

FINAL REPORT

2003 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2006

AUG 0 2 2006

TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Metro Greenways
(2.5 & 3.7)**PROJECT MANAGER:** Kate Drewry**ORGANIZATION:** Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Central Regional Office**ADDRESS:** 1200 Warner Road, St. Paul, MN 55106**WEB SITE ADDRESS:** <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/greenways/index.html>**FUND:** Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund**LEGAL CITATION:** ML 2003, Ch. 128, Art. 1, Sec. 9, Subd. 5(b)**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$ 1,089,000

The goal of the Metro Greenways program is to protect, connect and restore a regional network of significant natural areas and open spaces. Though administered and coordinated by the DNR, Metro Greenways relies on partnerships with a wide range of nonprofit conservation organizations, government agencies, and private landowners to achieve this goal. Many local governments lack the staff, expertise, and financial resources to adequately assess and protect significant natural resources located within their boundaries. By focusing much of its effort on encouraging and assisting local conservation initiatives, Metro Greenways empowers communities to protect and improve the natural resources that are important to them. At the same time, the coordinated regional scope assures that individual projects contribute to existing park systems and other public lands as elements of a regional network of green spaces and natural areas.

Over the course of this project period, Metro Greenways provided technical and financial assistance to augment other federal, state, regional and local efforts to protect and improve significant natural areas. Thirteen Grants were awarded to local government units and non-profit organizations in the total amount of \$260,000 to restore 553 acres of native plant communities on public and private lands. In addition to the \$260,000 in Metro Greenways funds, \$325,356 in additional local/regional/state/federal funds was committed to these projects. In the land protection category, \$650,000 was granted to Scott County to acquire 80 acres of the 400-acre Doyle parcel that became the core of the new Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park. \$40,000 was granted to the Anoka Conservation District for the acquisition of a 65-acre conservation easement on the Kern property, and the remaining acquisition funds of \$110,403 were spent to help acquire the Miles property and establish the new Vermillion Empire View WMA/AMA.

Since the inception of the Metro Greenways program in 1999, over 3000 acres of land has been permanently protected and ecological restoration activities have occurred on over 1000 acres of land.

FINAL REPORT

LCMR 2003 Work Program

AUG 0 2 2006

Date of Report: August 1, 2006
LCMR Final Work Program Report
Date of Work Program Approval: July 9, 2003
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2006

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Metro Greenways (2.5, & 3.7) (#1-12- all Focus Areas)

Project Manager: Kate Drewry

Affiliation: Mn Department of Natural Resources – Central Region – Region Ops

Mailing Address: 1200 Warner Road

City / State / Zip : St. Paul, MN 55106

Telephone Number: 651-772-7946 **E-mail Address:** kate.drewry@dnr.state.mn.us

FAX Number: 651-772-7599

Web Page address: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Total Biennial LCMR Project Budget:	LCMR Appropriation:	\$1,089,000
	Amount Spent:	\$1,089,000
	Balance:	\$ 0

Legal Citation: ML 2003, Chap. 128, Art. 1, Sec. 9, Subd. 5b.

Appropriation Language: (b) Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors

\$2,425,000 the first year and \$2,425,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources. ~~\$3,700,000~~ \$3,550,000 of this appropriation is for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements with the Trust for Public Land, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, Minnesota Land Trust, and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., for the purposes of planning, improving, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan region, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee acquisition. \$500,000 of this appropriation is for an agreement with the city of Ramsey for the Trott Brook Corridor acquisition. \$800,000 of this appropriation is for an agreement with the Rice Creek Watershed District for Hardwood Creek acquisition and restoration. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. As part of the required work program, criteria and priorities for planned acquisition and restoration activities must be submitted to the legislative commission on Minnesota resources for review and approval before expenditure. Expenditures are limited to the identified project areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of residential structures unless expressly approved in the work program. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated: (1) as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07; or (2) as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 89.018, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); 97A.101; 97A.125; 97C.001; and 97C.011. The commissioner may so designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2006, at which time the project must be

completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the work program.

