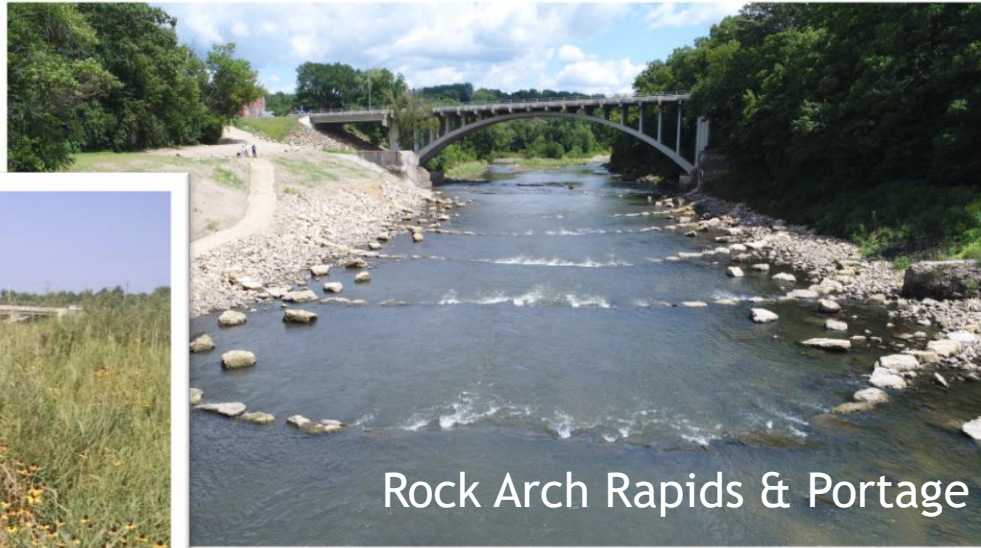
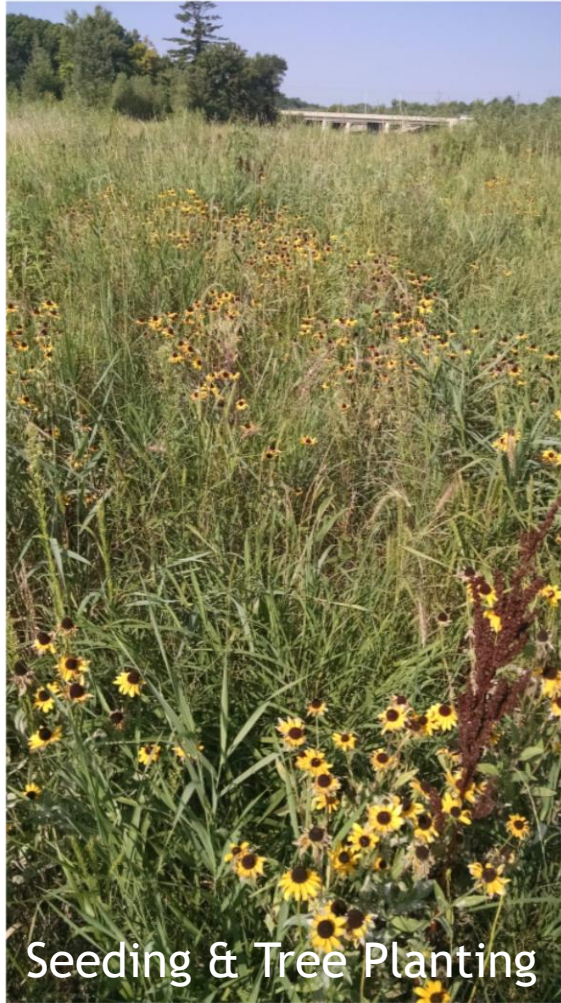
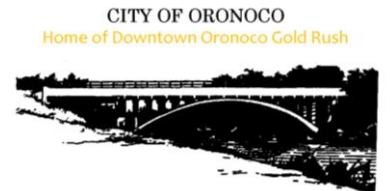


