

2011 Project Abstract
For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VI - Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat (2.1)

Project Manager: Tom Lewanski
Affiliation: Friends of the Mississippi River
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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.1

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 200,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

High quality habitat within the Metro area is important for both resident and migratory species. The Metro Conservation Corridors partnership is working to establish a system of habitat corridors that also provide open space and water quality benefits for the residents of the area. One goal of this project was to increase the amount of high quality habitat within designated conservation corridors. During this project, FMR installed 86 acres of prairie, besting the projected amount by 31 acres. This prairie restoration took place at the Emrick property, Gores Pool WMA, Heritage Village Park, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, and Mississippi River Gorge sites. FMR conducted woodland restoration activities on 2 acres at Mounds Park and Heritage Village Park, falling short by 3 acres of the proposed goal. Uncommon flooding at Gores Pool WMA prevented woodland restoration at the site. Activities associated with this restoration included updating management plans, soil preparation, seed/plant installation, mowing, and weed control. These additional acres of natural communities will provide critical habitat for many species that rely on prairie and woodland, some of which are rare or in decline.

A second goal was to enhance the quality of existing habitat areas. We conducted enhancement activities, mostly exotic invasive plant control and burning, on 275.8 acres, exceeding the number of acres committed to in the work program by 172.8.

The third goal achieved was to develop a list of potential future restoration and acquisition projects within the corridors by reaching out to 27 landowners. This outreach has led to meetings and site visits with landowners interested in learning more about the natural resources on their property. In other cases, the follow up contact is still taking place. This outreach centered around existing conservation areas, including Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area, Mississippi River riparian area, Sand Coulee SNA, Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area & the Vermillion River.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

FMR organizes many tours and stewardship events at the sites where we conduct restoration activities. We share information about this project with the participants of these events. FMR also occasionally publishes articles in its paper and electronic newsletters regarding restoration projects that it is involved in. The following are four examples that highlight some of these projects & ENRTF.

- http://www.fmr.org/news/current/fmr_to_restore_bluffland-2009-08
- http://www.fmr.org/news/current/fmr_wins_sustainability_award-2011-04
- http://www.fmr.org/sites/fmr.org/files/fmr_newsletter_2010-03. Landowner Steps Up To Help The River. Page 3. Restoring a Woodland: One Stem at a Time. Page 5.
- Fall 2010 newsletter (paper copy). Program Updates. Restoration Begins at Minneapolis' Riverside Park. Page 4.



**MeCC VI - Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat (2.1)
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan. Final Report.**

Date of Status Update: 8/1/2014

Date of Next Status Update: Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/23/2011

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Is this an amendment request? Yes

Project Title: MeCC VI - Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat (2.1)

Project Manager: Tom Lewanski

Affiliation: Friends of the Mississippi River

Address: 360 N Robert St, Ste 400

City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55101

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Web Address: <http://www.fmr.org>

Location:

Counties Impacted: Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), Paleozoic Plateau (222L)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation \$: 200,000.00

Amount Spent \$: 199,383.32

Balance \$: 616.68

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.1

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$150,000 the first year and \$150,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,175,000 is for the agreements as follows: \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$517,000 the first year and \$518,000 the second year with Dakota County; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Great River Greening; \$220,000 the first year and \$220,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$300,000 the first year and \$300,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through 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 habitable 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. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: 2.1-MeCC6 – Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

II. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

High quality habitat within the Metro area is important for both resident and migratory species. The Metro Conservation Corridors partnership is working to establish a system of habitat corridors that also provide open space and water quality benefits for the residents of the area. One goal of this project was to increase the amount of high quality habitat within designated conservation corridors. During this project, FMR installed 86 acres of prairie, besting the projected amount by 31 acres. This prairie restoration took place at the Emrick property, Gores Pool WMA, Heritage Village Park, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, and Mississippi River Gorge sites. FMR conducted woodland restoration activities on 2 acres at Mounds Park and Heritage Village Park, falling short by 3 acres of the proposed goal. Uncommon flooding at Gores Pool WMA prevented woodland restoration at the site. Activities associated with this restoration included updating management plans, soil preparation, seed/plant installation, mowing, and weed control. These additional acres of natural communities will provide critical habitat for many species that rely on prairie and woodland, some of which are rare or in decline.

A second goal was to enhance the quality of existing habitat areas. We conducted enhancement activities, mostly exotic invasive plant control and burning, on 275.8 acres, exceeding the number of acres committed to in the work program by 172.8.

The third goal achieved was to develop a list of potential future restoration and acquisition projects within the corridors by reaching out to 27 landowners. This outreach has led to meetings and site visits with landowners interested in learning more about the natural resources on their property. In other cases, the follow up contact is still taking place. This outreach centered around existing conservation areas, including Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area, Mississippi River riparian area, Sand Coulee SNA, Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area & the Vermillion River.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of: 11/1/11

FMR asked for an amendment to add three additional sites to this work program. The sites are: Mounds Park in St. Paul, Wilmar in Vermillion Township and Karpen in the City of Hastings. The approval to amend the list was provided by LCCMR staff on Nov. 1 for Wilmar and Karpen and Oct. 21 for the Mounds Park. These sites have been added to the approved restoration site list.

Project Status as of: 2/1/2012

During this time period, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities on 98.3 acres at four sites, using MeCC Phase VI funding. These sites are the Gores Pool WMA, the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, the Emrick/Gelhar property, and the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA. An additional 2 acres were enhanced using private funding and 23.7 acres were enhanced using other state funding.

Project Status as of: 8/1/2012 – Amendment Request.

