



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

Date of Status Update Report:

Date of Next Status Update Report: 02/01/2014

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 11, 2013

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2016

Is this an amendment request? N

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII-Friends of the Mississippi River. Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

Project Manager: Tom Lewanski

Affiliation: Friends of the Mississippi River

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Location: Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, & Washington Counties

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation: \$304,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$304,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.1/3.4

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: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII-Friends of the Mississippi River. Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The Twin Cities Metro Area contains numerous natural areas that provide important wildlife habitat and also serve as crucial components of a larger system of interconnected habitats across the landscape. Due to human influences, these areas have become degraded. Friends of the Mississippi River has been conducting enhancement/restoration and land protection activities on some of the most important and highest quality habitat within the core metro and southeastern metro corridors for 12 years. The restoration, enhancement & protection activities presented in this proposal are designed to continue the work at these sites, ensuring that previous public investment in this habitat improvement is protected, and to expand on these successes by adding new projects sites within the designated corridors. With this funding we can continue the habitat restoration & enhancement in a seamless fashion allowing us to benefit from a project structure that is already in place. In addition, FMR has the opportunity to assist the City of Maplewood in acquiring and permanently protecting 6 acres of habitat in the Fish Creek Natural Area along the bluffs of the Mississippi River.

There are three overall goals for this project: increase the amount of native habitat within specified focus areas of the Metro Conservation Corridors; enhance the quality of existing habitat; and acquire and permanently protect habitat along the Mississippi River in Maplewood. These goals serve to increase the amount of various ecosystems, including those that are rare on the landscapes, such as prairie, and savanna. By removing and controlling exotic invasive plant & in some cases woody species from existing prairie and woodland areas, conditions are improved for native plant species to successfully reproduce and thrive, which in-turn provide food, shelter and nesting sites for various wildlife, including species in greatest need of conservation. Land acquisition in Maplewood consists of 6 acres within the Fish Creek Natural Area. This area is situated along the bluffs of the Mississippi River and is surrounded by open space owned by Ramsey County. Specific activities for each of the goals are described below.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of (2/1/2014):

Project Status as of (8/1/2014):

Project Status as of (2/1/2015):

Project Status as of 8/1/2015):

Project Status as of (2/1/2016):

Project Status as of 8/1/2016):

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Habitat restoration and enhancement

Description: Restoration: We will restore 10 acres of prairie on a fallow field by conducting prescribed burning, herbicide application, soil preparation, and seeding, followed by 2 seasons of mowing.

Enhancement: 54 acres of existing native and restored prairie and 10-acres of native savanna will be enhanced by conducting invasive species control and prescribed burns. In addition, 60 acres of forest/woodland will be enhanced by controlling exotic invasive plants and by planting native trees & shrubs. We will evaluate the effectiveness of all restoration/enhancement actions by conducting periodic site visits to monitor success of management methods including resprouting/germination of exotic plants and survival rate of installed native plants. We will also document breeding bird species at targeted sites. FMR will give consideration to contracting with Conservation Corps Minnesota for some of these restoration and enhancement activities.

Each restoration site will have an ecological restoration plan. These plans will contain site information (location,

landscape context, site geology, rare species, historic vegetation, land use, water resources) and ecological evaluation and recommendations (existing landcover, management recommendations, restoration schedule and cost estimates).

An initial evaluation will be completed for each of the restoration & enhancement projects in relationship to the stated goals and standards in the restoration plan and will be a part of the final report. The evaluations will determine whether the restoration projects are meeting planned goals, identify any problems with the implementation of the restorations, and, if necessary, give recommendations on improving restorations. A second evaluation will be completed three years after the completion of the expenditure.

The restoration and enhancement activities that FMR will undertake through this grant will be conducted on lands permanently protected by a conservation easement or in public ownership.

