

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on January 5, 2026

M.L. 2022 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2025

Project Title: River Habitat Restoration and Recreation in Melrose

Project Manager: Colleen Winter

Affiliation: City of Melrose

Mailing Address: 225 1st St NE

City/State/Zip: Melrose, MN 56352

Phone: (320) 256-4278

E-mail: cwinter@cityofmelrose.com

Website: <https://www.cityofmelrose.com/>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

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

Appropriation Amount: \$350,000

Amount Spent: \$350,000

Amount Remaining: -

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The River Habitat Restoration and Recreation project has returned native plants to the riverbanks and improved flow conditions from the dam to revitalize fish populations. Amenities were constructed to improve recreation and education at the site, including: modern campsites, DNR fishing piers, a kayak launch, restroom facilities, and educational signage.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Sauk River, a major perennial stream in central Minnesota, winds through a watershed spanning more than 667,000 acres. For generations, this river has been a vital natural resource, but in recent years, erosion, sediment buildup, and sloughing have threatened its health and the stability of nearby structures. Recognizing these challenges, the City of Melrose partnered with local, state, and federal agencies to launch an ambitious initiative: the River-Dam-Bridge (RDB) Project. The RDB Project was a comprehensive effort to realign sections of the Sauk River, repair the aging dam, and replace a critical bridge. These improvements aim to reduce erosion and sediment loading, protect infrastructure, and restore the river's natural flow. By addressing these issues, the project safeguards the environment while ensuring the river remains a safe and vibrant resource for future generations. As part of the restoration work, campsites and vegetation along the riverbanks were removed to allow for construction and stabilization. 0.22 miles or almost 1,184

feet of riverbank was restored or improved upon. To bring back camping and recreation, the River Habitat Restoration and Recreation project funded by the ENRTF focused on creating new opportunities for outdoor recreation and environmental education. 19 new modern campsites, a new restroom facility, informative signage, and other amenities designed to connect visitors with nature were built. These upgrades make the Sauk River more accessible and enjoyable for everyone. Visitors can now explore improved trails, learn about local ecosystems through educational displays, and take advantage of recreational features that encourage fishing, kayaking, and camping. The RDB Project is more than a construction effort—it's a commitment to preserving Minnesota's natural heritage. By restoring the Sauk River and enhancing public access, the project strengthens the bond between people and nature.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The RDB/ Sauk River Park stands today as a testament to collaboration and dedication. Tab 7 includes photos, websites and articles that are shared to tell the story and success of the project. Sauk River Park is featured in Campspot an online camping reservation system, is included in the Melrose Resource guide - an annual publication from the local newspaper for new residents. Sauk River Park was also featured in the City's Spring newsletter and is featured on our website. Has been discussed in local newspaper several times.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2022 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: January 7, 2026

ID Number: 2022-142

Staff Lead: Tom Dietrich

Project Title: River Habitat Restoration and Recreation in Melrose

Project Budget: \$350,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Colleen Winter

Organization: City of Melrose

Office Telephone: (320) 256-4278

Email: cwinter@cityofmelrose.com

Web Address: <https://www.cityofmelrose.com/>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: January 5, 2026

Reporting Status: Project Completed & Additional Update Approved

Date of Last Action: January 5, 2026

Project Completion: June 30, 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	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
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	\$21,000	-
Contracts and Services										
WSB	Service Contract	Design/Engineering/Permitting/Survey/Oversight				0		-	-	-
SEH	Service Contract	Survey work, inspections,				1		\$9,128	\$9,128	-
Freeport Electric	Service Contract	electrical work				0.23		\$2,456	\$2,456	-
Craig Tschida Excavating	Service Contract	roadway campsite construction				0.46		\$54,000	\$54,000	-
TBD INSTALLATION OF FISHING PIER AND CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH	Service Contract	Construction of fishing pier/bench and canoe/kayak launch				0.03		-	-	-
TBD sign company	Service Contract	To create and install educational signs including acknowledgement of all partners as well as LCCMR				0.01		-	-	-
St Rosa Lumber	Service Contract	remodeling existing bathroom facility for floodproofing, ADA compliance and showers to meet permitting requirements for campground				0.46		\$233,062	\$233,062	-
							Sub Total	\$298,646	\$298,646	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										

	Tools and Supplies	Electrical conduit, pedestals	to install at individual campsites					\$19,553	\$19,553	-
	Tools and Supplies	water line	to install water lines at individual sites					\$10,801	\$10,801	-
							Sub Total	\$30,354	\$30,354	-
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	\$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	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
In-Kind	City of Melrose Funds	Grant Administration	Secured	\$25,000	\$18,559	\$6,441
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	\$28,000	\$2,000
Cash	Capital Improvement Funds	Dam Repair, Channel and shoreline Restoration, Preliminary Design, Regulatory Agency Coordination.	Secured	\$780,000	\$780,000	-
Cash	City's capital budget funds	Street and Electric salaries	Secured	\$16,515	\$16,515	-
Cash	TBD - combination of city reserves and grants	construction of bathroom facility	Secured	\$66,603	\$66,603	-
Cash	City of Melrose Funds	Installation of Fishing Pier and Canoe/Kayak Launch	Secured	\$75,000	-	\$75,000
Cash	City of Melrose Funds	To create and install educational signs including acknowledgement of all partners as well as LCCMR	Secured	\$7,200	-	\$7,200
			Non State Sub Total	\$1,000,318	\$909,677	\$90,641
			Funds Total	\$1,000,318	\$909,677	\$90,641

