

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2021 / ML 2020 Request for Funding



Date: June 11, 2019

Program or Project Title: Southeast Wetland Restoration

Funds Requested: \$6,651,800

Manager's Name: Michael McCarty

Organization: City of Mankato

Address: 10 Civic Center Plaza

City: Mankato, MN 56001

Office Number: 507-387-8643

Mobile Number: 507-317-0415

Email: mmccarty@mankatomn.gov

County Locations: Blue Earth

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Habitat

Abstract:

The City of Mankato is looking to restore a varied ecosystem that includes wetland restoration, upland prairie establishment, and stream improvements. A minimum of a 100 acre area would provide habitat that supports a diverse mix of plants and animals and will allow for different types of outdoor sporting opportunities. The project is a unique opportunity for habitat establishment and protection in an urbanizing area that will provide lasting benefits for region.

Design and scope of work:

The project will restore a complex habitat of approximately 42 acres of drained wetland and minimum of 58 acres of upland buffer that will provide habitat and outdoor sporting and recreational opportunities. Additionally this project will stormwater on the landscape that will have a positive impact on the receiving stream by establishing a more uniform flow and improving the potential of future aquatic habitat. By storing the water on the landscape a variety of wetland and upland plant communities can be established. These varied communities will provide the habitats necessary for the various stages of life for waterfowl, grassland birds and other wildlife that thrive in these conditions. Because of the alterations to the landscape that have been made over time to drain the wetland basin, significant grading and drainage improvements will need to be made. These improvements will ensure that the proper hydrology is maintained and allow for adequate drainage to protect downstream ecology. Work will include grading to remove the drainage ditch, installation of storm sewer from urban stormwater treatment facilities and structural controls to optimize the water levels in the basin. In order to establish the highest value habitat and prevent negative impacts to neighboring landowners, acquisition of the restorable wetland basin and upland that is directly hydraulically active with this basin will be completed. Native vegetation will be established to promote habitat diversity. This project will also provide sporting and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to observe and enjoy the diverse plant and wildlife community that this type of habitat will promote. Though this connection, education on how restoration and improvements such as this one provide a positive impact on the ecosystem while being contextually sensitive to the surrounding agricultural production and urbanization area. By developing the understanding that habitat, recreational activities and agricultural production can exist together in harmony, an increase in public support and acceptance of these types of restoration projects can be achieved.

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

project:

- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- H7 Keep water on the landscape

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Blue Earth County Water Management Plan 2017-2026 Greenprint section

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

This project is identified in the Blue Earth County Water Management Plan 2017-2026 Greenprint section and the value of the project to the regional ecosystem is recognized by the City of Mankato. Because of this the City has undertaken the initiative to secure outside funding to make implementation of this project possible. The project will provide benefits not only for wildlife through habitat creation, but will also be a major step in demonstrating the value of a project that will in the long term improve water quality and downstream habitats. The program aligns with the City's goals to be a steward of the natural and built environment and elevates the position of restored ecology for habitat, wildlife and overall ecosystem health at the river and the outle of the westland stream course.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Prairie:

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

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:

Land acquired for this project by the City of Mankato would be fee title with associated recorded funding restrictions. The City would take the extra step of placing additional restrictions, if necessary, on the property to ensure that it remains a natural area in perpetuity. By taking this step the City is demonstrating its commitment to maintain this unique habitat so that it can be enjoyed into the future. The establishment of this habitat will allow for sporting and outdoor recreational operatuties such as fishing, hunting, natural observation and educational activities. Such improvements will allow for generation to observe and appreciate nature in a setting that places it in harmony with agricultural production and urban development. The protection of this habitat and by demonstrating that that habitat and other land sues can exist in harmony it will help further an appreciation of the value of land in southern Minnesota and how it can support many positive outcomes.

