

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2018 / ML 2017 Request for Funding



Date: June 15, 2016

Program or Project Title: Metro Big Rivers - Phase VIII (HA02)

Funds Requested: \$6,643,900

Manager's Name: Deborah Loon

Organization: MN Valley Trust (Metro Big Rivers)

Address: 3815 East American Boulevard

City: Bloomington, MN 55425

Office Number: 612-801-1935

Mobile Number: 612-801-1935

Email: DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org

Website: www.mnvalleytrust.org

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

Regions in which work will take place:

- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

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

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie
- Habitat

Abstract:

Metro Big Rivers Phase 8 will protect 780 acres (380 acres by fee title and 400 acres by conservation easement), restore 40 acres and enhance 791 acres of priority habitat in the big rivers corridors in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area.

Design and scope of work:

Phase 8 of the Metro Big Rivers Partnership will continue work to expand, restore, enhance and connect prioritized land habitats in the metropolitan area, with an emphasis on the three big rivers and their tributaries. The projects will benefit wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation (SGCN) and provide increased public access for wildlife-based recreation.

Great River Greening (GRG) will restore 20 acres and enhance 771 acres of prairie, oak savanna, forest, riverine habitat through four projects:

- Victoria Park, Phase III (Ramsey County): Restore 20 acres of short grass prairie on newer park overlooking the Mississippi River
- Willow Reserve (Ramsey County): Enhance 23 acres of forest through invasive species treatment and replanting of native plants in St. Paul's North End neighborhood.
- Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Phase 2 (Dakota County): Enhance 90 acres of oak savanna/woodland through invasive species control, planting, and prescribed fire.
- Grey Cloud Slough, Phase 2 (Washington County): Enhance 4.5 miles (658 acres) of Mississippi River side channel habitat through targeted shoreland restoration, monitoring, and development of an instream restoration plan.

Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) will protect through perpetual conservation easement 400 acres of priority wildlife habitat, including riparian lands, forests, wetlands and grasslands, then restore / enhance 40 of those acres. Targeted properties will connect and enhance existing public investments, creating larger complexes of wildlife habitat in the metro area.

Projects will be selected through a RFP process by which landowners submit proposals for inclusion into the program; proposals will be ranked based on ecological significance and cost. Activities will include landowner outreach and negotiation, easement acquisition, documentation of property conditions, development of habitat management plans, and dedication of funds for monitoring and enforcement of the easements.

Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will protect in fee 200 acres of river frontage, floodplain forest, wetland and upland habitat in the Minnesota River Valley to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. An additional 50 acres will be acquired with other non-state funds. All prospective lands have been prioritized by the USFWS and are along or very near the Minnesota River. All lands will be restored and enhanced, then open to the public for wildlife-based recreation, including hunting and fishing.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will protect in fee 180 acres of priority wildlife habitat. At least 15 additional acres will be acquired with other funds. Lands will be acquired for and managed by TPL's public partners. Potential projects include:

- Expand Franconia Bluffs SNA along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
- Acquire forest and associated wetland/prairie/grassland near Big Marine Lake, which connects via the St. Croix Greenway, to the St. Croix River
- Expand the existing protected lands at Bayport WMA
- Expand Carlos Avery WMA
- Acquire aquatic, forest and wetland habitat on the Wild and Scenic Rum River just upstream of the Mississippi River
- Expand the Ney WMA near the Minnesota River

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare

Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:

MBR advances indicators in the LSOHC 25 Year Strategic Framework for the Metropolitan Area by creating a network of natural lands that provide high quality wildlife habitat, fisheries and forests. MBR addresses the finding that, while 41% of the MUA is identified as habitat, only 12% is permanently protected. While the population in the MUA is growing and diversifying, the region contains only 3% of the State's permanently protected acres. MBR addresses all 11 of the LSOHC priority criteria for the MUA.

Because we are working with many habitat types, MBR advances indicators in numerous plans, including Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare, Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Minnesota Wildlife Management Area Acquisition. All MBR projects advance Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan, as they slow the loss and degradation of habitats needed to support our state's species in greatest conservation.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Metro / Urban:

- Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

Metro Big Rivers focuses its protection, restoration and enhancement work on habitat within the three big river corridors and their tributaries. By doing this, we are building, adding onto, connecting and restoring complexes of protected habitat that include wetlands, prairies, forests and aquatic habitat. Opportunities within the focus area of the three rivers are identified and prioritized for the potential to contribute to building a permanent conservation legacy that includes outcomes for wildlife and the public.

MBR works in partnership with local, state and federal agency partners and with willing, conservation-minded landowners. High quality lands are protected through fee title or easement acquisition. Lands that are already under public protections but in a degraded state

are targeted for restoration and enhancement, as are land protected through MBR fee and easement acquisitions. Where possible, protected and restored lands are made available to the public for outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing, thereby addressing the need to provide such opportunities close to home to a growing and diversifying urban population.

