



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2014 Work Plan

Date of Report: January 15, 2014
Date of Next Status Update Report: December 1, 2014
Date of Work Plan Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2017
Does this submission include an amendment request? No

PROJECT TITLE: Urban Environmental Education Engaging Students in Local Resources (UEE)

Project Manager: Chad Dayton
Organization: Wilderness Inquiry
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Location: Statewide; including Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington

Total ENRTF Project Budget: \$1,093,000	ENRTF Appropriation: \$1,093,000
	Amount Spent: \$0
	Balance: \$1,093,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c

Appropriation Language:

\$1,093,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Wilderness Inquiry for a collaborative partnership, including the National Park Service, Minneapolis Public Schools, and St. Paul Public Schools, to establish a metrowide system providing place-based environmental education experiences using existing, but underutilized, outdoor environmental resources serving over 15,000 middle and high school students. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2017, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Urban Environmental Education Engaging Students in Local Resources (UEE)

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

Urban Environmental Education Engaging Students in Local Resources (UEE) facilitates a variety of high quality, place-based, environmental education programs for 15,600 low-income youth over three years by establishing an environmental education system for disadvantaged middle and high school students in the seven-county metro area. In partnership with Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Schools, Wilderness Inquiry will conduct a series of teacher professional development workshops generating specific experiential curricula, adherent to state standards, into the districts during the academic year and summer credit recovery programs for middle and high school students. In addition to both metro school districts, UEE will work in partnership with the National Park Service, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minneapolis and Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, the Minnesota Department of Education, and others, using existing but underutilized environmental resources throughout the metro area as program sites. These include, but are not limited to:

- Kroening Center at North Mississippi Park
- Minnehaha Falls Park
- New Urban Wilderness Youth Camp at FSSP
- Lilydale Regional Park
- Grey Cloud Island
- St. Anthony Falls
- Quaking Bog at Theodore Wirth Park
- Thomas Savage Center and FSSP
- Crosby Farm Regional Park
- Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary
- Mississippi River Gorge
- Spring Lake Park Reserve near Hastings

With today’s youth increasingly disconnected from the natural world, it is more important than ever to provide opportunities for environmental learning and engagement in local communities. The Twin Cities are home to an abundance of high quality environmental resources, many in connection with the Mississippi River. Unfortunately, most are largely unvisited by low income youth and youth of color—a growing percentage of our urban population. A significant inhibiting factor is that these resources are managed by multiple agencies that do not have a grand plan for connecting youth to environmental resources outside of their jurisdictions, resulting in often redundant, competitive, and small scale outreach efforts and underutilized resources. UEE will directly address this barrier and enhance partners’ individual strengths by facilitating a cross-jurisdictional, interagency partnership consortium. Additional partnering organizations will include the Minnesota Department of Education, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; many partnering organizations will help facilitate educational and interpretive programmatic elements. Additionally, UEE will establish and facilitate Outdoor Clubs in multiple schools throughout the metro districts that utilize this partnership consortium to provide single and multi-day experiential opportunities, many for academic credit.

Through a variety of experiential, place-based educational programs ranging from six to 60 hours in duration, at an average cost of \$70 per student, UEE provides the opportunity for enriching and engaging environmental science and social studies lessons and the development of core personal skills which lead to success in school and life. UEE will implement district-wide, experiential, place-based education in accordance with Minnesota’s K—12 Academic Standards on an unprecedented, metro-wide scale reaching thousands of students and laying the groundwork for future replication and expansion.

To extend its impact statewide, UEE will also include youth from six greater Minnesota school districts on multi-day environmental learning exchange experiences. UEE will conduct ten experiential learning exchanges, serving 100 youth and consisting of two, five-day experiences. One of these will take place in the Twin Cities, at sites listed above. The other experience will take place in outstate locations such as Voyageurs National Park, Superior National Forest, or Chippewa National Forest.

