

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2010 Final Report



Date: October 15, 2019

Program or Project Title: Metro Big Rivers Habitat Program, Phase 1

Funds Recommended: \$2,397,000

Manager's Name: Deborah Loon

Title: Executive Director

Organization: Minnesota National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

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Legislative Citation: ML 2010, Ch. 361, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(a)

Appropriation Language: \$2,397,000 in fiscal year 2011 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements for projects to protect, restore, and enhance natural systems of the Minnesota River, St. Croix River, Mississippi River, and their major tributaries as follows: \$500,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. for fee title land acquisition; \$1,500,000 with the Trust for Public Land for fee title land acquisition; \$227,300 with the Friends of the Mississippi River for restoration, enhancement, and conservation easement acquisition; and \$169,700 with Great River Greening for restoration and enhancement. The accomplishment plan must include an easement stewardship plan. All restorations must comply with subdivision 9, paragraph(b).

County Locations: Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Ramsey, Scott, Sibley, and Washington.

Eco regions in which work was completed:

- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Enhance
- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie

Summary of Accomplishments:

Phase 1 of the Metro Big Rivers Habitat Program protected 194 acres of critical habitat (173 acres by fee title acquisition and 21 acres by conservation easement) and enhanced 357 acres, all in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area.

Process & Methods:

The three Big Rivers in the Metro Urbanizing Area, including their tributaries and natural resources within the watersheds, provide critical habitat that must be protected and improved for resident and migrating wildlife, both game and non-game species. In this first phase of work, the Metro Big Rivers Habitat Partnership protected 330 acres and enhanced 357 acres with the OHF grant. The partnership exceeded its original goal of enhancing 116 acres by 207%. It also protected an additional 120 acres with leveraged

funding, for a total of 451 acres protected.

The resources protected and enhanced by the Metro Big Rivers Partnership are under pressure because of population growth and the high amenity values associated with most, if not all, of these lands. All lands protected had been identified as high priorities through public planning processes by the public entities that will eventually own the properties or hold the easement, as follows: 1) MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) for the Refuge lands to be acquired; 2) Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Savage Fen expansion, and 3) Dakota County and DNR for the conservation easement acquired to expand the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA.

All lands enhanced were under public ownership. The enhancement work had been identified as a high priority by the public entities that owned the land, as follows – City of St. Paul (Parks and Recreation) for the restoration on the Mississippi bluffslands at Indian Mounds and Cherokee Bluff and MN DNR for enhancement at Savage Fen, Seminary Fen, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Falls Creek SNA and Franconia Bluffs SNA. The public has access to all of the land protected through this program for wildlife-based outdoor recreation.

In addition to accomplishing the projected outcomes, this phase provided learnings that will benefit future work, including:

* At Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Friends of the Mississippi River required buckthorn-removal contractors to use glyphosate herbicide, which has the least toxic impacts of the herbicides typically used to treat buckthorn. The buckthorn was cut and treated in late fall, while the plants were still biologically active. This is a departure from the standard practices that contractors use, as they more commonly cut buckthorn in winter and use an herbicide with an oil penetrant. While effective, that herbicide also has a long soil residual and kills surrounding vegetation. The results of the alternative treatment approach required by FMR were very good, estimated at 90% success rate, with very low amounts of re-sprouting occurring.

* Great River Greening participated in the first year of restoration evaluations conducted by the DNR for OHF grant recipients. The project evaluated was at Cherokee Park in the City of St. Paul. The evaluation went smoothly, but would have benefited by including the landowner (St. Paul Parks) in the process. Understanding why certain activities took place is but half the answer; understanding how the benefits will be maintained is equally important, and landowners are key to that discussion.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition:

Not Listed

Additional Comments:

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

Not Listed

Other Funds Received:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund

How were the funds used to advanced the program:

The Trust for Public Land's acquisition of 69 acres to expand the Savage Fen SNA for the DNR was expected to be completed with the 2010 bonding bill, alongside the OHF grant, but the governor vetoed the bonding bill. Because of the urgency to complete this acquisition, TPL and its partners decided to proceed using this OHF grant and a combination of other private and state funds, including funds from TPL donors, 2006 bonding, RIM, and TPL and DNR SNA appropriations through Metro Conservation Corridors from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

The OHF funds for all other protection and enhancement projects in this program were leveraged by other private and non-state funds.

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

Not Listed

Outcomes:

The original accomplishment plan stated the program would

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Not Listed

How will the outcomes be measured and evaluated?