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

The goal of the Metro Greenways program is to protect, connect and restore a regional network of significant natural areas and open spaces. Though administered and coordinated by the DNR, Metro Greenways relies on partnerships with a wide range of nonprofit conservation organizations, government agencies, and private landowners to achieve this goal. Many local governments lack the staff, expertise, and financial resources to adequately assess and protect significant natural resources located within their boundaries. By focusing much of its effort on encouraging and assisting local conservation initiatives, Metro Greenways empowers communities to protect and improve the natural resources that are important to them. At the same time, the coordinated regional scope assures that individual projects contribute to existing park systems and other public lands as elements of a regional network of green spaces and natural areas.

Over the course of this project period, Metro Greenways provided technical and financial assistance to augment other federal, state, regional and local efforts to protect and improve significant natural areas. Thirteen Grants were awarded to local government units and non-profit organizations in the total amount of \$260,000 to restore 553 acres of native plant communities on public and private lands. In addition to the \$260,000 in Metro Greenways funds, \$325,356 in additional local/regional/state/federal funds was committed to these projects. In the land protection category, \$650,000 was granted to Scott County to acquire 80 acres of the 400-acre Doyle parcel that became the core of the new Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park. \$40,000 was granted to the Anoka Conservation District for the acquisition of a 65-acre conservation easement on the Kern property, and the remaining acquisition funds of \$110,403 were spent to help acquire the Miles property and establish the new Vermillion Empire View WMA/AMA.

Since the inception of the Metro Greenways program in 1999, over 3000 acres of land has been permanently protected and ecological restoration activities have occurred on over 1000 acres of land.

III. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Restore Significant Habitat (2.5)

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:	LCMR Budget	\$270,000
	Funds Spent:	\$270,000
	Balance	0

Grant applications materials were developed and distributed via an email list of approximately 400 stakeholders and posted on the Metro Greenways web site. Twenty-three applications were received, requesting \$1,380,000 in restoration funds.

Applications were evaluated based on criteria that addressed: 1) Potential Ecological Value (location in, buffering or connecting a Regionally Significant Ecological Area, provision of other ecological functions and ecological soundness of restoration plan); 2) Project Feasibility (land owner commitment, restoration expertise of the implementing entity, timing, cost and long-term protection); and 3) Other Program Goals (compatible public uses, MWC partner and local community interest/ support, non-state cash and/or in-kind funds committed to project, geographic distribution and visibility).

Applications were then reviewed with the Metro Greenways Advisory Committee (made up of representatives from NPOs, LGUs and other stakeholders). The Work Group's funding recommendations were then reviewed and approved by the DNR's Central Region Management Team and Regional Director. Grant Agreements were executed for 13 approved projects in the total amount of \$260,000 to restore 553 acres of native plant communities on public and private lands. In addition to the \$260,000 in Metro Greenways funds, \$325,356 in additional local/regional/state/federal funds was committed to these projects. Please refer to Attachment C table for additional project detail.

Result 2: Acquire Significant Habitat (3.7)

Summary Budget Information for Result 2:	LCMR Budget	\$819,000
	Funds Spent:	\$819,000
	Balance:	\$ 0

Site nomination materials were developed and distributed via an email list of approximately 400 stakeholders and posted on the Metro Greenways web site. Sixteen site nominations were received, requesting \$4,753,000 in acquisition funds. Applications were evaluated based on the following criteria: 1) Ecological Value (located in, buffering or connecting a Regionally Significant Ecological Area, ecological quality of site and providing other ecological functions); 2) Project Feasibility (willing current and future land owners/managers, timing and cost); and 3) Other Program Goals (imminence of threat, compatible public uses, MWC partner and local community interest/support, non-state cash and/or in-kind funds committed to project, geographic distribution and visibility). Please refer to Attachment B, "Criteria for Selecting Potential Land Protection Sites". Applications were then reviewed with the Metro Greenways Advisory Committee (made up of representatives from NPOs, LGUs and other stakeholders). The Advisory Committee's funding recommendations were then reviewed and approved by the DNR's Central Region Management Team and Regional Director.

