



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

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

General Information

Date: 09/24/2026

Project Title: Dakota County Habitat Protection/Restoration Phase VIII

Funds Recommended: \$6,066,000

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

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

Amendment Description: This amendment request seeks to make several adjustments to parcels in the "Restore/Enhance" category, including the removal of one parcel, the addition of three new parcels, and corresponding shifts in budgets. This is expected to be Dakota County's final amendment under this appropriation and represents restoration work that can be accomplished before the end of the grant term on June 30, 2027. Dakota County still expects to return approximately \$2 Million from this grant as a result of failed and ineligible acquisitions. The following is a summary of the proposed changes within this amendment, including a parcel-by-parcel overview as well as impacts on overall budget and output tables;

BUDGET:

1. Increase Contracts to \$3,937,300 (Encompasses all current and future restoration that is taking place).
2. Decrease Easement Acquisition to \$2,077,700 (Encompasses completed acquisitions and expected unspent funds that will be returned).
3. Increase Supplies/Materials to \$1,000 (Purchase of Legacy Amendment Signage and associated materials).

PARCELS:

1. Betzler - Decrease budget to \$26,100 (First phase of restoration nearing completion, monitoring and management plan updates expected to occur prior to end of grant term. Updated budget reflective of expected costs before end of grant term).
2. City County Conservation Collaborative - Increase budget to \$1,256,700 and increase acres to 553 (Encompasses multiple ongoing projects with city partners. All projects are active and under contract. Updated budget reflective of expected costs before end of grant term. Acres increased to match sum of individual project impact).
3. Haskell Street - Decrease budget to \$18,900 (Solicitation of work in progress. Contractor to complete initial seeding/restoration work in Spring 2027. Budget reduced to match what can realistically be completed before end of grant term).

4. Lake Byllesby - Increase budget to \$315,900 and increase acres to 144 (Contracted, restoration actively taking place. Updated budget reflective of expected costs before end of grant term. Acres increased to match sum of project impact).
5. Pylkas - Delete parcel and remove budget of \$36,000 and 3 acres (Unable to be completed before end of grant term).
6. Sipe-Schumacher - Decrease budget to \$22,700 (Budget reduced to match what can realistically be completed before end of grant term).
7. Spring Lake Park Reserve - Increase budget to \$1,231,700 and decrease acres to 202 (Contracted, restoration actively taking place. Encompasses multiple projects within the park. Updated budget reflective of expected costs before end of grant term. Acres slightly reduced to match actual sum of project impact).
8. West Lebanon Hills - Add parcel and add budget of \$300,000 and 210 acres (County owned parkland. Contracted, restoration to begin in Fall 2026. Budget reflective of expected costs before end of grant term).
9. Dodge Nature Center NRMP - Add parcel and add budget of \$15,000 and 156 acres (Private Easement. Contracted, work within the scope and capacity of restoration contractor. Budget reflective of expected costs before end of grant term).
10. Wicklund (Chub Creek PCA) - Add parcel and add budget of \$57,800 and 59 acres (County owned park conservation area. Contracted, restoration actively taking place. Budget reflective of expected costs before end of grant term).

OUTPUT TABLES:

1. New sum of 1,524 acres under Restore category. This is a significant increase that as a result of refined acreage totals and adding additional parcels/contracts budget.
2. Corresponding shifts in ecotype categories and regions to reflect the changes in the Restore parcels.

CF / MN Heritage Forest parcel addition: No

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Alex Scurto
Title: Senior Project Manager
Organization: Dakota County
Address: 14955 Galaxie Avenue
City: Apple Valley, MN 55124
Email: alex.scurto@co.dakota.mn.us
Office Number: 952-891-7827
Mobile Number: 630-577-7767
Fax Number: 952-891-7588
Website: www.dakotacounty.us

Location Information

County Location(s): Dakota.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Metro / Urban

Southeast Forest

Activity types:

Protect in Easement

Protect in Fee

Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Forest

Habitat

Narrative**Abstract**

This project will restore approximately 800 acres of permanently protected habitats, and acquire approximately 480 acres of permanent conservation easements and/or fee title lands. Project sites include converting cultivated areas to wetlands in the southern two-thirds of the County, and various habitats, including forest, grassland, riparian areas, and other wetlands throughout the County. This initiative includes identified sites and flexibility for opportunities that will arise. This project will allow the County to continue its integrated comprehensive and successful land conservation efforts through its partnership with the LSOHC and others.