MBR Phase 8 includes a diversity of projects that will significantly expand and improve the conservation legacy in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area. Specifically, MBR 8 projects will protect and restore prairie, oak savanna, forest, wetland, grassland, shoreline and in-stream aquatic habitat, all within the Metro Area.

Describe how the proposal uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

The Metro Big Rivers partnership prioritizes its work through science-based, public planning processes of the public entities that own or will own interest in the properties. These plans include MCBS, RESA, Metropolitan Conservation Corridors, Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan, and the CCP for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, among others. Actions are targeted toward the building of conservation corridors and building priority habitat complexes across the Metro. Site-specific restoration and management plans also will be science-based.

How does the proposal address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species:

The restoration/enhancement partner (GRG) will conduct significant habitat work on already-protected conservation lands to improve habitat values for wildlife and SGCN, including birds using the Mississippi River migratory corridor and pollinators. Work will restore and enhance trout stream, riverine, forest, oak savanna and prairie habitat at 4 conservation sites.

The easement partner (MLT) will target action to priority privately owned lands to permanently protect a variety of upland and shoreland habitats from fragmentation, development, and other impacts that undermine the viability of SGCN and T&E species.

The fee title partners (MVT and TPL) will acquire lands prioritized through federal, state, regional and local natural resource plans due to their high biodiversity, connectivity, and ability to preserve habitat for SGCN. The acquisitions and subsequent habitat work will increase breeding and migratory habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, neo-tropical migrants, and non-migratory resident species, protect the diversity of native ecosystems, and improve connectivity and resilience.

Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

DNR staff, in consultation with experts in NGOs and other agencies, compiled a select group of indicator species and associated quantities to be used to answer the question above. The metrics are derived from existing data sources and/or scientific literature, but are necessarily gross averages; they are not accurate at a site-specific scale. Therefore, they are not intended to be used to score or rank requests, but represent the best information we have for immediate support to the Council's objective.

Forests - Indicator: White-tailed deer.

White-tailed deer use a wide variety of forested habitats throughout Minnesota. Deer densities in the Metropolitan Area will be higher than the six-year average (2010-2015) density of 0.02 deer (pre-fawning) per acre of forest habitat in the LSOHC Northern Forest section.

Floodplain Forest - Indicator: Wood duck.

Under optimal conditions, a single acre of forested wetland in floodplain forest can support 10 wood duck broods, equaling an estimated 100 ducklings.

Grasslands/Prairie - Indicator: Bobolink and Grasshopper Sparrow.

The breeding territory size of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows is 1.7 and 2.1 acres respectively in high quality habitat in Wisconsin. If all habitat is occupied, 100 acres could hold approximately 60 and 48 pairs of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows respectively.

Wetlands - Indicator: Mallards.

A Joint Venture biological model used to estimate habitat needs uses an accepted rate of 1 mallard pair per 2.47 acres of wetland habitat (noting that upland nesting habitat is also needed).

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 public 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 activities over time on wildlife and species of greatest conservation need.

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

GRG - All partners have committed to monitoring the sites and will sustain the habitat improvements over time. GRG is committed to working cooperatively with its partners to ensure the project benefits are maintained.

MLT - The land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through the best standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. The Minnesota Land Trust is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget.

MVT - Lands acquired for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be maintained and sustained by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Habitat restoration and enhancement work will be completed by the MVT prior to transfer.

TPL - TPL will work with local, state, and federal land programs, citizen groups and private landowners to ensure that the acquired lands are able to be restored and stewarded for habitat and public use. Each protected area will have a restoration and management plan.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2020	GRG - Local partner funding	Monitoring and assessment	Target actions to maintain habitat	Take restorative action to correct damage
2022	TPL - Public partner	Conduct restoration and management activities		
2021	GRG - Local partner funding	Monitoring and assessment	Target actions to maintain habitat	Take restorative action to correct damage
2022	GRG - Local partner funding	Monitoring and assessment	Target actions to maintain habitat	Take restorative action to correct damage
Perpetual	MLT - Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of completed easements	Enforcement, if necessary	
2020	MVT - MN Valley Lands (subsidiary), USFWS, possibly CPLG	Post property	Develop restoration and management plan	Conduct initial restoration and management activities
2021	MVT - MN Valley Lands, USFWS, possibly CPLG	Develop parking lot, if needed	Continue restoration and management activities	
2022	MVT - MN Valley Lands, USFWS, possibly CPLG	Continue restoration and management activities	Transfer property to USFWS, when restoration is complete	
2020	TPL - Public partner	Post property	Develop restoration and management plan	
2021	TPL - Public partner	Develop restoration and management plan	Conduct restoration and management activities	

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

For much of the past decade, land values and housing development in the Twin Cities Metro were low as a result of the economic recession and its lingering aftermath. That slowdown is now reversing itself, with housing starts and land prices rising in the Metro on the rise. Growth in development is placing renewed demand on lands throughout the Metro Urbanizing Area. MBR 8 projects will defend against rising land values (especially along lakes and rivers), add needed and significant wildlife habitat, improve connectivity and habitat values (especially for wildlife and SGCN) and increase needed public access to wildlife-based outdoor opportunities in the Metro Area, including hunting and fishing. This is especially important as our urban population grows and becomes more diverse.

