



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 10
ML 2025 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 05/29/2024

Proposal Title: Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 10

Funds Requested: \$13,941,900

Confirmed Leverage Funds: \$501,400

Is this proposal Scalable?: Yes

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: 651-272-3981

Mobile Number: 651-318-8667

Fax Number:

Website: greatrivergreening.org

Location Information

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

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 525 acres through conservation easements and restore/enhance 1,630 acres of Prairie/Oak Savanna, Wetland, Habitat, and Woodland/Forest at sites in the Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion and its watersheds. Our actions will increase biodiversity, habitat connectivity and quality, recreational opportunities, and landscape resilience, which align with the ASP Partnership's 10-year Strategic Conservation Action Plan, DNR Wildlife Action Plan and LSOHC Section priorities. Great River Greening (GRG), Anoka Conservation District (ACD), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) are direct recipients, with match from LGUs and private sources.

Design and Scope of Work

The ASP Partnership project boundary is defined by the DNR's ASP ecological subsection plus its intersecting minor watersheds, which captures portions of the Metropolitan Urbanizing, Forest/Prairie Transition, and Northern Forest LSOHC sections. Our project area is a marvelously complex mosaic of habitats, home to quality prairie, 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 the 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. The science-based ASP Partnership's 10-year Strategic Plan was created to identify priority habitats, opportunities, centers of biodiversity, and a plan of action with measurable goals. This provides guidance to prioritize actions for our work in Phase 10.

With this funding, program partners Great River Greening (GRG), Anoka Conservation District (ACD), Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will secure conservation easements on 525 acres to expand habitat cores and corridors, and complete restoration and enhancement (R/E) on 1,630 protected acres, and re-meander 3,500 feet of stream. Habitats include prairie/savanna grasslands, woodland, and non-forested peat wetlands.

Results will be achieved by protection of ecologically significant habitats with conservation easement, and by conducting invasive species and woody encroachment removal, stream re-meandering, prescribed burning and, conservation grazing, thinning, seeding, and planting. Our program will create and improve critical habitat for rare species and Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) 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.

Explain how the proposal addresses habitat protection, restoration, and/or enhancement for fish, game & wildlife, including threatened or endangered species conservation

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 525 acres of conservation easements protection on priority lands, and R/E on 627 acres of prairie/savanna grasslands, 96 acres of non-forested wetlands/peatlands, 163 acres of habitat, 744 acres of woodland and 3,500 feet of streambank.

Five parcels are rated as High or Outstanding Biodiversity by MBS, and an additional four are rated as Moderate Biodiversity, for a total of nine parcels at or above MBS ranking of moderate biodiversity significance. Protecting MBS sites is key, while other sites will have proved and expanded habitat through restoration and enhancement.

A total of 27 Threatened, Endangered and Special Concern (T/E/SC) species - 17 plant, three bird, two mammal, three reptile, and two invertebrate - have been documented at our ASP10 sites. See Species List attachment for the names of these T/E/SC species, plus the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN).

What are the elements of this proposal that are critical from a timing perspective?

The amount of high quality remnant habitat in the ASP is remarkable given its proximity to Twin Cities Metropolitan and St. Cloud areas. While the location of the ASP provides easy access for the majority of Minnesotans, the associated stressors threaten the ASP's sustainability. The ecological diversity of the ASP is threatened by invasive species and development pressure. State-wide growth through 2045 is projected at 7% while projected growth in Anoka and Sherburne counties is 14% and 24% respectively. Land protection will protect remaining remnant habitats, buffer high quality habitat cores and increase habitat corridors and landscape resiliency. Restoration and enhancement efforts will prevent habitat degradation and increase biodiversity. The rare plant rescue program is underway with existing appropriations (saving rare plants from development sites) and is in pressing need for protected and enhanced recipient sites. ASP10 will help address the urgent need for suitable recipient sites via enhancement.

Describe how the proposal expands habitat corridors or complexes and/or addresses habitat fragmentation:

The ASP Partnership 10-Year Conservation 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 cores. These items were identified in state Wildlife Action Plan, 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.

The Anoka Sand Plain Partnership project area is remarkable in containing 4 large, protected habitat cores, and large riparian corridors including the Mississippi River and Rum River, portions of which are designated as Wild & Scenic.

Which top 2 Conservation Plans referenced in MS97A.056, subd. 3a are most applicable to this project?

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Explain how this proposal will uniquely address habitat resilience to climate change and its anticipated effects on game, fish & wildlife species utilizing the protected or restored/enhanced habitat this proposal targets.

Biochar production via pyrolysis stores 50% of carbon for 100s of years in the form of rot-resistant biochar, compared with traditional open-pile burning. We are identifying parcels likely to include biochar production and application, sustaining the biochar initiative started in ASP9/ML24.

We will continue to evaluate projects within emerging climate models including UMN Minnesota Climate Mapping and Analysis Tool and TNC’s Resilient Land Mapping Tool.

Recipients implement high diversity seeding and planting paying attention to geographic source ecotype during procurement, incorporating future climate predictions.

The ASP is at the intersection of several Minnesota biomes and with this proximity has inherent ability to toggle between natural communities in response to future climate.

Protecting complexes of large and connected habitat blocks reduces fragmentation and allows for species movement as climate changes. Protecting habitat is crucial in mitigating against flooding caused by excessive rainfall events given their water retention ability.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

Forest / Prairie Transition

- Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

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

Describe how this project/program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife, and if not permanent outcomes, why it is important to undertake at this time:

The Anoka Sand Plain partnership has worked to protect and restore key areas to ensure that, along with growth, this region continues to be a resilient, functioning landscape that can provide high-quality habitat for fish, game and other wildlife. With past funds, our partnership has protected 947 acres and restored/enhanced 12,721 acres in this unique ecological region and has buffered high quality habitat cores and expanded habitat corridors. With this funding we will continue to increase the number of acres of enhanced, restored, and protected key habitats to reduce habitat fragmentation, degradation and invasive species which threaten SGCN, landscape resilience, and outdoor recreation opportunities.

