Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program - Phase 2
Laws of Minnesota 2020 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 09/23/2024

Project Title: Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program - Phase 2

Funds Recommended: $3,155,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd 5(h)

Appropriation Language: $3,155,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements with Hennepin County, in cooperation with Minnesota Land Trust, to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance habitats in Hennepin County as follows: $446,000 to Hennepin County and $2,709,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to $264,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is for establishing 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 permanent conservation easements, restorations, and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Additional Legislative Changes: ML 2023, Ch. 40, Article 1, Sections 2, subd 10 Carryforwards, (f) The availability of the appropriation for Laws 2020, chapter 104, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5, paragraph (h), Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program - Phase II, is extended to June 30, 2025.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Kristine Maurer
Title: Conservation and Natural Resource Ecologist
Organization: Hennepin County
Address: 701 Building 701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 700
City: Minneapolis, MN 55415
Email: kristine.maurer@hennepin.us
Office Number: 612-348-6570
Mobile Number: 612-235-1251
Fax Number:
Website: https://www.hennepin.us/residents/environment/natural-resources-management-planning

Location Information

County Location(s): Hennepin.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Hennepin County, in partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust, proposes to permanently protect through conservation easement 299 acres of the most important natural areas remaining in the county, and restore and enhance 84 acres of protected habitat including forest, savanna, prairie, wetlands, shallow lakes, shoreline, bluffs, and riparian areas.

Intense development pressure is a persistent threat to remaining habitat in Hennepin County. This grant will enable this partnership to continue implementation of the conservation easement and restoration actions initiated through the Outdoor Heritage Fund in 2018 and accommodate high landowner interest generated through targeted outreach.

Design and Scope of Work

The Twin Cities metro area is rapidly losing ecologically significant and floristically diverse habitat as land development pressure increases; resulting in immediate consequences for the Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) which rely on critical habitats in Hennepin County.

Hennepin County in partnership with its cities used extensive field work and the Minnesota Land Classification System Methodology to inventory every acre of land in the county and document the quality of natural communities. This assessment resulted in the identification of ecologically significant areas and natural resource corridors that connect areas of significant habitat across the county. In total, ecologically significant areas and corridors account for about 60,000 acres of land, of which only 31 percent is permanently protected. Using a combination of these rich datasets and other state, federal, and local data, the Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program (HCP) has established focus areas and a systematic process for protection, restoration, and enhancement of the associated remaining high quality habitats. Over the next 18 years, the county plans to permanently protect 6,000 acres; resulting in permanent protection of 41 percent (24,600 acres) of the county's

best remaining natural areas by 2041. Combined with our anticipated Phase 1 outputs, we will achieve nearly 20% of the county's long-term land protection objective during these first two phases of our program.

In 2018, Hennepin County and the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) were awarded $1.514 million from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) to support the goals of the HCP. Through work conducted under that grant to date, the project partners are poised to acquire 200 acres of easement and complete restoration and enhancement actions on 130 acres of protected land. As a result, 2018 funds are expected to be fully encumbered this year and fully spent in 2020.

HCP promotion, outreach, and proposal solicitation efforts have resulted in consistent landowner inquiries and high-quality easement opportunities that now exceed our current easement acquisition capacity by more than 200 acres; accounting for approximately one-fifth of the acres proposed for protection under Phase 2. Landowner interest is strong. Funding through this proposal will allow the county and Minnesota Land Trust to sustain this momentum by continuing to identify the best, most cost-effective opportunities to protect, restore, and enhance remaining natural areas.

The county will continue to work with MLT, its 11 watershed organizations, 45 cities, two park districts, the MN DNR, NPS, and USFWS to identify easement opportunities and build landowner connections. The Minnesota Land Trust will bring the experience of its land protection and legal team to negotiate the purchase of conservation easements with landowners. An RFP approach will identify high value protection opportunities and encourage a competitive marketplace for scarce monetary resources. All opportunities for easement acquisition will be scored based on six categories: spatial context, size, habitat quality and diversity, water resources, wildlife and plant conservation, and risk of conversion. Management factors, partner involvement, and professional judgement will also be considered.

How does the plan address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species?

