

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2016 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 166-F

Restoring our Metro Lands and Waters: MeCC IX

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

Total Project Budget: \$ 509,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 years, July 2016 to June 2019

Summary:

Greening will restore 153ac and 0.15mi of significant habitat throughout the metro area, engage 650 volunteers; apply innovative techniques, conduct evaluations, and implement corrective actions to advance restoration practices.

Name: Wiley Buck

Sponsoring Organization: Great River Greening

Address: 35 W. Water St.
St. Paul MN 55107

Telephone Number: (651) 775-8759

Email wbuck@greatrivergreening.org

Web Address www.greatrivergreening.org

Location

Region: Metro

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

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

Map showing locations of project sites

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



PROJECT TITLE: Restoring Our Metro Lands and Waters: MeCC IX

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Greening will restore significant upland and shoreline habitat throughout the metro area, engage community volunteers, and apply innovative techniques, conduct evaluations, and implement corrective actions to advance restoration practices.

Nine ecologically significant restoration projects have been identified, including forests, prairies, woodlands, wetlands, and shorelines. By working with an array of local, state, federal, non-profit, and private partners, using ENRTF and matching funds, Greening will restore 153 acres, 0.15 miles of shoreline and engage 650 volunteers. These projects are exemplary of our continued engagement in the metro area, with a focus on projects in the west metro. To advance the practice of restoration, Greening will continue to develop applications for conservation haying/grazing, evaluate 18 of our projects, and implement corrective actions on an estimated 13 acres at one site.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Restore Upland , Wetland, & Shoreline Habitat; Engage Volunteers **Budget: \$ 448,000**

We will restore 153 acres of forest, prairie, woodland, and wetland; and 0.15 miles of riparian shoreline in nine projects located within the mapped Metro Conservation Corridors. Application of conservation haying/grazing, with monitoring, will be employed in two Painters Creek projects. At Wolsfeld Woods SNA, the habitat is being degraded by erosion from the trails; for this project, trail surface, routing, and erosion control improvements will be an integral part of the site restoration. We will engage 650 volunteers in appropriate, meaningful tasks as part of these restorations. All projects will include a management plan and initial restoration evaluation at the end of the grant period.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Restore 153 acres incl. management plan and initial evaluation; implement conservation haying/grazing on >5 ac; improve trails in 60 acres	June 30, 2019
2. Restore 0.15 miles of shoreline	June 30, 2019
3. Engage 650 volunteers	June 30, 2019

Activity 2: Complete 18 ‘Third Year’ Evaluations, and Corrective Actions at One Site **Budget: \$ 61,000**

Greening will develop our ‘third year’ restoration evaluation protocol, based on the U of M findings and protocol (‘Restoration Evaluations’ ML 2013 subd. 04I) and possibly other sources. We will then evaluate our 18 projects from our ML 2011 Trust Fund appropriation and write an overall report on our findings, for dissemination to MeCC partners, and U of M. The goals of these evaluations are to assess the condition of the projects, identify any corrective actions that are warranted, and to improve restoration practices and guide future restoration projects.

Evaluations previously conducted on our Pilot Knob Hill restoration project greater than three years old reveals an underperforming restoration on approximately 13 acres of 24 total, despite sustained maintenance activities. Greening, with landowner, stakeholder, and peer input, will develop a revised management plan based on the evaluations and initial approach, and guided by the results of the grazing trials underway and pending bumblebee surveys. Greening will then



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implement these corrective actions at this site, and conduct an initial evaluation of these corrective actions at the end of the grant period.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Revise management plan and identify corrective actions at Pilot Knob	August 15, 2016
2. Implement Pilot Knob corrective actions ; evaluate	June 30, 2019
3. Evaluate 18 restoration projects from 2011 appropriation	June 30, 2019

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Contributing Partners

- City of Lindstrom (Allemansratt Park): Non-state funding
- MN-DNR SNA Program (Wolsfeld Woods SNA): State in-kind services
- City of St. Louis Park (Westwood Nature Center II): Non-state funding
- Minnesota Valley Trust (Old Cedar Avenue Bridge): Non-state funding
- Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Old Cedar Avenue Bridge): Non-state in-kind services
- City of St. Paul Park (Lions Levee Park): Non-state funding
- South Washington Watershed District (Lions Levee Park): Non-state funding
- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (Mud Lake, Painters Creek): Non-state funding
- City of Mendota Heights (Pilot Knob Hill): Non-state funding
- Private Donors (tbd): Non-state funding and in-kind services
- Volunteers (tbd): Non-state in-kind services

