

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2012-2013 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 062-D

Landscape Arboretum Acquisition of Property Surrounding Lake Tamarack

Topic Area: D. Land Acquisition & Restoration

Total Project Budget: \$ 2,000,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1 yr, July 2013 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

The Arboretum requests funding to acquire approximately a final 80 acres of land, which will include the protection of Lake Tamarack, and is otherwise in danger of development.

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Sponsoring Organization: U of MN - MN Landscape Arboretum

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Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Carver

City / Township:

<input type="checkbox"/> Funding Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Base
<input type="checkbox"/> Extent of Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific/Tech Basis	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgency
<input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/> Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL <input type="checkbox"/> %



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2012-2013 Main Proposal

PROJECT TITLE: MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY SURROUNDING LAKE TAMARACK

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Arboretum, consistent with the objectives of the LCCMR, proposes to purchase 78 acres of land located adjacent to the Arboretum's Horticultural Research Center on the north side of Highway 5 and east of Bavaria Road in the City of Victoria, Carver County (the "Site").

The Arboretum's purchase of the Site will protect additional habitat in an increasingly developed area. The Site contains approximately 20 acres of wetlands, as well as 1,300 feet of lakeshore on Lake Tamarack – at 82 feet, it is the deepest lake in Carver County and one of the most pristine lakes in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area Section. Because of its depth and quality, the Arboretum will explore opportunities to enhance this quality fishery and restore specific coldwater fish species to Lake Tamarack, including Rainbow Trout. The Site also contains areas of big woods, oak savanna, and upland meadow, although these resources have deteriorated due to a century of farming.

The protection of this Site will also prevent the disruption of an important wildlife corridor in the metro area. The Site currently links the 1,137 acres of the Arboretum with the Carver Park Reserve, Lake Minnetonka Regional Park and Lake Minnetonka.

The following significant outcomes will result from this acquisition:

- Protecting the water quality of Lake Tamarack, while encouraging a healthy fishery, waterfowl habitat and native flora and fauna.
- Protection and restoration of 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.
- Providing additional recreational and educational opportunities and access to the Arboretum by extending an existing City of Victoria paved trail from the south; in addition, an existing Hennepin County Transit Authority Trail will provide access through a proposed City of Victoria Park on the north side of Lake Tamarack. These connections will provide additional biking and walking paths for visitors. Fishing opportunities will include educational programming for children, as well as direct fishing access on Lake Tamarack. Additional educational programming will address Site history and flora and fauna on the Site.
- Securing land for future University of Minnesota research projects including restoration ecology, organic fruit crop production and perennial crops for bio-energy and wildlife habitat research.

This funding request is timely given development pressure on the Site. Carver County has been one of the fastest growing communities in Minnesota, almost doubling in population over the past 16 years. Continued growth is expected, and the Site is guided for medium-density residential development in the City of Victoria's Comprehensive Plan. This would allow over 100 homes to be built on the Site. Even utilizing best practices for stormwater management and erosion control, Lake Tamarack will be impacted and the surrounding big woods, wetlands and oak savanna will be permanently lost.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Acquisition of 78.13 acres of land

Budget: \$2 million

The Site is located at 400 Arboretum Boulevard in the City of Victoria. The Site was identified by the Arboretum in its Master Plan as the final piece of land for acquisition. The opportunities to protect Lake Tamarack, restore and protect the Site, provide additional educational programming and ongoing research, as well as the ability to provide additional connections between the Arboretum and other parkland and trails within Carver and Hennepin County were all considered as criteria in considering the Site for acquisition. The University of Minnesota and the Arboretum will hold title to the Site once the acquisition is complete.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Updated Appraisal	9/1/2013
2. Purchase Offer	10/1/2013
3. Purchase Agreement	11/1/2013
4. Boundary Survey	11/1/2013
5. Environmental Assessment	12/1/2013
4. Acquisition	7/1/2014

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The Arboretum will carry out the acquisition of the Site. The value of the Site is estimated to be between \$3 and \$4.5 million based on Carver County Tax Records and two (2) historical appraisals. These appraisals will need to be updated for accuracy before moving forward. The land owners have offered to donate all or part of the twenty-five (25) acres of wetland on the property. In addition, the Arboretum will seek support from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, consistent with its support for this project in the past. The Arboretum will also solicit additional funding streams, including foundations and individual donors.

