

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 258-G

Turning Back to Rivers: Creating Recreation Opportunities

Category: G. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Sub-Category:

Total Project Budget: \$ 4,792,500

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2022 (3 yrs)

Summary:

This project will protect land through fee title acquisition along Minnesota's Big Rivers (the Mississippi, St. Croix, and Minnesota) increasing public opportunity for outdoor recreation.

Name: DJ Forbes

Sponsoring Organization: The Trust for Public Land

Title: Program Manager

Department: _____

Address: 2610 University Avenue, Suite 300

St. Paul MN 55114

Telephone Number: (651) 999-5325

Email dj.forbes@tpl.org

Web Address https://www.tpl.org/our-work/minnesota

Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Chippewa, Crow Wing, Hennepin, Sherburne, Stearns, Washington

City / Township: Multiple

Alternate Text for Visual:

Turning Back to Rivers: Creating Recreation Opportunities - Overview map and individual parcel maps

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity	_____ Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL _____%
_____ If under \$200,000, waive presentation?			



PROJECT TITLE: Turning Back to Rivers: Creating Recreational Opportunities

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Thousands of Minnesotans live within mere miles of one of the state's iconic "Big Rivers" (the Mississippi, St. Croix, Minnesota, and their major tributaries) and either cannot or do not know how to access and enjoy them or public lands adjacent to them. Through strategic fee title acquisition, this project seeks to protect and increase access to a wide variety of public land for varied outdoor recreation opportunities on and near our Big Rivers.

In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, our rivers are under-valued natural assets. Historically, the state's exploration and settlement patterns were oriented around our navigable waterways. The transportation and commercial opportunities these rivers provided were fundamental to Minnesota's formation. During the 20th century, rivers were increasingly used for industry. This meant communities saw these iconic natural amenities as vital for private commerce rather than public enjoyment. Attitudes, however, are changing. River communities, both urban and rural, see the opportunities and assets that their nearby rivers provide. It's no longer about commerce but about vibrant public open spaces where families can get outdoors and enjoy the close to home natural scenic beauty of Minnesota's Big Rivers and all they have to offer. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has the expertise to help communities achieve these goals through this acquisition focused program. We strive to:

Protect: Through fee title acquisition, we will protect approximately 200 acres of high quality natural resource land: lands with high recreational value, lands that address trail gap areas, and/or lands that maximize scenic and/or conservation benefits. These lands have been previously identified and prioritized, through state, regional and local natural resource and recreation plans, as well as community and agency interest. Our efforts will focus on both rural and urban river communities by protecting land that will provide a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for people. Many of these lands are not currently eligible for other protection funding due in large part to hunting requirements.

By permanently protecting these lands, multiple long-term priorities will be achieved:

- Protection of multi-benefit, high quality natural resource land benefiting people, communities, wildlife species, and water quality
- Increased access to various outdoor recreation opportunities along Minnesota's Big Rivers
- 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

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Protect: Strategic protection through fee title acquisition of high priority lands along our Big Rivers focus area

Description: Parcels have been identified by communities and/or the state as priority areas for recreational value, high quality natural resources, land that address access gaps, scenic qualities, and water protection. Other factors include adjacency to already protected land and landowner willingness to sell for conservation purposes. TPL will conduct due diligence activities including appraisals, environmental reviews, title investigations, and survey work. Acquired land will be conveyed or donated to our public agency partners (MN DNR and local units of government) for long-term stewardship.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$4,792,500

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Approximately 200 acres, and 1.5 mile of shoreline, protected for public use and enjoyment through fee title acquisition	6/30/22



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2019 Main Proposal Template

III. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Not applicable

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

The Trust for Public Land partners with towns, cities, counties, lakeshore associations, citizen groups and other NGOs to successfully acquire and permanently protect land. Specifically related to this proposal, the likely long term stewards will include: MN DNR, Counties, and other local units of government.

IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING: Strengthening the connection between land and people is vital in ensuring the long-term stewardship of Minnesota's natural resources. The protection activities included in this proposal are complementary of our current work in the Mississippi, St. Croix and Minnesota River watersheds to restore, protect, and enhance Minnesota's wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife. The land listed in this proposal is generally not a good fit for other protection funding due in large part to hunting requirements. Protecting important recreational resource needs, addressing access gap areas, and inspiring river-oriented communities is a demand that can be uniquely met by ENRTF/LCCMR funding. The Trust for Public Land views this proposal as a long-term complementary strategy, and will continue its work as long as critical habitat and natural resources based recreation opportunities remain unprotected and in danger of degradation and loss. Land protection is not the final step of helping communities turn back to the rivers; however, it is a critical launch point for long-term restoration, stewardship, and programming of these riverfront areas. We will explore with our partners how to leverage the funds for these critical activities.

