



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 8
Laws of Minnesota 2023 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 12/21/2022

Project Title: Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 8

Funds Recommended: \$3,181,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2023, Ch. X, Article 2, Section 2, subd

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Wiley Buck

Title: Senior Program Manager

Organization: Great River Greening

Address: 251 Starkey Street Ste 2200

City: Saint Paul, MN 55107

Email: wbuck@greatrivergreening.org

Office Number: 651-665-9500

Mobile Number: 651-318-8667

Fax Number:

Website: greatrivergreening.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Sherburne and Anoka.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The Anoka Sand Plain (ASP) Partnership will protect 164 acres through conservation easement, restore/enhance 445 acres of Prairie/Oak Savanna, Wetland, Habitat, and Woodland/Forest, including rescue and relocation of 11,000 rare plants, at sites centered around the DNR's ASP ecoregion. Our actions will increase biodiversity, habitat connectivity, recreational opportunities, and landscape resilience, which align with the ASP Partnership's 10-year Strategic Plan, DNR Wildlife Action Plan and LSOHC Section priorities. GRG, ACD, MLT, NWTF, and SherbCo Parks are direct recipients, with significant match from NWTF, ENRTF, landowner donation, volunteers, LGUs, and private donations.

Design and Scope of Work

The ASP Partnership project boundary is defined by the DNR's ASP ecological subsection and its intersecting minor watersheds, which captures portions of the Metropolitan Urbanizing, Forest/Prairie Transition, and Northern Forest LSOHC sections. Our project boundary is a marvelously complex mosaic of habitats, home to quality prairie and savanna, wetlands, fire-dependent forests and woodlands, large habitat cores, designated wild and scenic rivers, and a high concentration of rare species. The amount of high quality remnant habitat in the ASP is remarkable given its proximity to Twin Cities and St. Cloud urban cores. While the location of the ASP provides easy access for the majority of Minnesotans, the associated stressors- invasive species, development pressure, and conversion- threaten its sustainability. The need for continuing and accelerating conservation action here is urgent.

The diversity in this rich and important habitat mosaic, complemented by its close proximity to most Minnesotans, is reflected in the number and diversity of organizations that identify the area as a priority, combining our specific knowledge and stakeholder engagement to join forces for its conservation. The robust ASP Partnership is committed to protecting, restoring, and enhancing this spectacular region so it can continue to provide vital habitat, invaluable ecological services, and high-quality recreational and engagement opportunities. Bringing clarity and focus to our Phase 8 and all of our work in this complex area is the science-based ASP Partnership's 10-year Strategic Plan, used to identify priority habitats, opportunities, centers of biodiversity, and a plan of action with measurable goals.

With this funding, Great River Greening (GRG), Anoka Conservation District (ACD), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), and Sherburne County Parks (SherbCo Parks) will secure conservation easements on 164 acres to expand habitat cores and corridors, and complete restoration and enhancement (R/E) on 445 protected acres. Habitats include prairie/savanna grasslands, woodland, and non-forested peat wetlands.

Results will be achieved by easement protection of ecologically significant habitats and by conducting invasive species and woody encroachment removal, prescribed burning and conservation grazing, thinning, seeding, and planting. This includes the continuation of a Rare Plant Rescue program to rescue and relocate 11,000 rare plants that would otherwise be destroyed by development, conducting habitat enhancement on protected lands with rare species populations and Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) habitat, and seeding 120 acres to prairie. Our program will create and improve critical habitat by increasing biodiversity and landscape resilience. It will

also benefit water quality and quantity, improve community resiliency, and increase recreational opportunities including R/E engagement.

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 Anoka Sand Plain serves as a refuge for many globally unique species and rare plant communities, including roughly one-third of Minnesota's listed rare plant and animals, and 97 known or predicted Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and 131 federally or state endangered, threatened, or special concern. The Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) ranks 72,000 acres in the ASP as Outstanding or High Biodiversity. This proposal addresses LSOHC and Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) priorities by protecting and restoring/enhancing oak savanna, prairie, riparian, woodlands, and non-forested wetlands.

We will complete 164 acres of conservation easements protection on priority lands, and R/E on 270 acres of prairie/savanna grasslands, 45 acres of non-forested wetlands/peatlands, 2 acres of habitat, and 128 acres of woodland.

In previous phases, we have conducted activities on sites with hosting scores of the following species as mapped by Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), and will continue to do so in Phase 8, as well as a numerous acres with significant biodiversity .

STATE THREATENED/ENDANGERED/SPECIAL CONCERN (T/E/SC) SPECIES

PLANTS: Small-leaved Pussytoes, Slimspike Three-awn, Yellow Bartonnia, Kitten-tails, Blunt Sedge, Hill's Thistle, Water-willow, Autumn Fimbry, Rhombic Evening Primrose, American Ginseng, Tubercled Rein Orchid, Cross-leaved Milkwort, Toothcup, Swamp Blackberry, Clinton's Bulrush, Lance-leaf Violet, Twisted Yellow-eyed Grass, Bristle-berry, Cowbane (watchlist). 11,000 specimens total will be successfully translocated to protected habitats through Rare Plant Rescue Phase 2 program.

BIRDS: Red-shouldered Hawk, Lark Sparrow, Acadian Flycatcher, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler

MAMMALS: Northern Long-eared Bat, Plains Pocket Mouse

REPTILES: Blanding's Turtle, Plains Hog-nosed Snake, Gophersnake

INVERTEBRATES: Rusty-patched Bumble Bee, Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle, Leonard's Skipper, Uncas Skipper, *Pelegrina arizonensis* (A Jumping Spider)

In addition, in this program we will continue the ASP Partnership's success at conserving priority habitat as identified in WAP for SGCN species listed above and below, found in our project boundary.

