Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 9

Laws of Minnesota 2024 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 05/27/2026

Project Title: Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 9

Funds Recommended: $1,802,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2024, Ch. 106, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(p)

Appropriation Language: $1,802,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to restore and enhance wildlife habitat on public lands and easements in the Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion and intersecting minor watersheds as follows: $1,508,000 to Great River Greening and $294,000 to Sherburne County.

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: 651-272-3981
Mobile Number: 651-318-8667
Fax Number:
Website: greatrivergreening.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Benton, Sherburne and Stearns.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Forest / Prairie Transition

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Forest

Wetlands

Narrative

Abstract

The Anoka Sand Plain (ASP) Partnership will restore/enhance 299 acres of prairie and forest habitat within the ASP ecoregion. Our actions will increase biodiversity, habitat connectivity, recreational opportunities, and landscape resilience which align with the ASP Partnership's strategic plan, DNR Wildlife Action Plan, and LSOHC Section priorities.

Great River Greening seeks funding for Quarry Park Phase2, to enhance another 234ac of the 683ac habitat core. Sherburne County Parks seeks funding for 52ac for Phase 2 at Big Elk Lake to complete the enhancement that will start with ML23_ASP8 and begin 13ac at Island View County Park.

Design and Scope of Work

The Anoka Sand Plain project areas include portions of the Metropolitan Urbanizing, Forest/Prairie Transition, and Northern Forest sections. The landscape is a marvelously complex mosaic of habitats, home to quality prairie and savanna, wetlands, fire-dependent forests and woodlands, 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 areas. 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 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 9 and all of our work in this complex area is the ASP Partnership's 10-year strategic plan, which aligns with other important plans to identify priority habitats, opportunities, centers of biodiversity, and a plan of action with measurable goals.

With this funding, Great River Greening (GRG) and Sherburne County Parks (SCP), will complete restoration and enhancement (R/E) on 242 protected acres and 800' of shoreline. Habitats include prairie/savanna grasslands, oak woodland, and shoreline.

Results will be achieved by restoration and enhancement of ecologically significant habitats by conducting invasive species and woody encroachment removal, prescribed burning, thinning, seeding, and planting. This includes continuing with phase 2 of the ecological enhancement at both Quarry Park & Reserve (SNA), and Big Elk Lake County Park, as well as the first phase at Island View County Park. Our program will create and improve critical habitat by increasing biodiversity and landscape resilience at these habitat cores and corridors. It will also benefit water quality and quantity, improve community resiliency, and increase recreational opportunities including R/E

engagement.

GRG will use the Towable Biochar Burner in all four of its funded OHF partnerships: Anoka Sand Plain Partnership, Metro Big Rivers Partnership, Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Partnership, and Sauk River Watershed Habitat Restoration and Protection Partnership, in ML24, existing, and any future appropriations. Over the next five years, GRG anticipates it will be used at an estimated 25 GRG sites, operating 1,500-2,000 equipment hours. In addition, GRG will offer its use to our OHF partner organization when GRG is not using it; transportation and operation costs will be borne by partners' project budgets when used by partners. Furthermore, GRG will monitor the effectiveness of the biochar product in its re-vegetation efforts by documenting feed stock, pyrolysis temperature, soil type, and pH of the produced biochar, and then conduct monitoring after surface spreading or soil incorporation.

Explain how the plan addresses habitat protection, restoration, and/or enhancement for fish, game & wildlife, including threatened or endangered species conservation

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, 97 known or predicted Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and 131 federally or state endangered, threatened, and special concern species. The Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) ranks 72,000 acres in the ASP as Outstanding or High Biodiversity. This proposal addresses LSOHC priorities by protecting and restoring/enhancing oak savanna, prairie, riparian, woodlands, and non-forested wetlands, including MBS-ranked acres.

Quarry Park is home to many listed and uncommon species and habitats, including tubercled rein-orchid, red-shouldered hawk, red-headed woodpecker and northern long-eared bat, as well as granite rock outcrops supporting a disjunct population of dry prairie specialists such as brittle prickly pear cactus.

Big Elk Lake includes a site of moderate biodiversity significance in the wetlands along the shore of Big Elk Lake. The site includes occurrences of rare species and areas that have a strong potential for recovery under appropriate management. With 50 acres of open-grown bur oaks, the landscape holds the promise of extremely high-quality oak savanna habitat with the proposed management and a restored prescribed fire regime. Cultural surveys to date, with Tribal Partners have revealed many native plants used traditionally as medicines.

