

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2021 / ML 2020 Request for Funding



Date: May 30, 2019

Program or Project Title: Phase 1: Rum River Wildlife and Fish Habitat Enhancement using Bioengineered Bank Stabilization

Funds Requested: \$952,200

Manager's Name: Chris Lord

Title: District Manager

Organization: Anoka Conservation District

Address: 1318 McKay Dr. NE, Suite 300

City: Ham Lake, MN 55304

Office Number: 763-434-2030

Email: Chris.Lord@anokaswcd.org

Website: www.anokaswcd.org

County Locations: Anoka

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Habitat

Abstract:

In partnership with Anoka County and landowners, Anoka Conservation District will enhance Rum River habitat by utilizing eco-sensitive, habitat-building, bioengineering approaches to address active bank erosion on four to eight reaches. Sediment delivered from bank erosion threatens fish and mussel reproduction. The Rum River is a state designated Outstanding Resource Value Water and Wild, Scenic and Recreational River with eighty actively failing riverbanks in Anoka County alone. Project partners will address these in a phased approach utilizing CWF, LSOHC, and CPL funds. LSOHC funds will be used for projects that primarily enhance habitat, including for species in greatest conservation need.

Design and scope of work:

Eighty sites spanning seven miles of actively eroding riverbank were identified along the Rum River in Anoka County, an Outstanding Resource Value Water and Wild, Scenic and Recreational River. Identified bank failures contribute an estimated 7,838 tons of sediment to the river annually, which decimates littoral transitional habitat, smothers fish spawning areas, compromises mussel reproduction and vigor, and reduces success of predatory game fish species due to increased turbidity. The Anoka Conservation District (ACD), along with Anoka County and landowners, proposes to systematically stabilize and enhance these damaged riverbanks. In total this undertaking will require a projected \$14 million in public and private funds, drawing upon several grant funding sources, and spanning multiple grant cycles.

An inventory of active erosion sites was finalized in March of 2019 by ACD (https://www.anokaswcd.org/images/AnokaSWCD/Reports/Inventory/Rum_River_Erosion_Inventory_Final.pdf). Based on erosion severity, sites were assigned one of three stabilization approaches, which align with one of three state funding sources. Seventeen tall, severely eroding riverbanks require armament, have a primary benefit of water quality improvement, and will be addressed with CWF funding. Twenty-one shorter, moderately eroding riverbanks can be corrected utilizing bioengineering approaches, have a primary benefit of habitat enhancement, and will be addressed with LSOHC funds. Forty-two short, moderately eroding riverbanks can be corrected utilizing cedar tree revetments and will be addressed with CPL funds.

This grant request is for ACD, in partnership with Anoka County, to enhance four to eight sites over three years that can be addressed using bioengineering approaches such as bendway weirs and root wads that produce in-stream habitat for fish, turtles and amphibians, native plantings and staking that produce riparian habitat above the water, and light toe armoring and minor grading that make these habitats traversable by wildlife. Sites will be prioritized considering linear feet of habitat enhanced, cost-benefit analysis, landowner

buy-in, and accessibility. Phase-1 projects will enhance up to one half-mile of habitat, and reduce sediment loads to the Rum River by up to 750 tons/year.

Riverbank stabilization design and installation processes can present hazards to some wildlife; namely nearshore mussels, amphibians and reptiles during construction, and reptiles and amphibians that are unable to safely traverse the post-construction stabilization materials and plantings. As part of this project, ACD intends work with experts in the field to conceptualize, design and implement approaches to best abate these hazards, with particular attention on species in greatest conservation need (SGCN) such as state-listed mussels and Blanding's turtles.

The Rum River is identified as a key river stretch for habitat and species richness for SGCN through Anoka County. Large portions of critical streambank transitional habitat that these species depend on are gone already, with more lost each year. The number of optimal sites for habitat enhancing bioengineering approaches is limited, and will continue to diminish if left unchecked. Inventory work by ACD shed light on the severity of the issue and the scale of the opportunity to take corrective action.

Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H6 Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare

Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:

Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare: In the Anoka Sand Plain Subsection, the Rum River through Anoka County is mapped as a key river reach for species in greatest conservation need (SGCN) (pg. 73). This project will advance Goal 1 part 7.a. "Maintain good water quality, hydrology, geomorphology, and connectivity in priority stream reaches" (pg. 74).

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025:

"Goal 1, Objective 1 focuses on maintaining and enhancing the resilience of habitats upon which SGCN and other wildlife depend. This will be accomplished by implementing conservation actions such as those identified under Objective 1.1 to "sustain and enhance species, habitat, and landscape biological diversity within the Wildlife Action Network" and Objective 1.2 to "maintain or enhance habitat in at least 6 Conservation Focus Areas." Examples of conservation actions for Objective 1 include maintaining and restoring terrestrial and aquatic habitat connectivity..." (page 34-35).

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

Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

Up to a half-mile of eroded away riparian-littoral transitional habitat will be enhanced along the Rum River over three years. The Rum River is identified as a key river reach for SGCN, a state designated Outstanding Resource Value Water, and Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River. Based on inventory work done by ACD, over seven miles of this critical habitat is already gone or damaged due to bank erosion and failure. Sites with high potential for habitat enhancement were selected as target sites for this project and were additionally ranked by cost effectiveness for reducing sediment loading to the river. Not only will the individual projects provide and enhance up to three acres of critical riparian-littoral habitat, they will also decrease the direct sediment load to the river by up to 750 tons per year, resulting in less sedimentation of fish spawning areas and mussel habitat, as well as cleaner, clearer water. The resulting habitat and cleaner water will help populations of non-game wildlife, waterfowl, and game fish. The lasting benefits of this project will include enhanced wildlife viewing as well as hunting and fishing opportunities on and near the Rum River.

Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

A 360° photo-inventory and GIS analysis of streambank condition of the Rum River through Anoka County were combined to identify eighty 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 eighty stretches identified were ranked by cost effectiveness for water quality benefit. 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. Stabilization and enhancement of these eroded stretches will reconnect currently fragmented riparian-littoral habitat along the Rum River, a key ecological resource in Anoka County. The MN County Biological Survey identifies Silver Maple floodplain forest and Oak/Red Maple lowland forest types along the Rum River in Anoka County. Currently, eroded and failing banks disconnect these lowland forest habitats from the littoral river habitat due to lack of riparian transitional habitat. In many cases, the eroding banks present a cliff-like barrier between the two. Stabilizing these banks as well as providing traversable transitional habitat will reconnect these habitat types for species that rely on them.

How does the proposal address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species:

Two special concern mussel species were found in the Rum River in Anoka County during the 2004 statewide mussel survey, *Ligumia recta* (Black Sandshell) and *Lasmigona compressa* (Creek Heelsplitter). Additionally, the threatened species *Emydoidea blandingii* (Blanding's Turtle) has been documented numerous times in and near the Rum River. Special concern terrestrial species identified include *Pituophis catenifer* (Gophersnake), and *Buteo lineatus* (Red-shouldered hawk). Correcting eroded gaps in riparian-littoral habitat and improving water quality by decreasing sediment loads to the river will expand and reconnect high quality habitat for these species.

Before and during construction, ACD will consult with experts in the field to implement, or even develop, best practices to mitigate mussel loss. 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.

Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

Warm water river indicator species include sauger (2 lbs/acre), channel catfish (116 individuals/acre), and all mussel species (8,000 individuals/acre). A half mile of bioengineered bank over this grant would result in three acres for these indicator species (6 lbs sauger, 348 channel catfish, 24,000 mussels), with an additional water quality benefit to all downstream river areas. It is feasible that projects completed in this phase will approach or even exceed a half mile in total.

This project does not take place in lake habitats, but the indicator species for lakes, walleye (2 adults/acre) and northern pike (10 adults/acre), are present throughout the Rum River. The three acres of enhanced habitat resulting from this project would also benefit these species (6 adult walleye, 30 adult northern pike). Additional game fish species that are not listed as indicator species would also benefit, including largemouth and smallmouth bass.

