

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2015 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 067-C

Building 8 Zumbro Watershed Recreational Learning Stewardship Sites

Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 356,920

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 years, July 2015 - June 2018

Summary:

To achieve increased civic engagement the project provides increased recreational opportunities in the watershed along with educational materials designed to connect the recreational experience with water quality of the Zumbro

Name: Lawrence Svien

Sponsoring Organization: Zumbro Watershed Partnership

Address: 1485 Industrial Dr NW
Rochester MN 55901

Telephone Number: (507) 266-6787

Email admin@zumbrowatershed.org

Web Address www.zumbrowatershed.org

Location

Region: SE

County Name: Dodge, Goodhue, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

Watershed Location Map, Sample Design Concept for Recreational Sites, and Site Selection Criteria

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL	



PROJECT TITLE: Building 8 Zumbro Watershed Recreational Learning Stewardship Sites

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Problem: The Zumbro River Watershed in southeastern Minnesota is an underutilized and overlooked recreational asset. It is a unique, diverse, and beautiful landscape of great environmental sensitivity. The Zumbro Watershed is 98% privately owned, which imposes some limits on the accessibility to the river. This has isolated the river from the residents and potential recreational users. A culture of water stewardship is needed where people have a connection with their river resource, appreciate it, and are willing to implement effective water protection practices that will help reduce and prevent future pollution and flooding across the Watershed.

Project Goal: To promote river-related recreational experiences and water quality practices through 8 public sites throughout the Watershed so that the public can relate their personal recreational experiences with the river resource and be motivated to protect it by adoption and/or promotion of water quality BMP's.

Project Objective: Create or enhance a network of 8 accessible, visible public recreational sites with water quality demonstration elements that promote fishing, boating, picnicking, and other activities. And through that attraction for recreation opportunities educate and encourage people to adopt water protection practices and invasive aquatic species control by:

- Addressing recreational, environmental, and educational, needs simultaneously through improved recreational facilities, water access, water quality demonstration elements, and educational kiosks;
- Increasing the Zumbro River's visibility to promote its use as an environmental, educational, and recreational asset;
- Enhancing the Zumbro River State Water Trail as a regional asset; and
- Illustrating the diverse environmental challenges and the water protection practices appropriate to the conditions found across the Watershed. These will include:
 - Rural and urban soil and water conservation practices, such as grassland buffers,
 - Management options for woodlands and pastures that promote infiltration,
 - Groundwater protection practices in the (karst) geology,
 - Restored wetlands that provide ecological services,
 - Restored trout streams that provide improved habitat and public access, and
 - Floodplains significance for stream habitat and water quality. *(See chosen sites on the map)*

II PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Design 8 Access and Education Sites & Create Construction Documents **Budget:** \$51,639

Each site will be designed with water quality educational demonstration infrastructure such as water gardens, bank stabilizations, infiltration swales, native plantings, and interpretive kiosks, and recreational infrastructure such as new or enhanced trailheads, trails, picnic areas, canoe launches, fishing piers, etc.

Community engagement/input meetings and review meetings will be held for each site.

Outcomes	Completion Date
1. 8 site designs and construction drawings for CCM crew/community work	April 2016
2. 8 community engagement meetings with local communities	April 2016

Activity 2: Design 32 Recreational, Environmental, & Cultural Kiosk Panels & Watershed Maps **Budget:** \$35,640

Collect, analyze, and select interpretive material; create interpretive images and text; identify cultural, and water quality information, QR code connections to additional recreation; and make 32 interpretive panel designs that describe the site, the Watershed, water quality BMP's, and cultural and recreation amenities. Make a watershed map locating and describing recreational, environmental, cultural, and water quality demonstration sites.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2015 Main Proposal

Project Title: Building 8 Zumbro Watershed Recreational Learning Stewardship Sites

Outcomes	Completion Date
1. Design 32 24" by 36" regionally significant interpretive panels.	April 2016
2. Watershed map of recreational, cultural, and environmental assets and water quality demonstration sites	April 2016

Activity 3 Construct Sites

Budget: \$265,641

Site amenities and water quality demonstrations will be built on the 8 public accessible sites by the Conservation Corps of Minnesota with assistance from local community and service groups. Printed and digital maps will be created and distributed across the Watershed that highlight the Watershed and the unique recreational qualities, and water quality impact of each site via partner websites and in-print to appropriate government agencies, educational, community, and recreational institutions.

