

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2020 / ML 2019 Request for Funding

HA 02



Date: June 18, 2018

Program or Project Title: Metro Big Rivers Phase 9

Funds Requested: \$6,883,400

Manager's Name: Deborah Loon

Title: Executive Director

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County Locations: Carver, 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 9 will protect 323 acres in fee title and 520 acres in permanent conservation easement, restore 27 acres and enhance 356 acres of priority habitat in the big rivers corridors in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area (MUA). Metro Big Rivers partners will leverage the OHF at least 20% with partner funds, private funds, local government contributions, and landowner donations of easement value. Significant volunteer engagement will be invested in many habitat enhancement activities, although not technically counted as leverage.

Design and scope of work:

Metro Big Rivers Phase 9 will protect, restore and enhance prioritized wildlife habitat in the MUA, with an emphasis on the Mississippi, Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries. By expanding, connecting and improving public conservation lands, Metro Big Rivers benefits wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation (SGCN) and provides increased public access for wildlife-based recreation. See brief descriptions below and the attachments for more detail.

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) will restore 27 acres of degraded prairie and enhance 30 acres of prairie and 25 acres of oak savanna and riverside habitat at two sites along the Mississippi River. In addition to improving wildlife habitat, these natural areas provide public fishing access.

- Vermillion Linear Park, Dakota County: Restore 27 acres of degraded prairie along 4,263 feet of the Vermillion River.
- Hastings River Flats, Dakota County: Enhance 30 acres of prairie and 25 acres of oak savanna and floodplain forest along 2,578 feet of the Mississippi River.

FMR also will protect through fee acquisition 53 acres of river frontage, wetland, grassland and upland habitat along 2,385 feet of the Mississippi River. The site, formerly the Mississippi Dunes Golf Course, will be put into public ownership as a natural area and subsequently restored to native prairie and oak savanna habitat. This project will create public access for fishing and boat launching, currently lacking for that stretch of the Mississippi River.

Great River Greening (GRG) will enhance 181 acres of prairie, oak savanna, forest and riverine habitat at 5 projects throughout the area:

- Trout Brook, Afton, Washington County: Continue stream re-meander and enhancement over 11 acres adjacent to Phase II.
- Bailey School Forest, Washington County: Enhance 20 acres of oak savanna and woodland.
- Upper Grey Cloud Island, Washington County: Enhance 44 acres of river bluff oak savanna along 3000 feet of Mississippi River shoreline.
- Lebanon Hills Regional Park, East Holland Unit, Dakota County: Enhance 81 acres of oak savanna and woodland.
- Lilydale Bluffs, Ramsey County: Enhance 35 acres of bluff habitat along the Mississippi River.

Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) will protect through perpetual conservation easement 520 acres of priority wildlife habitat, including riparian lands, forests, wetlands and grasslands. Projects will be selected through a competitive RFP process that ranks proposals based on ecological significance and cost (criteria attached). MLT also will restore/enhance 120 acres on private lands already protected through permanent conservation easement. Prioritized properties will be of high ecological significance, adjacent or close to public conservation investments and owned by landowners committed to conservation.

Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will protect in fee 270 acres of river frontage, floodplain forest, wetland and upland habitat in the Minnesota River Valley to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Of the total, 70 acres will be acquired with other non-state funds. All prospective lands have been prioritized by the USFWS and will be restored/enhanced, then open to the public for wildlife-based recreation, including hunting and fishing.

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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

Metro Big Rivers Partnership (MBR) effectively targets action toward protecting, restoring and enhancing the long-term viability of the MUA's essential natural terrestrial and aquatic habitats and their associated wildlife, along and in close proximity to the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries.

MBR advances the LSOHC 25 Year Strategic Framework for the MUA by creating a network of natural lands that provide healthy core areas of diverse natural communities, corridors for wildlife, and complexes of perpetually-protected and restored lands. MBR addresses all 11 of the LSOHC priority statewide criteria and all 4 of its priority criteria for the MUA.

MBR also advances the indicators of Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan by ensuring the long-term health and viability of Minnesota's wildlife, maintaining and enhancing the resilience of habitats on which SGCN depend, within the Wildlife Action Network and associated Conservation Focus Areas of the MUA.

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 on habitat within the three big river corridors and their tributaries. We are building, expanding, connecting and restoring complexes and corridors of protected habitat that include wetlands, prairies, forests and aquatic habitat. Opportunities

are prioritized for the potential to contribute to building a permanent conservation legacy that includes outcomes for wildlife and the public. They supplement and expand on other conservation activities the partners are conducting in the metro area.

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 protection but in a degraded state are targeted for restoration and enhancement, as are lands 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 9 includes a diversity of projects that will significantly expand and improve the conservation legacy in the MUA. Specifically, MBR 9 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:

Protection partners prioritize work through science-based processes led by the public entities that own or will own interest in the properties (e.g., MN DNR, USFWS). Plans followed include MBS, RESA, Metropolitan Conservation Corridors, Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan, and the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Actions are targeted toward building conservation corridors and priority habitat complexes.