UEE anticipated outcomes include:

- Establishing a metro-wide, integrated system for delivery of cost-effective experiential environmental education
- 12,000 students introduced to experiential, place-based environmental education using local resources
- 2,500 students receive more in-depth exposure via three-day overnight experiences
- 1,000 students participate in five-day experiential, place-based environmental education
- 100 urban and outstate youth participate in environmental learning exchange experiences
- Evaluation of program effectiveness in meeting Minnesota's K—12 Academic Standards

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of December 1, 2014:

Project Status as of June 1, 2015:

Project Status as of December 1, 2015:

Project Status as of June 1, 2016:

Project Status as of December 1, 2016:

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Introduce 15,500 students to place-based environmental education

Description: Program staff will coordinate and engage with MPS and SPPS administrators and teachers to develop place-based activities that support the development of student academic, social, and personal skills and meet Minnesota's K—12 Academic Standards through experiential environmental education. Students from more than 20 middle and high schools will be recruited to participate. Program staff will coordinate school involvement, establish learning objectives, and leverage existing MN State Evaluation processes to determine academic success of students with a focus on progress toward reducing or eliminating the achievement gap. We are allocating \$13,000 in staff time for activity planning and coordination.

Over three-years, 12,000 middle and high school students will participate in one-day environmental education experiences by Voyageur canoeing, hiking, and other means utilizing extraordinary natural sites such as the Quaking Bog at Theodore Wirth Park, the gorge on the Mississippi River, Fort Snelling State Park, etc.
Cost \$30 X 12,000 students = \$360,000.

2,500 students will participate in 3-day place-based environmental education, including overnight camping at sites such as Fort Snelling State Park, North Mississippi Regional Park, Three Rivers Parks, Lake Elmo, and other regional sites. Cost \$108 X 2,500 students = \$270,000.

1,000 students experience five-days of place-based education while canoeing, camping, and exploring along the Mississippi River from Anoka to Hastings utilizing existing facilities, such as North Mississippi Regional Park, Fort Snelling State Park, Lilydale Regional Park, and Grey Cloud Island, with an emphasis on exploring ecological features of three Mississippi River ecosystems: prairie, gorge, and flood plain.
Cost \$300 X 1,000 students = \$300,000.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**ENRTF Budget:** \$943,000**Amount Spent:** \$ 0**Balance:** \$943,000**Activity Completion Date:** June 30, 2017

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Select activity sites and learning objectives with MPS and SPPS; engage school partners	October 31, 2016	\$13,000
2. 12,000 students receive 6 hours of place-based learning	June 30, 2017	\$360,000
3. 2,500 students receive total of 20 hours of place-based learning at metro area sites	June 30, 2017	\$270,000
4. 1,000 students receive 40 hours of place-based experiential learning throughout MNRRA	June 30, 2017	\$300,000

Activity Status as of December 1, 2014:**Activity Status as of** June 1, 2015:**Activity Status as of** December 1, 2015:**Activity Status as of** June 1, 2016:**Activity Status as of** December 1, 2016:**Final Report Summary:****ACTIVITY 2:** Provide environmental learning exchange experiences for 100 youth

Description: 100 underserved students, 50 from metro and 50 from greater MN, participate in learning exchanges consisting of two, five-day experiences (one in Twin Cities and one in greater MN) to explore each other's local natural resources. UEE will collaborate with the Minnesota Department of Education to secure participation of six greater MN school districts. Students from different parts of the state will gain broader understanding of the connection between Minnesota's urban and outstate environments, fostering a deep connection to the land and to each other. Cost \$900/student for ten-day intensive experiences consisting of five-days in metro and five-days in places like Voyageurs National Park, Superior National Forest, and Chippewa National Forest. 10 days total X 100 students = \$90,000.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:**ENRTF Budget:** \$90,000**Amount Spent:** \$ 0**Balance:** \$90,000**Activity Completion Date:** June 30, 2017

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. 50 students receive 5 days of place-based environmental learning in Twin Cities sites	June 30, 2017	\$45,000
2. 50 students receive 5 days of place-based environmental learning in greater MN sites	June 30, 2017	\$45,000

Activity Status as of December 1, 2014:**Activity Status as of** June 1, 2015:**Activity Status as of** December 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of June 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of December 1, 2016:

Final Report Summary:

