



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Metro Big Rivers Phase 12

Laws of Minnesota 2022 Accomplishment Plan

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### General Information

**Date:** 05/17/2024

**Project Title:** Metro Big Rivers Phase 12

**Funds Recommended:** \$8,200,000

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

**Appropriation Language:** \$8,200,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries within the metropolitan area as follows: \$1,100,000 to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$643,000 to Friends of the Mississippi River; \$742,000 to Great River Greening; \$2,927,000 to Trust for Public Land; and \$2,788,000 to Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to \$216,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed land acquisitions and permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

### Manager Information

**Manager's Name:** Deborah Loon

**Title:** Executive Director

**Organization:** MN Valley Trust (Metro Big Rivers)

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### Location Information

**County Location(s):** Sherburne, Washington, Scott, Sibley, Carver, Chisago, Ramsey, Dakota and Hennepin.

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

- Metro / Urban

**Activity types:**

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee
- Restore
- Enhance

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

- Wetlands
- Prairie
- Forest
- Habitat

**Narrative****Abstract**

Metro Big Rivers Phase 12 will protect 622 acres in fee title and 319 acres in permanent conservation easement, restore 53 acres and enhance 587 acres of priority habitat in the big rivers corridors in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area (1,558 acres total). Partners will leverage OHF grants at least 14% with partner funds, private donations, local government contributions, and landowner donations of easement value. Significant volunteer engagement will be invested in habitat enhancement activities. MBR projects benefit wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation (SGCN) and provide increased public access and nature connections for metro residents.

**Design and Scope of Work**

Metro Big Rivers Phase 12 will protect, restore and enhance prioritized wildlife habitat in the MUA, with an emphasis on the Mississippi, Minnesota and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries. Metro Big Rivers' work in the metro area benefits wildlife and species in greatest need of conservation (SGCN), provides increased public access for wildlife-based recreation and connects the diversity of metro residents with nature near them.

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) will restore/enhance 433 acres at 4 sites on or near the Mississippi River. Projects include removing invasive woody and herbaceous plants, planting, seeding, mowing, spot-spraying, and prescribed burns.

- Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park: Enhance 104 acres oak forest and 7 acres prairie
- Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area: Enhance 180 acres oak forest, 15 acres restored prairie, and 4 acres native prairie
- Vermillion Falls Park: Restore 4 acres prairie and enhance 13 acres forest
- William H. Houlton Conservation Area: Enhance 90 acres oak forest

Great River Greening (GRG) will restore/enhance 157 acres across 7 sites. Projects include removing invasive woody and herbaceous species, mowing, spot spraying, seeding and planting.

- Bassett Creek Park: Enhance 22 acres forest
- Lebanon Hills Regional Park Phase IV: Enhance 50 acres oak savanna/woodland and prairie
- Spring Lake Park (Scott County): Enhance 10 acres oak savanna
- LumberJack Landing: Restore 15 acres of forest and .25 miles of shoreline restoration of new public open space along the St Croix River
- Huber Park: Restore 9 acres of degraded floodplain forest along the Minnesota River

- Jim's Prairie: Enhance 11 acres of prairie
- Falls Creek SNA: Enhance 40 acres forest

Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) will protect through perpetual conservation easement 319 acres of priority habitat, including riparian lands, forests, wetlands and grasslands. Projects will be selected through a competitive process that ranks proposals based on ecological significance and cost (criteria attached).

MLT also will restore/enhance 50 acres on lands protected through permanent conservation easement. Prioritized properties will be of high ecological significance, adjacent or close to public conservation investments and owned by landowners committed to conservation.

Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will protect through fee acquisition 352 acres of river frontage, floodplain forest, wetland and upland habitat to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. All prospective lands have been prioritized by the USFWS and will be restored/enhanced, then open for wildlife-based recreation, including hunting and fishing.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will protect through fee acquisition 270 acres of priority wildlife habitat, including riparian, forest, wetland and grassland habitat. Potential properties are prioritized in state, regional, and local natural resource plans. Lands will be managed by public partners (DNR and/or local government) and open for wildlife-based recreation, including hunting and fishing.

