

**CPL Applications**

(Total to date: 129)

**Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application**

**CPL1000101**

**Spreadsheet**

**Name and Contact**

Project Identifier:	CPL1000101	Street Address 1:	2610 University Ave. #300
Project Name:	Savage Fen	Street Address 2:	
Organization Name:	The Trust for Public Land	City:	St. Paul
Organization Website:	www.tpl.org	State:	MN
Organization Contact Person:	Becca Nash	Zip Code:	55114
Contact Email:	becca.nash@tpl.org		
Contact Phone:	651-999-5325		

**Location**

Primary County:	Scott
Nearest City:	Savage
Township:	
Project Site Name:	Credit River I
Project Site Land Ownership:	State
Other Land Ownership:	

**Project Information**

Primary Activity:	Acquisition
Primary Habitat Type:	Forest
Total Project Acres:	45
Total Project Sites:	1
Total Grant Amount Requested:	\$400000
Total Match Amount:	\$220000
Total Project Cost:	\$2200000
Project Completion Date:	03/2010 (MM/YYYY)

The Savage Fen Wetland Complex contains one of Mn's largest known calcareous fens, yet unprotected land on the 75-acre Credit River I & II sites could still compromise the 233 acres of adjacent land already in DNR and USFWS ownership. Due to the dependence of fens on local water chemistry, this site and its associated uplands is very important to protect if the fen is to survive. The area hosts 18 SGCNs and one of the rarest plant communities in Mn. This proposal requests funding to complete the +/-45 acre "Credit River Phase I" acquisition, which due to landowner urgency, must be completed by March 2010. The property would be managed by the DNR's SNA Program.

**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:   
 Organization:   
 Organization contact person (Project Manager):

**Project information**

Project site:   
 Project site land manager  Legal : 

T115N	R24W	S16	QNE
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 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 : 

T	R	S	Q
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 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 : 

T	R	S	Q
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 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
November 2009	Apply for Grants Phase I		
December 2009	Appraisal Completed Phase I & II		
January 2010	Funding Package Completed Phase I		
February 2010	Due Diligence / Acquisition Procedures Completed Phase I		
March 2010	Closing / Protection Completed Phase I		

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

(Please see separate Word document)

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.

In order to meet agency standards, the property would need a boundary survey (estimated \$5k- \$10k); posting (estimate \$2,000); and a wood-routed sign built and installed (estimate \$1,000). Overall cost to bring the property up to agency standards is roughly \$10,000-\$15,000.

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

The short term management goals are:

- 1.) Buckthorn Control - remove buckthorn before it grows into larger, more difficult specimens to control
- 2.) Brush Removal - in addition to buckthorn, other shrub species need to be removed from the fen area
- 3.) Prescribed Burns- needed to promote native vegetation, reduce brush and woody vegetation, discourage exotic weeds, and reduce threat of wildfire
- 4.) Phragmites control - through burns (see above)
- 5.) Purple Loosetrife Control - treat infested areas and scout for new infestations
- 6.) Erosion Control- erosion of the ravines leading to the fen complex are creating large alluvial fans; these need to be tended to until/unless further protection measures on bluffs can be implemented.

The long term management goals are to continue to monitor and control the above factors and to establish a fire regime to continue to promote native vegetation.

**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.
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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 project.

Signature: Becca Nash	Organization/ Agency: The Trust for Public Land
Title: Project Manager	Date: 10/30/09

**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 Information

This form is for use by **Public Land Manager** or **Easement Holder** of lands where the proposed project will be occurring. This will serve as record of a meeting between the land manager or easement holder and the applying organization's representative. Please review the application brought to you by the organizations thoroughly, as this approval form is being required as part of a complete application. Those projects without this completed form submitted by 5pm CST on November 3, 2009 will not be considered during the first round of awards. Note that the Proposal ID# is an optional blank; if your agency or office routinely assigns numbers to projects, feel free to fill this in to keep your own records.

Applicants should be meeting with you to talk about their proposed projects with their **Project Planning Form** complete and ready to be reviewed. This includes a simple budget to help the applicants begin thinking about all of the costs that could be associated with the projects. Please use your expertise to help these groups realistically think about their project and costs.

