

2008 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2010

TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase IV
Protecting Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements - 3.2

PROJECT MANAGER: Sarah Strommen

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Land Trust

ADDRESS: 2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240
St. Paul, MN 55114

WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.mnland.org

FUND: Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: Minnesota Laws 2008, Chapter 367, Section 2, Subdivision 4(c)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$225,000

OVERALL PROJECT OUTCOME AND RESULTS

During the fourth phase of the Metro Corridors project, the Minnesota Land Trust continued to work with landowners throughout the greater metropolitan area to permanently protect lands that are key components of Minnesota's remaining natural areas in the region. Six perpetual conservation easements were completed that collectively protect 960 acres of land and more than 16,600 feet of shoreline. Two easements were purchased, both at a bargain price. The remaining 4 easements were donated. All six projects represent unique opportunities to protect high quality natural habitat, riparian areas, and to build upon prior land protection work by the Land Trust at four priority sites.

Additionally, the Land Trust prepared baseline property reports for each easement, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. To fund this required perpetual obligation, the Land Trust dedicated funds to its segregated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for several completed projects. For these projects, we estimated the anticipated annual expenses of each project and the investment needed to generate annual income sufficient to cover these expenses in perpetuity – all in accordance with our internal policies and procedures as approved by LCCMR. We will report to LCCMR annually on the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds from this grant.

The value is known for only two of the easements, but this value is \$781,200, with a known donated value of \$306,200. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete these projects was just over \$312 per acre (other State funds came from the Metro Greenways program to purchase one easement).

Cumulatively, across all phases of the Metro Corridors program, the Land Trust has protected 2,533 acres of critical habitat and nearly 42,000 feet of shoreline, at a cost to the State of \$578 per acre.

The Land Trust's work on this project demonstrates the continued cost effectiveness of working with conservation easements to protect natural and scenic resources within developed and developing areas, as the cost to the State was well below the cost to purchase land in the Twin Cities region. This grant continued to generate interest among landowners, and therefore, ongoing funding will be important to sustained success. Additionally, our experiences during this phase of the grant continue to indicate that funds to purchase easements will be necessary in the future if work becomes more targeted, selective, and focused on building complexes of protected land.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

The Land Trust continued to gain more experience with conservation easements, easement management, and issues unique to protecting land in a metropolitan area. This experience and information was shared with our partner organizations, other easement holders, local communities, as well as policy makers. The Land Trust also disseminated information about the specific land protection projects completed under this grant through our newsletter, annual report, web site, and press releases.

Trust Fund 2008 Work Program Final Report and Trust Fund 2009 Work Program and Trust Fund 2010 Work Program

Date of Report: February 1, 2010
Trust Fund 2008 Work Program Final Report

Date of Next 2009 & 2010 Status Report: August 1, 2010

	M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009	M.L. 2010
Date of Work program	June 10, 2008	June 16, 2009	
Approval:			
Project Completion Date:	June, 30 2010	June 30, 2011	June 30, 2012

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase IV
Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements [M.L. 2008]
Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase V
Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements [M.L. 2009]
Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase V Supplemental
Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements [M.L. 2010]

Project Manager: Sarah Strommen, Conservation Director, Central Region
Affiliation: Minnesota Land Trust
Mailing Address: 2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240
City / State / Zip : St. Paul, MN 55114
Telephone Number: 651-647-9590
E-mail Address: sstrommen@mnland.org
FAX Number: 651-647-9769
Web Page address: www.mnland.org

Location: Within mapped corridors (see map included with overall work program) in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, LeSueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington and Wright.

	M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009	M.L. 2010	Total
Total Trust Fund Project Budget:				
Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$225,000	\$250,000	\$485,000	\$960,000
Minus Amount Spent:	\$225,000	\$32	\$0	\$225,032
Equal Balance:	\$ 0	\$249,968	\$485,000	\$734,968

Legal Citation:
ML 2008, Chapter 367, Section 2, Subdivision 3(a)

Appropriation Language:

\$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.

