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## **1978 to 1991 Dodge Nature Center Interpretive Naturalist and Program Manager**

- Teaching and facilitating 40,000 student visits and 10,000 adult and family program participants per year
- Supervising ten staff and fifty adult volunteers

## **1991 to 1998 Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Environmental Program Manager**

- Development of first, comprehensive Environmental Policy for the Park Board
- Developing and implementing the master plan and improvements for Cedar Lake Park and Trail and Loring Park
- Development and implementation of a system-wide reduced mowing initiative and off-leash dog exercise area program
- Management of the J.D. Rivers Outdoor Discovery Center and Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden
- Management or Involvement in the following LCMR projects:
  - Urban Rangers
  - Multi-use Urban Green Space Project
  - Cedar Lake Trail
  - Longfellow House Interpretive Center

## **1998 to 2003 MN DNR Metro Greenways Coordinator**

- Provided \$1 million in 50:50 matching funds for planning projects involved over 70 partners in 60 cities and towns in the metro region
- Secured and expended \$10M of state funds that leveraged an additional \$17M of non-state funds for land protection and restoration throughout the region
- Project Manager several LCMR-funded Metro Greenways allocations and the Initial Metro Wildlife (now Conservation) Corridors project

## **2003 to Present Dakota County Land Conservation Manager**

- Expended or committed over \$18M of County funds to permanently protect more than 8,700 acres with a value of \$75 million as an outcome of two successive LCMR-funded projects in 1999 and 2001.
- Program Manager for 2008 LCCMR “Vermillion River Corridor Acquisition and Restoration in Dakota County” project to develop comprehensive plan, acquire a minimum of 156 acres and restore 70 acres.

## Organization Description

Dakota County is Local Government Unit bordered by the Minnesota, Mississippi and Cannon Rivers with almost the entire Vermillion River located within in its boundaries. Nearly 400,000 people live in the county that that is comprised of 14 fully developed and rapidly developing suburbs; six small, rural towns; and 13 mostly rural townships.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Subd: 04i3.1**

**Project Title:** 3.1 - MeCC 6 - TPL's Critical Land Protection Program

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 500,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

**Other Non-State Funds (secured):** \$ 0

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**Summary:**

Strategic acquisition of an estimated 30 acres of high quality habitat and approximately 0.3 miles of shoreline in scientifically evaluated wildlife corridors within the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

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**Name:** Becca Nash

**Sponsoring Organization:** The Trust for Public Land

**Address:** 2610 University Ave W, Ste 300

Saint Paul MN 55407

**Telephone Number:** 651-999-5325

**Email** becca.nash@tpl.org

**Web Ad** www.tpl.org

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**Location:**

**Region:** Metro

**Ecological Section:** Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

**County Name:** Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright

**City / Township:**

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# 2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE:** TPL's Critical Land Protection Program- MeCC VI 2011

## I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The proposed project includes strategic acquisition of an estimated 30 acres of high quality habitat and approximately 0.3 miles of shoreline in scientifically evaluated wildlife corridors within the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. ENRTF dollars will leverage additional funds to approximately double the acres and miles protected with ENRTF dollars alone. An estimated 255,000 acres of high quality natural lands (MNDNR 2003) remain in the seven county metro area and only 32% is currently protected by DNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service, or as regional parks or nature preserves.

The goal of this effort is to protect portions of the remaining high quality land and water habitat that can provide as many benefits as possible. Benefits include: resilience of animal and plant populations (including "Species in Greatest Conservation Need") to climate change by focusing work within migration/connectivity corridors; protection of our lakes, rivers, streams and the quality of our ground water; and access for "close to home" outdoor recreation, study, and quiet enjoyment where nearly 60% of the state's population lives. Land acquisitions also contribute to the state and region's economic vitality by injecting cash into the marketplace, by triggering deed tax revenues to the state, by attracting additional funds from non-state sources, and by providing jobs to the professionals involved in the process including environmental consultants, closers and title insurers, surveyors, appraisers, etc. All lands acquired will be priorities as demonstrated through adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans.