In addition, the easement partner's competitive RFP process includes a second analysis of all proposed projects submitted by landowners for protection. This assessment evaluates the ecological significance of the proposed parcel, which includes the following three factors:

- Quantity – the size of habitat and/or length of shoreline associated with a parcel, and abundance of Species in 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.

Restoration and enhancement partners use science-based criteria to prioritize activities. This includes consideration of the highest quality natural areas (as determined by MBS), as well as prioritization of work within important ecological corridors identified by a coalition of conservation partners and based on rare species and sensitive landscape features. This prioritization ensures that projects reduce fragmentation and link natural areas within already-established corridors. All of the restoration and enhancement sites are located along or near the three big rivers and important tributaries - some of the most important ecological corridors for migrating and sedentary plant and animal life.

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:

Metro Big Rivers projects target protecting and improving habitats that are needed by wildlife species in greatest conservation need (SGCN) and other targeted species, and where they need them. Many of Minnesota's forest and grassland SGCNs are migratory. Improving habitat along the central flyway (the three big rivers) will provide great benefits to all wildlife species, especially during critical migration periods.

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) will conduct significant habitat work on already-protected conservation lands to improve two critical habitat types for wildlife and SGCN in the Metro area: savanna and prairie adjacent to the Mississippi River. These activities will improve the habitat for all wildlife, especially birds using the Mississippi River migratory corridor and pollinators.

FMR also will acquire in fee title land that has been identified through the Metro Conservation Corridors planning process as important to create wildlife habitat linkages. This plan prioritizes land for high biodiversity, connectivity and ability to preserve habitat for SGCN. The acquisition and subsequent restoration will increase habitat for a variety of species, including grassland birds and SGCN. Protecting this former golf course as a natural area will also improve the water quality of runoff into the river.

Great River Greening will also conduct significant habitat work on already-protected public 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 riverine, forest, oak savanna, prairie, and wetland habitat at five conservation sites in the metro area.

Minnesota Land Trust will target its protection and restoration/enhancement action to priority privately owned lands to permanently protect a variety of high-quality upland and shoreland habitats from fragmentation, development, and other impacts that undermine the viability of SGCN and T&E species. Restoration and enhancement of habitat is proposed for lands already protected through

easement.

Minnesota Valley Trust will acquire in fee lands identified through the USFWS Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This plan prioritizes lands for high biodiversity, connectivity, and ability to preserve habitat for SGCN. Acquisitions and subsequent habitat work 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. 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. We select a few, not fully inclusive indicators here.

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.

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:

All public partners have committed to maintaining the restoration / enhancement habitat improvements after OHF funds are expended. The restore/enhance partners will continue to raise public and private sources to continue the work past the grant, and will work cooperatively with partners to ensure the benefits are maintained.

Lands protected through easement will be sustained following best standards and practices. MLT is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, records management, addressing inquiries, tracking ownership changes, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. In addition, MLT provides habitat management plans to landowners and helps them access resources and technical expertise to undertake restoration, enhancement and ongoing management of properties.

Lands acquired in fee for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be maintained over the long-term by the USFWS. Habitat restoration/enhancement will be completed by the MVT prior to transfer to the USFWS, which is a critical activity for the future of conservation.

Lands acquired in fee by FMR will be maintained over the long-term by the public partner to which the land will be conveyed. FMR will secure funds to complete initial restoration.

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

| Year | Source of Funds | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
|-----------|---|--|---|---|
| 2022-25 | FMR, GRG & Local Partners | Monitoring and assessment | Target actions to maintain habitat | Take restorative actions, as needed, to correct any damage |
| 2022-25 | MLT & Landowner (R/E Projects) | Monitoring and assessment | Target actions to maintain habitat | Take restorative actions, as needed, to correct any damage |
| 2021 | MVT (MN Valley Lands, subsidiary) & USFWS | Post property | Development habitat restoration / enhancement and management plan | Conduct initial restoration / enhancement and management activities |
| 2022-25 | MVT (MN Valley Lands, subsidiary) & USFWS | Continue restoration / enhancement and management activities | Develop hunting plan, parking lot, signage | Transfer property to USFWS |
| 2021-25 | FMR, Public Partner (fee title) | Develop habitat restoration and management plan | Conduct initial restoration and ongoing enhancement / management | Develop fishing access, signage and related |
| Perpetual | MLT Stewardship & Enforcement Fund | Annual monitoring of completed easements | Enforcement actions, as necessary | |

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

The three major rivers, which converge in the Metro Urbanizing Area (MUA), are of significant importance to a myriad of migrating species and SGCN. Three intersecting issues create urgency for Metro Big Rivers Partnerships' work in the MUA -- 1) the continued decline of many wildlife species, most notably, birds and pollinators, 2) declining habitat these species need to rebound and thrive, and 3) rising land values and development activity.

