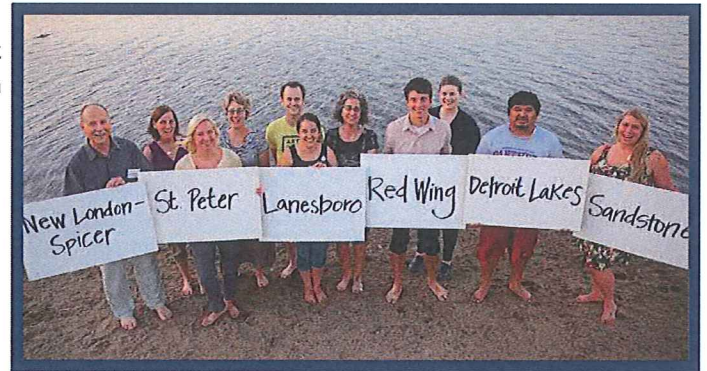




WATER|WAYS

Traveling Exhibition and Community Engagement Initiative

Water/Ways is a traveling exhibition and community engagement initiative of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street project. Water/Ways is led by the Minnesota Humanities Center in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minnesota Department of Health, and six greater Minnesota communities. Sparked by the opportunity to host a Smithsonian exhibition, each community will embark on an exploration of the meaning of water to their identity, history, and faith traditions. These communities will tell their local water stories and envision the future of water through a year-long engagement process.



Host communities will convene leadership across sectors, create companion exhibitions, and develop events and education programs to help connect the value their community places on water to thoughtful action and stewardship.

MINNESOTA HOST COMMUNITIES

1. New London-Spicer (Kandiyohi County)
Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center
June 25 – Aug. 7, 2016

2. St. Peter (Nicollet County)
Nicollet County Historical Society
Aug 13 – Sept 25, 2016

3. Red Wing (Goodhue County)
Goodhue County Historical Society
Oct. 1 – Nov. 13, 2016

4. Sandstone/Pine City (Pine County)
Audubon Center of the North Woods
Nov. 19, 2016 – Jan. 1, 2017

5. Lanesboro (Fillmore County)
Lanesboro Arts
Jan. 7 – Feb. 19, 2017

6. Detroit Lakes (Becker County)
Becker County Historical Society
Feb. 25 – Apr. 9, 2017



Project Goals

1. Deepen relationships between state-level partners
2. Build host site capacity to practice the Humanities Center's relationship-based approach
3. Support expansion of local networks
4. Share national, state, and local histories and narratives about water
5. Reinforce Minnesotans' individual relationships with and responsibility for water

Host Communities Proposed Programming and Secured Partners

1. New London-Spicer (*Kandiyohi County*)

Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center: June 25 – Aug. 7, 2016

Proposed Programming

- Series of annual events that could naturally feature elements of *Water/Ways*, including: New London Water Days, New London Music Festival (situated in beautiful Neer Park on the Middle Fork Crow River), Spicer Winter Fest, Spicer 4th of July Celebration on beautiful Green Lake, Earth Day at Prairie Woods, Winter Sleigh & Ski Festival at Prairie Woods, Conservation Days at Prairie Woods, Prairie Pothole Days put on by Minnesota Waterfowl Association, and others
- Engage students from New London-Spicer Schools in art and science projects related to water and could incorporate Project Eco-Voyageur and watershed education events conducted by CROW, Middle Fork Crow River Watershed, and Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project
- Student service projects involving river clean-up, shore land restoration, and watershed education put on collaboratively by watershed groups, the DNR, and PWELC

Secured Partners

Kandiyohi County Historical Society, City of New London, City of Spicer, Middle Fork Crow River Watershed, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency - Willmar Office, Minnesota DNR, Shakopee Creek, Chippewa River Watershed Project, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Kandiyohi County, New London-Spicer Schools, New London Music Festival & Riverscape Project, CROW - Crow River Organization of Waters, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Kandiyohi County Soil & Water Conservation District.

