

JUL 27 2006

**LCMR WORK PROGRAM 2003
FINAL REPORT
June 30, 2006**

I. TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors Project: Protecting Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements—3.1

Projects were completed in the following project focus areas:

Project Area 1 — Rum River, Trott Brook, Cedar Creek
Project Area 4 — St. Croix River
Project Area 5 — Upper Mississippi River
Project Area 6 — Lower Mississippi River
Project Area 9 — Scott County
Project Area 10— Minnesota River Valley
Project Area 12— Crow River

Project Manager: Jane Prohaska
Executive Director
Affiliation: Minnesota Land Trust
Mailing Address: 2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240
Telephone Number: 651-647-9590
E-Mail: jprohaska@mnland.org
Fax: 651.647.9769
Web Address: www.mnland.org

Total Biennial LCMR Project Budget:	LCMR Appropriation:	\$230,000
	Amount Spent:	225,300
	Balance:	\$ 4,700

Legal Citation: M.L. 2003, Chapter 128, Art. 1, Sec. 9 Subd. 5(b)

Appropriation Language:

\$4,850,000 (Environmental Trust Fund) 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. \$3,550,000 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:

As a partner in Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors, the Minnesota Land Trust worked with landowners throughout the metropolitan area to secure permanent conservation easements on lands that contribute to protecting Minnesota's remaining natural areas in the region.

We completed 13 conservation easements in 7 project focus areas. See the attached chart and map for details.

Collectively, these conservation easements protected 528 acres of land and over 8,000 feet of shoreline. Five easements involved protecting land in residential developments designed to protect and/or restore the natural and scenic features of the sites while accommodating the need for housing in our growing metropolitan area. Two easements were purchased—each at deeply discounted prices. The remaining six easements were donated.

The known value of these conservation easements is over \$8,300,000 with the donated value at well over \$8,000,000. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete these projects was just over \$426 per acre, demonstrating the cost effectiveness of working with conservation easements to protect Minnesota's natural and scenic resources.

Additionally, for each easement the Land Trust has prepared baseline property reports, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement if necessary.

Finally, to fund our perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligation and to secure our ability to protect the lands covered by these easements in the future, we have dedicated funds to our Stewardship and Enforcement Fund.

Through this project, the Land Trust has learned much about protecting land in a rapidly growing and developing area. Private landowners with significant tracts of undeveloped land are becoming increasingly rare and we did not have as much activity in this regard as originally

anticipated. Given the population growth projections for the coming decades, it is clear that it will be increasingly important to find ways to combine conservation and development.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Protect Significant Habitat: Acquiring Conservation Easements — 3.1

Protect critical habitat in various project focus areas by:

- Accepting permanent conservation easements on up to 400 acres of land.
- Dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements.

LCMR Allocation: \$230,000

Balance: \$ 4,700

Completion Date: June 30, 2006

Conservation easements can be an incredibly cost effective way to protect natural lands, as demonstrated by our results under this project. The Land Trust is pleased that we were able to exceed our project goals by completing 13 conservation easements protecting 528 acres of land in 7 project areas at a cost to the State of Minnesota of only \$426 per acre.

But we discovered during this project that it was more difficult than anticipated to find landowners willing and able to contribute easements to the Land Trust as has been our experience in the past. The growth and development pressures placed upon landowners in the seven county metropolitan area are making this tool a much less attractive tool than it is in more rural areas. With land values as high as they are, many landowners do not feel they can afford to give up such value. This is coupled with the fact that local communities are increasingly looking for ways to plan for and absorb the current and anticipated population growth affecting the entire region.

As a result, more of our work in the metropolitan region is increasingly directly related to working with local communities and developers as they look for ways to combine the need for residential housing with their desire to create livable communities, protect natural resources, and preserve community character. These types of conservation-based development projects are becoming increasingly popular. This, of course, is not the only solution to protecting our natural resources in the face of development but has clearly become one option that needs to be used more frequently. These projects are typically more complicated, time-consuming and expensive than working with individual landowners. But as developers are increasingly asked to absorb the costs associated with permanently protecting open space in this context, land can be protected without additional costs to the public. Without this, we would not have been able to meet our project goals with the funding available.