Amendment Approved: [8/8/2012]

During this time period, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities on 99.5 acres at five sites, using MeCC Phase VI funding. These sites are the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, the Rosemount Wildlife Preserve, the Wilmar site and Crosby & Mounds Parks in St. Paul. An additional 2 acres were enhanced using private funding and 15 acres were enhanced using other state funding (Outdoor Heritage Fund). FMR has also been conducting landowner outreach in the Pine Bend Bluffs area and Sand Coulee area.

- On April 3, 2012, Tom Lewanski spoke with Susan Thornton seeking permission to acquire NOMEX protective clothing for FMR's Ecologists. She gave permission to use funds in the

Equipment/Tools/Supplies line of the budget to acquire the clothing. We will need to move some funds from the Professional/Technical Contracts line to the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line in the contract for this expense.

- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program amendment to add one site, the Old Mill Park in Hastings, to its approved project list. The opportunity to improve the existing oak savanna was presented when a graduate student at the University of Minnesota approached us about developing a Natural Resource Management Plan for the site. This plan will be completed in the fall of 2012. This site will take the place of one in the Mississippi River Gorge in Minneapolis that will not take place. FMR could not work out the details with the landowner in the time required to plan and carry out implementation activities.

FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$4000.00 from the Professional/Technical Contracts line and put \$500.00 onto the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line and \$3,500 onto the Plant Material line.

Project Status as of: 12/10/12

- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program amendment to add the portion of C.P. Adams Park that is adjacent to the Hastings SNA to its approved project list. We feel that removing exotic invasive woody plants will not only improve the natural area portion of the park, but it will reduce a seed source of these plants for the SNA. Barry Bernstein, City of Hastings' Parks and Recreation Director has submitted a letter acknowledging and granting permission to do this restoration work within the park. This letter also states that "this portion of the park will remain in a natural state and this restoration work is in keeping with our vision for the area." FMR has conducted a site visit and developed an addendum to the Natural Resource Management Plan developed for the Hastings SNA.

Project Status as of: 2/1/2013 – Amendment Request.

Amendment Approved: [2/1/2013]

- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$170.08 from the Travel expenses in Minnesota line onto the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line.
- As indicated by the ~~strikeout~~ and underline in the Reporting Requirements section below and in the Work Plan Attachment A, the Land Trust is requesting a Work Plan amendment to change the reporting schedule to reflect the project completion date of June 30, 2014 as consistent with the appropriation language.
- During this time frame, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 10 project sites for a total of 91.5 acres. These sites include Almquist, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Emrick, Gores Pool WMA, Hastings SNA, Karpen, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Riverside Park, Rosemount Wildlife Preserve and Wilmar. In addition, we conducted restoration and enhancement activities on an additional 51-acres using other funding.
- During this time frame we also continued to reach out to landowners adjacent to existing restoration and enhancement project. We have had several face to face meetings with some of these landowners.

Project Status as of): 8/1/2013 – Amendment Request.

Amendment Approved: [8/6/2013]

- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$4000.00 from the Conservation Director budget line to the Ecologists budget line and to move \$3,100 from the Professional/Technical Contracts budget line to the plant material budget line.

- During this time frame, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 10 project sites for a total of 37 acres. These sites include **Almquist, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Gores Pool WMA, Hastings SNA, Karpen, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Riverside Park, Rosemount Wildlife Preserve, Rock Island Swing Bridge unit of the Heritage Village Park in Inver Grove Heights and the Old Mill Park in Hastings.**
- During this time frame we also continued to reach out to landowners adjacent to existing restoration and enhancement project.

Project Status as of): 2/1/2014 - Amendment Request.

- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$2404.39 from the Plant material line and move \$404.39 into the Travel expense line and \$2,000 into the Ecologist line of the budget.
- During this time frame FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 8 project sites for a total of 20 additional acres. These sites included Emrick, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Rosemount Preserve, Heritage Village Park/Rock Island Swing bridge, Ravenna block greenway/Almquist, Mississippi River Gorge/Riverside, Old Mill Park & Hastings SNA.
- During this time frame we also continued to reach out to landowners adjacent to existing restoration and enhancement project.

Project Status as of): 8/1/2014

- FMR has completed the landowner outreach portion of the work program. In addition, we continued to conduct restoration activities, on previously reported acres, at the following sites:
 - Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area – Dormant seeding in the Oak Savanna and prescribed burn on restored prairie.
 - Old Mill Park – Cut and treat non-oak trees in oak savanna.
 - Heritage Village Park – Spot spraying for weeds and prescribed burn.
 - Emrick – Prescribed burn on restored prairie.
 - Almquist – Prescribed burn and mowing on prairie.
 - Rosemount Wildlife Preserve – Cut and treat buckthorn in forest.

Amendment Request (08/01/2014)

FMR is seeking a retroactive work program budget amendment to close out the project and move \$855.50 from the Volunteer Coordinator budget line, \$710.73 from the Stewardship Coordinator line and \$419.24 from the Ecologist budget line and put the \$1,985.47 into the Conservation Director budget line. In addition we are asking to move \$209.46 from the travel expenses budget line into the plant material line.

Amendment Approved: 09/09/2014

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Restore and/or enhance 163 acres of prairie and woodland/forest.

Description:

There are three overall goals for this project: One goal is to increase the amount of high quality habitat within designated conservation corridors. Two outcomes of this goal are the restoration of 55-acres of prairie and the restoration of 5-acres of woodland habitat. Specific activities associated with these outcomes include updating management plans, soil preparation including herbicide, burning, and discing, seed/plant installation, followed by mowing, and weed control. A second goal is to enhance the quality of existing habitat areas. A primary outcome is the control of exotic, invasive woody species from 103-acres of existing prairie and woodlands. Activities associated with this outcome include updating management plans, cut/treat invasive plant species and prescribed

burning. Natural resource management plans will have been developed or updated for each of FMR's sites prior to the initiating restoration or enhancement activities. FMR will develop and send out requests for proposals to vendors, including Conservation Corps Minnesota, for services associated with the restoration and enhancement activities planned. Vendors will be selected based on bid amount, experience with the services requested, experience with site, and quality of similar services provided to FMR in the past.

