

## **2005 Project Abstract**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2007

**TITLE: Minnesota Trail Planning**

**PROJECT MANAGER: Mary Vogel**

**ORGANIZATION: Center for Changing Landscapes, University of Minnesota**

**ADDRESS: College of Design, 89 Church Street Se Minneapolis, MN 55455**

**WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.ccl.gis.umn.edu**

**FUND: Trust Fund**

**LEGAL CITATION: ML 2005, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec.11, Subd.\_(6i\_**

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$200,000**

### Overall Project Outcome and Results

The community–engaged planning/design work on the Minnesota River State Trail was done in collaboration with the cities of Redwood Falls, New Ulm, and Saint Peter; the Dakota Community; local trail groups; local citizens; and the Trails and Waterways Division of the DNR. The work focused on identifying potential state trail alignments, making city trail systems that connected to the state trail, locating and designing state trailheads, creating signature trail elements that expressed the unique Minnesota River landscape and created a trail identity, and increasing environmental awareness in the Valley. Analysis of the natural and cultural landscape of the Minnesota River Valley, aspirations of the local communities and citizens, and the needs of the DNR’s master planning efforts informed the work. Local community meetings were held to gather information, present preliminary design work for review and feedback, and present the final designs.

The work produced included:

- An analysis of the cultural and natural amenities and features of the Valley’s landscape,
- Proposed state trail alignments that interpretive the landscape,
- Local trail systems that connect local features and provide local access to the state trail,
- Two trail head designs for each of the three cities that create a trail presence in the city, provide access to the city by visiting trail users, and tie the communities more closely and powerfully to the trail, the river, and the valley landscape,
- Designs for a state trail sign and kiosk/resting place that celebrate the Valley’s changing geology and landscape,
- Site designs for resting places along the trail that honors the presence of the Dakota peoples in the Minnesota River, and
- A design for spaces along the route of the Commemorative March.

### Project Results Use and Dissemination

The work has been presented in public meetings to Redwood Falls, Saint Peter, and New Ulm, and at a gathering of the Dakota Community. The Trails and Waterways Division of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Redwood Falls, Saint Peter, and New Ulm, local trail and citizen groups, and citizens have used and are using the work. The DNR has used and will continue use the work in the future in its Minnesota River State Trail master planning efforts. The local communities are using the work to inform local trail planning and local recreational and development scenarios. Local trail groups and citizens are using the work in their communities to promote trails and trailheads.

The work has been published in a 166-page report in printed and digital forms. The reports have been sent to the communities and the DNR and is available on the Center for Changing Landscapes website.

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# LCMR Final Work Program Report

**Date of Report:** June 30, 2007  
**Title:** CMR Final Work Program Report  
**Date of Work program Approval:** June 14, 2005  
**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2007

**PROJECT TITLE:** Minnesota River Trail Planning

**Project Manager:** Mary Vogel **Affiliation:** Center for Changing Landscapes  
University of Minnesota

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College of Design  
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**Location:** Minnesota River Trail Communities: New Ulm, Saint Peter, and Redwood Falls

<b>Total Biennial LCMR Project Budget:</b>	<b>LCMR Appropriation:</b> \$200,000
	<b>Minus Amount Spent:</b> <u>200,000</u>
	<b>Equal Balance:</b> \$ 0

**Legal Citation:** ML 2005,1<sup>st</sup> special session [Chap.1],[ Art 2],Sec.[11], Subd.6i.

**Appropriation Language:** \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the University of Minnesota to provide trail planning assistance to three communities along the Minnesota River State Trail.

## II. & III. FINAL PROGRESS SUMMARY

The community–engaged planning/design work on the Minnesota River State Trail was done in collaboration with the cities of Redwood Falls, New Ulm, and Saint Peter; the Dakota Community; local trail groups; local citizens; and the Trails and Waterways Division of the DNR. The work focused on identifying potential state trail alignments, making city trail systems that connected to the state trail, locating and designing state trailheads, and creating signature trail elements that expressed the unique Minnesota River landscape and created a trail identity. Analysis of the natural and cultural landscape of the Minnesota River Valley, aspirations of the local communities and citizens, and the needs of the DNR’s master planning efforts informed the work. Local community meetings were held to gather information, present preliminary design work for review and feedback, and present the final designs.

