

Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

Date of Report: May 8, 2009 (updated 6/11/09)

Date of Next Progress Report: February 1, 2010

Date of Work Program Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2011

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase V—The Trust for Public Land’s Critical Lands Protection Program

Project Manager: Becca Nash
Affiliation: The Trust for Public Land
Mailing Address: 2610 University Avenue, Suite 300
City / State / Zip: St. Paul, MN 55114
Telephone Number: 651-999-5325
E-mail Address: Becca.nash@tpl.org
FAX Number: 651-917-2248
Web Site Address: www.tpl.org/minnesota

Location: Within mapped Metro Conservation Corridors in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, LeSueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington and Wright (please see Metro Conservation Corridors map)

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation	\$	380,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$	0
	Equal Balance:	\$	380,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2009, Chap. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f3.1

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:

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will secure fee title or conservation easements on up to 17 acres of high quality habitat in the Metro Conservation Corridor areas. TPL will use \$380,000 of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) funds for capital costs of acquisition and will leverage \$360,000 in other state and non-state funds for this acquisition work. Acquired land will be conveyed or donated to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or other qualified public or private land steward for long-term stewardship. TPL will prioritize potential land protection projects within the Metro Conservation Corridors based on the priorities established by the public agencies with which we work, on landowner willingness to sell, and will focus on shoreland, shallow lakes and other lands of highest ecological value. We will also consider resource mapping, stakeholder suggestions, and joint recommendations made by the coalition of groups involved in this overall effort. Unless necessary to protect priority lands and subject to work plan amendment at that time, TPL will not acquire residential structures.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF *(fill in date; blank on initial; delete old? And provide cumulative description including problems encountered):*

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Acquire Significant Habitat

Budget: \$380,000

Description: TPL is working in many communities within defined regionally significant Metro Conservation Corridors, with a priority on high quality natural resources or conservation lands that provide natural buffers to water resources, including shorelands and wetlands. Many of these areas include lakes that appear on the DNR's 2007 map of "Shallow Lakes in Minnesota" (50 acres or greater, maximum depth of 15 feet). Areas TPL may protect in Phase V (2009) include:

- 1) In the St. Croix Valley (Washington and Chisago counties), TPL is working with several landowners, the Minnesota Land Trust, and the DNR to protect sensitive ravines and high quality ecological areas – both important to St. Croix Valley water quality and habitat.

- 2) In the forested lakes area of northern Washington County and southern Chisago County, TPL is working with public agencies and landowners to protect lakeshore and high quality forested lands designated by the DNR as “regionally significant ecological areas.”
- 3) In the Twin Lakes area of southeastern Isanti County, TPL is working with the DNR, other MeCC partners, and local landowners to protect high-quality habitat identified in the Minnesota County Biological Survey, including several lakes and wetland complexes.
- 4) In both Minneapolis and St. Paul, TPL is working with local park agencies and citizens to create new connections to the Mississippi River. These areas provide opportunities to restore habitat in vital natural resource corridors close to home for urban residents with park access challenges.
- 5) In southeastern Sherburne County and northwestern Anoka County, TPL is working with landowners and public agency partners to protect a large patch of a regionally significant ecological area that includes lakes, wetlands and forests and greenway connections to the Mississippi River.
- 6) In both northern and central Scott County and north central Carver County, TPL is working with landowners, public agencies, and other MeCC partners to protect fens, lakeshore and associated wetlands and forests that provide water quality, wildlife, and recreation benefits.

In completing its work under this appropriation, TPL will work with the long-term steward of land acquired with this appropriation to ensure a restoration and management plan is developed and that funding is identified for long-term stewardship. TPL will also provide documentation of transaction-related costs as required.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget: **\$380,000**
Amount Spent: **\$ 0**
Balance: **\$ 380,000**

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1.Seventeen (17) acres of high quality habitat protected	June 30, 2011	\$380,000

Result Status as of February 1, 2010:

Result Status as of August 1, 2010:

Result Status as of February 1, 2011:

Final Report Summary: August 1, 2011:

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$380,000

Personnel: \$0

Contracts: \$0

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$0

Acquisition, including easements: \$380,000 (Capital costs for approximately 17 acres of fee title or conservation easement acquisition; TPL will transfer interests in land to the DNR, the Minnesota Land Trust, local units of government or other nonprofit conservation organizations).

