

**Main Request for Funding Form**

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
Fiscal Year 2012**

**Program or Project Title: Green Corridor Legacy Program – Phase III**

Funds Requested (\$000s)	Funding Request	OHF Out-Year Projections of Needs		
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Outdoor Heritage Fund	<b>\$6,383,000</b>	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$6,000,000

**Manager's Name:** Bradley H. Cobb

**Organization:** Redwood Area Communities Foundation dba Green Corridor Inc.

**Street Address:** 200 S. Mill Street

**City:** Redwood Falls **State:** MN **Zip:** 56283

**Telephone:** 320.493.4695

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**Organization Web Site:** [.tatankabluffs](http://.tatankabluffs).

**County Location:**

**Ecological Planning Regions:**

- Northern Forest       Forest/Prairie Transition       Southeast Forest  
 Prairie       Metro/Urban

**Activity Type:**

- Protect       Restore       Enhance

**Priority Resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands       Forests       Prairie       Habitat

**Project Abstract**

This program proposal will help create a legacy of habitat connectivity, public access, and economic vitality based on increased outdoor recreational opportunities in the mid-Minnesota River Watershed.

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### **Project Narrative**

The Green Corridor Legacy Program – Phase III would be a continuation of previous Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF). This regional initiative focuses on the concept of protecting and restoration of high quality fish, game, and wildlife habitats using best practices and will target unique landscapes along the mid-Minnesota River watershed that have historical value to fish and game by helping to create new and/or expansions of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and/or Aquatic Management Areas (AMA) complexes or “corridors”.

The proposed fee title acquisitions will be considered from a priority list of properties based on several key factors of which show the most urgent need and/or opportunities. All properties will be acquired from willing and supportive landowners. All selected projects will have the support and cooperation of the DNR for acceptance into the WMA/AMA inventory system. All proposed projects will provide county notifications and will seek their approval.

### **Design and scope of work**

This program incorporates the basic concepts of sustainability and ecosystem management. Minnesota has lost 99% of the original prairie and has seen dramatic declines in grassland dependent wildlife. Examples of the species showing the greatest conservation need in the Program area; the American Badger, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Bobolink to name just a few. Traditional game species are also affected by the decline in habitat such as pheasants, deer, wild turkey, and a variety of dabbling ducks which are associated to prairie wetland complexes.

Publicly owned natural resource infrastructures (WMA, AMA, SNA, parks/trails, waterways) invigorates local and regional economies by providing outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities supported by hunting, fishing, wildlife observation areas, and other forms of outdoor recreation. New business concepts are likely to arise as a direct result of the recreational and tourism opportunities that will be advanced by this Green Corridor Legacy Program. Because of this concept there is wide support from many stakeholders who will assist the Program activities to achieve the desired outcomes.

The Glacial River Warren created the Minnesota River Valley as it drained Lake Agassiz 10,000+ years ago. The bluff to bluff wall of water carved out one of Minnesota’s most scenic landscapes, creating unique geological features, and unique plant communities along the valley and its primary tributaries.

Efforts to restore, protect, and enhance our wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife are timely as escalating development pressures threaten remaining natural lands and water resources on both public and private lands. The Green Corridor Legacy Program approach will be based on sound science concepts of plan development, setting conservation priorities, developing short and long term strategies to achieve conservation priorities, implement the strategies, and then continue monitoring the outcomes. All of these

concepts and practices will follow existing state wildlife and conservation plans and natural resource management practices in conjunction with agency partners.

The primary work area of the Green Corridor Legacy Program will be Redwood, Renville, Yellow Medicine, Chippewa, Brown, Nicollet, Murray, Lyon, and Cottonwood Counties with an emphasis along the Minnesota River, its tributaries, associated watersheds, and creating/expanding corridor or complexes of habitat. Connecting existing fragments of habitat along and near the Minnesota River and tributaries in the Program area will generate an ecological synergism that will allow game, wildlife, and aquatic species to flourish, while creating multiple recreational opportunities and improving public access through a series (phases) of funded activities within the nine (9) county Program area.

This Program is directly consistent with the uses of the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as specified in Article XI of the Minnesota Constitution and Minnesota Statute 97A.056: to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife. Furthermore, it will produce multiple conservation benefits across a large targeted and planned geographic area.

