



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2013 Work Plan

Date of Status Update Report: October 22, 2012
Date of Next Status Update Report: December 2013
Date of Work Plan Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2015 **Is this an amendment request?** No

PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Acquisition of Property Surrounding Lake Tamarack
062-D

Project Manager: Peter Moe, Director of Operations

Affiliation: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

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Web Address: www.arboretum.umn.edu

Location: 400 Arboretum Boulevard
Victoria, MN 55386
Adjacent to University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Total ENRTF Project Budget: \$2,000,000	ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,000,000
	Amount Spent: \$0
	Balance: \$2,000,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. xx, Sec. xx, Subd. xx

Appropriation Language:

DRAFT

I. PROJECT TITLE: MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY SURROUNDING LAKE TAMARACK

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The Arboretum, consistent with the objectives of the LCCMR, proposes to purchase 78 acres of land located adjacent to the Arboretum's Horticultural Research Center on the north side of Highway 5 and east of Bavaria Road in the City of Victoria, Carver County (the "Site"). The Arboretum's purchase of the Site will protect additional habitat in an increasingly developed area. The Site contains approximately 20 acres of wetlands, as well as 1,300 feet of lakeshore on Lake Tamarack – the deepest lake in Carver County. The Site also contains areas of big woods, oak savanna, and upland meadow, although these resources have deteriorated due to a century of farming. The Site is identified in the Arboretum's Master Plan as the final parcel intended for acquisition.

This funding request is timely given development pressure on the Site. Carver County has been one of the fastest growing communities in Minnesota, almost doubling in population over the past 16 years. Continued growth is expected, and the Site is guided for medium-density residential development in the City of Victoria's Comprehensive Plan. This would allow over 100 homes to be built on the Site. Even utilizing best practices for stormwater management and erosion control, Lake Tamarack will be impacted and the surrounding big woods, wetlands and oak savanna will be permanently lost.

The protection of this Site will also prevent the disruption of an important wildlife corridor in the metro area. The Site currently links the 1,137 acres of the Arboretum with the Carver Park Reserve, Lake Minnetonka Regional Park and Lake Minnetonka.

The following significant outcomes will result from this acquisition:

- Protecting the water quality of Lake Tamarack, while encouraging a healthy fishery, waterfowl habitat and native flora and fauna.
- Protection and restoration of majestic stands of oak, maple and basswood, as well as an upland meadow and wetlands, that provide habitat for a diverse population of birds, mammals, amphibians and native plants.
- Providing additional recreational and educational opportunities and access to the Arboretum by extending an existing City of Victoria paved trail from the south; in addition, an existing Hennepin County Transit Authority Trail will provide access through a proposed City of Victoria Park on the north side of Lake Tamarack.
- Securing land for possible future University of Minnesota research projects including restoration ecology, organic fruit crop production and perennial crops for bio-energy and wildlife habitat research.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of:

December 2013

Project Status as of:

June 2013

Project Status as of :
December 2014

Project Status as of:
June 2015

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1:

Description: Acquiring portion of 78 acre parcel containing native forest, wetlands, crop land and lakeshore on Lake Tamarack in Carver County and adjacent to the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The U of M has obtained 2 appraisals and has completed a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment for the property. The U of M plans to receive a signed purchase agreement from the land owners by December 31, 2012 and close on the purchase as soon after July 1, 2013 as possible. Based on the high appraisal \$2,000,000 will purchase 35.06 acres of the 78 acre parcel.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

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

Activity Completion Date: 9/15/2013

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Fee Title Acquisition of 35.06 acre portion of 78 Acre parcel.	9/15/13	\$2,000,000

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: The acquisition will be publicized in the Landscape Arboretum Newsletter and a press release will be issued. The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund will be credited.

Status as of :
December 2013

Status as of :
June 2013

Status as of :
December 2013

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$2,000,000	Amount recommended by the LCCMR on July 11, 2012.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$2,000,000	

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: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state – University of Minnesota	\$1,000 ,000	\$0	Fee title acquisition of 17.5 acre portion of 78 acre parcel
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation	\$450,000	\$0	Fee title acquisition of 7.9 acre portion of 78 acre parcel
State - MN Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$1,000,000	\$0	Fee title acquisition of 17.5 acre portion of 78 acre parcel
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$2,450,000	\$0	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

The University of Minnesota will carry out the acquisition of the Site. The value of the Site is estimated to be between \$4.2 million and \$4.45 million based on Carver County Tax Records and two (2) June 2012 appraisals. Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council voted to recommend \$1,000,000 on 9/21/12 pending approval from Legislature and signature by the Governor. The University of Minnesota and Landscape Arboretum Foundation will solicit additional funding streams, including unrestricted endowment , foundation grants and gifts from individual donors.