Legal Citation: M.L. 2009, Chapter 143, Section 2, Subdivision 4(f)**Appropriation Language:**

\$3,375,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the sixth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$770,000 is for the Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$2,605,000 is for agreements as follows: \$450,000 with Pheasants Forever; \$50,000 with Minnesota Deer Hunters Association; \$895,000 with Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; \$85,000 with National Wild Turkey Federation; \$365,000 with the Nature Conservancy; \$210,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$350,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$100,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$50,000 with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and \$50,000 with Friends of Detroit Lakes Watershed Management District to plan, restore, and acquire fragmented landscape corridors that connect areas of quality habitat to sustain fish, wildlife, and plants. The United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service is a cooperating partner in the appropriation. Expenditures are limited to the project corridor areas as defined in the work program. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum habitat and facility management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. 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. To the maximum extent practical, consistent with contractual easement or fee acquisition obligations, the recipients shall utilize staff resources to identify future projects and shall maximize the implementation of biodiverse, quality restoration projects in the project proposal into the first half of the 2010 fiscal year.

Legal Citation: M.L. 2010, Chapter ____, Section ____, Subdivision ____
Appropriation Language:

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

M.L. 2008 Final Project Summary:

During the fourth phase of the Metro Corridors project, the Minnesota Land Trust continued to work with landowners throughout the greater metropolitan area to permanently protect lands that are key components of Minnesota's remaining natural areas in the region. Six perpetual conservation easements were completed that collectively protect 960 acres of land and more than 16,600 feet of shoreline. Two easements were purchased, both at a bargain price. The remaining 4 easements were donated. All six projects represent unique opportunities to protect high quality natural habitat, riparian areas, and to build upon prior land protection work by the Land Trust at four priority sites.

Additionally, the Land Trust prepared baseline property reports for each easement, detailing the condition of the property for future monitoring and enforcement. To fund this required perpetual obligation, the Land Trust dedicated funds to its segregated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for several completed projects. For these projects, we estimated the anticipated annual expenses of each project and the investment needed to generate annual income sufficient to cover these expenses in perpetuity – all in accordance with our internal policies and procedures as approved by LCCMR. We will report to LCCMR annually on the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds from this grant.

The value is known for only two of the easements, but this value is \$781,200, with a known donated value of \$306,200. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete these projects was just over \$312 per acre (other State funds came from the Metro Greenways program to purchase one easement).

Cumulatively, across all phases of the Metro Corridors program, the Land Trust has protected 2,533 acres of critical habitat and nearly 42,000 feet of shoreline, at a cost to the State of \$578 per acre.

The Land Trust's work on this project demonstrates the continued cost effectiveness of working with conservation easements to protect natural and scenic resources within developed and developing areas, as the cost to the State was well below the cost to purchase land in the Twin Cities region. This grant continued to generate interest among landowners, and therefore, ongoing funding will be important to sustained success. Additionally, our experiences during this phase of the grant continue to indicate that funds to purchase easements will be necessary in the future if work becomes more targeted, selective, and focused on building complexes of protected land.

M.L. 2009: The Minnesota Land Trust will protect up to 150 acres of land by acquiring 4-6 conservation easements in various project focus areas.

These acreage and project goals are based on estimates of 25-40 acres per project. Actual project acreages and numbers will vary. Potential projects are identified on the attached list.

We will work with landowners willing to protect their land through perpetual conservation easements drafted to: prohibit land uses that could negatively impact identified important riparian, habitat, or scenic values, require natural resource habitat management plans where appropriate, and direct the use of native vegetation where appropriate in conjunction with any required restoration.

We will work with donated easements whenever possible and will purchase easements where necessary.

The budget incorporates the critical components of an easement program: identifying and negotiating with landowners, drafting and completing easements, documenting property conditions, and monitoring and enforcing easements in perpetuity by dedicating funds for long-term easement stewardship.

Funds will be used for staff time, direct payments to landowners, and transactional expenses such as appraisals, title review, and mapping. Funds also may be requested for the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund to provide for the long-term management and enforcement of easements on a project-by-project basis. We will estimate anticipated annual expenses for each project and the investment needed to generate annual income sufficient to cover expenses in perpetuity--all in accordance with our 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.