How does this proposal include leverage in funds or other effort to supplement any OHF appropriation:

MBR has a strong history of leveraging OHF funds that will continue with this phase. For example:

* GRG's public partners have committed \$129,000 in funds to the projects - South Washington Watershed District, Dakota County, City of St. Paul, Capitol Region Watershed District. In addition, \$413,000 in Minnesota Clean Water Funds have been appropriated to the South Washington Watershed District for the larger Grey Cloud Slough project.

* MLT encourages private landowners through our “reverse bid” process to fully or partially donate the appraised value of their conservation easement. This donated value is shown as leveraged funds in the proposal. The Land Trust has a long track record in incentivizing landowners to participate in this fashion.

* MVT brings its private funds to acquire additional property and leverage the OHF grant.

* TPL will bring various state, local, and private funds to its projects to leverage the OHF grant.

Relationship to other funds:

- Clean Water Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

An appropriation from the Clean Water Fund is removing a road and local funds will replace the road with a bridge, allowing unimpeded flow and recreational access to make the larger Grey Cloud Slough restoration and enhancement project possible. This MBR 8 proposal includes funds for Phase 2 of initial follow up restoration work, development of an in-stream restoration plan, and project monitoring. This proposal supplements and does not supplant any other sources of funds.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2010	ENRTF (LCCMR)	1848998
2011	Federal	247907
2011	Private	1578572
2012	ENRTF	684449
2012	Local	343234
2012	Federal	70327
2012	Private	1770388
2012	Private Land Donation	293000
2013	ENRTF	2079227
2013	Other State	51057
2013	Local	1166826
2010	Bonding	289507
2013	Federal	153780
2013	Private	1253038
2014	ENRTF	1792710
2014	Other State	81147
2014	Local	516119
2014	Private	1931527
2015	ENRTF	691226
2015	Other State	1450225
2015	Local	1280000
2015	Private	1279198
2010	Other State	357153
2010	Local	364460
2010	Federal	120662
2010	Private	3544659
2011	ENRTF	1061512
2011	Other State	367846
2011	Local	295993

Activity Details

Requirements:

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

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 (County/Municipal, Public Waters)**

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

Land Use:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **Yes**

Explain

MLT - The purpose of the Minnesota Land Trust's conservation easements is to protect existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. As such, we restrict any agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases in which there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either carve the agricultural area out of the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to carve those areas out. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement.

TPL - For lands acquired that are conveyed as WMAs to the DNR, the DNR has indicated the following:
The primary purposes of WMAs are to develop and manage for the production of wildlife and for compatible outdoor recreation. To fulfill those goals, the DNR may use limited farming specifically to enhance or benefit the management of state lands for wildlife. Lands proposed to be acquired as WMAs may utilize farming to prepare previously farmed sites for native plant seeding. This is a standard practice across the Midwest. On a small percentage of WMAs (less than 2.5%), DNR uses farming to provide a winter food source for a variety of wildlife species in agriculture-dominated landscapes largely devoid of winter food sources.

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated - **Yes**

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

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

MVT - Lands acquired for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be open for public hunting and fishing according to the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act. The lands will be opened through a public process prescribed by the Act. We anticipate hunting and fishing opportunities will be like those already established for lands previously acquired for the Refuge. For specific information, refer to the Refuge's website - http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley/documents/hunting_regs.pdf.

TPL - Lands acquired by the Trust for Public Land for state or local unit of government will be open to hunting and fishing. Any needed limitations will be established according to state law and regulations.

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

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Some parcels on our target lists may have existing field roads or low maintenance trails.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition - **Yes**

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

MLT - Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the Land Trust's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails will be the responsibility of the landowner.

MVT and TPL - Any low-maintenance roads and trails on Refuge and DNR properties that are allowed to continue will be under a plan developed for the purpose of public use of the property for wildlife-dependent recreation (e.g., hunting and fishing).

