



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2015 Work Plan

Date of Report: October 15, 2014

Date of Next Status Update Report: February 1, 2016

Date of Work Plan Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2018

Does this submission include an amendment request? __

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII – Prairie, Forest, and Savanna Restoration in Greater Metropolitan Area

Project Manager: Tom Lewanski

Organization: Friends of the Mississippi River

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Location: Dakota, Hennepin, Washington

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation: \$276,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$276,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 08e

Appropriation Language:

\$276,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Friends of the Mississippi River for the eighth phase of the Metropolitan Conservation Corridors partnership to conduct restoration activities on at least 260 acres of forest and savanna and at least 160 acres of prairie to preserve and increase wildlife habitat in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work plan. A list of proposed restorations must be provided as part of the required work plan. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2018, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII – Prairie, Forest, and Savanna Restoration in Greater Metropolitan Area

II. PROJECT STATEMENT: In activity one, FMR will conduct prairie restoration activities on 198-acres at 4 sites within the Metro Corridors. These restoration activities will have multiple benefits. They will improve or increase habitat for native pollinators by increasing host and nectar plants. When seeding, mixes will be developed to maximize plants that benefit pollinators. Habitat for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) will also be increased through these activities. Several of the proposed sites are associated with surface water and the restoration activities at these sites will have water quality benefits by installing deep-rooted prairie plants near the shorelines, reducing erosion and the amount of sediment and chemicals entering the water. Being within the Metro area, these sites provide examples of diverse native prairie for area residents to enjoy and learn about. The four prairie sites are Spring Lake Park Reserve, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Ole Olson Park, and Grey Cloud Dunes SNA.

In activity two, FMR will conduct restoration activities, using best management practices, on 62 acres of forest/woodland at two sites, an oak savanna remnant at the Old Mill Park along the Vermillion River in Hastings, and a portion of the Hampton Woods in Hampton Township in Dakota County. The Hampton Woods is a large diverse deciduous forest in central Dakota County that provides breeding & migratory habitat for a number of rare species and SGCNs. Dakota County is in the process of negotiating the acquisition of about 180-acres of the forest. No restoration activities will take place until it comes into public ownership. The oak forest of Hampton Woods was of such significant ecological quality that it was recommended for inclusion in the state Scientific and Natural Area Program in 1994, although this did not occur. These woods have a relatively small amount of exotic invasive plants, compared to other forested areas in the Metro area. By acting early we can be more effective and efficient in controlling them and preserving the diverse habitat that it currently offers. FMR is also talking with Dr. Frelich, Director of the Center for Forest Ecology at the U. of M., to partner on the project to better understand how the forest responds to various restoration activities. FMR will explore utilizing any woody material removed from the forest for fuel at District Energy in St. Paul.

There are two overall goals for this project.

- The first goal is to contribute to the long-term preservation of existing natural communities, especially forest and prairie, and the critical habitat they provide for pollinators and species in decline. By conducting restoration activities, we can help preserve and enhance the viability of the forests and prairies at these proposed sites and the wildlife that are dependent on them.
- A second goal is to increase the amount of native habitat at specific sites by restoring natural communities to land that is highly disturbed, while helping to protect and improve water quality at a number of sites.

Restoration activities will be conducted on public land and each site will have a Natural Resource Management Plan in place.

III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of [2/1/16]:

Project Status as of [8/1/16]:

Project Status as of [2/1/17]:

Project Status as of [8/1/17]:

Project Status as of [2/1/18]:

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Prairie Restoration

Description: FMR will hire contractors to conduct restoration activities on 198-acres of prairie at 4 sites within the Metro Corridors. FMR staff will evaluate current conditions which, along with the established Natural Resource Management Plan, will inform the specific activities that the contractors will be asked to perform. These activities could include prescribed burns, woody and exotic plant removal, seeding, and mowing. FMR staff will work with contractors in the field to clarify activities, timeframes, expected results and will monitor the work throughout the project's timeframe. Staff evaluation will focus on specific issues such as percent coverage of burn, percent of woody plant removal, amount of resprouts or germination, as examples. These restoration activities will have multiple benefits. An important outcome will be to improve or increase habitat for native pollinators by increasing host and nectar plants. When seeding, mixes will be developed to maximize plants that benefit pollinators. Habitat for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) will also be increased through these activities. Several of the proposed sites are associated with surface water and the restoration activities at these sites will have water quality benefits by installing deep-rooted prairie plants near the shorelines, reducing erosion and the amount of sediment and chemicals entering the water. Being within the Metro area, these sites provide examples of diverse native prairie for area residents to enjoy and learn about. The four prairie sites are Spring Lake Park Reserve, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Ole Olson Park, and Grey Cloud Dunes SNA. FMR staff may conduct breeding bird surveys at some of the sites.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 143,114
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 143,114

