

M.L. 2015, as Extended M.L. 2018 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2019

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII – Priority Expansion of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

PROJECT MANAGER: Deborah Loon

AFFILIATION: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

MAILING ADDRESS: 3815 East American Boulevard

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Bloomington, MN 55425

PHONE: 612-801-1935

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WEBSITE: www.mnvalleytrust.org

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09g, as extended M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 20

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$500,000

AMOUNT SPENT: \$0

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$500,000

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Minnesota Valley Trust was unable to bring any of the potential acquisitions to completion by the grant deadline. The funds are returned to the ENRTF.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Minnesota Valley Trust was unable to bring any of the potential acquisitions to completion by the grant deadline. Over the course of this grant, we worked with eight landowners interested in considering the sale of their land to us for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MVNWR). All were priority parcels delineated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

- Minnesota Valley Trust completed fee title acquisition on three parcels for the Rapids Lake Unit of the MVNWR. We could not use this ENRTF grant because all three included buildings. Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) grants helped acquire two of the properties, along with private funds. The third was acquired with private funds as leverage to the OHF grant.
- The landowner with property in the San Francisco Unit of the MVNWR was not satisfied with the appraised value and unwilling to continue discussions at that time. We anticipate we will be able to resume discussions in the future.
- Minnesota Valley Trust is working with four landowners who expressed interest in possible sales to us for the Jessenland Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Extended flooding this year has delayed completion of two appraisals. The appraised values on the other two properties were lower than the sellers would consider at this time. Minnesota Valley Trust will continue working with these landowners.

The market is mixed for the various properties we have been pursuing. We were able to close on the properties with buildings, as they can be sold for residential development and their values have recovered since the recession. But the properties in the floodplain of the Minnesota River have not recovered after dropping in value during the recession. Those landowners are unwilling to sell at the depressed values.

Because we could not complete any acquisitions, Minnesota Valley Trust is returning these grant funds to the ENRTF.

Project Results Use and Dissemination – Not applicable



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2015 Work Plan Final Report

Date of Report: August 1, 2019

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 11, 2015

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2019

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII – Priority Expansion of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Project Manager: Deborah Loon

Organization: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Mailing Address: 3815 East American Boulevard

City/State/Zip Code: Bloomington, MN 55425

Telephone Number: (612) 801-1935

Email Address: dloon@mnvalleytrust.org

Web Address: www.mnvalleytrust.org

Location: Carver, Hennepin, LeSueur, Scott and/or Sibley

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation: \$500,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$500,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09g, as extended M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 20

Appropriation Language:

\$500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust Inc. for the eighth phase of the Metropolitan Conservation Corridors partnership to acquire in fee at least 100 acres of priority habitat for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work plan. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work plan. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work plan. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2018, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

Carryforward; Extension (a) The availability of the appropriations for the following projects are extended to June 30, 2019: (8) Laws 2015, chapter 76, section 2, subdivision 9, paragraph (g), Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII - Priority Expansion of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII – Priority Expansion of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

II. PROJECT STATEMENT: Minnesota Valley Trust (MVT) will protect through fee title acquisition 100 acres of priority habitat for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), as delineated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in its Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuge. MVT also will protect through fee title acquisition an additional 100 acres for the Refuge with other non-state funds, for a total of 200 acres. This work will be done by MVT as a partner in the Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII.

The Refuge units and lands to be acquired have been delineated and prioritized by the USFWS through a public planning process. The lands are primarily along the Minnesota River and include river frontage, floodplain and cropland.

Fee acquisition with ENRTF and other non-state funds through this project will provide the following ecologic and hydrologic benefits:

- Protect the diversity of native ecosystems and continue to improve ecosystem connectivity and resilience.
- Increase breeding and migratory habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, neo-tropical migrants, and other species including non-migratory resident species.
- Provide valuable habitat for a host of pollinators. Croplands will be restored and grasslands enhanced with a myriad of native forb and pollen species, providing diverse pollen and nectar sources for more than 50 species of bees, moths, and butterflies.
- Provide valuable wetland, prairie and floodplain forest habitat for up to 19 state-listed threatened and endangered species.
- Improve water quality by retiring and restoring croplands in the Minnesota River Valley to the natural habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie.
- Expand the public's access to lands in and very near the Twin Cities metropolitan area for wildlife-dependent recreational activities, such as birding, photography, hiking, wildlife observation and interpretation, conservation education, hunting and fishing.

