

## 2009 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2011

**PROJECT TITLE:** Metro Conservation Corridors Phase V – Metro Greenways (2.4, 3.4, 4.1)  
**PROJECT MANAGER:** Sharon Pfeifer  
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**FUNDING SOURCE:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
**LEGAL CITATION:** M.L. 2009, Chap. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f2.6/3.4/4.1

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT:** \$1,175,000

### Overall Project Outcome and Results

The DNR Metro Greenways Program has worked since its inception in 1998 toward the goals of protecting, restoring, and reconnecting remaining natural areas in the Twin Cities greater (12-county) metropolitan region. The principal strategies employed by the Program to achieve these goals included: 1) competitive grants to local and regional governments to restore degraded habitats; 2) competitive grants that support the acquisition of or conservation easements on strategically important parcels of terrestrial, wetland, or riparian habitat; 3) incentive grants to local governments to address other conservation needs such as land cover inventories, natural resource based land use decision tools, and ordinance revisions to support conservation efforts; and 4) natural resource based workshops on topics of interest to local government staff and officials.

The 2009 appropriation concludes DNR Central region's Metro Greenways Program, which is sun setting after 13 years. This final allotment of \$1,175,000 was used to fund a total of 21 projects and to develop and offer six new natural resource-based workshops. Combined, the restoration and protection projects conserved an additional 375 total acres in the 12-county greater metropolitan region, almost meeting Metro Greenways' combined target of 385 acres of lands restored and protected:

- Five restoration grants totaling \$90,000 were awarded to three counties and one city. In combination with other funds, a total of approximately 255 acres of city, county, and regional park lands were restored to native vegetation, primarily prairie and savanna. The newly restored acreage was over two times more than targeted for this result (120 acres).
- Six protection projects were awarded a total of \$650,000. Only three projects totaling \$370,000 were initiated and completed (Lindstrom, Grannis, and Niebur), resulting in the protection of just 120 acres of the 325 acre projected target for Metro Greenways. The city of Lindstrom acquired a new 64 acre Allemansratt "wilderness" park that will give residents the chance to explore its several clear lakes and deciduous hardwood forest. Two grants to Dakota County added a total of 56 acres under conservation easements to its green infrastructure network being created by the Farmland and Natural Areas Program. Unfortunately, a \$200,000 grant to Anoka Conservation District did not materialize and a \$10,000 grant awarded to Chanhassen was turned down. These funds were put toward other projects. A Washington County project fell through very late in the biennium, leaving an \$80,000 balance for this result category.
- Metro Greenways' Community Conservation Assistance Program awarded 13 grants to cities, counties and special districts that supported a variety of locally-specific conservation needs: a) to obtain land cover and urban tree canopy (UTC) inventories; b) to develop natural resource-based land use decision models; c) to create interjurisdictional partnerships to protect high quality natural

areas; and d) to write new or revise existing ordinances to protect natural resources. In addition to these grants, the Program organized and facilitated two annual events (Rendez-Vous) that brought all DNR Community Assistance grantees (2008 and 2009 appropriations) together for full days of information-sharing and peer-to-peer learning. The DNR also convened the three cities undertaking urban tree canopy (UTC) inventories, along with the University of Minnesota forestry and extension service, U.S. Forestry Service, and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, to hear about each city's findings and proposed applications of UTC data.

This third result area also funded the development and offering of six new natural resource-based workshops in 2010/2011 for local government staff and appointed officials. These workshops were offered in the metro area and were promoted by Government Training Services to its clientele (local government commissioners). Almost 325 local government staff and officials (62% from cities; 14% counties; 10% townships; and 14% special districts and others) attended these workshops on shoreland conservation, stormwater management, and the incorporation of natural resources into land use planning and engineering design. The workshops all received excellent evaluations from attendees.

