Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
Fiscal Year 2017 / ML 2016 Request for Funding

Date: June 02, 2015

Program or Project Title: Shell Rock River Habitat Restoration Program - Phase V

Funds Requested: $3,788,800

Manager's Name: Andy Henschel
Title: Director of Field Operations
Organization: Shell Rock River Watershed District
Address: 214 West Main Street
City: Albert Lea, MN 56007
Office Number: 507-377-5785
Mobile Number: 507-391-2795
Email: andy.henschel@co.freeborn.mn.us
Website: www.shellrock.org

County Locations: Freeborn

Regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Restore
- Enhance
- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Habitat

Abstract:

The Shell Rock River Watershed District's Phase 5 Habitat Restoration Program will restore, enhance, and protect 1469 acres of essential shallow lake, wetland and stream bank habitat benefiting fish, waterfowl and wildlife populations, preserving an outdoor legacy for future generations.

Design and scope of work:

The Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD) covers 246 square miles inside Freeborn County and includes a complex system of wetlands, streams, and shallow lakes that drain into the Shell Rock River. Among the District's 11 lakes are Fountain Lake and Albert Lea Lake, which are located in the core of Freeborn County. These lakes are important to residents for recreation and vital to Albert Lea's tourism economy and identity.

Habitat degradation of wetlands, streams, and shallow lakes is an issue of statewide importance that requires accelerated investment in projects to restore, enhance and protect habitat for fish, waterfowl and wildlife populations. Protection and restoration of this critical habitat is the highest priority in the SRRWD. Reduction of habitat in the watershed is directly affected by invasive aquatic vegetation, populations of invasive fish species such as common carp, and artificial drainage. Degradation in habitat is influencing available food sources for game fish populations that include Northern Pike, Bluegill, Yellow Perch and Walleye, and duck populations that include Northern Pintail, Redhead, Canvasback, and Greater/Lesser Scaup.

With this growing concern, in 2014 the SRRWD created a 5 year, $20 million watershed wide effort to restore, protect, and enhance degraded habitat conditions through implementations of projects on a lake-shed basis.

This Watershed Habitat Restoration Program is designed to accomplish the following objectives: restore desirable fish, waterfowl and

wildlife populations, enhance native aquatic rooted vegetation, increase fish habitat and spawning areas, waterfowl nesting areas, re-establish flyway habitat, increase wildlife habitat and its natural prairie, increase and improve community use of restored natural resources and protect the watershed from invasive species. These Program goals will be attained by:

- 218 acres in key habitat targeted acquisition to re-establish native vegetation, improve nesting habitat and waterfowl food sources.
- Establishment of wetland basins of 804 acres to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat.
- Re-establish native vegetation to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat to 181 acres in the watershed.
- 266 acres of rotenone treatment to manage rough fish and re-establish native aquatic vegetation.

Phase 5 will utilize elements of successful local and previously funded LSOHC Programs, build upon Phase 4 of the Habitat Restoration Program, and enhance, restore and protect fisheries, waterfowl and wildlife habitat within the SRRWD. Project scope in this Program consists of accelerated wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas, Minnesota Prairie Recovery, living shallow lakes and wetland initiatives along with accelerated shallow lakes and wetland enhancements. Finally, the scope of work will consist of rough fish management and game fish habitat improvement, enhancement and protection.

The SRRWD is the headwaters to the Shell Rock River, Cedar River, Upper Iowa River, Mississippi River, and the Gulf of Mexico. Creating long-term goals to restore, enhance and protect the lakes, wetlands and streams in the SRRWD that will positively affect downstream conditions is important to improving habitat and water quality of public waters within, as well as, outside of the Shell Rock River Watershed District. These long term goals interconnect and re-establish important flyway habitats within Minnesota, such as: Mississippi, Le Sueur and La Qui Parle. The goal is to establish waterfowl and fish populations to create the wildlife mecca that was recorded in the late 1800's (See attached article). Finally, this Program will preserve an outdoor legacy for Minnesotans to use and enjoy for generations.

The SRRWD proposes to improve degraded habitat conditions through implementation of projects on a lake-shed basis. District staff and board managers have demonstrated the ability and capacity to complete these projects with funding from the LSHOC. The projects are identified as a high priority in the SRRWD Management Plan, a plan developed with public participation, subject to public review and approval by the SRRWD Board. District staff focuses on identifying existing impairments through current conservation modeling and monitoring water quality within the SRRWD, which results in determining project locations with the greatest net return in habitat restoration.

In 2004 the SRRWD released its first Watershed Management Plan to implement reasonable and necessary improvements to natural resources and water quality. Some of the major beneficial outcomes were: overall improved water quality, an aggressive Pollution Prevention Program that centered on repairing septic systems, and restoring a key headwaters lake. The SRRWD is in the midst of a watershed habitat transformation and is now implementing its second generation Waterplan. The District welcomes the opportunity to build on the success of the first Watershed Management Plan by adding and continuing the aggressive Habitat Restoration Program designed to protect, enhance and restore, shallow lake, wetland and stream habitat. Creating this partnership with the LSOHC will demonstrate that leveraged watershed based benefits can accrue from a strategic approach to habitat restoration and protection efforts and can be replicated in similar watersheds throughout Minnesota.

The Program was designed to shift habitat capacity of the watershed to a recognizable level for generations to come and complement the habitat restoration and protection benefits from previous LSOHC funding phases: Wedge Creek, White Lake and Fountain Lake Fish Barriers (2009-10); Shell Rock River Headwater's Project (2011-12); Albert Lea Lake Dam and Fish Barrier (2013-14); Goose Creek Fish Barrier (CPL Grant) (2013-2014); Shell Rock River Headwaters Restoration, Phase II (CPL Grant) (2014-15); and Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program, Phase 4 (2015-16). The District will leverage its experience to ensure optimum project design and implementation, resulting in rapid habitat restoration and enhancement benefits. In turn, implementation of these projects will provide long-term protection of the SRRWD's shallow lakes, wetlands and streams.

