

# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2010 Work Program

**Date of Report:** 11/24/2009  
**Date of Next Progress Report:** 2/1/2010  
**Date of Work Program Approval:**  
**Project Completion Date:** 6/30/2012

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase V Supplement – Friends of the MN Valley – Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project (2.4)

**Project Manager:** Lori Nelson  
**Affiliation:** Friends of the Minnesota Valley  
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**Location:** Lower Minnesota River Watershed of Carver, LeSueur, Sibley, and Scott Counties (map attached to overall MeCC work program)

<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
	<b>Minus Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$0</b>
	<b>Equal Balance:</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

**Legal Citation:** ML 2010, Chap.[\_\_\_\_], Sec.[\_\_\_\_], Subd.\_\_\_\_.

**Appropriation Language:**

**II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:** Restore and/or enhance 50 acres of significant biological communities throughout the MeCC mapped corridors, including wetlands, prairie, and oak savanna, focusing on the Minnesota River Corridor within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed. An additional 25 acres will be restored and/or enhanced using other, non-state funds.

**III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF:**

**IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:**

**RESULT 1:** Restore and/or enhance 50 Acres

**Description:** Restore and enhance 50 acres of significant biological communities and wildlife habitat throughout the MeCC mapped corridors of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed within Carver, LeSueur, Sibley, and/or Scott Counties. An additional 25 acres will be restored/enhanced using other, non-state funds.

Restoration efforts will focus on public lands including the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and on lands that will become new refuge units purchased by the Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc. Projects will be selected based on but not limited to: ecological importance of area,



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

**VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., local units of government, private landowners, and other partners

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:** Restoration efforts will increase breeding/migratory habitat for resident/migrant waterfowl including wood ducks and lesser scaup, resident/migrant shorebirds, as well as a myriad of other species including resident game species such as pheasant and deer. Restoration efforts will improve and protect the water quality of the Minnesota River and its tributaries through wetland restoration and restoring retired cropland to native habitat such as prairie and floodplain forest. Friends of the Minnesota Valley will continue to restore and enhance significant biological communities throughout the MeCC mapped corridors within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed.

**C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period:** \$25,000 Non-State cash and in-kind. Match includes partner match and in-kind, primarily from USFWS and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust.

**D. Spending History:** NA

**VII. DISSEMINATION:** As projects are completed, Friends of the Minnesota Valley will publicize project accomplishments through press releases, the Friends' quarterly newsletter, and post projects on our website. Other dissemination of information will be through the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership and on the Metro Corridors website.

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than February 2011, August 2011 and February 2012. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2012 as requested by the LCCMR.

**IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS:** NA

## **Proposed Restoration Projects - Friends of the MN Valley Phase V Supplemental**

### Jessenland Unit Restoration                      Sibley County                      Wetland/Savanna/Floodplain Forest

Restoration Phase I (Construction) – ENRTF Funding – 2011 Completion – 400 Acres  
Approximately 25 acres of Type I, II, and VI wetlands will be restored by breaking drain tile, shallow scraping, and constructing earthen dams within drainage ditches. Wetlands will also be seeded with native wetland species. Local ecotype oak savanna grasses and forbs have been planted to restore approximately 101 acres. After the grasses are established, oak trees will be planted to complete the oak savanna restoration. Exotic species such as buckthorn will be mechanically and chemically treated to allow native species to re-establish or expand. In addition, woody species will be removed to create firebreaks for future fire management of the oak savanna.

Restoration Phase II (Management and Maintenance) – Non-ENRTF Funding – Ongoing  
After completion of Phase I, the land will be donated to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, protected and managed in perpetuity by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The USFWS will manage and monitor the restoration and will ensure the long term success of the project through multiple mechanisms including prescribed fire, exotic species control, and ecological assessment.

This restoration is an important piece in linking floodplain forest habitats in the Jessenland Conservation Area Boundary. When combined with adjacent downstream parcels, the restoration will connect the Jessenland Unit of MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge and complement the permanently protected RIM and CREP habitat easements on the Scott County side of the Minnesota River.

### Henderson Unit Restoration                      Sibley/Scott County                      Wetland/Floodplain Forest

Restoration Phase I (Construction) – ENRTF Funding – 2011 Completion – 1250 Acres  
Agricultural fields totaling 80 acres will be converted to floodplain forest and shallow riverine wetland habitats. Approximately 50 acres of Type I, II, and III wetlands will be restored by breaking drain tile, shallow scraping, and constructing earthen dams within drainage ditches. Wetlands will also be seeded with native local ecotype wetland species. Exotic species such as buckthorn will be mechanically and chemically treated to allow native species to re-establish or expand.

Restoration Phase II (Management and Maintenance) – Non-ENRTF Funding – Ongoing  
After completion of Phase I, the land will be donated to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, protected and managed in perpetuity by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The USFWS will manage and monitor the restoration and will ensure the long term success of the project through multiple mechanisms including prescribed fire, exotic species control, and ecological assessment.

### St. Lawrence Unit Restoration                      Scott County                      Wetland/Prairie

Restoration Phase I (Construction) – ENRTF Funding – 2011 Completion – 160 Acres  
The absence of fire has resulted in the encroachment of woody species within the wetland and prairie, specifically cedar trees. Cedars and other woody species such as buckthorn will be mechanically removed and chemically treated to allow native species to re-establish and expand. In addition, approximately 20 acres of Type I, II, and III wetlands will be restored by

breaking drain tile, shallow scraping, and constructing earthen dams within drainage ditches. Wetlands will also be seeded with native local ecotype wetland species.

Restoration Phase II (Management and Maintenance) – Non-ENRTF Funding – Ongoing  
The property is located within the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge and is permanently protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. After completion of Phase I, the USFWS will manage and monitor the restoration and will ensure the long term success of the project through multiple mechanisms including prescribed fire, exotic species control, and ecological assessment.

This restoration will provide high quality habitat for nesting, breeding, and brood-rearing of migratory waterfowl and birds. In addition, the close proximity to other permanently protected lands (state and federal) magnifies the potential benefit to wildlife, water quality, and recreational opportunities.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2010 Projects - Friends of the MN Valley						
Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase V Supplement – Friends of the MN Valley – Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project (2.4)						
Project Manager Name: Scott Sparlin						
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 50,000						
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						
2010 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE	
	Restore and/or enhance 50 Acres					
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>						
<b>PERSONNEL: wages and benefits</b> <i>(Project Manager - Scott Sparlin- .16 FTE)</i>	5,000			5,000	5,000	
<b>Contracts</b>						
<b>Professional/technical</b> <i>(for earthwork contractors to install water control structures, build earthen dams, break drainage tile lines, field prep, seed installation, invasive species removal, etc.)</i>	35,000			35,000	35,000	
<b>Supplies</b> <i>(for native seed and trees, water control structures, herbicide):</i> <i>Herbicide (\$500)</i> <i>Native Seed &amp; Trees (\$7,000)</i> <i>Water Control Structures (\$2,500)</i>	10,000			10,000	10,000	
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	