



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

## M.L. 2018 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

---

**Today's Date:** February 22, 2018

**Date of Next Status Update Report:** January 31, 2019

**Date of Work Plan Approval:** 06/05/2018

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

**Does this submission include an amendment request?** No

---

**PROJECT TITLE:** Protecting Mississippi River Headwaters Lands through Local, State and Federal Partnership

**Project Manager:** Josh Doty, Community Development Director

**Organization:** City of Baxter

**College/Department/Division:** Community Development

**Mailing Address:** 13190 Memorywood Drive

**City/State/Zip Code:** Baxter, MN 56425

**Telephone Number:** (218) 454-5111

**Email Address:** [jdoty@baxtermn.gov](mailto:jdoty@baxtermn.gov)

**Web Address:** <http://www.baxtermn.gov>

---

**Location:** See attached map: Baxter, MN

---

**Total Project Budget:** \$700,000

**Amount Spent:** \$0

**Balance:** \$700,000

---

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09g

**Appropriation Language:** \$700,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Baxter, in cooperation with Brainerd Public Schools and the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Program, to acquire about 200 acres of forested land on the upper Mississippi River adjacent to Mississippi River Overlook Park for multiple public benefits, including being an outdoor classroom for local schools. To be eligible for reimbursement, costs for real estate transactions must be specific to this acquisition and documented as required in subdivision 15, paragraph (k).

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT:**

A partnership among the City of Baxter, Brainerd Public Schools Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape program and The Conservation Fund will acquire 200 acres of riparian forest on the upper Mississippi River. This team identified synergistic priorities in the subject parcels, including development of a forest classroom, preservation of a high biodiversity forest and wetlands, protection of critical drinking water quality, and protection of the Camp Ripley training mission from incompatible land use.

Acquisition timing is critical due to landowner willingness to sell, impending threat of development, availability of matching funds, and alignment with the City of Baxter’s long-range open space plan goals.

This 200-acre acquisition adjoins the 60-acre Mississippi River Overlook Park already owned by the City of Baxter, and is within walking distance of Forestville Middle School, one of the largest middle schools in the state. Acquisition of this property will protect a riparian forest, a top priority goal of both the Crow Wing County water plan and the Mississippi Headwaters Board comprehensive plan, all while providing the unique educational opportunities of a forest classroom for more than 2000 local middle school students each year. Additionally, this acquisition will allow Baxter to extend its existing operational capacity efficiently, by managing the new acreage within its existing park maintenance program.

**II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

**First Update January 31, 2019**

**Second Update June 30, 2019**

**Third Update January 31, 2020**

**Final Update June 30, 2020**

**III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1:**

**Description:** Fee acquisition of 200-acres

**ENRTF BUDGET:** \$700,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Fee acquisition – landowner payment (up to 25% of the land cost based on certified appraisal (75% is from the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape funding - National Guard Bureau)	December 2018

**V. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**

Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape will provide federal matching funds to the maximum extent authorized, up to 75% of the land cost, approximately \$1,875,000. This funding will be coordinated via a Cooperative Agreement (CA) between Camp Ripley (National Guard Bureau) and The Conservation Fund (TCF). Only organizations in the CA can receive these CRSL funds. TCF will facilitate the real estate transaction between the seller, Potlatch Corporation, and the buyer, the City of Baxter. Baxter would be appropriated 25% of the project costs from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF), and would own and manage the 200 acres acquired from Potlatch.

**A. Preliminary ENRTF Budget Overview:** See attached budget spreadsheet

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

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

**Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:** 0

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours:	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE:
--	------------------------------

**Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:** NA

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours:	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE:
--	------------------------------

**B. Other Funds:**

SOURCE OF AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS	Amount Proposed	Amount Spent	Status and Timeframe
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>			
Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape (DOD federal)	\$ 1,875,000	\$	Secured
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>			
	\$ NA	\$	
<b>Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b>			
	\$ NA	\$	
<b>Other Funding History:</b>			
	\$	\$	

**VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:**

**A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding**

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
City of Baxter		City	Land owner

**B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Brainerd Public Schools		District 181	Partner/education

**VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:** The acquisition will enable development of a forest classroom, preservation of a high biodiversity forest and wetlands, protection of critical drinking water quality,

and protection of the Camp Ripley training mission from incompatible land use. Acquisition of this property will protect a riparian forest, a top priority goal of both the Crow Wing County water plan and the Mississippi Headwaters Board comprehensive plan, all while providing the unique educational opportunities of a forest classroom for more than 2000 local middle school students each year. Additionally, this acquisition will allow Baxter to extend its existing operational capacity efficiently, by managing the new acreage within its existing park maintenance program.

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

- **The project is for xx years, will begin on month/day/year, and end on month/day/year.**
- **Periodic project status update reports will be submitted month/day and month/day of each year.**
- **A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 20xx.**

**IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:**

- A. Budget Spreadsheet**
- B. Visual Component or Map**
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet**
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements**

## Attachment D: Additional Work Plan Information for Acquisition:

### Description of parcel selection process:

The preservation of this land represents a significant step toward meeting state goals to protect Minnesota's native plant and animal communities. The communities mapped on this land include Central Rich Dry Pine Woodland (FDc24). All subtypes within FDc24 are classified S1, critically impaired, or S3, vulnerable to extirpation.