The Shell Rock River Watershed District has a proven track record with LSOHC, implementing projects that protect, restore, and enhance Minnesota's natural resources. Public fishing, hunting, outdoor recreation, in addition to our recent Shell Rock River Water Trail, give outdoor enthusiasts first-hand use of improved habitat conditions that restore fish and wildlife populations within the Shell Rock River Watershed.

Crops:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **No**

How does the request address MN habitats that have: historical value to fish and wildlife, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, MN County Biological Survey data, and/or rare, threatened and endangered species inventories:

Historically the Shell Rock River Watershed is a shallow lake system with diverse populations of fish, waterfowl and wildlife. With degraded habitat becoming a concern, ongoing efforts of District studies, modeling, and monitoring has defined current impairments

and invasive species populations. Implementing lake-shed, as well as site specific habitat restoration projects are progressively improving populations of native fish species, waterfowl and wildlife habitat. The Program includes projects that are prioritized based on the significance of benefit to aquatic habitat, urgency of the work, availability of leverage funding, location of projects and agreement with relevant planning documents. This proposal uses a programmatic approach to achieve prioritized aquatic habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement of lakes, streams, and wetlands across the Watershed, to once again create the historic mecca of natural resources we once had, preserving an outdoor legacy for future generations.

What is the nature of urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:

Sub-watersheds with degraded habitat and impairments still remain in the SRRWD, giving the District an opportunity to build upon existing work by providing habitat, with an attainable timeline, to fish, waterfowl, and wildlife populations with expected measurable benefits resulting from Phase 5 projects.

Describe the science based planning and evaluation model used:

SRRWD utilizes monitoring with precision conservation modeling to identify Priority Management Zones (PMZs) on a sub-watershed basis. The PMZs are prioritized and evaluated conservation project locations chosen to mitigate specific areas contributing to degradation of habitat, which reduces populations of aquatic vegetation, fish, waterfowl and wildlife within the lake-shed.

Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Long Range Plan for Muskellunge and Large Northern Pike Management Through 2020
- Managing Minnesota's Shallow Lakes for Waterfowl and Wildlife

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Prairie:

- Protect, restore, and enhance shallow lakes

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

How does this proposal accelerate or supplement your current efforts in this area:

Phase 5 of the Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program supplements Phase 4 of the Program, and consolidates previous programs that include: Fish Barrier Program, Stream Restoration Program, ISTS Program and the Wetland Restoration Program. Projects that the SRRWD undergoes are focused on recovery of impaired resources on a watershed basis that provide measurable and lasting results. Each project is another effort in restoring desirable native habitat to the SRRWD.

LSOHC funds accelerate ongoing conservation efforts by increasing the number of successful projects the District is able to complete each year in the watershed. Projects selected in the Program contribute to the success of long-term management plans, enhance growth of aquatic plants, reduced populations of undesirable fish and vegetation, increase numbers of game fish, waterfowl and wildlife populations, and provide habitat for fish, waterfowl and wildlife.

Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2012	Local Tax Levy - 25% Grant Matching Funds	180,000
2013	Local Tax Levy - 25% Grant Matching Funds	230,000
2014	Local Tax Levy - 25% Grant Matching Funds	804,750

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:

The Shell Rock River Watershed District is a permanent entity created by state statute and operates under a series of 10-year plans that are approved by MNBWSR. The first 10 year Waterplan was completed in 2004 and the District is currently completing a second generation 10-year Watershed Management Plan. The second generation Waterplan requires a top-to-bottom comprehensive list of natural resource restoration, management, enhancement, and protection strategies.

SRRWD relies on multiple funding sources including a local levy, a local option sales tax, and multiple public and private partnerships including four previous LSOHC phased projects to assist in funding projects. The District continues an aggressive monitoring protocol, generating yearly regular results that are used for extensive reporting. The habitat efforts that accrue from the Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program will easily be incorporated into this existing results-driven reporting framework, which can be used to generate public interest and education of a watershed-based restoration approach. The District has commitment and funding sources necessary to maintain existing and future natural resource enhancement projects.

Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2019	Sales Tax and LSOHC	Construction and Erosion Control Inspections	Erosion Control and Maintenance Inspectons and Maintenance Implementations	Maintenance Inspections and Maintenance Implementation
2020	Sales Tax and LSOHC	Construction and Erosion Control Inspections	Erosion Control and Maintenance Inspections and Maintenance Implementation	Maintenance Inspections and Maintenance Implementation
2021	Sales Tax	Maintenance Inspections and Maintenance Implementation		Maintenance Inspections and Maintenance Implementation

Activity Details:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

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

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing - **No**

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion - **Yes**

Open hunting and fishing will comply with State regulations.

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program - **Yes**

Is the activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 - **Yes (Public Waters)**

Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Begin project planning, design and permitting work following July	July 2016
Begin projects during the 2017 construction season following completion of design, permits, and contracting	2017 Construction Season
Complete all 2017 restoration and habitat improvement projects	End of 2018 Field Season
Vegetation enhancement on restoration projects	June 2019
Maintenance and monitoring of all restoration and habitat improvement projects	Ongoing

Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

Outcomes:

Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands *Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands will provide habitat to wildlife and support healthy natural resource conditions for long term benefits. They will offer an oasis for migratory waterfowl by re-establishing and connecting the flyways in south-central Minnesota. Measurement of success will*

require multifaceted data collection. Floristic Quality Assessments of restored wetlands, lakeshore, fish population surveys and wildlife surveys will aid in measuring and evaluating the success of protected, restored and enhanced shallow lakes, streams and wetlands. Increases and declines in wildlife, waterfowl and fish populations will be determined and reported in cooperation with MNDNR.

