

2007 Project Abstract- amended 12/16/09

For the Period Ending June 30, 2009

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase III – The Trust for Public Land Critical Lands Protection Program (3.1)

Project Manager: Becca Nash

Affiliation: The Trust for Public Land

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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2007, [Chap.30], Sec.[2], Subd.4c 3.1.

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$420,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results*

In its Critical Lands Protection Program, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) secured fee title on a total of **118 acres** worth \$4,735,000 and conveyed them to public agencies for permanent protection. Individual protection successes include the following:

- TPL purchased 48 acres of land adjacent to the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (Chisago County), containing sensitive slopes and native maple basswood forest known to support numerous rare species in Minnesota, and conveyed them to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to create a new Scientific and Natural Area (**Franconia Bluffs SNA**). TPL spent \$10,000 2007 ENRTF on this effort to protect 0.9 (pro-rated) acres of land.
- TPL purchased 70 acres of one of the highest quality natural resources sites in Chisago County, including 1/2 mile of shoreline on Green Lake and oak forests, meadows, and wetlands. TPL conveyed the property to Chisago City for protection and creation of a new regional park (**Ojiketa Regional Park**). TPL spent \$410,000 2007 ENRTF on this effort to protect 6.8 (pro-rated) acres of land.

TPL leveraged \$420,000 in TPL Metro Conservation Corridor (MeCC) 2007 funding on these projects with **\$2,320,000** in non-state funding to protect 46.4 (pro-rated) acres of land. \$1,510,000 of this was non-state public funds and \$810,000 of this was private (\$650,000 in land and \$160,00 in cash donated). Additionally, \$1,000,000 in state bonding funds were used to protect 16.7 (pro-rated) acres and \$995,000 in other ENRTF funds were used to protect 47.3 (pro-rated) acres out of 118 total acres.

*Please note, since two years of ENRTF funding was used for both projects, a portion of these results was also reflected in TPL's 2005 MeCC Phase II Final Report and will be reflected in TPL's 2008 MeCC Phase IV reports.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

TPL posted project information on the TPL website, www.tpl.org, in addition to DNR's posting at its web site, and the Camp Ojiketa Preservation Society posting on its website. TPL included project descriptions in its newsletters, which are mailed to about 6,600 people, and worked with project partners to create and disseminate press releases for each of the projects. Articles were published in the *South Washington County Bulletin*, *North Branch Post Review*, the *Pioneer Press*, the *Star Tribune*, the *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*. TPL also sent an e-mail announcement to the Minnesota "TPL Near You" mailing list of approximately 1,200 email addresses, and provided information to Embrace Open Space for inclusion in its monthly e-newsletter (approximately 800 recipients). TPL worked with a nationally recognized photographer to take photographs at Franconia. Land acquired has been or will be posted. Sample media materials are attached.

Trust Fund 2007 Work Program Final Report

Date of Report: 9/11/09- amended 12/16/09
Trust Fund 2007 Work Program Final Report

Date of Work Program Approval: 6/20/07
Project Completion Date: 6/30/09

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase III – The Trust for Public Land Critical Lands Protection Program (3.1)

Project Manager: Becca Nash
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Mailing Address: 2610 University Avenue West, Suite 300
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FAX Number: 651-917-2248
Web Page address: www.tpl.org

Location: Within mapped Focus Area in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, LeSueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington and Wright. See Figure 1.

Total Biennial Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$ 420,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$ 420,000
	Equal Balance:	\$ 0

Legal Citation: ML 2007, [Chap.30], Sec.[2], Subd.4c 3.1.

Appropriation Language:

Subd. 4(c) Metro Conservation Corridors- Phase III
\$2,500,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements with The Trust for Public Land; Friends of the Mississippi River; Great River Greening; Minnesota Land Trust; Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; Trout Unlimited; and Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan region, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor 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. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. 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 similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title.