ADDITIONAL SGCN SPECIES

BIRDS: American Bittern, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern Towhee, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Field Sparrow, Golden-winged Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker

MAMMALS: American Badger

REPTILES: Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, Smooth Greensnake

INVERTEBRATES: Dusted Skipper

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:

The ASP Partnership 10 - Year Strategic Plan utilizes multiple-criteria GIS analyses to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat connectivity, SGCN, biodiversity, and native plant communities. Data layers include: 1. Top 95% of SGCN population composite 2. Good or excellent populations of state or federally endangered and threatened species 3. Richness hotspots falling outside the top 95% of populations 4. Marxan outputs from the Scientific and Natural Area strategic plan 5. Sites of Biodiversity Significance that intersect with Marxan outputs 6. Native plant communities: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Division of Ecological and Water Resources – Biological Survey. MNDNR Native Plant Communities. 2014.

The sites and conservation actions included in this proposal will combat the threats of habitat fragmentation, degradation and invasive species and improve habitat core complexes. These items were identified in WAP, Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan (SCPP), and Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25-Year Framework as the priority actions needed to address significant challenges facing SGCN and landscape resilience in the ASP region.

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?

Forest / Prairie Transition

- Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie

Metro / Urban

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

Northern Forest

- Restore and enhance habitat on existing protected properties, with preference to habitat for rare, endangered, or threatened species identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey

Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

The ASP Partnership draws on a variety of leverage sources, underscoring the diversity of stakeholders willing to contribute to the conservation improvement in our project boundary. Below is line-item description of anticipated leverage.

\$10K, NWTF Super Fund, cash

\$6K, LGU to be determined, cash

\$10K, Anoka County Parks, in-kind staff time and supplies

\$5K, Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve (CCESR), in-kind staff time and supplies

\$2K, Critical Connections Ecological Services (CCES), in-kind staff time and supplies

\$5K, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, in-kind toward supplies and labor, for Rare Plant Rescue Phase 2 program.

\$13.6K, Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) ML22 'Engaging a Diverse Public in Environmental Stewardship' cash toward travel, supplies, labor for targeted outreach and recruitment

\$5K, Volunteers, in-kind

\$2K, City of Anoka Parks, in-kind staff time and supplies

\$136K Through its market-based RFP process, the Minnesota Land Trust expects private landowners to donate at least \$127,000 in easement value toward the program, which is shown as leverage.

\$110.4K Non-realized portion of DSS from partner organizations, in-kind from private and public funds

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 to LSOHC for Outdoor Heritage Fund support does not supplant any other sources of funds. In all cases, this proposal and the projects to be completed accelerate regional habitat work in the ASP Partnership Phase 8 project boundary.

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2021	GRG- Sherburne Savanna - NWR Staff Time for Assessment and Planning, estimated	\$10,000
various	Sherburne Co Parks - Big Elk Lake Acquisition. Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission.	\$2,390,000

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

The ASP Partnership is committed to working with respective land management agencies and owners, and conservation organizations in an on-going basis to identify and procure financial resources for maintaining these improvements as needed.

Land protected through MLT conservation easements will be sustained through state-of-the-art standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship that includes annual 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. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget.

For R/E on existing protected land, site specific resource management plans will be developed/adopted to guide effective long-term management. All land managers benefitting from R/E and rare plant rescue sites must commit to the long-term maintenance of these sites. A principle management goal for each site is to elevate before grant close, to a threshold where on-going management costs are diminished. For the sites and programs that use volunteers, community volunteer engagement promotes an increase in community stakeholders. The no-spray enhancement project at Sherburne NWR will promote long term management with the use of livestock, aligned with agency directives.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2029	Sherburne County	Prescribed burn	Mechanical Cutting as needed	Prescribed burn
2029	City of Blaine (Rare Plant Recipient Site)	Prescribed burn	Spot herbicide treatment	Spot herbicide treatments
2029	Anoka County Parks	Prescribed burn	Spot herbicide treatment	-
2029	ACD Anoka Agriculture Preserves	Monitor every 2-3 years	Follow-up treatment	-
2029	DNR in-kind	Rx Burning	Spot herbicide treatment	-
2029	GRG in-kind	Monitoring every 2-3 years	Landowner engagement in mechanical removal	Prescribed burn, prescribed grazing
2028	MLT Long Term Stewardship and Enforcement Funds	Annual Monitoring of Easements	Enforcement as Necessary	-
2029	NWTF	Monitoring every 2-3 years	Land manager engagement	Spot treatment

How will the program directly involve, engage, and benefit BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and diverse communities:

Sherburne County Parks is partnering with Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Upper Sioux Community, and Lower Sioux Indian Community at Big Elk Lake, a sacred Native American site, elevating site reverence through restoration of native vegetation and planning.

ASP Partners have existing DEIJ initiatives including: Future Stewards Program (GRG); partnership with All Nations Program at Minneapolis South High School (GRG); Ambassador Lands Program (MLT); and partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe (MLT). Partners have secured DEIJ related funding including: No Child Left Inside (GRG); internal staff funding for DEIJ pursuits (MLT); and ML22 Trust Fund 'Engaging a Diverse Public in Environmental Stewardship (GRG). Partners will continue to connect all our DEIJ programs and resources to ASP8 during the grant period when appropriate opportunities arise.

ASP ecoregion provides close-to-home recreation opportunities for the majority of Minnesotans, including urban core and rural populations. The MPCA environmental justice tool illustrates that ASP8 program boundary

encompasses large BIPOC and low-income population areas. However, we recognize barriers exist in some communities to access these opportunities.

ASP encompasses a priority DWSMA, attributable to groundwater recharge through sandy soils and the miles of Mississippi River upstream of Twin Cities intakes. Through the land-water connection of our projects, we will contribute to water quality, quantity, and security for all, including urban core and rural populations.

We welcome more conversations with the LSOHC and conservation community about how these values can be better manifested in all our shared work.

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?

Minnesota Land Trust

Who will be the easement holder?

Minnesota Land Trust

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

MLT estimates that it will close on 2-5 conservation easements depending on size/cost and the amount of donated easement value provided by landowners.

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?

- WMA
- Permanently Protected Conservation Easements
- Refuge Lands
- County/Municipal
- Other : U of M's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve

Land Use

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

Yes

Explain what will be planted:

Easement Acquisition:

The purpose of the Minnesota Land Trust's conservation easements is to protect existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. As such, we restrict any agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases in which there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either carve the agricultural area out of the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to carve those areas out. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement.

