



## Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 8  
Laws of Minnesota 2023 Accomplishment Plan

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### General Information

**Date:** 05/13/2026

**Project Title:** Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 8

**Funds Recommended:** \$3,269,000

**Legislative Citation:** ML 2023, Ch. 40, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(b)

**Appropriation Language:** \$3,269,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat on public lands and easements in the Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion and intersecting minor watersheds as follows: \$802,000 to the Anoka Conservation District; \$839,000 to Great River Greening; \$175,000 to the National Wild Turkey Federation; \$280,000 to Sherburne County; and \$1,173,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. \$144,000 of the amount 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 permanent conservation easements, restorations, and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**Amendment Description:** ACD requests to reduce total Contracts by \$70K and increase total Personnel by \$70K

The funding shift would take place within these projects:

ASP Rescue Program: Reduce Contracts by \$45K and increase Personnel by \$45K

Ecological Enhancement Sites: Reduce Contracts by \$25K and increase Personnel by \$25K

This would update ACD budget:

ACD Personnel = \$276,000.00

Contracts = \$435,000.00

Justification:

ASP Rare Plant Rescue Program:

We originally estimated the budget for the Anoka Sand Plain Rare Plant Rescue Program based on our best estimates by splitting tasks between named Partners budgeted in Contracts. During implementation, more tasks to meet the program goals have been completed by Anoka Conservation District staff than anticipated. We are finding that it is often most appropriate for ACD staff to lead coordination and complete many of the field work activities. This budget shift will allow ACD staff to continue to complete the necessary activities for successful implementation of the ASP Rescue Program. This Personnel funding will be for ACD project management and field labor for these on the ground rare plant rescue activities.

**ASP Ecological Enhancement Sites:**

ACD hires seasonal field technicians to complete invasive species removal (mostly buckthorn) from January through March. The seasonal staff are typically members of Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI) that end their CCMI term mid-December and are looking for employment to fill the gap before most natural resources jobs become available in the spring. ACD often splits project workload between staff and Contractors based on equipment needs and the workload capacity. ACD staff completed more of the buckthorn control at City of Anoka Kings Island and at Lamprey Pass WMA parcels than originally planned/budgeted

Furthermore, at this point, it is more efficient to complete sustained follow-up and targeted invasive species control with ACD field crew and project managers, since in many cases they did the initial control. ACD staff is more able to mobilize immediately to control species such as garlic mustard that can emerge in the spring after initial buckthorn control in the winter. Reducing the Contractor's project area at Kings Island and Lamprey Pass and increasing ACD's staff involvement has resulted in project goals being met following adaptive management and reduced project costs. With ASP8 funds available, the ACD winter crew worked in new areas at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve and exceeded the goal of acre enhanced. With the increased use of ACD field staff, we are exceeding our acreage goals on some sites. ACD is requesting that \$25K is moved from Contracts and \$25K is added to ACD Personnel to support this adaptive management follow-up field work.

**CF / MN Heritage Forest parcel addition:** N/A (Not Adding Parcels)

**Manager Information**

**Manager's Name:** Wiley Buck

**Title:** Senior Program Manager

**Organization:** Great River Greening

**Address:** 251 Starkey Street Ste 2200

**City:** Saint Paul, MN 55107

**Email:** wbuck@greatrivergreening.org

**Office Number:** 651-665-9500

**Mobile Number:** 651-318-8667

**Fax Number:**

**Website:** greatrivergreening.org

**Location Information**

**County Location(s):** Anoka, Benton, Chisago, Isanti, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Sherburne and Stearns.

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

Northern Forest

Forest / Prairie Transition

Metro / Urban

**Activity types:**

Protect in Easement

Restore

Enhance

**Priority resources addressed by activity:**

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

## Narrative

### Abstract

The Anoka Sand Plain (ASP) Partnership will protect 164 acres through conservation easement, restore/enhance 468 acres of Prairie/Oak Savanna, Wetland, Habitat, and Woodland/Forest, including rescue and relocation of 11,000 rare plants, at sites centered around the DNR's ASP ecoregion. Our actions will increase biodiversity, habitat connectivity, recreational opportunities, and landscape resilience, which align with the ASP Partnership's 10-year Strategic Plan, DNR Wildlife Action Plan and LSOHC Section priorities. GRG, ACD, MLT, NWTF, and SherbCo Parks are direct recipients, with significant match from NWTF, ENRTF, landowner donation, volunteers, LGUs, and private donations.