The City of Victoria has been notified of the proposed acquisition and it is consistent with the Master Plan for Parks, which describes in detail a potential Lake Tamarack Park Preserve that would allow public access and use and also protect the entire perimeter of Lake Tamarack. Public access would include free access to this area of the Arboretum and fishing opportunities at the Lake. The City of Victoria has a paved trail to the east boundary of this parcel and has received DNR trail funding to build a new trail along the southern boundary of this parcel. This trail will connect to an existing dirt farm road that will provide access into the site.

The Landscape Arboretum charges \$12 admission to the main gardens and grounds on the south side of State Highway 5 but will not charge admission for this 78 acre parcel. The Arboretum will work with the DNR to improve a small, carry- in canoe and kayak access on Lake Tamarack and will provide an unpaved parking lot for people visiting the site for fishing, bird watching or similar activities.

The Arboretum opened in 1958 and now includes the Horticultural Research Center that opened in 1908. The combined 1,137 acres are utilized for horticultural research including fruit and landscape plant breeding and restoration ecology. The Arboretum is also a major public garden with 330,000 annual visitors and 22,000 members.

A basic restoration plan is shown on the attached map and will include restoring the maple-basswood forest on the north end of the site and the 22 acre wetland that bisects the site in the middle. The restoration will be designed to provide food, shelter and breeding habitat for the wildlife species native to Carver County and

invasive species will be monitored and controlled. In addition, native prairie species will be planted on the current corn fields. This restoration work will be funded by the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation or through research grants to U of M CFANS faculty.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

A maximum of 10 acres out of the 78 parcel located in the southwest corner of the parcel and including the existing farm building site will be used for fruit and landscape plant breeding projects. This property is currently planted with corn or other non-native plant species. The remainder of the site will be managed for native plants and wildlife. Faculty in the U of M Departments of Agronomy and Plant Genetics and Horticultural Science have expressed interest in native plant restoration research projects and the sites diverse topography, native plant populations and soils lend themselves to specific plants community restoration projects. A complete restoration and management plan will be completed after the property is acquired. The property will also be open for environmental education , nature based therapy and outdoor recreation including hiking, bird watching, canoeing, and related activities.

This proposal is the final acquisition identified in the Arboretum’s Master Plan. Properties were selected based on watershed boundaries, native plant communities preserved, providing a buffer for agricultural research projects and to protect water quality. Additional investment by the Arboretum related to restoration and rehabilitation of the Site, as well as the development of educational programming will occur once the acquisition is complete. The property will also be open for outdoor recreation including hiking, bird watching, canoeing, and related activities. The Arboretum will also work with the surrounding local governments to ensure trail connections are completed on the Site.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: See attachment.

IX. MAP(S): See attachment

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than December 2013, June 2014, December 2014, and June 2015. A final report and associated products will be submitted by June 2015 as requested by the LCCMR.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2013 Acquisition/Restoration List

