

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application

CPL1000062

[Spreadsheet](#)

Name and Contact

Project Identifier:	CPL1000062	Street Address 1: 311 Buffalo Ave. S.
Project Name:	Montrose WMA Habitat Corridor	Street Address 2: PO Box 25
Organization Name:	City of Montrose	City: Montrose
Organization Website:	http://montrose-mn.com	State: MN
Organization Contact Person:	Justin Kannas	Zip Code: 55363
Contact Email:	justinka@bolton-menk.com	
Contact Phone:	(320) 231-3956	

Location

Primary County:	Wright
Nearest City:	Montrose
Township:	Marysville & Franklin
Project Site Name:	Montrose WMA Habitat Corridor
Project Site Land Ownership:	Private
Other Land Ownership:	

Project Information

Primary Activity:	Acquisition
Primary Habitat Type:	Fish, Game or Wildlife Habitat
Total Project Acres:	15
Total Project Sites:	3
Total Grant Amount Requested:	\$196650
Total Match Amount:	\$21850
Total Project Cost:	\$218500
Project Completion Date:	06/2012 (MM/YYYY)

Project Summary and Outcomes: The project includes acquisition of conservation easements between two existing high quality wildlife management areas in Wright County to establish and protect a wildlife corridor. Recent and future development has the potential to separate the two WMA's. The easement will provide upland buffer to the existing wetlands, enhancing the existing wetlands and providing additional upland area for wildlife habitat. The project will convert existing tilled farm land in the easement corridor to natural prairie. In the future, a trail will be constructed on the edge to provide a recreation opportunity for the public.

Attachments

- [Project Site Information Form](#)
- [Project Budget and Match Description](#)
- Partner Commitment Letter
- Financial Documentation
- Conservation Easement
- [Supplementary Attachment #1](#)
- [Supplementary Attachment #2](#)

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Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

Project Site Information

Contact information

Project name:

Organization:

Organization contact person (Project Manager):

Project information

Project site:

Project site land manager or easement holder:

Private land owner (if applicable):

Activity (may choose more than one): Enhancement Restoration Acquisition

Predominant Habitat (choose one): Forest Prairie Wetland Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat

Activity quantity: Acres Miles Feet Structures Wetlands

Project Site #2, if needed.

Project site:

Project site land manager or easement holder:

Private land owner (if applicable):

Activity (may choose more than one): Enhancement Restoration Acquisition

Predominant Habitat (choose one): Forest Prairie Wetland Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat

Activity quantity: Acres Miles Feet Structures Wetlands

Project Site #3, if needed. Use Additional Project Sites form if needed.

Project site:

Project site land manager or easement holder:

Private land owner (if applicable):

Activity (may choose more than one): Enhancement Restoration Acquisition

Predominant Habitat (choose one): Forest Prairie Wetland Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat

Activity quantity: Acres Miles Feet Structures Wetlands

Project timeline:

Time frame	Goal	Time frame	Goal
May - June 2010	Complete Wetland Delineations		
July - Sept. 2010	Define Exact Corridor Limits		
Oct. - Nov. 2010	Appraisals		
Dec 2010 - Jan. 2011	Execute Easement Agreements		
Jan - March 2011	Prepare restoration & management plan		
May - Oct. 2011	Establish Native Prairie Vegetation		
Sept. 2011 - June 2012	Short-term maintenance of Prairie		

Project description and benefits (box will expand as typed into, not to be longer than 2 pages):

The proposed project includes the acquisition of conservation easements between Woodland Wildlife Management Area and Malardi Wildlife Management Area in Wright County. According to the DNR, these two WMA's are of very high quality. DNR staff has indicated that both WMA's are the highest quality available in the entire County. Due to increasing development encroachment on these WMA's in the past several years and additional encroachment in the near future, the DNR and City of Montrose are interested in preserving the existing quality of the WMA's and mitigating effects of development on the WMA's. One mitigation effect, as outlined in the City of Montrose's recently completed AUAR is to establish and maintain a greenway habitat corridor between the two WMA's. The attached Land Use Plan to this grant application shows a park search area between the two WMA's. The more specific intent of this "park search area" is to maintain an undeveloped corridor between the two WMA's to allow wildlife to move between the WMA's. During the AUAR review process, the DNR commented extensively on the need to establish this corridor.

