

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2020 / ML 2019 Request for Funding

PRE 02



Date: May 31, 2018

Program or Project Title: Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase VI

Funds Requested: \$5,181,000

Manager's Name: Wiley Buck

Title: Program Manager

Organization: Great River Greening

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County Locations: Anoka, Benton, Morrison, Sherburne, and Stearns.

Regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie
- Habitat

Abstract:

Five partner organizations of the >25-member Anoka Sand Plain (ASP) Partnership will protect 500 acres of habitat through conservation easement, and restore/enhance over 1800 acres of Prairie/Oak Savanna, Shallow Basin Wetland, and fire-dependent Woodland/Forest habitats on public and protected private sites, within the Anoka Sand Plain Ecological Region and intersecting watersheds. These actions will increase biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and landscape resilience within the ASP Ecoregion, and address the ASP Partnership goals, DNR Wildlife Action Plan and OHF priorities for the Metropolitan Urbanizing and Forest-Prairie Transition sections.

Design and scope of work:

Urgency and Opportunity:

The amount of high quality remnant habitat in the ASP is remarkable given its proximity to Twin Cities Metropolitan and St. Cloud areas. While the location of the ASP provides easy access for many Minnesotans, the associated stressors threaten the ASP's sustainability: The ecological diversity of the ASP is threatened by invasive species and development and the best window for response is now.

Partnership:

The ASP Partnership is determined to protect, restore and enhance functioning ecosystems, habitat cores and corridors in strategic locations so these functioning landscapes can provide ecological services and high quality recreational opportunities. Anoka Conservation District (ACD), Great River Greening (GRG), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) and Sherburne SWCD (ShSWCD), will secure and hold conservation easements on 500 acres, and complete restoration and enhancement (R/E) on more than 1800 acres on protected private parcels and 20 existing public sites. ASP Partners will enhance habitat by

conducting invasive species removal, prescribed burning, thinning, mowing, and seeding and planting with locally sourced native seed and plants to increase biological diversity and landscape resilience. Conservation easements that permanently protect private lands for future generations will be secured and held by MLT, protecting additional parcels and acreage to expand habitat cores and corridors in the ASP; where needed, R/E will also be completed on a portion of these newly protected acres.

Priorities:

The ASP Partnership 10 - Year Strategic Conservation Action Plan utilizes multiple-criteria GIS analyses to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat connectivity, SGCN, biodiversity, and native plant communities; the next steps of the Action Plan will determine target acreage goals for the ASP based on these criteria. The ASP Partners' local knowledge have also been used to identify and prioritize ecologically significant projects and parcels with engaged stakeholders.

Scope of Work:

Anticipated R/E PROJECTS on parcels with existing protection, by priority habitat, are:

PRAIRIE/SAVANNA (623 acres; \$1,131,000)

1. Crane Meadows WMA
2. Crane Meadows NWR
3. Freemont WMA
4. Oak Savanna Park
5. Quarry Park SNA
6. Robert and Marilyn Burman WMA
7. Santiago WMA

B. SHALLOW BASIN NON-FORESTED WETLAND (171 acres; \$316,000)

8. Blaine Preserve SNA
9. Blaine Wetland Sanctuary South, Phase II

C. WOODLAND/FOREST (874 acres; \$979,000)

10. Carl E. Bonnell WMA
11. Carlos Avery WMA
12. Crane Meadows WMA
13. Ereaux WMA
14. Freemont WMA
15. McDougall WMA
16. Michaelson Farm WMA
17. Rice Area Sportsmen's Club (RASC) WMA
18. Rice-Skunk WMA
19. Sartell WMA
20. Vietnam Veterans WMA

Anticipated PROTECTION PROJECTS, with a portion of same acreage undergoing R/E, are:

A. HABITATS (500 acres protected; of these, 120 acres enhanced and 40 acres restored; \$2,600,000)

21+. Conservation easements will be secured on private parcels, adding protected acreage to the priority habitats.

With the both protection and R/E activities, this partnership work proposed here will significantly advance conservation goals in the ASP Ecoregion.

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:

The sites and actions included in this proposal will combat the treats of habitat fragmentation, degradation and invasive species. These were identified in Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan and Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework as the priority actions needed to address significant challenges facing SGCN and landscape resilience in the ASP region.

The ASP Partnership 10 - Year Strategic Conservation Action Plan utilizes multiple-criteria GIS analyses to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat connectivity, SGCN, biodiversity, and native plant communities; the next steps of the Action Plan will determine target acreage goals for the ASP based on these criteria. The ASP Partners' local knowledge have also been used to identify and prioritize ecologically significant projects and parcels with engaged stakeholders.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Forest / Prairie Transition:

- Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie

Metro / Urban:

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity

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:

Increase the number of acres of enhanced, restored, and protected key habitats to reduce habitat fragmentation, degradation and invasive species which threaten SCGN, landscape resilience, and outdoor recreation 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:

Multiple-criteria decision analyses in GIS were performed to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat using data sources layers that capture habitat connectivity, habitats that support species in greatest conservation need, terrestrial and aquatic sites of biodiversity, potential locations of groundwater influenced shallow wetlands, and native plant communities.