Dissemination and Coordination

- Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership (MeCC) organizations: In-kind project development, dissemination
- Minnesota Land Trust: MeCC Partnership coordination, funded by pending 2015 Trust Fund allocation

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

Much of our remaining habitat in the metro area is threatened by conversion, fragmentation, altered hydrology, invasive species, and a public that is spending less time in natural areas. Restoration and management of these habitats is needed now and into the future to retain Minnesota’s natural heritage for generations, protect rare and declining species, protect our clean water, and reconnect habitat corridors. Advancing the practice and techniques for restoration will help to meet the need for effective restoration, now and into the future.

Engaging volunteers in meaningful, appropriate and transferrable outdoor restoration activities on natural areas will allow community members to learn, enjoy, and understand the restoration process, which are key elements for safeguarding our natural treasures through time.

At the site level, maintenance of the restoration becomes the landowner’s responsibility at the end of the grant period. We anticipate seeking future ENRTF funding to return to these projects to perform later evaluations. Opportunities to restore new sites, and subsequent phases covering additional acres/shoreline will likely continue into the future. The mapped Metro Conservation Corridors provide direction as to where our efforts are best focused, while lessons learned from evaluation and corrective actions will contribute to advancing restoration techniques and practices.

C. Timeline Requirements

This proposal is for a 36 month timeline, ending June 30, 2019, assuming reasonable field season weather and sufficient service provider capacity.

2016 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Restoring our Metro Lands and Waters: MeCC IX

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel:	
Project Manager / Ecologist: \$21,000 (78% salary, 22% benefit); 12% FTE for 3 years.	\$ 21,000
Grant Management Assistant: \$7,000 (80% salary, 20% benefit) 5.6% FTE for 3 years.	\$ 7,000
2 Ecologists: \$33,000 (85% salary, 15% benefits); 9% FTE each for 3 years	\$ 33,000
Director of Conservation Programs: \$4,000 (93% salary, 7% benefits); 2% FTE for 3 years.	\$ 4,000
Volunteer Manager: \$10,000 (87% salary, 13% benefits); 6.3% FTE for 3 years.	\$ 10,000
Field Coordinator: \$16,000 (86% salary, 14% benefits); 13% FTE for 3 years.	\$ 16,000
3 Restoration Technicians: \$24,000 (93% salary, 7% benefits); 9% FTE each for 3 years.	\$ 24,000
Director of Finance: \$8,000 (81% salary, 19% benefits); 3.3% FTE for 3 years.	\$ 8,000
Administrative Assistant: \$2,000 (86% salary, 14% benefits). 1.3% FTE for 3 years.	\$ 2,000
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	
Habitat restoration/enhancement activities including site preparation, seed installation, earthwork, invasive species control, mowing/haying, grazing services, prescribed burning, planting, watering, fencing, mowing. Vendors TBD (competitive bid process with consideration to CCM):	\$ 188,000
Erosion control, trail routing and surface improvements at Wolsfeld Woods SNA. Vendor(s) TBD (competitive bid process with consideration to CCM):	\$ 23,000
Vegetation monitoring for conservation haying/grazing application. Vendor(s) TBD (competitive bid process with consideration to CCM):	\$ 5,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	
Restoration tools: Purchase of personal protective equipment; repair and maintenance of mowers, ATV, UTV, sprayers.	\$ 3,000
Restoration supplies: Seed, plants, mulch, herbicide, fencing	\$ 145,000
Travel: In-state vehicle mileage.	\$ 10,000
Additional Budget Items: Volunteer Event Supplies. 650 volunteers total @ ≤\$11/volunteer for approved healthy food/beverage, gloves, safety glasses, boot brushes, table/chair/portable toilet rentals, hand tools; plus 5 lg tent rentals @ \$450 each, and 3 overnight security contracted services @ \$200 ea.	\$ 10,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 509,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: City of Lindstrom (Allemansratt): \$20,000 City of Mendota Heights (Pilot Knob Hill):\$10,000 City of St. Louis Park (Westwood Nature Center II): \$20,000 Minnesota Valley Trust (Old Cedar Avenue Bridge): \$15,000 City of St. Paul Park (Lions Levee Park): \$5,000 South Washington Watershed District (Lions Levee Park): \$5,000 Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (Mud Lake, Painters Creek I, II, III): \$30,000 Private Donors (tbd): \$5,000	\$ 110,000	Pending
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$ -	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Old Cedar Avenue Bridge): Field Implementation for bulk of woody invasive removal; trail and viewing platform installation including bathroom facilities; adjacent parking lot improvements; coordination with City of Bloomington. MN-DNR SNA Program: in-kind state services at Wolsfeld Woods SNA	\$ 10,000	Pending
Funding History: Trust Fund: M.L. 2003 \$124K; M.L. 2005 \$100K; M.L. 2007 \$60K; M.L. 2008 \$111K; M.L. 2009 \$155K; M.L. 2011 \$400K; M.L. 2013 \$208K; M.L. 2014 \$300K; M.L. 2015 \$400K (pending). <u>OHF Metro Big Rivers (MBR)</u> : M.L. 2010 \$170K; M.L. 2011 \$150K; M.L. 2012 \$375K; M.L. 2013 \$210K; M.L. 2014 \$400K; M.L. 2015 \$400K (pending); <u>OHF Anoka Sand Plain (ASP)</u> : M.L. 2010 \$747K; M.L. 2012 \$559K; M.L. 2014 \$901K.	\$ 1,858,000 \$ 1,704,700 \$ 2,206,750	Trust Fund OHF MBR OHF ASP
Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation: Trust Fund M.L. 2011 \$3,000 (all allocated); M.L. 2013 \$102,000 (\$72,000 obligated); M.L. 2014 \$288,000 (\$239,000 obligated);	\$ 393,000	Trust Fund unspent

