



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase VIII  
Laws of Minnesota 2022 Accomplishment Plan

---

### General Information

**Date:** 06/21/2022

**Project Title:** Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase VIII

**Funds Recommended:** \$6,066,000

**Legislative Citation:** ML 2022, Ch. 77, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(a)

**Appropriation Language:** \$6,066,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Dakota County to acquire permanent conservation easements and land in fee and to restore and enhance riparian and other wildlife habitats in Dakota County. A list of proposed land acquisitions and restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

### **Manager Information**

**Manager's Name:** Lisa West

**Title:** Senior Project Manager

**Organization:** Dakota County

**Address:** 14955 Galaxie Avenue

**City:** Apple Valley, MN 55124

**Email:** lisa.west@co.dakota.mn.us

**Office Number:** 952-891-7018

**Mobile Number:** 651-587-8278

**Fax Number:** 952-891-7588

**Website:** www.dakotacounty.us

### **Location Information**

**County Location(s):** Dakota.

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

- Metro / Urban
- Southeast Forest

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee

- Restore

#### Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

### Narrative

#### Abstract

This project will restore approximately 920 acres of permanently protected habitats, and acquire approximately 465 acres of permanent conservation easements and/or fee title lands. Project sites include converting cultivated areas to wetlands in the southern two-thirds of the County, and various habitats, including forest, grassland, riparian areas, and other wetlands throughout the County. This initiative includes identified sites and flexibility for opportunities that will arise. This project will allow the County to continue its integrated comprehensive and successful land conservation efforts through its partnership with the LSOHC and others.

#### Design and Scope of Work

Historic settlement, modern-day development, and agriculture have replaced, degraded, and fragmented natural resource systems throughout Dakota County. The project scope and scale encompass some of the best natural resource features found in the metropolitan region, across urban, suburban, and rural landscapes. A sound fiscal and prescriptive ecological systems approach to conservation, attempts to balance the interests, rights, and responsibilities of private landowners, with the public's concerns about water and habitat quality and protection.

In November 2020, the County Board approved a new Land Conservation Plan for Dakota County (Plan) that collectively identifies, coordinates, and prioritizes future land protection and management needs on public and private properties throughout the County. This Plan reflects one of five County Board goals of "a healthy environment with quality natural areas." Through its new Plan, the County continues to effectively work with a variety of agencies, jurisdictions, and organizations to implement land protection. Since 2002, the County approved plans and implemented programs to preserve natural areas and quality working land. The County developed conservation policy, project evaluation criteria, and practices to acquire, monitor, and administer 118 conservation easements, totaling 9,694 acres, and assist other public entities in acquiring 22 properties totaling 2,018 acres, for more than 11,700 total acres permanently protected. The new Plan identifies over 75,000 acres of important conservation lands within 24 preliminary Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs), of which 32,500 acres are already protected. The CFAs encompass a wide variety of habitats throughout the County, including 28 specific native communities, with 25 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Land outside the CFAs is also eligible for conservation, if it meets certain criteria.

All permanent easements require Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) that reflect existing ecosystem health and recommend potential restoration management strategies, including workplans and budgets. Initial implementation is also required, using an adopted public-private funding formula that includes a maintenance component. A Natural Resource Management Agreement (MA) is signed by the landowner and County, identifying NRMP priorities, activities, responsibilities, shared costs, and schedules. The proposed habitat restoration and enhancement projects in this funding request are based on these workplans. This project has direct benefits to fish, game, and wildlife, beyond increased and interconnected habitat. The Plan introduces new tools to measure restoration success through the Five-Star Ecological Recovery Reference System Attributes, Goals and Measures,

and an adapted Ecological Recovery Wheel that can be used to visually depict the restorative status of a site.

The proposed and anticipated acquisition projects involve riparian areas along the Minnesota, Mississippi, and Cannon rivers (including Dutch, Mud, Chub, Darden and Pine Creeks) and Vermillion River (including North, Middle and South Creeks, the South Branch and tributaries), and shoreland along Chub and Marcott lakes. Additional habitat focuses include woodlands, wetlands, hydric soil areas, and unique landscape features and ecosystems.

