Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on October 29, 2026

M.L. 2023 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2026

Project Title: Pollinator Central III: Habitat Improvement with Community Monitoring

Project Manager: Rebecca Tucker

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Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08g

Appropriation Amount: $190,000

Amount Spent: $189,949

Amount Remaining: $51

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Pollinator Central III: Habitat Improvement with Community Monitoring established native habitat on 27 acres at 4 project sites and directly engaged 161 restoration volunteers and 259 community scientists, enhancing the natural environment of both urban and rural areas as well as connecting people with plants, pollinators, and their local communities.

Summary of Project and Outcomes

Urban as well as rural areas in the Twin Cities Metro and Central portions of Minnesota have many public spaces that could support native plant habitat given the initial funding and support to design and coordinate these types of low-maintenance, high reward spaces. Great River Greening staff worked in the Cities of Little Canada, Saint Paul, West St. Paul, and Carver to create native plant habitats supporting native wildlife, specifically pollinators, and providing free and available outdoor areas for education, engagement, and enjoyment for the local community. We also supported conservation stewardship and community science in the form of observational monitoring to record how the habitat restoration projects impacted pollinator communities over time.

The four projects met goals given project constraints, with a total of 27 acres restored or enhanced, engaging a total of 161 habitat volunteers in active restoration activities such as native planting, seeding, or invasive shrub removal and 259 community scientists in pollinator monitoring and related educational events. Community involvement in the habitat work drove this effort and strengthened the long-term ability for sustaining the efforts as evidenced by large volunteer events and engaged pollinator monitors. One project converted turf to pollinator habitat at the West St. Paul municipal campus, adding acreage and visibility to the larger corridor created in Pollinator Central II. The pollinator education and monitoring efforts facilitated dozens of multi-site and virtual pollinator identification trainings directly leading to 511, 3-Category independent monitoring contributions and over 2,000 iNaturalist observations on 11 sites to date. This supported continued monitoring on multiple sites where habitat work was completed through Pollinator Central I & II.

These projects combined habitat restoration with hands-on engagement and education to create spaces of plant and pollinator insect diversity while expanding the public understanding and connection with these important ecological concepts and sites.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Communications to the public, contractors, media, and volunteers included the language or ENRTF logo as required; temporary and permanent signs were used to describe habitat work and ENRTF backing. The pollinator monitoring work is described in the attached “GRG Pollinator Monitoring Summary 2026”. Greening staff also continues this dissemination of monitoring results to event participants and landowning partners into fall 2026.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2023 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: November 2, 2026

ID Number: 2023-105

Staff Lead: Tom Dietrich

Project Title: Pollinator Central III: Habitat Improvement with Community Monitoring

Project Budget: $190,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Rebecca Tucker

Organization: Great River Greening

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Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: October 29, 2026

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: October 29, 2026

Project Completion: June 30, 2026

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08g

Appropriation Language: $190,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Great River Greening to restore and enhance pollinator habitat in parks, schools, and other public spaces to benefit pollinators and people and to build knowledge about impacts of the pollinator plantings through community-based monitoring.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2026

Narrative

Project Summary: Small phase promoting the restoration and enhancement of 29 acres of pollinator habitat on 4 new sites, with community engagement and education through public planting and pollinator monitoring events.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Current urban corridors are largely undeveloped habitat for pollinators, often with mowed turf serving as boundaries between pavement and other impermeable surfaces, or with degraded spaces serving no ecological benefit. These patches of vegetation can be opportunities for municipalities, cities, and utilities to develop low-maintenance, high reward ecological areas that benefit both the pollinator community as well as the neighborhoods that these parks, schools, and public spaces serve. In addition to the restoration and establishment of pollinator habitat for imperiled species, there is an opportunity for stewardship, community education, and hands on monitoring to understand how pollinators interact with these spaces.

This is the third phase of the Pollinator Central grant presented to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriations, the first two of which were initiated in fall 2021 and are progressing well as of spring 2022. Phase III proposes to continue addressing the still present opportunities regarding pollinator habitat establishment, public education and engagement, and pollinator insect population monitoring on four new sites throughout the Twin Cities Metro and adjacent spaces. A larger set of projects is anticipated for the subsequent Phase IV, with these four proposed projects ready to start within this round of funding.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

Following recommendations from the Governor's Committee on Pollinator Protection and other habitat assessment guides, we will restore habitats in urban, suburban, and rural landscapes to support a 'hopscotch' corridor for pollinators, as well as improve core habitat areas. Turf conversion of small, high quality patches will join grassland, edge, wetland, shoreline, and limited amounts of forest and woodland all within flight distance of year-round habitat.