The economic recession has provided some once-in-a-lifetime unique opportunities: landowners previously not interested in selling are now motivated and land prices have fallen so that properties are now available at a fraction of the price in other times. This effort aims to focus on those unique opportunities as well as to continue building on past work accomplished through previous years ENRTF funding.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

**Activity 1:** Strategic acquisition of fee title lands in the greater Twin Cities Metro Area     **Budget:** \$ 500,000

Acquire land in fee title and convey it into public ownership for stewardship and protection. Following is a list of the lands that may be acquired in part with funding from this request. TPL will work with the long-term steward to ensure a restoration and management plan is developed and that funding is identified for long-term stewardship.

### ***Unique/Once-in-a-lifetime Opportunities***

Savage Fen SNA additions: A significant amount of land has become available for acquisition and at possibly half of its pre-economic downturn value. Acquired land would provide protection to existing Scientific and Natural Area lands as well as to currently unprotected sugar maple-basswood forests, seepage meadow, fen, and alkaline seeps and spring—all within the Minnesota River Valley. Acquisition will also entail provision of a multi-use trail through an existing disturbed corridor. Signage will be placed along corridor to educate the public about the unique landforms found here and about the cultural history of the area. Protection is supported through local and regional plans.

Lindstrom Natural Area: In southern Chisago County, TPL is working with the City of Lindstrom and multiple landowners to protect lakeshore and high quality forested lands designated by the DNR as "regionally significant ecological areas." This is the second and last phase of an effort that has been

made possible by the down economy and which includes protection of 5,497 feet of lakeshore and habitat for species in greatest need of conservation such as red shouldered hawk, bald eagle, and Blanding’s turtles. Protection is supported in local, regional, and state plans.

Rum River-Boy Scouts: In west-central Anoka County, TPL is working with the landowners and the City of Ramsey to protect a 160+ acre patch of regionally significant ecological lands including river shoreline, wetlands, forests and prairie habitat. Acquisition would provide protection of these resources as well as access to the Wild and Scenic Rum River, which is also a state designated canoe route.

***Building on Past Accomplishments***

St. Croix Valley (Franconia- Scandia SNA): TPL is building on its past successful acquisitions with the DNR’s Scientific and Natural Areas Program to protect more critical habitat in this important ecological corridor as defined by DNR’s Division of Ecological Services. Acquisitions will be targeted toward lands of high biodiversity significance and to sensitive ravines that impact the water quality leading into the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Protection here is supported by local, state, and federal plans.

Pike Lake II: Building on its past successful acquisition of 30 acres for a natural area, TPL is again working with the City of Prior Lake to acquire land to extend this habitat corridor along the shoreline of pristine Pike Lake. Acquisition of this land is critical for protecting wildlife (including nesting bald eagles), for protecting water quality, and for providing the public an opportunity to enjoy nature nearby in this rapidly growing area of the metro.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Approx. 30 acres of high quality habitat and 0.3 miles of shoreline protected through fee title acquisition	6/30/2013

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners**

This proposal is part of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership, which is an effort among 10 non-profit conservation organizations and public agencies to target limited resources to shared priorities (i.e. within scientifically determined conservation corridors) within the metro area. Further, the Partnership aims to coordinate on provision of a full range of conservation tools and expertise where needed, including fee acquisition, easement acquisition, and restoration & enhancement activities.

In addition to partnering with the core Metro Conservation Corridor organizations, TPL will partner with towns, townships, SWCDs, Watershed Districts, lakeshore associations, citizen groups etc. in order to accomplish the outcomes stated above. TPL will work closely with the private landowner and public agency to which TPL will transfer the land and which will serve as the long-term steward of the land TPL purchases using ENRTF funds. When TPL transfers interests in land to a long-term steward, TPL will donate to the land steward the land value of the ENRTF funds.

**B. Timeline Requirements**

2 Years, until June 30, 2013.

**C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

This proposal is a component of a larger and longer-term effort of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership, begun in 2003, to accelerate the protection and restoration of critical habitat in the broader Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, a 16-county area that is expanding with the result of land and water habitat fragmentation, degradation, loss and and permanent conversion to urban uses. MeCC will continue its work as long as critical habitat that needs to be protected remains unprotected and in danger of degradation and loss.