Environmental Audits and/or Phase I Assessments are completed for all projects, resulting in waste removal, well sealing, and septic system upgrades, if needed, as program participation conditions. Baseline Property Reports

### **How does the plan address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species?**

The proposal integrates a number of state and regional County plans, involving different aspects of habitat and wildlife. In 2017, the County Board approved a Natural Resource Management System Plan (NRMSP) for all regional parks, regional greenways and conservation easements located throughout the County. Vegetation, water, and wildlife were the three main elements for each land type. The NRMSP identified rare and endangered species, and species of greatest conservation need throughout the County, based on different data sources. The NRMSP includes different Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) templates of each property type that will provide much more detail for individual sites that typically include a variety of habitat and plant community types. The new Land Conservation Plan identifies over 42,300 acres of unprotected land within 24 preliminary Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs), including more than 14,000 acres in 90 potential wetland restoration basins. The CFAs encompass a wide variety of habitats throughout the County, including 28 specific native communities and 25 Species of Greatest Conservation Need. These habitats/native communities and associated species include, but are not limited to: Forest - northern long-eared bat, American woodcock, oven bird, rose-breasted grosbeak, least flycatcher, red-shouldered hawk; Prairies and Grasslands- badger, Franklin's ground squirrel, prairie vole, loggerhead shrike, eastern meadowlark, grasshopper sparrow and regal fritillary; Lakes, Ponds and Rivers- common snapping turtle and smooth soft shell turtle; Wetlands- sedge wren, sand hill crane, Blanding's turtle, and dragonflies. The County continues to assemble baseline data and will prioritize the habitats preferred by these species for acquisition, restoration and enhancement activities.

### **Describe how the plan uses science-based targeting that leverages or expands corridors and complexes, reduces fragmentation or protects areas identified in the MN County Biological Survey:**

There was significant overlap between the County Biological Survey, the 2002 Farmland and Natural Area Protection Plan, and the Metro Conservation Corridors in identifying habitat complexes and key corridors. Based on updated land cover mapping, DNR rare species data, the Vermillion Corridor Plan, new SNA analysis, previously protected areas, County and local comprehensive plans, watershed plans, and park and greenway plans, the County has refined its priority natural areas and the Metro Conservation Corridor Focus Areas. Using Dakota County's premier Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools and expertise, County staff can further prioritize areas where important protection and improvement opportunities exist, using other available data layers, such as ownership parcels, soils, aspect, historical photography, and LiDAR. Project selection criteria have been revised to reflect this refined vision, and further refinements will occur as up-to-date information and data are collected. The County's new Land Conservation Plan reflects the most current data and information available and identifies 24 primary Conservation Focus Areas and several additional sub-areas, based on existing water resources, other natural habitats and existing protected land where the County plans to target resources.

In a substantial portion of the County, original natural landscapes were significantly altered through agriculture. Extensive wetland areas were drained, filled, and tilled. In 2018, County staff consulted with BWSR and DNR staff to use new LiDAR-based GIS tools to target wetland restoration projects. The tools require a hydrologically-conditioned digital elevation model (DEM) that was previously unavailable within the County. Dakota County Environmental Resources staff created a “base-level” hydrologically-conditioned DEM and ran a series of ArcGIS tools developed by the DNR/BWSR. The GIS tools predicted hydric soils and wetlands via the Compound Topographic Index, smoothed ditches, and created ditch plugs in the landscape to generate storage areas. The resulting areas were inventoried and prioritized based on area (acres) and volume (acre-feet). Then, a GIS dataset of known cultivated hydric soils, developed by the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District was used to refine the inventory. Finally, a map of restoration sites and list of property owners in 4,502 acres was developed for restoration program implementation.

### **Which two sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are most applicable to this project?**

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

### **Which two other plans are addressed in this program?**

- Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

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

#### **Metro / Urban**

- Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

#### **Southeast Forest**

- Protect, enhance, and restore habitat for fish, game, and nongame wildlife in rivers, cold-water streams, and associated upland habitat

### **Does this program include leveraged funding?**

Yes

### **Explain the leverage:**

It is Dakota County's intention to provide leverage, not only in the form of cash as a grant match, but also all County staff time and resources as an in-kind contribution to the work performed to expend State grant and County grant-match funding. Other government and non-profit entity/organization partnership funding will be sought whenever available and appropriate. Additionally, landowner donations of acquisition value and/or cash and in-kind contributions toward habitat restoration and management are anticipated.

