



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program - Phase 3 Laws of Minnesota 2023 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 12/02/2024

Project Title: Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program - Phase 3

Funds Recommended: \$4,649,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2023, Ch. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(a)

Appropriation Language: \$4,649,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat in Hennepin County as follows: \$1,687,000 to Hennepin County and \$2,962,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. \$216,000 of the amount 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 permanent conservation easements, restorations, and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

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Location Information

County Location(s): Hennepin.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Enhance

- Restore
- Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

In partnership, Hennepin County and Minnesota Land Trust, will permanently protect, through conservation easement, 246 acres of the most important natural areas remaining in the county. We will also initiate habitat improvement activities on 513 acres of protected habitat.

Intense development pressure is a persistent threat to remaining habitat and undeveloped land in Hennepin County. This grant will allow this partnership to continue implementation of the conservation actions taken through Outdoor Heritage Fund grants awarded in 2018 and 2021 and keep up with high landowner demand.

Design and Scope of Work

The Twin Cities metro area is rapidly losing ecologically significant and floristically diverse habitat as land development pressure increases. MET Council estimates open space in Hennepin County to decline by 14,000 acres by 2040, resulting in immediate consequences for Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) which rely on critical habitats in Hennepin County.

Since 2018, Hennepin County and Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) have been awarded \$4.6 million from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to support the goals of the Habitat Conservation Program (HCP). Across both phases, the partners have completed acquisition of 182 acres of easement, have an additional 364 acres poised for completion, and habitat improvement activities have been initiated on 76 acres of protected land. Phase 1 grant funds have been fully encumbered and will be spent by June 30, 2023.

HCP promotion, outreach, and proposal solicitation efforts have resulted in consistent landowner inquiries and high-quality easement opportunities. Easement projects in development will soon exhaust Phase 2 protection funding. Phase 3 funding is necessary to continue accepting and developing new projects and maintain program momentum.

The sophistication of our tools and our approach has grown along with our experience doing this work including:

- In-depth modeling of the entire county to identify priority focus areas.
- A growing focus on easement acquisitions with a restoration focus. Our interest in protecting the best remaining habitat remains, and we will continue to pursue those opportunities. We also know that buffering and connecting those areas and capitalizing on opportunities to create new habitat, is necessary and strategic to creating contiguous core habitat and corridors.
- New engagement and communication strategies devoted to connecting meaningfully with easement landowners and the public with the goal of instilling an understanding of each individual's unique role in lifelong stewardship of natural resources.
- A biological monitoring program to inventory wildlife and plant communities, measure and evaluate habitat improvement actions and inform adaptive management priorities, and report back meaningfully on the impact of our program's work on the species that use the protected and improved habitat.

During the period of 2020-2040, Hennepin County plans to add 6,000 acres of permanently protected habitat; resulting in permanent protection of 41 percent (or 24,600 acres) of the best remaining natural areas and the restorable corridors. Combined with our anticipated Phase 1 & 2 outputs, we will be 9% of the way to that goal with this proposal.

The county will continue to work with MLT, watershed organizations, cities, park districts, MN DNR, NPS, and USFWS to identify easement opportunities and build connections. MLT will bring the experience of its land protection and legal team to negotiate the purchase of conservation easements. 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 located in the Big Woods Subsection of Minnesota and is home to remnants of deciduous forests, oak savannas, prairies, rivers, streams, lakes, 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. Some of the county's remaining natural resources include remnant maple-basswood forest, oak woodlands, floodplain forest, oak savannas, bluff prairie, rich and poor peatlands like fens and tamarack bogs, and shallow lakes, all of which are critically essential habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Hennepin County is home to over 350 species of migratory and breeding birds like trumpeter swans and common loons and multiple occurrences of rare animal assemblages like rookeries. Many Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) would be impacted by this proposal including dozens of rare invertebrates like the regal fritillary butterfly and monarchs and a variety of rare vertebrate species like Blanding's turtles, cerulean warblers, mudpuppies, least darters, and several species of rare and declining bats. Additionally, many rare and sensitive plant community types occur in Hennepin County which support rare plants and fungi including kitten-tails and several rare orchids. Wildlife on the federal list of endangered and threatened species that can be found in Hennepin County and that would be impacted by this proposal include the northern long-eared bat, Higgin's eye pearly mussel, and the rusty-patched bumble bee.

Our rigorous selection criteria and scoring methodology considers 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 habitats comprised primarily of native vegetation that have not been significantly altered. 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. Additionally, the county has employed zonation modeling to further specify targeted conservation areas.

