

Request for Funding

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Fiscal Year 2015 / ML 2014

Program or Project Title: Metro Big Rivers Phase 5

Funds Requested: \$3,689,000

Manager's Name: Deborah Loon

Title: Executive Director

Organization: MN Valley Trust (Metro Big Rivers)

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Organization Web Site: www.mnvalleytrust.org

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

Ecological Planning Regions:

- Metro / Urban

Activity Type:

- Protect in Easement
- Enhance
- Protect in Fee

Priority Resources Addressed by Activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie
- Habitat

Abstract:

Metro Big Rivers Phase 4 will protect in fee title 340 acres, protect in conservation easement 300 acres, and enhance 241 acres of priority habitat within the big rivers corridors in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area.

Design and Scope of Work:

The five Metro Big Rivers (MBR) partners are experienced conservation organizations working together and with numerous public and private partners to protect, restore and enhance priority habitat for wildlife and the public in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area. MBR creates and connects wildlife habitat corridors on the three big rivers (Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix) to expand and improve opportunities both for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area. The partners and their projects are described below.

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) – Enhance 70 acres of forest habitat at one publicly-owned site that provides critical wildlife habitat and public recreation opportunities along the Mississippi River in Sherburne County. FMR will develop a natural resource management plan for the 314-acre Houlton property along the Mississippi River in Elk River, then conduct exotic invasive plant removal on 70 acres of remnant forest on the property. This project will improve habitat for forest dwelling species, such as resident and migratory birds and white tailed deer,

and will improve ecological connectivity to the Mississippi River Corridor. The City of Elk River, in partnership with the Conservation Fund and FMR, is in the process of purchasing this property and will be the long-term steward.

Great River Greening (GRG) -- Enhance 171 acres of important prairie, oak savanna, oak woodland, floodplain forest and seepage wetland habitat for wildlife and the public through 5 projects:

* Enhance 30 acres of prairie and forest habitat at Trout Brook Nature Preserve in St. Paul along the Trout Brook Greenway. This tree-planting project - Phase 2 for the site - 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 (with other funds) and 2) enhancement of 30 acres prairie, oak savanna, oak woodland and Big Woods habitat (with OHF grant). Phase 1 activities will commence in 2013 and the proposed Phase 2 activities will complete the project.

* Enhance 80 acres of oak woodland habitat at Carver Park Preserve in the City of Victoria. Activities include prescribed fire, forest thinning and invasive species control. The 4,053-acre park is noted for its extensive interconnected, and biologically diverse wetlands interspersed amongst a diversity of upland habitats ranging from mature maple-basswood forest and oak-aspen woodlands to prairie.

* Enhance 21 acres of oak woodland and savanna habitat at Terrace Oaks City Park in the City of Burnsville through prescribed fire and woody invasive control. Terrace Oaks features 230 acres of undeveloped oak forest and scattered ephemeral wetlands and is managed for its natural resources.

* Enhance 20 acres of oak woodland, floodplain forest, seepage wetland and natural springs at Pond Dakota Mission Park and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the City of Bloomington. Activities will include invasive species control and prescribed fire. Oak savanna restoration was started in 2011. This project will expand habitat management to the associated bluffs and floodplains, further elevating the ecological significance of the site as a component of the extensive habitat corridor along the Minnesota River valley.

* Enhance 20 acres of oak woodland habitat at Alimagnet City Park in the City of Apple Valley through woody invasive species control and prescribed fire. This property features 80 acres of undisturbed oak-basswood forest and access to Alimagnet Lake. The morainal terrain creates numerous ephemeral wetlands that provide excellent habitat for a diversity of wildlife, including amphibians and song birds.

Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) -- Protect through perpetual conservation easements at least 300 acres of wildlife habitat along the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers and key tributaries. MLT easements are perpetual and prohibit land uses or development that will negatively affect important habitat and other conservation values. The project will protect riparian habitat, as well as critical corridors of forest, wetland and grassland to connect existing, important natural areas. Activities include completing 5-7 perpetual easements on at least 300 acres, documenting property conditions, and dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring and enforcement of the easements.

Minnesota Valley 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. OHF funds will expand 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. Following acquisition, MVT and USFWS will develop a restoration and management plan, then restore and enhance the floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie (with other non-state funds). 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, improve connectivity and resilience, improve water quality by restoring croplands in the Minnesota River Valley to the natural habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie, and expand the public's access to lands for hunting, fishing and other wildlife-based recreation.

