

CPL Applications
(Total to date: 129)

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application

CPL1000036

Spreadsheet

Name and Contact

Project Identifier:	CPL1000036	Street Address 1:	14949 62nd Street N
Project Name:	Valley Creek Land Protection	Street Address 2:	
Organization Name:	Washington County	City:	Stillwater
Organization Website:	www.co.washington.mn.us	State:	MN
Organization Contact Person:	Jane Harper	Zip Code:	55110-0006
Contact Email:	Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us		
Contact Phone:	651-430-6011		

Location

Primary County: Washington
Nearest City: Afton
Township:
Project Site Name: Jack Daley
Project Site Land Ownership: Private
Other Land Ownership:

Project Information

Primary Activity: Acquisition
Primary Habitat Type: Fish, Game or Wildlife Habitat
Total Project Acres: 50
Total Project Sites: 1
Total Grant Amount Requested: \$400000
Total Match Amount: \$825000
Total Project Cost: \$1225000
Project Completion Date: 12/2010 (MM/YYYY)

Project Summary and Outcomes: The county seeks to protect habitat along Valley Creek by acquiring a permanent conservation easement over 50 acres of upland and riverine habitat that will permanently protect nearly 3,000 feet of frontage on the South Branch and 1,150 feet along the West Fork; 1½ acre wetland; and 48 acres of oak savannah. The requested funds would provide about 33% of the total project cost. This part of the Valley Creek Protection Partnership's work to permanently protect a continuous corridor along the Creek and conduct restoration where needed. Partners are actively negotiating to protect another 150 acres, restore 48 acres of upland habitat and enhance one mile of in-stream habitat.

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 Legal :
or easement holder:
Private land owner County:
(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 Legal :
or easement holder:
Private land owner County:
(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 Legal :
or easement holder:
Private land owner County:
(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
December 2010	Acquire a conservation easement.		

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

PROPOSAL: Washington County seeks to permanently protect habitat along Valley Creek, a cold-water fishery that flows into the St. Croix River by acquiring a permanent conservation easement over 50 acres of upland and riverine habitat. Belwin will develop a management plan that recommends activities to restore and improve the ecological functions of the property and ensure the site will continue to serve as an excellent spawning area. The County Board has expressed an interest in securing matching funds for the county projects, particularly those with statewide significance, in order to do more conservation with the local dollars. The requested funds would provide about 33% of the total project cost.

OUTCOMES: Thus acquisition will permanently protect nearly 3,000 feet of frontage on the South Branch and 1,150 feet along the West Fork, ideal trout spawning habitat; 1 ½ acre wetland; and 48 acres of oak savannah. Because this acquisition is a conservation easement, public access will be allowed at the discretion of the landowner. The landowner allows access for research and educational purposes. This proposal will help the LSOHC achieve its Priority Action #3 for the Metropolitan Urbanizing Area Section to enhance and restore coldwater fisheries systems.

COLLABORATION: Washington County is one of five conservation organizations in the Valley Creek Protection Partnership that is working to permanently protect a continuous corridor along the entire Creek and conduct restoration where needed. Since its inception two years ago, the partnership has raised more than \$3,000,000 to permanently protect 115 acres of priority parcels. Partners are actively negotiating to protect another 150 acres encompassing nearly one mile of shoreland, to restore 48 acres of upland habitat, and to enhance one mile of instream habitat. The proposed project is one of the priority sites. After the site is permanently protected, the partners will have the opportunity to do in stream restoration to improve the stream function for brook trout and to restore the terrestrial habitat by replacing buckthorn, reed canary and other invasive species with native understory.

MULTIPLE BENEFITS: Valley Creek has long been recognized as one of the premier trout streams in the region, one of the few that has a robust population of brook trout, the only trout species native to Minnesota. It is one of 13 trout streams within the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and is one of the six trout streams identified as highest priority in the Department of Natural Resource's report Status of DNR Metro Region Trout Resources. Valley Creek's cool, clean water sustains naturally reproducing populations of brook, brown and rainbow trout and supports the native brook lamprey, which are fairly rare in Minnesota and require cold, spring fed streams. The watershed provides habitat for a variety of species in greatest conservation need identified in the Statewide Wildlife Action Plan.