FMR will conduct an initial evaluation of the restoration and enhancement activities undertaken with ENRTF funding provided through this grant. This evaluation information will be provided in the final report.

FMR will utilize ENRTF (LCCMR) funding only on private property that is permanently protected through a conservation easement. FMR will also secure a landowner agreement for private land projects. The SNA's and WMA's, upon which FMR will conduct restoration and enhancement activities, are owned by the State of Minnesota and therefore, presumably, permanently protected.

A third goal is to develop a list of potential future restoration and acquisition projects within the corridors. Specific activities include identifying and contacting 27 landowners in proximity to existing projects, meeting with these landowners and sharing information about the natural resources on their property, provide information on restoration options, permanent land protection options, and solicit their involvement in habitat improvement. FMR will begin to plan habitat restoration activities with interested landowners and will solicit the involvement of other MeCC partners on projects in which the landowner indicates an interest in pursuing permanent protection for their property through fee title acquisition or a conservation easement.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 200,000
Amount Spent: \$ 199,383.32
Balance: \$ 616.68

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget (approx.)
1. Conduct prairie restoration activities on 55 acres.	6/30/2014	\$ 52,000
2. Conduct woodland habitat restoration of on 5-acres.	6/30/2014	\$ 30,000
2. Conduct habitat enhancement activities on 41 acres of existing prairie	6/30/2014	\$ 22,000
3. Conduct restoration and enhancement activities on 62 acres of forest/woodland.	6/30/2014	\$ 90,000
4. Contact 27 landowners and meet with as many as are interested in doing so. Develop a spreadsheet that reports which landowners were contacted, meetings held, and landowners interested in pursuing restoration and/or protection activities.	6/30/2014	\$ 6,000

Activity Status as of 2/1/2012

During this time period FMR began enhancement activities at four sites.

- At the Gelhar/Emrick property in Ravenna Township, Dakota County, we conducted a variety of enhancement activities. In continuing the prairie installation process, we mowed 22 acres within two of the management units at the site. Mowing reduces competition from unwanted plants and allows sun to reach the young prairie seedlings, encouraging their growth. Within another management unit at the site, woody plants were cut, stacked and burned. After this, herbicide was applied to the area and about a month after this a prescribed burn was completed. This

work took place on about 3 acres. These activities are in preparation for seeding that will take place at a later date. The landowners contributed funding for these activities.

- Approximately 17 acres of a prairie restoration site were mowed at the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA. Mowing reduces competition from unwanted plants and allows sun to reach the young prairie seedlings, encouraging their growth and vitality.
- A number of enhancement activities took place at the Freitag unit of the Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area in Hastings. A 4-acre prairie installation area was mowed. A follow up foliar herbicide spray took place within a 40-acre savanna. This activity took place to address resprouting from previously cut buckthorn shrubs. After this, native seed was purchased and hand broadcasted throughout the site. Volunteers assisted staff in this activity. In addition, a 4-acre wetland, dominated by reed canary grass was sprayed with herbicide and then burned.
- At the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA in Inver Grove Heights, Dakota County, exotic brush was cut and treated on 34 acres. For this project we also utilized a LSOHC grant through the Big Rivers Habitat –Phase I project. 23.7 – acres are assigned to the LSOHC grant and the remaining 10.3 acres were assigned to the MeCC Phase VI funding.
- Mounds Park, St. Paul. FMR ordered native shrubs during the fall of 2011 that will be installed at the site in the spring of 2012.

Activity Status as of 8/1/2012

Amendment Approved: [8/8/2012]

At this time, FMR is seeking a work program amendment to add one site, the Old Mill Park in Hastings, to its approved project list. The opportunity to improve the existing oak savanna was presented to us when a graduate student at the University of Minnesota approached us about developing a Natural Resource Management Plan for the site. This plan will be completed in the fall of 2012. This site will take the place of one in the Mississippi River Gorge in Minneapolis that will not take place. FMR could not work out the details with the landowner in the time required to plan and carry out implementation activities.

- On April 3, 2012, Tom Lewanski spoke with Susan Thornton seeking permission to acquire NOMEX protective clothing for FMR's Ecologists. She gave permission to use funds in the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line of the budget to acquire the clothing. We will need to move some funds from the Professional/Technical Contracts line to the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line in the contract for this expense.
- FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$4000.00 from the Professional/Technical Contracts line and put \$500.00 onto the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line and \$3,500 onto the Plant Material line.

During the first two quarters of 2012, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 5 sites.

1. At the Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, a prescribed burn was completed on 17 acres. Using non-state funding, FMR burned piles of brush that had been removed from a portion of the prairie. We conducted a breeding bird survey at this site in June.
2. At the Rosemount Wildlife Preserve exotic brush was cut from 7.2 acres of woodland in preparation for a 2012 fall foliar herbicide application. Using Outdoor Heritage funding, FMR cut brush from an additional 10.5 acres. In addition, we spot-sprayed for weeds on 2.3 acres of prairie using ENRTF and an additional 2.3 acres using Outdoor Heritage funding.
3. Hastings Sand Coulee SNA. A one-acre site was mowed near the entrance to the SNA in preparation for enhancement activities that will be undertaken with Hastings High School biology students. Spot spraying took place on 45 acres of prairie to control herbaceous weeds (spurge, knapweed, cow vetch and crown vetch). We conducted a breeding bird survey at this site in June.