Hennepin County is home to remnants of both Minnesota's Big Woods forest and the western prairies, and was historically dotted by abundant wetlands of many types, more than 50 percent of which have been lost. The great diversity of habitat types and the resulting fish, game, and wildlife species found in Hennepin County presents unique and unparalleled opportunities for protection, restoration, and enhancement. The county's natural resource corridors and ecologically significant areas include remnant old growth Maple-Basswood forest, rich and poor fens, tamarack bogs, oak savannas, shallow lakes, restored prairie, and remnant native prairie, all of which all are critically essential habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Hennepin County is home to 36 rare plants and fungi, over 25 rare and sensitive plant community types, multiple occurrences of rare animal assemblages, 25 rare invertebrates, and 41 rare animal species. There are also 59 SGCN and four federally-listed species that would be impacted by this proposal. Species in Greatest Conservation Need that would be impacted by this proposal including Blanding's turtle and Trumpeter swans. Wildlife on the federal

list of endangered and threatened species that can be found in Hennepin County include the Northern long-eared bat, Monarch butterfly, Higgins eye pearly mussel, and the Rusty-patched bumble bee.

Our rigorous selection criteria and scoring methodology takes into account a variety of datasets, metrics, and professional and partner knowledge, of rare and SGCN species. Furthermore, by focusing on priority areas and emphasizing the expansion of existing natural areas and creating habitat connections, this program is especially well-designed to promote habitat protection that will benefit such species. Restoration project selection and actions of the HCP also focus on increasing and enhancing diversity of sensitive, rare, and important habitat.

Describe how the plan uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:

Hennepin County's ecologically significant areas and natural resource corridors were established as part of the DNR's Minnesota Land Cover Classification System comprehensive land cover inventory completed in 2008. Natural vegetative communities evaluated as High, Good, or Moderate quality were identified as ecologically significant areas. They contain some forests, prairies and wetlands with primarily native vegetation that have not been significantly altered since European settlement. These are the best remaining and ecologically intact areas in the county and some of the finest habitat of their kind anywhere in the state. Natural resource corridors were identified by spatial analysis, focused on areas with high concentrations of ecologically significant areas which created connections between ecologically significant areas, and expanded large complexes of high quality habitat.

About 15 percent of the land area in the county - 60,000 acres - are ecologically significant areas and natural resource corridors. Of these, about 41,400 acres are privately owned that are partially or entirely unprotected. Priority areas for program outreach have been developed using available data related to spatial context, size, habitat quality and diversity, water resources, wildlife and plant conservation, and risk of conversion in addition to local knowledge. The highest priority areas are generally areas adjacent to large core areas of already protected habitat.

All easement opportunities (identified through targeted outreach to landowners and via an RFP process) will be evaluated using ecological factors including but not limited to amount proximity to protected natural areas (e.g., USFW, NPS, and DNR lands, conservation easements, parks and preserves), habitat diversity and quality (e.g., MLCCS ranking, MND Sites of Biodiversity significance), size, proximity to important wildlife areas and rare species occurrences (e.g., MN DNR rare feature inventory, endangered species habitat areas, bird habitat, pollinator habitat, lakes of biological significance, Wildlife Action Network), threats of development (e.g., zoning and potential development), and proximity to important surface and groundwater areas (e.g., shoreland, wetland, floodplain, sensitive groundwater). In addition, donation values, nearness to partner planning areas, community interest, and restoration and management requirements will be considered.

Which two sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are most applicable to this project?

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Metro / Urban

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity

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 ~ *Phase 2 of the Habitat Conservation Program will permanently protect 441 acres of strategic and diverse habitat within identified natural resource priority areas and restore 83 acres of new and existing protected land.*

  By targeting protection, restoration, and enhancement activities in biologically diverse natural areas and remnant habitats critical for the interconnection and buffering of already protected core habitats, we will ensure the long-term health and viability of Minnesota's game and non-game wildlife and increase the ecological integrity of important habitats by forming habitat corridors and improving the quality of existing habitat through invasive species management and mitigation.

Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

Hennepin County will provide 0.9 FTE staff time over the course of the grant: portions of three Natural Resources Specialists (0.8), the Land and Water Supervisor (0.1 FTE).

The Minnesota Land Trust will encourage private landowners to fully or partially donate the value of their conservation easements, thereby receiving less than the appraised value might otherwise allow. This donated value is shown as leveraged funds in the proposal. The Land Trust has a strong track record of incentivizing landowner to participate in this fashion.