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. Because we stay engaged with our conservation projects over the long-term and are on site at least once a year we are able to identify and respond to issues as they emerge. FMR is committed to conducting fundraising from both public and private sources, for the ongoing restoration and enhancement activities required at these sites over time.

FMR will provide a copy of RFP's, sent out to vendors for restoration activities to the Conservation Corps Minnesota.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 142,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$142,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget (approx.)
1. Conduct prairie restoration/installation activities on 10 acres.	6/30/2016	\$16,400
2. Conduct habitat enhancement activities on 54 acres of existing prairie	6/30/2016	\$31,300
3. Conduct enhancement activities on 10 acres of savanna	6/30/2016	\$14,450
4. Conduct enhancement activities on 60 acres of forest/woodland.	6/30/2016	\$79,850

Activity Status as of (2/1/2014):

Activity Status as of (8/1/2014):

Activity Status as of (2/1/2015):

Activity Status as of 8/1/2015):

Activity Status as of (2/1/2016):

Activity Status as of 8/1/2016):

Final Report Summary:

Activity 2: Acquisition at Fish Creek Natural Area

Budget: \$162,000

These ENRTF funds will be used to purchase 6 acres in the Fish Creek Natural Area. This is one phase of a larger acquisition project of City of Maplewood, totaling 70 acres. The City will hold the fee title. A restoration and management plan is currently being prepared. The plan will contain site information (location, landscape context, site geology, rare species, historic vegetation, land use, water resources) and ecological evaluation and recommendations (existing land cover, management recommendations, restoration schedule and cost estimates). The City will use a mix of funding sources to implement this plan including city capital improvement funds & grants. For ongoing maintenance projects the city will seek funding through city’s operating budget. FMR is also interested in being a long-term partner with the city and bring public and private funding to assist in implementing the plan.

An analysis will be provided by the City of Maplewood to LCCMR and MMB that identifies increased operation and maintenance costs likely to be incurred as a result of the acquisition and how these costs are to be paid.

The land being acquired is identified in a City of Maplewood document entitled Recommendations and Opportunities for Fish Creek Natural Area Greenway. The Fish Creek Natural Area Greenway Ad-Hoc Commission developed criteria to evaluate and prioritize land within this natural area. These criteria are presented on page 15 of this document, which can be viewed at:

<http://www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/1444>

Written approval will be obtained from the DNR commissioner prior to the acquisition of this property. A copy of this letter will be submitted to the LCCMR.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 162,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$162,000

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
<i>1. Acquisition of 6 acres.</i>	<i>6/30/2016</i>	<i>\$162,000</i>

Activity Status as of (2/1/2014):

Activity Status as of (8/1/2014):

Activity Status as of (2/1/2015):

Activity Status as of (8/1/2015):

Activity Status as of (2/1/2016):

Activity Status as of (8/1/2016):

Final Report Summary:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: FMR will disseminate information about the protection, restoration and enhancement activities associated with this grant on the organization’s website (www.fmr.org) and in it’s digital newsletter, which is called Mississippi Messages. We will also attempt to get press coverage of these projects.

Status as of (2/1/2014):

Status as of (8/1/2014):

Status as of (2/1/2015):

Status as of (8/1/2015):

Status as of (2/1/2016):

Status as of (8/1/2016):

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 24,000	
Conservation Director (1).	\$2,200	Project and partner coordination..01 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2016.
Ecologist. (2).	\$21,200	Specific restoration/enhancement project planning, coordination, implementation & evaluation. .2 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2016.
Bookkeeper (1).	\$600	Bookkeeper.(1). Financial recordkeeping and invoicing. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .006 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2016.
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: FMR will give consideration to contracting with Conservation Corps Minnesota.	\$113,500	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:	\$1,500	Gloves, fencing, posts, misc. supplies
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$162,000	Acquire 6 acres in the Fish Creek Natural Area in Maplewood, Ramsey County.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$1,000	Travel to project sites and partner meetings.
Other: Plant material:	\$2,000	Native seeds, trees & shrubs
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$304,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: .21 FTE

