

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 064-D1

MeCC VII - 2.1 & 3.4: Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

Topic Area: D. Land Acquisition & Restoration

Total Project Budget: \$ 442,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 yrs, July 2013 - June 2015

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 10,000

Summary:

FMR will restore 10 acres of prairie and enhance 120 acres of prairie/savanna and 108 acres of forest. Six acres within the Fish Creek Natural Area will be acquired.

Name: Tom Lewanski

Sponsoring Organization: Friends of the Mississippi River

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St. Paul MN 55101

Telephone Number: (651) 222-2193

Email tlewanski@fmr.org

Web Address www.fmr.org

Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

City / Township: Minneapolis, St. Paul, Cottage Grove, Rosemount, Hastings, Ravenna, Marshan, Vermillio

<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: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII-Friends of the Mississippi River. Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Twin Cities Metro Area contains numerous natural areas that provide important wildlife habitat and also serve as crucial components of a larger system of interconnected habitats across the landscape. Due to human influences, these areas have become degraded. Friends of the Mississippi River has been conducting enhancement/restoration and land protection activities on some of the most important and highest quality habitat within the core metro and southeastern metro corridors for 12 years. The restoration, enhancement & protection activities presented in this proposal are designed to continue the work at these sites, ensuring that previous public investment in this habitat improvement is protected, and to expand on these successes by adding new projects sites within the designated corridors. With this funding we can continue the habitat restoration in a seamless fashion allowing us to benefit from a project structure that is already in place. In addition, FMR has the opportunity to assist the City of Maplewood in acquiring and permanently protecting 6 acres of habitat in the Fish Creek Natural Area along the bluffs of the Mississippi River.

There are three overall goals for this project: increase the amount of native habitat within specified focus areas of the Metro Conservation Corridors; enhance the quality of existing habitat; and acquire and permanently protect habitat along the Mississippi River in Maplewood. These goals serve to increase the amount of various ecosystems, including those that are rare on the landscapes, such as prairie, and savanna. By removing and controlling exotic invasive plant species from existing prairie and woodland areas, conditions are improved for native plant species to successfully reproduce and thrive, which in-turn provide food, shelter and nesting sites for various wildlife, including species in greatest need of conservation. Land acquisition in Maplewood consists of 6 acres within the Fish Creek Natural Area. This area is situated along the bluffs of the Mississippi River and is surrounded by open space owned by Ramsey County. Specific activities for each of the goals are described below.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Habitat restoration and enhancement **Budget \$ 280,000**

Restoration: We will restore 10 acres of prairie on a fallow field by conducting prescribed burning, herbicide application, soil preparation, and seeding, followed by 2 seasons of mowing.

Enhancement: 120 acres of existing native and restored prairie and savanna will be enhanced by conducting invasive species control and prescribed burns. In addition, 108 acres of forest/woodland will be enhanced by controlling exotic invasive plants and by planting native trees & shrubs. We will evaluate the effectiveness of all restoration/enhancement actions by conducting periodic site visits to monitor success of management methods including resprouting/germination of exotic plants and survival rate of installed native plants. We will also document breeding bird species at targeted sites.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Conduct prairie restoration activities on 10 acres.	6/30/2015
2. Conduct habitat enhancement activities on 120 acres of existing prairie	6/30/2015
3. Conduct enhancement activities on 108 acres of forest/woodland.	6/30/2015

Activity 2: Acquisition at Fish Creek Natural Area

Budget: \$162,000

These ENRTF funds will be used to purchase 6 acres in the Fish Creek Natural Area. This is one phase of a larger acquisition project of City of Maplewood, totaling 70 acres. The City will hold the fee title.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Acquisition of 6 acres.	6/30/2015

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The FMR project team consists of the Conservation Director-Tom Lewanski and Ecologist and Project Manger-Karen Schik & Ecologist-Joe Walton. Tom will oversee the entire project, assist in restoration project evaluations and coordinate with partners. The Ecologists will update management plans, oversee all restoration activities and lead the project evaluations.

Partners that FMR will work with during Phase VII include the Vermillion River Joint Powers Organization, Dakota County, The Minneapolis Park Board, the St. Paul Parks Department, several Minneapolis neighborhood associations, the Department of Natural Resources, the City of Inver Grove Heights, The City of Hastings, the City of Cottage Grove, Washington County, community volunteers and several private landowners. All of these partners are contributing resources to the project from non-rust Fund sources. Dakota County is seeking funds from the Trust Fund as part of the MeCC.

