

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Fiscal Year 2020 / ML 2019 Request for Funding



**Date:** May 31, 2018

**Program or Project Title:** Cedar River Habitat Restoration

**Funds Requested:** \$1,320,000

**Manager's Name:** Justin Hanson

**Title:** District Manager

**Organization:** Cedar River Watershed District

**Address:** 1408 21st Avenue NW

**City:** Austin, MN 55912

**Office Number:** 5074342603

**Mobile Number:** 5074381752

**Email:** justin.hanson@mowerswcd.org

**Website:** www.cedarriverwd.org

**County Locations:** Mower

**Regions in which work will take place:**

- Prairie

**Activity types:**

- Restore
- Enhance

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands
- Habitat

### Abstract:

The Cedar River Habitat Restoration project is a multi-year, two-phase project that will restore and enhance stream banks, in-stream habitat, fish passage and create recreations opportunities for the public. This project is a high priority cooperative stakeholder project. The first phase of the project incorporates removal of the existing Ramsey Dam, replacement with a rock arch structure designed to include fish and recreational passage and 800 linear feet of in-stream habitat restoration. Phase I is located along the Cedar River on the north side of Austin, Mower County Minnesota.

### Design and scope of work:

The Cedar River Habitat Restoration project is a two phase high priority project in cooperation with the Cedar River Watershed District, Mower County SWCD, City of Austin and Hormel Foods Corporation to restore water resources within the Cedar River. The Cedar River Watershed District Management Plan developed in 2010 has identified goals for accelerating programs and projects that improve habitat, water quality, flood control through a variety of conservation measures within the watershed. Prioritization and implementation of appropriate protection, enhancement and restoration measures on area lands, streams, ditches, rivers, lakes and wetlands within the Cedar River Watershed have been accelerated utilizing conservation decision making tools which aid in determining high priority projects that are beneficial to the Cedar River Watershed. Phase 1 of the project includes removal of the existing Ramsey Dam replacement with a rock arch structure designed to incorporate fish and recreational passage, floodplain and in-stream habitat restoration. Evaluation of the existing dam has been completed by the MNDNR Dam Safety Engineer indicating the current condition is poor and the MNDNR River Ecology Unit determined the dam in its current state blocks fish and recreational passage.

Phase 1 is a in-stream habitat restoration project. This phase includes replacement of the existing Ramsey Dam with a rock arch structure and 800 linear feet of stream bank restoration of the Cedar River which flows through the City of Austin ultimately into the Iowa River. Conceptual plans and project budgets have been developed through numerous stakeholder meetings with MNDNR staff in addition to acquisition of funding sources for this phase of the project. The Cedar River is impaired water with low dissolved oxygen, constructing the rock arch structure, restoring the stream banks and providing in-stream habitat structure will reduce downstream

sedimentation provide fish passage and native habitat improvements including root wads, boulder vanes and rock riffles with varied substrate to enhance aquatic species habitat including various fish species and sensitive species such as Blanding Turtle. The riparian areas of the river will be restored with native planting buffer using both plugs and native seeding that will filter sediments and nutrients from direct runoff.

Cedar River Watershed proposes to improve degraded floodplain and in-stream habitats within the Cedar River. Our staff has demonstrated the ability and capacity to complete projects with funding from previous successful grant requests. This project is a high priority in the Cedar River Watershed Water Plan. Our current water plan has specific goals for accelerating programs for improved habitat, water quality and flood control. Phase 1 of this project allows the Cedar River Watershed and the City of Austin to meet these goals and open opportunities for the public that includes recreation, fishing and educational experiences. The project is time sensitive, it is essential to secure funding in conjunction with funds secured from Hormel Food Corporation.

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

- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H6 Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams

### **Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:**

- Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Strategic Habitat Conservation Model

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

The entire project focuses on restoration of impaired resources in the Cedar River Watershed and the City of Austin. If funds are secured for phase 1 this would accelerate our ongoing effort by continuing the current project. The project will contribute to the success of increased numbers of game fish, waterfowl and wildlife populations, habitat for fish, waterfowl and wildlife and provide fish passage.

### **Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:**

#### **Prairie:**

- Restore or enhance habitat on public lands

### **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:**

The Cedar River Watershed District selects and implements projects that improve degraded conditions on a sub-watershed basis. Our staff and board members have demonstrated the ability and capacity to complete this project. We focus on identifying impairments through current conservation modeling and monitoring water quality which result in projects with the largest return in restoration of habitat on private and public land that increase fish and wildlife populations in addition to public recreational opportunities .

