

**CPL Applications**  
(Total to date: 129)

## Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application

**CPL1000093**

### Spreadsheet

#### Name and Contact

Project Identifier:	CPL1000093	Street Address 1:	Western Service Center
Project Name:	Vermillion Highlands Oak Savanna Restoration	Street Address 2:	14955 Galaxie Avenue
Organization Name:	Dakota County Parks	City:	Apple Valley
Organization Website:	www.dakotacounty.us	State:	MN
Organization Contact Person:	Bruce B. Blair, Natural Resources Manager	Zip Code:	55124
Contact Email:	bruce.blair@co.dakota.mn.us		
Contact Phone:	952.891.7990		

#### Location

Primary County:	Dakota
Nearest City:	Rosemount and Lakeville
Township:	Empire
Project Site Name:	VHRP Oak Savanna Restoration
Project Site Land Ownership:	County
Other Land Ownership:	

#### Project Information

Primary Activity:	Restoration
Primary Habitat Type:	Fish, Game or Wildlife Habitat
Total Project Acres:	100
Total Project Sites:	1
Total Grant Amount Requested:	\$180000
Total Match Amount:	\$20000
Total Project Cost:	\$200000
Project Completion Date:	06/2012 (MM/YYYY)

Project Summary and Outcomes:	The site, adjacent to the Vermillion Highlands WMA, was acquired in 2007. The 550 acre park contains 100 acres of rented cropland, half of which is (HEL) land. Desired outcomes include: Convert all cropland to native prairie, establish oak trees in the north half of park where none exist, invasive woody species that shade out native species and reduce siltation into the park reservoir that currently provides outstanding waterfowl habitat and contributes flows to the Vermillion River trout stream.
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#### Attachments

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

[Back](#)

# Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

## Project Site Information

### Contact information

Project name:	Vermillion Highlands Regional Park Oak Savanna Restoration
Organization:	Dakota County Parks
Organization contact person (Project Manager):	Bruce B. Blair, Facility Development and Natural Resources Manager

### Project information

Project site:	Bordering on Northwest side of Vermillion Highlands WMA,				
Project site land manager	Legal :	T114N	R19W	S15	Qsouth
or easement holder:	Dakota County Parks Department				
Private land owner	County:	Dakota			
(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

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Project Site #2, if needed.

Project site:					
Project site land manager	Legal :	T	R	S	Q
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

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

Project site:					
Project site land manager	Legal :	T	R	S	Q
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
FY 2010	Remove invasive woody plants		
	Eliminate non-native forbs and grasses		
FY2011	Plant prairie grasses and forbs		
	Establish oak trees through acorn planting and seedling installation		
	Spot control of invasive plants		
	Mowing		
FY 2012	Spot control of invasive plants		
	Mowing		

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

Vermillion Highlands Regional Park, adjacent to Vermillion Highlands WMA, was acquired in 2007. The 450-acre park contains 100 acres of rented cropland; half is HEL. Desired outcomes include converting all cropland to yellow tag prairie with over 100 species of grasses and forbs, establishing oak trees in the north portion of the park where none exist, controlling invasive woody species, and reducing siltation into the park reservoir which currently provides outstanding waterfowl habitat and feeds water into the Vermillion River designated trout stream.

The proposed prairie restoration sites and the park itself is bordered on the south and the east by the recently established Vermillion Highlands WMA. The cropland areas proposed for oak savanna restoration are often bordered by substantial numbers of siberian elm, buckthorn, amur maple, and other invasive woody plants that must be removed. The proposed oak savanna restoration areas have the potential to eventually contain some of the finest and most robust tallgrass prairie in the state, as the soil consists primarily of rich silt loam soil. All costs are clearly identified, and contributions follow guidelines, with a supporting letter of commitment.

Oak savanna, with a diverse and local plant ecotype selection, is expected to be perpetually sustainable. Dakota County Parks has extensive experience in successful establishment of oak savanna vegetation, is fiscally capable of completing and following through with the project, and has proven skill and ability to conduct effective prescribed burns at locations similar to the proposed project site.

Diversity of the proposed oak savanna vegetation will provide food and habitat for a wide range of wildlife, including Prairie Vole, Franklin Ground Squirrel and American Badger. Other small native mammals will also likely benefit, along with many birds, particularly Loggerhead Shrike and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The potential exists that additional birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects listed in Appendix E: Occurrences of Species in Greatest Conservation Need by Ecological Subsection for oak savanna will also find the site a suitable habitat. Oak savanna vegetation of the type planned is also attractive to whitetail deer. Deer management in the form of controlled archery hunting, or hunting in conjunction with deer management in the adjacent WMA, is expected to become a necessary and desirable park function.