As seen on the attached figures, there is already significant wetlands between the WMA's. It is the intent to maintain these existing wetlands and restore any currently farmed or drained wetlands as developments are platted in this area. This will provide a basis for an undeveloped wildlife corridor. When developments are platted, the City will require all existing wetlands to be placed in outlots owned by the City of Montrose. This grant application to establish conservation easements within the area is intended to supplement the existing wetland corridor to establish a complete corridor from one WMA to another and provide wider buffer areas from the outside edge of the wetlands, providing upland area for wildlife to move back and forth. All three property owners have been contacted and are in general support of the establishment of this habitat corridor and submittal of this grant application.

As identified in the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan Figure H16 Franklin and Marysville Townships, where the proposed Montrose Habitat Corridor is located, are near the high end of vulnerable key habitat areas. As stated in Habitat Recommendation 1 in the State Plan "Focus protection on the critical lands the SCPP has identified by township (Figure H16)..... High priority examples include... areas that add to or provide linkages between large, intact ecosystems." The State Plan also indicates that protection of these land areas will require a coordinated effort among local, county and regional agencies. As also suggested in the State Plan, Montrose has already completed a comprehensive plan that identifies protection areas. The City of Montrose is willing to be a partner in this effort and in fact is taking a lead in establishing this corridor through this grant application. Habitat Recommendation 3 in the State plan indicates land needs to be acquired, protected, and restored to provide Minnesotans and visitors an outdoor system where they can recreate. Actions include connectivity of wildlife management areas. Prioritization should include rapidly growing areas or areas where land use changes may limit future outdoor recreation opportunities. The proposed Montrose Habitat Corridor meets all of these recommendations in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan.

Within the "Big Woods" subsection profile of Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan, Goal I.4.b states "Manage habitats adjacent to wetlands to enhance SGCN values" and Goal I.5.c states "Encourage when appropriate transformation of plowed fields into pasture/grasslands." Goal III.A.2 states "Create opportunities for people to appropriately enjoy SGCN-based recreation." The proposed Montrose WMA habitat corridor achieves these goals through the preservation and restoration of land adjacent to wetlands between the two WMA's and future construction of a trail along the corridor to provide recreation opportunity.

The City of Montrose will be the easement holder for a permanent conservation easement as proposed. Upon acquisition of the easements, the existing farmed areas within the easement will be restored with native prairie grass. The City of Montrose will hire a contractor or the Minnesota Conservation Corps to complete this work including maintenance of the restoration areas for the first year. Costs for the initial restoration and maintenance are included in the grant application. Long term maintenance and monitoring of the easement will be completed by the City of Montrose and will include spraying and/or mowing of noxious weeds as necessary and as identified in the restoration and management plan. The restoration and management plan will be prepared as identified in the above schedule. Monitoring will be completed at a minimum of an annual basis by the City Public Works staff. Funding for the long term maintenance will be through the City of Montrose annual budget. The City may also look for other entities or government agencies to assist with the maintenance. It is highly unlikely that the City of Montrose would cease to exist.

Should that ever happen, the easement will revert to the same agency in which all other City owned easements and right-of-way would revert to.

As identified in the attached "Land Use Plan" two future collector roadways are planned to cross the project area. The exact locations of these roadways are unknown at this time and will be determined as development occurs. However, both future roadways are intended to be re-alignments for the existing township roads (55th Street SW and Meridian Ave) that are currently located within or adjacent to the proposed habitat corridor. The proposed easement will include provisions to allow for the construction of two future collector roadways and associated utilities with exact locations to be determined in the future. The easement will also include provisions to allow for the future construction of a walking/hiking trail. The City plans to construct a trail between the two WMA's which will provide outdoor recreation opportunities including scenic viewing of wildlife for the public. The trail will likely be constructed on the outermost edge of the corridor to minimize impact to the corridor.

As identified in the Natural Heritage database search completed by the DNR Sauk Rapids office, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] However, [REDACTED] was identified in both the Woodland WMA and Malardi WMA as a rare and threatened species. The proposed project will help protect the [REDACTED] by providing larger buffer areas to the existing wetlands and establishing the corridor between the WMA's.