The following three project sites were funded: \$650,000 granted to Scott County to acquire 80 acres of the 400-acre Doyle parcel that became the core of the new Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park in Cedar Lake Township; \$40,000 was granted to the Anoka Conservation District for the acquisition of a 65-acre conservation easement on the Kern property in Burns Township; \$110,403 to help acquire the Miles property and establish the new Vermillion Empire View WMA/AMA. (Please refer to attachment D for additional project detail)

V. TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET:

All Results: Personnel: \$20,000

All Results: Equipment: \$0

All Results: Development: \$260,000 (restoration grants)

All Results: Acquisition: \$ \$800,400 (fee title and/or conservation easement)

All Results: Other: \$8,600 real estate transaction costs (title, appraisal, environmental, survey, and legal costs).

TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET: \$1,089,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: NA

VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:

A. Past Spending:

In the past 3 years, Metro Greenways has received the following direct appropriations:

- Metro Greenways – 2000 Bonding: \$1,500,000 appropriation
- Metro Greenways – 2001 LCMR: \$2,730,000 appropriation

In addition, the DNR has allocated about \$200,000 in general funds each year for Metro Greenways staff (2.5 FTE) and operating costs. Also, to date, a commitment of approximately \$2 of non-state funds for every state dollar has been directly leveraged towards the projects being fund by the 2000 Bonding and 2001 LCMR appropriation.

B. Current Spending:

DNR budget has \$189,000 in general funds committed to Metro Greenways operating costs including Regional Operations staff (for MWC/MG oversight, budget management, GIS assistance, technical assistance, and related training.) Furthermore, the restoration grants should leverage over \$250,000 from grantees (including local and regional park funding) and the acquisition projects are expected to leverage \$730,000 to \$1.5 million (including donated lands/easements, local and federal funding contributions).

C. Required Match (if applicable): NA

D. Future Spending: Metro Wildlife Corridors partners (including Met Council staff) initially projected a need for \$20,000,000 per biennium for 20 years (or \$200,000,000) to address the existing needs to acquire and restore significant habitat in the Metro Region. In additional, the grantees and project partners will be spending funds in ongoing maintenance and restoration.

VII. Project Partners:

A. Partners Receiving LCMR Funds: Overall MWC has 12 state/regional partner organizations and 2 local project partners (see overall MWC work program for this list). Metro Greenways restoration grants will be granted (not contracted) to local units of government (e.g. cities and regional park districts) and non-profit organizations (e.g. Minnesota Conservation Corps). Metro Greenways acquisition money will include real estate transaction costs going to other MWC Partners and/or DNR Lands and Minerals Division (who may subcontract some work) and the Attorney General's Office.

B. Project Cooperators: Metro Greenways will be working with numerous participating organizations through the Focus Area Teams and as grant recipients and project cooperators. Major groups who have submitted preliminary project idea forms and others with whom we expect to work include:

- Metropolitan Council
- Anoka Conservation District, Dakota SWCD, and other SWCD's
- Dakota County, Anoka Co. Parks & Recreation, Ramsey Co Parks, and other county units
- Watershed Districts & Water Management Organizations, e.g. Rice Creek Watershed District, Carnelian-Marine WD
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Minnesota Conservation Corps
- Big Rivers Partnership

VIII. DISSEMINATION: Information on MWC and Metro Greenways will posted on the DNR website www.dnr.state.mn.us. An electronic mailing list of interested parties in each focus area will maintained throughout the project; periodic updates will be sent to them and/or meetings will be held with focus area groups. Press releases and project fact sheets will be developed and disseminated on many of the projects.

