

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2012-2013 Request for Proposals (RFP)

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 064-D4

MeCC VII - 3.1: 2013 TPLs Critical Land Protection Program

Topic Area: D. Land Acquisition & Restoration

Total Project Budget: \$ 1,000,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 yrs, July 2013 - June 2015

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

Acquisition of +/- 60 acres of high quality habitat and +/- 0.5 miles of shoreline in scientifically evaluated wildlife corridors within the greater Twin Cities Metro Area.

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Sponsoring Organization: The Trust for Public Land

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Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Anoka, Chisago, Scott, Washington

City / Township: Various

<input type="checkbox"/> Funding Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Base
<input type="checkbox"/> Extent of Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific/Tech Basis	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgency
<input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/> Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL <u> </u> %



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2012-2013 Main Proposal

PROJECT TITLE: TPL's Critical Land Protection Program- MeCC VII 2013

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The proposed project includes strategic acquisition of an estimated 60 acres of high quality habitat and approximately 0.5 miles of shoreline in **scientifically evaluated** wildlife corridors within the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. ENRTF dollars will **leverage** non- ENRTF funds to acquire 30 additional acres and 0.25 additional miles than will be protected with ENRTF dollars alone.

An estimated 255,000 acres of high quality natural lands (MNDNR 2003) remain in the seven county metro area and only 32% is currently protected by DNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service, or as regional parks or nature preserves. The goal of this effort is to **permanently protect** portions of the remaining high quality land and water habitat that can provide as many long-term benefits as possible.

Multiple Benefits provided by the protection of these natural resources include: resilience of native animal and plant populations (including "Species in Greatest Conservation Need") in the face of climate change and invasive species; protection of our lakes, rivers, and streams and the quality of our ground water; carbon sequestration; and access for "close to home" outdoor recreation and enjoyment where nearly 60% of the state's population lives.

Land acquisitions also contribute to the state and region's economic vitality by injecting cash into the marketplace, by triggering deed tax revenues to the state, by attracting additional funds from non-state sources, and by **providing employment** to the professionals involved in the process including environmental consultants, closers and title insurers, surveyors, appraisers, etc.

Protection efforts also typically include a public process that **increases the awareness** and understanding of the necessity of protecting our state's air, land, water, and other natural resources.

All lands acquired will be priorities as demonstrated through adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans. Lands to be protected through this program are considered threatened by fragmentation, conversion, degradation, or sale. Therefore, **urgent action** is needed.

The **return on investment** is high: a recent study conducted by the University of Minnesota concluded that DNR land purchases return between \$1.70 and \$4.40 in nature's services for each dollar of land purchased.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Strategic acquisition of fee title lands in the greater Twin Cities Metro Area

Budget: \$1.0m

Acquire land in fee title and convey it into public ownership for stewardship and protection. Please see the attached list of the lands that may be acquired in part with funding from this request.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Approx. 60 acres of high quality habitat and 0.5 miles of shoreline protected through fee title acquisition	6/30/15

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The Trust for Public Land has a strong history of accomplishing successful conservation in Minnesota and as a partner of the Metro Conservation Corridors Program. TPL and its partners are “**ready, willing, and able**” to achieve the outcomes stated above. TPL **partners** with the core Metro Conservation Corridor organizations as well as with towns, counties, lakeshore associations, citizen groups and others in order to accomplish the stated outcomes. TPL also works closely with the private landowner and public agency to which TPL will transfer the land and which will serve as the long-term steward of the land. When TPL transfers interests in land to a long-term steward, TPL will donate to the land steward the land value of the ENRTF funds.

B. Timeline Requirements: 2 years; until June 30, 2015

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

As a partner in the larger and longer-term effort of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership begun in 2003, The Trust for Public Land will continue its work as long as critical habitat that needs to be protected remains unprotected and in danger of degradation and loss.

