### Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO:	Agenda Item #6
DATE:	June 29, 2016
SUBJECT:	ML 2010, Ch. 361, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(a), Metro Big Rivers Habitat Program, Phase VII
PRESENTER:	Peggy Booth, DNR Scientific and Natural Areas Program Supervisor

### Suggested Motion:

No action by council is necessary as update information is directly related to actions consistent with the original appropriation intent, accomplishment plan and reporting.

### **Background:**

In November 2010, the MN DNR (in cooperation with the Trust for Public Land) acquired a 68.5 acre addition to the Savage Fen Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) within the city of Savage, Scott County, MN. This acquisition included ML 2010 Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) funding and ML 2009 & ML 2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund funding as well as other state funds and a substantial landowner donation of 9.6 acres of the property. As a condition of the landowner selling the property and as a condition of county board approval of the project, a future paved bicycle trail was required to be permitted to cross the property. The council was previously updated about the trail through correspondence with past staff and the OHF Land Acquisition Reporting Form.

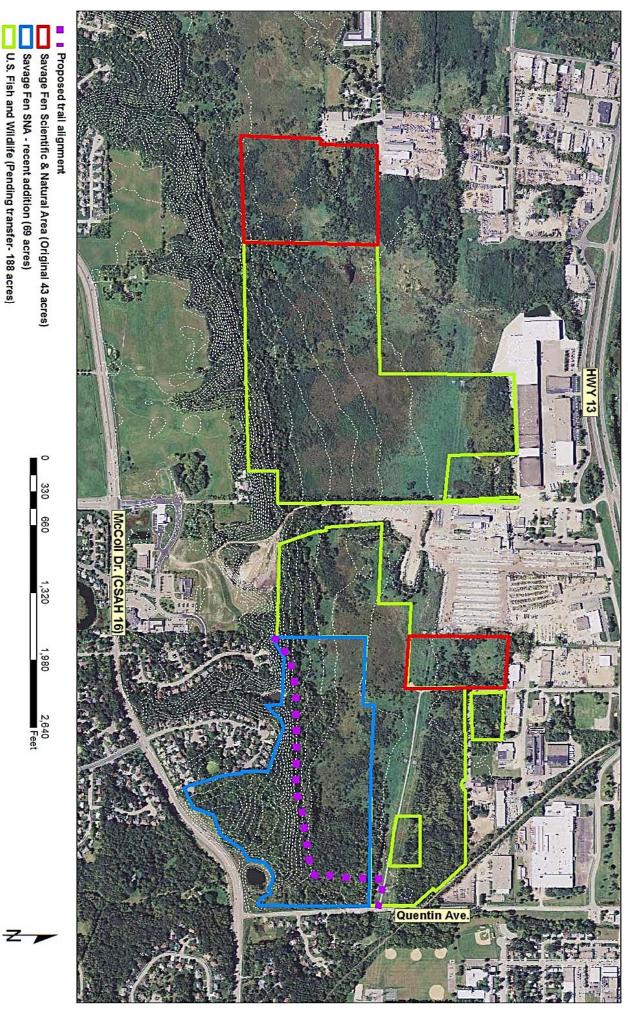
The City of Savage has submitted a trail easement application to the MN DNR which seeks a permanent easement on 1.97 acres (less than the 9.6 acres of donated land). This does not constitute a change of use from what was agreed upon at the time of acquisition. The MN DNR has initiated the process of granting an easement to the city.

