



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2017 LCCMR Work Plan

**Date of Submission:** October 20, 2016

**Date of Next Status Update Report:** February 1, 2018

**Date of Work Plan Approval:** 06/07/2017

**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2020

**Does this submission include an amendment request?** \_\_\_

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**PROJECT TITLE:** Mississippi and Vermillion Rivers Restoration of Prairie, Savanna, and Forest Habitat – Phase X

**Project Manager:** Tom Lewanski

**Organization:** Friends of the Mississippi River

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**Location:** Dakota County, Hennepin County, Washington County

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**Total ENRTF Project Budget:**

**ENRTF Appropriation:** \$213,000

**Amount Spent:** \$0

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**Balance:** \$213,000

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**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 08h

**Appropriation Language:**

\$213,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Friends of the Mississippi River for continued implementation of the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership by improving at least 80 acres of habitat at approximately seven sites along the Mississippi River and Vermillion River corridors. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work plan. A list of proposed restoration sites must be provided as part of the required work plan. Plant and seed materials must follow the Board of Water and Soil Resources' native vegetation establishment and enhancement guidelines. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2020, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** Restoring 82-acres of Prairie, Savanna & Forest Habitat: MeCC 10

**II. PROJECT STATEMENT:**

Through this project, Friends of the Mississippi River will increase and improve 82 acres of habitat at 7 sites along the Mississippi and Vermillion river corridors. Habitat fragmentation and degradation from non-native species, diseases and other causes threaten Minnesota’s rich natural heritage. This situation will be exacerbated as the state’s climate continues to change. A system of interconnected natural areas can help to lessen these impacts by providing both habitat and the ability for native species to move on the landscape in response to these changes. This is the goal of the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership and of this proposal. The projects on our list are all along the Mississippi and Vermillion Rivers, natural corridors that link the existing nodes of high biodiversity.

The overarching goal for this project is to restore and enhance prairie, savanna and forest habitat along these river corridors. While these projects will improve habitat for a variety of species, FMR will specifically focus on increasing habitat for our diminishing pollinators. We will seed and install a diversity of host and nectar plants. The restoration activities, presented in existing natural resource management plans, include exotic invasive plant removal, soil preparation, spraying, seeding, mowing, plant installation and burning. To help reduce costs and to increase the educational outcomes, FMR will organize volunteer stewardship events to accomplish some of the restoration activities at some of these sites. 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. Seed mixes will exceed the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water guidelines, with many additional pollinator plant blooms in all seasons. Restoration activities at these sites will provide water quality benefits by installing deep-rooted prairie/savanna plants that help reduce erosion and sediment & chemicals from entering the rivers. Being within the Metro area, these sites provide examples of diverse native habitat for area residents to enjoy and learn about. A final goal of this project is to work with Metro Conservation Corridors partners to develop a more uniform restoration monitoring and evaluation protocol that also allows the data to be shared. Each of the specific sites in this project is in public ownership and have natural resource management plans in place to guide the habitat restoration and management activities and are on file at FMR. The Conservation Corps of Minnesota is on our contractor contact list and receive notice for all restoration Request for Proposals that we prepare and distribute.

FMR will conduct an evaluation for each of site upon completion of this grant-funded restoration activities and three years later. These evaluations will analyze how the activities achieved the goals for the project, present any unforeseen issues that impacted the achievement of those goals and lessons learned from the project.

**III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

**Project Status as of** (February 1, 2018):

**Project Status as of** (August 1, 2018):

**Project Status as of** (February 1, 2019):

**Project Status as of** (August 1, 2019):

**Project Status as of** (February 1, 2020):

**Project Status as of** (August 1, 2020):

**Overall Project Outcomes and Results:**

**IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Restore 82 acres of forest, savanna & prairie at 7 sites.

**Description:** FMR will hire contractors and organize stewardship volunteers to conduct restoration and enhancement activities on 57-acres of oak savanna, 19-acres of prairie and 6-acres of forest at 7 sites in Dakota, Washington and Hennepin Counties. These activities will include prescribed burns, woody and exotic plant removal, site preparation, seeding, and mowing. FMR staff will work with contractors in the field to clarify activities, timeframes, & expected performance standards and will monitor the work throughout the project’s timeframe. Staff will evaluate impacts of restoration activities. FMR staff may conduct breeding bird surveys at some of the sites to help assess long-term impact of specific restoration activities.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 207,800**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 0**  
**Balance: \$ 207,800**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Install 18 acres of prairie	June 30, 2020
2. Enhance 1 acre of prairie	June 30, 2020
3. Enhance 57 acres of oak savanna	June 30, 2020
4. Enhance 7 6 acres of forest	June 30, 2020