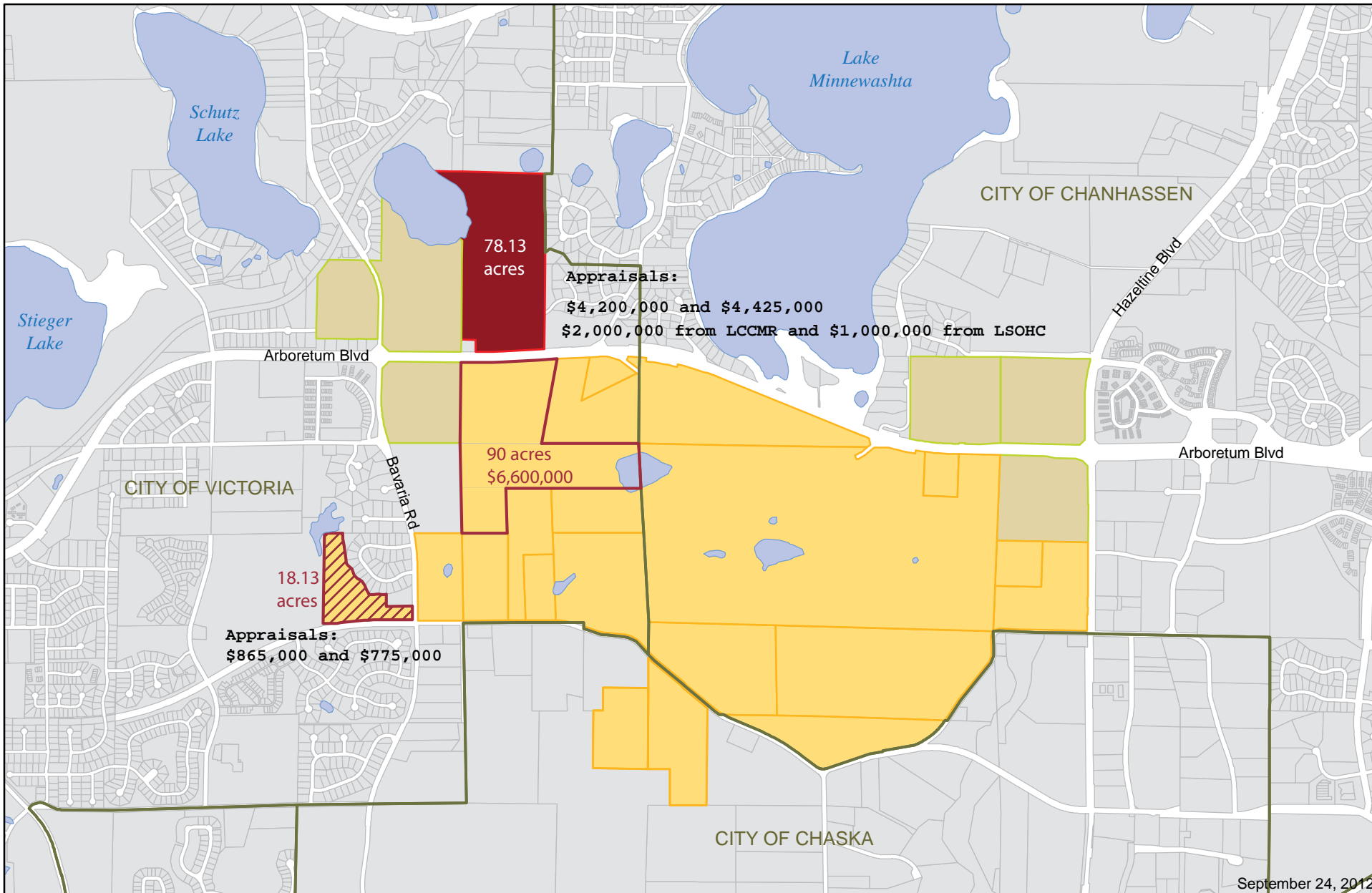
Project Title: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Acquisition of Property Surrounding Lake Tamarack

Project Manager Name: Peter Moe

M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,000,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Lake Tamarack Property	44°51'30'	93°35'63'	\$4,450,000	N/A	Carver	24.6 acres of diverse wetland and shoreland, 9 acres of Maple-Basswood Forest with many large trees, varied habitats for many species and .25 miles of shoreline on a undeveloped lake in the Metro Area.	Fee title acquisition	35.06 acre portion of 78 acre parcel	0.25	Private individuals	University of Minnesota	Property has been appraised and the U of M is negotiating with the land owners
NOTES:													

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects										
Project Title: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Acquisition of Property Surrounding Lake Tamarack										
Legal Citation:										
Project Manager: Peter Moe										
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 2,000,000										
Project Length and Completion Date: 2years - 6/15/2015										
Date of Update: 10/22/2012										
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance						
BUDGET ITEM: Acquire Land										
Fee Title Acquisition of 35.06 acre portion of 78 acres surrounding Lake Tamarack to be held by the University of Minnesota		\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000						
COLUMN TOTAL		\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000						







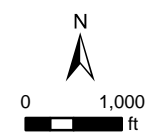
September 24, 2012

Real Estate Office

 University of Minnesota

**Landscape Arboretum
 Carver County**

-  Proposed Acquisition
-  Proposed Disposition
-  Landscape Arboretum
-  Horticultural Research Center



