

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2009 Phase 1 Request for Proposals (RFP)

LCCMR ID: B15.08

Project Title: MeCC - Critical Land Protection Program (3.1)

Total Project Budget: \$ \$950,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: July 2009 - June 2011 (2 yrs)

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 450,000

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Sponsoring Organization: The Trust for Public Land

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Region:

County Name:

City / Township:

Central, Metro, Southeast

Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota,
Goodhue, Hennepin,

Various

Summary: TPL will protect up to 43 acres of habitat in the Metro Conservation Corridors areas, leveraging at least \$950,000 in other funds and 43 additional acres protected.

Main Proposal: 0808-1-007-proposal-TPL MeCC Phase V 2009 Submit Form 082108.doc

Project Budget: 0808-1-007-budget-TPL MeCC Phase V 2009 Project Budget.doc

Qualifications: 0808-1-007-qualifications-TPL MeCC Phase V 2009 Project Manager Qual and Or

Map: 0808-1-007-maps-TPL MeCC Phase V 2009 Map final.pdf

Letter of Resolution: 0808-1-007-resolution-TPL letter authorizing MeCC Phase V 2009 proposal.pdf

Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Phase V (2009) Proposal Submit Form v. 2

Project Title: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

As Minnesota's population grows by about 1 million people in the next 25 years, protecting high quality habitat and natural lands in high growth Minnesota is even more important to protecting and restoring water quality and sustaining our natural areas. Between 40 and 60 acres a day is being developed in the Metro Area alone, totaling roughly 15,000 acres a year. In the Twin Cities metropolitan area and surrounding counties, about 80,000 acres of unprotected, regionally significant, terrestrial natural areas are particularly threatened because they are frequently more attractive for development. Opportunities to protect priority conservation lands decrease daily because lands are being developed, and land values are escalating rapidly – particularly for properties adjoining public lands or having lakeshore and river/stream frontage with high natural resource values and sensitivities. Communities are facing tremendous challenges in retaining open space, restoring existing natural areas, and providing for the growing demand to enjoy natural areas close to home.

The goal of this project is to protect lands and waters within targeted parts of defined corridors -- including along streams, rivers, and lakes-- to create connected habitat to facilitate the movement of wildlife. At the same time, this project aims to create close- to-home opportunities for hunting, fishing, bird watching, and other outdoor experiences for Minnesotans living in the greater Metro Area, which represents the largest concentration of residents in the state.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), with Metro Conservation Corridor partners, strategically focuses its conservation efforts to protect remaining high priority natural areas in urban, developing and rural areas. TPL will give special consideration to lands highlighted in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan – draft Habitat Recommendations and maps, which highlight several areas as high integrated terrestrial value, high integrated aquatic habitat value, high environmental stress (threat and urgency), and vulnerable habitat. TPL protects natural lands in designated corridors, especially shorelands, by purchasing land to convey to permanent land stewards.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Description: TPL will secure fee title or conservation easements on up to 43 acres of high quality habitat in the Metro Conservation Corridor areas. TPL will use \$950,000 of the LCCMR funds for capital costs of acquisition and will leverage \$950,000 in other state and non-state funds for this acquisition work. Acquired land will be conveyed or donated to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources or other qualified public or private land steward for long-term stewardship. TPL will prioritize potential land protection projects within the Metro Conservation Corridors based on the priorities established by the public agencies with whom we work and will focus efforts on shoreland, shallow lakes and other lands of highest ecological value and will consider landowner willingness to sell. We will also consider resource mapping, stakeholder suggestions, and joint recommendations made by the coalition of groups involved in this overall effort. Unless necessary to protect priority lands and subject to work plan amendment at that time, TPL will not acquire residential structures.

Result 1: Acquire Significant Habitat

Budget: \$950,000

Description: TPL is working in many communities within defined regionally significant Metro Conservation Corridors, with a strong emphasis on shorelands and wetlands. Many of these areas include lakes that appear on the DNR's 2007 map of "Shallow Lakes in Minnesota" (50 acres or greater, maximum depth of 15 feet). Areas TPL may protect in Phase V include:

1) In the St. Croix Valley (Washington and Chisago counties), TPL is working with several landowners, the Minnesota Land Trust, and the DNR to protect sensitive ravines and high quality ecological areas – both important to St. Croix Valley water quality and habitat.

