



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Metro Big Rivers Phase 8
Laws of Minnesota 2018 Final Report

General Information

Date: 11/08/2023

Project Title: Metro Big Rivers Phase 8

Funds Recommended: \$2,630,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2018, Ch. 208, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 5(a)

Appropriation Language: \$2,630,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire lands in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural systems associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix Rivers in the metropolitan area. Of this amount, \$500,000 is to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust Inc., \$300,000 is to Friends of the Mississippi River, \$700,000 is to Great River Greening, and \$1,130,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to \$120,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed land acquisitions and permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Deborah Loon

Title: Executive Director

Organization: MN Valley Trust (Metro Big Rivers)

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Location Information

County Location(s): Washington, Dakota, Isanti, Sherburne, Hennepin, Carver and Anoka.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement

- Protect in Fee
- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

Metro Big Rivers successfully completed work with the Phase 8 / ML2018 OHF appropriation, exceeding amended acreage goals by 16% and completing work on 701 acres. Partners protected 87 acres through fee title acquisition and 199 acres through permanent conservation easement, restored 6 acres and enhanced 409 acres.

MBR 8 expended 97% of the OHF funds granted and leveraged the grant by 60% with over \$1.5 million in other funds and landowner donation of easement value.

Brief summaries of work completed under this phase are provided below. More information of all projects is provided in attachments to this final report.

Process & Methods

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) enhanced habitat at 160 acres at 3 sites, exceeding its original plan of 150 acres. The project sites were William H. Houlton Conservation Area (WHHCA), Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park and Riverside Park. Due to competitive bids, FMR was able to expand its work area to include 10 additional forest acres at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park.

Work at all sites went according to plan and deliverables were either ahead of schedule or on time. At WHHCA, high waters at various times over the last few years made it difficult for contractors to access the floodplain island area and led to higher costs than standard woody removal. Future projects should factor in a higher cost per acre where water levels can affect site access.

Great River Greening (GRG) enhanced 217 acres of prairie, oak savanna, forest and riverine habitat at 8 sites. Project sites were Maple View Open Space, Springbrook Nature Center (Phase 2), Carrol’s Woods, Lebanon Hills Regional Park (Phase 2), Valley Park Pollinator Corridor, Minnehaha Creek Knollwood Riparian Corridor, Brown’s Creek Open Space and Trout Brook – Afton (Phase 2).

GRG was able to shift funds from an initial project (the watershed district was able to complete the work with other funds) to further the stream re-meander of 2500 feet of Trout Brook – Afton. Initially funded in Metro Big Rivers 7, work continued under this grant and will be completed under Metro Big Rivers 9.

Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) protected 199 acres under permanent conservation easement, exceeding its target deliverables by 69 acres. MLT completed the following easements:

- 44-acre Scandia (Hacker), adding to an existing complex of MLT-held conservation easements in Scandia, Washington County, 1.25 miles west of the St. Croix River
- 79-acre Keystone Woods (Tschida) and 19-acre Keystone Woods (Rosenquist) in Washington County’s

Keystone Woods Top 10 Priority Conservation Area

- 46-acre Silver Creek (Goodwin) on one of the last large parcels in Washington County's Silver-Twin Lakes Corridor, a Top 10 Priority Conservation Area
- 11-acre Oak Lake (Phyllis Wheatley Community Center), adding onto the 72 acres protected under Metro Big Rivers 7.

MLT enhanced 33 acres forest and restored 5 acres prairie over five projects, exceeding deliverables by 3 acres (14 additional acres restored on land protected under this grant are not double-counted). All projects were on lands MLT protected by conservation easement, three in Washington County and one each in Isanti and Sherburne Counties. All were adjacent to waterbodies, including the St. Croix River and Valley Creek, thereby improving habitat and benefit water quality in critical corridors.

Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) protected 87 priority acres in fee title for the San Francisco Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Restoration of the 36-acre crop field to prairie and wetland was completed with a 2021 Expedited Conservation Program grant. That work continues under Metro Big Rivers 9, along with enhancement of oak savanna, prairie and forest along a creek in the 51-acre wooded part of the property.