Activity 3: Evaluate success, measure impact of the UEE program, and disseminate results

Description: Oversee, track, and evaluate the success of the UEE program and curricula providing place-based, experiential educational opportunities, in accordance with Minnesota’s K—12 academic standards, for low-income youth throughout the metro and statewide. UEE will work with researchers from the University of Minnesota’s Center for Applied Research & Educational Improvement to develop and implement evaluation strategies to measure the impact and effectiveness of the experiential programming and integrated curricula in achieving environmental education outcomes in science, social studies, and language arts, as well as impact on core personal skills and executive function development. We are allocating \$60,000 for data collection, evaluation, and dissemination (\$20,000/year).

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$60,000
Amount Spent: \$0
Balance: \$60,000

Activity Completion Date: June 30, 2017

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Evaluation process established and implemented; data collection, evaluation, and reporting	August 1, 2015	\$20,000
2. Data collection, evaluation, and reporting	August 1, 2016	\$20,000
3. Data collection, evaluation, and reporting; evaluation report summary, distribution, dissemination, and publication	June 30, 2017	\$20,000

Activity Status as of December 1, 2014:

Activity Status as of June 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of December 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of June 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of December 1, 2016:

Final Report Summary:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: We will work with our partners at the University of Minnesota, Center for Applied Research & Educational Improvement and the public schools to identify venues for disseminating information, statistical data, and findings summaries about this project. Information such as numbers served, activity types, and partnerships will also be posted at <www.urbanwildernesscanoeadventures.com>.

Status as of December 1, 2014:

Status as of June 1, 2015:

Status as of December 1, 2015:

Status as of June 1, 2016:

Status as of December 1, 2016:

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$671,175	1 Program Director at 35% FTE for 3 years; 1 Program Manager at 35%FTE for 3 years; 1 Program Coordinator at 85% FTE for 3 years; 1 Program Assistant at 95% FTE for 3 years; Trail Guides (to maintain 7:1 student to staff ratio; 3,700 staff days X \$75/8-hour day = 14.23 FTE for 3 years) NOTE: All full-time personnel benefits and taxes are paid for by WI in-kind support (15% X \$225,5000 = \$33,825)
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$150,000	Teacher stipend for MPS and SPPS administration and faculty liaisons and Teacher-Ranger-Teachers and/or equivalents; project data collection and evaluation
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$31,000	Equipment maintenance and repair (\$3,000 X 3 years); tents, paddles, clothing, sleeping bags, and other overnight camping equipment (\$9,000); restroom rental for program sites (\$3,000); personal floatation devices (average \$40 X 250)
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$48,400	Transportation for students to and from program sites (average \$200 X 242 events)
Liability Insurance:	\$75,000	(\$25,000 X 3 years) Students in this program will engage in canoeing, hiking, camping, and other outdoor activities that have inherent risk. While Wilderness Inquiry had an excellent safety record, we must carry liability insurance for this program. We use a standard cost per service day (one person served for one day) to allocate insurance costs. The UEE represents 23% of our projected overall service days. \$25,000 represents 23% of our annual liability insurance cost.
Camping & Entrance Fees; Permits;	\$22,925	(\$94.73 x 242 events)

Licenses:		
Food:	\$94,500	(1,000 students X 5 days) + (2,500 students X 3 days) + (100 students X 10 days) X \$7/meal/student/day NOTE: Food is a required item for extended/overnight trips as 65% of MPS and 73% of SPPS students qualify for "free and reduced lunch" through the National School Lunch Program
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$1,093,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: 50.5 FTEs
(7.5 FTE project partners + 43 FTE Trail Guides)

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: 9 FTEs

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
Minneapolis Public Schools	\$300,000	\$0	Program fee payments—post program development and implementation
Saint Paul Public Schools	\$300,000	\$0	Program fee payments—post program development and implementation
Wilderness Inquiry (In-kind support)	\$305,000	\$0	All full-time personnel benefits and taxes; general staff support, including Executive Director, Finance Director, Operation Director, equipment, non-event travel, and facilities
National Park Service (In-kind support)	\$270,000	\$0	Program development and implementation
Mississippi River Fund (In-kind support)	\$135,000	\$0	Staff support, including Executive Director
State			
Minnesota Department of Education	\$100,000	\$0	Program fee payments—post program development and implementation
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$1,410,000	\$0	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Project Team:

