



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

St. Louis River Restoration Initiative – Phase 11
Laws of Minnesota 2024 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 11/02/2023

Project Title: St. Louis River Restoration Initiative – Phase 11

Funds Recommended: \$2,163,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2024, Ch. X, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd.

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Melissa Sjolund

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Location Information

County Location(s): St. Louis.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest

Activity types:

- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

MNDNR's St. Louis River Restoration Initiative (SLRRI) is a collaborative program enhancing and restoring the St. Louis River estuary and contributing watershed. The 11,000-acre estuary is a unique resource of statewide significance. SLRRI's vision includes diverse, productive, and healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems of the river and watershed. Through SLRRI Phase 11 we will restore or enhance an additional 62 acres of priority aquatic, wetland, and estuary forest habitat for important fish, game, and Species of Greatest Conservation Need. To date, LSOHC has supported 845 acres of SLRRI habitat restoration, leveraging over \$25.8M in non-state funds.

Design and Scope of Work

The SLRRI will restore and enhance priority habitats in the St. Louis River estuary and its watershed. As partners, the MNDNR and Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) have successfully restored wetland, stream, and open water aquatic habitats while leveraging significant federal support.

This Accomplishment Plan incorporates an October 5, 2023, Council requirement to limit work done under the ML2024 appropriation to the St. Louis River estuary. Projects described below reflect an interpretation that the ML2024 priority work area includes the St. Louis River channel in addition to adjacent wetland, stream, and terrestrial habitats. Stream segments that allow for fish passage between the estuary and stream at Munger Landing are retained, while upland forest parcels not adjacent to the river and upland tributaries to Knowlton Creek are removed.

The SLRRI will continue to restore or enhance 60 acres and approximately 750 feet of stream habitats with an emphasis on the following parcels:

Radio Tower Bay Phase 2: MNDNR will restore approximately 5 acres of coastal wetland and/or terrestrial habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. In 2015, the SLRRI restored select portions of the Radio Tower Bay aquatic footprint under the AOC program, with a focus on fish habitat. With this proposal, the SLRRI will implement a project to restore additional aquatic and/or terrestrial habitat outside of the prior project's scope, with a focus on improving habitat for avian species.

Munger Landing: MNDNR will restore approximately 5 acres of coastal wetlands and 750 feet (2 acres) of stream habitat. Under the Avian Forest Habitat Restoration Project (below), MLT will enhance terrestrial habitats at Munger Landing benefiting fish, birds, and other wildlife. In 2023, MPCA will be completing a contaminated sediment remediation project in the St. Louis River adjacent to Munger Landing under the AOC program. This project's completion signals an opportunity for the SLRRI to lead fish and wildlife habitat restoration within the degraded Stewart Creek wetlands and enhance forest habitats to benefit migrating and breeding birds, and other wildlife.

Avian Forest Habitat Restoration is an on-going initiative led by MLT within the globally and regionally important St. Louis River Important Bird Area. The current phase of the effort includes enhancing 50 acres of forested habitat for birds. Restoration will be conducted in wet forests and other important forested habitats located within designated natural areas or other protected lands adjacent to the St. Louis River estuary. Improvements will restore or enhance habitat conditions to be more attractive to migrating and breeding birds and other native wildlife communities. Proposed work in the forested areas includes underplanting or replanting in areas at risk from emerald ash borer or impacted by invasive trees and shrubs. The work will be conducted in cooperation with Community Action Duluth Stream Corps, who will conduct invasive species control, tree and shrub planting, and other forest management activities.

In addition to specific projects mentioned above, SLRRI will continue coordinating with partners to develop projects to improve fish and wildlife populations throughout the estuary and surrounding watersheds. Work on project sites previously identified within the SLRRI program will continue.

