| **Summary – 2013 Sweet Water Mini-Grant Program** |
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| **Year** | **Organization** | **Project Title** | **Amount** | **Watershed** | **Project Description** |
| 2013 | Friends of Hart Park Foundation, Inc. | Hart Park Native Plant Restoration Project | $2,500 | Menomonee | This project builds on restoration work done in 2012. Native trees, shrubs and forbes will be planted along the Menomonee River Corridor in Hart Park to improve water quality and reduce stormwater. We will use a combination of container grown and bare root plants. Species will be planted that improve the shoreline habitat for wildlife. Hart Park is used by both Wauwatosa schools and area colleges and their experience will be enhanced by improving the native populations. Friends of Hart Park will continue to grow partnerships in the community. |
| 2013 | Groundwork Milwaukee | BMP Education & Demonstrations in the KK & the Corridor | $5,000 | Kinnickinnic | Groundwork Milwaukee (GWM) submits this grant on behalf of two community-based organizations, the Metcalf Park Community Action Leaders (MPCAT’s), and the Kinnickinnic River Resident Leaders. We engaged five enthusiastic home-owners who want rain gardens installed in their front lawns as demonstration sites. The project promotes stewardship. The initiatives will restore, enhance and protect the Milwaukee and Kinnickinnic River Watersheds, while supporting the Great Lakes ecosystem. The project promotes voluntary land use practices resulting in non-point source pollution reduction. Methods include demonstration projects of green infrastructure including rain gardens, downspout disconnections and rain barrels with community training. |
| 2013 | Little League Baseball, Inc. | Craig Counsell Park Storm Water Improvements | $4,500 | Milwaukee | Current conditions at Craig Counsell Park in Whitefish Bay direct a majority of stormwater from adjacent neighborhoods as well as areas within the park to the passive and active recreation areas. Through a series of sustainable best management practices, including a gravel infiltration trench and rain gardens, the amount of storm water leaving the site and its quality will be greatly improved. By including components, such as educational signage and rain harvesting systems on the concession stand building, the project will serve as an education piece for users and visitors. |
| 2013 | Milwaukee Audubon Society, Inc. | Fish Passage Restoration Cross-Vane Installations | $4,500 | Milwaukee | This project will remediate two fish passage impediments in Ehlers Creek at State Highway 57 and one impediment in Mud Lake Outlet at County HWY NN. These culvert crossings currently fragment available in-stream and wetland habitat, blocking access to an array of aquatic species. Installation of cross-vane rock structures to backwater the culverts and allow for upstream and downstream passage will restore access to 1.5 stream miles and 35.5 wetland acres in Ehlers Creek, including access to the 40 acre Lucas Waterfowl Production Area, and 6.3 stream miles and 1,734 wetland acres in Mud Lake Outlet. |
| 2013 | Milwaukee Riverkeeper | Illicit Discharge Detection Using Sewage Sniffing Dogs | $4,000 | Menomonee | Environmental Canine Services LLC (ECS) dogs will be used to sniff manholes/water samples along several sewer branches that are connected to problem outfalls discharging into the Menomonee River. Simultaneously, staff from Riverkeeper and Great Lakes Water Institute will collect water quality samples from these sites to be tested in the lab. ECS handlers will receive immediate feedback on the presence or absence of human sewage and/or detergents in the river. They can track the source immediately, which would allow municipalities to make repairs that reduce bacteria loading to the river, thus improving water quality for aquatic life and neighborhoods. |
| 2013 | River Bend Nature Center | WATERshed | $4,800 | Root | The WATERshed (We All Take Environmental Responsibility) program helps local students make connections with how their daily activities impact our watershed. Students will discover what is going down storm drains and how it travels to the rivers and lakes from their neighborhoods. Participants will have a unique opportunity to conduct scientific tests to determine the water quality of the Root River. They will explore aquatic life and learn how certain species are indicators of the water quality of the Root River. This program will introduce students to solutions on how they can make a positive difference on the Root/Pike watershed. |
| 2013 | Straightway Vineyard Christian Fellowship, Inc. | Vineyard Community of Hope Rain Garden | $4,000 | Menomonee | We will create a 1000 square foot rain garden, approximately 85’ x 11’, on our property. It will drain a portion of our roof that is close to 4000 square feet. The rain garden will be a part of the church grounds that will be accessible to the public. It will also serve as a model to our members and other members of the Christian community of responsible stewardship of our water. |
| 2013 | The Prairie School | The Prairie School Stream Water Testing Project | $3,614 | Wind Point (Root) | In the fall of 2009, third graders at The Prairie School in Racine, WI, had a vision. Motivated by questions born during an annual beach clean-up service project, they desired to understand the larger impact on local waterways by residents’ debris and waste. Shortly thereafter, the Prairie Stream Water Testing Project began. Our goal: to grow and support a network of, and for, volunteers who monitor local stream and river health, by supporting data-sharing for educational purposes, and building partnerships with resource protection programs within the Wind Point Watershed. |
| 2013 | Trinity Church | Green Infrastructure Education Program Targeting Faith Communities | $4,000 | Menomonee | Trinity Episcopal Environmental Ministry (TEEM) was developed to advocate and articulate protection of the environment and preserving the sanctity of creation. TEEM would like to create a Green Infrastructure Education Program targeting other faith communities throughout the Milwaukee region. The program will provide local professionals the opportunity to share their research and expertise about green infrastructure with citizens, civic groups and churches. The program will focus on educating interested citizens and building and grounds committees on new and evolving development techniques collectively known as “low-impact development”. Presentations will emphasize the benefits of these techniques and how they could be adaptable to address conditions on church grounds and implemented on varying scales ranging from someone’s backyard to entire watersheds. |
| 2013 | Urban Anthropology, Inc. | Family Tree III | $2,550 | Kinnickinnic | Urban Anthropology Inc. is requesting funds to add ten more trees to Kosciuszko Park, in an effort to continue our Family Tree program. Sweet Water supported the Family Tree pilot project in 2010 and 2012. In the long term, the addition of these trees will help reduce pollution and soil erosion, as well as slow down water run-off in the Kinnickinnic watershed. We will also educate people on the importance of these trees at our June 29th South Side History Day at Kosciuszko Park. Up to 1,000 people will learn how the addition of new trees helps the watershed. |
| 2013 | Urban Ecology Center | Washington Park Naturalization Project | $5,000 | Milwaukee & Menomonee | The Washington Park Naturalization Project will promote water and land stewardship in the city through increasing the biodiversity of the park while spreading awareness of the importance of rain gardens, invasive species removal and decreasing grass cover as a means of protecting our natural resources. |
| 2013 | Walnut Way Conservation Corporation | Rain Water Catchment on a Hoop House for Irrigation | $4,000 | Milwaukee | Walnut Way proposes to install a rainwater catchment system on its recently-acquired hoop house in the spring of 2014. This rainwater catchment system will harvest rainwater and store it in an above ground cistern and connect to an irrigation system inside the hoop house. The project will build on previous methods of rainwater capture and use developed during its previous mini-grant project - the cistern for urban agriculture. It will also utilize a demonstration model designed and prototyped by the Iowa State Cooperative Extension, with the intent of experimenting, improving and educating with best practices for water use in urban agriculture applications. |