Not Listed

Budget Spreadsheet

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

Total Amount: \$2,397,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$43,600	\$30,900	\$0	\$0		\$43,600	\$30,900
Contracts	\$135,400	\$149,200	\$0	\$0		\$135,400	\$149,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,498,000	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,990,000		\$1,498,000	\$3,490,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$336,400		\$500,000	\$836,400
Easement Acquisition	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0	\$550,000		\$200,000	\$750,000
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Travel	\$5,900	\$2,300	\$0	\$0		\$5,900	\$2,300
Professional Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$2,000	\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$5,800	\$5,700	\$0	\$0		\$5,800	\$5,700
Supplies/Materials	\$6,300	\$7,300	\$0	\$0		\$6,300	\$7,300
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,397,000	\$2,395,400	\$0	\$2,876,400		\$2,397,000	\$5,271,800

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	Spent	Cash Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservation Director (FMR)	0.00	0.00	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Ecologist (FMR)	0.00	0.00	\$3,500	\$0		\$3,500
Finance Director (GRG)	0.00	0.00	\$2,800	\$0		\$2,800
Ecologists (GRG)	0.00	0.00	\$14,500	\$0		\$14,500
Project Assistant (GRG)	0.00	0.00	\$2,200	\$0		\$2,200
Volunteer Manager (GRG)	0.00	0.00	\$2,900	\$0		\$2,900
Conservation Director (GRG)	0.00	0.00	\$3,000	\$0		\$3,000
Total	0.00	0.00	\$30,900	\$0		\$30,900

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Not Listed

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

Total Revenue: \$0
 Revenue Spent: \$0
 Revenue Balance: \$0

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	11	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	18	39	10	0	18	30	4	0	50	69
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	38	60	25	38	62	51	0	0	125	149
Protect in Easement	3	1	6	2	65	109	0	0	74	112
Enhance	30	68	68	77	11	212	0	0	109	357
Total	89	168	109	117	167	402	4	0	369	687

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

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

Table 2. Total Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$420,000	\$963,500	\$320,000	\$0	\$540,000	\$536,500	\$220,000	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$130,000	\$250,000	\$170,000	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000
Protect in Easement	\$8,080	\$8,300	\$16,160	\$16,300	\$177,760	\$177,400	\$0	\$0	\$202,000	\$202,000
Enhance	\$50,000	\$49,600	\$69,700	\$89,000	\$45,300	\$54,800	\$0	\$0	\$165,000	\$193,400
Total	\$628,080	\$1,221,400	\$505,860	\$235,300	\$1,043,060	\$938,700	\$220,000	\$0	\$2,397,000	\$2,395,400

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SEForest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	NForest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	50	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	69
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	125	149	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	149
Protect in Easement	74	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	112
Enhance	109	357	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	109	357
Total	369	687	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	369	687

Table 4. Total Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	Forest Prairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000
Protect in Easement	\$202,000	\$202,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$202,000	\$202,000
Enhance	\$165,000	\$193,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$165,000	\$193,400
Total	\$2,397,000	\$2,395,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,397,000	\$2,395,400

Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers

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

0

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

1

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals:

Not Listed

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Carver

Name	TRDS	Acres	Total Cost	Existing Protection?	Description
Seminary Fen Enhancement	11623234	38	\$24,500	Yes	Prescribed burning, invasive species control

Chisago

Name	TRDS	Acres	Total Cost	Existing Protection?	Description
Franconia Bluffs SNA Enhancement	03319210	80	\$18,100	Yes	Invasive species control, oak woodland planting, seed collection

Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	Total Cost	Existing Protection?	Description
Pine Bend Bluffs SNA Enhancement	02722223	52	\$23,600	Yes	Invasive species removal

Ramsey

Name	TRDS	Acres	Total Cost	Existing Protection?	Description
Saint Paul Blufflands (Cherokee) Enhancement	02823212	41	\$42,700	Yes	Woody invasive removal, prescribed burning, weed control, prairie recreation
Saint Paul Blufflands (Mounds) Enhancement	02822204	36	\$46,300	Yes	Woody invasive removal, prescribed burning, weed control

Scott

Name	TRDS	Acres	Total Cost	Existing Protection?	Description
Savage Fen Enhancement	11521216	30	\$25,000	Yes	Prescribed burning, invasive species control

Washington

Name	TRDS	Acres	Total Cost	Existing Protection?	Description
Falls Creek SNA Enhancement	03219207	80	\$13,100	Yes	Woody invasive species control, oak woodland planting (seeding / planting), seed collection; site prep.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area	02722227	112	\$	No	No	No	Protect lands adjacent to Pine Bend Bluffs SNA