The completion of this form is the appropriate point where any concerns or questions regarding the proposed project should be raised with the applicant. This form will also serve as record of those questions and concerns; applications will be carefully reviewed to make sure those concerns or questions were addressed by the organization. Those applications that do not address any areas you note on this form will not be considered; efforts will be made to make the organizations and managers or easement holders aware of the discrepancy and the need to re-apply for future available grant funds.

This form may also be used to **decline the proposed project** as presented **due to workload or staffing issues**. Please note in the comment section what additional offices were contacted to request staffing assistance to help complete this project. Managers or easement holders also have the ability to **deny a proposed project** based on faulty reasoning behind the project, lack of knowledge of topic by applicant, previous experience/ history with the applicants, project outside of the Management Plan for the land, etc.; please note your reasons within the comment section of the form. You may also decide to kick the application up to a higher level to make any sensitive determinations. The name and phone for this higher level review should be indicated (if necessary) at the final step of this form and a copy of the Project Planning form and your completed Review and Approval form should be sent for review as soon as possible. A copy of this form does not need to be supplied to the applicant at the time of the meeting.

There is a required Natural Heritage Database review for all work being performed on CPL projects. Public Land Managers with proper training have access to this database and should be performing this review at the time of their meeting with the applicant. Providing feedback on minimization techniques or avoidance times will be important information for the applicant. Any feature that occurs within one mile of the project site needs to be addressed on the final application; be sure to go over all of these occurrences regardless of impact by project. For those land managers or easement holders without access, please forward your completed review form to [LCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us](mailto:LCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us) with "**Heritage Database Review Needed**" in the subject line. CPL staff will make initial reviews and provide the feedback necessary to the applicant.

This form needs to be received by CPL staff no more than 3 days after your meeting with the applicant or no later than **October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 5pm CST if a Heritage Review is required**. The deadline for complete submission is November 3, 2009 at 5pm CST and without this form any applications received will be regarded as incomplete and will not be considered for this round of funding.

Please contact [Leslie Tannahill](tel:651-259-5242) (651-259-5242) or [Jamie Gangaware](tel:651-259-5174) (651-259-5174) for further information or help with this approval process, or email [LCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us](mailto:LCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us) for general information.

## CPL Project Application Review and Approval Form

### REVIEWER INFORMATION

Land manager/ easement holder name:	Margaret (Peggy) Booth/ DNR Scientific and Natural Areas Program		
Title:	SNA Program Supervisor	Date of meeting:	October 27, 2009
Phone:	651-259-5088	Proposal ID #:	
Email:	Peggy.Booth@state.mn.us	<small>(assigned by agency, optional )</small>	

### PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:	Savage Fen	Organization:	The Trust for Public Land (TPL)
Contact Person:	Becca Nash		
Email:	becca.nash@tpl.org	Daytime Phone:	651-999-5325

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:

A number of features were found and are discussed in the application. This project involves purchasing land for the purpose of protecting these and other features. A site stewardship (management) plan meeting CPL guidelines would be developed upon acquisition. No "minimization strategy" is required.

- 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@dnr.state.mn.us) at [LSCPLGrants.DNR@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto: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

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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:	Peggy Booth
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Comments: **This site is virtually all mapped native plant communities and is a priority for protection as an addition to the Savage Fen State Scientific and Natural Area.**



Additional review (if necessary):

Name:		Phone:	
Title:		Email:	
Comments( including approval or denial, reasoning):			

# Conservation Partners Legacy Grant

## Project Budget and Match Worksheet, Application Requirement

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Project name: 

Savage Fen
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 Organization: 

The Trust for Public Land
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 Organization contact person (Project Manager): 

Becca Nash
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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

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 2010	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Total
Personnel				
Contracts				
Grant Administration				
Administration/ Environmental Compliance				
Fee Acquisition	\$400,000.00			\$400,000.00
Easement Acquisition				
Easement Stewardship				
Equipment/Tools/Supplies				
Travel				
Additional Budget items				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$400,000.00</b>			<b>\$400,000.00</b>

**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:**

The Trust for Public Land will convey the land to the DNR for management as a Scientific and Natural Area with hunting and fishing allowed. The purchase price would be based upon the appraised fair market value of the property, which is estimated to be \$2,200,000. The estimated budget for the Credit River I acquisition project (March 2010) and planned sources of funding are as follows:

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
ENTF	400,000
Bonding	1,180,000
Private (including landowner donation)	220,000
CPLG	400,000
total budget	2,200,000

**Equipment/Tools/Supplies Details:**

Item	Use	Amount

**Travel Details:**

Miles	Purpose	Amount

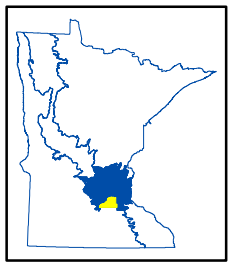
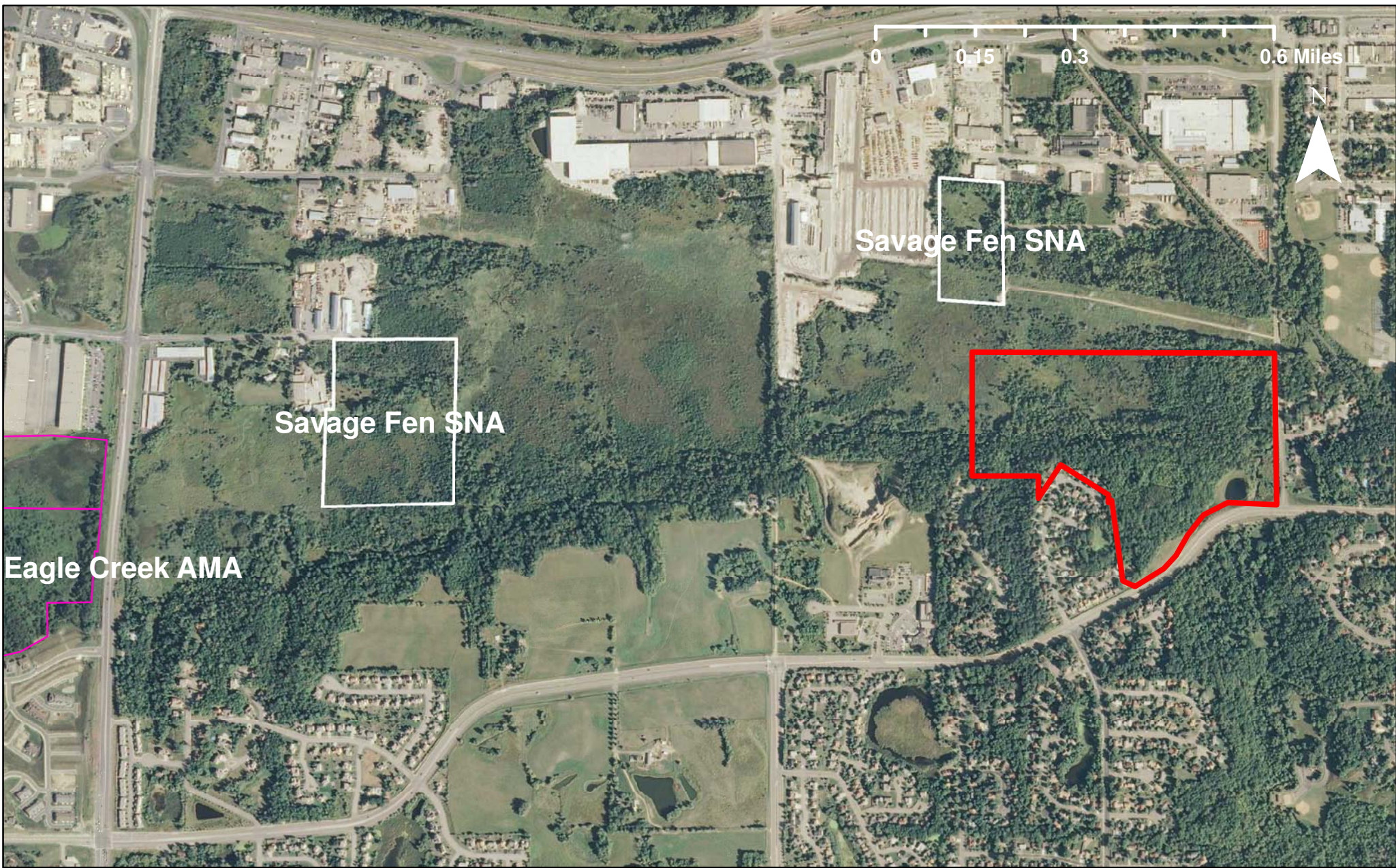
**Additional Budget Items Details:**