This project will leverage other non-state funds available for Refuge expansion and build upon the ENRTF investment through prior phases of Metropolitan Conservation Corridors.

III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2016: Outreach to landowners is underway.

Project Status as of August 1, 2016: Outreach to landowners continues.

Project Status as of February 1, 2017: Discussions are underway with 3 landowners that have expressed interest in sale of their property for inclusion in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. All are within the designated Refuge boundaries and adjacent to existing Refuge lands, therefore making them priority, strategic acquisitions.

Project Status as of August 1, 2017: Discussions have progressed with 2 landowners and acquisition boundaries delineated. Appraisals have been ordered.

Project Status as of February 1, 2018: Appraisal received and discussed with landowner. Price is lower than landowner hoped, so discussions have stalled. Will resume conversations after a bit of time has passed. Outreach continues with other landowners, as well. Extension of the appropriation for a year will be helpful.

Amendment Approved: May 30, 2018

Project Status as of August 1, 2018: Landowner outreach and discussions have resumed.

Project Status as of February 1, 2019: We have continued outreach to landowners. We are currently in discussions with several landowners for acquisition of parcels within the boundaries of the Jessenland Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Appraisals are underway for all properties. As additional landowners respond to our outreach efforts, we will order appraisals for their properties, as well. An amendment request will be prepared as soon as more detail is available.

Overall Project Outcomes and Results: Minnesota Valley Trust was unable to bring any of the potential acquisitions to completion by the grant deadline. Over the course of this grant, we worked with eight landowners interested in considering the sale of their land to us for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MVNWR). All were priority parcels delineated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

- We completed fee title acquisition on three parcels for the Rapids Lake Unit of the MVNWR. We could not use this ENRTF grant because all three included buildings. Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) grants helped acquire two of the properties, along with private funds. The third was acquired with private funds as leverage to the OHF grant.
- The landowner with property in the San Francisco Unit of the MVNWR was not satisfied with the appraised value and unwilling to continue discussions at that time. We anticipate we will be able to resume discussions in the future.
- Minnesota Valley Trust is working with four landowners who expressed interest in possible sales to us for the Jessenland Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Extended flooding this year has delayed completion of two appraisals. The appraised values on the other two properties were lower than the sellers would consider at this time. Minnesota Valley Trust will continue working with these landowners.

The market is mixed for the various properties we have been pursuing. We were able to close on the properties with buildings, as they can be sold for residential development and their values have recovered since the recession. But the properties in the floodplain of the Minnesota River have not recovered after dropping in value during the recession. Those landowners are unwilling to sell at the depressed values.

Because we could not complete any acquisitions, Minnesota Valley Trust is returning these grant funds to the ENRTF.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1:

Description: At least 100 acres of priority lands will be acquired in fee title with the ENRTF grant for one or more of the following delineated units of the Refuge – Blakely Unit (Scott & LeSueur Counties), Jessenland Unit (Sibley and Le Sueur Counties), Louisville Swamp Unit (Scott County), St. Lawrence Unit (Scott County), San Francisco Unit (Carver County) and Upgrala Unit (Hennepin County). The MVT works with landowners within those delineated units who are interested in selling their land for inclusion in the Refuge. The local units of government in these identified areas are aware and supportive of the work to complete the Refuge within its authorized boundaries.

An additional 100 acres will be acquired for the Refuge by the Trust using other non-state funds. The MVT and USFWS will develop a restoration, enhancement and management plan, then restore and enhance the floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie. Cropland will be retired and drain tile broken, as applicable. This restoration, enhancement and management work will be completed with other funds.

