

**FINAL REPORT**

Date of Report: September 3, 2003  
LCMR Work Program Final Report  
Date of Next Status Report: None  
Date of Workprogram Approval: April 20, 2001  
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2003

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**LCMR Work Program 2001**

**I. PROJECT TITLE: Acquisition of Lands as Scientific and Natural Areas**

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**Total Biennial Project Budget:**

<b>\$ LCMR Appropriation</b>	<b>- \$ Amount Spent:</b>	<b>= \$ Balance:</b>
\$455,000	\$416,500	\$38,500

**Legal Citation: ML 2001, Chap. 2, Sec. 14, Subd.4(h).**

**Appropriation Language:**

04(h) Acquisition of Lands as Scientific and Natural Areas  
\$227,000 the first year and \$228,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire land with natural features of statewide significance in the scientific and natural area program long-range plan and to improve land acquired with this appropriation. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources.

## II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

Funding provided to acquire Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) this biennium was used to acquire critical lands with plant communities such as native prairie and rare species habitat. A total of thirty (30) landowners were contacted concerning land protection. Of these, eight (8) agreed to have an appraisal conducted with these funds, of which 7 were completed in this time frame. Completed appraisals resulted in approximately 179 acres of land being acquired as SNAs with the LCMR funds. These lands were acquired at Prairie Coteau SNA in Pipestone County (92 acres), Sedan Brook SNA in Stearns County (40 acres), Cottonwood River Prairie SNA in Brown County (approximately 2 acres), and Pine Bend Bluffs SNA in Dakota County (45 of 118 acres with funds provided to SNA).

At least four other appraisals are underway as a result of landowner contacts made during this LCMR project. One of the parcels appraised during this period will be acquired with new LCMR funds in the metro area this biennium. In addition, due to contacts made during this LCMR acquisition project, another two (2) landowners have since agreed to have appraisals conducted.

In summary, funds provided through the LCMR have been successfully used to protect critical tracts of land as State Scientific and Natural Areas for native plant communities and rare plant and animal species. In addition, contacts made with landowners during this period are resulting in new land appraisals that in turn will result in the protection of additional parcels of land with rare and unique natural resources, in the future.

## IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

**Result 1:** Contact private landowners, initiate appraisals and acquire lands at anywhere from one to four sites.

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Balance</i>
<b>LCMR Budget:</b>		
<b>Personnel: Acquisition Specialist</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$9,800</b>
<b>Equipment: NA</b>		
<b>Development: Signing and posting with crews</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$2,835</b>
<b>Acquisition: From one to four sites</b>	<b>\$385,000</b>	<b>\$9,963</b>
<b>Other: Appraisals, surveys, Attorney general &amp; Real estate fees.</b>	<b><u>\$50,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$15,879</u></b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$455,000</b>	<b>\$38,477</b>

**Result Status:** 6/14/03 – 6/30/03: The work program amendment of June 17, 2003 was approved to add Clay County to the list of sites where acquisition was proposed. This permitted the SNA Program to initiate the appraisals of the gravel resources at a key site in Clay County. However, in that the appraisal was just initiated, the costs for the appraisal will not be taken from this account. Also during this period approximately 2 acres was optioned at the Cottonwood River Prairie in Brown County. ✓

1/1/03 – 6/13/03: A work program amendment (June 17, 2003) is requested to add Clay County to the list of sites where acquisition is proposed (see attached list). This will permit the SNA Program to initiate and complete appraisals of the gravel resources at a key site in Clay County. Since the inception of the SNA work program, the Felton Prairie Stewardship Plan, funded by LCMR has been completed. One of the key focal points of the Felton Prairie Stewardship Plan is the protection of the native prairie resources found at the site. In order to start the protection process, envisioned by the LCMR funded Stewardship Plan, the value of the gravel resources at the site must be assessed. Shifting existing funds in this work program will permit the completion of appraisals. Establishment of values will permit protection partners to initiate negotiations with the County. It is anticipated that these appraisals will cost over \$40,000 due to the amount of work and analysis required to develop economic values for this extensive resource. The area to be appraised contains in the neighborhood of 22 million cubic yards of high quality gravel on over 500 acres of high quality native prairie.

Also during this period a 17 acre parcel was appraised at Pine Bend Bluffs and discussions are being held with the landowner. Another parcel has been submitted for appraisal at Pine Bend Bluffs. 7/1/02-12/31/02: 92 acres containing wet and mesic prairie was acquired at the Prairie Coteau SNA for \$47,000. 118 acres of forest at the Pine Bend Bluff SNA was acquired through the LCMR appropriation to the SNA Program (\$292,00) and from funding provided by Metro Greenways (\$ 477,500). Pine Bend Bluffs is the number 1 priority and Prairie Coteau the number 9 priority listed on Attachment A. 7/1/01-2/14/02: 40 acres containing mesic prairie was acquired at the Sedan Brook Prairie SNA to date with \$29,000 of LCMR funds. This is the number 2 priority listed on Attachment A.

**Result 2:** Conduct informational meetings as necessary with local units of government.

**LCMR Budget:** \$ -0-

**Result Status:** A meeting was held with Dakota County officials to discuss the acquisition by Metro Greenways and the SNA Program of the site in Dakota County as a state natural area.