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY*:

In its Critical Lands Protection Program, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) secured fee title on a total of **118 acres** worth \$4,735,000 and conveyed them to public agencies for permanent protection. Individual protection successes include the following:

- TPL purchased 48 acres of land adjacent to the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (Chisago County), containing sensitive slopes and native maple basswood forest known to support numerous rare species in Minnesota, and conveyed them to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to create a new Scientific and Natural Area. (**Franconia Bluffs SNA**). TPL spent \$10,000 2007 ENRTF on this effort to protect 0.9 (pro-rated) acres of land.
- TPL purchased 70 acres of another of the highest quality natural resources sites in Chisago County, including 1/2 mile of shoreline on Green Lake and oak forests, meadows, and wetlands. TPL conveyed the property to Chisago City for protection and creation of a new regional park. (**Ojiketa Regional Park**). TPL spent \$410,000 2007 ENRTF on this effort to protect 6.8 (pro-rated) acres of land.

TPL leveraged \$420,000 in TPL Metro Conservation Corridor (MeCC) 2007 funding on these projects with **\$2,320,000** in non-state funding to protect 46.4 (pro-rated) acres of land. \$1,510,000 of this was non-state public funds and \$810,000 of this was private (\$650,000 in land and \$160,00 in cash donated). Additionally, \$1,000,000 in state bonding funds were used to protect 16.7 (pro-rated) acres and \$995,000 in other ENRTF funds were used to protect 47.3 (pro-rated) acres out of 118 total acres.

*Please note, since two years of ENRTF funding was used for both projects, a portion of these results was also reflected in TPL's 2005 MeCC Phase II Final Report and will be reflected in TPL's 2008 MeCC Phase IV reports.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Acquire Significant Habitat

Description: TPL secured fee title on 118 acres of high quality habitat in the Metro Conservation Corridors areas, which included 7.7 acres (pro-rated) protected with 2007 ENRTF funds. Both projects resulted from outreach and prioritizing based on resource mapping, stakeholder suggestions, and joint recommendations concerning the appropriate lead organization made by the coalition of groups involved in this overall effort. These projects also represent instances in which TPL's help was solicited because of challenges to the public agency in accomplishing the conservation acquisition alone. Some of these challenges included: large acreages; difficult and/or complex ownerships; a need for multiple funding sources; a high risk of development, and/or a short timeframe in which to work. TPL only worked with willing sellers, and it transferred fee to the appropriate, qualified public steward—in this case, the DNR (Franconia Bluffs SNA) and Chisago City (Ojiketa Regional Park). TPL donated to the land steward the land value of the MeCC-ENRTF funds.

FRANCONIA ST. CROIX BLUFFS SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREA (SNA):

TPL acquired +/- 48 acres above the St. Croix River in Chisago County, and conveyed it to the DNR for management as an SNA. The land adjoins St. Croix National Scenic Riverway lands on the St. Croix River owned by the National Park Service.

This property falls within a six-mile corridor of land that was formally evaluated by the DNR's Natural Heritage Program in November, 2005 and approved for SNA status by the DNR's Commissioner's Advisory Committee in December, 2005. The area, known as Franconia-Scandia project area, contains a rich diversity of native plant communities, from cliffs and seepage swamps, to prairies and pine forests. Half of the corridor, primarily floodplain next to the river, is owned by the National Park Service as part of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. The approximate "other half" of the corridor is a high priority for protection by the SNA Program. The corridor supports numerous rare species in Minnesota, such as the Coopers Hawk and cerulean warbler. Located at the edge of a rapidly growing metropolitan region, the area is becoming increasingly vulnerable to over-development, habitat fragmentation, erosion, and invasive species.

In March 2007, The DNR requested assistance from TPL to conduct landowner outreach in the Franconia-Scandia Corridor. Additionally, TPL had been meeting with the National Park Service to understand their priorities for protection along the St. Croix Scenic Riverway. TPL has been interested in conservation along the nationally significant St. Croix River and has been eager to help implement conservation objectives articulated and supported by both the DNR and the National Park Service.