UEE Director, Chad Dayton (.35 FTE); estimated wages \$70,000—responsible for directing all aspects of the UEE project to ensure timely and high quality delivery of service including oversight of hiring, training, scheduling,

and supervising staff and volunteers, coordinating with schools, collecting and maintaining accurate demographic data, and executing all trip logistics. (NOTE: All full-time personnel benefits and taxes are paid for by WI in-kind support: $15\% \times \$70,000 = \$10,500$.)

UEE Manager, Julie Storck (.35 FTE); estimated wages \$60,000—responsible for managing logistic details for all events statewide. Supervises staff and ensures quality, safety, and cost effectiveness of all events. Oversees the delivery and implementation of educational curricula and timely communication with school and other partners. (NOTE: All full-time personnel benefits and taxes are paid for by WI in-kind support: $15\% \times \$60,000 = \$9,000$.)

UEE Program Coordinator, TBD (.85 FTE); estimated wages \$50,000—coordinates the day-to-day details of the single and multi-day experiential programs, including hiring, training, scheduling, and supervising staff and volunteers conducting the events, coordinating with schools, collecting and maintaining accurate demographic tallies, coordinating all trip logistics including permits and reservations, transportation, gear, and food. (NOTE: All full-time personnel benefits and taxes are paid for by WI in-kind support: $15\% \times \$50,000 = \$7,500$.)

UEE Program Assistant, TBD (.95 FTE); estimated wages \$45,500—responsible for entering participant registrations and demographic data and collecting, entering, and coding project receipts. Provides assistance with scheduling and communications correspondence for the project. (NOTE: All full-time personnel benefits and taxes are paid for by WI in-kind support: $15\% \times \$45,500 = \$6,825$.)

Project Partners Not Receiving Funds:

- National Park Service: NPS will provide educational and interpretive curricula content on many day and overnight trips. NPS will broker use agreements to facilitate use of the River with other land management agencies. NPS will provide significant in-kind personnel and funding to the project.
- Minnesota Department of Education: MDE will identify and provide access to outstate Minnesota schools for inclusion in environmental learning exchange experiences. MDE will provide in-kind personnel and funding to the project.
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: DNR will provide educational and interpretive curricula content on many day and overnight trips; assist in coordinating access to multiple programming sites throughout the state; and provide significant in-kind personnel and funding to the project.
- Mississippi River Fund: MRF will provide private fundraising support, program promotion, public relations, and evaluation coordination.

Project Partners Receiving Funds:

- Minneapolis Public Schools: \$45,000 for teacher professional development stipends and funding for Teacher-Ranger-Teachers and/or equivalents
- Saint Paul Public Schools: \$45,000 for teacher professional development stipends and funding for Teacher-Ranger-Teachers and/or equivalents
- University of Minnesota, Center for Applied Research & Educational Improvement: \$60,000 for project data collection, evaluation, summary of findings, and dissemination

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: Since 2008, Wilderness Inquiry's Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures (UWCA) program has provided place-based experiential and educational opportunities for over 53,000 people on more than 900 events. In 2013, UWCA's nationally traveling outreach effort, the Canoemobile, served over 4,100 students in 17 cities nationwide. As this ground-breaking initiative continues to expand its breadth, impact, and scale, it is important to implement in Minnesota statewide and more fully integrate programming in accordance with Minnesota's K—12 Academic Standards. By developing and implementing these academically integrated experiential opportunities, UEE will put Minnesota at the forefront of place-based experiential education, significantly impacting the achievement and opportunity gaps throughout both

Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Schools and the larger, seven-county metro area, as well as beginning statewide implementation.

