

2012
ANNUAL
REPORT

Our mission is to secure the legacy of Minnesota
land and water through community-based
restoration, stewardship, and partnerships.

GREAT RIVER GREENING



Restoring the Land

Renewing Communities



2012 MILESTONES

30,000
VOLUNTEERS
ENGAGED
2,000 IN 2012

10,000
ACRES RESTORED
3,000 IN 2012

100,000
TREES & SHRUBS
PLANTED
1,700 IN 2012

Welcome to Great River Greening's 2012 Annual Report and thank you for all your support and engagement; it brought us to significant milestones in acres restored, trees and shrubs planted, and volunteers engaged. In 2012 alone, we worked at 43 sites across the Twin Cities and beyond.

People often ask, What does Greening do in the winter? **Your support means we can work all the time!** We are thrilled to show you the many ways we worked together in 2012 to improve the ecological health and beauty of our lands and waters, starting with a seasonal glimpse of our year in 2012:



SPRING

- Volunteer recruitment and site preparation
- 5 public Saturday volunteer events and 9 private weekday events
- Annual 'Million Shades of Green' Gala
- Prescribed burns
- Crew invasives removal, planting, and maintenance
- Site checks
- Submit grant proposals to the Outdoor Heritage Fund and Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund
- Science Area Teen Network sessions

SUMMER

- Private weekday volunteer restoration events
- Site checks
- Watering plantings
- Fall volunteer event planning
- Crew invasives removal, spraying and basal bark treatment
- Prairie mowing
- Planning for fall acorn collection
- Hiring of Seven Mile Creek Watershed Coordinator in Nicollet County
- Aerial flights over Anoka Sandplain project sites
- Summer Youth Job Corp session

AUTUMN

- Volunteer recruitment and site preparation for volunteer events
- 5 public Saturday events and 10 private weekday events
- Crew invasives removal, spraying and brush piles
- Park study for Minneapolis' North Loop
- Planning and hosting the annual Great River Greening Business Forum
- Prescribed burns
- Wild rice restoration along the Rum River
- Science Area Teen Network sessions

WINTER

- Removal of invasive species by contractors and crew
- Spring volunteer event planning
- Winter volunteer event
- Volunteer supervisor recruitment and training
- Writing of prairie stewardship management plans
- Review of stream restoration engineering documents
- Prepare tools and equipment for the new year

Seasonal photos by David Paul Larson, from an MN STAC Innovation Award presented to Great River Greening

2012 PROGRAMS OVERVIEW



Greening works with volunteers of all ages

With your support, Greening staff, supporters and partners lead, assist, and inspire volunteers and communities to improve the region's natural resources by strengthening ecological systems and promoting stewardship and management of critical lands and waters. We choose our projects based upon conservation need, ecosystem services provided, and community benefits.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Each year, Greening engages thousands of volunteers to participate in private and public restoration events in their own communities. Our events are nonpartisan, and we reach deep into the community, partnering with organizations, schools, businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies. Volunteer events are held nearly every weekend in the spring and fall. We also train volunteer supervisors to help us lead these events and learn more about ecology.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

We help thousands of young people every year become the stewards of tomorrow by providing opportunities for hands-on activities and classroom instruction. Programs include environmental restoration events, the Science Area Teen Network, and the Summer Youth Jobs Corp.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

TWIN CITIES METRO

In our deepest program, Greening works with a large variety of local communities and conservation partners throughout the Metro to restore the health of native plants and animals and the forests, prairies and waters that support them. Together we improve water quality through practices to reduce erosion, stormwater runoff, and pollution, and enhance the recreational experience of visitors to parks, natural areas, lakes and, rivers.