Protecting and enhancing habitat in the MUA is especially critical now, as land values and housing developments are both rising, placing renewed demand on lands throughout the area. Metro Big Rivers 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 metro area, including hunting and fishing.

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

Metro Big Rivers 9 will leverage the OHF appropriation by 20% with an estimated total leverage of over \$1,360,000.

The partnership has already secured commitments of supplemental funding from the partners, private sources, local government units and a soil and water conservation district.

MLT encourages private landowners to fully or partially donate the appraised value of their conservation easement. This donated value is shown as leveraged funds in the proposal. MLT has a long track record gaining landowner participation in this fashion. To date across all MBR grants, \$1,810,000 in easement value has been donated by landowners as leverage. MLT expects a significant landowner contribution to continue in MBR Phase 9; a conservative estimate of leverage is \$840,000.

Crews of volunteers will add significant in-kind value to the restoration / enhancement projects. This value is not included in the leverage funds, but is important to note here. Volunteers effectively replace or enhance paid crews and contracts on many projects, saving funds. Use of volunteers also effectively educates and engages the community in conservation work, which is critical for the future of conservation.

Relationship to other funds:

- Not Listed

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 instream restoration plan, and project monitoring. This proposal supplements and does not supplant any other sources of funds.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the OHF must inform the LSOHC at the time of the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose:

This request does not supplant or substitute for any previous funding.

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

| Appropriation Year | Source | Amount |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 2009 | Other State Funds | 741,058 |
| 2011 | Local Funds | 295,993 |
| 2011 | Federal Funds | 247,907 |
| 2011 | Private and Other Funds | 1,578,572 |
| 2012 | Other State Funds | 244,449 |
| 2012 | Local Funds | 343,234 |
| 2012 | Federal Funds | 70,327 |
| 2012 | Private and Other Funds | 2,063,388 |
| 2013 | Other State Funds | 1,820,284 |
| 2013 | Local Funds | 1,166,826 |
| 2013 | Federal Funds | 153,780 |
| 2009 | Local Funds | 91,972 |
| 2013 | Private and Other Funds | 1,253,038 |
| 2014 | Other State Funds | 1,648,257 |
| 2014 | Local Funds | 516,119 |
| 2014 | Private and Other Funds | 1,931,527 |
| 2015 | Other State Funds | 2,128,751 |
| 2015 | Local Funds | 1,295,000 |
| 2015 | Private and Other Funds | 1,449,198 |
| 2016 | Other State Funds | 856,157 |
| 2016 | Local Funds | 2,161,500 |
| 2016 | Private and Other Funds | 1,609,091 |
| 2009 | Federal Funds | 138,338 |
| 2017 | Other State Funds | 416,860 |
| 2017 | Local Funds | 76,000 |
| 2017 | Private and Other Funds | 1,212,156 |
| 2009 | Private and Other Funds | 940,884 |
| 2010 | Other State Funds | 2,010,658 |
| 2010 | Local Funds | 364,460 |
| 2010 | Federal Funds | 120,662 |
| 2010 | Private and Other Funds | 3,516,521 |
| 2011 | Other State Funds | 1,429,358 |

Activity Details

Requirements:

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

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition? - **No**

We will notify local units of government as required by statute.

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

Is the land you plan to acquire (easement) 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 restoration and enhancement 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, Private lands under permanent conservation easement)**

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 - **No**

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

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

Lands acquired for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) 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.

Lands acquired by Friends of the Mississippi River will be open for fishing.

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 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:

For the FMR acquisition, the unmarked road would be retained to bring fishing and boating access to the river. The remainder of the trails would be eliminated during subsequent habitat restoration.

Any pre-existing low-maintenance roads and trails on properties acquired for the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) may be continued under a plan developed for the purpose of property access for habitat maintenance and public use of the property for wildlife-dependent recreation (e.g., hunting and fishing).

Trails and roads on eased lands are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of MLT's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads or trails in line with the easement terms will be the responsibility of the landowner.