Proposed implementation will follow recommendations provided by the Habitat Assessment Guide for Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (Xerces), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Monarch Conservation Database and other guides, field surveys and expert review. Emphasis will be placed on adjacency within a landscape mosaic to provide forage habitat throughout the year, as determined by using state-of-the-art pollinator habitat ‘core and - patches’ adjacency mapping analysis. Restoration and enhancement activities will be guided by ecological plans, and implemented by a variety of labor forces including subcontractors, field crews, landowner in-kind, and volunteers.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state’s natural resources?

These improvements will increase floral resources and improve nesting and over-wintering habitat for pollinators, while engaging a total of 100 habitat volunteers in field activities. In addition, we will monitor every site through several direct pollinator monitoring techniques, guided by both Greening staff and pollinator monitoring experts, to collect useful data on pollinator response to habitat improvements, effectively engaging 50 community scientists in monitoring efforts that require reasonable time, skill, and expense, making the approach scalable. A final report will be generated and disseminated that will help guide the implementation in future phases of this program.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): Metro

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): Metro

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Pollinator Habitat Restoration and Enhancement

Activity Budget: $172,700

Activity Description:
Habitat restoration and enhancement steps will typically follow: Site selection and ranking; habitat improvement plan including goals, timelines, plans for labor forces such as volunteers, landowners, Greening crew, subcontractors and partners, and long-term management; site preparation, installation, establishment; and monitoring throughout. We will restore pollinator habitat with a focus on Species of Greatest Conservation Need bumble bee species and monarch butterflies on public locations through a pollinator corridor following the Mississippi River throughout the Twin Cities metro area, contributing to the continuing and popular multi-phase "Pollinator Central" effort extending from Hastings to St. Cloud.

Following recommendations from the Governor's Committee and others, we will include non-traditional habitat areas, with this phase focusing on turf conversions of areas adjacent to traditional habitat cores. Typical restoration activities will include turf conversion and prairie establishment; wetland and shoreline restoration and enhancement; judicious use of invasive removal and woodland restoration, restricted in size and to locations that are adjacent to season-long habitat emphasizing forbs, select flowering shrubs and trees, and habitat needs for overwintering and nesting. Restoration and enhancement activities will be implemented guided by ecological plans and implemented by a variety of labor forces including subcontractors, field crews, landowner in-kind, and volunteers.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Site selection and management plan completion for 4 new sites.	June 30, 2024
Completion of restoration and enhancement on all sites.	June 30, 2026

Activity 2: Community Science Pollinator Monitoring

Activity Budget: $17,300

Activity Description:
Monitoring will occur pre and post restoration/enhancement to determine the pollinator habitat value of the site and the response to the improvements. This monitoring will potentially take several forms and at escalating levels of rigor, depending on what has been shown to be accomplishable as well as informative during Phase I and II. These two initial phases are only in their first year of monitoring as this grant is being written, and future phases (including Phase III) will take guidance from what is learned in 2022 and 2023, prior to application in 2024 and beyond.

Direct pollinator monitoring will encompass this suite of approaches including citizen science techniques of timed meander counts on multiple sites, with training, and non-lethal photography with identification on multiple sites. The simplest monitoring will include a timed count of 3 categories of pollinators (honeybees vs. native bees vs. other floral visitors) and camera 'trapping' using skilled photographers and expert identification.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Pre-restoration baseline surveys for each of the chosen sites.	June 30, 2024
Site specific monitoring plans - community count surveys and photographic surveys.	June 30, 2024

Data collection for all surveys complete, final report on initial findings on all sites.	June 30, 2026

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.
Great River Greening will coordinate multiple volunteer events and widely distribute digital media to showcase individual projects and educate the community on the specific restoration and enhancement work being done. This will include e-news letters, social media, and online articles written with partners on their websites, describing the activities as well as the benefits these activities have to the natural environment and the surrounding communities.