## 2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET two years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> Funds will be used to purchase approximately 30 acres of high quality habitat and 0.3 miles of shoreline in fee title in the greater Twin Cities Metro Area. The land will be transferred to a local, state, or federal agency for permanent stewardship. Please see attached land acquisition list for more details	\$ 490,000
DNR acquisition costs	5,000
Baseline report, management plan, initial site development plan	5,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Various local, federal, and private funds	\$ 250,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Various bonding, and/or Clean Water, Land, and Legacy funds	\$ 250,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b>		
<b>2009 Metro Conservation Corridors (\$380,000 appropriated)</b>	\$ 380,000	<i>Spent</i>
<b>2010 Metro Conservation Corridors (\$890,000 appropriated)</b>	\$ 338,000	<i>Spent</i>
	\$ 552,000	<i>Committed</i>
<b>Funding History:</b>		
2005: \$620,000 ETF + \$1,664,000 other funds	\$ 2,284,000	Spent
2007: \$420,000 ETF + \$2,320,000 other funds	\$ 2,740,000	Spent
2008: \$475,000 ETF + \$2,215,000 other funds	\$ 2,690,000	Spent
2009: \$380,000 ETF + \$992,000 other funds	\$ 1,372,000	Spent

## 2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

**Project Title:** TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program

**Project Manager Name:** Becca Nash

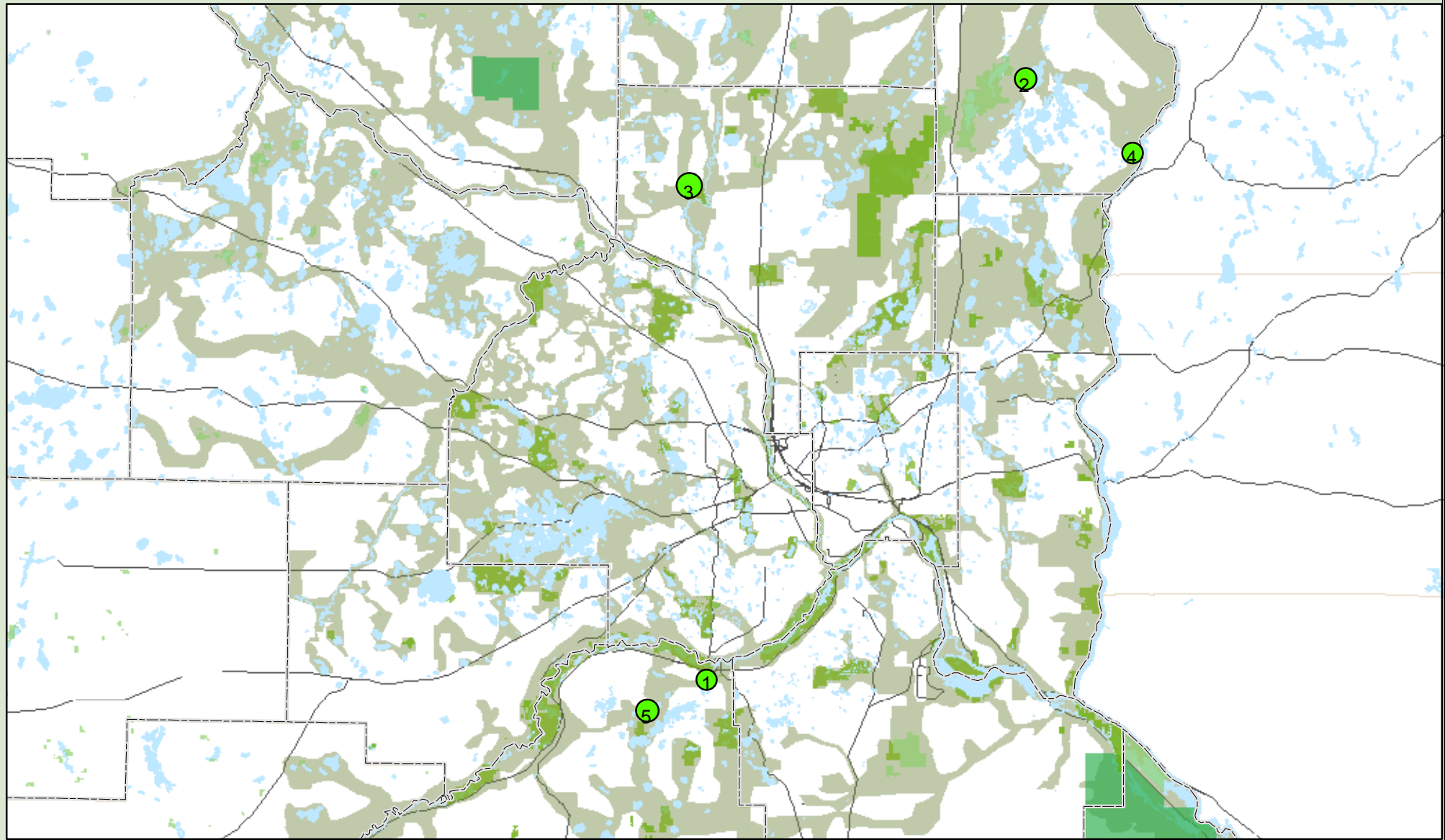
**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request:** \$500,000