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.*

What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this proposal?

- Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund

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 Anoka Sand Plain.

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, 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, investigating potential violations, and defending the easement in case of a true violation. In addition, MLT assists landowners in managing their lands through the development of habitat management plans and finding the resources to effectively manage the habitat for its wildlife and water quality benefits.

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 recipient sites must commit to the long-term maintenance of these sites. A principle management goal is to elevate each R/E site prior to grant close to a threshold where on-going management cost is diminished. For sites and programs that use volunteers, community volunteer engagement promotes an increase in community stakeholders.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2029 and in perpetuity	MLT Long Term Stewardship and Enforcement Funds	Annual Monitoring of Easements	Enforcement as Necessary	-
2031	GRG in-kind	Monitoring every 2-3 years	Landowner Engagement	-
2031	USFWS in-kind	Rx Burning	Spot herbicide treatment	-
2031	ACD Anoka Agriculture Preserves	Monitor every 2-3 years	Spot treatment	Overseeding
2031	Anoka County Parks	Spot herbicide treatment and spot mowing and biocontrol	Prescribed burn every 3-5 years	Overseeding

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

ASP Partners have existing DEIJ initiatives including: Future Stewards Program (GRG); Ambassador Lands Program (MLT); and partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe (MLT). Partners have secured DEIJ related funding including: Engaging a Diverse Public in Stewardship funded by Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (GRG); internal staff funding for DEIJ pursuits (MLT), and others. Partners will continue to connect all our DEIJ programs and resources to ASP10 projects when appropriate opportunities arise.

ASP ecoregion provides close-to-home recreation opportunities for the majority of Minnesotans. This includes large BIPOC and low-income populations areas as identified by the MPCA environmental justice tool.

Furthermore, the ASP encompasses a priority Drinking Water Supply Management Area, attributable to groundwater recharge through sandy soils and the miles of Mississippi River upstream of the Twin Cities drinking water 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

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

Yes

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
- Public Waters

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.

Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this proposal either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?

No

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 or require Land Trust approval.

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

No

Explain how, when, and source of the R/E work:

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.

Other OHF Appropriation Awards

Have you received OHF dollars through LSOHC in the past?

Yes

Are any of these past appropriations still OPEN?

Yes

Approp Year	Funding Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Funding Remaining	% Spent to Date
2024	\$1,802,000	-	-	-
2023	\$3,269,000	\$577,000	\$2,692,000	17.65%
2021	\$2,651,000	\$1,634,500	\$1,016,500	61.66%
2019	\$2,573,000	\$2,373,800	\$199,200	92.26%
2017	\$1,130,000	\$1,049,300	\$80,700	92.86%
2016	\$1,208,000	\$1,147,500	\$60,500	94.99%
2014	\$1,190,000	\$1,047,100	\$142,900	87.99%
2012	\$1,050,000	\$989,400	\$60,600	94.23%
2010	\$747,000	\$747,000	-	100.0%
Totals	\$15,620,000	\$9,565,600	\$6,054,400	61.24%

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
ACD: site prep in prairies and wetlands	11/1/2026
ACD: prairie and wetland prescribed burns and seeding, buckthorn and woody encroachment removal	12/31/2028
ACD: targeted follow up weed control and seeding	6/1/2030
MLT: Conservation easements completed	6/30/2029
GRG: Landowner agreements	1/1/2026
GRG: RFP process completed and contracts executed	1/1/2027
GRG: Initial site treatments completed	1/1/2028
GRG: Sustained follow up enhancement activities completed	6/30/2030
MLT: Restoration and enhancement of 168 acres completed	6/30/2030
TNC: stream and wetland restoration and follow up assessment	6/30/2030

Budget

Grand Totals Across All Partnerships

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$2,260,600	\$61,900	-, St. Cloud, Benton Co., Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Volunteers, Landowner in-kind	\$2,322,500
Contracts	\$7,234,900	\$182,000	-, Private Foundation, City of Anoka, Anoka County	\$7,416,900
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$3,000,000	\$450,000	Landowners	\$3,450,000
Easement Stewardship	\$280,000	-	-	\$280,000
Travel	\$40,300	-	-	\$40,300
Professional Services	\$324,000	-	-	\$324,000
Direct Support Services	\$546,900	\$257,500	-, ACD DSS, GRG	\$804,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$46,700	-	-	\$46,700
Supplies/Materials	\$208,500	-	-	\$208,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$13,941,900	\$951,400	-	\$14,893,300

Partner: Minnesota Land Trust

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$675,000	-	-	\$675,000
Contracts	\$815,000	-	-	\$815,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$3,000,000	\$450,000	Landowners	\$3,450,000
Easement Stewardship	\$280,000	-	-	\$280,000
Travel	\$15,000	-	-	\$15,000
Professional Services	\$304,000	-	-	\$304,000
Direct Support Services	\$182,300	-	-	\$182,300
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$4,000	-	-	\$4,000
Supplies/Materials	\$3,000	-	-	\$3,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$5,278,300	\$450,000	-	\$5,728,300

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Restoration Staff	0.75	5.0	\$375,000	-	-	\$375,000
MLT Land Protection Staff	0.75	4.0	\$300,000	-	-	\$300,000

Partner: Great River Greening

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$612,100	\$61,900	St. Cloud, Benton Co., Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Volunteers, Landowner in-kind	\$674,000
Contracts	\$4,881,000	-	-	\$4,881,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$21,300	-	-	\$21,300
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$137,000	\$158,800	GRG	\$295,800
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$22,700	-	-	\$22,700
Supplies/Materials	\$47,000	-	-	\$47,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$5,721,100	\$220,700	-	\$5,941,800

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
GRG Staff	1.2	5.0	\$612,100	\$61,900	St. Cloud, Benton Co., Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Volunteers, Landowner in-kind	\$674,000

