



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2020 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: August 23, 2019

Date of Next Status Update Report: February 1, 2021

Date of Work Plan Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2023

Does this submission include an amendment request?

PROJECT TITLE: Turning Back to Rivers: Environmental and Recreational Protection

Project Manager: DJ Forbes

Organization: The Trust for Public Land

Mailing Address: 2610 University Ave. Suite 300

City, State, Zip Code: Saint Paul, MN 55114

Project Manager Direct Telephone Number: (651)-999-5325

Email Address: dj.forbes@tpl.org

Web Address: <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/minnesota>

Location: Statewide

Total Project Budget: \$1,000,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$1,000,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2020, Chp. xx, Sec. xx, Subd. xx

Appropriation Language:

PROJECT STATEMENT:

Working hand in hand with river communities, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will protect land through fee title acquisition and increase access on and near Minnesota's great rivers. Our partnership is based on existing local area plans and we will protect approximately 100 acres of high priority, high quality natural resource land: lands with high recreational value, lands that address access gaps, lands that maximize scenic and habitat benefits, and lands that help to protect from high water and flooding.

Thousands of Minnesotans live within mere miles of the state's iconic Mississippi, St. Croix, and Minnesota Rivers, and their major tributaries, and cannot access and enjoy the rivers or the land adjacent to them. In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, our rivers are under-valued and increasingly inaccessible natural assets. Historically, these rivers have been predominately used for industry and commerce, and then dumping and waste. Communities viewed these natural amenities as opportunities for commercial development rather than spaces for the public to enjoy. Reality has thankfully shifted. Communities throughout the state now understand the environmental and recreational benefits their rivers offer as nearby natural assets ripe for protection and public enjoyment. Communities are eager to partner to protect these dynamic riverside assets.

These communities have created plans and identified and prioritized opportunities for the protection of public open space, but they lack funding, capacity, and the real estate know-how to effectively achieve their goals. TPL brings expertise in complex real estate transactions, and we have the proficiencies needed to help communities efficiently solve their specific natural resource needs.

In partnership with local and county government, we will protect approximately 100 acres through fee title acquisition of high priority, high quality natural resource land. These properties have been prioritized in state, regional, and local natural resource and recreation plans, reflecting strong community support. Our efforts will focus on river communities throughout the state by protecting land that they are excited to manage and that will provide multiple outdoor recreational opportunities. These lands are not eligible for other protection funding due in large part to hunting requirements.

By permanently protecting these lands, multiple benefits are achieved:

- Protection of high quality natural resource land for community enjoyment, wildlife habitat, and water quality
- Resilience due to improved ecosystem connectivity of native animal and plant populations (including "Species in Greatest Conservation Need") in the face of climate change and invasive species
- Increased access to various outdoor recreation opportunities along Minnesota's rivers, improving the connection between people and Minnesota's natural resources
- Additional buffers from high water and flooding

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

First Update February 1, 2021

Second Update August 1, 2021

Third Update February 1, 2022

Fourth Update August 1, 2022

Fifth Update February 1, 2023

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2023

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: *Protect Strategic Lands: Fee title acquisition of high priority lands along the Mississippi, St. Croix, and Minnesota Rivers, and their tributaries*

Description: Eligible parcels (see attached acquisition parcel list) have been identified by communities in local plans as priorities for recreational value, high quality natural resources, lands that address access gaps, scenic qualities, and/or water protection. Not all parcels can be protected at the same time. Prioritization factors include adjacency to already protected land; landowner willingness to sell for conservation purposes; final local decision making on protection; and other due diligence. TPL will conduct all due diligence activities including appraisals, environmental reviews, title investigations, and survey work. Acquired land will be conveyed to our public agency partner (local units of government or MN DNR) for long-term stewardship, maintenance, and if called for, park and trail development.

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$1,000,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Approximately 100 acres, and .5 mile of shoreline, protected for public use and enjoyment through fee title acquisition	6/30/23

First Update February 1, 2021

Second Update August 1, 2021

Third Update February 1, 2022

Fourth Update August 1, 2022

Fifth Update February 1, 2023

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2023

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description: The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the [ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).

First Update February 1, 2021

Second Update August 1, 2021

Third Update February 1, 2022

Fourth Update August 1, 2022

Fifth Update February 1, 2023

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2023

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: Acquisition of approximately 100 acres of high priority, high quality natural resource land.

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 1,189	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: .57
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: N/A

VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

- A. Partners outside of project manager's organization receiving ENRTF funding
- B. Partners outside of project manager's organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING: Strengthening the connection between land and people is vital in ensuring the long-term stewardship of Minnesota's natural resources. The protection activities included in this proposal are complementary to TPL's current work in the Mississippi, St. Croix and Minnesota River watersheds to restore, protect, and enhance Minnesota's wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife. The parcels listed in this proposal are generally not a good fit for other protection funding due in large part to hunting requirements. Rather, protecting these parcels for resource based recreational needs, addressing access gaps areas, and inspiring river-oriented communities is a demand that can be uniquely met by ENRTF/LCCMR funding. The Trust for Public Land views this proposal as a long-term strategy, and will continue its work as long as critical habitat and natural resources based recreation opportunities remain unprotected and in danger of degradation and loss. Land protection is not the final step in helping communities turn back to rivers; however, it is a critical early step needed before long-term restoration, stewardship, and programming of these riverfront areas can take place. These activities will be led and funded by the long-term steward of the resource.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Project status update reports will be submitted February 1 and August 1 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2023

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 A: Project Budget Spreadsheet
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2020 Budget Spreadsheet

Legal Citation:

Project Manager: DJ Forbes

Project Title: Turning Back to Rivers: Environmental and Recreational Protection

Organization: The Trust for Public Land

Project Budget: \$1,000,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2023