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: $3,788,800

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$45,000	$0		$45,000
Contracts	$658,400	$0		$658,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	$0	$0		$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	$2,426,200	$0		$2,426,200
Easement Acquisition	$0	$0		$0
Easement Stewardship	$0	$0		$0
Travel	$0	$0		$0
Professional Services	$421,600	$100,000	Local Option Sales Tax	$521,600
Direct Support Services	$0	$0		$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	$35,000	$0		$35,000
Capital Equipment	$0	$0		$0
Other Equipment/Tools	$0	$0		$0
Supplies/Materials	$202,600	$0		$202,600
DNR IDP	$0	$0		$0
Total	$3,788,800	$100,000	-	$3,888,800

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Manager	0.43	1.00	$25,000	$0		$25,000
Program Assistant	0.30	1.00	$20,000	$0		$20,000
Total	0.73	2.00	$45,000	$0	-	$45,000

Amount of Request: $3,788,800

Amount of Leverage: $100,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 2.64%

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	804	0	0	0	804
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	218	218
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	447	447
Total	804	0	0	665	1,469

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	$657,800	$0	$0	$0	$657,800
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	$0	$0	$0	$2,730,800	$2,730,800
Protect in Easement	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Enhance	$0	$0	$0	$400,200	$400,200
Total	$657,800	$0	$0	$3,131,000	$3,788,800

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	804	0	804
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	218	0	218
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	447	0	447
Total	0	0	0	1,469	0	1,469

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	$0	$0	$0	$657,800	$0	$657,800
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	$0	$0	$0	$2,730,800	$0	$2,730,800
Protect in Easement	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Enhance	$0	$0	$0	$400,200	$0	$400,200
Total	$0	$0	$0	$3,788,800	$0	$3,788,800

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	$818	$0	$0	$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$0	$0	$0	$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	$0	$0	$0	$12,527
Protect in Easement	$0	$0	$0	$0
Enhance	$0	$0	$0	$895

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	$0	$0	$0	$818	$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	$0	$0	$0	$12,527	$0
Protect in Easement	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Enhance	$0	$0	$0	$895	$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

25

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Freeborn

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Albert Lea Lake Unnamed Creek	10220206	202	$201,300	No
Pickerel Lake Site 12	10222213	1	$40,300	No
School Section, Hall and Sugar Lakes Fish Community Reclaimation	10322236	266	$327,800	No
Wedge Creek Reach 1	10221206	184	$327,800	No
Wedge Creek Wetland Restoration	10322216	15	$371,300	No

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Freeborn

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Dakin Property	10120231	24	$295,800	No	Full	Full
Houg Property	10120231	37	$456,000	No	Full	Full
Ladlie Property	10221211	69	$850,400	No	Full	Full
Leland Property	10221203	22	$266,200	No	Full	Full
Mud Lake Property	10222212	27	$332,800	No	Full	Full
Olson Property	10321236	33	$406,700	No	Full	Full
Remakel Property	10222212	7	$87,800	No	Full	Full

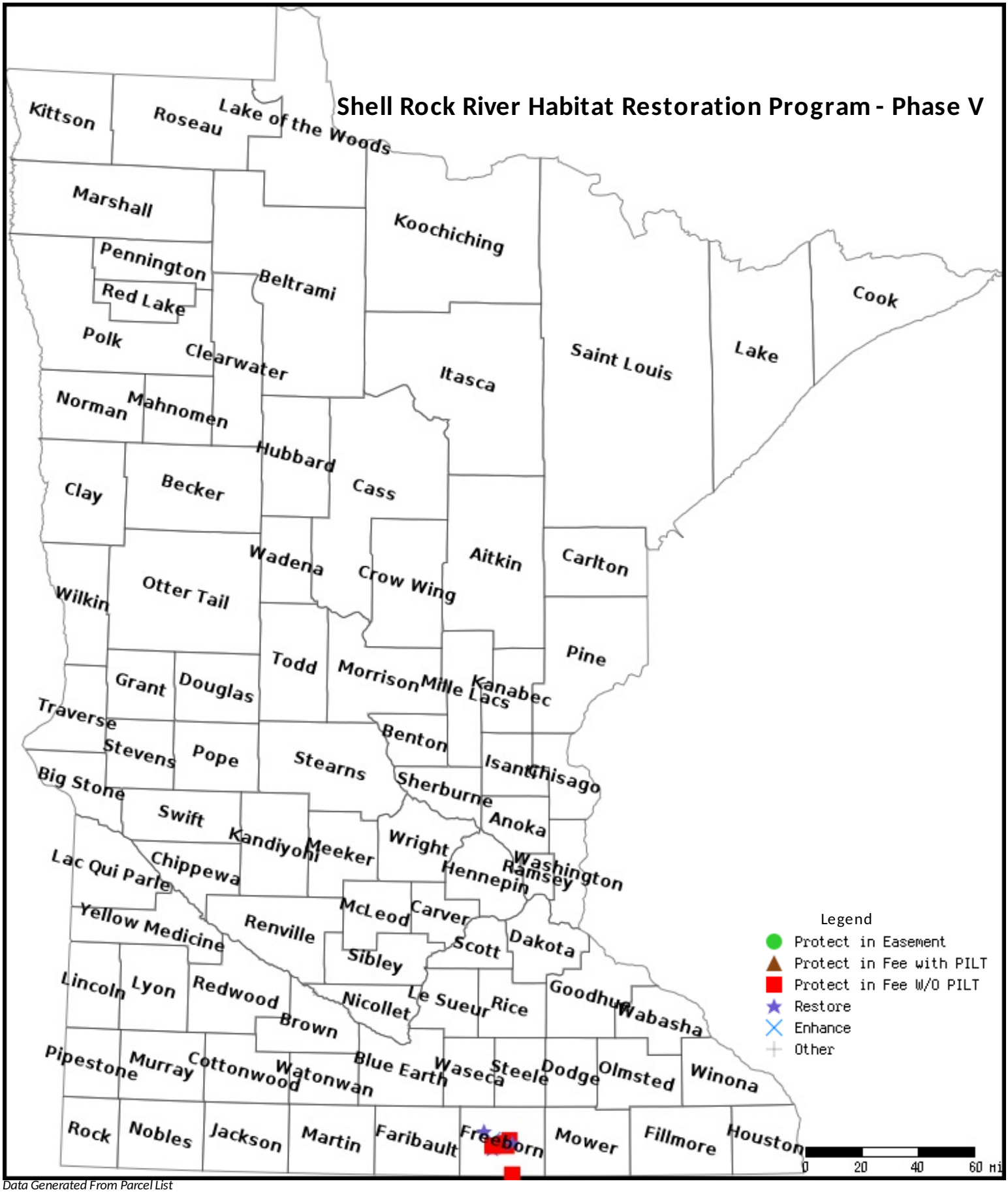
Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

