

## **M.L. 2015 Project Abstract**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2018

**PROJECT TITLE:** Zumbro River Watershed Recreational Learning Stewardship Sites

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Brett Ostby

**AFFILIATION:** Zumbro Watershed Partnership Inc.

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 12 Elton Hills Drive NW

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** Rochester, MN 55901

**PHONE:** (507) 226-6787

**E-MAIL:** admin@zumbrowatershed.org

**WEBSITE:** www.zumbrowatershed.org

**FUNDING SOURCE:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

**LEGAL CITATION:** M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 05c

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$300,000.00**

**AMOUNT SPENT: \$285,026**

**AMOUNT REMAINING: \$14,974**

### **Overall Project Outcome and Results**

The Zumbro River and its tributaries flow through mostly private lands. Consequently, we have a population disconnected from this shared natural resource and relatively uninformed about its ecology, water quality challenges, flooding issues, and recreational uses. The ultimate goals of the Recreational Learning Sites were to reconnect citizens to this resource and encourage citizens to invest in its conservation. The Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) cooperated with local and state governments and non-profit organizations, including the Minnesota DNR, the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa and the University of Minnesota Extension, to enhance recreational access to the Zumbro River at eleven existing sites in six communities across four counties. Through a series of engagement events, we worked with communities to address local needs; for example, we built canoe landings in Pine Island, fire pits in Wanamingo and a hiking trail in Oronoco. These and other sites received natural plantings, stone benches, picnic tables and other amenities. Enhancements were intended to make the river more inviting. A series of permanent education kiosks were distributed among sites in each community. Education kiosks provided basic information about watershed science, ecology, land use history, recreation and actionable ways to improve water quality and mitigate flooding. This project benefited Minnesotans by enhancing the Zumbro River State Water Trail and community parks with regional significance, such as the Douglas Trail Head in Pine Island. Though substantial community engagement, this project benefited ecosystem management by focusing local governments and citizens on how they can improve public lands and waters. It also benefited ecosystems by planting trees, forbs and grasses native to Minnesota. This project provided concise and regionally-specific information about the Zumbro Watershed that can be the basis for productive engagement among informed citizens, governments and organizations.

### **Project Results Use and Dissemination**

The recreation focused panels and the map panels that georeferenced other Recreational Learning Sites are the best tools that the ZWP created for dissemination. Many are placed in locations where visitors are likely to traverse. Beyond that, the ZWP continues to promote this project with Facebook posts and by maintaining a specific page for this project, easily accessed through our homepage (<http://zumbrowatershed.org>)



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

## M.L. 2015 Work Plan

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**Date of Report:** August 17, 2018

**Date of Next Status Update Report:** Final

**Date of Work Plan Approval:** June 11, 2015

**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2018

**Does this submission include an amendment request?** no

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**PROJECT TITLE:** Zumbro River Watershed Recreational Learning Stewardship Sites

**Project Manager:** Brett Ostby, Co-chair, Volunteer Citizen Board Director

**Organization:** Zumbro Watershed Partnership Inc.

**Mailing Address:** 12 Elton Hills Drive NW

**City/State/Zip Code:** Rochester, MN 55901

**Telephone Number:** (507) 226-6787

**Email Address:** admin@zumbrowatershed.org

**Web Address:** www.zumbrowatershed.org

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**Location:** Goodhue, Dodge, Olmsted, Wabasha Counties. All within the Zumbro River Watershed.

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**Total ENRTF Project Budget:**

**ENRTF Appropriation:** \$300,000

**Amount Spent:** \$285,026

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**Balance:** \$14,974

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**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 05c

**Appropriation Language:**

\$300,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Zumbro Watershed Partnership Inc. to develop at least six recreational and educational sites on the Zumbro River with water quality demonstration elements and interpretive signage designed to encourage adoption of water protection practices. No more than 15 percent of this appropriation may be spent on site and construction consultation, planning, and design. Any plantings or restoration activities conducted with this appropriation must use native plant species according to the Board of Water and Soil Resources' native vegetation establishment and enhancement guidelines. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2018, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

## **I. PROJECT TITLE: Zumbro River Watershed Recreational Learning Stewardship Sites**

### **II. PROJECT STATEMENT:**

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 limits on the accessibility for the general public to the river. This and other factors have isolated the river from the residents and potential recreational users. A culture of water stewardship is needed in the community where people have developed a personal connection with the river resource, understand their role in protecting it, and become willing to implement effective water protection practices that will help reduce and prevent future pollution and flooding across the Watershed.

The project goal is to promote and enable river related recreational experiences and to tie those experiences with the water quality health of the watershed. This will be accomplished by creating or improving at least 6 water access sites that will attract people to the water resource. While using these access sites educational materials will be present to help connect the use of the water resource with the quality and health of the river. The educational signs or kiosks will highlight local resource issues, opportunities, and highlight what people can do to protect the river. The signs or kiosks will be designed so they present a common theme across the watershed so users who visit more than one site will learn how resource issues in a watershed are related and interconnected and that actions taken in one part of the watershed affect people and the water quality in another part of the watershed.

This project will create or enhance a network of at least 6 accessible, visible public recreational sites with water quality demonstration elements. The sites will promote increased fishing, boating, picnicking, and other water related recreational activities on the Zumbro River. Through the attraction of those recreation opportunities, the sites will educate and encourage people to understand and adopt water protection practices.

This project will benefit the Zumbro River 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;
- 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.
  - Invasive aquatic species challenges and control.

### **III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

#### **Project Status as of January 31, 2016:**

All communities have been contacted and discussions started to determine interest in the project. Zumbro Falls is the furthest along for spring construction. Issues with multiple agencies and timely issuance of permits

caused the project to be delayed beyond what would be feasible to construct in the fall. Also local interest in the Zumbro Falls project has also resulted in local NGO contributions of \$1,000 with more expected next spring.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Planned Construction Date</b>
Zumbro Falls <i>Buckman Coulee Park</i>	-Met with Community Leaders -Led First Community Meeting -Completed Draft Landscape Drawings -Led Second Community Meeting -Project Plan Approved by City Council -Permits approved by DNR, Cleared SHPO, County Zoning -DNR agreed to move supported canoe landing to new site	Summer/Fall 2016
Mantorville <i>Riverside Park</i>	-Met with Community Leaders -Led First Community Meeting -Completed Draft Landscape Drawings -Led Second Community Meeting -Local histories collected for sign design	Summer/Fall 2016
Green Bridge <i>Green Bridge Canoe Launch</i>	-Met with DNR staff and agreed on schedule	Summer/Fall 2016
Wanamingo <i>Riverside Park</i>	-Met with Community Leaders -Led First Community Meeting	Summer/Fall 2017
Pine Island <i>Trailhead Park</i>	-Met with Community Leaders	Summer/Fall 2017
Oronoco <i>Oronoco Park</i>	-Met with Community Leaders -Worked with Olmsted County to identify elements of project that will coordinate with proposed Regional Park plan and Lake Shady Streambank Restoration project.	Summer/Fall 2017
Rochester	Project put on hold because of change in funding and project start up issues with the City. Right now Rochester's schedule is 2018, but that might change.	
Hammond	Project put on hold because of change in funding. Hammond and Zumbro Falls have much the same watershed story to tell and similar resource issues and opportunities. Zumbro Falls was further along in project development and willing to put more resources into the proposal.	

