



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Washington County Habitat Protection and Enhancement Partnership - Phase 2
Laws of Minnesota 2026 Accomplishment Plan

General Information

Date: 10/16/2025

Project Title: Washington County Habitat Protection and Enhancement Partnership - Phase 2

Funds Recommended: \$2,409,000

Legislative Citation:

Appropriation Language:

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Serena Rath

Title: Planner II

Organization: Washington County

Address: 14949 62nd St N

City: Stillwater, MN 55082

Email: serena.raths@washingtoncountymn.gov

Office Number: 651-430-6024

Mobile Number:

Fax Number:

Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): Washington.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Enhance

Protect in Easement

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Forest

Prairie

Wetlands

Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

Located at the convergence of the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, Washington County contains a significant amount of high-quality natural habitat in the Metro Urbanizing Area. Washington County works collaboratively with its partners to protect and steward these critical resources through its Land and Water Legacy Program and regional parks system. The Washington County Habitat Protection and Enhancement Partnership seeks to expand upon these past successes and meet increasing demand, protecting 100 acres of high priority habitat through conservation easements, and enhancing 517 acres of natural lands.

Design and Scope of Work

Washington County's prairies, savannas, forests and wetlands provide some of the best remaining wildlife habitat in the Metro Urbanizing Area. Located along both the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, Washington County hosts a complex and unique system of sensitive habitat with an estimated 149 Species of Greatest Conservation Need according to the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan.

Washington County prioritizes the permanent protection of these resources through its Land and Water Legacy Program (LWLP), which was initiated through a 2006 voter referendum. This referendum approved \$20 million in funding to protect the county's highest quality grasslands, woodlands, waterbodies and wetlands. To date, the county has completed a total of 51 projects, many of which leveraged Outdoor Heritage Funds. This work has protected over 1,900 acres of land, investing \$19 Million in LWLP funds and \$34 Million in leveraged partnership funds.

In the fiscal year 2023, Washington County and MLT were awarded funds by the LSOHC to continue these conservation efforts and steward the county's protected lands. This partnership has proved successful in protecting land throughout the county, focusing on Washington County's "Top 10" priority conservation areas as identified by the LWLP. This project has also served existing protection through collaboration with the City of Woodbury to restore and enhance Woodbury city parks protected through county-held conservation easements.

This accomplishment plan utilizes an appropriated a total of \$2,409,000 in funding for phase 2 of this work, including:

1. 100 acres of habitat protection through conservation easements held by MLT and the county.
2. 70 acres of habitat enhancement on county-held conservation easements over Woodbury city parks.
3. 447 acres of habitat enhancement on county-owned regional park land through the funding of a full time Natural Resource Land Steward who will be hired to complete land stewardship tasks on land previously restored and enhanced using OHF funds.

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

Washington County's "Top 10" Priority Conservation Areas contain the highest levels of biodiversity, unique plant communities, rare and endangered plant and animal species, and proximity to ground and surface waters in the

county. These areas were recently updated in 2022 to utilize the most up-to-date natural resource datasets to identify high protection priorities. Many of these areas overlay with the Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan, and every “Top 10” area contains high-quality plant communities as identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS). This proposal seeks to protect land within these key habitat complexes and their connecting corridors.

In addition to land protection throughout these priority areas, this proposal seeks to enhance protected lands and lands where Outdoor Heritage Funds have previously been used to provide needed high-quality habitat for rare, endangered and special species of concern.

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

Washington County contains some of the best remaining habitats in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area; however, much of it is threatened by developmental pressure and population increase. Washington County's population was 267,568 in 2020 and is projected to grow 25% to 335,272 by 2050. If action is not taken now to meet the high demand from landowners, it is possible that significant portions of these ecosystems will be purchased for development and their habitat lost completely.

The county's protected areas and regional parklands also face threats in the form of habitat degradation and impacts of invasive species, which are likely to establish if unmanaged to create more associated costs in the future. By increasing funding and staff capacity for stewardship now, the county can create resiliency by increasing native species diversity.