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2016 Proposed Acquisition/Restoration List**

Project Title: Restoring our Metro Lands and Waters: MeCC IX

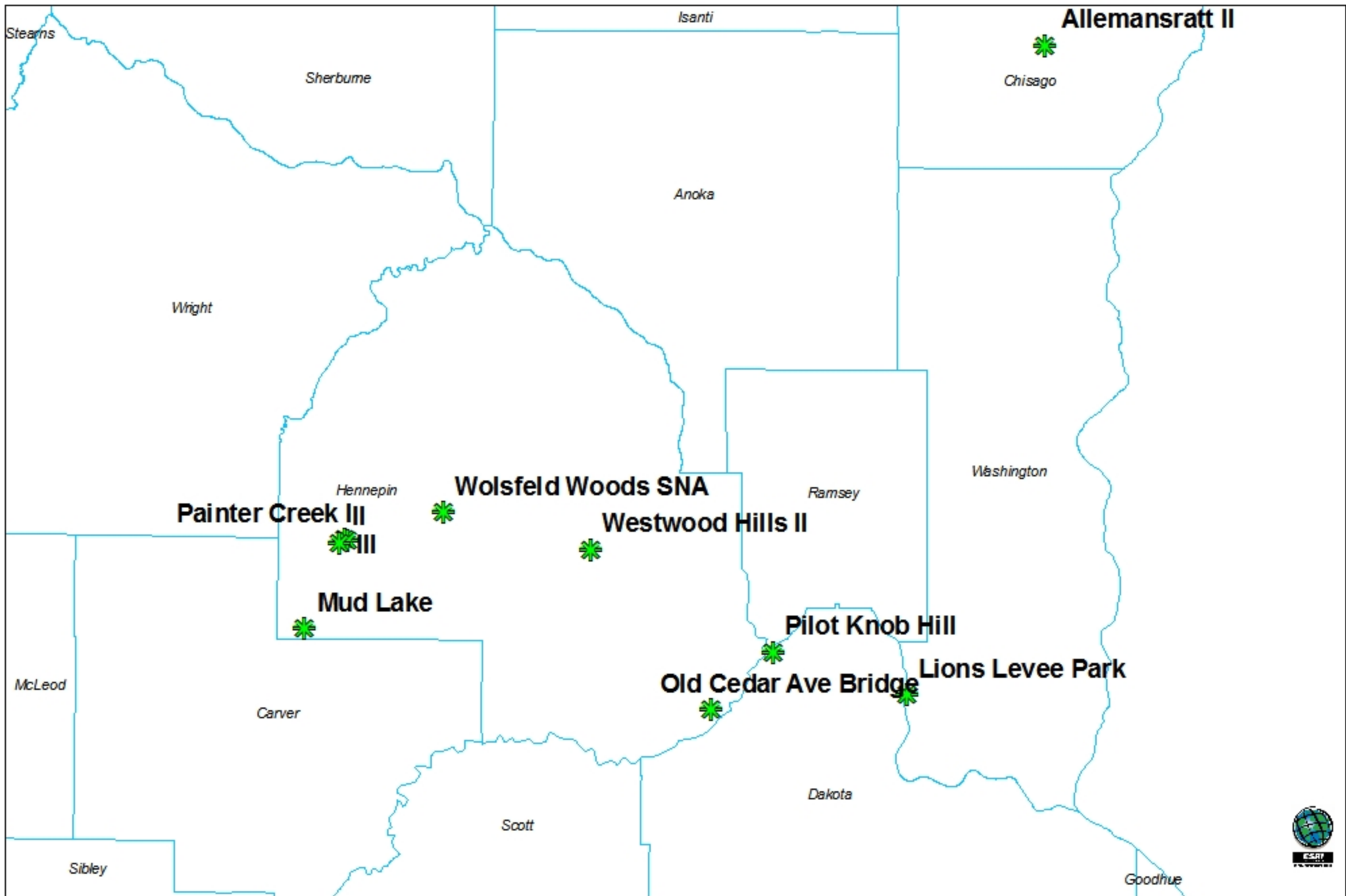
Project Manager Name: Wiley Buck

Organization: Great River Greening

ENRTF \$ Request: \$495,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]'' [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
		Latitude	Longitude								
1	Allemansratt Park II	45°23'58.72" N	92°50'42.408" W	\$ 56,000	Chisago	High quality mosaic of forest and wetland	Woody invasive removal, understory enhancement	20		Municipal	
2	Wolsfeld Woods SNA II	45 0' 10.21"	93 34' 14.02"	\$ 142,000	Hennepin	Primarily Oak Maple Basswood forest	Trail design and improvements to help alleviate sheet erosion; buckthorn control; 2ac oak woodland restoration; garlic mustard reduction and containment; community outreach and engagement.	60		State	
3	Westwood Hills Nature Center II	44 58 15.972 N	93 23' 15.15 W	\$ 59,000	Hennepin	FIN Lake, Maple Baswood, Oak Savanna, Shoreland, Demonstrations, Pollinator Patches.	Restoration of Oak Savanna, Shorelands, Maple Basswood Woodland, Demonstrations, Pollinator Patches	18	0.06	Municipal	
4	Lions Levee Park	44 50' 42.95"	93 0' 26.1"	\$ 11,000	Washington	Mississippi River terrace; oaks.	Woody invasive removal; prairie restoration from turf.	5		Municipal	
5	Old Cedar Ave Bridge Trailhead	44°49'54.658 "N	93°14'37.914 "W	\$ 65,000	Hennepin	Located in the MN River Valley NWR. Wildlife habitat.	Intensive restoration of highly disturbed site to Native species habitat with emphasis on underserved community engagement, as part of trail master plan.	12		Federal	