UEE identifies four key components to successfully transition this program model to long-term sustainability and self-sufficiency:

- Place-based, experiential curricula integrated district-wide into Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Schools during both the academic year and summer credit recovery programs will lead to UEE programming incorporated into the districts’ annual budgets.
- District-wide implementation of Outdoor Clubs funded by school districts and subsidized by alternate funding sources.
- UEE integration into outstate school districts through direct programming and learning exchanges demonstrating impact, significance, and success lead to incorporation in the Minnesota Department of Education’s annual budget.
- Demonstrated success, impact, and significance and the dissemination and publication of evaluation results encourage incorporation into school districts’ and the Minnesota Department of Education’s annual budgets subsidized, if necessary, by alternate funding sources.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13	M.L. 2013 or FY14
State:					
ENRTF			\$557,000 Subd. 8(d)		\$450,000 Subd. 7(b)
Non-state:					
Environmental Protection Agency			\$115,000		
National Park Service		\$45,983	\$125,000	\$107,522	
Mississippi River Fund		\$86,391	\$126,700	\$32,500	
Wilderness Inquiry (with funding from various sources)			\$185,750	\$390,190	

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: N/A

IX. VISUAL ELEMENT or MAP(S): See attached maps.

X. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS WORKSHEET: N/A

XI. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than December 1, 2014; June 1, 2015; December 1, 2015; June 1, 2016; December 1, 2016.

A final report and associated products will be submitted between: June 30 and August 15, 2017.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund											
M.L. 2014 Project Budget											
Project Title: Urban Environmental Education Engaging Students in Local Resources (UEE)											
Legal Citation:											
Project Manager: Chad Dayton											
Organization: Wilderness Inquiry											
M.L. 2014 ENRTF Appropriation: \$1,093,000											
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2017											
Date of Report: January 15, 2014											

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	Activity 3 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 3 Budget	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Introduce 15,000 students to place-based environmental education		Provide environmental learning exchange experiences for 100 youth		Evaluate success and measure impact						
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$615,500	\$0	\$615,500	\$55,675	\$0	\$55,675				\$671,175	\$671,175
Chad Dayton, Program Director \$70,000; 35% FTE for 3 years— 100% salary (NOTE: All full-time personnel benefits and taxes are paid for by WI in-kind support: 15% X \$70,000 = \$10,500)											
Julie Storck, Program Manager \$60,000; 35% FTE for 3 years— 100% salary (NOTE: All full-time personnel benefits and taxes are paid for by WI in-kind support: 15% X \$60,000 = \$9,000)											
TBD, Program Coordinator \$50,000; 85% FTE for 3 years— 100% salary (NOTE: All full-time personnel benefits and taxes are paid for by WI in-kind support: 15% X \$50,000 = \$7,500)											
TBD, Program Outreach Assistant \$45,500; 95% FTE for 3 years— 100% salary (NOTE: All full-time personnel benefits and taxes are paid for by WI in-kind support: 15% X \$45,500 = \$6,825)											
Trail Guides: 3,700 staff days @ \$75/8-hour day = \$277,500											
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts											
Minneapolis Public Schools: Professional development & curriculum design/integration	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000				\$45,000	\$45,000
Saint Paul Public Schools: Professional development & curriculum design/integration	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000				\$45,000	\$45,000
University of Minnesota, Center for Applied Research & Educational Improvement: Data processing & evaluation reporting							\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Examples of program supplies and equipment for participants and program volunteers are listed below. Please note that the items below are estimates of program supplies and equipment needed. We will bill for actual costs. • \$9,000 for equipment maintenance and repair • \$9,000 for tents, paddles, and sleeping bags for overnight trips (tents @ \$280 X 20 = \$5,600; paddles @ \$12 X 200 = \$2,400; sleeping bags @ \$200 X 5 = \$1,000) • \$3,000 for portable restroom rentals at program sites • \$10,000 for personal flotation devices (\$40 X 250)	\$28,425	\$0	\$28,425	\$2,575	\$0	\$2,575				\$31,000	\$31,000
Travel expenses in Minnesota: Vehicle rental, gas, and maintenance to transport staff and equipment to and from program events. For Activities 1 and 2, we are requesting reimbursement of 50% of the cost of one rental vehicle for each result plus gas and maintenance. We are also requesting funds for busing students to and from trip sites. Other partners will provide funding to cover additional vehicle rental and transportation costs not covered through this grant.	\$44,400	\$0	\$44,400	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000				\$48,400	\$48,400
Other											
Liability Insurance Students in this program will engage in canoeing, hiking, camping, and other outdoor activities that have inherent risk. While Wilderness Inquiry had an excellent safety record, we must carry liability insurance for this program. We use a standard cost per service day (one person served for one day) to allocate insurance costs. The UEE represents 23% of our projected service days. \$25,000 represents 23% of our annual liability insurance cost.	\$72,975	\$0	\$72,975	\$2,025	\$0	\$2,025				\$75,000	\$75,000
Camping fees, entrance fees, permits and licenses	\$21,030	\$0	\$21,030	\$1,895	\$0	\$1,895				\$22,925	\$22,925
Food Food is a required purchase for extended/overnight trips as 65% of MPS and 73% of SPPS students qualify for "free and reduced lunch" through the National School Lunch Program.	\$87,500	\$0	\$87,500	\$7,000	\$0	\$7,000				\$94,500	\$94,500
COLUMN TOTAL	\$991,855	\$0	\$991,855	\$101,145	\$0	\$101,145				\$1,093,000	\$1,093,000