### **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.**

Dakota County's request for funding is not supplanting, nor is it a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund.

## Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
ML 2014	Dakota County	\$480,700
ML 2013	Dakota County	\$2,222,200
ML 2012	Dakota County	\$153,400
ML 2010	Dakota County	\$1,855,000

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

The Dakota County Board has maintained a remarkable, 18-year commitment to land conservation, and established "a healthy environment and quality natural areas" as one of four priority goals. Adopting a new 2020 Land Conservation Plan, maintaining dedicated natural resource staff, reorganizing departments to effectively achieve land conservation goals, approving capital improvement program budgets, and providing an operating budget for annual monitoring, are further evidence that the County has the interest, capacity and commitment to sustain this work. The County's Natural Resource Management System Plan commits to maintaining areas after restoration and enhancement investments are made.

Approximately half the land protection/restoration work will occur on public lands and half on private lands, all designed to achieve maximum, fiscally efficient, conservation benefits. Relationship building, developing and implementing NRMPs and Management Agreements, and annual monitoring, provide opportunities to share updated natural resource information and best management practices with landowners, and achieve a higher likelihood of increased private stewardship. The Natural Resource Management System Plan, using a public/private cost-share formula, is further testament to this commitment. This comprehensive wildlife habitat and water quality approach on public and private lands provides the best opportunity to effectively protect and improve these community assets.

### Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2026	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years
2025	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years
2024	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects and use adaptive management for future restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years
2023	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three

			enhancement activities	years
2022	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years

### **How will the program directly involve, engage, and benefit BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and diverse communities:**

Dakota County's new Land Conservation Plan includes goals, strategies and tactics designed to increase and enhance public involvement in natural resource protection and management and enhanced recreational access to conservation land. The new project eligibility and scoring criteria, developed to evaluate Land Conservation Program project applications, includes incentives when a project will provide natural habitat and open space opportunities for underserved communities that include BIPOC. Distance from a qualified census tract will be used to determine the project score for this factor.

### Activity Details

#### **Requirements**

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

Yes

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

No

#### **Describe any measures to inform local governments of land acquisition under their jurisdiction:**

The County has excellent working relationships with its' cities and townships. Coordination takes place for each project with the respective jurisdiction. However, the County Board has historically not required jurisdictional approval if a private landowner desires to convey an easement to the County.

The new Land Conservation Plan establishes a City County Conservation Collaborative that will enhance communication and partnership opportunities with cities. The new Plan also enhances coordination with Townships, by including township official in outreach mailings, notifying townships of landowner responses, project pre-applications and County staff-recommended projects in each township, etc. County Board approval is ultimately sought for each acquisition.

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

Yes

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

Yes

**Who will manage the easement?**

Dakota County, jointly with the landowner.

**Who will be the easement holder?**

Dakota County

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

12-16

**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?**

Yes

**Where does the activity take place?**

- WMA
- SNA
- AMA
- 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?**

Yes

**Explain what will be planted:**

There might be situations where portions of the property may be cultivated. As part of a negotiated sale, the owner may be allowed to continue cultivating the same land for a short, defined, period of time as defined and allowed in the Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP). In other situations, it may be advantageous to allow a final soybean crop, which can enhance the restoration process by reducing weeds and residue. Also, in some NRMP-approved situations, food plots for wildlife are allowed within a natural area easement.

**Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?**

Yes

**Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:**

Private land with easements may be open for hunting and fishing, at the discretion of the landowner, but are subject to local ordinances.

Many public lands are also open for hunting and fishing, but may also be subject to local ordinances.

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

Yes

**Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:**

Land protected through partial OH funding may be open to hunting and fishing, as appropriate, based on whether or not it remains in private ownership or becomes public land. Individual landowner consent would be required on private lands. In all cases, the types of hunting (i.e., bow or firearm) and fishing will be allowed only per local ordinances.



**Who will eventually own the fee title land?**

- State of MN
- County
- Local Unit of Government

**Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:**

- WMA
- AMA
- SNA
- City Owned : Lakeville may be a possibility for this grant; however, it could be another city, depending on unforeseen opportunities.
- Other

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

8-15

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

Yes

**Describe the expected public use:**

The County has acquired some easements that are open for limited public use. In all cases, the decision to allow public use is determined by the landowner, and is often granted to responsible, conservation-minded and purposed groups and individuals.

