



GOODHUE COUNTY MINNESOTA

TO EFFECTIVELY PROMOTE THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING OF OUR RESIDENTS

Committee of the Whole Agenda

County Board Room
Government Center
Red Wing, MN

March 6, 2018
3:30 p.m.

1. Zumbro Watershed Presentation

Documents:

Zumbro Watershed.pdf

Regional Designation of the Zumbro Water Trail (ZWT): A path to state funding for recreation in the Zumbro Watershed

24 Jan 18

What is the ZWT?

The Zumbro River and its main branches (Figure 1) would be the “trail” that connects existing and proposed recreational assets of our communities into a network of parks for citizens and visitors to canoe, kayak, fish, camp, or simply enjoy our natural resources. A network of parks would enhance access to the Zumbro and its branches in an area where public access is rare, and infrastructure is lacking. A network of parks would allow citizens and visitors to plan multi-day trips to our area, encouraging patronage to businesses in our community. Each community that joins will decide the future of the trail and how to share funding.

Figure 1. The Zumbro Watershed with its main branches labeled.

What it is the regional designation and why would that bring money to my community?

The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC) www.gmrptcommission.org was established in 2013 to facilitate the development of parks and trails of regional significance and provide recommendations to the legislature for grants provided by the Legacy Parks and Trails Fund. Monies and resources of GMRPTC are dedicated to local governments **outside the seven-county metropolitan area.**

To obtaining funding, the ZWT would need to be designated as a regional park or trail by GMRPTC. Several area parks have gained that designation and had received funding, including Quarry Hill and Gamehaven (both in Rochester). Designation would allow local government units to obtain state funding to implement park master plans already in place or provide funding for local governments to develop new amenities.

How did we get here?

- On July 12th, 2017 representatives from the GMRPTC, the Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP), 12 cities and 3 counties met in Oronoco to gage interested in developing the ZWT and better understand GMRPTC designation and funding process.
- With the positive reception of the ZWT concept, we held additional meetings last fall to determine roles, formulate an approach to designation and further our outreach to potential partner counties and municipalities in the Zumbro Watershed.
- The City of Oronoco is leading this effort with support from ZWP.

- After lengthy discussions with the GMRPTC, we have decided to pursue ranking without developing a master plan for the ZWT (Figure 2), “[Application Without Master Plan Submission](#)”

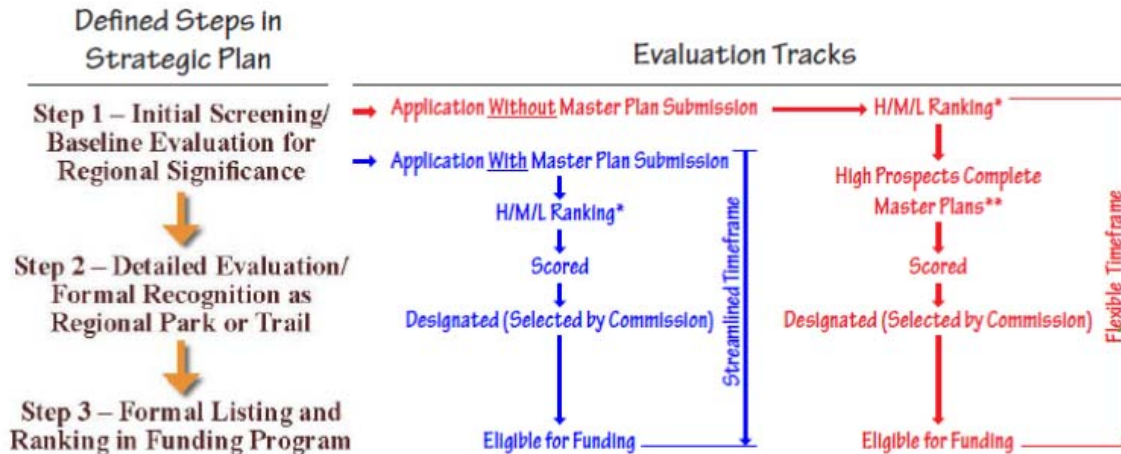


Figure 2. Steps in obtaining regional designation through GMRPTC Strategic Plan.

What is needed to make an application for ranking:

- Solicit support from communities, municipalities, counties along the Zumbro River and its branches.
- Collect information from communities, municipalities, counties including existing master plans, lists of land parcels considered for public use, priorities for recreational opportunities that would include use of the Zumbro or access to its waters, etc.
- Oronoco will submit the single ZWT application to the GMRPTC (ZWP is non-profit and cannot apply)
 - All participating partners have or will submit current amenities and needs to the consultant, who will formalize the application.

We are requesting a total of \$2,000 to hire a consultant to prepare the application; cost will be divided among partners.

If we receive a High Ranking:

- A “**High Ranking**” by the GMRPTC evaluation team will allow the ZWT to continue with the next step.
- A Master Plan for the ZWT will need to be developed and a governance structure determined.
 - Consultant’s fee per city would be ~\$3,000.00. However, a plan needs to be developed by the ZWT team on how best to make it fair for the different populated cities
- The consultant would work with the individual cities to help identify their individual Master Plan and to input that information into the overall ZWT Master Plan
- The ZWT Master Plan would be submitted by the city of Oronoco to GMRPTC
- The GMRPTC will score it and determine if the ZWT can be designated as a Regional Trail.
- The Regional Trail designation would make the ZWT eligible for Legacy Parks & Trails funding
- The ZWT team will determine how best to allocate funding to the participant cities

Future: Branding, marketing and promotion of the ZWT for recreational and economic development!

This is an exciting time for the communities in the ZWP to obtain a Regional Designation!

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