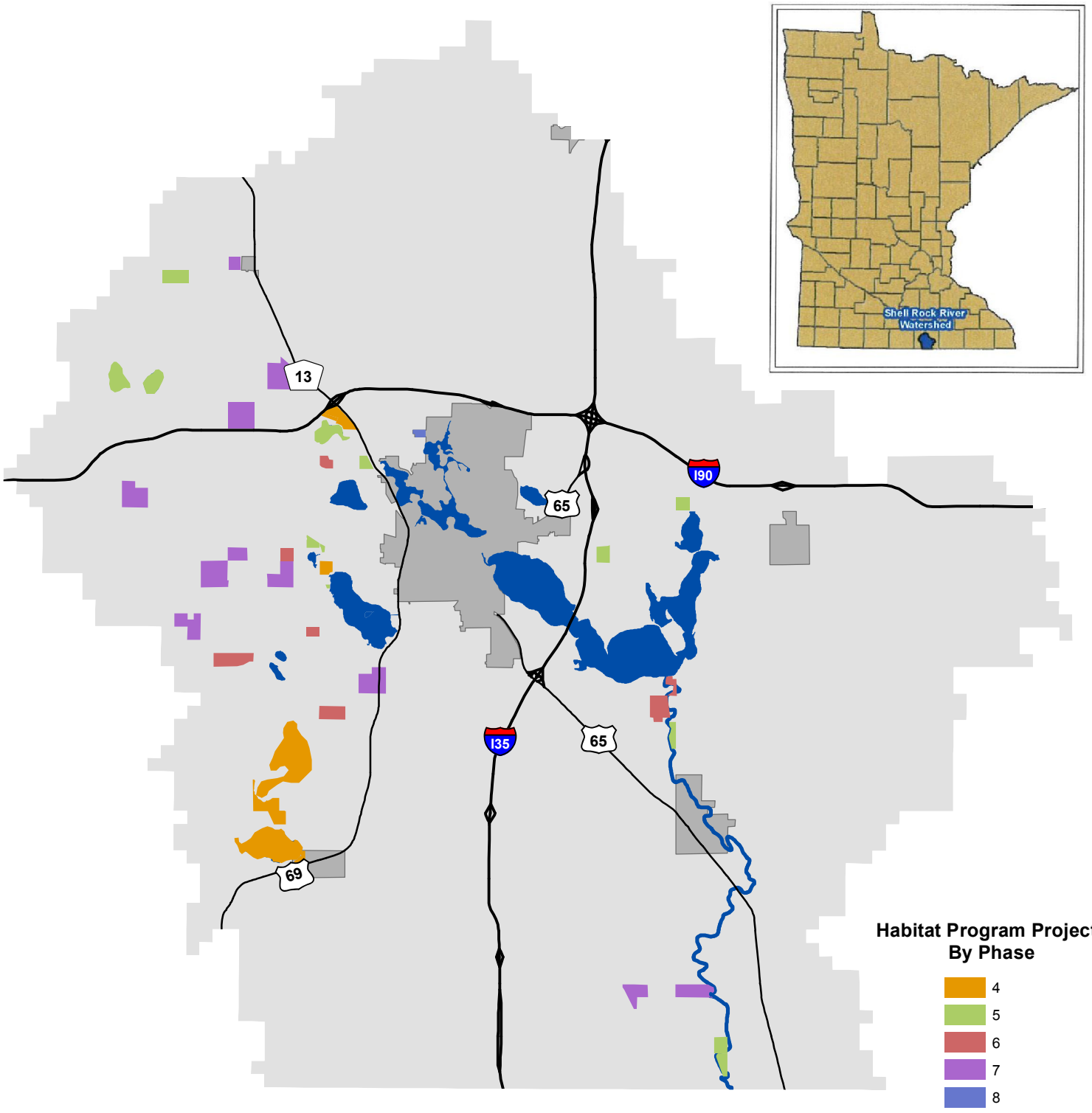
Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List



Shell Rock River Watershed District
Habitat Restoration Program

N
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0 1 2 4 Miles

SRRWD
Shell Rock River Watershed District

Shell Rock River Watershed District
Resolution 2015-04
L-SOHC Grant Application

BE IT RESOLVED that the Shell Rock River Watershed District, hereinafter referred to as "Authorized Official" (Authorized Agent) acts as legal sponsor for the Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program contained in the

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (L-SOHC) Application to be submitted on June 4, 2015, and that Authorized Official is hereby authorized to apply to the LSOHC, hereinafter referred to a "State," for funding of this project on behalf of the applicant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Applicant has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability to ensure adequate acquisition, maintenance and protection of the proposed project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Applicant has not incurred any construction costs or has not entered into any written agreements to purchase property proposed by this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Applicant has not violated any Federal, State, or local laws pertaining to fraud bribery, graft, kickbacks, collusion, conflict of interest or other unlawful or corrupt practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the application by the State, the Authorized Official may enter into an Agreement with the State for the above-referenced project, and that the Applicant certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in the contract agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Andy Henschel, Director of Field Operations or Brett Behnke, District Administrator for the Shell Rock River Watershed District, is hereby authorized to execute such Agreements as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Applicant.