V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS: 3 years; until June 30, 2022

VI. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

- A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet
- B. Visual Component or Map
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements
- E. Research Addendum (not required at proposal stage)
- F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description
- G. Letter or Resolution
- H. Certified Audit or 990 Tax Information

2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

Project Title: Turning Back to Rivers: Creating Recreational Opportunities

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET: 3 years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
Personnel:	\$ 180,000
Salaries for legal and project staff - .4 FTE	\$ 122,000
Fringe Benefits at 48% of salaries	\$ 58,000
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$ 172,500
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ -
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	\$ 4,380,000
Travel:	\$ -
Additional Budget Items:	\$ 60,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$ 30,000
DNR IDP	\$ 30,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 4,792,500

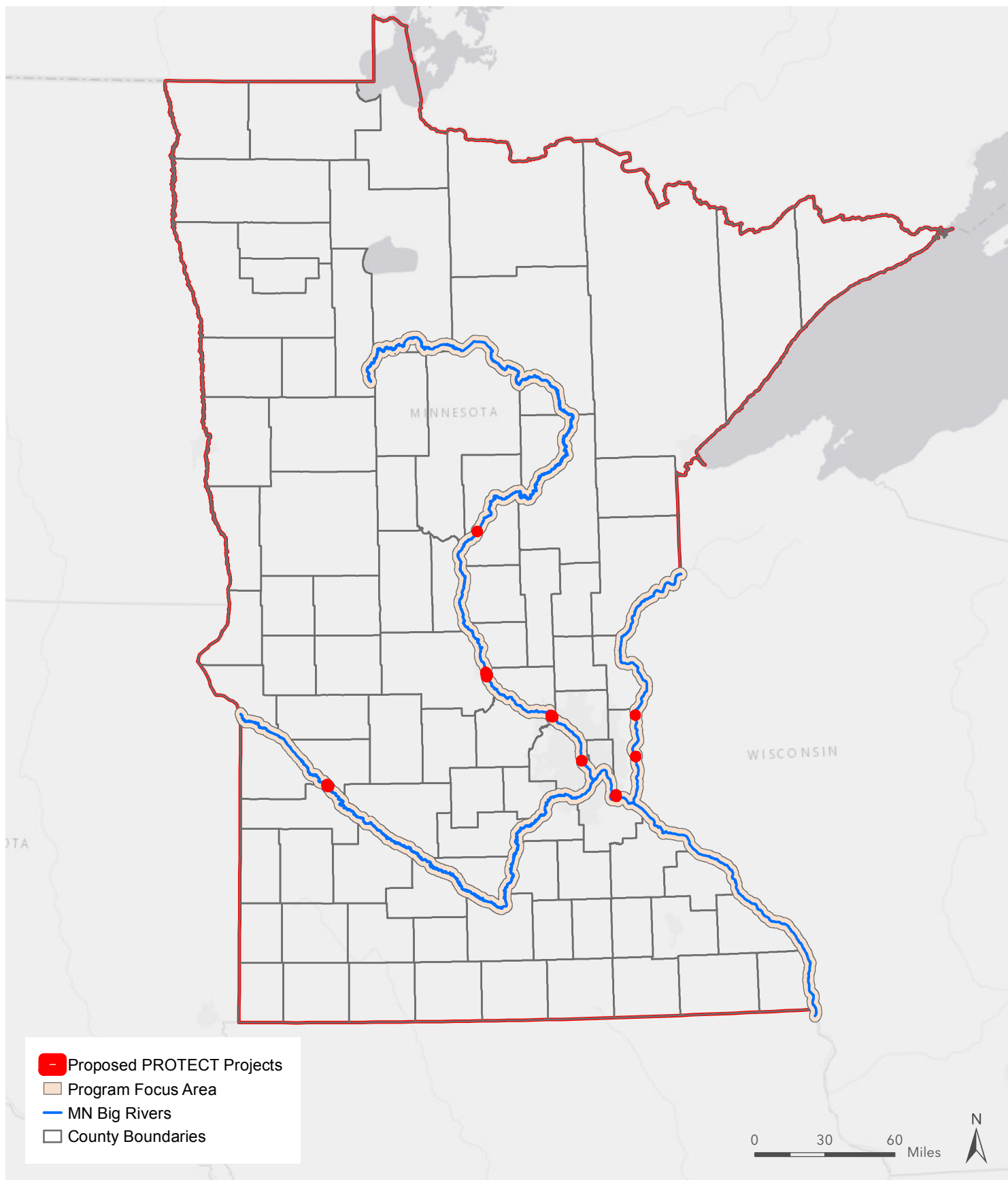
V. OTHER FUNDS *(This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)*