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		Completed
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: [e287af0-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

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
City of Melrose Support Letter	6443fa36-30e.pdf
campground layout	a92e72f5-35a.pdf
background check	ab385558-cda.pdf
View of river bed with riprap - new channel	a790d387-3ac.jpe
Campground looking east	438dc196-220.jpe
bridge lights	b13e89e0-1b0.jpe
2025 Resource guide	bfd2c27c-4e2.pdf
Sauk River Park	9cae166c-8d2.pdf
Sauk River Park final pictures	fc8ba787-e0f.jpe
Sauk River Park	1e8681da-c06.jpe
Sauk River Park	189dcfde-e25.jpe
Sauk River Park	9e36254e-0f5.jpe
Sauk river park	42a6a682-266.pdf
Sauk River Park	dcd79f92-dbf.pdf
Sauk River Park	f4d489ec-f29.jpe
Sauk River Park	b061437d-5ef.jpe
Photos FINAL FISHING PIER	97c11078-f9e.jpe
FISHING PIER II	af121025-a25.jpe
INFORMATION BOOTH	455e5873-109.jpe
CAMPING SIGN	85c9655c-927.jpe
Campground sign with acknowledgement	1fa58160-e72.jpe
Aerial photo II campground	963f8c74-50f.jpe
Campground Aerial	a2bf3434-1b0.jpe
Photo - screenshot of post	75662791-7d5.jpe

Media Links

Title	Link
Sauk River Park	https://www.cityofmelrose.com/o/melrose/page/sauk-river-park
Campspot	https://www.campspot.com/park/sauk-river-park-campground-melrose-mn?location=Melrose,%20Minnesota&latitude=45.677695&longitude=-94.807076&adults=2&children=0&pets=0

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 understand that travel expenses are only approved if they 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, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

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

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Not acknowledged

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed 	Under contracts and services excavation contract was different company dollar amount changed also. See Budget line item. For the cost savings on excavation we are requesting that it be put towards the bathroom remodel. Bids have been received and an excavator has been selected. The selected excavator was for amount lower than expected. However, bids for the construction are higher due to construction requirements related to building of bathroom remodel.	May 22, 2023	Yes	May 23, 2023
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget • Activities and Milestones • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed • Attachments • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List 	Request to shift remaining funds to cover the cost of the bathrooms. The cost of the bathroom remodel is higher than expected due to overall construction costs being higher, in particular concrete. The bathrooms were constructed over the summer and will be finished up in the Spring of 2024. The City has secured funding for the - fishing pier, kayak launch, signage and remaining campground amenities which will be installed spring 2024	December 14, 2023	Yes	January 19, 2024

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update December 12, 2025

Date Submitted: December 30, 2025

Date Approved: December 30, 2025

Overall Update

All goals have been achieved and project should be closed out.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

All attachments have been updated in Tab 7 and dissemination has been explained in the Final abstract

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update November 25, 2025

Date Submitted: November 25, 2025

Date Approved: December 30, 2025

Overall Update

All outcomes have been completed as stated in the application.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

This activity is ongoing through FB, Campspot

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update September 26, 2025

Date Submitted: October 27, 2025

Date Approved: November 24, 2025

Overall Update

All outcomes have been met and achieved. This is the FINAL report.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete. Kayak launch was installed in 2024

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

Information about Sauk River Park and all of its improvements are published regularly in our newsletter, social media, websites, and we are part of Campspot, an online reservation system.

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2025

Date Submitted: October 27, 2025

Date Approved: November 24, 2025

Overall Update

We have completed the River Habitat Restoration and Recreation project in Melrose. The ENRTF funds were used to replace campsites and add amenities to the Sauk River Park. These improvements were the last steps of a project that began many years ago and included the realignment of the Sauk River, new bridge and dam restoration. The ENRTF funds partially funded the construction of the bathroom, and the development of the campground sites. The overall project included a new campground, bathroom, fishing piers, tot playground, signs, pickleball court, basketball court, polish golf and bean bag games and an informational sign display with two display cases that the signage can be changed.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

This was the last step in completing the project and includes the design and installation of educational signage. Pictures of the signs along with all of the improvements are included as part of this report. Fishing piers have been installed and signage is up in May 2025.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

Since the last update, we have added Campspot as an online reservation system for campers. This has been very successful. We still have kept 4 electric sites on a first come, first serve basis and all of the tent sites are first come, first serve. Sauk River Park is heavily used and hosts the Farmers Market on Wednesdays in the summertime. This draws very large crowds 200 - 400 people every week. We regularly post on our FB page and website. Reservations of the pavillion are booked every weekend through September and our ballfields are used quite extensively as well.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2025

Date Submitted: October 27, 2025

Date Approved: November 24, 2025

Overall Update

The River Habitat and Restoration Habitat project in Melrose MN is complete and all stated outcomes have been met.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

We made modifications to the signage to include different types of wildflowers and fish species for education purposes.

