,850 Acres	15 yr. CRP contract only
Wetland Restoration [2]	6,960 Acres	15 yr. CRP + Perpetual RIM
Flood Damage Reduction [3]	2,125 Acres	15 yr. CRP + Perpetual RIM
subtotal	**51,000 Acres**	
SOUTHWEST MN CREP		
Riparian Zones	11,634 Acres	15 yr. CRP + 30 yr. RIM
Wellhead/Groundwater	2,016 Acres	15 yr. CRP + 30 yr. RIM
Wetland Restoration [2]	3,600 Acres	15 yr. CRP + Perpetual RIM
Flood Damage Reduction [3]	750 Acres	15 yr. CRP + Perpetual RIM
subtotal	**18,000 Acres**	
Total	**120,000 Acres**	

Easement Duration commences at the expiration of the 15 year CRP contract.

[1]Application will include request to extend existing high priority CRP contract.
[2]Requires perpetual easement by MN Statute 103F.515 Subd. 5 (3).
[3]Allows for perpetual easements due to frequent flooding and high costs of projects.

APPLICATION SUMMARY

- 3 Watershed Proposals Included: Red River, SE Minn., & SW Minn.
- Acre Enrollment Goal:

Accomplishment Targets	
Riparian Zones	**61,897 Acres**
Wetland Restoration	**24,000 Acres**
Highly Erodible Land	**18,058 Acres**
Groundwater/Wellhead Protection	**8,195 Acres**
Flood Damage Reduction	**5,000 Acres**
Rotation Contour Strips	**2,850 Acres**

- **$53.15** Million State dollars leverage **$200** Million Federal dollars
- Improves & protects water quality, reduces soil & water erosion, & creates **120,000** acres of fish & wildlife habitat.
- Estimated state cost:

		Ph. 1	***Ph. 2***
$45.40 M		**$20 M**	**$25.40 M**
$ 7.75 M	*Implementation*	**$ 3 M**	**$ 4.75 M**
$53.15 M		**$23 M**	**$30.15 M**

Sen. Ellen Johnson ~
Rep. al Juhnke ~

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for Grass Lake restoration.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **GRASS LAKE RESTORATION.**

Subdivision 1. **Appropriation.** $3,900,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for the purposes specified in this section.

Subd. 2. **RIM conservation easements.** $1,500,000 is to acquire conservation easements from landowners on marginal lands, professional and technical services, and associated conservation practices to restore Grass Lake, protect water quality, and to support fish and wildlife habitat as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515. Up to 15 percent is available for agency implementation costs.

Subd. 3. **Kandiyohi County.** $900,000 is for a grant to Kandiyohi County for acquisition, construction, and technical costs required to integrate storm water diversion and treatment system measures with a public ditch system.

Subd. 4. **City of Willmar.** $1,500,000 is for a grant to the city of Willmar for a pumping station, appurtenances, and professional and technical services to address water quantity and quality issues concurrent with the restoration of Grass Lake.

Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to

$3,900,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.

Grass Lake Prairie Wetland

Kandiyohi County

2006 Capitol Budget Initiative

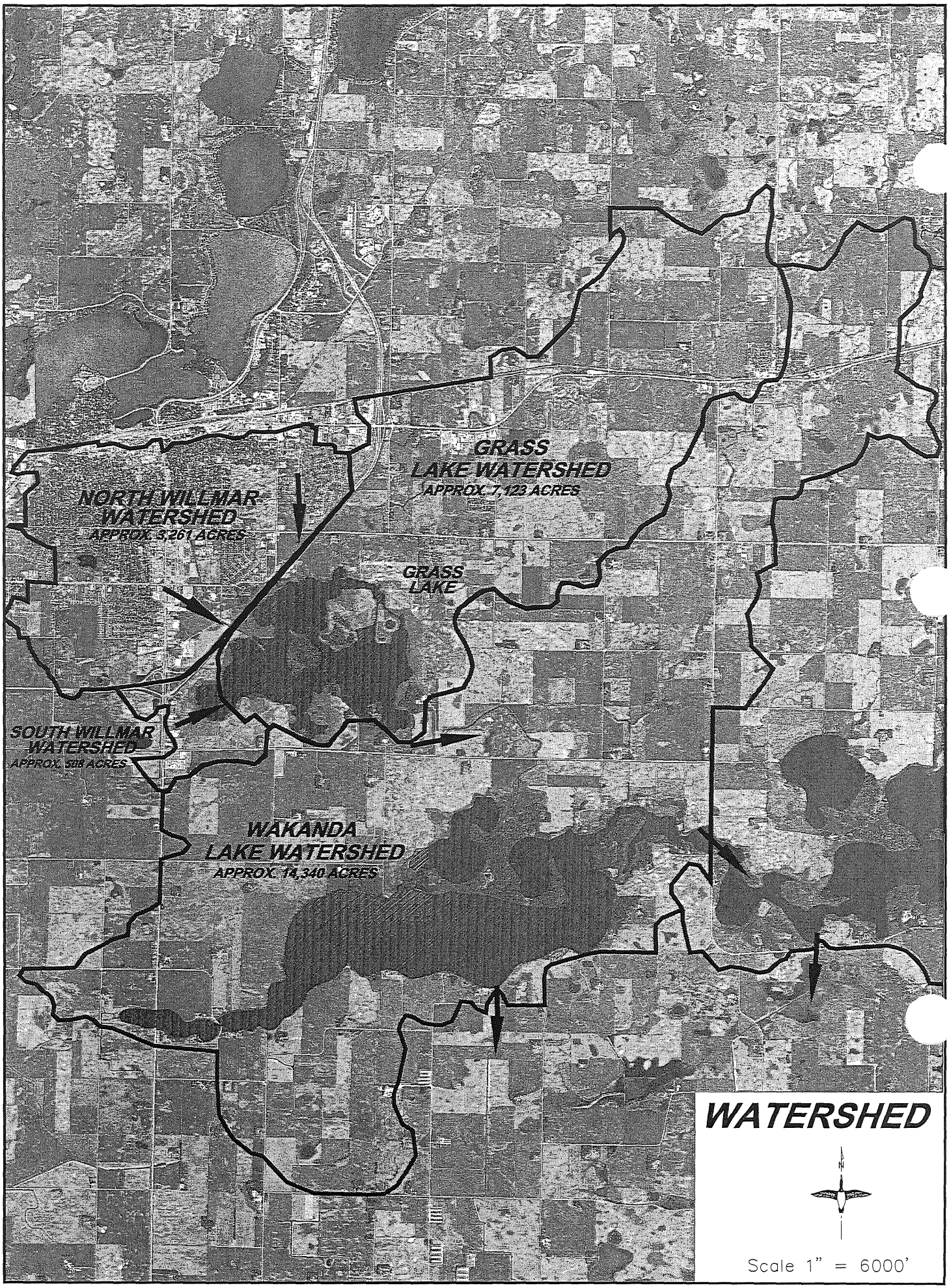
The Grass Lake Prairie Wetland is approximately 1,200 acres in size and located just to the southeast of the city of Willmar. Drainage of the lakebed began in 1885 for farming purposes. In recent years, a combination of several factors including an above normal precipitation cycle, increased runoff from upstream watershed areas and inadequate drainage capacity of the ditch system, caused significant crop losses within the lakebed. As a result of these marginal farming conditions, most of the landowners within the basin have enrolled 19 perpetual conservation easements totaling 1,066 acres into the state's Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program. In addition, the county has also secured another 40-acre easement within the lakebed. These easements were secured for the purpose of restoring the drained lakebed to a shallow prairie wetland and its surrounding shoreline to native prairie.

Kandiyohi County Ditch 23A runs through the Grass Lake basin and serves as an outlet for much of the city of Willmar's stormwater runoff. Some of the city's stormwater infrastructure is lower in elevation than the lakebed of Grass Lake and protection of this drainage infrastructure will be a required component of any restoration plan. A hydrologic analysis was conducted in the mid to late 1990's as part of the previous plan to restore the lakebed that included the use of lift stations to address the needs of the city. The high costs of this alternative ($6.5 million) precluded the city and others from undertaking the restoration project.

More recently, a lower cost alternative plan to restore Grass Lake has been identified and is under development in partnership with the city of Willmar and Kandiyohi County. The new plan would restore the lakebed and allow for treatment of 7,655 acres of watershed located primarily to the northeast of the site. The plan also would divert 3,261 acres of runoff from the city around the south end of the lakebed. The city would utilize "smaller" lift stations to pump the "first flush" or low flow events from the 3,261acres of the city's runoff and would bypass the larger flood flows which will result in significant cost savings over the previous restoration plan.

The complete restoration of the Grass Lake Prairie Wetland lakebed would provide improved habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife species and would enhance the effectiveness of state and local investments made to date for this project. Furthermore, the restoration will also help to improve water quality and reduce flooding for the downstream chain of lakes which includes Waka nda, Little Kandiyohi and Big Kandiyohi and beyond to the South Fork of the Crow River and the Mississippi River.

(map on back)


GRASS
LAKE WATERSHED
APPROX. 7,123 ACRES
NORTH WILLMAR
WATERSHED
APPROX. 3,261 ACRES
GRASS
LAKE
SOUTH WILLMAR
WATERSHED
APPROX. 528 ACRES
WAKANDA
LAKE WATERSHED
APPROX. 14,340 ACRES
WATERSHED
N
Scale 1" = 6000'

Senators Metzen and Marko introduced--

S.F. No. 335: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill for an act

relating to capital investment; appropriating money for South St. Paul landfill reclamation and conversion to parkland; authorizing the issuance of state general obligation bonds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION; SOUTH ST. PAUL REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS.]

$5,000,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to the city of South St. Paul for the closure, capping, and remediation of approximately 80 acres of the Port Crosby construction and demolition debris landfill in South St. Paul, as the fourth phase of converting the land into parkland, and to restore approximately 80 acres of riverfront land along the Mississippi River.

Sec. 2. [BOND SALE.]

To provide the money appropriated in section 1 from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $5,000,000 in the manner, on the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

This act is effective the day following final enactment.

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; appropriating money for South St. Paul landfill reclamation and conversion to parkland; authorizing the issuance of state bonds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

$4,500,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to the city of South St. Paul for the closure, capping, and remediation of approximately 80 acres of the Port Crosby construction and demolition debris landfill in South St. Paul, as the ~~fourth~~ fifth phase of converting the land into parkland, and to restore approximately 80 acres of riverfront land along the Mississippi River.

Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

To provide the money appropriated in section 1 from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $4,500,000 in the manner, on the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This act is effective the day following final enactment.

Port Crosby: Review of Development and Proposed Plans

City of South St. Paul
January 2006

What is Port Crosby?

- Port Crosby is a demolition landfill that was purchased by the City of South St. Paul in 2000.
- Port Crosby includes 87 acres of land and over 5000 feet of shoreline along the Mississippi River.
- The subsurface of the property is concrete and other demolition debris, to a depth of 20 feet.
- In order to safely use the land for regional public purposes, it must be capped by a minimum of two - four feet of fill over the entire 87 acres.

The Port Crosby Property – A History of Vision

1994 – The South St. Paul City Council makes a commitment to develop a regional river front trail system from Kaposia Park to the southern border of the City in partnership with Dakota County.

2000 – The City of South St. Paul acquires the 87-acre demolition landfill site known as "Port Crosby" for $1 million.

2001 – The successful completion of the North Urban Regional Trail segment traveling along the western edge of the Port Crosby property, in cooperation with State, County, and Federal Agencies.

2003 – Construction of a vehicular bridge to access the Port Crosby property.

2005 – State funding assistance via 2005 Bonding Bill begins the closure of the Port Crosby property. Simon's Ravine Trailhead construction begins.

The Principal Goal for Port Crosby:

To reclaim currently unusable river front property for a diverse park area that serves the present and growing recreational needs of the southeast Metropolitan Area.

What resources have been invested in Port Crosby to date?

Land Acquisition

- $1 million: $500,000 – LCMR State Aid.
  $500,000 – Direct City Funding.

Vehicle Bridge Construction

- $2.25 million: $1.58 million – Municipal State Aid.
  $546,000 - Union Pacific Railroad.
  $124,000 - Direct City Funding for Bridge Feasibility Study.

Park Planning/Design – Direct City funding.

- $52,200: $12,200 - 2001 Prelim. park design.
  $40,000 - 2005 Park Master Plan.

What resources have been invested in Port Crosby to date?

North Urban Regional Trail Construction in So. St. Paul

- $7.65 million: $2.8 million Federal Funding.
  $3.2 million State Funding.
  $1.65 million Direct City Funding.

Simon's Ravine Trailhead Construction

- $200,000 - Direct City Funding and local donations (currently under construction).

Engineering & Environmental Services - Closure Plan

- $200,000 – 2005 State Bonding Bill (hiring in process).

Funding Opportunities to Continue Port Crosby Closure

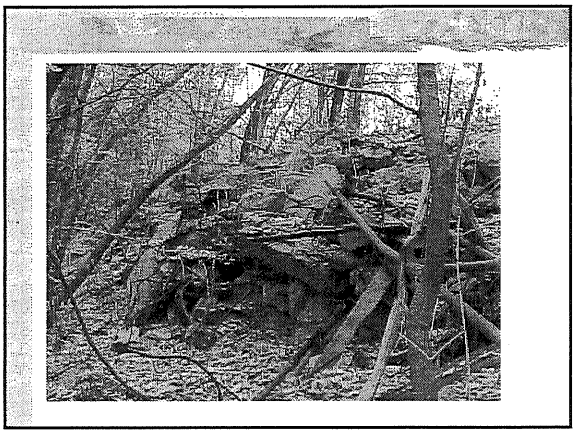
- **$2.5 million** from 2005 Bonding Bill for completion of shoreline stabilization (Phase I of closure).
- A drainage ditch running through the property from Simon's Ravine to the river must be closed. The City of South St. Paul has budgeted **$600,000** through the Capital Improvement Plan.
- Port Crosby must be capped with a substantial amount of fill in order to make it safe and useable. **$4.5 million** still needed to complete the closure of the entire site.

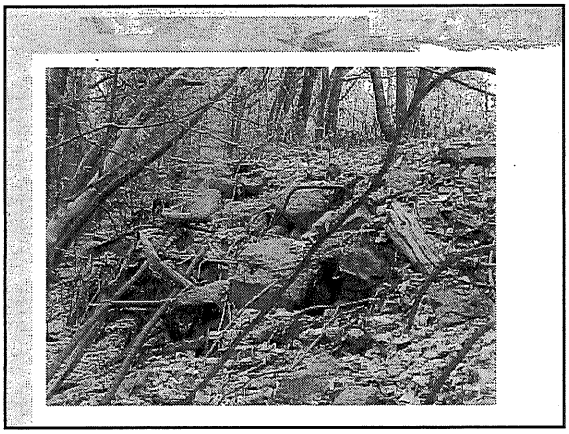
Physical Challenges to Development

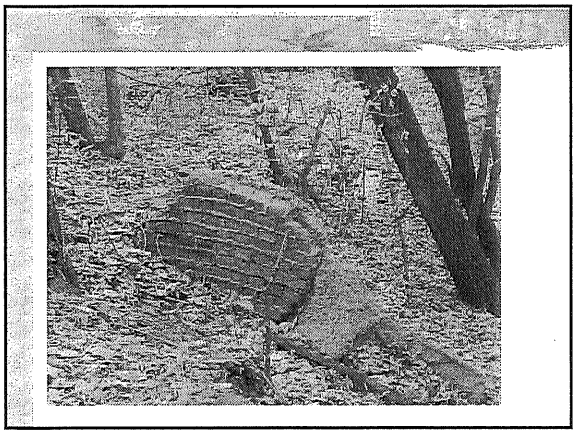
Port Crosby is a demolition landfill that requires closure in order to develop the site safely for regional public purpose. Challenges include:

- Exposed Concrete and Rebar
- Shoreline Restoration
- Voids
- Drainage Ditch Closure

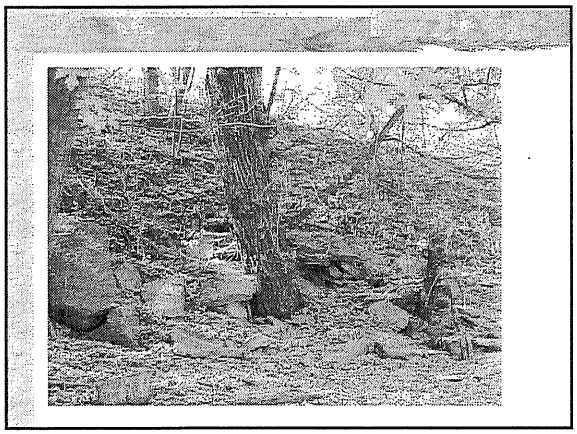
Concrete & Rebar Exposure

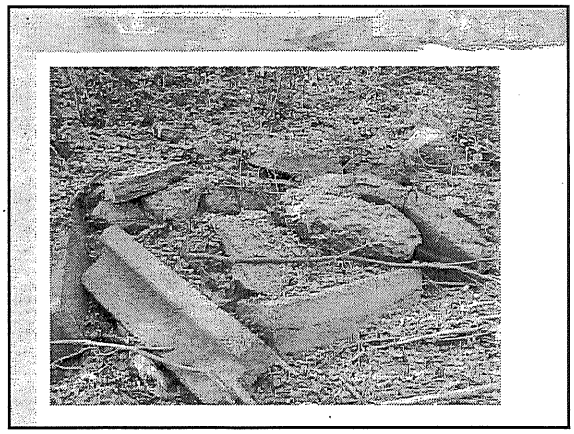




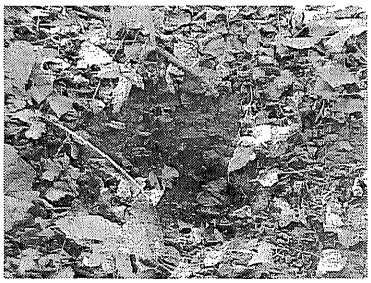


Shoreline Restoration





Voids



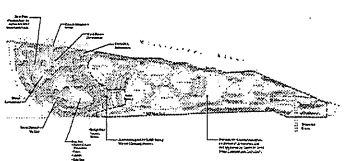
The Next Steps to Complete Closure

Why is $4.5 million needed to finish the closure of this site?

- To clear brush and trees from property.
- To haul at least 400,000 cubic yards of fill onto the site to complete closure.
- To rough grade the site for future development and regional public use.
- Estimated Cost = $4,500,000.

After Port Crosby Closure...

The City of South St. Paul is committed to designing a regional park serving the needs of residents and visitors to northern Dakota County. A mix of active and passive recreation areas will provide the public with attractive and unique uses of this 87 acres.



After Port Crosby Closure...

South St. Paul has invested $52,200 in long range park planning, including a Park Master Plan for Port Crosby.. Because of the extensive time required for closure, the City will have ample opportunities for exploring park development funding sources, including:

- Park Dedication
- Grants
- Capital Improvement Program
- Local Referendum
- Private Donations

How Long Will Closure Take?

2006 – Complete engineering and closure design. Begin shoreline restoration, vegetation removal, and closure of drainage ditch.

2007 – Complete shoreline restoration, vegetation removal, and closure of drainage ditch.

2008 – If funding allows, begin final closure of the site, with completion by 2010.

2011 –Begin park construction…

Port Crosby Project Summary

- $11.35 M already spent for acquisition, planning, and construction of Port Crosby projects, with $2.5 M coming from City of South St. Paul.
- $2.3 M currently funding on-going Port Crosby projects.
- $4.5 M required for completion of Port Crosby closure to enable regional public use of this river front park area.
- With this $4.5 M 2006 Bonding Bill request, no further funding requests for site closure.

Senators Frederickson, Vickerman and Kubly introduced--
S.F. No. 352: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for the Lake Redwood Reservoir Reclamation and Enhancement project.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

$1,600,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency for a grant to the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers control area, a joint powers entity, to predesign, design, construct, and equip the reservoir reclamation and enhancement of the 66-acre Lake Redwood Reservoir to increase its depth from 2.8 feet to 15 feet to remove 650,000 cubic yards of sediment, to attain compliance with both turbidity and fecal coliform impairments for the project area, and to secure renewable energy capacity of the hydroelectric dam which is impeded by lack of water capacity.

The appropriation is not available until the commissioner determines that an equal amount has been committed to the project from nonstate sources. The nonstate portion will provide low interest loans for 173 noncompliant septic systems that are imminent health threats and provide technical assistance to reduce phosphorus loading to the Redwood River to assist total maximum daily load (TMDL) compliance of the low-dissolved oxygen impairment on the lower Minnesota River.

Sec. 2. [BOND SALE.]

To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $1,600,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.

REDWOOD RIVER

CLEAN WATER PROJECT

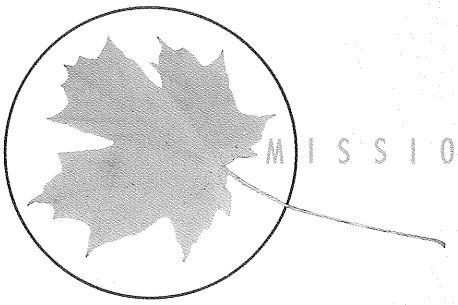
2001

EVOLUTION of WATERSHED RESTORATION

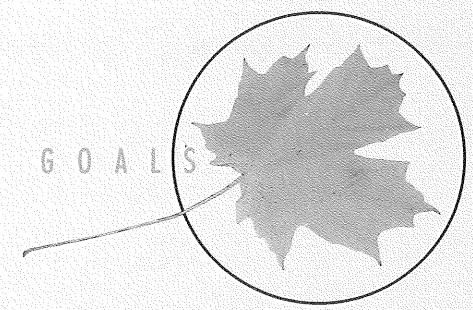
THE TRIUMPHS, OBSTACLES, AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM IMPLEMENTING WATERSHED BASED MANAGEMENT ON THE REDWOOD RIVER. AN INFORMATIVE GUIDE!

MISSION & GOALS

The Redwood River Clean Water Project is a program of the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area.



The mission of the Redwood River Clean Water Project is to create awareness and appreciation for the value of a clean Redwood River, promote watershed identity, and cooperatively achieve land use changes necessary to restore the river's health.



- Reduce sediment and nutrients by 15% - 30%.
- Expand game fishery habitat and fishing opportunities.
- Reduce peak flow and improve flow stability.

Table of Contents

Redwood River
Clean Water Project

Acknowledgements

- 160 Landowners/Operators who established BMPs
- Watershed Residents
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) (Brown, Cottonwood, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, Yellow Medicine)
- County Environmental Offices (Brown, Cottonwood, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, Yellow Medicine)
- County Water Planners (Brown, Cottonwood, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, Yellow Medicine)
- Area II, Minnesota River Basin Projects, Inc.
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
- Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board (MNRBJPB)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- University of Minnesota Extension Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

RCRCA

Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

Lake Redwood Reservoir Reclamation and Enhancement Project

HF311/SF352 (Siefert/Frederickson)

Purpose of this Bonding proposal is to:

1. Maintain and enhance an alternative energy resource through hydroelectric power generation
2. Capture and treat pollutants that will help treat TMDL impairments in the Redwood and Minnesota Rivers

State of Minnesota Significance:

Alternative Energy Resource

This project will help the City of Redwood Falls maintain and enhance hydroelectric power production of one of the longest producing hydroelectric dams in the State of Minnesota.

- City of Redwood Falls generates an average 1,650,000 KWh per year saving the City of Redwood Falls from purchasing $95,000 of electricity annually
- This prevents 660 tons of coal or approximately 7 train cars that would have to be burned to generate the same 1,650,000 KWh
- Reclamation of the reservoir will also save 730 hours of maintenance or an additional $18,000 annually

Meeting EPA and State of Minnesota TMDL Standards

- Makes use of the reservoir as a filter (settling basin) to treat TMDL impairments and meet State and Federal clean water guidelines
- Currently there are Fecal, Dissolved Oxygen, Phosphorus and Turbidity TMDL impairments on the Redwood and Minnesota Rivers
- Reclamation of the Reservoir to 15 feet by removing 650,000 cubic yards will increase residence time (time it takes in-flow water to reach the dam) from approximately 4 days to greater than the 14 day requirement reinstating lake status and mandating compliance of the treatment of 1mg/L effluent limit on NPDES permitted point source contributors
- The increased residence time will allow greater sunlight UV treatment reducing fecal coliform levels below the State threshold of 200 colony forming units/100ml
- Increased residence time will also decrease Turbidity in the Minnesota River by trapping 16,500 tons of suspended sediment and 11 tons of sediment bound Phosphorus annually
- Matching fund reduction outcomes for upland treatment are projected to be 60 tons of phosphorus, 75 tons of nitrates and 51,646 tons of sediment
- Over a conservative 55 year lifespan, the reservoir will have captured 907,500 tons of sediment and 605 tons of phosphorus
- Total reductions of the reclamation with upland treatment match dollars are projected to be 959,146 tons of sediment and 655 tons of phosphorus

These reductions will aid in the treatment of TMDL impairments in the Minnesota River Basin and help reduce the pollutant impact on Lake Pepin. This project will have a positive and significant impact on the State of Minnesota!

Regional Significance

Historical Importance

The dam was built in 1902 by A.C. Burmiester who was quoted in the May 9, 1900 edition of the Redwood Gazette saying, "The idea is to dam the river at a point 100 feet south of the bridge... It is to be built high enough to flood all of the land that is to be purchased, and hence will form a beautiful lake, which is to be stocked with fish and which can be used for boating, bathing and other purposes..."

The Lake is also connected to Ramsey Falls Park which was originally a State Park and purchased by the City of Redwood Falls for $1.00 in 1956.

Proposed Trail Hub

Lake Redwood (Perks Park) is proposed to be a bicycle trail-hub that connects the LCMR funded Casey Jones State Trail with Minnesota River Valley State Trail.

The Redwood River Clean Water Project

- Officially began in 1990 when an MPCA Clean Water Partnership Grant was received to diagnose the source of sedimentation up-stream from Lake Redwood
- In 1994, the Redwood River Clean Water Project received an MPCA CWP Phase II Implementation Grant to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Redwood River Diagnostic and Implementation Plan published in 1992
- Since 1994 the Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) has received $2,508,860 in Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 Funding in conjunction with funding from the Northwest Area Foundation and $652,016 in Minnesota River Funds through the Board of Water and Soil Resources
- By following the prioritized areas of the Implementation plan and utilizing the funds received between 1994 and the present in conjunction with Federal and State conservation programs, the loading to Lake Redwood has been reduced by 75 percent
- Conservation Projects were installed in all six of the eight RCRCA JPO Counties that contain portions of the Redwood River Watershed which include: Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood and Yellow Medicine
- Significant cooperation from project staff, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Area II, the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, DNR and Board of Water and Soil Resources made the project a success
- The individual Counties since 1994 have appropriated $868,142 to RCRCA to carry out the watershed projects

Local Significance

- Hydroelectric power generation yielding 1,650,000 KWh annually with a wholesale power savings of around $95,000 per year for the City of Redwood Falls
- The City of Redwood Falls currently maintains "Perks Park" adjacent west of the dam. Amenities include a shelter, playground equipment, restroom facilities and ball diamond. The park also serves as the parking lot and boat access to the lake
- Land use immediately around Lake Redwood is primarily residential
- Lake Redwood is one of two lakes in Redwood County and both are man made reservoirs

Lake Redwood Reservoir Reclamation and Enhancement Project

Lake Redwood has a 640 square mile watershed of the total 707 square mile TMDL listed Redwood River which drains portions of six counties before entering into the Minnesota River.

Water quality improvements to Redwood River watershed over past 20 years have enabled the Lake Redwood Reservoir to be reclaimed to a 15 foot average depth.

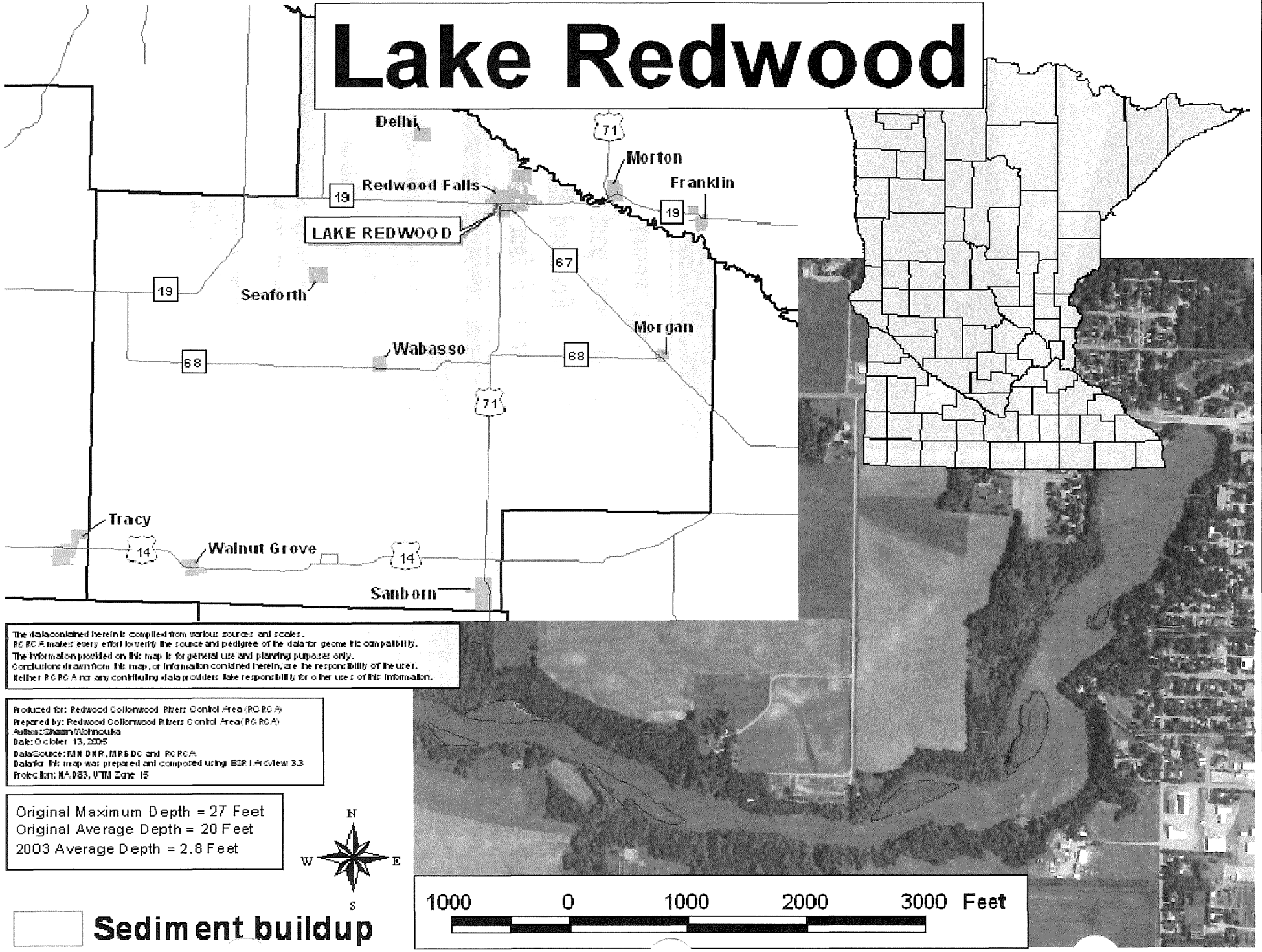
LAKE REDWOOD RESEVOIR PROJECT

- The reservoir reclamation and enhancement project will reclaim the capacity of Lake Redwood Reservoir, which has accumulated sediment over a period of 100 years. (House File #311 and Senate File #352)
- Currently the average depth of the reservoir is 4 feet with the original average being 20 feet
- Sedimentation rates have been decreased from 1.2 feet a year to 0.13 feet per year with upland treatment
- 650,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed and land applied
- Project will be in three Phases: Pre-design, Design and Construction from May 2006 through November 2009.
- Sediment corings were taken January 17, 2006 to be analyzed for pollutants and suitability for land application. $30,000 was contributed by RCRCA and the City of Redwood Falls for this task.
- Funding request for project will treat TMDL impairments and continue to provide hydro power to Redwood Falls as well as enhance recreational opportunities. Matching funds will provide low interest loan dollars for septic systems and technical assistance/cost share to reduce sediment and phosphorus from reaching the Redwood River and ultimately Lake Redwood.

- **Total Bonding requested: $1,600,000**

PROJECT PARTNERS: *Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (8 County/SWCD JPO); City of Redwood Falls and others.*

Lake Redwood



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Produced for: Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA)
Prepared by: Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA)
Author: Ghasim Wahnoulka
Date: October 13, 2005
Data Source: MN DNR, MPSDC and RCRCA
Data for this map was prepared and computed using ESRI ArcView 3.3
Projection: NAD83, UTM Zone 15

Original Maximum Depth = 27 Feet
Original Average Depth = 20 Feet
2003 Average Depth = 2.8 Feet

Sediment buildup

Lake Redwood Reservoir Reclamation and Enhancement Project
Bonding Request

1) LGU Name: ***Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area JPO***

2) Title: Lake Redwood Reservoir Reclamation and Enhancement Project

3) Project Priority: 1st

4) Location: Lake Redwood, near the City of Redwood Falls, MN in Redwood County.

Note: The 640 square mile watershed of the TMDL listed Redwood River drains portions of six (6) counties (Redwood, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, and Yellow Medicine) into the 66 acre Lake Redwood before discharging to the Minnesota River.

5) Total Project Cost: $3,200,000

6) Request for State funds in 2006: $ 1,600,000

7) Additional State funds to be requested in 2007: none

8) Additional State funds to be requested in 2008: none

9) Non-State funds available to contribute to the project: $ 1,600,000 - Federal 319 CWA

Lake Redwood Reservoir Reclamation and Enhancement Project
Bonding Request

10) Project Description:

This request is for $1,600,000 in State funding to provide 50% of a $3,200,000 project that will treat TMDL impairments of turbidity and fecal coliform, continue to provide hydroelectic power for the City of Redwood Falls and increase recreational opportunities for Redwood Falls Area residents. The State funding will cover costs of spoil spread easments, predesign, design and construction of the reservoir reclamation. The match portion will provide low interest loan dollars for 173 non-compliant septic systems that have been deemed emminent health threats and provide technical assistance and cost share dollars to reduce phosphorus loading to the Redwood River to assist TMDL compliance of the low dissolved oxygen impairment on the lower Minnesota River.

The Redwood River is currently listed with turbidity and fecal coliform impairments for the project area. Reclaiming capacity of the reservoir will help attain compliance for both impairments. Based on 13 years of sampling above Lake Redwood and current sediment delivery rates, the estimated life of the project will be 75 years before maintenance will have to be performed in 2081. In that time it will trap 650,000 cubic yards of sediment, 709 tons of phosphorus and have had 55 years of increased residence time of the Redwood River allowing for ultraviolate treatment of pathogens before they reach the Minnesota River.

Reduction outcomes are estimated to be 60 tons of phosphorus, 75 tons of nitrates and 51,646 tons of sediment for BMPs implemented above the reservoir with the matching funds. Total reductions including the sediment trapping of the reservoir would put reductions of 655 tons of phosphorus, 75 tons of nitrates, and 959,146 tons of sediment. Conservatively spreading the reductions over 55 years this would yield an annual reduction of 11.91 tons per year of phosphorus, 1.36 tons of nitrates and 17,439 tons of sediment. This project alone would reduce average annual loadings from the Redwood River to the Minnesota by 37% in sediment and 17% in phosphorus annually over 55 years of treatment.

With new programs such as the Conservation Security Program (CSP) and continual conservation treatment through current and future conservation programs, the life expectancy of the project and treatment efficiencies should increase over time. Average sediment loadings from 1992 to present have decreased by 70% due to implementation of CREP, RIM, CRP, EQIP and on going 319 CWA/BWSR State cost share structural best management practices. If this trend continues, the benefits of this project could be realized well past the year 2081.

With looming TMDL compliance issues, we are in a unique situation to treat them using the reservoir. This is an opportunity that is not available to other rivers in the Minnesota River Basin. This project will help attain the State of Minnesota's commitment to achieving TMDL compliance not to mention regional and local significance of natural/clean hydroelectric power and an improved recreational resource.

Lake Redwood Reservoir Reclamation and Enhancement Project
Bonding Request

11) Project owners/operators:

Project Owner: City of Redwood Falls (Dam & Hydroelectric Power Generation)

Project Sponsor: Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area JPO

Project Manager: James Doering, Executive Director

Affiliation: Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

Mailing Address: 1241 E. Bridge St., Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Telephone Number: 507-637-2142

E-Mail: Jim.Doering@mn.nacdnet.net

Fax: 507-637-2134

Web Address: http://www.rcrca.com/

12) Cost Break Down: State Fund Request

Equipment:	$ 150,000
Pre-design:	$ 162,120
Design:	$ 90,380
Construction:	$ 1,197,500
Total State Funds :	$ 1,600,000

Cost Break Down: Match

Pre-design through Construction:

TMDL Phosphorus Reduction:	$ 1,040,000
Non-point BMP implemetnation:	$ 600,000
Total matching funds:	$ 1,640,000

13) Project Area:

Reservoir Reclamation of 66 acres.

Current depth average of 4 feet

Project removal of 650,000 cubic yards of sediment will increase depth to 15 feet.

Lake Redwood Reservoir Reclamation and Enhancement Project
Bonding Request

14) Project Schedule: May 2006 through November 2011.

Predesign: May 2006 through November 2006

Design: December 2006 through April 2007

Construction: May 2007 through November 2011

15) Additional State Operating Dollars:

No new operating dollars would be requested for completion of this project. Maintenance should not have to be performed until 2081.

Future non-compliant TMDL reaches may be identified for parameters other than turbidity, phosphorus and fecal coliform. At that point additional implementation funding would be requested through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's 319 Clean Water Act non-point source pollution program to implement additional conservation practices needed above and below the reservoir. Other conservation implementation programs offered through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Army Corp of Engineers (USACOE), Legislative Commission for Minnesota Resources (LCMR) and other private funding sources will be considered. Utilization of current conservation programs such as Federal EQIP, CRP, Continuous CRP and State of Minnesota RIM, and SWCD programs will be maintained throughout the life of the project.

16) Enclosed Resolutions and Project letters of Support

See enclosures.

17) Project Contact:

Project Manager: James Doering, Executive Director

Affiliation: Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

Mailing Address: 1241 E. Bridge St., Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Telephone Number: 507-637-2142

E-Mail: Jim.Doering@mn.nacdnet.net

Fax: 507-637-2134

Web Address: http://www.rcrca.com/

Lake Redwood Reservoir Reclamation and Enhancement Project
Bonding Request

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS:

PRE-DESIGN PHASE

Result 1 *"Public Education, Outreach and Information"*

Budget: $ 34,100

Six (6) public meetings will be held in Redwood Falls to update the public on the progress of the plan and to promote the project. All partners will have a role in the outreach and education component. A sign identifying this project as a recipient of funding through State Bonding Appropriations will be constructed and located at an appropriate location on Lake Redwood and stay in place for the duration of the project.

Personnel : $ 30,100

Development : $ 4,000

Result 2 *"Sediment Testing/Removal Technique Determination"*

Budget: $ 40,420

Sediment samples will be taken from various locations within the lake and analyzed for the presence of pollutants. Sediment removal techniques will be investigated including hydraulic dredging, dewatering and mechanical removal. Outcomes will be the suitability for disposal of dredge material and preferred method of removal. This result will determine the sediment sampling protocal; the types of pollutants to be tested as well as the general particle size of the material; the evaluation of the removal techniques and the costs.

Personnel : $ 26,600

Equipment : $ 6,820

Development : $ 7,000

Result 3 *"Reclamation Disposal Site Determination and Easement"*

Budget: $ 87,600

Identifying dredge spoil repository sites and necessary easements will be completed. This would involve RCRCA's Director and a consultant. Outcomes will be a feasible reclamation plan with spoil easements.

This result will determine eligible spoil repository sites adjacent to project area; will provide a literature review of previous studies, monitoring data and models performed on the project area; will determine re-engineering opportunities for the dam; will provide secure easements for the priority spoil repository sites.

Personnel: $ 45,100

Easements: $ 42,500

Lake Redwood Reservoir Reclamation and Enhancement Project
Bonding Request

DESIGN PHASE

Result 4 *"Engineering/Permitting"*

Budget: $ 50,000

Project engineering and method development, dewatering impoundment survey and design, erosion control practice determination and design, park landscaping/design and completing all necessary permit requests.

Personnel : $ 50,000

Result 5 *"Creation of Construction Documents, GIS Layers and Budget"*

Budget: $ 17,080

Dredge plan construction documents for the dredging project and the spoils repository site will be developed. Specific GIS layers including the bathymetry of the current condition and a GIS data layer of the expected lake bottom will also be created. This result will deliver all Construction Documents and a Bid package.

Personnel : $ 17,080

Result 6 *"Final Design Public Report and Lake Restoration Plan"*

Budget: $ 23,300

A final report of the findings of all Pre-design and Design results will be created and hard copies made for each partner for a total of ten (10) copies. All partners will also receive a CD of the final report and it will be posted on the RCRCA website for viewing by the public.

Personnel : $ 18,300

Development: $ 5,000

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Result 7 *"Reservoir Reclamation"*

Budget: $ 1,287,500

This result will include reservoir capacity restoration, spoil site development, erosion control implementation and dredge purchase.