Today's Date: August 23, 2019



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET		Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)		\$ 95,000	\$ -	\$ 95,000
Land Protection Staff, \$85,500 (68% salary, 32% fringe), .17 FTE each year for 3 years				
Legal Staff, \$9,500 (68% salary, 32% fringe), .02 FTE each year for 3 years				
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment/Tools/Supplies				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fee Title Acquisition				
<i>Acquisition Capital Assumptions: We will close 2 transactions and investigate 1 other</i>		\$ 840,000	\$ -	\$ 840,000
Easement Acquisition				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Services for Acquisition				
<i>Professional Services Assumptions: We will close 2 transactions and investigate 1 other</i>		\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ 45,000
Printing				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Travel expenses in Minnesota				
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other				
<i>Initial Development Costs</i>		\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000
<i>DNR Land Acquisition Costs</i>		\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
COLUMN TOTAL		\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000
SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State: <i>The Trust for Public Land will fundraise private funds to cover the necessary indirect costs and travel costs related to this project.</i>	Secured	\$ 57,376	\$ -	\$ 57,376
State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Local: <i>Includes land acquisition capital, initial development costs, operation and maintenance, and in-kind staff time.</i>	Pending	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 250,000
Other ENTRF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
<i>ENTRF M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09f</i>	\$ -	\$ 750,000	\$ 309,534	\$ 440,466

Attachment C:
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2020 Acquisition/Restoration Parcel List Spreadsheet
Project Title: *Turning Back to Rivers: Environmental and Recreational Protection*
Legal Citation:
Project Manager: *DJ Forbes*
Organization: *The Trust for Public Land*
M.L. 2020 ENRTF Appropriation: *\$1,000,000*
Project Length and Completion Date: *3 years, June 30, 2023*
Today's Date: *8/23/2019*



#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (preferably from the center of the parcel) Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance (please include what ecosystem (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna) is represented as well as the ecological significance, site importance, conservation value, and public benefits)	Activity Description (e.g. fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, restoration)	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner (private individual or trust, non-profit organization, for-profit entity)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status of work (e.g. engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway)
1	Brainerd/Mississippi River	46°21'26"N	94°12'34"W	\$ 254,000	NA	Crow Wing County	Located within the heart of Brainerd, acquisition of these parcels would allow the City to create a park and access the river.	Fee Title Acquisition	3.2	0.1	Private	City of Brainerd	NA
2	Byllesby Park/Cannon River	44°30'25.5"N	92°57'49.7"W	\$ 600,000	NA	Goodhue County	Located between the main park area and the upper park area, acquisition of these parcels would provide additional riverside protection and access, and nearly double the size of this unique recreational area located on the Cannon River at Lake Byllesby. This is a high priority for Goodhue County.	Fee Title Acquisition	117	1	Private	Goodhue County	NA
3	Caron Park/Prairie Creek	44°20'51.9"N	93°10'16.0"W	\$ 400,000	NA	Rice County	Located along Prairie Creek and abutting Caron Park, the acquisition of these parcels will provide additional acreage and access to this important Rice County park.	Fee Title Acquisition	70	0.1	Private	Rice County	NA
4	Chippewa County/Minnesota River	44°54'29.3"N	95°41'57.1"W	\$ 140,000	\$ 1,050	Chippewa County	Increases access to Minnesota River, adjacent to County Property.	Fee Title Acquisition	40	1	Private	Chippewa County or MN DNR	NA
5	Cottage Grove Kiln/Mississippi River	44°47'54.5"N	92°58'38.9"W	\$ 320,000	NA	Washington County	Adjacent to city-owned Settlers Island, Urmann Ries site, and Moores Park, the acquisition of this parcel would add to the river access trail vision planned by the National Park Service and the City of Cottage Grove. This site is proposed to provide community access to the river for educational and recreational opportunities, and includes the historic Grey Cloud Lime Kiln, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. This is a high priority for Cottage Grove.	Fee Title Acquisition	7.4	0.2	Private	City of Cottage Grove	NA
6	Nielson Memorial Preserve/Zumbro River	44°15'43.8"N	93°02'17.0"W	\$ 450,000	NA	Goodhue County	Directly abutting the recently created Nielson Memorial Preserve, the protection of these parcels will provide access and additional acreage for this Big Woods refuge located on the North Fork of the Zumbro River.	Fee Title Acquisition	105	0	Private	Goodhue County	NA

7	Point Douglas/St. Croix River	44°45'23.2" N	92°48'52.4" W	\$ 835,900	NA	Washington County	Located on the St. Croix River between Carpenter Nature Center to the north and Point Douglas County Park to the south, the acquisition of this parcel would provide fee-title to a trail corridor (addition to St. Croix Valley Regional Trail) and would preserve remnants of mesic oak forest and additional riparian and upland habitat for a variety of wildlife and bird species of greatest conservation need.	Fee Title Acquisition	41	0.5	Private	Washington County	NA
8	St. Cloud/Mississippi River	45 30'44N	94 08'41W	\$ 766,000	NA	Stearns County	Directly abutting the Mississippi River and River Bluffs Regional Park within the City of St. Cloud, these four parcels provide an opportunity for residents to directly access the river.	Fee Title Acquisition	133	0.75	Private	City of St. Cloud or Stearns County	NA
9	Timms Creek/Minnesota River	44°38'17.5" N	95°11'40.1" W	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 7,500	Renville County	Identified in the Minnesota River Valley Recreation and Conservation Master Plan, the protection of these parcels will conserve unique and sensitive natural resources while providing increased recreational opportunities.	Fee Title Acquisition	190	0.75	Private	Renville County or MN DNR	NA

NOTES: Our proposal assumes that we will successfully protect 2 of these parcels while investigating 1 others.

Attachment D. Additional Work Plan Information for Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration

Acquisition/Restoration Information:

