

Main Request for Funding Form

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Fiscal Year 2014 / ML 2013 Proposal

Program or Project Title: Metro Big Rivers Phase 4

Funds Requested: \$2,456,000

Manager's Name: Deborah Loon

Title: Executive Director

Organization: MN Valley Trust (Metro Big Rivers)

Street Address: 3815 East American Boulevard

City: Bloomington, MN 55425

Telephone: 612-801-1935

E-Mail: DebLoon@comcast.net

Organization Web Site: www.mnvalleytrust.org

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

Ecological Planning Regions:

- Metro / Urban

Activity Type:

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

Priority Resources Addressed by Activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie
- Habitat

Abstract

Metro Big Rivers Phase 4 partnership will protect in fee 300 acres, protect in easement 150 acres, restore 32 acres and enhance 99 acres of priority wildlife habitat within the big rivers corridors in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Urbanizing Area.

Activity Detail

Design and Scope of Work

The five partners of the Metro Big Rivers are experienced conservation organizations working together and with numerous public partners to protect, restore and enhance priority habitat for wildlife and the public in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Urbanizing Area. Emphasis is on creating and connecting wildlife habitat corridors to expand and improve opportunities both for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area. Partners and their projects for this Phase 4 grant are described below.

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) – Enhance habitat at two publicly-owned sites that provide critical wildlife habitat and public recreation opportunities in the Mississippi River watershed in Dakota and Washington Counties. The two projects are:

- Enhance 45 acres of remnant oak forest and prairie that have been degraded by exotic invasive species and fire suppression at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park. Methods will include woody invasive species control. This project will improve habitat for forest dwelling species, both resident and migratory, and improve ecological connectivity to the Mississippi River Corridor.
- Enhance 20 acres of floodplain forest and riparian habitat along 1 mile of the Vermillion River in Vermillion River Linear Park of Hastings, Dakota County. Methods will include woody invasive species control on 15 acres and planting native species at 5 acres. The project will improve the habitat values and the site's role as a habitat corridor, allowing greater movement for wildlife.

Great River Greening (GRG) -- Restore and enhance 66 acres of important prairie, oak savanna, oak woodland, floodplain forest and Big Woods forest habitat for wildlife and the public in tributaries to the Mississippi River through two projects:

- Restore and enhance 37 acres of prairie, oak savannah, oak woodland and Big Woods habitat at Trillium Nature Preserve in St. Paul along the Trout Brook Greenway. The project will create an ecologically-important wildlife corridor that will connect with the Mississippi River. The total project will consist of 1) the day-lighting of Trout Brook and associated riparian restoration (completed with other funds) and 2) major restoration of 32 acres prairie, oak savanna and oak woodland, coupled with enhancement of 5 acres Big Woods habitat (with OHF grant).
- Enhance 29 acres of oak woodland, floodplain forest and grassland habitat at Martin's Meadows Open Space on the Rum River in the City of Andover. Activities will include prescribed fire, forest thinning, invasive species control and other. The site includes shrub-carr wetlands, riparian floodplain forests, oak woodland and remnant prairie and oak savanna habitats. It is part of a significant contiguous wildlife habitat complex of over 1,000 acres that includes the 550-acre Cedar Creek Conservation Area (acquired with OHF) and 434-acre Rum River Central Regional Park, both managed by Anoka County Parks.

Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) -- Protect through perpetual conservation easements at least 150 acres of habitat along the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers and key tributaries. The project will protect riparian habitat, as well as critical corridors of forest, wetland and grassland to connect existing, important areas of wildlife habitat. Activities include:

- Contact and negotiate with interested landowners
- Draft and complete 3-5 perpetual conservation easements protecting at least 150 acres
- Document property conditions
- Dedicate funds for the perpetual monitoring and enforcement of those easements

MLT easements are perpetual and prohibit land uses or development that will negatively affect important habitat and other conservation values. Easements are monitored annually and enforced as necessary by MLT's conservation easement stewardship program.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) – Protect in fee title at least 250 acres of river frontage, floodplain forest, wetland and upland habitat for wildlife in the Minnesota River Valley. The OHF grant funds will expand the Blakely, Jessenland, Rapids Lake and/or St. Lawrence Units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Carver, LeSueur, Scott and/or Sibley Counties. An additional 62 acres will be acquired with other non-state funds.

All prioritized lands are along or very near the Minnesota River and include river frontage, floodplain and cropland. Following acquisition, the MVT and USFWS will develop a restoration and management plan, then restore and enhance the floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie.

This project will increase breeding and migratory habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, neo-tropical migrants, and non-migratory resident species, protect the diversity of native ecosystems, and improve connectivity and resilience. This project also will improve water quality by restoring croplands in the Minnesota River Valley to the natural habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie. Finally, it will expand the public's access to lands for hunting and fishing, as well as other wildlife-based recreation.

