



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

Date of Status Update Report: May 22, 2013
Date of Next Status Update Report: December 2013
Date of Work Plan Approval: June 11, 2013
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2015 **Is this an amendment request?** No

PROJECT TITLE: Landscape Arboretum Acquisition – Lake Tamarack

Project Manager: Peter Moe, Director of Operations

Affiliation: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

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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. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04e

Appropriation Language:

\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to acquire land surrounding Lake Tamarack in Carver County as part of the acquisition of approximately 80 acres. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2016, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

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

The landowners for the 78 acre parcel have signed a purchase agreement and the Regents of the University of Minnesota have approved purchasing the property. The closing is set for November 1, 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 has a signed purchase agreement from the land owners and the value is \$4,312,500. The purchase will take place on 11/1/2013. Based on the high appraisal \$2,000,000 will purchase 36 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.	11/01/13	\$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 –sale of land	\$812,500	\$0	Fee title acquisition of 14.7 acre portion of 78 acre parcel
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation	\$500,000	\$0	Fee title acquisition of 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:	\$2,312,500	\$0	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

The University of Minnesota will carry out the acquisition of the Site. The property owners agreed on a purchase price of \$4,312,500 which is the average of two (2) June 2012 appraisals. The Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council voted to recommend \$1,000,000 on 9/21/12 and this funding was approved by the Legislature on May 20, 2013 and is waiting for a signature by the Governor. The Regents of the University of Minnesota have approved the sale of 2 parcels of land at the Arboretum and proceeds will be used to fund the U of M and Arboretum share of this property. If the property is not sold prior to 11/1/2013 the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation will solicit additional funding streams, including unrestricted endowment, foundation grants and gifts from individual donors.

One of the U of M parcels offered for sale was purchased with partial ENRTF funding in 1998. The LCCMR agreed in December 2012 that this 18 acre property could be sold if the proceeds were used to purchase part of the Lake Tamarack property. The new property has higher conservation value and larger parcels offer greater benefits to plants and wildlife.

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. 2003 or FY04	M.L. 2004 or FY05	M.L. 2005 or FY06	M.L. 2006 or FY07
ENRTF		350,000		650,000	
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

Columns

#: Number each parcel 1 through the total number of parcels.
Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name: Provide a working title or name used to identify each parcel/restoration area.
Geographic Coordinates: Provide latitude and longitude coordinates for the location of the parcel - preferably the center of the parcel (centroid).
Estimated Cost: Provide an estimated cost for the parcel.
Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities: If an acquisition will result in payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT) liabilities for the state to a local government, provide an estimated annual cost of those liabilities. Otherwise indicate "N/A".
County: County in which the parcel is located.
Ecological Significance: Provide a description of the type of ecosystem that exists on a parcel (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna) and any ecological significance particular to the parcel.
Activity Description: Provide a description of the activity or activities to occur on the parcel (e.g., fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, removal of woody vegetation). For conservation easements indicate whether the easement would be donated or purchased.
of Acres: Indicate the size of the parcel to be acquired or restored in acres.
of Shoreline Miles (if applicable): If applicable, indicate the number of shoreline miles being impacted.
Type of Landowner: Indicate the type of current landowner (e.g., private individual/trust, non-profit organization, for-profit entity)
Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable): For land acquisition, indicate the organization or entity that will hold title of lands once acquired.
Status: Indicate the status of the parcel (e.g., engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway). Update the status as it changes over the course of the appropriation.

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
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
9													
10													
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: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04e											
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								

Boundary Plan



Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM

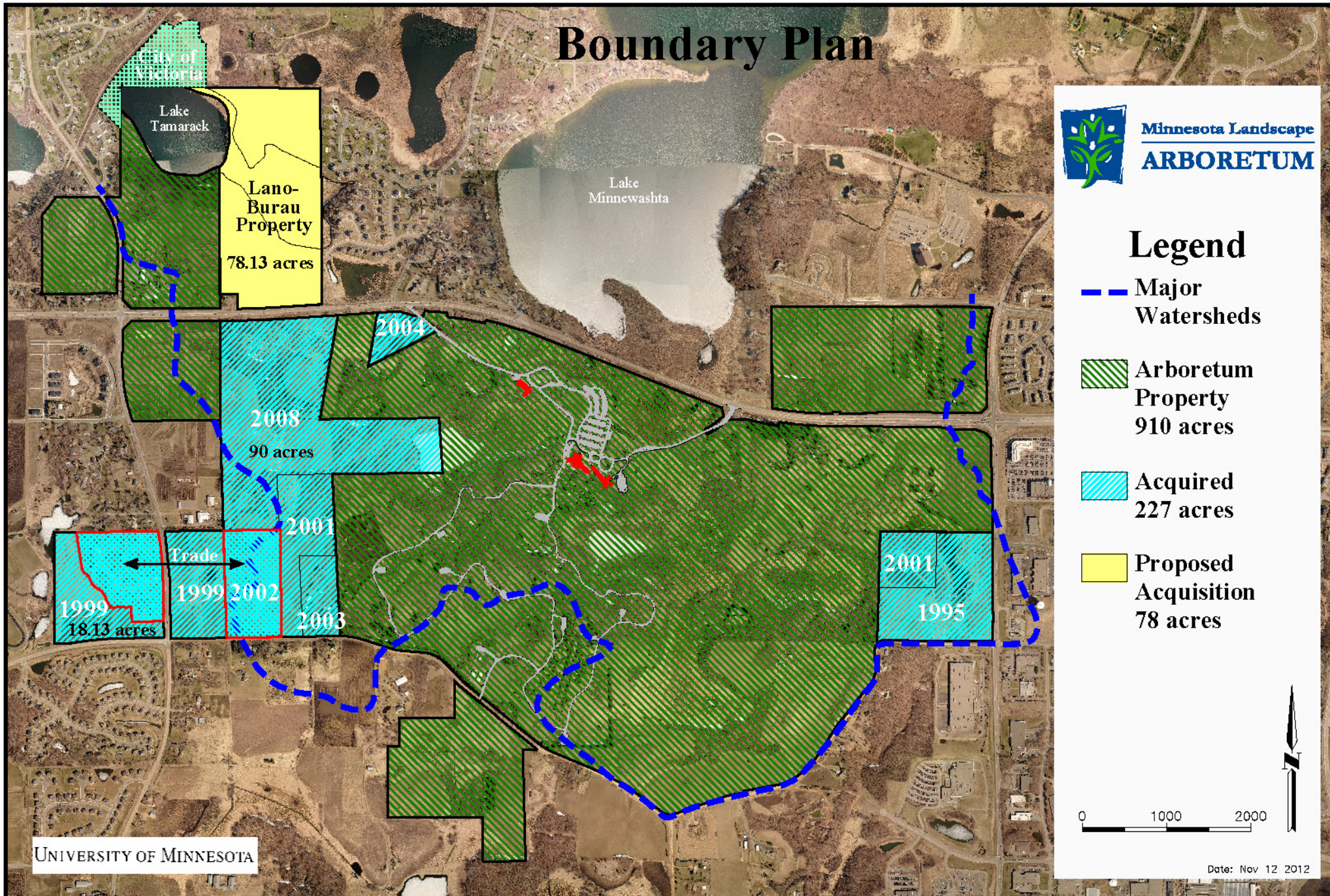
Legend

Major Watersheds

Arboretum Property
910 acres

Acquired
227 acres

Proposed Acquisition
78 acres



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Date: Nov 12 2012