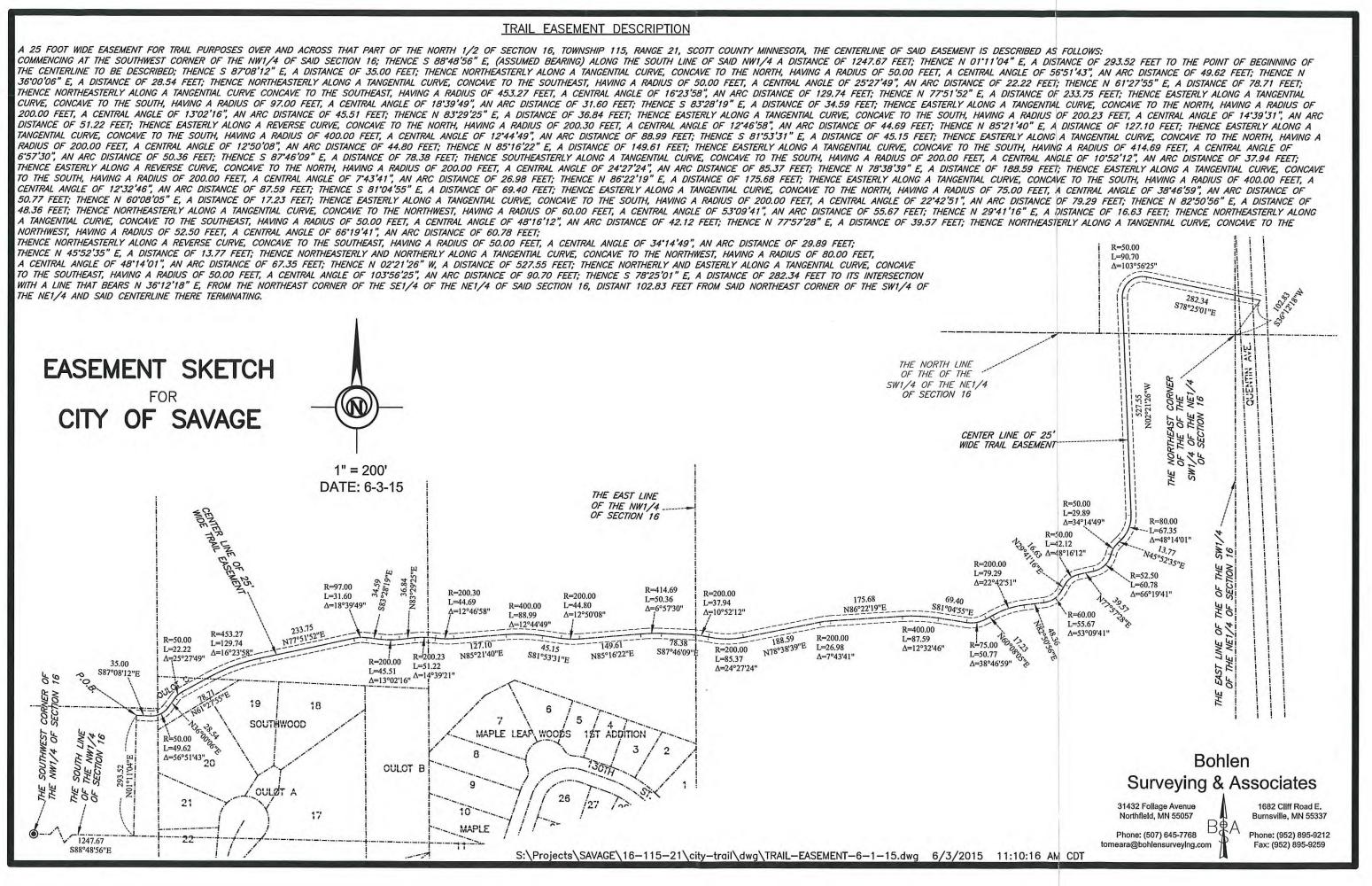
This item is being brought before the council as an update of trail activity upon OHF acquired land that is within the projects original intent and is progressing toward completion.

### Attachments:

- A. Map of Savage Fen
- B. Trail easement description
- C. Photos of trail corridor
- D. Accomplishment plan

# Savage Fen Scientific and Natural Area





### Attachment C Savage Fen – Photos of planned trail corridor (April 8, 2016)



#1 Powerline Right-of-way along north border.



#3 Gate/8' fence on northern border of property.



#2 Trailhead from powerline near ne corner



#4 Walking south, trail turns to SW.





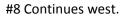
#5 Walking SW

#6 Trails turns westerly.

### Attachment C Savage Fen – Photos of planned trail corridor (April 8, 2016)



#7 Trail continues westerly.





#9 Continues west. Houses begin at top of hill to left.



#10 Continues west. More houses up to left.



#11 Continues west. More Houses up to left.



#12 West end of trail - turns uphill to south into residential area.

Staff Note: As you will notice, much of the trail was definately mechanically improved in the past. Notice cut into hillside on left edge of trail in photos #8, 10, 11 & 12.