Data layers include:

1. Top 95% of SGCN population composite
2. Good or excellent populations of state or federally endangered and threatened species
3. Richness hotspots falling outside the top 95 percent of populations
4. Marxan outputs from the Scientific and Natural Area strategic plan
5. Sites of Biodiversity Significance that intersect with Marxan outputs
6. Native plant communities: Minnesota Department of Nature Resources – Division of Ecological and Water Resources – Biological Survey. MNDNR Native Plant Communities. 2014.

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 Anoka Sand Plain (ASP) Ecological Region is comprised of dry sandy uplands interspersed with shallow wetlands, and critically endangered oak savanna woodlands that serve as refuges for many globally unique species and rare plant communities, and holds two Wild & Scenic Rivers. The MN County Biological Survey ranks 72,000 acres in the ASP Ecoregion as Outstanding or High Biodiversity. The ASP provides habitat for 97 known or predicted Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), 39 of which are federally or state endangered, threatened, or special concern. Roughly one-third of Minnesota's state listed rare plant and animals make their home in the ASP.

RARE (T&E, SPC, SGCN) SPECIES AT ASP6 PROJECT SITES:

BIRD

Acadian flycatcher
American Woodcock
Bay-breasted warbler
Cerulean warbler
Eastern towhee
Field sparrow
Golden-winged warbler
Grasshopper sparrow

Northern rough-winged swallow
Olive-sided flycatcher
Philadelphia vireo
Purple Martin
Red-shouldered hawk
Sandhill Crane
Veery
Wilson's Phalarope
Wood thrush

MAMMAL

Plains Pocket Mouse

REPTILE

Blanding's Turtle
Gophersnake

INVERTEBRATE

Jumping spider (*Pelegrina arizonensis*)
Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle

VASCULAR PLANT

Autumn Fimbry
Beach Heather
Clinton's Bulrush
Cross-leaved Milkwort
Lance-leaf violet
Marginated Rush
Seaside Three-awn
Slimspike Three-awn
Small-leaved Pussytoes
St. Lawrence Grapefern
Tuberclad Rein-Orchid
Twisted Yellow-eyed grass

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

Several indicator species are found across the ASP. These include: White-tailed deer in Forest habitat; Bobolink and Grasshopper Sparrow, and Monarch Butterfly, in Prairie/Grassland habitat; Trumpeter Swan in Wetland/Shallow Lake habitat; Catfish and Sauger indicator species for aquatic habitats.

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 of the habitat was occupied, 100 acres of habitat could potentially hold approximately 60 and 48 pairs of bobolinks and grasshopper sparrows respectively.

Monarch Butterfly

Research from the University of Minnesota has shown that approximately 30 milkweed result in one monarch butterfly contributing to the overwintering Mexican population. Grasslands can have between 100-250 milkweed stems per acre. An acre of restored or enhanced grassland could potentially contribute 3 to 8 monarchs to the population.

Trumpeter Swan

Trumpeter swans are a readily recognizable feature on wetlands and their restoration is a modern wildlife management success story. Trumpeter swans are strictly territorial on their breeding areas with shoreline complexity and food availability being factors in defining the area being defended. Though reported territories can range in size from 1.5 - >100 hectares, a reasonable expectation is that 1 trumpeter swan pair would be supported by each 150 acres of wetlands protected, restored, or enhanced.

Aquatic Habitat

Channel Catfish (116/acre), and Sauger (2lb/ac) are considered indicator species in warm-water aquatic systems within the ASP.

Outcomes:

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands *Perform ecological monitoring using DNR protocol and evaluate data; adapt management when and where needed. Record number of acres protected of high quality habitat on private lands, which buffer public lands and expand habitat cores and corridors; and number of acres of key habitat successfully restored / enhanced. Map project sites and periodically perform GIS analysis to help quantify impact on habitat complexes.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need *Perform ecological monitoring using DNR protocol and evaluate data; adapt management when and where needed. Record number of acres protected of high quality habitat on private lands, which buffer public lands and expand habitat cores and corridors; and number of acres of key habitat successfully restored / enhanced. Map project sites and periodically perform GIS analysis to help quantify impact on habitat cores and corridors.*

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

The ASP Partnership is committed to working with respective land management agencies and owners, and conservation organizations in an on-going basis to identify and procure financial resources for maintaining these improvements as needed, engage the community, and otherwise assist in reducing the financial and capacity burden of the land managers and owners.