Additionally, we have learned that shifting landownership patterns have resulted in ever

decreasing parcel size of land remaining in private ownership. Our average parcel size was approximately 40 acres for parcels completed under this project, half the size of average Minnesota Land Trust projects. As each project comes with certain transactional costs regardless of size, this also makes it increasingly more expensive to protect land.

And finally, as more landowners cannot afford to donate the value of the development rights they are willing to give up, conservation easements while remaining costs effective will nevertheless be more expensive. Again, more funding will be necessary to protect the same amount of land. Fortunately, we were able to secure funding to purchase two such easements in this project.

All of the projects completed by the Land Trust under this project as discussed in detail below and are summarized on the attached chart and map.

Descriptions and Results by Project Focus Areas:

Project Focus Area 1: Rum River, Trott Brook, Cedar Creek

Acres protected: 165

We completed two easements with one landowner and the landowner's extended family covering approximately 95 acres of land in Anoka County, a project mentioned in an article in the StarTribune. We also completed another easement in Anoka County protecting 70 acres of woodlands, wetlands, and fields. That landowner on that project is also working with the Anoka County Conservation District on restoration at the site.

Project Focus Area 4: St. Croix River

Acres protected: 174

Two conservation easements were purchased along Valley Creek in this focus area. One involved the use of funds from the DNR Metro Greenways Program to purchase a 15 acre conservation easement from Belwin, a non-profit educational and conservation organization with other lands under easement with the Minnesota Land Trust. The easement was purchased at a bargain sale with the landowner providing stewardship funding for the project.

The other project protects 39 acres of floodplain forest and uplands at the confluence of Valley Creek and the St. Croix River. Again, the easement was purchased at a discount.

A third project in this project area involves a conservation development in the town of Bayport along the bluffs of the St. Croix River. The conservation easement held by the Land Trust will protect 120 acres of open space in this rapidly developing area. This project is adjacent to a Scientific and Natural Area and will involve substantial restoration. Ultimately, the protected open space will be owned by the town of Bayport with an extensive trail system connecting the open space to the public lands. The developer covered all of the costs associated with this project.

Project Focus Area 5: Upper Mississippi River

Acres Protected: 19

We completed one easement in this project area along Basset Creek in Golden Valley. The land, owned by General Mills, is being conveyed to the City of Golden Valley as a natural park. In order to insure that the property will remain in its natural state, General Mills first granted an easement to the Land Trust. Stewardship costs were covered by the landowner.

Project Focus Area 6: Lower Mississippi River

Acres Protected: 86

Three separate easements were involved to protect the 86 acres of natural and scenic areas associated with the conservation development Tapestry at Charlotte's Grove in Lake Elmo. The project is also adjacent to another conservation development in the city with open space protected by the Land Trust. The developer covered all of the costs associated with this project.

Project Focus Area 9: Scott County

Acres protected: 55

The Land Trust was involved with the first conservation development in Scott County, completing a conservation easement on a 360 acre mixed-use development in Prior Lake. 55 acres of forests and wetlands and more than a mile of shoreline along several ponds will be protected by the easement. The project is a demonstration that conservation design and permanent land protection are principles applicable in more than just residential setting. As with other projects in a development setting, the developer covered the costs associated with completing the easement.

Project Focus Area 10: Minnesota River Valley

Acres protected: 10

The Land Trust completed a conservation easement adding 10 acres to an existing conservation easement along the Minnesota River Valley. The site now includes 88 acres of protected floodplain, upland forest, and meadows.

Project Focus Area 12: Crow River

Acres protected: 21

This conservation easement protects 21 acres of habitat and open space adjacent to the DNR's Wood-Rill Scientific and Natural Area in western Hennepin County. The easement will not only prohibit extensive development on the property but will require the landowners to keep a trail on the property available for public use as long as the adjacent property is in public ownership. No stewardship funding was necessary from

LCMR as the landowners contributed the funds themselves in addition to donating the easement.

V. TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET: (see attachment A and page 1)

All Results: Personnel:	\$ 5,000
All Results: Travel	\$ 1,000
All Results: Supplies	\$ 2,000
All Results: Stewardship	\$ 48,000
All Results: Acquisition:	<u>\$144,000</u>

TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 230,000

VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING

A. Past Spending: The Minnesota Land Trust has expended substantial financial resources to secure conservation easements throughout the greater metropolitan area, including numerous projects areas in the project focus areas which we will be working in under this grant. In addition, we have had programs and projects funded through Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources in the past and are also a partner in the LCMR funded Restoring Minnesota's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridors project.

B. Current Spending: This funding provided the Land Trust with an opportunity to expand on its current efforts in the metropolitan region. It also helped us implement our strategic plan of targeting our protection efforts. As such, this project is just one portion of our organizational spending for securing conservation easements on critical shorelands, natural habitat and scenic areas throughout Minnesota. We hope this project will increase our potential in the future to collaborate with others to identify lands most critical to protect and complete transactions with the greatest conservation benefit.

While no match was required, by working to acquire donated easements, the Minnesota Land Trust was able to protect lands at a fraction of what it would cost to purchase comparable lands in fee. This grant leveraged millions of dollars of value in lands protected through this program.

C. Required Match (if applicable): NA

D. Future Spending: It is hoped that this program will be continued with support from LCMR in future biennia. Contact made with landowners under this program will provide the Minnesota Land Trust with potential projects for years to come.

VII. PROJECT PARTNERS:

The Minnesota Land Trust worked with a number of partners in identifying potential projects. Discussions with the Anoka County Conservation District lead directly to projects completed in Anoka County. The Valley Creek (Belwin 2) project was completed in part with funds from the

DNR Metro Greenways program. The Wood-Rill SNA (Warner) project completes protection of a corner of the Wood-Rill Scientific and Natural Area and provides for protection of a public trail on the preserve.

VIII. DISSEMINATION

Results will be disseminated by the Land Trust in our publications and web page (www.mnland.org). We will also participate when possible in larger dissemination and publicity efforts of the partnership.