We will also document the method and results of the pollinator insect monitoring on these restoration sites. The collected data will be given to the site partners individually and collectively, as well as disseminated in the form of written summaries and presentations and talks to the site owners and general conservation community. This will allow other restoration practitioners as well as the general public to use the knowledge gained on successful pollinator habitat improvement techniques on projects of their own in the future.

The Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund will be acknowledged in all dissemination, as well as with on site signage as required by the associated guidelines.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?
This is the third phase of the Pollinator Central grants presented to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriations and owing to the volume of interest we have received each time we have released RFPs to land-owning partners, we anticipate that there will be critical need and opportunity for future multiple phases in this Pollinator Central corridor. These projects are well matched by cash and in-kind funding from landowners and other sources, and the landowners will commit to long term maintenance of the restoration sites. The restoration monitoring information will be disseminated with grant assistance.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Upland, Wetland, and Shoreline Restoration in Greater Metropolitan Area	M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 08g	$509,000
Community Stewardship to Restore Urban Natural Resources - Phase Ten	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 08i	$524,000
Pollinator Central: Habitat Improvement with Citizen Monitoring	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 08a	$750,000
Pollinator Central II: Habitat Improvement With Community Monitoring	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08c	$631,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	$ Amount	$ Amount Spent	$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
Grant Manager		Oversees Project Managers, Ecologists and Field Coordinator. Approves contracts, invoices and budgets.			21%	0.03		$2,300	-	-
Project Manager Ecologist		Manages day to day project execution, crew, contractors, project budget and timeline.			21%	0.33		$25,843	-	-
Events & Outreach		Manages all tasks related to volunteer acquisition, event development and event execution.			21%	0.24		$15,900	-	-
Field Crew		Conducts on-site work to support project deliverables.			19%	0.15		$8,400	-	-
Grant Administration		Tracks grant budget, project budgets, develops status reports and amendments.			24%	0.03		$1,700	-	-
							Sub Total	**$54,143**	**$54,143**	**-**
Contracts and Services										
Restoration and Enhancement sub-contracts following state competitive RFP requirements.	Service Contract	We expect that multiple contracts will be engaged to provide the following types of services: site preparation, turf removal, invasive species control, native species planting, woody harvest / thinning, forestry mowing, herbicide treatment, prescribed fire, haying, and other activities. These contracts will be executed as part of Activity 1.				0.4		$81,636	$81,636	-
							Sub Total	**$81,636**	**$81,636**	**-**
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
	Tools and Supplies	Activity 1 Tools & Supplies	Seeds, plugs, herbicide, tools for R/E activities conducted by Greening crew, volunteers, and landowners					$49,908	$49,908	-

			as needed to satisfy project deliverables.							
	Tools and Supplies	Activity 2 Tools & Supplies	Sampling supplies and other required equipment to support project deliverables.					$539	$539	-
							Sub Total	**$50,447**	**$50,447**	**-**
Capital Equipment										
							Sub Total	**-**	**-**	**-**
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
							Sub Total	**-**	**-**	**-**
Travel In Minnesota										
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Activity 1 Related Travel	Support site visits to accomplish deliverables.					$1,203	$1,203	-
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Activity 2 Related Travel	Support site visits to accomplish deliverables.					$526	$526	-
							Sub Total	**$1,729**	**$1,729**	**-**
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	**-**	**-**	**-**
Printing and Publication										
	Printing	Activity 1 Related Printing	Promotional material for volunteer coordination, signage for event site instructions and logistics.					$150	$150	-
	Printing	Activity 2 Related Printing	Promotional material for volunteer coordination, signage for event site instructions and logistics.					$500	$500	-
							Sub Total	**$650**	**$650**	**-**

Other Expenses										
		Activity 1 Volunteer event related expenses	Tent, table, chairs, food, latrine, etc., as required to support project volunteer event deliverables and the promotion of LCCMR strategy and objectives to citizen volunteers.	X				$395	$344	$51
		Activity 2 Volunteer event related expenses	Tent, table, chairs, food, latrine, etc., as required to support project volunteer event deliverables and the promotion of LCCMR strategy and objectives to citizen volunteers.	X				$1,000	$1,000	-
							Sub Total	**$1,395**	**$1,344**	**$51**
							Grand Total	**$190,000**	**$189,949**	**$51**

