

2005 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2008

TITLE: Local Initiative Grants (Parks and Natural Areas)

PROJECT MANAGER: Wayne Sames

ORGANIZATION: Department of Natural Resources

ADDRESS: OMBS, Box 10, 500 Lafayette Road

WEB SITE ADDRESS: wayne.sames@dnr.state.mn.us

FUND: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2005, First Special Session, Chap. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 6(j)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$1,200,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The key objectives and results of the Local Initiative Grants program are to assist local governments in: 1) acquisition of regional parks outside the Metro Area; 2) acquisition of natural and scenic areas statewide; and 3) acquisition of local parks.

The primary results of the program were:

- Four grants totaling \$900,000 for three county and one city administered regional parks resulted in the acquisition of 736.6 acres of park land. These grants protected high quality woods and prairie, wetlands, and a heron rookery to be added to Stanley Eddy Regional Park in Wright County; acquired agricultural land to be added to Robert Ney Regional Park in Wright County for restoration to prairie, forest and wetlands; acquired agricultural land to be added to the Hormel Nature Center for restoration to prairie; and protected one-half mile of undeveloped lake frontage and over 200 acres of high quality maple/basswood/oak forest recognized as a significant area by the state County Biological Survey in the new Kraemer Lake Regional Park in Stearns County
- One grant of \$100,000 for a new city administered natural and scenic area at Pilot Knob in Mendota Heights totaling 8.25 acres. The area has significant scenic, historical, geological, natural and cultural values and offers one of the most striking vistas in the Twin Cities metro area. It is currently being restored to prairie and oak savanna.
- One grant of \$100,000 for a new city administered park (McKinney Lake Park) protecting 1.88 acres of lake shore in Grand Rapids. The site will provide shore fishing and canoeing opportunities as well as a scenic stop along the Edge of the Wilderness Scenic Byway.
- Total acres acquired: 746.73.

Project Results, Use and Dissemination

1. Information about most of these parks and natural and scenic areas has been added to the DNR website. Click on "Profiles" under both the Regional Park Grants and Natural and Scenic Area Grants headings. The county web sites and the City of Austin web site also include information about these parks.

LCMR Final Work Program Report

Date of Report: December, 2007

Date of Next Status Report:

Date of Work program Approval: June 14, 2005

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2008

I. PROJECT TITLE: Local Initiative Grants (Parks and Natural Areas)

Project Manager: Wayne Sames **Affiliation:** Department of Natural Resources

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Web Page address: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

Location: This is a statewide grant program, except for Regional Park Grants, which are available to recipients outside the Metro Area. Projects will be located at various locations throughout the state (**See attached map, list of projects and descriptions**).

Total Biennial LCMR Project Budget:	LCMR Appropriation:	\$1,200,000
	Minus Amount Encumbered:	\$1,200,000
	Equal Balance:	\$0

Legal Citation: ML 2005, First Special Session, Chap. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 6(j)

Budget Status: (thousands)	<u>Total</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>Local</u> <u>Parks</u>	<u>Natural</u> <u>Scenic</u>	<u>Reg.</u> <u>Parks</u>	<u>Admin.</u> <u>Cost</u>
M.L. 2003, Art. 1, Ch. 128, Sec. 9, Subd. 06(c), (ETF)	2,579.0	344.3	964.7	1,250.0	20.0
Proposed Allocation:	2,579.0	344.3	964.7	1,250.0	20.0
Balance:	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
M.L. 2005, Art. , Ch. , Sec. , Subd. , (ETF)	1,200.0	100.0	100.0	900.0	100.0
Proposed Allocation:	1,200.0	100.0	100.0	900.0	100.0
Balance:	0	0.0	0.0	.0	0.0

Appropriation and Statutory Language:

2003 ETF: M.L. 2003, Art. 1, Chap. 128, Sec. 9, Subd. 06(c).

6(c) Local Initiative Grants – Parks and Natural Areas

\$1,290,000 the first year and \$1,289,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for matching grants to local governments for acquisition and development of natural and scenic areas and local parks as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 85.019, subdivisions 2 and 4a, and regional parks outside of the metropolitan area. Grants may provide up to 50 percent of the nonfederal share of the project cost, except nonmetropolitan regional park grants may provide up to 60 percent of the nonfederal share of the project cost. The commission will monitor the grants for approximate balance over extended periods of time between the metropolitan area, under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and the nonmetropolitan area through work program oversight and periodic allocation decisions. For the purposes of this paragraph, the match must be a nonstate contribution, but may be either cash or qualifying in-kind. Recipients may receive funding for more than one project in any given grant period. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2006, at which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