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

At the head of Lake Superior, the 11,000-acre St. Louis River estuary is a unique Minnesota resource. With extensive wetlands and warmer waters, it is the primary source of productivity for western Lake Superior fisheries and a critical flyway for waterfowl and other migratory birds. As the world's largest freshwater shipping port, nearly two-thirds of the estuary's native wetlands have been altered, eliminated, or impaired as a result of historic impacts of industrial activities. The proposed projects represent an opportunity to balance economic activities, while restoring the negative impacts of historic uses. Additionally, restorations will directly benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and other species by improving habitat quality and quantity in strategic locations to maximize benefits to populations.

Recent surveys identified 52 avian species of conservation need, including 41 SGCN, in the St. Louis River Natural Area which encompasses Munger Landing and Radio Tower Bay. Restoration work at those sites and other protected forest areas will benefit waterfowl, marsh birds, and forest birds, including the following SGCNS: American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Least Bittern, Philadelphia Vireo, and Golden-Winged Warbler.

The critically imperiled Lake Superior coastal marsh native plant community (MRU94a) is present throughout the coastal marsh systems in the lower St. Louis River including at Radio Tower Bay and Munger Landing. Coastal marshes are dynamic and productive ecosystems that support a diversity of native vegetation, fish, and wildlife. Continued restoration work in these habitats improves function and resiliency while maximizing species served.

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

Proposed restoration work at Munger Landing is considered critical, particularly within the Stewart Creek wetlands. The timing for this work is opportunistic, as the MPCA completes a large sediment remediation project within the wetland and adjacent river channel. Additional restoration investments will maximize the function of coastal wetlands.

Working within the estuary's forested areas is critical as ash-dominated forests become increasingly threatened by the emerald ash borer. Improving the diversity and health of the estuary forests is important to ensure long-term resiliency and maintain high quality bird habitat.

Continued investment in the SLRRI program helps maintain momentum and success. While the AOC program comes to a close, there is a continued need to restore, enhance, and protect estuary habitat.

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

The St. Louis River corridor was recently nominated and subsequently included in the City of Duluth's Natural Area Program (DNAP) due to its abundance of significant native plant communities, special plant and animal species, natural water features, important bird congregation areas, and geologic landforms. Through the DNAP, 1,119 acres of undeveloped parcels within the most intact terrestrial and aquatic habitats are permanently protected and proactively managed. Habitat restoration and enhancement projects proposed by SLRRI are developed in close

coordination with the City of Duluth to complement the St. Louis River Natural Area Management Plan. the lower St. Louis River is an important migration corridor for wildlife and is included in MNDNR's Wildlife Action Network, which identifies priority areas for conservation in the state. The river's coastal wetland complex and adjacent terrestrial plant communities are important to the biodiversity of the State of Minnesota; the majority of the lower river through Duluth is mapped by the Minnesota Biological Survey as "sites of biological significance."

With this proposal, we will improve native plant community health and resilience to enhance the connectivity between the river, adjacent habitats, and other important habitat complexes such as the 1,800-acre Magney-Snively Natural Area. For example, wetland restoration projects that target developed areas, increase emergent vegetation, and/or enhance connectivity between small patches of high-quality habitat will reduce habitat fragmentation and benefit migrating birds. Within forested habitats, fragmentation caused by disturbances (human activity or invasive species) can be restored through vegetation control and plantings.

The proposed work supports the integrity of the St. Louis River Important Bird Area, which is a regionally important migratory corridor that is part of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes Joint Venture.

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

- Lower St. Louis River Habitat Plan
- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025

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.

The SLRRI program develops habitat projects with the objective of increasing resilience to climate change. We consult applicable state, regional, and local climate change plans and include members of the resource management, research, and planning community during project development. Strategies that may be used in the projects included in this proposal include:

In coastal wetlands, plan for extreme fluctuations in water levels by diversifying habitats. Wetland depth, slopes, and shorelines can be designed to provide habitat function under varied water levels, protect vulnerable areas, and better withstand coastal flooding.

In streams, plan for more extreme precipitation events by improving stormwater management, connecting streams to their floodplains. In anticipation of increasing temperatures, we can protect riparian vegetation and cold-water springs.

