

Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

Date of Report: 5 June 2009
Date of Next Progress Report: 1 Feb 2010
Date of Work Program Approval:
Project Completion Date: 30 June 2011

I. PROJECT TITLE: Great River Greening, Restore/Enhance Significant Habitat

Project Manager: Wiley Buck
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Location: Several sites within MeCC mapped corridors 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:	Trust Fund Appropriation	\$	155,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$	0
	Equal Balance:	\$	155,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(f)2.5

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

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS: Great River Greening will restore/enhance 155 ecologically significant acres, focusing on oak communities and critical watersheds. Projects include prairie, oak savanna, and forest restoration, with integral volunteer participation.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Restore/Enhance 155ac of Significant Habitat

Description:

Much of the quality habitat in the project area is rapidly threatened by loss, fragmentation, invasive species, development, altered hydrology, and climate change. Restoration of these habitats is needed to save Minnesota's natural heritage for future generations, protect rare and declining species, for clean water, and as an avenue to connect residents with their local natural areas. Projects will be chosen based on ecological significance, partner commitment, opportunity, and community importance, with our Million Acorn Campaign focus on oak communities in the Anoka Sandplain; our St. Croix Healthy Waters Initiative focus in the Franconia Corridor; restoration in the collar county Park systems; and continuing restoration work in the core urban areas, which hosts significant habitat including that for Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and a vibrant volunteer community.

Restoration plans will consider soil, geology, topography, and other relevant factors that will provide the best chance for long-term success of the restoration projects. Plans will include a proposed time table for implementing the restoration, including site preparation, establishment of diverse plant species, maintenance, and additional enhancement to establish the restoration; identify long-term maintenance and management needs of the restoration and how the maintenance, management, and enhancement will be financed; and take advantage of the best available science and include innovative techniques to achieve the best restoration; and private lands will have a 10 year landowner agreement. Species lists will be based on DNR, DNR/Great River Greening, and USDA Plants Database lists, following local ecotype guidelines. Contracts will be awarded on a competitive, experience, and performance

basis; licensed if required. Great River Greening's professional field crew is led by experienced, trained, and licensed personnel.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget: \$155,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$155,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. 21ac Complete + 100ac <25% done	1 Feb 2010	\$30,000
2. 100 ac >50%done and 34ac<25%	1 Aug 2010	\$50,000
3. 134ac >50%done	1 Feb 2011	\$25,000
4. 134ac Complete	30 June 2011	\$50,000

All Deliverables are under Result 1

Result Completion Date: June 30, 2011

Result Status as of 1 Feb 2010:

Result Status as of 1 Aug 2010:

Result Status as of 1 Feb 2011:

Final Report Summary:

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

Personnel: \$ 83,000

Contracts: \$ 28,000

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$ 41,000

Acquisition, including easements: \$ 0

Travel: \$ 3,000

Other: \$ 0

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 155,000

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

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Anticipated project partners include all Metro Conservation Corridor partner organizations; DNR; BWSR; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; St. Croix National Park Service; NRCS; private donors; foundations, organizations, corporations, and individuals; and LGUs including County Parks.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

Restoration is a long term process; Greening evaluates long-term partner commitment and is in turn committed to raising matching funds for the duration. The support of ENTF funds for enhancement (maintenance) is very valuable.

The overall need and opportunities for restoration will continue into the foreseeable future, especially in light of 50-100 years of climate change (SCPP pg. 26) and increasing development pressures. Intermediately, Greening’s Million Acorn Campaign is scheduled for completion in 2012, and our St. Croix Healthy Water’s Initiative will be reevaluated if/when the St. Croix River is delisted from the impaired waters list.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: National Park Service; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; County Park; Municipal Funds; Cargill; McKnight Foundation (General Operating Support); Allianz Foundation; significant in-kind from landowners, volunteers, and vendor services/discounts.

D. Spending History:

2008 GRG Phase IV* - \$111,000 ETF, • \$111,000 non-state (est.)

2007 Phase III* - \$60,000 ETF, • \$45K non-state+\$10K state (est.)

2005 Phase II - \$100,000 ETF, \$202,000 non-state

2003 Phase I - \$124,000 ETF, >\$100,000 non-state

*to be completed

VII. DISSEMINATION:

Great River Greening will periodically distribute information about the program through our e-postcard, volunteer Opportunities mailings, donor mailings and communications, at volunteer restoration events, and our website. In addition, we now have a YouTube presence and may add video of restoration activities.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than 1 Feb 2010, 1 August 2010, 1 Feb 2011. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2011 as requested by the LCCMR.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Appendix B
Progress Summary Table Draft