### Design and Scope of Work

The ASP Partnership project boundary is defined by the DNR's ASP ecological subsection and its intersecting minor watersheds, which captures portions of the Metropolitan Urbanizing, Forest/Prairie Transition, and Northern Forest LSOHC sections. Our project boundary is a marvelously complex mosaic of habitats, home to quality prairie and savanna, wetlands, fire-dependent forests and woodlands, large habitat cores, designated wild and scenic rivers, and a high concentration of rare species. The amount of high quality remnant habitat in the ASP is remarkable given its proximity to Twin Cities and St. Cloud urban cores. While the location of the ASP provides easy access for the majority of Minnesotans, the associated stressors- invasive species, development pressure, and conversion- threaten its sustainability. The need for continuing and accelerating conservation action here is urgent.

The diversity in this rich and important habitat mosaic, complemented by its close proximity to most Minnesotans, is reflected in the number and diversity of organizations that identify the area as a priority, combining our specific knowledge and stakeholder engagement to join forces for its conservation. The robust ASP Partnership is committed to protecting, restoring, and enhancing this spectacular region so it can continue to provide vital habitat, invaluable ecological services, and high-quality recreational and engagement opportunities. Bringing clarity and focus to our Phase 8 and all of our work in this complex area is the science-based ASP Partnership's 10-year Strategic Plan, used to identify priority habitats, opportunities, centers of biodiversity, and a plan of action with measurable goals.

With this funding, Great River Greening (GRG), Anoka Conservation District (ACD), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), and Sherburne County Parks (SherbCo Parks) will secure conservation easements on 164 acres to expand habitat cores and corridors, and complete restoration and enhancement (R/E) on 468 protected acres. Habitats include prairie/savanna grasslands, woodland, and non-forested peat wetlands.

Results will be achieved by easement protection of ecologically significant habitats and by conducting invasive species and woody encroachment removal, prescribed burning and conservation grazing, thinning, seeding, and

planting. This includes the continuation of a Rare Plant Rescue program to rescue and relocate 11,000 rare plants that would otherwise be destroyed by development, conducting habitat enhancement on protected lands with rare species populations and Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) habitat, and seeding 120 acres to prairie. Our program will create and improve critical habitat by increasing biodiversity and landscape resilience. It will also benefit water quality and quantity, improve community resiliency, and increase recreational opportunities including R/E engagement.

### **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 Anoka Sand Plain serves as a refuge for many globally unique species and rare plant communities, including roughly one-third of Minnesota's listed rare plant and animals, and 97 known or predicted Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and 131 federally or state endangered, threatened, or special concern. The Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) ranks 72,000 acres in the ASP as Outstanding or High Biodiversity. This proposal addresses LSOHC and Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) priorities by protecting and restoring/enhancing oak savanna, prairie, riparian, woodlands, and non-forested wetlands.

We will complete 164 acres of conservation easements protection on priority lands, and R/E on 273 acres of prairie/savanna grasslands, 63 acres of non-forested wetlands/peatlands, 2 acres of habitat, and 130 acres of woodland.

In previous phases, we have conducted activities on sites with hosting scores of the following species as mapped by Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), and will continue to do so in Phase 8, as well as a numerous acres with significant biodiversity .

#### **STATE THREATENED/ENDANGERED/SPECIAL CONCERN (T/E/SC) SPECIES**

**PLANTS:** Small-leaved Pussytoes, Slimspike Three-awn, Yellow Bartonnia, Kitten-tails, Blunt Sedge, Hill's Thistle, Water-willow, Autumn Fimbry, Rhombic Evening Primrose, American Ginseng, Tubercled Rein Orchid, Cross-leaved Milkwort, Toothcup, Swamp Blackberry, Clinton's Bulrush, Lance-leaf Violet, Twisted Yellow-eyed Grass, Bristle-berry, Cowbane (watchlist). 11,000 specimens total will be successfully translocated to protected habitats through Rare Plant Rescue Phase 2 program.

**BIRDS:** Red-shouldered Hawk, Lark Sparrow, Acadian Flycatcher, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler

**MAMMALS:** Northern Long-eared Bat, Plains Pocket Mouse

**REPTILES:** Blanding's Turtle, Plains Hog-nosed Snake, Gophersnake

**INVERTEBRATES:** Rusty-patched Bumble Bee, Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle, Leonard's Skipper, Uncas Skipper, *Pelegrina arizonensis* (A Jumping Spider)

In addition, in this program we will continue the ASP Partnership's success at conserving priority habitat as identified in WAP for SGCN species listed above and below, found in our project boundary.

