

2009 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2011

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

PROJECT MANAGER: Sarah Strommen
AFFILIATION: Minnesota Land Trust
MAILING ADDRESS: 2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240
CITY/STATE/ZIP: St. Paul, MN 55114
PHONE: 651-647-9590
E-MAIL: sstrommen@mnland.org
WEBSITE: [If applicable] www.mnland.org
FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2009, Chapter 143, Section 2, Subdivision 4(f)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$250,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

During the fifth 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. Eight perpetual conservation easements were completed that collectively protect 765 acres of land and more than 13,000 feet of shoreline. Three easements were purchased, and the remaining five easements were donated. While two of the purchased easements used both 2009 and 2010 ENRTF funding, we are reporting the accomplishments as part of our 2009 report. We will not report these acres in future 2010 reports to avoid double-counting. All eight 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 several priority sites. The specific project sites of the conservation easements include:

- 45 acres, including 1,095 feet of shoreline, along Deer Lake in Anoka County (purchased using both ML 2009 and ML 2010 ENRTF appropriations);
- 148 acres, including 2,527 feet of shoreline, along Elk River in Sherburne County (donated);
- 44 acres, including 3,065 feet of shoreline, on Kingswood Pond in Hennepin County (purchased using both ML 2009 and ML 2010 ENRTF appropriations);
- 157 acres near Hardwood Creek in Washington County (donated);
- 5 acres in Scandia in Washington County (donated);
- 126 acres near the headwaters of Valley Creek in Washington County (donated);
- 39 acres adjacent to Wild River State Park in Chisago County (purchased using ML 2009 ENRTF appropriation only);
- 201 acres near Baypoint Park in Goodhue County (donated).

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 ENRTF and other funds to its segregated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for all completed 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.

Values are known for only five of the eight easements acquired, and this value totals \$854,500, with a known donated value of \$413,500. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete these projects was just over \$326 per acre.

Cumulatively, across phases I-V of the Metro Corridors program, the Land Trust has protected 3,298 acres of critical habitat and more than 75,000 feet of shoreline, at a cost to the State of \$520 per acre.

The Minnesota Land Trust's work on this project continues to demonstrate the 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, as opposed to obtaining donated easements, will be necessary in the future as work becomes more targeted, selective, and focused on building complexes of protected land.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The Minnesota Land Trust disseminated information about the specific land protection projects completed under this grant through our newsletter, email updates, web site, and press releases. The Land Trust also shared information about conservation easements generally and our experience with our partner organizations, other easement holders, local communities, as well as policy makers including members of the LCCMR and L-SOHC.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2009 Final Report and
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2010 Work Program Status Report**

Date of Report: August 1, 2011
ENRTF 2009 Final Report
ENRTF 2010 Status Report

Date of Next 2010 Status Report: February 1, 2012

	M.L. 2009	M.L. 2010
Date of Work program	June 16, 2009	June 9, 2010
Approval:		
Project Completion Date:	June, 30 2011	June 30, 2012

I. PROJECT TITLE: 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.

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	M.L. 2009	M.L. 2010	Total
Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$250,000	\$485,000	\$735,000
Minus Amount Spent:	\$250,000	\$293,900	\$543,900
Equal Balance:	\$0	\$191,100	\$191,100

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 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 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 biodiverse, quality restoration projects in the project proposal into the first half of the 2010 fiscal year.

Legal Citation: M.L. 2010, Chapter 362, Section 2, Subdivision 4(g)

Appropriation Language:

\$1,750,000 is added to Laws 2009, chapter 143, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (f), from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$1,750,000 is for agreements as follows: \$890,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$485,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$325,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$50,000 with Friends of the Minnesota Valley for 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.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

M.L. 2009 Final Project Summary:

During the fifth 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. Eight perpetual conservation easements were completed that collectively protect 765 acres of land and more than 13,000 feet of shoreline. Three easements were purchased, and the remaining five easements were donated. While two of the purchased easements used both 2009 and 2010 ENRTF funding, we are reporting the accomplishments as part of our 2009 report. We will not report these acres in future 2010 reports to avoid double-counting. All eight 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 several priority sites. The specific project sites of the conservation easements include:

- 45 acres, including 1,095 feet of shoreline, along Deer Lake in Anoka County (purchased using both ML 2009 and ML 2010 ENRTF appropriations);
- 148 acres, including 2,527 feet of shoreline, along Elk River in Sherburne County (donated);
- 44 acres, including 3,065 feet of shoreline, on Kingswood Pond in Hennepin County (purchased using both ML 2009 and ML 2010 ENRTF appropriations);
- 157 acres near Hardwood Creek in Washington County (donated);
- 5 acres in Scandia in Washington County (donated);
- 126 acres near the headwaters of Valley Creek in Washington County (donated);
- 39 acres adjacent to Wild River State Park in Chisago County (purchased using ML 2009 ENRTF appropriation only);
- 201 acres near Baypoint Park in Goodhue County (donated).

