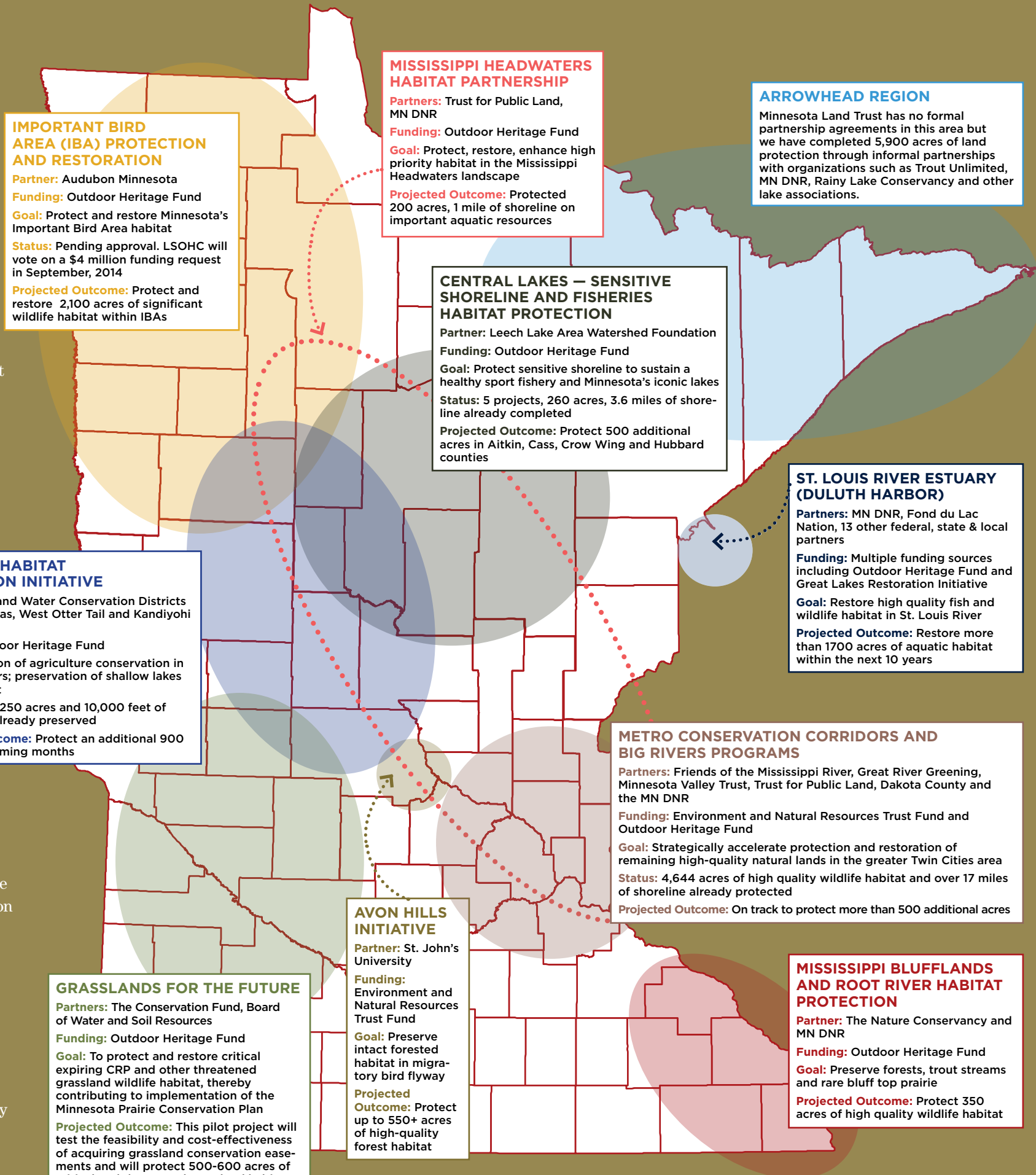


PARTNERSHIPS: BUILDING A BETTER MINNESOTA

Our state, with a deep-seated ethic for land conservation and habitat protection, benefits from the many strands that connect both visionaries and on-the-ground workers who share the goal of making our state even better for every creature who calls it home.