Near the time of a public meeting DNR hosted in Franconia last spring, at which TPL was a speaker, TPL was contacted by a Franconia resident, who was seeking help in conserving a neighboring property that he knew was for sale. After a number of conversations with the Franconia resident, the National Park Service, and DNR's SNA program, including a number of site visits, TPL understood protection of this property was a high priority of both public agencies. At that point, TPL pursued purchase of the property with the intent that we would make it available to the DNR for purchase from us.

The project involved working through a number of complicated issues including the participation of a number of neighbors of the property with various interests in the outcome, securing access to the property from a third party living in Alaska, and convincing interested parties to forego a subdivision of the property into 4 parcels with 3 housing sites.

The property was eventually purchased by TPL for \$105,000 less than the property's fair market value of \$535,000, and then donated in full to the DNR. The following summarizes the full funding package for the project:

Partner on Franconia St. Croix Bluffs SNA project	Funding Source	Funding for land acquisition costs	Allocated Acreage	Notes
TPL	Metro Wildlife Corridors Phase II 2005	\$420,000	37.7	Lead
TPL	Metro Wildlife Corridors Phase III 2007	\$10,000	.9	
	Land Value	\$105,000	9.4	

	Donation			
TOTAL		\$535,000	48	

GREEN LAKE – CAMP OJIKETA

Located in a recognized corridor of significance for wildlife, Camp Ojiketa features over 1/2 mile of shoreline on Green Lake and is one of the highest quality natural resources sites in Chisago County because of its oak forests, meadows, wetlands, and lakeshore.

Protection of Camp Ojiketa now ensures that critical habitat remains intact for a variety of wildlife & fish, including a number of Species of Greatest Conservation Need such as Bald Eagles, Canada Warblers, and Common Loons, as well as Barred Owls, Downy Woodpeckers, and Red Fox. The property's shoreline can continue to provide important spawning habitat for walleye, northern pike, black crappie and other fish species found in Green Lake.

The site's location in a high growth area less than 30 miles from downtown St. Paul makes it an excellent place for people to enjoy nature through hiking, biking, fishing, canoeing, and environmental education close to home. (See two maps attached.)

For over 80 years, thousands of young people learned about nature and stewardship at Camp Ojiketa on the beautiful shores of Green Lake in Chisago County. There they truly experienced the "sweetness of life" as the name means in Ojibwa. However, to meet financial obligations and reflect changing priorities, Camp Fire USA announced in 2006 that it was putting the property up for sale.

This news, and subsequent news of a proposed commercial or residential development, caused a group of Camp Fire alumni to organize to save the land. Chisago City and the alumni initially attempted to make the land a park, but were unsuccessful. They then turned to TPL for help structuring and funding a deal that would preserve the land for the benefit of the public.

After many months of negotiations, in early 2008, TPL secured an option good through December 31, 2008 to purchase the land.

During the one-year option period, TPL performed all of the necessary due diligence on the property including having the property appraised, having several environmental assessments conducted, causing Camp Fire to clean up a number of items at the site, conducting title investigation, and working with Camp Fire to cure a number of title issues. TPL led efforts to identify and secure the funds for the purchase of this property, which included applying for public grants, applying for private grants, working with local legislators to seek funding from the legislature, and private fundraising from individuals. TPL also worked with the City to help develop its vision and commitment to the preservation of this site. TPL further worked with the City, camp alumni and local legislators to inform the public about this project, including organizing the support needed for grant-making purposes.

The project received wide publicity in the *Pioneer Press*, the *Star Tribune*, local papers and even the *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*. Formal supporters included Wild River Audubon, Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District, Green Lake Association, Chisago City, Chisago County, Ojiketa Preservation Society, DNR Fisheries Division, Sen. Rick Olseen, and Rep. Jeremy Kalin. Ultimately, funding came from a variety of sources as is detailed below.