#### **ADDITIONAL SGCN SPECIES**

**BIRDS:** American Bittern, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern Towhee, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Field

Sparrow, Golden-winged Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker

MAMMALS: American Badger

REPTILES: Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, Smooth Greensnake

INVERTEBRATES: Dusted Skipper

### **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:**

The ASP Partnership 10 - Year Strategic Plan utilizes multiple-criteria GIS analyses to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat connectivity, SGCN, biodiversity, and native plant communities. Data layers include: 1. Top 95% of SGCN population composite 2. Good or excellent populations of state or federally endangered and threatened species 3. Richness hotspots falling outside the top 95% of populations 4. Marxan outputs from the Scientific and Natural Area strategic plan 5. Sites of Biodiversity Significance that intersect with Marxan outputs 6. Native plant communities: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Division of Ecological and Water Resources – Biological Survey. MNDNR Native Plant Communities. 2014.

The sites and conservation actions included in this proposal will combat the threats of habitat fragmentation, degradation and invasive species and improve habitat core complexes. These items were identified in WAP, Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan (SCPP), and Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25-Year Framework as the priority actions needed to address significant challenges facing SGCN and landscape resilience in the ASP region.

### **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?**

#### **Forest / Prairie Transition**

Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie

#### **Metro / Urban**

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

#### **Northern Forest**

Restore and enhance habitat on existing protected properties, with preference to habitat for rare, endangered, or threatened species identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey

## Outcomes

### Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced nesting and migratory habitat for waterfowl, upland birds, and species of greatest conservation need ~ *Perform ecological monitoring using DNR protocol and evaluate data; adapt management when and where needed. Record number of acres protected of high quality habitat on private lands, which buffer public lands and expand habitat cores and corridors; and number of acres of key habitat successfully restored / enhanced. Map project sites and periodically perform GIS analysis to help quantify impact on habitat complexes.*

### Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

Core areas protected with highly biologically diverse wetlands and plant communities, including native prairie, Big Woods, and oak savanna ~ *Perform ecological monitoring using DNR protocol and evaluate data; adapt management when and where needed. Record number of acres protected of high quality habitat on private lands, which buffer public lands and expand habitat cores and corridors; and number of acres of key habitat successfully restored / enhanced. Map project sites and periodically perform GIS analysis to help quantify impact on habitat cores and corridors.*

### Programs in the northern forest region:

Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species ~ *Perform ecological monitoring using DNR protocol and evaluate data; adapt management when and where needed. Record number of acres protected of high quality habitat on private lands, which buffer public lands and expand habitat cores and corridors; and number of acres of key habitat successfully restored / enhanced. Map project sites and periodically perform GIS analysis to help quantify impact on habitat complexes.*

### Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

### Explain the leverage:

The ASP Partnership draws on a variety of leverage sources, underscoring the diversity of stakeholders willing to contribute to the conservation improvement in our project boundary. Below is line-item description of anticipated leverage.

\$10K, NWTF Super Fund, cash

\$6K, LGU to be determined, cash

\$10K, Anoka County Parks, in-kind staff time and supplies

\$5K, Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve (CCESR), in-kind staff time and supplies

\$2K, Critical Connections Ecological Services (CCES), in-kind staff time and supplies

\$5K, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, in-kind toward supplies and labor, for Rare Plant Rescue Phase 2 program.

\$13.6K, Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) ML22 'Engaging a Diverse Public in

Environmental Stewardship' cash toward travel, supplies, labor for targeted outreach and recruitment

\$5K, Volunteers, in-kind

\$2K, City of Anoka Parks, in-kind staff time and supplies

\$136K Through its market-based RFP process, the Minnesota Land Trust expects private landowners to donate at least \$127,000 in easement value toward the program, which is shown as leverage.

\$110.4K Non-realized portion of DSS from partner organizations, in-kind from private and public funds

**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 proposal to LSOHC for Outdoor Heritage Fund support does not supplant any other sources of funds. In all cases, this proposal and the projects to be completed accelerate regional habitat work in the ASP Partnership Phase 8 project boundary.

**Non-OHF Appropriations**

Year	Source	Amount
2021	GRG- Sherburne Savanna - NWR Staff Time for Assessment and Planning, estimated	\$10,000
various	Sherburne Co Parks - Big Elk Lake Acquisition. Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission.	\$2,390,000

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

The ASP Partnership is committed to working with respective land management agencies and owners, and conservation organizations in an on-going basis to identify and procure financial resources for maintaining these improvements as needed.

Land protected through MLT conservation easements will be sustained through state-of-the-art standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget.