Restoration:

Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted best practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration, in order to reduce weed seedbeds prior to prairie planting. In some cases this necessitates the use of GMO treated products to facilitate herbicide use in order to control weeds present in the seedbank.

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:

Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, the conservation easement permits the continued usage of established trails and roads so long as their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/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 are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the Minnesota Land Trust's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails in accordance with the terms of the easement 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?

No

If the need for R/E on eased lands exists, MLT will budget to address this need in future proposals to LSOHC or through other sources.

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

No

Explain how, when, and source of the R/E work:

If the need for R/E on eased lands exists, MLT will budget to address this need in future proposals to LSOHC or through other sources.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
SherbCo Parks - Prescribed burn in 2nd half of restored prairie	12/31/2028
NWTF: All R/E work completed and final report	6/30/2028
NWTF: Have initial project list ranked and finalized	12/31/2023
MLT: Protection of 153 acres of land through conservation easement	6/30/2027
GRG: Fourth year goat/cattle browsing/trampling and underhoof seeding	12/31/2027
GRG: First year goat/cattle browsing/trampling	12/31/2025
GRG: Project planning, secure landowner agreements	12/31/2023
GRG: Site prep, initial brushing, initial wave of buckthorn control	11/30/2024
ACD: buckthorn foliar treatments, Rx burns, rare plant rescue and conservation plans	12/31/2027
ACD: tree and shrub removal, native seeding, rare plant rescue	12/31/2025
ACD: tree and shrub removal, prairie site prep, rare plant rescue	12/31/2024
ACD: project planning, Contract agreements	12/31/2023
GRG: Initial medium- and large-scale woody encroachment removal	03/15/2025
GRG: Prescribed burn or burn alternative	12/02/2026

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2028

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	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$443,500	\$47,600	Volunteers, ENRTF, LGUs, Sherburne NWR, Sherburne County, ACD, NWTF, DNR, Volunteers, CCESR, City of Anoka	\$491,100
Contracts	\$1,530,600	\$15,000	-, MN Landscape Arboretum, NWTF Super Fund	\$1,545,600
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$680,000	\$136,000	Private Landowners	\$816,000
Easement Stewardship	\$144,000	-	-	\$144,000
Travel	\$11,000	\$800	-, ENRTF	\$11,800
Professional Services	\$145,000	-	-	\$145,000
Direct Support Services	\$91,500	\$110,400	Waived DSS, Waived DSS, Waived DSS	\$201,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$3,000	-	-	\$3,000
Supplies/Materials	\$132,400	\$12,000	-, MLA, CCES, Anoka Co Parks, City of Anoka, ENRTF	\$144,400
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$3,181,000	\$321,800	-	\$3,502,800

Partner: Anoka Conservation District

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$200,000	\$27,000	ACD, NWTF, DNR, Volunteers, CCESR, City of Anoka	\$227,000
Contracts	\$500,000	\$5,000	MN Landscape Arboretum	\$505,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$20,000	\$40,500	Waived DSS	\$60,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$48,000	\$2,000	MLA, CCES, Anoka Co Parks, City of Anoka	\$50,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$768,000	\$74,500	-	\$842,500

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Technicians	0.59	5.0	\$200,000	\$27,000	ACD, NWTF, DNR, Volunteers, CCESR, City of Anoka	\$227,000

Partner: National Wild Turkey Federation**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$9,500	-	-	\$9,500
Contracts	\$144,000	\$10,000	NWTF Super Fund	\$154,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$5,500	\$8,900	Waived DSS	\$14,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$9,000	-	-	\$9,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$168,000	\$18,900	-	\$186,900

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
District Biologist	0.03	5.0	\$9,500	-	-	\$9,500

Partner: Great River Greening

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$112,000	\$12,000	Volunteers, ENRTF, LGUs, Sherburne NWR	\$124,000
Contracts	\$577,600	-	-	\$577,600
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$4,000	\$800	ENRTF	\$4,800
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$33,000	\$61,000	Waived DSS	\$94,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	\$75,400	\$10,000	ENRTF	\$85,400
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$804,000	\$83,800	-	\$887,800

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Staff	0.25	5.0	\$112,000	\$12,000	Volunteers, ENRTF, LGUs, Sherburne NWR	\$124,000

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$122,000	-	-	\$122,000
Contracts	\$41,000	-	-	\$41,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$680,000	\$136,000	Private Landowners	\$816,000
Easement Stewardship	\$144,000	-	-	\$144,000
Travel	\$7,000	-	-	\$7,000
Professional Services	\$145,000	-	-	\$145,000
Direct Support Services	\$33,000	-	-	\$33,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,173,000	\$136,000	-	\$1,309,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Manager	0.31	4.0	\$122,000	-	-	\$122,000

Partner: Sherburne County Parks**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	\$8,600	Sherburne County	\$8,600
Contracts	\$268,000	-	-	\$268,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$268,000	\$8,600	-	\$276,600

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Parks Coordinator	-	-	-	\$8,600	Sherburne County	\$8,600

Amount of Request: \$3,181,000

Amount of Leverage: \$321,800

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 10.12%

DSS + Personnel: \$535,000

As a % of the total request: 16.82%

Easement Stewardship: \$144,000

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 21.18%

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

Several parcels were removed, and other parcels split into phases. Programs were scaled. When scaled back, there is loss of labor and travel efficiency due to loss of scale for project management and grant management. Also contract amounts per unit were increased some due to service provider costs increasing.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

GRG has secured ENRTF ML23 'Engaging a Diverse Public in Environmental Stewardship'.

MLA, CCES, Anoka County Parks, City of Anoka and CCESR have committed staff time, supplies and equipment use.

MLT's leverage for easement acquisition is a conservative estimate of value we expect to see donated by landowners.

Personnel

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?

GRG: Each allocation is operationalized, budgeted, and tracked independently. Projects under each allocation are unique, and only actual personnel time is charged to these unique projects and allocations.

ACD tracks personnel time with an hours log, where we record our time for each unique project and then uses pivot tables to sum staff hours each quarter multiplied times their rate.