Non-aquatic riverine riparian habitat species are not listed as indicators in the guidance for this question. However, numerous insect, amphibian, reptilian, avian, and mammal species will also benefit from the enhanced habitat of areas above the waterline. Assuming habitat enhancement extends as far back from the water's edge as it does into the water from these projects, one acre of habitat would also be provided to these species for every acre of aquatic habitat enhanced.

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 *This project will allow us to reconnect gaps in Rum River riparian-littoral habitat currently fragmented and missing due to eroded riverbank. Over seven miles of this missing habitat was identified during an ACD Rum River erosion inventory. Up to three acres of habitat along a half-mile of river will be enhanced with this funding*

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

ACD and its local partners are dedicated to sustaining the Rum River as a high quality water, ecological, recreational, hunting, and fishing resource and wildlife corridor through Anoka County. 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 projects utilizing state and local funding sources. Anoka County has pledged over \$442k over the next five years to support these activities, and other local partners are supportive as well.

Maintenance of completed projects will be performed by individual landowners through maintenance agreements as part of individual project contracts. ACD holds maintenance agreements with many landowners with similar projects installed on their properties. Routine site inspections will be performed by ACD as part of the maintenance agreement terms with each landowner.

Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
1, 3, 9 after install	Anoka Conservation District	Site Inspections in accordance with signed maintenance agreement	Follow up with landowner on maintenance needs and provide any necessary technical assistance	
Annual After Install	Landowner	Maintenance of integrity and viability of project		

What is the degree of timing/opportunistic urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:

The Rum River riverbank erosion inventory performed by ACD prompted a five-year multi-pronged, two phase plan between ACD and Anoka County to address the expansive erosion of streambank and habitat on the Rum River. Anoka County has pledged matching funds to support state grant acquisition over this five-year plan. LSOHC, Clean Water Fund, and Conservation Partners Legacy funds will be leveraged in unison to achieve the greatest benefit to the Rum River possible over that span. LSOHC funding represents the largest portion of the funding framework due to the opportunity to create and enhance critical high quality riparian-littoral transitional habitat along a key ecological water resource in Anoka County. The ecological and water quality benefits of this project, paired with the water quality benefit of Clean Water Fund and Conservation Partners Legacy projects, will ensure the Rum River remains a healthy ecological, recreational, and water quality resource in Anoka County.

Does this program include leverage in funds:

Yes

Leverage sources include secured funds from Anoka County and requested but unsecured funds from watershed management organizations. In all cases, the landowner would be required to provide matching funds, whether they are in public or private ownership. Anoka County has pledged over \$442k of grant match over five years for Rum River stabilization and enhancement projects. Of the \$442k Anoka County pledge, \$141,888 is planned as direct match for this project. An additional \$96,175 is anticipated as landowner match as a sum of all individual project match dollars. Stabilization projects occurring on land owned by municipalities or Anoka County will still be required to have a landowner match contributed by the owning entity.

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

Describe the relationship of the funds:

Not Listed

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the OHF must inform the LSOHC at the time of the request for funding is made, 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 will not supplant or substitute any previous funding.

Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:

Not Listed

Activity Details

Requirements:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

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 - Yes (Public Waters)

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - No

Land Use:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - No

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Landowner outreach and site selection for 2021 projects	September 2020
Site survey, design engineering, and permitting	February 2021
Project construction	September 2021
Landowner outreach and site selection for 2022 projects	September 2021
Site survey, design engineering, and permitting	February 2022
Project construction	September 2022
Landowner outreach/site selection for 2023 projects (in the event that all projects are not completed in first two years)	September 2022
Site survey, design engineering, and permitting	February 2023
Project construction	June 2023

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$952,200

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$71,400	\$17,900	Anoka County/Landowners, Anoka County/Landowners, Anoka County/Landowners	\$89,300
Contracts	\$761,800	\$190,500	Anoka County/Landowners	\$952,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$95,200	\$23,800	Anoka County/Landowners	\$119,000
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$23,800	\$6,000	Anoka County/Landowners	\$29,800
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$952,200	\$238,200		-\$1,190,400

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
ACD District Manager	0.06	3.00	\$21,400	\$5,400	Anoka County/Landowners	\$26,800
ACD Administrator	0.01	3.00	\$2,100	\$500	Anoka County/Landowners	\$2,600
ACD Specialist	0.21	3.00	\$47,900	\$12,000	Anoka County/Landowners	\$59,900
Total	0.28	9.00	\$71,400	\$17,900		-\$89,300

