

FY 2014

RSDP Partnership Projects

Brief Descriptions

SOUTHEAST REGION

Note: SERP FY2014 spent is as of April 15, 2014.

ArtOrg/Cannon Falls Concept Master Plan

U of M Center for Rural Design

ArtOrg, Cannon Falls Economic Development Authority
ArtOrg impacts individuals and communities through visual arts projects and events primarily centered in the print, with public art, commissioned work, and experiential-based education initiatives. With its new location and building in Cannon Falls, ArtOrg approached the U of M Center for Rural Design for a Concept Master Plan. The plan has three objectives: create a conceptual building plan for renovation and remodeling; create a conceptual site plan for the ArtOrg site including outdoor activity spaces, sculpture locations, pedestrian connection to the Little Cannon River; and develop conceptual architectural plans for the building and site with a vision for regional economic development.

SERP FY2014 allocated: \$15,500

Cold-Climate Greenhouse Resource

U of M: Center for Sustainable Building Research-Design for Community Resilience Program, Center for Urban & Regional Affairs-Community Assistantship Program (CURA-CAP)

Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center

The U of M Center for Sustainable Building Research conducted site visits, interviews, literature reviews, and an online survey to identify successes and innovations of growers across the Midwest who have demonstrated the ability to grow and distribute fresh produce over long and cold winters, without heavy reliance on fossil-fuel based energy sources. Information gathered is compiled into a guidebook that describes the architecture, materials, and building techniques these growers have used to design and build efficient, yet simple, cold climate

greenhouses. A case-study design was also developed for a cold-climate greenhouse at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center for educational events and on-campus food production.

SERP FY2014 spent: \$8,790

CURA-CAP internship: ~\$6,000

EcoTourism Fillmore County

U of M Tourism Center, Extension

Eagle Bluff and Good Earth Village

Researching and analyzing opportunities, market potential and enterprise infrastructure, as well as assisting in the creation of a coordination/leadership organization to develop and sustain an infrastructure for day-of and group packages for low-impact, environmentally-responsible tourism in Fillmore County.

SERP FY2014 allocated: \$18,000

SE Foodshed Planning Initiative (SEFPI)

Sponsored over 25 U of M students, research fellows, and faculty members and involved over 40 community members

The SEFPI is a multidisciplinary, multi-year research initiative focused on SE MN that is informed by over a decade of food systems partnerships and projects. SEFPI brings the analytical strength of the U of M to our region's efforts to build a regional food infrastructure. An on-going component this FY is a second phase of the foodshed analysis research that will provide a representative regional diet based on translated economic data, and identify potential economic benefits of utilizing surplus agricultural land for commodity crops.

SERP FY2014 spent: \$2,256

SERP additional allocated: \$30,000

SERP past funding: \$163,921

Growing Home Olmsted

U of M business development specialist, Olmsted County (Community Services, Environmental Resources, Public Health, Building Operations), Rochester school district, and multiple community members

Inspired by Growing Power in Milwaukee, partners are driving an urban gardening/job-training/housing project in Rochester. A nonprofit has formed as a sister organization to Center City Housing Corp, which is looking to develop stable housing for families and older youth in Rochester. The SE RP board approved support for technical assistance to develop a compost-food growing system in Rochester.

SERP FY2014 spent: \$5,044

Healthy Food Alliance of SE MN

Olmsted County Public Health, Extension, and multiple partners across SE MN region

The Healthy Food Alliance is a food systems network of leaders from around the region with a vision of regional food on every plate, every day. SE RP provided staff expertise and meeting food for the initial meetings of this Olmsted County SHIP 2.0-supported collaborative project to develop a regional food council.