## Planning

The Green Corridor Legacy Program in consultation with area DNR managers will ensure program activities conform to the various state conservation and resources plan objectives and outcomes. Some of those state and/or regional plans are:

Conservation in the Middle Minnesota Valley: A Blueprint and Action Plan This was a LCCMR funded conservation plan awarded to the Green Corridor Initiative and specific to the mid-section of the Minnesota River Valley.

Native Plant Communities and Rare Species of The Minnesota River Valley Counties This document was created by DNR Ecological Resources and will be another document used to evaluate and/or prioritize potential acquisition for consideration. This document is in conjunction with the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS).

Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan identifies habitat loss and degradation as the number one driver of change for wildlife in Minnesota and further states that the prairie regions have experienced the greatest amount of habitat loss of any region.

Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for species in greatest conservation need has identified significant loss and degradation of habitat as the number one management challenge and one of the primary strategies is to provide protection through selective acquisition of key habitats in the prairie regions.

Minnesota's Long Range Duck Recovery Plan lists the objective of restoring a breeding population of one (1) million ducks by 2056. The primary strategy to reach this objective is the protection and restoration of two (2) million acres of habitat of which 70% will be grassland habitat in the prairie eco-region.

Minnesota's Long Range Plan for the Ring-neck Pheasant lists the objective of increasing pheasant populations to 1.8 million birds. Numerous strategies were identified to accomplish this objective; one of which calls for an additional 74,000 acres of grasslands to be protected through acquisitions of WMA's in the primary pheasant range.

Citizens report Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition – The Next 50 Years recommends acquisition goals of an additional 494,000 in the prairie and transitional region over the next 50 years.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) model outlines several key elements; Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation which the Green Corridor Legacy Program has been using as a basis for program development. The Green Corridor Legacy Program will continue to use existing state-wide wildlife conservation and strategic plans in partnership with our local and regional natural resource managers and conservation professionals to best achieve desired outcomes. These plans were developed through the most currently available science and the professional expertise of a broad range of wildlife professionals. These plans, along with use of GIS technology, will be used to identify potential projects based on existing and potential habitat resources in the program area. This will allow for selection of acquisition tracts that maximize population responses for both game and nongame wildlife.

Finally, this Green Corridor Legacy Program proposal will address many of the visions and priority action items established by the LSOHC for the Prairie Section. The continued emphasis will be on the Minnesota River, associated tributaries, and watersheds within the program area will also protect and restore these unique landscapes that have historical value to fish and wildlife.

### Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds

The Green Corridor Legacy Program focuses on preserving and restoring natural resources infrastructures while emphasizing habitat connectivity (corridors), viability, and public access to these habitats. Besides funding requests to the Environmental & Natural Resource Trust Fund (ENRTF) by Green Corridor Inc., several SWCD's in the Green Corridor Program area are planning future Clean Water Legacy Fund program proposals and Green Corridor Inc will be participating in those planning discussions. Green Corridor Inc. will coordinate Program area submissions to the Outdoor Heritage Fund – Conservation Legacy Program (small grants) with our conservation group partners like the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and Pheasants Forever. Many other regional initiatives are currently being planned that are in line with Parks & Trails and Arts & Cultural Legacy Funds funding strategies.

### Relationship to Current Organizational Budget

**Current Fiscal Year Budget:** \$4,268,000

Source of Funding	Amount	Percentage to Budget
LCCMR FY2008	\$1,000,000	23%
LSOHC FY2010	\$1,617,000	38%
LSOHC FY2011	\$1,651,000	39%

#### Appropriation Balances as of July 1, 2010:

LCCMR FY2008	\$0 – Grant completed 6/30/10
LSOHC FY2010	\$374,000 (1 pending project left)
LSOHC FY2011	\$1,651,000 (Appropriation began 7/1/10)

**Note:** Green Corridor Inc. was **recommended** for funding on 7/14/10 for \$2 million by the LCCMR for FY11-12 for SNA acquisitions and restorations projects along the Minnesota River Valley.

