



My public art plays with the balance of form and sequential experience. Form-based projects, like Children's Nest Egg, stand alone as a sculpture but suggest a designed experience. In Downstream/Upstream the forms are in a supporting role—some as props used in a journey, and some as mementos of a shared experience. Most recently, River-Wash at Little Mekong records many individual experiences of a “river-wash” in the form of posters in a business and cultural district in St. Paul, MN.

River-Wash at Little Mekong [Link to Website](#)



River-Wash at Little Mekong was on display starting September 15 through November 15, 2013 in the Little Mekong business and cultural district in St. Paul, MN along University Avenue between Mackubin and Galtier streets. The project explored a sense of place in Little Mekong, by looking behind its surfaces -- inviting visitors to see the people behind the storefronts and the water below the street that connects Little Mekong to the Mississippi River. Participating businesses had a poster in their storefront window that documented their interaction with the project and their answers to two questions: "What do you want to flow in to this place?" and "What do you want to wash away?"

Business owners wrote these answers on a watering can and with water on the sidewalk, then they poured the water over the sidewalk and into the storm drain to let it water the trees and be cleaned in the tree trenches before it flowed through the underground tunnels to the Mississippi River. The exhibit also included the first application of the new City of St. Paul storm drain stencils, reinforcing the river connection and reminding visitors and residents to keep the streets clean to protect the river. The River-Wash website provides more background and links to resources for protecting the Mississippi River.

River-Wash at Little Mekong is a project by Full Spring Studio, in collaboration with Friends of the Mississippi River, Asian Economic Development Association, and the City of St. Paul Stormwater Stenciling Program. The project is supported by Irrigate.

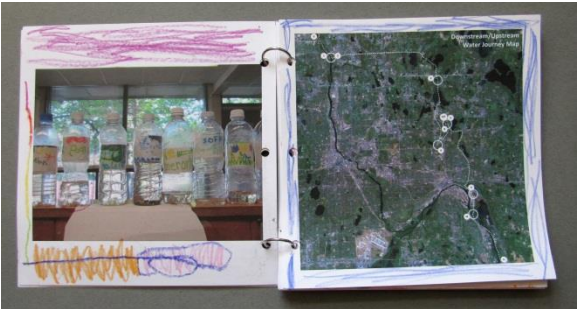
Learn more at river-wash.blogspot.com



See More about the project and resources for river protection at: river-wash.blogspot.com

River-Wash #1: Thai Cafe, Collected 9/9/2013 River-Wash is a project by Full Spring Studio, in collaboration with Friends of the Mississippi River, Asian Economic Development Association, and the City of St. Paul Stormwater Stenciling Program. The project is supported by Irrigate.

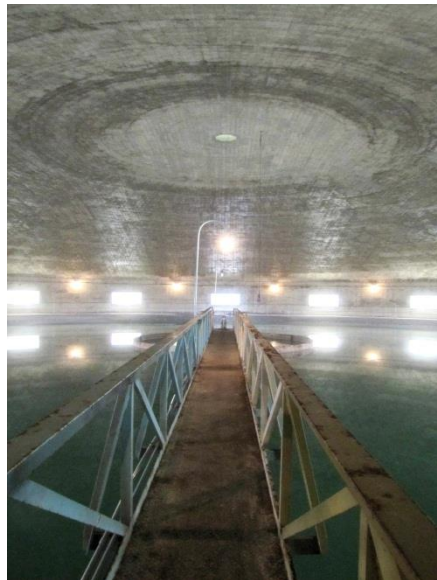
Downstream/Upstream [Link to Website](#)



My Water Journey, By Grace (book spread), Inkjet-printed photograph and digital image by artist, altered with crayon by child collaborator, 17 in. x 8.5 in. (open), 2011, photograph taken and later altered at Children’s Discovery Academy, Little Canada as part of Downstream/Upstream ([click here to enlarge](#))



Collecting the River, Collaged Color Photograph, printed on presentation matte, 16 in. x 12 in., 2011-2012, taken at River Park, Brooklyn Center, MN as part of Downstream/Upstream for final exhibit ([click here to enlarge](#))



Clarifier Room, Color Photograph, printed on presentation matte, 12 in. x 16 in., 2011, taken at St. Paul Regional Water Services, McCarrons Treatment Plant, MN as part of Downstream/Upstream for final exhibit ([click here to enlarge](#))



