



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Acquisition and restoration of terrace wetland complex with potential fen characteristic
ML 2027 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 06/24/2026

Proposal Title: Acquisition and restoration of terrace wetland complex with potential fen characteristic

Funds Requested: \$1,751,100

Confirmed Leverage Funds: \$203,100

Is this proposal Scalable?: Yes

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Josie Trole

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Location Information

County Location(s): Dakota.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Metro / Urban

Activity types:

Restore

Protect in Fee

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

Commons Land Community Land Trust (CL), in partnership with Sharing Our Roots (SOR), seeks funding to restore and protect a potential rare calcareous fen and associated calcareous terraced sedge meadow wetland habitat in Dakota County, Minnesota while strategically acquiring acreage within the surrounding groundwater shed to support long-term ecosystem function. The project builds on eight years of regenerative land stewardship at the 163-acre SOR Farm, where formerly conventionally farmed land is being restored through conservation-focused agricultural practices and habitat restoration. Proposed work includes hydrologic restoration, groundwater monitoring, native habitat restoration, ecological management planning, and land acquisition prioritizing calcareous soils.

Design and Scope of Work

Commons Land Community Land Trust (CL), in partnership with Sharing Our Roots (SOR), proposes a two-part project to restore a calcareous terraced sedge meadow and associated watershed functions in Dakota County, Minnesota. The project will combine restoration on the existing SOR Farm with acquisition and restoration of additional acreage within the groundwater shed.

The primary restoration site is located on the 163-acre SOR Farm at 4905 315th St W, Dakota County, Minnesota. The property includes agricultural fields, prairie, riparian forest, wetlands, and areas containing calcareous soils. The site appears to represent a groundwater-influenced terrace wetland complex with potential fen characteristics. Based on review of historic aerial photography (1957), half-foot contour mapping, mapped soil associations, etc., the site does not appear to function as a typical isolated depressional wetland or prairie pothole basin.

The land was conventionally farmed from 1990–2016. Since assuming stewardship in 2018, SOR has implemented regenerative farming and land management. In 2025, CL transitioned the farm into trust, ensuring permanent protection through a combination of ownership structure, conservation restrictions, and long-term stewardship.

Current restoration work focuses on an area of calcareous soils located within a larger groundwater-fed watershed estimated at more than 240 acres. Unlike surface-water systems, this watershed functions primarily through shallow groundwater filtration and discharge.

Overall, the site appears to retain meaningful restoration potential as a groundwater-fed seep meadow, terrace sedge meadow, or fen-influenced wetland system. This proposal advances restoration of this ecologically rare habitat.

Planned restoration activities include removal of legacy agricultural drainage tile, hydrologic assessment and groundwater monitoring, invasive species management, native vegetation establishment, and restoration informed by ongoing ecological monitoring. SOR employs a full-time Natural Lands Manager who has 25 years of restoration ecology experience and was certified as MN Wetland Professional through BWSR, who will lead the restoration work.

Existing native seed banks in remnant soils may support natural regeneration, though active revegetation may be needed. Prescribed burns on adjacent lands revealed endangered species and remnant plant populations. By using

organic management practices, we aim to identify additional native species while avoiding herbicide impacts to the historic seed bank.

The project also includes the proposed acquisition of 64 additional acres that are hydrologically connected with the existing property. The targeted acquisition contains a complex of prairie pothole wetlands, shallow depressions, wet meadow inclusions, and associated upland habitat adjacent to Mud Creek. Preliminary aerial interpretation suggests portions of the site may retain relatively intact hydrology and native plant communities, while other areas may provide opportunities for hydrologic restoration and enhancement.

Of particular importance is the occurrence of Sullivan's milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*), a conservative native prairie species that may indicate remnant wet prairie or minimally disturbed pothole margins within the project area.

Long-term management will include interseeding, prescribed grazing, and fire to maintain open habitat and ecological function. We hope to identify fragmented remnant wetland populations within these newly added acres. Because of saturated soils and sensitive habitat conditions, conventional mechanical management is not feasible in the restoration area.

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

The proposed activities will improve habitat quality and connectivity for wildlife and species of greatest conservation need by providing permanent protection and restoration. The project area already supports significant wildlife activity and contains habitat for rare and sensitive species. A large and active beaver dam on the site contributes to wetland hydrology, water retention, and aquatic habitat complexity that benefit amphibians, birds, mammals, and other wetland-dependent wildlife. Endangered, rare, and watch-listed plant species have also been identified on the property, including Sullivan's milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*), Yellow-Fruit Fox Sedge (*Carex annectens*), and Mild waterpepper (*Persicaria hydropiperoides*) with additional botanical assessments planned in coordination with state botanists. The presence of remnant native species and intact hydrologic features indicates strong ecological restoration potential.

Since 2020, SOR has documented the impacts of regenerative land stewardship on wildlife diversity, presence, and behavior across five taxa. Restoration activities directly benefit approximately 552 native species, including 247 plant species, 96 bird species, 23 mammals, 7 amphibians, 5 reptiles, and 174 insect species. Restoration of native vegetation and hydrology will increase food sources, nesting habitat, shelter, and breeding grounds for pollinators and grassland wildlife. We anticipate our dataset to grow from 552 to 600+ identified native wildlife species by the end of the project.