#### **Project Results Use and Dissemination**

Press releases were sent to local newspapers where projects were funded. The DNR convened all of the Community Conservation Assistance (CCA) project managers in November of 2009 and in February 2011 to share the findings of their conservation work. CCA Project Profiles were drafted and posted on the DNR website. Protection and restoration project information is available through the Metro Conservation Corridor partnership map created for public use. The CCA deliverables will be tried and tested as part of the Results Outcomes effort by the State of Minnesota.

# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2009 Work Program Final Report

**Date of Report:** 8/15/2011  
**Date of Next Progress Report:** none  
**Date of Work Program Approval:** 06/24/2009  
**Project Completion Date:** 6/30/2011

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** MeCC – Metro Greenways

**Project Manager:** Sharon Pfeifer  
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**Location:** Within the mapped Metropolitan Conservation Corridors in 12 of the MeCC Partnership’s 16 counties (7 core counties plus Isanti, Goodhue, Chisago, Wright, and Sherburne) that are included in DNR’s 23-county Central Region.

<b>Total Trust Fund Project Budget:</b>	<b>Trust Fund Appropriation</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1, 175,000</b>
	<b>Minus Amount Transferred</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>236,955</b>
	<b>Minus Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>822,249</b>
	<b>Equal Balance:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>115,786</b>

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f2.6/3.4/4.1

**Appropriation Language**

*\$3,375,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the, fifth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$2,185,000 is for Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$1,190,000 is for agreements as follows: \$380,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$90,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$155,000 with Great River Greening; \$250,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$225,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$90,000 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, technical assistance, 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. 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 quality restoration projects in the project proposal into the first half of the 2010 fiscal year.*

## **II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The DNR Metro Greenways Program has worked since its inception in 1998 toward the goals of protecting, restoring, and reconnecting remaining natural areas in the Twin Cities greater (12-county) metropolitan region. The principal strategies employed by the Program to achieve these goals included: 1) competitive grants to local and regional governments to restore degraded habitats; 2) competitive grants that support the acquisition of or conservation easements on strategically important parcels of terrestrial, wetland, or riparian habitat; 3) incentive grants to local governments to address other conservation needs such as land cover inventories, natural resource based land use decision tools, and ordinance revisions to support conservation efforts; and 4) natural resource based workshops on topics of interest to local government staff and officials.

The 2009 appropriation concludes DNR Central region's Metro Greenways Program, which is sun setting after 13 years. This final allotment of \$1,175,000 was used to fund a total of 21 projects and to develop and offer six new natural resource-based workshops. Combined, the restoration and protection projects conserved an additional 375 total acres in the 12-county greater metropolitan region, almost meeting Metro Greenways' combined target of 385 acres of lands restored and protected:

- Five restoration grants totaling \$90,000 were awarded to three counties and one city. In combination with other funds, a total of approximately 255 acres of city, county, and regional park lands were restored to native vegetation, primarily prairie and savanna. The newly restored acreage was over two times more than targeted for this result (120 acres).
- Six protection projects were awarded a total of \$650,000. Only three projects totaling \$370,000 were initiated and completed (Lindstrom, Grannis, and Niebur), resulting in the protection of just 120 acres of the 325 acre projected target for Metro Greenways. The city of Lindstrom acquired a new 64 acre Allemansratt "wilderness" park that will give residents the chance to explore its several clear lakes and deciduous hardwood forest. Two grants to Dakota County added a total of 56 acres under conservation easements to its green infrastructure network being created by the Farmland and Natural Areas Program. Unfortunately, a

\$200,000 grant to Anoka Conservation District did not materialize and a \$10,000 grant awarded to Chanhassen was turned down. These funds were put toward other projects. A Washington County project fell through very late in the biennium, leaving an \$80,000 balance for this result category.

- Metro Greenways' Community Conservation Assistance Program awarded 13 grants to cities, counties and special districts that supported a variety of locally-specific conservation needs: a) to obtain land cover and urban tree canopy (UTC) inventories; b) to develop natural resource-based land use decision models; c) to create interjurisdictional partnerships to protect high quality natural areas; and d) to write new or revise existing ordinances to protect natural resources. In addition to these grants, the Program organized and facilitated two annual events (Rendez-Vous) that brought all DNR Community Assistance grantees (2008 and 2009 appropriations) together for full days of information-sharing and peer-to-peer learning. The DNR also convened the three cities undertaking urban tree canopy (UTC) inventories, along with the University of Minnesota forestry and extension service, U.S. Forestry Service, and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, to hear about each city's findings and proposed applications of UTC data.