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:

This wetland complex is identified as restorable in the Blue Earth County Water Management Plan, and is highlighted in the Greenprint section of the plan. A land use planning approach was used to identify Greenprint priority areas based on the ability to provide multiple aquatic and natural resource benefits. An inventory of aquatic and natural resources, sensitive features, land cover, floodplains, rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, rare plant and animal habitat, sensitive geology, park lands, and protected or publicly-owned lands was followed by an analysis of their landscape position, proximity and connectivity in four landscape settings - river corridors, shallow bedrock and karst, lake shoreland and wetland complexes. These diverse landscape settings, natural resources and hydrologic conditions were combined to make the Greenprint. The downstream receiving stream of this proposed restoration site has identified MHs38c Red Oak - Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) Forest as shown on the Blue Earth County map for the Mn County Biological Survey. The project will allow for the restoration of a large, varied type wetland complex. The types of wetland that can be established on the site included Types 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7. Wetland complexes such as this provide habitat for most types of birds and waterfowl as well as other wildlife species and many forms of aquatic life. This project has the ability to provide both direct and non-direct connections. The habitat structure, proximity and connectivity are important for terrestrial wildlife habitat to provide support throughout all stages of 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:

The project has the potential to create approximately 42 acres of types 1, 2, and 3 wetland. Opportunities may exist to create type 4 and 7 wetlands as well. A minimum of an additional 58 acres of land will provide upland buffer and remove land from crop production that would be directly impacted by the restoration of the wetlands. A minimum of 100 acres of agriculture land would be restored to grassland and wetland to provide an exceptional habitat for a variety of species to thrive. By offering different types of wetland and grassland habitat various waterfowl and grassland wildlife that thrives in this setting is expected to be attracted to this site. By

interconnecting several different types of ecosystems into one large complex a higher success of breeding rates is expected. The success will be achieved by allows access to various environments throughout the stages of life. A thriving, diverse community of wildlife will allow sporting and recreational users of this site to have an enjoyable, unique natural experience.

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

The habitat created with this project will support the plant and wildlife communities associated with type 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 wetlands and native prairie upland. Secondary effects of the project may included improvement in aquatic habitat in the receiving stream through the establishment of continuous base flow and the elimination of high flows followed by no flow.

Outcomes:

Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands *Wetland monitoring will take place for a minimum of 3 years, and up to 10 years, depending on the types of wetlands established. This will determine the number of final acres that are restored within the wetland complex. Additional partnering may be practical with MnDNR to introduce select species of wildlife to this area depending on the final configuration of the ecosystem.*

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

The ongoing maintenance of this project will be provided through the City of Mankato's stormwater utility fee and through general fund expenditures. Any recreational opportunities that are implemented as a part of this project will be operated and maintained through the City's Public Works budget for parks. All maintenance and upkeep related to other activities outside of recreation opportunities would be address through the City's stormwater program. The City also foresees partner opportunities with Minnesota State University- Mankato Water Resource Center and other programs for education and observation.

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

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2021	Stormwater	Native vegetation management	Non-Native Vegetation management	Hydraulic control structure inspection
2022	Stormwater	Native vegetation management	Non-Native Vegetation management	Hydraulic control structure inspection
2023	Stromwater	Native vegetation management	Non-Native Vegetation management	Hydraulic control structure inspection
2024	Park	Misc. recreational maintenance		
2024	Stormwater		Spot Non-Native Vegetation management	Hydraulic control structure inspection
2027	Parks/ Stormwater	Misc. recreational maintenance	Spot Non-Native Vegetation management	Hydraulic control structure inspection

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

This project is seen as a high priority for the City of Mankato. The restorable wetland complex forms the upper portion of the Indian Creek watershed and is in an area that is positioned for future urban development. This area has suffered large scale erosion, flooding and vegetation loss due to drainage of the wetland and continued manipulation of the landscape. The acquisition of this property will prevent it from being developed or further manipulated and will allow for the restoration of this wetland providing storage of water on the landscape. Storing water on the landscape will improve not only the wetland and upland habitats created, but aquatic habitats of the receiving stream as well. Current conditions create a positive environment for land acquisition.

Does this program include leverage in funds:

Yes

Leveraged funds for this project include City of Mankato Sales Tax funds, in-kind services through long term maintenance of the project by the City of Mankato, and the opportunity to partner with Minnesota State University - Mankato for educational activities.