M.L. 2010: The Minnesota Land Trust proposes to use its 2010 allocation of \$485,000 as a supplement to the 2009 phase of this grant to complete 1-2 urgent projects that require capital funding. The Minnesota Land Trust will protect up to 40-80 acres of high-quality forest and wetland habitats by securing permanent conservation easements and dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management, and enforcement of those easements. One of the easements is anticipated to be co-held with the Anoka Conservation District.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2010:

M.L. 2009

2009 Goal: 150 acres
Number of Easements Completed:
Total Acres of Easements Completed:
Total Acres of Potential Easements: 3,328 acres

The Land Trust only recently began work on Phase 5 of this grant in December 2009. To date we have continued negotiations with several landowners whose projects were initiated in earlier phases and continued to identify and contact new landowners. An updated project list is attached.

M.L. 2010

2010 Goal: 40-80 acres
Number of Easements Completed:
Total Acres of Easements Completed:
Total Acres of Potential Easements:

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements

Description: For both the 2008 and 2009 phases of the Metro Conservation Corridors, the Minnesota Land Trust will protect critical habitat the mapped corridors by identifying and contacting interested landowners, negotiating and completing 4-6 permanent conservation easements on up to 150 acres of land, and dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of the easements.

The Land Trust will work in any of the mapped corridors and currently has numerous projects pending. Current potential projects are identified on the attached list and map. We will continually evaluate these projects and pursue those that protect the highest quality habitat, maximize public benefit, and would be most appropriate to complete each of the two phases of the grant. While some of these projects may not be completed at all, new projects will be added as landowners are identified.

The 2010 grant is supplemental to the 2009 grant. With this supplemental funding, the Land Trust will complete 1-2 urgent projects that require capital funding. The Minnesota Land Trust will protect up to 40-80 acres of high-quality forest and wetland habitats by securing permanent conservation easements and dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management, and enforcement of those easements.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:

	M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009	M.L. 2010	Total
Trust Fund Budget:	\$225,000	\$250,000	\$485,000	\$960,000
Amount Spent:	\$225,000	\$32	\$0	\$225,032

Balance: **\$0 \$249,968 \$485,000 \$734,968**

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. M.L. 2008: Identify and contact landowners	Complete	
2. M.L. 2008: Negotiate, draft, and complete 4-6 easements, including completion of baseline documentation.	Complete	
3. M.L. 2008: Dedicate funds for easement stewardship	Complete	
4. M.L. 2009: Protect up to 150 acres by: a. identifying and contacting landowners b. completing 4-6 conservation easements c. dedicating funds to ensure long-term easement sustainability	June 30, 2011	\$250,000 a. included in personnel b. included in CE acquisition costs, travel, and personnel c. estimated at \$60,000 All as outlined in Attachment A.
5. M.L. 2010: Protect up to 40-80 acres by: a. completing 1-2 conservation easements b. dedicating funds to ensure long-term easement sustainability	June 30, 2012	\$485,000 a. included in CE acquisition costs, and personnel b. estimated at \$30,000 All as outlined in Attachment A.

Completion Date: M.L. 2008: June 30, 2010; M.L. 2009: June 30, 2011; M.L. 2010: June 30, 2012

M.L. 2008 Final Report Summary:

Under this phase of the Metro Corridors program, the Land Trust met project goals and exceeded acreage goals by completing 6 conservation easements, which collectively protect 960 acres of land and more than 16,600 feet of shoreline. One of the projects was located in the Northwest Area, two in the East Area, and three in the Southeast Area.

All six projects are located within Land Trust priority sites and build upon prior protection work completed under previous phases of this grant or other Land Trust initiatives. Specifically, these parcels met the following project selection criteria:

1. Habitat: quality and quantity of existing habitat on site; protects riparian areas and buffers water resources
2. Context: proximity and relationship to other protected lands
3. Opportunity: cost-benefit ratio: which landowners will participate now

4. Other Benefits: meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.

Our average parcel size for projects completed under this phase of the grant was approximately 160 acres. This is significantly higher than our typical average parcel size of 50 acres for Metro area projects and a further demonstration of the unique conservation opportunity represented by the properties protected by the Land Trust under this phase of the grant.