Date: June 12, 2015

Gary Pestorious, Chair
Shell Rock River Watershed District

Bruce Haugsdal, Secretary
Shell Rock River Watershed District

Albert Lea - Freeborn County
Chamber of Commerce

May 28, 2015

Robert Anderson, Chair
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
c/o Shell Rock River Watershed District
214 West Main St.
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Dear Mr. Anderson,

We are writing in support of the Shell Rock River Watershed District's proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, for the Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program - Phase 5.

The Shell Rock River Watershed District has a strong history of success and cooperation with many partners, including the Albert Lea – Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce, in enhancing, restoring, and protecting the high quality of fish and wildlife habitats in the Albert Lea area. This letter reflects our continued support of its work. In our experience, the Shell Rock River Watershed District has honored its previous commitments to the State and completed the projects funded. We fully expect that this will continue in the future.

We appreciate the effort the Shell Rock River Watershed District has put into developing a five-year, $20 million plan to transform our lakes and wildlife habitat. This second year proposal includes projects for wetland restorations, habitat improvements, enhancements to upland game and waterfowl nesting, land acquisitions for habitat protection, and rough fish management. The work that the Shell Rock River Watershed District has done, and will continue to do, has provided, and will continue to provide, great benefit to our community and preservation of some of our greatest assets, our lakes. Largely, these projects are not possible, without grants and funding, like those received from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund.

We appreciate your consideration of the Shell Rock River Watershed District proposal and ask for your continued support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Haedt, Past Board Chair
Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber

Randy Kehr, Executive Director
Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber

2580 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, Minnesota 56007 Phone: 507-373-3938 Fax: 507-373-0344
Email: alfccoc@albertlea.org Website: www.albertlea.org

freeborn
county
minnesota

County Administration - Government Center
411 So. Broadway, P.O. Box 1147, Albert Lea, Minnesota 56007-1147

507/377-5116
Fax 507/377-5109

May 18, 2015

Robert Anderson Chair,
Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Dear Mr. Anderson:

On behalf of the Freeborn County Board of Commissioners I am writing in support of the Shell Rock River Watershed Districts proposal, Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program- Phase 5, to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. We appreciate the Council's strong support of our projects in previous Outdoor Heritage Funding recommendations.

The Shell Rock River Watershed District has a strong history of success and cooperation with many partners, including Freeborn County, in enhancing, restoring, and protecting essential lake, wetland, and stream bank habitat.

We appreciate the efforts the Shell Rock River Watershed has put into developing a five year, $20 million plan to transform our lakes and wildlife habitat. This, second year, proposal includes projects for wetland restorations, habitat improvements, enhancements to upland game and waterfowl nesting, land acquisitions for habitat protection, and rough fish management. Projects in this Phase 5 restoration proposal will build upon the $2.4 million Phase 4 request, and will increase wildlife areas, reduce invasive species, and protect fish and wildlife within the Shell Rock River Watershed.

The Freeborn County Board of Commissioners asks for the Council's support of the continued habitat restoration projects within the Shell Rock River Watershed.

Sincerely,

John W. Kluever
County Administrator

Albert Lea Lakes Foundation
102 West Clark Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007

June1, 2015

Robert Anderson Chair,
Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Albert Lea Lakes Foundation is in support of the Shell Rock River Watershed Districts proposal, Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program- Phase 5, to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. We appreciate the Council's consistent support of the projects in previous Outdoor Heritage Funding recommendations.

The Shell Rock River Watershed District has a strong history of success and cooperation with many partners, including our Foundation, in enhancing, restoring, and protecting essential lake, wetland, and stream bank habitat.

We appreciate the efforts the Shell Rock River Watershed has put into developing a five year, $20 million plan to transform our lakes and wildlife habitat. This, second year $4M proposal includes projects for wetland restorations, habitat improvements, enhancements to upland game and waterfowl nesting, land acquisitions for habitat protection, and rough fish management. Projects in this Phase 5 restoration proposal will build upon the $2.4 million Phase 4 request, and will increase wildlife areas, reduce invasive species, and protect fish and wildlife within the Shell Rock River Watershed.

These projects are highly important because our lakes are the heart of our city and county. Residents and visitors are continuously commenting on the water quality changes that have been increasingly noticeable in the last several years. We strongly believe that a continued commitment to completing these projects will present the best possible outcomes for all creatures that wish to call our waterways home. The migrations and fish populations are more notable than ever before. These collaborative partnerships have made a huge difference. Thank you for your efforts statewide and for being an advocate to projects that keep us moving forward locally. You have our commitment to results.

The Albert Lea Lakes Foundation asks for the Council's support of the continued habitat restoration projects within the Shell Rock River Watershed.

Sincerely,

Laura M. Lunde
President
Albert Lea Lakes Foundation

here to pass a week or a month; and the angling and shooting leave nothing to be desired. Some take quarters at the hotels, some live in cottages, and others camp out, where the conventionalities of society may be measurably ignored, and communion with nature enjoyed without restraint. The people of Albert Lea should make a specialty of entertaining summer visitors, and transform the whole city into a rural boarding house community, where homelike fare and favor could be obtained without the starched formalities of hotel life at the summer resorts.

Around the lake there is a drive, but if the public-spirited citizens would make a boulevard around the entire lake, close to the shore, following the contour of its winding banks, it would be the finest drive between Long Branch and the Golden Gate.

Poets have sung of many beautiful spots, and painters pictured charming scenes, and here are scenes for both.