MLT: FTEs listed in the proposal are a coarse estimate of the personnel time required to produce the grant deliverables put forward in this proposal. An array of staff draw from these funds for legal work, negotiating with landowners, crafting of conservation easements, writing baseline reports and managing the grant. We use only those personnel funds necessary to achieve the goals of the grant.

NWTF tracks personnel time specific to an allocation via an internal Mission Management System. Projects are differentiated with unique project numbers and separately tracked.

SherbCo Parks: No personnel funds are requested.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

The majority of contracts are for service providers that implement R/E improvements in the field. Contracts for assistance with rare plant management, rescue and plant handling, writing of habitat management plans, and landowner outreach comprise the remaining amounts.

Easement Stewardship

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

The Land Trust expects to close up to 6 conservation easements under this appropriation. The average cost per easement to fund the Minnesota Land Trust's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$24,000, although in extraordinary circumstances additional funding may be warranted. 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

Occasionally rental of vehicles for travel is needed due to lack of availability of fleet or personally owned vehicles (POVs) for travel, or to otherwise reduce travel costs associated with POVs.

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?

GRG: In a process approved by DNR in September 2019, GRG's direct support services rate includes all allowable direct and necessary expenditures not captured in other line items in the budget. Our DSS request to LSOHC is less than half the amount allowed by the DNR approved rate, and less than or equal to 10% of the total allocation request.

ACD: ACD is requesting 10% DSS and listing the remaining 20.25% as match. ACD calculated their rate following USDA guidelines and has submitted their methodology to DNR for review. DNR has no objections to their rate in their preliminary analysis.

MLT: In a process approved by 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.

The NWTf has a federally approved indirect rate of 14.79%; adjusted down to 6% of the direct funds received. This has been further adjusted downward to track directly with personnel costs, the percentage of which has been reduced per testimony at the hearing.

Other Equipment/Tools

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

Power and hand tools; GPS systems; Personal Protective Equipment.

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	-	120	-	-	120
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	164	164
Enhance	45	150	128	2	325
Total	45	270	128	166	609

How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie? (Table 1b)

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Easement	-
Enhance	150
Total	150

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	\$242,000	-	-	\$242,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$1,173,000	\$1,173,000
Enhance	\$205,000	\$832,000	\$495,000	\$234,000	\$1,766,000
Total	\$205,000	\$1,074,000	\$495,000	\$1,407,000	\$3,181,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	120	-	-	-	-	120
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	100	64	-	-	-	164
Enhance	250	53	-	-	22	325
Total	470	117	-	-	22	609

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	\$242,000	-	-	-	-	\$242,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$776,000	\$397,000	-	-	-	\$1,173,000
Enhance	\$1,465,000	\$233,000	-	-	\$68,000	\$1,766,000
Total	\$2,483,000	\$630,000	-	-	\$68,000	\$3,181,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
------	---------	---------	--------	---------

Restore	-	\$2,016	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$7,152
Enhance	\$4,555	\$5,546	\$3,867	\$117,000

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	\$2,016	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$7,760	\$6,203	-	-	-
Enhance	\$5,860	\$4,396	-	-	\$3,090

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need ~ *Perform ecological monitoring using DNR protocol and evaluate data; adapt management when and where needed. Record number of acres protected of high quality habitat on private lands, which buffer public lands and expand habitat cores and corridors; and number of acres of key habitat successfully restored / enhanced. Map project sites and periodically perform GIS analysis to help quantify impact on habitat complexes.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna ~ *Perform ecological monitoring using DNR protocol and evaluate data; adapt management when and where needed. Record number of acres protected of high quality habitat on private lands, which buffer public lands and expand habitat cores and corridors; and number of acres of key habitat successfully restored / enhanced. Map project sites and periodically perform GIS analysis to help quantify impact on habitat cores and corridors.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species ~ *Perform ecological monitoring using DNR protocol and evaluate data; adapt management when and where needed. Record number of acres protected of high quality habitat on private lands, which buffer public lands and expand habitat cores and corridors; and number of acres of key habitat successfully restored / enhanced. Map project sites and periodically perform GIS analysis to help quantify impact on habitat complexes.*

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?

[Yes](#)

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

For the ASP partnership's strategic plan, multiple-criteria decision analyses in GIS were performed to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat using data sources layers that capture habitat connectivity, habitats that support species in greatest conservation need, terrestrial and aquatic sites of biodiversity, potential locations of groundwater influenced shallow wetlands, and native plant communities.

