



Our Mission: Great River Greening leads and inspires community-based restoration of our prairies, forests and waters.

Annual Report 2011



Restoring the land. Renewing communities.



“THE WORK OF GREAT RIVER GREENING TRANSFORMS BOTH PEOPLE AND PLACES. PEOPLE ARE TRANSFORMED AS THEY SEE THEIR EFFORTS MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY. PLACES ARE TRANSFORMED WHEN RESTORED TO THEIR NATURAL BEAUTY.”

-VOLUNTEER SUPERVISOR, 2011

Seventeen years ago, in 1995, Great River Greening embarked on a journey for which there was no road map. In an environmental field dominated by advocacy and land acquisition groups, there had never been a conservation organization devoted solely to stewardship and restoration. Nor had there been a locally grown organization that sought conservation outcomes of a quality on par with the national groups. Our great accomplishments since then, supported by thousands of volunteers and supporters like you, have proven the wisdom of our journey.

In 2011 we started The Campaign for Forests and Freshwaters. For the next five years, Great River Greening is committed to reducing pollution by at least 20% in threatened freshwaters, improving 20,000 acres of land that are degrading targeted Minnesota watersheds, and engaging 5,000 volunteers to do the work.

But even beyond this next campaign, our journey will bring us to new geographies and growing leadership. We started with a unique ability to build partnerships and drive those resources to on-the-ground conservation results. We will end with a vision of natural beauty and healthy land and water that is sustained for generations to come.

I am deeply grateful for the generosity of our volunteers and donors who enable us to implement exceptional projects and expand our reach. Such support gives us the opportunity to impact the current and future generations of stewards of our wonderful and complex natural world.

Thank You!

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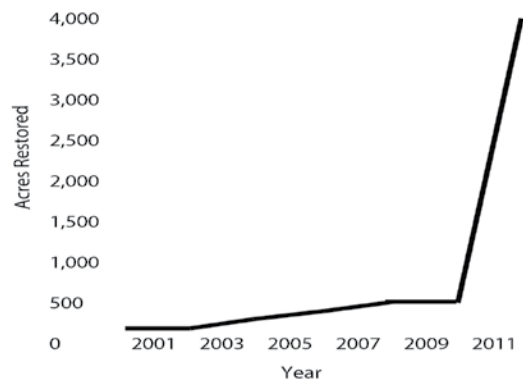
Richard Thompson
TKDA

Jim Zyduck
Xcel Energy

Great River Greening has engaged nearly 30,000 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 natural resources in their communities, Great River Greening builds a community of individuals who will be good stewards of these lands and waters in the future.

