



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Rum River Corridor Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement - Phase 3
ML 2025 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 06/04/2024

Proposal Title: Rum River Corridor Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement - Phase 3

Funds Requested: \$1,974,100

Confirmed Leverage Funds: \$218,200

Is this proposal Scalable?: Yes

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Chris Lord

Title: District Manager

Organization: Anoka Conservation District

Address: 1318 McKay Dr. NE, Suite 300

City: Ham Lake, MN 55304

Email: chris.lord@anokaswcd.org

Office Number: 763-434-2030 x130

Mobile Number:

Fax Number:

Website: www.AnokaSWCD.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Anoka, Isanti and Mille Lacs.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Metro / Urban
- Northern Forest

Activity types:

- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The Wild and Scenic Rum River is a State Water Trail linking Mille Lacs Lake to the Mississippi River. Providing habitat for SGCN across two ecological sections, the Rum also supports game fish and waterfowl. Land conversion, drainage, increased runoff, accelerated bank erosion, and invasive species threaten ecosystem stability of the Rum River Corridor. SWCDs, counties, watershed groups, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and The Nature Conservancy have come together to enhance walleye and smallmouth habitat and riparian ecosystems over the next 5 years by reducing erosion, installing structure, restoring hydrology, and enhancing native vegetation throughout this critical corridor.

Design and Scope of Work

The Rum River Corridor is critical for habitat and species richness for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and is included in the mapped Wildlife Action Network in Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan. High development pressure along the Rum River, historic drainage system alteration, increased stormwater runoff, sedimentation, invasive species, and hydrologic changes all threaten the stability of this key wildlife corridor.

While the Rum River continues to support a good fishery, the aforementioned threats have accelerated bank erosion and habitat degradation, undermining this robust ecosystem. Opportunities abound to enhance smallmouth bass, walleye, and other game fish habitat as well as riparian ecosystems by reducing erosion, installing structure, and enhancing native vegetation. To enhance habitat in this critical river corridor, we're partnering with Anoka County commissioners and staff, Rum River watershed organizations, Isanti and Mille Lacs SWCDs, Isanti County, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and The Nature Conservancy. We've engaged DNR East Metro Fisheries as an advisor for in-stream fish habitat components. ACD will be the grant recipient and project lead.

This proposal improves wildlife habitat throughout the Rum River Corridor in three categories: streambank and in-channel stabilization; in-stream fish habitat with a focus on game fish; and riparian forest, wetland, and prairie enhancement in the Shoreland Zone. Projects will span from the Mille Lacs Lake outlet to the confluence of the Rum and Mississippi rivers in the City of Anoka. We anticipate enhancing 1,100 feet of streambank, 550 feet of in-stream fish habitat, and 47 acres of habitat including wild rice on tribal lands.

Approximately 40 miles of shoreline are publicly owned along the Rum River where shoreline stabilization and fish habitat enhancement will be prioritized, improving opportunities for quality shore fishing. Eighty actively eroding streambanks in need of shoreline stabilization and enhancement were inventoried in Anoka County alone. With guidance from DNR, in-stream features such as rock vanes and woody overhangs will be installed to provide holding and resting areas for game fish and forage in stretches of the river where structure is lacking.

Riparian habitat enhancement will extend throughout portions of the 2,500 acres of tribal, publicly owned, and permanently protected lands in the Shoreland Zone to enhance the connectedness and function of the corridor for wildlife. The type of enhancement will be based on habitat types present (forest, wetland, and prairie) and conservation need, including rare species. Enhancing each of these areas will help ensure this valuable corridor remains functionally intact for all types of wildlife from fish to migrating birds, and will improve recreational quality on a Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River.

Phase 1 work to address eroding Rum riverbanks in Anoka County with wildlife-friendly bioengineering techniques will be complete by the end of 2024. Phase 2 expanded the eligible area of this work to include all of the

Rum River Corridor and added in-stream fish habitat and riparian forest, wetland, and prairie enhancement in the Shoreland Zone. Phase 2 is on pace for completion in 2026.

Explain how the proposal addresses habitat protection, restoration, and/or enhancement for fish, game & wildlife, including threatened or endangered species conservation

The value of the Rum River as a wildlife corridor lies in its continuity, connectivity, and habitat quality. The Rum River Corridor is a narrow landscape feature under constant pressure of fragmentation and degradation. Although protected with Wild, Scenic, and Recreational standards, large properties along the Rum River continue to be subdivided and developed. Properties that are publicly owned or protected do not always have wildlife habitat as a primary function or purpose. This project will reconnect and enhance habitat connections laterally down the corridor and perpendicular across in-stream, riparian, and shoreland zone habitats.

A continuous, lateral corridor particularly benefits species like predatory game fish seeking areas to feed and spawn throughout the channel, and migrating wildlife like waterfowl and monarchs that follow connected corridors in flight. Cross-corridor habitat connections linking aquatic, floodplain, and terrestrial habitats benefit species like amphibians, turtles and other reptiles, and nesting waterfowl in the spring that depend on these transitional zones. Reconnecting eroding and degraded gaps in high quality habitat both down and across the corridor will benefit a multitude of other wildlife species.

