

2007 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2009

PROJECT TITLE: Restore/Enhance Significant Habitat. Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase III: Great River Greening (2.3)

PROJECT MANAGER: Wiley Buck

AFFILIATION: Great River Greening

MAILING ADDRESS: 35 W. Water St.

CITY/STATE/ZIP: St. Paul, MN 55107

PHONE: 651 665.9500 x15

FAX: 651 665.9409

E-MAIL: wbuck@greatrivergreening.org

WEBSITE: www.greatrivergreening.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2007, Chap. 30, Sec. 2, Subd. 4c2.3.

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 60,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project restored a total of 86 ecologically significant acres, and an additional 30.5 acres using other state funds. Primary criteria for project selection were ecological significance, importance to the community, and partner commitment.

Several distinguished projects were part of our St. Croix Healthy Waters Initiative. These include:

- Forest reconstruction at Afton State Park using the direct hardwood seeding method (56 acres plus 29 using other state funds)
- Oak savanna restoration at Tanglewood Nature Preserve in the protected St. Croix Greenway, Marine (5 acres).
- Garlic mustard control and ravine erosion control for prime Louisiana Waterthrush habitat, at Arcola Mills Historic Foundation, a protected site with forest of Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) statewide significance (12 acres).
- Erosion control and invasive shrub control at Wind in the Pines Park, a Scandia park adjacent to Falls Creek SNA (.5 acres plus .5 acres using other state funds)
- Award-winning erosion control for ravines traversing three communities of MCBS statewide significance at Camp Waub-O-Jeeg, Taylor's Falls. (4.5 acres)

Other project activities include:

- Continued prairie reconstruction establishment, maintenance, and supplemental plug planting at OH Anderson Elementary School, Mahtomedi, while using it as a living classroom (3 acres)
- Maintained the planted oak trees and controlled invasive species at Eagle Creek AMA, Savage, as part of the savanna reconstruction (4 acres plus 1 acre using other state funds)
- Installed a raingarden to protect the Credit River (recently listed as impaired) and continued invasive species control at the dry hill prairie of MCBS statewide significance, both at Hidden Valley City Park, Savage (1 acre).

We leveraged over \$90,000 of non-state cash match (1.5 to 1) and garnered over \$31,000 of other state support; 327 volunteers contributed 760 hours to these projects; and at Afton State Park, 2.8 million hardwood seeds, including 1.7 million acorns, were planted.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Great River Greening listed community volunteer events on its website, www.greatrivergreening.org (350 hits/month), distributed 1,000 flyers at various community events like Hands on Twin Cities Day at the Mall of America and the Living Green Expo, mailed 3,200 hard copies of its event listings to its community volunteers, and e-mailed over 4,000 of the volunteer workday lists. From these and other recruitment efforts, 327 volunteers contributed 760 hours to Greening's Restore/Enhance Significant Habitat: MeCC Phase III projects. Our volunteer opportunities offer community members transformative experiences – including service learning, camaraderie, ownership and stewardship of the project, and face-to-face contact with ecologists – that can create a life-long dialogue about the importance of preserving Minnesota's native habitats.

Projects are typically collaborations with partners that foster exchange of information on techniques, strategies, and priorities. Jon and Neu Gamble, the owners of Camp Waub-O-Jeeb, were awarded Chisago SWCD's Outstanding Conservationist Award for 2009 <http://www.chisagoswcd.org/Conservationists.htm> for their support and willingness to have work done at the camp to help mitigate sedimentation to the St. Croix River. Greening identified problem areas and provided design solutions to control run-off from their property to the ravines and eventually the St. Croix River. They are now being put forward by the county for the regional SWCD award.

At Afton State Park, Greening and DNR Parks recruited volunteers from the birding community, through both Audubon Minnesota and DNR birding volunteers, to conduct bird monitoring at the project site. Through this process, the birding community will be directly learning about the project.

Trust Fund 2007 Work Program Final Report

Date of Report: 8/15/09

Trust Fund 2007 Work Program Final Report

Date of Next Status Report: n/a

Date of Work program Approval: 22 March 2007

Project Completion Date: 6/30/09

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase III: Great River Greening (2.3)

Project Manager: Wiley Buck

Affiliation: Great River Greening

Mailing Address: 35 W. Water St.

City / State / Zip : St. Paul, MN 55107

Telephone Number: 651 665.9500 x15

E-mail Address: wbuck@greatrivergreening.org

FAX Number: 651 665.9409

Web Page address: www.greatrivergreening.org

Location: Within mapped Focus Area in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, LeSueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington and Wright. See attached MCC_2007_bw.pdf.

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$	60,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$	<u>60,000</u>
	Equal Balance:	\$	-0-

Legal Citation: ML 2007, Chap. 30, Sec. 2, Subd. 4c2.3.

Appropriation Language:

(c) Metro Conservation Corridors- Phase III \$2,500,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements with The Trust for Public Land; Friends of the Mississippi River; Great River Greening; Minnesota Land Trust; Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; Trout Unlimited; and Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, restoring, 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. 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: (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.

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY

This project restored a total of 86 ecologically significant acres, and an additional 30.5 acres using other state funds. Primary criteria for project selection were ecological significance, importance to the community, and partner commitment.