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

Yes

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

In some cases there are existing soft-surface trails and non paved roads used for personal recreation or to access portions of the property for various purposes.

Continued use is allowed, as defined by the easement and the NRMP, provided that such use does not compromise the conservation intent of the easement or the NRMP, or damage or degrade the easement area. New, unpaved trails must receive prior written approval from the County.

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

Yes

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

Existing soft-surface roads or trails may be retained, improved, removed or relocated. The new underlying fee owner of public land will be responsible for all maintenance and as included in a jointly developed NRMP. On easement land, the underlying fee owner is responsible for maintenance; but, any changes to the existing trails or roads are subject to review and approval by the County. Review of trails and roads are part of the County's annual monitoring process.

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

Yes



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

It is possible that some acquisition projects may result in the creation of new, soft-surface trails for low-impact recreational use by landowners and/or allowed guests, and in part, to assist in access for natural resource restoration, management and ongoing maintenance.

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

The landowner will be responsible for all maintenance. A jointly developed NRMP will determine any changes to trails and roads. Review of trails and roads are part of the County's annual monitoring process.

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

Yes

All easements require a Natural Resource Management Plan and an associated Management Agreement (MA) between the County and the landowner to initiate restoration. If there is adequate time after the acquisition to complete the MA, distribute a Request for Proposals for potential contractors, and finalize contracts, restoration/enhancement activities will begin within this appropriation.

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

Yes

**Timeline**

<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
Restoration	June 30, 2027
Easement or Fee Title Acquisition	June 30, 2026

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 11/01/2027

**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 to acquire land in fee 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, 2026;
- (2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this act is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2030;
- (3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2027;
- (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.*

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	\$510,000	Dakota County	\$510,000
Contracts	\$2,971,000	\$465,000	Dakota County	\$3,436,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$67,000	\$10,000	Dakota County	\$77,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$500,000	\$325,000	Dakota County and cities in the County	\$825,000
Easement Acquisition	\$2,478,000	\$375,000	Dakota County	\$2,853,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	\$50,000	-	-	\$50,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$6,066,000</b>	<b>\$1,685,000</b>	-	<b>\$7,751,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Land Acquisition/Attorney/Survey/Etc.	2.5	5.0	-	\$510,000	Dakota County	\$510,000

**Amount of Request:** \$6,066,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$1,685,000

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 27.78%

**DSS + Personnel:** -

**As a % of the total request:** 0.0%

**Easement Stewardship:** -

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** -

**How will this program accommodate the reduced appropriation recommendation from the original proposed requested amount?**

Dakota County will continue implementing its Land Conservation Program; however, fewer projects will be acquired and less restoration work will occur.

**Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:**

The Dakota County Board approves leverage funding annually to support the Land Conservation Program and match grant funding. The funding for County staff in-kind contributions and County grant-match funds are a part of the annual budget process. Funding to match awarded ML22 funds is already allocated in the County budget.

## **Contracts**

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

Habitat restoration costs.

## **Fee Acquisition**

**What is the anticipated number of fee title acquisition transactions?**

6 - 8

## **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	390	-	450	80	920
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	20	-	20
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	0	10	10
Protect in Easement	245	-	70	120	435
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>1,385</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	\$1,504,000	-	\$1,266,400	\$200,500	\$2,970,900
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$70,000	-	\$70,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	\$506,000	-	\$506,000
Protect in Easement	\$1,839,100	-	\$420,000	\$260,000	\$2,519,100
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,343,100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,262,400</b>	<b>\$460,500</b>	<b>\$6,066,000</b>

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	725	-	195	-	-	920
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	20	-	-	20
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	10	-	-	-	-	10
Protect in Easement	375	-	60	-	-	435
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,385</b>

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	\$2,307,900	-	\$663,000	-	-	\$2,970,900
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$70,000	-	-	\$70,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$506,000	-	-	-	-	\$506,000
Protect in Easement	\$2,119,100	-	\$400,000	-	-	\$2,519,100
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,933,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,133,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$6,066,000</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	\$3,856	-	\$2,814	\$2,506
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$3,500	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$7,506	-	\$6,000	\$2,166
Enhance	-	-	-	-

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	\$3,183	-	\$3,400	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	\$3,500	-	-

Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$50,600	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$5,650	-	\$6,666	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

