

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2019 / ML 2018 Request for Funding



Date: May 31, 2017

Program or Project Title: Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase VI

Funds Requested: \$6,250,000

Manager's Name: Lisa West
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County Locations: Dakota

Regions in which work will take place:

- Southeast Forest
- Metro / Urban

Activity types:

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

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Forest
- Prairie
- Habitat

Abstract:

This project will emphasize restoring and enhancing approximately 813 acres of various permanently protected habitats, and acquiring approximately 280 acres of permanent conservation easements or fee title. Project sites include Lake Byllesby Regional Park, land adjacent to Regional Park Reserves and Regional Greenways, Chub and Marcott Lakes, rivers and streams, and hydric soil areas. Habitats will include forest, grassland, wetland, and riparian areas throughout the County. This initiative will provide initial targeted and anticipated projects, and also provide flexibility for opportunities that cannot be anticipated at the time of submittal.

Design and scope of work:

Historic settlement, modern-day suburban development, and modern agriculture have replaced, degraded and fragmented natural resource systems throughout Dakota County. Nearly every monitored waterbody in the County is impaired, and many larger scale habitats have been reduced to small remnants. These large-scale impacts and trends require a comprehensive, collaborative, long-term approach to maintain and improve the County's natural resource heritage and associated benefits. Approved County plans have identified the a two-year, self-funded highest quality natural areas and key connections, integrated sound fiscal and ecological approaches that attempts to balance the interests, rights and responsibilities of private landowners, to address the public's concerns about water and habitat.

The County has effectively worked with a variety of agencies, jurisdictions, organizations, and private landowners to implement comprehensive habitat protection since 2003 when it began implementing its Farmland and Natural Areas Protection Plan. The 2008

Vermillion River Corridor Plan provided a basis for riparian system land protection. These and other programs are now blended into a comprehensive Land Conservation Program that includes regional parks and multi-purpose greenways, natural areas, shoreland, and agricultural lands. The County developed conservation policy, increased staff, and refined project evaluation criteria and practices. The County has provided funding to assist the DNR in establishing new Wildlife Management Areas, Aquatic Management Areas and Scientific and Natural Areas and has acquired 112 conservation easements. Excluding additional habitat in newly acquired park and greenway land, the County has now protected over 11,282 acres.

All easements require Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) that reflect existing ecosystem health and recommend potential restoration management strategies, including work plans and budgets. A Management Agreement is signed by the landowner and County, identifying NRMP priorities, activities, responsibilities, costs and schedules. The proposed habitat restoration and enhancement projects in this funding request are based on these these and new work plans. On May 23, 2017, the County Board approved a two-year, self-funded, Natural Resource Management System Plan for significantly investing additional County funds to increase management within all park, greenways and easements. The NRMSP will have direct and indirect benefits to fish, game and wildlife, beyond the increased and interconnected terrestrial habitat.

The acquisition projects proposed and anticipated within this funding request involve riparian areas along the Mississippi River, Cannon River (including Dutch, Mud, Chub, Darden and Pine Creeks, and Trout Brook) and Vermillion River (including North, Middle and South Creeks, the South Branch and their tributaries). Additional habitat focuses include Marcott and Chub lakes, Hampton and McMenemy Woods, hydric soil areas, and other high quality habitat areas.

Environmental Audits and/or Phase I Assessments are completed for all projects. Each easement is annually monitored with information is entered into a temporary land management data base that is in the process of being updated.

Restoration and enhancement activities would occur immediately on existing protected land; and for new acquisitions, would begin appropriately in the spring or fall following acquisition.

The Dakota County Board approved this proposal submission by Resolution No. 17-287 on May 23, 2017.

Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:

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

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

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

Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:

Dakota County's proposal is especially well-aligned with Minnesota's WMA Acquisition - The Next 50 Years plan. The County has successfully partnered with the DNR on several projects, including the Vermillion Highlands and most recently with the new Hampton Woods WMA. With OH funding assistance, the County purchased 197 acres of historic woodland habitat, the ownership of which will be transferred to the DNR for ownership and management. This land is open to public hunting. The County's partnership relative to WMAs furthers the plan goals for Ecological Section 6 by identifying and acquiring plan-identified priority habitat in focus areas that are open to hunting in close proximity to the metro area. This proposal aligns well with the OHF: A 25 Year Framework plan by furthering the priority actions identified for the Metropolitan Urbanizing and Southeast Forest Areas of the State, focusing on protecting, enhancing and restoring habitat in priority areas.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Metro / Urban:

