

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FY 2011 Recommendation
Accomplishment Plan**

Date: 01/21/10

Project or Program Title: Rum River/Cedar Creek Conservation Area

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Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Outdoor Heritage Fund	1,900	0	0	0

Abstract

This project will acquire 275 acres of prairie, wetland, forest and shoreline habitat for fish, game and wildlife along the Rum River and Cedar Creek in the cities of Oak Grove and Andover and will provide additional opportunities for public fishing, hunting and wildlife conservation.

Narrative

Problem Addressed:

The problem this acquisition project addresses is the urgent need to protect and enhance 275 acres of land that will provide an excellent conservation area along the Rum River and Cedar Creek. The proposed acquisition parcels are currently owned by a development group planning to sell the land for residential construction. The acquisition and protection of these parcels is of utmost concern, because without immediate action, this opportunity could be permanently lost. By acquiring this land, the LOHC has an excellent opportunity to increase and enhance the biological diversity in the area, as well as create additional hunting and fishing opportunities in the region.

Action Plan:

Once funding is appropriated, Anoka County would start the acquisition process immediately. Appraisals have been conducted and negotiations are underway with the seller for the purchase of 275 acres in 2010 and the remaining 275 acres in 2011 as proposed in the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council recommendations.

Relation to LOHC Goals:

This acquisition project relates directly to the "restore, protect and enhance habitat" provisions outlined in the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Program. First, upon acquisition, the land will be protected by being under County ownership. Second, after acquisition, the County proposes to restore approximately 250 acres of the 550 acres to a prairie/grassland habitat. Restoring and enhancing the land back to a prairie/grassland habitat will help provide the necessary biological diversity needed to support game populations, such as ring-neck pheasants, ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, white tail deer, wood ducks

and mallards and furbearers. Acquired land will remain open to hunting and fishing, consistent with the capacity of the land, during the open season, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources.

Habitat Changes:

Existing non-agricultural land on the site is recognized by the MNDNR as a high quality ecologically diverse corridor along two major greenways, the Rum River and Cedar Creek. With the acquisition, this corridor would be protected and enhanced to increase the number of species and increase the ease with which they move through this corridor.

After acquisition, County proposes to restore approximately 250 acres of the 550 acres to a prairie/grassland habitat. The ecological restoration plan will include restoring the forests, wetland and prairies. Restoration work will include introducing over 30 species of native grasses, sedges, and forbs to restore the mosaic of dry, mesic and wet prairie habitats. In addition, the existing high quality fens, wet meadows, shrub swamps and oak savannas will be managed to sustain their high quality value. Restoring and enhancing the land back to its native habitat will help provide the necessary biological diversity needed to support a diverse variety of wildlife.

The acquisition of these parcels will protect 550 acres of habitat at the confluence of the Rum River and Cedar Creek. There is approximately 1-1/2 miles of shoreline along the Rum River and about 3/4 of a mile of the Cedar Creek that runs through the property. The Rum River provides angling access opportunities for some of the most sought after game fish, such as walleye, northern pike, and small mouth bass; the river provides exceptional fisheries habitat for these game fish. As future funding is available, restoration of the flood plain and riparian edges along the Rum River and Cedar Creek will enhance habitat and cover for all migratory waterfowl species, white tail deer and wild turkeys.

Schedule:

Restoration work would start as soon after acquisition as funding allows. The majority of the restoration work is anticipated to be completed within three years of acquisition. Restoration monitoring and maintenance will be provided on an on-going basis.

Strategy:

The strategy for this project will work because the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department is a governmental agency that currently manages a large natural resource based parks and open space system throughout the County. The County has the budget, equipment and staff with the expertise to manage this project and the on-going maintenance required. In addition, it has the support of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and the local communities.

Support:

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners unanimously supports this project. The Andover City Council has written a letter of support for the acquisition. The Oak Grove City Council concurs with the County's plans to proceed with funding requests for the acquisition. Strong support in favor of the project has been expressed by area residents. There are no known barriers to the success of this project.

Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans

The project area is identified in the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan as a site of high biodiversity value based on the Minnesota County Biological Survey. In addition, the project area scored high in the areas of integrated terrestrial value and integrated aquatic habitat quality.

This project is supported by the Andover Comprehensive Plan; Oak Grove Parks and Open Space Plan; Cedar Creek Conservation Corridor Strategic Plan; Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Plan; Anoka County Comprehensive Open Space Plan; Anoka Conservation District Open Space Plan.

Project Design and Evaluation

Describe the scope of the project in appropriate measures (i.e., .acreage numbers of lakes, miles of shoreline)

Project Scope	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife (Include Description in Footnote)
Restore				
Protect	<i>Protect 75 acres of wetland.</i>	<i>Protect 125 acres of restored prairie</i>	<i>Protect 75 acres of riparian and upland forests</i>	<i>Protect 1.125 miles of shoreline along Cedar Creek and Rum River</i>
Enhance				

Counties in which activities will take place	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	<i>Anoka</i>	<i>Anoka</i>	<i>Anoka</i>	<i>Anoka</i>
Enhance				

Acres Within Each Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect	<i>275</i>				
Enhance					

Funding Per Ecological Section	Metropolitan-Urbanizing Area	Forest-Prairie Transition	Southeast Forest	Prairie Region	Northern Forest
Restore					
Protect	<i>1,900,000</i>				
Enhance					

Indicate what is being funded

Funding Resource Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect	\$425,000 to protect 75 acres of wetland.	\$800,000 to protect 125 acres of restored prairie	\$425,000 to protect 75 acres of riparian and upland forests	\$250,000 to protect 1.125 miles of shoreline along Cedar Creek and Rum River
Enhance				

Acquisition and Tax Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability	75 acres for \$425,000	125 acres for \$800,000	75 acres for \$425,000	1.125 miles for \$250,000
Permanent Easement				

Budget

Please describe how you intend to spend the recommended funds

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel			
Contracts			
Equipment/Tools			
Materials/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	1,900,000		
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	1,900,000		

Relationship to Your Current Budget

Acquisition of these parcels will be provided through LOHC funding. This is new funding and does not supplant existing funding. This project is not in any current funding program or C.I.P. Continued operations and maintenance of the parcels will be supported through the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Annual Operating Budget.

Personnel - N/A

List the positions, name (if known) and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation

Position	Name	Amount

Leverage

List the sources and amounts of leverage you have in hand or anticipate by fiscal year.

SOURCE	FY 11		FY 12		FY 13	
	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated	In hand	Anticipated
State						
Non state						
In-kind/Volunteer						
County - Acquisition	\$7,500					
TOTAL	\$7,500					

Indicate how the leverage will be used

Leverage	State				Non-State			
	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife	Wetlands and Wetland Systems	Prairies and Prairie Systems	Forests and Forest Systems	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore								
Protect	\$1,625	\$3,250	\$1,625	\$1,000				
Enhance								

Accomplishment Timeline

Milestones	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Budgetary Expenditure
<i>Acquire 275 acres for protection</i>	<i>Jan. 31, 2011</i>			<i>\$1,900,000</i>

Maintenance and Sustainability

On-going operations and maintenance of the land and restoration will be sustained following the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Natural Resource Management Plan and will be supported through the annual Operations and Maintenance Budget for the Parks and Recreation Department. As a government agency, Anoka County is tax-exempt, therefore long term costs, such as property taxes will not be an issue.



