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2003 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2006

FINAL REPORT**TITLE:** Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors, Restore Significant Habitat - 2.3 Great River Greening 05(b)**PROJECT MANAGER:** Wiley Buck**ORGANIZATION:** Great River Greening**ADDRESS:** 35 W. Water St., St. Paul MN 55107**WEB SITE ADDRESS:** www.greatrivergreening.org**FUND:** The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (Trust Fund)**LEGAL CITATION:** ML 2003, Article 1, Chap.128, Sec. 9, Subd. 05b**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$124,000**Overall Project Outcome and Results

The majority of Greening's 11 projects in the Metro Wildlife Corridors priority focus area included restoration of some of the most significant ecological areas in the metro area, including remnant dry prairies, large floodplain and hardwood forests, exemplary restored oak savannas, river bluffs and river shoreline. These projects enhanced habitat for at least six populations of state-listed species. Greening's projects also included important natural areas that are integral to local communities, including city parks and an elementary school. This restoration work engaged hundreds of community volunteers in native plantings and invasive species removal.

Greening's restoration sites were the West Side Bluffs, St. Paul; Louisville Swamp, Jordan; North Mississippi Regional Park, Minneapolis; Flint Hills Refinery, Rosemount; Rum River Drive, Ham Lake; Arcola Mills Historic Foundation, Stillwater; OH Anderson Elementary, Mahtomedi; Carver Rapids Wayside, Jordan; Geske Farm Prairie, Belle Plaine; Hidden Valley Park, Savage; and River Park, Brooklyn Park.

In total, Great River Greening restored 0.10 mile of shoreline and 239 acres of high quality natural areas at 11 different sites. More than 650 volunteers contributed to these restorations, putting in over 1300 hours of volunteer labor. Over 1660 trees and shrubs and over 6700 grasses and flowers were planted, and non-native invasive species were removed from 220 acres.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Great River Greening lists projects, techniques and community volunteer events on its website, www.greatrivergreening.org, highlights projects and events in its newsletter (circulation 4000), monthly e-postcard (circulation 1900), event brochure and flyers, and press releases. Projects are typically collaborations with partners that foster exchange of information on techniques, strategies, and priorities, and often engage community volunteers, building community capacity and understanding of restoration and the importance of natural areas. Where possible, we work with partners to continue stewardship beyond state funding with volunteers, employees, and other community members.

LCMR 2003 Work Program FINAL REPORT

Date of Report: August 1, 2006
Title: LCMR Final Work Program Report
Date of Next Status Report: na
Date of Work program Approval: June 19, 2003
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2006

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors, Restore Significant Habitat - 2.3
Great River Greening 05(b)

Priority areas: (5) Upper Mississippi River, (6) Lower Mississippi River and (10) Minnesota River Valley

Project Manager: Wiley Buck
Affiliation: Great River Greening
Mailing Address: 35 West Water Street, Suite #201
City / State / Zip: Saint Paul, MN 55107
Telephone Number: 651/665-9500
E-mail Address: wbuck@greatrivergreening.org
FAX Number: 651/665-9409
Web Page address: www.greatrivergreening.org

Total Biennial LCMR Project Budget:	LCMR Appropriation:	\$ 124,000.00
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$ 123,935.02
	Equal Balance:	\$ 64.98

Legal Citation: ML 2003, Article 1, Chap.128, Sec. 9, Subd. 05b.

Appropriation Language: (b) Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors \$2,425,000 the first year and \$2,425,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources. ~~\$3,700,000~~ \$3,550,000 of this appropriation is for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements with the Trust for Public Land; Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, Minnesota Land Trust, and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., for the purposes of planning, improving, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan region, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee acquisition. \$500,000 of this appropriation is for an agreement with the city of Ramsey for the Trott Brook Corridor acquisition. \$800,000 of this appropriation is for an agreement with the Rice Creek Watershed District for Hardwood Creek acquisition and restoration. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. As part of the required work program, criteria and priorities

for planned acquisition and restoration activities must be submitted to the legislative commission on Minnesota resources for review and approval before expenditure. Expenditures are limited to the identified project areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of residential structures unless expressly approved in the work program. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated: (1) as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07; or (2) as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 89.018, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); 97A.101; 97A.125; 97C.001; and 97C.011. The commissioner may so designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2006, at which time the project must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the work program.