The land protected through conservation easements will be sustained through state-of-the-art standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship 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. For R/E on existing protected land, site-specific resource management plans will be utilized (and developed, if not already in place) to guide effective long-term management of targeted habitats/species.

All land managers associated with sites included in this proposal have committed to the long-term maintenance of these habitat improvements in line with prescribed actions. A principle management goal for each site is to bring sites to a threshold where on-going management costs are diminished, before the end of the grant period.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
ACD - 2024	DNR	Follow up buckthorn treatment and aspen		
MLT - 2024 (and in perpetuity)	Minnesota Land Trust Long-Term Stewardship& Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of easements	Enforcement as needed	
ShSWCD - 2025, 2028, 2030	ShSWCD in kind, Sherburne County	Spot check	Cut invasives/mow/dormant overspray	Assess next step
ACD - 2024	Agriculture Preserves	Spot treat reed canary grass and spotted knapweed. Maintenance mowing and spot spray.		
ACD - 2025	Agriculture Preserves	Follow up buckthorn treatment		
ACD - 2026	DNR	Prescribed burns	Rxburning	Spot treatment
G R G - 2025, 2028, 2030	City of Blaine	Rare species monitor	Rxburning	Spot treatment
G R G - 2025, 2028, 2030, 2040	DNR in-kind	Rare species monitor	Rxburning	Spot treatment
G R G - 2025, 2028, 2030	G R G	Monitor	Spot treatment	
G R G - 2025, 2028, 2030	USFWS in-kind	Prescribed burn	Interseeding	Spot treatment
NWTF - 2025, 2030	DNR in-kind	Prescribed burn		

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 amount of high quality remnant habitat in the ASP is remarkable given its proximity to Twin Cities Metropolitan and St. Cloud areas.

While the location of the ASP provides easy access for the majority of Minnesotans, the associated stressors threaten the ASP's sustainability. The ecological diversity of the ASP is threatened by invasive species and development pressure. State-wide growth through 2045 is projected at 7% while projected growth in Anoka and Sherburne counties is 14% and 24% respectively.

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

Leverage includes both secured and budgeted cash match from National Wild Turkey Federation (\$18K); landowner easement donations/discounts to be negotiated (\$400K); anticipated funds from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (9/1/18) and City of Blaine (\$27K). Respective organizations are also contributing unrealized indirect costs.

Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Clean Water Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

Although the ASP Partnership uses and pursues funds available through Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund and Clean Water Fund to achieve its goals in the Anoka Sand Plain, none of those funds are being currently accessed to address the habitat restoration and enhancement needs proposed here. GRG has however included the Quarry Park SNA in its ML 2019 Trust Fund proposal as well as here as the site and activities fit the goals of both proposals; GRG is committed to reporting transparency should the funding be blended.

This proposal to LSOHC for Outdoor Heritage Fund support does not supplant any other sources of funds. In all cases, this proposal and the projects to be completed accelerate regional habitat work in the Anoka Sand Plain.

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:

Funding from the OHF received by any partner will not be supplant or substitute for any previous non-Legacy funding used for the same purpose.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2007	Moen Management LLC for Moen Wetland Bank, now Blaine Preserve SNA	350000
various	Blaine Wetland Sanctuary: City of Blaine Open Space Referendum; Park Dedication Fees; City Tax Levy	900000
2017	Oak Savanna Park: Sherburne County, cash and in-kind	39000
2017	Oak Savanna Park: BWSR Enhanced Capacity via ShSWCD	20000
various	WMAs and SNAs: State of Minnesota General Fund for purchase, development, restoration, and enhancement	

Activity Details

Requirements:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **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 (WMA, SNA, County/Municipal, Refuge Lands)**

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **Yes**

Are the funds confirmed - **No**

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds - **9/1/18**

Land Use:

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

Explain

Easement Acquisition:

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.

Restoration:

Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted best practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration, in order to reduce weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases this necessitates the use of GMO treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seedbank.

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

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:

Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, these established trails and roads are permitted in the terms of the easement and can be maintained for personal use if their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/trails or expansion of existing ones is not allowed.