Please provide the answers to the following questions. Boxes will expand as typed into.

1. For lands acquired in fee title that will be turned over to a public agency for long-term management:

- a. Provide a description of the work necessary to bring the land up to agency standards and an estimate of the associated cost.

The existing tilled land within the proposed conservation easement corridor will be restored with native prairie vegetation. Tilling, fertilizing, soil preparation and seeding of native prairie will be completed by a contractor. Maintenance required to establish the prairie for the first year will be included in the contract price. The estimated cost to complete this work is \$30,000.

- b. What short- and long-term work is required to manage the land you acquire?

The City of Montrose will complete long term maintenance as necessary to remove noxious weeds. Anticipated maintenance includes spot spraying and spot mowing.

2. For enhancement/ restoration projects on public lands:

- a. Who is/will be the long-term manager for the project site?

- b. What short- and long-term maintenance work is required to sustain the habitat work you will do?

- c. Who will complete this maintenance work, and how will it be funded?

- d. Will the CPL funds supplant any existing funds?

As required by 2009 MN Session Law, Chapter 172 subd. 10 (8), "any agency or entity receiving an appropriation must, for any project funded in whole or in part with funds from the appropriation, give consideration to and **make timely written contact with the Minnesota Conservation Corps** for consideration of possible use of their services to contract for restoration and enhancement services". Contact MCC at cplg@conservationcorps.org, or email a copy of this form to the same address. For more information on costs, crew capabilities, etc., visit MCC's website at <http://www.conservationcorps.org/useacrew.html>.

Signature:

I certify that I have read the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program **Request for Proposal, Program Manual** and other program documents, and have discussed this project with the appropriate public land manager, or private landowner and easement holder. I am authorized to apply for and manage these grant and match funds, and the project work by the organization or agency listed below. I have made timely written notification to MCC regarding my restoration or enhancement project.

Signature: 	Organization/ Agency: City of Montrose
Title: City Engineer	Date: October 30, 2009

Please save this document to your computer or electronic storage device and attach this document as specified on the online submittal form when ready to apply. Contact CPL Grant Staff with any questions.

CPL Project Application Review and Approval Form

REVIEWER INFORMATION

Land manager/ easement holder name:	City of Montrose (Proposed Easement Holder)		
Title:	City Administrator	Date of meeting:	October 12, 2009
Phone:	(763) 675-3717	Proposal ID #:	
Email:	bswanson@montrose-mn.com	<small>(assigned by agency, optional)</small>	

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:	Montrose WMA Habitat Corridor	Organization:	City of Montrose
Contact Person:	Barbara Swanson		
Email:	bswanson@montrose-mn.com	Daytime Phone:	(763) 675-3717

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- I have read the application and discussed this proposed project with the above listed Organization Contact Person.
- For work on easements, the private landowner has been contacted and has given support and approval for this project.

I have performed a Natural Heritage Database review and found:

- this project to have no features within one mile.
- this project to have features within one mile, but project is not likely to adversely affect those features. I have recommended the following minimization strategy:

Nicholas Snavely from the Sauk Rapids DNR office completed a Natural Heritage Database review and found no features within the proposed habitat corridor. One feature (trumpeter swan) was located within one mile of the site located within the Woodland and Malardi WMA. The proposed project will have a positive affect on the trumpeter swan by providing additional habitat between the WMA's.

- this project is likely to adversely affect Natural Heritage features. I feel that this project is important and should be forwarded to DNR Ecological Resources staff for further review.
- I do not have access to the Natural Features database and will forward this completed form to DNR within 3 business days to [CPL Staff](mailto:CPLStaff@LSCPLGrants.DNR@dnr.state.mn.us) at LSCPLGrants.DNR@dnr.state.mn.us for review.

I have discussed what role my office will be expected to have in this project and find that the project, as described will require:

- minimal or no involvement from my office for completion.
- a commitment of involvement by staff that is reasonable and can be accomplished with current staffing levels and workload.