Camp Ojiketa Acquisition, Chisago City MN

Funding Source**	Partner on Camp Ojiketa project	Amount of funding for land acquisition costs	Allocated Acreage	Recipient of Grant Funds (if applicable)
State Funds				
State Bonding - DNR Non-Metro Regional Park Grant Program	DNR	\$1,000,000	16.7	Chisago City
ENTF - Metro Wildlife Corridors Phase IV 2008 (TPL)	TPL	\$475,000	7.9	TPL
ENTF Metro Wildlife Corridors Phase III 2007 (TPL)	TPL	\$410,000	6.8	TPL
ENTF - Metro Greenways (DNR)	DNR	\$100,000	1.7	Chisago City
	Sub Total	\$1,985,000		
Local Government Funds				
City Bonding	Chisago City	\$1,500,000	25.0	
Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District	TPL	\$10,000	0.2	Chisago City
	Sub Total	\$1,510,000		
Private Funds				
Private Fundraised, received directly by TPL*	TPL	\$94,800	1.6	TPL
Private Fundraised, received directly by Chisago City*	TPL & Ojiketa Preservation Society	\$65,200	1.1	Chisago City
Camp Fire USA- Negotiated reduction in sales price from appraised value	TPL	\$545,000	9.1	NA
	Sub Total	\$705,000		
	TOTAL	\$4,200,000	70.0	

*Donors were given the option to send donations to either the City or TPL

** Please note that total Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund funding equals \$985,000, total other state (bond) funding is \$1M, total non-state public funding is \$1.510M, total private funding is \$705K

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

All Results: Staff or Contract Services: \$0

All Results: Equipment: \$0

All Results: Development: \$0

All Results: Acquisition, including easements: \$ 420,000 (capital costs)

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 420,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners: TPL coordinates its work with other Metro Conservation Corridor partners (See Table A). In addition, project partners & cooperators included private landowners, local governments, regional agencies, state agencies, water-related agencies, federal agencies, and private nonprofit organizations and citizen groups (such as the Ojiketa Preservation Society). The Trust for Public Land transferred fee title to Chisago City and to the DNR. TPL contracted with entities providing real estate transaction services such as environmental consultants, appraisers and title companies.

B. Other Funds Spent during the Project Period: Local, regional, federal, and state units of government; non-profit organizations; and private donations were secured and spent. Please see funding charts in Section IV for specific sources and amounts. The Trust for Public Land leveraged **\$2,320,000** in non-state funding (including \$1,510,000 in non-state public funds and \$810,000 in private land or cash donated) for the acquisitions included in this project period. \$1,000,000 in state bonding dollars and \$995,000 in other ENRTF funds were also used toward these land acquisitions.

C. Past Spending: From 2002 until Phase 1 initiation in July 2003, TPL provided a significant in-kind contribution to development of the project, including shaping the initial proposal, facilitating partner and stakeholder communications, arranging stakeholder meetings held in October 2002, printing maps and producing project descriptions for stakeholder participation, organizing proposed focus area meetings held in March 2003, soliciting land acquisition project proposals, and laying the groundwork for project initiation in July 2003. Total in-kind contribution by July 2003 is equivalent to ¼ FTE. TPL also invested land acquisition capital of \$50,000 to help the DNR purchase land in Dec. 2002 in the Lower Mississippi focus area for the new Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area, where restoration funds from other partners for this project are being invested.

For Phases 1 – 3, the Trust for Public Land provided a significant in-kind contribution to development of the project, including serving on the Executive Committee, helping shape the initial proposals, contributing to partner and stakeholder communications, participating in stakeholder meetings held in June 2004 and September - October 2004, helping organize stakeholder meetings in November 2006 in Wright and Sherburne counties, soliciting land acquisition project proposals, and helping lay the groundwork for project initiation in July 2007. Total in-kind contribution from July 2003 to date is equivalent to 1/8 FTE.

During the Phase 1 project term (July 2003 – June 2006), the Trust for Public Land (TPL) protected and linked 40 acres of valuable, high quality habitat in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Region to meet habitat connectivity goals in Focus Areas 2 (Carlos Avery) – 144 acres at Gordie Mikkelsen WMA; 6 (Lower Mississippi) – 30 acres at Eagan Core Greenway and Patrick Eagan Park – Caponi Art Park, and 7 (Vermillion) – 475 acres at Vermillion River AMA/WMA. The Trust for Public Land leveraged approximately \$3,845,000 from local, federal and private funds for habitat protection work, compared to a target total of \$168,000. These funds would not have been available for use in Minnesota but for this Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors Phase I project. In addition, TPL covered and did not seek reimbursement for transaction costs and the substantial staff, phone, travel and office expenses associated with the land transaction work as well as all costs associated with Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors Phase I project partnership.