### **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?**

Metro Big Rivers projects protect and improve habitats needed by wildlife species in greatest conservation need (SGCN) and other targeted species, and where they need them. Many of Minnesota's forest and grassland SGCNs are migratory. Improving habitat along the central flyway (the three big rivers) provides great benefits to all wildlife species, especially during critical migration periods.

Friends of the Mississippi River will conduct habitat enhancement at five sites located on or near the Mississippi River, within the Audubon-designated Important Bird Area. This corridor provides critical habitat for neotropical migrant birds and numerous species of greatest conservation need. FMR has been tracking breeding bird species at these sites, recording 11 SGCNs. The sites are also vital for many other species, especially native pollinators, and provide connectivity to other natural areas.

Great River Greening will also conduct significant habitat work on public conservation lands to improve habitat values for wildlife and SGCN, including birds using the Mississippi River migratory corridor and pollinators. Work will restore and enhance riverine, forest, oak savanna, prairie, and wetland habitat at 12 conservation sites.

Minnesota Land Trust will target its protection and restoration/enhancement action to priority privately owned lands to permanently protect high-quality upland and shoreland habitats from fragmentation, development, and other impacts that undermine the viability of SGCN and T&E species. Restoration and enhancement of habitat is proposed for lands already protected through easement.

Minnesota Valley Trust will acquire lands identified through the USFWS Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This plan prioritizes lands for high biodiversity, connectivity, and ability to preserve habitat for SGCN.

The Trust for Public Land will acquire lands in fee identified and prioritized in state, regional, and local natural resource plans due to their high biodiversity significance, connectivity to existing public lands, and ability to preserve habitat for SGCN. Acquisitions and subsequent habitat work increase breeding and migratory habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, neo-tropical migrants, and non-migratory resident species, protect the diversity of native ecosystems, and improve connectivity and resilience.

### **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:**

Protection partners prioritize work through science-based processes led by the public entities that own or will own interest in the properties (e.g., MN DNR, USFWS). Plans followed include MBS, RESA, Metropolitan Conservation Corridors, Minnesota State Wildlife Action Plan, and the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Actions are targeted toward building conservation corridors and priority habitat complexes.

In addition, the easement partner's competitive RFP process includes a second analysis of all proposed projects submitted by landowners for protection. This assessment evaluates the ecological significance of the proposed parcel, which includes the following three factors:

- Quantity – the size of habitat and/or length of shoreline associated with a parcel, and abundance of Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and Threatened & Endangered (T&E) species
- Quality – the condition of the associated habitat and populations of SGCN and T&E species
- Landscape Context – the extent and condition of natural habitat surrounding the parcel, and the degree to which adjacent property has been protected.

Restoration and enhancement partners use science-based criteria to prioritize activities. This includes consideration of the highest quality natural areas (as determined by MBS), as well as prioritization of work within important ecological corridors identified by a coalition of conservation partners and based on rare species and sensitive landscape features. This prioritization ensures that projects reduce fragmentation and link natural areas within already-established corridors. All of the restoration and enhancement sites are located along or near the three big rivers and important tributaries - some of the most important ecological corridors for migrating and sedentary plant and animal life.

### **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 Action Plan 2015-2025
- 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)

## 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 ~ *Partners work together to identify priority lands using existing data and public plans, then coordinate protection, restoration and enhancement activities in those priority areas. Work builds upon prior phases and is intended to continue into the future for maximum impact. Mapping shows progress in connecting corridors. Species collections and counts measure impact of activities over time on wildlife and Species in Greatest Conservation Need.*

### Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

### Explain the leverage:

Metro Big Rivers 12 will leverage the OHF appropriation with an estimated \$1,184,500 in other funds (almost 15%). The partnership has secured commitments of supplemental funding from the partners, private sources, local government units and park districts.

MLT encourages private landowners to fully or partially donate the appraised value of their conservation easement. This donated value is shown as leveraged funds in the proposal. MLT has a long track record gaining landowner participation in this fashion. To date across all MBR grants, over \$3,000,000 in easement value has been donated by landowners as leverage. MLT expects a significant landowner contribution to continue in MBR Phase 12; a conservative estimate of leverage is \$517,000.