- an amount of staff involvement that cannot be committed during the project time period with current staffing levels. Unless additional staffing can be committed from other offices, Divisions or appropriate partners, I feel this project cannot be completed within the project timeline to our desired standards.

CPL Project Application Review and Approval Form

- I have discussed permits and applications that the applicant may be responsible for using the Working on DNR Lands and Working on Public Lands, or Working on Private Lands documents.

Upon final review of this project:

- I find this project to be consistent with sound conservation science. This work will benefit area fish, game and wildlife by restoring, enhancing or protecting forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat and is consistent with the management or stewardship plan for this land. (APPROVAL)
- I find that this project does not follow the management or stewardship plan for this land and does not fit within the long range goals for this land at this time on the local level. (DECLINE)
- I find that this project should be sent up to a higher level within the agency for further review and decision. I have forwarded the Project Planning Form and this Review and Approval Form for further review to:

Name:		Phone:	
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- By checking this box and typing my name below I certify that I have met with the above applicant and discussed the proposed project and have provided feedback to the applicant.**

Name:	Barbara Swanson
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Comments: **This form is being filled out by the City of Montrose as directed by Leslie Tannahill from the DNR. The City of Montrose will be the proposed easement holder of the proposed habitat corridor.**

Name:		Phone:	
Title:		Email:	

Additional
necessary):

Comments(including approval or denial, reasoning):

review (if

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Project Budget and Match Worksheet, Application Requirement

Project name:	Montrose WMA Habitat Corridor	
Organization:	City of Montrose	
Organization contact person (Project Manager):	Justin Kannas	

Please complete all sections and be as detailed as possible for all descriptions under the Details sections. Limit entries in large tables to numbers only, **round to the nearest dollar**. Do not edit table categories, only enter values or text into the table. The tables will adjust to accommodate additional text in each box. If all categories are not needed, please leave those fields blank.

BUDGET: amounts being requested **Note: FY refers to State Fiscal Year: July 1- June 30, with the year reflecting the year that June falls in. For example: if today were September 3rd, 2009 it would be FY2010; December 3rd 2010= FY2011; May 2012= FY2012

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 2010	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Total
Personnel				
Contracts		\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00
Grant Administration	\$10,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$23,500.00
Administration/ Environmental Compliance	\$3,000.00			
Fee Acquisition				
Easement Acquisition		\$159,000.00		\$159,000.00
Easement Stewardship		\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00
Equipment/Tools/Supplies				
Travel				
Additional Budget items				
Total	\$13,000.00	\$180,000.00	\$24,500.00	\$218,500.00

DETAILS: detail the amounts listed in the above table.

Personnel Details:

Name	Title	Amount

Contract Details:

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount
To be Determined	Restoration to Native Prairie	\$30,000.00

Grant Administration:

Administrative Activity	Description/ Amount	Amount
Wetland Delineation	Wetland Delineation to determine corridor limits	\$3,500.00
Project Management	Contract Preparation, Contract Administration, Easement Negotiation	\$20,000.00

Administration/ Environmental Compliance

Activity	Description	Amount
Env Review Document	Prepare required Environmental Review Document and agency notification as required	\$3,000.00

Fee Acquisition/ Easement Acquisition/ Easement Stewardship Details:

15 Acres x \$10,000 / Acre = \$150,000
Appraisals = \$5,000
Easement Document Preparation Incl. Survey & Legal = \$4,000
Easement Stewardship - Develop Restoration & Management Plan

Equipment/Tools/Supplies Details:

Item	Use	Amount

Travel Details:

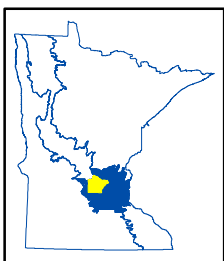
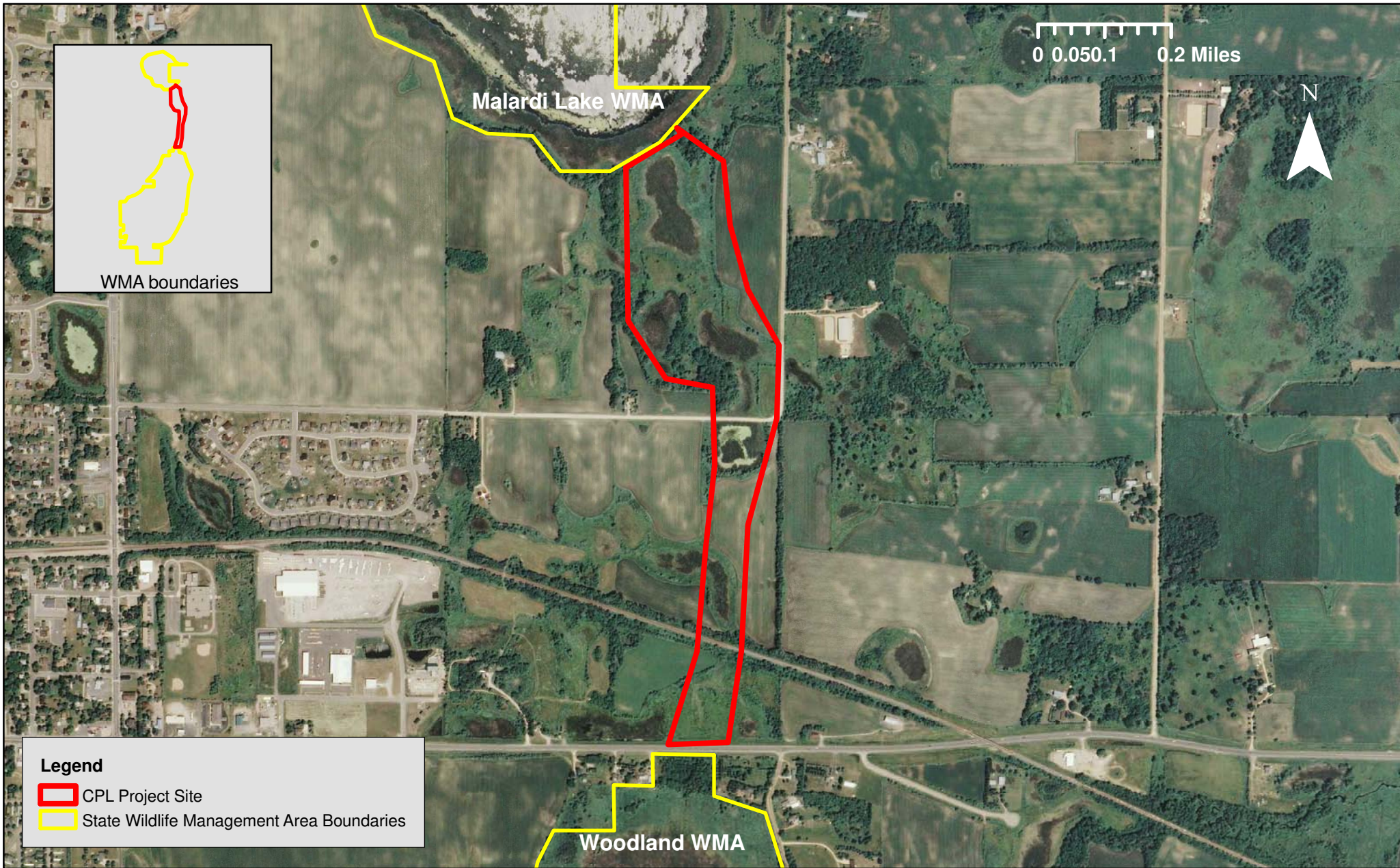
Miles	Purpose	Amount

Additional Budget Items Details:

MATCH: Required 10% of total project funds, to be fulfilled by end of Fiscal Year 2012. Use provided rate sheet to determine unit rate and total value of in-kind services to be used as matching funds if applicable.