### Sustainability and Maintenance

First, initial site restoration and development (signage, parking lots, fencing) will be accomplished by this appropriation. The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife will then permanently manage these properties. Routine maintenance will be managed by area DNR staff funded by their traditional sources like the Game & Fish Fund. Periodic enhancements or improvements will be funded by special funding requests. The DNR requires management or stewardship plans for each project which identify periodic inspections and continuing management of the property site. These management practices include such things as; prescribed fire, weed control, and invasive tree removal as needed or required. Regional partners/stakeholders in conjunction with the Green Corridor Legacy Program will also support these management activities/practices by applying for state funding/grants for on-going maintenance as needed.

## Types of Projects

### Fee Acquisition Projects

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition?

Yes                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection?

Yes                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Several projects on our project list have “embedded” acres of permanent conservation easements such as CREP/RIM. In those specific projects the landowners have tentatively agreed to **donate** those acres. It is conceivable that some highly desirable projects may become available that are not currently on our project list that may have permanent protection acres. These specific projects will be brought to the attention of the LSOHC for special consideration if they arise.

### Easement Acquisition Projects

Will the eased land be open for public use?

Yes                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Will the conservation easement be permanent?

Yes                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If no, please explain here:

### Restoration and Enhancement Projects

Is the activity on permanently protected land and/or public waters?

Yes                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If no, please explain here:

Does the activity take place on an Aquatic Management Area (AMA), Scientific and Natural Area (SNA), Wildlife Management Area (WMA), or State Forests?

Yes, which ones                       No, please explain                       not applicable

If so, please indicate which ones: AMA and WMA

### Accomplishment Timeline

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
Fee Title Acquisition 1,100 acres	7 Appraisals	September 2011
	7 Purchase Agreements	November 2011
	7 Property Closings	April 2012
Restoration – 690 acres	Bids for 6 projects @ 890 ac.	December 2011
	Complete Initial Restoration plantings – 6 projects	June 2013

### **Attachments:**

- A. Budget**
- B. Proposed Outcome Tables 1-5**
- C. Map**
- D. Parcel List**

**Attachment A. Budget Spreadsheet**

[Link Here to definitions of the budget items below.](#)

**Total Amount of Request**     \$ 6,383,000 *From page 1 on the funding form.*

**Personnel**

Position breakdown here	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
<i>Manager of Programs</i>	0.2	2	\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000
<i>Fiscal Administration</i>	0.08	2	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
<b>Total</b>	0.28		\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000

**Budget and Cash Leverage** *(All your LSOHC Request Funds must be direct to and necessary for program outcomes.)*

*Please describe how you intend to spend the requested funds.*

Budget Item	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
<b>Personnel - auto entered from above</b>	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000
<b>Contracts</b>	\$ 552,000			\$ 552,000
<b>Fee Acquisition w/ PILT</b> <i>(breakout in table 6 &amp; 7)</i>	\$ 5,720,000	\$ 78,000	<i>land donation value</i>	\$ 5,798,000
<b>Fee Acquisition w/o PILT</b> <i>(breakout in table 6 &amp; 7)</i>				\$ -
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>				\$ -
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>				\$ -
<b>Travel (in-state)</b>	\$ 5,500			\$ 5,500
<b>Professional Services</b>	\$ 28,000			\$ 28,000
<b>DNR Land Acquisition Costs</b>	\$ 17,500			\$ 17,500
<b>Other</b>				\$ -
Capital Equipment				\$ -
Other Equipment/Tools				\$ -
Supplies/Materials				\$ -
	\$ 6,383,000	\$ 78,000	\$ -	\$ 6,461,000

## Attachment B. Proposed Outcome Tables

Only enter data in the outlined cells

*Table 1 and Table 3 column totals should be the same AND Table 2 and Table 4 column totals should be the same*

*If your project has lakes or shoreline miles instead of land acres, convert miles to acres for Tables 1 and 3 using the following conversion:*

*Lakeshore = 6 acres per lakeshore mile / Stream & River Shore = 12 acres per linear mile, if both sides*

### Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Describe the scope of the project in acres (use conversion above if needed)

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore		690			690
Protect		1100			1100
Enhance					0
<b>Total</b>	0	1790	0	0	0

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

1790

*These two cells should be the same figure.*

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

1790

### Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore		\$ 552,000			\$ 552,000
Protect		\$ 5,720,000			\$ 5,720,000
Enhance					\$ -
<b>Total</b>	\$ -	\$ 6,272,000	\$ -	\$ -	-

Total Dollars (sum of Total column)

\$ 6,272,000

*These two cells should be the same figure.*

Total Dollars (sum of Total row)

\$ 6,272,000

Check to make sure this amount is the same

as the Funding Request Amount on page 1 of Main Funding Form.

### Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore				690		690
Protect				1,100		1100
Enhance						0
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	1790	0	0

Total Acres (sum of Total column)

1790

*These three cells should be the same figure.*

Total Acres (sum of Total row)

1790

Total Acres from Table 1.

1790



## Attachment B. Proposed Outcome Tables

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

	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore				\$ 552,000		\$ 552,000
Protect				\$ 5,720,000		\$ 5,720,000
Enhance						\$ -
<b>Total</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,272,000	\$ -	

Total Dollars (sum of Total column) \$ 6,272,000 *These two cells should be the same figure.*  
 Total Dollars (sum of Total row) \$ 6,272,000

Check to make sure these amounts are the same as the Funding Request Amount on page 1 of Main Funding Form.

**Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles**

0.66

 # miles of Lakes / Streams / Rivers Shoreline

**Table 6. Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in acres)**

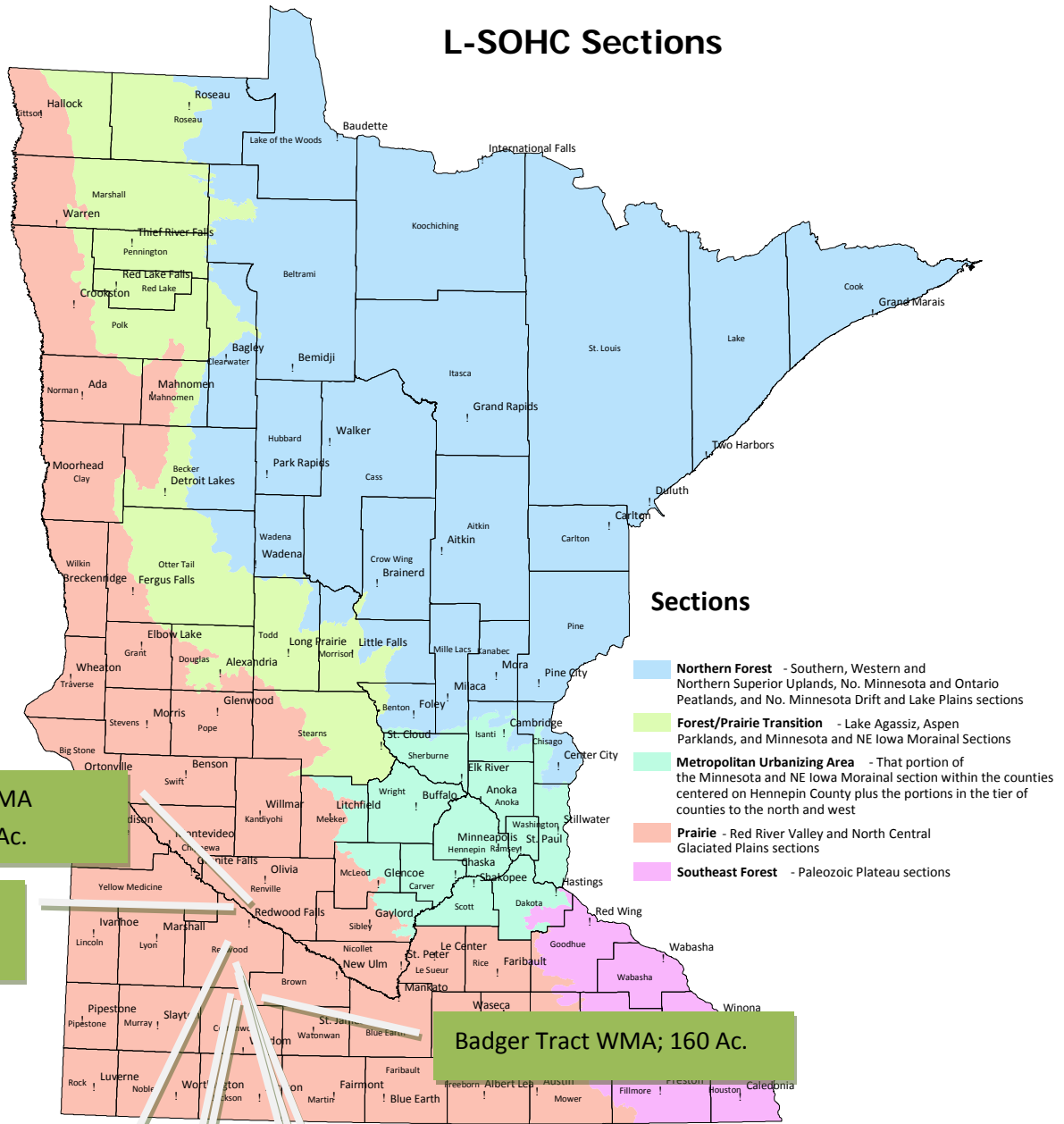
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability		1,100			1100
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability					0
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability					0