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

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

Existing trails and roads for easement properties 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 in line with the terms of the easement 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
ACD: Buckthorn and other woody species treatment	4/1/2020
ACD: Girdle aspen	6/1/2020
ACD: Reed canary grass and spotted knapweed control	10/1/2020
ACD: Buckthorn treatment: basal bark and cut and stump treat	5/1/2021
ACD: Thin and herbicide treat woody encroachment	5/1/2021
ACD: Rx burn	6/1/2021
ACD: Herbaceous control with mowing and spot spray	10/1/2021
ACD: Planting and seeding	11/1/2021
ACD: Follow up treatment	5/1/2022
ACD: Follow up treatment and vegetation monitoring including T&E species population monitoring	6/1/2022
GRC: Fecon Aspen and Cottonwoods	3/1/2019
GRC: Prescribed fire	6/1/2019
GRC: Interseeding of forbs and grasses	6/1/2019
GRC: Plans completed across all sites that do not have an existing plan	7/1/2020
GRC: First wave invasive removal, burning, interseeding, thinning, follow up invasive control	8/15/2020, 3/1/2021, 12/5/2021, 6/1/2022, 5/1/2023
GRC: Volunteer hauling and stacking, hand seeding	6/1/2021
MLT - Select and acquire conservation easements over 500 acres.	6/30/2023
MLT - Complete habitat restoration and enhancement over 160 acres.	6/30/2025
NWTF: Prepare firelines, and reduce coarse woody debris	12/5/2019
NWTF: Burn sites	spring 2020, 2021, 2022
Sherburne SWCD: Mechanical harvest of invasive species: red cedar, buckthorn, Tartarian honeysuckle	2/1/2020
Sherburne SWCD: Mechanical/Chemical site prep for 6 acres of prairie restoration	5/1/2022
Sherburne SWCD: Plant new prairie acres on 6 acres with local ecotype short dry prairie seed	6/15/2022
Sherburne SWCD: Late spring prescribed burning of severely degraded remnant prairie openings- monitoring of native seed bank response	6/1/2022
Sherburne SWCD: Tentative dormant overspray of persistent cool-season grasses in prairie openings	10/1/2022
Sherburne SWCD: Prescribed burn through dry oak forest and dry barrens oak savanna	11/1/2022

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$5,181,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$524,000	\$99,000	Sherburne Conservation District, Anoka Conservation District, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, City of Blaine, Great River Greening, National Wild Turkey Federation	\$623,000
Contracts	\$2,418,000	\$43,000	Sherburne County Parks, ACD, NFWF, National Wild Turkey Federation	\$2,461,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$1,600,000	\$400,000	Land owners	\$2,000,000
Easement Stewardship	\$240,000	\$0		\$240,000
Travel	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Professional Services	\$172,000	\$0		\$172,000
Direct Support Services	\$85,000	\$51,000	NWTF Waived Indirect	\$136,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$8,000	\$0		\$8,000
Supplies/Materials	\$114,000	\$32,000	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Anoka Conservation District, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	\$146,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$5,181,000	\$625,000		-\$5,806,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
National Wild Turkey Federation	0.12	3.00	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Sherburne Conservation District Staff	0.06	3.00	\$18,000	\$18,000	Sherburne Conservation District	\$36,000
Anoka Conservation District Staff	0.72	3.00	\$152,000	\$19,000	Anoka Conservation District, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation	\$171,000
Minnesota Land Trust Staff	0.70	3.00	\$189,000	\$0		\$189,000
Great River Greening Staff	0.97	3.00	\$155,000	\$62,000	City of Blaine, Great River Greening, National Wild Turkey Federation	\$217,000
Total	2.57	15.00	\$524,000	\$99,000		-\$623,000

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Contracts	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$325,000	\$0		\$325,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$17,000	\$51,000	NWTF Waived Indirect	\$68,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$352,000	\$51,000		-\$403,000

Personnel - National Wild Turkey Federation

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
National Wild Turkey Federation	0.12	3.00	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Total	0.12	3.00	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Sherburne Conservation District	\$18,000	\$18,000	Sherburne Conservation District	\$36,000
Contracts	Sherburne Conservation District	\$279,000	\$30,000	Sherburne County Parks	\$309,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Sherburne Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Sherburne Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Sherburne Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	Sherburne Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	Sherburne Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	Sherburne Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	Sherburne Conservation District	\$3,000	\$0		\$3,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Sherburne Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	Sherburne Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Sherburne Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	Sherburne Conservation District	\$0	\$2,000	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	\$2,000
DNR IDP	Sherburne Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$300,000	\$50,000		\$350,000

Personnel - Sherburne Conservation District

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Sherburne Conservation District Staff	0.06	3.00	\$18,000	\$18,000	Sherburne Conservation District	\$36,000
Total	0.06	3.00	\$18,000	\$18,000		\$36,000

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Anoka Conservation District	\$152,000	\$19,000	Anoka Conservation District, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation	\$171,000
Contracts	Anoka Conservation District	\$60,000	\$7,000	ACD, NFWF	\$67,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Anoka Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Anoka Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Anoka Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	Anoka Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	Anoka Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	Anoka Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	Anoka Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Anoka Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	Anoka Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Anoka Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	Anoka Conservation District	\$29,000	\$30,000	Anoka Conservation District, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	\$59,000
DNR IDP	Anoka Conservation District	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$241,000	\$56,000		\$297,000