Will new trails or roads be developed as a result of the OHF acquisition - **No**

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
GRG - Finalize restoration and enhancement plans	June 30, 2018
GRG - Restore and enhance 771 acres	June 30, 2020
MLT - Acquire easements on 400 acres	June 30, 2020
MVT - Acquire fee title to 200 acres	June 30, 2020
TPL - Acquire fee title to 180 acres	June 30, 2020

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$6,643,900

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$371,200	\$182,800	Local government partners, Local government partners, Local government partners, Private	\$554,000
Contracts	\$554,700	\$413,000	Clean Water Fund	\$967,700
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$822,800	\$50,000	State, local and private funds	\$872,800
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,800,000	\$300,000	MVT, State, local and private funds	\$2,100,000
Easement Acquisition	\$2,450,000	\$490,000	Private landowners	\$2,940,000
Easement Stewardship	\$180,000	\$0		\$180,000
Travel	\$12,900	\$0		\$12,900
Professional Services	\$214,500	\$0		\$214,500
Direct Support Services	\$76,800	\$69,000	Private, MLT	\$145,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$30,000	\$0		\$30,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$13,500	\$0		\$13,500
Supplies/Materials	\$96,500	\$5,000	Local government partners	\$101,500
DNR IDP	\$21,000	\$0		\$21,000
Total	\$6,643,900	\$1,509,800		-\$8,153,700

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT - Program Manager, Legal Staff, Other Staff	0.60	3.00	\$162,000	\$0		\$162,000
TPL - Protection and Legal Staff	0.40	3.00	\$122,400	\$58,800	Private	\$181,200
GRG - Crew	0.18	3.00	\$17,300	\$39,700	Local government partners	\$57,000
GRG - Director Conservation Programs	0.04	3.00	\$9,000	\$0		\$9,000
GRG - Finance & Grant Management Personnel	0.12	3.00	\$18,700	\$0		\$18,700
GRG - Project Manager	0.20	3.00	\$36,900	\$60,700	Local government partners	\$97,600
GRG - Volunteer Manager	0.04	3.00	\$4,900	\$23,600	Local government partners	\$28,500
Total	1.58	21.00	\$371,200	\$182,800		-\$554,000

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

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

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Minnesota Land Trust	\$162,000	\$0		\$162,000
Contracts	Minnesota Land Trust	\$172,000	\$0		\$172,000
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	\$2,450,000	\$490,000	Private landowners	\$2,940,000

Easement Stewardship	Minnesota Land Trust	\$180,000	\$0		\$180,000
Travel	Minnesota Land Trust	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Professional Services	Minnesota Land Trust	\$174,500	\$0		\$174,500
Direct Support Services	Minnesota Land Trust	\$36,000	\$36,000	MLT	\$72,000
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	\$1,000	\$0		\$1,000
Total	-	\$3,185,500	\$526,000	-	\$3,711,500

Personnel - Minnesota Land Trust

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT - Program Manager, Legal Staff, Other Staff	0.60	3.00	\$162,000	\$0		\$162,000
Total	0.60	3.00	\$162,000	\$0	-	\$162,000

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	DEFAULT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	-	\$0	\$0	-	\$0

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Trust for Public Land	\$122,400	\$58,800	Private	\$181,200
Contracts	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Trust for Public Land	\$822,800	\$50,000	State, local and private funds	\$872,800
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Trust for Public Land	\$800,000	\$50,000	State, local and private funds	\$850,000
Easement Acquisition	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	Trust for Public Land	\$1,500	\$0		\$1,500
Professional Services	Trust for Public Land	\$40,000	\$0		\$40,000
Direct Support Services	Trust for Public Land	\$33,000	\$33,000	Private	\$66,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Trust for Public Land	\$30,000	\$0		\$30,000
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	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Total	-	\$1,869,700	\$191,800	-	\$2,061,500

Personnel - Trust for Public Land

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TPL - Protection and Legal Staff	0.40	3.00	\$122,400	\$58,800	Private	\$181,200
Total	0.40	3.00	\$122,400	\$58,800	-	\$181,200

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Great River Greening	\$86,800	\$124,000	Local government partners, Local government partners, Local government partners	\$210,800

Contracts	Great River Greening	\$382,700	\$413,000	Clean Water Fund	\$795,700
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	\$1,400	\$0		\$1,400
Professional Services	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	Great River Greening	\$7,800	\$0		\$7,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Great River Greening	\$13,500	\$0		\$13,500
Supplies/Materials	Great River Greening	\$96,500	\$5,000	Local government partners	\$101,500
DNR IDP	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	-	\$588,700	\$542,000		- \$1,130,700

Personnel - Great River Greening

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG - Crew	0.18	3.00	\$17,300	\$39,700	Local government partners	\$57,000
GRG - Director Conservation Programs	0.04	3.00	\$9,000	\$0		\$9,000
GRG - Finance & Grant Management Personnel	0.12	3.00	\$18,700	\$0		\$18,700
GRG - Project Manager	0.20	3.00	\$36,900	\$60,700	Local government partners	\$97,600
GRG - Volunteer Manager	0.04	3.00	\$4,900	\$23,600	Local government partners	\$28,500
Total	0.58	15.00	\$86,800	\$124,000	-	\$210,800

Amount of Request: \$6,643,900

Amount of Leverage: \$1,509,800

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 22.72%

DSS + Personnel: \$448,000

As a % of the total request: 6.74%

Easement Stewardship: \$180,000

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 7.35%

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program:

Partners have direct support expenses essential to complete conservation projects, which include such costs as administrative support staff, office space, printing and office supplies. GRG's rate is 9% of personnel costs. MLT's request is consistent with its current application for a federal indirect expense rate; MLT included only 50% of these direct support costs in this proposal, with the other 50% coming as leverage and paid for through MLT's fundraising. The Trust for Public Land's DSS request is based upon its federal rate, which has been approved by the DNR; TPL is only requesting 50% of its actual DSS expenses.