IX. LOCATION

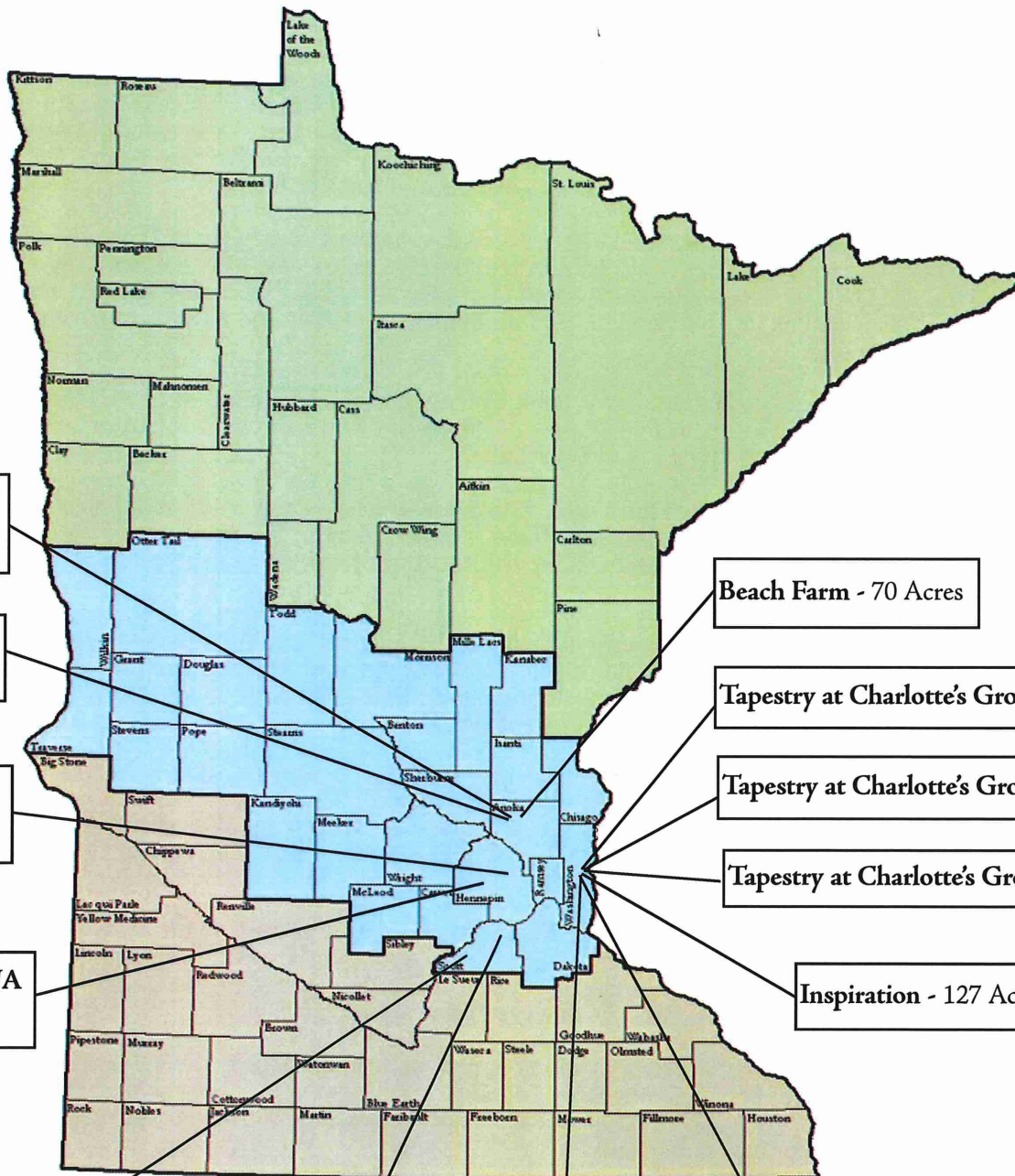
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- Project Area 6 — Lower Mississippi River
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- Project Area 10— Minnesota River Valley
- Project Area 12— Crow River

Minnesota Land Trust

Completed Projects

LCMR Metro Wildlife Corridors Phase I



July 2006

Minnesota Land Trust Completed Projects
LCMR Metro Wildlife Corridors Phase I

Bassett Creek: This 19-acre parcel in Hennepin County includes 1,100 feet of relatively undeveloped shoreline along Bassett Creek, which runs east to the Mississippi River. The City of Golden Valley plans to create a larger, more diverse wetland complex on the protected land and to enhance wildlife habitat. The City also plans to add a trail for public use around the perimeter that will connect with adjacent City-owned land.

Beach Farm: This heavily wooded, 70-acre parcel in Anoka County provides ideal habitat for numerous species including migrating waterfowl, sand hill cranes, blue herons and wading birds such as spring peepers. The landowners are interested in restoring the land to its native vegetation.

Emmans Farm: Two new projects totaling 92.5 acres were completed at this site in Anoka County. Both parcels consist of hardwood forest and wetlands and are exclusively used for recreation. The larger 80-acre parcel features the largest stand of original trees in Anoka County.

Inspiration: This 127-acre parcel is part of a conservation development in the City of Bayport. The land has been used for agriculture, but it will be restored to native prairie and oak savanna. The property is gently rolling and sits on a geologic bench above the St. Croix River. It is surrounded by other protected lands including city parkland, a Wildlife Management Area and a DNR-designated Scientific and Natural Area.

Jeffers Pond: This 55-acre easement, located in Scott County, encompasses much of Eagle Creek, the entirety of a small pond, and approximately 40 acres of mixed hardwood forest. It is part of a multi-use development project covering 360 acres in Prior Lake.

Minnesota River: This 10-acre forested tract is the final piece of what is now a 188-acre parcel of protected, wooded bluffs along the Minnesota River in Scott County. The protection of this land will contribute to the high quality scenic and wildlife habitat values found along this stretch of the River.