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

Accomplishment Timeline

| Activity | Approximate Date Completed |
|--|----------------------------|
| FMR - Restore 27 acres, enhance 55 acres. | June 2023 |
| G RG - Enhance 181 acres. | June 2023 |
| MLT - Protect 520 acres under conservation easements. | June 2022 |
| MLT - Restore / enhance 120 acres. | June 2023 |
| MVT - Protect 270 acres through fee title acquisition. | June 2022 |
| FMR - Protect 53 acres through fee title acquisition. | June 2022 |

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$6,883,400

Budget and Cash Leverage

| BudgetName | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------|
| Personnel | \$379,600 | \$139,600 | Dakota County, South Washington Watershed District, City of Newport, Aggregate Industries, GRG, City of Hastings, Hastings High School Science Program, FMR Stewardship Funds | \$519,200 |
| Contracts | \$1,367,000 | \$20,000 | To be determined | \$1,387,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | \$1,596,500 | \$350,000 | Minnesota Valley Trust | \$1,946,500 |
| Easement Acquisition | \$2,800,000 | \$840,000 | Private landowner donations | \$3,640,000 |
| Easement Stewardship | \$240,000 | \$0 | | \$240,000 |
| Travel | \$15,400 | \$0 | | \$15,400 |
| Professional Services | \$292,000 | \$10,000 | To be determined | \$302,000 |
| Direct Support Services | \$79,000 | \$0 | | \$79,000 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | \$3,500 | \$0 | | \$3,500 |
| Capital Equipment | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Other Equipment/Tools | \$10,500 | \$0 | | \$10,500 |
| Supplies/Materials | \$99,900 | \$2,000 | Dakota County | \$101,900 |
| DNR IDP | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Total | \$6,883,400 | \$1,361,600 | | -\$8,245,000 |

Personnel

| Position | FTE | Over # of years | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|---|--------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------|
| GRG Staff (ecologists, technicians) | 0.65 | 3.00 | \$101,000 | \$100,600 | Dakota County, South Washington Watershed District, City of Newport, Aggregate Industries, GRG | \$201,600 |
| FMR Staff (2 Ecologists, Conservation Director, Bookkeeper) | 87.00 | 3.00 | \$21,600 | \$39,000 | City of Hastings, Hastings High School Science Program, FMR Stewardship Funds | \$60,600 |
| MLT Staff (Program Manager, Legal, etc.) | 1.00 | 3.00 | \$257,000 | \$0 | | \$257,000 |
| Total | 88.65 | 9.00 | \$379,600 | \$139,600 | | -\$519,200 |

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

| BudgetName | Partnership | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--|-----------|
| Personnel | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$101,000 | \$100,600 | Dakota County, South Washington Watershed District, City of Newport, Aggregate Industries, GRG | \$201,600 |
| Contracts | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$831,500 | \$20,000 | To be determined | \$851,500 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Easement Acquisition | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Easement Stewardship | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Travel | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$2,400 | \$0 | | \$2,400 |
| Professional Services | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$100,000 | \$10,000 | To be determined | \$110,000 |
| Direct Support Services | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$9,000 | \$0 | | \$9,000 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Capital Equipment | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Other Equipment/Tools | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$8,500 | \$0 | | \$8,500 |
| Supplies/Materials | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$68,000 | \$2,000 | Dakota County | \$70,000 |
| DNR IDP | Great River Greening (GRG) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Total | | \$1,120,400 | \$132,600 | | -\$1,253,000 |

Personnel - Great River Greening (GRG)

| Position | FTE | Over # of years | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------|
| GRG Staff (ecologists, technicians) | 0.65 | 3.00 | \$101,000 | \$100,600 | Dakota County, South Washington Watershed District, City of Newport, Aggregate Industries, GRG | \$201,600 |
| Total | 0.65 | 3.00 | \$101,000 | \$100,600 | | -\$201,600 |

| Budget Name | Partnership | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Personnel | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$21,600 | \$39,000 | City of Hastings, Hastings High School Science Program, FMR Stewardship Funds | \$60,600 |
| Contracts | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$152,500 | \$0 | | \$152,500 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$600,000 | \$0 | | \$600,000 |
| Easement Acquisition | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Easement Stewardship | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Travel | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$1,000 | \$0 | | \$1,000 |
| Professional Services | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Direct Support Services | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Capital Equipment | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Other Equipment/Tools | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Supplies/Materials | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$26,900 | \$0 | | \$26,900 |
| DNR IDP | Friends of Mississippi River (FMR) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Total | | \$802,000 | \$39,000 | | -\$841,000 |

Personnel - Friends of Mississippi River (FMR)

| Position | FTE | Over # of years | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|---|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|---|------------------|
| FMR Staff (2 Ecologists, Conservation Director, Bookkeeper) | 87.00 | 3.00 | \$21,600 | \$39,000 | City of Hastings, Hastings High School Science Program, FMR Stewardship Funds | \$60,600 |
| Total | 87.00 | 3.00 | \$21,600 | \$39,000 | | -\$60,600 |

| Budget Name | Partnership | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Personnel | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$257,000 | \$0 | | \$257,000 |
| Contracts | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$383,000 | \$0 | | \$383,000 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Easement Acquisition | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$2,800,000 | \$840,000 | Private landowner donations | \$3,640,000 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Easement Stewardship | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$240,000 | \$0 | \$240,000 |
| Travel | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$12,000 | \$0 | \$12,000 |
| Professional Services | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$192,000 | \$0 | \$192,000 |
| Direct Support Services | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$70,000 | \$0 | \$70,000 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Capital Equipment | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Other Equipment/Tools | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$2,000 | \$0 | \$2,000 |
| Supplies/Materials | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$5,000 | \$0 | \$5,000 |
| DNR IDP | Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total | | \$3,961,000 | \$840,000 | \$4,801,000 |

