

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2015 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 144-G

MeCC VIII: TPLs Strategic Land Protection Program

Category: G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 1,000,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 years, July 2015 - June 2018

Summary:

The Trust for Public Land will protect strategic lands in the Metro Area, in order to benefit wildlife corridors, provide close to home access to nature, and improve water quality.

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Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Chisago, Washington

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

TPLs Strategic Land Protection Program - MeCC 8 2015 Focus Areas

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



PROJECT TITLE: MeCC 8: TPL’s Strategic Land Protection Program

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Trust for Public Land will protect through fee title acquisition approximately 50 acres of high quality habitat and 0.25 miles of shoreline within the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. These lands have been identified and prioritized through state, regional and local natural resource plans due to their high biodiversity, connectivity, and ability to create corridors for wildlife movement.

In the Twin Cities Metropolitan area and surrounding counties, opportunities to protect priority conservation lands decrease daily because lands are being developed and land values are escalating – particularly for properties adjoining already protected lands or for those that have lakeshore and river/stream frontage with high natural resource values. Communities are facing challenges to protect and restore these areas, while also providing access to enjoy natural areas close to home.

To address these challenges, The Trust for Public Land is strategically focusing its conservation efforts on protecting remaining high priority natural areas in the Metro Area – particularly in Washington and Chisago Counties. Within the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership, key corridors have been identified through science-based classifications and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. The goals of The Trust for Public Land’s Strategic Land Protection Program are:

- To protect lands and waters within targeted high-biodiversity focus areas – including along streams, rivers and lakes -- that are imminently threatened by fragmentation, conversation, degradation or sale – and that are currently not eligible for other protection funding due in large part to hunting requirements
- To create corridors of habitat to facilitate the movement of wildlife
- To create close-to-home opportunities for outdoor recreation, wildlife viewing, photography, fishing and other experiences for Minnesotans

By permanently protecting these strategically selected lands, multiple long term benefits will be achieved:

- Provision and protection of high quality habitat for migrant and resident wildlife species
- Resilience of native animal and plant populations (including “Species in Greatest Conservation Need”) in the face of climate change and invasive species, due to improved ecosystem connectivity
- Protection of our lakes, rivers and streams and improved quality of our ground water
- Increased access to outdoor recreation and enjoyment in the Metro Area where nearly 60% of the state’s population lives, and is projected to increase by 28% over the next 30 years

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Strategic protection of fee title lands in the greater Twin Cities Metro Area
Budget: \$1.0 million

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Approximately 50 acres of high quality habitat and 0.25 miles of shoreline protected through fee title acquisition	6/30/18



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2015 Main Proposal

Project Title: *MeCC 8 – TPL's Strategic Land Protection Program*

The Trust for Public Land is targeting strategic parcels in the following areas of Washington and Chisago Counties with the highest capacity to provide benefits to wildlife, humans, and water quality; adjacency to already protected land; and landowner willingness to sell for conservation purposes:

- **St. Croix/Franconia-Scandia SNA:** In the St. Croix Valley in Washington County, The Trust for Public Land is building on its past successful protection partnership with DNR's SNA program to protect critical habitat in this important ecological corridor as defined by DNR's Division of Ecological Services. The St. Croix has been identified in *Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare* plan as having the greatest concentration of "Species of Greatest Conservation Need." Priority is land of high biodiversity significance and sensitive ravines that impact water quality leading into the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.
- **Keystone Woods and Carnelian Creek Area:** In the forested areas of northern Washington County, The Trust for Public Land is working with landowners to protect lakeshore and high biodiversity wetlands and uplands. The MCBS has identified large portions of this land as having high biodiversity significance, including aspen-oak stands, oak openings and barrens, Big Woods, wet prairie, conifer bogs and swamps. MNDNR's Natural Heritage Database contains fourteen records of rare plant communities, plant species and animal species, including Blanding's turtle and Red-Shouldered Hawk. These areas are a high priority for protection for Washington County.
- **Lindstrom Natural Area:** In Southern Chisago County, The Trust for Public Land is working with the City of Lindstrom to protect lake shore and habitat for species in greatest need of conservation, such as Red Shouldered Hawk, Bald Eagle and Blanding's turtle.

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The Trust for Public Land partners with the Metro Conservation Corridor organizations as well as with towns, counties, lakeshore associations, citizen groups and others to successfully acquire and permanently protect land. Agencies specifically ask for our help with protections because they lack staff, resources and capacity to do so. In the parcels identified above, the likely long term stewards will include: Washington County, the City of Lindstrom, and the DNR-SNA.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

These fee title acquisitions are part of a larger strategy of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership to conserve high quality habitat and connect corridors in the high growth area of Minnesota. The work of The Trust for Public Land and the MeCC Partnership is informed by state, regional and local plans to protect habitat and water quality. Conserving high quality habitat in the Metro area will require sustained effort for at least a generation. Metro Conservation Corridors Partners will continue to leverage funding and coordinate resources to achieve the long term vision of clean water and protected, restored land close to home for most Minnesotans. For every \$1.00 spent in ENRTF funding, the MeCC Partnership has leveraged \$3.76.