Tapestry at Charlotte's Grove: This property is part of a conservation development that protects 86 acres between three landowners in Washington County. Part of the protected land will provide open space with trails for the homeowners within the development, while other parts of the land will continue to be farmed or will be left undisturbed for wildlife habitat.

Valley Creek: (Belwin): This 15-acre parcel contains wetlands, restorable oak savanna and native prairie, which provide habitat for a variety of plants and wildlife. The property contains undisturbed and undeveloped marsh that is part of Lake Edith, a Minnesota DNR-designated natural environment lake. Lake Edith is part of the headwaters to Valley Creek, a trout stream that runs to the St. Croix River.

Valley Creek (Johnson): This 39-acre parcel in Washington County is adjacent to the St. Croix River, a nationally-designated Wild and Scenic River. Valley Creek, a state-designated trout stream that is a tributary of the St. Croix River, runs through the property. River otters, bald eagles, numerous waterfowl species and other wildlife have been observed on the protected land.

Wood-Rill SNA: This 21-acre parcel provides an important buffer to the adjacent Wood-Rill Scientific and Natural Area. The Wood-Rill SNA is a remnant of the Big Woods, the vast ecosystem that once covered 2,000 square miles of Minnesota. The land's heavily wooded slopes provide outstanding scenic views prominently visible to the public from the trails in the SNA.

Minnesota Land Trust
Metro Wildlife Corridors Phase 1
Project List
As of June 30, 2006

Project Area 1: Rum River, Trott Brook, Cedar Creek

Site	Tract	Acres	Shoreline Feet	County	Township	Completion		LCMR Stewardship	Other Stewardship	Easement Value
Beach Farm	Beach	70	0	Anoka	St. Francis	CLOSED	10/04	\$10,000		Unknown
Emmans Farm	Anderson, J	80	0	Anoka	St. Francis	CLOSED	9/05	\$10,000		\$600,000
Emmans Farm	Anderson, J 2	12.5	0	Anoka	Oak Grove	CLOSED	9/05	\$5,000		See above
Total		162.5	0					\$25,000		\$600,000

Projects completed: 3

Acres Protected: 162.5

Shoreline Feet Protected: 0

Easement value: \$600,000

Easement gift value: \$600,000

Project Area 4: St. Croix River

Site	Tract	Acres	Shoreline Feet	County	Township	Completion		LCMR Stewardship	Other stewardship	Acquisition	Easement Value
Inspiration	CPDC	120	0	Washington	Bayport	CLOSED	6/05		\$22,000		Unknown
Valley Creek	Belwin 2	15	0	Washington	Afton	CLOSED	5/04		\$5,000	\$165,000*	\$245,000
Valley Creek	Johnson	39	1,609	Washington	Afton	CLOSED	6/06	\$13,000		\$128,000	\$315,000
Total		174	1,609					\$13,000	\$27,000	\$128,000	\$560,000

Projects completed: 3

Acres Protected: 174

Shoreline Feet Protected: 1,609

Easement value: \$560,000

Easement gift value: \$267,000

Project Area 5: Upper Mississippi River

Site	Tract	Acres	Shoreline Feet	County	Township	Completion		LCMR Stewardship	Other Stewardship	Easement Value
						Estimated	Actual			
Bassett Creek	General Mills	19	1,100	Hennepin	Golden Valley	CLOSED	6/04		\$9,000	\$5,430,000
Total		19	1,100						\$9,000	\$5,430,000

Projects completed: 1 **Acres Protected:** 19 **Shoreline Feet Protected:** 1,100

Easement value: \$5,430,000
Easement gift value: \$5,430,000

Project Area 6: Lower Mississippi River

Site	Tract	Acres	Shoreline Feet	County	Township	Completion		LCMR Stewardship	Other Stewardship	Easement Value
						Estimated	Actual			
Tapestry at Charlotte's Grove	Berschens	16	0	Washington	Lake Elmo	CLOSED	12/04		\$38,000 total	Unknown
Tapestry at Charlotte's Grove	Morris	12	0	Washington	Lake Elmo	CLOSED	12/04		See above	Unknown
Tapestry at Charlotte's Grove	St. Croix Farms, LLC	58	0	Washington	Lake Elmo	CLOSED	12/04		See above	Unknown
Total		86	0						\$38,000	