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: .4 (estimate)

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
City of Maplewood	\$162,000		Acquisition at Fish Creek
Friends of the Mississippi River	\$ 10,000		Restoration/enhancement
Dakota County	\$2,000	\$	Restoration/enhancement
Minneapolis Park Board	\$2,000	\$	Restoration/enhancement
Watershed Districts	\$4,000	\$	Restoration/enhancement
State			
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Metro Big Rivers Habitat Phase 3. Fiscal Year 2013.	\$67,000	\$	Restoration/enhancement at Gateway North Open Space Area in Cottage Grove.
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$247,000	\$	

Add or remove rows as needed

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: City of Maplewood – will receive \$162,000 to acquire 6 acres in the Fish Creek Natural Area. None of the following partners will receive funds from this appropriation other than having restoration/enhancement done on land that they own: Dakota County, Minneapolis Park Board, City of Cottage Grove, Washington County, City of Inver Grove Heights, City of St. Paul, City of Hastings, MN-DNR

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: FMR has been strategically focused on specific areas within the designated corridors for over a decade. This 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, while protecting the public investment that has been made in them. Starting with individual parcels, our project areas have grown by orders of magnitude to protect and restore large tracts of land, ultimately creating contiguous greenway corridors. The protection, restoration and enhancement projects presented in this work program are all part of larger projects both in the sense of time and area. FMR is committed to conducting fundraising 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. 2003	M.L. 2005 Or FY06	M.L. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010	M.L 2011 or FY12- 13
ENRTF	\$92,000 Subd.5(b)	\$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		\$200,000 Subd. 4(i)
Outdoor Heritage Fund- CPL						\$94,374	

Upper Mississippi River Forestry Partnership		\$10,000					
Friends of the Mississippi River	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	5,000	5,000
St. Paul Audubon Society		\$5,000					
Outdoor Heritage Fund-					\$227,300		\$150,000
Private landowners	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	80,000	\$80,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:

IX. MAP(S):

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:

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.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2013 Acquisition/Restoration List

Project Title: 2.1-MeCC7 –Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

Project Manager Name: Tom Lewanski

M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 304,000

#	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	Gelhar-Emrick	518412.3	4949886	\$ 8,850	NA	Dakota	Prairie- Mississippi River bluffland above Vermillion River Bottoms.	Prairie enhancement - burning	20		Private		Pending
2	Heritage Village Park	498607.5	4967409	\$ 9,800	NA	Dakota	Mississippi River floodplain. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control	10		Public		Pending
3	Mississippi River Gorge	484629.9	4972939	\$ 12,540	NA	Hennepin, Ramsey	Floodplain forest, wetland, upland forest, prairie. Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor, Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control and native plant installation.	5		Public		Pending
4	Mounds Park	495412.3	4977046	\$ 2,720	NA	Ramsey	Bluff prairie. Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor, Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control and native plant installation.	1		Public		Pending
5	Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area	497895.5	4959176	\$ 22,875	NA	Dakota	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	25		Public		Pending
6	Ravenna block greenway	518242	4943118	\$ 8,300	NA	Dakota	Oak forest and grassland. Contiguous forest within greenway, opportunity for prairie re-creation.	Invasive species management, prairie & savanna restoration- site prep and	15		Private		Pending
7	Minneapolis River Front	491944.4	4957747	\$ 12,550	NA	Hennepin	Riparian woodland and prairie restoration. Diverse natural communities. Part of local greenway. Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control, Rx burning.	5		Public		Pending
8	Cottage Grove - North Gateway Open Space Area	502620.1	4964994	\$ 12,470	NA	Washington	Bluff prairie, savanna, forested ravine system. Contains native prairie and oak woodland.	prairie, forest, & savanna enhancement	10		Public		Pending

