

# FINAL REPORT

AUG 12 2003

## 2001 Project Abstract For the period ending June 30, 2003

**Title:** Hennepin Parks Farm Education  
**Project Manager:** Tom McDowell  
**Mailing Address:** 3000 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, Minnesota 55441  
**Telephone Number:** 763-559-6705  
**E-Mail:** Tmcdowell@threeriversparkdistrict.org Fax: 763-559-3287  
**Web Page address:** www.threeriversparkdistrict.org.  
**Fund:** Minnesota Future Resources Fund  
**Legal Citation:** ML 2001, [Chap.231], Sec. [16], Subd. 10 (i).  
**LCMR Appropriation:** \$100,000

### Overall Project Outcome and Results

An agriculture education program was developed at Hennepin Parks' newest facility, Gale Woods Farm, to create opportunities for K-12 students and the general public to develop a basic understanding of agriculture.

The Park District hired a program coordinator to oversee the planning and development of a working educational farm including:

- 22 acres of pasture
- 13 breeds of sheep, 5 breeds of chickens, 1 breed of beef cattle and a working sheep dog
- 5 acres of gardens and orchards
- barn with a safe and enjoyable classroom and efficient livestock housing.

Learning stations were constructed to facilitate self-guided tours. These learning stations include:

- Two-panel kiosk detailing the history of the land, the Gale family and farming on site.
- Three-panel kiosk presenting information about contemporary agriculture and small-diversified farms.
- Five trail signs located along the self-guided route explaining the elements of the farm.

In addition to establishing the farm elements, the program coordinator researched curriculum and developed meaningful ways to involve youth in farming. The groundwork and infrastructure were completed for The Community Food Project, a program engaging inner city and suburban youth and students from Augsburg College in growing produce for sale at farmer's markets. This project's funding helped develop the infrastructure and organization to initiate the Community Food Program.

### Project Results Use and Dissemination

This project's funding provided for the initial development of the program at Gale Woods. To date approximately 750 school students, and 500 public visitors have attended programs at Gale Woods. The park officially opens in August 2003. With the assistance of this grant, the facility now has the capacity to serve up to 10,000 school students per year in addition to unlimited visits from the general public.

**Date of COMPLETION:** June 30, 2003  
**LCMR FINAL WORK PROGRAM REPORT**  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Hennepin Parks Farm Education

**Project Manager:** Tom McDowell  
**Mailing Address:** 3000 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, Minnesota 55441  
**Telephone Number:** 763-559-6705

**E-Mail:** Tmcdowell@threeiversparkdistrict.org **Fax:** 763-559-3287

**Web Page address:** www.threeiversparkdistrict.org.

**Total Biennial Project Budget:** \$100,000

**\$ LCMR Appropriation** \$100,000 **\$ Amount Spent:** \$99,885.74 = **Balance:** \$114.26

**Legal Citation:** ML 2001, [Chap.2], Sec. [14], Subd.10 (i).

**Appropriation Language:** 10(i) Hennepin Parks Farm Education  
\$100,000 is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District to develop and implement a coordinated farm education program at Gale Woods Special Recreation Area and North Mississippi Regional Park.

## **II. & III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY**

An agriculture education program was developed at Hennepin Parks' newest facility, Gale Woods Farm. The focus was creating opportunities for K-12 students and the general public to develop a basic understanding of agriculture.

The Park District hired a program coordinator to oversee the planning and development of a working educational farm including:

- 22 acres of pasture
- 13 breeds of sheep, 5 breeds of chickens, 1 breed of beef cattle and a working sheep dog
- 5 acres of gardens and orchards
- Barn with a safe, and enjoyable classroom and efficient livestock housing.
- Learning stations to facilitate a self-guided tour were constructed. These learning stations include:
  - Two-panel kiosk detailing the history of the land, the Gale family and farming on site.
  - Three-panel kiosk presenting information about contemporary agriculture and small diversified farms.
  - Five trail signs located along the self-guided route explaining the elements of the farm.

The program coordinator researched curriculum and developed meaningful ways to involve youth in farming. The groundwork and infrastructure were completed for The Community Food Project, a program engaging inner city and suburban youth and students from Augsburg College in growing produce for sale at farmer's markets. This project's funding helped develop infrastructure and organization to initiate the Community Food Program in the 2004-growing season.

