



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan**

Date of Status Update:

Date of Next Status Update: 2/1/2012

Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/23/2011

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Is this an amendment request? _____

Project Title: MeCC VI - Restoring Our Lands and Waters (2.3)

Project Manager: Wiley Buck

Affiliation: Great River Greening

Address: 35 W Water St, Ste 201

City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55107

Telephone Number: (651) 665-9500

Email Address: wbuck@greatrivergreening.org

Web Address: http://www.greatrivergreening.org

Location:

Counties Impacted: Anoka, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Washington

Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	400,000
	Amount Spent \$:	0
	Balance \$:	400,000

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

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: MeCC VI - 2.3: Restoring Our Lands and Waters

II. PROJECT SUMMARY:

Much of the remaining natural habitat within the Greater Twin Cities metropolitan area is threatened by conversion, fragmentation, invasive species, development, altered hydrology, and climate change. Restoration and management of these habitats is needed to save Minnesota's natural heritage for future generations, protect rare and declining species, protect our clean water, reconnect habitat corridors, and serve as an avenue to connect residents with their local environment. In the end, long-term support for natural areas and their ongoing protection and management among community members will be the only way to safeguard these treasures through time. Great River Greening's efforts to build that connection through community volunteer events will play a key role in building that link.

Great River Greening will work with an array of local, state, and federal government agencies, non-profit organizations and individuals – as part of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership – to undertake a diverse array of restoration projects that serve to meet **our project goals** of: 1) reducing habitat fragmentation, 2) enhancing habitat quality, 3) reconnecting habitat corridors, and 4) building connections with local communities. **Our objectives** through this grant are to: 1) restore 121 acres of upland habitat, plus an additional 146 acres using leveraged non-state funds, 2) restore 0.18 mile of shoreland habitat, plus an additional 0.14 mile using leveraged non-state funds, and 3) engage 450 volunteers. We have identified 11 important restoration projects – based on criteria of ecological significance, partner commitment, opportunity, and community importance – that are poised for action during the grant timeline. These specific projects, listed in the Restoration List, are exemplary of our continued engagement in the Anoka Sandplain, St. Croix Healthy Waters Campaign, collar counties, urban core, and State Wild & Scenic Rivers within the mapped Metro Corridors.

For each site, an ecological restoration and management plan will be made that is consistent with the highest quality conservation and ecological goals for the restoration site. The plan will give consideration to factors such as soil, topography, geology, and other relevant factors that would provide for the best chance for long-term success of the restoration. The plan will include a timetable for implementing the restoration, identify long-term maintenance and management needs of the restoration and how they will be financed, take advantage of the best available science, and include innovative techniques to achieve the best restoration.

For each project, an initial restoration evaluation will be provided at the completion of the appropriation, and another evaluation three years after the completion of the expenditure. Restorations will be evaluated relative to the state goals and standards in the restoration plan, current science, and, when applicable, the Board of Water and Soil Resources native vegetation establishment and enhancement guidelines. The evaluation shall determine whether the restoration is meeting planned goals, identify any problems with the implementation of the restoration, and, if necessary, give recommendations on improving restorations.

Private lands will be required to have a permanent conservation/scenic easement in effect. Species lists will be based on DNR, DNR/Great River Greening, and USDA Plants Database lists. In instances when leveraged match funds exceed our goal, Greening prefers to reinvest, to a level that is justified, in the original project area to augment, improve, and accelerate the restoration of those acres, before enlarging the project boundary to begin restoration of additional acres.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2012:

Project Status as of August 1, 2012:

Project Status as of February 1, 2013:

Project Status as of August 1, 2013:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Restoration and Enhancement of Upland Habitats