9	Cottage Grove - River Oaks Park	509198.4	4958586	\$ 8,370	NA	Washington	woodland-bluff prairie. Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor, Important bird habitat.	Exotic plant control, Rx burning.	2		Public		Pending
10	Hastings - Old Mill Park	512448.3	4952546	\$ 13,590	NA	Dakota	Oak Savanna. Contains native oak savanna and is linked to other natural areas by the Vermillion River.	Exotic plant control, Rx burning.	10		Public		Pending
NOTES:													
11	Dakota County - Spring Lake Park Reserve	505617.3	4956944	\$ 14,090	NA	Dakota	Grassland. Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor, Important bird habitat.	Prairie restoration	10		Public		Pending
12	Washington County - Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park	507717.5	4961665	\$ 12,645	NA	Washington	Upland forest. Contains oak forest and provides important habitat for migratory and resident birds.	Forest enhancement	10		Public		Pending
13	Wilmar	501095.2	4945510	\$ 3,200	NA	Dakota	Prairie. Vermillion River riparian habitat.	Exotic plant control.	20		Private		Pending
1	Fish Creek Natural Area	93.004	44.899	\$162,000	NA	Ramsey	Mississippi River bluffland. Migratory corridor. Adjacent to larger public owned natural area.	Acquisition of 6 acres in the Fish Creek Natural Area.	6		Public	Fee title to be held by the City of Maplewood.	Pending

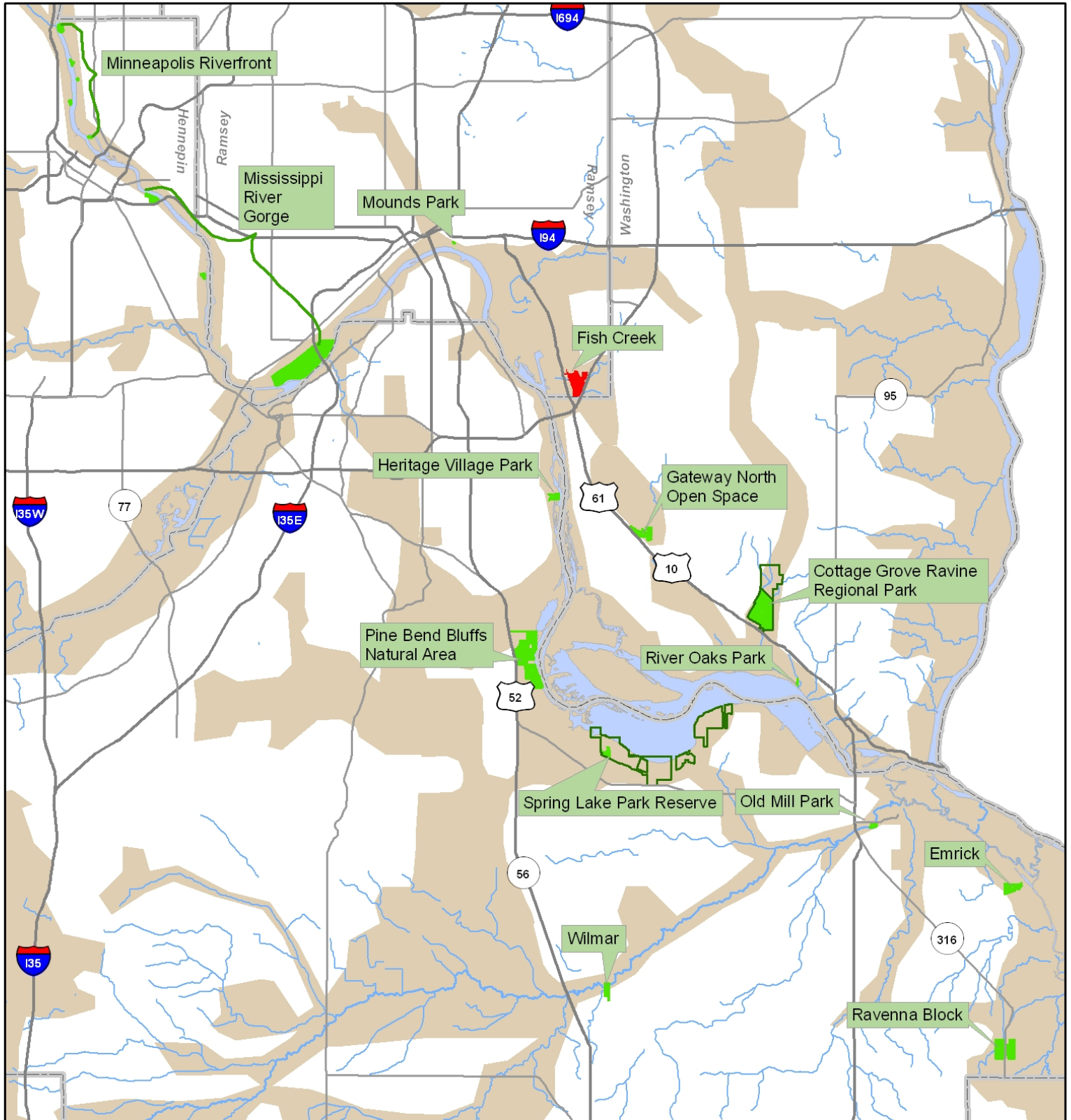
Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects							
Project Title: <i>Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII-Friends of the Mississippi River. Protect, Restore and</i>							
Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.1/3.4							
Project Manager: Tom Lewanski							
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 304,000							
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years ending <i>June 30, 2016</i>							
Date of Update: <i>February 1, 2014</i>							