This third result area also funded the development and offering of six new natural resource-based workshops in 2010/2011 for local government staff and appointed officials. These workshops were offered in the metro area and were promoted by Government Training Services to its clientele (local government commissioners). Almost 325 local government staff and officials (62% from cities; 14% counties; 10% townships; and 14% special districts and others) attended these workshops on shoreland conservation, stormwater management, and the incorporation of natural resources into land use planning and engineering design. The workshops all received excellent evaluations from attendees.

#### **IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS**

##### **Result 1: Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat**

**Final Report Description:** The total budget for this result was \$100,000 with \$90,000 designated for matching grants to 4-8 local units of government and \$10,000 reserved for grant administration. The projected target for this Result was to restore or enhance a total of about 120 acres (60 acres funded by Metro Greenways) of significant upland, shore land, or wetland habitat, following LCCMR's guidelines for local ecotype sequencing.

An open Request for Proposals was announced in the spring of 2009, and 18 proposals were received. Proposals were evaluated by an expert review panel using an established set of criteria (Attachment B1) and five projects were recommended for program funding (see following table).

A total of \$87,425 was awarded. All of the projects were either prairie or savanna restorations in existing public places (parks and wildlife management area). Collectively a total of 255 acres were restored, exceeding the target of 60 acres. It should be

mentioned that the oak savanna restoration in Isanti County on a wildlife management area provided additional public benefit in that the restored site is for use by disabled hunters.

Grantees contributed \$91,667 in local in-kind to project completions (1:1 match). The average cost of restoration for all five projects, including both grant funding and local in-kind match, was \$ 678/acre.

The Lake Elmo and Isanti County projects came in under budget, resulting in a balance (9%).

Grantee	Completed Restoration Project	Location	Project Description	Total Project Cost \$	Spent Metro Greenways \$	Other Funds \$
Isanti County	Oak savanna	Becklin Homestead County Park	50 acres of the county park/WMA were restored to oak savanna ecotype	25,403	12,702	12,701
Dakota County	Prairie and oak savanna	Lebanon Hills Regional Park	25 acres near the park's east entrance were restored to savanna with natives from Prairie Moon Nursery; the first prescribed burn will occur in 2013 or 2014	30,500	12,500	18,000
Dakota County	Dry and mesic prairie	Miesville Ravine Regional Park	The Six Prairies Project restored a total of 151 acres of prairie with natives from Prairie Moon Nursery	60,000	25,000	35,000
City of Lake Elmo	Tallgrass. mesic prairie	Sunfish Lake Park, Lake Elmo	20 acres of ag land was restored to prairie within the Sunfish Lake Park borders	41,743	20,871	20,872
Three Rivers Park District	Native prairie	Crow Hassan Park Reserve	9 acres site restored to native prairie; prescribed burn to occur in 2012	17,594	7,500	10,094

<b>Final Budget Information for Result 1:</b>	<b>Trust Fund Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>
	<b>Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 89,092</b>
	<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 10,907</b>

\$10,000 (10%) was used to administer grants for Result 1.

## Result 2: Protect Significant Habitat

**Final Report Description:** The total protection budget initially was \$780,000, with \$650,000 designated for matching grants to 2-5 local units of government to protect about 650 acres (325 acres funded by Metro Greenways) of regionally important natural habitat through acquisition (fee title or conservation easement). The remaining \$130,000 was used to administer the protection grants as well as for: 1) participation in the MeCC partnership and DNR's Conservation Easement Working Group; 2) monitoring of Metro Greenways projects; 3) support to local government staff to identify priority lands for conservation; and 4) other administration functions.