Because of the large number of potential conservation projects involved in this grant and because many projects initiated or worked on under this grant are not actually completed in this phase of the project, the Land Trust does not allocate professional services expenses to specific conservation easement projects. Funding that is attributable to a specific project is described below and on the attached summary of purchased easements.

Descriptions and Results by Area:

Northwest Area: Wright, Sherburne, Isanti and Anoka Counties

Acres protected: 56

Easements completed: 1

Project: Rum River

Description: This 56-acre property in Isanti County is situated along the Rum River and features approximately 1,777 feet of river shoreline. The property contains relatively natural fish and wildlife habitat provided by the Rum River and its associated floodplain forest, along with rolling grasslands, wetlands and agricultural fields. The floodplain forest of the property has been mapped and identified as a high quality native community by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. This parcel is the sixth property that the Land Trust has protected along the Rum River.

The value of this easement is unknown. \$12,000 of ENRTF funds were used to cover stewardship on this project. Additionally, the Land Trust received an unsolicited donation of \$300 from the landowner for the Land Trust's operating fund. This donation will help cover costs not funded by the ENRTF.

East Area: Chisago and Washington Counties

Acres protected: 269

Easements completed: 2

Project: Sunfish Lake Park

Description: This 256-acre property in Washington County is a public city park within the City of Lake Elmo. The park is used primarily for low-impact recreation, and there is a trail system for walking, hiking, and horseback riding. The property consists mainly of forested rolling hills with cherry, oak, maple, birch, and bittersweet trees. The property also contains a portion of Sunfish Lake, thereby providing an important public access to the lake. This parcel

also lies adjacent to several other properties previously protected by the Land Trust and therefore adds to a larger complex of protected lands. After completing the conservation easement, the City is now working aggressively on restoration and management of the park. The City recently obtained a Metro Greenways grant to assist with restoration.

The value of this easement is unknown. \$10,000 to cover stewardship was provided by the landowner.

Project: Valley Creek

Description: This 13-acre property in Washington County is varied in topography and predominately oak woodland. Valley Creek, a designated trout stream, flows through this corner of the property. *Besseyia bullii*, a perennial kitten-tail that has been state-listed as “threatened,” has been found and documented on the property. The property is bordered to the north and west by Belwin Conservancy property that is protected with a conservation easement held by the Minnesota Land Trust. Valley Creek is an area of focus for the Land Trust, and protection of this parcel is an important piece of this larger effort.

The value of this easement is \$180,000. The Land Trust purchased the easement for \$150,000 using \$75,000 Metro Greenways grant dollars and \$75,000 from The Conservation Fund/Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. \$15,000 of ENRTF funds were used to cover stewardship on this project. Additional detail is provided in the attached Summary of Purchased Easements.

Southeast Area: Dakota and Goodhue Counties

Acres protected: 635

Easements completed: 3

Project: Bullard Creek

Description: This project in Goodhue protects 193 acres near the City of Red Wing and is the second easement project completed by the same family. The protected property contains relatively undisturbed natural areas with high quality examples of terrestrial communities including hardwood forest and dry bluff prairie. The property also includes 2,957 feet of shoreline along an intermittent stream that flows directly into Bullard Creek, a MN DNR-designated trout stream. Additionally protection of this parcel helps advance a long-standing effort by the Land Trust and the City of Red Wing to protect high priority natural lands in and around the City.

The value of this easement is \$601,200. The Land Trust purchased the easement for \$325,000 using \$100,000 of ENRTF funding from this grant, \$150,000 from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and \$75,000 from the Minnesota Land Trust Acquisition Fund. \$15,000 of ENRTF funds were used to cover stewardship on this project. Additional detail is provided in the attached Summary of Purchased Easements.