Species expected to benefit include Monarch Butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*), Rusty Patched Bumble Bees (*Bombus affinis*), Yellow-Banded Bumble Bees (*Bombus terricola*), Regal Fritillaries (*Speyeria idalia*), Baltimore Checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*), and numerous native bee species. Grassland and prairie restoration efforts will also support bird species identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and Species in Greatest Conservation Need priorities within regional conservation plans, including Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), Golden-Winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Purple Martin (*Progne subis*), Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*), Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), Clay-Colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), the Northern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates pipiens*) and Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus*

sandwichensis). Additional land acquisition within the groundwater shed will further protect water quality, wetland function, wildlife corridors, and sensitive habitat areas from future degradation and fragmentation.

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

Early intervention is essential to prevent additional loss of remnant native plants and to protect dormant native seed banks that still exist on site. This seeding restoration work is time sensitive because invasives are currently dominating large portions of the area, suppressing native species regeneration and degrading wildlife habitat. Delaying treatment would increase costs and reduce the likelihood of full ecological recovery.

Follow up management is also timing critical. Hydrologic restoration activities, including tile removal and groundwater monitoring, must be carefully sequenced to minimize disturbance, restore wetland function and support fen recovery. This management must account for the presence and activity of Northern American Beaver, a keystone species active in the area.

Securing adjacent acreage during the grant period is similarly urgent. Development, drainage or incompatible land-use within the groundwater shed could permanently compromise the hydrology and limit the long-term effectiveness of wetland and habitat restoration.

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

The proposed project will expand and strengthen habitat connectivity within a highly fragmented agricultural landscape in southeastern Minnesota. Mud Creek, one of Minnesota's most impaired waterways, flows through the northern portion of the SOR farm. In addition to its hydrologic significance, Mud Creek serves as an active wildlife corridor. Restoration will improve habitat quality along these corridors while reducing sediment and nutrient impacts downstream.

The project area is also proximate to the recent Dakota County acquisition of 123.5 acres along Chub Creek to the northeast of the SOR farm site. We are targeting acquisition of parcels that would most closely connect the SOR farm to this Dakota County land.

The project area is connected to multiple existing habitat complexes. To the east, a railroad corridor contains a protected remnant tussock sedge meadow and native plant communities that function as an important movement corridor linking Chub Creek to Hauberg Woods and the degraded potential fen. Additional prairie habitat exists less than two miles east on organic farms supporting multi-acre prairie restorations. To the west, another railroad corridor protects a high-quality remnant prairie system. Numerous wetland remnants embedded within surrounding agricultural lands also provide important stepping stones for wildlife movement.

At a broader scale, the SOR Farm lies within the Cannon River watershed, which drains approximately 1,460 square miles into the Mississippi River and intersects three major ecoregions: the North Central Hardwoods, Western Cornbelt Plains, and the Driftless Area. Only an estimated 18% of historical habitat remains within the watershed due to agriculture and urban development.

By restoring and permanently protecting wetland, prairie, and potential calcareous fen habitat on the SOR Farm and adjacent parcels, this project will reconnect fragmented habitats within a largely privately owned agricultural landscape that is converting into development at a rapid pace. Planned land acquisition within the groundwater shed will further reduce fragmentation pressure and secure additional habitat corridors. The possibility of protecting even a small fen in southern Minnesota represents a meaningful conservation gain for one of the state's rarest wetland habitats.

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

Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Minnesota Statewide Conservation & Preservation Plan

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

Metro / Urban

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

Describe how this project/program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife:

This project will create a significant and permanent conservation legacy through the long-term protection, restoration, and stewardship of a rare calcareous fen and associated wetland, prairie, and groundwater-fed ecosystems in Dakota County, Minnesota. We will permanently protect lands through legal mechanisms including perpetual nonprofit ownership, existing and newly established permanent conservation restrictions, and long-term stewardship planning.

In addition to restoring habitat on the existing SOR Farm, the project will strategically acquire additional acreage to protect the hydrologic systems necessary for long-term fen function and wildlife habitat resilience. These acquisitions will help prevent further habitat fragmentation, maintain wildlife corridors, and safeguard water quality within the Cannon River watershed. Existing and acquired land will be permanently protected through perpetual nonprofit ownership by CL, reinforced by conservation easements and deed restrictions that prohibit future development, subdivision, and speculative resale. The acres we enhance/restore are/will be permanently protected through existing and prospective RIM easements and Dakota County Conservation easements.

The ecological significance of the site is substantial. The property already supports rare and sensitive species, including Sullivan's milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*), and contains intact hydrologic features, remnant native plant communities, and an active beaver system that enhances wetland complexity and wildlife habitat. Restoration activities will improve breeding, nesting, forage, and shelter habitat for a wide range of species.

