

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Laws of Minnesota 2012 Accomplishment Plan



Date: February 03, 2017

Program or Project Title: Metro Big Rivers Habitat Phase III

Funds Recommended: \$ 3,680,000

Manager's Name: Deborah Loon

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Legislative Citation: ML 2012, Ch. 264, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(b)

**Appropriation Language:** \$3,680,000 in the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire interests in land in fee or permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural systems associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$1,000,000 to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$375,000 to the Friends of the Mississippi; \$375,000 to Great River Greening; \$930,000 to The Minnesota Land Trust; and \$1,000,000 to The Trust for Public Land. A list of proposed acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan. The accomplishment plan must include an easement stewardship plan. Up to \$51,000 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund and a description of annual monitoring and enforcement activities.

**County Locations:** Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, and Wright.

**Regions in which work will take place:**

- Metro / Urban

**Activity types:**

- Enhance
- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee
- Restore

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Forest
- Habitat
- Prairie
- Wetlands

**Abstract:**

Metro Big Rivers Phase 3 will protect 455 acres, restore 8 acres and enhance 311 acres of priority habitat within the big rivers corridors in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area.

**Design and scope of work:**

In this third program phase, Metro Big Rivers will permanently protect 455 acres, restore 8 acres and enhance 290 acres of high quality wildlife habitat and fisheries in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Section with Outdoor Heritage Funds. Using other leveraged funds, the

partners will protect at least 60 additional acres, for a total of 515 acres protected in the three river corridors in the Metro Urbanizing Section.

Metro Big Rivers will meet two LSOHC priorities for the Metro Urbanizing Section:

Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix rivers

Protect, enhance and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity.

The partners of Metro Big Rivers program are five established and experienced conservation organizations – Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, Minnesota Land Trust, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., and the Trust for Public Land. Each of these organizations has a solid track record completing the type of work proposed, both independently and collaboratively. Their proposed work is described below.

Priorities are set by the partners to meet the plans discussed in the next section of this proposal and in collaboration with the governmental agencies that will be the final stewards, where applicable. Partner-specific prioritization is included in the following project descriptions.

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) will restore 8 acres of prairie and enhance 28 acres of existing prairie, 10 acres of wet meadow and 121 acres of forest on four sites in Dakota and Washington Counties.

FMR will conduct restoration and enhancement activities at one site in Washington County and three sites within Dakota County. All of these sites were identified as being ecologically important by separate and independent science-based planning processes that also included public input. As a result, each of the proposed sites not only contains important habitat and other ecological values, they also benefit from the support of local communities. The site in Washington County is located on an ancient river terrace in Cottage Grove. The sites in Dakota County include the Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area, The Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, and the Hastings SNA. All of the sites in Dakota County are connected to other important natural areas, build on existing restoration projects, and are within the Metro Conservation Corridors. The Cottage Grove site was identified as an important site by the City of Cottage Grove and during the development of the Washington County Conservation Plan. It provides important habitat in the Mississippi River corridor.

Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area - Freitag Tract. This state-owned Wildlife Management Area and Aquatic Management area was identified in the City of Hastings Greenway Plan, the Mississippi River Greenway Plan, the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Plan, Metro Conservation Corridors and by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as ecologically significant and as a priority to protect. Gores Pool WMA is a 6,449-ac complex of floodplain forest, marshland and backwater along the Mississippi River and Vermillion River Bottoms. Most of the area is designated as outstanding biodiversity significance and constitutes one of the largest expanses of floodplain native plant communities in southeast Minnesota. It is also one of the top four sites in the state for rare forest birds. The Freitag Tract was purchased in 2008 by the DNR in partnership with Dakota County and the City of Hastings. There was no known opposition when the property was purchased.

Since this time, FMR completed a Natural Resource Management Plan and has begun working with the DNR's Area Wildlife Manager on habitat restoration and enhancement activities on 70 acres of this 300-acre site. Dakota County, the City of Hastings and the DNR are aware of FMR's ongoing restoration and enhancement activities at the site. FMR is proposing to continue the important restoration and enhance activities at this site by conducting enhancement activities on 10 acres of wet meadow and 35 acres of forest. This site is within .5 mile of the enhancement project at the Hastings SNA.

Hastings Sand Coulee SNA. In 2011, 185 acres were added to this SNA unit. There was no known opposition to the acquisition of these acres to the SNA. The City of Hastings and Dakota County supported these acquisitions and support the ongoing restoration efforts at the site. This proposal was developed and submitted with support of the DNR-SNA staff. FMR also completed a Natural Resource Management Plan for this new area in 2011. This SNA is within a Metro Conservation Corridor and identified as significant by the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program and the County Biological Survey. In addition to containing an intermittent stream that flows to the Vermillion River, this site contains rare dry prairie and associated oak woodland. Fourteen rare species have been documented at this SNA. The enhancement and restoration activities proposed would improve and add to the habitat that exists there. FMR is proposing to restore 8 acres of prairie, enhance the existing 24 acres of prairie by removing woody species and conducting prescribed burns and enhance the existing 41 acres of oak woodland by controlling exotic invasive species and conducting prescribed burns. These proposed activities will provide additional high quality habitat for both the rare species at the site as well as plant and animals species that are members of this natural community.