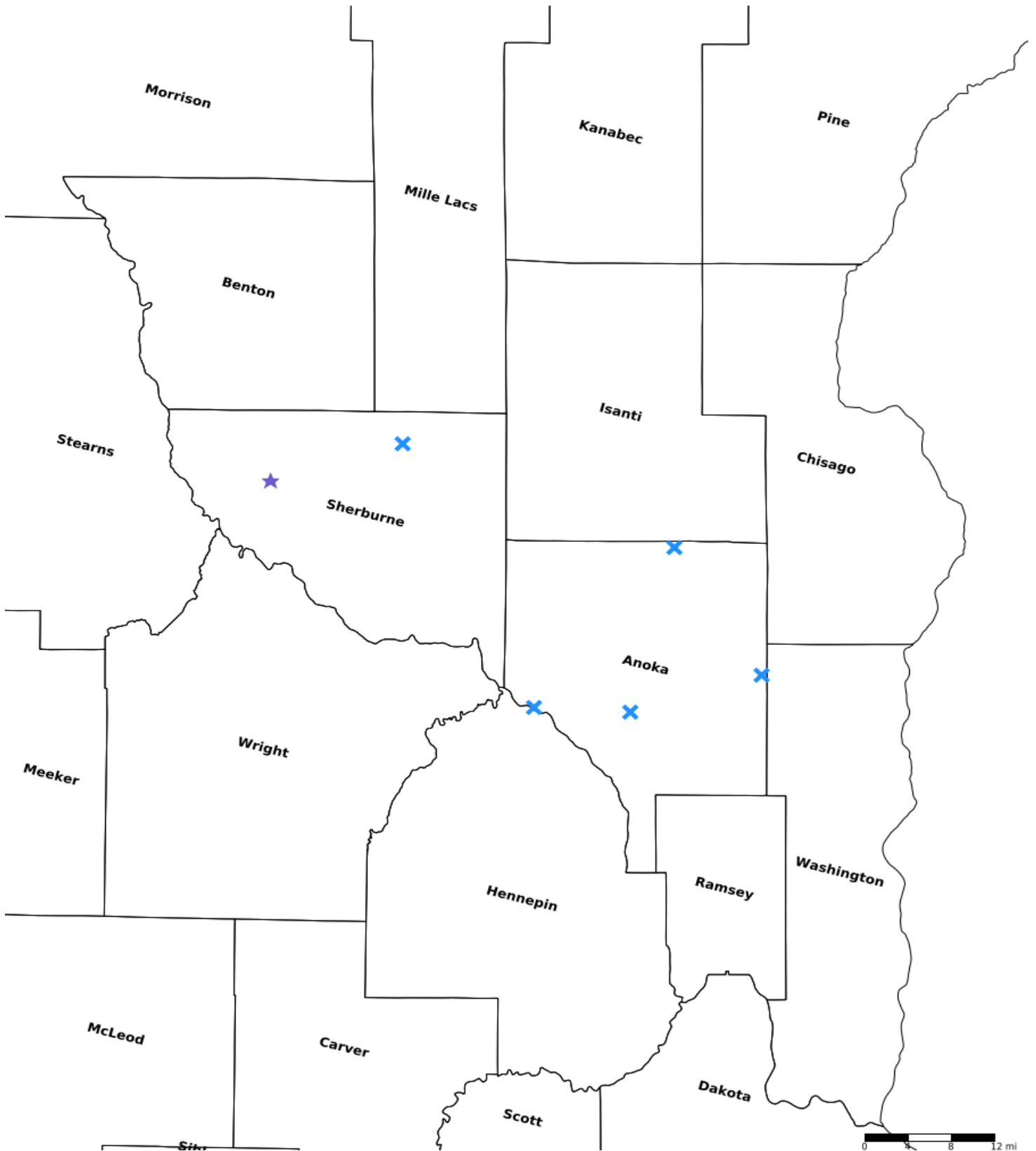
Partners used their local expertise, knowledge, and landowner contacts to identify parcels and scope out the activities. DNR parcels were submitted to DNR for review. At multiples points in the process, the direct recipients reviewed the parcel list collectively and culled parcels that did not rank highly on the Strategic Plan criteria.

Note that in addition to the parcels below, we have 4 programs included in this proposal: Rare Plant Rescue 2 led by ACD, Rare Plant Management 1 led by GRG, MLT Easements, and Turkey Timber Enhancement led by NWTF. The criteria for parcel selection under these programs are included as attachments. At multiples points in the process, the direct recipients reviewed the program criteria collectively.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
ACD - DNR Forest Lake Lamprey Pass	Anoka	03222213	29	\$107,000	Yes
ACD - City of Anoka Kings Island	Anoka	03225233	26	\$98,000	Yes
ACD - CCESR Phase 2, Anoka and Isanti County	Anoka	03423227	60	\$205,000	Yes
ACD - Anoka County Parks	Anoka	03224236	29	\$116,000	Yes
SherbCo Parks - Big Elk Lake Restore	Sherburne	03529233	128	\$268,000	Yes
GRG - Sherburne NWR	Sherburne	03527216	90	\$650,000	Yes

Parcel Map



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



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 8

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2023 - Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 8

Organization: Great River Greening

Manager: Wiley Buck

Budget

Requested Amount: \$8,921,300

Appropriated Amount: \$3,181,000

Percentage: 35.66%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	\$1,170,500	\$119,700	\$443,500	\$47,600	37.89%	39.77%
Contracts	\$3,855,900	\$40,000	\$1,530,600	\$15,000	39.7%	37.5%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$2,250,000	\$450,000	\$680,000	\$136,000	30.22%	30.22%
Easement Stewardship	\$288,000	-	\$144,000	-	50.0%	-
Travel	\$21,400	\$1,500	\$11,000	\$800	51.4%	53.33%
Professional Services	\$625,000	\$28,000	\$145,000	-	23.2%	0.0%
Direct Support Services	\$241,000	\$305,000	\$91,500	\$110,400	37.97%	36.2%
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	\$35,000	\$100,000	-	-	0.0%	0.0%
Other Equipment/Tools	\$8,000	-	\$3,000	-	37.5%	-
Supplies/Materials	\$426,500	\$25,000	\$132,400	\$12,000	31.04%	48.0%
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$8,921,300	\$1,069,200	\$3,181,000	\$321,800	35.66%	30.1%

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

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

For projects that are scaled down or split into phases, there is some loss of economy of scale in labor and travel. Larger discrepancies may occur due to determination of which parcels remain fully funded, as there is a wide range of \$/ac in our parcels. We commit to transparency.

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

For projects that are scaled down or split into phases, there is potential loss of economy of scale in labor and contracts. DSS expenses are highly proportional to labor and contracts.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

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

For projects that are scaled down or split into phases, there is some loss of economy of scale in labor and travel. Larger discrepancies may occur due to determination of which parcels remain fully funded, as there is a wide range of \$/ac in our parcels. We commit to transparency.

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

For projects that are scaled down or split into phases, there is potential loss of economy of scale in labor and contracts. DSS expenses are highly proportional to labor and contracts.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	160	120	75.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	540	164	30.37%
Enhance	1,186	325	27.4%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	\$320,000	\$242,000	75.62%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$3,292,000	\$1,173,000	35.63%
Enhance	\$5,309,300	\$1,766,000	33.26%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	160	120	75.0%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
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Protect in Easement	\$3,292,000	\$1,173,000	35.63%
Enhance	\$5,309,300	\$1,766,000	33.26%



Rare Plant Management Program: Phase 1

This program will enhance shallow wetland peat habitat for the benefit of documented rare plant populations. A guild of rare species is known to occur in high concentration in specific habitats found primarily in the Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion, occurrences which have largely been documented within the past few years. These populations of rare species are threatened by excessive thatch and excessive shade due to lack of natural disturbance such as fire, and rank invasives species growth by reed canary grass.

