

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2010 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

**LCCMR ID: 096-C**

**Project Title:**

Natural and Scenic Area Acquisition

**LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:**

C. Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Acquisition

**Total Project Budget: \$** \$1,000,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 years, 2010 - 2013

**Other Non-State Funds: \$** \$950,000

**Summary:**

The funding would provide two or more matching grants to cities, counties, townships or school districts for acquisition of 100-200 acres for new or expanded natural and scenic areas.

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**Sponsoring Organization:** DNR

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**Web Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:**

**Region:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**City / Township:** statewide

_____ Knowledge Base	_____ Broad App.	_____ Innovation
_____ Leverage	_____ Outcomes	
_____ Partnerships	_____ Urgency	_____ TOTAL

# MAIN PROPOSAL

## PROJECT TITLE: Natural and Scenic Area Acquisition

- I. PROJECT STATEMENT:** Natural areas, scenic vistas, undeveloped shore lands, remnant prairies, bluff lands and related areas are often threatened by development and other land use changes. Once these areas are developed the benefits they provide for rare or endangered species protection, habitat, water quality, preservation of aesthetic landscapes and vistas, wildlife observation, and outdoor recreation are lost. Acquisition by local governments is often an appropriate way to protect these areas and make them available for public use. Such acquisition helps meet the goals of water quality and habitat protection and ensuring adequate natural resource based outdoor recreation opportunities for future generations to enjoy. This program helps governments afford the cost of acquisition by providing matching grants. Land acquired must retained as public natural and scenic areas in perpetuity.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

### **Result 1: Natural and Scenic Area Grants Budget: \$950,000**

The requested funding will provide two or more matching grants to cities, counties, townships or school districts for acquisition of approximately 100-200 acres for new or expanded natural and scenic areas. One grant round is proposed. These grants require a 50% state/50% local match. The local match for projects funded at the requested level would meet or exceed \$1 million.

#### **Deliverable**

#### **Completion Date**

- |                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Complete application round    | June, 2010     |
| 2. Complete 2-6 grant agreements | December, 2010 |
| 3. Project closeouts             | By June, 2013  |

### **Result 2: Administrative/Personnel Costs Budget: \$50,000**

The requested funding will be used to support personnel costs for administering the grant programs. Grant staff persons are involved in grant solicitation, evaluation and ranking, grant agreement management, project billings, project inspections, and compliance monitoring.

As shown in the Project Budget, personnel expenses will be incurred by three DNR classified staff involved in administering this grant program. Payment of classified staff with Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund money will not result in supplanting the regular budget. A cost coding system is used to document the hours spent by each staff person in administering the program. Two grant staff would each contribute about 8% of a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) per year and the program manager would contribute about 3% of an FTE per year. The total staff contribution will be about .6 FTE over the three year project period.

#### **Deliverable**

#### **Completion Date**

- |                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Complete application round    | June, 2010     |
| 2. Complete 2-6 grant agreements | December, 2010 |
| 3. Project closeouts             | By June, 2013  |

### **III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

#### **A. Project Team/Partners**

Projects are local governments and school districts. They will provide match dollars as well as covering the costs of appraisals, any required archeological/historical surveys, permits, etc. They will also assume all operations and maintenance costs.

#### **B. Timeline Requirements**

This is an ongoing program. The request is for one annual grant solicitation. An additional \$1 million would be needed to fund a second year grant round resulting in a similar level of project activity. The statutory grant limit for this program is \$500,000.

#### **C. Long-Term Strategy**

The long term strategy for the Natural and Scenic Area Grant program is to provide an incentive to local governments to protect natural and scenic resources that do not qualify for state designation, but have important regional or local significance. These areas complement state protected areas and provide close-to-home opportunities for nature study, science and environmental education, species protection, outdoor recreation, and appreciation of scenic vistas. These areas can play a role in addressing the increasing disconnect between people and nature.

## Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (*[Insert # of years for project]* years)

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b> <i>(See list of Eligible &amp; Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)</i>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b> Wayne Sames, Grants Program Manager: \$10,000 for salaries and benefits for the 3 year project period. This represents about 3% of an FTE per year or roughly 10% of an FTE over the 3 year project period. Audrey Mularie and Joe Hiller, Grants Program staff: \$20,000 each for salaries and benefits for the 3 year project period. This represents about 8% of an FTE per year or roughly 25% of an FTE over the 3 year project period for each.	\$50,000
<b>Acquisition</b> Local governments will acquire fee title to about 100-200 acres, which must be protected as natural areas in perpetuity.	\$950,000
	\$ -
<b>Contracts:</b> <i>In this column, list out proposed contracts. Be clear about whom the contract is to be made with and what services will be provided. If a specific contractor is not yet determined, specify the type of contractor sought. List out by contract types/categories - one line per type/category.</i>	\$ -
	\$ -
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> <i>In this column, list out general descriptions of item(s) or item type(s) and their purpose - one line per item/item type.</i>	\$ -
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> <i>In this column, indicate the proposed # of acres and who will hold title (e.g. DNR, Non-profit).</i>	\$ -
<b>Travel:</b> <i>Be specific. Separate in-state and out-of-state travel; explain each. Only travel essential to completing project activities can be included.</i>	\$ -
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> <i>In this column, list any additional budget items that do not fit above categories. List by item(s) or item type(s) and explain how number was reached.</i>	\$ -
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied During the Project Period:</b> Local government recipients will provide at least a 50% match from non-state funds for the projects. They must commit to providing the matching funds as a condition of the grant. Grants are made on a reimbursement basis.	\$950,000	<i>Pending approval of grants</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period:</b> The DNR may also request state bonding funds for this program. It is uncertain whether this program is eligible under the new Parks and Trails Fund.	Unknown	<i>Unknown</i>
<b>In-Kind Services During the Project Period:</b> Grant and financial management services by DNR staff (grant management, processing grant agreements, reimbursement payments, monitoring, etc.)	\$5,000	<i>Pending approval of grants</i>
<b>Remaining \$ From Current Trust Fund Approp.:</b> No 2007 funds remaining	\$0	<i>Spent</i>
<b>Funding History:</b> 2007 Trust Fund dollars totaling \$386,000 were used to fund two projects (Red Wing bluffslands; Pike Lake-Prior Lake). Acquisition completed.	\$386,000	<i>Spent</i>

## **Non-Metropolitan Regional Parks and Natural and Scenic Area Acquisition Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**

Project Manager: Wayne Sames  
Affiliation: Department of Natural Resources, Local Grants Program  
Telephone Number: (651) 259-5559

### **Manager, Local Grants Program, DNR (1988 to present)**

Responsible for administration of the state Natural and Scenic Area, Regional Parks (outside the Metro Area), Conservation Partners/Environmental Partnerships, and Outdoor Recreation grant programs and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) grant funds allocated to Minnesota.

Local Grants Program staff are responsible for the annual project solicitation; evaluation and ranking process; development of grant agreements; review and approval of reimbursement requests; project inspection and closeout; and post-completion monitoring.

### **Organization Description**

The Local Grants Program is a unit of the Office of Management and Budget Services, Department of Natural Resources.