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 ENRTF and other funds to its segregated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund for all completed 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.

Values are known for only five of the eight easements acquired, and this value totals \$854,500, with a known donated value of \$413,500. The cost to the State of Minnesota to complete these projects was just over \$326 per acre.

Cumulatively, across phases I-V of the Metro Corridors program, the Land Trust has protected 3,298 acres of critical habitat and more than 75,000 feet of shoreline, at a cost to the State of \$520 per acre.

The Minnesota Land Trust's work on this project continues to demonstrate the 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, as opposed to obtaining donated easements, will be necessary in the future as work becomes more targeted, selective, and focused on building complexes of protected land.

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 AUGUST 1, 2011:

M.L. 2010

2010 Goal:	40-80 acres
Number of Easements Completed:	(2 projects included in 2009 results)
Total Acres of Easements Completed:	(89 acres included in 2009 results)
Total Acres of Potential Easements:	To be determined

To date we have completed two projects (Deer Lake and Camp Kingswood) that used both 2009 and 2010 funds. To avoid double counting, acreage will only be counted as part of ENRTF 2009 accomplishments. Full details of these two projects can be found in our 2009 final report.

At this point in time, we anticipate that we will complete one additional project to close out our 2010 grant. An updated project list that includes only 2010 projects (2009 projects deleted) is attached. As the list indicates, we had originally intended to complete the Valley Creek project, but we are no longer considering this project.

Therefore, once we determine which new project will be completed as part of the 2010 grant, we will seek approval for a revised list and provide additional information for that project through a work program status report.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements

Description: For the 2009 phase 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. 2009	M.L. 2010	Total
Trust Fund Budget:	\$250,000	\$485,000	\$735,000
Amount Spent:	\$250,000	\$293,900	\$543,900
Balance:	\$0	\$191,100	\$191,100

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. 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	Complete	\$250,000 a. included in personnel b. included in CE acquisition costs, travel, and personnel c. \$80,000 All as outlined in Attachment A.
2. M.L. 2010: Protect up to 40-80 acres by: a. completing 1-2 conservation	June 30, 2012	\$485,000 a. included in CE acquisition costs,

easements b. dedicating funds to ensure long-term easement sustainability		and personnel b. estimated at \$10,000 All as outlined in Attachment A.
--	--	---

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

M.L. 2009 Final Report Summary:

Under this phase of the Metro Corridors program, the Land Trust met project goals and exceeded acreage goals by completing 8 conservation easements, which collectively protect 765 acres of land and more than 33,000 feet of shoreline. While two of the projects used both 2009 and 2010 ENRTF funding, we are reporting the accomplishments as part of our 2009 report. In our reports on the 2010 appropriation, we will discuss the projects but will not include these acres in order to avoid double counting.

Of the eight projects, two are located in the Northwest Area, one in the Central Area, four in the East Area, and one in the Southeast Area. All eight 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 96 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: 193

Easements completed: 2

Project: Deer Lake, Anoka County

Description: This 45-acre property is located in East Bethel, adjacent to and containing portions of the Sandhill Crane Natural Area. The property includes oak forest, mixed hardwood swamp, and emergent marsh plant communities that have been mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. Additionally, the property features 1,095 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Deer Lake.

The easement prohibits division of the property. Residential use is limited, and agricultural use is prohibited.

The Land Trust purchased this easement for the fair market value of \$163,000. To simplify grant accounting, we used funds from the 2010 supplemental grant to cover the entire purchase price (minus the option consideration of \$100). \$15,000 of 2009 ENRTF funds were used to cover stewardship on this project. 2009 ENRTF funds also were used to cover personnel and project costs such as appraisal, title work and mapping. As stated above, the acreage for this project was counted under the 2009 ENRTF grant, and will not be counted under the accomplishments for the 2010 supplemental grant. Additional detail is provided in the attached Summary of Purchased Easements.

Project: Elk River, Sherburne County

Description: This 148-acre property is a mix of high quality oak forest, restored prairie and a large wetland complex. The protected land also includes 2,527 feet of undeveloped shoreline along two ponds and provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including Blanding's turtle, sandhill crane, bald eagle, and a variety of neotropical migratory birds.