Since 2020, SOR has documented wildlife presence, diversity, and behavior across five taxa, with current restoration efforts expected to directly benefit approximately 552 native species. By the completion of the project, CL and SOR anticipate documenting more than 600 native wildlife species utilizing the site. Species expected to benefit include monarch butterflies, rusty patched bumble bees, yellow-banded bumble bees, regal fritillaries, Baltimore checkerspots, as well as grassland birds identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need, including eastern meadowlark, dickcissel, clay-colored sparrow, savannah sparrow, and loggerhead shrike, among others.

The project's long-term management plan, including prescribed fire, grazing, ecological monitoring, and adaptive restoration practices, will ensure the site remains ecologically functional. Together, permanent land protection and sustained restoration activities will create enduring conservation outcomes for wildlife, pollinators, and groundwater-dependent ecosystems in southeastern Minnesota.

Outcomes

If this project/program does not have permanent outcomes, describe why it is important to undertake at this time:

N/A

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ Progress toward creating connected habitat corridors will be measured through annual ecological monitoring of vegetation, groundwater conditions, wildlife use, pollinator presence, and repeat photo-point documentation to assess habitat quality and connectivity over time. Since 2020, SOR has tracked wildlife diversity, presence, and behavior across five taxa and documented benefits to 552 native species. Project success will be evaluated by increases in native vegetation and hydrologic function, expanded habitat use, and growth in documented biodiversity, with a goal of increasing identified native wildlife species from 552 to more than 600 by project completion.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

This request would not supplant or substitute for any existing non-Legacy funding source. Outdoor Heritage Funds would support new restoration and land acquisition activities that would not otherwise be possible at the proposed scale, including restoration work and acquisition of additional acreage within the groundwater shed.

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

The project is designed around permanent conservation outcomes, including long-term land protection, ecological restoration, and ongoing adaptive management practices that will continue after Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended.

CL’s ownership and community stewardship model ensures that acquired land remains permanently dedicated to conservation-compatible uses and ecological health. SOR has already demonstrated sustained stewardship capacity through ten years of regenerative land management, habitat restoration, conservation easements, and ecological monitoring on the property. Long-term maintenance activities will include prescribed burning, managed grazing, invasive species management, groundwater and vegetation monitoring, and continued restoration of native prairie and wetland habitat.

Both organizations will continue pursuing diverse funding sources to sustain restoration and management activities, including private philanthropy, state conservation programs, individual donors, and partnerships with conservation organizations and local agencies. SOR also maintains strong volunteer and community engagement networks that support habitat stewardship activities.

Importantly, many of the restoration activities proposed through this project are intended to reestablish self-sustaining ecological processes, including restored hydrology, native vegetation regeneration, pollinator habitat, and natural disturbance cycles that will improve ecosystem resilience and reduce long-term management intensity over time.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
All future years	Private philanthropy; individual donors; state and local conservation programs; conservation partners; CL/SOR stewardship funds	Continue long-term habitat management through prescribed fire, managed grazing, invasive species control, native plant community maintenance, and protection of restored hydrology.	Maintain annual ecological monitoring, including vegetation, groundwater conditions, wildlife use, pollinator presence, and photo-point documentation to track habitat quality over time.	Use monitoring results to guide adaptive management, secure future stewardship funding, and ensure the land remains permanently protected, ecologically functional, and beneficial to fish, game, wildlife, and groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

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

This project will celebrate cultural diversity and engage diverse communities in Minnesota by combining ecological restoration with equitable farmland access, community stewardship, and culturally inclusive public engagement. Both CL and SOR center the leadership, participation, and expertise of communities that have historically faced barriers to land access, conservation participation, and agricultural opportunity.

The project directly benefits low- and moderate-income households by preserving affordable, community-centered access to farmland and agricultural opportunities. Across Minnesota, rising farmland costs and land consolidation increasingly exclude beginning farmers, immigrants, working-class families, and farmers of color from land ownership and long-term agricultural stability. CL was founded to address these inequities by removing land from speculative markets and placing it into long-term community stewardship through an adapted community land trust model. This approach allows historically marginalized farmers to access land, grow culturally meaningful food, and participate in ecological stewardship without the financial barriers associated with conventional land ownership.

The project will also support culturally specific land-based practices. The Sudanese farming group, including a family recognized as Hennepin County Farm Family of the Year, has expressed interest in using acquired acreage for culturally meaningful agricultural and stewardship activities. These include collecting natural materials to construct traditional shade structures and grazing sheep on the land, practices that connect cultural heritage, food production, animal care, and land stewardship.

Public access and community education are also central components of the project. The SOR Farm hosts public tours, volunteer opportunities, birding activities, wildlife counts, and citizen outreach events that connect community members with prairie, wetland, and wildlife restoration work. While the property is not continuously open to the public in order to maintain the safety, privacy, and comfort of participating farmers—many of whom are low-income, BIPOC, and immigrant growers—SOR regularly facilitates structured public engagement opportunities that encourage learning, stewardship, and cultural exchange.

