



## Restoring Mississippi-St. Croix Upland Habitat-MN

### BACKGROUND

The St. Croix upland habitat restoration project is part of a larger partnership called Metro Conservation Corridors focusing on habitat restoration and protection in the seven county Twin Cities Metropolitan Region.

### LOCATION

The area where the St. Croix enters the Mississippi River is an undulating highly varied landscape featuring two major bluff-lined rivers and a rich mosaic of savanna and forests with pockets of wetlands and prairies.

### ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED

In the one hundred years between 1890 and 1990 savanna cover in the area dropped from 50% to 3%; forest cover dropped from 25% to 7%; and virtually all the prairie (historically at 9%) had been converted. The state Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy identifies 29 bird and 5 butterfly species of greatest conservation need in the area—all dependent on the forest, savanna, prairie habitat mix.

### RESULTS

When completed it is expected that the following restoration projects will be completed:

1. Plant 85 acres of oak forest (direct seeding, local seed source.)
2. Restore 25 acres of oak savanna.
3. Restore 40 acres of prairie (two distinct seed mixes will be used and evaluated as to impacts on wildlife.)

### OUTCOMES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Beside the habitat restoration there are several other anticipated benefits from this project. Local volunteers including the “Bucks and Buckthorn” youth group will be critical in seed collection and controlling exotic species and learning about habitat restoration in the process. The project will be well publicized giving the public who live in the region a chance to learn what can be done to restore important habitat.



### PARTNERS

St. Croix Watershed Research Station  
MN-DNR-Metro Region  
Great River Greening  
Science Museum of Minnesota

### CONTACTS

#### Project Contact

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### GRANT AMOUNT

\$ 44,700 NFWF  
\$ 89,400 Match

\$134,100 Total Project Cost