The acquisition has received strong support within the City of Victoria Master Plan for Parks, which describes in detail a potential Lake Tamarack Park Preserve that would allow public access and use and also protect the entire perimeter of Lake Tamarack. Public access would include free access to this area of the Arboretum and fishing opportunities at the Lake.

In addition, the Arboretum will utilize its own funding mechanisms for protection, restoration, education and research activities on the Site once the acquisition has occurred.

B. Timeline Requirements

The acquisition can be completed as soon as a Purchase Agreement has been executed between the parties and funding secured. The owners are willing sellers and would like to see the Site protected if a purchase price can be agreed upon. The acquisition can be completed by July 1, 2014, if the funding request is approved.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This proposal is the final acquisition identified in the Arboretum’s Master Plan. Additional investment by the Arboretum related to restoration and rehabilitation of the Site, as well as the development of educational programming will occur once the acquisition is complete. The Arboretum will also work with the surrounding local governments to ensure trail connections are completed on the Site.

2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Bureau Property Acquisition

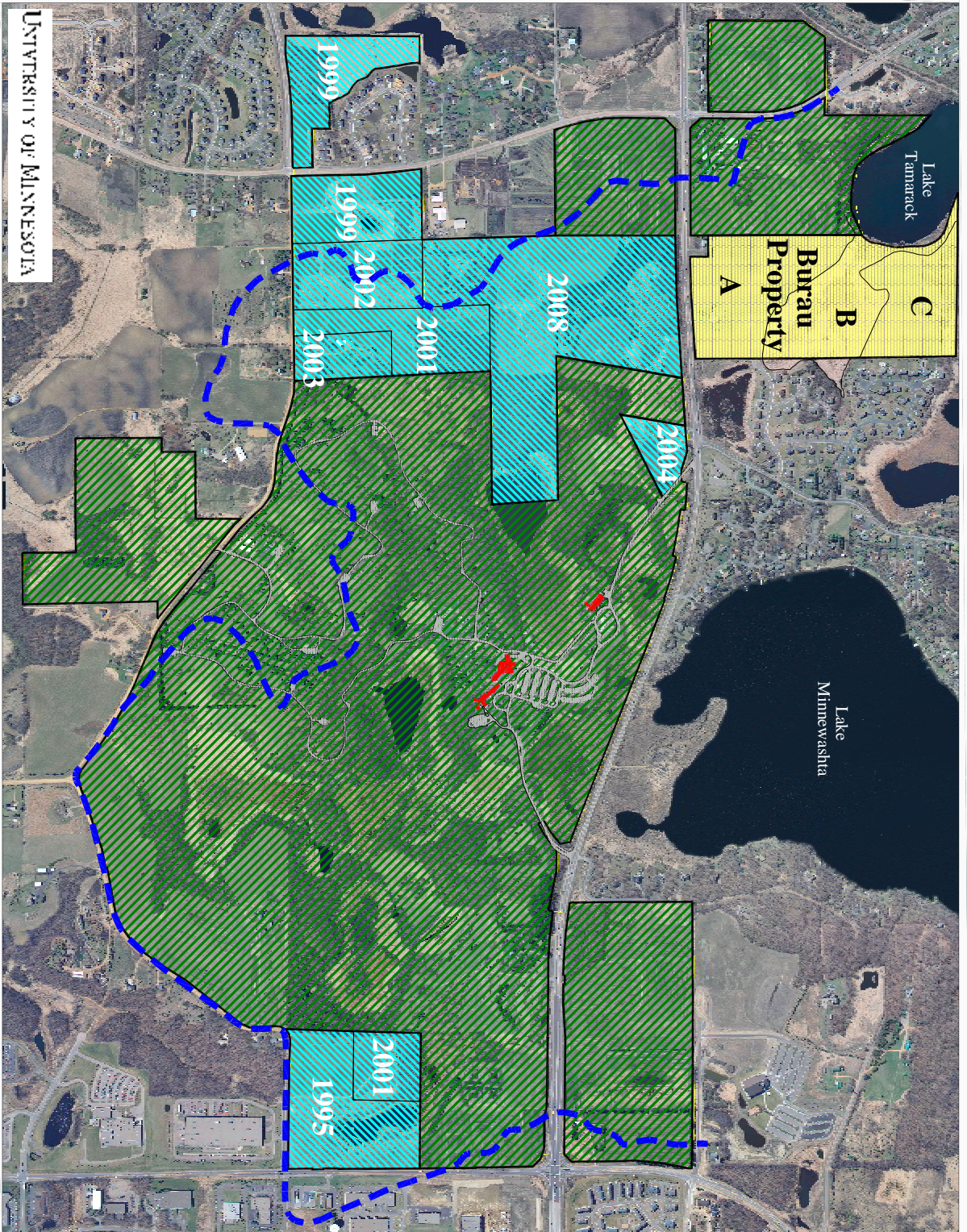
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 year project timeline