This project's funding provided for the initial development of the program at Gale Woods. To date approximately 750 school students, and 500 public visitors have attended programs at Gale Woods. The park officially opens in August 2003. With the assistance of this grant, the facility now has the capacity to serve up to 10,000 school students per year in addition to unlimited visits from the general public. The groups have used the Gale Woods web site address, [www.galewoodsfarm.com](http://www.galewoodsfarm.com) to gather information and prepare for field trips.

#### **IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:**

##### **Final Status as of June 30, 2003:**

##### **Result 1: Program Development: Facility Design**

A program development coordinator worked from April 2002 through June 2003 with architects and contractors to insure that the facility functions as a working farm and serves the needs of visiting school groups as well as the general public. The following program-related components were completed with the oversight of the coordinator:

- Pasture development: 22 acres of pasture were developed. Pasture locations were chosen based on topography, forage availability, and proximity to trails and opportunities for park visitors to safely view the livestock. Perimeter fences that are safe for the public were installed. Interior paddock fencing was purchased and a rotational grazing system was developed to demonstrate sustainable animal agriculture.
- Livestock acquisition: Three breeds of sheep, five breeds of chickens, one breed of beef cattle and a working sheep dog were researched and acquired. The breeds were chosen for both production efficiency and educational value. Specific breeding stock and breeders were chosen based on stringent health standards and enrollment in USDA disease prevention programs.
- Garden and orchard development: 65 fruit trees were planted by a group of 12 high school students in a three-acre orchard. The varieties were selected for production and educational value. Two and a half acres of garden were started this year—approximately one-half an acre in production and 2 acres in cover crops to develop soil fertility for next year.
- Educational barn: Elements were added to the barn in order to make an efficient production space and provide for safe and educational farm visits for school groups and the general public. These elements include: hand washing stations and health department required signs; an incubator and brooder for raising chicks with students; signage to enable visitors and volunteers to assist with daily farm chores; pens and corrals for lambing, feeding and watering the sheep; and a general classroom space for introductory lessons.
- Self-guided interpretive trail: elements of self-guided tour were put in place. (for further detail see result #3 under learning stations.)

**LCMR Budget: \$22,000**

**Balance: \$-0-**

**Personnel:** The program development coordinator was paid to work with project architects to finalize the design of the program-related facility components. Salary and benefits: \$22,000.

##### **Result 2: Program Development: Curriculum Writing**

##### **Final Status as of June 30, 2003:**

The program development coordinator worked from April 2002 to September 2002 at North Mississippi Visitor's Center developing and delivering curriculum units for this facility. These units included:

- What's in your Watershed? – An investigation of the Shingle Creek Watershed, land use patterns and how this impact water quality.
- River Critters – Using aquatic macro invertebrates to determine water quality in Shingle Creek.
- People and Land – An investigation of land use over time in the North Minneapolis area with particular focus on the time period when the area was primarily agricultural.
- Logging and Lumberjacks – An opportunity for students to re-live the days when timber was king and the sawmills of North Minneapolis were the busiest in the world.
- Trees and Keys – Identifying trees in the area and understanding why with urban development there are more trees around now than during pre-settlement.

The coordinator gathered and researched agricultural education curriculum from many sources. He also made contact with the MN Department of Agriculture, the University of MN Agriculture Education Department, and local agriculture education instructors and from other educational farms. It was discovered that a great deal of curriculum exists and as a result efforts were turned toward developing a meaningful way of involving inner-city youth in farming at Gale Woods. The result is the Community Food Project. This project will bring together youth and college students from Minneapolis and suburbs near Gale Woods to produce fresh, organic produce for residents of their neighborhoods. Produce grown at Gale Woods will be sold at the Lyndale Farmer's Market in Minneapolis, through shares in a community supported agriculture venture, and some produce will also be provided to the food shelf in Mound. In addition to learning about sustainable agriculture and food production, participants will receive leadership training and opportunities, gain valuable work-related skills, and be inspired and supported to create positive change in their own communities. The project will work with two existing Minneapolis programs to involve inner-city youth in farming; The Youth Farm & Market Project and the Seward Peace Garden. At Gale Woods, participants in these programs will expand their gardening skills, grow more produce for their markets, learn about animal agriculture and connect with young people from suburban and rural areas near the farm. Augsburg College in Minneapolis will provide interns and paid staff to mentor the youth and assist with supervision in the gardens. Youth from these programs are visiting Gale Woods during 2003 and the project will be in full production in 2004.

