

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2009 Phase 2 Request for Proposals (RFP)

LCCMR ID: 034-A4

Project Title: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Land Acquisition 2009

Total Project Budget: \$ \$2,000,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1 year

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$4,000,000.00

Priority: A2. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Lands

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Meyer

Sponsoring Organization: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Address: 3675 Arboretum Dr
Chaska MN 55318

Telephone Number: 952-443-1408

Email: moexx004@umn.edu

Fax: 952-443-2521

Web Address: www.arboretum.umn.edu

Region:	County Name:	City / Township:
Metro	Carver	Victoria

Summary: The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum proposes to purchase 78 acres of land adjacent to the Arboretum's Horticultural Research Center. This property would be used for research, education and outreach programs.

Main Proposal: 1008-2-019-proposal-2009 LCCMR MAIN PROPOSAL Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Project Budget: 1008-2-019-budget-Arb - LCCMR RFP_2009_Project Budget Final.xls

Qualifications: 1008-2-019-qualifications-2009 LCCMR PROPOSAL PROJECT MANAGER AND ORG. D

Map: 1008-2-019-maps-MLA_info_2008_ver_04 (grey).pdf

Letter of Resolution: 1008-2-019-resolution-MCWD letter LCCMR.pdf

2009 LCCMR MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Land Acquisition 2009

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Arboretum proposes to purchase 78 Acres of adjacent land from a willing seller. This is the second to last remaining parcel identified on the Arboretum's approved 1998 Master Plan. The parcel contains tillable land, wetlands, big woods and 1,300 feet of lakeshore on Lake Tamarack. It also contains majestic stands of oak, maple and basswood as well as an upland meadow and wetlands that provide habitat for a diverse population of birds, mammals, amphibians, and native plants.

The lakeshore portion of the new 78 acres, combined with the 1,597 feet already owned by the U of M, and 1,875 feet owned by the City of Victoria will completely protect the deepest lake in Carver County and one of the most pristine lakes in the Metro Area. Lake Tamarack is 24 acres in size and 82 feet deep.

The City of Victoria Master Plan for Parks also describes in detail a potential Lake Tamarack Park Preserve that would protect the entire perimeter of this highly pristine environmental lake. The Lake Tamarack Park Preserve would protect the water quality of the lake, vigorously prevent water pollution and encourage a healthy fishery, waterfowl habitat, and native flora and fauna. A low impact loop trail could be built around the lake. An existing City of Victoria paved trail provides access to the site from the south and an existing Hennepin County Transit Authority Trail provides access through a proposed City of Victoria Park on the north side of Lake Tamarack.

The City of Victoria Comprehensive Plan guides this parcel's land use as Low Density Residential which would allow over 100 homes to be built. Even with a good erosion control plan, adequate wetland buffers and proper maintenance of streets and storm water management structures, the amount of new impervious surfaces that would come about as a result of development on this parcel would likely impact Lake Tamarack and reduce the amount of potential aquifer recharge on this parcel.

If protected, this land will provide a wildlife corridor linking 1,000 acres of the Arboretum with additional undeveloped land north of State Highway 5, protect the water quality of Lake Tamarack and provide land for possible U of M research projects including restoration ecology, organic fruit crop production and perennial crops (alders and other species) for biofuels and wildlife habitat research. The Arboretum would use this property for research based education and outreach programs for professionals and the public.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Purchase and protect 78 acres of land

Budget: \$ 2,000,000

Deliverable: The purchase of 78 acres of land including 38 acres of highly erodible row crop land and 40 acres of wetlands, pasture and forest.

Completion Date
October 31, 2009

The purchase of this property will allow the Arboretum to carry out the following programs and activities in the future:

1. Protect Lake Tamarack by planting perennial plants on all tillable land
2. Provide a wildlife corridor and reduce forest and wetland fragmentation. The existing wetlands, mature forest and lakeshore will continue to provide excellent habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species including cavity nesting birds that need large hardwood trees.
3. Provide land for research based education

4. Plant alder research plots that will provide wildlife habitat, be examples of multi-functional landscapes, and create a buffer between wetland and upland environments. The size of this parcel allows commercial sized alder plantings that will also be used to address production/economic questions regarding biofuel production.
5. Start a three year transition for organic certification for future apple and grape research projects incorporating perennial ground covers and applied research on organic production.
6. Conduct a biological survey, publish a map and develop a management plan describing priorities for native plant community restoration and a program to control invasive exotic plants.

III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

A. Project Partners

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District - Land Conservation Program, Mark Ten Eyck. Provide funding for purchasing part of the land and provide technical assistance with management plans.

Land owners have offered to donate all or part of the 25 acres of wetland on the property.

The property value is estimated to be between \$5.5 and \$8M based on Carver County Tax Records and two appraisals. LCCMR funds would be matched at least 1:1 by project partners.