The original projected target for this Result was to protect just over 650 acres of high quality terrestrial or wetland habitat within the 12-county metropolitan region. This target was not met, with only 120 acres of a projected 325 acres being acquired or protected through conservation easement. Other funding sources contributed a total of \$1,129,537 to these three projects (3:1 match). The average cost of protection by conservation easement was \$7990/acre; the acquisition cost per acre was \$16,440/acre.

An open Request for Proposals was announced in the spring of 2009, and 26 proposals were received, totaling \$6,701,400 in requests. Proposals were evaluated by an expert review panel using established criteria (Attachment B2) and six projects were recommended for program funding and approved by DNR's Commissioner. A total of \$650,000 was awarded to six projects (2 acquisition and 4 conservation easements). Of these 6 projects, only three protection projects were completed to add another 126 acres of protected land to the region's green infrastructure (see matrix below). Two conservation easements in Dakota County added 56 acres to Dakota County's Farmland and Natural Areas network. Monitoring of the easements will be done annually by Dakota County staff or its representative with funds from the county's general levy funds. DNR's Metro Greenways Program contributed \$200,000 toward purchase of 64 acres for the new Allemansratt Wilderness Park in the edge city of Lindstrom, Chisago County. A natural resources management plan for this park was approved by the city on 16 June 2011.

Two of the six projects were cancelled at the grantees' requests: 1) Anoka Conservation District passed a resolution on May 17, 2010, to cancel its agreement to receive a \$200,000 grant to assist with the purchase of a conservation easement due to a much lower property appraisal; and 2) the City of Chanhassen declined to enter into a grant agreement to received \$10,000 to purchase property in the Bluff Creek Corridor, citing potential conflicts due to deed restrictions on future highway construction. The relinquished \$200,000 was transferred via amendment\* to DNR's SNA Program for the purposes described in the amendment. The \$10,000 was put toward the purchase of the Grannis property in Dakota County.

With the departure of the Metro Greenways coordinator in May 2011, \$36,955 budgeted for administration of this result was also transferred to the SNA program via amendment\*\* .

\*Amendment Request (10/19/2010); Amendment Approval (29 October 2010): Transfer \$200,000 of unencumbered grant dollars in Result 2: Protect Significant Habitat to MeCC partner DNR Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) Program for **one** of these two pending acquisitions: Option 1: Acquire 21 acres to add to the Seminary Fen SNA that includes the highest quality, unprotected calcareous fen currently in private ownership. Option 2: Acquire about 25 acres of predominantly mapped native plant community to add to the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA; this could be all of a 25-acre acquisition from the City of Hastings and/or a portion of 80 acres in private ownership – both sites immediately adjoining a new northern unit at the Sand Coulee that SNA is receiving from DNR Wildlife. SNA staff is actively pursuing both options and proceed with the acquisition that is most likely to be completed by the June 20, 2011 deadline.

\*\*Amendment Request (2/18/2011); Amendment Approval (18 February 2011)  
Transfer the balance of the salary budget to (\$36,955 as of 2/18/2011) to MeCC partner DNR Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) Program. These dollars will be applied to the Holst property acquisition to protect and add 80 acres of land to the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA.

The Washington County project (\$80,000) did not materialize in time and was cancelled by the county in May 2011.

Grantee	Completed Protection Project	Location	Project Description	Total Cost \$	Spent Metro Greenways \$	Other Funds \$
Dakota County	Grannis	Inver Grove Heights, Dakota County	17 acre parcel (one of several) contains moderate quality oak forest and a deep, clear lake; it is within the Northern Dakota County Greenway	320,000	130,000	190,000
Dakota County	Niebur	Dakota County	39 acre parcel is in the Lower Mississippi River conservation corridor and abuts 2 other FNAP parcels; land cover is oak forest with remnant native prairie; bisected by DNR public waterway	127,473	40,000	87,473
City of Lindstrom	Allemansratt Wilderness Park	Chisago County	64 acre parcel abuts 2 popular fishing lakes and is dominated by maple-basswood-oak forest on glacial eskers; 18 wetlands	1,052,164	200,000	852,064

**Final Budget Information for Result 2:**

**Trust Fund Budget: \$ 780,000**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 462,978**  
**Amount Transferred: \$ 236,955**  
**Balance: \$ 80,067**

\$93,045 (17%) was used to administer grants for Result 2.