6	Mud Lake	44°54'0.05"N	"W	\$ 6,000	Hennepin	Large wetland complex with surrounding upland.	Prairie restoration of old field	3		Watershed District	
7	Painters Creek I	44°58'37.399 "N	93°40'59.557 "W	\$ 47,000	Hennepin	Sedge meadow, wet prairie, and wet-mesic woodland	Woody invasive removal. Target community to be determined with mgmt plan, due to unique existing conditions, adjacency, and working lands considerations.	16		Watershed District	
8	Painters Creek II	44°58'27.209 "N	93°41'23.442 "W	\$ 22,000	Hennepin	Oak-maple-basswood forest	Forest and wetland edge restoration.	10		Watershed District	
9	Painters Creek III	44°58'34.487 "N	93°41'9.775" W	\$ 40,000	Hennepin	Upland and wetland mosaic; hydrologically connected to Lk Minnetonka. Potential riparian buffer demonstration site for landowner	Upland and shoreland restoration, cattail management to increase diversity, all with a monitored haying component.	9	0.11	Watershed District	
10	Restoration Evaluations	various	various	\$ 18,000	Anoka, Dak., Henn., Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Wash.	Advance restoration practices and techniques, by returning to sites and evaluating restorations	"Third Year" Restoration evaluations on 18 projects from 2011 (MeCC VI) appropriation	0		Public, and Private with Easement	
11	Pilot Knob Hill	44°52'54.796 "N	93°10'7.336" W	\$ 43,000	Dakota	Located in big river confluence, in township identified with need for savanna and prairie for SGCN	Revise management plan, implement corrective actions on portions of restoration that are not meeting goals	13		Municipal	

NOTES: Projects 1-9 comprise Activity 1; 10-11 comprise Activity 2.





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).