### **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:**

Previous modeling, evaluations and monitoring efforts have aided in identifying areas which contribute to the loss of habitat that reduce waterfowl, fish and hydrophytic vegetation. Due to multiple locations identified within close proximity in the same immediate watershed the locations were consolidated into the multi-phase Cedar River Habitat Restoration project.

### **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 Cedar River watershed flows through the City of Austin. Degrading habitats within this area are of concern not only to the Cedar River Watershed District but also the City of Austin, Mower County SWCD and the Minnesota DNR. This multi-year project is significantly beneficial for aquatic habitat protection and restoration within the watershed. Previous investigations and evaluations have been completed in cooperation with the MNDNR and Cedar River Watershed District to address concerns of restoring native habitats which will return historic fish and wildlife species populations.

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

Improved condition of the current habitat will promote stable waterfowl and fish populations. Restored native aquatic vegetation generates habitat for fish populations and waterfowl, provides nesting material for waterfowl, and improves spawning grounds for fish. This will be measured and evaluated by completing floristic quality assessment evaluations that includes native and non-native populations of aquatic species populations. Increased wildlife productivity emphasizes the quality of the natural resources present and aquatic vegetation generates habitat for fish populations and waterfowl for generations. Aquatic vegetation provides nesting material for waterfowl, and improves spawning grounds for fish. Protected, restored and enhanced migratory and unique Minnesota species annually have been monitored in the watershed in cooperation with the MNDNR by completing wildlife and fish population surveys in the Cedar River Watershed.

**Outcomes:**

**Programs in prairie region:**

- Improved condition of habitat on public lands *Improved condition of the current habitat will promote stable waterfowl and fish populations. Restored native aquatic vegetation improves habitat for fish populations and waterfowl which provides nesting material for waterfowl, and improves spawning grounds for fish. This will be measured and evaluated by completing floristic quality assessment evaluations that includes native and non-native populations of aquatic species populations. Increased wildlife productivity emphasizes the quality of the natural resources present and aquatic vegetation generates habitat for fish populations and waterfowl which have and will be monitored in the watershed in cooperation with the MNDNR.*

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

The Cedar Rock River Watershed District is a permanent entity created by state statute and operates under a 1W1P plan that is approved by MNBWSR. Our watershed plan includes natural resource restoration, management, enhancement and protection strategies. The watershed district utilizes multiple funding sources including what include clean water, CPL, LCCMR and LSOHC funds. We are committed to maintain existing and future natural resource enhancement projects. Our projects reduce flood potential and degradation of aquatic habitat in combination with monitoring data, fish and wildlife population surveys allows us to evaluate water impairments and degradation of aquatic habitat on lake streams, rivers and habitat improvements.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2019	LSOHC and Tax Levy	Construction and Erosion Control	Erosion Control and Inspection	Maintenance Inspection and Implementation
2020	LSOHC and Tax Levy	Construction and Erosion Control	Erosion Control and Inspection	Maintenance Inspection and Implementation
2021	Tax Levy	Maintenance Inspection and Implementation	Maintenance and Implementation	Maintenance and Implementation

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

it is essential to secure funding. Currently Hormel Food Corporation has agreed secure funds for a portion this grant request.

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

Leverage funds have been committed by Hormel Food corporation for phase 1 of this project.

**Relationship to other funds:**

- Not Listed

**Describe the relationship of the funds:**

Not Listed

**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 for appropriation does not supplant or substitute previous funding.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2016	Local Tax Levy	
2017	Local Tax Levy	
2018	Local Tax Levy	

## Activity Details

### Requirements:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **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 (Public Waters, City of Austin Public Land)**

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**

## Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Planning Design and Permitting	December 2019
Construction Start following permits and contracting	June 2020
Complete Phase 1 Habitat Restoration	December 2021
Maintenance and Monitoring	Ongoing

# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$1,320,000**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$70,000	Local Tax Levy, Local Tax Levy	\$70,000
Contracts	\$700,000	\$240,000	Hormel Food Corporation	\$940,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$348,000	\$0		\$348,000
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$272,000	\$200,000	Hormel Food Corporation	\$472,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$1,320,000	\$510,000		\$1,830,000

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Manager	0.30	2.00	\$0	\$45,000	Local Tax Levy	\$45,000
Staff Technician	0.43	1.00	\$0	\$25,000	Local Tax Levy	\$25,000
Total	0.73	3.00	\$0	\$70,000		\$70,000

Amount of Request: \$1,320,000

Amount of Leverage: \$510,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 38.64%

DSS + Personnel: \$0

As a % of the total request: 0.00%

Easement Stewardship: \$0

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -%

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

yes, 100%

**Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:**

Leverage funds are secured funds from Hormel Food Corporation and personnel funds are from local tax levy.

**Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - No**

## Output Tables

**Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	12	12
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	22	22
Total	0	0	0	34	34

**Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,056,000	\$1,056,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$264,000	\$264,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,320,000	\$1,320,000

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	12	0	12
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	22	0	22
Total	0	0	0	34	0	34

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,056,000	\$0	\$1,056,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$264,000	\$0	\$264,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,320,000	\$0	\$1,320,000

**Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$88,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,000

**Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$88,000	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	\$0

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

800 Feet

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:

Not Listed

## Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

### Mower

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
08.023.0031	10318223	22	\$0	Yes
08.023.0040	10318223	1	\$0	Yes
34.887.0170	10318223	2	\$0	Yes

## Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

### Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

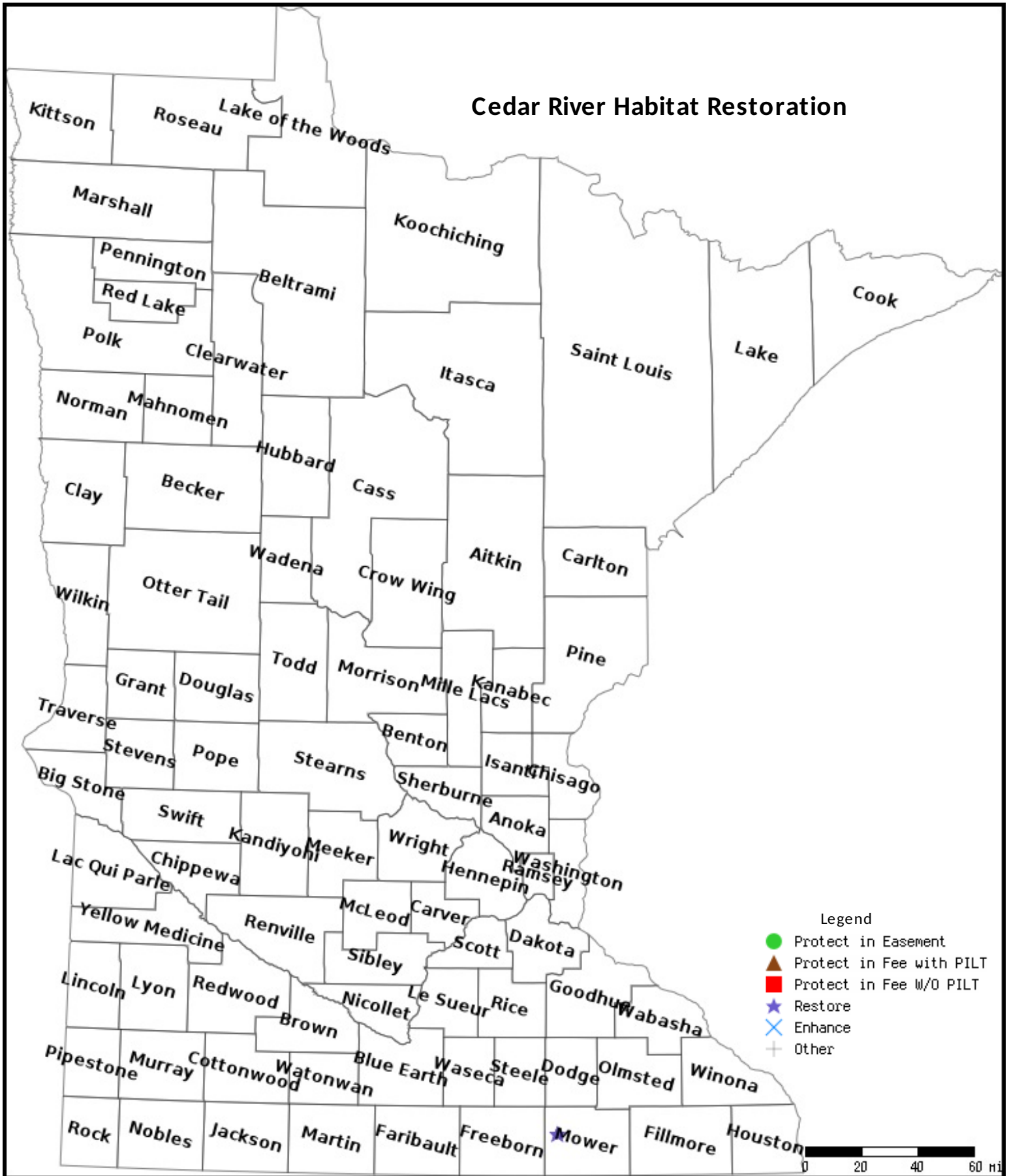
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

## Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.