**Final Title Holder(s):** Various, including SNA, City of Lindstrom, City of Ramsey, National Park Service, and the City of Prior Lake

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)				Status
					Latitude	Longitude	UTM-X	UTM-Y	
1	Savage Fen SNA additions	Fee title	Scott	3.75	44 46'2 N	93 22'6. W			Negotiations with landowner underway
2	Lindstrom Natural Area	Fee title	Chisago	5	45 24'10. N	92 49'56.W			Negotiations with landowners underway
3	Rum River-Boy Scouts	Fee title	Anoka	8	45 17'24. N	93 22'30.W			Potential Project
4	Franconia-Scandia SNA	Fee title	Chisago	7.5	45 20'14. N	92 42'36.W			Potential Project
5	Pike Lake II	Fee title	Scott	6.25	44 45'9. N	93 25'51.W			Potential Project
Estimated Total				30.5					

**NOTES:**

Parcel Name	Final title holder
Savage Fen SNA additions	DNR- SNA
Lindstrom Natural Area	City of Lindstrom
Rum River-Boy Scouts	City of Ramsey
Franconia-Scandia SNA	DNR- SNA
Pike Lake II	City of Prior Lake



## TPL's Critical Land Protection Program- MeCC VI 2011 Focus Areas

### Legend

- County Boundary
- Metro\_Parks
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Scientific and Natural Areas
- NWR\_NFWS
- Metro Conservation Corridors

- (1) Savage Fen SNA Additions
- (2) Lindstrom Natural Area
- (3) Rum River- Boy Scouts
- (4) Franconia Scandia SNA
- (5) Pike Lake II

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**AGENDA ITEM: 06a**



**Becca Nash**

Becca Nash, Project Manager with The Trust for Public Land, leads conservation real estate and conservation finance work throughout the state of Minnesota. She manages all aspects of real estate transactions including initial research and outreach; negotiating contracts; advocating for and securing financing; and coordinating due diligence work. Prior to her work at TPL, Becca coordinated studies funded by the EPA for the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She has a B.S. in biology from the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Subd: 04i3.2**

**Project Title:** 3.2 - MeCC 6 - Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 400,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

**Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$** 0

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**Summary:**

To protect 150 acres of critical habitat in the greater metropolitan area by securing permanent conservation easements and dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management, and enforcement of those easements.

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**Name:** Sarah Strommen

**Sponsoring Organization:** Minnesota Land Trust

**Address:** 2356 University Ave W, Ste 240  
Saint Paul MN 55114

**Telephone Number:** 651-647-9590

**Email** sstrommen@mnland.org

**Web Ad** www.mnland.org

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**Location:**

**Region:** Metro

**Ecological Section:** Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

**County Name:** Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright

**City / Township:**

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## 2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE: MeCC 6–3.2 Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements**

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Minnesota Land Trust has worked extensively in the greater Twin Cities area since 1992 to permanently protect natural and scenic lands with an emphasis on using conservation easements. This strategy has been acknowledged by a variety of stakeholders, and in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, as one of the key tools necessary to achieve land conservation goals in a metropolitan area where escalating land values prohibit fee title acquisition of many priority lands.

