



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

St. Louis River Restoration Initiative – Phase 11

ML 2024 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 06/23/2023

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

Funds Requested: \$4,098,000

Confirmed Leverage Funds: -

Is this proposal Scalable?: Yes

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Melissa Sjolund

Title: St. Louis River & Lake Superior Program Supervisor

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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 93 acres of priority aquatic, wetland, and 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. The SLRRI employs a collaborative approach using a network of resource managers, researchers, and key stakeholders. As partners, the MNDNR and Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) have successfully restored wetland, stream, and open water aquatic habitats while leveraging significant federal support.

We will continue to restore or enhance 93 acres and approximately 3,000 feet of stream habitats with an emphasis on the following parcels:

Knowlton Creek Tributaries: the SLRRI will restore approximately 1,500 feet (3 acres) of this cold-water stream, restoring habitat and reducing sediment delivery to the St. Louis River estuary. The SLRRI restored select Knowlton Creek segments in 2016-17 under the Area of Concern (AOC) program. Additional degraded tributaries identified for restoration lie upstream of the previously restored segments and have a direct connection to coastal wetlands in the St. Louis River estuary.

Radio Tower Bay Phase 2: MNDNR will restore approximately 10 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 7 acres of coastal wetlands, 1,500 feet (3 acres) of stream, and enhance 20 acres of terrestrial habitats 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 in Duluth. 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 proposal 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.

Brook trout are native to headwaters and small streams of northeastern and southeastern Minnesota. Restoring the upper reaches of Knowlton Creek will promote natural flows, improve habitat conditions for all life stages of Brook Trout, and increase the probability of survival and natural reproduction.

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 proposal that are critical from a timing perspective?

MNDNR considers restoration work in upper Knowlton Creek tributaries to be critical in order to address emerging erosion concerns, protect downstream stream and estuary restoration investments, and complement future City of Duluth restoration work within the creek's forested watershed.

Proposed restoration work at Munger Landing is also 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.

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 proposal 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 proposal 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 cold water trout 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 proposal?

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

Describe how this project/program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife, and if not permanent outcomes, why it is important to undertake at this time:

The SLRRI Phase 11 restoration efforts in the estuary will produce the diverse, productive, and healthy aquatic ecosystems that will make it one of the top fishing destinations in Minnesota. This is based on the unparalleled variety of angling opportunities these habitats provide. Few waters in Minnesota have the ability to host destination quality fishing for walleye, muskellunge, smallmouth bass, lake sturgeon, and black crappie. Restorations and enhanced management of the estuary will increase the number, size, and quality of fish SCGN and game fish species, as well as improve angler and other recreational access.

The estuary and the associated ridgeline is one of the most important migratory stopover sites and breeding areas for birds along the Mississippi River and Great Lakes flyway. More than 130 species of birds (80% of bird species that occur in Minnesota) rely on the estuary for some portion of their life cycle. Numerous marsh bird SCGN are expected to benefit from the proposed coastal marsh restoration and forest enhancements.

The biodiversity significance of the St. Louis River estuary is largely based on the presence of Lake Superior Coastal Marsh, type MRu94a, which is ranked as critically imperiled by the Minnesota Biological Survey. A legacy of industrial and urban development along the lower St. Louis River is estimated to have dredged or filled approximately 3,400 acres of coastal marsh habitat. Continued restoration and enhancement of coastal marsh habitat will mitigate legacy impacts and ensure lasting, positive outcomes for the river's fish and wildlife.

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.

What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this proposal?

- N/A

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.

Not applicable

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	DNR Fish & Wildlife Game & Fish fund	Regular Surveys/monitoring of aquatic habitat	-	-
All years	City of Duluth	Regular Surveys/monitoring of terrestrial habitats	-	-

Provide an assessment of how your program may celebrate cultural diversity or reach 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 proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?

Yes

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?

Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 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 proposal?

No

Other OHF Appropriation Awards

Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC that are current OPEN appropriations?

