

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Laws of Minnesota 2014 Accomplishment Plan

Date: October 22, 2013

Program or Project Title: Crow-Hassan Prairie Complex Restoration and Enhancement

Funds Recommended: \$ 370,000

Manager's Name: John Moriarty

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Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

County Locations: Hennepin

Ecological Planning Regions:

- Metro / Urban

Activity Type:

- Enhance
- Restore

Priority Resources Addressed by Activity:

- Forest
- Prairie

Abstract:

The Crow-Hassan Prairie Complex Restoration and Enhancement proposal will create an important prairie habitat totalling 1100 acres in the metro area. It will provide excellent breeding and nesting habitat for waterfowl, grassland birds, and other wildlife.

Design and Scope of Work:

The Crow-Hassan Prairie, where restoration was initiated in 1969, is the oldest, largest, and best restored grassland in the Metro region. It currently covers approximately 850 acres of prairie, fire managed woodlands, and wetlands. This project will convert an additional 246 acres of old field into prairie, and tie in 28 more acres of woodlands into the burn plan. When completed the project will create a fire managed complex in excess of 1100 acres, which includes over 200 acres of shallow lakes and wetlands.

The complex will provide excellent nesting habitat for waterfowl, sandhill cranes, Trumpeter Swans, grassland birds, many of which are SGCNs, as well as, numerous species of mammals and reptiles, including state T&E species. The forb diversity on the existing and proposed restorations will provide excellent habitat for native

pollinators.

While the site is not open for general hunting, it does host special permit archery hunts and the adjacent Crow River provides a variety of fishing opportunities. There are also several lakes open for waterfowl hunting within 1 mile of the Crow Hassan Prairie

The project will include planting 246 acres of prairie that will include site prep (burn, spray, brush removal, plowing), seeding, and maintenance spraying and mowing. We will also be adding selected forb species to 500 acres of existing prairie. The 28 acres of will be woodlands brushed and burned to stimulate savanna habitat.

Planning:

MN State-wide Conservation Plan Priorities:

- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- H7 Keep water on the landscape

Plans Addressed:

- Grassland Bird Conservation Area
- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Managing Minnesota's Shallow Lakes for Waterfowl and Wildlife
- Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Plans
- National Audubon Society Top 20 Common Birds in Decline
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework
- Partners in Flight Grassland Bird Plan
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare
- Three Rivers Park District Vision Plan

LSOHC Statewide Priorities:

- Address Minnesota landscapes that have historical value to fish and wildlife, 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 long-term or permanent solutions to aquatic invasive species
- Are ongoing, successful, transparent and accountable programs addressing actions and targets of one or more of the ecological sections
- Attempts to ensure conservation benefits are broadly distributed across the LSOHC sections
- Ensures activities for "protecting, restoring and enhancing" are coordinated among agencies, non profits and others while doing this important work; provides the most cost-effective use of financial resources; and where possible takes into consideration the value of local outreach, education, and community engagement to sustain project outcomes
- Leverage effort and/or other funds to supplement any OHF appropriation
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Restore or enhance habitat on permanently protected land
- 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

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

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds:

- No Relationships Listed

Accelerates or Supplements Current Efforts:

This Proposal will allow supplemental prairie planting, which will complete restoration of the prairie/wetland complex in a timely manner. The contracting of the installation work will free up TRPD staff to focus on the backlog of burns and invasive species control in other portions of the complex. The woodland work will allow TRPD staff to complete larger burns across multiple habitats. The wetland work will supplement our efforts to control invasive species and improve nesting habitat.

Sustainability and Maintenance:

TRPD staff, with ongoing district funding for natural resources operations, will continue prairie maintenance and future enhancements. This project will provide for easier woodland burns and construct better firebreaks for prairie burns.

Permanent Protection:

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
Prairie planting and establishment	6/30/2019
Woodland restoration and savanna establishment	6/30/2019

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 *The core area size, # of connections to other habitats will be mapped, # of SGCN, overall plant diversity*
- Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna *# of plant species in prairie and wetland will be counted and monitored*
- Game lakes are significant contributors of waterfowl, due to efforts to protect uplands adjacent to game lakes *# of waterfowl broods on the 11 basins within the prairie complex will be counted*

Budget Spreadsheet

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

Total Amount of Request: \$ 370000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	\$370,000	\$0		\$370,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$370,000	\$0		\$370,000

Output Tables

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	246	28	0	274
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	500	0	0	500
Total	0	746	28	0	774

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

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

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$264,000	\$56,000	\$0	\$320,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
Total	\$0	\$314,000	\$56,000	\$0	\$370,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	Forest Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	274	0	0	0	0	274
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	500	0	0	0	0	500
Total	774	0	0	0	0	774

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban	Forest Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$320,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$320,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
Total	\$370,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$370,000

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles

0 miles

Parcel List

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Hennepin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Crow-Hassan Park Reserve	12023218	774	\$370,000	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

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.