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Habitat restoration and enhancement</i>			<i>Acquisition at Fish Creek Natural Area</i>			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)							
Conservation Director. (1) Project and partner coordination. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .01 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2016.	2,200	0	2,200				2,200
Ecologist. (2). Specific restoration/enhancement project planning, coordination & implementation. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .2 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2016.	21,200	0	21,200				21,200
Bookkeeper.(1). Financial recordkeeping and invoicing. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .006 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2016.	600	0	600				600
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts <i>Contracts: Professional/technical. 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.)</i>	113,500	0	113,500				113,500
Equipment/Tools/Supplies <i>Restoration supplies (Gloves, fencing, posts, signs, misc. supplies)</i>	1,500	0	1,500				1,500
Equipment/Tools/Supplies <i>(Trees, shrubs, seed)</i>	2,000	0	2,000				2,000
Fee Title Acquisition <i>(6 acres acquired in the Fish Creek Natural Area. The City of Maplewood will hold the title to the land.)</i>				162,000	0	162,000	162,000
Travel expenses in Minnesota <i>(mileage)</i>	1,000	0	1,000				1,000
COLUMN TOTAL	\$142,000	\$0	142,000	\$162,000	\$0	\$162,000	304,000

07/22/2013

Subd. 04d2.1/3.4

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
M.L. 2013 Restoration and Acquisition List
PROJECT TITLE: Phase VII: Friends of the Mississippi River:
Protect, Restore, and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat



1:225,000



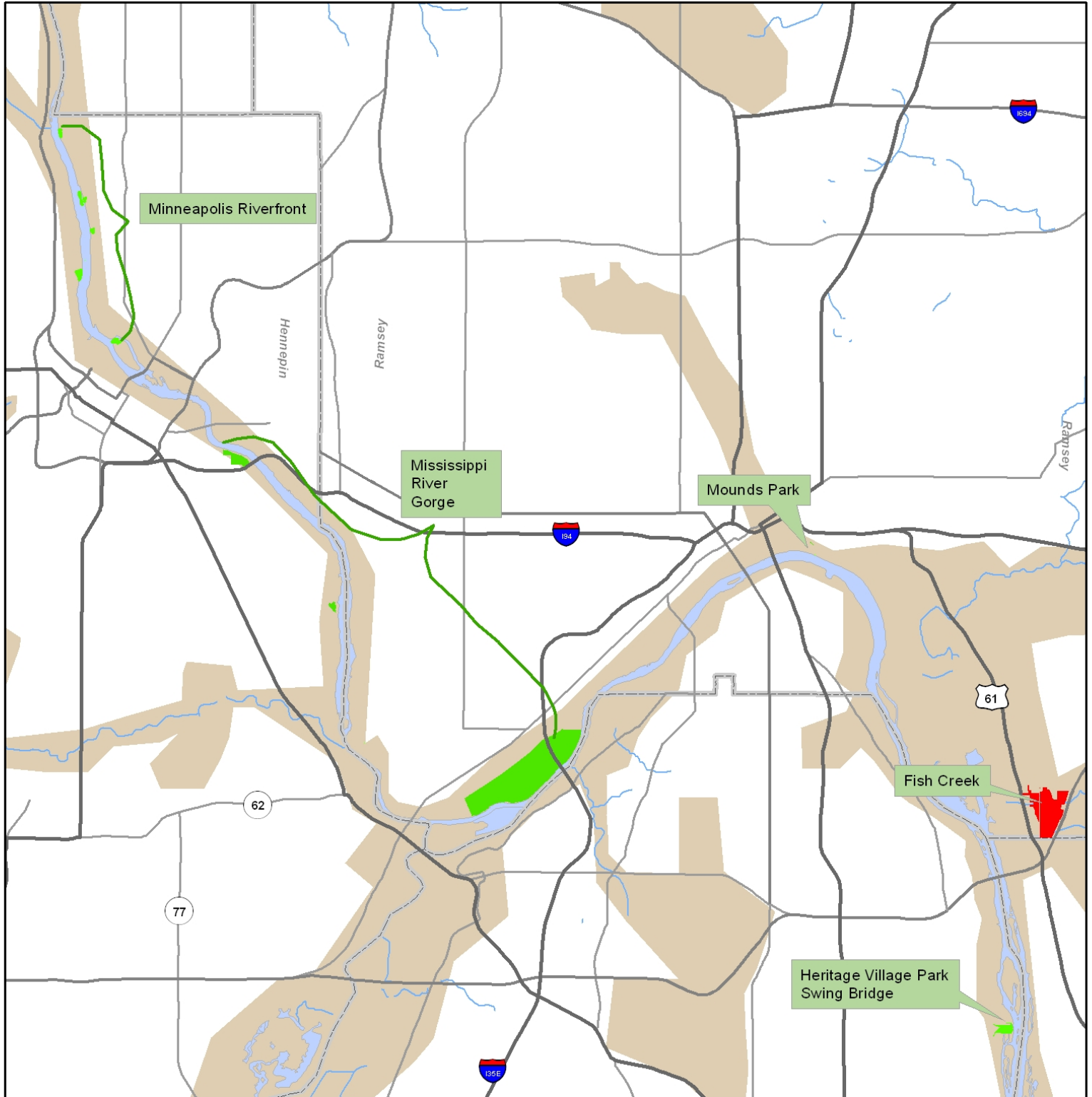
07/22/2013

	Restoration & enhancement sites
	Acquisition sites
	Metro Conservation Corridors

Subd. 04d2.1/3.4

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
M.L. 2013 Restoration and Acquisition List
PROJECT TITLE: Phase VII: Friends of the Mississippi River:
Protect, Restore, and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

