

2013 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2016

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase VII Overall Summary
PROJECT MANAGER: Wayne Ostlie
ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Land Trust
ADDRESS: 2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240 St. Paul, MN 55114
WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.dnr.state.mn.us/metroconservationcorridors
FUND: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: Minnesota Laws 2013, Chapter 52, Section 2, Subdivision 4(d)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$2,000,000

OVERALL PROJECT OUTCOME AND RESULTS

Metro Conservation Corridors partners continued their work to accelerate acquisition and restoration of high-quality natural lands within the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Six partner organizations participated – Minnesota Land Trust, Friends of the Mississippi River, Dakota County, Great River Greening, Trust for Public Land, and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Trust. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Trust received a 1-year extension to their grant and will report their final outcomes separately. Three specific areas of activity were pursued:

1. **Partnership Coordination, Mapping, and Database Management:** An upgrade to the MeCC web-based project database was completed and the MeCC corridor map was revised and posted for public use. Partners met quarterly to review project accomplishments, share information, and to strategically plan and coordinate conservation activities.
2. **Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat:** Partners restored/enhanced 364.5 acres of habitat (282.6 acres through ENRTF) and 0.42 miles of shoreline (0.35 miles ENRTF), exceeding overall proposed outcomes in both areas and leveraging an additional \$342,658.

Partner	Proposed (Habitat/Shoreline)	Accomplished Habitat/Shoreline (ENRTF)	Accomplished Habitat/Shoreline (Other)	Expenditures	
				ENRTF	Other
Friends of the Mississippi River	134 acres/0 miles	135.5 acres/0 miles	0.0 acres/0 miles	\$142,000	\$4,546
Great River Greening	90 acres/0.18 miles	137 acres/0.35 miles	73 acres/0.07 miles	\$184,270	\$315,178
Dakota County ¹	40 acres/0 miles	10.1 acres/0 miles	8.9 acres/0 miles	\$22,808	\$22,935
Totals	264 acres/0.18 miles	282.6 acres/0.35 miles	81.9 acres/0.07 miles	\$349,078	\$342,658

¹Despite the Partnership achieving its collective goals, Dakota County fell short of its habitat restoration/enhancement goal by 75%, returning \$17,000 (42%) of its funding for this activity. A landowner with whom they expected to work instead opted to enroll in CRP, ultimately restoring habitat and receiving a payment.

3. **Acquire Significant Habitat:** Partners acquired 308 acres of land (189 acres ENRTF) and 2.5 miles of shoreline (1.25 miles ENRTF) through fee title and conservation easement acquisition. This exceeded

proposed outcomes for shoreline acquisition by 625% (0.2 miles proposed vs 1.25 miles achieved), but fell short in overall acres acquired by 28% (189 acres achieved vs 262 proposed), although this is likely to change with an extension afforded to Minnesota Valley Trust to complete an acquisition. The \$1,053,216 in funding from ENRTF leveraged \$3,373,183 from other sources.

Partner	Acquisition Habitat/Shoreline (Proposed)	Acquisition Habitat/Shoreline (ENRTF)	Acquisition Habitat/Shoreline (Other)	Expenditures	
				ENRTF	Other
Trust for Public Land	24 acres/0.2 miles	12 acres/1.06 miles	5 acres/0 miles	\$400,000	\$605,000
Minnesota Land Trust ²	100 acres/0 miles	0 acres/0 miles	0 acres/0 miles	\$48,612	\$0
Friends of the Mississippi River	6 acres/0 miles	6 acres/0 miles	64 acres/0 miles	\$162,000	\$2,573,202
Dakota County ²	32 acres/0 miles	50 acres/1.25 miles	50 acres/1.25 miles	\$195,804	\$194,981
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Trust ³	100 acres/0 miles	121.36 acres/0 miles	0 acres/0 miles	\$246,800	\$0
Totals	262 acres/0.2 miles	189 acres/1.25 miles	119 acres/1.25 miles	\$1,053,216	\$3,373,183

²Two partners turned back funding:

- Minnesota Land Trust was unable to complete an easement due to financial considerations or tax implications of easements on the part of landowners. \$251,388 (84% of grant) was returned.
- Dakota County exceeded its proposed acquisition goals, but turned back \$132,196 (40% of its grant for acquisition) due to setbacks with two landowners.

The amount of funding returned to the State (33% of total appropriation for acquisition) is proportional to the shortfall in ENRTF acres acquired (28% below goal).

³The Minnesota Valley Trust requested an extension of their grant for one additional year to complete acquisition on one project. This request was approved by LCCMR staff on 5/25/16. Completion of the project will result in additional acres (above and beyond shown in the above table) of habitat acquired, and ENRTF and matching funds expended.

Since 2003, MeCC partners have acquired and restored more than 12,000 and 13,000 acres respectively of important habitat across the program area.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

Partners publicized accomplishments through a diverse array of press releases, organization newsletters and the internet. Additionally, the MeCC Partnership maintains an interactive public web map that shows the locations of MeCC projects over time. This web map can be directly accessed at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/MeCC/mapper.html>

Date of Interim Final Report: November 15, 2016

Date of Next Status Update Report:

Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/11/2013

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2016

PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII Overall Summary

Project Manager: Wayne Ostlie

Affiliation: Minnesota Land Trust

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Location: Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright Counties

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$2,000,000
	Amount Spent:	\$1,410,239
	Balance:	\$589,761

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(d)

Appropriation Language:

\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$10,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$1,990,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: \$304,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$368,000 with Dakota County; \$208,000 with Great River Greening; \$310,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$400,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$400,000 with the Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title 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 corridor areas as defined in the work plan. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work plan. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work plan. Lands that would require payments in lieu of taxes under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.061 or 477A.12, shall not be acquired with money from this appropriation. Up to \$54,000 is for use by Minnesota Land Trust in a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan and subject to subdivision 16. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2016, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII Overall Summary

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Partnership accelerates acquisition and restoration of remaining high-quality natural lands in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area by strategically coordinating and focusing conservation efforts within a connected network of critical lands. This network stretches from the area's urban core to its rural perimeter, including portions of 16 counties.

Our projects and activities take place within science-based corridors and are guided by the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, as well as numerous local and resource-specific plans. This project addresses several recommendations of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan:

- Protect priority land habitats
- Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes
- Restore land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds
- Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation

Specifically, during this seventh phase of the MeCC Partnership, our focus will be on projects that build upon prior investments to enlarge habitat areas and create connections as well as projects that capitalize on urgent and unique opportunities. Our goal is to permanently protect 526 acres through fee title and conservation easement acquisition and to restore and/or enhance 264 acres of habitat. By achieving our goals, we expect the following outcomes:

- Strengthen and protect biodiversity in the region
- Protect and improve water quality of our region's lakes, rivers, and streams
- Protect and enhance habitat for a vast variety of wildlife and rare plant species, including "species in greatest conservation need"

The MeCC Partnership maximizes dollars available for conservation by building upon past efforts and investments, leveraging other private and public resources, and engaging in strategic cooperation. The Partnership has an excellent track record. Since 2003, Metro Corridors partners have acquired more than 10,000 acres and restored nearly 8,000 acres of priority lands in the greater Twin Cities metro area. We also have leveraged approximately \$2.69 of other funds for every dollar of ENRTF funding.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2014:

1. Partnership and Program Coordination:

Partners continue to meet at least quarterly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity. With DNR support, the partners are continuing to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects over time.

2. Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat:

Most of the partners are just getting work underway for this phase of the grant. Thus far, .4 acres have been restored with 2013 ENRTF funds and an additional .8 acres have been restored with other funds. Shoreline re-establishment includes .09 miles with 2013 ENRTF funds and an additional .19 miles with other funds.

3. Acquire Significant Habitat:

Partners are just getting projects underway, completing appraisals and commencing negotiations. Thus far, 6 acres have been acquired with 2013 ENRTF funds and an additional 64 acres have been acquired with other funds.

1.1/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

1.2 DNR MIS

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

2.1/3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

On December 11, 2013, FMR, with the City of Maplewood MN, purchased 6-acres in the Fish Creek Natural area. This acquisition was a part of larger acquisition that totaled 70 acres. In addition, FMR's Senior Ecologist conducted planning activities for restoration efforts at the Old Mill Park in Hastings.

2.3 Great River Greening

Five new sites have been identified for restoration/enhancement projects in addition to the two sites where work is continuing.

Work is proceeding and is on pace to reach the grant's acreage and shoreline goals, and volunteer engagement. Activity promises to increase with several projects poised for implementation starting in the 2014 growing season.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.3 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

Report was submitted late due to a staff transition at Minnesota Land Trust. Current progress is reported under February 1, 2015 update, below.

Project Status as of February 1, 2015:

1. Partnership and Program Coordination:

Partners continue to meet at least quarterly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity, but no funds have been spent from MeCC Phase VII. Partners are continuing to coordinate, MLT continues to compile partner reports, and all partners continue to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects under MeCC Phase VI funding.

2. Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat:

Two partners have made progress on restoration under this phase of the grant. Great River Greening has begun restoration activities at all project sites and is on track to exceed project goals. Almost 800 volunteers have been engaged through Great River Greening's work. Friends of the Mississippi River have completed enhancements

on 30 acres of forest and woodlands, 9 acres of savannah, and 28.7 acres of prairie, as well as restored 1.5 acres of prairie. Funding for Dakota County is currently on hold.

3. Acquire Significant Habitat:

Thus far, 36 acres have been acquired with 2013 ENRTF funds and an additional 64 acres have been acquired with other funds. Friends of the Mississippi River has completed 6 acres of fee title acquisition and the Trust for Public Land has completed 30 acres of fee title acquisition. Minnesota Land Trust and the Minnesota Valley Refuge Trust have not yet begun work as they wind down spending on MeCC Phase VI. Funding for Dakota County is currently on hold.

Project Status as of August 1, 2015:

1.1/1.2/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Partners continue to meet at least quarterly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity. Partners are continuing to communicate and coordinate, MLT continues to compile partner reports, and all partners continue to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects under MeCC Phase VI funding. MLT submitted, and was approved, an amendment to change project manager contact information in August 2015. In regards to easement acquisition Minnesota Land Trust has not yet begun work as they wind down spending on MeCC Phase VI.

2.1/3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

Friends of the Mississippi River completed prescribed burns on two separate restoration sites, for over 16 acres in total area. Invasive species were cut, treated, or mown at three separate sites. Preparation for seeding, to happen in fall of 2015, occurred at two different sites. There are no updates in regards to any fee title acquisition activities since the last report.

2.3 Great River Greening

Great River Greening has continued restoration activities at all project sites and is currently projected to exceed restoration acreage project goals. Over 1,000 volunteers have been engaged through Great River Greening's work to date. Dakota County has not submitted any recent amendment requests and has no activity to report.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

Dakota County has not submitted any recent amendment requests and has no activity to report.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

No activity to report.

3.3. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Minnesota Valley Refuge Trust (MVRT) currently is in negotiation with several landowners, including property for an addition to the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Refuge. MVRT has a signed purchase agreement for an addition to the Bloomington Ferry Unit of the Refuge, on which they expect to close in 2015. Both parcels need to be added to the parcel list. MVRT submitted an amendment request in August 2015 to add the two units to the parcel list. There is no additional activity to report since the last update report.

Project Status as of February 1, 2016:

1.1/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Through a RFP-process initiated in early fall bids from twelve different landowners were received for the purposes of MLT to purchase a conservation easement from the highest ranking bids. MLT utilized both mailings and web-based methods to conduct outreach to select landowners across the program area. Mailings contained

a RFP application and program description were sent to landowners in the program area who met the selection criteria. This same information was also placed on MLT's website and Facebook page. MLT also contracted with both Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts to effectively target outreach to landowners in priority areas that best met the criteria set forth in the RFP. Anoka Conservation District (ACD) sent 17 mailings out to landowners of high priority properties within the Rum River Watershed. Based upon the RFP criteria MLT supplied Washington Conservation District (WCD) utilized a GIS-generated mail merge and direct contact as a two-pronged targeted outreach approach. WCD sent approximately 100 letters out to identified landowners.

The respective bids were analyzed, ranked, and vetted according the project selection ecological criteria. Based upon the ecological criteria several tiers of viable projects were apparent. Work has begun on three separate potential easement projects, all identified as projects from the top-ranking tier. Appraisals will be completed within the next several months, at which time negotiations regarding easement acquisition price will begin with the respective landowners. This cost factor will then be used in conjunction with the ecological analysis to refine and identify the final projects to move forward to easement acquisition before the end of the grant period. It is estimated that one to two easements will be completed before June 30th.

1.2 DNR MIS

DNR MIS (MN.IT@DNR) is finishing the upgrade work on the MeCC web-based project database that was started in spring 2015 through MeCC VI funding. Plans are underway to create a web map application of the newly-created MeCC ecological patches layer (Phase VI work) for review by the MeCC Partners and by other conservation organizations for comprehensive collaboration.

2.1/3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

Restoration activities took place at 4 sites. At the Old Mill Park in Hastings, the seeded prairie area was mowed twice and exotic brush was retreated to deal with resprouts. This was on previously reported acres. At the Spring Lake Park site, the seeded prairie was mowed. This was on previously reported acres. At the Gateway North Open Space Area in Cottage Grove exotic brush sprouts were treated with herbicide on 6 acres. At the Mississippi River gorge in Minneapolis, exotic brush was cut and treated on 7 acres.

FMR has submitted a work plan amendment request for restoration activities that is awaiting approval by LCCMR staff.

2.3 Great River Greening

Restoration and enhancement is underway at all of the projects on our project list with the exception of Victoria Park Phase I which has experienced delays. Regardless, we are on pace to exceed our acreage goals and shoreline goals. We have now engaged over 1500 volunteers to date.

Great River Greening has submitted a work plan amendment for its restoration activities that is awaiting approval by LCCMR staff.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

The County purchased a 61.7-acre portion of the former Cemstone property on July 22, 2015. County reporting staff was not informed that the purchase was complete prior to the last status report submittal for August 1, 2015; the Cemstone information for that status update was incorrect. The appraisals for the Betzold and Odette permanent conservation easements are complete; and the landowners accepted County offers to purchase permanent conservation easements. County Board final funding approval will be sought in early to mid-February 2016, for these two easement projects. Regarding restoration, an amendment request to identify specific restoration work is part of this status update report. NRMPs and PRs will be prepared for five easement projects. Initial restoration work is planned for the former Cemstone property and the recently acquired Malecha easement property where previously cultivated land will be restored to a wetland.

Dakota County has submitted work plan amendments for both easement acquisition and restoration that are awaiting approval by LCCMR staff.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

TPL closed its grant in November 2015.

3.3. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

The process of acquiring the two parcels for which this Work Plan was amended with the last report is underway. Purchase agreements have been signed to acquire fee title to 23.6 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Refuge’s Louisville Swamp Unit. Both acquisitions are taking longer than usual due to the need to plat both properties so the sellers may retain building sites with buildings. Both closings should take place before the June 30, 2016 deadline.

While the MN Valley Trust will meet the grant acres with these acquisitions, it will not have spent the full grant funds and completed the match acres. About \$150,000 will remain in grant funds and 30 acres will remain to be acquired for match. Land values have dropped significantly since appropriation, which is why the grant funds will not be fully expended.

Final Report Summary:

Metro Conservation Corridors partners continued their work to accelerate acquisition and restoration of high-quality natural lands within the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Six partner organizations participated – Minnesota Land Trust, Friends of the Mississippi River, Dakota County, Great River Greening, Trust for Public Land, and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Trust. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Trust received a 1-year extension to their grant and will report their final outcomes separately. Three specific areas of activity were pursued:

1. **Partnership Coordination, Mapping, and Database Management:** An upgrade to the MeCC web-based project database was completed and the MeCC corridor map was revised and posted for public use. Partners met quarterly to review project accomplishments, share information, and to strategically plan and coordinate conservation activities.
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Partner	Acquisition Habitat/Shoreline (Proposed)	Acquisition Habitat/Shoreline (ENRTF)	Acquisition Habitat/Shoreline (Other)	Expenditures	
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Totals	262 acres/0.2 miles	189 acres/1.25 miles	119 acres/1.25 miles	\$1,053,216	\$3,373,183

²Two partners turned back funding:

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- Dakota County exceeded its proposed acquisition goals, but turned back \$132,196 (40% of its grant for acquisition) due to setbacks with two landowners.

The amount of funding returned to the State (33% of total appropriation for acquisition) is proportional to the shortfall in ENRTF acres acquired (28% below goal).

³The Minnesota Valley Trust requested an extension of their grant for one additional year to complete acquisition on one project. This request was approved by LCCMR staff on 5/25/16. Completion of the project will result in additional acres (above and beyond shown in the above table) of habitat acquired, and ENRTF and matching funds expended.

Since 2003, MeCC partners have acquired and restored more than 12,000 and 13,000 acres respectively of important habitat across the program area.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Partnership Coordination, Mapping, and Database Management

Description: The Minnesota Land Trust will provide coordination and leadership by convening and facilitating meetings, providing support to partners, compiling overall reports and accomplishments, and guiding strategic outreach and implementation efforts. DNR Management Information Services (MIS) staff will provide management of and updates to the GIS-based database developed to track MeCC projects as well as perform review and update of the corridor map and other mapping needs of the partnership. See the individual work plan for additional details.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 20,000
Amount Spent: \$ 7,945
Balance: \$ 12,055

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Convene and facilitate quarterly meetings of the partnership to share information and coordinate work	June 30, 2016	\$ 2,000
2. Compile and submit overall partnership reports twice yearly	June 30, 2016	\$4,000
3. Conduct outreach to local communities and landowners with number of activities and target audiences	June 30, 2016	\$4,000
4. Maintain current records of accomplishments in database	June 30, 2016	\$10,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

A summary of each sub-result is provided below. For additional information and details on projects and expenditures, please see the individual work plan update reports.

1.1 Minnesota Land Trust

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

1.2 DNR MIS

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

Report was submitted late due to a staff transition at Minnesota Land Trust. Current progress is reported under February 1, 2015 update, below.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

Partners continue to meet at least quarterly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity, but no funds have been spent from MeCC Phase VII. Partners are continuing to coordinate, MLT continues to compile partner reports, and all partners continue to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects under MeCC Phase VI funding.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:

1.1/1.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Partners continue to meet at least quarterly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity. Partners are continuing to communicate and coordinate, while MLT continues to compile partner reports. All partners continue to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects under MeCC Phase VI funding. MLT submitted, and was approved, an amendment to change project manager contact information in August 2015.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

1.1 Minnesota Land Trust

Partners continue to meet regularly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity. MLT continues to compile partner status updated and reports, and all partners continue to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects. With MeCC Phase VI grant now closed, we are now billing against the MeCC Phase VII grant.

1.2 DNR MIS

DNR MIS (MN.IT@DNR) is finishing the upgrade work on the MeCC web-based project database that was started in spring 2015 through MeCC VI funding. Plans are underway to create a web map application of the newly-created MeCC ecological patches layer (Phase VI work) for review by the MeCC Partners and by other conservation organizations for comprehensive collaboration.

Final Report Summary:

The MeCC partners met quarterly to review of project accomplishments, share information related to each respective partner’s conservation work across the MeCC program area, and to strategically plan and coordinate conservation activities.

The MeCC web-based project database upgrade work was completed by the DNR during Spring 2015 and made available for partner review, planning, and coordination purposes. Based on partner feedback, the web-based map was revised and was posted for public use which was made available for use in June 2016. The web-based map for public use can be accessed on the DNR’s website at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/metroconservationcorridors/index.html>, while the web-based project database can be accessed by authorized partners at: <https://webapps15.dnr.state.mn.us/mecc/>.

An overall balance of \$12,055 was left unspent under the combined activities.

ACTIVITY 2: Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat

Description: Restoration and enhancement of critical prairie, forest, and other habitats or major landscape connections. All projects will be within scientifically determined corridors in the greater metropolitan area and strategically focused to build upon prior investments or take advantage of unique and urgent opportunities. See individual work plans for additional details.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 390,000
Amount Spent: \$ 349,078
Balance: \$ 40,922

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
Restored and/or enhanced 282.6 acres of significant habitat	June 30, 2016	\$ 349,078

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

A summary of each sub-result is provided below. For additional information and details on projects and expenditures, please see the individual work plan update reports.

2.1 Friends of the Mississippi River

FMR’s Senior Ecologist conducted planning activities for restoration efforts at the Old Mill Park in Hastings.

2.3 Great River Greening

At Central Corridor, prairie and savanna establishment proceeded with sustained invasive species control, and supplemental seeding engaging over 80 volunteers in the fall of 2013.

At Cedar Creek Conservation Area, prairie establishment mowing and invasive species control were handled by county in-kind contributions and funds.

At Katherine Abbott Park I, the RFP process was completed. Winter snow seeding prior to the woody invasive treatment is planned. A volunteer hauling event has been scheduled for May 3, 2014 and recruitment has begun.

At Long Pond Elk Ranch II, an RFP process was completed.

An agreement was recently formalized and executed with Scott County for savanna establishment at Spring Lake Regional Park and negotiations with St. Paul Parks and Rec for work at Trout Brook Nature Preserve have advanced.

For Wild and Scenic Rivers II – Rum, 1500' of steep cut Rum River shoreline were re-graded then armored with cedar revetments, and seeded and live staked.

An agreement was recently formalized and executed with Scott County for shoreline establishment at Cedar Lake Regional Park.

2.6 Dakota County

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

Report was submitted late due to a staff transition at Minnesota Land Trust. Current progress is reported under February 1, 2015 update, below.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

Two partners have made progress on restoration under this phase of the grant. Great River Greening has begun restoration activities at all project sites and is on track to exceed project goals. Almost 800 volunteers have been engaged through Great River Greening's work. Friends of the Mississippi River have completed enhancements on 30 acres of forest and woodlands, 9 acres of savannah, and 28.7 acres of prairie, as well as restored 1.5 acres of prairie. Funding for Dakota County is currently on hold.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:

2.1 Friends of the Mississippi River

Friends of the Mississippi River completed prescribed burns on two separate restoration sites, for over 16 acres in total area. Invasive species were cut, treated, or mown at three separate sites. Preparation for seeding, to happen in fall of 2015, occurred at two different sites.

2.3 Great River Greening

Great River Greening continued restoration activities at all project sites and is currently projected to exceed restoration acreage project goals. Over 1,000 volunteers have been engaged through Great River Greening's work to date.

2.6 Dakota County

Dakota County has not submitted any recent amendment requests and has no activity to report.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

2.1 Friends of the Mississippi River

Rock Island Swing Bridge: FMR ecologists conducted site visits to evaluate the establishment of the 5-acre savanna restoration, as well as the efficacy of the invasive removal on the savanna and slopes of the berm.

36th Street Oak Savanna: In early October, crews cut and treated buckthorn and other woody invasive species on 7 acres of forest surrounding the prairie and savanna bowl. Crews removed woody brush on 3.25 of the acres, but left felled brush on the other 3.75 acres for a volunteer brush haul on October 10th.

Spring Lake Park: The site was evaluated on July 20, 2015. The prairie reconstruction, seeded in fall 2014, was mostly knee high or less. Typically a mow would not have been needed, but ragweed was starting to bloom, so the second mow of the season was done on July 22, 2015. A site evaluation on October 15 revealed a proliferation of black-eyed Susan's and several other early successional natives.

Old Mill Park: On July 17, 2015, the areas seeded on 4/21 (Units 1 and 3) were mowed, and again on August 13. The site was evaluated on July 30th – no natives were seen yet in the seeded areas. Unit 1 was dominated by foxtail, but black medick was much reduced from earlier. A few natives were seen in Unit 3 – black-eyed Susan, bergamot, partridge pea – but vegetation was sparse. By September 1, Unit 1 was still dominated by non-native grasses (mostly annual), but natives were easy to find – purple & white prairie clovers, yellow coneflower, Susies, bergamot, common milkweed, partridge pea and grass seedlings. Similar species were seen in Unit 3, plus blazing star, and Indian grass was abundant. The entry planting looked fantastic all season, with over 90 percent survival of robust plants that all flowered. It hosted numerous monarch butterflies in the fall. On October 20, the resprouted or seedling buckthorn plants in the wooded areas were treated with a foliar herbicide. The site was evaluated on November 2. The buckthorn treatment was apparent, but effectiveness will need to be evaluated in spring 2016. A large patch of thistles and buckthorn was detected, which was treated (herbicide) on November 6.

Gateway North Open Space Area: At GNOSA, crews treated buckthorn seedlings and small stems on 6 acres of savanna (Units Sav-1 and Sav-2). Crews spot-sprayed seedlings and small stems using backpack sprayers. Work was done as follow-up to past buckthorn removal, and will continue with future spot sprays of herbaceous plants and a prescribed burn.

2.3 Great River Greening

At Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul, establishment and supplemental planting of the prairie, savanna, and woodland restoration continued. Over 400 volunteers, including general public and participants in our Field Learning for Teens program, were engaged in planting 483 trees.

At Long Pond Elk Ranch II, seeds have been purchased for seeding, and agreements between the landowner and USFWS are underway for the contract seed drilling, scheduled now for spring 2016.

At Katherine Abbott Park I, spot follow-up treatment of non-native invasive shrubs was completed.

At Pilot Knob Hill III, roadside restoration, the RFP process was completed, and work has commenced with site preparation, installation of native woody species, and herbaceous prairie seeding. Installation of forb beds and maintenance of all is contracted for spring 2016.

At Central Corridor, over-seeding thin areas, mowing weeds, and spot herbicide application was conducted

At Dodge Nature Center's Lilly Prairie, activity included: 1) site preparation for prairie seeding; 2) enhancement of existing prairie plantings; and 3) forest enhancement through buckthorn removal. A fall volunteer event engaged 63 volunteers in planting grass and forb plugs specifically for pollinator habitat, fulfilling part of the plan to provide pollinator refugia during the restoration process.

Prairie establishment, primarily invasive species control was sustained at Cedar Creek Conservation Area by the landowner using CCM crews. The Greening crew is scheduled to conduct spring 2016 invasive species control and other activities.

Maintenance activities included providing guidance and a walk through at Arcola Mills, with the new natural resource management board committee chair.

At the Cedar Lake Farm Shoreline project, monitoring continued.

Damage due to floods was documented for the Wild and Scenic River – Rum project. A meeting with the SWCD and DNR Hydrologist have been planned for this month to pursue a robust response. Meanwhile, restored linear feet of shoreline has been adjusted downward for this project.

2.6 Dakota County

Since the previous status report, acquisition of a permanent conservation easement on the Malecha property, and fee title acquisition of a portion of the former Cemstone property have occurred. Initial restoration work is planned for these two properties this spring and early summer. Additionally, Natural Resource Management Plans and baseline Property Reports must be prepared for five permanent conservation easement projects (Betzold, Odette, Ruppe, Schweich, and Smith), following County Board funding approval.

Final Report Summary:

The three partner organizations participating in this activity (Dakota County, Friends of the Mississippi River, and Great River Greening) restored/enhanced 282.6 acres of significant upland and wetland habitat with Phase VII funding, leveraging an additional 81.9 acres achieved with other funds. Restoration activities have taken place on State SNAs and AMAs, various Regional, County and Municipal parks, as well as other ecologically-significant properties. A summary of each sub-result is provided below. For additional information and details on projects and expenditures, please see Tables A and B and the individual work plan final reports.

2.1 Friends of the Mississippi River

The Metro Area contains natural areas that provide important wildlife habitat and serve as crucial components of a larger system of interconnected habitats across the landscape. Human influences have degraded many of them. FMR had three goals for this project: Increase the amount of native habitat, enhance the quality of existing habitat and acquire and permanently protect habitat along the Mississippi River in Maplewood. To approach the first two goals we committed to restoring 10 acres of prairie and enhancing 54-acres of prairie, 10-acres of savanna and 60 acres of forest/woodland for a total of 134 acres improved. We accomplished the goals through the following projects:

- Gelhar-Emrick: A 6-acre unit at this property was restored to prairie.
- Pine Bend Bluffs SNA: A restored prairie and two native bluff prairies were managed for invasive weeds by spot-spraying and burning. Total prairie enhanced: 39

- Old Mill Park: This project resulted in 10 acres of enhanced oak savanna.
- Ravenna Block: A total of 5 acres of a previously installed prairie was managed for the initial two-year establishment period (mowing, spot-treat weeds). 34 acres of forest were managed for invasive woody plants (cut and stump-treat, fall foliar treatment).
- Spring Lake Park Reserve: Prairie was installed in a 17.5-acre old field.
- Heritage Village Park. We controlled invasive weeds and seeded native prairie/savanna species on 2 acres of woodland and 7 acres of savanna.
- Mississippi River Gorge: 7 acres of woodland were enhanced by controlling invasive woody plants.
- Gateway North Open Space Area. 6 acres of woodland were enhanced by controlling woody invasive species.
- River Oaks Park: Controlled woody and herbaceous plants on an acre each of prairie and woodland. This project resulted in 135.5 acres of improved habitat. 85 of those acres were in two very rare habitat types in Minnesota, prairie and oak savanna. Specifically the improved habitat by community type resulted can be summarized in the following way: 23.5 acres of prairie installed/restored and 45 acres of existing prairie, 17 acres of savanna and 50 acres of forest/woodland were enhanced for a total of 135.5 acres of habitat improved.

There were four project sites that were included in our original proposal and project list but did not conduct restoration activities at them during this project. These sites are Minneapolis River Front, Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, Wilmar, and Mounds park. In each of these instances, FMR secured other funding to pursue the restoration presented in the natural resource management plans.

2.3 Great River Greening

Under Activity 1, a total of 9 Upland Restoration projects were completed, including new sites and new phases at the remaining sites.

1. Trout Brook Nature Preserve
2. Long Pond Elk Ranch II
3. Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park
4. Katherine Abbott Park I
5. Pilot Knob Hill III
6. Cedar Creek Conservation Area – Prairie Establishment
7. Central Corridor Phase II and III Establishment
8. Spring Lake Regional Park (Scott Co.) Phase III – Establishment
9. Dodge Nature Center Phase I

Across all Activity 1 sites we restored/enhanced a total of 211 acres (137 Trust Fund and 73 with match). Highlights include: restoring high diversity maple-basswood forest at Spring Lake Regional Park; kitten-tails (*Besseyia bullii*) habitat at Doyle-Kennefick in an area with historic records; and restoring a significant portion of the Trout Brook to Mississippi River habitat corridor.

Over 1,761 volunteers contributed to restoration work on upland habitats, including over 530 youth, over the course of 19 volunteer events. Volunteers planted 4,300 forbs and grasses, and nearly 4,200 trees and shrubs.

At the conclusion of the grant, all sites were signed.

The remaining balance is largely due to the Victoria Park project dropping out due to delays in the necessary pre-work. This project is worthy of future consideration.

Four of the 11 projects were establishment projects. This support is key to the long term success of restorations. leverage in-kind sources and enabling a more guided transition to landowner maintenance.,

Burn seasons during this grant season were often shortened by unfavorable conditions and the need for burn alternatives is increasing.

At Trout Brook Nature Preserve, the site was seeded, mowed, and spot treated for invasives. Volunteer events engaged 608 volunteers at 3 public events and 382 youth through Greening's Field Learning for Teens program. Over 10,000 plugs and over 2500 trees/shrubs were planted at the site.

At Long Pond Elk Ranch II, a high diversity prairie reconstruction was completed. Trust Fund dollars purchased the seed. US Fish and Wildlife Service paid for the seed drilling and the landowner completed all the site prep. This private site is in a key location and has undergone extensive restoration, and is a testament to 'pride of ownership'.

At Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park, removal of woody invasives and general woody encroachment was conducted, releasing the priority oak savanna area. A large volunteer event in fall, 2014 involved 142 volunteers (64 youth). Work at Doyle-Kennefick came in under budget.

At Katherine Abbott Park I, forest enhancement included woody invasive control by volunteers and paid crews including CCM Youth Job Corps, followed by supplemental graminoid seeding/plugging in the cut areas, and follow-up treatment of non-native invasive shrubs.

At Pilot Knob Hill III, roadside restoration, work included a large in-kind contribution from MN DOT, as well as an agreement for Mn DOT to purchase plant materials. MnDOT offered greater matching funds than anticipated, increasing the quality of the project to include oak savanna restoration with an emphasis on pollinator and Monarch habitat, including 15 trees, 36 shrubs, and 1824 forb and grass plugs in addition to invasive control. Work began with site preparation, installation of native woody species, and herbaceous prairie seeding, and was followed with installation of forb beds and maintenance. This is an important way to coordinate site management removing abrupt edges. Roadsides have unique challenges; MnDOT has expertise in this area which they shared.

At Cedar Creek Conservation Area, prairie establishment mowing and invasive species control were handled by county in-kind contributions and funds. Survey of the site revealed excellent establishment with a high forb component, with only a few spots needing supplemental attention. Prairie establishment, primarily invasive species control was sustained at Cedar Creek Conservation Area by the landowner using CCM crews. The Greening crew conducted spring 2016 invasive species control and other activities. Work at this site came in under budget.

Central Corridor Phase II and III establishment included two public volunteer events and one private event involving 337 volunteers, who planted 800 forb/grass plugs and 3,500 trees/shrubs.

At Spring Lake Regional Park (Scott County), savanna establishment work began with selective maintenance mowing and spot control of invasive species, and was followed by two prescribed burns, maintenance mowing, and seeding. Work at this site came in under budget.

Maintenance activities included providing guidance and a walk through at Arcola Mills, with the new natural resource management board committee chair.

At Dodge Nature Center's Lilly Prairie, activity included: 1) site preparation for prairie seeding; 2) enhancement of existing prairie plantings; and 3) forest enhancement through woody invasive removal. A volunteer event

engaged 63 volunteers in planting grass and forb plugs specifically for pollinator habitat, fulfilling part of the plan to provide pollinator refugia during the restoration process.

2.6 Dakota County

The proposed restoration work for the Betzold, Malecha, Odette, Ruppe and Schweich project is complete. A portion of the anticipated restoration work was completed on the former Cemstone property; and no proposed restoration work was completed for the Smith project. Additional detailed restoration project updates are as follows:

- Line 2 (Betzold): The Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) and baseline Property Report (PR) were prepared for this project. However, the project was withdrawn very late in the acquisition process, after the landowners decided not to move forward to sell and easement. County staff believes objections raised by the landowners' children strongly influenced their decision not to move forward. Of the total restoration costs (\$4,650), the Dakota County contribution was \$2,325 (50%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$2,325 (50%).
- Line 3 (Cemstone): Site preparation and initial seeding was completed on approximately 19 acres of former and existing cultivated land. Of the total restoration costs (\$9,102.52), the Dakota County contribution was \$4,257.23 (47%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$4,845.29 (53%).
- Line 5 (Smith): The 7.2-acre easement proposed along 0.3 miles of North Creek of the Vermillion River was not acquired due to landowner delays in making a decision to move forward with the easement. No restoration funds to prepare and NRMP and PR were expended.
- Line 9 (Malecha): The proposed wetland berm construction and initial seeding was completed. Of the total restoration cost (\$11,632), the Dakota County contribution was \$5,519.50 (47.5%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$6,112.50 (52.5%). In addition, the landowners donated \$1,008 of time toward the berm construction.
- Line 10 (Odette): The NRMP) and baseline PR were prepared for this project. However, the project was withdrawn very late in the acquisition process, after the landowners decided not to move forward to sell and easement. The main reason cited by the landowner was their ability to make more money over the long-term by renewing their new CRP contract. Of the total restoration costs (\$75), the Dakota County contribution was \$0 (0%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$75 (100%).
- Line 11 (Ruppe): The NRMP) and baseline PR were prepared for this project. Of the total restoration costs (\$11,250), the Dakota County contribution was \$5,625 (50%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$5,625 (50%).
- Line 12 (Schweich): The NRMP) and baseline PR were prepared for this project. Of the total restoration costs (\$8,437.50), the Dakota County contribution was \$4,200 (49.8%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$4,237.50 (50.2%).

ACTIVITY 3: Acquire Significant Habitat

Description: Acquisition of fee title or conservation easements to protect critical habitats or major landscape connections within scientifically determined corridors in the greater metropolitan area. Projects will be strategically focused to build upon prior investments or take advantage of unique urgent opportunities. See individual work plans for additional details.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 1,590,000
Amount Spent: \$ 1,053,216
Balance: \$ 536,784

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
Acquired 68 acres of critical habitat	June 30, 2016	\$ 1,053,216

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

A summary of each sub-result is provided below. For additional information and details on projects and expenditures, please see the individual work plan update reports.

3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

On December 11, 2013, FMR, with the City of Maplewood MN, purchased 6 acres in the Fish Creek Natural area. This acquisition was a part of larger acquisition that totaled 70 acres.

3.7 Dakota County

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.3 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

Report was submitted late due to a staff transition at Minnesota Land Trust. Current progress is reported under February 1, 2015 update, below.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

Thus far, 36 acres have been acquired with 2013 ENRTF funds and an additional 64 acres have been acquired with other funds. Friends of the Mississippi River has completed 6 acres of fee title acquisition and the Trust for Public Land has completed 30 acres of fee title acquisition. Minnesota Land Trust and the Minnesota Valley Refuge Trust have not yet begun work as they wind down spending on MeCC Phase VI. Funding for Dakota County is currently on hold.

On October 28, 2014 The Trust for Public Land acquired the 30 acre Lindstrom peninsula and immediately conveyed it to the City of Lindstrom. This 30 acre peninsula will be added to the adjacent 64 acre Allemensratt Natural Area that the City acquired several years ago with partial ENRTF funding.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:3.1 Trust for Public Land

No activity to report.

3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Minnesota Land Trust has not yet begun work as they wind down spending on MeCC Phase VI.

3.3. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Minnesota Valley Refugee Trust (MVRT) currently is in negotiation with several landowners, including property for an addition to the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Refuge. MVRT has a signed purchase agreement for an addition to the Bloomington Ferry Unit of the Refuge, on which they expect to close in 2015. Both parcels need

to be added to the parcel list. MVRT submitted an amendment request in August 2015 to add the two units to the parcel list.

3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

No activity to report since the last update.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

3.1 Trust for Public Land

TPL closed its grant in November 2015.

3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Through a RFP-process initiated in early fall bids from twelve different landowners were received for the purposes of MLT to purchase a conservation easement from the highest ranking bids. The respective bids were analyzed, ranked, and vetted according the project selection ecological criteria. Based upon the ecological criteria several tiers of viable projects were apparent. Work has begun on the following three separate potential easement projects, all identified as projects from the top-ranking tier:

- Cedar Creek: 60 acres, Anoka County
MLT is working with the landowners on a bargain sale of a conservation easement that will protect the high quality natural plant communities of Tussock Sedge Meadow, Tamarack Swamp, Pin and Bur Oak Woodland on the property which have been mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) as a site of high biodiversity significance. Approximately 2,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Cedar Creek runs through the middle of the property. The property lies within a regionally-significant ecological area in the Metro Area as determined by the DNR. Cedar Creek is a conservation priority area for Anoka Conservation District, with whom the Land Trust is actively partnering.
- Hardwood Creek: 145 acres, Washington County
MLT is working with the landowner on a potential full or partial donation of a conservation easement that will protect the moderate quality natural plant communities of Oak Woodland, Northern Mixed Cattail Marsh, and Northern Rich Fen native plant communities as mapped by MCBS. Approximately 1.5 miles of undeveloped shoreline along several unnamed lakes are contained within the property. Protecting this property helps maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of Hardwood Creek, a regionally significant ecological area in the Metro Area as determined by the DNR and a conservation priority for Washington County.
- Seelye Brook: 130 acres, Anoka County
MLT is working with the landowner on a potential partial donation of a conservation easement that will protect the high quality natural plant communities of Red Oak Forest, Black Ash and Tamarack Swamp, Dogwood Swamp and White Cedar Swamp plant communities as mapped by the MCBS. An estimated 3,960 feet of undeveloped shoreline along an intermittent stream occurs on the property. Protecting this property helps maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of Seelye Brook, a regionally significant ecological area. The parcel lies within a priority conservation landscape of the Anoka Conservation District.

Appraisals have been or will be completed within the next several months, at which time negotiations regarding easement acquisition price will begin with the respective landowners. The cost factor will then be used in conjunction with the ecological analysis to refine and identify the final projects to move forward to easement

acquisition before the end of the grant period. It is estimated that one to two easements will be completed within the next four months.

3.3. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

The process of acquiring the two parcels for which this Work Plan was amended with the last report is underway. Purchase agreements have been signed to acquire fee title to 23.6 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Refuge's Louisville Swamp Unit. Both acquisitions are taking longer than usual due to the need to plat both properties so the sellers may retain building sites with buildings. Both closings should take place before the June 30, 2016 deadline.

While the MN Valley Trust will meet the grant acres with these acquisitions, it will not have spent the full grant funds and completed the match acres. About \$150,000 will remain in grant funds and 30 acres will remain to be acquired for match. Land values have dropped significantly since appropriation, which is why the grant funds will not be fully expended.

3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

No activity to report since the last update.

3.7 Dakota County

Dakota County purchased a 61.7-acre portion of the former Cemstone property on July 22, 2015. Staff was not informed that the purchase was complete prior to submittal of the August 1, 2015, status report. The Cemstone portion of that report was incorrect. The appraisals for the Betzold and Odette permanent conservation easements are complete; and the landowners accepted County offers to purchase permanent conservation easements. County Board final funding approval will be sought in early to mid-February 2016, for these two easement projects.

Final Report Summary:

The four partner organizations participating in this activity (Trust for Public Land, Minnesota Land Trust, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, and Dakota County) acquired approximately 189 acres of significant habitat with Phase VII funding, 170.36 acres of which was protected through fee title acquisition, and the remaining 19 acres was protected through perpetual conservation easement acquisition. The partners acquired an additional 119 acres of significant habitat (100 in fee title, 19 in conservation easements) utilizing other funding leveraged by the ENRTF 2013 appropriation.

A summary of each sub-result is provided below. For additional information and details on projects and expenditures, please see Tables A and B and the individual work plan update reports.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

On October 28, 2014 The Trust for Public Land acquired the 30 acre Lindstrom peninsula and immediately conveyed it to the City of Lindstrom. This 30 acre peninsula will be added to the adjacent 64 acre Allemensratt Natural Area that the City acquired several years ago with partial ENRTF funding. The peninsula contains approximately 5,600 feet of sensitive shoreline and has been added to the existing natural area to be managed as part of the City's park program. This property provides excellent wildlife habitat, water quality benefits and public access in a high growth area.

The landowners agreed to sell the property at a reduced price of \$900,000 (it appraised at \$1,000,000). TPL used the remainder of its ML 2011 MeCC acquisition funding (\$423,000) and all of its ML 2013 MeCC acquisition funding (\$395,000), together with \$82,000 from the City of Lindstrom to purchase the land for \$900,000. The landowners donated the value of \$100,000. Please note that the remaining \$5,000 of the appropriated \$400,000

from ML 2013 MeCC was released to the MN DNR for their acquisition, reporting and management planning costs as outlined in TPL's approved Work Plan.

3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

The Land Trust utilized a landowner bid process via RFP in September 2015 to solicit proposals from landowners of high value natural resource lands interested in participating in the program. Landowners within priority areas of Washington and Anoka counties, and elsewhere in the Metro region were targeted for inclusion into the program. The Land Trust contracted with Washington and Anoka Conservation Districts to assist with landowner outreach. Direct mail and face-to-face meetings reached over 140 individuals.

The RFP process was successful in attracting interest from landowners within targeted geographies. Landowner applications were received from 12 landowners, analyzed and ranked based upon ecological and cost criteria. Three properties were identified as priorities for acquisition and the landowners were subsequently engaged in easement negotiations. Financial considerations associated with the purchase of, or tax implications related to, an easement rendered negotiations with each landowner immovable and prevented the acquisition of any easement. Insufficient time remained in the grant window to undertake a second RFP or to engage others who responded to the initial RFP but were not initially pursued as priorities. The Land Trust will expand upon this initial RFP process in its upcoming MeCC VIII grant. Expenditures under this grant were related to personnel time associated with landowner outreach/negotiations and project-specific costs (e.g., appraisals, title work).

3.3. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

The Minnesota Valley Trust requested an extension of their grant appropriate for an additional year to complete acquisition on an additional project. The request for this amendment was because of the legal complications with the Louisville Swamp Unit acquisition due to the recent death of the fee title holder. This request was approved by LCCMR staff on 5/25/16.

3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

The Fish Creek acquisition took place in December, 2013. FMR was able to secure over \$34,000 in non-state match for this acquisition. This project was a part of a larger acquisition that took place at this time. An additional 64 acres were also acquired at this time using a variety of funding sources. The total acquisition at Fish Creek in December of 2013 was 70 acres.

3.7 Dakota County

Over the years, County staff has come to understand that many factors within the acquisition process can significantly delay or derail a project (e.g., unconfined utility easements; financial issues including necessary bank subordinations and mortgages, and undisclosed bankruptcy proceedings; landowner uncertainty and family dynamics; and changes to the easement configuration, including last-minute partial land sales). County staff does its best to anticipate and incorporate time for these potential delays; however, success in the timing of the lengthy acquisition process is not always achievable. Of the six projects on the appropriation acquisition list, three were acquired by the June 30, 2016, funding deadline, and three were not. Landowner decisions not to move forward with conservation easement, made extremely late in the acquisition process, and one landowner's inaction regarding the County's offer, resulted in approximately \$136,000 of unexpended grant funds.

Acquisition project updates:

- Line 2 (Betzold): The 46.6-acre easement, including 0.8 miles of trout stream-designated, Vermillion River shoreline in Eureka Township, was withdrawn by the landowners, following County Board approval. County staff believes objections raised by the landowners' children strongly influenced their decision not to move forward. This landowner decision, made very late in the acquisition process, left no time to seek and process new projects and expend the estimated \$46,675 of available grant funds.

- Line 3 (Cemstone): The 61.7-acre fee title acquisition, along 1.7 miles of trout stream-designated, Vermillion River in Empire Township was acquired on July 22, 2015. Of the total acquisition cost of \$209,863, the Dakota County contribution was approximately \$104,932 (50%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement was requested was approximately \$104,931 (50%).
- Line 5 (Smith): The 7.2-acre easement along 0.3 miles of North Creek of the Vermillion River was not acquired due to landowner delays in making a decision to move forward with the easement. County staff has learned that regardless of how much time is built into the process to allow landowners time to make final project decisions, sometimes it is just not enough time. This landowner delay, throughout the acquisition process, left no time to seek and process new projects and expend the estimated \$14,000 of available grant funds.
- Line 9 (Odette): The 55.2-acre easement along 0.5 miles of a Chub Creek tributary and including a high-quality pond wetland in Greenvale Township was withdrawn by the landowners, following County Board approval. The main reason cited by the landowner for withdrawing the project was their ability to make more money over the long-term by renewing their new CRP contract, versus selling an easement for a one-time payment. This landowner decision, made very late in the acquisition process, left no time to seek and process new projects and expend the estimated \$75,500 of available grant funds. Of the \$5,000 spent on the appraisal and \$610 spent on preliminary title work, the Dakota County contribution was \$2,500 (45%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$3,110 (55%).
- Line 10 (Ruppe): The 17.2-acre easement along 0.5 miles of Chub Creek in Greenvale Township was acquired on April 4, 2016. Of the total acquisition costs (\$51,484), the Dakota County contribution was \$25,357 (49.3%), the landowner closing costs contributed were \$676 (1.3%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$25,450 (49.4%).
- Line 11 (Schweich): The 20.7-acre easement along 0.3 miles of Chub Creek in Greenvale Township was acquired on June 13, 2016. Of the total acquisition costs (\$124,416), the Dakota County contribution was \$63,415 (51%), the landowner closing costs were \$601 (.5%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$60,400 (48.5%).

There is money unfortunately left unspent from this total appropriation, for the reasons just outlined and in previous status reports. Of the \$328,000 the County anticipated it would spend before the June 30, 2016, funding deadline, total acquisition reimbursement for approximately \$195,804 will be requested.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: The Metro Conservation Corridors partnership will periodically distribute information about the program and accomplishments through the various communication methods of our partner organizations and as we conduct coordinated outreach efforts. As projects are completed, the partners involved will publicize accomplishments through press releases and organization newsletters and websites. The MeCC database includes a public web-based map that displays accomplishments. Additionally, the partnership plans to update the MeCC section on the DNR's website.

Status as of February 1, 2014:

A summary of each sub-result is provided below. For additional information and details on projects and expenditures, please see the individual work plan update reports.

1.1/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

1.2 DNR MIS

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

2.1/3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

http://www.twincities.com/outdoors/ci_24773523/maplewood-fish-creek-greenway-funds-secured-trail-building, <http://www.startribune.com/local/east/237169171.html>, <http://www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=891>, http://www.fmr.org/news/current/fish_creek_protected-2013-12

2.3 Great River Greening

The fall 2013 'Volunteer Opportunities' mailing included the Central Corridor (aka South Washington Corridor) project description including Trust Fund acknowledgement. The spring 2014 'Volunteer Opportunities' mailing has been developed for February distribution, and includes the upcoming event at Katherine Abbott Park.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.3 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

Status as of August 1, 2014:

Report was submitted late due to a staff transition at Minnesota Land Trust. Current progress is reported under February 1, 2015 update, below.

Status as of February 1, 2015:

Three partners provided updates on dissemination of project publicity and are presented below. No other project partners provided information on dissemination activities.

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR): An article appeared in the Autumn 2014 issue of FMR's newsletter about the Oak savanna restoration at the Old Mill Park in Hastings. An article appeared in the October issue of Mississippi Messages, FMR's electronic newsletter, about the River Oaks Park in Cottage Grove.

http://www.fmr.org/news/current/river_oaks_restoration-2014-10

Great River Greening (GRG): The activities for GRG's fall 2014 volunteer event recruitment, including the events at Katherine Abbott Park, Trout Brook Nature Preserve, and Doyle-Kennefick included 'e-blasts' to their 6,500 member e-mailing list; Facebook and Twitter posts; posting on their web page, which averages 1500 visits per month; physical event flyers; and general contact of hundreds of individuals, many representing schools, churches, community groups, and businesses.

Trust for Public Land: The Lindstrom project is highlighted on The Trust for Public Land's website at: <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/our-land-and-water/allemansratt-wilderness-park>. The following information has been published about the Lindstrom site:

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19566>

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19627>

Status as of August 1, 2015:

1.1/1.2/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

No activity to report at this time.

2.1/3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

An article highlighting the restoration work to take place at Ole Olson Park appeared in FMR's Spring 2015 newsletter.

2.3 Great River Greening

GRG's spring 2015 volunteer recruitment for the event at Trout Brook Nature Preserve included 'e-blasts' to over a 6,500 member e-mailing list; 19 Facebook and Twitter posts; posting on GRG's web page, which averages 1500 visits per month; 400 physical event flyers handed out at 9 community events/fairs and 3 volunteer trainings and elsewhere; and general contact of hundreds of individuals, many representing schools, churches, community groups, and businesses.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

No information has been disseminated due to the pending status of the three acquisition projects, and no restoration projects at this time.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

The Lindstrom project is highlighted on The Trust for Public Land's website at:

<https://www.tpl.org/our-work/our-land-and-water/allemands-ratt-wilderness-park>

The following information has been published about the Lindstrom site:

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19566>

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19627>

3.3 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

No activity to report at this time.

Status as of February 1, 2016:

1.1/1.2/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

No activity to report to date.

2.1/3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

http://fmr.org/participate/ongoing/gorge_stewards

2.3 Great River Greening

The activities for our fall 2015 volunteer recruitment for two events at Trout Brook Nature Preserve and an event at Dodge Nature Center's Lilly Prairie included 'e-blasts' to our 7,500 member e-mailing list; 13 Facebook and Twitter posts; posting on our web page, which averages 1,500 visits per month; and general contact of hundreds of individuals, many representing schools, churches, community groups, and businesses.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

An article about the Cemstone acquisition appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press. The County website includes up-to-date project information.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

TPL closed its grant in November 2015.

3.3 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

No activity to report at this time.

Final Report Summary:

1.1/1.2/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

The Land Trust developed partnerships with local conservation partners (Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts) to conduct targeted landowner outreach in priority geographies to identify interested landowners. Outreach materials, including program fact sheets and application materials, were developed and shared with local partners and or were direct-mailed to landowners by the Land Trust. In addition, the Land Trust marketed the easement program and RFP process through social media and on its web site. Over 140 landowners were reached via direct mail or through face-to-face meetings, and an unknown number of individuals were reached through our web-based media. Though no easements were completed from which to disseminate results, the time invested in outreach through local partnerships provides a strong foundation from which to continue protection efforts in the Conservation Corridors area.

2.3 Great River Greening

Volunteer event descriptions acknowledging Trust Fund contributions and qualitative results were emailed to Greening's e-subscribers in July 2013, Feb 2014, July 2014, February 2015, July 2015, and spring 2016 in advance of our spring and fall volunteer event seasons. Over the course of the grants, the number of subscribers increased from approximately 5,000 to about 6,500.

Information about the Metro Conservation Corridors is on our website in the Initiatives and Volunteer Events sections at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/>. Over the course of the grant, the visits to the Greening website increased from over 1,200 to over 1,500 visits per month.

Seven press articles disseminated information about the projects (but without Trust Fund recognition despite our written efforts):

- The Mahtomedi Area Green Initiative on a volunteer event at Katherine Abbott Park: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/%E2%80%9CBuckthorn-Blast%E2%80%9D-Planned-for-Katherine-Abbott.pdf>
- The Star Tribune on Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary: <http://www.startribune.com/trout-brook-in-st-paul-s-north-end-to-see-daylight-once-again/267880201/#xqZDBCdDxAcvD4Gs.01>
- The Saint Paul Magazine on Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary: <http://saintpaulmag.com/cultivating-greatness-all-about-saint-paul%E2%80%99s-environmental-nonprofit-great-river-greening>
- Two articles reported on involvement of youth through an event at Central Corridor:
 - Stillwater Gazette,: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/hong/>
 - Star Tribune: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Star-Tribune-Nonprofit-dreams-of-mighty-oaks-050115.pdf>
- The MinnPost on a volunteer event at the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Trout-Brook-Nature-Sanctuary-opens-just-north-of-downtown-St.pdf>
- The LillieNews on prairie restoration at Dodge Nature Center: <http://eastsidereviewnews.com/articles/2016/01/24/great-tree-migration>

We also post to the community calendars, and in these the proper acknowledgement is included. We post to the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Minnesota Master Naturalist Blog | 15. River Rangers |
| 2. Minnesota Master Naturalist Forum | 16. SEEK |
| 3. Macalester | 17. Volunteer Match |
| 4. St. Kate's | 18. WCCO Community Calendar |
| 5. MN Master Naturalists | 19. YourCause |
| 6. Gustavus GivePulse | 20. Minnesota Monthly |
| 7. Minnesota State University - Mankato
(Community Request for Volunteers Form) | 21. Hudson Community Guide and Calendar |
| 8. Do It Green Minnesota | 22. Restore Minnesota |
| 9. River wired (Green Hands USA) | 23. Hamline University |
| 10. HandsOn Twin Cities | 24. Augsburg College |
| 11. Idealist | 25. AARP volunteers |
| 12. KARE 11 Community Calendar | 26. 1 Mississippi |
| 13. KSTP Events | 27. Northern Gardener |
| 14. Next Step | 28. Gustavus GivePulse |
| | 29. MN River Basin Data Center |

Greening is in active partnership with landowners, other land managers, service providers, conservation peers, and volunteers resulting in a dynamic and timely exchange of information and results.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

During the timeframe covered by this appropriation, information about the County land conservation efforts, including new and ongoing programs available, have been noted on County and watershed websites, and local and regional newspapers. There was a significant time gap between project acquisitions included in this appropriation, and with the most recent project acquisitions occurring in late June, the dissemination of information to date has been articles about specific projects in local town newspapers. Moving forward, County and watershed webpages will be updated as appropriate. In addition, the County ordered metal signs of the ENRTF logo to be posted with the County's land conservation signs to acknowledge our State funding partnership with LCCMR and advertise the presence of protected properties.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

The Lindstrom project is highlighted on The Trust for Public Land's website at:

<https://www.tpl.org/our-work/our-land-and-water/allemanstratt-wilderness-park>

The following information has been published about the Lindstrom site:

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19566>

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19627>

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 144,000	Staff to manage and coordinate MeCC, manage mapping and database for 3 years and other partner conservation staff salary and related benefits - please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Contracts:	\$ 233,700	Restoration, Professional Services - please see Overall Table B individual budgets for additional detail.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 51,500	Restoration plant materials and supplies. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Acquisition:		Funds to purchase fee title and conservation easements and related transaction expenses. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Fee title:	\$957,000	
Conservation easements:	\$495,500	
Restoration:	\$45,000	Restoration supplies and vendors. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Travel:	\$7,500	Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota.
Additional Budget Items:	\$65,800	Conservation Easement Monitoring, Management, and Enforcement Fund, signs, parking to ensure sites meet DNR minimum maintenance standards, volunteer event supplies. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET	\$2,000,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: Work by DNR on this grant is done by positions that are either partially or wholly funded through a Professional Services arrangement. This is the standard way that the IT section operates and provides programming and database services to DNR divisions, bureaus and external partners.

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 2.26

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: 2.4

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state	\$1,107,500	\$2,703,841	Fee title acquisition, restoration activities, staff time, vendor services, materials/supplies, donated easement value
State	\$1,549,000	\$ 589,000	Restoration activities and fee title acquisition
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$2,656,500	\$3,292,841	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Trust for Public Land	Critical Land Protection Program - Acquisition
MN Land Trust	Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements
Friends of the Mississippi River	Restore & Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat & Acquire bluffland in Maplewood
MN Valley Nat. Wildlife Refuge Trust	Priority Expansion & Restoration of MN Valley NW Refuge
Great River Greening	Restoring our Lands and Waters
DNR Fish and Wildlife	Not part of this funding phase
Dakota County	Lakeshore & Riparian Protection & Restoration
DNR Management Information Serv.	Partnership Mapping and Database
DNR SNA Program	Not part of this funding phase
Friends of the Minnesota Valley	Not part of this funding phase

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project advances the long-term strategy of the Metro Conservation Corridors, initiated in partnership with the LCCMR in 2003 to accelerate the acquisition, protection and restoration of critical habitat in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area. Progress towards this long-term strategy is ongoing, and MeCC will continue its work as long as urbanization and fragmentation continue to threaten critical habitat.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13
ENRTF - MeCC	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 3,150,000	\$ 3,375,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$3,475,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: Please see individual work plans.

IX. MAP(S): See Map Attachment

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2014, August 1, 2014, February 1, 2015, August 1, 2015, and February 1, 2016. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2016 as requested by the LCCMR.

Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase VII (2013)
Table A: Summary of Funding & Accomplishments

Date: November 15, 2016
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,000,000

Result / Activity	Partner	Project Funding						Accomplishments						Areas of Focus			
		ENRTF Funds			Other Funds			ENRTF		Other Funds					Total Project Acres (ENRTF & Other Funds combined)		
		ENRTF Funds Allocated	ENRTF Funds Spent	ENRTF Funds Balance	Other State Funding Spent	Other Non-State Funding Spent	Total Project Funds Spent (ENRTF, Other State Funds & Non-State Funds combined)	ENRTF Acres/Miles Completed		Other Funds Acres/Miles Completed							
						ACRES	MILES	ACRES	MILES	ACRES	MILES	ACRES	MILES				
1. Coordinate MeCC Program																	
1.1. Coordination of MeCC program for two-year project term	Led by Minnesota Land Trust	\$10,000	\$4,016	\$5,984	\$0	\$0	\$4,016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A		
1.2. MeCC database and mapping work	Led by DNR	\$10,000	\$3,929	\$6,071	\$0	\$0	\$3,929	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A		
SUBTOTAL		\$20,000	\$7,945	\$12,055	\$0	\$0	\$7,945	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
2. Restore & Enhancement Significant Habitat																	
2.1. Restore/enhance significant watershed habitat	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$142,000	\$142,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,546	\$146,546	135.5	0.00	0.0	0.00	136		Mississippi River watershed in Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota & Washington Counties.			
2.3. Restoring our lands and waters	Great River Greening	\$208,000	\$184,270	\$23,730	\$89,000	\$226,178	\$499,448	137.0	0.35	73.0	0.07	210		Anoka Sandplain, collar counties, metropolitan core, and Wild and Scenic Rivers			
2.6. Lakeshore and riparian restoration in Dakota County	Dakota County	\$40,000	\$22,808	\$17,192	\$0	\$22,935	\$45,743	10.1	0.00	8.9	0.00	19		Vermillion River - Main Stem and North Creek; and Chub Creek and tributaries			
SUBTOTAL		\$390,000	\$349,078	\$40,922	\$89,000	\$253,658	\$691,736	282.6	0.00	81.9	0.07	364					
3. Acquire Significant Habitat																	
3.1. Critical Land Protection Program	The Trust for Public Land	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0	\$423,000	\$182,000	\$1,005,000	12	0	0.00	0.00	5	0	0.00	0.00	17	Allemensratt Natural Area
3.2. Protecting significant habitat by acquiring conservation easements	Minnesota Land Trust	\$300,000	\$48,612	\$251,388	\$0	\$0	\$48,612	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	Critical shoreland and habitat, prioritizing habitat for migratory birds and for species in greatest conservation need.
3.3. Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	\$400,000	\$246,800	\$153,200	\$0	\$0	\$246,800	121	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	121	MN Valley NWR units in Carver, Le Sueur, Scott and/or Sibley Counties
3.4. Protect River Bluffland in Maplewood	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$162,000	\$162,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$2,073,202	\$2,735,202	6	0	0.00	0.00	64	0	0.00	0.00	70	Fish Creek
3.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian protection	Dakota County	\$328,000	\$195,804	\$132,196	\$0	\$194,981	\$390,785	31	19	0.85	0.40	31	19	0.85	0.40	100	Vermillion River - Main Stem and North Creek; and Chub Creek and tributaries
SUBTOTAL		\$1,590,000	\$1,053,216	\$536,784	\$923,000	\$2,450,183	\$4,426,399	170	19	0.85	0.40	100	19	0.85	0.40	308	
TOTAL		\$2,000,000	\$1,410,239	\$589,761	\$1,012,000	\$2,703,841	\$5,126,080	471	1.25	201	1.32	673					

Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase VII
Table B: LCCMR Funding - Budget Detail

Date: November 15, 2016
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,000,000

Activity	Partners	ENRTF Funding										Budget Explanation (staff/contracts/services, development, equipment, other)	
		Personnel	Contracts	Equipment/ Tools/ Supplies	Travel	Restoration	Acquisition		Additional Budget Items	Total			
							Fee	Easement					
1. Coordinate MeCC Program													
1.1. Coordination of MeCC program for two year project term	Minnesota Land Trust	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	Staff to manage and coordinate the program for three years
1.2. MeCC database and mapping work	DNR MIS	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	Staff to manage mapping and database for two years
SUBTOTAL		\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	
2. Restore & Enhance Significant Habitat													
2.1. Restore/enhance significant watershed habitat	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$24,000	\$110,700	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,800	\$0	\$142,000	Personnel: Conservation Director, Ecologist, Bookkeeper. Contracts: Vendors to provide restoration activities. Equipment/Tools/Supplies: gloves, fencing, posts, etc.. Travel: Mileage within Minnesota; Other: Native trees, seeds, shrubs.
2.3. Restoring our lands and waters	Great River Greening	\$40,000	\$119,000	\$41,000	\$3,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,500	\$0	\$208,000	Personnel: Dir. of conservation programs, staff ecologists, field crew, volunteer coordinator, and admin; Contracts: contracts for restoration activities; Equipment/Tools/Supplies: restoration tools, supplies, materials including power tools, sprayers, mulch, plants, seeds, etc; Travel: travel to/from project sites; Additional Budget Items: \$4,000 for volunteer event expenses and \$500 for Trust Fund signage.
2.6. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian restoration	Dakota County	\$0	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	Removal of invasive species, conversion of agricultural land (pasture and cultivated fields) and shoreline restoration on 40 acres.
SUBTOTAL		\$64,000	\$269,700	\$42,500	\$4,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,300	\$0	\$390,000	
3. Acquire Significant Habitat													
3.1 Critical Land Protection Program	The Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$395,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	Acquisition: funds to purchase 24 acres in fee title. The land will be transferred to a local, state, or federal agency for permanent stewardship; Other: funds for Public Agency Professional Services for acquisition, reporting, and management planning costs as needed
3.2. Protecting significant habitat by acquiring conservation easements	Minnesota Land Trust	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$183,000	\$54,000	\$0	\$300,000	Staff/Contracts: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits for approximately 0.75 FTE for 3 years. Travel: Mileage and related travel in Minnesota; Acquisition: purchase price of conservation easements and related transaction expenses for 100 acres; Additional Budget Items: \$54,000 for easement monitoring, management, and enforcement.
3.3. Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	Fee title acquisition of 100 acres for priority expansion of the MN Valley NW Refuge.
3.4 Protect River Bluffland in Maplewood	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$162,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$162,000	Fee title acquisition of 6 acres in the Fish Creek Natural Areas in Maplewood
3.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian protection	Dakota County	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$320,000	\$0	\$0	\$328,000	Contracts: Professional services for easement acquisition (appraisal/title). Acquisition: Funds to acquire conservation easements on 32 acres. Additional Budget Items: \$2,500 for easement monitoring, management, enforcement.
SUBTOTAL		\$60,000	\$13,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$957,000	\$503,000	\$54,000	\$0	\$1,590,000	
TOTAL		\$144,000	\$282,700	\$42,500	\$7,500	\$0	\$0	\$957,000	\$503,000	\$63,300	\$0	\$2,000,000	

M.L. 2013 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2016

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VII–1.1 – Coordination, Mapping and Outreach and 1.2 - Mapping and Database Work

PROJECT MANAGER: Wayne Ostlie

AFFILIATION: Minnesota Land Trust

MAILING ADDRESS: 2356 University Ave W, Suite 240

CITY/STATE/ZIP: St. Paul, MN 55114

PHONE: 651-917-6292

E-MAIL: wostlie@mnland.org

WEBSITE: www.mnland.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(d)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$20,000

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

In this seventh phase of the Metro Conservation Corridors the partners met quarterly to review project accomplishments, share information related to each respective partner's conservation work across the MeCC program area, and to strategically plan and coordinate conservation activities.

The MeCC web-based project database upgrade work was completed by the DNR during Spring 2016 and made available for partner review, planning, and coordination purposes. Based on partner feedback, the web-based map was revised and was posted for public use which was made available for use in June 2016. The web-based map for public use can be accessed on the DNR's website.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

The MeCC Partnership maintains an interactive public web map that shows the locations of MeCC projects over time. This web map can be directly accessed at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/MeCC/mapper.html>, while the web-based project database can be accessed by authorized partners at:

<https://webapps15.dnr.state.mn.us/mecc/>.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2013 Work Plan

Date of Status Update Report: 10/14/2016

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/11/2013

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2016

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VII–1.1 – Coordination, Mapping and Outreach and 1.2 - Mapping and Database Work

Project Manager: Wayne Ostlie

Affiliation: Minnesota Land Trust

Mailing Address: 2356 Univeristy Avenue West, Suite 240

City/State/Zip Code: St. Paul, MN 55114

Telephone Number: (651) 647-9590

Email Address: wostlie@mnland.org

Web Address: www.mnland.org

Location: Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright Counties

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation: \$20,000

Amount Spent: \$7,945

Balance: \$12,055

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(d)

Appropriation Language:

\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$10,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$1,990,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: \$304,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$368,000 with Dakota County; \$208,000 with Great River Greening; \$310,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$400,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$400,000 with the Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title 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 corridor areas as defined in the work plan. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work plan. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work plan. Lands that would require payments in lieu of taxes under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.061 or 477A.12, shall not be acquired with money from this appropriation. Up to \$54,000 is for use by Minnesota Land Trust in a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan and subject to subdivision 16. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2016, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VII–1.1 – Coordination, Mapping and Outreach and 1.2 - Mapping and Database Work

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Partnership accelerates protection and restoration of remaining high-quality natural lands in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area by strategically coordinating and focusing conservation efforts within a connected network of critical lands. This corridor network stretches from the area’s urban core to its rural perimeter, including portions of 16 counties.

Our projects and activities take place within science-based corridors and are guided by the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, as well as numerous local and resource-specific plans. This project addresses several recommendations of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan:

- Protect priority land habitats
- Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes
- Restore land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds
- Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation

Activity 1 of this project provides coordination and leadership for the partnership by Minnesota Land Trust staff. Activity 2 of the project brings improved prioritization through enhanced data base development and mapping of the corridors by DNR staff.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2014:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

Project Status as of February 1, 2015:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

Project Status as of August 1, 2015:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant.

August 3, 2015 Amendment Request: We are requesting a change in project managers from John Brosnan to Wayne Ostlie to reflect a staffing change. Approved by LCCMR 8-4-2015.

Project Status as of February 1, 2016:

1.1 Minnesota Land Trust

Partners continue to meet regularly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity. MLT continues to compile partner status updated and reports, and all partners continue to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects.

1.2 DNR MIS

DNR MIS (MN.IT@DNR) is finishing the upgrade work on the MeCC web-based project database that was started in spring 2015 through MeCC VI funding. Plans are underway to create a web map application of the newly-created MeCC ecological patches layer (Phase VI work) for review by the MeCC Partners and by other conservation organizations for comprehensive collaboration.

Final Report Summary:

The partners met quarterly to review project accomplishments, share information related to each respective partner's conservation work across the MeCC program area, and to strategically plan and coordinate conservation activities.

The MeCC web-based project database upgrade work was completed by the DNR during Spring 2016 and made available for partner review, planning, and coordination purposes. Based on partner feedback, the web-based map was revised and was posted for public use which was made available for use in June 2016. The web-based map for public use can be accessed on the DNR's website at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/metroconservationcorridors/index.html>, while the web-based project database can be accessed by authorized partners at: <https://webapps15.dnr.state.mn.us/mecc/>.

An overall balance of \$12,055 was left unspent under the combined activities.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Partnership Coordination, Mapping and Outreach

Description: The Minnesota Land Trust will provide coordination and leadership by convening and facilitating meetings, providing support to partners, compiling overall reports and accomplishments, and guiding strategic outreach and implementation efforts.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 10,000

Amount Spent: \$ 4,016

Balance: \$ 5,984

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Convene and facilitate quarterly meetings of the partnership to share information and coordinate work	June 30, 2016	\$ 2,000
2. Compile and submit overall partnership reports twice yearly	June 30, 2016	\$4,000
3. Conduct outreach to local communities and landowners with number of activities and target audiences	June 30, 2016	\$4,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

1.1 Minnesota Land Trust

Partners continue to meet regularly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity. MLT continues to compile partner status updated and reports, and all partners continue to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects. With MeCC Phase VI grant now closed, we are now billing against the MeCC Phase VII grant.

Final Report Summary:

The Land Trust staff continued to convene and facilitate meetings of the partnership to share information, review and discuss project criteria, and encourage partners to coordinate efforts. Future meetings are planned, with the Land Trust continuing the coordination of partner conservation efforts in the MeCC program area as successive funding has been appropriated through a MeCC Phase VIII grant. Land Trust staff also compiled MeCC Partnership reports for this appropriation.

ACTIVITY 2: Partnership Mapping and Database Management

Description: DNR Management Information Services (MIS) staff will provide management of and updates to the GIS-based database developed to track MeCC projects as well as mapping needs of the partnership.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 10,000
Amount Spent: \$ 3,929
Balance: \$ 6,071

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Maintain current records of accomplishments in database	June 30, 2016	\$ 10,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

1.2 DNR MIS

DNR MIS (MN.IT@DNR) is finishing the upgrade work on the MeCC web-based project database that was started in spring 2015 through MeCC VI funding. Plans are underway to create a web map application of the newly-created MeCC ecological patches layer (Phase VI work) for review by the MeCC Partners and by other conservation organizations for comprehensive collaboration.

Final Report Summary:

The DNR began refinements to the MeCC projects database application in 2012, during the sixth phase of the MeCC partnership. The updating and revision work continued into this seventh phase of the partnership and was completed in draft during spring 2015. Application updating has been completed by the DNR, and the web-based project database is currently available to MeCC partners for conservation planning and collaboration purposes. A public MeCC web map was updated during the summer of 2016 and went live on June 30, 2016. The updated public web map displays the latest version of the MeCC shapefile and includes the most recent eco patch analysis (based off of Metro Regionally Ecological Significant Area 2014 data).

Ecological analysis to assist MeCC partners in prioritizing project sites was initiated in summer 2013. The analysis drew upon existing Minnesota Land Cover Classification System data and combined that with the most recent National Land Cover Data information to create a new layer of MLCCS data. The new MLCCS data was then used to refine habitat models for the localized characteristics of the overall MeCC area. The new data and revised habitat models will be used to provide guidance to the project partners for new MeCC focus areas to concentrate conservation efforts.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: The Metro Conservation Corridors partnership will periodically distribute information about the program and accomplishments through the various communication methods of our partner organizations and as we conduct coordinated outreach efforts. As projects are completed, the partners involved will publicize accomplishments through press releases and organization newsletters and websites. The MeCC database includes a public web-based map that displays accomplishments. Additionally, the partnership plans to update the MeCC section on the DNR's website.

Status as of February 1, 2014:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

Status as of August 1, 2014:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

Status as of February 1, 2015:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

Status as of August 1, 2015:

To date, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant.

Status as of February 1, 2016:

To date, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant.

Final Report Summary:

The MeCC web map was updated during the spring of 2016 and went live for use by the general public at the end of June. The MeCC web-based map can found on the DNR’s website at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/metroconservationcorridors/index.html> or by direct link at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/mecc/mapper.html>. The updated public web map displays the latest version of the MeCC shapefile, which was made available for the public on the Minnesota Geospatial Commons web portal.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel: Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 10,000	MLT staff expenses including salaries and benefits to manage and coordinate the program for three years.
Personnel: DNR	\$ 10,000	DNR staff to manage mapping and database for three years.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 20,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: Work by DNR on this grant is done by positions that are either partially or wholly funded through a Professional Services arrangement. This is the standard way that the IT section operates and provides programming and database services to DNR divisions, bureaus and external partners.

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 0.1 FTE for 3 years (MLT and DNR staff)

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds: N/A

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: The Land Trust and DNR are the only entities receiving funds for coordination and mapping, however, work is coordinated with other Metro Conservation Corridors partners (please see the overall work plan for list of project partners).

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project advances the long-term strategy of the Metro Conservation Corridors, initiated in partnership with the LCCMR in 2003 to accelerate the protection and restoration of critical habitat in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area. Progress towards this long-term strategy is ongoing, and MeCC will continue its work as long as urbanization and fragmentation continue to threaten critical habitat.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13
ENRTF - MeCC	\$24,800	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$40,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: N/A

IX. MAP(S): N/A

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2014, August 1, 2014, February 1, 2015, August 1, 2015, and February 1, 2016. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2016 as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 (FY 2013-14) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects								
Project Title: MeCC VII-1.1 – Coordination, Mapping and Outreach and 1.2 - Mapping and Database Work								
Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chapter 52, Section 2, Subdivision 4(d)								
Project Manager: Wayne Ostlie								
M.L. 2012 (FY 2013-14) ENRTF Appropriation: \$20,000								
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2016								
Date of Update: 10/11/2016								
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Partnership Coordination, Mapping and Outreach</i>			<i>Partnership Mapping and Database Management</i>				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) Minnesota Land Trust conservation and support staff expenses including salaries and benefits for approximately 0.1 FTE for 3 years.	\$10,000	\$4,016	\$5,984				\$10,000	\$5,984
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) DNR conservation and support staff expenses including salaries and benefits for 3 years.				\$10,000	\$3,929	\$6,071	\$10,000	\$6,071
COLUMN TOTAL	\$10,000	\$4,016	\$5,984	\$10,000	\$3,929	\$6,071	\$20,000	\$12,055

2013 Project Abstract For the Period Ending June 30, 2016

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII-Friends of the Mississippi River. Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

PROJECT MANAGER: Tom Lewanski

AFFILIATION: Friends of the Mississippi River

MAILING ADDRESS: 360 North Robert Street, Suite 400

CITY/STATE/ZIP: St. Paul, MN 55101

PHONE: 651-222-2193 Ext. 12

E-MAIL: tlewanski@fmr.org

WEBSITE: www.fmr.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.1/3.4

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 304,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

FMR had three goals for this project: Increase the amount of native habitat, enhance the quality of existing habitat and acquire and permanently protect habitat along the Mississippi River in Maplewood. To approach the first two goals we committed to restoring 10 acres of prairie and enhancing 54-acres of prairie, 10-acres of savanna and 60 acres of forest/woodland for a total of 134 acres improved. We accomplished the goals through the following projects:

- Gelhar-Emrick (Ravenna Twnshp): A 6-acre unit at this property was restored to prairie.
- Pine Bend Bluffs SNA (Inver Grove Heights): A restored prairie and two native bluff prairies were managed for invasive weeds by spot-spraying and burning. Total prairie enhanced: 39
- Old Mill Park (Hastings): This project resulted in 10 acres of enhanced oak savanna.
- Ravenna Block (Ravenna Twnshp): A total of 5 acres of a previously installed prairie was managed for the initial two-year establishment period (mowing, spot-treat weeds). 34 acres of forest were managed for invasive woody plants (cut and stump-treat, fall foliar treatment).
- Spring Lake Park Reserve (Rosemount): Prairie was installed in a 17.5-acre old field.
- Heritage Village Park (Inver Grove Heights) : We controlled invasive weeds and seeded native prairie/savanna species on 2 acres of woodland and 7 acres of savanna.
- Mississippi River Gorge (Minneapolis): 7 acres of woodland were enhanced by controlling invasive woody plants.
- Gateway North Open Space Area (Cottage Grove): 6 acres of woodland were enhanced by controlling woody invasive species.
- River Oaks Park (Cottage Grove): Controlled woody and herbaceous plants on an acre each of prairie and woodland.

Project totals: 23.5 acres of prairie installed/restored and 45 acres of existing prairie, 17 acres of savanna and 50 acres of forest/woodland were enhanced for a total of 135.5 acres of habitat improved.

The third goal was accomplished by acquiring 6 acres of bluffland habitat in the Fish Creek Natural area, Maplewood.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Information about this project was disseminated in several ways. FMR published articles about the site specific projects in our traditional newsletter and in our electronic newsletter. Articles could also be found on our website. An article about the Fish Creek acquisition appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press and in the Minneapolis Star Tribune. We often organize volunteer events for our project sites and we share information with our participants.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2013 Work Plan - Final

Date of Status Update Report: October 31, 2016

Date of Next Status Update Report: Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 11, 2013

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2016

Is this an amendment request? yes

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII-Friends of the Mississippi River. Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

Project Manager: Tom Lewanski

Affiliation: Friends of the Mississippi River

Mailing Address: 360 North Robert Street, Suite 400

City/State/Zip Code: St. Paul, MN 55101

Telephone Number: (651) 222-2193

Email Address: tlewanski@fmr.org

Web Address: www.fmr.org

Location: Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, & Washington Counties

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$304,000
	Amount Spent:	\$303,588
	Balance:	\$412

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.1/3.4

Appropriation Language:

\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$10,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$1,990,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: \$304,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$368,000 with Dakota County; \$208,000 with Great River Greening; \$310,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$400,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$400,000 with the Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title 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 corridor areas as defined in the work plan. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work plan. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work plan. Lands that would require payments in lieu of taxes under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.061 or 477A.12, shall not be acquired with money from this appropriation. Up to \$54,000 is for use by Minnesota Land Trust in a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan and subject to subdivision 16. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2016, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII-Friends of the Mississippi River. Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The Twin Cities Metro Area contains numerous natural areas that provide important wildlife habitat and also serve as crucial components of a larger system of interconnected habitats across the landscape. Due to human influences, these areas have become degraded. Friends of the Mississippi River has been conducting enhancement/restoration and land protection activities on some of the most important and highest quality habitat within the core metro and southeastern metro corridors for 12 years. The restoration, enhancement & protection activities presented in this proposal are designed to continue the work at these sites, ensuring that previous public investment in this habitat improvement is protected, and to expand on these successes by adding new projects sites within the designated corridors. With this funding we can continue the habitat restoration & enhancement in a seamless fashion allowing us to benefit from a project structure that is already in place. In addition, FMR has the opportunity to assist the City of Maplewood in acquiring and permanently protecting 6 acres of habitat in the Fish Creek Natural Area along the bluffs of the Mississippi River.

There are three overall goals for this project: increase the amount of native habitat within specified focus areas of the Metro Conservation Corridors; enhance the quality of existing habitat; and acquire and permanently protect habitat along the Mississippi River in Maplewood. These goals serve to increase the amount of various ecosystems, including those that are rare on the landscapes, such as prairie, and savanna. By removing and controlling exotic invasive plant & in some cases woody species from existing prairie and woodland areas, conditions are improved for native plant species to successfully reproduce and thrive, which in-turn provide food, shelter and nesting sites for various wildlife, including species in greatest need of conservation. Land acquisition in Maplewood consists of 6 acres within the Fish Creek Natural Area. This area is situated along the bluffs of the Mississippi River and is surrounded by open space owned by Ramsey County. Specific activities for each of the goals are described below.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of (2/1/2014): On December 11, 2013, FMR, with the City of Maplewood MN, purchased 6-acres in the Fish Creek Natural area. This acquisition was a part of larger acquisition that totaled 70 acres. In addition, FMR's Senior Ecologist conducted planning activities for restoration efforts at the Old Mill Park in Hastings.

Project Status as of (8/1/2014): Heritage Village/Swing Bridge. We conducted spot spraying, a prescribed burn and then overseeded 1-acre hillside prairie, using City of Inver Grove Heights funding. At the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, we conducted an ecological survey and transplanted sedge plants using match funds. At Old Mill Park we conducted a prescribed burn on 3 acres of oak savanna. At the Spring Lake Park Reserve in Dakota County FMR prepared a seeding site by spraying herbicide, conducting a prescribed burn and grinding stumps on 17 acres.

Project Status as of (August 20, 2014): Work plan amendment request. FMR is seeking permission to begin to utilize funds associated with its M.L. 2014 grant before all funds have been spent or contractually encumbered from our ENRTF M.L. 2013 grant. All of the funds from the 2013 grant are allocated and committed to the projects that are on our restoration lists. We have restoration projects on our M.L. 2014 list that are ready for additional activities, which would benefit from efficiencies by being able to conduct these activities now rather than waiting until all of the previously appropriated funds, committed to other sites, are spent. Amendment Request approved by the LCCMR 8/21/2014.

Project Status as of (2/1/2015): Work plan amendment request. FMR is seeking permission to amend its budget by moving \$2,800 from the Professional/Technical/Service Contracts line into the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line that is specifically for plant material. Amendment Request approved by the LCCMR 1-29-2015.

During this report period, we conducted enhancement activities on 30 acres of forest/woodland, 9 acres of savanna, and 28.7 acres of prairie. In addition, prairie restoration activities took place on 1.5 acres.

Project Status as of 8/1/2015): Restoration activities took place at 6 sites (Gateway North Open Space Area, Minneapolis Riverfront, Old Mill Park, River Oaks Park, Ravenna Block Greenway, and Spring Lake Park. Most of the activities at these sites were continuation on previously reported acres. However, it did include restoration on 9.5 new acres.

Project Status as of (10/12/15): Work plan amendment request. FMR is seeking permission to begin to utilize funds associated with its M.L. 2015 grant before all funds have been spent or contractually encumbered from our ENRTF M.L. 2013 grant. All of the funds from the 2013 grant are allocated and committed to the projects that are on our restoration lists. We have restoration projects on our M.L. 2015 list that are ready for implementation or additional activities, which would benefit from efficiencies by being able to conduct these activities now rather than waiting until all of the previously appropriated funds, committed to other sites, are spent.

Project Status as of (2/1/2016): Amendment Request.

FMR is requesting a budget amendment to reduce the amount in the Equipment/Tools/Supplies Restoration supplies line by \$955, increase the budget amount in the Professional/Technical/Service Contracts line by \$400 and increase the Equipment/Tools/Supplies – Trees, shrubs, seed line by \$555. Amendment approved by LCCMR 2/22/16.

Restoration activities took place at 4 sites. At the Old Mill Park in Hastings, the seeded prairie area was mowed twice and exotic brush was retreated to deal with resprouts. This was on previously reported acres. At the Spring Lake Park site, the seeded prairie was mowed. This was on previously reported acres. At the Gateway North Open Space Area in Cottage Grove exotic brush sprouts were treated with herbicide on 6 acres. At the Mississippi River gorge in Minneapolis, exotic brush was cut and treated on 7 acres.

Project Status as of 8/1/2016): Amendment Request.

Amendment Request approved by the LCCMR 8/2/2016.

Tom Lewanski spoke with Mike Banker on 7/2/16 about some minor categorical discrepancies in our final budget calculations. FMR is requesting a budget amendment to move funds between budget lines as the project ends. Specifically we are asking to reduce the amount in the Professional/Technical/Service Contracts category by \$636.00, reduce the amount in the Bookkeeper section by \$39.00, increase the amount in Conservation Director section by \$463, increase the amount in the Ecologist section by \$109.00, increase the amount in the travel expenses section by \$16.00 and increase the amount in the Equipment/tools/supplies (plant materials) section by \$87.00. This request is to be retroactive to enable FMR to maximize its reimbursement for legitimate and allowable expenses related to performing the activities of the project at the end of the grant period.

Final Report Summary

The Metro Area contains natural areas that provide important wildlife habitat and serve as crucial components of a larger system of interconnected habitats across the landscape. Human influences have degraded many of them. FMR had three goals for this project: Increase the amount of native habitat, enhance the quality of existing habitat and acquire and permanently protect habitat along the Mississippi River in Maplewood. To approach the first two goals we committed to restoring 10 acres of prairie and enhancing 54-acres of prairie, 10-acres of savanna and 60 acres of forest/woodland for a total of 134 acres improved. We accomplished the goals through the following projects:

- Gelhar-Emrick (Ravenna Twnshp, Dakota County) : A 6-acre unit at this property was restored to prairie.
- Pine Bend Bluffs SNA SNA (Inver Grove Heights, Dakota County): A restored prairie and two native bluff prairies were managed for invasive weeds by spot-spraying and burning. Total prairie enhanced: 39
- Old Mill Park (Hastings, Dakota County): This project resulted in 10 acres of enhanced oak savanna.
- Ravenna Block (Ravenna Twnshp, Dakota County) : A total of 5 acres of a previously installed prairie was managed for the initial two-year establishment period (mowing, spot-treat weeds). 34 acres of forest were managed for invasive woody plants (cut and stump-treat, fall foliar treatment).
- Spring Lake Park Reserve (Rosemount, Dakota County): Prairie was installed in a 17.5-acre old field.

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Project totals: 23.5 acres of prairie installed/restored and 45 acres of existing prairie, 17 acres of savanna and 50 acres of forest/woodland were enhanced for a total of 135.5 acres of habitat improved.

The third goal was accomplished by acquiring 6 acres of bluffland habitat in the Fish Creek Natural area, Maplewood.

Project Status as of 10/31/2016): Amendment Request.

FMR is requesting a budget amendment to move funds between budget lines as the project ends. Specifically we are asking to reduce the amount in the Ecologist category by \$546.00, increase the conservation Director line by \$463.00 and increase the Bookkeeper line by \$83.00. In addition, we are asking to reduce the Professional/Technical/Service Contracts line by \$480.00, increase the Equipment/Tools/Supplies (Trees, shrubs, seed) line by \$464 and increase the Travel line by \$16.00. This request is to be retroactive to enable FMR to maximize its reimbursement for legitimate and allowable expenses related to performing the activities of the project at the end of the grant period.

Final Report Summary

The Metro Area contains natural areas that provide important wildlife habitat and serve as crucial components of a larger system of interconnected habitats across the landscape. Human influences have degraded many of them. FMR had three goals for this project: Increase the amount of native habitat, enhance the quality of existing habitat and acquire and permanently protect habitat along the Mississippi River in Maplewood. To approach the first two goals we committed to restoring 10 acres of prairie and enhancing 54-acres of prairie, 10-acres of savanna and 60 acres of forest/woodland for a total of 134 acres improved. We accomplished the goals through the following projects:

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Project totals: 23.5 acres of prairie installed/restored and 45 acres of existing prairie, 17 acres of savanna and 50 acres of forest/woodland were enhanced for a total of 135.5 acres of habitat improved.

The third goal was accomplished by acquiring 6 acres of bluffland habitat in the Fish Creek Natural area, Maplewood.

-

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Habitat restoration and enhancement

Description: Restoration: We will restore 10 acres of prairie on a fallow field by conducting prescribed burning, herbicide application, soil preparation, and seeding, followed by 2 seasons of mowing.

Enhancement: 54 acres of existing native and restored prairie and 10-acres of native savanna will be enhanced by conducting invasive species control and prescribed burns. In addition, 60 acres of forest/woodland will be enhanced by controlling exotic invasive plants and by planting native trees & shrubs. We will evaluate the effectiveness of all restoration/enhancement actions by conducting periodic site visits to monitor success of management methods including resprouting/germination of exotic plants and survival rate of installed native plants. We will also document breeding bird species at targeted sites. FMR will give consideration to contracting with Conservation Corps Minnesota for some of these restoration and enhancement activities.

Each restoration site will have an ecological restoration plan. These plans will contain site information (location, landscape context, site geology, rare species, historic vegetation, land use, water resources) and ecological evaluation and recommendations (existing land cover, management recommendations, restoration schedule and cost estimates).

An initial evaluation will be completed for each of the restoration & enhancement projects in relationship to the stated goals and standards in the restoration plan and will be a part of the final report. The evaluations will determine whether the restoration projects are meeting planned goals, identify any problems with the implementation of the restorations, and, if necessary, give recommendations on improving restorations. A second evaluation will be completed three years after the completion of the expenditure.

The restoration and enhancement activities that FMR will undertake through this grant will be conducted on lands permanently protected by a conservation easement or in public ownership.

The Mississippi River is the defining natural feature of the central portion of the United States. It provides critical habitat both as an international migration corridor and as essential habitat for local resident wildlife and plant populations. FMR has been strategically focused on specific areas within the designated corridors for well over a decade. This approach has allowed us to stay engaged with projects, landowners, partners and communities, helping to ensure the continuous improvement and expansion of the habitat values at these sites, over time, while protecting the public investment that has been made in them. As such the restoration and enhancement projects presented in this proposal are all part of larger projects both in the sense of time and area. Many times these projects involve restoration and protection components. Because we stay engaged with our conservation projects over the long-term and are on site at least once a year we are able to identify and respond to issues as they emerge. FMR is committed to conducting fundraising from both public and private sources, for the ongoing restoration and enhancement activities required at these sites over time.

FMR will provide a copy of RFP's, sent out to vendors for restoration activities to the Conservation Corps Minnesota.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 142,000
Amount Spent: \$ 141,588

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget (approx.)
1. Conduct prairie restoration/installation activities on 10 acres.	6/30/2016	\$16,400
2. Conduct habitat enhancement activities on 54 acres of existing prairie	6/30/2016	\$31,300
3. Conduct enhancement activities on 10 acres of savanna	6/30/2016	\$14,450
4. Conduct enhancement activities on 60 acres of forest/woodland.	6/30/2016	\$79,850

Activity Status as of (2/1/2014): FMR’s Senior Ecologist conducted planning for the Old Mill Park oak savanna restoration activities.

Activity Status as of (8/1/2014): Heritage Village/Swing Bridge. We conducted spot spraying for weeds, a prescribed burn and then overseeded 1-acre hillside prairie, using City of Inver Grove Heights funding. At the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, we conducted an ecological survey and transplanted sedge plants in oak forest using matching funds. At Old Mill Park we conducted a prescribed burn on 3 acres of oak savanna. At the Spring Lake Park Reserve in Dakota County, FMR prepared a prairie seeding site by spraying herbicide, conducting a prescribed burn and grinding stumps on 17 acres.

Activity Status as of (2/1/2015): Almquist: Contractor cut and treated buckthorn on 25 acres of forest. At the Old Mill Park a contractor cut and treated buckthorn on 9 acres of savanna. Also at this site the contractor conducted site preparation (herbicide application and burning) on 1.5 acre in anticipation of seeding with native prairie seed. The seed has been purchased. Pine Bend Bluffs SNA: herbaceous weeds were sprayed and mowed on 16 acres of existing prairie and exotic woody plants and small trees were cut on an additional 12.7 acres of prairie. At the River Oaks Park: Woody plant material was cut and treated on 2 acres of woods. In the Spring Lake Park Reserve site preparation activities (discing, harrowing & spraying continued on previously reported acres. The site was then seeded in October. At the Rock Island Swing bridge in Inver Grove Heights, herbaceous and woody weeds were cut and sprayed on previously reported acres. Overseeding took place on an additional 3 acres at this site.

Activity Status as of 8/1/2015): River Oaks: On Feb 12, 2015, exotic woody species (primarily buckthorn), was cut, treated, stacked and burned from a 1-acre part of the site. During the winter of 2014/2015, Minnesota Native Landscapes conducted invasive species removal on the bluff prairie, savanna, oak woodland, and oak forest units. This work also included stacking and burning piles of cut brush. In the bluff prairie, Buckthorn Baggies were applied to the cut stumps to avoid herbicide use on the sensitive prairie area.

Old Mill Park: On April 17, 2015, a prescribed burn was completed on 3 acres as part of site preparation for seeding. The seeding was intended for fall 2014, but by the time conditions were good for seeding, there was too much leaf litter on the ground, necessitating a burn. Suitable weather conditions for burning are more difficult to obtain in the fall, and before a burn could be conducted there was a snowfall.

Ravenna Block/Almquist: On April 23, 2015 a prescribed burn was completed on a 13-acre wooded unit, as follow-up after buckthorn removal the previous year. Burn conditions were good, with low relative humidity and a light breeze. The burn carried well in some areas, but not in the lower (moister) parts of the site. Seedling buckthorn plants were not yet visible, so it is not yet clear if the burn impacted the seedling flush. The prairie reconstruction was supposed to be burned (3rd growing season), but due to the dry soils the native grasses were still small so the fuels were light. The decision was made that waiting a year, or until fall, will give better results.

Spring Lake Park: On June 12, 2015 the prairie reconstruction, seeded in fall 2014, was mowed as part of the establishment process.

Minneapolis Riverfront/Ole Olson: FMR has been meeting with the Minneapolis park board (MPRB) to develop our plans at the site. Restoration will begin in August with the removal of woody invasive species and spraying of exotic herbaceous species. The areas will be prepped for seeding, which will occur in the late fall of 2015, and a demonstration prairie planting will be installed as part of a FMR volunteer event

Gateway North Open Space Area (GNOSA): This spring, FMR wrote and distributed an RFP for the Phase I follow-up work at GNOSA. FMR accepted a bid from Prairie Restorations Inc. (PRI) to begin work in the fall of 2015. To date, FMR ecologists have made multiple site visits with staff from PRI to go over the work plan and hash out the logistics of the work. Work will focus on treating exotic woody and herbaceous species in the savanna units.

Activity Status as of (2/1/2016):

Rock Island Swing Bridge: FMR ecologists conducted site visits to evaluate the establishment of the 5-acre savanna restoration, as well as the efficacy of the invasive removal on the savanna and slopes of the berm.

36th Street Oak Savanna: In early October, crews cut and treated buckthorn and other woody invasive species on 7 acres of forest surrounding the prairie and savanna bowl. Crews removed woody brush on 3.25 of the acres, but left felled brush on the other 3.75 acres for a volunteer brush haul on October 10th.

Spring Lake Park: The site was evaluated on July 20, 2015. The prairie reconstruction, seeded in fall 2014, was mostly knee high or less. Typically a mow would not have been needed, but ragweed was starting to bloom, so the second mow of the season was done on July 22, 2015. A site evaluation on October 15 revealed a proliferation of black-eyed Susan's and several other early successional natives.

Old Mill Park: On July 17, 2015, the areas seeded on 4/21 (Units 1 and 3) were mowed, and again on August 13. The site was evaluated on July 30th – no natives were seen yet in the seeded areas. Unit 1 was dominated by foxtail, but black medick was much reduced from earlier. A few natives were seen in Unit 3 – black-eyed Susan, bergamot, partridge pea – but vegetation was sparse. By September 1, Unit 1 was still dominated by non-native grasses (mostly annual), but natives were easy to find – purple & white prairie clovers, yellow coneflower, Susies, bergamot, common milkweed, partridge pea and grass seedlings. Similar species were seen in Unit 3, plus blazing star, and Indian grass was abundant. The entry planting looked fantastic all season, with over 90 percent survival of robust plants that all flowered. It hosted numerous monarch butterflies in the fall. On October 20, the resprouted or seedling buckthorn plants in the wooded areas were treated with a foliar herbicide. The site was evaluated on November 2. The buckthorn treatment was apparent, but effectiveness will need to be evaluated in spring 2016. A large patch of thistles and buckthorn was detected, which was treated (herbicide) on November 6.

Gateway North Open Space Area: At GNOSA, crews treated buckthorn seedlings and small stems on 6 acres of savanna (Units Sav-1 and Sav-2). Crews spot-sprayed seedlings and small stems using backpack sprayers. Work was done as follow-up to past buckthorn removal, and will continue with future spot sprays of herbaceous plants and a prescribed burn.

Activity Status as of 8/1/2016):

Emrick: 6 acres was prepped (tree removal, herbaceous layer herbicided, prescribed burn) and was seeded with prairie mix.

Minneapolis Gorge: Woody exotic plants were removed on 7 acres of previously reported acres.

Spring Lake Park: A contractor mowed the 17.5 acres of prairie that was installed.

Gateway North Open Space Area: Contractor retreated exotic brush and herbaceous plants on 6 acres of previously reported acres.

Final Report Summary:

The Metro Area contains natural areas that provide important wildlife habitat and serve as crucial components of a larger system of interconnected habitats across the landscape. Human influences have degraded many of them. FMR had three goals for this project: Increase the amount of native habitat, enhance the quality of existing habitat and acquire and permanently protect habitat along the Mississippi River in Maplewood. To approach the first two goals we committed to restoring 10 acres of prairie and enhancing 54-acres of prairie, 10-acres of savanna and 60 acres of forest/woodland for a total of 134 acres improved. We accomplished the goals through the following projects:

- Gelhar-Emrick: A 6-acre unit at this property was restored to prairie.
- Pine Bend Bluffs SNA: A restored prairie and two native bluff prairies were managed for invasive weeds by spot-spraying and burning. Total prairie enhanced: 39
- Old Mill Park: This project resulted in 10 acres of enhanced oak savanna.

- Ravenna Block: A total of 5 acres of a previously installed prairie was managed for the initial two-year establishment period (mowing, spot-treat weeds). 34 acres of forest were managed for invasive woody plants (cut and stump-treat, fall foliar treatment).
- Spring Lake Park Reserve: Prairie was installed in a 17.5-acre old field.
- Heritage Village Park. We controlled invasive weeds and seeded native prairie/savanna species on 2 acres of woodland and 7 acres of savanna.
- Mississippi River Gorge. 7 acres of woodland were enhanced by controlling invasive woody plants.
- Gateway North Open Space Area. 6 acres of woodland were enhanced by controlling woody invasive species.
- River Oaks Park. Controlled woody and herbaceous plants on an acre each of prairie and woodland.

This project resulted in 135.5 acres of improved habitat. 85 of those acres were in two very rare habitat types in Minnesota, prairie and oak savanna. Specifically the improved habitat by community type resulted can be summarized in the following way: 23.5 acres of prairie installed/restored and 45 acres of existing prairie, 17 acres of savanna and 50 acres of forest/woodland were enhanced for a total of 135.5 acres of habitat improved.

There were four project sites that were included in our original proposal and project list but did not conduct restoration activities at them during this project. These sites are Minneapolis River Front, Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, Wilmar, and Mounds park. In each of these instances, FMR secured other funding to pursue the restoration presented in the natural resource management plans.

Activity 2: Acquisition at Fish Creek Natural Area

Budget: \$162,000

These ENRTF funds will be used to purchase 6 acres in the Fish Creek Natural Area. This is one phase of a larger acquisition project of City of Maplewood, totaling 70 acres. The City will hold the fee title. A restoration and management plan is currently being prepared. The plan will contain site information (location, landscape context, site geology, rare species, historic vegetation, land use, water resources) and ecological evaluation and recommendations (existing land cover, management recommendations, restoration schedule and cost estimates). The City will use a mix of funding sources to implement this plan including city capital improvement funds & grants. For ongoing maintenance projects the city will seek funding through city’s operating budget. FMR is also interested in being a long-term partner with the city and bring public and private funding to assist in implementing the plan.

An analysis will be provided by the City of Maplewood to LCCMR and MMB that identifies increased operation and maintenance costs likely to be incurred as a result of the acquisition and how these costs are to be paid.

The land being acquired is identified in a City of Maplewood document entitled Recommendations and Opportunities for Fish Creek Natural Area Greenway. The Fish Creek Natural Area Greenway Ad-Hoc Commission developed criteria to evaluate and prioritize land within this natural area. These criteria are presented on page 15 of this document, which can be viewed at:

<http://www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/1444>

Written approval will be obtained from the DNR commissioner prior to the acquisition of this property. A copy of this letter will be submitted to the LCCMR.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 162,000
Amount Spent: \$ 162,000
Balance: \$0

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Acquisition of 6 acres.	6/30/2016	\$162,000

Activity Status as of (2/1/2014): On December 11, 2013, the City of Maplewood MN, purchased 70 acres in the Fish Creek Natural area. The Conservation Fund purchased the property from the landowner and held it for two years, enabling the City to obtain the funding needed to take ownership of the property. Six of the 70 acres were purchased with funds appropriated to FMR for this project. The project transaction costs, presented in the following table were calculated by prorating the expenses for the transaction covering the entire 70 acre acquisition to the 6 acres purchased with funds from this grant. The City of Maplewood used other, non-state, funding to pay the transaction costs associated with the acquisition of these 6-acres. The Conservation Fund and the City of Maplewood developed an agreement, at the time that the Conservation Fund purchased the property, regarding how much money the city would purchase the property for. A recent appraisal demonstrated that the property had increased in value since this agreement was signed. As a result the Conservation Fund provided a bargain sale of the 6 acres that valued \$32,143.00. A letter from the Conservation Fund, acknowledging this bargain sale for the entire property, has been attached to this report.

The 58 acres purchased that were not part of this grant (70 total acres minus 6 acres purchased with this ENRTF grant & minus 6 acres purchased by the City of Maplewood with non-state funding as match) were acquired with funding from a Natural and Scenic Area grant (source: ENRTF), Ramsey County, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, City of Maplewood, and private funds.

	ENRTF grant to Friends of the Mississippi River	City of Maplewood	Friends of the Mississippi River	Total	Notes
Land Cost	\$162,000.00		\$857.00	\$162,857.00	FMR used private funds.
Property Taxes		\$6,909.68		\$6,909.68	Determined by prorating the transaction costs associated with the purchase of the entire 70 acres to the 6 acres purchased with this grant. Maplewood used non-state funds for these costs.
Interest		\$12,655.00		\$12,655.00	
Conservation Fund fee		\$4,285.00		\$4,285.00	
Legal		\$500.00		\$500.00	
Settlement charges to borrower		\$632.00		\$632.00	
Appraisal		\$4,500.00		\$4,500.00	Actual expenses for the 6 acres. Maplewood used non-state funds for these costs.
Phase I.		\$3,850.00		\$3,850.00	
Total expenses	\$162,000	\$33,331.68	\$857.00	\$196,188.68	

The City of Maplewood estimated and acknowledge the following Increased operations and maintenance costs associated with the 70 acres, which includes the 6-acres acquired with funds from this grant:

1. Initial vegetation restoration work -- \$275,000, to be funded by grants and City funding.
2. Site access improvements (trail, parking lot, gate, benches, signage) -- \$300,000, to be funded by city capital improvement funding.
3. Archeological investigation and interpretation - \$20,000, to be funded by grants.
4. Estimates for ongoing costs – To be funded by city operations

- Annual: \$2500-\$5000 (trail and parking lot maintenance, vegetation management, educational programs)
- Every 20 years: \$37,500 (trail and parking lot renovation).

Activity Status as of (8/1/2014):

Activity Status as of (2/1/2015):

Activity Status as of (8/1/2015):

Activity Status as of (2/1/2016):

Activity Status as of (8/1/2016):

Final Report Summary: The Fish Creek acquisition took place in December, 2013. FMR was able to secure over \$34,000 in non-state match for this acquisition. This project was a part of a larger acquisition that took place at this time. An additional 64 acres were also acquired at this time using a variety of funding sources. The total acquisition at Fish Creek in December of 2013 was 70 acres.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: FMR will disseminate information about the protection, restoration and enhancement activities associated with this grant on the organization's website (www.fmr.org) and in its digital newsletter, which is called Mississippi Messages. We will also attempt to get press coverage of these projects.

Status as of (2/1/2014): http://www.twincities.com/outdoors/ci_24773523/maplewood-fish-creek-greenway-funds-secured-trail-building, <http://www.startribune.com/local/east/237169171.html>, <http://www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=891>, http://www.fmr.org/news/current/fish_creek_protected-2013-12, <http://www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=884>

Status as of (8/1/2014): No information dissemination took place during this time frame.

Status as of (2/1/2015): An article appeared in the Autumn 2014 issue of FMR's newsletter about the Oak savanna restoration at the Old Mill Park in Hastings. An article appeared in the October issue of Mississippi Messages, FMR's electronic newsletter, about the River Oaks Park in Cottage Grove.
http://www.fmr.org/news/current/river_oaks_restoration-2014-10

Status as of (8/1/2015): FMR Spring 2015 newsletter article attached.

Status as of (2/1/2016): http://fmr.org/participate/ongoing/gorge_stewards

Status as of (8/1/2016):

Final Report Summary: There were several articles published about this project over life of the grant. They include the following:

- http://www.twincities.com/outdoors/ci_24773523/maplewood-fish-creek-greenway-funds-secured-trail-building, <http://www.startribune.com/local/east/237169171.html>,

<http://www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=891>,
http://www.fmr.org/news/current/fish_creek_protected-2013-12,

- <http://www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=884>
- An article appeared in the Autumn 2014 issue of FMR's newsletter about the Oak savanna restoration at the Old Mill Park in Hastings. An article appeared in the October issue of Mississippi Messages, FMR's electronic newsletter, about the River Oaks Park in Cottage Grove.
http://www.fmr.org/news/current/river_oaks_restoration-2014-10
- http://fmr.org/participate/ongoing/gorge_stewards

In addition, we also shared information about the project and the LCCMR to the many volunteers that assisted us during the restoration at some of the sites.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 24,533	
Conservation Director (1).	\$2,663	Project and partner coordination..01 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2016.
Ecologist. (2).	\$21,309	Specific restoration/enhancement project planning, coordination, implementation & evaluation. .2 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2016.
Bookkeeper (1).	\$561	Bookkeeper.(1). Financial recordkeeping and invoicing. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .006 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2016.
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$110,464	Vendors to provide restoration activities such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc. (Vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.)
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$545	Gloves, fencing, posts, misc. supplies
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$162,000	Acquire 6 acres in the Fish Creek Natural Area in Maplewood, Ramsey County.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$1,016	Travel to project sites and partner meetings.
Other: Plant material:	\$5,442	Native seeds, trees & shrubs
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$304,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: .21 FTE

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: .4 (estimate)

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			

City of Maplewood	\$162,000	\$162,000	City of Maplewood purchased an additional 6 acres using non-state funding as match for this ENRTF grant
City of Maplewood	-	\$33,331.68	Transaction expenses for the 6-acres acquired with ENRTF grant in the Fish Creek .
Friends of the Mississippi River	\$ 10,000	\$2,819.59	Restoration/enhancement/acquisition
Dakota County	\$2,000	\$790.	Restoration/enhancement
Minneapolis Park Board	\$2,000	\$	Restoration/enhancement
Watershed Districts	\$4,000	\$	Restoration/enhancement
Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District	0	\$175,000	Acquisition of additional land in Fish Creek
City of Inver Grove Heights	0	\$4,760	
Ramsey County	0	\$425,000	Acquisition of additional land in Fish Creek
City of Maplewood	0	\$545,110.32	Acquisition of additional land in Fish Creek
City of Cottage Grove	0	\$936.00	STS – Brush removal
Private		\$228,000	Acquisition of additional land in Fish Creek
State			
Natural & Scenic Area Grant	0	\$500,000	Acquisition of additional land in Fish Creek
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Metro Big Rivers Habitat Phase 3. Fiscal Year 2013.	\$67,000	\$	Restoration/enhancement at Gateway North Open Space Area in Cottage Grove.
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$247,000	\$2,077,747.27	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: City of Maplewood – will receive \$162,000 to acquire 6 acres in the Fish Creek Natural Area. None of the following partners will receive funds from this appropriation other than having restoration/enhancement done on land that they own: Dakota County, Minneapolis Park Board, City of Cottage Grove, Washington County, City of Inver Grove Heights, City of St. Paul, City of Hastings, MN-DNR

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: FMR has been strategically focused on specific areas within the designated corridors for over a decade. This has allowed us to stay engaged with projects, landowners, partners and communities, helping to ensure the continuous improvement and expansion of the habitat values at these sites, while protecting the public investment that has been made in them. Starting with individual parcels, our project areas have grown by orders of magnitude to protect and restore large tracts of land, ultimately creating contiguous greenway corridors. The protection, restoration and enhancement projects presented in this work program are all part of larger projects both in the sense of time and area. FMR is committed to conducting fundraising from both public and private sources, for the ongoing restoration and enhancement activities required at these sites over time.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2003	M.L. 2005 Or FY06	M.L. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010	M.L 2011 or FY12- 13
ENRTF	\$92,000	\$90,000	\$53,000	\$92,000	\$90,000		\$200,000

	Subd.5(b)	Subd.5(b)	Subd.4c (2.1).	Subd. 3(a)2.1	Subd. 4(f)2.3		Subd. 4(i)
Outdoor Heritage Fund- CPL						\$94,374	
Upper Mississippi River Forestry Partnership		\$10,000					
Friends of the Mississippi River	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	5,000	5,000
St. Paul Audubon Society		\$5,000					
Outdoor Heritage Fund-					\$227,300		\$150,000
Private landowners	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	80,000	\$80,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:

IX. MAP(S):

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2014, August 1, 2014, February 1, 2015, August 1, 2015, and February 1, 2016. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2016 as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects									
Project Title: <i>Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII-Friends of the Mississippi River. Protect, Restore and</i>									
Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.1/3.4									
Project Manager: Tom Lewanski									
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 304,000									
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years ending <i>June 30, 2016</i>									
Date of Update: October 31, 2016									
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Activity 1 Budget	Amended Activity 1 Budget (10/31/16)	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BALANC E
BUDGET ITEM		<i>Habitat restoration and enhancement</i>				<i>Acquisition at Fish Creek Natural Area</i>			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)									
Conservation Director. (1) Project and partner coordination. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .01 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2016.		2,200	2,663	2,663	0				0
Ecologist. (2). Specific restoration/enhancement project planning, coordination & implementation. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .2 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2016.		21,200	20,654	20,398	256				256
Bookkeeper.(1). Financial recordkeeping and invoicing. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .006 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2016.		600	683	683	0				0
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts <i>Contracts: Professional/technical. Vendors to provide restoration activities such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc. (Vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.)</i>		111,100	110,620	110,464	156				156
Equipment/Tools/Supplies <i>Restoration supplies (Gloves, fencing, posts, signs, misc. supplies)</i>		545		545	0				0
Equipment/Tools/Supplies <i>(Trees, shrubs, seed)</i>		5,355	5,819	5,819	0				0
Fee Title Acquisition <i>(6 acres acquired in the Fish Creek Natural Area. The City of Maplewood will hold the title to the land.)</i>					0	162,000	162,000	0	0
Travel expenses in Minnesota <i>(mileage)</i>		4,000	1,016	1,016	0				0
COLUMN TOTAL		\$142,000		\$141,588	\$412	\$162,000	\$162,000	\$0	412

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2013 Acquisition/Restoration List

Project Title: 2.1-MeCC7 –Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

Project Manager Name: Tom Lewanski

M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 304,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Form	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Gelhar-Emrick	518412.3	4949886	\$ 8,850	NA	Dakota	Prairie- Mississippi River bluffland above Vermillion River Bottoms.	Prairie enhancement - burning	20		Private		We did not do the larger project originally planned because site did not need additional work at that time.
2	Heritage Village Park	498607.5	4967409	\$ 9,800	NA	Dakota	Mississippi River floodplain. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control	10		Public		Restoration activities completed
3	Mississippi River Gorge	484629.9	4972939	\$ 12,540	NA	Hennepin, Ramsey	Floodplain forest, wetland, upland forest, prairie. Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor, Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control and native plant installation.	5		Public		Restoration activities completed
4	Mounds Park	495412.3	4977046	\$ 2,720	NA	Ramsey	Bluff prairie. Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor, Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control and native plant installation.	1		Public		Project received other funding
5	Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area	497895.5	4959176	\$ 22,875	NA	Dakota	Upland forest and prairie. Diverse and rare natural communities. Part of local greenway. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control, prescribed burns, prep and seed prairie restoration	25		Public		Restoration activities completed
6	Ravenna block greenway	518242	4943118	\$ 8,300	NA	Dakota	Oak forest and grassland. Contiguous forest within greenway, opportunity for prairie re-creation.	Invasive species management, prairie & savanna restoration- site prep and	15		Private		Restoration activities completed

2013 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2016

Project Title: MeCC VII - Restoring Our Lands and Waters

Project Manager: Wiley Buck
Affiliation: Great River Greening
Address: 35 W Water St, Ste 201
City / State / Zip: St Paul, MN 55107
Telephone Number: (651) 665-9500
Email Address: wbuck@greatrivergreening.org
Web Address: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org>

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.3

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$208,000

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

Along with partners and volunteers, Greening undertook restoration projects to reduce habitat fragmentation, enhance habitat quality, reconnect habitat corridors, and build connections with local communities. Habitats included prairie, oak savanna, woodland, wetland, and riparian. Significantly exceeding all of our goals, we:

- 1) restored/enhanced 141 acres of upland habitat and an additional 77 acres with leveraged non-state funds for a total of 218 acres,
- 2) restored/enhanced 0.35 mile of shoreland habitat and an additional 0.08 mile using leveraged non-state funds for a total of 0.42 miles ,
- 3) engaged over 1750 (>500 youth) volunteers in meaningful parts of these projects
- 4) leveraged \$315,178 in non-state funds

Table 1: Summary of Deliverables by Parcel

Parcel Name	City	County	Acres	Shoreline (mi)	Volunteers
Trout Brook Nature Preserve	St. Paul	Ramsey	7		882
Long Pond Elk Ranch II	Princeton	Sherburne	3		-
Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park	Elko	Scott	10		142
Katherine Abbott Park I	Mahtomedi	Washington	19		313
Wild&Scenic Rivers II – Rum	Cambridge	Isanti	1	0.15	-
Pilot Knob Hill III	Mendota Heights	Dakota	1		24
Cedar Creek Conservation Area	Oak Grove	Anoka	67		-
Central Corridor II and III	Woodbury / Cottage Grove	Washington	6		337
Spring Lake Regional Park III	Cedar Lake Twsp	Scott	20		-
Arcola Mills Maintenance	May Township	Washington	-		-
Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park	New Prague	Scott	3	0.20	-
Dodge Nature Center Lilly Preserve	Mendota Heights	Dakota	4		63
TOTALS			141	0.35	1,761

Sites hosted five documented rare species (2 plants, 3 vertebrates), and three native plant communities with biodiversity of statewide significance.

We restored and de-fragmented habitat in ecological corridors, and at several ecological cores. Restorations protected water quality along the Mississippi River and the Rum River and its watershed.

Volunteers planted over 4,500 trees/shrubs and 5,600 forb/grass plugs, and received presentations from a Greening ecologist as part of their workday.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Volunteer event descriptions acknowledging Trust Fund contributions and qualitative results were emailed to Greening's e-subscribers in July 2013, Feb 2014, July 2014, February 2015, July 2015, and spring 2016 in advance of our spring and fall volunteer event seasons. Over the course of the grants, the number of subscribers increased from approximately 5,000 to about 6,500.

Information about the Metro Conservation Corridors is on our website in the Initiatives and Volunteer Events sections at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/> . Over the course of the grant, the visits to the Greening website increased from over 1,200 to over 1,500 visits per month.

Seven press articles disseminated information about the projects (but without Trust Fund recognition despite our written efforts):

- The Mahtomedi Area Green Initiative on a volunteer event at Katherine Abbott Park: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/%E2%80%9CBuckthorn-Blast%E2%80%9D-Planned-for-Katherine-Abbott.pdf>
- The Star Tribune on Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary: <http://www.startribune.com/trout-brook-in-st-paul-s-north-end-to-see-daylight-once-again/267880201/#xqZDBCdDxAcvD4Gs.01>
- The Saint Paul Magazine on Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary: <http://saintpaulmag.com/cultivating-greatness-all-about-saint-paul%E2%80%99s-environmental-nonprofit-great-river-greening>
- Two articles reported on involvement of youth through an event at Central Corridor:
 - Stillwater Gazette,: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/hong/>
 - Star Tribune: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Star-Tribune-Nonprofit-dreams-of-mighty-oaks-050115.pdf>
- The MinnPost on a volunteer event at the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Trout-Brook-Nature-Sanctuary-opens-just-north-of-downtown-St.pdf>
- The LillieNews on prairie restoration at Dodge Nature Center: <http://eastsidereviewnews.com/articles/2016/01/24/great-tree-migration>

We also post to the community calendars, and in these the proper acknowledgement is included. We post to the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Minnesota Master Naturalist Blog | 15. River Rangers |
| 2. Minnesota Master Naturalist Forum | 16. SEEK |
| 3. Macalester | 17. Volunteer Match |
| 4. St. Kate's | 18. WCCO Community Calendar |
| 5. MN Master Naturalists | 19. YourCause |
| 6. Gustavus GivePulse | 20. Minnesota Monthly |
| 7. Minnesota State University - Mankato
(Community Request for Volunteers
Form) | 21. Hudson Community Guide and
Calendar |
| 8. Do It Green Minnesota | 22. Restore Minnesota |
| 9. River wired (Green Hands USA) | 23. Hamline University |
| 10. HandsOn Twin Cities | 24. Augsburg College |
| 11. Idealist | 25. AARP volunteers |
| 12. KARE 11 Community Calendar | 26. 1 Mississippi |
| 13. KSTP Events | 27. Northern Gardener |
| 14. Next Step | 28. Gustavus GivePulse |
| | 29. MN River Basin Data Center |

Greening is in active partnership with landowners, other land managers, service providers, conservation peers, and volunteers resulting in a dynamic and timely exchange of information and results.

Date of Status Update: 8/15/2016

Date of Final Report: 08/15/2016

Date of Work Plan Approval: 06/11/2013

Project Completion Date: 06/30/2016

PROJECT TITLE: Restoring Our Lands and Waters

Project Manager: Wiley Buck

Affiliation: Great River Greening

Mailing Address: 35 W. Water St., Ste. 201

City/State/Zip Code: St. Paul, MN 55107

Telephone Number: (651) 665-9500

Email Address: wbuck@greatrivergreening.org

Web Address: www.greatrivergreening.org

Location: Anoka, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$208,000
	Amount Spent:	\$184,270
	Balance:	\$ 23,730

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.3

Appropriation Language:

\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$10,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$1,990,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: \$304,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$368,000 with Dakota County; \$208,000 with Great River Greening; \$310,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$400,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$400,000 with the Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title 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 corridor areas as defined in the work plan. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work plan. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work plan. Lands that would require payments in lieu of taxes under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.061 or 477A.12, shall not be acquired with money from this appropriation. Up to \$54,000 is for use by Minnesota Land Trust in a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan and subject to subdivision 16. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2016, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Restoring our Lands and Waters

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

Much of the remaining natural habitat within the Greater Twin Cities metropolitan area is threatened by conversion, fragmentation, invasive species, development, altered hydrology, and climate change. Restoration and management of these habitats is needed to save Minnesota's natural heritage for future generations, protect rare and declining species, protect our clean water, reconnect habitat corridors, and engage the community so that volunteers can better enjoy and understand the restoration process, to safeguard these natural treasures through time.

We have identified: Four new sites for restoration/enhancement projects; new project areas/phases at three sites; four establishment projects; and a modest amount of maintenance activities to protect earlier investments. By working with an array of local, state, federal, non-profit, and private partners, Greening will restore/enhance 90 acres, and 0.18 mile of shoreline, engaging at least 100 volunteer community members in meaningful parts of the work. We will also restore/enhance an additional 40 acres and 0.08 mile of shoreline with leveraged funds. These projects are exemplary of our continued engagement in the Anoka Sandplain, collar counties, metropolitan core, and Wild & Scenic Rivers.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Amendment Request (11/08/2013):

Greening requests to expand our Wild and Scenic Rivers – Rum River project to include shoreline restoration, and allocate an additional \$8000 to this project. Consequently we will reduce the allocation and deliverables for our Mill Pond shoreline project by the same amount. There is no change in Appendix A line item budgets nor the total amount of restored shoreline. Amendment approved by LCCMR 11-14-2013.

Amendment Request (12/10/2013):

Greening requests to modify our project list, adding Katherine Abbott Park Phase I, which is poised to start this winter. This 70 acre park features oak forest, savanna remnant, and wetlands; Phase I will consist of oak forest enhancement, including buckthorn removal with stump treatment, native shrub and understory plugging/seeding, and follow-up buckthorn control using burning and/or spot treatment. Funds will be reallocated from Freeman Park II project, which is not going forward at this time.

Note: Katherine Abbott Park is currently on our 2014 project list. This request will essentially split the 2014 project into two phases, with the Phase II portion remaining on the 2014 project list. Approved by LCCMR December 12, 2013.

Project Status as of February 1, 2014:

We have now identified five new sites for restoration/enhancement projects (noting that Long Pond Elk Ranch II is a new site to the Trust Fund), and are continuing on with new project areas/phases at two sites.

Work is proceeding and is on pace to reach our acreage and shoreline goals, and volunteer engagement. Activity promises to increase with several projects poised for implementation starting in the 2014 growing season.

Amendment Request (8/1/14):

Greening requests to modify our project list, adding Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park. This new 1100 acre Regional Park in Scott County, scheduled to open in 2015, features wetlands, shallow lakes and upland including Big Woods with significant biodiversity as rated by MN DNR. This particular work will enhance 18 acres (9 acres Trust Fund) of oak woodland with a buckthorn removal event, selective tree removal, and supplemental seeding. Private match has been raised. Funds will be re-allocated from the Pike Lake project, which is not going forward at this time.

Greening further requests to begin spending our 2014 appropriation before the 2013 appropriation is fully expended. In general, deliverables and budgets are based on the specific project lists for each appropriation. In particular, projects #7, 8 and 9 of the 2014 restoration list are ready to go and will need the full 3-year grant period. Our plan to spend the rest of this 2013 appropriation is based on our project list and project budgets; should a project from that list need to be removed, we will submit an amendment request to replace it with a project that is ready to start.

Amendment Approved: 08/11/14

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

Restoration and enhancement is underway at the majority of project sites and we are on pace to reach our acreage, shoreline, and volunteer engagement goals. However, the Wild and Scenic River projects have been slow to develop, and there has been turnover with the DNR program supervisor; this fall, we will be evaluating the likelihood of these projects going forward and developing replacement projects as necessary.

Amendment Request February 1, 2015:

Greening requests to modify our project list, adding prairie restorations at Dodge Nature Center Lilly Property in Mendota Heights, and Victoria Park in St. Paul (maps are attached). These two projects present opportunities to restore about 30 total acres (15 Trust Fund acres) of native habitats in ecologically important areas of the metro. Funding for these projects is available as Mill Pond Shoreline is not going forward at this time, nor are additional Wild and Scenic Rivers projects.

Reflecting this change in our project list, we propose to shift \$12,800 from Result 2 Contracts to Result 1 Contracts; \$1,650 from Result 2 Volunteer Event Supplies to Result 1 Volunteer Event Supplies; and \$15,000 from Result 2 to Result 1 Contracts.

Amendment Approved: February 3, 2015

Project Status as of February 1, 2015:

Restoration and enhancement is underway at all of the projects on our revised list, with the exception of the two proposed projects which are in advanced negotiations. We are on pace to exceed our acreage goals, shoreline goals, and have engaged nearly 800 volunteers to date.

Amendment Request April 6, 2015:

Greening seeks permission to add the Grant Management Assistant position to our Personnel list. The Grant Management Assistant will be responsible for uploading Greening projects into the DNR spatial project database including submission of GIS shapefiles; take the lead on tracking the required restoration evaluations; and assist the Project Manager with submission of status reports, work program amendments, and other tasks as assigned. We wish to shift \$2,000 in personnel funds from the Project Manager position to the Grant Management Assistant position.

Amendment Approved: April 6, 2015

Amendment Request August 1, 2015:

Restoration and enhancement at shoreline sites (Activity 2) is well underway and Activity 2 goals are expected to be accomplished under budget. No additional shoreline projects are anticipated. With the recent addition of two upland projects, Dodge Nature Center and Victoria Park, in Activity 1 we anticipate needing additional funding for Activity 1 Contracts to account for slightly higher than expected bids on cost per acre. To account for these changes in funding needs, Greening requests reallocation of \$9,000 from Activity 2 Restoration Supplies to Activity 1 Contracts. This shift also results in a slight shift in Activity 1 outcomes by reducing acres for Outcome

2, "Maintenance on Select Sites", by 9.4 acres and increasing acres on Outcome 3, "Restoration/Enhancement" by 9.5 acres. Additionally, with the \$9,000 shift between activities, outcome budget allocations in Activity 1 and Activity 2 have been corrected to account for previous amendment shifted that had not been properly reflected in either place.

Amendment Approved: August 6, 2015

Project Status as of August 1, 2015:

Restoration and enhancement is underway at all of the projects on our revised list, with the exception of one newly added project, Victoria Park, which is in advanced negotiations. We are on pace to exceed our acreage and shoreline goals, and have engaged over 1000 volunteers to date.

Amendment Request February 1, 2016:

Greening respectfully requests to shift allocated funds within Activity 1 to meet anticipated expenses necessary to complete projects. A total of \$25,000 is to be shifted to Activity 1 Contracts. This amount is to be shifted out of two budgets: \$10,000 out of Activity 1 Personnel and \$15,000 out of Activity 1 Restoration Supplies. These changes are reflected in Attachment A.

Amendment Approved: February 4, 2016

Project Status as of February 1, 2016:

Restoration and enhancement is underway at all of the projects on our project list with the exception of Victoria Park Phase I which has experienced delays. Regardless, we are on pace to exceed our acreage goals and shoreline goals. We have now engaged over 1500 volunteers to date.

Final Project Status, August 15, 2016:

Along with partners and volunteers, Greening undertook restoration projects to reduce habitat fragmentation, enhance habitat quality, reconnect habitat corridors, and build connections with local communities. Habitats included prairie, oak savanna, woodland, wetland, and riparian. Significantly exceeding all of our goals, we:

- 1) restored/enhanced 141 acres of upland habitat and an additional 77 acres with leveraged non-state funds for a total of 218 acres,
- 2) restored/enhanced 0.35 mile of shoreland habitat and an additional 0.08 mile using leveraged non-state funds for a total of 0.42 miles ,
- 3) engaged over 1750 (>500 youth) volunteers in meaningful parts of these projects
- 4) leveraged \$315,178 in non-state funds

Table 1: Summary of Deliverables by Parcel

Parcel Name	City	County	Acres	Shoreline (mi)	Volunteers
Trout Brook Nature Preserve	St. Paul	Ramsey	7		882
Long Pond Elk Ranch II	Princeton	Sherburne	3		-
Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park	Elko	Scott	10		142
Katherine Abbott Park I	Mahtomedi	Washington	19		313
Wild&Scenic Rivers II – Rum	Cambridge	Isanti	1	0.15	-
Pilot Knob Hill III	Mendota Heights	Dakota	1		24
Cedar Creek Conservation Area	Oak Grove	Anoka	67		-
Central Corridor II and III	Woodbury / Cottage Grove	Washington	6		337
Spring Lake Regional Park III	Cedar Lake Twsp	Scott	20		-
Arcola Mills Maintenance	May Township	Washington	-		-
Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park	New Prague	Scott	3	0.20	-
Dodge Nature Center Lilly Preserve	Mendota Heights	Dakota	4		63
TOTALS			141	0.35	1,761

Sites hosted five documented rare species (2 plants, 3 vertebrates), and three native plant communities with biodiversity of statewide significance.

We restored and de-fragmented habitat in ecological corridors, and at several ecological cores. Restorations protected water quality along the Mississippi River and the Rum River and its watershed.

Volunteers planted over 4,500 trees/shrubs and 5,600 forb/grass plugs, and received presentations from a Greening ecologist as part of their workday.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1:

Description: Restoration, Enhancement, and Establishment of Upland Habitats

We will restore/enhance and establish/maintain 90 acres of forests, woodlands, savanna and prairie through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, prescribed fire, establishment mowing and associated activities; and an additional 40 acres of same using matching funds.

For each site, an ecological restoration and management plan will be made that is consistent with the highest quality conservation and ecological goals for the restoration site. The plan will give consideration to factors such

as soil, topography, geology, and other relevant factors that would provide for the best chance for long-term success of the restoration. The plan will include a timetable for implementing the restoration, identify long-term maintenance and management needs of the restoration and how they will be financed, take advantage of the best available science, and include innovative techniques to achieve the best restoration.

For each project, an initial restoration evaluation will be provided at the completion of the appropriation, and another evaluation three years after the completion of the expenditure. Restorations will be evaluated relative to the stated goals and standards in the restoration plan, current science, and, when applicable, the Board of Water and Soil Resources native vegetation establishment and enhancement guidelines. The evaluation shall determine whether the restoration is meeting planned goals, identify any problems with the implementation of the restoration, and, if necessary, give recommendations on improving restorations.

Private lands will be required to have a permanent conservation/scenic easement in effect. Species lists will be based on DNR, DNR/Great River Greening, and USDA Plants Database lists. In instances when leveraged match funds exceed our goal, Greening prefers to reinvest, to a level that is justified, in the original project area to augment, improve, and accelerate the restoration of those acres, before enlarging the project boundary to begin restoration of additional acres. Consideration will be given for subcontracting with Conservation Corps Minnesota.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 185,450
Amount Spent \$ 166,681
Balance: \$ 18,769

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. 40ac Prairie and Savanna Establishment	October 30, 2014	\$ 21,000
2. 0.6ac Maintenance on Select Sites	June 30, 2016	\$ 500
3. 49.5ac Forest, Woodland, Savanna and Prairie Restoration/Enhancement	June 30, 2016	\$ 163,950

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

At Central Corridor, prairie and savanna establishment proceeded with sustained invasive species control, and supplemental seeding engaging over 80 volunteers in the fall of 2013.

At Cedar Creek Conservation Area, prairie establishment mowing and invasive species control were handled by county in-kind contributions and funds.

At Katherine Abbott Park I, the RFP process was completed for woody invasive treatment and work is scheduled to begin this winter. Winter snow seeding prior to the woody invasive treatment is planned. A volunteer hauling event has been scheduled for May 3, 2014 and recruitment has begun. (Note: Under a separate report, we are seeking an amendment request to our 2011 MeCC VI allocation to add additional acres to Katherine Abbott Park Phase I; we wish to use the 2011 allocation for additional acres simply for budget reasons).

At Long Pond Elk Ranch II, an RFP process was completed for prairie reconstruction services. Site prep is scheduled for the 2014 growing season with intent to seed in fall 2014. US Fish and Wildlife Service has committed to do the seed drilling at no charge, a very significant cost-saving contribution.

An agreements was recently formalized and executed with Scott County for savanna establishment at Spring Lake Regional Park, to begin in the 2014 growing season. Negotiations with St. Paul Parks and Rec for work at

Trout Brook Nature Preserve have advanced to final reviews of a formal agreement. St. Paul has started on site preparation as part of their in-kind contribution.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

At Cedar Creek Conservation Area, prairie establishment mowing and invasive species control continued to be handled by county in-kind contributions and funds. Fall supplemental seeding/plugging is now being considered.

At Katherine Abbott Park I, the first wave of woody invasive cutting and treatment has been completed; stacking and hauling and follow-up treatment continues with volunteers and paid crews including CCM Youth Job Corps, to be followed by supplemental seeding/plugging.

At Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul, the woodland restoration has begun with City and private funds. Agreement with the City has been reached and an RFP for prairie restoration has been released.

At Long Pond Elk Ranch II, the RFP process has been renewed in an effort to contain cost, this time reaching out to local farmers for site preparation. Fall seeding remains the target.

At Pilot Knob Hill, planning with the City and Mn DOT has begun, including cash and in-kind donations. Agreement with the City has been reached and is in progress with Mn DOT.

At Spring Lake Park (Scott Co.), establishment of the savanna included selective maintenance mowing.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

Updated projections are for over 100 acres restored, exceeding our goal of 90 acres.

In the past six months, large volunteer events were held at Katherine Abbott Park, Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park, and Trout Brook Nature Preserve, engaging over 400 volunteers.

At Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul, the restoration is well underway, with prairie seeding and tree planting completed.

At Long Pond Elk Ranch II, the scope of the project has been reduced. Site prep is complete and spring seeding is scheduled for the remaining acres.

At Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park, removal of woody invasives and general woody encroachment was conducted, releasing the priority oak savanna area, and included a large volunteer event in the fall.

At Katherine Abbott Park I, the first wave of woody invasive cutting and treatment has been completed including stacking and hauling, and graminoid seeding/plugging in the cut areas.

At Pilot Knob Hill, planning with the City and Mn DOT has reached the final review stage, including large in-kind from MN DOT, as well as an agreement for Mn DOT to purchase plant materials. Implementation should advance significantly in the next six months.

At Cedar Creek Conservation Area, prairie establishment mowing and invasive species control continued to be handled by county in-kind contributions and funds. Survey of the site revealed excellent establishment with a high forb component, with only a few spots needing supplemental attention during the next growing season.

At Central Corridor and at Spring Lake Park, establishment activities included spot invasive species control.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:

Updated projections are for over 110 acres restored, exceeding our goal of 90 acres.

At Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul, the restoration is well underway and involved an additional 224 volunteers over the last six months, planting 10,000 plugs and 2500 shrubs.

At Long Pond Elk Ranch II, a plan has been made with the landowner including in-kind site preparation, with seeding scheduled for fall 2015.

At Katherine Abbott Park I, woody and herbaceous invasive control is being sustained.

At Pilot Knob Hill III, agreements have been reached with the City and MnDOT and an RFP for fall work will be issued shortly. MnDOT offered greater matching funds than anticipated, increasing the quality of the project to now include oak savanna restoration with an emphasis on pollinator and Monarch habitat, including 15 trees, 36 shrubs, and 1824 forb and grass plugs in addition to invasive control.

At Cedar Creek Conservation Area, prairie establishment mowing and invasive species control continues to be handled by county in-kind contributions and funds, including thistle control. Survey of the site revealed excellent establishment with a high forb component, with only a few spots needing supplemental attention during the fall season.

At Central Corridor a spring event involved volunteers in planting oak seedlings to restore oak savannah.

At Spring Lake Park, savannah establishment activities included two prescribed burns conducted by the county, maintenance mowing and seeding.

At Dodge Nature Center's Lilly Prairie, an agreement has been reached with the landowner and a date set for a fall 2015 volunteer event. An RFP for prairie restoration will be issued shortly.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

At Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul, establishment and supplemental planting of the prairie, savanna, and woodland restoration continued. Over 400 volunteers, including general public and participants in our Field Learning for Teens program, were engaged in planting 483 trees.

At Long Pond Elk Ranch II, seeds have been purchased for seeding, and agreements between the landowner and USFWS are underway for the contract seed drilling, scheduled now for spring 2016.

At Katherine Abbott Park I, spot follow-up treatment of non-native invasive shrubs was completed.

At Pilot Knob Hill III, roadside restoration, the RFP process was completed, and work has commenced with site preparation, installation of native woody species, and herbaceous prairie seeding. Installation of forb beds and maintenance of all is contracted for spring 2016.

At Central Corridor, over-seeding thin areas, mowing weeds, and spot herbicide application was conducted.

At Dodge Nature Center's Lilly Prairie, activity included: 1) site preparation for prairie seeding; 2) enhancement of existing prairie plantings; and 3) forest enhancement through buckthorn removal. A fall volunteer event engaged 63 volunteers in planting grass and forb plugs specifically for pollinator habitat, fulfilling part of the plan to provide pollinator refugia during the restoration process.

Prairie establishment, primarily invasive species control was sustained at Cedar Creek Conservation Area by the landowner using CCM crews. The Greening crew is scheduled to conduct spring 2016 invasive species control and other activities.

Maintenance activities included providing guidance and a walk through at Arcola Mills, with the new natural resource management board committee chair.

Final Report Summary:

Under Activity 1, a total of 9 Upland Restoration projects were completed, including new sites and new phases at the remaining sites.

1. Trout Brook Nature Preserve
2. Long Pond Elk Ranch II
3. Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park
4. Katherine Abbott Park I
5. Pilot Knob Hill III
6. Cedar Creek Conservation Area – Prairie Establishment
7. Central Corridor Phase II and III Establishment
8. Spring Lake Regional Park (Scott Co.) Phase III – Establishment
9. Dodge Nature Center Phase I

Across all Activity 1 sites we restored/enhanced a total of 211 acres (137 Trust Fund and 73 with match). Highlights include: restoring high diversity maple-basswood forest at Spring Lake Regional Park; kitten-tails (*Besseyia bullii*) habitat at Doyle-Kennefick in an area with historic records; and restoring a significant portion of the Trout Brook to Mississippi River habitat corridor.

Over 1,761 volunteers contributed to restoration work on upland habitats, including over 530 youth, over the course of 19 volunteer events. Volunteers planted 4,300 forbs and grasses, and nearly 4,200 trees and shrubs.

At the conclusion of the grant, all sites were signed.

The remaining balance is largely due to the Victoria Park project dropping out due to delays in the necessary pre-work. This project is worthy of future consideration.

Four of the 11 projects were establishment projects. This support is key to the long term success of restorations. Leverage in-kind sources and enabling a more guided transition to landowner maintenance.,

Burn seasons during this grant season were often shortened by unfavorable conditions and the need for burn alternatives is increasing.

At Trout Brook Nature Preserve, the site was seeded, mowed, and spot treated for invasives. Volunteer events engaged 608 volunteers at 3 public events and 382 youth through Greening's Field Learning for Teens program. Over 10,000 plugs and over 2500 trees/shrubs were planted at the site.

At Long Pond Elk Ranch II, a high diversity prairie reconstruction was completed. Trust Fund dollars purchased the seed. US Fish and Wildlife Service paid for the seed drilling and the landowner completed all the site prep. This private site is in a key location and has undergone extensive restoration, and is a testament to 'pride of ownership'.

At Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park, removal of woody invasives and general woody encroachment was conducted, releasing the priority oak savanna area. A large volunteer event in fall, 2014 involved 142 volunteers (64 youth). Work at Doyle-Kennefick came in under budget.

At Katherine Abbott Park I, forest enhancement included woody invasive control by volunteers and paid crews including CCM Youth Job Corps, followed by supplemental graminoid seeding/plugging in the cut areas, and follow-up treatment of non-native invasive shrubs.

At Pilot Knob Hill III, roadside restoration, work included a large in-kind contribution from MN DOT, as well as an agreement for Mn DOT to purchase plant materials. MnDOT offered greater matching funds than anticipated, increasing the quality of the project to include oak savanna restoration with an emphasis on pollinator and Monarch habitat, including 15 trees, 36 shrubs, and 1824 forb and grass plugs in addition to invasive control. Work began with site preparation, installation of native woody species, and herbaceous prairie seeding, and was followed with installation of forb beds and maintenance. This is an important way to coordinate site management removing abrupt edges. Roadsides have unique challenges; MnDOT has expertise in this area which they shared.

At Cedar Creek Conservation Area, prairie establishment mowing and invasive species control were handled by county in-kind contributions and funds. Survey of the site revealed excellent establishment with a high forb component, with only a few spots needing supplemental attention. Prairie establishment, primarily invasive species control was sustained at Cedar Creek Conservation Area by the landowner using CCM crews. The Greening crew conducted spring 2016 invasive species control and other activities. Work at this site came in under budget.

Central Corridor Phase II and III establishment included two public volunteer events and one private event involving 337 volunteers, who planted 800 forb/grass plugs and 3,500 trees/shrubs.

At Spring Lake Regional Park (Scott County), savanna establishment work began with selective maintenance mowing and spot control of invasive species, and was followed by two prescribed burns, maintenance mowing, and seeding. Work at this site came in under budget.

Maintenance activities included providing guidance and a walk through at Arcola Mills, with the new natural resource management board committee chair.

At Dodge Nature Center's Lilly Prairie, activity included: 1) site preparation for prairie seeding; 2) enhancement of existing prairie plantings; and 3) forest enhancement through woody invasive removal. A volunteer event engaged 63 volunteers in planting grass and forb plugs specifically for pollinator habitat, fulfilling part of the plan to provide pollinator refugia during the restoration process.

ACTIVITY 2:

Description: Restoration, Enhancement, and Establishment of Shoreline and Wetland Habitats

We will restore/enhance or establish 0.18 mile of shoreline through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, and associated activities; and additional 0.08 mile with matching funds.

For each site, an ecological restoration and management plan will be made that is consistent with the highest quality conservation and ecological goals for the restoration site. The plan will give consideration to factors such as soil, topography, geology, and other relevant factors that would provide for the best chance for long-term success of the restoration. The plan will include a timetable for implementing the restoration, identify long-term

maintenance and management needs of the restoration and how they will be financed, take advantage of the best available science, and include innovative techniques to achieve the best restoration.

For each project, an initial restoration evaluation will be provided at the completion of the appropriation, and another evaluation three years after the completion of the expenditure. Restorations will be evaluated relative to the stated goals and standards in the restoration plan, current science, and, when applicable, the Board of Water and Soil Resources native vegetation establishment and enhancement guidelines. The evaluation shall determine whether the restoration is meeting planned goals, identify any problems with the implementation of the restoration, and, if necessary, give recommendations on improving restorations.

Private lands will be required to have a permanent conservation/scenic easement in effect. Species lists will be based on DNR, DNR/Great River Greening, and USDA Plants Database lists. In instances when leveraged match funds exceed our goal, Greening prefers to reinvest, to a level that is justified, in the original project area to augment, improve, and accelerate the restoration, before enlarging the project boundary to begin restoration of additional shoreline. Consideration will be given for subcontracting with Conservation Corps Minnesota as allowed under the guidelines detailed in the current 'Reimbursement Manual for Pass Through Grants Administered by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources'.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 22,550
Amount Spent: \$ 17,589
Balance: \$ 4,961

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. 0.05 mile Shoreline Establishment	October 30, 2014	\$ 9,000
2. 0.13 mile Shoreline Restoration	June 30, 2016	\$ 13,550

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

For Wild and Scenic Rivers II – Rum, we re-graded a total of 1500' of steep cut Rum River shoreline, then armored it with cedar revetments, and seeded and live staked. This is the implementation phase of a plan engineered and designed with other funds, including DNR Shorelands, prior to July 1, 2013.

An agreement was recently formalized and executed with Scott County for shoreline establishment at Cedar Lake Regional Park, to begin in the 2014 growing season. Efforts to formalize an agreement with the partners for the Mill Pond Shoreline project will be renewed in February and March of this year.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

At Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, spot spraying and spot mowing has been sustained throughout the growing season to establish the shoreline plantings. Supplemental seeding and plugging have not been needed to date. The shoreline project for the Wild and Scenic River – Rum project suffered minor damage in the spring floods; the cedar revetments fared quite well given the conditions.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

The shoreline project for the Wild and Scenic River – Rum project will continue to be monitored especially after spring high water. At Cedar Lake Farm shoreline establishment included sustained spot treatment through the growing season. Shoreline calculations were updated for both projects.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:

The shoreline project for the Wild and Scenic River – Rum project will continue to be monitored especially after spring high water.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

At the Cedar Lake Farm Shoreline project, monitoring continued.

Damage due to floods was documented for the Wild and Scenic River – Rum project. A meeting with the SWCD and DNR Hydrologist have been planned for this month to pursue a robust response. Meanwhile, restored linear feet of shoreline has been adjusted downward for this project.

Final Report Summary, August 15, 2016:

Under Activity 2, we restored/enhanced a total of 0.42 mi of shoreline (0.35 Trust Fund and 0.07 with matching funds), protecting water quality along the Rum River and Cedar Lake.

The Wild & Scenic Rum River Shoreline project consisted of cedar revetment installation, supplying high habitat streambank habitat while armoring the soil. The revetments had partial failure due to the sustained, late high water in 2014 and further degraded by 2016 spring high water. Evaluations were conducted by a review team consisting of DNR Hydrologist; DNR Stream Specialist; Isanti SWCD; TNC; and Greening in spring 2016. A robust revised plan has been made, to include large stock tree planting along the shoreline and in the floodplain, allowing tree roots to hold the soil below the root depth of the reed canary grass. Funding is being pursued for this important project. Reforesting will also de-fragment the riparian forest and promote a continuous forested habitat cover while slowing down floodwater currents.

At Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park, shoreline restoration included a prescribed burn, establishment mowings, herbicide treatment, and cattail control as seed and plants were established. Establishment at Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park shoreline project came in under budget.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

Project results will be shared with active engagement of landowner partners and matching fund partners, as well as the larger Metro Corridors partnership.

Great River Greening will periodically distribute information about the program through our e-postcard, 'Volunteer Opportunities' mailings, donor mailings and communications (including newsletter and annual report), at volunteer restoration events, and through our website www.greatrivergreening.org.

Volunteer event descriptions acknowledging Trust Fund contributions and qualitative results will be emailed to over 5,000 subscribers in advance of our spring and fall volunteer event seasons. Information about the Metro Conservation Corridors is on our website in the Initiatives and Volunteer Events sections at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/> which receives over 1,200 visits per month.

Status as of February 1, 2014:

Our fall 2013 'Volunteer Opportunities' mailing included the Central Corridor (aka South Washington Corridor) project description including Trust Fund acknowledgement. Our spring 2014 'Volunteer Opportunities' mailing has been developed for February distribution, and includes the upcoming event at Katherine Abbott Park.

Status as of August 1, 2014:

The activities for our spring 2014 volunteer event recruitment, including the events at Katherine Abbott Park and Central Corridor, included 'e-blasts' to our 6,500 member e-mailing list; 16 Facebook and Twitter posts; posting on our web page, which averages 1500 visits per month; 500 physical event flyers handed out at 8 community events/fairs and 4 volunteer trainings and elsewhere; and general contact of hundreds of individuals, many representing schools, churches, community groups, and businesses.

Recruitment for our fall events has begun with emailing of 2 corporate recruitment packets, 3 Facebook and Twitter posts, and posting on our web page. Our material will be updated to recognize the Trust Fund's contribution to Doyle-Kennefick if/when it is approved for our project list.

Status as of February 1, 2015:

The activities for our fall 2014 volunteer event recruitment, including the events at Katherine Abbott Park, Trout Brook Nature Preserve, and Doyle-Kennefick included 'e-blasts' to our 6,500 member e-mailing list; Facebook and Twitter posts; posting on our web page, which averages 1500 visits per month; physical event flyers; and general contact of hundreds of individuals, many representing schools, churches, community groups, and businesses.

Status as of August 1, 2015:

The activities for our spring 2015 volunteer recruitment for the event at Trout Brook Nature Preserve included 'e-blasts' to our 6,500 member e-mailing list; 19 Facebook and Twitter posts; posting on our web page, which averages 1500 visits per month; 400 physical event flyers handed out at 9 community events/fairs and 3 volunteer trainings and elsewhere; and general contact of hundreds of individuals, many representing schools, churches, community groups, and businesses.

Status as of February 1, 2016:

The activities for our fall 2015 volunteer recruitment for two events at Trout Brook Nature Preserve and an event at Dodge Nature Center's Lilly Prairie included 'e-blasts' to our 7,500 member e-mailing list; 13 Facebook and Twitter posts; posting on our web page, which averages 1,500 visits per month; and general contact of hundreds of individuals, many representing schools, churches, community groups, and businesses.

Final Report Summary, August 15, 2016:

Volunteer event descriptions acknowledging Trust Fund contributions and qualitative results were emailed to Greening's e-subscribers in July 2013, Feb 2014, July 2014, February 2015, July 2015, and spring 2016 in advance of our spring and fall volunteer event seasons. Over the course of the grants, the number of subscribers increased from approximately 5,000 to about 6,500.

Information about the Metro Conservation Corridors is on our website in the Initiatives and Volunteer Events sections at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/>. Over the course of the grant, the visits to the Greening website increased from over 1,200 to over 1,500 visits per month.

Seven press articles disseminated information about the projects (but without Trust Fund recognition despite our written efforts):

- The Mahtomedi Area Green Initiative on a volunteer event at Katherine Abbott Park: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/%E2%80%9CBuckthorn-Blast%E2%80%9D-Planned-for-Katherine-Abbott.pdf>
- The Star Tribune on Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary: <http://www.startribune.com/trout-brook-in-st-paul-s-north-end-to-see-daylight-once-again/267880201/#xqZDBCdDxAcvD4Gs.01>
- The Saint Paul Magazine on Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary: <http://saintpaulmag.com/cultivating-greatness-all-about-saint-paul%E2%80%99s-environmental-nonprofit-great-river-greening>
- Two articles reported on involvement of youth through an event at Central Corridor:

- Stillwater Gazette,; <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/hong/>
- Star Tribune: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Star-Tribune-Nonprofit-dreams-of-mighty-oaks-050115.pdf>
- The MinnPost on a volunteer event at the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Trout-Brook-Nature-Sanctuary-opens-just-north-of-downtown-St.pdf>
- The LillieNews on prairie restoration at Dodge Nature Center: <http://eastsidereviewnews.com/articles/2016/01/24/great-tree-migration>

We also post to the community calendars, and in these the proper acknowledgement is included. We post to the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Minnesota Master Naturalist Blog | 15. River Rangers |
| 2. Minnesota Master Naturalist Forum | 16. SEEK |
| 3. Macalester | 17. Volunteer Match |
| 4. St. Kate's | 18. WCCO Community Calendar |
| 5. MN Master Naturalists | 19. YourCause |
| 6. Gustavus GivePulse | 20. Minnesota Monthly |
| 7. Minnesota State University - Mankato
(Community Request for Volunteers Form) | 21. Hudson Community Guide and Calendar |
| 8. Do It Green Minnesota | 22. Restore Minnesota |
| 9. River wired (Green Hands USA) | 23. Hamline University |
| 10. HandsOn Twin Cities | 24. Augsburg College |
| 11. Idealist | 25. AARP volunteers |
| 12. KARE 11 Community Calendar | 26. 1 Mississippi |
| 13. KSTP Events | 27. Northern Gardener |
| 14. Next Step | 28. Gustavus GivePulse |
| | 29. MN River Basin Data Center |

Greening is in active partnership with landowners, other land managers, service providers, conservation peers, and volunteers resulting in a dynamic and timely exchange of information and results.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 30,000	Project Manager / Ecologist: \$4,000 (78% salary, 22% benefit); 6% FTE. Grant Management Assistant: \$1,500 (80% salary, 20% benefit) 4% FTE 2 Ecologists: \$7,500 (83% salary, 17% benefits); 13% FTE Director of Conservation Programs: \$750 (93% salary, 7% benefits); 1%FTE. Volunteer Manager: \$4,000 (87% salary, 13% benefits); 8% FTE. Field Coordinator: \$3,500 (86% salary, 14% benefits); 8%FTE. 6 Restoration Technicians: \$6,000 (93% salary, 7% benefits); 20%FTE. Director of Finance: \$2,000 (81% salary, 19%

		benefits); 3% FTE. Administrative Assistant: \$750 (83%salary, 17% benefits). 1% FTE.
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$144,000	TBD (competitive bid): Habitat restoration activities including site preparation, seed installation, earthwork, invasive species control, establishment mowing, prescribed burning, watering.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 26,000	Restoration tools: Purchase/repair of power tools, sprayers, personal protective equipment; Mower, ATV maintenance/repair. (3K) Restoration supplies: Seed, plants, mulch, herbicide, fencing (38K)
Capital Expenditures over \$3,500:	\$-0-	
Printing:	\$ 500	Trust Fund signs
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 3,500	POV Mileage
Other:	\$ 4,000	Volunteer Event Supplies: Large tent/table/chair/portable toilet rentals; overnight security. Purchase of granola bars/juice/water/fruits/sandwiches; small pop-up tents; safety glasses, work gloves, hand tools. Rx burn and other permit fees; NHIS database and other license fees.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:		\$208,000

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 0.64

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: 3.5

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
Municipal	\$ 51,900	\$ 92,800	Personnel, Contracts, Supplies
Municipal (In-kind)	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,815	In-Kind Invasive Control
Private Individuals (In-kind)	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	In-kind Site Prep
Private Foundations	\$ 52,000	\$ 31,791	Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary; Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park
Private NGO	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	Dodge Nature Center: Lilly Prairie Easement
Private NGO	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,000	Dodge NC: Adjacent 3 acres to Lilly Prairie Easement
Federal NRCS	\$ 4,000	\$ 0	Contracts (\$1,400 included in the USFWS

			funds, below)
Federal USFWS	\$ 6,600	\$ 5,600	Personnel, Contracts, Supplies (add'l \$15,000 was spent prior to 7/1/13)
Watershed District	\$ 20,000	\$ 21,000	Personnel, Contracts, Supplies.
County	\$ 8,000	\$ 3,000	Personnel, Contracts, Supplies.
County (In-kind)	\$ 13,000	\$ 47,672	In-Kind Invasive Control
State			
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$ 89,000	\$ 89,000	Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 286,500	\$ 315,178	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: Much of the remaining natural habitat within the Greater Twin Cities metropolitan area is threatened by conversion, fragmentation, invasive species, development, altered hydrology, and climate change. Restoration and management of these habitats is needed to save Minnesota’s natural heritage for future generations, protect rare and declining species, protect our clean water, reconnect habitat corridors, and engage the community so that volunteers can better enjoy and understand the restoration process, to safeguard these natural treasures through time.

These projects are exemplary of our continued engagement in the Anoka Sandplain, collar counties, metropolitan core, and Wild & Scenic Rivers.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13
ENRTF	\$ 60,000 Subd. 4c2.3	\$ 111,000 Subd. 3(a)2.3	\$ 155,000 Subd. 4(f)2.5	-0-	\$400,000 Subd. 04i2.3
Non-State - Various	\$ 90,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 153,000		\$414,000
DNR State Parks	\$ 31,000				
DNR Shorelands					\$40,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:

See Acquisition/Restoration List attachment

IX. MAP(S):

See Map attachment

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2014, August 1, 2014, February 1, 2015, August 1, 2015, and February 1, 2016. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2016 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects								
Project Title: Restoring Our Lands and Waters - MeCC VII								
Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.3								
Project Manager: Wiley Buck								
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$208,000								
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2016								
Date of Final Report: August 15, 2016								
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent 06/30/2016	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent 06/30/2016	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM								
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) Overall Totals provided, with anticipated split of 90% for Activity 1 and 10% for Activity 2, with Activity and Position totals to be adjusted as necessary for weather, match restrictions if any, and actual vs. estimated hours. Benefits subject to change with change in ins. premiums and benefits packages, and individual participation in 401k. Salaries subject to change in annual reviews.	26,000	24,882	1,118	4,000	3,540	460	30,000	1,578
Project Manager / Ecologist: \$4,000 (78% salary, 22% benefit); 8% FTE.								
Grant Management Assistant: \$1,500 (80% salary, 20% benefit) 5% FTE								
2 Ecologists: \$7,500 (83% salary, 17% benefits); 17% FTE								
Director of Conservation Programs: \$750 (93% salary, 7% benefits); 1.5%FTE.								
Volunteer Manager: \$4,000 (87% salary, 13% benefits); 10% FTE.								
Field Coordinator: \$3,500 (86% salary, 14% benefits); 12%FTE.								
6 Restoration Technicians: \$6,000 (93% salary, 7% benefits); 27%FTE.								
Director of Finance: \$2,000 (81% salary, 19% benefits); 4% FTE.								
Administrative Assistant: \$750 (83%salary, 17% benefits). 2% FTE.								
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts								
TBD (competitive bid): Habitat restoration activities including site preparation, seed installation, earthwork, invasive species control, establishment mowing, prescribed burning, watering.	130,800	116,978	13,822	13,200	13,060	140	144,000	13,962
Equipment/Tools/Supplies								
Restoration tools: Purchase/repair of power tools, sprayers, personal protective equipment. Mower, ATV maintenance/repair.	2,000	1,422	578	1,000	595	405	3,000	983
Restoration supplies: Seed, plants, mulch, herbicide, fencing	20,000	19,028	972	3,000	107	2,893	23,000	3,865
Capital expenditures over \$3,500								
Printing	500	390	110			0	500	110
Signs								
Travel expenses in Minnesota	2,500	1,842	658	1,000	136	864	3,500	1,522
Mileage								
Other								
Volunteer Event Supplies: Large tent/table/chair/portable toilet rentals; overnight security. Purchase of granola bars/juice/water/fruits/sandwiches; small pop-up tents; safety glasses, work gloves, hand tools.	3,450	2,140	1,310	150	150	0	3,600	1,310
Rx burn and other permit fees.	200	0	200	200		200	400	400
COLUMN TOTAL	\$185,450	\$166,681	\$18,769	\$22,550	\$17,589	\$4,961	\$208,000	\$23,730

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects

M.L. 2013 Acquisition/Restoration List

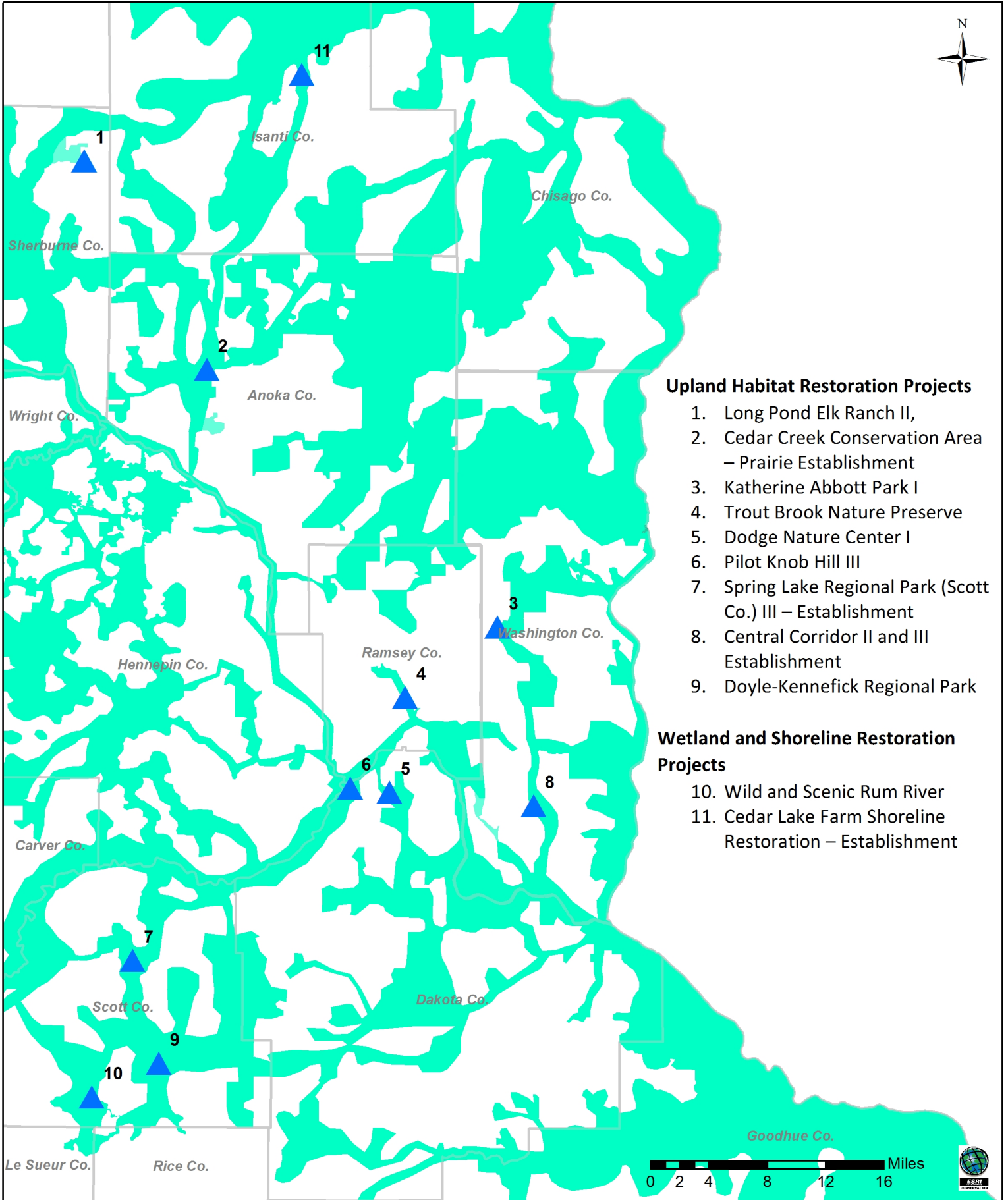
Project Title: Restoring Our Lands and Water

Project Manager Name: Wiley Buck

M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$208,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Actual Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Trout Brook Nature Preserve	44.972401	-93.092003	\$ 44,000	\$ -	Ramsey	Ecological corridor to connect Trout Brook Greenway and Miss. R.	Prairie, savanna, woodland resto; forest enhancement	7		Municipal		Completed
2	Long Pond Elk Ranch II	45.508499	-93.560402	\$ 3,200	\$ -	Sherburne	Lg site w/ variety of game and non-game habitat in Rum R watershed	Prairie restoration	3		Pvt		Completed
3	Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park	44.60802	-93.43701	\$ 22,800	\$ -	Scott	New 1100 ac Regional Park with wetland, shallow lake, and upland mosaic including Big Woods area of moderate biodiversity significance.	Enhancement of oak woodland incl. buckthorn removal event, selective tree removal, and supplemental seed/plugging.	10		County		Completed
4	Katherine Abbott Park I	45° 2' 36.9528"	-92° 57' 50.0328"	\$ 42,000	\$ -	Washington	Site with mosaic of habitats	Oak forest and savanna enhancement incl. buckthorn control, plugging/seedin g of native species.	19		Municipal		Completed
5	Wild and Scenic Rivers II - Rum	45.592701	-93.23910	\$ 9,500	\$ -	Anoka, Isanti, Sherburne	Wild and scenic river with high density of rare features	Upland resto/ enhancement; shoreline restoration	1	0.15	Public and Pvt		Completed
6	Pilot Knob Hill III	44.8811	-93.167297	\$25,700	\$ -	Dakota	High quality prairie in big river corridor, adj. to Ft Snelling St. Park	Prairie/Savanna restoration	1		MNDOT		Completed
7	Cedar Creek Conservation Area - Prairie Establishment	45.298698	-93.372902	\$ 315	\$ -	Anoka	Lg complex with high quality game and non-game habitat on Rum River.	Establishment mow and spot spray ≥1.5 year	67		County		Completed
8	Central Corridor Phases II and III - Prairie Establishment	44.863701	-92.908997	\$ 6,000	\$ -	Washington	Prairie, historically connected to Lost Valley Prairie SNA	Establishment mow and spot spray ≥1.5 year	6		Watershed District		Completed
9	Spring Lake Regional Park Ph III - Savanna Establishment	44.7172	-93.4767	\$ 4,392	\$ -	Scott	Lg area of high quality forest and adjacent lands.	Establishment mow and spot spray ≥1.5 year; tree maint.	20		County		Completed
10	Maintenance	45.1382	-92.7516	\$ 62	\$ -	Various	Protect earlier investments at existing sites	Monitoring and various field activities.	0		Public and Pvt		Completed
11	Cedar Lake Farm Shoreline Restoration - Establishment	44.5765	-93.544098	\$ 6,300	\$ -	Scott	Regional Park with undeveloped shoreline	Spot invasive control, watering, plug replacement as nec.	3	0.2	County		Completed
12	Dodge Nature Center	44.8773	-93.114799	\$ 20,000	\$ -	Dakota	Lg area with mosaic of forest, grassland, and wetland	Prairie restoration	4		Pvt in conservation easement		Completed

NOTES: Actual cost at Cedar Creek totalled approximately \$815, but only \$315 has been invoiced.



Upland Habitat Restoration Projects

1. Long Pond Elk Ranch II,
2. Cedar Creek Conservation Area – Prairie Establishment
3. Katherine Abbott Park I
4. Trout Brook Nature Preserve
5. Dodge Nature Center I
6. Pilot Knob Hill III
7. Spring Lake Regional Park (Scott Co.) III – Establishment
8. Central Corridor II and III Establishment
9. Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park

Wetland and Shoreline Restoration Projects

10. Wild and Scenic Rum River
11. Cedar Lake Farm Shoreline Restoration – Establishment

M.L. 2013 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2016

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC7: Dakota County Lakeshore and Riparian Protection

PROJECT MANAGER: Lisa West

AFFILIATION: Dakota County

MAILING ADDRESS: 14955 Galaxie Avenue

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Apple Valley, MN 55124

PHONE: (952) 891-7018

E-MAIL: lisa.west@co.dakota.mn.us

WEBSITE: www.co.dakota.mn.us

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.6/3.7, MeCC7: Dakota County Lakeshore and Riparian Protection

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$368,000

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

The project goal was to acquire permanent conservation easements or land along rivers, streams, and undeveloped lakeshore in Dakota County; prepare Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) for conservation easements; and restore/enhance protected land. The project scope encompassed some of the best natural resource features found in the metropolitan region. A sound fiscal and ecological conservation approach was taken, while attempting to balance the interests, rights and responsibilities of private landowners, with public concerns about water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and climate change.

In November 2011, Dakota County adopted a comprehensive Land Conservation Vision that includes establishing permanent vegetative buffers along all rivers, streams and undeveloped lakeshore, and protecting quality natural areas. The County's land conservation programs targeted specific areas in the County and mailings were issued to determine landowner interest. Program applications were reviewed and evaluated using County Board-approved criteria; and top-ranking projects were considered for permanent protection. Appraisals were conducted for recommended projects. NRMPs and baseline Property Reports were prepared for projects where landowners accepted purchase offers; and landowners agreed to cash or in-kind restoration and management contributions. Restoration projects were also completed on existing easement and fee title properties.

The project goals were to acquire an estimated five permanent conservation easements and one fee title property, totaling 235 acres, and restoring/enhancing 40 acres of protected land. In spite of significant County efforts, a wide variety of issues prevented projects from being completed. Landowner inflated value expectations, lack of family agreement to move forward, and inability to make timely decisions delayed and derailed projects. Subsequently, the County didn't meet its acquisition goals, but exceeded its restoration goals, and overall, accomplished the following:

Project Name	Acres	Miles of Shoreline	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	ENRTF Cost
Cemstone	61.7	1.7	Designated trout stream area on Vermillion River	Fee title acquisition	\$104,932
Ruppe	17.2	0.5	Chub Creek riparian area	Easement acquisition	\$25,450
Schweich	20.7	0.3	Chub Creek riparian area/upland	Easement acquisition	\$60,400
Cemstone	19	1.7	Designated trout stream riparian area/upland	Initial site preparation, seeding and first phase restoration of formerly cultivated and disturbed areas	\$4,845

Malecha	27	0.9	Wetland restoration	Wetland berm construction and initial seeding	\$6,000
Ruppe	NA	0.5	Chub Creek riparian area	Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) completed	\$5,625
Schweich	15	0.3	Chub Creek riparian area, and formerly cultivated upland area	NRMP completed and buffer seeded	\$4,238 (NRMP only)

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Information about the specific projects funded through this State appropriation is integrated with information about the County’s comprehensive land conservation efforts that were initiated in 1998, with a farmland and natural areas protection plan partially funded by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Implementation of the initial plan and subsequent revisions resulted in the permanent protection of 11,244 acres of natural areas and agricultural land and over 51 miles of shoreland outside of the regional park and greenway system.

This project informed and improved internal and external County land conservation practices, procedures and policies. County staff has provided numerous local, regional and national presentations about how Dakota County has developed and implemented its successful programs. Information has appeared on TV and radio, as well as metropolitan newspapers and residential newsletters. Information can also be found on the County’s web site at:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/LandConservation/Pages/default.aspx>



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2013 Work Plan Final Report

Date of Status Update Report: August 12, 2016

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: May 20, 2013

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2016

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC7: Dakota County Lakeshore and Riparian Protection

Project Manager: Lisa West
Affiliation: Dakota County
Mailing Address: 14955 Galaxie Avenue
City/State/Zip Code: Apple Valley, MN 55124
Telephone Number: (952) 891-7018
Email Address: lisa.west@co.dakota.mn.us
Web Address: www.co.dakota.mn.us

Location: Dakota County – natural areas along the Vermillion and Cannon rivers and their tributaries

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation: \$368,000
	Amount Spent: \$218,612
	Balance: \$149,388

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.6/3.7

Appropriation Language: \$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$10,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$1,990,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: \$304,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$368,000 with Dakota County; \$208,000 with Great River Greening; \$310,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$400,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$400,000 with the Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title 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 corridor areas as defined in the work plan. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work plan. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work plan. Lands that would require payments in lieu of taxes under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.061 or 477A.12, shall not be

acquired with money from this appropriation. Up to \$54,000 is for use by Minnesota Land Trust in a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan and subject to subdivision 16. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2016, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: MeCC7: Dakota County Lakeshore and Riparian Protection

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The long history of settlement and long-accepted agricultural land use practices have resulted in the loss, degradation and fragmentation of our natural resource systems. In Dakota County, only 3% of the pre-settlement plant communities remain. Despite increased public awareness of water quality issues, improvement methods, and multi-agency efforts to assist landowners, most of the natural areas throughout the County have been negatively affected. In recent decades, the County has experienced tremendous residential development. This development is attracted to the remaining natural features - especially lakes and rivers.

In 2003, Dakota County embarked on an ambitious program to protect farmland and natural areas through the voter-approved, \$20 million, Farmland and Natural Areas Program. Since the program began, the County is on track to have completed more than 95 projects protecting over 9,700 acres, with an estimated value of \$80 million. The County has an excellent track record of working effectively with a wide variety of agencies, jurisdictions, and organizations and has the capacity to acquire and manage conservation easements and implement increased natural resource stewardship.

The goal of this project will be to acquire land or permanent conservation easements, from willing landowners, along the Vermillion River and its main branches and tributaries, and the Cannon River and its primary tributaries (Chub, Darden, Dutch, Mud, and Pine creeks, and Trout Brook); to prepare natural resource management plans; and to restore/enhance publically owned or permanently protected property.

The scale and scope of this project is feasible and significant. It encompasses some of the best natural resource features found in the metropolitan area, across urban, suburban and rural landscapes. It takes a precise and sound fiscal and ecological systems approach to conservation, while attempting to balance the interests, rights and responsibilities of private landowners with the public's concerns about water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and climate change.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2014:

The County is committed to preserving the Marcott Lakes area in Inver Grove Heights, one of the few significant areas in a well-developed suburban community that has high natural resource values. Acquisition of the Lindberg parcel (103.1-acres with 13.2-acre lake) was a major step forward to ensure protection of the Marcott Lakes area into the future. The County previously acquired a 16.7-acre easement on one of the Grannis family parcels, which included substantial shoreline and a pond. Additional Grannis parcels include substantial additional shoreland and high-quality habitat. Plans for the area's future include development of an outdoor skills visitor center and an assisted living facility (both to be located outside the easement) that would provide some of the necessary operating funds for the outdoor skills center.

Vance Grannis worked with the City of Inver Grove Heights on a revision of the current comprehensive plan that would allow the proposed visitor center and an assisted living facility. The draft appraisal of

the Grannis property was completed in August and required significant revisions. It was revised and the County and the landowners met in late September to discuss values. The landowners were not pleased with the methodology and resulting easement value. The Grannis family requested that the County Board to release the full appraisal by specific Board Resolution, which the Board did in early November. The landowners have now contracted for a separate appraisal, and the County has contracted for a new appraisal that will include a residential subdivision plan to assist the County in better determining fair market value for this unique property. This appraisal should be completed in March.

The County Board approved the MeCC VII Dakota County Lakeshore and Riparian Protection grant agreement with DNR on January 21, 2014. A preliminary Natural Resources Management Plan for the entire property was developed in cooperation with the landowners. No restoration/enhancement activities occurred during the reporting period.

A legal description of the proposed easement was prepared based on a survey completed by the County. The easement deed was drafted (without LCCMR-related language), the Purchase Agreement was drafted without the acquisition cost, the Natural Resource Management Plan was drafted, and the environmental assessment was completed with no issues.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

Due to a number of issues raised by LCCMR staff, and presumably Commission members, and Outdoor Heritage Fund staff, use of Trust Funds for this project is on hold until further review by the Commission. General issues include using public funds to pay for easements when the easement value is close to the fee title value and the lack of or acceptable levels of public access/use. These concerns are further heightened by its complex nature, expense, uncertainty about the viability of the Darvan Acres Outdoor Skills Center and the potential future use of the three proposed easement exception areas.

Although funding is on-hold, a number of activities have continued. As referenced in the previous status report, the County and the Grannis family each contracted with new appraisers to determine the Before, After, and Conservation Easement Values of the 134-acre Grannis family property. County staff, including the Assessor's Office, concluded that it was in the public interest to complete a second appraisal and to base the new appraisal on a residential subdivision plan to provide additional quantitative analysis to determine the highest and best use of the property, as opposed to using qualitative adjustments to other "comparable" properties.

The County's appraiser and the Grannis family contracted with the same private development company to develop a legally, physically and financially feasible sub-development plan that would likely be approved by the City of Inver Grove Heights (and Dakota County, since the potential development would directly connect to a County road). The development plan would then be used by both appraisers to determine the location, size and number of lots and also estimate the associated development costs. An issue arose during the County Plat Commission review of the plan and the Plat Commission determined that two proposed cul-de-sacs would have to be connected to meet transportation guidelines. This resulted in the loss of a three potential lots and added development expenses thereby reducing both the gross and Before Value of the property.

The appraisers would choose one of three residential development scenarios ranging between 29 and 39 lots with two outlots and use the following considerations to determine the Before Value: number and value of the lots less the site development costs, time for city approval, absorption rate, taxes, closing costs, insurance, contingency, profit (risk during permitting, development and marketing), discount rate and internal rate of return. The After Value would be based on the value of the land with the proposed easement in place. This value would be based on removing development potential for all portions of the property either not encumbered by the 16.8-acre existing easement or the proposed exception areas and the types of uses still allowed by the easement. The difference between the Before Value and the After Value is the Easement Value.

County staff reviewed this appraisal and found it acceptable. After a closed session with the County Board to discuss this project on May 20, 2014, the County Board authorized the release of the second appraisal to the Grannis family and also authorized the release of the first and second Grannis property appraisals to the LCCMR and the LSOHC for review, by Resolution on July 8, 2014. The County is waiting for the Grannis appraisal to be completed and available for County review before sharing its appraisal.

The County requested that Mr. Grannis provide a status update on the Darvan Acres Outdoor Skills Center. He provided the following:

- Incorporation approved as 501c3 by IRS and State of MN
- City Of Inver Grove Heights resolution supporting the easement and approval of Local Comp Plan amendments to allow proposed facilities.
- Contracted with the Carlson School of Management at U of M to review business plan. Their conclusion was that this was a viable plan, but begin operating before major capital investments
- Renovated 1,700 sq. ft. building located in one of the proposed exception areas that included new concrete floor with in-floor heat, insulation, incinerating toilet, glass doors, gravel parking area, energy efficient lighting, and donated furnishings.
- Completed preliminary design plans for visitor center
- Discussions with three different companies/organizations for the proposed Independent Senior Center and Pre-School to be located within one of the proposed exception areas. Further studies are on-hold until the land can be secured.)
- Held discussions with the Independent School District 199 Superintendent. Her comment was “If you build it, we will fill it.”
- The Board of Directors of both the Dodge Nature Center and Carpenter Nature Center are interested in partnering or potentially operating the Center.
- 5.9 miles of trails are being maintained.
- There is ongoing natural resource management with materials taken to St. Paul District Energy
- The Wildlife Resource Center in Roseville is considering making investments in the existing barns to allow for the rehabilitation and release of wildlife on the property.
- On-site programs have been conducted for Simley High School, Inver Hills Community College, Boy Scouts, youth turkey hunts, and DNR gun safety classes. On April 30, 2014, 44 neighbors attended a program on Center plans and habitat restoration on the property and habitat suggestions for their properties.

A revised easement deed, containing LCCMR recommended language, was drafted.

Project Status as of May 15, 2015:

Based on discussions with LCCMR staff in late March, County staff will not seek ENRTF funding for the Grannis project and is withdrawing the project from this appropriation Workplan and associated Acquisition and Restoration lists. Per LCCMR staff discussions, County staff will determine appropriate projects that could be added to this appropriation Workplan and Acquisition and Restoration lists through an approved amendment.

