



Little Nokasippi River Wildlife Management Area



Outdoor Heritage Funds: \$843,000

Grant	\$843,000
Leveraged Funds*	\$539,000 (in-hand) \$1,371,000 (anticipated)
Total Budget	\$1,381,000 (\$2,752,000)

* Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match

Project Sponsor:

Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR)

Project Partners:

Ducks Unlimited, MN Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Department of Defense, Minnesota National Guard, Morrison & Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Grant Period:

2010

Project Contact:

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Project Narrative

In partnership with the Department of Natural Resources, US Department of Defense and the National Guard, this project expands the Little Nokasippi River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) as a part of the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) effort at Camp Ripley; and in partnership with the Morrison and Crow Wing County SWCD's to secure conservation easements buffering the WMA.

The Little Nokasippi River WMA was established in 2006 to complement the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program. The WMA is situated within a very critical area of the Camp Ripley ACUB. Camp Ripley ACUB program provides a buffer from development encroachment that could jeopardize the National Guard ability to meet their combat training objectives.

The area is designated as one of the highest biodiversity landscapes in the state. Also unique to the project area is its position within a larger habitat complex that encompasses the Mississippi River Corridor including the Mississippi Flyway and the rugged Eastern Bluff shoreline. The WMA includes the confluence of the Little Nokasippi River and the Nokasippi River that occupies 4,498 feet and 13,161 feet of river shoreline, respectively. The confluence of the Nokasippi River with the Mississippi River is located about 1,000 feet west of the WMA. The habitat value of the project is reflected in the science-based planning process that included the entire area as an Important Birding Area according to the Audubon Society.

The project will be implemented in accordance with formal Cooperative Agreements between the DNR, BWSR and National Guard Bureau (NGB). The agreements formalize the methodology and strategy for implementing the ACUB program for which the Little Nokasippi River WMA is a part of. All land parcels acquired under the agreement must be located within the three-mile buffer area surrounding Camp Ripley.

Proposed Measurable Outcomes

Acquisition of 252 acres to the Little Nokasippi River WMA along with 1177.9 acres of permanent conservation easements buffering the WMA.

Measurable Outcomes

This proposal will expand the existing WMA by 252 acres for public outdoor recreation (e.g. hunting, fishing, etc.) and protect the viability of the WMA into perpetuity through 11,77.9 acres of permanent conservation easements. The long-term evaluation of these easements will be monitored as part of the state's monitoring strategy. RIM easements are subject to ongoing inspection to ensure compliance for the duration of the easement in accordance with established guidelines.

Evaluation and Outcome Plans

Accomplishment plans required by Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund identify the number of acres of permanent protection, restored wetlands and adjacent wildlife habitat. These RIM easements are a part of a comprehensive public-private partnership for habitat restoration, improved water quality and resource protection. These plans must include a long term stewardship plan and identify sources and amounts of funding.

The long-term evaluation of projects will be monitored as part of the state's monitoring strategy. RIM easements are subject to ongoing inspection to ensure compliance for the duration of the easement in accordance with established guidelines.