**Project Status as of May 26, 2016:**

Community officials in Zumbro Falls and Mantorville and DNR staff who oversee the Green Bridge Site have approved site plans for the Summer 2016 building season. ZWP staff and staff from the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa have developed a project list and timeline for projects at the Zumbro Falls, Mantorville, and Green Bridge sites. ZWP staff have met with community leaders and community members in Oronoco, Pine Island, and Wanamingo to discuss possible site features for the 2017 building season.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Planned Construction Date</b>
Zumbro Falls	-Developed updated construction drawings based on what the project partners will build at the site in Summer 2016	Summer/Fall 2016

<i>Buckman's Landing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Worked with Center for Changing Landscapes designers to create a grading plan for picnic area</li> <li>-City officials are funding and managing the grading project with city funds</li> <li>-Flagged construction site elements</li> <li>-Held pre-Construction meeting with Conservation Corps staff, ZWP staff, and city officials/staff</li> <li>-Planned size for water infiltration basins with Olmsted SWCD staff support</li> </ul>	
<i>Mantorville Riverside Park</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Met with city officials and staff to decide which project elements we could build in 2016</li> <li>-Revised construction drawings to reflect community project priorities</li> <li>-Met with the Mantorville Parks Board to review and get approve for 2016 projects</li> <li>-Flagged construction site elements</li> <li>-Held pre-Construction meeting with Conservation Corps staff, ZWP staff, and city officials/staff</li> </ul>	Summer/Fall 2016
<i>Green Bridge Green Bridge Canoe Launch</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Met with DNR staff to review project components</li> <li>-Discussed erosion control with both DNR and Conservation Corps staff</li> <li>-Completed Construction drawings for site</li> <li>-Received project approve from DNR staff</li> <li>-Flagged construction site elements</li> <li>-Held pre-Construction meeting with Conservation Corps staff, ZWP staff, and city officials/staff</li> </ul>	Summer/Fall 2016
<i>Wanamingo Riverside Park</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Completed draft landscape drawings for Wanamingo</li> <li>-Led Second Community Meeting</li> </ul>	Summer/Fall 2017
<i>Pine Island Trailhead Park</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Led First Community Meeting</li> </ul>	Summer/Fall 2017
<i>Oronoco Oronoco Park</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Met with Oronoco Parks Board to discuss our project and our project timeline</li> <li>-Secured existing plans for the Oronoco Park site to determine how this project could complement what Olmsted County is already doing at the site</li> </ul>	Summer/Fall 2017
<i>Rochester</i>	Project put on hold because of change in funding and project start up issues with the City. Right now Rochester's schedule is 2018, but that might change.	
<i>Hammond</i>	Project put on hold because of change in funding. Hammond and Zumbro Falls have much the same watershed story to tell and similar resource issues and opportunities. Zumbro Falls was further along in project development and willing to put more resources into the proposal.	

**Project Status as of November 10, 2016:**

The Conservation Corps staff and crews have worked throughout the growing season to install amenities at Green Bridge, Zumbro Falls, and Mantorville. During that time ZWP staff have been in continuous contact with project partners and community members as work is being done in their community. Planning has begun for next year's sites with project partners.

<b>Site</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Planned Construction Date</b>
Zumbro Falls <i>Buckman's Landing</i>	-Conservation Corps installed concrete pads, picnic tables, wooden kiosks, and a gravel walking trail. Down limbs and debris were also removed from the site. - City leaders have been very active in this process visiting crews on site and staying in contact with ZWP	Summer/Fall 2016
Mantorville <i>Riverside Park</i>	-Conservation Corps has completed all work at this site (with the exception of installing education panels). Concrete pads were poured; and benches, picnic tables and sign kiosks were installed. -Community members and city staff have been on-site working with crews throughout the construction process.	Summer/Fall 2016
Green Bridge <i>Green Bridge Canoe Launch</i>	-Conservation Corps has completed all work at this site (with the exception of installing education panels). Concrete pads were poured; and benches, gravel trail, picnic tables and sign kiosks were installed. Erosion issues along the DNR launch were also mitigated, and native flowers planted.	Summer/Fall 2016
Wanamingo <i>Riverside Park</i>	-In the Summer of 2016, Conservation Corps crews did some clearing of brush along the Zumbro River, in the park. -In the summer of 2016, discussions of the 2017 projects at the site with city staff	Summer/Fall 2017
Pine Island <i>Trailhead Park</i>	-Led First Community Meeting	Summer/Fall 2017
Oronoco <i>Oronoco Park</i>	-Met with Oronoco Parks Board to discuss our project and our project timeline -Secured existing plans for the Oronoco Park site to determine how this project could complement what Olmsted County is already doing at the site	Summer/Fall 2017
Rochester	Project put on hold because of change in funding and project start up issues with the City. Right now Rochester's schedule is 2018, but that might change.	
Hammond	Project put on hold because of change in funding. Hammond and Zumbro Falls have much the same watershed story to tell and similar resource issues and opportunities. Zumbro Falls was further along in project development and willing to put more resources into the proposal.	

**Project Status as of January 31, 2017:**

In the fall of 2016, a site tour was held with project partners and community members from Green Bridge, Zumbro Falls, and Mantorville. Throughout the fall of 2016 to the present, ZWP staff and project partners have

been working on education panel content and final drafts. Project sites (both 2016 and 2017) have received updates on the coming construction season, and finalizing site designs (Pine Island, Oronoco, and Wanamingo).

Site	Progress	Planned Construction Date
Zumbro Falls <i>Buckman's Landing</i>	-Tour of the site with community partners in the Fall of 2016 (all amenities installed except education panels & stone benches) -Educational panels are nearing final draft form, and will be printed and installed in early Spring 2017	Summer/Fall 2016
Mantorville <i>Riverside Park</i>	-Tour of the site with community partners in the Fall of 2016 (all amenities installed except education panels & stone benches) -Educational panels are nearing final draft form, and will be printed and installed in early Spring 2017	Summer/Fall 2016
Green Bridge <i>Green Bridge Canoe Launch</i>	-Tour of the site with community partners in the Fall of 2016 (all amenities installed except education panels) -Educational panels are nearing final draft form, and will be printed and installed in early Spring 2017	Summer/Fall 2016
Wanamingo <i>Riverside Park</i>	- Reviewing all community input, and working on site design with city staff - Education panel design & reviewing of final drafts	Summer/Fall 2017
Pine Island <i>Trailhead Park</i>	- Reviewing all community input, and working on site design with city staff - Education panel design & reviewing of final drafts	Summer/Fall 2017
Oronoco <i>Oronoco Park</i>	- Met with City and Olmsted County staff to review designs for the project. - Education panel design & reviewing of final drafts	Summer/Fall 2017
Rochester	Project put on hold because of change in funding and project start up issues with the City. Right now Rochester's schedule is 2018, but that might change.	
Hammond	Project put on hold because of change in funding. Hammond and Zumbro Falls have much the same watershed story to tell and similar resource issues and opportunities. Zumbro Falls was further along in project development and willing to put more resources into the proposal.	