Personnel: $ 1,137,500

Equipment: $ 150,000

Lake Redwood Reservoir Reclamation and Enhancement Project
Bonding Request

Result 8 *"Park enhancements (Fishing pier/Boat ramp/Beach-Park Equipment)"*

Budget: $ 60,000

Park enhancements will be made to accommodate the increased recreational usage due to the reclamation of the reservoir. The boat ramp and dock will be replaced. A fishing pier will be installed and landscaping will be done to improve parking and beach accessibility. The playground equipment will also be upgraded.

Personnel: $ 5,000

Development: $ 5,000

Equipment: $ 50,000

TOTAL BONDING PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET: $1,600,000

PREFACE

Lake Redwood, a sixty-seven acre reservoir in Redwood Falls, was established by construction of a dam across the Redwood River in 1902. The privately owned dam was intended to generate electrical power for use by area residents. In 1946 the Redwood Falls Public Utilities Department purchased the dam and incorporated its hydroelectric capabilities into the municipal power generating system.

In 1934, the Minnesota Department of Highways constructed a reinforced concrete bridge over the top of the dam that resulted in certain structural and hydraulic modifications. The permanent crest of the dam was raised 2.4 feet in 1957-58 following damage sustained during the June 1957 flood. Additional repairs to the dam were made in 1987 and it continues to function as a waterpower project.

Lake Redwood originally provided local residents with many recreational activities including swimming, fishing and boating. In fact, according to the lake's creator, Mr. A.C. Burmeister, as quoted in the May 9, 1900 edition of the Redwood Gazette:

"The idea is to dam the river at a point 100 feet south of the bridge... It is to be built high enough to flood all of the land that is to be purchased, and hence will form a beautiful lake, which is to be stocked with fish, and which can be used for boating, bathing and other purposes..." *(This quote is contained in U.S. Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, National Dam Safety Program Inspection Report, October 1978.)*

According to most accounts, including those contained in the Redwood Gazette articles and testimony of long time area residents, the lake was a valuable community resource for several decades following its creation. It was a popular place for people to congregate and engage in various recreational activities. As time went on, however, local recognition grew regarding the lake's gradual accumulation of silt and the inevitable results this would entail. (When the flood of record occurred in 1957, community awareness of the lake's condition was dramatically heightened.) An editorial in the July 2, 1957 edition of the Gazette stated that "the problem of what to do about Lake Redwood, steadily filling with silt from upstream, has been facing Redwood Falls for a long time although action might have been postponed several years if it had not been for the flood of last month." The writer goes on to say "the high water not only brought in a generous load of new rich mud, but it carried away a rather sizable portion of the dam... Repairing the dam... is a must for the City's appearance, if not its health... While it may be a costly operation, certainly few residents would care to see the lake become a mud flat with a tiny stream flowing through at most seasons."

"The idea is to dam the river at a point 100 feet south of the bridge... It is to be built high enough to flood all of the land that is to be purchased, and hence will form a beautiful lake..."

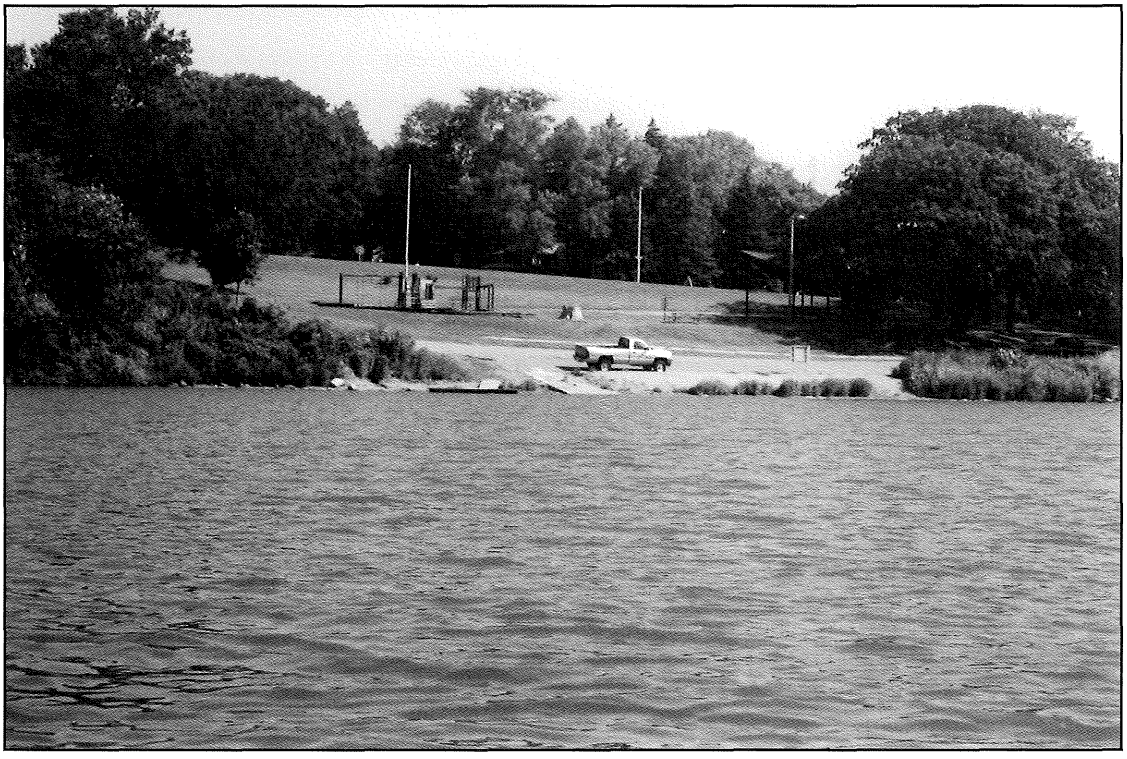
Following the disastrous 1957 flood, there were numerous difficulties to overcome before the dam could be repaired. Finally, in November, reconstruction began with complete restoration accomplished before the following February. Although the dam had been saved and in fact would be able to withstand the second largest flood of record in April 1969, the health of the lake was in jeopardy.

By the 1970's, Lake Redwood was of only marginal usefulness. Fish populations were steadily decreasing in spite of regular stocking programs. Boating was hazardous due to shallow water, and swimming became almost out of the question. Activity in and around the lake was declining and would continue to decline through the 1980's into the 1990's.

A series of meetings were held by the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) to gather local perceptions of the lake and about possible actions to restore the lake's health. Many people at the initial meeting and through the course of subsequent discussions talked about the lake's past recreational value arguing that immediate actions were required if the lake was to be improved. It was commonly believed that conditions were steadily getting worse.

Many questions about the lake were asked during these early discussions, questions that couldn't be answered satisfactorily. What is the quality of the water in the lake? How does it compare to ten, twenty or thirty years ago? Where is all of the sediment coming from? How is it getting into the lake, and what can be done to slow it down? How have the land use changes in the watershed affected water quality? If we dredge the lake, how long before it fills in again?

With only limited historical water quality data to rely upon, finding acceptable answers to many of these questions seemed difficult at best. Judging from people's perceptions, the lake was decidedly worse now than it was in the not too distant past. But how much worse and for what reasons? *(Excerpt from the 1993 Redwood River Final Report.)*



Lake Redwood in Redwood Falls, Minnesota

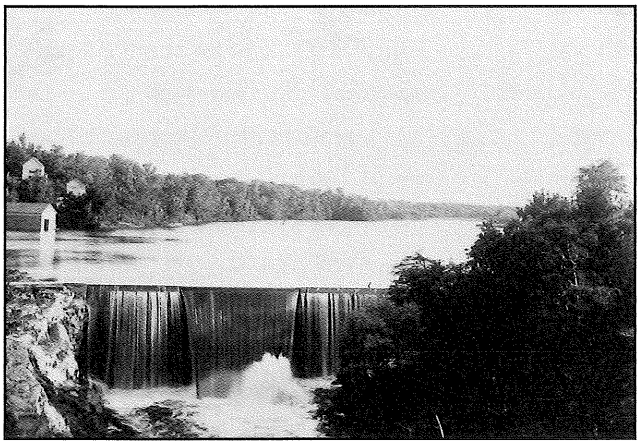
The Redwood River Clean Water Project (CWP) was conceived as a plan to reduce sediment and nutrient delivery to the Redwood River and Lake Redwood. Concern over sedimentation in the lake first received public expression in the early 1960s leading to several short-lived attempts to develop and implement restoration plans. Those early attempts to improve lake conditions emphasized in-lake treatments and failed to acknowledge upstream contributions from the 640 square mile watershed draining into the lake. This lack of support from the broader watershed community coupled with over-reliance on the enthusiasm and commitment of a few lakeshore residents resulted in a quick loss of momentum for these efforts.

In the mid 1980s, Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) accepted responsibility for leading the effort to develop and implement a plan to help restore Lake Redwood. This action was important because, in contrast to earlier attempts, it provided a formal structure for conducting lake and watershed assessments, raising money, and gaining watershed-wide public support. Organized through a joint powers agreement, the membership of RCRCA includes all the counties and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) with land in the Redwood River Watershed. This meant the full range of actions needed to address lake and river conditions would fall under the jurisdiction of one organization.

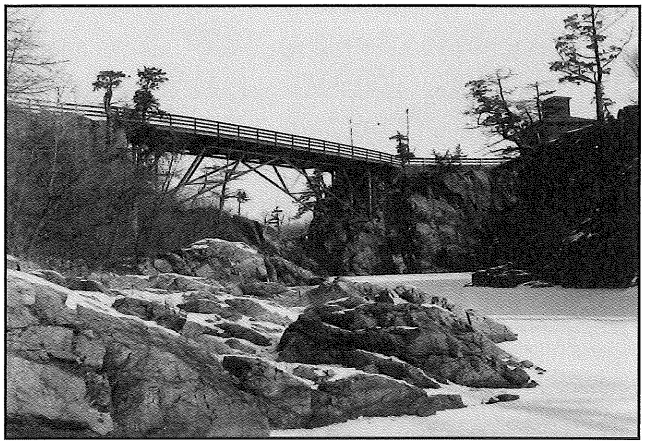
The Redwood River Watershed plan adopted in 1993 was based on three years worth of sampling data and land use assessments of the watershed. This work was financed by a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and contributions of RCRCA member counties and the City of Redwood Falls. To achieve planning goals and objectives, central importance was assigned to reducing polluted runoff from agricultural land, far and away the greatest land use activity in the watershed.

An underlying assumption of the project's work plan was that existing land treatment programs were being under-utilized and not applied in a watershed context. At the time the plan was developed it was obvious federal and state funds to protect water quality were not finding their way to the Redwood River Watershed. Secondly, it was apparent that funds were in adequate supply and readily accessible in cases where project sponsors had done a good job of evaluating water quality and had designed a reasonable implementation plan. Finally, resource professionals involved in the planning process uniformly pointed to technical assistance as a critical variable in promoting land treatment adoption rates.

The work plan therefore stressed use of existing programs to fund land treatment practices, but to more effectively capitalize on these programs two additional conditions needed to be met: first, willing participants (landowners) were needed, and, second, adequate technical assistance had to be available to design and install these practices. If these three variables came together (sufficient funds for land treatment, willing landowners, and adequate technical assistance) then, it was reasoned, the cleanup of Lake Redwood and the Redwood River would be successful. Because cost-share assistance for practices was already available, the initial stage of the project emphasized technical assistance along with outreach activities designed to accelerate participation rates. Outreach activities were generally over looked by most grants and government funding programs and were not eligible expenses at the time. Here the predominant use of Northwest Area Foundation (NWAF) funds were used to strengthen and enhance information/education activities, expand technical services, improve project evaluation, and accelerate watershed improvements.



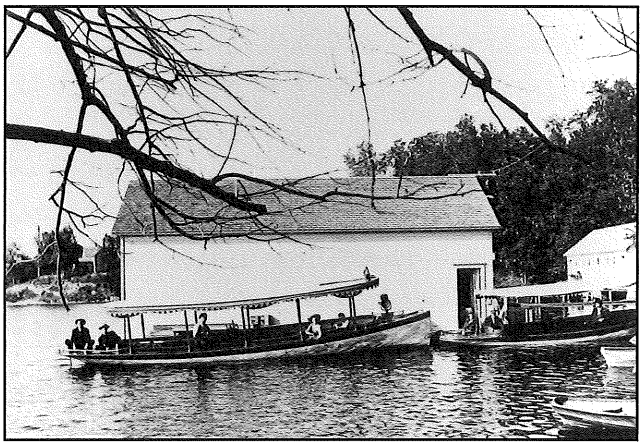
Lake Redwood, currently a 67-acre reservoir in Redwood Falls was created in 1902 by a dam across the Redwood River. The purpose of the dam was to generate electrical power for use by area residents. The original owner of the dam, A.C. Burmeister, envisioned a lake offering many recreational opportunities along with a source of electrical power.



"The Redwood River, which rises in the Coteau des Prairies, meanders along until it plunges over granite ledges into a spectacular heavily wooded gorge, flows down an irregular valley and moves between the banks of heavy soil to the Minnesota."

From the book, "Redwood-The Story of a County"
by Wayne E. Webb and J.I. Swedberg

Lake Redwood in 1902 was 27 feet deep at the dam, by 1994 the lake was on average 2.8 feet deep with sediment filling it in at an average of 36 dump truck loads every day.



Recreational opportunities on Lake Redwood in the early 1900s. The boathouse was used to ferry Sunday picnickers up stream.

The Redwood River at it's source near Ruthton, Minnesota.

Water quality not only affects humans, but wildlife as well, such as waterfowl seen here at Lake Benton.

Tile inlet discharge into the Redwood River immediately after a storm event.

Same inlet discharging one week after the storm event.

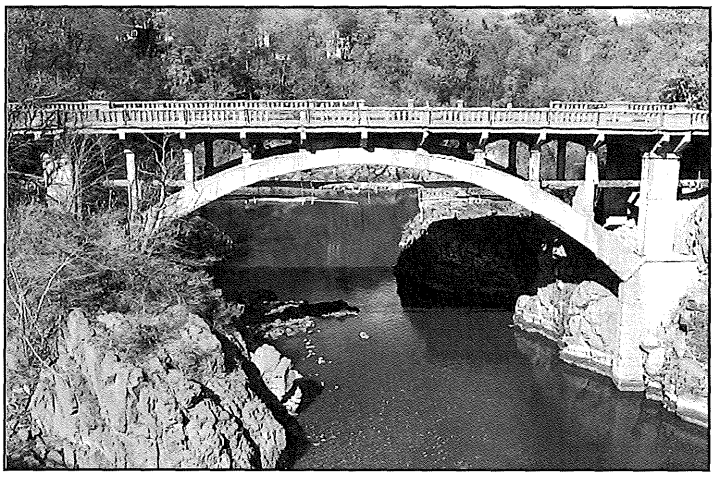
As we look back to 1990 after the assessments, the meetings, the news articles, and the promotions; after changes in land use practices in parts of the watershed; and after all of us have worked hard to instill a sense of awareness, appreciation and identity within the Redwood River Watershed, can we say that the river is any different than it was? *(Has the Redwood River Changed-Indicators of Watershed Health, 1997.)*

The phosphorus reduction alone has the potential to reduce algae and plant growth by 9,788 million pounds, or approximately 5,000 tons per year. These reductions in sediment and nutrient delivery are being accomplished in conjunction with actions taken by project partners such as SWCDs, NRCS, FSA, DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Area 11 Minnesota Projects, Inc., counties, and others. These partners have established road retention structures, enrolled land in the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and have been instrumental in expanding the acreage contained within Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs).

Measuring success of the Redwood River Clean Water Project was done throughout the project.

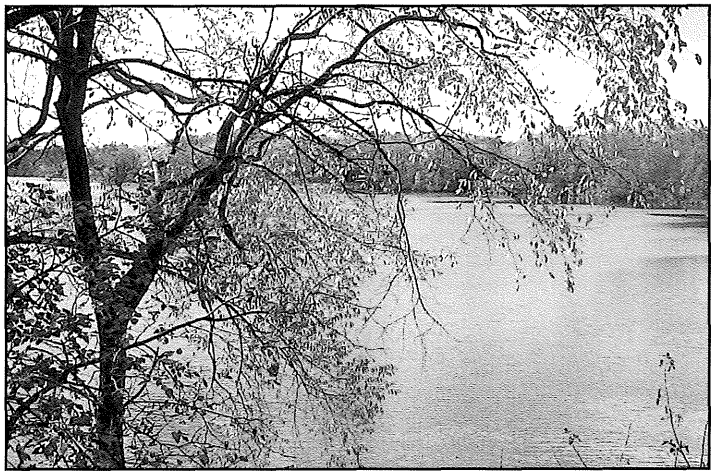
To facilitate change, watershed residents must understand that action should be taken and their conviction to take action must be induced through education and increased awareness of identified problems in the watershed.

Watershed restoration is often misinterpreted as a measure of chemical and physical changes made in the watershed, failing to realize these changes cannot be made without focusing on and altering sociological norms. Overcoming sociological hurdles and having conservation programs available to offset the costs of implementing conservation is the recipe for success. As society demands a cleaner environment and more places for recreation, society as a whole must help offset the monetary investment that is required to institute the needed conservation changes.



The Redwood River Clean Water Project set out in 1994 to accelerate best management practice adoption and reduce sediment and nutrients up to thirty percent (30%). Six years later, we are pleased to record a reduction well over the thirty percent original goal in sediment delivery to the lake. This report illustrates in graphical form a declining trend in the amount of sediment and nutrients carried by the Redwood River. An increased sense of stewardship and volunteer watershed resident participation was the driving force behind the accelerated adoption of land use practices that steadily improved the Redwood River Watershed.

its watershed. During the past six years, over 160 conservation-minded landowners and operators have participated with the project to establish over 350 best management practices (BMPs) throughout the watershed and the number is still climbing. These 160 landowners adopted practices that have the potential to reduce soil loss by 24,169 tons per year. This savings will prevent 16,332 tons of sediment per year from reaching surface water and 24,470 pounds of phosphorus from entering surface water (Figures 1.4 - 1.6). There are many different ways to measure project success. The key is



"Has the river gotten better?" The answer is emphatically yes! Has the project accomplished what it has set out to do? Again, the answer is absolutely yes! The project rose out of a recognition that to improve the Redwood River you have to improve

to identify major indicators of success early on and to devise ways of measuring progress. Project goals and objectives must also be reviewed periodically and adjusted to reflect new developments and changing circumstances.

Throughout the course of the Redwood River Clean Water Project several different techniques were used to record and measure success. Data bases were established to track landowner contacts and the time investment that was made to promote awareness and educate watershed residents on the value and need to protect the Redwood River Watershed. Water quality data were collected and analyzed to help measure progress toward water quality goals. A best management practice (BMP) tracking system was created to record the installation of BMPs. Because citizen attitudes and beliefs are important indicators of success, survey research was used to measure how these attitudes and opinions changed in the three years between the onset of the project, 1995, and 1998. From 1994 through 2000, 30,876 acres of CRP have been established in the Redwood River Watershed, and additional 3,673 acres of permanent RIM easements have been established in the Redwood River Watershed. Through partner efforts, these programs have the potential to reduce sedimentation by 44,838 tons per year.

"Has the river gotten better?" The answer is emphatically yes!

Combining this with the effort of the 160 landowners working with the CWP, we are realizing a sediment reduction of 61,170 tons per year with a 69,528 pounds per year reduction in phosphorus. The phosphorus reduction has the potential to reduce 28 million pounds of algae in the Minnesota River Basin per year.

When looking at the watershed acres treated, overall about 48,523 acres have been treated with conservation practices from 1994 through the year 2000 (Figure 1.1). This represents thirteen percent (13%) of the total cultivated acres (385,669) in the watershed (Figure 1.2). ***This proves that by prioritizing the watershed and individual conservation projects, significant water quality changes can be realized by treating a relatively small portion of the watershed.*** This runs contrary to the perception that conservation initiatives and programs are trying to convert watersheds back to the tall grass prairie.

The average annual sediment load is the Redwood River between 1990-1992 was approximately 142,026 tons. The average annual load between 1997-2000 dropped to approximately 29,137 tons, nearly an eighty percent (80%) reduction. The question before us is how much of this reduction is from voluntarily adopted BMPs established from 1994-2000? A preliminary study done for the Minnesota River Assessment Project Report showed that an estimated thirty-three percent (33%) of sediment load in the Redwood River is from stream-bank and bed scouring. Removing thirty-three percent (33%) from the 1990-1992 and 1997-2000 average Flux loadings; a reasonable reduction product of 75,636 tons per year of sediment can be estimated. Approximate estimates show that 61,170 tons per year reduction (81%) can be attributed to the BMPs established by the project and participating partners. This leaves a nineteen percent (19%) reduction of 14,371 tons per year due to other variables such as climate, precipitation amount, duration and precipitation timing (before or after crop canopy). Keep in mind this is a generalization which warrants further investigation and study.

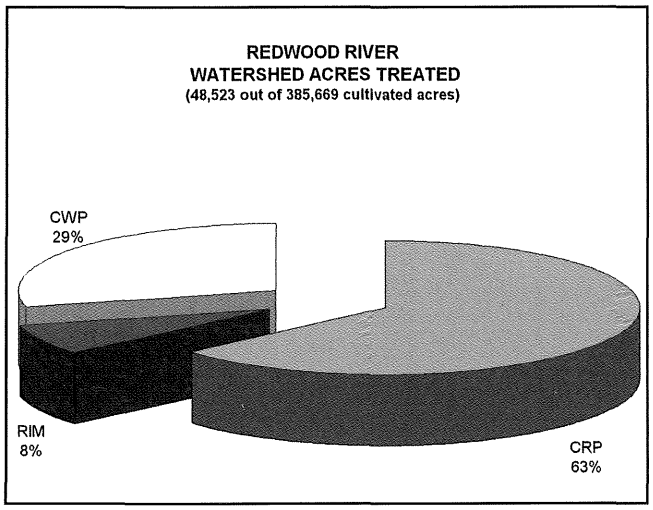


Figure 1.1 shows the conservation program break down of the 48,523 treated acres is the Redwood River Watershed.

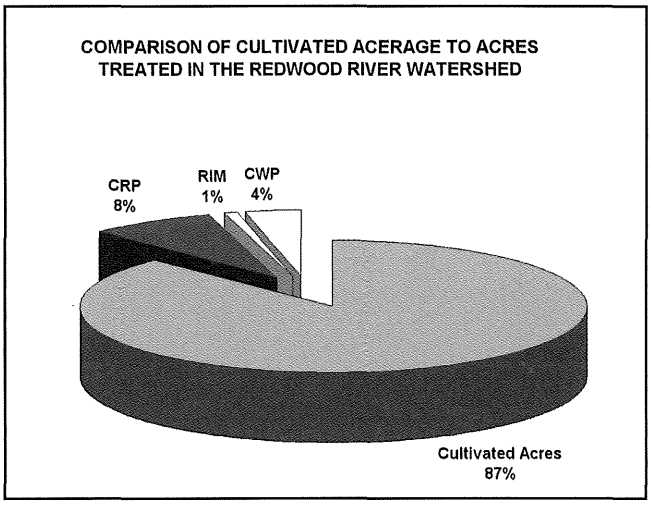


Figure 1.2 depicts the treated acre share of the total amount of cultivated land in the Redwood River Watershed.

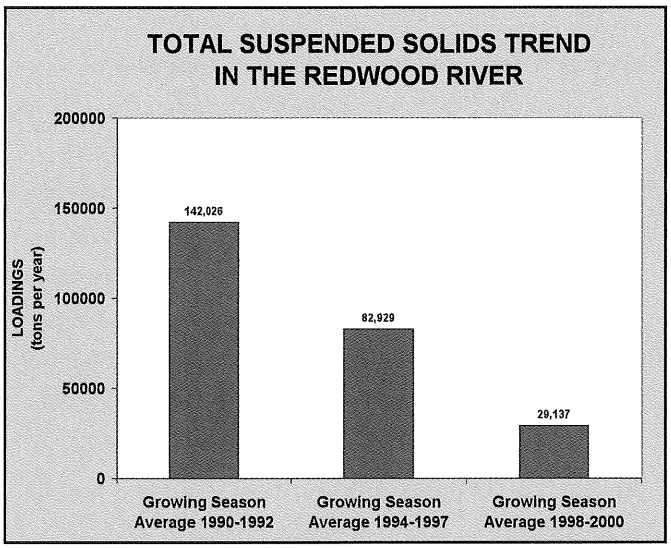


Figure 1.3 illustrates the successful downward trend in the amount of sediment reaching Lake Redwood over the project period. A monitoring program is key to identifying trends and providing supporting data for watershed management decisions.

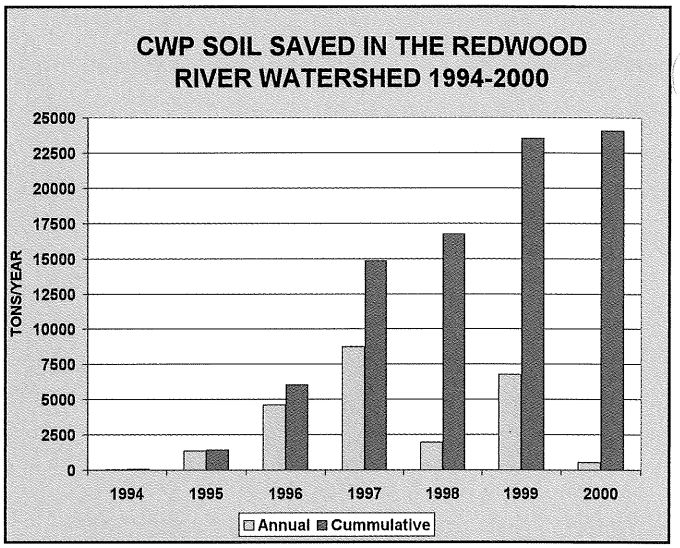


Figure 1.4 illustrates the annual amount of soil saved from established BMPs and the cumulative reduction amounts from BMPs established in prior years.

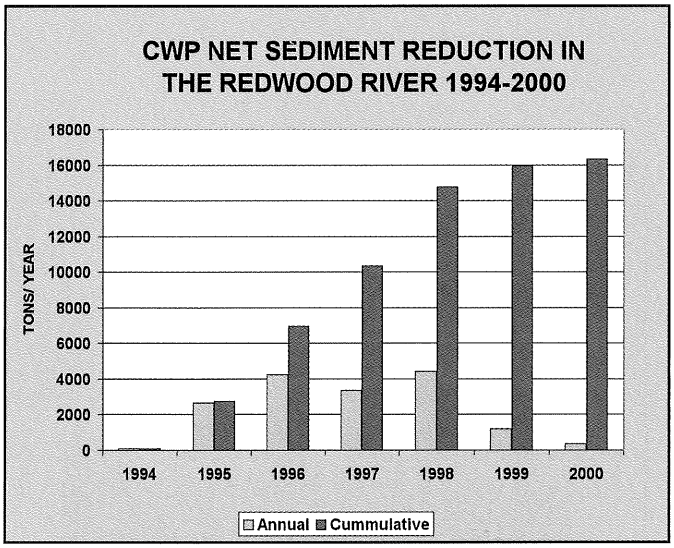


Figure 1.5 illustrates the annual amount of sediment reduction realized from established BMPs and the cumulative reduction amounts from BMPs established in prior years.

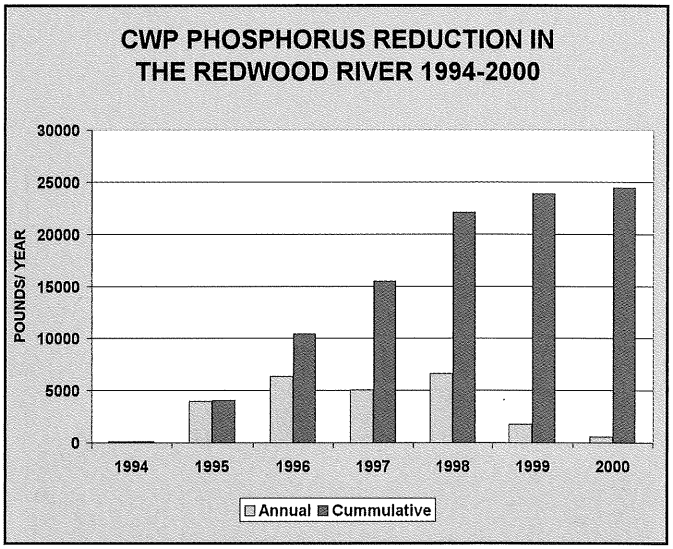


Figure 1.6 illustrates the annual amount of phosphorus saved from established BMPs and the cumulative reduction amounts from BMPs established in prior years.

Changes in Attitude Mark Progress

In 1995, an attitude survey of watershed residents was conducted to collect information about how residents felt about the Redwood River and its watershed. It then repeated in 1998 using the same questions and interview methods. This was done to determine changes in beliefs and values of watershed residents towards the Redwood River, the Clean Water Project and conservation in general. The survey questioned how residents felt about key issues, such as: problems with the Redwood River, if the Clean Water Project was worth doing, what should be done to clean up the river and what are residents willing to do to restore and protect the Redwood River Watershed.

This project is part of a six-year program to improve water quality in the Redwood River and Lake Redwood.

In order to have a successful project, watershed residents need to feel that there is a problem and that it needs to be corrected. Without that sense of conviction, voluntary programs will not work. We asked the following questions to find out how the residents viewed the river, if there was a problem and if it should be fixed:

1. **How polluted is the Redwood River?**
   The 1995 survey showed eighty-six percent (86%) felt the river was very to somewhat polluted. This increased slightly to eighty-eight percent (88%) in 1998.

2. **How concerned are you about whether the Redwood River is polluted?**
   Both years showed that eighty-nine percent (89%) of the watershed residents felt they were very to somewhat concerned about the river.

3. **Do you think something should be done to clean up the Redwood River?**
   1995 showed ninety percent (90%) and 1998 showed ninety-two percent (92%) of the residents surveyed felt that yes, something should be done to restore the river.

4. **Do you think something should be done to clean up the Redwood River?**
   The 1995 survey showed that fifty-eight percent (58%) felt that it would take four to five years or longer. The 1998 survey showed that sixty per cent (60%) of the watershed residents felt that it would take longer than four years to restore the Redwood River.

5. **Do you support, strongly support, oppose or strongly oppose these efforts to clean up the Redwood River?**
   A whopping ninety-four percent (94%) supported or strongly supported this effort in 1995. 1998 followed suit with ninety six-percent (96%) supporting or strongly supporting the project.

What was the perception watershed residents had of what needed to be done to reduce nonpoint source pollution? And with that, what were they willing to do voluntarily to ensure that the Clean Water Project was a success? To answer these questions we asked:

1. **What is the greatest threat to water quality in the Redwood River: agricultural pollutants, lawn chemicals, manufacturing companies, or something else?**

   In 1995, sixty-four percent (64%) felt that agricultural pollutants should be minimized and in 1998, fifty-four percent (54%) felt that agricultural pollutants should be minimized.

2. **Are you willing to pay higher taxes or have regulations on the use of private property to protect water quality in the Redwood River?**

   The 1995 survey showed that when asked about paying higher taxes fifty-eight percent (58%) said yes, and when asked about more regulation, seventy percent (70%) said yes. In 1998 sixty-three percent (63%) said yes they would pay higher taxes and seventy-seven percent (77%) said they would accept more regulations.

3. **To what extent do we have an obligation to protect the water quality for future generations on the Redwood River: quite a bit, somewhat, only a little, or not at all?**

   In 1995 ninety-eight percent (98%) responded that we do have an obligation to protect the water quality for future generations and in the 1998 survey, that ninety-eight percent (98%) was echoed again.

For a volunteer restoration program to be successful you must have the support and the conviction of the watershed residents. They will be instrumental in restoration planning, outreach activities and will be primarily responsible for voluntarily accomplishing the locally derived watershed goals. Our survey indicated that an overwhelming majority of watershed residents

felt the Redwood River was polluted and in dire need of attention. More importantly the Redwood River residents identified they were the ones who would make these changes even if it meant paying additional conservation assessments and accepting more regulation and enforcement of conservation laws. With the foundation of support illustrated by this survey, the project could proceed. The watershed wide project support would accelerate the adoption of conservation practices and would insure that the locally established goals would be accomplished voluntarily.

Winter scenes from the Redwood River.

Ramsey Falls at Alexander Ramsey Park in Redwood Falls, MN.
The park is the largest city park in Minnesota.

Project Accomplishment of the Citizen Advisory Committee's Recommendations

In December 1994, the Minnesota River Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) published their final report to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency "Working Together: A Plan to Restore the Minnesota River". In this report the CAC listed ten recommendations that would insure the restoration of the Minnesota River and accomplish the 1992 challenge made by Governor Arne Carlson to make the Minnesota River swimable and fishable within 10 years. The following is a summary of how the Redwood River CWP and project partners have addressed the CAC recommendations.

Advisory Committee's Recommendation	Redwood River Clean Water Project Recommendations In Action
Restoring floodplains and riparian areas	Our goal is to create and maintain buffer strips on all public watercourses and to do so by technically supporting our project partners in carrying out the RIM and CREP programs. Since 1994, 3,673 acres of RIM and CREP riparian buffers have been established in the Redwood River Watershed.
Restore wetlands	It is a concurring goal to increase the amount of wetland acres in the Redwood River Watershed. Wetland acres that have been restored through partner efforts in promoting RIM and CRP have been 1,372 acres from 1994 through 2000. Acres continue to be restored through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).
Manage drainage ditches and storm sewers as tributaries	Drainage ditches and storm sewers have been recognized by the project as tributaries and have been accounted for in the prioritization of the watershed. This prioritization has led to focused implementation of best management practices (BMPs) that will return the highest erosion reduction yield. The Redwood River Clean Water Project has supported the position that downstream environmental impacts of ditch projects be considered by viewers when calculating costs and benefits. The project co-sponsored a research project on Judicial Ditch 31 in Lincoln and Lyon Counties, which listed various alternatives to reducing downstream flooding.
Engage the general public	The Redwood River Clean Water Project, during the Implementation Phase, has provided a Watershed Educator and Watershed Technicians to inform and engage the residents of the watershed. Numerous contacts have been made. Many of the contacts are done on-site at the kitchen table. Alternative formats such as "Coffee on the Project", resident canoe trips, and storm drain stenciling have been used to inform and engage citizens in watershed conservation issues.
Establish a "Minnesota River Commission" to oversee the cleanup effort	The Redwood River Clean Water Project has been a vested supporter of the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board and has supported the Board's efforts to organize and promote Minnesota River Basin issues at the state and federal level.

Project Accomplishment of the Citizen Advisory Committee's Recommendations

Improve land management practices	The purpose of the Redwood River Clean Water Project implementation phase (1994-2000) was to implement best management practices (BMPs) in the selected priority areas and to accelerate voluntary BMP adoption on a watershed scale. Since that time, over 160 landowner/operators have implemented BMPs that have the potential to reduce soil loss by 24,169 tons per year. Of that soil loss, the BMPs established will prevent 16,332 tons per year of sediment reaching surface water and 24,470 pounds of phosphorus entering surface water. The phosphorus reduction alone has the potential to reduce 9,788 million pounds of algae and plant growth or roughly 5,000 tons per year. In addition to the project-implemented BMPs, project partners have implemented 30,876 acres of CRP, and 3,673 acres of RIM that on average are reducing 44,838 tons of sediment and 45,058 pounds phosphorus from reaching the Redwood River each year.
Establish Local Joint Powers Agreements	The Redwood River Clean Water Project is a program of the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA), a joint powers organization established in 1983 by eight counties and their Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). A sixteen-member board was established, made up of one County Commissioner and one SWCD Supervisor from each of the eight counties and SWDCS.
Improve technical assistance to local governments	The Redwood River Clean Water Project, enabled by MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Northwest Area Foundation (NWAF) grants has been able to provide technical assistance to the project partners. The project provided a diagnostic study and prioritization of the watershed, continuous water quality monitoring, and provided Watershed Technicians, Educators, Planners and Engineering Technicians.
Monitor water quality throughout the Minnesota River basin	Since 1990 the Redwood River Clean Water Project has been monitoring water quality at key locations throughout the watershed. These monitoring sites aided the establishment of priority areas that were contributing a disproportionate amount of nonpoint source pollution. These identified areas were the focal point for accelerating conservation programs in order to achieve the greatest reduction per conservation dollar. These monitoring sites have also aided in tracking water quality improvements during the project and continue to date.
Enforce existing laws	The Redwood River Clean Water Project has been a voluntary effort, promoting land use changes by encouraging voluntary adoption of best management practices (BMPs). By providing education and technical assistance, watershed residents can make the necessary conservation changes. By doing this, the option of using enforcement will be minimized.

A presentation explaining watersheds and nonpoint source pollution using a 3D model called the "Enviroscape".

"Coffee on the Project" at Don's Cafe in Vesta, MN. RCRCA staff visit informally with area residents about water quality concerns over morning coffee.

Area youth volunteered to help with storm drain stenciling in their community.

An education and information kiosk erected at Camden State Park near where the Redwood River flows through the park.

The Redwood River Clean Water Project educational program activities were intended to raise the level of public awareness and provide the most current information to all watershed residents. Through the use of various educational components, farmers and the general public were able to learn about the watershed project and how they could participate in reducing erosion and nonpoint source pollution on their land.

Objectives

- to provide watershed residents with knowledge of problems and solutions related to water quality
- to supply information about priority watershed areas
- to educate landowners about practices that will result in reduced nonpoint source pollution
- to teach management skills needed by landowners to implement soil and water conservation practices

Accomplishments

- Redwood River Clean Water Project Open House
  An afternoon informational event for the watershed residents and agency partners.
- Storm Drain Stenciling
  Stenciling in several communities occurred through coordinated efforts with local youth groups.
- Newspaper Inserts and Newsletters
  Numerous watershed wide inserts and also sub-watershed newsletters were developed and sent to residents that featured current information and programs available.
- Water Wednesday
  A water quality campaign highlighting a different water related topic each week that also provided residents a free gallon of water. The event was co-sponsored by a local grocery store and radio station.
- Coffee on the Project
  An annual event serving coffee and rolls at a variety of local cafes to introduce the project, and where staff visited informally with landowners about watershed concerns.

- Canoe Trip

  An annual event to introduce residents to the Redwood River as a recreational resource.

- Native Prairie Planting

  Coordinated efforts with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to plant native grasses and wildflowers next to the Redwood River and a wayside rest.

- Carp Fishing Contest

  A fishing contest to raise awareness of Lake Redwood and facilitate grassroots interest to explore options to enhance the lake's recreational opportunities.

- Camden State Park Kiosk

  A permanent informational display explaining the natural features found within the park and the overall Redwood River Watershed; co-sponsored by the Minnesota State Park system.

- Citizen Stream Monitoring

  To facilitate awareness and understanding of water quality issues and promote shared responsibility for protection of Minnesota's water resources. Citizens throughout the watershed participate by collecting rainfall and transparency data on the river or stream near their home.

- Project WET Training

  Numerous Project WET environmental educator trainings were sponsored by the project.

- Holistic Resource Management Workshops

  Several workshops were provided to watershed residents through a tuition reimbursement program, which was offered in collaboration with the Land Stewardship Project.

- Best Management Practices (BMP) Booklet

  To recognize participating landowners, a BMP booklet was printed that highlighted the producer's conservation efforts.

- Newspaper Articles

  Various project events and programs were published in local newspapers.

- Farm Fest, County Fairs, Ag Expo and various Home and Farm Shows

  Booth displays about the project were displayed at numerous community functions.

- Water Quality Radio Interviews

  Weekly local radio interviews were done by project staff discussing different water quality and watershed topics.

- Television News Coverage

  A series of four segments showcasing the project, its mission, accomplishments and future goals aired on KARE 11 television station.

- Water Quality Curriculum

  Collaborating with local schools, a water quality curriculum was developed focusing on the Redwood River.

Obstacles and Lessons

- Individual Contact

  Informational and educational activities are helped or hindered by the amount of direct contact that is made with the individuals. When we use a one-to-one approach the response to our activities is greater.

- Success/Failure of an Event and the Weather

  Weather enters into the success or failure of any project. Winter activities can be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. Spring and summer provided us with weather more conducive for activities.

- Booth Displays

  Occasionally provocative preparations make for the best displays. These displays cause the public to stop and discuss pertinent river problems and question our staff. Although costly and cumbersome, an interesting display drew attention to our goals and targeted areas.

> "Whatever happens in one part of the watershed affects others. There's always a need to bring people to work toward progress."
>
> *Don Louwagie, Green Valley landowner*

- Press Coverage

  Although several positive news stories about the project have appeared, it's difficult to achieve consistent press coverage. In part, this is a function of the project's uniqueness, large scope, and reliance on small media markets. Lack of a regional television/radio station or newspaper is a limitation. There is only one daily newspaper in the watershed (Marshall). What has worked well with respect to media coverage is to develop personal relationships with one or two key people at each media outlet.

- Overcoming Public Apathy

  Repetition is the most effective way to overcome public apathy. Newsletters are effective, providing watershed residents with project information, but repeated personal contact is most effective.

- Communication

  It's imperative that all involved with the project have a solid understanding of exactly how it will operate. This includes who will be doing what, where, when and how. Continued interaction among co-sponsors, supporters, staff and other key players is needed from the onset of the planning phase all the way through implementation. This helps everyone feel more involved. Nothing can be assumed when it comes to making people feel involved and appreciated.

- New Concepts

  New and untested approaches such as Holistic Resource Management (HRM) meet with skepticism. We therefore introduced HRM slowly and cautiously, taking time to allow people to ask questions, making sure we provided them with adequate information. Support for the concept has grown and several people attending those initial seminars are now credible proponents of HRM.

- Public Events

  Once you do one public event (e.g., trade show, county fair), you have to do them all. This is extremely time consuming and response is unpredictable. County fairs are the largest time commitment and the least productive. Because the RCRCA Board consists of county commissioners from eight counties, if we do an event in one area, we should do it in the other areas as well.