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.

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

**2. For enhancement/ restoration projects on public lands:**

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

The Parks and Open Space Department of the County of Dakota, Bruce Blair-Facility Development and Natural Resources Director, and Johnny Forrest, Natural Resources Department

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

Short-term: Mowing, spot-spraying of invasive vegetation, and erosion control as needed.

Long-term: Periodic prescribed burning and control of invasive woody plants.

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

Maintenance work will either be completed by Parks Department Maintenance staff, or contracted out to qualified contractors through a competitive request for quote for services.

- 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](mailto: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: Steve Sullivan	Organization/ Agency: Dakota County Parks Department
Title: Parks Director	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.**

## Conservation Partners Legacy Grant

### Project Budget and Match Worksheet, Application Requirement

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Project name:	Vermillion Highlands Regional Park Oak Savanna Restoration	
Organization:	Dakota County Parks	
Organization contact person (Project Manager):	Bruce B. Blair, Natural Resources Manager	

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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 it would be FY2010; December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010= FY2011; May 2012= FY2012

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 2010	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Total
Personnel				\$0.00
Contracts	\$120,000.00	\$80,000.00		\$200,000.00
Grant Administration				\$0.00
Administration/ Environmental Compliance				\$0.00
Fee Acquisition				\$0.00
Easement Acquisition				\$0.00
Easement Stewardship				\$0.00
Equipment/Tools/Supplies				\$0.00
Travel				\$0.00
Additional Budget items				\$0.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$200,000.00</b>

**DETAILS:** detail the amounts listed in the above table.

**Personnel Details:**

Name	Title	Amount
Bruce Blair	Manager, Natural Resources	\$t.00
Johnny Forrest	Natural Resources Consultant	\$t.00
Dave Rasmussen	Natural Resources Maintenance	\$t.00

**Contract Details:**

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount
TBD Competitive Process	Site preparation, seeding, management years 1 and 2	\$115,000.00
TBD Competitive Process	Tree planting	\$10,000.00
State of Minnesota	Institutional work crews	\$5,000.00

**Grant Administration:**

Administrative Activity	Description/ Amount	Amount
Grant administration	40 hours	donated

**Administration/ Environmental Compliance**

Activity	Description	Amount
As required		donated

**Fee Acquisition/ Easement Acquisition/ Easement Stewardship Details:**

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**Equipment/Tools/Supplies Details:**

Item	Use	Amount
Seed	For seeding project, 100 acres @ \$700/acre	\$70,000.00

**Travel Details:**

Miles	Purpose	Amount
2000	Round trips to project area for oversight (1 time /week in growing season	\$t.00

**Additional Budget Items Details:**

None

**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
Dakota County	Environmental Fund			\$20,000.00

**Matching description/ comments:** if needed

Cash match of \$20,000.





Physical Development Division  
Lynn Thompson, Director

Dakota County  
Western Service Center  
14955 Galaxie Avenue  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

952-891-7000  
Fax 952-891-7031  
[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us)

Environmental Mgmt Dept  
Office of GIS  
Parks & Open Space Department  
Surveyor's Office  
Transit Office  
Transportation Department  
Water Resources Department

November 2, 2009

Re: CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT PROGRAM, PARTNER  
COMMITMENT LETTER

Dakota County, through its' Parks and Open Space Department, is submitting two grant applications to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for funding through the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program. On October 20, 2009 the Dakota County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution supporting the applications, authorized the Parks and Open Space Department to apply, and directed that the projects be included in the proposed final 2010-2014 Parks and Open Space Capital Improvement Program.

The first of the two projects is located at the Lake Byllesby Regional Park and involves the restoration of about 157 acres of existing park land to oak savanna. Currently the property contains an old gravel pit, 30 acres of agricultural crops, with the balance in a degraded condition of brome grass and cedar.

The second project is located on a 2008 acquisition intended to be a new regional park. Currently called the Vermillion Highlands Regional Park, the grant request is for funds to convert about 100 acres of agricultural use to an oak savanna landscape.

Dakota County will make a 10% cash match to the grants, as well as contribute significant in-kind services. The cash match is derived from a county-funded Environment Fund intended for projects that benefit the natural environment. In-kind services such as staff time and use of county-owned equipment will be paid for from the operating budgets for the Parks and Open Space Department.