Partner: The Nature Conservancy

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$60,100	-	-	\$60,100
Contracts	\$320,000	\$150,000	Private Foundation	\$470,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$4,000	-	-	\$4,000
Professional Services	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Direct Support Services	\$34,900	-	-	\$34,900
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
Supplies/Materials	\$41,000	-	-	\$41,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$500,000	\$150,000	-	\$650,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
TNC Personnel	0.12	5.0	\$60,100	-	-	\$60,100

Partner: Anoka Conservation District

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$913,400	-	-	\$913,400
Contracts	\$1,218,900	\$32,000	City of Anoka, Anoka County	\$1,250,900
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	\$192,700	\$98,700	ACD DSS	\$291,400
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$117,500	-	-	\$117,500
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$2,442,500	\$130,700	-	\$2,573,200

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
ACD Personnel	2.3	5.0	\$913,400	-	-	\$913,400

Amount of Request: \$13,941,900

Amount of Leverage: \$951,400

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 6.82%

DSS + Personnel: \$2,807,500

As a % of the total request: 20.14%

Easement Stewardship: \$280,000

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 9.33%

Total Leverage (from above)	Amount Confirmed	% of Total Leverage	Amount Anticipated	% of Total Leverage
\$951,400	\$501,400	52.7%	\$450,000	47.3%

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:

Easement leverage is conservative estimate of landowner donation. Project landowners will provide match, including St.Cloud, Anoka County, Benton County, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, City of Anoka, Volunteers @ \$24hr.

Does this proposal 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. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount.

If the project received 30% 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. Some costs are fixed (landowner recruitment; grant management) and must occur regardless of grant amount.

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?

ACD tracks personnel/ staff 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 x their rate.

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

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.

TNC: The FTEs are an estimate of the needs for part-time staff support from the Restoration Ecologist and Restoration Technician.

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 writing of habitat management plans and landowner outreach comprise the remaining amounts.

Professional Services

What is included in the Professional Services line?

- Appraisals
- Other : Phase 1 Environmental Assessments, Minerals Reports, Mapping
- Surveys
- Title Insurance and Legal Fees

Easement Stewardship

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

The Land Trust's budget is built around the closing of 8-11 conservation easements, depending on size and cost. The average cost per easement to fund the MLT's perpetual monitoring and enforcement obligations is \$28,000, 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

Vehicle rental is occasionally necessary due to fleet or POV lack of availability. Vehicle rental can be competitive with the cost of mileage reimbursement, for longer trips.

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?

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.

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.

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.

TNC: DSS is based on The Nature Conservancy's Federal Negotiated Rate (FNR) as proposed and approved by the US Dept. of Interior on an annual basis. In this proposal we are requesting reimbursement of 7.5% of eligible base costs as determined by our annual FNR and based on suggestions from the Council in prior years' hearings. The amount requested for reimbursement represents less than one-third of the total reimbursable costs allowed under the FNR. Examples of expenses included in the FNR include services from in-house legal counsel; finance, human resources; and information technology support, all of which contribute directly to the implementation of the project

Other Equipment/Tools

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

Loppers, trowels, shovels, chainsaws, brushcutters, sprayers, flagging, pin flags, PPE, GPS handheld.

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	0	18	0	0	18
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	525	525
Enhance	96	609	744	163	1,612
Total	96	627	744	688	2,155

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

Type	Native Prairie (acres)
Restore	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0
Protect in Easement	0
Enhance	376
Total	376

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	\$88,400	-	-	\$88,400
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$4,059,000	\$4,059,000
Enhance	\$800,000	\$3,707,700	\$4,324,900	\$961,900	\$9,794,500
Total	\$800,000	\$3,796,100	\$4,324,900	\$5,020,900	\$13,941,900

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	18	18
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	325	200	0	0	0	525
Enhance	1,096	516	0	0	0	1,612
Total	1,421	716	0	0	18	2,155

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	\$88,400	\$88,400
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$3,000,000	\$1,059,000	-	-	-	\$4,059,000
Enhance	\$6,807,200	\$2,987,300	-	-	-	\$9,794,500
Total	\$9,807,200	\$4,046,300	-	-	\$88,400	\$13,941,900

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	\$4,911	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	\$7,731
Enhance	\$8,333	\$6,088	\$5,813	\$5,901

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	\$4,911
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$9,230	\$5,295	-	-	-
Enhance	\$6,210	\$5,789	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

3500 ft stream

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

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

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

The ASP Partnership 10 - Year Strategic Conservation Action Plan utilizes multiple-criteria GIS analyses to identify and prioritize critical areas for habitat connectivity, SGCN, biodiversity, and native plant communities. 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 included in this proposal MLT conservation easements. The Land Trust uses a competitive, market-based approach through an RFP process to identify interested landowners and prioritize parcels for conservation easement acquisition. All proposals submitted by landowners are evaluated and ranked relative to their ecological significance based on three primary factors: 1) size of habitat on the parcel; 2) condition of habitat on the parcel; and 3) the context (both in terms of amount/quality of remaining habitat and protected areas) within which the parcel lies. The criteria for parcel selection and ranking sheet for this program are included as an attachment.