Connecting Youth to the Outdoors: LCCMR and Wilderness Inquiry

Summary of Progress and Proposed Statewide Expansion

Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures (UWCA) 2010-2013

Introduced accessible outdoor education and recreation activities for underserved urban youth.

Established partnership with schools and National Park Service.

Provided 25 introductory canoe experiences; for most, their first time in a boat.

Established viability of concept and created positive outdoor experiences for 24,000 youth.

Promoted understanding of the Mississippi River in our community and fostered personal stewardship via STEM, service learning, river cleanup and habitat restoration.



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Youth Outdoors Project (YOP) 2013-2015

Building on the UWCA, Youth Outdoors Project offers in-depth and varied outdoor experiences for underserved youth both outstate and within the Twin Cities.

In partnership with the MN DNR MinnAqua Program and NPS, YOP provides fishing, water safety and canoeing instruction for 6,000 youth ages 10-18. Youth participate in aquatic sampling to monitor health of the Mississippi River.

Provides hands-on outdoor education and overnight camping for 1,000 youth ages 13-18, including water quality and aquatic species education and invasive species removal projects at various sites along the Mississippi River.

Provides summer employment in environmental jobs for 20 youth, ages 15-20. Participants will have a three-day outdoor immersion experience and 136 hours of employment with partners such as REI, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services and Wilderness Inquiry (WI).



05/29/2014

Engaging Students (UEE) 2014-2017

Establishes environmental educational system for middle and high school students in partnership with WI, NPS, MPS and SPPS, MPRB and SPPR, Ft. Snelling State Park, and MDE, serving 15,600 low-income youth.

Utilizes existing, underused metro and outstate resources, providing experiential, place-based educational programs at sites and extending impact to six outstate MN school districts.

15,500 students experience: 1-day intro; 3 and 5-day place-based programs at existing facilities.

10-day learning exchanges for 100 metro and outstate students, facilitating understanding of urban and outstate environments, and connecting students across MN.

Establishes metro district-wide Outdoor Clubs as after school option for students, paralleling sports, arts and other programs.

Integrates place-based environmental education into schools, creating a cadre of young Minnesotans who understand and feel a deep connection to the environment, resulting in diversification of the state's outdoor industry.



Subd. 09c

Urban Environmental Education Engaging Students in Local Resources

LCCMR Proposal 074-C requesting \$1,093,000 serving 15,600 youth (average of \$70 per student)






A collaborative statewide and metro system for environmental education using existing but underutilized resources and engaging 15,600 underserved middle and high school students in high-quality, place-based environmental education programs.