**Table 7. Estimated Value of Acquisition by PILT Status (enter information in dollars)**

	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats	Total
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability		\$ 5,720,000			\$ 5,720,000
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability					\$ -
Permanent Easement NO State PILT Liability					\$ -

# Attachment C.

## L-SOHC Sections



### Sections

- **Northern Forest** - Southern, Western and Northern Superior Uplands, No. Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands, and No. Minnesota Drift and Lake Plains sections
- **Forest/Prairie Transition** - Lake Agassiz, Aspen Parklands, and Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal Sections
- **Metropolitan Urbanizing Area** - That portion of the Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal section within the counties centered on Hennepin County plus the portions in the tier of counties to the north and west
- **Prairie** - Red River Valley and North Central Glaciated Plains sections
- **Southeast Forest** - Paleozoic Plateau sections

**Cold Spring WMA Addition; 151 Ac.**

**Whispering Ridge AMA Addition; 40 Ac.**

**Badger Tract WMA; 160 Ac.**

**Westline WMA Addition; 71 Ac.**

**Arnold's Lake WMA Addition: 22 Ac.**  
**Expandere WMA Addition; 40 Ac.**

**Dutch Charley's Creek WMA; 656 Ac.**  
**Dutch Charley's Creek WMA; 160 Ac.**  
**Dutch Charley's Creek WMA; 79 Ac.**

### Attachment D. Parcel List

Program Title: Green Corridor Legacy Program - Phase III

Parcel Name	County	Township	Range	Direction	Section	TRDS	# of acres	Estimated Cost to OHF	Description	Activity	R=Restore P=Protect E=Enhance
Dutch Charley's Creek WMA	Redwood	109	36	2	29	10936229	160	\$880,000	Connecting tract for complex	P & R	
Dutch Charley's Creek WMA	Redwood	109	36	2	30	10936230	79	\$220,000	Landowner to donate 39 acres of RIM	P & R	
Dutch Charley's Creek WMA	Redwood	109	36	2	19	10936220	656	\$3,608,000	Large tract - mulit-year process	P & R	
Westline WMA addition	Redwood	111	39	2	13	11139213	71	\$390,500	Expands existing WMA & water access	P & R	
Badger Tract WMA	Brown	109	35	2	29	10935229	160	\$880,000	Next to Cottonwood Priairie SNA	P & R	
Whispering Ridge AMA addition	Redwood	114	36	2	32	11436232	40	\$180,000	Expands existing AMA	P	
Cold Spring WMA addition	Renville	114	36	2	11	11436211	151	\$755,000	Expands existing WMA	P & R	
Arnold's Lake WMA addition	Cottonwood	106	36	2	10	10636210	22	\$80,000	Expands existing WMA	P & R	
Expandere WMA addition	Cottonwood	105	37	2	6	10537206	40	\$170,000	Expands existing WMA	P	
<b>TOTALS</b>							<b>1,379</b>	<b>\$7,163,000</b>			