Trust for Public Land (TPL) -- Protect in fee title 90 acres of key habitat in one of six high-priority areas identified in statewide and regional plans as immediate opportunities. An additional 10 acres will be protected with other funds. Acreage targets will be accomplished from among the following six project areas:

Minnesota River Habitat Corridor:

- Protect up to 98 acres wetland and upland forest protected for Savage Fen Scientific and Natural Area
- Protect up to 300 acres at Blakely Bluffs, connecting existing protected land and including high biodiversity significance forests and bluffs adjoining the Minnesota River Bottoms

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
- Protect up to 1000 acres of forest and associated wetland / prairie/ grassland at Big Marine Lake which connects 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 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
- 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:

- Ducks Unlimited Living Lakes Initiative
- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management
- 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
- National Audubon Society Top 20 Common Birds in Decline
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework
- Partners in Flight Conservation Plans for States and Physiographic Regions
- State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Strategic Habitat Conservation Model
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

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
- 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
- Provide Minnesotans with greater public access to outdoor environments with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities
- 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
- 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. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) expects to leverage funds from federal, local, private or other state sources of funding in order to successfully protect an additional 10 acres of habitat rich lands. These funds may include grants from another constitutional fund, as appropriate and necessary.

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:

FMR - The City of Elk River will manage and sustain the property enhanced under this grant. FMR is committed to being an active partner to ensure the benefits of this project are maintained.

GRG - Three Rivers Park District and the Cities of Burnsville, St. Paul, Apple Valley and Bloomington will monitor the sites and sustain the habitat improvements over time. GRG is committed to working cooperatively with the cities to ensure the project benefits are sustained.

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.

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.

TPL - Working with the long-term steward and other 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.

Government Approval:

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition? - **Yes**

Permanent Protection:

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

Hunting and Fishing Plan:

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 -

http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley/documents/hunting_regs.pdf

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.

Public Use:

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

Permanent Protection:

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

Permanent Protection:

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

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
FMR - Develop natural resource management plan for the property and control exotic invasive species on 70 acres of forested.	June 30, 2017
GRG - Complete woody invasive plant control on 141 acres of forest habitat, tree planting on 30 acres prairie habitat, and prescribed fire on 100 acres.	June 30, 2017
MLT - Negotiate and complete conservation easements on at least 300 acres, document land conditions and dedicate funds for easement stewardship and enforcement.	June 30, 2017
MVT - Acquire fee title to at least 250 acres priority floodplain forest, wetland and prairie habitat.	June 30, 2017
TPL - Acquire fee title to 90 acres priority habitat.	June 30, 2017

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 *Partners work together to identify priority lands using existing data and plans, then coordinate protection, restoration and enhancement activities in those priority areas. Work builds upon prior phases and is intended to continue into the future for maximum impact. Mapping shows progress in connecting corridors. Species collections and counts measure impact of the activities over time on wildlife and species of greatest conservation need.*
- Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna *Partners work together to identify priority lands using existing data and plans, then coordinate protection, restoration and enhancement activities in those priority areas. Work builds upon prior phases and is intended to continue into the future for maximum impact. Mapping and data collection over time measures protection of biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities.*
- Protected habitats will hold wetlands and shallow lakes open to public recreation and hunting *Progress on protecting habitat with wetlands and shallow lakes that can be opened to public recreation and hunting is measured through mapping and data collection.*

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$3,689,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$261,400	\$106,800		\$368,200
Contracts	\$375,000	\$0		\$375,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$450,000	\$50,000	Various federal, state, local, private	\$500,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,450,000	\$300,000	Private Source, Various federal, state, local, private	\$1,750,000
Easement Acquisition	\$770,000	\$0		\$770,000
Easement Stewardship	\$140,000	\$0		\$140,000
Travel	\$8,700	\$0		\$8,700
Professional Services	\$103,000	\$0		\$103,000
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$13,200	\$0		\$13,200
Supplies/Materials	\$97,700	\$5,200		\$102,900
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$3,689,000	\$462,000		- \$4,151,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservation, legal and support staff	0.50	3.00	\$135,000	\$0		\$135,000
Conservation Director	0.01	3.00	\$1,900	\$0		\$1,900
Ecologist	0.04	3.00	\$8,400	\$0		\$8,400
Bookkeeper	0.00	3.00	\$500	\$0		\$500
Project Manager	0.20	3.00	\$30,800	\$35,800	Cities Burnsville, St. Paul, Bloomington, Apple Valley; Three Rivers Park District	\$66,600
Volunteer Manager	0.12	3.00	\$12,600	\$15,400	Same	\$28,000
Field Crew	0.60	3.00	\$50,700	\$55,600	Same	\$106,300
Conservation Director	0.05	3.00	\$11,000	\$0		\$11,000
Finance Director	0.04	3.00	\$9,000	\$0		\$9,000
Grant Management Assistant	0.01	3.00	\$1,500	\$0		\$1,500
Total	1.57	30.00	\$261,400	\$106,800		- \$368,200