Personnel - Minnesota Land Trust (MLT)

| Position | FTE | Over # of years | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|--|-------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| MLT Staff (Program Manager, Legal, etc.) | 1.00 | 3.00 | \$257,000 | \$0 | | \$257,000 |
| Total | 1.00 | 3.00 | \$257,000 | \$0 | | \$257,000 |

| BudgetName | Partnership | LSOHC Request | Anticipated Leverage | Leverage Source | Total |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Contracts | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Fee Acquisition w/ PILT | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Fee Acquisition w/o PILT | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$996,500 | \$350,000 | Minnesota Valley Trust | \$1,346,500 |
| Easement Acquisition | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Easement Stewardship | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Travel | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Professional Services | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Direct Support Services | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| DNR Land Acquisition Costs | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$3,500 | \$0 | | \$3,500 |
| Capital Equipment | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Other Equipment/Tools | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Supplies/Materials | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| DNR IDP | Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. (MVT) | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Total | | \$1,000,000 | \$350,000 | | \$1,350,000 |

Amount of Request: \$6,883,400
Amount of Leverage: \$1,361,600
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 19.78%
DSS + Personnel: \$458,600
As a % of the total request: 6.66%
Easement Stewardship: \$240,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 8.57%

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 -- DSS rate is 9% of personnel costs.

MLT-- In a process approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, MLT's DSS rate includes the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. This is similar to the MLT's proposed federal indirect rate. MLT will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses.

FMR and MVT are not requesting DSS.

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

FMR - 100% of Contracts is for R/E work

GRG - 100% of Contracts is for R/E work

MLT - 75% of Contracts is for R/E work, as follows: Restoration plans - \$18,000; Restoration subcontracts - \$383,000. Remaining 25% is associated with protection via conservation easements.

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:

MLT staff rent vehicles for grant-related purposes.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

FMR and GRG have secured commitments from local partners, foundations, other private sources and their own organizations as leverage. MLT encourages landowners (and has a track record of success) to make a full or partial donation of easement value. MVT has committed its own private funds as leverage.

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:

Because MBR protects multiple parcels, it is scalable. Less funding will result in fewer acres protected, restored and enhanced, and thus missed opportunities. Some of the administrative and outreach costs are more fixed; lower funding also reduces the economies of scale.

Please clarify the anticipated number of easements and the cost of stewardship per easements to clarify the Easement Stewardship Budget line item?

Not Listed

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

| Type | Wetlands | Prairies | Forest | Habitats | Total |
|--|----------|----------|--------|----------|-------|
| Restore | 0 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability | 108 | 94 | 121 | 0 | 323 |
| Protect in Easement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 520 | 520 |
| Enhance | 0 | 64 | 161 | 131 | 356 |
| Total | 108 | 185 | 282 | 651 | 1,226 |

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

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

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

| Type | Wetlands | Prairies | Forest | Habitats | Total |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Restore | \$0 | \$120,600 | \$0 | \$0 | \$120,600 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability | \$400,000 | \$550,000 | \$650,000 | \$0 | \$1,600,000 |
| Protect in Easement | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,572,000 | \$3,572,000 |
| Enhance | \$0 | \$156,400 | \$630,000 | \$804,400 | \$1,590,800 |
| Total | \$400,000 | \$827,000 | \$1,280,000 | \$4,376,400 | \$6,883,400 |

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | Northern Forest | Total |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|-------|
| Restore | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability | 323 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 323 |
| Protect in Easement | 520 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 520 |
| Enhance | 356 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 356 |
| Total | 1,226 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,226 |

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | Northern Forest | Total |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| Restore | \$120,600 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$120,600 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability | \$1,600,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,600,000 |
| Protect in Easement | \$3,572,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,572,000 |
| Enhance | \$1,590,800 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,590,800 |
| Total | \$6,883,400 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$6,883,400 |

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

| Type | Wetlands | Prairies | Forest | Habitats |
|--|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Restore | \$0 | \$4,467 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability | \$3,704 | \$5,851 | \$5,372 | \$0 |
| Protect in Easement | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$6,869 |
| Enhance | \$0 | \$2,444 | \$3,913 | \$6,140 |

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

| Type | Metro/Urban | Forest/Prairie | SE Forest | Prairie | Northern Forest |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|
| Restore | \$4,467 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability | \$4,954 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Protect in Easement | \$6,869 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Enhance | \$4,469 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

4

Parcel List

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

FMR and GRG work with their public partners and other 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.