Trust for Public Land (TPL) -- Protect in fee title 50 acres in one of six high-priority areas identified in statewide and regional plans, as well as by TPL public partners as immediate opportunities. An additional 10 acres will be acquired with other funds. The project(s) to be completed will be selected from the following:

Minnesota River Habitat Corridor:

- Protect up to 98 acres at Savage Fen Scientific and Natural Area adjacent to existing protected land and including wetland and associated upland forest
- Protect up to 300 acres at "Blakely Bluffs," connecting existing publicly-protected land (WMA and MN Valley Refuge lands) and including high biodiversity forests and bluff lands that adjoin the Minnesota River floodplain

Mississippi River Habitat Corridor:

- Protect up to 170 acres of aquatic, forest and wetland habitat on the Wild and Scenic Rum River just upstream of the Mississippi River

St. Croix River Habitat Corridor:

- Protect up to 200 acres of high biodiversity significance forest habitat at Franconia/ Scandia, complementing existing protected lands along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
- Protect up to 1,000 acres of forest and associated wetland / prairie/ grassland at Big Marine Lake which connects, via the St. Croix Greenway, to the St. Croix River
- Protect up to 800 acres of forest and associated shallow lakes, wetland / prairie/ grassland at Wilder Forest Lake which connects, via the St. Croix Greenway, to the St. Croix River.

Planning

MN State-wide Conservation Plan Priorities

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H4 Restore and protect shallow lakes
- 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

Plans Addressed

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Long Range Plan for the Wild Turkey
- Minnesota DNR AMA Acquisition Plan
- Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Plans
- Minnesota DNR Scientific and Natural Area's Long Range Plan
- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda
- Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans
- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework
- State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Strategic Habitat Conservation Model
- Mississippi River Greenway Strategic Plan, MN Valley Natl Wildlife Refuge Comp Conservation PlanCP

LSOHC Statewide Priorities

- Are ongoing, successful, transparent and accountable programs addressing actions and targets of one or more of the ecological sections
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Are able to leverage effort and/or other funds to supplement any OHF appropriation
- Allow public access. This comes into play when all other things about the request are approximately equal
- Address conservation opportunities that will be lost if not immediately acted on
- Restore or enhance habitat on state-owned WMAs, AMAs, SNAs, and state forests
- Use a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model to guide protection, restoration and enhancement, similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model
- Address wildlife species of greatest conservation need, Minnesota County Biological Survey data, and rare, threatened and endangered species inventories in land and water decisions, as well as permanent solutions to aquatic invasive species
- Provide Minnesotans with greater public access to outdoor environments with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities
- Ensures activities for "protecting, restoring and enhancing" are coordinated among agencies, non profits and others while doing this important work
- Target unique Minnesota landscapes that have historical value to fish and wildlife

LSOHC Metro Urban Section Priorities

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity
- Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)
- Protect, enhance, and restore riparian and littoral habitats on lakes to benefit game and nongame fish species

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund

All Metro Big Rivers partners also are partners in the Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC), which has received grants from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) since 2005. The OHF grants accelerate the partners' work protecting, restoring and enhancing critical habitat in the Twin Cities metropolitan urbanizing area and do not supplant any existing funding sources, including ENRTF. We will continue pursuing support from both funds to accelerate this work.

Accelerates or Supplements Current Efforts

All Metro Big Rivers projects build upon existing public investments and accelerate efforts to protect, restore and enhance high-priority habitat for wildlife and the public in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area. The OHF grant funds will not substitute for or supplant any other funding sources. The work would not be able to proceed without the OHF grant or will have to wait sometime into the future when other funding may become available.

Sustainability and Maintenance

Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) -- Washington County Parks and the City of Hastings will sustain their respective lands enhanced under this grant. FMR is committed to being an active partner to ensure the benefits of this project are maintained. Great River Greening (GRG) – The Cities of St. Paul and Andover will monitor the sites and sustain the habitat improvements. GRG is committed to working cooperatively with the cities to ensure the project benefits are sustained. Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) – Easement stewardship is included in the budget and will follow best practices. MLT's stewardship program includes annual property monitoring, records management, addressing inquiries, interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement.

Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) – Lands acquired for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be maintained by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Initial restoration and enhancement will be completed by MVT prior to transfer to the USFWS. Trust for Public Land (TPL) – Working with experienced local, state and federal land programs, citizen groups and private landowners, TPL will ensure the acquired lands are restored, enhanced and maintained for wildlife habitat and public use.

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition? - **No**

MVT - Local governments within the expansion boundaries of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge have been made aware of the land acquisition plans for the Refuge. TPL - Local governments will be notified and asked for formal approval, when necessary.

