

Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

Date of Report: 5/7/2009

Date of Next Progress Report: 8/1/2009

Date of Work Program Approval:

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2011

I. PROJECT TITLE: MeCC – Metro Greenways

Project Manager: Marybeth Block
Affiliation: DNR Central Region
Mailing Address: 1200 Warner Road
City / State / Zip: St. Paul, Mn 55106
Telephone Number: 651-259-5835
E-mail Address: Marybeth.Block@dnr.state.mn.us
Fax Number: 651-772-7799
Web Site Address: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/greenways/index.html>

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.

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation	\$	1,175,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$	0
	Equal Balance:	\$	1,175,000

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

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

Metro Greenways, through the efforts of the Metro Community Assistance Specialist and matching grant programs, addresses fragmentation by helping to establish a network of naturally vegetated areas through protection and restoration. Because local governments have ultimate land use authority, the Metro Greenways Program also provides outreach and incentive grants to any level of local government in 12 counties to generate land cover data and to incorporate natural resources information in local planning, policies, and practices.

In this 2-year phase, Metro Greenways will work with local governments on lands within mapped areas to:

- 1) restore 60 acres of critical habitat that buffer, reconnect, or augment high quality areas (estimate awarding 4-8 project grants); and
- 2) protect 325 acres of significant terrestrial or wetland habitat (estimate awarding 2-5 project grants.)

Because conservation relies heavily on local government action, Metro Greenways will also award grants to 10-20 communities to assist in achieving more conservation-based planning, regulation and design. Community assistance and grants will be available to all levels of local governments in 12 of DNR Central Region's 23 counties.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat

Description: The Metro Greenways Program will award \$90,000 in matching grants to 4-8 local units of government to assist with their efforts restore or enhance about 120 acres (60 funded by Metro Greenways) of significant upland, shore land, or wetland habitat that serves to buffer, augment, or reconnect already protected

natural habitats. It is estimated that 4 to 8 projects will be funded and priority will be given to those that have the following goals:

- Restore to a native ecological community appropriate to the site
- Connect habitat
- Buffer high quality natural habitat
- Provide water quality benefits
- Enhance biodiversity
- Commitment to long term management

All projects will be required to comply with the LCCMR's requirements for local ecotype sequencing.

Ten percent of this budget will be used to fund the Metro Community Assistance Specialist position that coordinates the Metro Greenways program. The Specialist will issue a request for proposals early in 2009 and coordinate proposal review by a panel with expertise in restoration that will make funding recommendations based on the criteria contained in Attachment B1. The Specialist will work with local project managers to execute grant agreements, and to monitor and report project progress and accomplishments.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget: \$ 100,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 100,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Administer Competitive Grant Program a. Solicit and select projects b. Execute grant agreements c. Monitor and report project progress	July 31, 2009 Sept. 30, 2009 June 30, 2011	\$10,000
2. Grants to local government (see attachment B for project list and details)	May 30, 2101	\$90,000

Result Completion Date: 06/30/2011

Result Status as of 8/1/2009:

Result Status as of 2/1/2010:

Result Status as of 8/1/2010:

Result Status as of 2/1/2011:

Final Report Summary: 7/31/211:

Result 2: Protect Significant Habitat

Description: The Metro Greenways Program will award \$650,000 in matching grants to 2-5 local units of government to help them protect about 650 acres (325 funded by Metro Greenways) of regionally important natural habitat through acquisition (fee title or conservation easement). It is estimated that 2 to 5 projects will be funded and priority will be given to those that:

- contain high quality habitat and high species richness
- are facing rapid projected growth
- connect natural habitats
- buffer existing natural habitats
- are large patches
- offer water quality benefits

All projects will have a natural resource management plan. Conservation easements must have a long-term stewardship plan and funding for monitoring and enforcing the agreement.