Relationship to other funds:

- Local Option Sales Tax

Describe the relationship of the funds:

The City of Mankato has approval of local option sales tax that can be used for recreational projects of regional significance and projects that improve the storage and management of water on the landscape.

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:

The City of Mankato is an LGU and not a State Agency.

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

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2018	City of Mankato Stormwater funds	\$402,591.34

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, per 97A.056 subd 13(j) - **Yes**

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

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**

The land will be open for fishing and hunting. Because this land will be within city limits, the City's hunting ordinances will apply. This may restrict the use of firearms for certain types of hunting. The uniqueness of this habitat, its size and location creates an opportunity to modify city ordinance to allow for a wider variety of hunting activities.

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **No**

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved as a result of the OHF acquisition - **Yes**

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

Paths that allow for sporting activities and passive enjoyment will be created for the public as this will become a City of Mankato parcel and be managed as a natural resource park. Trails may be mowed or wood chips depending on the usage and need to prevent erosion of the trail. Accessways may be needed in addition to the trail for monitoring and maintenance of any structural hydraulic controls that are constructed as a part of this project. Depending on the final configuration of any structural controls, access will be either graded path with vegetation or a reinforced turf type access to make the access in harmony with the improvement.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

Maintenance and monitoring will be conducted by the City of Mankato's Public Works department. All hydraulic structures and related items will be monitored as a part of the stormwater utility. These will be initially inspected on a per rain event basis until function can be established. The monitoring schedule will slowly reduce as the system reaches long term stability and the facility will be added the the 3 year inspection rotation of all stormwater facility in the community. Any trails or recreation amenities that are created will be maintained by the Parks and Forestry Division. These activities will included trail maintenance (mowing, wood chipping) to ensure that

erosion of the trail does not take place. Also vegetation management (spot spraying, invasive removal, mowing, sapling removal) will take place to ensure that intended ecosystem is maintained.

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Final accomplishment plans approve - LSOHC	June 2020
Land acquisition	December 2020
Temporary vegetation establishment (if needed)	April 2021
Complete detailed design and construction documents	December 2020
Begin construction	May 2021
Final Completion	November 2021
Vegetation Management Activities	October 2022

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$6,651,800

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$217,700	\$54,500	Local Option Sales Tax, Local Option Sales Tax, Local Option Sale Tax	\$272,200
Contracts	\$5,201,000	\$1,300,200	Local Option Sales Tax	\$6,501,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$800,000	\$200,000	Local Option Sales Tax	\$1,000,000
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$353,100	\$88,300	Local Option Sales Tax	\$441,400
Direct Support Services	\$80,000	\$20,000	Local Option Sales Tax	\$100,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$6,651,800	\$1,663,000		\$8,314,800

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Assistant City Engineer	0.25	1.50	\$44,200	\$11,100	Local Option Sales Tax	\$55,300
Senior Engineering Technician	0.50	1.50	\$63,800	\$16,000	Local Option Sales Tax	\$79,800
Engineering Technician	1.00	1.50	\$109,700	\$27,400	Local Option Sale Tax	\$137,100
Total	1.75	4.50	\$217,700	\$54,500		\$272,200

Amount of Request: \$6,651,800

Amount of Leverage: \$1,663,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 25.00%

DSS + Personnel: \$297,700

As a % of the total request: 4.48%

Easement Stewardship: \$0

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -%

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

Estimated on cost per FTE as a portion of the City of Mankato Public Works - Engineering budget. Costs include support from other City functional areas for IT support, payment processing and general government activities to support the Engineering Staff.

What is included in the contracts line?

All work performed by contractors to construct water control structures, piping and restore wetlands. Work includes grading, pipe and structure installation, seeding and vegetation establishment.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

The leverage source is the City of Mankato's local options sales tax that was approved for regional water storage and regional recreational improvements. Approximately \$2 million has been identified for this project.