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

Is this land open for hunting and fishing? - Yes

Lands acquired by the Minnesota valley Trust for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be open for public hunting and fishing according to the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act. We cannot pre-determine any regulations that may be placed on the lands, as the Refuge lands will be opened through a public process. But we anticipate hunting and fishing opportunities and regulations will be like those already established for lands previously acquired for the Refuge in these expansion units (Blakely, Jessenland, Rapids Lake, St. Lawrence Units). For specific information, refer to the Refuge's website – [://www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley/documents/hunting_regs](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley/documents/hunting_regs). Lands acquired by the Trust for Public Land for the state or a local unit of government will be open to hunting and fishing. Any needed limitations will be established according to state law and regulations.

Will the eased land be open for public use? - No

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

Is the activity on permanently protected land and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15? - Yes
(County/Municipal)

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
FMR, Forest Enhancement - Woody invasive plant control at 45 acres, Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park	June 30, 2016
FMR, Forest Enhancement - Woody invasive plant control at 15 acres, Vermillion River Linear Park	June 30, 2016
FMR, Riparian Forest Enhancement- Volunteer planting at 5 acres in riparian area, Vermillion River Linear Park	June 30, 2016
GRG, Prairie Enhancement - Invasive species management and prescribed fire over 6 acres, Martins Meadows Open Space	June 30, 2016
GRG, Prairie Restoration - Site prep, seeding, planting over 26 acres, Trillium Nature Preserve	December 31, 2014
GRG, Prairie Restoration - Invasive species management, year 2-3 post-seeding management over 26 acres, Trillium Nature Preserve	June 30, 2016
GRG, Forest Enhancement - Stand thinning, invasive species management, seeding over 23 acres, Martins Meadows Open Space	June 30, 2015
GRG, Forest Enhancement - Prescribed fire over 23 acres, Martins Meadows Open Space; Invasive species management over 11 acres, Trillium Nature Preserve	June 30, 2016
MLT, Conservation Easement Acquisition - Landowner outreach, negotiations, complete easement, dedicate funds for easement stewardship	June 30, 2016
MVT, Fee Acquisition, Parcels 1 and 2 - Landowner outreach, negotiations, due diligence, closing, restoration / enhancement planning	June 30, 2015
TPL, Fee Acquisition, Parcels 1 and 2 - Landowner negotiations, due diligence, closing, restoration / stewardship planning	June 30, 2015

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need
- Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna
- Protected habitats will hold wetlands and shallow lakes open to public recreation and hunting

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$2,456,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$149,100	\$48,900		\$198,000
Contracts	\$280,500	\$20,000	City of St. Paul	\$300,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$120,000	\$23,000	Federal, state, local and/or private	\$143,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,380,000	\$320,000	Private Source,Federal, state, local and/or private	\$1,700,000
Easement Acquisition	\$325,000	\$0		\$325,000
Easement Stewardship	\$100,000	\$0		\$100,000
Travel (in-state)	\$4,400	\$0		\$4,400
Professional Services	\$43,000	\$2,000	FMR	\$45,000
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$8,000	\$0		\$8,000
Supplies/Materials	\$36,000	\$30,100	City of St. Paul,FMR	\$66,100
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$2,456,000	\$444,000	-	\$2,900,000

Combined Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Project Manager / Ecologist	0.09	3.00	\$14,000	\$12,000	City of St. Paul, City of Andover	\$26,000
Director Conservation Programs	0.03	3.00	\$6,000	\$0	-	\$6,000
Crew Supervisor / Member	0.32	3.00	\$26,900	\$26,900	City of St. Paul	\$53,800
Volunteer Coordinator	0.04	3.00	\$4,000	\$4,000	City of St. Paul	\$8,000
Director Finance	0.02	3.00	\$5,100	\$0	-	\$5,100
Conservation and Legal Staff	1.00	3.00	\$80,000	\$0	-	\$80,000
Conservation Director	0.01	3.00	\$2,000	\$0	-	\$2,000
Ecologist / Project Coordinator	0.03	3.00	\$5,600	\$3,000	FMR	\$8,600
Ecologist	0.02	3.00	\$4,600	\$3,000	FMR	\$7,600
Accountant / Bookkeeper	0.01	3.00	\$900	\$0	-	\$900
Total	1.57	30.00	\$149,100	\$48,900	-	\$198,000

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Contracts	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	Private Source	\$1,250,000
Easement Acquisition	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Easement Stewardship	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Travel (in-state)	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Professional Services	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Direct Support Services	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Capital Equipment	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Supplies/Materials	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
DNR IDP	Minnesota Valley Trust	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Total	-	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	-	\$1,250,000