These two projects, totaling 257 acres, would greatly improve ecological conditions, habitat, and recreation for visitors to the Dakota County Parks. I can be reached at 952.891.7088 and [steve.sullivan@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:steve.sullivan@co.dakota.mn.us) for further information. Thank you.

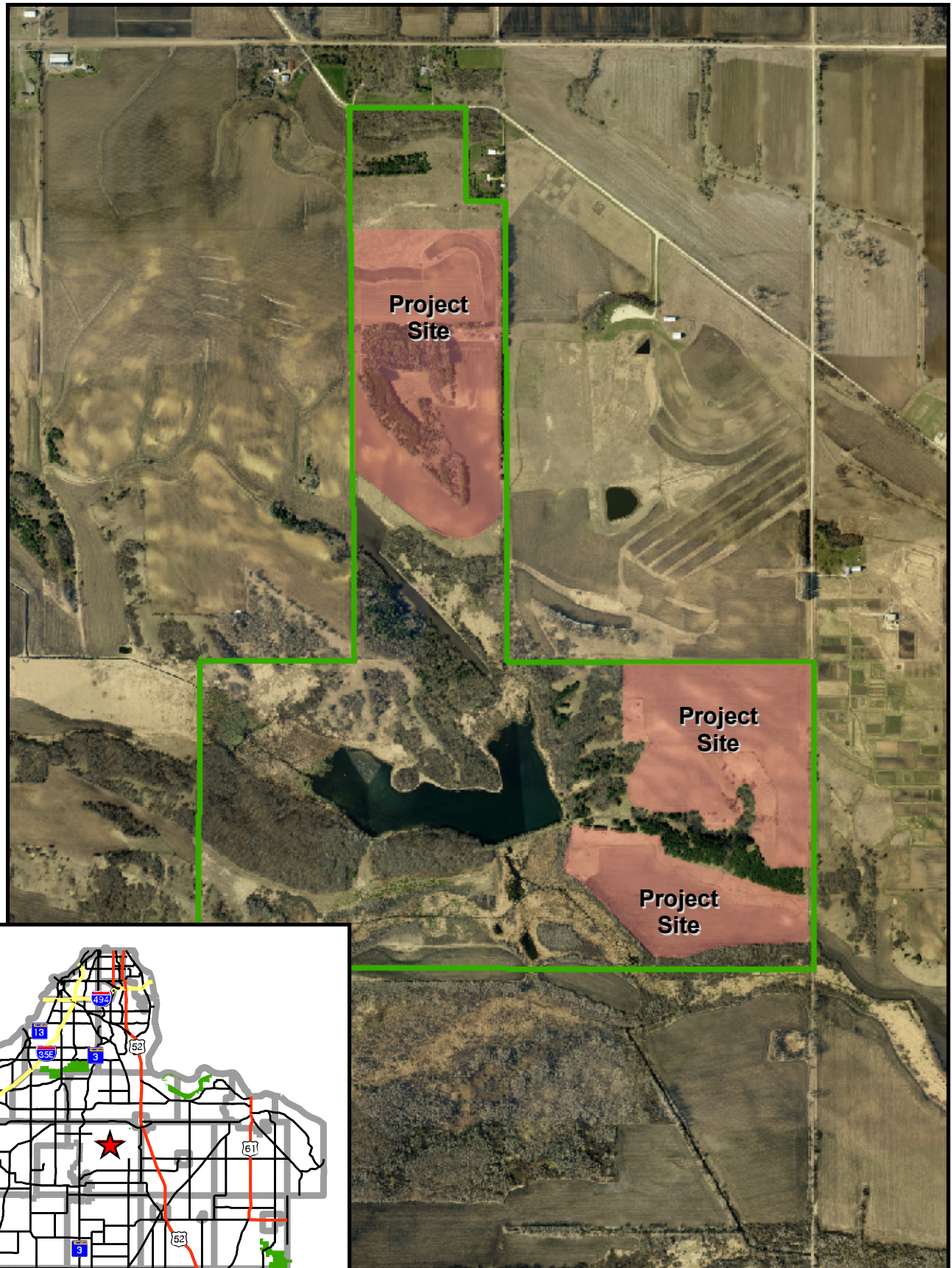
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Sullivan".

Steve Sullivan, Director  
Dakota County Parks and Open Space Department

# Vermillion Highlands Regional Park Oak Savanna Restoration Project

Prepared by the Dakota County Office of GIS



Date of Photography: Spring 2008