Yes

Approp Year	Funding Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Funding Remaining	% Spent to Date
2023	\$2,596,000	-	-	-
2022	\$4,915,500	-	-	-
2021	\$2,024,000	\$252,800	\$1,771,200	12.49%
2020	\$2,280,000	\$4,900	\$2,275,100	0.21%
2019	\$3,777,000	\$1,142,900	\$2,634,100	30.26%
2018	\$2,013,000	\$2,005,700	\$7,300	99.64%
2017	\$3,392,000	\$3,392,000	-	100.0%

2016	\$2,707,000	\$2,707,000	-	100.0%
2014	\$2,290,000	\$2,290,000	-	100.0%
2012	\$3,668,900	\$3,668,900	-	100.0%
Totals	\$29,663,400	\$15,464,200	\$14,199,200	52.13%

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Knowlton Creek Tributaries	December 2026
Project prioritization, integration, and development; site-specific coordination	June 2029
Munger Landing	December 2027
Radio Tower Bay Phase 2	December 2028
Avian Forest Habitat	June 2029

Budget

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$650,000	-	-	\$650,000
Contracts	\$2,750,000	-	-	\$2,750,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$7,100	-	-	\$7,100
Professional Services	\$520,000	-	-	\$520,000
Direct Support Services	\$141,400	-	-	\$141,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Supplies/Materials	\$4,500	-	-	\$4,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$4,098,000	-	-	\$4,098,000

Partner: MN Land Trust

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$200,000	-	-	\$200,000
Contracts	\$500,000	-	-	\$500,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Professional Services	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Direct Support Services	\$54,000	-	-	\$54,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$5,000	-	-	\$5,000
Supplies/Materials	\$1,500	-	-	\$1,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$782,500	-	-	\$782,500

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Restoration staff	0.5	4.0	\$200,000	-	-	\$200,000

Partner: MN DNR

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$450,000	-	-	\$450,000
Contracts	\$2,250,000	-	-	\$2,250,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$5,100	-	-	\$5,100
Professional Services	\$500,000	-	-	\$500,000
Direct Support Services	\$87,400	-	-	\$87,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Supplies/Materials	\$3,000	-	-	\$3,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$3,315,500	-	-	\$3,315,500

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
EWR Supervisor	0.2	3.0	\$70,000	-	-	\$70,000
FAW OAS	0.5	3.0	\$100,000	-	-	\$100,000
EWR Project Manager	0.5	3.0	\$140,000	-	-	\$140,000
FAW Project Manager	0.5	3.0	\$140,000	-	-	\$140,000

Amount of Request: \$4,098,000

Amount of Leverage: -

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 0.0%

DSS + Personnel: \$791,400

As a % of the total request: 19.31%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

Does this proposal 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?

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 30% 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.

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
- 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

NA

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	0	0	0	23	23
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	70	70
Total	0	0	0	93	93

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	\$3,348,000	\$3,348,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	\$750,000	\$750,000
Total	-	-	-	\$4,098,000	\$4,098,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	23	23
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	70	70
Total	0	0	0	0	93	93

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	\$3,348,000	\$3,348,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	\$750,000	\$750,000
Total	-	-	-	-	\$4,098,000	\$4,098,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	\$145,565
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	\$10,714

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	\$145,565
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-

Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	\$10,714

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

3000

Parcels

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.

