



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: May 7, 2026
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: Letter of Support for Great River Greening Proposal



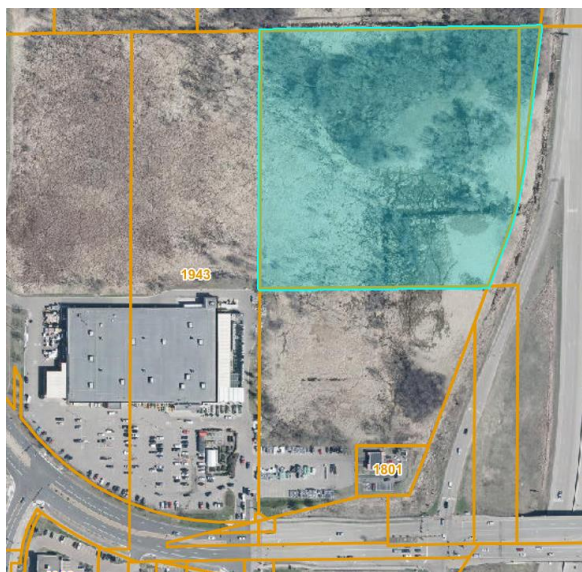
District Wide

Background/Discussion:

[Great River Greening](#) (GRG) is a non-profit organization that works to “inspire, engage and lead local communities in conserving and caring for the water and land that enrich our lives.” The District has partnered with GRG on several past projects, most recently the North Shore Trail Nature Area restoration which will conclude at the end of June this year.

GRG is preparing a funding proposal for the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund and is proposing to include forested portions of two District owned properties. The proposed project includes portions of the Houle property (located adjacent to I-35, near Home Depot), and the tax forfeit properties near Hwy 61 and Hwy 8. The project would be limited to restoration of forested acres and would be approximately 15 acres total. Specific sites and funding requests are being finalized and are subject to change.

GRG has a history of effectively funding and implementing restoration projects that succeed in their ecological objectives, as well as engaging community members. While the details of this proposal are still in development, the goals of the proposal are in line with our watershed management plan and represent a valuable opportunity to engage state funding with the assistance of a proven conservation partner.



Left – Houle Property



Right – Tax Forfeit properties



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Recommended Motion:


Proposed Motion: Manager _____ moves to have the Board President sign the attached letter of support on behalf of the Board of Managers and directs staff to forward the letter of support to GRG for their proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for funding of their Metro Forests for Minnesota Wildlife and Communities project. Seconded by Manager _____.

Attached

Letter of Support for MLR LCCMR Proposal




CLFLWD
WATERSHED DISTRICT

651-395-5850 

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www.clflwd.org 

44 Lake St. South , Suite A
Forest Lake, MN 55025 

May 14th, 2026

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Letter of support for Metro Forests for Minnesota Wildlife and Communities proposal, Great River Greening and Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Dear L-SOHC members,

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District extends our support for Great River Greening as they seek funding through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund as created by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Their funding request is for the implementation of habitat restoration and enhancement of the publicly owned native forest ecosystems in the Metropolitan Urbanizing Section. This effort will expand access to diverse and healthy woodlands, oak savannas, and associated natural areas for the communities in which the projects are located as well as benefit the larger connected ecosystem complex of the area.

We support this request for assistance with this proposal as it will address the need for environmentally conscious land management and natural resource preservation at the Houle and Sunrise Confluence sites. We also support Great River Greening's efforts to demonstrate the conservation and stewardship that everyday individuals can participate in with these public projects, as well as gain understanding of practices outlined within the Minnesota Conservation and Preservation Plan that will continue to maintain the quality of Minnesota's natural areas.

Great River Greening's effort to inspire and lead local communities in restoring and conserving the land and water that enrich our lives will be exemplified through the work outlined in this proposal, and our organization would like to partner with that effort.

Regards,

Jackie Anderson, President
Board of Managers
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Jackie Anderson, President O Jim Schottmuller, Vice President
Dave Bakke, Secretary O Steve Schmaltz, Treasurer O Doug Toavs, Assistant Treasurer