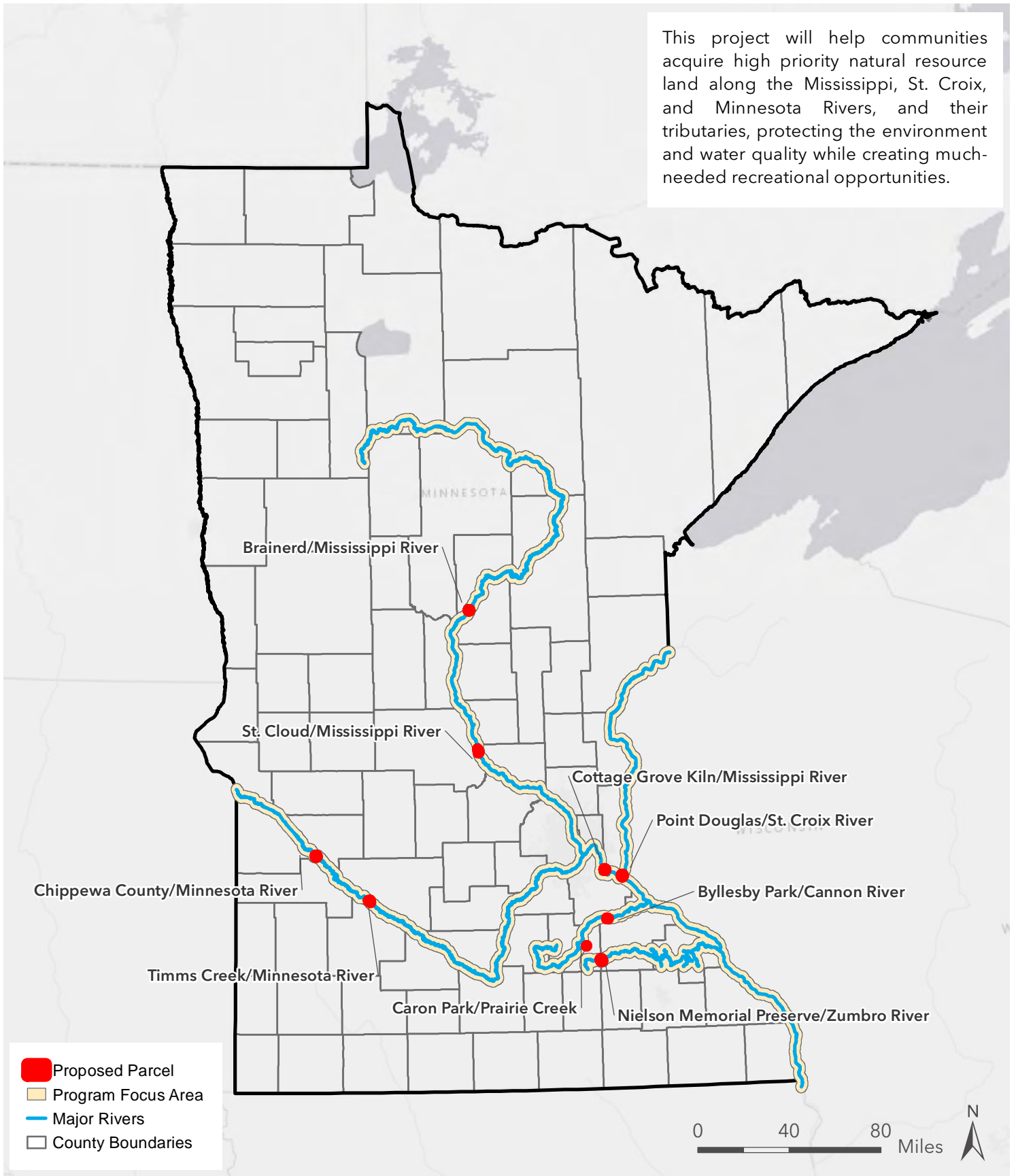
The information to be included in this section is to help fulfill specific requirements pertaining to fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, and restoration efforts completed using Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars. More detailed information explaining these requirements is available in separate documents that are available on the “Project Manager Info” page of the LCCMR website under “Requirements for ENRTF Land Acquisitions and Restorations”: http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/pm_info/manager_info_index.html. Please fill out the relevant portions below. Please delete any sections that do not apply to your project. For example, if your project only involves fee title acquisition, answer all five items under fee title acquisition and then delete all of the text for the portions relating to conservation easement acquisition and restoration.

Fee Title Acquisition

1. *Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.*
 - The proposed parcels have been identified and prioritized in state, regional and local natural resource and recreation plans, as well as through agency and community conversations. These parcels are regarded as priorities for recreational value, high quality natural resources, land that address access gaps, scenic value, and/or water protection. Other prioritization factors are presence of biodiversity significance on site, adjacency to already protected land, level of local support, immediacy of threats, whether we see a pathway to obtain full funding to successfully complete the acquisition, whether the permanent steward will be able to adequately manage the property and fund on-going maintenance, and landowner willingness and timing needs.
2. *List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified. Include a link to the plan if one is available.*
 - The parcels included in our proposal have been identified through state, county, and local plans as being priorities – plans include:
 - [Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas Program Strategic Land Protection Plan](#)
 - [Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda: 2015-2025](#)
 - [MN State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2018](#)
 - [Washington County’s Land and Water Legacy Program](#)
 - [Mississippi River Partnership Plan for the City of Brainerd](#)
 - [Minnesota Great River Road Corridor Management Plan](#)
 - [LCCMR – Six-Year Strategic Plan for MN’s Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund](#)
 - [Goodhue County Bylesby Park Master Plan](#)
 - [Goodhue County Nielsen Memorial Preserve Master Plan](#)
 - [Minnesota River Valley Recreation and Conservation Master Plan](#)
3. *For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.*
 - Once parcels have been acquired and conveyed to the long-term steward, initial site development and restoration of the property will begin. The Trust for Public Land will work with the long-term steward to complete a restoration and management plan (including how these activities will be funded), and implementation of that plan will be completed in the years following acquisition. Estimated costs for initial development costs of parcels are included in this proposal.

4. *For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.*
 - The Trust for Public Land will work with local units of government on the acquisition of these parcels. If required, County Board approval will be obtained.
5. *If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.*
 - Written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

This project will help communities acquire high priority natural resource land along the Mississippi, St. Croix, and Minnesota Rivers, and their tributaries, protecting the environment and water quality while creating much-needed recreational opportunities.