Finally, although it is not quantified in this proposal, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Three Rivers Park District, Watershed Districts, and the Minnesota Waterfowl Association will be engaged as a restoration partners in this program. All have committed to providing leveraged funds through their services, the amount of which will depend on the specific restoration and protection projects.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

This proposal does not supplant or substitute for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund used for the same purpose.

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2006	LCCMR (for Natural Resources Inventory)	$80,000
NA	City of Bloomington, City of Plymouth, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (for Natural Resources Inventory)	$160,000
NA	Hennepin County (1FTE Natural Resources Specialist, 2003-2018)	$1,646,000
NA	Hennepin County (1.5 FTE Natural Resources Specialists, 2018-2019)	$62,000
NA	Hennepin County (Stewardship funds for 4 easements co-held with MLT)	$78,000
NA	Hennepin County (Operating budgets for natural resources program 2003-2019)	$240,000
NA	Hennepin County, PCA, MDH, Landowner (Conservation easement restoration)	$180,000
NA	Hennepin County, Three Rivers, Conservation Corps of MN (Conservation easement restoration)	$74,700

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

Both partners are experienced land and easement managers; co-holding easements provides another level of assurance that the habitat protected and restored will be sustained using the best standards and practices of conservation easement stewardship.

The Minnesota Land Trust is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a successful stewardship program that includes property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. Hennepin County successfully holds, co-holds or manages seven conservation easements and 38 RIM easements.

To ensure that the protected resources will be managed to support biological integrity, Habitat Management Plans

and Restoration/Enhancement Plans will be developed for each conservation easement and restoration/enhancement project. Hennepin County and the Land Trust are committed to maintaining relationships with project landowners, and securing the technical and financial resources to undertake prescribed activities.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2024 (and in perpetuity)	MLT Stewardship & Enforcement Fund; Hennepin County Enterprise Fund	Annual monitoring of property in perpetuity	Enforcement as needed	-
2024-2029	Hennepin County Solid Waste Enterprise Fund	Begin annual monitoring of restoration project performance standards	Make adaptive management course corrections as needed to meet performance standards	Continue monitoring periodically to ensure restoration objectives are sustained.

Activity Details

Requirements

If funded, this program will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?
Yes

Is the land you plan to acquire (easement) free of any other permanent protection?
Yes

Who will manage the easement?
Landowners will retain decision-making authority over management activities on their eased property. Hennepin County will be the primary contact for easement landowners, make management recommendations, assist with planning, and provide technical and financial assistance (when available) on land management activities. The Minnesota Land Trust will include easements in their Stewardship program and defend them forever.

Who will be the easement holder?
Hennepin County and the Minnesota Land Trust will co-hold all easements.

What is the anticipated number of easements (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?
We estimate that we will complete 8-12 easement under this appropriation.

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?
Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?
Yes

Where does the activity take place?

- Permanently Protected Conservation Easements
- County/Municipal
- Refuge Lands
- Other : Watershed property

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
No

Will the eased land be open for public use?
No

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?
No

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

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:
Conservation easements established on private lands often have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. These established trails and roads will be permitted in the terms of the conservation easement and can be maintained for personal use, provided that they do not interfere with the conservation value of the property. Creation of new roads or trails or expansion of existing ones is typically not allowed.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?
Existing trails and roads will be identified in the project baseline reports and will be monitored annually as part of the Land Trust's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails will be the responsibility of the landowner.

Will the acquired parcels be restored or enhanced within this appropriation?
Yes

Some easement acquired will have immediate restoration/enhancement needs. We intend to undertake restoration/enhancement activities on 73 acres of conservation easement land acquired under this appropriation. Those acres have not been included in output tables under restoration/enhancement activities.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Acquire conservation easements: 1) identify landowners; 2) negotiate, draft, and complete easements; 3) dedicate fund for stewardship	June 2023
Restoration & enhancement of existing permanently protected areas: 1) select projects; 2) draft restoration plan and performance standards; 3) perform restoration activities; 4) annual monitoring for restoration success; 5) adaptive management and additional restoration activities as needed to meet performance standards	June 2025
Restoration & enhancement of new conservation easements: 1) select projects; 2) draft restoration plan and performance standards; 3) perform restoration activities; 4) annual monitoring for restoration success; 5) adaptive management and additional restoration activities as needed to meet performance standards	June 2025