To date, the MeCC Partnership has protected over 11,000 acres, and 28 miles of sensitive shoreline. There are still over 80,000 acres of regionally significant natural areas in the Metro Region that are unprotected. The Trust for Public Land will continue its work as long as critical habitat close to where so many Minnesotans live, work and play remains unprotected and in danger of degradation and loss.

C. Timeline Requirements

3 years; until June 30, 2018

2015 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: MeCC8: TPL's Strategic Land Protection Program

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): Fee title acquisition of 50 acres; Permanent stewards include: Washington County, DNR-SNA, and City of Lindstrom	\$ 990,000
DNR Acquisition costs/Management plan, initial site development plan - only needed for acquisitions where DNR is permanent steward or where DNR is performing appraisal review	\$ 10,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 1,000,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Various local, federal and private funds	\$250,000	Pending
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Bonding and/or Clean Water Land and Legacy Funds	\$250,000	Pending
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): 2013 Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC Phase 7)	\$400,000	In progress; Funds Committed
Funding History:		
2005: \$620,000 ENTRF + \$1,664,000 Other Funds 2007: \$420,000 ENTRF + \$2,320,000 other funds 2008: \$475,000 ENTRF+ \$2,215,000 Other Funds 2009: \$380,000 ENTRF+ \$992,000 Other funds 2010: \$890,000 ENTRF+ \$4,790,000 Other Funds 2011: \$500,000 ENTRF + 500,000 Other Funds; \$74,000 ENTRF spent	\$2,859,000 ENTRF Spent	MeCC Phases 1-5/ 5 supp. are spent MeCC 6 still in progress; funds committed

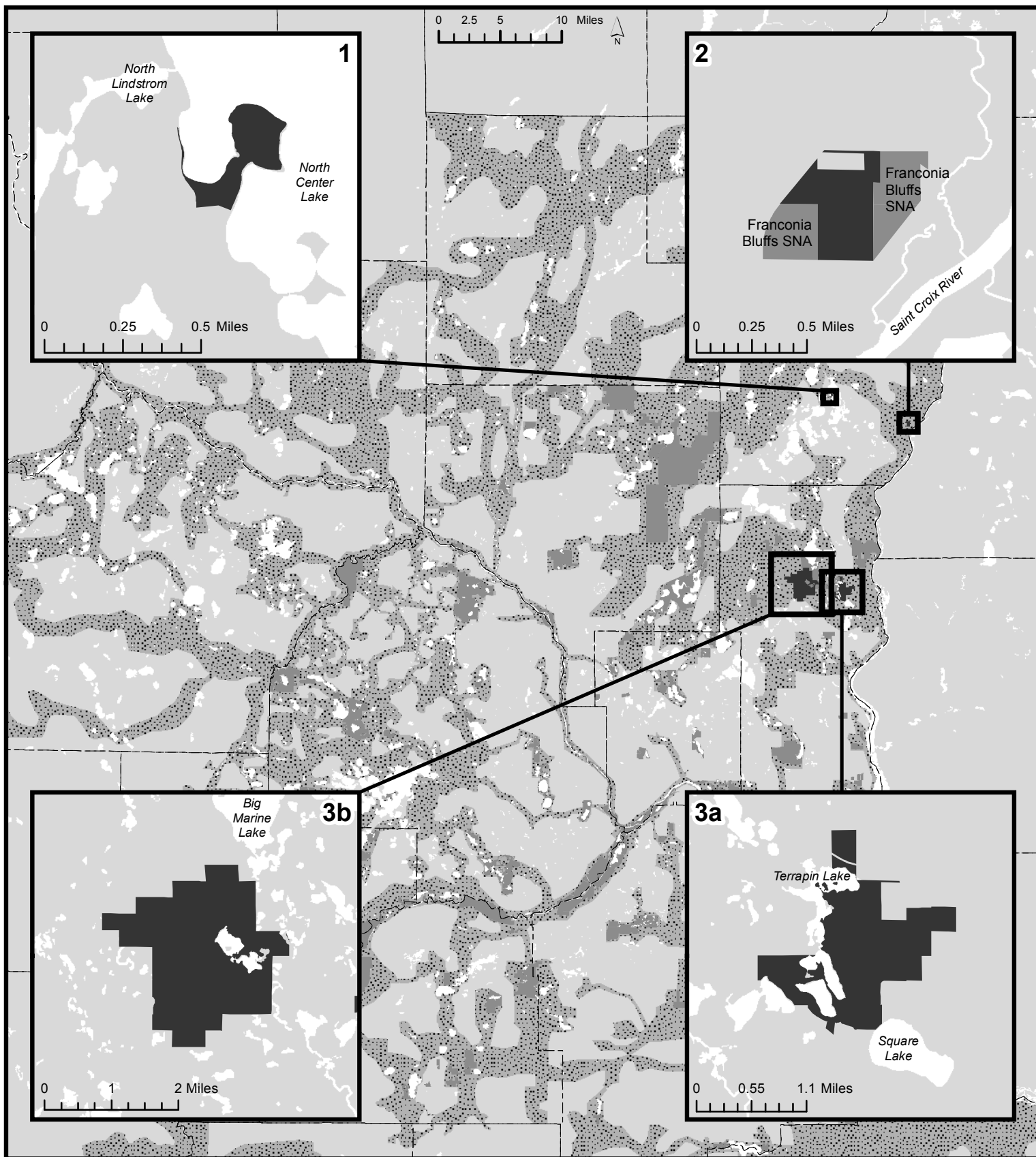
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2015 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List