4. At the Wilmar property along the Vermillion River in Dakota County, we conducted a prescribed burn and spot spraying on 27 acres.
5. FMR purchased native plants (forbs, shrubs and a tree) that were installed in
6. Crosby Park and in Mounds Park, both in St. Paul.

One of the FMR's goals for this phase of the project was to develop a list of potential conservation projects that would add on to existing projects. Toward this goal, we have reached out to seven landowners in the Sand Coulee area and three landowners in the Pine Bend Bluffs area.

Project Status as of: 12/10/12

- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program amendment to add a 3.3 - acre portion of C.P. Adams Park that is adjacent to the Hastings SNA to its approved project list. We feel that removing exotic invasive woody plants will not only improve the natural area portion of the park, but it will reduce a seed source of these plants for the SNA. This work would be an expansion of the activities being conducted on the Hastings SNA. Barry Bernstein, City of Hastings' Parks and Recreation Director has submitted a letter acknowledging and granting permission to do this restoration work within the park. This letter also states that "this portion of the park will remain in a natural state and this restoration work is in keeping with our vision for the area." FMR has conducted a site visit and developed an addendum to the Natural Resource Management Plan developed for the Hastings SNA.

Activity Status as of 2/1/2013 – Amendment Request.

Amendment Approved: [2/1/2013]

- FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$170.08 from the Travel expenses in Minnesota line and put it onto the Equipment/Tools/Supplies line.
- As indicated by the strikeout and underline in the Reporting Requirements section below and in the Work Plan Attachment A, the Land Trust is requesting a Work Plan amendment to change the reporting schedule to reflect the project completion date of June 30, 2014 as consistent with the appropriation language.

During this time frame, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 10 project sites for a total of 91.5 acres. These sites include Almquist, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Emrick, Gores Pool WMA, Hastings SNA, Karpen, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Riverside Park, Rosemount Wildlife Preserve and Wilmar. In addition, we conducted restoration and enhancement activities on an additional 51-acres using other funding.

- Almquist: Cut, treat, and slash exotic brush on 27.6 acres of forest.
- Hastings Sand Coulee SNA: applied herbicide and watered a planting on 1-acre at the entrance to the SNA.
- Emrick: conducted spot mowing and spraying on installed prairie and conducted exotic woody plant control within a woodland. These activities were conducted on land that were previously reported, so no additional acres are reported here.
- Gores Wildlife Management Area: Mowed and sprayed 4- acres of installed prairie. Cut and treated resprouted exotic shrubs and trees on previously reported acreage. Cut, bagged and treated purple loosestrife on 4 acres of wetland.
- Hastings SNA: Cut, treated, hauled and chipped exotic shrubs on 19 acres of this forested SNA. An addition 21 acres were similarly treated using matching funds. FMR organized a volunteer event at this site to haul and stack the cut plant material.
- Karpen: Cut and slashed exotic shrubs on 5 acres of forested land.

- Pine Bend Bluffs SNA: Cut and bagged trefoil and crown vetch on previously reported acres. Cut and treated exotic shrubs on 30 acres of forest. An additional 12.5 acres were similarly treated using matching funds. Using matching funds, we conducted a prescribed burn and spot sprayed and mowed on 17 acres of installed prairie. Sprayed .5 acre of reed canary grass using matching funds.
- Riverside Park: Watered and weeded a one-acre native planting.
- Rosemount Wildlife Preserve: Cut and treated exotic shrubs on previously reported acreage.
- Wilmar: Spot sprayed Siberian elm seedlings on previously reported prairie acreage.

During this time frame we also continued to reach out to landowners adjacent to existing restoration and enhancement projects.

Activity Status as of 8/1/2013 – Amendment Request.

Amendment Approved: [8/6/2013]

At this time, FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$4000.00 from the Conservation Director budget line to the Ecologists budget line and to move \$3,100 from the Professional/Technical Contracts budget line to the Plant Material budget line.

During this time frame, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 10 project sites for a total of 37 additional acres. These sites include **Almquist, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Gores Pool WMA, Hastings SNA, Karpen, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Riverside Park, Rosemount Wildlife Preserve, Rock Island Swing Bridge unit of the Heritage Village Park in Inver Grove Heights and the Old Mill Park in Hastings**. During the month of June FMR staff conducted breeding bird surveys at the Gores Wildlife Management Area, Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area and the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA.

- Almquist: Brush piles were burned on previously reported acres.
- Hastings Sand Coulee SNA: Burned 23 acres of prairie at the southern unit.
- Gores Wildlife Management Area: Developed a burn plan for a portion of the site. Cut and treated exotic brush. It was then hauled and stacked. These activities were conducted for or on previously reported acres.
- Hastings SNA: A patch of day lilies was sprayed to remove on previously reported acres.
- Karpen: Previously cut and stacked brush was burned (previously reported acres).
- Heritage Village Park: Exotic woody plants were removed, treated early season weeds primarily garlic mustard and seeded eroded gullies with native prairie seed from/on 4 acres. Using non-state funding we conducting the same activities on an additional 7 acres. Treated purple loosestrife on 1 acre of shoreline.
- Pine Bend Bluffs SNA: Previously stacked brush piles were burned (previously reported acres).
- Old Mill Park: Exotic brush was cut, treated and chipped from 9 acres of native oak savanna.
- Riverside Park: Organized volunteer planting event.
- Rosemount Wildlife Preserve: Erected protective fencing around plantings.