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2025

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Unless otherwise provided, the amounts in this section are available until June 30, 2023. For acquisition of real property, the amounts in this section are available until June 30, 2024, if a binding agreement with a landowner or purchase agreement is entered into by June 30, 2023, and closed no later than June 30, 2024. Funds for restoration or enhancement are available until June 30, 2025, or five years after acquisition, whichever is later, in order to complete initial restoration or enhancement work. If a project receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds, the time of the appropriation may be extended to equal the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan. Funds appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

Budget

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

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$240,000	$348,200	Hennepin County	$588,200
Contracts	$500,000	-	-	$500,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$2,090,000	$624,000	Hennepin County, Landowner donation	$2,714,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
Professional Services	$230,000	-	-	$230,000
Direct Support Services	$65,000	-	-	$65,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$13,600	-	-	$13,600
Supplies/Materials	$10,400	-	-	$10,400
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$3,155,000**	**$972,200**	**-**	**$4,127,200**

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$240,000	-	-	$240,000
Contracts	$78,000	-	-	$78,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	$2,090,000	$312,000	Landowner donation	$2,402,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
Professional Services	$230,000	-	-	$230,000
Direct Support Services	$65,000	-	-	$65,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$2,709,000**	**$312,000**	**-**	**$3,021,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Protection Staff	0.47	5.0	$240,000	-	-	$240,000

Partner: Hennepin County

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	$348,200	Hennepin County	$348,200
Contracts	$422,000	-	-	$422,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	$312,000	Hennepin County	$312,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	$13,600	-	-	$13,600
Supplies/Materials	$10,400	-	-	$10,400
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$446,000**	**$660,200**	**-**	**$1,106,200**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Hennepin Conservation Staff	0.9	3.0	-	$348,200	Hennepin County	$348,200

Amount of Request: $3,155,000
Amount of Leverage: $972,200
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 30.81%
DSS + Personnel: $305,000
As a % of the total request: 9.67%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?
We have reduced the number of project we intend to complete.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:
Hennepin County Environment and Energy Department operations are funded by the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (money received from the sale of energy and recovered materials) as allowed by Minnesota Statute. The Land Trust encourages landowners to fully or partially donate the value of conservation easements.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Hennepin County will manage restoration and enhancement activities under contracts with restoration partners. MLT will use contracts for the development of Habitat Management Plans for selected conservation easements.

Travel

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?
Yes

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging
From time to time, Land Trust staff may rent vehicles for grant-related purposes.

I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan:
No

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?
In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?
No

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	23	23
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	299	299
Enhance	0	0	0	61	61
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**383**	**383**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$127,300	$127,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$2,709,000	$2,709,000
Enhance	-	-	-	$318,700	$318,700
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,155,000**	**$3,155,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	23	0	0	0	0	23
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	299	0	0	0	0	299
Enhance	61	0	0	0	0	61
Total	**383**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**383**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	$127,300	-	-	-	-	$127,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$2,709,000	-	-	-	-	$2,709,000
Enhance	$318,700	-	-	-	-	$318,700
Total	**$3,155,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$3,155,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	$5,534
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	$9,060
Enhance	-	-	-	$5,224

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	$5,534	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	$9,060	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$5,224	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
Yes - Sign up criteria is attached

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
Priority areas for program outreach have been developed using available data related to spatial context, size, habitat quality and diversity, water resources, wildlife and plant conservation, and risk of conversion in addition to local knowledge. The highest priority areas are generally areas adjacent to large core areas of already protected habitat.

