

2005 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2008

TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase II: 3.3 - Fee acquisition of significant habitat in the Minnesota River Valley.

PROJECT MANAGER: Deborah Loon

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

ADDRESS: 2312 Seabury Avenue, Minneapolis MN 55406

WEB SITE ADDRESS: NA

FUND: Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2005, 1st Spec. Sess., Chap. 1, Article 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 5b.

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 230,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. completed fee title acquisition on July 28, 2006 of approximately 174 acres of significant habitat in the Minnesota River Valley within the County of Sibley. The tract consists of 15 acres of oak savanna, 16 acres of high quality wet prairie, 97 acres of floodplain forest and 46 acres of cropland.

The oak savanna is located in the floodplain of the Minnesota River, which is very rare. The oak trees in the floodplain will provide an important seed source for future oak plantings in higher sections of the floodplain. The wet prairie is very high quality with numerous species of plants. This property will provide an important parcel of connecting forest and prairie habitat in the Minnesota River bottoms. It will benefit many species of wildlife including wood ducks, mallards, bald eagles, grassland nesting birds as well as numerous resident game species such as turkeys and deer. The tract also contains numerous oxbow wetlands.

The land will be donated to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for management by the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The Minnesota Valley Trust will publicize the completion of this acquisition and plans for the lands through its newsletter and news releases to the local media. After the land is donated to the Minnesota Valley Refuge, the USFWS will publicize progress on the restoration efforts, development of trails and opportunities for public use and environmental education through news releases and updates to its website. All funding partners will be acknowledged on Refuge kiosks, including the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources.

LCMR Final Work Program Report

Date of Report: August 1, 2006

Date of Next Status Report: NA

Date of Work program Approval: June 14, 2005

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2008

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase II – 3.3: Fee acquisition of significant habitat in the Minnesota River Valley.

Project Manager: Deborah Loon

Affiliation: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Mailing Address: 2312 Seabury Avenue

City / State / Zip: Minneapolis, MN 55406

Telephone Number: 612-728-3772 (cell - 612-801-1935)

E-mail Address: dloon@mn.rr.com

FAX Number: 612-728-0700

Web Page address: NA

Location: Within mapped Focus Area and within the counties of Carver, LeSueur, Scott and Sibley. See Figure 1.

Total Biennial LCMR Project Budget:	LCMR Appropriation:	\$230,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$230,000
	Equal Balance:	\$ 0

Legal Citation: ML 2005, 1st Spec. Sess., Chap. 1, Article 2, Sec. 11, Subd. 5b.

Appropriation Language: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase II. \$1,765,000 the first year and \$1,765,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the second biennium for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements with the Trust for Public Land, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, Minnesota Land Trust, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, improving, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan region, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2 and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee 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 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. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated: (1) as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07; or (2) as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 89.018, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); 97A.101; 97A.125; 97C.001; and 97C.011. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2008, at which time the project must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier

date is specified in the work program.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. completed fee title acquisition on July 28, 2006 of approximately 174 acres of significant habitat in the Minnesota River Valley within the County of Sibley. The tract consists of 15 acres of oak savanna, 16 acres of high quality wet prairie, 97 acres of floodplain forest and 46 acres of cropland.

The oak savanna is located in the floodplain of the Minnesota River, which is very rare. The oak trees in the floodplain will provide an important seed source for future oak plantings in higher sections of the floodplain. The wet prairie is very high quality with numerous species of plants. This property will provide an important parcel of connecting forest and prairie habitat in the Minnesota River bottoms. It will benefit many species of wildlife including wood ducks, mallards, bald eagles, grassland nesting birds as well as numerous resident game species such as turkeys and deer. The tract also contains numerous oxbow wetlands.

The land will be donated to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for management by the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Fee acquisition of significant habitat in the Minnesota River Valley.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:	LCMR Budget	\$230,000
	Balance	\$ 0
	Other Funds	\$428,000

Final Report Summary: The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. completed fee title acquisition on July 28, 2006 of approximately 174 acres of significant habitat in Project Area 10 (the Minnesota River Valley). These lands will be transferred to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for management as part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The total fee title acquisition cost was \$650,000, plus approximately \$8,000 in costs associated with title commitment, legal and closing.

TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET:

All Results: Personnel: \$0
All Results: Equipment: \$ 0
All Results: Development: \$0
All Results: Acquisition: \$230,000
All Results: Other: \$0

TOTAL LCMR PROJECT BUDGET: \$230,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: NA

V. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners: US Fish and Wildlife Service

B. Other Funds being Spent during the Project Period: Source of other funds is the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

C. Required Match (if applicable): NA

D. Past Spending: \$290,000 through Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors I, spent on August 9, 2005 to help acquire 320 acres in the Minnesota River Valley in Carver County.

E. Time: 3 years, until June 30, 2008.

VII. DISSEMINATION: The Minnesota Valley Trust will publicize the completion of this acquisition and plans for the lands through its newsletter and news releases to the local media. After the land is donated to the Minnesota Valley Refuge, the USFWS will publicize progress on the restoration efforts, development of trails and opportunities for public use and environmental education through news releases and updates to its website. All funding partners will be acknowledged on Refuge kiosks, including the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: No further reports will be submitted.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2005 Metro Corridors Project

date: August 1, 2006

Project Title: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase II: 3.3 Fee acquisition of significant habitat in the Minnesota River Valley.

Project Manager Name: Deborah Loon

LCMR Requested Dollars: \$230,000

BUDGET ITEM	Amount Budgeted (\$)	Amount Spent (\$)	Balance (\$)	Comments
ACQUISITION				
Land acquisition (<i>fee title & conservation easement</i>)	\$230,000	\$ 230,000.00	\$ -	Fee title acquisition
Land transaction costs (<i>e.g. survey, title, appraisal, environmental, & legal</i>)	\$ -		\$ -	
ACQUISITION - SUBTOTAL	\$ 230,000.00	\$ 230,000.00	\$ -	
TOTAL LCMR Funding	\$ 230,000.00	\$ 230,000.00	\$ -	