This site-specific project is part of a larger habitat protection and improvement effort in the vicinity. It is approximately 1 mile away from

both the Hastings SNA and the Old Mill Park site. There is also restoration and enhancement activities taking place within the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, less than 1 mile south of the site in this proposal.

Hastings Scientific and Natural Area. This 69-acre SNA, designated in the 1970s, is situated along the Mississippi –Vermillion River floodplain and bluffs in Hastings. It contains wetland, maple-basswood forest and floodplain forest. It is within a Metro Conservation Corridor and the Mississippi River Greenway and identified as ecologically significant by the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program and the County Biological Survey. This proposal was developed and submitted with support of the DNR-SNA staff. FMR developed a Natural Resource Management Plan for this SNA in 2011. FMR is proposing to conduct exotic invasive plant control on 19 acres of forest at this SNA. These activities will improve the habitat for the both rare species and all the plant and animal members of these forest communities.

This site-specific project is part of a larger habitat protection and improvement effort in the vicinity. It is 1 mile away from the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, within .5 miles from the Gores Pool Wildlife Management area and about .25 miles from the Old Mill Park site.

Camel's Hump – Cottage Grove. This 34-acre site sits on a high ancient river terrace of sandstone and limestone within the city. In 1998, a Natural Resources Inventory was completed for the city. The document describes this site: "The average quality of the natural communities is high, as is the diversity of different types of communities. For these reasons, the natural community integrity ...is high". In addition, this site was identified and highlighted during the Washington County Conservation Plan process, completed in 2010. The site is owned by the City of Cottage Grove and permanently protected by conservation easement that is held by the Minnesota Land Trust. The natural communities located on this site include oak forest, bedrock bluff prairie and lowland hardwood forest.

FMR will complete a Natural Resource Management Plan for the site. Both the City of Cottage Grove and the Minnesota Land Trust are aware that this plan is being developed. This plan will provide the specific restoration and enhancement activities that will be employed to improve the habitat at this site. However, it is known that the prairie is being encroached upon by woody plants and exotic invasive plant species have become established in the forest. Preliminarily, FMR is planning to conduct woody plant removal and a prescribed burn on approximately 4-acres of prairie and exotic plant control on approximately 26 acres of forest. While ecologically important, this project is currently not adjacent to other habitat protection or restoration sites.

Great River Greening (GRG) will work at Springbrook Nature Center and Fish Creek Open Space to enhance 152 acres of native prairie, oak savanna, oak woodland, and oak forest habitat at two sites.

Springbrook Nature Center is a 127-acre parcel containing native, undisturbed prairie, oak savanna, oak woodland and wetlands. Located less than a mile from the Mississippi River along a woodland corridor, Springbrook is a major stopping point for migrating birds in the Mississippi flyway. It was one of Minnesota Audubon Society's first eight designated Important Bird Areas, and is a Breeding Bird Atlas primary survey block. In addition to birds, Springbrook is home to western hog-nosed snakes, bull snakes, and Blanding's turtles (state SGCN species). The land was purchased by the City of Fridley in the early 1970's with LAWCON funds and must be kept as natural land in perpetuity. Approximately 200,000 visitors use the site annually.

Native prairie and oak savanna habitats are among the most critically imperiled ecological systems in Minnesota. In addition, their extent in the Metropolitan Area is considerably reduced relative to historic time. Springbrook is a key remnant located along the Mississippi River Corridor in the northern Twin Cities. Encroachment by exotic and woody species and loss of natural fire regimes are having a significant impact on the habitats at Springbrook Nature Center.

In collaboration with the City of Fridley, GRG will enhance 77 acres of native prairie, oak savanna and oak woodland habitat at Springbrook using invasive woody and exotic species management and prescribed fire. GRG will design and begin implementation of a robust prescribed fire program across the majority of the site; this will continue as a regular component of the site's management going forward. The partners will engage and expand the existing volunteer base to assist in carrying out facets of these activities. In addition, the nature center will use this opportunity to educate local citizens (including city officials) about habitat enhancement activities.

Fish Creek Open Space is a 175-acre open space, with another 70 acres being acquired; the site includes 80 acres of river bluffland along the Mississippi River with steep slopes and dramatic vistas, and over 125 acres of nearly contiguous oak communities. The site is the heart of the Fish Creek Natural Area Greenway, which includes an additional 150 acres of protected land.