Personnel - Anoka Conservation District

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Anoka Conservation District Staff	0.72	3.00	\$152,000	\$19,000	Anoka Conservation District, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation	\$171,000
Total	0.72	3.00	\$152,000	\$19,000		-\$171,000

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Minnesota Land Trust	\$189,000	\$0		\$189,000
Contracts	Minnesota Land Trust	\$486,000	\$0		\$486,000
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	\$1,600,000	\$400,000	Land owners	\$2,000,000
Easement Stewardship	Minnesota Land Trust	\$240,000	\$0		\$240,000
Travel	Minnesota Land Trust	\$12,000	\$0		\$12,000
Professional Services	Minnesota Land Trust	\$172,000	\$0		\$172,000
Direct Support Services	Minnesota Land Trust	\$51,000	\$0		\$51,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Minnesota Land Trust	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	Minnesota Land Trust	\$3,000	\$0		\$3,000
DNR IDP	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		-\$2,755,000	\$400,000		-\$3,155,000

Personnel - Minnesota Land Trust

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Minnesota Land Trust Staff	0.70	3.00	\$189,000	\$0		\$189,000
Total	0.70	3.00	\$189,000	\$0		-\$189,000

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Great River Greening	\$155,000	\$62,000	City of Blaine, Great River Greening, National Wild Turkey Federation	\$217,000
Contracts	Great River Greening	\$1,268,000	\$6,000	National Wild Turkey Federation	\$1,274,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	Great River Greening	\$8,000	\$0		\$8,000
Professional Services	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	Great River Greening	\$14,000	\$0		\$14,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Great River Greening	\$6,000	\$0		\$6,000
Supplies/Materials	Great River Greening	\$82,000	\$0		\$82,000
DNR IDP	Great River Greening	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		-\$1,533,000	\$68,000		-\$1,601,000

Personnel - Great River Greening

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Great River Greening Staff	0.97	3.00	\$155,000	\$62,000	City of Blaine, Great River Greening, National Wild Turkey Federation	\$217,000
Total	0.97	3.00	\$155,000	\$62,000		\$217,000

Amount of Request: \$5,181,000

Amount of Leverage: \$625,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 12.06%

DSS + Personnel: \$609,000

As a % of the total request: 11.75%

Easement Stewardship: \$240,000

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 15.00%

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

ACD: n/a; no DSS requested.

GRG: Completed an analysis using a shared process from an international ngo, and then adjusted downward to account for scaled structure. A DSS conservative estimate of 9% of personnel costs has been in use since ML 2014.

MLT: In a process approved by DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services.

NWTF: Completed application for a federal indirect expense rate; adjusted down to 5% of the direct funds received.

ShSWCD: Completed application for a BWSR indirect rate; adjusted down.

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

97% is for R/E contracts, 3% is for landowner outreach and plan writing contracts.

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:

\$1,000 for equipment rental such as mower and tractor; car rental is included for longer trips where rental contains costs.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

Leverage includes both secured and budgeted cash match from National Wild Turkey Federation; anticipated funds from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (9/1/18); and landowner easement donations/discounts to be negotiated. Respective organizations are also identifying general operating support / unrealized indirect as match.

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:

Projects are bundled by type, location, and partner for maximum administrative efficiency. Reduced funding will result in fewer projects, smaller 'phased' project(s) - repeating heavy equipment mobilization, and possibly fewer partners. With the inclusion of both R/E and acquisition, the Partnership is seeking an amount above historical award

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	40	40
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	500	500
Enhance	171	623	874	120	1,788
Total	171	623	874	660	2,328

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	\$0	\$0	\$120,000	\$120,000
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	\$2,260,000	\$2,260,000
Enhance	\$316,000	\$1,131,000	\$979,000	\$375,000	\$2,801,000
Total	\$316,000	\$1,131,000	\$979,000	\$2,755,000	\$5,181,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	20	20	0	0	0	40
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	300	200	0	0	0	500
Enhance	762	1,026	0	0	0	1,788
Total	1,082	1,246	0	0	0	2,328

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,000
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	\$1,356,000	\$904,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,260,000
Enhance	\$1,436,000	\$1,365,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,801,000
Total	\$2,852,000	\$2,329,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,181,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
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	\$4,520
Enhance	\$1,848	\$1,815	\$1,120	\$3,125

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$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	\$4,520	\$4,520	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$1,885	\$1,330	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

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:

The sites and actions included in this proposal will combat the treats of habitat fragmentation, degradation and invasive species. These were identified in Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan and LSOHC: 25-year framework as the priority actions needed to address significant challenges facing SGCN and landscape resilience in the ASP region.

