

# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2009 Phase 1 Request for Proposals (RFP)

---

**LCCMR ID: B15.02**

---

**Project Title:** MeCC - Restore & Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat (2.3)

**Total Project Budget:** \$ \$200,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** July 2009 - June 2011 (2 yrs)

**Other Non-State Funds:** \$ 80,000

---

**First Name:** Tom

**Last Name:** Lewanski

**Sponsoring Organization:** Friends of the Mississippi River

**Address:** 360 North Robert Street, Suite 400  
St. Paul MN 55101

**Telephone Number:** 651-222-2193 x12

**Email:** tlewanski@fmr.org

**Fax:** 651-222-6005

**Web Address:** www.fmr.org

---

<b>Region:</b>	<b>County Name:</b>	<b>City / Township:</b>
Metro	Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington	Numerous

**Summary:** FMR will address habitat loss & degradation by restoring and enhancing approximately 100 acres of critical wildlife habitat within the mapped Metro corridors.

---

**Main Proposal:** 0808-1-039-proposal-Main proposal.doc

**Project Budget:** 0808-1-039-budget-Project Budget.doc

**Qualifications:** 0808-1-039-qualifications-Project Manager Qualificati.doc

**Map:** 0808-1-039-maps-MAWC PhaseV map

---

# Main Proposal

**Project Title:** Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase V-Friends of the Mississippi River (2.1)

## I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The overall goals for FMR's restoration and enhancement activities are to improve the habitat value of natural areas within the mapped corridors by reducing exotic invasive species, restoring natural communities and processes such as fire, providing ecological connectivity of these habitat areas, and protecting water resource. To achieve these goals, FMR will restore and enhance prairie, woodland & wetlands, remove exotic invasive species, and conduct prescribed burns.

The Twin Cities Metro Area contains significant wildlife habitat. However, these habitat areas are under threat from changes in land cover associated with various types of development and from changes brought about by the introduction of exotic invasive species, suppression of fire, changes in hydrologic systems and habitat fragmentation. Metro Conservation Corridors and a number of its partners are permanently protecting habitat areas to ensure that dramatic and ecologically damaging land cover changes do not occur. These protection projects are providing a unique opportunity to improve the health of this important habitat. The restoration, enhancement, and management of the habitat are every bit as important as permanently protecting the land.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

**Result 1:** Restore & Enhance 100 acres of Significant Habitat. **Budget:** \$ 200,000

FMR will work with both public and private landowners to restore and/or enhance 100 acres of significant habitat using MeCC phase V funding. This funding will enable FMR to leverage non-state funding to restore an additional 40 acres of significant habitat. Specific habitat types that may be restored and/or enhanced include prairie, oak savanna, deciduous forest and/or wetland communities. Techniques that will be employed to restore and enhance these areas will be based on the specific requirements of each project site to be chosen, but may include: soil preparation (spraying, burning, disking, dragging), seed drilling or broadcasting, mowing, prescribed burning, spot spraying, installation of native plants, and removal of invasive plant species.

Projects chosen to achieve the aforementioned 100 acres of restored habitat will be based on ecological significance, partner commitment, and landowner interest.

### **Deliverable**

### **Completion Date:**

1. The restoration or enhancement of 100 acres of significant habitat.

6/30/11

### III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

#### A. Project Partners

Potential project partners include:

- Private landowners. The landowner's role is to provide protection for the habitat, matching funds for the restoration activities, and provide access to the site.
- Department of Natural Resources-SNA Program. Provide access to property and consultation on restoration/enhancement activities.
- Dakota County. Matching funds for restoration activities.
- Washington County. Matching Funds for restoration activities
- City of St. Paul. In-kind contribution. Crew restoration activities.
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board- landowner, in-kind crew work
- Mississippi Watershed Management Organization-matching funds
- Capital Region Watershed District-Matching funds
- Neighborhood Associations-volunteers, matching funds.

#### IV. Project Impact

FMR's restoration and enhancement activities will have two primary impacts. The first is on the plants and resident and migratory animals that utilize these habitat areas to meet their life requirements, including food, water, safety from predators and inclement weather as well as breeding areas. This restoration and enhancement project will improve the opportunities for these species to meet their requirements to thrive. FMR will focus much of its restoration efforts on prairie and oak savanna, which addresses habitat recommendation 1: Protect priority land habitats in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan. The second impact will be on the residents of the Twin Cities who will enjoy wild animals and plants and an overall water quality improvement. In addition, area residents will have more opportunities to experience the region's original natural communities.