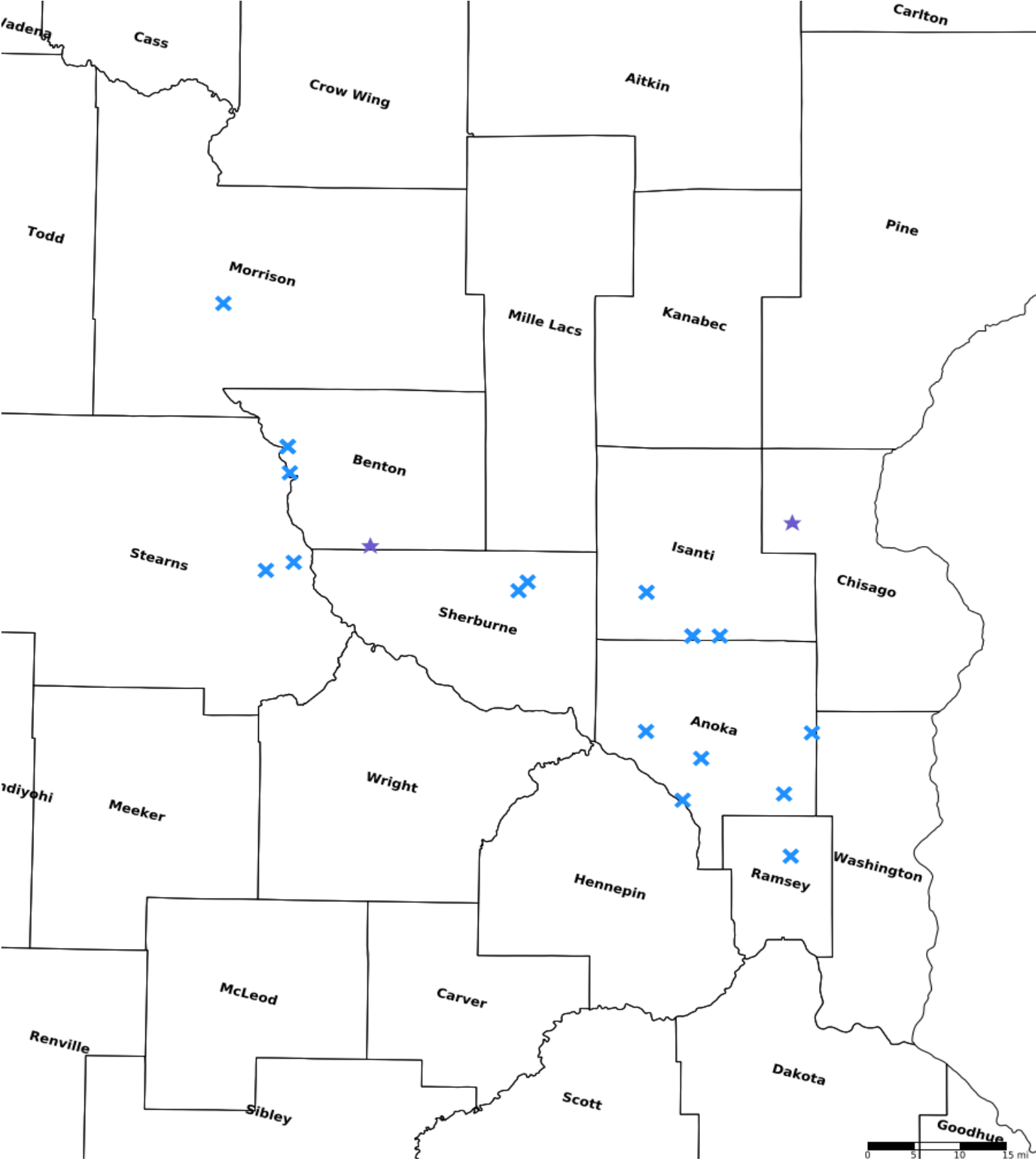
Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
ACD - Lamprey Pass WMA Phase 2	Anoka	03222213	53	\$291,500	Yes	Enhance wetland and woodlands, . buckthorn control, rare plants
ACD - Wilenbring Rum RIM Conservation Easement	Anoka	03424223	24	\$138,500	Yes	Prairie enhancement in old field, enhance degraded wetland and degraded woodland along the Rum River

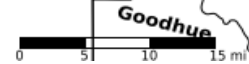
ACD - Bunker Hills Regional Park	Anoka	03224236	46	\$250,000	Yes	Enhance prairies, remove buckthorn and Siberian peashrub, woody control in savannas, rare species present
ACD - Anoka Nature Preserve	Anoka	03225213	55	\$323,500	Yes	Enhance prairie and wetland, remove buckthorn in woodland and along Rum River shoreline, tree thinning at prairie and woodland edge
ACD - Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park Phase 2	Anoka	03124227	46	\$281,000	Yes	Prairie enhancement, buckthorn control, woody control in savannas, Mississippi River shoreline
ACD - Rice Creek Chain of Lakes	Anoka	03122221	132	\$723,250	Yes	Enhance prairie, wetland, woodland, savanna, shoreline complex.
GRG - Franciscan Sister of Little Falls: Umbria Retreat	Benton	03731221	80	\$319,000	Yes	Increase prairie diversity; non-native invasive and overabundant native woody species removal from oak and riparian woodlands on Mississippi River habitat corridor. Rx burn. Biochar production, application. Easement process underway
MLT - Mayhew Creek (Corrigan)	Benton	03630236	12	\$58,400	Yes	Prairie restoration in ag field. Easement in progress
GRG - Bend in the River Regional Park Ph 3	Benton	03731204	18	\$134,000	Yes	Removal of non-native buckthorn and other woody species from upland and riparian oak woodland. Biochar production, application. Native seeding and plugging. Rx burn.
GRG - Bend in the River Regional Park Ph 2	Benton	03731204	97	\$476,000	Yes	Removal of non-native siberian elm, honeysuckle and buckthorn in former shelter belts. Increase diversity of prairie openings: invasive control, Rx burn, interseeding, interplugging. Biochar production, application. Edge habitat.
MLT - Goose Lake (Hansen)	Chisago	03622215	6	\$30,000	Yes	Prairie restoration in old fields, increase habitat value of grassland openings in grassland/woodland matrix, expand openings
TNC - CCESR Stream Remeander	Isanti	03423220	50	\$500,000	Yes	3500 feet Stream remeander and restoring hydrology to adjacent peatland (50 acres of wetland enhancement)
ACD - Bethel WMA	Isanti	03424223	44	\$242,000	Yes	Enhance sedge meadow and upland prairie. rare plants