The ASP Partnership 10 - Year Strategic Conservation Action Plan utilizes multiple-criteria GIS analyses to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat connectivity, SGCN, biodiversity, and native plant communities; the next steps of the Action Plan will determine target acreage goals for the ASP based on these criteria. The ASP Partners' local knowledge have also been used to identify and prioritize ecologically significant projects and parcels with engaged stakeholders.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Anoka

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Blaine Preserve SNA	03123226	53	\$90,000	Yes
Blaine Wetland Sanctuary S, Ph II	03123215	103	\$215,000	Yes
Carl E. Bonnel WMA	03425227	78	\$55,000	Yes
Carlos Avery WMA	03322228	190	\$261,000	Yes
Robert and Marilyn Burman WMA	03324223	89	\$96,000	Yes

Benton

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Michaelson Farm WMA	03731205	58	\$0	Yes
Sartell WMA	03831215	96	\$0	Yes

Morrison

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Crane Meadows NWR	04031219	300	\$269,000	Yes
Crane Meadows WMA	03931204	44	\$48,000	Yes
Ereaux WMA	04132224	84	\$0	Yes
McDougall WMA	03932220	44	\$352,000	Yes
Rice Area Sporstmens Club WMA	03931214	109	\$0	Yes
Rice-Skunk WMA	04031213	42	\$0	Yes

Sherburne

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Freemont WMA	03426207	28	\$62,000	Yes
Oak Savanna Park	03429224	96	\$300,000	Yes
Santiago WMA	03528227	40	\$106,000	Yes
Vietnam Veterans WMA	03526221	23	\$63,000	Yes

Stearns

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Quarry Park SNA	12428230	190	\$509,000	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

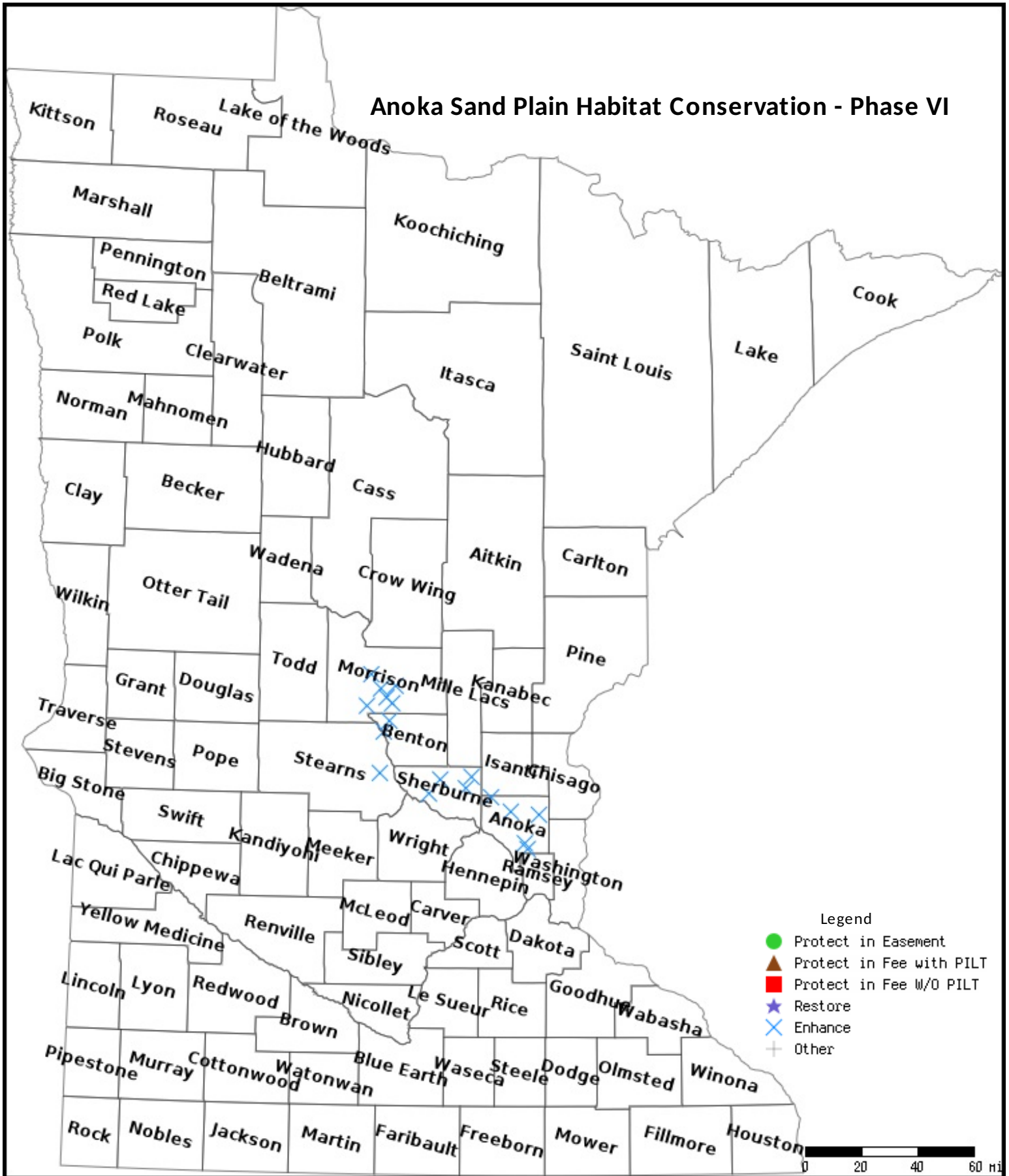
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase VI