Outcome	Completion Date
1. <i>Restoration activities conducted on 50 acres.</i>	June 30, 2016
2. <i>Restoration activities conducted on an additional 50 acres.</i>	June 30, 2017
3. <i>Restoration activities conducted on an additional 98 acres.</i>	June 30, 2018

Activity Status as of [2/1/16]:

Activity Status as of [8/1/16]:

Activity Status as of [2/1/17]:

Activity Status as of [8/1/17]:

Activity Status as of [2/1/18]:

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 2: Forest/woodland Restoration

Description: FMR will hire contractors to conduct restoration activities on 62-acres of forest/woodland at 2 sites within the Metro Corridors, an oak savanna remnant at the Old Mill Park along the Vermillion River in Hastings, and a portion of the Hampton Woods in Hampton Township in Dakota County. The Hampton Woods is a large diverse deciduous forest in central Dakota County that provides breeding & migratory habitat for a number of rare species and SGCNs. Dakota County is in the process of negotiating the acquisition of about 180-acres of the forest. No restoration activities will take place until it comes into public ownership. The oak forest of Hampton Woods was of such significant ecological quality that it was recommended for inclusion in the state Scientific and Natural Area Program in 1994, although this did not occur. These woods have a relatively small amount of exotic invasive plants, compared to other forested areas in the Metro area. FMR staff will evaluate current conditions which, along with the established Natural Resource Management Plan, will inform the specific activities that the contractors will be asked to perform. These activities could include prescribed burns, and exotic plant removal. FMR staff will work with contractors in the field to clarify activities, timeframes, expected results and will monitor the work throughout the project's timeframe. Staff evaluation will focus on specific issues such as percent coverage of burn, percent of woody plant removal, amount of resprouts or germination, as examples. FMR staff may conduct breeding bird surveys at these sites.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**ENRTF Budget: \$ 132,886****Amount Spent: \$ 0****Balance: \$ 132,886**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Restoration activities conducted on 20 acres	June 30, 2017
2. Restoration activities conducted on an additional 42 acres	June 30, 2018

Activity Status as of [2/1/16]:**Activity Status as of [8/1/16]:****Activity Status as of [2/1/17]:****Activity Status as of [8/1/17]:****Activity Status as of [2/1/18]:****Final Report Summary:****V. DISSEMINATION:**

Description: FMR will seek to promote and disseminate information about these projects through earned media, FMR's website (www.FMR.org), electronic & printed newsletters, and volunteer stewardship events.

Status as of [2/1/16]:**Status as of [8/1/16]:****Status as of [2/1/17]:****Status as of [8/1/17]:****Status as of [2/1/18]:****Final Report Summary:****VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:****A. ENRTF Budget Overview:**

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Overview Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 20,093	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Director: Overall project management, assist with evaluation of restoration projects, partner communications, landowner relations. .007 FTE over the three-year project. Ecologist (2): Plan/organize restoration activities, develop and put out bids, hire and oversee vendors,

		guide restoration activities, evaluate restoration activities. .09 FTE over the three-year project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bookkeeper: Pay invoices received. Assist in developing reimbursement documentation, track and document staff expenses. .002 FTE over the three-year project.
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$247,277	Vendors to provide restoration services such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc. Contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$8,000	Plant material
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$630	Mileage to restoration sites
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:		\$276,000

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000:

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: Approximately .1 FTE over the three-year project.