Below we copy an article published in the "Turf, Field and Farm" of New York, under date of May 22d, 1874:

"Albert Lea, a beautiful lake about thirteen miles in length and varying in width from a quarter of a mile to three miles, and situated in Freeborn county, Minnesota, is an attractive body of water to the sportsman. A gentleman, whose name is known to the whole country, and who is a thorough sportsman, writes us some interesting facts from that neighborhood. The elevation being great, the air is pure and the climate healthy. People seldom die there. A few years ago the lake was stocked with fish, but we are told that the 'Vandals who follow murder for a living, having no perception or appreciation of sport, have nearly drained it.' In the winter a hole is cut in the ice, and the fish are speared with a pitchfork and hauled away by the wagon-load. From five to twenty-five tons of pickerel have been taken out of the lake each winter for several years. It is gratifying to learn that the sportsmen of the State have been successful in the effort to have the Legislature pass a stringent law for the preservation of fish and game, and also that they are determined to see the law enforced. In the fall of the year ducks and geese visit Albert Lea in myriads, and it is said that no place on the continent affords better sport. Sandhill cranes cover the prairie and grain fields, and snipe, plover, and curlew are, to use an expressive phrase 'as thick as flies in a country tavern,' and prairie chickens are without number. All this will sound most eloquent to the ear of the sportsman, and doubtless he will dream fond dreams of Albert Lea when he reads this paragraph."

In driving about the various lakes and natural parks, constant surprises are in waiting for those who appreciate nature in her quiet moods. One of the highest authorities as to sporting grounds is the above mentioned journal, and in connection with other pleasant things said about Albert Lea a few years ago, we cull the following:

"Col. S. A. Hatch has returned to the city from his shooting-box on the romantic shores of the lake at Albert Lea, Minnesota. He reports that the duck and geese shooting was never better than this fall. Quite a party of gentlemen from New York gathered at Albert Lea in the last days of September, and remained until the lakes closed on the 29th of October. The majority of them were Wall street magnates, who had shot ducks in various parts of the country, not excepting Maryland and Virginia and the Carolina coast. After a thorough experience they were unanimous in expressing the opinion that they never saw ducks in greater abundance, and of such delicate flavor, as in the bracing altitudes of Minnesota. They voted Albert Lea the center of the sportsman's paradise. It is just far enough removed from the great hatching district, to become the first feeding-ground of the full-grown birds. And the food is so abundant and of such fine quality, that the ducks fairly burst with fatness when stopped short in their flight by a charge of number sixes. Very large bags of canvas backs, mallards, red heads, and teal, were made every day by each member of the party. The goose shooting was also superb in October. In a small body of water, which the gentlemen christened Lake Rosa, rude blinds were made, and one day a well-known shot of the party killed six geese, in addition to a large number of red heads and mallards. Any one who has had experience in wild goose shooting, knows how difficult it is to bring the cautious birds to bag, and therefore he will appreciate the skill of the sportsman who captured six in a hunt lasting but a few hours. The sandhill cranes swarmed the prairies, but no effort was made to bring them to bag. We are surprised at this, for there is a charm in crane

.ooting, which is only heightened by the wariness of the huge birds. The pinnated grouse had packed early in October, and so not much time was wasted on them. When the "chickens" move in flocks, which number thousands, they will not lie to the dogs, and no pleasure is extracted from the pursuit of them, especially when water fowl swarm by the million right under your nose. The fishing was very fine this fall in the lakes about Albert Lea. One day shortly after the arrival of the party, Col. Hatch entered the house with a splendid string of pickerel in his hand. "What are those?" asked a well-known New Yorker, his eyes blazing with admiration. "Trout," was the laconic reply. "Good heavens! you don't tell me so. Why, they are the biggest trout I ever saw. Where did you catch them?" "They came from the lake which you see before you," said Col. Hatch, with a wave of the hand. "And are there any like these left in the lake?" queried the New Yorker, with the deepest interest in his tones. "Plenty of them," said the host. "Then, boys," almost shouted the enthusiastic disciple of Walton, rising from his chair, "no duck shooting for me to-morrow. I shall try my hand at the trout." When the would be fisherman realized that a joke had been played on him, he put on a grave face, and swore that the pickerel bred in the cool and clear waters of Fountain Lake were equal to the best trout ever taken from a mountain brook in Virginia, or a limpid stream in the Adirondacks. This fish story beats all hollow the little mud-hen narrative which had circulation last year. There seems to be something deceptive in the air of Minnesota. Objects do not always look what they really are. The Storm King swept down from the north earlier than usual this year. On the 29th of October, the ice was an inch and a half thick on the lakes, and the water fowl moved in solid bodies for the South, bringing the shooting to an abrupt close at Albert Lea."

Of course there is no place in the county, so interwoven with its history from the earliest period up to the present time as the county seat, and in respect to many points they are identical, and in giving something of the early settlement several items already alluded to, reappear here, in order not to destroy the connection. As to the town, the village or city, little attempt will be made to separate them here, although the town and the city governments will receive individual mention.

Those who first came here resolved to build a town that should become a city, and although their determination was supplemented by the natural advantages of the location, it is doing but simple justice to the pioneers to express the opinion that equal energy and determination, displayed almost anywhere else, would have accomplished a like result.

When Mr. Ruble made the proposition to LyBrand and Thompson to pool their united energies and means, and make St. Nicholas the metropolis of this region, they made a fatal mistake in spurning the offer, for that city, which so filled their minds as almost to dethrone common sense, now has no shelter, even for the owls and the bats, which are supposed to linger around deserted habitations.

Albert Lea village was platted by Charles C. Colby, and recorded on the 29th of October 1856, in Dodge county, of which it then formed a part. On the 24th of February, 1859, it was duly recorded in the Register's office of this county, and numerous additions have been made since that time, the most important of which will be mentioned.