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

Southeast Forest:

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

Describe how your program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife as indicated in the LSOHC priorities:

Dakota County has integrated many components, including habitat protection, clean water and outdoor-based recreation across an ecologically diverse and challenging landscape. The County's legacy began in the late 1960s and early 1970s when it began establishing its regional parks system. The past 20 years have seen a significant increase in land conservation efforts throughout the County with the establishment of the Farmland and Natural Areas Program and now a more comprehensive and integrated Land Conservation Program. Staff have been added, budgets have been established, policies and practices have been established and improved, and many productive partnerships have been developed and improved. Through implementation of the County's vision for land and water conservation, nearly 11,300 acres of natural areas and prime working lands have been protected, with additional conservation projects in progress. In April 2017, a County Board workshop was held and the Board reaffirmed their support for current programs as well as new initiatives. Further, the Board has approved the use of dedicated future County Environmental Legacy Funds for continuing this work. The approval of the NRMSP is another indication that Dakota County's commitment to its already established conservation legacy will be ongoing towards directly and indirectly protecting, restoring and enhancing habitat and water quality throughout the County.

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

There was significant overlap between the County Biological Survey, the 2002 Farmland and Natural Area Protection Plan and the Metro Conservation Corridors in identifying habitat complexes and key corridors. Based on updated land cover mapping, DNR rare species data, Vermillion Corridor Plan, new SNA analysis, previously protected areas, County and local comprehensive plans, watershed plans and park and greenway plans, the County has refined its priority natural areas and the Metro Conservation Corridor Focus Areas. Using Dakota County's premier Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools and expertise, County staff can further prioritize areas where important protection and improvement opportunities exist using other available data layers such as ownership parcels, soils, aspect, historical photography, and LIDAR. Project selection criteria have been revised to reflect this refined vision.

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

The proposal integrates a number of state, regional County plans involving different aspects of habitat and wildlife. The County Board recently approved a Natural Resource Management System Plan (NRMSP) for all regional parks, regional greenways and conservation easements located throughout the County. Vegetation, water and wildlife were the three main elements for each land type. The NRMSP identified rare and endangered species, and species of greatest conservation need throughout the County based on different data sources. The NRMSP includes different Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) templates of each property type that will provide much more detail for individual sites which typically include a variety of habitat and plant community types. The County will prioritize the habitats preferred by these species for acquisition, restoration and enhancement activities. These habitats and associated species include, but are not limited to: Forest - northern long-eared bat, American woodcock, ovenbird, rose-breasted grosbeak, least flycatcher, red-shouldered hawk; Prairies and Grasslands - badger, Franklin's ground squirrel, prairie vole, loggerhead shrike, eastern meadowlark, grasshopper sparrow and regal fritillary; Lakes, Ponds and Rivers - common snapping turtle and smooth soft shell turtle; Wetlands - sedge wren, sand hill crane, Blanding's turtle and dragonflies. The County is assembling baseline data and will prioritize the habitats preferred by these species for acquisition, restoration and enhancement activities.

Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

Acquisition and restoration sites consist of a variety of habitat and community types, including: 1) prairie/savanna, 2) oak woodland, 3) floodplain/lowland forest, 4) wetlands (large river backwaters to small ephemeral pools), and 5) Shoreline. Some indicator species, with typical associated quantities for each habitat type are as follows:

- 1) monarch butterfly (20-50 per acre), regal fritillary (10-20 per acre), plains pocket gopher (15 per acre), Franklin's ground squirrel (4-8 per acre), prairie vole (10-30 per acre), eastern meadowlark (2 per 5 acres), and bobolink (6 per acres)
- 2) rusty-patched bumble bee (20-100 per acre), American racer (4-8 per acre), grey fox (2-3 per square mile), ovenbird (2 per 3 acres), and brown thrasher (2 per 3 acres)
- 3) blue-spotted salamander (10-20 per acre), wood turtle (2-4 per acre), northern long-eared bat (50-300 per acre), and red-shouldered hawk (2 per square mile)
- 4) Blanding's turtle (2-4 per acre), green frog (20-50 per acre), yellow-headed blackbird (10-20 per acre), and sedge wren (4-6 per acre); and
- 5) tiger beetles (50-100 per acre), spiny softshell turtle (10-20 per acre), northern map turtle (5-10 per acre).