Crews of volunteers will add significant in-kind value to the restoration / enhancement projects. This value is not included in the leverage funds, but is important to note here. Volunteers effectively replace or enhance paid crews and contracts on many projects, saving funds. Use of volunteers also effectively educates and engages the community in conservation work, which is critical for the future of conservation.

### 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 is not supplanting or substituting for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

## Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2020	Private	\$1,280,936
2020	Local	\$781,892
2020	Other State	\$581,340
2011	Private	\$1,578,572
2011	Local & Federal	\$543,900
2011	Other State	\$1,429,358
2010	Private	\$3,516,521
2010	Local & Federal	\$485,122
2010	Other State	\$2,010,658
2019	Private & Other	\$636,255
2019	Local	\$418,524
2019	Other State	\$381,241
2018	Private	\$2,025,433
2009	Private	\$940,884
2018	Local	\$253,321
2018	Other State	\$656,593
2017	Private & Other	\$1,278,433
2017	Local	\$739,800
2017	Other State	\$630,060
2016	Private	\$2,700,091
2016	Local & Federal	\$1,822,000
2016	Other State	\$912,867
2015	Private	\$1,449,198
2015	Local	\$1,295,000
2009	Local & Federal	\$230,310
2015	Other State	\$2,224,751
2014	Private	\$1,931,527
2014	Local	\$516,119
2014	Other State	\$1,873,857
2013	Private	\$1,253,038
2013	Local & Federal	\$1,320,606
2013	Other State	\$2,130,284
2012	Private & Other	\$2,063,388
2012	Local & Federal	\$413,561
2012	Other State	\$684,449
2009	Other State	\$741,058

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

All public partners have committed to maintaining the restoration / enhancement habitat improvements.

All MBR restore/enhance (FMR, GRG, MLT) partners will raise public and private sources and work cooperatively with partners to ensure the project benefits are maintained.

Lands protected through easement by MLT will be sustained following best standards and practices. MLT is a nationally-accredited and insured land trust with a successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, records management, addressing inquiries, tracking ownership changes, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. MLT provides habitat management plans to

landowners and helps them access resources and technical expertise to undertake restoration, enhancement and ongoing management.

Lands acquired in fee title by MVT for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be sustained and maintained over the long-term by the USFWS. Habitat restoration / enhancement will be completed by MVT prior to transfer to the USFWS.

Lands acquired in fee title by TPL will be conveyed to the DNR or local units of government for permanent stewardship. Initial site development and restoration costs are included in this proposal. TPL will work with the steward to develop habitat plans.

**Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes**

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Post-Acquisition, Ongoing	MVT, TPL, Public Partners	Post acquired property	Develop & implement habitat restoration and enhancement plans	Transfer property to public partner, steward
Ongoing	MLT Stewardship & Enforcement Fund	Annual monitoring of completed easements	Enforcement actions as necessary	-
Ongoing	FMR, GRG, MLT, Local Partners, Private Landowners	Monitoring and assessment of restoration and enhancement projects	Target actions, engage local partners and landowners	Take restorative action to correct any damage

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

As organizations with long histories of working in the MUA, we are joined together by our shared objective of providing all metro residents with meaningful opportunities to engage with high-quality natural spaces nearby and live in healthy neighborhoods. Metro Big Rivers partners work in and with a diversity of communities ranging from urban to suburban and rural. We believe everyone should be able to easily connect with nature, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socio-economic status, and have opportunities to engage in activities that improve wildlife habitat in their neighborhoods.

Examples of how MBR engages and benefits BIPOC and diverse communities includes:

Friends of the Mississippi River and Great River Greening both have active volunteer engagement functions where much of their habitat work is done by residents who live near project sites. Their youth programming targets young people from diverse backgrounds and creates opportunities for exploring environmental careers.

Metro residents can literally step off the light rail or bus and into the wilderness on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge to connect with nature and wildlife at no cost. The Refuge and Minnesota Valley Trust provide free busing for schools with a high percentage of low-income students, have a free lending program (e.g., snowshoes, fishing poles, field backpacks), and are building an internship program recruiting a diversity of youth to explore conservation careers.