Project designs will incorporate wildlife friendly elements and traversable infrastructure for amphibians and reptiles that often get trapped in traditional riprap projects. SGCN and wildlife in general will benefit from these practices and design elements.

The Rum River Corridor is a key river stretch for habitat and species richness for SGCN. The threatened turtle species *Emydoidea blandingii* (Blanding's Turtle) has been documented numerous times, as well as *Glyptemys insculpta* (wood turtle) once. Two special concern mussel species were found in the Rum River during the 2004 statewide mussel survey, *Ligumia recta* (Black Sandshell) and *Lasmigona compressa* (Creek Heelsplitter). Additionally, special concern terrestrial species found near the Rum River include *Parkesia motacilla* (Louisiana waterthrush), *Pituophis catenifer* (Gophersnake), and *Buteo lineatus* (Red-shouldered hawk).

What are the elements of this proposal that are critical from a timing perspective?

This proposal builds on momentum from successful Phase 1 and 2 grants, which are both on schedule for completion.

An ACD riverbank erosion inventory prompted a multi-pronged, phased plan between ACD and Anoka County to address the expansive erosion and habitat loss on the Rum River. Acknowledging the Rum's local and regional importance, Anoka County pledged over \$400,000 in match for grant acquisition over a 5-year period to enhance the Rum River. LSOHC, Clean Water Fund, and Conservation Partners Legacy funds are being leveraged in unison to achieve the greatest benefit possible. Clean Water Fund dollars are stabilizing the largest eroding streambanks with the most water quality benefit, while OHF and CPL funds are being used to enhance habitat and eroding shorelines suitable to bioengineered solutions. The majority of local match is allocated to OHF grants as the cornerstone funding source to holistically address the Rum River Corridor.

Describe how the proposal expands habitat corridors or complexes and/or addresses habitat fragmentation:

Properties in public and tribal ownership, protected by permanent conservation easement, or within the public waterway will be targeted for habitat connectivity across habitat types. These locations ensure that projects will never be removed and maximizes the value to those who recreate along the river. Approximately 69 miles of Rum River shoreline are in permanent conservation easement or tribal or public ownership. Strategically enhancing habitat in areas like parks and easements where shoreline is mowed to the edge, or degraded floodplain areas exist will help to ensure we keep the Rum River Corridor as in-tact as possible for wildlife. Many of the areas of biodiversity significance and rare habitats mapped along the Rum River occur in these public and protected properties.

Streambank erosion is accelerating due to increased flow. To address habitat fragmentation from streambank erosion, a 360° photo-inventory and GIS analysis of streambank condition of the Rum River through Anoka County were combined to identify 80 damaged and eroding riverbank stretches. The stretches were categorized by optimal stabilization approach, and an annual sediment load was calculated for each using the WI NRCS Field Office Technical Guide for streambank erosion. All 80 stretches identified were ranked by cost effectiveness for water quality benefit. A similar process is planned for 2024 in upstream counties. Only those projects with a high potential for habitat enhancing bioengineering approaches, and a high-ranking cost effectiveness for water quality improvement, will be considered for this project.

The Rum River Corridor is part of the Wildlife Action Network mapped in Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan. Additionally, the MN County Biological Survey identifies 19 unique native plant communities and 17 sites of moderate to outstanding biodiversity significance along the Rum River. There are also 35 instances of 13 unique rare species or habitats mapped on the Natural Heritage Information System immediately adjacent to the Rum River through Anoka and Isanti Counties, including two threatened turtle species (Blanding's Turtle and Wood Turtle). While outstanding biodiversity, native habitats, and even rare species exist along the Rum River, habitat loss and fragmentation are constant realities in developing areas.

Which top 2 Conservation Plans referenced in MS97A.056, subd. 3a are most applicable to this project?

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Explain how this proposal will uniquely address habitat resilience to climate change and its anticipated effects on game, fish & wildlife species utilizing the protected or restored/enhanced habitat this proposal targets.

With a nearly one million-acre watershed, the Rum River is particularly sensitive to climate change related precipitation variations. Increased magnitude and frequency of intense precipitation events and periods of drought will result in more dramatic water level fluctuations. This proposal will uniquely increase resilience to these climate change stressors and directly benefit game, fish, and wildlife species.

Enhancing in-stream habitat diversity provides species with a variety of options as water level and temperature are impacted by climate change.

Riverbank stabilization protects the river from excessive sedimentation and riparian habitat loss. Incorporation of

bioengineering further increases resiliency via self-repair through re-growth.

Within riparian areas, increased buffer widths protect the corridor from erosion due to increased overland flow. Increased connectivity also enables species to move and adapt to changing environmental conditions.

Wetland enhancement increases water storage capacity to mitigate the effects of extreme precipitation events and provides increased habitat diversity.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

Metro / Urban

- Protect, enhance, and restore riparian and littoral habitats on lakes to benefit game and nongame fish species

Northern Forest

- Restore and enhance habitat on existing protected properties, with preference to habitat for rare, endangered, or threatened species identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey

Describe how this project/program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife, and if not permanent outcomes, why it is important to undertake at this time:

This project will enhance the Rum River Corridor, a key river reach for SGCN, part of the Wildlife Action Network, and a state designated Outstanding Resource Value Water. In the Metropolitan Urbanizing Areas of Anoka and Isanti Counties, we will be protecting a vital habitat corridor along one of the highest quality metro streams in the state. In the Northern Forest Area of Mille Lacs County, we will be restoring and enhancing critical habitat along a high quality stream and wildlife corridor.

