

2008 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2010

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase IV – Metro Greenways (2.4, 3.4, 4.1)
PROJECT MANAGER: Marybeth Block
AFFILIATION: DNR Eco Waters
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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a) 2.4, 3.4, 4.1

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$999,530

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The DNR Metro Greenways strives to *protect, connect and restore* natural areas in the state's growth corridor by supporting local conservation efforts with matching grants. This 2008 appropriation supported eleven projects and leveraged nearly 4:1 local/regional match.

Two projects received \$8,162 to implement restoration activities on 4.3 acres. At the Centennial Middle School boy scouts, a community business and the City of Lino Lakes partnered to remove invasive plants and reintroduce oak savanna species. The City will maintain the site and students will track the landscape's ecological changes over time. St. Paul enhanced two remnant prairies on about 2.2 acres at Mounds and Cherokee Parks. Prescribed burns, seed collection, invasive species removal and planting local ecotype seedlings and seeds was accomplished by volunteers, city staff and contractors. This project also helped to build the City's capacity to grow local genotype plant plugs that are more likely to survive the establishment phase of the restoration.

Three projects received \$891,328 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) that enabled protection of 46 acres of open space and high-value ecological areas and leveraged additional dollars from other funding partners to protect an additional 420 acres – for a total of 466 acres combined. A combined 2.7 miles of development-attractive shoreline has been protected at these sites (0.30 miles ENRTF; 2.4 miles other funds), and all 3 projects are (or will be) Regional Parks: Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park, located in Monticello and Wright County; Ojiketa Regional Park in Chisago City; and St. Catherine's Bluff addition to the proposed Doyle- Kennefick Regional Park in Scott County.

Six local governments received grants to develop tools and policies that will help them address the challenges associated with conserving remaining natural habitats in rapidly changing landscapes. Three projects conducted a natural resource inventories, two updated their Planned Unit Development Ordinance, and one developed a model to prioritize land for protection. Both ordinances incorporate public values and sensitive resource needs into the proposed design by instituting a process that engages city staff, the developer and local agencies in an early on collaborative process.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Press releases were sent to local newspapers where projects were funded. The DNR convened all of the Community Conservation Assistance (CCA) project managers in November of 2009 to share the objectives and experiences of their projects. CCA Project Profiles were drafted and posted on the DNR website. Protection and restoration project information will be available through the public map generated from the MeCC database.

Trust Fund 2008 Work Program Final Report

Date of Report: August 13, 2010
Date of Next Status Report: Final Report
Date of Work program Approval: 6/10/2008
Project Completion Date: 6/30/10

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase IV – Metro Greenways (2.4, 3.4, 4.1)

Project Manager: Marybeth Block
Affiliation: DNR Central Region
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Web Page address: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/greenways/index.html>

Location: Within mapped focus areas in 12 counties that are in DNR's Central Region

Total Trust Fund Project Budget: Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 999,490
Minus Amount Expended: \$ 999,490
Equal Balance: \$ 0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a) 2.4, 3.4, 4.1

Appropriation Language:

\$3,150,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the fourth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$1,915,000 is for Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$1,235,000 is for agreements as follows: \$475,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$92,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$111,000 with Great River Greening; \$225,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$225,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$107,000 with Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. All funding for conservation easements must include a long-term stewardship plan and funding for monitoring and enforcing the agreement.

II. and III. FINAL REPORT SUMMARY

The DNR Metro Greenways strives to **protect, connect and restore** natural areas in the state's growth corridor by supporting local conservation efforts with matching grants. This 2008 appropriation supported eleven projects and leveraged nearly 4:1 local/regional match.

Two projects received \$8,162 to implement restoration activities on 4.3 acres. At the Centennial Middle School boy scouts, a community business and the City of Lino Lakes partnered to remove invasive plants and reintroduce oak savanna species. The City will maintain the site and students will track the landscape's ecological changes over time. St. Paul enhanced two remnant prairies on about 2.2 acres at Mounds and Cherokee Parks. Prescribed burns, seed collection, invasive species removal and planting local ecotype seedlings and seeds was accomplished by volunteers, city staff and contractors. This project also helped to build the City's capacity to grow local genotype plant plugs that are more likely to survive the establishment phase of the restoration.

Three projects received \$891,328 that, when combined with dollars from other funding partners, protected 466 acres of open space and high-value ecological areas. A combined 2.7 miles of development-attractive shoreline has been protected at these sites, and all 3 projects are (or will be) Regional Parks: Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park, located in Monticello and Wright County; Ojiketa Regional Park in Chisago City; and St. Catherine's Bluff addition to the proposed Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park in Scott County.