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Minnesota Land Trust	\$80,000	\$0 -		\$80,000
Contracts	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0 -		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0 -		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0 -		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Minnesota Land Trust	\$325,000	\$0 -		\$325,000
Easement Stewardship	Minnesota Land Trust	\$100,000	\$0 -		\$100,000
Travel (in-state)	Minnesota Land Trust	\$2,000	\$0 -		\$2,000
Professional Services	Minnesota Land Trust	\$43,000	\$0 -		\$43,000
Direct Support Services	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0 -		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0 -		\$0
Capital Equipment	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0 -		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0 -		\$0
Supplies/Materials	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0 -		\$0
DNR IDP	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0 -		\$0
Total	-	\$550,000	\$0	-	\$550,000

Personnel - Minnesota Land Trust

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Conservation and Legal Staff	1.00	3.00	\$80,000	\$0 -		\$80,000
Total	2.57	3.00	\$80,000	\$0	-	\$80,000

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Friends of Mississippi River	\$13,100	\$6,000	-	\$19,100
Contracts	Friends of Mississippi River	\$143,500	\$0	-	\$143,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Friends of Mississippi River	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Friends of Mississippi River	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Easement Acquisition	Friends of Mississippi River	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Easement Stewardship	Friends of Mississippi River	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Travel (in-state)	Friends of Mississippi River	\$400	\$0	-	\$400
Professional Services	Friends of Mississippi River	\$0	\$2,000	FMR	\$2,000
Direct Support Services	Friends of Mississippi River	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Friends of Mississippi River	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Capital Equipment	Friends of Mississippi River	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Friends of Mississippi River	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Supplies/Materials	Friends of Mississippi River	\$3,000	\$500	FMR	\$3,500
DNR IDP	Friends of Mississippi River	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Total	-	\$160,000	\$8,500	-	\$168,500

Personnel - Friends of Mississippi River

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Conservation Director	0.01	3.00	\$2,000	\$0	-	\$2,000
Ecologist / Project Coordinator	0.03	3.00	\$5,600	\$3,000	FMR	\$8,600
Ecologist	0.02	3.00	\$4,600	\$3,000	FMR	\$7,600
Accountant / Bookkeeper	0.01	3.00	\$900	\$0	-	\$900
Total	2.63	12.00	\$13,100	\$6,000	-	\$19,100

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Contracts	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Trust for Public Land	\$120,000	\$23,000	Federal, state, local and/or private	\$143,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Trust for Public Land	\$380,000	\$70,000	Federal, state, local and/or private	\$450,000
Easement Acquisition	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Easement Stewardship	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Travel (in-state)	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Professional Services	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Direct Support Services	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Trust for Public Land	\$10,000	\$0	-	\$10,000
Capital Equipment	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Supplies/Materials	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
DNR IDP	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Total	-	\$510,000	\$93,000	-	\$603,000

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Great River Greening	\$56,000	\$42,900	-	\$98,900
Contracts	Great River Greening	\$137,000	\$20,000	City of St. Paul	\$157,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Easement Acquisition	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Easement Stewardship	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Travel (in-state)	Great River Greening	\$2,000	\$0	-	\$2,000
Professional Services	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Direct Support Services	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Capital Equipment	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Great River Greening	\$8,000	\$0	-	\$8,000
Supplies/Materials	Great River Greening	\$33,000	\$29,600	City of St. Paul	\$62,600
DNR IDP	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0	-	\$0
Total	-	\$236,000	\$92,500	-	\$328,500

Personnel - Great River Greening

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Cash Leverage	Cash Leverage Source	Total
Project Manager / Ecologist	0.09	3.00	\$14,000	\$12,000	City of St. Paul, City of Andover	\$26,000
Director Conservation Programs	0.03	3.00	\$6,000	\$0	-	\$6,000
Crew Supervisor / Member	0.32	3.00	\$26,900	\$26,900	City of St. Paul	\$53,800
Volunteer Coordinator	0.04	3.00	\$4,000	\$4,000	City of St. Paul	\$8,000
Director Finance	0.02	3.00	\$5,100	\$0	-	\$5,100
Total	3.13	15.00	\$56,000	\$42,900	-	\$98,900

Output Tables

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	32	0	0	32
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	4	2	4	2	12
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	111	70	101	6	288
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	150	150
Enhance	0	5	89	5	99
Total	115	109	194	163	581

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$109,000	\$0	\$0	\$109,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$39,000	\$26,000	\$45,500	\$19,500	\$130,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$514,000	\$326,000	\$483,000	\$57,000	\$1,380,000
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$550,000	\$550,000
Enhance	\$0	\$10,000	\$273,000	\$4,000	\$287,000
Total	\$553,000	\$471,000	\$801,500	\$630,500	\$2,456,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	32	0	0	0	0	32
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	12	0	0	0	0	12
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	288	0	0	0	0	288
Protect in Easement	150	0	0	0	0	150
Enhance	99	0	0	0	0	99
Total	581	0	0	0	0	581

