

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Laws of Minnesota 2011 Final Report



Date: November 08, 2017

Program or Project Title: Green Corridor Legacy Program, Phase III

Funds Recommended: \$1,771,000

Manager's Name: Brad Cobb

Organization: Redwood Area Development Corporation

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City: Redwood Falls, 56283

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

Appropriation Language: \$1,771,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Redwood Area Development Corporation to acquire land for wildlife management area purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8, or aquatic management areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

County Locations: Redwood

Regions in which work was completed:

- Prairie

Activity types:

- Restore
- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Prairie

Summary of Accomplishments:

This program helped to create a legacy of habitat connectivity, public access, and economic vitality based on increased outdoor recreational opportunities in the mid-Minnesota River Watershed.

Process & Methods:

This program incorporates the basic concepts of sustainability and ecosystem management. Minnesota has lost 99% of the original prairie and has seen dramatic declines in grassland dependent wildlife. Examples of the species showing the greatest conservation need in the Program area; the American Badger, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Bobolink to name just a few. Traditional game species are also affected by the decline in habitat such as pheasants, deer, wild turkey, and a variety of dabbling ducks which are associated to prairie wetland complexes.

Publicly owned natural resource infrastructures (WMA, AMA, SNA, parks/trails, waterways) invigorates local and regional economies by providing outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities supported by hunting, fishing, wildlife observation areas, and other forms of outdoor recreation. New business concepts are likely to arise as a direct result of the recreational and tourism opportunities that will be advanced by this Green Corridor Legacy Program. Because of this concept there is wide support from many stakeholders who will assist the Program activities to achieve the desired outcomes.

The Glacial River Warren created the Minnesota River Valley as it drained Lake Agassiz 10,000+ years ago. The bluff to bluff wall of water

carved out one of Minnesota's most scenic landscapes, creating unique geological features, and unique plant communities along the valley and its primary tributaries.

Efforts to restore, protect, and enhance our wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife are timely as escalating development pressures threaten remaining natural lands and water resources on both public and private lands. The Green Corridor Legacy Program approach will be based on sound science concepts of plan development, setting conservation priorities, developing short and long term strategies to achieve conservation priorities, implement the strategies, and then continue monitoring the outcomes. All of these concepts and practices will follow existing state wildlife and conservation plans and natural resource management practices in conjunction with agency partners.

The primary work area of the Green Corridor Legacy Program will be Redwood, Renville, Yellow Medicine, Chippewa, Brown, Nicollet, Murray, Lyon, and Cottonwood Counties with an emphasis along the Minnesota River, its tributaries, associated watersheds, and creating/expanding corridor or complexes of habitat. Connecting existing fragments of habitat along and near the Minnesota River and tributaries in the Program area will generate an ecological synergism that will allow game, wildlife, and aquatic species to flourish, while creating multiple recreational opportunities and improving public access through a series (phases) of funded activities within the nine (9) county Program area.

This Program is directly consistent with the uses of the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as specified in Article XI of the Minnesota Constitution and Minnesota Statute 97A.056: to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife. Furthermore, it will produce multiple conservation benefits across a large targeted and planned geographic area.

Final Report: This program acquired 3 properties at total of 315 acres in our planned Lamberton area corridor that meets the above mentioned concepts and activities that produced multiple conservation benefits. 1) The Dutch Charleys Creek WMA project acquired 79 acres of which 39 acres were donated by the landowner at a value of \$51,960. The property borders the eastern side of Dutch Charleys Creek and is a well documented wintering area for wildlife like deer, turkey, and pheasants. This property also connects to a FY10 OHF Green Corridor project of 83 acres. 2) Gora Praire WMA is 154 acre site that protected an expiring CRP contract and also protected small remnants of native prairie. 3) The Lamberton WMA #23 project of 80 acres of which 12 acres were donated by the landowner at a value of \$16,000. This tract also protected an expiring CRP contract. This project also connects to a 90 acre FY11 OHF project by Green Corridor.

This program year marked a time when land values were escalating and when many CRP contracts in the area were expiring. One high valued site of nearly 200 acres was pursued as part of this appropriation and after a tremendous amount of time/effort to work out details with the property owner no deal was reached. Overall, the Green Corridor Program received amazing support from our willing landowners as noted by their land donations, We also received strong support/encouragement from the DNR area wildlife manager and the regional DNR office in the planning/evaluation of potential sites and we also had the support of local units of government and several local wildlife conservation groups.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition:

Not Listed

Additional Comments:

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

Not Listed

Other Funds Received:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund

How were the funds used to advanced the program:

The Green Corridor Legacy Program focuses on preserving and restoring natural resources infrastructures while emphasizing habitat connectivity (corridors), viability, and public access to these habitats. Besides funding requests to the Environmental & Natural Resource Trust Fund (ENRTF) by Green Corridor Inc., several SWCD's in the Green Corridor Program area are planning future Clean Water Legacy Fund program proposals and Green Corridor Inc will be participating in those planning discussions. Green Corridor Inc. will coordinate Program area submissions to the Outdoor Heritage Fund – Conservation Legacy Program (small grants) with our conservation group partners like the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and Pheasants Forever. Many other regional initiatives are currently being planned that are in line with Parks & Trails and Arts & Cultural Legacy Funds funding strategies.