Amendment Request (5/15/15)

Conservation Easement Acquisition

The M.L. 2011 appropriation ends June 30, 2015. The County requests that the general river and stream reaches from the M.L. 2011 appropriation acquisition list be added to the Acquisition List for this M. L. 2013 appropriation, and be inserted as part of Activity 1 in this Workplan: Vermillion River Headwaters and Western Main Stem; Vermillion River Central Main Stem and South, Middle and North Creeks; Vermillion River South Branch; Vermillion River Eastern Main Stem; Cannon River; Chub, Dutch and Mud Creeks; Darden and Pine Creeks; and Trout Brook.

The County requests that these new projects, not carried forward from the M.L. 2011 appropriation, be added to the Acquisition List for this M.L. 2013 appropriation: Betzold – Parcel 2 (46.6 acres; 0.8 miles of shoreline along the Vermillion River); and Odette (55.2 acres; 0.5 miles of shoreline along Chub

Creek). Project summary information, estimated costs, and maps are provided in Attachment B to this status report.

Restoration

The M.L. 2011 appropriation ends June 30, 2015. The County requests that the general river and stream reaches from the M.L. 2011 appropriation acquisition list be added to the Restoration List for this M. L. 2013 appropriation, and be inserted as part of Activity 2 in this Workplan: Vermillion River Headwaters and Western Main Stem; Vermillion River Central Main Stem and South, Middle and North Creeks; Vermillion River South Branch; Vermillion River Eastern Main Stem; Cannon River; Chub, Dutch and Mud Creeks; Darden and Pine Creeks; and Trout Brook.

Amendment approved by the LCCMR May 18, 2015.

Amendment Request (5/21/15)

Fee Title Acquisition.

The County requests that the following project be approved as an addition to the Acquisition List and inserted in Activity 1 in this workplan: Fee title acquisition of the 61.7-acre Cemstone property that includes 1.7 miles of the Vermillion River. Project summary information, estimated costs, and maps are provided in Attachment B to this status update report.

Dakota County's original proposal and M.L. 2013 workplan was specific to acquiring a permanent conservation easement and completing natural resource restoration and management on the Grannis property in Inver Grove Heights. The County has removed the Grannis project from this appropriation and consolidated its Grannis project funding request within a current Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation to the County that already includes the Grannis project. This change provides an opportunity to add new projects to the acquisition and restoration lists for this appropriation, resulting in the need to request this amendment to add a new fee acquisition project.

Dakota County has been working with the Minnesota DNR to acquire the 424-acre Cemstone property located between the Vermillion Highlands Research, Recreation and Wildlife Management Area and the Vermillion River. Public protection of this critical property would provide water quality, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation benefits. The property has been included in the County's Park and Greenway System Plan to protect and manage a long-range, multi-purpose water quality, wildlife habitat and paved recreational trail corridor between the cities of Farmington and Hastings along the Vermillion River. Cemstone had an informal agreement with Empire Township to provide a paved trail corridor. The County and Township strongly desired to preserve a future trail option. However, Cemstone was not interested in selling an easement, the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife did not want a paved recreational trail through the proposed Wildlife Management Area (WMA) addition, and the Outdoor Heritage Funds being used to acquire most of the Cemstone property for the WMA expansion generally prevents paved trails. In order to protect the entire Cemstone property, meet the DNR, County and Township goals, as well as State funding requirements, there was agreement that the County would acquire the 61.7-acre corridor along the Vermillion River to accommodate a future trail and the DNR would acquire the remaining 362 acres. The County and the DNR would continue to cooperatively manage the former Cemstone property as part of the larger 4,000-acre Vermillion Highlands complex.

Fee title acquisition is included in the M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.6/3.7, appropriation language. This acquisition protects a high quality natural resource and will accommodate public access and use.

Amendment approved by the LCCMR June 11, 2015.

Project Status as of August 1, 2015:

To date, none of the three projects listed for this appropriation have closed. The County is awaiting Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner approval of the Cemstone fee title acquisition. The Betzold and Odette project appraisals were ordered in July and are underway. No amendment requests have been submitted for restoration projects to date.

Amendment Request (1/27/16)

Easement Acquisition.

The County requests the following three projects be approved as additions to the Acquisition List and inserted in Activity 1 in this workplan: permanent conservation easement acquisitions on 17.2 acres of the Ruppe property that includes 0.5 miles of Chub Creek; 20.7 acres of the Schweich property that includes 0.3 miles of Chub Creek; and 7.2 acres of the Smith property that includes 0.3 miles of a tributary of North Creek of the Vermillion River. Project summary information, estimated costs, and maps are provided in Attachment B to this status update report.

Dakota County selects land conservation projects through a long-time process of advertising application rounds to seek voluntary participation in its land conservation program. Preliminary applications trigger an initial landowner meeting where the County's program is explained in detail and landowners are encouraged to ask questions about the program and permanent conservation easements. If informed landowners are still interested in participating, they are required to complete a final application form and submit it by a County Board-approved deadline. Applications received by the deadline are evaluated using Board-approved criteria. Projects are scored and ranked by a County and SWCD staff review committee, and a certain number of high-ranking projects are recommended for further consideration. Easement projects are appraised using DNR guidelines and offers presented to landowners for consideration. Accepted offers are submitted to the County Board for final funding approval. Title Work, Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) and baseline Property Reports (PRs) are completed for each County Board-approved project; NRMPs and PRs are reviewed and signed by the landowners and the County. Landowner agreements are developed that outline easement natural resource restoration and maintenance responsibilities into the future.

The easement acquisition projects the County is requesting to add have gone through the previously described process and easement purchase offers were accepted by the three landowners. The County will not request reimbursement for acquisition costs that preceded this amendment request.

Restoration Activities.

The County requests the following six projects be approved as additions to the Restoration List and inserted in Activity 2 in this workplan: NRMP completion and/or initial restoration work is planned for the 46.6-acre Betzold easement that includes 0.8 miles of a designated trout stream portion of the Vermillion River; the 61.2-acre former Cemstone property that includes 1.7 miles of a designated trout stream portion of the Vermillion River on property now owned by Dakota County; the 55.2-acre Odette easement that includes a high-quality pond, 0.5 miles of a Chub Creek tributary, and a 13-acre cultivated area to be restored to a natural area for wildlife habitat; the 17.2-acre Ruppe easement that includes 0.5 miles of Chub Creek; the 20.7-acre Schweich easement that includes 0.3 miles of Chub Creek, a majority of which is cultivated land that will be restored to natural vegetation to buffer Chub Creek; and the 7.2-acre Smith easement that includes 0.3 miles of a tributary of North Creek of the Vermillion River that will prevent residential development and create a buffer along the stream.

The permanent easements, for which landowner offers are accepted, require preparation of NRMPs that must be completed prior to closing as a part of Activity 2. The acquired, former Cemstone property and easement has initial restoration work that will be completed by June 30, 2016. Project summary information, estimated costs, and maps are provided in Attachment B to this status update report.

Amendment approved by the LCCMR February 9, 2016.

Amendment Request (2/29/16)

The County requests the following project be approved as an addition to the Restoration List and inserted in Activity 2 in this workplan: a 27-acre wetland restoration of cultivated land on the Malecha property. Initial restoration work for this project will be completed by June 30, 2016.

The 180.3-acre Malecha property is located in the west-central portion of Greenvale Township. The 177.8-acre agricultural conservation easement includes altered/non-native dominated seasonally flooded shrubland, about a 20-acre seasonally flooded cattail marsh, mixed emergent marsh,

seasonally flooded altered/non-native dominated emergent vegetation, short grasses and mixed trees, about 36 acres of temporarily flooded altered/non-native dominated grassland, tilled cropland, and straddles approximately 900 feet of Hazelwood Creek, a tributary of Chub Creek. The easement will permanently protect the riparian area and buffers already established by the landowners along both sides of the creek, as well as the existing wetland areas on the property. Additionally, the easement will enable the restoration of an additional 27-acre wetland area. Existing natural areas and the restored wetland area cannot be cultivated in the future. The conservation easement prohibits all future types of development.

Recorded easement language that speaks to the permanent preservation of existing natural areas, and to the creation and maintenance of the restored wetland area is found in Section 1, Recitals: "Approximately 27 acres of existing agricultural soils will be restored to wetland." Section 3, Purpose, states: "It is the purpose of this Easement to assure that the Protected Property will be retained forever substantially unchanged from its present condition as agricultural, natural and open space and to prevent any use of the Protected Property that will significantly impair or interfere with the Conservation Values of the Protected Property." Section 4.2 specifies Stewardship Plan and revision requirements, and outlines the buffers required for the easement property. The work plan included in the Malecha Stewardship Plan outlines the scheduled restoration work and responsibilities. Section 8.2 states the purpose of the baseline Property Report that records the condition of the easement at the time it is conveyed to the County. The Malecha Property Report and Stewardship Plan specifically reflect the wetland restoration; and both documents are referenced in the easement deed to ensure compliance. Dakota County, and in this case, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will ensure that the wetland restoration is completed and remains uncultivated in perpetuity per Section 4.14 that outlines required easement and Stewardship Plan compliance through annual County monitoring, and per Section 6 that specifies when the USDA would exercise its right of enforcement authority to ensure compliance with the conservation easement.

There is no easement acquisition cost. The permanent easement was acquired by Dakota County on November 12, 2015, with a landowner donation of value, partial federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) funds, and County funds. FRPP funds were available to apply to this type of conservation easement, so the County used those funds to assist in paying for the easement.

Approximately 27 acres of cultivated land in the north-central portion of the Malecha easement, about 64 percent of the non-prime soils on the property, will be restored to a wetland. Dakota County is an area that has less than 50% of previously existing wetlands, which makes this project especially attractive. When also considering this area's proximity to Chub Creek and the potential water quality benefits of having an additional wetland in the watershed, as well as the landowner contributions, this project becomes even more attractive and compelling. The draft Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) for the Cannon River Watershed, to be approved later this spring, show phosphorus as an impairment on Chub Creek. The restoration of wetlands in this area will have a positive impact on the phosphorus loading in the area of this reach of Chub Creek, and ultimately the Cannon River.

The removal of agricultural tile and restoration/enhancement of a naturally functioning wetland will benefit wildlife and water quality. This is the first landowner enrolled in the County's permanent easement program to agree to restore a wetland area. Additional cropland adjacent to the restored wetland area may also be added to the restored area as the project proceeds.

A Wetland Restoration Concept Plan was completed, along with an overall Stewardship Plan for this permanent conservation easement. The wetland restoration was designed and will be coordinated with the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District. The estimated restoration cost of the initial phase of the wetland restoration includes berm construction, removal of tiling and moving a pump station, and the initial seeding of portions of the wetland restoration area. Note: The landowner is paying the total cost of the tile and pump station work, and some of the seed cost. No State or County dollars will be spent on the tile or pump station work. See Attachment B for cost estimates and maps of the Malecha property.

Amendment approved by the LCCMR March 1, 2016.

Project Status as of February 1, 2016:

The County purchased a 61.7-acre portion of the former Cemstone property on July 22, 2015. County reporting staff was not informed that the purchase was complete prior to the last status report submittal for August 1, 2015; the Cemstone information for that status update was incorrect. The appraisals for the Betzold and Odette permanent conservation easements are complete; and the landowners accepted County offers to purchase permanent conservation easements. County Board approval will be sought in early to mid-February 2016, for these two easement projects. Regarding restoration, an amendment request to identify specific restoration work is part of this status update report. NRMPs will be prepared for five easement projects. Initial restoration work is planned for the former Cemstone property.

Project Status as of June 30, 2016:

The County purchased permanent conservation easements on portions of the Ruppe and Schweich properties, on April 4, 2016, and June 13, 2016, respectively. Although the landowners accepted offers from the County to purchase permanent conservation easements on portions of their properties, unfortunately, the Betzolds and Odettes withdrew their projects very late in the acquisition process, following County Board approval. Landowners and the decisions they make can be very unpredictable. The Smith conservation easement project continues to be delayed due to inaction by the landowner. The Smith project may still move forward, but it did not meet the June 30, 2016, grant funding deadline.

Anticipated restoration activities took place for all listed projects, except the Smith natural area easement acquisition. Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) and Property Reports (PRs) were completed for the Betzold, Odette, Ruppe and Schweich projects. Initial site preparation, seeding and area restoration occurred on the former Cemstone property and the Schweich easement property. The wetland berm was constructed and seeded for the Malecha wetland restoration project.

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

The project goal was to acquire permanent conservation easements or land along rivers, streams, and undeveloped lakeshore in Dakota County; prepare Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) for conservation easements; and restore/enhance protected land. The project scope encompassed some of the best natural resource features found in the metropolitan region. A sound fiscal and ecological conservation approach was taken, while attempting to balance the interests, rights and responsibilities of private landowners, with public concerns about water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and climate change.

In November 2011, Dakota County adopted a comprehensive Land Conservation Vision that includes establishing permanent vegetative buffers along all rivers, streams and undeveloped lakeshore, and protecting quality natural areas. The County's land conservation programs targeted specific areas in the County and mailings were issued to determine landowner interest. Program applications were reviewed and evaluated using County Board-approved criteria; and top-ranking projects were considered for permanent protection. Appraisals were conducted for recommended projects. NRMPs and baseline Property Reports were prepared for projects where landowners accepted purchase offers; and landowners agreed to cash or in-kind restoration and management contributions. Restoration projects were also completed on existing easement and fee title properties.

The project goals were to acquire an estimated five permanent conservation easements and one fee title property, totaling 235 acres, and restoring/enhancing 40 acres of protected land. In spite of significant County efforts, a wide variety of issues prevented projects from being completed. Landowner inflated easement value expectations, family discrepancies, and inability to make timely decisions delayed and derailed projects. Subsequently, the County only acquired two conservation easements and the fee tile land, totaling 100 acres, not meeting its goal; and completed NRMPs and/or restoration projects on six properties, including restoration of 46 formerly cultivated acres, which exceeded its goal. Approximately 2.5 miles of shoreline were permanently protected through this project.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Acquire Fee Title/Conservation Easements

Description:

The County's land conservation initiatives are part of a comprehensive Dakota County Land Conservation Vision that also includes regional parks, multi-purpose greenways and the protection of high quality natural areas and working lands.

The County's Land Conservation Vision integrates and prioritizes the combined protection and improvement of water quality, wildlife habitat and appropriate outdoor recreational opportunities, and includes the LCCMR-funded Vermillion River Corridor Plan as the basis for land protection within the Vermillion River system. Established criteria area used to evaluate projects, including reducing non-point pollution; improving stream channel, floodplain and wetland functions; ecological quality and size; length of shoreline; proximity to other protected land; landowner commitment to current and future stewardship; cost and leveraged funds; improving appropriate outdoor recreational opportunities; and other considerations. The easements do not require public access, but projects including public access receive higher evaluation scores. In addition, payment for public access easements, similar to the DNR Angler Access Easement Program, is available to landowners. Easements will be written in a way that will not preclude future public trails to reflect changes in demographics and local land use. A similar plan and criteria system is being developed for the north Cannon River system. A technical staff team from the County's Environmental Resources Department and the Dakota County SWCD reviews and ranks projects and forwards recommendations to the County Board for approval.

Many projects will involve riparian buffers. GIS and outreach efforts have and will identify critical and willing landowners interested in protecting and managing important parcels as part of the County's comprehensive initiative to provide buffers along all rivers and streams.

Easement values for projects in cities or with an estimated cost exceeding \$20,000 will be based on an independent fair market appraisal. Due to the lack of sale comparables for small riparian easements in the metro region and increased staff and financial efficiency, a formula based on rural agricultural tax assessed value and variably adjusted according to regulatory conditions, floodplain, amount of cultivated land taken out of production, and vegetation types will be used to determine per acre easement values below the \$20,000 DNR threshold that triggers an appraisal. Updated aerial photography and Minnesota Land Cover Classification System data, official FEMA floodplain boundaries, and site visits will be used to determine the following respective acreage components of each easement:

- Agricultural Land - within and outside of 50 feet from shoreline
- Woodlands - within and outside of 100-year floodplain
- Fields and wetlands - within and outside of 100-year floodplain

These acreages will then be multiplied by the relevant valuation amount to determine the value of each respective component to produce the overall easement value. Payment for public access will be based on \$5/foot for stream length or lakeshore within the easement. This process was reviewed and approved by the County Attorney's Office, County Assessor's Office, County Administration and the County Board of Commissioners. In addition, the process was reviewed by three independent appraisers and their comments were integrated within the approach.

All provisions of Dakota County easements are perpetual and include standard requirements to minimize negative impacts to surface water and groundwater quality and quantity. In part, these are addressed adaptively through required Natural Resource Management Plans that are updated every five years.

The County will provide a draft template of the easement for review and approval by LCCMR staff and written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained prior to closing per 116P.17.

Phase I Environmental Site Assessments will be completed for all projects and all solid waste removed as a condition of participation. Easements are surveyed by the County Surveyor's Office and the resulting information is used for legal documents and boundary markers. Baseline Property Reports and Natural Resource Management Plans, referenced in the easement deed, are reviewed and signed by the landowner and the County and completed prior to acquisition. All information is entered into a land management data base.

As previously adopted by the County Board, the County's standard practice is to monitor each easement on an annual basis. A combination of remotely reviewing the easement using available technology and then scheduling a site visit is used to determine easement compliance. Each written monitoring report is reviewed and signed by the landowner and the County, and then entered into the data base. Monitoring and future enforcement, if necessary, is an ongoing County obligation and is budgeted accordingly.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$328,000
Amount Spent: \$195,804
Balance: \$132,196

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. 150 acres protected through perpetual conservation easements	June 30, 2016	\$215,069
2. 61.7 acres protected through fee title acquisition	June 30, 2016	\$104,931
3. Professional Services for Acquisition	June 30, 2016	\$8,000

Project Status as of April 1, 2014:

During the reporting period, negotiations continued with the Grannis family on the easement. Mr. Grannis worked with the City of Inver Grove Heights on a revision of the current comprehensive plan that would allow the proposed visitor center and an assisted living facility. The draft appraisal of the Grannis property was completed in August and required significant revisions. It was revised and the County and the landowners met in late September to discuss values. The landowners were not pleased with the methodology and resulting easement value. The Grannis family requested that the County Board to release the full appraisal by specific Board Resolution, which the Board did in early November. The landowners have now contracted for a separate appraisal, and the County has contracted for a new appraisal that will include a residential subdivision plan to assist the County to better determine fair market value for this unique property. This appraisal should be completed in March.

The County Board approved the MeCC VII Dakota County Lakeshore and Riparian Protection grant agreement with DNR on January 21, 2014.

A legal description of the proposed easement was prepared based on a survey completed by the County. The easement deed was drafted (without LCCMR-related language), the Purchase Agreement was drafted without the acquisition cost, and the environmental assessment was completed with no issues.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

See status summary on pages 3 and 4 above.

Project Status as of May 15, 2015:

Based on discussions with LCCMR staff in late March, County staff will not seek ENRTF funding for the Grannis project and is withdrawing the project from this appropriation Workplan and associated Acquisition and Restoration lists. Staff is requesting approval of the addition of two new conservation

easement projects and several general river and stream reaches to enable future addition of specific river/stream easement acquisition projects to this Workplan and associated Acquisition list.

Project Status as of August 1, 2015:

To date, none of the three projects listed for this appropriation have closed. The County is awaiting Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner approval of the Cemstone fee title acquisition. The Betzold and Odette project appraisals were ordered in July and are underway.

Project Status as of February 1, 2016:

Dakota County purchased a 61.7-acre portion of the former Cemstone property on July 22, 2015. Staff was not informed that the purchase was complete prior to submittal of the August 1, 2015, status report. The Cemstone portion of that report was incorrect. The appraisals for the Betzold and Odette permanent conservation easements are complete; and the landowners accepted County offers to purchase permanent conservation easements. County Board approval will be sought in early to mid-February 2016, for these two easement projects.

Project Status as of June 30, 2016:

The County purchased permanent conservation easements on portions of the Ruppe and Schweich properties, on April 4, 2016, and June 13, 2016, respectively. Following initial acceptance, the Betzolds and Odettes withdrew their projects very late in the acquisition process, following County Board approval. The Smith conservation easement project continues to be delayed due to inaction by the landowner; and although it may still move forward, it did not meet the June 30, 2016, grant funding deadline.

Final Report Summary

Over the years, County staff has come to understand that many factors within the acquisition process can significantly delay or derail a project (e.g., unconfined utility easements; financial issues including necessary bank subordinations and mortgages, and undisclosed bankruptcy proceedings; landowner uncertainty and family dynamics; and changes to the easement configuration, including last-minute partial land sales). County staff does its best to anticipate and incorporate time for these potential delays; however, success in the timing of the lengthy acquisition process is not always achievable. Of the six projects on the appropriation acquisition list, three were acquired by the June 30, 2016, funding deadline, and three were not. Landowner decisions not to move forward with conservation easement, made extremely late in the acquisition process, and one landowner's inaction regarding the County's offer, resulted in approximately \$136,000 of unexpended grant funds.

Acquisition project updates:

- Line 2 (Betzold): The 46.6-acre easement, including 0.8 miles of trout stream-designated, Vermillion River shoreline in Eureka Township, was withdrawn by the landowners, following County Board approval. County staff believes objections raised by the landowners' children strongly influenced their decision not to move forward. This landowner decision, made very late in the acquisition process, left no time to seek and process new projects and expend the estimated \$46,675 of available grant funds.
- Line 3 (Cemstone): The 61.7-acre fee title acquisition, along 1.7 miles of trout stream-designated, Vermillion River in Empire Township was acquired on July 22, 2015. Of the total acquisition cost of \$209,863, the Dakota County contribution was approximately \$104,932 (50%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement was requested was approximately \$104,931 (50%).
- Line 5 (Smith): The 7.2-acre easement along 0.3 miles of North Creek of the Vermillion River was not acquired due to landowner delays in making a decision to move forward with the easement. County staff has learned that regardless of how much time is built into the process to allow landowners time to make final project decisions, sometimes it is just not enough time. This landowner delay, throughout the acquisition process, left no time to seek and process new projects and expend the estimated \$14,000 of available grant funds.
- Line 9 (Odette): The 55.2-acre easement along 0.5 miles of a Chub Creek tributary and including a high-quality pond wetland in Greenvale Township was withdrawn by the landowners, following County Board approval. The main reason cited by the landowner for withdrawing the project was their ability to make more money over the long-term by renewing their new CRP contract, versus

selling an easement for a one-time payment. This landowner decision, made very late in the acquisition process, left no time to seek and process new projects and expend the estimated \$75,500 of available grant funds. Of the \$5,000 spent on the appraisal and \$610 spent on preliminary title work, the Dakota County contribution was \$2,500 (45%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$3,110 (55%).

- Line 10 (Ruppe): The 17.2-acre easement along 0.5 miles of Chub Creek in Greenvale Township was acquired on April 4, 2016. Of the total acquisition costs (\$51,484), the Dakota County contribution was \$25,357 (49.3%), the landowner closing costs contributed were \$676 (1.3%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$25,450 (49.4%).
- Line 11 (Schweich): The 20.7-acre easement along 0.3 miles of Chub Creek in Greenvale Township was acquired on June 13, 2016. Of the total acquisition costs (\$124,416), the Dakota County contribution was \$63,415 (51%), the landowner closing costs were \$601 (.5%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$60,400 (48.5%).

There is money unfortunately left unspent from this total appropriation, for the reasons just outlined and in previous status reports. Of the \$328,000 the County anticipated it would spend before the June 30, 2016, funding deadline, total acquisition reimbursement for approximately \$195,804 will be requested.

ACTIVITY 2: Restoration

Description:

All easements require the completion of a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) jointly developed by the County and the landowner. The NRMP describes the current and preferred habitat and other conditions with recommendations on how to achieve mutual goals. A detailed work plan, describing priority activities and responsibilities, is also completed as a core element of the NRMP. Easement deed language requires completion of the final NRMP within six months of closing.

In addition, restoration and enhancement activities will take place on public land and private lands already encumbered by a conservation easement.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$40,000
Amount Spent: \$22,808
Balance: \$17,192

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. 40 acres restored and/or enhanced	June 30, 2016	\$40,000

Project Status as of February 1, 2014:

A preliminary Natural Resources Management Plan for the entire property was developed in cooperation with the landowners. No restoration/enhancement activities occurred during the reporting period.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

No funds have been expended on restoration and enhancement due to the noted issues described above.

Project Status as of May 15, 2015:

The Grannis acquisition is being removed from this appropriation Workplan and associated Acquisition and Restoration lists, so no restoration work has taken place to date. Staff is requesting approval of the addition of general river and stream reaches from the M.L. 2011 appropriation restoration list that will end on June 30, 2015, to enable future additions of specific river/stream restoration projects to this Workplan and associated Restoration list.

Project Status as of August 1, 2015:

No amendment requests have been submitted for restoration projects to date; therefore, there is no activity to report.

Project Status as of February 1, 2016:

Since the previous status report, acquisition of a portion of the former Cemstone property has occurred. Initial restoration work is planned for this property this spring and early summer. Additionally, Natural Resource Management Plans must be prepared for five permanent conservation easement projects (Betzold, Odette, Ruppe, Schweich, and Smith), following County Board approval.

Project Status as of June 30, 2016:

Anticipated restoration activities took place for all listed projects, except the Smith natural area easement acquisition. Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) and Property Reports (PRs) were completed for the Betzold, Odette, Ruppe and Schweich projects. Initial site preparation, seeding and area restoration occurred on the former Cemstone property and the Schweich easement property. The wetland berm was constructed and seeded for the Malecha wetland restoration project.

Final Report Summary

The proposed restoration work for the Betzold, Malecha, Odette, Ruppe and Schweich project is complete. A portion of the anticipated restoration work was completed on the former Cemstone property; and no proposed restoration work was completed for the Smith project. Additional detailed restoration project updates are as follows:

- Line 2 (Betzold): The Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) and baseline Property Report (PR) were prepared for this project. However, the project was withdrawn very late in the acquisition process, after the landowners decided not to move forward to sell and easement. County staff believes objections raised by the landowners' children strongly influenced their decision not to move forward. Of the total restoration costs (\$4,650), the Dakota County contribution was \$2,325 (50%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$2,325 (50%).
- Line 3 (Cemstone): Site preparation and initial seeding was completed on approximately 19 acres of former and existing cultivated land. Of the total restoration costs (\$9,102.52), the Dakota County contribution was \$4,257.23 (47%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$4,845.29 (53%).
- Line 5 (Smith): The 7.2-acre easement proposed along 0.3 miles of North Creek of the Vermillion River was not acquired due to landowner delays in making a decision to move forward with the easement. No restoration funds to prepare and NRMP and PR were expended.
- Line 9 (Malecha): The proposed wetland berm construction and initial seeding was completed. Of the total restoration cost (\$11,632), the Dakota County contribution was \$5,519.50 (47.5%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$6,112.50 (52.5%). In addition, the landowners donated \$1,008 of time toward the berm construction.
- Line 10 (Odette): The NRMP) and baseline PR were prepared for this project. However, the project was withdrawn very late in the acquisition process, after the landowners decided not to move forward to sell and easement. The main reason cited by the landowner was their ability to make more money over the long-term by renewing their new CRP contract. Of the total restoration costs (\$75), the Dakota County contribution was \$0 (0%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$75 (100%).
- Line 11 (Ruppe): The NRMP) and baseline PR were prepared for this project. Of the total restoration costs (\$11,250), the Dakota County contribution was \$5,625 (50%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$5,625 (50%).
- Line 12 (Schweich): The NRMP) and baseline PR were prepared for this project. Of the total restoration costs (\$8,437.50), the Dakota County contribution was \$4,200 (49.8%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$4,237.50 (50.2%).

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

The County has a well-established Communications Department that effectively uses print and electronic media. The County features land conservation projects in a separate section on its web-site.

The County installs signs for easement projects and has an agreement with the landowner to develop prominent signage to describe the natural area and funding partners.

Project Status as of February 1, 2014:

The County revised and updated the website to include a description and materials for the ShoreHolders program and added project summaries to the Lands Protected category of the website. (URL: <http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/LandConservation/Pages/default.aspx>.) The County also completed a fact sheet about the Lindberg acquisition (a connecting property within the Marcott Lakes chain) to encourage public interest in land protection in this area.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

No information on this project has been disseminated due to its pending status.

Project Status as of May 15, 2015:

The Grannis acquisition is being removed from this appropriation Workplan and associated Acquisition and Restoration lists. Projects added through approved amendments to this Workplan will be included in appropriate County communications.

Project Status as of August 1, 2015:

No information has been disseminated due to the pending status of the three acquisition projects, and no restoration projects at this time.

Project Status as of February 1, 2016:

An article about the Cemstone acquisition appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press. The County website includes up-to-date project information.

Project Status as of June 30, 2016:

The County website includes up-to-date land conservation statistics and project information.

Final Report Summary:

During the timeframe covered by this appropriation, information about the County land conservation efforts, including new and ongoing programs available, have been noted on County and watershed websites, and local and regional newspapers. There was a significant time gap between project acquisitions included in this appropriation, and with the most recent project acquisitions occurring in late June, the dissemination of information to date has been articles about specific projects in local town newspapers. Moving forward, County and watershed webpages will be updated as appropriate. In addition, the County ordered metal signs of the ENRTF logo to be posted with the County’s land conservation signs to acknowledge our State funding partnership with LCCMR and advertise the presence of protected properties.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Easement Acquisition:	\$215,069	Conservation easements
Fee Title Acquisition	\$104,931	One fee title acquisition
Restoration and Enhancement:	\$40,000	Conversion of agricultural land to wetlands, and shoreline/riparian area restoration
Professional Services for Acquisition:	\$8,000	Appraisal and closing costs
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$368,000	

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
County	\$349,306	\$228,325	Matching funds
Landowner Donation	\$9,650	\$2,285	Reduce total cost
State			
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$358,956	\$230,610	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

The County works with Friends of the Mississippi River and the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District to develop Natural Resource Management Plans and baseline Property Reports for some acquisition projects, and complete restoration projects on public and private lands already encumbered by a conservation easement.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

The County is currently implementing an ambitious, comprehensive, long-term approach to land and water conservation. This conservation vision and associated implementation plan will integrate acquisition of regional park in-holdings, development of a 200-mile multi-purpose greenway system, and protection and improvement of riparian and lakeshore buffers, and natural area and agricultural conservation zones. County staff has preliminarily estimated an additional 15,000 acres will need to be protected and managed to fully achieve a variety of public benefits at an estimated cost of \$45M.

In 2011, the County Board of Commissioners adopted the protection of riparian and lakeshore buffers as one of its top 25 County-wide goals, and included an additional \$2M of Environmental Fund balance over the next five years.

The County will continue to work proactively with landowners and numerous partners to strategically protect the highest quality natural resource lands that provide multiple public benefits.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13
ENRTF		\$509,965			\$1,097,000

VIII. ACQUISITION LIST:

Fee Title: Cemstone

The 61.7-acre portion of the Cemstone property lies along 1.7 miles of the northern shoreline of the Vermillion River in Empire Township. See Attachment B for additional detail and maps.

Existing Easement: Malecha

The 27-acre portion of the Malecha property straddles approximately 900 feet of Hazelwood Creek, a tributary to Chub Creek, and includes about 71.2 acres of existing marsh, grassland and shrubland. See Attachment B for additional detail and maps. This project is not an acquisition, but is a restoration list project.

Easement: Ruppe

The 17.2-acre portion of the Ruppe property straddles about 0.5 miles of Chub Creek in Greenvale Township.

Easement: Schweich

The 20.7-acre portion of the Schweich property includes 0.3 miles of Chub Creek in Greenvale Township.

IX. MAP: See Attachment B.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: NA

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2014; August 1, 2014; February 1, 2015; August 1, 2015; February 1, 2016; and June 30, 2016. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2016, as requested by the LCCMR.