Six local governments received grants to develop tools and policies that will help them address the challenges associated with conserving remaining natural habitats in rapidly changing landscapes. Three projects conducted a natural resource inventories, two updated their Planned Unit Development Ordinance, and one developed a model to prioritize land for protection. Both ordinances incorporate public values and sensitive resource needs into the proposed design by instituting a process that engages city staff, the developer and local agencies in an early on collaborative process.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat

Final Report Description: The Metro Greenways Program request for proposals for restoration projects generated two applications. The balance of the money originally earmarked for Result 1 was transferred, via an amendment, to Result 2. While working to restore land to native vegetation on 4.25 acres was a primary objective of both projects, they also had community-building and educational component.

Centennial School District (CSD) partnered with the City of Lino Lakes to restore 2 acres to an oak savanna – the pre settlement cover type described in land surveys from the 1600's. The site had been overtaken by box elder, Siberian elm and buckthorn. The City of Lino Lakes conducted a burn in the fall of 2008, and Rivard Tree Removal donated their services to remove and chip the trees. Boy Scouts planted the forb and grass seed, and oak seedlings donated by the DNR. Lino Lakes has agreed to mow and chemically treat undesirable plants while the site is in the establishment phase. The evolution of the parcel will be studied by students in science and geography classes who will track changes over time. The Metro Greenways reimbursed the CSD a total of \$2,415.

The City of St. Paul enhanced two remnant prairies with local ecotype plants – 1.25 acres at Mounds Park and 1 acre at Cherokee Park. Engaging volunteers and building the City's capacity to grow local genotype plant material was an important objective of this project. 194 volunteers devoted 561

hours collecting seed, removing invasive species, burning the sites, and sowing the seed. Natural Resources Restoration, Inc oversaw the prescribed burn operations using volunteers from the University of Minnesota and Minnesota Conservation Corps. 2.5 acres at Mound Park and 0.25 acre at Cherokee Park were successfully burned. Sixty deep cell native grasses and forb seedlings (98 plants per flat) were grown from seed collected at these sites. The 3 to 5" rooted plants are more likely to survive in sandy soils and reduce watering requirements during the establishment phase. The City hopes to establish an ongoing, volunteer-powered program to raise local ecotype seeds, and did engage 150 youth volunteers to seed the flats. Both parks have current Ecological Inventory and Management Plans that guided the enhancement activities. The Metro Greenways reimbursed St. Paul a total of \$5,747.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget: \$ 8,162
Amount Encumbered 0
Amount Expended: \$ 8,162
Balance: \$ 0

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget	Status
1. 4.3 acres restored	6/30/2010	\$8,162	completed

Completion Date: 6/30/2010

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Location	Description	Ac	Total Cost \$	Metro Greenways \$	Other Funds \$
Result 1: Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat							
Centennial Middle School	Oak Savanna Restoration	Lino Lakes	Restore a school-owned oak savanna for use as an environmental study area.	2.1	\$10,190+	\$2,415	\$700 cash match from donations and \$7,075 in kind from city of Lino Lakes and Boy Scouts
City of St. Paul	Indian Mounds and Cherokee Parks	St. Paul	Collection and propagation of local ecotype seed from the parks' savanna remnants and site preparation of planting areas.	2.25	\$19,000	\$5,747	City of STP cash \$500, Inkind (city and volunteers) \$12,750
TOTAL				4.35	\$29,275	\$8,162	

Result 2: Acquire Significant Habitat

Summary Budget Information for Result 2:	Trust Fund Budget	\$ 891,328
	Amount Encumbered	\$ 0
	Amount Expended	\$ 891,328
	Balance:	\$ 0

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget	Status
1. 46.7 acres acquired	6/30/2010	\$891,328	completed

Final Report Description: The DNR Metro Greenways Program, in partnership with local and regional governments, the Trust from Public Land and private parties, protected 466 acres of regionally important habitat by acquiring the title to the properties. The program provided about 10 percent of the total funds needed to acquire 3 properties (46 acres protected with this appropriation.)

Two of the projects originally selected for funding did not go forward, one because the financial difficulties facing the local governments, and one due to a change of ownership. The balance in result 1 (\$88) and the MeCC Coordination Fund (\$49,490) was combined with the canceled project money (\$500,000) and awarded to Wright County for another acquisition at the Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park project site. The 2009 Metro Greenways Protection Review Committee recommended additional funds (should they become available) be spent on this project. Wright County secured the required match and they acquired an additional 51.4 acres increasing the acres of Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park to 370.4 encompassing about 31 percent of the entire project area.

Over 2.7 miles of development-attractive shoreline has been protected at these 3 project sites. All will be designated Regional Parks: St. Catherine's Bluff in Scott County will become park of the planned Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park; Ojekita Regional Park on the shores of Green Lake in Chisago City and the Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park in Wright County and Monticello.