Outcomes	Completion Date
1. 8 sites built Elements will include water quality–friendly fishing areas, trails, trailheads, canoe launches, benches, picnic tables, fire rings, parking, interpretive kiosks, rain gardens, band stabilizations, native plantings, invasive specie removal, etc. (labor and materials, construction observation, local community engagement, & project management)	October 2017
2. Watershed maps and 40 kiosk panels that interpret the Watershed’s natural, recreational, and cultural environment and promote the sites’ water quality demonstrations and other water quality practices.	October 2017

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Partners receiving ENRTF money:

- **UM Center for Changing Landscapes** Mary Vogel, Co-Director and staff: site selection and analysis; site, kiosk panel, and map design; construction drawings; and construction observation.
- **Conservation Corp of Minnesota** Youth corps volunteers and young adult corps: coordination and construction of infrastructure

Partners receiving ENRTF money and providing in-kind:

- **Zumbro Watershed Partnership, Inc.** Lawrence Svien, Watershed Coordinator, site selection, community outreach, education planning, map dissemination
- **UM Extension** Doug Malchow, Educator: site selection, education planning (mileage only paid)
- **UM Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership** Erin Meier, Executive Director: site selection and community outreach meeting coordination

Partners not receiving ENRTF money providing in-kind assistance:

- **DNR** Craig Blommer: site selection, design consultation
- **Watershed Soil & Water Conservation District Staff:** Tom Johnston, Dodge; Beau Kennedy, Goodhue; Skip Langer, Olmsted; Steve Pahs, Steele; and Terry Peters, Wabasha: site selection, design consultation

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

Active and Passive Water Quality Stewardship Advocacy: The Zumbro Watershed Partnership, U of M Extension, and other educational entities will use the 8 sites as outdoor classrooms to promote Watershed water quality stewardship. It is expected that annually between 3 and 5 thousand recreational site users will be exposed to water quality educational material and BMP site demonstrations as they picnic, canoe, etc. It’s also estimated the Mayo Clinic Destination Medical Center will bring an additional 1 million visitors annually to the region. Recreational opportunities such as these sites in close proximity to Rochester will be an asset to the watershed.

C. Timeline Requirements

The time allotted reflects three building seasons.

2015 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Building 8 Zumbro Watershed Recreational Learning Stewardship Sites

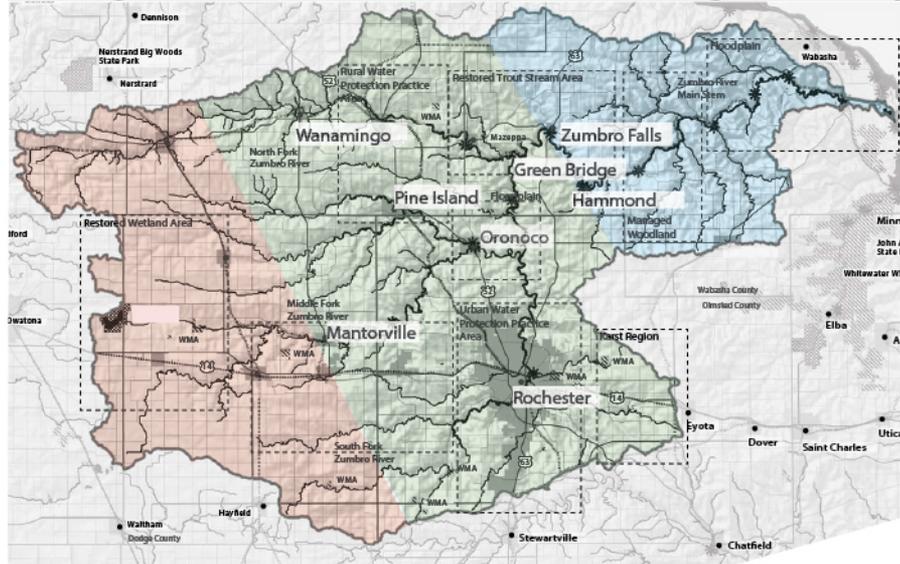
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel: Project Administration: Lawrence Svien, Zumbro Watershed Partnership .15 FTE 100% Salary for 2 years. This position is part time at 25 hours a week. This funding will enable 0.15 FTE of that work to work directly on this project in a project specific capacity. Work on this project will be functioning as the coordinator for this project. At the end of the project the position will either be reduced to reflect the end of the 0.15 FTE/year support or other funding will be secured.	\$ 12,800
Contracts: Center for Changing Landscapes, College of Design, University of Minnesota: Site designs and construction instructions for 8 sites. Construction instructions especially designed for CCM use. Like previous CCM/ CCL projects they will include detailed step-by-step illustrated instructions for building the designs	\$ 56,000
Contracts: Center for Changing Landscapes for construction activities on 8 sites, 8 preconstruction meetings, 8 preconstruction site inspections, 8 construction kick -off meetings, 8 project construction visits, 8 final closeout meetings, 8 consultation during construction activities.	\$ 40,000
Contracts: Conservation Corps of Minnesota, Coordination and construction of infrastructure 26 weeks x \$4575/ week	\$ 120,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Construction materials, rock, concrete, landscaping timbers, \$13,125/site x 8 sites	\$ 105,000
Supplies: Manufacture and printing 40 24" x 36" full color image on ¼" aluminum with UV protective coating finish @\$375 per panel.	\$ 15,000
Travel: Mileage 2000 miles x \$0.56/mile	\$ 1,120
Additional Budget Items: Community Outreach: 9 Meetings(8 site-specific, 1 open house)	\$ 7,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 356,920

