



# Root River Watershed Protection & Restoration

## Project Goals and Timeline

- Permanently protect 750 acres of high quality prairie, forest and riparian habitat within the Root River watershed by June 2016
- Collaborate with multiple partners to implement multi-faceted conservation programs
- Provide permanent protection focused on creation of habitat complexes

## Unique geology, distinct beauty

The Root River Watershed (RRW) of Southeast Minnesota is as rich in habitat for game and nongame wildlife species as it is in aesthetic beauty. Long valleys rimmed with dry prairies and hardwood hills are bisected by coldwater trout streams.

Unlike any other part of the state, much of the watershed has been largely untouched by glaciers for 500,000 years. As a result of this unique geology, the RRW is home to many diverse habitats. No other region in the state demonstrates this diversity and uniqueness of habitats.



## Some things should be forever.

The Minnesota Land Trust will acquire permanent conservation easements on 350 acres of high quality prairie, forest and riparian habitat in the Root River watershed. Priority will be given to easements that support or fill in gaps between existing protected habitat complexes.

The Land Trust works only with conservation easements that are perpetual. These easements prohibit land uses or development that negatively affects important habitat and other conservation values.

Working together the various project partners will protect over 750 acres within the Root River Watershed. Additionally, 210 acres will be restored or enhanced. With your help, the Minnesota Land Trust can preserve and protect this unique landscape forever.

**For more information contact the Minnesota Land Trust at 651-647-9590, or [mnland@mnland.org](mailto:mnland@mnland.org)**



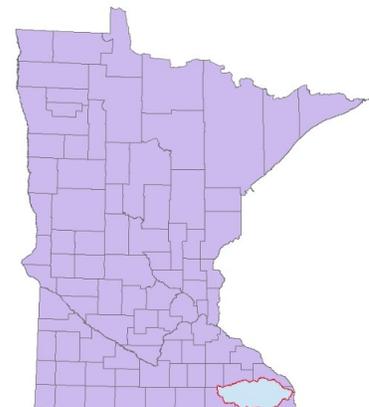
Funding for this project was provided by members of the Minnesota Land Trust and the Outdoor Heritage Fund as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.



## Preserving a fragmented landscape

Southeastern Minnesota contains our state's greatest diversity of species, yet only 3% of the land is publicly held. If we care about wildlife habitat and water quality, private land conservation is a critical tool in conserving those assets.

The growth of nearby communities like Rochester and La Crescent are increasing rural development with bluff top and remote country homes. More roads, buildings and associated infrastructure further impacts an already fragmented landscape, disturbing forest habitat and accelerating already-high erosion rates. In addition, farming practices have increasingly encroached on these unique habitats which have significant impacts to water quality.



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