Amount of Request: \$952,200
 Amount of Leverage: \$238,200
 Leverage as a percent of the Request: 25.02%
 DSS + Personnel: \$71,400
 As a % of the total request: 7.50%
 Easement Stewardship: \$0
 As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -%

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 survey and design work will be performed under Professional Services and ACD personnel cost.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

Leverage sources include secured funds from Anoka County and requested but unsecured funds from watershed management organizations. In all cases, the landowner would be required to provide matching funds, whether they are in public or private ownership.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes

Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the "economy of scale" and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:

The project is fully scalable by completing fewer sites, provided sufficient funds are provided to complete at least one site. In no case would we pursue addressing only a portion of a bank failure, as doing so would undermine the stability of resulting project.

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
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	3	3
Total	0	0	0	3	3

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
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	\$952,200	\$952,200
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$952,200	\$952,200

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
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	3	0	0	0	0	3
Total	3	0	0	0	0	3

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
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	\$952,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$952,200
Total	\$952,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$952,200

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$317,400

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
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	\$317,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Rum River 0.5 miles or 2,640 feet.

I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

Parcel List

Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:

Twenty-one eroding stream banks were identified as having a high potential for habitat enhancement benefits, as well as water quality benefit through a bioengineering stabilization project. Four to eight sites will be enhanced and stabilized through this project. Specific sites will be selected based on a number of factors: Anticipated project cost, habitat enhancement potential, cost-benefit for water quality improvement through TSS load reduction, landowner buy-in, and site accessibility. Potential project locations span the Rum River through Anoka County from St. Francis to Anoka and exist on both public and private property.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Anoka

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
1	03424229	0	\$0	No
10	03225236	0	\$0	No
11	03124224	0	\$0	No
2	03424232	0	\$0	No
3	03324205	0	\$0	No
4	03324220	0	\$0	No
5	03324229	0	\$0	No
6	03324231	0	\$0	No
7	03225212	0	\$0	No
8	03225213	0	\$0	No
9	03225225	0	\$0	No

