

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2014 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 158-F**

Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat.

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**Category:** F. Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 204,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3-July 2014 to June 2017

**Summary:**

Within the Metro Conservation Corridors, FMR will install 2 acres of prairie, enhance 31 acres of prairie and enhance 107 acres of forest and 15 acres of oak savanna.

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**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

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**Location**

**Region:** Metro

**County Name:** Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

**City / Township:** Minneapolis, St. Paul, Cottage Grove, Rosemount, Hastings, Ravenna, Marshan, Inver Gro

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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)**

**2014 Main Proposal**

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

**PROJECT TITLE:** Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VIII-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 13 years. The restoration & enhancement 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.

There are two overall goals for this project: increase the amount and connectivity of native habitat within specified focus areas of the Metro Conservation Corridors and enhance the quality of existing habitat. 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. Furthermore, by working to connect these distinct natural areas, we can provide opportunities for interaction between them, increasing the overall resiliency of the natural communities. Specific activities for each of the goals are described below.

**II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

**Activity 1:**Habitat restoration and enhancement

**Budget: \$204,000**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Install 2 acres of prairie.	June 30, 2016
2. Conduct enhancement activities on 31 acres of prairie.	June 30, 2016
3. Conduct enhancement activities on 107 acres of forest.	June 30, 2016
4. Conduct enhancement activities on 15 acres of oak savannah.	June 30, 2016



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**2014 Main Proposal**

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**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners**

The FMR team includes Tom Lewanski, Conservation Director will assist with landowner contact/communication, MeCC partner meetings and reporting. Karen Schik and Joe Walton are Ecologists and will be responsible for project planning, implementation, vendor relations and evaluation. Barb Heintz, FMR bookkeeper will process and pay incoming invoices and prepare FMR invoices for reimbursement.

Project partners: (None of the following partners will receive funds from this appropriation other than having restoration/enhancement done on land that they own) the Minneapolis Park Board, the City of St. Paul, the City of Cottage Grove, the City of Rosemont, the State of Minnesota, the City of Hastings and three private landowners.

**B. Timeline Requirements**

FMR is planning to complete the activities presented in this proposal by June 30, 2016. However, unforeseen natural occurrences and conditions such as extremely late spring or wet conditions could prevent some of these activities from being completed in this time frame.

**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 protection, restoration and enhancement projects presented in this work program are all part of larger projects both in the sense of time and area. Because of human induced changes in the landscape, natural areas require management. While it is often the case that initial restoration and enhancement require relatively large investments initially, the costs often decrease over time as the goals for a site are met and the project enters a more maintenance level of activity, such as conducting period burns on restored prairie. FMR is committed to conducting fundraising from both public and private sources, for the ongoing restoration and enhancement activities required at these sites over time.

## 2014 FMR Detailed Project Budget

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

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2016-2016 years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
<b>Personnel:</b>	\$ 14,500
Conservation Director. (1) Project and partner coordination. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .02 FTE. July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2016.	\$ 2,500
Ecologist. (2). Specific restoration/enhancement project planning, coordination & implementation. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .2 FTE. July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2016.	\$ 11,500
Bookkeeper.(1). Financial recordkeeping and invoicing. 80% salary, 20% benefits. .006 FTE. July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2016.	\$ 500
<b>Contracts:</b> 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.)	\$ 183,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Gloves, fencing, posts, misc. supplies	\$ 2,000
Plant material: Native seeds, trees & shrubs	4,000
<b>Acquisition Fee Title:</b>	
<b>Travel:</b> Travel to restoration sites and to partner meetings.	\$ 500
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 204,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ 84,000	
<b>National Fish and Wildlife Foundation</b>	\$ 20,000	<i>Secured</i>
<b>Friends of the Mississippi River</b>	\$8,000	<i>Secured</i>
<b>Dakota County</b>	\$5,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Minneapolis Park Board</b>	\$5,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>City of Cottage Grove</b>	\$2,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Private landowners</b>	\$40,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Capital region watershed district</b>	\$4,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> <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>	\$ -	
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> Project Title: 2.1-MeCC6 – Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat. 2011 appropriation. Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII-Friends of the Mississippi River. Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat - 2013 appropriation.	\$ 364,733	<i>As of 5/1/13. Not legally committed, but all remaining funds have been allocated to</i>
<b>Funding History:</b> 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. 2013 appropriation -\$304,000.	\$ 921,000	

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2014 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List**