In avian habitats, enhance the plant community structure and species in anticipation of climate zone shifts and potential changes in the guilds and species using the habitats.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Northern Forest

- Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species ~ *DNR program monitoring evaluates the response of indicator species at project sites. The SLRRI team coordinates with others actively monitoring the Lower St. Louis River and adjacent lands/watershed, such as the City of Duluth, county Soil and Water Conservation District, Fond du Lac band, and 1854 Treaty Authority.*

Other partner-led research and monitoring efforts will contribute to monitoring outcomes, including the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UM-D), UM-D Natural Resources Research Institute, USEPA's Great Lakes Toxicology and Ecology Division Laboratory, University of Wisconsin-Superior Lake Superior Research Institute, the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Monitoring Program.

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 request is not supplanting or substituting any previous non-legacy funding.

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

St. Louis River habitat restoration projects are designed to be maintained by the natural processes that define these systems. Barring catastrophic events, these projects will not require future adjustment, or clean-up.

MNDNR Duluth Area Fisheries manages the Lower St. Louis River through regular monitoring, assessment, and regulation. They partner with Wisconsin DNR, MN Pollution Control Agency, Fond du Lac Natural Resources Management, 1854 Treaty Authority, USEPA Great Lakes Toxicology and Ecology Lab, and NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve in the effort to monitor and address issues associated with the long-term maintenance of habitat restoration outcomes in the estuary.

Healthy and robust native plant communities are resistant to invasion by exotic species. If invasive species successfully establish on a site they can disrupt the food web of the native community and result in reduced populations of desirable native species. Restoration of native plant communities will inhibit the establishment of invasives, and MNDNR is partnered with the other entities described above to control them. The City of Duluth will monitor and steward the terrestrial restoration work completed under the Duluth Natural Areas Program.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
All years	City of Duluth	Regular Surveys/monitoring of terrestrial habitats	-	-
All years	DNR Fish & Wildlife Game & Fish fund	Regular Surveys/monitoring of aquatic habitat	-	-

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

West Duluth, where most SLRRI restoration takes place, has had greater environmental impairments and a higher proportion of low income and BIPOC residents compared to Duluth as a whole. Native Americans and Hmong

residents tend to be highly represented as shore fishing and local angling user groups in the estuary. Improving estuary resources provides direct and meaningful benefits to residents in these comparatively low-income neighborhoods and user group. It also supports and enhances tribal treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather.

The SLRRI team is leading the Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership, an emerging initiative to continue the coordination and collaboration established by the AOC program into the future. This initiative seeks to align natural resource management efforts with community health and economic development. Goals and objectives related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) have been established for the initiative.

All SLRRI projects are completed in close coordination with FdL and the 1854 Treaty Authority to ensure that tribal benefits are maximized and Traditional Ecological Knowledge is valued. FdL meets all three of Minnesota's primary Environmental Justice criteria: federally recognized Tribal area, 50% or more people of color, and at least 40% of people with reported income less than 185% of the federal poverty level. FdL's Environmental Program maintains list of culturally significant species, which will be included in restoration or protection plans where feasible.

DNR's OHF projects aim to serve all Minnesotans. At the same time, we are bringing more focus in all our work to BIPOC and diverse communities. The Minnesota DNR has adopted advancing diversity, equity and inclusion as a key priority in its 2020-22 strategic plan. The plan focuses on increasing the cultural competence of our staff, creating a workforce that is reflective of Minnesota, continuing to strengthen tribal consultation and coordination, and building partnerships with diverse communities.

MLT completed a DEIJ plan in 2022. Two of the five major goals of the plan are: integrating DEIJ values into MLT's conservation project selection and development and providing capacity to develop meaningful, authentic partnerships with communities and organizations that will further DEIJ goals.

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
- Public Waters

Land Use

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

No

Will neonicotinoid pesticide products be used within any activities of this program?