2012-2013 Proposed Acquisition List

Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors-- TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program

Project Manager Name: Becca Nash

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$1,000,000

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee Title or Conservation Easement)	County	Ecological Significance	Proposed # of Acres	Proposed # of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
1	Lindstrom Natural Area	Fee Title	Chisago	In southern Chisago County, TPL is working with the City of Lindstrom and multiple landowners to protect lakeshore and high quality forested lands designated by the DNR as "regionally significant ecological areas." This is the second phase of an effort that has been made possible by the down economy and which includes protection of 5,600 feet of lakeshore and habitat for species in greatest need of conservation such as red shouldered hawk, bald eagle, and Blanding's turtles. Protection is supported in local, regional, and state plans.	30	1.06	City of Lindstrom
2	St. Croix/Franconia-Scandia SNA	Fee Title	Chisago or Washington	TPL is building on its past successful acquisitions with the DNR's Scientific and Natural Areas Program to protect more critical habitat in this important ecological corridor as defined by DNR's Division of Ecological Services. Acquisitions will be targeted toward lands of high biodiversity significance and to sensitive ravines that impact the water quality leading into the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Protection here is supported by local, state, and federal plans.	80		DNR- SNA
3	Carnelian Creek & Keystone Woods Area	Fee Title	Washington	TPL is continuing conversations with landowners in this area that represents a mosaic of wetland and upland community types connecting a series of lakes. MCBS has identified large portions of this land as having high biodiversity significance, including aspen-oak stands, oak openings and barrens, Big Woods (oak, maple, basswood, hickory), wet prairie, conifer bogs and swamps. MNDNR's Natural Heritage Database contains fourteen records of rare or significant plant communities, plant species, and animal species in the corridor, including Blanding's Turtle and Red-shouldered Hawk.	1000	1.00	Washington County
4	Savage Fen SNA additions	Fee Title	Scott	A significant amount of land has become available for acquisition and at possibly half of its pre-economic downturn value. Acquired land would provide protection to existing Scientific and Natural Area lands as well as to currently unprotected sugar maple-basswood forests, seepage meadow, fen, and alkaline seeps and spring—all within the Minnesota River Valley. Acquisition will also entail provision of a multi-use trail through an existing disturbed corridor. Signage will be placed along corridor to educate the public about the unique landforms found here and about the cultural history of the area. Protection is supported through local and regional plans.	98.44		DNR- SNA
5	Rum River-Boy Scouts	Fee Title	Anoka	In west-central Anoka County, TPL is working with the landowners and the City of Ramsey to protect a 160+ acre patch of regionally significant ecological lands including river shoreline, wetlands, forests and prairie habitat. Acquisition would provide protection of these resources as well as access to the Wild and Scenic Rum River, which is also a state designated canoe route.	170	0.27	City of Ramsey
NOTES:							