**Activity 1 Status as of (February 1, 2018):**

**Activity 1 Status as of (August 1, 2018):**

**Activity 1 Status as of (February 1, 2019):**

**Activity 1 Status as of (August 1, 2019):**

**Activity 1 Status as of (February 1, 2020):**

**Activity 1 Status as of (August 1, 2020):**

**Final Report Summary:**

**ACTIVITY 2:** Develop evaluation protocol and data sharing system

**Description:** In order to better monitor and track the progress and success of our ecological restorations, FMR will work with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Great River Greening to develop and institute a restoration monitoring protocol. FMR’s Ecologists are crucial to the development of this protocol. We will make use of software that will allow the data to be shared. Using recently acquired hardware (Apple tablets), FMR ecologists will use the protocols to evaluate current restoration projects and to conduct initial vegetation surveys and site assessments at new sites, during the time period of this appropriation. This technology and the associated protocols will streamline data collection and fieldwork, and will make tracking our restorations efficient and shareable, improving interagency collaboration and overall restoration success.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 5,200**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 0**  
**Balance: \$ 5,200**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Develop restoration monitoring protocol and methodology	June 30, 2020

**Activity 2 Status as of** (February 1, 2018):

**Activity 2 Status as of** (August 1, 2018):

**Activity 2 Status as of** (February 1, 2019):

**Activity 2 Status as of** (August 1, 2019):

**Activity 2 Status as of** (February 1, 2020):

**Activity 2 Status as of** (August 1, 2020):

**Final Report Summary:**

**V. DISSEMINATION:**

**Description:** FMR will seek to promote and disseminate information about this project through earned media, FMR’s website ([www.FMR.org](http://www.FMR.org)), electronic & printed newsletters, and volunteer stewardship events. To sign up for FMR’s electronic newsletter sign up [here](#).

**Status as of** (February 1, 2018):

**Status as of** (August 1, 2018):

**Status as of** (February 1, 2019):

**Status as of** (August 1, 2019):

**Status as of** (February 1, 2020):

**Status as of** (August 1, 2020):

**Final Report Summary:**

**VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**

**A. Preliminary ENRTF Budget Overview:**

**\*This section represents an overview of the preliminary budget at the start of the project. It will be reconciled with actual expenditures at the time of the final report.**

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Overview Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 29,750	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation Director: Overall project management, assist with evaluation of restoration projects, partner communications, landowner relations.</li> <li>Ecologist (2): Plan/organize restoration activities, develop and put out RFPs, hire and oversee vendors, guide restoration activities, evaluate restoration activities. Participate in evaluation protocol &amp; methodology development with partners.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bookkeeper: Pay invoices received. Assist in developing report &amp; reimbursement documentation, track and document staff expenses.</li> </ul>
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$144,000	Vendors to provide restoration services such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc. (RFPs will be distributed and vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.)
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$36,000	Restoration Supplies: (\$26,000 <i>Plants for 5 sites</i> ), (\$8,800 <i>prairie seed for 1 site</i> ), (\$1,200 <i>tree guards, mulch, etc.</i> )
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$1,450	Staff travel to and from project sites.
Other:	\$1,800	Data plan for one tablet covering the 3 years of the grant. This is an integral component of the monitoring protocol.
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$213,000</b>	

**Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:** NA

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

**Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:** .127 FTE

**Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:** Approximately 1 FTE.

**B. Other Funds:**

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
<b>Non-state</b>			
Foundations and private donation.	\$9,500	\$0	Staff expenses for stewardship events and tablets.
City of Inver Grove Heights	\$4000	\$0	In-kind soil prep and water over the length of the grant
<b>State</b>	NA	NA	
	\$	\$	
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$13,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:**

**Partners receiving ENRTF funding**

1. Friends of the Mississippi River (\$31,150) Manage restoration projects and grant, project evaluation.
2. Plant/seed retailers TBD (\$34,800) Provide native plants and seeds for restoration projects.
3. Habitat restoration contractors TBD (\$144,000) Conduct habitat restoration activities.

**Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

1. Minneapolis Park Board. Consultation regarding restoration on Park Board land.
2. Dakota County. Consultation regarding restoration on County land.
3. City of Inver Grove Heights. Consultation regarding restoration on city land and providing in-kind restoration activities.
4. City of Cottage Grove. Consultation regarding restoration on city land.
5. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Consultation regarding restoration on state land.

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:**

This proposal is the tenth phase in the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership, formed to address land conservation needs in the 11 county metro area. The partnership may submit additional proposals in the future to continue land conservation efforts. As for the specific project sites presented in this proposal, there are some that will achieve a management stage and therefore will become the responsibility of the landowner in future. For others, we may expand restoration to adjoining areas. FMR has been strategically focused on specific areas within the designated conservation corridors for over a decade. This has allowed us to stay engaged with projects, landowners, partners and communities, helping to ensure continuous improvement and expansion of the habitat values at these sites, while protecting the public investment that has been made. Our project areas have grown by orders of magnitude to protect and restore large tracts of land, ultimately creating contiguous greenway corridors. Each of the projects submitted in this proposal will have long-term benefits to the State of Minnesota’s environment. This project will quicken the pace of restoring and enhancing critical habitat in the Metro area and the migration corridors species need to move on the landscape in response to a changing environment. With the landowners’ commitments to maintain these sites, once they achieve a management phase, we are confident that these natural assets will provide important ecological services well into the future. FMR is committed to conducting fundraising from both public and private sources, for the ongoing restoration and enhancement activities required at these sites.

**C. Funding History:**

<b>Funding Source and Use of Funds</b>	<b>Funding Timeframe</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>
<i>2011 ENRTF appropriation. MeCC 6. Restoration within Metro Corridors</i>	<i>7/1/2011 - 6/30/13</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>
<i>2013 ENRTF appropriation. MeCC 7. Restoration within Metro Corridors.</i>	<i>7/1/2013 – 6/30/16</i>	<i>\$304,000</i>
<i>2015 ENRTF appropriation. MeCC 8. Restoration within the Metro Corridors.</i>	<i>7/11/15 – 6/30/ 18</i>	<i>\$276,000</i>
<i>OHF appropriation - Metro Big Rivers II. Restoration in the Metro Area.</i>	<i>7/1/11 – 6/30/16</i>	<i>\$150,000</i>
<i>OHF appropriation - Metro Big Rivers III. Restoration in the Metro Area.</i>	<i>7/1/12 – 6/30/17</i>	<i>\$375,000</i>
<i>OHF - Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program</i>	<i>1/10/2011 – 6/30/14</i>	<i>\$94,374</i>
<i>2014 ENRTF appropriation. Restoration within the Metro Area.</i>	<i>6/4/14 – 6/30/17</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>
<i>OHF appropriation - Metro Big Rivers IV. Restoration in the Metro Area.</i>	<i>7/1/13 – 6/30/17</i>	<i>\$160,000</i>
<i>OHF appropriation - Metro Big Rivers V. Restoration in the Metro Area.</i>	<i>7/12/14 – 6/30/18</i>	<i>\$160,000</i>
<i>OHF – Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program. Restoration in Metro Area.</i>	<i>5/1/16 – 6/30/2019</i>	<i>\$77,767</i>
<i>Private Landowners.</i>	<i>1/1/09-12/31/15</i>	<i>\$600,000</i>

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

- **The project is for 3 years, will begin on 07/01/2017, and end on 6/30/ 2020.**
- **Periodic project status update reports will be submitted [2/1] and [8/1] of each year.**
- **A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2020.**

**IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S):**

**X. FEE TITLE ACQUISITION/CONSERVATION EASEMENT/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS:**

**A. Parcel List:**

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
M.L. 2017 Project Budget**



**Project Title:** Mississippi and Vermillion Rivers Restoration of Prairie, Savanna, and Forest Habitat – Phase X  
**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 08h  
**Project Manager:** Tom Lewanski  
**Organization:** Friends of the Mississippi River  
**M.L. 2017 ENRTF Appropriation:** \$213,000  
**Project Length and Completion Date:** 3 Years, June 30, 2020  
**Date of Report:** October 20, 2016