ANOKA SANDPLAIN

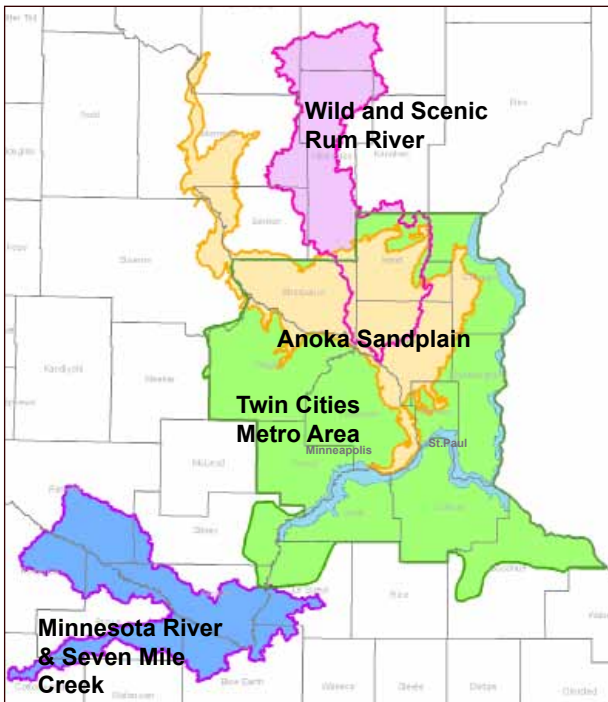
Characterized by thousands of shallow wetlands, miles of scenic rivers and streams, and the largest concentration of critically imperiled oak savanna in the Midwest, the Anoka Sandplain is a unique and valuable ecological treasure located in east-central Minnesota. Greening leads a broad partnership to protect, enhance, and restore the lands and waters of this ecological region by working with local land managers and private individuals, and by building strong local and regional support for the unique natural treasures of the Anoka Sandplain.

MINNESOTA RIVER

Our new work in this watershed represents a collaborative, solution-oriented approach to water quality on agricultural lands, whereby water resource concerns are addressed locally at a subwatershed scale. This approach is currently anchored by our engagement at the Seven Mile Creek Watershed, a collaborative effort with the Nicollet County Soil & Water District and other partners.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Great River Greening, in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other partners, is working to elevate restoration of Minnesota's seven designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, critical corridors of habitat and recreation opportunities. The program began with concerted effort along the St. Croix River in 2009, but has since expanded to the Rum and Cannon Rivers.



Additional major funding for Great River Greening education and conservation programs comes from The McKnight Foundation, RBC Blue Water Project, REI, Xcel Energy Foundation, and 3M Foundation.

2012 STORIES OF THE YEAR

“I REALLY ENJOY GETTING UP IN THE MORNING AND BEING PART OF A COLLECTIVE, COMMUNITY EFFORT, AND ALL THE ENERGY THAT SURROUNDS IT.”

- Volunteer Supervisor, Jamison Gillitzer



STEWARDSHIP

GROWING TOMORROW'S STEWARDS

Greening launched the Summer Youth Jobs Corp, a new program designed as a next step to our Science Area Teen Network (SATN), educating at-risk youth about environmental science and green jobs through classroom discussions, community service, and field activities.

The Summer Youth Job Corp is implemented in partnership with Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa. Participants receive a stipend and spend four weeks performing hands-on restoration work and learning job skills. They also talk with professionals about careers such as landscape ecology, landscape architecture, and engineering.

With your help we achieved new milestones in our youth programs. Through Job Corp and SATN, Greening has empowered nearly 600 at-risk youth with knowledge, resources and awareness of environmentally-focused careers. Through our general service-learning and volunteer activities, we've helped thousands more—in total, 10,000 K-12 and college youth—to become more educated land stewards. *

* Major 2012 funding from the 3M Foundation, Allianz Foundation for North America, Best Buy Children's Foundation, Pentair Foundation, REI, SEBA Foundation, Starbucks Foundation, and Xcel Energy Foundation.

** Major funding from Board of Water & Soil Resources, Fishers & Farmers Partnership, The McKnight Foundation, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, RBC Blue Water Project, and Xcel Energy Foundation, with additional funding from Clifbar Family Foundation, Minnesota Valley Electric, and Rahr Foundation.

*** Major funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, with additional funding from Centerpoint Energy, Connexus Energy, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund, Minnesota DNR Shorelands Program, Minnesota Environmental Trust Fund, ONEOK Foundation, US Fish & Wildlife Service.

PARTNERSHIP

TEAMING UP TO EXTEND OUR WORK

Greening and Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) joined hands in kicking off an innovative model to address water quality concerns in agricultural watersheds. A first step in this program was siting a Greening restoration technician in the SWCD office in St. Peter to build outreach and foster collaboration with farmers in addressing these concerns.

The partnership represents Great River Greening's first engagement in the Minnesota River, the state's most polluted river. Agriculture is the dominant land use in the watershed, and runoff—both overland and through drain tile systems—is exacerbating erosion within ravine

systems. Greening's aim is to develop solid working relationships with landowners and then identify and implement conservation practices that both address environmental concerns and meet their needs in deriving an income from the land. Restoration efforts have begun at Seven Mile Creek, a tributary of the Minnesota River that is one of the few designated trout streams in south-central Minnesota and the namesake for the regionally significant Seven Mile Creek County Park. **



RESTORATION

RESTORING THE STATE WILD & SCENIC RIVERS

In an expansion of a program initiated in 2009, Greening began restoring its second of several Wild & Scenic Rivers—the Rum River—in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Greening is working collaboratively with public agencies and private landowners who have entered into easement agreements along this riverway with the Minnesota DNR and Minnesota Land Trust. The Rum River is one of seven rivers designated in the state for their free-flowing condition and remarkable scenic values. It is one of the most popular canoe and kayak routes in the state as well as a valued fishing resource.