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Laws of Minnesota 2010 Accomplishment Plan

Date: August 21, 2013

Program or Project Title: Metro Big Rivers Habitat Program, Phase 1

Funds Recommended: \$ 2,397,000

Manager's Name: Deborah Loon Organization: Minnesota National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. Address: 3815 East American Boulevard City: Bloomington, 55425 Office Number: 612-801-1935 Email: dloon@mnvalleytrust.org

Legislative Citation: ML 2010, Ch. 361, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(a)

**Appropriation Language:** \$2,397,000 in fiscal year 2011 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements for projects to protect, restore, and enhance natural systems of the Minnesota River, St. Croix River, Mississippi River, and their major tributaries as follows: \$500,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. for fee title land acquisition; \$1,500,000 with the Trust for Public Land for fee title land acquisition; \$227,300 with the Friends of the Mississippi River for restoration, enhancement, and conservation easement acquisition; and \$169,700 with Great River Greening for restoration and enhancement. The accomplishment plan must include an easement stewardship plan. All restorations must comply with subdivision 9, paragraph(b).

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

### Regions in which work will take place:

• Metro / Urban

### Activity types:

- Enhance
- Protect in Fee
- Restore

### Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Forest
- Habitat
- Prairie
- Wetlands

### Abstract:

The Metro Big Rivers Habitat partnership will work within the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers and key tributaries of the Metro Urbanizing Area to expand and improve critical habitat for game and non-game wildlife and increase public access to outdoor recreation opportunities. The partnership will use the OHF grant to protect 249 acres (175 acres by fee title acquisition and 74 acres by conservation easement) and restore / enhance 158 acres with OHF and leveraged funds.

### Design and scope of work:

The three Big Rivers in the Metro Urbanizing Area provide critical habitat that must be protected and improved for resident wildlife and migrating wildlife, both game and non-game species. The Metro Big Rivers Habitat partnership will protect 249 acres and restore / enhance 144 acres with the OHF grant to significantly expand and improve wildlife habitat. It will protect an addition 251 acres and restore / enhance an additional 42 acres with leveraged funding.



The nearly 4 million Minnesotans that live in the Metro Urbanizing Area need and want increased access to hunting, fishing and other wildlife-dependent outdoor recreational opportunities close to home. The public will have access to all of the land protected through this program for outdoor recreation. The land protected through fee title acquisition will be open for public hunting and fishing on a limited or unlimited basis. The land protected through conservation easement will be open to the public for other forms of outdoor recreation.

These resources are under extreme development pressure because of population growth and the high amenity values associated with most, if not all, of these lands. We have the opportunity now to protect these lands because the economic recession has driven down some land values and slowed development pressure. Some landowners are more interested in selling for conservation than might be the case under different economic circumstances.

This program will work because the partners have extensive experience both individually and collectively. In addition to the four partners named on the project, a number of other public and private organizations will be involved, including the MN Department of Natural Resources, numerous metro area counties and cities, and the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

All lands to be protected have been identified as high priorities through public planning processes by the public entities that will eventually own the properties or hold the easement, as follows: 1) MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) for the Refuge lands to be acquired; 2) Local units of government (and, in one instance, possibly the DNR) for the lands to be acquired and transferred to long-term stewards by TPL; and 3) Dakota County and MN DNR for the conservation easement to be acquired to expand the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA.

All lands to be restored and/or enhanced are already under public ownership. The restoration and enhancement work to be completed on these lands is a high priority of the public entities that own the land, as follows – MN DNR for the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA enhancement work, City of St. Paul (Parks and Recreation) for the restoration on the Mississippi blufflands at Indian Mounds and Cherokee Bluff, MN DNR for restoration at the Savage and Seminary Fens, and MN DNR for enhancement of the SNAs within the Franconia-Scandia St. Croix corridors.

For each of the projects listed, the Metro Big Rivers Habitat partners have secured informal support and / or will secure the formal support of the local government when and if required when land protection projects move into the contractual stage. Restoration in all instances is supported by the local community and, in some cases, involves the involvement of local volunteers from community and sporting groups

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

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H4 Restore and protect shallow lakes
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- H6 Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams
- H7 Keep water on the landscape

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

• Not Listed

### Which LSOHC state-wide priorities are addressed in this proposal:

• Not Listed

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

### Metro / Urban:

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity
- Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

### Relationship to other funds:

• Not Listed

### Describe the relationship of the funds:

Not Listed

### How does this proposal accelerate or supplement your current efforts in this area:

Friends of Mississippi River -- FMR's budget for fiscal year 2010 is \$1,268,000. Excluding the \$200,000 of the OHF grant for acquisition of the conservation easement, the remaining \$20,300 is less than 2% of the total organizational budget.

