



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

### Southeast Wetland Restoration Laws of Minnesota 2020 Accomplishment Plan

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#### General Information

**Date:** 03/03/2023

**Project Title:** Southeast Wetland Restoration

**Funds Recommended:** \$1,351,000

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

**Appropriation Language:** \$1,351,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Mankato to acquire land in fee in the city of Mankato for wetland and grassland restoration. A list of acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

#### **Manager Information**

**Manager's Name:** Michael McCarty

**Title:**

**Organization:** City of Mankato

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**City:** Mankato, MN 56001

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#### **Location Information**

**County Location(s):** Blue Earth.

**Eco regions in which work will take place:**

- Prairie

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Fee

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands

- Prairie
- Habitat

## Narrative

### **Abstract**

The City of Mankato is looking to restore a varied ecosystem that includes wetland restoration, upland prairie establishment, and stream improvements. A minimum of a 100 acre area would provide habitat that supports a diverse mix of plants and animals and will allow for different types of outdoor sporting opportunities. The project is a unique opportunity for habitat establishment and protection in an urbanizing area that will provide lasting benefits for region.

### **Design and Scope of Work**

The project will restore a complex habitat of approximately 42 acres of drained wetland and minimum of 58 acres of upland buffer that will provide habitat and outdoor sporting and recreational opportunities. Additionally this project will stormwater on the landscape that will have a positive impact on the receiving stream by establishing a more uniform flow and improving the potential of future aquatic habitat. By storing the water on the landscape a variety of wetland and upland plant communities can be established. These varied communities will provide the habitats necessary for the various stages of life for waterfowl, grassland birds and other wildlife that thrive in these conditions. Because of the alterations to the landscape that have been made over time to drain the wetland basin, significant grading and drainage improvements will need to be made. These improvements will ensure that the proper hydrology is maintained and allow for adequate drainage to protect downstream ecology. Work will include grading to remove the drainage ditch, installation of storm sewer from urban stormwater treatment facilities and structural controls to optimize the water levels in the basin. In order to establish the highest value habitat and prevent negative impacts to neighboring landowners, acquisition of the restorable wetland basin and upland that is directly hydraulically active with this basin will be completed. Native vegetation will be established to promote habitat diversity. This project will also provide sporting and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to observe and enjoy the divers plant and wildlife community that this type of habitat will promote. Though this connection, education on how restoration and improvements such as this one provide a positive impact on the ecosystem while being contextually sensitive to the surrounding agricultural production and urbanization area. By developing the understanding that habitat, recreational activities and agricultural production can exist together in harmony, an increase in public support and acceptance of these types of restoration projects can be achieved.

### **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?**

The project has the potential to create approximately 42 acres of types 1, 2, and 3 wetland. Opportunities may exist to create type 4 and 7 wetlands as well. A minimum of an additional 58 acres of land will provide upland buffer and remove land from crop production that would be directly impacted by the restoration of the wetlands. A minimum of 100 acres of agriculture land would be restored to grassland and wetland to provide an exceptional habitat for a variety of species to thrive. By offering different types of wetland and grassland habitat various waterfowl and grassland wildlife that thrives in this setting is expected to be attracted to this site. By interconnecting several different types of ecosystems into one large complex a higher success of breeding rates is expected. The success will be achieved by allows access to various environments throughout the stages of life. A thriving, diverse community of wildlife will allow sporting and recreational users of this site to have an enjoyable, unique natural experience.

**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:**

This wetland complex is identified as restorable in the Blue Earth County Water Management Plan, and is highlighted in the Greenprint section of the plan. A land use planning approach was used to identify Greenprint priority areas based on the ability to provide multiple aquatic and natural resource benefits. An inventory of aquatic and natural resources, sensitive features, land cover, floodplains, rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, rare plant and animal habitat, sensitive geology, park lands, and protected or publicly-owned lands was followed by an analysis of their landscape position, proximity and connectivity in four landscape settings - river corridors, shallow bedrock and karst, lake shoreland and wetland complexes. These diverse landscape settings, natural resources and hydrologic conditions were combined to make the Greenprint. The downstream receiving stream of this proposed restoration site has identified MHS38c Red Oak – Sugar Maple – Basswood – (Bitternut Hickory) Forest as shown on the Blue Earth County map for the Mn County Biological Survey. The project will allow for the restoration of a large, varied type wetland complex. The types of wetland that can be established on the site included Types 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7. Wetland complexes such as this provide habitat for most types of birds and waterfowl as well as other wildlife species and many forms of aquatic life. This project has the ability to provide both direct and non-direct connections. The habitat structure, proximity and connectivity are important for terrestrial wildlife habitat to provide support throughout all stages of life.

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

- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds
- H7 Keep water on the landscape

**Which two other plans are addressed in this program?**

- Other : Blue Earth County Water Management Plan 2017-2026 Greenprint section

**Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?**

**Prairie**

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

**Does this program include leveraged funding?**

Yes

**Explain the leverage:**

Leveraged funds for this project include City of Mankato Sales Tax funds, in-kind services through long term maintenance of the project by the City of Mankato, and the opportunity to partner with Minnesota State University - Mankato for educational activities.