# Parcel Map



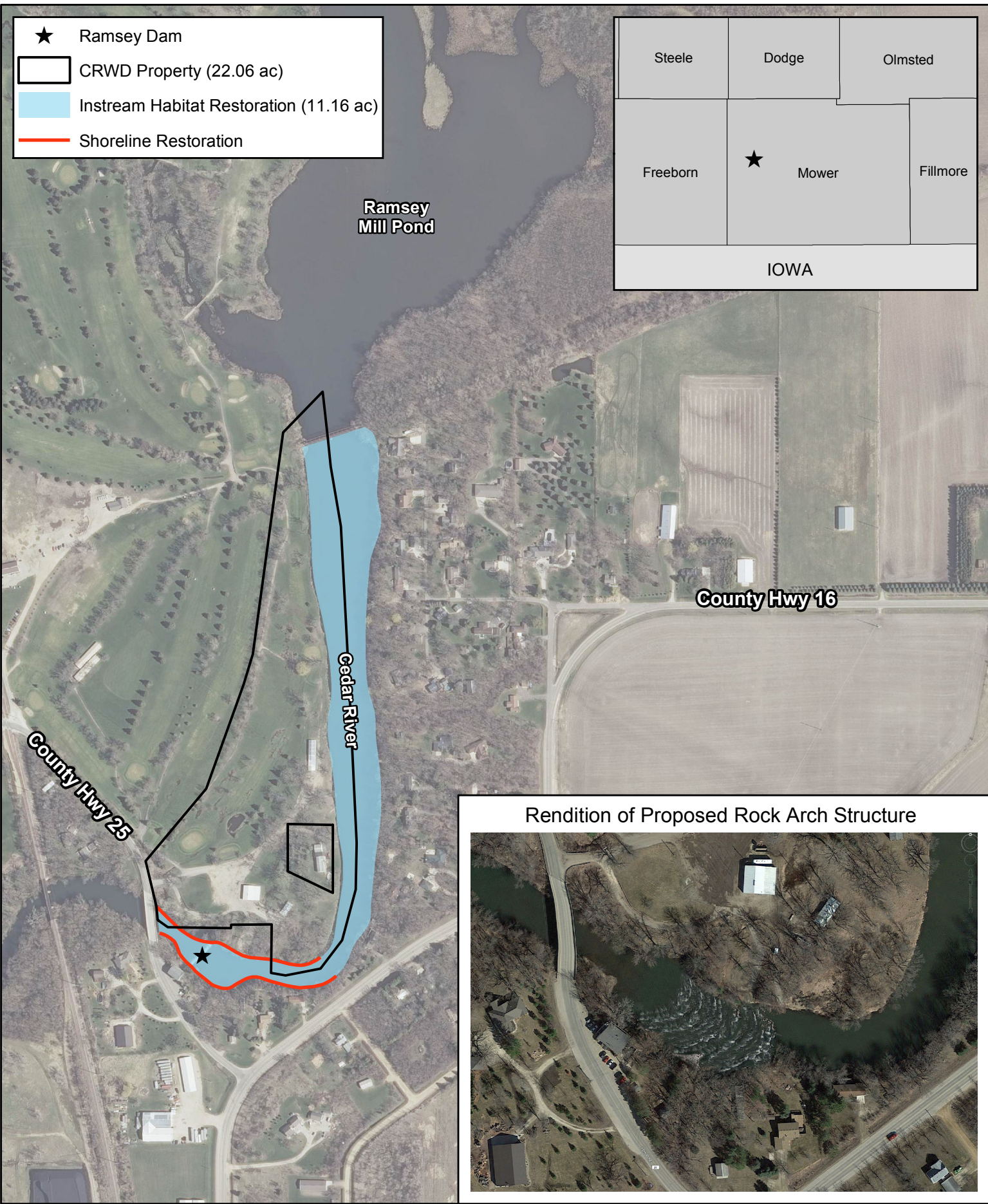
Data Generated From Parcel List



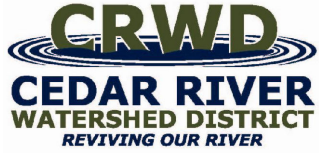


- ★ Ramsey Dam
- CRWD Property (22.06 ac)
- Instream Habitat Restoration (11.16 ac)
- Shoreline Restoration

