

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2014 Final Report



Date: March 01, 2019

Program or Project Title: Crow-Hassan Prairie Complex Restoration and Enhancement

Funds Recommended: \$370,000

Manager's Name: John Moriarty

Organization: Three Rivers Park District

Address: 12615 Co. Rd. 9

City: Plymouth, MN 55441

Office Number: 763-694-7842

Email: john.moriarty@threeriversparks.org

Website: <http://www.threeriversparks.org/>

Legislative Citation: ML 2014, Ch. 256, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(j)

Appropriation Language: \$370,000 in the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Three Rivers Park District to restore and enhance prairie habitat within the Crow-Hassen Park Reserve. A restoration and enhancement plan and a list of proposed land restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

County Locations: Hennepin

Eco regions in which work was completed:

- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest
- Prairie

Summary of Accomplishments:

The Crow-Hassan Prairie Complex Restoration and Enhancement restored 246 acres of prairie, 28 acres of forest and enhanced 500 acres of prairie within a larger prairie complex totalling 1200 acres. This is the largest prairie complex in the metro area. It will provide excellent breeding and nesting habitat for waterfowl, grassland birds, and other wildlife.

Process & Methods:

The Crow-Hassan Prairie, where restoration was initiated in 1969, is the oldest, largest, and best restored grassland in the Metro region. It currently covers approximately 850 acres of prairie, fire managed woodlands, and wetlands. This project will convert an additional 246 acres of old field into prairie and tie in 28 more acres of woodlands into the burn plan. When completed the project will create a fire managed habitat complex in excess of 1200 acres, which includes over 200 acres of shallow lakes and wetlands.

The complex will provide excellent nesting habitat for waterfowl, sandhill cranes, Trumpeter Swans, grassland birds, many of which are SGCNs, as well as, numerous species of mammals and reptiles, including state T&E species. The forb diversity on the existing and proposed restorations will provide excellent habitat for native pollinators.

While the site is not open for general hunting, it does host special permit archery hunts and the adjacent Crow River provides a variety

of fishing opportunities. There are also several lakes open for waterfowl hunting within 1 mile of the Crow Hassan Prairie.

The project included planting 246 acres of prairie that required site prep (burn, spray, brush removal, plowing), seeding, and maintenance spraying and mowing. We also added selected forb and grass species to 500 acres of existing prairie. The 28 acres of woodlands were brushed and burned to stimulate savanna habitat.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition:

We did not have any partners on the project. Our park users were supportive and pleased to have the increased diversity. We did not have any opposition to the work, even when we removed trees from some of the units. We have interest from U of M researchers for future partnerships on monitoring insect diversity.

Additional Comments:

Exceptional challenges, expectations, failures, opportunities, or unique aspects of program

The biggest challenge with these projects was the weather, especially in regards to burning. We had several weather delays, but were able to get the site prep burns and the first prairie management burn completed. We were not able to get the woodland burns completed. Those sites have been incorporated into our management plans for future burns, hopefully in 2019.

We were able to conduct a simultaneous butterfly reintroduction, that was outside of the scope of this grant, into the enhanced portions of the prairie. The Park District purchased and planted 10,000 violet plants over 4 years and then released 24 Regal Fritillaries in late summer of 2016. Surveys in 2018 counted hundreds of Regals with a prairie wide population estimate of several thousand.

Other Funds Received:

- Not Listed

How were the funds used to advanced the program:

Not Listed

What is the plan to sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

The new prairie and woodland units have been incorporated into the Crow-Hassan prairie maintenance program within the Wildlife Section, which is funded with Three Rivers operation funds. The program included prescribed burn schedule, invasive species monitoring and control, and forb seed supplementation.

The new sites will be added to our seed collection sites for future use at Crow-Hassan and other park district prairies.

The site was visited by the MNDNR Legacy Fund evaluation team in the summer of 2018 and they found the restoration was diverse and growing well. We will build on their evaluation as a base for future assessments. Their report is attached.

Outcomes:

The original accomplishment plan stated the program would

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need
- Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna
- Game lakes are significant contributors of waterfowl, due to efforts to protect uplands adjacent to game lakes

How will the outcomes be measured and evaluated?

The restoration project completes a core 1200 acre prairie complex that is connected to the Crow River corridor.

We have added the new units into our survey protocols for birds, insects, and reptiles to assess the use by prairie specialist species. We established photo point stations in the new units and will be adding plant survey transects to monitor the diversity of the vegetation.

Budget Spreadsheet

Final Budget line item reallocations are allowed up to 10% and do not need require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

Total Amount: \$370,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Contracts	\$370,000	\$328,400	\$0	\$0		\$370,000	\$328,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$30,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total	\$370,000	\$358,400	\$0	\$0		\$370,000	\$358,400

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Not Listed

All revenues received by the recipient that have been generated from activities on land with money from the OHF:

Total Revenue: \$0

Revenue Spent: \$0

Revenue Balance: \$0

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	246	246	28	28	0	0	274	274
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	500	500	0	0	0	0	500	500
Total	0	0	746	746	28	28	0	0	774	774

Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?

Type	Native Prairie (original)	Native Prairie (final)
Restore	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0
Enhance	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$264,000	\$264,000	\$56,000	\$44,400	\$0	\$0	\$320,000	\$308,400
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$314,000	\$314,000	\$56,000	\$44,400	\$0	\$0	\$370,000	\$358,400

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SEForest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	274	274	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	274	274
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	500
Total	774	774	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	774	774

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$320,000	\$308,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$320,000	\$308,400
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total	\$370,000	\$358,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$370,000	\$358,400

Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (original)

0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (final)

0

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals:

Not Listed

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Hennepin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Total Cost	Existing Protection?	Description
Crow-Hassan Park Reserve	12023218	774	\$370,000	Yes	

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Completed Parcel: Crow-Hassan Park Reserve

# of Total Acres:	774
County:	Hennepin
Township:	120
Range:	23
Direction:	2
Section:	18
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	28
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	746
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$370,000

Parcel Map

Crow-Hassan Prairie Complex Restoration and Enhancement