NORTHERN SITES



1:120,000



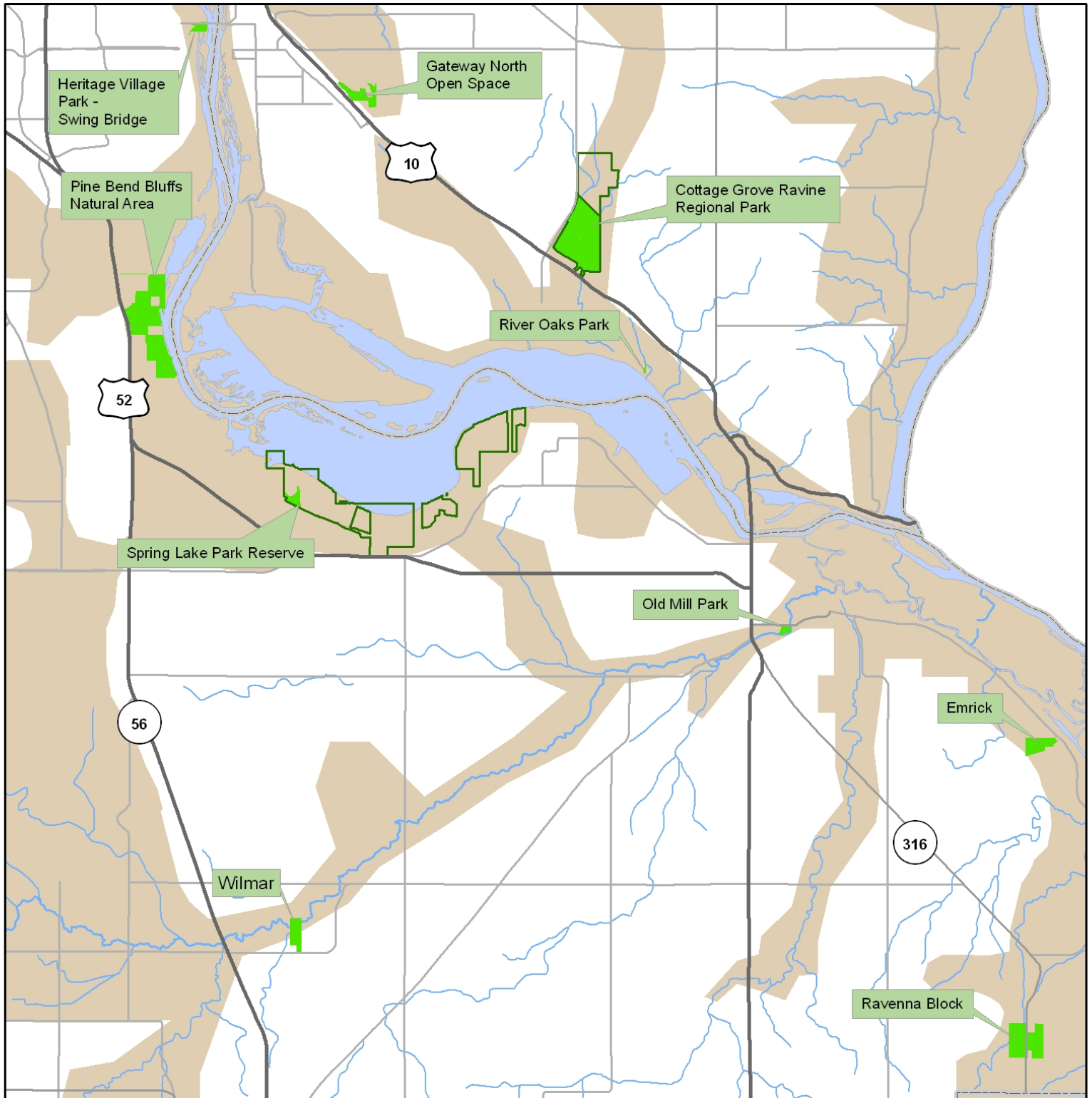
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	Restoration & enhancement sites
	Acquisition sites
	Metro Conservation Corridors

Subd. 04d2.1/3.4

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
M.L. 2013 Restoration and Acquisition List
PROJECT TITLE: Phase VII: Friends of the Mississippi River:
Protect, Restore, and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

SOUTHERN SITES



1:125,000



07/22/2013