2005 ETF: M. L. 2005, First Special Session, Chap. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 6j

\$600,000 the first year and \$600,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to provide matching grants to local governments for acquisition and development of natural and scenic areas and local parks as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 85.019, subdivisions 2 and 4a, and regional parks outside of the metropolitan area. Grants may provide up to 50 percent of the nonfederal share of the project cost, except nonmetropolitan regional park grants may provide up to 60 percent of the nonfederal share of the project cost. \$500,000 of this appropriation is for land acquisition for a proposed county regional park on Kraemer Lake in Stearns County. The commission will monitor the grants for approximate balance over extended periods of time between the metropolitan area, under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and the nonmetropolitan area through work program oversight and periodic allocation decisions. For the purposes of this paragraph, the match must be a nonstate contribution, but may be either cash or qualifying in-kind. Recipients may receive funding for more than one project in any given grant period. Subdivision 16 of this section applies to grants awarded in the approved work program. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2008, at which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Statutory Language:

85.019 LOCAL RECREATION GRANTS.

Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "unit of government" means a county, statutory or home rule charter city, or town.

Subd. 2. **Parks and outdoor recreation areas.** The commissioner shall administer a program to provide grants to local units of government for up to 50 percent of the costs of acquisition and betterment of public land and improvements needed for parks and other outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

Subd. 3. [Repealed by amendment, 1995 c 220 s 68]

Subd. 4. [Repealed by amendment, 1995 c 220 s 68]

Subd. 4a. **Natural and scenic areas.** The commissioner shall administer a program to provide grants to units of government and school districts for the acquisition and betterment of natural and scenic areas such as blufflands, prairies, shorelands, wetlands, and wooded areas. A grant may not exceed 50 percent or \$500,000, whichever is less, of the costs of acquisition and betterment of land acquired under this subdivision.

Subd. 4b. **Regional trails.** The commissioner shall administer a program to provide grants to units of government for acquisition and betterment of public land and improvements needed for trails outside the metropolitan area deemed to be of regional significance according to criteria published by the commissioner. Recipients must provide a nonstate cash match of at least one-half of total eligible project costs. If land used for the trail is not in full public ownership, then the recipients must prove it is dedicated to the purposes of the grants for at least 20 years. The commissioner shall make payment to a unit of government upon receiving documentation of reimbursable expenditures. A unit of government may enter into a lease or management agreement for the trail, subject to section 16A.695.

Subd. 4c. **Local trail connections.** The commissioner shall administer a program to provide grants to units of government for up to 50 percent of the costs of acquisition and betterment of public land and improvements needed for trails that connect communities, trails, and parks and thereby increase the effective length of trail experiences. If land used for the trails is not in full public ownership, then the recipients must prove it is dedicated to the purposes of the grants for at least 20 years.

Subd. 5. **Powers; rules.** The commissioner has all the powers necessary and convenient to implement this section, including the authority to adopt rules for the program under chapter 14.

History: 1993 c 172s 35; 1994 c 643 s 48; 1995 c 220 s 68; 1996 c 407 s 35; 1999 c 231 s 102-104; 2000 c 492 art 1 s 40.

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The key objectives and results of the Local Initiatives Grants program are to assist local governments in: 1) acquisition of regional parks outside the Metro Area; 2) acquisition of local parks.

The primary results of the program were:

- Four grants totaling \$900,000 for three county and one city administered regional parks resulted in the acquisition of 736.6 acres of park land. These grants protected high quality woods and prairie, wetlands, and a heron rookery to be added to Stanley Eddy Regional Park in Wright County; acquired agricultural land to be added to Robert Ney Regional Park in Wright County for restoration to prairie, forest and wetlands; acquired agricultural land to be added to Hormel Nature Center for restoration to prairie; and protected one-half mile of undeveloped lake frontage and over 200 acres of high quality maple/basswood forest recognized as a significant area by the state County Biological Survey in the new Kraemer lake Regional Park in Stearns County.
- One grant of \$100,000 for a new city administered natural and scenic area at Pilot Knob in Mendota Heights totaling 8.25 acres. The area has significant scenic, historical, geological, natural and cultural values and offers one of the most striking vistas in the Twin Cities metro area. It is currently being restored to prairie and oak savanna.

- One grant of \$100,000 for a new city administered park (McKinney Lake Park) protecting 1.88 acres of lake shore in Grand Rapids. The site will provide shore fishing and canoeing opportunities as well as a scenic stop along the Edge of the Wilderness Scenic Byway.
- Total acres acquired: 746.73

Project Results, Use and Dissemination

1. Information about most of these parks and natural and scenic areas has been added to the DNR web site. Click on "Profiles" under both the Regional Park Grants and Natural and Scenic Area Grants headings. The county web sites and the City of Austin web site also include information about these parks.

