



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

### Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 10 Laws of Minnesota 2025 Accomplishment Plan

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#### General Information

**Date:** 06/09/2025

**Project Title:** Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 10

**Funds Recommended:** \$3,518,000

**Legislative Citation:** ML 2025, Ch. 36, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(c)

**Appropriation Language:** \$3,518,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat on public lands and easements in the Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion and intersecting minor watersheds as follows: \$553,000 to Anoka Conservation District; \$1,385,000 to Great River Greening; \$300,000 to The Nature Conservancy; and \$1,280,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to \$112,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

#### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Wiley Buck

**Title:** Senior Program Manager

**Organization:** Great River Greening

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#### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Crow Wing, Morrison, Stearns, Benton, Chisago, Anoka and Isanti.

**Eco regions in which work will take place:**

Forest / Prairie Transition

Metro / Urban

Northern Forest

**Activity types:**

Protect in Easement

Restore

Enhance

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

**Narrative****Abstract**

The Anoka Sand Plain (ASP) Partnership will protect 105 acres through conservation easements and restore/enhance 381 acres of Prairie/Oak Savanna, Wetland, Habitat, and Woodland/Forest at sites in the Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion and its watersheds. Our actions will increase biodiversity, habitat connectivity and quality, recreational opportunities, and landscape resilience, which align with the ASP Partnership's 10-year Strategic Conservation Action Plan, DNR Wildlife Action Plan and LSOHC Section priorities. Great River Greening (GRG), Anoka Conservation District (ACD), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) are direct recipients, with match from LGUs and private sources.

**Design and Scope of Work**

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

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

With this funding, program partners Great River Greening (GRG), Anoka Conservation District (ACD), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will secure conservation easements on 105 acres to expand habitat cores and corridors, and complete restoration and enhancement (R/E) on 381 protected acres, and re-meander 3,000 feet of stream. Habitats include prairie/savanna grasslands, woodland, and non-forested peat wetlands.

Results will be achieved by protection of ecologically significant habitats with conservation easement, and by conducting invasive species and woody encroachment removal, stream re-meandering, prescribed burning and, conservation grazing, thinning, seeding, and planting. Our program will create and improve critical habitat for rare species and Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) by increasing biodiversity and landscape resilience. It will also benefit water quality and quantity, improve community resiliency, and increase recreational opportunities including R/E engagement.

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

We will complete 105 acres of conservation easements protection on priority lands, and R/E on 110 acres of prairie/savanna grasslands, 51 acres of non-forested wetlands/peatlands, 97 acres of habitat, 123 acres of woodland and 3,000 feet of streambank.

Five parcels are rated as High or Outstanding Biodiversity by MBS, and an additional four are rated as Moderate Biodiversity, for a total of nine parcels at or above MBS ranking of moderate biodiversity significance. Protecting MBS sites is key, while other sites will have proved and expanded habitat through restoration and enhancement.

### **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. The rare plant rescue program is underway with existing appropriations (saving rare plants from development sites) and is in pressing need for protected and enhanced recipient sites. ASP10 will help address the urgent need for suitable recipient sites via enhancement.

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

The ASP Partnership 10-Year Conservation Strategic Plan utilizes multiple-criteria GIS analyses to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat connectivity, SGCN, biodiversity, and native plant communities. Data layers

include: 1. Top 95% of SGCN population composite 2. Good or excellent populations of state or federally endangered and threatened species 3. Richness hotspots falling outside the top 95% of populations 4. Marxan outputs from the Scientific and Natural Area strategic plan 5. Sites of Biodiversity Significance that intersect with Marxan outputs 6. Native plant communities: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Division of Ecological and Water Resources – Biological Survey. MNDNR Native Plant Communities. 2014.

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

The Anoka Sand Plain Partnership project area is remarkable in containing 4 large, protected habitat cores, and large riparian corridors including the Mississippi River and Rum River, portions of which are designated as Wild & Scenic.

### **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 stores 50% of carbon for 100s of years in the form of rot-resistant biochar, compared with traditional open-pile burning. We are identifying parcels likely to include biochar production and application, sustaining the biochar initiative started in ASP9/ML24. We will continue to evaluate projects within emerging climate models including UMN Minnesota Climate Mapping and Analysis Tool and TNC's Resilient Land Mapping Tool. Recipients implement high diversity seeding and planting paying attention to geographic source ecotype during procurement, incorporating future climate predictions. The ASP is at the intersection of several Minnesota biomes and with this proximity has inherent ability to toggle between natural communities in response to future climate. Protecting complexes of large and connected habitat blocks reduces fragmentation and allows for species movement as climate changes. Protecting habitat is crucial in mitigating against flooding caused by excessive rainfall events given their water retention.