The easement prohibits division of the property. Residential use is limited, and agricultural use is prohibited.

\$15,000 of ENRTF funds were used to cover easement monitoring, management, and enforcement. The value of this donated easement is \$319,500.

Central Area: Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

Acres protected: 44

Easements completed: 1

Project: Camp Kingswood, Hennepin County

Description: The property consists of 44 acres in western Hennepin County in the City of Minnetrista and lies within one of the County's highest priority natural resource corridors. The remnant maple-basswood forest and the eastern red cedar woodland on the property have both been identified as native plant communities by the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System. The property also features approximately 3,065 feet of shoreline along Kingswood Pond, which also is the site of a floating tamarack bog. The

property also lies adjacent to other Camp Kingswood property that is protected with a conservation easement held by the MN DNR (through the former Metro Greenways program). Protection of this property also complements Gale Woods Park and other private easements on Whale Tail Lake, which lie within the same priority corridor.

The easement prohibits division of the property and agricultural use. Limited camp facilities, including an alternative residential use, are allowed. This easement is co-held with Hennepin County.

The Land Trust purchased this easement for \$200,000, a price below the fair-market value of \$225,000. Funds for the purchase price came from the Land Trust's 2009 and 2010 grants, as well as Hennepin County. Hennepin County also provided \$15,000 to cover easement stewardship on this project. As noted above, the acreage for this project was counted under the 2009 ENRTF grant, and will not be counted under the accomplishments for the 2010 supplemental grant. Additional detail is provided in the attached Summary of Purchased Easements.

East Area: Chisago and Washington Counties

Acres protected: 327

Easements completed: 4

Project: Hardwood Creek, Washington County

Description: This 157-acre property is located in northern Washington County, adjacent to the Hardwood Creek Wildlife Management Area. This area contains one of the largest remaining complexes of high quality native plant communities in Washington County. The forest and wetland mosaic on the property includes four native plant communities identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey: shrub swamp, hardwood swamp forest, maple-basswood forest, and minerotrophic tamarack swamp.

The easement prohibits division of the property and residential use. Agricultural use is limited to a small portion of the property.

This was a donated easement, and the Land Trust dedicated \$15,000 of ENRTF funds to cover easement stewardship. The value of this easement is unknown.

Project: Scandia, Washington County

Description: This project involved adding 5 acres of land to an existing easement of 15 acres. The property has a rolling topography and lies at the start of the fall line to the St. Croix Valley. It contains restored prairie and wetlands, both of which are key habitats for a variety of species in conservation need.

The easement prohibits division of the entire 20-acre property and agricultural use. Residential use is limited.

\$10,000 of ENRTF funds were used to cover easement monitoring, management, and enforcement. The value of this donated easement is \$69,000.

Project: Valley Creek, Washington County

Description: This 126-acre property lies at the headwaters of Valley Creek, an area where the Land Trust has focused conservation work in recent years. The property contains natural communities of shrub swamp and mesic oak forest that have been mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey and the property can provide habitat for such species in greatest conservation need as northern harriers, bobolinks, and peregrine falcons.

The easement prohibits division of the property and agricultural use. Residential use is limited. Recreational, education, and/or research structures are allowed but limited.

\$10,000 of ENRTF funds were used to cover easement monitoring, management, and enforcement. The value of this donated easement is unknown.

Project: Wild River State Park, Chisago County

Description: This 39-acre property lies adjacent to Wild River State Park and three other Land Trust conservation easements. It features oak forest and white pine-hardwood forest that have been mapped by the MCBS.

The easement prohibits division of the property, residential use, and agricultural use.

The Land Trust purchased this easement for the fair-market value of \$78,000 using funds from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation/Conservation Fund. \$15,000 of 2009 ENRTF funds were used to cover easement monitoring and enforcement. Additional detail is provided in the attached Summary of Purchased Easements.

Southeast Area: Dakota and Goodhue Counties

Acres protected: 201

Easements completed: 1

Project: Baypoint Park, Goodhue County

Description: The 201-acre property features land along the Mississippi River within the City of Red Wing. The scenic property protects 8,893 feet of Mississippi River shoreline and 5,597 feet along both sides of Hay Creek, a state designated trout stream. Two city parks are located in the property and provide extensive recreational and educational opportunities and public access to the Mississippi River. Natural communities in the property include lowland floodplain forests, a mixed emergent marsh, wet meadow, ponds and several grassland areas. Important habitat types in the property are used by both

migratory and resident wildlife including several species in greatest conservation need. The land is part of a greater Audubon Important Bird Area and is located near several regionally significant protected lands along the Upper Mississippi River corridor.