Following restoration and enhancement, the lands acquired will be donated to the USFWS for perpetual management for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation as part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

The ENRTF grant funds will be used for the fee title acquisition only; all acquisition-related costs, including professional fees, and costs related to restoration, enhancement and management will be paid by other funds.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$500,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$500,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. At least 100 acres acquired in fee for MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	June 30, 2019

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016: Outreach to landowners is underway.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2016: Outreach to landowners continues.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2017: Discussions are underway with 3 landowners that have expressed interest in sale of their property for inclusion in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. All are within the designated Refuge boundaries and adjacent to existing Refuge lands, therefore making them priority, strategic acquisitions. We will request amendment to the parcel list when we start moving forward with one of the landowners, rather than add all three at this time.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2017: Discussions have progressed with 2 landowners and acquisition boundaries delineated. Appraisals have been ordered. This report includes an amendment to our acquisition parcel list to correct the latitude and longitude for one of the parcels being pursued. We also delete two properties not under consideration (one was acquired with the ML2013 grant and one is no longer possible).

Activity Status as of February 1, 2018: Appraisal received and discussed with one of the landowners. Price is lower than landowner hoped, so discussions have stalled. Will resume conversations after a bit of time has passed. Outreach continues with other landowners, as well. Extension of the appropriation for a year will be helpful. (We are currently working with the other interested landowner with OHF funds because buildings are potentially involved in that acquisition.)

Amendment Approved: May 30, 2018

Activity Status as of August 1, 2018: Landowner outreach and discussions have resumed.

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Simultaneously, we have signed an agreement with a landowner who wishes to donate a small parcel of land for the Rapids Lake Unit of the Refuge. This donation will be reported as part of our match for the ENRTF grant (the appraised value is \$115,000).

Final Report Summary: Minnesota Valley Trust was unable to bring any of the potential acquisitions to completion by the grant deadline. Over the course of this grant, we worked with eight landowners interested in considering the sale of their land to us for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MVNWR). All were priority parcels delineated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

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Because we could not complete any acquisitions, Minnesota Valley Trust is returning the funds to the ENRTF.

This is the first time the Minnesota Valley Trust has not been able to utilize an ENRTF grant since we started working with LCCMR in 2003. With 15 ENRTF grants, Minnesota Valley Trust has acquired 785 acres with \$3.2 million on ENRTF funds. We leveraged the grant funds with over \$5.6 million of other, private funds to acquire another 1,951 acres. In total, we have acquired 2,736 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District with over \$8.8 million of ENRTF and other, private leveraged funds.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: As projects are completed, the Minnesota Valley Trust will announce the accomplishments through press releases and the Trust website.

Status as of February 1, 2016: NA

Status as of August 1, 2016: NA

Status as of February 1, 2017: NA

Status as of August 1, 2017: NA

Status as of February 1, 2018: NA

Status as of August 1, 2018: NA

Status as of February 1, 2019: NA

Final Report Summary: NA

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Overview Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 500,000	At least 100 acres for MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge to be held in title by USFWS
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 500,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: NA

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: NA

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
MN Valley Trust and/or other private funds	\$ 500,000	\$	At least 100 additional acres acquired in fee for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
State	\$ 0		
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 500,000	\$	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. will manage and complete this project. MVT will work in close coordination with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in selecting the parcel(s) to acquire in accordance with the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuge, conducting environmental reviews, and developing restoration and management plans. The MN Valley Trust also coordinates with its partners in the Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Partnership. Additional partners will include applicable local units of government, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and other non-profit partners.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: The fee title acquisition activities are part of a larger strategy to expand and complete the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge according to a plan developed by the USFWS (see Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuge). To-date, the Minnesota Valley Trust has acquired 5,724 acres and received donation of 173 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District, of which 3,393 acres were for the Refuge and 2,504 acres were for the District.

The authorized boundaries of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge today total 25,967 acres. Currently, 14,984 acres are under the Refuge’s ownership or management. Acquisition of the remaining 10,983 acres over time will complete the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and make up the search area for the Minnesota Valley Trust.

Funding for this work has and will continue to include a combination of federal, state and private sources.

C. Funding History: Note – This chart includes private and other public non-state funds that are associated with the acquisitions to which the state grant funds were applied. It does not include private and other funds used to acquire lands in which state grants were not involved.