SiteName, Owner, Location	Description incl Acres	Project Desc	GOAL under this appropriation	Activities Proposed	% Toward Goal
St Croix NPS , primarily fee title, Pvt Landowners with perm easement secondarily. Taylors Falls to Stillwater	50 acres estimated, depending on project suitability, match, landowner commitment	TBD thru an iterative process with Parks staff and match raised. Greening priority is to find early detection/rapid response opportunities for invasive control, of which we are confident there are a number.	TBD	TBD	
Afton State Park	85 acre forest reconstruction	Enhancement, establishment, gap planting	Support park staff, budget for establishment activities; reduce invasive shrubs; control herbaceous invasives; add'l planting in forest gap	Spraying, mowing; spot treatment of inv. shrubs; volunteer acorn planting	
Anoka Sandplain , various owners	>20 acres : Uncas Dunes SNA, Bunker Hills RP, Miss West RP, Sherburne Co. Parks, and/or Blaine Open Spaces.	Primarily prairie and savanna restoration; except Blaine communities likely woodland and/or wetland.	High quality prairie and sav is first priority; pr and sav reconstruction; wetlands and other communities.	Restoration primarily; some enhancement at Phase IV sites. Lg volunteer events included.	
Cargill Salt, Savage	80 ac Wet Prairie. Confluence of Credit and MN River across from NWR, embedded in high density EOR	Marvelous remnant identified in 2006 plan, now focus of work.	reintroduce fire, spot spray exotics, mitigate ditch	20-50 ac Rx burn, invasive control, ditch mitigation w/ FMV assist	
Ney Regional Park , Wright Co near Maple Lake, and 2 miles to Lake Maria SP	20 ac direct hardwood seeding to add to 100s ac of existing and reconstructing forest	Seed the ag field, with oaks as major component.	Seeded	Site prep if any; seed procurement and fall seeding.	
St Croix Savanna SNA , Bayport.	1 ac invasive species control.	High School youth conducting invasive species control thru our Natural Areas Teen Network program.	timely knapweed and other inv species removal and control	Series of volunteer service learning outings with youth; coordinate with SNA staff on needs	
Enhancement/Maintenance on up to 10 different sites	30 acres estimated.	Iterative process depending somewhat on needs determined in growing season	Proper maintenance; >1:1 match; low cost/acre	Inv species control, tree protection, supplemental planting/ seeding, etc.	

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2009 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)					
Project Title: <i>Restore/Enhance Significant Habitat - Great River Greening</i>					
Project Manager Name: Wiley Buck					
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 155,000					
1) See list of non-eligible expenses, do not include any of these items in your budget sheet					
2) Remove any budget item lines not applicable					
2009 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	<i>Restore/Enhance 155 ac of Significant Habitat</i>				
BUDGET ITEM					
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits <i>Ecologists (Buck, Walton, Rexine, new hire), Field Crew (Varien, Newhouse, Dougherty, Blanchett, Ramsden, Ulrich.), Volunteer Coordinator (Turbak), Admin: (Wenz, Gagner, Buck) (~ 2.10 FTE for 1 year = 1.05 FTE for 2 years) (Difficult to anticipate amounts per person at this early stage) Benefits ~21% of Salary (8% FICA, 8% Health, 5% Retirement Cont.)</i>	83,000				
Contracts					
Professional/technical <i>(with whom?, for what?)</i>	0				
Other contracts <i>Restoration Contracts: site prep, prairie install, direct hardwood seeding, tree services, earthwork etc. by, e.g. Minn. Native Landscapes, Ostvig Tree, North Am. Prairies, PRI, Zumbro Valley Forestry, Outback Nursery, MCC, farmers and other local partners. All are Vendors.</i>	28,000				
Non-capital Equipment / Tools <i>(what equipment? Give a general description and cost) GPS unit; ATV attachment(s); Toro Dingo attachment(s); landscape staple gun; chainsaws, brush cutters, sprayers, shovels, loppers, weed wrenches, bow saws, water packs, drip torch, safety equipment.</i>	4,000				
Supplies <i>(list specific categories) Vol. Event Supplies (approved food and bev., portable toilets, tents, signage, PA system)</i>	7,000				
Supplies <i>Restoration supplies, materials, and fees: mulch, plants, seeds, erosion control blanket, soil analysis fees, etc.</i>	30,000				
Travel expenses in Minnesota	3,000				
COLUMN TOTAL	\$155,000	\$0	\$155,000	\$0	\$0