

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

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 064-D7**

MeCC VII - 3.5: WMA Acquisition

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**Topic Area:** D. Land Acquisition & Restoration

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 500,000

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

**Other Non-State Funds:** \$ 0

**Summary:**

This proposal will permanently protect through fee title acquisition 100 acres of critical habitat in the metro/urbanizing landscape that will complement existing investments.

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**Location**

**Region:** Metro

**County Name:** Dakota

**City / Township:** Empire Township

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<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 Phase 7 (DNR Acquisition in the Metro/Urban Landscape)

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

**WHY-** This proposal addresses 2012-13 LCCMR funding priority 5 (Capital projects for the preservation and protection of unique natural resources). Loss of fish and wildlife habitat in the metro and urbanizing landscapes is a constant reality. Additional acres are urgently needed to provide high quality outdoor recreation close to where people live, aid in hunter recruitment and retention, and for the management and restoration of existing WMAs and their associated complexes. MeCC partners have a proven track record of working together to acquire critical habitats.

**GOALS and OUTCOMES-** The goal of this proposal is to permanently protect through fee title acquisition 100 acres of critical habitat through one or more acquisitions in the metro/urbanizing landscape that will complement existing investments. The targeted parcel will protect upland habitats, provide archery and small game hunting opportunities, with a potential to emphasize hunts for youth and persons with disabilities. The parcel also is a key link to a regional trail system.

**HOW-** A high priority parcel has been identified based on habitat quality, and importance to the WMA program. The parcel is also a key link to a metro trail, connecting Lebanon Hills and Dakota County Whitetail Woods Regional Parks. More broadly, this parcel connects an existing trail from Farmington to the new Regional park. The location of a trail through this parcel will be close to an existing road, minimizing impacts to WMA users. Township and county officials are in favor of this acquisition and the landowner is a willing seller. We anticipate a smooth acquisition if funding is secured.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

**Activity 1:** Metro/Urban area acquisition

**Budget** \$500,000

(Fee title \$447,500; DNR direct support \$32,500, land transaction costs \$20,000)

This proposal will secure fee title on approximately 100 acres to protect critical habitats and major landscape connections within scientifically determined corridors in the greater metropolitan area. This request includes \$15,000 for professional services to be used for appraisals, legal fees, surveys, environmental assessments, closings, etc. Approximately \$5,000 will be used to insure that the acquired parcel meets minimum maintenance standards, including but not limited to signage and parking.

Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. Acquired land will be managed as Wildlife Management Area.

Outcome	Completion Date
Fee title acquisition of 100 acres of high priority lands	June 30, 2015

### III. PROJECT STRATEGY

#### A. Project Team/Partners

**DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife (contributing)**

**Role**

Patrick Rivers

F&W Land Acquisition Consultant

**DNR Division of Lands and Minerals (receiving)**

**Role**

Various staff

Appraisal process, transaction managers

**Minnesota Land Trust**

**Role**

Sarah Strommen

Overall project management and coordination

**Dakota County (contributing)**  
Al Singer

**Role**  
Partner in acquisition process

Additional contributing partners may include Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited.

**B. Timeline Requirements**

The project is proposed to be completed by June 30, 2015. The identified parcel of interest is owned by a willing seller. If acquisitions go smoothly, completion may occur by June 30, 2014.

**C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

The WMA system started in 1951, when the state established its “Save the Wetlands” Program to buy wetlands and other habitats from willing sellers in order to preserve them. As a result of 60 years of support by conservationists, hunters and legislators, 1.16 million acres of land in 1,413 units were brought under the control and management of the Division of Fish and Wildlife as WMAs, making it one of the best and largest WMA systems in the country. Acquisition of wildlife lands is focused on protecting critical sites for wildlife and native plants, and providing public hunting and other wildlife-related activities, with primary emphasis on completing existing WMAs.

The long-range goal of the WMA Program, as recommended by the Citizen’s Advisory Committee, is to acquire 700,000 of additional WMA lands in the next 50 years to provide sustainable and diverse populations of wildlife and greater opportunities for wildlife-related recreation for future generations.



## 2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

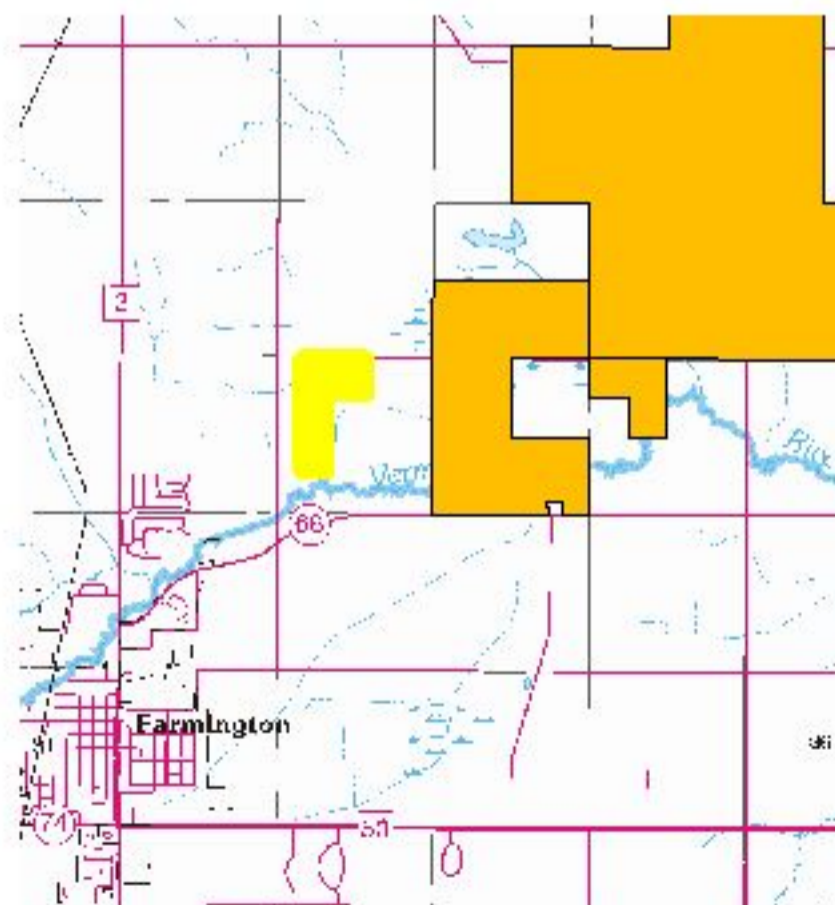
<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Personnel:</b>	NA
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b>	NA
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> 100 acres fee title, State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources.	\$ 447,500
<b>Direct Support Services:</b> DNR used a rate of 6.5% to calculate costs for direct support services, which are DNR's direct and necessary business services required to support this proposal	\$ 32,500
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Land survey, appraisal, title opinion, initial site development and related land transaction costs. Estimate based on a single parcel being acquired.	\$ 20,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Wildlife Surcharge Account (\$6.50 from each small game license sold), pending availability at the time of need.	\$ 40,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> Acquisition coordination, grant management, and landowner relationships as part of the acquisition process. DNR Employees.	\$ 8,000	Secured
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> \$150,000, 2011 Metro Conservation Corridors VI	\$ 135,903	<i>Unspent</i>
<b>Funding History:</b>	\$ -	



# MeCC Phase VII and WMA Acquisition Dakota County



Wildlife Management Areas - Publicly Accessible

## **PROJECT TITLE: WMA Acquisition in the Metro/Urban and Prairie Landscapes**

### **Project Manager Qualifications**

Patrick Rivers is the Land Acquisition Consultant for the MN Department of Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife. He is responsible for coordinating the land acquisition and planning processes for the Division to ensure long-term goals are achieved.

Pat began his DNR career in 1998 in Lake City as a Trout Stream Specialist. He also held DNR positions in Walker (Large Lake Biologist), Grand Rapids (Assistant Area Supervisor), Brainerd (Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Coordinator), and St. Paul. Prior to his current position, he was the coordinator of an eight-state fish habitat partnership focused on strategic habitat conservation of lake habitats. He has a B.S. in Fish and Wildlife Management (1994) and a M.S. in Fisheries (1998) from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

### **Organization Description**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' overall mission is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.

State wildlife management areas (WMA) are established to protect those lands and waters which have a high potential for wildlife production and to develop and manage these lands and waters for the production of wildlife, for public hunting, fishing, and trapping, and for other compatible outdoor recreational uses (M.S. 86A.05, Subd. 8). The long-range goal of the WMA Program, as recommended by the Citizen's Advisory Committee, is to acquire 700,000 of additional WMA lands in the next 50 years to provide sustainable and diverse populations of wildlife and greater opportunities for wildlife-related recreation for future generations.