Mapstories and detail, Inkjet-printed map images on paper, transparency film, chrome hardware on fabric-wrapped plywood panels, 8 ft. x 8 ft. 4 in. x 18 in., 2011, shown installed at participants’ school, includes photographs taken by children throughout Downstream/Upstream, also part of final exhibit ([click here to enlarge detail image](#))



Overall Project:

Medium: Designed experience supported by multiple objects: interactive wall map, photographs, visual journals, mosaics, project documentation in exhibit

Dimensions: Twin Cities Metro Area approximately 20 miles from end to end (see site description)

Date: May 31, 2011-August 31, 2012

Site: Little Canada, St. Paul, and surrounding area

Description: *Downstream/Upstream* is an art/environmental education journey to explore the story of water in an urban water cycle. Downstream/Upstream took early childhood and Kindergarten classes on a two-week journey from their school through their urban water cycle, tracing a path of their sink-water from the Mississippi River, along upstream infrastructure to the faucet. The next week they traveled from their drain, along downstream infrastructure, arriving by boat to the outflow channel where their sink-water returns to the river. Along the way they learned about and played with water, saw the places their water flows and met the professionals behind each stage of the process. They integrated their experience into visual journals with drawings and photos they took, contributed images to *Mapstories*, an 8-foot interactive wall-map/community artists’ book, contributed mosaics for the *Watermarks* site installation that marks piped and natural water flows on the site, and they planted native flowers for stormwater quality service projects. *Downstream/Upstream* was on exhibit May 12-August 8, 2012 at the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture Library at the University of Minnesota. More at: <http://one-downstream-upstream.blogspot.com>

Children’s Nest Egg (in the Park) [Link to Website](#)



Medium: engraved and stained cedar boards, cedar deck structure, tree trimming waste branches, manila rope, aluminum sheet metal, engraved chrome plated brass plates, painted concrete sphere

Dimensions: nest platform 12 ft. diameter x 6 ft. h at peak, overall with pathway 40 ft.

Date installed: 2008

Site: Westwood Hills Nature Center, St. Louis Park, MN

Collaborators: Wood structure fabrication by Swainhart Construction Services, LLC; poetry in bench contributed by community members

Upper left: view from entry path ([click here to enlarge](#))

Center left: view to bench from inside nest ([click here to enlarge](#))

Lower left: bench detail of engraved poem ([click here to enlarge](#))

Description: The Children’s Nest Egg in St. Louis Park, Minnesota is interactive environmental art, nestled in the Westwood Hills Nature Center, and engages community members through sculptural spatial experience, participation in construction milestone events and process blog, and by honoring their experiences with nature that they wish to leave to the next generation by including their observations and poetry into the artwork. Funding for this project was by the Arts & Culture Grant Program, a collaborative program between the City of St. Louis Park, the Friends of the Arts, and the St. Louis Park Community Foundation. The project is led by Artist/Designer, Jonee Kulman Brigham of Full Spring Studio, LLC, with selected fabrication by Jeffrey Swainhart of Swainhart Construction Services, LLC..
More at: <http://childrensnestegg.blogspot.com>

Children’s Nest Egg



Medium: engraved and stained cedar boards, cedar deck structure, tree trimming waste branches, manila rope, painted concrete sphere

Dimensions: nest platform 12 ft. diameter x 4 ft. h at peak, overall with pathway 35 ft.

Date installed: 2007

Site: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, MN

([Click here to enlarge middle image of pathway poetry](#))

Children’s Nest Egg, was built for the “Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Art To A-Maze Walk Juried Exhibition.” The goal of this work is to inspire visitors, particularly children and their parents, to feel nurtured by nature and to inspire them to nurture nature in return. As visitors approach a clearing in the trees, they gradually discover a nest– big enough to walk into. The entry to the nest is made of tree limbs and branches (salvaged from forestry waste) that start low, then build up, spiraling into a circle to form the nest. As visitors enter along this spiral they discover a poem that gradually reveals and interprets surprises to be found inside. First they find a giant “egg” the size of a small child, but as they get closer they will see that it is the earth. By playing with scale and context the work seeks to cause the visitor to see the setting in a different light as they leave the work. At first Nature is big and they are small, but as they come inside and see that the egg is the earth, Nature becomes small in relationship to them and needing of their care.