The Trust for Public Land provided technical assistance and private funding to add 17 acres to the Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area in the Lower Mississippi focus area, in partnership with DNR Scientific and Natural Area Program, Metro Greenways, and Friends of the Mississippi River.

In Phase 2 to February 2007, the Trust for Public Land leveraged \$303,000 in Wildlife Management Area bond funds to protect +/- 670 acres on East Rush Lake in Chisago County, to be conveyed to the Department of Natural Resources Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for protection as a Wildlife Management Area and Aquatic Management Area.

D. Time: 2 years, until June 30, 2009.

VII. DISSEMINATION:

TPL posted project information on the TPL website, www.tpl.org, in addition to DNR's posting at its web site, and the Camp Ojiketa Preservation Society posting on its website. TPL included project descriptions in its newsletters, which are mailed to about 6,600 people, and worked with project partners to create and disseminate press releases for each of the projects. Articles were published in the *South Washington County Bulletin*, *North Branch Post Review*, the *Pioneer Press*, the *Star Tribune*, the *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*. TPL also sent an e-mail announcement to the Minnesota "TPL Near You" mailing list of approximately 1,200 email addresses, and provided information to Embrace Open Space for inclusion in its monthly e-newsletter (approximately 800 recipients). TPL worked with a nationally recognized photographer to take photographs at Franconia. Land acquired has been or will be posted. Sample media materials are attached.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports were submitted twice a year, with an additional amendment request in November 2008, and with this report serving as the final work program report.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2007 Metro Corridors Project

Date: September 11, 2009

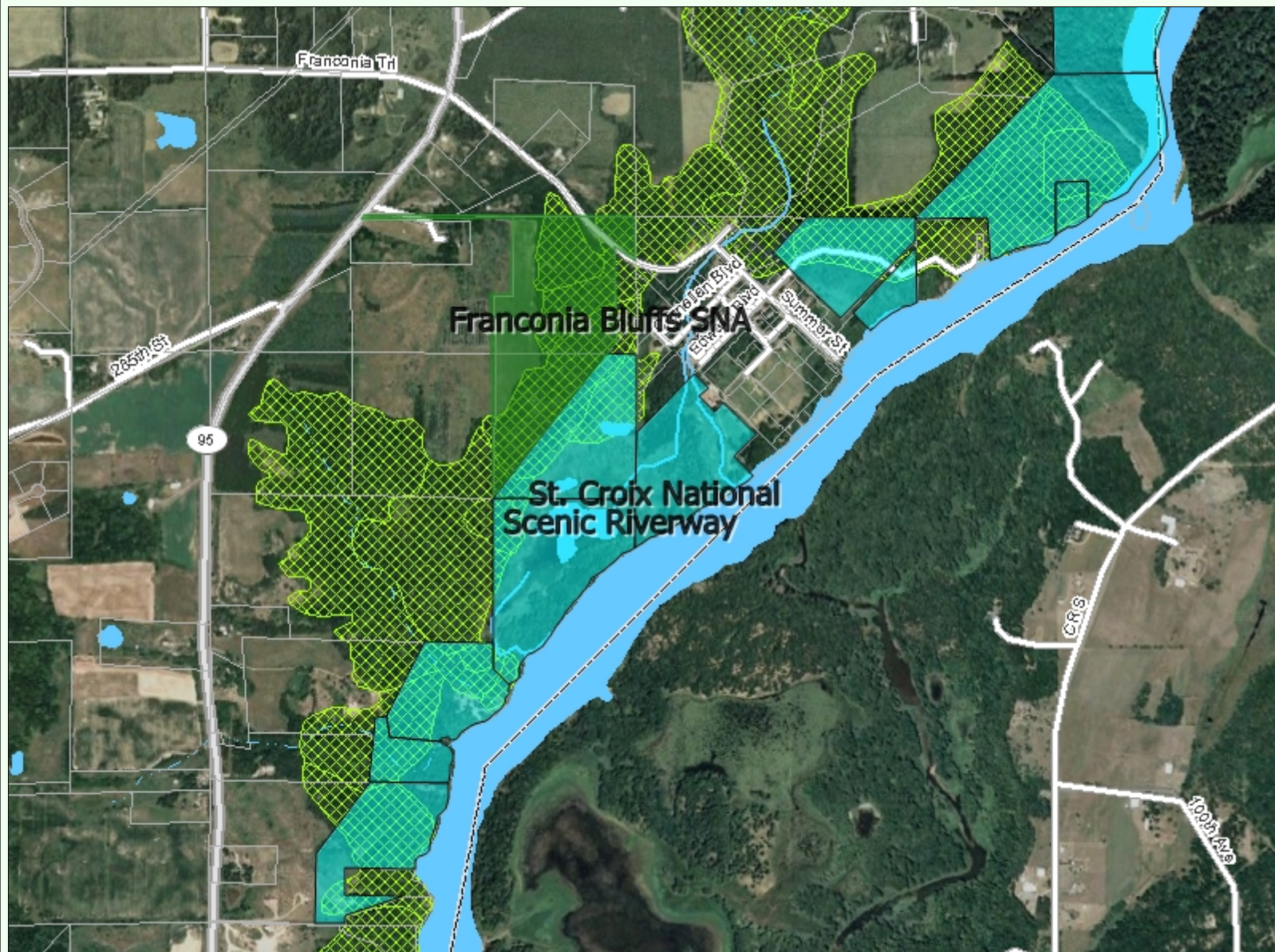
Title: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors Phase III – The Trust for Public Land Critical Lands Protection Program (3.1)