- Documenting Activities

  The ability to quickly convey project developments such as BMP adoption, sampling results, changes in tillage practices, etc., to diverse audiences is difficult. It's very important, however, to have a system in place for documenting these activities; one that allows you to quickly summarize changes. We continue to refine our procedures to make them more efficient and accurate.

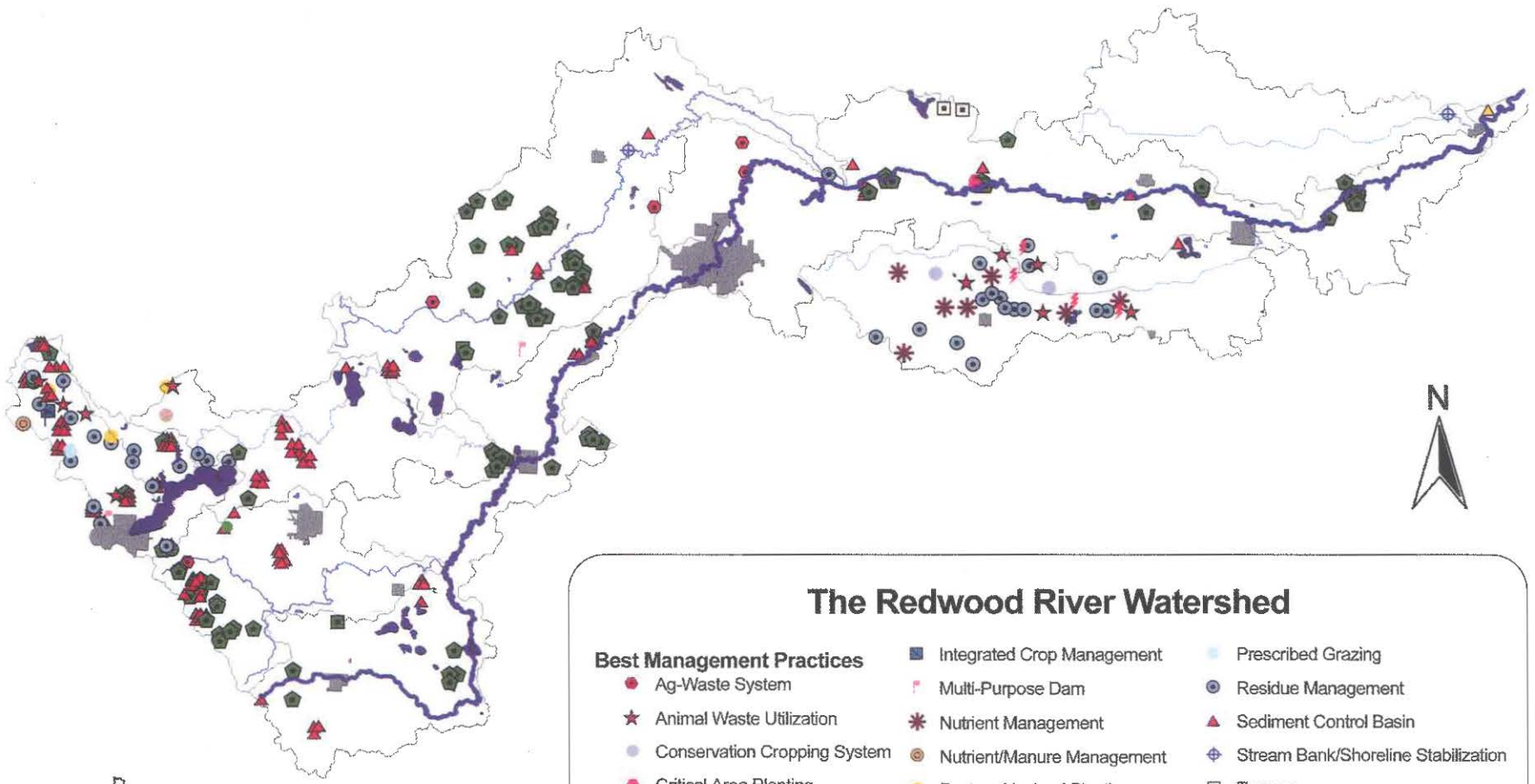
- Water Quality Monitoring

  Monitoring is long-term. Short-term sampling results provide little insight. The public does not easily understand this. On the other hand, more watershed residents are asking questions about water quality, and asking project staff to gather additional water quality data. This could be viewed as a positive development.

The Redwood River Clean Water Project education and outreach program has been crucial in conveying technical water quality data to watershed residents, as well as, and communicating the availability of programs. In general, we have found outreach activities that are interesting and informal, yet informative have been the most successful. One example is the annual "Coffee on the Project", where local watershed residents gather with RCRCA staff and partner agency staff at a local cafe over morning coffee and rolls to discuss concerns and questions about the river and programs that are available. This format has produced a non-threatening environment for residents to share their thoughts about the river and the project, and has been instrumental to project staff in learning about area landowners concerns.

An example of a grassed waterway established in the Redwood River Watershed.

CRP filter strips established in the Redwood River Watershed.



The Redwood River Watershed

Best Management Practices

- Ag-Waste System
- Animal Waste Utilization
- Conservation Cropping System
- Critical Area Planting
- Grassed Diversion
- Grassed Filter Strip
- Grassed Waterway
- Integrated Crop Management
- Multi-Purpose Dam
- Nutrient Management
- Nutrient/Manure Management
- Pasture Hayland Planting
- Pest Management
- Planned Grazing Systems
- Prescribed Grazing
- Residue Management
- Sediment Control Basin
- Stream Bank/Shoreline Stabilization
- Terrace
- Upland Wildlife Management

Created by RCRCA, May 21, 2001

Index Map

10 0 10 20 30 Miles

Monitoring sites for the Redwood River Watershed from 1994-2000 consisted of two tributaries, one main stem, and one lake site consistent with those established during the preceding (1990-1993) diagnostic study. The sites included are: RR1 on the Redwood River at County Road 17 one mile southwest of Redwood Falls; CC3 at Clear Creek on County Road 56 on the northeast corner of Seaforth; TC4A on Three Mile Creek on County Road 67 one mile north of Green Valley; and LR 1 located on Lake Redwood. With the exception of Lake Redwood, water samples were collected with ISCO automatic samplers. Instantaneous stage information was recorded by TELOG liquid level pressure recorder models 2109/2109e.

Sample collection included at least three base flow samples collected during the period of April through September along with samples from up to two storm events. Storm events were defined as occurring at the five-year frequency interval. Water samples were analyzed for total suspended solids, total and reactive phosphorus, nitrate-nitrogen, and fecal coliform bacteria.

The importance of a long-term monitoring program when undertaking a water quality study at the watershed level cannot be overestimated. Initially, monitoring data serves to identify areas of the watershed that contribute disproportionate amounts of sediment and pollution according to their size. Once these areas of highest concern are identified in a watershed, conservation efforts can be focused to achieve the greatest good. In addition to establishing priority areas, monitoring data serves to:

- secure future funding for conservation practices
- accurately track our progress
- improve the accuracy of our loading estimates
- develop trends in water quality

Lessons learned, obstacles overcome

The ability to quickly convey project developments such as BMP adoption, sampling results, and changes in tillage practices, to diverse audiences is difficult. It's very important to have a system in place for documenting these activities; one that allows you to quickly summarize changes. It is an ongoing process to refine procedures to make them more efficient and accurate. The challenge lies in making technical information interesting to watershed residents.

Water quality monitoring is a long-term project. Spatial and temporal scales need to be considered when evaluating water quality issues. The best we can hope for is that over three to six years we will identify a trend. In the short-term, sampling results provide little insight.

Nature dictates some of the success of a monitoring program. The timing of rainfall events, rainfall amounts, and duration, affect the amount of overland flow and stream discharges. During 1995, for example, although there was an average amount of rainfall for the area, it fell in one-half inch to one-inch increments in the watershed, limiting the number of event samples collected. In 1997, the early spring produced high flows due to rapidly melting snow. This was followed by a relatively dry summer and fall. Despite conditions during these two years, monitoring goals were achieved for each station however.

There is a need, to collect flow data early in the spring during periods of high flows resulting from spring runoff. The danger of waiting to do high flow readings during the growing season is that, due to low precipitation, we run the risk of not getting sufficient data.

The 1995 fish population assessment done by the MN Department of Natural Resources showed encouraging results. The number of species sampled increased over the number sampled in 1991. A correlation can be made between the types

of species found and the amount of riparian buffer strips on each side of the river. The majority of the game fish were found where there was at least a fifteen-foot buffer providing shade, habitat, and stream bank stabilization. Carp and other rough fish were plentiful where the river was straightened and there was no buffer on either side of the river. In these areas, there was no habitat for fish, the water temperature was high, and the banks of the river were exposed to erosive forces.

Another important lesson is that of data management. It becomes imperative to keep track of where information is going, in order for others to be able to find and use the data. When this isn't done, it causes frustration for others as time is lost or information is duplicated simply because it wasn't known that the information was already available.

Automatic water samplers are necessary to capture the entire range of concentrations found in storm water samples. Because the concentration of sediment and nutrients varies throughout the range of hydrologic conditions present during a rainstorm event, and because of the timing of these rainstorm events and the large areas involved, automatic samplers are crucial in the estimation of sediment and nutrient loads.

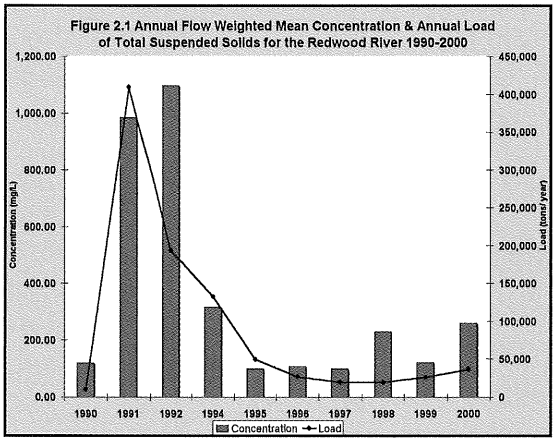


Figure 2.1 shows the annual flow weighted mean concentration and annual load of total suspended solids in the Redwood River.

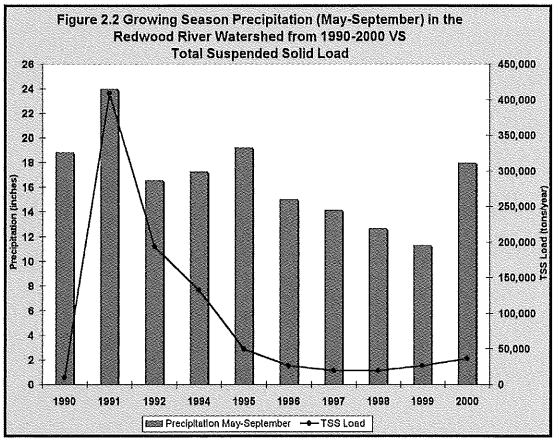
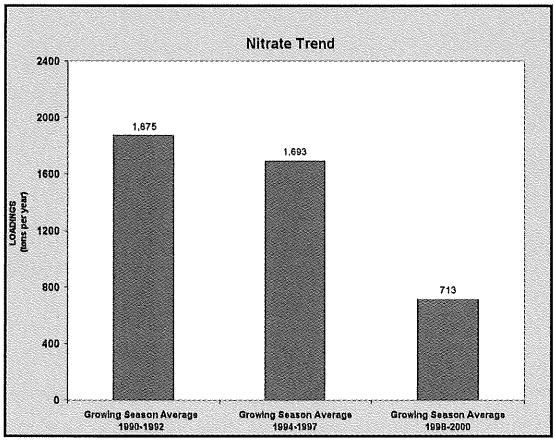
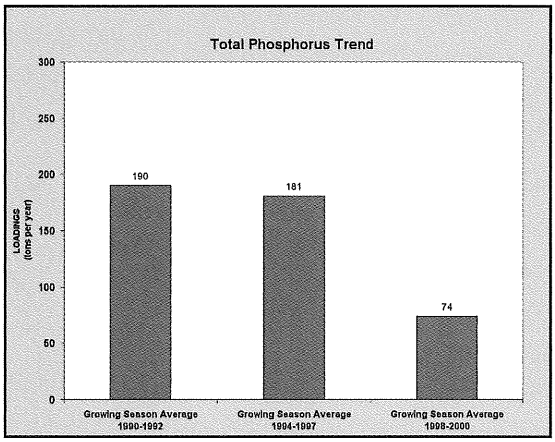


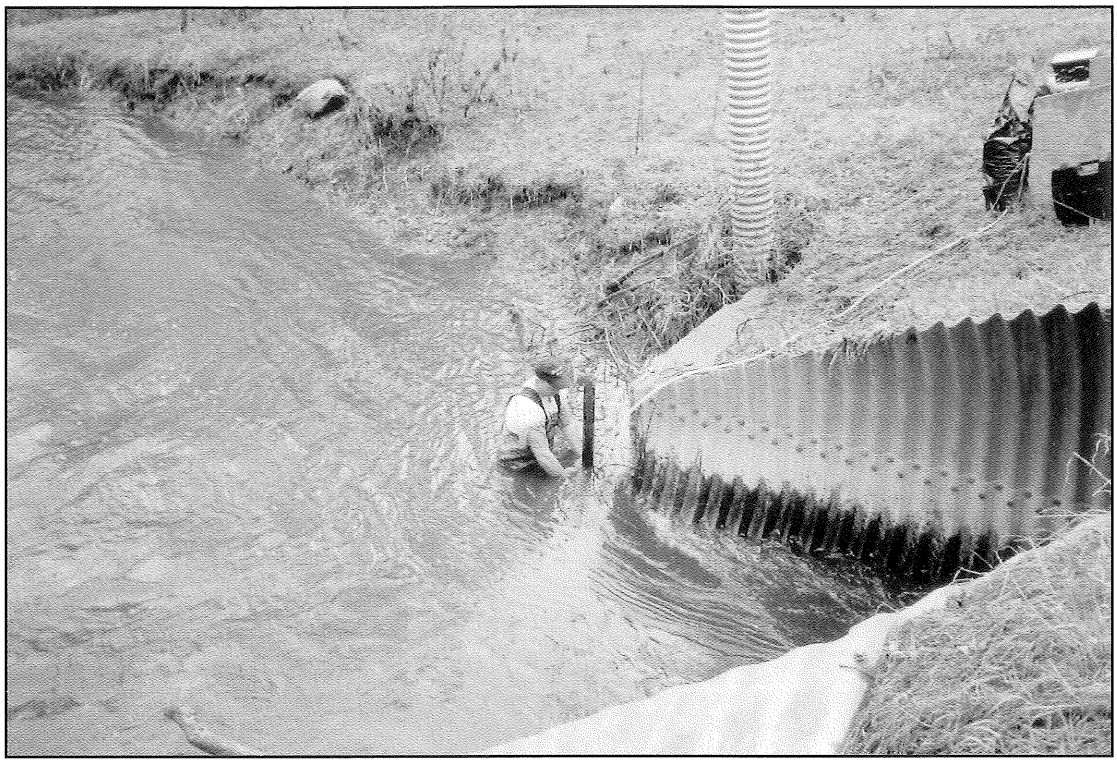
Figure 2.2 shows how precipitation between May 1st and September 30th affects the total suspended solid load in the Redwood River Watershed.



This graph illustrates the successful downward trend in the amount of nitrate reaching Lake Redwood over the project period.

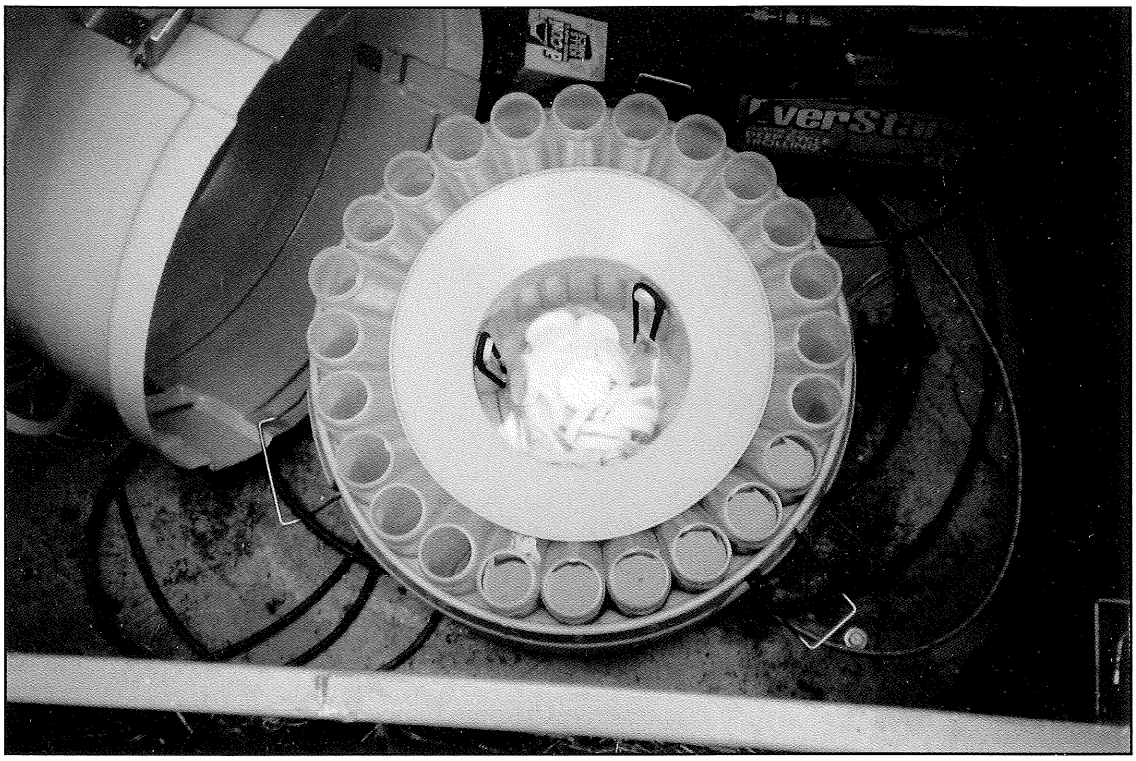


This graph illustrates the successful downward trend in the amount of phosphorus reaching Lake Redwood over the project period.



Establishing one of the water quality monitoring sites in the Redwood River Watershed.

An ISCO sampler is housed in a locked wooden or metal box to prevent damage from the elements and the curious.



Inside an ISCO sampler - sampling bottles.

RCRCA staff conducting water quality data collecting.

Major Lessons Learned

A project of this nature teaches you a lot of lessons, some more pleasant than others. Mostly you learn that a well-conceived and communicated plan is extremely important, but that it is more important to expect the unexpected and to always realize that you are working with people, not water resources.

The principal lessons we learned over the past six years tended to fall into general categories best described as outreach and project management. Outreach encompasses different strategies used to communicate project activities and to influence attitudes and behaviors of watershed residents. A large number of different techniques and approaches were used with varying results. Project management refers to internal organizational decisions and processes that directly influenced project outcomes. Here we learned lessons related to staying focused on our mission while working in a very dynamic environment.

Outreach

- Early on we intentionally looked for ways to give the project its own identity. We created a logo, a mission statement, a letterhead, Redwood River CWP folders and other similar materials. We also produced and used many different promotional items such as mugs, pens, decals, caps, and shirts, among others. Clearly, these items were an important tool for building awareness and good will. In part, this was done to help achieve sustainability. We understood that we would not be able to sustain our level of involvement for very many years, so we wanted to build a base of support and activism that would carry on when we no longer were around.
- There is a public perception that efforts like the Redwood River CWP are the work of someone else and not watershed residents themselves. The project is external, the work of people employed to get the job done. It is very difficult to develop watershed identity-the sense that everyone in the watershed is responsible for its condition. People seem to think that those of us working on the project are responsible rather than the people themselves.
- Creating a separate identity for the project had a downside in that some staff and board members of cooperating agencies viewed this as a diminishment or rejection of their value. Establishment of a Redwood River CWP with its own staff created tension. In part, we were perceived as a threat in that one of the major actions we were promoting, BMPs on cropland, was the same thing being promoted by other joint power organization partners. We tried to convey that our efforts were intended to accelerate, enhance and supplement the programs and activities of these local organizations on a watershed basis, not replace them. Our watershed plan, and supporting documents, had been available for review and many of the people objecting to what we were doing had participated in the planning process.

Successful Evaluation Includes:

- Have a good system for evaluation
- Use multiple public outreach strategies, and devote large amounts of resources to this effort
- Collect, interpret and communicate water quality data
- Hire competent, dedicated staff that work well with people
- Build a healthy organization that can survive adversity
- Be adaptive
- Expect inter-agency tension and competition
- Have clear goals and objectives that can be effectively communicated
- Adopt a long-term perspective, but devise strategies for short-term success
- Just do it

So this type of reaction was hard to understand. Turf protection and defensiveness were not apparent prior to this time. Clearly, in the early stages of project development, when all we had were ideas and no money, no one felt threatened, nor were they very interested in being participants. Once we received the Northwest Area Foundation grant and began to carve out our niche, people took notice and many felt excluded.

- Multiple methods are necessary in order to get messages to watershed residents. We tried many different promotional activities with mixed results. It is advantageous to be able to attempt different approaches to see what works best. This experimentation is usually lacking in most watershed projects. Water Wednesday, Coffee on the Project, and canoe trips were a few of the many activities we tried during the course of the project. These activities and events were used to inform watershed residents of our goals and to get them involved in what we were.
- We found that group meetings to talk about technical materials seldom worked. People are just too busy, or so they say. Getting people together for social or recreational activities such as canoeing, however, usually works quite well, though considerable planning is necessary.
- Newsletters and brochures were marginally effective and probably not worth the expense. There seems to be a widespread expectation, though, that any serious project will have newsletters and brochures. Folders produced at the outset of the project, however, proved to be an excellent investment. These folders were colorful, contained descriptive material about the watershed, and were valued and used by people to whom they were given. Newsletters, on the other hand, did not seem to be appreciated, probably because many people are inundated with newsletter-type materials daily.
- Newspaper inserts, however, were very well received and, although costly, they were an effective way to get our message out. The inserts were colorful, informative, and were delivered to people's doorsteps or mailboxes. It was surprising to hear how many people saved their inserts. Radio announcements and promotions worked extremely well to achieve certain objectives.
- Placement of Redwood River signs at various highway crossings was an excellent decision in terms of getting more people to identify with the river and its watershed.
- Geography is a limiting factor and scale is an important consideration. Watershed size limits how much coverage you can have. It is hard to maintain a presence across the entire watershed. We tried concentrating on sub-watersheds and had considerable success with this technique. We even developed separate newsletters for each of these areas. We still promoted an overall watershed mission, but tailored our message to each of the sub areas. This is a good strategy, because there are major differences in different parts of the watershed-farming practices, farm size, cultural attitudes, etc. Additionally, the closer to home the resource-tributary, wetland-the greater the interest. So, for people living on Three Mile Creek, twenty miles from the Redwood River, it was more appropriate to stress the condition of Three Mile Creek than

> Participation rates by farmers in cost-share programs can be dramatically increased with personal contacts and repetitive messages. Dual strategies are needed to reach farm and non-farm audiences.

the Redwood River. We tried to build watershed identity within these smaller units and this was somewhat successful, particularly in Norwegian Creek sub-watershed, located in the headwaters of the Redwood River.

- It is not necessary to invest so much time in getting permission or acceptance from the public. Over and over we learned that people want a cleaner river, but they really don't know what to do about it. What they expect is for someone to present them with specific actions that should be taken. Goals and objectives are fine, but people want clear direction. Project participants need to provide that direction, not continually ask for public input and suggestions. The public values action, over process.
- Water quality data are essential. These data can be used for so many different purposes and are particularly useful in communicating with the general public, provided attention is given to interpretation. Throughout the project we struggled with finding ways to translate scientific information into materials readily grasped by ordinary watershed citizens. It takes special skills to do this, but it is well worth the effort. We took every opportunity to communicate findings of our sampling program.
- Water quality data can also be used to educate board members and other agency staff. It can help set priorities and it can provide justifications for taking certain actions. We were always careful not to make water quality data our sole message. Some people were tempted to draw inaccurate conclusions based on sampling results. The data were only one of several elements used to evaluate project success.
- Within the farming community there is considerable awareness of environmental effects of farming practices. Most farmers don't really need to be informed about land use/water quality relationships. They are farming in ways that they believe are most profitable. If it can be proven that alternatives are equally or more profitable, they will probably make the change, though slowly.
- Incentive payments do not have lasting effects. They influence short-term behavior for a length of time equal to the time the payments are available.
- By relying on cost-share and incentive payments, we took the path of least resistance. We did an excellent job of getting farmers to participate in these programs. Personal contacts were instrumental in this success. Getting farmers to make fundamental changes in their farming operations, however, is something we were not able to accomplish. Non-economic incentives didn't achieve results. Holistic Resource Management (HRM) courses were met with skepticism and participation rates were very low. We have no way of measuring fundamental change in the farming community, only adoption rates of BMPs.
- This suggests a problem with the project's basic orientation which was to accelerate land treatment practices on agriculture land. The programs used to accomplish this objective were based on financial incentives. Primarily we relied on the state cost-share program that covers seventy-five percent (75%) of the cost for a practice. We also relied on USDA programs that offer per acre incentive payments for specific practices. Early in the project we began to look for ways to promote adoption of practices such as wetland restoration and conservation tillage. We had very little success with these practices, yet they were the practices that we projected to have the greatest beneficial impact on water quality.
- Much of our outreach was directed at farmers. Technicians were employed to work directly with farmers and the messages we put out consistently centered on agricultural impacts on water quality. This made it difficult to involve non-farm residents, although we certainly tried.
- Farmers are cynical about government programs, but they also understand how to use them. To

many in the farming community, the Redwood River Clean Water Project was just another government program. Many farmers embraced it as a means to better their operation, not as a means to clean up the Redwood River.

Project Management

A well-designed evaluation system pays enormous dividends. Since a number of variables can be measured to track progress, it is essential to select those that are most appropriate to the project's mission. ***It is important to get beyond keeping track of how many newsletters were produced, how many meetings were held and the number of people that attended, best management practices (BMPs) installed, and money spent. These are important, but what about the river?***

Multiple evaluation techniques are extremely helpful. We designed the project to use water quality, citizen attitudes, rate and type of BMP adoption, and fish population assessments as our measures of success.

Survey research we undertook in cooperation with the Minnesota Center for Survey Research (MCSR) paid for itself over and over. We ran a survey in 1995 and 1998 using the same questionnaire, hoping to discover changes related to the project. Although shifts in attitude and awareness among those surveyed were not dramatic, they were discernable. Results of both these surveys were used extensively in our communication with several different groups. Most importantly, results of these surveys validated the central approaches taken by the project. Results therefore could be used to confirm many of our techniques.

Another important benefit of surveys is their effect on agency staff that tends to place a lot of weight on survey research. And, using a credible, reputable group such as the MCSR to help design and administer the survey is extremely important.

A third survey we did in-house was one through farmers which had participated in the project by installing a BMP. This provided us with feedback about what motivated them, how they heard about us, and what types of incentives they preferred. This led us to publish a booklet highlighting each farmer's participation in the project.

Successful Evaluation Includes:

- Attitude Surveys
- Data Tracking Systems
- Uniform Data Collection
- Long-Term Monitoring Program
- Maintained GIS System

We also worked with MCSR on a survey of landowner perceptions of wetland benefits as a means of helping us understand new ways of promoting wetland restoration, one of the project's principal objectives. Survey results proved to be of minimal value, and in terms of the additional work created by a subsequent study of the area, this was not a good course of action for us to have followed.

It is important to build a strong organization that can withstand pressures associated with running a watershed project. A multitude of disruptions and distractions will occur. There needs to be resolve and commitment at the board and staff level to overcome these influences. Our board and staff went into the project operating within a somewhat informal culture that made us all feel comfortable. This was a very successful style, one that promoted creativity and innovation, yet one that was not understood by many of our agency partners. Conflicts between styles and procedures led the board and staff to tighten things up in a very short time. What may not have been understood is that when an organization with a couple of employees, very little equipment or space, and no real personnel policies suddenly expands to nine, there will be problems.

We set the project up to have most of our staff interacting with farmers to plan and adopt various

BMPs. One individual was responsible for planning and carrying out all the other outreach activities. More staff resources should have been earmarked for overall project outreach and communication activities. The political climate we operated in made it difficult to reduce technical staff because many of our partners saw that aspect of the project as the most legitimate. Technical staff also was responsible for tracking progress of BMP implementation, collecting water quality data, and selecting priority areas of the watershed on which to concentrate future efforts.

We hired inexperienced staff and asked them to work together to implement a watershed plan. These people were given considerable responsibility in defining the way in which we would go about accomplishing our mission. It was hoped they would develop into a team, support one another, and work collectively toward a common goal. For the most part, this approach was successful. The main problem we had was turnover. After the first year we lost half our staff. Replacements needed time to catch up with the others, and because so much of our overall strategy had been created in the first year by people no longer around, it was difficult getting new people acclimated. We weren't running an established, inflexible program that had a tradition, one that had ready made job descriptions so that new people could easily fill slots. We had relied on vision, creativity, and passion to get things rolling, not job descriptions. Project outcomes suffered because of this turnover. By the third year we had a nearly complete turnover in staff.

There are no approved ways to assure staff continuity over the life of a project, but serious attention should be given to techniques that help create stability. There are too many negative consequences of turnover to not make every effort to minimize it.

Outreach with much success:

- Newspaper inserts
- Social and Activity events
- Personal contacts
- Live Radio Forums
- Promotional Folders

Outreach without much success:

- Large group meetings
- Newsletter and Brochures
- Pleasing everyone

Water quality and land use research is of major importance. This allows targeting of practices and resources to gain the greatest effect on water quality. Using this information to set realistic, understandable goals and objectives is important to project success.

Goals and objectives that target specific geographic areas of the watershed go against the traditional countywide approach that has been used for decades. There is a limited tradition of directing resources to the areas of most severe pollution. Rather, the tradition is one of distributing resources countywide or to those asking for help. The Redwood River Clean Water Project represented a departure from that tradition in that we tried to direct BMPs to the highest priority areas of the watershed (i.e. those portions contributing highest sediment and nutrient loads).

Obstacles

Overall, there were very few obstacles encountered during the course of the project. Staff turnover was troublesome due to breakdowns in relationships established between staff and watershed residents, but manageable.

Interestingly enough, most of the obstacles faced were related to interactions with personnel from local organizations. Unfortunately, some of these conflicts were protracted, consumed large sums of time, and resulted in decreased performance and morale. Additionally, there were several cultural or institutional obstacles mainly related to doing watershed work that proved

difficult to overcome.

A watershed project is defined by the culture of its residents and the system within which they operate. This system includes all kinds of influences, but more important than anything else is federal farm policy. ***It's hard to overestimate the influence of federal farm policy on the farming community. This is clearly the most important variable in the outcome of any project addressing nonpoint source pollution in an agricultural watershed.***

Continuity is important. Achieving water quality improvements in a watershed is a long-term process. We had hoped to get the process started and move it toward sustainability. For that to happen we needed widespread citizen involvement. Staff came and went, funding is uncertain, programs fluctuate. So, unless there is a strong base of support within the watershed community, the success we had could be short-lived.

Watershed projects must be adaptive in order to function within a delivery system based on county boundaries. Most nonpoint programs are county-based not water quality or watershed based. This means that to administer a watershed project you must be able to coordinate and shape county based programs to fit watershed goals. Watershed goals are not necessarily a collection of county goals that are represented in the watershed.

Tracking all BMP activities on a watershed basis proves difficult. Partner agencies have many different databases and tracking systems in place that do not easily correlate. BMP reduction methodology varies greatly between organizations and most forms are not in digital format. Accurate tracking of watershed activities should be addressed in the very beginning. Simple things such as tracking projects by watershed location, recording multiple reductions besides soil loss, and doing reduction to cost comparisons are often overlooked.

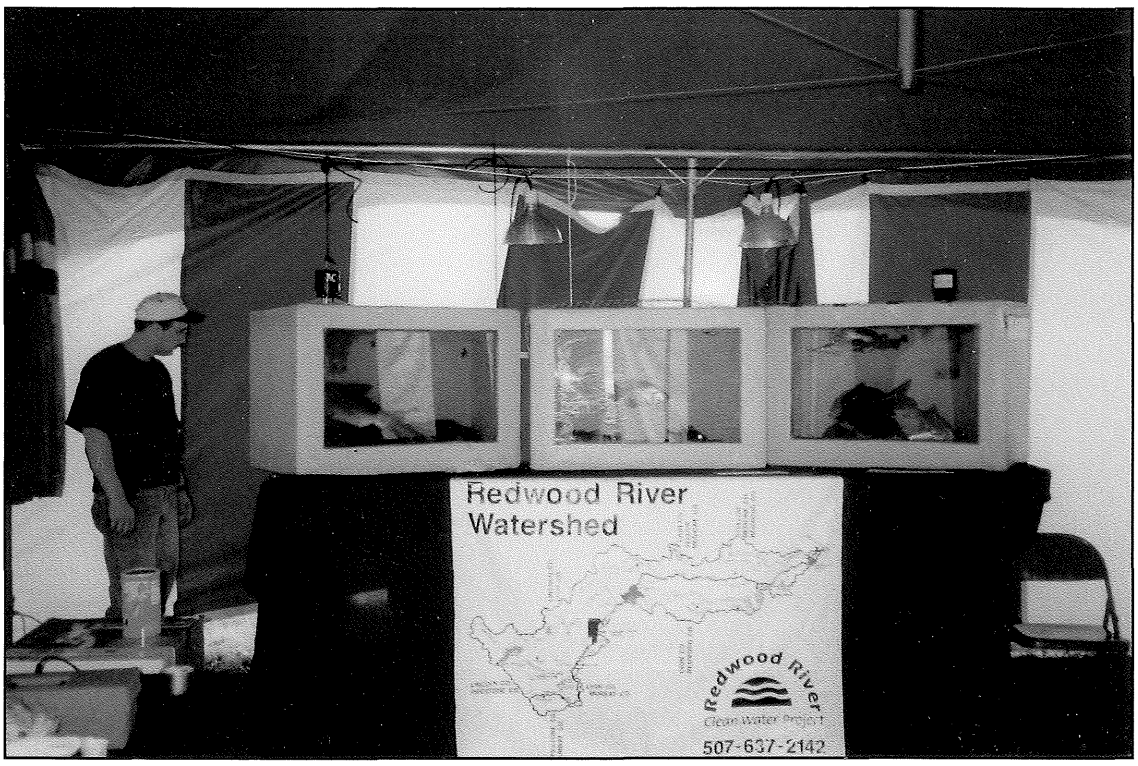
Within any watershed there are multiple organizations and institutional arrangements that have developed over time. There are many programs administered by county and SWCD staff, and there are inter-agency relationships that determine how things get done and by whom. These relationships take many forms and involve not only local, but also state and federal agencies. Moreover, methods used by one or another agency in one part of the watershed, may or may not be used in another. ***A watershed project addresses the entire watershed and looks at measures to improve water quality that make sense in the context of the entire watershed, not just small portions.*** County or SWCD programs, on the other hand, are necessarily confined to county boundaries. This arrangement makes it difficult to work on a watershed level.

Obstacles

- Training and nurturing of new staff slows things down.
- Lack of a central media outlet complicates communication.
- It is difficult to gather people together. Food and give away items help attendance, but you don't always get the people that have a direct stake in cleaning up the watershed.
- Conveying complicated water quality information to the general public requires considerable patience and skill.
- Other organizations are threatened by success.
- Inter-agency relations and time devoted to reassuring agency staff inhibits success.
- The nonpoint source program delivery system works against watershed-based projects.
- Farming practices are dictated by federal farm policies.

An annual canoe trip for residents down the Redwood River into Lake Redwood. 1999

Canoeing enthusiast, residents, and RCRCA staff that participated in the 1999 Redwood River canoe trip.



Fish native to the Redwood River on display at the 1997 Farm Fest.

Annual "Coffee on the Project", one of the most successful outreach programs of the RCRCA. In this picture, staff and a county commissioner speak on a local radio broadcast show about water quality concerns.

The Redwood River Clean Water Project continues to play an important role in local watershed management. The project has been instrumental in assessing and prioritizing the Redwood River Watershed, and is providing outreach activities and technical support to local government and conservation partners. The Redwood River Clean Water Project focuses on the entire watershed as a whole and through its joint powers framework is able to make watershed based decisions that do not end at political boundaries.

Even though grants end and progress reports are written, there is still a need for continued management on a watershed scale. Demand has increased for technical support due to the identity that has been established and heightened awareness of how land use practices affect water quality in the Redwood River. Additional conservation programs have been added to the best management practice toolbox resulting in more technical needs. Conservation partners will continue to request technical support that has been provided by the project. Water quality monitoring on a watershed scale will continue to be a litmus in determining the health of the watershed and if current conservation programs are making a difference.

Voluntary adoption of BMPs is a proven effective way to make ecologically sound changes in the watershed. A need for outreach activities and disseminating useful information to watershed residents will continue to be a prelude to voluntary adoption of prioritized conservation practices in the Redwood River Watershed.

A new watershed focus is emerging from the Clean Water Act. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) or tolerable limits of pollutants that will not diminish the

Redwood River's intended use (primarily fishing and swimming) are being set. These limits will be a gauge that will direct future watershed management decisions. In the past, nonpoint source pollution has been a focus of the Redwood River Clean Water Project. Now a combination of nonpoint and point source assessments need to be made. A revaluation of current impacts of both point and nonpoint pollution will need to be quantified and plans will be developed to bring exceedances below TMDL limits.

The Redwood River Clean Water Project is in a unique position to participate in the setting of TMDLs for the watershed and creating locally supported implementation plans that will help achieve and maintain designated uses. This entails continuing the success of the past six-year implementation initiative, providing baseline monitoring information that will help establish Redwood River Watershed specific TMDL's and adapting to assess point source pollution reduction needs. The joint-powers framework and support of project partners will enable voluntary reductions on a watershed scale that will achieve TMDL limits over the next fifteen years. Locally derived TMDL watershed plans will ensure public support and participation.

RCRCA and the Redwood River Clean Water Project will continue efforts to reduce nonpoint and point source pollution by seeking sustainable sources of funding. Sustainable funding would provide additional grant matching opportunities that could expand the role of the project into watershed based rural economic and community development, recreational enhancement and additional conservation funding for watershed residents and communities. A feasibility study may need to be carried through to explore and identify options that will enable RCRCA and the Redwood River Clean Water Project to fulfill these comprehensive watershed management roles.

The underlying assumption of the Redwood River Watershed Plan adopted in 1993, was that existing land treatment programs were being underutilized and not applied in a watershed context. Additionally, funding at the time, although adequate, was not finding its way to the Redwood River. Resource professionals involved in the planning process indicated that the critical variable in promoting land treatment adoption rates is technical assistance.

RCRCA Promotional Items

Armed with the above revelations, the project participants used the 1993 Redwood River Diagnostic Study and Implementation Plan to identify priority areas to focus BMP acceleration. In order to do this, additional technical assistance would have to be provided, cost share dollars would have to be obtained and an extensive education and outreach effort would have to be created to inform watershed residents of the problems facing the Redwood River and cause them to act. Along with technical assistance and outreach, it was identified that a long-term monitoring program would have to take place in order to identify trends and gauge success. None of this was possible without allocating funds for project management.

In order to fund this additional technical assistance, monitoring, education and administration, a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Phase II grant was applied for and awarded. This Phase II CWP award allowed the project to create the foundation for technical assistance, monitoring, evaluation and administration. At the same time, a private grant request was submitted to the Northwest Area Foundation (NWAF). The NWAF was very receptive to this relatively new approach to address pollutants and manage surface water on a watershed scale. They understood that it takes people, education and administrative support to foster accelerated changes in the watershed. NWAF funds gave the project the flexibility needed to provide adequate outreach and education, along with the ability to hire full-time staff dedicated to promotion and evaluation of the implementation plan goals and objectives.

Figure 1 depicts the overall MPCA Clean Water Project and NWAF grant expenditures during the six years of the project. The Clean Water Partnership grants were one-to-one matching grants. The Redwood River Clean Water Project was fortunate to obtain in-kind match from the project partners combined with annual appropriations from member counties. Figure 1 is broken down into the four program elements identified in the project work plan. Each element shows the expenditures and Figure 2 illustrates the grant awarded from the Northwest Area Foundation (NWAF) that was also used as match to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Clean Water Partnership grant award.

Having multiple funding sources provided the flexibility needed and created a sustainable organization during the life of the project. Grants that fund technical support, administration and outreach activities are key to insuring success on a watershed wide scale. Combining this with a conservation favorable Federal Farm Bill and adequate cost share; volunteer adoption of best management practices proved to be a successful management technique.

