

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Laws of Minnesota 2011 Final Report



**Date:** March 31, 2017

**Program or Project Title:** Lower Mississippi River Habitat Partnership, Phase 2

**Funds Recommended:** \$707,000

**Manager's Name:** Robert Milne

**Organization:** DNR

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**Legislative Citation:** ML 2011, First Sp. Session, Ch. 6, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(e)

**Appropriation Language:** \$707,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire and enhance habitat in the lower Root River and lower Zumbro River watersheds, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivisions 7 and 8. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**County Locations:** Fillmore, and Houston.

**Regions in which work was completed:**

- Southeast Forest

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Fee

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands
- Forest

### Summary of Accomplishments:

This funding resulted in permanent protection of three strategically located parcels totaling 125 acres. Funding was used to protect high priority parcels within the Lower Root and Lower Zumbro River floodplains. This was part of a broad partnership working to improve habitat quality and connectivity in critical areas along the Mississippi River corridor. Two of the three parcels acquired are now being managed as State Forests (SFT), while the third parcel is being managed as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA). These parcels are protecting forests and habitat while providing public hunting, trapping and compatible outdoor uses.

The Lower Mississippi River Habitat Restoration Partnership is a long-term effort to restore habitat connectivity and improve water quality in critical areas along the Mississippi River corridor from the Twin Cities to the Iowa border by reconnecting tributaries to their floodplains, revitalizing backwaters and channels, and protecting and restoring floodplain forests, wetlands, and prairies that are essential to sustaining the incredible diversity of plants, animals, and human uses provided by this great river. Critical areas include the lower reaches of the Root, Zumbro, Cannon, and Vermillion Rivers, and the backwaters and channels of Mississippi River Pools 2 and 3 (St. Paul to Red Wing). FY2011 funding from the LSOHC focused on acquisition and restoration of key parcels in the Lower Root River floodplain.

### Process & Methods:

Parcels were selected are those of highest priority, previously identified in land asset management plans. The pool of parcels was selected using key classifications including; those providing protection of critical habitat, those providing access to state land, and

those consolidating fragmented state land parcels. Parcels were further prioritized by the values protected, acres accessed and consolidation as determined by state/private boundary reduction.

Lands acquired are part of the Lower Root and Lower Zumbro River floodplains established under the Outdoor Recreation System (M.S. 86A.06). This project included the initial land development of each parcel acquired including boundary surveys and signage. There was no well, septic, building or dump issues to consider. Lands acquired contained existing quality habitat, requiring very little immediate restoration or enhancement work.

Federal funds were used to evaluate the quality of wetlands on one parcel, but it was determined that no mitigation efforts were required.

## **Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition:**

The Lower Mississippi River Habitat Partnership included over 20 organizations and agencies working along the Mississippi River corridor. Combined, these partners have a large constituent base and worked closely with landowners, local governments, watershed districts, non-government organizations and other interests on natural resource issues. All known stakeholders have been supportive of these acquisitions including county boards and forest user groups such as the Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association and The Nature Conservancy who have contributed funding for previous acquisitions. However, some concerns continue within county governments regarding Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

## **Additional Comments:**

### *Exceptional challenges, expectations, failures, opportunities, or unique aspects of program*

During the initial years of this appropriation, appraisal values were low. On two other occasions, the appraised values fell short of landowner expectations or there were other complications and 2 offers were rejected. Another challenge was a complicated WMA acquisition. Until August 2016, the acquisition (Hooka Bottoms) appeared to be moving forward until a survey identified access and appraisal issues which delayed the Purchase Agreement. Although an Option was signed in November 2016, it included the landowner electing to undertake a 1031 land exchange. This affected his interest in completing this transaction prior to 12/31/16. The landowner bid on a replacement property at auction in December, but was unsuccessful. Closing could not be completed before the funding expired, resulting in a large portion of funding going unspent. This parcel will still be acquired and protected, but with non-LSOHC funds.

## **Other Funds Received:**

- Natural Resources - Land Acquisition Account and Federal Funds

### **How were the funds used to advanced the program:**

Natural Resources - Land Acquisition Account funds were used to help leverage OHF funds to complete this project. Federal funds were also used to evaluate planning and designing wetlands for this project.

## **What is the plan to sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended:**

All sites funded through this proposal are state acquired lands, and are part of the state outdoor recreation system - including state forests and wildlife management areas. Ongoing maintenance will be accomplished through routine management activities accomplished by our network of DNR offices. Periodic enhancements will be accomplished by existing staff, MCC crews, temporary project staffing or through vendor contract using traditional habitat project funding, bonding, and future requests for funding from dedicated funding sources.