In over twenty years of conservation work, the Minnesota Land Trust has partnered with government agencies, cities, townships and NGOs, experiencing a positive synergy that creates better results. Here is a snapshot of current partnerships:



OUR THANKS TO THESE ADDITIONAL PARTNERS:

We'd like to thank the following partners who have generously donated a portion of their sales during the summer to benefit the Minnesota Land Trust:

- Foxy Falafel
- Indeed Brewing Company
- Emily Gray Koehler, Printmaker
- Merry Little Bath Company



BOB HURT

TREASURED PLACES CELEBRATION - REGISTER NOW!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2014
HOBGOBLIN MUSIC CENTER, RED WING

THIS YEAR'S EVENT FOR MEMBERS, LANDOWNERS AND VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATES THE MANY PROJECTS ALREADY COMPLETED AND THE EXCITING WORK TO COME IN MINNESOTA'S MISSISSIPPI RIVER BLUFFLAND AREA.

EVENTS INCLUDE A BOAT TOUR OF MLT PROJECTS, A PRESENTATION ON POLLINATORS BY STAR TRIBUNE'S JOSEPHINE MARCOTTY, AND MORE.

SPACE IS LIMITED. PLEASE GO TO MNLAND.ORG TO REGISTER!



FITZ FITZGERALD

THIS MINK'S HABITAT IN FILLMORE COUNTY IS ENHANCED THROUGH THE SUCCESS OF OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS, WHICH HAVE PROTECTED NEARLY A THOUSAND ACRES SO FAR.



MINNESOTA LAND TRUST WAS AWARDED RENEWED ACCREDITATION THIS AUGUST AND IS ONE OF ONLY 280 LAND TRUSTS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY THAT ARE NOW ACCREDITED.

CONTACT US:

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 OFFICES IN DULUTH | ST. PAUL

FSC



2014 MINNESOTA LAND TRUST HONOREES:

PARTNER OF THE YEAR

The Nature Conservancy, one of the world's leading conservation organizations,



has been an important partner since the Land Trust's very beginnings, working on joint funding proposals, projects and legislative issues throughout the years. This partnership has been especially significant in the southeast Blufflands, thanks to the leadership of **RICH BISKE**.

The Nature Conservancy and the Land Trust initiated the Root River Protection and Restoration Partnership several years ago and have since expanded this partnership to the entire southeast Mississippi Blufflands thanks to funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. The Nature Conservancy has led the effort with public land acquisition and restoration projects while the Minnesota Land Trust has completed strategic conservation easements on private lands.

This partnership will help significantly accelerate land conservation and water resource protection throughout southeast Minnesota for years to come.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

This year's honoree for Volunteer of the Year is Lake City resident



DAG KNUDSEN, who has been involved with Minnesota Land Trust since we went state-wide in 1993.

Dag and his late wife Tine protected their Wabasha County property with a conservation easement in 1995 and worked countless hours restoring and managing the land and its prairie using non-chemical methods.

His beautiful prairie has been a 25 year labor of love, forever fighting invasive species – especially crown vetch.

One of Dag's secrets for a healthy prairie: "The poorer the soil, the better the results you'll have."

Dag has been invaluable as a volunteer monitor to the Land Trust as well as stepping into the role of a mentor and teacher to new volunteers. We are extremely grateful for his work and dedication.

LANDOWNER OF THE YEAR

DONALD NELSON'S land, just a few miles east of Nerstrand Big Woods State



Park in Rice County, has been in the family since 1880. The land came into Nelson's hands over 40 years ago. Soon after acquiring it, Nelson planted 16,000 seedlings. He is now 89 years old, and the trees are more than 17 feet tall.

"I intended to maintain the land as best I can then turn it over to a conservation group when I can't do it anymore." Just last month, Nelson and the Minnesota Land Trust finalized a conservation easement on the 158 acre property, protecting it forever. He is in the process of donating the land to St Olaf College. Nelson is pleased to give the land to his alma mater, hoping it will be used for generations as an educational resource.

Don Nelson has worked with the Land Trust in the past to protect nearly 700 acres of land on two other parcels in Olmsted County. He has since donated the land to the DNR, which are now Silver Creek and Rock Dell Wildlife Management Areas.