In addition to these, the western Lake Byllesby delta is used by many migrant shorebirds during the spring and fall. This has been designated as an Audubon Important Bird Area and includes the following species: common tern, trumpeter swan, piping plover, whimbrel, Wilson's phalarope, Dunlin, ruddy turnstone, white-rumped sandpiper, American avocet, Franklin's gull, Forsters's tern, and marbled godwit.

Outcomes:

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need *The County has developed an integrated, long-term habitat protection system involving both public and private lands to provide multiple public benefits. Enlarging and improving existing protected habitat complexes and providing key connections will continue to be a focus. The County will be prioritizing its land protection and improvement efforts, in part, on wildlife species by devoting staff time and resources to create baseline wildlife and habitat quality information and monitoring indicator and other species seasonally/annually to determine if our efforts are producing the desired results over time and to adapt or re-prioritize as appropriate.*

Programs in southeast forest region:

- Healthier populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species *A small portion of the County is included in this region. The County will be prioritizing its land protection and improvement efforts, in part, on priority wildlife species. It will be devoting staff time and resources to create baseline wildlife and habitat quality information and monitoring indicator and other species seasonally/annually to determine if our efforts are producing the desired results over time and to adapt or re-prioritize as appropriate.*

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

The County Board has shown a remarkable commitment to land conservation for the last fifteen years and continues to include "Clean and Green" as one of its four priority goals. Its ongoing commitment to adopting a comprehensive land conservation vision, maintaining a dedicated staff, reorganizing departments and staff to more effectively achieve its land conservation goals, approving current and future capital improvement program budgets, and providing an operating budget for annual monitoring inspections, are further evidence that the County has the interest, capacity and commitment to sustain this work.

The majority of the land protection and restoration work will occur on private lands and is designed to achieve maximum conservation benefits with fiscal efficiency. Relationship building, developing and implementing each NRMP, strategic assistance, and subsequent annual monitoring provide opportunities to share updated natural resource information and best management practices with landowners and achieve a higher likelihood of increased private stewardship. The recently approved Natural Resource Management System Plan using a public/private funding formula is further testament to this commitment. This comprehensive wildlife habitat and water quality approach on public and private lands provides the best opportunity to effectively protect and improve these community assets.

Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2018	State grant, County match and landowner contribution	Restore existing protected lands and acquire easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	
2019	State grant, County match and landowner contribution	Restore existing and newly protected lands and acquire easements and fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects and use adaptive management for future restoration and enhancement activities	
2020	State grant, County match and landowner contribution	Restore existing and newly protected lands and easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects and use adaptive management for future restoration and enhancement activities	
2021	State grant, County match, landowner contribution	Restore existing and newly protected lands and acquire easements and or appropriate fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects and use adaptive management for future restoration and enhancement activities	

What is the degree of timing/opportunistic urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:

Dakota County works with willing sellers and is eager to continue the momentum of its ongoing conservation programs, as well as emphasize an increased focus on natural resource management. Staff continues to see marginal agricultural land converted to row crops and is anxious to provide habitat preservation alternatives to willing landowners. Through its programs, the County can expand protected complexes and fill in habitat gaps between previously protected lands within multipurpose corridors. The restoration within Lake Byllesby Regional Park is an important outcome of a recently completed NRMP and park master planning process that will establish the foundation for similar projects while sending important signals to other entities. The other restoration work involves previously acquired easements where the landowners have expressed an interest in becoming more involved. Many of the acquisition projects involve current application projects that are already underway with appraisal deadlines.

How does this proposal include leverage in funds or other effort to supplement any OHF appropriation:

Dakota County proposes to provide up to a 25 percent cash match or \$2.085 million if the requested OH funding is appropriated in full. These funds would become part of an approved five-year Capital Improvement Program budget. The County will also provide all County staff time as an in-kind match, including staff from Environmental Resources, Survey, GIS, County Attorney's Office, Financial Services, and Administration. The County estimates its in-kind staff contribution will equate to three FTEs each year, for three years, or an approximate value of \$750,000.

Other leveraged funds could include landowner donations of value, typically at least 10 percent of the total easement value for acquisitions. In addition, landowner contributions are required for restoration and ongoing management of County easement property, and would range from between 10 percent and 25 percent of estimated costs.

Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Parks and Trails Fund

Describe the relationship of the funds:

The County has applied for and been awarded a number of ENRTF and OHF grants in the past, and is currently applying for new ENRTF funding for a proposed effort to convert cultivated agricultural lands into restored wetlands and to retain more water on the landscape. This initiative is designed to protect two of the few remaining trout streams in the metro area by working in the watershed and to model these practices for other portions of the state to increase habitat, improve water quality and reduce erosion and flooding. ENRTF funding is sometimes a better fit for a particular County efforts because it provides for planning and design, as opposed to the use OHF for acquisition and restoration. The County has used Parks and Trails Legacy funds for regional greenway capital improvements in order to leverage significant federal funding with limited for natural resource management associated with these projects. Recently, \$150,000 per year has been dedicated as part of the base natural resource management budget for restoration projects in regional parks. The County believes these funding sources complement each other while focusing on different kinds of land conservation initiatives.

Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
ML 2012	County Match	\$16,274
ML 2013	County Match	\$1,332,536
ML 2014	County Match	\$2,925
2002-2012	County Bond Funds	\$20,000,000
2003-2015	Federal FRPP/ACEP	\$12,842,418
2008-2009	Metro Greenways	\$47,778
2003-2015	Landowner Donation	\$25,728,061
ML 2011	ENRTF	\$288,230
ML 2013	ENRTF	\$218,612

Activity Details

Requirements:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition - **No**

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

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection - **Yes**

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Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program - **Yes**

Is the activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 - **Yes (Private Land, County/Municipal, Public Waters)**

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

Land Use:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **Yes**

Explain

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

Are any of the crop types planted GMO treated - **No**

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing - **Yes**

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

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

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

Will the eased land be open for public use - **Yes**

Generally not, but the County has acquired some easements that are open for limited public use. In all cases, the decision to allow public use is determined by the landowner.

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **Yes**

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

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

Continued use is allowed, as defined by the easement and the NRMP, provided that such use does not compromise the conservation intent of the easement or the NRMP.

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

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

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

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

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

Two acquisition projects may result in the creation of passive, nature-based parks where a limited amount of new, soft surface trails may be established, in part to assist in natural resource management.

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

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

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Restoration - Lake Byllesby Regional Park	June 30, 2022
Restoration - Land Conservation	June 30, 2022
Easement or Fee Title Acquisition	June 30, 2021

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$6,250,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	\$1,750,000	\$583,000	County cash match with 10 percent landowner contribution within easements	\$2,333,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$500,000	\$167,000	County cash match with potential landowner donation	\$667,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$2,500,000	\$833,000	County cash match with potential landowner donation	\$3,333,000
Easement Acquisition	\$1,400,000	\$467,000	County cash match with potential landowner donation	\$1,867,000
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$50,000	\$17,000	County cash match	\$67,000
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$50,000	\$17,000	County cash match	\$67,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$6,250,000	\$2,084,000		\$8,334,000

Amount of Request: \$6,250,000

Amount of Leverage: \$2,084,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 33.34%

DSS + Personnel: \$0

As a % of the total request: 0.00%

Easement Stewardship: \$0

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -%

Does the amount in the contract line include R/E work?

The amount in the Contracts budget line item is intended to be used for restoration and enhancement activities, including development of Natural Resource Management Plans.

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

The County Board has authorized up to a 25 percent match of OHF with County funds. The County also anticipates up to 10 percent donations of value or easement value from participating landowners.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes

Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the "economy of scale" and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:

Although the County anticipates this approximate need for funds, if less OHF funding was awarded, the County would respond by scaling back it's anticipated work in acquisitions and/or restoration.

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	70	420	323	0	813
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	10	20	20	0	50
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	10	20	61	0	91
Protect in Easement	30	70	39	0	139
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	120	530	443	0	1,093

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

Type	Native Prairie
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	0
Total	0

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$350,000	\$840,000	\$560,000	\$0	\$1,750,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$50,000	\$120,000	\$330,000	\$0	\$500,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$50,000	\$600,000	\$1,850,000	\$0	\$2,500,000
Protect in Easement	\$90,000	\$560,000	\$850,000	\$0	\$1,500,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$540,000	\$2,120,000	\$3,590,000	\$0	\$6,250,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	793	0	20	0	0	813
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	50	0	0	0	0	50
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	91	0	0	0	0	91
Protect in Easement	103	0	36	0	0	139
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,037	0	56	0	0	1,093

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$1,710,000	\$0	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,750,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500,000
Protect in Easement	\$1,392,000	\$0	\$108,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$6,102,000	\$0	\$148,000	\$0	\$0	\$6,250,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$1,734	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$16,500	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$30,328	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$3,000	\$8,000	\$21,795	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$2,156	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$27,473	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$13,515	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

4.5 miles

I have read and understand Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Statute 97A.056, and the Call for Funding Request. I certify I am authorized to submit this proposal and to the best of my knowledge the information provided is true and accurate.