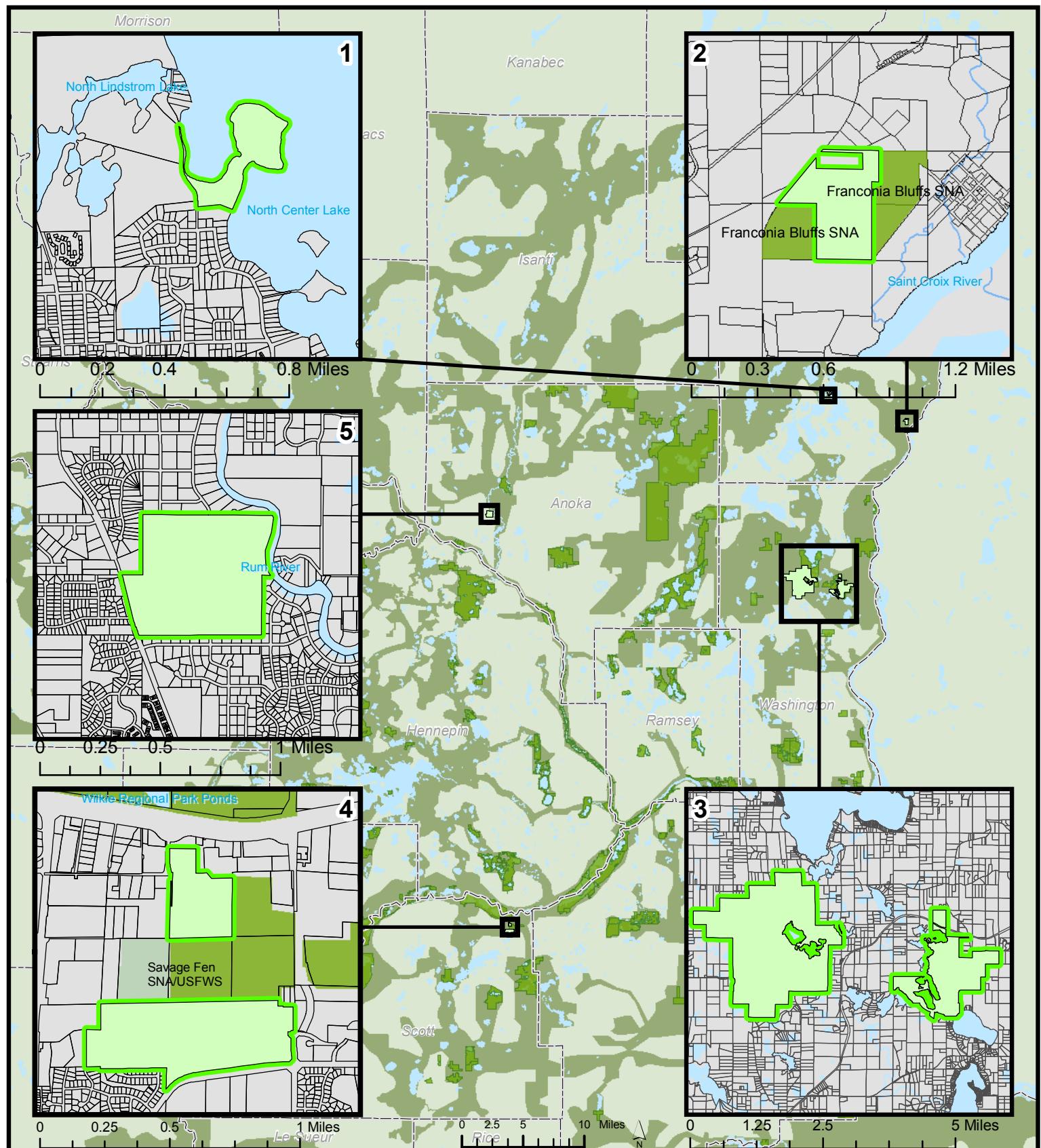
2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET

	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): Funds will be used to purchase +/-60 acres of land and +/- 0.5 miles of shoreline. The land will be transferred to a local, state, or federal agency for permanent stewardship. Please see attached land acquisition list for more details.	\$ 990,000
DNR acquisition costs	\$ 5,000
Baseline report, management plan, initial site development plan	\$ 5,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 1,000,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Various local, federal, and private funds	\$ 250,000	Pending
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Various bonding, and/or Clean Water, Land and Legacy funds.	\$ 250,000	Pending
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): 2011 Metro Conservation Corridors (\$500,000 appropriated)	\$ 500,000	Committed
Funding History:	\$ -	
2005: \$620,000 ETF + \$1,664,000 other funds	\$ 2,284,000	Spent
2007: \$420,000 ETF + \$2,320,000 other funds	\$ 2,740,000	Spent
2008: \$475,000 ETF + \$2,215,000 other funds	\$ 2,690,000	Spent
2009: \$380,000 ETF + \$992,000 other funds	\$ 1,372,000	Spent
2010: \$890,000 ETF + \$4,790,000 other funds	\$ 5,680,000	Spent



TPL's CRITICAL LAND PROTECTION PROGRAM- MECC VII 2013 FOCUS AREAS

The parcels shown are potential acquisition areas only. They do not necessarily represent the specific lands that will be acquired. Actual acquisitions will be dependent on negotiations, planning, agency approvals, and funding levels.

Legend

- Trust for Public Land Focus Area Projects
 - County Boundary
 - Metro Area Parks and DNR Lands
 - Metro Conservation Corridors
 - Water
- 05/03/2012**

- Clockwise from top-left:
- (1) Lindstrom Natural Area
 - (2) Franconia Scandia SNA
 - (3) Cornelian Creek & Keystone Woods
 - (4) Savage Fen SNA Additions
 - (5) Rum River- Boy Scouts

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Becca Nash

Becca Nash, Project Manager with The Trust for Public Land, leads conservation real estate and conservation finance work throughout the state of Minnesota. She manages all aspects of real estate transactions including initial research and outreach; negotiating contracts; advocating for and securing financing; and coordinating due diligence work. Prior to her work at TPL, Becca coordinated studies funded by the EPA 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.