ZUMBRO RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS



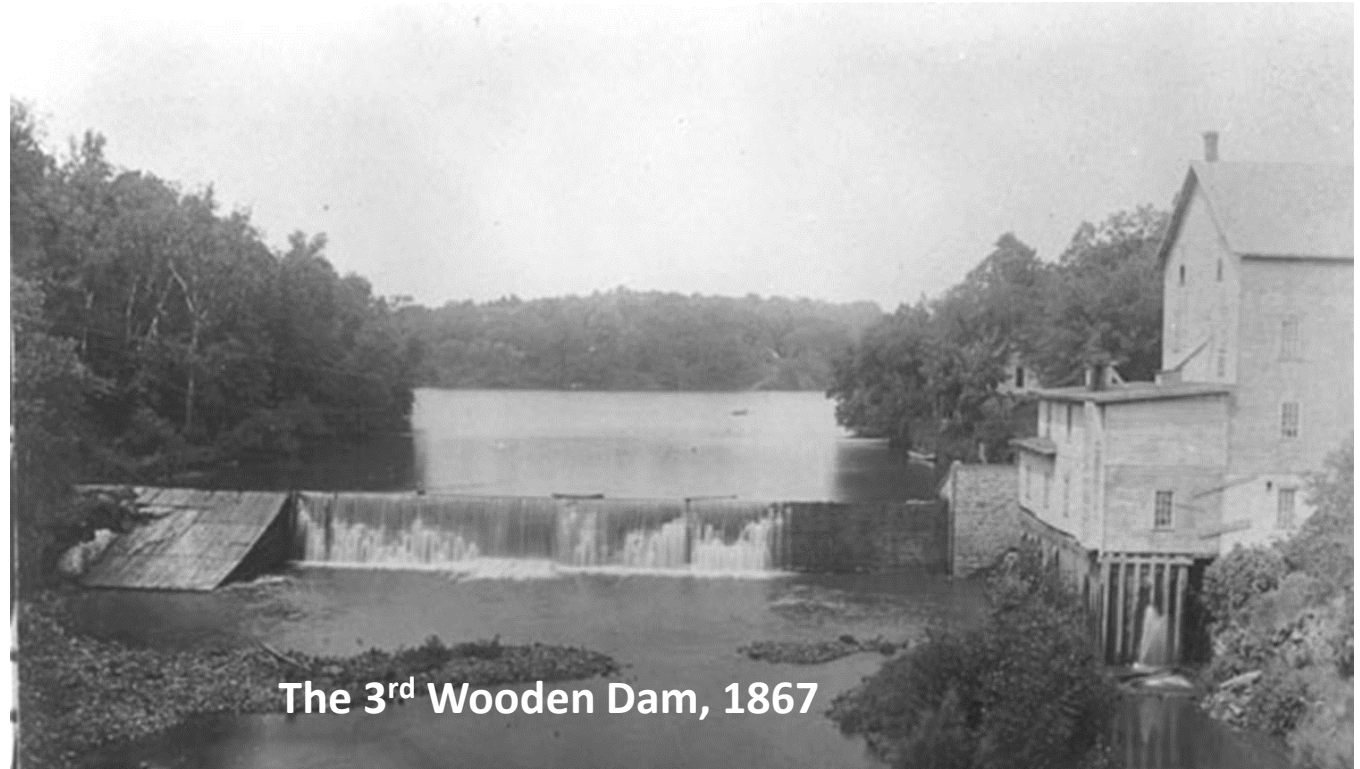
Project Partners



LAKE SHADY HISTORY

Lake Shady History

Sediment from the Middle Fork and South Branch Middle Fork of the Zumbro River had been accumulating in Lake Shady since the first dam was constructed in 1856. The 3rd wooden dam was in operation from 1867 to 1924. The fourth dam, constructed in 1937 by the Federal Works Progress Administration created the 230 acre Lake Shady. The lake became a recreation center for visitors near and far. By 1962 the lake was reported to be largely filled with sediment and no longer a prime recreational destination.