**Project Status as of June 1, 2017:**

ZWP staff have met with community leaders and community members in Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco to finalize site features at each location. All communities have approved site plans for the Summer 2017 building season. ZWP staff and staff from the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa are developing a project list and timeline for the 2017 projects at Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco, and wrapping up smaller tasks at Zumbro Falls from 2016.

Site	Progress	Planned Construction Date
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Zumbro Falls <i>Buckman Coulee Park</i>	-All construction completed in 2016, with exception of stone bench installation. Completion date of stone benches dependent on Conservation Corps stonemason schedule. -Education panels will be installed late Spring 2017	Summer/Fall 2016 & 2017
Mantorville <i>Riverside Park</i>	-Construction completed -Education panels will be installed late Spring 2017	Summer/Fall 2016
Green Bridge <i>Green Bridge Canoe Launch</i>	-Construction completed - Education panels will be installed late Spring 2017	Summer/Fall 2016
Wanamingo <i>Riverside Park</i>	-Met with Community Leaders several times to review site proposal and confirm final approval of plans. - Education panels will be installed once kiosks are constructed	Summer/Fall 2017
Pine Island <i>Trailhead Park</i>	-Met with Community Leaders several times to review site proposal and confirm final approval of construction plans. -Met/discussed with local SWCD, DNR contacts, and MPCA the impacts of canoe launches. Filed appropriate paperwork, and received approval to proceed with canoe launch construction. - Education panels will be installed once kiosks are constructed	Summer/Fall 2017
Oronoco <i>Oronoco Park</i>	-Met with Community Leaders several times to review site proposal and confirm final approval of construction plans. - Education panels will be installed once kiosks are constructed	Summer/Fall 2017
Rochester	Project put on hold because of change in funding and project start up issues with the City. Right now Rochester's schedule is 2018, but that might change.	
Hammond	Project put on hold because of change in funding. Hammond and Zumbro Falls have much the same watershed story to tell and similar resource issues and opportunities. Zumbro Falls was further along in project development and willing to put more resources into the proposal.	

### Project Status as of September 19, 2017

ZWP staff have met with community leaders and the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa staff at Wanamingo, Oronoco, and Pine Island to review construction plans for the 2017 season. ZWP and Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa staff developed a project list and timeline for the 2017 projects at Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco, and wrapping up smaller tasks at Zumbro Falls from 2016. Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa crews have been building at the 2017 sites since mid-June 2017, and continue to do so. Educational panels are complete and in the process of being printed.

Site	Progress	Planned Construction Date
Zumbro Falls <i>Buckman Coulee Park</i>	-All construction is complete, with exception of the wooden tops of stone benches. -Education panels will be installed October 2017	Summer/Fall 2016 & 2017
Mantorville	-Construction completed	Summer/Fall 2016

<i>Riverside Park</i>	-Education panels will be installed October 2017	
Green Bridge <i>Green Bridge Canoe Launch</i>	-Construction completed - Education panels will be installed October 2017	Summer/Fall 2016
Wanamingo <i>Riverside Park</i>	- Site construction began in late June 2017 and is current in progress - Education panels will be installed once kiosks are constructed	Summer/Fall 2017
Pine Island <i>Trailhead Park</i>	- Site construction began in late June 2017 and is current in progress - Education panels will be installed once kiosks are constructed	Summer/Fall 2017
Oronoco <i>Oronoco Park</i>	- Site construction began in late June 2017 and is current in progress - Education panels will be installed once kiosks are constructed	Summer/Fall 2017
Rochester	Project put on hold because of change in funding and project start up issues with the City. Right now Rochester's schedule is 2018, but that might change.	
Hammond	Project put on hold because of change in funding. Hammond and Zumbro Falls have much the same watershed story to tell and similar resource issues and opportunities. Zumbro Falls was further along in project development and willing to put more resources into the proposal.	

### Project Status as of January 31, 2018

ZWP staff have met with community leaders at Wanamingo, Oronoco, and Pine Island throughout the 2017 construction season. ZWP and Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa staff continue to work off of, and update, a project list and timeline for the 2017 projects at Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco, and wrapping up smaller tasks at Zumbro Falls from 2016. Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa crews have been building at the 2017 sites since mid-June 2017, and continue to do so through November. Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa crews did not complete their construction work in 2017. Once weather conditions permit, they will return to project. Educational panels are complete and printed. Installation of the education panels will be done once all project construction work is completed in the Spring of 2018.

Site	Progress	Planned Construction Date
Zumbro Falls <i>Buckman Coulee Park</i>	-All construction is complete. -Education panels will be installed in the spring of 2018.	Summer/Fall 2016 & 2017
Mantorville <i>Riverside Park</i>	-Construction completed -Education panels will be installed in the spring of 2018.	Summer/Fall 2016
Green Bridge <i>Green Bridge Canoe Launch</i>	-Construction completed -Education panels will be installed in the spring of 2018.	Summer/Fall 2016
Wanamingo <i>Riverside Park</i>	- Site construction began in late June 2017 and is current in progress	Summer 2017 – Spring 2018

	- Education panels will be installed once kiosks are complete	
Pine Island <i>Trailhead Park</i>	- Site construction began in late June 2017 and is current in progress - Education panels will be installed once kiosks are complete	Summer 2017 – Spring 2018
Oronoco <i>Oronoco Park</i>	- Site construction began in late June 2017 and is current in progress - Education panels will be installed once kiosks are complete	Summer 2017 – Spring 2018
Rochester	Project put on hold because of change in funding and project start up issues with the City. Right now Rochester's schedule is 2018, but that might change.	
Hammond	Project put on hold because of change in funding. Hammond and Zumbro Falls have much the same watershed story to tell and similar resource issues and opportunities. Zumbro Falls was further along in project development and willing to put more resources into the proposal.	

### Project Status as of June 30, 2018

Educational panels were installed in all but one location in Oronoco (see chart below). Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa crews have completed tasks to a satisfactory level. Some specific fixes were made to kiosks and stone benches by either the Corps or local partners (e.g. City of Oronoco staff). The ZWP staff and partners had remaining funds for construction materials after completing kiosks and installing amenities (benches, landings, picnic tables, fire pits), so ZWP staff met or corresponded with all communities to see if additional enhancements could be made that fell within master plans. Several communities took advantage of this opportunity.