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

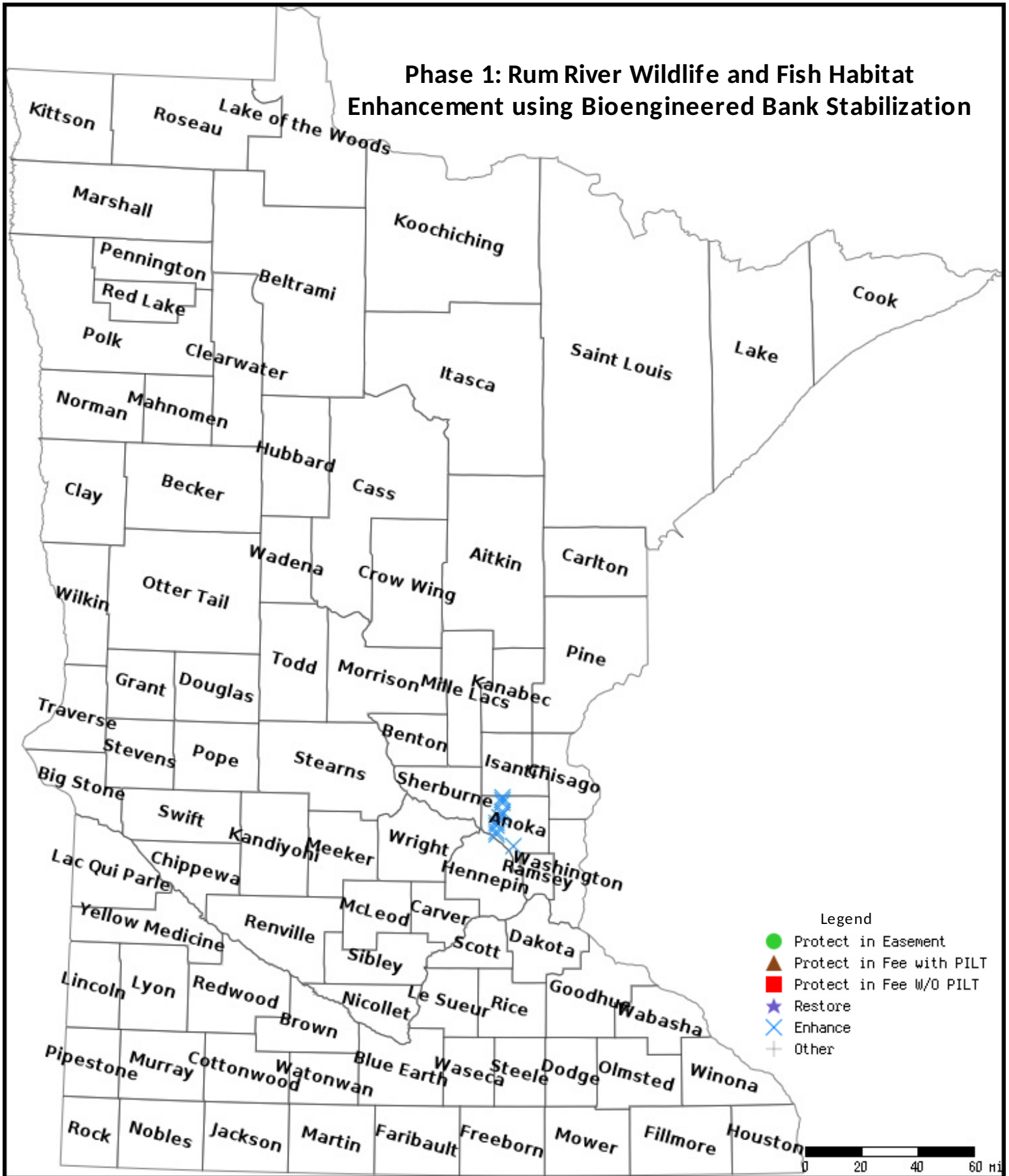
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Phase 1: Rum River Wildlife and Fish Habitat Enhancement using Bioengineered Bank Stabilization



Data Generated From Parcel List

Phase 1 - Rum River Wildlife and Fish Habitat Enhancement using Bioengineered Bank Stabilization



PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

- Rum River bank stabilization projects are recommended in the 2017 Rum River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) report by state and local agencies and stakeholders.
- The Anoka Conservation District (ACD) identified 80 eroding stretches totaling seven miles of riverbank.
- Critical riparian-littoral transitional habitat is missing along these seven miles, and 7,838 tons of sediment is delivered to the river annually, smothering habitat for mussels, invertebrates, and spawning fish.
- LSOHC, CPL, and Clean Water Fund grants will be pursued to address sites based on scale and severity.
- Two phases are planned for LSOHC requests for Rum River habitat-building bioengineering projects in Anoka County over five years. Additional requests with upstream partners may be possible in the future.