Projects completed: 3 **Acres Protected:** 86 **Shoreline Feet Protected:** 0

Easement value:
Easement gift value:

Project Area 9: Scott County

Site	Tract	Acres	Shoreline Feet	County	Township	Completion		LCMR Stewardship	Other Stewardship	Easement Value
						Estimated	Actual			
Jeffers Pond	Jeffers Estate	55	5,000	Scott	Prior Lake	CLOSED	6/05		\$20,000	Unknown
Total		55	5,000						\$20,000	

Projects completed: 1 **Acres Protected:** 55 **Shoreline Feet Protected:** 5,000

Easement value:
Easement gift value: \$

Project Area 10: Minnesota River Valley

Site	Tract	Acres	Shoreline Feet	County	Township	Completion		LCMR Stewardship	Other Stewardship	Easement Value
						Estimated	Actual			
Minnesota River	O'Reilly 3	10	0	Scott	Blakely	CLOSED	12/04	\$10,000		\$225,000
Total		10	0					\$10,000		\$225,000

Projects completed: 1 **Acres Protected: 10** **Shoreline Feet Protected: 0**
Easement value: \$225,000
Easement gift value: \$225,000

Project Area 12: Crow River

Site	Tract	Acres	Shoreline Feet	County	Township	Completion		LCMR Stewardship	Other Stewardship	Easement Value
						Estimated	Actual			
Wood-Rill SNA	Warner	21	400	Hennepin	Wayzata	CLOSED	12/03		\$13,000	\$1,485,000
Total		21	400						\$13,000	\$1,485,000

Projects completed: 1 **Acres Protected: 21** **Shoreline Feet Protected: 400**
Easement value: \$1,485,000
Easement gift value: \$1,485,000

Grand Total: Projects Completed = 13

Acres Protected = 527.5 (Goal = 400)
Shoreline Protected = 8,100 feet (approximately 2 miles)

Known easement value: \$8,300,000
Known easement gift value: \$8,007,000

LCMR funds spent: **Direct CE acquisition cost: \$128,000**
 Stewardship and Enforcement Fund : \$48,000
 Other operating costs: \$49,300

Other funds spent: **Stewardship and Enforcement Fund: \$132,000**
 Other operating funds: \$15,000

***Metro Greenways acquisition funds: \$165,000**

Minnesota Land Trust

Attachment A: Budget Detail -- Final

Project Title:

Metro Wildlife Corridors

Protecting Regionally Significant Habitat-Acquiring Easments

Contract Number: A53447

Project Manager: Jane Prohaska

LCMR Requested Dollars: \$ 230,000

	Result 1 (Acquiring easments) Budget:	Amount Spent as of 6/30/06	Balance as of 6/30/06
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp insurance, 401(k), etc.) and related costs.	\$35,000.00	\$32,325.00	\$2,675.00
Office Supplies (including printing, photocopying, postage, telephone, etc.)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Travel	\$1,000.00	\$745.00	\$255.00
Easment acquisition costs	\$144,000.00	\$142,230.00	\$1,770.00
Title work, title insurance, etc		\$3,865.00	
Maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS)		\$3,960.00	
Film		\$255.00	
Other (including appraisals, survey, recording fees, etc.)		\$6,150.00	
Cost of conservation easement		\$128,000.00	
Easment stewardship	\$48,000.00	\$48,000.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$230,000.00	\$225,300.00	\$4,700.00

2003 PROJECT ABSTRACT

For the period ending June 30, 2006

TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors Project: Protecting Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements—3.1
PROJECT MANAGER: Jane Prohaska, Executive Director
ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Land Trust
ADDRESS: 2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240
St. Paul, MN 55114
WEB ADDRESS: www.mnland.org
FUND: Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2003, Chapter 128, Art. 1, Sec. 9 Subd. 5(b)
APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$230,000

OVERALL PROJECT OUTCOME AND RESULTS:

As a partner in Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors, the Minnesota Land Trust worked with landowners throughout the metropolitan area to protect lands that contribute to protecting Minnesota's remaining natural areas in the region. We completed 13 perpetual conservation easements in 7 of the identified project focus areas. See the attached map for details.