Description: We will restore 121 acres, plus an additional 146 acres using leveraged non-state funds (267 total acres) of upland habitat (forests, woodlands, savanna and prairie) through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, prescribed fire, establishment mowing, direct hardwood seeding, and associated activities.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 250,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 250,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Restore 121 acres of upland habitat (forests, woodlands, savanna and prairie) through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, prescribed fire, establishment mowing, direct hardwood seeding, and associated activities. Anticipated milestones include 65 ac Underway by 12/31/11; 121 ac Underway by 6/1/12; 121 ac >30% complete by 12/31/12.	6/30/13	\$ 250,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2012:

Activity Status as of August 1, 2012:

Activity Status as of February 1, 2013:

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 2: Restoration and Enhancement of Wetland/Shoreline Habitats

Description: We will restore 2 acres of wetland habitat and 0.18 mile of shoreline, plus an additional 1 ac and 0.14 mile using leveraged non-state funds (3 ac and 0.32 mile total), through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, and associated activities.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 150,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$150,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Restore 2 acres of wetland habitat and 0.18 mile of shoreline	6/30/13	\$ 150,000

through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, and associated activities. Anticipated milestones include 0.18 mi shoreline planted and seeded by 12/31/11.		
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Activity Status as of February 1, 2012:

Activity Status as of August 1, 2012:

Activity Status as of February 1, 2013:

Final Report Summary:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

Project results will be shared via periodic reports to landowner partners and other funding partners, as well as the larger Metro Corridors partnership.

Great River Greening will periodically distribute information about the program through our e-postcard, 'Volunteer Opportunities' mailings, donor mailings and communications (including newsletter and annual report), at volunteer restoration events, and through our website www.greatrivergreening.org. We reach over 3,700 people through our database.

Status as of February 1, 2012:

Status as of August 1, 2012:

Status as of February 1, 2013:

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 177,800	Benefit rates subject to change with change in ins. premiums and 401k participation. Wiley Buck, Project Manager/ Restoration Ecologist, \$21,100 (29% benefit) 18% FTE; Todd Rexine, Tory Christensen. Ecologists. \$32,600 (14% and 24% benefit) 28% FTE; Wayne Ostlie, Dir of Conservation Programs \$5,000 (8% benefit) 8% FTE; William Smith, Director of Finance \$8,200 (24% benefit) 10% FTE; Deb Gagner, Administrative Assistant \$1200 (20% benefit) 4% FTE; Tim Youngquist, Field Coordinator \$47,800 (16% benefit) 112% FTE; Restoration Technicians incl. Seasonal Burn Crew \$51,500 (8% benefit) 170% FTE; Mark Turbak, Community Engagement Manager \$10,400 (15% benefits) 20% FTE
Service Contracts	\$ 88,400	Contracts with restoration vendors for prairie reconstruction, direct hardwood seeding, mowing, tree

		removal, tree planting, phosphorous trap installation, earthmoving/excavation, burning, etc. Vendors TBD upon bidding process; bidders list will include MCC.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 117,300	Herbicides; Equipment fuel, lubes, and replacement parts; Chainsaw safety supplies (Personal Protective Equipment). Seeds, plugs, plants, mulch, erosion control materials, herbivory protection
Capital Equipment over \$3,500:	\$ -0-	n/a
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 6,300	
Other:	\$ 10,100	Volunteer Event Supplies: Tents/tables/chairs rentals; portable toilet rentals; overnight security; granola bars/juice/water/fruit/sandwiches; safety glasses and work gloves. Burn permit fees.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 400,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: n/a

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 4.16 FTE

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
Scott WMO	\$110,000		Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Shoreland Restoration. Committed
MNRRRA	\$150,000		Battle Creek Regional Park NW Bluffs. Pending.
South Washington WD	\$ 40,000		Central Corridor Phase II. Committed.
City of Inver Grove Heights	\$ 15,000		Heritage Village Park Wetland and Shoreland Restoration. Committed
City of Mendota Heights	\$ 10,000		Pilot Knob Hill Phase II. Committed.
City of Bloomington	\$ 35,000		1) Pond Dakota Mission Establishment 2) Ike's Creek. Committed.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	\$ 20,000		Rum River Wild and Scenic River Easement Restorations. Committed.
Private Landowners w/ Easements	\$ 15,000		Rum, Cannon, St. Croix WSR Easement Restorations. Pending.
St. Paul Garden Club	\$ 1,000		OH Anderson Prairie Maintenance. Pending.
Arcola Mills Historic Foundation	\$ 1,000		Arcola Mills Historic Foundation Maintenance. Pending.
City of Lake St. Croix Beach	\$ 1,000		St. Croix Recreational Trail Prairie Burn. Pending.
City of Savage	\$ 2,000		Hidden Valley Park dry hill prairie Maintenance. Pending.
State			
	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	

TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 400,000	\$ -0-	
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VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Project partners will include: South Washington Watershed District; City of Inver Grove Heights; Scott County Parks; Scott Watershed Management Organization; Minnesota DNR Wild & Scenic Rivers Program; Minnesota Land Trust; City of Mendota Heights; National Park Service; Ramsey County Parks; City of Bloomington.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

The need and opportunities for restoration in project areas will continue into the foreseeable future, especially in light of climate change, increasing development pressures, and other threats. Great River Greening – as a non-profit conservation organization – is committed to working with our partners into the future to identify financial resources to manage their lands where these investments have been placed. While landowner partners must agree to manage their lands over the long term, where appropriate, and where the need exists, we envision approaching ENRTF to be *one of several* funding streams to that end. ENRTF funding helps to ensure that we actively guide the long term adaptive management of the site.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2003 or FY 2004-05	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
ENRTF	\$ 124,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 111,000	\$ 155,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:

See Restoration List attachment.

IX. MAP(S):

See Map attachment.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:

n/a

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

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

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

Project Title: MeCC VI-2.3: Restoring Our Lands and Waters

Project Manager Name: Wiley Buck

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 400,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y						
1	Central Corridor (aka South Washington) Phase II	-92.909	44.864	Prairie	Expand Prairie Remnant; shares corridor with Lost Valley SNA	Prairie Reconstruction: Site Prep, Seeding.	17		Phase I Underway
2	Battle Creek Regional Park NW Bluffs	-93.027	44.938	Oak Savanna, Oak Woodland, Prairie, Seep	Large unit that will connect other restored units; on Miss River flyway; rare kittentails records	Woody invasive removal, Rx burning, seeding	29		Enhancement of Surrounding Units Underway
3	Pilot Knob Hill Phase II	-93.168	44.881	Prairie, Oak Savanna	SGCN priority location and ecosystem; connected to Ft Snelling State Park on Minn. River	Prairie/Savanna Establishment mowing, inv. Spp control; reconstruction of former road, and utility corridor	8		Seeded. Utility Co. contacted; asphalt removed.
4	DNR Wild and Scenic River Easements: Rum, Cannon, and St. Croix	TBD	TBD	Riparian, Forest, Prairie, Savanna, Woodland, Wetland	WSR contain over 500 miles of fish and wildlife habitat and MCBS native plant communities of high diversity	Suite of projects on pvt land. Variety of restorations and enhancements above and beyond easement requirements, appropriate to each site.	30		DNR WSR program has mailed inquiry letter to easement holders. DNR shoreland funds allocated.
5	Minn Land Trust Rum River Easements	TBD	TBD	Riparian, Forest, Prairie, Savanna, Woodland, Wetland		Suite of projects on pvt land. Variety of restorations and enhancements above and beyond easement requirements, appropriate to each site.	10		From set of 7 easements, 980 acres. Outreach underway.
6	NPS St. Croix WSR Easements	TBD	TBD	Big River Corridor	St. Croix contains a high density of rare species and MCBS native plant communities of high diversit	Suite of projects on pvt land. Variety of restorations and enhancements above and beyond easement requirements, appropriate to each site.	5		3 candidate sites identified.
7	Pond Dakota Mission Prairie Establishment	-93.287	44.808	Prairie, Oak Savanna	Part of Minnesota River Valley; connected to NWR land.	Establishment mowing, invasive species control; first burn for herbaceous layer	3		Underway
8	Ike's Creek	-93.236	44.848	Wooded Ravine; spring-fed stream supporting trout	MCBS forest of moderate diversity, and buffer zones. Rare metro stream with trout	Upland restoration (disturbed areas) and enhancement (high quality areas) with emphasis on erosion reduction.	3		Met with landowners, partners, and DNR Fisheries.
9	Monitoring of 26 existing MeCC projects; Maintenance, Enhancement, Upgrades on Select Sites as Needed.	TBD	TBD				20		Final list of Selected Sites TBD based on growing season monitoring results.
10	Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Shoreland Restoration	-93.544	44.576	Lakeshore	Improved fish and wildlife habitat; water quality	Shoreline plugging, seeding, and site prep.		0.113	Met with WMO; match secured.
11	Heritage Village Park Wetland and Shoreland Restoration	-93.027	44.799	Lakeshore	Improved fish and wildlife habitat; water quality. Miss River flyway.	Shoreline plugging, seeding, and site prep.	2	0.063	Met with landowner.