How did the program address habitats of significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, threatened or endangered species, and/or list targeted species?

Metro Big Rivers projects improved habitat values for wildlife and SGCN, including birds using the Mississippi River migratory corridor, pollinators, wildlife, and an array of rare and endangered species.

FMR restored prairie and forest habitat, including the conversion of crop field to diverse prairie, at 2 sites on the Mississippi and Elk Rivers in Sherburne County. The restoration provides critical habitat for resident and migrant birds (including five SGCNs surveyed post-restoration), native pollinators, and mammals. The sites are partially located in the high potential zone for Rusty Patched bumblebee. Post-restoration surveys documented increases in pollinator abundance and diversity.

GRG worked on public conservation lands to improve habitat values for wildlife and SGCN, including birds using the Mississippi River migratory corridor and pollinators. Work restored and enhanced riverine, forest, oak savanna, prairie, and wetland habitat at 7 conservation sites. Work started at an eighth project site that will be completed with ML2019 Metro Big Rivers phase 9.

MLT protected high quality habitat lying within three "Top-10" priority conservation corridors identified by Washington County, and 1.2 miles of shoreline and associated riparian habitat on Silver Creek, Oak Lake, and several ponds. In addition, MLT restored and enhanced 55 acres of habitat, much of adjacent to streams and rivers, including the St. Croix, Valley Creek, and Silver Creek. These land protection and R/E activities provided habitat for a large number of SGCN.

MVT acquired lands identified through the USFWS Comprehensive Conservation Plan, which prioritizes lands for high biodiversity, connectivity, and ability to preserve habitat for SGCN. MVT's acquisition protected oak savanna, oak basswood forest and a former agricultural field that has subsequently been restored to prairie and wetland.

How did the program use science-based targeting that leveraged or expanded corridors and complexes, reduced fragmentation, or protected areas in the MN County Biological Survey.

Restoration and enhancement partners Friends of the Mississippi River and Great River Greening used science-based criteria to prioritize activities. This included consideration of the highest quality natural areas (as

determined by MBS), as well as prioritization of work within important ecological corridors identified by a coalition of conservation partners and based on rare species and sensitive landscape features. This prioritization ensures that projects reduce fragmentation and link natural areas within already-established corridors. All of the restoration and enhancement sites are located along or near the three big rivers and important tributaries – some of the most important ecological corridors for migrating and sedentary plant and animal life.

Minnesota Land Trust used a set of ecological criteria, informed by project cost, to prioritize conservation easement projects with the highest available cost: benefit ratio. Scoring of ecological value closely aligned with and was informed by presence of document SGCN, T&E species, high-quality habitats, and location relative to priority areas identified within the State Wildlife Action Plan and other sources.

The Minnesota Valley Trust prioritizes work through science-based processes led by the USFWS, which will own interest in the property. Specifically, the parcel identification followed the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The fee title acquisition completed under this phase expanded a priority habitat complex and conservation corridor.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

Metro Big Rivers projects are designed and completed thanks to an extensive network of partners and supporters. Projects funded through this phase faced no opposition.

Partners on FMR projects included local units of government, local friends groups and volunteers.

Partners on GRG projects included local units of government, a utility company, Rosemount high school science classes, local stewardship group monitors and community volunteers.

MLT worked in partnership with Washington County and Phyllis Wheatley Community Center (PWCC), a North Minneapolis nonprofit that for decades provided outdoor experiences to low-income youth at Camp Katherine Parsons. Closure of the camp in the 1990s created an access gap. The easement protected natural lands surrounding the camp and revitalized services to youth.

MVT worked with the USFWS to identify and conclude its protection project. The acquisition completed has strong public support and will be a popular destination for outdoor recreation, including hunting.

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

All Metro Big Rivers projects were exceptional opportunities because of the habitat protected or improved in the metro area for wildlife, SGCN, and the 3 million area residents. We provide two examples here. Refer to the attached project summaries for much more information.

