



**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: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) - Phase VI

Project Manager: Sarah Strommen

Affiliation: Minnesota Land Trust

Address: 2356 University Ave W, Ste 240

City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55114

Telephone Number: (651) 647-9590

Email Address: sstrommen@mnland.org

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

Location:

Counties Impacted: Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright

Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	3,475,000
	Amount Spent \$:	<u>0</u>
	Balance \$:	3,475,000

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

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: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VI Overall Summary

II. PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Partnership accelerates protection and restoration of remaining high-quality natural lands in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area by strategically coordinating and focusing conservation efforts within a connected network of critical lands. This corridor network stretches from the area's urban core to its rural perimeter, including portions of 16 counties.

Our projects and activities take place within science-based corridors and are guided by the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, as well as numerous local and resource-specific plans. This project addresses several recommendations of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan:

- Protect priority land habitats
- Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes
- Restore land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds
- Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation

Specifically, during this sixth phase of the MeCC Partnership, our focus will be on projects that build upon prior investments to enlarge habitat areas and create connections as well as projects that capitalize on urgent and unique opportunities. Our goal is to permanently protect 627 acres through fee title and conservation easement acquisition and to restore and/or enhance 766 acres of habitat. An additional 170 acres will be protected and 147 acres will be restored/enhanced with other funds. By achieving our goals, we expect the following outcomes:

- Strengthen and protect biodiversity in the region
- Protect and improve water quality of our region's lakes, rivers, and streams
- Protect and enhance habitat for a vast variety of wildlife and rare plant species, including "species in greatest conservation need"

The MeCC Partnership maximizes dollars available for conservation by building upon past efforts and investments, leveraging other private and public resources, and engaging in strategic cooperation. The Partnership has an excellent track record. Since 2003, Metro Corridors partners have protected more than 7,200 acres and restored more than 6,000 acres of priority lands in the greater Twin Cities metro area.

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:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Partnership Coordination, Mapping and Database Management

Description:

The Minnesota Land Trust will provide coordination and leadership by convening and facilitating meetings, providing support to partners, compiling overall reports and accomplishments, and guiding strategic outreach and implementation efforts. DNR Management Information Services (MIS) staff will provide management of and updates to the GIS-based database developed to track MeCC projects as well as mapping needs of the partnership.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 40,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 40,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Convene and facilitate quarterly meetings of the partnership to share information and coordinate work (MLT)	June 30, 2013	\$ 7,500
2. Compile and submit overall partnership reports twice yearly (MLT)	June 30, 2013	\$ 7,500
3. Conduct outreach to local communities and landowners with number of activities and target audiences (MLT)	June 30, 2013	\$ 5,000
4. Maintain current records of accomplishments in the database	June 30, 2013	\$20,000

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: Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat

Description:

Restoration and enhancement of critical prairie, forest, and other habitats or major landscape connections. All projects will be within scientifically determined corridors in the greater metropolitan area and strategically focused to build upon prior investments or take advantage of unique and urgent opportunities. See individual work plans for additional details.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 836,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 836,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Restore and/or enhance 766 acres of critical habitat	June 30, 2013	\$ 836,000

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 3: Acquire Significant Habitat

Description:

Acquisition of fee title or conservation easements to protect critical habitats or major landscape connections within scientifically determined corridors in the greater metropolitan area. Projects will be strategically focused to build upon prior investments or take advantage of unique urgent opportunities. See individual work plans for additional details.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 2,599,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 2,599,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Protect 190 acres of critical habitat through fee title acquisition	June 30, 2013	\$ 1,300,000
2. Protect 437 acres through conservation easements	June 30, 2013	\$ 1,299,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2012:

Activity Status as of August 1, 2012:

Activity Status as of February 1, 2013:

Final Report Summary:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

The Metro Conservation Corridors partnership will periodically distribute information about the program and accomplishments through the various communication methods of our partner organizations and as we conduct coordinated outreach efforts. As projects are completed, the partners involved will publicize accomplishments through press releases and organization newsletters and websites. The MeCC database includes a public web-based map that displays accomplishments. Additionally, the partnership plans to update the MeCC section on the DNR's website.