### **Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?**

#### **Forest / Prairie Transition**

Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

#### **Metro / Urban**

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

## Northern Forest

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

### Outcomes

#### Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

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

#### Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

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

#### **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, 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, investigating potential violations, and defending the easement in case of a true violation. In addition, MLT assists landowners in managing their lands through the development of habitat management plans and finding the resources to effectively manage the habitat for its wildlife and water quality benefits.

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 recipient sites must commit to the long-term maintenance of these sites. A principal management goal is to elevate each R/E site prior to grant close to a threshold where on-going management cost is diminished. For 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
2029 and in perpetuity	MLT Long Term Stewardship and Enforcement Funds	Annual Monitoring of Easements	Enforcement as Necessary	-
2031	ACD Anoka Agriculture Preserves	Monitor every 2-3 years	Spot treatment	Overseeding
2031	Anoka County Parks	Spot herbicide treatment and spot mowing and biocontrol	Prescribed burn every 3-5 years	Overseeding
2031	USFWS in-kind	Rx Burning	Spot herbicide treatment	-
2031	GRG in-kind	Monitoring every 2-3 years	Landowner Engagement	-

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

ASP Partners have existing DEIJ initiatives including: Future Stewards Program (GRG); Ambassador Lands Program (MLT); and partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe (MLT). Partners have secured DEIJ related funding including: Engaging a Diverse Public in Stewardship funded by Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (GRG); internal staff funding for DEIJ pursuits (MLT), and others. Partners will continue to connect all our DEIJ programs and resources to ASP10 projects when appropriate opportunities arise.

ASP ecoregion provides close-to-home recreation opportunities for the majority of Minnesotans. This includes large BIPOC and low-income populations areas as identified by the MPCA environmental justice tool.

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

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

## Activity Details

### Requirements

**If funded, this program will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056?**

Yes

**Is the land you plan to acquire (easement) free of any other permanent protection?**

Yes

**Who will manage the easement?**

Minnesota Land Trust

**Who will be the easement holder?**

Minnesota Land Trust

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

Minnesota Land Trust anticipates two to four easements will be accomplished with this appropriation.

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

Yes

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

Yes

**Where does the activity take place?**

WMA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

County/Municipal

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:**

**Easement Acquisition:**

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

**Restoration:**

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

**Will 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

**Will the eased land be open for public use?**

No

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

Yes

**Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:**

Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, the conservation easement permits the continued usage of established trails and roads so long as their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/trails or expansion of existing ones is typically not allowed or require Land Trust approval.

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

Yes

**How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?**

Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the Land Trust's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails in accordance with the terms of the easement will be the responsibility of the landowner.

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

No

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

No

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

No

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

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

**Timeline**

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
TNC: stream and wetland restoration and follow up assessment	6/30/2030
MLT: Restoration and enhancement of 168 acres completed	6/30/2030
GRG: Sustained follow up enhancement activities completed	6/30/2030
GRG: Initial site treatments completed	1/1/2028
GRG: RFP process completed and contracts executed	1/1/2027
GRG: Landowner agreements	1/1/2026
ACD: prairie and wetland prescribed burns and seeding, buckthorn and woody encroachment removal	12/31/2028
MLT: Conservation easements completed	6/30/2029
ACD: targeted follow up weed control and seeding	6/1/2030
ACD: site prep in prairies and wetlands	11/1/2026

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 11/01/2030

**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, 2029;
- (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, 2033;
- (3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2030;
- (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**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Leverage</b>	<b>Leverage Source</b>	<b>Total</b>
Personnel	\$633,500	\$64,900	Benton County., Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, City of St. Cloud, Private Foundation, Landowner	\$698,400
Contracts	\$1,818,800	\$142,000	-, Private Foundation, City of Anoka, Anoka County	\$1,960,800
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$575,000	\$57,000	-, Landowners	\$632,000
Easement Stewardship	\$112,000	-	-	\$112,000
Travel	\$23,000	-	-	\$23,000
Professional Services	\$119,000	-	-	\$119,000
Direct Support Services	\$166,700	\$63,600	-, ACD, GRG	\$230,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$11,500	-	-	\$11,500
Supplies/Materials	\$58,500	-	-	\$58,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,518,000</b>	<b>\$327,500</b>	-	<b>\$3,845,500</b>