Funding Source and Use of Funds	Funding Timeframe	\$ Amount
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2003, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MeCC Phase I)	July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2006	\$ 290,000
MN Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently with above ENRTF grant on this acquisition		\$ 548,077
Natural Resources Conservation Service (federal) funds spent concurrently with above ENRTF grant on this acquisition		\$ 579,092
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2005, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MeCC Phase II)	July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2008	\$ 230,000
MN Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently with above ENRTF grant on this acquisition		\$ 431,030
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2007, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MeCC Phase III)	July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009	\$ 210,000
MN Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently with above ENRTF grant on this acquisition		\$ 92,099
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2008, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MeCC Phase IV)	July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2010	\$ 225,000
MN Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently with above ENRTF grant on this and another acquisition		\$ 130,957
North American Wetland Conservation Act (federal) funds spent concurrently with above ENRTF grant on this acquisition		\$ 75,000
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2009, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MeCC Phase V)	July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011	\$ 225,000
MN Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently with above ENRTF grant on this and another acquisition		\$ 153,655
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2010, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MeCC Phase V Supplemental)	July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2012	\$ 325,000
MN Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently with above ENRTF grant on this and two other acquisitions		\$ 335,857
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2011, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MeCC Phase VI)	July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2014	\$ 600,000
MN Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently with above ENRTF grant on this acquisition		\$ 323,500 +

		\$ 293,000 land donation
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2013, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (MeCC Phase VII)	July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2016	\$ 400,000 \$ 246,800 spent
MN Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently with above ENRTF grant on this acquisition		\$ 10,000
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2003, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District (HCP Phase II)	July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2006	\$ 98,300
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently with above ENRTF grant		\$ 267,380
Small Wetland Acquisition Program (federal) funds spent concurrently with above ENRTF grant		\$ 479,300
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2005, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District (HCP Phase III)	July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2008	\$ 126,878
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$1,696,309
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2007, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District (HCP Phase IV)	July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009	\$ 100,000
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 237,171
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2008, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District (HCP Phase V)	July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2010	\$ 50,000
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 81,200
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2009, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District (HCP Phase VI)	July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2012	\$ 100,000
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 277,762
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – ML 2010, Fee title acquisition for Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District (HCP Phase VII)	July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2014	\$ 400,000
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 693,653
Outdoor Heritage Fund – ML 2010, Fee title acquisition for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Metro Big Rivers Partnership, Phase 1)	July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2012	\$ 500,000
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 347,527
Outdoor Heritage Fund – ML 2011, Fee title acquisition for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Metro Big Rivers Partnership, Phase 2)	July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013	\$ 960,000

Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 150,025
Outdoor Heritage Fund – ML 2014, Fee title acquisition for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Metro Big Rivers Partnership, Phase 5)	July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017	\$ 600,000
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$1,129,208
Outdoor Heritage Fund – ML2015, Fee title acquisition for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Metro Big Rivers Partnership, Phase 6)	July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018	\$ 475,000
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 550,000
Outdoor Heritage Fund – ML2016, Fee title acquisition for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Metro Big Rivers Partnership, Phase 7)	July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019	\$ 240,000
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 225,000
Conservation Partners Legacy Grant 2009	July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2012	\$ 125,000
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 38,926
Conservation Partners Legacy Grant 2012	July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015	\$ 159,591
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 27,735
Conservation Partners Legacy ECP Grant 2014	July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017	\$ 42,472
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 17,609
Metro Conservation Partners Legacy Grant 2015	July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018	\$ 59,000
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 9,389
Metro Conservation Partners Legacy Grant 2015	July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018	\$ 59,000
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 9,389
Metro Conservation Partners Legacy Grant 2016	July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019	\$ 250,000
Minnesota Valley Trust (private) funds spent concurrently		\$ 36,762
Open State Grants:		
Outdoor Heritage Fund – ML2016, Habitat Restoration and Enhancement of Parcel Acquired with ML 2015 and ML2016 Grants (Metro Big Rivers Partnership, Phase 7)	July 1, 2016 – Sept. 25, 2023 (5 years from fee title acquisition of property)	\$ 260,000
Outdoor Heritage Fund – ML2017, Fee title acquisition for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Metro Big Rivers Partnership, Phase 8)	July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2021	\$ 240,000
Outdoor Heritage Fund – ML2018, Fee title acquisition for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Metro Big Rivers Partnership, Phase 9)	July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2022	\$ 475,000
Metro Conservation Partners Legacy Grant 2018	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022	\$ 234,000
Conservation Partners Legacy Grant 2018	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022	\$ 234,000

VIII. FEE TITLE ACQUISITION/CONSERVATION EASEMENT/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. Parcel List: Attached.