### **Result 3: Community Conservation Assistance (Other Tools)**

**Final Report Description:** The total budget for this result was \$295,000 to accomplish two key objectives: 1) to provide \$250,000 for conservation incentive grants to 10-20 local governments; and 2) to work with subject matter consultants to develop and offer new natural resource based workshops targeted to local government officials and staff about why natural resources are important and how to plan and design to conserve land and water resources.

During the biennium, three separate Requests for Proposals were issued for the Community Conservation Assistance Program. A total of 13 grants (\$248,000) were competitively awarded using an established set of criteria (Attachment B3). Grants were provided to assist local governments with: 1) land cover and tree canopy inventories; 2) natural resource informed land use decision-making models; 3) ordinance revisions or new ordinances to conserve natural habitats and guide development; and 4) cooperative, inter-jurisdictional efforts to plan for or manage a natural habitat.

As can be seen from the following list of projects, 9 of the 13 Community Conservation Assistance grants aided communities that were more rural, where communities have less capacity and fewer resources to address conservation issues. It is important to recognize that these small incentive grants, averaging \$19,000, can have a bigger conservation footprint than acquisition because the inventories, decision-making tools, and partnerships affect larger geographic areas (see attached map). For example, Goodhue County's natural resource informed land use decision-making model has county-wide application, informing the cities within the county as well as the county itself.

In addition to the 13 incentive grants, this result also produced six new natural resource based workshops that were offered in 2010 and 2011 as part of Government Training Services' 2010 and 2011 *Working Nature into Land Use Decisions* series, started by the DNR in partnership with GTS in 2008. Workshop development and delivery necessitated that the DNR issue a Request for Proposals in February 2011 to find and select a consultant to assist the DNR with workshop development and execution. The consulting firm CR Planning was selected and worked with DNR's Community Conservation Assistance manager to design and deliver new workshops. An annual plan was also executed with Government Training Services (GTS) to utilize its experience with workshop logistics, registration, and program promotion and evaluation\*. On selected workshops, NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) and other consulting firms were engaged to design the workshop format and content

Collectively, all of these workshops increased the environmental awareness of 235 local government staff and officials from around the region about why consideration of natural resources is essential in local planning and ways to conserve nature locally.

The following workshops for local government were developed and offered:

- May 2010, **Shoreland Conservation in Urban Settings** was offered in Bloomington to 29 LGU participants (also given in Brainerd)

- June 2010 **Working Nature into Land Use Decisions** was given in Bloomington to 26 LGU participants
- March 2011, **Stormwater Management 101 for Local Leaders** was presented in Shoreview to 21 LGU participants
- April 2011, **Managing New and Existing Shoreland Development** was given in Shoreview to 24 LGU participants (also given in Brainerd)
- May 2011, **Planning and Designing with Nature for Planners and Engineers** was given in Roseville to 35 attendees
- June 2011, **Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Communities** was offered in Northfield to 29 LGU participants

A breakdown of workshop participants shows that 62% were from cities; 24% from counties and townships; and 14% from special districts, academia, consulting firms, and foundations. Workshop evaluations compiled by GTS were excellent for all workshops and a tally indicated that 47% of workshop attendees included the “hard to get” local Commissioners.