Parcel Overview Map

Turning Back to Rivers: Environmental and Recreational Protection

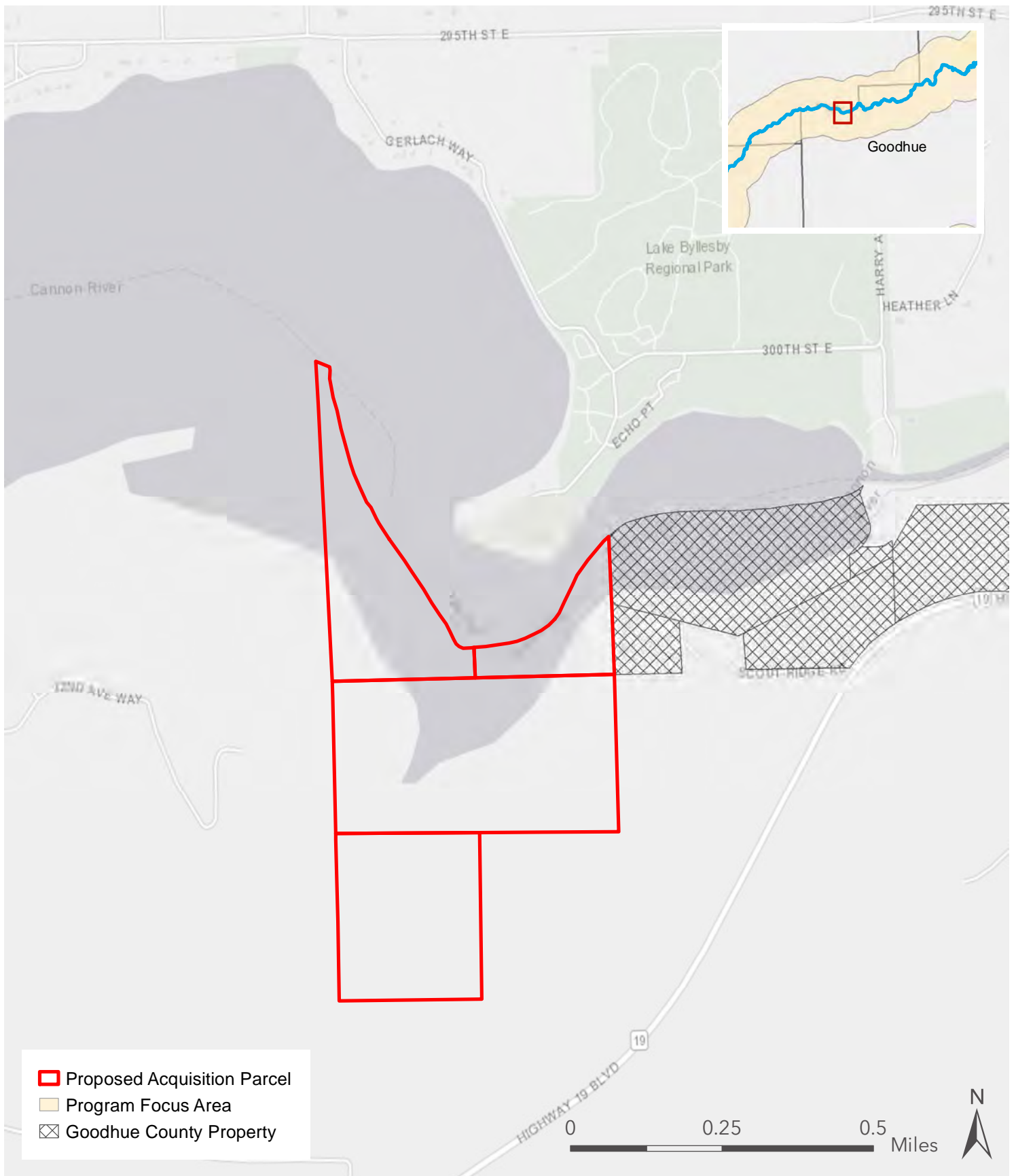




Brainerd/Mississippi River

Crow Wing County, MN