II and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

The majority of Greening's 11 projects in the Metro Wildlife Corridors priority focus area included restoration of some of the most significant ecological areas in the metro area, including remnant dry prairies, large floodplain and hardwood forests, exemplary restored oak savannas, river bluffs and river shoreline. These projects enhanced habitat for at least six populations of state-listed species. Greening's projects also included important natural areas that are integral to local communities, including city parks and an elementary school. This restoration work engaged hundreds of community volunteers in native plantings and invasive species removal.

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In total, Great River Greening restored 0.10 mile of shoreline and 239 acres of high quality natural areas at 11 different sites. More than 650 volunteers contributed to these restorations, putting in over 1300 hours of volunteer labor. Over 1660 trees and shrubs and over 6700 grasses and flowers were planted, and non-native invasive species were removed from 220 acres.

Great River Greening lists projects, techniques and community volunteer events on its website, www.greatrivergreening.org, highlights projects and events in its newsletter (circulation 4000), monthly e-postcard (circulation 1900), event brochure and flyers, and press releases. Projects are typically collaborations with partners that foster exchange of information on techniques, strategies, and priorities, and often engage community volunteers, building community capacity and understanding of restoration and the importance of natural areas. Where possible, we work with partners to continue stewardship beyond state funding with volunteers, employees, and other community members.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Restore Significant Habitat

Description: Greening anticipates to restore 180 acres of natural habitat. Plant communities that could be restored are prairie, oak forests, oak savannas and floodplain forest in any of the twelve listed focus areas. Greening anticipates to assist MVT Inc. with restoration of 100 acres for a total of 280 acres

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:	LCMR Budget	\$ 124,000
	Balance	\$ 65

Final Report Summary:

With the completion of three projects in the past six months (River Park, Arcola Mills, and additional sweet clover control work at Geske Praire), Greening has completed 11 restoration projects in this phase of Metro Wildlife Corridors.

Great River Greening sites and projects were:

1. West Side Bluffs, St. Paul. 53 volunteers cleared 3 acres of buckthorn.
2. North Mississippi Regional Park, Minneapolis. 5400 flowers and grasses were put in by 120 volunteers.
3. Louisville Swamp, Jordan. 35 acres of exotic woody removal, involving nearly 100 volunteers.
4. Carver Rapids, Jordan. 135 acres of low-density buckthorn removal, demonstrating best practice, at this site with exceptional plant diversity.
5. Geske Prairie, Belle Plaine. Invasive removal and prescribed fire on four acres of savanna and the best remaining dry prairie in Scott County, harboring a population of kitten-tails.
6. Flint Hills Resources, Rosemount. Controlled savanna burn at this site as part of a much larger restoration.
7. Rum River Drive, Ham Lake. Erosion control and native plantings on steep river shoreline after buckthorn removal.
8. Hidden Valley Park, Savage. Restoration on five acres of high quality dry prairie, including extensive sumac control, at this site harboring kitten-tails and Hill's thistle.
9. OH Anderson Elementary, Mahtomedi. A three acre prairie reconstruction at the school forest, involving parents, teachers, staff and students.
10. Arcola Mills, Stillwater. Buckthorn, black locust, honeysuckle, and oak wilt were controlled on 40 acres, and 150 white pine planted at this forested riverfront site bisected by spring-fed streams and home to cattail sedge, American ginseng, and Louisiana waterthrush.
11. River Park, Brooklyn Park. Thousands of shrubs, trees, flowers and grasses were planted by over 270 volunteers spanning three volunteer events.

In total, Great River Greening restored 0.10 mile of shoreline and 239 acres of high quality natural areas at 11 different sites. More than 650 volunteers contributed to these restorations,

putting in over 1300 hours of volunteer labor. Over 1660 trees and shrubs and over 6700 grasses and flowers were planted, and non-native invasive species were removed from 220 acres. Over \$100,000 of non-state funds were leveraged.

V. TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET:

All Results: Personnel: \$50,979.07

All Results: Contracts (Contract work would include seeding, planting, larger scale invasive removal, prescribe burning, hauling, chipping, site prep work): \$7,600

All Results: Other (mileage, permits, vehicle): \$4,446.72

All Results: Equipment/tools (field supplies, chemicals, plant/seeds): \$60,954.97

All Results: Communications: \$19.24

All Results: Office Supplies: \$ 0.00

TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 124,000.00

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: Field supplies consists of expendable items such as; chainsaw supplies, chaps and helmets, pesticide chemicals, pesticide bottles, gloves, safety glasses, pin flags, flagging tape, stakes, plant material and seed, and other expendable items that will be worn out or continued to be used for restoration within the twelve focus areas of The Metropolitan Wildlife Corridors.

VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:

A. Past Spending:

- Big Rivers Partnership (BRP) funded by an \$800,000 appropriation from the LCMR during the 1999 - 2001 biennium, and matched by at least \$374,000 through public and private sources.
- The LCMR appropriation also leveraged \$50,000 of funds from the National Park Service for inventory work during this same biennium.
- LCMR appropriation during the 2002 - 2003 biennium of \$910,000 to build on the successful Big Rivers Partnership.
- LCMR History: \$300,000.00 RIM Critical Habitat Match - Environmental Trust Fund and Future Resource Fund
- Non-LCMR History: \$2.2 million foundation, corporate, and private contributions.

B. Current Spending:

Greening could potentially spend the following additional dollars during the current funding period:

National Fish and Wildlife Federation Pulling Together Grant - \$32,000.00

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Grant - \$31,000.00

C. Required Match (if applicable): Not applicable

D. Future Spending: Restoration funds when available, will be spent on managing and restoring focus areas.

VII. Project Partners:

A. Partners Receiving LCMR Funds:

Greening has not yet selected specific projects at this time and specific restoration activities have not been determined. When these projects have been determined Greening will seek bids from and enter into contracts with contractors.

B. Project Cooperators:

Our work in the focus areas identified has included the following cooperators:

- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
- MN DNR
- City of Saint Paul Port Authority
- Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
- Longfellow Community Council
- Westside Community Council
- District Councils of Saint Paul e.g. District One
- Ramsey County Sentence to Service
- Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department
- Metropolitan Council
- Watershed Districts & Water Management Organizations, e.g. Dakota Soil & Water Conservation District
- Friends of the Mississippi River
- Friends of the Minnesota Valley
- Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc.
- Big Rivers Partnership

VIII. DISSEMINATION:

Information on the project will be posted on the DNR website www.dnr.state.mn.us. An electronic mailing list of interested parties in each focus area will be maintained throughout the project; periodic updates will be sent to them and/or meetings will be held with focus area groups.

Greening will also post information on it's website www.greatrivergreening.org, in it's biannual newsletter, electronic informational postcard and at other events and trainings.

IX. LOCATION:

Work will take place in the following Metro Wildlife Corridor focus areas (see map for locations) with priority to be in (5) Upper Mississippi River, (6) Lower Mississippi River and (10) Minnesota River Valley:

1. Rum River, Trott Brook and Cedar Creek
2. Carlos Avery
3. Rice, Clearwater, and Hardwood Creek
4. St. Croix River
5. Upper Mississippi River
6. Lower Mississippi River

7. Vermillion River
8. Cannon River
9. Scott County
10. Minnesota River Valley
11. Western Lakes
12. Crow River

X. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2004 - August 1, 2004

February 1, 2005 - August 1, 2005

February 1, 2006 - August 1, 2006

A final work program report and associated products will be submitted by August 1, 2006.