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

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

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Minnesota Land Trust	\$135,000	\$0		\$135,000
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	\$770,000	\$0		\$770,000
Easement Stewardship	Minnesota Land Trust	\$140,000	\$0		\$140,000
Travel	Minnesota Land Trust	\$5,000	\$0		\$5,000
Professional Services	Minnesota Land Trust	\$103,000	\$0		\$103,000
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	-	\$1,153,000	\$0	-	\$1,153,000

Personnel - Minnesota Land Trust

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservation, legal and support staff	0.50	3.00	\$135,000	\$0		\$135,000
Total	0.50	3.00	\$135,000	\$0	-	\$135,000

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Friends of Mississippi River	\$10,800	\$0		\$10,800
Contracts	Friends of Mississippi River	\$147,000	\$0		\$147,000
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	Friends of Mississippi River	\$700	\$0		\$700
Professional Services	Friends of Mississippi River	\$0	\$0		\$0
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	\$1,500	\$0		\$1,500
DNR IDP	Friends of Mississippi River	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	-	\$160,000	\$0	-	\$160,000

Personnel - Friends of Mississippi River

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservation Director	0.01	3.00	\$1,900	\$0		\$1,900
Ecologist	0.04	3.00	\$8,400	\$0		\$8,400
Bookkeeper	0.00	3.00	\$500	\$0		\$500
Total	0.05	9.00	\$10,800	\$0	-	\$10,800

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	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	\$450,000	\$50,000	Various federal, state, local, private	\$500,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Trust for Public Land	\$450,000	\$50,000	Various federal, state, local, private	\$500,000
Easement Acquisition	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	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	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
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	-	\$920,000	\$100,000	-	\$1,020,000

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Great River Greening	\$115,600	\$106,800		\$222,400
Contracts	Great River Greening	\$228,000	\$0		\$228,000
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	Great River Greening	\$3,000	\$0		\$3,000
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	\$13,200	\$0		\$13,200
Supplies/Materials	Great River Greening	\$96,200	\$5,200		\$101,400
DNR IDP	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	-	\$456,000	\$112,000	-	\$568,000

Personnel - Great River Greening

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Manager	0.20	3.00	\$30,800	\$35,800	Cities Burnsville, St. Paul, Bloomington, Apple Valley; Three Rivers Park District	\$66,600
Volunteer Manager	0.12	3.00	\$12,600	\$15,400	Same	\$28,000
Field Crew	0.60	3.00	\$50,700	\$55,600	Same	\$106,300
Conservation Director	0.05	3.00	\$11,000	\$0		\$11,000
Finance Director	0.04	3.00	\$9,000	\$0		\$9,000
Grant Management Assistant	0.01	3.00	\$1,500	\$0		\$1,500
Total	1.02	18.00	\$115,600	\$106,800		- \$222,400

Output Tables

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	14	9	16	6	45
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	114	72	103	6	295
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	300	300
Enhance	0	30	211	0	241
Total	128	111	330	312	881

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$135,000	\$100,000	\$160,000	\$65,000	\$460,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$535,000	\$350,000	\$510,000	\$65,000	\$1,460,000
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,153,000	\$1,153,000
Enhance	\$0	\$100,400	\$515,600	\$0	\$616,000
Total	\$670,000	\$550,400	\$1,185,600	\$1,283,000	\$3,689,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	45	0	0	0	0	45
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	295	0	0	0	0	295
Protect in Easement	300	0	0	0	0	300
Enhance	241	0	0	0	0	241
Total	881	0	0	0	0	881

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$460,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$460,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$1,460,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,460,000
Protect in Easement	\$1,153,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,153,000
Enhance	\$616,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$616,000
Total	\$3,689,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,689,000

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles

1 miles

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Carver

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Carver Park Preserve	11624204	80	\$124,305	Yes

Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Alimagnet City Park	11520229	20	\$67,304	Yes
Terrace Oaks City Park	11520217	21	\$95,804	Yes

Hennepin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Pond Dakota Mission City Park/MN Valley NWR	02724222	20	\$68,155	Yes