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Personnel:	N/A
Contracts:	N/A
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	N/A
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	\$2,000,000.00
Travel:	N/A
Additional Budget Items:	N/A
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 2,000,000

V. OTHER FUNDS





SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: <i>Up to \$1 million from MCWD. Additional funding will be raised by the Arboretum Foundation. Landowners will donate a portion of the property.</i>	Up to \$ 2.5 million, depending on acquisition cost.	<i>Pending</i>
Funding History: <i>See attached LCCMR historical funding document. No LCCMR funding has been secured previously for this specific acquisition.</i>	Attached	

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

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

The Arboretum features 1,137 acres of magnificent gardens, model landscapes, and natural areas – from woodlands and wetlands to prairie – with extensive collections of northern-hardy plants. The Arboretum features 12.5 miles of garden paths and hiking trails, restored prairie, maple basswood forest, sedge meadow and a remnant sphagnum bog with a newly constructed boardwalk and overlook at Green Heron Pond.

The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is part of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the University of Minnesota. Our mission is to provide a community and national resource for horticultural and environmental information, research and public education; to develop and evaluate plants and horticultural practices for cold climates; and to inspire and delight all visitors with quality plants in well-designed and maintained displays, collections, model landscapes and conservation areas.

Project Manager – Peter C. Moe

EDUCATION Master of Agriculture, University of Minnesota

Bachelor of Science with Distinction, University of Minnesota
Major: Horticultural Science

EXPERIENCE

1991 to present University of Minnesota - Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska, MN 55318
Director of Operations/Associate Director

Direct the Operations Department including 1,137 acres of plant collections, display gardens and ecological restorations. Responsible for the physical plant including buildings, grounds facilities, utilities, information technology and sustainability programs. Responsible for administration including accounting, office support and visitor services which include room rentals, food service and gift store. Supervise 80 employees and manage a \$6.5 M operating budget.

Direct operations of Horticultural Research Center including approving plot requests, assigning technical staff and managing all research facilities including greenhouses and propagation systems, irrigation systems, labs and research plots. Manage apple sales including buying, pricing, quality control and customer service. 2011 sales were \$250,000 in 10 weeks.

Supervise the design, construction, and planting of new gardens, buildings, plant displays, environmental models and renovations of gardens, buildings and facilities. Approve plans to restore native forest, prairie and wetland areas and control invasive species. The budget for capital projects has been \$2M to \$5M per year.

Manage 18 year land acquisition program including meeting with Legislators, landowners, local government officials and donors. 227 acres purchased from willing sellers using Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and private matching funds. Worked with U of M to purchase 90 acres of maple-basswood forest, wetlands and tillable land in 2008.