Attachment A:				
Proposal Title: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors, Restore Significant Habitat, 2.3 Great River Greening 05(b)				
Project Manager Name: Wiley Buck				
LCMR Requested Dollars: \$124,000				
2003 LCMR Proposal Budget	Result 1 Budget <i>approved 6/23/06</i>	Result 1 Budget <i>revised 6/30/06</i>	Amount Spent as of <i>6/30/06</i>	Balance as of <i>6/30/06</i>
BUDGET ITEM				
PERSONNEL: Staff Expenses, wages, salaries (% time is for the duration of the three year appropriation)				
Project Manager, Cathcart>Buck: .1 FTE/3yr	8,661.80	8,575.78	8,575.78	-
Project Assistant, Wenz: .06 FTE/3yr	2,884.74	3,224.22	3,224.22	-
Operations manager, Jensen: .12 FTE/3yr	2,192.29	2,192.29	2,192.29	-
Field Manager, Shaw: .1 FTE/3yr	1,842.80	1,731.60	1,731.60	-
Field Coordinator, Hammerschmidt: .347 FTE/3yr	7,422.50	7,023.25	7,023.25	-
Ecologist, Harris: .1 FTE/3yr	3,393.72	3,393.72	3,393.72	-
Office Assistant, Gagner: .04 FTE/3yr	1,283.00	1,277.63	1,277.63	-
Volunteer Manager: .05 FTE/3yr	1,728.83	1,751.11	1,751.11	-
Restoration Technician, Bates>Lind: .31 FTE/3yr	6,299.48	6,327.25	6,327.25	-
Restoration Technician, (temp): .34 FTE/3yr	5,464.00	5,460.75	5,460.75	-
Restoration Technician, (temp): .34 FTE/3yr	2,559.49	2,475.02	2,475.02	-
Subtotal:	43,432.62	43,432.62	43,432.62	-
PERSONNEL: Staff benefits – Medical and employer retirement contribution				
Project Manager, Cathcart>Buck	918.38	918.38	915.06	3.32
Project Assistant, Wenz	640.18	689.42	689.42	-
Operations manager, Jensen	324.77	324.77	324.77	-
Field Manager, Shaw	396.49	387.99	384.86	3.13
Field Coordinator, Hammerschmidt	1,687.78	1,642.78	1,631.66	11.12
Ecologist, Harris	736.83	736.83	736.83	-
Office Assistant, Gagner	432.45	432.45	431.51	0.94
Volunteer Manager	112.79	117.05	117.05	-
Restoration Technician, Bates>Lind	1,401.04	1,401.04	1,401.04	0.00
Restoration Technician, (temp)	500.00	500.00	500.00	-
Restoration Technician, (temp)	395.74	395.74	380.67	15.07
Subtotal:	7,546.45	7,546.45	7,512.87	33.58
Contracts				
Other contracts				
Contract work would include seeding, planting, larger scale invasive removal, prescribe burning, hauling, chipping, site prep work.	7,600.00	7,600.00	7,600.00	-
Subtotal:	7,600.00	7,600.00	7,600.00	-
Other direct operating costs				
Automobile mileage	1,443.67	1,443.67	1,443.67	-
Permits/fees	60.00	60.00	60.00	-
Vehicle rental	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	-
Vehicle upkeep	843.05	843.05	843.05	-
Subtotal:	4,446.72	4,446.72	4,446.72	-
Equipment / Tools				
Field supplies: (items that are necessary to complete restoration work that may include chainsaw supplies, chaps and helmets, pesticide bottles and sprayers, gloves, safety glasses, pin flags, flagging tape, stakes, misc. parts for equipment and other expendables)	2,007.89	2,007.89	2,006.81	1.08
Field Equipment (loppers, chainsaws, etc)	1,638.08	1,638.08	1,638.07	0.01
Chemicals	962.00	962.00	931.69	30.31
Plants/seed	56,347.00	56,347.00	56,347.00	-
Volunteer Event Supplies (approved food and bvg, tents, tables, portable toilets, shuttle, pa system, etc)	-	-	-	-
Subtotal:	60,954.97	60,954.97	60,923.57	31.40
Communications, telephone, mail, etc.				
Photography	19.24	19.24	19.24	-
Subtotal:	19.24	19.24	19.24	-
Office Supplies				
Paper supplies	-	-	-	-
Map plotting supplies	-	-	-	-
Subtotal:	-	-	-	-
COLUMN TOTAL	124,000.00	124,000.00	123,935.02	64.98