Great River Greening – GRG's total budget for 2009 is \$980,000, of which approximately 85% is direct project money for on-the-ground work. The OHF grant of \$169,700 will fund for direct project support that is not part of the organization's base budget. Over the two years of the grant, 10% of the budget is for existing full-time staff; no projects will be affected.

Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc. – The OHF grant of \$500,000 is 0% of the organization's FY10 operating budget of \$314,470. Annual capital expenditures vary based on project readiness and grant funds available. This OHF grant will supplement the Trust's budget and enable it to move aggressively to expand the MN Valley Refuge. As there are no personnel in the budget and this will provide funding to fulfill the organization's mission, no current projects or duties will be affected.

Trust for Public Land – The OHF grant of \$1,500,000 is 0% of TPL's operating budget of \$1,800,000 for FY11. TPL's operating budget includes all program and administrative costs, including legal and due diligence. But it does not include the actual fee title acquisition of lands. The OHF grant and planned-for leverage are not included in TPL's operating budget. These 50 grant acres and additional 50 leveraged acres would not be protected but for these LSOHC funds.

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

Minnesota Valley Refuge lands will be maintained by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

TPL will work with the long-term land steward in each of these five project areas to ensure that the land is restored, managed and stewarded in the long term. TPL will also work with local citizens in each area to ensure the long-term steward has the on-going support and resources needed to carry out these responsibilities.

The expense of restoration/enhancement on the front end is a major hurdle that first must be overcome. The cost of ongoing management after this point is relatively low and will be accommodated in the existing program funds of the land steward.

### Activity Details:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - Not Listed

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition - Not Listed

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection - Not Listed

Is this land open for hunting and fishing - Not Listed

Is the activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, subd 13(f) and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 - Yes

### Accomplishment Timeline:

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Minnesota Valley Trust Inc - fee title acquired	FY 2011-2012
Trust for Public Land - fee title acquired	FY 2011
Friends of Mississippi River - conservation easement acquired	FY 2011
Friends of Mississippi River - enhancement completed	FY 2011-2012
Great River Greening - restoration and enhancement activities completed	FY 2011-2012

### Federal Funding:

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - Not Listed

### Outcomes:

### Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

• Not Listed

# **Budget Spreadsheet**

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recoomendation from the original proposed requested amount

Not Listed

### Total Amount of Request: \$ 2397000

### Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$43,600	\$0		\$43,600
Contracts	\$135,400	\$0		\$135,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,498,000	\$0		\$1,498,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$500,000	\$0		\$500,000
Easement Acquisition	\$200,000	\$0		\$200,000
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$5,900	\$0		\$5,900
Pro fessional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$5,800	\$0		\$5,800
Supplies/Materials	\$6,300	\$0		\$6,300
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$2,397,000	\$0		\$2,397,000

### Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservation Director (FMR)	0.00	0.00	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Ecologist (FMR)	0.00	0.00	\$5,000	\$0		\$5,000
Ecologist 1(GRG)	0.00	0.00	\$4,100	\$0		\$4,100
Ecologist 2 (GRG)	0.00	0.00	\$22,100	\$0		\$22,100
Project Assistant (GRG)	0.00	0.00	\$1,900	\$0		\$1,900
Volunteer Manager (GRG)	0.00	0.00	\$8,500	\$0		\$8,500
Total	0.00	0.00	\$43,600	\$0		\$43,600

# **Output Tables**

### Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Туре	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	39	0	0	0	39
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	6	4	10
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	52	35	74	4	165
Protect in Easement	3	6	65	0	74
Enhance	0	53	24	0	77
Total	94	94	169	8	365

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

Туре	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

Туре	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	T o ta l
Restore	\$71,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$71,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$578,000	\$416,200	\$967,800	\$240,000	\$2,202,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$98,400	\$25,300	\$0	\$123,700
Total	\$649,300	\$514,600	\$993,100	\$240,000	\$2,397,000

### Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Туре		Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SEForest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore		39	0	0	0	0	39
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability		249	0	0	0	0	249
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability		0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement		0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance		77	0	0	0	0	77
	Total	365	0	0	0	0	365

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

Туре	Metro Urban	ForestPrairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N Forest	Total
Restore	\$71,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$71,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$2,202,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,202,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$123,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$123,700
Total	\$2,397,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,397,000

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

# **Parcel List**

For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.

### Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Seminary Fen Enhancement	11623234	38	\$24,500	Yes
Chisago				
Name	T RDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Franconia Bluffs SNA Enhancement	03319210	80	\$18,100	Yes
Dakota	•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Name	T RDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Pine Bend Bluffs SNA Enhancement	02722223	52	\$23,600	Yes
Ramsey	•	· · · · · ·		
Name	T RDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Saint Paul Blufflands (Cherokee) Enhancement	02823212	41	\$42,700	Yes
Saint Paul Blufflands (Mounds) Enhancement	02822204	36	\$46,300	Yes
Scott	•			
Name	T RDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Savage Fen Enhancement	11521216	30	\$25,000	Yes
Washington		· · · · ·		
Name	T RDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?
Falls Creek SNA Enhancement	03219207	80	\$13,100	Voc

### Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Name	TRDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area	02722227	21	\$202,000	No	No	No
cott	•	•		•	•	
Name	T RDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Savage Fen 2/Teepee Hill Addition	11521216	30	\$1,500,000	No	Yes	No
Sibley		·				
Name	T RDS	Acres	EstCost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
lessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley Refuge	11323207	143	\$500,000	No	Yes	Yes

### 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.

# Completed Parcel: Falls Creek SNA Enhancement

# of T o tal Acres:	80
Co unty:	Washington
T o wnship:	032
Range:	19
Direction:	2
Section:	07
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	80
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amo unt of Shorline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes

# **Completed Parcel: Franconia Bluffs SNA Enhancement**

# of T o tal Acres:	80
Co unty:	Chisago
T o wnship:	033
Range:	19
Direction:	2
Section:	10
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	80
Amo unt of Shorline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	

# Completed Parcel: Jessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley Refuge

# of T o tal Acres:	143
Co unty:	Sibley
T o wnship:	113
Range:	23
Direction:	2
Section:	07
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	57
# of Acres: Forest:	48
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	38
Amo unt of Shorline:	8976 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Minnesota River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
T o tal cost of Restoration/Enhancement:	\$500,000
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	DeborahLoon
Annual Reporting Address:	3815 East American Blvd
Annual Reporting City:	Bloomington
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55425
Annual Reporting Email:	DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org
Annual Reporting Phone:	612-801-1935
Purchase Date:	May 31, 2011
Purchase Price:	\$520,800
Appraised Value:	\$520,800
Professional Service Costs:	\$1,761
T o tal Project Cost:	\$522,561
Fees Received:	\$0
Do natio ns:	\$0
Property Managed By:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Refuge -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Jessenland Unit, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

# **Completed Parcel: Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area**

# of T o tal Acres:	21	
County:	Dakota	
T o wnship:	027	
Range:	22	
Direction:	2	
Section:	27	
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:		
# of Acres: Forest:	21	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:		
Amo unt of Shorline:	13000 (Linear Feet)	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	River Lake	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes	
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	Dakota County	
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Al Singer	
Annual Reporting Address:	14955 Galaxie Avenue	
Annual Reporting City:	Apple Valley	
Annual Reporting State:	MN	
Annual Reporting Zip:	55124	
Annual Reporting Email:	al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us	
Annual Reporting Phone:	952-891-7001	
Purchase Date:	June 26, 2012	
Purchase Price:	\$1	
Easement Holder Organization Name:	Dakota County	
Easement Holder Manager Name:	Al Singer	
Easement Holder Address:	14955 Galaxie Avenue	
Easement Holder City:	Apple Valley	
Easement Holder State:	MN	
Easement Holder Zip:	55124	
Easement Holder Email:	al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us	
Easement Holder Phone:	952-891-7001	
Responsible Organization Name:	Dakota County	
Responsible Manager Name:	Al Singer	
Responsible Address:	14955 Galaxie Avenue	
Responsible City:	Apple Valley	
Responsible State:	MN	
Responsible Zip:	55124	
Responsible Email:	al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us	
Responsible Phone:	952-891-7001	

