



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

**Date of Status Update Report:** May 21, 2013

**Date of Next Status Update Report:** February 1, 2014

**Date of Work Plan Approval:** June 11, 2013

**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2016

**Is this an amendment request?**   N  

**PROJECT TITLE:** TPL's Critical Land Protection Program- MeCC VII 2013

**Project Manager:** Robert McGillivray

**Affiliation:** The Trust for Public Land

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**Web Address:** [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

**Location:** Metro Urbanizing Area Counties, including Anoka, Chisago, Scott, and Washington

**Total ENRTF Project Budget:** \$400,000

**ENRTF Appropriation:** \$400,000

**Amount Spent:** \$0

**Balance:** \$400,000

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d3.1

**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:** TPL's Critical Land Protection Program- MeCC VII 2013

**II. PROJECT STATEMENT:** The proposed project includes strategic acquisition of an estimated 24 acres of high quality habitat and approximately 0.2 miles of shoreline in **scientifically evaluated** wildlife corridors within the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. ENRTF dollars will **leverage** non- ENRTF funds to acquire 12 additional acres and 0.1 additional miles than will be protected with ENRTF dollars alone.

An estimated 255,000 acres of high quality natural lands (MNDNR 2003) remain in the seven county metro area and only 32% is currently protected by DNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service, or as regional parks or nature preserves. The goal of this effort is to **permanently protect** portions of the remaining high quality land and water habitat that can provide as many long-term benefits as possible.

**Multiple Benefits** provided by the protection of these natural resources include: resilience of native animal and plant populations (including "Species in Greatest Conservation Need") in the face of climate change and invasive species; protection of our lakes, rivers, and streams and the quality of our ground water; carbon sequestration; and access for "close to home" outdoor recreation and enjoyment where nearly 60% of the state's population lives.

Land acquisitions also contribute to the state and region's economic vitality by injecting cash into the marketplace, by triggering deed tax revenues to the state, by attracting additional funds from non-state sources, and by **providing employment** to the professionals involved in the process including environmental consultants, closers and title insurers, surveyors, appraisers, etc.

Protection efforts also typically include a public process that **increases the awareness** and understanding of the necessity of protecting our state's air, land, water, and other natural resources.

All lands acquired will be priorities as demonstrated through adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans. Lands to be protected through this program are considered threatened by fragmentation, conversion, degradation, or sale. Therefore, **urgent action** is needed.

The **return on investment** is high: a recent study conducted by the University of Minnesota concluded that DNR land purchases return between \$1.70 and \$4.40 in nature's services for each dollar of land purchased.

**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:**

**Project Status as of August 1, 2016:**

**IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Strategic acquisition of fee title lands in the greater Twin Cities Metro Area

**Description:** Acquire land in fee title and convey it into public ownership for stewardship and protection. Please see attached Acquisition List showing the lands that may be acquired in part with funding from this request. TPL will prioritize potential land protection projects within the Metro Conservation Corridors based on the priorities established by the public agencies with which we work and on landowner willingness to sell. TPL will provide references to adopted plans in which acquisitions have been included. Priority will also be given to high quality natural resources and on lands that provide natural buffers to water resources. We will also consider resource

mapping, stakeholder suggestions, and joint recommendations made by the coalition of groups involved in this overall effort. TPL will work with the long-term steward to ensure a restoration and management plan consistent with the highest quality conservation and ecological goals for the site is developed and that funding is identified for creation of a management plan.

Unless necessary to protect priority lands and subject to work plan amendment at that time, TPL will not acquire residential structures.

Consistent with LCCMR's recommendations, TPL will not be transferring any lands to the Department of Natural Resources as part of this grant. TPL will, however:

1. Ensure a restoration and management plan is prepared for each acquisition
2. Identify funding source to implement such plans
3. Provide or have the final title holder provide an analysis of increased operations and maintenance cost likely to be incurred and how these costs will be covered

Prior to acquiring property, The Trust for Public Land will also (a) obtain written permission from the commissioner of natural resources, and (b) submit the most recent tax assessed value and most recent tax statement for the property and the amount intended to be offered for the property to the commission and the commissioner of natural resources.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget:** \$ 400,000  
**Amount Spent:** \$ 0  
**Balance:** \$400,000

**Activity Completion Date:**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. <i>Approximately 24 acres of habitat and 0.2 miles of shoreline protected</i>	June 30, 2015	\$400,000

**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:** As conservation transactions are completed, The Trust for Public Land will disseminate information on the TPL website, [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org), broadcast emails to TPL list serve members, distribute press releases, and include information in TPL's newsletters and publications as appropriate. TPL will also work with the long-term steward to ensure information is distributed to its listserves and on its website as well.