Does the amount in the contract line include R/E work?

GRG -- 100% is for R/E work.

MLT -- 54% (\$93,000) of the contract line item is for R/E work to be performed by Great River Greening.

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental? - Yes

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging:

For longer trips, staff may use rental vehicles, which can be a much more cost-efficient mode of travel.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

GRG - Leverage committed by local partners (South Washington Watershed District, Dakota County, City of St. Paul, Capitol Region Watershed District) and Clean Water Fund appropriation.

MLT - Landowner contributed value is estimated based on MLT experience.

MVT - Committed MVT funds.

TPL - Leverage is estimated landowner donation amount.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes

Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the “economy of scale” and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs proportionally. Program management costs would be the exception, due to program development and oversight remaining somewhat consistent regardless of appropriation amount.

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	20	0	20	40
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	18	18	33	22	91
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	98	68	102	21	289
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	400	400
Enhance	658	0	113	20	791
Total	774	106	248	483	1,611

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

Type	Native Prairie
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	76
Total	76

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$54,800	\$0	\$91,000	\$145,800
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$186,700	\$193,000	\$329,000	\$228,000	\$936,700
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$586,000	\$442,000	\$678,000	\$227,000	\$1,933,000
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,052,000	\$3,052,000
Enhance	\$106,400	\$0	\$427,500	\$42,500	\$576,400
Total	\$879,100	\$689,800	\$1,434,500	\$3,640,500	\$6,643,900

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	40	0	0	0	0	40
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	91	0	0	0	0	91
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	289	0	0	0	0	289
Protect in Easement	400	0	0	0	0	400
Enhance	791	0	0	0	0	791
Total	1,611	0	0	0	0	1,611

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$145,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$145,800
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$936,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$936,700
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$1,933,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,933,000
Protect in Easement	\$3,052,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,052,000
Enhance	\$576,400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$576,400
Total	\$6,643,900	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,643,900

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$2,740	\$0	\$4,550
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$10,372	\$10,722	\$9,970	\$10,364
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$5,980	\$6,500	\$6,647	\$10,810
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,630
Enhance	\$162	\$0	\$3,783	\$2,125

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$3,645	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$10,293	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$6,689	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$7,630	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$729	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

6

I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

Parcel List

Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:

MLT's process is attached. GRG, MVT and TPL all work with their public partners to identify, prioritize and select parcels in keeping with LSOHC priorities, as follows:

GRG works with its partners (public, protected private and interested stakeholders) to identify priority projects and areas. Criteria includes ecological and habitat value and potential (biodiversity, size and location), congruence with existing plans and priority areas, adjacency and connectedness to other public and protected lands and complexes, willing and committed landowners and leveraged opportunities.

MVT works exclusively within the boundaries established by the USFWS for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

TPL works with its public partners to identify and prioritize projects that meet their objectives and are on their priority lists. Criteria includes whether the land provides critical habitat for game and non-game species and quality public recreational opportunities, presence of unique plants and animals species (including SGCN), goals of conservation plans, adjacency to other public land or habitat complexes, existence of local support, immediacy of threats, landowner willingness and timeframe.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
GRG - Dakota County Parks: Star Pond Savanna Expansion and Schultze-Portage Woodland Enhancement, Phase II	11523236	90	\$320,700	Yes

Ramsey

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
GRG - Victoria Park Phase III	28230214	20	\$54,800	Yes
GRG - Willow Reserve	02923224	23	\$106,800	Yes

Washington

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
GRG - Grey Cloud Slough Restoration, Phase 2	27210230	658	\$106,400	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Carver

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MVT - Rapids Lake Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	11523231	100	\$400,000	No	Full	Full
MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	11424212	100	\$400,000	No	Full	Full

Scott

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MVT - Blakely Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	11326236	100	\$250,000	No	Full	Full
MVT - St. Lawrence Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	11424227	100	\$400,000	No	Full	Full

Sibley

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
MVT - Jessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	11326213	100	\$250,000	No	Full	Full

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity**Anoka**

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
TPL - Mississippi River / Rum River Scout Camp	32252013	170	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Full

Chisago

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
TPL - St. Croix/Franconia and Scandia Corridor	03321220	200	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Full
TPL - St. Croix River / Carlos Avery WMA Addition	03421213	210	\$1,400,000	No	Full	Full