For R/E on existing protected land, site specific resource management plans will be developed/adopted to guide effective long-term management. All land managers benefitting from R/E and rare plant rescue sites must commit to the long-term maintenance of these sites. A principle management goal for each site is to elevate before grant close, to a threshold where on-going management costs are diminished. For the sites and programs that use volunteers, community volunteer engagement promotes an increase in community stakeholders. The no-spray enhancement project at Sherburne NWR will promote long term management with the use of livestock, aligned with agency directives.

## Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2029	Sherburne County	Prescribed burn	Mechanical Cutting as needed	Prescribed burn
2029	City of Blaine (Rare Plant Recipient Site)	Prescribed burn	Spot herbicide treatment	Spot herbicide treatments
2029	Anoka County Parks	Prescribed burn	Spot herbicide treatment	-
2029	ACD Anoka Agriculture Preserves	Monitor every 2-3 years	Follow-up treatment	-
2029	DNR in-kind	Rx Burning	Spot herbicide treatment	-
2029	GRG in-kind	Monitoring every 2-3 years	Landowner engagement in mechanical removal	Prescribed burn, prescribed grazing
2028	MLT Long Term Stewardship and Enforcement Funds	Annual Monitoring of Easements	Enforcement as Necessary	-
2029	NWTF	Monitoring every 2-3 years	Land manager engagement	Spot treatment

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

Sherburne County Parks is partnering with Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Upper Sioux Community, and Lower Sioux Indian Community at Big Elk Lake, a sacred Native American site, elevating site reverence through restoration of native vegetation and planning.

ASP Partners have existing DEIJ initiatives including: Future Stewards Program (GRG); partnership with All Nations Program at Minneapolis South High School (GRG); Ambassador Lands Program (MLT); and partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe (MLT). Partners have secured DEIJ related funding including: No Child Left Inside (GRG); internal staff funding for DEIJ pursuits (MLT); and ML22 Trust Fund 'Engaging a Diverse Public in Environmental Stewardship (GRG). Partners will continue to connect all our DEIJ programs and resources to ASP8 during the grant period when appropriate opportunities arise.

ASP ecoregion provides close-to-home recreation opportunities for the majority of Minnesotans, including urban core and rural populations. The MPCA environmental justice tool illustrates that ASP8 program boundary encompasses large BIPOC and low-income population areas. However, we recognize barriers exist in some communities to access these opportunities.

ASP encompasses a priority Drinking Water Supply Management Area, attributable to groundwater recharge through sandy soils and the miles of Mississippi River upstream of Twin Cities intakes. Through the land-water connection of our projects, we will contribute to water quality, quantity, and security for all, including urban core and rural populations.

We welcome more conversations with the LSOHC and conservation community about how these values can be better manifested in all our shared work.

## Activity Details

### Requirements

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

Yes

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

Yes

**Who will manage the easement?**

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?**

MLT estimates that it will close on 2-5 conservation easements depending on size/cost and the amount of donated easement value provided by landowners.

**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?**

WMA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

Refuge Lands

County/Municipal

Other : U of M's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve

### 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:

Short-term use of agricultural crops is an accepted best practice for preparing a site for prairie restoration, in order to reduce 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. **Explain how, when, and source of the R/E work:**

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

No

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

Yes

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

Most conservation easements are established on private lands, many of which have driveways, field roads and trails located on them. Often, the conservation easement permits the continued usage of established trails and roads so long as their use does not significantly impact the conservation values of the property. Creation of new roads/trails or expansion of existing ones is typically not allowed.

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

Yes

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

Existing trails and roads are identified in the project baseline report and will be monitored annually as part of the Minnesota Land Trust's stewardship and enforcement protocols. Maintenance of permitted roads/trails in accordance with the terms of the easement will be the responsibility of the landowner.

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

No

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

No

If the need for R/E on eased lands exists, MLT will budget to address this need in future proposals to LSOHC or through other sources.

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

No

If the need for R/E on eased lands exists, MLT will budget to address this need in future proposals to LSOHC or through other sources.

## Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
SherbCo Parks - Prescribed burn in 2nd half of restored prairie	12/31/2028
NWTF: All R/E work completed and final report	6/30/2028
NWTF: Have initial project list ranked and finalized	12/31/2023
MLT: Protection of 153 acres of land through conservation easement	6/30/2027
GRG: Fourth year goat/cattle browsing/trampling and underhoof seeding	12/31/2027
GRG: First year goat/cattle browsing/trampling	12/31/2025
GRG: Project planning, secure landowner agreements	12/31/2023
GRG: Site prep, initial brushing, initial wave of buckthorn control	11/30/2024
ACD: buckthorn foliar treatments, Rx burns, rare plant rescue and conservation plans	12/31/2027
ACD: tree and shrub removal, native seeding, rare plant rescue	12/31/2025
ACD: tree and shrub removal, prairie site prep, rare plant rescue	12/31/2024
ACD: project planning, Contract agreements	12/31/2023
GRG: Initial medium- and large-scale woody encroachment removal	03/15/2025
GRG: Prescribed burn or burn alternative	12/02/2026

**Date of Final Report Submission:** 11/01/2028

### **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, 2027;
- (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, 2031;
- (3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2028;
- (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	\$483,500 <u>\$553,500</u>	\$47,600 <u>\$65,600</u>	ACD, NWTF, DNR, Volunteers, CCESR, City of Anoka, NFWF Monarch, TNC, Volunteers, ENRTF, LGUs, Sherburne NWR, Sherburne County	\$531,100 <u>\$619,100</u>
Contracts	<del>\$1,584,600</del> <u>\$1,514,600</u>	<del>\$15,000</del> <u>\$18,000</u>	MN Landscape Arboretum, NFWF Monarch, TNC, NWTF Super Fund	<del>\$1,599,600</del> <u>\$1,532,600</u>
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$677,000	\$136,000	-, Private Landowners	\$813,000
Easement Stewardship	\$120,000	-	-	\$120,000
Travel	\$9,500	\$800	-, ENRTF	\$10,300
Professional Services	\$132,000	-	-	\$132,000
Direct Support Services	\$101,500	<del>\$110,400</del> <u>\$124,800</u>	-, Waived DSS, Waived DSS, Waived DSS	<del>\$211,900</del> <u>\$226,300</u>
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$3,000	-	-	\$3,000
Supplies/Materials	\$157,900	<del>\$12,000</del> <u>\$30,700</u>	-, MLA, CCES, Anoka Co Parks, City of Anoka, NFWF Monarch, USFWS, ENRTF	<del>\$169,900</del> <u>\$188,600</u>
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,269,000</b>	<del><b>\$321,800</b></del> <u><b>\$375,900</b></u>	-	<del><b>\$3,590,800</b></del> <u><b>\$3,644,900</b></u>

## Partner: GRG

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$114,000	\$12,000	Volunteers, ENRTF, LGUs, Sherburne NWR	\$126,000
Contracts	\$610,600	-	-	\$610,600
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$4,000	\$800	ENRTF	\$4,800
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$33,000	\$61,000	Waived DSS	\$94,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$2,000	-	-	\$2,000
Supplies/Materials	\$75,400	\$10,000	ENRTF	\$85,400
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$839,000</b>	<b>\$83,800</b>	-	<b>\$922,800</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Staff	0.25	5.0	\$114,000	\$12,000	Volunteers, ENRTF, LGUs, Sherburne NWR	\$126,000

## Partner: ACD

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$206,000 \$276,000	\$27,000 \$45,000	ACD, NWTF, DNR, Volunteers, CCSR, City of Anoka, NFWF Monarch, TNC	\$233,000 \$321,000
Contracts	\$505,000 \$435,000	\$5,000 \$8,000	MN Landscape Arboretum, NFWF Monarch, TNC	\$510,000 \$443,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$20,000	\$40,500 \$54,900	Waived DSS	\$60,500 \$74,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$71,000	\$2,000 \$20,700	MLA, CCSR, Anoka Co Parks, City of Anoka, NFWF Monarch, USFWS	\$73,000 \$91,700
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$802,000</b>	<b>\$74,500 \$128,600</b>	-	<b>\$876,500 \$930,600</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Technicians	0.6 0.8	5.0	\$206,000 \$276,000	\$27,000 \$45,000	ACD, NWTF, DNR, Volunteers, CCSR, City of Anoka, NFWF Monarch, TNC	\$233,000 \$321,000

## Partner: MLT

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$153,000	-	-	\$153,000
Contracts	\$41,000	-	-	\$41,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$677,000	\$136,000	Private Landowners	\$813,000
Easement Stewardship	\$120,000	-	-	\$120,000
Travel	\$5,500	-	-	\$5,500
Professional Services	\$132,000	-	-	\$132,000
Direct Support Services	\$42,000	-	-	\$42,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
Supplies/Materials	\$1,500	-	-	\$1,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,173,000</b>	<b>\$136,000</b>	-	<b>\$1,309,000</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Project Manager	0.38	4.0	\$153,000	-	-	\$153,000