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Other Expenses		Activity 1 Volunteer event related expenses	Volunteer Event Related expenses will support volunteer hours needed to accomplish project deliverables and to provide education to volunteers on the ecological benefits of the project and awareness of LCCMR's commitment and funding to these projects.
Other Expenses		Activity 2 Volunteer event related expenses	Volunteer Event Related expenses will support volunteer hours needed to accomplish project deliverables and to provide education to volunteers on the ecological benefits of the project and awareness of LCCMR's commitment and funding to these projects.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	$ Amount	$ Amount Spent	$ Amount Remaining
State						
In-Kind	Outdoor Heritage Fund	Funding from the OHF to be used on the same project sites for restoration and enhancement activities that cannot be funded by this LCCMR grant.	Secured	$24,000	$24,000	-
			State Sub Total	**$24,000**	**$24,000**	**-**
Non-State						
Cash	City of West St. Paul	A variety of expenses directly related to the individual landowner or partners sites such as contracting, material purchase, or indirect expenses related to management of the projects.	Secured	$4,000	$4,000	-
Cash	Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District	A variety of expenses directly related to the individual landowner or partners sites such as contracting, material purchase, or indirect expenses related to management of the projects.	Secured	$10,000	$10,000	-
In-Kind	Total of 161 Activity 1 volunteers at $35.80/hr (average rate over project period) averaging 3 hours of service per volunteer.	Restoration and enhancement volunteer hours for planting and seeding native species as well as monitoring the pollinator species on the projects.	Secured	$17,300	$17,300	-
In-Kind	GRG administrative match	GRG staff indirect administrative expense to do the work for this grant.	Secured	$10,000	$10,000	-
Cash	GRG cash match	GRG direct expenses to do the work for this grant.	Secured	$8,000	$8,000	-
In-Kind	Partner In-Kind	Landowner labor contributing to the direct execution of the projects, as well as the administrative labor going in to the project management.	Secured	$7,800	$7,800	-
Cash	City of Little Canada	A variety of expenses directly related to the individual landowner or partners sites such as contracting, material purchase, or indirect expenses related to management of the projects.	Secured	$15,000	$15,000	-
In-Kind	Total of 259 Activity 2 volunteers at $35.80/hr (average rate over project period) averaging 1 hours of service per volunteer.	Independent pollinator monitoring at Pollinator Central sites with reporting to Great River Greening	Secured	$18,500	$18,500	-
			Non State Sub Total	**$90,600**	**$90,600**	**-**

			Funds Total	**$114,600**	**$114,600**	**-**

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Cranberry Lake	Washington	Wetland edge buckthorn and hazard ash tree removal, with native tree and pollinator plantings.	Restoration	20	-	$77,000	Public	Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District	Completed
Loeb Lake, Marydale Park	Ramsey	Lakeside turf conversion to prairie and native plantings in a popular city park.	Restoration	3	0.5	$34,200	Public	City of St. Paul	Completed
Riverside Park	Carver	Turf conversion to prairie and native plantings at a city park.	Restoration	0	-	$1,000	Public	City of Carver	No Longer Being Considered
Thunder Bay Park	Ramsey	Continued trailside turf conversion to prairie and native planting enhancement in a city park.	Restoration	3	-	$37,500	Public	City of Little Canada	Completed
West St. Paul Municipal Campus	Dakota	Turf conversion to prairie and native plantings at the City municipal complex.	Restoration	1	-	$23,000	Public	City of West St. Paul	Completed
Totals				**27**	**0.5**	**$172,700**			

Restoration

1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.
All restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.
Restoration plans include target community, timelines, methods, budgets and long term maintenance. These plans are filed electronically by unique project numbers and can be referenced by staff or landowner as required by the needs of the site.

3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.
All plans will follow the most recent version Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.
Long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds become the responsibility of the landowner. Greening seeks to assist when possible.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.
Great River Greening contacts the Conservation Corps of Minnesota once the grant is secured to seek their interest for any restoration activities.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.
Evaluations will be completed during the process including initially after activity completion and three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations will analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: 1cfafd4b-f9b.pdf

Alternate Text for Map

M.L. 2023 Pollinator Central III - Great River Greening map of PCIII completed project sites labeled with Pollinator Central I - V sites marked (updated August 2026)....