Scientists from the University of Minnesota are in the process of publishing their findings regarding the presence of a species of crane fly (genus *Phantolabis*) previously undescribed by science. Valley Creek flows into the St. Croix River, which provides one of the premier mussel habitats in the world; approximately 38 mussel species live in the St. Croix. The mussels depend on high water quality to survive. In 2008, the Pollution Control Agency designated the Lower St. Croix River as an "impaired water" due to high levels of phosphorus. In 2009, the non-profit organization American Rivers, identified the Lower St. Croix River as one of the most endangered rivers in the U.S. due to increased growth pressures and poorly controlled development. Protecting the upland areas along Valley Creek will control the nutrient loading and sedimentation that threatens the water quality of both the Creek and the St. Croix River.

RELATIONSHIP TO CONSERVATION PLANS: Conservation of Valley Creek, with its rich assemblage of rare species and its unparalleled quality of aquatic habitat, is important to achieving the goals of several landscape-scale conservation plans.

- This proposal addresses the following recommendations of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan: Habitat Recommendation #1 to protect priority land habitats and Habitat Recommendation #2 to protect critical shore lands of streams and lakes. The plan recognizes the use of conservation easements as one of the key tools to achieve land conservation goals on private lands and high-valued lands.
- The exceptional habitat value of Valley Creek has been identified in Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan, which identifies Valley Creek as a "Key River Reach." The Action Plan classifies the Valley Creek watershed as part of the St. Paul Baldwin Plains and Moraines subsection.
- The property is located within a Regionally-Significant Ecological Area, an area identified by the Department of Natural Resources as a natural area that is of sufficient size and shape to provide habitat for a spectrum of wildlife; that connect to other natural areas and having the most intact native plant communities as identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.
- The property is located within the St. Croix Corridor of the Metro Conservation Corridors, a network of remaining critical habitats that are necessary for the movement of native plants and wildlife across the landscape.

THREAT: The primary threat to the health and quality of Valley Creek and its watershed is development and siltation. Development can destroy the upland habitat, while siltation destroys the trout spawning habitat. Protection of this parcel presents an urgent opportunity. The Valley Creek watershed is located on the eastern edge of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area; it flows approximately 10 miles through several growing communities in Washington County from its source near Woodbury to the St. Croix River in Afton. Increasing urbanization in this watershed will make it increasingly more difficult to protect the Creek from additional nutrient and sediment loading that will come with growth. The Metropolitan Council anticipates that nearly 50,000 new households will be added to Washington County between 2007 and 2030, a 50% increase. Many of these households will locate near and adjacent to water bodies. As development increases and the rural nature of the watershed is transformed the high quality land and water habitats of the Creek will be permanently altered.

URGENCY

For a limited time, this landowner has offered to work with the county to keep his land in its natural state. The landowner originally purchased the property for development and had a preliminary plat approved. He changed his mind and offered to sell a conservation easement to the county. The landowner is committed to conservation, but, because of the current economic climate he must make a decision in 2010 to sell for development if funds to purchase a conservation easement are not secured.

SOUND SCIENCE

Washington County chose this project as a highest priority project based upon solid science and a strategic assessment. The importance of Valley Creek as a cold-water trout stream, a habitat corridor, and an important tributary to the St. Croix River has been recognized in numerous biological assessments and conservation plans. The project was screened for relevance and urgency, evaluated against the project selection criteria by a technical review panel and recommended for excellence by a citizen advisory committee. The county used existing conservation plans and available data (e.g. State Conservation Plan, MN Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, community comprehensive plans, watershed district management plans, MN County Biological Survey, Natural Resources Inventory, MN Land Cover Classification System, Integrating Groundwater and Surface Water Management in Washington County, wellhead protection plans, Washington County Geologic Atlas, MN Department of Health information, National Wetlands Inventory, etc.) to evaluate and select the project and to ascertain the conservation values of each proposal.

The county follows the National Land Trust Alliance's Trust Standards and Practices, thus ensuring long-lasting conservation easements. The county monitors each of its conservation easements annually. The county attorney enforces the county-held conservation easements.

SUSTAINABILITY: A conservation easement, written in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 84C, will preserve and protect, in perpetuity, the conservation values of the property by prohibiting land uses, management and development that harms or negatively affects important habitat values. The conservation easements require the landowner to prepare and follow a natural resources management plan approved by the county that identifies opportunities to restore natural communities to some of the disturbed areas and to improve the quality of other areas.

CAPACITY TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE PROJECT: The project is ready to go. The owner of this parcel is a willing seller who has expressed a desire to protect the unique habitat of the Creek and has invested his own resources in its protection and restoration. Much of the 'spade' work (project scope, due diligence, appraisals, etc.) has been done to prepare the acquisition to be completed within 12-18 months after matching funds are secured. Washington County has the knowledge and organizational capacity to successfully complete the project; it has completed or participated in seven projects protecting 200 acres of land since 2000 when it began its private land protection activities.