IX. LOCATION: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors will limit its work to the following 12 focus areas (see attached map; also see the narrative included with the overall MWC work program). Metro Greenways will accept project proposals and applications from all 12 focus areas, but intends to select targeted project areas within selected focus areas as its priorities for this funding.

1. Rum River, Trott Brook and Cedar Creek
2. Carlos Avery
3. Rice, Clearwater, and Hardwood Creek
4. St. Croix River
5. Upper Mississippi River
6. Lower Mississippi River
7. Vermillion River
8. Cannon River
9. Scott County
10. Minnesota River Valley
11. West Metro Lakes
12. Crow River

X. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than February 1 in 2004, 2005, and 2006, and August 1 in 2004 and 2005. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted by June 30, 2006

Attachment B

Metro Greenways Criteria for Selecting Potential Land Protection Sites

I. Ecological Value – Primary Criteria

A. Plant Community/Wildlife Habitat Quality – Site located within, buffering or connecting to a Regionally Significant Ecological Area and/or having rare species or plant communities will receive a higher priority. Sites that have been disturbed or degraded should not require extraordinary restoration efforts and expenditures. Current and future use of lands adjacent to the site should not significantly diminish quality of the site over time.

B. Other Ecological Functions – *In addition to habitat, natural areas and other open spaces may provide a wide variety of additional ecological benefits, such as protection of surface and ground water quality and/or supply, natural flood storage capacity, and soil stability. Sites that contribute such functions will receive a higher priority.*

II. Project Feasibility – Primary Criteria

A. Committed Donor/Seller – The success of this program depends upon property owners who are ready and willing to engage in discussion and negotiation of land protection options, including donation or sale of fee title or conservation easements. Projects with a willing landowner will receive a higher priority.

B. Timeliness – Sites that offer the prospect of concluding the land protection transaction by June 2005 will receive a higher priority. Projects must be completed by December 2005. Potential delaying factors such as multiple owners, title defects, property encroachments, boundary disputes, site contamination, deed or easement restrictions, will be considered in evaluating the nomination.

C. Feasible Funding Plan – The cost for protecting the site cannot exceed the ability/limits of the program. A realistic assessment of the cost to protect the site should be made and a preliminary funding plan needs to be submitted as part of the nomination. Administrators of other potential funding sources should be consulted to determine if additional funds are available to supplement Metro Greenways if necessary.

D. Willing and Appropriate Future Owner/Manager – Future ownership of fee title or conservation easement must contribute to effective, long-term protection of the site and management of its natural resources. A private or public entity that will accept management responsibilities for the site, including stewardship, monitoring, and/or security activities, should be identified.

III. Other Program Goals – Secondary Criteria

A. Community Support and Collaboration – Nearby residents, local community elected officials and other interested groups should be involved and favor the project. Identification of the site for land protection in community documents such as natural area/greenway plans and natural resource inventories is desirable. Financial involvement and/or resource dedication by multiple partners is also a strong indicator of support. In general, projects that include a higher percentage of non-state funding sources will be rated higher.

B. Compatible Public Use – Although the primary focus of the program is to protect and improve natural areas, people may have opportunities to use and enjoy these areas. Sites where educational, stewardship, and recreational activities can be accommodated without compromising the site's ecological value will receive greater consideration than comparable sites which do not provide for compatible uses.

C. Imminence of Threat – Many natural areas and potential corridors are threatened by development pressure, fragmentation and other factors. In some situations, only a short period of time may be available to protect an area from being permanently lost or significantly degraded. Higher priority will be given to those sites with an immediate or high level of threat.

D. Program Visibility and Geographic Distribution – Certain sites, by virtue of their size, characteristics, location, and history can further natural resource protection by increasing awareness of the Metro Greenways program and its goals. Sites and projects that bring these important benefits to the program will receive extra consideration. Would the project not be able to be done, but for Metro Greenways support? Also, an attempt will also be made to distribute protected sites throughout the region and within urban, suburban and rural areas.