Travel: \$0

Other: \$0

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$380,000

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

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: TPL works closely with private landowners and with the public agency or non-profit partner to which TPL will transfer the land and which will serve as the long-term steward of the land interest that TPL purchases using ENRTF funds. Long-term stewards and other project partners may include local governments, regional agencies, state agencies, water-related agencies, federal agencies, and private nonprofit organizations. We also work closely with citizen groups and coordinate our work with other Metro Conservation Corridor partners (See Table A). When TPL transfers interests in land to a long-term steward, TPL will donate to the land steward the land value of the ENRTF funds.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: The Trust for Public Land is working toward a vision that in the next 25 years, every one of us—in particular every child—will have a nearby natural area, park, garden, or playground to visit. Our region's parks system will be expanded into an interconnected web of public parks, gardens, trails, lakes, rivers and natural areas in the Twin Cities area stretching from the vibrant central business districts of Minneapolis and St. Paul through our inner city neighborhoods to our growing suburban and exurban fringe. The Metro Conservation Corridors Program provides the opportunity to positively impact the quality of life of the estimated sixty percent of the state's population that lives in the counties served by this overall project. By focusing on protecting and restoring high quality natural areas that are close to home for millions of Minnesotans, this program will provide: recreation opportunities and physical health; economic well-being; and a healthy and working natural resource system that in turn will provide safe drinking water for people and healthy habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife—especially for Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as described in the report Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: TPL aims to leverage ENRTF funds with \$360,000 in other state and non-state funds for this acquisition work. Additional acquisition funding may be contributed by: cities,

counties, regional park districts, state and federal agencies, and landowners and/or other private donors.

D. Spending History: Past allocations of ENRTF funding through the Metro Conservation Corridors Program have been spent to create and/or protect the following:

Land Protected	ENRTF Appropriation Year	ENRTF Amount Spent by TPL	ENRTF Amount Spent by Partners	Non-ENRTF Amount Leveraged
East Rush Lake AMA/WMA	2005	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$303,000
Horseshoe Lake Regional Park	2005	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$956,000
Franconia Bluffs SNA	2005	\$420,000	\$0	\$105,000
Franconia Bluffs SNA	2007	\$ 10,000	\$0	
Camp Ojiketa on Green Lake	2007	\$410,000	\$100,000	\$3,215,000
Camp Ojiketa on Green Lake	2008	\$475,000		
Total		\$1,515,000	\$400,000	\$4,579,000