SERP FY2014 spent: \$1,729

SERP additional allocated: \$100

SERP past funding: \$252

SERP in-kind staff time: ~\$10,000

Main Street Project – Production Manual & Model Verification

U of M: Applied Economics, Bioproducts/Biosystems Engineering, Environmental Health Sciences, Extension, Soil-Water-Climate, Water Resources Center
Community – Main Street Project, Southwoods
Permaculture Institute

Main Street Project has developed a model to create an avenue into agricultural entrepreneurship for low-income immigrants via high quality, sustainable agricultural production for local food markets and values-based consumers. The production method is designed to produce a natural poultry product using the Label Rouge bird made popular by pastured poultry enthusiasts in France; incorporates an alternative feeding system of forages and sprouted grain on small plots; aims to improve soil health for

crops by incorporating poultry and perennials in the same system; utilizes polycultures to naturally control pests and reduce the need for chemical pesticides and fertilizers; and increases long-term overall production potential by stacking agricultural enterprises on the same land including perennial fruit and nut crops.

SERP brought in a retired Extension Educator to edit and augment Main Street Project's *Free Range Meat Poultry Production Manual*. An Applied Economics graduate student is now developing a production and sales cost profile for the chicken-side of the system, as well as a description of the current US and MN wholesale markets for fresh and frozen pasture-raised chicken.

The team was awarded a Healthy Food, Healthy Lives Institute Community-University Partnership Grant to research and verify food safety and nutritional health aspects of the model during calendar year 2014. A USDA North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education proposal has been submitted to analyze and verify the economic, ecological and social impacts.

SERP FY2014 spent: \$5,126

SERP additional allocated: \$8,000

SERP past funding: \$771

HFHL grant: \$48,795

MN River Watershed Reorganization

U of M Extension

The Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River, multiple citizens

Bringing facilitation, strategic planning and leadership development expertise to citizens desiring to create a new entity to develop and sustain the ecological, economic and social assets of the Minnesota River Watershed region.

SE RP FY2014 allocation: \$7,500

National Trout Center

U of M Center for Rural Design

National Trout Center, Preston, MN

The mission of the National Trout Center is “to conserve the natural and cultural heritage of trout and their cold-water environments by engaging the public through education, practice and awareness.” SERP supported development of a concept master plan for constructing a permanent home; compilation of mapping data on trout stream easements and digital mapping product delivery; and a study about using online wiki communication tools for information-based nonprofits.

SERP FY2014 spent: \$957

SERP additional allocated: \$2,500

SERP past funding: \$15,139

Project Get Outdoors – National Program Review

U of M recent MS graduate in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy

SE RP has supported the development of this program that links youth and caring adult mentors for exploration, play and reflection in nature near home communities so youth will grow to be healthy, comfortable outdoors and knowledgeable and passionate about their land and community. Sponsorship has helped with board and organizational development, manual design, evaluation tools, and marketing. The most recent component is a national program review and comparison.

SERP FY2014 spent: \$2,262

SERP past funding: \$12,667

Scholarships/Human Capital

Community members

Annual account to offer scholarships of up to \$200 for SE residents to attend conferences and workshops, including this FY so far - Food Access Summit, Healthy Foods Healthy Lives Summit, Extension High Tunnel Conference.

SERP FY2014 spent: \$1,200

Sponsorships

Annual account to provide sponsorship funds for events we are directly involved in organizing, including this FY so far - FEAST festival/tradeshow and Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters day with Zumbro Watershed Partnership.

SERP FY2014 spent: \$1,300

Sustainability Library

Annual account to purchase materials for SERP public library collection and cover cataloguing fees.

SERP FY2014 spent: \$92

Zumbro Watershed Partnership – Educational/Recreational Site Design & Cost of Fast Water Study

U of M: Center for Changing Landscapes, Extension, recent MS graduate in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy

Zumbro Watershed Partnership

The Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) is a citizen-driven, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote land practices that protect and slow the flow of water into the Zumbro River and its tributaries. To personally connect citizens with their river resource, ZWP has proposed plans for public sites where citizens can learn to play an active role in reducing flooding and pollution. Three sites in the Zumbro River watershed have been identified to serve as models for designing educational and recreational enhancements. A companion project is ZWP's “cost of fast water study.” An initial analysis has been compiled to estimate the public financial costs (erosion, sedimentation, flooding, infrastructure, and road damage) of Olmsted County's current water system to get an idea of what current water management policies are costing taxpayers. ZWP will use these data to develop a case for a more sustainable approach to water management.

SERP FY2013-14 spent: \$41,508

SERP additional allocated: \$7,860