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: Approximately 1.5

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
Dakota County	\$20,000	\$	In-kind for restoration activities
Friends of the Mississippi River	\$6,000	\$	Staff time, contractor expenses
Watershed Districts	\$3,000	\$	Staff time for volunteer events
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$29,000	\$	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: The FMR team includes Tom Iewanski, Karen Schik, Barb Heintz, and Joe Walton.

Project partners: (None of the following partners will receive funds from this appropriation other than having restoration done on land that they own) Dakota County, the State of Minnesota, City of Hastings, Minneapolis Park Board.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: When completed, this project will result in hundreds of acres of native communities that are healthier and more sustainable and which provide the habitat needs for species that live in these communities. FMR has been strategically focused on specific areas within the designated corridors for over fifteen years. 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. Because of human induced changes in the landscape, natural areas require management. While it is often the case that initial restoration and enhancement require relatively large investments initially, the costs often decrease over time as the goals for a site are met and the project enters a more maintenance level of activity, such as conducting period burns on restored prairie. 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. Funding History:

Funding Source and Use of Funds	Funding Timeframe	\$ Amount
2009 ENRTF appropriation. MeCC 5. Restoration within Metro Corridors.	6/16/2009 – 6/30/11	\$90,000
2011 ENRTF appropriation. MeCC 6. Restoration within Metro Corridors.	7/1/2011 - 6/30/13	\$200,000
2013 ENRTF appropriation. MeCC 7. Restoration within Metro Corridors.	7/1/2013 – 6/30/16	\$304,000
OHF appropriation-Metro Big Rivers II - Restoration in the Metro Area.	7/1/11 – 6/30/16	\$150,000
OHF appropriation-Metro Big Rivers III - Restoration in the Metro Area.	7/1/12 – 6/30/17	\$375,000
Outdoor Heritage Fund-Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program	1/10/2011 – 6/30/14	\$94,374
2014 ENRTF appropriation. Restoration within the Metro Area.	6/4/14 – 6/30/17	\$200,000
OHF appropriation-Metro Big Rivers IV - Restoration in the Metro Area.	7/1/13 – 6/30/16	\$160,000
OHF appropriation -Metro Big Rivers V - Restoration in the Metro Area.	7/12/14 – 6/30/17	\$160,000
Private landowners - Restoration	1/1/09 – 12/31/14	\$500,000

VIII. FEE TITLE ACQUISITION/CONSERVATION EASEMENT/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. Parcel List: See attached parcel list

B. Acquisition/Restoration Information:

Restoration

The restoration activities presented in this work program will be conducted on lands that are in public ownership. A Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) has been or will be developed for each of the sites. These plans are kept within the Ecologists' offices at FMR and used extensively to direct the restoration activities at the site. Each NRMP includes site information (geology, soils, historic vegetation, rare species, etc.), ecological evaluation, and management recommendations.

FMR's restoration projects will follow the BWSR guidelines for planting and seeding native plant communities. Specific guidelines that will be followed include:

- Seek to achieve species richness and diversity levels that meet or exceed the minimal standards identified by BWSR.

- Seed and plant material will also be sourced from genetic origins as close to the restoration site as possible, but also from multiple locations if possible, to maximize the long-term fitness of the plant populations.
- Seed will be "yellow tag" whenever possible, which ensures a known source.
- For remnant sites, especially prairie, seed will be obtained from on-site or from other nearby remnants.
- FMR also uses the BWSR seed mixes for a basis, but we typically design our own mixes, based on nearby native plant communities, soil types, and other factors. These seed/plant mixes and BWSR guidelines are inherently designed to benefit pollinators and as well as other wildlife by providing food and shelter sources for the full growing season. Consideration for pollinator nesting locations will also be evaluated for restoration sites.

Being a place-based organization, FMR's approach to land conservation is to stay engaged long-term in the projects that it takes on. This allows us to take a longer term and more holistic approach to the restoration and management needs of the property, than any one funding source or grant allows. We are able to revisit and monitor sites over a longer time frame, giving the opportunity to respond to issues in timely manner. This is both more cost effective in the long term and helps to protect the public investment in the project. This is often done in partnership with the landowner. For state – owned property, we have had discussions with DNR staff about the transition from the restoration/installation phase, conducted by FMR, to the long-term management phase, which the DNR will incorporate into their annual workplans and budgets. We will have similar discussions with staff from local units of government for properties that they own. FMR and/or the landowner may seek additional funding for follow-up management activities at these sites.