What are the elements of this plan that are critical from a timing perspective?

The amount of high-quality remnant habitat in the ASP is remarkable given its proximity to Twin Cities Metropolitan and St. Cloud areas. While the location of the ASP provides easy access for the majority of Minnesotans, the associated stressors threaten the ASP's sustainability. The ecological diversity of the ASP is threatened by invasive species and development pressure. State-wide growth through 2045 is projected at 7% while projected growth in Anoka and Sherburne counties is 14% and 24% respectively. Land protection will protect remaining remnant habitats, buffer high quality habitat cores and increase habitat corridors and landscape resiliency. Restoration and enhancement efforts will prevent habitat degradation and increase biodiversity.

Describe how the plan expands habitat corridors or complexes and/or addresses habitat fragmentation:

The ASP Partnership 10 - Year Strategic Conservation Action 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 percent 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 actions included in this proposal will combat the threats of habitat fragmentation, degradation and invasive species. These were identified in Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan and LSOHC: 25-year framework as the priority actions needed to address significant challenges facing SGCN and landscape resilience in the ASP region. A total of 350 acres of R/E are on MBS areas identified as areas of Medium, High or Outstanding Biodiversity significance.

Which top 2 Conservation Plans referenced in MS97A.056, subd. 3a are most applicable to this project?

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Explain how this plan will uniquely address habitat resilience to climate change and its anticipated effects on game, fish & wildlife species utilizing the protected or restored/enhanced habitat this proposal targets.

Biochar production via pyrolysis retains 50% of carbon for 100s of years in the form of rot-resistant biochar, that would have otherwise been released directly into the atmosphere with traditional open-pile burning. The amount of carbon stored via the Towable Biochar Burner will be calculated.

Both recipients implement high diversity seeding and planting in our projects and pay attention to geographic ecotype when procuring the same. In addition, we participate in numerous conversations and presentations with colleagues, in our joint efforts to improve best management practices.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Forest / Prairie Transition

Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Remnant native prairies are part of large complexes of restored prairies, grasslands, and large and small wetlands ~ *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.*

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 Anoka Sand Plain.

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.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2030	Sherburne County	Prescribed burn	Mechanical Cutting as needed	Prescribed burn
2030	GRG in-kind	Monitoring every 2-3 years	Landowner Engagement	Follow up treatment, seeding and/or planting

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

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. Great River Greening will continue to look for opportunities to dovetail funding from other sources, including our ML22 ENRTF Engaging a Diverse Public in Environmental Stewardship program. (GRG). All ASP partners will continue to connect all our DEIJ programs and resources to ASP9 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 ASP9 program boundary encompasses large BIPOC and low-income population areas. However, barriers exist in some communities to access these opportunities. As such, the ASP Partnership has been developing ways to reduce these barriers.

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

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?

County/Municipal

SNA

Public Waters

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:
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 insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this program either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?
No

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
SCP - R & E Project Planning, Prairie site prep, no-till drilling of native seed	8/31/2024
SCP - Prescribed burn in 2nd half of restored prairie	12/31/2029
SCP - Native seed and plant installation per results of native seed bank germination in shoreline, dry oak forest, floodplain and oak savanna. Prescribed burn in 1/2 of restored prairie	12/31/2028
SCP - prescribed burn (2nd to control invasive cool-season grasses) in shore and native plant installation	12/31/2027
SCP - Assessment of native seed bank germination and planning for seed and plant installation in oak savanna, dry oak forest, and shoreline	12/31/2027
SCP - Prescribed burn site prep for shoreline restoration, prescribed burn through degraded oak savanna	12/31/2026
SCP - R & E mechanical site prep in degraded oak savanna, floodplain forest	2/28/2025
GRG: Project planning, secure landowner agreements	12/31/2024
GRG: Initial Wave of buckthorn control; biochar production and spreading.	3/31/2026
GRG: Follow up control including seeding, and goat browsing on select acres.	11/1/2028
GRG: Girdled aspen removal with biochar production and spreading.	6/1/2029
GRG: Aspen girdling	6/1/2027