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

expended:

First, initial site restoration and development (signage, parking lots, fencing) will be accomplished by this appropriation. The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife will then permanently manage these properties. Routine maintenance will be managed by area DNR staff funded by their traditional sources like the Game & Fish Fund. Periodic enhancements or improvements will be funded by special funding requests. The DNR requires management or stewardship plans for each project which identify periodic inspections and continuing management of the property site. These management practices include such things as; prescribed fire, weed control, and invasive tree removal as needed or required. Regional partners/stakeholders in conjunction with the Green Corridor Legacy Program will also support these management activities/practices by applying for state funding/grants for on-going maintenance as needed. This appropriation will also fund restoration on approximately 54 acres at an estimated cost of \$27,000 for projects acquired with the Green Corridor Legacy Program Phase II (FY11 OHF) appropriation.

Outcomes:

The original accomplishment plan stated the program would

Programs in prairie region:

- Not Listed

How will the outcomes be measured and evaluated?

To date Green Corridor (through several OHF and ENRTF grants) has protected a total of 1,600 acres along the Minnesota River Valley, associated watersheds, and tributaries as: WMA's, AMA's, SNA, & state parks which are open to public use. These newly acquired properties from supportive landowners, has protected remnant native prairies, rock outcrops, provided nearly 7 miles of Minnesota River and other shoreline protection, expanded existing public infrastructures, and increased the public outdoor recreational system within the Green Corridor. Finally through landowner donations this grant also received 54 acres at a value of \$67,960.

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: \$1,771,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$0	\$11,500	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$11,500
Contracts	\$101,000	\$55,000	\$0	\$0		\$101,000	\$55,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,551,000	\$1,672,900	\$0	\$0		\$1,551,000	\$1,672,900
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	\$1,000	\$400	\$0	\$0		\$1,000	\$400
Professional Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$0	\$0		\$9,000	\$9,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$109,000	\$21,800	\$0	\$0		\$109,000	\$21,800
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,771,000	\$1,770,600	\$0	\$0		\$1,771,000	\$1,770,600

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	Spent	Cash Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
RADC personal- Fiscal Agent	0.09	4.50	\$11,500	\$0		\$11,500
Total	0.09	4.50	\$11,500	\$0		\$11,500

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

Not Listed

All revenues received by the recipient that have been generated from activities on land with money from the OHF:

Total Revenue: \$0

Revenue Spent: \$0

Revenue Balance: \$0

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	275	0	0	0	0	0	275	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	275	313	0	0	0	0	275	313
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	0	0	550	313	0	0	0	0	550	313

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

Type	Native Prairie (original)	Native Prairie (final)
Restore	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0
Enhance	0	0
Total	0	0

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	\$165,000	\$21,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$165,000	\$21,800
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$1,606,000	\$1,748,800	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,606,000	\$1,748,800
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	\$0	\$0	\$1,771,000	\$1,770,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,771,000	\$1,770,600

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	ForestPrairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SEForest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	275	0	0	0	0	59	0	0	275	59
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	275	0	0	0	0	313	0	0	275	313
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	550	0	0	0	0	372	0	0	550	372

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	\$165,000	\$21,800	\$0	\$0	\$165,000	\$21,800
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,606,000	\$1,748,800	\$0	\$0	\$1,606,000	\$1,748,800
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	\$0	\$0	\$1,771,000	\$1,770,600	\$0	\$0	\$1,771,000	\$1,770,600

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

0

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

0

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals:

Not Listed

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Redwood

Name	TRDS	Acres	OHF Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?	Description
Dutch Charleys Creek WMA	10936230	79	\$244,140	Yes	Full	Not Applicable	Donation 39 acres of RIM
Gora Prairie WMA	10937229	154	\$1,232,000	No	Full	Not Applicable	Next to Pell Creek
Lamberton WMA #23	10937212	80	\$196,000	Yes	Full	Not Applicable	Donation 12.6 acres of RIM

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: Dutch Charleys Creek WMA

# of Total Acres:	79
County:	Redwood
Township:	109
Range:	36
Direction:	2
Section:	30
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	79
Amount of Shoreline:	2000 (Linear Feet)
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	Dutch Charleys Creek
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MNDNR - Wildlife Div.
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Rd
Annual Reporting City:	St. Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	
Annual Reporting Phone:	651.259.5180
Purchase Date:	December 11, 2012
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$244,140
Appraised Value:	\$244,140
Professional Service Costs:	\$6,600
Assessed Value:	\$273,400
Total Project Cost:	\$244,140
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:	