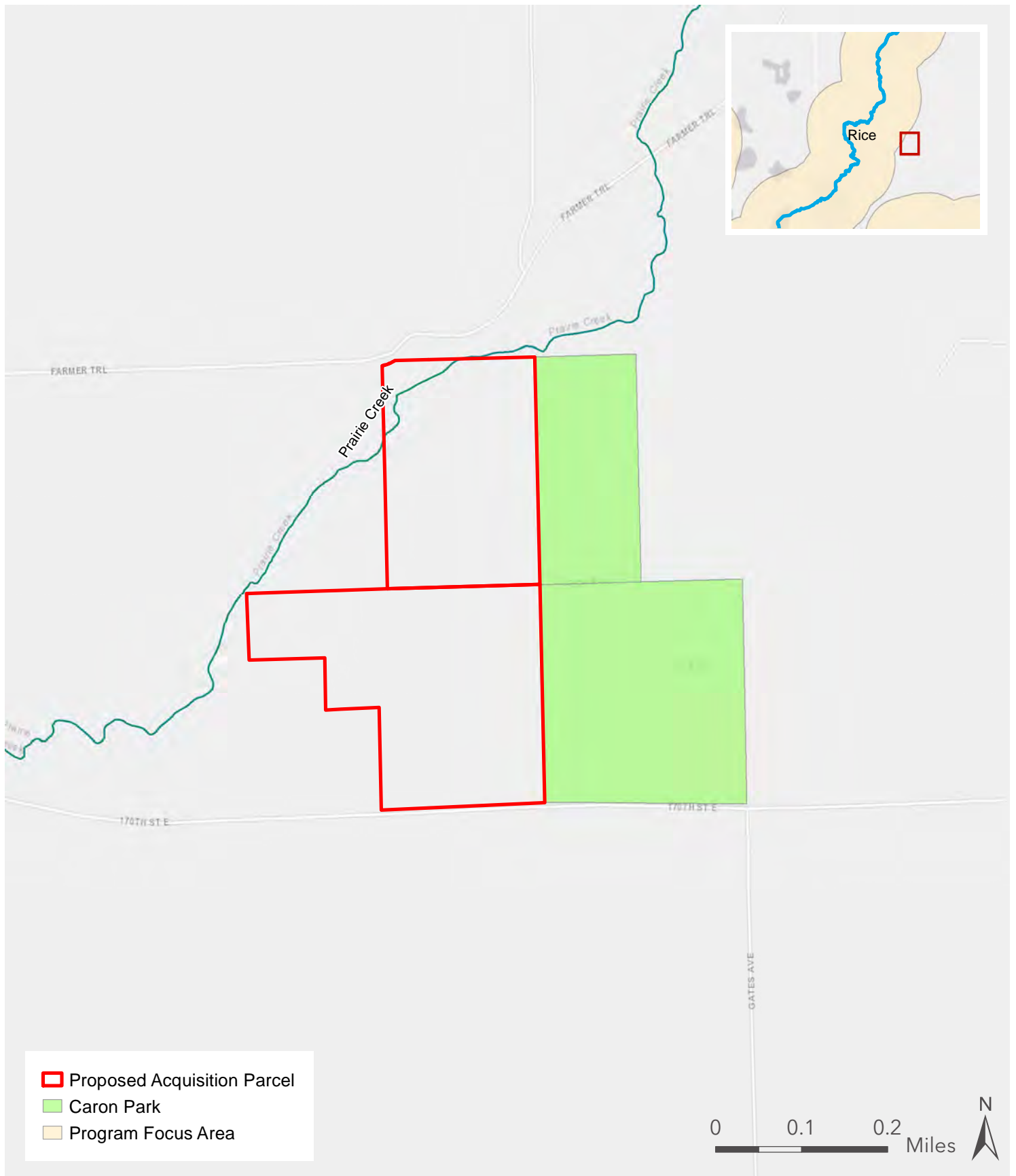




Byllesby Park/Cannon River

Goodhue County, Minnesota

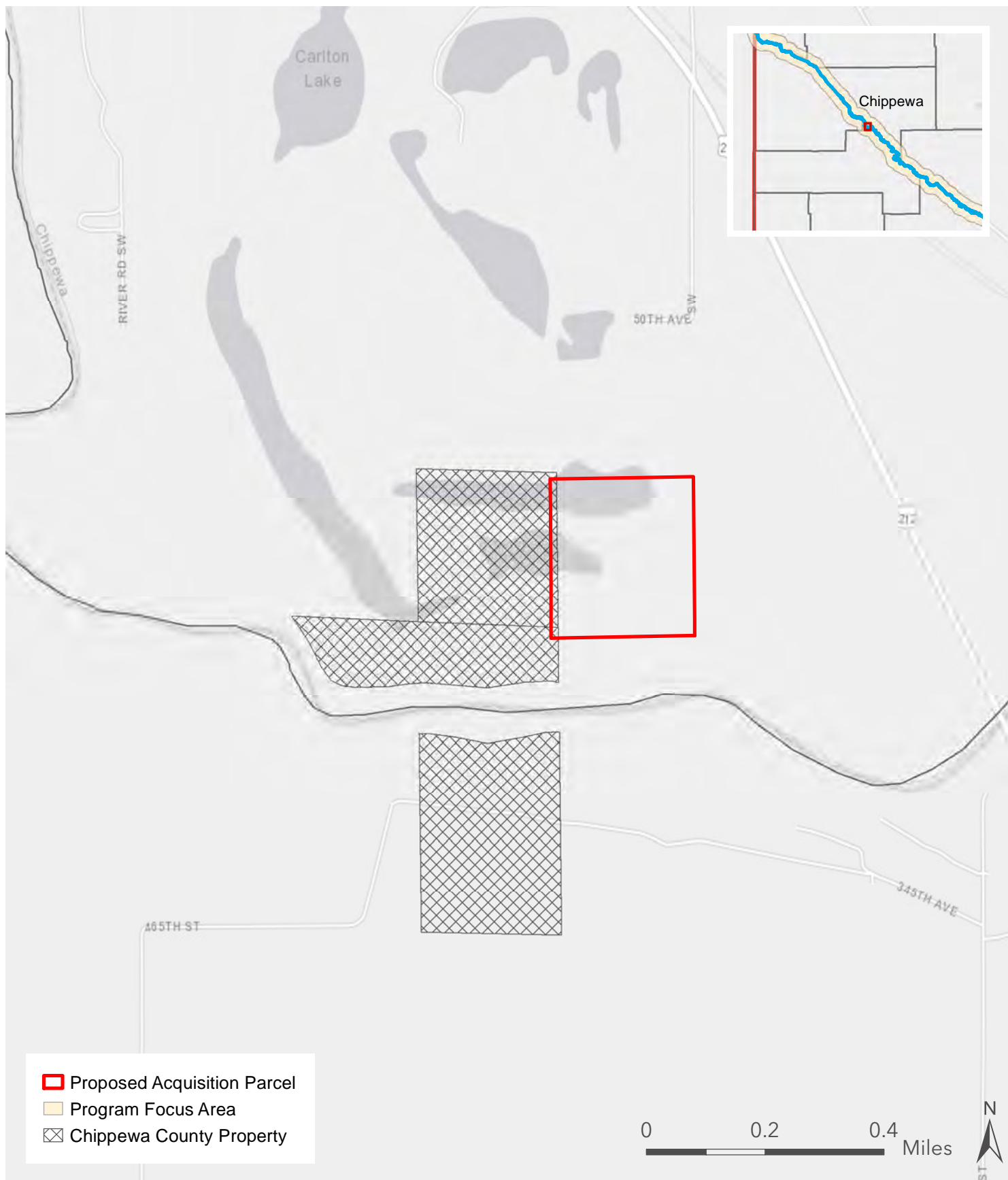




Caron Park/Prairie Creek

Rice County, MN