Individual project descriptions

Grant Recipient	Project Name	Land Report to LCCMR	Description	Ac MG%	Total Cost \$	Metro Greenway \$	Other Funds \$
Result 2: Protect Significant Habitat							
Scott County	St. Catherine's Bluff	Nov. 7, 2008	Fee title acquisition comprised of bluff-top maple-basswood forest and 3500' of shoreline. (note: \$236,960 of Phase 3 funding was applied to this project)	48 [1.7]	1,201K	\$41,740	\$236,960 2007 MG ENRTF; \$170,044 from other ENT fund \$759,680 reg/local
Wright County	Bertram Chain of Lakes	Jan. 15, 2009	Fee title acquisition comprised of 6280' undeveloped lakeshore on long lake and adjacent upland. {MLCCS}	319 [17.5]	3,600K	\$200,000	See attachment B
Wright County	Bertram Chain of Lakes	June 24, 2010	Fee title acquisition comprised of 1250' undeveloped lakeshore on long lake and adjacent uplands{MLCCS}	51.4 [25.7]	1,099K	\$549,588	See attachment B
Chisago City	Camp Ojiketa	Mar. 25, 2009	Fee title acquisition of 3100' shoreland (Green Lake) and wetland non-forest habitat types.	48 [1.8]	4,200K	\$100,000	Other ERNF \$885,000; Other state \$1,000K; Regl/local 1,510K; np 160K; donation \$545K
TOTAL				466.4 [46.7]	\$1,010K	\$891,328	

Result 3: Other Conservation Tools and Incentives

Description:

Summary Budget Information for Result 3:

Trust Fund Budget	\$ 100,000
Amount Encumbered	\$ 0
Amount Spent	\$ 100,000
Balance	\$ 0

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget	Status
1. 6 community	6/30/2010	\$100,000	Completed

Completion Date: 6/30/2010

Final Report Description: The Metro Greenways Program awarded 6 Community Conservation Assistance (CCA) grants to local governments helping communities address challenges associated with conserving the remaining natural habitats in rapidly changing landscapes. These grants leveraged almost 75% local match. Of the 6 projects 3 were natural resource inventories, 2 were ordinance updates and one was a priority-lands assessment model.

The inventory projects focused on: 1) invasive species mapping in Ramsey County, 2) tree canopy mapping in Woodbury and 3) a natural area land cover inventory in a minor watershed (using MLCCS) in 12 Mile Creek Watershed in Wright County. All of the inventory work builds a foundation for land use and management decisions.

Lino Lakes and Minnetrista updated their planned unit ordinances to incorporate natural resource protection. Lino Lakes delineated a zoning district to protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs). The City wanted to encourage low impact development design practices in the ESA zone and city-wide. Their approach evolved to create a new Site Layout Performance Standard that applies everywhere but includes special requirements for the ESAs. The City updated other sections of their ordinance, including the Planned Unit Development (PUD) process requiring the collaborative process involving the city, developer and other appropriate agencies and allows flexibility and opportunities to offer incentives for good design.

Minnetrista also incorporated the collaborative track process into their PUD as one way to carry out their priority to conserve and protect natural resources. They were able to utilize this process with a large development and mend previously tenuous relationships with various regional agencies because they were able to bring them to the table and engage them in the collaborative track process that maximized the public values for this large development. The collaborative track process was piloted on the Woodland Cove development proposal while it was being crafted. The resulting concept plan that has: 1) a minimum 140 acres of open space, 2) 44% of the maple basswood forest stand preserved and 3) 30% of the Minnetonka shoreline footage in a commonly-held out lot. It also includes \$1 million investment in a regional trail connection through the development and partnerships with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to go beyond their stormwater regulatory requirements and provide enhanced preservation. The project did request, and was granted, an additional \$6,000 to the \$12,000 originally appropriated (for a total of \$18,000.)

Washington County developed a GIS model to prioritize the areas in the county that best meet the protection objectives of the Land and Water Legacy Program. The model includes four modules: surface water, drinking water, ecological and connectivity. A technical advisory committee helped define the criteria used in the analysis. The foundation of the model is the MN Land Cover Classification inventory. The project manager requested an additional \$10,000 to the original \$19,000 grant, and was awarded \$5,000 for a total grant of \$24,000.

On November 23, 2009 CCA grant project managers were convened to share the goals and outcomes of their projects. All of the projects were represented. The opportunity for peer- to-peer exchanged was highly valued by participants many of who explicitly remarked at how much they had learned that day.