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:

This project has the ability to be broken into phases. Phases include (1) land acquisition, (2) grading, (3) hydraulic structures and (4) vegetation establishment. Due to the size and complexity of the project it would be beneficial to implement the project at one time.

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	100	0	0	100
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	100	0	0	100

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	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$6,651,800	\$0	\$0	\$6,651,800
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$6,651,800	\$0	\$0	\$6,651,800

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	100	0	100
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	100	0	100

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,651,800	\$0	\$6,651,800
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,651,800	\$0	\$6,651,800

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$66,518	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$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	\$66,518	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Indian Creek, Blue Earth River, Minnesota River (0, 2.4, 3.5 miles)

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 Blue Earth County Waterplan, Green Print section identified drained, restorable wetlands within the county. The average annual surface water elevation of the restored wetland was also calculated. The upland buffer was determined to be all land that would be 4 feet above the water surface elevation. This determination was made so that any drain tile that currently drain to this wetland would continue to have a free tail water and not be impacted by the restoration of the wetland. The parcels listed below contain both restoration areas and upland areas and portions of the parcels are needed to accomplish the project. Based on final negotiations with landowners, partial parcels may not be desired to be sold and full parcel acquisition may be required. The minimum parcel acquisition for the project is provided. Property owners are aware of this project.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Blue Earth

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
R43.09.28.300.002	10826228	10	\$100,000	No
R43.09.29.300.003	10826229	30	\$300,000	No
R43.09.29.400.001	10826229	20	\$200,000	No
R43.09.29.400.004	10826229	40	\$400,000	No

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

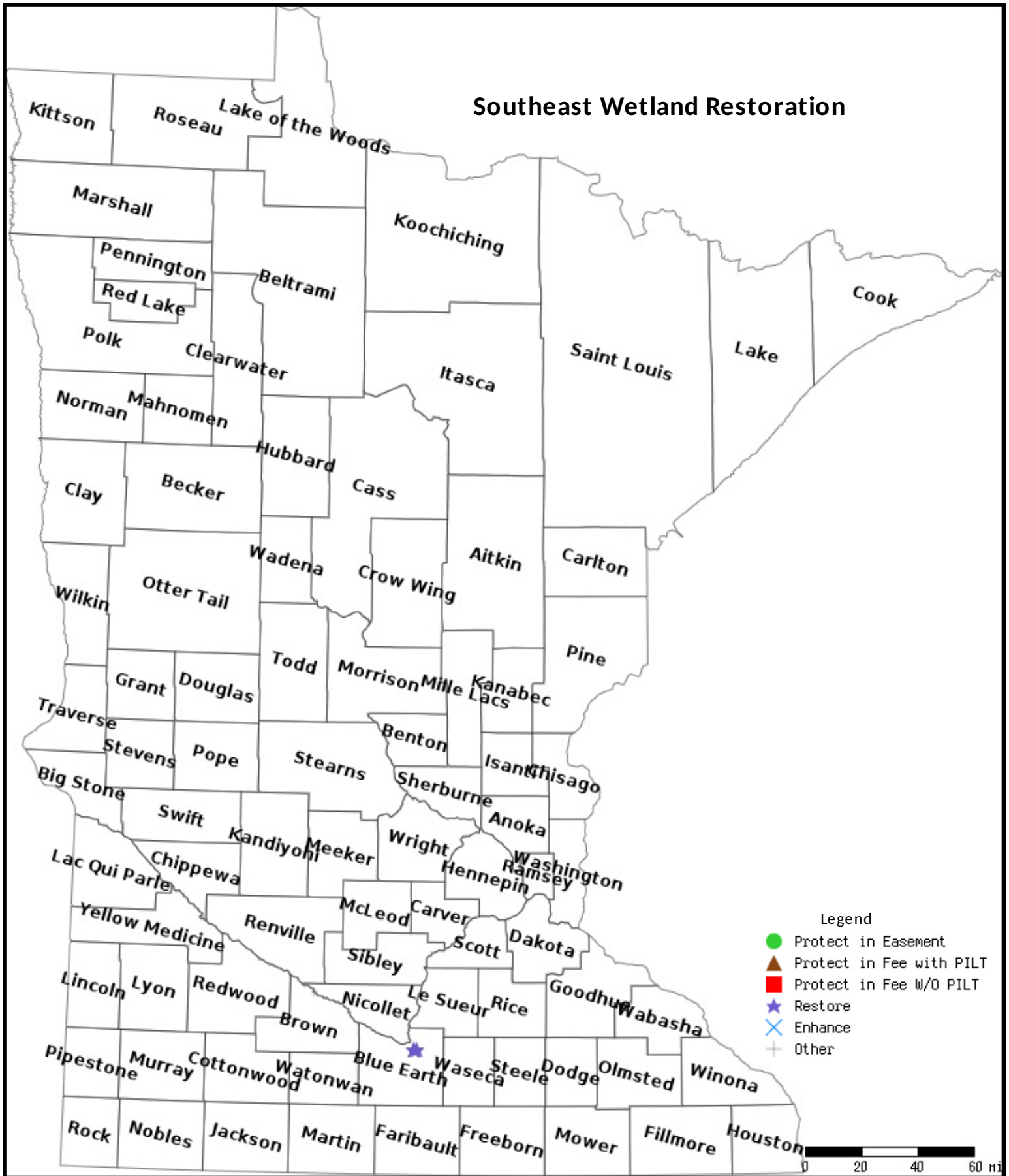
Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