**Partner: Anoka Conservation District****Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$155,000	\$8,000	Landowner	\$163,000
Contracts	\$340,600	\$22,000	City of Anoka, Anoka County	\$362,600
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$31,400	\$15,500	ACD	\$46,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$26,000	-	-	\$26,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$553,000</b>	<b>\$45,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$598,500</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
ACD Personnel	0.5	5.0	\$155,000	\$8,000	Landowner	\$163,000

**Partner: The Nature Conservancy****Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$42,500	\$10,000	Private Foundation	\$52,500
Contracts	\$215,000	\$120,000	Private Foundation	\$335,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Professional Services	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000
Direct Support Services	\$22,500	-	-	\$22,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$5,000	-	-	\$5,000
Supplies/Materials	\$3,000	-	-	\$3,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>	-	<b>\$430,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	0.07	5.0	\$42,500	\$10,000	Private Foundation	\$52,500

**Partner: Minnesota Land Trust****Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$257,000	-	-	\$257,000
Contracts	\$145,200	-	-	\$145,200
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$575,000	\$57,000	Landowners	\$632,000
Easement Stewardship	\$112,000	-	-	\$112,000
Travel	\$9,000	-	-	\$9,000
Professional Services	\$109,000	-	-	\$109,000
Direct Support Services	\$69,800	-	-	\$69,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,500	-	-	\$1,500
Supplies/Materials	\$1,500	-	-	\$1,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,280,000</b>	<b>\$57,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,337,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Restoration Staff	0.25	5.0	\$125,000	-	-	\$125,000
MLT Land Protection Staff	0.33	4.0	\$132,000	-	-	\$132,000

**Partner: Great River Greening****Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$179,000	\$46,900	Benton County., Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, City of St. Cloud	\$225,900
Contracts	\$1,118,000	-	-	\$1,118,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$12,000	-	-	\$12,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$43,000	\$48,100	GRG	\$91,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$5,000	-	-	\$5,000
Supplies/Materials	\$28,000	-	-	\$28,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,385,000</b>	<b>\$95,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,480,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Staff	0.4	5.0	\$179,000	\$46,900	Benton County., Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, City of St. Cloud	\$225,900

**Amount of Request:** \$3,518,000**Amount of Leverage:** \$327,500**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 9.31%**DSS + Personnel:** \$800,200**As a % of the total request:** 22.75%**Easement Stewardship:** \$112,000**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 19.48%**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?**

Reduced deliverables, fewer R/E parcels and fewer easements. There is some loss of economy of scale in labor and travel; larger discrepancies in direct scaling are due to determination of which parcels remain funded, as there is a wide range of \$/ac in our proposed parcel lists.

**Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:**

Project landowners will provide match, including St. Cloud, Anoka County, Benton County, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, and City of Anoka.

Volunteer labor is valued at @ \$31.80/hr.

MLT - \$57,000 in estimated donation of easement value from landowners.

**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?**

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

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

For projects that are scaled down or split into phases, there is potential loss of economy of scale in labor and contracts. DSS expenses are highly proportional to labor and contracts. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount.

**Personnel**

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

Yes

**Contracts**

**What is included in the contracts line?**

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

**Professional Services**

**What is included in the Professional Services line?**

Appraisals

Design/Engineering

Other : Phase 1 Environmental Assessments, Minerals Reports, Mapping

Surveys

Title Insurance and Legal Fees

## Easement Stewardship

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

The Land Trust's budget is built around the closing of 2-4 conservation easements, depending on size and cost. The average cost per easement to fund the MLT's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$28,000, although in extraordinary circumstances additional funding may be warranted. This figure is derived from MLT's detailed stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards. MLT shares periodic updates to this cost analysis with LSOHC staff.

## Travel

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

Yes

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

Vehicle rental is occasionally necessary due to lack of fleet and/or available personally-owned-vehicles. Vehicle rental can be competitive with the cost of mileage reimbursement, for longer trips.

### **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?**

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

GRG: In a process approved by DNR in 2023, GRG's direct support services rate includes all allowable direct and necessary expenditures not captured in other line items in the budget. Our DSS request to LSOHC is less than half the amount allowed by the DNR approved rate, and less than or equal to 10% of the total allocation request.