**Status as of February 1, 2014:**

**Status as of as of August 1, 2014:**

**Status as of February 1, 2015:**

**Status as of 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
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$395,000	Please see attached Acquisition List for specific entities that will hold title to the land acquired
Public agency acquisition, reporting, and management planning costs as needed	\$ 5,000	
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	

**Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:** N/A

**Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500:** Capital expenditures will only be for fee title to land acquired as specified in this work program

**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
<b>Non-state</b>			
Various local, regional, federal, or private funds, cash (as funds are raised, further details will be provided)	\$200,000	\$0	Matching land acquisition funds
<b>State</b>			
Various bonding and/or Legacy funds, cash (as funds are raised, further details will be provided)	\$200,000	\$0	Matching land acquisition funds
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** TPL works closely with private landowners and with the public agency or non-profit partner to which TPL will transfer the land and which will serve as the long-term steward of the land interest that TPL purchases using ENRTF funds. Long-term stewards and other project partners may include local governments, regional agencies, state agencies, water-related agencies, federal agencies, and private nonprofit organizations. We also work closely with citizen groups and coordinate our work with other Metro Conservation Corridor partners, which each receives its own appropriation under the program. When TPL transfers interests in land to a long-term steward, TPL will donate to the land steward the land value of the ENRTF funds.

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:** This proposal is a component of a larger and longer-term effort of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership, begun in 2003, to accelerate the protection and restoration of critical habitat in the broader Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, a 16-county area that is expanding with the result of land and

water habitat fragmentation, degradation, loss and permanent conversion to urban uses. MeCC will continue its work as long as critical habitat that needs to be protected remains unprotected and in danger of degradation and loss.

**C. Spending History:**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>M.L. 2007 or FY08</b>	<b>M.L. 2008 or FY09</b>	<b>M.L. 2009 or FY10</b>	<b>M.L. 2010 or FY11</b>	<b>M.L. 2011 or FY12-13</b>
ENRTF	\$420,000	\$475,000	\$380,000	\$890,000	\$500,000 (not spent yet)
Other funds	\$2,320,000	\$2,215,000	\$992,000	\$4,790,000	

**VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: Please see attached Acquisition List**

**IX. MAP(S): Please see attached Maps**

**X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A**

**XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than ~~August 1, 2013~~ and February 1, 2014, ~~and~~ 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, 2015~~6~~ as requested by the LCCMR.

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**

**M.L. 2013 Acquisition/Restoration List**

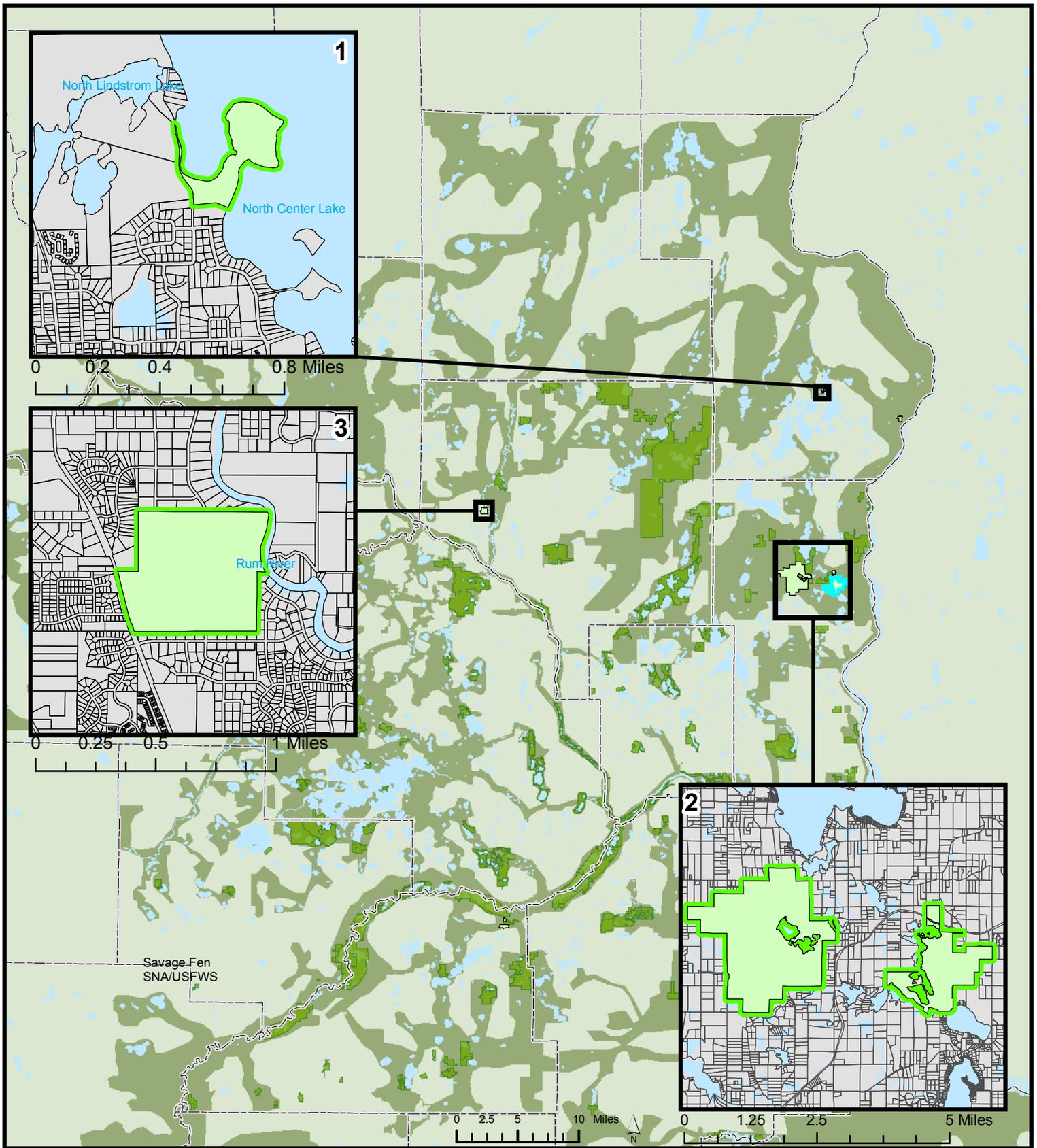
Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors-- TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program