Parcel List

Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:

Relative to acquisition parcels, the County provides annual public notices to solicit per-applications from willing landowners. Other projects have been identified either through adopted park or greenway master plans. Applications are evaluated for eligibility. Eligible applicants meet with County staff to discuss the land conservation program in detail. Final applications are submitted for evaluation, scoring and ranking against other applications, and recommendations for continued consideration. County Board-approved criteria are used to score projects based on location, natural resource components, financial considerations, and commitment to stewardship, and ongoing restoration and management. Recommended projects are appraised to determine easement and or fee title value. Accepted offers from the County to purchase easements or fee title result in title work, surveys, legal description creation, preparing jointly developed Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) and baseline Property Reports for each easement project. Easement NRMPs are implemented through jointly developed Management Agreements between the County and the landowner that establish work plan responsibilities, mutual contributions toward restoration, and ongoing maintenance responsibilities.

Relative to restoration parcels, County staff work with landowners most interested in restoring and enhancing natural resources on their property, and also identifies restoration activities where significant need is apparent or sensitive natural resources are located.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Dodge Nature Center	02823225	0	\$120,000	Yes
Gergen	11318228	0	\$50,000	Yes
Jennings	11320233	40	\$40,000	Yes
Lake Byllesby	11218211	253	\$835,000	Yes
Marco tt Lakes	02722220	80	\$160,000	Yes
Orchard Lake	11421211	0	\$60,000	Yes

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Dakota

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Cannon River Valley	11218212	39	\$117,000	No	No	Limited
Cole	02722206	20	\$700,000	No	No	Full
Fasbender	11317222	36	\$95,000	No	No	Not Applicable
Hampton Woods	11318206	20	\$80,000	No		
Kuhns	11320234	14	\$56,000	No		
Marco tt Lakes	02722220	20	\$100,000	No	No	No
McMenomy	11519216	63	\$20,000,000	No	No	Not Applicable
Ohmann	11220215	66	\$198,000	No	No	Not Applicable
Swedin	11320228	42	\$144,000	No	No	Not Applicable
Wasner	11220213	26	\$154,000	No	No	Not Applicable
Wolfson	11519216	8	\$280,000	No	No	Not Applicable