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

## 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 ~ *The County developed an integrated, long-term habitat protection system involving public and private lands to provide multiple public benefits. Enlarging and improving existing protected habitat complexes and providing key connections will continue to be a focus, with protected acres and shoreline as success indicators. The County will prioritize land protection and improvement efforts, in part, based on wildlife species by devoting staff time and resources to create baseline wildlife and habitat quality information and monitoring indicator and other species seasonally/annually to determine if our efforts are producing the desired results over time and to adapt or re-prioritize as appropriate.*

### Programs in southeast forest region:

- Healthier populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species ~ *A small portion of the southeast area of the County is included in this region. Enlarging and improving existing protected habitat complexes and providing key connections will continue to be a focus, with protected acres and shoreline as success indicators. The County will prioritize its land protection and improvement efforts, in part, based on priority wildlife species. It will devote staff time and resources to create baseline wildlife and habitat quality information and monitoring indicator and other species seasonally/annually to determine if our efforts are producing the desired results over time and to adapt or re-prioritize as appropriate.*

## Parcels

*For restoration and enhancement programs ONLY: Managers may add, delete, and substitute projects on this parcel list based upon need, readiness, cost, opportunity, and/or urgency so long as the substitute parcel/project forwards the constitutional objectives of this program in the Project Scope table of this accomplishment plan. The final accomplishment plan report will include the final parcel list.*

### Parcel Information

#### Sign-up Criteria?

No

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

ACQUISITION PARCELS. Landowner applications are solicited through public notices and targeted mailings or identified through park or greenway master plans. County staff meets with eligible applicants to discuss the Land Conservation Program and process. Project prioritization criteria are used to score, rank and recommend projects based on location, natural resource components, landowner commitment to restoration, etc. Recommended projects are appraised to determine fair market value.

Additionally, Dakota County will pilot a tax assessed-based formula to establish conservation easement values on rural land to be converted to wetlands or grasslands or to permanently protect existing habitat areas. For classified 2a agricultural land, the formula will use the tax assessed value multiplied by 0.55 and then multiplied by 0.85. For classified 2b waste and wildlife land, the formula will use the tax assessed value multiplied by 0.55 and then multiplied by 0.60. The formula will be reviewed annually and adjusted based on analysis by the County Assessor's Office to determine the difference between assessed and fair market value, based on most recent sales.

RESTORATION PARCELS. Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) are jointly developed for each easement acquisition. NRMPs are implemented through Management Agreements with landowners that establish restoration activities, mutual financial contributions, and maintenance responsibilities. The County focuses on three types of restoration projects: New Projects; Previous Acquisitions; and City Projects, through a new City-County Conservation Collaborative application process. City restoration projects are reviewed and ranked, using prioritization criteria, and implemented through joint powers agreements.