B. Project Impact

- Provide space for the growing number of visitors, students and researchers utilizing the Arboretum. Record attendance of 300,000 people for fiscal year 07/08. Arboretum membership has grown to a record 20,000 with members from most counties in Minnesota.
- Protect the water quality of a completely undeveloped natural environment lake at the top of its sub-watershed.
- Protect habitat for many bird species including osprey nesting on U of M land and many migratory birds including loons, waterfowl, warblers and bluebirds.
- Protect a large area of open space with significant ecological value in one of the most rapidly growing counties in Minnesota.

C. Timeline

The Arboretum, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the landowner would meet to review appraisals and determine a fair market value for the property and decide on each partner's contribution as soon as the project is recommended for funding by the LCCMR. A purchase agreement could be signed as soon as the funds become available.

D. Long-Term Strategy

This property purchase would complete the Arboretum's Boundary Protection Plan that began in 1995 with the purchase of 30 acres on the southeastern corner of the Arboretum. This property and all 241 acres purchased to date were partially funded by the LCCMR. The first 30 acres became the site of Dr. Susan Galatowitsch's innovative Spring Peeper Meadow Sedge Meadow Restoration Research and Demonstration project. This project is the most well documented and successful sedge meadow restoration in the United States and has since been expanded to include tall grass prairie and big wood restoration on the slopes surrounding the wetland basin. Spring Peeper meadow is used as a research and demonstration site by K -12 and University Classes as well as classes and workshops for both professionals and the public.

Project Budget

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>	\$ -	%
Contracts: <i>With whom and for what? List out by item.</i>	\$ -	
Equipment/Tools: <i>What? List general description of needs.</i>	\$ -	
Acquisition (Including Easements): 78 acres of land. Title to Regents of University of Minnesota	\$2,000,000	
Value to be determined - appraisals value property between \$5.5 and \$8 M		
Restoration: <i>List # of acres.</i>	\$ -	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 2,000,000	

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):	\$ -	
Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation	\$ 3,000,000	Pending
Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period: Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	\$ 1,000,000	Pending
Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period: Landowner donation		Pending
Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period:	\$ -	<i>Secured or Pending</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period:	\$ -	
Past Spending:	\$ -	

SOURCE OF FUNDS (1995 to current funding for purchase of the 241 acres of land)

	AMOUNT	MATCH
1995 LCMR with Match plus additional from MLAF (Arboretum Foundation)	\$ 680,000	\$ 918,416
1997 LCMR with Match plus additional from MLAF (Arboretum Foundation)	\$ 450,000	\$ 691,773
1999 LCMR with Match plus additional from MLAF (Arboretum Foundation)	\$ 700,000	\$ 627,315
2001 LCMR with Match plus additional from MLAF (Arboretum Foundation)	\$ 730,000	\$ 995,812
2003 LCMR with Match plus additional from MLAF (Arboretum Foundation)	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
2005 LCMR with Match plus additional from MLAF (Arboretum Foundation)* *90 acre Tschimperle Property closed with \$3.1 Million down payment Final value to be determined with binding arbitration by 12/30/08	\$ 650,000	\$ 3,100,000
Total Spending since 1995	\$ 3,560,000	\$ 6,683,316

2009 LCCMR PROPOSAL

Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS

Dr. Mary Hockenberry Meyer, Interim Director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, was the State Coordinator for the Master Gardener program based at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum since 1995. During that time she was responsible for the development and coordination of statewide multi-media educational programs in environmental and consumer horticulture. Meyer received a B.S. from Clemson University, M.S. from Cornell University, and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Meyer's research focus is native and ornamental grass culture and production and the use of low maintenance turfgrasses. In 2007, Meyer was awarded the American Society for Horticultural Science Outstanding Extension Educator Career Award. In addition Meyer is a member of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society Board of Directors.

MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum consists of 1,137 acres of native ecosystems, research plots and unique public gardens and proposes to purchase 78 additional acres to protect the Lake Tamarack watershed and to provide space for sustainable crop research. The Arboretum has 32 display and specialty gardens, 48 generic plant collections, 5,000 species of plants, and 8 native and restored environments. In addition, the Arboretum maintains extensive research activities. Innovative natural science and horticultural education programs are offered for individuals of all ages. Andersen Horticultural Library is world-renowned for its extensive collections, publications, and innovative reference service.

The Arboretum is a vital element of the cultural, educational, and economic fiber of the Twin Cities and larger community. It serves a broad audience of 300,000 visitors and more than 20,000 members. Nearly 55,000 children, teachers, and families participated in a wide variety of horticultural and natural science education programs. Therapeutic Horticulture programs served 5,000 individuals with physical and developmental challenges. The Arboretum's Horticultural Research Center has developed 139 varieties of cold-hardy fruit and landscape plants.