## Partner: NWTF

**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$10,500	-	-	\$10,500
Contracts	\$148,000	\$10,000	NWTF Super Fund	\$158,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$6,500	\$8,900	Waived DSS	\$15,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>	<b>\$18,900</b>	-	<b>\$193,900</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
District Biologist	0.03	5.0	\$10,500	-	-	\$10,500

**Partner: Sherburne County Parks****Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	\$8,600	Sherburne County	\$8,600
Contracts	\$280,000	-	-	\$280,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$280,000</b>	<b>\$8,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$288,600</b>

**Personnel**

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Parks Coordinator	-	-	-	\$8,600	Sherburne County	\$8,600

**Amount of Request:** \$3,269,000

**Amount of Leverage:** ~~\$321,800~~ \$375,900

**Leverage as a percent of the Request:** ~~9.84%~~ 11.5%

**DSS + Personnel:** ~~\$585,000~~ \$655,000

**As a % of the total request:** ~~17.9%~~ 20.04%

**Easement Stewardship:** \$120,000

**As a % of the Easement Acquisition:** 17.73%

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

Several parcels were removed, and other parcels split into phases. Programs were scaled. When scaled back, there is loss of labor and travel efficiency due to loss of scale for project management and grant management. Also contract amounts per unit were increased some due to service provider costs increasing.

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

GRG has secured ENRTF ML23 'Engaging a Diverse Public in Environmental Stewardship'.

MLA, CCES, Anoka County Parks, City of Anoka and CCESR have committed staff time, supplies and equipment use.

MLT's leverage for easement acquisition is a conservative estimate of value we expect to see donated by landowners.

**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?**

For projects that are scaled down or split into phases, there is some loss of economy of scale in labor and travel. Larger discrepancies may occur due to determination of which parcels remain fully funded, as there is a wide range of \$/ac in our parcels. We commit to transparency.

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

For projects that are scaled down or split into phases, there is potential loss of economy of scale in labor and contracts. DSS expenses are highly proportional to labor and contracts.

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

Yes

**Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?**

GRG: Each allocation is operationalized, budgeted, and tracked independently. Projects under each allocation are unique, and only actual personnel time is charged to these unique projects and allocations.

ACD tracks personnel time with an hours log, where we record our time for each unique project and then uses pivot tables to sum staff hours each quarter multiplied times their rate.

MLT: FTEs listed in the proposal are a coarse estimate of the personnel time required to produce the grant deliverables put forward in this proposal. An array of staff draw from these funds for legal work, negotiating with landowners, crafting of conservation easements, writing baseline reports and managing the grant. We use only those personnel funds necessary to achieve the goals of the grant.

NWTF tracks personnel time specific to an allocation via an internal Mission Management System. Projects are differentiated with unique project numbers and separately tracked.

SherbCo Parks: No personnel funds are requested.

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

The majority of contracts are for service providers that implement R/E improvements in the field. Contracts for assistance with rare plant management, rescue and plant handling, writing of habitat management plans, and landowner outreach comprise the remaining amounts.

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

The Land Trust expects to close up to 6 conservation easements under this appropriation. 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 funding may be warranted. This figure is derived from MLT's detailed stewardship funding "cost analysis" which is consistent with Land Trust Accreditation standards. MLT shares periodic updates to this cost analysis with LSOHC staff.

## Travel

**Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental?**

Yes

**Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging**

Occasionally rental of vehicles for travel is needed due to lack of availability of fleet or personally owned vehicles (POVs) for travel, or to otherwise reduce travel costs associated with POVs.

**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?**

GRG: In a process approved by DNR in September 2019, GRG's direct support services rate includes all allowable direct and necessary expenditures not captured in other line items in the budget. Our DSS request to LSOHC is less than half the amount allowed by the DNR approved rate, and less than or equal to 10% of the total allocation request.

ACD: ACD is requesting 10% DSS and listing the remaining 20.25% as match. ACD calculated their rate following USDA guidelines and has submitted their methodology to DNR for review. DNR has no objections to their rate in their preliminary analysis.

MLT: In a process approved by DNR on March 17, 2017, Minnesota Land Trust determined our direct support services rate to include all of the allowable direct and necessary expenditures that are not captured in other line items in the budget, which is similar to the Land Trust's proposed federal indirect rate. We will apply this DNR-approved rate only to personnel expenses to determine the total amount of direct support services.

The NWTF has a federally approved indirect rate of 14.79%; adjusted down to 6% of the direct funds received. This has been further adjusted downward to track directly with personnel costs, the percentage of which has been reduced per testimony at the hearing.