B. Timeline Requirements

FMR will work to meet the stated outcomes between the July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015 timeframe. By its very nature, habitat restoration and enhancement activities are dependent on appropriate weather conditions. However, even if weather conditions delay the implementation of certain restoration related activities, they should be able to be completed within this time period.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

FMR has been strategically focused on specific areas within the designated corridors for over a decade. This has allowed us to stay engaged with projects, landowners, partners and communities, helping to ensure the continuous improvement and expansion of the habitat values at these sites, while protecting the public investment that has been made in them. Starting with individual parcels, our project areas have grown by orders of magnitude to protect and restore large tracts of land, ultimately creating contiguous greenway corridors. The restoration and enhancement projects presented in this proposal are all part of larger projects both in the sense of time and area. Many times these projects involve restoration and protection components. We are committed to raising the non-Trust Fund funds required to stay involved in these projects into the future. We feel that the Trust Fund is an important, but not the sole, source of funds for these projects. Most of these projects are situated along the Mississippi River corridor or along important tributaries and thus are of statewide significance. We feel this provides ample justification for continued funding through the Trust Fund.

2012-2013 FMR's Proposed Acquisition List

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Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII-Friends of the Mississippi River. Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

Project Manager Name: Tom Lewanski

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$ 162,000 (for acquisition portion of proposal).

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee Title or Conservation Easement)	County	Ecological Significance	Proposed # of Acres	Proposed # of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
1	Fish Creek Natural Area	Fee Title	Ramsey	The site consists of grassland. It is within the Fish Creek Natural Area, which is located along the Bluffs of the Mississippi River in Maplewood. It is also within a greenway that stretches from the river bluffs to the Carver Park in Woodbury. The property buffers Fish Creek	6		City of Maplewood
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3							
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NOTES:

2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget
INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII-Friends of the Mississippi River. Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

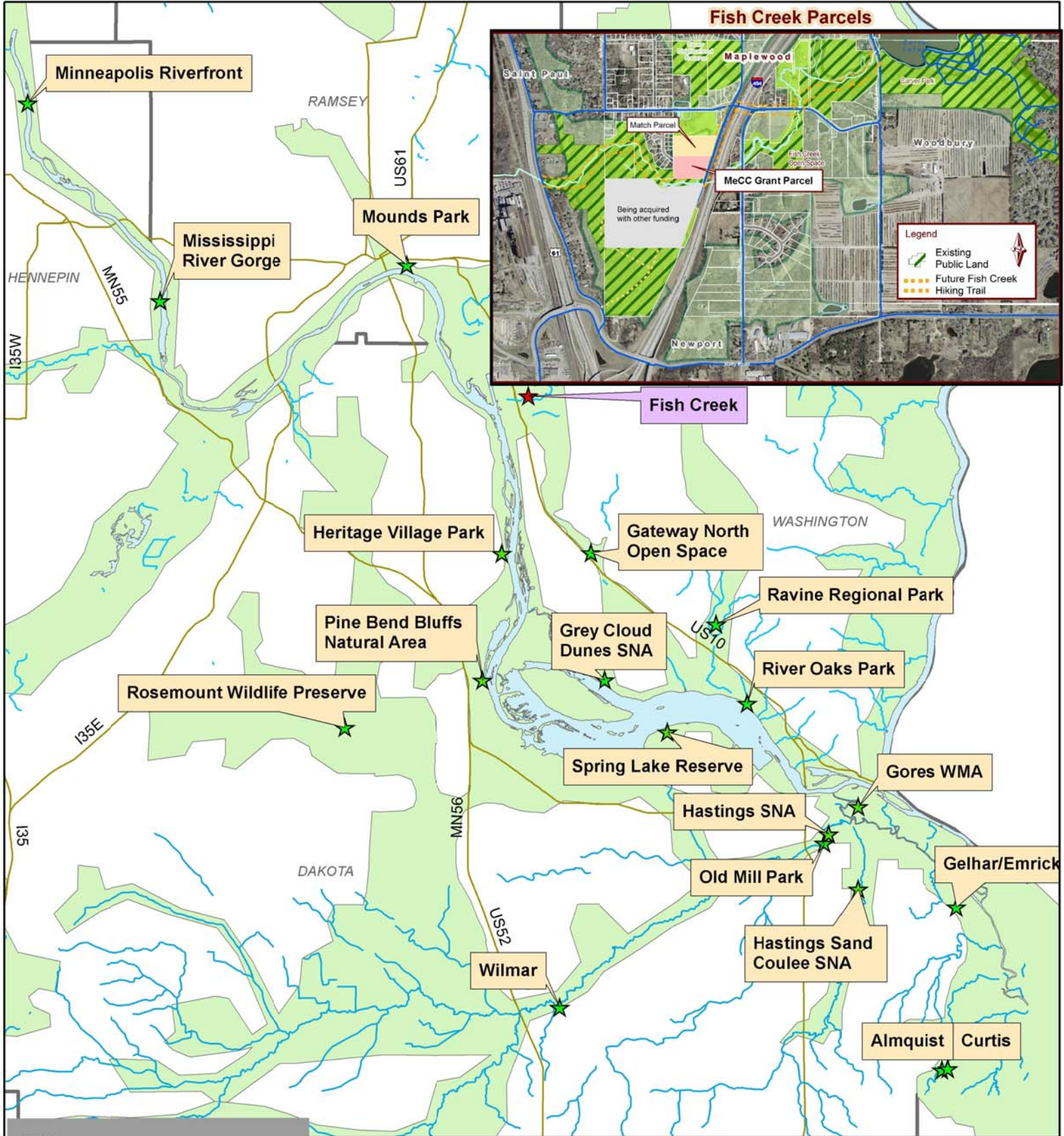
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2013-2015 years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Personnel:	\$ 30,000
Conservation Director. (1) Project and partner coordination. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .02 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015.	\$ 3,175
Ecologist. (2). Specific restoration/enhancement project planning, coordination & implementation. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .2 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015.	\$ 26,200
Bookkeeper.(1). Financial recordkeeping and invoicing. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .006 FTE. July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015.	\$ 625
Contracts: Professional/technical. Vendors to provide restoration activities such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc. (Vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.)	\$ 242,500
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Gloves, fencing, posts, misc. supplies	\$ 2,000
Plant material: Native seeds, trees & shrubs	4,000
Acquisition Fee Title: 6 acres acquired in the Fish Creek Natural Area. The City of Maplewood will hold the title to the land.	\$ 162,000
Travel: Be specific. Only in-state travel essential to completing project activities can be included.	\$ 1,500
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 442,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	\$ 186,000	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
City of Maplewood	\$ 162,000	<i>Pending</i>
Friends of the Mississippi River	\$10,000	<i>Secured</i>
Dakota County	\$5,000	<i>Pending</i>
Minneapolis Park Board	\$5,000	<i>Pending</i>
Capital region watershed district and REI	\$4,000	<i>Pending</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Metro Big Rivers Habitat Phase 3. Fiscal Year 2013.	\$ 225,000	<i>Pending</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period: <i>Indicate any in-kind services to be provided during the funding period. List type of service(s) and estimated value. In-kind services listed must be specific to the project.</i>	\$ -	
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): Project Title: 2.1-MeCC6 – Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat. 2011 appropriation.	\$ 173,731	<i>Not legally committed, but all has been allocated to specific projects.</i>
Funding History: Amount of ENRTF FMR has received for habitat restoration through Metro Wildlife Corridors: 2003 appropriation - \$92,000, 2005 appropriation - \$90,000, 2007 appropriation - \$53,000, 2008 appropriation \$92,000, 2009 appropriation \$90,000, 2011 appropriation \$200,000.	\$ 617,000	

