

Program Title:  
550 Acre Land Acquisition along the Rum River and Cedar Creek in Anoka County

**Request for Funding Form  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
Fiscal Year 2011**

**Program or Project Title:**  
550 Acre Land Acquisition along the Rum River and Cedar Creek in Anoka County

**Date:** 10/01/09

**Manager's Name:** John VonDeLinde  
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	<b>Council Funding Request</b>	<b>Out-Year Projections of Needs</b> <i>For programs that may want to request OHF funds in future recommendation rounds, complete the columns below. One time requests enter zeros in all 3 fiscal years</i>		
<b>Funds Requested (\$000s)</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>1,900</b>	0	0	0

**A. Summary**

This project will acquire and protect 550 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.

**B. Background Information**

**1. What is the problem or opportunity being addressed?**

The problem this acquisition project addresses is the urgent need to protect and enhance 550 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

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immediate action, this opportunity could be permanently lost. By acquiring this land, the L-SOHC has an excellent opportunity to protect prairie, wetlands, forest and shoreline habitat and increase and enhance the biological diversity in the area, as well as create additional hunting and fishing opportunities in the region.

**2. What action will be taken?**

The action to be taken will be the acquisition of 550 acres of prairie, wetlands, forest and shoreline along the Rum River and Cedar Creek.

**3. Who will take action and when?**

In 2009, the Legislature appropriated the first of two installments in the amount of \$1,900,000. Upon funding of the second appropriation, Anoka County will implement the acquisition process. Appraisals have been conducted and negotiations are continuing with the seller for the purchase of the 550 acres as proposed in the 2009 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council recommendations.

**4. How will you coordinate this program with the other Constitutional Funding?**

After acquisition, this project will be coordinated with other grant opportunities supported through the Legacy Funding to restore approximately 250 acres of the 550 acres to a prairie/grassland habitat. Restoring and enhancing the land will provide the biological diversity needed to support game populations, which will enhance hunting and fishing opportunities in the area.

**5. What specific habitat changes will occur if this item is funded? Be specific about and list multiple benefits if they exist.**

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, the 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 mosaic 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.

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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 white tail deer, wild turkeys and migratory waterfowl.

**6. Will your Outdoor Heritage Fund dollar request complete the planned accomplishments?**

☒ **YES** ☐ **NO**  
If not, how will you finance completion?

**7. How will you pay for the maintenance of the accomplishments?**

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. Maintenance of these accomplishments will be paid for through the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Annual Operations and Maintenance Budget.

**8. How does this action directly restore, enhance, or protect prairies, wetlands, forests or habitat for fish, game, and wildlife?**

The acquisition by Anoka County will directly protect 550 acres of prairies, wetlands, forests and shoreline habitat along the Rum River and Cedar Creek.

**9. If you are restoring or enhancing property, is the activity on permanently protected land? N/A**

☐ **YES** ☐ **NO**  
If yes briefly describe the kind of protection.

**10. How will you ensure transparency and provide information about your work and use of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars.**

As a governmental agency, Anoka County will ensure transparency by following the State Statutes mandated in the Minnesota Data Practices Act and Open Meeting Laws. Information regarding this project and use of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars will be disseminated through committee reports, County Board Minutes, press releases, the Anoka County Parks and Recreation website and signage at the site.

**11. When do you expect to see these changes?**

Restoration work would start immediately 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.

**12. Why will this strategy work?**

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 conservation system throughout the County. The County has the budget, equipment and staff with the expertise to manage this project and the on-going

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maintenance required. In addition, it has the support of the Anoka County Board of Commissioners and the local communities.

**13. Who might make decisions that assist or work against achieving the expected impact program?**

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.

**14. If this is acquisition of land, has the local government formally approved the acquisition?**

☒ YES

☐ NO

**15. If this is fee simple acquisition of land, is the land free of any other permanent protection such as a conservation easement?**

☒ YES

☐ NO

**16. If this is an easement acquisition, will the eased land be open for public use? If so what kind of use? N/A**

**17. If easement acquisition, will the easement be a permanent conservation easements as described in MS 2009, Chapter 84C.01, specifically protecting the natural resource values of real property forever? N/A**

☐ YES

☐ NO

**18. If you are proposing funding for a new or ongoing program how long into the future do you expect this program to operate? N/A**

\_\_\_\_\_ Years

**19. Which planning sections will you work in? Check all that apply in the list below.**

☐ Northern Forest

☒ Forest/Prairie Transition

☐ Southeast Forest

☒ Prairie

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☒ Metropolitan Urbanizing Area

**20. Does the request address an urgent conservation opportunity that will be lost if not immediately funded?**

☒ YES

☐ NO

**If yes, please explain.**

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 L-SOHC 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.