MLT's competitive RFP process for identifying, prioritizing and selecting parcels for the Metro Big Rivers easement program is attached.

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

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Dakota

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? |
|--|-----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|
| FMR - Hastings River Flats | 11517221 | 55 | \$81,318 | Yes |
| FMR - Vermillion Linear Park | 11517233 | 27 | \$120,636 | Yes |
| GRG - Lebanon Hills Parks: Holland Lake Unit | 027230235 | 81 | \$412,700 | Yes |

Ramsey

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? |
|-----------------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|
| GRG - Lilydale Bluffs | 28230212 | 35 | \$131,200 | Yes |

Washington

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? |
|--|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|
| GRG - Bailey School Forest | 28220225 | 20 | \$59,600 | Yes |
| GRG - Mississippi River Shoreline, Upper Grey Cloud Island | 02722223 | 34 | \$400,800 | Yes |
| GRG - Trout Brook Afton Phase III | 27200202 | 11 | \$116,000 | Yes |

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Carver

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|--|----------|-------|-------------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| MVT - Rapids Lake Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge | 11423206 | 118 | \$1,062,000 | No | Full | Full |
| MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge | 11424201 | 168 | \$588,000 | No | Full | Full |

Scott

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|---|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| MVT - Blakely Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge | 11326236 | 100 | \$300,000 | No | Full | Full |

Sibley

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|--|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| MVT - Jessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge | 11326213 | 100 | \$300,000 | No | Full | Full |

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

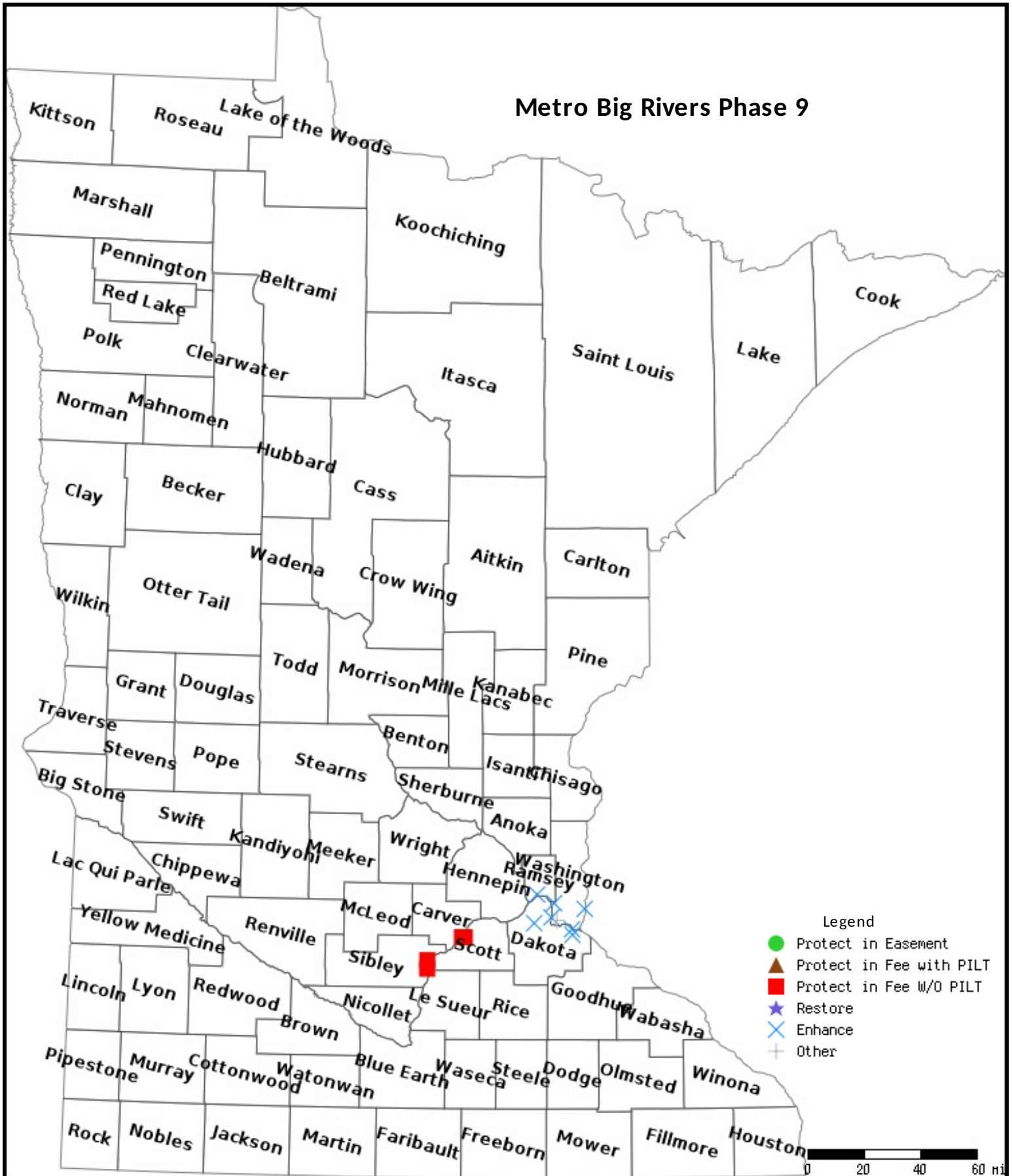
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