All easement opportunities (identified through targeted outreach to landowners and via an RFP process) will be evaluated using ecological factors including but not limited to amount proximity to protected natural areas (e.g., USFW, NPS, and DNR lands, conservation easements, parks and preserves), habitat diversity and quality (e.g., MLCCS ranking, MND Sites of Biodiversity significance), size, proximity to important wildlife areas and rare species occurrences (e.g., MN DNR rare feature inventory, endangered species habitat areas, bird habitat, pollinator habitat, lakes of biological significance, Wildlife Action Network), threats of development (e.g., zoning and potential development), and proximity to important surface and groundwater areas (e.g., shoreland, wetland, floodplain, sensitive groundwater). In addition, donation values, nearness to partner planning areas, community interest, and restoration and management requirements will be considered.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Prairie Hill (Clark) Easement - Prairie Enhancement	Hennepin	11724219	2	$7,051	Yes	Prairie enhancement on lands protected by a co-held MLT and Hennepin County easement closed with Phase 1 funds. Contracting activities were initiated on June 8, 2023.
Medina Public Works Facility - Priarie Enahncement - Part 3	Hennepin	11823210	16	$8,000	Yes	Prescribed burn for the prairie to control woody spp and increase forbs
Lake Sarah (Slavec) Easement - Reforestation - Part 3	Hennepin	11824203	1	$10,000	Yes	Supplies and Site Prep for Hennepin County to plant trees
Little Long Lake (Flatten) Easement - Prairie Enhancement - Part 2	Hennepin	11724209	8	$5,000	Yes	Prescribed burn for the prairie to control woody spp and increase forbs
Lake Independence (Kirwin-McGray) Easement - Forest Enhancement - Part 5	Hennepin	11824216	3	$7,500	Yes	Oak Savanna Forest pioneer species removal
Lake Rebecca (Ahrendt) Easement - Wetland Restoration - Part 1	Hennepin	11824207	2	$20,000	Yes	Restore drained wetlands
Lien RIM Easement - Forest Enhancement Part 1	Hennepin	11824211	1	$5,000	Yes	Initial attack for pioneer woody species removal. Part of larger contiguous RIM complex.

Selstad RIM Easement - Forest Enhancement - Part 1	Hennepin	11824211	1	$5,000	Yes	Initial attack for pioneer woody species removal. Part of a contiguous RIM complex.
Koch Rim Easement - Forest Enhancement - Part 1	Hennepin	11824211	7	$8,000	Yes	Initial attack for pioneer woody species removal. Part of a contiguous RIM complex.
Flesher RIM Easement - Forest Enhancement - Part 1	Hennepin	11824211	1	$3,000	Yes	Initial attack for pioneer woody species removal. This easement is contiguous with a larger complex of RIM.
Little Long Lake (Staunton) Easement - Forest Enhancement - Part 2	Hennepin	11724215	4	$5,000	Yes	IPM follow up after pioneer woody species removal in spring 2023.
Schendel Lake (Steinbach) - Forest Enhancement - Part 2	Hennepin	11924223	19	$12,000	Yes	IPM follow up after pioneer woody species removal in spring 2023.
Bjorklund HC Easement - Forest Enhancement - Part 2	Hennepin	11824220	17	$12,000	Yes	IPM follow up after pioneer woody species removal in spring 2023.
Hatfield RIM Easement - Prairie Enhancement - Part 2	Hennepin	11824207	6	$3,000	Yes	Prescribed burn for RIM easements. Last burned in 2019.
Minor RIM Easement - Prairie Enhancement - Part 3	Hennepin	11824221	1	$5,000	Yes	IPM follow up after interseeding prairie spring 2023.
Clemens RIM Easement - Prairie Enhancement - Part 4	Hennepin	11724219	3	$8,000	Yes	IPM follow up after interseeding prairie spring 2023.
Medina Public Works - Prairie Enhancement	Hennepin	11823210	7	$6,364	Yes	Enhancement of protected prairie surrounding the Hennepin County Public Works Facility. Contracting activities were initiated on April 25, 2023.
Lake Independence (White) Easement - Prairie Restoration	Hennepin	11824213	2	$7,695	Yes	Restoration of prairie on area protected by a co-held MLT and Hennepin County easement closed with Phase 1 funds. Contracting activity was initiated May 16, 2023.
MAC Prairie Restoration	Hennepin	11622227	3	$8,249	Yes	Restoration of dry bluff prairie in the Minnesota River Valley adjacent to USFWS Refuge lands. Contracting work initiated April 26, 2022.
Richard T. Anderson Conservation Area - Prairie Enhancement	Hennepin	11622230	6	$15,464	Yes	Prairie enhancement of remnant dry bluff prairie in the Minnesota River Valley near to USFWS refuge lands. Contracting activities began after mid-February 2022.