- Covering over 106 acres with extensive shoreline on Oak Lake in Carver County, the easement over the Camp Katherine Parsons property was a tremendous opportunity. It prevented residential development that would have destroyed habitats for the trumpeter swans, pelicans, and songbirds that frequent Oak Lake. And it preserved the potential for the camp to be a community resource forever.
- Fee protection of 87 acres to expand the San Francisco Unit of the Refuge created the opportunity to convert a 36-acre former agricultural field back to prairie and wetland, restore and enhance degraded oak savanna, remnant prairie and forest, and enhance habitat along Bevins Creek.

What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this program?

- N/A

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

All public partners committed to maintaining the restoration / enhancement habitat improvements. FMR and GRG will support efforts to raise public and private sources to continue the work beyond this grant and will work cooperatively with partners to ensure the project benefits are maintained. FMR also continues to bring stewardship funding to these sites and to host yearly volunteer events. Concurrent with this grant, FMR also helped to establish the Friends of the WHHCA group, which now boasts a list serve of over 75 people that volunteer to maintain and enhance the current restoration.

Land protected by MLT through conservation easements is sustained through state-of-the art easement stewardship standards and practices. MLT is nationally accredited, with a successful easement stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring and legal defense as necessary.

Land acquired in fee title by MVT for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be sustained and maintained over the long-term by the USFWS. Habitat restoration will be completed by MVT prior to transfer to the USFWS.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Ongoing	FMR, GRG, Local Partners, Landowners	Monitor and assess restoration and enhancement projects	Target actions to maintain habitat, engage partners and landowners	Take restorative action to correct damage
Ongoing	MLT Stewardship & Enforcement Fund	Annually monitor completed easements	Conduct enforcement actions, as necessary	-
Ongoing	MVT, USFWS	Post property protected through fee title acquisition	Develop and implement habitat restoration, enhancement and maintenance plans	Monitor and assess the property, identify and implement any needed actions to correct damage or further enhance

Budget

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$193,200	\$257,900	\$266,300	\$118,100	\$208,300	3M Foundation, City and county partners, private foundations, volunteers	\$311,300	\$474,600
Contracts	\$969,900	\$1,045,800	\$950,600	\$526,100	\$252,500	3M, City of Elk River, South Washington Watershed District, City of Rosemount, City of St Louis Park, Washington Conservation District, Sherburne SWCD	\$1,496,000	\$1,203,100
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$493,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$297,500	-, MVT funds	\$743,000	\$797,500
Easement Acquisition	\$700,000	\$544,900	\$544,900	\$210,000	\$748,700	-, Private landowner donation of easement value	\$910,000	\$1,293,600
Easement Stewardship	\$120,000	\$96,000	\$96,000	-	-	-	\$120,000	\$96,000
Travel	\$9,600	\$11,800	\$8,300	-	-	-	\$9,600	\$8,300
Professional Services	\$69,000	\$55,100	\$58,800	-	-	-	\$69,000	\$58,800
Direct Support Services	\$29,600	\$51,300	\$53,400	-	-	-	\$29,600	\$53,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$7,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$7,000	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$11,000	\$8,800	\$8,800	-	-	-	\$11,000	\$8,800
Supplies/Materials	\$27,700	\$58,400	\$60,800	\$8,500	\$25,700	Foundation, South Washington Watershed District, Dakota County	\$36,200	\$86,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$2,630,000	\$2,630,000	\$2,547,900	\$1,112,700	\$1,532,700	-	\$3,742,700	\$4,080,600

Partner: FMR

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$20,200	\$20,200	\$20,500	\$14,800	\$6,000	3M Foundation	\$35,000	\$26,500
Contracts	\$277,700	\$277,700	\$277,700	-	\$16,500	3M, City of Elk River	\$277,700	\$294,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$1,300	-	-	-	\$2,100	\$1,300
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	\$3,500	-	Foundation	\$3,500	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$299,500	\$18,300	\$22,500	-	\$318,300	\$322,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
FMR Staff - Conservation Director, Senior Ecologist, Ecologist, Bookkeeper, Stewardship staff	0.12	4.0	\$20,500	\$6,000	3M Foundation	\$26,500

