



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2013 Work Plan

Date of Status Update Report:

Date of Next Status Update Report: 2/1/2014

Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/11/2013

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2016

Is this an amendment request? N

PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII Overall Summary

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

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,000,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$2,000,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d

Appropriation Language:

\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$10,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$1,990,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: \$304,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$368,000 with Dakota County; \$208,000 with Great River Greening; \$310,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$400,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$400,000 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 plan. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work plan. 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 plan. Lands that would require payments in lieu of taxes under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.061 or 477A.12, shall not be acquired with money from this appropriation. Up to \$54,000 is for use by Minnesota Land Trust in a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan and subject to subdivision 16. 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 plan. 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, 2016, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII Overall Summary

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

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 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 seventh 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 526 acres through fee title and conservation easement acquisition and to restore and/or enhance 264 acres of habitat. 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 10,000 acres and restored nearly 8,000 acres of priority lands in the greater Twin Cities metro area. We also have leveraged approximately \$2.69 of other funds for every dollar of ENRTF funding.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2014:

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

Project Status as of February 1, 2015:

Project Status as of August 1, 2015:

Project Status as of February 1, 2016:

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 perform review and update of the corridor map and other mapping needs of the partnership. See the individual work plan for additional details.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 20,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$20,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Convene and facilitate quarterly meetings of the partnership to share information and coordinate work	June 30, 2016	\$ 2,000
2. Compile and submit overall partnership reports twice yearly	June 30, 2016	\$4,000
3. Conduct outreach to local communities and landowners with number of activities and target audiences	June 30, 2016	\$4,000
4. Maintain current records of accomplishments in database	June 30, 2016	\$10,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

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: \$ 395,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$395,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
Restore and/or enhance 264 acres of significant habitat	June 30, 2016	\$ 395,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

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: \$ 1,585,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$1,585,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
Protect 526 acres of critical habitat	June 30, 2016	\$ 1,585,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

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, 2014:

Status as of August 1, 2014:

Status as of February 1, 2015:

Status as of August 1, 2015:

Status as of February 1, 2016:

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 159,000	Staff to manage and coordinate MeCC, manage mapping and database for 3 years and other partner conservation staff salary and related benefits - please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Contracts:	\$ 221,500	Restoration, Professional Services - please see Overall Table B individual budgets for additional detail.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 51,500	Restoration plant materials and supplies. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Acquisition:		Funds to purchase fee title and conservation easements and related transaction expenses.
Fee title:	\$957,000	
Conservation easements:	\$495,500	Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Restoration:	\$45,000	Restoration supplies and vendors. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Travel:	\$7,500	Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota.
Additional Budget Items:	\$63,000	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	\$2,000,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: Work by DNR on this grant is done by positions that are either partially or wholly funded through a Professional Services arrangement. This is the standard way that the IT section operates and provides programming and database services to DNR divisions, bureaus and external partners.

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 2.26

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: 2.4

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state	\$1,107,500	\$0	Fee title acquisition, restoration activities, staff time, vendor services, materials/supplies, donated easement value
State	\$1,549,000	\$0	Restoration activities and fee title acquisition
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$2,656,500	\$0	

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 & Acquire bluffland in Maplewood
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	Not part of this funding phase
Dakota County	Lakeshore & Riparian Protection & Restoration
DNR Management Information Serv.	Partnership Mapping and Database
DNR SNA Program	Not part of this funding phase
Friends of the Minnesota Valley	Not part of this funding phase

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. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13
ENRTF - MeCC	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 3,150,000	\$ 3,375,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$3,475,000

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

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, 2014, August 1, 2014, February 1, 2015, August 1, 2015, and February 1, 2016. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2016 as requested by the LCCMR.

