



ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MEMO

To: City Councils of Andover, Anoka, Oak Grove, Ramsey, and St. Francis
From: Jared Wagner, Water Resource Technician
Date: June 27, 2019
Re: Rum River Stabilization Project Grants

ACD, along with Anoka County, is applying for three different grants to do Rum River stabilization projects over the next three years. Each grant will address a specific scale or severity of erosion with different project types outlined below. Candidate sites were identified in a Rum River Erosion inventory completed by ACD in early 2019. These kinds of projects improve water quality by collectively stabilizing thousands of tons of sediment that would otherwise wash into the river. It also assists your residents by providing financial and technical help to stabilize their riverbanks.

We are asking that you please consider signing the attached letter of support to help bolster our applications by showing that your city is a supporter of ACD's efforts to bring this state grant funding to Anoka County where it will benefit your community. We can use one letter for all three grant proposals we plan to submit.

Planned Grant Applications

1. **Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC): \$952,255** request to complete 4-8 bioengineering bank stabilization projects that build habitat and provide water quality benefit.
2. **Clean Water Fund (CWF): \$439,003** request to complete 1-2 large hard armoring projects that require extensive engineering and provide a large water quality benefit.
3. **Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL): \$183,355** request to complete 20+ cedar tree revetment projects where erosion is mild, but likely to worsen if not treated.

Total = \$1,574,612 in grant requests

These grants do require local matching funds, but we are not directly requesting any funds from your city. Anoka County is providing 13% of the matching funds, landowners will provide 10%, and the Upper Rum River and Lower Rum River WMOs will each be asked to provide 1% (\$15,000).

Pictures of some similar projects installed in the past are included in the attached grant proposal illustration.

Please consider passing a motion to support ACD Rum River grant proposals and sign the attached letter of support.

Phase 1 - Rum River Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Enhancement Through Bioengineering



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.

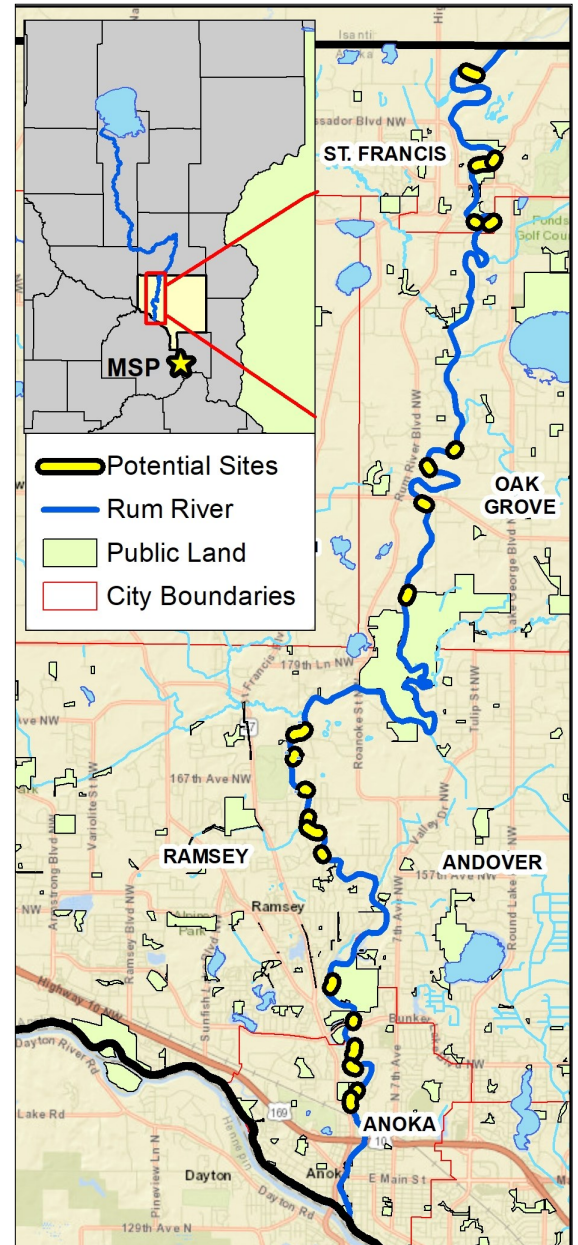
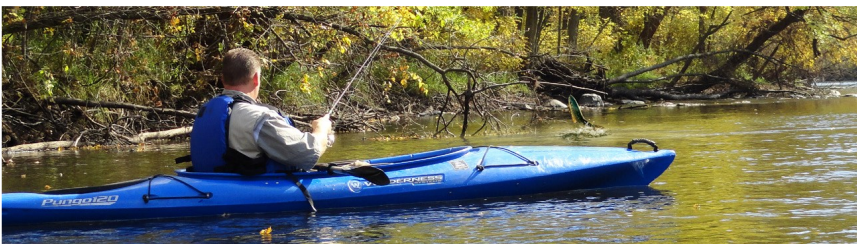
PROJECT SUMMARY

- 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.



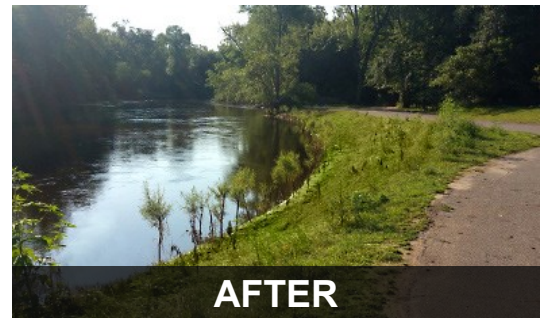


PROJECT BENEFITS

- 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



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

