

2007 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2009

PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase III: 2.4. Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project - Friends of the MN Valley

PROJECT MANAGER: Joe Pavelko

AFFILIATION: Friends of the Minnesota Valley

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WEBSITE: www.friendsofmnvalley.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2007, Chp. 30, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(c).

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$34,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Friends of the Minnesota Valley, in conjunction with numerous partners, restored and enhanced 165 acres of wetland within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed (plus an additional 97 acres from matching funds for a total of 262 acres) exceeding the projected restored acreage total of 25 acres. We restored two wetlands, a 2 acre wetland adjacent to the impaired Porter Creek in Scott County and a 260 acre wetland near the City of Carver within the Rapids Lake Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Both wetlands will provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent species, especially the 260 acre wetland known as Rapids Lake.

Rapids Lake, a large wetland in the floodplain of the Minnesota River between the Cities of Carver and Jordan, is located within the Rapids Lake Unit, an expanding unit of the national wildlife refuge. The structure will restore the hydrology of the wetland and enable the USFWS to manage water levels to maximize benefits to wetland dependant plant and animal species. The USFWS will protect and manage the restoration in perpetuity.

The restoration of the lake was a key part in the overall development and restoration plan of the Rapids Lake Unit spearheaded by the Refuge and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. The Rapids Lake restoration enabled the completion of seven miles of newly-constructed visitor trails open to the public for wildlife-dependent recreation and is only a short walk from the newly-constructed Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center located on the bluff of the Minnesota River.

Trust Fund 2007 Work Program Final Report

Date of Report: 7/2/2009

Trust Fund 2007 Work Program Final Report

Date of Work program Approval: 6/5/2007

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2009

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Area Wildlife Corridors – Phase III: 2.4. Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project - Friends of the MN Valley

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Web Page address: www.friendsofmnvalley.org

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/metroconservationcorridors/index.html>

Location: Within mapped Focus Area and within the counties of Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Rice, Scott, and Sibley. See Figure 1.

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$	34,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$	34,000
	Equal Balance:	\$	0

Legal Citation: ML 2007, Chp. 30, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(c).

Appropriation Language: (c) Metro Conservation Corridors- Phase III \$2,500,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements with The Trust for Public Land; Friends of the Mississippi River; Great River Greening; Minnesota Land Trust; Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; Trout Unlimited; and Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan region, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated: (1) as an outdoor recreation unit under

Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07; or (2) as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 89.018, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); 97A.101; 97A.125; 97C.001; and 97C.011. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title.

II. and III. Final Project Summary:

Friends of the Minnesota Valley, in conjunction with numerous partners, restored and enhanced 165 acres of wetland within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed (plus an additional 97 acres from matching funds for a total of 262 acres) exceeding the projected restored acreage total of 25 acres. We restored two wetlands, a 2 acre wetland adjacent to the impaired Porter Creek in Scott County and a 260 acre wetland near the City of Carver within the Rapids Lake Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Both wetlands will provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wetland-dependent species, especially the 260 acre wetland known as Rapids Lake.

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The restoration of the lake was a key part in the overall development and restoration plan of the Rapids Lake Unit spearheaded by the Refuge and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. The Rapids Lake restoration enabled the completion of seven miles of newly-constructed visitor trails open to the public for wildlife-dependent recreation and is only a short walk from the newly-constructed Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center located on the bluff of the Minnesota River.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Restore & Enhance Significant Habitat

Description: Within the Expanded Minnesota River Focus Area, Friends of the Minnesota Valley restored and enhanced 164 acres of regionally significant habitat (prorated of the 262 total restored project acres).

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget: \$ 34,000
Amount Spent: \$ 34,000
Balance: \$ 0

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget	Status
1. 164 acres restored	6/30/2009	\$34,000	Complete

Source	Cost	Acres
Trust Fund Dollars (2007)	34,000.00	165
Trust Fund Dollars (2008)	5,019.50	28
Matching Dollars (Non-State)	13,086.62	69
Totals	52,106.12	262

A total of 262 acres were restored with the help of matching dollars. Acres were prorated based on percent of funding for the project.

In order to complete the Rapids Lake restoration, Friends of the MN Valley needed to use the remaining 2007 appropriation funding and a small amount of the 2008 appropriation funding. The number of acres restored with the 2008 appropriation (28 acres prorated) will be counted toward the 2008 appropriation funding.

Final Completion Date: 6/30/2009

Final Report Summary 6/30/2009:

Friends of the Minnesota Valley, along with the USFWS and Scott County SWCD, restored a 2 acre wetland adjacent to Porter Creek within Cedar Lake Township of Scott County. The wetland will provide quality habitat and help increase the water quality of Porter Creek.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley along with the USFWS, MN DNR, and Carver County SWCD, successfully designed and installed a water control structure on the outlet to Rapids Lake, a large 260 acre Type IV riverine wetland within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge near the City of Carver, MN. The water control structure will restore the hydrology of the wetland and will enable the USFWS to manage water levels to maximize benefits to wetland-dependent plant and animal species. The water control structure is specifically designed to prevent beaver damage and to withstand flooding from the Minnesota River. It will also help prevent rough fish from entering the wetland. In addition, the structure acts as a trail crossing. In order to get heavy equipment into the site, a new trail had to be constructed. This new trail was the critical link in completing over seven miles of recreational trails.

Currently Rapids Lake water levels are being drawn down to expose mudflats to stimulate vegetation growth. Until recently, the lake had not successfully been drawn down for over 15 years. Restoration work is protected and managed in perpetuity by the USFWS.

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

Staff or Contract Services: \$ 5,000 (for staff salaries)

Equipment: \$ 0

Development: \$ 0

Restoration: \$ 29,000

Acquisition, including easements: \$ 0

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 34,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners: Metro Conservation Corridor partners (see Table A), private landowners, local governments, regional, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and citizen groups.

B. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: Friends of the Minnesota Valley along with other partners spent an additional \$13,086.62 of matching funds.

C. Past Spending: The Friends of the MN Valley received \$40,000 in appropriations from the 2005 LCMR/Phase2 MWC. LCMR appropriation during the 2002-2003 biennium of \$18,000 to help implement the successful Big Rivers Partnership.

D. Time: 2 years

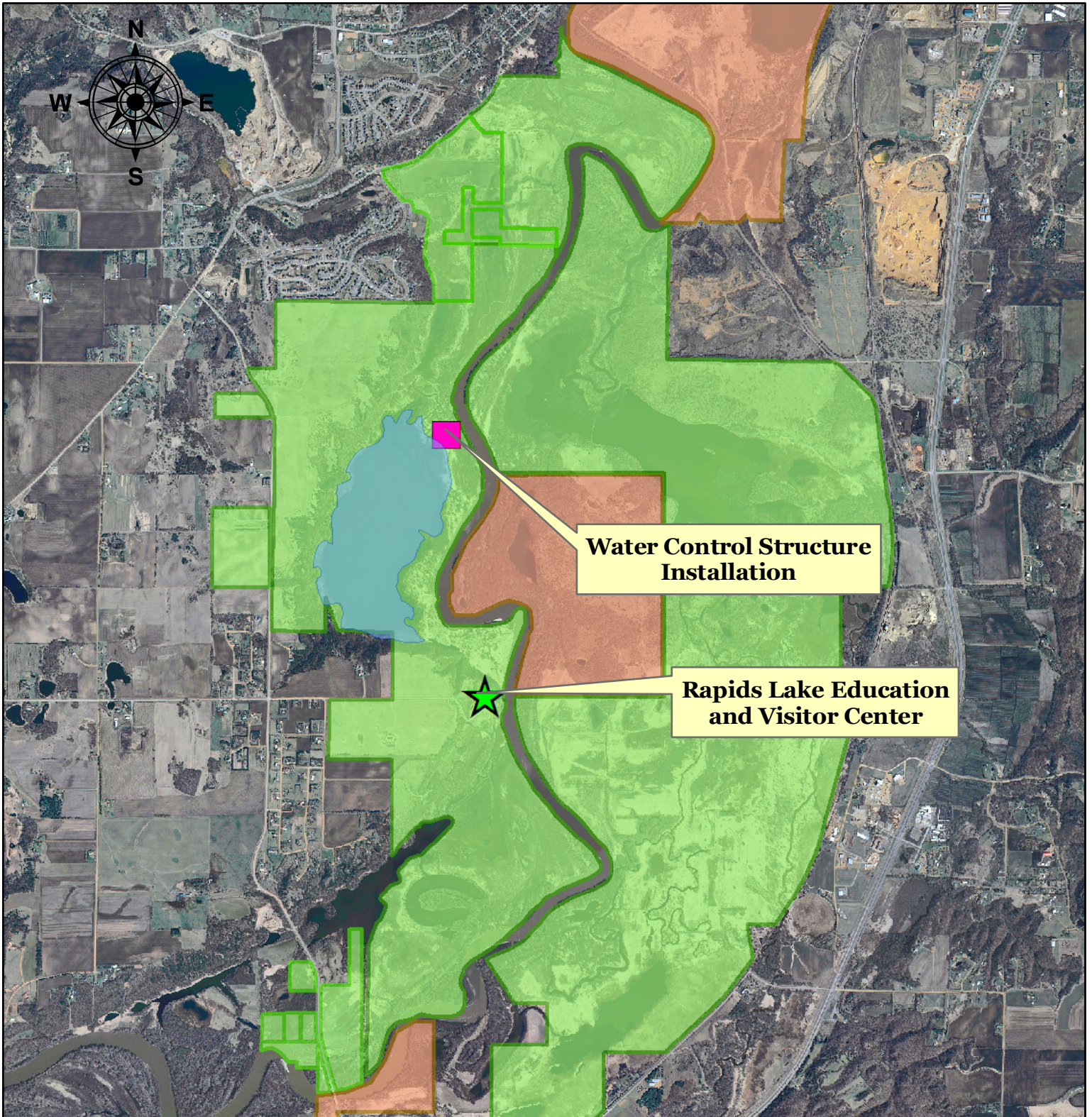
VII. DISSEMINATION: Metro Corridors periodically distributed information about the program through the widely broadcasted emails to people on the Regional Greenways Collaborative (RGC) database, through the RGC quarterly meetings, and jointly held county meetings. As projects were completed, Friends of the Minnesota Valley publicized project accomplishments through press releases, the Friends' quarterly newsletter, and posted projects on our website.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports were submitted not later than February 1st and August 1st each year, starting with February 1, 2008. This is the final work program submitted July 2nd, 2009.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2007 Projects					
Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase III: Friends of the MN Valley (2.4)					
Project Manager Name: Joe Pavelko					
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 34,000					
1) See list of non-eligible expenses, do not include any of these items in your budget sheet					
2) Remove any budget item lines not applicable					
2007 Trust Fund Budget	Result 2 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Restoration				
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Contracts			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional/technical <i>(Construction companies for earth work such as building dikes, installing water control structures, breaking drain tile, and other activities that require heavy equipment)</i>	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ -	\$ 18,000	\$ -
Other land improvement <i>(native prairie seed, trees, water control structures)</i>	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ -	\$ 11,000	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ -	\$ 34,000	\$ -

Rapids Lake Restoration

MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge - Rapids Lake Unit
Carver County, MN



 Rapids Lake - 260 Acres

 State Recreation Area - MN DNR

 MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge - USFWS