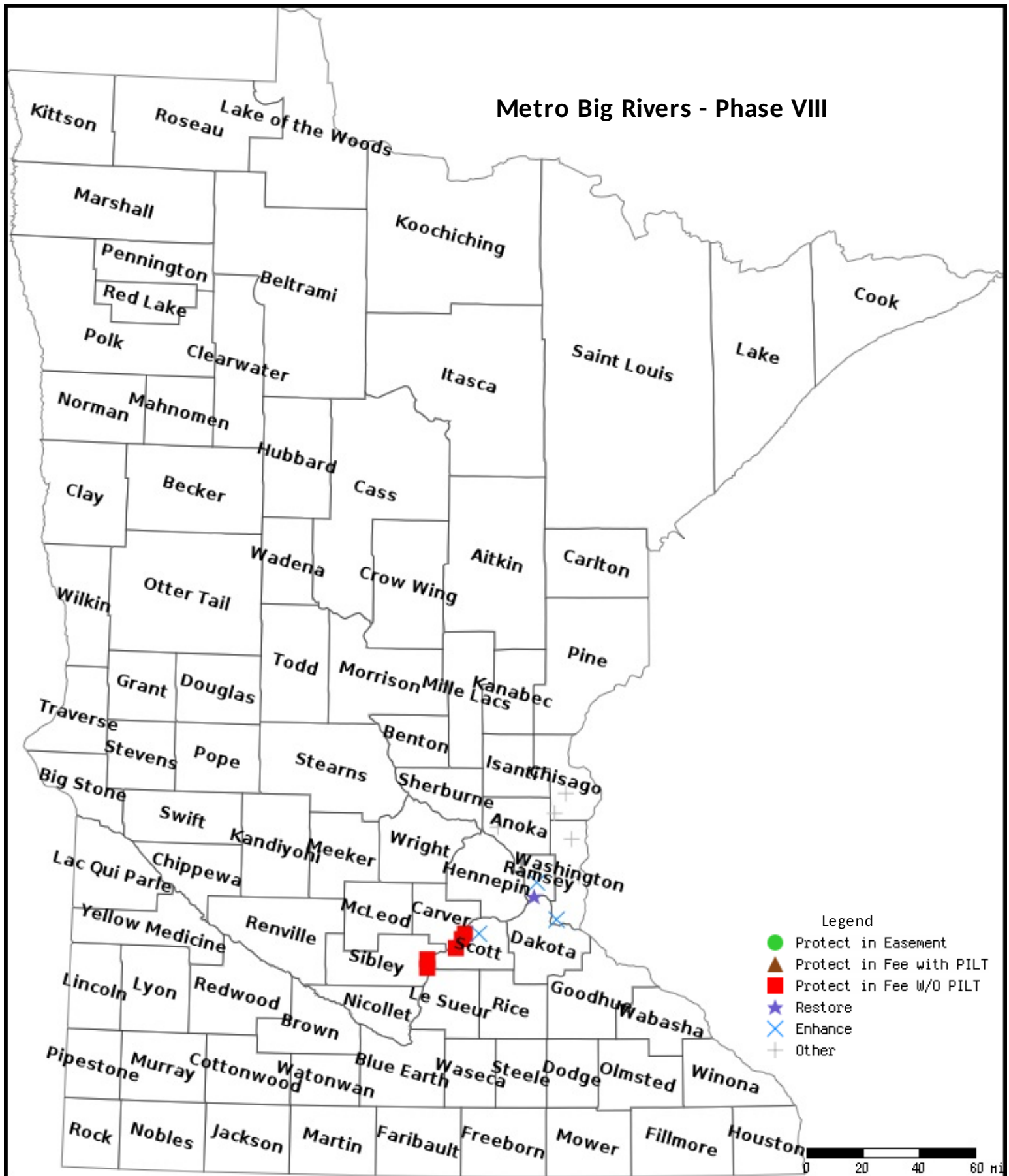
Scott

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
TPL - Minnesota River/Blakely Bluffs Area	11325231	200	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Full

Washington

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
TPL - St. Croix River / Bayport WMA Addition	02920209	194	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Full
TPL - St. Croix River / Big Marine Area	03120205	1,000	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Full

Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List

Metro Big Rivers

The Metro Big Rivers (MBR) habitat program protects, restores and enhances high priority wildlife habitat within the three big river corridors and tributaries in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Urbanizing Area – the Minnesota River, Mississippi River and St. Croix River. MBR projects benefit wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation and provide increased public access for wildlife-based recreation in the metro area.

MBR is a proven partnership that gets results with OHF grant funds and successfully leverages those funds. To date, Metro Big Rivers has protected, restored and enhanced 3,329 acres of important habitat to the benefit of wildlife, species of greatest conservation need and public, wildlife-based recreation.

**Metro Big Rivers Habitat Phase 8
Outdoor Heritage Fund Request - \$6,643,900**

**Anticipated Leverage - \$1,096,836
Protect 780 acres, restore 40 & enhance 791 acres**

With Phase 8 OHF funds, Metro Big Rivers partners will protect 780 acres, restore 40 acres and enhance another 791 acres. Funds will be leveraged to protect at *least* another 65 acres.