MLT - Tennyson Lake (Barrett)	Isanti	03525225	50	\$360,000	Yes	Enhancement of oak woodlands, invasive removal and follow up treatments
GRG - Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls: Little Falls Campus	Morrison	04032217	66	\$486,000	Yes	Enhance pollinator and resident and migratory bird habitat near Mississippi River. Non-native invasive control, improved biodiversity, habitat structures. Biochar production, application. Very strong on public outreach, including 800 person annual fair. Easement process underway, select acres.
MLT - North Oaks - Conservation Area (North Oaks Company)	Ramsey	03022229	100	\$770,900	Yes	Enhancement of oak woodlands, invasive removal and follow up treatments
GRG - Sherburne NWR - Pollinator	Sherburne	03527223	376	\$2,496,000	Yes	Improve pollinator grassland habitat via removal of non-native invasive black locust and siberian elm; and reduction of overabundant aspen and scrub red oak. Improve potential habitat for 2 rare bumble bee species. Biochar production and application.
GRG - Sherburne NWR - American Woodcock	Sherburne	03527227	120	\$238,000	Yes	Aspen stand regeneration via forestry mowing to improve habitat for American Woodcock, a NWR Priority Resource of Concern.
GRG - Big Woods Natural Area/Oak Hill Elementary School	Stearns	12428222	55	\$541,000	Yes	Woody Invasives removal; tree planting. Biochar production, application.. Need Woodland Stewardship Plan
GRG - Quarry Park & Reserve, Ph3	Stearns	12428230	200	\$1,031,000	Yes	Buckthorn removal and seeding in oak forest, rock outcrop, wetland mosaic. Rare species. Biochar production and application. Get to 480 acres treated of 750 acre habitat core.

Parcel Map



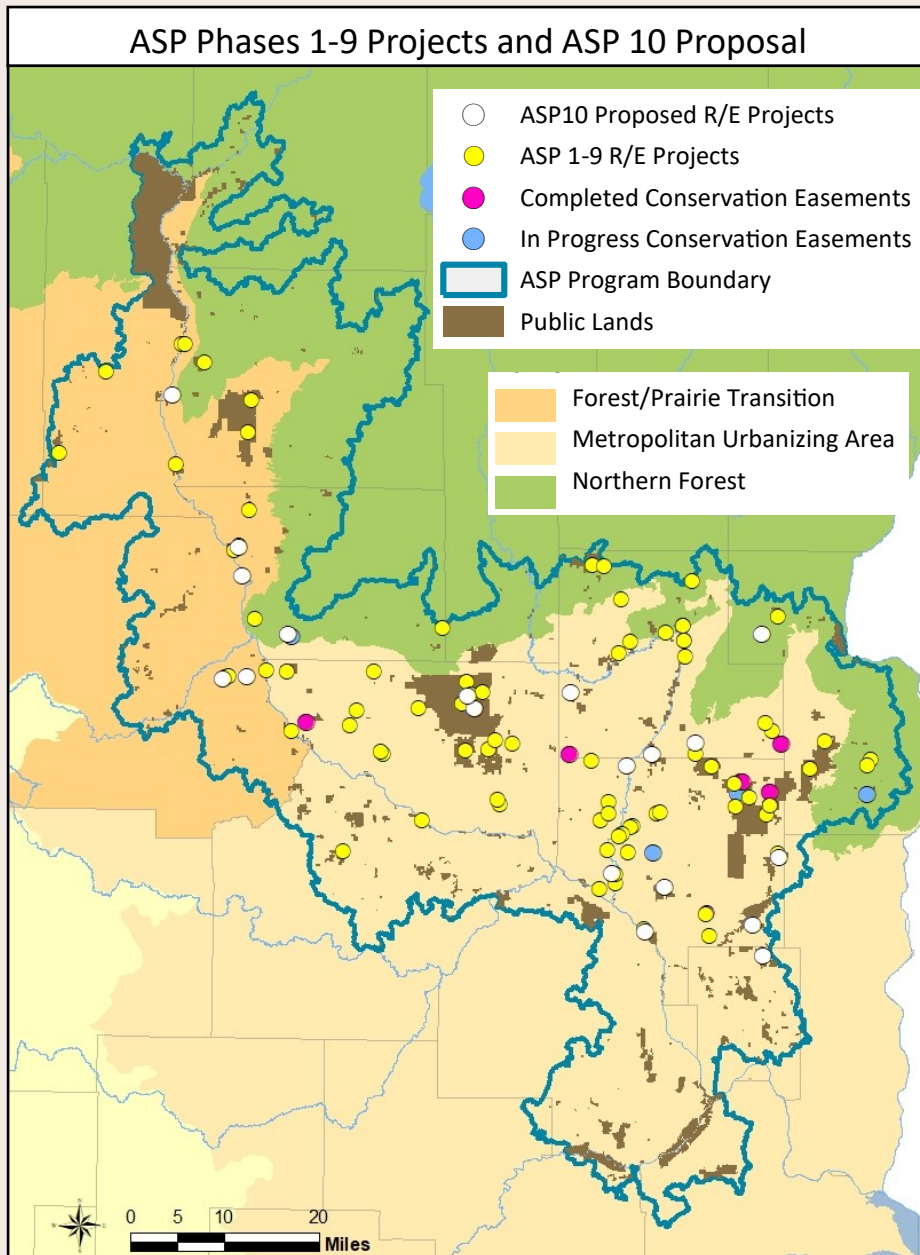
- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ⊕ Other



Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 10

Protect 525 acres of private lands in conservation easements.

Restore/Enhance 1,630 acres of prairie, oak savanna, wetlands, and fire-dependent woodlands and 3,500 feet of stream.