Ramsey

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Trout Brook Nature Preseve (Phase 2)	02922230	30	\$100,404	Yes

sherburne

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Houlton Farm site	03226204	70	\$160,000	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Anoka

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MS River / Rum River Scout Camp	32N25W13	170	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Full

Carver

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Rapids Lake Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	11523W31	100	\$400,000	No	Full	Full

Chisago

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
St. Croix / Franconia and Scandia Corridor	33N19W16	200	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Not applicable

Isanti

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Rum River	03424211	32	\$0	No	No	No

Scott

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Blakely Bluffs	11325209	46	\$138,000	No	No	No
Blakely Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	11326W36	100	\$400,000	No	Full	Full
Carver Creek (1)	11524215	190	\$90,000	No	No	No
Carver Creek (2)	11524227	49	\$90,000	No	No	No
MN River / Blakely Bluffs Area		125	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Not applicable
MN River / Savage Fen		98	\$700,000	No	Full	Not applicable
St. Lawrence Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	11424W27	100	\$400,000	No	Full	Not applicable

Sibley

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Jessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	11323W13	100	\$400,000	No	Full	Full

Washington

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
St. Croix / Big Marine Area		1,000	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Not applicable
St. Croix / Wilder Forest Area	31N20W15	100	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Full
Valley Creek	02820217	10	\$200,000	No	No	No

Wright

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Moose Lake	12028208	42	\$252,000	No	No	No
Otter Creek	12125218	36	\$0	No	No	No
Silver Creek	12126202	65	\$0	No	No	No

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

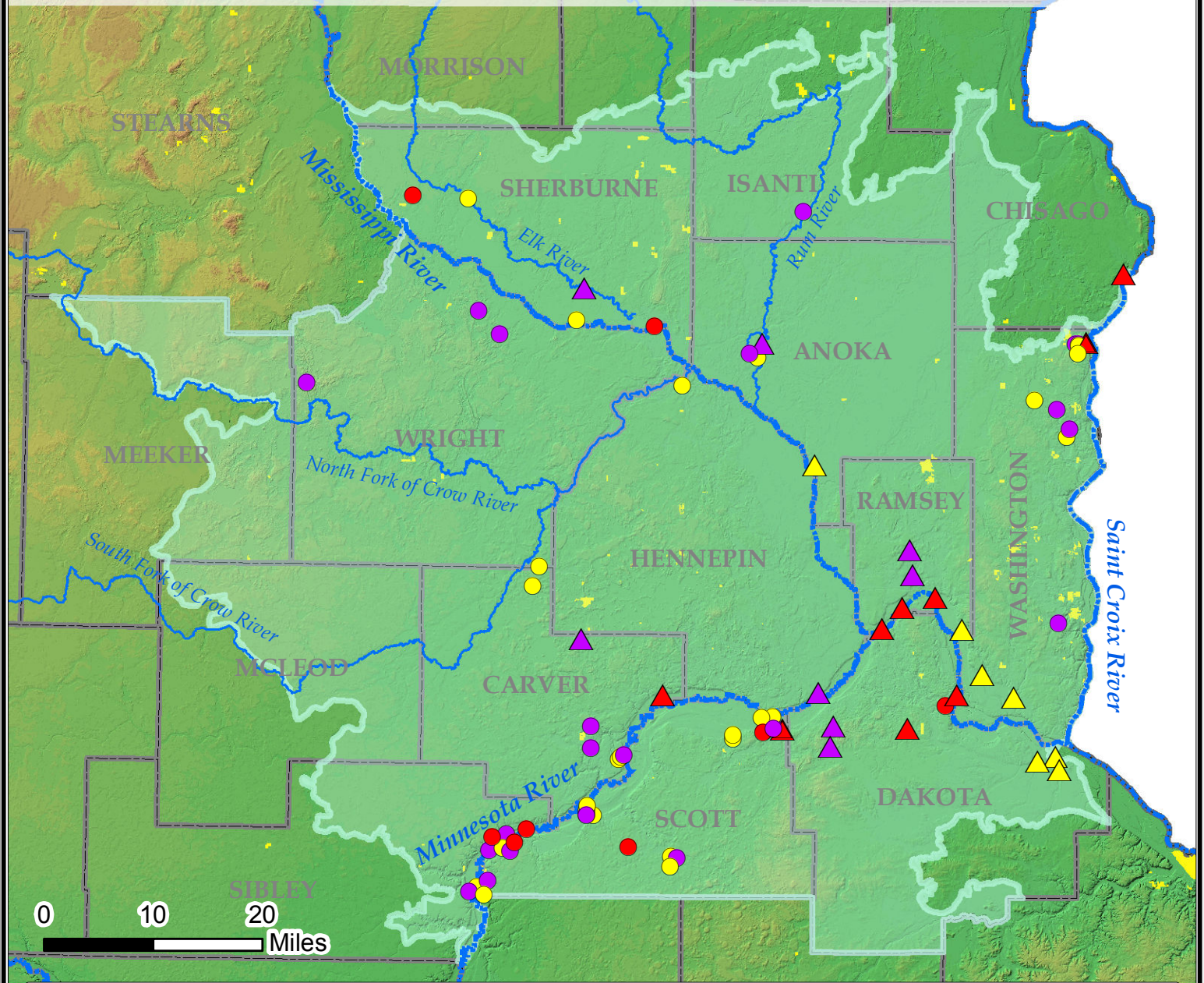
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