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
M.L. 2012 Restoration and Acquisition List
PROJECT TITLE: Phase VII: Friends of the Mississippi River:
Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat.



- Legend
- ★ Restoration & Enhancement Sites
 - ★ Acquisition Sites
 - MeCC_2012
 - Metro Greenway Corridors 2007

1:220,000

River and County Boundary Data: MN DNR Data Deli
Fish Creek Parcels Image: City of Maplewood

6 3 0

6 Miles



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05/03/2012

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII-Friends of the Mississippi River. Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

Project Manager Qualifications:

Tom Lewanski, Conservation Director

Tom holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Outdoor Education, and Masters & Doctorate degrees in Public Administration. Tom has over 27 years of experience working in the environmental/conservation field. Since 1998 he has served as FMR's Conservation Director. In that capacity Tom has led the organization's efforts to protect and restore land along the Mississippi River and its tributaries, resulting in the establishment of three new Scientific and Natural Areas in Dakota County and the protection and restoration of hundreds of acres of natural areas. A skilled naturalist, he taught environmental education at the Carpenter Nature Center for ten years. Tom is the lead staff person responsible for FMR's land conservation work.

Organization Description:

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) is a leading citizen organization working to protect and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities area. We believe the tremendous ecological, cultural, scenic and recreational values of the river must be carefully tended to ensure that they continue to be shared equally by all citizens and that they endure for future generations. We accomplish these goals through three inter-related programs.

- Land Conservation: We work with public and private landowners to protect, restore and manage important natural areas along the river and its key tributaries.
- Watershed Protection: Working with citizens and local governments, we strive to draw attention to the health of local rivers, lakes and wetlands and bring citizen opinion to bear on decisions that improve water quality.
- River Corridor Stewardship: The Mississippi River cannot protect itself. We engage citizens in a variety of educational, recreational, and volunteer stewardship activities that give them the desire and the understanding to advocate on behalf of the river's public values at City Hall or the State Capitol.