Priorities based on:

DNR's Wildlife Action Network

ASP Partnership Strategic Plan

MBS Biodiversity Significance

Habitat Connectivity

Habitat Cores

Native Plant Communities

Species in Greatest Conservation Need

Threatened/Endangered/Special Concern Species

For more information:

Wiley Buck

Senior Program Manager

Great River Greening

wbuck@greatrivergreening.org

651-272-3981

Anoka Sand Plain Partnership Accomplishments Phases 1 - 8

- 947 Acres Protected
- 12,721 Acres Restored & Enhanced
- Additional Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement in progress
- Over-delivered: Completed 136% of proposed Protected acres and 144% of proposed Restoration/Enhancement acres
- Rescued over 10,000 rare plants from 10 developments



The Anoka Sand Plain Partnership

VISION

Protection, restoration and enhancement to increase biological diversity, habitat connectivity and landscape resilience in the Anoka Sand Plain.

ASP Partnership Project Examples



Prairie restoration at Two Inlets Bdé Heháka - Omashkooz Zaaga'igaans Regional Park (formerly Big Elk Lake)

Woodland enhancement at Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park



Land protection through Conservation Easements

OPPORTUNITY

Over 72,000 acres in the ASP Ecoregion are ranked Outstanding or High Biodiversity by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.

The ASP provides habitat for 97 Species in Greatest Conservation Need.

131 MN Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern species in the ASP.

URGENCY

State-wide projected growth through 2045 is estimated at 7% while growth in Anoka and Sherburne counties is 14% and 24% respectively.



Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation Program Decision Support Tool for Prioritizing Conservation Easement Opportunities

The Minnesota Land Trust often employs an RFP (Request for Proposals) model to both identify high-quality projects and introduce a level of competition into the easement acquisition process. Below, we briefly discuss how the system works and the framework put in place to sort the varied opportunities that come before us.

How the Ranking System Works

The parcel ranking framework employed through the Minnesota Land Trust's RFP process is intended as a ***decision support tool*** to aid in identifying, among the slate of landowners submitting bids for conservation easements, the most ecologically significant opportunities for the price. Using this framework, the Land Trust and its partners use an array of weighted data sets tailored to the specific circumstances inherent in a program area to identify those projects worthy of consideration.

It is important to note that this parcel ranking framework enables the Land Trust to rank projects *relative* to one another. That's important to do, but it's also important to understand how a project (or suite of projects) relates to the ideal situation (i.e., a project that is of exceptional size, condition and superb landscape context). If, for example, an RFP generated 20 proposals in a program area, the framework would effectively sift among them and identify the relatively good from those relatively bad. However, this information alone would not determine whether any of those parcels were of sufficient quality to pursue for protection (all may be of insufficient quality to warrant expenditure of funds). To solve this problem and make sure ranked projects are high priorities for conservation, we step back and evaluate them relative to the ideal (i.e., is each project among the best opportunities for conservation we can expect to find in the program area?).

As part of its proposals to LSOHC, the Land Trust includes easement sign-up criteria that lay out at a general level the framework utilized by the organization. Below is a more detailed description of the process the Land Trust uses to rank potential parcels relative to one another and identify those we will seek to protect with a conservation easement. We also include a ranking form illustrating the representative weighting applied to each criterion. These weightings will be refined as we move forward in applying this approach in each program area.

The Framework

We evaluate potential projects based on two primary factors: ecological significance and cost. Both are assessed independent of one another.

Factor 1: Ecological Significance

The Ecological Significance score is determined by looking at 3 subfactors.

Subfactors:

- **Habitat Size or Quantity** – the area of the parcel to be protected (how big is it?), length of shoreline, etc. The bigger the better.
- **Habitat Condition or Quality** – the condition of the natural communities and/or target species found on a parcel. The higher quality the better.
- **Landscape Context** – what’s around the parcel, both ecologically and from a protected status standpoint. The more ecologically intact the surrounding landscape the better; the extent to which a parcel builds off other protected lands to form complexes or corridors, the better.

Note that we may emphasize one subfactor over another if the specific circumstances warrant it.

Indicators:

A suite of weighted indicators is used to score each parcel relative to each of the above subfactors. Indicators are selected based on their ability to effectively inform the scoring of parcels relative to each of the respective subfactors. Weightings for each criterion are assessed and vetted to ensure that a set of indicators for each subfactor produces meaningful results, then applied across each of the proposed parcels.

Data sets used for this purpose must offer wall-to-wall coverage across the program area to ensure that bias for or against parcels does not creep into the equation. Where gaps in such coverages exist, we attempt to fill them in to the extent feasible (via field inventory, etc.).

Finally, we vet and make improvements to the scoring matrix when we identify issues or circumstances where results seem erroneous.

Factor 2: Cost

Cost is a second major factor used in our consideration of parcels. Although ecological significance is *the* primary factor in determining the merits of a project, our RFP programs also strive to make the greatest conservation impact with the most efficient use of State funds. As such, we look at the overall cost of each project relative to its ecological significance; we also ask landowners to consider donating all or some of their easement value to the cause and to better position their proposals. Many landowners participate in that fashion.

Cost, as a primary factor, is assessed independently of the ecological factors. Given equal ecological significance, a project of lower cost will be elevated over those of higher cost in the ranking. That said, exceptionally high-quality projects are likely to be pursued even if no or modest landowner donation is

put forward. Alternatively, there are projects offered as full donations that are not moved forward because their ecological significance is not acceptable. The degree to which cost factors into the ranking of parcels relative to one another is made on a case-by-case basis.

Conservation Easement Selection Worksheet – Scoring and Criteria

1. Habitat Size or Quantity (30 points)

Parcels are scored based on acres of existing habitat or habitat to be restored that would be protected through the a given conservation easement, relative to the largest parcels available for protection in the program area. Shoreline length included in the parcel is also a consideration. Little information pertaining to the size of species populations on a given property typically exists, making any determination suspect. Habitat size is a valid indicator not only ecosystem health but has a direct correlation with species viability. Shoreline feet is an indicator of amount of riparian habitat as well as the water quality benefits that come from undeveloped land adjacent to waterbodies.