Our goal is to permanently protect priority lands that contribute to a regional connected network of critical habitat within the greater Twin Cities area and help maintain water quality of some of the region's most important rivers, lakes, and streams. To this end, the Land Trust will work to identify tracts of land within the mapped project areas critical to the protection of habitat and shoreland. In particular, we will focus outreach to landowners along three of the region's Wild and Scenic Rivers – the St. Croix, the Rum, and the Cannon – and prioritize protecting high-quality habitat for a variety of migratory birds and species in greatest conservation need, such as common loon, red-shouldered hawk, northern pintail, bobolink, and wood thrush.

The Land Trust works only with perpetual conservation easements. These easements prohibit land uses or development that negatively affect important habitat and other conservation values, require habitat management plans as appropriate, and direct the use of native vegetation in conjunction with any required restoration. The Land Trust also will explore the potential for public access with landowners on a case-by-case basis. These easements are monitored annually and enforced as necessary under the Land Trust's comprehensive conservation easement monitoring, management, and enforcement program funded in part through our Stewardship and Enforcement Fund. Grant funds may also be requested for our dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund on a project-by-project basis in accordance with our LCCMR-approved policies and procedures. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds from this grant.

Proposed activities under this grant include: 1) contacting and negotiating with interested landowners; 2) drafting and completing conservation easements; 3) documenting property conditions; and 4) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

**Activity 1: Protect Significant Habitat through Conservation Easements Budget: \$400,000**

The Land Trust will protect critical habitat within the mapped corridors with an emphasis on Wild and Scenic River protection by: 1) contacting landowners; 2) negotiating and completing 4-5 permanent conservation easements on 150 acres of land (including documenting property

conditions and creating management plans as appropriate); and 3) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of the easements.

The Land Trust will work primarily with donated easements, purchasing easements when necessary and then at below market value whenever possible. Criteria for determining when a purchase is necessary include landowner ability to donate, connectivity of parcel to other protected lands, and quality of natural resources on the site. Current potential projects are identified on the attached list. New projects will be added as landowners are identified. We will continually evaluate potential projects and pursue those that protect the highest quality habitat and maximize public benefit.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Protect 150 acres by completing 4-5 conservation easements by identifying and contacting landowners, completing all components of conservation easement projects, and dedicating funds for long-term management, monitoring, and enforcement.	June 30, 2013

### III. PROJECT STRATEGY

#### A. Project Team/Partners

The Land Trust is the only entity receiving funds through this request, however, the Land Trust coordinates its work with other Metro Conservation Corridors partners (please see overall proposal for list of project partners) as appropriate. Additionally, our partners include private landowners, as well as various units of state and local government that help in identifying and completing potential projects.

#### B. Timeline Requirements

We anticipate completing the 4-5 conservation easements by June 30, 2013.

#### C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project is part of the Land Trust’s long-term, strategic conservation agenda. The conservation agenda sets out the specific conservation focus of the Minnesota Land Trust. This focus includes natural habitats for wildlife, fish and plants, lakeshores, rivers and streams, and scenic landscapes accessible or visible to the public. The conservation agenda also identifies a suite of critical landscapes throughout the State that embody the natural and cultural features that make Minnesota unique. The Metropolitan Conservation Corridors is one of the Land Trust’s identified critical landscapes – one that addresses the unique conservation challenges that exist in a largely developed area.

The Minnesota Land Trust has a comprehensive easement monitoring and enforcement program directed at preserving the conservation values of protected lands. With each easement accepted, the Minnesota Land Trust will secure the funds necessary to meet our long-term obligations, setting aside funds for each project as necessary to meet future needs.