Fifteen percent of this budget will be used to fund the Metro Community Assistance Specialist position that coordinates the Metro Greenways program. The Specialist will issue a request for proposals early in 2009 and coordinate proposal review by a panel that will make funding recommendations based on the criteria contained in Attachment B2. DNR's Commissioner will approve recommended proposals. The Specialist will work with local project managers to execute grant agreements, and monitor and report project progress and accomplishments. A portion of this budget will also be used for overall program administration including responsibilities such as:

- participate in the MeCC partnership
- participate in the DNR Conservation Easement Working Group
- monitor past and ongoing Metro Greenways projects
- help local governments to identify priority lands for conservation
- communicate program activities and outreach, and
- perform other overall program administration functions

Summary Budget Information for Result 2: Trust Fund Budget: \$ 780,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 780,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Administer Competitive Grant Program		
a. Solicit and select projects	July 31, 2009	
b. Execute grant agreements	Sept. 30, 2009	\$25,000
c. Monitor and report project progress	June 30,2011	

2. Grant to local governments (see attachment B for project list and details)	June 30, 2101	\$650,000
3. Metro Greenways Program Administration a. Local government outreach and support b. Disseminate natural resource and project information. c. MeCC Partnership Representation d. Manage past projects as needed	June 30, 2011	\$105,000

Completion Date: 6/30/2011

Result Status as of 8/1/2009:

Result Status as of 2/1/2010:

Result Status as of 8/1/2010:

Result Status as of 2/1/2011:

Final Report Summary: 7/31/211:

Result 3: Community Conservation Assistance (Other Tools)

Description:

The Metro Greenways' Community Conservation Assistance (CCA) grant program will award \$250,000 in grants to 10-20 local governments offering a minimum match of 25% to complete projects such as:

- Land cover inventories to develop comprehensive baseline natural resources information.
- Land use decision-making models.
- Natural resources information integration into local plans, programs and regulations.
- Ordinance revisions or new ordinances to conserve natural habitats and guide development.
- Conservation and development workshops for local government staff and officials.
- Cooperative, inter-jurisdictional efforts to plan for or manage a shared, vital natural resource.
- Other educational, incentive or regulatory projects that achieve conservation by methods other than acquisition or restoration.

Past work with local governments suggests the need for technical experts on land use and conservation issues. The Community Conservation Assistance program will arrange to work with select land use experts to facilitate problem solving on key conservation and development issues or processes that hinder local governments from making sound conservation decisions. Approximately 2-6 contracts, totaling \$30,000, with vendors CR Planning, Brauer and Associates, and other land use experts will be awarded in accordance with State of Minnesota Professional/Technical Contracts Manual and Policies. The focus of these contracts will be to provide technical assistance to local governments on topics such as conservation development, transfer and purchase of development rights, and other land and water related land use issues.

Five percent of this budget will be used to fund the Metro Community Assistance Specialist position that manages the Metro Greenways Program. The Specialist will issue two requests for proposals and coordinate proposal review by a panel that will make funding recommendations based on the criteria contained in Attachment B3 and the available funds (anticipated to be \$125,000 each round.) The Specialist will work with local project managers to execute grant agreements, and monitor and report their project's progress and accomplishments.

Summary Budget Information for Result 3: Trust Fund Budget: \$ 295,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 295,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Administer Competitive Grant Program a. Solicit and select projects b. Execute grant agreements c. Execute contracts d. Monitor and report project progress	July 31, 2009 Sept. 30, 2009 Dec. 31, 2009 June 30, 2011	\$15,000
2. Grant to local governments (see attachment B for project list and details)	June 30, 2011	\$250,000
3. Expert Guidance to Local Governments on the Application of Conservation Tools	June 30, 2011	\$30,000

Result Completion Date: 6/30/2011

Result Status as of 8/1/2009:

Result Status as of 2/1/2010:

Result Status as of 8/1/2010:

Result Status as of 2/1/2011:

Final Report Summary: 7/31/211:

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

Personnel: \$ 155,000 for 1.0 unclassified FTE to administer and represent the Metro Greenways Program.

Contracts: \$ 30,000 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.

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$ 0

Acquisition, including easements:

Travel: \$ 0

Other: \$90,000 for the restoration of upland, shore land, or wetland habitat; \$650,000 for the acquisition of land (fee title or conservation easement) and important terrestrial and aquatic habitats; and \$ 250,000 for land cover inventories and other projects that incorporate natural resource information in local 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: Interested local governments, special districts, consultants, University of MN, and MeCC partners (Friends of the Minnesota River Valley, Friends of the Mississippi, Great River Greening, Minnesota Land Trust, MN Valley Nat. Wildlife Refuge Trust, Trust for Public Land and the MN DNR Fish and Wildlife and SNA Program.)