The work produced included:

An analysis of the cultural and natural amenities and features of the Valley's landscape,

Proposed state trail alignments that interpretive the landscape,

Local trail systems that connect local features and provide local access to the state trail,

Two trail head designs for each of the three cities that create a trail presence in the city, provide access to the city by visiting trail users, and tie the communities more closely and powerfully to the trail, the river, and the valley landscape,

Designs for a state trail sign and kiosk/resting place that celebrate the Valley's changing geology and landscape,

Site designs for resting places along the trail that honors the presence of the Dakota peoples in the Minnesota River, and

A design for spaces along the route of the Commemorative March.

Update on Current Uses: Tanka Bluffs Group is using it to promote trails in Redwood and Renville Counties. The work is informing work in downtown Redwood Falls. The Saint Peter City Administrator is using the material in power point presentations to the community groups. The work is informing the thinking about the Minnesota River Interpretive Center in New Ulm. The Minnesota State Lottery is going to feature the project in its forthcoming brochure on the use of lottery funds.

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

##### **Result 1: Minnesota River State Trail Planning & Design for Saint Peter**

###### **Description:**

###### **Activity 1-A: Collect & Analyze Data, Identify Issues for the Community**

**Description:** Existing data describing the physical environment from both the natural systems and cultural perspectives will be gathered. The DNR will help collect and analyze the data and will also lead work with communities and trail groups to ensure local and user input on recreational, tourism, and community issues. The projections of current land use trends and model land transformations that predict future land use scenarios produced in the previous LCMR project, *Linking Communities, Design, Technology & DNR Trail Resources* and the regional trail framework will also be used.

**Deliverables:** Analyzed data and identified issues

###### **Activity 1-B: Develop Alternative Designs for the Community and the State Trail.**

**Description:** Using the data, the development projections, and the regional trail framework, the CCL project team members will create design scenarios for the state trail, local trails that connect to the state trail, amenities that can be visited from the trail, and the trail communities.

**Deliverables:** Alternative designs

###### **Activity 1-C: Present Findings and Designs for Saint Peter for Feedback**

**Description:** The work will be presented in public meetings for discussion and feedback in the community from local officials and special interest groups such as trail associations, tourism organizations, local chambers of commerce, other citizen organizations, and citizens.

**Deliverables:** Presentations of work from activities A and B at community meetings.

**Activity 1-D:** Refine and Complete Designs

**Description:** The feedback received from the public meetings will inform the final designs.

**Deliverables:** Completed designs: The designs can be used by communities to *implement* work that make connections to the state trail by enhancing local landscapes and community form.

**Activity 1-E:** Publish Results in Written & Electronic Form

<b>Summary Budget Information for Result 1:</b>	<b>LCMR Budget</b>	<b><u>\$66,666</u></b>
	<b>Balance</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

**Completion Date:** July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**Final Result Status:** The completed design work includes designs for trail connections to Mankato and other trails, a local trail system within the city that connects to the state trail, designs for the main street/highway 169 in downtown, and two trail head designs that enhance a local riverside park and connect the city to the river. The public meeting was held as part of a city council meeting with over twenty officials, and citizens in attendance, the Saint Peter chapter of the final report is complete, and the final report has been sent to Saint Peter.

## **Result 2: Minnesota River State Trail Planning & Design for New Ulm**

### **Description:**

**Activity 2-A:** Collect & Analyze Data, Identify Issues for the Community

**Description:** Existing data describing the physical environment from both the natural systems and cultural perspectives will be gathered. The DNR will help collect and analyze the data and will also lead work with communities and trail groups to ensure local and user input on recreational, tourism, and community issues. The projections of current land use trends and model land transformations that predict future land use scenarios produced in the previous LCMR project, *Linking Communities, Design, Technology & DNR Trail Resources* and the regional trail framework will also be used.