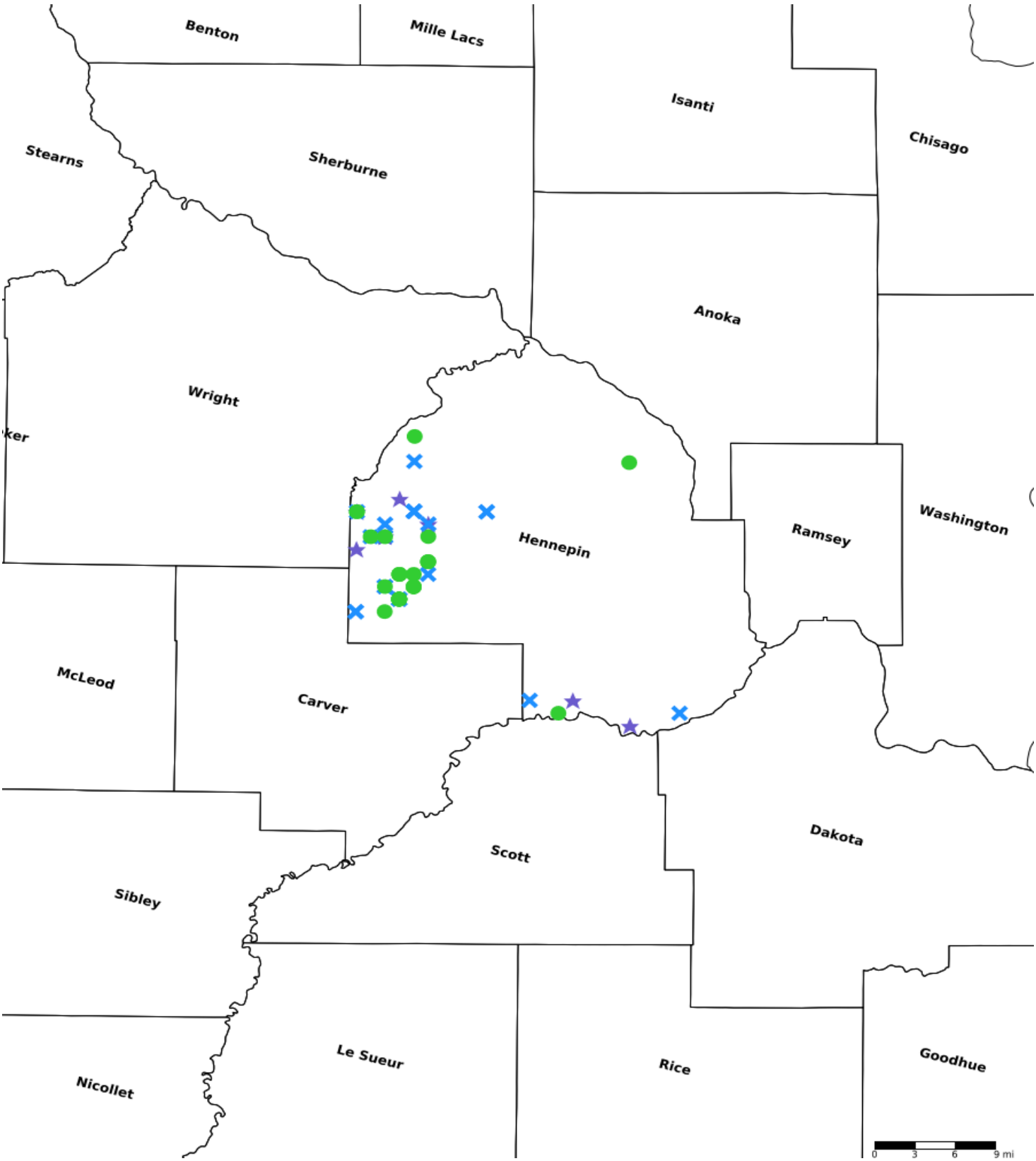
RIM Easement (Mika Property) - Forest Enhancement	Hennepin	11824221	24	$8,511	Yes	Forest enhancement of a maple-basswood forest protected in a perpetual RIM easement. No contracting or implementation activities have been initiated to date.
Lake Independence (Kirwin-McGray) Easement - Reforestation	Hennepin	11824221	4	$13,403	Yes	Restoration of a maple-basswood forest on area protected by a co-held MLT and Hennepin County easement Closed with Phase 1 funds. Contracting activity was initiated on April 27, 2023.
Kingswood Camp Easement - Wetland Enhancement	Hennepin	11724201	1	$100,000	Yes	Enhancement of a forest drainage to protect a tamarack bog and wetland downstream. No contracting or activity implementation has been done to date.
City of Bloomington Central Park - Forest Enhancement	Hennepin	02724221	14	$51,959	Yes	Enhancement of forest on city parkland that protects natural areas along Nine Mile Creek. Contracting activities were initiated on September 6, 2023.
Little Long Lake (Flatten) Easement - Forest Enhancement	Hennepin	11724209	10	$91,843	Yes	Maple-Basswood forest enhancement on area protected by a co-held MLT and Hennepin County easement closed with Phase 1 funds. Contracting activities were initiated on July 27, 2023.
Lake Sarah (Slavec) Easement - Prairie Restoration	Hennepin	11824230	2	$1,482	Yes	Restoration of prairie protected by a co-held MLT and Hennepin County easement. Contracting activities were initiated on April 24, 2023.
Lake Independence (White) - Forest Enhancement	Hennepin	11824213	24	$89,738	Yes	Maple-Basswood forest enhancement on area protected by a co-held MLT and Hennepin County easement closed with Phase 1 funds. Contracting activities were initiated on July 7, 2023.
Opus Marsh - Wetland Restoration	Hennepin	11521205	85	$9,150	Yes	Restoration of large floodplain wetland in the Minnesota River Valley associated with a USFWS Refuge. Contracting activities were initiated on August 11, 2022.