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

Dakota

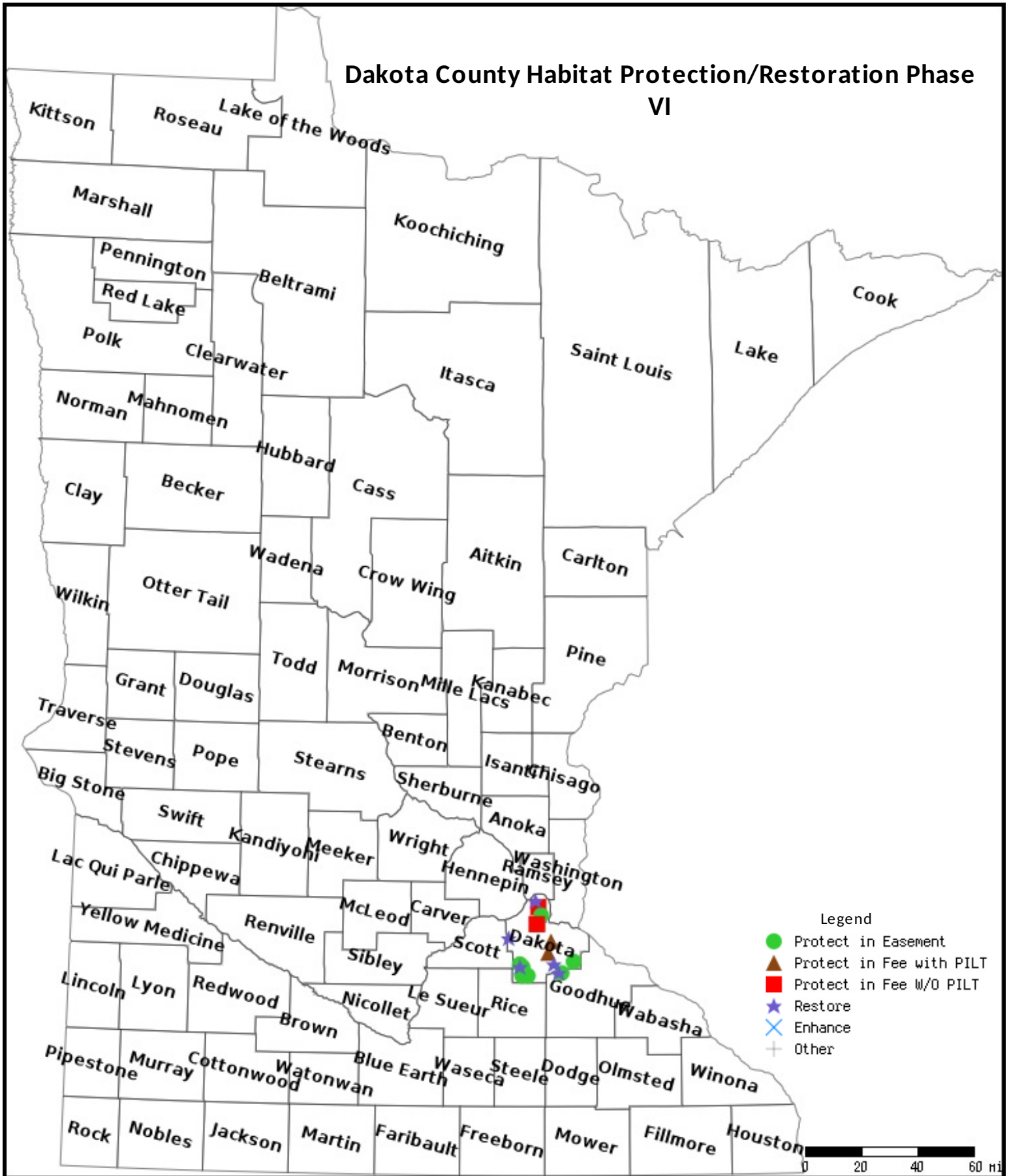
Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	# Bldgs?	Bldg Improve Desc	Value of Bldg	Disposition of Improvements
Brainerd 52	11418217	26	\$0	2	Unused metal storage buildings	\$84,000	

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase VI



Data Generated From Parcel List

ML 2018 Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase VI

Request: \$6,250,000

Dakota County has effectively worked with a variety of agencies, jurisdictions, organizations, and private landowners to implement comprehensive habitat protection since 2003 when it began implementing its Farmland and Natural Areas Protection Plan. The 2008 Vermillion River Corridor Plan provided a basis for riparian system land protection. These and other programs are now blended into a comprehensive Land Conservation Program that includes regional parks and multi-purpose greenways, natural areas, shoreland, and agricultural lands. The County developed conservation policy, increased staff, and refined project evaluation criteria and practices. The County has provided funding to assist the DNR in establishing new Wildlife Management Areas, Aquatic Management Areas and Scientific and Natural Areas and has acquired 112 conservation easements. Excluding additional habitat in newly acquired park and greenway land, the County has protected over 11,282 acres since 2003.

Marginal agriculturally productive land continues to be converted to row crops and suburban development is rebounding. Through its programs, the County can expand protected habitat complexes and fill in gaps between previously protected lands within multipurpose corridors. The County works with willing sellers and is eager to continue the momentum of its ongoing conservation programs, as well as emphasize an increased focus on natural resource management. The County Board recently developed and adopted a Natural Resource Management System Plan which provides a vision and five-year implementation strategy for significantly increasing natural resource management in all regional park and greenways and conservation easements.

The Phase VI proposal includes proposed restoration of an estimated 813 acres of protected lands. This total includes 253 acres within Lake Byllesby Regional Park is an important outcome of a park master planning process that will be completed this year that will establish the foundation for similar projects while sending important signals to other entities. The other restoration work involves previously acquired easements where the landowners have expressed an interest in becoming more involved based on five-year management agreements with landowner commitments for cash and in-kind services.

As proposed an estimated 280 acres will be protected in a combination of fee title with PILT, fee title without PILT and conservation easements. Many of the acquisition projects involve current application projects with appraisals underway.

Locations of proposed projects are identified on side two of this summary.

On May 23, 2017, the County Board approved submission of ML18 Outdoor Heritage funding proposal and included a 25 percent cash match or \$2,084,000. In addition, an estimated \$750 of in-kind County staff time will be committed to this project.