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

Washington County's “Top 10” priority conservation areas were identified using data from the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System, the DNR's Regionally Significant Ecological Areas and the Minnesota Biological Survey. These datasets were analyzed to offer a weighted scoring of land based on its protection priority, resulting in the “Top 10” areas. These areas represent large corridors of open space throughout the county and are connected through half mile “buffer zones” surrounding each area and the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers to further address habitat connectivity and healthy bird flyways. The lands conserved through this proposal will focus specifically on these “Top 10” areas, creating permanent protection outcomes that expand these prioritized habitat complexes.

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.

Healthy, robust, native habitats are known to be most resilient to climate change. The ecosystems which will be the focus of this proposal for both protection and enhancement will serve as high-quality open space buffers to mitigate the effects of climate change through the healthy cycling of carbon dioxide, nitrogen and phosphorus to increase climate resiliency. These effects can combat the rapid development surrounding these areas, creating spaces for habitat and species to thrive.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Metro / Urban

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

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna ~ *This program will be measured by the acres of diverse habitats and plant communities protected and enhanced, and will be evaluated based on the observed quality of the enhancement.*

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.

Funding procured from the Outdoor Heritage fund via this proposal will not supplant or substitute any previous funding from a non-Legacy fund used for the same purpose.

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

MLT and Washington County have worked together for over 20 years to co-hold conservation easements and are committed to protecting these investments through effective stewardship. MLT is a nationally accredited land trust with a very successful stewardship program, and is dedicated to leading the annual property monitoring, enforcement, records and ownership management of the properties protected through this proposal. These stewardship responsibilities are outlined within a memorandum of understanding between MLT and the county.

MLT and the County will assist landowners in the development of stewardship plans to ensure that the land will be properly managed for its wildlife and water quality benefits. MLT and the County will work with landowners in the long-term to provide habitat enhancement funding, technical expertise, project plans, and other resources to maintain the conservation values of the protected properties.

To maintain habitat enhancement in county parks, Washington County has existing dedicated positions which are fully funded by the county who will be available to maintain this work. The county anticipates additional applications in the future to continue the scope of work outlined in this proposal.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2031- onward	Washington County	Determine metric-based performance indicators which will measure the long-term quality of enhancement implementation	Review enhancement outcomes against performance standards	Determine and implement course corrections as needed to meet performance standards
2029-2031	Washington County	Review budget solutions for Natural Resource Land Steward position to determine feasibility for continued work	Implement budget solutions, apply for future funding opportunities as needed	-

2030 - onward	MLT Stewardship and Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of conservation easements in perpetuity	Enforcement as necessary	-
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Provide an assessment of how your program celebrates cultural diversity or reaches diverse communities in Minnesota, including reaching low- and moderate-income households:

Washington County and the Minnesota Land Trust share and maintain their commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. It is likely that several of the projects protected through this grant will be publicly owned and accessible. This accessibility will allow for diverse populations throughout the county to have the opportunity to experience and benefit from these open spaces.

MLT will continue to use diversity, equity, and inclusion as a lens in project, partner, and contractor selection. We will continue to listen and seek out potential, authentic partnerships that can advance our goals of conserving the best of Minnesota's remaining habitats and, at the same time, being a more inclusive organization. To that end, we intentionally build relationships and work collaboratively with diverse communities throughout the state, such as summer camps for youth, Tribal Nations, rural farmers, and multi-generational families.

Washington County and the City of Woodbury are committed to ensuring that all parklands are available to their diverse communities. Both organizations host dedicated outreach programs which are available to youth and BIPOC populations which seek to encourage the enjoyment of natural areas through education and connection opportunities. The work completed through this proposal will enhance these experiences and maintain the natural quality of the city and county's parkland for continued use.

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?

Easements will be managed by Minnesota Land Trust and Washington County per an MOU between the two organizations.

Who will be the easement holder?

Easements will be either individually held by the Minnesota Land Trust or co-held between the Minnesota Land Trust and Washington County

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

The anticipated number of easements will range from 2 - 6 depending on cost

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

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

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:

The purpose of the MLT's conservation easements is to protect existing high quality natural habitat and to preserve opportunities for future restoration. We restrict agricultural lands and use on the properties. In cases where there are agricultural lands associated with the larger property, we will either exclude the agricultural area from the conservation easement, or in some limited cases, we may include a small percentage of agricultural lands if it is not feasible to exclude those areas. In such cases, however, we will not use OHF funds to pay the landowners for that portion of the conservation easement. These lands will be available for traditional agriculture unless otherwise restricted by the easement.