During this time frame we also continued to reach out to landowners adjacent to existing restoration and enhancement projects.

- **Activity Status as of 2/1/2014**
- At this time, FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$2404.39 from the Plant material line and move \$404.39 into the Travel expense line and \$2,000 into the Ecologist line of the budget.

- During this time frame FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities at 8 project sites for a total of 20 additional acres. These sites included Emrick, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Rosemount Preserve, Heritage Village Park/Rock Island Swing bridge, Ravenna block greenway/Almquist, Mississippi River Gorge/Riverside, Old Mill Park & Hastings SNA.
- Ravenna Block Greenway/Almquist: A prairie restoration site, conducted with other funding, was mowed.
- Hastings Sand Coulee SNA: Spot spray crown vetch, cow vetch, pulled knapweed on previously reported acres.
- Hastings SNA: Crew revisited site to spot spray resprouts and plants missed the first time through.
- Heritage Village Park/ Swing bridge: Weed and brush control on 8 acres. 10 cottonwood trees were planted in floodplain. Native grass seed was also broadcasted.
- Old Mill Park: Cut, treat, chip savanna trees on previously reported acres.
- Riverside Park: The previously reported planting area was watered during the dry part of the summer and fall.
- Emrick: Weed and exotic brush control on an additional 8 acres at this site. Burn breaks were mowed for 2014 burn.
- Rosemount Wildlife Preserve: Spot spray trefoil, Canada thistle, reed canary, knapweed, parsnip, burdock on 6 acres of prairie.
- During this time frame we also continued to reach out to landowners adjacent to existing restoration and enhancement projects.
- **Final Report Summary:** 8/1/2014 - Amendment Request.
 FMR is seeking a work program budget amendment to move \$855.50 from the Volunteer Coordinator budget line, \$710.73 from the Stewardship Coordinator line and \$419.24 from the Ecologist budget line and put the \$1,985.47 into the Conservation Director budget line. In addition we are asking to move \$209.46 from the travel expenses budget line into the plant material line.
 - *Goal 1: Increase the amount of high quality habitat within designated conservation corridors. Two outcomes of this goal are the restoration of 55-acres of prairie and the restoration of 5-acres of woodland habitat.* At grants end, FMR installed 86 acres of prairie, besting the projection by 31 acres. This prairie restoration took place at the Emrick, Gores Pool WMA, Heritage Village Park, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, and Mississippi River Gorge sites. FMR conducted woodland restoration activities on 2 acres at Mounds Park and Heritage Village Park, falling short by 3 acres of the proposed goal. We attribute this to uncommon flood occurrences at Gores Pool WMA that interfered with the activities associated with restoring woodland at the site.
 - *Goal 2: Enhance the quality of existing habitat areas. A primary outcome is the control of exotic, invasive woody species from 103-acres of existing prairie and woodlands.* We conducted enhancement activities, mostly exotic invasive plant control, on 275.8 acres, exceeding the number of acres committed to in the work program by 172.8.
 - *Goal 3: FMR committed to developing a list of potential future restoration and acquisition projects within the corridors by reaching out to 27 landowners.* FMR met this goal first by contacting landowners through the mail, followed by phone calls. In some cases, this outreach has led to meetings and site visits with landowners interested in learning more about the natural resources on their property. In other cases, the follow up contact is still taking place. This outreach centered around existing conservation areas where FMR has ongoing projects. These included Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area, Mississippi River riparian area, Sand Coulee SNA, Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area & the Vermillion River.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: FMR will disseminate information about the restoration and enhancement activities associated with this grant on the organization's website (www.fmr.org) and in its digital newsletter, which is called Mississippi Messages.

Status as of 2/1/2012:

Because the project activities have just begun we have not written about them for any of our publications as of yet. As the project moves forward we will.

Status as of 8/1/2012:

FMR included an article in its Spring 2012 Newsletter about Public/Private conservation partnerships that highlighted LCCMR/ENRTF (page 4).

http://www.fmr.org/sites/fmr.org/files/fmr_newsletter_spring_2012.pdf

Status as of 2/1/2013:

- http://www.fmr.org/news/current/restoration_roundup-2013-01

Status as of 8/1/2013:

Status as of 2/1/2014: FMR's Digital newsletter articles that mentions Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund:

http://www.fmr.org/participate/events/oak_savanna_tour-2013-09-17,
http://www.fmr.org/participate/events/vento_public_lands-2013-09-28,
http://www.fmr.org/participate/ongoing/coulee_seed_collection_2013-10-12

Status as of 8/1/2014:

Final Report Summary:

FMR organizes many tours and stewardship events at the sites where we conduct restoration activities. We share information about this project with the participants of these events. FMR also occasionally publishes articles in its paper and electronic newsletters regarding restoration projects that it is involved in. The following are four examples that highlight some of these projects & ENRTF.

http://www.fmr.org/news/current/fmr_to_restore_bluffland-2009-08
http://www.fmr.org/news/current/fmr_wins_sustainability_award-2011-04
http://www.fmr.org/sites/fmr.org/files/fmr_newsletter_2010-03. Landowner Steps Up To Help The River. Page 3. Restoring a Woodland: One Stem at a Time. Page 5.
Fall 2010 newsletter (paper copy). Program Updates. Restoration Begins at Minneapolis' Riverside Park. Page 4.
http://fmr.org/news/current/june_july_events-2014-06
http://www.fmr.org/news/current/2013_year_in_restoration-2014-02
<http://forums.e-democracy.org/groups/stpaul-db/messages/topic/4NY1VOXWx4cGXRhqTkxUm>