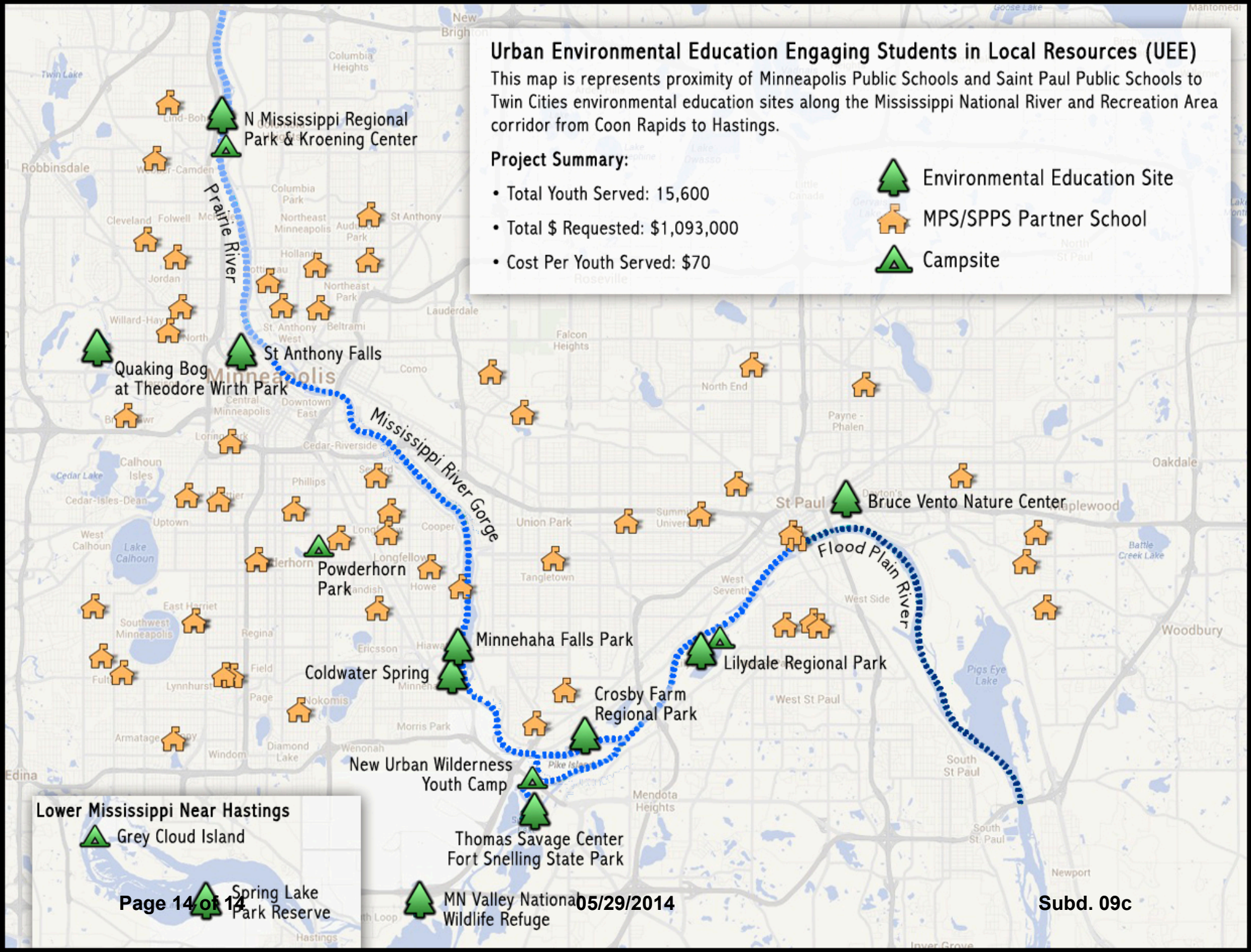
Urban Environmental Education Engaging Students in Local Resources (UEE)

This map represents proximity of Minneapolis Public Schools and Saint Paul Public Schools to Twin Cities environmental education sites along the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area corridor from Coon Rapids to Hastings.



Project Summary:

- Total Youth Served: 15,600
- Total \$ Requested: \$1,093,000
- Cost Per Youth Served: \$70

 Environmental Education Site
 MPS/SPPS Partner School
 Campsite



Lower Mississippi Near Hastings

 Grey Cloud Island
 Spring Lake Park Reserve