## Other Equipment/Tools

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

Power and hand tools; GPS systems; Personal Protective Equipment.

## 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	-	120	-	-	120
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	164	164
Enhance	63	153	130	2	348
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>632</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	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	\$242,000	-	-	\$242,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$1,173,000	\$1,173,000
Enhance	\$274,000	\$844,000	\$502,000	\$234,000	\$1,854,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$274,000</b>	<b>\$1,086,000</b>	<b>\$502,000</b>	<b>\$1,407,000</b>	<b>\$3,269,000</b>

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	120	-	-	-	-	120
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	100	64	-	-	-	164
Enhance	264	62	-	-	22	348
<b>Total</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>632</b>

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	\$242,000	-	-	-	-	\$242,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$776,000	\$397,000	-	-	-	\$1,173,000
Enhance	\$1,512,000	\$272,000	-	-	\$70,000	\$1,854,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,530,000</b>	<b>\$669,000</b>	-	-	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$3,269,000</b>

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

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	\$2,016	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$7,152
Enhance	\$4,349	\$5,516	\$3,861	\$117,000

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

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	\$2,016	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$7,760	\$6,203	-	-	-
Enhance	\$5,727	\$4,387	-	-	\$3,181

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

0

## Parcels

### Sign-up Criteria?

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

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

For the ASP partnership's strategic plan, multiple-criteria decision analyses in GIS were performed to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat using data sources layers that capture habitat connectivity, habitats that support species in greatest conservation need, terrestrial and aquatic sites of biodiversity, potential locations of groundwater influenced shallow wetlands, and native plant communities.

Partners used their local expertise, knowledge, and landowner contacts to identify parcels and scope out the activities. DNR parcels were submitted to DNR for review. At multiples points in the process, the direct recipients reviewed the parcel list collectively and culled parcels that did not rank highly on the Strategic Plan criteria.

Note that in addition to the parcels below, we have 4 programs included in this proposal: Rare Plant Rescue 2 led by ACD, Rare Plant Management 1 led by GRG, MLT Easements, and Turkey Timber Enhancement led by NWTf. The criteria for parcel selection under these programs are included as attachments. At multiples points in the process, the direct recipients reviewed the program criteria collectively.