LEAVING A PERMANENT LEGACY

In 1999, long-time Land Trust member Dr. Nancy Lund entrusted us to protect her beloved Wright County property. Nancy died last year but left a lasting legacy by donating her land to us through her will. Planned giving, whether through gifts of real estate, retirement assets, or a portion of one's estate, helps the Land Trust achieve its mission to preserve vital lands into perpetuity. Please contact Wally Abramson at 651-917-6285 to discuss how you can create your own conservation legacy.



CENTURY FAMILY FARM

We'd like to extend our congratulations to Gayle Goetzman and her family. Her Winona area farm was recognized as a century farm, which honors the family for the hard work and dedication it took to run the farm for one hundred years. And because the land is protected with a conservation easement, it will be preserved and enjoyed for generations to come.



ANNOUNCING MINNESOTA LAND TRUST'S NEW RECREATION LANDS PROGRAM

The Minnesota Land Trust is piloting a new initiative with Duluth to protect and promote the city's nature-based recreational assets, including hiking, paddling, bird watching, trail running, skiing, mountain biking, and more. Hansi Johnson will spearhead this new program for the Minnesota Land Trust.

As Director of Recreational Lands, Hansi brings a wealth of experience and a passion for outdoor recreation to his new position, based in the Minnesota Land Trust's Duluth office. For

the past five years, Hansi was the Regional Director for the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), helping volunteer clubs such as the Duluth-based Cyclists of Gitchee Gumees Shores (COGGS) work to create destination trails and outdoor experiences.

With more than 10,000 acres of public open space within



HANSI JOHNSON

city limits and more than 300 eventual miles of trails, Duluth recognizes that it cannot take on responsibility for this infrastructure alone. This public/private partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust will help the city realize its vision to become one of America's premier trail cities and outdoor destinations.

The Minnesota Land Trust recognizes that nature-based adventure activities such as mountain biking, rock climbing

and trail running are fast-growing outdoor activities which can complement traditional pursuits such as hunting and fishing and engage different constituencies.

As such, the Land Trust is exploring how to help communities around the state develop a robust nature-based, outdoor recreation infrastructure to ensure Minnesotans continue to engage in our great outdoors and protect the natural lands necessary for these outdoor pursuits.

READ MORE ABOUT THIS PROGRAM AT MNLAND.ORG

NEW FACES AT THE MINNESOTA LAND TRUST



We're welcoming several new staff members. In addition to **Hansi Johnson, Director of Recreational Lands** (see story above), we're also happy to announce our new **Director of Conservation Stewardship, Ann Thies**. Ann returns to the Land Trust after nine years' work in corporate real estate. Before that, Ann was our Central Region Conservation Director. Also, we welcome **Conservation Associate Nick Bancks**, who will provide administrative and technical support for our conservation and stewardship programs. Nick comes to us from Sibley County's Watershed Grants program.



MINNESOTA LAND TRUST
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MORE INFORMATION MAY BE FOUND AT MNLAND.ORG

MORE PRAIRIE WETLANDS PROTECTED

Wetlands and shallow lakes provide the essential backbone for the survival of waterfowl and other important wildlife species. In fact, more than 50% of the amphibians and birds listed as Minnesota's Species in Greatest Conservation Need use wetlands during their life cycle.

Fortunately for these wildlife species, the Minnesota Land Trust recently completed three projects near Fergus Falls on property owned by Carol Kratzke that protect shoreline and habitat in this area of rapid development.

Located just five miles north of Maplewood State Park in Otter Tail County, the Kratzke land lies on the edge of the once-vast prairie where it begins to transition into the Big Woods forest to the east. It features nearly 10,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Otter Lake and Little Crow Lake.

This project was funded by the

members of the Minnesota Land Trust and by generous support from Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

Most of the plans developed to protect Minnesota's wildlife such as Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and the Long Range Duck Recovery Plan cite the protection and restoration of the state's remaining wetlands as one of the top priorities to achieve the State's conservation goals.

These plans highlight conservation easements on private lands as one of the primary strategies to protect important wetland and shallow lake habitat. The Minnesota Land Trust continues to prioritize this habitat area through its Wetlands Initiative Program, using an innovative market-based tool to evaluate potential easements.



HANSI JOHNSON

"NOTHING TRULY VALUABLE CAN BE ACHIEVED EXCEPT BY THE UNSELFISH COOPERATION OF MANY INDIVIDUALS."

—ALBERT EINSTEIN



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