Site	Progress	Planned Construction Date
Zumbro Falls <i>Buckman Coulee Park</i>	-All construction is complete. -Education panels installed June 2018. -Verified with site visit -See Figures 2-4 in Photographic Documentation	Summer/Fall 2016 & 2017
Mantorville <i>Riverside Park</i>	-Construction completed - Education panels installed June 2018. - See Figures 6-10 in Photographic Documentation	Summer/Fall 2016
Green Bridge <i>Green Bridge Canoe Launch</i>	-Construction completed -Education panels installed June 2018. - See Figures 12-13 in Photographic Documentation	Summer/Fall 2016
Wanamingo <i>Riverside Park</i>	-All construction is complete. -Education panels installed June 2018. - See Figures 15-19 in Photographic Documentation	Summer 2017 – Spring 2018
Pine Island <i>Trailhead Park</i>	-Most construction is complete. -Final fix to top of stone bench by Conservation Corps completed -Education panels installed June 2018. See Figures 21-29 in Photographic Documentation	Summer 2017 – Spring 2018

Oronoco <i>Oronoco Park</i>	-Construction completed - Education panels installed where possible in June 2018, additional panels and kiosk materials are housed at City of Oronoco facility awaiting the completion of other construction at Allis Park -Conservation Corps worked with Oronoco Staff to fix kiosk at Garden Park - See Figures 31-40 in Photographic Documentation	Summer 2017 – Spring 2018
Rochester	Project put on hold because of change in funding and project start up issues with the City. No work was completed in Rochester.	
Hammond	Project put on hold because of change in funding. Hammond and Zumbro Falls have much the same watershed story to tell and similar resource issues and opportunities. Zumbro Falls was further along in project development and willing to put more resources into the proposal. No work was completed in Hammond	

**Overall Project Outcomes and Results:**

The Zumbro River and its tributaries flow through mostly private lands. Consequently, we have a population disconnected from this shared natural resource and relatively uninformed about its ecology, water quality challenges, flooding issues, and recreational uses. The ultimate goals of the Recreational Learning Sites were to reconnect citizens to this resource and encourage citizens to invest in its conservation. The Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) cooperated with local and state governments and non-profit organizations, including the Minnesota DNR, the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa and the University of Minnesota Extension, to enhance recreational access to the Zumbro River at eleven existing sites in six communities across four counties. Through a series of engagement events, we worked with communities to address local needs; for example, we built canoe landings in Pine Island, fire pits in Wanamingo and a hiking trail in Oronoco. These and other sites received natural plantings, stone benches, picnic tables and other amenities. Enhancements were intended to make the river more inviting. A series of permanent education kiosks were distributed among sites in each community. Education kiosks provided basic information about watershed science, ecology, land use history, recreation and actionable ways to improve water quality and mitigate flooding. This project benefited Minnesotans by enhancing the Zumbro River State Water Trail and community parks with regional significance, such as the Douglas Trail Head in Pine Island. Though substantial community engagement, this project benefited ecosystem management by focusing local governments and citizens on how they can improve public lands and waters. It also benefited ecosystems by planting trees, forbs and grasses native to Minnesota. This project provided concise and regionally-specific information about the Zumbro Watershed that can be the basis for productive engagement among informed citizens, governments and organizations.

**IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Design at least 6 Access and Education Sites and Create Construction Documents

**Description:** A selection process has already been completed with 20 sites nominated by community partners. A ranking process was developed with the same community partners and based on the ranking criteria 8 sites

were selected. Ranking criteria was based on 20 factors covering environmental, educational, recreational, community support, and ease of implementation. In addition, geographic distribution was also considered to assure that sites covered the 3 ecological regions of the watershed. The sites cover a wide range of geographic locations, resource issues, and potential solutions.

<b>Location</b> (not listed by ranking)	<b>Features</b>	<b>Issues, opportunities</b>
Wanamingo	City Park	Display ag BMP's in close proximity, Historical mill site with portion of dam still in place. Need to maintain large open space for City wide Memorial Day celebration
Mantorville	City Park	Historical park, site of old mill. Dam currently in place. City high priority to demonstrate urban storm water control features. DNR planning bike trail improvements in area also. High level of interest.
Oronoco	New County Park on old Lake Shady	Flood in 2010 damaged dam and reservoir is filled in with sediment. Dam is being removed and sediment being stabilized as original river channels are re-established. Turbidity and sediment from upland erosion resource issues. Site of new planned county park
Wabasha County	Old Green Bridge site	Historical access point currently being used by local people. Good warm water fishery. Impacted by dam on Lake Zumbro and power generation by Rochester Public Utilities. Not designated as a access point and no infrastructure is present. Dirt parking area and access is currently through private property. Steep eroding bank difficult to climb up and down. Swift current makes launching difficult.
Zumbro Falls	City Park	Flooding from 2010 major issue. Little infrastructure currently present. Situated on major US highway. On main stem of Zumbro and can be canoed or kayak year round.
Hammond	Zumbro River landing	Downstream from Zumbro Falls. Flooding from 2010 major issue. Current boat landing is in poor condition. Limited parking along county road. Easy 2-3 hour canoe trip from Zumbro Falls. Significant river traffic already.
Pine Island	Douglas Trail trailhead	Already a city park with infrastructure. 2010 flooding in this area severe. In addition to Zumbro Middle Branch it is the trailhead for the Douglas Bike Trail which will attract a different recreational audience
Rochester	37 <sup>th</sup> Street Bridge	Only access point in north end of Rochester. Can demonstrate many urban storm water resource concerns. Near outflow of Rochester wastewater treatment facility. High interest by the City of Rochester to improve access to river in this area and should be able to partner and expand project.

While 6 sites is the goal of the project all the sites will remain on the list to give alternative sites in case one or more of the sites cannot be developed. For each site a series of community engagement/public input meetings will be held with local stakeholders. The purpose of the meetings will be to assure that the sites are compatible with local plans, identify priority local resource concerns, secure local agreement with the project plan, identify local partners capable of contributing both financially and/or in-kind, and define future operation and

maintenance responsibilities. Each site will be designed to feature local resource issues and solutions and will also include watershed wide educational themes.

Educational materials may include a variety of water quality educational demonstration infrastructure such as water gardens, bank stabilizations, infiltration swales, use of native plantings, local materials, and interpretive kiosks. Recreational infrastructure may include new or enhanced trailheads, trails, picnic areas, canoe launches, fishing piers, etc.

During the past three years as part of demonstrating the feasibility of this project the plans for Mantorville, Wanamingo, and Green Bridge sites are more developed than the rest of the sites on the list. Meetings with local officials and stake holders on the other sites also occurred. It is anticipated that the rest of the sites in this project will still need to have further civic engagement and public input.

For each selected site the Zumbro Watershed Partnership will lead in the community engagement/ public input process. The University of Minnesota Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership will facilitate a minimum of 2 community outreach meetings per site and 1 watershed wide open house. The purpose of the meetings will be to inform and gather input from stakeholders about plans for each site. ENRTF funds will cover only a portion of the time and resources required to communicate with and enlist the support of community leaders. Where feasible, an effort will be made to form local site host committees provide design feedback, facilitate construction, and assure on-going maintenance by championing the site to public officials and community volunteers and visitors. At a minimum, calls and mailings will invite community members to an initial informational/input session and a subsequent design review session at each of the 6 sites

With information from the public engagement process the University of Minnesota Center for Changing Landscapes will perform a site analysis, create a site design, and prepare construction drawing and specifications suitable for construction by the CCM crew. Local input will be sought in the form of a meeting with stakeholders on site at a minimum of a scoping meeting with local stakeholders and one after site design is completed. Demonstration, educational, and recreational elements will be site-specific and will be further described in ensuing status reports as designs are finalized.