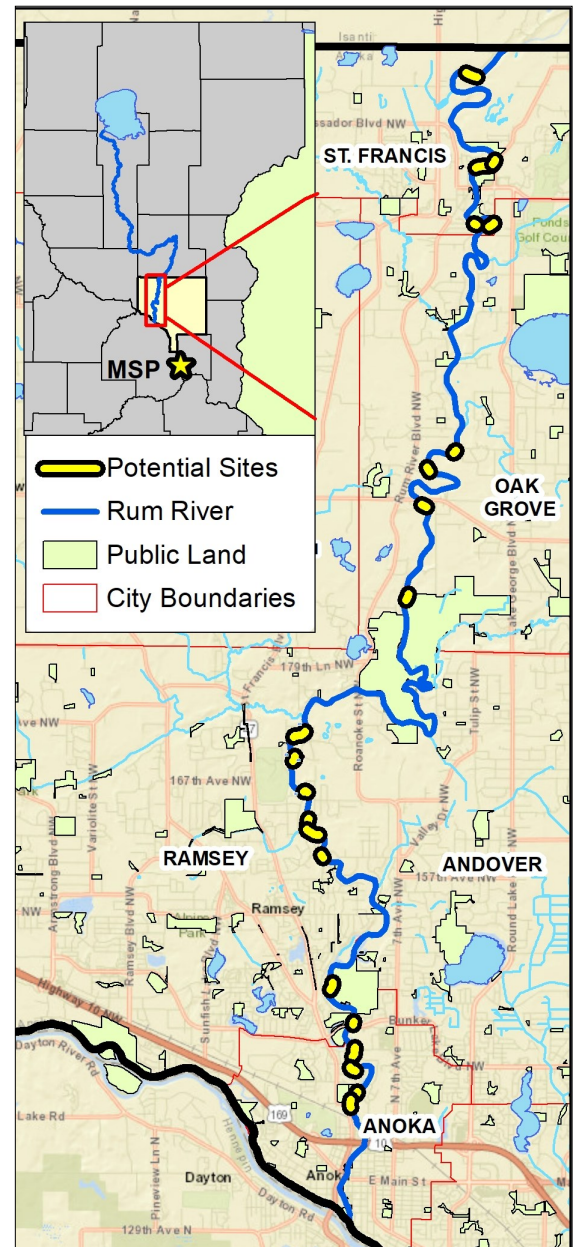
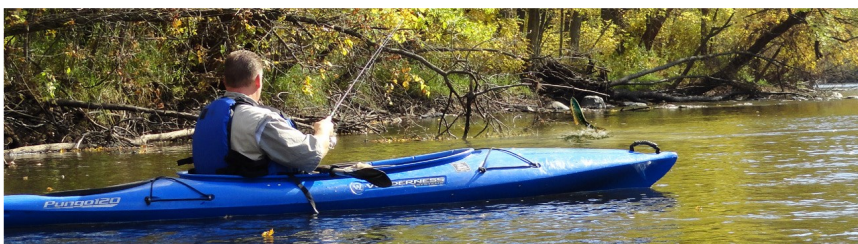
PROJECT SUMMARY

- Stabilization and habitat enhancement of four to eight sites over three years during Phase 1 with \$952,200 LSOHC -OHF funds
- Enhanced opportunity for fishing, hunting, and recreation on a key public water resource
- Project partners: ACD, Anoka County, and landowners
- Support from: Upper Rum River WMO, Lower Rum River WMO, and MN Waterfowl Association



LONG-TERM STRATEGY

- Anoka County approved \$442,000 in grant match over the next five years.
- Future LSOHC requests will be made for additional habitat building bioengineering projects.
- Clean Water Fund grants will be pursued for projects requiring substantial hard armoring.
- CPL funds will be pursued for smaller projects addressable by cedar tree revetment projects.





PROJECT BENEFITS

- Habitat enhancement (up to three acres) for game fish, waterfowl, and non-game wildlife
- Reconnection of fragmented riparian habitat along up to a half mile of riverbank
- Water quality and clarity improvement downstream by reducing up to 750 tons of sediment annually
- Projects will protect both public and private land currently being lost to erosion.
- Wildlife-friendly approaches will be developed or tested to advance bioengineering practices for wildlife benefit.

BIOENGINEERING

- Relies on natural materials to stabilize banks while providing transitional habitat that is traversable by wildlife
- May include light grading and toe armor, native plants, woody materials, and rock vanes
- Stabilizes soils to prevent sediment loading to river, improving water quality, fish spawning beds, and mussel habitat
- Reconnects currently fragmented riparian-littoral habitat along the river



