

Friends of the Twin Rivers
River Planning Grant RP-207-17
East and West Twin River Project Priority Program

Final Report
June 30, 2020



Project Goals and Objectives

- The primary objective of this project was to build community awareness and appreciation of the East and West Twin watersheds.
- Outreach and education will be focused on tools to address priority issues including agricultural runoff's impact on groundwater and surface water quality, invasive species, fish passage barriers, loss of forested and wetland riparian buffers, urban run-off and lack of water quality and biological assessment data.
- Collection of water quality data will support agency and non-profit organization led efforts to address impairments within the watersheds.

Project Timeline

- February 15, 2017 through June 30, 2018
- Extension Approved through June 30, 2019
- Extension Approved through June 30, 2020

Project Products and Deliverables

Strategic Planning

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) and Woodland Dunes staff helped oversee administration and project management for the Friends of the Twin Rivers.

Meetings

- May 2, 2017
- May 23, 2017
- September 28, 2017
- November 10, 2017
- June 19, 2018
- November 7, 2018
- December 6, 2018
- March 21, 2019
- November 26, 2019
- January 15, 2020

Activities

Beach Clean Up

April 21, 2018

May 4, 2019



Volunteers collected approximately 42 pounds of trash from the public beach along Memorial Drive in Two Rivers during the May 4, 2019 Beach Cleanup.

WAV Monitoring Training

Jim Knickelbine, Director of the Woodland Dunes Nature Center in Two Rivers, conducted Water Action Volunteer (WAV) training for FOTR leaders and partners on April 22, 2017. Wendy Lutzke assumed those responsibilities in summer 2018.

These training sessions provide written methods, classroom instruction, and hands-on field training for measuring the six WAV parameters: dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, stream flow, habit, and macroinvertebrates to assess water quality.

Plans are in place to then train teachers and their students the methods at several area middle and high schools including Denmark High School, Mishicot High School, Roncalli High School, Kewaunee Middle School, and Two Rivers High School. Expanding WAV sampling throughout the area will help provide a more comprehensive picture of water quality trends in the East and West Twin Rivers.

River Clean Up / River Paddles

West Twin River: July 8, 2017

East Twin Paddle: July 14, 2018

West Twin Paddle: June 29, 2019

East Twin Paddle: June 27, 2020



Participants gather around to listen to instructions prior to paddling along the West Twin River on July 8, 2017.



29 Participants registered for the July 14, 2018 East Twin River Paddle.



Over 24 participants paddled the West Twin River on June 29, 2019. The group spotted osprey, a bald eagle, turkey vultures, great blue and green herons, gulls, killdeer, and a muskrat lodge along the way.



Paddlers enjoy a beautiful day on the East Twin River during the June 27, 2020 event.

Educational Seminars

Rain Barrel Workshop: LNRP in collaboration with the four river partners of the Manitowoc River watershed (Friends of Hika Bay, Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed, Friends of the Branch River, and Friends of the Twin Rivers) held a rain barrel workshop at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. As a way to find some cost efficiencies, each partner was invited to the event that was hosted by the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed.

Friend of the Twin Rivers co-hosted with the Woodland Dunes Nature Center a series of workshops and seminars:

- Birds, Bees, and Butterflies: March 10, 2018
- Earth Care Festival / Restore the Shore: April 14, 2018
- Climate Change Workshop: October 12, 2018
- A 1000 Mile Walk: November 26, 2019



Jim Knickelbine of Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve and Bryan Lenz of Bird City Wisconsin present on how to enhance lakeshore habitats to support migrating birds and pollinators on March 10, 2018 at the Birds, Bees, and Butterflies Program.

Outreach

LNRP and Woodland Dunes used Social Media
Twin Rivers Water Trail Website



Supporting the development of the Twin Rivers Water Trail through partnership has provided increased opportunities for outreach and education throughout the East and West Twin watersheds.