Project: Red Wing

Description: This 414-acre property in Goodhue County features approximately 5,275 linear feet of shoreline on Spring Creek, a designated trout stream, which meanders through the central portion of the property. The property also contains small openings of dry prairie bedrock bluff, as well as hillsides covered in hardwood forest. The Protected Property contains several sites identified and listed as significant archeological sites for pre-settlement Native Americans, as identified by the Minnesota Institute of Archaeology. Additionally, protection of this parcel helps advance a long-standing effort by the Land Trust and the City of Red Wing to protect high priority natural lands in and around the City.

The value of this easement is unknown. \$18,000 for easement stewardship is being provided by the landowner.

Project: Red Wing

Description: This 28-acre property in Goodhue County is located in the City of Red Wing. It is close to the Cannon River and is situated between two noncontiguous parcels of the Cannon River Turtle Preserve Scientific and Natural Area. The entire property consists of Silver Maple-Green Ash-Cottonwood Terrace floodplain forest. This forest type is considered rare or uncommon in Minnesota and provides habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need. Additionally, protection of this parcel helps advance a long-standing effort by the Land Trust and the City of Red Wing to protect high priority natural lands in and around the City.

The value of this easement is unknown. Funding for easement stewardship is being provided by the landowner and is included in the amount for the above listed project.

Result Status as of February 1, 2010:

M.L. 2009: The Land Trust only recently (December 2009) commenced this phase of the grant. We are continuing to work on several projects started under previous phases. We anticipate three projects to close by June 30, 2010. Additionally, we continue to identify new landowners. An updated project list is attached.

M.L. 2010: This phase is pending action from the Minnesota Legislature.

Result Status as of August 1, 2009:

M.L. 2009: We have not yet started the 2009 phase of this grant.

Result Status as of May 1, 2009:

M.L. 2009: We have not yet started the 2009 phase of this grant.

Result Status as of August 1, 2010:

Result Status as of February 1, 2011:

M.L. 2009 Final Report Summary:

Result Status as of August 1, 2011:

Result Status as of February 1, 2012:

M.L. 2010 Final Report Summary:

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

M.L. 2008

Staff or Contract Services: \$56,201 to cover a portion of the salaries and related benefits of staff working on projects funded under this grant--approximately .50 FTE conservation program staff and .25 FTE conservation, legal and other support staff.

Acquisition, including easements: \$124,903 to acquire 6 conservation easements held by the Minnesota Land Trust. \$100,000 was spent on the direct cost of acquiring an easement where the landowner was not be able to donate the full value of the easement. The remaining funds were used for related transaction costs such as for appraisals, surveys, title work, mapping, etc.

Stewardship: \$42,000 dedicated to the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund. Actual amounts committed for stewardship were calculated on a project-by-project basis depending on the number and nature of specific projects and the availability of other funds. We did not need to use this grant to cover all stewardship costs for completed projects due to landowner contributions.

Travel: \$1,896 to cover mileage and related travel expenses within Minnesota.

TOTAL 2008 TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 225,000

M.L. 2009

Personnel: \$70,000 to cover a portion of the salaries and related benefits of staff working on projects funded under this grant—approximately .75 FTE conservation program staff and .25 legal and other support staff.

Acquisition, including easement: \$118,000 to acquire 4-6 conservation easements protecting up to 150 acres of land to be held by the Minnesota Land Trust. A limited amount may be used for the direct cost of acquiring easements where landowners are not be able to donate the full value of an easement. The remaining funds will be used for related transaction costs such as for appraisals, surveys, title work, mapping, etc. NOTE: Exact amounts are not known at this time. Transaction costs are higher for purchases than donations and amounts will be allocated as specific projects are identified for completion under this grant.

Travel: \$2,000 to cover mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota.

Stewardship: \$60,000 to be dedicated to the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund. Actual amounts committed for stewardship will depend upon the number and nature

of specific projects completed and the availability of other funds. Currently, typical stewardship fund requests are approximately \$12,000-15,000 per project.

TOTAL 2009 TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 250,000

M.L. 2010

Personnel: \$20,000 to cover a portion of the salaries and related benefits of staff working on projects funded under this grant

Acquisition, including easements: \$435,000

Stewardship: \$30,000 to be dedicated to the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund. Actual amounts committed for stewardship will depend upon the number and nature of specific projects completed and the availability of other funds. Currently, typical stewardship fund requests are approximately \$12,000-15,000 per project.