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. Metro Greenways has built support for conservation among local governments over the years, to the extent that several counties now have their own “greenway” programs or have passed referenda to support local land conservation. Key findings of the DNR-Ameregis report were: 1) there remains a diversity of important natural habitats scattered throughout the region; 2) that these habitats are clearly threatened by our pattern of development; and 3) the fiscal capacity of local governments is highly varied and funding partnerships between the State and local governments, as aided by programs like Metro Greenways, will be essential to future conservation successes.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: \$802,500 in local government cash or in-kind match.

D. Spending History:

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 st Spec. Sess., Chap. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 5(b)	\$1,200,000
2005 Bonding	\$500,000
M.L. 2001, 1 st Spec. Sess., Chap 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(g)	\$2,730,000
2000 Bonding	\$1,500,000
1998 Bonding	\$4,000,000

VII. DISSEMINATION:

Metro Greenways will participate in information sharing information disseminated through the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership. The DNR will disseminate information through its field staff and other joint efforts with agencies and communities. The DNR and local governments will post pertinent information to their websites.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than August 1, 2009, February 1, 2010, August 1, 2010 and February 1, 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:

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 ecological community 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	Regionally Significant Environmental Areas are mapped within the project area
3	yes - complete connection	yes -single break in the connection	multiple breaks in the connection	no	Project site connects to natural habitats
4	yes - high quality area	yes - moderate quality area	yes - low quality area	no	Project site buffers a natural area
5	highly compatible	compatible	somewhat compatible	not compatible	Adjacent land use is compatible* with protecting the project area * does not negatively affect the ecological structure or function
6	strong	moderate	slight	no	Project budget, tasks and timeline seem appropriate in the context of the project scope
7	strong	moderate	slight	no	Restoration plan matches target ecological community
8	strong	moderate	slight	no	Commitment and ability to carry out long term management
<input type="text"/> 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 cover condition (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 wildlife species
4	within project area	adjacent to the project (approx. <5mi)	within the region (>5 but<10)	> 10 miles	Site proximity to a Regionally Significant Ecological Area
5	connects high quality areas	connects moderate quality	connects lower quality areas	doesn't connect	The site connects natural habitat(s)
6	buffers high quality area	buffers moderate quality	buffers low quality area	doesn't buffer	The site buffers 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	Adjacent land use 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: _____

Required Elements:

Reviewer: _____

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

Total Points (max 60 points)

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

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2009 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)											
Project Title: MeCC - Metro Greenways											
Project Manager Name: Marybeth Block											
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 1,175,000											
2009 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	<u>Amount Spent</u> <i>(date)</i>	<u>Balance (date)</u>	<u>Result 2 Budget:</u>	<u>Amount Spent</u> <i>(date)</i>	<u>Balance (date)</u>	<u>Result 3 Budget:</u>	<u>Amount Spent</u> <i>(date)</i>	<u>Balance (date)</u>	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat			Protect Significant Habitat			CCA: Other Tools				
BUDGET ITEM											
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits 100% of 1 FTE + benefits for 2 years (Marybeth Block)	10,000	0	10,000	130,000	0	130,000	15,000	0	15,000	155,000	155,000
Contracts											
Professional/technical											
Other contracts - 2 to 3 contracts with vendors to develop conservation development guidelines. Contracts will be awarded using the State of MN Professional/Technical Contract Policies.							30,000		30,000	30,000	30,000
Other direct operating costs											
Non-capital Equipment / Tools											
Office equipment & computers - NOT ALLOWED unless unique to the project											
Capital equipment over \$3,500											
Land acquisition											
Easement acquisition											
Professional Services for Acq.											
Printing											
Supplies											
Travel expenses in Minnesota											
Travel outside Minnesota											
Other Grants to local units of government	90,000	0	90,000	650,000	0	650,000	250,000	0	250,000	990,000	990,000
COLUMN TOTAL	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$780,000	\$0	\$780,000	\$295,000	\$0	\$295,000	\$1,175,000	\$1,175,000