Habitat Size (20 points): Parcels are scored by how they fall relative to five size classes of habitat size, in acres:

Points	Acres
0	1-39
4	40-49
6	50-79
14	80-119
20	120 or more

Shoreline (10 points): Parcels are scored based on the number of feet of shoreline on the parcel. Rivers perennial stream shoreline lengths include both banks if they are within the parcel, while intermittent stream lengths are measured using the centerline of the stream. Parcels are scored based on five classes, in feet:

Points	Feet
0	0
4	1-499
6	500-999
8	2000-4,999
10	5,000 or more

2. Habitat Condition or Quality (25 points):

Parcels are scored based on the quality or condition of occurrences of ecological communities (habitat), imperiled species if known, and water quality (level of impairments). As with Habitat Size above, population data for imperiled species is often minimal on private lands. As such, the condition of score is heavily influenced by the condition of natural communities on a property. However, we do allocate a modest level of points to the presence of imperiled species if they have been documented.

[The Nature Conservancy’s Resilient Sites for Terrestrial Conservation project](#) identifies areas estimated to be the most climate resilient for characteristic environments of North America. All parcels that come through the RFP process with generally acceptable scores in ecological significance have average or above average climate resiliency scores. The inclusion of climate resiliency scoring did not appreciable change the overall ranking, so was not explicitly included in the ranking framework.

Habitat Quality (18 points): The Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) natural community element occurrence (EO) ranking framework and the [MBS Biodiversity Significance Ranks](#) are used to score habitat quality on parcels in five classes:

Points	Site Evaluation Score	Description
0	0	The only native community present on parcel has a D ranking; all of site is ranked “below threshold” for biodiversity significance
6	1-5	Less than 50% of the parcel is C-ranked native plant communities, and the rest is ranked lower than C OR About half of the parcel is composed of C-ranked native plant communities, the rest is D-ranked or lower; part of the parcel is identified as Moderate Biodiversity Significance, the rest of the parcel is lower than “Moderate”
12	6-10	About half of the parcel is composed of C-ranked native plant communities, the rest is D-ranked or lower; all of the parcel is identified as Moderate Biodiversity Significance or higher
16	11-15	About half of the parcel consists of C-ranked communities and the rest is ranked higher than C; Part of parcel is identified as an MBS site of Outstanding Biodiversity Significance; parcel or part of parcel is identified as an MBS site of High Biodiversity Significance; the parcel includes one or more “lakes of biodiversity significance” as identified by MBS
18	16-20	More than half of the parcel consists of a natural community with an A, B, AB, or BC element occurrence ranking; all of the parcel is identified as MBS site of Outstanding Biodiversity Significance

Imperiled Species (2 points): The [Natural Heritage Information System](#) data is used to identify rare plants, animals, native plant communities, and other rare features noted on the parcel. Scoring of the parcel is based on species abundance, using counts of species:

Points	Occurrences
0	0
1	1
2	2 or more

Water Quality (5 points): The [Watershed Health Assessment Framework](#) (WHAF), among other

analyses, identifies the percentage of water quality assessments completed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency that documents percentage of assessments evidencing a waterbody’s failure to meet water quality standards. This scoring framework focuses on the state’s aquatic life designated use. This percentage is collected at the subwatershed scale. Parcels are scored based on the percentage of assessments within the catchment that show a failure of waterbodies ability to support aquatic life, in three categories:

Points	Percent
0	67-100
3	34-66
5	0-33

3. Landscape Context (45 points)

Parcels are scored based current ecological context of the property and protected lands surrounding it; in addition, points are also allocated based on the likelihood that lands around a parcel will be protected going forward based on the identification of these adjacent lands in respective conservation lands.

Habitat Cores/Corridors (10 points): Parcels scored based on their distance from protected area(s) of interest/habitat cores for the Anoka Sand Plain Partnership or the Land Trust: Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area **OR** their distance from habitat corridors between cores, as defined by the Wildlife Action Plan, the Metro Conservation Corridors, or other relevant plan.

Points	Miles
0	5 or more
6	2-4.9
8	0.5-1.9
10	0-0.49

Habitat Core – Adjacent (4 points): Parcel is directly adjacent to one of the above priority habitat cores.

Points	Adjacent
0	No
4	Yes

Riparian Corridors (12 points): Parcels scored based on whether they are located on or near a high-priority riparian corridor within the Anoka Sand Plain, as measured by the Anoka Sand Plain Partnership and other federal, state, and local plans. These priority riparian corridors include the Rum River and its tributaries (for example, the Sunrise River and Stanchfield Creek) and the Mississippi River and its tributaries (for example, the Elk River).

Points	Location
0	Not within HUC7 watershed of or on a high priority corridor
6	Within HUC7 watershed of high priority corridor
12	On high priority corridor

Drinking Water Supply Management Area (4 points): [Drinking Water Supply Management Areas](#) have been identified by the Minnesota Department of Health and show surface and subsurface areas surrounding public water supply intakes that contain the scientifically calculated surface water protection area and is managed by the entity identified in a surface water protection plan. Using this as an indicator helps the Land Trust protect land that not only provides habitat, but as a secondary additional consideration, protects drinking water (ground and surface).

Points	Within
0	No
4	Yes

Conservation Priority (15 points): The degree to which the area within which a parcel has been identified as a priority for conservation action and the degree to which action is being implemented in that area is a direct indicator of the long-term potential for maintenance of biodiversity associated with a parcel. Lands affiliated with priority areas are more likely to be complemented with additional levels of nearby protected lands than those outside of priority areas. In areas of the southern Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion that are located in the Twin Cities Metro and experiencing high levels of development, this factor may carry a significant amount of weight in setting protection priorities.