Partner Project Manager Name: Becca Nash

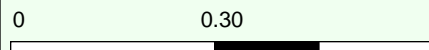
LCMR Dollars: \$420,000

BUDGET ITEM	Amount Budgeted (\$)	Amount Spent (\$)	Balance (\$)	Comments
ACQUISITION				
Land acquisition (<i>fee title & conservation easement</i>)	\$420,000	\$420,000	\$0	To protect 48 acres at Franconia St. Croix Bluffs/Franconia Bluffs SNA, a project that also used the balance of TPL's Phase II 2005 MeCC funding; and to protect 70 acres on Green Lake/ Camp Ojiketa, a project that also used the balance of TPL's Phase IV 2008 MeCC funding.
TOTAL LCMR Funding	\$420,000	\$420,000	\$0	

Franconia Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area



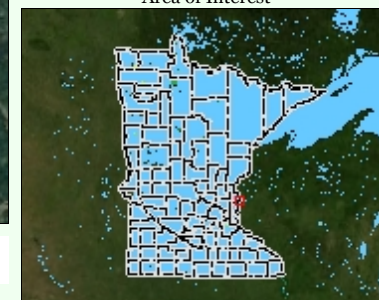
- Legend**
- County Boundary
 - Chisago County Parcels
 - Transportation (18k to 0)
 - Interstate
 - Highway
 - Major Road
 - Local Road
 - Ramp
 - Major Rivers
 - Streams
 - - - Intermittent Streams
 - Major Waterbodies
 - All Waterbodies
 - MCBS Native Plant Communities
 - State Forests
 - Wildlife Management Areas
 - Scientific and Natural Areas
 - NWR-NFWS
 - USA Prime Imagery



