

2008 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2010

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase IV – 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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City / State / Zip: Saint Paul, MN 55114

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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2008, [Chap.367], Sec.[2], Subd. 3a.

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$475,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results*

In the fourth phase of its Metro Conservation Corridors Critical Lands Protection Program, The Trust for Public Land used \$475,000 of Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars to permanently protect 7.9 acres of land through fee title acquisition as part of a larger purchase of 70 acres of one of the highest quality natural resources sites in Chisago County. The site includes 1/2 mile of shoreline on Green Lake and oak forests, meadows, and wetlands that provide critical habitat 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. TPL conveyed the property to Chisago City for protection and creation of a new regional park (Ojiketa Regional Park).

To make the full 70 acre purchase, TPL leveraged the \$475,000 in ENRTF dollars with \$2,215,000 in non-state funding to protect 36.9 (pro-rated) acres of land. \$1,510,000 of this was local funding and \$705,000 of this was private (\$545,000 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 \$510,000 in other ENRTF funds were used to protect 8.5 (pro-rated) acres out of 70 total acres.

*Please note, since two years of ENRTF funding was used for this project, a portion of these results was also reflected in TPL's 2007 MeCC Phase III Final Report.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

TPL distributed information about the Camp Ojiketa protection effort through TPL's "Near You" database (approximately 1,200 email addresses) and provided information to Embrace Open Space for inclusion in its monthly e-newsletter (approximately 800 recipients) and quarterly meetings. Project information was also posted on the TPL website, www.tpl.org; Chisago City's website, www.ci.chisago.mn.us, and the Ojiketa Preservation Society's website <http://www.ojiketa.com/2.html>. TPL also distributed a press release (attached). The project received wide publicity in the *Pioneer Press*, the *Star Tribune*, local papers and even the *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*. The land acquired has been posted.

Trust Fund 2008 Work Program Final Report

Date of Report: 3/26/2010
Trust Fund 2008 Work Program Final Report
Date of Work Program Approval: 6/10/2008
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2010

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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:	\$ 475,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$ 475,000
	Equal Balance:	\$ 0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2008, Chapter 367, Section 2, Subd. 3a.

Appropriation Language:

Subd. 3. Land and Habitat

(a) Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) - Phase IV

\$3,150,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the fourth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$1,915,000 is for Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$1,235,000 is for agreements as follows: \$475,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$92,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$111,000 with Great River Greening; \$225,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$225,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$107,000 with Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of

planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. 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 as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. All funding for conservation easements must include a long-term stewardship plan and funding for monitoring and enforcing the agreement.

II. & III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

In the fourth phase of its Metro Conservation Corridors Critical Lands Protection Program, The Trust for Public Land used \$475,000 of Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars to permanently protect 7.9 acres of land through fee title acquisition as part of a larger purchase of 70 acres of one of the highest quality natural resources sites in Chisago County. The site includes 1/2 mile of shoreline on Green Lake and oak forests, meadows, and wetlands that provide critical habitat 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. TPL conveyed the property to Chisago City for protection and creation of a new regional park (**Ojiketa Regional Park**).

To make the full 70 acre purchase, TPL leveraged the \$475,000 in ENRTF dollars with **\$2,215,000** in non-state funding to protect 36.9 (pro-rated) acres of land.

\$1,510,000 of this was local funding and \$705,000 of this was private (\$545,000 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 \$510,000 in other ENRTF funds were used to protect 8.5 (pro-rated) acres out of 70 total acres.

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IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Acquire Significant Habitat

On December 17, 2008, TPL purchased the 70-acre property on Green Lake in Chisago County known as Camp Ojiketa and conveyed the property to Chisago City to be protected and managed as a new regional park and natural area.

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 map 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.

TPL has submitted the Initial Land Acquisition Report to the LCCMR and has notified the City of Chisago of the transfer of this responsibility to them.

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.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget \$ 475,000
Amount Spent: \$ 475,000
Balance \$ 0

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: \$ 475,000
All Results: Other: \$ 0

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 475,000

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

VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners: TPL coordinated its work with other Metro Conservation Corridor partners (See Table A). In addition, project cooperators included Campfire USA, Chisago City, DNR's Metro Greenways Program, DNR's Non-Metro Regional Park Grant Program, Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District, Wild River Audubon, Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District, Green Lake Association, Chisago County, Ojiketa Preservation Society, DNR Fisheries Division, Sen. Rick Olseen, and Rep. Jeremy Kalin. The Trust for Public Land transferred its interests in the land to Chisago City.

B. Other Funds Spent during the Project Period: As shown in the funding chart under Result 1, \$985,000 ENRTF funding for the land acquisition leveraged \$3.215 million non- ENRTF funds for the land acquisition. These non-ENRTF funds included \$1,000,000 other state funds, \$1,510,000 local funds, and \$705,000 private funds.

C. Past Spending:

Land Protected	ENRTF Appropriation Year	ENRTF Amount Spent by TPL	ENRTF Amount Spent by Partners	Non-ENRTF Amount Leveraged
East Rush Lake AMA/WMA	2005	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$303,000
Horseshoe Lake Regional Park	2005	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$956,000
Franconia Bluffs SNA	2005	\$420,000	\$0	\$105,000
Franconia Bluffs SNA	2007	\$ 10,000	\$0	
Camp Ojiketa on Green Lake	2007	\$410,000	\$100,000	\$3,215,000

Camp Ojiketa on Green Lake	2008	\$475,000		
Total		\$1,515,000	\$400,000	\$4,579,000

D. Time: 2 years, until June 30, 2010.

VII. DISSEMINATION:

TPL distributed information about the Camp Ojiketa protection effort through TPL's "Near You" database (approximately 1,200 email addresses) and provided information to Embrace Open Space for inclusion in its monthly e-newsletter (approximately 800 recipients) and quarterly meetings. Project information was also posted on the TPL website, www.tpl.org; Chisago City's website, www.ci.chisago.mn.us, and the Ojiketa Preservation Society's website <http://www.ojiketa.com/2.html>. TPL also distributed a press release (attached). The project received wide publicity in the *Pioneer Press*, the *Star Tribune*, local papers and even the *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*. The land acquired has been posted.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports were submitted as required and as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2008 Metro Corridors Project

Date: March 25, 2010

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

Partner Project Manager Name: Becca Nash

Trust Fund Appropriation: \$475,000

2008 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget (\$)	Amount Spent (Date) (\$)	Balance (Date) (\$)	Comments
ACQUISITION				
Land acquisition (<i>fee title & conservation easement</i>)	\$475,000	\$475,000		To protect 70 acres at Green Lake/Camp Ojiketa, a project that also used the remaining balance of TPL's Phase III 2007 MeCC funding
COLUMN TOTAL	\$475,000	\$475,000	\$0	