One region-wide open house will also be held to showcase the 6 designs and sites and promote the educational and recreational objectives of the overall project. The meeting will also provide the opportunity of view and provide input on a regional basis. The University of Minnesota Southeast Regional Partnership will lead the outreach effort to facilitate communication between community leaders and the design and construction teams of the University of Minnesota Center for Changing Landscapes and Conservation Corps Minnesota.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$55,140**  
**Amount Spent: \$46,966**  
**Balance: \$8,174**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>1. 6 site designs and construction drawings for CCM crew/community work will be completed</b>	April 2017
<b>2. Engaged community members and community groups for each site to assure that site reflects local resource concerns and values through 12 community engagement meetings in the local communities.</b>	On going
<b>3. 1 Region wide open house</b>	Spring 2018

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2016:**

- Confirmed that community leaders and stakeholders were still interested in taking part in this grant project.
- Identified community stakeholders and obtained contact information for each community.
- Identified and mapped current park/location uses so new projects don't disrupt current uses of the park.
- Through a series of meeting identified educational and recreational improvements requested by stakeholders.
- Prioritized educational and recreational improvements requested by stakeholders.
- Created draft landscape drawings of park/location improvements for Mantorville, Green Bridge and Zumbro Falls sites.
- Review draft landscape drawings of park/location improvements and confirm priority project.
- Created detailed drawings of priority projects for Mantorville and Zumbro Falls sites.
- Received local government/agency approval for priority project(s), and received local government/agency approval for local long-term maintenance.
- Convened design/build meeting to plan project construction.
- Confirmed project completion and ongoing local maintenance with Zumbro Falls and Green Bridge sites.

**Activity Status as of May 26, 2016:**

- Held community meetings in Mantorville, Green Bridge and Zumbro Falls to reviewed draft landscape drawings of site plans for Mantorville, Green Bridge and Zumbro Falls sites.
- Revised drawings at each project site to more accurately represent community priorities and what we will build in Mantorville, Zumbro Falls, and at the Green Bridge site.
- Received local government/agency approval for priority project(s) in Mantorville, Zumbro Falls, and at the Green Bridge site.
- Worked with staff from the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa to review project elements, develop a construction timeline, and identify who is ordering and managing construction materials.
- Met with community leaders and citizens in Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco to discuss the project, gather community input and stakeholder contact information, and give them a timeline for landscape drawings and 2017 construction.

**Activity Status as of November 10, 2016:**

- Worked with staff from the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa to review project elements, develop a construction timeline, and identify who is ordering and managing construction materials throughout the construction season.
- Continued conversations with community leaders and project partners throughout the growing season to discuss the Conservation Corps' progress at individual sites.
- An informal site tour was held with project partners and community members at Zumbro Falls, Green Bridge, and Mantorville to discuss how the projects went this season, and how the communities are enjoying their new amenities.
- Continued to work with local agencies on sites this year post-flooding, and had discussions regarding sites for next season.

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2017:**

- Working with community leaders and citizens in Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco to discuss the project design based upon 2016 community input, and give them a timeline for 2017 construction.

- Continued to work with local agencies on sites this year post-flooding, and had discussions regarding sites for the 2017 construction season.
- Worked with staff from the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa to review project elements and develop a construction timeline for 2017.
- Provide updates to the 2016 site contacts on approximate dates for installation of the education panels and stone benches (Zumbro Falls).

**Activity Status as of June 1, 2017:**

- Held community meetings in Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco to reviewed drafted site proposals. Drawings were revised at each site to more accurately represent community priorities and preferences. Subsequent meetings lead to the approval of all proposed 2017 construction plans, by community leaders in Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco.
- Provide updates to the 2016 site contacts on approximate dates for installation of the education panels and stone benches (Zumbro Falls).
- Coordinating with Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa to review project elements and timeline for approaching construction season.
- Received local government/agency approval for project(s) in Pine Island, Oronoco, and Wanamingo.

**Activity Status as of September 19, 2017:**

- Coordinating with Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa to review project elements and timeline for approaching construction season.
- Provide frequent updates to community contacts at Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco.
- Provide updates to the 2016 site contacts on approximate dates for installation of the education panels and stone benches (Zumbro Falls).
- Provide opportunities for all project communities to stay engaged in the project, including discussions of a Fall Open House.

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2018:**

- Continue coordinating with Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa to review project elements and adherence to timeline throughout 2017 construction season. Coordinate Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa crews for upcoming 2018 construction season, timeline, and project list.
- Provide frequent updates to community contacts at Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco.
- Provide updates to the 2016 site contacts on approximate dates for installation of the education panels.
- Provide opportunities for all project communities to stay engaged in the project, including discussions of a Spring Open House.

**Activity Status as of June 30, 2018:**

- Provided frequent updates to community contacts at Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco.
- Corresponded with Minnesota Conservation Corps, panel installation contractor (Schad Tracy), and local partners to finish kiosk installation.
- Provided opportunities for all project communities to stay engaged in the project, including discussions of a Spring Open House.
  - No consensus on Open House or tour, so none planned by June 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Monies that could have been allocated to an open house through personnel budget, were not spend, this was reflected in remaining balance

- Instead, ZWP staff and volunteers have used website and Facebook to promote the project
- Temporary yard signs with ENTRF and ZWP logos placed at site to credit the former for funding and the latter for leading efforts to enhance sites
- Continuing efforts to promote sites via Facebook (See Photographic Documentation Figures 41 and 42)

**Final Report Summary:**

- Starting well before we proposed this project to the LCCMR, the ZWP engaged partners and communities in an iterative process toward the development of the Recreational Learning Sites. Specific steps funded during this project included site nomination and selection, community engagement sessions, proposal and review of site plans prepared by the Center for Changing Landscapes, drafting and review of educational panel content, and in the closing months, addressing additional local needs for enhancing sites using remaining materials budget. We continue to engage the community by promoting this project and sites via Facebook and our website. We have used reproductions of panels during local engagement events including the Rochester Earth Fest.

**ACTIVITY 2** Design and manufacture 24 Recreational, Environmental, & Cultural Kiosk Panels & 6 Watershed Maps Panels.

**Description:** The informational kiosks will be the medium that we intend to use to transmit our message about watershed health and what people can do to make it better. The messages will connect the recreational experience with watershed health and water quality and be a mixture of local resource concerns/opportunities and watershed wide themes. Part of the site selection process was to identify areas that have unique opportunities to educate and demonstrate conservation practices. Local communities also will have the opportunity to identify concepts and features they want to showcase or prioritize. Some elements will be watershed wide and they will be used to tie the individual sites together into a cohesive message. It is our expectation that as people use the sites they will recognize that the sites and messages are connected and related to each other. The purpose of watershed-wide themes will be to enforce the concept that all these solutions impact watershed water quality. They will help make the connection that all these practices are part of a solution and that individual actions can make a difference.

