

2013 Project Abstract

PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Acquisition of Property Surrounding Lake Tamarack 062-D

PROJECT MANAGER: Peter Moe, Director of Operations

AFFILIATION: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

MAILING ADDRESS: 3675 Arboretum Drive

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Chaska, MN 55318

PHONE: 952-443-1408

E-MAIL: moexx004@umn.edu

WEBSITE: www.arboretum.umn.edu

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2013, Chapter 52, Section 2, Subdivision 4(e)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$2,000,000

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum purchased the property at 400 Arboretum Boulevard, Victoria, (previously known as the Kerber Farm or Lano Bureau Property), effective Friday, November 1, 2013. The property consists of **78.13 acres** in Carver County. This is the final property purchase identified in the Arboretum's 1995 Boundaries Plan. Over 300 acres have been added to the Arboretum during the last 18 years.

The property is north of State Highway 5 and directly adjacent to the Horticultural Research Center. The property contains native forest, wetlands, tillable land, and 1,300 feet of lakeshore on Lake Tamarack. Current structures on the property will be evaluated for condition and safety and some will likely be retained for unheated storage while others may be demolished.

The property will be used in the future for research; protection of wildlife, wetlands and water quality; protection of big woods, oak savanna and upland meadow; and educational and public low impact recreational purposes. Research uses have not been determined and roads, fencing, and irrigation will be installed in the 10 acre area designated for research. Some of the current soybean fields could also be used for alternative crop, forage crop, or restoration research projects, and the Arboretum is considering partners from across the University of Minnesota or other conservation and natural resources groups.

Funding for this purchase was provided by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) - recommended by the Legislative Citizens Commission for Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation. Because we received LCCMR and LSOHC funding to purchase the property, the Arboretum will provide FREE public access. The University of Minnesota is charging the City of Victoria \$1 for the 50 year Use License Agreement for the Trail that crosses the Lake Tamarack Property and \$1 for the Use License Agreement for Temporary Construction Access for this trail. There are no fees beyond the \$2 for the entire trail

including the sections that do not cross the Lake Tamarack Property. Finally, the Arboretum will work over the next several months to develop public access policies and install signage.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The acquisition was successfully publicized by the Arboretum with a press release issued on November 11, 2013 and was also covered in the Arboretum E-News with 10,000 subscribers. It was then covered in the local media:

- *U to expand arboretum with 78-acre purchase*, Minnesota Daily, January 28, 2013
- *U Arboretum expands base in Chanhassen by 78 acres*, Star Tribune, November 12, 2013
- *Minnesota Landscape Arboretum grows by 78 acres*, Finance & Commerce, November 13, 2013
- *Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Grows By 78 Acres*, WCCO-CBS News Online, November 13, 2013



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2013 Work Plan Final Report

Date of Status Update Report: March 12, 2014

Date of Next Status Update Report: Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2015

Is this an amendment request? No

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062-D

Project Manager: Peter Moe, Director of Operations

Affiliation: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Mailing Address: 3675 Arboretum Drive

City/State/Zip Code: Chaska, MN 55318

Telephone Number: (952) 443-1408

Email Address: moexx004@umn.edu

Web Address: www.arboretum.umn.edu

Location: 400 Arboretum Boulevard
Victoria, MN 55386
Adjacent to University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Total ENRTF Project Budget: \$2,000,000

ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,000,000

Amount Spent: \$2,000,000

Balance: \$0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chapter 52, Section 2, Subdivision 4(e)

Appropriation Language:

\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to acquire land surrounding Lake Tamarack in Carver County as part of the acquisition of approximately 80 acres. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2016, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY SURROUNDING LAKE TAMARACK

II. FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT:

The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum purchased the property at 400 Arboretum Boulevard, Victoria, (previously known as the Kerber Farm or Lano Burau Property), effective Friday, November 1, 2013. The property consists of **78.13 acres** in Carver County. This is the final property purchase identified in the Arboretum's 1995 Boundaries Plan. Over 300 acres have been added to the Arboretum during the last 18 years.

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III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of:

December 2013

Project Status as of:

June 2014

Project Status as of :

December 2014

Project Status as of:

June 2015

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1:

Description: The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum successfully acquired a portion of 78 acre parcel containing native forest, wetlands, crop land and lakeshore on Lake Tamarack in Carver County and adjacent to its property. For this purchase the University of Minnesota obtained 2 appraisals and completed a

Phase 1 Environmental Assessment for the property. The University of Minnesota received a signed purchase agreement from the land owners dated 4/15/2013 to purchase the 35.06 acres of the 78 acre parcel for \$4,312,500. The closing took place in November 1, 2013.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 2,000,000
Amount Spent: \$ 2,000,000
Balance: \$ 0

Activity Completion Date: 11/1/2013

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Fee Title Acquisition of 35.06 acre portion of 78 Acre parcel.	11/1/13	\$2,000,000

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: The acquisition will be publicized in the Landscape Arboretum Newsletter and a press release will be issued. The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund will be credited.

