

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

LCCMR ID: B15.04

Project Title: MeCC - Restore & Enhance Significant Habitat (2.5)

Total Project Budget: \$ \$400,000

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 300,000

First Name: Wiley

Last Name: Buck

Sponsoring Organization: Great River Greening

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Region:

Central, Metro

County Name:

Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota,
Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le
Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice,
Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Stearns,
Washington, Wright

City / Township:

Summary: Great River Greening will improve/restore/enhance 325 ecologically significant acres, and 0.5mi of shoreline. Project criteria are ecological significance, partner commitment, opportunity, and importance to the local community.

Main Proposal: 0808-1-044-proposal-MeCC Phase V Proposal 2008 GRG.doc

Project Budget: 0808-1-044-budget-MeCC Phase V Proposal 2008 GRG Budget.doc

Qualifications: 0808-1-044-qualifications-MeCC Phase V Proposal 2008 GRG Quals.doc

Map: 0808-1-044-maps-MeCC Phase V Proposal 2008 GRG Map.doc

Letter of Resolution: 0808-1-044-resolution-Boardresolution.bmp

Great River Greening: Restore/Enhance Significant Habitat-MeCC Phase V

Project Title: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors

Partner Project Title: Restore/Enhance Significant Habitat – MeCC Phase V

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Much of the quality habitat in the project area is being ever more rapidly threatened by fragmentation and spread of invasive species, development and its effects on hydrology and stormwater management, and climate change. Restoration of these habitats is increasingly important to save Minnesota's natural heritage for now and future generations, protect rare and declining species, and for clean water, and is an avenue for connecting residents with their local natural areas. Great River Greening has two formal initiatives to focus our efforts: our Million Acorn Campaign, which focuses on all oak communities in the focus area; and our St. Croix Healthy Waters Initiative for the St. Croix valley, with a particular emphasis in the Franconia Corridor where we have already begun work with other funds. In addition, these MeCC funds will be used to accelerate our restoration projects with the collar county Park systems, where we have conducted extensive market research and outreach; and our continuing restoration work in the core urban areas, which hosts significant habitat including SGCN and a vibrant volunteer community.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Restoration of Significant Habitat

Budget: \$ 400,000

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Restore 325 acres; .5mi shoreline	6/30/2011

III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

A. Project Partners

Anticipated project partners include all Metro Conservation Corridor partner organizations; state agencies; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; federal Landowner Incentive Program; National Park Service; Resource Conservation and Development (NRCS); private donors including foundations, organizations, corporations, and individuals; and Local Units of Government (e.g. Municipal and County Parks, SWCD, WD, and CD.)

B. Project Impact

The impacts expected include a long term investment into oak regeneration and health of our oak communities, which are resilient to climate change; habitat and water quality in the St. Croix River Valley; a timely contribution to the quality of the

collar county Parks habitat at a time of increasing threats and challenges; and a continued investment in the habitat of our core urban areas, portions of which rate highly in the DNR's recent SGCN analysis. Our project aligns with the SCPP Category II recommendation, and will advance the H3, H5, H6, and H7 goals.

C. Time

\$400,000 over two years.

D. Long-Term Strategy (if applicable)

The need and opportunities for restoration in the mapped focus areas will continue into the foreseeable future, especially in light of a minimum of 50-100 years of climate change (SCPP pg. 26) and increasing development pressures. Intermediately, Greening's Million Acorn Campaign is scheduled for completion in 2012, and our St. Croix Healthy Water's Initiative will be reevaluated if/when the St. Croix River is delisted from the impaired waters list.

Project Budget

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

(One page limit, single-sided, 10 pt. font minimum Retain the bold text and remove all instructions typed in italics. Add or delete rows as is necessary. If a category is not applicable you may write "N/A", leave it blank, or delete the row.)