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 private property 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 quantifiably evaluated using ecological factors including but not limited to 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 ~ *With this request, 246 acres of the county's best remaining habitat will be permanently protected, buffered, and connected through 5-9 easement projects, and 513 more acres will be significantly improved through restoration or enhancement. To measure program impacts and inform adaptive management, Hennepin County staff initiated a biological monitoring program in 2022. Biomonitoring efforts include relevé plots and transect surveys for birds and plants as well as wildlife surveys for pollinators, aquatic*

invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. By 2027, 5 years of data from this effort will be available to begin evaluating the efficacy of HCP work.

Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

Hennepin County will provide a portion of the staff time required to complete grant deliverables, 2.5 FTE staff time over the course of the grant with an estimated value of \$526,500. Hennepin County will also provide an estimated \$192,000 cash toward costs associated with easement acquisition.

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 (\$224,000) is a conservative estimate of what we expect from landowners. 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, Cities, and the Minnesota Waterfowl Association will be engaged as a restoration partner 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
NA	Hennepin County, MPCA, MDH, landowner (special project to restore and conservation easement)	\$180,000
NA	Hennepin County (operating budget for natural resources program 2003-2016)	\$180,000
NA	Hennepin County (Stewardship funds for easements co-held with MLT)	\$54,000
NA	Hennepin County (1 FTE Natural Resource Specialist, 2003-2021)	\$1,995,000
NA	City of Bloomington, City of Plymouth, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (for Natural Resources Inventory)	\$160,000
2006	LCCMR (for Natural Resources Inventory)	\$80,000

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 co-holds 10 conservation easements with MLT, holds or co-holds 11 other perpetual easements, and manages 21 perpetual RIM and flowage easements and 17 perpetual PWP easements.

To ensure that the protected resources will be managed to support biological integrity, Habitat Management Plans and Action Plans are developed for each conservation easement and habitat improvement 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. The County will also continue to work with MLT, its 11 watershed organizations, 45 cities, two park districts, the MN DNR, NPS, and USFWS to maintain and build landowner connections.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2021-2029	Hennepin County Solid Waste Enterprise Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Establishment of project specific habitat improvement standards •Biomonitoring pre and post habitat improvement project actions 	Make adaptive management changes as needed to meet habitat improvement performance standards	Ongoing biomonitoring of easements and habitat improvement projects to assess wildlife and plant communities and ensure objectives are sustained
2024 (and in perpetuity)	MLT Stewardship & Enforcement Fun; Hennepin County Enterprise Fund	Annual Monitoring of property in perpetuity	Enforcement as needed	-

Provide an assessment of how your program celebrates cultural diversity or reaches diverse communities in Minnesota, including reaching low- and moderate-income households:

Hennepin County and the Minnesota Land Trust share commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion as a core value.

One relevant Hennepin County example of this is the Tree Trek Nature Trail. This experiential learning project was developed by county staff in partnership with the Voyageur Environmental Center, a property owned and operated by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities, and adjacent to a complex of land protected under conservation easement using Phase 1 & 2 HCP funding. This is an in-person and online (developed during the COVID-19 pandemic) opportunity for Boys and Girls Club participants and the community to learn about the trees, ecology, and natural history of the Big Woods. It has become a favorite experience of campers and tool for Voyageur staff.

Another example is a HCP Phase 1 prairie restoration effort along the Mississippi River at River Park in the City of Brooklyn Park. Objectives of this project are to create a diverse native prairie example in an underserved urban community, and to improve pollinator and wildlife habitat. We hope to work with the city and project partner USFWS to increase educational opportunities and signage in the future.

The biological monitoring program being piloted in 2022 and 2023 is also an important element to engage the public more broadly in HCP work. In particular, we intend to collect engaging images and video of the critters using protected habitat to help promote greater awareness of the incredible biodiversity that exists in Hennepin County.

Land Trust examples include projects to protect the camps and nature centers serving diverse Minnesota youth and a partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa on wild rice restoration. Going forward, the partners intend to use diversity, equity, and inclusion as a lens in project and contractor selection.

The Land Trust is exploring an "Ambassador Lands Program" which would connect willing conservation landowners to diverse community groups that need access for programming like youth mentor hunts, cultural or ceremonial use, and more. This would add to the variety of universal public benefits of conserved lands.

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?

Management of the easements will involve both Hennepin County and the MLT. MLT and Hennepin County will coordinate to ensure annual inspections are completed to manage and mitigate for potential violations and encroachments.