(See attached list of projects for more details)

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS: This project includes three separate matching grant programs designed to help local governments reserve open space and park land, protect natural areas and their associated natural communities and features, preserve scenic vistas and viewpoints, and acquire lands for outdoor recreation activities.

Result 1: Natural and Scenic Area Grants

Final Report Summary: One grant of \$100,000 was made to the City of Mendota Heights to acquire 8.25 acres at Pilot Knob. This acquisition will protect a site with significant scenic, historic, geological, natural and cultural values and one of the most striking vistas in the Twin Cities metro area.. It is currently being restored to prairie and oak savanna.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:	LCMR Budget	\$100,000
	Balance	\$0

Result 2: Regional Parks (Outside the Metro Area)

Final Report Summary: Four projects were funded with grants totaling \$900,000. The City of Austin acquired additional acreage for the existing Hormel Nature Center; Wright County acquired additional acreage for the existing Robert Ney Regional Park and Stanley Eddy Regional Park; and Stearns County acquired 265 acres for the new Kraemer Lake Regional Park. The total acreage acquired was 736.6 acres.

Summary Budget Information for Result 2:	LCMR Budget	\$900,000
	Balance	\$0

Result 3: Local Park Grants

Final Report Summary: One project was funded with a grant of \$100,000. The City of Grand Rapids acquired 1.88 acres for shore land access to McKinney Lake. The property will provide fishing and picnicking opportunities and provide a scenic stop along the Edge of the Wilderness Scenic Byway.

(See the attached list of projects and descriptions).

Summary Budget Information for Result 3:	LCMR Budget	\$100,000
	Balance	\$0

Result 4: Administrative Costs

Final Report Summary: All projects have been completed and all administrative funds related to the projects have been expended.

Summary Budget Information for Result 4	LCMR Budget	\$100,000
	Balance	\$0

TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET:

All Results: Personnel: \$100,000
All Results: Equipment: \$0
All Results: Development: \$0
All Results: Acquisition: \$1,100,000
All Results: Other: \$0

TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET: \$1,200,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: Not Applicable.

V. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners: Local governments will receive \$1,100,000 in grants and contribute at least \$833,333, which may include in-kind, and will be responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

B. Other Funds being Spent during the Project Period: Some grants may involve a combination of state funds and federal Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars. (See the attached project lists for details).

C. Required Match (if applicable): For the Local Park Grant and Natural and Scenic Area Grant programs local governments will match the state grants on a 50/50 basis, resulting in a local match of at least \$300,000. For the Regional Park Grant program local governments provide a match of \$2 for every \$3 of state funds, resulting in a local match of at least \$533,333.

D. Past Spending: During the past biennium a total of \$2,579,000 in state funds was provided for other previously approved projects through the three grant programs. A total of \$284,851 was provided for Local Park Grants, \$849,163 for Natural and Scenic Area Grants and \$1,407,478 for Regional Park Grants.

E. Time: The appropriation language provides that the appropriation is available until June 30, 2008. This additional time allows for completion of historical/archeological review, environmental assessment information, and grant agreements subsequent to project approval.

- VI. DISSEMINATION:** Each year the Local Grants Section of DNR distributes information on the various grant programs and application materials to local governments and private organizations throughout the state. A general mailing is made at the beginning of each application period, usually in the fall, and individual requests are handled on a case-by-case basis. Grant information is also available on line on the DNR web site and requests for applications can be completed and submitted on line. The web site contains specific information about each of these three grant programs, as well as many other sources of financial assistance within the DNR. A brochure outlining these and other related grant programs is also available for distribution.
- VII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than December 2005, June 2006, December 2006, June 2007, and December 2007. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted by June 2008.
- VIII. RESEARCH PROJECTS:** Not applicable.

2005 LCMR Project History, DNR Local Grants Programs
Natural and Scenic Area, Outdoor Recreation and Regional Park Grant Programs
December 18, 2007

Final Report

Natural and Scenic Area

NS06-002	Mendota Heights	Pilot Knob	\$100,000
Projects: 1	Acres Acquired: 8.25	Total Program Award:	\$100,000

Outdoor Recreation

OR04-001	Grand Rapids	McKinney Lake Park	\$100,000
Projects: 1	Acres Acquired: 1.88	Total Program Award:	\$100,000