The coordinator also spent a great deal of time investigating the possibility of a community garden and associated programming at the North Mississippi Regional Park visitor center. This research brought together the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the non-profit Urban Lands Program and Three Rivers Park District. Ultimately, park board policies and the land use plan for the regional park didn't allow for this development.

**LCMR Budget: \$41,600**

**Balance: \$114.26**

**Personnel:** The program development coordinator was being paid to assemble draft units for field trips at the North Mississippi Visitor center and Gale Woods Farm. Salary and: \$19,600.00.

**Other:** Printing Supplies, teaching equipment: This includes equipment such as soil monitoring tools, forage measuring equipment, compost monitoring equipment, dairy goats, and wool handling equipment, etc. and mileage reimbursement \$21,885.74.

Completion Date: June 30, 2003.

**Result 3: Learning Station Construction:**

**Final Status as of June 30, 2003:**

Several learning stations were completed to facilitate field trips and self-guided use by park visitors. The coordinator developed the content of the learning stations and managed a contract with a design/fabricator to produce and install the kiosks and trail signs. The following learning stations were completed:

- Two panel introductory kiosk: This display/sign details the history of the land, the Gale Family and farming on the site. It also provides an overview of the farm, the agriculture elements that a visitor can experience and a guide to the site.
- Three panel farming kiosk: This display/sign presents information about the condition of contemporary agriculture, the role of a small diversified in the present day economy and in local communities and explains the type of farming that is taking place and why this is the appropriate farm for the site.
- Trail signs: These signs are located along the self-guided tour route and explain the different elements of the farm these include: pastures, compost, chickens, ruminant/grazing livestock and the garden/orchard.

**LCMR Budget:** \$36,400

**Balance:** \$-0-

**Personnel:** The program development coordinator was paid to oversee the construction of learning stations to facilitate field trips and self-guided use by park visitors. Salary and benefits for: \$13,200. Status as of March 22, 2003, salary and benefits for six months: \$6,400.00.

**Other:** Interpretive signs: \$30,000

**Completion Date:** June 30, 2003 – Due to construction delays.

V. Total Project Budget: \$100,000

**All Results: Personnel:** \$\$48,000.00

**All Results: Equipment:** \$30,000.00

**All Results: Development:** N/A

**All Results: Acquisition:** N/A

**All Results: Other:** \$22,000.00

**TOTAL BUDGET:** \$100,000.00

**A.) ATTACHMENT A-** See attached.

**VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:**

Three Rivers Park District will bear all of the overhead costs associated with this project, including costs associated with hiring the program development. Office space, computer, and other support costs will be provided.

In addition, the Park District is funding the development costs for the establishment of the Gale Woods Farm Park, as well as the ongoing operating costs once the facility is open to the public.

**A. Past Spending:**

-0-

**B. Current and Future Spending:**

The Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners has allocated \$3.5 million to fund all capital improvements for the development of Gale Woods Farm Park. Once the facility is open, an annual operating budget of \$250,000 is anticipated.

**C. Project Partners:**

The following individuals have indicated their willingness to participate in the project development to ensure consistency with the overall statewide agricultural education effort:

Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council  
Patrick Plonski, Executive Director  
Department of Agriculture, Ag in the Classroom Program  
Al Withers, Program Director  
Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board  
Jeff Lee, Director of Environmental Service  
Minneapolis Public Schools  
Lois Shapiro, Hamilton Elementary  
Rene Goepfrich, Kenwood Elementary  
Candy Welshans, Hale Elementary  
U of MN Extension Service, Hennepin County  
Anna Sonmore-Costello, Coordinator, J.D. Rivers Outdoor Center  
Watertown-Mayer High School Vocational Agriculture Program  
Waconia and Chaska High School Vocational Agriculture Program  
Dennis Bjorklund

**D. Time:**

All results will be completed within the project time period.

**VII. DISSEMINATION.**

Information pertaining to the development of the North Mississippi Visitor Center and Gale Woods Farm Park can be accessed at the Park District website: [www: Threeriversparkdistrict.org](http://www.Threeriversparkdistrict.org)

**VIII. LOCATION.**

North Mississippi Regional Park, 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Minneapolis (Hennepin County)

Gale Woods Special Recreation Area, 7210 County 110 W, Minnetrista (Hennepin County)

**IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than January 2002, September 2002, and March 2003.

**X. RESEARCH PROJECTS:**