# **Completed Parcel: Pine Bend Bluffs SNA Enhancement**

# of T otal Acres:52County:DakotaT ownship:027Range:22Direction:2Section:23# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:1# of Acres: Forest:52# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:1				
Township:027Range:027Direction:22Section:2# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:23# of Acres: Forest:52	# of T o tal Acres:	52		
Range:22Direction:2Section:2# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:23# of Acres: Forest:52	Co unty:	Dakota		
Direction:  2    Section:  23    # of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:  4    # of Acres: Forest:  52	Γ o wnship:	027		
Section:    23      # of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:    4      # of Acres: Forest:    52	Range:	22		
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland: # of Acres: Forest: 52	Direction:	2		
# of Acres: Forest: 52	Section:	23		
	# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:			
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	# of Acres: Forest:	52		
	# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:			
Amount of Shorline: (Linear Feet)	Amount of Shorline:	(Linear Feet)		
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable): Mississippi River	Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Mississippi River		
Has there been signage erected at the site: Yes	Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes		

# Completed Parcel: Saint Paul Blufflands (Cherokee) Enhancement

# of T o tal Acres:	41
Co unty:	Ramsey
T o wnship:	028
Range:	23
Direction:	2
Section:	12
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Fo rest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	41
Amo unt of Shorline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes

# **Completed Parcel: Saint Paul Blufflands (Mounds) Enhancement**

# of T o tal Acres:	36
Co unty:	Ramsey
T o wnship:	028
Range:	22
Direction:	2
Section:	04
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	36
Amo unt of Shorline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes

# Completed Parcel: Savage Fen 2/Teepee Hill Addition

# of T o tal Acres:	30	
Co unty:	Scott	
T o wnship:	115	
Range:	21	
Direction:	2	
Section:	16	
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	19	
# of Acres: Forest:	11	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:		
Amo unt of Shorline:	2200 (Linear Feet)	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Credit River	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes	
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	DNR	
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	PeggyBooth	
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Boulevard	
Annual Reporting City:	Saint Paul	
Annual Reporting State:	MN	
Annual Reporting Email:	peggy.booth@dnr.state.mn.us	
Annual Reporting Phone:	651-772-7562	
Purchase Date:	No vember 23, 2010	
Purchase Price:	\$1,500,000	
Appraised Value:	\$3,490,000	
Professional Service Costs:	\$34,404	
Assessed Value:	\$2,222,900	
T o tal Project Cost:	\$1,534,404	
Fees Received:	\$96,750	
Do natio ns:	\$2,035,604	
Property Managed By:	DNR - Scientific and Natural Area -	
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	DNR - SNA	

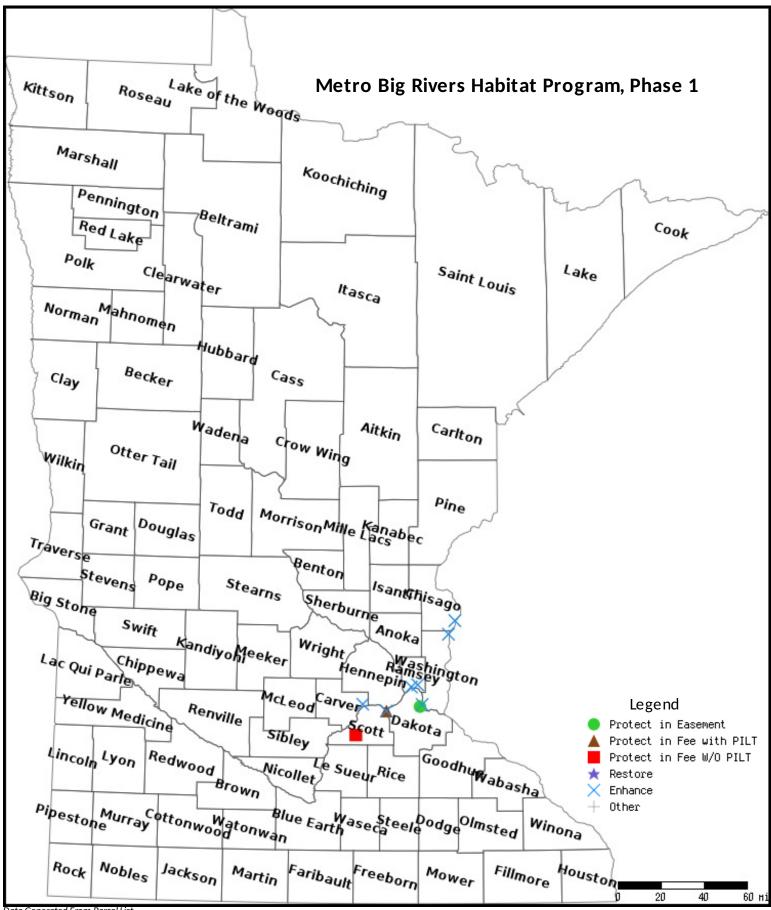
# **Completed Parcel: Savage Fen Enhancement**