Partner: GRG

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$95,000	\$79,700	\$79,800	\$103,300	\$202,300	City and county partners, private foundations, volunteers	\$198,300	\$282,100
Contracts	\$556,200	\$533,000	\$530,700	\$526,100	\$209,000	South Washington Watershed District, City of Rosemount, City of St Louis Park	\$1,082,300	\$739,700
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$3,500	\$3,000	\$2,800	-	-	-	\$3,500	\$2,800
Professional Services	-	\$9,300	\$9,300	-	-	-	-	\$9,300
Direct Support Services	\$8,600	\$8,600	\$8,600	-	-	-	\$8,600	\$8,600
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$10,000	\$8,800	\$8,800	-	-	-	\$10,000	\$8,800
Supplies/Materials	\$26,700	\$57,600	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$25,700	South Washington Watershed District, Dakota County	\$31,700	\$85,700
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$634,400	\$437,000	-	\$1,334,400	\$1,137,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Personnel - Project Manager, Crew, Volunteer Manager, Director of Operations, Grant Mgmt Asst., Finance Director, Finance Ops Mgr	0.61	3.0	\$79,800	\$202,300	City and county partners, private foundations, volunteers	\$282,100

Partner: MLT

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$78,000	\$158,000	\$166,000	-	-	-	\$78,000	\$166,000
Contracts	\$136,000	\$235,100	\$142,200	-	\$27,000	Washington Conservation District, Sherburne SWCD	\$136,000	\$169,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$700,000	\$544,900	\$544,900	\$210,000	\$748,700	Private landowner donation of easement value	\$910,000	\$1,293,600
Easement Stewardship	\$120,000	\$96,000	\$96,000	-	-	-	\$120,000	\$96,000
Travel	\$4,000	\$6,700	\$4,200	-	-	-	\$4,000	\$4,200
Professional Services	\$69,000	\$45,800	\$49,500	-	-	-	\$69,000	\$49,500
Direct Support Services	\$21,000	\$42,700	\$44,800	-	-	-	\$21,000	\$44,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,000	-
Supplies/Materials	\$1,000	\$800	\$800	-	-	-	\$1,000	\$800
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,130,000	\$1,130,000	\$1,048,400	\$210,000	\$775,700	-	\$1,340,000	\$1,824,100

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Personnel - Program Manager, Legal staff	0.3	3.0	\$166,000	-	-	\$166,000

Partner: MVT

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$493,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$297,500	MVT funds	\$743,000	\$797,500
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$7,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$7,000	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$297,500	-	\$750,000	\$797,500

Direct Support Services

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

GRG's DSS rate is 9% of Personnel costs.

In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, MLT's DSS includes all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to MLT's proposed federal indirect rate. This DNR-approved rate this DNR-approved rate is applied only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services.

Explain any budget challenges or successes:

No budget challenges were encountered by any Metro Big Rivers partners in completing these projects. Metro Big Rivers partners were able to stretch the OHF grant funds to achieve greater outcomes than anticipated in the amended AP. They also brought significantly more leverage to projects than anticipated at 60% of grant funds.

Total Revenue: \$0

Revenue Spent: \$0

Revenue Balance: \$0

Of the money disclosed above, what are the appropriate uses of the money:

- E. This is not applicable as there was no revenue generated.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Acres (AP)	Total Acres (Final)
Restore	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	6
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	40	0	25	40	35	47	0	0	100	87
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	46	0	153	130	0	130	199
Enhance	345	38	17	17	303	321	35	33	700	409
Total	385	38	42	108	338	521	165	34	930	701