Financial Capacity

File: 7d3591e4-401.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
GRG Board Resolution LCCMR ML2023FY2024 Pollinator Central 3	f14e7510-338.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Letter of Support - City of West St. Paul	a6f3cd09-c8b.pdf
Letter of Support - Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District	af7896be-e5a.pdf
LCCMR PC3 ML2023 Flier	33eea46c-421.pdf
GRG Background Check Certification Form 2022	d991f6ee-6c6.pdf
Pollinator Central Monitoring Summary 2026	a1921f4d-559.pdf
Example Report of Continued Monitoring on PC Project Inspiration	6d3715c5-848.pdf
Pollinator Monitoring Protocol - 4-Category	ee712cc9-c5f.pdf
Thunder Bay ENRTF Sign	5ef0f5c3-9a2.jpe
Pollinator post, Instagram	130d588f-2e0.pdf
Volunteer Event Flyer 2025	80a1ccbe-fe9.png
Loeb Lake ENRTF Sign	a5765b27-0a1.jpe
West St. Paul ENRTF Sign	bd7a26ff-ed3.jpe
Comfort Lake Forest Lake ENRTF Sign	6c39f92d-12b.jpe
North Shore Sign	71559b5e-2a5.jpe
West St. Paul before.after	6dfd0102-737.png
Loeb Lake Restoration	89743661-ea1.jpe
Comfort Lake Forest Lake Restoration volunteer planting	20c4ccd9-a75.jpe

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

1. Added (2022) Engaging a Diverse Public in Environmental Stewardship (Amy Kilgore) as an "Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years". 2. Confirmed Project Location. 3. Requested new reporting schedule. 4. Updated the Dissemination language.

November 8, 2022 (RCT) - Updated "Other" expenses to generally ineligible and added a brief reasoning for their need.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Justification For Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	• Other • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	GRG requests to add a parcel to the list: Thunder Bay Park phase 2 within the City of Little Canada for 3 acres of prairie establishment in a public park. The funds for this parcel will be transfered from The City of Carver (Riverside Park) which is no longer moving forward due to a county bridge construction that is impacting the park.	September 17, 2024	Yes	September 25, 2024
2	Amendment Request	• Budget • Other • Attachments • Budget - Personnel • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Capital, Equipment, Tools, and Supplies • Budget - Travel and Conferences • Budget - Printing and Publication • Budget - Other • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed • Acquisition and Restoration - Parcel List	Small final budget shifts to get the final spend in line with actual spending. The primary shift was from contracting to supplies because less contracting funds were needed and used for supplies instead to meet project goals. Updated secured Non-ENRTF Contributions to reflect actuals. Updated parcel list and uploaded final attachments.	August 14, 2026	Yes	October 8, 2026

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2026

Date Submitted: September 14, 2026

Date Approved: October 8, 2026

Overall Update
Great River Greening completed work on all active projects with documentation and future maintenance recommendations prepared for the landowners' continued stewardship of the sites. All milestones for both the restoration Activity 1 as well as the monitoring Activity 2 were met with only partial acreage reduction for turf conversion projects at the City of West St. Paul campus (proposed 2 acres, completed 1.1 acres). A total of 27 of the proposed 28 acres of pollinator habitat and 0.5 miles of shoreline restored and enhanced on 4 sites and 161 volunteers were engaged in hands-on planting, seeding, and educational events supporting the project work.

For Activity 2, we greatly exceeded the anticipated number of public volunteers interested in participating in independent pollinator monitoring efforts as well as in training and educational events. In total, 259 community members engaged in pollinator monitoring training for a total of 511 submitted independent pollinator monitoring records to date over the course of this grant. The results of this monitoring are being disseminated to volunteers through yearly in-person summary meetings and to landowners through project close documentation.

Activity 1
All projects have met the proposed milestones with minor loss in total impacted acreage on the turf conversion project in West St. Paul (1 compared to the proposed full 2) due to logistics and capacity for maintenance of the turf to prairie (27 completed total).