This map is intended to be used for planning purposes only and should not be relied upon where a survey is required.
 Base Data: Real Estate Office
 MNDNR, MNDOT, Hennepin County

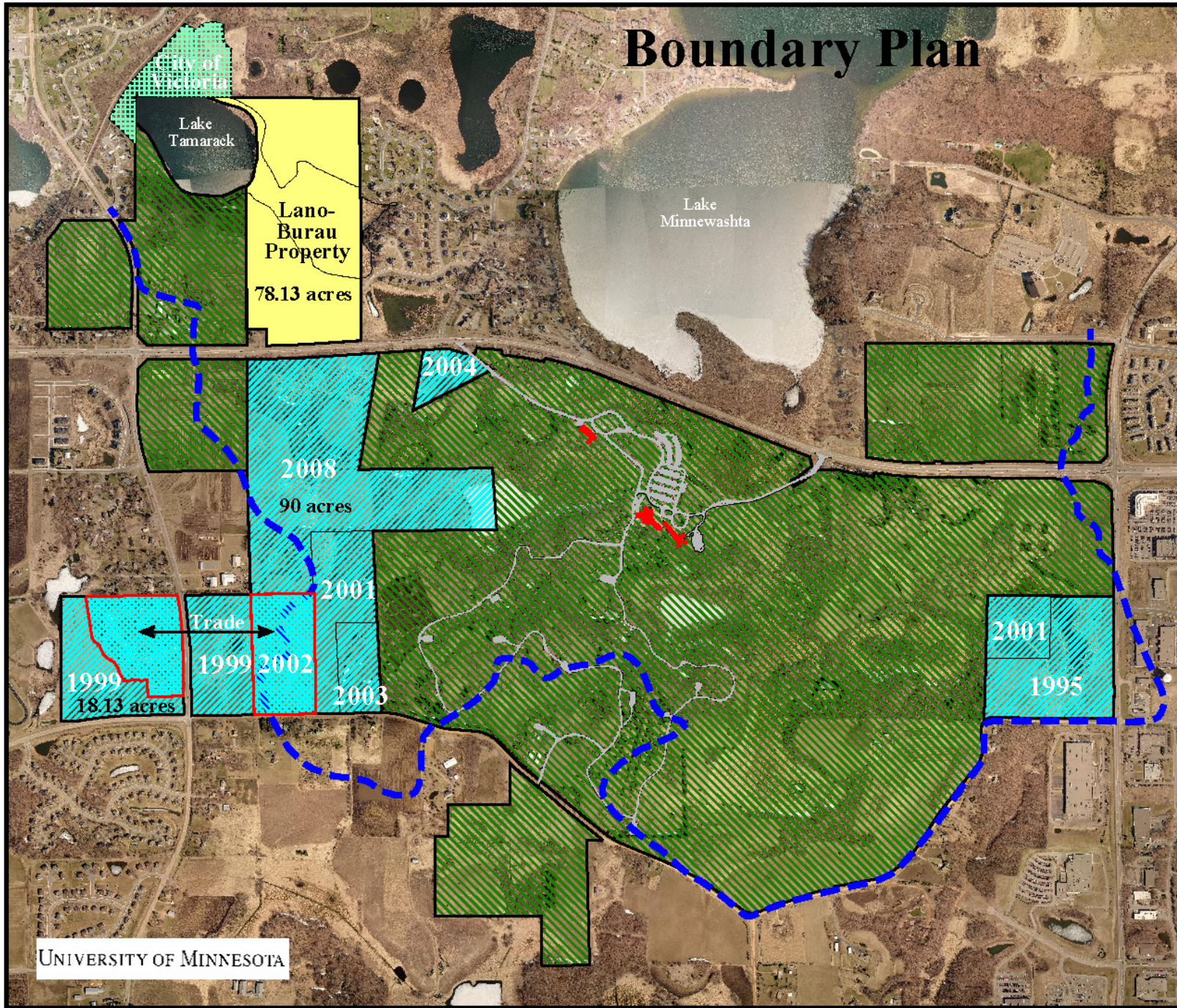
Boundary Plan



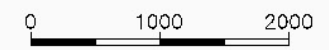
Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM

Legend

- Major Watersheds
- Arboretum Property 910 acres
- Acquired 227 acres
- Proposed Acquisition 78 acres



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Date: Nov 12 2012