*\*An approved amendment dated January 29, 2010, authorized using \$10,000 of the \$30,000 originally allotted to contracts to provide technical assistance to communities via natural resource workshops offered through Government Training Services’ (GTS) Working Nature into Land Use Series (2010, 2011).*

Local Government	Project	Amount Awarded	Year
Corcoran	New and updated environmental zoning ordinances (conservation focused)	\$24,000	2009
Hugo	Natural resource inventory to identify and prioritize future conservation areas east of highway 61 and to inform future sewer extension by the Met Council	\$25,125	2010
Lake Elmo	Forest assessment and management strategies for Sunfish Lake Park	\$8,306	2009
Lakeland	Update existing Vegetative Cutting Ordinance and draft a model ordinance that protects the scenic and natural values of the St. Croix River; combined with outreach to neighboring St. Croix communities	\$18,000	2010
Minneapolis	Urban Tree Canopy mapping using LIDAR and satellite imagery to develop city-wide conservation and tree management strategies	\$29,000	2009
North Branch	City-wide land cover inventory using MLCCS to identify higher quality remaining natural areas	\$17,500	2010
Princeton	Rum River Recreation Area planning process among 6 townships to identify and create a trail system that interconnects green space along the river	\$10,000	2010

<b>St. Paul</b>	Urban Tree Canopy mapping to document trees on private land and in uninventoried public spaces	\$21,000	2009
<b>Scott County</b>	Inter-jurisdictional collaborative planning effort to protect the Blakely Bluff ecological corridor in the Minnesota River Valley	\$11,000	2009
<b>Scott County</b>	Develop a Transfer of Development Rights Program through an open process that engages stakeholders as a future tool to protect important natural areas in the county	\$25,000	2010
<b>Sherburne County</b>	Land cover inventory using MLCCS of four townships most likely to experience growth in the near future	\$27,000	2010
<b>Three Rivers Park District</b>	Forest assessment and management strategies for regionally significant Murphy-Hanrehan Park	\$12,000	2009
<b>Woodbury</b>	Urban Tree Canopy mapping to identify locations to increase its tree canopy	\$19,000	2009
<b>ordinances</b>			
<b>decision tools</b>			
<b>inventories</b>			
<b>mgmt plans</b>			

**Final Budget Information for Result 3:**

<b>Trust Fund Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 295,000</b>
<b>Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 270,179</b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 24,821</b>

\$20,181 (7%) was used to administer grants for Result 3.

## V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

**Personnel:** \$ 123,629 was used for 1.0 unclassified FTE to administer and represent the Metro Greenways Program.

**Contracts:** \$ 16,800 was used to hire subject matter experts for workshop design and facilitation; \$10,000 was used to secure assistance in 2010 and 2011 with workshop promotion, set up, and evaluation by Government Training Services.

**Equipment/Tools/Supplies:** \$ 0

**Acquisition, including easements:**

**Travel:** \$ 0

**Other:** \$78,622 was expended to restore 255 acres of upland habitat to prairie or savanna; \$370,000 purchased land for a new park in Lindstrom MN and conservation easements on two parcels in Dakota County; and \$ 223,198 helped support conservation by local governments through means other than acquisition (i.e., planning, policies, and practices).

**TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$1,175,000**

**Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: n/a**

**VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** Local governments, special districts, consultants, University of Minnesota, and Metro Conservation Corridor Partnership (Friends of the Minnesota River Valley, Friends of the Mississippi, Great River Greening, Minnesota Land Trust, Minnesota Valley Natural Wildlife Refuge Trust, Trust for Public Land, and the MN DNR Fish and Wildlife and Scientific and Natural Areas Programs.)

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:** The Metro Greenways Program is based on the green infrastructure concept, which is a proactive and strategic approach to conservation that aims to recreate a web of natural lands in developed/developing landscapes. Initiated in 1998 with support of the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), the Metro Greenways Program has built support over the years for conservation among local governments over the years, to the extent that several counties and cities now have their own green infrastructure programs and/or have passed referenda to support local land conservation.

A key success of the Program, that has longer term applications, is the land cover inventories and mapping that were funded throughout the metro region by the Metro Greenways Planning Grant Program between 1998-2004. These land cover data continue to be used by local government in a variety of ways to plan for conservation and development.