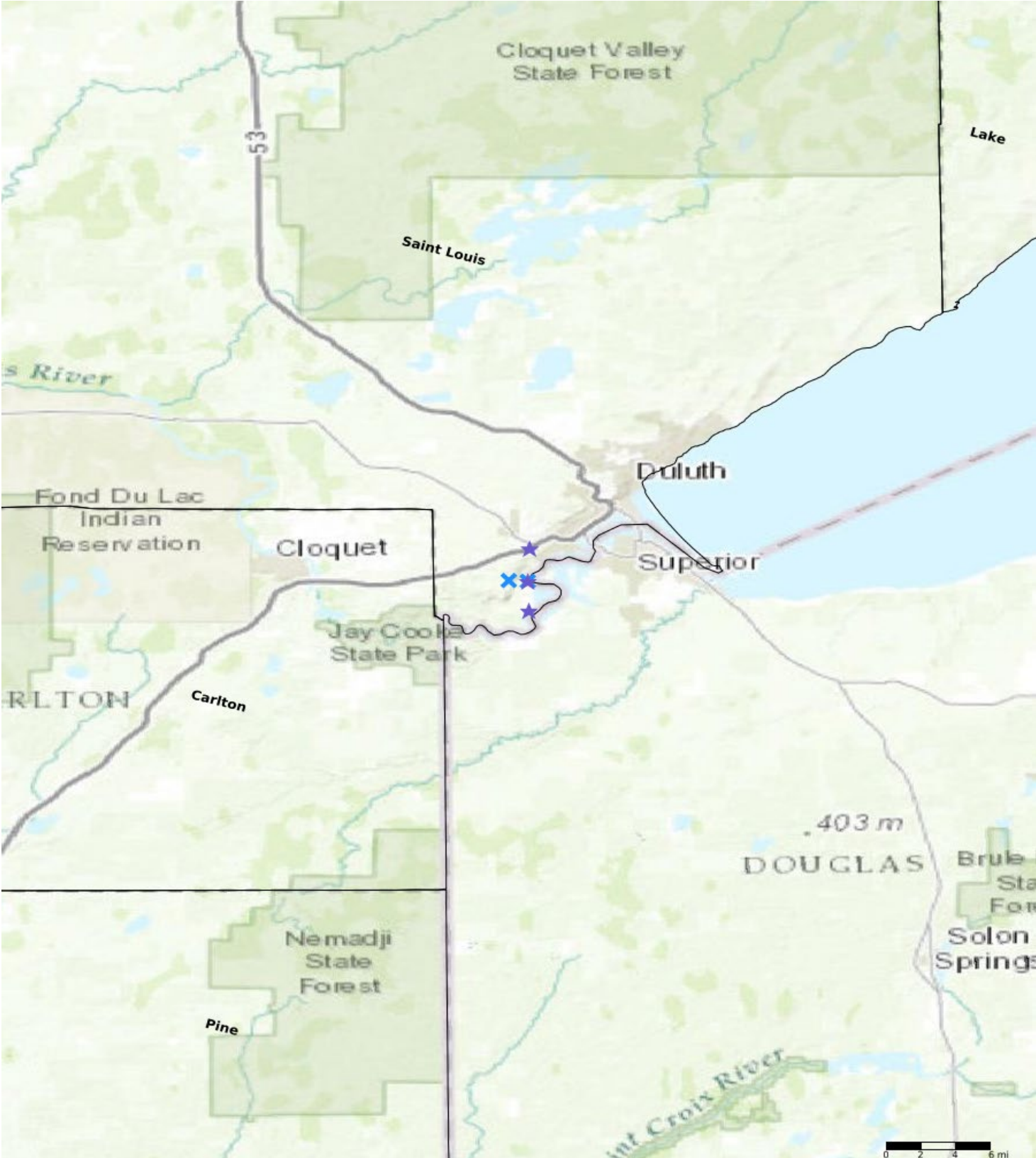
At the local level, the SLRRI works with partners and stakeholders to develop and implement the following plans: Lower St. Louis River Habitat Plan, City of Duluth Natural Resources Management Program Plan, and St. Louis River Natural Area Management Plan. The SLRRI team has a leadership role in the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

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. As evidenced by the current level of coordination and planning occurring in the St. Louis River landscape, significant work remains to realize a collective vision for a healthy, thriving river and watershed.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Avian Forest Habitat (multiple sites, centroid given)	St. Louis	04915227	50	\$500,000	Yes
Knowlton Creek Tributaries (1500 ft stream)	St. Louis	04915214	3	\$900,000	Yes
Munger Landing (terrestrial habitat enhancements)	St. Louis	04915226	20	\$250,000	Yes
Munger Landing (Stewart Creek 1500 ft stream and wetland restoration)	St. Louis	04915226	10	\$650,000	Yes
Radio Tower Bay Phase 2	St. Louis	04815202	10	\$900,000	Yes

Parcel Map



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



St. Louis River Restoration Initiative (SLRRI)



Working together towards a vision of diverse, productive, and healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems of the river and watershed

WHO WE ARE



The SLRRI represents a 12-year partnership between the Minnesota DNR and Minnesota Land Trust

WHAT GUIDES US

The SLRRI charts our course with guidance from established plans and programs such as:

- Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership
 - Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan
 - Duluth's Natural Resources Management Program Plan
 - Lower St. Louis River Habitat Plan
 - St. Louis River Area of Concern Program



ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY

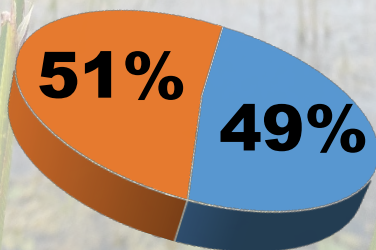
- 11,000 acre coastal marsh
- Biodiversity hotspot
- Important bird area
- World class fishing
- Legacy of industrial use
- Critically imperiled habitat
- A Great Lakes Area of Concern

SLRRI is making a difference!