Who will be the easement holder?

Easements will be co-held by Hennepin County and MLT.

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

Anticipated number of easements we plan to accomplish under this appropriation is 5-9, depending on size and cost.

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
- Other : Fee-title or easement area associated with Watersheds (e.g., WD and WMO) and Park Districts

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?

Yes

Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:

The purpose of the Hennepin County Conservation Program is to protect and restore/enhance existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration.

In cases where there are agricultural lands (hayfields, row crops, pasture, specialty crops) associated with the larger property, we will either exclude the agricultural area from the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may target agricultural lands for restoration purposes.

Existing cropped acres are not included in the easement value paid to landowners.

Additionally, crops like turnips may be planted within easements as part of habitat improvement activities (allowable based on Habitat Management Plan recommendations and co-holder approval) to improve soils and prepare areas for successful native seeding.

Will the eased land be open for public use?

No

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the proposed acquisitions?

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.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition?

Yes

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

No

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

Yes

Habitat improvement of recently acquired easements is a high priority. We will utilize available funds from this appropriation and previous phases to accomplish prioritized habitat improvement work.

Will the land that you acquire (fee or easement) be restored or enhanced within this program's funding and availability?

Yes

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Restoration & enhancement of new conservation easements: 1) select projects; 2) draft restoration plan and performance standards and pre-activity monitoring, 3) perform habitat improvement activities; 4) post activity monitoring; 5) adaptive management and additional restoration activities as needed to meet performance standards	June 2027
Restoration & enhancement of existing permanently protected areas: 1) select projects; 2) draft restoration plan and performance standards and pre-activity monitoring, 3) perform habitat improvement activities; 4) post activity monitoring; 5) adaptive management and additional restoration activities as needed to meet performance standards	June 2027
Acquire conservation easements: 1) identify landowners; 2) negotiate, draft, and complete easements; 3) dedicate fund for stewardship	June 2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2027

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

(a) 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. Money appropriated to acquire land in fee 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.

(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:

- (1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2027;
- (2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this act is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2031;
- (3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2028;
- (4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match 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; and
- (5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

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	\$486,500	\$526,500	NA, Hennepin County	\$1,013,000
Contracts	\$1,380,300	-	-	\$1,380,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$2,244,000	\$224,000	-, Landowners	\$2,468,000
Easement Stewardship	\$216,000	\$192,000	-, Hennepin County	\$408,000
Travel	\$8,000	-	-	\$8,000
Professional Services	\$186,000	-	-	\$186,000
Direct Support Services	\$103,200	-	-	\$103,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	\$23,000	-	-	\$23,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$4,649,000	\$942,500	-	\$5,591,500

Partner: Hennepin County**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$283,500	\$526,500	Hennepin County	\$810,000
Contracts	\$1,332,300	-	-	\$1,332,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	\$192,000	Hennepin County	\$192,000
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$48,200	-	-	\$48,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$23,000	-	-	\$23,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,687,000	\$718,500	-	\$2,405,500

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Natural Resources Specialist	1.5	4.0	\$283,500	\$526,500	Hennepin County	\$810,000

Partner: MN Land Trust**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$203,000	-	NA	\$203,000
Contracts	\$48,000	-	-	\$48,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$2,244,000	\$224,000	Landowners	\$2,468,000
Easement Stewardship	\$216,000	-	-	\$216,000
Travel	\$8,000	-	-	\$8,000
Professional Services	\$186,000	-	-	\$186,000
Direct Support Services	\$55,000	-	-	\$55,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$2,962,000	\$224,000	-	\$3,186,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Land Protection Staff	0.51	4.0	\$203,000	-	NA	\$203,000

Amount of Request: \$4,649,000**Amount of Leverage:** \$942,500**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 20.27%**DSS + Personnel:** \$589,700**As a % of the total request:** 12.68%**Easement Stewardship:** \$216,000**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 9.63%**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?**

Project outcomes were adjusted to reflect the appropriation recommendation. Project and acreage outcomes are less than the original proposal and reflect reduced economy of scale. Budget was split between partners proportional to original proposal.

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.

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?

Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

In general, we would expect that acres and number of projects would be reduced a bit more than proportionately, as necessary to accommodate fixed administrative, outreach/marketing and other costs (see below).

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

Most personnel and DSS costs are directly project related, however, administrative and outreach/marketing costs are somewhat fixed. There is an economy of scale to doing more projects per appropriation. Personnel and DSS expenses would be reduced a bit less than proportionately, about 20-25%.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?