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM <i>(See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 17)</i>	AMOUNT	% FTE
Personnel: <i>Who is getting paid to do what and what is the % of full-time employment for each position? List out by position.</i>	\$ -	%
Ecologists, Field Crew, Volunteer Coordinator, Admin (~ 2.2 FTE for 2 years)	\$ 200,000	220%
Contracts: <i>With whom and for what? List out by item.</i>	\$ -	
Restoration Contracts: site prep, prairie install, direct hardwood seeding, earthwork by e.g. Minn. Native Landscapes, North Am. Prairies, PRI, Zumbro Valley Forestry, Outback Nursery, farmers and other local partners	\$ 68,000	
Equipment/Tools: <i>What? List general description of needs.</i> ATV attachment(s); Toro Dingo attachment(s); landscape staple gun; chainsaws, brush cutters, sprayers, shovels, loppers, weed wrenches, bow saws, water packs, drip torch, safety equipment.	\$ 11,000	
Acquisition (Including Easements): <i>List # of acres and who will hold title (e.g., DNR, Non-profit)</i>	\$ -	
Restoration: 325 acres, .50 mi shoreline Restoration supplies, materials, and fees: mulch, plants, seeds, erosion control blanket, soil analysis fees, etc.	\$ 73,000	
Other: <i>List by item and explain.</i>	\$ -	
Vol. Event Supplies (approved food and bev., portable toilets, tents, signage, PA system) Misc. Supplies: gloves, glasses, flagging, stakes. Mileage Expenses (4K)	\$ 48,000	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 400,000	

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable): 2008 MeCC IV	\$ 30,000	<i>Not Legally Obligated</i>
Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period: \$55,000 federal LIP – secured \$345,000 - pending	\$ 300,000	<i>Secured or Pending</i>
Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period: DNR Parks Nature Store	\$ 2,000	<i>Pending</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period: DNR Parks: mowing, spraying \$3,000 Various Land Owner/Partner In-Kind: \$95,000	\$ 98,000	<i>Pending</i>
Past Spending: 2008 GRG Phase IV* - \$111,000 ETF, ≥ \$111,000 non-state (est.) 2007 Phase III* - \$60,000 ETF, ≥\$45K non-state+\$10K state (est.) 2005 Phase II - \$100,000 ETF, \$202,000 non-state 2003 Phase I - \$124,000 ETF, >\$100,000 non-state *to be completed	\$ -	



Experience

2004 - Present Restoration Ecologist, Great River Greening, St. Paul, MN
1998 - 2004 Resource Specialist, DNR Scientific and Natural Areas, Saint Paul, MN
1996 - 1998 Wildlife Specialist, University of Minnesota Extension Service; Rare Mammal Surveyor, DNR MCBS Program, Saint Paul, MN

Education

University of Minnesota
Saint Paul, MN
M.S. Wildlife Conservation
Thesis: "Citizen research of Chicago coyotes: Diet, population indexing, and the effects of research participation on knowledge and attitudes."
Ripon College
Ripon, WI
B.A. Physics

Areas of Specialty

Natural Resource Management Plans

Lead author on detailed management plans including vegetation history, restoration targets, wildlife management, and implementation for various landowners, including municipalities, counties, nature centers, etc.

Representative Projects: Arcola Mills Historic Foundation, Stillwater, MN; Becker/Xcel Great River Woodland, Becker, MN; Pilot Knob Hill, Mendota Heights, MN.

Ecological Restoration

Project manager for restoration and reconstruction projects, with emphasis in upland communities, including vegetation management, wildlife habitat improvements, and volunteer integration.

Representative Projects: Flint Hills Blufflands, Rosemount, MN; Pilot Knob Hill, Mendota Heights, MN; OH Anderson Elementary Prairie, Mahtomedi; Arcola Mills, Stillwater MN; Pioneer Park Rx Burn, Blaine; Comcast Cares Day, Lake Elmo, MN; Afton State Park Reforestation, Afton, MN; Bucks and Buckthorn, Marine, M; Grey Cloud Dunes SNA, Cottage Grove, MN; Spring Creek Prairie SNA, Red Wing MN; Sedan Brook SNA, Brooten, MN.

Training: Prescribed Fire Burn Boss (MnRXB2) MN-DNR, Saint Paul MN

Emerging Issues

Identify and co-develop initiatives around emerging issues.

Representative Projects: Million Acorn Campaign; Pilot Knob Hill 'bio-fuels for restoration'; St. Croix Valley invasive species early detection/rapid response.

Program Manager

Manage and oversee large state-funded programs, including reporting, proposals, committees, and development.

Representative Projects: Metro Conservation Corridors Program, Phases I-V; Bucks and Buckthorn; St. Croix Franconia Corridor Landowner Incentive Program.

Publications

Presenter at 1999 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, and 1999 4th International Symposium on Urban Wildlife.