2011 Field Accomplishments

75 sites of restoration activities, restoring over **4,000** acres of land*



2,070 volunteers engaged in **6,201** hours of service

25,113 native trees and shrubs planted

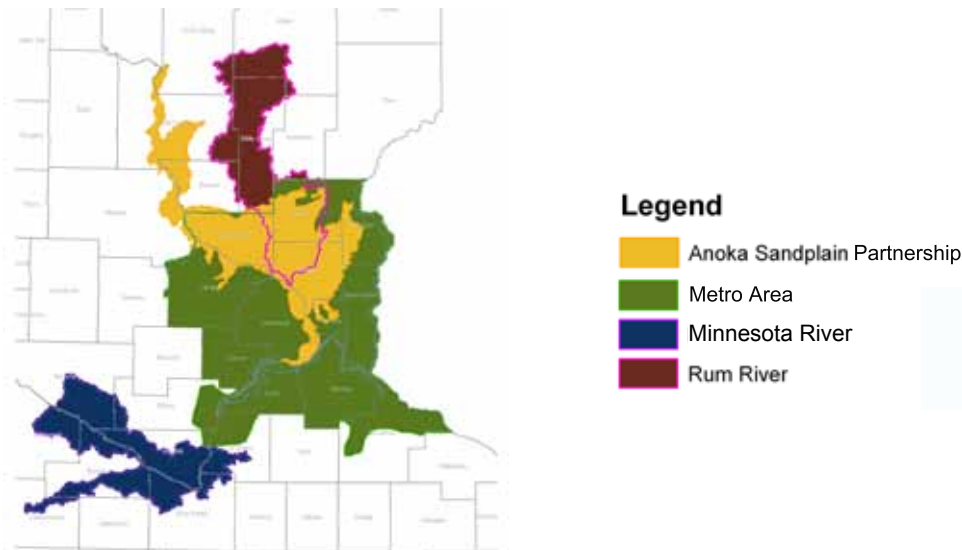
1.71 miles of shoreline restored

1,001 acres of invasive species removed

*This increase in acreage was largely due to the new Anoka Sandplain Partnership



Conservation Programs Map



Your Conservation Programs

Anoka Sandplain Partnership **22 project sites**

- A 20-partner collaboration targeting restoration of natural habitat on public lands throughout east-central Minnesota.
- A total of 2,500 acres were restored, with at least another 1,000 planned for 2012.
- Over the past three years, we have raised nearly \$2 million for restoring and enhancing Minnesota's key natural assets in the region.

Major funding from the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Xcel Energy Foundation.

Metro Area **192 project sites**

- Work started in the Metro Big Rivers partnership to elevate conservation within habitat corridors along the Minnesota, Mississippi and St. Croix rivers in the Twin Cities Metro Area.
- Through the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership, Greening has restored 1,100 acres across 37 sites over the past nine years. Among other 2011 projects, more than 100 volunteers removed invasive species at Ike's Creek, one of the few native trout streams in the metro area, adjacent to the Minnesota Valley Natural Wildlife Refuge.

Major funding from the Minnesota Environmental Trust Fund through the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources and Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

Minnesota River **1 project site**

- Great River Greening began work on the first of several partnerships demonstrating that conservation impact can be made in agricultural watersheds.
- At Seven-Mile Creek (Nicollet County), a tributary of the Minnesota River and the only designated trout stream in the southern Minnesota region, Greening is working with several partners including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Fishers & Farmers Partnership, Nicollet County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Major funding from the McKnight Foundation, RBC Blue Water Project, and Xcel Energy Foundation.

**Rum River
3 project sites**

- A collaborative program to protect and enhance the Rum River, a state-designated Wild and Scenic River, focused on shoreland stabilization and forests buffers within adjoining private lands.
- This is the first of several Wild and Scenic Rivers we will work on in the next couple of years.

Major funding from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

**St. Croix Blufflands and Floodplain
Ended in 2011**

- This was a collaboration with Audubon Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Washington Conservation District and other partners to improve migratory bird habitat throughout the lower St. Croix River Valley.
- Five private landowners collaborated in woodland restoration projects in selected focal areas (72 acres) and three public lands projects (140 acres).

Major funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Anderson Corporate Foundation.

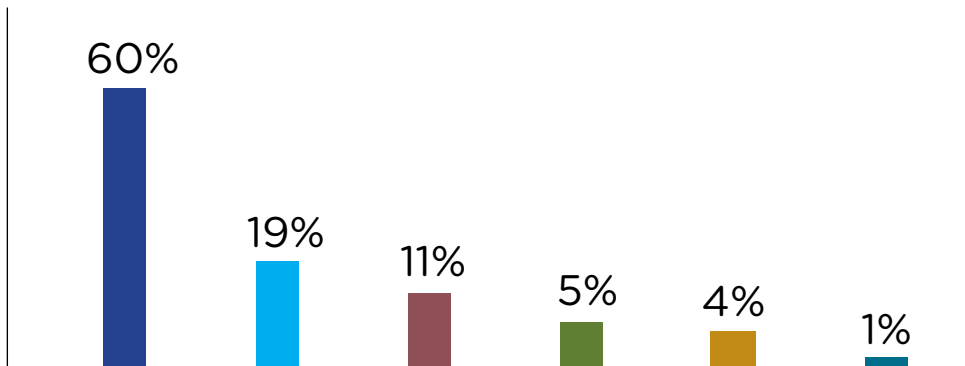


Financial Summary 2011

Funding Sources	
Government Contracts & Grants	\$801,916
Foundation Gifts & Grants	\$255,515
Non-government Contracts	\$145,760
Corporate Gifts	\$74,848
Individual Gifts	\$47,724
In-Kind & Other Revenue	\$16,316
Total:	\$1,342,079