When FMR develops a Request For Proposals (RFP) for a specific site and for a set of restoration activities, we send it to Conservation Corps of Minnesota for them to consider and respond to.

As a part of the restoration process, FMR Ecologists are constantly evaluating the restoration activities as they are being conducted and subsequently, the initial results of those activities. Summaries of these initial evaluations will be included in the final report for the grant. FMR will also conduct a follow-up evaluation, three years hence, and submit it to LCCMR staff. FMR may include funding in future requests to conduct these three year evaluations.

IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S): See attached map.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM:

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than February 1, 2016, August 1, 2016, February 1, 2017, August 1, 2017, and February 1, 2018. A final report and associated products will be submitted by August 15, 2018.

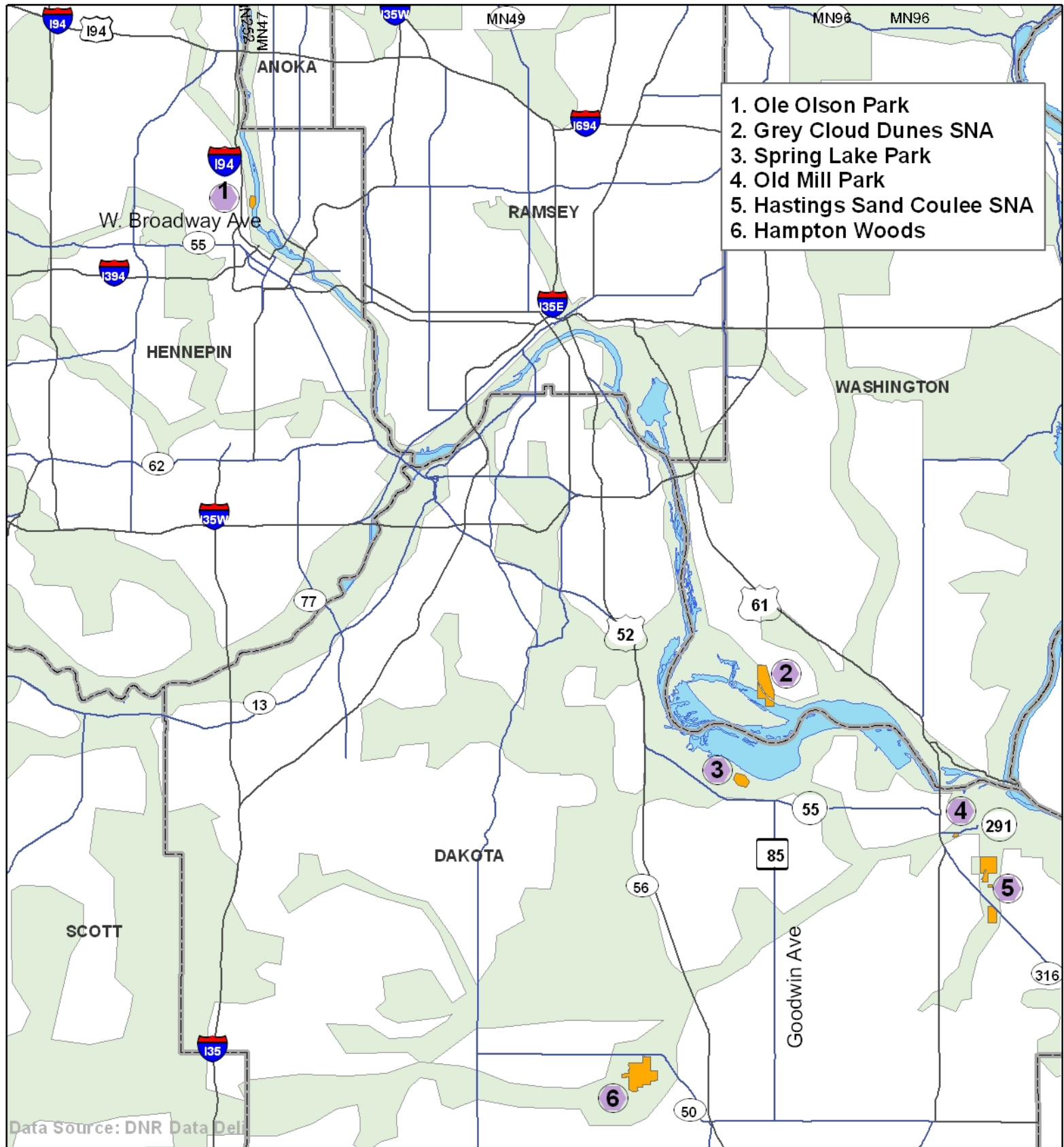


Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII – Prairie, Forest, and Savanna Restoration in Greater Metropolitan Area
Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. xx, Sec. xx, Subd. Xx
Project Manager: Tom Lewanski
Organization: Friends of the Mississippi River
M.L. 2015 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 276,000
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2018
Date of Report: 10/15/14

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Prairie Restoration			Forest & Woodland Restoration				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$12,517	\$0	\$12,517	\$7,576	\$0	\$7,576	\$20,093	\$20,093
Conservation Director: \$1,728. Overall project management, assist with evaluation of restoration projects, partner communications, landowner relations. .007 FTE over the three year project. 88% salary, 12% benefits.								
Ecologist (2): \$17,825. Plan/organize restoration activities, develop and put out bids, hire and oversee vendors, guide restoration activities, evaluate restoration activities. .09 FTE over the three-year project. 86% Salary, 14% Benefits.								
Bookkeeper: \$540. Pay invoices received. Assist in developing reimbursement documentation, track and document staff expenses. .002FTE over the three-year project. 86% Salary, 14% Benefits.								