LOCAL SUPPORT: The project has the support of the local units of government and the landowner. The county has received letters of support from the National Park Service, Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota, St. Croix River Association, St. Croix Scenic Byway, St. Croix Scenic Coalition, and Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center.

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.

NA

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

NA

2. For enhancement/ restoration projects on public lands:

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

NA

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

NA

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

NA

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

No

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 project.

Signature: Jane Harper	Organization/ Agency: Washington County
Title: Land and Water Legacy Program Manager	Date: November 2, 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:	John Hanson		
Title:	Engineer, Valley Branch Watershed District	Date of meeting:	October 21, 2009
Phone:	651-748-4230	Proposal ID #:	
Email:	jhanson@barr.com	(assigned by agency, optional)	

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:	Land and Water Legacy Program - Daley Project	Organization:	Washington County
Contact Person:	Jane Harper		
Email:	Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us	Daytime Phone:	651-430-6011

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:

- ☐ 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:

☒ 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.

Additional
necessary):

Comments(including approval or denial, reasoning):

review (if

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant

Project Budget and Match Worksheet, Application Requirement

Project name:	Valley Creek Land Protection
Organization:	Washington County
Organization contact person (Project Manager):	Jane Harper 14949 62 nd Street North, Stillwater, MN 55082 651-430-6011 Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us

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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contracts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grant Administration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administration/ Environmental Compliance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fee Acquisition	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Easement Acquisition	\$0.00	\$400,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Easement Stewardship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Additional Budget items	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00	\$400,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

DETAILS: detail the amounts listed in the above table.

Personnel Details:

Name	Title	Amount

Contract Details:

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount

Grant Administration:

Administrative Activity	Description/ Amount	Amount

Administration/ Environmental Compliance

Activity	Description	Amount

Fee Acquisition/ Easement Acquisition/ Easement Stewardship Details:

\$400,000 toward the cost of acquiring a conservation easement over 50 acres.

Equipment/Tools/Supplies Details:

Item	Use	Amount

Travel Details:

Miles	Purpose	Amount

Additional Budget Items Details:

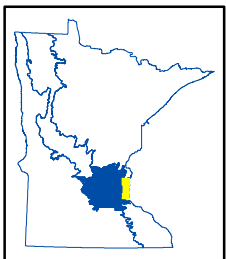
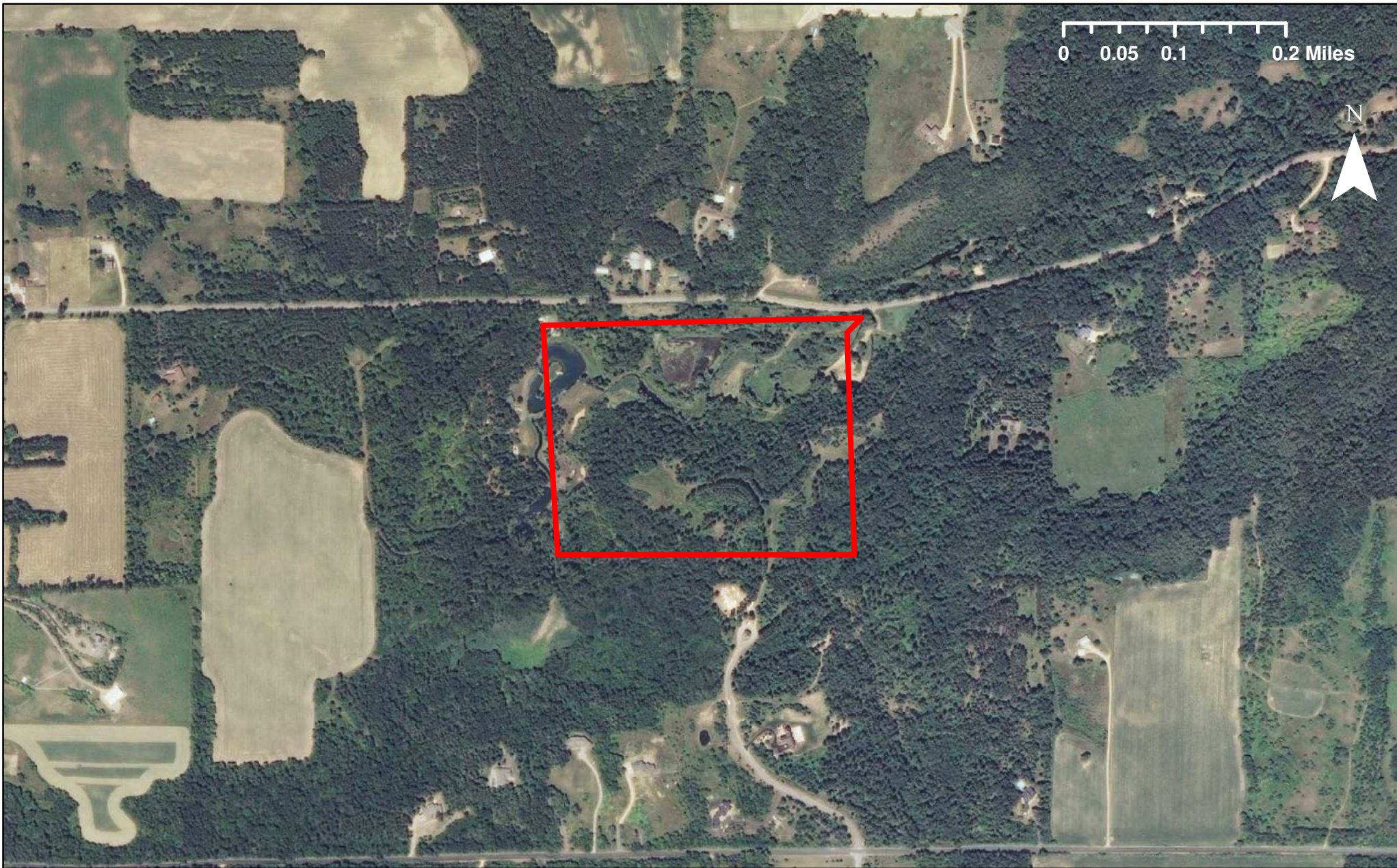
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MATCH: Required 10% of total project funds, to be fulfilled by end of Fiscal Year 2012. Use provided rate sheet to determine unit rate and total value of in-kind services to be used as matching funds if applicable.