With the passage of time, the Metro Greenways has worked with its partners to restore and protect habitat, but it has also recognized the importance of increasing awareness about conservation and providing conservation options for local government staff and officials, who control the myriad of land use decisions that occur daily. As Metro Greenways sunsets in 2011, the DNR’s Community Conservation Assistance Program has also had an impact on how the agency thinks about conservation. Recognizing that the State owns and manages only 5% of the landscapes, the DNR has a heightened awareness that it needs to work side-by-side with local governments, using a wider variety of conservation approaches (policies, plans, practices), if the collective whole is to make a difference in conserving our resources for the future.

**C. Other Funds Spent during the Project Period:** \$1,282,000 in local government cash or in-kind match.

**D. Spending History:**

M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd.4f2.6/3.4/4.1	\$1,175,000
M.L. 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a)	\$950,000
M.L. 2007, Chap. 30, Sec.2, Subd. 4 (c)	\$944,000
M.L. 2005, 1 <sup>st</sup> Spec. Sess., Chap. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 5(b)	\$1,200,000
2005 Bonding	\$500,000
M.L. 2001, 1 <sup>st</sup> Spec. Sess., Chap 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(g)	\$2,730,000

2000 Bonding	\$1,500,000
1998 Bonding	\$4,000,000

**VII. DISSEMINATION:**

Press releases were sent to local newspapers where projects were funded. The DNR convened all of the Community Conservation Assistance (CCA) project managers in November of 2009 and in February 2011 to share the findings of their conservation work. CCA Project Profiles were drafted and posted on the DNR website. Protection and restoration project information is available through the Metro Conservation Corridor partnership map created for public use. The CCA deliverables will be tried and tested as part of the Results Outcomes effort by the State of Minnesota.

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Final report 8/15/2011.**

**IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: N/A**

# Attachment B1

## EVALUATION CRITERIA CHECK LIST - 2009 Metro Greenways **Restoration** Grants

Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

### Required Elements:

Local (non-state) cash or in kind match not less than 1:1

Metro Conservation Corridors are mapped within project area

Points Awarded	10	7	4	0	Key Evaluation Criteria
1	highly appropriate	appropriate	somewhat appropriate	not appropriate	The <b>ecological community</b> is appropriate (i.e., the goal plant community once the project activities have been completed)
2	yes - most to all of the parcel	yes - but less than half of the parcel	no but within 1/2 mile	none	<b>Regionally Significant Environmental Areas</b> are mapped within the project area
3	yes - complete connection	yes -single break in the connection	multiple breaks in the connection	no	Project site <b>connects to</b> natural habitats
4	yes - high quality area	yes - moderate quality area	yes - low quality area	no	Project site <b>buffers</b> a natural area
5	highly compatible	compatible	somewhat compatible	not compatible	<b>Adjacent land use</b> is compatible* with protecting the project area * does not negatively affect the ecological structure or function
6	strong	moderate	slight	no	<b>Project budget, tasks and timeline</b> seem appropriate in the context of the project scope
7	strong	moderate	slight	no	<b>Restoration plan</b> matches target ecological community
8	strong	moderate	slight	no	Commitment and ability to carry out long term management
	Total Points (max 80)				

## Attachment B2

### EVALUATION CRITERIA CHECK LIST - 2009 Metro Greenways **Protection** Grants

Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Required Elements:

Local (non-state) cash or in kind match not less than 1:1  
Metro Conservation Corridors are mapped within project area

