



## OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND

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Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

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## Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment

- Ratified by voters in November 2008
- 25-year life (expires 2034)
- Provided for a new .375% (3/8 of 1%) in sales tax with proceeds to fund CWLL purposes.
- Established 4 dedicated funds:
  - clean water (33%),
  - outdoor heritage (33%),
  - parks and trails (14.25%),
  - arts and cultural heritage (19.75%)
- Approximately \$150 million annually to OHF
- Requires the Outdoor Heritage Funds be used to “protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.”

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## LSOHC Members -- Current

- **4 appointed by the Governor**
  - Suzanne Baird – (Prior Lake)
  - David Hartwell - (Minneapolis) – Council Chair
  - Matt Kucharski – (Maple Grove)
  - Tom Saxhaug – (Grand Rapids)
- **4 appointed by the Senate**
  - Sen. Fong Hawj (D) - (St. Paul)
  - Sen. Andrew Lang (R) - (Olivia)
  - Ron Schara - (Ramsey) – Council Vice Chair
  - Ted Suss – (Rice County)
- **4 appointed by the House of Representatives:**
  - Rep. John Burkel (R) – (Badger)
  - Kristin Eggerling - (Hallock) – Council Secretary
  - Darrel Palmer – (Nisswa)
  - Rep. Samantha Vang (D) – (Brooklyn Center)

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## Outdoor Heritage Fund - LSOHC

- **OHF Statutory Guidance - MN Statute 97A.056**
  - **Formation of Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council**
    - Part of Legislative Branch
    - **Makes funding recommendations to Legislature regarding the uses of Outdoor Heritage Funds**
      - “directly relate to restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie.”
- **Statute also requires a small grants program**
  - **CPL - Conservation Partners Legacy program**
    - Small grants of \$5,000 to \$500,000.
    - Approximately \$9-15m annually

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## OHF Appropriations (ML2009-2024)

- In first 16 years (ML2009-2024)
  - MN Legislature allocated over **\$1.88 Billion** from Outdoor Heritage Fund to restore, enhance, and protect habitat throughout MN.
  - Additional **\$647 Million** already leveraged from federal, local, private funding.
  - **Over \$100 million** allocated to CPL small grants. CPL grants have generated over \$16 million match funding/in-kind contributions, engaging thousands of local volunteers.

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## OHF Appropriations (ML2009-2024)

cont.

- In first 16 years
  - **over 1.3 Million Acres** of MN wildlife habitats already restored, enhanced, and/or protected.
  - CPL small grants program has funded **over 1,000 grants** restoring, enhancing and/or protecting **over 585,000 acres**.
    - Over 230 grants awarded in 7-county metro area & within city limits of Duluth, Rochester, and St. Cloud.

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## Areas of Emphasis - LSOHC Ecological Sections (5)



- Northern Forest
- Forest/Prairie Transition
- Metro/Urbanizing
- Southeast Forest
- Prairie

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## Distribution of Acres and Funds by Ecological Section

Acres							
Type	Metro / Urban	Forest / Prairie	Southeast Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total	
Restore	19,475	6,823	2,613	30,629	37,818	97,358	
Protect in Fee with PILT	5,321	2,940	6,833	32,387	20,861	68,342	
Protect in Fee without PILT	2,604	3,493	156	22,552	22,904	51,709	
Protect in Easement	5,150	14,749	5,347	52,784	246,519	324,549	
Enhance	102,575	397,962	54,086	477,652	176,579	1,208,854	
	<b>135,125</b>	<b>425,967</b>	<b>69,127</b>	<b>616,004</b>	<b>504,681</b>	<b>1,750,904</b>	

Dollars							
Type	Metro / Urban	Forest / Prairie	Southeast Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total	
Restore	\$22,713,600	\$5,050,100	\$10,966,400	\$37,150,500	\$37,008,800	\$112,889,400	
Protect in Fee with PILT	\$27,551,300	\$9,071,600	\$25,449,500	\$153,062,600	\$44,911,500	\$260,046,500	
Protect in Fee without PILT	\$17,466,800	\$6,994,900	\$502,200	\$77,236,200	\$42,015,900	\$144,216,000	
Protect in Easement	\$20,821,400	\$25,901,600	\$11,083,000	\$162,218,500	\$99,382,500	\$319,407,000	
Enhance	\$34,103,800	\$40,453,400	\$33,279,000	\$101,007,300	\$40,582,400	\$249,425,900	
	<b>\$122,656,900</b>	<b>\$87,471,600</b>	<b>\$81,280,100</b>	<b>\$530,675,100</b>	<b>\$263,901,100</b>	<b>\$1,085,984,800</b>	

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## Protection Summary

Purchase Type	Total OHF Acres Purchased to Date	% of Total Acquired Acres	% of Total w/o 2009 FFF*
Easements	348,882*	67%	48%
Fee with PILT	101,838	20%	31%
Fee w/o PILT	70,168	13%	21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>431,062</b>		