TOTAL 2010 TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$485,000

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

VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners: Project partners for 2008, 2009, and 2010 include Metro Conservation Corridors partners (please see overall MeCC work program for list of project partners) and private landowners, local governments, regional, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and citizen groups.

B. Other Funds Spent/Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: By working to acquire donated conservation easements, or easements through bargain purchases, the Minnesota Land Trust again was able to protect lands at a fraction of what it would cost to purchase comparable lands in fee. The known donated value of easements completed in the 2008 phase is \$306,200, but values are known for only two of the six easements completed. Additional funds were spent by the Minnesota Land Trust to cover costs associated with the project not covered by the grant.

The value of donated easements is difficult to predict, but we expect at least one million dollars in leverage for 2009. For 2010, the Land Trust, working with Anoka County, has secured \$200,000 through the Metro Greenways Program.

C. Past Spending: The Minnesota Land Trust has received the following from past Metro Corridors grants: \$ 230,000 in 2003; \$ 230,000 in 2005; \$134,000 in 2007; \$225,000 in 2008; and \$250,000 in 2009.

D. Time: For the 2008 phase, work was initiated in October 2008 and was completed in January 2010. For the 2009 phase, funds will extend over the two years of the grant, starting approximately July 1, 2009 until June 30, 2011. For the 2010 phase, funds are anticipated to be spent in one year, starting approximately July 1, 2010. The 2008, 2009, and 2010 phases are a continuation of the Minnesota Land Trust's existing Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership project. Components were designed to be overlapping so that activities could continue seamlessly. For example, we may initiate work with a landowner in one phase of the grant, but the project may not be completed until the next phase.

E. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy: 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 Minnesota 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.

VII. DISSEMINATION: For 2008 projects, the Land Trust completed a newsletter article press release for the Valley Creek project (attached) and plans to complete press releases for the Red Wing and Rum River projects. We also held an event in August 2009 to celebrate completion of the Valley Creek project and generate additional interest in conservation in that area. For 2009 and 2010 the Land Trust will continue to disseminate results in our publications and on our web page. We will work to publicize completed projects in the media, targeting communities in which projects are located. Additionally, we will participate when possible in broader efforts of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership. These efforts may include emails to people on the Embrace Open Space (EOS) database, through the EOS quarterly meetings and jointly held county meetings, and on the partnership website.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

For the 2008 appropriation, periodic work program progress reports were submitted February 1st and August 1st of each year, starting with February 1, 2009. This is the final work program report.

For the 2009 and 2010 appropriations, periodic work program progress reports will continue to be submitted February 1st and August 1st of each year. A final work program report and associated products for the 2009 appropriation will be submitted not later than August 1, 2011. A final work program report and associated products for the 2010 appropriation will be submitted not later than August 1, 2012.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: N/A

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2008 Projects					
Project Title: <i>Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase IV: Minnesota Land Trust</i>					
Project Manager Name: <i>Sarah Strommen</i>					
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 225,000					
2008 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget: August 2009	Result 1 Final Adjusted Budget	Amount Spent as of January 2010	Balance as of January 2010	
	<i>Aquiring Conservation Easements</i>				
BUDGET ITEM					
Personnel: wages and benefits: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA,FUTA. SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) and related costs for approximately .75 FTE for one years as follows:	50,000	56,201	56,201	0	
Conservation directors or other land protection staff (aproximately .50 FTE)					
Staff attorney and other support staff (approximately .25 FTE)					
Conservation Easement Acquisition Costs (<i>less than fee</i>)	123,000	124,903	124,903	0	
Purchase price of conservation easement(s)					
Title work, insurance, etc.					
Maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS)					
Film					
Other (including appraisals, survey, recording fees, etc.)					
Travel (mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota)	2,000	1,896	1,896	0	
Easement Stewardship: (funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring, managing, and enforcing acquired easements)	50,000	42,000	42,000	0	
COLUMN TOTAL	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$0	