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$109,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$109,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$130,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$130,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$1,380,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,380,000
Protect in Easement	\$550,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$550,000
Enhance	\$287,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$287,000
Total	\$2,456,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,456,000

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles

2 miles

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Anoka

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
GRG Martins Meadows Open Space	03224207	29	\$117,000	Yes

Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
FMR Vermillion Linear Park	11517233	20	\$36,000	Yes

Ramsey

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
GRG Trillium Nature Preserve	02922230	37	\$119,000	Yes

Washington

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
FMR Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park	02721222	45	\$124,000	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Anoka

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
TPL MS River / Rum River Scout Camp	03225213	170	\$500,000	No	Full	Full

Carver

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MLT Carver Creek 1	11524227	49	\$90,000	No	No	No
MLT Carver Creek 2	11524215	40	\$90,000	No	No	No
MVT Rapids Lake Unit Addition, MN Valley Refuge	11523231	100	\$500,000	No	Full	Full

Chisago

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
TPL St. Croix / Franconia and Scandia Corridor	03319216	200	\$500,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Scott

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MVT Blakely Unit Addition, MN Valley Refuge	11326236	100	\$500,000	No	Full	Full
MVT St. Lawrence Unit Addition, MN Valley Refuge	11424227	100	\$500,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
TPL MN River / Blakely Bluffs Area	11325230	300	\$500,000	No	Full	Not Applicable
TPL MN River / Savage Fen	11521216	98	\$500,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

Sherburne

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MLT Mississippi River	03327232	55	\$200,000	No	No	No

Sibley

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MVT Jessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley Refuge	11323213	100	\$500,000	No	Full	Full

Washington

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MLT Scandia	03220212	40	\$85,000	No	No	No
TPL St. Croix / Big Marine Area	03120223	1,000	\$500,000	No	Full	Not Applicable

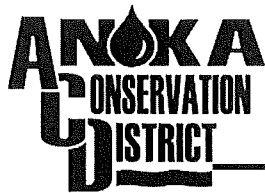
TPL St. Croix /Wilder Forest Area	03120210	800	\$500,000	No	Full	Full
---	----------	-----	-----------	----	------	------

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.



Anoka Conservation District
1318 McKay Dr NE, Suite 300
Ham Lake, Minnesota 55304
Ph: 763-434-2030 Fx: 763-434-2094
www.AnokaSWCD.org

June 26, 2012

Kameron Kytonen, Natural Resource Technician
City of Andover
1685 Crosstown Blvd NW
Andover, MN 55304

**Re: Letter of Support – Martin's Meadows Open Space Habitat
Restoration/Enhancement**

Dear Mr. Kytonen:

On behalf of the Anoka Conservation District, I would like to express our support for the proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) by Great River Greening as part of the Metro Big Rivers Partnership for restoration/enhancement work at Martin's Meadows Open Space. The property is located in an identified wildlife corridor along the Wild and Scenic Rum River, and the importance of these corridors in developed areas cannot be overstated. The property contains a variety of habitats including wetlands, floodplain forests, oak woodland, and prairie/savanna habitats that play host to a variety of both game and non-game wildlife. Members of the community frequently recreate on or near the Rum River for its wildlife viewing opportunities. The proposed efforts to restore/enhance the preserved open space through invasive species control, prescribed burns and forest thinning will create more diverse and robust habitat that will benefit both wildlife and the community.

The City of Andover was selected as Anoka County's 2010 Outstanding Conservationist, partially due to the City's efforts to protect open space from development. We applaud you for continuing to improve the natural resources in the community at a time when many cities are cutting budgets for natural resource management. This project sets an example that with careful planning and pursuit of additional funding sources, budgets can allow for improvements to our natural resources. These short-term planning efforts will result in long-term benefits to the people and wildlife in the area. I hope you are successful in your application and your efforts to improve native habitats in the City of Andover.

Good luck pursuing this great opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nate Zwonitzer", written in a cursive style.

Nate Zwonitzer
Conservation Specialist
Anoka Conservation District



Anoka County Department of Parks and Recreation

550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW • Andover, MN 55304
Telephone 763-757-3920 • FAX 763-755-0230
www.anokacountyparks.com

John K. VonDeLinde
Director

Kameron Kytönen
Natural Resource Technician
City of Andover
1685 Crosstown Blvd. NW
Andover, MN 55304

Dear Mr. Kytönen,

The purpose of this letter is to inform the City of Andover that the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department is in full support of the proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) by Great River Greening as part of the Metro Big Rivers Partnership for the restoration/enhancement work at Martin's Meadows Open Space.

