

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 111-D

Project Title: Property Acquisition to Complete Arboretum's Boundary Protection Plan

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ \$1,750,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 yrs, July 2011 - June 2013

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum proposes to purchase the final section identified on the Arboretum's Boundary Protection Plan and place the entire area of Lake Tamarack in public ownership.

Name: Dr. Mary Meyer

Sponsoring Organization: U of MN - Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

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Chaska MN 55318

Telephone Number: 952-443-1418

Email span0003@umn.edu

Web Address _____

Location

Region: Metro

Ecological Section: Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

County Name: Carver

City / Township:

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity	_____ Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment
			_____ TOTAL _____%

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Property Acquisition to Complete the Arboretum's Boundary Protection Plan

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Arboretum proposes to purchase the final section identified on the Arboretum's Boundary Protection Plan which was created in 1995. The 78 acres of land is located adjacent to the Arboretum's Horticultural Research Center, on the north side of Highway 5 and east of Bavaria Road in Carver County. This site is 78.13 acres which includes 1,300 feet of lakeshore on Lake Tamarack. This lake is 24 acres in size, the deepest lake in Carver County at 82 feet deep and one of the most pristine lakes in the Metro Area.

Threat:

Although currently undeveloped and partially agricultural, the City of Victoria's Comprehensive Plan guides this parcel 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 resulting from development would negatively impact Lake Tamarack and reduce the amount of aquifer recharge on this parcel.

Opportunity:

The purchase of this land will secure the last inholding and complete the Arboretum's Boundary Protection Plan and provide permanent protection and management of the property. In addition, this purchase would place the entire area of Lake Tamarack in public ownership by the city of Victoria and the Arboretum – the city of Victoria currently owns the property to the west and north of the lake and the Arboretum's Horticulture Research Center sits on the south shore of the lake.

Protection

- Protect the water quality of Lake Tamarack, vigorously preventing water pollution and encouraging a healthy fishery, waterfowl habitat, and native flora and fauna
- Protect majestic stands of oak, maple and basswood, an upland meadow and wetlands that provide habitat for a diverse population of birds, mammals, amphibians, and native plants
- Provide a wildlife corridor linking the 1,137 acres of the Arboretum with 78 additional undeveloped acres of land north of State Highway 5

Research

- Secure land for University of Minnesota research projects including restoration ecology, and perennial crops (alders, etc.) for bio-energy and wildlife habitat research

Public Access

- Ensure public ownership of the entire shoreline of Lake Tamarack

The Arboretum provides a unique opportunity to connect the best practices of research and restoration with the larger community. The Arboretum has seen massive visitor growth each year and now welcomes nearly 320,000 visitors annually. While enjoying the beautiful gardens, guests can also explore engaging conservation and model restoration areas on the site.

Funding Plan: Lake Tamarack Property Cost Estimated to be \$7,000,000

Source	Amount (Estimated Values)
Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$2,250,000
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund	\$1,750,000
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	\$1,000,000
Landowner Donation	Negotiable
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation	\$2,000,000

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity: Purchase the final section on the Arboretum's Boundary Protection Plan, the 78 acre Lake Tamarack Property

Completion Date: June 30, 2012
Budget: \$1,750,000

Outcome: The purchase of 78 acres of land including 38 acres of highly erodible row crop land and 40 acres of wetlands, pasture and forest. The purchase of this property will allow the Arboretum to carry out the following programs and activities:

1. Protect the water quality of Lake Tamarack by planting perennial plants on all tillable land
2. Provide public access to the Lake Tamarack property and ensure public ownership of the entire lake and shoreline.
3. Plant alder research plots that will provide wildlife habitat, be examples of multi-functional landscapes, and create a buffer between wetland and upland environments
4. Provide land for research based education, especially on restoration of native Minnesota plant communities
5. 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
6. 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

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/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 approximately \$7,000,000 based on county records and two appraisals. LCCMR funds would be matched at least 1:1 by project partners

B. Timeline Requirements

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 funds become available.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

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 and are now under the permanent protection and management by the Arboretum. 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.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Acquisition: Fee title acquisition of the remaining 78 acres of land in the Arboretum's Master Plan. Title to be held by the Regents of University of Minnesota	\$ 1,750,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 1,750,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation	\$2,000,000	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	Negotiable	Pending
Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period: Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$2,250,000	Pending
Funding History:	\$ -	
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 (Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation)	\$ 680,000	\$ 918,416
1997 LCMR with Match plus additional from MLAF (Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation)	\$ 450,000	\$ 691,773
1999 LCMR with Match plus additional from MLAF (Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation)	\$ 700,000	\$ 627,315
2001 LCMR with Match plus additional from MLAF (Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation)	\$ 730,000	\$ 995,812
2003 LCMR with Match plus additional from MLAF (Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation)	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000
2005 LCMR with Match plus additional from MLAF (Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation)*	\$ 650,000	\$ 3,100,000
*90 acre Tschimperle Property closed with \$3.1 Million down payment		
Final value to be determined with binding arbitration by 12/30/08		
Total Spending since 1995	\$ 3,560,000	\$ 6,683,316

2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

Project Title: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum - Lake Tamarack Property Acquisition

Project Manager Name: Dr. Mary H. Meyer

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$1,750,000

Final Title Holder(s): University of Minnesota Board of Regents

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)			
					Latitude	Longitude	UTM-X	UTM-Y
1	Lake Tamarack Property	Fee Title	Carver	78.13	44° 87' 07"	-93° 63' 00"		
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
NOTES:								

Boundary Plan

City of
Victoria

Lake
Tamarack

Lake
Tamarack
Property

Lake
Minnewasha



Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM

Legend

Major Watersheds

Arboretum Property — 910 acres

Acquired — 227 acres

Proposed Acquisition — 78 acres

Potential Funding Partners

A UoM purchase
28–40 acres

B Landowner donation
up to 25 acres

C Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
up to 25 acres



Date: Apr 08 2010

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

2011-2012 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.

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 320,000 visitors and more than 20,000 members. Nearly 65,000 children, teachers, and families participated in a wide variety of horticultural and natural science education programs. 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.