\*of which 187,875 was ML 2009 Forest for the Future appropriation (Blandin Paper Company lands)

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## Easement Protection Summary

- DNR Easements – 223,854 acres
- BWSR Easements – 73,857 acres
- MLT Easements – 38,998 acres
- USFWS Easements – 10,521 acres
- County – 1,473 acres

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## Fee-Title Protection Summary

### Fee w/o PILT

- USFWS WPA – 25,878 acres
- County – 30,480 acres
- TNC – 8,077 acres
- Tribal – 4,589 acres

### Fee with PILT

- WMA – 72,603 acres
- AMA/SNA/SRA – 5,346 acres
- State Forest – 23,890 acres

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## Council's Annual Proposals Process

(15 month process)

April 1, 2025	Call for Funding Issued
May 23, 2025	Deadline: Call for funding proposals due
July 15, 2025	Deadline: LSOHC members submit program scorings based on pre-approved select criteria.
July 30, 2025	Council Meeting: Review proposals and select which proposals will move forward to Aug/Sept hearings
August 25-27, 2025	Council Meeting and Proposal Hearings
September 9, 2025	Deadline: LSOHC members submit individual allocation selections
September 24, 2025	Council Meeting: Initial allocation selection
October 17, 2025	Deadline: Draft accomplishment plans submitted that reflect allocation recommendations
November 12, 2025	Council Meeting: LSOHC members review draft accomplishment plans
December 9, 2025	Council Meeting: Final bill adopted for recommendation to legislature
June, 2026	Council Meeting: Final accomplishment plans approved
July 1, 2026	First day of project period

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## Council Review of Proposals

### #1 Accountability

- Transparency, leveraging efforts & funds to ensure “protect, restore or enhance” outcomes

### #2 Conservation focused

- Addresses conservation opportunities, provides multiple benefits that are timely & are of value to fish & wildlife

### #3 Science-based

- Strategic, addresses Greatest Conservation Need, threatened & endangered species, coordinates with approved conservation plans (e.g. MN Statewide Conservation & Preservation Plan)

### #4 Competitive Process

- Requests weighed for immediacy of need, capacity of org., rationality of proposal, costs vs leverage, community involvement, etc.

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## Who Receives OHF Funds?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Govt. agencies               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ DNR</li> <li>□ BWSR</li> </ul> </li> <li>□ Local Govt. Units               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Tribal Units</li> <li>□ Counties</li> <li>□ Cities</li> <li>□ SWCDs</li> <li>□ Watershed Districts</li> <li>□ Etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Non-Profit Orgs               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ TNC</li> <li>□ Pheasants Forever</li> <li>□ MN Land Trust</li> <li>□ Ducks Unlimited</li> <li>□ Trust for Public Land</li> <li>□ Trout Unlimited</li> <li>□ Friends of Miss. River</li> <li>□ Great River Greening</li> <li>□ N. Waters Land Trust</li> <li>□ Etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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## From Appropriation to Habitat...

- Accomplishment Plan
  - ▣ Guiding Document
  - ▣ Reviewed and Approved Early in Process
- Contract with MNDNR
  - ▣ Attachment E
- LSOHC Online Program Management System
  - ▣ Status Updates (2x/yr)
  - ▣ Amendment Requests
  - ▣ Data Management
  - ▣ Reporting Requirements
- Reimbursement Based
  - ▣ Reviewed and Approved by MNDNR Grants Unit
  - ▣ Advances for Acquisition



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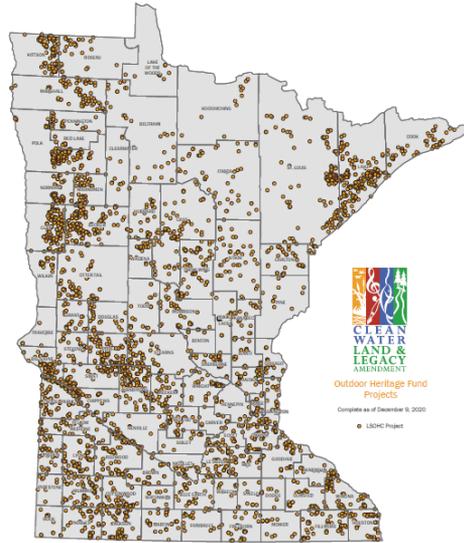
## 97A.056 Requirements

- Restoration and Enhancement
  - ▣ Permanently Protected Land Only
  - ▣ Restoration / Management Plans Required
  - ▣ Best Science / Techniques
  - ▣ Evaluations (1/10 of 1%)
- Acquisition (Fee/Easement)
  - ▣ Permanent Only
  - ▣ NOFR Recorded
  - ▣ Can't be Sold/Use Changed without LSOHC Approval
  - ▣ Report Annually Property Being Used as Intended