These rare species tend to respond very well with removal of woody encroachment, followed by removal of thatch either through prescribed burning and/or mechanical de-thatching using heavy equipment. These populations are restricted to low wet habitat that can be difficult to access, and first burns have a high fuel load and produce a lot of smoke; some populations are found in areas that are not burnable due to shape and proximity to roads and structures.

Phase 1 of the Rare Plant Management program, will enhance 28 acres of rare plant wetland habitat, for an estimated cost of \$154,000. This program builds on and is a logical extension of the enhancement of two rare plant management parcels underway in ASP7/ML21. Potential projects will be scored using the scoring worksheet.

This program complements ACD's Rare Plant Rescue Program.

Ranking Criteria	Value	Score
1 Rare Plant Population Significance		
High	20	
Medium-High	18	
Medium	12	
2 Habitat Management Options		
Proven Burn Unit	10	
Burnable	8	
Not Burnable but Accessible with Heavy Eqt	6	
Not Accessible with Heavy Equipment	2	
3 Minor Watershed Condition		
Good, Not Threatened	10	
Decent, Stable	8	
Good But Threatened	4	
Decent but Threatened	2	
4 Landowner Match Commitment		
>10k	15	
5-10K	12	
1-5K	6	
5 Project Scale		
>75 acres	10	
50-75 acres	8	
25-50 acres	4	
5-25 acres	2	
6 Landscape Habitat Suitability for Plant Diversity and Pollinators		
High	15	
Medium	12	
Low	8	
Low	8	
7 Expense for Woody Encroachment Removal		
<\$1000/ac	10	
\$1000-\$3000/ac	8	
\$3000-\$5000/ac	6	
>\$5000/ac	4	
Score	max 90	

Table 1: Ranking Scoresheet

Anoka Sand Plain Rare Plant Rescue Program

Goal 1: Rescue rare plants that would otherwise be destroyed.

Goal 2: Advance our understanding of rare plant species and their conservation and management needs.

ASP Rare Plant Rescue Program - ML 2023 Request for Funding - \$234,000

- ◆ Rescue additional 11,000 rare plants that would otherwise be destroyed from permitted developments. Transplant them into protected sites.
- ◆ Continue to expand the Rare Plant Rescue Program network to ensure rescues.
- ◆ Identify permanently protected sites to provide refuge for rescued plants. Conduct habitat enhancement in priority areas for priority rare species.
- ◆ Protect rare plant genetics through seed banking.
- ◆ Develop species-specific rescue protocols and conservation plans.
- ◆ Monitor transplants and continue to update the rare plant rescue database.
- ◆ Share and disseminate program findings.



Accomplishments from ASP7

- ◆ Formed collaboration and Partnership with landowners, land managers, municipalities, permit authorities, developers, conservation professionals, and volunteers.
- ◆ Program outreach and field tours.
- ◆ Identified 13 ecologically appropriate recipient sites.
- ◆ Salvaged plants and/or seeds from 7 development sites.
- ◆ Transplanted ~10,000 rescued rare plants to 5 protected sites. Conducted various propagation/planting methods for rescue.
- ◆ Collected seed from 16 E/T/SC ASP species.
- ◆ Developed Database with MN DNR. Monitored transplants.





Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation Program Decision Support Tool for Prioritizing Conservation Easement Opportunities

The Minnesota Land Trust often employs an RFP (Request for Proposals) model to both identify high-quality projects and introduce a level of competition into the easement acquisition process. Below, we briefly discuss how the system works and the framework put in place to sort the varied opportunities that come before us.

How the Ranking System Works

The parcel ranking framework employed through the Minnesota Land Trust's RFP process is intended as a ***decision support tool*** to aid in identifying, among the slate of landowners submitting bids for conservation easements, the most ecologically significant opportunities for the price. Using this framework, the Land Trust and its partners use an array of weighted data sets tailored to the specific circumstances inherent in a program area to identify those projects worthy of consideration.

It is important to note that this parcel ranking framework enables the Land Trust to rank projects *relative* to one another. That's important to do, but it's also important to understand how a project (or suite of projects) relates to the ideal situation (i.e., a project that is of exceptional size, condition and superb landscape context). If, for example, an RFP generated 20 proposals in a program area, the framework would effectively sift among them and identify the relatively good from those relatively bad. However, this information alone would not determine whether any of those parcels were of sufficient quality to pursue for protection (all may be of insufficient quality to warrant expenditure of funds). To solve this problem and make sure ranked projects are high priorities for conservation, we step back and evaluate them relative to the ideal (i.e., is each project among the best opportunities for conservation we can expect to find in the program area?).

As part of its proposals to LSOHC, the Land Trust includes easement sign-up criteria that lay out at a general level the framework utilized by the organization. Below is a more detailed description of the process the Land Trust uses to rank potential parcels relative to one another and identify those we will seek to protect with a conservation easement. We also include a ranking form illustrating the representative weighting applied to each criterion. These weightings will be refined as we move forward in applying this approach in each program area.

The Framework

We evaluate potential projects based on two primary factors: ecological significance and cost. Both are assessed independent of one another.

Factor 1: Ecological Significance

The Ecological Significance score is determined by looking at 3 subfactors.

Subfactors:

- **Habitat Size or Quantity** – the area of the parcel to be protected (how big is it?), length of shoreline, etc. The bigger the better.
- **Habitat Condition or Quality** – the condition of the natural communities and/or target species found on a parcel. The higher quality the better.
- **Landscape Context** – what’s around the parcel, both ecologically and from a protected status standpoint. The more ecologically intact the surrounding landscape the better; the extent to which a parcel builds off other protected lands to form complexes or corridors, the better.

Note that we may emphasize one subfactor over another if the specific circumstances warrant it.

Indicators:

A suite of weighted indicators is used to score each parcel relative to each of the above subfactors. Indicators are selected based on their ability to effectively inform the scoring of parcels relative to each of the respective subfactors. Weightings for each criterion are assessed and vetted to ensure that a set of indicators for each subfactor produces meaningful results, then applied across each of the proposed parcels.