"Conserving Your Blufflands: A Homeowner's Guide to Management of St. Croix River Blufflands" Great River Greening/DNR brochure



Organization Description

The nonprofit Great River Greening leads and promotes community based restoration of natural areas and open spaces. Our team of experienced ecologists and landscape ecologists bring multiple years' combined experience managing native habitats, conducting natural resource inventories, fundraising for restoration projects on public lands, and engaging over 17,000 volunteers.

We have a regional reputation at all levels of community and government. For example the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has come to us for numerous partnerships: management for the Eagle Creek Aquatic Management Area (AMA) adjacent to private housing, the landowner incentive program for the Franconia – Scandia corridor, and restoration of Afton State Park, to name only a few. We are also a member of the Metro Conservation Corridors, a government-nonprofit collaboration of ten partners that has legislative funding for metro area protection and management.

Community Assistance

We help communities to leverage expertise, funds, and volunteers

- Site Analysis: assessment of site context, soil condition, topography, hydrology, physical characteristics, cultural features, and existing and potential vegetation
- Natural Resource Inventories: classification, evaluation and mapping of native plant communities, wildlife species, geography, soils, and invasive and rare plant species
- Natural Resource Planning: mapping and analysis of spatial information using GIS software to guide restoration and other conservation activities
- Management and Restoration Plans: recommending goals and strategies for managing, restoring and reconstructing native plant communities
- Restoration and Reconstruction: enhancement of existing natural areas with the reintroduction of species and ecosystem processes, and reconstructing natural areas where no natural vegetation exists
- Invasive Species Abatement: monitoring and control of invasive species
- Prescribed Burning: identifying the appropriate type of burn, creating a burn plan, securing permits and implementing the burn, as well as handling questions from neighbors



Senior Staff

Great River Greening has an expert staff of ecologists, designers and restoration technicians.

- **Wayne Ostlie, Conservation Director** (M.A., Botany) is a 20-year veteran in the field of natural resource conservation with The Nature Conservancy. As Science Director of the Conservancy's Iowa program, Wayne managed the chapter's preserve portfolio, along with staff and an extensive volunteer network. Later, as Science Director for the Conservancy's Great Plains Program and then through various roles within its core Science Program, Wayne led and managed an array of programs and high-level projects in furtherance of the Conservancy's regional and global objectives.
- **Wiley Buck, Restoration Ecologist** (M.S., Wildlife Conservation, University of Minnesota) is responsible for project development and management, particularly for multi-year restoration projects such as Metro Conservation Corridors, a cooperative effort for protection and acquisition in priority areas of the metro, and Bucks and Buckthorn, a youth hunter and ecological education project. He served as Greening's conservation director in 2004 and 2005. Wiley gained his restoration expertise through his experience with McHenry County Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, Chicago Wilderness, and the Minnesota DNR's Scientific and Natural Areas Program (SNA).
- **Todd Rexine, Design Ecologist** (M.L.A., University of Minnesota) is Greening's expert on ecological design, stormwater management plans, best management practices, urban native plant gardens, and the integration of built and natural landscapes. He has significant installation, computer and budget experience from his years in the private design-build field. He also has a B.F.A. in Studio Art and has worked as an assistant for American Bronze Castings, in addition to continuing in his own sculpture.
- **Joe Walton, Conservation Ecologist** (M.S. Urban Forestry, forthcoming) has worked as the head of the Urban Ecology division for S&S Specialists and Kunde Co., Inc. for the past five years, expanding the division to include major ecological restoration as well as traditional urban forestry. He has designed, installed, maintained, and monitored native plant community restoration projects, stormwater best management practices (BMPs), invasive species control, and erosion control/bioengineering projects in various locations throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