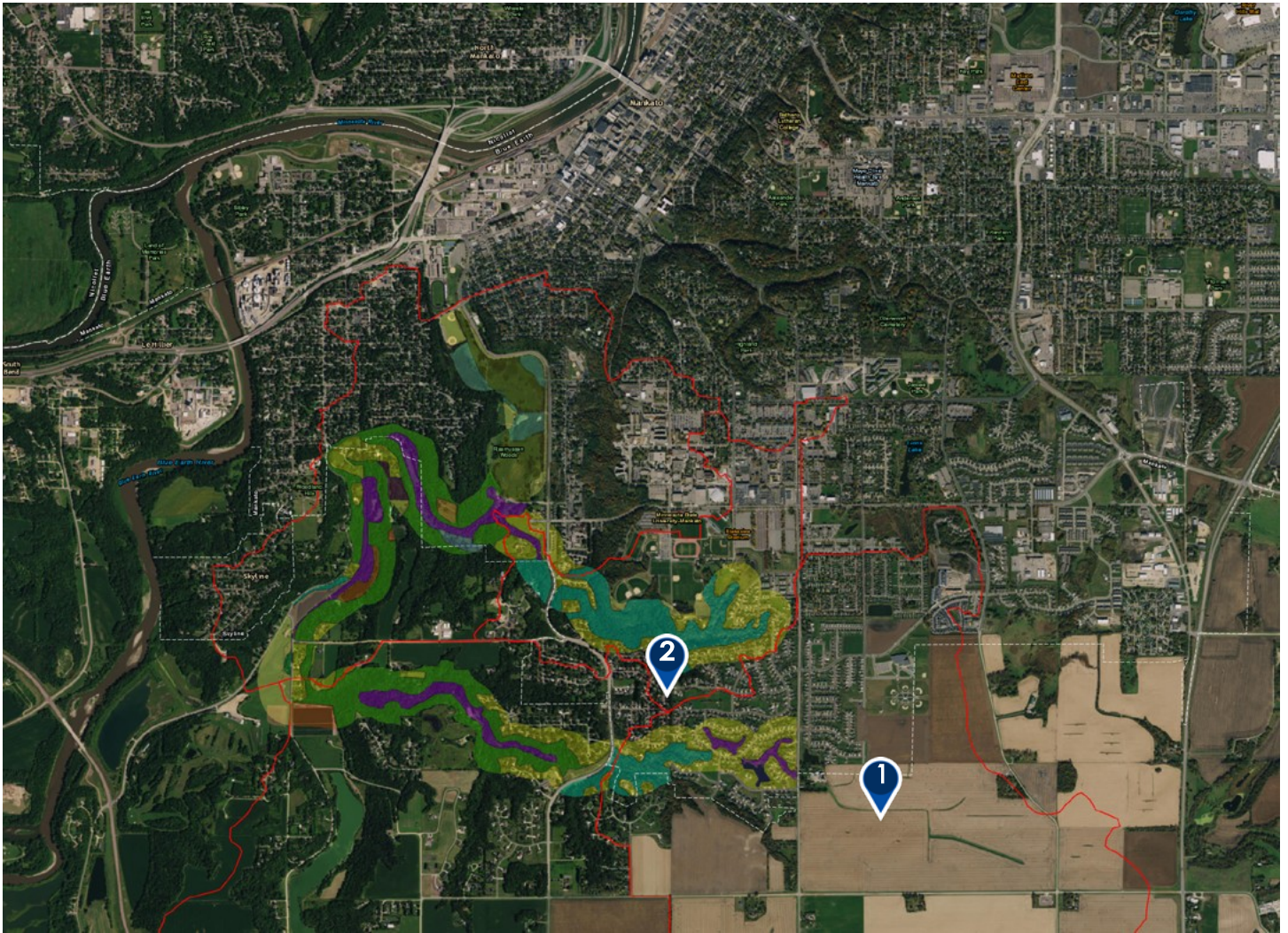
Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map