The diverse forest mosaic includes upland oak/aspens/pine, flood plain forest, scrub-shrub wetland, and jack pine. In the open upland areas, native savanna remnant species exist. Animal species of special concern that are dependent on this habitat include red-shouldered hawk, Blanding's turtle, and eastern hog-nosed snake.

Federal Threatened and Endangered Species include the northern long-eared bat and the gray wolf. Camp Ripley is a host site for extensive statewide research on these two species. Critical to the long-term recovery of both is protecting the habitat bordering Camp Ripley.

Brainerd Public Schools has recently drafted a Comprehensive Long-Range Facilities Plan that cites an up to 10% student enrollment increase over the next ten years. 64% of that increase is comprised of middle school and high school students who will benefit from near access to a School Forest managed jointly with Baxter.

Population forecasts anticipate an increase of 29% for Crow Wing County by 2035, or 14,238 people. The City of Baxter represents almost one quarter of that growth (Baxter Comprehensive Plan 2015). The city Comprehensive Plan analysis emphasizes the anticipated development pressure while the school study shows student growth anticipated in the facility closest to this acquisition of forest land.

### State, regional and local plan alignment:

MN Wildlife Action Plan: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mnwap/index.html>

Mississippi Headwaters Board Comprehensive Plan:

<http://mississippiheadwaters.org/comprehensiveManagementPlan.asp>

Crow Wing County Water Plan: <https://crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/4695>

City of Baxter Comprehensive Plan: <http://www.baxtermn.gov/departments/community-development/comprehensive-plan/>

Camp Ripley Landscape Stewardship Plan: [https://mn.gov/frc/docs/North-Central\\_Landscape-Plan\\_Public-Review-DRAFT.pdf](https://mn.gov/frc/docs/North-Central_Landscape-Plan_Public-Review-DRAFT.pdf)

Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Plan:

[https://sentinellandscapes.org/media/1214/sl\\_camripley\\_factsheet\\_23dec16.pdf](https://sentinellandscapes.org/media/1214/sl_camripley_factsheet_23dec16.pdf)

### Restoration/Management Plan:

1. The forest management plan when complete will be a city approved by resolution document managed by the Public Works/Parks and Trails department. Annual budgeting will account for ongoing stewardship and management of the property. Plans and site information are public accessible on the Baxter City Website. All current and future reporting responsibilities are assigned to the Community Development Director.
2. Long-term implementation of the management plan goals includes budgeting for annual stewardship of the site in the city general operating budget. In addition, the partnership between the Brainerd Public Schools and DNR School Forest program will be sought to include outdoor classroom student education and outreach. This public/public partnership will likely include onsite tree planting and other forestry practices as recommended in the plan.
3. Primary funding for maintenance will be a component of the city annual operating budget and local levy. It is estimated that annual budget amount will approach \$30,000 dollars. The city of Baxter Park Department would be assigned site maintenance and stewardship responsibilities.

**Attachment A:  
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
 M.L. 2018 Budget Spreadsheet**

**Project Title: Protecting Mississippi River Headwaters Lands through Local, State and Federal Partnership**  
**Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 09g**  
**Project Manager: Josh Doty**  
**Organization: City of Baxter**  
**College/Department/Division: Community Development**  
**M.L. 2018 ENRTF Appropriation: \$700,000**  
**Project Length and Completion Date**  
**Date of Report: February 23, 2018**



<b>ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>			
<b>Fee Title Acquisition</b> - Landowner payment (up to 25% of the land cost based on certified appraisal (75% is from the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape funding - National Guard Bureau)	\$659,000	\$0	\$659,000
<b>Professional Services for Acquisition</b> - Payment to "The Conservation Fund" at \$140 per hour for services to facilitate the acquisition transaction	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
<b>Professional Services for Acquisition</b> - Real estate transaction expenses such as appraisal (est. \$5,000), environmental assessment (est. \$10,000), title insurance (est. \$6,000), survey, recording fees.	\$21,000	\$0	\$21,000
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2018 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List**

**Project Title:** Protecting a Riparian Forest Classroom in the Mississippi River Headwaters with Partnership

**Project Manager Name:** Josh Doty, Community Development Director

**Organization:** City of Baxter

**ENRTF \$ Request:** \$625,000

#	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	Potlatch Corp. 1-5	46.314183	-94.293646	2,5000,000	Crow Wing	riparian forest, wetland, shrub	Fee acquisition	200	1.75	Private	City of Baxter
2	Parcel 1							40			
3	Parcel 2							40			
4	Parcel 3							40			
5	Parcel 4							40			
6	Parcel 5							40			
7											
8											
9											
10											

**NOTES:** 75% land cost commitment from Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape program, 25% cost from ENRTF