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2029

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 for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:
(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2028;
(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this section is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2032;
(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2029;
(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	$103,000	$19,000	Stearns County, Volunteers, Sherburne County	$122,000
Contracts	$1,595,000	-	-	$1,595,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
Professional Services	$10,000	-	-	$10,000
Direct Support Services	$20,000	$38,100	-, GRG	$58,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	$20,000	$75,000	-, Private Foundation(s)	$95,000
Other Equipment/Tools	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
Supplies/Materials	$45,000	-	-	$45,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,802,000**	**$132,100**	**-**	**$1,934,100**

Partner: GRG

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	$103,000	$12,000	Stearns County, Volunteers	$115,000
Contracts	$1,311,000	-	-	$1,311,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	$6,000	-	-	$6,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	$20,000	$38,100	GRG	$58,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	$20,000	$75,000	Private Foundation(s)	$95,000
Other Equipment/Tools	$3,000	-	-	$3,000
Supplies/Materials	$45,000	-	-	$45,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,508,000**	**$125,100**	**-**	**$1,633,100**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Multiple Staff Positions	0.3	5.0	$103,000	$12,000	Stearns County, Volunteers	$115,000

Capital Equipment

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Towable Biochar Burner	$20,000	$75,000	Private Foundation(s)	$95,000

Partner: Sherburne County Parks

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	$7,000	Sherburne County	$7,000
Contracts	$284,000	-	-	$284,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	$10,000	-	-	$10,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$294,000**	**$7,000**	**-**	**$301,000**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Ecologist/Project Manager	-	-	-	$7,000	Sherburne County	$7,000

Amount of Request: $1,802,000
Amount of Leverage: $132,100
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 7.33%
DSS + Personnel: $123,000
As a % of the total request: 6.83%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

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

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Towable Biochar Burner leveraged funds are pending. Two foundation proposals have been submitted, one by 'invitation only', with both decisions expected in December.

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?
GRG - Quarry Park acres would reduce to 78. SCP would retain Big Elk Lake.

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 loss of economy of scale in labor, travel and contracts. DSS expenses are highly proportional to labor and contracts.

Personnel

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

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
The majority is for non-native invasive woody species control, including woodland seeding and goat browsing; and prairie restoration, including site prep, seeding, and establishment. Scheduled maintenance (fluids, filters, tires) and repair contingency for capital equipment comprise the remainder.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Other : Cultural consultation to determine management methods and species selection, plus Tribal monitoring for plant material installation.

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
GRG staff occasionally rent vehicles based on personal vehicle and fleet availability.

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 the amount allowed by the DNR approved rate, and less than or equal to 10% of the total allocation request.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?
Loppers, trowels, shovels, seed spreaders, chainsaws, brush cutters, sprayers, flagging, pin flags, PPE, GPS

handheld, other equipment, or tools necessary for and directly related to supporting completion of proposed activities.

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	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	1	34	264	-	299
Total	**1**	**34**	**264**	**-**	**299**

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	34
Total	**34**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$4,000	$160,000	$1,638,000	-	$1,802,000
Total	**$4,000**	**$160,000**	**$1,638,000**	**-**	**$1,802,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	65	234	-	-	-	299
Total	**65**	**234**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**299**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$294,000	$1,508,000	-	-	-	$1,802,000
Total	**$294,000**	**$1,508,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,802,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$4,000	$4,705	$6,204	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	$4,523	$6,444	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

