

Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed Action Plan
River Planning Grant RP-316-18
February 15, 2018 through June 30, 2019
Extension Approved through June 30, 2020

Final Report
June 30, 2020



Project Goals and Objectives

To support the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed as the group continues to build appreciation for and stewardship of the Manitowoc River and nearshore Lake Michigan ecosystems.

Project Products and Deliverables

Strategic Planning

The Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) helped oversee administration and project management for the Friends of the Manitowoc River Watershed. The Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc acts as a physical home for the group.

Meetings

- June 27, 2018
- October 9, 2018
- March 28, 2019
- April 9, 2019
- May 24, 2019
- October 22, 2019

Roundtable Discussion with Trout Unlimited: January 18, 2019

Activities

Beach Clean Ups

- April 22, 2017: 407.5 lbs of litter removed
- September 16, 2017: 241.5 lbs of litter removed
- April 28, 2018: 286.5 lbs of litter removed
- September 15, 2018: 140 lbs of litter removed
- May 4, 2019: 569.7 lbs of litter removed
- September 21, 2019: 186.5 lbs of litter removed
- April 25, 2020: cancelled due to COVID pandemic. However, a mobile cleanup kit was created for individuals and families to use with proper protocols.



153 volunteers gathered on the Manitowoc shorelines on May 4, 2019, collecting 569.7 lbs of litter.

River Clean Ups

- July 15, 2017: 35 lbs of litter removed
- June 16, 2018: 37 lbs of litter removed
- June 15, 2019: cancelled due to weather
- June 2020: cancelled due to COVID pandemic

River Paddles, Project RED, and AIS Snapshot Day

- Collins Marsh River Paddle: April 29, 2018
- Discover Wisconsin River Paddle: May 25, 2018
- Joint river clean-up and Project RED Training: June 16, 2018
- Moonlight Paddle: July 27, 2018
- Joint river clean-up and Project RED Training: June 15, 2019
- Subfest Paddle Race: July 13, 2019
- Snapshot Day: August 17, 2019
- Moonlight Paddle: September 13, 2019
- Paddle with a Purpose: November 9, 2019
- Moonlight Paddle: June 5, 2020 (cancelled due to COVID19 pandemic)
- Project RED / Collins Marsh Paddle: June 6 (cancelled due to COVID19 pandemic)



Nearly 100 participants joined in the Collins Marsh River Paddle on April 29, 2018. Collins Marsh caretaker Adam Van De Ven provided an introduction to the 4,200-acre Collins Marsh Wildlife Area and stressed its importance as a breeding and feeding area for thousands of ducks and geese each year.



Natalie Dutack of the River Alliance of Wisconsin provided information on invasive species detection during the June 16, 2018 Project RED Training.



Participants in the July 27, 2018 Moonlight Paddle experienced the Manitowoc River from an entirely new perspective.



Jaclyn Lucas of the River Alliance of Wisconsin provided information on invasive species detection at Lower Schuette Park during the June 15, 2019 Project RED Training.



Subfest at Fourth on the Shore, hosted by the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, has become a favorite community event. Partnering on the July 13, 2019 Subfest Paddle Race is another way FMRW builds excitement and appreciation for the Manitowoc River.



Volunteers sampled 7 sites for AIS data during the August 17, 2019 Snapshot Day.



FMRW planned the November 9, 2019 “Paddle with a Purpose” event to educate paddlers about invasive species and encourage them to help prevent their spread.

Education Seminars

- Effective Communication in the Face of Skepticism: February 17, 2019
- Healthy Watersheds: Coastal Wetlands, the Rainforests of the Great Lakes: March 23, 2019
- Little Manistowic Coastal Wetland Restoration: March 23, 2019
- Healthy Watersheds: A Healthy Watershed is a Forested Watershed: April 6, 2019
- EAB Mitigation – Sharing the Story of ROOTS: April 6, 2019
- NOAA Climate Change Workshop: October 12, 2019



The March 23, 2019 program, “Healthy Watersheds: Coastal Wetlands, the Rainforests of the Great Lakes” provided participants with a tour of the Little Manistowic Coastal Wetland Restoration project and insight into its ecological significance.

B-WET Watershed Experiences

FMRW supported the B-WET Watershed Experiences educational curriculum through a partnership with the Wisconsin Maritime Museum on a teacher training program called “We All Live on the Water: Teachers as Watershed Leaders.”

Manitowoc schools have implemented interactive, challenging lessons fueled by this training experience, including: building and testing underwater Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs), using a Hydrolab data sonde to measure and monitor water quality and clarity, map shipwrecks off the coastline, wear waders and use nets and equipment to catch and identify species, and study single-cell protozoans and other specimen via microscopes.

- Woodland Dunes and WI Maritime Museum Field Experience: May 6-7, 2019
- WI Maritime Museum Field Experience: May 13, 2019



Manitowoc Public School District students present projects they've developed as a part of the B-WET program.

Lower Schuette Park

The group has formally adopted Lower Schuette Park along the Manitowoc River. Volunteers complete a monthly walk-through.

Lower Schuette Work Day: August 9, 2019

Pollinator Garden and Lower Schuette Park Improvements: March 21, 2020 (cancelled due to COVID19 pandemic)



FMRW coordinated a major workday at Lower Schuette Park on August 9, 2019, bringing together FMRW group members and volunteers, City of Manitowoc staff, Ice Age Trail volunteers, and a WisCorps crew to tackle multiple projects throughout the park. Projects included construction of an educational kiosk, trail maintenance and development, and invasive species removal.



FMRW brings together stakeholders to continue to collaborate on building appreciation and stewardship of Lower Schuette Park and the Manitowoc River Watershed.