



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2022 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2022-142

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: August 8, 2022

Project Title: River Habitat Restoration and Recreation in Melrose

Project Budget: \$350,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Colleen Winter

Organization: City of Melrose

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: August 10, 2022

Reporting Schedule: March 1 / September 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2025

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2025

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 08k

Appropriation Language: \$350,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Melrose to conduct habitat restoration and create fishing, canoeing, and camping opportunities along a segment of the Sauk River within the city of Melrose and to provide public education about stream restoration, fish habitat, and the importance of natural areas.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2025

Narrative

Project Summary: To conduct habitat restoration and create fishing, canoeing, and camping opportunities along a segment of the Sauk River within the city of Melrose, provide education about habitat and environment.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

The Sauk River is a major perennial stream in central Minnesota with a watershed that is 667,200 acres in size. The City, along with local, state and federal partners have been realigning the Sauk River to reduce the erosion, sediment loading, sloughing, and associated threats to structures that is occurring downstream of the dam. This work is being done in conjunction with repair of the dam and replacement of a bridge. Collectively, these efforts are referred to as the river-dam-bridge (RDB) project. As part of the RDB project, campsites and vegetation along the Sauk River needed to be removed. ENRTF funding would allow campsites to be replaced and additional recreational amenities added to allow people to enjoy the newly restored channel, including recreational facilities that allow people to enjoy the new river setting through camping, fishing, non motorized boating and fishing.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT WHILE IT SHOWS THAT THE CITY OF MELROSE WAS FUNDED IN 2019 THAT PROJECT DID NOT PROCEED. This is a different project than what was proposed back then.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

ENRTF funding would allow the removed campsites to be replaced and additional recreational amenities added to allow people to enjoy the newly restored channel, including through camping, fishing, and non-motorized boating. We would add campsites, upgrade bathrooms at the campsite so that the whole park is more accessible to anyone who wants to enjoy it and build a canoe/kayak launch and fishing pier. We would also conduct habitat restoration using native plants and provide signage at the park to educate the public about stream restoration, fish habitat, and the importance of natural areas.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

The ENRTF request for funding will provide better habitat for wildlife species. In addition, the project will improve recreational resources, provide educational opportunities, and become a regional draw for public use.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

City(s): Melrose

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Watershed(s): Sauk River

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Habitat Restoration

Activity Budget: \$2

Activity Description:

Following construction of the RDB project, the city will restore and enhance habitat along the Sauk River in the City of Melrose in keeping with the ENRTF appropriation language, however this will be accomplished using non- ENRTF funds. We will follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” for these plantings.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Native Plantings following BWSR's guidelines (non ENRTF funding)	October 31, 2022
Construction of the Channel Restoration Project (non ENRTF funding)	November 30, 2023
Construction materials and erosion control (non ENRTF funding)	November 30, 2023
Monitoring and maintenance of plantings/habitat (non ENRTF funding)	June 30, 2025

Activity 2: Recreational Facilities and education

Activity Budget: \$342,798

Activity Description:

Following channel realignment, we will create 20 new transient campsites, canoe/kayak launch, fish bench or pier. We will also use some ENRTF funding combined with non-ENRTF funding to remodel the existing bathroom and shower facilities to make them ADA compliant and flood-proof. All activities will take place at Sauk River park in Melrose. The new campsites will replace campsites that were removed for the new river channel alignment along with additional sites. The canoe/kayak launch will be a minimal launch using materials such as granite or other rocks to not cause an adverse impact on the river, The slope will be graded so that it will be an accessible launch site. The fishing pier will be approved by the MNDNR prior to construction and installation.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Engineering, survey work for campsites, permitting, and fishing pier/canoekayak launch	August 31, 2022
To construct campsites that fit into natural setting with minimal disturbance	September 30, 2022
Canoe kayak launch area that blends into the natural environment	September 30, 2022
To install a MNDNR fishing pier	October 31, 2022
To complete floodproof remodeled bathroom/shower facility. Partial ENRTF funded	June 30, 2023

Activity 3: Interpretative Signage

Activity Budget: \$7,200

Activity Description:

While we have not finalized the educational signage plan for the site, some ideas being discussed include a series of signs throughout the campground and park that explain the natural habitat and the restoration installed or telling a walking story along one of the trails. In addition to the interpretative signs, a sign mounted on the fishing pier, or

adjacent to it, that acknowledges all the partners - City, County, State, Federal and LCCMR (ENRTF)-- will be installed. This sign will talk about the overall RDB project and specifically the ENRTF funding. We will hire a designer and work with the DNR, SWCD, LCCMR staff and hold a public meeting to finalize our interpretative signage plans.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Develop concept plan and language for signage	March 31, 2023
Seek input from partners and public	May 31, 2023
Develop signs	July 31, 2023
Install signage	August 31, 2023

