

## Conserving the Anoka Sand Plain Forest/ Savanna in Minnesota—Phase 2

### Background

The Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion in Minnesota contains the largest concentration of rare oak savanna/woodland complexes left in the Midwest. The eastern half of this ecoregion is drained by the Rum River, a State Wild and Scenic River. Conservation and restoration of oak savannas/woodlands are priorities for the State of Minnesota. This project represents the second phase of a project funded in 2008 by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Upper Mississippi River Watershed Fund. The first phase was highly successful in building the 19-member Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Partnership and restoring imperiled oak savanna systems on public lands across the ecoregion. This proposed second phase builds on that success through expansion to private lands and landowners.

### Location

Rum River Watershed of the Anoka Sandplain Ecoregion in east central Minnesota (star on map), targeting oak savanna/forest complexes along the Rum River and within/adjacent to existing public lands.

### Goals

The goal of the project is to restore 100 acres of high quality forests within the Rum River Watershed of the Anoka Sand Plain Ecoregion, focusing on private lands.

### Expected Results

The focal area for this project is the Rum River Watershed within and buffering the Anoka Sand Plain. In particular, the project will emphasize forest corridors along the river and buffer lands around key public lands. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Board of Soil and Water Resources, and Minnesota Land Trust hold numerous conservation easements on private lands in this area, but few of these have been adequately managed. The project will do the following:

- Elevate forest management across 100 acres of private and public lands within the Rum River watershed

- Reach 250 individuals via hands-on volunteer events, landowner outreach, and education programs
- Document restoration projects and program methods for expansion to other geographies



### Expected Outcomes

- Improvement of forest/woodland/savanna habitat for focal bird populations
- Heightened public awareness and active participation in restoring/managing deciduous forest lands
- Development and implementation of new monitoring protocols and enhancement of existing protocols across the project area, to track status of focal bird populations and condition of forest habitat

### Partners

- Great River Greening (grantee)
- Minnesota Forest Resources Council
- Onanegozie Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Land Trust
- Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources
- Friends of the Rum River
- University of Minnesota
- Audubon Minnesota

### Grant Amount

\$75,000



The Upper Mississippi Forest Partnership and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation jointly initiated the Upper Mississippi River Watershed Fund. The fund supports projects that benefit the forests of the Upper Mississippi while improving wildlife habitat and water quality.

USDA Forest Service  
Northeastern Area  
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