Data sets used for this purpose must offer wall-to-wall coverage across the program area to ensure that bias for or against parcels does not creep into the equation. Where gaps in such coverages exist, we attempt to fill them in to the extent feasible (via field inventory, etc.).

Finally, we vet and make improvements to the scoring matrix when we identify issues or circumstances where results seem erroneous.

Factor 2: Cost

Cost is a second major factor used in our consideration of parcels. Although ecological significance is *the* primary factor in determining the merits of a project, our RFP programs also strive to make the greatest conservation impact with the most efficient use of State funds. As such, we look at the overall cost of each project relative to its ecological significance; we also ask landowners to consider donating all or some of their easement value to the cause and to better position their proposals. Many landowners participate in that fashion.

Cost, as a primary factor, is assessed independently of the ecological factors. Given equal ecological significance, a project of lower cost will be elevated over those of higher cost in the ranking. That said, exceptionally high-quality projects are likely to be pursued even if no or modest landowner donation is

put forward. Alternatively, there are projects offered as full donations that are not moved forward because their ecological significance is not acceptable. The degree to which cost factors into the ranking of parcels relative to one another is made on a case-by-case basis.

Conservation Easement Selection Worksheet – Scoring and Criteria

1. Habitat Size or Quantity (30 points)

Parcels are scored based on acres of existing habitat or habitat to be restored that would be protected through the a given conservation easement, relative to the largest parcels available for protection in the program area. Shoreline length included in the parcel is also a consideration. Little information pertaining to the size of species populations on a given property typically exists, making any determination suspect. Habitat size is a valid indicator not only ecosystem health but has a direct correlation with species viability. Shoreline feet is an indicator of amount of riparian habitat as well as the water quality benefits that come from undeveloped land adjacent to waterbodies.

Habitat Size (20 points): Parcels are scored by how they fall relative to five size classes of habitat size, in acres:

Points	Acres
0	1-39
4	40-49
6	50-79
14	80-119
20	120 or more

Shoreline (10 points): Parcels are scored based on the number of feet of shoreline on the parcel. Rivers perennial stream shoreline lengths include both banks if they are within the parcel, while intermittent stream lengths are measured using the centerline of the stream. Parcels are scored based on five classes, in feet:

Points	Feet
0	0
4	1-499
6	500-999
8	2000-4,999
10	5,000 or more

2. Habitat Condition or Quality (25 points):

Parcels are scored based on the quality or condition of occurrences of ecological communities (habitat), imperiled species if known, and water quality (level of impairments). As with Habitat Size above, population data for imperiled species is often minimal on private lands. As such, the condition of score is heavily influenced by the condition of natural communities on a property. However, we do allocate a modest level of points to the presence of imperiled species if they have been documented.

[The Nature Conservancy’s Resilient Sites for Terrestrial Conservation project](#) identifies areas estimated to be the most climate resilient for characteristic environments of North America. All parcels that come through the RFP process with generally acceptable scores in ecological significance have average or above average climate resiliency scores. The inclusion of climate resiliency scoring did not appreciable change the overall ranking, so was not explicitly included in the ranking framework.

Habitat Quality (18 points): The Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) natural community element occurrence (EO) ranking framework and the [MBS Biodiversity Significance Ranks](#) are used to score habitat quality on parcels in five classes:

Points	Site Evaluation Score	Description
0	0	The only native community present on parcel has a D ranking; all of site is ranked “below threshold” for biodiversity significance
6	1-5	Less than 50% of the parcel is C-ranked native plant communities, and the rest is ranked lower than C OR About half of the parcel is composed of C-ranked native plant communities, the rest is D-ranked or lower; part of the parcel is identified as Moderate Biodiversity Significance, the rest of the parcel is lower than “Moderate”
12	6-10	About half of the parcel is composed of C-ranked native plant communities, the rest is D-ranked or lower; all of the parcel is identified as Moderate Biodiversity Significance or higher
16	11-15	About half of the parcel consists of C-ranked communities and the rest is ranked higher than C; Part of parcel is identified as an MBS site of Outstanding Biodiversity Significance; parcel or part of parcel is identified as an MBS site of High Biodiversity Significance; the parcel includes one or more “lakes of biodiversity significance” as identified by MBS
18	16-20	More than half of the parcel consists of a natural community with an A, B, AB, or BC element occurrence ranking; all of the parcel is identified as MBS site of Outstanding Biodiversity Significance

Imperiled Species (2 points): The [Natural Heritage Information System](#) data is used to identify rare plants, animals, native plant communities, and other rare features noted on the parcel. Scoring of the parcel is based on species abundance, using counts of species:

Points	Occurrences
0	0
1	1
2	2 or more

Water Quality (5 points): The [Watershed Health Assessment Framework](#) (WHAF), among other

analyses, identifies the percentage of water quality assessments completed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency that documents percentage of assessments evidencing a waterbody’s failure to meet water quality standards. This scoring framework focuses on the state’s aquatic life designated use. This percentage is collected at the subwatershed scale. Parcels are scored based on the percentage of assessments within the catchment that show a failure of waterbodies ability to support aquatic life, in three categories:

Points	Percent
0	67-100
3	34-66
5	0-33

3. Landscape Context (45 points)

Parcels are scored based current ecological context of the property and protected lands surrounding it; in addition, points are also allocated based on the likelihood that lands around a parcel will be protected going forward based on the identification of these adjacent lands in respective conservation lands.

Habitat Cores/Corridors (10 points): Parcels scored based on their distance from protected area(s) of interest/habitat cores for the Anoka Sand Plain Partnership or the Land Trust: Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area **OR** their distance from habitat corridors between cores, as defined by the Wildlife Action Plan, the Metro Conservation Corridors, or other relevant plan.

Points	Miles
0	5 or more
6	2-4.9
8	0.5-1.9
10	0-0.49

Habitat Core – Adjacent (4 points): Parcel is directly adjacent to one of the above priority habitat cores.

Points	Adjacent
0	No
4	Yes

Riparian Corridors (12 points): Parcels scored based on whether they are located on or near a high-priority riparian corridor within the Anoka Sand Plain, as measured by the Anoka Sand Plain Partnership and other federal, state, and local plans. These priority riparian corridors include the Rum River and its tributaries (for example, the Sunrise River and Stanchfield Creek) and the Mississippi River and its tributaries (for example, the Elk River).