Since 2012:

\$27,067,900 OHF

\$25,813,392 Non-OHF



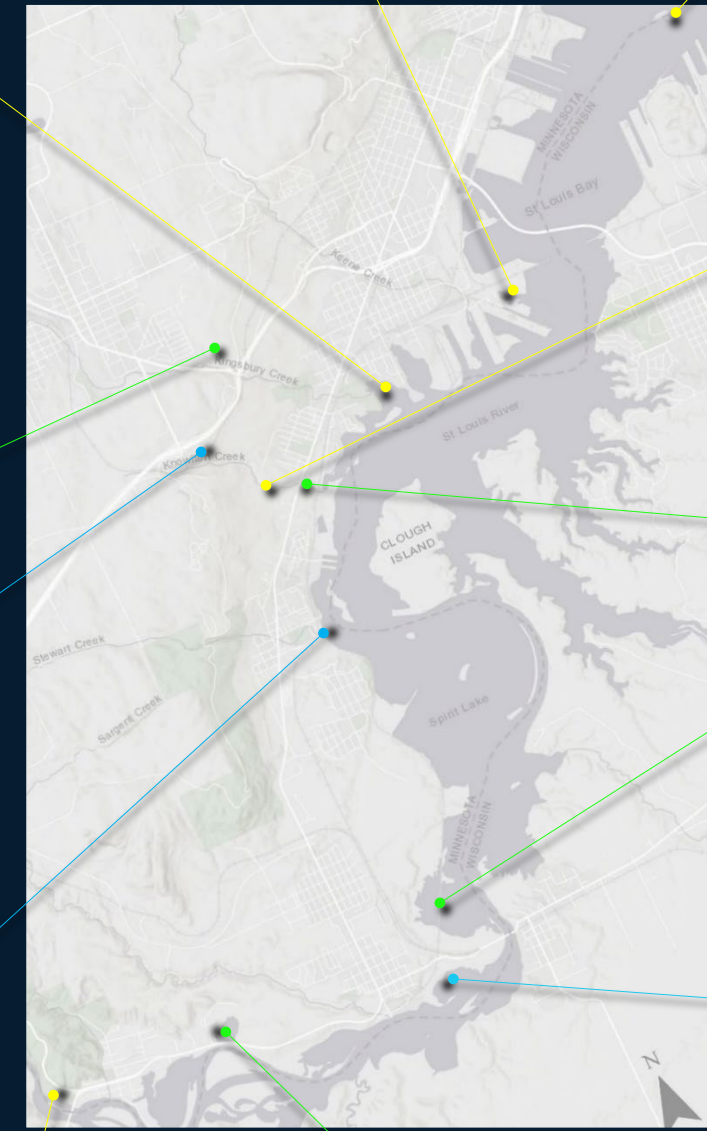
Partnerships are the foundation of our program's success.