**21. Does the request restore and/or enhance habitat on existing state-owned Wildlife or Aquatic Management Areas or Scientific and Natural Areas?**

☐ YES

☒ NO

**If Yes, list the names of the WMAs and/or SNAs and the acres to be restored and/or enhanced.**

**22. Is this request based on assessment through a science based strategic planning and evaluation model similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model?**

☒ YES

☐ NO

**If yes explain the model briefly.**

The project area is identified in the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan; Cedar Creek Conservation Corridor Strategic Plan; Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Plan; Anoka County Comprehensive Open Space Plan; and Anoka Conservation District Open Space Plan.

**23. Explain the scientific foundation for your project, and the benefits it will produce.**

The scientific foundation for this project is based off the in-depth studies used to develop the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan; Cedar Creek Conservation Corridor Strategic Plan; Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Plan; Anoka County Comprehensive Open Space Plan; Anoka Conservation District Open Space Plan. These plans examined state and local resources to evaluate, assess and recommend protection, restoration and enhancement of natural resources. This project will enhance public fishing and hunting opportunities and will protect key wildlife habitat.

**24. How do you set priorities? (Be sure to list the criteria you use and the weight you give each one.)**

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The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department sets priorities based on the risk to the natural resource(s), the needs of the open space system and the funding available. Those natural resources that are at greater risk of degradation or loss become the highest priorities. The needs in the system and the funding available provide the ranking for those priorities.

**C. 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; and the Anoka Conservation District Open Space Plan.

**D. Budget**

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
Personnel			
Contracts			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Fee Acquisition	\$1,900,000		
Easement Acquisition			
Easement Stewardship			
Professional Services			
Travel			
Additional Budget Items			
TOTAL	\$1,900,000	(previous FY10 appropriation of \$1,900,000)	

**E. Personnel Details** *In the space below list the names, titles and anticipated program funds to be paid by this recommendation. If you will need to fill a position just list the title and amount.*

Title	Name	Amount.
N/A		

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**F. All Leverage** In the table below list the sources and amounts of leverage you anticipate by fiscal year you anticipate receiving it. Include state and non-state leverage.

Source of Non-State Leverage	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12	Fiscal Year 13
County In-Kind (Acquisition)	\$30,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$30,000		

**G. Outcomes:**

- 1) *In the first table below, quantify the outcomes you plan to achieve with the recommended funds.*
- 2) *In the second table show list the sections where outcomes will occur.*
- 3) *In the third table, allocate your recommended funds to each cell with outcomes listed in table 1.*
- 4) *In the fourth table show the leverage to be applied to each cell with outcomes listed in table 1. and*
- 5) *If you have any outcomes listed in the "protect" row in table 1, account for them according to the type of acquisition and PILT status in table 5*

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<b>Table 1 Accomplish- ments</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	<i>Protect 150 acres of wetland.</i>	<i>Protect 250 acres of restored prairie</i>	<i>Protect 150 acres of riparian and upland forests</i>	<i>Protect 2.25 miles of shoreline along Cedar Creek and Rum River</i>
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 2 Sections Impacted and Impact Quantifier</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	X	X	X	X
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 3 Recommend Fund Allocation</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	<i>\$850,000</i>	<i>\$1,600,000</i>	<i>\$850,000</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>
<b>Enhance</b>				

<b>Table 4 Leverage \$</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	<b>Prairies</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife</b>
<b>Restore</b>				
<b>Protect</b>	<i>\$6,500</i>	<i>\$13,000</i>	<i>\$6,500</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>
<b>Enhance</b>				

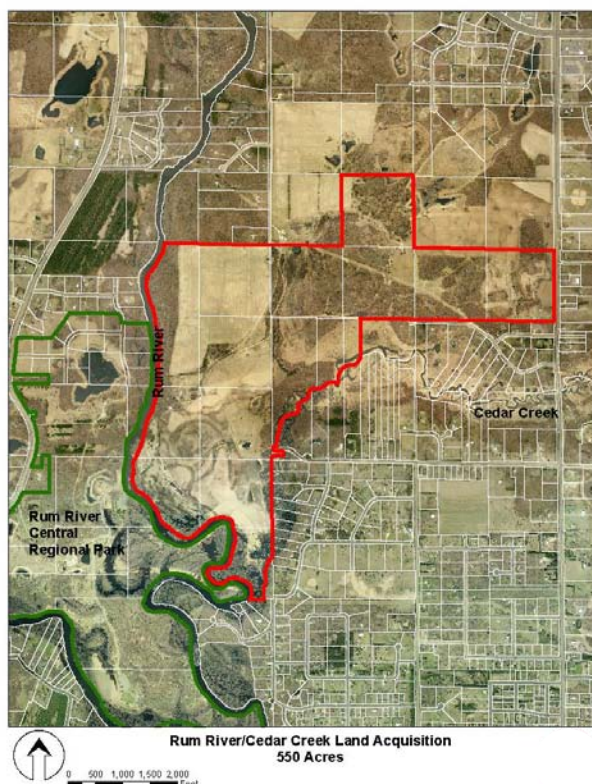


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Table 5 Acquisition Data	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability				
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability	150 acres for \$850,000	250 acres for \$1,600,000	150 acres for \$850,000	2.25 miles for \$500,000
Permanent Easement				

**H. Accomplishment Time Table** Using the headings below, include a clear statement of how much of what is being accomplished and when. Attach a map showing where accomplishments are anticipated. Accomplishments should clearly restore, enhance or protect forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat for fish, game and wildlife.

