



Illinois DNR
Conservation 2000 - Ecosystems Program
Project Grant Application for FY 2008

[Deadline: Wednesday, February 28, 2007]



Project Classification: Acquisition

Applicant Information

Ecosystem Partnership	Kishwaukee River	DNR Project	KIP003-08
Applicant (Grantee if awarded)		Project Manager (Contact person other than Applicant)	
First Name	Lisa	First Name	
Last Name	Haderlein	Last Name	
Organization	The Land Conservancy of McHenry Count	Organization	
Address 1	PO Box 352	Address 1	
Address 2		Address 2	
City	Woodstock	City	
State	IL	State	
ZIP Code	60098	ZIP Code	
Telephone	815-337-9502	Telephone	
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Email	lhaderlein@conservemc.org	Email	

Project Information

Project Title	Beckwith Woods Protection			
Project Location(s)	County	Township	Range	Section(s)
Project Location 1	McHenry	46N	6E	20
Landowner(s)	Approval?	Landowner Name	Landowner Type	Location #s
Landowner 1	Yes	Conservare	business or corporation	1

Project Abstract

The grant is to help fund the acquisition of approximately 63 acres of natural area in northwest McHenry County. The property includes a sedge meadow, headwaters of Mokeler Creek, and about 50 acres of oak hickory woods with trees that are at least 200 years old. The land adjoins two areas already protected by The Land Conservancy.

Signatures

Application was filed and signed electronically on 2/27/2007

Project Description

Proposal to purchase 63 acres of sedge meadow, riparian headwaters, and upland oak-hickory woods at a bargain sale price from a willing seller. Price is comparable to MCCC purchase price for land 1 mile north.

The property rates a high priority for protection for the following reasons:

1. site contains high quality, at-risk natural resources;
2. site adjoins previously protected property, including a site listed on the McHenry County Natural Area Inventory (MCNAI) of 2005;

3. site is at high risk of development if not protected immediately; and
4. site is part of larger parcel that can provide a key connection in the Grand Illinois Trail, and the seller is willing to facilitate a trail connection in conjunction with the sale.

The Beckwith property is a critical conservation piece in the Alden Headwaters Conservation Area that was approved for a 2007 C2000 grant (KIP07-004). The property contain oak-hickory woodlands and is contiguous to about 100 acres of oak-hickory resources that could be protected to preserve a large contiguous tract of this threatened habitat.

Ed Collins from the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) visited the woods, and was impressed with their quality, acknowledging that some management is needed to remove invasive brush (mostly elm). A MCCD study analyzing the change in oak woodland coverage in the county from settlement until present finds that while nearly 50% of the county was covered with oak-hickory woodlands and savannas in 1837, just 5% of the county has these resources today. The resources that remain are at great risk of being lost in the next 20 years as the old trees reach the ends of their natural lives, succumb to environmental stress, or fall to development. Regeneration is often problematic for the remaining oak woodlands unless they are being managed. Any remaining resources are a high priority for preservation.

In addition to preserving a large area of oak woodland, protection of this property contributes to the Crowley Sedge Meadow Conservation Area (6.7 acres) that is across Crowley Road from the property, will connect to the 15 ac Wicker conservation easement that is adjacent to Beckwith to the east, and protects a headwater portion of Mokeler Creek. Crowley Sedge Meadow, a MCNAI site, was purchased by TLC in 2003.

The property in question is at great risk of development, as the City of Harvard has already annexed and zoned adjacent land. The upland woods are highly developable due to the absence of wetlands or other limitations.

Finally, protection of the property would provide a crucial link in the Grand Illinois Trail, facilitating a safe connection to the City of Harvard, which the trail currently by-passes due to the lack of a safe way for bicyclists to travel around Illinois Route 173. The 63 acre acquisition piece is part of a larger parcel that includes intersection of Reese Road and Illinois Route 173. Seller has agreed to facilitate creation of off-road trail at this location.