The 3rd Wooden Dam, 1867

LAKE SHADY 2010 FLOOD

2010 Flood

Much of Southern Minnesota received extensive rain in late September, 2010. This major storm system caused severe flooding throughout many communities in the area. With eventual rainfall totals surpassing 7 inches in the Zumbro watershed, the river swelled to historic levels. By noon on September 23rd, floodwaters had washed away the north embankment of the Oronoco Dam and had heavily damaged the bridge on Minnesota Avenue.

The structural condition of the dam, gates and spillway were evaluated and the MN Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) determined that the dam did not meet current Dam Safety design requirements. In November 2010, the Olmsted County Environmental Commission researched the two options: 1) perform extensive repairs and/or modifications to the dam and adjacent river embankments or 2) remove the dam and restore the Zumbro River. The Commission recommended that the dam be removed and the Zumbro River restored which prompted Olmsted County to begin development plans to remove the dam and restore a riverine system.

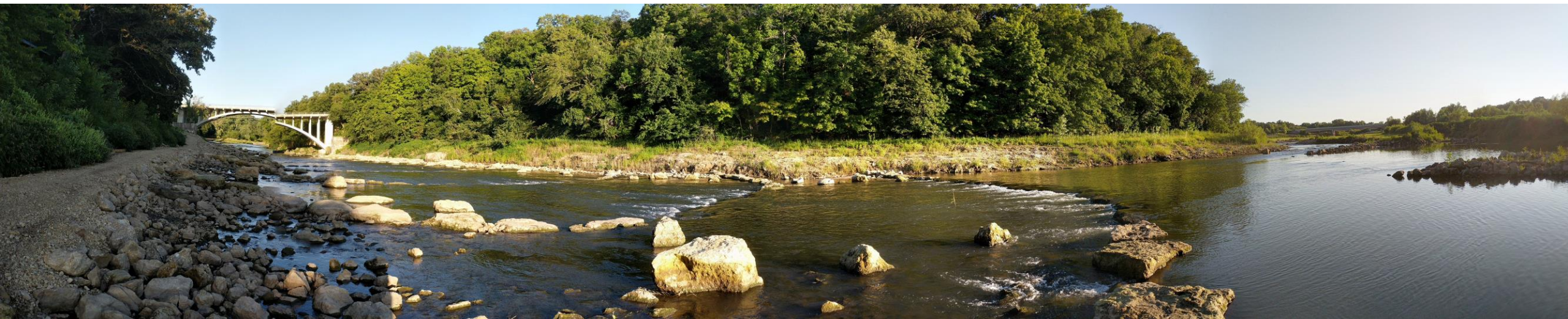


ZUMBRO RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT BACKGROUND

Restoration Project

The Zumbro River Restoration Project received \$4.1 million in funding from the State of Minnesota, Olmsted County, and the City of Oronoco. Construction began in November 2016 and ultimately transformed the lakebed into a public space that provides a variety of recreational opportunities. The dam was replaced by a rock arch rapids, the stream restored to natural meanders, and excess sediment was placed out of the floodway so it could not be washed downstream.

There were two general phases in the dam removal and river restoration process. The first stage involved removing the Lake Shady dam and replacing it with a grade control structure and rock arch rapids. Phase two included reconstruction and restoration of the existing backwater wetland on the west side of HWY 52. At completion of the project, approximately 5,100 feet of the Middle Fork of the Zumbro River and another 900 feet of the Zumbro River south of the confluence of the Middle Fork and South branch of the Middle Fork were restored.



CONTACT

The City of Oronoco owns the former Lake Shady Lakebed.

**For more information please
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City of Oronoco
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