Collectively, these conservation easements protected 528 acres of land and over 8,000 feet of shoreline. Five easements involved protecting land in conservation oriented residential developments. Two easements were purchased at discounted prices. The remaining six easements were donated.

The known value of these conservation easements is over \$8,300,000 with the known donated value at well over \$8,000,000. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete these projects was just over \$426 per acre, demonstrating the cost effectiveness of working with conservation easements to protect Minnesota's natural and scenic resources. But private landowners with significant tracts of undeveloped land are increasingly rare and land values continue to rise rapidly. We did not have as many opportunities to work with privately donated easements as anticipated.

For each easement completed, the Land Trust prepared baseline property reports detailing the condition of the property for use in future monitoring and easement management. To secure our ability to protect the lands covered by these easements in the future, we have dedicated substantial funds to our Stewardship and Enforcement Fund.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

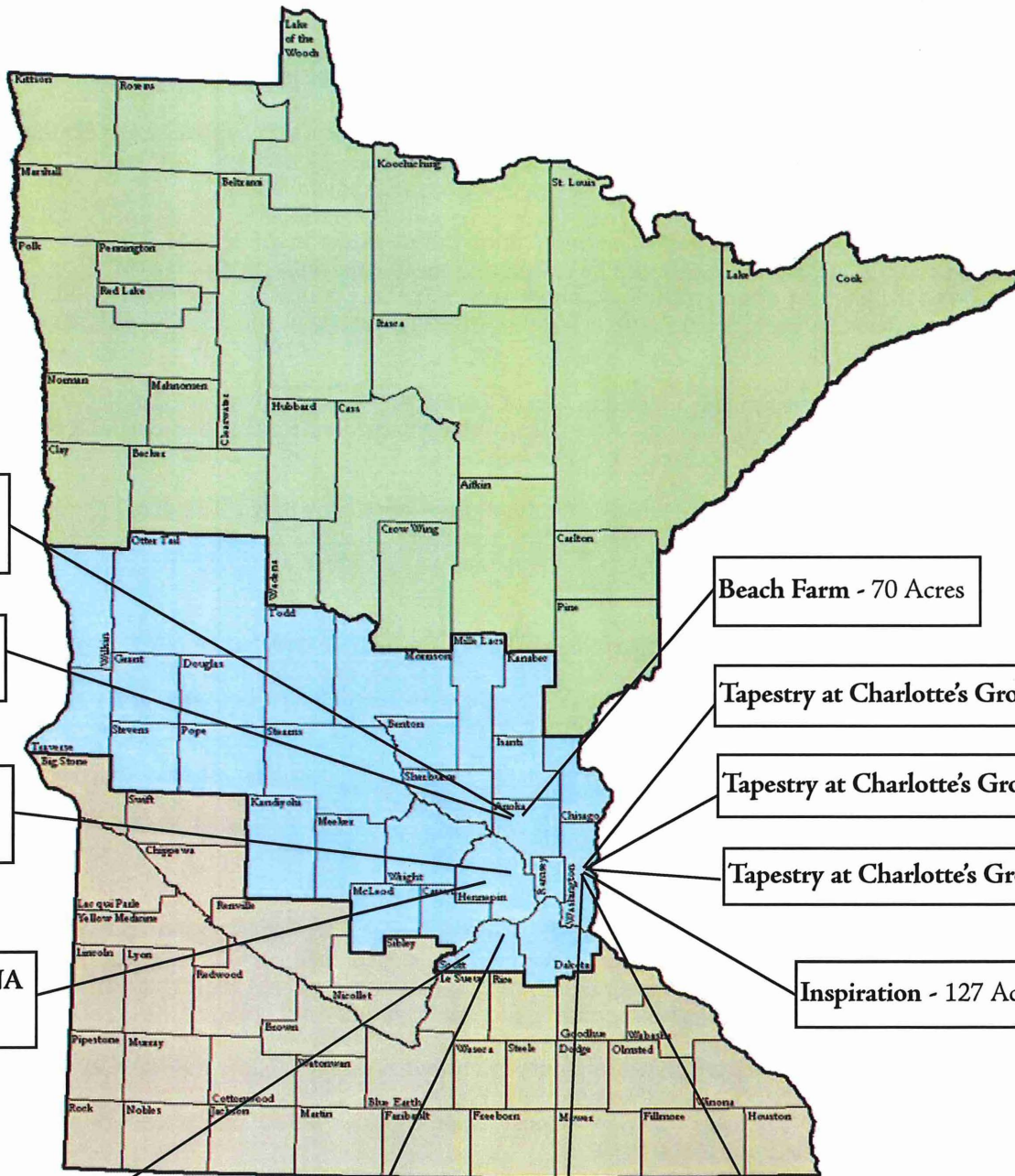
Through this project, the Land Trust learned much about protecting land in a rapidly growing and developing area. Given the population growth projections for the coming decades, it will be increasingly important to find ways to combine conservation and development. Given high metropolitan land values, conservation easements will remain a cost effective protection tool but will often need to be purchased as donations are likely to become increasing rare.

