

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 064-D2

MeCC VII - 2.3: Restoring Our Lands and Waters

Topic Area: D. Land Acquisition & Restoration

Total Project Budget: \$ 421,000

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

Greening will restore/enhance 190 acres (100 Trust Fund) and 2200 lineal feet (1300 Trust Fund) of shoreline, engaging 250 volunteer community members in meaningful parts of the work.

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Sponsoring Organization: Great River Greening

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Location

Region: Metro, SE

County Name: Anoka, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington

City / Township:

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



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

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC VII: Restoring our Lands and Waters

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Much of the remaining natural habitat within the Greater Twin Cities metropolitan area is threatened by conversion, fragmentation, invasive species, development, altered hydrology, and climate change. Restoration and management of these habitats is needed to save Minnesota's natural heritage for future generations, protect rare and declining species, protect our clean water, reconnect habitat corridors, and engage the community so that volunteers can better enjoy and understand the restoration process, to safeguard these natural treasures through time.

We have identified: Seven new projects; next phases/areas at four existing sites; two establishment projects; and a modest amount for active maintenance of a select number of our 30+ existing projects. By working with an array of local, state, federal, non-profit, and private partners, Greening will restore/enhance 190 acres (100 Trust Fund) and 2200 lineal feet (1300 Trust Fund) of shoreline, engaging at least 250 volunteer community members in meaningful parts of the work. These projects are exemplary of our continued engagement in the Anoka Sandplain, collar counties, urban core, and Wild & Scenic Rivers.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Restoration/Enhancement of Terrestrial Habitats

Budget: \$ 311,000

We will restore/enhance a total 190 (100 Trust Fund) acres of forests, wetlands, woodlands, savanna and prairie through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, prescribed fire, establishment mowing and associated activities.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Cedar Creek Conservation Area Prairie Restoration	June 2015
2. Kelsey Round Lake	June 2015
3. Pike Lake Restoration and Enhancement	June 2015
4. Lone Elk Ranch Prairie Restoration	June 2015
5. Trillium Nature Sanctuary Restoration	June 2015
6. Freeman Park Buckthorn Removal Phase II	June 2015
7. Wild & Scenic River Restoration/Enhancement Phase II	June 2015
8. Central Corridor Prairie Restoration Phase III	June 2015
9. Pilot Knob Prairie/Savanna Restoration Phase III	June 2015
10. Central Corridor Phase II, Prairie Establishment	June 2015
11. Spot Maintenance/Enhancement of 30+ existing MeCC projects	June 2015

Activity 2: Restoration/Enhancement of Shoreline Habitats

Budget: \$110,000

We will restore/enhance a total 2200 (1300 Trust Fund) linear feet of shoreline through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, and associated activities.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Ojiketa Regional Park Erosion Control	June 2015
2. Mill Pond Shoreline Restoration/Enhancement	June 2015
3. Cedar Lake Farm Shoreline Establishment	June 2015

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Contributing project partners include South Washington Watershed District; Scott County; Minnesota DNR Wild & Scenic Rivers Program; City of Mendota Heights; City of Shorewood; City of Andover; City of St. Paul; City of Chisago; Village of Marine-on-St. Croix; City of Prior Lake; Anoka County; USFWS Private Lands Program; Sherburne SWCD; Private Landowners.

B. Timeline Requirements

Two years, ending 6/30/15. Some of these projects will require a modest amount of maintenance activities after the grant; we envision including a portion of these needs in subsequent proposals.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

The need and opportunities for restoration in project areas will continue into the foreseeable future, especially in light of climate change, increasing development pressures, and other threats. Greening has a robust record of securing funds from a variety of funding sources to sustain this important work.