The easement prohibits agricultural and residential use on the property. Commercial use is limited.

2009 ENRTF funds were used to cover personnel and project costs such as appraisal, title work and mapping. \$22,000 was provided by The Saint Paul Foundation to cover easement monitoring, management, and enforcement. The value of this donated easement is unknown.

Result Status as of August 1, 2011:

M.L. 2010: As stated above we completed two projects that partially used 2010 funds, but we have reported these accomplishments as part of our 2009 final report. Because we are no longer considering the Valley Creek project, we need to determine which new project will complete our deliverables under this phase of the grant. We will provide additional details once that project has been selected.

Result Status as of June 13, 2011:

M.L. 2010: As noted in the 2009 update, the Land Trust intends to use 2010 funds for a portion of the Camp Kingswood acquisition. Details related to this project and transaction are described in the 2009 update.

Result Status as of February 1, 2011:

M.L. 2010: The Deer Lake project, protecting 45 acres in Anoka County and described in detail in the 2009 update, was completed using 2010 funds for the purchase price of this conservation easement. Additionally, we anticipate completing two additional projects that will require 2010 funds.

Amendment Request

The Land Trust also intends to complete 4-5 additional projects to complete both the 2009 and 2010 grants. Three of these projects will involve donated easements, which will be completed using 2009 funds. One of these three projects will require ENRTF stewardship funding. Two projects will involve purchases, which will require the use of 2009 and 2010 funds. Again, one of these purchased easements will require ENRTF stewardship funding. Therefore, we are requesting the following budget amendment:

In order to complete the remaining 5 potential projects, the Land Trust is requesting the following budget amendment:

1. 2009 Budget: Move \$20,000 from "Easement Acquisition" to "Easement Stewardship" - As noted above, this adjustment is needed because we are completing more projects than originally anticipated and will allow us to fulfill

stewardship funding needs for projects completed at the end of 2010 and for one additional easement yet to be completed.

2. 2010 Budget: Move \$20,000 from “Easement Stewardship” to “Easement Acquisition.” This adjustment will keep the combined total 2009 and 2010 stewardship budget as originally proposed and approved. The additional stewardship funds are not needed in 2010 because we used 2009 funds for the Deer Lake project. This was done pursuant to the approval we received on July 8, 2010 to run the two grants concurrently, which required that we spend 2009 dollars first in categories other than acquisition.
3. 2010 Budget: Move \$5,000 from “Personnel” to “Easement Acquisition.” Because we continue to use the 2009 personnel budget, it is anticipated that we will not require all of the 2010 dollars originally planned for personnel expenses.

Amendment approved on February 14, 2011.

Result Status as of August 1, 2010:

M. L. 2010: The Land Trust just recently received approval to work on this grant concurrently with the 2009 grant and signed contracts with the Minnesota DNR. We anticipate closing our first project, Deer Lake (described above), during the month of August.

Request to Work on Grants Concurrently:

One of the projects (Deer Lake) on which the Land Trust is currently working is scheduled to close as early as July or August 2010 and requires capital funds as the Land Trust will be purchasing the easement from the landowner. This is a high-priority project on a natural environment lake in Anoka County. In order to complete this project, the Land Trust would need to use the Phase 5 Supplemental (2010) funds for the acquisition capital. Therefore, we are requesting approval to be able to work on both grants concurrently. Request approved on: July 8, 2010.

Result Status as of February 1, 2010:

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

Result Status as of February 1, 2012:

M.L. 2010 Final Report Summary:

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

M.L. 2009

MLT and Contract Personnel: \$88,413: \$58,043 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. \$30,370 for land protection project professional services, including negotiating

and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation and legal review services. We anticipate contracting with Lee Markell, Melinda Beck, or other individuals familiar with conservation easements. All contractors will comply with the Land Trust's Conflicts of Interest policy.

Acquisition, including easements: \$80,062 to acquire 8 conservation easements protecting 765 acres of land to be held by the Minnesota Land Trust. A limited amount was used for the direct cost of acquiring easements where landowners were not be able to donate the full value of an easement. The remaining funds were 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 were allocated as specific projects were identified for completion under this grant.

Travel: \$1,525 to cover mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota.

Stewardship: \$80,000 to be dedicated to the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund. Actual amounts committed for stewardship were determined based upon the number and nature of specific projects completed and the availability of other funds. Typical stewardship fund requests are approximately \$12,000-15,000 per project.