Redwood River Clean Water Project
Cumulative Expenditures

Figure 1	Expenditures 94-97	Expenditures 98-00	Expenditures 94-00
Program Element 1:Technical Assistance/ Best Management Practice Acceleration			
Engineering Technician	$ 99,418.00	$ 96,075.82	$ 195,493.82
Engineering Technician	$ 97,771.00	$ 98,580.77	$ 196,351.77
Engineering Technician	$ 80,917.00	$ -	$ 80,917.00
Watershed Technician	$ 18,283.00	$ 58,789.60	$ 77,072.60
Watershed Technician	$ 65,038.00	$ 1,200.31	$ 66,238.31
Watershed Technician	$ 45,884.00	$ -	$ 45,884.00
Office supplies	$ 4,132.00	$ 1,283.00	$ 5,415.00
Office maintenance	$ 6,466.00	$ 1,895.00	$ 8,361.00
Equipment	$ 12,021.00	$ 2,400.00	$ 14,421.00
Travel	$ 8,005.00	$ 825.00	$ 8,830.00
TOTAL	**$ 437,935.00**	**$ 261,049.50**	**$ 698,984.50**
Soil and Water Conservation Districts			
SWCD Managers	$ 34,560.00	$ 23,121.50	$ 57,681.50
SWCD Technicians	$ 18,360.00	$ 38,523.00	$ 56,883.00
Office maintenance	$ 10,200.00	$ 10,326.50	$ 20,526.50
TOTAL	**$ 63,120.00**	**$ 71,971.00**	**$ 135,091.00**
NRCS			
Engineers (2)	$ 33,600.00	$ 34,720.00	$ 68,320.00
Area Resource Conservationist	$ 6,900.00	$ 7,130.00	$ 14,030.00
Area Conservationist	$ 9,000.00	$ 9,300.00	$ 18,300.00
District Conservationist	$ 71,280.00	$ 73,656.00	$ 144,936.00
Area Supervisor Staff	$ 4,500.00	$ 4,150.00	$ 8,650.00
Computer Specialist	$ 2,700.00	$ 2,790.00	$ 5,490.00
Area Soil Conservationist	$ 4,800.00	$ 4,960.00	$ 9,760.00
Travel	$ 22,500.00	$ 23,250.00	$ 45,750.00
Equipment use	$ 6,000.00	$ 6,200.00	$ 12,200.00
TOTAL	**$ 161,280.00**	**$ 166,156.00**	**$ 327,436.00**
Area II MN River Basin Inc., Coordinator	$ 7,560.00	$ 3,512.00	$ 11,072.00
TOTAL	**$ 7,560.00**	**$ 3,512.00**	**$ 11,072.00**
TOTAL 1.1	**$ 669,895.00**	**$ 502,688.50**	**$ 1,172,583.50**
Farm Service Agency			
Cost Share Funds	$ 772,774.00	$ 120,545.00	$ 893,319.00
TOTAL	**$ 772,774.00**	**$ 120,545.00**	**$ 893,319.00**
Board of Water and Soil Resources			
Cost share funds @ 75%	$ 485,444.00	$ 212,408.00	$ 697,852.00
Landowner's 25% contribution		$ 14,703.00	$ 14,703.00
TOTAL	**$ 485,444.00**	**$ 227,111.00**	**$ 712,555.00**
TOTAL 1.2	**$ 1,258,218.00**	**$ 347,656.00**	**$ 1,605,874.00**
TOTAL ELEMENT 1	**$ 1,928,113.00**	**$ 850,344.50**	**$ 2,778,457.50**

Blue Denotes In-kind Matching Funds

Redwood River Clean Water Project
Cumulative Expenditures

	Expenditures 94-97	Expenditures 98-00	Expenditures 94-00
Program Element 2: Monitoring /Evaluation			
Task 2.1 Watershed Inventory/Evaluation			
Watershed Technician	$ 23,012.00	$ 16,199.74	$ 39,211.74
Watershed Technician	$ 2,740.00	$ -	$ 2,740.00
Watershed Technician	$ 11,728.00	$ -	$ 11,728.00
Office supplies	$ 2,353.00	$ 820.00	$ 3,173.00
Office maintenance	$ 2,730.00	$ 620.00	$ 3,350.00
Travel	$ 540.00	$ 1,509.07	$ 2,049.07
TOTAL 2.1	**$ 43,103.00**	**$ 19,148.81**	**$ 62,251.81**
Task 2.2 Water Quality Monitoring			
Watershed Technician	$ 31,184.00	$ 21,085.74	$ 52,269.74
Watershed Technician	$ 2,740.00	$ -	$ 2,740.00
Water monitoring/sampling	$ 4,682.00	$ 4,484.38	$ 9,166.38
Monitoring supplies	$ 4,048.00	$ 1,541.98	$ 5,589.98
Office supplies	$ 1,408.00	$ 459.00	$ 1,867.00
Office maintenance	$ 2,393.00	$ -	$ 2,393.00
Equipment	$ 1,852.00	$ -	$ 1,852.00
Travel	$ 366.00	$ -	$ 366.00
TOTAL 2.2	**$ 48,673.00**	**$ 27,571.10**	**$ 76,244.10**
	$ 91,776.00	**$ 46,719.91**	**$ 138,495.91**
TOTAL ELEMENT 2			
Program Element 3: Information/Education			
Watershed Educator	$ 93,413.00	$ 56,184.45	$ 149,597.45
Surveys	$ 7,774.00	$ -	$ 7,774.00
Promotional Items/Public Awareness	$ 44,087.00	$ 33,491.45	$ 77,578.45
Printing Material	$ 68,987.00	$ 23,536.76	$ 92,523.76
Watershed Tours/Meetings	$ 11,906.00	$ 4,297.94	$ 16,203.94
Seminars	$ 18,941.00	$ -	$ 18,941.00
Education Supplies	$ 1,409.00	$ 1,274.07	$ 2,683.07
Office supplies	$ 3,854.00	$ 2,750.00	$ 6,604.00
Office maintenance	$ 7,882.00	$ 2,400.00	$ 10,282.00
Equipment	$ 7,481.00	$ 7,000.39	$ 14,481.39
Travel	$ 4,162.00	$ 993.07	$ 5,155.07
TOTAL	**$ 269,896.00**	**$ 131,928.13**	**$ 401,824.13**
DNR Redwood River Action Team	$ 45,000.00	$ 18,500.00	$ 63,500.00
Total	**$ 45,000.00**	**$ 18,500.00**	**$ 63,500.00**
Redwood River Kickoff		$ 2,880.00	$ 2,880.00
Total		**$ 2,880.00**	**$ 2,880.00**
TOTAL ELEMENT 3	**$ 314,896.00**	**$ 153,308.13**	**$ 468,204.13**

Blue Denotes In-kind Matching Funds

	Expenditures 94-97	Expenditures 98-00	Expenditures 94-00
Program Element 4: Administration			
Executive Director	$ 132,583.00	$ 107,477.86	$ 240,060.86
Assistant Director	$ 48,162.00	$ -	$ 48,162.00
Support Staff	$ 25,893.00	$ 44,337.64	$ 70,230.64
Office supplies	$ 3,165.00	$ 4,262.05	$ 7,427.05
Office maintenance	$ 7,057.00	$ 2,938.54	$ 9,995.54
Rent	$ 22,383.00	$ 29,092.77	$ 51,475.77
Staff Training	$ 4,102.00	$ 3,150.90	$ 7,252.90
Professional Services	$ 1,114.00	$ 7,778.00	$ 8,892.00
Fees/dues/subscriptions	$ 2,291.00	$ 2,656.76	$ 4,947.76
County administration fee	$ 4,558.00	$ 2,658.10	$ 7,216.10
Insurance	$ 14,135.00	$ 8,836.37	$ 22,971.37
Misc. services/expenses	$ 1,976.00	$ 1,064.00	$ 3,040.00
Travel Expenses	$ 4,997.00	$ 2,141.20	$ 7,138.20
TOTAL ELEMENT 4	**$ 272,416.00**	**$ 216,394.19**	**$ 488,810.19**
TOTAL PROGRAM ELEMENTS	**$ 2,607,201.00**	**$ 1,266,766.73**	**$ 3,873,967.73**

RCRCA Organizational Flowchart

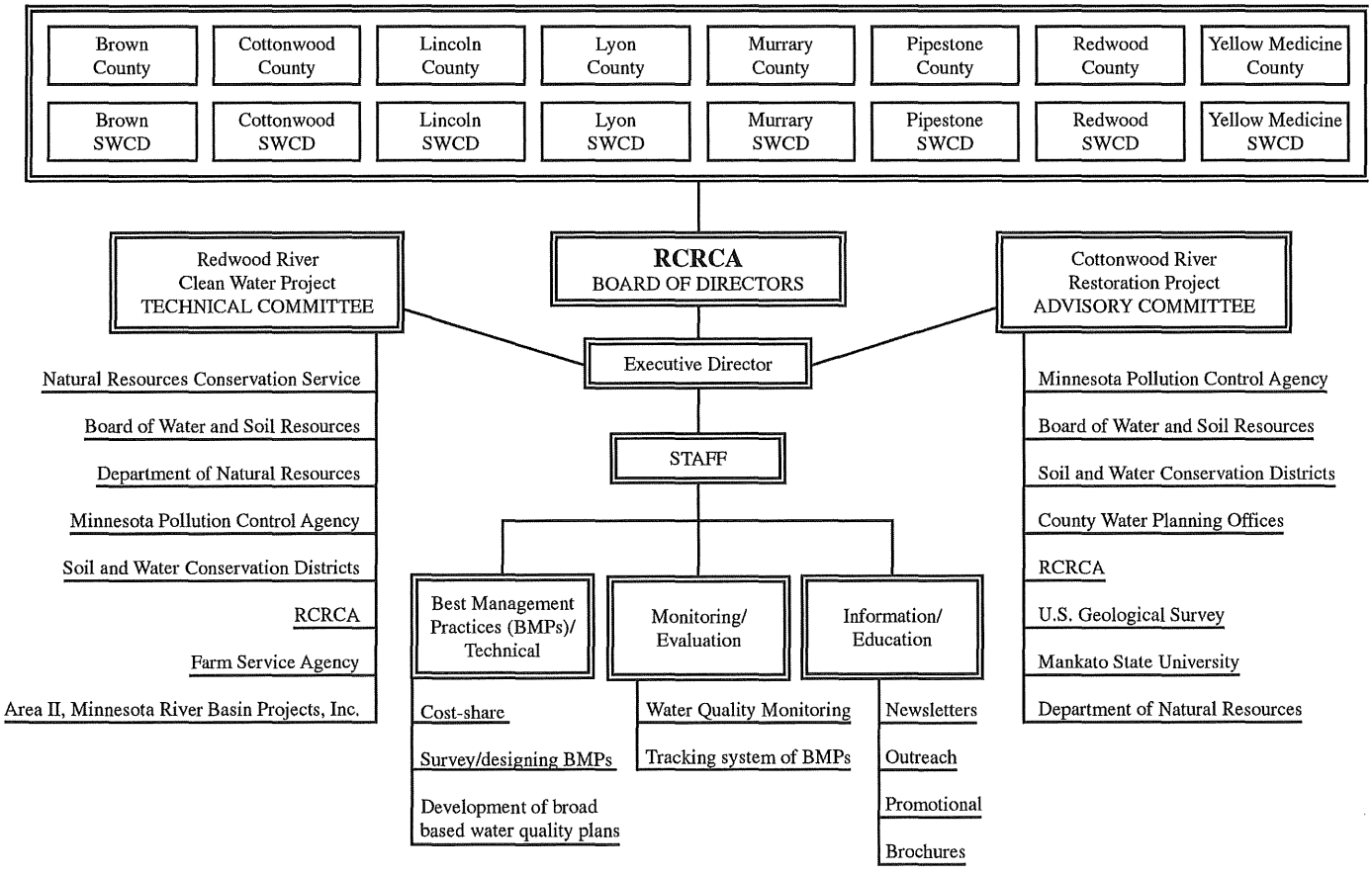


Figure 2

Grant # 97-0028	1994-1997	1998	1999	2000	
PERSONNEL:	**NORTHWEST FOUNDATION**	**NORTHWEST FOUNDATION**	**NORTHWEST FOUNDATION**	**NORTHWEST FOUNDATION**	**NORTHWEST FOUNDATION**
Executive Director	$ 94,997.86	$ 17,942.03	$ 17,930.94	$ 4,992.16	$ 135,862.99
Executive Director II	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 4,523.93	$ 4,523.93
Assistant Director	$ 32,679.99				$ 32,679.99
Watershed Eng. Tech.	$ 2,280.46	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,280.46
Watershed Eng. Tech.	$ 711.74	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 711.74
Watershed Planner	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Watershed Tech.	$ 47,414.45	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 47,414.45
Watershed Tech.	$ 72,648.23	$ 9,507.60	$ -	$ 11,678.03	$ 93,833.86
Watershed Tech.	$ 24,462.46	$ 11,223.40	$ 8,469.57	$ -	$ 44,155.43
Watershed Educator	$ 76,664.52	$ 26,316.68	$ 25,227.24	$ 14,096.76	$ 142,305.20
Office Manager	$ -	$ 6,614.96	$ -	$ -	$ 6,614.96
Interns	$ 1,880.80	$ -	$ -	$ 923.20	$ 2,804.00
Support Staff	$ 15,547.59				$ 15,547.59
PERSONNEL TOTAL:	**$ 369,288.10**	**$ 71,604.67**	**$ 51,627.75**	**$ 36,214.08**	**$ 528,734.60**
PERSONNEL BENEFITS:					
Executive Director	$ 19,310.79	$ 3,720.93	$	$ 879.28	$ 27,488.07
Executive Director II	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,751.00	$ 1,751.00
Assistant Director	$ 5,099.69				$ 5,099.69
Watershed Eng. Tech.	$ 291.76	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 291.76
Watershed Eng. Tech.	$ 278.08	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 278.08
Watershed Planner	$ 277.31	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 277.31
Watershed Tech.	$ 14,887.51	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 14,887.51
Watershed Tech.	$ 16,979.51	$ 2,218.65	$ -	$ 2,790.75	$ 21,988.91
Watershed Tech.	$ 5,212.04	$ 1,704.37	$ 3,552.24	$ -	$ 10,468.65
Watershed Educator	$ 18,639.83	$ 9,088.36	$ 8,358.47	$ 5,118.16	$ 41,204.82
Office Manager	$ -	$ 1,641.01	$ -	$ -	$ 1,641.01
Interns	$ 626.41	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 626.41
PERSONNEL BENEFITS TOTAL:	**$ 81,602.93**	**$ 18,373.32**	**$ 15,487.78**	**$ 10,539.19**	**$ 126,003.22**
OPERATIONS/SUPPLIES:					
General office supplies/telephone	$ 18,849.85	$ 6,442.35	$ 2,070.02	$ 1,203.69	$ 28,565.91
Postage, copier agreement	$ 7,774.01	$ 2,889.85	$ 1,902.18	$ 1,453.07	$ 14,019.11
Rental Space - office/storage shed	$ 21,220.90	$ 5,020.65	$ 2,620.76	$ 3,543.45	$ 32,405.76
OPERATIONS/SUPPLIES TOTAL:	**$ 47,844.76**	**$ 14,352.85**	**$ 6,592.96**	**$ 6,200.21**	**$ 74,990.78**
CAPITAL OUTLAY/EQUIPMENT:					
General Office:	$ -	$ 242.41			$ 242.41
Promotion/Education:	$ 5,817.50	$ 448.24	$ 483.27	$ 12,040.77	$ 18,789.78
BMP/Monitoring:					$ -
CAPITAL OUTLAY TOTAL:	**$ 5,817.50**	**$ 690.65**	**$ 483.27**	**$ 12,040.77**	**$ 19,032.19**

NORTHWEST AREA FOUNDATION GRANT
CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURE REPORT 1994-2000

Grant # 97-0028	1994-1997	1998	1999	2000	
	NORTHWEST FOUNDATION	NORTHWEST FOUNDATION	NORTHWEST FOUNDATION	NORTHWEST FOUNDATION	NORTHWEST FOUNDATION
PROMOTION/EDUCATION:					
Promotional items/Public Awareness	$ 74,947.32	$ 13,079.52	$ 3,566.06	$ 15,714.89	$ 107,307.79
Printing Materials (brochures, newsletters)	$ 36,418.70	$ 12,965.23	$ 3,241.46	$ 8,403.51	$ 61,028.90
Tours,Meetings/Special Events	$ 36,198.06	$ 3,205.44	$ 828.26	$ 195.39	$ 40,427.15
Misc. Educational Supplies	$ 1,599.54	$ 54.41	$ 599.30	$ 526.14	$ 2,779.39
Office Supplies					$ -
PROMOTION/EDUCATION TOTAL:	**$ 149,163.62**	**$ 29,304.60**	**$ 8,235.08**	**$ 24,839.93**	**$ 211,543.23**
MONITORING/EVALUATION:					
Evaluation/Water Quality Plans					$ -
Water monitoring/Sampling	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 196.00	$ 196.00
Misc. supplies/expenses	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2.24	$ 2.24
MONITORING/EVALUATION TOTAL:	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 198.24**	**$ 198.24**
TRAVEL/EXPENSES:					
Tech assistance/monitoring travel	$ 223.32				$ 223.32
Promotion/education travel	$ 2,630.12				$ 2,630.12
Reimburse County -expenses	$ 2,390.22	$ 4,624.43	$ 301.55	$ 508.72	$ 7,824.92
Administration expenses	$ 1,147.53	$ 1,838.47	$ 839.26	$ 1,425.49	$ 5,250.75
Administration travel	$ 3,650.29	$ 1,977.14	$ 661.99	$ 1,110.78	$ 7,629.00
Staff-workshop/training expense	$ 3,983.68	$ 1,324.16	$ 1,013.10	$ 783.70	$ 6,753.53
TRAVEL/EXPENSES TOTAL:	**$ 14,025.16**	**$ 9,764.20**	**$ 2,639.59**	**$ 3,828.69**	**$ 30,311.64**
OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES:					
Professional services	$ 8,210.82	$ 9,887.10	$ -	$ 12,000.00	$ 30,097.92
Fees/dues	$ 904.12	$ 355.03	$ 81.94	$ 1,365.99	$ 2,707.08
Subscriptions	$ 1,506.88	$ 372.19	$ -	$ 2.10	$ 1,881.17
County Admin Fee	$ 3,159.25	$ 1,230.85	$ 298.30	$ 174.90	$ 4,863.30
Unemployment Insurance	$ 2,613.86	$ 660.19	$ -	$ 40.23	$ 3,314.28
Other Insurance	$ 8,877.20	$ 2,434.36	$ 2,079.36	$ 1,938.51	$ 15,329.43
Misc. services/expenses	$ 869.67	$ 7.03	$ 116.22	$ -	$ 992.92
OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES TOTAL	**$ 26,141.80**	**$ 14,946.75**	**$ 2,575.82**	**$ 15,521.73**	**$ 59,186.10**
PERSONNEL TOTAL:	**$ 369,288.10**	**$ 71,604.67**	**$ 51,627.75**	**$ 36,214.08**	**$ 528,734.60**
PERSONNEL BENEFITS TOTAL:	**$ 81,602.93**	**$ 18,373.32**	**$ 15,487.78**	**$ 10,539.19**	**$ 126,003.22**
OPERATIONS/SUPPLIES TOTAL:	**$ 47,844.76**	**$ 14,352.85**	**$ 6,592.96**	**$ 6,200.21**	**$ 74,990.78**
CAPITAL OUTLAY TOTAL:	**$ 5,817.50**	**$ 690.65**	**$ 483.27**	**$ 12,040.77**	**$ 19,032.19**
PROMOTION/EDUCATION TOTAL:	**$ 149,163.62**	**$ 29,304.60**	**$ 8,235.08**	**$ 24,839.93**	**$ 211,543.23**
MONITORING/EVALUATION TOTAL:	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 198.24**	**$ 198.24**
TRAVEL/EXPENSE TOTAL:	**$ 14,025.16**	**$ 9,764.20**	**$ 2,693.59**	**$ 3,828.69**	**$ 30,311.64**
OTHER SERVICES/CHARGES TOTAL:	**$ 26,141.80**	**$ 14,946.75**	**$ 2,575.82**	**$ 15,521.73**	**$ 59,186.10**
GRAND TOTAL:	**$ 693,883.87**	**$ 159,037.04**	**$ 87,696.25**	**$ 109,382.84**	**$ 1,050,000.00**

The Watershed Residents who voluntarily realized that they were the ones who could make the difference.

The past RCRCA Board Members who through their wisdom and dedication to the Redwood River have created a watershed management organization that continues to be a model for the Minnesota River Basin.

The present RCRCA Board Members who continually provide organizational direction and maintain their commitment to the Redwood River, keeping RCRCA at the forefront of watershed management.

Contributing sponsors and partners, who provided the funding, time and expertise that has proved watershed management can work and work well!

Authors

Robert Finley, RCRCA Executive Director 83-00
James Doering, RCRCA Executive Director 00-Present
Roseanne Kaseforth, Watershed Educator 00-Present
Jason Neuman, Watershed Technician 00-01

The past and present RCRCA and Redwood River Project Staff that dedicated their hearts and minds to improving the Redwood River Watershed and continue to do so!

The State of Minnesota for recognizing the importance of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Clean Water Partnership Program and support through legislative dedication and funding.

The support of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Project Managers: Mark Hanson and Wade Gillingham.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources and their dedication to the Minnesota River!

The Northwest Area Foundation and their commitment to water quality and the foresight to provide funding that made the Redwood River Clean Water Project a success!

M² Media Design for designing this publication.

Our Redwood River

I love the river because it makes me feel peaceful.

Joy.
You can see all kinds of wildlife sharing the river: pelicans, geese, ducks, turtles, fish, tadpoles, beavers and deer.

Life.
We have picnics on the rocks by the banks of the river.

Love.
Young children splash and laugh in the water.

Happiness.
It is fun to camp by the boat on the river.

Relaxation.
While we tan we dream of the future.

Togetherness.
The birds sing a cheerful song along the river. Feel the warm sun as you are canoeing.

Adventure.
In the summer the river is warm and nice. In the winter it is covered with snow and ice.

Fun.
Ripple, ripple as the river moves on. The river appears calm, but as it moves along it becomes more powerful.

Energy.
River, river gurgling blue, since you are polluted we are too.

Sadness.
My grandparents once swam in the Redwood River; maybe I will someday.

Hope.

Group Poem
Sixth Grade - Redwood Valley - 1997

The Redwood River is . . .

A moody person

A freed slave

A snake trying to find its destination

A speedy race car

Always the same, yet always different

A flag blowing in the wind

A turtle moving slowly

A flowing silk scarf

A ribbon in a girl's hair

The best listener

A free ride

A butterfly flitting

A drain unplugged

A mustang in the wild

A love that will never end

A dog chasing a cat

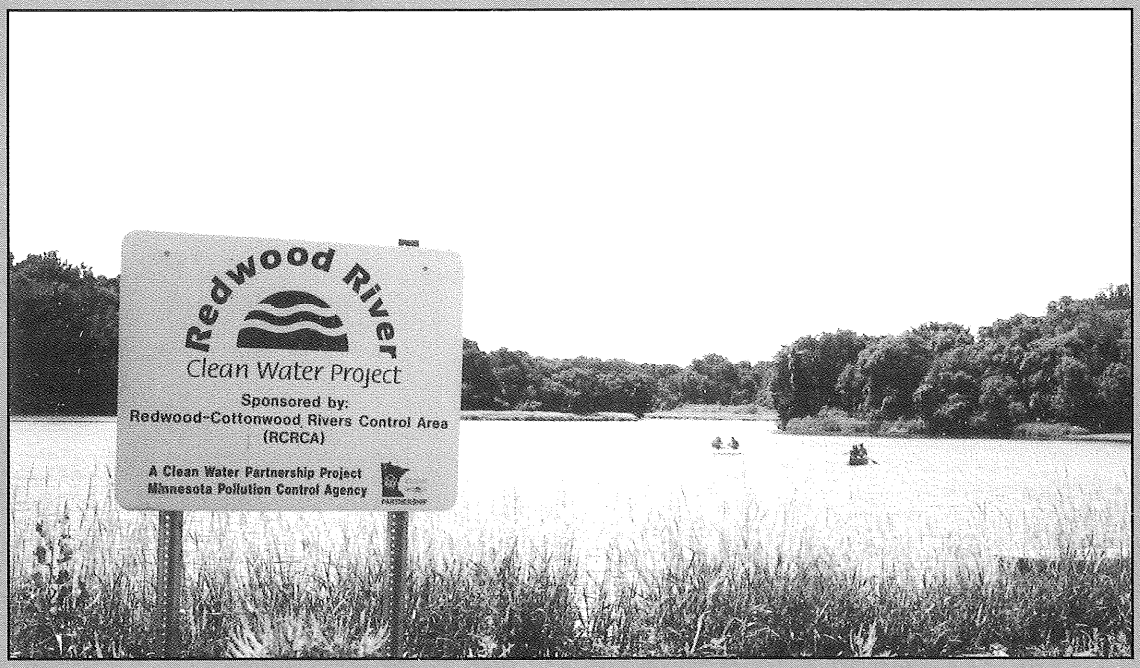
A leaf changing in the fall

A runner in a race

A flower blooming

We hope a river will always be with us.

Group Poem
Sixth Grade - Lynd Public School - 1995



Designed by M² Media Design 2002.

REDWOOD-COTTONWOOD RIVERS CONTROL AREA
1241 East Bridge Street
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
Phone: 507 637-2142 Ext. 4
Fax: 507 637-2134
www.rcrca.com

Printed on recycled paper.
Published January 2002.

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION

HOUSE FILE NO. 2611

January 19, 2006
Authored by Abeler and Hackbarth
Unofficially referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for Mississippi West Regional Park.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

$3,000,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the Metropolitan Council for a grant to the county of Anoka to design, construct, and furnish a Center for the Sustainable Landscape to include buildings, support facilities, natural resources restoration, landscaping, and recreational amenities at the Mississippi West Regional Park.

Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $3,000,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.

Center for the Sustainable Landscape at Mississippi West Regional Park

State Bonding Proposal

Authors:

Senator Jungbauer

Representative Abeler

ANOKA COUNTY

A Continuation of the LCMR Funded Project
"Best Practices for Parks and Recreation"

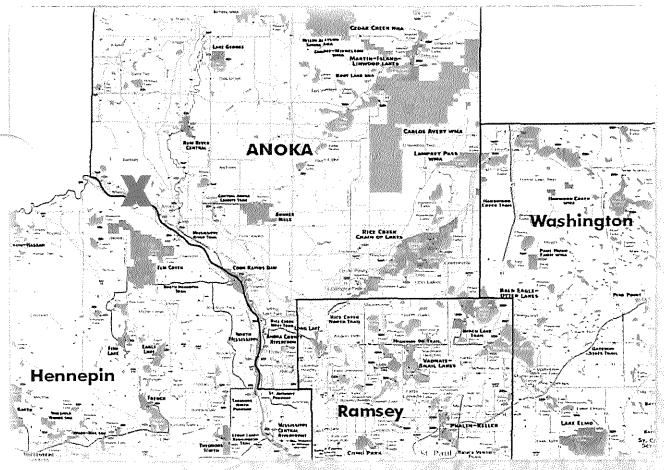
ANOKA COUNTY PARKS

CENTER FOR THE SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE
AT MISSISSIPPI WEST REGIONAL PARK
ANOKA COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

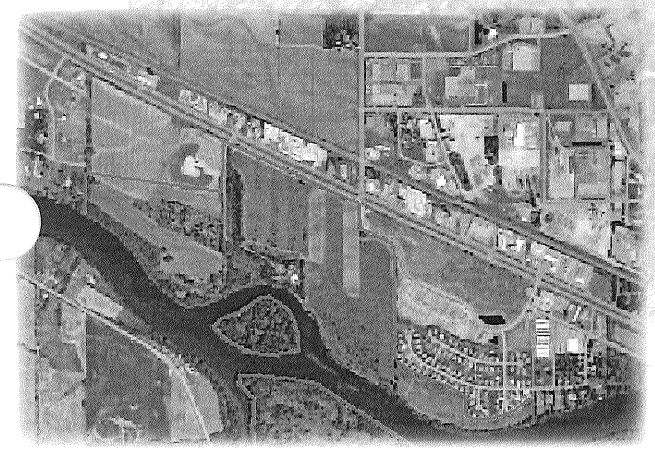
The land comprising Mississippi West Regional Park was donated to Anoka County by Herbert and Marcella Husby in the late 1970's and incorporated into the Metropolitan Regional Parks System in 1996. The site is 273 acres in size and contains the very recently vacated Husby homestead and another vacant dwelling. The undeveloped park has approximately 7,000 feet of Mississippi River frontage and is mostly covered with fallow farm fields and scattered woodlands.

With the recent transfer of the Husby life estate, Anoka County is in the process of identifying design concepts for the park that will be used in the preparation of a master plan for development. The concepts include sustainable landscape features, green architecture, and a variety of land and water-based recreation facilities. The landscape features would serve as a learning center for informing land developers, builders, homeowners, educators and park professionals on the design, construction and maintenance of ecologically friendly landscapes and buildings. Included in the concept would be the latest technologies related to "green" architecture and energy efficiency.



Park Context Map

View of Mississippi River



Existing Site Aerial Photo

Existing Site Conditions

DESIGN CONCEPTS

Sustainable concepts will be used in the design of all park landscapes and in the development of recreation facilities such as picnic areas, playgrounds, open play fields, trails, a boat landing and related improvements. The overall design ideas for the park are consistent with the regional park and open space system, which is intended to provide parks, open space and leisure services for the public while preserving, enhancing and interpreting natural resources. The design concepts respond to the following objectives:

- Design park improvements and landscaping to promote stewardship of the land and its natural resources.
- Use rain gardens and filtration basins to collect and filter stormwater run-off from parking lots, and roadways. Harvest rain water from impervious surfaces.
- Design the educational center to use "green" architecture to enhance energy efficiency and conserve resources.
- Apply bioengineering techniques to protect river banks, steep slopes and erodible soils.
- Establish native vegetative buffers along the river to improve water quality and protect the riverbank.
- Restore wetland, meadow, prairie and woodland habitats on the site.
- Select native plants suitable for the site that benefit wildlife and minimize water and chemical demands for growth.
- Interpret historic and native american landscape concepts.
- Provide on the ground demonstration sites for hands on learning experiences.

The design solutions will serve to educate visitors about restoring disturbed sites in ways that enhance the natural environment and promote long term conservation. A best practices learning laboratory/interpretive center for sustainable landscapes will provide a place for study and instruction and serve as a major focal point for park visitors.

Woodland Garden

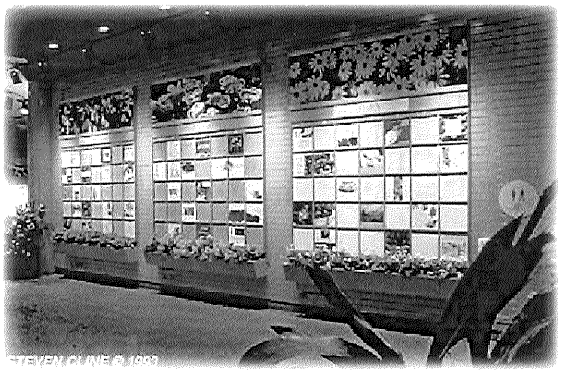
Bio-Filtration Pond

Butterfly Garden

Rain Garden

Hands-on opportunities for learning will be provided through a variety of indoor displays and classroom along with contemporary outdoor "learning laboratory" demonstrations.

Learning Center



Indoor Educational Opportunities

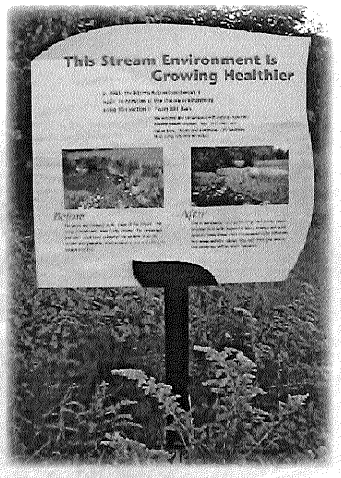
Green Architecture Concepts

Sustainable Landscape Demonstrations

PROSPECTIVE PARTNERS

The following agencies and organizations have been identified as potential partners to assist with the Center for the Sustainable Landscape at Mississippi West Regional Park:

- US Green Buildings Council
- National Park Service – MNRRA Corridor
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance
- University of Minnesota
- Minnesota Extension Service
- Metropolitan Council
- Anoka County Integrated Waste Management Department
- Anoka Conservation District
- City of Ramsey
- Great River Greening
- Friends of the Mississippi
- Private developers and building suppliers

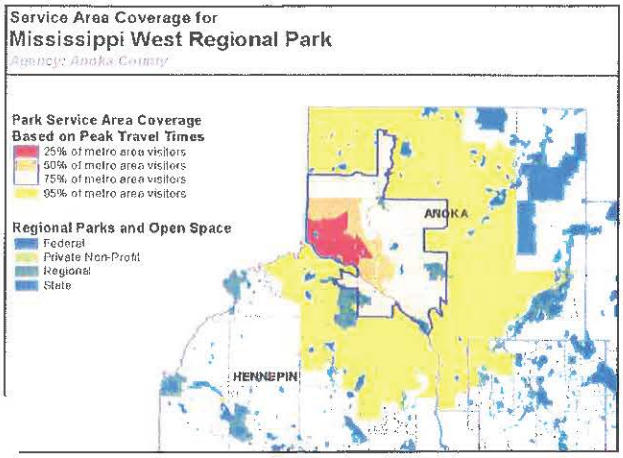


Interpretive Signage

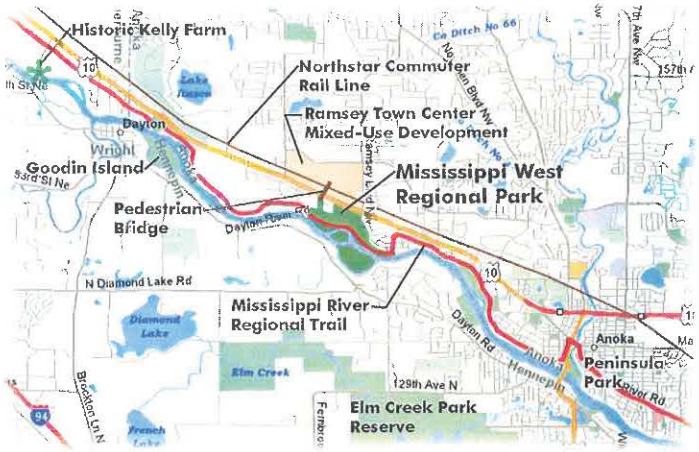
CONTEXT OF FACILITY

There are several considerations that add strength to the design concepts for Mississippi West Regional Park.

- The Sustainable Landscape Center would serve as a "learning laboratory" to incorporate Best Management Practices from the previously funded LCMR project on Best Management Practices for Parks.
- The learning center would be unique to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and the State.
- The expansive growth occurring near the park and in the region provides a large audience for the learning center.
- The central location between St. Cloud and the Twin Cities and proximity to Hwy. 10, the Northstar Rail Corridor, the planned Ramsey Town Center, and regional trail create easy access to the park and enhance its status as a major feature in the area.
- Sustainable design is consistent with the trend of the general population and regulatory agencies to restore and protect natural resources and the environment through cost-effective sustainable means.



Metropolitan Regional Park Service Area



Transportation Corridor and Park Access

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE

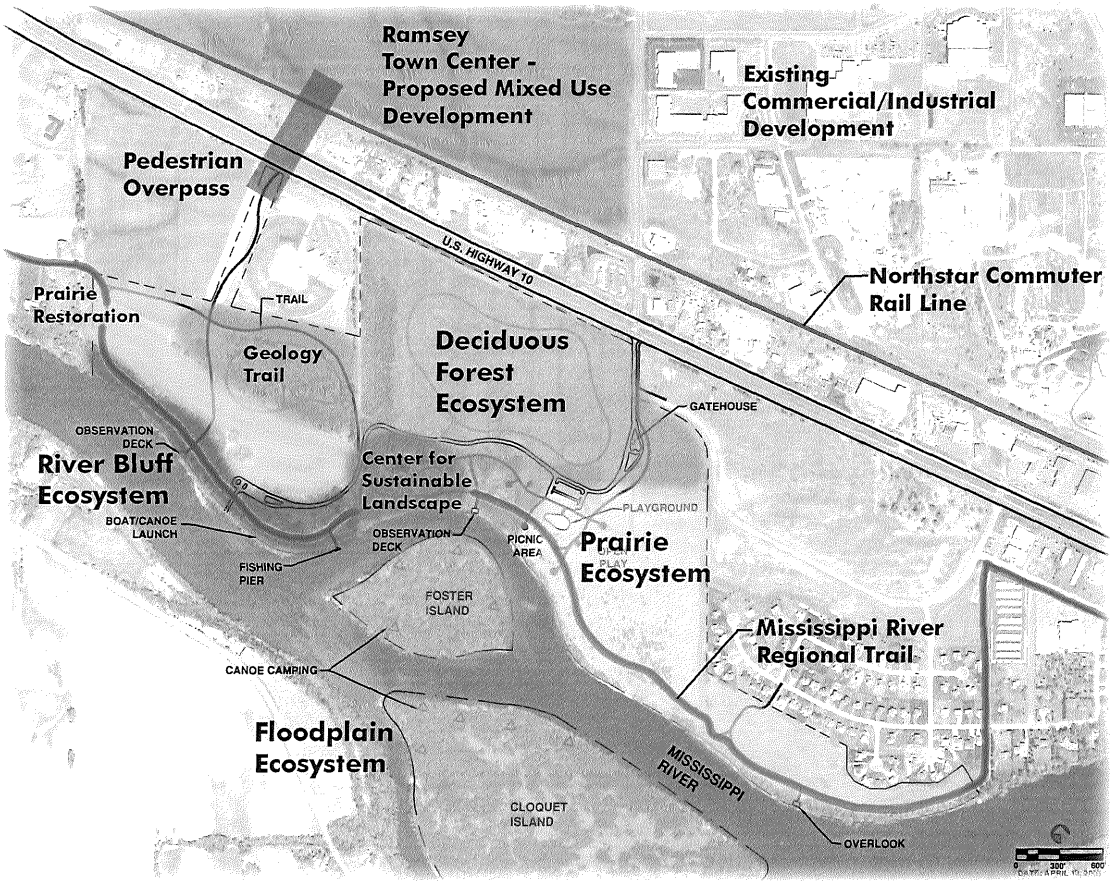
The estimated cost for full development of Mississippi West Regional Park, including the sustainable concept education center, and recreation facilities, is $6.0 million. A well crafted Master Plan and phased approach for implementation would assist in achieving development goals over an extended period within manageable budgets. The opportunity exists to potentially generate private funds, and other federal, state, and regional grants. The first phase of $3.0 million, would include the learning center, sustainable demonstration projects, and minor recreational improvements. The second phase would focus more on regional recreational facilities.

PHASE 1 DEVELOPMENT

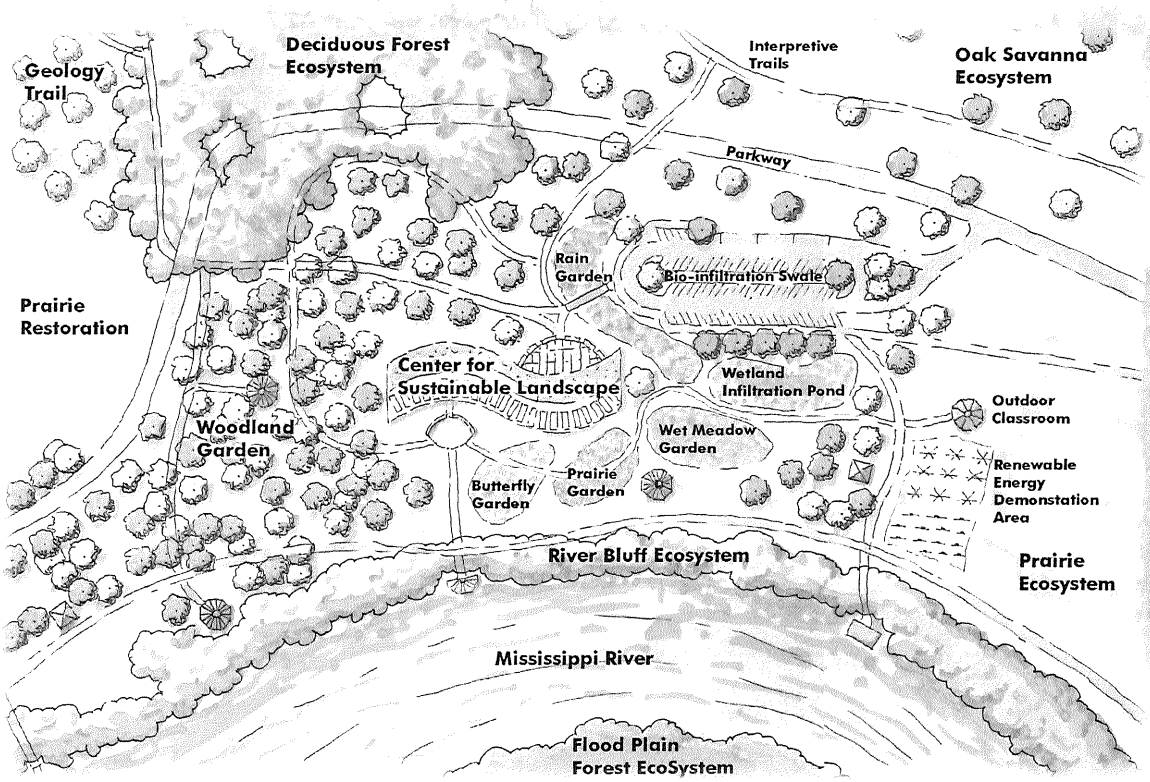
Center for the Sustainable Landscape	$1,500,000
Sustainable landscape and garden demonstrations	400,000
Trails and interpretive features	200,000
Recreational amenities	500,000
Roads, parking, and support features	400,000
Total	3,000,000

PHASE 2 DEVELOPMENT

Gardens and landscape restoration	400,000
Outdoor exhibits and displays	200,000
Regional trail through park	200,000
Recreational facilities	1,000,000
River access / boat launch	400,000
Roads and parking	400,000
Connection to Northstar Corridor & town center	400,000
Total	3,000,000



Conceptual Park Master Plan



Conceptual Learning Center Campus

A bill for an act

relating to natural resources; appropriating money and authorizing bonds for paving the Luce Line Trail.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **LUCE LINE TRAIL.**

Subdivision 1. **Appropriation.** $1,493,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for paving the Luce Line Trail between Zebra Avenue in the city of Winsted and Arch Street in the city of Hutchinson. The trail between Zebra Avenue in the city of Winsted and Arch Street in the city of Hutchinson shall be available for multiple uses, including hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and inline skating.