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Funding (AP)	Total Funding (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	\$48,500	-	-	-	\$65,400	-	\$113,900
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$200,000	-	\$125,000	\$230,000	\$175,000	\$270,000	-	-	\$500,000	\$500,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$323,600	-	\$573,400	\$992,500	-	\$992,500	\$897,000
Enhance	\$157,400	\$98,000	\$65,800	\$67,000	\$776,800	\$872,000	\$137,500	-	\$1,137,500	\$1,037,000
Total	\$357,400	\$98,000	\$190,800	\$669,100	\$951,800	\$1,715,400	\$1,130,000	\$65,400	\$2,630,000	\$2,547,900

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	100	87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	87
Protect in Easement	130	199	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130	199
Enhance	700	409	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	700	409

Total	930	701	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	930	701
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Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/ Urban (AP)	Metro/ Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Fores t (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie e (AP)	Prairie e (Final)	N. Fores t (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	-	\$113,900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$113,900
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$500,000	\$500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$500,000	\$500,000
Protect in Easemen t	\$992,500	\$897,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$992,500	\$897,000
Enhance	\$1,137,500	\$1,037,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,137,500	\$1,037,000
Total	\$2,630,000	\$2,547,900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,630,000	\$2,547,900

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

2.2

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals

FMR exceeded original enhance goals when bids came in lower than expected and they were able to add acres. GRG redirected funds to further the lower-acreage Trout Brook - Afton stream re-meander project (started with MBR 7) when the watershed district identified other funds to complete the work at Grey Cloud Slough. MLT exceeded easement acres thanks to significant leverage from Washington County and a landowner's donation of easement value. And the prioritized, available parcel for MVT was slightly smaller than its original acreage target.

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *Two examples illustrate how Metro Big Rivers' work is measured and evaluated:*
 - *FMR's conversion of ag lands to prairie expanded habitats along the Mississippi River and connected the Bailey Point Nature Preserve and Mississippi Islands SNA. FMR uses this site as an outdoor laboratory to evaluate restoration practices and impact on target species.*
 - *MVT's acquisition expanded a unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. MVT and FWS Biologists frequently visit sites to monitor and evaluate, both during and after initial restoration and enhancement.*

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes - Sign up criteria is attached](#)

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
GRG - Maple View Open Space	Anoka	03224211	13	\$42,900	Yes
GRG - Springbrook Nature Center Phase II	Anoka	03024211	31	\$51,500	Yes
GRG - Valley Park Xcel Pollinator Corridor	Dakota	02823223	9	\$29,600	Yes
GRG - Carrols Woods Woodland enhancement	Dakota	11519230	74	\$103,900	Yes
GRG - Lebanon Hills Parks: Star Pond Savanna Expansion and Schultze - Portage Woodland Enhancement Phase II	Dakota	02723235	70	\$322,800	Yes
GRG - Minnehaha Creek Knollwod Riparian Corridor	Hennepin	11721218	6	\$32,200	Yes
MLT - Stanchfield Creek	Isanti	03724231	4	\$367	Yes
MLT - Pickerel Lake	Sherburne	03430203	5	\$732	Yes
FMR - William H. Houlton Conservation Area	Sherburne	03226205	85	\$168,000	Yes
FMR - Riverside Park	Washington	02722212	14	\$40,625	Yes
MLT - Johnson	Washington	02820214	6	\$35,000	Yes
FMR - Cottage Grove Ravine Park	Washington	02721222	61	\$91,375	Yes
MLT - Old Mill Stream	Washington	03120201	23	\$36,534	Yes
GRG - Browns Creek	Washington	03021212	13	\$56,200	Yes
GRG - Trout Brook Restoration, Phase 1 (continued)	Washington	02720203	1	\$61,000	Yes