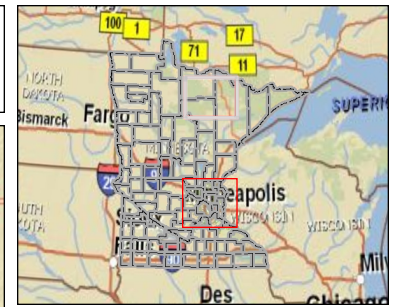
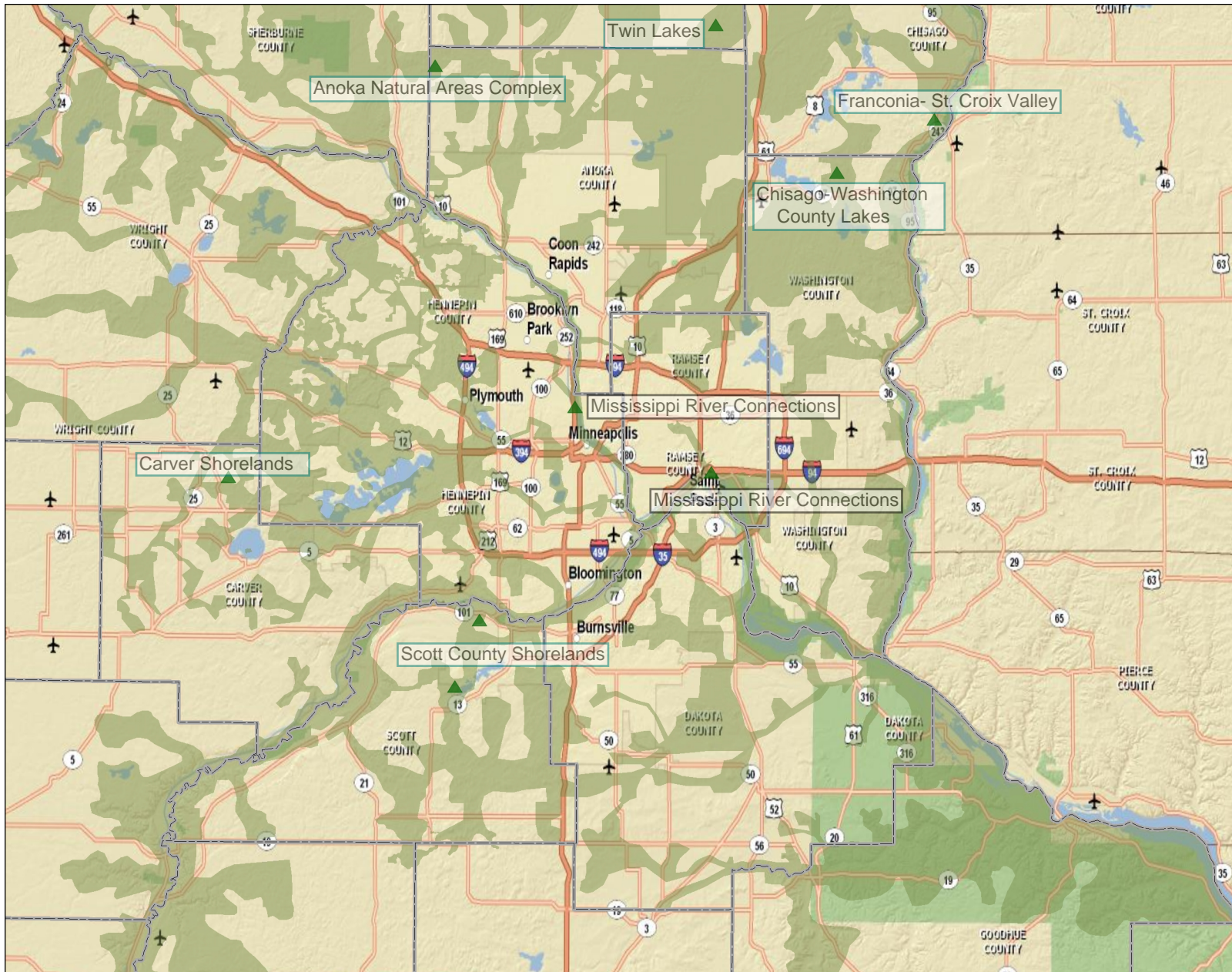
VII. DISSEMINATION: As conservation transactions are completed, The Trust for Public Land will disseminate information on the TPL website, www.tpl.org, broadcast emails to Embrace Open Space (EOS) and TPL list serve members, distribute press releases, and include information in TPL's newsletters as appropriate. TPL will also work with the long-term steward to ensure information is distributed to its listserves and on its website as well.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than **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: N/A

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2009 Metro Conservation Corridors Project				5/8/2009	
Project Title: <i>Metropolitan Area Conservation Corridors Phase 5-- The Trust for Public Land's Critical Lands Protection Program</i>					
Project Manager Name: <i>Becca Nash</i>					
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$380,000					
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	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent <i>(date)</i>	Balance <i>5/8/09</i>	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	<i>Acquire significant habitat</i>				
BUDGET ITEM	380,000		380,000	380,000	380,000
Land acquisition					
Easement acquisition					
COLUMN TOTAL	\$380,000	\$0	\$380,000	\$380,000	\$380,000

3.1 TPL Critical Lands Protection- Potential Project Sites for MeCC 2009



Legend

- County Boundary
- Metro Conservation Corridors
- county background

1: 706,361



22.3 0 11.15 22.3 Miles

NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_15N

© Latitude Geographics Group, Inc.

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Notes

Subd. 4f3.1