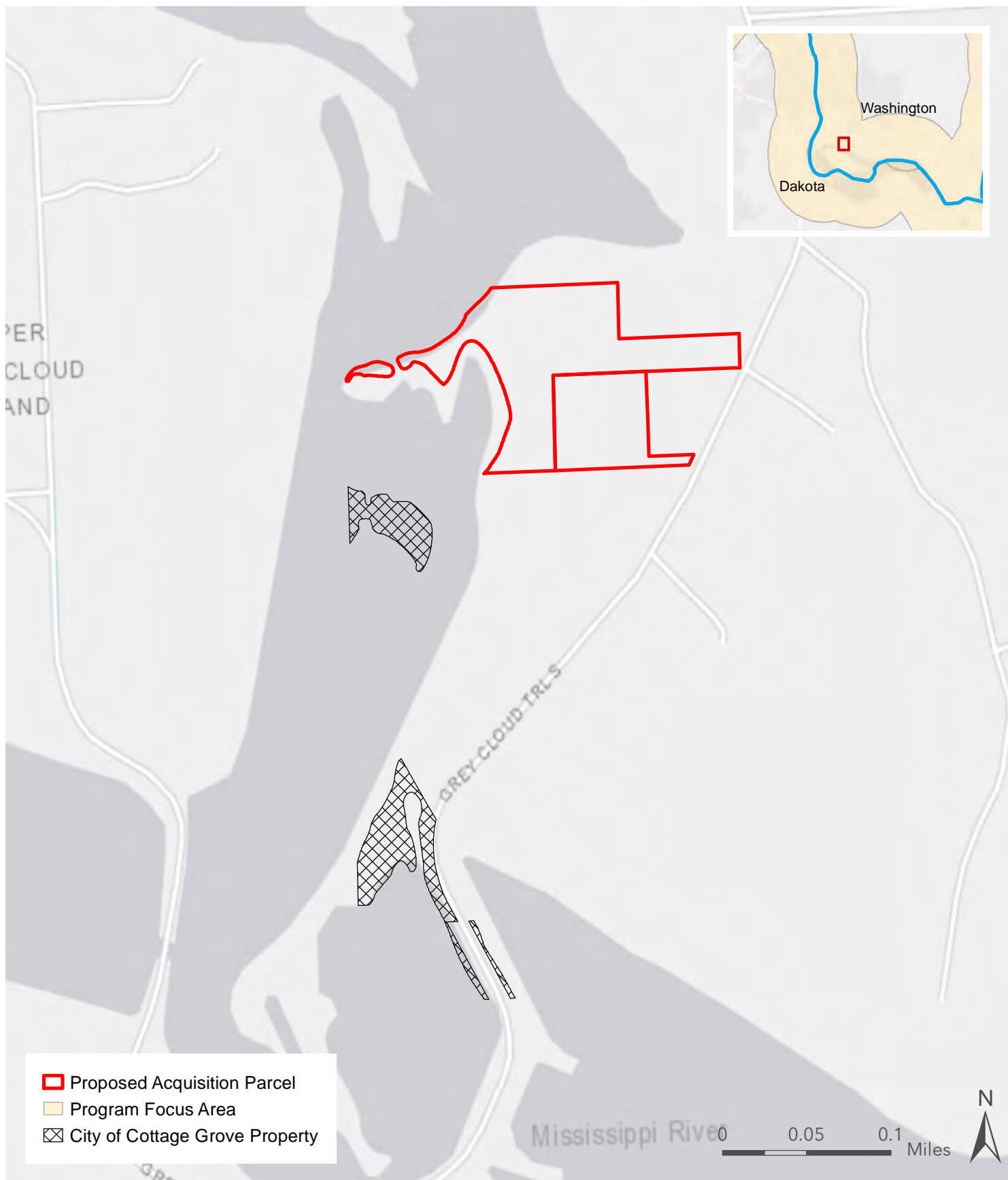




Chippewa County/Minnesota River

Chippewa County, MN

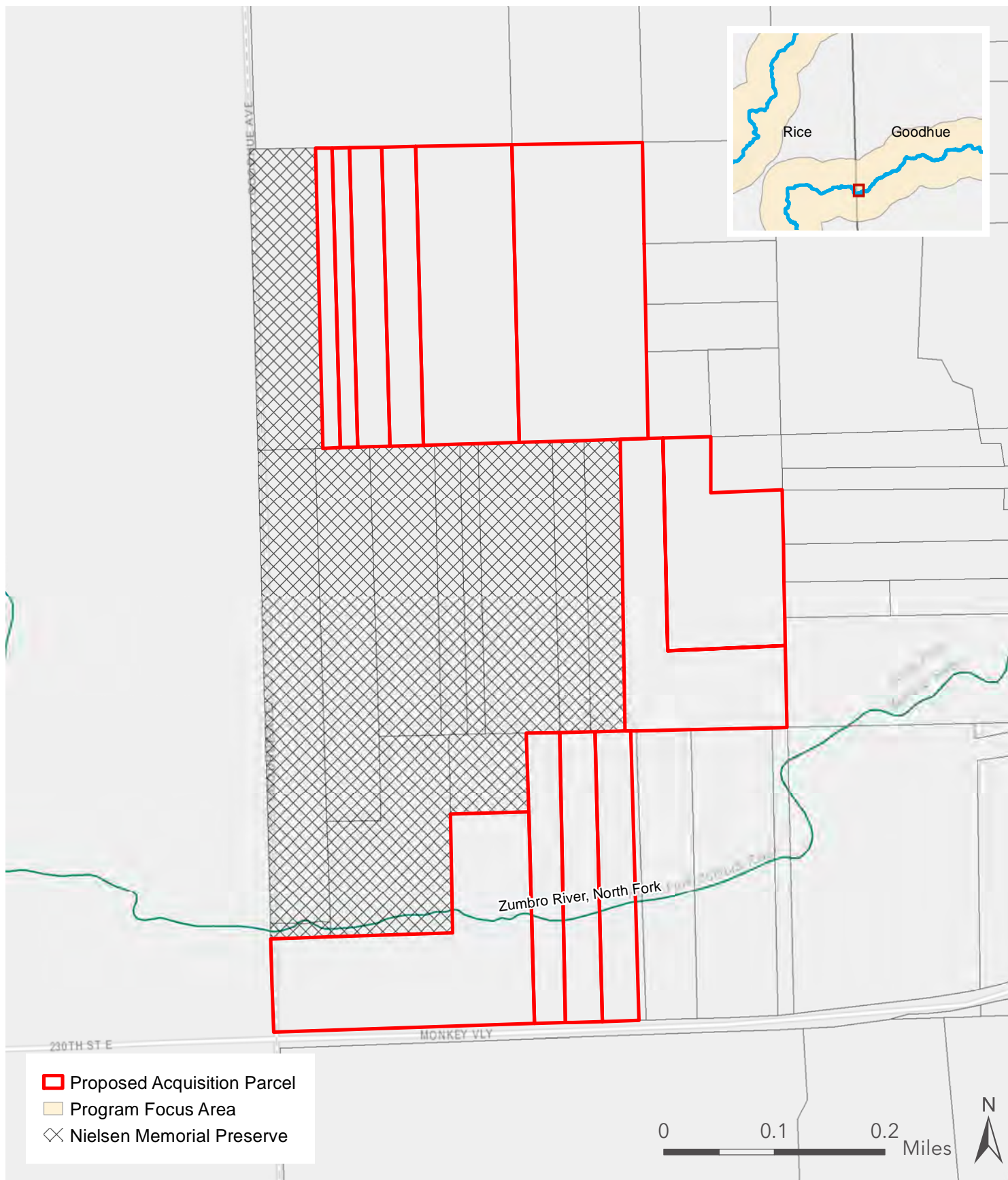




Cottage Grove Kiln/Mississippi River

Washington County, Minnesota

