

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

LCCMR ID: 109-C

Project Title:

Lake Margaret Protection Acquisition-the Douglas Preserve

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

C. Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Acquisition

Total Project Budget: \$ \$375,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1 year, 2010 - 2011

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$95,000

Summary:

The City of Lake Shores acquisition and protection of 40.7 riparian acres on Lake Margaret is critical for its environmental health of wetlands, wildlife and aquatic habitat.

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Sponsoring Organization: City of Lake Shore

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Location:

Region: Central

County Name: Cass

City / Township: Lake Shore

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

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Lake Margaret Protection Acquisition- the Douglas Preserve

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Recently, the listing of a 40.7 acre parcel of land containing over 300 feet of highly sensitive shoreline along the southerly shore of Lake Margaret, an impaired water, prompted the City of Lake Shore to research and seek acquisition of it. The property has been held in private ownership by the same family for over 50 years and it is only now with the potential for new owners and the real possibility of extreme development that permanent protection of this high value resource is essential to the health of Lake Margaret, the watershed and the Gull Chain of Lakes.

Lake Margaret is a 224 acre lake that was identified as impaired water in 2006. The City of Lake Shore has diligently worked to restore the health of Lake Margaret. One of the strategies identified in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan is to acquire or permanently protect high priority wetlands on lake shore property and within the watershed. By acquiring this 40 acre parcel, the opportunity to improve the water quality of Lake Margaret will be achieved. On the other hand, if the property is not acquired and permanently protected, development with the potential for 20-30 additional homes and some with riparian access may occur and result in further degradation of water quality and destruction of critical wildlife habitat.

Acquiring this 40 acre parcel of land, the city with the assistance of the Lake Margaret Conservation Association, the Lake Shore Park Committee and the Minnesota DNR can create a Nature Preserve and utilize the property for low impact outdoor recreational activities such as hiking and cross-country skiing. This property will promote environmental stewardship among residents, visitors, and businesses to maintain a high quality of life in the City and to keep citizens involved in protecting the environment for current and future generations. There is a saying that people only protect the things that they love, and they only love the things that they know. It is important for the City to educate both residents and visitors about the value and importance of preserving the natural environment and its role in supporting the local economy and quality of life.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Acquisition of 40.70 Acres of a high value natural resource **Budget:** \$375,000

This project will secure 40.70 acres of a high value natural resource on one of Minnesota's premier chain of Lakes, The Gull Chain of Lakes. Large parcels of undeveloped property are uncommon on this chain; particularly one that has significant potential to contribute to the further degradation of the water quality and the destruction of critical aquatic and wildlife habitat.

The parcel of property to be acquired is located at the south end of Lake Margaret. Lake Margaret is a relatively shallow lake with 71% of it less than 15 feet in depth. The southerly portion of the lake adjacent to the subject property is extremely shallow with an approximate water depth of 1.5 feet. If development is allowed; there will be riparian access. An increase in boat traffic, even at low or no wake speeds can increase sediment disturbance and direct vegetation impacts through cutting. Maintaining high quality habitats such as these is essential in maintaining the appropriate fish

assemblage to protect water quality. Efforts from previous attempts to create no wake zones have failed at the county level.

In addition, this area contains the only wild rice bed on the Gull Chain of Lakes. The city has identified this wild rice bed as a significant resource that should be protected in the Lake Margaret TMDL Study and the Lake Shore Comprehensive Plan. Wild rice will flourish in its native environment as long as it is undisturbed and has positive effect on water quality as it absorbs nutrients from the water in the early spring and holds these nutrients in the plant until late fall when it releases them. Acquiring this property will help direct development to more appropriate areas within the community.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Acquisition of 40.70 acres of land with over 300 feet of sensitive shoreline.	12/30/2010

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The City of Lake Shore will work cooperatively with the Lake Margaret Conservation Association, the Gull Chain of Lakes Association and potentially the Minnesota Land Trust to accomplish the preservation of this significant resource. The city will acquire title (acquire sensitive lands adjacent to Lake Margaret as outlined in the Lake Margaret TMDL) to the property however; the city will work with other agencies to secure the permanency of preserving this property by not allowing future councils to sell the property. The City (Park Committee) has had great success in securing property and enhancing it for the community. One example, is the site of Fritz Loven Park (80 acres acquired by the city in the 1980's) where the land was enhanced with tree plantings by the local 4-H Club, development of cross country ski-trails and picnic shelter along Stony Brook, one of the top Trout streams in Minnesota. If successful in acquiring the property, the City of Lake Shore and its citizens are committed to the management and preservation. The news of this application has stirred immense interest by the community, many who have utilized the property for walks and snowshoeing in the past without the knowledge they were trespassing. This is a great opportunity to work on a project as community while realizing established environmental goals.

B. Timeline Requirements

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

C. Long-Term Strategy

The acquisition discussed in this proposal will address goals outlined the Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan. The impact of securing such a large parcel of riparian land will address many concerns associated with the impairment of Lake Margaret. There is a need to develop a conservation attitude toward Lake Margaret and its watershed. To develop this attitude, the City of Lake Shore and its residents and partners will work together to foster stewardship of Lake Margaret and its watershed through cooperative projects. Creating the nature preserve on this parcel will be one achievement.

Project Budget

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (1 year)

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Acquisition (Fee Title): 40.70 acres - City of Lake Shore	\$ 375,000
	\$ -
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 375,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: City of Lake Shore contribution for land acquisition and mapping trails.	\$ 95,000	Secured
In-kind Services During Project Period: Lake Margaret Conservation Association, Lake Shore Environmental Committee and the Lake Shore Park Committee to provide labor for creation of trails. In addition, there will be a substantial amount of ataff time dedicated to the project along with any necessary equipment needed. Indentification of tree species, etc. will be done by local DNR staff.	\$ 45,000	



Project Title: Lake Margaret Protection Acquisition-hereinafter known as the Douglas Preserve.

Organization Description: City of Lake Shore

The City of Lake Shore is located on the northwestern shores of the Gull Lake Chain in Cass County. The City of Lake Shore is a statutory city of the fourth class established in 1947. The City encompasses 18 square miles and has an estimated population of 1040. The City of Lake Shore endeavors to remain a predominantly residential and recreational community. The city recognizes the importance of protecting and enhancing our natural resources as stated in the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2006: one of the policies of the city to promote, enhance and restore the City's natural resources and environmentally sensitive area for the community's long-term environmental, social, and economic benefit.

Project Manager: Teri Hastings

Teri Hastings has served as the Lake Shore City/ Planning and Zoning Administrator since 1999. Previously she served as the Crosslake Zoning Administrator for eight years. While in Crosslake she worked with the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association in obtaining a LCMR grant for onsite septic system inspections for the Whitefish Chain of Lakes. Recently, Teri has worked with the Minnesota Land Trust in placing the Fritz Loven Park, 80 acres of land along Stony Brook, into a conservation easement.

Teri has BA degree in Local and Urban Affairs from St. Cloud State University.