At its core, the project recognizes that environmental restoration and social equity are interconnected. By supporting culturally diverse farmers, restoring ecologically significant habitat, and creating opportunities for public participation and education, the project advances both conservation outcomes and more equitable access to land, food systems, and natural resources in

Activity Details

Requirements

Will county board or other local government approval be formally sought prior to acquisition, per 97A.056 subd 13(j)?**

Yes

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

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?

No

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 land we acquire through this program is unlikely to be used for crop now or in the future, and will instead be restored as part of a terrace wetland complex with potential fen characteristics. Restoration work funded in part through this project will take place on the existing 163-acre SOR Farm, where formerly conventionally farmed land is being restored through conservation-focused agricultural practices and habitat restoration. Of the 163 acres, 15 acres are tillable, 5 acres currently in vegetable production with remaining acreage in hay production. We anticipate this number remaining stable throughout the duration of the grant period and beyond.

Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this proposal either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?

Yes

Please Explain:

It is possible that we would rent acquired parcels in soy for up to one year. After that we would go organic and use no insecticides or fungicides within any of the other proposed activities.

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?

No

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion?

No

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

NGO

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

Other : Conservation land trust

Will new trails or roads be developed or improved, beyond those used for maintenance and management, as a result of the proposed acquisition?

No

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

Yes

Previous OHF Appropriations

Have you received OHF dollars through LSOHC for this program or project in the past?

No

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Create framework for collaboration between organizations, including work plans, contractor agreements, and TA council/advisory if necessary	Q3 2027
Tile break in calc fen soils and seed over disturbance	Q3 2027
Buy parcel, including conducting due diligence, accessing legal counsel, and confirming access agreements/easements	Q4 2027
Collect seed across all remnant or locally sourced habitats	Q4 2027
Burn wetlands/existing habitat weather permitting	Q4 2027
Sow remnant or locally sourced seed	Q3 2027
Mechanical Woody Brush Management	Q1 2028
Cultural due diligence for newly acquired lands, including GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar)	Q2 2028
Tile analysis and decision making on newly acquired parcels	Q2 2028
Build road access and install culverts for isolated parcels	Q2 2028
Establishment mowing on all seeded areas (3 times per year) (Fen resto growing year 1)	Q3 2028
Species documentation	Q3 2028
Seed collection and sowing (Year 2)	Q3 2028
Fall seeding new acre restorations in the fall using BWSR adjacent mix	Q4 2028
Habitat Management across 98 acres.	Q3 2028
Annual Stakeholder Meeting (Year 2)	Q4 2028
Spring/Fall Burn wetlands/existing habitat weather permitting	Q4 2028
Mechanical Woody Brush Management	Q1 2029
Establishment mowing on all seeded areas (3 times per year) (New parcel growing year 1)	Q3 2029
Habitat Management across 98 acres. (growing season 2 of fen restoration)	Q3 2029
Seed collection and sowing (Year 3)	Q3 2029
Determine Framework for conservation grazing	Q4 2029
Spring/Fall Burn wetlands/existing habitat weather permitting	Q4 2029
Annual Stakeholder Meeting (Year 3)	Q4 2029
Burn pre-existing habitat and conduct spot management of new restorations	Q4 2029
Habitat Management across 162 acres. (growing season 2 of new acres growing season 3 of fen restoration)	Q3 2030
Conservation Grazing (Year 4)	Q3 2030
Seed collection and sowing (Year 4)	Q3 2030
Spring/Fall Burn wetlands/existing habitat weather permitting	Q4 2030
Annual Stakeholder Meeting (Year 4)	Q4 2030
First Burn new restorations and conduct spot management	Q4 2030
Habitat Management across 162 acres. (growing season 3 of new acreage)	Q3 2031
Conservation Grazing (Year 5)	Q3 2031
Seed collection and sowing (Year 5)	Q3 2031
Annual Stakeholder Meeting (Year 5)	Q4 2031
Spring/Fall Burn wetlands/existing habitat weather permitting	Q4 2031

Budget

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$743,300	\$443,100	Private foundations including 11th Hour, Northwest Area, and VK Fund	\$1,186,400
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$552,000	-	-	\$552,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	\$92,000	-	-	\$92,000
Direct Support Services	\$185,900	-	-	\$185,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	\$62,500	-	-	\$62,500
Other Equipment/Tools	\$30,400	-	-	\$30,400
Supplies/Materials	\$85,000	-	-	\$85,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$1,751,100	\$443,100	-	\$2,194,200

Partner: Commons Land Community Land Trust (CL)

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$300,200	-	-	\$300,200
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$552,000	-	-	\$552,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$75,100	-	-	\$75,100
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	\$13,000	-	-	\$13,000
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$940,300	-	-	\$940,300

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Commons Land Administrative Support (.25 FTE + 22.2% fringe benefits rate)	0.25	4.0	\$79,200	-	-	\$79,200
Commons Land Co-Director (.35 FTE + 22.2% fringe benefit rate)	0.35	4.0	\$221,000	-	-	\$221,000

Capital Equipment

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GSSI UtilityScan Pro Ground Penetrating Radar	\$13,000	-	-	\$13,000

Partner: Sharing Our Roots (SOR)