**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
Private & non-state	Funds from private and non-state sources, including a donation from the landowner			\$220,000.00

**Matching description/ comments:** if needed

Match will be at least 10% of the project budget, which is dependent on the appraised fair market value of the land. TPL will also donate the value of its real estate services on this project including due diligence costs such as appraisal, environmental assessment and title review, as well as staff and legal time



CPL100-101  
Savage Fen

Scott County, LSOHC Metropolitan Urbanizing Area Planning Section



Project Description and Benefits (from Project Site Info Worksheet)

Project Name: Savage Fen

Site Name: Credit River I

Applicant Name: The Trust for Public Land / Becca Nash

Amount of Habitat Protected & Adjacency to protected lands

Purchasing +/-45 acres at Savage Fen, including calcareous fen, seepage meadows, bluffs and 1,180 feet along both banks of the Credit River—just 1 mile upstream from the Minnesota River—will provide contiguous protection of over 268 acres of calcareous fen, bluffland, riparian land and forest in an area at high risk of development in the Minnesota River Valley. The Savage Fen Wetland Complex contains one of Minnesota's largest known calcareous fens, yet unprotected land on the Credit River I & II sites could still compromise the resources on the 233 acres of adjacent land already in DNR and USFWS ownership. Due to the dependence of calcareous fens on localized water chemistry and the seepage of calcium carbonate-rich water, this site, with its topography relative to the fen, is very important to protect if the fen is to survive.

Local Support & degree of collaboration

City of Savage and Scott County Parks have been actively involved in this project with TPL and the DNR as it would help accomplish local and regional (as well as state) goals of natural resource protection and provision of outdoor recreational opportunities. No known opposition exists. Please also see attached letters of support.

Urgency

TPL is working with the landowner (who is a willing seller) and currently has the property under option. The landowner is under an extremely tight timeline, however, and so we are working to complete a Credit River Phase I acquisition by as early as March 2010. The property is developable; it is currently zoned industrial and residential; and there is a high degree of likelihood that if we do not act now, we will lose the opportunity to protect this sensitive area.

Habitat Benefits- quality of habitat, high biodiversity? then the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)-identifies which SGCN and key habitats by Ecol subsection- then Multiple Benefits- multiple and diverse species, water quality

This fen complex was first recommended for protection in the 1926 edition of *Naturalist's Guide to the Americas*. The site was rediscovered by the Minnesota County Biological Survey in 1980, and is currently ranked as an outstanding example of biodiversity significance.

Purchase of this property will protect four high quality habitat types of statewide significance including Seepage Meadow (26 acres), Elm - Basswood - Black Ash - Hackberry Forest (18 acres), Sugar Maple - Basswood - Bitternut Hickory Forest (16 acres) and Calcareous Fen (one of Minnesota's most endangered plant communities; 0.43 acres).

The Savage Fen Complex, including this site, contains 18 Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN):

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] A Natural Heritage search within a mile of this property also [REDACTED] (tracked but not listed). A mammal survey has not been conducted, so there are likely more SCGNs present than are mentioned here.

Game species are also present on this site, including Wood Duck, Mallard, Canada Goose, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Squirrel, Rabbit, and White-tailed Deer, which utilize the entire river-bottom complex. Also, Northern Pike are known to reproduce in the section of the Credit River contained on this property.

According to the SWAP, the Savage Fen project lies on the eastern edge of the Big Woods subsection of the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province. This subsection ranks fourth statewide in number of SGCN, and the City of Savage hosts one of the highest densities in the subsection: 51-100 records of SGCN. Because habitat loss and degradation are the two challenges impacting 85-90% of the SGCN in this subsection, habitat protection at this site directly addresses a SWAP priority. In particular, Forest Upland Deciduous (Hardwood), Wetland - Nonforest, and River-Headwaters to Large are three "Key Habitats" on this site that the SWAP lists as priority for protection in this subsection.