Minnesota Land Trust prioritizes projects that protect camps and nature centers that historically served a diversity of Minnesota youth. For example, an easement was recently placed on Camp Katherine Parsons, which will enable the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center to expand its programming for North Minneapolis residents at the camp and simultaneously improve its wildlife habitat.

The Trust for Public Land directly works with and empowers diverse communities to put a park, trail or natural area within a 10-minute walk of every Twin Cities resident. Over the past 20 years, we've helped protect land and create natural areas such as the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Frogtown Park and Farm, Midway Peace Park, Pilot Knob and many more natural spaces diverse communities enjoy.

### 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:**

Local units of government will be notified of pending fee title acquisitions, as required by law.

**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?**

Minnesota Land Trust

**Who will be the easement holder?**

Minnesota Land Trust

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

5 to 8

**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?**

- Permanently Protected Conservation Easements
- County/Municipal
- SNA

**Land Use****Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?**

Yes

**Explain what will be planted and include the maximum percentage of any acquired parcel that would be planted into foodplots by the proposer or the end owner of the property:**

Easement Acquisition:

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

Restoration/Enhancement:

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

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

No

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

Yes

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

Lands acquired for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will be open for public hunting and fishing according to the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act. The lands will be opened through a public process prescribed by the Act. We anticipate hunting and fishing opportunities will be like those already established for lands previously acquired for the Refuge. For specific information, refer to the Refuge's website - [http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley/documents/hunting\\_regs.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley/documents/hunting_regs.pdf).

Lands acquired by The Trust for Public Land will be open for fishing and hunting.

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

- Federal
- State of MN
- County

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

- National Wildlife Refuge
- SNA
- WMA
- AMA

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

3 to 6

**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:**

We are not aware of any trails or roads at this time, although some parcels acquired in fee title may have existing field roads or low maintenance trails. Properties identified and prioritized for protection through conservation easements often have trails and roads on them; private landowners typically will be allowed to use those trails/roads on their property.

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

Yes

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

Trails and roads on eased lands are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of MLT's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads or trails in line with the easement terms will be the responsibility of the landowner.

Any pre-existing low-maintenance roads and trails on properties acquired for the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) may be continued under a plan developed for the purpose of property access for habitat maintenance and public use of the property for wildlife-dependent recreation (e.g., hunting and fishing).

TPL is not aware of any trails or roads on any of the acquisitions. If any are discovered on lands to be managed by the DNR, they will be managed per DNR policy for WMAs, AMAs, SNAs or State Forests. If they are discovered on lands to be managed by local units of government, they will be managed per a maintenance and monitoring plan developed in consultation with LSOHC staff.

**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

At this time, we do not anticipate restoring or enhancing the parcels acquired with this appropriation. If our plans change in this regard, we will seek an amendment in the future.

**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:**

Restoration and enhancement needs associated with fee title and easement projects completed under this grant will be assessed. Needs identified will be addressed through private sources, Conservation Partners Legacy Grant proposals and/or future funding proposals to LSOHC. If funds remain in this grant, an amendment may be submitted to allow those funds to be reallocated to restoration and enhancement on lands protected by this grant.

Lands protected via easement will be assessed as to their need for R/E work by the Land Trust's Restoration Program. If R/E needs are identified, they will be built into future funding proposals.

**Timeline**

<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>
TPL - Protect 270 acres through fee title acquisition	June 2026
MVT - Protect 352 acres through fee title acquisition	June 2026
MLT - Protect 319 acres under conservation easement	June 2026
MLT - Restore 25 acres and enhance 25 acres	June 2027
GRG - Restore 24 acres and enhance 133 acres	June 2027
FMR - Restore 4 acres and enhance 429 acres	June 2027