Data Generated From Parcel List

Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase VI

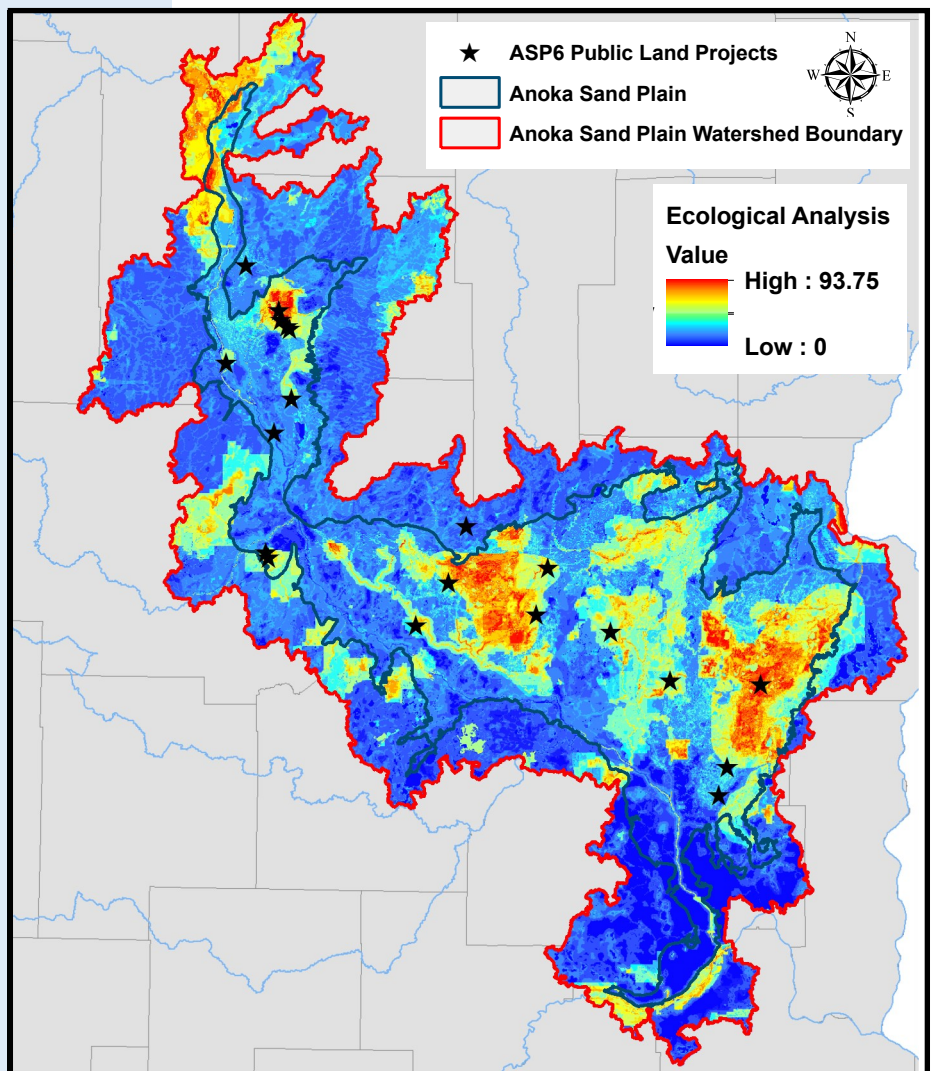
Protect 500 acres of high quality private lands in conservation easements.

Restore/Enhance 1,827 acres of upland prairie, oak savanna, wet prairie/rich fen, and fire-dependent woodlands in the ASP Ecoregion.

Priorities based on:

DNR's Wildlife Action Network
MBS Biodiversity Significance
Habitat Connectivity
Native Plant Communities
Species in Greatest Conservation Need
ASP Partnership Strategic Plan

- Public lands restoration/enhancement labeled below
- Conservation easement protection outreach will be targeted at priority areas



Anoka Sand Plain Partnership Accomplishments Phases 1 - 5

Acres Protected
Proposed: 80
Completed: 101
126% of goal

Acres Restored/Enhanced
Proposed: 7,395
Completed: 11,640
157% of goal



The Anoka Sand Plain Partnership

VISION

Protection, restoration and enhancement to increase biological diversity, habitat connectivity and landscape resilience in the Anoka Sand Plain.