As an upland forested area leading downgrade to seepage meadow and 1,180 feet of creek shoreline, acquisition of the Savage Fen site for conservation will protect water quality in a Minnesota River tributary. Its acquisition would prevent development of the upland acres and would ensure the site's capacity to "protect water quality naturally and keep water on the landscape--" a priority in the MSCCP.

Consistency with sound conservation science, Supports existing landscape level plans, including Conforms with Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan (MSCCP)

This property has been evaluated and recommended for protection by scientists in the **Natural Heritage Program**. This protection project is consistent with the **SNA Program's Long Range System Plan** and SNA's fact sheet for this proposed acquisition was approved 8/11/09.

In addition to meeting the other priorities of the **MSCCP** as mentioned elsewhere in this application, the Savage Fen project would protect Wetlands and Shoreland-- priority land habitats as identified in the MSCCP. It would also fulfill the following MSCCP goals: H1: Protect priority land habitats, H2: Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes, H3: Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation, H6: Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams, H7: Keep water on the landscape, and LU 8: Protect large blocks of forested land (pg 130).

Recognizing the assets the fen is to the community, the City of Savage has conducted several studies and enacted numerous policies to ensure its protection. Provision of outdoor recreation on this property, while protecting the fen complex, is consistent with City goals as outlined in the **City of Savage Comprehensive Plan, Comprehensive Wetland Management Plan, the Savage Fen Management Plan** and the **Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan**. County staff are actively involved in this protection efforts and are working to update **Scott County's Parks and Trails Plan (2030)**, which will highlight this corridor as a priority for protection.

This project addresses two of the top five concerns of the **Scott SWCD**: Wetland Management – Preserve, protect and enhance areas to improve water quality, prevent flooding and erosion from surface flows, protect fish and wildlife habitat and promote groundwater recharge; and Surface Water Quality – Protect to the greatest extent possible, all surface and groundwater resources from soil erosion, sedimentation, nutrient and chemical contamination.

#### Supports species plans

In addition to implementing SGCN and MSCCP strategies as discussed above, this protection effort helps implement the **Landbirds, Shorebirds, Waterbirds, and Waterfowl Habitat Conservation Strategies** of the Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes Joint Venture, especially in terms of protecting shallow marsh, wet meadow, and wetlands that can provide nesting, brood-rearing, and escape habitat. This effort also helps implement goals of **the Long Range Duck Recovery Plan and the Long Range Plan for Wild Turkey** by protecting reproductive and winter habitat, including upland native plant communities adjacent to water basins, which can also provide nesting and foraging structure for many species of birds.

#### Full Funding for Project, Supplement vs. Supplant

Please see Budget Detail field. Funds are being sought from multiple sources at this time, including: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, Bonding, tribal partners, and a land value donation from the landowner. Non-state match will be at least 10%. A CPL grant would supplement these more traditional sources of funding and would help us complete the funding package needed in order to protect this land. **Please note:** no Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (large grant) funds are available for this project within the needed timeframe (see Urgency).

#### Public Access for hunting and fishing

The SNA Program has determined that this property is eligible to be open to the public for hunting and fishing during open seasons to help advance the management of the SNA: the understory of the maple basswood forest, and thus the forest's ability to sustain itself, is currently being compromised by wild turkey and deer. Hunting would help provide appropriate population control of these game species and will provide additional benefits to the long term sustainability of the native plant communities. Additionally, hunting is allowed on the adjacent USFWS-owned land.

#### Sustainability- life expectancy of work, short & long-term maintenance issues

Please see maintenance area of application

#### Budget & cost-effectiveness

Please see budget area of application. The cost-effectiveness of this project is enhanced due to the fact that the land is currently held in one ownership by one entity. If we miss this opportunity to purchase the land from this landowner, the property will likely be split up and sold to a number of parties, making its protection much less cost-effective and less likely.

#### Applicant's capacity to complete work

TPL and the DNR's SNA Program have an excellent and successful working relationship, just having assembled funding for and completed three high priority acquisitions in the last two years totaling 206 acres valued at over \$2 million. Since 1986, TPL has helped protect more than 87,000 acres of some of Minnesota's most special land and water resources, valued at more than \$88 million.