As for food plots, although MLT prefers no food plots in our easements, we do recognize that these are important to some landowners; an outright restriction against them would greatly diminish our ability to protect quality habitat in some of our program areas. As such, we do allow a limited number of them over small areas when that's the case. Since January 1, 2020, MLT has completed 47 conservation easements containing food plots, representing 28.7% of the 162 conservation easements completed during this time. The total footprint of these food plots is 92 acres, a mere 0.47% of the total area protected. Our practice is to limit the area of food plots to no more than 3% of the total easement area, with a preference for less than more. Exceptions to this practice will be very limited. Per our stated policy, MLT will prohibit the use of neonicotinoid-treated seed in the planting of food plots, prohibit the planting of invasive species, and require the landowner to submit seed tags to MLT's Stewardship Team on an annual basis after the planting of food plots.

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, these established trails and roads are permitted in the terms of the

easement and can be maintained for personal use if their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/trails or expansion of existing ones is typically not allowed.

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

Yes

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the MLT'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

Our priority for land protection is intact natural habitats. If some portion of a protected property requires restoration, the property will be evaluated and funding sought after developing the restoration plan and detailed cost estimates.

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:

Our priority for land protection is intact natural habitats. If some portion of a protected property requires restoration, the property will be evaluated and funding sought after developing the restoration plan and detailed cost estimates.

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Hire full-time Natural Resource Land Steward, conduct initial training, and begin land stewardship activities within Washington County parks system	December 31, 2026
Implement Stewardship Action Plans on Woodbury Conservation Easements	October 1, 2026 – July 20th, 2031
Collaborate with the City of Woodbury and the selected consultant to draft and finalize Stewardship Action Plans	October 1, 2026
Select and finalize a contract with a consultant for Stewardship Action Plan development and implementation for enhancement of Woodbury conservation easements	September 30, 2026
Implement county park land stewardship activities, and track progress of implementation acres, providing update in annual report	January 1, 2027 – June 30, 2031
Conservation easements acquired	June 30, 2030

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2031

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, 2030;
- (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, 2034;
- (3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2031;
- (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	\$566,000	\$112,700	Washington County Levy	\$678,700
Contracts	\$352,000	\$47,000	-, City of Woodbury	\$399,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,099,000	\$109,000	-, Landowners	\$1,208,000
Easement Stewardship	\$168,000	-	-	\$168,000
Travel	\$8,000	-	-	\$8,000
Professional Services	\$163,000	-	-	\$163,000
Direct Support Services	\$52,000	-	-	\$52,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$2,409,000	\$268,700	-	\$2,677,700

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$190,000	-	-	\$190,000
Contracts	\$52,000	-	-	\$52,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,099,000	\$109,000	Landowners	\$1,208,000
Easement Stewardship	\$168,000	-	-	\$168,000
Travel	\$8,000	-	-	\$8,000
Professional Services	\$163,000	-	-	\$163,000
Direct Support Services	\$52,000	-	-	\$52,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,733,000	\$109,000	-	\$1,842,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Land Protection Staff	0.48	4.0	\$190,000	-	-	\$190,000

Partner: Washington County**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$376,000	\$112,700	Washington County Levy	\$488,700
Contracts	\$300,000	\$47,000	City of Woodbury	\$347,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$676,000	\$159,700	-	\$835,700

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Natural Resources Land Steward	0.9	5.0	\$376,000	\$112,700	Washington County Levy	\$488,700

Amount of Request: \$2,409,000**Amount of Leverage:** \$268,700**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 11.15%**DSS + Personnel:** \$618,000**As a % of the total request:** 25.65%**Easement Stewardship:** \$168,000**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 15.29%**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?**

The Partnership was recommended for 36% of its request. Acre outputs were reduced to 45%. Personnel was reduced to 51% of proposed. Some costs are fixed.

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:

\$112,700- in-kind county FTE contributions (\$37,700) and proportional costs for related positions (\$75,000).

\$47,000- in-kind costs from the City of Woodbury for independent vegetation management.

\$109,000 - MLT encourages landowners to donate easement value, this leverage is a conservative estimate of expected donations.

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?**

Acres would be scaled back proportionally, and county personnel costs would be curtailed by 50%. Protection acres will be curtailed by 55-65%, as some activities are fixed and necessary for program success.