A prescribed burn was contracted on the upland 1.6 acres at the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District project, followed by contracted plug planting (500 plugs) and seeding (3 acres) conducted by CLFLWD. Two spot treatments were conducted to improve establishment of native species. In January, 33 volunteers seeded 3 acres of upland habitat surrounding Loeb Lake. A contracted herbaceous spot treatment was conducted to improve native establishment. Two contracted establishment maintenance visits took place at the West. St Paul city campus involving spot mowing and treating herbaceous invasives to improve native seed establishment. In Spring, contractor conducted establishment maintenance activities in the turf-to-prairie unit at Thunder Bay. GRG and contractor both also conducted invasive species control and planted 95 native shrubs and 154 plants. A contracted establishment-mowing occurred in June.

Additional native seeds were purchased for all sites to be installed by the landowner when it is more conducive to effective establishment.
(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2
The proposed milestones for this activity have been fully met. This phase of the Pollinator Central grant series has allowed us to further monitor completed projects with work funded through PCI and PCII as well as PCIII with over 500, 4-Category reports (counts of honeybees, native bees, monarch butterflies, and other pollinators) submitted on more than 11 sites throughout the metro. Public iNaturalist reports have also added information on not only the health of the restorations but also to the understanding of what types of flowering plants have established and are attracting pollinators. See attached report.

Since the last reporting period, outreach for 2026 volunteer recruitment took place and 5 trainings were conducted

throughout the metro with 96 attendees. Pollinator and engagement data were summarized, and reports were written site by site for partner review prior to dissemination. Pollinator monitoring started on two new Pollinator Central 3 sites, including West. St. Paul and North Shore Trail in Forest Lake. Coordination with the University of Minnesota Bee Lab and the City of Lakeville continues for the summer bumble bee capture / ID / release events for the year which will start in July at Ritter Farm Park through the Pollinator Central 4 funding.
(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination
All communication with landowning partners, including the developing contracting agreements written in this period, included proper ENRTF funding acknowledgements. Social media posts broadly described pollinator monitoring opportunities on multiple occasions. Site signs posted as work continued stating “restoration work in progress” etc included the ENRTF logo and funding language.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update February 1, 2026

Date Submitted: January 30, 2026

Date Approved: February 16, 2026

Overall Update
All projects are nearing completion with plans being made for the final six months of work both internally and with partners to ensure proper handoff of the continued maintenance of the projects back to the landowners. This included final fall appliable contracted invasive / weedy vegetation control unwanted vegetation as multiple sites had native species planting activities through plug and shrub planting or native seed sowing. Public education and engagement continued with pollinator monitoring year summaries as well as volunteer planting activities, collectively engaging more than 60 members of the public via in-person volunteer events during this reporting period and 50 independent monitors contributing pollinator observations to the continuing information and engagement efforts.

Activity 1
During this period, contracted herbaceous and woody treatments continued in late October by at the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District project, however the prescribed burn was postponed to Spring 2026 due to unsuitable moisture conditions. Contracted herbaceous treatment took place in September at Loeb Lake in Saint Paul, with a winter snow seeding public volunteer event being planned to take place in January 2026. A successful public volunteer event took place on September 13, 2025 with 47 volunteers in attendance at the West St. Paul municipal campus project, where volunteers planted 1320 herbaceous plugs and seeded hand seeded 80 lbs of native seed throughout project acres. Contracted spot mow and herbaceous weed treatment was conducted at this site to continue native species establishment. Contracted native establishment work continued at Thunder Bay in Little Canada with turf removal/site preparation activities, native seed mix installation, and establishment maintenance.

Activity 2
Independent pollinator monitoring continued and plans developed for further years of community engagement and information dissemination. Independent pollinator monitoring data was collected on google forms and iNaturalist throughout all monitored sites (11 across all grants) and data were summarized by site. 50 volunteers participated contributed independent 4-category pollinator monitoring meanders across PC3 sites. The annual ‘thank you party’ was hosted by the UMN Bee Lab on 10/15/25 with 13 volunteers in attendance. GRG and UMN presented high-level data summaries to volunteers, followed by on-campus seed collection activity.

Dissemination
All communication with landowning partners, including the developing contracting agreements written in this period, included proper ENRTF funding acknowledgements. Social media posts broadly described pollinator monitoring opportunities and volunteer planting events including the West St. Paul campus planting were distributed on multiple occasions. Site signs posted as work continued stating “restoration work in progress” etc included the ENRTF logo and funding language.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update August 1, 2025

Date Submitted: July 25, 2025

Date Approved: July 29, 2025

Overall Update
Projects continued both with continued winter contracted work, as well as contracted and volunteer work in the spring. All sites are now in phases which involve allowing establishment growth of planted native species and monitoring of work progress. Summaries of pollinator monitoring data were written internally and passed to partners for review prior to dissemination and will continue to be updated with the current year's monitoring efforts.

