

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

## Fiscal Year 2022 / ML 2021 Request for Funding



**Date:** June 18, 2020

**Program or Project Title:** Southeast Wetland Restoration, Phase 2 (HRE06)

**Funds Requested:** \$2,494,200

**Manager's Name:** Michael McCarty

**Organization:** City of Mankato

**Address:** 10 Civic Center Plaza

**City:** Mankato, MN 56001

**Office Number:** 507-387-8643

**Mobile Number:** 507-317-0415

**Email:** mmccarty@mankatomn.gov

**County Locations:** Blue Earth

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

- Prairie

**Activity types:**

- Restore
- Enhance

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Habitat

### 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 proposal 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.

### **What is the degree of timing/opportunistic urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:**

This project is seen as a high priority for the City of Mankato. The restorable wetland complex forms the upper portion of the Indian Creek watershed and is in an area that is positioned for future urban development. This area has suffered large scale erosion, flooding and vegetation loss due to drainage of the wetland and continued manipulation of the landscape. The acquisition of this property will prevent it from being developed or further manipulated and will allow for the restoration of this wetland providing storage of water on the landscape. Storing water on the landscape will improve not only the wetland and upland habitats created, but aquatic habitats of the receiving stream as well.

### **Describe how the proposal 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 sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:**

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

### **Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:**

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

### **Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:**

This project is identified in the Blue Earth County Water Management Plan 2017-2026 Greenprint section and the value of the project to the regional ecosystem is recognized by the City of Mankato. Because of this the City has undertaken the initiative to secure outside funding to make implementation of this project possible. The project will provide benefits not only for wildlife through habitat creation, but will also be a major step in demonstrating the value of a project that will in the long term improve water quality and downstream habitats. The program aligns with the City's goals to be a steward of the natural and built environment and elevates the position of restored ecology for habitat, wildlife and overall ecosystem health at the river and the outle of the westland stream course.

## Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

### Prairie:

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

## Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

Land acquired for this project by the City of Mankato would be fee title with associated recorded funding restrictions. The City would take the extra step of placing additional restrictions, if necessary, on the property to ensure that it remains a natural area in perpetuity. By taking this step the City is demonstrating its commitment to maintain this unique habitat so that it can be enjoyed into the future. The establishment of this habitat will allow for sporting and outdoor recreational opportunities such as fishing, hunting, natural observation and educational activities. Such improvements will allow for generation to observe and appreciate nature in a setting that places it in harmony with agricultural production and urban development. The protection of this habitat and by demonstrating that that habitat and other land uses can exist in harmony it will help further an appreciation of the value of land in southern Minnesota and how it can support many positive outcomes.

## Relationship to other funds:

- Local Option Sales Tax

### Describe the relationship of the funds:

The City of Mankato has approval of local option sales tax that can be used for recreational projects of regional significance and projects that improve the storage and management of water on the landscape.

## Does this program include leverage in funds:

Yes

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, Any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the OHF must inform the LSOHC at the time of the request for funding is made, 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.

## Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
2018	City of Mankato Stormwater funds	\$402,591.34

## 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 addressed 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.

## Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

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

## Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

The habitat created with this project will support the plant and wildlife communities associated with type 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 wetlands and native prairie upland. Secondary effects of the project may include improvement in aquatic habitat in the receiving stream through the establishment of continuous base flow and the elimination of high flows followed by no flow.

## Activity Details

### Requirements:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

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 - **Yes**

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

### Land Use:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **No**

### Land Use:

Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC? - **Yes**

### Past appropriations and spending to date:

Appr Year	Approp Amount Received	Approp Amount Spent to Date	Leverage as Reported in AP/th>	Leverage Realized to Date	Total Acres Affected in AP	Total Acres Affected to Date	Program Complete and Final Report Approved?
2020	1351000	0	335000	0	0	0	No

## Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Final accomplishment plans approve - LSOHC	June 2021
Complete detailed design and construction documents	August 2021
Begin construction	September 2021
Final Completion	April 2022
Vegetation Management Activities	October 2022



# Budget Spreadsheet

**Total Amount of Request: \$2,494,200**

## Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$217,700	\$54,500	Local Option Sales Tax, Local Option Sales Tax, Local Option Sale Tax	\$272,200
Contracts	\$2,244,000	\$560,000	Local Option Sales Tax	\$2,804,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$25,000	\$7,500	Local Option Sales Tax	\$32,500
Direct Support Services	\$7,500	\$2,500	Local Option Sales Tax	\$10,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,494,200</b>	<b>\$624,500</b>		<b>\$3,118,700</b>

## Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Assistant City Engineer	0.25	1.50	\$44,200	\$11,100	Local Option Sales Tax	\$55,300
Senior Engineering Technician	0.50	1.50	\$63,800	\$16,000	Local Option Sales Tax	\$79,800
Engineering Technician	1.00	1.50	\$109,700	\$27,400	Local Option Sale Tax	\$137,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>4.50</b>	<b>\$217,700</b>	<b>\$54,500</b>		<b>\$272,200</b>

Amount of Request: \$2,494,200

Amount of Leverage: \$624,500

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 25.04%

DSS + Personnel: \$225,200

As a % of the total request: 9.03%

Easement Stewardship: \$0

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -%

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

Estimated on cost per FTE as a portion of the City of Mankato Public Works - Engineering budget. Costs include support from other City functional areas for IT support, payment processing and general government activities to support the Engineering Staff.

### What is included in the contracts line?

All work performed by contractors to construct water control structures, modify existing storm sewer piping, regrade impacted areas, seed and establish wetlands. Work includes grading, removing old ditch tile, installing new storm sewer pipe, control structure installation, seeding and vegetation establishment.

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

The leverage source is the City of Mankato's local options sales tax that was approved for regional water storage and regional recreational improvements. Approximately \$750,000 has been identified for this project.

### Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes

Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the "economy of scale" and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:

This project has the ability to be broken into phases. Phases include (1) grading, (2) hydraulic structures and (3) vegetation establishment. Due to the size and complexity of the project it would be beneficial to implement the project at one time.

**Has funding for these positions been requested in the past? - Yes**

**Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?**

Staff cost were requested in the past in anticipation of final design. Engineering design or construction was not part of the previous award and no staff costs were realized.

## Output Tables

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

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	28	58	0	0	86
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	0	0
Enhance	14	0	0	0	14
Total	42	58	0	0	100

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

Type	Native Prairie
Restore	86
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	14
Total	100

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

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$697,600	\$1,446,600	\$0	\$0	\$2,144,200
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	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$350,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350,000
Total	\$1,047,600	\$1,446,600	\$0	\$0	\$2,494,200

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	86	0	86
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	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	14	0	14
Total	0	0	0	100	0	100

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,144,200	\$0	\$2,144,200
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,494,200	\$0	\$2,494,200



**Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$24,914	\$24,941	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$24,933	\$0
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	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$0

*Automatic system calculation / not entered by managers*

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

Indian Creek, Blue Earth River, Minnesota River (0, 2.4,3.5 miles)

I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

## 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.*

# Parcel List

## Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:

The Blue Earth County Waterplan, Green Print section identified drained, restorable wetlands within the county. The average annual surface water elevation of the restored wetland was also calculated. The upland buffer was determined to be all land that would be 4 feet above the water surface elevation. This determination was made so that any drain tile that currently drain to this wetland would continue to have a free tail water and not be impacted by the restoration of the wetland. The parcels listed below contain both restoration areas and upland areas and portions of the parcels are needed to accomplish the project. Based on final negotiations with landowners, partial parcels may not be desired to be sold and full parcel acquisition may be required. The minimum parcel acquisition for the project is provided. Property owners are aware of this project.

## Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

### Blue Earth

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

## Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

### Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

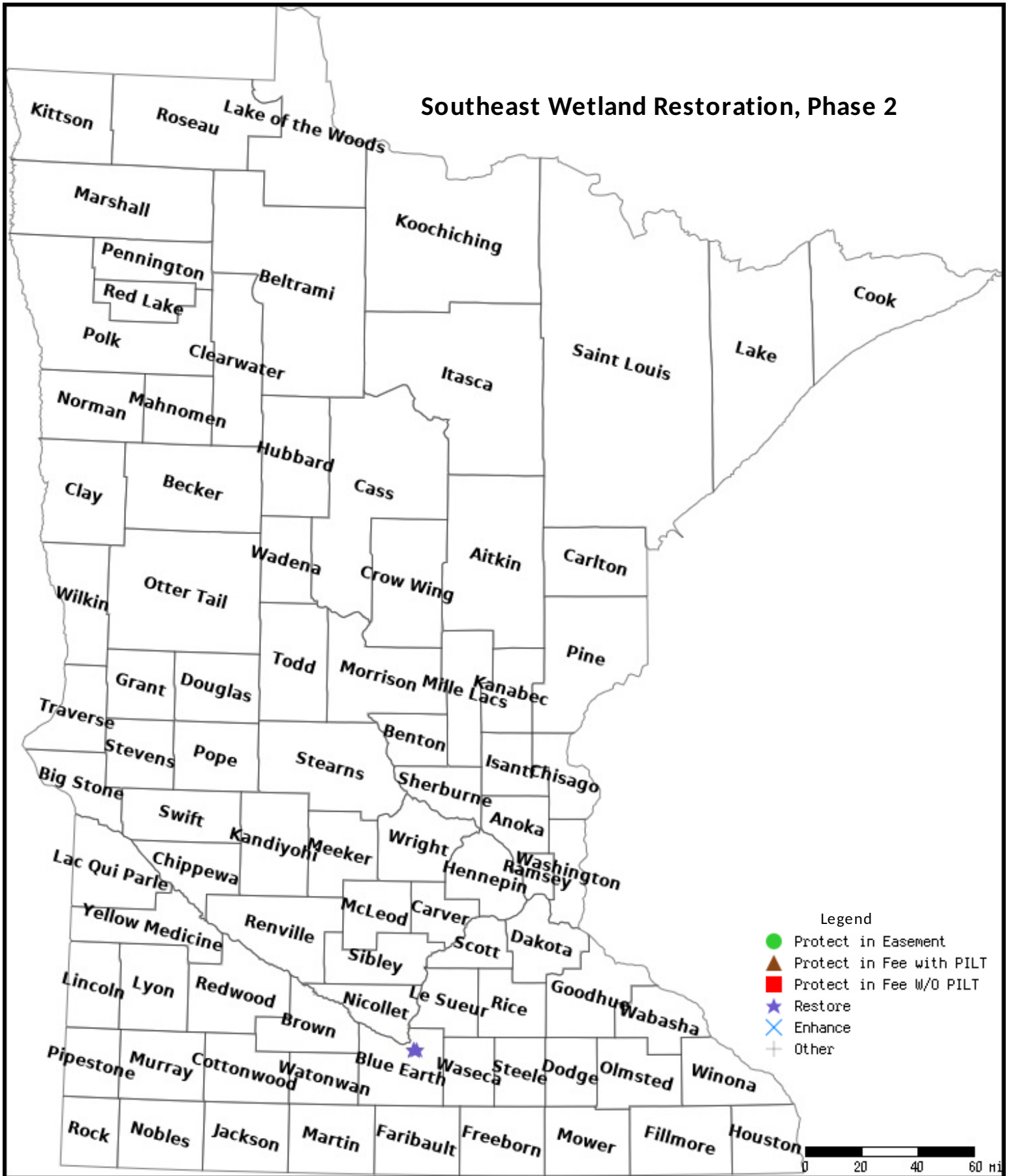
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

## Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

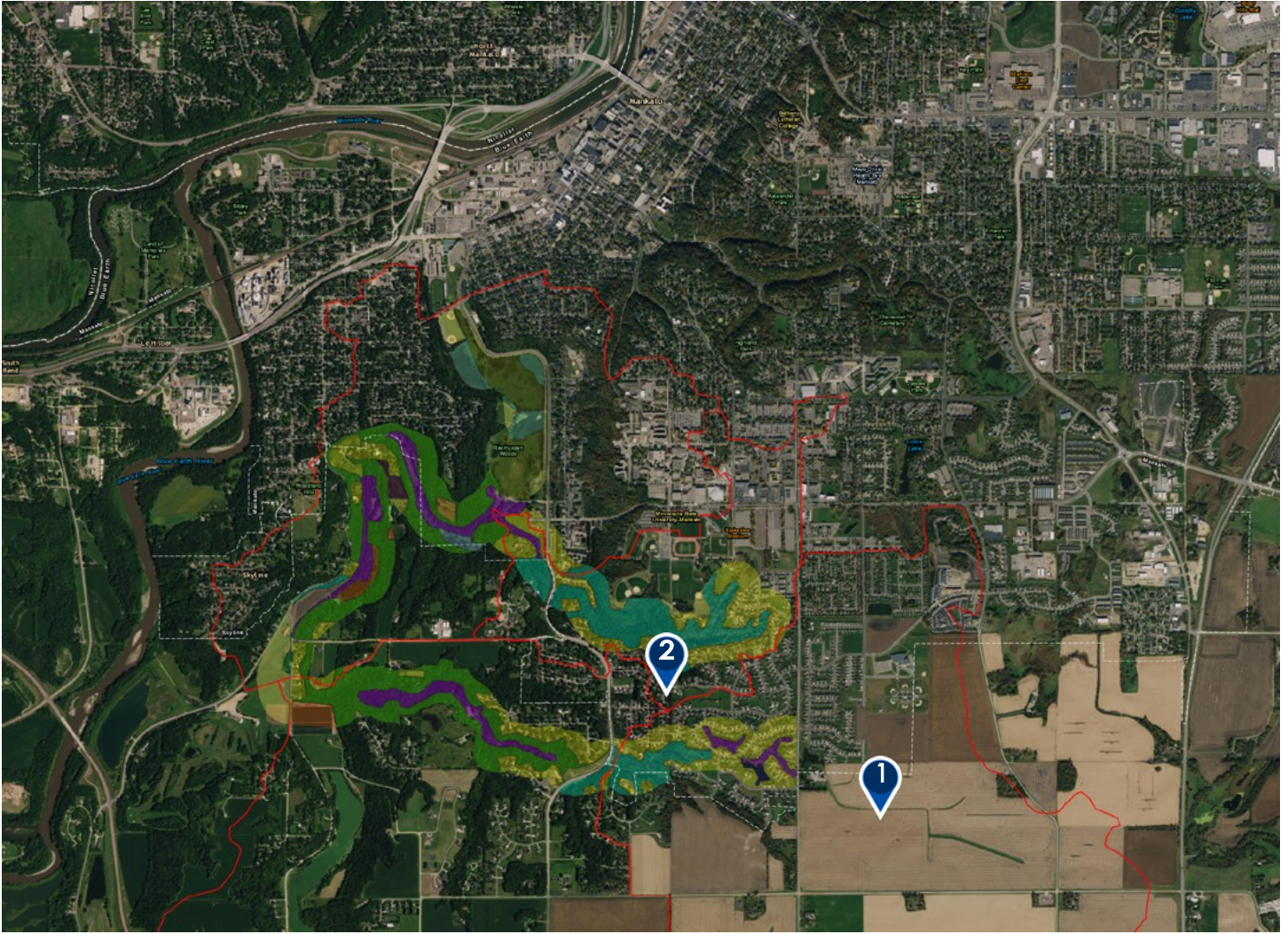
# Parcel Map

## Southeast Wetland Restoration, Phase 2



Data Generated From Parcel List





## Indian Creek Watershed

### Wetland restoration

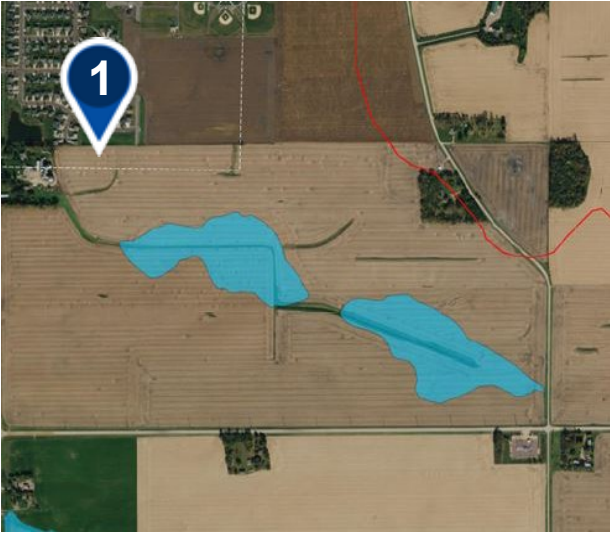
#### Step 1 : Development method of storing water on the land

- Hydrologic & Hydraulic Analysis of Watershed
- Field Investigation & Documentation of Current Conditions
- GIS Database Development
- Preliminary Design of Wetland Improvements

#### Step 2: Phased improvements

- Phase **1** Wetland and habitat restoration
- Phase **2** Aquatic habitat improvements





## **WETLAND CREATION/RESTORATION – UPSTREAM OF MONKS AVENUE**

The existing drainage patterns and agricultural land use provide an opportunity for wetland restoration along a former wetland that was converted to a drainage ditch at the upstream area of the Indian Creek Watershed. These improvement will create wetland/upland complex that will provide a wide variety of habitat and sporting and recreational opportunities.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR  
THE LESSARD – SAMS OUTDOOR HERITAGE COUNCIL OUTDOOR  
HERITAGE FUND FOR THE SOUTHEAST WATER QUALITY PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) is charged with making annual recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature for appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF); and

**WHEREAS**, the council currently estimates approximately \$100 million will be available for appropriation recommendations from the OHF in fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022); and

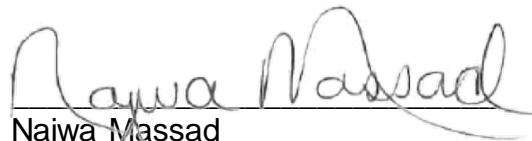
**WHEREAS**, the Call for Funding Request is open to all who want to apply, with an application deadline of May 28, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, city staff have determined Southeast Water Quality Project may qualify for funding under this program and will prepared the required proposal and supporting documentation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council for the City of Mankato that the City Manager be and hereby is authorized to execute and submit a proposal for funding to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and without further publication.

Dated this 26th day of May 2020

  
Najwa Massad  
Mayor

Attest:   
Renae Kopischke  
City Clerk