# of T o tal Acres:	30
Co unty:	Scott
T o wnship:	115
Range:	21
Direction:	2
Section:	16
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	30
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amo unt of Shorline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes

# Completed Parcel: Seminary Fen Enhancement

# of T o tal Acres:	38
Co unty:	Carver
T o wnship:	116
Range:	23
Direction:	2
Section:	34
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	38
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amo unt of Shorline:	(Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes

## **Parcel Map**



TRUST for PUBLIC LAND

December 22, 2011

Bill Becker Executive Director, LSOHC 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. State Office Building, Room 95 St. Paul, MN 55155

HK ----BB 1-3-12 file in project file Pdf to members

Minnesota Office 2610 University Ave. Suite 300 St. Paul, M N 55114 T. (651) 917-2240 F. (651) 917-2248 www.tpl.org

Re: TPL's Financial Report for Acquisition of Savage Fen Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) on the Credit River: 2010 OHF TPL's Metro Big River Habitat Program M.L 2010 Chap361, Article 1, Section 2

Dear Bill:

In a year-end review of our files, we noticed that we had sent this letter to LCCMR in April 2011, but had not yet sent one to you. This letter is submitted to satisfy financial and other reporting required by the use of 2010 Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) funding as part of the Metro Big Rivers Habitat (MBRH) partnership in connection with the acquisition of the Savage Fen SNA Credit River Addition in Scott County, Minnesota.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) closed on the acquisition of this 69-acre property on November 23, 2010. TPL immediately conveyed the property to the Department of Natural Resources, which will manage the land as an addition to the Savage Fen SNA.

TPL became aware of the potential additions to Savage Fen SNA when the DNR called us for assistance with this potentially large and complex effort in August 2008 after visiting these properties with landowner Karl Bohn. As discussed with DNR at that time, Mr. Bohn's extensive landholdings included several areas of high and outstanding biodiversity significance and also areas that are critical to the protection of the hydrology of the Savage Fen Wetland Complex. TPL and DNR worked together since that time in order to identify the priority areas for protection; to get agreement on these priority areas with the landowner; to seek necessary funding (which was further complicated by a lineitem veto of anticipated project funding) and complete other due diligence; and to clarify the partnership with the City of Savage and Scott County with regard to the use of an existing corridor as a possible trail through the property.

TPL also helped work through last minute negotiations with the City of Savage and Scott County over future highway right of way expansions alongside the fen. The matters were resolved to both of the parties' satisfaction with the County owning a portion of the less ecologically significant land but agreeing to manage it for invasive species according to SNA specifications.

The result of this multi year effort has been the protection of a portion of calcareous fen (one of Minnesota's most endangered plant communities and essential part of the entire Savage Fen Wetland Complex), seepage meadows, maple and basswood forested uplands, a quarter-mile of the Credit River, and significant habitat for a multitude of fish Page 2 April 8, 2011

and wildlife species. Utilizing the area are at least 18 known Species in Greatest Conservation Need, including American white pelican, Bald Eagle, American Woodcock, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Connecticut Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Gopher Snake, Sterile Sedge, Beaked Spike-rush, Hair-like Beak Rush, Whorled Nut-rush, Valerian, Small White Lady's Slipper, and Twig Rush. Blanding's Turtles and American Brook Lamprey are also known to inhabit this larger complex.

The site will be open to the public and, along with a unique management relationship with the City of Savage and Scott County, the public will be able to access the site via a trail corridor (again, to be managed according to SNA specifications) and will be able to learn about the fen through educational signage and lookout areas. As part of the management approach to the fen, the site will also be open to limited hunting opportunities.

The project enjoyed support from a number of citizens, public agencies, and conservation groups, including Great River Greening, a partner in MeCC, which has pledged to hold restoration events on the site including one that was held on February 23, 2011.

TPL purchased the 69-acre property for a total of \$3,000,000, which was \$490,000 less than the appraised fair market value. TPL conveyed the property to the State of Minnesota for \$948,000, which represented TPL's purchase price minus \$1,500,000 Outdoor Heritage Funds and \$552,000 ENRTF grants TPL used toward the purchase. The DNR purchased the property from TPL using 2006 bonding dollars, RIM funds, and SNA's 2009 and 2010 ENRTF funds.