## Scott Soil & Water Conservation District

7151 West 190<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 125, Jordan, MN 55352

❖  
(952) 492-5425 / Fax: (952) 492-5422

November 2, 2009

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant  
MN DNR  
500 Lafayette Road  
Box #20  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Savage Fen Acquisition

Dear LSOHC Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Review Council:

I am writing to express my strong support for The Trust for Public Land's effort to acquire the 75-acre Savage Fen property for conveyance to the Minnesota DNR as an addition to the existing Savage Fen Scientific and Natural Area in Scott County.

The Scott Soil and Water Conservation District places a high priority on the preservation of unique natural resource areas of Scott County that contain rare and endangered species, biologically diverse areas and historic areas. The Savage Fen has been identified by the SWCD as one of these areas. The proposed acquisition will provide the following benefits:

- Protection of calcareous fen, bluff land, riparian land and forest in an area at high risk of development in the Minnesota River Valley.
- The fen complex, including this land proposed for conservation, hosts many rare plant species and unique birds, including 16 Species in Greatest Conservation Need.
- Because land uses on the bluff impact the integrity of the calcareous fens and seepage meadows below the bluff. Protecting the uplands and bluffs will help protect not only the land acquired, but the 233 acres already in public ownership.
- Protects water quality: as a forested area with seepage meadow and creek shoreline, the Savage Fen site protects water quality in a Minnesota River tributary. Together with adjacent protected lands, the site provides water quality benefits for the Credit River and Lower Minnesota River watershed.
- Protects important habitat for and provides hunting and fishing opportunities for popular game species, including Mallard, Wood Duck, Canada Goose, Wild Turkey, Ring-necked Pheasant, Whitetail Deer, and Northern Pike.

This addition to the Savage Fen Scientific and Natural Area would be a great benefit to Minnesotans and the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District support The Trust for Public Land's effort to protect this unique landscape.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ewald Gruetmacher", written over a horizontal line.

Ewald Gruetmacher, Chair



# *Lower Minnesota River Watershed District*



**Len Kremer**, Manager  
Hennepin County  
**Don McCreedy**, Manager  
Dakota County  
**Lawrence Samstad**, President  
Scott County

**Kent Francis**, Secretary  
Carver County  
**Edward A. Schlamp**, Treasurer  
Hennepin County  
**Terry L. Schwalbe**, Administrator  
Cell (952) 221-1089

11/5/2009

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant  
MN DNR  
500 Lafayette Road / Box #20  
St. Paul, MN 55155

## **Re: Support for Savage Fen Acquisition**

Dear LSOHC Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Review Council:

I am writing to express the District's strong support for The Trust for Public Land's effort to acquire the 75-acre Savage Fen property (Credit River I & II) for conveyance to the Minnesota DNR as an addition to the existing Savage Fen Scientific and Natural Area in Scott County.

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) was established by the Minnesota Water Resources Board (now the Board of Water and Soil Resources) on March 23, 1960. The District covers 80 Square miles in portions of 12 Cities and 2 Townships in the Minnesota Counties of: Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, and Scott. There are 47 streams in the District of which 13 are named. Six of these streams are DNR designated trout streams. There are 15 lakes within the District including Courthouse Lake in Chaska which is a DNR stocked trout lake. Some of the other unique resources of the district are five calcareous fens, including the Savage Fen Scientific and Natural Area in Scott County, along with Fort Snelling State Park and the Minnesota River Valley Wildlife Refuge which is one of only two urban wildlife refuges in the nation. The district works closely with the local SWCD's and Natural Resource Departments on the stream and ground water monitoring of these unique resources along with the development of management plans for protection of these resources.

Specifically, the LMRWD believes the Savage Fen is a priority for protection because it is currently in the District's 1999 Water Resource Plan dated September, 1999 and will remain a high priority in the District's 10-year Next General Plan which is currently being developed.

This addition to the Savage Fen Scientific and Natural Area would be a great benefit to Minnesotans and the District fully supports The Trust for Public Land's effort to protect this unique landscape.

Sincerely,



Terry L. Schwalbe  
District Administrator

cc: LMRWD Board of Managers