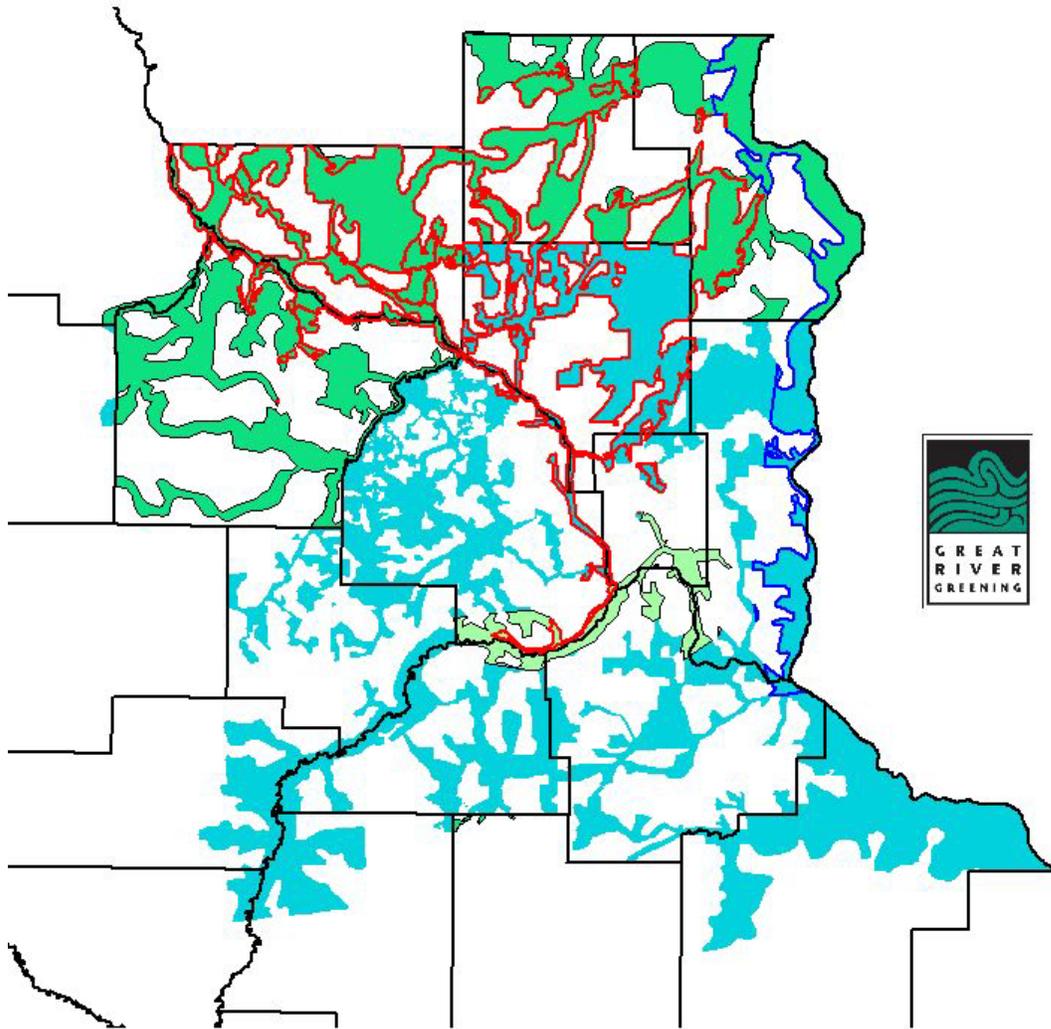


Project Highlights

At Greening we believe our work speaks for itself. Completed and ongoing natural area restoration projects include:

- West Side Bluffs, Saint Paul – Greening conducted an inventory of the area and created a management plan that addresses both the human and the ecological needs of this historic natural resource that overlooks the Mississippi and downtown Saint Paul. The plan recommends the removal of exotic invasive species, the installation of native species and creates a strategy to limit erosion, all while maintaining public access to the space.
- Mississippi River Gorge, Minneapolis – Greening conducted an extensive ecological inventory of the site and created a comprehensive management plan designed to reverse cumulative damage to the site’s soil and native plant communities.
- Flint Hills Resources, Rosemount – This ongoing project is designed to restore and reconstruct prairie, savanna and oak woodland areas on the 700-acre Flint Hills property. It is part of the larger Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area, which has been identified by the DNR County Biological Survey as a site of high statewide biological significance. Greening continues to work with Flint Hills employee and community volunteers to implement the management plan designed by the DNR.
- Mounds Park Bluffs, Saint Paul – This ongoing project is located near culturally significant Native American burial mounds. The Bluffs, which overlook the Mississippi River and downtown Saint Paul, are also heavily used for their scenic value. The restorative design focuses on reducing erosion without obstructing the view, invasive species abatement and periodic prescribed burns.
- Sample of endangered species work: Prescribed burning at Big Marine Lake for management of a population of state-endangered tubercled rein-orchid, and a potential seed bank of state-threatened lance-leaved violet.

GRG Priority Areas Metro Conservation Corridors Phase V



Priority Areas (can overlap):

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Anoka Sandplain |  Urban Core |
|  Collar County |  St. Croix |