2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

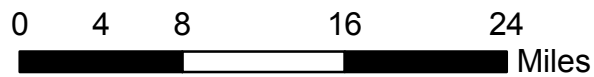
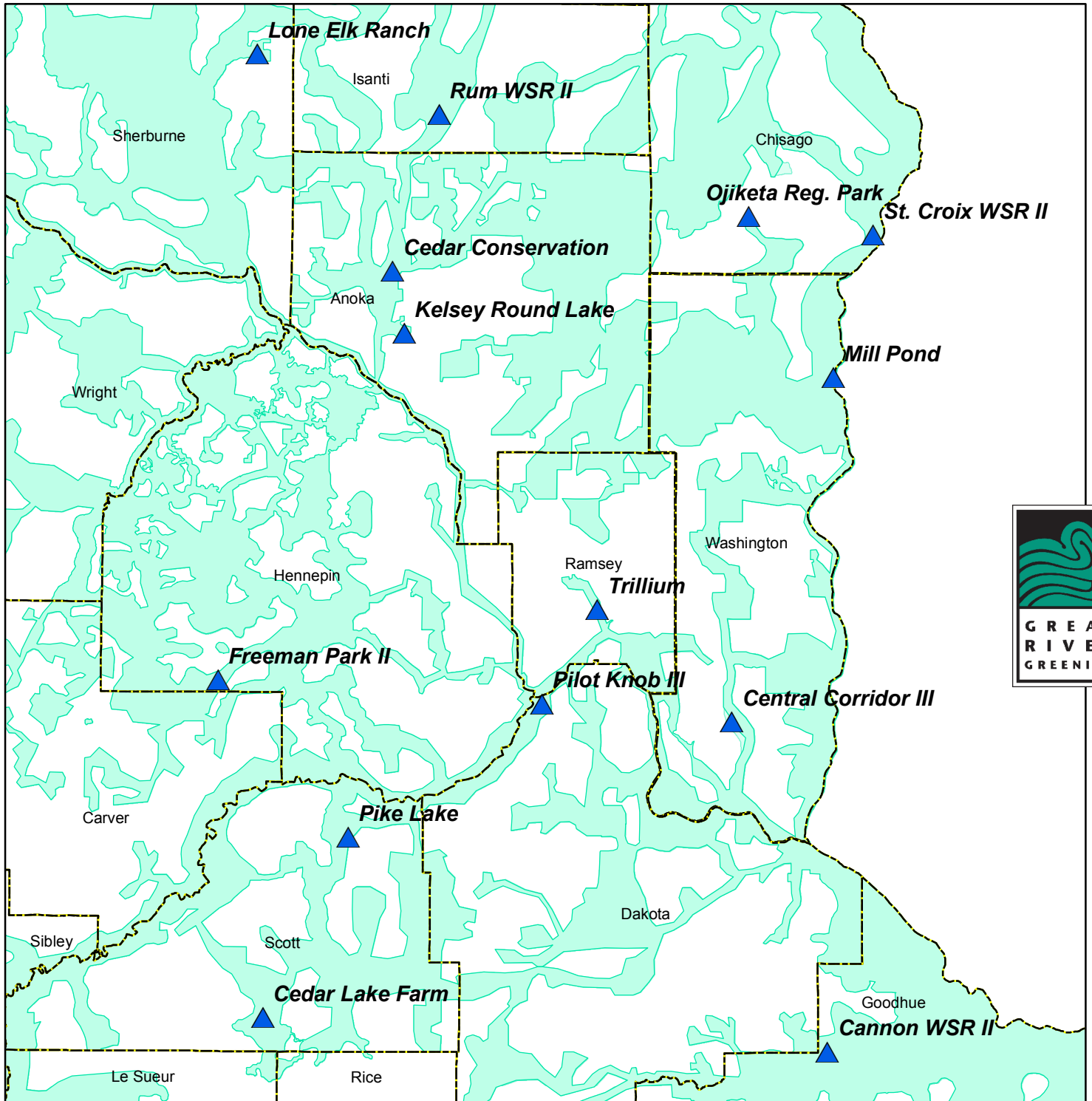
<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel: 4.6 FTE overall. 25% avg benefits rate	\$ 185,000
Contracts: Contracts with restoration vendors for prairie reconstruction, direct hardwood seeding, mowing, tree removal, tree planting, phosphorous trap installation, earthmoving/excavation, burning, etc. Vendors TBD upon bidding process; bidders list will include CCM.	\$ 94,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	
Site prep supplies: Herbicides; Equipment fuel, lubes, and replacement parts; Personal Protective Equipment for chainsaw and Rx burning operations.	\$ 36,000
Seeds, plugs, plants, mulch, erosion control materials, herbivory protection	\$ 89,000
Travel: Vehicle mileage	\$ 7,000
Additional Budget Items: 1)DNR NHIS Database Fees. 2) Volunteer Event Supplies: Tents/tables/chairs rentals; portable toilet rentals; overnight security; granola bars/juice/water/fruit/sandwiches; safety glasses and work gloves.	\$ 10,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 421,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:		All Pending
City of St. Paul	\$87,000	
USFWS Pvt Lands Program	\$ 9,000	
Private Landowners	\$20,000	
Anoka County	\$20,000	
City of Andover	\$ 3,000	
City of Prior Lake	\$15,000	
South Washington Watershed District	\$40,000	
City of Shorewood	\$10,000	
City of Chisago	\$12,000	
Village of Marine-on-St.-Croix	\$15,000	
City of Mendota Heights	\$ 2,000	
Scott County	\$10,000	
Private Corporations	\$ 7,000	
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: DNR Shoreland Grants	\$ 20,000	Pending
In-kind Services During Project Period: Prairie Restoration Site Prep by Private Landowner; Prairie Seeding Sherburne SWCD; Buckthorn Control, Prior Lake.	\$ 8,000	Pending
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):	\$30,000 (2011)	Not Obligated
Funding History:		
	\$124,000	ML 2003
	\$100,000	ML 2005
	\$ 60,000	ML 2007
	\$111,000	ML 2008
	\$155,000	ML 2009
	\$400,000	ML 2011