### Restore / Enhance Parcels

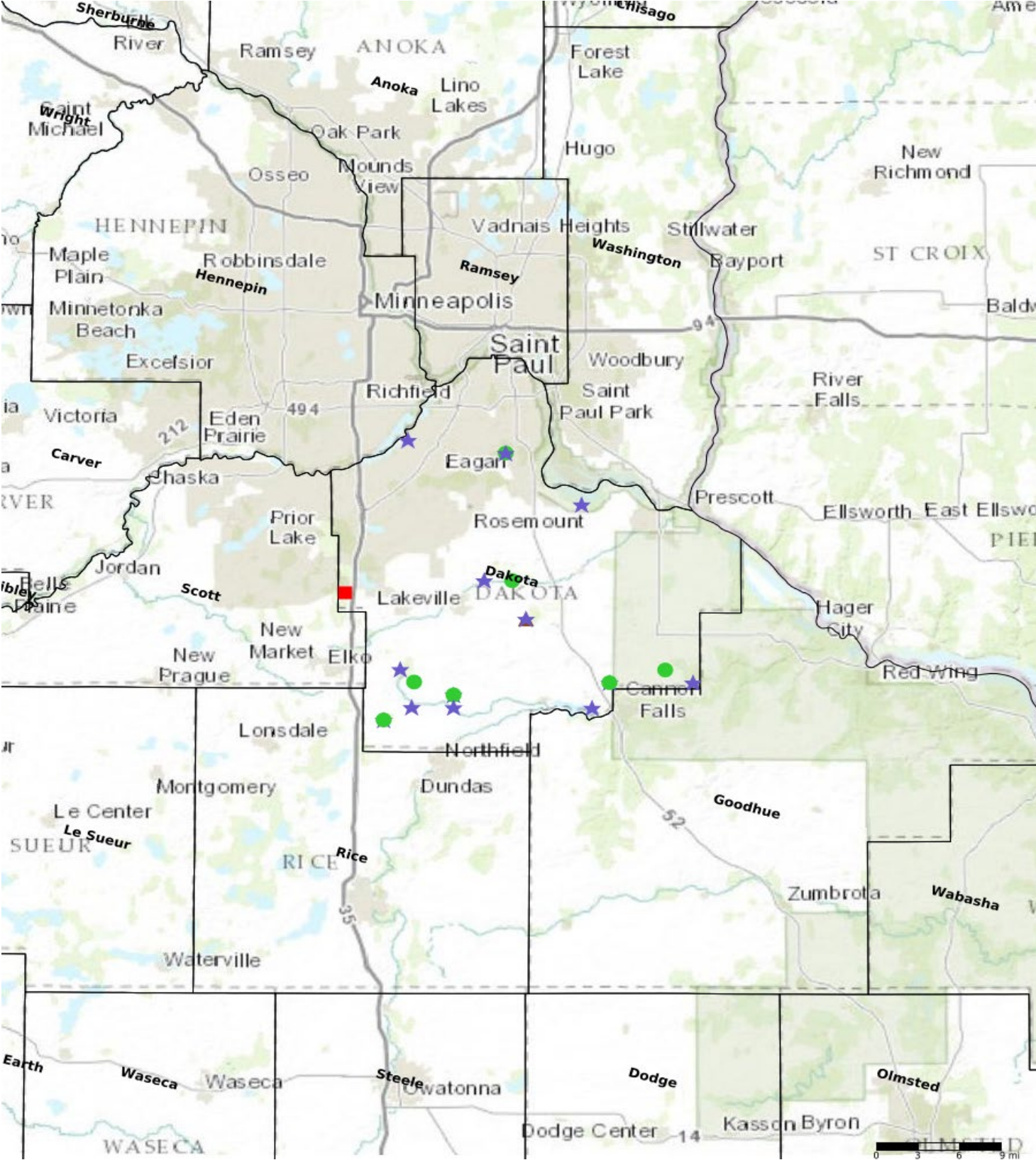
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Miesville Ravine Park Reserve	Dakota	11317236	80	\$242,550	Yes
Wetland Restoration - Waterford	Dakota	11219206	60	\$270,000	Yes
Wetland Restoration - Hampton	Dakota	11318236	60	\$270,000	Yes
Wetland Restoration - Greenvale	Dakota	11220210	120	\$540,000	Yes
Vermillion River	Dakota	11419221	40	\$100,000	Yes
City County Conservation Collaborative	Dakota	02723218	125	\$400,000	Yes
Marcott Lakes	Dakota	02722220	30	\$75,000	Yes
Vermillion River - South Branch	Dakota	11220217	30	\$70,000	Yes
Lake Bylesby	Dakota	11218211	40	\$112,000	Yes
Hampton Woods	Dakota	11319201	10	\$35,500	Yes
Spring Lake Park Reserve	Dakota	11518222	205	\$555,850	Yes
Chub Lake	Dakota	11320228	60	\$150,000	Yes
Chub Creek	Dakota	11219207	60	\$150,000	Yes



**Protect Parcels**

<b>Name</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>TRDS</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Est Cost</b>	<b>Existing Protection</b>
Vermillion River - South Branch	Dakota	11419223	60	\$260,000	No
Chub Creek	Dakota	11317227	60	\$169,000	No
Marcott Lakes	Dakota	02722220	10	\$250,000	No
Chub Lake	Dakota	11320234	60	\$169,000	No
Hampton Woods	Dakota	11319201	20	\$70,000	No
Wetland Easements - Waterford	Dakota	11219206	60	\$400,000	No
Wetland Easements - Hampton	Dakota	11318236	60	\$400,000	No
Wetland Easements - Greenvale	Dakota	11220217	125	\$871,100	No
Lakeville	Dakota	11421226	10	\$506,000	No

### Parcel Map



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