Design and Scope of Work

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

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

All permanent easements require Natural Resource Management Plans (NRMPs) that reflect existing ecosystem health and recommend potential restoration management strategies, including workplans and budgets. Initial

implementation is also required, using an adopted public-private funding formula that includes a maintenance component. A Natural Resource Management Agreement (MA) is signed by the landowner and County, identifying NRMP priorities, activities, responsibilities, shared costs, and schedules. The proposed habitat restoration and enhancement projects in this funding request are based on these workplans. This project has direct benefits to fish, game, and wildlife, beyond increased and interconnected habitat. The Plan introduces new tools to measure restoration success through the Five-Star Ecological Recovery Reference System Attributes, Goals and Measures, and an adapted Ecological Recovery Wheel that can be used to visually depict the restorative status of a site.

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

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

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

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

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

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

parcels, soils, aspect, historical photography, and LiDAR. Project selection criteria have been revised to reflect this refined vision, and further refinements will occur as up-to-date information and data are collected. The County's new Land Conservation Plan reflects the most current data and information available and identifies 24 primary Conservation Focus Areas and several additional sub-areas, based on existing water resources, other natural habitats and existing protected land where the County plans to target resources.

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

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

H1 Protect priority land habitats

H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which two other plans are addressed in this program?

Minnesota's Wildlife Management Area Acquisition - The Next 50 Years

Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this program?

Metro / Urban

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

Southeast Forest

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

Outcomes

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

A network of natural land and riparian habitats will connect corridors for wildlife and species in greatest conservation need ~ *The County developed an integrated, long-term habitat protection system involving public and private lands to provide multiple public benefits. Enlarging and improving existing protected habitat complexes and providing key connections will continue to be a focus, with protected acres and shoreline as success indicators. The County will prioritize land protection and improvement efforts, in part, based on wildlife species by devoting staff time and resources to create baseline wildlife and habitat quality information and monitoring*

indicator and other species seasonally/annually to determine if our efforts are producing the desired results over time and to adapt or re-prioritize as appropriate.

Programs in prairie region:

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

Does this program include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

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

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

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

Non-OHF Appropriations

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

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

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

Approximately half the land protection/restoration work will occur on public lands and half on private lands, all designed to achieve maximum, fiscally efficient, conservation benefits. Relationship building, developing and implementing NRMPs and Management Agreements, and annual monitoring, provide opportunities to share updated natural resource information and best management practices with landowners, and achieve a higher

likelihood of increased private stewardship. The Natural Resource Management System Plan, using a public/private cost-share formula, is further testament to this commitment. This comprehensive wildlife habitat and water quality approach on public and private lands provides the best opportunity to effectively protect and improve these community assets.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2026	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years
2025	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years
2024	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects and use adaptive management for future restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years
2023	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years
2022	State, County, landowner or other project partner contribution	Restore and enhance existing and newly protected lands, and acquire easements and/or fee title	Monitor easements and restoration projects, and use adaptive management for restoration and enhancement activities	Monitor required landowner maintenance of restored areas over at least the next three years

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

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

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Yes

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

No

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

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

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

Who will manage the easement?

Dakota County, jointly with the landowner.

Who will be the easement holder?

Dakota County

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

12-16

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?

Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

WMA

SNA

AMA

Permanently Protected Conservation Easements

County/Municipal

Public Waters

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, 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:

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

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing?

Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:

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

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

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

Yes

Describe any variation from the State of Minnesota regulations:

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

Who will eventually own the fee title land?

State of MN

County

Local Unit of Government

Land acquired in fee will be designated as a:

WMA

AMA

SNA

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

Other : County Park Conservation Area

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

8-15

Will the eased land be open for public use?

Yes

Describe the expected public use:

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

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

Yes

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

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

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

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

Yes

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

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

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

Yes

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

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

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished?

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

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

Yes

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

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

Yes

Timeline

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

Date of Final Report Submission: 11/01/2027

Availability of Appropriation: Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

(a) Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated to acquire land in fee may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:

(1) money appropriated for acquiring real property is available until June 30, 2026;

(2) money appropriated for restoring and enhancing land acquired with an appropriation in this act is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2030;

(3) money appropriated for restoring or enhancing other land is available until June 30, 2027;

(4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and

(5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

Budget

Budget reallocations up to 10% do not require an amendment to the Accomplishment Plan.

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	\$510,000	Dakota County	\$510,000
Contracts	\$2,653,900 \$3,937,300	\$419,000	Dakota County	\$3,072,900 \$4,356,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	\$3,362,100 \$2,077,700	\$756,000	Dakota County	\$4,118,100 \$2,833,700
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	\$50,000	-	-	\$50,000
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$1,000	-	-	\$1,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$6,066,000	\$1,685,000	-	\$7,751,000

Personnel

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

Amount of Request: \$6,066,000

Amount of Leverage: \$1,685,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 27.78%

DSS + Personnel: -

As a % of the total request: 0.0%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 0.0% -

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

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

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

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

Does this project have the ability to be scalable?

Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

The scaling may not proportionately reduce acres and activities, because with a voluntary program, County staff can't anticipate what project applications will be received, and which ones will move forward to completion. If this proposal is scaled back, County staff can only anticipate lower acreages and lesser activities.

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

The scaling may not proportionately reduce personnel and DDS expenses, because with a voluntary program, County staff can't anticipate what project applications will be received, and which ones will move forward to completion. It's possible that many smaller projects could take the place of fewer larger projects.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

Habitat restoration costs.

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	<u>0 21</u>	<u>69 154</u>	<u>229 430</u>	<u>521 919</u>	<u>819 1,524</u>
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	0	-	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	27	5	10	5	47
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>27 48</u>	<u>74 159</u>	<u>239 440</u>	<u>526 924</u>	<u>866 1,571</u>

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	<u>\$44,400</u>	<u>\$86,500</u>	<u>\$601,700</u>	<u>\$1,965,700</u>	<u>\$2,653,900</u>
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	<u>\$3,311,700</u>	<u>\$37,500</u>	<u>\$49,200</u>	<u>\$13,700</u>	<u>\$3,412,100</u>
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>\$3,311,700</u>	<u>\$124,000</u>	<u>\$650,900</u>	<u>\$1,979,400</u>	<u>\$6,066,000</u>
	<u>\$2,072,700</u>	<u>\$601,100</u>	<u>\$1,437,800</u>	<u>\$1,954,400</u>	

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	<u>799 1,445</u>	-	<u>20 79</u>	-	-	<u>819 1,524</u>
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	0	-	-	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	-	0	-	-	0
Protect in Easement	47	-	0	-	-	47
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>846 1,492</u>	-	<u>20 79</u>	-	-	<u>866 1,571</u>

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	<u>\$2,642,300</u>	-	<u>\$11,600</u>	-	-	<u>\$2,653,900</u>
	<u>\$3,760,000</u>		<u>\$177,300</u>			<u>\$3,937,300</u>
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	<u>\$3,412,100</u>	-	-	-	-	<u>\$3,412,100</u>
	<u>\$2,128,700</u>					<u>\$2,128,700</u>
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>\$6,054,400</u>	-	<u>\$11,600</u>	-	-	<u>\$6,066,000</u>
	<u>\$5,888,700</u>		<u>\$177,300</u>			

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	<u>\$2,114</u>	<u>\$1,253 \$3,659</u>	<u>\$2,627 \$3,229</u>	<u>\$3,772 \$2,111</u>
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	<u>\$122,655 \$75,122</u>	<u>\$7,500</u>	<u>\$4,920</u>	<u>\$2,740</u>
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	\$3,307 <u>\$2,602</u>	-	\$580 <u>\$2,244</u>	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	\$72,597 <u>\$45,291</u>	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