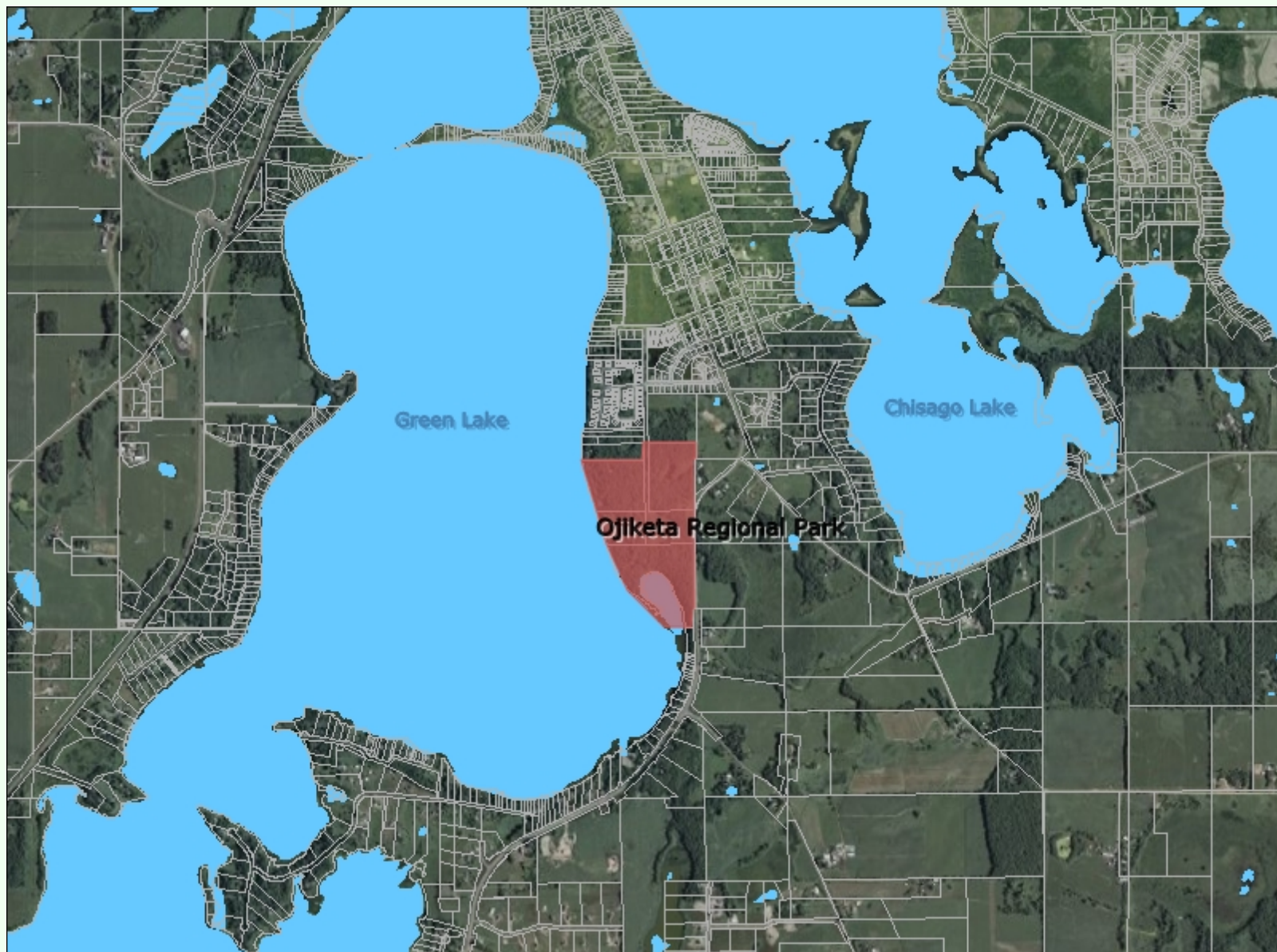
Map Notes: Showing MCBS Native Plant Communities



Area of Interest



Ojiketa Regional Park



Legend

- Chisago County Parcels
- Major Rivers
- Major Waterbodies
- All Waterbodies
- Metro Parks
- State Forests
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Scientific and Natural Areas
- NWR-NFWS
- National Forests

0 0.50 1.0 Miles

Map Notes: Est. December 17, 2008



Area of Interest