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$443,100	\$443,100	Private foundations including 11th Hour, Northwest Area, and VK Fund	\$886,200
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	\$92,000	-	-	\$92,000
Direct Support Services	\$110,800	-	-	\$110,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	\$49,500	-	-	\$49,500
Other Equipment/Tools	\$30,400	-	-	\$30,400
Supplies/Materials	\$85,000	-	-	\$85,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$810,800	\$443,100	-	\$1,253,900

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Sharing Our Roots Natural Resource Assistant (1 FTE + 22.2% fringe benefit rate)	1.0	5.0	\$155,100	\$155,100	Private foundations including 11th Hour, Northwest Area, and VK Fund	\$310,200
Sharing Our Roots Natural Resource Manager (1 FTE + 22.2% fringe benefit rate)	1.0	5.0	\$288,000	\$288,000	Private foundations including 11th Hour, Northwest Area, and VK Fund	\$576,000

Capital Equipment

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Utility Task Vehicle with winter track system	\$49,500	-	-	\$49,500

Amount of Request: \$1,751,100

Amount of Leverage: \$443,100

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 25.3%

DSS + Personnel: \$929,200

As a % of the total request: 53.06%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

Leverage Funding Table

	Leverage Amount Committed	Leverage Amount Confirmed (of Committed Funds)	Leverage Amount Anticipated	Total Leverage
Amount:	\$443,100	\$203,100	-	\$443,100
% of Total Leverage:	100.0%	45.84%	0.0%	

N/A

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:

Personnel expenses for SOR will leverage funding from private foundations including 11th Hour, Northwest Area Foundation, and VK Fund.

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?

If the project received 50% of funding, we would reduce the acres proportionally. Potentially we would acquire just one of the two proposed parcels and/or focus on a smaller portion of the existing SOR land for restoration work.

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

If the project received 50% of funding, we would reduce the personnel time, but not proportionally. While personnel focused on restoration could be reduced (likely proportionally), the work of staff focused on acquisition would remain mostly the same and could therefore not be cut proportionally.

If the project received 30% of the requested funding

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

If the project received 30% of funding, we would reduce the acres proportionally. We would likely acquire just one of the two proposed parcels and focus on a smaller portion of the existing SOR land for restoration work.

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

If the project received 30% of funding, we would reduce the personnel time, but not proportionally. While personnel focused on restoration could be reduced (likely proportionally), the work of staff focused on acquisition would remain mostly the same and could therefore not be cut proportionally.

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

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?

No

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

Other : Paid seeding across new acres (\$12k), complete tile removal around the existing fen restoration area (\$40k), and tile removal across new acres (\$40k)

Fee Acquisition

What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?

2

Direct Support Services

How did you determine which portions of the Direct Support Services of your shared support services is direct to this program?

The Direct Support Services (DSS) rate was calculated through a review of organizational expenses and cost allocations. Throughout the year, expenses are assigned to the appropriate programs and cost centers and categorized as either direct program costs or organizational support costs. We reviewed support functions that are necessary for implementation of the proposed project, including administrative support, financial management, grant administration, communications, and related operational services. Unallowable expenses, such as bank service charges and insurance expenses, were excluded from the calculation. Based on this analysis, we determined that project-related direct support services represent 25% of personnel expenses. Accordingly, a DSS amount equal to 25% of the Personnel budget line item is included in this proposal.

Other Equipment/Tools

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

Hand tools and burn gear

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	73	26	0	0	99
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	64	0	0	0	64
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	30	36	0	0	66
Total	167	62	0	0	229

Restoration/Enhancement Acres of OHF Acquired Lands (Table 1a.1)

	RESTORE: Lands acquired in this proposal	RESTORE: Lands acquired with previous OHF appropriations (<5yrs old)	RESTORE Total	ENHANCE: Lands acquired in this proposal	ENHANCE: Lands acquired with previous OHF appropriations (<5yrs old)	ENHANCE Total
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	64	64	-	-	0
Protect in Easement	0	-	0	0	0	0
Total	0	64	64	0	0	0

Restoration/Enhancement Acres Breakdown of Existing Protected Lands (Table 1a.2)

	RESTORE: Lands acquired with OHF	RESTORE: Lands NOT acquired with OHF	ENHANCE: Lands acquired with OHF	ENHANCE: Lands NOT acquired with OHF
DNR Lands (WMA, State Forests, etc.)	-	-	-	-
Non-DNR Lands (city, state, federal, etc.)	-	99	-	66
Easements	0	0	-	0
Total	0	99	-	66

How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie? (Table 1b)

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	26
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	36
Total	62

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	\$557,200	\$195,800	-	-	\$753,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$552,000	-	-	-	\$552,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$245,400	\$200,700	-	-	\$446,100
Total	\$1,354,600	\$396,500	-	-	\$1,751,100

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	99	0	0	0	0	99
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	64	0	0	0	0	64
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	66	0	0	0	0	66
Total	229	0	0	0	0	229

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	\$753,000	-	-	-	-	\$753,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$552,000	-	-	-	-	\$552,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$446,100	-	-	-	-	\$446,100
Total	\$1,751,100	-	-	-	-	\$1,751,100

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	\$7,632	\$7,530	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$8,625	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$8,180	\$5,575	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	\$7,606	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$8,625	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$6,759	-	-	-	-

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:

Proposed parcels were identified and prioritized by combined ecological, geographic, and practical considerations. We looked to parcels with soil characteristics that align with our current restoration work, including calcareous soils, histosols, and other soil types that support high-quality wetland and prairie habitat. We also reviewed Minnesota Wetland Inventory (MWI) data to identify parcels containing or adjacent to important wetland resources.