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 28,960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Conservation Director</u>: overall project management and landowner outreach and assistance: .05 FTE. Approximately \$8,300. • <u>Ecologists (2)</u>: Develop and put out bids, hire and oversee vendors, guide restoration activities, evaluate restoration activities. .13 FTE. Approximately \$17,650. • <u>Stewardship Coordinator</u>: Plan volunteer events. Train and oversee volunteers. .01FTE. Approximately \$1,670. • <u>Volunteer Coordinator</u>: Seek, register, & communicate with volunteers. .01FTE. Approximately \$1,340.
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$ 160,000	Vendors to provide restoration activities such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc. (Vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.)
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$910.08 \$9000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloves, weeders, vinyl seed collection bags. • Pay for a nursery to germinate and grow plants from locally collected (native ecotype) seed. Purchase native ecotype trees and shrubs.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$1129.92	Travel to project sites and to partner meetings.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 200,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: NA

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: .21 FTE (Total staff hours - 877.5, divided by 4176, because the staff hours associated with this grant will be used over a two year period).

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state		\$	
Private landowners	\$100,000	\$ 60,500	Staff time and vendor services
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant	\$10,000	\$10,160	Staff time and vendor services
Local units of government	\$30,000	\$25,854.99	Staff time and vendor services
National Park Service	\$30,000	0	Staff time and vendor services
St. Paul Foundation	\$5,000	\$3,400	Staff time
Friends of the Mississippi River	\$20,000	\$27,373.05	Staff time, supplies and vendor services
Vermillion River Joint Powers	\$5,000	\$240	Staff time and materials/supplies

Organization			
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$200,000	\$ 127,528.04	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: The FMR project team consists of the Conservation Director-Tom Lewanski, Ecologist and Project Manager-Karen Schik, Ecologist - Joe Walton, Volunteer Coordinator-Sue Rich and Stewardship Coordinator-Karen Solas. Salary and benefits of these staff will be supported by the Trust Fund appropriation.

Trust Fund will be used for restoration activities on land owned by these partners: The National Park Service, Macalester College (Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area), Minneapolis Park Board, St. Paul Parks, The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Cities of Rosemount & Inver Grove Heights. Restoration will also take place on a couple of sites that are in private ownership. FMR will utilize ENRTF (as recommended by LCCMR) funding only on private property that is permanently protected through a conservation easement. These entities, along with Dakota County, the Vermillion River Joint Powers Organization, Minneapolis neighborhood associations, watershed districts, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and community volunteers will contribute resources to restoration and enhancement projects from non-Trust Fund sources. No funds from this appropriation will go directly to any of the partners.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

The Mississippi River is the defining natural feature of the central portion of the United States. It provides critical habitat both as an international migration corridor and as essential habitat for local resident wildlife and plant populations. FMR has been strategically focused on specific areas within the designated corridors for well over a decade. This approach has allowed us to stay engaged with projects, landowners, partners and communities, helping to ensure the continuous improvement and expansion of the habitat values at these sites, over time, while protecting the public investment that has been made in them. As such the restoration and enhancement projects presented in this proposal are all part of larger projects both in the sense of time and area. Many times these projects involve restoration and protection components. FMR is committed to conducting fundrasing from both public and private sources, for the ongoing restoration and enhancement activities required at these sites over time.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF	\$90,000 Subd.5(b)	\$53,000 Subd.4c (2.1).	\$92,000 Subd. 3(a)2.1	\$90,000 Subd. 4(f)2.3	
Private landowners	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
Upper Mississippi River Forestry Partnership	\$10,000				
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation				\$34,000	
St. Paul Audubon Society	\$5,000				
Friends of the Mississippi River	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Outdoor Heritage Fund-					\$94,374

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program					
Outdoor Heritage Fund-LSOHC					\$25,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: See attached.

IX. MAP(S): See attached.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: NA

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than 2/1/2012, 8/1/2012, 2/1/2013, 8/1/2013 & 2/1/14. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resource

Project Title: 2.1-MeCC6 – Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat					
Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i2.1					
Project Manager: Tom Lewanski					
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 200,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2014					
Date of Update: August 1, 2014					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Revised Activity 1 Budget (2/1/14)	Revised Activity 1 Budget (8/1/14)	Amount Spent	Final Balance (8/1/14)	
BUDGET ITEM		Budget revision requested in 8/1/14 update report.			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	30,960.00	30,960.00	30,532.78	427.22	
Conservation Director: overall project management and landowner outreach and assistance: .05 FTE. (approximately 84% salary & 16% benefits)	4,300.00	6,285.47	6,285.47	0	
Ecologists (2): Develop and put out bids, hire and oversee vendors, guide restoration activities, evaluate restoration activities. .13 FTE. (approximately 83% salary & 17% benefits)	23,650.00	23,230.76	22,803.54	427.22	
Stewardship Coordinator: Plan volunteer events. Train and oversee volunteers. .01FTE. (approximately 78% salary & 22% benefits)	4,670.00	959.27	959.27	0	
Volunteer Coordinator: Seek, register, & communicate with volunteers. .01FTE. (approximately 80% salary & 20% benefits)	1,340.00	484.50	484.50	0	
Professional/Technical Contracts Vendors to provide restoration activities such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc. (Vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.)	160,000.00	160,000.00	159,852.26	145.74	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies <i>Gloves, weeders, vinyl seed collection bags.</i>	910.08	910.08	910.08	0	
Plant material (native ecotype)	6,505.64	6,805.07	6,805.07	0	
Travel expenses in Minnesota <i>mileage</i>	1,534.34	1,324.85	1,281.13	43.72	
COLUMN TOTAL	200,000.00	200,000.00	199,381.32	616.68	