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

M.L. 2010

Personnel: \$15,000 to cover a portion of the salaries and related benefits of staff working on projects funded under this grant

Acquisition, including easements: \$460,000

Stewardship: \$10,000 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 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 primarily donated conservation easements, or easements through bargain purchases, the Minnesota Land Trust 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 2009 grant phase is \$413,500, but values are known for only five of the eight 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 easements is difficult to predict, but we expect a similar level of leverage for 2010.

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; \$250,000 in 2009; and \$485,000 in 2010. Of the total funds appropriated through these grants, \$1,064,300 has been spent to date.

D. Time: For the 2009 phase, work was initiated in December 2009 and was completed in June 2011. For the 2010 phase, work was initiated in July 2010 and will be completed not later than June 30, 2012. The 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 2009 projects, the Land Trust completed press releases for Camp Kingwood, Deer Lake, Hardwood Creek, and Wild River State Park. The Deer Lake project was publicized in the Star Tribune and two other projects, Bay Point Park and Camp Kingswood, were publicized in local papers. The Land Trust will continue to disseminate results for 2009 and 2010 projects 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 2009 appropriation, periodic work program progress reports were submitted February 1st and August 1st of each year, starting February 2010. This is the final work program report.

For the 2010 appropriation, 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 will be submitted not later than August 1, 2012.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: N/A

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2010 Projects

Project Title: *Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase V: Minnesota Land Trust*

Project Manager Name: *Sarah Strommen*

Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 485,000

2010 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget: Amended/Approved February 2011	Amount Spent as of 6/30/2011	Balance as of 6/30/2011
	<i>Aquiring Conservation Easements</i>		
BUDGET ITEM			
MLT and Contract Personnel:	15,000	0	15,000
Wages and benefits: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA,FUTA. SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) and related costs for conservation directors or other land protection staff, staff attorney and other support staff.			
Land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation and legal review services			
Conservation Easement Acquisition Costs (less than fee)	460,000	293,900	166,100
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.)			
Easement Stewardship: funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring, managing, and enforcing acquired easements	10,000	0	10,000
COLUMN TOTAL	\$485,000	\$293,900	\$191,100

Minnesota Land Trust
2010 LCCMR Metro Corridors Phase 5 Supplemental Project List
 August 1, 2011

The following is a list of projects the Minnesota Land Trust currently is considering. Other projects may be added to the list as new landowners are contacted. Some projects on the list will not be completed. Projects not completed under the 2010 phase may be moved to future phases.

PROJECTS:

Northwest Area: Wright, Sherburne, Isanti and Anoka Counties

Site/County	Approximate Acres	Water Body	STATUS
Deer Lake Anoka County	45	Deer Lake	Completed
TOTAL	45 (reported under 2009 grant)		

Central Area: Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

Site/County	Approximate Acres	Water Body	STATUS
Camp Kingswood Hennepin County	41	Pond	Completed
TOTAL	41 (reported under 2009 grant)		

East Area: Chisago and Washington Counties

Site/County	Approximate Acres	Water Body	STATUS
Valley Creek Washington County	8		No longer considering
TOTAL			

Southwest Area: Carver, Scott, Sibley, LeSueur, Nicollet Counties

Site/County	Approximate Acres	Water Body	STATUS
TOTAL			

Southeast Area: Dakota and Goodhue Counties

Site/County	Approximate Acres	Water Body	STATUS
TOTAL			

Minnesota Land Trust: Metro Conservation Corridors – 2009 and 2010 (Phase 5 and Phase 5 Supplemental)
 Summary of Purchased Easements

Project	Acres	Funding Type	Funds Use	Funding Amount
Deer Lake Anoka County	45	ENRTF – 2010 Land Trust allocation	Purchase price of conservation easement	\$163,000
		ENRTF – 2009 Land Trust allocation	Stewardship	\$15,000
Wild River State Park Chisago County	39	The Conservation Fund/Doris Duke Foundation	Purchase price of conservation easement	\$78,000
		ENRTF-2009 Land Trust allocation	Stewardship	\$15,000
Camp Kingswood Hennepin County	44	ENRTF-2009 Land Trust allocation	Purchase price of conservation easement	\$41,500
		ENRTF-2010 Land Trust allocation	Purchase price of conservation easement	\$131,000
		Hennepin County	Purchase price of conservation easement	\$27,500
		Hennepin County	Stewardship	\$15,000
		Landowner donation	Donated value of conservation easement	\$25,000

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 2009 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 PHASE V