No

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Avian Forest Habitat	June 2029
Radio Tower Bay Phase 2	December 2027
Munger Landing	December 2028
Project prioritization, integration, and development; site-specific coordination	June 2029

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 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, 2028;
- (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, 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	\$487,500	-	-	\$487,500
Contracts	\$1,009,000	-	-	\$1,009,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$4,200	-	-	\$4,200
Professional Services	\$555,000	-	-	\$555,000
Direct Support Services	\$86,300	-	-	\$86,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$18,000	-	-	\$18,000
Supplies/Materials	\$3,000	-	-	\$3,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$2,163,000	-	-	\$2,163,000

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$150,000	-	-	\$150,000
Contracts	\$500,000	-	-	\$500,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$1,500	-	-	\$1,500
Professional Services	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Direct Support Services	\$40,500	-	-	\$40,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$3,000	-	-	\$3,000
Supplies/Materials	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$716,000	-	-	\$716,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Restoration staff	0.5	3.0	\$150,000	-	-	\$150,000

Partner: Minnesota DNR**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$337,500	-	-	\$337,500
Contracts	\$509,000	-	-	\$509,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$2,700	-	-	\$2,700
Professional Services	\$535,000	-	-	\$535,000
Direct Support Services	\$45,800	-	-	\$45,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$15,000	-	-	\$15,000
Supplies/Materials	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,447,000	-	-	\$1,447,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Program Supervisor	0.2	3.0	\$85,900	-	-	\$85,900
Office and Admin. Specialist	0.3	3.0	\$65,200	-	-	\$65,200
EWR Project Manager	0.3	3.0	\$93,200	-	-	\$93,200
FAW Project Manager	0.3	3.0	\$93,200	-	-	\$93,200

Amount of Request: \$2,163,000

Amount of Leverage: -

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%

DSS + Personnel: \$573,800

As a % of the total request: 26.53%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

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

The personnel budget was reduced to 75% of the original request as planned in the proposal. The Knowlton Creek parcel was eliminated per council request. Contract and Professional Services funds were split more or less equally between the remaining three projects.

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?

FTEs listed in the proposal are based on the current MNDNR SLRRI staffing plan and are an estimate of the personnel time required to deliver the grant outputs included in this proposal and advance the overall mission of the SLRRI. An array of staff may work on projects to complete deliverables and manage the grant. MLT's basis for billing is the individual Restoration project we work on, ensuring allocation to the appropriate grant award. MLT also uses timesheet based accounting ensuring only those personnel funds actually expended are used to achieve the goals of the grant. Time involving coordination among projects is billed proportionately. Personnel funds are generally coordinated to spend down oldest funds first.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

MNDNR budget: contracts for project implementation (primarily construction contracts)

MLT budget: contracts for restoration activities (planting, seeding, invasive species control, etc).

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

- Design/Engineering
- Other : Professional construction oversight and contract administration. Baseline data collection and permit/environmental review assistance.
- Surveys

Travel

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?

No

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging

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?

MNDNR Process: Used Direct and Necessary calculator provided by DNR OHF staff.

MLT Process: In a process that was approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, we determined our direct support services rate to be 27%. The rate represents the relationship of indirect costs to direct costs and is fully explained

in materials submitted to the DNR. The calculations are based on the most recent audited financial statements that were available at the time. We will apply the approved rate to personnel expenses funded by the grant.

Other Equipment/Tools

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

The Equipment and Tools budget line includes field and safety equipment or tools, space rental, and utilities.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

Yes

Are the funds confirmed?

No

What is the approximate date you anticipate receiving confirmation of the federal funds?

Unknown. SLRRI has a strong history of leveraging federal funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). GLRI continues to be strongly supported. As projects are developed, SLRRI anticipates applying for GLRI funds to supplement OHF budgets.

Output Tables**Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	12	12
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	50	50
Total	-	-	-	62	62

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	\$1,447,000	\$1,447,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	\$716,000	\$716,000
Total	-	-	-	\$2,163,000	\$2,163,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	12	12
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	50	50
Total	-	-	-	-	62	62

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	\$1,447,000	\$1,447,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	\$716,000	\$716,000
Total	-	-	-	-	\$2,163,000	\$2,163,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	\$120,583
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	\$14,320

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	\$120,583
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	\$14,320

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

750 ft

Parcels

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

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?