Source	Description	Units	Unit Rate	Total Value
Washington County	Conservation easement acquisition costs.	1		\$600,000.00
Landowner	Donated value for conservation easement.	1		\$200,000.00
Washington County	Real estate transaction work.	1	\$12,000	\$12,000.00
Washington County	Management plan for conservation easement.	1	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Washington County	Project scope and draft conservation easement.	1	\$10,000	\$10,000.00
	TOTAL MATCH			\$825,000.00

Matching description/ comments: if needed

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CPL100-036
Valley Creek Land Protection
Washington County, LSOHC Metropolitan
Urbanizing Area Planning Section



CPL Project Application Review and Approval Form

REVIEWER INFORMATION

Land manager/ easement holder name:	John Hanson		
Title:	Engineer, Valley Branch Watershed District	Date of meeting:	October 21, 2009
Phone:	651-748-4230	Proposal ID #:	
Email:	jhanson@barr.com	(assigned by agency, optional)	

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:	Land and Water Legacy Program - Daley Project	Organization:	Washington County
Contact Person:	Jane Harper		
Email:	Jane.Harper@co.washington.mn.us	Daytime Phone:	651-430-6011

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Additional
necessary):

Comments(including approval or denial, reasoning):

review (if

**CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT PROGRAM
PARTNER COMMITMENT LETTER**

What is the name of the project that you are contributing to, and who is the applicant?

Project: Valley Creek Land Protection

Applicant: Washington County

What is the name of your organization (private landowners use "Private Landowner")?

Belwin Conservancy

When will you make the contribution?

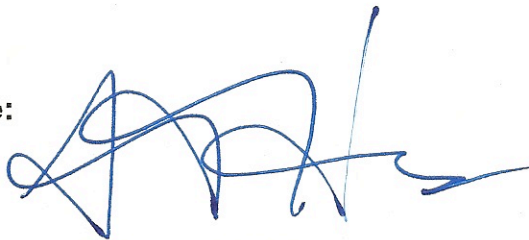
Belwin Conservancy will develop the management plan required by the conservation easement prior to acquiring the easement. The anticipated date of the work is summer 2010.

**What is the value of your contribution and how did you determine the value?
Does the contribution have a non-state origin?**

Washington County has contracted with Belwin for \$3,000. The source of the funds is county tax levy.

If this is based on a fund-raising event or other future action, if that future action fails, will you still provide the contribution amount?

Signature:



Printed Name, Title, and Affiliation:

Steve Hobbs

Executive Director, Belwin

Date Signed:

10/28/09