The first plat recorded had the name of Charles C. Cobly as surveyor. Austin T. Clark, as administrator of Lucius P. Wedge, signed the document. A. Armstrong was the Notary Public. John Wood was Register of Deeds, and J. E. Bancroft, Deputy Register. William Morin and George S. Ruble were also proprietors.

E. C. Stacy had a subdivision recorded on the 13th of October, 1877. H. C. Stacy, Surveyor.

Ballard's Addition was recorded on the 22d of March, 1880.

Out-lots of Parker's Addition, surveyed by W. G. Kellar, went on the record on the 22d of June, 1880.

F. A. Blackmer's addition was on the records on the 25th of June, 1880.

Charles W. Ballard's Subdivision to Albert Lea was recorded on the 15th of November, 1880.

Among the earlier additions were Kittleson & Johnson's, recorded as a subdivision on the 16th of June, 1869.

FrancisHall's addition was recorded on the 12th of June, 1859.

D. G. Parker's addition was made on the 28th of November, 1869.

The Railroad Addition, south of the railroad,

L-SOHC Grant
Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program
Project List

Project Title	Description	Est. Cost	Type of Project	Water Plan	Plan Priority Connection	Subwatershed Number	Section, Twshp, Range	Acres	Parcel
Pickerel Lake-Adjustable outlet	Install adjustable outlet on Pickerel Lake to enhance lake habit thru periodic draw-downs	$ 615,250	Restore	TMDL	4.0 Pickerel Lake Table 4-3, Page 15, PL-11, description pg. 21	49016	T102 R22 S13	620	99130010
Upper and Lower Twin Lake Fish Barrier and Reclamation	Maintain and enhance existing game fish population and improve waterfowl habitat	$ 743,750	Enhance	Watershed District	Appendix B, Objective 4, pg.6	49011	T101 R22 S12	464	339200010
Upper Twin Water Level Control Station	To assist in drawdown of Upper Twin Lake to re-establish native vegetation and improve waterfowl habitat	$ 397,500	Enhance	Watershed District	Appendix E, Objective2, Implementation Action 2	49011	T101 R22 S02	213	49020010
Wedge Creek Reach #6 Wetland	Establishment of a wetland basin to improve waterfowl habitat	$ 243,570	Enhance	TMDL	Page 46, Table 6-3, BMP FLWB-09, Water quality project near Wedge Creek outlets.	49013	T103 R22 S36	16	140360020
Wedge Creek Restoration Reach #6	Install BMP's for improvement of in stream spawning and over-wintering habitat of native fish species	$ 450,800	Restore	TMDL	Page 46, Table 6-3, BMP FLWB-09, Water quality project near Wedge Creek outlets.	49013	T103 R22 S36	150	140360020
Wedge Creek Reach #1 Vegetative Restoration	Reestablish native vegetation to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat	$ 72,450	Enhance	Watershed District	Appendix E, Objective2, Implementation Action 2	49013	T102 R21 S6	181	80060070
Pickerel Lake Site #12 Channel/Wetland Restoration	Establishment of a wetland basin to improve waterfowl habitat and Northern Pike spawning	$ 40,250	Restore	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.1, Upper Watershed treatments to enhance and sustain improvements in the lake environment.	49016	T102 R22 S13	587	90505030
Targeted Habitat Acquisition; Houg Property	Protect and Reestablish native vegetation to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat	$ 456,025	Protect	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.2, Presevation and enhancement of shoreland and riparian zones around lakes and along water courses in the watershed.	49009	T101 R20 S31	37	20310020
Targeted Habitat Acquisition; Olson Property	Protect and Reestablish native vegetation to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat	$ 406,725	Protect	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.2, Presevation and enhancement of shoreland and riparian zones around lakes and along water courses in the watershed.	49007	T102 R21 S36	33	80360020
Targeted Habitat Acquisition; Ladlie Property	Protect and Reestablish native vegetation to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat	$ 850,425	Protect	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.2, Presevation and enhancement of shoreland and riparian zones around lakes and along water courses in the watershed.	49003	T102 R21 S11	69	80110170
Targeted Habitat Acquisition; Leland Property	Protect and Reestablish native vegetation to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat	$ 266,220	Protect	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.2, Presevation and enhancement of shoreland and riparian zones around lakes and along water courses in the watershed.	49012	T102 R21 S03	21	342110040
Albert Lea Lake - Unnamed Creek - Wetland restoration	Establishment of a wetland basin to improve waterfowl habitat	$ 201,250	Restore	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.1, Upper Watershed treatments to enhance and sustain improvements in the lake environment.	49003	T102 R20 S06	202	70060030
Wedge Creek Wetland Restoration in T103 R22 S16	Establishment of a wetland basin to improve waterfowl habitat	$ 371,250	Restore	TMDL	6.0 Fountain Lake, Table 6-3, pg 44, FLWB-14 description pg. 51	49014	T103 R22 S16	15	140160030
School Section, Halls, and Sugar Lakes Fish Community Reclamation	Rotenone treatment of School Section Lake to kill the rough fish and reestablish native aquatic vegetation	$ 327,750	Enhance	TMDL	6.0 Fountain Lake, Table 6-3, pg. 43, FLWB-20, description pg. 53	49013	T103 R22 S36	266	-
Targeted Habitat Acquisition; Mud Lake Property	Protect and Reestablish native vegetation to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat	$ 332,775	Protect	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.2, Presevation and enhancement of shoreland and riparian zones around lakes and along water courses in the watershed.	49016	T102 R22 S12	27	90120130
Targeted Habitat Acquisition; Remakel Property	Protect and Reestablish native vegetation to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat	$ 87,815	Protect	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.2, Presevation and enhancement of shoreland and riparian zones around lakes and along water courses in the watershed.	49016	T102 R22 S12	7	90120050
Targeted Habitat Acquisition; Dakin Property	Protect and Reestablish native vegetation to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat	$ 295,800	Protect	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.2, Presevation and enhancement of shoreland and riparian zones around lakes and along water courses in the watershed.	49009	T101 R20 S31	24	20310010
Pickerel Lake Subwatershed Wetland Restoration and Habitat Improvement	Restoration of wetland site in Pickerel Lake Subwatershed to improve wildlife habitat	$ 621,000	Restore	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.1, Upper Watershed treatments to enhance and sustain improvements in the lake environment.	49016	T102 R22 S22	110	90220030