Once the 70 acre addition is in public ownership, GRG in collaboration with Ramsey County and City of Maplewood will enhance 75 acres of oak woodland and savanna communities by removing buckthorn and other invasive species, prescribed burning, and planting

oak saplings/acorns.

All enhancement actions will occur on public land. Significant city, county and federal/state LAWCON funding (and those from others sources) has been spent in acquiring these properties and providing for habitat enhancement activities for the benefit of the state's wildlife resources. GRG is working to ensure that the public's investment in this important land is maintained indefinitely. Accomplishing this goal requires that funds are brought to bear from a variety of sources, that connections to local communities are built and maintained, and that resources are used effectively and efficiently. Initiating a robust restoration and enhancement plan at this point (when challenges are relatively small) will reduce the long-term cost of ongoing management, and lay the stage for effective, cost-efficient ongoing management of the site.

Project partners have committed to maintaining the investment put forward through OHF funds. In addition, Great River Greening will work with City of Fridley, Springbrook Nature Center, Springbrook Nature Center Foundation, City of Maplewood, Ramsey County Parks and other partners to further elevate the restoration and enhancement of the site's natural resources, and will work to ensure this investment is maintained and added upon.

GRG also will enhance 16 acres of forest through removal of invasive species and enhance 6 acres of native prairie through removal of woody encroachment and control of reed canary grass in a wet prairie area at the Katherine Abbott Park in Washington County.

When prioritizing projects for restoration and enhancement action, GRG considers the following criteria:

Presence of MCBS quality ecological system(s) and/or concentration of SGCN/T&E species (weighted heavily) – indicators of the long-term viability of species/systems (habitat condition, size and landscape context) and conservation efficiency.

Size of habitat block or managed area – one indicator of long-term viability.

Occurrence within DNR mapped habitat corridors – an indicator of potential for restoring/conserving important habitat connectivity between protected areas.

Public lands or private lands with long-term easements – a predictor of conservation success and security of investment.

Multiple conservation benefits to both game and non-game species and other natural resources – an indicator of conservation efficiency.

Immediacy of need/action as determined by Minnesota County Biological Survey and other sources – an indicator of conservation urgency.

Ability to effectively manage lands over the long term through established means – an indicator of conservation capability of potential partner.

Likelihood of long-term success

Cost and feasibility

Long-term benefit to wildlife.

The Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) will acquire 2-3 perpetual conservation easements on at least 250 acres of high priority habitat in the Crow River and St. Croix River corridors.

The Twin Cities Metropolitan Urbanizing Area is bracketed by two important habitat corridors: the Crow River, a tributary of the Mississippi River, on the west side and the St. Croix River on the east. These river corridors provide important habitat for migratory birds and waterfowl. The rivers themselves provide nesting, spawning, and other habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial animals. Both are popular for fishing, canoeing and boating.

But in the past two decades, these high quality river corridors have been under heavy threat of development and fragmentation. With this grant, the Minnesota Land Trust will expand its efforts to protect riparian habitat and critical linkages between important areas of core habitat. These linkages contain a mosaic of Big Woods, wetland, and grassland habitats.

Activities under this grant include:

Contact and negotiate with interested landowners

Draft and complete 2-3 perpetual conservation easements protecting a minimum of 175 acres of land

Document property conditions and requiring habitat management plans as appropriate

Dedicate funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements.

This project will build on MLT's experience and more than 20 permanent conservation easements already in place within these two corridors. It also builds on the significant public investment in habitat protection in these areas, which includes several WMAs, State Parks, and several county parks.

MLT works only with conservation easements that are perpetual. The easements will prohibit land uses and development that

negatively affect important habitat and other conservation values. The easements also will require habitat management plans as appropriate, and direct the use of native vegetation in any required restoration. The easements are monitored annually and enforced as necessary under MLT's comprehensive conservation easement stewardship program funded in part through our Stewardship and Enforcement Fund.

The Land Trust will prioritize existing and future potential parcels for protection using the following criteria, in this order of importance:

Habitat: quality and quantity of existing habitat on site

Context: proximity and relationship to other protected lands

Opportunity: determine which landowners will participate now

Other Benefits: meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, water quality, etc.

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) will protect through fee title acquisition 200 acres of high priority lands along the Minnesota River to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Trust will acquire 40 additional acres with other non-state funds, for a combined total of 240 acres.

The Refuge expansion units have been prioritized by the USFWS in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District. Priorities were identified through a science-based, public planning process as having strong potential to provide high quality habitat for wildlife and opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation.

All prioritized lands are along the Minnesota River and include river frontage, floodplain and cropland. Following acquisition, the Trust and USFWS will develop a restoration and management plan, then restore and enhance the floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie. Cropland will be retired and drain tile broken.

This project's fee acquisition and subsequent habitat restoration and enhancement will reduce fragmentation, combat habitat loss, protect native plant and animal species, improve water quality of the Minnesota River and increase public access for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting and fishing.