Approaching the Rum River holistically with numerous partners will help ensure this valuable corridor, which crosses two LSOHC ecological sections, remains high quality, functionally intact for all types of wildlife from fish to migrating birds, and will also improve recreational quality on a Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River.

The lasting benefits of this work will include improved water quality through reduction in direct sediment loading from eroding streambanks, reconnection of fragmented habitat across corridor habitat types, and increased habitat quality along a corridor of protected, public, and tribal lands. Other lasting benefits of this project will include enhanced wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing opportunities on and near the Rum River. This is especially important along publicly accessible lands in the metro area where a large number of people only have the opportunity to be immersed in natural resources in these public areas.

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *In the Metropolitan Urbanizing Region of Anoka and Isanti Counties, this project will enhance an estimated 31.7 acres and 1,500 feet of critical habitat in the Rum River Corridor, a key river reach for SGCN, part of the Wildlife Action Network, and a state designated Outstanding Resource Value Water. We will be enhancing a vital habitat corridor (shoreland to floodplain to in-stream) and improving water quality in one of the highest quality metro rivers in the state that is at high risk of degradation.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors ~ *In the Northern Forest Region of Mille Lacs County, this project will enhance an estimated 15.2 acres and 150 feet of critical habitat in the Rum River Corridor, a key river reach for SGCN, part of the Wildlife Action Network, and a state designated Outstanding Resource Value Water. Water quality will be further protected in a very high quality resource upstream of reaches at risk of degradation.*

What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this proposal?

- N/A

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

This request does not supplant or substitute for any current or previous funds used for the same purpose.

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

ACD and its partners are dedicated to sustaining the Rum River as a high quality water, ecological, recreational, hunting, and fishing resource and wildlife corridor. A variety of additional projects and funding sources are planned into the future to continue to build and sustain Rum River habitat and water quality. ACD will continue its legacy of streambank stabilization and habitat enhancement projects utilizing state and local funding sources. In 2022, ACD, 13 other local units of government, and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe formed the Rum River Watershed Partnership with the purpose of implementing the Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan that we developed together.

Through this project, we will work with all tribal land, public land, and easement managers along the Rum River to maximize habitat value in the corridor. Maintenance of completed projects will be performed by individual landowners or managers through maintenance agreements as part of individual project contracts. ACD holds maintenance agreements with many landowners, both public and private, with similar projects installed on their properties. ACD has a well-established inspection program through which we enforce maintenance agreements. Lastly, easement agreements and deed restrictions are recorded to properties when warranted to ensure long-term maintenance.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Annual	Project Manager	Maintenance plan developed site-by-site and by enhancement type with project manager.	Funding for individual projects contingent on signed maintenance agreement or maintenance schedule.	Follow-ups with landowner/manager on maintenance needs and provide any necessary technical assistance.
Years 1, 3, 5, and 9 after installation	ACD	Site inspections by ACD	Work with project manager to bring maintenance into compliance with maintenance agreement.	-

Provide an assessment of how your program may celebrate cultural diversity or reach diverse communities in Minnesota, including reaching low- and moderate-income households:

ACD and our partners at the Isanti and Mille Lacs SWCDs each have on-staff Outreach Coordinators who work together from a single work plan to engage and connect all communities in the watershed. We actively engage with city, county, watershed, and non-governmental entities to remove language, cultural, and economic barriers to enjoying the benefits of Minnesota’s vast array of natural resources. Outreach includes project tours, workshops, print, video, and display media. ACD structures website content to remove barriers due to language or impairment. Enhancing habitat in publicly accessible areas for wildlife viewing and shore fishing success expands opportunities for low cost recreation. These projects will make nature and wildlife more accessible to people who live in city centers or do not own large properties.

Additionally, the Rum River begins in the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe tribal lands. The Band is actively working on projects to improve habitat, and particularly wild rice, in the upper reaches of the Rum River through Lakes Ogechie, Shakopee and Onamia. Collaborating with the Band on projects in tribal lands and continuing these efforts downstream with this funding furthers that work and its effectiveness in the corridor. It also improves habitat and recreational value to the people of the Mille Lacs Band.

Activity Details

Requirements

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?

Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

- Permanently Protected Conservation Easements
- WMA
- County/Municipal
- Public Waters
- Other : Tribal Land
- AMA

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?

No

Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this proposal either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?

No

Other OHF Appropriation Awards

Have you received OHF dollars through LSOHC in the past?

Yes

Are any of these past appropriations still OPEN?