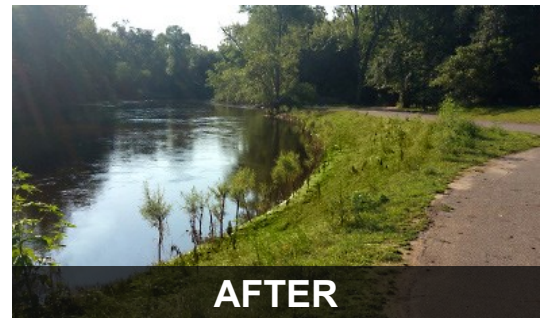
BEFORE



AFTER



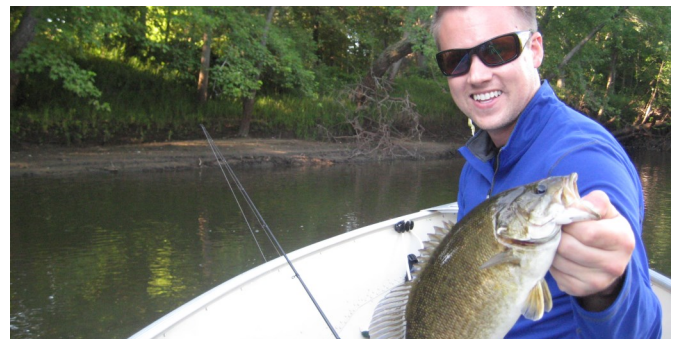
BEFORE



AFTER

MINNESOTA'S RUM RIVER

- State Outstanding Resource Value Water
- State Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River
- State Water Trail
- World-class smallmouth bass fishery
- Key reach for Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN); Several mussels, Blanding's turtle





Rum River Chapter
Minnesota Waterfowl Association
5251 156th Lane NW, Ramsey, MN 55303

May 20th, 2019

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council,

The Rum River Chapter of the Minnesota Waterfowl Association (MWA) is pleased to support the LSOHC grant application being submitted by the Anoka Conservation District for "Habitat, Fisheries, and Bank Enhancement along the Rum River in Anoka County". Please give this grant application very serious consideration.

The projects outlined in this proposal will have a lasting benefit for waterfowl and other wildlife that call the Rum River home. One of the biggest threats facing waterfowl populations today is the lack of high quality nesting habitat. Our chapter is particularly excited about the prospect of creating this critical near-shore habitat type along the Rum River itself. This will also offer flood control benefits and provide natural filters that will improve the water quality within the watershed.

The Minnesota Waterfowl Association has a mission of protecting, restoring, and enhancing Minnesota's important wetland areas and associated upland habitats. Thus, the Rum River Chapter fully supports the Anoka Conservation District in their quest to acquire funding for this very important project. We would ask that this grant application be given the strongest consideration for funding for the reasons stated above.

Sincerely,

Ross M. Hedin
President - Rum River Chapter
Minnesota Waterfowl Association



May 16, 2019

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council,

The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) is pleased to support the LSOHC grant application being submitted by the Anoka Conservation District for "Habitat, Fisheries, and Bank Enhancement along the Rum River in Anoka County". Please give this grant application every positive consideration.

We think the Rum River is highly deserving the LSOHC attention. It is:

- One of seven State Scenic, Recreational and Scenic River.
- A State Water Trail.
- Within a MN DNR Metro Conservation Corridor.
- Drinking water source for the Twin Cities.
- Solid but could-be-better game fishery, particularly for smallmouth bass, walleye and northern pike.

This project is supported by watershed-level prioritization in the Rum River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) report.

The need for this project greatly exceeds local resources, so LSOHC is important. Our organization has in the past funded and supported small-scale riverbank stabilizations. Our board has also taken every-two-year pontoon tours of the river. Though this, and other inventories, we've noted many places where riverbank stability and riparian habitat need improvement.

Please consider the LRRWMO an enthusiastic supporter of this grant application and the invaluable outcomes that will result.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Haas", written in a cursive style.

Todd Haas
Lower Rum River WMO Chair

May 9, 2019

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council,

The Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (URRWMO) is pleased to support the LSOHC grant application being submitted by the Anoka Conservation District for "Habitat, Fisheries, and Bank Enhancement along the Rum River in Anoka County". Please give this grant application every positive consideration.

The project is a local and regional priority supported by science. It will meet one of the top three project priorities in our URRWMO 10-year watershed plan. The project is also supported by the science and a watershed-level prioritization in the Rum River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) report.

The Rum River is one of the most significant and valuable water and wildlife resources in our region. We're pleased that the proposed project offers both habitat and water quality benefits. As a State Scenic and Recreational river known as an excellent fishery and drinking water source for the Twin Cities, well-rounded projects like this are strongly supported due to multiple benefits. Please consider the URRWMO an enthusiastic supporter of this grant application and the invaluable outcomes that will result.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John West", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

John West
Upper Rum River WMO Chair