Points	Location
0	Not within HUC7 watershed of or on a high priority corridor
6	Within HUC7 watershed of high priority corridor
12	On high priority corridor

Drinking Water Supply Management Area (4 points): [Drinking Water Supply Management Areas](#) have been identified by the Minnesota Department of Health and show surface and subsurface areas surrounding public water supply intakes that contain the scientifically calculated surface water protection area and is managed by the entity identified in a surface water protection plan. Using this as an indicator helps the Land Trust protect land that not only provides habitat, but as a secondary additional consideration, protects drinking water (ground and surface).

Points	Within
0	No
4	Yes

Conservation Priority (15 points): The degree to which the area within which a parcel has been identified as a priority for conservation action and the degree to which action is being implemented in that area is a direct indicator of the long-term potential for maintenance of biodiversity associated with a parcel. Lands affiliated with priority areas are more likely to be complemented with additional levels of nearby protected lands than those outside of priority areas. In areas of the southern Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion that are located in the Twin Cities Metro and experiencing high levels of development, this factor may carry a significant amount of weight in setting protection priorities.

The parcel is given six points for each of the below criteria that are true, up to a score of 15:

- The parcel is a priority for the Anoka Sand Plain Partnership or other conservation partners, such as non-governmental organizations and federal, state, or local government units (soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts)
- The parcel is a priority for the Anoka Sand Plain Partnership or federal, state, or local conservation partner(s) for water quality conservation
- The parcel is adjacent or near to a Land Trust conservation easement or other protected land not identified as a Habitat Core above
- The parcel is a conservation priority of the community
- The parcel has restoration or enhancement potential that was not identified in any of the other portions of the scoring framework

**Minnesota Land Trust
Anoka Sand Plain Ranking Sheet**

		TEMPLATE		Tract 1		Tract 2	
	County						
TOTAL SCORE	100	100		0	0		
SIZE/QUANTITY	Points						
Size: Acres of existing habitat to be protected by an easement	20	120	20		0		0
Shoreline: Feet of shoreline protected	10	5000	10		0		0
	30	30		0	0		
CONDITION/QUALITY	Points						
Terrestrial Habitat Quality: Quality of existing ecological systems	18	20	18		0		0
Imperiled Species: Presence of documented rare features	2	2	2		0		0
Water Quality - Priority Water Resources: Level of impairment(s) to water bodies	5	5	5		0		0
	25	25		0	0		
LANDSCAPE CONTEXT	Points						
Habitat Cores/Corridors: Distance from protected area(s) of interest/habitat cores (Crane Meadows NWR, Sherburne NWR, Carlos Avery WMA) OR distance from habitat corridors between cores, as defined by the Wildlife Action Plan or other plan	10	0	10		0		0
Habitat Core - Adjacent: Directly adjacent to habitat cores listed above	4	4	4		0		0
Riparian Corridors: Project protects high priority riparian corridors (Rum River or tributary-Sunrise?, Stanchfield Creek or tributary, Elk River or tributary, Mississippir River or tributary)	12	12	12		0		0
Drinking Water Supply Management Area: Is/is not located in one	4	4	4		0		0
Conservation Priority: Is a priority for habitat or water quality for ASP partnership or other partners (e.g., local govt unit); adjacent to MLT CE or other protected land not identified above; community priority; etc.	15	15					
	45	45		0	0		
COST							
Bid amount (\$/per acre)							
Donative value (\$/acre)							
PROJECT COST							



Turkey Timber Enhancement Program

This program will restore and/or enhance upland and riparian woodlands that provide critical habitat to many wildlife species in the Anoka Sand Plain (ASP) ecoregion including the wild turkey. Projects selected by this program will demonstrate direct and indirect benefits to woodlands and their surrounding habitats. From oak savanna stands to cottonwood galleries, these woodlands support a multitude of species including species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) like the northern long-eared bat or the eastern meadowlark. In woodlands across much of the state, the wild turkey is an indicator species representing healthy management of woodlands. By managing woodlands for the wild turkey, you subsequently promote forest health, water quality, and habitat improvement for a wide range of species.

Oak Savanna habitat is of particular concern within the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) and is a high priority in many of the Conservation Focus Areas within the WAP, the Anoka Sand Plain included. Much of the Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion and intersecting minor watersheds woodlands are dominated with oaks, a critical species to a countless number of wildlife. Projects done in this portion of the state will also contribute to larger landscape levels programs that the NWTF is working on like the White Oak Initiative.

Selected projects will have a timber stand and habitat improvement focus to include thinning/releasing, invasive species work, tree planting, prescribed burning, etc. Selected projects will also have secondary benefits like erosion control, water quality, forest health improvements, among others. With this program we would be looking to restore/enhance roughly 53-acres of woodlands within the ASP ecoregion. Typical costs to do this type of habitat work correctly averages around \$3,000 an acre.



The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) District Biologist will review and select projects based on the following ranking criteria:

Ranking Criteria	Value	Score
1. Wildlife Action Network Significance		
High	15	
Medium-High	12	
Medium	8	
Low-Medium	6	
2. Project Scale		
Project will improve 51+ acres	15	
Project will improve 11-50 acres	10	
Project will improve 1-10 acres	5	
3. Matching Funds		
Project has greater than 3:1 match	10	
Project match is 3:1 or less	5	
5. Longevity of Project Benefits		
Long term benefits (ten or more years)	10	
Moderate term benefits (five to nine years)	5	
6. Species of Greatest Conservation Need		
Project has the potential to benefit many SGCN	15	
Project has the potential to benefit one SGCN	10	
7. Recreational Access		
Project is open to the public (hunting and or fishing allowed)	10	
Project is open to the public with restrictions (no hunting or fishing allowed)	7	
9. Benefit to Wild Turkeys		
Turkeys are currently utilizing the property	10	
Project could result in use by wild turkeys	7	
10. Biological Merit (chance of success)		
Very Good / results attainable	15	
Good / results attainable	10	
Total Project Score		0
Maximum score possible = 100		