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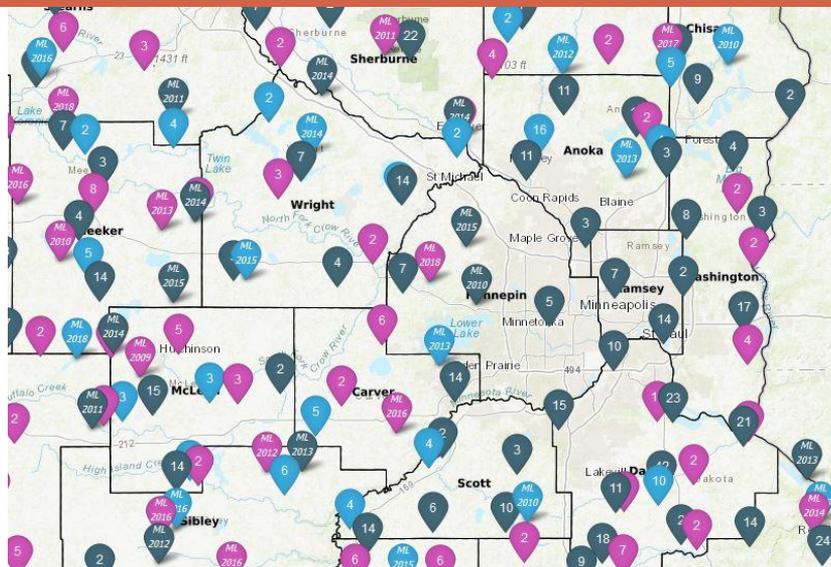
# Outdoor Heritage Fund Completed Projects

<http://www.lsohc.mn.gov>



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## OHF Grants – Metro area



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## Wetland Restoration



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## Wetland Restoration



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## Shallow Lakes – Butler Lake



Photo Courtesy of Ducks Unlimited

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## Marsh Lake



Photo Courtesy of MN DNR

“Western grebes returned to use and nest on the lake after the drawdown. Yellow headed blackbirds are much more numerous as well. American coon numbers greatly increased and the number of terns on the lake this summer is certainly something to behold. In addition, increases in muskrat numbers has been an added bonus with fall house counts steadily increasing from almost none to over 1,000.” – MN DNR Supervisor

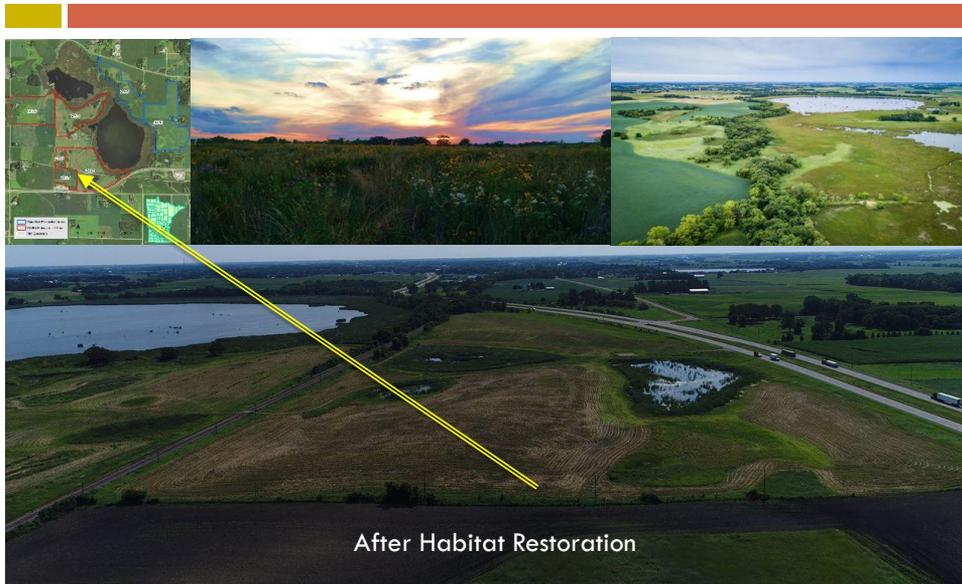
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## Tiger Lake WMA – Complex building



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## Tiger Lake WMA – Complex building



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## Invasive Hybrid Cattail – Removal & Treatment



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## OHF – Grassland Restoration



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## OHF – Grassland Restoration



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## Prescribed Fire



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## DNR Roving Crews – Restore and Enhance



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## Have Project Ideas?

- LSOHC staff is always available to help.
  - ▣ Website has staff contact information
    - [www.lsohc.mn.gov](http://www.lsohc.mn.gov)
  - ▣ Talk to partners
  
- Learn from what others do

**Success starts with applying!**

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## ML2026 LSOHC Recommendations



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