Status as of :

December 2013

Status as of :

June 2014

Status as of :

December 2014

Final Report Summary: The acquisition was successfully publicized by the Arboretum with a press release issued on November 11, 2013 and was also covered in the Arboretum E-News with 10,000 subscribers. It was then covered in the local media:

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VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$2,000,000	Amount recommended by the LCCMR on July 11, 2012.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$2,000,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state – University of Minnesota Land Sale Proceeds	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Fee title acquisition of 17.5 acre portion of 78 acre parcel
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation	\$450,000	\$312,500	Fee title acquisition of 7.9 acre portion of 78 acre parcel
State - MN Outdoor Heritage Fund	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Fee title acquisition of 17.5 acre portion of 78 acre parcel
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$2,450,000	\$2,312,500	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

The University of Minnesota carried out the acquisition of the Site. The value of the Site was estimated to be between \$4.2 million and \$4.45 million based on Carver County Tax Records and two (2) June 2012 appraisals. The final purchase price was \$4,312,500. Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council voted to recommend \$1,000,000 on 9/21/12 and this amount was approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. The dean of the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences approved the sale of 80 acres of land at the Landscape Arboretum that is not required for U of M research or education programs and the proceeds were allocated to the purchase of the 78 acre parcel. In addition, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation successfully solicited a variety of donors and used unrestricted endowment funds to support the purchase.

The City of Victoria was notified of the acquisition and it is consistent with the City’s overall Master Plan for Parks that describes in detail a potential Lake Tamarack Park Preserve that would allow public access and use and also protect the entire perimeter of Lake Tamarack. Public access would include free access to this area of the Arboretum and fishing opportunities at the Lake. The City of Victoria has a paved trail to the east boundary of this parcel and has received DNR trail funding to build a new trail along the southern boundary of this parcel. This trail will connect to an existing dirt farm road that will provide access into the site.

While the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum charges a \$12 admission fee to enter its main gardens and grounds on the south side of State Highway 5, it will not charge an admission fee to the Lake Tamarack site. The Arboretum will work with the DNR to improve a small, carry- in canoe and kayak access on Lake Tamarack and will provide an unpaved parking lot for people visiting the site for fishing, bird watching or similar activities.

The Arboretum opened in 1958 and now includes the Horticultural Research Center that opened in 1908. The combined 1,137 acres are utilized for horticultural research including fruit and landscape plant breeding and restoration ecology. The Arboretum is also a major public garden with 330,000 annual visitors and 22,000 members.

A basic restoration plan is shown on the attached map and will include restoring the maple-basswood forest on the north end of the site and the 22 acre wetland that bisects the site in the middle. The restoration will be designed to provide food, shelter and breeding habitat for the wildlife species native to Carver County and invasive species will be monitored and controlled. In addition, native prairie species will be planted on the current corn fields. This restoration work will be funded by the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation or through research grants to U of M CFANS faculty.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

A maximum of 10 acres out of the 78 parcel located in the southwest corner of the parcel and including the existing farm building site will be used for fruit and landscape plant breeding projects. This property is currently planted with corn or other non-native plant species. The remainder of the site will be managed for native plants and wildlife. Faculty in the U of M Departments of Agronomy and Plant Genetics and Horticultural Science have expressed interest in native plant restoration research projects and the sites diverse topography, native plant populations and soils lend themselves to specific plants community restoration projects. A complete restoration and management plan will be completed after the property is acquired. The property will also be open for environmental education , nature-based therapy and outdoor recreation including hiking, bird watching, canoeing, and related activities.

This proposal is the final acquisition identified in the Arboretum’s Master Plan. Properties were selected based on watershed boundaries, native plant communities preserved, providing a buffer for agricultural research projects and to protect water quality. Additional investment by the Arboretum related to restoration and rehabilitation of the Site, as well as the development of educational programming will occur once the acquisition is complete. The property will also be open for outdoor recreation including hiking, bird watching, canoeing, and related activities. The Arboretum will also work with the surrounding local governments to ensure trail connections are completed on the Site.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13
2013 LCCMR – Land Acquisition					2,000,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: See attachment.

IX. MAP(S): See attachment

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than December 2013, June 2014, December 2014, and June 2015. A final report and associated products will be submitted by June 2015 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects																																																						
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