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$ 116,500	<i>Pending</i>
Indirect Costs - <i>The Trust for Public Land will fundraise private funds to cover the necessary indirect costs and travel costs related to this project.</i>		
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$ -	
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$ -	
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:	\$ -	
Other Funding History:	\$ -	

Attachment C:
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2019 Acquisition/Restoration Parcel List Spreadsheet
Project Title: Turning Back to Rivers: Creating Recreational Opportunities
Legal Citation:
Project Manager: DJ Forbes
Organization: The Trust for Public Land
M.L. 2019 ENRTF Request: \$4,792,500
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2022
Today's Date: 4/11/2018



#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (preferably from the center of the parcel) Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance (please include what ecosystem (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna) is represented as well as the ecological significance, site importance, conservation value, and public benefits)	Activity Description (e.g. fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, restoration)	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner (private individual or trust, non-profit organization, for-profit entity)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status of work (e.g. engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway)
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Brainerd/Mississippi River	46 21'26N	94 12'34W	\$ 254,000	NA	Crow Wing County	Located within the heart of Brainerd, acquisition of these parcels would allow the City to create a park and access the river.	Fee Title Acquisition	3.2	0.1	Private	City of Brainerd	NA
2	Elk River/Mississippi River	45 16'03N	93 32'37W	\$ 1,280,000	NA	Sherburne County	Oak savanna with over .5 miles of Mississippi River shoreline	Fee Title Acquisition	300	0.6	Private	TBD	NA
3	Great Northern Greenway Riverlink/Mississippi River	45 00'20N	93 16'35W	\$ 2,554,555	NA	Hennepin County	Connect MPRB trail system to Mississippi River	Fee Title Acquisition	11	0.1	Private	MPRB	NA
4	Grey Cloud Dunes SNA Addition/Mississippi River	44 47'28N	92 57'54W	\$ 1,010,000	\$ 7,575	Washington County	The addition of the biodiversity significant parcels to Grey Cloud Dunes SNA is a high priority of the MN DNR-SNA. The protection of Mississippi River frontage would provide additional access a restoration opportunity.	Fee Title Acquisition	90	0.5	Private	DNR SNA, Washington County, City of Cottage Grove	NA
5	St. Cloud/Mississippi River	45 30'44N	94 08'41W	\$ 766,000	NA	Stearns County	Directly abutting the Mississippi River and River Bluffs Regional Park within the City of St. Cloud, these four parcels provide an opportunity for residents to directly access the river.	Fee Title Acquisition	133	0.75	Private	City or County	NA
6	Bayport St. Croix Conservation Area/St. Croix River	45 01'09N	92 46'29W	\$ 1,400,000	NA	Washington County	This acquisition for parkland will permanently protect and make publicly accessible four parcels on 11 acres, including 665 feet of Lake St. Croix/St. Croix Riverfront, near downtown Bayport, MN. The project will create open space, scenic views and trail access that better connects people to the river and surrounding natural resources.	Fee Title Acquisition	11	0.1	Private	City of Bayport	NA
7	Crystal Spring SNA North Addition/St. Croix River	45 15'50N	92 45'56W	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,125	Washington County	This addition to Crystal Spring SNA (protected using LCCMR funds) would provide better access and increased acreage in an Audubon Important Bird Area with biodiversity significance.	Fee Title Acquisition	21	0	Private	DNR SNA	NA
8	Chippewa County/Minnesota River	44 52'39N	95 38'18W	\$ 888,888	\$ 6,667	Chippewa County	Increases access to Minnesota River, adjacent to County Park	Fee Title Acquisition	296	1	Private	MN DNR or Chippewa County	NA
NOTES:													



Parcel Overview Map

Turning Back to Rivers: Creating Recreation Opportunities



Attachment D. Additional Work Plan Information for Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration

Acquisition/Restoration Information:

The information to be included in this section is to help fulfill specific requirements pertaining to fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, and restoration efforts completed using Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars. More detailed information explaining these requirements is available in separate documents that are available on the “Project Manager Info” page of the LCCMR website under “Requirements for ENRTF Land Acquisitions and Restorations”: http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/pm_info/manager_info_index.html. Please fill out the relevant portions below. Please delete any sections that do not apply to your project. For example, if your project only involves fee title acquisition, answer all five items under fee title acquisition and then delete all of the text for the portions relating to conservation easement acquisition and restoration.