### Restore / Enhance Parcels

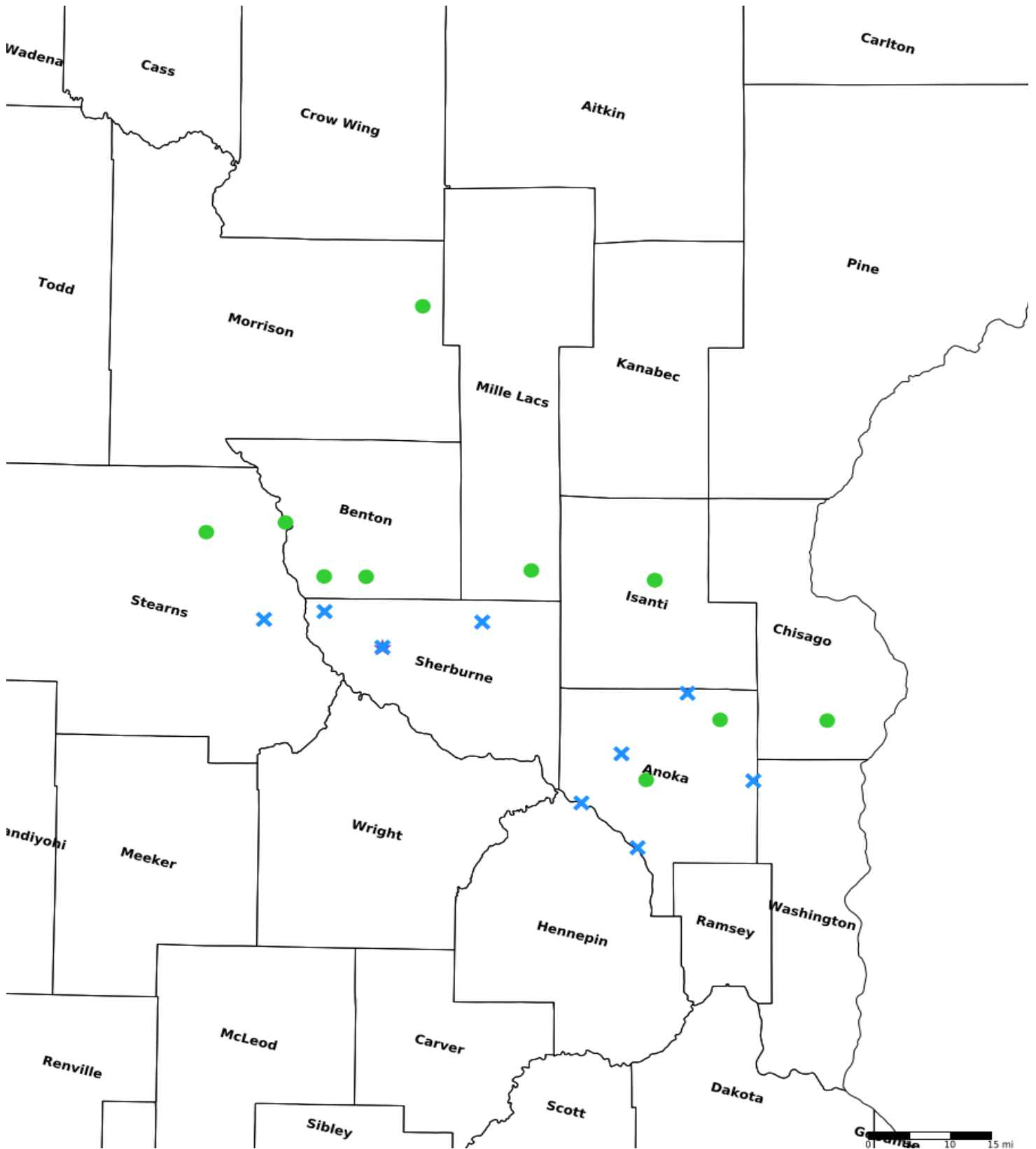
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
ACD - CCCA Wetland	Anoka	03324232	11	\$34,000	Yes	Wetland depression and prairie edge, enhancement, invasives.
ACD - CCESR Phase 2, Anoka and Isanti County	Anoka	03423227	60	\$205,000	Yes	Prairie and savanna restoration including removal from oak wilt; glossy buckthorn removal along wetland margins
ACD - City of Anoka Kings Island	Anoka	03225233	26	\$98,000	Yes	EAB ash removal near duck blinds and highly used trails; Mississippi River floodplain forest and upland forest enhancement, high % ash; 1 special concern species
ACD - Coon Rapids Dam RP	Anoka	03124227	29	\$103,000	Yes	Forest and savanna enhancement with invasive and woody control
ACD - DNR Forest Lake Lamprey Pass	Anoka	03222213	29	\$107,000	Yes	Wetland, forest, prairie enhancement; invasives
GRG - Sand Prairie WMA Rare Plants	Sherburne	03530208	29	\$198,000	Yes	Non-native invasive and overabundant woody encroachment control in prairie mosaic with rare species documented by DNR in 2024 survey.

GRG - Sherburne NWR	Sherburne	03527216	90	\$650,000	Yes	Savanna/prairie enhance with no-spray invasive shrubs control via forestry mowing followed by sustained goat/cattle grazing, and underhoof native seeding using volunteers
SherbCo Parks - Two Inlets at Bdé Heháka - Omashkooz Zaaga'igaans Regional Park Enhance	Sherburne	03529233	11	\$38,000	Yes	Oak savanna enhancement
SherbCo Parks - Two Inlets at Bdé Heháka - Omashkooz Zaaga'igaans Regional Park Restore	Sherburne	03529233	120	\$242,000	Yes	Prairie Restoration
GRG - Quarry Park Rare Plants	Stearns	12428230	12	\$124,000	Yes	Non-native woody invasive control at site with documented rare plant and animal species.

### Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
MLT - Cedar Creek (Aa)	Anoka	03224214	36	\$220,000	No
MLT - Linwood Lake (Wa)	Anoka	03322208	92	\$148,800	No
MLT - Elk River (B)	Benton	03629219	90	\$25,000	No
MLT - Mayhew Creek (Corigan)	Benton	03630220	109	\$220,000	No
MLT - Mississippi River (FSLF)	Benton	03731221	110	\$300,000	No
Kroon Lake (Fredell)	Chisago	03320209	27	\$246,000	No
MLT - Rum River (SC)	Isanti	03624224	34	\$175,000	No
MLT - Rum River (YF)	Isanti	03624224	40	\$100,000	No
MLT - Fog Lake (Ga)	Mille Lacs	03626216	40	\$70,000	No
MLT - Hillman Creek (S)	Morrison	04128210	500	\$230,000	No
MLT - Spunk Creek (Pi)	Stearns	12530201	44	\$211,000	No

### Parcel Map



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