Completed Parcel: Gora Prairie WMA

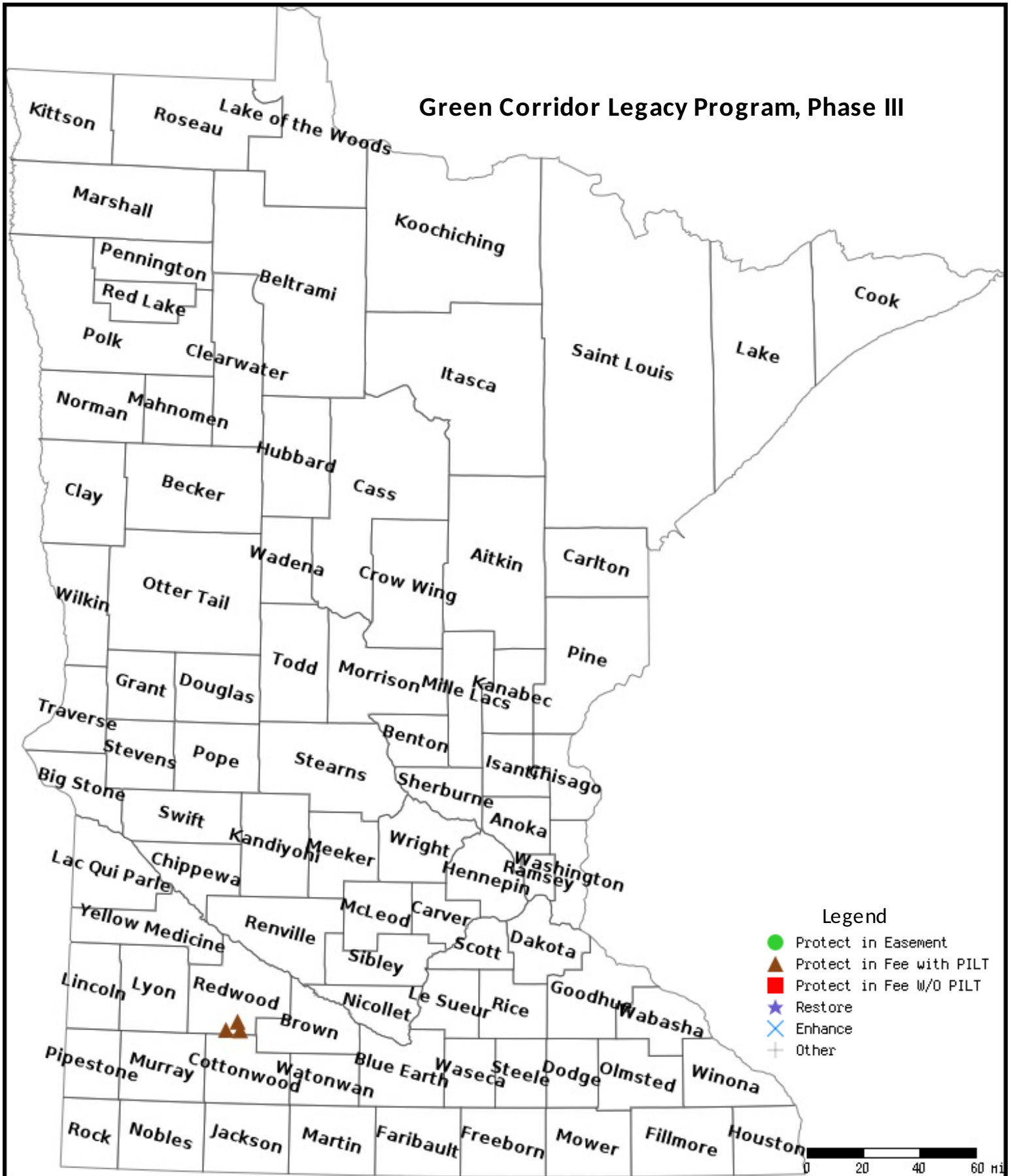
# of Total Acres:	154
County:	Redwood
Township:	109
Range:	37
Direction:	2
Section:	29
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	154
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MNDNR- Wildlife
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Rd
Annual Reporting City:	St Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	
Annual Reporting Phone:	651.259.5180
Purchase Date:	June 14, 2013
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$1,232,000
Appraised Value:	\$1,232,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$6,275
Assessed Value:	\$963,500
Total Project Cost:	\$1,232,000
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:	

Completed Parcel: Lamberton WMA #23

# of Total Acres:	80
County:	Redwood
Township:	109
Range:	37
Direction:	2
Section:	12
# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:	
# of Acres: Forest:	
# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:	80
Amount of Shoreline:	
Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):	
Has there been signage erected at the site:	Yes
Annual Reporting Organization Name:	MNDNR- Wildlife
Annual Reporting Manager Name:	
Annual Reporting Address:	500 Lafayette Rd
Annual Reporting City:	St Paul
Annual Reporting State:	MN
Annual Reporting Zip:	55155
Annual Reporting Email:	
Annual Reporting Phone:	651.259.5180
Purchase Date:	June 24, 2013
Acquisition Title:	
Purchase Price:	\$196,000
Appraised Value:	\$196,000
Professional Service Costs:	\$6,580
Assessed Value:	\$411,200
Total Project Cost:	\$196,000
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:	

Parcel Map

Green Corridor Legacy Program, Phase III



Data Generated From Parcel List