## 2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

*MeCC6-3.2: Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements*

### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Personnel:</b> Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) and related costs for approximately 1 FTE for 2 years as follows: Conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.75 FTE) and Staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE).	\$ 140,000
<b>Acquisition (Permanent Easements):</b> Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.) to protect up to 150 acres of land.	\$ 182,000
<b>Travel:</b> Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota. \$2700 for mileage reimbursement estimated at \$0.50 per mile and \$300 for meals.	\$ 3,000
<b>Conservation Easement Monitoring, Management, &amp; Enforcement Fund:</b> Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring, managing, and enforcing 4-5 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed. Estimated at \$15,000 per easement.	\$ 75,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 400,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> \$500,000 - These other funds represent an estimate of the potential value of easements donated to the Land Trust under this project. The value of donated easements is difficult to predict, but we believe we can achieve at least one million dollars in leverage.	\$ 500,000	Pending, dependent upon actual projects completed
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Unknown at this time.	Unknown	
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> While the Land Trust does not itemize the specific value of in-kind services, substantial amounts of unreimbursable staff time and overhead are required to complete land protection projects with ENRTF funding.	Unknown	
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b> Metro Corridors 2008: No funds remaining - grant completed. Metro Corridors 2009: \$214,000. Metro Corridors 2010: \$322,000	\$ 536,000	Remaining funds are committed to projects
<b>Funding History:</b> Metro Corridors 2005: \$230,000; 2007: \$134,000; 2008: \$225,000; 2009: \$250,000. These values represent past Trust Fund appropriations to prior phases of this project. They do not include donated value of easements or funds from other sources spent on projects completed or expected to be completed under these grants. Outdoor Heritage Fund 2009: Bluffland Prairie Protection (partial overlapping geography): \$500,000; Outdoor Heritage Fund 2010: Valley Creek \$838,000	\$ 839,000	Total includes MeCC funding only

**AGENDA ITEM: 08a**

## 2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

**Project Title:** MeCC6-3.2: Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements

**Project Manager Name:** Sarah Strommen

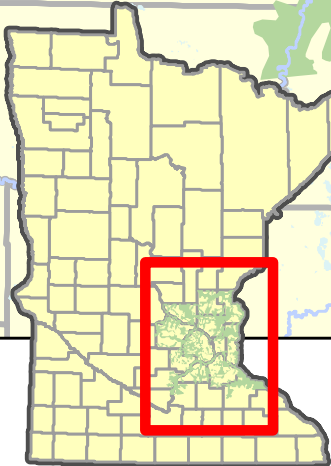
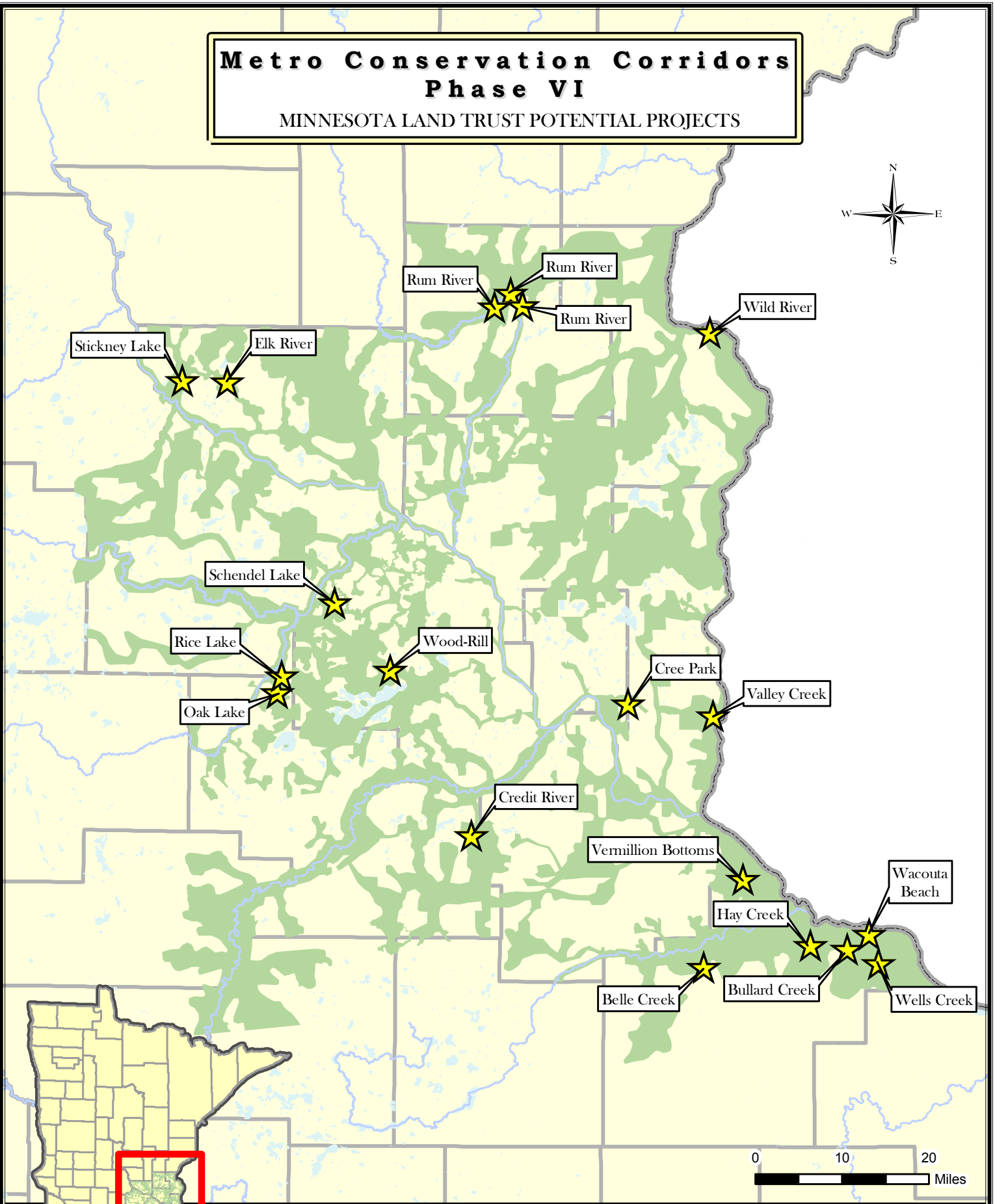
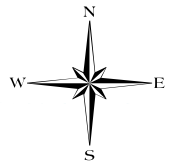
**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request:** \$400,000