Restoring Our Lands and Waters

MeCC VII Project Sites





Organization Description

The nonprofit Great River Greening leads and promotes community based restoration of natural areas and open spaces. Our team of experienced ecologists and landscape ecologists bring multiple years' combined experience managing native habitats, conducting natural resource inventories, fundraising for restoration projects on public lands, and engaging over 20,000 volunteers.

We have a regional reputation at all levels of community and government. For example the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has come to us for numerous partnerships: management for the Eagle Creek Aquatic Management Area (AMA) adjacent to private housing, the landowner incentive program for the Franconia – Scandia corridor, and restoration of Afton State Park, to name only a few. We are also a member of the Metro Conservation Corridors, a government-nonprofit collaboration of ten partners that has legislative funding for metro area protection and management.

Project Highlights

- Flint Hills Resources, Rosemount – This ongoing project is designed to restore and reconstruct prairie, savanna and oak woodland areas on the 700-acre Flint Hills property. It is part of the larger Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area, which has been identified by the DNR County Biological Survey as a site of high statewide biological significance. Greening continues to work with Flint Hills employee and community volunteers to implement the management plan designed by the DNR.
- Mounds Park Bluffs, Saint Paul – This ongoing project is located near culturally significant Native American burial mounds. The Bluffs, which overlook the Mississippi River and downtown Saint Paul, are also heavily used for their scenic value. The restorative design focuses on reducing erosion without obstructing the view, invasive species abatement and periodic prescribed burns.
- Pilot Knob, Mendota – Overlooking the Minnesota Valley and Fort Snelling, the site is widely recognized for its historical and cultural significance. Greening, in collaboration with Mdewakanton Dakota, City of Mendota and other partners are restoring oak savanna and prairie to this 24-acre site. In a 'top tier' township for SGCN needs and opportunities, this site is also being managed for non-game birds and native snakes.
- Pond-Dakota Mission Park, Bloomington - The site of historic Oak Grove Mission and the 1856 Gideon and Agnes Pond House, this historically important site is situated along and overlooks the Minnesota Valley NWR. Restoration of oak savanna and mesic woodland is occurring at the site over the next two years.

Project Manager

Wiley Buck, Restoration Ecologist (M.S., Wildlife Conservation, University of Minnesota) is responsible for project development and management, particularly for multi-year restoration projects such as Metro Conservation Corridors, a cooperative effort for protection and acquisition in priority areas of the metro, Landowner Incentive Program for St. Croix Corridor, and Bucks and Buckthorn, a youth hunter and ecological education project (completed). Wiley gained his restoration expertise through his experience with McHenry County Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, Chicago Wilderness, and the Minnesota DNR's Scientific and Natural Areas Program (SNA).