Steele	Dodge	Olmsted
Freeborn	★ Mower	Fillmore
IOWA		



**Ramsey Dam Project**  
Mower County, Minnesota









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*Hormel Foods Corporation, LLC  
1 Hormel Place  
Austin, MN 55912-3680*

May 24, 2018

Lessard-Sams Heritage Council  
95 State Office Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Re: Ramsey Dam Habitat Restoration Project-Mower County

Dear LSOHC Board:

I am writing on behalf of Hormel Foods Corporation, in support of the Cedar River Watershed District's proposal to the Lessard-Sams Heritage Council for Phase I of the Cedar River Habitat Restoration project. Hormel Foods is partnering with the Cedar River Watershed District and the City of Austin for Phase I of the project to improve the restoration of wildlife habitat in and around the Cedar River. Birds, turtles, deer and a myriad of other animal life and aquatic life found in our area depend on the Cedar River.

It is important that we consider the regional benefit of this project and the positive impact on our natural environment within the Cedar River Watershed. Hormel Foods supports the proposed restoration project which will provide significant regional environmental benefits for the Cedar River. We appreciate the efforts of the Cedar River Watershed District to initiate Phase I of the restoration of the Cedar River. This project has strong public support within Mower County. Thank you for considering this funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tyler Hulsebus".

Tyler Hulsebus  
Vice President of Engineering



City of Austin  
500 Fourth Avenue N.E.  
Austin, Minnesota 55912-3773



Mayor, Thomas A. Stiehm  
507-437-9940  
[www.ci.austin.mn.us](http://www.ci.austin.mn.us)

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
95 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Cedar River Watershed District Application for Habitat Improvement at Ramsey Mill Pond

To Whom It May Concern,

The City of Austin, together with the Cedar River Watershed District and other private partners, is proposing a habitat improvement project. The project involves the repair and enhancement of the Ramsey Mill Dam, which has been rated in poor condition by the State Dam Safety Engineer.

The City of Austin recognizes the significance of maintaining the existing dam structure for flood control benefits that have been documented with the existence of the dam. The current conditions provide significant flood flow reduction and thus protects downstream infrastructure. In addition, we recognize opportunities for improving river connectivity and biological passage by partnering with the Cedar River Watershed District.

This project provides many watershed benefits that address public infrastructure resources, along with natural resource enhancement. There is a great deal of public support for this project and other improvements in the Ramsey Mill Dam area. In addition to our project, Mower County has partnered with The Hormel Foundation and the MnDNR to purchase approximately 20 acres of floodway property to remove existing structures. Ramsey Mill Dam is a prominent location for community activities on the river and has served as a location for hosting several educational water based events.

The City of Austin is committed to the project. We believe that this project will ensure current flood protection levels, will enhance river connectivity and will improve biological passage at the Ramsey Mill Dam. We look forward to your favorable response to this project and its inclusion in the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Stiehm".

Thomas A. Stiehm  
Mayor, City of Austin





To: Lessard Outdoor Heritage Grant Review Team  
From : Mower SWCD  
RE: Cedar River Watershed District Application for Habitat Improvement at Mill Pond  
Date: May 25, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

The Cedar River Watershed District is providing a habitat improvement project, on behalf of several partners in the Cedar River Watershed community. The project involves the repair and enhancement of the Ramsey Dam, which is currently in disrepair.

The Mower SWCD is partnering on this project because we see a great deal of resource benefit to connecting the river and allowing the biological passage that will take place as a result of that. We also recognize the significant flood control benefit that has been documented with the existence of the dam. The current conditions provide significant flood flow reduction and thus protects downstream infrastructure.

This project seems to be a solution that could address the public infrastructure resources, along with natural resource enhancement. In addition, there is a great deal of public support for the project. Ramsey Dam is a prominent location for community activity on the river. We have also hosted several education events in this location.

The Mower SWCD fully supports this application and will work within our capacity to support the implementation of the project going forward.

Sincerely,



Justin Hanson  
District M