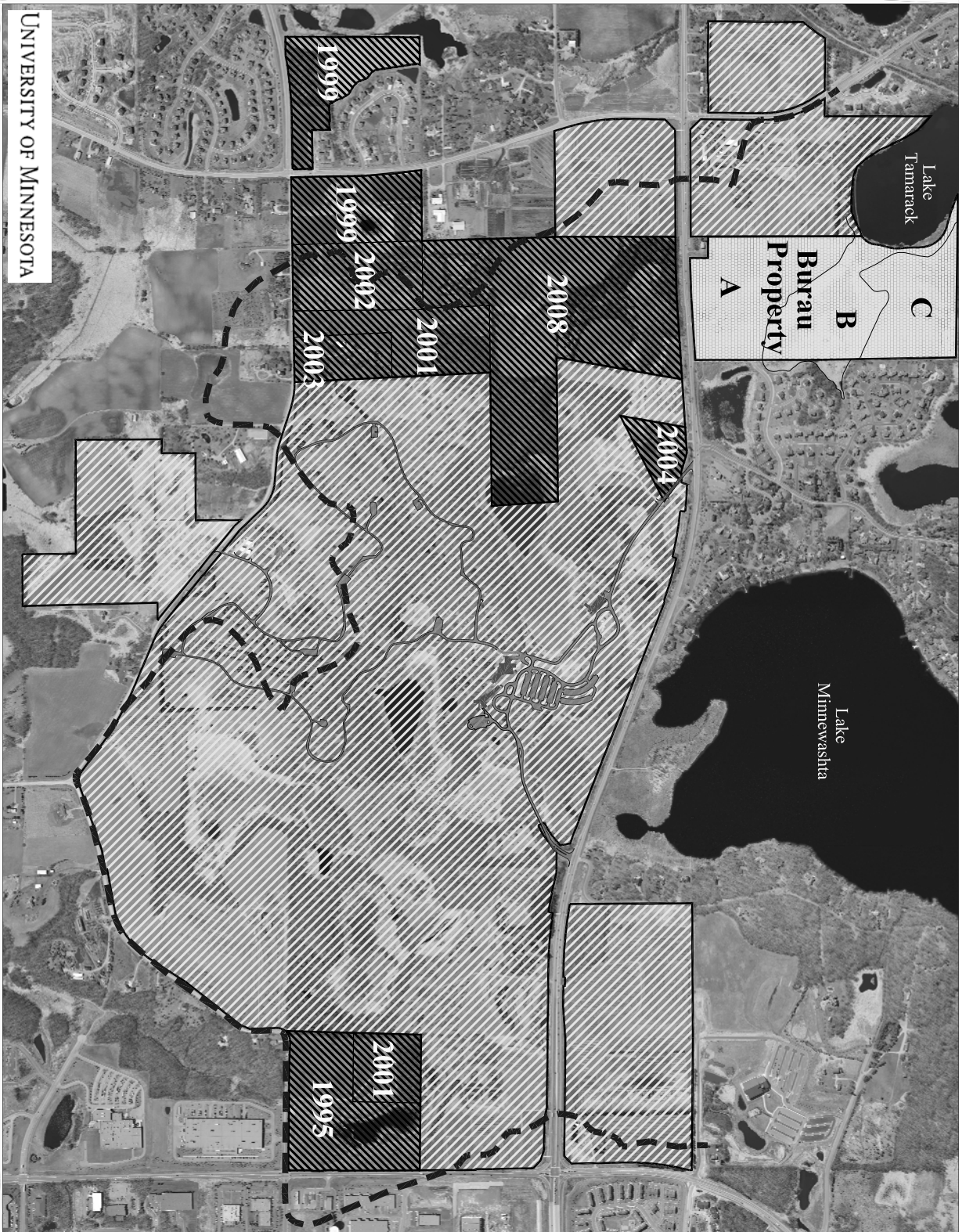
MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM'S MISSION

As part of the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum strives to be a resource for horticultural and environmental information, a center for research and public education and a place to inspire and delight visitors with quality plants in well-designed and maintained displays, collections, model landscapes and conservation areas.

MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM GOALS





- To educate a broad spectrum of the public about plants and the environment, through a wide variety of programs for all ages, along with interpretive displays and replicable models.
- To develop and deliver innovative, interactive programming that immerses children and active learners of all ages in direct experiences with nature and helps them understand the essential role of plants in sustaining our lives, and the role we all play in preserving and improving the quality of the environment.
- To conduct coordinated research programs that deal with the acquisition, evaluation, breeding, culture, physiology, and use of plants in northern climates and urban landscapes.
- To inspire visitors with beautiful, accessible gardens and display areas that offer respite and renewal.
- To promote public understanding of issues related to the urban ecosystem through dissemination of information about the urban environment and how it is affected by human interactions with it.

Boundary Plan



Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM

Legend

-  Major Watersheds
 -  Arboretum Property – 910 acres
 -  Acquired – 227 acres
 -  Proposed Acquisition – 78 acres
- Potential Founding Partners**
- A** UofM purchase
28–40 acres
 - B** Landowner donation
up to 25 acres
 - C** Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
up to 25 acres



Date: Sep 25 2008

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA