

LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

2005 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2008

PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase II: 2.4. Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project - Friends of the MN Valley

PROJECT MANAGER: Joe Pavelko

AFFILIATION: Friends of the Minnesota Valley

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FUNDING SOURCE: Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2005, 1st Spec. Sess., Chap. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 5b.

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$40,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The rapidly expanding human population and the resulting pressures placed on the Twin Cities Area's remaining natural lands are intensifying. Investing today in the protection and restoration of these key natural lands is critical. Friends of the Minnesota Valley aimed to restore and enhance 35 acres of significant biological communities and wildlife habitat, including calcareous fens, throughout the Expanded Minnesota River Focus Area. The project's main efforts included invasive species control and the restoration and enhancement of significant plant communities and wildlife habitats.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley working with local, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and private landowners, leveraged an additional \$13,900 of other non-state funding to successfully restore a total of 100 acres of significant wildlife habitat throughout the Expanded Minnesota River Focus Area within the mapped corridors. Restoration and enhancement activities included the restoration of 5 wetlands totaling 18 acres, 3 acres of which were calcareous fen. In addition, 4 acres of prairie was restored along with 75 acres of forest restoration. Wetlands were restored by constructing shallow earthen dams, blocking drainage tile lines, and installing water control structures. Prairie was restored utilizing native grass and forb species. Forest restoration consisted mainly of exotic species removal, predominantly buckthorn removal.

The restoration work will improve the health of native vegetation, protect fish and wildlife species, increase and protect water quality, and also build upon the strong relationships between government conservation agencies, non-profit organizations, and private land owners.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2005 Metro Corridors Project					date: 6/30/08		
Project Title: Proposal Title: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors - Phase II: Friends of the Mississippi River 2.3							
Project Manager Name: Tom Lewanski							
LCMR Requested Dollars: \$ 90,000							
BUDGET ITEM	Result 1: Restoration				Comments		
	Amount Budgeted (\$)	Revised Budget as of April 25, 08*	Amount Spent as of: June 30, 2008 (\$)	Balance (\$)			
PERSONNEL							
Staff expenses, wages, salaries, & benefits	21,280.00	18,276.07	18,025.31	250.76	Conservation Director (landowner liaison, project selection & development, overall project management. .09 annual equivalent FTE) Restoration Ecologist (Specific restoration project selection, design, implementation management. .26 annual equivalent FTE.) Accountant (project accounting, preparation of LCMR invoices. .01 annual equivalent FTE). Benefits are		
DEVELOPMENT							
Land improvement	68,220.00	71,223.93	71,223.93	0.00	Soil prep., drilling seed, crew to remove exotic plants, burn crew, plants, herbicide, seed, etc.		
OTHER							
Travel expenses in Minnesota	500.00	500.00	436.17	63.83	mileage		
TOTAL LCMR Funding	90,000.00	90,000.00	89,685.41	314.59			
* On April 25, 2008 FMR requested a workplan change that sought to reallocate \$3,003.93 from the staff expenses portion of the budget to							

**LCMR 2005 Work Program Final Report
Work Program Status Report
Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors-Phase II:2.4**

Date of Report: August 15, 2008
LCCMR 2005 Work Program Final Report
Date of Work program Approval: June 14, 2005
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2008

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase II: 2.4. Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project - Friends of the MN Valley

Project Manager: Joe Pavelko
Affiliation: Friends of the Minnesota Valley
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Web Page address: www.friendsofminvalley.org

Location: Within mapped Focus Area and within the counties of Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Rice, Scott. See Figure 1.

Total Biennial Project Budget:	LCMR Appropriation:	\$ 40,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$ 40,000
	Equal Balance:	\$ 0

Legal Citation: ML 2005, 1st Spec. Sess., Chap. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 5b.

Appropriation Language: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase II. \$1,765,000 the first year and \$1,765,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the second biennium 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, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Friends of the Minnesota Valley 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 and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. 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 similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2008, 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 rapidly expanding human population and the resulting pressures placed on the Twin Cities Area's remaining natural lands are intensifying. Investing today in the protection and restoration of these key natural lands is critical.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley aimed to restore and enhance 35 acres of significant biological communities and wildlife habitat, including calcareous fens, throughout the Expanded Minnesota River Focus Area. The project's main efforts included invasive species control and the restoration and enhancement of significant plant communities and wildlife habitats.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley working with local, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and private landowners, leveraged an additional \$13,900 of other non-state funding to successfully restore a total of 100 acres of significant wildlife habitat throughout the Expanded Minnesota River Focus Area within the mapped corridors. Restoration and enhancement activities included the restoration of 5 wetlands totaling 18 acres, 3 acres of which were calcareous fen. In addition, 4 acres of prairie was restored along with 75 acres of forest restoration. Wetlands were restored by constructing shallow earthen dams, blocking drainage tile lines, and installing water control structures. Prairie was restored utilizing native grass and forb species. Forest restoration consisted mainly of exotic species removal, predominantly buckthorn removal.