The Center for Changing Landscapes, College of Design, University of Minnesota will collect, analyze, and select interpretive materials; create interpretive images and text, identify cultural, and water quality information, identify web connections for other recreation opportunities or additional informational web sites and generate QR codes to be placed on the signs. The Center will create 24 interpretive panel designs that describe the site, the watershed, water quality BMP's, and cultural and recreation amenities. One watershed map panel will be designed and installed on all 6 sites.

The signs will be manufactured and available for CCM installation.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$42,889**  
**Amount Spent: \$40,779**  
**Balance: \$2,100**

Outcome	Completion Date
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1. Design and manufacture 24 24" by 36" regionally significant interpretive panels that describe the sites, the watershed, water quality BMP's, and cultural and recreation amenities.	Spring 2018
2 Design and manufacture one watershed map of recreational, cultural, and environmental assets. One watershed map panel will be designed and installed on all 6 sites.	Spring 2018

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2016:**

No activity

**Activity Status as of May 26, 2016:**

- Developed draft themes and text for six different sign designs.
- Reviewed draft themes and text with ZWP staff and membership.
- Reviewed draft themes and text with community partners.
- Sent draft text to the Center for Changing Landscapes so they could begin draft designs for signs.

**Activity Status as of November 10, 2016:**

- Reviewed draft themes and text with ZWP staff and membership.
- Reviewed draft text and overall design with community partners.
- Sent draft text to the Center for Changing Landscapes so they could begin draft designs for signs, and edits from community members, ZWP staff, and ZWP membership.
- Center for Changing Landscapes began drafting designs for panels, but encountered staffing limitations in late summer.
- Center for Changing Landscapes submitted all working design files for the education panels to ZWP in October for another design firm to complete. Approximately 60% of the education panel work is completed.

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2017:**

- Chad Tracy hired via competitive bid process to complete work on education panels.
- Reviewed near-final drafts of panels 1-4 with project partners and ZWP membership.
- Reviewed draft text and overall design of panels 5-7 with project partners.
- Develop draft themes and text for signs 8-10.

**Activity Status as of June 1, 2017:**

- Reviewed final drafts of panels 1-4 with project partners and ZWP membership.
- Design/content from panels 7-10 reallocated to panels 5 and 6. The education recreation sites will still receive a total of 24 regionally significant education panels; the only change being slightly fewer unique panel designs. This change was made in response to reduced participation by local project partners, and the need to adhere to the project timeline.
- Review near-final drafts of panels 5-6 with project partners and ZWP membership.

**Activity Status as of September 19, 2017:**

- Confirm final drafts with printing & design subcontractor.
- Educational panels are being manufactured (approximately 3-4 week process).

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2018**

- Education panels are manufactured and ready for installation.

**Activity Status as of June 30, 2018**

- All education panels installed at Zumbro Falls, Green Bridge, Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Mantorville (see accompanying Photographic Documentation)
- Ten panels are installed across 3 locations in Oronoco; additional panels to be installed at Allis Park in Oronoco pending completion of the park; all materials are housed in City of Oronoco facility

**Final Report Summary:**

- Partners, including The Center for Changing Landscapes and University of Minnesota Extension, worked with ZWP staff and volunteers to develop themes, text, and provide visual aids. In many cases the ZWP and partners developed original visual material for panels, such as photographs and figures. Otherwise ZWP worked with partners to collect, evaluate, and obtain permission to reproduce regionally appropriate visual content. The ZWP worked with a subcontractor (Schad Tracy) to finalize designs, manufacture and install panels. High-quality files of each educational panel were provided with this report (panels.zip).

**ACTIVITY 3 Construct Sites**

Site amenities and water quality demonstrations will be built/installed on the 6 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.

For each site The Center for Changing Landscapes, College of Design, University of Minnesota will hold one pre-construction meeting with CCM staff, a minimum of one and if necessary more construction inspections during installation, and one post construction inspection for payment certification.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$201,971**  
**Amount Spent: \$197,281**  
**Balance: \$4,690**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<b>1. At least 6 built sites. Elements on site may 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 species removal, etc. (labor and materials, construction observation, local community engagement, &amp; project management)</b>	Spring 2018
<b>2 Installation of 24 kiosk panels and 6 watershed maps that interpret the watershed’s natural, recreational, and cultural environment and promote the sites’ water quality demonstrations and other water quality practices</b>	Spring 2018

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2016:**

No Activity

**Activity Status as of May 26, 2016:**

- Visited sites in Zumbro Falls, Mantorville and at the Green Bridge to “ground truth” the construction drawings.
- City Of Zumbro Falls graded the picnic area at the Buckman’s Landing site.
- Flagged construction element sites.

- Convened design/build meeting at each site for project partners can meet, we can review the timeline and review the construction drawings and see how they compare to the flagged site.

**Activity Status as of November 10, 2016:**

- The Youth Conservation Corps worked throughout the Spring and Summer on Zumbro Falls, Mantorville, and Green Bridge installing amenities and cleaning up the recreation sites.
- Met with crews throughout the summer and fall while they worked on each site.
- Coordinated with the Conservation Corps staff on workloads and dates of crew arrival.
- The Green Bridge and Mantorville sites are completed, with the exception of panel installation.

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2017:**

No site activity

**Activity Status as of June 1, 2017:**

- Visited sites in Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco to “ground truth” the construction drawings.

**Activity Status as of September 19, 2017:**

- The Youth Conservation Corps worked throughout the Summer at Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco installing amenities and cleaning up the recreation sites.
- Met with crews throughout the summer and fall while they worked on each site.
- Coordinated with the Conservation Corps staff on workloads, progress, and dates of crew arrival.
- The Green Bridge and Mantorville sites are completed, with the exception of panel installation.

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2018**

- The Youth Conservation Corps worked throughout the Fall of 2017 at Wanamingo, Pine Island, and Oronoco installing amenities and cleaning up the recreation sites.
- Met with crews throughout the summer and fall while they worked on each site.
- Coordinated with the Conservation Corps staff on workloads, progress, and dates of crew arrival. Crews did not complete all project work in 2017. They will be returning as soon as weather permits in the Spring of 2018 to complete the project.
- All six recreation sites await installation of the education panels. Once the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa complete construction, the sign manufacturer will install the educational panels at all six sites.

**Activity Status as of June 30, 2018**

- Conservation Corps made appropriate fixes to kiosks and addressed other issues, such as installing a wooden top for a stone bench in Pine Island
- All education kiosks and panels have been installed at Zumbro Falls, Green Bridge, Wanamingo, Pine Island and Mantorville.
- A full series of kiosks/panels have been installed among Oronoco sites with additional kiosks to be installed at Allis Park in Oronoco pending completion of the park; all materials for this are housed in a City of Oronoco facility
- Additional materials were delivered to communities so that each can further enhance learning sites according to master plans and/or local priorities/needs;
  - For example, Oronoco requested materials to be used at the canoe portage planned at Allis Park, where Olmsted County has created a series of rapids at the former dam site.

- Other communities purchased native vegetation, benches, bike racks, etc.