This project will provide quality habitat for migrant and resident wildlife species, protect the diversity of native ecosystems, and continue to improve ecosystem connectivity and resilience. It will increase breeding and migratory habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, Neotropical migrants, and other species including non-migratory resident species. This project also will improve water quality by retiring and restoring croplands in the Minnesota River Valley to the natural habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie. And it will expand the public's access to lands in and near the Twin Cities for wildlife-dependent recreational activities, such as birding, photography, hiking, interpretation, hunting and fishing.

The lands acquired will be conveyed to the USFWS for perpetual management for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation as part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Outdoor recreation will be managed in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will protect using fee title acquisition 80 acres of floodplain forest, wetland, oak savanna, and prairie habitat along the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers and key tributaries. TPL will protect another 20 acres with leveraged dollars, for total protection of 100 acres of high quality habitat.

Six prospective projects are described below. All have high quality habitat along the three Big River Corridors that TPL's public partners have identified as high priority and immediate opportunities to protect. The state conservation plans and priorities are referenced in parentheses.

TPL will achieve the acreage targets from among these projects and will not complete all of them with the grant. Projects will be prioritized based on completed due diligence, landowner objectives and needs, timing of leverage funds and other issues that may affect how quickly a project area can move to closure.

In the Minnesota River Corridor:

Protect 98 acres at Savage Fen Natural Area along the Minnesota River, adjacent to existing protected land and including wetland and associated upland forest ("Key habitats" identified in the Big Woods subsection of the SWAP). Likely permanent land steward is Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Protect up to 1000 acres to expand the Upgrala Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This tract contains wetland, floodplain forest, over one mile of Minnesota River shoreline, two shallow lakes and a small stream. The high quality wetlands provide excellent waterfowl habitat and outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities in the heart of the metropolitan area. This parcel will be

acquired in collaboration with the Minnesota Valley Trust and US Fish and Wildlife Service (Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District.) Permanent land steward will be USFWS.

#### In the Mississippi River Corridor:

Protect approximately 335 acres with over a mile of Mississippi River shoreline at the confluences with the Elk River. The land, which is adjacent to several SNA islands, provides habitat for a variety of species and the shoreline protects and affords access to an excellent smallmouth bass fishery. The land will be conveyed to the City of Elk River for permanent stewardship and management similar to a WMA (like Anoka County has done with several OHF funded parcels). The USFWS has committed restoration funding to this acquisition, which is included in Metro Big Rivers Phase 2 / ML 2011 budget. Protect up to 170 acres of shoreland, forest and wetland habitat on the Wild and Scenic Rum River just a few miles upstream of the Mississippi River (a "key river reach" identified in the Anoka Sand Plain subsection of the SWAP). Likely permanent land steward is the City of Ramsey.

#### In the St. Croix River Corridor:

Protect up to 200 acres of forest in the Franconia/ Scandia St. Croix River corridor, complementing existing protected lands along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway ("key river reach" identified in the Mille Lacs Upland subsection). Likely permanent land steward is Minnesota Department of Natural Resources or Washington County.

Protect up to 1000 acres of forest and associated wetlands / prairie at Big Marine Lake in the St. Croix Greenway (in the St. Paul - Baldwin Plains and Moraines). Likely permanent land steward is Minnesota Department of Natural Resources or Washington County.

In the case of lands acquired by the Minnesota Valley Trust or Trust for Public Land for the federal government, the opening of lands to hunting and fishing will be according to the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, as specifically allowed by Minnesota Law. For lands acquired by TPL for the state or a local unit of government, lands will be open to hunting and fishing, and any needed limitations, will be according to state law and regulations.

Program managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

With the amendment to this plan dated June 23, 2014, TPL intends to spend some of these grant funds for the fee title acquisition of property along the Mississippi River at the confluence with the Elk River, concurrently with completion of its Phase 2 grant (see parcel list).

#### Planning

The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan identifies habitat loss and degradation as critical problems statewide. The State Wildlife Action Plan notes these problems in the specific ecological subsections here: Big Woods, Anoka Sand Plain, Mille Lacs Uplands, St. Paul - Baldwin Plains and Moraines, and Oak Savanna.

In identifying and selecting projects for this Outdoor Heritage Fund proposal, the Metro Big Rivers Habitat partnership utilizes a science-based approach and applies the following key habitat priorities of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan:

Protect priority habitat

Protect critical shorelands

Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation

Restore land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds

Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams

Keep water on the landscape.

Specific to "improving connectivity and access to outdoor recreation," Metro Big Rivers works to improve and expand new hunting, fishing and other wildlife-based recreational opportunities close to home for the 3,000,000 Minnesotans who live in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. These opportunities will help to build a new generation of Minnesotans who love to hunt, fish, bird-watch, or study wildlife.