800 feet

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?
No

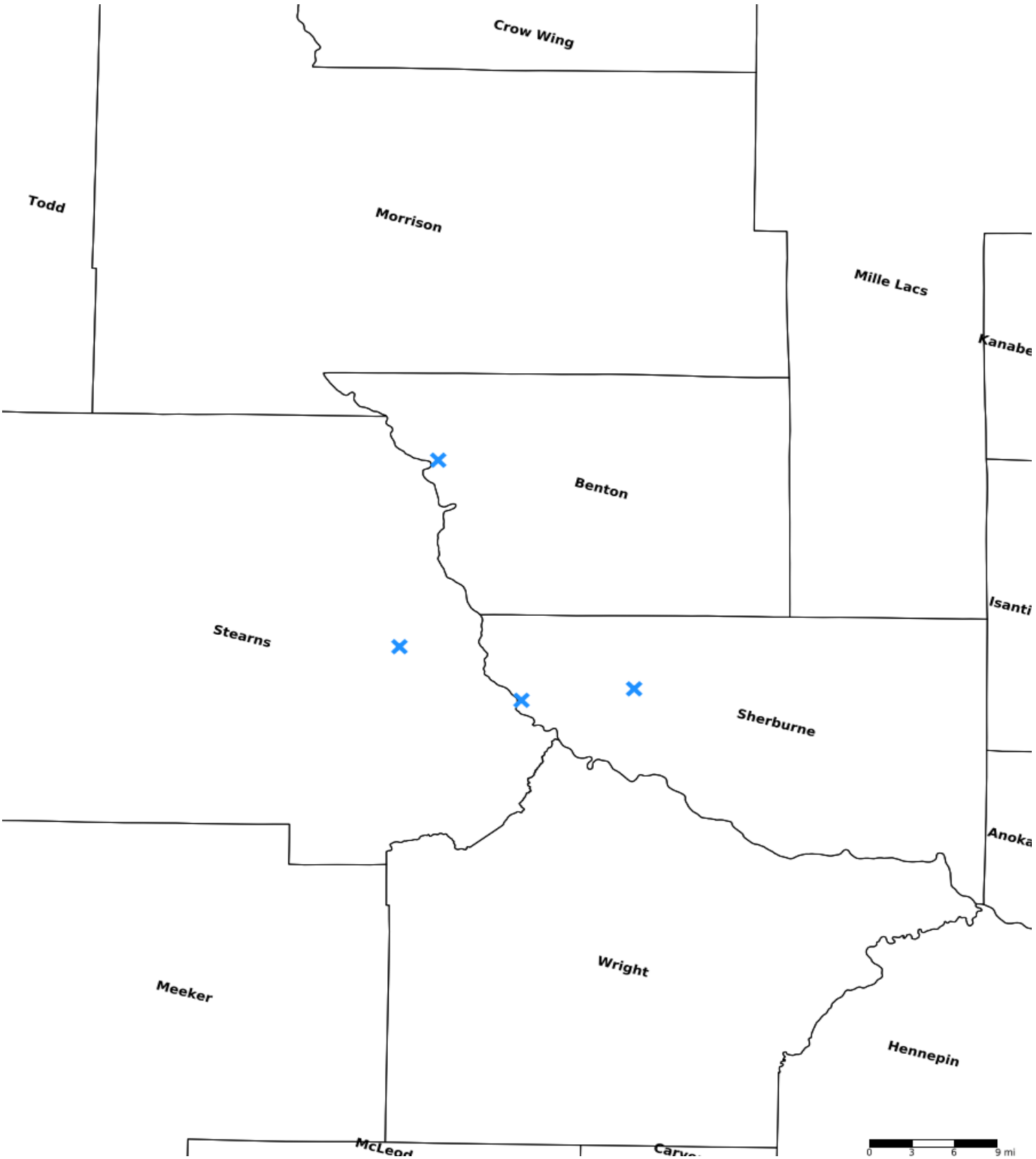
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
The ASP Partnership 10 - Year Strategic Conservation Action Plan utilizes multiple-criteria GIS analyses to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat connectivity, SGCN, biodiversity, and native plant communities. 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. At multiples points in the process, the direct recipients reviewed the parcels collectively.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
GRG - Bend in the River Phase 2	Benton	03731204	105	$450,000	Yes	Removal of non-native siberian elm, honeysuckle and buckthorn in former shelter belts. Increase diversity of prairie openings: invasive control, Rx burn, interseeding, interplugging. Biochar production, application. Primarily edge habitat, but alsod riparian oak forest habitat.
SCP - Big Elk Lake County Park Phase 2	Sherburne	03529233	52	$242,000	Yes	Oak savanna, fllodplain forest, and shoreline enhance.
SCP - Island View County Park	Sherburne	03430205	13	$52,000	Yes	Dry Oak Forest enhancement
GRG - Quarry Park & Reserve (SNA) Phase 2	Stearns	12428230	234	$1,058,000	Yes	Large scale buckthorn removal with sustained follow-up and woodland grass seeding in mesic forest and rock outcrops, high rare species concentration.

Parcel Map


Crow Wing
Todd
Morrison
Mille Lacs
Kanabe
Benton
Isanti
Stearns
Sherburne
Anoka
Wright
Meeker
Hennepin
McLeod
0 3 6 9 mi
Protect in Easement
Protect in Fee with PILT
Protect in Fee W/O PILT
Restore
Enhance
Other