Proposal Title: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors - 2.5, & 3.7 Metro Greenways

Project Manager Name: Kate Drewry

LCMR Requested Dollars: \$1,089,000

2003 LCMR Proposal Budget	<u>Result 1</u> <u>Budget:</u> <u>(Original)</u>	<u>Result 1</u> <u>Budget:</u> <u>(Amended</u> <u>8/1/05)</u>	Amount Spent	Balance	<u>Result 2</u> <u>Budget:</u> <u>(Original)</u>	<u>Result 2</u> <u>Budget:</u> <u>(Amended</u> <u>8/1/05)</u>	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL FOR BUDGET ITEM (ORIGINAL)	TOTAL FOR BUDGET ITEM (AMENDED)
	2.5. Restore Significant Habitat				3.7. Acquire Significant Habitat					
BUDGET ITEM										
PERSONNEL: staff salary - 2 FTE of MWC/MG Coordinator, unclassified position to be created & filled	8,300	8,300	8,300	0	8,300	8,300	8,300	0	16,600	16,600
PERSONNEL: staff benefits - estimated 21% fringe benefits for MWC/MG Coordinator	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	3,400	3,400
Land rights acquisition - fee &/or less than fee - approximately 65 ac)					730,000	774,000	800,400		730,000	800,400
Other land improvement - both acquisition & restoration: signs; acquisition only: fences, signs, & other improvements required for land to meet minimum DNR standards	10,000	0	0	0	44,000	0	0	0	54,000	0
Other land improvement - grants	250,000	260,000	260,000						250,000	260,000
Other -real estate transaction costs			0		35,000	35,000	8,600	0	35,000	8,600
COLUMN TOTAL	270,000	270,000	270,000	0	819,000	819,000	819,000	0	1,089,000	1,089,000

Table C. Metro Greenways Restoration Project Accomplishments as of 7/30/06

Overall Project Name	Parcel Name	Location	Date Completed	Restored Acres	LCMR-MG funds	Other State funds		Local Govt Funding		Private Funding		Federal Funding		Combined Funding	Project Description
					Source	Source	Source	Source	Source	Source	Source	Source			
Bald Eagle Regional Park	Benson Farm	White Bear Twsp - Ramsey Co	Jun-05	50	\$ 27,500			MC & County	\$ 28,333			Wildlife Grant	\$40,000	\$ 95,833	Proj is grant for prairie restoration at Benson Farm site.
Cam Ran Park	(same)	Burnsville - Dakota Co	Jun-05	4	\$ 7,000			City	\$3,500					\$ 10,500	Proj is grant for oak savanna restoration at City park with rare species on site.
St Croix Greenway Corridor	St. Croix Watershed Research Station	May Twsp - Washington Co	Dec-05	16	\$ 30,000		LCMR-Bucks and Buckthorn project		\$10,500		SCWRS, Belwin & volunteers	\$10,000		\$ 50,500	Proj is grant for prairie restoration at 2 sites-St. Croix Watershed Research Stn (SCWRS) and Warner Nature Center; including research component to evaluate best methods of maximizing floristic diversity.
Belwin Lake Edith Overlook	(same)	Afton - Washington Co	Jun-05	30	\$ 20,000						Belwin	\$42,638		\$ 62,638	Proj is grant for prairie restoration on Belwin lands.
Dakota Co Fairgrounds Prairie	(same)	Farmington - Dakota Co	Dec-05	129	\$ 5,000			SWCD	\$ 1,300	Sportsman's Clubs	\$ 1,500			\$ 7,800	Proj is grant for prairie restoration (burn) on Dakota Co Fairground property.
St. Paul Parks	Mississippi Bluffs & Highwood Park	St. Paul - Ramsey Co	Dec-05	10	\$ 20,000			City & MC	\$28,200	Citizen donation and volunteers	\$27,755			\$ 75,925	Proj is grant for bluff, prairie and wetland restoration at 3 sites along the Mississippi River in St. Paul.
Mn Valley State Recreation Area	Carver Rapids Unit	Louisville Twsp - Scott Co	Jun-05	25	\$ 2,420		DNR Parks	\$13,330				USF&W	\$7,000	\$ 22,750	Proj is grant for restoration of native communities on rock outcrop with many rare species on site and in oak woodland along the Minnesota River valley at Carver Rapids.
Pioneer Park	(same)	Blaine - Anoka Co	Dec-05	14	\$ 35,500			City	\$10,350					\$ 45,850	Proj is grant for wetland restoration to enhance rare species on site.
Wiklund Prairie Restoration & PPB	Wiklund	Rosemount - Dakota Co	Jun-05	14	\$ 10,228		LCMR-MWC	\$9,441						\$ 15,441	Proj is grant for prairie restoration of old hay field adjoining oak forest; site has MG funds allocated for acquisition.
No Mississippi Regional Park	(same)	Minneapolis - Hennepin Co	Jun-05	17	\$ 6,852			City and MC	\$9,267	Volunteers	\$9,500			\$ 25,619	Proj is grant for Mississippi River flood plain forest restoration
Anoka Co Parks	Kum River, Bunker Hills & Mississippi West Regional Parks	Blaine & Ramsey - Anoka Co	Jun-05	150	\$ 67,500			County & MC	\$63,000					\$ 130,500	Proj is grant for oak savanna and wet prairie restorations at 3 regional parks.
Reservoir Woods Park	(same)	Roseville - Ramsey Co	Jun-06	41	\$18,000			City	\$10,000					\$28,000	Proj is grant for oak savanna and prairie restoration at city park.
Camp Kingswood	(same)	Minnetrista - Hennepin Co	Dec-05	53	\$ 10,000			HCD	\$ 4,000					\$ 14,000	Proj is grant for Big Woods forest restoration of site with MG conservation easement.
TOTAL				553	\$ 260,000				\$ 33,271				\$ 47,000	\$ 585,356	

