

## **Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2010 Work Program**

**Date of Report:** November 24, 2010

**Date of Next Progress Report:** November 2010

**Date of Work Program Approval:**

**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2013

### **I. PROJECT TITLE:** Get Outside - Urban Woodland for Kids

**Project Manager:** Don Ganje  
**Affiliation:** City of Saint Paul, Dept of Parks and Recreation  
**Mailing Address:** 400 City Hall Annex, 25 West Fourth Street  
**City / State / Zip:** Saint Paul, MN 55102  
**Telephone Number:** 651.266.6425  
**E-mail Address:** Don.Ganje@ci.stpaul.mn.us  
**FAX Number:** 651.292.7405  
**Web Site Address:** www.stpaul.gov

**Location:** Como Regional Park, Ramsey County, Saint Paul, MN

<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 218,000</b>
	<b>Minus Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>Equal Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 218,000</b>

**Legal Citation:** ML 2010, Chap.[\_\_\_\_], Sec.[\_\_\_\_], Subd.\_\_\_\_.

**Appropriation Language:**

### **II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:**

The City of Saint Paul, Department of Parks and Recreation will develop 17¾ acres of Como Regional Park as the Como Woodland and Outdoor Classroom. Future construction activities adjacent to 2• acres of this classroom will not be fully developed as the Ephemeral Wetland at this time. Our goal is to maintain existing native plant material in this area until development of the ephemeral wetland can occur. For these reasons, invasive species management will be undertaken on the entire 17¾ acre classroom site. This outdoor classroom will provide environmental education and historical interpretation for school children and adults, habitat for native wildlife, and an urban woodland oasis for the inner-city community where local place-based, hands on environmental learning opportunities are rare. There are over 75 public and private schools within a five-mile radius of the woodland. Additionally, the woodland will provide recreational and educational opportunities to more than 2.3 million annual visitors of Como Regional Park.

Result One of this proposal is to develop seven outdoor study areas encompassing 15• acres according to the recently completed Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom Master Plan. The study areas will include: oak woodland, coniferous forest, oak savanna, tallgrass prairie, sedge meadow, transitional woodland, and propagation gardens.

A three year invasive species management contract for the entire 17¾ acre classroom will ensure establishment and growth of the classroom study areas. Construction of accessible, gravel trails will provide access to each of these study areas and informal gathering areas for small groups of students will provide a location for learning in the study areas. Informational signage and interpretative trail signs will direct the outdoor classroom experience.

Result Two of this proposal will allow Saint Paul Parks to develop and implement an outreach program for the classroom availability of the site. This plan will include establishment of the site as a MN DNR School Forest. This will allow Parks to tap into the program's resources and establish a long-range support network. Additionally, an 'Educate the Educator' program for local teachers in outdoor environmental education at all levels will be developed.

### **III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF:**

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

**RESULT 1:** Develop outdoor classroom study areas.

#### **Description:**

Result One of this proposal is to develop seven outdoor study areas encompassing 15• acres according to the recently completed Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom Master Plan. The study areas will include: oak woodland, coniferous forest, oak savanna, tallgrass prairie, sedge meadow, transitional woodland, and propagation gardens.

A three year invasive species management contract for the entire 17¾ acre classroom will ensure establishment and growth of the classroom study areas. Construction of accessible, gravel trails will provide access to each of these study areas and informal gathering areas for small groups of students will provide a location for learning in the study areas. Informational signage and interpretative trail signs will direct the outdoor classroom experience.

- Complete 10.9 acres of woodland restoration and enhancement to include oak woodland, coniferous forest, and transitional woodland. (types of restoration – list them)
- Invasive species management. 17.65 acres annually for three years.
- Complete 3.6 acres of prairie, savanna and sedge meadow enhancement.
- Contractor(s) to construct 0.85 acre propagation gardens. These propagation beds will highlight useful native species in the home landscape and provide a source for local ecotype plant material for future restoration activities within the classroom.
- Contractor to construct ~4,000 feet of ADA accessible gravel trails.
- Sign construction and installation contract(s). Four entry signs and approximately fifty interpretative trail signs.

- In-house design, engineering services, and project management to fully develop restoration, trail, and sign construction activities.