Little Long Lake (Otterson, Staunton, Inglis) Easements - Forest Enhancement	Hennepin	11724215	10	$38,470	Yes	Invasive Species management of maple-basswood forest on three contiguous conservation easements co-held by MLT and Hennepin County. Little Long Lake (Otterson) easement was closed with Phase 2 funds (1.05 acres R/E) and the Little Long Lake (Inglis)(2.58 acres R/E) and Little Long Lake (Staunton)(7.43 acres R/E) were closed with Phase 1 funds. Otterson acres will not be reported in outcome tables for R/E. Contracting activities were initiated on April 5, 2022.

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
MLT - Pioneer Creek 2	Hennepin	11824224	16	$0	No
MLT - Painter Creek 2 (Davis 2)	Hennepin	11724203	38	$389,000	No
Painter Creek 1 (Davis 1)	Hennepin	11724203	21	$226,000	No
MLT - Pioneer Creek	Hennepin	11824220	37	$256,000	No
MLT - Crow River 2	Hennepin	11924211	15	$57,000	No
Lake Rebecca (Ahrendt)	Hennepin	11824207	111	$0	No
Little Long Lake 8	Hennepin	11724215	48	$384,000	No
Lake Minnetonka 3	Hennepin	11724211	10	$80,000	No
Lake Minnetonka 2	Hennepin	11724211	10	$80,000	No
Lake Minnetonka 1	Hennepin	11724211	40	$320,000	No
MLT - Minnesota River 1	Hennepin	11622233	290	$1,000,000	No
MLT - Painter Creek 3	Hennepin	11724203	39	$312,000	No
Lake Independence 2	Hennepin	11824221	19	$320,000	No
Little Long Lake 3	Hennepin	11724215	41	$349,000	No
Painter Marsh 3	Hennepin	11824236	60	$100,000	No
Little Long Lake 6	Hennepin	11724209	36	$150,000	No
Little Long Lake 7	Hennepin	11724215	10	$150,000	No
Painter Marsh 2	Hennepin	11824236	20	$35,000	No
Lake Robina 1	Hennepin	11824207	45	$0	No
Painter Marsh 1	Hennepin	11824236	20	$50,000	No
Crow River 1	Hennepin	11724215	20	$40,000	No
Little Long Lake 5	Hennepin	11724215	20	$155,000	No
Painter Marsh 4	Hennepin	11724202	20	$80,000	No
Little Long Lake (Otterson)	Hennepin	11724215	3	$50,000	No
Whaletail Lake 1	Hennepin	11724221	13	$240,000	No
Fish Lake 1	Hennepin	11921220	250	-	No

Parcel Map



- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- Restore
- Enhance
- Other