

GREETINGS

from MILWAUKEE WATER



SALUDOS

del AGUA DE MILWAUKEE

Founded in 2014, WaterMarks is a citywide network focused on how water supports our lives. It brings together artists, scientists, and diverse communities through public art and events that reflect Milwaukee's water stories. By building a bridge to a better relationship with water, we hope to help create a more equitable, healthy, and resilient future for everyone.



In September 2021, we received expansion funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF). This document explains where we are in Fall 2023.

Many people contribute to WaterMarks, including grant personnel from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), City as Living Laboratory (CALL), and Reflo, as well as many community leaders in Milwaukee who contribute through WaterMarks committees, neighborhood project teams, and the Community-University Working Group. This document is coming to you from the WaterMarks evaluation team. We're based at the Center of Science and Industry (COSI). Our role in the grant is to help document what the project is doing and measure the project's overall progress.

During the NSF grant, WaterMarks will support arts and science learning collaborations in six neighborhoods, focusing on water systems and environmental issues that matter to neighborhood residents. (If you have worked with WaterMarks before, then you know that these are not the only neighborhoods that are part of the project, and not the only activities, either!) The core programs funded by the NSF grant are as follow:



Walks: In each of six neighborhoods, two public events focused on noticing water in new ways



Workshops: In each of six neighborhoods, an event for residents to talk about water issues and choose a letter for their WaterMarker



WaterMarkers: In each of six neighborhoods, an illuminated letter sculpture that connects people to Milwaukee water stories, helps alert residents when heavy rain is expected, and offers free WiFi



Artist projects: In each of six neighborhoods, public art that responds to important water issues

WaterMarks also maintains a presence at existing community events and hosts activation events in neighborhoods to support relationship-building and engagement around water issues in between formal programs. On our website, we share community water stories and ways to explore the WaterMarkers and artist projects more deeply.

The map on the next page summarizes the programmatic work WaterMarks accomplished in NSF project Year 2 (September 2022 - August 2023).

Year 2 NSF activities & new installations

1.

WaterMarker installed at Green Tech Station (31st & Capitol) in May 2023.

2.

Artist project by Glenn Williams installed at Green Tech Station in October 2022.

3.

The WaterMarks team's work in Sherman Park kicked off in Year 2. We are collaborating with residents to identify community priorities and ensure that the Neighborhood Project Team reflects the diversity of the area. Programs in Sherman Park will begin in Year 3.

4.

Following up on the Year 1 Walks, the Workshop for Riverwest & Harambee took place in November 2022. Residents selected the letter H for their Marker, representing health, harmony, H2O, Harambee, and home.

5.

Building on the Year 1 Walks, the Workshop for Lindsay Heights took place in November 2022. Residents selected the letter L for their Marker, representing Lindsay Heights, living, love, life, and listen. In May 2023, Walnut Way Conservation Corp. hosted an activation event to develop a community art proposal.

6.

Artist project by Sarah Gail Luther installed along Greenfield Avenue from 10th Street to the Harbor in August 2023. The site is home to the newest (Year 3) Marker, a letter H for harbor, harbor view, and harbor access.

7.

WaterMarker installed at 16th and Harrison in May 2023. The site is home to two artist projects, one by Gabriela Riveros and one by Mollie Oblinger.

8.

After work in Kinnickinnic River prior to the NSF-funded project, WaterMarks returned to KK in Year 2 to expand our partnership. We are collaborating with the Neighborhood Project Team to identify new Walk leaders and ensure that programs are timed well for the community. Programming for Kinnickinnic River will start in Year 3.

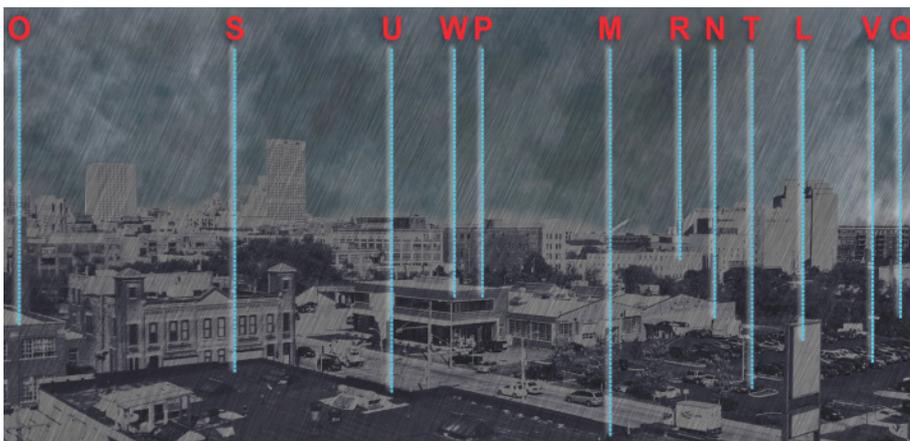


Grey outlines indicate work not funded by NSF.

In the last year, the WaterMarks Community-University Working Group continued to gather community voices, make recommendations on ways to engage community residents, make community feedback actionable, and ensure that the NSF project reflects investment in and from Milwaukee. As we enter Year 3 of NSF grant funding, the Community-University Working Group will begin developing an Adaptable Model Guide that describes the key “ingredients” and approaches of WaterMarks, so that people in Milwaukee and beyond can sustain and build on this work.

The table below shows our progress and our plans for WaterMarkers throughout Milwaukee. Together, these public art installations will contribute to a city-scale “atlas of water” that reflects the importance of water in everyday life. In Year 3, we look forward to co-hosting public programs in the Kinnickinnic River neighborhood and in Sherman Park, as well as to continued collaborations with neighborhoods whose work with WaterMarks began prior to the NSF grant. We invite you to join us in these opportunities, and to help us identify new ways we can collaborate meaningfully and sustainably. Your voice is an important part of Milwaukee’s water story!

Installed	To be installed	
<p>A UCC Acosta (5th & Washington)</p>	<p>S Greenfield Avenue (School of Freshwater Sciences)</p>	<p>C Melvina Park in the 30th Street Corridor</p>
<p>Ñ Kinnickinnic River (16th & Harrison)</p>	<p>M Greenfield Avenue (2nd & Greenfield)</p>	<p>H Beerline Trail in Riverwest/Harambee neighborhoods*</p>
<p>G Green Tech Station (31st & Capitol)</p>	<p>V Greenfield Avenue (1st & Greenfield)</p>	<p>L Lindsay Heights neighborhood*</p>
<p>H Greenfield Avenue (Harbor View Plaza)</p>	<p>4 additional NSF-funded letters to be selected by community residents</p> <p>*NSF-funded</p>	



Find WaterMarks online:
<https://www.watermarksmke.org/>

Questions? Email us anytime at
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