#### **Final Report Summary:**

- Based on designs initially developed by the Center for Changing Landscapes or other existing master plans for parks, the ZWP worked with communities to provide site-specific enhancements. Over the course of three seasons, Conservation Corps built kiosks, canoe landings, and pads for benches and picnic tables. They cleared and created a hiking trail in Oronoco's Garden Park and planted native trees, grasses and forbs at several sites. We worked with other subcontractors to build stone benches and install educational panels. By June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 enhancements were made to eleven sites in six communities across four counties. Because the ZWP responsibly managed funds, we were able to facilitate additional improvements to beyond the scope of initial plans. Photographic Documentation was submitted with this report.

#### **V. DISSEMINATION:**

**Description:** Mapping of improved sites will be disseminated by the use of ZWP and RSDP websites, publication on social media such as Facebook, inclusion with Go SE MN website and app, and partners will post on public forums and publication of stories and articles in local print media and in ZWP's newsletters. Printed and digital maps will be created and distributed across the watershed that highlight the watershed, the unique recreational qualities, and the water quality impact of each site via partner websites and in-print to appropriate government agencies, educational, community, and recreational institutions.

#### **Status as of January 31, 2016:**

Confirmed with Go SE MN website administrator that site will continue to be up for the life of the project. ENRTF style guide distributed to all partners.

#### **Status as of May 26, 2016:**

No additional activity

#### **Status as of November 10, 2016:**

No additional activity

#### **Status as of January 31, 2017:**

No additional activity

#### **Status as of June 1, 2017:**

No additional activity

#### **Status as of September 19, 2017:**

- ZWP has enhanced their main website with project updates and information.
- ZWP posts project updates, photos, and links on their social media accounts.

#### **Status as of January 31, 2018**

- ZWP continues to improve their main website with project updates and information.
- ZWP posts project updates, photos, and links on their social media accounts.

#### **Status as of June 30, 2018**

- ZWP continues to improve their main website with project updates and information (Photographic Documentation Figures 41 and 42).

- ZWP posts project updates, photos, and links on their social media accounts (Photographic Documentation Figures 41 and 42).

**Final Report Summary:**

- Both the recreation focused panels and the map panels that georeferenced other Recreational Learning Sites are the best tools that the ZWP created for dissemination. Many are placed in locations where visitors are likely to traverse. Beyond that, the ZWP continues to promote this project with Facebook posts and by maintaining a specific page for this project, easily accessed through our homepage (<http://zumbrowatershed.org>)

**VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**

**A. ENRTF Budget Overview:**

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Overview Explanation
Personnel: Zumbro Watershed Partnership	\$ 23,968.75	<p>Project Coordination – Project Administration: Sarah Middleton, Zumbro Watershed Partnership. <i>This position was part time at 25 hours a week. Originally, ZWP funded 21.25 hours of her time, and the remaining 3.75 hours each week she would work directly on this project in a project specific capacity functioning as the coordinator for this project. Sarah will continue working 3.75 hours each week as the coordinator for this project. With the loss of staff, she will also adopt the hours Kevin Strauss worked on this project in a public engagement role, approximately 14 hours each week. In total, she will work approximately 39 hours each week. Of that time, 21.25 hours of her time will be funded by ZWP, and 17.75 hours of her time will be funded by this project (combined project coordination and public engagement hours).</i></p> <p>Public Engagement – Sarah Middleton, Zumbro watershed Partnership  <i>Sarah Middleton will also fulfill the public engagement obligations of this grant, serving as an Educator on behalf of the Zumbro Watershed Partnership, and replacing Kevin Strauss. Duties will include the following: Engaging community members and community groups for each site to assure that site reflects local resource concerns and values Stakeholders may consist of: local units of governments, business organizations, active living groups, scout troops, garden clubs, cycling groups, etc., DNR state water trail staff and other governmental units will also be involved. Gather materials: The site’s particular existing character and uses, site history, water</i></p>

		<i>quality issues to be promoted for implementation by site users at home, at work, etc. Working with community partners create a site vision for each of the 6 sites.</i>
Personnel: Zumbro Watershed Partnership	\$22,831.25	Public Engagement: Kevin Strauss Education Coordinator, Zumbro Watershed Partnership. <i>Engaging community members and community groups for each site to assure that site reflects local resource concerns and values. Stakeholders may consist of: local units of government, business organizations, active living groups, scout troops, garden clubs, cycling groups, etc., DNR state water trail staff and other governmental units will also be involved. Gather materials: The site's particular existing character and uses, site history, water quality issues to be promoted for implementation by site users at home, at work, etc. Working with community partners to create a site vision for each of the 6 sites.</i>
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$13,400	Professional service agreements. Center for Changing Landscapes, College of Design, University of Minnesota <i>for site design, civic engagement, construction drawings, pre-construction meeting, construction inspection, construction final close out.</i>
	\$7,000	<i>Project Leader – Project Designers 0.11 FTE Project Support 0.08 FTE 0.19 FTE total. \$36,000 Site research and design activities 0.16 FTE \$5,000 Signs research and design activities 0.02 FTE \$4,000 Construction activities 0.02 FTE</i>
	\$115,000	CCL Professional Service agreement with Aune/Fernandez Landscape Architects (AFLA)
	\$7,000	Conservation Corps of Minnesota <i>for site construction.</i>
		University of Minnesota Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership <i>Community Outreach: Partial cost of outreach &amp; meeting coordinator (approx. 199 hours @ \$20/hr.) \$3988 1800 post card mailings (50 per site, 3x) \$612 Meeting rental space &amp; refreshments @ \$200 per meeting. \$2400</i>

	\$14,000	<i>Community engagement/input meetings and site review. 12 site-specific and 1 open house.</i>  An independent, local design contractor, selected through a competitive bid process. <i>Complete all education design panels partially done by the Center for Changing Landscapes, with direction and content provided by ZWP staff. 10 designs, printed on 34 panels.</i>
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$79,830	Construction materials, rock, concrete, landscaping timbers, vegetation plantings as determined by the Construction Documents. Approximately \$13,471/site
	\$14,250	Manufacture of Informational Kiosk Panels and Maps \$375/sign
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$2,720	Mileage (\$0.56) for travel to sites and cities.
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	

**Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:** NA

**Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000:** NA

**Number of Weekly staff hours Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:**

17.75 hours per week: Sarah Middleton, Zumbro Watershed Partnership

14 hours per week: Kevin Strauss Zumbro Watershed Partnership

**Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:**

0.19 FTE . Center for Changing Landscapes, College of Design, University of Minnesota

- Project Leader – Project Designers 0.11 FTE
- Project Support 0.08 FTE

3.67 FTE Conservation Corps Minnesota work crews.

0.08 FTE University of Minnesota Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership. Outreach and Meeting Coordinator.

**B. Other Funds:**

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
<b>Non-state</b>			
SWCD Staff, in-kind	\$10,000	\$	Public outreach and integration with local planning activities
County Staff, in-kind	\$10,000		Public outreach and integration with local planning activities
City Staff, in-kind	\$25,000		Project planning, Coordination, Integration with local planning.
<b>State</b>			
University of Minnesota Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership	\$3138	\$	Partial cost of outreach & meeting coordinator for Community Outreach (approx. 157 hours @ \$20/hr.)