MLT: In a process approved by DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services.

TNC: DSS is based on The Nature Conservancy's Federal Negotiated Rate (FNR) as proposed and approved by the US Dept. of Interior on an annual basis. In this proposal we are requesting reimbursement of 7.5% of eligible base costs as determined by our annual FNR and based on suggestions from the Council in prior years' hearings. The amount requested for reimbursement represents less than one-third of the total reimbursable costs allowed under the FNR. Examples of expenses included in the FNR include services from in-house legal counsel; finance, human resources; and information technology support, all of which contribute directly to the implementation of the project

## **Other Equipment/Tools**

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

Loppers, trowels, shovels, chainsaws, brush-cutters, sprayers, flagging, pin flags, PPE, GPS handheld, time-lapse outdoor cameras

## **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	-	6	-	-	6
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	105	105
Enhance	51	104	123	97	375
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>486</b>

**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	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

**Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	\$62,300	-	-	\$62,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Enhance	\$481,000	\$541,300	\$909,400	\$524,000	\$2,455,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$481,000</b>	<b>\$603,600</b>	<b>\$909,400</b>	<b>\$1,524,000</b>	<b>\$3,518,000</b>

**Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	6	6
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	65	40	-	-	-	105
Enhance	136	239	-	-	-	375
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>486</b>

**Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	\$62,300	\$62,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$700,000	\$300,000	-	-	-	\$1,000,000
Enhance	\$1,070,700	\$1,385,000	-	-	-	\$2,455,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,770,700</b>	<b>\$1,685,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$62,300</b>	<b>\$3,518,000</b>

**Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	\$10,383	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$9,523
Enhance	\$9,431	\$5,204	\$7,393	\$5,402

**Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)**

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	\$10,383
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$10,769	\$7,500	-	-	-
Enhance	\$7,872	\$5,794	-	-	-

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles**

3000 feet

## Parcels

### Parcel Information

#### Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes - Sign up criteria is attached](#)

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

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.

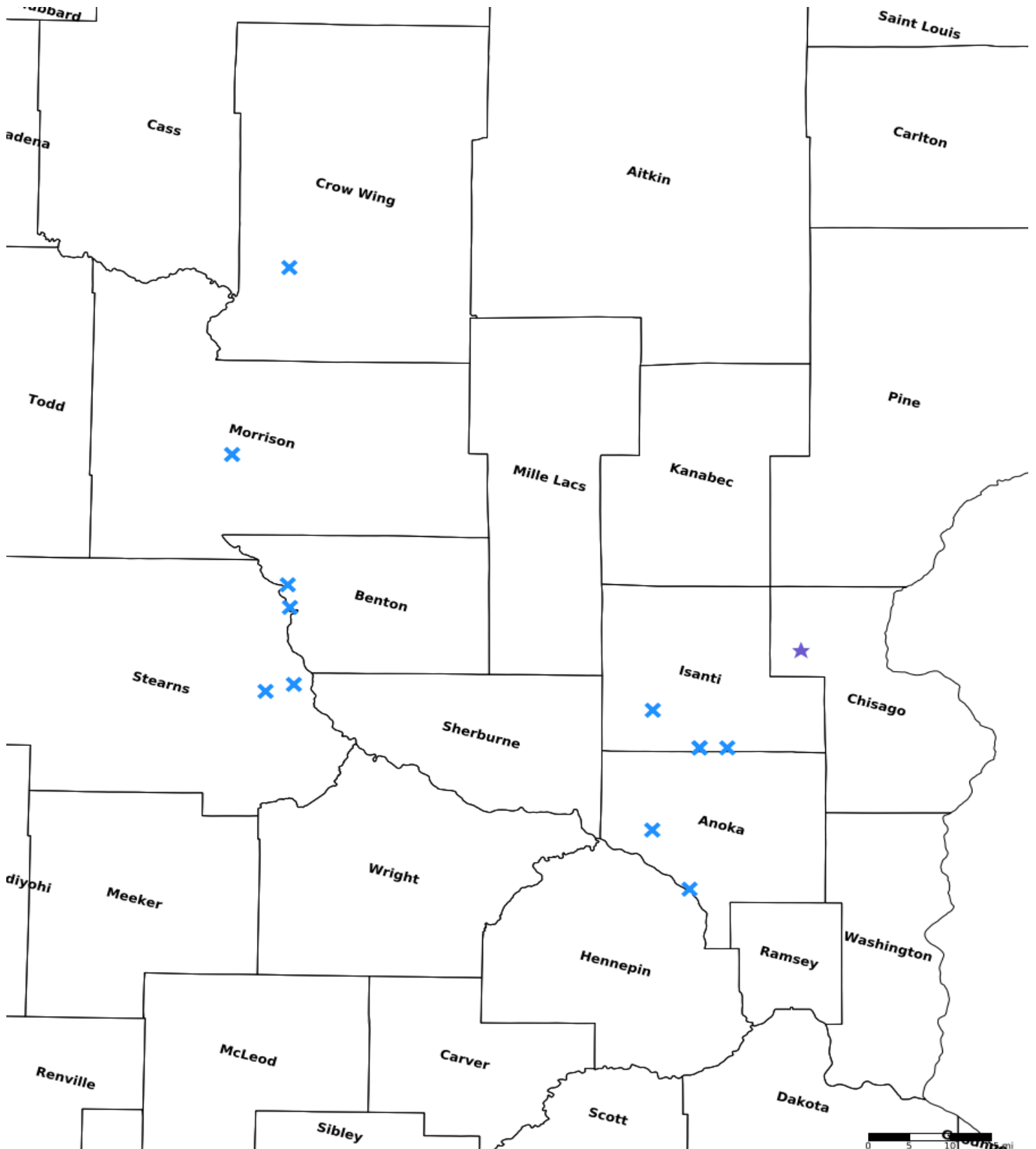
Note that in addition to the parcels below, we have included in this proposal MLT conservation easements. The Land Trust uses a competitive, market-based approach through an RFP process to identify interested landowners and prioritize parcels for conservation easement acquisition. All proposals submitted by landowners are evaluated and ranked relative to their ecological significance based on three primary factors: 1) size of habitat on the parcel; 2) condition of habitat on the parcel; and 3) the context (both in terms of amount/quality of remaining habitat and protected areas) within which the parcel lies. The criteria for parcel selection and ranking sheet for this program are included as an attachment.

### Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
ACD - Anoka Nature Preserve	Anoka	03225213	20	\$117,600	Yes	Enhance prairie and wetland
ACD - Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park Phase 2	Anoka	03124227	31	\$217,400	Yes	Buckthorn control, woody control in savannas, Mississippi River shoreline
ACD - Wilenbring Rum RIM Conservation Easement	Anoka	03424223	24	\$138,500	Yes	Prairie enhancement in old field, enhance degraded wetland and degraded woodland along the Rum River
GRG - Bend in the River Regional Park Ph 2	Benton	03731204	10	\$100,000	Yes	Removal of invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn in riparian oak woodland.
GRG - Franciscan Sister of Little Falls: Umbria Retreat	Benton	03731221	80	\$319,000	Yes	Increase prairie diversity; non-native invasive and overabundant native woody species removal from oak and riparian woodlands on Mississippi River habitat corridor. Rx burn. Biochar production, application. Easement process underway

MLT - Goose Lake (Hansen)	Chisago	03622215	6	\$30,000	Yes	Prairie restoration in old fields, increase habitat value of grassland openings in grassland/woodland matrix, expand openings
GRG - Rotary Riverside Park	Crow Wing	04531235	38	\$254,600	Yes	Invasive shrub control in upland, terrace, and floodplain forest.
ACD - Bethel WMA	Isanti	03424223	21	\$115,500	Yes	Enhance sedge meadow, rare plants
MLT - Tennyson Lake (Barrett)	Isanti	03525225	50	\$360,000	Yes	Enhancement of oak woodlands, invasive removal and follow up treatments
TNC - CCESR Stream Remeander	Isanti	03423220	20	\$300,000	Yes	Stream remeander and restoring hydrology to adjacent peatland
GRG - Little Falls School Forest	Morrison	04032209	15	\$150,000	Yes	Invasive shrub control in mesic forest
GRG - Big Woods Natural Area/Oak Hill Elementary School	Stearns	12428222	55	\$541,000	Yes	Woody Invasives removal; tree planting. Biochar production, application.. Need Woodland Stewardship Plan
GRG - Quarry Park & Reserve, Phase 2	Stearns	12428230	50	\$495,000	Yes	Invasive shrub control in forest, wetland, and rock outcrop habitat with rare species

# Parcel Map



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