**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.*

**Grand Totals Across All Partnerships**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Leverage</b>	<b>Leverage Source</b>	<b>Total</b>
Personnel	\$604,500	\$118,000	-, Cities, foundations, Dakota County, Stillwater, Shakopee, Maplewood, Crystal, Scott County, Private	\$722,500
Contracts	\$1,238,500	-	-	\$1,238,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$2,634,500	\$50,000	-, RIM, Private	\$2,684,500
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,093,000	\$275,000	-, Private	\$1,368,000
Easement Acquisition	\$1,772,000	\$517,000	-, Private landowners	\$2,289,000
Easement Stewardship	\$216,000	-	-	\$216,000
Travel	\$20,300	\$2,000	-, Private	\$22,300
Professional Services	\$277,000	-	-	\$277,000
Direct Support Services	\$158,000	\$219,500	-, Private, Private	\$377,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$25,000	-	-	\$25,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$8,000	-	-	\$8,000
Supplies/Materials	\$118,200	\$3,000	-, Cities, foundations	\$121,200
DNR IDP	\$35,000	-	-	\$35,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$8,200,000</b>	<b>\$1,184,500</b>	-	<b>\$9,384,500</b>

**Partner: Trust for Public Land**

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$110,000	-	-	\$110,000
Contracts	\$38,000	-	-	\$38,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$2,634,500	\$50,000	RIM, Private	\$2,684,500
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	\$2,000	Private	\$2,000
Professional Services	\$55,000	-	-	\$55,000
Direct Support Services	\$36,500	\$36,500	Private	\$73,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$18,000	-	-	\$18,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	\$35,000	-	-	\$35,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,927,000</b>	<b>\$88,500</b>	-	<b>\$3,015,500</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TPL Staff (Protection and Legal)	0.22	3.0	\$110,000	-	-	\$110,000

**Partner: Minnesota Valley Trust**

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$1,093,000	\$275,000	Private	\$1,368,000
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$7,000	-	-	\$7,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,100,000</b>	<b>\$275,000</b>	-	<b>\$1,375,000</b>

## Partner: Minnesota Land Trust

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$282,000	-	-	\$282,000
Contracts	\$205,000	-	-	\$205,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$1,772,000	\$517,000	Private landowners	\$2,289,000
Easement Stewardship	\$216,000	-	-	\$216,000
Travel	\$11,000	-	-	\$11,000
Professional Services	\$222,000	-	-	\$222,000
Direct Support Services	\$76,500	-	-	\$76,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,500	-	-	\$1,500
Supplies/Materials	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,788,000</b>	<b>\$517,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$3,305,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Protection Staff	0.47	4.0	\$180,000	-	-	\$180,000
MLT Restoration Staff	0.3	4.0	\$102,000	-	-	\$102,000



## Partner: Friends of the Mississippi River

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$71,800	\$48,000	Cities, foundations	\$119,800
Contracts	\$521,000	-	-	\$521,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$4,000	-	-	\$4,000
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$46,200	\$3,000	Cities, foundations	\$49,200
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$643,000</b>	<b>\$51,000</b>	-	<b>\$694,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
FMR Staff (Ecologists, Conservation Director, Stewardship staff, Bookkeeper, College intern)	0.37	5.0	\$71,800	\$48,000	Cities, foundations	\$119,800

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

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$140,700	\$70,000	Dakota County, Stillwater, Shakopee, Maplewood, Crystal, Scott County, Private	\$210,700
Contracts	\$474,500	-	-	\$474,500
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$5,300	-	-	\$5,300
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$45,000	\$183,000	Private	\$228,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$6,500	-	-	\$6,500
Supplies/Materials	\$70,000	-	-	\$70,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$742,000</b>	<b>\$253,000</b>	-	<b>\$995,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Staff (Ecologist, technicians, etc.)	0.38	5.0	\$140,700	\$70,000	Dakota County, Stillwater, Shakopee, Maplewood, Crystal, Scott County, Private	\$210,700

**Amount of Request:** \$8,200,000

**Amount of Leverage:** \$1,184,500

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** 14.45%

**DSS + Personnel:** \$762,500

**As a % of the total request:** 9.3%

**Easement Stewardship:** \$216,000

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 12.19%

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

Metro Big Rivers partners reduced the number of projects and acres to accommodate the lower appropriation recommendation.

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

Leverage includes expected donated easement value by landowners, possible partial donation of fee title value by

landowners, committed partner and other private funds, committed and anticipated city, county, park district and RIM funds.

**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?**

A reduction in funding would reduce outputs (acres/activities) proportionately.