No

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

The SLRRI is a partner to the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP). The SLRRI works within the nexus between GLRI, LAMP, and state priorities for habitats and species in the Lower St. Louis River and its watershed.

At the local level, the SLRRI works with partners and stakeholders to develop and implement the following plans: Lower St. Louis River Habitat Plan, City of Duluth Natural Resources Management Program Plan, and St. Louis River Natural Area Management Plan. The SLRRI team has a leadership role in the Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership, which provides a framework for how partners in the lower St. Louis River region work together to achieve a thriving estuary landscape and community.

Minnesota DNR is a coordinating agency for the St. Louis River Area of Concern (AOC) Program. In previous OHF proposals, the AOC Remedial Action Plan largely influenced parcel selection. As AOC projects are completed and the AOC moves closer to delisting, the SLRRI team and partners select parcels that enhance or add resilience to completed AOC projects, and/or meet habitat goals and objectives that were outside of the AOC program’s limited scope.

The Accomplishment Plan parcel list reflects direction received from the Council (10/5/23) that work funded by ML2024 be concentrated in the estuary and adjacent areas. Therefore, the Knowlton Creek Tributaries project was removed from the parcel list and avian forest restoration will be limited to estuary-adjacent forests.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Radio Tower Bay Phase 2	St. Louis	04815202	5	\$504,500	Yes
Munger Landing (Stewart Creek 750 ft stream and wetland restoration)	St. Louis	04915226	7	\$504,500	Yes
Avian Forest Habitat (multiple sites, centroid given)	St. Louis	04915227	50	\$500,000	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

St. Louis River Restoration Initiative – Phase 11

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2024 - St. Louis River Restoration Initiative – Phase 11

Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Manager: Melissa Sjolund

Budget

Requested Amount: \$4,098,000

Appropriated Amount: \$2,163,000

Percentage: 52.78%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	\$650,000	-	\$487,500	-	75.0%	-
Contracts	\$2,750,000	-	\$1,009,000	-	36.69%	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$7,100	-	\$4,200	-	59.15%	-
Professional Services	\$520,000	-	\$555,000	-	106.73%	-
Direct Support Services	\$141,400	-	\$86,300	-	61.03%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$25,000	-	\$18,000	-	72.0%	-
Supplies/Materials	\$4,500	-	\$3,000	-	66.67%	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$4,098,000	-	\$2,163,000	-	52.78%	-

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

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

Completely funding the construction/administration of the Knowlton Creek Tributaries project would be prioritized, with the remaining parcel budgets and acres scaled proportional to the remaining funds.

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

Personnel/DSS expenses would reduce to 70-85% of the requested amount. Getting projects to being construction-ready and overseeing construction requires the largest investment of staff time. Staff time spent on advancing the SLRRI program as a whole and developing future projects would be most reduced.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

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

The Knowlton Creek Tributaries budget and construction would be reduced the least (to 70-85% of requested amount). Restoration work may be scaled, or additional funds acquired to implement the full project. The remaining parcel budgets would be proportionally scaled and/or delayed to acquire additional funds.

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

Personnel/DSS expenses would be reduced to 50-70% of the requested amount. Getting projects to the point of being construction-ready requires the largest investment of staff time. Staff time spent on advancing the SLRRI program as a whole and developing future projects would be most reduced.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	23	12	52.17%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	70	50	71.43%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	\$3,348,000	\$1,447,000	43.22%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	\$750,000	\$716,000	95.47%