SE RSDP Staff	\$20,000	\$	Project Steering Committee, site selection and design review, public outreach and meeting coordination
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**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:**

- Zumbro Watershed Partnership; providing project administration and coordination, Project Steering Committee, Site Selecton, Local coordination, public engaement \$39,800 ENRTF funds
- U of M Center of Changing Landscapes; Site design, , Construciton inspections and other construcion related activities \$45,000 ENRTF funds
- Conservation Corps Minnesota; providing construcction crews and labor to install sites \$115,000 ENRTF funds
- U of M Extension; Site selection and Project Steering Committee
- U of M Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership Coordinating and hosting Community Outreach activities, Project Steering Committee, and site selection \$7,000 ENRTF funds
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Wabasha, Goodhue, Olmsted, Dodge counties Site selection and coordiantion activities with LGU’s
- County Environemtnal Services in Olmsted, Dodge counties; Site selection and coordination activities with LGU’s
- The cities of Wanamingo, Pine Island, Mantorville, Oranoco, Rochester, Zumbro Falls, Hammond; Providing the sites, participation in site design and civic engagement, and donation of labor and materials.
- Minnesota Departement of Natural Resources; Site design and permitting processing

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:** The impact of the project will be that people in the region will have increased opportunities for recreation on the Zumbro River. In addition, it will provide increased education of residents and visitors on the interconnections of the watershed, landuse, history, and people in the watershed. We anticipate that there will be 6 new sites where ZWP and others can conduct out-door classrooms on a variety of topics.

**C. Funding History:**

Funding Source and Use of Funds	Funding Timeframe	\$ Amount
University of Minnesota, SE Regional Sustainable Development Partnership		\$46,100
University of Minnesota, Center of Rural and Urban Affairs		\$7,000

**VIII. FEE TITLE ACQUISITION/CONSERVATION EASEMENT/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS:**

**A. Parcel List: NA**

**B. Acquisition/Restoration Information: NA**

**IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S):** See PhotographicDocumentation.pdf, PhotographicDocumentation.docx, and Panels.zip provided with this report.

**XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than January 31, 2016, January 31, 2017, January 31, 2018. A final report and associated products will be submitted August 17, 2018.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
M.L. 2015 Project Budget



Project Title: Zumbro River Watershed Recreational Learning Stewardship Sites  
 Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 05c  
 Project Manager: Sarah Middleton  
 Organization: Zumbro Watershed Partnership Inc.  
 M.L. 2015 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 300,000  
 Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2018  
 Date of Report: January 30th, 2018

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	Activity 3 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 3 Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<i>Public Engagement, Education, and Design 6 Access and Education Sites</i>			<i>Design 30 Recreational, Environmental, &amp; Cultural Kiosk Panels &amp; Watershed Maps</i>			<i>Construct Sites</i>				
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b>											
Project Administration; Sarah Middleton, Zumbro Watershed Partnership. This position was part time at 25 hours a week. Originally, ZWP funded 21.25 hours of her time, and the remaining 3.75 hours each week she would work directly on this project in a project specific capacity functioning as the coordinator for this project. Sarah will continue working 3.75 hours each week as the coordinator for this project. With the loss of staff, she will also adopt the hours Kevin Strauss worked on this project in a public engagement role; 14 hours each week. In total, she will work approximately 39 hours each week. Of that time, 21.25 hours of her time will be funded by ZWP, and 17.75 hours of her time will be funded by this project (combined project coordination and public engagement hours). Public Engagement: Sarah Middleton will also fulfill the public engagement obligations of this grant, serving as an Educator on behalf of the Zumbro Watershed Partnership, and replacing Kevin Strauss. Duties will include the following: Engaging community members and community groups for each site to assure that site reflects local resource concerns and values Stakeholders may consist of: local units of governments, business organizations, active living groups, scout troops, garden clubs, cycling groups, etc., DNR state water trail staff and other governmental units will also be involved. Gather materials: The site's particular existing character and uses, site history, water quality issues to be promoted for implementation by site users at home, at work, etc. Working with community partners create a site vision for each of the 6 sites.	15,435.75	7,261.87	8,173.88	4,266.00	3,500.64	765.36	4,267.00	4,267.00	0.00	23,968.75	8,939.24
Public Engagement: Kevin Strauss, Education Coordinator, Zumbro Watershed Partnership. Engaging community members and community groups for each site to assure that site reflects local resource concerns and values Stakeholders may consist of: local units of governments, business organizations, active living groups, scout troops, garden clubs, cycling groups, etc., DNR state water trail staff and other governmental units will also be involved. Gather materials: The site's particular existing character and uses, site history, water quality issues to be promoted for implementation by site users at home, at work, etc. Working with community partners create a site vision for each of the 6 sites.	17,831.25	17,831.25	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,831.25	0.00
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts</b>											
Contracts: Center for Changing Landscapes, College of Design, University of Minnesota. Perform a site analysis, create a site design, and prepare construction drawing and specifications suitable for construction by the CCM crew. Meets with stakeholders on site at a minimum of a scoping meeting with local stakeholders, one after site design is completed, and one post construction inspection.	6,400.00	6,400.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	13,400.00	0.00
Sub-agreement Center for Changing Landscapes, College of Design, University of Minnesota subagreement with Aune/Fernandaze Landscape Architect for site design services.	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,000.00	0.00
Contracts: Conservation Corps of Minnesota	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	115,000.00	112,306.55	2,693.45	115,000.00	2,693.45
Contracts: University of Minnesota Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership will conduct 12 community outreach meetings and 1 watershed wide open house. The purpose of the meetings will be to inform and gather input from the stakeholders about plans for each site. ENRTF funds will cover only a portion of the time and resources required to communicate with and enlist the support of community leaders Community Outreach.	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,000.00	0.00
Contracts: An independent local design firm will be contracted to complete the design work on all educational panels. A firm will be selected through a competitive bid process.	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,000.00	12,672.45	1,327.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,000.00	1,327.55
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>											
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Construction materials, rock, concrete, landscaping timbers, \$13,471/site x 6 sites	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	79,830.00	77,833.08	1,996.92	79,830.00	1,996.92
Supplies: Manufacture and Printing 30 24" x 36" full color image on 1/4" aluminum with UV protective coating finish @ \$375/panel	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,250.00	14,232.84	17.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,250.00	17.16
<b>Travel expenses in Minnesota</b>											
Travel to sites and cities. Mileage	1,473.00	1,473.00	0.00	373.00	373.00	0.00	874.00	874.00	0.00	2,720.00	0.00
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>55,140.00</b>	<b>46,966.12</b>	<b>8,173.88</b>	<b>42,889.00</b>	<b>40,778.93</b>	<b>2,110.07</b>	<b>201,971.00</b>	<b>197,280.63</b>	<b>4,690.37</b>	<b>300,000.00</b>	<b>14,974.32</b>