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

Personnel and DSS expenses are scalable, but not proportionately, due to grant management, landowner outreach and other fixed costs. Some easement and fee acquisitions fail to close, but still have costs. Landowner donation of easement value allows grant funds to go further, increasing personnel and DSS costs.

**Personnel**

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

Yes

**Contracts**

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

Restoration / enhancement contracts with service providers (FMR, GRG, MLT). Habitat management plan preparation, landowner outreach by county SWCD offices, posting of easement boundaries (MLT). Potential site clean-up and initial restoration activities (TPL).

**Fee Acquisition**

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

3 to 6

**Easement Stewardship**

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

MLT's budget is based on closing an anticipated 5-8 conservation easements. The average cost per easement to fund the Minnesota Land Trust's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$24,000, although in extraordinary circumstances additional funds 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**

NA

**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?**

Partners have direct support expenses essential to complete conservation projects, which include such costs as administrative support staff, office space, printing and office supplies. GRG -- DSS rate has been approved by the DNR in September 2019, GRG's DSS rate includes the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. A portion, not exceeding 50%, of these costs are requested from the grant and the balance is contributed as leverage. MLT -- In a process approved by the DNR on March 17, 2017, MLT's DSS rate includes the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget. This is similar to the MLT's proposed federal indirect rate. MLT will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses. FMR and MVT are not requesting DSS. TPL -- DSS rate is based upon our federal rate which has been approved by the DNR. 50% of these costs are requested from the grant, 50% is contributed as leverage.

### **Other Equipment/Tools**

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

GPS unit, post pounders, hand tools, saws, brush cutters, and other necessary equipment to complete land protection, restoration and enhancement activities.

### **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	-	4	24	25	53
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	90	90	90	-	270
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	80	136	136	-	352
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	319	319
Enhance	-	33	529	25	587
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>1,581</b>

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

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-
Protect in Easement	-
Enhance	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	\$32,600	\$156,700	\$138,000	\$327,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$975,000	\$976,000	\$976,000	-	\$2,927,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$250,000	\$425,000	\$425,000	-	\$1,100,000
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$2,512,000	\$2,512,000
Enhance	-	\$77,100	\$1,118,600	\$138,000	\$1,333,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,225,000</b>	<b>\$1,510,700</b>	<b>\$2,676,300</b>	<b>\$2,788,000</b>	<b>\$8,200,000</b>

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	53	-	-	-	-	53
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	270	-	-	-	-	270
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	352	-	-	-	-	352
Protect in Easement	319	-	-	-	-	319
Enhance	587	-	-	-	-	587
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,581</b>

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	\$327,300	-	-	-	-	\$327,300
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$2,927,000	-	-	-	-	\$2,927,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$1,100,000	-	-	-	-	\$1,100,000
Protect in Easement	\$2,512,000	-	-	-	-	\$2,512,000
Enhance	\$1,333,700	-	-	-	-	\$1,333,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,200,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$8,200,000</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	\$8,150	\$6,529	\$5,520
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$10,833	\$10,844	\$10,844	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$3,125	\$3,125	\$3,125	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$7,874
Enhance	-	\$2,336	\$2,114	\$5,520

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	\$6,175	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$10,840	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	\$3,125	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$7,874	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$2,272	-	-	-	-

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

7.0

## 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:**

FMR and GRG work with their public partners and other interested stakeholders to identify priority projects and areas. Criteria includes ecological and habitat value and potential (biodiversity, size and location), congruence with existing plans and priority areas, adjacency and connectedness to other public and protected lands and complexes, willing and committed landowners and leveraged opportunities.

MLT's competitive RFP process for identifying, prioritizing and selecting parcels for the Metro Big Rivers easement program is attached. MLT prioritizes parcels for restoration and enhancement that are of high ecological significance, adjacent or close to public conservation investments and owned by landowners committed to conservation.

MVT seeks to acquire land within the boundaries established by the USFWS for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Within those boundaries, parcels are prioritized based on adjacency or proximity to lands already publicly-protected, the opportunity to protect lands from development and restore habitat to meet ecological and public use objectives, and the feasibility of completing large blocks of protected and publicly-managed lands over time.