The restoration/enhancement of 23 acres within this property will enhance the Rum River corridor providing for natural habitat for game and non-game wildlife species as well as improving species diversity. Additionally, this restoration will build upon the natural areas along the Rum River within Anoka County. As you know, Anoka County Parks has been working hard over the years to protect this scenic river corridor through the restoration and enhancement of prairie and oak savanna habitat at Rum River North County Park, Rum River Central Regional Park, and Rum River South County Park. Additionally the County recently purchased the 550 acre Cedar Creek Conservation Area and is in the process of restoring native prairie habitat throughout that property. In total the County manages over 1,000 acres of land along the Rum River which provides access to hunters and anglers as well as other recreation activities.

It is a pleasure to support this restoration project as it will build upon the natural corridor along the Rum River within Anoka County. Through this project we will see the benefits of reduced soil erosion and increased species diversity resulting in an overall healthier river ecosystem. If you have any further questions, I would be happy to answer them. I can be reached at timothy.sevcik@co.anoka.mn.us or 763-767-2896.

Sincerely,

Tim Sevcik
Natural Resource Specialist
Anoka County Parks and Rec.



City of Hastings Parks & Recreation

920 W 10th St, Hastings MN 55033

Ph: (651) 480-6175

Fax: (651) 437-5396

Web: www.ci.hastings.mn.us



“Creating Community Through People, Parks, and Programs”

Friday, June 22, 2012

Ms. Deb Loon
Metro Big Rivers Habitat Partnership
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Inc.
3815 East American Boulevard
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425

Dear Ms. Loon,

I would like to express my strong support for the Metro Big Rivers Habitat Partnership's (MBRH) funding proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The City of Hastings, a historic Mississippi River town, contains some wonderful natural areas. We have been partnering with Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) for a number of years to enhance many of these sites within Hastings. If this LSOHC grant is awarded, some of FMR's funds will be used to improve the natural area along the Vermillion River, which will have both habitat and water quality benefits.

As a local unit of government with limited expertise and funding to restore and improve important natural areas, we appreciate partnerships like MBRH that can bring these resources to assist us in our efforts. We have a long history of working with FMR and look forward to partnering with them to improve the Vermillion River within Hastings.

Sincerely,

Barry Bernstein
Parks and Recreation Director

Civic Arena
2801 Red Wing Blvd.
Ph: (651) 480-6195
Fax: (651) 437-4940

Aquatic Center
901 Maple Street
Ph: (651) 480-2392
Fax: (651) 437-5396

Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
State Office Building, Room 95
St. Paul, MN 55155


Dear LSOHC:

I am writing to urge your support of the Metro Big Rivers Phase 4 grant application. Specifically, our organization is interested in the request for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust for one million dollars to acquire approximately 250 acres of land in the Minnesota River Valley in the Blakely area.

Once acquired, this property will be donated to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and open to hunting and fishing. The availability of additional public lands in this region of Minnesota for outdoor activities is very important for our members and their families. Also of importance to our members is the improvement of water quality and wildlife habitat benefits.

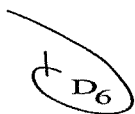
Thank you for supporting this project and please contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Dave Self
President of Conservation Partners of America

Club Member or Club President



District 6 Planning Council

171 Front Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55117
651-488-4485 fax: 651-488-0343
district6ed@dist6pc.org

June 26, 2012

Lessard Sam's Outdoor Heritage Council:

The District 6 Planning Council is a citizen's participatory neighborhood organization designed to encourage citizens to be active and engaged in their community. The Trillium site is a significant asset to our community which the neighborhood and District 6 have been working on for over seventeen years.

District 6 has continually worked on Trillium by supporting securing funding for acquisition and development, being involved in the planning of the nature sanctuary and bringing community input to the table.

The Trillium Site geographically is a critical linchpin location where the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Trout Brook and Gateway State Trail all converge. This site is part of the Trout Brook Corridor; a Minnesota DNR designated Metro Greenway Corridor from the Mississippi River to Lake McCarron's which is vital for the migration and natural habitat for wildlife.

The development of Trillium will assist in turning a blighted industrial area into much needed green space for the community, the restoration of the stream pattern and serve as storm water management for the neighborhood, ensuring that there is a wildlife corridor to the river and be the trail connector.

This work also includes the removal of invasive species that are detrimental to the restoration and the much needed installation of upland and forest ecosystems.

Trillium also serves the neighborhoods, by ensuring that this site which lies between two economically challenged neighborhoods which deserve to have Trillium restored and become the true connector of trails and be developed in a way that completely restores all the necessary components of this site.

In light of the 35E Cayuga interchange project, Trillium has come to the forefront as a major amenity to neighborhoods, both east and west of the freeway.

District 6 Planning Council emphatically supports this proposal and we thank-you for your consideration. If you have questions please don't hesitate to contact our office at the numbers above.