Subd. 2. **Bond Sale.** To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $1,493,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

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"3 Communities Paving the Way"

Working to pave 20 miles of the Luce Line Trail from
Hutchinson through **Silver Lake** to **Winsted.**

"For the good of our communities through
Getting up, Getting out, Getting fit, Safety, and Economic & Social Development."

Economic and Social Development

By paving the 20 Miles of the Luce Line Trail, from Hutchinson through Silver Lake to Winsted, the state will also be stimulating the economic and social benefits within our communities. Paving the way between our three communities, it will create collaboration of our residents during annual events and increase tourism in our area. With the Luce Line access, our plan is to increase family recreation, encourage more local vacationing, and enhance family focus.

- "Trails provide opportunities for creating a long lasting framework for tourism and economic development in rural Minnesota" *Trails Initiative Fact Sheet January 2005*
- According to Gary Sjoquist, Quality Bicycle Products, "its been found that a trail can bring at least one million dollars annually to a community".
- Trails enhance property values, provide business opportunities and contribute to community pride.
- Visiting state parks and **trails** is one of the top five activities for tourists in Minnesota contributing over $200 million in economic activity.
- Outdoor recreation contributes 2.3% of Minnesota's gross state product.

"Get up, Get out, Get Fit"

What a better way to "get up, get out and get fit" then to have a multi purpose trail that not only connects 63 miles of communities, but allows activities such as rollerblading, biking, horseback riding, walking, cross-country skiing, hiking, snowmobiling, camping, and picnicking. Paving the 20 miles from Hutchinson through Silver Lake to Winsted, our state can provide the avenue to "getup, get out, and get fit" all season long.

- The Parks & Trail council states in their January 2005 *Trail Initiative Fact Sheet* "Trails are a part of the solution to the long-term health costs associated with the growing problem of obesity, by providing opportunities for increased physical activities."
- "Physical inactivity is costing Minnesota nearly $500 million dollars each year" according to Minnesota's Parks, Trails and Healthy Citizens fact sheet, March 2005.
- "Parks and trails provide spaces for individuals and families to take advantage of some of Minnesota's most cherished resources and make the changes needed to promote a healthy life style. "

Safety

Safety is a prime reason to pave 20 miles of the Luce Line Trail. It is unusual to find a trail that allows the multiple uses to a community, as the Luce Line provides and in order to keep this variety available, we need it to be safe for all. In current state, the 20 Miles of the Luce Line Trail, from Hutchinson through Silver Lake to Winsted, is not safe for all activities.

- "Trails offer a transportation alternative and a safe route for people to walk or bike to work or school. A trail package complements other state investments in roads, bridges and commuter routes." *Trails Initiative fact sheet January 2005*
- A national study released in late 2004 revealed that there has been a marked increase in pedestrian deaths in many metropolitan areas, despite less walking. Trails offer safer alternate routes for exercise and commuting.

RESOLUTION NO 12892

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT CONCERNING EFFORT TO SECURE STATE BONDING TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE LUCE LINE TRAIL

WHEREAS, the City of Hutchinson has supported efforts to enhance Luce Line Trail development, and;

WHEREAS, the City believes multi use trail development enhances the opportunity to effect the greatest amount of trail users, and;

WHEREAS, the City believes that further development of the Luce Line Trail, provides opportunity for expanded recreational use, improved safety, wellness activities and would provide economic stimulus to the area,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUTCHINSON, MINNESOTA THAT:

The City supports a $1,493,000 appropriation from the bond proceeds fund to the Commissioner of Natural Resources for paving the Luce Line Trail between the cities of Hutchinson (Arch Street) and Winsted (Zebra Avenue). The trail between Hutchinson and Winsted shall be available for multiple uses including hiking, biking, rollerblading, horseback riding, cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

Adopted by the City Council on this 10th day of January 2006.

Gary D. Plotz
City Administrator

Steve W. Cook
Mayor

CITY OF WINSTED

RESOLUTION R- 06-02

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO SECURE STATE BONDING TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE LUCE LINE TRAIL

WHEREAS, residents through the "Spotlight on Winsted" planning process have indicated that trail development in the community is essential to enhancing the quality of life in Winsted.

WHEREAS, paving of the Luce Line Trail from Winsted through Silver Lake to Hutchinson will allow for multiple uses including hiking, biking, rollerblading, horseback riding, cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

WHEREAS, further development of the Luce Line trail will promote regional recreation and economic opportunities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Winsted supports a $1,493,000 appropriation from the bond proceeds for paving the Luce Line Trail between the cities of Hutchinson (Arch Street) and Winsted (Zebra Avenue).

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Winsted this 17th day of January, 2006.

Mayor:

Don C. Guggemos

Attest:

Deborah R. Boelter

Deborah R. Boelter

Resolution 06-04: A resolution of support concerning the effort to secure state bonding to further develop the Luce Line Trail.

WHEREAS, the City of Silver Lake supports efforts to enhance Luce Line Trail development, and;

WHEREAS, the City believes multi use trail development enhances the opportunity to affect the greatest amount of trail users, and;

WHEREAS, the City believes that further development of the Luce Line Trail provides opportunity for expanded recreational use, improved safety, wellness activities and would provide economic stimulus to the area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Silver Lake City Council that the City supports a $1,493,000 appropriation from the bond proceeds fund to the Commissioner of Natural Resources for paving the Luce Line Trail between the Cities of Hutchinson and Winsted through the City of Silver Lake. The trail between Hutchinson and Winsted shall be available for multiple uses including hiking, biking, rollerblading, horseback riding, cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

Adopted by the Silver Lake City Council this 17th day of January 2006.

Bruce Bebo, Mayor

Seal of the City:

Kerry Venier, Clerk/Treasurer

MID-MINNESOTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Serving the People of Region Six East

February 1, 2006

Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce
2 Main Street South
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Dear Chamber Members and Other Interested Parties:

At the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC) meeting on January 26, 2006, Hutchinson City Councilmember Bill Arndt informed his fellow MMDC Commissioners that the "Three Communities Paving the Way" organization is working to make improvements to the Luce Line Trail and is seeking State bonding funds for such a purpose. We understand the segment of the trail the organization is currently focusing their attention on is the approximate 20 mile long segment between Hutchinson and Winsted. We also understand that this trail also runs through the City of Silver Lake. Please be advised that the Commission approved a motion in support of this effort. MMDC Commissioners understand the important economic development tool an improved Luce Line Trail would be for the Region. It obviously will be a great recreational opportunity for the Region's citizens as well. We are thankful for the efforts of the Three Communities Paving the Way organization and for the efforts of the Hutchinson Area Chamber of Commerce on improving the Luce Line Trail.

Sincerely,

Donn Winckler

Donn Winckler
Executive Director

333 Sixth Street Southwest, Suite 2 • Willmar, MN 56201-5615
E-Mail: mmrdc@mmrdc.org • Web Site: www.mmrdc.org
320-235-8504 • 1-800-450-8608 • 320-235-4329 Fax

2/2/2006

Dear Senator Dille,

I am writing regarding the paving of the Luce Line Trail. As an equestrian that often uses the trail, I became :erned with how paving the trail would affect my ability. After meeting at the Chamber of Commerce in Hutchinson with several community members, I learned that there would be enough room for a parallel treadway along side the bike path. This way the improved trail could be opened up to new users while those of us that enjoy the unpaved surface could continue to do so. I think that this is a great compromise and would make the trail an enjoyable resource for many more people. I support making the improvements to the trail as an equestrian and community member, and hope that you will support the effort.

Thank you,

Annie LeClaire

ıie LeClaire
,6 210th st.
Silver Lake, MN 55381

Senator Steve Dille,

I am a frequent user of the Luce Line Trail. As a father of two children, I am concerned for their safety while outdoors. I am the only person in my family who uses the trail due to it's poor conditions. The paving of the Luce Line Trail would make it easy, safe and possible for my family to accompany me on bicycle rides and walks along the trail.

I support the effort of paving the 20 mile stretch from Hutchinson through Silver Lake to Winsted.

Thank you for your time,

Jon Wehler
540 N Main ST
Hutchinson, MN 55350
320-587-0926

Todd Kuntz
1139 Cardinal Circle
Mayer Minnesota 55360

- Trail Coordinator for Southwest Trail Association in Carver County since 1994
- Trail Coordinator for Carver County Snowrunners since 1994
- Member of the Minnesota United Snowmobiler's Association – Region 8 Board of Directors
- Member and past President of Luce Line Trail Association
- Groomer Operator

As an active volunteer and avid snowmobiler I have concerns about black topping the portion of the Luce Line trail from Hutchinson to Winsted. The Luce Line trail is a major part of the trail system in McLeod County, this trail system connects trails to Carver, Wright, Hennepin and Meeker Counties.

Due to the nature of asphalt being black, this naturally absorbs the suns rays and will melt the snow at an increased rate. Even though the groomer will pull snow in from the sides and add snow to the trail, the asphalt will cause the snow to diminish faster than the current limestone grade.

There are also features on a snowmobile that are there to make the sled safer. These are the carbides that assist in steering on ice and studs that will help the sled to stop on icy trails. Both of these have potential to cause damage to asphalt. It has been said that the snowmobiles will be allowed on the trails with asphalt. The Paul Bunyan trail that is north of Brainerd and the part of the Luce Line with in the city limits of Hutchinson that has been asphalted; snowmobiles were allowed on them to start and are now being re-routed off the trail.

Currently in Carver County we have over 120 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. This trail system connects to the Luce Line Trail and through this trail snowmobiles can reach Wright, Meeker, McLeod and Hennepin Counties. Snowmobile trails depend upon the Luce Line Trail as a major corridor to smaller trails. As the towns grow and land owners change many of these trails will be re-routed; the Luce Line trail is a trail that we need to remain consistent.

Snowmobiling is an important Minnesota industry and brings money into the economy in a variety of different ways. This is from the purchase of the sled, the license fees, the revenue brought to resort areas of the state and to the restaurants and gas stations along the trail. The cost of asphalting this trail will be approximately $75,000 per mile – what will bicyclist give back to Minnesota?

You have heard my concerns over asphalting the Luce Line Trail. All I can ask is that you take this information and consider the impact that asphalt will have to a sport that I love and have put much volunteer time and energy into keeping alive in Minnesota. Please contact me at 952-657-2640

Todd Kuntz
1139 Cardinal Circle
Mayer Minnesota 55360

- Trail Coordinator for Southwest Trail Association in Carver County since 1994
- Trail Coordinator for Carver County Snowrunners since 1994
- Member of the Minnesota United Snowmobiler's Association – Region 8 Board of Directors
- Member and past President of Luce Line Trail Association
- Groomer Operator

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My name is Debra Rockney and I am a board member and past president of the Luce Line Trail Association (LLTA). LLTA was unaware until last week of the Hutchinson group that is requesting approximately 1.5 million bond money for the purpose of asphalting the Luce Line Trail from Winsted to Hutchinson. Another board member and I met with the group Wednesday Feb.1 for a short time. They explained they are interested in making a large biking loop to connect Hutchinson to the cities in order to benefit their commerce in the city of Hutchinson similar to the way that Lanesboro flourished from its bike trail.

I am concerned that they are not making any solid plans at the same time for the other trail users. The Luce Line Trail is a multiple use trail with a dual tread way along it's entire length to accommodate all of the user groups . The second tread way has to be planned and developed at the same time. To avoid injuries between the different trail user groups, the second tread way (a mowed grass surface) is kept separate by nearly 40 feet where ever possible. The almost 20 mile proposed asphalt trail at a cost of $75,000 per mile for asphalt would be 1.5 million . Nothing would be left over to build the second parallel trail. The other trail users that would have to be accommodated would be snowmobilers, horseback riders, joggers, and walkers. If asphalt attracts in line skaters then additional funds would have to be set up for sweepers, blowers and the extra labor necessary to keep the surface usable. The Gateway Trail had this experience.

Most snowmobile riders tell me they greatly prefer the limestone. Joggers also prefer the softer surface to avoid injuries. People walking pets have stated the hot tar in the summer is why they drive to the Luce Line to walk. I called Maple Grove Cycling 952-553-0331(a bike shop near the Luce Line) and talked to store manager Travis. I asked Travis what kind of bike a does he recommend for people wanting to ride the Luce Line. He said he was very familiar with the trail and he recommends the same bike you would use on tar because the surface of the Luce Line is so smooth there is no difference. Dick Schmidt , DNR maintenance for the eastern 30 miles, says twice he has encountered handicapped persons with wheeled apparatus for mobility that said they too enjoyed the Luce Line and the limestone was not a hindrance to them.

Cost

The initial cost of Limestone is less than half the cost of asphalt (see Letter from Metro Paving Inc) Metro Paving president Robert Severson compared installing 6inches of limestone as half the price of 2inches of asphalt. Unfortunately Dick Schmidt of the DNR stated it is necessary to have at least 4 inches of asphalt on the Luce Line Trail.

Costs of Maintenance

The city of Plymouth owned the first mile of the Luce Line Trail in Plymouth east of Vicksburg lane. The trail was in bad shape cracked, cut up by roots and needed replacement within 8 years but there were not funds planned for this. Plymouth finally gave the mile long trail to Hennepin Parks to get the costly $50,000 repair done. In contrast the DNR owned limestone trail across Vicksburg Lane almost 3 decades old was in good shape despite minimal maintenance. The argument that a black top trail is lower maintenance is only true for the first few years after it is laid. When blacktop starts needing repairs it is very costly. There is no denying the least amount of maintenance and

expense is a limestone trail (see enclosed article on asphalt replaced on the Luce line after only 8 years) If blacktop was economical all of our farm roads would be blacktop.

I have lived adjacent to the Luce Line Trail in Watertown for over 23 years. Through out that period the funds for maintenance have been very limited. Last year the DNR did not have manpower or funds to even mow the horse trail. The money for maintenance is the first to go when cuts are made .When the initial interest in the trail ends where will the enormous amount of money to redo and maintain the asphalt come from. The amount to redo asphalt is often equal to the amount to initially put it in (as evidenced from the MnNews letter enclosed.) and if that cannot be acquired your trail will be useless to everyone in the future,

I believe enough funds should be secured to develop both tread ways at the same time or not at all.. The greater expense of asphalt over limestone does not seem warranted for a product that is not superior and will require greater expenses down the line at a time when funds may not be available.

MnNEWS

ASPHALT REPLACED ON LUCE LINE AFTER 8 YEARS

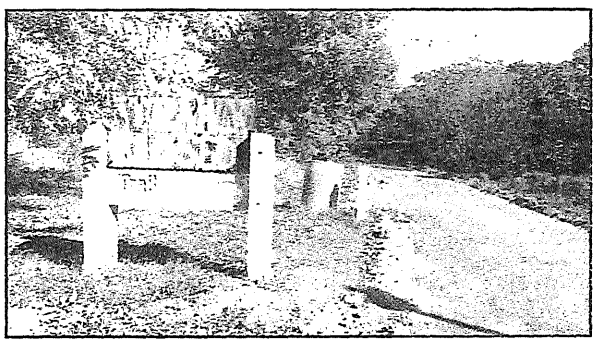
Fans of the Luce Line Trail have often puzzled about the mile of pavement that punctuates the easternmost mile. From Vicksburg Lane to the I-494 underpass in Plymouth, the short paved section was property of the city of Plymouth until this year and the only asphalt on the 60+ mile former railroad right-of-way that is one of the state's oldest established recreational trails.

As reported earlier, this one mile section was in terrible shape and, in September, Hennepin County Parks graded off the asphalt and replaced it with a fresh, smooth black surface.

The interesting part is the old surface was only eight years old. According to Plymouth Parks spokesman Eric Blank, the City let the County take over the trail for two reasons. One, by amalgamating ownership between just Hennepin County (east of Vicksburg) and the State of Minnesota (west of Vicksburg), the overall trail could be more easily managed. The second reason? Plymouth saved the city taxpayers the $50,000 Blank was told the repaving project cost Hennepin Parks.

Trail advocates concerned about the long term impact of paved trails are citing this short life span of the "Plymouth tar" as another reason asphalt paving needs to be carefully studied in Minnesota. Don King of Hennepin Parks said the pavement was in bad shape, cut by roots and cracked all along its length. Across Vicksburg Lane, the limestone paving originally put down by the state over 20 years ago is still smooth and safe despite only minimal grading and maintenance during almost three decades.

Plymouth dodged a big maintenance bullet by giving up the trail to another authority, but this option might not be available when other asphalt - still new today on trails around the state - needs replacement in the mid-2000s.



Paved in 1991, the 1-mile asphalt section of the Luce Line had to be rebuilt this fall. Cost for the project has been estimated at $50,000

January 31, 2006

To whom it may concern,

Based on a verbal description, to install 6 inches of crushed limestone with minimum excavation the cost would be approximately half the price of installing a 2 inch regrade and lay asphalt using the existing class 5 base

Sincerely

Robert Severson

Robert Severson
President Metro Paving
Rogers, Minnesota

Senators Dibble, Higgins, Berglin, Skoglund and Koering introduced—

S. F. No. 479 Referred to the Committee on Finance

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; authorizing the sale of state bonds; appropriating money to mitigate flooding at Lake of the Isles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

$3,000,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development to make a grant to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to mitigate flooding at Lake of the Isles in the city of Minneapolis. Funds appropriated by this section must be used for shoreline stabilization and restoration, dredging, wetland replacement, and other infrastructure improvements necessary to deal with the 1997 flood damage and to prevent future flooding.

Sec. 2. [BOND SALE.]

To provide the money appropriated by section 1 from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $3,000,000 in the manner, on the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following their final enactment.

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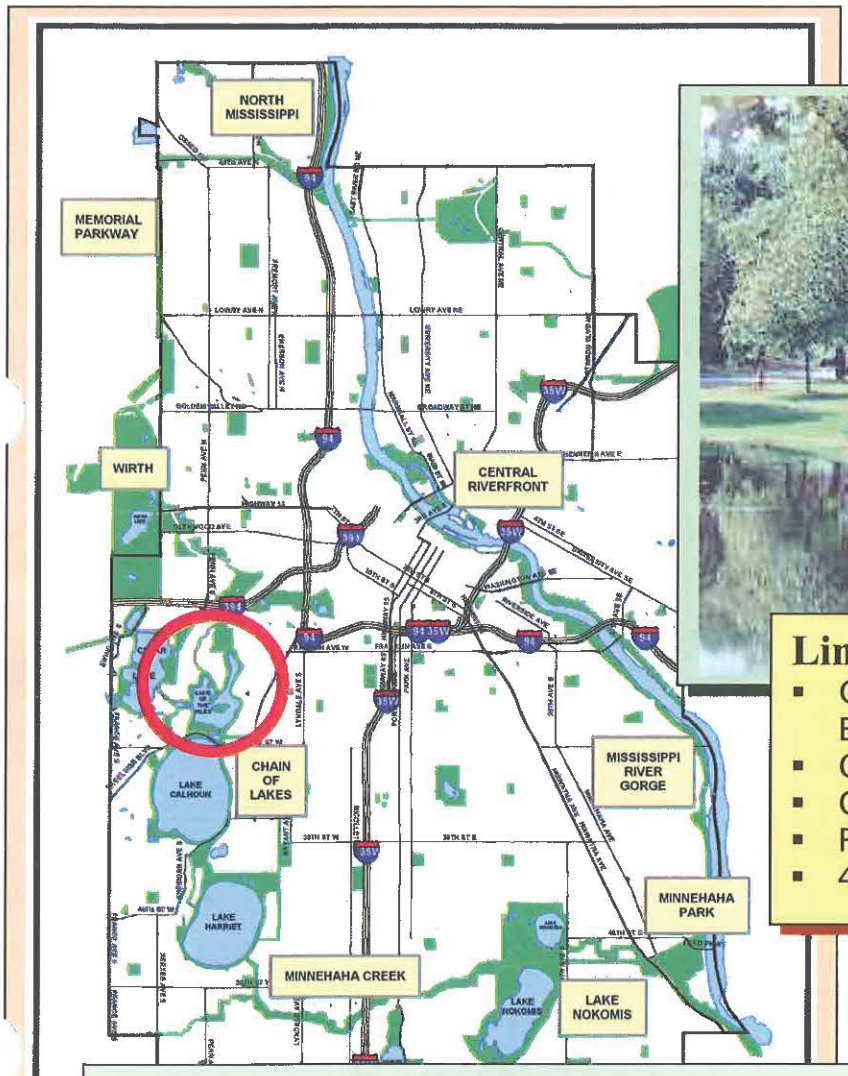
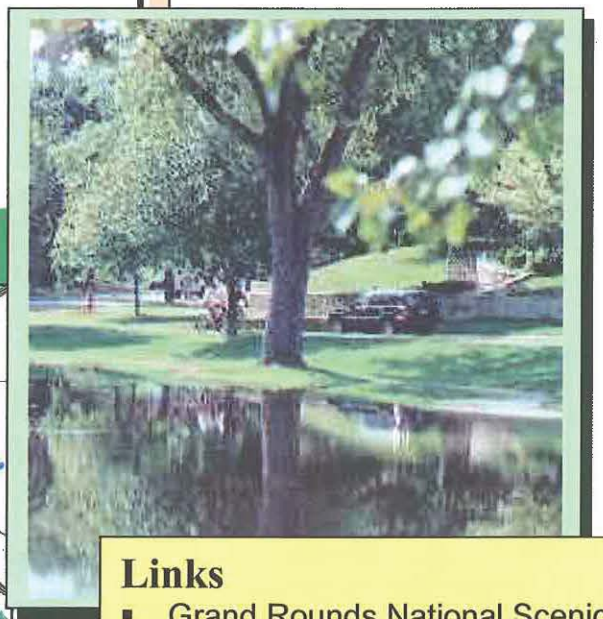
Lake of the Isles – Rehabilitation
Fact sheet
Chain of Lakes Regional Park
$5,000,000 2006 State Bond Request

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board





Links

- Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway – 50 Miles
- City Bike System
- Cedar Lake Bike Trail
- Regional Trail Systems
- 4 Neighborhoods

Project Summary

Continuing restoration, including: wetland re-establishment, increased flood storage capacity, gravity drain installation, plantings, trails, bridge repairs, shoreline restoration, retaining walls, native plantings including short grass prairie and oak savanna.

Benefits

Positive, healthy recreation activities (5.5 million visits/year); reduced flood and storm water related impacts and costs; cleaner water, improved wildlife habitat, reduced siltation, lower maintenance, improved vistas

Lake of the Isles Rehabilitation
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Need

Flooding caused by increases in water runoff from watershed

Facilities damaged such as trails & benches

80% of shoreline damaged by erosion, lowering water quality

Phasing

Project Challenges

- Invasive species (buckthorn, milfoil, purple loosestrife)
- Physically challenged access (trails not complete)
- Addressing neighborhood concerns
- Compressible soft soils
- Regulatory hurdles
- Erosion
- Funding

Project Schedule

With the receipt of this funding the project may be completed in 2008.

History

1889-1911	Wetland dredged to form lake.
1914	Lake of the Isles Regional Park Opens.
1997	Flooding severely damages plants, shoreline, & paths. Much citizen input thru 1999.
1998	Wind storm destroys many trees.
1999	Citizen recommended master plan approved
1999	Envir. Assessment Worksheet (EAW) done
2000	Ph. I construction begins.

Facts & Figures

Size:	93 acres
Watershed:	6,000 acres
Activities:	Walking, viewing, running, canoeing, wildlife enjoyment, biking, picnicking, open playfields, socializing
Native Wildlife & Vegetation:	Small mammals, deer, musky, egrets, reptiles, amphibians, geese, herons, green ash, sedges, rushes, wild geranium, aster, willow, elm, aspen, maple.

Progress Photos

Restored wetland

Re-built trail

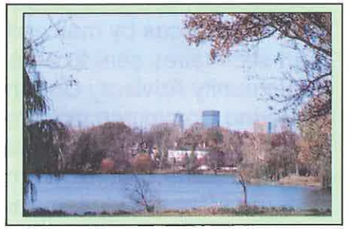
Storm sewer installation

Retaining wall restoration

Retaining wall restoration

Shoreline stabilization

Typical Views



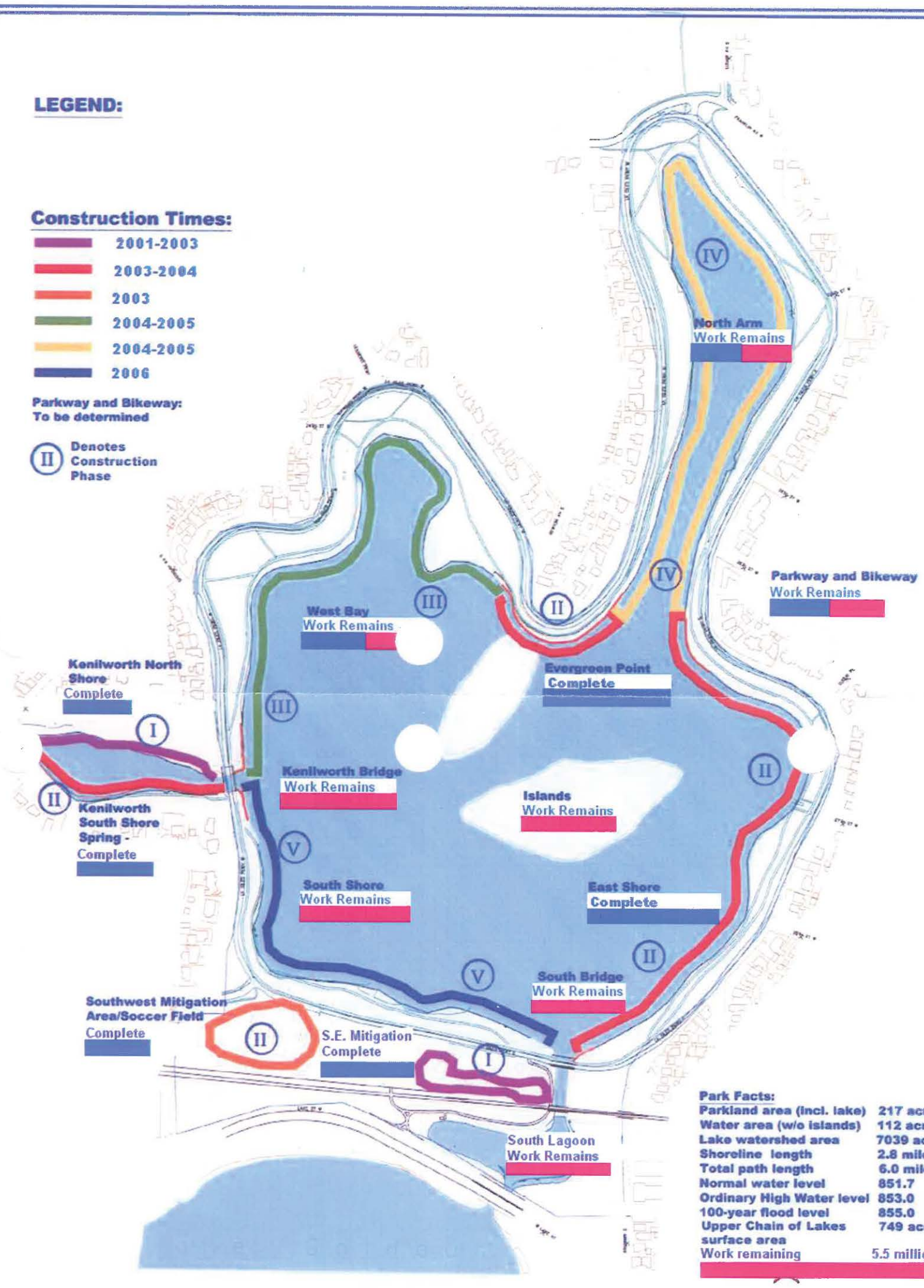
LEGEND:

Construction Times:

- 2001-2003
- 2003-2004
- 2003
- 2004-2005
- 2004-2005
- 2006

Parkway and Bikeway:
To be determined

(II) Denotes Construction Phase



Park Facts:

Parkland area (incl. lake)	217 acres
Water area (w/o islands)	112 acres
Lake watershed area	7039 acres
Shoreline length	2.8 miles
Total path length	6.0 miles
Normal water level	851.7
Ordinary High Water level	853.0
100-year flood level	855.0
Upper Chain of Lakes surface area	749 acres
Work remaining	5.5 million

SANDERS WACKER BERGLY, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS

REHABILITATION PHASING PLAN
LAKE OF THE ISLES

Lake of the Isles Rehabilitation
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

Funding Assistance

▪ Dept. of Natural Resources Flood Mitigation Program	$2,025,000
▪ Metropolitan Council & Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources	$2,719,000
▪ City NRP to date:	$ 658,000
▪ Private donations & misc.:	$ 193,000

Partnering/Technical Assistance

- Neighborhood groups – Kenwood, Lowry Hill, East Isles, Cedar Isles Dean
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR)
- Minnehaha Watershed Management District (MWMD)
- Minnesota State Legislature
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Public/Staff/Technical Advisory Process

- Numerous neighborhood (>35) meetings
- >100 resident participants
- Invitations to business & environmental groups
- Workshops, design charrettes
- Meeting notices by mail and in media
- Questionnaires sent to area residents
- Community Advisory Committee meetings
- Steering Committee meetings
- Technical Advisory Committee meetings
- Staff Advisory Committee meetings
- Board of Commissioners meetings

Community Concerns

- Preserve vistas
- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Improve water quality
- Rehabilitate trails
- Flood prevention
- Repair structures (e.g., bridges)
- Keep residents informed/involve
- Preserve trees
- Preserve historic feel
- How can we help
- Preserve informal recreation areas

Contacts

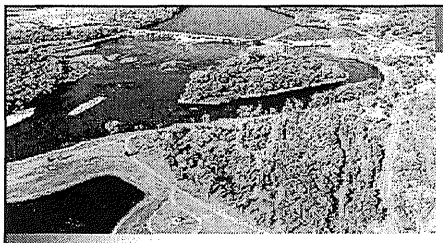
- Tim Brown, Project Manager, Engineer: (612) 230-6466
- Judd Rietkerk, Director of Planning: (612) 230-6409
- Jon Gurban, Superintendent: (612) 230-6400

Rehabilitation to Date

- Shoreline stabilization
- Raising of grades
- Create flood storage
- Improve soccer area
- Natural plantings
- Retaining wall rebuilt
- Lighting
- Trail rebuilding
- Landscaping
- Turf establishment
- Peaty areas surcharged

About the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

- 15,000,000+ visitors annually
- 6400 acres
- 2,193 acres are water (lakes, rivers, ponds)
- Approx. 50 miles of parkway
- 380,000 residents
- 7 supervised beaches
- 1 winter recreation area
- Established 1883, 122 years young
- Elected Board – 9 members
- 600± FT & >1000 PT employees
- 49 staffed neighborhood centers
- 87 miles of bike & ped trails
- Skating rinks
- 4 Dog parks



Governor's recommendation for 2006 Metro. Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and line item projects

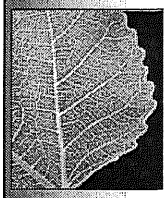
Arne Stefferud
Metropolitan Council
651-602-1360

Governor's recommendation

- $8.2 million for Metro Regional Parks CIP
- $2 million for Lake of the Isles (MPRB request)
- $1.5 million for Port Crosby (South St. Paul request)

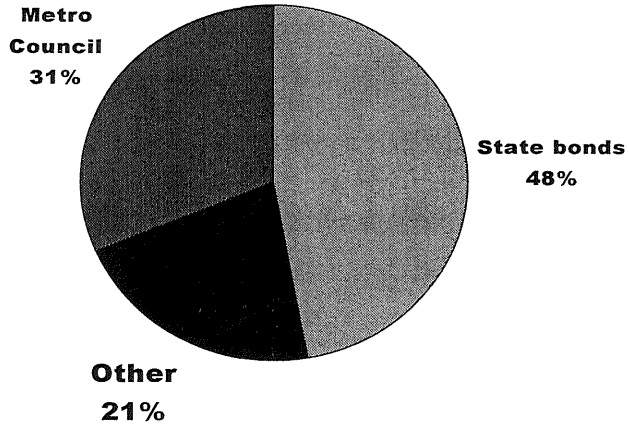
$11.7 million total

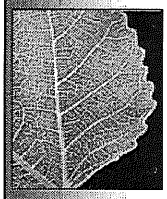
Benefits of $8.2 million for Metro Regional Parks CIP



- Leverages about $9.2 million Metro Council bonds and other funds
- Construction jobs
- Tourism revenues
- Quality of life attraction to retain and expand businesses

State bonds matched with Metro Council bonds and Other funds



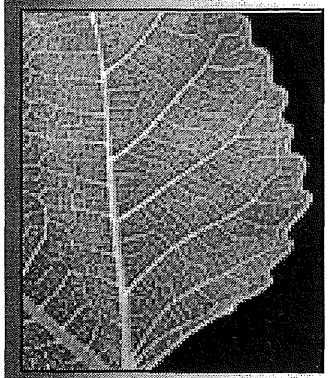


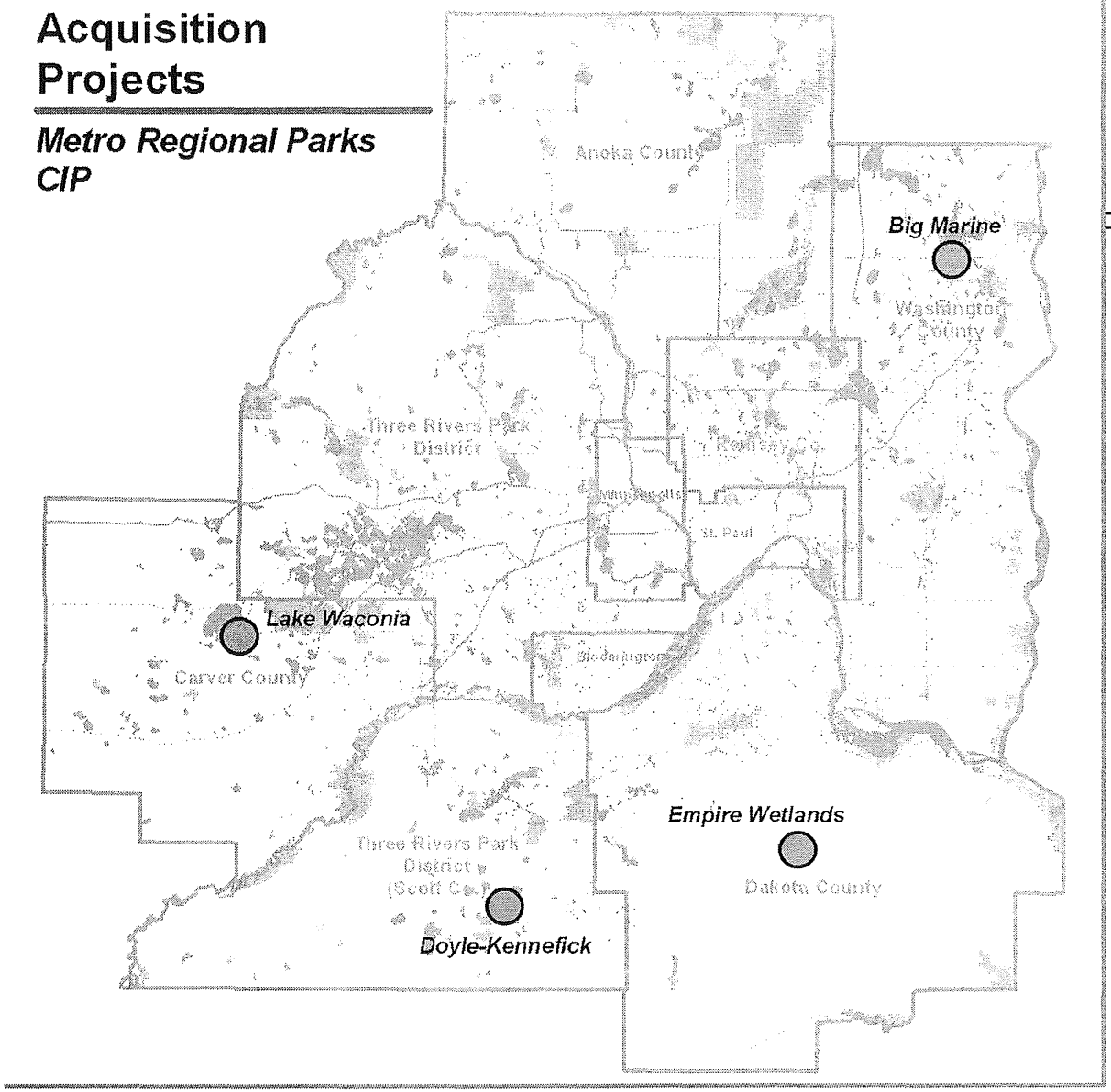
2006 Metro. Regional Parks CIP
Match to State bonds

Component	State bonds ($000's)	Metro. Council match ($000's)	Federal/ other funds ($000's)
Acquisition	1,341	1,340	570
Rehabilitation	4,749	2,655	2,556
Development	2,110	1,472	574
TOTALS	8,200	5,467	3,700