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

Personnel and DSS will be reduced, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

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

Yes

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

Washington County: The development and implementation of Stewardship Actions Plans to guide the enhancement of Woodbury city parks protected by county-held conservation easements.

MLT: The writing of habitat management plans for protected easement properties and for conducting landowner outreach within the program area via qualified vendors.

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

Appraisals

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 expects to close 2 - 6 conservation easements under this appropriation. The average cost per easement to fund the Minnesota Land Trust'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

Land Trust staff may rent vehicles for grant-related purposes, which can be a significant cost savings over use of personal vehicles.

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?

MLT - In a process that was approved by the 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 applied this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services requested through this grant.

Federal Funds

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

No

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	100	100
Enhance	-	125	322	70	517
Total	-	125	322	170	617

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$1,733,000	\$1,733,000
Enhance	-	\$105,300	\$270,700	\$300,000	\$676,000
Total	-	\$105,300	\$270,700	\$2,033,000	\$2,409,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	100	-	-	-	-	100
Enhance	517	-	-	-	-	517
Total	617	-	-	-	-	617

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$1,733,000	-	-	-	-	\$1,733,000
Enhance	\$676,000	-	-	-	-	\$676,000
Total	\$2,409,000	-	-	-	-	\$2,409,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$17,330
Enhance	-	\$842	\$840	\$4,285

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$17,330	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$1,307	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

0

Parcels

Parcel Information

Sign-up Criteria?

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

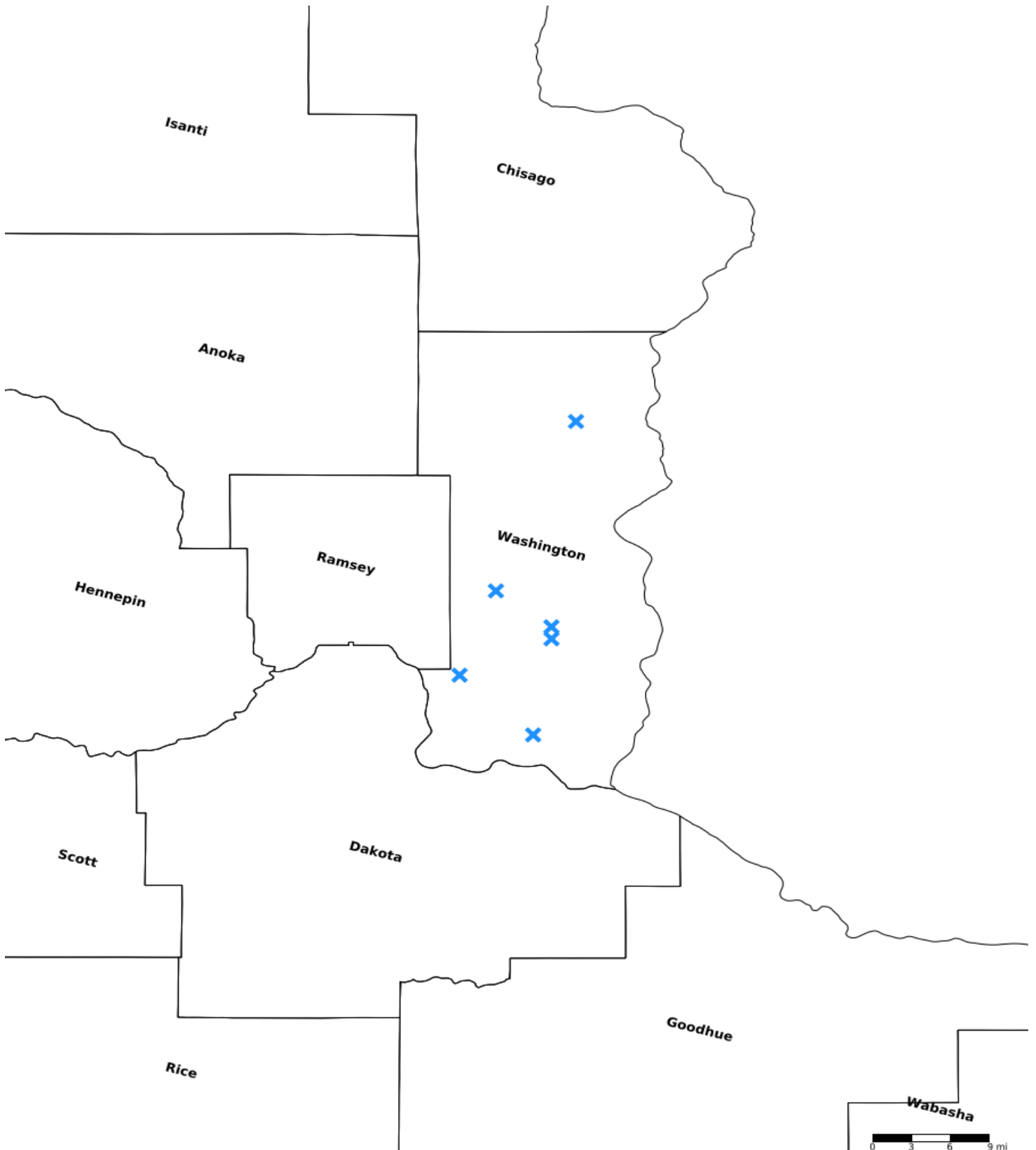
Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