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2011 Restoration List**

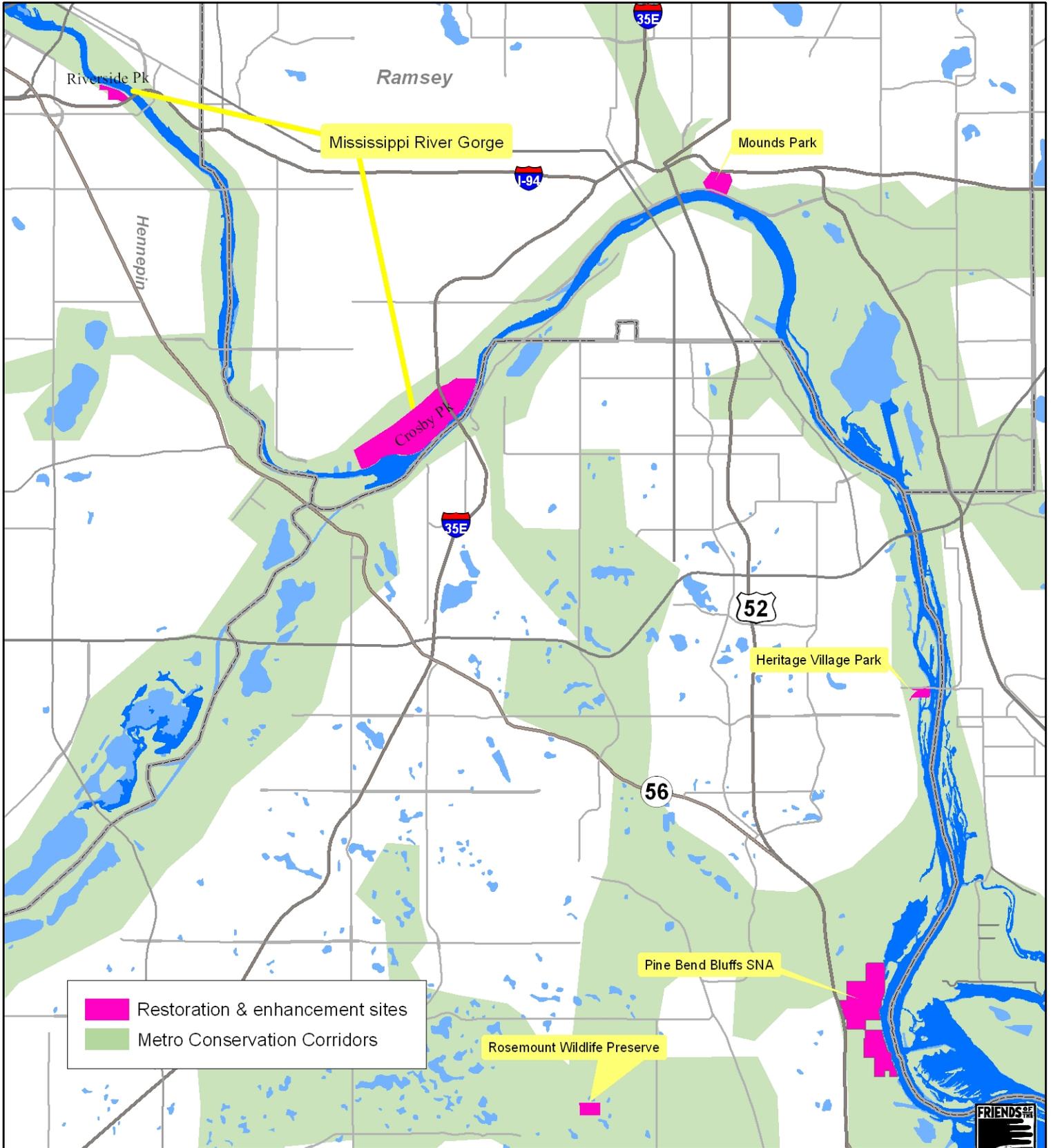
Project Title: 2.1-MeCC6 – Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat
Project Manager Name: Tom Lewanski
M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 200,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	Project status	
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y						
1	Geihar-Erick	518412.285	4949886.29	Prairie	Mississippi River bluffland above Vermillion River Bottoms.	Prairie restoration - site prep, prescribed burn, exotic plant control, seed/plant natives.	40	22+3+8=33	33
2	Gores Pool WMA (former Freitag property)	513718.809	4954686.17	Upland forest and prairie.	Mississippi River floodplain and corresponding uplands. Part of local greenway. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control. Mow prairie restoration area. Install native plants/seed.	80	40+4+4=48	48
3	Grey Cloud Dunes SNA	503193.226	4959757.6	Prairie	Rare natural community with rare species.	Exotic plant control and prescribed burns.	30		
4	Hastings Sand Coulee SNA	514145.039	4948705.08	Prairie	Rare natural community, including 14 rare species. Part of a local greenway.	Prescribed burns, remove trees & grind stumps, prepare soil, install seed, mow, exotic plant control.	140	17+1+45+23=86	86
5	Hastings SNA	513251.499	4952772.7	Floodplain forest & maple-basswood forest.	Diverse natural community with rare plant. Important bird habitat. Part of a local greenway.	Exotic plant control	40	37	37
6	C.P. Adams Park	44°43'51.15" N	92°50'01.68" W	Oak forest	Diverse natural community that is adjacent to Hastings SNA.	Exotic plant control	3.3	3	3
7	Heritage Village Park	498607.466	4967409.16	Floodplain forest	Mississippi River floodplain. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control	10	5+8=13	13
8	Karpen	510580.133	4954749.46	Bluffland oak forest	Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control	5	5	5
9	Mississippi River Gorge	484629.932	4972938.81	Floodplain forest, wetland, upland forest, prairie	Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control and native plant installation.	15	1	1
10	Mounds Park	495412.316	4977045.79	Bluff prairie	Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control and native plant installation.	1		
11	Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area	497895.45	4959176.33	Upland forest and prairie.	Diverse and rare natural communities. Part of local greenway. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control, prescribed burns, prep and seed prairie restoration.	60	17+10.7+30=58	58
12	Ravenna block greenway	518242.021	4943118.29	Oak forest and grassland	Contiguous forest within greenway, opportunity for prairie re-creation.	Invasive species management, prairie & savanna restoration- site prep and seeding.	60	27.6	27.6
13	Rosemount Wildlife preserve	491944.396	4957746.98	Prairie and woodland	Diverse natural communities. Part of local greenway. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control, Rx burning.	25	7.2+2.3+6=15.5	15.5
14	Wilmar	501095.223	4945510.49	Prairie	Vermillion River riparian habitat.	Exotic plant control and prescribed burns.	40	27	27
15	Old Mill Park	44.72687° N	92.34754° W	Oak Savanna	rare natural community, rare plant and Vermillion River riparian habitat.	Exotic plant control and prescribed burns.	7	9	9
							556.3	340.1	363.1