Regards,

Jeff Martens

Jeff Martens
Land Use Chairman
District 6 Board Vice Chairman

An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer



June 28, 2012

Ms. Susan Schmidt
Minnesota State Director
The Trust for Public Land
2610 University Ave West, Suite 300
St. Paul, MN 55114

Dear Susan,

I am writing in support of the Metro Big Rivers Partnership Program Phase IV proposal recently submitted to the LSOHC for FY2014 funding consideration. The Metro Big Rivers Partnership Program has increased and enhanced wildlife habitat and wildlife-based recreational opportunities in the Minnesota River Valley – critical habitat close to home for the 3.2 million residents of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley (FMV) is a strong supporter of the Metro Big Rivers Partnership Program. We have been a partner in LCCMR-funded habitat restoration projects in the metro region and within the Minnesota River Watershed. The metro Big Rivers Partnership offers FMV the opportunity to refer interested landowners, local government units and citizens in the Minnesota River Valley to MBRP partners, conservation organizations that possess a long track record of protection using fee or easement protection, habitat restoration or enhancement of habitat in the metropolitan area and throughout the state. The Metro Big Rivers Partnership Program offers a number of conservation tools working with a variety of conservation partners for an interested landowner or citizen to pursue specific conservation goals. Friends of the Minnesota Valley's mission of conserving natural resources in the Lower Minnesota River Watershed is enhanced by the MBRP.

A very worthy illustration is the protection of about 60 acres of high quality habitat adjacent to the Savage Fen SNA in Savage, Scott County. As one MBRP partner, The Trust for Public Land worked with the DNR, City of Savage, interested hunting and fishing leaders, other stakeholders and the landowner to bring these 60 acres of high quality habitat including wetland, aquatic and upland habitat into state protection using Phase I Metro Big Rivers Partnership Program funding. The recently – protected land is now open for the public to use and enjoy; hunting is one of the many popular recreational opportunities, enjoying strong support from the City of Savage and Scott County.

We want to thank the entire Metro Big Rivers Partnership for their focus on the Minnesota River Valley and key tributaries!

Sincerely,

Lori Nelson
Executive Director

10800 Lyndale Ave. S., Suite #120/ Bloomington, MN 55420/ Ph.: 952-881-9055/ Fax: 952-881-3174/ www.friendsofminnvalley.org

Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
State Office Building, Room 95
St. Paul, MN 55155

6/25/2012

Dear LSOHC:

I am writing to urge your support of the Metro Big Rivers Phase 4 grant application. Specifically, our organization is interested in the request for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust for one million dollars to acquire approximately 250 acres of land in the Minnesota River Valley in the Blakely area.

Once acquired, this property will be donated to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and open to hunting and fishing. The availability of additional public lands in this region of Minnesota for outdoor activities is very important for our members and their families. Also of importance to our members is the improvement of water quality and wildlife habitat benefits.

Thank you for supporting this project and please contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,



Le Sueur County Pheasants Forever Chapter

Michael Schultz-Member

Le Center, MN

507-317-4370



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3815 American Blvd E.
Bloomington, MN 55425

June 22, 2012

Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
State Office Building, Room 95
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Council Members:

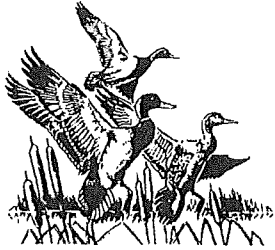
I am writing in support of the Metro Big Rivers Phase 4 grant application. Specifically I would like to endorse the request by the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust (Trust) for one million dollars to acquire approximately 250 acres of land in our Blakeley acquisition area. All of the lands acquired by the Trust under this grant request will be donated to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) and become part of the public domain managed by the Refuge. It is our intent to open these lands to public hunting and fishing opportunities as we have with other lands acquired in this acquisition area. The majority of the fishing activity will be on the Minnesota River and small ponds located in the floodplain. There will be a wide range of hunting opportunities including firearms and archery for deer, upland game, turkey, and migratory birds.

In addition to the hunting and fishing these lands will be open through the year for other outdoor recreational activities including hiking, wildlife observation and environmental education and interpretation. Management of lands in the Minnesota River Valley for wildlife dependent outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation is a major purpose of the Refuge.

Thank you for your support of this important project.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Blair
Refuge Manager



Minnesota Waterfowl Association, INC

907 First Street North, Hopkins, MN 55343 • 952-767-0320 • FAX 952-767-0324

June 25, 2012

LSOHC
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
State Office Building – Room 95
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: The Minnesota Valley Trust's Grant Application for the Expansion of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Council Members:

It has come to my attention the Minnesota Valley Trust has applied for a one million dollar grant for the expansion of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. It is my understanding this expansion would add 250 acres to the Wildlife Refuge. These additional acres would be open for public hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching and other related outdoor activities.