In addition to ecological value, we considered parcel data such as size, availability, and price to determine feasibility and long-term stewardship potential. Parcels were also evaluated based on their proximity to our current operations, with the goal of reducing fragmentation and improving the overall connectivity and manageability of conservation lands.

Location within the Cannon River watershed was another important factor. Priority was given to parcels that contribute to the health of the broader watershed system, particularly lands that drain into Mud Creek. This approach supports water quality, habitat function, and landscape-scale conservation outcomes.

We also considered the proximity of parcels to remnant habitats, endangered species, and sensitive plant communities. Parcels located near existing areas of ecological significance were prioritized because they offer greater opportunities to protect and strengthen connected habitat systems.

Together, these criteria allowed us to identify parcels that provide the greatest ecological benefit while also supporting practical land management and long-term conservation goals.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
16-01300-75-010	Dakota	11220north of existing parcels protected in fee by Commons Land Community Trust13	40	\$569,717	Yes	Calcareous soils dominate this parcel, adjacent to A.sulvanti remnant. include calcareous depressional marsh, may have remnants; many acres of wetlands present.
16-02400-01-011	Dakota	11220South of 16-01300-80-010 leased and managed by SOR24	20	\$105,915	Yes	E ¼ OF SE ¼ OF NE ¼ & SE ¼ OF NE ¼ OF NE ¼ SUBJ TO CONS EASE OVER 10.33 ACRES. Wetland easement with degraded pothole surrounded by tussock sedge meadow with high floristic resourecs.

16-02400-01-013	Dakota	11220Inset of 16-02400-01-014 leased and managed by SOR24	8	\$41,749	Yes	"PT W 1/2 OF SE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 LYING E'LY OF W 50 FT AND NE'LY OF A LINE COM SW COR N ON W LINE TO N R/W 315TH ST CONT N 886.5 FT E 315 FT S 277 FT E 351.78 FT TO E LINE OF SAID W 1/2 AND THERE TERM SUBJ TO FNAP EASE OVER 7.9 ACRES DOC #838781 AG-AG PRESERVE Sand hill prairie resotration with small inset orchard"
16-02400-01-014	Dakota	11220South of Parcels 16-01300-80-010 and 41-01800-53-010, leased and managed by SOR24	53	\$276,257	Yes	E 1/2 OF NE 1/4 EX E 1/4 OF SE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 EX SE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 EX PT W 1/2 OF SE 1/4 OF NE 1/4 LYING E'LY OF W 50 FT AND NE'LY OF A LINE COM SW COR N ON W LINE TO N R/W 315TH ST CONT N 886.5 FT E 315 FT S 277 FT E 351.78 FT TO E LINE OF SAID W 1/2 AND THERE TERM SUBJ TO FNAP EASE OVER 7.9 ACRES DOC #838781. Non-Homestead, Ag. Preserve, prairie pothole remannt in RIM Easement. Western windbreak prairie restoration, prairie pothole restoration undergoing tilebreak in 2026 in dakota county easement. Sand hill paririe restoration. Man made pond and polinator prairie.