Acquisition Projects

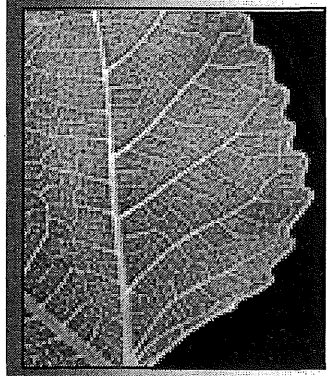
Metro Regional Parks CIP

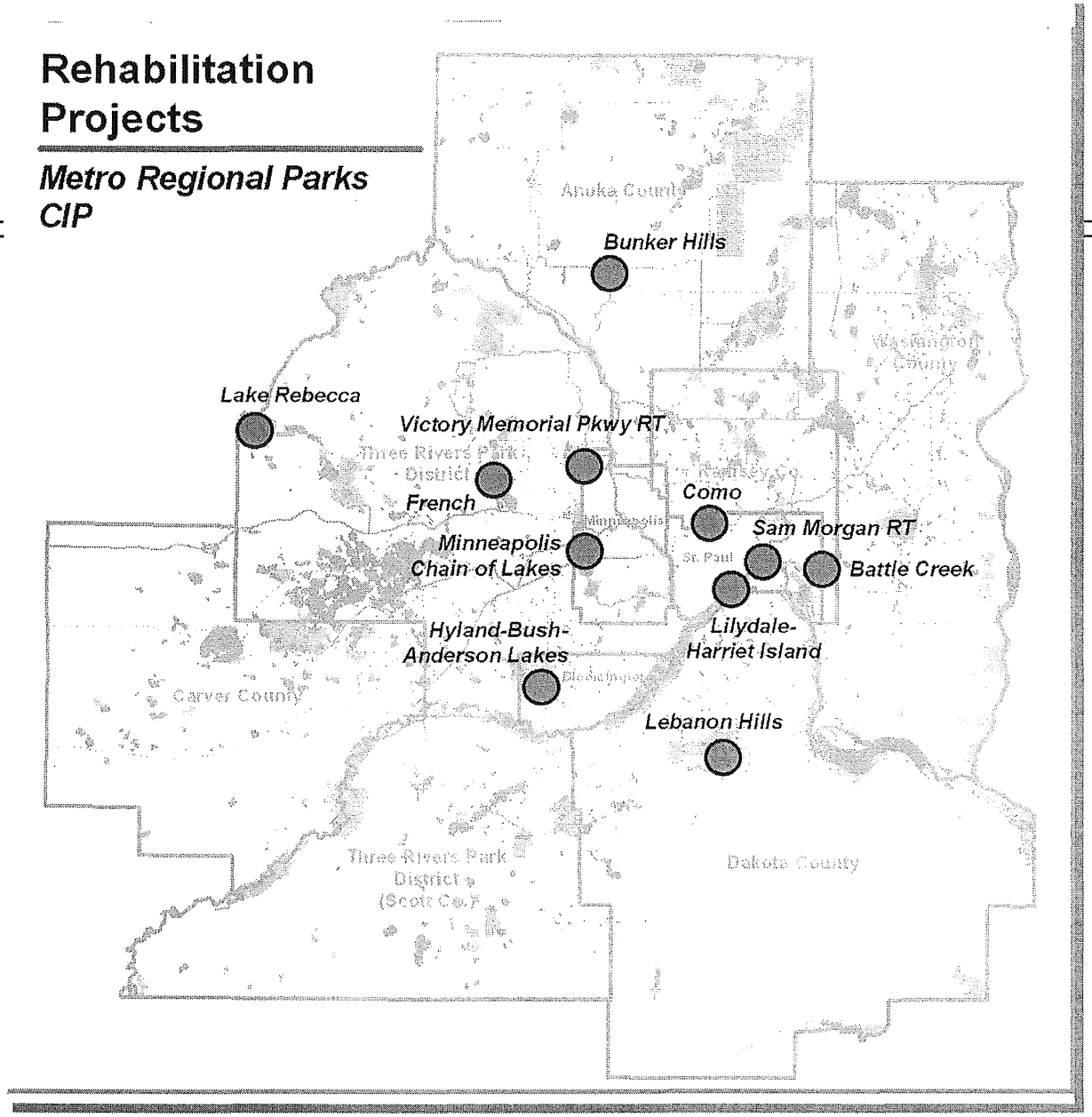




Rehabilitation Projects

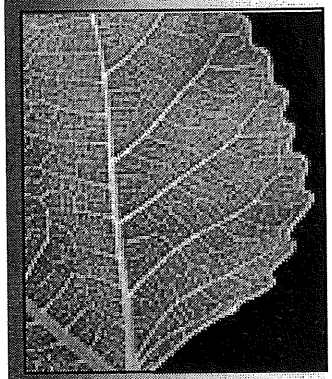
Metro Regional Parks CIP

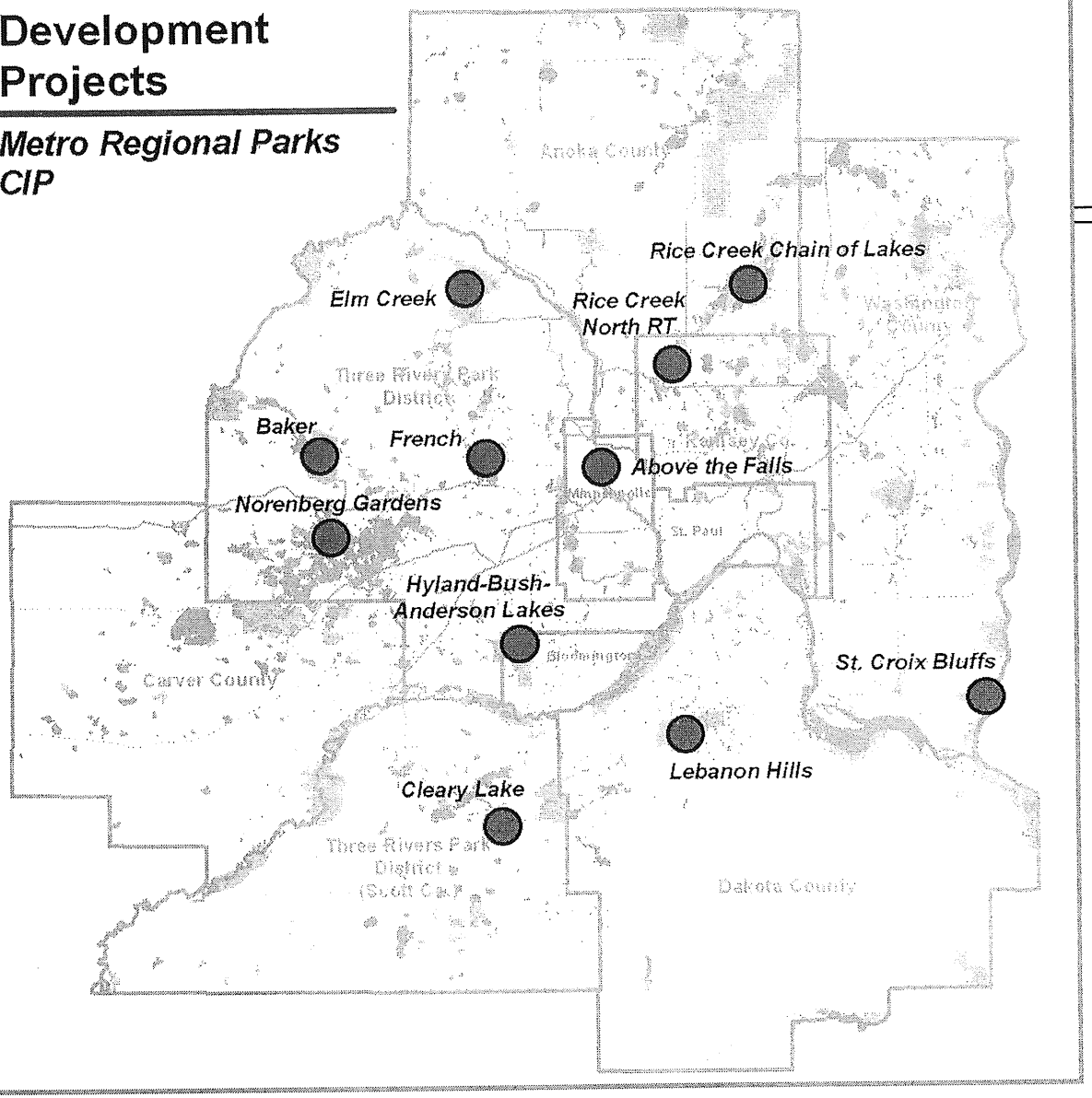




Development Projects

Metro Regional Parks CIP





Governor's recommended $8.2 million for Metro Regional Parks 2006-07 CIP

Key: A= Land Acquisition R= Rehabilitation of parks/trails D= Development of park/trails
RP= Regional Park
= Regional Trail
PR= Park Reserve

	(000's)	% of Total
State Bonds	$ 8,200	48%
Metro. Council Bond match	$ 5,467	31%
Other leveraged funds	$ 3,700	21%
Total	$ 17,366	100%

MPRB= Mpls. Park & Rec. Board
Three Rivers Park District formerly Hennepin Parks

LAND ACQUISITION

Category and Ranking within Category	Park Agency	Park/Trail Name	Project Description	Total for project ($000's)	State bonds ($000's)	Metro Council bonds ($000's)	Other leveraged funds ($000's)
06A-1	Washington Co.	Big Marine PR	Acquire parcels from willing sellers.	$ 280	$ 168	$ 112	$ -
2	Dakota Co.	Acquire land for regional parks and trail units in Dakota County	Acquire some of the 817 acres of land within existing boundaries of regional parks and trails in Dakota County. Land acquired from willing sellers so parcels are not known at this time. Most likely the funds would be spent to partially finance the acquisition of the 460-acre Empire Wetlands RP.	$ 863	$ -	$ 863	$ -
06A-3	Three Rivers Park District	Silver Lake SRF	Partial reimbursement for acquiring property in 2001. Reimbursement grant will be used for the following projects instead of paying off Park District bonds initially issued to finance the land acquisition: $100,000 for Lake Rebecca PR play area design/engineering. $235,000 for Elm Creek PR play area design/engineering. $225,000 for French RP visitor center design/engineering. Plus $300,000 for trail signage at Bake PR, Elm Creek PR and Hyland Lake PR.	$ 860	$ 666	$ 194	$ -
06A-4	Carver Co.	Lake Waconia RP	Acquire land for the park	$ 325	$ 195	$ 130	$ -
06A-5	Washington Co.	Big Marine PR	Acquire parcels from willing sellers.	$ 347	$ 308	$ 39	$ -
6	Scott Co.	Doyle-Kennefick RP	Partial funding ($595,000 needed) for phased acquisition of Doyle-Kennefick farm for Doyle-Kennefick RP under a contract for deed payment plan. Grant will be matched with $570,000 from Excel Energy.	$ 576	$ 4	$ 2	$ 570
			Acquisition subtotals	**$ 3,251**	**$ 1,341**	**$ 1,340**	**$ 570**

Governor's recommended $8.2 million for Metro Regional Parks 2006-07 CIP

REHABILITATION

Category and Ranking within Category	Park Agency	Park/Trail Name	Project Description	Total for project ($000's)	State bonds ($000's)	Metro Council bonds ($000's)	Other leveraged funds ($000's)
06R-1	City of St. Paul	Como RP (excluding Zoo and Conservatory)	Complete reimbursement for redeveloping .7 miles of East Lakeshore Drive in the park. Project included roadway, separated pedestrian bike/pedestrian trails, lighting, landscaping and drainage. Reimbursement authorized for CIP consideration in June 2001. Project completed in June 2003. Portion of reimbursement financed in 2005 ($719,000).	$ 213	0	$ 213	$ -
06R-2	Three Rivers Park District	Elm Creek PR	Reimbursement for redeveloping the swim pond in the park. Project completed in June 2003. $803,000 of the reimbursement grant will be used to partially finance visitor center at Norenberg Gardens SRF, and $197,000 will be used for trail signage at French RP and Hyland Lake PR instead of paying off Park District bonds issued to finance the swim pond.	$ 1,000	$ 838	$ 162	$
06R-3	City of St. Paul	Sam Morgan RT (formerly Mississippi River RT--St. Paul segment)	Reimbursement of up to $248,000 for design/engineering plus $372,000 for construction as partial match to $1,090,000 TEA-21 grant programmed for 2005 to design and redevelop plaza and shoreline near Eagle Street. Remainder of match ($56,000) funded in 2005 bonding bill.	$ 1,710	$ 372	248	$ 1,090
06R-4	Dakota Co.	Lebanon Hills RP	Rehabilitate existing trail system based on updated park master plan.	$ 200	$ 120	$ 80	
06R-5	City of St. Paul	Lilydale-Harriet Island RP	Design and engineering phase to rehabilitate a picnic area, install a healing garden and extend the riverwalk west of Clarence Wiggington pavilion. Restore the north shore of Pickerel lake and install a new picnic area at Lilydale park. Plus do planning and preliminary design for a new pedestrian/bike trail at Cherokee park connecting St. Paul to Mendota Heights.	$ 355	$ 213	$ 142	
06R-6	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	Victory Memorial Parkway RT	Reimbursement for match to a $768,000 TEA-21 grant programmed for 2005 to design and reconstruct 2.85 miles of off-street bike trail from Lowry Avenue to Lyndale Avenue North. Project also includes signage, lighting, landscaped rest stops with shelters, benches and drinking water.	$ 1,158	0	$ 390	$ 768

Governor's recommended $8.2 million for Metro Regional Parks 2006-07 CIP

REHABILITATION *continued*

egory and r ıg \ Category	Park Agency	Park/Trail Name	Project Description	Total for project ($000's)	State bonds ($000's)	Metro Council bonds ($000's)	Other leveraged funds ($000's)
06R-7	Bloomington	Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes PR	Continue replacing large timber retaining wall, which supports a 4-lane portion of 84th Street above the Normandale Lake trail.	$ 82	$ 49	$ 33	$ -
06R-8	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	Minneapolis Chain of Lakes RP-Lake of the Isles	Continue to rebuild trails, stabilize eroded shoreline, re-landscape the park and improve park features at Lake of the Isles portion of the park. Continues work financed in 1998-99, 2000-01, 2002-03 and 2004-05 CIPs. This is phase 5.	$ 700	$ 570	$ 130	$ -
-9	City of St. Paul	Lilydale-Harriet Island RP	Construction phase to rehabilitate a picnic area, install a healing garden and extend the riverwalk west of Clarence Wiggington pavilion. Also phase 1 restoration of the north shore of Pickerel lake and install a new picnic area at Lilydale park. Design/engineering work was proposed for funding in Project R-5 above.	$ 1,142	$ 885	$ 257	$ -
3R-10	Ramsey Co.	Battle Creek RP	Reimburse Ramsey Co. for assessments to reconstruct Winthrop Street that benefit the park	$ 75	0	$ 75	$ -
06R-11	City of St. Paul	Como RP (excluding Zoo and Conservatory)	Reimbursement for match to a $697,600 TEA-21 grant programmed for 2005 to design and reconstruct 3.3 miles of existing trail and build 2 miles of new trail in the park. Project also includes benches/seating areas, bicycle racks and landscaping.	$ 1,073	0	$ 375	$ 698
06R-12	Bloomington	Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes PR	Phase 1 reconstruction of bituminous trails at Normandale Lake, Bush Lake and South Corridor Park Units – Total of 33,680 linear feet	$ 58	$ 35	$ 23	$ -
13	Anoka Co.	Bunker Hills RP	Rehabilitate 2 miles of bike trails, replace 3 picnic shelters, reconstruct parking lot and access roadway, trail and parking lot lighting, expand campground utilities, overlay other trails, site furnishings, landscaping, resource restoration, plus fees and contingencies.	$ 905	$ 643	$ 262	$ -
3R-14	Three Rivers Park District	Lake Rebecca Park Reserve	Partial funding ($3.75 million requested) for phase 2 construction to rehabilitate 1.5 miles of paved park roads, plus parking lots for reservation picnic area, boat launch, and general picnic areas, plus 8 miles of paved trails and trail connections in the park as part of a scheduled pavement management program.	$ 1,289	$ 1,023	$ 266	$ -
			Rehabilitation total	**$ 9,960**	**$ 4,749**	**$ 2,655**	**$ 2,556**

Governor's recommended $8.2 million for Metro Regional Parks 2006-07 CIP

DEVELOPMENT

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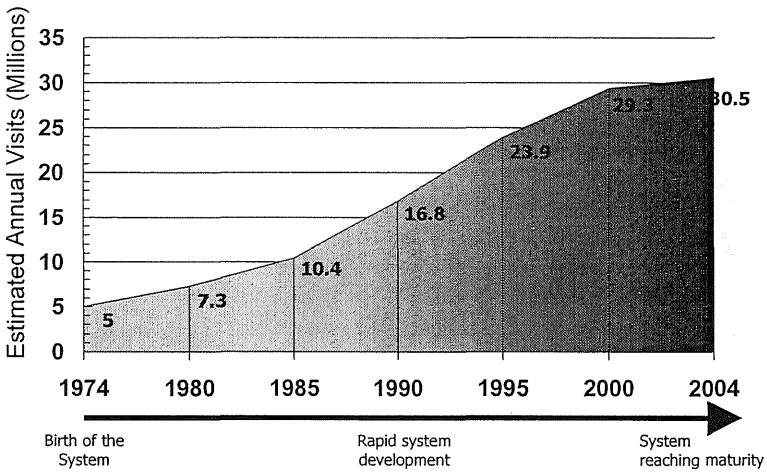
06D-1	Washington Co.	St. Croix Bluffs RP	Reimbursement for constructing park visitor entrance building in 1998.	$ 242	0	$ 242	$ -
06D-2	Ramsey Co.	Rice Creek North RT	Reimburse City of Mounds View through Ramsey County for constructing segment of trail in 2002.	$ 55	0	$ 55	$ -
06D-3	Bloomington	Hyland-Bush-Anderson Lakes PR	Reimbursement for eligible design/engineering and construction costs for E. Bush Lake Rd. Pathway.	$ 187	0	$ 187	$ -
06D-4	Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	Above the Falls RP	Match to a $574,000 grant from the Middle Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization to acquire 2 acres and finance planning, design/engineering, testing, survey and related work for acquisition plus cleanup, restoration for bike and pedestrian trails, storm water management, bank stabilization and wildlife overlook.	$ 1,215	$ 535	$ 106	$ 574
06D-5	Scott Co./Three Rivers Park District	Cleary Lake RP	Begin constructing maintenance facility including 2,500 sq. foot building, parking lot, related utilities and design/engineering.	$ 298	$ 254	$ 44	$ -
06D-6	Anoka Co.	Rice Creek Chain of Lakes PR	Design and engineering services for trail and campground improvements in the park.	$ 52	$ 31	$ 21	$ -
06D-7	Dakota Co.	Lebanon Hills RP	Match to State flood reduction grant for stormwater management improvements within and near Lebanon Hills Regional Park that benefit the park.	$ 460	0	$ 460	$ -
06D-8	Ramsey Co.	Rice Creek North RT	Construct section of trail through former Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP) site.	$ 450	$ 370	$ 80	$ -
06D-9	Three Rivers Park District	Elm Creek PR	Partial reimbursement (of $2 million) for second phase of winter recreation area including buildings, sitework, utilities, 2 ski tows, snowmaking equipment and related materials. This reimbursement grant will be used to partially finance construction of a visitor center at Norenberg Gardens Special Recreation Feature instead of paying off bonds issued by the Park District for the Elm Creek PR Winter Recreation Area.	$ 1,197	$ 920	$ 277	$ -
			Development total	**$ 4,156**	**$ 2,110**	**$ 1,472**	**$ 574**

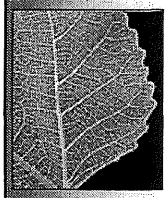
	Total	State bonds	Metro Council bonds	Other leveraged funds
Total State bonds and Metro Council bond match and other funds	**$ 17,367**	**$ 8,200**	**$ 5,467**	**$ 3,700**
Percent of Total		**48%**	**31%**	**21%**

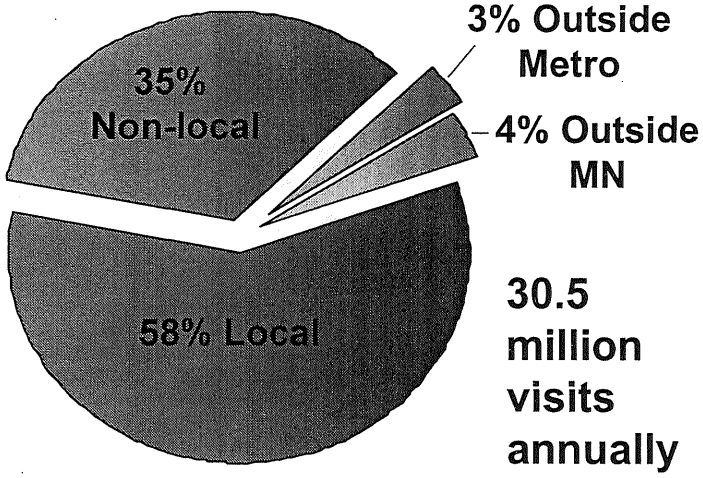
Metro Regional Park System: visitation growth 1974-2004



Visitor origin

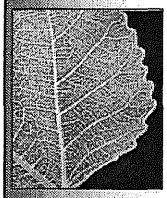
Metro regional parks serve State and Region





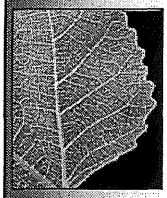
30.5 million visits annually

Who owns and manages Metro Regional Parks

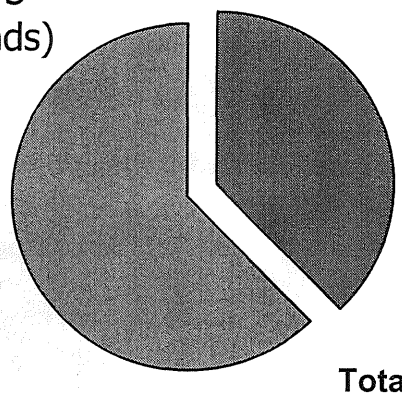


- Anoka County
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Ramsey County
- Washington County
- City of St. Paul
- Three Rivers Park District
- Scott County
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
- City of Bloomington

State and Metro Council funds for Metro Regional Parks acquisition/development



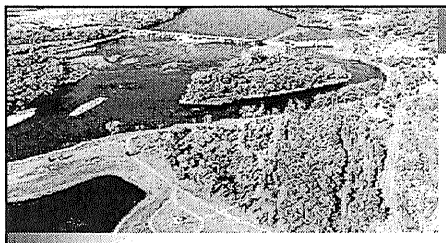
1974-2005
($ thousands)



Metropolitan Council bonds and interest: $146,741

State bonds and LCMR funds $241,408

Total: $388,149



Governor's recommendation for 2006 Metro. Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and line item projects

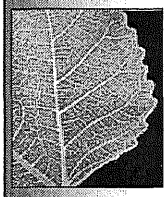
Arne Stefferud
Metropolitan Council
651-602-1360

Governor's recommendation

- $8.2 million for Metro Regional Parks CIP
- $2 million for Lake of the Isles (MPRB request)
- $1.5 million for Port Crosby (South St. Paul request)

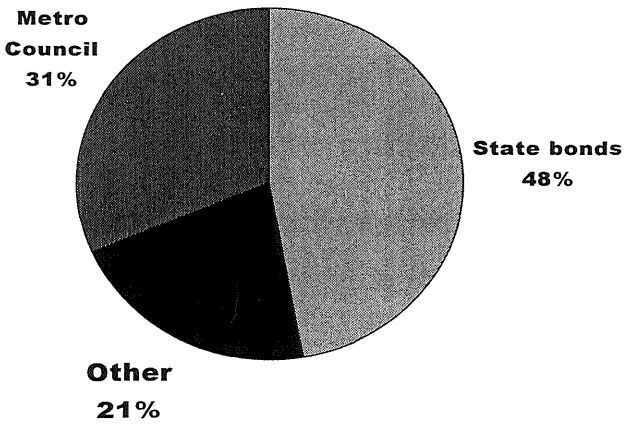
$11.7 million total

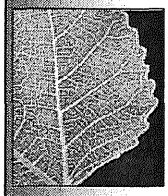
Benefits of $8.2 million for Metro Regional Parks CIP



- Leverages about $9.2 million Metro Council bonds and other funds
- Construction jobs
- Tourism revenues
- Quality of life attraction to retain and expand businesses

State bonds matched with Metro Council bonds and Other funds





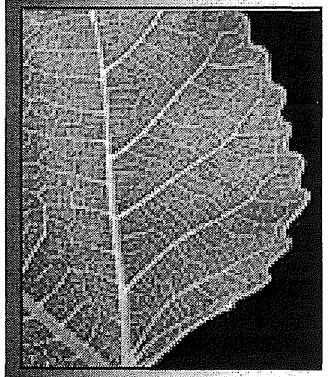
2006 Metro. Regional Parks CIP

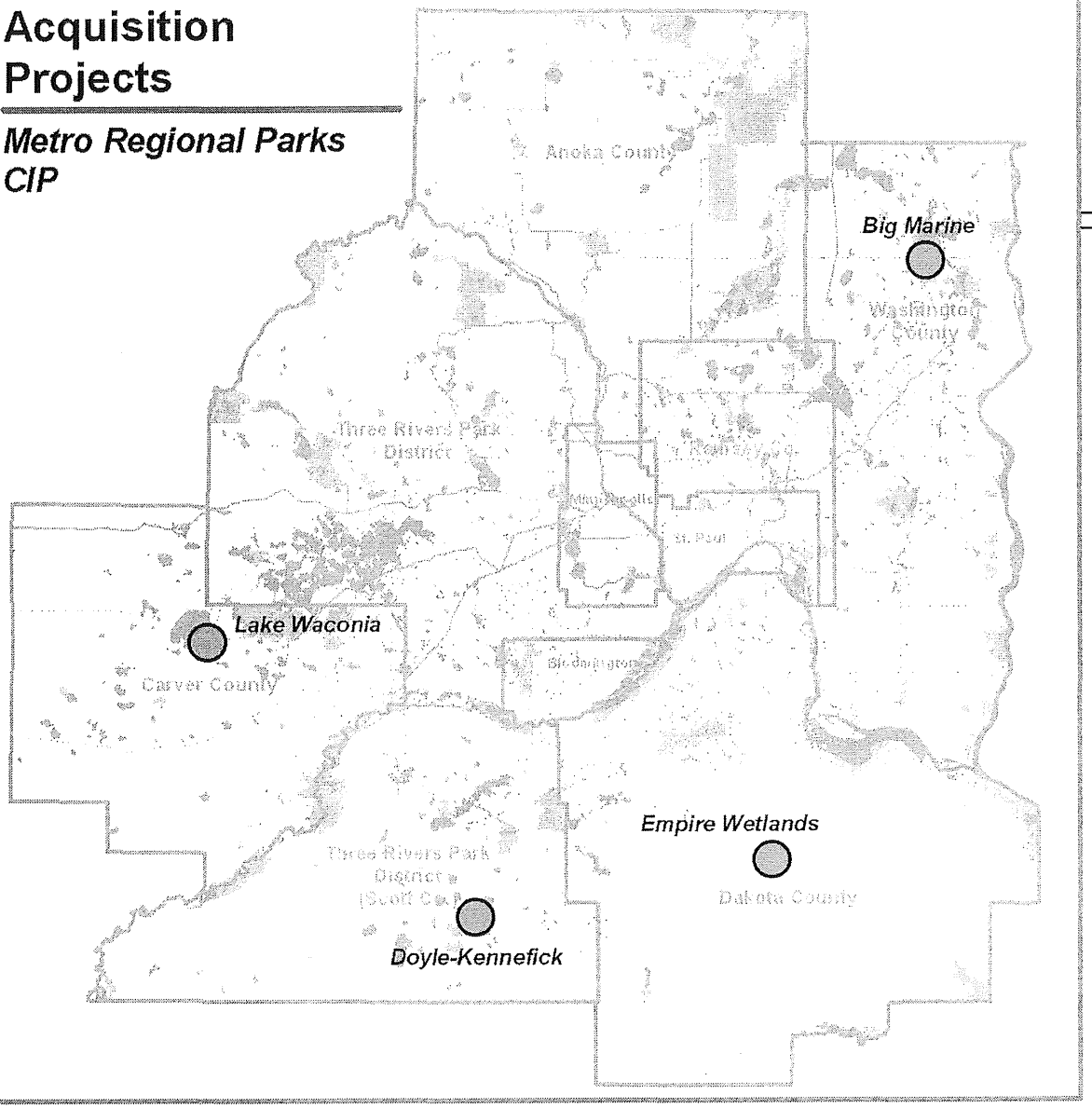
Match to State bonds

Component	State bonds ($000's)	Metro. Council match ($000's)	Federal/ other funds ($000's)
Acquisition	1,341	1,340	570
Rehabilitation	4,749	2,655	2,556
Development	2,110	1,472	574
TOTALS	8,200	5,467	3,700

Acquisition Projects

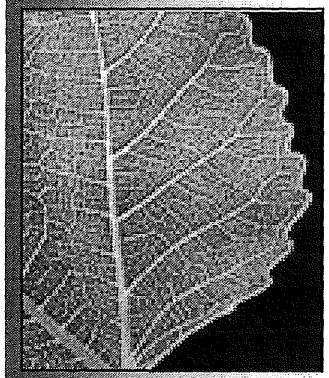
Metro Regional Parks CIP

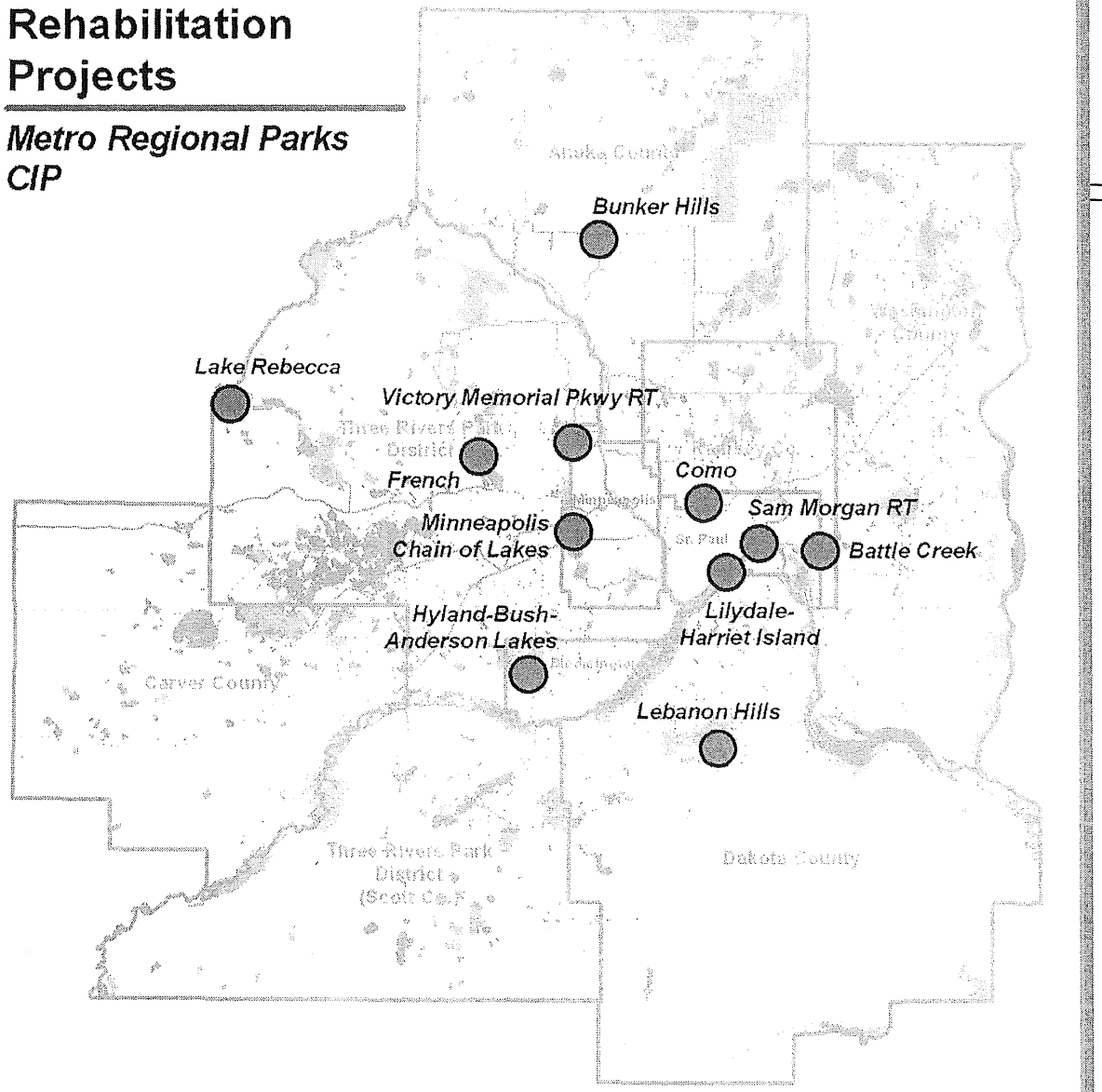




Rehabilitation Projects

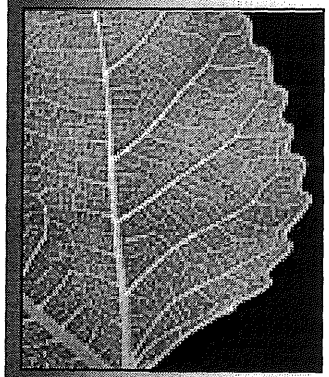
Metro Regional Parks CIP

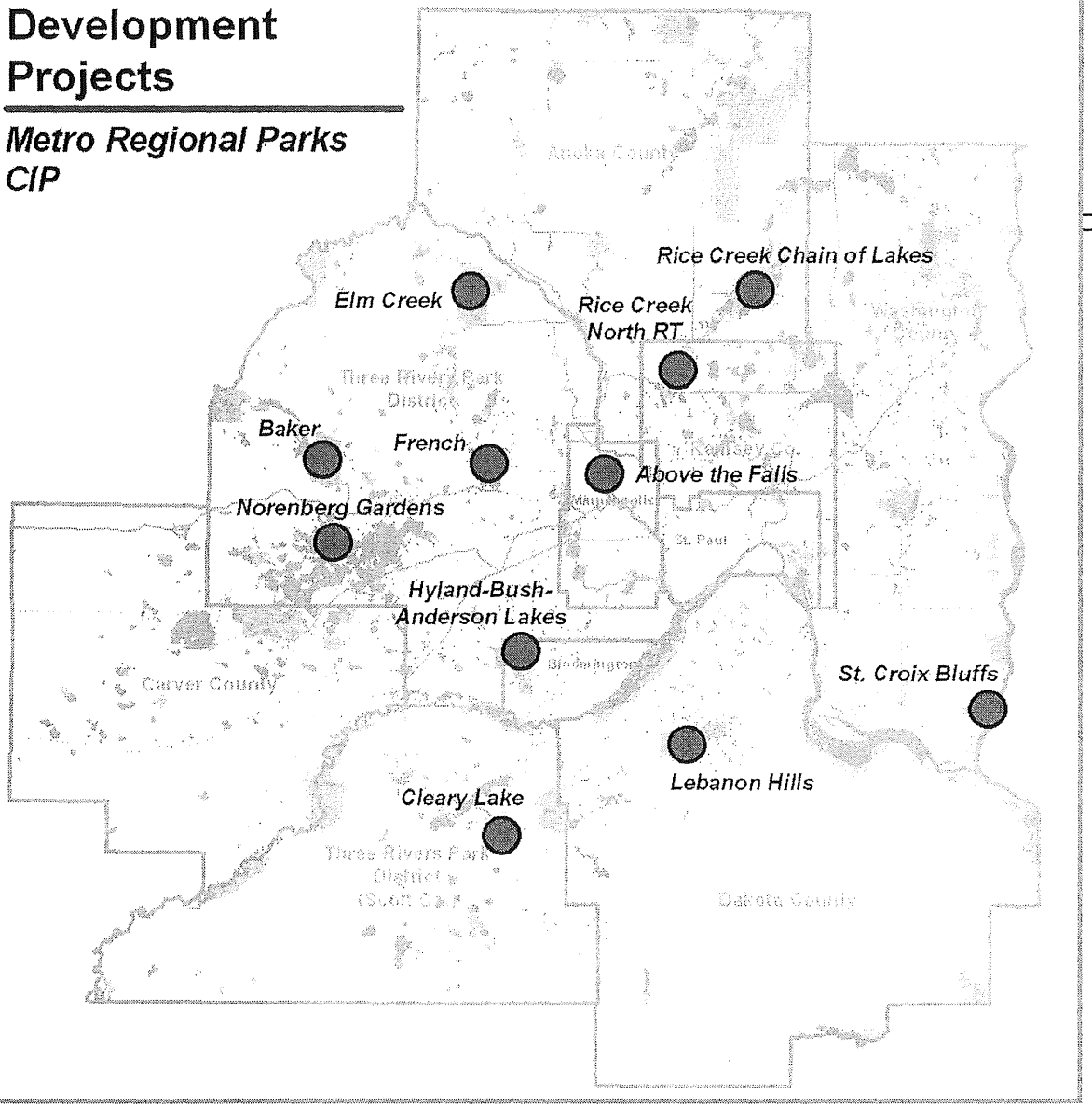




Development Projects

Metro Regional Parks CIP





Governor's recommended $8.2 million for Metro Regional Parks 2006-07 CIP

Key: A= Land Acquisition R= Rehabilitation of parks/trails D= Development of park/trails
RP= Regional Park
= Regional Trail
PP= Park Reserve

	(000's)	% of Total
State Bonds	$ 8,200	48%
Metro. Council Bond match	$ 5,467	31%
Other leveraged funds	$ 3,700	21%
Total	$ 17,366	100%

MPRB= Mpls. Park & Rec. Board
Three Rivers Park District formerly Hennepin Parks

LAND ACQUISITION

Category and Ranking within Category	Park Agency	Park/Trail Name	Project Description	Total for project ($000's)	State bonds ($000's)	Metro Council bonds ($000's)	Other leveraged funds ($000's)
06A-1	Washington Co.	Big Marine PR	Acquire parcels from willing sellers.	$ 280	$ 168	$ 112	$ -
-2	Dakota Co.	Acquire land for regional parks and trail units in Dakota County	Acquire some of the 817 acres of land within existing boundaries of regional parks and trails in Dakota County. Land acquired from willing sellers so parcels are not known at this time. Most likely the funds would be spent to partially finance the acquisition of the 460-acre Empire Wetlands RP.	$ 863	$ -	$ 863	$ -
06A-3	Three Rivers Park District	Silver Lake SRF	Partial reimbursement for acquiring property in 2001. Reimbursement grant will be used for the following projects instead of paying off Park District bonds initially issued to finance the land acquisition: $100,000 for Lake Rebecca PR play area design/engineering. $235,000 for Elm Creek PR play area design/engineering. $225,000 for French RP visitor center design/engineering. Plus $300,000 for trail signage at Bake PR, Elm Creek PR and Hyland Lake PR.	$ 860	$ 666	$ 194	$ -
06A-4	Carver Co.	Lake Waconia RP	Acquire land for the park	$ 325	$ 195	$ 130	$ -
06A-5	Washington Co.	Big Marine PR	Acquire parcels from willing sellers.	$ 347	$ 308	$ 39	$ -
-6	Scott Co.	Doyle-Kennefick RP	Partial funding ($595,000 needed) for phased acquisition of Doyle-Kennefick farm for Doyle-Kennefick RP under a contract for deed payment plan. Grant will be matched with $570,000 from Excel Energy.	$ 576	$ 4	$ 2	$ 570
			Acquisition subtotals	**$ 3,251**	**$ 1,341**	**$ 1,340**	**$ 570**

Governor's recommended $8.2 million for Metro Regional Parks 2006-07 CIP

REHABILITATION

Category and Ranking within Category	Park Agency	Park/Trail Name	Project Description	Total for project ($000's)	State bonds ($000's)	Metro Council bonds ($000's)	Other leveraged funds ($000's)
06R-1	City of St. Paul	Como RP (excluding Zoo and Conservatory)	Complete reimbursement for redeveloping .7 miles of East Lakeshore Drive in the park. Project included roadway, separated pedestrian bike/pedestrian trails, lighting, landscaping and drainage. Reimbursement authorized for CIP consideration in June 2001. Project completed in June 2003. Portion of reimbursement financed in 2005 ($719,000).	$ 213	0	$ 213	$ -
06R-2	Three Rivers Park District	Elm Creek PR	Reimbursement for redeveloping the swim pond in the park. Project completed in June 2003. $803,000 of the reimbursement grant will be used to partially finance visitor center at Norenberg Gardens SRF, and $197,000 will be used for trail signage at French RP and Hyland Lake PR instead of paying off Park District bonds issued to finance the swim pond.	$ 1,000	$ 838	$ 162	$
06R-3	City of St. Paul	Sam Morgan RT (formerly Mississippi River RT--St. Paul segment)	Reimbursement of up to $248,000 for design/engineering plus $372,000 for construction as partial match to $1,090,000 TEA-21 grant programmed for 2005 to design and redevelop plaza and shoreline near Eagle Street. Remainder of match ($56,000) funded in 2005 bonding bill.	$ 1,710	$ 372	248	$ 1,090
06R-4	Dakota Co.	Lebanon Hills RP	Rehabilitate existing trail system based on updated park master plan.	$ 200	$ 120	$ 80	
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Governor's recommended $8.2 million for Metro Regional Parks 2006-07 CIP

REHABILITATION *continued*

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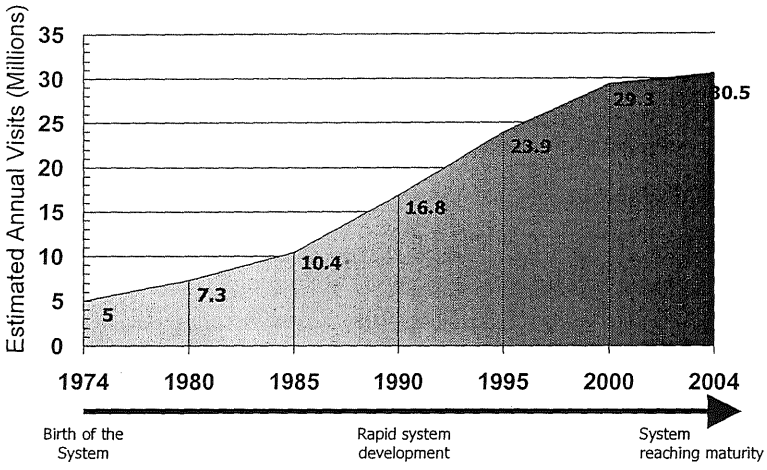

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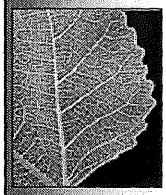

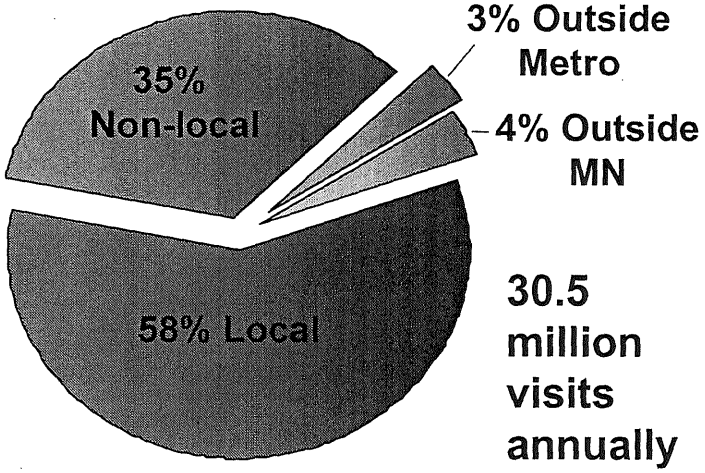

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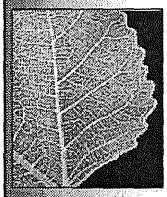

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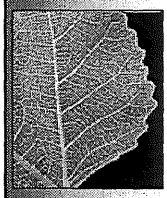
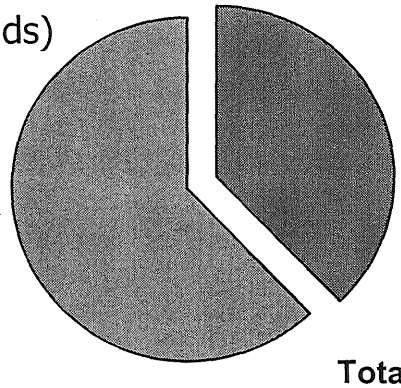


1974-2005
($ thousands)



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Haws

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for Central Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails projects.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

$2,860,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to the Central Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Coordination Board for the following projects.

(1) $1,250,000 of this appropriation is for the acquisition of land adjacent to Kraemer Lake, in Stearns County, for a Regional Park.

(2) $410,000 of this appropriation is for the design, engineering, and construction of 6.3 miles of trail and two parking lots, located along the Mississippi River in Sherburne County.

(3) $1,200,000 of this appropriation is to design and construct improvements and restoration and preservation activities at the River Bluffs Regional Park in St. Cloud.

Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

To provide the money appropriated in section 1 from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $2,860,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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COORDINATION BOARD MEMBER[illegible]tiss Foster, City of St. Cloud; Michelle Hoppe, City of Sauk Rapids, [illegible]Borders, City of Sartell; Judy Weyrens, City of St. Joseph; Bill Schlue[illegible]y of Waite Park; Tim Edgeton, Sherburne County; Chelle Benson, Benton County; and Chuck Wocken, Stearns County

CENTRAL MINNESOTA REGIONAL PARKS & TRAILS

Established in 1999 within Minnesota Statutes 85.50-85.52

Operating in Cooperation with the St. Cloud Area Joint Planning District Joint Powers Agreement
Goal: To administer grants to develop, enhance, or maintain the Central Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Plan consistent with Coordination.

	Local Match	State Bond Request	Project Cost Total
2006 STATE BONDING REQUEST submitted June, 2005			
PARK ACQUISITION by priority			
Kraemer Lake Woods, Stearns County (312 acres)	$1,250,000	$1,250,000	$ 2,500,000
TRAIL by priority			
Xcel Trail development, Sherburne County & City of Becker (6.3 miles)	$ 410,000	$ 410,000	$ 820,000
PARK DEVELOPMENT by priority			
River Bluffs Regional Park (a.k.a. Plum Creek Regional Park)	$ 800,000	$ 1,200,000	$ 2,000,000
TOTAL	$ 2,460,000	$ 2,860,000	$ 5,320,000

*Note: some project costs contain revenue other than state bonds or local match.

DNR PROGRAM REQUESTS:			
Quarry Pk. & Nature Preserve, Stearns County (40 acres acquisition)	$ 200,000	$ 300,000	$ 500,000
Beaver Island Trail , Stearns County, 3 parcels, (1.5 miles/18.3 acres acquisition)	$ 50,100	$ 25,700	$ 75,800
Rockville County Park, Stearns County, 3 parcels (294 acres- new park site)	$ 583,200	$ 874,800	$1,458,000
Bend in the River, Benton County, 289 acres, development	$ 400,000	600,000	$1,000,000
subtotal	$ 1,233,300	$1,800,500	$3,033,800
Grand Total	**$ 3,693,300**	**$ 4,660,500**	**$ 8,353,800**
(Some City of St. Cloud projects: Wilson Park, Wobegon Trail)			
*(**Statewide** all DNR local grant applications, **all programs** to date:*		*$ 20,784,030*	*$38,491,500)*

Rev. 2/1/06

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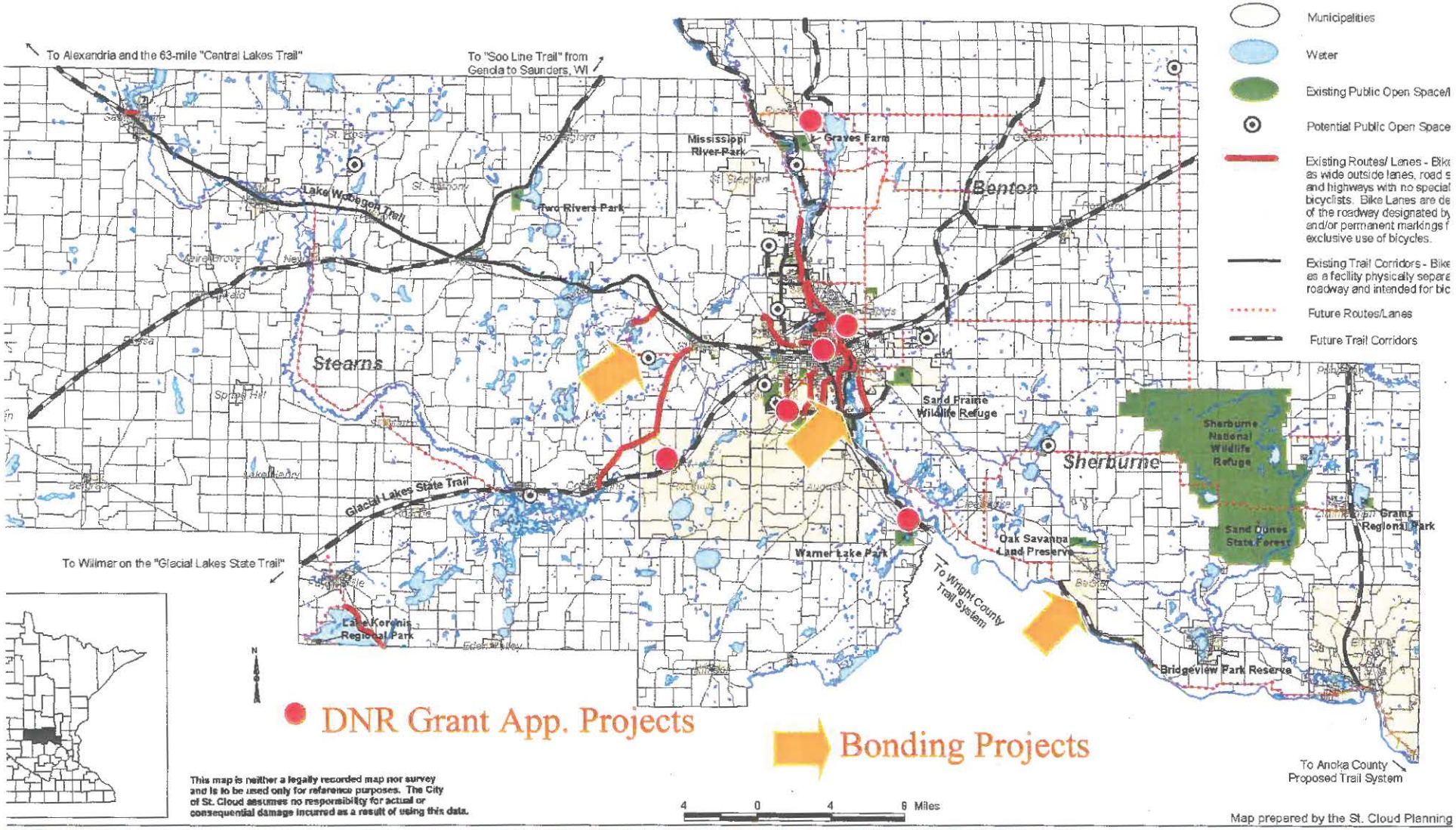
*The Central MN Regional Parks and Trail Plan as authorized by MN Statu

Central MN Regional Parks and Trails Plan*

Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns Counties - 2003



This map is neither a legally recorded map nor survey and is to be used only for reference purposes. The City of St. Cloud assumes no responsibility for actual or consequential damage incurred as a result of using this data.

Map prepared by the St. Cloud Planning

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Rev. 2/1/06

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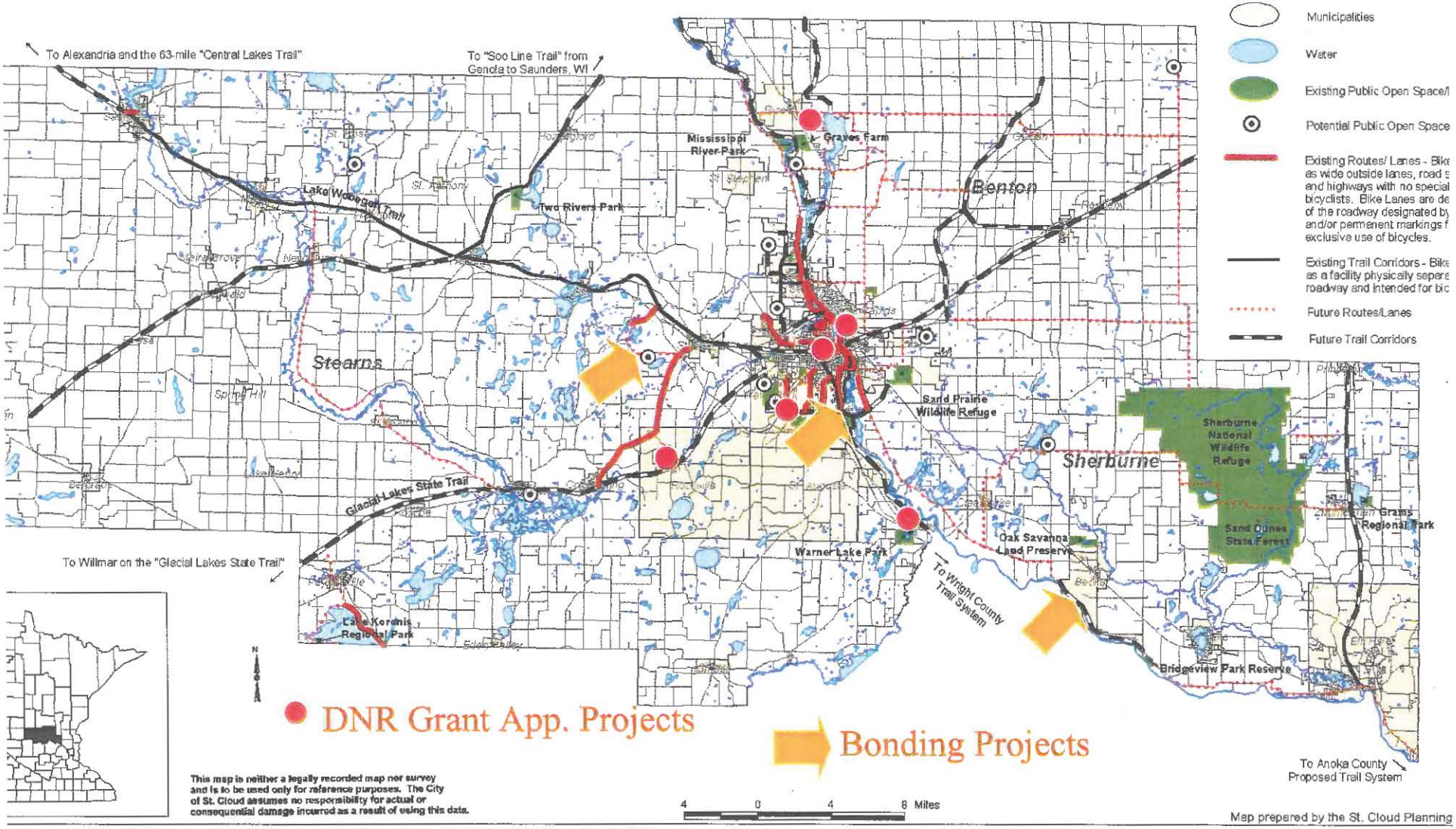

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Map prepared by the St. Cloud Planning

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; appropriating money to commissioner of transportation for state's matching amount for recreational bridge over highway 169 in Mille Lacs County; authorizing sale of state bonds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

$250,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of transportation to provide the state's match of the cost for the Soo Line Multiuse Recreational Bridge project over marked Trunk Highway 169 in Mille Lacs County.

Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

To provide the money appropriated in this act from the state bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance, on request of the governor, shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $250,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This act is effective the day following final enactment.

A bill for an act

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SOO LINE TRAIL BRIDGE FACT SHEET
ONAMIA MN

The Overpass Project will provide a safe crossing for the annually estimated 10,000-20,000 Soo Line Trail users, over TH 169, a major four lane highway. The trail crossing at Onamia is a recognized safety hazard for the vehicles on the highway and for those trail users attempting to cross the highway. The Soo Line Trail is key part of Minnesota's recreational trail system, providing links to state parks, wildlife management areas and the other trails in Minnesota's recreational trails system.

- ***WHO***

Mille Lacs County, as the Lead Agency, in partnership with MN/DOT and MN/DNR, with the assistance and support of the Soo Line Trail Association, and the Driftskippers Snowmobile Club, the City of Onamia, the City of Isle, Father Hennepin State Park, and Kathio State Park.

- ***WHAT***

Seek to construct a safe crossing of the Soo Line Trail at it intersection of TH 169 in Onamia for all trail users. The trail connects with the Munger Trail to the East and extends to Little Falls to the west. The endorsed project is a 627' steel truss bridge.

- ***WHY***

To protect the trail users and traveling public, and to improve the family recreational use of the whole trail.

The project has been endorsed by MN/DNR, MN/DOT, and Congressman Jim Oberstar.

STATE OF MINNESOTA CAPTIAL BUDGET REQUEST

• **TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST ALL INCLUSIVE**	**$1,552,776**
• **MN/DNR COMMITTED FUNDING**	$ 250,000
• **MN/DOT SECURED FUNDING**	$ 165,000
• **TOTAL AVAILABLE AMOUNT OF HPP FUNDING**	$ 878,080
• **TOTAL SECURED FUNDING**	**$ 1,293,080**

Currently, the project is seeking additional funds from the following sources:

- **FEDERAL ENHANCEMENT FUNDS**
- **MN/DNR REGIONAL TRAIL GRANT**

SEEKING STATE BONDING OF **$259,000** FOR SOO LINE TRAIL BRIDGE.

Existing View *(3/27/01)*

roposed Pedestrian Bridge

City of Onamia - TH 169 Northbound at Soo Line Trail

Computer Simulation Produced by Visualization Unit in Cooperation with Mn/DOT District 3 and Office of Environmental Services

4/18/01

Mille Lacs County will own the Facility, and they will operate it. (The county funded the acquisition of the Soo Line Railroad for the trail without state or federal assistance.)

The local trail associations provide the necessary maintenance for the trail, including sweeping for pedestrians and bicycles in the summer, and grooming for snowmobiles in the winter. The area user groups secure these costs.

The current project schedule is to advertise for bids in 2005, open bids in December 2005, begin construction in June 2006, and complete construction in October 2006.

Project Contact Person

Richard Larson P.E.
Mille Lacs County Engineer
565 Eight Street Northeast
Milaca, Minnesota 56353
Phone: (320) 983-8201
Fax: (320) 983-8383
E-mail: dick.larson@co.mille.lacs.mn.us

Alternate contact:
Jay Munson
Mille Lacs County Assistant Engineer
565 Eight Street Northeast
Milaca, Minnesota 56353
Phone: (320) 983-8327
Fax: (320) 983-8383
E-mail: jay.munson@co.mille.lacs.mn.us

Governor's Recommendations

The Governor does not recommend capital funds for this project.

	Evaluation of Local Projects
1.	Are non-state matching funds contributed? 83% of project costs are provided from non-state funding sources.
2.	Does project fulfill an important state mission? Providing recreational opportunities is an important state mission in Minnesota. The state has existing grant programs to provide financial assistance in this area.
3.	Has a state role been expanded in a new policy area? See #2 above.
4.	Is project of local, regional, or statewide significance? This project is viewed as having primarily a local benefit.
5.	Are state operating subsidies required? No.
6.	Are inequities created among local jurisdictions? The number of this type of local request suggests that additional requests will likely be forthcoming from local units of government if the state provides funding for this project.
7.	Does project compete with other facilities? Not significantly.
8.	Have resolutions from local governing bodies been provided? A resolution of support dated 09/27/05 has been received from the Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners.
9.	Is predesign (required if construction cost is over $1.5 milion) completed? A project predesign is not required for projects consisting of roads, bridges, trails or pathways.
10.	Is project disaster related? No.

Mille Lacs County: Soo Line Memorial Trail Bridge

2006 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: $259,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 1 of 1 (Mille Lacs County)

PROJECT LOCATION: Onamia (near intersection of TH 27 & TH 169)

Project At A Glance

This request for $259,000 in state funding is to construct a Bicycle/ pedestrian/all terrain vehicles (ATV) and Snowmobile Bridge across trunk highway (TH)169 where the Soo Line Recreational Trail crosses in Onamia.

Project Description

This request for $259,000 in state funding is to construct a Bicycle/ pedestrian/ATV and Snowmobile Bridge across TH 169 where the Soo Line Recreational Trail crosses in Onamia. Mille Lacs County supports many significant recreational resources including Mille Lacs Lake, the wild and scenic Rum River, the Rum River State Forest, the Mille Lacs Wildlife Management Area, Kathio State Park, and Father Hennepin State Park. The county along with four other adjoining counties purchased the Soo Line Railroad between Genola and Moose Lake. The line is being designated as a multi-use recreational trail by the counties involved. In 1994 the 11-mile trail between Isle and Onamia was paved with federal ISTEA grant funds. The restored depot in Onamia serves as a trailhead.

Mille Lacs County has set a high priority on establishing a safe trail between Kathio State Park and Father Hennepin State Park. This trail is 23 miles long and provides a pedestrian bicycle link between the parks. The old railroad portion of this facility crosses TH 169 in Onamia at grade.

Total Project Cost

The total Project Cost is $1,552,776. The county has several funding commitments in place:

Federal High Priority Project	$ 878,080
Natural Resources committed funds	250,000
Transportation	165,000
Subtotal Current Available Funds	1,293,080
Funding Shortfall	$ 259,696

Mille Lacs County's request for state funds in 2006 is $259,000. No additional state funds are requested for either 2008 or 2010.

The traffic on TH 169 often is bumper-to-bumper on the weekends location. The county desires to provide a separated crossing by providing a bridge to carry the trail over TH 169. It is anticipated the trail will also receive considerable use due to its location and accessibility to Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. The dual state park termini and the full service communities of Isle and Onamia make it an excellent recreational facility. The trail already has enhanced the economic base for the three communities it passes through by bringing new visitors to patronize area businesses. The community of Wahkon, most notably, has been catering to trail users. The Mille Lacs Area Tourism Association receives 20 requests per week for Soo Line Trail information

The public and the city of Onamia recognize the need for a separation at this high-traffic highway. Alternate safety improvements evaluated include providing a traffic signal on TH 169, and constructing a tunnel under the highway. The signal was disregarded because the location does not meet the needed warrants for such a signal, and the tunnel was disregarded because of the high water table in the area. Both of these alternatives were reviewed by out-side consultants to ascertain their feasibility prior to disregarding them.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

None.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

None.

Other Considerations

Urdahl/Dille

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; appropriating money for state park needs; authorizing issuance of state bonds.

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Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

$7,000,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources as follows:

(1) $6,000,000 is to acquire land and inholdings within existing state parks; and

(2) $1,000,000 is to acquire land within the statutory boundaries of Greenleaf Lake State Park.

Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

To provide the money appropriated in section 1 from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance, on request of the governor, shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $7,000,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

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Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota
State Park Land Acquisition

January 2006

The State Park Land Acquisition program enables the Department of Natural Resources to purchase lands within planned and legislatively authorized State Park boundaries as they become available from willing sellers. An ongoing land acquisition program protects the integrity of our state park resources from incompatible uses such as housing developments.

Minnesota's State Park System includes 67 state parks, 6 state recreation areas and 9 waysides and encompasses over 240,000 acres of land. Yet critical parcels of land within boundaries of parks remain in private ownership. About 42,000 acres of land within existing state parks remain to be added to the system.

Funding is needed to assure the acquisition of these properties as they become available for sale. If these lands are sold and developed privately, they are lost to the system for at least a generation. Private ownership of inholdings often means fragmenting the park's resources, which can lead to increased management costs.

The cost of purchasing land is not going down, it only goes up. Land prices have increased 12 percent since 2003, the fastest in the nation. An ongoing land acquisition program is a smart investment.

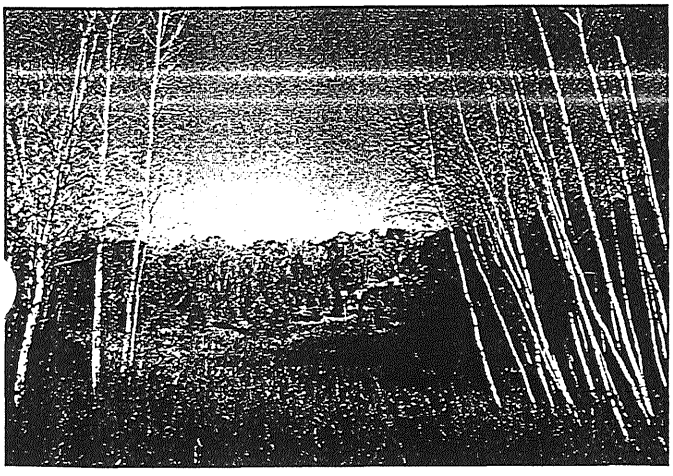
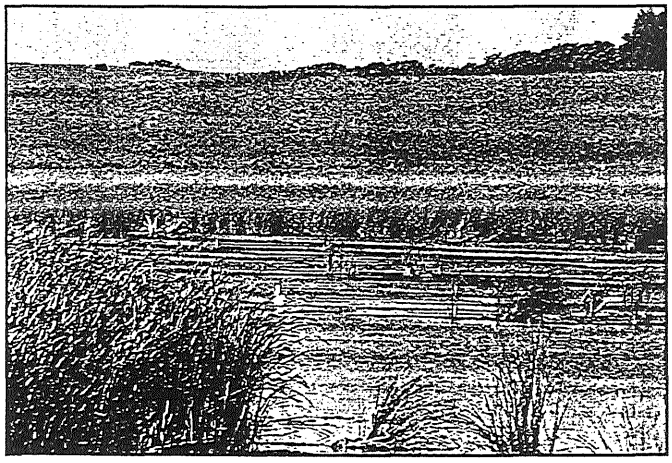


Photo courtesy of Mark I Jhl Photography

The current list of state park acquisition projects with willing sellers totals more than $9 million. That number includes acquisitions that are critical to the integrity of several existing state parks including land on Lake Superior and the Baptism River in Tettegouche, a property that is completely surrounded by William O'Brien, land on the Mississippi in Crow Wing, land on the Brule River in Judge Magney and dwarf trout lily habitat in Nerstrand Big Woods. In addition, almost all the shoreline, about 12,000 feet, on Greenleaf and Souix lakes included in the boundary of Greenleaf Lake State Park is currently for sale along with over 400 acres. Other parks and state recreation areas included on the list are Cuyuna Country, George Crosby Manitou, Charles Lindbergh, Fort Snelling, MN Valley, Beaver Creek Valley, Monson Lake, Myre Big Island, and Upper Souix Agency.

Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota Position:

We ask the 2006 Legislature to provide $6 million for the State Park Land Acquisition program and $1 million for land acquisition at Greenleaf Lake State Park.



Left: View of proposed William O'Brien State Park land acquisition site. Above: Wetlands at Greenleaf Lake State Park.

People Saving Minnesota's Special Places

Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota
275 E. 4th Street; Suite #642; St. Paul, MN 55101-1651
651-726-2457 or 1-800-944-0707 Fax: 651-726-2458 www.parksandtrails.org

PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA

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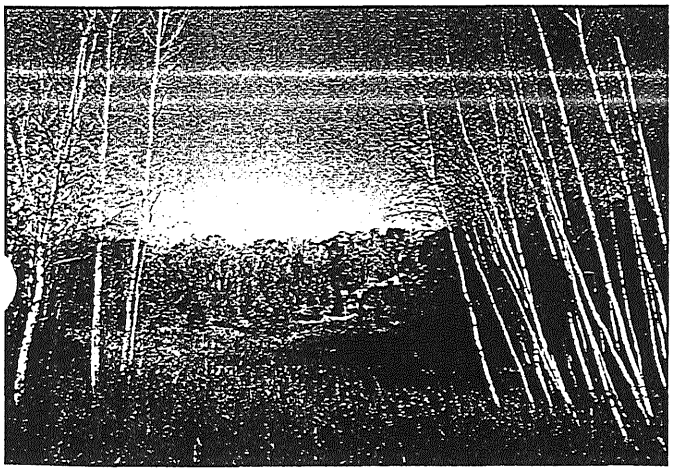

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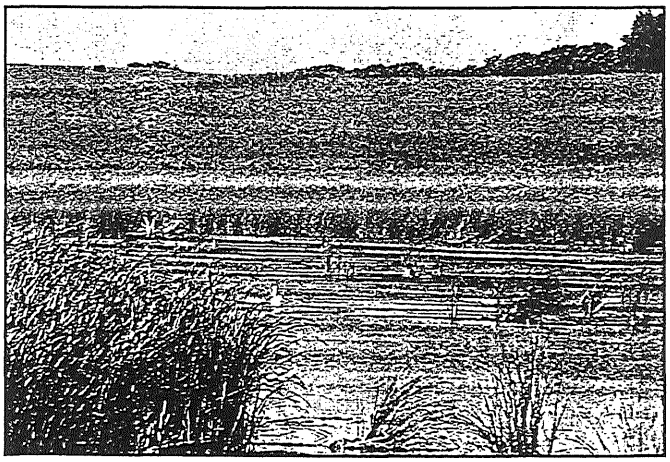

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PEOPLE SAVING MINNESOTA'S SPECIAL PLACES

PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA
275 E. 4TH STREET; SUITE #642; ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1651
651-726-2457 OR 1-800-944-0707 FAX: 651-726-2458 WWW.PARKSANDTRAILS.ORG

Senators McGinn, Gerlach, Pariseau, Metzen and Belanger introduced--

S.F. No. 1022: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; authorizing spending for public purposes; appropriating money for flood mitigation management capital improvement in Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Dakota County.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [FLOOD MITIGATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, LEBANON HILLS REGIONAL PARK; APPROPRIATION.]

$1,500,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to Dakota County for construction of flood mitigation system capital improvements to mitigate persistent surface water flooding on public lands in Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Dakota County.

Sec. 2. [BOND SALE.]

To provide the amount appropriated in section 1 from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $1,500,000 in the manner, on the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

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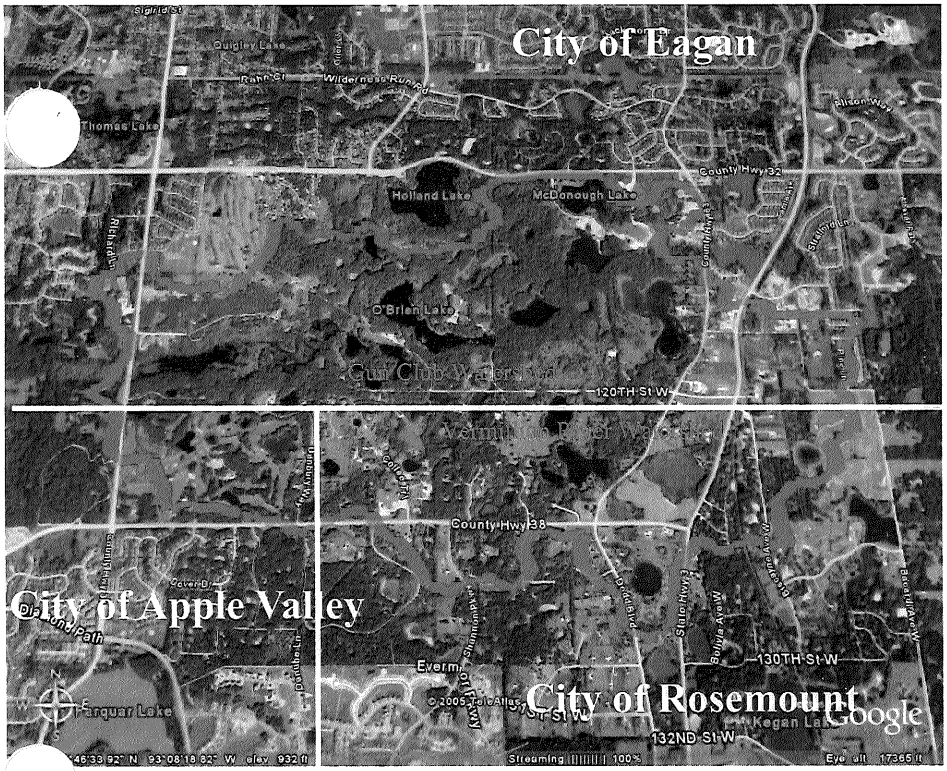
Water Management Improvements for Lebanon Hills Regional Park Watershed



- Excess storm water has impacted the quality of life of Apple Valley, Eagan, and Rosemount residents, including the evacuation of a neighborhood in 2000.
- Investments of the State and the Region within Lebanon Hills Regional Park have not been adequately protected, resulting in:

  -Closing of a public beach

  -Flooding of park facilities

  -Loss of thousands of trees

  -Degraded water quality and natural resources

  -Flooding of public roads

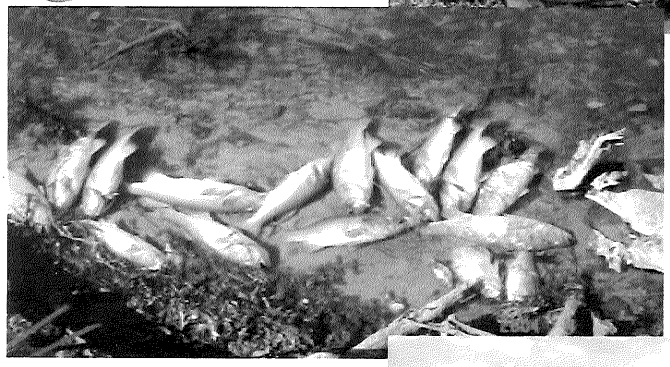
- project is to fund the engineering and construction of water management improvements to mitigate these negative environmental impacts.
- Implementation of this project assures decreased operational costs. Previous storm water management costs have exceeded $1 million over the past decade.

The Problem

Flooded Roads

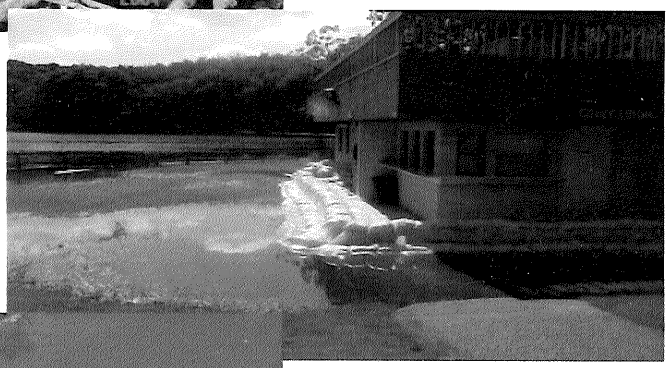
Flooded Communities

Erosion and Sedimentation



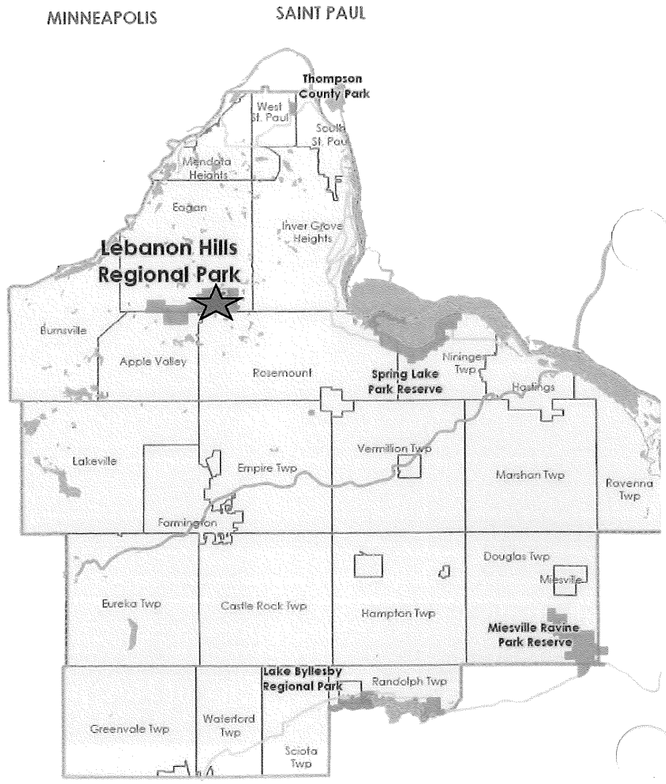
Impacted Water Quality

Impacted Public Recreation



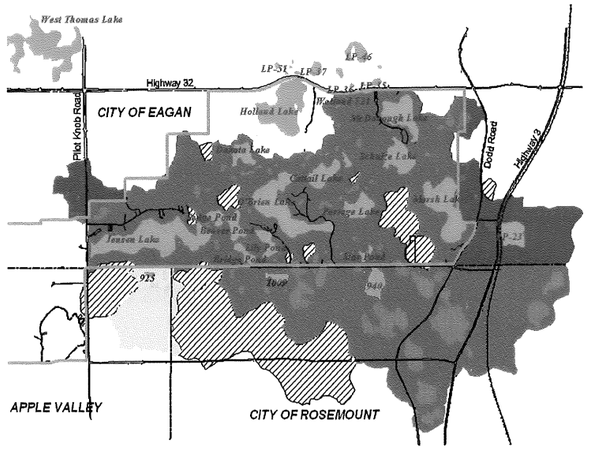
Impacted Natural Resources

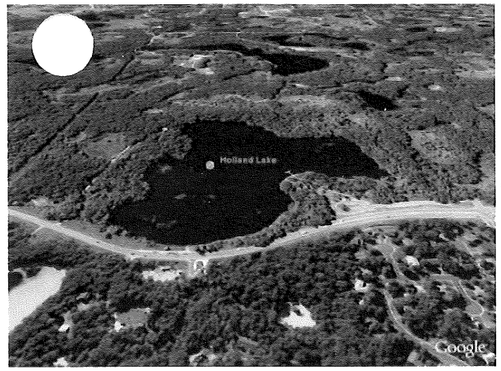
The Solution: An Ecologically Based Plan



A Shared Responsibility

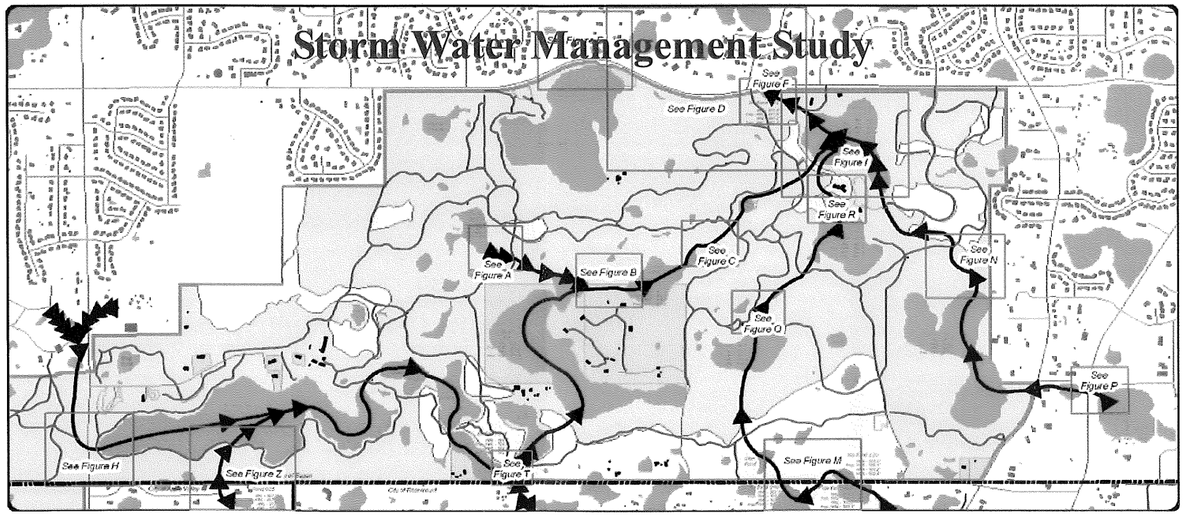
- State of Minnesota/DNR
- Metropolitan Council
- Dakota County
- Gun Club Lake WMO
- Vermillion River Joint Powers Organization
- Cities of Apple Valley, Eagan, Rosemount
- Soil & Water Conservation District





- Protects High Quality Waterbodies
- Protects DNR Holland Lake Trout Fishery

- Stabilizes Water Levels to a Pre-Settlement Condition



- Manage Storm Water Close to the Source and Maximizes Water Infiltration in the Ground

- Restores Critical Upland Vegetati

Public Benefit

Resolves Flooding

Protects Water Quality

Protects Natural Resources

Protects Public Investment

Protects Public Recreation

Stops Public Hardship

Provides a Cost Effective Long Term Solution

Project Costs

Outlet Controls and Surface Water Improvements	**$2,225,000**
Lift Stations	**$1,420,000**
Native Vegetation Restorations	**$ 953,000**
	$4,628,000

Proposed Funding Sources

Current Available Funds	**$ 960,000**
($500,000 DNR Flood Mitigation Grant)	
($460,000 local match)	
Requested State Funds	**$1,918,000**
Local Matching Funds	**$1,750,000**
	$4,628,000

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for the Pilot Knob Historical Trail.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

$50,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the Metropolitan Council for a grant to the city of Mendota Heights for a parking lot, trail, and overlook for a Pilot Knob historical site to be located in the city of Mendota Heights.

Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $50,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.

A bill for an act

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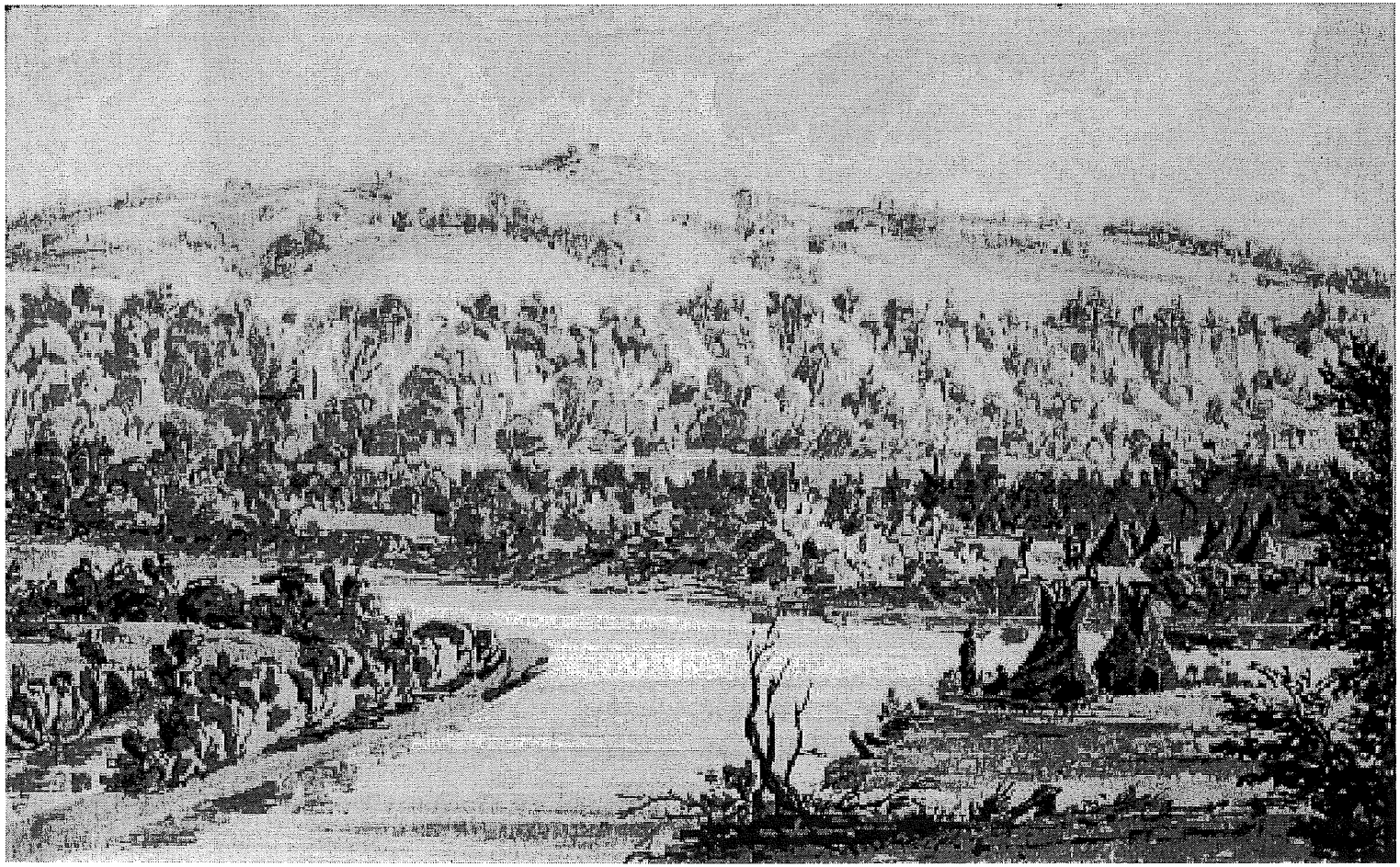
Pilot Knob Preservation Association website

Oheyawahi/ Pilot Knob
"the hill much visited"



Seth Eastman's view of Pilot Knob, 1846, looking southeast from below Fort Snelling. Minnesota Historical Society.