Along with the LCCMR signage.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

All signage and other information related to the project has been created and will be placed in the Park along with the fishing piers in the Spring of 2025. Information is included in Attachment 7.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2024

Date Submitted: October 27, 2025

Date Approved: November 24, 2025

Overall Update

All outcomes have been met and we had very little work to complete. Activity 3 discusses how the Educational signage will be placed in the Park in the Spring of 2025.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

Educational signage has been completed.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

All signage and other information is completed. Information is included in Attachment 7.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2024

Date Submitted: March 5, 2024

Date Approved: April 30, 2024

Overall Update

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. We have achieved 75% of the progress towards the original goals with all of the campsites operational and the bathroom opening in the Summer of 2024. Habitat and landscaping is well established and while not quantifiable, we have received reports that the fishing in the area has improved.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

We have been working with the MNDNR, specifically Nancy Stewart, Water Recreation Consultant/Division of Parks and Trails to purchase fishing stations that the DNR is piloting this year and Melrose has been approved for two of them. We have ordered these fish stations but the DNR is still working through the prototypes. Expected delivery is June 2024. We have also ordered the kayak launch through Marine Dock and Lift and it will be installed in Spring 2024.

Activity 3

Signage is not complete and is tied to the arrival of the fishing stations as that is where the signage will be located.

Dissemination

We have our campground listed on our website, app and social media pages, along with in a Visitor's guide. Pictures attached.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2023

Date Submitted: December 14, 2023

Date Approved: January 19, 2024

Overall Update

ENRTF funding was expended on the replacement of campsites and the addition of new campsites. These new recreational amenities allow people to enjoy the newly restored river channel, including through camping, fishing, and non-motorized boating. In addition to campsites, a new bathroom facility with showers is under construction. The bathrooms are fully ADA accessible, as are the campsites. Additional plans include canoe/kayak launch and fishing pier and educational signage. Habitat restoration has been completed. At the time of this report, the campsites have been replaced and additional ones have been added. The campground was open on July 17th 2023 and welcomed 132 registrations for the campsites. We do not know how many people were at each site as that is not information that we track. The bathroom is 90% complete. Habitat restoration was completed last year and has grown in quite nicely. The signage and canoe/kayak launch and fishing pier will be completed in the Spring of 2024.

Activity 1

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. This was completed in 2022 and is well established in 2023. NO NEW ACTIVITY TO REPORT, THIS HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

Created 20 new transient campsites. Utilized some ENRTF funding combined with non-ENRTF funding to remodel the existing bathroom and shower facilities to make them ADA compliant and flood-proof. This is 90% complete at this time. Remaining activities at the bathroom include sidewalks, landscaping and electrical work. The bathroom costs are significantly higher than what was estimated and we are requesting to shift some of the LCCMR dollars towards the bathroom costs, while shifting the other items - kayak launch, fishing pier and signage to be funded by the City. With the volatility of bids and supply chain issues we wanted to utilize the LCCMR funds for known costs and maximize this resource. With the request to shift LCCMR dollars to the bathroom, this will utilize the LCCMR funds.

Activity 3

None at this time.

Dissemination

Throughout the project we have provided updates on our social media websites, on our webpage and through our City app.

We have regularly reported about the progress at the park at our regular meetings including - City Council, MADA (econ dev board), and Parks board. We held a fundraiser for local businesses to donate fire rings to the campsites. The fire rings were made by a local business and includes both the City of Melrose and business names.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2023

Date Submitted: May 22, 2023

Date Approved: May 23, 2023

Overall Update

Excavation, water and electrical have been completed for the campsites and all of the campsites have been initially graded. In the Spring/Summer of 2023 the remaining work will be done on the campsites along with landscaping, the boat launch, and fishing pier. The initial design of the bathroom remodel facility has been completed and is out to bid, with bids being due mid April 2023. As part of the larger RDB project a portion of the natural habitat was restored with the remaining to be completed once the final campsites are graded.

Activity 1

The river channel alignment and restoration for fish habitat and natural vegetation has largely been completed. Final punch list items will be reviewed in the Spring of 2023 and monitored over the next growing season with the anticipation of final project close out in the Fall of 2024. This part of the project was completed using non ENRTF funds.

Activity 2

Excavation, water and electrical have been completed for the campsites and all of the campsites have been initially graded. In the Spring/Summer of 2023 the remaining work will be done on the campsites along with landscaping, the boat launch, and fishing pier. The initial design of the bathroom facility has been completed and is out to bid, with bids being due mid April

Activity 3

The interpretive signage has not been started at this time.

Dissemination

The RDB project is largely completed and we had a ribbon cutting ceremony on the new bridge that highlighted the bridge, dam repairs, natural habitat restoration and channel realignment. We have been keeping the public informed on both our FB page with progress pictures of any progress that has been made in Sauk River Park along with two different articles in our local newspaper. Our Park Board has discussed the project at length, as well as the City Council and we will continue to provide updates throughout the Spring and Summer of 2023.