**Completion Date:** June 30, 2003, though this could be completed in the first year of the biennium.

<b>V. TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:</b>	<u><i>Budget</i></u>	<u><i>Balance</i></u>
<b>All Results: Personnel:</b>	\$15,000	\$9,800
<b>All Results: Equipment: NA</b>		
<b>All Results: Development:</b>	\$5,000	\$2,835
<b>All Results: Acquisition:</b>	\$9,963	
<b>All Results: Other:</b>	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$15,879</u>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET:</b>	\$455,000	\$38,477

**A.) ATTACHMENT A**

See prospective list of SNA sites.

**VI. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SPENDING:** General Funds will be used to cover the costs of public information meetings if necessary.

**A. Past Spending:**

Fund	Year	Approp.	Liquid.	Encumb.	Balance
SNA Acquisition (Trust Fund)	1993	1,000	1,000	0	0
SNA Acquisition (Bonding)	1994	1,000	1,000	0	0
RIM Wildlife (Bonding)	1996	500	500	0	0
SNA Acquisition (General Fund)	1997	250	250	0	0
RIM Wildlife Habitat (Environmental Trust Fund)	1997	200	200	0	0
SNA Acquisition (Capital Improvement)	1997	2,200	2,200	0	0
SNA Acquisition (Bonding)	1999	150	150	0	0
SNA Acquisition (ETF)	2001	455	413.3	3.2	38.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,755</b>	<b>5,713.3</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>38.5</b>

**B. Current and Future Spending:**

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Critical Habitat funds could be spent on the project during the funding period should future RIM appropriations be made available next legislative session.

**C. Project Partners:**

Metro Greenways, Al Singer, MNDNR, will be participating on the first priority site (See Attachment A).

**D. Time:**

The project will likely be completed in the first year of the biennium.

**VII. DISSEMINATION:**

All SNA sites are displayed on the DNR Web Page under the Scientific and Natural Areas Guide. The Guide is also available through private book stores e.g. Barnes and Nobles, Amazon.com, and the state book store.

**VIII. LOCATION:**

See Attachment A for prospective ecological target sites.

**IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic workprogram progress reports will be submitted not later than January 30, 2002; July 31, 2002; January 30, 2003. A final workprogram report will be submitted by June 30, 2003, or earlier if the funds are expended before the completion date.

**X. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA**

**Attachment A**

Natural Community	County	Nearest Town	Acres	Cost Estimate	Status
1 Oak Woods	Dakota	Rosemount	350	\$2,000,000	PA1
2 Mesic Prairie	Stearns	Brooten	80	\$40,000	PA
3 Wet Prairie	Redwood	Belview	160	\$120,000	
4 Hill & Wet Prairie	Yellow Med	Canby	600	\$300,000	
5 Tamarack Bog & Fen	Stearns	St. Wendel	800	\$500,000	
6 Bluff Prairie	Washington	Hastings	40	\$250,000	
7 Northwest Wet Prairie	Norman	Twin Valley	160	\$56,000	
8 Northern Tallgrass Prairie	Otter Tail	Western	320	\$128,000	
9 Glacial Till Hill Prairie	Pipestone	Holland	320	\$224,000	PA2
10 Rock Outcrop & Dry Prairie	Redwood	Delhi	200	\$120,000	
11 Rock Outcrop & Dry Prairie	Redwood	Redwood Falls	560	\$280,000	
12 Prairie Bush Clover	Brown	Sanborn	80	\$96,000	PA3
13 Big Woods	Stearns	Avon	600	\$720,000	
14 Old Growth Deciduous Forest	Itasca	Grand Rapids	32	\$228,000	
15 Western Prairie Fringed Orchid	Polk	Melvin	80	\$40,000	
16 Glacial Till Hill Prairie	Jackson	Jackson	80	\$125,000	
17 Oak Forest	Morrison	Cushing	160	\$80,000	
18 Southeast Prairie	Fillmore	Peterson	200	\$180,000	
19 Glacial Till Hill Prairie	Murray	Chandler	320	\$240,000	
20 Northwest Dry Prairie	Polk	Trail	480	\$150,000	
21 Southeast Bluff Prairie	Houston	Mound Prairie	100	\$80,000	
22 Dwarf Trout Lily	Goodhue	Wanamingo	200	\$300,000	
23 Calcareous Fen	Stearns	Spring Hill	160	\$96,000	LD
24 Wet Prairie	Anoka	Blaine	80	\$900,000	
25 Wet Prairie	Pennington	Thief River Falls	240	\$84,000	
26 Northern Tallgrass Prairie	Wilkin	Rothsay	300	\$120,000	
27 Rock Outcrop & Dry Prairie	Nicollet	Fairfax	360	\$150,000	
28 Southeast Maple Basswood	Fillmore	Chatfield	200	\$200,000	
29 Calcareous Fen	Redwood	Belview	160	\$150,000	
30 Northern Tallgrass Prairie	Red Lake	Red Lake Falls	160	\$56,000	
31 Tamarack Bog	Stearns	Fairhaven	300	\$150,000	
32 Big Woods	Wright	Buffalo	300	\$900,000	
33 Northwest Mesic Prairie	Clay	Felton	550	\$2,000,000	

PA= 40 Acre Portion Was Acquired With \$29,000 of LCMR Funds

PA1= 118 Acre Portion Was Acquired With \$292,000 of LCMR Funds

PA2= 91.55 Acre Tract Was Acquired With \$47,000 of LCMR Funds

PA3= 2 Acre Tract (Approximately) Was Optioned With \$3,200 of LCMR Funds

LD= Landowner Declined To Sell For The Appraised Offer.