Table D Metro Greenways ACQUISITION Project Accomplishments, Updated 7/30/06

Overall Project Name	Parcel Name	Location	Date Completed	Fee Acquisition Acres	Easement Acquisition Acres	Total Project Acres	LCMR - MG funds	Other State funds		Local Govt Funding		Private Funding		Federal Funding		Combined Funding	Project Description
							\$\$	Source	\$\$	Source	\$\$	Source	Source	\$\$	Source		
NW Anoka Co Greenway 1	Kern	Burns Twsp - Anoka Co	6/3/2005		65	65	\$ 40,000					landowner donation	\$ 284,000			\$ 324,000	Proj is grant for CE acquisition (mostly donated) to be co-held by City & ACD w/ ACD providing ongoing stewardship. The site is restored ag. fields & wetlands & is an important link in the NW Anoka Co. greenway.
Scott Co Regional Park	Doyle	Cedar Lake Twsp - Scott Co	12/22/2004	80		400	\$ 650,000			Met Council and Scott County	\$4,750,000					\$ 5,400,000	Proj is grant towards county fee acquisition of 400 acres as a regional park . Site features 90 acres of MCBS oak forest, 125 ac of high quality wetlands, and 30 acres of restorable oak savanna.
Vermillion Empire View	Miles	Empire Twsp - Dakota Co	11/22/2005	21		470	\$ 110,400	TPL(\$100K), WMA & AMA (\$454K) -- all MCC-LCMR'03	\$ 553,950	FNAP	\$ 1,000,000	Landowner donation of appraised value	\$ 469,650	LAWCON	\$800,000	\$ 2,930,000	Proj is DNR fee acquisition of 470 acres as combined WMA/AMA - on both sides of the Vermillion River which is a designated trout stream.
TOTAL				101	65	935	\$ 800,400		\$ 553,950		\$5,750,000		\$ 753,650		\$800,000	\$ 8,654,000	