Yes

Approp Year	Funding Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Funding Remaining	% Spent to Date
2023	\$1,699,000	\$53,559	\$1,645,441	3.15%
2020	\$816,000	\$363,802	\$452,198	44.58%
Totals	\$2,515,000	\$417,361	\$2,097,639	16.59%

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Project prioritization, ranking, and feasibility with partners	Dec/2025
550 linear feet of fish habitat installed at public fishing areas	Dec/2028
1,100 linear feet of eroding bank stabilized	Dec/2028
20 acres of wetland or wild rice habitat enhanced	Dec/2028
25 acres of riparian habitat enhancement	Dec/2027

Budget

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$306,000	\$5,000	TNC	\$311,000
Contracts	\$1,530,300	\$213,200	Anoka County, ACD, TNC, WMOs, DSS	\$1,743,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	\$76,500	-	-	\$76,500
Direct Support Services	\$45,900	-	-	\$45,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$7,700	-	-	\$7,700
Supplies/Materials	\$7,700	-	-	\$7,700
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,974,100	\$218,200	-	\$2,192,300

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TNC Restoration Ecologist	0.01	5.0	-	\$5,000	TNC	\$5,000
ACD Principal	0.09	5.0	\$102,500	-	-	\$102,500
ACD Specialist	0.17	5.0	\$153,000	-	-	\$153,000
ACD Administrator	0.01	5.0	\$4,600	-	-	\$4,600
ACD District Manager	0.04	5.0	\$45,900	-	-	\$45,900

Amount of Request: \$1,974,100

Amount of Leverage: \$218,200

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 11.05%

DSS + Personnel: \$351,900

As a % of the total request: 17.83%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

Total Leverage (from above)	Amount Confirmed	% of Total Leverage	Amount Anticipated	% of Total Leverage
\$218,200	\$218,200	100.0%	-	0.0%

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:

Anoka County - \$61,500 - Confirmed

Anoka Conservation District (ACD) - \$50,000 - Confirmed

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) - \$30,000 - Confirmed

DSS (15.25% of Personnel) - \$46,674.92 - Confirmed

Upper and Lower Rum Watershed Management Organizations - \$30,000 - Confirmed

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?

Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

The project would be scaled proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

The personnel and DSS expenses would be scaled proportionately.

If the project received 30% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

The project would be scaled proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

The personnel and DSS expenses would be scaled proportionately.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?

No

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

100% of the dollars in the contract line will be spent on contracted enhancement work along the Rum River. All project development, survey, and design work will be performed under Professional Services and Personnel line items.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

- Design/Engineering

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?

ACD tracks every staff hour by the individual program it is worked toward. This rate will be applied only to those staff hours directly logged toward this grant program under the personnel budget in the tables provided. ACD

calculated its DNR-reviewed DSS rate at 30.25% following USDA guidelines. Less than half of this rate will be requested for reimbursement (15%).

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?

Site assessment - survey rods, survey tripods, waders

Installation/construction management - shovels, hammers, mallets, driving rods, planting bars, plug augers for drills

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

No

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	47	47
Total	0	0	0	47	47

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	\$1,974,100	\$1,974,100
Total	-	-	-	\$1,974,100	\$1,974,100

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	32	0	0	0	15	47
Total	32	0	0	0	15	47

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$1,738,700	-	-	-	\$235,400	\$1,974,100
Total	\$1,738,700	-	-	-	\$235,400	\$1,974,100

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	\$42,002

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$54,334	-	-	-	\$15,693

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

River - 1,650 feet

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

The parcels listed are the parcels in public ownership adjacent to the Rum River. We will work with property managers at all levels of public ownership, as well as landowners with properties in permanent conservation easements or within the public waterway, and tribal lands to address conservation and habitat needs on individual properties.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