Activity 1
During this period, contracted chip walking trail construction and establishment maintenance was conducted by the vendor at the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District project, and 20 volunteers planted 120 trees and seeded 2.8 acres of native seed mixes on June 5, 2025. Contractors overseeded and conducted establishment maintenance on 2.8 acres at the Loeb Lake site in St. Paul. At the West St. Paul campus, plans for continued turf preparation and reseeding were coordinated fall of 2025 and continued establishment maintenance took place in June. At Thunder Bay, the scope of work was finalized, RFQ released to contractors and the bid was awarded. Crews conducted invasive species removal and initiated turf removal process on prairie conversion area.

Activity 2
Outreach for 2025 volunteer recruitment took place and 8 trainings were conducted at a community center in Stillwater, at Crosby Farm Park in St. Paul and Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Eagan on 5 dates in June totaling over 50 participants. These events provided continuing education and instruction on how to do independent pollinator monitoring on sites across the metro, which we have adjusted to include “4-categories” from the previous 3, encouraging folks to record honeybees, native bees, other, and the new specific “monarch butterfly” category, as they are easily identifiable and countable by volunteers. Pollinator and engagement data were summarized, and reports were written site by site for partner review prior to dissemination.

Dissemination
All communication with landowning partners, including the developing contracting agreements written in this period, included proper ENRTF funding acknowledgements. Social media posts broadly described pollinator monitoring opportunities on multiple occasions. Site signs posted as work continued stating “restoration work in progress” etc included the ENRTF logo and funding language.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update February 1, 2025

Date Submitted: January 30, 2025

Date Approved: February 3, 2025

Overall Update
Confirmation of one project no longer being considered (Riverside Park) and its replacement with Thunder Bay Park (now in progress) occurred during this period. Contracts developed and contracted activities occurred on all other projects during this period, with one volunteer event celebrating National Public Lands Day with 29 volunteers by seeding and planting 450 native prairie and shoreline plugs in St. Paul at Loeb Lake. Independent pollinator monitoring continued through public stewards' data collection on iNaturalist (an additional 29 uploaded records) and 33 submissions of "3-category" pollinator counts on all monitored sites combined.

Activity 1
Great River Greening confirmed with the City of Carver during this period that the initial Riverside Park project no longer fit this grant period due to a bridge construction adjacent to the property that would delay any access, so it was replaced by Thunder Bay Park Phase 2 with the City of Little Canada through an amendment in September. We completed the fully executed cooperative agreement with the city in October. This phase of Thunder Bay continues the turf to native prairie and native planting enhancement along this public trail through neighborhoods and along a power corridor.

29 volunteers planted 450 plugs into 0.1 acres of the shoreline at Loeb Lake for National Public Lands Day on September 28th, and contracted spot spraying, turf removal, drill and broadcast seeding, mowing, and invasive woody removal occurred in adjacent areas. Contracted spot spraying, mowing, broadcast seeding, and continued control of woody invasives via foliar spray took place this fall and winter on the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District project, and contracted spot spraying, turf removal via tillage, broadcast seeding of bee lawn and prairie species, and establishment maintenance took place this fall at the West St. Paul Municipal Campus.

Activity 2
Pollinator monitoring continued through independent stewards' efforts and plans developed for further years of community engagement and information dissemination. Independent pollinator monitoring continued through public stewards' data collection on iNaturalist (an additional 29 uploaded records) and 33 submissions of "3-category" pollinator counts on all monitored sites combined. Additionally, a summary and "thank you" event for pollinator volunteers from all grants was held with the University of Minnesota Bee Lab at their St. Paul campus building on October 15th with University and GRG staff and 9 public stewards, with an educational seed collection activity and a lab tour as well.

Dissemination
All communication with landowning partners, including the developing contracting agreements written in this period, included proper ENRTF funding acknowledgements. Social media posts highlighted the impact that ENRTF is providing these projects as the legislative effort to "vote yes" for the reinstitution of the grant funding, and social media posts highlighted the volunteer event at Loeb Lake for National Public Lands Day, including ENRTF language (post on October 15, 2024).