Washington

| Name | TRDS | Acres | Est Cost | Existing Protection? | Hunting? | Fishing? |
|------------------------|----------|-------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| FMR- Mississippi Dunes | 27201230 | 53 | \$600,000 | No | No | No but would be with acquisition |

Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List



MINNESOTA LAND TRUST

A Decision Support Tool for Prioritizing Conservation Easement Opportunities

The Minnesota Land Trust often employs within its conservation program areas an RFP (Request for Proposals) model to both identify high-quality projects and introduce a level of competition into the easement acquisition process. Below, we briefly discuss how the system works and the framework put in place to sort the varied opportunities that come before us.

How the Ranking System Works

The parcel ranking framework employed through the Minnesota Land Trust's RFP process is intended as a **decision support tool** to aid in identifying, among the slate of landowners submitting bids for conservation easements, the most ecologically significant opportunities for the price. Using this framework, the Land Trust and its partners use an array of weighted data sets tailored to the specific circumstances inherent in a program area to identify those worthy of consideration.

It is important to note that this parcel ranking framework enables the Land Trust to rank projects *relative* to one another. That's important to do, but it's also important to understand how a project (or suite of projects) relates to the ideal situation (i.e., a project that is of exceptional size, condition and superb landscape context). If, for example, an RFP generated 20 proposals in a program area, the framework would effectively sift among them and identify the relatively good from those relatively bad. However, this information alone would not determine whether any of those parcels were of sufficient quality to pursue for protection (all may be of insufficient quality to warrant expenditure of funds). To solve this problem and make sure ranked projects are high priorities for conservation, we step back and evaluate them relative to the ideal - i.e., is each project among the best opportunities for conservation we can expect to find in the program area?

As part of its proposals to LSOHC, the Land Trust included easement sign-up criteria that laid out at a general level the framework utilized by the organization. Below is a more detailed description of the process the Land Trust utilizes in ranking potential parcels relative to one another, and identifying those with which a conservation easement will be pursued. We also include a ranking form illustrating the representative weighting applied to each criteria. These weightings will be refined as we move forward in applying this approach in each program area.

The Framework

We evaluate potential projects based on two primary factors: ecological significance and cost. Both are assessed independent of one another.

Factor 1: Ecological Significance

The Ecological Significance score is determined by looking at 3 subfactors, each weighted equally (as a default). Each of these constitutes 1/3 of the total ecological significance score.

Subfactors:

- **Size or Quantity** – the area of the parcel to be protected (how big is it?), length of shoreline, etc. The bigger the better.
- **Condition or Quality** – the condition of the natural communities and/or target species found on a parcel. The higher quality the better.
- **Landscape Context** – what’s around the parcel, both ecologically and from a protected status standpoint. The more ecologically intact the surrounding landscape the better; the extent to which a parcel builds off of other protected lands to form complexes or corridors, the better.

Note that we have the ability to emphasize one subfactor over another if the specific circumstances warrant it, but we begin with a default standard at the onset. At present, all of our geographies are using the default standard.

Indicators:

A suite of weighted indicators is used to score each parcel relative to each of the above subfactors. Indicators are selected based on their ability to effectively inform the scoring of parcels relative to each of the respective subfactors. Weightings for each criterion are assessed and vetted to ensure that a set of indicators for each subfactor produces meaningful results, then applied across each of the proposed parcels. Finally, we vet and make improvements to the scoring matrix when we identify issues or circumstances where results seem erroneous.

Data sets used for this purpose must offer wall-to-wall coverage across the program area to ensure that bias for or against parcels does not creep into the equation. Where gaps in such coverages exist, we attempt to fill them in to the extent feasible (via field inventory, etc.). Finally, we vet and make improvements to the scoring matrix when we identify issues or circumstances where results seem erroneous.

Factor 2: Cost

Cost is a second major factor used in our consideration of parcels. Although ecological significance is *the* primary factor in determining the merits of a project, our RFP programs also strive to make the greatest conservation impact with the most efficient use of State funds. As such, we look at the overall cost of each project relative to its ecological significance; we also ask landowners to consider donating all or some of their easement value to the cause and to better position their proposals. Many landowners participate in that fashion.