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	N/A	
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	NA	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: SWCD staff, County staff, City staff, site selection process, identification of stakeholders, meetings, other outreach activities.	\$ 45,000	Secured
Funding History:	\$ -	
University of Minnesota, Extension, Regional Sustainable Development Partnership	\$ 46,100	Regional Sustainable Development Funding
University of Minnesota, Center of Rural and Unban Affairs: Community Assistance program intern	\$ 7,000	
Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation: Zumbro River Watershed Restoration Prioritization. 2011-05d. Funds are contracted with Barr Engineering and will be paid out for deliverables in the next two months. Project is planned to end June 30, 2014 and is on schedule to meet the deadline.	\$ 68,578	Legally obligated

Building Zumbro Watershed / Recreation/Learning Stewardship Sites



Zumbro River Watershed



Three Regions of the Watershed

- The Blufflands
- Rochester Plateau
- Oak Savanna

Site Locations:

Main Stem

- Green Bridge
- Hammond
- Zumbro Falls

North Fork

- Wanamingo

Middle Fork

- Mantorville
- Oronoco confluence of 2 parts
- Pine Island confluence

South Fork

- Rochester

Site Selection Criteria:

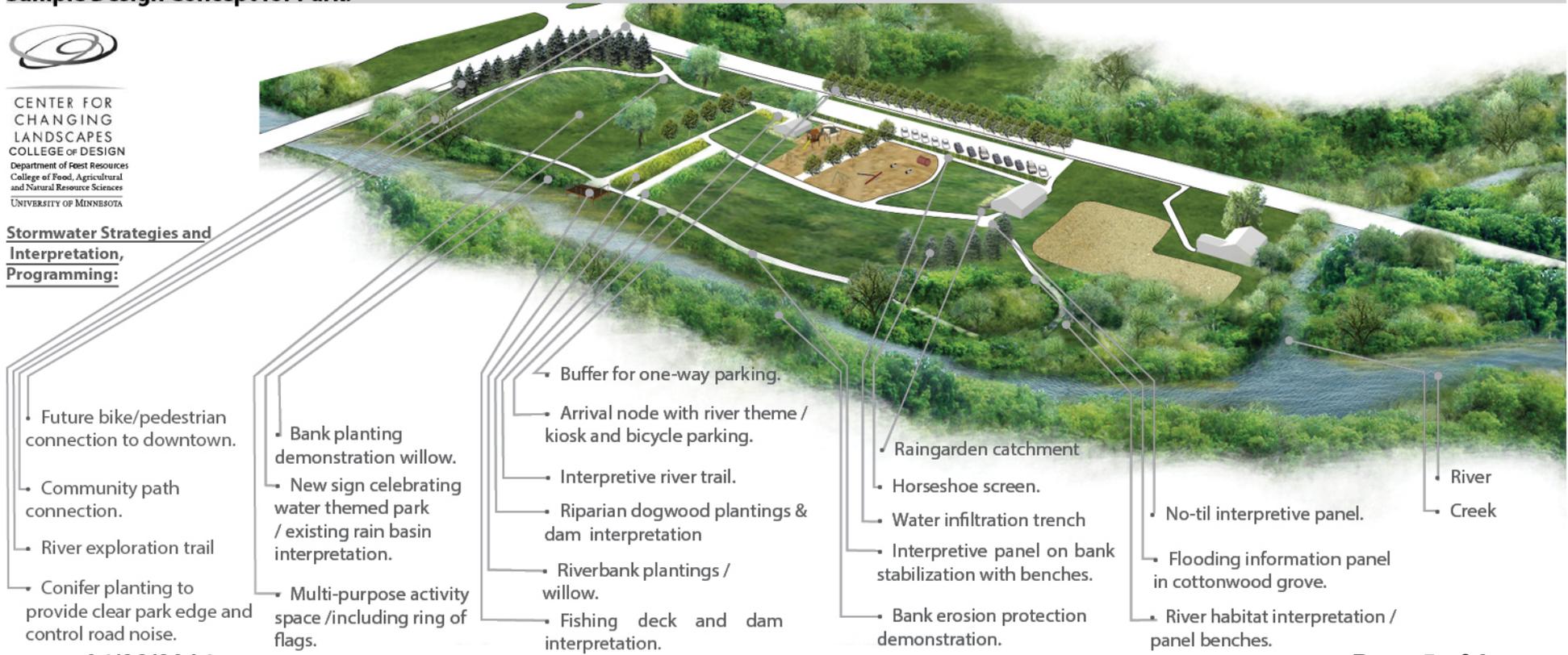
- Watershed Significance: Addresses the Zumbro Watershed Management Plan's goals & strategies;
- Ecological Significance: Reflects ecological challenges & diverse environments;
- Educational Significance: Illustrates a variety of water quality strategies;
- Recreational Significance: Enhances fishing, boating, birding, picnicking, etc. &
- Community Support: Local government, citizens, schools, conservation & recreation groups support it.