Milestone	Date	Measure
Acquire 550 acres for protection	Jan. 31,2011	550 acres



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**I. Relationship to Your Current Budget**

Acquisition of these parcels will be provided through L-SOHC funding. This is new funding and does not supplant existing funding. This project is not in any current capital funding program. Continued operations and maintenance of the parcels will be supported through the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Annual Operating Budget.

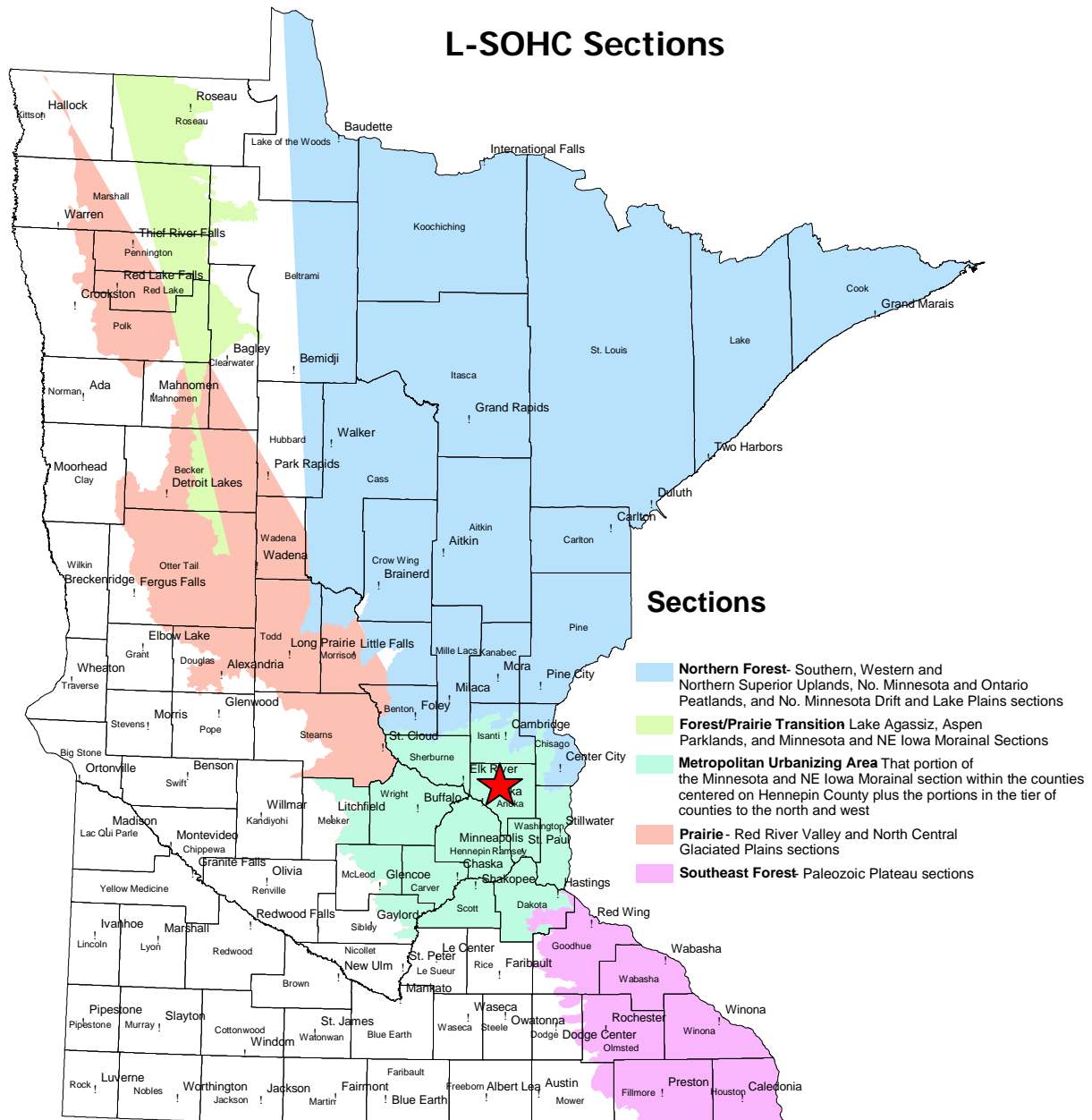
**J. How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?**

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.

**K. Attach a list of your projects listing their county location and edit the map of Minnesota on the next page to show each project as a symbol.**

Anoka County – acquire and protect 550 acres

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