Project Manager Name: ~~Becca Nash~~ Robert McGillivray

M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$400,000

#	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	Lindstrom Natural Area	45 24'10. N	92 49'56.W	\$ 800,000	N/A	Chisago	In southern Chisago County, TPL is working with the City of Lindstrom and multiple landowners to protect lakeshore and high quality forested lands designated by the DNR as "regionally significant ecological areas." This is the second phase of an effort that has been made possible by the down economy and which includes protection of 5,600 feet of lakeshore and habitat for species in greatest need of conservation such as red shouldered hawk, bald eagle, and Blanding's turtles. Protection is supported in local, regional, and state plans. This acquisition represents part of a larger project area, potentially up to 30 acres.	Fee Title Acquisition	16	0.56	Private	City of Lindstrom	Negotiations with landowners under way
2	Carnelian Creek & Keystone Woods Area	45 10'43. N	92 50'47W	\$ 800,000	N/A	Washington	TPL is continuing conversations with landowners in this area that represents a mosaic of wetland and upland community types connecting a series of lakes. MCBS has identified large portions of this land as having high biodiversity significance, including aspen-oak stands, oak openings and barrens, Big Woods (oak, maple, basswood, hickory), wet prairie, conifer bogs and swamps. MNDNR's Natural Heritage Database contains fourteen records of rare or significant plant communities, plant species, and animal species in the corridor, including Blanding's Turtle and Red-shouldered Hawk. This acquisition represents part of a larger project area, potentially up to 1,000 acres.	Fee Title Acquisition	40	0.10	Private	Washington County	Negotiations with landowners under way
3	Rum River-Boy Scouts	45 17'24. N	93 22'30.W	\$ 800,000	N/A	Anoka	In west-central Anoka County, TPL is working with the landowners and the City of Ramsey to protect a 160+ acre patch of regionally significant ecological lands including river shoreline, wetlands, forests and prairie habitat. Acquisition would provide protection of these resources as well as access to the Wild and Scenic Rum River, which is also a state designated canoe route. This acquisition represents part of a larger project area, potentially up to 170 acres.	Fee Title Acquisition	23	0.10	Private	City of Ramsey	Potential Project
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
NOTES:													

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
Project Title: <i>TPL's Critical Land Protection Program- MeCC VII 2013</i>					
Legal Citation: <i>M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d3.1</i>					
Project Manager: Robert McGillivray					
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 400,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: <i>3 years, June 30, 2016</i>					
Date of Update: 5-21-13					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Fill in your activity title here.</i>				
<b>Fee Title Acquisition</b> <i>Fee title acquisition of estimated 24 acres of parcel(s) shown on the acquisition list; please see acquisition list for final title holder</i>	395,000	0	395,000	395,000	395,000
<b>Public Agency Professional Services for Acquisition</b> acquisition, reporting, and management planning costs as needed	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	400,000	400,000	400,000



## TPL'S CRITICAL LAND PROTECTION PROGRAM- MECC VII 2013 FOCUS AREAS

\*The parcels shown are potential acquisition areas only. They do not necessarily represent the specific lands that will be acquired. Actual acquisitions will be dependent on negotiations, planning, agency approvals, and funding levels.\*

**Legend**

- Trust for Public Land Focus Area Projects
- County Boundary
- Metro Area Parks and DNR Lands
- Metro Conservation Corridors
- Water

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Clockwise from top-left:  
 (1) Lindstrom Natural Area  
 (2) Carnelian Creek & Keystone Woods  
 (3) Rum River- Boy Scouts

Map created by The Trust for Public Land on 10/18/12  
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**07/22/2013**

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**Subd. 04d3.1**