Metro Big Rivers also implements specific habitat priorities in the State Wildlife Action Plan (Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife,) supports several species occurrences documented in the DNR's Minnesota County Biological Survey Heritage Database, and implements recommendations from various species-specific plans (e.g., Long Term Duck Recovery Plan).

Metro Big Rivers projects also are supported and often identified in location-specific plans, including the following:

Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Protection Plan, Mississippi River Greenway Strategic Plan & Northern Dakota County Greenway Plan.

Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District.

Scott County Land Protection Plan and St. Croix River Association Land Protection Plan.

St. Croix River Watershed Conservation Priorities Report and Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program Conservation Priorities Plan.

## Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this program:

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- H6 Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams
- H7 Keep water on the landscape

## Which other plans are addressed in this program:

- Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Protection, Mississippi River Greenway Strategic Plan, Northern Dakota County Greenway Plan, Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge & Wetland Management District, Scott County Land Protection Plan and St. Croix River Association Land Protection Plan, St. Croix River Watershed Conservation Priorities Report and Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program Conservation Priorities Plan.

## Which LSOHC state-wide priorities are addressed in this program:

- Not Listed

## Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program:

### Metro / Urban:

- Not Listed

## Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund

## Describe the relationship of the funds:

The projects to be completed in Metro Big Rivers Habitat Phase 3 accelerate habitat work in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. This program does not supplant any other sources of funds.

All Metro Big Rivers partners also are partners in the Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC), which has been receiving grants from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) since 2005.

The Minnesota Valley Trust's leverage will come from other, non-state funding sources, potentially including private, nonprofit funds and federal funds. The Trust for Public Land's projects may require other state funding sources to successfully complete the fee title acquisition priority projects identified herein. The other funding sources may include ENRTF / LCCMR as part of the MECC program; LCCMR or bonding appropriated to DNR's SNA, AMA/WMA programs; RIM; funding from the clean water fund and parks / trails fund; local and metropolitan natural areas funding, as appropriate; and, private funds.

## How does this program accelerate or supplement your current efforts in this area:

The OHF grant funds will be used exclusively to complete -- and are necessary for -- the proposed project activities, thereby accelerating the protection, restoration and enhancement of high priority habitat in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The grant funds are in addition to the organizational operating budget of each partner and other funds secured for habitat work. These grant funds will not substitute for or supplant other funding sources.

## How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

From its inception in 1998, Friends of the Mississippi River's Land Conservation Program has focused its efforts in Dakota and Washington County. This focus is not anticipated to change. FMR is committed to restoring and enhancing the sites presented in this proposal, then continuing to manage, improve and expand them into the future, as well. These sites play an important role in FMR's effort to improve the Mississippi River ecosystem in the Twin Cities area.

FMR will work with the landowner -- DNR or a local unit of government -- to ensure that the following post-grant activities take place.

**Site monitoring** – Monitoring every 1-2 years will include plant and animal surveys, specifically evaluating the treatments implemented during the grant period.

**Enhancement and Management** -- Based on the information obtained during these monitoring visits, agency or FMR staff will initiate actions to address emerging threats or to continue longer treatment regimes. Specific future activities will necessarily be dictated by data obtained from the monitoring protocol.

Before restoration or enhancement activities are initiated under this grant, FMR will ensure that a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) is in place for each site. FMR's NRMPs contain information on historical and current conditions of the site, plant survey lists, problems/issues, goals, recommendations, timelines and costs. By the beginning of 2012, NRMPs will have been developed for four of the sites. The initial activity for the Vermillion River Parks project under this grant will be to develop a NRMP.

### Great River Greening

is committed to working with Springbrook Nature Center and Ramsey County on an on-going basis to identify and procure financial resources for maintaining these improvements as needed, bring volunteers to bear, and otherwise assist in reducing the financial and capacity burden in the face of fiscal constraints. A natural resource management plan will be developed for the sites to guide effective long-term management. Springbrook, the City of Fridley, and Ramsey County are committed to the long-term maintenance of these habitat improvements in line with prescribed actions.

Springbrook and Ramsey County staff will monitor the site and take any necessary actions to sustain the habitat improvements as part of their public land management responsibilities. Maintenance work will be carried out by existing staff, CCM crews, volunteers, temporary project staffing or through vendor contracting. Periodic enhancements (beyond routine management) will be funded through annual funding requests from a variety of funding sources, including bonding, gifts, federal and other sources.

The land protected by the Minnesota Land Trust through conservation easements will be sustained through the best standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. The Minnesota Land Trust is a nationally-accredited land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget.

Lands acquired by the Minnesota Valley Trust for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be maintained by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Initial restoration and enhancement activities will be completed by MVT prior to transferring ownership of the property to the USFWS.