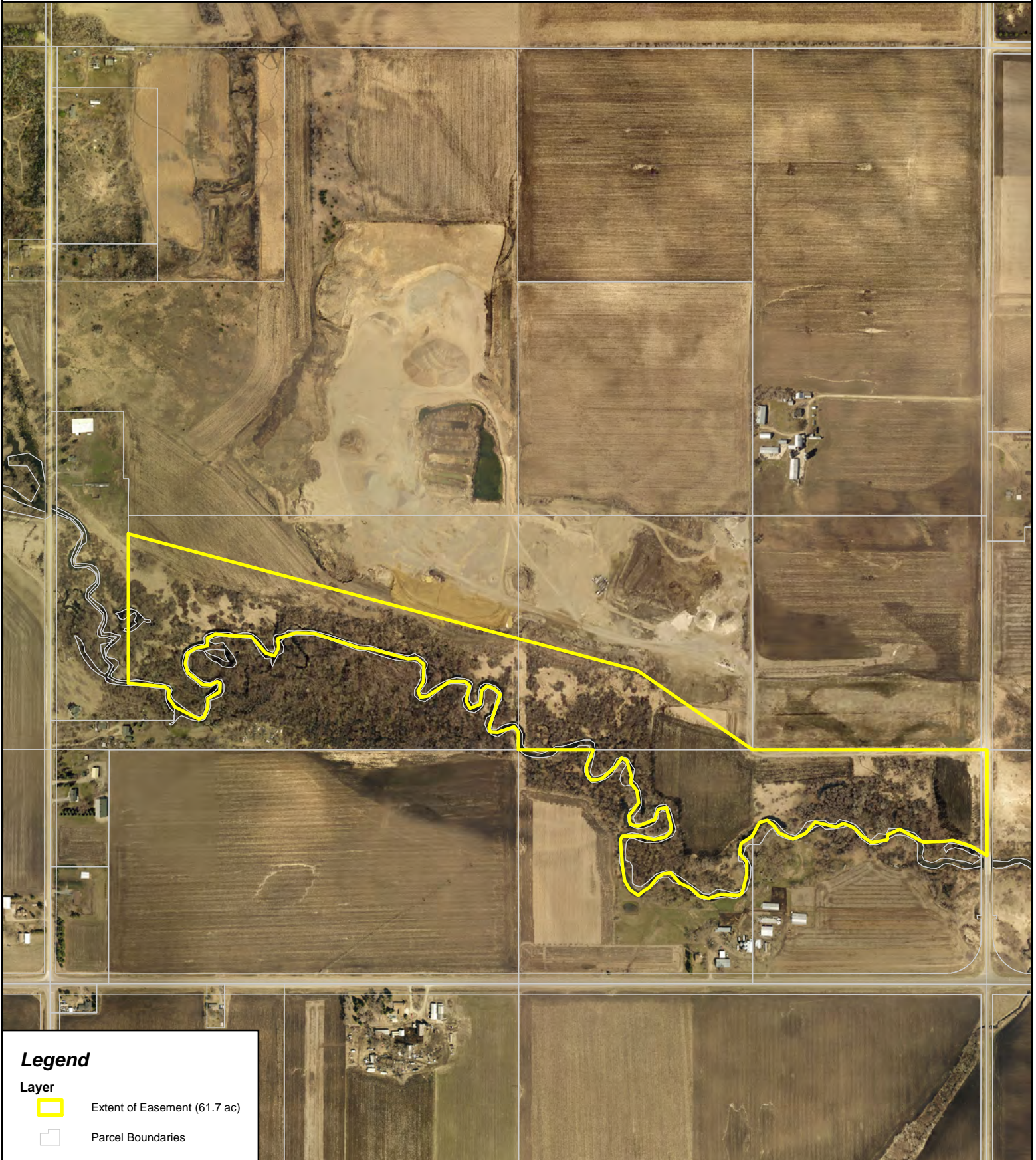
Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects								
Project Title: MeCC7: Dakota County Lakeshore and Riparian Protection								
Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.6/3.7								
Project Manager: Lisa West								
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$368,000								
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2016								
Date of Update: August 12, 2016								
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM				<i>Restoration</i>				
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts Contracts will be for undetermined private companies and/or non-profit organizations to implement priority restoration/enhancement activities on land already or soon to be protected by an easement.				\$40,000	\$22,808	\$17,192	\$40,000	\$17,192
Easement Acquisition: Acquiring an estimated 146.7 acres	\$215,069	\$86,460	\$128,609				\$215,069	\$128,609
Fee Title Acquisition: Acquiring 61.7 acres	\$104,931	\$104,931	\$0				\$104,931	\$0
Professional Services for Acquisition Appraisal and closing costs	\$8,000	\$4,413	\$3,587				\$8,000	\$3,587
COLUMN TOTAL	\$328,000	\$195,804	\$132,196	\$40,000	\$22,808	\$17,192	\$368,000	\$149,388

ATTACHMENT B

M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.6/3.7
MeCC7: Dakota County Lakeshore and Riparian Protection



Acquisition Maps

Cemstone Property

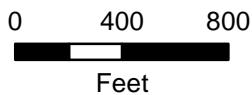


Legend

Layer

-  Extent of Easement (61.7 ac)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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Office of GIS





Map Date: 5/6/2015
Date of Photography: 2014

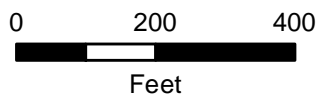
Stanley E. Ruppe II and Marietta M. Ruppe Property



Legend

-  Extent of Easement (17.2 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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Map Date: 1/25/2016
Date of Photography: 2015

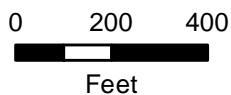
Schweich Property



Legend

-  Extent of Easement (20.65 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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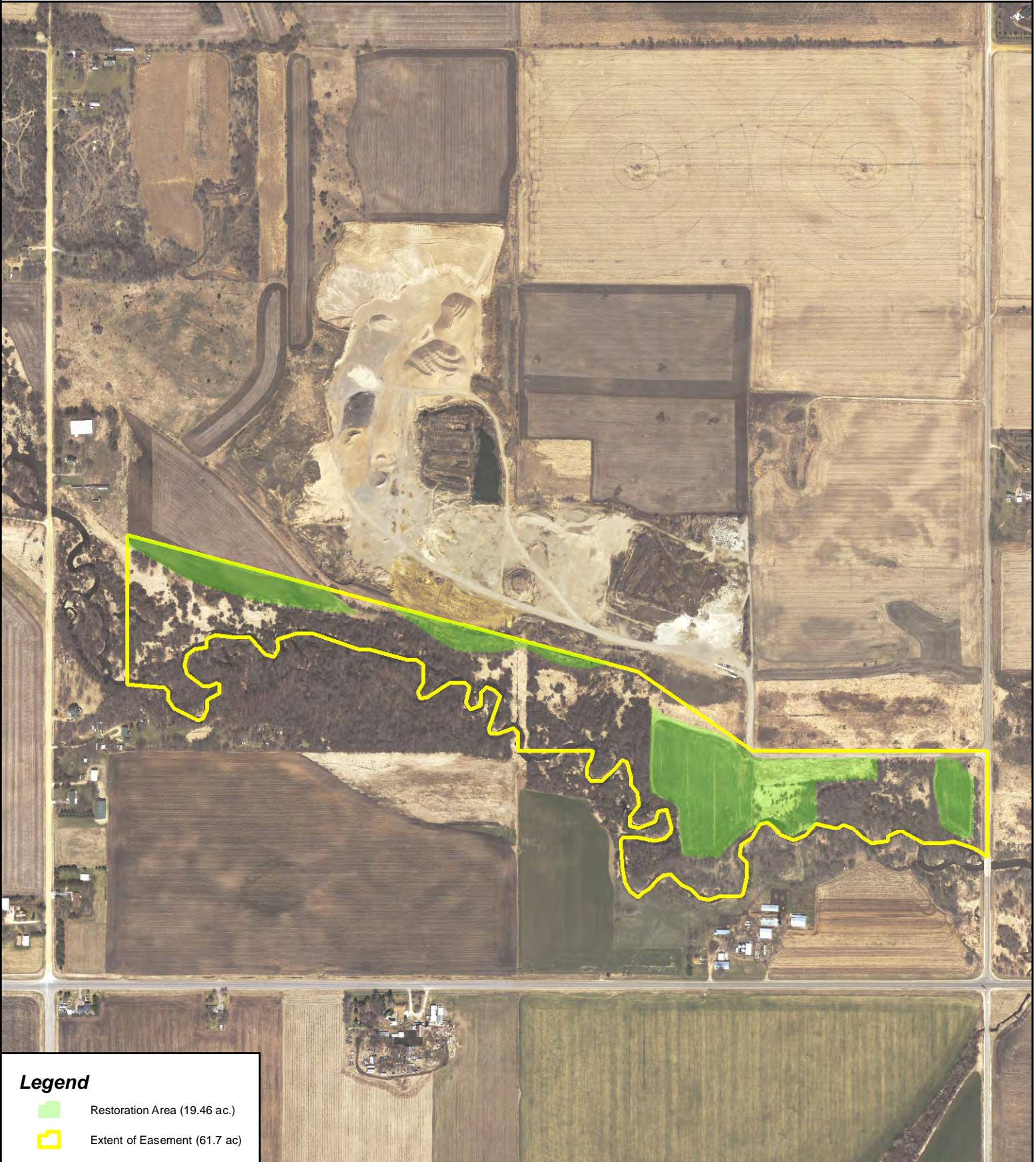
Map Date: 1/27/2016
Date of Photography: 2015

ATTACHMENT B



M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.6/3.7
MeCC7: Dakota County Lakeshore and Riparian Protection

Restoration Maps

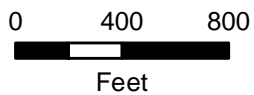
Cemstone Property



Legend

-  Restoration Area (19.46 ac.)
-  Extent of Easement (61.7 ac)

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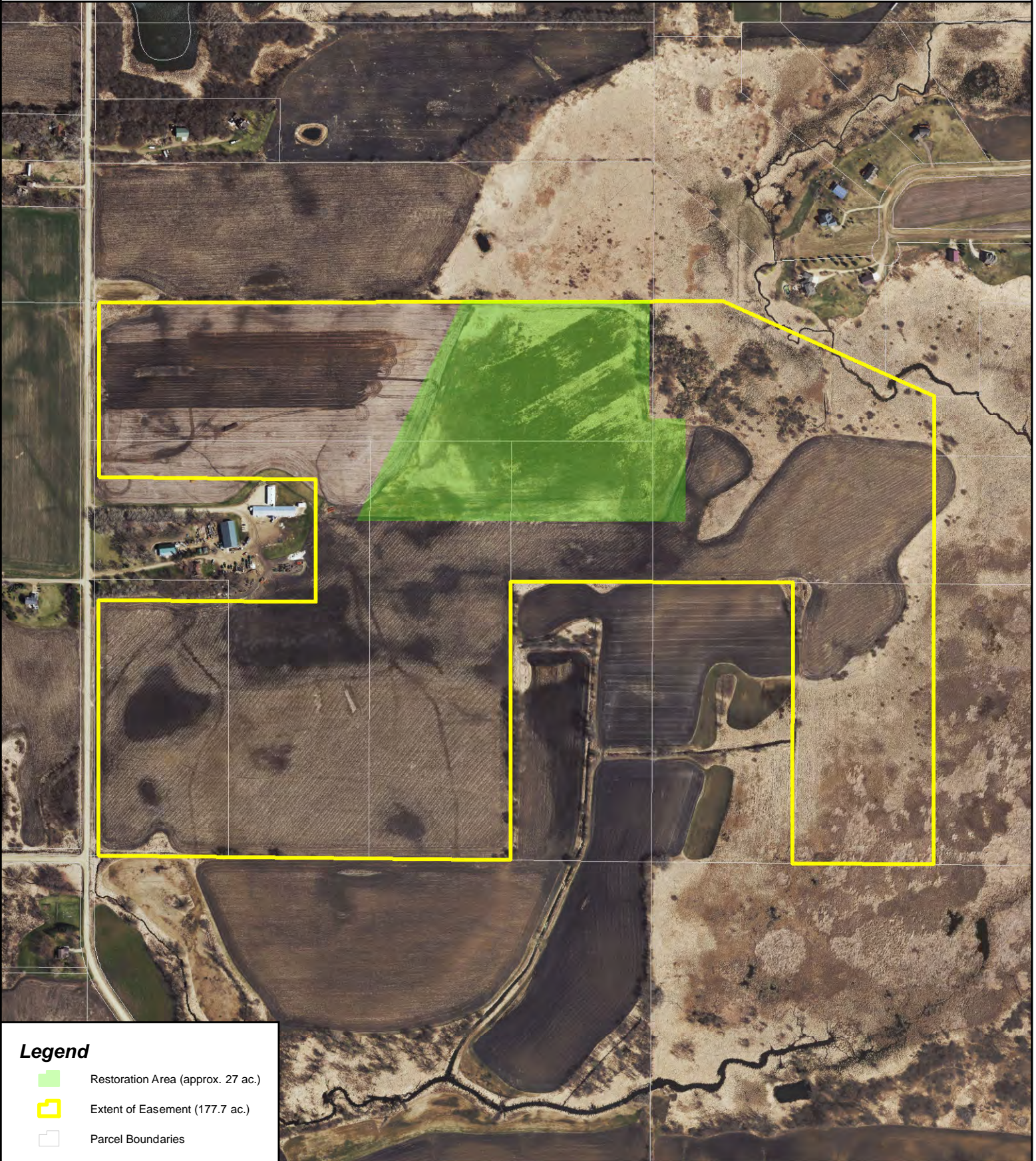


Prepared by the
Dakota County
Office of GIS






Map Date: 1/25/2016
Date of Photography: 2015


Mark J. Malecha & Lou Ann Malecha Property



Legend

-  Restoration Area (approx. 27 ac.)
-  Extent of Easement (177.7 ac.)
-  Parcel Boundaries

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0 200 400

Feet

Prepared by the
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Office of GIS



Map Date: 1/25/2016
Date of Photography: 2015

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2013 Acquisition/Restoration List (8/12/16) We are requesting to amend these lists to remove three conservation easement acquisition projects.

Project Title: MeCC7: Dakota County Lakeshore and Riparian Protection

Project Manager Name: Lisa West

M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$368,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
Acquisition													
1	1. Vermillion River Headwaters and western Main Stem												
2	1.a. Betzold	44°39'53.7"N	93°2'56.36"W	\$46,675	\$0	Dakota	Designated trout stream riparian area and upland	Easement Acquisition	46.6	0.8	Private	Dakota County	Offer accepted; Co. Bd. approval in Feb.; Landowners withdrew after further consideration
3	1.b. Cemstone	44°39'53.7"N	93°2'56.36"W	\$104,931	\$0	Dakota	Designated trout stream riparian area and upland	Fee Title Acquisition	61.7	1.7	Public	Dakota County	Fee title acquired
4	2. South, Middle, and North Creeks and Central Main												
5	2.a. Smith	44°41'47.9"N	93°10'7.2"W	\$14,000	\$0	Dakota	Tributary to North Creek of Vermillion River; adjacent to proposed greenway	Easement Acquisition	7.2	0.3	Private	Dakota County	Appraisal complete; offer was not accepted prior to funding deadline
6	3. Vermillion River South Branch												
7	4. Eastern Main Stem of the Vermillion River												
8	5. Chub, Dutch, and Mud Creeks												
9	5.a. Odette	44°39'53.7"N	93°2'56.36"W	\$75,500	\$0	Dakota	Chub Creek tributary, riparian area, high-quality pond, cultivated land to be restored to natural area	Easement Acquisition	55.2	0.5	Private	Dakota County	Offer accepted; Co. Bd. approval in Feb.; Landowners withdrew after further consideration
10	5.b. Ruppe	44°31'18.8"N	93°11'51.1"W	\$24,200	\$0	Dakota	Chub Creek riparian area	Easement Acquisition	17.2	0.5	Private	Dakota County	Easement acquired 4/4/16
11	5.c. Schweich	44°31'22.4"N	93°12'23.1"W	\$61,000	\$0	Dakota	Chub Creek riparian area, and upland	Easement Acquisition	20.7	0.3	Private	Dakota County	Easement acquired 6/13/16
12	6. Cannon River												
13	7. Pine and Darden Creeks												
14	8. Trout Brook												

NOTES:

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
Restoration													
1	1. Vermillion River Headwaters and western Main Stem												
2	1.a. Betzold	44°39'53.7"N	93°2'56.36"W	\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500	Designated trout stream riparian area and upland	Complete NRMP	46.6	0.8	Private	Dakota County	Offer accepted; NRMP and PR drafted; project withdrawn by landowner
3	1.b. Cemstone	44°39'53.7"N	93°2'56.36"W	\$19,000	\$0	\$6,000	Designated trout stream riparian area and upland		61.7	1.7	Public	Dakota County	Property acquired; initial site preparation, seeding and first phase restoration completed
4	2. South, Middle, and North Creeks and central Main Stem of the Vermillion River												
5	2.a. Smith	44°41'47.9"N	93°10'7.2"W	\$2,000	\$0	\$3,000	Tributary to North Creek of Vermillion River; adjacent to proposed greenway	Complete NRMP	7	0.3	Private	Dakota County	Appraisal complete; offer not accepted before funding deadline
6	3. Vermillion River South Branch												
7	4. Eastern Main Stem of the Vermillion River												
8	5. Chub, Dutch, and Mud Creeks												
9	5.a. Malecha	44°30'51.6"N	93°15'8.7"W	\$6,000	\$0	\$7,600	Cultivated land to be restored to wetland	Wetland Restoration	27	NA	Private	Dakota County	Existing easement; wetland berm completed
10	5.b. Odette	44°39'53.7"N	93°2'56.36"W	\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500	Riparian area, high-quality pond, cultivated land to be restored to natural area	Complete NRMP	55.2	0.5	Private	Dakota County	Offer accepted; NRMP and PR drafted; project withdrawn by landowner
11	5.c. Ruppe	44°31'18.8"N	93°11'51.1"W	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	Chub Creek riparian area	Complete NRMP	17.2	0.5	Private	Dakota County	Easement acquired 4/4/16; NRMP and PR completed
12	5.d. Schweich	44°31'22.4"N	93°12'23.1"W	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	Chub Creek riparian area, and upland	Complete NRMP	20.7	0.3	Private	Dakota County	Easement acquired 6/13/16; NRMP and PR completed; buffer seeded
13	6. Cannon River												
14	7. Pine and Darden Creeks												
15	8. Trout Brook												
NOTES: NRMP = Natural Resource Management Plan; PR = Property Report (baseline easement condition document)													

2013 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2015

PROJECT TITLE: TPL's Critical Land Protection Program – MeCC VII 2013

PROJECT MANAGER: Robert McGillivray

AFFILIATION: The Trust for Public Land

MAILING ADDRESS: 2610 University Avenue West, Suite 300

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Saint Paul, MN 55114

PHONE: 651-999-5307

E-MAIL: Bob.McGillivray@tpl.org

WEBSITE: www.tpl.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2013, Chp 52, Sec.2, Subd. 04d3.1

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 400,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

On October 28, 2014 The Trust for Public Land acquired the 30 acre Lindstrom peninsula and immediately conveyed it to the City of Lindstrom. This 30 acre peninsula will be added to the adjacent 64 acre Allemensratt Natural Area that the City acquired several years ago with partial ENRTF funding. The peninsula contains **approximately 5,600 feet** of sensitive shoreline and has been added to the existing natural area to be managed as part of the City's park program. This property provides excellent wildlife habitat, water quality benefits and public access in a high growth area.

The Trust for Public Land used the remainder of its M.L. 2011 MeCC acquisition funding (\$423,000) and all of its M.L. 2013 MeCC acquisition funding (\$395,000) with additional funding from the City of Lindstrom to purchase the land **as outlined in the chart below. Please note that the remaining \$5,000 of the appropriated \$400,000 from ML 2013 MeCC was released to the MN DNR for their acquisition, reporting and management planning costs as outlined in the Project Budget Summary in this report, and the approved Work Plan.**

Funding Source	Partner	Amount	Allocated Acreage
State Funds			
ENRTF – Metro Conservation Corridors VI 2011	TPL	\$423,000	12.7
ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VII 2013	TPL	\$395,000	11.9
	Sub Total	\$818,000	
Non State Funds			
City of Lindstrom	City of Lindstrom	\$82,000	2.4
Land Value Donation	Landowners	\$100,000	3.0
	Sub Total	\$182,000	
	TOTAL	\$1,000,000	30
*Please note that total ENTRF Funding is		\$818,000	

Total non-state public funding is	\$82,000	
Total funding and appraised fair market value is	\$1,000,000	

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The Trust for Public Land disseminates information on the TPL website, www.tpl.org, broadcasts emails to Embrace Open Space (EOS) and TPL list serve members, distributes press releases, and includes information in TPL’s newsletters and publications as appropriate. The Lindstrom project is highlighted on The Trust for Public Land’s website at:

<https://www.tpl.org/our-work/our-land-and-water/allemands-ratt-wilderness-park>

The following information has been published about the Lindstrom site:

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19566>

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19627>

2013 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2015

PROJECT TITLE: TPL's Critical Land Protection Program – MeCC VII 2013

PROJECT MANAGER: Robert McGillivray

AFFILIATION: The Trust for Public Land

MAILING ADDRESS: 2610 University Avenue West, Suite 300

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Saint Paul, MN 55114

PHONE: 651-999-5307

E-MAIL: Bob.McGillivray@tpl.org

WEBSITE: www.tpl.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2013, Chp 52, Sec.2, Subd. 04d3.1

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 400,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

On October 28, 2014 The Trust for Public Land acquired the 30 acre Lindstrom peninsula and immediately conveyed it to the City of Lindstrom. This 30 acre peninsula will be added to the adjacent 64 acre Allemensratt Natural Area that the City acquired several years ago with partial ENRTF funding. The peninsula contains **approximately 5,600 feet** of sensitive shoreline and has been added to the existing natural area to be managed as part of the City's park program. This property provides excellent wildlife habitat, water quality benefits and public access in a high growth area.

The Trust for Public Land used the remainder of its M.L. 2011 MeCC acquisition funding (\$423,000) and all of its M.L. 2013 MeCC acquisition funding (\$395,000) with additional funding from the City of Lindstrom to purchase the land **as outlined in the chart below. Please note that the remaining \$5,000 of the appropriated \$400,000 from ML 2013 MeCC was released to the MN DNR for their acquisition, reporting and management planning costs as outlined in the Project Budget Summary in this report, and the approved Work Plan.**

Funding Source	Partner	Amount	Allocated Acreage
State Funds			
ENRTF – Metro Conservation Corridors VI 2011	TPL	\$423,000	12.7
ENRTF - Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VII 2013	TPL	\$395,000	11.9
	Sub Total	\$818,000	
Non State Funds			
City of Lindstrom	City of Lindstrom	\$82,000	2.4
Land Value Donation	Landowners	\$100,000	3.0
	Sub Total	\$182,000	
	TOTAL	\$1,000,000	30
*Please note that total ENRTF Funding is		\$818,000	

Total non-state public funding is	\$82,000	
Total funding and appraised fair market value is	\$1,000,000	

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The Trust for Public Land disseminates information on the TPL website, www.tpl.org, broadcasts emails to Embrace Open Space (EOS) and TPL list serve members, distributes press releases, and includes information in TPL’s newsletters and publications as appropriate. The Lindstrom project is highlighted on The Trust for Public Land’s website at:

<https://www.tpl.org/our-work/our-land-and-water/allemands-ratt-wilderness-park>

The following information has been published about the Lindstrom site:

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19566>

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19627>

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
Project Title: <i>TPL's Critical Land Protection Program- MeCC VII 2013</i>					
Legal Citation: <i>M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d3.1</i>					
Project Manager: Robert McGillivray					
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 400,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: <i>3 years, June 30, 2016</i>					
Date of Update: 11-4-15					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Fill in your activity title here.</i>				
Fee Title Acquisition <i>Fee title acquisition of estimated 24 acres of parcel(s) shown on the acquisition list; please see acquisition list for final title holder</i>	395,000	395,000	0	395,000	0
Public Agency Professional Services for Acquisition acquisition, reporting, and management planning costs as needed	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$400,000	\$400,000	0	400,000	0

M.L. 2013 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2016

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VII–3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements

PROJECT MANAGER: Wayne Ostlie

AFFILIATION: Minnesota Land Trust

MAILING ADDRESS: 2356 University Ave W, Suite 240

CITY/STATE/ZIP: St. Paul, MN 55114

PHONE: 651-917-6292

E-MAIL: wostlie@mnland.org

WEBSITE: www.mnland.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(d)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$300,000

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

In this seventh phase of the Metro Conservation Corridors, the Minnesota Land Trust (Land Trust) sought to protect 100 acres of critical habitat through conservation easements within designated Metro conservation corridors. To facilitate this outcome, the Land Trust implemented an RFP process (a revision of the MMAPLE framework developed for the ENRTF-funded Avon Hills program in Stearns County) to solicit bids from interested landowners within areas of high biological value targeted for the program. A framework for scoring and prioritizing bids was developed for the Metro Corridors program that placed emphasis on a set of ecological criteria (size of habitat to be protected, condition of the habitat, ecological/protection context within which the parcel lies, and threat) and cost. Along with their proposal for inclusion into the program, landowners identified the funding level necessary for their participation.

The Land Trust utilized an array of strategies to effectively target landowners within priority areas, ranging from direct mail to face-to-face meetings and web-based methods (Facebook and web postings). Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts were contracted to engage local landowners within priority areas. Anoka Conservation District (ACD) sent 17 mailings out to landowners of high priority properties within the Rum River Watershed. Washington Conservation District utilized both GIS-generated mail merge and direct contact to reach 100 landowners. The Land Trust also sent out targeted mailings to 26 landowners of property meeting criteria for the program elsewhere in the Metro.

Twelve bids were received and ranked relative to the established criteria; three projects were identified as highest priority for the program. These landowners were engaged in easement negotiations but eventually declined to continue forward due to financial considerations, specifically low appraised land values (relative to landowner expectations/desires) and tax implications for the landowner. As a result, no conservation easements were procured through this grant.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The Land Trust developed partnerships with local conservation partners (Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts) to conduct targeted landowner outreach in priority geographies to identify interested landowners. Outreach materials, including program fact sheets and application materials, were developed and shared with local partners and or were direct-mailed to landowners by the Land Trust. In addition, the Land Trust marketed the easement program and RFP process through social media and on its web site. Over 140 landowners were reached via direct mail or through face-to-face meetings, and an unknown number of individuals were reached through our web-based media. Though no easements were completed from which to disseminate results, the time invested in outreach through local partnerships provides a strong foundation from which to continue protection efforts in the Conservation Corridors area.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2013 Work Plan Final Report

Date of Status Update Report: 8/10/2016

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/11/2013

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2016

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VII–3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements

Project Manager: Wayne Ostlie

Affiliation: Minnesota Land Trust

Mailing Address: 2356 Univeristy Avenue West, Suite 240

City/State/Zip Code: St. Paul, MN 55114

Telephone Number: (651)647-9590

Email Address: wostlie@mnland.org

Web Address: www.mnland.org

Location: Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright Counties

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation: \$300,000

Amount Spent: \$48,612

Balance: \$251,388

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(d)

Appropriation Language:

\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$10,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$1,990,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: \$304,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$368,000 with Dakota County; \$208,000 with Great River Greening; \$310,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$400,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$400,000 with the Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title 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 corridor areas as defined in the work plan. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work plan. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work plan. Lands that would require payments in lieu of taxes under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.061 or 477A.12, shall not be acquired with money from this appropriation. Up to \$54,000 is for use by Minnesota Land Trust in a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan and subject to subdivision 16. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2016, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VII–3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The Minnesota Land Trust has worked extensively in the greater Twin Cities area since 1992 to permanently protect natural and scenic lands with an emphasis on using conservation easements. This strategy has been acknowledged by a variety of stakeholders, and in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, as one of the key tools necessary to achieve land conservation goals in a metropolitan area where escalating land values prohibit fee title acquisition of many priority lands.

Our goal is to permanently protect priority lands that contribute to a regional connected network of critical habitat within the greater Twin Cities area and help maintain water quality of some of the region's most important rivers, lakes, and streams. To this end, the Land Trust will work to identify tracts of land within the mapped project areas critical to the protection of habitat and shoreland. We will prioritize protecting high-quality habitat for a variety of migratory birds and species in greatest conservation need, such as common loon, red-shouldered hawk, northern pintail, bobolink, and wood thrush.

The Land Trust works only with perpetual conservation easements. These easements prohibit land uses or development that negatively affect important habitat and other conservation values, require habitat management plans as appropriate, and direct the use of native vegetation in conjunction with any required restoration. The Land Trust also will explore the potential for public access with landowners on a case-by-case basis. The conservation easements may be either purchased or donated, or a combination of the two (bargain purchase). These easements are monitored annually and enforced as necessary under the Land Trust's comprehensive conservation easement monitoring, management, and enforcement program. In order to fulfill these stewardship obligations, grant funds may also be requested for our dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund on a project-by-project basis in accordance with our LCCMR-approved policies and procedures, the Land Trust's Project Cost Analysis, and as described in the document attached to the initial work plan for this appropriation. The attached Stewardship Overview describes the Land Trust's stewardship program including easement administration and easement monitoring and defense. A copy of the updated 2012 Project Cost Analysis has been separately provided to LCCMR. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on the status and performance of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and monitoring activity associated with easements acquired with funds from this grant. This reporting includes submitting an annual financial audit of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund.

Proposed activities under this grant include: 1) contacting and negotiating with interested landowners; 2) drafting and completing conservation easements; 3) documenting property conditions; and 4) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2014: Work on M.L. 2011 – 4i is still being completed through June 30th, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will not begin until M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014: Work on MeCC VI is still being completed after an amendment request to extend M.L. 2011 – 4i through to June 30th, 2015, was approved on June 26, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will begin when M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

Amendment Request as of August 1, 2014: The Land Trust is requesting to change the project manager to reflect a staff transition.

Amendment request approved August 7, 2014.

Project Status as of February 1, 2015: Work on M.L. 2011 – 4i is still being completed after an amendment request to extend M.L. 2011 – 4i through to June 30th, 2015, was approved on June 26, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will begin when M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

Project Status as of August 1, 2015: No work has been undertaken on M.L. 2013 – 4d to date. Work specific to M.L. 2013 – 4d will now begin with conclusion of M.L. 2011 – 4i on June 30, 2015.

August 3, 2015 Amendment Request: We are requesting a change in project managers from John Brosnan to Wayne Ostlie to reflect a staffing change.

Approved by LCCMR 8-4-2015.

January 6, 2016 Amendment Request: The Land Trust is requesting a change in the parcel list to add three parcels to our approved easement acquisition list: Cedar Creek (Anoka County), Seeley Creek (Anoka County) and Hardwood Creek (Washington County). Each possesses significant ecological resources as represented by presence of MCBS-quality natural communities and other resources which are more fully described within the attached Project Summaries sheet.

The addition of the parcels is a result of a move by the Land Trust to utilize an RFP process to more effectively target and bring an enhanced level of efficiency to our easement procurement process. The RFP framework – a decision-support tool modified from the MMAPLE tool used in the Avon Hills – allows us to compare proposed projects relative to one another based on a set of ecological factors that together provide an estimate of long-term viability of the protection effort: 1) Size of Habitat, Amount of Shoreline, and Number of Rare Species within the parcel, 2) Condition of Habitat and Rare Species Populations within the Parcel and 3) Landscape Context surrounding the parcel (both extent of habitat and degree of protection). In addition, we strongly consider project cost, whether this is within an area considered to be a local and regional conservation priority, and whether conservation action is moving forward in the project area. The RFP and Ranking Worksheet are both included in this amendment request. The parcels proposed to LCCMR are among the highest scoring projects emerging from the RFP process that also meet the requirements of the Metro Conservation Corridors proposal. The RFP was released in September and closed in October 2015.

Although the RFP was broadcast across the Metro region, we partnered with Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts to effectively target outreach to landowners in priority areas that best met the criteria set forth in the RFP. We have found that this model of partnering with local agencies/organizations that both know these local communities best and are ideally situated to conduct outreach works well in bringing interested parties to the table.

Approved by the LCCMR 2-8-2106.

Project Status as of February 1, 2016: Through a RFP-process which was initiated in early September and ended on October 31st, bids from twelve different landowners were received for the purposes of MLT to purchase a conservation easement from the highest ranking bids. MLT utilized mailings, web-based methods, and one-on-one meetings to conduct outreach to targeted landowners across the program area. Mailings containing a RFP application and program description were sent to landowners in the program area who met the selection criteria. This same information was also placed on MLT's website and Facebook page. MLT also contracted with both Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts to effectively target landowners within priority areas. Anoka Conservation District (ACD) sent 17 mailings out to landowners of high priority properties within the Rum River Watershed. Based upon the RFP criteria MLT supplied Washington Conservation District (WCD) utilized a GIS-generated mail merge and direct contact as a two-pronged targeted outreach approach. WCD sent approximately 100 letters out to identified landowners.

The respective 12 bids were analyzed, ranked, and vetted according to a set of ecological criteria, level of threat, degree of protection and ecological context around the parcel, cost, and other factors. Three projects were identified as highest priority for the program. Appraisals will begin shortly and we expect to close on at least 2 of the three projects before the grant closes on June 30th.

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

In this seventh phase of the Metro Conservation Corridors, the Minnesota Land Trust (Land Trust) sought to protect 100 acres of critical habitat through conservation easements within designated Metro conservation corridors. To facilitate this outcome, the Land Trust implemented an RFP process (a revision of the MMAPLE framework developed for the ENRTF-funded Avon Hills program in Stearns County) to solicit bids from interested landowners within areas of high biological value targeted for the program. A framework for scoring and prioritizing bids was developed for the Metro Corridors program that placed emphasis on a set of ecological criteria (size of habitat to be protected, condition of the habitat, ecological/protection context within which the parcel lies, and threat) and cost. Along with their proposal for inclusion into the program, landowners identified the funding level necessary for their participation.

The Land Trust utilized an array of strategies to effectively target landowners within priority areas, ranging from direct mail to face-to-face meetings and web-based methods (Facebook and web postings). Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts were contracted to engage local landowners within priority areas. Anoka Conservation District (ACD) sent 17 mailings out to landowners of high priority properties within the Rum River Watershed. Washington Conservation District utilized both GIS-generated mail merge and direct contact to reach 100 landowners. The Land Trust also sent out targeted mailings to 26 landowners of property meeting criteria for the program elsewhere in the Metro.

Twelve bids were received and ranked relative to the established criteria; three projects were identified as highest priority for the program. These landowners were engaged in easement negotiations but eventually declined to continue forward due to financial considerations, specifically low appraised land values (relative to landowner expectations/desires) and tax implications for the landowner. As a result, no conservation easements were procured through this grant.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Protect Significant Habitat through Conservation Easements

Description: The Land Trust will protect critical habitat within the mapped corridors by: 1) contacting landowners; 2) negotiating and completing permanent conservation easements on 100 acres of land (including documenting property conditions and creating management plans as appropriate); and 3) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of the easements.

The Land Trust will work primarily with donated easements, purchasing easements when necessary and then at below market value whenever possible. Criteria for determining when a purchase is necessary include landowner ability to donate, connectivity of parcel to other protected lands, and quality of natural resources on the site. All potential easement projects are evaluated for habitat value (quality and quantity of existing habitat on site), context (proximity and relationship to other protected lands), opportunity/threat (which landowners will participate now), and other benefits (meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.). Current potential projects are identified on the attached list. New projects will be added as landowners are identified. We will continually evaluate potential projects and pursue those that protect the highest quality habitat and maximize public benefit.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 300,000
Amount Spent: \$ 48,612
Balance: \$ 251,388

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Protect 100 acres by completing 2-3 conservation easements by identifying and contacting landowners, completing all components of conservation easement projects, and dedicating funds for long-term	June 30, 2016	\$ 300,000

management, monitoring, and enforcement.		
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Activity Status as of February 1, 2014: Work on M.L. 2011 – 4i is still being completed through June 30th, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will not begin until M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014: Work on MeCC VI is still being completed after an amendment request to extend M.L. 2011 – 4i through to June 30th, 2015, was approved on June 26, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will begin when M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015: Work on M.L. 2011 – 4i is still being completed after an amendment request to extend M.L. 2011 – 4i through to June 30th, 2015, was approved on June 26, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will begin when M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015: No work has been undertaken on M.L. 2013 – 4d to date. Work specific to M.L. 2013 – 4d will now begin with conclusion of M.L. 2011 – 4i on June 30, 2015.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016: Through a RFP-process initiated in early fall bids from twelve different landowners were received for the purposes of MLT to purchase a conservation easement from the highest ranking bids. The respective bids were analyzed, ranked, and vetted according a set of ecological criteria, level of threat, degree of protection and ecological context around the parcel, cost, and other factors. We have proposed three top-ranking projects to LCCMR via an amendment request to the program work plan on January 27, 2106, and are awaiting approval by LCCMR. These include:

- Cedar Creek: 60 acres, Anoka County
MLT is working with the landowners on a bargain sale of a conservation easement that will protect 60 acres of habitat mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) as a site of high biodiversity significance. Cedar Creek runs through the middle of the property. This property is part of an existing habitat corridor which is a conservation priority area for Anoka Conservation District, with whom the Land Trust is actively partnering.
- Hardwood Creek: 145 acres, Washington County
MLT is working with the landowner on a potential full or partial donation of a conservation easement that will protect 145 acres of habitat and undeveloped shoreline along several unnamed lakes on a site of moderate biodiversity as mapped by the MCBS.
- Seelye Brook: 130 acres, Anoka County
MLT is working with the landowner on a potential partial donation of a conservation easement that will protect the 130 acres of habitat and undeveloped shoreline along an intermittent stream on a site of high biodiversity as mapped by the MCBS. The parcel lies within an identified priority conservation landscape of the Anoka Conservation District.

Appraisals will be completed within the next two months. It is estimated that one to two easements will be completed before the closing of the grant, protecting approximately 205 acres, doubling the work plan acreage goal of 100 acres.

Final Report Summary: The Land Trust utilized a landowner bid process via RFP in September 2015 to solicit proposals from landowners of high value natural resource lands interested in participating in the program. Landowners within priority areas of Washington and Anoka counties, and elsewhere in the Metro region were targeted for inclusion into the program. The Land Trust contracted with Washington and Anoka Conservation Districts to assist with landowner outreach. Direct mail and face-to-face meetings reached over 140 individuals.

The RFP process was successful in attracting interest from landowners within targeted geographies. Landowner applications were received from 12 landowners, analyzed and ranked based upon ecological and cost criteria. Three properties were identified as priorities for protection and the landowners were subsequently engaged in easement negotiations. Financial considerations associated with the purchase of, or tax implications related to, an easement rendered negotiations with each landowner immovable and prevented the acquisition of any easement. Insufficient time remained in the grant window to undertake a second RFP or to engage others who responded to the initial RFP but were not initially pursued as priorities. The Land Trust will expand upon this initial RFP process in its upcoming MeCC VIII grant. Expenditures under this grant were related to personnel time associated with landowner outreach/negotiations and project-specific costs (e.g., appraisals, title work).

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: The Land Trust will disseminate results in our publications (electronic and print) and on our web page. We will work to publicize completed projects in the media, targeting communities in which projects are located. Additionally, we will participate when possible in broader efforts of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership.

Status as of February 1, 2014: Work on M.L. 2011 – 4i is still being completed through June 30th, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will not begin until M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

Status as of August 1, 2014: Work on M.L. 2011 – 4i is still being completed after an amendment request to extend M.L. 2011 – 4i through to June 30th, 2015, was approved on June 26, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will begin when M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

Status as of February 1, 2015: Work on M.L. 2011 – 4i is still being completed after an amendment request to extend M.L. 2011 – 4i through to June 30th, 2015, was approved on June 26, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will begin when M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

Status as of August 1, 2015: No dissemination of results has been undertaken on M.L. 2013 – 4d to date.