TPL works with its public partners (Minnesota DNR and local units of government) to identify priority opportunities that expand on and create new public conservation investments that protect high-quality wetland, woodland, prairie and riparian habitat.

## Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
GRG - Lebanon Hills Regional - Phase IV	Dakota	02723235	50	\$284,200	Yes	Enhance oak woodland through timber stand thinning and invasive species removal.
FMR - Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area	Dakota	02722227	195	\$235,400	Yes	Enhance 180 acres oak forest, 15 acres restored prairie and 4 acres native prairie
FMR - Vermillion Falls Park	Dakota	11517234	17	\$90,600	Yes	Restore 4 acres prairie and enhance 13 acres forest
GRG - Bassett Creek Park	Hennepin	11821221	22	\$127,100	Yes	Enhance forest through woody invasive removal and seeding.
GRG - Jim's Prairie	Ramsey	02922224	11	\$24,900	Yes	Enhance prairie through invasives species removal and grazing
GRG - Spring Lake Regional Park (Scott County)	Scott	11422204	10	\$57,100	Yes	Enhance oak savanna through invasive removal and engaging/educating adjacent neighboring private landowners through out the process
GRG - Huber Park	Scott	11522206	9	\$54,700	Yes	Restore floodplain forest of park extension along Minnesota River
MLT - Oak Savanna Land Preserve2	Sherburne	03429224	3	\$5,000	Yes	Prescribed fire of prairie
FMR - William H. Houlton Conservation Area	Sherburne	03326233	90	\$204,700	Yes	Enhance 90 acres oak forest through woody invasive removal, seeding, and planting
MLT - Saint Croix River S	Washington	02720214	40	\$80,000	Yes	Restore prairie
GRG - Lumber Jack Landing	Washington	03020221	15	\$102,000	Yes	Restore forest and shoreline of new public open space along the St Croix River.
MLT - Ward Springs	Washington	03120201	18	\$80,000	Yes	Enhance forest
MLT - Otis Farm (Otis)	Washington	02721209	54	\$170,000	Yes	Oak woodland enhancement
FMR - Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park	Washington	02721233	131	\$112,300	Yes	Enhance 124 acres oak forest and 7 acres prairie
GRG - Falls Creek SNA	Washington	03220212	40	\$92,000	Yes	Enhance 40 acres forest through invasive species removal
MLT - Keystone Woods H	Washington	03121213	35	\$70,000	Yes	Enhance forest
MLT - Carnelian Creek M	Washington	03120221	20	\$40,000	Yes	Restore habitat
MLT - Keystone Woods T	Washington	03121212	40	\$80,000	Yes	Enhance habitat



## Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
San Francisco Unit 7 (Haasken)	Carver	11424211	42	\$240,000	No
MVT - Rapids Lake Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Carver	11423206	118	\$826,000	No
MVT - San Francisco Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Carver	11424201	168	\$546,000	No
TPL - Patterson Lake WMA Addition	Carver	11625220	650	\$4,500,000	No
TPL - Carlos Avery WMA Addition	Chisago	03321205	60	\$80,000	No
MVT - Blakeley Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Scott	11326236	194	\$630,500	No
TPL - Vale WMA Addition	Sibley	11326222	165	\$550,000	No
MVT - Jessenland Unit Addition, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	Sibley	11326213	200	\$650,000	No
TPL - Paul Hugo Farms WMA Addition	Washington	03121222	230	\$1,000,000	No
TPL - Keystone Woods (phase 2)	Washington	03120207	12	\$187,485	No
TPL - Hardwood Creek WMA Addition	Washington	03221226	470	\$700,000	No
TPL - Keystone Woods (Kelly Farm)	Washington	03121212	177	\$2,447,015	No