Specifically:

- Great River Greening (GRG) will restore 20 acres of short grass prairie above the Mississippi River in Ramsey County, enhance 23 acres of forest in St. Paul's North End neighborhood, enhance 90 acres of oak savanna/woodland at Lebanon Hills Regional Park, and enhance 4.5 miles (658 acres) of Mississippi River side channel habitat at the Grey Cloud Slough through targeted shoreland restoration, monitoring, and development of an instream restoration plan.
- Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) will protect at least 400 acres of priority habitat through perpetual conservation easements in the metro area. MLT also will restore or enhance at least 40 of the eased acres.
- Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will protect through fee title acquisition at least 200 acres on the Minnesota River, expanding the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. An additional 50 acres will be protected with other non-state leverage funds.
- The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will protect through fee title acquisition 180 acres along the Minnesota, Mississippi or St. Croix Rivers and/or key tributaries in the metro area. Another 15 acres will be protected with other funds.

Metro Big Rivers works with local, state and federal public partners to identify and prioritize projects to achieve the priorities of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for Outdoor Heritage Funds.



For more information:
Deborah Loon, Executive Director
Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc.
612-801-1935
DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org

Metro Big Rivers Habitat Program

-Minnesota Land Trust Easement Sign-Up Criteria-



The Metro Big Rivers (MBR) Habitat program protects Minnesota's rich array of wildlife habitat within the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Funded through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund, the Minnesota Land Trust (Land Trust) employs perpetual conservation easements in collaboration with private landowners to protect important wildlife habitat (forest, wetlands, and grasslands) and their associated wildlife.

Through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process, landowners submit an application for participation in the MBR program. Submitted projects are initially scored based on two primary factors: 1) ecological significance, and 2) cost.

Ecological Significance is determined through an analysis of three subfactors:

- Quantity – the size of habitat and/or length of shoreline associated with a parcel, and abundance of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and Threatened & Endangered (T&E) species;
- Quality – the condition of the associated habitat and populations of SGCN and T&E species;
- Landscape Context – the extent and condition of natural habitat surrounding the parcel, and the degree to which adjacent property has been protected.

Cost is determined in large part by the bid amount proposed by the landowner, and ultimately substantiated through an appraisal process. Landowners are given additional credit through whole or partial donation of appraised easement value.

These two factors inform an initial score that is used to initially rank a proposed parcel relative to others. Subsequent discussions with each landowner participating in the program allow the Land Trust to gain a better sense of the landowner's desires for and expected uses of the property, and to ground-truth the parcel's ecological condition. These post-proposal evaluations may result in proposed parcels moving up or down on the prioritization list. This additional evaluation allows for the Land Trust to most effectively target priority lands for protection.

The Land Trust has set certain minimum criteria for inclusion into the program:

- Lands must be located within the MBR Program area.
- Lands must have a maximum of 20% of total proposed easement area in agricultural use; areas targeted for restoration are not included in this acre cap.
- Lands must contain high quality examples of native plant communities (forests, prairies, woodlands, etc.), trout streams, shoreland along rivers and streams, or rare and threatened species.
- Lands cannot be enrolled previously in permanent protection programs (e.g., RIM).