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:	\$ 386,760	Staff to manage and coordinate MeCC, manage mapping and database for 2 years and other partner conservation staff salary and related benefits - please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Contracts:	\$ 293,400	Restoration, Professional Services - please see Overall Table B individual budgets for additional detail.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 215,940	Restoration plant materials and supplies. Please

		see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Acquisition: Fee title: Conservation easements:	\$1,265,000 \$1,036,000	Funds to purchase fee title and conservation easements and related transaction expenses. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Restoration:	\$ 167,100	Restoration supplies and vendors. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Travel:	\$ 10,600	Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota.
Additional Budget Items:	\$ 100,200	Conservation Easement Monitoring, Management, and Enforcement Fund, signs, parking to ensure sites meet DNR minimum maintenance standards, volunteer event supplies. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 3,475,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 3.78 for 2 years

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$ 2,935,000	\$	Fee title acquisition, staff time, vendor services, materials/supplies, donated easement value
State			
	\$ 330,000	\$	Fee title acquisition
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 3,265,000	\$	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Trust for Public Land	Critical Land Protection Program - Acquisition
MN Land Trust	Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements
Friends of the Mississippi River	Restore & Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat
MN Valley Nat. Wildlife Refuge Trust	Priority Expansion & Restoration of MN Valley NW Refuge
Great River Greening	Restoring our Lands and Waters
DNR Fish and Wildlife	DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition
Dakota County	Lakeshore & Riparian Protection & Restoration
DNR Management Information Serv.	Partnership Mapping and Database
DNR Community Conservation Assist.	No 2011 funding
DNR SNA Program	Not part of this funding appropriation
Friends of the Minnesota Valley	No 2011 funding

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

This project advances the long-term strategy of the Metro Conservation Corridors, initiated in partnership with the LCCMR in 2003 to accelerate the protection and restoration of critical habitat in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area. Progress towards this long-term strategy is ongoing, and MeCC will continue its work as long as urbanization and fragmentation continue to threaten critical habitat.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2003 or FY 2005	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 – MeCC	\$ 4,850,000	\$ 3,530,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 3,150,000	\$ 3,375,000	\$ 1,800,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: Please see individual work programs.

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 by August 1, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.

Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase VI (2011-2012)									Date: 05/17/11						
Summary of Allocations and Accomplishments by Partners									ENRTF Dollars Requested: \$3,475,000						
Partner	Project Funding								Accomplishments				Activity	Areas of Focus	
	ENRTF Funds					Other Funds			ENRTF		Other Funds				Total Project Acres Completed (ENRTF & Other Funds combined)
	Coordination & Mapping	Restoration	Fee Title Acquisition	Conservation Easement Acquisition	Total ENRTF Funds Allocated	Other State Funding	Other Non-State Funding	Total Project Funds Proposed (ENRTF, Other State Funds & Non-State Funds combined)	ENRTF Acres/Miles	Other Funds Acres/Miles					
	ACRES		MILES		ACRES		MILES								
DNR	\$20,000		\$300,000		\$320,000		\$150,000	\$470,000	35	0.60	15	0.30	50	Mapping and database work and DNR Fish and Wildlife acquisition	Browns Creek, Vermillion River
Friends of the Mississippi River		\$200,000			\$200,000		\$100,000	\$300,000	163				163	Restore and enhance significant watershed habitat	Mississippi - SNA and WMA lands
Great River Greening		\$400,000			\$400,000		\$400,000	\$800,000	123	0.18	147	0.14	270	Restoration of lands and waters	Mississippi River; Wild & Scenic Rivers; Pilot Knob; Scott Co.; Washington Co.; Urban Core
MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.		\$100,000	\$500,000		\$600,000		\$550,000	\$1,150,000	530		125		655	Expand the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge and restore/enhance remnant oak savannas and native prairie on the Refuge	MN Valley NWR Units in Hennepin, Scott, and Sibley counties
The Trust for Public Land			\$500,000		\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	30	0.30	30	0.30	60	Critical land protection (fee acquisition)	Savage Fen, Lindstrom, Rum River, St. Croix, Prior Lake
Minnesota Land Trust	\$20,000			\$400,000	\$420,000		\$500,000	\$920,000	150				150	MeCC Coordination and protecting habitat by acquiring conservation easements	Rum River, Valley Creek, St. Croix, Cannon River
Dakota County		\$136,000		\$899,000	\$1,035,000		\$1,035,000	\$2,070,000	362				362	Lakeshore and riparian protection (conservation easements) and restoration	Vermillion River, Cannon River, Marcott Lake, Lake
	\$40,000	\$836,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,299,000	\$3,475,000	\$250,000	\$2,985,000	\$6,710,000	1,393	1.08	317	0.74	1,710		

Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase VI (2011-2012)
Table A: Summary of Funding & Accomplishments

Date: 05/17/11
M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: : \$3,475,000

Result / Activity	Partner	Project Funding				Accomplishments						Areas of Focus			
		ENRTF Funds		Other Funds		ENRTF		Other Funds		Total Project Acres (ENRTF & Other Funds combined)					
		ENRTF Funds Allocated	Other State Funding	Other Non-State Funding	Total Project Funds (ENRTF, Other State Funds & Non-State Funds combined)	ENRTF Acres/Miles		Other Funds Acres/Miles							
ACRES	MILES	ACRES	MILES												
1. x															
1.1. MeCC Partnership coordination, mapping, and outreach	Led by Minnesota Land Trust	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A			
1.2. MeCC Mapping and database work	Led by DNR	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A			
SUBTOTAL		\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	0	0.00	0	0.00	-	-				
2. Restore & Enhancement Significant Habitat															
2.1. Restore and enhance significant watershed habitat	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$200,000	\$0	\$200,000	\$400,000	163	0	0	0	163		Mississippi - SNA and WMA lands			
2.3. Restoring our lands and waters	Great River Greening	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000	\$800,000	123	0.18	147	0.14	270		Mississippi River; Wild & Scenic Rivers; Pilot Knob; Scott Co.; Washington Co.; Urban Core			
2.6. Restore and enhance remnant oak savannas and native prairie on the Minnesota	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	405	0	0	0	405		MN Valley NWR Units in Hennepin, Scott, and Sibley counties			
2.7. Lakeshore and riparian restoration in Dakota County	Dakota County	\$136,000	\$0	\$0	\$136,000	75	0	0	0	75		Vermillion River, Cannon River, Marcott Lake, Lake Marion			
SUBTOTAL		\$836,000	\$0	\$600,000	\$1,436,000	766	0.00	147	0.00	913					
3. Acquire Significant Habitat															
						Fee Title	Easement	Fee Title	Easement	Fee Title	Easement	Fee Title	Easement		
3.1. Critical land protection program	The Trust for Public Land	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	30	-	0.30	-	30	-	0.30	-	60	Savage Fen, Lindstrom, Rum River, St. Croix, Prior Lake
3.2. Protecting significant habitat by acquiring conservation easements.	Minnesota Land Trust	\$400,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$900,000	-	150	-	0.00	-	N/A	-	0.00	150	Rum River, Valley Creek, St. Croix, Cannon River
3.3. Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	125	-	0.00	-	125	-	0.00	-	250	MN Valley NWR units in Carver, Scott and/or Sibley Counties
3.5. DNR Fish & Wildlife Acquisition.	DNR - Fisheries & Wildlife	\$300,000	\$80,000	\$50,000	\$430,000	35	-	0.60	-	15	-	0.30	-	50	Browns Creek, Vermillion River
3.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian protection	Dakota County	\$899,000	\$0	\$1,035,000	\$1,934,000	-	287	-	0.00	-	0	-	0.00	287	Vermillion River, Cannon River, Marcott Lake, Lake Marion
SUBTOTAL		\$2,599,000	\$330,000	\$2,335,000	\$5,264,000	190	437	0.90	0.00	170	0	0.60	0.00	797	
4. Community Conservation Assistance															
4.1. Assist local governments to promote the conservation of natural habitats	DNR - CCA (formally Metro Greenways)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
TOTAL		\$3,475,000	\$330,000	\$2,935,000	\$6,740,000	1,393	0.90	317	0.60	1,710					

Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase VI

Table B: LCCMR Funding - Budget Detail

Date: 05/18/11

M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation: : \$3,475,000

Activity	Partners	ENRTF Funding										Budget Explanation (staff/contracts/services, development, equipment, other)
		Personnel	Contracts	Equipment/ Tools/ Supplies	Travel	Restoration	Acquisition		Additional Budget Items	Total		
							Fee	Easement				
1. Coordinate MeCC Program												
1.1. Coordination of MeCC program for two year project term	Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 20,000									\$ 20,000	Staff to manage and coordinate the program for two years
1.2. MeCC database and mapping work	DNR MIS	\$ 20,000									\$ 20,000	Staff to manage mapping and database for two years
SUBTOTAL		\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000	
2. Restore & Enhance Significant Habitat												
2.1. Restore/enhance significant watershed habitat	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$ 28,960		\$ 2,640	\$ 1,300	\$ 167,100					\$ 200,000	Personnel: Conservation Director, Ecologist/Project Manager, Volunteer Coordinator, Stewardship Coordinator. Equipment/Tools/Supplies: plants, gloves, weeders, seed collection bags. Travel: Mileage within Minnesota; Restoration: Vendors will be hired to conduct restoration activities.
2.3. Restoring our lands and waters	Great River Greening	\$ 177,800	\$ 88,400	\$ 117,300	\$ 6,300				\$ 10,200		\$ 400,000	Personnel: Staff ecologists, field crew, volunteer coordinator, and admin; Contracts: contracts for site prep, prairie installation, etc; Equipment/Tools/Supplies: restoration supplies, materials and fees including mulch, plans, seeds, etc; Travel: travel to/from project sites; Additional Budget Items: \$5,000 for volunteer event expenses.
2.6 Oak savanna and prairie restoration on the Minnesota Valley NWR	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.		\$ 90,000	\$ 10,000							\$ 100,000	Contracts: Contracts with private restoration or other businesses to perform prescribed fire operations and invasive tree and other woody species removal. Contract with MCC for herbicide application following the mechanical invasive woody species removal. Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Herbicide for treatment of invasive trees and other woody species.
2.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian restoration	Dakota County		\$ 50,000	\$ 86,000							\$ 136,000	Contracts: Natural resource specialist to develop and implement natural resource management plans for all easement projects. Equipment/Tools/Supplies: seed, trees shrubs, erosion control, equipment use, etc.
SUBTOTAL		\$ 206,760	\$ 228,400	\$ 215,940	\$ 7,600	\$ 167,100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,200	\$ -	\$ 836,000	
3. Acquire Significant Habitat												
3.1 Critical Land Protection Program fee title & conservation easement acquisition	The Trust for Public Land						\$ 490,000		\$ 10,000		\$ 500,000	Acquisition: funds to purchase 30 acres in fee title. The land will be transferred to a local, state, or federal agency for permanent stewardship; Other: baseline, management plan & initial site development plan; Additional Budget Items: other DNR acquisition, reporting, and planning costs as needed
3.2. Protecting significant habitat by acquiring conservation easements	Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 140,000			\$ 3,000			\$ 182,000	\$ 75,000		\$ 400,000	Staff/Contracts: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits for approximately 1 FTE for 2 years. Travel: Mileage and related travel in Minnesota; Acquisition: purchase price of conservation easements and related transaction expenses for 150 acres; Additional Budget Items: \$75,000 for easement monitoring, management, and enforcement.
3.3. Fee acquisition for Mn Valley National Wildlife Refuge	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.						\$ 500,000				\$ 500,000	Fee title acquisition of 125 acres for priority expansion of the MN Valley NW Refuge.
3.5. DNR Fish & Wildlife Acquisition	DNR - Fisheries & Wildlife		\$ 20,000				\$ 275,000		\$ 5,000		\$ 300,000	Contracts: professional services related to real estate transaction including legal services, surveys, negotiations, closings, etc.; Acquisition: acquisition of fee title (permanent easement if fee title not possible) on 35 acres; Additional Budget Items: signs, parking, etc. to ensure sites meet minimum maintenance standards.
3.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian protection	Dakota County		\$ 45,000						\$ 854,000		\$ 899,000	Contracts: 0.5 of 1 FTE contracted real estate specialist for two years, including salary and benefits. Acquisition: Funds to acquire conservation easements on 310 acres. Marcott Lake and Lake Marion projects could be fee title acquisition.
SUBTOTAL		\$ 140,000	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 1,265,000	\$ 1,036,000	\$ 90,000	\$ -	\$ 2,599,000	
TOTAL		\$ 386,760	\$ 293,400	\$ 215,940	\$ 10,600	\$ 167,100	\$ 1,265,000	\$ 1,036,000	\$ 100,200	\$ -	\$ 3,475,000	