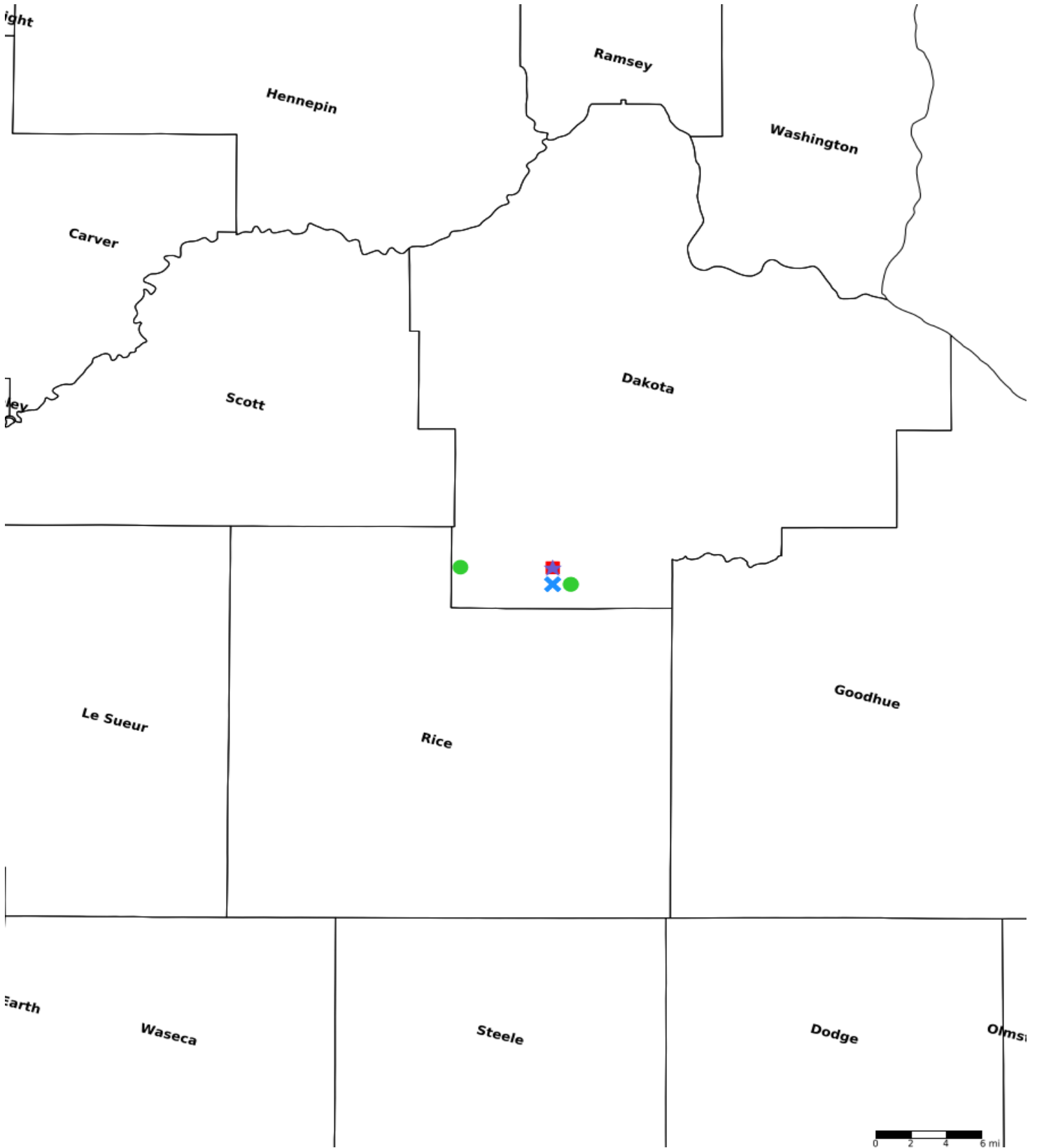
Protect in Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
16-01300-80-010	Dakota	11220South of proposed acquisition of parcel 16-01300-75-0-10 Acquired by Commons Land Community Trust13	40	\$211,621	No
41-01800-50-010	Dakota	11220north of existing parcels protected in fee by Commons Land Community Trust13	24	\$316,663	No

Protect in Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
41-01800-53-010	Dakota	11220South of proposed acquisition of parcel 41-01800-50-0-10, acquired by Commons Land Community Trust18	20	\$104,086	Yes
41-01900-25-010	Dakota	11219South of parcel 41-01800-53-010 acquired by Commons Land Community Trust19	16	\$84,962	Yes
41-01900-27-012	Dakota	11219South of parcel 41-01900-25-010 acquired by Commons Land Community Trust19	8	\$40,130	Yes

Parcel Map



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

Restoring Calcareous Terraced Sedge Meadow & Watershed

Proposed by Sharing Our Roots and Commons Land

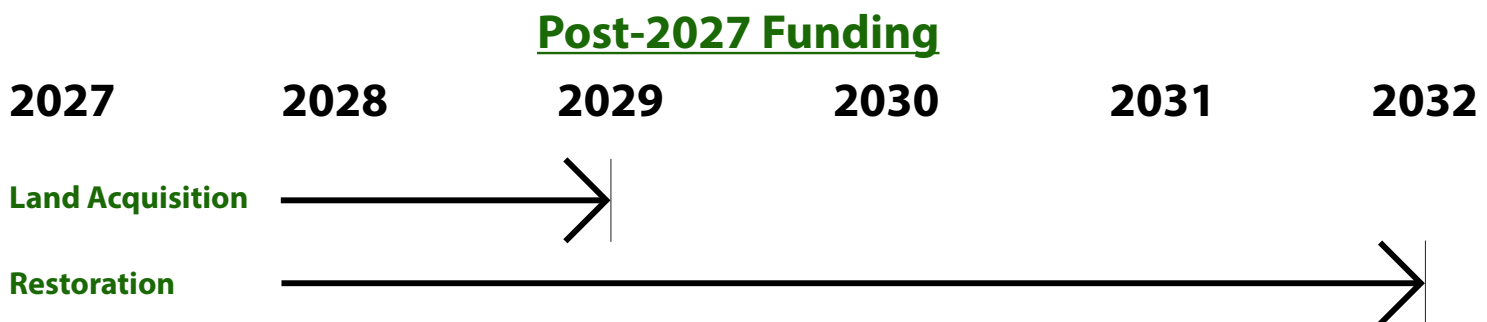
Sharing Our Roots Lead: Nic Nelson, Natural Lands Manager

Commons Land Lead: Josie Trole, Co-Director

Calcareous agricultural lands are restored to terraced sedge meadows, with potential fen inclusions, to sustain functional prairie systems and increase wildlife productivity, retaining water on the landscape to reduce flood potential and degradation of aquatic habitat.