Minnesota Waterfowl Association is excited about this possible expansion and supports the Trust's proposal /request. MWA has always been a supporter of *conservation and Minnesota's hunting heritage*. An opportunity to expand public accessibility for this purpose is always *close to our heart and* a very beneficial use of land. This expansion will provide needed additional outdoor recreational opportunities. I look forward to hearing the Trust's grant request has been approved.

Sincerely,

Bradley Nylin
Executive Director

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT WILDLIFE HABITAT
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER—15% POST CONSUMER WASTE

June 28, 2012

Susan Schmidt
Minnesota State Director
The Trust for Public Land
2610 University Ave West, Suite 300
St. Paul, MN 55114

Dear Susan,

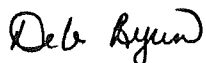
The St. Croix River Association (SCRA) is a strong supporter of the Metro Big Rivers Partnership Program Phase IV proposal recently submitted to the LSOHC for FY2014 funding consideration. The Metro Big Rivers Partnership Program is an excellent opportunity for SCRA to accomplish its own goals of increased and enhanced wildlife habitat adjacent to the Riverway and its associated watersheds..

The Metro Big Rivers Partnership Program offers SCRA the opportunity to refer interested landowners, local units of government and citizens to conservation organizations with a long track record of fee protection, easement protection, habitat restoration or enhancement throughout the state. As you know, the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway only protects a very narrow ribbon of land on either side of the St. Croix River itself. In order to protect the River, and its associated watershed lands, we must be able to protect high quality habitat along and near the Riverway. We view the Metro Big Rivers Partnership Program as a means towards this end.

The possibility of adding additional high quality habitat adjacent to the Riverway and the already-protected Franconia State Scientific and Natural Area -- all of which will be open for the public to hunt and fish -- is a great illustration. We are thrilled that The Trust for Public Land has been able to work closely with the MNDNR, Chisago County, townships, interested hunting and fishing leaders, other stakeholders and several landowners to protect high quality forest habitat adjacent to the Riverway and Franconia State Scientific and Natural Area and we encourage more protection in the near term. The area contains a rich diversity of native plant communities, from cliffs and seepage swamps, to prairies and pine forests. This stretch of the river corridor supports numerous rare species in Minnesota, such as the Coopers Hawk and cerulean warbler. The area is increasingly vulnerable to over-development, habitat fragmentation, erosion, and invasive species because it is so close to the developing edge of the Twin Cities.

On behalf the SCRA, I would like to thank you and the rest of the Metro Big Rivers Partnership for bringing additional focus to habitat protection and restoration in the St. Croix River Watershed!

Sincerely,



Deb Ryun
Executive Director

To: Lessard Sam's Outdoor Heritage Council
From: Tri Area Block Club
c/o 1111 Abell Street
St. Paul, MN 55117
Re: Trillium Support Letter-City of St. Paul/Great River Greening Partner Grant for Lessard Sam's Legacy Funding
Date: June 26, 2012

The Tri Area Block Club strongly supports the City of St. Paul/Great River Greening Partner Grant proposal requesting Lessard Sam's Legacy Funding to be used for the Trillium Nature Sanctuary site.

Our block club is located in St. Paul's North End neighborhood and is comprised of residents from a 14-square-block area near the Trillium site. Since 1989, we have worked together to improve the quality of life in our diverse, lower economic community. It was the grassroots effort and vision of the Tri Area Block Club that initiated the Trillium project and we have advocated on its' behalf for 18 years. We realized the value of this site not only to our neighborhood, but to the Region as well. Over the years, we wrote letters, circulated petitions, made phone calls, attended public hearings, and sought funding. We actively participated in securing funding for the site acquisition, have been involved in every step of the planning process, and remain committed to this project. We have garnered broad support from community organizations, schools, environmental groups, elected officials, and government agencies. They also recognize the enormous potential of this project and share our vision.

The significance of this site lies in the abundant environmental, recreational, and educational opportunities this project will afford. The positive impact to our inner city neighborhood would be immeasurable. Turning blighted acreage into greenspace would enhance quality of life and property values and contribute to the sustainability of the community. The nature preserve would provide a rare opportunity for youth to experience and study a natural outdoor environment in an urban setting. This site is literally the "missing link" that completes the Trout Brook Greenway/wildlife migration and habitat corridor and trail system connecting from the Mississippi River to McCarrons Lake. It provides for multiple trail connections, local and regional, that link neighborhoods to each other and to the region beyond. Additionally, an innovative storm water treatment component will be incorporated that will benefit the health of the Mississippi River and be used as an educational tool. Trout Brook will be daylighted, wetlands expanded, and native ecosystems restored.

We wish to reiterate our **strong** support and thank you for consideration of this grant proposal. This grant will bring us another step closer to turning our vision into reality. Polluted land benefits no one but a completed Trillium project will be an amenity for all.

*Linda Jurquinck, chair
Tri Area Block Club*