Yes

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

Hennepin County will manage \$1,332,300 worth of restoration and enhancement activities under contracts with restoration partners. Another \$48,000 will be managed by the Land Trust for various needs related to easement development like Habitat Management Plans.

Easement Stewardship

What is the number of easements anticipated, cost per easement for stewardship, and explain how that amount is calculated?

The program budget is built around the closing of up to 9 conservation easements. The average cost per easement to fund the Minnesota Land Trust's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$24,000. This figure is derived from MLT's detailed stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards. MLT shares periodic updates to this cost analysis with LSOHC staff.

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:

Yes

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.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?

Field safety gear, GPS units, etc.

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	-	-	-	195	195
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	246	246
Enhance	-	-	-	318	318
Total	-	-	-	759	759

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	\$742,300	\$742,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$2,962,000	\$2,962,000
Enhance	-	-	-	\$944,700	\$944,700
Total	-	-	-	\$4,649,000	\$4,649,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	195	-	-	-	-	195
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	246	-	-	-	-	246
Enhance	318	-	-	-	-	318
Total	759	-	-	-	-	759

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	\$742,300	-	-	-	-	\$742,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$2,962,000	-	-	-	-	\$2,962,000
Enhance	\$944,700	-	-	-	-	\$944,700
Total	\$4,649,000	-	-	-	-	\$4,649,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	\$3,806
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$12,040
Enhance	-	-	-	\$2,970

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	\$3,806	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$12,040	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$2,970	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

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:

See sign-up criteria.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

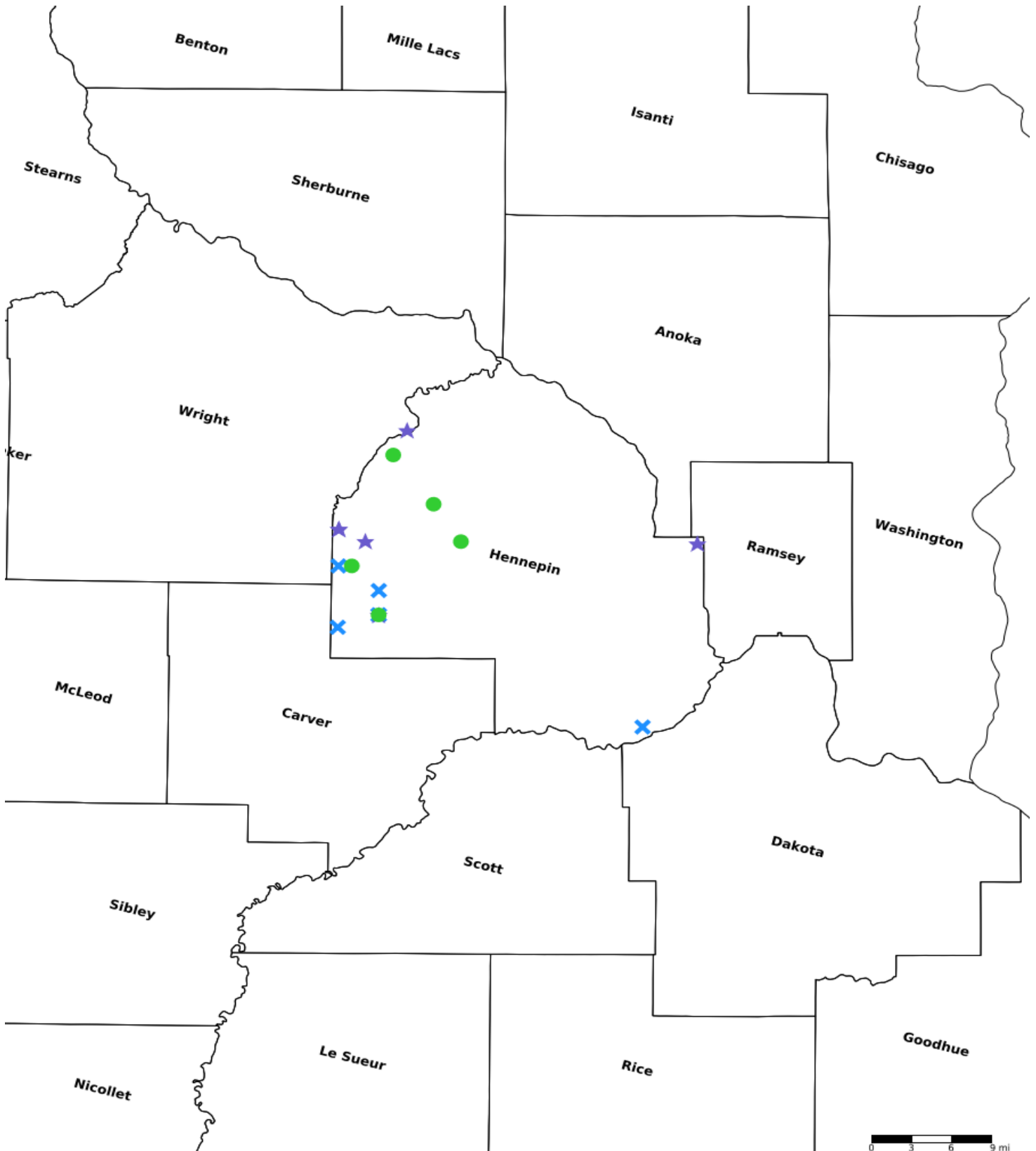
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
City of Bloomington Central Park - Forest Restoration - Part 2	Hennepin	02724221	3	\$3,000	Yes	Reforestation of city nature park that experienced canopy loss from EAB. Work will involve canopy enhancement and invasive species management.
Crow River Conservation Easement (Mavco) - Forest Restoration - Part 1	Hennepin	12024236	3	\$8,000	Yes	Reforestation along the bluffs of the Crow River on a Hennepin County Conservation easement.
Lake Independence (Kirwin-McGray) Easement - Prairie Restoration - Part 6	Hennepin	11824216	5	\$35,000	Yes	Prairie and Oak Savanna Restoration in old field areas of a co-held MLT and Hennepin County conservation easement
Lake Rebecca (Ahrendt) Easement - Prairie Restoration - Part 2	Hennepin	11824207	31	\$110,000	Yes	Restoration of existing grasslands/hay to high diversity native prairie. Targeting creation of quality habitat for pollinators and bobolinks.
Lake Rebecca (Ahrendt) Easement - Wetland Restoration - Part 1	Hennepin	11824207	2	\$20,000	Yes	Restoration of several drained wetlands within a co-held MLT and Hennepin County conservation easement
Lake Sarah (Slavec) Easement - Prairie Enhancement - Part 4	Hennepin	11824230	2	\$5,000	Yes	Prescribed burn to control invasive species and increase native forbs on a Co-held MLT and Hennepin County conservation easement.
Little Long Lake (Otterson) Easement - Forest Enhancement - Part 2	Hennepin	11724215	2	\$25,000	Yes	Floristic diversity enhancement of maple-basswood forest ground cover and spring ephemerals on a co-held MLT and Hennepin County conservation easement.
Little Long Lake (Otterson) Easement - Forest Restoration - Part 2	Hennepin	11724215	1	\$4,500	Yes	Reforestation of forest clearing/openings on a Hennepin County and MLT co-held easement.

Little Long Lake (Staunton) Easement - Forest Enhancement - Part 3	Hennepin	11724215	4	\$65,000	Yes	Floristic diversity enhancement of maple-basswood forest ground cover and spring ephemerals on a co-held MLT and Hennepin County conservation easement.
Painter Creek (Davis) Easements - Forest Enhancement - Part 1	Hennepin	11724203	32	\$85,000	Yes	Invasive species management of maple basswood forest located on a co-held MLT and Hennepin County conservation easement.
Prairie Hill (Clark) Easement - Forest Enhancement - Part 2	Hennepin	11724219	6	\$25,000	Yes	Initial invasive species management of big woods forest on a protected co-held MLT and Hennepin County conservation easement.
Saint Anthony Village - Silver Point and Central Park - Pollinator Habitat	Hennepin	02923206	1	\$80,000	Yes	Pollinator habitat creation at two public parks in Saint Anthony village. Project will include robust outreach and education to reach public and demonstrate native prairie habitat in a more urban environment. Methods will also be more time intensive to reduce use of herbicide.

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Crow River (S)	Hennepin	11924211	15	\$50,000	No
Little Long Lake (TVS)	Hennepin	11724215	40	\$300,000	No
MLT- Elm Creek	Hennepin	11823215	49	\$294,000	No
MLT- Jubert Lake	Hennepin	11923232	41	\$246,000	No
MLT- Pioneer Creek	Hennepin	11824229	27	\$145,800	No

Parcel Map



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