Fee Title Acquisition

1. *Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.*
 - The proposed parcels have been identified through state, regional and local natural resource and recreation plans, as well as through agency, local units of government, and community conversations and interest. These parcels are regarded as priority areas for recreational value, high quality natural resources, land that address access gaps, scenic value, and water protection value. Other factors to include are presence of biodiversity significance on site, adjacency to already protected land, existence of local support, immediacy of threats, whether we see a pathway to obtain significant funding to successfully compete the acquisition, whether the permanent steward will be able to adequately take care of the property, and landowner willingness and timing needs.
2. *List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified. Include a link to the plan if one is available.*
 - The parcels included in our proposal have been identified through state, county, and local plans as being priorities – plans include:
 - [Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas Program Strategic Land Protection Plan](#)
 - [Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda: 2015-2025](#)
 - [MN State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2014-2018](#)
 - [Washington County’s Land and Water Legacy Program](#)
 - [Mississippi River Partnership Plan for the City of Brainerd](#)
 - [Minnesota Great River Road Corridor Management Plan](#)
 - [RiverFirst](#)
 - [LCCMR – Six-Year Strategic Plan for MN’s Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund](#)
3. *For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.*
 - Once parcels have been acquired and conveyed to the long-term steward, initial site development and restoration of the property will begin. The Trust for Public Land will work with the long-term steward to complete a restoration and management plan (including how these activities will be funded), and implementation of that plan will be completed in the years following acquisition. Estimated costs for initial restoration work for lands to be conveyed to the MN DNR are included in this proposal.

4. *For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.*
 - The Trust for Public Land will work with local units of government on these parcels. If required, County Board approval will be obtained.
5. *If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.*
 - Written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.



Organization Description and Project Manager Qualifications

Since 1972, The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has protected more than 3.5 million acres, created or transformed 5,000 new public places across America, forged hundreds of active partnerships, and developed more than 2,000 miles of trails across the U.S. TPL has also helped states and local communities generate more than \$68 billion in new public funds for parks and open space.

Our strategic focus on improving outdoor access reflects learning from more than forty years protecting public land to advance our “Land for People” mission. We have heard from communities across America that access to the outdoors is central to a life well-lived, something that should be treated as a basic human right. It is well-documented that there are many other benefits communities gain from America’s lands and waters beyond just recreational access—benefits like clean water, forestry and farming, economic diversity through outdoor businesses, improved mental and physical health, stronger community ties, and spiritual inspiration. Both public and private land conservation can truly be a “triple-bottom line” investment, providing social, economic and environmental benefits for our country.

As John Muir wrote of his travels in Alaska, “In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.” At TPL, we want everyone in America to experience the gifts of nature in their lives.

Below are brief biographies of The Trust for Public Land staff which are anticipated to be involved with this project.

This project will be managed by **DJ Forbes, Program Manager, The Trust for Public Land**. DJ has been with TPL for three years and supports both our Parks for People and Our Land initiatives; helping to create parks and protect land for people in both urban and rural areas. DJ 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 his work at TPL, DJ was a Senior Planner for the Active Living program at Hennepin County. He also served as a Project Manager with the City of Chelsea Department of Planning and Development in Massachusetts. DJ has a MA in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning from Tufts University and a BA in Geography and History from DePaul University.

Bob McGillivray, Senior Project Manager, The Trust for Public Land. Bob has been with TPL for fifteen years. He works directly with landowners, public agency partners, and community members to protect land throughout the state of Minnesota for public use and enjoyment. He manages all aspects of real estate transactions including conducting property research; negotiating contracts; advocating for and securing financing; and coordinating due diligence activities. Prior to joining TPL, Bob was a partner at the law firm of Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly with a broad commercial practice. He also served as a law clerk for the Honorable Edward J. Devitt, United States District Court Judge; a Special Assistant Attorney General with the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office; and a legal intern with the United Nations and the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York. Bob graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Minnesota and received his law degree from New York University. He also studied at Stirling University in Scotland and the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Bob’s volunteer activities have included serving on the Board of the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis and on the Board of Minnesota Waters, a nonprofit conservation organization that promotes responsible stewardship of water resources.