No

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

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

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

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

Restore / Enhance Parcels

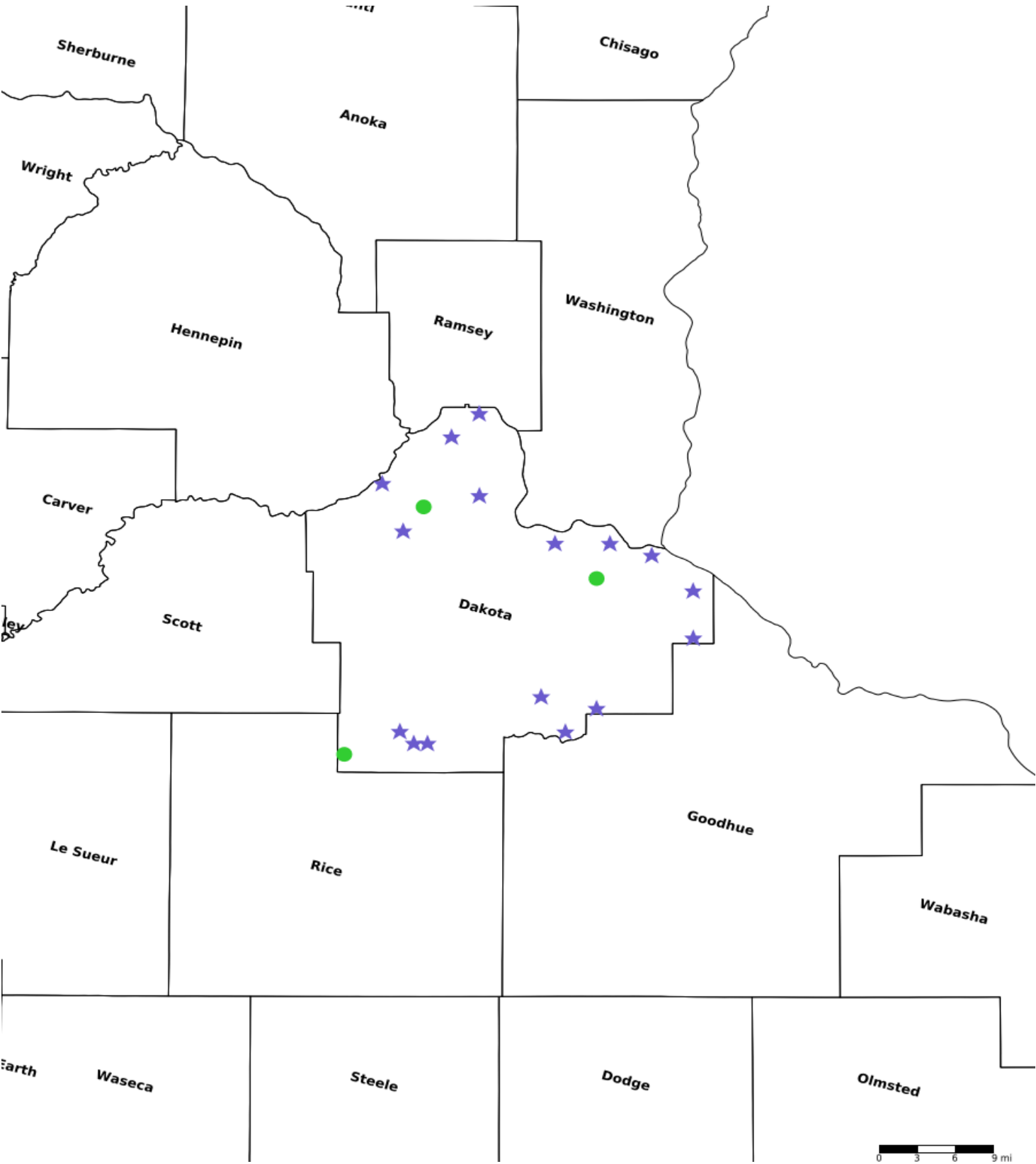
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Benjamin	Dakota	11517220	32	\$262,700	Yes	Restored prairie along Mississippi River
Betzler	Dakota	11416232	3	\$41,100 <u>\$26,100</u>	Yes	Forest
City County Conservation Collaborative	Dakota	02723218	220 <u>553</u>	\$1,176,000 <u>\$1,256,700</u>	Yes	Various habitats - forest, grassland, riparian
<u>Dodge Nature Center NRMP</u>	<u>Dakota</u>	<u>02823225</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Private Easement - Mixed Habitat</u>
Gores Pool WMA	Dakota	11517226	21	\$61,900	Yes	Riparian river bottoms - Mississippi River
Grannis	Dakota	02722220	23	\$68,400	Yes	Forested Marcott Lake lakeshore
Haskell Street	Dakota	02822217	1	\$21,200 <u>\$18,900</u>	Yes	Oak grassland
Lake Byllesby	Dakota	11218211	40 <u>144</u>	\$199,500 <u>\$315,900</u>	Yes	Forest/grassland areas adjacent to lake
McCullough	Dakota	11416208	35	\$66,600	Yes	Restored prairie, woods, shrubland
Neumann-Callister	Dakota	11317231	7	\$83,950	Yes	Riparian area along Pine Creek
Ruppe	Dakota	11220211	20	\$51,200	Yes	Riparian area along Chub Creek
Sharing Our Roots	Dakota	11220213	38	\$97,700	Yes	Riparian area along Mud Creek, wetlands

Sipe-Schumacher	Dakota	11318228	20	\$38,700 \$22,700	Yes	Forest and restored prairie
Spring Lake Park Reserve	Dakota	11518222	205 202	\$889,500 \$1,231,700	Yes	Mississippi River/Spring Lake shoreline and forest
<u>West Lebanon Hills</u>	<u>Dakota</u>	<u>11520214</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>\$300,000</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>County Parkland - Forest/Prairie</u>
<u>Wicklund (Chub Creek PCA)</u>	<u>Dakota</u>	<u>11219218</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>\$57,800</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>County Park Conservation Area - Forest, Prairie, Wetland Complex</u>
Pylkas	Dakota	02722220	3	\$36,000	Yes	Forest

Easement Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Bauer	Dakota	11417206	6	\$45,032	No
Carlson	Dakota	02723227	1	\$19,669	No
Coughlin	Dakota	11220219	40	\$110,000	No

Parcel Map



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