Project Title: MeCC8: TPL's Strategic Land Protection Program

Project Manager Name: Danielle Salus

ENRTF Request: \$1,000,000

#	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	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
		Latitude	Longitude								
1	Lindstrom Natural Area	45 38'90N	92 85'56W	Chisago	\$800,000	This is the third phase of an effort that has been made possible by the down economy and which includes protection of 5600 feet of lakeshore and habitat for Species in Greatest Need of Conservation such as Red Shouldered Hawk, Bald Eagle, and Blanding's turtles. Protection is supported in local, regional and state plans.	Fee Title	30	1.06	private	City of Lindstrom
2	St. Croix/Franconia-Scandia SNA	45 28'14 N	92 76'66W	Chisago or Washington	\$600,000	Protection is targeted towards lands of high biodiversity significance adjacent to current protected lands and to sensitive ravines that impact the water quality leading into the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Protection here is supported by local, state and federal plans.	Fee Title	80	0.5	private	DNR-SNA
3a	Carnelian Creek Area	45 17'35N	92 82'09W	Washington	\$1,000,000	MLCSS classifies the area as having high quality tamarack swamp, oak forest, northern hardwood forest, aspen birch forest, maple basswood forest, prairie, grassland and wetlands. The MNDNR's Natural Heritage Database and MCBS contain fourteen records of rare or significant plant communities, plant species, and animal species in the area, including Blanding's Turtle, Red Shouldered Hawk, and Milk Snake. This area is one of Washington County's top conservation priorities.	Fee Title	1000	2.5	private	Washington County
3b	Keystone Woods Area	45 17'93N	92 87'51W	Washington	\$1,500,000	MLCSS and MCBS identify this area as having high natural resource value, including mesic oak forest, dry oak forest, mixed emergent swamp, tamarack swamp, and wetlands. The following "Species in Greatest Conservation Need" exist in the area: Red-shouldered Hawk, Bald Eagle, Common Snapping Turtle, Blanding's Turtle, Fernleaf False Foxglove, and Bog Copper. This area is one of Washington County's top priorities for conservation.	Fee Title	900+	1.5	private	DNR or Washington County



TPL'S STRATEGIC LAND PROTECTION PROGRAM- MECC 8 2015 FOCUS AREAS

The parcels shown are potential acquisition areas only. They do not necessarily represent the specific lands that will be acquired. Actual acquisitions will be dependent on negotiations, planning, agency approvals, and funding levels.

Legend

- Trust for Public Land Focus Area Projects
- County Boundary
- Metro Area Parks and DNR Lands
- Metro Conservation Corridors
- Water

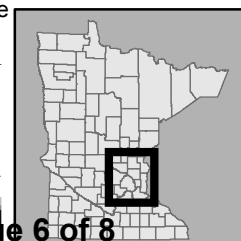
04/22/2014

Clockwise from top-left:
 (1) Lindstrom Natural Area
 (2) Franconia Scandia SNA
 (3a) Carnelian Creek
 (3b) Keystone Woods

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 on 03/25/14
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THE
 TRUST
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Danielle Salus

Danielle Salus, Project Manager with The Trust for Public Land (TPL), leads conservation real estate and conservation finance work throughout the state of Minnesota. She manages all aspects of real estate transactions including initial research and outreach; negotiating contracts; advocating for and securing financing; and coordinating due diligence work. Prior to her work at TPL, Danielle coordinated real estate transactions and finance for local community development corporations. She has a B.A. from Duke University, and holds an M.P.A. (Public Administration) and M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