## **Outcomes:**

### *The original accomplishment plan stated the program would*

#### **Programs in southeast forest region:**

- Not Listed

#### **How will the outcomes be measured and evaluated?**

The principle outcome to measure is acres of critical habitat protected. The goal was 200 acres, this project achieved 125 acres. Other metrics included a reduction of state/private boundaries (reduced by 4,392 feet), acres of state land provided access (341 acres) and feet of shoreline protected (5550 feet).



# Budget Spreadsheet

Final Budget line item reallocations are allowed up to 10% and do not need require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan

Total Amount: \$707,000

## Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$660,200	\$299,300	\$0	\$0		\$660,200	\$299,300
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$46,200	\$49,600	\$0	\$0		\$46,200	\$49,600
Direct Support Services	\$600	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$600	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total	\$707,000	\$348,900	\$0	\$0		\$707,000	\$348,900

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	Spent	Cash Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Manager of Programs	0.00	0.00	\$0	\$0		\$0
Admin Asst	0.00	0.00	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	0.00	0.00	\$0	\$0		\$0

## Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Several challenges occurred with spending the budget including rejected offers and the final project which was a very complicated WMA acquisition.

## Output Tables

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

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	100	43	0	0	100	82	0	0	200	125
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	43	0	0	100	82	0	0	200	125

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

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$353,500	\$102,000	\$0	\$0	\$353,500	\$246,900	\$0	\$0	\$707,000	\$348,900
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$353,500	\$102,000	\$0	\$0	\$353,500	\$246,900	\$0	\$0	\$707,000	\$348,900

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

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	200	125	0	0	0	0	200	125
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	200	125	0	0	0	0	200	125

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

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$707,000	\$348,900	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$707,000	\$348,900
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$707,000	\$348,900	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$707,000	\$348,900

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (original)**

0

## Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (final)

5550 feet

### Explain the success/shortage of acre goals:

Several challenges occurred with meeting acreage goals including rejected offers and the final project which was a very complicated WMA acquisition. Though the final WMA project was not completed with these funds, the investment will allow the division of wildlife to complete the transaction with other non-LSOHC funds. We were still able to achieve 63% of our protection goals while only spending 49% of our allocation.

# Parcel List

## Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

## Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Fillmore

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Choice Unit-RJDMHSF	10208207	17	\$68,331	No	Full	Full	Addition to Richard J. Dorer MHState Forest

Houston

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Mound Prairie Unit-RJDMHSF	10407233	36	\$77,673	No	Full	Full	Addition to Richard J. Dorer MHState Forest
Root River WMA*	10405235	72	\$170,000	No	Full	Full	Addition to Root River WMA

## 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: Choice Unit-RJDMHSF

<b># of Total Acres:</b>	17
<b>County:</b>	Fillmore
<b>Township:</b>	102
<b>Range:</b>	08
<b>Direction:</b>	2
<b>Section:</b>	07
<b># of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Forest:</b>	17
<b># of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:</b>	
<b>Amount of Shoreline:</b>	1780 (Linear Feet)
<b>Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):</b>	Nepstad Creek
<b>Has there been signage erected at the site:</b>	Yes
<b>Annual Reporting Organization Name:</b>	DNR - Forestry
<b>Annual Reporting Manager Name:</b>	Bob Milne
<b>Annual Reporting Address:</b>	500 Lafayette Road
<b>Annual Reporting City:</b>	St. Paul
<b>Annual Reporting State:</b>	MN
<b>Annual Reporting Zip:</b>	55155-0044
<b>Annual Reporting Email:</b>	bob.milne@state.mn.us
<b>Annual Reporting Phone:</b>	651-259-5270
<b>Purchase Date:</b>	June 25, 2014
<b>Acquisition Title:</b>	
<b>Purchase Price:</b>	\$62,000
<b>Appraised Value:</b>	\$62,000
<b>Professional Service Costs:</b>	\$7,286
<b>Assessed Value:</b>	\$62,000
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	\$69,286
<b>Fees Received:</b>	\$0
<b>Donations:</b>	\$0
<b>Related Parties:</b>	
<b>Property Managed By:</b>	DNR - Forestry -
<b>Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:</b>	Lewiston Forestry Area