The Land Trust has disseminated information about projects completed through this grant in our newsletter and web site. We continue to discuss the conclusions we have drawn about metropolitan land protection with local communities and project partners.

Minnesota Land Trust

Completed Projects

LCMR Metro Wildlife Corridors Phase I



Emmans Farm
80 Acres

Emmans Farm
12.5 Acres

Bassett Creek
19 Acres

Wood-Rill SNA
21 Acres

Minnesota River
10 Acres

Jeffers Pond
55 Acres

Valley Creek
39 Acres

Valley Creek
15 Acres

Beach Farm - 70 Acres

Tapestry at Charlotte's Grove - 16 Acres

Tapestry at Charlotte's Grove - 12 Acres

Tapestry at Charlotte's Grove - 58 Acres

Inspiration - 127 Acres



July 2006

Minnesota Land Trust Completed Projects
LCMR Metro Wildlife Corridors Phase I

Bassett Creek: This 19-acre parcel in Hennepin County includes 1,100 feet of relatively undeveloped shoreline along Bassett Creek, which runs east to the Mississippi River. The City of Golden Valley plans to create a larger, more diverse wetland complex on the protected land and to enhance wildlife habitat. The City also plans to add a trail for public use around the perimeter that will connect with adjacent City-owned land.

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Minnesota River: This 10-acre forested tract is the final piece of what is now a 188-acre parcel of protected, wooded bluffs along the Minnesota River in Scott County. The protection of this land will contribute to the high quality scenic and wildlife habitat values found along this stretch of the River.

Tapestry at Charlotte's Grove: This property is part of a conservation development that protects 86 acres between three landowners in Washington County. Part of the protected land will provide open space with trails for the homeowners within the development, while other parts of the land will continue to be farmed or will be left undisturbed for wildlife habitat.

Valley Creek: (Belwin): This 15-acre parcel contains wetlands, restorable oak savanna and native prairie, which provide habitat for a variety of plants and wildlife. The property contains undisturbed and undeveloped marsh that is part of Lake Edith, a Minnesota DNR-designated natural environment lake. Lake Edith is part of the headwaters to Valley Creek, a trout stream that runs to the St. Croix River.

Valley Creek (Johnson): This 39-acre parcel in Washington County is adjacent to the St. Croix River, a nationally-designated Wild and Scenic River. Valley Creek, a state-designated trout stream that is a tributary of the St. Croix River, runs through the property. River otters, bald eagles, numerous waterfowl species and other wildlife have been observed on the protected land.

Wood-Rill SNA: This 21-acre parcel provides an important buffer to the adjacent Wood-Rill Scientific and Natural Area. The Wood-Rill SNA is a remnant of the Big Woods, the vast ecosystem that once covered 2,000 square miles of Minnesota. The land's heavily wooded slopes provide outstanding scenic views prominently visible to the public from the trails in the SNA.