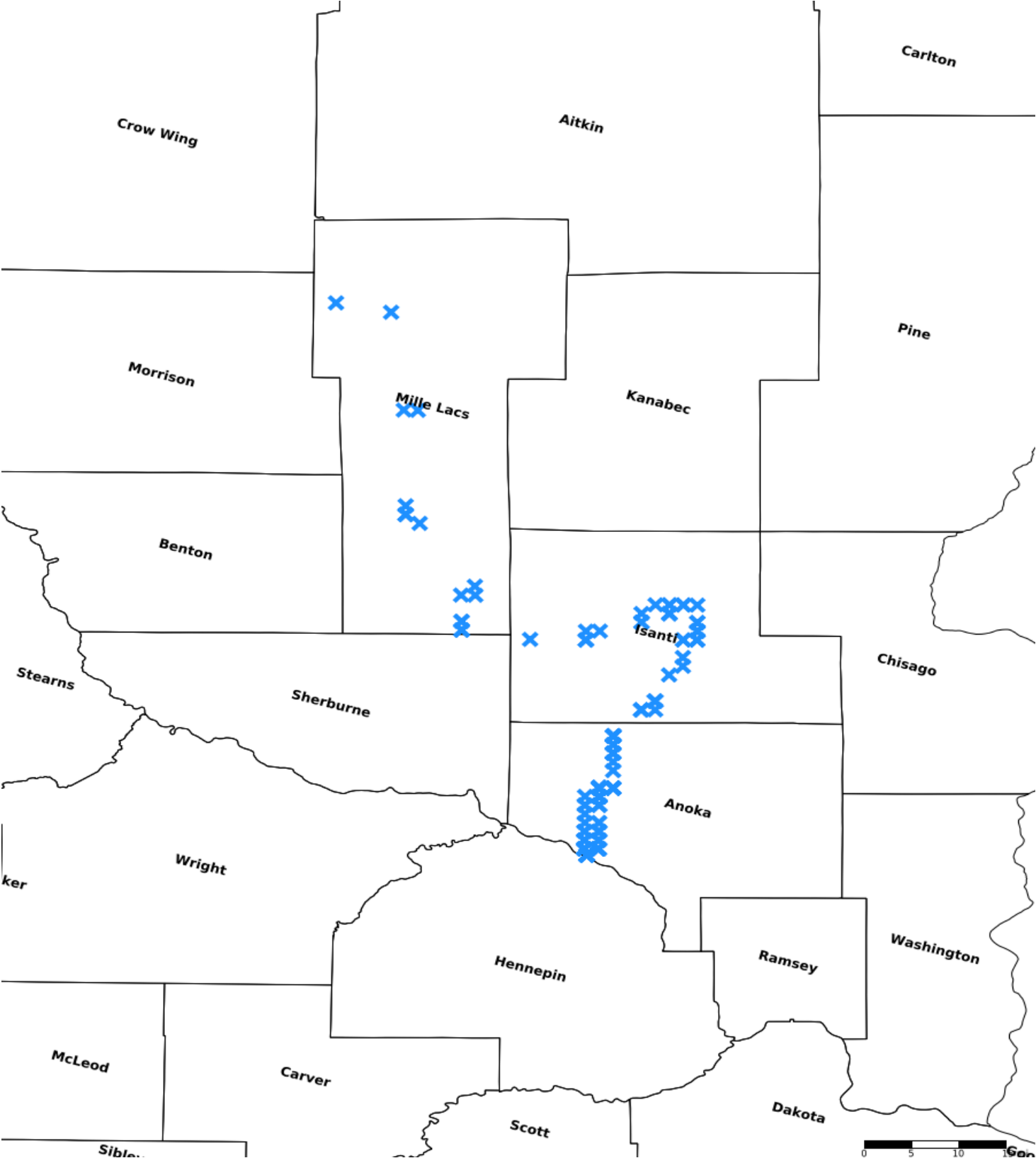
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
68	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
130	Anoka	03224207	-	-	-	City Park
129	Anoka	03224230	-	-	-	City Park
125	Anoka	03224230	-	-	-	City Park
116	Anoka	03224219	-	-	-	City Park
111	Anoka	03424232	-	-	-	County Park
110	Anoka	03324232	-	-	-	County Park
109	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
108	Anoka	03224206	-	-	-	County Park
107	Anoka	03224206	-	-	-	County Park
106	Anoka	03224206	-	-	-	County Park
105	Anoka	03324232	-	-	-	County Park
104	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
103	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
102	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
101	Anoka	03324232	-	-	-	County Park
100	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
99	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
98	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
97	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
96	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
95	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
94	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
93	Anoka	03224207	-	-	-	County Park
92	Anoka	03224206	-	-	-	County Park
91	Anoka	03224206	-	-	-	County Park
90	Anoka	03224206	-	-	-	County Park
89	Anoka	03324232	-	-	-	County Park
88	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
87	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
86	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
85	Anoka	03224206	-	-	-	County Park
84	Anoka	03224206	-	-	-	County Park
83	Anoka	03324232	-	-	-	County Park
82	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
81	Anoka	03324232	-	-	-	County Park
80	Anoka	03324232	-	-	-	County Park
79	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
78	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
77	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
76	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park

75	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
74	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
73	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
72	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
71	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
70	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
69	Anoka	03324232	-	-	-	County Park
131	Anoka	03224219	-	-	-	City Park
67	Anoka	03324231	-	-	-	County Park
66	Anoka	03224206	-	-	-	County Park
65	Anoka	03224206	-	-	-	County Park
64	Anoka	03224206	-	-	-	County Park
63	Anoka	03424232	-	-	-	County Park
62	Anoka	03424232	-	-	-	County Park
61	Anoka	03424232	-	-	-	County Park
60	Anoka	03424232	-	-	-	County Park
59	Anoka	03424232	-	-	-	County Park
58	Anoka	03424232	-	-	-	County Park
57	Anoka	03424232	-	-	-	County Park
56	Anoka	03424232	-	-	-	County Park
55	Anoka	03424232	-	-	-	County Park
54	Anoka	03424232	-	-	-	County Park
53	Anoka	03324217	-	-	-	City Park
52	Anoka	03324208	-	-	-	City Park
51	Anoka	03324208	-	-	-	City Park
50	Anoka	03324208	-	-	-	City Park
49	Anoka	03324205	-	-	-	City Park
48	Anoka	03324205	-	-	-	City Park
167	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
162	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
155	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
154	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
153	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
152	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
151	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
150	Anoka	03125212	-	-	-	City Park
149	Anoka	03125212	-	-	-	City Park
148	Anoka	03125212	-	-	-	City Park
147	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
146	Anoka	03125212	-	-	-	City Park
145	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
144	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
143	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
142	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
141	Anoka	03125212	-	-	-	City Park
140	Anoka	03125212	-	-	-	City Park
139	Anoka	03125212	-	-	-	City Park
138	Anoka	03225236	-	-	-	County Park
135	Anoka	03225225	-	-	-	City Park
128	Anoka	03225212	-	-	-	City Park
127	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
126	Anoka	03125212	-	-	-	City Park
124	Anoka	03225236	-	-	-	City Park
123	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
122	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
121	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park
120	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	City Park