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. Coordinate MeCC Program															
1.1. MeCC Partnership coordination, mapping, and outreach	Led by Minnesota Land Trust	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	
1.2. MeCC Mapping and database work	Led by DNR	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	
SUBTOTAL		\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	0	0.00	0	0.00	-	-	-	-		
2. Restore & Enhancement Significant Habitat															
2.1. Restore and enhance significant watershed habitat	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$142,000	\$67,000	\$18,000	\$227,000	134						134		Mississippi River watershed in Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota & Washington Counties.	
2.3. Restoring our lands and waters	Great River Greening	\$208,000	\$82,000	\$197,500	\$487,500	90	0.18	40	0.08			130		Anoka Sandplain, collar counties, metropolitan core, and Wild & Scenic Rivers	
2.6. Lakeshore and riparian restoration in Dakota County	Dakota County	\$45,000				40						40		Marcott Lakes in Inver Grove Heights	
SUBTOTAL		\$395,000	\$149,000	\$215,500	\$759,500	264	0.00	40	0.00	-	-	304	-		
3. Acquire Significant Habitat															
3.1. Critical land protection program	The Trust for Public Land	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$800,000	24		0.20		12		0.10		36	Lindstrom Natural Area, Carnelian Creek & Keystone Woods, and Rum River
3.2. Protecting significant habitat by acquiring conservation easements.	Minnesota Land Trust	\$300,000			\$300,000		100							100	Critical shoreland and habitat, prioritizing habitat for migratory birds and for species in greatest conservation need
3.3. Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	\$400,000		\$200,000	\$600,000	100			50					150	MN Valley NWR units in Carver, Le Sueur, Scott and/or Sibley Counties
3.4. Protect River Bluffland in Maplewood	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$162,000		\$162,000	\$324,000	6								6	Fish Creek
3.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian protection	Dakota County	\$323,000	\$1,200,000	\$330,000	\$1,853,000		32							32	Protected natural areas surrounding Marcott Lakes in Inver Grove Heights
SUBTOTAL		\$1,585,000	\$1,400,000	\$892,000	\$3,877,000	130	132	0.20	0.00	62	0	0.10	0.00	324	
TOTAL		\$2,000,000	\$1,549,000	\$1,107,500	\$4,656,500	526	0.20	102	0.10	628	-	-	-		

Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase VII

Table B: LCCMR Funding - Budget Detail

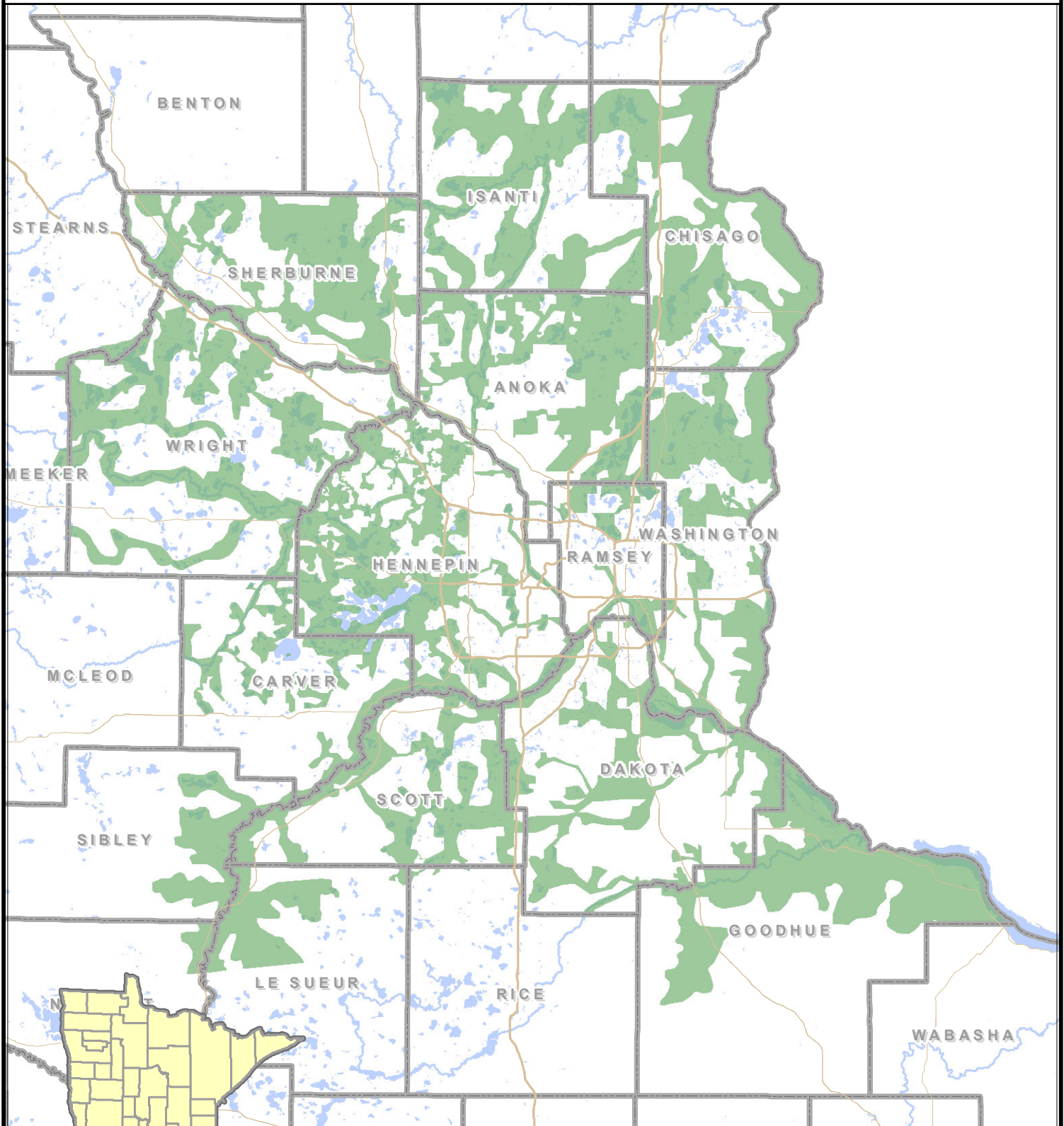
Date: 5/17/2013

M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d - ENRTF Appropriation: : \$2,000,000

Activity	Partners	ENRTF Funding										Budget Explanation (staff/contractservices, 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	\$ 10,000									\$ 10,000	Staff to manage and coordinate the program for three years
1.2. MeCC database and mapping work	DNR MIS	\$ 10,000									\$ 10,000	Staff to manage mapping and database for two years
SUBTOTAL		\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	
2. Restore & Enhance Significant Habitat												
2.1. Restore/enhance significant watershed habitat	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$ 24,000	\$ 113,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000				\$ 2,000		\$ 142,000	Personnel: Conservation Director, Ecologist, Bookkeeper. Contracts: Vendors to provide restoration activities. Equipment/Tools/Supplies: gloves, fencing, posts, etc. Travel: Mileage within Minnesota; Other: Native seeds, trees, shrubs.
2.3. Restoring our lands and waters	Great River Greening	\$ 55,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 3,500				\$ 4,500		\$ 208,000	Personnel: Dir. of conservation programs, staff ecologists, field crew, volunteer coordinator, and admin; Contracts: contracts for restoration activities; Equipment/Tools/Supplies: restoration tools, supplies, materials including power tools, sprayers, mulch, plants, seeds, etc; Travel: travel to/from project sites; Additional Budget Items: \$4,000 for volunteer event expenses and \$500 for Trust Fund signage.
2.6. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian Restoration	Dakota County					\$ 45,000					\$ 45,000	Removal of invasive species, conversion of agricultural land (pasture and cultivated fields) and shoreline restoration on 40 acres.
SUBTOTAL		\$ 79,000	\$ 208,500	\$ 51,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,500		\$ 395,000	
3. Acquire Significant Habitat												
3.1 Critical Land Protection Program	The Trust for Public Land		\$ 5,000				\$ 395,000				\$ 400,000	Acquisition: funds to purchase 24 acres in fee title. The land will be transferred to a local, state, or federal agency for permanent stewardship; Other: funds for Public Agency Professional Services for acquisition, reporting, and management planning costs as needed
3.2. Protecting significant habitat by acquiring conservation easements	Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 60,000			\$ 3,000			\$ 183,000	\$ 54,000		\$ 300,000	Staff/Contracts: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits for approximately 0.75 FTE for 3 years. Travel: Mileage and related travel in Minnesota; Acquisition: purchase price of conservation easements and related transaction expenses for 100 acres; Additional Budget Items: \$54,000 for easement monitoring, management, and enforcement.
3.3. Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.					\$ 400,000					\$ 400,000	Fee title acquisition of 100 acres for priority expansion of the MN Valley NW Refuge.
3.4. Protect River Bluffland in Maplewood	Friends of the Mississippi River					\$ 162,000					\$ 162,000	Fee title acquisition of 6 acres in the Fish Creek Natural Areas in Maplewood
3.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian protection	Dakota County		\$ 8,000					\$ 312,500	\$ 2,500		\$ 323,000	Contracts: Professional services for easement acquisition (appraisal/title). Acquisition: Funds to acquire conservation easements on 32 acres. Additional Budget Items: \$2,500 for easement monitoring, management, enforcement.
SUBTOTAL		\$ 60,000	\$ 13,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 957,000	\$ 495,500	\$ 56,500		\$ 1,585,000	
TOTAL		\$ 159,000	\$ 221,500	\$ 51,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 45,000	\$ 957,000	\$ 495,500	\$ 63,000		\$ 2,000,000	

Metro Conservation Corridors

2012-2013 - PHASE VII



 Metro Conservation Corridors

 Counties

 Major Highways

 Lakes & Rivers