- 2) In the forested lakes area of northern Washington County and southern Chisago County, TPL is working with public agencies and landowners to protect lakeshore and high quality forested lands designated by the DNR as “regionally significant ecological areas.”
- 3) In the Twin Lakes area of southeastern Isanti County, TPL is working with the DNR, other MeCC partners, and local landowners to protect high-quality habitat identified in the Minnesota County Biological Survey, including several lakes and wetland complexes.
- 4) In both Minneapolis and St. Paul, TPL is working with local park agencies and citizens to create new connections to the Mississippi River. These areas provide opportunities to restore habitat in vital natural resource corridors close to home for urban residents with park access challenges.
- 5) In southeastern Sherburne County and northwestern Anoka County, TPL is working with landowners and public agency partners to protect a large patch of a regionally significant ecological area that includes lakes, wetlands and forests and greenway connections to the Mississippi River.
- 6) In both northern and central Scott County and north central Carver County, TPL is working with landowners, public agencies, and other MeCC partners to protect fens, lakeshore and associated wetlands and forests that provide water quality, wildlife, and recreation benefits.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1) Acquire/protect 43 acres of significant habitat	6/30/11

III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

A. Project Partners: TPL works closely with private landowners and with the public agency or non-profit partner that will serve as the long-term steward of the land interest that TPL purchases using LCCMR funds. Long-term stewards and other project partners may include local governments, regional agencies, state agencies, water-related agencies, federal agencies, and private nonprofit organizations and citizen groups. Additionally, TPL coordinates its work with other MeCC partners (See Table A).

B. Project Impact

An estimated sixty percent of the state’s population lives in the counties served by this overall project and has the potential to be impacted by this work. This project will help to ensure that in the next 25 years, every one of us—in particular every child—will have a nearby park, garden, or playground to visit. Our region’s park system will be expanded into an interconnected web of public parks, gardens, trails, lakes, rivers and natural areas in the Twin Cities area stretching from the vibrant central business districts of Minneapolis and St. Paul through our inner city neighborhoods to our growing suburban and exurban fringe. Natural areas protected through this project will provide recreation and physical health; economic well-being; and a healthy and working natural resource system that in turn will provide safe drinking water and healthy habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife—especially for Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as described in the report Tomorrow’s Habitat for the Wild and Rare.

C. Time: 2 years, until June 30, 2011.

D. Long-Term Strategy (if applicable):

Conserving high quality habitat and connecting corridors in high-growth Minnesota requires sustained effort for at least a generation. State, regional and local plans to protect habitat and water quality for the next 25 years are now being completed, and these strategic, comprehensive plans will inform the work of Metro Conservation Corridors. Demand for land acquisition alone is estimated to exceed \$20 million a year for 25 years, according to the DNR’s Metro Greenways 2005 Biennial Acquisition Plan.

Metro Conservation Corridors plays a critical role in the acquisition and protection of lands for conservation purposes and natural resource-based recreation. The Metropolitan Council and other local units of government play a greater role acquiring open space for purposes of active recreation and stormwater management, rather than conservation of wildlife habitat, plant communities, and lands of ecological significance. With the framework and strategy of MeCC, partners will continue to succeed in leveraging non-state funding and assistance to achieve this long-term vision of clean water and protected, restored high quality habitat close to home for millions of Minnesotans.

Project Budget

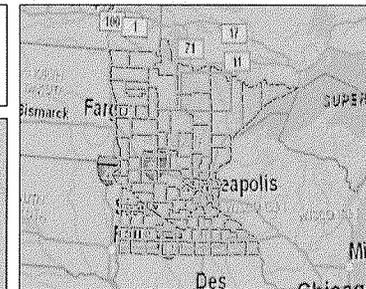
IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT	% FTE
Personnel: .	N/A	%
Contracts:	N/A	
Acquisition (Including Easements): 43 acres. The Trust for Public Land may transfer interests in land to the DNR, another public agency, or the Minnesota Land Trust.	\$950,000	
Restoration:	N/A	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$950,000	

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable): Phase 3 2007: \$410,000: Unspent but internally committed Phase 4 2008: \$475,000: Unspent but internally committed	\$885,000	<i>Unspent or Not Legally Obligated</i>
Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period: Federal, Met Council (MetC bonding), County, City, Township, Private: All Pending	\$450,000	<i>Secured or Pending</i>
Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period: State Bonding (DNR, Local Grants, MetroGreenways): All Pending	\$450,000	<i>Secured or Pending</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period:	N/A	
Past Spending (money spent or to be spent from July 1, 2007 to July 1, 2009): Phase 2 2005 \$420,000 Spent June, 2008 Phase 3 2007 \$ 10,000 Spent June, 2008 Phase 3 2007 \$410,000 To be Spent Phase 4 2008 \$475,000 To be Spent	\$1,315,000	

3.1 TPL Critical Lands Protection- Potential Project Sites for MeCC 2009



Legend

- County Boundary
- Metro Conservation Corridors county background

1: 706,361



22.3 0 11.15 22.3 Miles

NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_15N
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This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Notes

Project Manager Qualifications

Becca Nash, Project Manager with The Trust for Public Land, works directly with landowners, public agency partners, and community members to protect land throughout the state of Minnesota for public use and enjoyment. She 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 her work at TPL, Becca coordinated studies funded by the LCMR and Environmental Protection Agency for the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She has a B.S. in biology from the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences.

Organization Description

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national non profit organization dedicated to conserving land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural areas, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. The primary way TPL accomplishes this vision is through conservation real estate, conservation finance, and conservation vision.