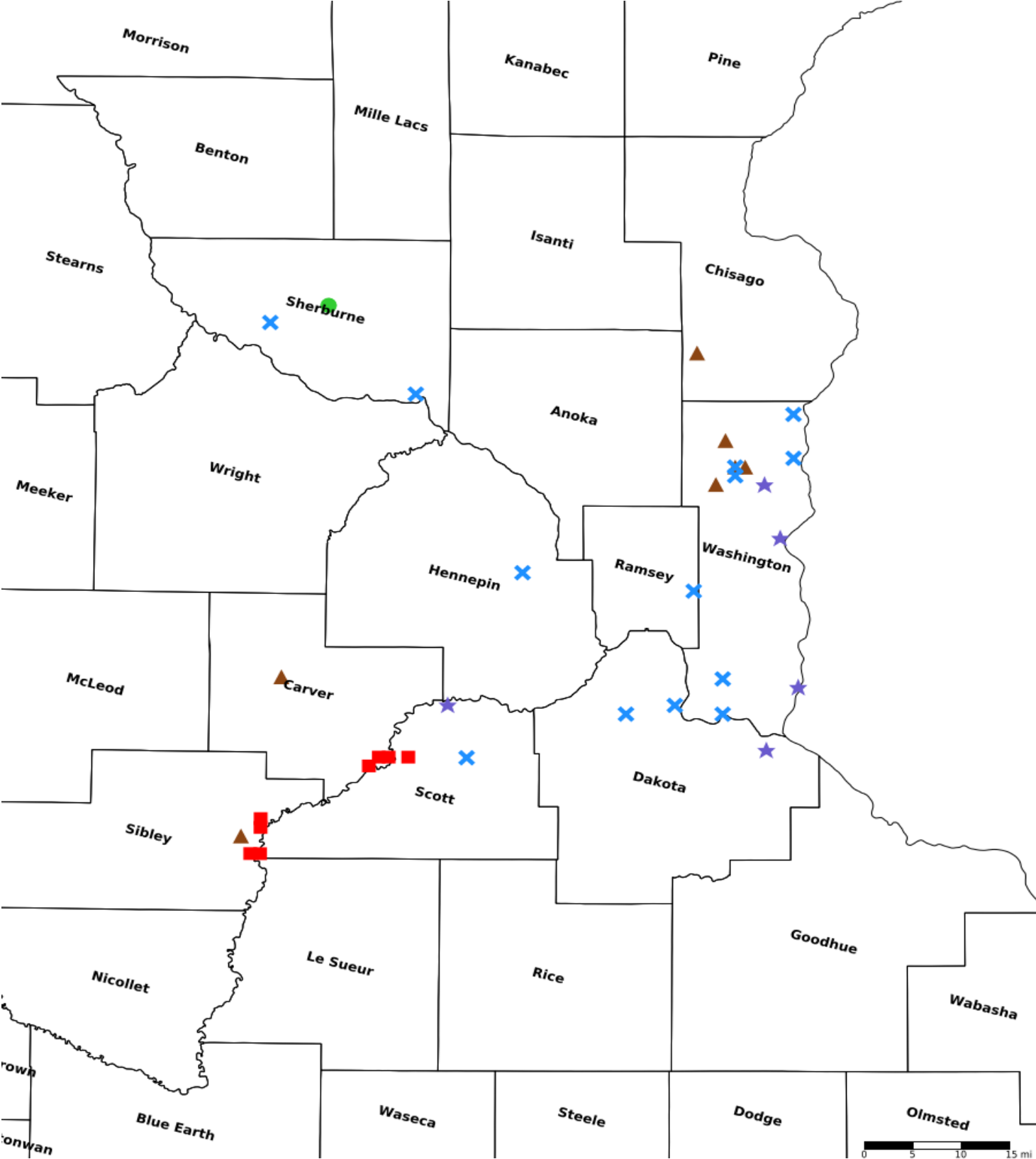
## Fee Parcels with Buildings

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Buildings	Value of Buildings
MVT - Louisville Swamp Unit 3 (Bennett)	Scott	11423204	7	\$1,175,000	No	4	\$0
Jessenland Unit 18 (L. Kranz)	Sibley	11326235	17	\$250,000	No	6	\$0
Jessenland Unit 25 (Schmidt 2)	Sibley	11326212	12	\$1,000,000	No	2	\$400,000

## Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
MLT - Sherburne Hardwoods A2	Sherburne	03428212	80	\$560,000	No
MLT - Sherburne Hardwoods N	Sherburne	03428212	70	\$490,000	No

Parcel Map



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