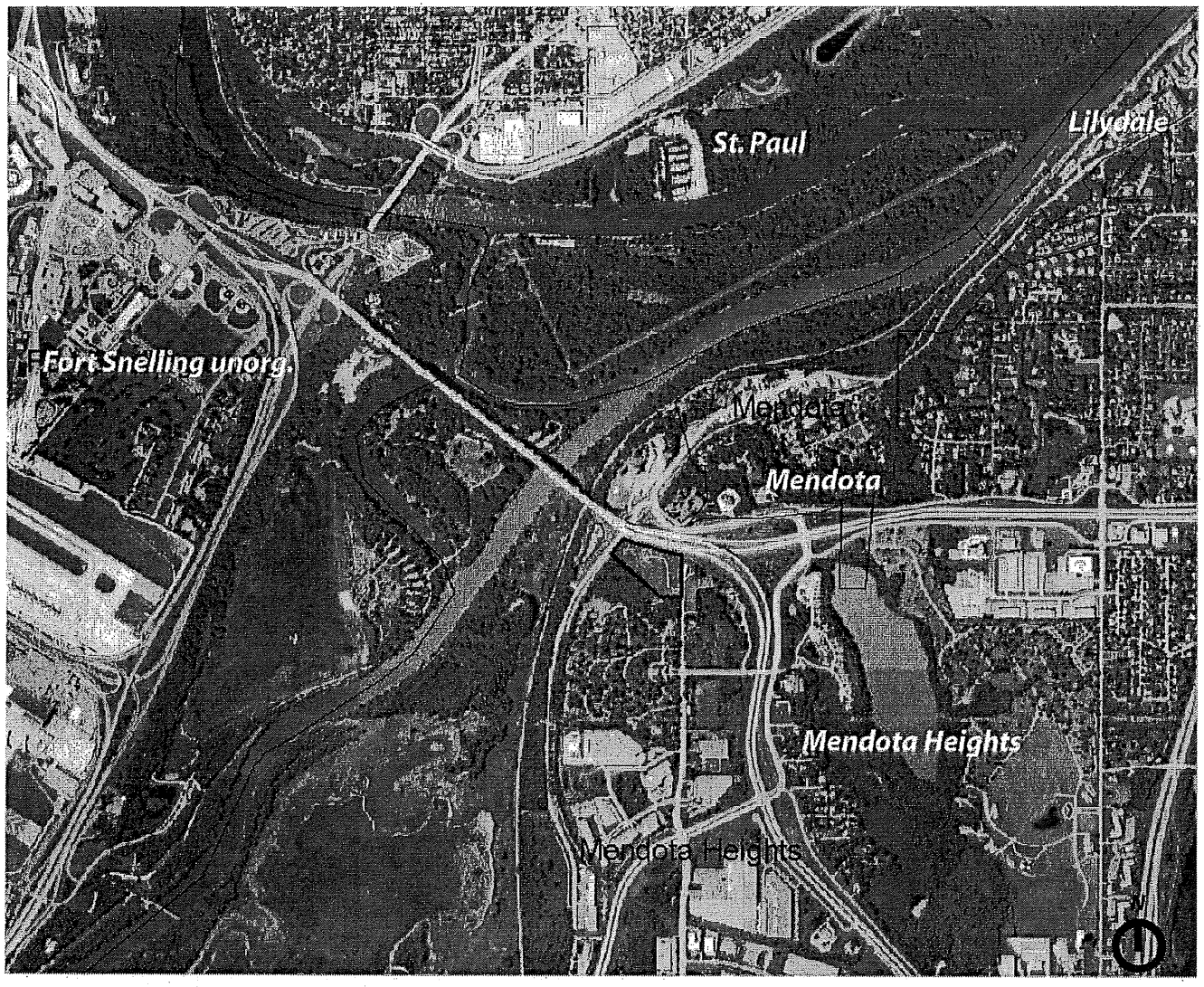


Figure 1: Pilot Knob Project Area Location
(Photo: 2003 FSA Color Aerial Photo)

Pilot Knob: Cultural and Historical Significance

- Sacred Dakota site "Oheyawahi":

- Prominent landmark for early European explorers

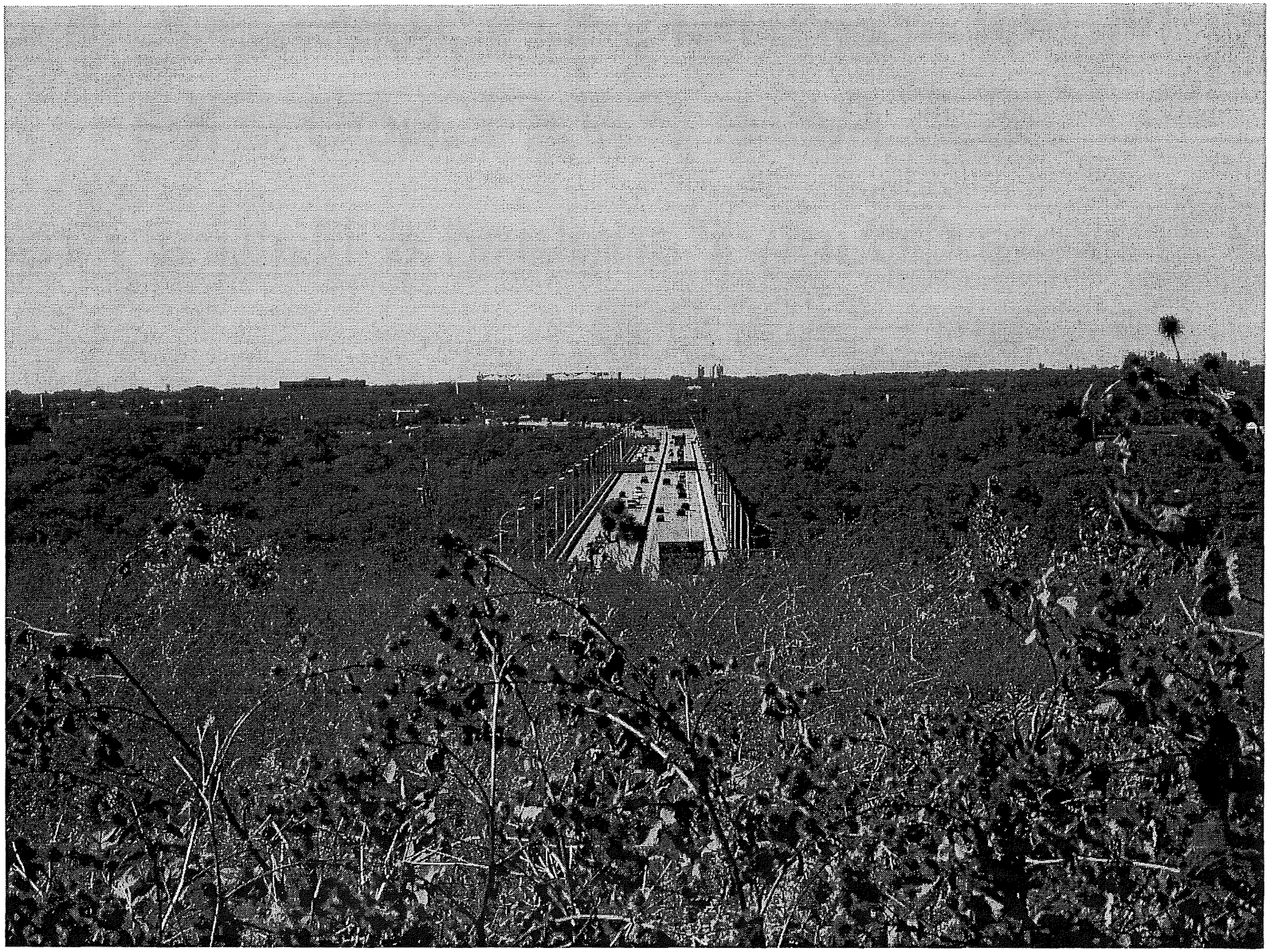
- 1851 Treaty with Dakota

Pilot Knob: Ecological Significance

- Adjoins Fort Snelling State Park
- Part of the regionally significant natural area in the lower Minnesota valley
- Important stopover place for migrating birds

Major Partners in Protecting the 8.5 Acre Pilot Knob Site

- Dakota County Farmland & Natural Areas Program - $400,000
- City of Mendota Heights - $400,000
- Trust for Public Land - $120,000
- DNR – Remediation - $500,000
- DNR Natural and Scenic - $300,000
- DNR Metro Greenways - $250,000



Pilot Knob in 2005

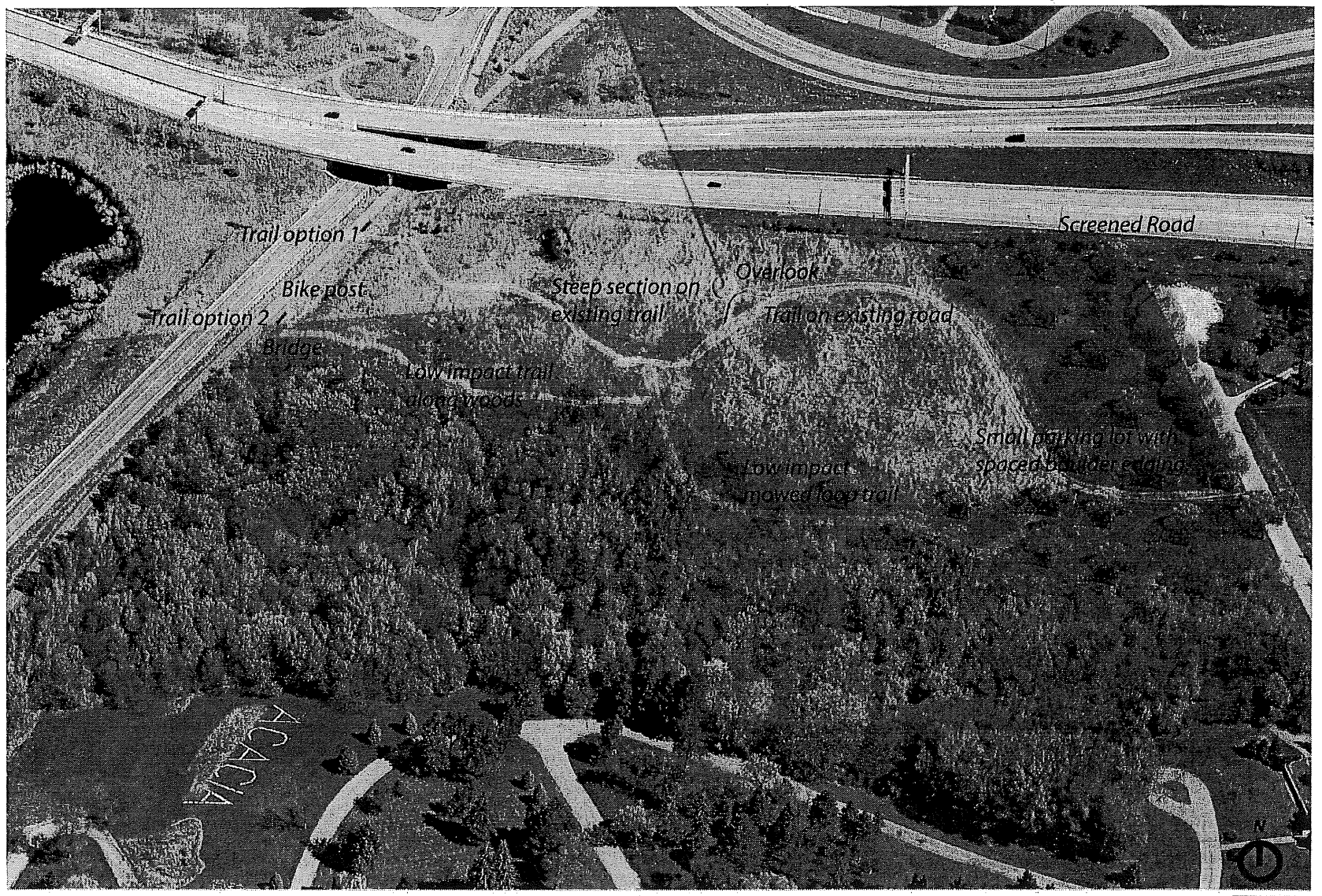


Figure 12: Proposed Trails and Overlook Locations at Pilot Knob
(Copyright Pictometry, 2005)

0 400 800 Feet

GREAT RIVER GREENING

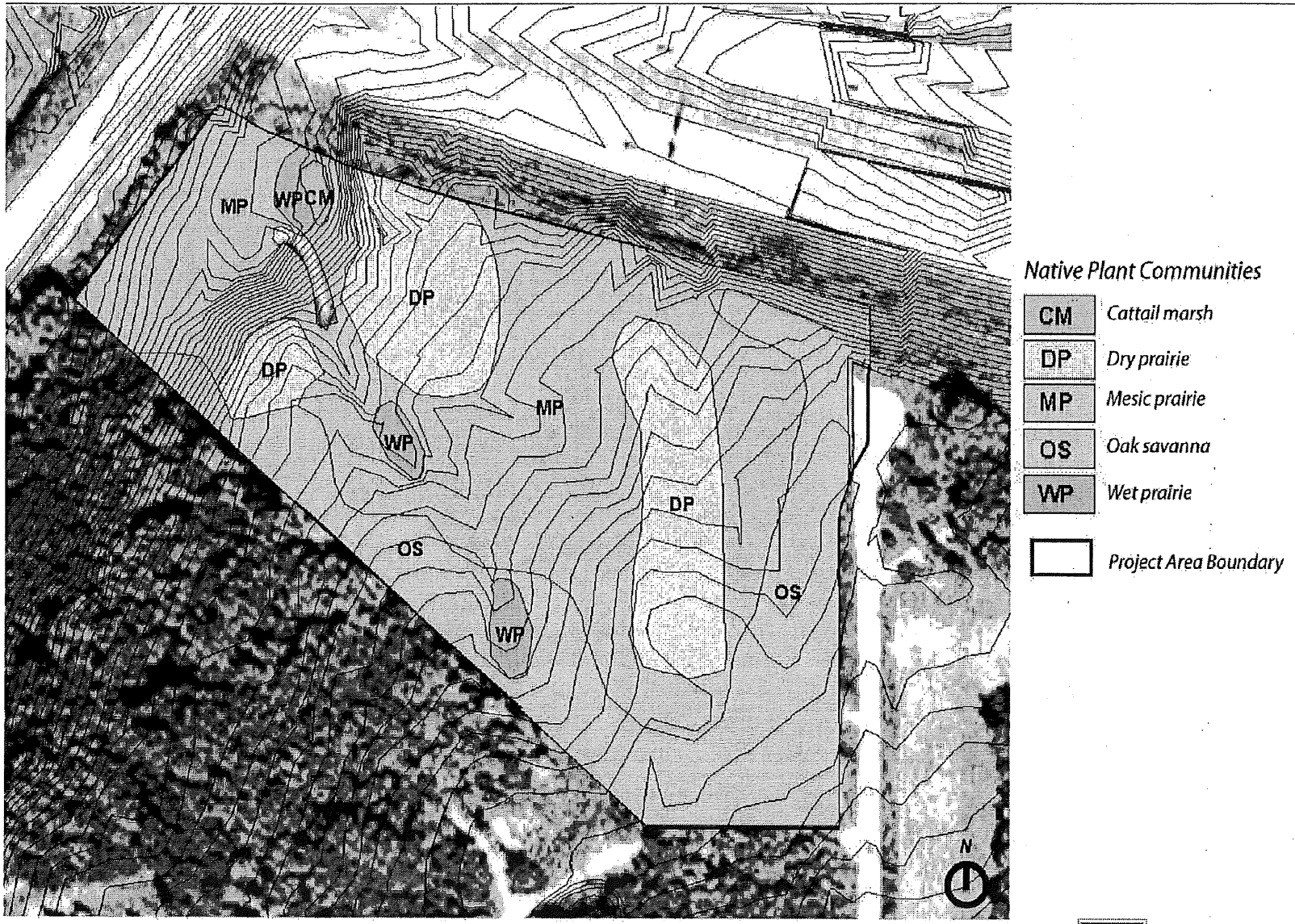


Figure 9: Native Plant Communities Recommended for Restoration at Pilot Knob
(Photo: 2002 FSA Color Aerial Photo)

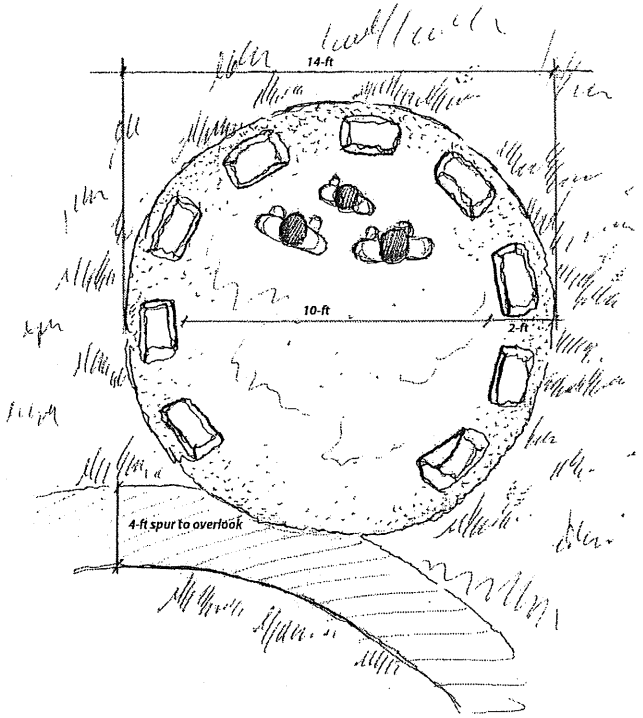
Oak Savanna

Mn DNR photo

Cost Summary

- Plant Community Restoration & Long Term Maintenance — $102,000
- Trails/Overlook/Parking/ Interpretive Materials — $50,000

Potential Designs



Overlook

Parking Area

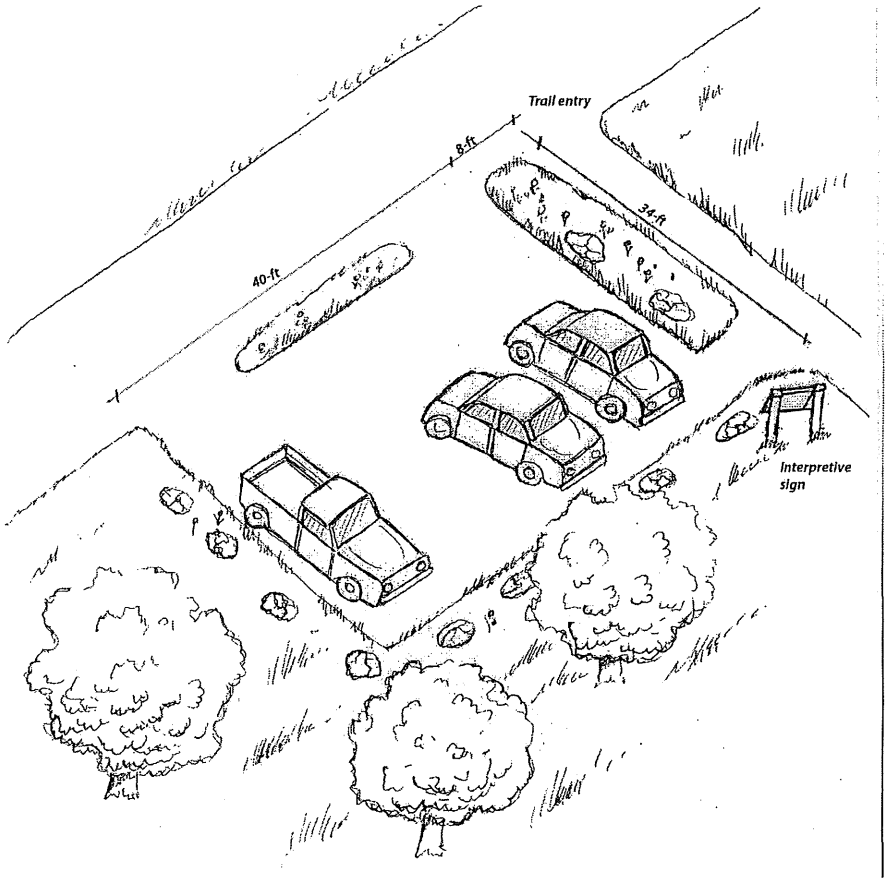


Illustration by Dan Shaw

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION

HOUSE FILE NO. 2557

May 23, 2005
Authored by Cybart, McNamara, Sieben, Ozment and Wardlow
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for Empire Wetlands Wildlife Area and Regional Park in Dakota County.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

$7,000,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the Metropolitan Council to acquire land for the Empire Wetlands Wildlife Area and Regional Park in Dakota County.

Sec. 2. [BOND SALE.]

To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $7,000,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

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Model Partnerships

There is an unprecedented opportunity for shared land, natural resource management, operations, and public facilities. The following agencies and organizations could deliver collaborative, innovative, and cost-effective services:

University of Minnesota
Natural resource education, research, public trail use

Minnesota DNR
Natural resource management, public hunting, fishing

letropolitan Council
Restoration, public use of waste treatment plant buffer land

Board of Soil and Water Resources
Wetland restoration

Dakota County
Visitor facilities, picnic areas, trails, recreation, public safety

Empire Township
Resolution of support, trails along the Vermillion River

Lakeville, Farmington, and Rosemount
Resolutions of support, ecological and trail connection plans

Conservation Organizations
Volunteerism, restoration, fundraising

Phase II Funding Concept for th Vermillion River Natural Area

DNR	$1.5 million
Metro Parks	$1.3 million
Dakota County	$1 million
MN Legislature*	**$7 million**
Total	$10.8 million

*** 2006 Legislative Bonding Proposal**

Vermillion River Natural Area

Acquisition of Combined Regional Park and State Wildlife Management Area

We have a unique opportunity to create a combined Regional Park and State Wildlife Management Area in the rapidly growing south metro.

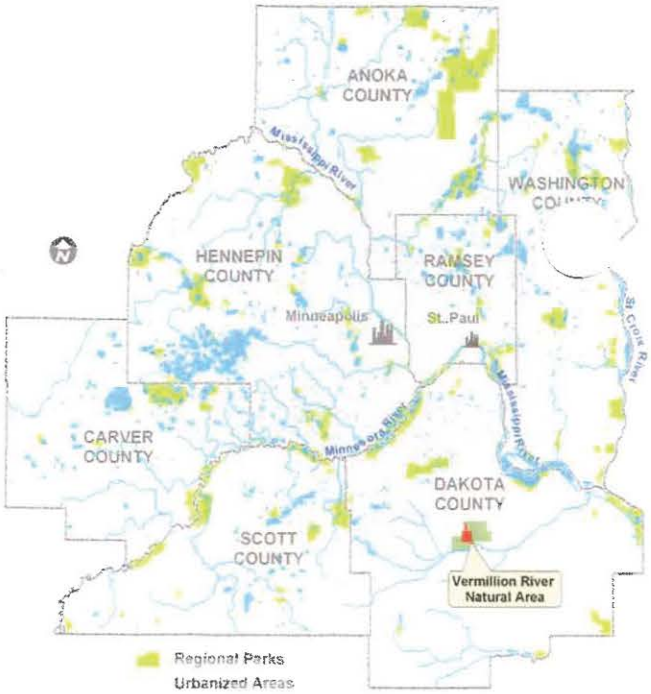
The DNR, Metropolitan Council, Dakota County and Empire Township have identified and approved an ideal location that would protect natural resources and provide outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing.

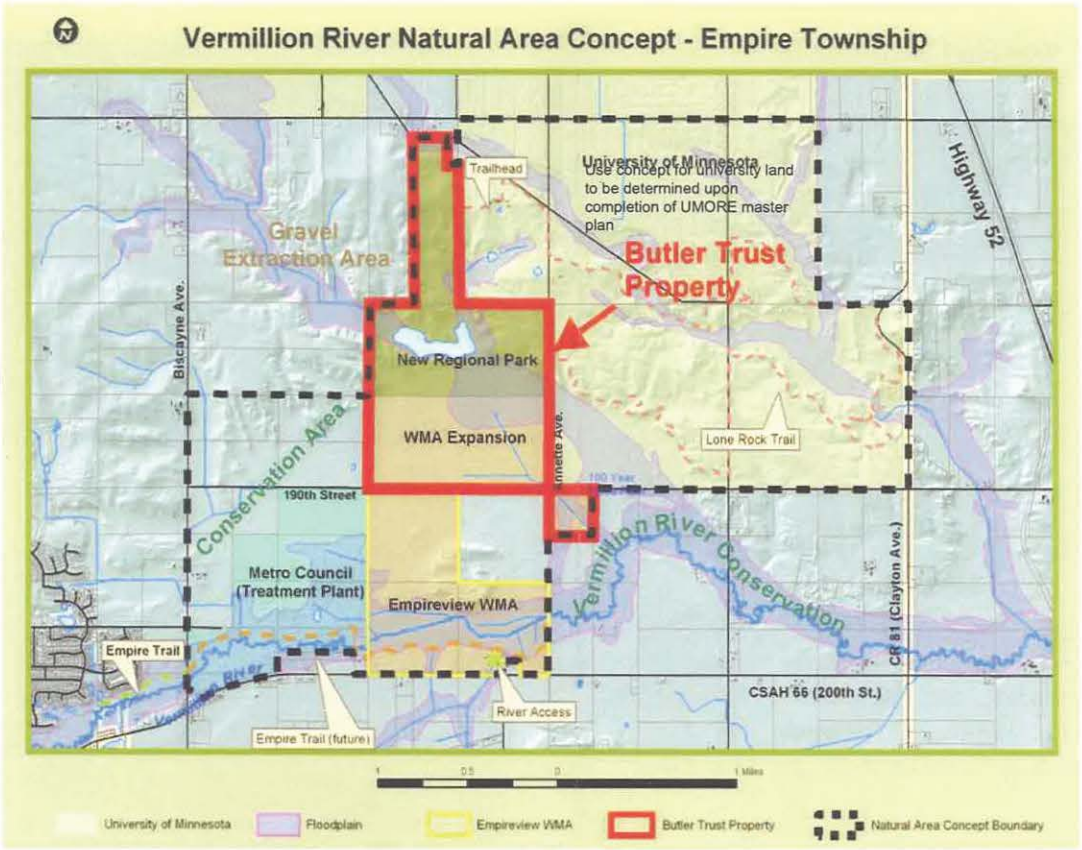
ı 825-acre property is now for sale.
ıe site is key to a larger 4000-acre land protection initiative.

This project is of statewide significance because it:

- ✓ Protects high quality natural resources
- ✓ Provides outstanding outdoor recreation that is close-to-home for over 50% of the State's population
- ✓ Exemplifies good government through shared land and leveraged resources between the DNR, Metropolitan Council, and University of Minnesota

Location Map





Vermillion River Natural Area Highlights

- ✓ The combination of land owned by the University of Minnesota, DNR, Metropolitan Council, and Dakota County could total more than 4000 acres and would create outstanding opportunities for shared land protection, restoration, and public use partnerships.
- ✓ The high quality natural resources on this property and surrounding areas include: native prairie, aspen woodlands, wetlands, a secluded lake, Vermillion River trout stream tributaries, and abundant wildlife in an area where less than 2% of pre-settlement natural areas remain
- ✓ The first phase of land protection established the 475-acre Empire View Wildlife Management Area in November of 2005. The second phase is the acquisition of the Butler Trust property.
- ✓ The 825-acre Butler Trust Property is one of the few remaining unprotected high quality natural areas south of the river and is key to the overall land protection and public use concept.
- ✓ The northern part of the Butler Trust Property would be a new regional park with activities such as biking, hiking, canoeing, picnicking and other park uses. The southern part of the property would be an expansion of the state wildlife management area open to public hunting and fishing.
- ✓ The regional park and natural area is just minutes away from rapidly growing Lakeville, Farmington, Rosemount, and Empire, and would be connected by hiking and biking trails and open space.

Senators Pariseau and Gerlach introduced--

S.F. No. 2337: Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill for an act

relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for dam safety capital improvements at the Byllesby Dam.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [APPROPRIATION.]

$500,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to Goodhue County and Dakota County for dam safety capital improvements at the Byllesby Dam.

Sec. 2. [BOND SALE.]

To provide the money appropriated in this act from the bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to $500,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

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PROTECT OUR WATER 2006

Making long-term investments to protect Minnesota's great outdoors is critical to our state's future. Each year we do not invest in conservation, we lose opportunities to protect our lands and water. Long-term investments are essential because conservation funding in the last five years has been cut by more than one-third, even as usage of the great outdoors has increased. As a result, funding for Minnesota's great outdoors is at the lowest point in 30 years.

The Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP) supports a package of long-term bonding projects that invest in clean water, protected lands, healthy communities and transportation alternatives.

All of the following long-term investments are of high importance to MEP. They are not listed in priority order. Lead organizations are listed in italics.

Support Critical Investments for Our Future.

Protecting Minnesota's Land & Water

Wildlife Management Areas

$20 million

The Legislature should fund $20 million for the accelerated acquisition of 5,000 acres of wildlife habitat that will conserve surface water; preserve unique vegetation, natural beauty and open space; and provide areas of outdoor recreation compatible with wildlife management.

Minnesota Conservation Federation

Reforestation of State Lands

$6 million

The Legislature should fund $6 million to ensure that harvested timberland is replanted with the ecologically best-suited tree species.

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Streambank, Lakeshore Erosion

$5.26 million

The Legislature should fund $5.26 million to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat by purchasing conservation easements for environmentally sensitive lake and river shoreland areas.

Minnesota Waters

Forest Land Conservation Easements

$10 million

Forest Land Conservation Easements help preserve water quality and forest habitat, while leveraging matching federal Forest Legacy dollars. Bonding of $10 million is needed to meet current demand and match pending federal funding requests.

Trust for Public Land

(Protecting Minnesota's Land & Water continued inside.)

Funding for conservation from Minnesota's General Fund is at a 30-year low.

Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Mississippi River Critical Area

$9.4 million

This initiative will develop and support local, regional, and national ecotourism throughout the 4,000 acres of The Great River Park, bordering 26 miles of Mississippi riverfront in Saint Paul, by preserving additional green space and improving and adding additional facilities.

Audubon Minnesota

State Forest Land Acquisition

$6 million

The Legislature should fund $6 million to acquire land from willing sellers of key parcels in Minnesota state forests to protect key habitat, protect trout streams, and allow public access to waterways and missing trail segments.

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Rare Habitats & Species in Jeopardy

$5 million

Certain areas of the state contain special and unique biological features or natural habitats for wildlife. Investing in this program will protect 138 of these sites, which are used by public schools, university and independent researchers, and wildlife watchers.

Audubon Minnesota

Metro Greenways & Natural Areas

$4 million

Strategically investing state bonding of $4 million for Metro Greenways will protect, connect, and restore about 1,600 acres of priority habitat lands in a greater metropolitan regional green network including significant rivers, lakes, and wetlands.

Trust for Public Land

Local Community Grants

$2 million

Providing $2 million for state matching grants to local governments to protect natural and scenic areas and to develop parks of regional significance outside the Twin Cities metro area leverages local and private investment to protect these lands.

Trust for Public Land

Native Prairie

$1 million

Prairie Bank easements protect native Minnesota prairies that have never been plowed and are at risk of being destroyed. This bonding request will provide funds to purchase easements on these native prairies.

Audubon Minnesota

Restoring Minnesota's Lakes and Rivers

Fisheries

$6 million

To meet the goal of acquiring 10 miles of trout stream access and permanently protecting five miles of lakeshore per year for the next 10 years, the Legislature should provide $6 million this year.

Trust for Public Land

Red River Flood Damage Reduction & Natural Resource Enhancement

$6 million

The Legislature should provide $6 million in bonding to fund projects approved through the mediation process to reduce flood damage and enhance natural resources in the Red River Valley. The $2.65 million Upper Felton project, within the Felton Ditch sub-basin and the Wild Rice and Red Rivers, will be a priority.

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Water Access

$5 million

The Legislature should fund $5 million to accelerate the acquisition and development of water access sites on priority lakes and rivers.

Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance

Wetland Replacement for Local Government Roads

$4.2 million

The Legislature should fund $4.2 million to local governments for replacement of wetlands lost because of safety improvements to public transportation.

Minnesota Conservation Federation

Grass Lake Restoration

$2.2 million

The Legislature should fund $2.2 million for restoration of the 1,200-acre Grass Lake prairie wetland basin, located adjacent to Willmar, to improve wildlife habitat and water quality and manage storm water runoff.

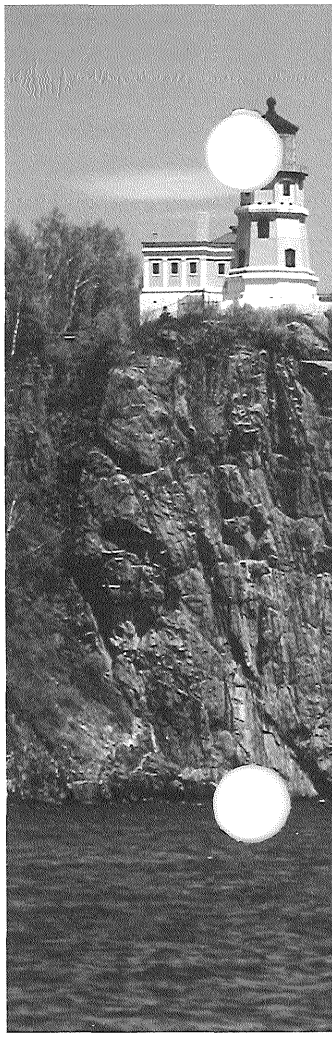
Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Stream Restoration

$2 million

Some of Minnesota's most valuable streams and rivers have been altered by urbanization. This restoration program will restore two of Minnesota's most beautiful trout rivers.

Audubon Minnesota



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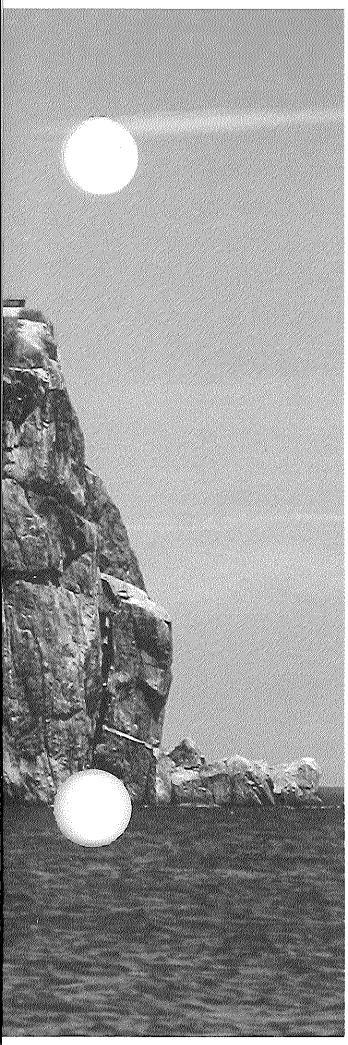
jonhunter@MEPartnership.org



"Long-term investments in our natural resources are among the most important actions the Legislature can take for the sake of our kids and grandkids."

— *David Zentner, Duck Rally Organizer*

Waterfowl Habitat Structures

$1 million

The Legislature should fund $1 million to preserve waterfowl habitat by upgrading or replacing deteriorating water control structures on shallow lakes and significant wetlands.

Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance

Fish Hatcheries

$1 million

The Legislature should fund $1 million to address failing hatchery and rearing facility infrastructure for the French River, Brainerd and Lanesboro sites.

Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

$30.15 million

The Legislature should support Minnesota's $30.15 million bonding request to the federal government to protect the Red River, Missouri River, and Upper Mississippi Watersheds. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) would reward farmers who voluntarily set aside 120,000 acres of marginal agricultural land and environmentally sensitive land along waterways to enhance wildlife habitat, improve water quality, reduce erosion and sedimentation, and reduce the impacts of recurrent flooding. Farmers should continue to have the choice between temporary easements or permanent easements.

Minnesota Conservation Federation

Investing in Healthy Communities

State Trails – Rehabilitation and Acquisition

$34 million

The Legislature should fund $34 million for the acquisition, development and rehabilitation of Minnesota's state trail system. Project priorities include matching federal funding, completing existing trails, investing in new trails and rehabilitating existing trails.

Parks & Trails Council

Metropolitan Regional Parks

$11 million

The Legislature should authorize bonding of $11 million for development of metropolitan regional parks so that Minnesotans who live in the greater Metro Area can enjoy close-to-home opportunities for fishing, hiking, and bird watching.

Trust for Public Land

State Parks – Restoration and Repair

$10 million

The Legislature should fund $10 million to restore landscapes, improve habitat and enhance recreational opportunities in state parks by repairing or replacing failing water systems, sewer systems, roads and bridges.

Parks & Trails Council

State Parks – Building Maintenance and Rehabilitation

$10 million

The Legislature should fund $10 million to rehabilitate the approximately 1,600 buildings and structures in Minnesota State Parks including 620 buildings and structures on the National Historic Register and National Historic Districts.

Parks & Trails Council

State Parks – Land Acquisition

$7 million

The State Park Land Acquisition program enables the Department of Natural Resources to purchase lands within legislatively authorized State Park boundaries as they become available from willing sellers.

Parks & Trails Council

Central Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails

$3.195 million

The Legislature should fund $3.195 million to improve and expand Central Minnesota Regional Parks. This includes acquisition and development of regional parks and trails within Stearns and Sherburne Counties and the cities of Elk River and St. Cloud. This bonding will be matched 50% with local funds.

Parks & Trails Council

State Matching Funds for Drinking Water & Wastewater Projects

$46.2 million

The Legislature should fund $46.2 million to match federal funds at a 1:5 ratio to provide low interest loans to municipalities for drinking water and wastewater projects. This would secure $231 million in federal dollars.

Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Closed Landfill Bonding

$23 million

The Legislature should fund $23 million to complete nine additional landfill sites to prevent future contamination to groundwater and protect public health.

Minnesota Environmental Partnership

(Investing in Healthy Communities continued on back page.)

Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Protect Our Water 2006 - Critical Investments

($'s in thousands)

Protecting Minnesota's Land and Water	MEP	Governor
Wildlife Management Areas Acquisition	20,000	15,000
Forest Land Conservation Easements	10,000	10,000
Mississippi River Critical Area	9,400	0
State Forest Land Acquisition	6,000	4,000
Reforestation of State Lands	6,000	4,000
Streambank, Lakeshore Erosion	5,260	0
Rare Habitats & Species in Jeopardy	5,000	3,000
Metro Greenways & Natural Areas	4,000	0
Local Community Grants	2,000	0
Native Prairie	1,000	1,000
Restoring Minnesota's Lakes and Rivers		
Fisheries	6,000	4,000
Red River Flood Hazard Mitigation *	6,000	* 9,000
Water Access	5,000	3,000
Wetland Replacement for Local Gov.	4,200	4,200
Grass Lake Restoration	2,200	0
Stream Restoration	2,000	2,000
Waterfowl Habitat Structures	1,000	1,000
Fish Hatcheries	1,000	1,000
Conservation Reserve Enhance Program	30,150	30,150
Investing in Healthy Communities		
State Trails – Rehabilitation & Acquisition	34,000	2,000
Metropolitan Parks *	11,000	*8,200
State Parks – Restoration & Repair	10,000	3,000
State Parks – Building Maintenance	10,000	3,000
State Parks – Land Acquisition	7,000	2,000
Central MN Regional Parks	3,195	0
State Matching Funds for Drinking Water and Wastewater Projects	46,200	38,800
Closed Landfill Bonding	23,000	7,150
Wastewater Infrastructure Fund	15,300	15,300
Promoting Transportation Choices		
Northstar Corridor	60,000	60,000
Central Corridor	50,000	2,500
Union Depot	12,500	0
Cedar Avenue Busway Corridor	5,000	5,000
Robert Street Transit Corridor	2,000	0
Midtown Greenway	2,000	0
Northwest Corridor	2,000	0
Red Rock Corridor	1,000	0
Rush Line Corridor	1,000	0

* MEP member organizations are tracking specific projects in this category

1/31/06

Wastewater Infrastructure Fund

$15.3 million

The Legislature should fund $15.3 million to provide supplemental grant and loan funding to high priority municipal wastewater projects with high cost needs.

Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Promoting Transportation Choices

Northstar Corridor

$60 million

The Legislature should approve $60 million as the next cycle state match to continue construction on a 40-mile, six-station commuter rail corridor linking downtown Minneapolis to Big Lake.

Sierra Club – Northstar Chapter

Central Corridor

$50 million

The Legislature should approve $50 million as first cycle construction bonding for an 11-mile light rail line connecting downtown Saint Paul and downtown Minneapolis by way of University and Washington Avenues.

Sierra Club – Northstar Chapter

Union Depot

$12.5 million

The Legislature should approve $12.5 million to partially match the $50 million in federal funds already approved for the Union Depot in Saint Paul, which will serve as a transportation hub for Central Corridor light rail; Red Rock Commuter Rail; and high speed rail to Chicago.

Sierra Club – Northstar Chapter

Cedar Avenue Busway Corridor

$5 million

The Legislature should fund $5 million as local match for the next phase of development of the Cedar Avenue Busway from Mall of America to Lakeville.

Sierra Club – Northstar Chapter

Northwest Corridor

$2 million

The Legislature should approve $2 million for planning review of the 22-mile transit way from Minneapolis northwest to Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, Osseo, Dayton, Maple Grove and Rogers now that engineers have determined it cannot run on highway right-of-way.

Sierra Club – Northstar Chapter

Robert Street Corridor Transit Way

$2 million

The Legislature should approve $2 million for environmental and design studies for a Robert Street Corridor transit way extending from West Saint Paul to Inver Grove Heights.

Sierra Club – Northstar Chapter

Midtown Greenway

$2 million

The Legislature should approve $1.6 million for a cantilever extension of the Greenway across the Mississippi to meet railroad clearance and insurance requirements. The Legislature should also approve $400,000 bonding for a preliminary study of rail transit options on existing right-of-way next to the Greenway.

Sierra Club – Northstar Chapter

Photo courtesy of Metro Transit

Red Rock Corridor

$1 million

The Legislature should approve $1 million for environmental work and station area planning for a 30-mile commuter rail corridor running north along Highway 61 from Hastings to Saint Paul and on to Minneapolis.

Sierra Club – Northstar Chapter

Rush Line Corridor

$1 million

The Legislature should approve $1 million for park and ride, park and pool, and transit related capital needs for an 80-mile corridor connecting downtown Saint Paul with Hinckley.

Sierra Club – Northstar Chapter

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Minnesota Environmental Partnership

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