The first projects (totaling 93 acres) will restore eroding riverbanks and associated lands that buffer the river (floodplain forest, woodland, and prairie) to reduce sedimentation and nutrient runoff and improve wildlife habitat. Great River Greening and our partners also initiated a multi-year project to restore wild rice populations along the backwaters and oxbow lakes of the Rum River and in wetlands on DNR Wildlife Management Areas within the watershed. The effort will help reverse statewide declines for the species and restore an essential piece of Minnesota's cultural and natural heritage. ***





2012 AWARDS

Greening is proud to have received several awards of achievement in 2012. Thank you to our community partners for their collaboration and recognition!

CONSERVATION PARTNER AWARD: Presented by National Wild Turkey Federation for organizing and leading the Anoka Sandplain Partnership, a group of 20 public agencies and nonprofits working to restore wildlife habitat in east central Minnesota.

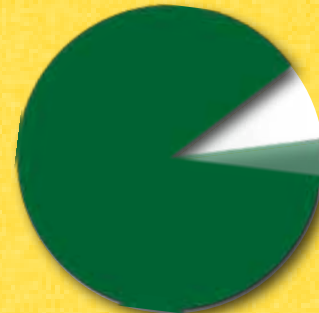
RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS AWARD: Presented by the City of Brooklyn Center for contributing to the community spirit of Brooklyn Center in the streambank restoration of Shingle Creek by planting 10,000 live stake cuttings of willow and dogwood species, and 500 shrubs and trees.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD: Presented by the City of Woodbury for the innovative stormwater management practices represented by the Woodbury Conservation Corridor, a collaborative with the South Washington Watershed.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2012

FUNDING SOURCES

Government Contracts & Grants	990,572
Foundation Gifts & Grants	227,733
Non-Government Contracts	106,023
Corporate Gifts	98,819
Individual Gifts	65,073
In-Kind & Other Revenue	26,502
Total	1,514,722



EXPENSES

Program Services	1,310,134
Management & General	120,562
Fundraising	57,696
Total:	1,488,392

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Unrestricted Change in Net Assets	26,330
Total Assets	500,260
Total Liabilities	187,833
Total Net Assets	312,427

2012 'MILLION SHADES OF GREEN' GALA & BUSINESS FORUM



On April 21, 2012 we hosted our annual 'Million Shades of Green' Gala presented by Xcel Energy, at the Amsterdam Bar + Hall. Honorees were RBC Blue Water Project as Private Corporate Steward of the Year and Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council as Public Steward of the Year.

On October 3, 2012, Greening hosted 300 business professionals and community leaders for the fifth annual Great River Greening Business Forum presented by Stoel Rives. It featured a conversation with Chris Policinski, President and CEO of Land O'Lakes, and Bill Blazar, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, to explore the challenge of feeding a growing global population while providing for the health of our natural systems.

2012 MAJOR DONORS

THANK YOU!



RBC Wealth Management employees at RBC Blue Water Day, 2012

FOUNDATIONS

\$10,000 & Above

3M Foundation
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\$2500-\$9999

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Artemis Fund of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota
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Nandale Foundation
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\$5,000 & Above

Concept Group
Connexus Energy
Patagonia - Saint Paul store
Pioneer Press / TwinCities.com
REI
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Superior Minerals Company
Wedge Natural Foods Co-op
Xcel Energy

\$1,000-\$4,999

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The Toro Foundation
Ultimate Events
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Warner's Outdoor Solutions
We also thank more than 100 individuals and businesses that donated items to the silent auction at the 2012 'Million Shades of Green' Gala

INDIVIDUALS

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Kathryn and James Catalano

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We thank more than 150 additional individual donors for helping to make Greening's work possible

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Minnesota Environmental Trust Fund
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
Nicollet Soil & Water District
Ramsey County Parks
Scott County
South Washington Watershed District
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
University of St. Thomas
North Loop Neighborhood Association
Xcel Energy