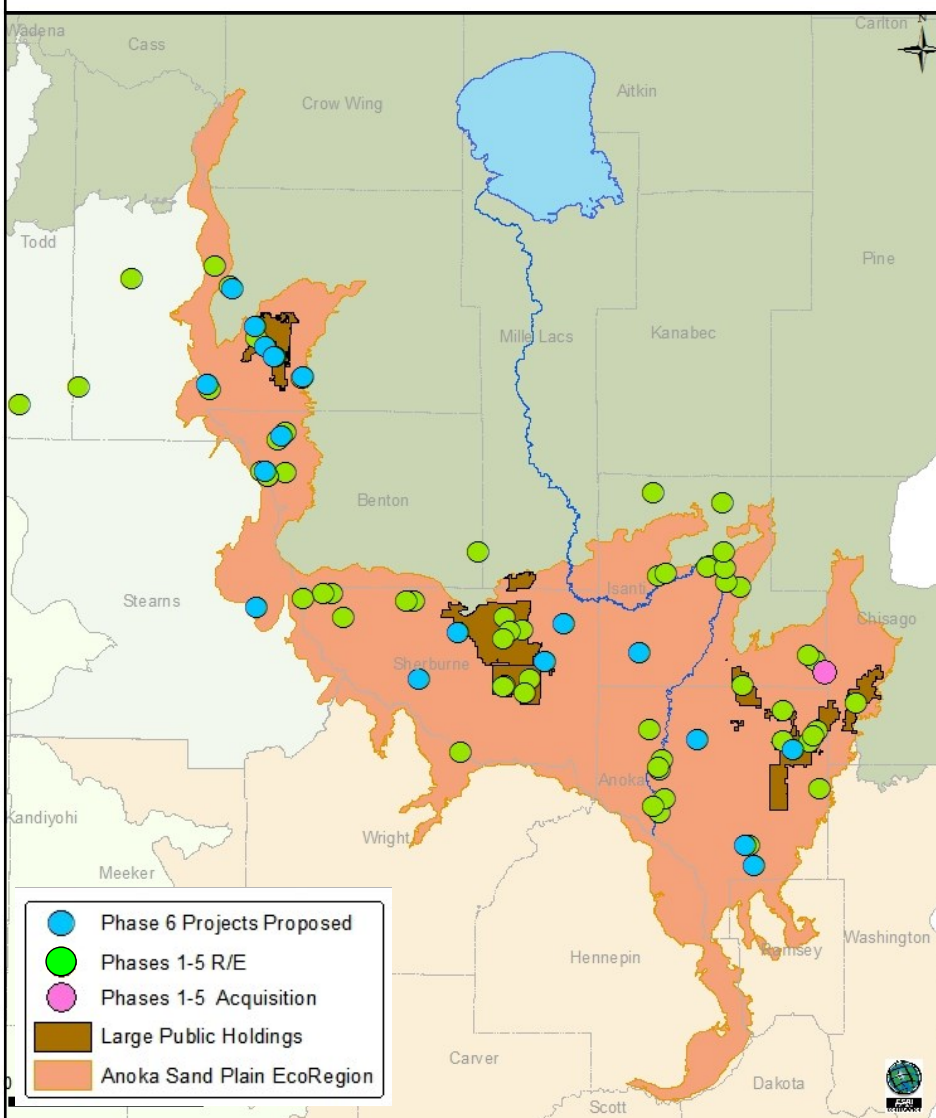
OPPORTUNITY

Over 72,000 acres in the ASP Ecoregion are ranked Outstanding or High Biodiversity by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. The ASP provides habitat for 97 known or predicted Species of Greatest Conservation Need, 39 of which are federally or state endangered, threatened, or special concern.

URGENCY

State-wide projected growth through 2045 is estimated at 7% while growth in Anoka and Sherburne counties is 14% and 24% respectively.

ASP Phases 1-5 Completed Projects and ASP 6 Proposal



Phase 6 Projects labeled above are restoration/enhancement on public lands. Conservation Easements will also be secured with Phase 6 funds.



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 ANOKA SANDPLAIN PROTECTION PROGRAM Conservation Easement Selection Worksheet		SITE 1	SITE 2	SITE 3	SITE 4	SITE 5	SITE 6	SITE 7	SITE 8	SITE 9	SITE 10	SITE 11	SITE 12	Notes
COUNTY														
100 Pts	ECOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE													
Weighting Factor	Size/Abundance of Habitat (33 points)													
	a) Size (33 pts): Acres of Habitat to be Protected by an Easement													
	SUBTOTAL:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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
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
	TOTAL ECOLOGICAL VALUE POINTS	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 (\$)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

KEY	
	Priority
	Possible
	Out