Status Update Reporting

Status Update August 1, 2024

Date Submitted: July 26, 2024

Date Approved: August 6, 2024

Overall Update
Project work on site progressed during the winter with woody invasive / tree work at the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District project, with the other three sites receiving planning and coordination. Spring allowed for final contract coordination with the Cities of St. Paul and West St. Paul, and the Carver project is on hold. The highlight for the spring was the first volunteer event on this grant at the Loeb Lake project in St. Paul, with 774 native plugs being planted into a turf conversion area by Greening and City staff with 10 volunteers.

Activity 1
Loeb Lake, the West St. Paul Campus, and Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed district projects all had finalized plan and implementation of contracting occurring during this time-period. Loeb Lake received volunteer planted native plugs in the prairie conversion area previously prepared by the City of St. Paul, continuing that habitat establishment and community engagement, with a contract finalized for the main work, West St. Paul has a completed contract with the vendor, for work starting in July, and CLFLWD has a completed initial contract for the tree and invasive removal with chip trail creation. All three projects will see on-site work in summer / fall 2024. The Riverside Park project with the City of Carver is in the process of being terminated due to the access to the site being required by the County for a bridge construction project. We are in talks with the City of Little Canada to extend a “Phase 2” on the Thunder Bay / Linear Park project that was started with funds from Pollinator Central 2. We will complete a formal grant amendment to close and start the respective projects once those plans are finalized.

Activity 2
Plans have been developed for community engagement and surveying on the projects. Baseline state documentation has continued this spring on vegetation. Final work occurred on the Pollinator Central I and II funded projects in May and June, and the understanding and dissemination of the conclusions found in those community science efforts will continue this fall. Community monitoring will be supported in ways that were successful and well received by the public from those efforts. Community training occurred in June for public pollinator monitors who have not yet been assigned to PC3 projects due to the development of active project work beginning in fall 2024.

Dissemination
All communication with landowning partners, including the developing cooperative agreements, and request for proposal language and pre-bid site visit meeting for the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District site included proper ENRTF funding acknowledgements.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update February 1, 2024

Date Submitted: January 29, 2024

Date Approved: February 20, 2024

Overall Update
All projects moved forward into the first stages of work with the landowners, including virtual meetings, site visits, and fully executed cooperative agreements. This allows us to begin the forestry and wooded habitat management on-site work this winter with the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District and to start fully designing the largely turf to prairie conversion or prairie enhancement work that will start in spring 2024 on all other projects. No active pollinator monitoring was done as these initial agreements and plans were being developed, but the Pollinator Central I and II funded projects continue to inform how best to do this monitoring on the PC3 sites which we will learn from and implement in the growing season of 2024.

Activity 1
Cooperative agreements were drafted and completed for all four projects within Pollinator Central 3 during this time, requiring multiple site visits with landowning partners to select and confirm project areas, outline the proposed management for all sites, and officially secure signed agreements for that proposed work. Riverside, Loeb Lake, and the West St. Paul Campus projects are all slated for late spring 2024 on-site project work start, while the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District project moved forward into RFP development and fully executed contracting in December 2023 for hazard tree and understory invasive species removal that will start in February 2024.

Activity 2
No pollinator monitoring occurred on the project sites during this reporting period as the projects were being developed with coordination of the landowners and cooperative agreements were being established. Vegetation and site observations were made during the growing season of this reporting period to begin the “pre-restoration” baseline surveys which will continue in spring 2024. Monitoring continued on the Pollinator Central I and II funded projects, adding to our understanding of what community science approaches work and which are harder to facilitate with the public.

Dissemination
All communication with landowning partners, including the developing cooperative agreements, and request for proposal language and pre-bid site visit meeting for the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District site included proper ENRTF funding acknowledgements. No social media posts referenced the Pollinator Central 3 projects during this period.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update August 1, 2023

Date Submitted: July 7, 2023

Date Approved: July 10, 2023

Overall Update
LCCMR waived reporting for this period per email on July 6, 2023.

Activity 1
LCCMR waived reporting for this period per email on July 6, 2023.

Activity 2
LCCMR waived reporting for this period per email on July 6, 2023.

Dissemination
LCCMR waived reporting for this period per email on July 6, 2023.