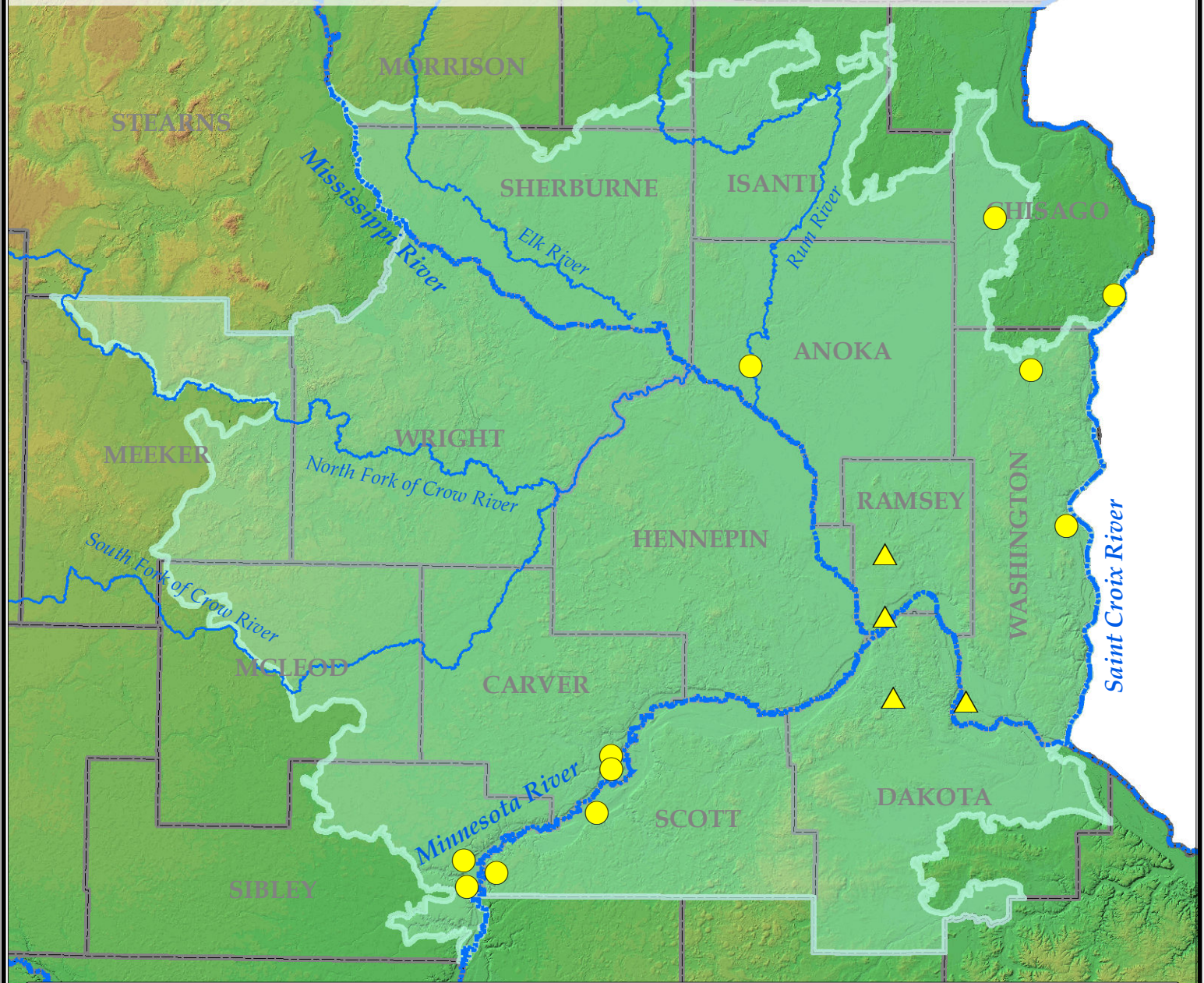
Additional requirements are stipulated within the body of each conservation easement, as pertinent to the special characteristics of the land and the particular situation of the landowner.

The Land Trust's ranking and selection system is informed by ranking and prioritization modules used by the Minnesota DNR, The Nature Conservancy, and nationally by the Natural Heritage Data Center Network. Utilizing a ranking system that prioritizes projects based upon ecological value and cost enables the Land Trust to secure conservation easements that effectively and efficiently protect Minnesota's wildlife resources.

Initial Ranking of Applications										
Existing Ecological Significance	Units Affected	Scoring framework for prioritizing conservation value among applicants through an RFP process.								
	1. Size/Abundance of Habitat Protected by Easement (Maximum 100 pts)									
	0	Total acres of native plant community or extent of target feature within proposed easement								
	0	Feet of shoreline to be protected by an easement								
	2. Diversity/Quality of Natural Resources to be Protected by the Easement (Maximum 100 pts)									
	0	Average quality of existing native plant communities								
	0	Number and quality of rare species on parcel; rarity of the species								
	3. Landscape Context (Maximum 100 pts)									
	0	Location of parcel relative to biodiversity "hotspots" or priority areas delineated in conservation plans								
	0	Location of parcel relative to other conservation lands								
	0	Location of parcel relative to existing moderate-high quality native plant communities; degree of habitat fragmentation								
	Total Score (Maximum 300 pts)									
Cost	Score									
	4. Cost									
	0	Bid amount (\$)/acre								
	0	Estimated Donative value (\$)/acre								
Revised Scoring of Applications Following Discussion with Landowner										
Potential Impacts by Landowner	Score Adjustments (+/-)	Enhancement or downgrade of existing biodiversity significance scores based on easement rights retained by the landowner, easement actions required of the landowner, and their potential impact on existing biodiversity.								
	5. Size/Abundance of Habitat Protected by Easement									
	0	Total acres of native plant community or extent of target feature impacted by retained rights or proposed actions if exercised.								
	6. Diversity/Quality of Natural Resources to be Protected by the Easement									
	0	Estimated potential impact on diversity/quality of native plant community or extent of target feature by retained rights or proposed actions if exercised.								
	0	Estimated potential impact on number/quality of rare species resulting from retained rights or proposed actions if exercised.								
0	REVISED BIODIVERSITY SIGNIFICANCE SCORE									

Metro Big Rivers Partnership

Phase 8 Projects Map



FY 2018 / ML 2017 PROPOSED PROJECTS:

- Protection
- ▲ Restoration/Enhancement

0 10 20
Miles