## Completed Parcel: Mound Prairie Unit-RJDMHSF

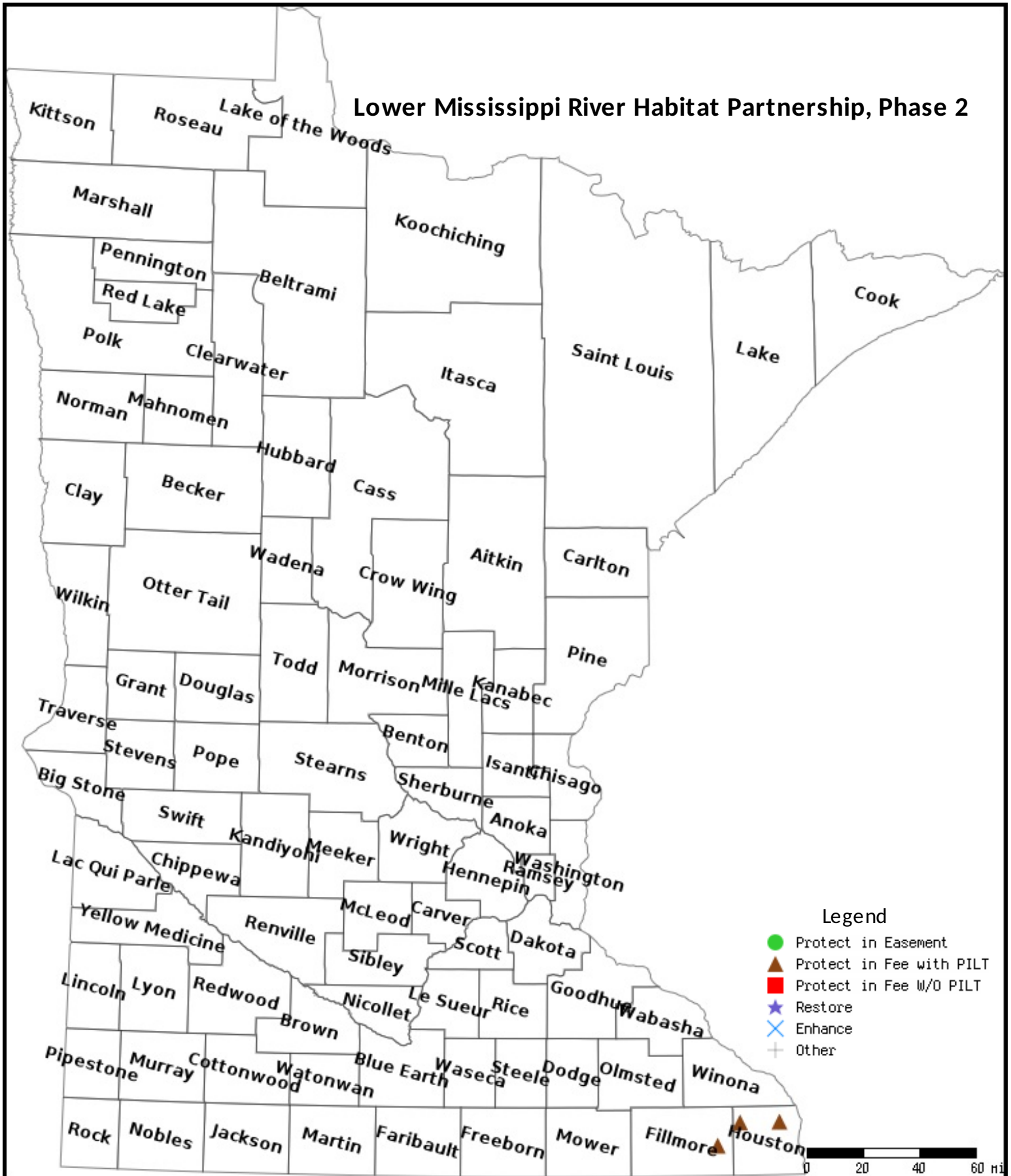
# of Total Acres:	36
County:	Houston
Township:	104
Range:	07
Direction:	2
Section:	33
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	36
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	
Amount of Shoreline:	2200 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Root River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	DNR-Forestry
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Bob Milne
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155-0044
Annual Reporting Email:	bob.milne@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	651-259-5270
Purchase Date:	October 04, 2013
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$67,300
Appraised Value:	\$67,300
Professional Service Costs:	\$10,373
Assessed Value:	\$344,700
Total Project Cost:	\$77,963
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$0
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	DNR - Forestry -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Lewiston Forestry Area

## Completed Parcel: Root River WMA\*

# of Total Acres:	72
County:	Houston
Township:	104
Range:	05
Direction:	2
Section:	35
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	43
# of Acres: Forest:	29
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	0
Amount of Shoreline:	1570 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Root River
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	DNR
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	Robert Milne
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Road
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	
Annual Reporting Zip:	55055
Annual Reporting Email:	bob.milne@state.mn.us
Annual Reporting Phone:	6512595270
Purchase Date:	September 08, 2014
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$170,000
Appraised Value:	\$717,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$0
Assessed Value:	\$468,700
Total Project Cost:	\$670,000
Fees Received:	\$0
Donations:	\$0
Related Parties:	
Property Managed By:	DNR - Wildlife Management Area -
Name of the unit area or location government unit or land manager:	Root River WMA

# Parcel Map

## Lower Mississippi River Habitat Partnership, Phase 2



Data Generated From Parcel List