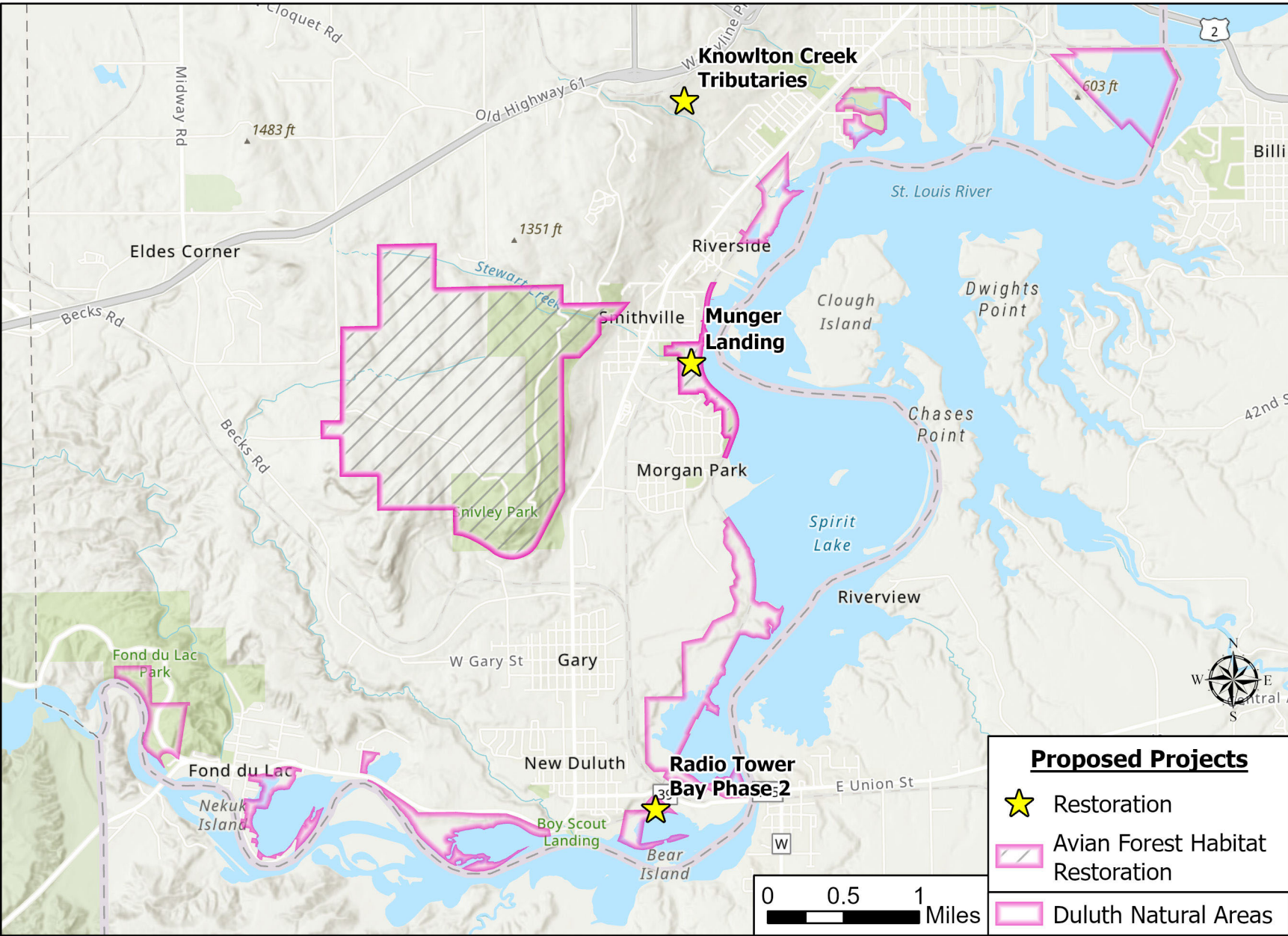
LEVERAGING SUPPORT

OUR PARTNERS

St. Louis River Restoration Initiative



Attachment: Map showing boundaries of areas protected and managed by the Duluth Natural Area Program and parcels included for restoration and enhancement in the St. Louis River Restoration Initiative Phase 11 Proposal.





May 17, 2023

Dear Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Members,

On behalf of the City of Duluth, I am pleased to support the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Minnesota Land Trust's St. Louis River Restoration Initiative – Phase 11 proposal.

Duluth's public lands entail over 12,000 acres of open space providing ecosystem services related to climate resiliency, public health, and economic stability, as well as providing important habitat for fish and wildlife, notably the more than 150 species of birds using the St. Louis River Important Bird Area.

The City has worked with Minnesota Land Trust for many years to help our community preserve open space, establish and restore natural areas and build our first natural resource management program plan based on sound science and following sustainable strategies. We are currently working together on restoring important avian habitat in the St. Louis River Natural Area in coastal forests impacted by emerald Ash borer and look forward to future phases of this avian conservation work in our forests.

The City has also worked closely with the Minnesota DNR to implement the large scale restoration projects of the St. Louis River Restoration Initiative. This work has resulted in significant benefit to not only the City's valued natural resources but also to the public, including providing increased access to the river for recreational anglers and birders.

We value the significant investments made to conserve our wetlands, forests, and streams through the work of the St. Louis River Restoration Initiative and our partnership with Minnesota DNR and Minnesota Land Trust. We are excited at the prospect of continuing work this work together with the projects outlined in this phase of the initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Filby-Williams'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jim Filby-Williams
City of Duluth, Director of Parks, Properties, and Libraries