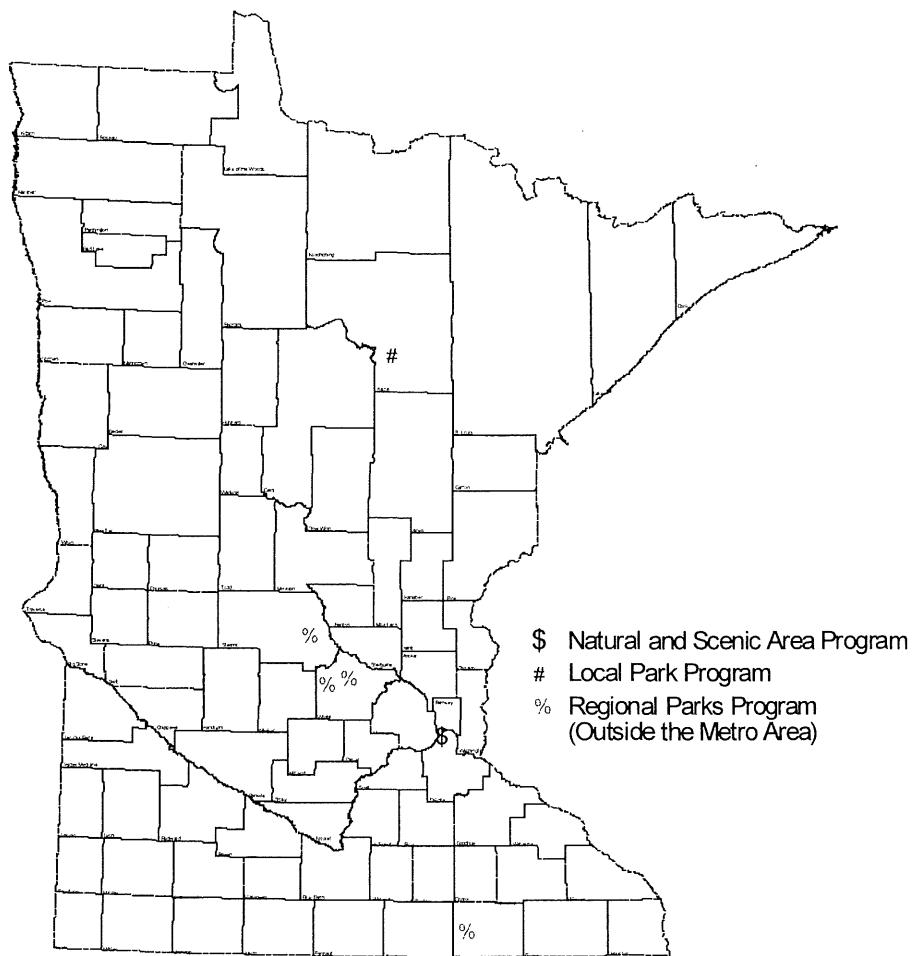
Outstate Regional Parks

RP06-001	Austin	Hormel Nature Center	\$5,000
RP08-001	Stearns	Kraemer Lake Regional Park	\$500,000
RP06-002	Wright	Robert Ney Regional Park	\$295,000
RP07-003	Wright	Stanley Eddy Regional Park	\$100,000
Projects: 4	Acres Acquired: 736.6	Total Program Award:	\$900,000

Appropriation Summary:

Appropriation Total:	1,200,000	Total Projects Funded:	6
Administration Costs:	100,000	Total Acres Acquired:	746.73
Project Approp. Total:	1,100,000		
Project Awards:	1,100,000		
Balance:	0		

Local Initiative Grants (Parks and Natural Areas) 2005 ETF Projects



DNR Local Grant Program, Aug 2007

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2005 Projects
(July, 2006)

Proposal Title: Local Initiative Grants (Parks and Natural Areas) R-02

Project Manager Name: Wayne Sames

LCMR Requested Dollars: \$1,200,000

2005 LCMR Proposal Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	<u>Amt. Encum.</u>	<u>Bal.</u>	<u>Result 2 Budget:</u>	<u>Amt. Encum.</u>	<u>Bal.</u>	<u>Result 3 Budget:</u>	<u>Amt. Encum.</u>	<u>Bal.</u>	<u>Result 4 Budget:</u>	<u>Amt. Encum.</u>	<u>Bal.</u>	
	Natural and Scenic Area Grants			Outdoor Rec. Grants			Regional Park Grants			Administrative Costs			
BUDGET ITEM	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	100,000	0	900,000	900,000	0	100,000	100,000	0	TOTAL FOR BUDGET ITEM: \$1,200,000
PERSONNEL: Staff expenses, wages, salaries - Staff time from the following persons: Local Grants Staff (Sames, Mularie, Hiller); Contract and Fiscal Operations Staff (Sandy Lueth, Kim Montgomery and six staff persons).										100,000	100,000	0	100,000
Land Acquisition: Approx. 746.73 acres acquired.	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	100,000	0	900,000	900,000	0			0	1,100,000
Land rights acquisition (<i>less than fee</i>)													
Other Land Improvement: Park facilities													
Other:													
COLUMN TOTAL	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	100,000	0	900,000	900,000	0	100,000	100,000	0	1,200,000