Expenses	
Program Services	\$1,165,766
Management & General	\$109,152
Fundraising	\$49,466
Total:	\$1,324,384
Unrestricted Change in Net Assets:	\$17,695

Balance Sheet	
Total Assets	\$438,618
Total Liabilities	\$127,099
Total Net Assets	\$311,519



Thank You 2011 Major Donors

Annual Report 2011

Corporations

\$5,000 & Above

Brookfield Renewable Power
Concept Group
Pioneer Press / TwinCities.com
REI
Stoel Rives LLP
Superior Minerals Company
Xcel Energy

\$1,000-\$4,999

Aggregate Industries
American Engineering Testing, Inc.
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CenterPoint Energy
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Foundations

\$10,000 & Above

3M Foundation
Best Buy Children's Foundation
The McKnight Foundation
The Pentair Foundation
Carl & Eloise Pohlad Family Foundation
RBC Blue Water Project
Starbucks Foundation
Vinaya Foundation
Xcel Energy Foundation

\$2,500-\$9,999

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The Nash Foundation
Rahr Foundation
SEBA Foundation

\$250-\$2,499

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Bloomington Rotary Club
Hands on Twin Cities (HOTC)
MDU Resources Foundation
Mississippi Corridor Community Alliance
Nandale Foundation
Saint Paul Garden Club
Terhuly Foundation

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Conservation Champions (\$2,500+)

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Jim and Susan Edberg

Bluffland Benefactors (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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Forest Friends (\$1-\$99)

We thank more than 175 additional donors for helping to make Greening's work possible!

A special thank you to the more than 100 individuals and businesses that donated items to the 2011 Million Shades of Green Gala silent auction.

We do our best to keep reporting as accurate as possible, and apologize for any errors. Please contact Rob Nygaard with any concerns, 612-665-9500 x18

Your Community Programs

Volunteer Program

One of the greatest strengths of Great River Greening is its ability to attract and motivate a large volunteer force that works on restoration events that support the mission and help achieve our long-term goals. Last year, Greening engaged 2,070 volunteers in spring and fall restoration events. We successfully engage and advance their interests, while educating and promoting community involvement. *Major funding from 3M Foundation, Carl & Eloise Pohlad Family Foundation, REI and Vinaya Foundation.*

Science Area Teen Network

The Science Area Teen Network (SATN) is unique in combining youth development with the environment, focusing on green jobs. Targeting at-risk youth, SATN capitalizes on resources that only Greening can provide: hands-on activities in the field, experience with Greening scientists, and connections to other professionals through our corporate sponsors and professional networks. In 2011, we reached a milestone, engaging 500 youth to date. *Major funding from Best Buy Children's Foundation, The Pentair Foundation and Starbucks Foundation.*



Together, We Are Just Getting Started

With almost 7,000 acres restored in Minnesota, we realize that there are decades of restoration ahead. It is essential that this work continues in order to revive and maintain the ecological and aesthetic functions of natural spaces and clean water. Transforming degraded land into healthy habitat and cleaner water improves quality of life, property values and the sustainability of communities. Restoring the land also provides an opportunity for youth to study our natural environment.

We cannot do this without your support! Thank you!

Campaign for Forests and Freshwaters

We improve water quality, in places like the Minnesota River

- We are beginning work in the Minnesota River region, showing that conservation results are possible if you work in a collaborative manner. This work is supported by a leadership grant from RBC Blue Water Project and the McKnight Foundation.
- Seven Mile Creek is our first watershed. We have a technician housed in the Nicollet County Soil and Water Conservation District. He will work with farmers to buffer their fields, repair eroded ravines, and protect the trout creek that the farmlands drain into.

Join today! Visit greatrivergreening.com or call 651-665-9500 x23



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