The parcel is given six points for each of the below criteria that are true, up to a score of 15:

- The parcel is a priority for the Anoka Sand Plain Partnership or other conservation partners, such as non-governmental organizations and federal, state, or local government units (soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts)
- The parcel is a priority for the Anoka Sand Plain Partnership or federal, state, or local conservation partner(s) for water quality conservation
- The parcel is adjacent or near to a Land Trust conservation easement or other protected land not identified as a Habitat Core above
- The parcel is a conservation priority of the community
- The parcel has restoration or enhancement potential that was not identified in any of the other portions of the scoring framework

**Minnesota Land Trust
Anoka Sand Plain Ranking Sheet**

		TEMPLATE		Tract 1		Tract 2	
	County						
TOTAL SCORE	100	100		0	0		
SIZE/QUANTITY	Points						
Size: Acres of existing habitat to be protected by an easement	20	120	20		0		0
Shoreline: Feet of shoreline protected	10	5000	10		0		0
	30	30		0	0		
CONDITION/QUALITY	Points						
Terrestrial Habitat Quality: Quality of existing ecological systems	18	20	18		0		0
Imperiled Species: Presence of documented rare features	2	2	2		0		0
Water Quality - Priority Water Resources: Level of impairment(s) to water bodies	5	5	5		0		0
	25	25		0	0		
LANDSCAPE CONTEXT	Points						
Habitat Cores/Corridors: Distance from protected area(s) of interest/habitat cores (Crane Meadows NWR, Sherburne NWR, Carlos Avery WMA) OR distance from habitat corridors between cores, as defined by the Wildlife Action Plan or other plan	10	0	10		0		0
Habitat Core - Adjacent: Directly adjacent to habitat cores listed above	4	4	4		0		0
Riparian Corridors: Project protects high priority riparian corridors (Rum River or tributary-Sunrise?, Stanchfield Creek or tributary, Elk River or tributary, Mississippir River or tributary)	12	12	12		0		0
Drinking Water Supply Management Area: Is/is not located in one	4	4	4		0		0
Conservation Priority: Is a priority for habitat or water quality for ASP partnership or other partners (e.g., local govt unit); adjacent to MLT CE or other protected land not identified above; community priority; etc.	15	15					
	45	45		0	0		
COST							
Bid amount (\$/per acre)							
Donative value (\$/acre)							
PROJECT COST							



- Municipal Athletic Complex
- Whitney Senior Center & RSVP
 - Park & Recreation
- River's Edge Convention Center
 - City Paramount Building

May 7, 2024

Wiley Buck
Great River Greening
251 Starkey Street, Suite 2200
St. Paul, MN 55107

Dear Mr. Buck,

This letter is sent in support of Great River Greenings, Phase 10 request to the Minnesota State Legislature through the Anoka Sand Plain Partnership for Outdoor Heritage Funding from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to support statewide habitat and land restoration improvements.

The City of St. Cloud has taken great pride in many successful habitat restoration projects specifically working with Great River Greening (GRG) over the years. Most recently we are envisioning a new restoration project in collaboration with Independent School District 742 and GRG for the Big Woods Natural Area and Oak Hill Elementary natural area property.

The city would like to offer a \$5,000 cash match and a \$5,000 in kind match to help foster success and support for this project.

Sincerely,

Scott Zlotnik
Community Services & Facilities Director



Oak Hill
Community
School

St. Cloud Area
School District 

To Whom it May Concern:

Debra Jokela extends our support of Great River Greening's (GRG) proposal to the ML2025 Outdoor Heritage Fund for the Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation - Phase 10.

We support this request for assistance towards the development and restoration of natural areas that benefit our school forest, as well as boost connectivity for enhanced habitat throughout Minnesota. We also support Great River Greening's efforts to add improve the health of our existing prairies and forests, continue with the removal of undesired invasive plant species, in our habitat cores and river corridors.

Deb Jokela, Elementary Principal
Oak Hill Community School
St. Cloud Area School District 742
320-370-6001
debra.jokela@isd742.org



111-1111-1111



First.last@isd742.org



Address line 1
Address line 2



isd742.org



May 22, 2024

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
658 Cedar St.
Centennial Office Building, First Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155
Isohc@Isohc.mn.gov
loshc.mn.gov/

To the Members of the LSOHC:

Re: Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation – Phase 10

I write on behalf of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota, to express enthusiastic support for the Great River Greening / Anoka Sand Plain Partnership proposal for Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation – Phase 10.

As we Franciscan Sisters begin approaching the end of our organizational life, we have committed ourselves to a 'dream project' to transform our two properties named in the GRG / ASP10 Proposal by creating an environmental learning center on restored native habitat. We will ultimately leave this center and the restored land for those who follow us as part of our legacy of service in education and healing, including our human-wounded natural world.

This is too big a project to do on our own! We are pleased to be assisted by Great River Greening in the habitat restoration work we have recently begun. To help nurture success and support for this project, we commit to offering it a \$10,000 cash match and a \$10,000 in kind match. In addition, as noted in the proposal, we are in the process of obtaining conservation easements for both properties.

Thank you for considering this important proposal to support the land and life of central Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Mary Hroschikoski OSF
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls
Dream Project Manager
mobile 320-295-0674
mhroschikoski@fslf.org



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

Benton County Mission: Quality public service

May 21, 2024

Wiley Buck
Great River Greening
251 Starkey Street, Suite 2200
St. Paul, MN 55107

Dear Mr. Buck,

This letter is sent in support of Great River Greening's Phase 10 request to the Minnesota State Legislature through the Anoka Sand Plain Partnership for Outdoor Heritage Funding from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to support statewide habitat and land restoration improvements.

Benton County has taken great pride in many successful habitat restoration projects, specifically working with Great River Greening (GRG) over the years. Today we are envisioning a new restoration project in collaboration with GRG at Benton County's Bend in the River Regional Park.

Benton County is offering a \$34,000 cash match to help foster success and support for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Montgomery Headley'.

Montgomery Headley
County Administrator