Source	Description	Units	Unit Rate	Total Value
City of Montrose	10% Match in Cash from City Budget			\$21,850.00

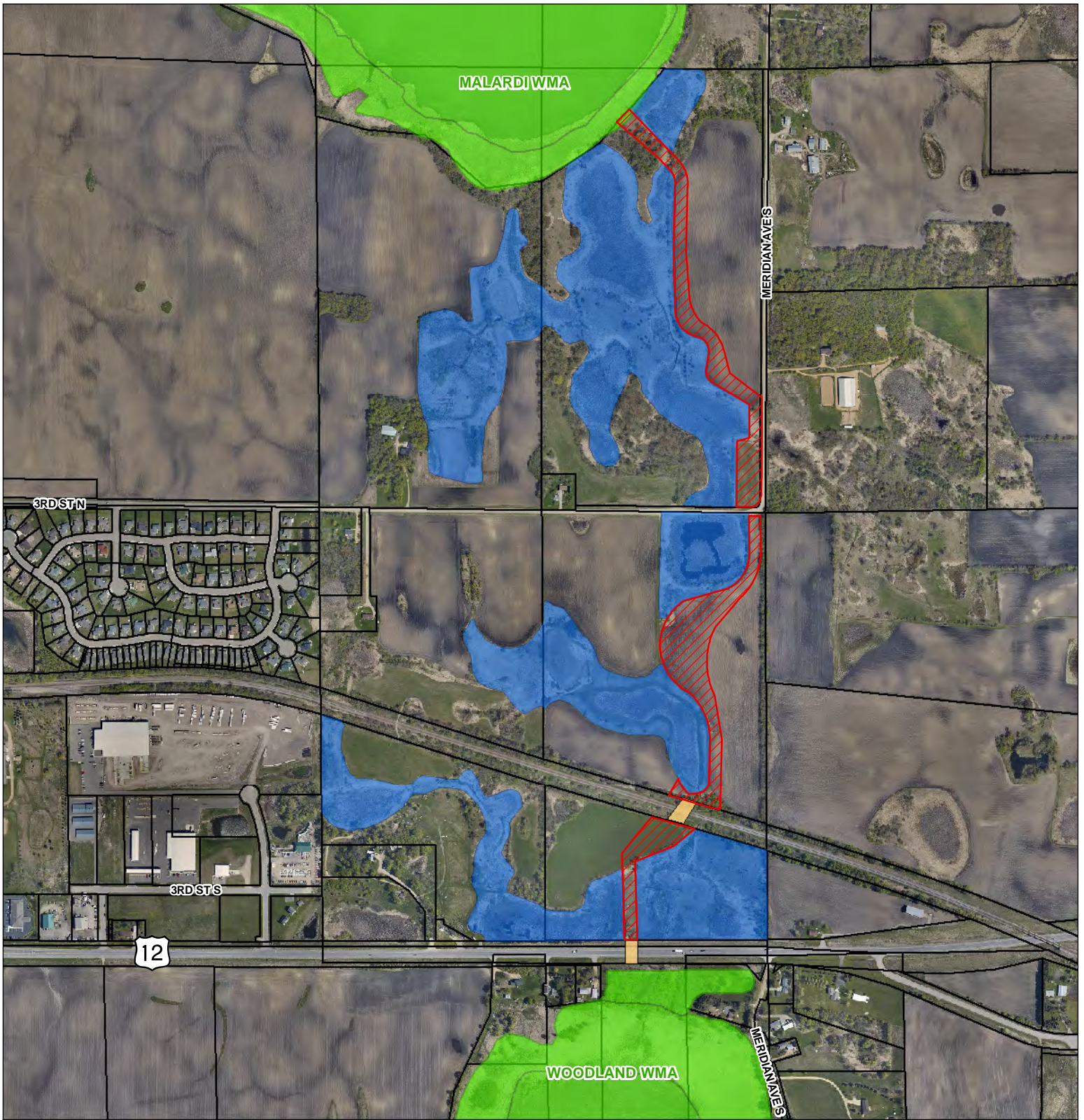
Matching description/ comments: if needed








CPL100-062
 Montrose WMA Habitat Corridor

Wright County, LSOHC Metropolitan Urbanizing Area Planning Section





Legend

-  Approximate Proposed Habitat Corridor
-  Future Critter & Trail Underpass
-  Undevelopable Land
-  Wildlife Management Area
-  Parcels



**CITY OF MONTROSE
WRIGHT COUNTY MINNESOTA**

**Greenway Habitat
Corridor**

Figure 1

October, 2009

Source: Wright County, NWI