**Deliverables:** Analyzed data and identified issues

**Activity 2-B:** Develop Alternative Designs for the community and the State Trail.

**Description:** Using the data, the development projections, and the regional trail framework, the CCL project team members will create design scenarios for the state trail, local trails that connect to the state trail, amenities that can be visited from the trail, and the trail communities.

**Deliverables:** Alternative designs

**Activity 2-C:** Present Findings and Designs for New Ulm for Feedback

**Description:** The work will be presented in public meetings for discussion and feedback in the community from local officials and special interest groups such as trail associations, tourism organizations, local chambers of commerce, other citizen organizations, and citizens.

**Deliverables:** Presentations of work from activities A and B at community meetings.

**Activity 2-D:** Refine and Complete Designs

**Description:** The feedback received from the public meetings will inform the final designs.

**Deliverables:** Completed designs: The designs can be used by communities to *implement* work that make connections to the state trail by enhancing local landscapes and community form.

Activity 2-E: Publish Results in Written & Electronic Form

<b>Summary Budget Information for Result 2: LCMR Budget Balance</b>	<b><u>\$66,666</u></b> <b><u>\$0.</u></b>
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The design work for New Ulm is complete. A final additional meeting has yet to be scheduled.

**Final Result Status:**

The completed design work includes designs for the state trail in the New Ulm area, a local trail system within the city that connects to the state trail, five state trail alignments that connect Flandrau State Park to the downtown, and two trail head designs that enhance two local parks and connect the city to the river. A series of public meetings have been held with citizens, local and state officials in attendance. The New Ulm chapter of the final report is complete, and the final report has been sent. Because of the complexity of connecting the park to the downtown, an additional community meeting outside the budget will be held in the fall of 2007.

**Result 3: Minnesota River State Trail Planning & Design for Third Community**

**Description:**

**Activity 3-A: Collect & Analyze Data, Identify Issues for the Community**

**Description:** Existing data describing the physical environment from both the natural systems and cultural perspectives will be gathered. The DNR will help collect and analyze the data and will also lead work with communities and trail groups to ensure local and user input on recreational, tourism, and community issues. The projections of current land use trends and model land transformations that predict future land use scenarios produced in the previous LCMR project, *Linking Communities, Design, Technology & DNR Trail Resources* and the regional trail framework will also be used.

**Deliverables:** Analyzed data and identified issues

**Activity 3-B: Develop Alternative Designs for the community and the State Trail.**

**Description:** Using the data, the development projections, and the regional trial framework, the CCL project team members will create design scenarios for the state trail, local trails that connect to the state trail, amenities that can be visited from the trail, and the trail communities

**Deliverables:** Alternative designs

**Activity 3-C: Present Findings and Designs for the Community for Feedback**

**Description:** The work will be presented in public meetings for discussion and feedback in the community from local officials and special interest groups such as trail associations, tourism organizations, local chambers of commerce, other citizen organizations, and citizens.

**Deliverables:** Presentations of work from activities A and B at community meetings.

**Activity 3-D: Refine and Complete Designs**

**Description:** The feedback received from the public meetings will inform the final designs.

**Deliverables:** Completed designs: The designs can be used by communities to *implement* work that make connections to the state trail by enhancing local landscapes and community form.

Activity 3-E: Publish Results in Written & Electronic Form

**Summary Budget Information for Result 3: LCMR Budget Balance** **\$66,666**  
**\$0**

**Completion Date: July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Final Result Status:** The completed design work includes designs for the state trail in the Redwood Falls area with connections to other trails, a local city trail system that connects to the state trail, two trail head designs that enhance a local riverside park and connect the city to the river, and work honoring the Dakota presence. The Redwood Falls chapter of the final report is complete and the final report has been sent.

**V. TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET:**

<b>All Results: Personnel:</b>	<del>— \$191,241</del>	<b>\$196,277</b>
<b>All Results: Travel:</b>	<del>\$4,241</del>	<b>802</b>
<b>All Results: Supplies &amp; Copying:</b>	<del>\$4,518</del>	<b><u>\$2821</u></b>
 <b>TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET:</b>	 <b>\$200,000</b>	 <b>\$200,000</b>

**Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500:** Does not apply

**VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:**

**A. Project Partners:** NA

**B. Other Funds being spent during the Project Period:**

**Cash:** None at this time

**In-kind:** DNR Division of Trails and Waterways, Laurie Young and other staff, Ingrid Schnieder, Tourism Center, Personnel from the City of New Ulm, City of Saint Peter, Redwood Falls, trail groups, Joseph R. Brown Minnesota River Center, Minnesota Valley groups etc.