119	Anoka	03125212	-	-	-	City Park
118	Anoka	03125212	-	-	-	City Park
117	Anoka	03125212	-	-	-	City Park
115	Anoka	03225201	-	-	-	City Park
114	Anoka	03225225	-	-	-	City Park
113	Anoka	03225212	-	-	-	City Park
112	Anoka	03225236	-	-	-	City Park
182	Anoka	03424232	-	-	-	City Park
181	Anoka	03324208	-	-	-	City Park
180	Anoka	03324220	-	-	-	State
175	Anoka	03224231	-	-	-	State
173	Anoka	03224231	-	-	-	State
172	Anoka	03224231	-	-	-	County Property
171	Anoka	03224231	-	-	-	County Property
170	Anoka	03124206	-	-	-	County Property
169	Anoka	03124206	-	-	-	City Park
168	Anoka	03124206	-	-	-	City Park
166	Anoka	03124206	-	-	-	City Park
165	Anoka	03124206	-	-	-	City Park
164	Anoka	03124206	-	-	-	City Park
163	Anoka	03124206	-	-	-	City Park
161	Anoka	03124206	-	-	-	City Park
160	Anoka	03124206	-	-	-	City Park
159	Anoka	03124206	-	-	-	City Park
158	Anoka	03124206	-	-	-	City Park
157	Anoka	03124206	-	-	-	City Park
156	Anoka	03124206	-	-	-	City Park
137	Anoka	03224231	-	-	-	County Park
136	Anoka	03224230	-	-	-	City Park
134	Anoka	03224230	-	-	-	City Park
133	Anoka	03224207	-	-	-	City Park
132	Anoka	03224230	-	-	-	City Park
179	Anoka	03225213	-	-	-	County Park
178	Anoka	03225224	-	-	-	State
177	Anoka	03225225	-	-	-	State
176	Anoka	03125201	-	-	-	State
174	Anoka	03225236	-	-	-	State
15	Isanti	03623229	-	-	-	State
26	Isanti	03624227	-	-	-	State
25	Isanti	03624227	-	-	-	State
24	Isanti	03624231	-	-	-	State
23	Isanti	03624224	-	-	-	County Park
22	Isanti	03624224	-	-	-	County Park
21	Isanti	03624224	-	-	-	State
20	Isanti	03624224	-	-	-	State
19	Isanti	03624224	-	-	-	State
18	Isanti	03624213	-	-	-	State
17	Isanti	03624213	-	-	-	State
16	Isanti	03624214	-	-	-	State
1	Isanti	03524225	-	-	-	State
194	Isanti	03623217	-	-	-	State
27	Isanti	03624222	-	-	-	State
14	Isanti	03623218	-	-	-	State
13	Isanti	03623218	-	-	-	State
12	Isanti	03623232	-	-	-	City Park
11	Isanti	03623232	-	-	-	City Park
10	Isanti	03623229	-	-	-	City Park

9	Isanti	03623232	-	-	-	City Park
8	Isanti	03523205	-	-	-	State
7	Isanti	03523205	-	-	-	State
6	Isanti	03523205	-	-	-	State
5	Isanti	03523206	-	-	-	City Park
4	Isanti	03523206	-	-	-	County Park
3	Isanti	03523219	-	-	-	City Park
2	Isanti	03523218	-	-	-	State
191	Isanti	03424211	-	-	-	State
190	Isanti	03424211	-	-	-	State
189	Isanti	03424211	-	-	-	State
188	Isanti	03424214	-	-	-	City Park
187	Isanti	03424211	-	-	-	City Park
186	Isanti	03424215	-	-	-	County Park
185	Isanti	03424215	-	-	-	State
184	Isanti	03424215	-	-	-	State
183	Isanti	03424215	-	-	-	State
32	Isanti	03525205	-	-	-	State
31	Isanti	03525201	-	-	-	State
30	Isanti	03525201	-	-	-	State
29	Isanti	03525201	-	-	-	State
28	Isanti	03625236	-	-	-	State
193	Isanti	03424211	-	-	-	State
192	Isanti	03424211	-	-	-	State
33	Mille Lacs	03626233	-	-	-	City Park
196	Mille Lacs	04027225	-	-	-	State
47	Mille Lacs	04227225	-	-	-	Tribal
46	Mille Lacs	04227220	-	-	-	State
45	Mille Lacs	04027226	-	-	-	State
44	Mille Lacs	03827226	-	-	-	City Park
43	Mille Lacs	03827236	-	-	-	City Park
42	Mille Lacs	03827226	-	-	-	City Park
41	Mille Lacs	03827226	-	-	-	City Park
40	Mille Lacs	03827223	-	-	-	City Park
195	Mille Lacs	03626203	-	-	-	State
39	Mille Lacs	03626210	-	-	-	State
38	Mille Lacs	03626209	-	-	-	State
37	Mille Lacs	03626228	-	-	-	City Park
36	Mille Lacs	03626233	-	-	-	City Park
35	Mille Lacs	03626228	-	-	-	City Park
34	Mille Lacs	03626233	-	-	-	City Park

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ⊕ Other

Rum River Corridor Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement - Phase 3



PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The Rum River connects Mille Lacs Lake to the Mississippi River. Providing habitat for SGCN across two LSOHC ecological sections, the Rum also supports game fish and waterfowl. Land conversion, drainage, increased runoff, accelerated bank erosion, and invasive species threaten ecosystem stability of the Rum River Corridor. SWCDs, counties, watershed groups, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and The Nature Conservancy have come together to enhance walleye and smallmouth habitat and riparian ecosystems over the next 5 years by reducing erosion, installing structure, restoring hydrology, and enhancing native vegetation throughout this critical corridor.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Improve game fish habitat and fishing opportunities with in-stream habitat elements on targeted public and protected properties, or within the public waterway
- Reconnect aquatic and riparian areas with natural materials providing habitat that is traversable by wildlife
- Reduce sediment loading to the river, improving water quality, fish spawning beds, and mussel habitat
- Benefit many species including SGCN by enhancing riparian forest, wetland, and prairie habitats in the shoreland zone
- Expand productive acreage of wild rice (Manoomin) on tribal lands



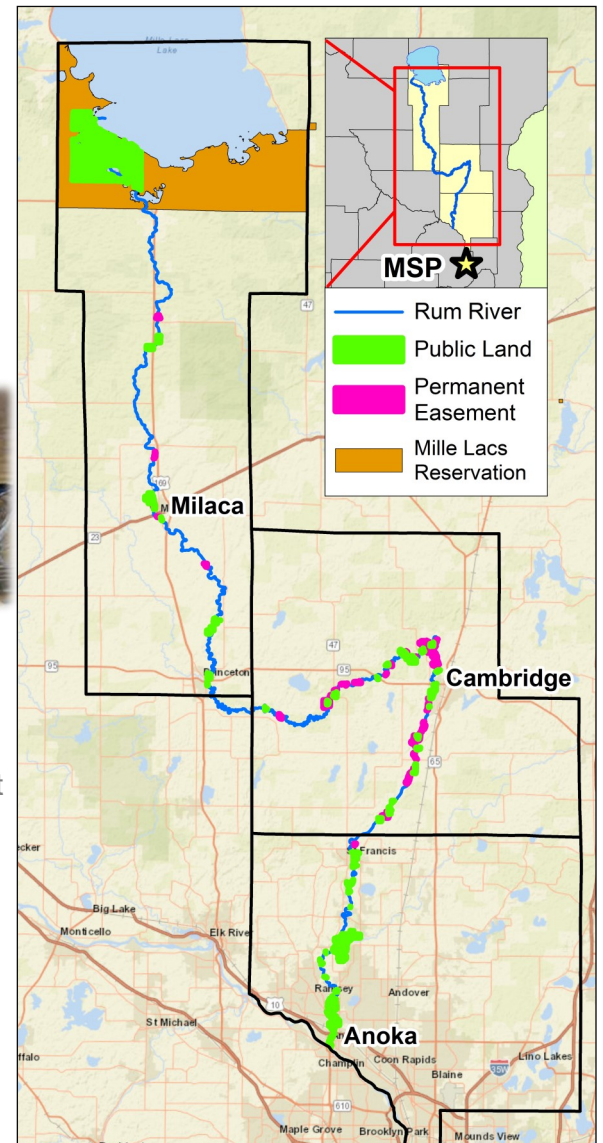
PROJECT OUTPUTS

- Bank stabilization and in-stream habitat enhancement for walleye, smallmouth bass and mussels along 1,650 linear feet of riverbank
- 47 acres of in-stream and riparian forest, wetland, and prairie habitat enhancement for SGCN, waterfowl, game and non-game wildlife on public, protected, and tribal land
- Enhance fishing, hunting, and recreation opportunities throughout the Rum River Corridor with a focus on game fish
- Reconnection of fragmented habitat across habitat types
- Benefits extend across two ecological sections: Metropolitan Urbanizing Area and Northern Forest



MINNESOTA'S RUM RIVER

- State Outstanding Resource Value Water
- State Wild, Scenic, and Recreational
- State Water Trail (150 miles)
- Key reach for Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN); several mussels, Blanding's turtle
- World-class smallmouth bass fishery
- Optimal river habitat for walleye and muskellunge
- Headwaters support wild rice (Manoomin)





LONG-TERM STRATEGY

- Clean Water Fund - Improve stormwater runoff and stabilize severe bank failures utilizing CWF throughout the watershed (Rum River Watershed Based Implementation Funding)
- Rum River RIM - Secure perpetual conservation easements on targeted riparian properties utilizing RIM funds (1,659 acres secured)
- Conservation Partners Legacy - Address minor bank erosion with cedar tree revetments (7,660 feet installed or underway)
- Outdoor Heritage Funds - Enhance in-stream fish habitat and near channel wildlife habitat utilizing OHF funds
 - ◊ ON SCHEDULE - Phase 1 - (2020 - 2025) - Work addressing actively eroding Rum riverbanks in Anoka County with wildlife-friendly bioengineering techniques is well under way. Eighty sites in need were inventoried in Anoka County alone. (2,350 feet & 2.67 acres installed or underway)
 - ◊ ON SCHEDULE - Phase 2 - (2023 - 2028) Expand Phase 1 efforts to all of the Rum River and add features to each project that solely enhance in-stream fish habitat. Enhance other habitats within the Shoreland Zone including: niche gamefish structure, riparian forests, wetlands, and prairies throughout the Rum River Corridor (1,165 feet & 15.3 acres installed or underway)
 - ◊ CURRENT PROPOSAL - Phase 3 - (2025 - 2030) Continue Phase 2 efforts throughout the Rum River Corridor
- Build lasting partnerships and capacity throughout the corridor for habitat enhancement projects led by partners
- Leverage city, watershed organization, county, SWCD, tribal, and non-profit organization staff and financial resources to sustain action. \$218,200 in leverage is secured for Phase 3

Healing landscapes...