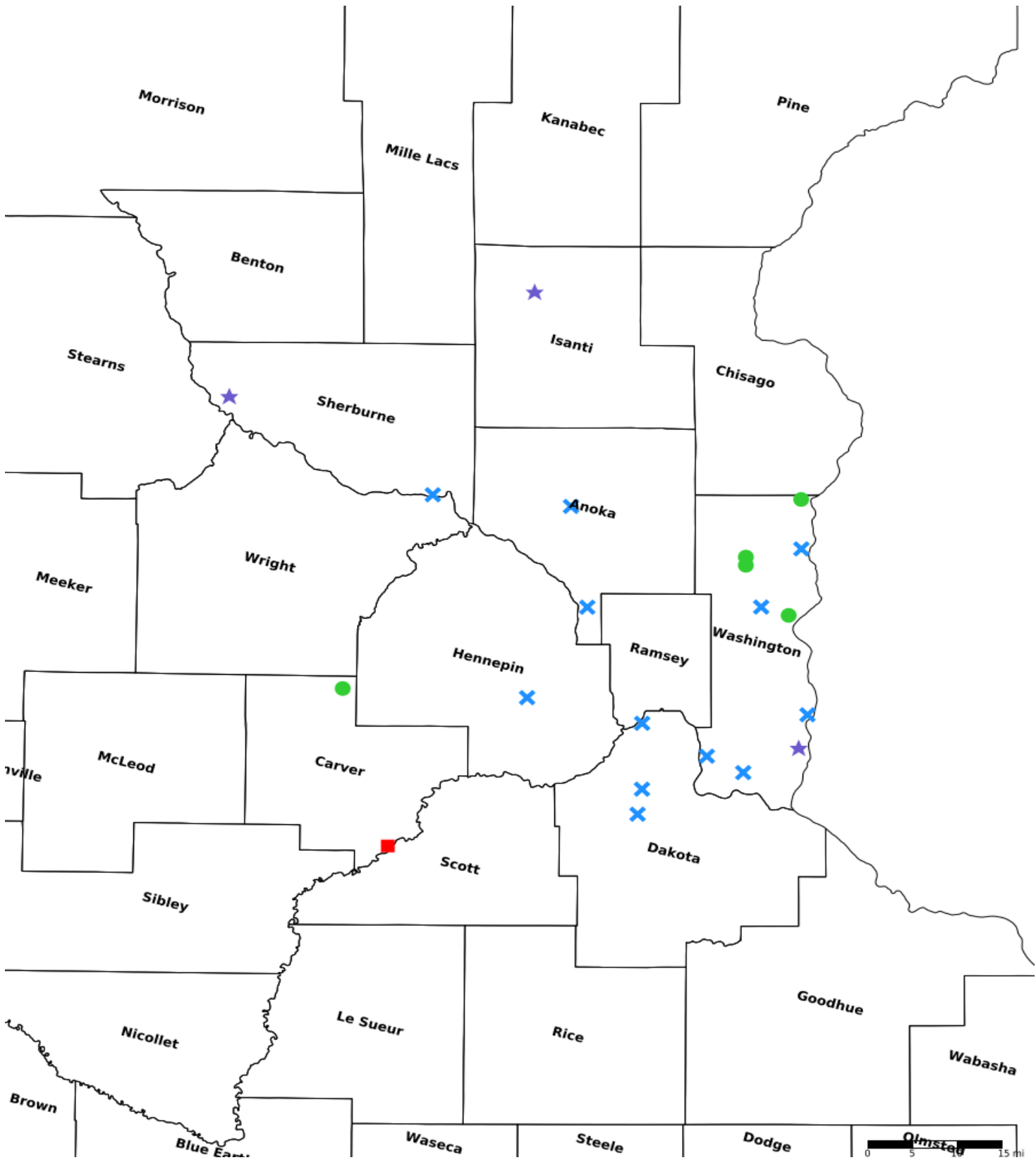
Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Carver	11424215	87	\$500,000	No

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
MLT - Oak Lake (Phyllis Wheatley Community Center)	Carver	11725211	11	\$135,000	No
MLT - Keystone Woods (Tschida)	Washington	03121213	79	\$238,600	No
MLT - Silver Creek (Goodwin)	Washington	03020216	46	\$247,600	No
MLT - Scandia (Hacker)	Washington	03220201	44	\$0	No
MLT - Keystone Woods (Rosenquist)	Washington	03121212	19	\$90,800	No

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ⊕ Other