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NEWS RELEASE

40% OF MINNESTOTA'S ASSESSED WATER BODIES IMPAIRED -- GREAT RIVER GREENING KICKS-OFF 5-YEAR CAMPAIGN TO PUT MINNESOTA ON THE PATH TO CLEAN WATER

*****PHOTO & INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITES AT POWERS LAKE RESTORATION EVENT
CR 19 AND FOX RUN ROAD, WOODBURY, MN AT 11:15AM
WITH MARY GIULIANI STEPHENS, MAYOR OF WOODBURY AND DEBORAH KARASOV,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GREAT RIVER GREENING*****

ST. PAUL, Minn. (October 18, 2011) – On Saturday, October 22, 150 volunteers will amass at Powers Lake in Woodbury, MN to kick-off Great River Greening's Campaign for Forests and Freshwaters. From 9:00am-12:00pm, volunteers will work on invasive species removal as the first step in restoring the lakeshore and enhancing the water quality of Powers Lake. The Powers Lake Restoration Event is the first in a 5-year community-based campaign that will geographically grow Great River Greening's work across the state and elevate conservation outcomes relative to Minnesota's water quality.

Over the course of five years, the goals of the Forests and Freshwaters Campaign are to affect 20,000 acres in new watershed projects, reduce pollution by 20% in the waters affected by these projects and engage 5,000 volunteers in these efforts. Specifically, the campaign will improve water quality in five targeted watersheds in Minnesota, including: Seven-Mile Creek, Cedar Creek, and the Upper Minnesota Valley.

Initial funding for the Campaign for Forests and Freshwaters is provided by major grants from RBC Blue Water Fund, Xcel Energy Foundation, and the McKnight Foundation. Great River Greening was one of only six grantees in the United States to receive the RBC Blue Water Leadership Grant.

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About Great River Greening

Great River Greening is a non-profit environmental organization that leads and supports community-based restoration of forests, prairies and waters. Founded in 1995 in Saint Paul, the organization is growing statewide, engaging nearly 26,000 volunteers in projects on both public and private land that conserve critical land habitat and improve water quality. By mobilizing and educating citizens to restore woods, prairies, and other natural resources in their communities, the organization builds a community of individuals who will be good stewards of these natural areas in the future. For more information, visit www.greatrivergreening.org.

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