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Jodi Teich	Stearns County Highway Department	Project design review	No
WSB	Engineering design	Engineering firm	Yes
Melrose Lions Club	non profit organization	providing a donation and in kind labor	Yes
Melrose Park Board	Volunteer Board for the City of Melrose	Responsible for planning and implementing park improvements, trails and recreational facilities within the City.	No
Melrose Area Schools/ISD 740	Public School	Student volunteers through science classes and FFA	No
SEH	Engineering firm	Civil engineering services including survey work and campsite inspections	Yes

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

We have RDB updates that go out on a regular basis through our website and facebook page and in a city newsletter. We will include in these updates any status of work funded with ENRTF. The signage is critical and we will work with all entities to ensure not only that all partners including LCCMR are included on any information that is provided, but also to make sure that we capture the essence of the project and provide residents and visitors to Sauk River Park information about habitat, fishing, camping and conservation so that many future generations can enjoy all the amenities.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

Long term goals of the project are to restore aquatic and floodplain habitat on the Sauk River and provide recreation and education opportunities. The recreation will be created to take advantage of the natural environment and blend all built items into the natural setting as much as possible. The recreation facilities will be operated and managed using City of Melrose funds.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Sauk River Dam Removal and Rock Rapids Replacement	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08c	\$2,768,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Parks/street dept maintenance personnel		installation of the water lines at the park - state adjusted wages			12%	0.46		\$10,000
Electric lineworker		Installation of conduit and pedestals at campsites - state adjusted wages			12%	0.46		\$11,000
							Sub Total	\$21,000
Contracts and Services								
WSB	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Design/Engineering/Permitting/Survey/Oversight				0.02		\$13,000
SEH	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Survey work, inspections,				1		\$11,998
Freeport Electric	Professional or Technical Service Contract	electrical work				0.23		\$6,000
Landwehr Construction LLC	Professional or Technical Service Contract	roadway campsite construction				0.46		\$84,000
TBD INSTALLATION OF FISHING PIER AND CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Construction of fishing pier/bench and canoe/kayak launch				0.03		\$81,000
TBD sign company	Professional or Technical	To create and install educational signs including acknowledgement of all partners as well as LCCMR				0.01		\$7,200

	Service Contract							
TBD building construction	Professional or Technical Service Contract	remodeling existing bathroom facility for floodproofing, ADA compliance and showers to meet permitting requirements for campground				0.46		\$80,302
							Sub Total	\$283,500
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Electrical conduit, pedestals	to install at individual campsites					\$30,500
	Tools and Supplies	water line	to install water lines at individual sites					\$15,000
							Sub Total	\$45,500
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								

							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$350,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
In-Kind	City of Melrose Funds	Grant Administration	Secured	\$25,000
In-Kind	City of Melrose Funds	Project Monitoring by City of Melrose Staff to Identify Required Maintenance and Ensure Maintenance is Completed by Contractor.	Secured	\$30,000
Cash	Capital Improvement Funds	Dam Repair, Channel and shoreline Restoration, Preliminary Design, Regulatory Agency Coordination.	Secured	\$780,000
Cash	City's capital budget funds	Street and Electric salaries	Secured	\$45,000
Cash	TBD - combination of city reserves and grants	construction of bathroom facility	Potential	\$147,698
			Non State Sub Total	\$1,027,698
			Funds Total	\$1,027,698

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
City of Melrose	Stearns	Floodplain Wetland/Sauk River	Restoration	10	0.2	-	Public		In Progress
Totals				10	0.2	-			

Restoration

1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

Yes. All restoration and recreation activities completed with these funds occur on public land.

2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.

Long term goals of the project are to restore aquatic and floodplain habitat on the Sauk River. Once construction is completed and vegetation has established little maintenance will be required to sustain the goals and outcomes of the project. A long-term monitoring/maintenance plan will be implemented including strategies for monitoring, maintenance and schedules to assure all constructed habitat restoration measures are adequately functioning as designed for the project. Monitoring of the project will be recorded on an annual basis. All necessary maintenance which includes flood debris removal will be completed and recorded throughout the life of the project. Recreation facilities will be constructed in a way to be minimal maintenance and blend in with the natural environment

3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

Recreation facilities will be constructed with minimal disturbance and no negative impact to the floodplain. No rise certification will be completed. The parts of the project that are in process will use MNDOT/BWSR native seed mixes and live plant material local region sourced so plants are able adapt to site conditions. Diversity of plant species provides pollinator habitat, floodplain and riparian habitat for wildlife and fish species.