Status as of February 1, 2016: MLT has strategically focused its outreach efforts to target local communities from the initial stages of outreach and engagement through project closing and beyond. Initial efforts have been to build close working relationships with people on the ground who have connections to local landowners. We have had conversations with Scott County, Washington and Anoka Conservation Districts, and Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District to date. Outreach materials, including print brochures and fact sheets, were shared with the local conservation partners. MLT specifically contracted with Washington and Anoka Conservation Districts to implement targeted outreach in conservation priority areas. Over 100 different landowners in these conservation priority areas across those two counties were contacted, initially through mailings, and some with follow-up one-on-one conversations.

Final Report Summary: The Land Trust developed partnerships with local conservation partners (Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts) to conduct targeted landowner outreach in priority geographies to identify interested landowners. Outreach materials, including program fact sheets and application materials, were developed and shared with local partners and or were direct-mailed to landowners by the Land Trust. In addition, the Land Trust marketed the easement program and RFP process through social media and on its web site. Over 140 landowners were reached via direct mail or through face-to-face meetings, and an unknown number of individuals were reached through our web-based media. Though no easements were completed from which to disseminate results, the time invested in outreach through local partnerships provides a strong foundation from which to continue protection efforts in the Conservation Corridors area.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 60,000	Staff expenses including salaries and benefits for approximately 0.75 FTE for 3 years (0.25 per year) as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.5 FTE) and staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE) or contract staff for land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation.*
Easement Acquisition:	\$183,000	Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.) to protect up to 100 acres of land.
Easement – Long-term Monitoring, Management, and Enforcement	\$54,000	Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring and enforcing 2-3 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed. Estimated at \$18,000 per easement per Land Trust’s 2012 Cost Analysis.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$3,000	Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota. \$2700 for mileage reimbursement estimated at \$0.55 per mile and \$300 for meals.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 300,000	

*Consistent with our past grants, contract staff is included here to allow flexibility to supplement existing MLT staff capacity to complete anticipated outcomes.

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 0.75 total for 3 years (0.25 each year)

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds:

Although we didn’t anticipate cash funds as match to the grant funds, we anticipated leverage through value of easements donated to the Land Trust by landowners. However, we were unable to close any easement through this grant and that leverage was not realized.

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: The Land Trust is the only entity receiving funds through this request, however, the Land Trust coordinates its work with other Metro Conservation Corridors partners (please see overall proposal for list of project partners) as appropriate. Additionally, our partners include private landowners, as well as various units of state and local government that help in identifying and completing potential projects.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project is part of the Land Trust’s long-term, strategic conservation agenda. The conservation agenda sets out the specific conservation focus of the Minnesota Land Trust. This focus includes natural habitats for wildlife, fish and plants, lakeshores, rivers and streams, and scenic landscapes accessible or

visible to the public. The conservation agenda also identifies a suite of critical landscapes throughout the State that embody the natural and cultural features that make Minnesota unique. The Metropolitan Conservation Corridors is one of the Land Trust’s identified critical landscapes – one that addresses the unique conservation challenges that exist in a largely developed area.

The Minnesota Land Trust has a comprehensive easement monitoring and enforcement program directed at preserving the conservation values of protected lands. With each easement accepted, the Minnesota Land Trust will secure the funds necessary to meet our long-term obligations, setting aside funds for each project as necessary to meet future needs.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13
ENRTF - MeCC	\$134,000	\$225,000	\$250,000	\$485,000	\$400,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: See Acquisition List Attachment

IX. MAP(S): See Map Attachment

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2014, August 1, 2014, February 1, 2015, August 1, 2015, and February 1, 2016. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2016 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
Project Title: MeCC VII-3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements					
Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(d)					
Project Manager: Wayne Ostlie					
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$300,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2016					
Date of Update: August 10, 2016					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Protect Significant Habitat through Conservation Easements</i>				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) <i>Staff expenses including salaries and benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) for approximately .75 FTE for 3 years as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.5 FTE) and staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE) or contract staff for land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation.</i>	\$60,000	\$20,448	\$39,552	\$60,000	\$39,552
<i>MLT Conservation Staff</i>					
<i>Contract Land Protection Staff</i>					
<i>MLT Legal Staff</i>					
<i>MLT Support Staff</i>					
Easement Acquisition <i>Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.)</i>	\$183,000	\$27,732	\$155,268	\$183,000	\$155,268
Easement Monitoring & Enforcement Fund <i>Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring, managing, and enforcing 4-5 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed.</i>	\$54,000	\$0	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$54,000
Travel expenses in Minnesota <i>Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota</i>	\$3,000	\$432	\$2,568	\$3,000	\$2,568
COLUMN TOTAL	\$300,000	\$48,612	\$251,388	\$300,000	\$251,388

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2013 Acquisition/Restoration List**

Project Title: MeCC 7 - 3.2 Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements
Project Manager Name: Wayne Ostlie
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$300,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Bullard Creek	544079	4930820	TBD	\$0	Goodhue	Deciduous forest and scenic bluffs along Flower Valley Trail	Conservation Easement	94	N/A	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
2	Elk River	427435	5035353	TBD	\$0	Sherburne	Undeveloped shoreline along the Elk River	Conservation Easement	125	0.2	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
3	Little Lake	516367	5028058	TBD	\$0	Chisago	Large amount of forest, grasslands, and undeveloped shoreline along Little Lake	Conservation Easement	286	0.8	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
4	Little Long Lake	444181	4978868	TBD	\$0	Hennepin	Contains woodland, wetlands, grasslands and a pond. Adjacent to land previously protected with a conservation easement	Conservation Easement	10	N/A	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
5	Rum River	476218	5033118	TBD	\$0	Isanti	Contains forested acres, woodland and grasslands. Adjacent to land previously protected with conservation easement	Conservation Easement	32	N/A	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
6	Schendel Lake	447360	4994934	TBD	\$0	Hennepin	Contains hardwood forest, wetlands, grasslands and a marsh. Adjacent to land previously protected with conservation easement, lies in a regionally significant ecological area	Conservation Easement	187	0.8	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
7	Tennyson Lake	461976	5040955	TBD	\$0	Isanti	Contains significant native plant communities of oak-maple woodland, sedge meadow, mixed cattail marsh, and mixed deciduous swamp as mapped by MCBS	Conservation Easement	145	0.5	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
8	Valley Creek	517306	4972701	TBD	\$0	Washington	Contributes to the extended complex of protected forests, woods, grasslands, and wetlands in the watershed of the trout stream named Valley Creek	Conservation Easement	18	0.1	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
9	Cedar Creek	474587	5016999	TBD	\$0	Anoka	Large amount of Pin Oak Woodland, Tamarack Swamp, Alder Swamp, and Sedge Meadow native plant communities as mapped by MCBS. Undeveloped shoreline along Cedar Creek. Lies in a regionally significant ecological area	Conservation Easement	60	0.4	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Likely bargain purchase; initial contact complete
10	Hardwood Creek	505413	5003379	TBD	\$0	Washington	Contains Oak Woodland and Northern Rich Fen native plant communities as mapped by MCBS, wetlands, grasslands and undeveloped shoreline along several unnamed lakes. Lies in a regionally significant ecological area	Conservation Easement	145	1.5	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Likely purchase; initial contact complete
11	Seelye Brook	466205	5026237	TBD	\$0	Anoka	Contains four different (Red Oak Forest, Black Ash and Tamarack Swamp, and Dogwood Swamp) native plant communities as mapped by MCBS. Lies in a regionally significant ecological area	Conservation Easement	130	0.75	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive

NOTES: The above list includes projects the Minnesota Land Trust currently is considering. Other projects may be added to the list as new landowners are contacted. Some projects on the list will not be completed. Projects not completed under the current phase may be moved to future phases.

M.L. 2013 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2017

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VII – 3.3: Priority Expansion of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge

PROJECT MANAGER: Deborah Loon

AFFILIATION: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT)

MAILING ADDRESS: 3815 East American Boulevard

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Bloomington, MN 55425

PHONE: (612) 801-1935

EMAIL: dloon@mnvalleytrust.org

WEBSITE: <http://www.mnvalleytrust.org>

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML2013, Ch. 52, Sec. 2, Subd.04d3.3 & ML2016, Ch. 186, Sec. 2, Sub. 18

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$400,000

AMOUNT SPENT: \$246,800

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$153,200

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

The Minnesota Valley Trust's goal with this \$400,000 ENRTF grant was to acquire 100 priority acres to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Minnesota Valley Trust exceeded the acreage goal by acquiring in fee title 121.36 acres, while spending only \$246,800 of the grant.

Specifically, the ENRTF grant acquired 23.6 acres for the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge).

Another 4.5 acre parcel was acquired by the Minnesota Valley Trust with leveraged, non-state funds for the San Francisco Unit of the Refuge. While we had other non-state funds available to spend as leverage, we did not have the opportunity to close on other acquisitions during the grant timeframe.

Acquisition of the Bloomington Ferry Unit parcel was a high priority for the completion and management of that unit of the Refuge. The parcel acquired contains floodplain forest habitat and frontage on the Minnesota River.

Acquisition of the Louisville Swamp Unit parcel was a high priority for the completion and management of that unit of the Refuge. This protects floodplain forest habitat and gains full management of a large wetland bordered by USFWS and the seller's property.

Many species of wildlife will benefit by Refuge management of these parcels, including wood ducks, mallards, bald eagles, grassland nesting birds as well as numerous resident game species such as turkeys and deer. Both properties will provide opportunities for the public to participate in wildlife dependent outdoor activities. The land will also serve as an outdoor classroom for environmental education activities for schools and environmental organizations.

In addition, public ownership of these properties will ensure long-term access for the State Trail, which ran through the Louisville Swamp Unit under a lease agreement between the DNR and the former landowner and (2) needs to cross the Bloomington Ferry Unit property. We have finalized a new no-cost lease agreement with the DNR for operation of the State Trail on the Louisville Swamp Unit property. The USFWS intends to allow the DNR to complete and manage the State Trail on the Bloomington Ferry Unit property.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The properties acquired are posted open to the public for Refuge-approved uses. The Minnesota Valley Trust's website (mnvalleytrust.org) has been updated to announce these acquisitions. A press release has been sent to the local newspapers (Jordan Independent and Bloomington Sun Current).



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2013 Work Plan

Date of Status Update Report: 9/5/2017 Final Report

Date of Next Status Update Report: NA

Date of Work Plan Approval: 06/25/2013

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2017

Is this an amendment request? No

PROJECT TITLE: Priority Expansion of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge, MeCC VII

Project Manager: Deborah Loon

Affiliation: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Mailing Address: 3815 East American Boulevard

City/State/Zip Code: Bloomington, MN 55425

Telephone Number: (612) 801-1935

Email Address: DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org

Web Address: www.mnvalleytrust.org

Location: Twin Cities Metropolitan Urbanizing Area, specifically Carver, Hennepin, LeSueur, Scott and/or Sibley Counties.

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation: \$400,000

Amount Spent: \$246,800

Balance: \$153,200

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd.04d3.3

M.L. 2016, Chapter 186, Section 2, Subdivision 18

Appropriation Language:

\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$10,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$1,990,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: \$304,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$368,000 with Dakota County; \$208,000 with Great River Greening; \$310,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$400,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$400,000 with the Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title 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 corridor areas as defined in the work plan. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work plan. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work plan. Lands that would require payments in lieu of taxes under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.061 or 477A.12, shall not be acquired with money from this appropriation. Up to \$54,000 is for use by Minnesota Land Trust in a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan and subject to subdivision 16. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and

enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2016, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Carryforward: (a) The availability of the appropriations for the following projects are extended to June 30, 2017: (2) Laws 2013, chapter 52, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (d), Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) - Phase VII, \$400,000 for the agreement with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. only;

I. PROJECT TITLE: Priority Expansion of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge, MeCC VII

II. PROJECT STATEMENT: The Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will protect through fee title acquisition at least 100 acres to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), as delineated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). MVT will protect through fee title acquisition at least an additional 50 acres in the Refuge expansion areas with other, non-state funds, for a total addition of 150 acres to the Refuge.

The Refuge expansion units have been prioritized by the USFWS through a public planning process as having strong potential to provide high quality habitat for wildlife and opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. The lands are primarily along the Minnesota River and include river frontage, floodplain and cropland. Potential parcels to acquire for Refuge expansion are located in the following Refuge unit boundaries -- Blakely (Sibley County), Bloomington Ferry Unit (Hennepin County), Jessenland Unit (Sibley County), Louisville Swamp Unit (Scott County), and St. Lawrence (Scott County).

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2014: Outreach to landowners is underway.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014: Outreach to landowners continues.

Project Status as of February 1, 2015: Outreach to landowners continues.

Project Status as of August 1, 2015: Outreach to landowners continues. We are in negotiation with several landowners, including properties that will be additions to the Bloomington Ferry Unit and Louisville Swamp Unit of the Refuge. Both parcels need to be added to the parcel list (see amendment request that follows).

Amendment Request as of August 5, 2015: The Minnesota Valley Trust seeks an amendment to this Work Program and the related Acquisition-Restoration Parcel List to allow for use of the grant funds to acquire lands for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge on the Bloomington Ferry Unit and Louisville Swamp Unit. These properties were added to our ML2011 MeCC Phase VI Work Plan, but the acquisitions could not be completed by the deadline of that appropriation. We, therefore, seek to add them to this Work Plan.

The parcels are within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge's authorized boundaries, as delineated in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Both targeted parcels are in-holdings that the Refuge has desired to get under its management.

Bloomington Ferry Unit – Acquisition of this parcel is important to completion and management of the Refuge's Bloomington Ferry Unit. It contains floodplain forest habitat and frontage on the Minnesota River.

Louisville Swamp Unit parcel -- Acquisition of this parcel is important to completion and management of the Refuge's Louisville Swamp Unit, protecting additional floodplain forest habitat and gaining full management of a large wetland bordered by FWS and the seller's property.

Many species of wildlife will benefit by Refuge management of these parcels, including wood ducks, mallards, bald eagles, grassland nesting birds as well as numerous resident game species such as turkeys and deer.

Public ownership of these properties will ensure long-term access for the State Trail. The State Trail (1) currently runs through the Louisville Swamp Unit under a lease agreement between the DNR and the landowner and (2) needs to cross the Bloomington Ferry Unit property. The USFWS will allow the DNR to complete and manage the State Trail on its property.

Both properties will provide opportunities for the public to participate in wildlife dependent outdoor activities. The land will also serve as an outdoor classroom for environmental education activities for schools and environmental organizations.

Project Status as of February 1, 2016: The process of acquiring the two parcels for which this Work Plan was amended with the last report is underway. Purchase agreements have been signed to acquire fee title to 23.6 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Refuge's Louisville Swamp Unit. Both acquisitions are taking longer than usual due to the need to plat both properties so the sellers may retain building sites with buildings. In addition, the fee owner of the Louisville Swamp Unit recently died, so sale of the property could be delayed. We anticipate both closings will be able to happen before the June 30, 2016 deadline, but realize legal matters may delay the Louisville Swamp Unit acquisition.

In addition, while the MN Valley Trust will meet the grant acres with these acquisitions, it will not have spent the full grant funds and completed the match acres. About \$150,000 will remain in grant funds and 30 acres will remain to be acquired for match. Land values have dropped significantly since appropriation, which is why the grant funds will not be fully expended.

Amendment Request as of February 1, 2016: The Minnesota Valley Trust seeks an amendment to extend this appropriation and Work Program to June 30, 2017. We request this amendment (1) because of the legal complications with the Louisville Swamp Unit acquisition due to the recent death of the fee title holder.

Amendment Approved: 5/25/16

Project Status as of August 1, 2016: The Minnesota Valley Trust completed the fee title acquisition of the two parcels that were in process in our last report (February 1, 2016) -- 23.6 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Refuge's Louisville Swamp Unit. We have acquired 121.36 acres, exceeding the grant acres by 21.36, but not yet achieving the leverage acres of 50. We have spent \$246,800 of the \$400,000 grant, leaving a balance of \$153,200 available to spend on additional projects. Landowner outreach continues and additional parcels are under review.

Project Status as of February 1, 2017: The Minnesota Valley Trust is in negotiations with a landowner for an 11.78 acre addition to the Rapids Lake Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This acquisition will complete the grant. An amendment is needed to add this parcel to the parcel list.

Amendment Request as of March 9, 2017: The Minnesota Valley Trust seeks an amendment to this Work Program and the related Acquisition-Restoration Parcel List to allow for use of the grant funds to acquire a 10 acre parcel for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge on the Rapids Lake Unit. An adjacent 1.78 acre parcel with a residential home will be acquired with other private, non-state funds.

This parcel is within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge's authorized boundaries for the Rapids Lake Unit, as delineated in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan. It is important to completion and management of the Rapids Lake Unit. The habitat is a mix of northern hardwood forest and glassland savanna. The desired future condition following restoration is a mosaic of native prairie / oak savanna and northern mixed hardwood forest. This will be accomplished through removal of red cedar and undesirable trees and shrubs (e.g., buckthorn), eradication of other invasive species that may be present (e.g., leafy spurge) and planting of native grasses and forbs in highly degraded areas.

Many wildlife species will benefit by Refuge management of the savanna/woodland habitat of these parcels including native snakes and prairie skinks, pollinators such as bees and butterflies (monarch and others) and many species of grassland and woodland birds.

The addition of this property will provide opportunities for the public to participate in wildlife dependent outdoor activities. The land will also serve as an outdoor classroom for environmental education activities for schools and environmental organizations.

The MVT is also working with another landowner to acquire an adjacent 20.56 acre parcel for the Refuge. This parcel will be acquired using a combination of Outdoor Heritage Fund grant through the LSOHC and other private, non-state funds.

Acquisition of this property will complete this grant. Once complete, we will have acquired approximately 130 acres with the grant, exceeding our grant acres by about 30. Final acreage will be determined once the appraisal of the property is finalized and we can calculate the amount of the property that will be acquired by the grant.

While we are exceeding the grant acres, we are not able to achieve our match acres target for this grant.

Following acquisition, the property will be deeded by MVT to its subsidiary, Minnesota Valley Lands, Inc. (MVL). MVL will pay the property taxes on the property until it is transferred to the USFWS. The USFWS will make “revenue-sharing payments” to the county.

Final Report Summary: The Minnesota Valley Trust’s goal with this \$400,000 ENRTF grant was to acquire 100 priority acres to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Minnesota Valley Trust exceeded the acreage goal by acquiring in fee title 121.36 acres, while spending only \$246,800 of the grant.

Specifically, the ENRTF grant acquired 23.6 acres for the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Another 4.5 acre parcel was acquired by the Minnesota Valley Trust with leveraged, non-state funds for the San Francisco Unit of the Refuge. While we had other non-state funds available to spend as leverage, we did not have the opportunity to close on other acquisitions during the grant timeframe.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1:

Description: The Minnesota Valley Trust will complete fee title acquisition of at least 100 acres to expand one or more of the following units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge –

- Blakely Unit (Scott County)
- Bloomington Ferry Unit (Hennepin County)
- Jessenland Unit (Sibley County)
- Louisville Swamp Unit (Scott County)
- St. Lawrence Unit (Scott County)

If a strategic opportunity to acquire land for one of the following Refuge units, the acquisition list will be updated to include that unit:

- Rapids Lake Unit (Carver County)
- San Francisco Unit (Carver County)
- A prospective new unit between Henderson and LeSueur as delineated by USFWS (LeSueur and Sibley Counties).

At least 50 additional acres will be acquired for the Refuge by the MN Valley Trust using other, non-state funds.

The Refuge expansion units have been prioritized and delineated by the USFWS in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) through a public planning process as having strong potential to provide high quality habitat for wildlife and opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation.

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/MinnesotaValley/index.html>

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/MinnesotaValley/finalccp.pdf>

The lands are along the Minnesota River and include river frontage, floodplain and cropland. The CCP was updated in 2011. All potential parcels are within the delineated boundaries and identified as high priority lands for acquisition in the CCP. In addition, written approval will be sought from the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources prior to the acquisition per MN Statutes 116P.17; a copy of that approval will be provided to LCCMR.

The prospective lands offer significant habitat for wildlife and opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. The lands run along the Minnesota River and include river frontage, floodplain, cropland and bluffs. Some are adjacent to lands already in public ownership (USFWS, DNR) or previously acquired by the MN Valley Trust for the Refuge expansion.

These acquisitions will connect the river, floodplain forest and prairie habitat in the Minnesota River bottoms, benefiting many species of wildlife including wood ducks, mallards, bald eagles, grassland nesting birds as well as numerous resident game species such as turkeys and deer.

This project will improve water quality by retiring cropland in the Minnesota River Valley and restoring lands to the natural habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie. When donated to the USFWS, the public will be given access to the lands for wildlife-dependent recreational activities, such as birding, photography, hiking, interpretation, hunting and fishing.

The MN Valley Trust (MVT) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will develop a restoration and management plan(s) for the acquired parcel(s), then restore and enhance the floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie, as appropriate to the parcel. Cropland will be retired and drain tile broken. The MVT is the source of funds for this restoration and management work; the funds are secure.

The lands acquired will be donated to the USFWS for perpetual management for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation as part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. An estimate of increased operations and maintenance costs will be provided to LCCMR. The increased costs for operations and maintenance will be the responsibility of the MVT and USFWS.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 400,000

Amount Spent: \$ 246,800

Balance: \$ 153,200

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Fee Title Acquisition of 100 Acres to Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	June 30, 2017	\$ 400,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014: Outreach to landowners is underway.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014: Outreach to landowners continues.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015: Outreach to landowners continues.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015: Outreach to landowners continues. We are in negotiation with several landowners, including property for an addition to the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Refuge. We have a signed purchase agreement for an addition to the Bloomington Ferry Unit of the Refuge, on which we expect to close in 2015. Both parcels need to be added to the parcel list.

Project Status as of February 1, 2016: The process of acquiring the two parcels for which this Work Plan was amended with the last report is underway. Purchase agreements have been signed to acquire fee title to 23.6 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Refuge's Louisville Swamp Unit. Both acquisitions are taking longer than usual due to the need to plat both properties so the sellers may retain building sites with buildings. In addition, the fee owner of the Louisville Swamp Unit recently died, so sale of the property could be delayed. We anticipate both closings will be able to happen before the June 30, 2016 deadline, but realize legal matters may delay the Louisville Swamp Unit acquisition.

In addition, while the MN Valley Trust will meet the grant acres with these acquisitions, it will not have spent the full grant funds and completed the match acres. About \$150,000 will remain in grant funds and 30 acres will remain to be acquired for match. Land values have dropped significantly since appropriation, which is why the grant funds will not be fully expended.

Amendment Request as of February 1, 2016: The Minnesota Valley Trust seeks an amendment to extend this appropriation and Work Program to June 30, 2017. We request this amendment (1) because of the legal complications with the Louisville Swamp Unit acquisition due to the recent death of the fee title holder.

Amendment Approved: 5/25/16

Activity Status as of August 1, 2016: The Minnesota Valley Trust completed the fee title acquisition of the two parcels that were in process in our last report (February 1, 2016) -- 23.6 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Refuge's Louisville Swamp Unit. We have acquired 121.36 acres, exceeding the grant acres by 21.36, but not yet achieving the leverage acres of 50. We have spent \$246,800 of the \$400,000 grant, leaving a balance of \$153,200 available to spend on additional projects. Landowner outreach continues and additional parcels are under review.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2017: The Minnesota Valley Trust is in negotiations with a landowner for an 11.78 acre addition to the Rapids Lake Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This acquisition will complete the grant. An amendment is needed to add this parcel to the parcel list.

Final Report: The Minnesota Valley Trust's goal with this \$400,000 ENRTF grant was to acquire 100 priority acres to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Minnesota Valley Trust exceeded the acreage goal by acquiring in fee title 121.36 acres, while spending only \$246,800 of the grant.

Specifically, the ENRTF grant acquired 23.6 acres for the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge).

Another 4.5 acre parcel was acquired by the Minnesota Valley Trust with leveraged, non-state funds for the San Francisco Unit of the Refuge. While we had other non-state funds available to spend as leverage, we did not have the opportunity to close on other acquisitions during the grant timeframe.

Acquisition of the Bloomington Ferry Unit parcel was a high priority for the completion and management of that unit of the Refuge. The parcel acquired contains floodplain forest habitat and frontage on the Minnesota River.

Acquisition of the Louisville Swamp Unit parcel was a high priority for the completion and management of that unit of the Refuge. This protects floodplain forest habitat and gains full management of a large wetland bordered by USFWS and the seller’s property.

Many species of wildlife will benefit by Refuge management of these parcels, including wood ducks, mallards, bald eagles, grassland nesting birds as well as numerous resident game species such as turkeys and deer. Both properties will provide opportunities for the public to participate in wildlife dependent outdoor activities. The land will also serve as an outdoor classroom for environmental education activities for schools and environmental organizations.

In addition, public ownership of these properties will ensure long-term access for the State Trail, which ran through the Louisville Swamp Unit under a lease agreement between the DNR and the former landowner and (2) needs to cross the Bloomington Ferry Unit property. We have finalized a new no-cost lease agreement with DNR for operation of the State Trail on the Louisville Swamp Unit property. The USFWS intends to allow the DNR to complete and manage the State Trail on the Bloomington Ferry Unit property.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: As projects are completed, the Minnesota Valley Trust will announce the accomplishments through press releases and the Trust website.

Status as of February 1, 2014: NA

Status as of August 1, 2014: NA

Status as of February 1, 2015: NA

Status as of August 1, 2015: NA

Status as of February 1, 2016: NA

Status as of August 1, 2016: NA

Status as of February 1, 2017: NA

Final Report Summary: The MN Valley Trust’s website (mnvalleytrust.org) has been updated with an announcement of these acquisitions. A news release was sent to local newspapers, including the *Jordan Independent* and *Bloomington Sun Current*.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:			
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 400,000	\$ 246,800	
	\$ 400,000	\$ 246,800	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: NA

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: NA

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
MN Valley Trust funds	\$ 200,000	\$ 10,458	Fee Title Acquisition of 4.5 acres to expand the San Francisco Unit of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 200,000	\$ 10,458	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS), all Metro Conservation Corridors Partners, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, local communities

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project is part of a long-term strategy to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge by up to 10,000 acres and restore and enhance the Refuge’s forest, wetland and prairie habitat for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation. The expansion and restoration strategy was developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Refuge, completed September 2004 after a thorough public input process. The CCP was updated by the USFWS in 2011.

This project will further acquisition work completed previously by the Minnesota Valley Trust with support from the ENRTF. The benefits of the project include the following:

- Connect the river, floodplain forest and prairie habitat in the Minnesota River bottoms, benefiting many species of wildlife. It will increase the breeding and migratory habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, neotropical migrants and other species, including non-migratory resident species.
- Improve water quality of the Minnesota River by retiring cropland and restoring lands to the natural habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie.
- Expand the public’s access to and enjoyment of public lands in and near the Twin Cities metropolitan area for wildlife-dependent recreational activities of birding, photography, hiking, interpretation, hunting and fishing.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13
ENRTF (MeCC)	\$ 230,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 600,000
Non-state, private funds	\$ 428,000	\$ 376,473	\$ 197,019	\$ 151,155	\$ 324,146	\$ 500,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: Attached

IX. MAP(S): Attached

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: NA

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1 2014, August 1 2014, February 1 2015, August 1 2015, February 1 2016, August 1 2016 and February 1 2017. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2017 as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
Project Title: <i>Priority Expansion of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge, MeCC VII</i>					
Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd.04d3.3					
Project Manager: <i>Deborah Loon</i>					
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 400,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: <i>June 30, 2017</i>					
Date of Update: <i>August 15, 2017 - FINAL</i>					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Fee Title Acquisition</i>				
Fee Title Acquisition <i>Fee title acquisition of 100 acres to expand the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Land acquired will be donated to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.</i>	400,000	246,800	153,200	400,000	153,200
COLUMN TOTAL	\$400,000	\$246,800	\$153,200	\$400,000	\$153,200

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2013 Acquisition/Restoration List

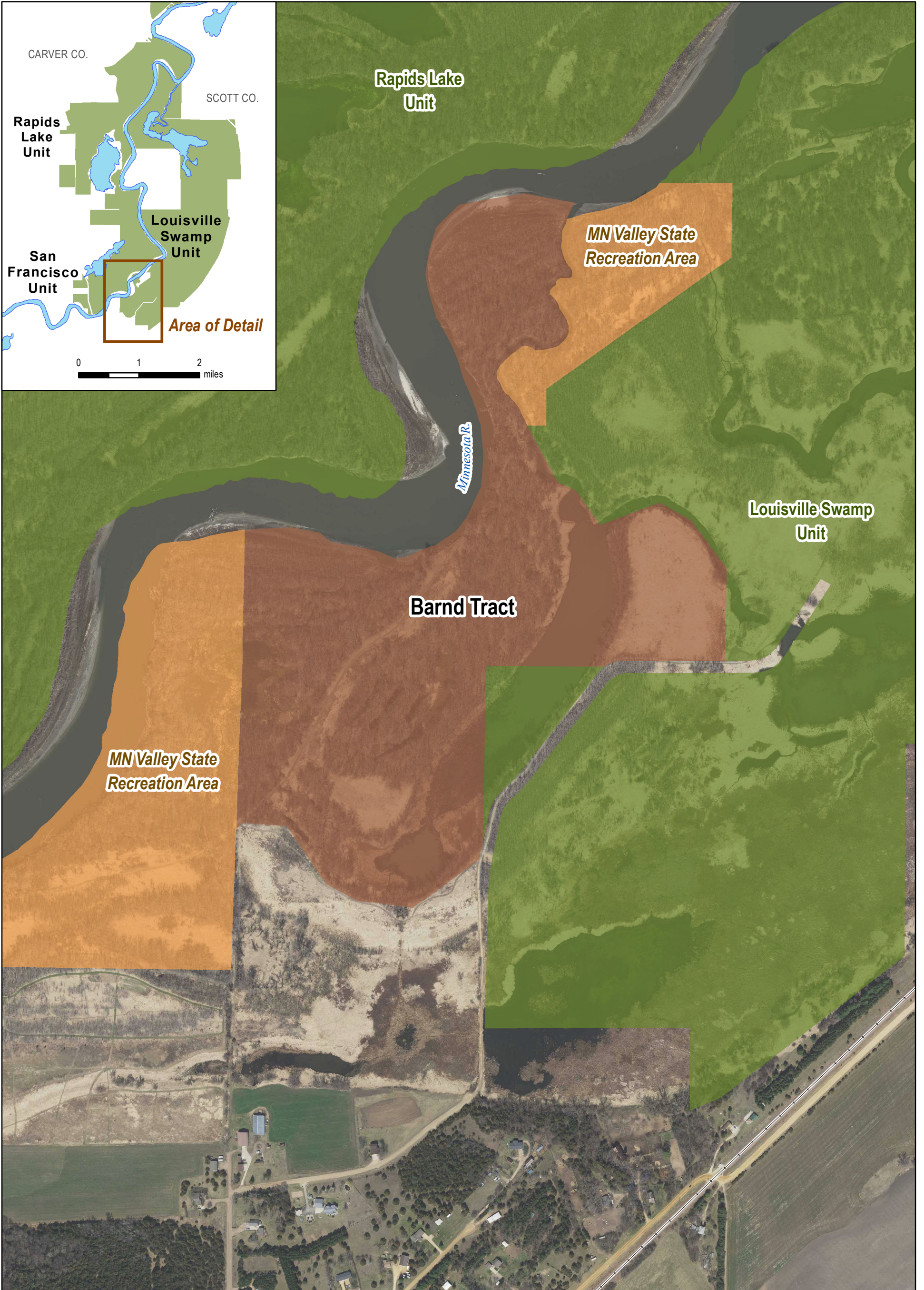
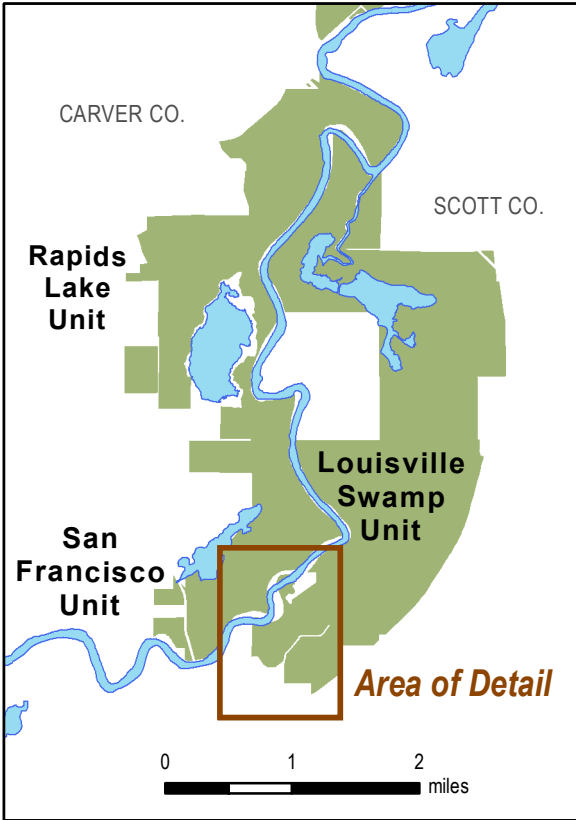
Project Title: Priority Expansion of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, MeCC VII (4d3.3)

Project Manager Name: Deborah Loon, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$400,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Blakely Unit Expansion, MVNWR	44°34'40"N	93°52'29"W	\$ 400,000	\$0	Scott	Floodplain forest, wetland and prairie	Fee Title Acquisition	100	TBD	private / trust	See note 2	Not acquired with this grant
9	Bloomington Ferry Unit of MVNWR (Ikes)	44°47'24"N	93°22'09"W	\$ 70,800	\$0	Hennepin	Floodplain Forest	Fee title acquisition	23.6	0.21	private / trust	See note 2	Acquisition completed
10	Louisville Swamp Unit of MVNWR (Barnd)	44°41'38"N	93°37'48"W	\$ 176,000	\$0	Scott	Floodplain Forest	Fee title acquisition	97.65	0.70	private / trust	See note 2	Acquisition completed
	Rapids Lake Unit (Lenzen)	44°44'34"N	93°39'6"W	\$ 440,000	\$0	Carver	Upland/prairie, forest	Fee Title Acquisition	11.78	0.00	private / trust	See note 2	Not acquired with this grant
2	Jessenland Unit Expansion, MVNWR	44°34'28"N	93°54'20"W	\$ 400,000	\$0	Sibley	Floodplain forest, wetland and prairie	Fee Title Acquisition	100	TBD	private / trust	See note 2	Not acquired with this grant
3	St. Lawrence Unit Expansion, MVNWR	44°39'01"N	93°42'13"W	\$ 400,000	\$0	Scott	Wetland and prairie	Fee Title Acquisition	100	0	private / trust	See note 2	Not acquired with this grant

NOTES: (1) Parcel search areas are within the Refuge expansion units, as delineated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through a planning process that combined data review, on the ground site review and public input. Most lands are within the Minnesota River floodplain, have river frontage or are contingent to parcels with river frontage, and contain floodplain forest, wetland and prairie, providing significant habitat for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation for the public. (2) The Initial fee title holder will be Minnesota Valley Lands, Inc. (subsidiary of Minnesota Valley Trust), while habitat restoration and enhancement is conducted. Eventual fee title holder will be Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge of the USFWS.



■ MN Valley NWR
 ■ MN Valley Trust
 ■ MN DNR