NOTES: Project-specific acreages and shoreline miles are estimates only, and may vary in order to attain the overall appropriation goals.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2010 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)								
Project Title: MeCC6-2.3: Restoring our Lands and Waters								
Project Manager Name: Wiley Buck								
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 400,000								
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								
2010 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	Result 2 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Restoration and Enhancement of Upland Habitats			Restoration and Enhancement of Wetland/Shoreline Habitats				
PERSONNEL: benefits subject to change with change in ins. premiums and 401k participation.	\$ 133,200		\$ 133,200	\$ 44,600		\$ 44,600	\$ 177,800	\$ 177,800
Wiley Buck, Project Manager/ Restoration Ecologist, \$21,100 (29% benefit) 36% FTE								
Todd Rexine, Tory Christensen, Ecologists. \$32,600 (14% and 24% benefit) 56% FTE								
Wayne Ostlie, Dir of Conservation Programs \$5,000 (8% benefit) 8% FTE								
William Smith, Director of Finance \$8,200 (24% benefit) 10% FTE								
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Restoration Technicians incl. Seasonal Burn Crew \$51,500 (8% benefit) 170% FTE								
Mark Turbak, Community Engagement Manager \$10,400 (15% benefits) 20% FTE								
Contracts								
Other contracts Contracts with restoration vendors for prairie reconstruction, direct hardwood seeding, mowing, tree removal, tree planting, phosphorous trap installation, earthmoving/excavation, burning, etc. Vendors TBD upon bidding process; bidders list will include MCC.	\$ 48,400		\$ 48,400	\$ 40,000		\$ 40,000	\$ 88,400	\$ 88,400
Supplies (list specific categories)			\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Site prep supplies: Herbicides; Equipment fuel, lubes, and replacement parts; Chainsaw safety supplies (Personal Protective Equipment)	\$ 14,400		\$ 14,400	\$ 1,200		\$ 1,200	\$ 15,600	\$ 15,600
Seeds, plugs, plants, mulch, erosion control materials, herbivory protection	\$ 43,900		\$ 43,900	\$ 57,800		\$ 57,800	\$ 101,700	\$ 101,700
Travel expenses in Minnesota	\$ 3,400		\$ 3,400	\$ 2,900		\$ 2,900	\$ 6,300	\$ 6,300
Other			\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Volunteer Event Supplies: Tents/tables/chairs rentals; portable toilet rentals; overnight security; granola bars/juice/water/fruit/sandwiches; safety glasses and work gloves.	\$ 7,000		\$ 7,000	\$ 3,100		\$ 3,100	\$ 10,100	\$ 10,100
Burn Permit Fees	\$ 100		\$ 100			\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
COLUMN TOTAL	\$250,400	\$0	\$250,400	\$149,600	\$0	\$149,600	\$400,000	\$400,000

MeCCVI - 2.3 Restoring Our Lands and Waters