Scott

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Savage Fen 2/Teepee Hill Addition	11521216	69	\$	No	Yes	No	Expand Savage Fen in Minnesota River Corridor

Sibley

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Jessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley Refuge	11323207	149	\$500,000	No	Yes	Yes	Expand MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge along Minnesota River

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: Falls Creek SNA Enhancement

# of Total Acres:	80
County:	Washington
Township:	032
Range:	19
Direction:	2
Section:	07
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	80
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

Completed Parcel: Franconia Bluffs SNA Enhancement

# of Total Acres:	80
County:	Chisago
Township:	033
Range:	19
Direction:	2
Section:	10
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	80
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

Completed Parcel: Jessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley Refuge

# of Total Acres:	149
County:	Sibley
Township:	113
Range:	23
Direction:	2
Section:	07
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	57
# of Acres: Forest:	51
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	41
Amount of Shoreline:	8976 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Minnesota River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Deborah Loon
Annual Reporting Address:	3815 East American Blvd
Annual Reporting City:	Bloomington
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55425
Annual Reporting Email:	DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org
Annual Reporting Phone:	612-801-1935
Purchase Date:	May 31, 2011
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$520,800
Appraised Value:	\$520,800
Professional Service Costs:	\$1,761
Assessed Value:	\$0
Total Project Cost:	\$522,561
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$0
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Refuge -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Jessenland Unit, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Completed Parcel: Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area

# of Total Acres:	112
County:	Dakota
Township:	0 27
Range:	22
Direction:	2
Section:	27
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	112
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	13000 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	River Lake
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	Dakota County
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Al Singer
Annual Reporting Address:	14955 Galaxie Avenue
Annual Reporting City:	Apple Valley
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55124
Annual Reporting Email:	al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	952-891-7001
Purchase Date:	June 26, 2012
Purchase Price:	\$1
Appraised Value:	\$0
Professional Service Costs:	\$0
Assessed Value:	\$0
Total Project Cost:	\$0
Donations:	\$0
Easement Holder Organization Name:	Dakota County
Easement Holder Manager Name:	Al Singer
Easement Holder Address:	14955 Galaxie Avenue
Easement Holder City:	Apple Valley
Easement Holder State:	MN
Easement Holder Zip:	55124
Easement Holder Email:	al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us
Easement Holder Phone:	952-891-7001
Responsible Organization Name:	Dakota County
Responsible Manager Name:	Lisa West
Responsible Address:	14955 Galaxie Avenue
Responsible City:	Apple Valley
Responsible State:	MN
Responsible Zip:	55124
Responsible Email:	lisa.west@co.dakota.mn.us
Responsible Phone:	952-891-7018
Underlying Fee Owner:	Macalester College

Completed Parcel: Pine Bend Bluffs SNA Enhancement

# of Total Acres:	52
County:	Dakota
Township:	027
Range:	22
Direction:	2
Section:	23
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	52
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Mississippi River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

Completed Parcel: Saint Paul Blufflands (Cherokee) Enhancement

# of Total Acres:	41
County:	Ramsey
Township:	028
Range:	23
Direction:	2
Section:	12
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	41
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

Completed Parcel: Saint Paul Blufflands (Mounds) Enhancement

# of Total Acres:	36
County:	Ramsey
Township:	028
Range:	22
Direction:	2
Section:	04
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	36
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

Completed Parcel: Savage Fen 2/Teepee Hill Addition

# of Total Acres:	69
County:	Scott
Township:	115
Range:	21
Direction:	2
Section:	16
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	69
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	2200 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Credit River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Peggy Booth
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Boulevard
Annual Reporting City:	Saint Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	
Annual Reporting Email:	peggy.booth@dnr.state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651-772-7562
Purchase Date:	November 23, 2010
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$1,500,000
Appraised Value:	\$3,490,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$34,404
Assessed Value:	\$2,222,900
Total Project Cost:	\$1,534,404
Fees Received:	\$96,750
Donations:	\$2,035,604
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	DNR - Scientific and Natural Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	DNR - SNA

Completed Parcel: Savage Fen Enhancement

# of Total Acres:	30
County:	Scott
Township:	115
Range:	21
Direction:	2
Section:	16
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	30
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

Completed Parcel: Seminary Fen Enhancement

# of Total Acres:	38
County:	Carver
Township:	116
Range:	23
Direction:	2
Section:	34
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	38
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$0

Parcel Map

Metro Big Rivers Habitat Program, Phase 1