METRO BIG RIVERS PARTNERSHIP

PROJECTS MAP



<p>COMPLETED PROJECTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protection ▲ Restoration/Enhancement <p>PROJECTS IN PROCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protection (Potential) ▲ Restoration/Enhancement <p>2013 PROPOSED PROJECTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protection (Potential) ▲ Restoration/Enhancement 	<p>Partnership accomplishments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 448 acres restored/enhanced completed - 477 acres of restoration / enhancement projects in process - 241 acres of restoration / enhancement projects proposed - 603 acres of protection completed - 1,054 acres of protection projects in process - 940 acres of protection projects proposed
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District 6 Planning Council

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

June 12, 2013

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 Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary and Regional Trail (former Trillium) site is a significant asset to our community which the neighborhood and District 6 have been working on for decades.

District 6 has continually worked on Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary and Regional Trail 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 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 Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary and Regional Trail 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.

Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary and Regional Trail also serves the neighborhoods, by ensuring that this site which lies between two economically challenged neighborhoods which deserve to have this area 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, Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary and Regional Trail 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



June 7, 2013

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 FY2015 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.

FMV is very supportive of the possibility of additional protection 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. FMV is equally enthusiastic about protection opportunities that are moving forward in the area further up river in the Blakely Bluffs area near Shakopee in Scott County.

We want to thank the entire Metro Big Rivers Partnership for their focus on the Minnesota River Valley and key tributaries and urge your support of their Phase IV proposal. Please contact me at 952-858-0732 if you have any questions about this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Lori Nelson
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 12, 2013

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.

*Luola Jungwirth, chair
Tri Area Block Club*

June 7, 2013

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 submitted to the LSOHC for FY2015 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 watershed.

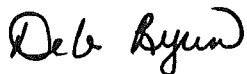
The Metro Big Rivers Partnership Program offers SCRA the opportunity to refer interested landowners, local units of government and citizens to conservation organizations with a long track record of fee protection, easement protection, habitat restoration or enhancement throughout the state. As you know, the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway only protects a very narrow ribbon of land on either side of the St. Croix River itself. Protecting high quality habitat along and near the Riverway is a critical component to protecting the River, and the health of the watershed. 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 adjacent to the Franconia State Scientific and Natural Area -- open for the public to hunt and fish -- is a great illustration. This property is considered a priority area to the St. Croix Conservation Collaborative, a consortium of land trusts working in the St. Croix basin. 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.

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 at Franconia. We encourage more protection in the near term. 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. The SCRA is also excited to hear about conservation possibilities in the Wilder Forest area and the Big Marine Lake area, both of which are in the St. Croix Corridor.

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



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
and Wetland Management District
3815 American Blvd East
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425

In Reply Refer to:
FWS/Region 3/NWRS/MNV

June 12, 2013

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

Dear Council Members:

I am writing in support of the Metro Big Rivers Phase 5 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 expansion areas located in Carver, LeSueur, Scott and Sibley Counties along the Minnesota River. 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 deer, upland game, turkey, and migratory birds.

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

Thank you for your support of this important project.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Holler
Acting Refuge Manager



June 12, 2013

Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Commission:

I am writing in support of the Metro Big Rivers Partnership Program Phase IV proposal recently submitted to the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Commission for FY 2015 funding consideration. This is a unique scenic property with over three miles of natural untouched shoreline along the Mississippi River. The funding will provide habitat restoration for the Houlton Farm site that the city in is the process of acquiring, thourgh a collaboration of partnerships.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Hecker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Hecker, CPRP
Parks and Recreation Director

Phone: 763.635.1000
Fax: 763.635.1090

www.ci.elk-river.mn.us