NOTES:

2011-2012 LCCMR MAIN PROPOSAL
PROJECT TITLE: 2.1-MeCC6
Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

Friends of the Mississippi River
NORTHERN SITES



Restoration & enhancement sites
Metro Conservation Corridors

1:110,000

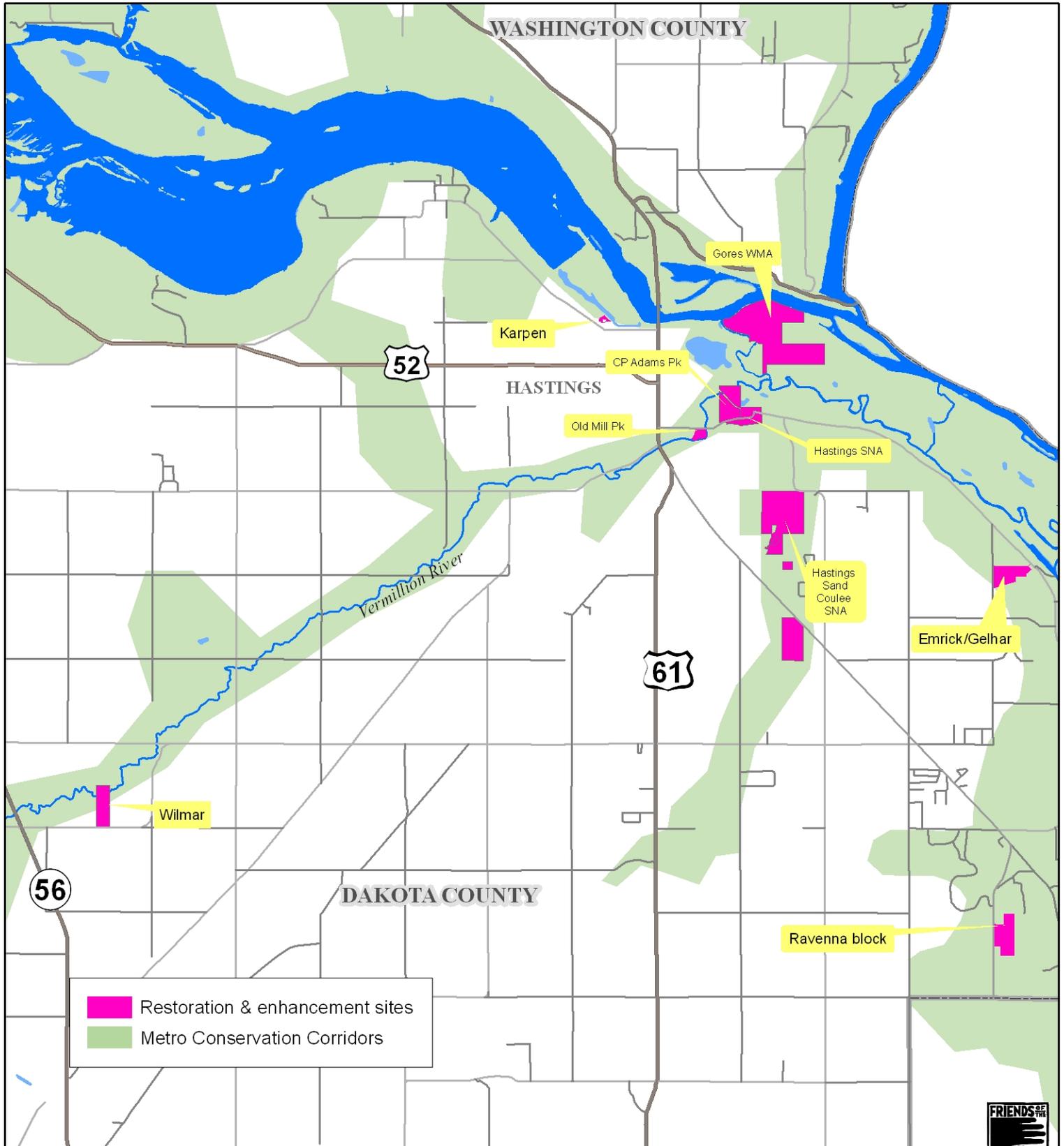
0 1 2 Miles



2011-2012 LCCMR MAIN PROPOSAL
PROJECT TITLE: 2.1-MeCC6
Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

Friends of the Mississippi River.

SOUTHERN SITES



1:100,000