Copies of the appraisal and landowner bill of rights are on file with the DNR. The chart below gives a complete breakdown of project funding.

Savage Fen SNA on the Credit River, Scott County, MN				
Funding Source*	Partner on project	Amount of	Allocated	Recipient of
		funding for	Acreage	Grant Funds (if
		land		applicable)
		acquisition		
		costs		
State Funds				
2010 OHF - Metro Big Rivers	TPL	\$1,500,000	29.4	TPL
Habitat				
ENRTF - Metro Wildlife	TPL	\$552,000	10.8	TPL
Corridors Phase V Supp 2010				
(TPL)				
RIM	TPL	\$300,000	5.9	
BONDING- SNA 2006	DNR	\$289,506.55	5.7	
ENRTF - Metro Wildlife	SNA	\$315,000	6.2	SNA
Corridors Phase V 2009				
(SNA)				

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ENRTF- SNA 2010	SNA	\$43,493.45	.9	SNA
	Sub Total	\$3,000,000		
Private Funds				
TPL Land Value Donation	TPL	\$490,000	9.6	N/A
н.	Sub Total	\$490,000		
2	TOTAL	\$3,490,000	69	
1 - 3 - a				
*Please note that to	otal ENRTF funding is	\$910,493		
tota	l other state funding is	\$2,089,507		
total non-state public funding is		\$0		
total private funding is		\$490,000		
TOTAL funding & appraised fair market value of		\$3,490,000		
	property is			

TPL received a professional services fee from the landowner in the amount of \$225,000 in connection with the closing, to (1) fund and oversee all due diligence for the real estate transaction, including appraisals and environmental assessments; (2) identify, pursue and arrange for public and private funding for the project; (3) organize the public support—both grassroots and government—for the project, (4) arrange for and facilitate the ultimate transfer of the property to the appropriate public entity, including time-intensive coordination with other entities critical to the protection, restoration , and long term-stewardship of the property, and (5) support TPL's Land for People mission. The professional services fees was paid after the closing and represents 7.5% of the purchase price paid to the landowner, a rate that falls within the 7-10% commonly charged by brokers in the real estate market. <sup>1</sup>,

TPL also received support in this effort with grants from the Xcel Energy Corporate Citizenship Foundation (\$7,500) and Waste Management Corporation (\$4,000).

TPL did not accept reimbursements from or charge a fee to any public agency involved in this effort. TPL did, however, spend approximately \$80,000 in due diligence and staff costs in connection with assisting the public with this acquisition. Since most of these costs were incurred prior to any assurance of a successful closing, they represent considerable out-of-pocket risk to TPL. These Savage Fen SNA- Credit River Addition-related transaction costs (as of 3/31/11) included:

- o \$ 10,684.57 in appraisals and environmental assessments;
- o \$ 357.09 in travel costs;
- o \$ 5,087.27 in closing costs, interest costs, and property taxes; and
- <u>\$ 63,879.48</u> in staff time, administrative costs, and legal costs.
  \$ 80,008.41 TOTAL

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For land sales only. Additional work, including arranging financing, entitlement/government approvals, site preparation, and feasibility studies typically result in additional fees charged to landowners by brokers.

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A portion of the fee (\$156,492) was used to support TPL's overall conservation work in Minnesota including: public outreach and education on land conservation issues; coalition and partnership initiatives, organizing and implementing meetings and reporting Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC), Habitat Conservation Partnership (HCP), Metro Big Rivers Partnership, the St. Croix Conservation Collaborative, and the Greater Metro Parks and Natural Lands Initiative; GIS mapping and analysis; acting as a clearinghouse for referrals on many land-conservation calls from citizens; staff time and due diligence costs on conservation real estate projects that matured significantly but that did not successfully close for any number of reasons; and work on conservation real estate projects that successfully closed but for which TPL did not receive a conservation services fee or donation from the landowner.

Landowner support, foundation support, corporation support and support from other philanthropic individuals allows TPL to accomplish its mission of conserving land for people in the form of parks, trails, wildlife and natural areas, working lands, and historic sites throughout our state.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation and support in conserving this special natural resource.

Sincerely,

Becca Nash Project Manager

Cc: Michelle Grosz, Program Administrator