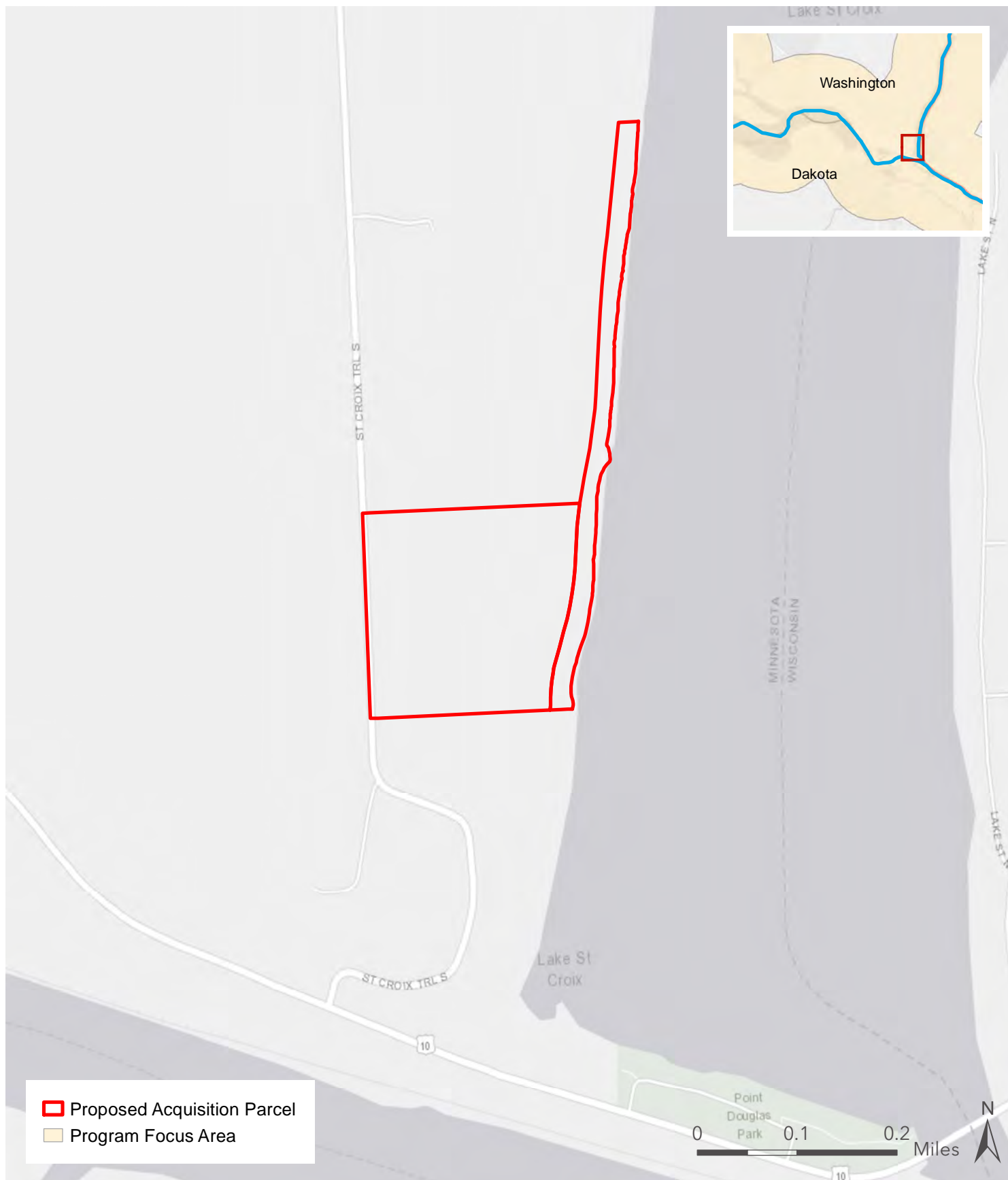




Nielson Memorial Preserve/Zumbro River

Goodhue County, Minnesota

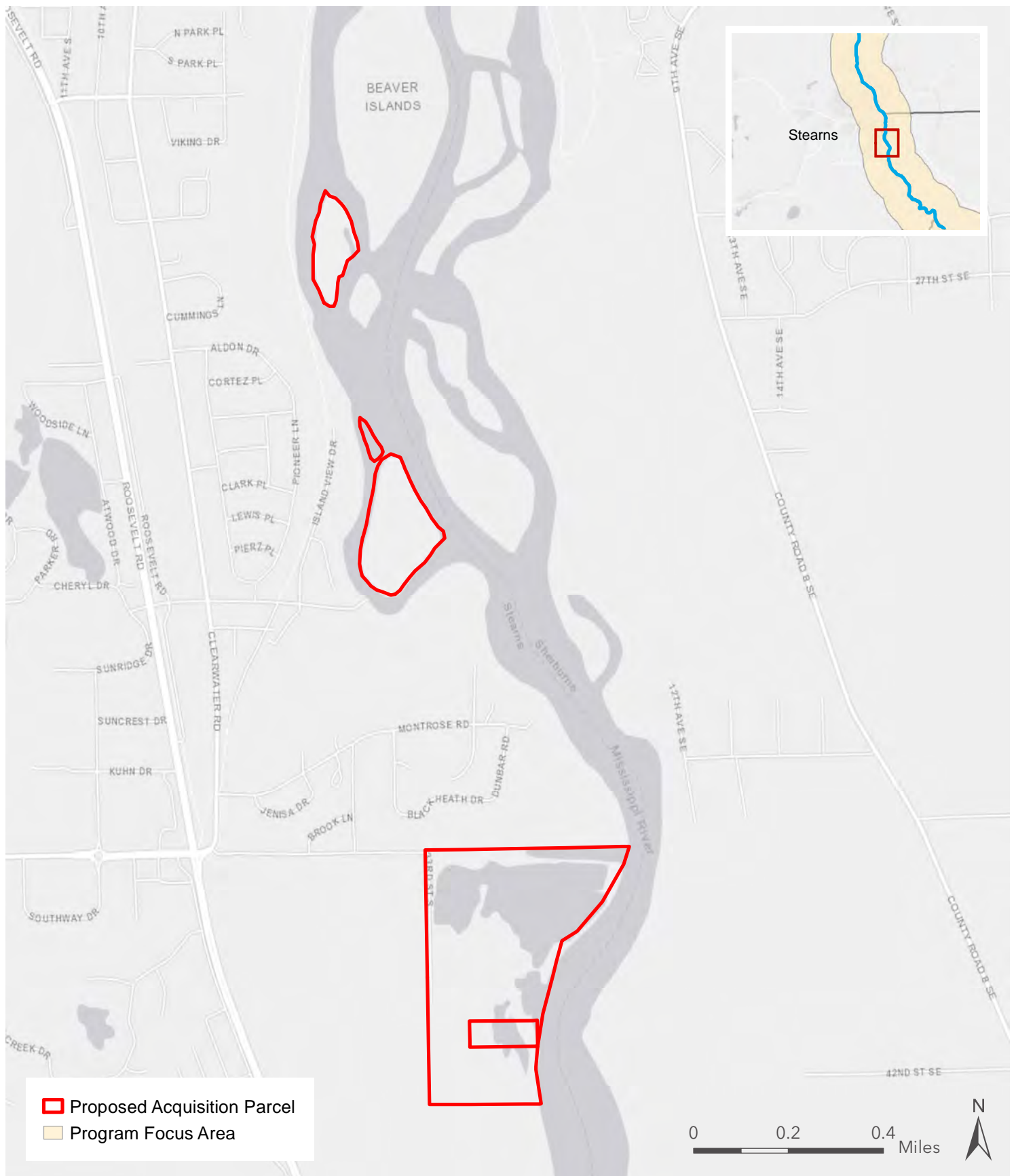




Point Douglas/St. Croix River