**C. Required Match (if applicable):** Not applicable

**D. Past Spending:** LCMR \$92,000 2003-5

**E. Time:** July 1, 2005-June 30, 2007

**VII. DISSEMINATION:** Results include maps of existing conditions maps of projected future development patterns, a design framework for each community, and designs for specific trail-related areas depicting interpretative, development, and land use scenarios that include 3-dimensional visualizations. Produced in digitized graphic formats, they are understandable, accessible, and useful to citizens and governmental officials. The work has been presented in public meetings to Redwood Falls, Saint Peter, and New Ulm, and at a gathering of the Dakota Community. The Trails and Waterways Division of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Redwood Falls, Saint Peter, and New Ulm, local trail and citizen groups, and citizens have used and are using the work. The DNR has used and will continue use the work in the future in its Minnesota River State Trail master planning efforts. The local communities are

using the work to inform local trail planning and local recreational and development scenarios. Local trail groups and citizens are using the work in their communities to promote trails and trailheads.

The work has been published in a 166-page report in printed and digital forms. The reports have been sent to the communities and the DNR and is available on the Center for Changing Landscapes website.

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than January 2006, July 2006, January 2007, and June 2007.

**IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS:** Does not apply

Reimbursement Request - Invoice Summary Spreadsheet

PROJECT TITLE: Minneosta River Trail Communities: Designs for Trails & Waterfronts R-24  
 LEGAL CITATION: Laws of Minnesota 2005, First Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 11, Subdivision 6l  
 Sponsor Award #: A80644  
 University of Minnesota Account # 1935-431-6042  
 Budget for Results from Work Program

Period Covered by Report:

Budget Item	Detail Budget	Results 1:				Results 2:			Result 3:			Result Total		
		Proposed Detail Budget	Budget	Amount Spent	Ending Balance	Budget	Amount Spent	Ending Balance	Budget	Amount Spent	Ending Balance	Budget	Amount Spent	Ending Balance
Personnel: Staff Salaries	\$ 189,198	\$ 194,334	\$ 63,066	\$ 65,109	\$ (2,043)	\$ 63,066	\$ 64,800	\$ (1,734)	\$ 63,066	\$ 64,425	\$ (1,359)	\$ 189,198	\$ 194,334	\$ (5,136)
Mary Vogel, Project Leader : 32%	\$ 51,840	\$ 58,547												
C.J. Fernandez \$ Research Fellows 92%	\$ 79,671	\$ 83,999												
Senior Fellows: Designers @ \$75 an hour	\$ 10,500	\$ 6,188												
Grad Research Assistant	\$ 2,250	\$ 6,461												
Personnel: Staff Benefits														
Mary Vogel, Project Leader : 32%	\$ 17,418	\$ 17,883												
C.J. Fernandez \$ Research Fellows 92%	\$ 26,769	\$ 18,427												
Senior Fellows: Designers @ \$75 an hour	\$ -	\$ 425												
Grad Research Assistant	\$ 750	\$ 2,404												
Duplicating & Other Supplies: Drawing Paper, Ink, ect	\$ 5,400	\$ 3,703	\$ 1,800	\$ 916	\$ 884	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,172	\$ 628	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,615	\$ 185	\$ 5,400	\$ 3,703	\$ 1,697
Travel Expenses in Minnesota	\$ 5,402	\$ 1,963	\$ 1,800	\$ 641	\$ 1,159	\$ 1,800	\$ 694	\$ 1,106	\$ 1,802	\$ 628	\$ 1,174	\$ 5,402	\$ 1,963	\$ 3,439
<b>Column Total</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 66,666</b>	<b>\$ 66,666</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 66,666</b>	<b>\$ 66,666</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ 66,668</b>	<b>\$ 66,668</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>