#### C. Time

This project will run from July 1, 2009 until June 30, 2011. FMR is seeking \$200,000 to conduct restoration and enhancement activities.

#### D. Long-Term Strategy

FMR views this project as an important component of a larger effort, both in geographic scope and time; to restore and enhance habitat in the Twin Cities. Because of the special situation that is the juxtaposition of a large metropolitan area with important wildlife habitat, we see the need to continue these efforts into the foreseeable future. That is, habitat areas located in the Twin Cities Region are experiencing varying degrees of degradation due their proximity to human habitation. Specifically, plants that residents have brought in for landscaping or for eating or that were deposited here unbeknownst to people and for which no natural controls exist, have become established in our natural areas. Several of these species tend to degrade these natural areas. This coupled with the fact that some of the natural processes that have historically been a part of natural communities such as fires, floods, and large animal herbivory have been controlled has resulted in a general degradation of these habitat areas. We have an opportunity now to return some of these natural processes, in a carefully controlled manner, and to eliminate or greatly control the exotic invasive species that threaten the regions remaining habitat areas. If we wait, the very values that we have been trying to protect, such as water purification, wildlife habitat, and places for area residents to enjoy may be lost.

LCCMR's investment of funds in this project will help us to seek and obtain additional support from landowners, local units of government and private donors who share our goals for protecting and improving habitat in the region.

## Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>% FTE</u>
<b>Personnel:</b> Total	\$ 23,789.00	
Conservation Director	\$ 3500 ( salary, FICA/Medicare, and health insurance)	2% (2- year project)
Accountant	\$1100 (salary, FICA/Medicare, and health insurance)	.5% (2- year project)
Ecologist	\$ 13200 (salary, FICA/Medicare, and health insurance)	10% (2- year project)
Ecologist	\$ 6000 (salary, FICA/Medicare, and health insurance)	4% (2- year project)
<b>Contracts:</b>		
Private contractors to provide restoration activities such as burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, etc.	\$175,200	
<b>Restoration:</b> 100 acres		
Travel	\$1000	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):</b>	2.1- MeCC Phase IV – 2008 - \$92,000 -	<i>Not Legally Obligated</i>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FMR - \$30,000 – Secured</li> <li>• Private landowners - \$40,000 – Pending</li> <li>• LGUs - \$10,000 - Pending</li> </ul>	
<b>Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	
<b>Past Spending:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$ 53,000 MeCC - 2007 appropriation</li> <li>\$ 92,000 MeCC – 2008 appropriation</li> </ul>	

**Project Title:** Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase V-Friends of the Mississippi River (2.1)

**Project Manager Qualifications:**

Tom Lewanski, Conservation Director

Tom holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Outdoor Education, and Masters & Doctorate degrees in Public Administration. Tom has over 25 years of experience working in the environmental/conservation field. Since 1998 he has served as FMR's Conservation Director. In that capacity Tom has led the organization's efforts to protect and restore land along the Mississippi River, resulting in the establishment of two new Scientific and Natural Areas in Dakota County and the protection and restoration of hundreds of acres of natural areas. A skilled naturalist, he taught environmental education at the Carpenter Nature Center for ten years. Tom is the lead staff person responsible for FMR's land conservation work.

**Organization Description:**

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) is a leading citizen organization working to protect and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities area. We believe the tremendous ecological, cultural, scenic and recreational values of the river must be carefully tended to ensure that they continue to be shared equally by all citizens and that they endure for future generations. We accomplish these goals through three inter-related programs.

- Land Conservation: We work with public and private landowners to protect, restore and manage important natural areas along the river and its key tributaries.
- Watershed Protection: Working with citizens and local governments, we strive to draw attention to the health of local rivers, lakes and wetlands and bring citizen opinion to bear on decisions that improve water quality.
- River Corridor Stewardship: The Mississippi River cannot protect itself. We engage citizens in a variety of educational, recreational, and volunteer stewardship activities that give them the desire and the understanding to advocate on behalf of the river's public values at City Hall or the State Capitol.