

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL, 30, 2008

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MILLION ACORN CAMPAIGN CONTINUES GROWING WITH EAGLE CREEK RESTORATION PLANTING

**VOLUNTEERS WILL RESTORE OAK SAVANNA COMMUNITIES
TO HELP MAKE THE WORLD A SHADE BETTER**



Great River Greening, a nonprofit regional leader for community-based restoration of natural areas and open space, and a cadre of its volunteers will remove invasive species such as buckthorn and plant oak and shrub seedlings at Eagle Creek in Savage Saturday, May 12 from 8:30 to Noon. Volunteers will gather at 8000 Eagle Creek Parkway in Savage



The Eagle Creek Aquatic Management Area is a natural area corridor along the branches of Eagle Creek obtained by the City and deeded to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In partnership with DNR, Great River Greening ecologists wrote the vegetation management plan for Eagle Creek, which is one of the few remaining trout streams in the Twin Cities metro area.

The three mile creek flows from springs at the base of the Minnesota River bluffs. Though the surrounding area has been developed, it still contains a wide variety of rare natural features such as kittentails, boiling springs, and wet meadow and dry prairie communities. Eagle Creek once provided wildlife habitat to gopher snakes, the plains pocket mouse, and the American brook lamprey.

In the riparian wooded area of Eagle Creek, a large Heritage Oak remains. Volunteers will help release the oak from the woody undergrowth that has grown up due to fire suppression. Volunteers will cut and haul the undergrowth material to the roadside to be eventually picked up by DNR.

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*restoring the land,
renewing communities*

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The transition zone between the riparian wooded corridor and the sandy prairies to the east is currently low quality brome field. It is this area that Greening volunteers will plant oak seedlings. The oak groves will consist of seedlings protected by the cone/mesh system.

The volunteer planting event is one of several oak restoration projects scheduled for the second year of Great River Greening's Million Acorn Campaign. This Campaign, a five-year effort, focuses on restoring native oak savannas and woodlands that once dominated the Twin Cities region.

The Million Acorn Campaign began in the fall of 2006 with nearly 500 community volunteers digging, pulling, and planting at Indian Mounds Park, Swede Hollow Park, and Como Park in St. Paul — all to raise awareness of the dangers facing Twin Cities native oak communities.

Through its five-year Million Acorn Campaign, Great River Greening will involve 5,000 volunteers in over 100 community-based restoration projects around the metro area, planting one million acorns. "These days we hear so much about the harm being done to our environment, and people want to do something to help. This Campaign gives individuals, families and organizations the opportunity to 'give back' to Mother Nature," said Dick Nowlin, Board Chair of Great River Greening.

Project partners include the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Fisheries, REI, Patagonia, Friends of the Minnesota River, City of Savage, Twin Cities Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

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