Several distinguished projects were part of our St. Croix Healthy Waters Initiative. These include:

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We leveraged over \$90,000 of non-state cash match (1.5 to 1) and garnered over \$31,000 of other state support; 327 volunteers contributed 760 hours to these projects; and at Afton State Park, 2.8 million hardwood seeds, including 1.7 million acorns, were planted.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: N/A

Result 2: Restore & Enhance Significant Habitat:

Description: Within the mapped Focus Areas, Great River Greening anticipates restoring 61 acres and 0.10 miles of shoreline of ecologically significant natural areas, including prairie, oak communities, and streambanks. Primary criteria for project selection are ecological significance, importance to the community, and partner commitment.

Final Report Summary 6/30/2009:

Greening restored 86 ecologically significant acres, and an additional 30.5 acres using other state funds. Primary criteria for project selection were ecological significance, importance to the community, and partner commitment. Greening exceeded our anticipated restoration of 60 acres with and 0.1 mile of shoreline.

While all acres were ecologically significant, many of these acres were concentrated into our St. Croix Healthy Waters Initiative and our Million Acorn Campaign, providing an additional focus to the restoration work. In addition, we employed the direct hardwood seeding technique for a large forest reconstruction project at Afton State Park, and in the process built capacity to undertake these projects in the metro area.

We leveraged over \$90,000 of non-state match (1.5 to 1), exceeding our non-state match goals of 1:1, and garnered over \$31,000 of other state support; 327 volunteers contributed 760 hours to these projects; and at Afton State Park, 2.8 million hardwood seeds, including 1.7 million acorns, were planted.

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$60,000

Staff or Contract Services: \$44,535

Equipment: \$1,859

Development: \$ -0-

Restoration: \$ 11,936+ Other: \$1,670

Acquisition, including easements: \$ -0-

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 60,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners: Metro Conservation Corridor partners (see Table A) and anticipated project partners include NFWF, Bush Foundation, Washington Co., Chisago Co., DNR Parks, Anoka County, and Target Corp.

B. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: We anticipate \$45,000 in non-state matching funds will be leveraged with the LCCMR funds, and \$10,000 of other state funds.

C. Past Spending: 2005: \$100,000 for Metro Corridors II; 2003: \$124,000 for Metro Corridors I, and \$255,000 for Bucks and Buckthorn: Engaging Young Hunters in Restoration; 2001: \$910,000 for Big Rivers Partnership; 1999: \$800,000 for Big Rivers Partnership. \$300,000 RIM Critical Habitat Match. These funds leveraged over \$4.5 million in non-state funds.

D. Time: 2 years

VII. DISSEMINATION

Great River Greening listed community volunteer events on its website, www.greatrivergreening.org, (350 hits/month) distributed 1,000 flyers at various community events like Hands on Twin Cities Day at the Mall of America and the Living Green Expo, mailed 3,200 hard copies of its event listings to its community volunteers, and e-mailed over 4,000 of the volunteer workday lists. From these and other recruitment efforts, 327 volunteers contributed 760 hours to Greening's Restore/Enhance Significant Habitat: MeCC III projects. Our volunteer opportunities offer community members transformative experiences - including service learning, camaraderie, ownership and stewardship of the project, and face-to-face contact with ecologists - that can create a life-long dialogue about the importance of preserving Minnesota's native habitats.

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At Afton State Park, Greening and DNR Parks recruited from the birding community, both Audubon Minnesota and DNR birding volunteers, to conduct bird monitoring at the project site. Through this process, the birding community will be directly learning about the project.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than February 1st and August 1st each year, starting with February 1, 2008. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2009 as requested by the LCCMR

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2007 Projects						
Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase III: Great River Greening (2.3)						
Project Manager Name: Wiley Buck						
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 60,000						
1) See list of non-eligible expenses, do not include any of these items in your budget sheet						
2) Remove any budget item lines not applicable						
2007 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 2</u> <u>Budget:</u> <i>approved</i> <i>3/2/09</i>	<u>Result 2</u> <u>Budget:</u> <i>revised 6/30/09</i>	Amount Spent <i>6/30/09</i>	Balance <i>6/30/09</i>	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Restore and Enhance					
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits	\$ 24,217	\$ 25,963	\$ 25,963	\$ -	\$ 25,963	\$ -
Contracts				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional/technical (<i>site prep, prairie seeding</i>)	\$ 19,697	\$ 18,572	\$ 18,572	\$ -	\$ 18,572	\$ -
Grants to LGUs and NGOs for restoration projects				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other direct operating costs (<i>for what? – be specific</i>)				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment / Tools (<i>Seed drill, mower, harrow, roller, sprayers, Rx burn eq't, saws, loppers,)</i>)	\$ 1,836	\$ 1,859	\$ 1,859	\$ -	\$ 1,859	\$ -
Office equipment & computers - NOT ALLOWED unless unique to the project				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Capital equipment (<i>list specific items</i>)				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Land acquisition				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Land rights acquisition (<i>less than fee</i>)				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Services for Acq.				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Printing				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Supplies (<i>list specific categories</i>)				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Travel expenses in Minnesota	\$ 1,000	\$ 915	\$ 915	\$ -	\$ 915	\$ -
Travel outside Minnesota (<i>where?</i>)				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction (<i>for what?</i>)				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other land improvement (<i>plant, mulch, and seed purchase</i>)	\$ 13,230	\$ 11,936	\$ 11,936	\$ -	\$ 11,936	\$ -
Other (<i>Volunteer event supplies (approved food and bevg, port. toilets, tent rentals etc.)</i>)	\$ 20	\$ 754	\$ 754	\$ -	\$ 754	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ -