

**Lessard – Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
Outdoor Heritage Fund**

**2009 Recommendation  
Accomplishment Plan**

**Project or Program Title: Green Corridor Legacy Program – Creating a Legacy of Connectivity, Habitat Viability, and Public Access with the Mid-Minnesota River Watershed.**

**Date: July 28, 2009 – Revised to address L-SOHC Letter Dated 6/30/2009**

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Funds Recommended (\$000s)	Council Recommendation Funding	Out-Year Projections of Needs		
		FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF)	<b>\$1,617,000</b>	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000

**Summary**

The Green Corridor Legacy Program will protect new and/or expansion fish, game, and wildlife habitats in the Prairie Eco Region. The DNR will provide the restoration and/or enhancement funds for converting croplands into high quality habitat cover. Local wildlife conservation clubs will be encouraged to submit L-SOHC Small Grants proposals for additional restoration and/or enhancement activities on these tracts. Fee title of all lands acquired will be held by the State and designated as WMA and/or AMA open to hunting, trapping, fishing, and compatible outdoor recreation uses. **These proposed tracts of land do not have permanent conservation easements.**

**Background**

The initial phase of the program proposal will allow the citizens of Minnesota to have more access to public hunting lands by acquiring 350 (or more) acres of land which would be developed and protected as Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and/or Aquatic Management Areas (AMA).

The program proposal will succeed because numerous partnerships have developed from a wide variety of disciplines (e.g. U of M, DNR, local SWCD, USFWS, PF, MDHA, NWTF, community/civic groups, regional business leaders, and supportive landowners) that will assist in monitoring outcomes, provide long range management of the acquired lands, provide technical support, and ensure that program activities will advance the goals, objectives, and strategies of the various state-wide conservation plans (e.g. Duck Recovery Plan, the Pheasant Plan, the Wild Turkey Plan, the WMA Acquisition Plan, and numerous strategies associated to the MN Conservation and Preservation Plan.)

Other program activities outside of OHF will include:

- Short and long range program development to ensure continuing community/citizen/regional support of the program
- Public relations and outreach
- Partnership involvement in program development and local/state government cooperation
- Fiduciary responsibility for the program including the land transactions
- Financial oversight, transparency and accountability to all program activities and outcomes
- Development of a strategy to continue the investment for possible future Outdoor Heritage Funds (OHF) as a long range program activity
- Leadership development for those seeing the vision and opportunity of the Green Corridor Legacy Program

Through the Green Corridor Board of Directors, there is support for this project from local government agencies like the Soil and Water Conservation Board of Directors and the MN DNR, and cooperation from the local county officials. Once purchase agreements are secured, formal requests to the Board of County Commissioners will be completed, as is the normal protocol.

Once appropriations and/or grant agreements are finalized, the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), through the approval of the Green Corridor Board of Directors, will have the program manager begin the process of appraisals, purchase agreements, and title transfer activities. It is the assumption that the DNR and state of Minnesota can provide normal timelines to process these fee simple acquisition title transfers. Acquisitions and title transfers to the state of Minnesota and management by the MN DNR of these program acres are anticipated to be complete by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**Relationship to the *Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan* and Other Published Resource Management Plans**

The Green Corridor Legacy program will emphasize the several of the habitat strategies outlined in the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan; 1) Protect priority land habitats, 2) Protect critical streams/river habitats, 3) Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation, 4) restore and protect shallow lakes, 5) Restore/protect land, wetlands, and wetland associated watersheds, and 6) keep water on the landscape.

The Green Corridor Legacy program will also emphasize the key elements of the various state-wide conservation plans; e.g. the Duck Recovery Plan, Pheasant Plan, the WMA Acquisition

**Budget**

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
<b>Personnel</b>	\$38,500		
<b>Contracts</b>			
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>			
<b>Fee Acquisition</b>	\$1,576,575		
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>			
<b>Easement Stewardship</b>			
<b>Travel</b>	\$1,925		
<b>Additional Budget Items</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$1,617,000		

**Personnel Details**

Title	Name	Amount.
Accountant	.2 FTE	\$14,000
Grant Officer	.35 FTE	\$24,500

**Leverage**

Source of Leverage	Fiscal Year 10	Fiscal Year 11	Fiscal Year 12
SWIF In-Kind Services	\$20,000		
MDHA – Acquisition Donation	\$5,000		
Green Corridor Board of Directors In-Kind Services for Program Manager	\$20,500		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,500</b>		

**Accomplishments:**

Table 1 Accomplishments	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		Protect 350 or more acres of public land.		
Enhance				

Table 2 Recommend Fund Allocation	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		\$1,576,575		
Enhance				

Table 3 Counties Impacted	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
Restore				
Protect		Redwood		
Enhance				

Table 4 Non-State Leverage \$				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Restore				
Protect				
Enhance				

Table 5 Acquisition Data				Habitats for Fish, Game and Wildlife
	Wetlands	Prairies	Forests	
Acquired in Fee with State PILT Liability		350 or more acres for an acquisition value of \$1,576,575		
Acquired in Fee without State PILT Liability				
Permanent Easement				

### Accomplishment Time Table

Milestone	Date	Measure
Acquire Fee Simple Acquisition Open to Public Uses (WMA/AMA)	June 30, 2010	350 (or more) acres

### Relationship to Your Current Budget

The Green Corridor Legacy program is a new community/citizen based initiative. However, the SWIF and Green Corridor Board of Directors have received \$1,000,000 from Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund (LCCMR Phase I) for FY2008-2010. This LCCMR program has very specific priorities/strategies that compliment LCCMR funding priorities that relates to the Minnesota River Valley natural/ecological resources, trails, historical/cultural, and tourism. LOHC funding will supplement, not substitute, other funding requests.

### How Will the Habitat Improvements Be Sustained?

The fee simple acquisition of these 350 (or more) acres will be administered by the MN DNR Division of Wildlife and/or Division of Fisheries for management and enforcement of state laws on these acquired properties in perpetuity. The Green Corridor Legacy Program has received commitments from DNR Regional 4 for funding these acquisitions in its long range management activities.

This program is acquiring land from willing and supportive landowners to be transferred to the appropriate state agency for long-term habitat conservation, outdoor recreational access, sustainability, and monitoring. Payment in Lieu of tax (PILT) will be established by current or traditional methods.

**Prioritized List of Properties to be Considered Based on Available Funding:**

<b>County</b>	<b>TWP</b>	<b>SEC</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Redwood	Lamberton	Sec 13	114	Lamberton WMA Addition	\$513,000
Redwood	Lamberton	Sec 13	80	Lamberton WMA Addition	\$280,000
Redwood	Charlestown	Sec 19	83	Lamberton WMA Expansion	\$290,500
Redwood	Sherman	Sec 9	262	Turkey Foot WMA – New	\$450,000
Redwood	Charlestown	Sec 27	64	Sanborn WMA or AMA	\$160,000
Redwood	Delhi	Sec 32	40	Whispering Ridge AMA Addition	\$120,000
Redwood	Lamberton	Sec 11	45	Lamberton WMA Expansion	\$180,000
Redwood	Delhi	Sec 3	27	Goldmine/Foss AMA – New	\$95,000
Redwood	Paxton	Sec 36	100	Brickyard AMA Addition	\$250,000
Redwood	Charlestown	Sec 29	160	New WMA	\$720,000

***Attach:***