The Trust for Public Land will work with experienced local, state and federal land programs, citizen groups and private landowners to ensure that the acquired lands are able to be restored and stewarded for habitat and the public use. Each protected area will have a restoration and management plan including source and use of funds for these stewardship activities over time. With a strong record of leveraging funds to protect, restore and enhance wildlife habitat in the metro area, TPL is committed to working with the long term land stewards to secure the resources need to maintain these lands in the long term.

## Activity Details:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **Not Listed**

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition - **Not Listed**

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection - **Not Listed**

Is this land open for hunting and fishing - **Not Listed**

Will the eased land be open for public use - **Not Listed**

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection - **Not Listed**

Is the activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, subd 13(f) and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 - Yes

## Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Friends of the Mississippi River: Wet meadow treated to control exotic invasive plants at Gores Pool WMA - Exotic invasive plant control prescribed burns at Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Hastings SNA, Gores Pool WMA and Camels Hump. Enhance prairie and forest, Restore prairie	December 2014 - June 2017
Great River Greening: Woody invasive plant control at Fish Creek and Springbrook - Prescribed fire at Fish Creek and Springbrook. Enhance forest and prairie	June 2013 - June 2017
Minnesota Land Trust: Acquire conservation easements - Dedicate funds for easement. Protect 250 acres by completing 3-5 conservation easements	June 2015
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.: Identify willing landowner, appraisal, landowner negotiations, title work, closing. Protect through fee title acquisition	June 2016
Trust For Public Land: Identify willing landowner, appraisal, landowner negotiations, title work, closing. Protect through fee title acquisition	October 2013 - June 2016

Date of Final Report Submission: 8/1/2017

## Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **Not Listed**

## Outcomes:

### Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Short-Term/Intermediate Outcomes: Permanent protection and habitat restoration and enhancement outputs are achieved across priority public lands, improving ecological health of the habitat and conditions for native game and non-game species. Areas where habitat restoration and enhancement work has occurred are occupied by key indicator species linked to ecosystem health. Additional public lands are opened for wildlife-dependent and appropriate levels of public outdoor recreation. Long-Term Outcomes: Habitats of sufficient size, quality exist and are sufficiently connected to sustain healthy populations of most game and non-game species native to the region. The number of species characterized as Species of Greatest Conservation Need has significantly decline due to population recovery. Increased outdoor recreation activities by the public, with emphasis on the growing population of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Increased satisfaction by outdoor recreationalists.

# Budget Spreadsheet

*Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan*

**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount**

Not Listed

**Total Amount of Request: \$ 3680000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$152,500	\$11,000	City of Maplewood	\$163,500
Contracts	\$616,500	\$0		\$616,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0	state (~75%), private (~25%)	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,996,500	\$450,000	Private, federal (~25%), state (~25%), local (~25%), private (~25%)	\$2,446,500
Easement Acquisition	\$800,000	\$250,000	Donated easement various	\$1,050,000
Easement Stewardship	\$51,000	\$0		\$51,000
Travel	\$5,300	\$0		\$5,300
Professional Services	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$3,500	\$0		\$3,500
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$4,200	\$0		\$4,200
Supplies/Materials	\$30,500	\$0		\$30,500
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,680,000</b>	<b>\$711,000</b>		<b>\$4,391,000</b>

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Personnel	0.76	3.00	\$58,600	\$11,000	City of Maplewood	\$69,600
FMR Personnel	0.17	3.00	\$36,400	\$0		\$36,400
Conservation Staff (MLT)	0.45	2.00	\$45,500	\$0		\$45,500
Legal Staff (MLT)	0.10	2.00	\$12,000	\$0		\$12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>\$152,500</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>		<b>\$163,500</b>

## Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	GRG	\$58,600	\$11,000	City of Maplewood	\$69,600
Contracts	GRG	\$290,500	\$0		\$290,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	GRG	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	GRG	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	GRG	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	GRG	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	GRG	\$2,200	\$0		\$2,200
Professional Services	GRG	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	GRG	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	GRG	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	GRG	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	GRG	\$4,200	\$0		\$4,200
Supplies/Materials	GRG	\$19,500	\$0		\$19,500
DNR IDP	GRG	\$0	\$0		\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$375,000</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>		<b>\$386,000</b>

## Personnel - GRG

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Personnel	0.76	3.00	\$58,600	\$11,000	City of Maplewood	\$69,600
Total	0.76	3.00	\$58,600	\$11,000		\$69,600

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	TPL	\$0	\$0	state (~75%), private (~25%)	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	TPL	\$996,500	\$250,000	federal (~25%), state (~25%), local (~25%), private (~25%)	\$1,246,500
Easement Acquisition	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	TPL	\$3,500	\$0		\$3,500
Capital Equipment	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	TPL	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$1,000,000	\$250,000		\$1,250,000