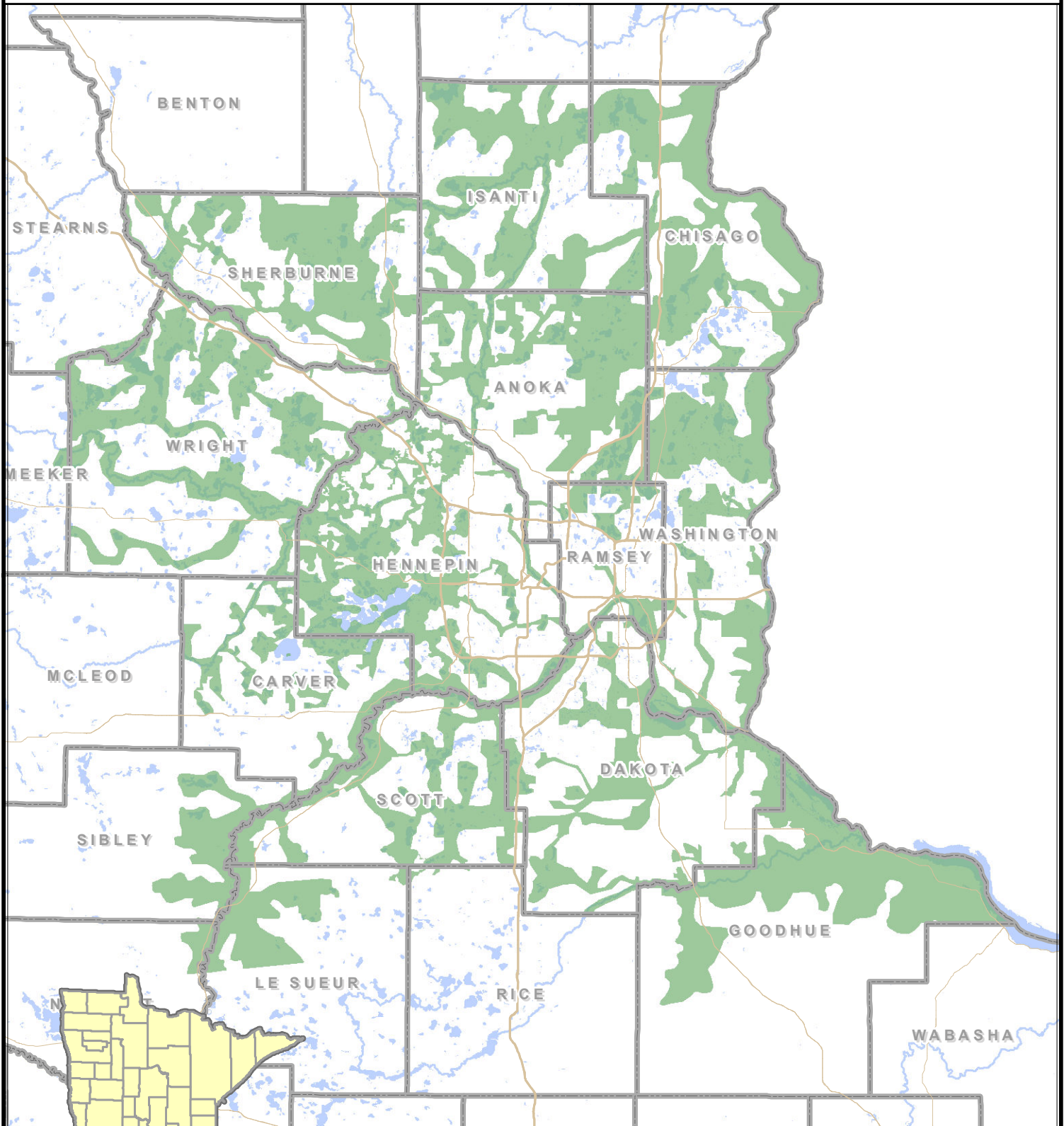
**Project Title:** Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VIII-Friends of the Mississippi River. Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat  
**Project Manager Name:** Tom Lewanski  
**ENRTF \$ Request:** \$204,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		County	Estimated Cost	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner
		Latitude	Longitude							
1	Minneapolis River Front	45°0'13.327"N	93°16'33.829"W	Hennepin	\$10,477.00	Native plant community remnants in urban dominated landscape. Important Bird Area. Shoreline protection, riparian buffer, Mississippi river front.	Exotic plant control. Rx burning. Seeding.	5	0.35	Public - City
2	Mississippi River Gorge	44°56'15.602"N	93°12'12.908"W	Hennepin/Ramsey	\$4,694.00	Rare plant community (oak savanna), Mississippi River corridor, Important Bird Area.	Exotic plant control. Rx burning. Seeding. Planting.	5	0	Public - City
3	Old Mill Park-Hstgs	44°43'34.86"N	92°50'33.12"W	Dakota	\$6,042.00	Rare plants, Vermillion River corridor, connected to other natural areas, rare plant community remnant (oak savanna).	Enhance savanna habitat, reconstruct native prairie	10	0	Public - City
4	Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area	44°47'43.426"N	93°1'46.385"W	Dakota	\$84,359.00	Mississippi River corridor 1.5 miles riverfront, connected to other riverfront protected land, Important Bird Area, rare plant communities, diverse habitat.	Woodland - invasive species management.	60	0	Public - State
5	Ravenna block greenway	44°38'26.94"N	92°46'10.051"W	Dakota	\$33,037.00	Large woodland, connected to other protected properties, wildlife corridor. Groundwater and surface water protection - ranked very high sensitivity to contaminants and soils are mostly highly erodible.	Woodland- invasive species management. Grassland - manage prairie restoration.	30	0	Private
6	River Oaks Park-Cott Grv	44°46'49.831"N	92°53'1.797"W	Washington	\$4,010.00	Rare bedrock bluff prairie and oak savanna. Mississippi River front. Portion of large contiguous forest.	Rx burn. Seed collection. Seeding.	2	0	Public - City
7	Rosemount Preserve	44°46'22.382"N	93°6'12.897"W	Dakota	\$7,317.00	On-going restoration/enhancement since 2006.	Enhance oak woodland - invasive species management	26	0	Public - City, and private.
8	Sand Coulee SNA	44°42'47.932"N	94°49'13.728"W	Dakota	\$54,064.00	Rare sand-gravel prairie community, very diverse, 13 rare plant and animal species, largest prairie in Dakota County, habitat corridor.	Enhance oak forest, restore prairie, enhance existing prairie.	80	0	Public-State
9										
10										

NOTES:

# Metro Conservation Corridors

2014 - PHASE VIII



 Metro Conservation Corridors

 Counties

 Major Highways

 Lakes & Rivers

07/30/2013

*For specific project locations, please see maps depicted in individual proposals.*

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**PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VIII-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.