Minnesota 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. We also ask the landowner to consider contributing all or a portion of fair market value to enable our funds to make a larger conservation impact (see attached sign-up criteria).

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park	Washington	02721223	183	\$125,000	Yes	Enhancement of forest and grassland
La Lake Park	Washington	02821230	3	\$5,000	Yes	Invasive species control and enrichment seeding
Lake Elmo Park Reserve	Washington	02921221	244	\$125,000	Yes	Enhancement of forest, grasslands and wetlands
Long Lake Conservation Area	Washington	03120209	20	\$50,000	Yes	Enhancement of forest and wetland
Prairie Ridge Park	Washington	02821201	59	\$256,000	Yes	Invasive species control, native seeding, prescribed burning, tree removal
Valley Creek Park	Washington	02821212	8	\$37,000	Yes	Invasive species control and enrichment seeding

Parcel Map



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



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Washington County Habitat Protection and Enhancement Partnership - Phase 2

Comparison Report

Program Title: ML 2026 - Washington County Habitat Protection and Enhancement Partnership - Phase 2

Organization: Washington County

Manager: Serena Rath

Budget

Requested Amount: \$6,917,000

Appropriated Amount: \$2,409,000

Percentage: 34.83%

Item	Requested Proposal	Leverage Proposal	Appropriated AP	Leverage AP	Percent of Request	Percent of Leverage
Personnel	\$1,101,000	\$225,400	\$566,000	\$112,700	51.41%	50.0%
Contracts	\$734,000	\$47,000	\$352,000	\$47,000	47.96%	100.0%
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$4,200,000	\$420,000	\$1,099,000	\$109,000	26.17%	25.95%
Easement Stewardship	\$448,000	-	\$168,000	-	37.5%	-
Travel	\$10,000	-	\$8,000	-	80.0%	-
Professional Services	\$329,000	-	\$163,000	-	49.54%	-
Direct Support Services	\$95,000	-	\$52,000	-	54.74%	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	\$1,000	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$6,917,000	\$692,400	\$2,409,000	\$268,700	34.83%	38.81%

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

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

Acres would be scaled back proportionally, and county personnel costs would be curtailed by 50%. Protection acres will be curtailed by 55-65%, as some activities are fixed and necessary for program success.

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

Personnel and DSS will be reduced, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investing time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

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

Acres would be scaled back proportionally, and county personnel costs would be curtailed by 50%. Protection acres will be curtailed by 75-80%, as some activities are fixed and necessary for program success.

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

Personnel and DSS will be reduced, but moderately less than proportional. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount. Projects can fail midstream after investment of time. Donation of easement value (high in this program) can inflate the number of projects pursued/completed.

Output

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	385	100	25.97%
Enhance	970	517	53.3%

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$5,564,000	\$1,733,000	31.15%
Enhance	\$1,353,000	\$676,000	49.96%

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	0	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	-
Protect in Easement	385	100	25.97%
Enhance	970	517	53.3%

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Total Proposed	Total in AP	Percentage of Proposed
Restore	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$5,564,000	\$1,733,000	31.15%
Enhance	\$1,353,000	\$676,000	49.96%