Restoration methods for organic ecological management

- ◆ Prescribed burns
- ◆ Grazing
- ◆ Seed collection
- ◆ Tile breaking
- ◆ Mowing
- ◆ Interseeding

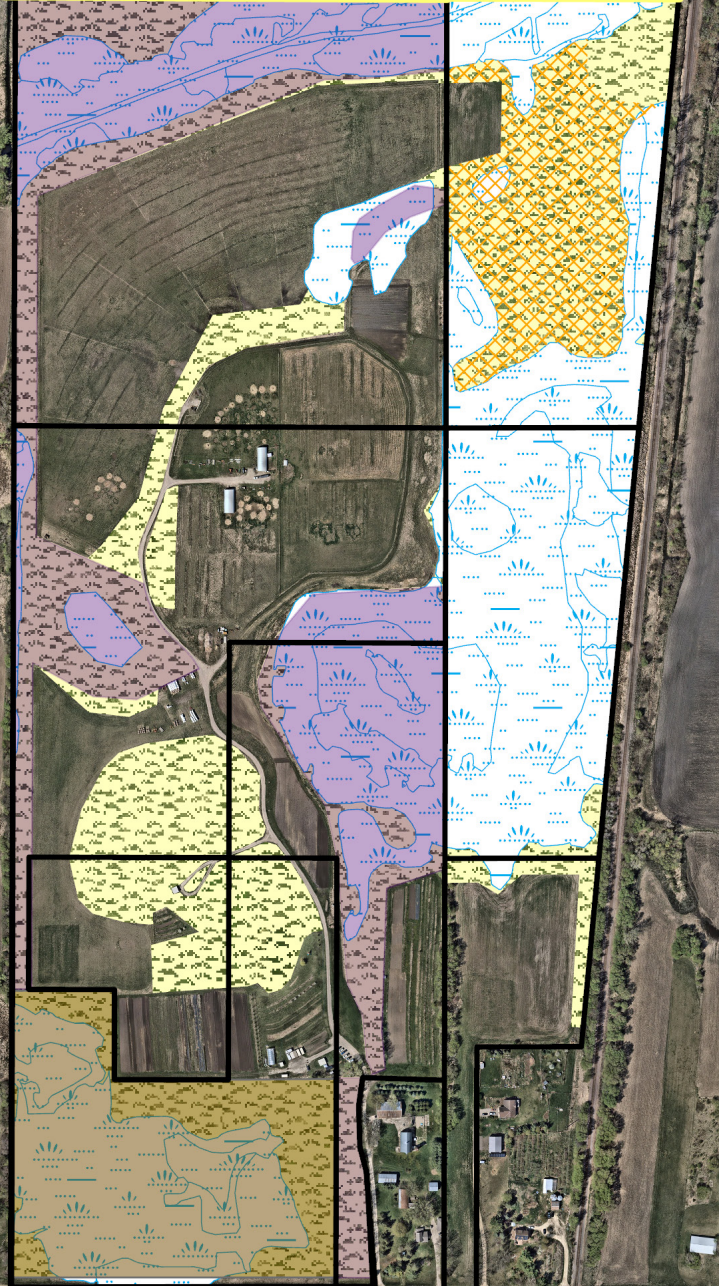
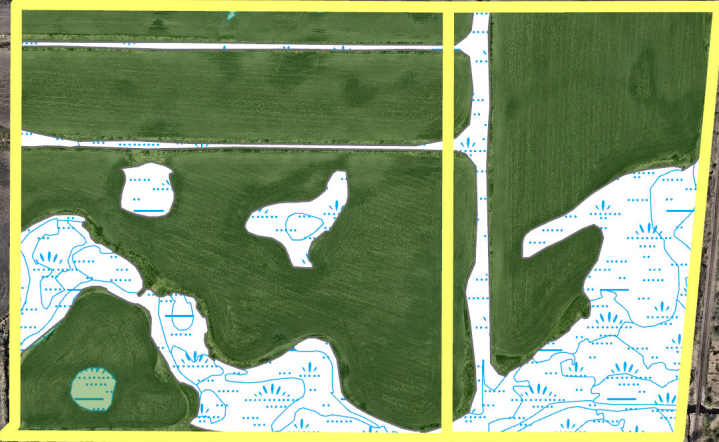


SHARING OUR ROOTS



COMMONS LAND

Sharing Our Roots Farm
4905 315th St. W Northfield, MN 55057



- Parcels To Be Purchased
- SOR Managed Parcels
- RIM Easement
- Dakota County Natural Area Easements
- Calcarous Terraced Sedge Meadow Restorations
- Tile Break For Fen Inclusion
- MWI Wetlands
- SOR Managed Habitat