Data Generated From Parcel List



Indian Creek Watershed

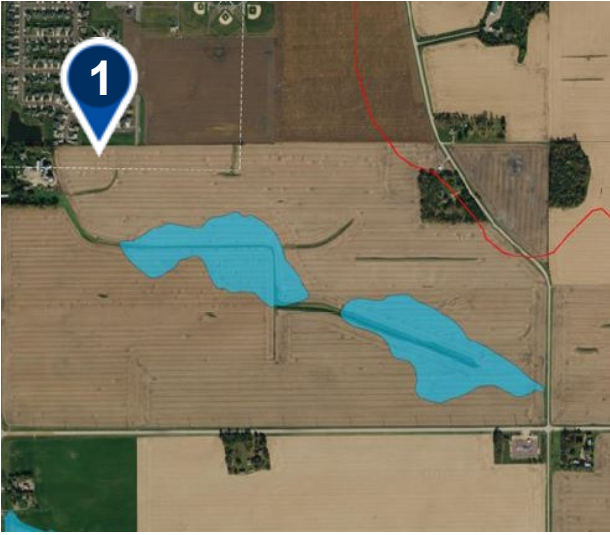
Wetland restoration

Step 1 : Development method of storing water on the land

- Hydrologic & Hydraulic Analysis of Watershed
- Field Investigation & Documentation of Current Conditions
- GIS Database Development
- Preliminary Design of Wetland Improvements

Step 2: Phased improvements

- Phase **1** Wetland and habitat restoration
- Phase **2** Aquatic habitat improvements



WETLAND CREATION/RESTORATION – UPSTREAM OF MONKS AVENUE

The existing drainage patterns and agricultural land use provide an opportunity for wetland restoration along a former wetland that was converted to a drainage ditch at the upstream area of the Indian Creek Watershed. These improvement will create wetland/upland complex that will provide a wide variety of habitat and sporting and recreational opportunities.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR
THE LESSARD – SAMS OUTDOOR HERITAGE COUNCIL OUTDOOR
HERITAGE FUND FOR THE SOUTHEAST WATER QUALITY PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) is charged with making annual recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature for appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF); and

WHEREAS, the Council currently estimates approximately \$100 million will be available for appropriation recommendations from the OHF in fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021); and

WHEREAS, the Call for Funding Request is open to all who want to apply, with an application deadline of May 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, city staff have determined Southeast Water Quality Project may qualify for funding under this program and will prepare the required proposal and supporting documentation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council for the City of Mankato that the City Manager be and hereby is authorized to execute and submit a proposal for funding to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and without further publication.

Dated this 28th day of May 2019


Najwa Massad
Mayor

Attest: 
Renae Kopischke
Executive Assistant