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

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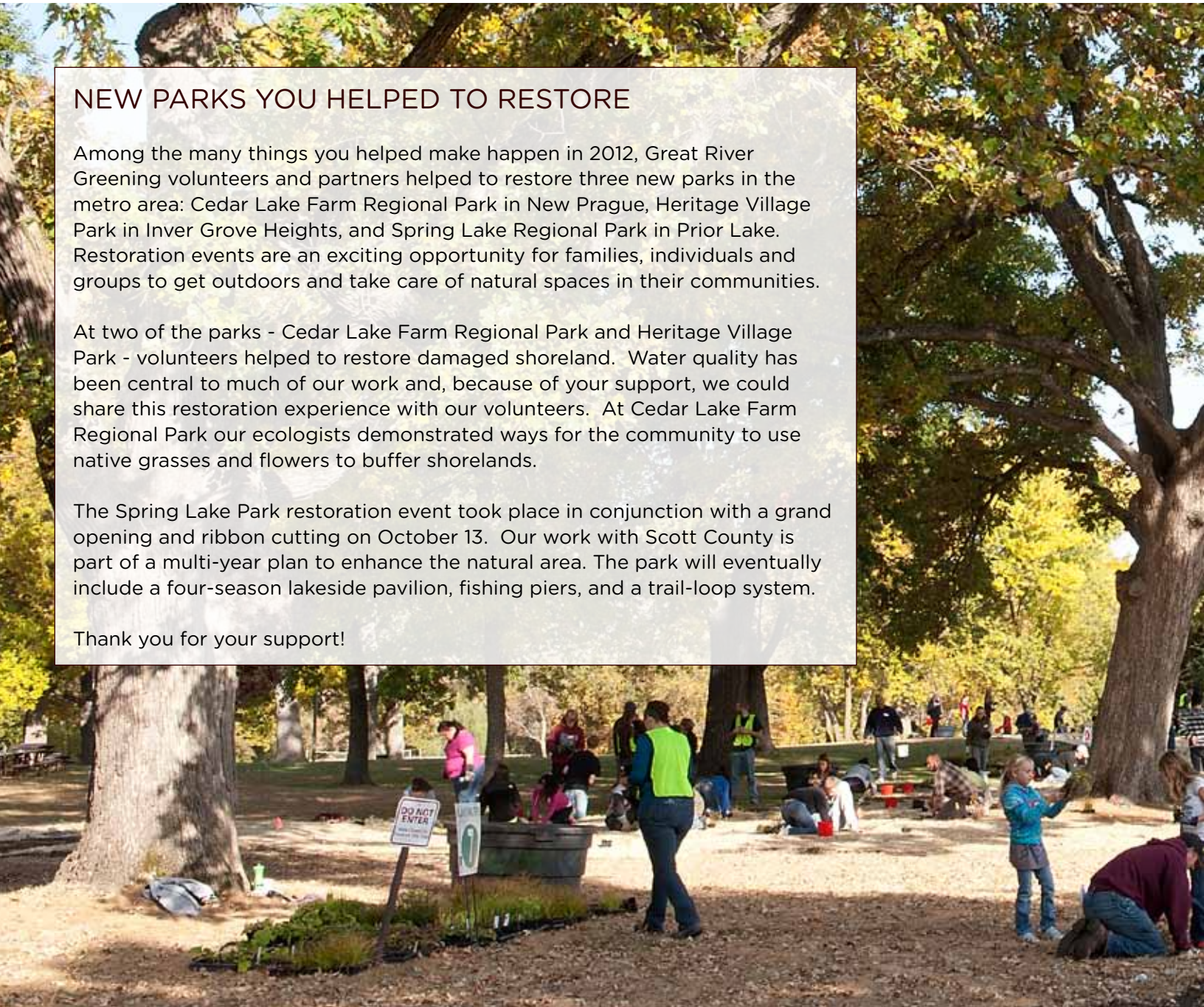
NEW PARKS YOU HELPED TO RESTORE

Among the many things you helped make happen in 2012, Great River Greening volunteers and partners helped to restore three new parks in the metro area: Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park in New Prague, Heritage Village Park in Inver Grove Heights, and Spring Lake Regional Park in Prior Lake. Restoration events are an exciting opportunity for families, individuals and groups to get outdoors and take care of natural spaces in their communities.

At two of the parks - Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park and Heritage Village Park - volunteers helped to restore damaged shoreland. Water quality has been central to much of our work and, because of your support, we could share this restoration experience with our volunteers. At Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park our ecologists demonstrated ways for the community to use native grasses and flowers to buffer shorelands.

The Spring Lake Park restoration event took place in conjunction with a grand opening and ribbon cutting on October 13. Our work with Scott County is part of a multi-year plan to enhance the natural area. The park will eventually include a four-season lakeside pavilion, fishing piers, and a trail-loop system.

Thank you for your support!



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