<b>Summary Budget Information for Result 1:</b>	<b>ENRTF Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 210,000</b>
	<b>Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 210,000</b>

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. Woodland restoration – 10.9 acres (Oak woodland – 5.8 acres, coniferous forest – 1.9 acres, & transitional woodland – 3.2 acres)	May 2013	\$ 78,000
2. 3.6 acres (Prairie –.95 acres re-creation, Oak Savanna – 2.3 acres by removing invasive woody and herbaceous species and additional native species planting and Sedge Meadow restoration – .35 acres)	May 2013	\$ 15,000
3. Propagation gardens – 0.85 acres	July 2012	\$ 20,000
4. Construction of ~4,000 feet of ADA accessible trails	April 2011	\$ 25,000
5. Entry signs (four) and interpretative trail signage (~fifty)	April 2013	\$ 50,000
6. Design and engineering for trails, signage, planting, and classrooms (City of Saint Paul staff)	April 2013	\$ 22,000

**Result Completion Date: May 2013**

**Result Status as of November 2010:**

### Result Status as of May 2011:

### Result Status as of November 2011:

### Result Status as of May 2012:

### Result Status as of November 2012:

**Result Status as of March 2013:**

### Final Report Summary:

**RESULT 2:** Teacher training and student involvement.

**Description:**

Result Two of this proposal will allow Saint Paul Parks to develop and implement an outreach program to advertise the classroom availability of the site. This plan will include establishment of the site as a MN DNR School Forest. This will allow Parks to tap into the program's resources and establish a long-range support network. Additionally, an 'Educate the Educator' program for local teachers in outdoor environmental education at all levels will be developed.

- Receive DNR School Forest status.
- Host six educator training sessions (two each for elementary, middle, and high school teachers). Involve ten educators per session. Designed to help educators adapt to teaching in an outdoor classroom.
- Student participation in site restoration activities (500 youth/year).
- Coordinate and implement an outreach and marketing plan for the classroom.

<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. Receive DNR School Forest status	May 2011	\$0
2. Host six educator training sessions	May 2013	\$8,000
3. Student participation in site restoration (500 youth/year)	May 2013	\$0

**Result Status as of November 2010:**

### Result Status as of November 2011:

**Result Status as of November 2012:**

### Final Report Summary:

**Personnel:** \$ 30,000 – *Design and engineering for trails, signage, planting, and classrooms (City of Saint Paul staff) and teacher training*

**Equipment/Tools/Supplies:** \$ 0

**Travel: \$ 0**

**TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 218,000**

## VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

### A. Project Partners:

Project partners not receiving money from this fund

*Como Woodland Advisory Committee:* Project advice, website content development, curriculum and guide development. (\$0.00)

*Ramsey Conservation District:* Provide project guidance. (\$0.00)

*District 10 Community Council and Environment Committee:* Provide meeting space and community involvement. (\$0.00)

### B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

Natural resources restoration of this area will be the first step in the process to provide outdoor environmental education opportunities to over 75 public and private schools within a five-mile radius of the woodland. In addition, the woodland will provide an additional recreational and educational opportunity for more than 2.3 million visitors to Como Regional Park per year.

In early 2010, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation is adding an Education Coordinator position and a Volunteer Coordinator position to the Environmental Services program. These two individuals will guide development of curricula and signage, and coordinate volunteer groups working within the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom. Given the history of volunteer involvement on site and the growth of Saint Paul Parks' volunteer program, we are confident that maintenance of this site will become a perennial community and youth-based volunteer effort. Historically, the Environmental Services program has engaged 4,000 community volunteers annually, totaling approximately 13,000 hours of service per year. A larger portion of these hours will be shifted to cover the needs of the classroom as it develops. In 2010 and beyond, Parks will assign a dedicated, paid, summer youth crew to the classroom site to maintain the site and manage exotic species. The Como Woodland Advisory Committee has and will continue to seek support from local foundations and non-profit organizations.