Individual project descriptions

Grant Recipient	Project Type	Description	Area	Total Cost \$	Metro Greenway \$	Other Funds
Result 3: Provide Community Conservation Assistance						
City of Lino Lakes	Natural Resource Ordinance	Revised City ordinances to address environmentally sensitive areas planned unit development (PUD), low impact development (LID), and conservation subdivision design.	City wide	71,555	25,000	City in-kind \$18,495 City cash \$26,530
City of Minnetrista	Natural Resource Ordinance	Revised the Planned Unit Ordinance to incorporate public conservation values and natural resource protection.	City wide	52,000	18,000	City In Kind \$24,000
Ramsey SWCD	Natural Resources Inventory	Map and monitor emerging invasive plants in Ramsey County	County wide	11,928	5,000	Ramsey Conserv. District \$5000 cash, Ramsey Co \$1,928 in-kind
Washington County	Natural Resource Plan	Develop a Conservation Plan to guide the implementation of the Land and Water Legacy Program to protect lands critical to creating an interconnected network of high quality natural areas.	County wide	82,000	24,000	Washington County In kind \$27,000
Woodbury*	Natural Resource Inventory	Conduct an urban tree canopy inventory	City Wide	23,800	8,000	City in-kind totals 4,800. 2009 Metro Greenways funding of \$11,000 (Project still in progress. Funded in 2009)
Wright SWCD	Natural Resource Inventory	Conduct a land cover study (level 4 or 5) to assist in assessing, modeling, protecting and enhancing the natural resources in the Twelve Mile Creek Watershed.	Sub-watershed	40,000	20,000	Wright County SWCD \$10,000 in kind; Wright County Planning and Zoning \$10,000 in kind
TOTAL				\$281,223	\$100,000	

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

Staff or Contract Services:

Equipment: 0

Development: \$ 0(improvement to land or building)

Restoration: \$ 8,162 for 4.3 acres

Acquisition, including easements: \$ 891,328 for 466 acres total (46.7 acres Metro Greenways)

Other: \$ 100,000 for 6 community conservation projects

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 999,490

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: n/a

VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners: Local, regional and state units of government and conservation nonprofits.

B. Other Funds Spent during the Project Period: \$4,818,460 regional/local; \$2,000,000 state (origin other than Environmental & Natural Resources Trust Fund.)

C. Past Spending: In the past 8 years, Metro Greenways has received the following direct appropriations: 1998 bonding: \$4,000,000, 2000 Bonding: \$1,500,000, 2001 LCMR: \$2,730,000, 2003 LCMR/Phase1 MWC: \$1,089,000 appropriation, 2005 LCMR/Phase2 MWC: \$1,200,000, 2007 LCCMR/Phase 3 MeCC: \$944,000. In addition, since inception of the program, over \$6 of non-state funds for every LCMR dollar has been directly leveraged towards the projects funded by Metro Greenways.

D. Time: 2 years

VII. DISSEMINATION: The DNR will disseminate information through its field staff and other joint efforts with agencies and communities. The protection and restoration projects will be available to the public via the MeCC Project Map (and data base.) The DNR website will display profiles of all of the community conservation assistance projects, including contact information for the local project manager and links to local government websites containing the products developed with these grants.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work program progress reports were submitted by managers February 1st and August 1st of each year, beginning 2/1/09. This final work program report is being submitted on August 16, 2010.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: *not applicable.*

**Attachment B Final Report
Wright County/City of Monticello
Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park Acquisition**

Past and Current Funding Efforts

Project Phase	Date of Funding	State Allocation	Local Match	Other Funding Source	Funding Source Description	Activity/Notes	Acres
I	July 2008	\$1,000,000			LCCMR - Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)		88.6
I	July 2008	\$200,000			Metro Greenway Grant - ENRTF		17.7
I	December 2008		\$2,400,000		Local Contribution For Phase I		212.7
	TOTALS	\$1.2 Million	\$2.4 Million	0		\$3.6 Million	319 Acres
II	July 2009		(\$296,202)	\$266,250	Non Metro Regional Park Grant (Federal LAWCON) Thru DNR		23
II	January 2010	\$400,000	(\$445,000)		DNR Legacy Park Grant - Legacy funds		35
II	February 2010	\$549,588	\$549,588		Metro Greenway Grant (ENRTF)		51.4
II					Local Contribution For Phase II		90
	TOTALS	\$949,588	\$1,290,790	\$266,250		\$2,506,628	~199 Acres

State Funds To Date: \$2,149,588 Local and Other Funds To Date: \$3,957,040 = \$6,106,628

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2008 Metro Conservation Corridors Metro Greenways											
Project Title: Metro Greenways (1,2 and 3)											
Project Manager Name: Marybeth Block											
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 999,490											
2007 Trust Fund Budget											
	Result 1 Budget: Restoration	Amount Spent (8/1/08)	Balance (8/1/08)	Result 2 Budget: Protection	Amount Spent (8/1/08)	Balance (8/1/08)	Result 3 Budget: Community Assistance	Amount Spent (8/1/08)	Balance (8/1/08)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM											
Grants to LGUs and NGOs	\$ 8,162	\$ 8,162	\$ -	891,328	891,328	0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$999,490	0
COLUMN TOTAL			\$0	\$ 891,328	891,328	\$0	\$100,000		\$0	\$999,490	\$0