**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.**

The City of Mankato is an LGU and not a State Agency.

## Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2018	City of Mankato Stormwater funds	-

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

The ongoing maintenance of this project will be provided through the City of Mankato's stormwater utility fee and through general fund expenditures. Any recreational opportunities that are implemented as a part of this project will be operated and maintained through the City's Public Works budget for parks. All maintenance and upkeep related to other activities outside of recreation opportunities would be address through the City's stormwater program. The City also foresees partner opportunities with Minnesota State University- Mankato Water Resource Center and other programs for education and observation.

### Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2021	Stormwater	Native vegetation management	Non-Native Vegetation management	-
2022	Stormwater	Native vegetation management	Non-Native Vegetation management	-
2023	Stromwater	Native vegetation management	Non-Native Vegetation management	-
2024	Park	Misc. recreational maintenance	-	-
2024	Stormwater	-	Spot Non-Native Vegetation management	-
2027	Parks/ Stormwater	Misc. recreational maintenance	Spot Non-Native Vegetation management	-

### Activity Details

#### Requirements

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

Yes

**Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought\*\* prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**

Yes

**Is the land you plan to acquire (fee title) free of any other permanent protection?**

Yes

#### Land Use

**Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?**

No

**Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?**

No

**Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?**

Yes

**Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:**

The land will be open for fishing and hunting. Because this land will be within city limits, the City's hunting ordinances will apply. This may restrict the use of firearms for certain types of hunting. The uniqueness of this habitat, its size and location creates an opportunity to modify city ordinance to allow for a wider variety of hunting activities.

**Who will eventually own the fee title land?**

- Local Unit of Government

**Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:**

**What is the anticipated number of closed acquisitions (range is fine) you plan to accomplish with this appropriation?**

5 parcels accounting for approximately 100 acres. Closing would take place prior to fall agricultural inputs in 2020.

**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:**

Paths that allow for sporting activities and passive enjoyment will be created for the public as this will become a City of Mankato parcel and be managed as a natural resource park. Trails may be mowed or wood chips depending on the usage and need to prevent erosion of the trail. Accessways may be needed in addition to the trail for monitoring and maintenance of any structural hydraulic controls that are constructed as a part of this project. Depending on the final configuration of any structural controls, access will be either graded path with vegetation or a reinforced turf type access to make the access in harmony with the improvement.

**How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?**

Maintenance and monitoring will be conducted by the City of Mankato's Public Works department. All hydraulic structures and related items will be monitored as a part of the stormwater utility. These will be initially inspected on a per rain event basis until function can be established. The monitoring schedule will slowly reduce as the system reaches long term stability and the facility will be added the the 3 year inspection rotation of all stormwater facility in the community. Any trails or recreation amenities that are created will be maintained by the Parks and Forestry Division. These activities will included trail maintenance (mowing, wood chipping) to ensure that erosion of the trail does not take place. Also vegetation management (spot spraying, invasive removal, mowing, sapling removal) will take place to ensure that intended ecosystem is maintained.

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

Yes

Wetland and native prairie upland buffer will be restored from current row crop production.

**Timeline**

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Final accomplishment plans approval - LSOHC	June 2020

Land acquisition	September 2020
Temporary vegetation establishment (if needed)	April 2021
Begin detailed design work	June 2021
Complete design work	January 2022
Permanent vegetation establishment where future work is not anticipated	April 2022

**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.*

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$39,900	\$28,700	Sales Tax, Sales Tax, Sales Tax	\$68,600
Contracts	\$228,700	\$88,500	Sales Tax	\$317,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,028,500	\$248,100	Sales Tax	\$1,276,600
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	\$47,900	\$13,500	Sales Tax	\$61,400
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$6,000	-	-	\$6,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,351,000</b>	<b>\$378,800</b>	-	<b>\$1,729,800</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Assistant City Engineer	0.05	1.0	\$4,800	\$2,500	Sales Tax	\$7,300
Associate Civil Engineer	0.1	1.0	\$2,900	\$5,700	Sales Tax	\$8,600
Engineering Technician	0.65	1.0	\$32,200	\$20,500	Sales Tax	\$52,700

**Amount of Request:** \$1,351,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$378,800

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 28.04%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$39,900

**As a % of the total request:** 2.95%

**Easement Stewardship:** -

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** -

**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?**

All grading and hydraulic structure will be eliminated from the project. The focus of the project will be land acquisition and temporary vegetation establishment. Once land acquisition is completed final design will be completed to determine where permanent vegetation can be installed prior to full project implementation.

**Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:**

Sales Tax. Mankato's sales tax is authorized to address regional recreation projects and water quality improvements. This project provides habitat that support recreational activities and at full developed water quality improvements which is a secondary outcome for this funding source.

**Contracts**

**What is included in the contracts line?**

Seeding and vegetation establishment of the acquired lands.