B. Acquisition/Restoration Information:

Fee Title Acquisition

- 1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.** The Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc. works to acquire land within clear boundaries established for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge through the USFWS' Comprehensive Conservation Planning process. We work with willing landowners within those boundaries as those landowners step forward with interest or respond to our outreach.
- 2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified. Include a link to the plan if one is available.** The Comprehensive Conservation Plan is the primary plan that guides the land acquisition work of the Minnesota Valley Trust -- <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/MinnesotaValley/index.html>.
- 3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.** The USFWS will develop the restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by the Minnesota Valley Trust under this grant. The plans will be appropriate to restore and enhance, then maintain, the types of habitats acquired. The long-term maintenance and management needs of the land will be the responsibility of the USFWS. The Minnesota Valley Trust will finance the initial restoration and enhancement prior to donating the land to the USFWS, and will also help support the ongoing management, as needed.
- 4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.** Not applicable.
- 5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.** Written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained at least 10 business days prior to final transaction.

IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S): See attached maps showing the private lands within the boundaries of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. These private lands are the focus of our land acquisition efforts.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: NA

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than February 1, 2016; August 1, 2016; February 1, 2017; August 1, 2017; February 1, 2018; August 1, 2018, and February 1, 2019. Final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2019.

Final Attachment A (Budget Sheet): Budget Detail for M.L. 2015 Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects

Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII – Priority Expansion of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09g, as Extended M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 20

Project Manager: Deborah Loon

Organization: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

M.L. 2015 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 500,000

Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2019

Date of Report: August 1, 2019



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Fee Title Acquisition</i>				
Fee Title Acquisition	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
1-3 parcels totaling 100 acres for the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Land acquired will be donated to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.					
COLUMN TOTAL	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2015 Parcel List

Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII – Priority Expansion of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09g

Project Manager: Deborah Loon

Organization: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

M.L. 2015 ENRTF Appropriation: \$500,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 4 years with extension, June 30, 2019

Date of Report: March 26, 2019

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Blakely Unit Expansion, MVNWR	44°34'40"N	93°52'29"W	\$ 500,000	\$ -	Scott	Floodplain forest, wetland and prairie; Minnesota River frontage; protected and enhanced to improve wildlife habitat and public wildlife-dependent recreation	Fee Title Acquisition	100	TBD	Private individual / trust	See note 2	Outreach to landowners underway.
2	Jessenland Unit Expansion, MVNWR	44°34'28"N	93°54'20"W	\$ 500,000	\$ -	Sibley	Floodplain forest, wetland and prairie; Minnesota River frontage; protected and enhanced to improve wildlife habitat and public wildlife-dependent recreation	Fee Title Acquisition	100	TBD	Private individual / trust	See note 2	Outreach to landowners underway.
3	St. Lawrence Unit Expansion, MVNWR	44°39'01"N	93°42'13"W	\$ 500,000	\$ -	Scott	Wetland and prairie; Minnesota River watershed; protected and enhanced to improve wildlife habitat and public wildlife-dependent recreation	Fee Title Acquisition	100	0	Private individual / trust	See note 2	Outreach to landowners underway.
4	San Francisco Unit Expansion, MVNWR	44°41'51"N	93°39'7"W	\$ 500,000	\$ -	Carver	Floodplain forest, wetland and prairie; Minnesota River frontage; protected and enhanced to improve wildlife habitat and public wildlife-dependent recreation	Fee Title Acquisition	100	TBD	Private individual / trust	See note 2	Appraisal ordered. Property boundaries for acquisition delineated.

NOTES: (1) Parcel search areas are within the Refuge units, as delineated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through a planning process that combined data review, on the ground site review and public input. Most lands are within the Minnesota River floodplain, have river frontage or are contingent to parcels with river frontage, and contain floodplain forest, wetland and prairie. (2) The Initial fee title holder will be Minnesota Valley Lands, Inc. (subsidiary of Minnesota Valley Trust), while habitat restoration and enhancement is conducted. Eventual fee title holder will be Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge of the USFWS.