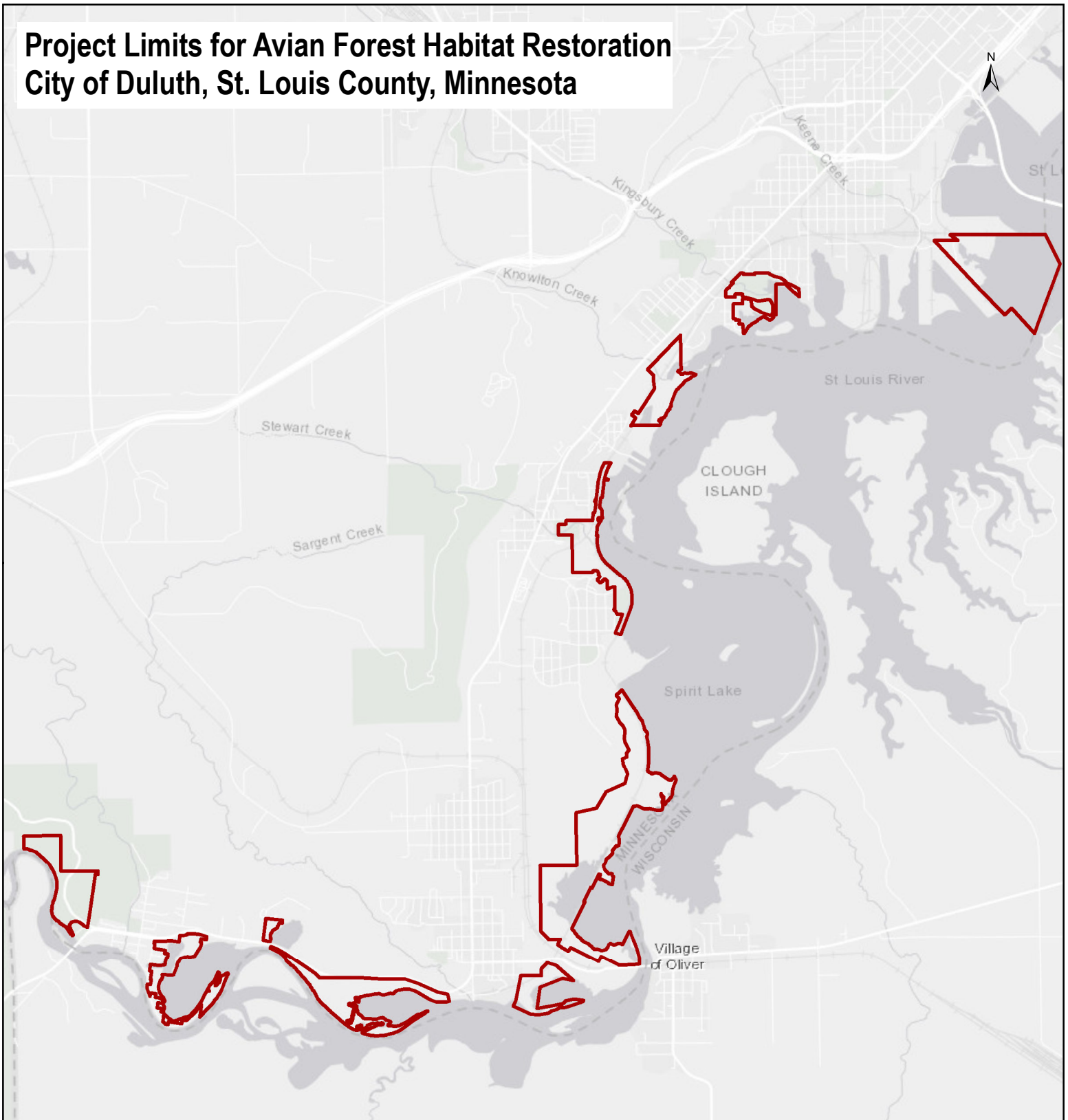
Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	23	12	52.17%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	0	-	-
Enhance	70	50	71.43%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	\$3,348,000	\$1,447,000	43.22%
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-
Enhance	\$750,000	\$716,000	95.47%

Project Limits for Avian Forest Habitat Restoration City of Duluth, St. Louis County, Minnesota



Legend

 St. Louis River Natural Area Boundary

Site Location