Sample Design Concept for Park:



CENTER FOR CHANGING LANDSCAPES
COLLEGE OF DESIGN
Department of Forest Resources
College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Stormwater Strategies and Interpretation, Programming:



- Future bike/pedestrian connection to downtown.
- Community path connection.
- River exploration trail
- Conifer planting to provide clear park edge and control road noise.

- Bank planting demonstration willow.
- New sign celebrating water themed park / existing rain basin interpretation.
- Multi-purpose activity space /including ring of flags.

- Buffer for one-way parking.
- Arrival node with river theme / kiosk and bicycle parking.
- Interpretive river trail.
- Riparian dogwood plantings & dam interpretation
- Riverbank plantings / willow.
- Fishing deck and dam interpretation.

- Raingarden catchment
- Horseshoe screen.
- Water infiltration trench
- Interpretive panel on bank stabilization with benches.
- Bank erosion protection demonstration.

- No-til interpretive panel.
- Flooding information panel in cottonwood grove.
- River habitat interpretation / panel benches.

River
Creek

PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS & ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Project Title: Building 8 Zumbro Watershed Recreational Learning Stewardship Sites

Project Manager Qualifications

The project manager for the “Building 8 Zumbro Watershed Recreational Learning Stewardship Sites” proposal will be Lawrence Svien, Executive Director for the Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP). Lawrence holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Science in Geographic Information Systems from Penn State. Lawrence has worked for the ZWP since May of 2012, administratively supporting the Board, coordinating member and partner activities, and applying for and administering grants. Lawrence has administered numerous grants for the ZWP, including \$25,000 and \$76,000 Surface Water Assessment Grants and \$86,000 Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring grants from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), two McKnight Foundation grants totaling \$140,000, and a \$90,000 contract with the MPCA to write the Zumbro turbidity Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan and update the Zumbro River Watershed Management Plan. Lawrence is also the Project Manager on the current ENRTF project, *Zumbro River Watershed Restoration Prioritization* (M.L. 2011. First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 05d. Lawrence’s experience administering grants includes managing budgets, compiling reports, and facilitating partner and community meetings.

Description of Organization

Zumbro Watershed Partnership, Inc is a 501 (c)(3) organization created to serve as a catalyst for interaction between watershed citizens and natural resource professionals. The ZWP is a member driven organization, working across jurisdictional boundaries to achieve the goal of protecting and restoring the natural resources and social benefits of a healthy watershed. The mission of the ZWP is “To promote the protection and improvement of the Zumbro River Watershed.” The ZWP is currently serving as the catalyst and leadership in the application for the MNBWSR One Watershed One Plan initiative.

The ZWP Board of Directors is composed of 25 members. Each of the six counties in the watershed is represented by an appointed county commissioner and a soil and water conservation district supervisor; the remaining 13 positions are held by citizen directors elected for three-year terms. Currently, the ZWP employs three part-time staff.

In 2007, ZWP prepared the first comprehensive watershed management plan for the 910,337-acre Zumbro River Watershed, which served as the framework for prioritizing projects and seeking grants. A update to the plan was completed in 2013. ZWP’s funding currently comes from a combination of membership dues, business donations, and state and foundational grants for specific projects.