

Grant Duration: 1 April 2003 – 31 October 2005
Final Report Due: 31 December 2005

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1. Describe in detail the results of this Project

The corridor-wide **master plan and detailed design work** has been completed the Center for Changing Landscapes (CCL¹) and presented to multiple community groups of the Red Lake River in northwestern Minnesota. A final presentation to the basin occurred in Red Lake Falls on 20 October 2005 to >60 community members including citizens, community and county leaders, and state legislators. The master plan and designs were created following an initial regional study completed by the Environmental Resources Spatial Analysis Center (ERSAC²). This analysis of all existing resources, facilitated by GIS technology, served as the building block for the master plan and was incorporated into the presentations at public meetings. The master plan design creates a boat/canoe trail along the entire length of the river. It outlines a frame work that locates: new access points, segments the river by experience, required ability, and environment, potential areas for backcountry camping, day use facilities, multi-day trips, identifies a road route to follow the river, locates signage, designed signage, established a design vocabulary, and areas where existing resources could be adapted for canoeing/boating experiences. Moreover, the design team has developed community plans for East Grand Forks, Fisher, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire, and Thief River Falls. A copy of the master plan and design work is included with this report (Center for Changing Landscapes 2005).

With the idea of providing a product that acts as a catalyst for river trail development, CALA has developed a **detailed framework plan** for the Red Lake River from St. Hilaire to Crookston. As design work has progressed from community to community, we have taken a “Closer Look” at the potentials for river campsites, access and interpretation. This protocol is based primarily in sandy beach landing areas, daily mileage, the provision for single day to multi-day river trips, availability of public land, areas of private land where river access only camp sites are needed, land cover types, unique environments, historic considerations, and road crossings. This framework does not reflect outreach to individual landowners; rather, it is a plan for the future that provides a direction and points to areas for the enhancement of the river and recreational use. Based on existing river use in this stretch with existing recreation businesses that use the river, we hope that this plan acts as a model for the rest of the river to enhance river use.

The CCL group has worked with the 6 communities of the Red Lake River Corridor: East Grand Forks, Fisher, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire, and Thief River Falls. They have shown communities how recreational trails, restoration, and improved access to the river can create new

¹Center for Changing Landscapes (CCL), College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. <http://ccl.gis.umn.edu/redlakeriver.html>

²Environmental Resources Spatial Analysis Center (ERSAC), College of Natural Resources, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. <http://www.gis.umn.edu/>

amenities for a community and act as an attraction that would serve regional visitors. They addressed a variety of project prototypes at a variety of scales specific to those communities. Their approach, as explained and coordinated at the joint powers board meetings, phone conversations, and among involved community members, has been to focus design in communities along the Red Lake River and address a variety of design options within each community. The result has been the identification of various projects at various scales within each community. The projects are specific to their location but also serve as prototypical design solutions that could be used across the entire corridor.

We developed a series of **Red Lake River Canoe and Small Boat Brochures**. This cooperative effort between the University of Minnesota, the Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership and CCL has resulted in 7 brochures: an overview and 6 detailed river segments. These tri-fold brochures promote the river as a recreational resource for small boat and canoe enthusiasts.

The **Web Site** (<http://www.RedLakeRiverCorridor.org/>) has been enhanced with tourism-friendly “Splash Page” to guide visitors to important recreational resources. The site has been updated and continues to be used by the group to promote their message and distribute information. All products created by the project are available at the site.

Red Lake River Corridor Land Use Change Projections were completed by ERSAC very early in the project and formed the basis for much of the subsequent design. The GIS database and analyses detail projected change in land use on the landscape along a 5-mile wide corridor centered on the river. Their technical report is included (Schwalm et al. 2004). The **Geographic Information System (GIS) database and coverages** of land use patterns and projections of land use in 2020 and 2050 along the Red Lake River corridor are available online at <http://www.RedLakeRiverCorridor.org/GIS/>. Potential users who do not have GIS software to view coverages can download a free copy of OpenEV at <http://openev.sourceforge.net>. OpenEV is a library and reference application for viewing and analyzing geospatial data.

2. How do the results compare with the goals and objectives outlined in the original grant application? Explain any changes.

The corridor design and planning met or exceeded our goals as set out in the original proposal. The land use analyses were completed as planned except over a somewhat larger extent (5 miles wide, rather than 4). It was an integral part of the design work. Although the GIS database is available at the project web site, we did not conduct a proposed GIS short-course with city, county and agency personnel because of personnel changes. The workshop was never budgeted and we assumed that Co-PI Dave Arscott would conduct the workshop. He was supported on another grant. When he left, the expertise for such a workshop left with him. The Joint Powers Board is considering other options to present such a workshop. The enhanced development of the web site and the creation of the small boat and canoe brochures were 2 opportunities to promote the region and river that went beyond the original proposal.

3. What impact will this project have on the ability of your organization to accomplish its mission and/or on the management and operations of the organization? Please be specific and give examples.

The corridor master plan and design work will foster communities’ ability to envision a greater capacity of the Red Lake River. In doing so, the RLRCE Group will be able to better communicate this vision and gather support for continued and ongoing projects with local citizens, community leaders and governments, agencies, and state legislators.

4. What impact will this project have on other organizations or agencies?

Local governmental units now recognize the vision, passion, and potential of promoting recreation of the river. Throughout, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has been a supporter. This effort will permit them to seek funding for enhancement and restoration work for identified and tangible projects.

5. What new or changed relationships, collaborations, partnerships or joint ventures have resulted from this project? Include whether these are long term and describe the impact on the organizations involved and the people they serve.

The Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Project (RLRCEP) Joint Powers Board continues to be active in building community interest and support in the river corridor. They continue to hold meetings nearly monthly. Meetings are attended by ~15 community representatives each month. Moreover, the meeting announcing the final design work was well attended by representatives from city, county, and state government. The group is gaining standing and recognition as a group that is motivated and affecting positive change in the basin. All these relationships are long term.

6. What additional activities are planned and what process has been established leading to the continuation of project activities?

Although the project has concluded, the Joint Powers Board continues to meet and plan for the future. They currently have submitted proposals for >\$1 million in funding for enhancements through the legislative bonding process as well as other potential funding sources. Because much of this project was completed by external entities, the project completion has not resulted in a decrease in the corridor group's activities – The group continues to be active.

7. If additional funds are necessary to implement identified activities resulting from this project, describe plans to secure the needed funding.

See #6 above.

8. If a consultant was used for this project, describe the strengths and weaknesses of the consultant including why you would or would not use him/her again and whether you would recommend him/her to others.

The project drew on the expertise from two University entities that might be considered a "consultant." Both units preformed as expected. ERSAC compiled the GIS data in a timely fashion and coordinated their efforts well with CCL. CCL created excellent designs, were responsive to community and project manager input, were flexible when needed, but also met deadlines when we could no longer be flexible. We recommend both them without reserve.

NMF RELATED

9. What suggestions do you or other involved in this project have on how the NMF could be more effective in helping your organization or project accomplish its goals?

Northwest Minnesota Foundation's support, patience, flexibility was appreciated. I have no direct feedback to alter current practices.

10. The main goals of the NMF are to stimulate economic development and to build the capacity of organizations, individuals and communities within northwest Minnesota to shape the region's future. What recommendations would you make to help accomplish these goals?

I believe recent NMF foci on the environment, natural resources, and natural resources-based tourism have been positive steps to accomplishing these goals.

Acknowledgements

Dave Arscott provided the initial push and intellectual energy in forming the original proposal. Although he left the project in 2003, his legacy remains. Following Dave's departure, Linda Kingery, Executive Director of the Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, provided significant leadership in working with the community partners and overall project administration, for which I am very grateful. Carlos J. Fernandez, Josh Kinney, Mary Vogel, and others at the Center for Changing Landscapes provided excellent designs. The Joint Powers Board members and a multitude of community volunteers also have contributed to the success of this project.

Products included with this report.

Center for Changing Landscapes. 2005. Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Project: master plan and landscape and site designs. College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and College of Natural Resources, University of Minnesota. 187 pp. Large Format.

Red Lake River Canoe and Small Boat Brochures. Overview and 6 segment brochures, 2 pages each.

Schwalm, C. K. Page, and A. Ek. 2004. Red Lake River Corridor Land Use Change Projections. Environmental Resources Spatial Analysis Center, College of Natural Resources, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. 11pp.

CD-ROM containing GIS database and land use projections; master plan, design work, small boat and canoe brochures, and this report in .pdf format.

NORTHWEST MINNESOTA FOUNDATION
FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT – current as of 31 December 2005

Grant # 2360

Any problem or deviations from original project budget should be explained in an attached narrative.

Expenditures	NMF To date	TOTAL BUDGETED
I. PERSONNEL		
<i>A. Salaries & Wages</i>	\$28821.78	\$27,544
<i>B. Fringe Benefits</i>	\$5462.75	\$5,906
<i>C. Consultants & Contract Services</i>		
II. NON-PERSONNEL		
<i>A. Space Costs</i>		
<i>B. Rental, Lease or Equip. Purchase</i>		
<i>C. Consumable Supplies</i>	\$1305.29	\$1,250
<i>D. Travel</i>	\$2232.67	\$2,500
<i>E. Telephone</i>	\$2.65	\$500
<i>F. Other Costs</i>		
<i>G. Indirect Costs</i>	\$2174.86	\$2,300
TOTAL COSTS	\$40000	\$40,000

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Expenditures	NMF To date	Other Sources			TOTAL SPENT	TOTAL BUDGETED	TOTAL REMAINING
		NWP*	PTRCD**	In-Kind			
I. PERSONNEL							
<i>A. Salaries & Wages</i>	\$28,821.78	\$32,134.24	\$10,816.61		\$71,772.63	\$62,283.00	- \$9,489.63
<i>B. Fringe Benefits</i>	\$5,462.75	\$7,174.59	\$1,647.57		\$14,284.91	\$23,881.50	\$9,596.59
<i>C. Consultants & Contract Services</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
II. NON-PERSONNEL							
<i>A. Space Costs</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
<i>B. Rental, Lease or Equip. Purchase</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
<i>C. Consumable Supplies</i>	\$1,305.29	\$2,553.37	\$0.00		\$3,858.66	\$2,500.00	-\$1,358.66
<i>D. Travel</i>	\$2,232.67	\$783.93	\$0.00		\$3,016.60	\$5,000.00	\$1,983.40
<i>E. Telephone</i>	\$2.65	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$2.65	\$1,000.00	\$997.35
<i>F. Other Costs</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
<i>G. Indirect Costs</i>	\$2,174.86	\$401.66	\$0.00		\$2,576.52	\$3,335.50	\$758.98
TOTAL COSTS	\$40,000.00	\$43,047.79	\$12,464.18		\$95,511.97	\$98,000.00	\$2,488.03
Total Budgeted	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$15,000		\$95,000.00		
Total Remaining	0	-\$3,047.79	\$2535.82		-\$511.97		

* Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership

** Pembina Trail Resource, Conservation and Development Association – Income from Community Partners. Only \$15,000 was granted to the University while \$3,000 was retained by PTRC&D in reserve to be used by the Joint Powers Board and communities.

In January 2006, all accounts will be balanced, zeroed, and closed.