**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	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	42	58	0	0	100
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>

**Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$587,300	\$763,700	-	-	\$1,351,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$587,300</b>	<b>\$763,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,351,000</b>

**Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	100	0	100
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>

**Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$1,351,000	-	\$1,351,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,351,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,351,000</b>

**Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$13,983	\$13,167	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

**Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-

Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	\$13,510	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

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

Minnesota River 5.77 miles

### Outcomes

#### Programs in prairie region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *Wetland monitoring will take place for a minimum of 3 years, and up to 10 years, depending on the types of wetlands established. This will determine the number of final acres that are restored within the wetland complex. Additional partnering may be practical with MnDNR to introduce select species of wildlife to this area depending on the final configuration of the ecosystem.*

## Parcels

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

### Parcel Information

#### Sign-up Criteria?

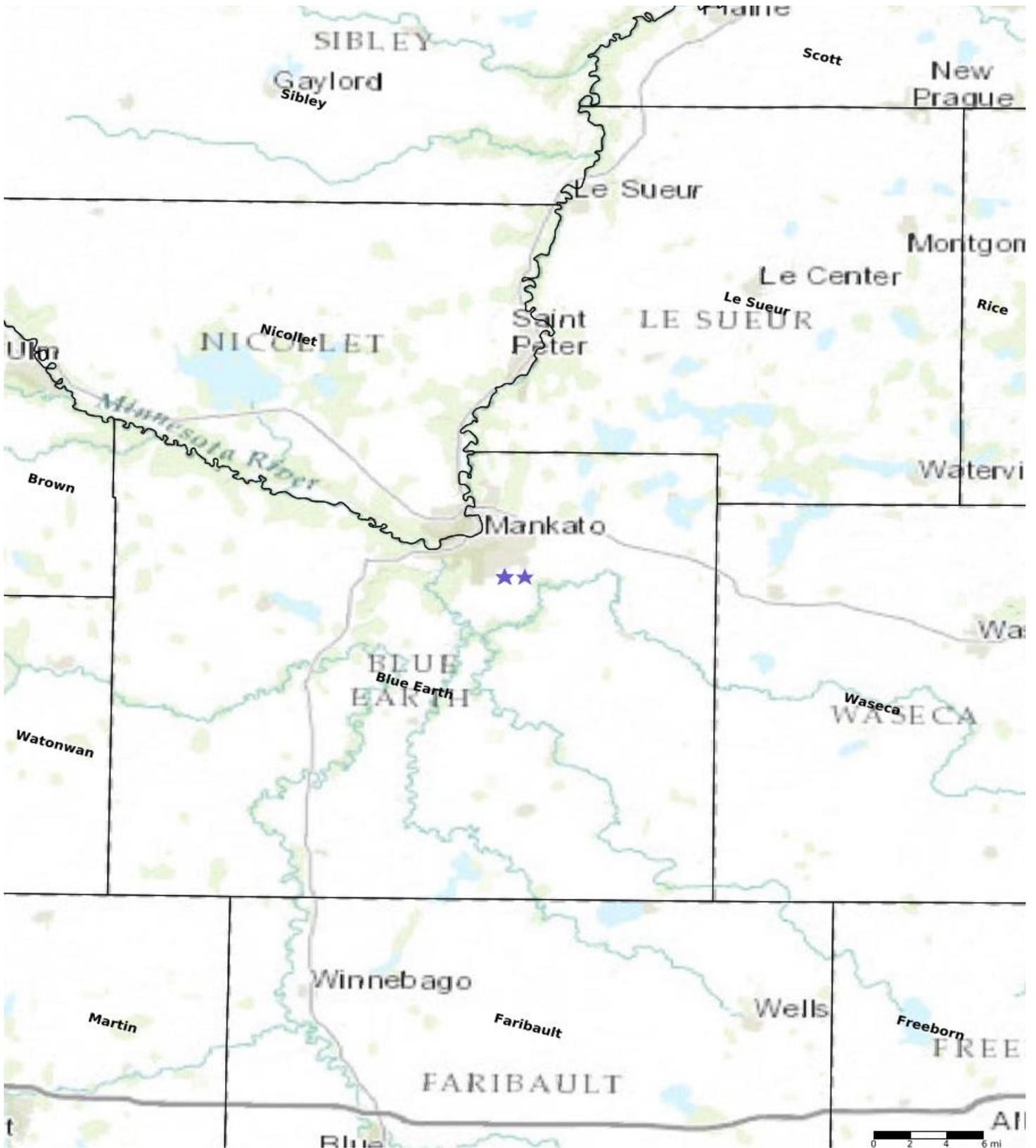
No

**Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:**

### Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
R43.09.29.400.004	Blue Earth	10826229	40	\$400,000	No
R43.09.28.300.002	Blue Earth	10826228	10	\$100,000	No
R43.09.29.400.001	Blue Earth	10826229	20	\$200,000	No
R43.09.29.300.003	Blue Earth	10826229	30	\$300,000	No

### Parcel Map



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