The restoration work will improve the health of native vegetation, fish and wildlife species, increase and protect water quality, and also build upon the strong relationships between government conservation agencies, non-profit organizations, and private land owners.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 2: Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat

Description: With MWC funding, the Friends of the Minnesota Valley will restore and enhance 35 acres of regionally significant habitat (plus another 5 acres through leveraged funds for a total of 40 acres). Friends of the Minnesota Valley and its partners will take steps to control invasive species and restore and enhance native

plant species of significant biological and habitat communities throughout the Expanded Minnesota River Focus Area.

Summary Budget Information for Result 2: LCMR Budget	\$ 40,000
Balance	\$ 0

Completion Date: June 30, 2008

Final Result: Using the \$40,000 LCMR funding, Friends of the MN Valley was able to secure \$13,900 of other non-state funding match to restore 100 acres of significant habitat within the mapped corridors throughout the Expanded Minnesota River Focus Area.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley, through our contractor Minnesota Conservation Corps, completed chemical treatment of 60 acres of Buckthorn and 10 acres of garlic mustard in high priority oak savanna, prairie and floodplain forest sites within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge's Long Meadow Lake and Bass Ponds Units. In addition, 5 acres of buckthorn was treated on five acres of oak savanna within the Refuge's Rapids Lake Unit. Restoration efforts will be protected and managed in perpetuity by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Two seasonal wetlands totaling 2 acres were restored in Jessenland Township of Sibley County on permanently protected land through an easement by the Minnesota Land Trust. These wetlands provide habitat and function as grade stabilization structures to prevent further erosion of the bluff.

FMV worked with the Carver SWCD and the USFWS to retire 4 acres of cropland in Watertown Township of Carver County. A total of 2.5 acres were restored to native tallgrass prairie with the remaining 1.5 acres planted to a riparian buffer.

Two wetlands totaling 13 acres were restored in Scott County in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District. A 12 acre wetland in Spring Lake Township of Scott County was restored by constructing an earthen dam and installing a water control structure. The wetland will provide a myriad of benefits to wildlife and water quality. Work was completed by FMV, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and 6 landowners.

A one acre wetland was restored in Cedar Lake Township of Scott County by constructing an earthen dam and water control structure. The wetland will provide wildlife habitat and will provide many benefits to water quality. Work was completed in conjunction with FMV, USFWS, and Scott County SWCD.

Working with the MN DNR and Great River Greening, Friends of the MN Valley removed and treated 3 acres of invasive species including buckthorn on Seminary Fen, the newly acquired DNR Scientific and Natural Area in Carver County. This work spearheaded the large restoration work needed on this rare calcareous fen.

V. TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET:

All Results: Personnel: \$5,000
All Results: Equipment: \$ 0
All Results: Development: \$35,000
All Results: Acquisition: \$0
All Results: Other: \$ 0

TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET: \$40,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: No capital expenditures.

VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners: See Table 1.

B. Other Funds being spent during the Project Period: Friends of the Minnesota Valley will be spending an additional \$5,000 on the project with funds coming from our Watershed Initiative Program funded by private foundation dollars.

C. Required Match (if applicable): NA

D. Past Spending: \$40,000 has been spent on this project and all funds have been reimbursed.

E. Time: 3 years, until June 30, 2008.

VII. DISSEMINATION: Metro Corridors will periodically distribute information about the program through the widely broadcasted emails to people on the Regional Greenways Collaborative (RGC) database, through the RGC quarterly meetings, and jointly held county meetings. As projects are completed, Friends of the Minnesota Valley will publicize project accomplishments through press releases, the Friends' quarterly newsletter, and post projects on our website.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than February 1st and August 1st each year, starting with February 1st, 2006. A final work program report will be submitted by July 1st, 2008.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA

Attachment A Final: Budget Detail for 2005 Metro Corridors Project

date: June 30, 2008

Project Title: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors - Phase II: 2.4 Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project - Friends of the Minnesota Valley

Project Manager Name: Joe Pavelko

LCMR Requested Dollars: 40,000 \$ 40,000

BUDGET ITEM	Amount Budgeted (\$)	Amount Spent (\$)	Balance (\$)	Comments
PERSONNEL				
Staff expenses, wages, salaries, & benefits	\$ 5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$ -	Kevin Bigalke - Director of Conservation Programs, Project coordination and implementation, .15 FTE
EQUIPMENT				
Equipment / Tools				
Other Capital equipment				
EQUIPMENT - SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
DEVELOPMENT				
Contracts	\$2,391	\$2,391	\$ -	Work will include site preparation, construction of projects, seeding
Other land improvement	\$ 32,609.00	\$ 32,609.00	\$ -	This will be used to purchase native plants and seed that will be used during implementation of project done by staff, volunteers, and other non-contracted work.
Supplies				
DEVELOPMENT - SUBTOTAL	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ -	
ACQUISITION				
Land acquisition (fee title & conservation easement)				
Land transaction costs (e.g. survey, title, appraisal, environmental, & legal)				
ACQUISITION - SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
OTHER				
Easement stewardship				
Printing				
Other Supplies				
Travel expenses in Minnesota				
OTHER - SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL LCMR Funding	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	