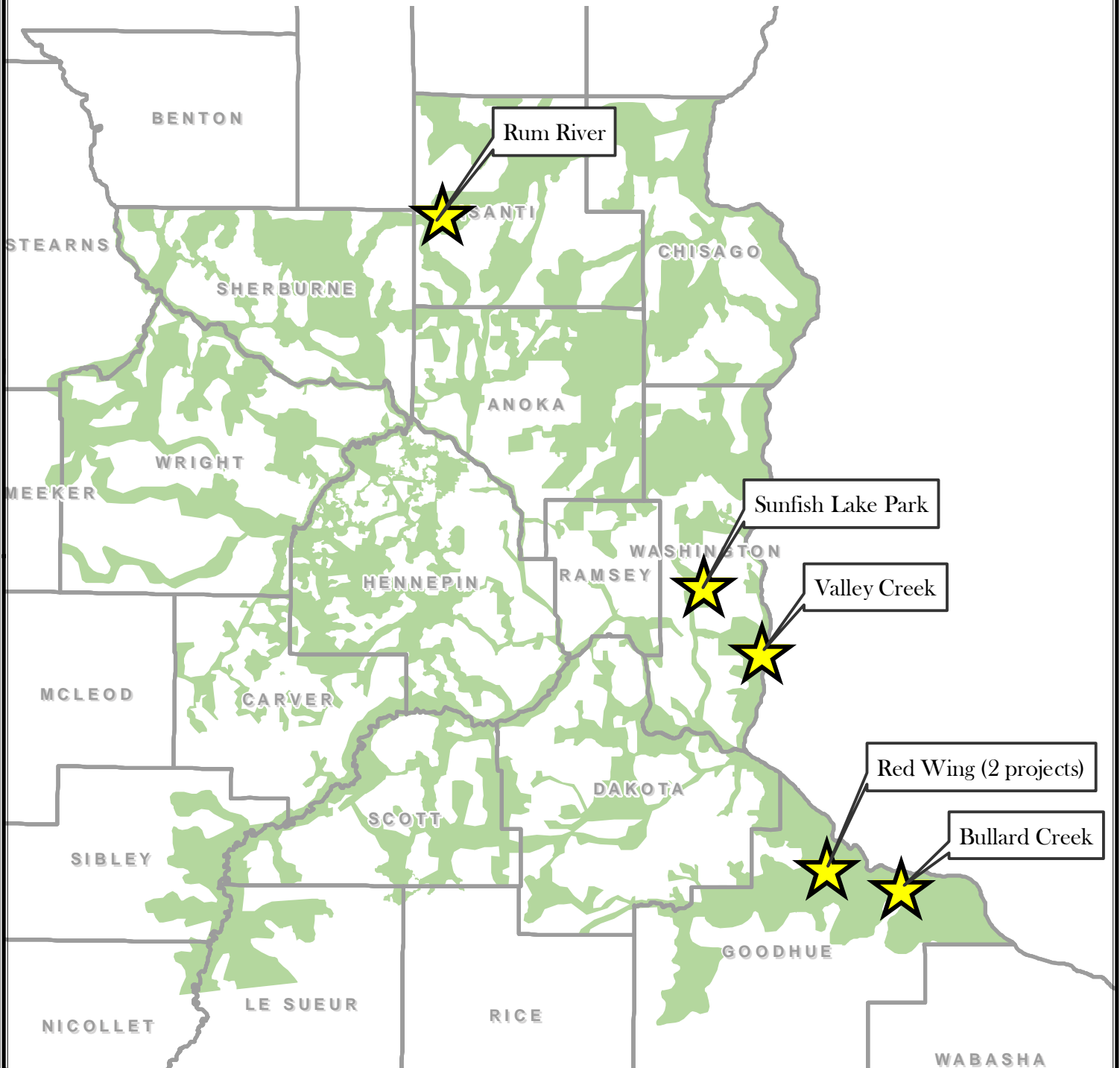
Minnesota Land Trust: Metro Conservation Corridors – 2008 (Phase 4)
 Summary of Purchased Easements