**Final Easement Holder(s):** Minnesota Land Trust

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)				Status
					Latitude	Longitude	UTM-X	UTM-Y	
1	Rum River	Conservation Easement	Isanti	36			476605	5049201	Potential project
2	Rum River	Conservation Easement	Isanti	65			481789	5049392	Potential project
3	Rum River	Conservation Easement	Isanti	40			479612	5051732	Potential project
4	Elk River	Conservation Easement	Sherburne	128			427213	5035394	Negotiations underway
5	Stickney Lake	Conservation Easement	Sherburne	600			418835	5035544	Negotiations underway
6	Schendel Lake	Conservation Easement	Hennepin	TBD			447080	4994399	Potential project
7	Wood-Rill	Conservation Easement	Hennepin	20			457290	4981950	Potential project
8	Cree Park	Conservation Easement	Washington	10			501414	4975686	Negotiations underway
9	Valley Creek	Conservation Easement	Washington	TBD			517082	4973532	Negotiations underway
10	Wild River	Conservation Easement	Chisago	10			516538	5044459	Potential project
11	Rice Lake	Conservation Easement	Wright	128			437261	4980942	Negotiations underway
12	Oak Lake	Conservation Easement	Carver	106			436427	4977756	Negotiations underway
13	Credit River	Conservation Easement	Scott	22			472326	4951410	Negotiations underway
14	Belle Creek	Conservation Easement	Goodhue	80			515393	4926932	Potential project
15	Bullard Creek	Conservation Easement	Goodhue	60			541896	4930355	Potential project
16	Hay Creek	Conservation Easement	Goodhue	140			535096	4931044	Potential project
17	Vermillion Bottoms	Conservation Easement	Goodhue	500			522675	4943287	Potential project
18	Wacouta Beach	Conservation Easement	Goodhue	16			545940	4933111	Potential project
19	Wells Creek	Conservation Easement	Goodhue	57			547650	4927714	Negotiations underway
<p><b>NOTES:</b> This is a list of projects the Minnesota Land Trust currently is considering. Other projects may be added to the list as new landowners are identified and contacted. Some projects on this list will not be completed, while other projects may be completed under prior phases of this program.</p>									

# Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VI

MINNESOTA LAND TRUST POTENTIAL PROJECTS



Metro Conservation Corridors

Minnesota Land Trust Potential Projects



**AGENDA ITEM 08a**



**Minnesota Land Trust**  
*Our land. Our water. Our future.*  
*Some things should be forever.*

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**Minnesota Land Trust Organizational Overview**

The Minnesota Land Trust preserves Minnesota's natural and scenic heritage through public and private partnerships. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Minnesota Land Trust has been working with landowners and local communities since 1991 through the following three strategies:

- **PROTECT:** Directly protecting land through conservation easements, land acquisition and effective land management.
- **ASSIST:** Providing agencies, communities and organizations with assistance in planning and delivering on-the-ground conservation in order to expand the State's overall capacity.
- **ENGAGE:** Helping to foster a culture of conservation, to support enhanced conservation legislation and funding, and to ensure the state has highly-skilled, trained professionals.

As a statewide land trust, the Minnesota Land Trust has created a regional structure to deliver its programs effectively at a local level, with offices in Duluth, Ely, Red Wing and St. Paul. The Land Trust was one of first land trusts in the country to be accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and has also been recognized by the Charities Review Council as meeting all of its standards.

With a conservation focus on protecting Minnesota's natural and scenic lands—particularly its renowned lakes, rivers and streams—the Land Trust has completed 398 land protection projects, permanently protecting more than 35,000 acres and more than 700,000 feet of shoreline and aquatic resources.

**Project Manager Qualifications**

The Minnesota Land Trust employs 10 staff, relies on the skills of nearly 100 dedicated volunteers, and is governed by an active 17-member Board of Directors.

Sarah Strommen serves as the Conservation Director for the Land Trust's central region. Sarah joined the Land Trust staff in October 2005 and is responsible for developing and implementing the Land Trust's programs in the eleven-county greater metropolitan area and the counties to the west and north. Prior to joining the Land Trust, Sarah served as the Policy Director for the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. She also recently served on the State's Clean Water Council and on the City Council for the City of Ramsey, where her duties included being the Council's liaison to the City's Environmental Policy Board and the Lower Rum River WMO. Sarah has a bachelor's degree in Biology from Grinnell College and a master's degree in Environmental Management from Duke University. She also was a Fulbright Scholar in Costa Rica, where she investigated sustainable development and bird conservation.

**Other Project Staff**

Nancy Kafka joined the Minnesota Land Trust staff in May 2008. As the Conservation Director for the southern region, she is responsible for overseeing the Land Trust's conservation activities in the Mississippi Blufflands and surrounding areas in southeastern Minnesota as well as in other areas throughout southern Minnesota. Nancy returned to Minnesota after nearly 30 years living and working in New England, most recently as the senior program director in the Parks for People program at the Trust for Public Land's Boston office. Nancy graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in Housing.

















## **AMA Description**

Aquatic management areas (AMAs) may be established to protect, develop, and manage lakes, rivers, streams, and adjacent wetlands and lands that are critical for fish and other aquatic life, for water quality, and for their intrinsic biological value, public fishing, or other compatible outdoor recreational uses. MS 86A.05 Subd. 14(a)

### **Guiding Principles**

- Conserve critical shoreline habitat for all fish and wildlife species
- Conserve vital fish spawning and rearing areas
- Provide angling and management access corridors on trout and warm-water streams
- Provide non-motorized angler access on lakes and streams
- Preserve examples of healthy shoreline habitats as maps for future restoration of disturbed sites.

### **Project Manager Qualifications**

#### **Mike Halverson, Project Manager**

Mike Halverson is a 33-year employee of the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. Twelve years were spent doing Fisheries fieldwork in SW Minnesota, eleven years as an Aquatic Plant Management Specialist in the Metro Region, and the past 10 years as statewide Fish & Wildlife Land Acquisition Coordinator.

Mike has a BS degree in Biology from Mankato State University. Accomplishments throughout his career have been centered around aquatic habitat.