... for generations



PROJECT PARTNERS

SWCDs



Counties



Anoka County
MINNESOTA



Isanti County
Minnesota

Non-Profits

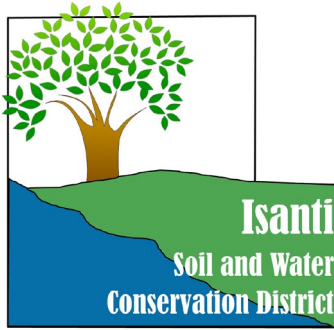


Tribal Nations

Watershed Management Entities

Rum River Watershed Partnership





ISANTI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
110 Buchanan Street South
Cambridge, MN 55008
763-689-3271

May 15, 2024

RE: Rum River corridor habitat enhancement

Dear Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council,

On behalf of the Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District, I am writing to express our support of the Anoka Conservation Districts' proposal to enhance habitat in the Rum River riparian corridor.

The Isanti SWCD encourages watershed-level projects that make progress toward goals set in the Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, which was approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources on May 25th, 2022. Within the plan, the Rum River is a high priority, and the actions identified in the Anoka Conservation District Proposal will accomplish plan goals specifically related to the Rum River. Furthermore, the Isanti SWCD fully supports projects that encourage collaboration across political boundaries; this project does just that.

Again, the Isanti SWCD fully supports this proposal.

Respectfully,

Tiffany Determan, District Manager
Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District



Isanti County Environmental Services Division

555 18th Ave. SW
Cambridge, MN 55008
Phone (763) 689-8220

May 21, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Isanti County Environmental Services Division, I am writing this letter of support for the Anoka County Soil & Water Conservation District's Rum River Corridor Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Phase III application for an Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant to further improve habitat and shoreline stabilization along the Rum River.

The state designated Wild & Scenic Rum River stretches out over 150 miles long covering a diverse landscape, starting at Mille Lacs Lake and ending at the Mississippi River in Anoka. Agricultural practices and urban development have created the need for increased protection and management of the river corridor.

With a focus on enhancing the Rum River corridor as a wildlife habitat network, projects will provide water quality and habitat benefits. These include stabilizing eroding streambanks, creating fish habitat near publicly accessible fishing locations, wetland and forest enhancements in the floodplain, and upland work within the Shoreland zone on public or protected lands.

Anoka County's commitment to provide a local match over \$200,000 with assistance from the Rum River WMOs in Anoka County and The Nature Conservancy shows tremendous dedication to the success of this project.

While our primary focus is on Isanti County, we also support efforts to improve all areas of the Rum River watershed.

We enthusiastically support this application and hope you will view it favorably!

Sincerely,

Barry Wendorf
Isanti County Environmental Services Division Leader



MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



May 22, 2024

Jared Wagner
Water Resource Specialist
Anoka Conservation District
1318 McKay Dr. NE
Suite 300
Ham Lake, MN 55304

Boozhoo Jared,

I am enthusiastic to be writing a letter of support for your proposal and application of funding through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for habitat enhancement of the Rum River Corridor for 2024. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources strongly supports the continued efforts on habitat enhancement especially as it pertains to Manoomin (wild rice), one of our most sacred natural resources.

As you may already know, Ogechie, Shakopee and Onamia lakes are all part of the upper Rum River system and are highly valued and heavily utilized resources where Mille Lacs Band Tribal members practice our treaty gathering activities. Harvesting Manoomin has been central to the Band's culture, subsistence and economy for generations. Within the Rum River corridor, Manoomin is abundant with both spiritual and dietary significance to the Band and is an important aquatic plant that provides critical habitat to wetland and aquatic life. It should also be noted that the upper Rum River area is within the only EPA-designated sole-source aquifer in Minnesota, which supplies at least 50% of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer.

Restoration and enhancement efforts, such as those outlined in your application proposal, can only be viewed as a positive step in preserving this quality ecosystem. To this end, the Mille Lacs Band endorses such a pursuit and expresses our intent for continued collaboration in this effort.

Miigwetch,

Kelly Applegate
Kelly Applegate
Commissioner of Natural Resources and Environment
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

DISTRICT I

43408 Oodena Drive • Onamia, MN 56359
(320) 532-7439

DISTRICT III

45749 Grace Lake Road • Sandstone, MN 55072
(218) 768-3311 • Fax (320) 384-6190

DISTRICT II

36666 State Highway 65 • McGregor, MN 55760
(320) 364-6240 • Fax (218) 768-3903

URBAN OFFICE

1404 E. Franklin Avenue • Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 872-1424 • Fax (612) 872-1257