2. St. Peter (*Nicollet County*)

Nicollet County Historical Society: Aug. 13 – Sept. 25, 2016

Proposed Programming

- Water-themed art show held in collaboration with the Arts Center of Saint Peter
- River Recreation Day held at Seven Mile Creek Park
- Water-themed films selected for the 2016-17 NCHS Documentary Film Series
- "Natural History of the Minnesota River" Day held at the Treaty Site History Center
- Presentation featuring the role of water by staff from the Lower Sioux Agency in Redwood County
- Round-table discussion on water and spirituality with local religious leaders
- Tours of the Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Moderated community discussion held at the Treaty Site History Center

Secured Partners

Arts Center of Saint Peter, Saint Peter Community and Family Education, Gustavus Adolphus College, Great River Greening and Seven-Mile Creek Park, and the City of St. Peter.



3. Red Wing (*Goodhue County*)

Goodhue County Historical Society: Oct. 1 – Nov. 13, 2016

Proposed Programming

- Academic presentations and hands-on archaeological activities
- Community walks along bodies of water and community clean up events, where citizens work together to clean up riverside parks and the rivers, nearby backwaters, and other bodies of water
- Engage the Prairie Island Indian Community to explain the spiritual and sacred connection the Mdewakanton have to nearby bodies of water
- Organize programs that focus on Red Wing's long-running spiritual connection with water
- Watershed Summit at the nearby Anderson Center
- Organize events that discuss the impact frac-sand mining has on public water quality, and facilitate constructive debates on the best way to preserve our local water supply for future generations

Secured Partners

The Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and the Red Wing Environmental Learning Center.

4. Sandstone/Pine City (*Pine County*)

Audubon Center of the North Woods: Nov. 19, 2016 – Jan. 1, 2017

Proposed Programming

- Workshops and a North Woods & Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area conference during the exhibition hosting dates
- "Giving thanks to the waters," and securing the help of Sharon Day, an Ojibwe elder well-known for her sacred Nibi Walks (Water Walks)
- Public art opportunities as well as learning events as part of this stewardship effort
- "Once Upon a River" touring concert which celebrates the St. Croix River in stories and song
- Artful rain barrels and long-lasting rain gardens

Secured Partners

Fond du Lac Reservation, National Park Service – St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, USDA – National Resources Conservation Service, North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area, City of Pine City, City of Sandstone, Sandstone Area Chamber of Commerce, Grindstone Lake Association, Sandstone Public Library, Quality of Life Task Force Committee, and Northwest Passage.

5. Lanesboro (Fillmore County)

Lanesboro Arts: Jan. 7 – Feb. 19, 2017

Proposed Programming

- Educational lecture series in collaboration with Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, the Lanesboro History Museum, and the Friends of the Root River
- Original theatre production at the Commonwealth Theatre Company
- Film showing and discussion at Lanesboro Arts' St. Mane Theatre focusing on the Friends of the Root River watershed project
- Public programming with local youth (such as water-specific reading activities, art projects, or community events) in partnership with the library and the school

Secured Partners

Commonwealth Theatre Company, Lanesboro Historical Preservation Association/Lanesboro Museum, the Lanesboro Museum, Friends of the Root River, and the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center.



6. Detroit Lakes (Becker County)

Becker County Historical Society: Feb. 25 – April 9, 2017

Proposed Programming

- Participating in joint fieldtrips to the exhibit and places like the Lake Sallie Fish Hatchery, Tamarac Wildlife Refuge, the Detroit Lakes Water Treatment facilities, and Hamden Slough.
- Partnering with our local Lake Associations to talk about larger issues like Aquatic Invasive Species and water safety.
- Showcasing authors in the area that have written about water as a life source, an environmental resource, and as a recreational benefit.

Secured Partners

Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce, Detroit Lakes Public Library, Departments of Natural Resources, Becker County, White Earth Nation, Lake Sallie Fish Hatchery, and the Detroit Lakes Public Utilities.