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	FMR	\$36,400	\$0		\$36,400
Contracts	FMR	\$326,000	\$0		\$326,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	FMR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	FMR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	FMR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	FMR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	FMR	\$1,600	\$0		\$1,600
Professional Services	FMR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	FMR	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	FMR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	FMR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	FMR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	FMR	\$11,000	\$0		\$11,000
DNR IDP	FMR	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$375,000	\$0		\$375,000

## Personnel - FMR

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
FMR Personnel	0.17	3.00	\$36,400	\$0		\$36,400
Total	0.17	3.00	\$36,400	\$0		\$36,400

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	MLT	\$57,500	\$0		\$57,500
Contracts	MLT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	MLT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	MLT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	MLT	\$800,000	\$250,000	Donated easement various	\$1,050,000
Easement Stewardship	MLT	\$51,000	\$0		\$51,000
Travel	MLT	\$1,500	\$0		\$1,500
Professional Services	MLT	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Direct Support Services	MLT	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	MLT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	MLT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	MLT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	MLT	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	MLT	\$0	\$0		\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$930,000</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>		<b>\$1,180,000</b>

### Personnel - MLT

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservation Staff (MLT)	0.45	2.00	\$45,500	\$0		\$45,500
Legal Staff (MLT)	0.10	2.00	\$12,000	\$0		\$12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>\$57,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$57,500</b>

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	MN VT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	MN VT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	MN VT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	MN VT	\$1,000,000	\$200,000	Private	\$1,200,000
Easement Acquisition	MN VT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	MN VT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	MN VT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	MN VT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	MN VT	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	MN VT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	MN VT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	MN VT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	MN VT	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	MN VT	\$0	\$0		\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>		<b>\$1,200,000</b>

## Output Tables

**Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	8	0	0	8
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	20	20	20	220	280
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	175	175
Enhance	10	41	260	0	311
Total	30	69	280	395	774

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

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

**Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$25,500	\$0	\$0	\$25,500
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,250,000	\$2,000,000
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$930,000	\$930,000
Enhance	\$29,000	\$90,200	\$605,300	\$0	\$724,500
Total	\$279,000	\$365,700	\$855,300	\$2,180,000	\$3,680,000

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban	Forest Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	8	0	0	0	0	8
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	280	0	0	0	0	280
Protect in Easement	175	0	0	0	0	175
Enhance	311	0	0	0	0	311
Total	774	0	0	0	0	774

**Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban	Forest Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$25,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,500
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000
Protect in Easement	\$930,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$930,000
Enhance	\$724,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$724,500
Total	\$3,680,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,680,000

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

## Parcel List

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

### Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

#### Anoka

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Springbrook Nature Center	03024203	77	\$199,000	Yes

#### Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Gores Pool WMA	11517222	45	\$117,000	Public
Hastings Sand Coulee SNA	11417202	73	\$158,100	Public
Hastings SNA	11517227	19	\$32,900	Public

#### Ramsey

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Fish Creek Open Space	02822223	75	\$152,000	Yes

#### Washington

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Camels Hump	02721207	30	\$67,000	Public
Katherine Abbott Park	03021232	22	\$24,000	Yes

### Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

#### Anoka

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MS River / Rum River Scout	03225213	170	\$1,000,000	No	Yes	Yes

#### Carver

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Oak Lake	11725211	91	\$800,000	No	No	No
Rapids Lake Unit Addition, MN	11523231	100	\$500,000	No	Yes	Yes
Rice Lake	11725202	128	\$17,000	No	No	No

#### Chisago

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
St. Croix / Franconia	03219206	200	\$1,000,000	No	Yes	Yes

#### Hennepin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Crow River	12023212	95	\$17,000	No	No	No
MN River / Upgrala	11622234	963	\$5,000,000	No	Yes	Yes

#### Scott

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Blakely Unit Addition, MN Vall	11326236	100	\$500,000	No	Yes	Yes
MN River / Blakely Bluffs	11522230	300	\$1,500,000	No	Yes	Yes
MN River / Savage Fen	11521216	98	\$700,000	No	Yes	Yes
St. Lawrence Unit Addition, MN	11424227	100	\$500,000	No	Yes	Yes

#### Sherburne

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Elk River	03226204	67	\$3,000,000	No	Full	Full
Sherburne Hardwoods	03428212	80	\$200,000	No	No	No

**Sibley**

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Jessenland Unit Addition, MN	11323213	100	\$500,000	No	Yes	Yes
Jessenland Unit Addition, MN	11323214	100	\$500,000	No	Yes	Yes

**Washington**

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
St. Croix/Big Marine Area	03120205	1,000	\$1,000,000	No	Yes	Yes
St. Croix/Big Marine Area	03120223	1,000	\$1,000,000	No	Yes	Yes

**Wright**

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Rice Lake	11825235	128	\$17,000	No	No	No

**Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs**

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

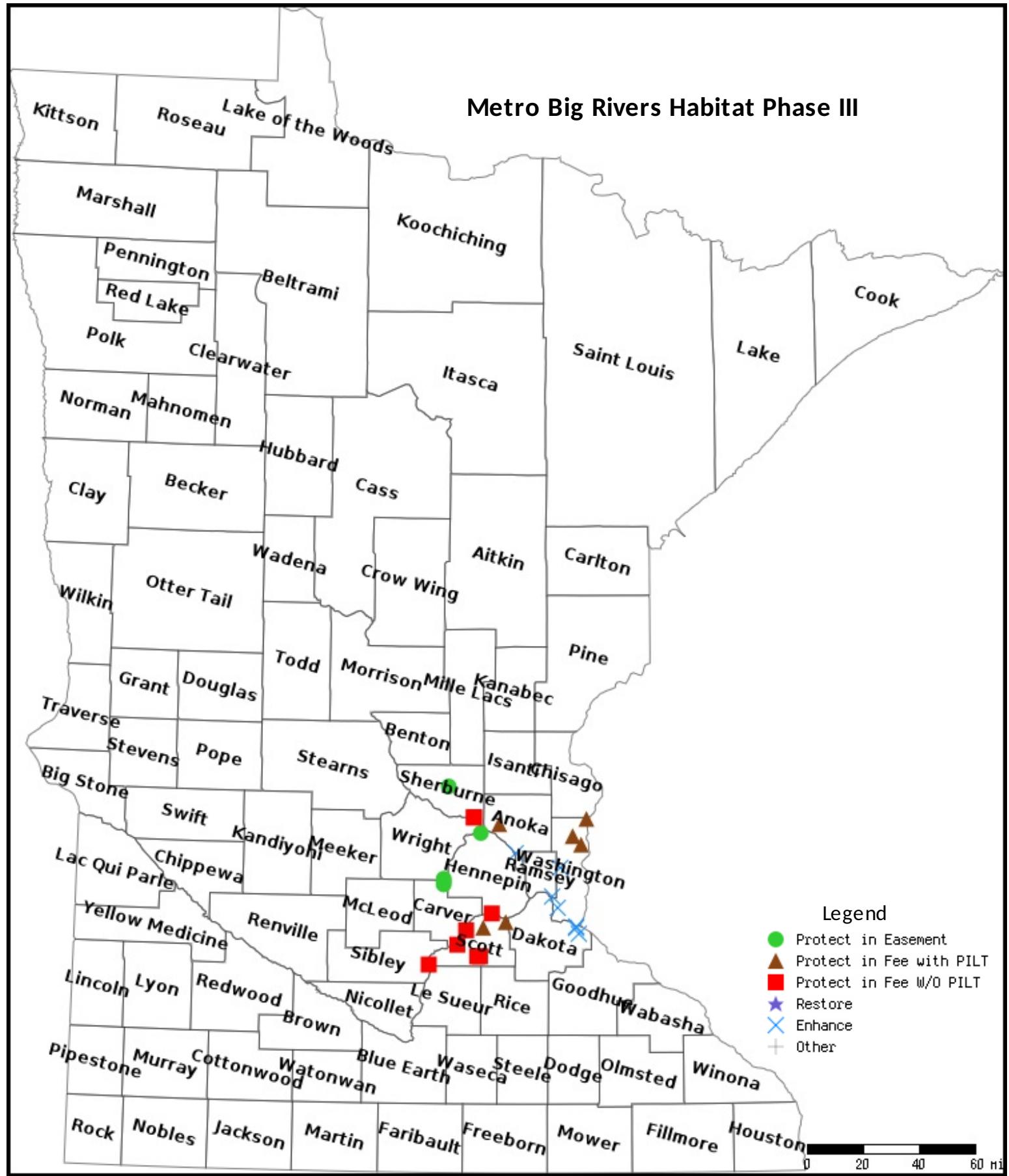
**Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity**

No parcels with an other activity type.

## Completed Parcel: Elk River

# of Total Acres:	67
County:	Sherburne
Township:	032
Range:	26
Direction:	2
Section:	04
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	17
# of Acres: Forest:	22
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	17
Amount of Shoreline:	19268 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Mississippi River and Elk River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$3,000,000
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	City of Elk River
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Michael Hecker
Annual Reporting Address:	13065 Orono Parkway
Annual Reporting City:	Elk River
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55330
Annual Reporting Email:	MHecker@ElkRiverMN.gov
Annual Reporting Phone:	763-635-1161
Purchase Date:	December 16, 2014
Purchase Price:	\$3,105,000
Appraised Value:	\$3,105,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$175,611
Assessed Value:	\$1,213,800
Total Project Cost:	\$3,105,000
Fees Received:	\$205,000
Property Managed By:	Local Unit of Government - The City of Elk River
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	City of Elk River

## Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List