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
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<i>Restore 82 acres of forest, savanna &amp; prairie at 7 sites.</i>			<i>Develop evaluation protocol and data sharing system.</i>				
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b>	\$26,400	\$0	\$26,400	\$3,350	\$0	\$3,350	\$29,750	\$29,750
Conservation Director: Overall project management, assist with evaluation of restoration projects, partner communications, landowner relations.(\$4,380) .017 FTE each year for the three-year project. 88% salary, 12% benefits.								
Ecologist (2): Plan/organize restoration activities, develop and put out RFPs, hire and oversee vendors, guide restoration activities, evaluate restoration activities. Participate in evaluation protocol & methodology development with partners.(\$22,400) .10 FTE each year for the three-year project. 88% Salary, 12% Benefits.								
Bookkeeper: Pay invoices received. Assist in developing report & reimbursement documentation, track and document staff expenses. (\$1720) .01FTE each year for the three-year project. 88% Salary, 12% Benefits.								
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts</b>								
<i>Vendors to provide restoration services such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc. (RFPs will be distributed and vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.)</i>	\$144,000	\$0	\$144,000				\$144,000	\$144,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>								
<i>Plants and seed for restoration</i>	\$34,800	\$0	\$34,800				\$34,800	\$34,800
<i>Mulch, tree guards, etc.</i>	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,200				\$1,200	\$1,200
<b>Travel expenses in Minnesota</b>								
<i>Mileage to and from restoration sites and partner meetings.</i>	\$1,400	\$0	\$1,400	\$50	\$0	\$50	\$1,450	\$1,450
<b>Other:</b>								\$0
<i>Data plan for 1 (one) tablet covering the 3 years of the grant.</i>				\$1,800	\$0	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$207,800</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$207,800</b>	<b>\$5,200</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5,200</b>	<b>\$213,000</b>	<b>\$213,000</b>

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2017 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List**

**Project Title:** Mississippi and Vermillion Rivers Restoration of Prairie, Savanna, and Forest Habitat – Phase X

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 08h

**Project Manager Name:** Tom Lewanski

**Organization:** Friends of the Mississippi River

**M.L. 2016 ENRTF Appropriation:** \$ \$213,000

**Project Length and Completion Date:** 3 years, June 30, 2020

**Date of Report:** October 20, 2016

#	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 (if applicable)
		Latitude	Longitude								
1	River Oaks Park	44°46'57.7"N	92°53'00.6"W	9,200	Washington	Oak Savanna, Prairie, Mississippi River Bluffland	Weed control and planting of native shrubs and seeding forbs	2		Public	NA
2	Riverside Park	44°58'01.4"N	93°13'54.8"W	17,700	Hennepin	Forest habitat along Mississippi River. Important bird habitat	Forest restoration	6		Public	NA
3	Minneapolis Gorge -	44°56'15.1"N	93°12'15.2"W	18000	Hennepin	Oak Savanna, Mississippi River Bluffland, Important bird habitat	Savanna restoration	5		Public	NA
4	Minneapolis Riverfront - Ole Olson	45°00'08.8"N	93°16'33.5"W	21,800	Hennepin	Mississippi River riparian area, pollinator habitat, water quality	Prairie restoration	3	0.3	Public	NA
5	Vermillion River AMA-Kasel unit	44°39'01.5"N	93°00'26.6"W	95,200	Dakota County	Vermillion River Riparian Area, Oak savanna, important bird & pollinator habitat	Oak savanna restoration	22	0.3	Public	NA
6	Heritage Park - Inver Grove Heights	44°51'44.0"N	93°01'06.5"W	20,200	Dakota County	Mississippi River riparian area, bird & pollinator habitat, water quality	Floodplain forest and upland savanna restoration	33	0.16	Public	NA
7	Spring Lake Park Reserve	44°45'19.6"N	92°59'11.4"W	24,200	Dakota County	Pollinator and bird habitat along Mississippi River	Prairie restoration	15		Public	NA
NOTES:											