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Points Awarded	10	7	4	0	Key Evaluation Criteria
1	80 - 100%	50-79%	25-49%	0-24%	Percent of coverage of native communities on the project site (as mapped by MCBS, MLCCS or comparable Natural Resource Inventory)
2	overall outstanding	overall high	overall moderate	overall poor	Existing <b>cover condition</b> (as mapped by MCBS, MLCCS or comparable Natural Resource Inventory)
3	mapped within project area	mapped nearby	contains habitat	none	The site contains habitat for documented rare, endangered or threatened <b>wildlife species</b>
4	within project area	adjacent to the project (approx. <5mi)	within the region (>5 but<10)	> 10 miles	Site proximity to a <b>Regionally Significant Ecological Area</b>
5	connects high quality areas	connects moderate quality	connects lower quality areas	doesn't connect	The site <b>connects</b> natural habitat(s)
6	buffers high quality area	buffers moderate quality	buffers low quality area	doesn't buffer	The site <b>buffers</b> natural habitat(s)
7	> 500 acres	101 to 500 ac	26 to 100 ac	<25 acres	Proposed size of the final project area
8	highly compatible	compatible	somewhat compatible	not compatible	<b>Adjacent land use</b> is compatible* with protecting the project area  * does not negatively affect the ecological structure or function
9	very likely	likely	not sure	unlikely	Project will be completed within the timeframe
	Total Points (max 90)				

## Attachment B3

### EVALUATION CRITERIA CHECK LIST - 2009 Metro Greenways Community Conservation Assistance

Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Required Elements:**

Local (non-state) cash or in kind match not less than 25%

Project at least partially in Metro Conservation Corridors defined area

Points Awarded	10	7	4	0	Key Evaluation Criteria
1	very clear	fairly clear	many unanswered questions	not clear	It is clear how the project deliverables will be used to conserve land and/or water resources in the near term
2	supports 4 or more local plans	supports 2-3 local plans	supports one other local plan	no	The project deliverables support conservation priorities identified in other local plans
3	MCBS or RSEA* and unimpaired waters	moderate quality habitats	low quality habitats	city scapes	Natural resources targeted for conservation
4	strong	adequate	minimal	none	Evidence of increasing pressures on the community's land and water resources
5	well covered	fairly well covered	brief, unclear mention	None/No mention	Need for collaboration with other jurisdictions (watersheds, joint powers, SWCD's, townships, etc)
6	yes	most likely	not likely	no	Project will be completed within the timeframe
<input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> Total Points (max 60 points)					

\* MCBS= Mn County Biological Survey; RSEA = Regionally Significant Ecological Area



<b>Attachment A: Final Budget Detail for 2009 Project</b>												
<b>Project Title:</b> MeCC - Metro Greenways												
<b>Project Manager Name:</b> Sharon Pfeifer												
<b>Trust Fund Appropriation:</b> \$1,175,000 (original); \$938,045 following amendments to transfer funds to DNR's SNA Program												
<i>Amendment approved 10/29/2010</i>												
<i>Amendment approved 2/18/2011</i>												
<b>2009 Trust Fund Budget</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Budgeted for Revised Result</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Total Budgeted for all results</b>	<b>Totals Spent</b>	<b>Total Balances</b>
<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Result 1: Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat</b>			<b>Result 2: Protect Significant Habitat</b>			<b>Result 3: Other Conservation Tools</b>					
<b>Personnel: wages and benefits</b> 1 FTE + benefits for 2 years	10,000	10,470	-470	93,045	92,978	67	17,000	20,181	-3,181	120,045	123,629	-3,584
<b>Professional/technical Contracts</b> \$ 20,000 for 2 to 6 contracts with technical experts such as CR Planning, Brauer and Associates, and others to be identified as needed to help local units of government apply conservation tools other than acquisition.							20,000	16,800	3,200	20,000	16,800	3,200
\$10,000 to provide technical assistance to communities via natural resource workshops offered through Government Training Services' (GTS) Working Nature into Land Use Series (2010, 2011).							10,000	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	0
<b>Other</b> Grants to local units of government	90,000	78,622	11,378	450,000	370,000	80,000	248,000	223,198	24,802	788,000	\$671,820	116,180
<b>Grand Totals and Remaining Balances</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$89,092</b>	<b>\$10,907</b>	<b>\$543,045</b>	<b>\$462,978</b>	<b>\$80,067</b>	<b>\$295,000</b>	<b>\$270,179</b>	<b>\$24,821</b>	<b>\$938,045</b>	<b>822,249</b>	<b>\$115,796</b>



# METRO CONSERVATION CORRIDORS PHASE V

## *Metro Greenways Completed Projects*