### C. Other Funds Proposed to be spent during the Project Period:

<b>Spending: Total \$379,250</b>	
<b>State Funds Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Parks and Trails Legacy Grant funds from the Metropolitan Council to develop the classroom entrance and meeting location.	\$ 250,000
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, Environmental Services (Operations & Youth Job Corps) staff time.	\$ 50,000
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b>	
Website content development, curriculum and guide development	\$ 14,000
Volunteer labor (\$10 per hour)	\$ 45,000

Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom Advisory Committee (\$20.25 per hour)	\$ 20,250
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#### D. Spending History:

<b>Funding History:</b> <i>Total \$87,709</i>	
City of Saint Paul CIB funds to develop master plan for the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom in 2008	\$ 40,000
July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2010 - Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Environmental Services, Forestry, YJC, Support Maintenance staff time and equipment in-kind. ( <i>estimate</i> )	\$ 15,000
In-kind volunteer labor, July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2010. Valued at \$10 per hour for field activities and \$20.25 hours for professional activities. ( <i>estimate</i> )	\$ 28,000
Anderson Foundation environmental education grant.	\$ 505
Minnesota Native Plant Society environmental education grant.	\$ 279
Audubon Minnesota environmental education grant.	\$ 500
Saint Paul Audubon Society bird habitat research grant.	\$ 1,050
City of Saint Paul COPP environmental education grant.	\$ 2,000
Together Green (National Audubon Society) invasive species removal grant.	\$ 375

#### VII. DISSEMINATION:

The outdoor classroom will include entry and interpretative trail signage to guide all user levels. A primary level of entry signage for casual site users will include orientation maps, information about site history, and describe the restoration activities occurring at this location. A secondary level of interpretative trail signage will include numbered posts that correspond to site guides and online lesson plans for educators and explorers of the classroom areas. Lesson plans, visual, and written information documenting project progress will be accessible through the City of Saint Paul website at [www.stpaul.gov](http://www.stpaul.gov)

During the project period, Parks will apply for DNR School Forest status, host six educator training sessions, and engage student groups and the community in site restoration activities – 500 youth per year. We will also coordinate and implement an outreach and marketing plan for the classroom.

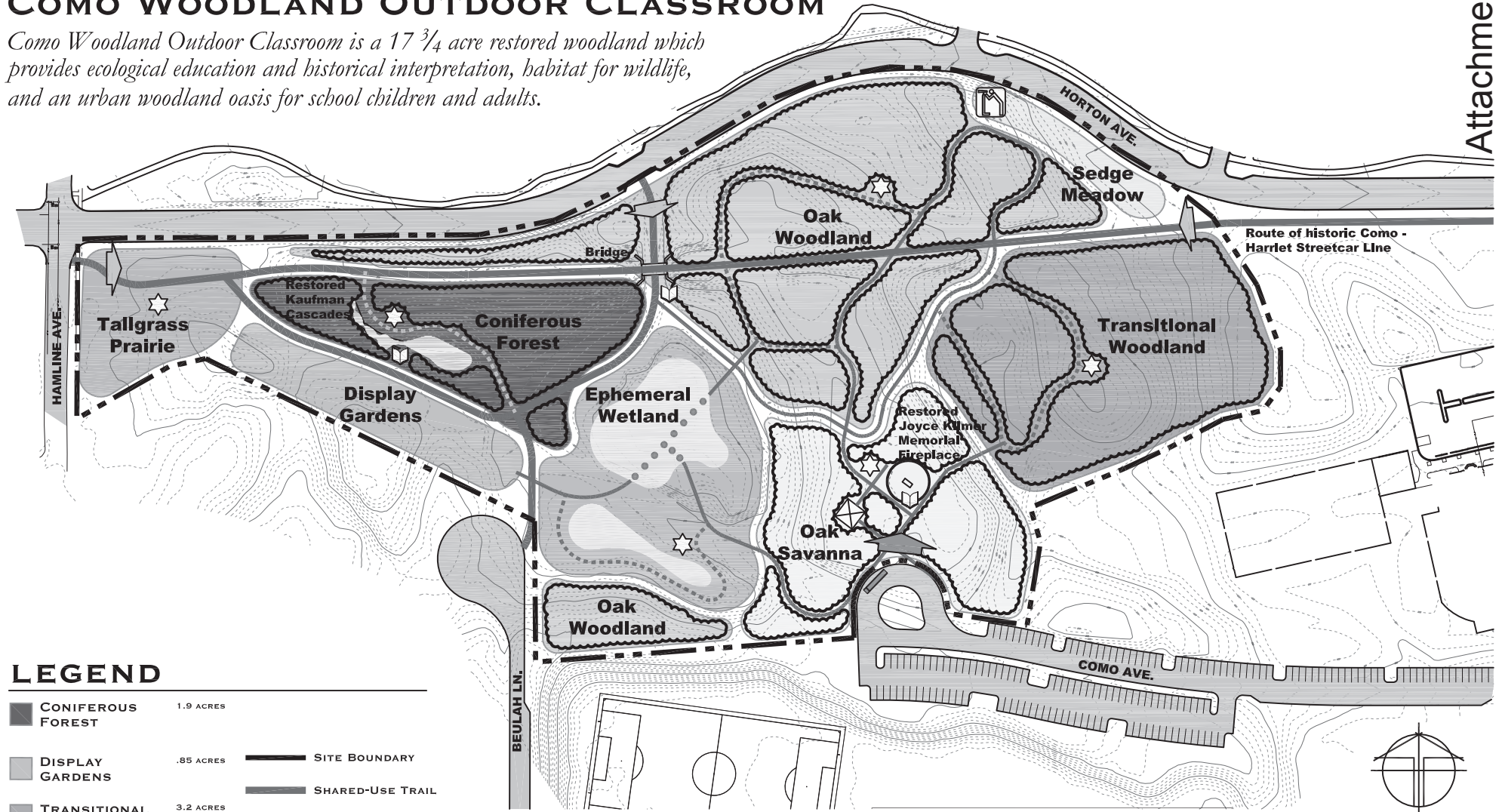
**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than **November 2010, May 2011, November 2011, May 2012, November 2012, and March 2013**. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between **June 30 and August 1, 2013** as requested by the LCCMR.

#### IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2010 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)								
Project Title: <i>Get Outside - Urban Woodland for Kids</i>								
Project Manager Name: <i>Don Ganje</i>								
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 218,000								
1) See list of non-eligible expenses, do not include any of these items in your budget sheet								
2) Remove any budget item lines not applicable								
2010 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	<u>Result 2 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	<i>Develop outdoor classroom study areas.</i>			<i>Teacher training and student involvement.</i>				
BUDGET ITEM								
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits	22,000			8,000			30,000	
Don Ganje (\$10,000, 8% FTE)								
Bryan Murphy (\$12,000, 16% FTE)								
Meghan Manhatton (\$8,000, 17% FTE)								
Contracts								
Professional/technical								
Invasive Species Management Contract	28,000						28,000	
Forest Restoration Contract	50,000						50,000	
Prairie Installation Contract	15,000						15,000	
Trail Installation Constract	25,000						25,000	
Sign Construction Contract	50,000						50,000	
Propogation Garden Construction Contract	20,000						20,000	
COLUMN TOTAL	\$210,000	\$0	\$210,000	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000	\$218,000	\$0

# COMO WOODLAND OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

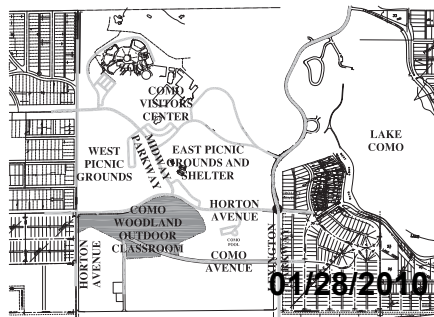
*Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom is a 17 3/4 acre restored woodland which provides ecological education and historical interpretation, habitat for wildlife, and an urban woodland oasis for school children and adults.*



## LEGEND

CONIFEROUS FOREST	1.9 ACRES	SITE BOUNDARY
DISPLAY GARDENS	.85 ACRES	SHARED-USE TRAIL
TRANSITIONAL WOODLAND	3.2 ACRES	PEDESTRIAN TRAIL
OAK SAVANNA	2.3 ACRES	GRAVEL TRAIL
OAK WOODLAND	5.8 ACRES	BOARDWALK
SEDGE MEADOW	.35 ACRES	CLASSROOM STUDY AREA
TALLGRASS PRAIRIE	.95 ACRES	INTERPRETIVE AREA
EPHEMERAL WETLAND - not in this request	2.3 ACRES	SHELTER/RESTROOMS
		OVERLOOK AREA
		ENTRANCE - PRIMARY
		ENTRANCE - SECONDARY

## LOCATOR MAP



**COMO REGIONAL PARK**  
RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

Subd. 8e  
AUGUST 18, 2008