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts								
Vendors to provide restoration services 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.)	\$122,277	\$0	\$122,277	\$125,000	\$0	\$125,000	\$247,277	\$247,277
Equipment/Tools/Supplies								
Plant material	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000				\$8,000	\$8,000
Travel expenses in Minnesota								
Mileage	\$320	\$0	\$320	\$310	\$0	\$310	\$630	\$630
COLUMN TOTAL	\$143,117	\$0	\$143,117	\$132,886	\$0	\$132,886	\$276,003	\$276,003

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder
		Latitude	Longitude								
2	Grey Cloud Dunes SNA	4959811°16' 19.1098"N	503128°41'3. 6477"E	\$ 65,198.00	Washington	Rare sand-gravel prairie with rare species. Pollinator habitat along the Mississippi River.	Exotic brush removal, invasive weed control, Rx burn on prairie	42		Public. DNR	
3	Hampton Woods	4940893°31' 32.902"N	497762°55'2 5.0142"E	\$ 132,983.00	Dakota	Oak forest. Includes rare species and SGCNs in central Dakota County.	Exotic brush removal	54		Proposed public. In process of being acquired. Dakota County.	
4	Hastings Sand Coulee SNA	4951032°41' 35.7686"N	514032°16'2 2.2952"E	\$ 23,338.00	Dakota	Rare sand-gravel prairie, including 14 rare species. SGCN and Pollinator habitat. Part of a local greenway.	Exotic species control, prescribed burn.	130		Public. DNR	
5	Old Mill Park	4952571°15' 38.5041"N	512448°0'19. 4784"E	\$ 11,718.00	Dakota	Remnant oak savanna along the Vermillion River. Rare species.	Prescribed burn and treating exotic brush and weedy forbs.	8		Public. City of Hastings.	
6	Ole Olson Park	4983241°14' 18.1805"N	478236°59'1 6.8009"E	\$ 5,728.00	Hennepin	Mississippi river corridor, migratory flyway.	Prairie restoration	1		Public. Minneapolis Park Board.	
7	Spring Lake Park	4955646°10' 39.1378"N	500994°23'4 6.3325"E	\$ 12,000.00	Dakota	Prairie, savanna & oak forest. Mississippi River corridor & migratory flyway. Pollinator habitat.	Prairie restoration	25		Public. Dakota County.	

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VIII Friends of the Mississippi River. Restoring Prairie and Forest Habitat.



1:250,000



5 2.5 0 5 10 Miles
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Legend

- Metro Conservation Corridors
- Site Number

Subd. 08e