Desired Start Date	January 2, 2008	End Date	June 30, 2009
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Partnership Goals	[up to 3 goals]
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Goal 1:	Increase the quality and quantity of habitat available to all native species of the Kishwaukee watershed to enhance biological diversity and establish a more sustainable human environment.
Goal 2:	Promote long-term protection for stream corridors
Goal 3:	Target Habitat Protection Areas: Assist natural resource agencies to protect existing natural areas through acquisition from willing sellers.

Program Guidance	[Please select one or more of the following that your proposal is designed to address]
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Quality Natural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimum functional Habitat Areas; Species Guilds: Habitat Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buffer to Protect Sensitive Habitats
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Connect Habitat Areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem-Based Best Management Practices	<input type="checkbox"/> Restore and Naturalize Hydrologic Functions
<input type="checkbox"/> Complementary Educational Strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Research and Monitoring Integration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local, State and Federal Program Integration

Quarterly Tasks

Quarterly Reporting Period	Task Description for Quarter
January 1 - March 31, 2008	Draft purchase agreement.
April 1 - June 30, 2008	
July 1 - September 30, 2008	Conduct due-diligence (survey, environmental review, etc)
October 1 - December 31, 2008	
January 1 - March 31, 2009	
April 1 - June 30, 2009	Complete acquisition
July 1 - September 30, 2009	
October 1 - December 31, 2009	
January 1 - March 31, 2010	

Anticipated Results [fill in as many as apply]

	Habitat Restored and Number of Sites Monitored						Soil Saved (Tons/Acre/Year)
	Wetland (Acres)	Prairie (Acres)	Forest (Acres)	Streams (Feet)	Lakes (Acres)	Riparian (Acres)	
Habitat Restoration	6	0	50	0	0	7	0
Sites Monitored	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Teachers Trained	Students Educated	Volunteers Enlisted	Citizens Contacted
Number of People	0	0	0	0

Land Acquisition Will the project involve acquisition of land?

- No
 Yes → Choose
 Fee Simple Acquisition
 Permanent Easement
 30-Year Easement

Does there exist legal access for ingress/egress to the parcel to be acquired fee simple or to be encumbered by a conservation easement?

Yes **No** → Please explain

Are there any pre-existing real estate purchase agreements encumbering the property?

No **Yes** → Please explain

Has the property been encumbered by a federal or state program?

No **Yes** → Please explain

Is there drain tiling?

No **Yes** → If "Yes", will it be destroyed/removed? **No** **Yes** **Don't know**

Have all landowners been informed of this proposed project?

No **Yes** → Please explain

Land Disturbance Activities Will there be land disturbance?

No **Yes** → Show the access route on the site map and indicate if it is an existing route (choose 1):

dirt road **gravel road** **paved road** **not existing route**

Will the land disturbance involve heavy equipment?

No **Yes** → What type(s) of equipment?

Will it involve tree removal?

No **Yes** → Describe the dominant tree cover, and number and average size (d.b.h) of trees being removed .

Will there be in-stream construction?

No **Yes** → Estimate duration and season of channel disturbance .

Will there be designated borrow and deposition sites for soil?

No **Yes** → Describe locations.

Will wetland or water retention structures be constructed?

No **Yes** → Detail depth of excavation and estimated water depth [10 words = 50 characters] and show proposed structures clearly on map.

Budget Information

Acquisition/Easement

Parcel Name	# of Acre	Cost per Acre (\$)	Incidentals	Total \$ Amount
Beckwith Woods	63	\$9,500.00	\$9,000.00	\$607,500.00
Total, Land Acquisition				\$607,500.00

Total Budget [enter in Budget Summary, Project total column] **\$607,500.00**

Budget Summary

Budget Category	Project Total	C-2000 Funds Requested	Matching Funds
Personnel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Commodities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Acquisition/Easement	\$607,500.00	\$250,000.00	\$357,500.00
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$607,500.00	\$250,000.00	\$357,500.00

Source(s) of Matching Funds	Itemize by source
TLC Wetland Conservation Account funds (secured)	\$57,500.00
Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (pending)	\$300,000.00
Total Match	\$357,500.00