Project	Acres	Funding Type	Funds Use	Funding Amount
Bullard Creek Goodhue County	140	ENTF – 2008 Land Trust allocation	Purchase price of conservation easement	\$100,000
		Doris Duke Foundation	Purchase price of conservation easement	\$150,000
		Minnesota Land Trust acquisition fund	Purchase price of conservation easement	\$75,000
		Landowner donation	Donated value of conservation easement	\$276,200
		ENTF – 2008 Land Trust allocation	Stewardship	\$15,000
Valley Creek Washington County	13	ENTF – 2007 Metro Greenways Allocation	Purchase price of conservation easement	\$75,000
		The Conservation Fund/Doris Duke Foundation	Purchase price of conservation easement	\$75,000
		Landowner donation	Donated value of conservation easement	\$30,000
		ENTF-2008 Land Trust allocation	Stewardship	\$15,000

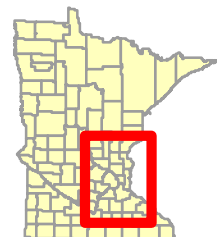
In addition to the expenses listed above, staff time and professional services expenses covering closing costs, title review, etc. were incurred and covered by the Land Trust's 2008 Metro Conservation Corridors allocation. The Land Trust does not allocate staff time or professional services expenses to specific conservation projects.

Minnesota Land Trust Completed Projects

METRO CONSERVATION CORRIDORS PARTNERSHIP
2008 - PHASE IV



-  Metro Conservation Corridors
-  Completed Projects
-  Counties



Minnesota Land Trust Completed Projects
LCCMR Metro Corridors 2008 - Phase IV

Rum River: This 56-acre property in Isanti County is situated along the Rum River and features approximately 1,777 feet of river shoreline. The property contains relatively natural fish and wildlife habitat provided by the Rum River and its associated floodplain forest, along with rolling grasslands, wetlands and agricultural fields. The floodplain forest of the property has been mapped and identified as a high quality native community by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. This parcel is the sixth property that the Land Trust has protected along the Rum River.

Sunfish Lake Park: This 256-acre property in Washington County is a public city park within the City of Lake Elmo. The park is used primarily for low-impact recreation, and there is a trail system for walking, hiking, and horseback riding. The property consists mainly of forested rolling hills with cherry, oak, maple, birch, and bittersweet trees. The property also contains a portion of Sunfish Lake, thereby providing an important public access to the lake. This parcel also lies adjacent to several other properties previously protected by the Land Trust.

Valley Creek: This 13-acre property in Washington County is varied in topography and predominately oak woodland. Valley Creek, a designated trout stream, flows through this corner of the property. *Besseyia bullii*, a perennial kitten-tail that has been state-listed as “threatened,” has been found and documented on the property. The property is bordered to the north and west by Belwin Conservancy property that is protected with a conservation easement held by the Minnesota Land Trust.

Bullard Creek: This project in Goodhue protects 193 acres near the City of Red Wing and is the second easement project completed by the same family. The protected property contains relatively undisturbed natural areas with high quality examples of terrestrial communities including hardwood forest and dry bluff prairie. The property also includes 2,957 feet of shoreline along an intermittent stream that flows directly into Bullard Creek, a MN DNR-designated trout stream.

Red Wing: This 414-acre property in Goodhue County features approximately 5,275 linear feet of shoreline on Spring Creek, a designated trout stream, which meanders through the central portion of the property. The property also contains small openings of dry prairie bedrock bluff, as well as hillsides covered in hardwood forest. The Protected Property contains several sites identified and listed as significant archeological sites for pre-settlement Native Americans, as identified by the Minnesota Institute of Archaeology.

Red Wing: This 28-acre property in Goodhue County is located in the City of Red Wing. It is close to the Cannon River and is situated between two noncontiguous parcels of the Cannon River Turtle Preserve Scientific and Natural Area. The entire property consists of Silver Maple-Green Ash-Cottonwood Terrace floodplain forest. This forest type is considered rare or uncommon in Minnesota and provides habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need.