Headwaters Stream Bank Habitat Restoration	Restoration of habitat along the headwater property to improve wildlife habitat	$ 776,250	Restore	Watershed District	Appendix B, Objective 3. Implemetation Action 3	49007	T102 R21 S25	25	80250021
Pickerel Lake Subwatershed Wetland Restoration and Habitat Improvement	Restoration of wetland site in Pickerel Lake Subwatershed to improve wildlife habitat	$ 69,000	Restore	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.1, Upper Watershed treatments to enhance and sustain improvements in the lake environment.	49016	T102 R22 S24	15	90240080
Pickerel Lake Subwatershed Wetland Restoration and Habitat Improvement	Restoration of wetland site in Pickerel Lake Subwatershed to improve wildlife habitat	$ 1,656,000	Restore	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.1, Upper Watershed treatments to enhance and sustain improvements in the lake environment.	49016	T102 R22 S25	300	90250010
Pickerel Lake Subwatershed Wetland Restoration and Habitat Improvement	Restoration of wetland site in Pickerel Lake Subwatershed to improve wildlife habitat	$ 51,750	Restore	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.1, Upper Watershed treatments to enhance and sustain improvements in the lake environment.	49016	T102 R22 S11	8	90110100
Targeted Habitat Acquisition; Petersen School Section Property	Protect and Reestablish native vegetation to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat	$ 320,450	Protect	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.2, Presevation and enhancement of shoreland and riparian zones around lakes and along water courses in the watershed.	49003	T103 R22 S36	32	90010110
Targeted Habitat Acquisition; Palmer Property	Protect and Reestablish native vegetation to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat	$ 332,775	Protect	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.2, Presevation and enhancement of shoreland and riparian zones around lakes and along water courses in the watershed.	49007	T102 R21 S25	27	80250040
Wedge Creek Wetland Restoration in T102 R22 S5	Establishment of a wetland basin to improve waterfowl habitat	$ 433,750	Restore	TMDL	6.0 Fountain Lake, Table 6-3, pg 43, FLWB-12 description pg. 50	49014	T102 R22 S5	21	90050060
Wedge Creek Wetland Restoration in T103 R22 S34	Establishment of a wetland basin to improve waterfowl habitat	$ 426,250	Restore	TMDL	6.0 Fountain Lake, Table 6-3, pg 44, FLWB-13 description pg. 51	49015	T103 R22 S34	22	140340010
Wedge Creek Wetland Restoration in T103 R22 S15	Establishment of a wetland basin to improve waterfowl habitat	$ 225,625	Restore	TMDL	6.0 Fountain Lake, Table 6-3, pg 44, FLWB-15 description pg. 51	49014	T103 R22 S15	9	140150100
Wedge Creek Wetland Restoration in T103 R22 S26	Establishment of a wetland basin to improve waterfowl habitat	$ 249,375	Restore	TMDL	6.0 Fountain Lake, Table 6-3, pg 44, FLWB-16 description pg. 51-52	49015	T103 R22 S26	11	140260020
Targeted Habitat Acquisition; Owens Property	Protect and Reestablish native vegetation to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat	$ 1,639,225	Protect	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.2, Presevation and enhancement of shoreland and riparian zones around lakes and along water courses in the watershed.	49016	T102 R21 S30	133	80360020
Pickerel Lake Subwatershed Wetland Restoration and Habitat Improvement	Restoration of wetland site in Pickerel Lake Subwatershed to improve wildlife habitat	$ 331,200	Restore	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.1, Upper Watershed treatments to enhance and sustain improvements in the lake environment.	49016	T102 R22 S10	60	90100100
Pickerel Lake Subwatershed Wetland Restoration and Habitat Improvement	Restoration of wetland site in Pickerel Lake Subwatershed to improve wildlife habitat	$ 58,650	Restore	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.1, Upper Watershed treatments to enhance and sustain improvements in the lake environment.	49016	T102 R22 S15	11	90150080
Pickerel Lake Subwatershed Wetland Restoration and Habitat Improvement	Restoration of wetland site in Pickerel Lake Subwatershed to improve wildlife habitat	$ 193,200	Restore	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.1, Upper Watershed treatments to enhance and sustain improvements in the lake environment.	49016	T102 R22 S14	35	90140010
Targeted Habitat Acquisition; Lang Property	Protect and Reestablish native vegetation to improve upland game and waterfowl nesting habitat	$ 455,400	Protect	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.2, Presevation and enhancement of shoreland and riparian zones around lakes and along water courses in the watershed.	49017	T 101 R21 S25	207	30250030
Pickerel Lake Subwatershed Wetland Restoration and Habitat Improvement	Restoration of wetland site in Pickerel Lake Subwatershed to improve wildlife habitat	$ 469,200	Restore	Watershed District	Appendix B, Goal 2, Objective 3.1, Upper Watershed treatments to enhance and sustain improvements in the lake environment.	49016	T102 R22 S21	85	90210010
Fountain Lake - Treatment pond in Stables Development	Establishment of a wetland basin to improve waterfowl habitat	$ 1,805,500	Enhance	TMDL	7.0 Fountain Lake, Table 7-3, pg.66, FLEB-13, description pg. 75	49003	T103 R21 S32	20	348550060
Fountain Lake Variable Crest Dam		$ 2,978,500	Enhance			49003	T102 R21 S09	550	347870020

Color Coding for Project Phases:

Phase 4
Phase 5
Phase 6
Phase 7
Phase 8