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

The City of Melrose is responsible for long-term maintenance and management needs of the project located on public land. Monitoring will be completed by the City of Melrose staff.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

The ongoing project will work with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota to aid in flood debris removal, invasive species removal prior to the start of construction in addition to planting of live stakes at toewood locations within the project.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

Evaluations after construction will be completed by the City of Melrose in addition to annual monitoring. A summary report will be completed after three years of completion of the project. The summary will include all annual monitoring data, project goals, synopsis of project implementation and improvements required for the project.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [e287afd0-cb7.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Project Location Map and Conceptual Plan...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
City of Melrose Council Resolution	e2535c9d-1f5.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
City of Melrose Support Letter	6443fa36-30e.pdf
campground layout	a92e72f5-35a.pdf
background check	ab385558-cda.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

The overall goal of the project was to improve habitat, floodplain mitigation and create a better ecosystem and accessibility for residents and visitors. Much of the project began prior to the LCCMR funding award, however the City also recognized how important it was that people have an opportunity to enjoy the changes that have been made to the Sauk River Park through camping, fishing, non motorized boat launch and educational signage. We are excited about the opportunity to elevate the project through funding from LCCMR for the recreational opportunities that will be offered. The original request was for over \$1 million dollars and the final request was a much smaller number at \$350,000.00.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you agree travel expenses must follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

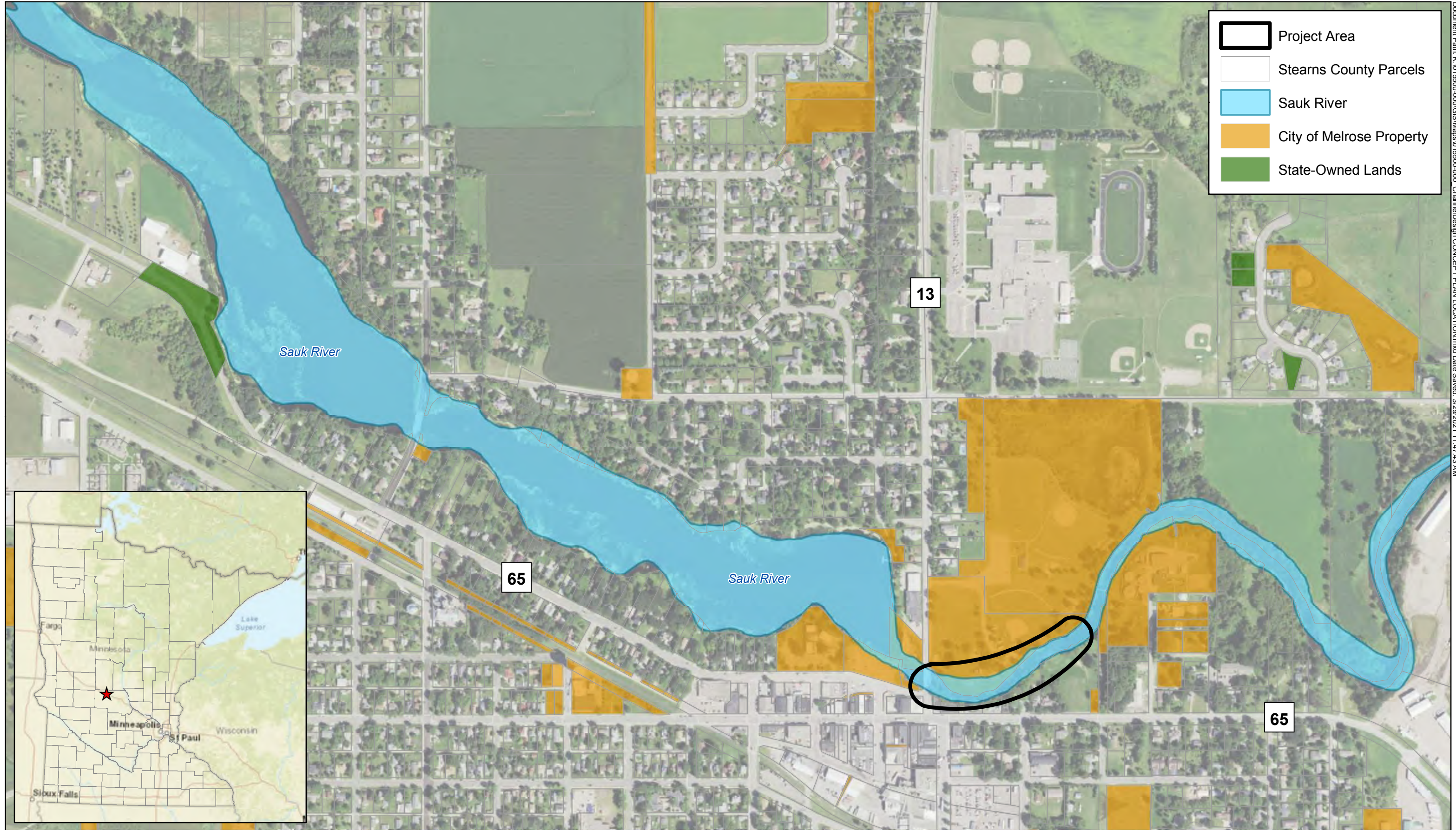
N/A






Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No



-  Project Area
-  Stearns County Parcels
-  Sauk River
-  City of Melrose Property
-  State-Owned Lands



Sauk River - Proposed Restoration Plan
CSAH 13 Improvements Bridge Relocation Project
City of Melrose, Minnesota