Washington County, Minnesota

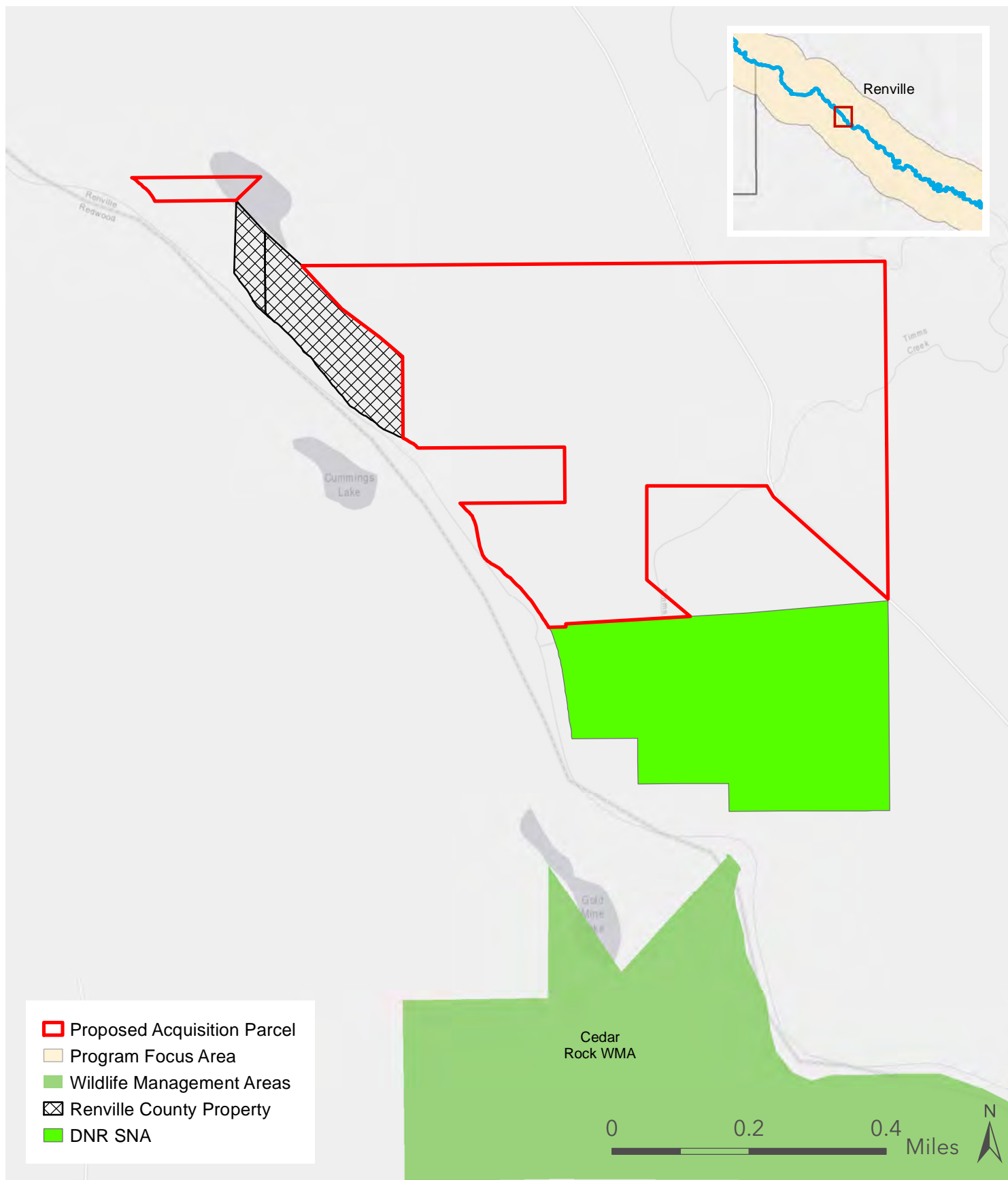




St. Cloud/Mississippi River

Stearns County, MN





Timms Creek/Minnesota River

Renville County, Minnesota