Cost, as a primary factor, is assessed independently of the ecological factors. Given equal ecological significance, a project of lower cost will be elevated over those of higher cost in the ranking. That said, exceptionally high quality projects are likely to be pursued even if no or modest landowner donation is put forward. Alternatively, there are projects offered as full donations that are not moved forward because their ecological significance is not acceptable. The degree to which cost factors into the ranking of parcels relative to one another is made on a case-by-case basis.

| MINNESOTA LAND TRUST METRO BIG RIVERS PROTECTION PROGRAM Conservation Easement Selection Worksheet | | | | | | | | | | | | COUNTY | | | | | | | | | | | | Notes | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|------|------|--|
| ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 100 Pts | | | | | | | | | | | | SFE 1 | SFE 2 | SFE 3 | SFE 4 | SFE 5 | SFE 6 | SFE 7 | SFE 8 | SFE 9 | SFE 10 | SFE 11 | SFE 12 | | | | | | | | |
| Weighting Factor | Size/Abundance of Habitat (33 points) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | a) Size (33 pts): Acres of Habitat to be Protected by an Easement | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| | SUBTOTAL: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Weighting Factor | Quality of Natural Resources to be Protected by the Easement (33 points) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | a) Habitat Quality (28 pts): Quality of Existing Ecological Systems (Terrestrial & Aquatic) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | b) Imperiled Species (5 pts): Occurrence of Documented Rare Species on Parcel | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | SUBTOTAL: | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Weighting Factor | Landscape Context (34 points) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Current Status (30 points) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | a) Protection Context (15 points) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | i. Size of Contiguous Protected Lands (8 pts) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ii. Amount of Protected Lands within 3 miles of Property | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | : Protected Land within 0.5 miles of Property (4 pts) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | : Protected Land 0.5-3 miles from Property (3 pts) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | b) Ecological Context (15 points) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | i. Size of Contiguous Ecological Habitat (8 pts) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ii. Amount of Ecological Habitat within 3 miles of Property | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | : Ecological Habitat within 0.5 miles of Property (4 pts) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | : Ecological Habitat 0.5-3 miles from Property (3 pts) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Future Potential (4 points) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | a) Conservation Plan Context (2 pts) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | b) Amount of Existing Activity (2 pts) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | SUBTOTAL: | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| TOTAL ECOLOGICAL VALUE POINTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| COST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | i. Bid amount (\$)/acre | | | | | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| | ii. Estimated donative value (\$)/acre | | | | | | | | | | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | |
| TOTAL ACQUISITION COST (\$) | | | | | | | | | | | | | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th></th></th></th></th></th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th></th></th></th></th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th></th></th></th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th></th></th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th></th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th></th> | \$ - <th colspan="1">\$ - <th colspan="1"></th> </th> | \$ - <th colspan="1"></th> | | | |

| KEY |
|----------|
| Priority |
| Possible |
| Out |

Metro Big Rivers

Metro Big Rivers (MBR) Phase 9 will protect, restore and enhance prioritized wildlife habitat in the Metro Urbanizing Area, with an emphasis on the Mississippi, Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries. By expanding, connecting and improving public conservation lands, MBR benefits wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation (SGCN) and provides increased public access for wildlife-based recreation.

MBR is a proven partnership that gets results with OHF funds.

To date, MBR has protected, restored and enhanced more than 4,660 acres of wildlife habitat in the metro area, and has work in-progress on another 1,000 acres. MBR 9 will leverage OHF grant funds with another 20% from other non-state sources.

**Metro Big Rivers Habitat Phase 9
Outdoor Heritage Fund Request – \$6,883,254**

**Anticipated Leverage - \$1,361,600
Protect 843 acres. Restore & enhance 383 acres**

With OHF and other leverage funds, Metro Big Rivers Phase 9 will permanently protect 323 acres in fee title and 520 acres in easement, restore 27 acres and enhance another 356 acres. Specifically:

- Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) will restore 27 acres of degraded prairie and enhance 30 acres of prairie and 25 acres of oak savanna and riverside habitat at two sites along the Mississippi River.
- FMR also will protect 53 acres of river frontage, wetland, grassland and upland habitat along 2,385 feet of the Mississippi River, creating the opportunity to convert the former Mississippi Dunes Golf Course to wildlife habitat.
- Great River Greening (GRG) will enhance 181 acres of prairie, oak savanna, forest and riverine habitat at five projects, including continued work to re-meander Trout Brook and 44 acres along 3000 feet of Mississippi River shoreline.
- Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) will protect 520 acres of priority wildlife habitat through perpetual conservation easement, including riparian lands, forests, wetlands and grasslands. MLT also will restore/enhance 120 acres of high quality natural communities on private lands already protected through permanent conservation easement.
- Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will protect through fee title acquisition at least 270 acres of river frontage, floodplain forest, wetland and upland habitat in the Minnesota River Valley, expanding the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Metro Big Rivers partners work 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. The partners also work with landowners with a commitment to conservation.



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Metro Big Rivers Habitat Partnership

Phase 9

