



GREAT RIVER GREENING



Photo credit: nimmerphoto.com

Spectacular Earth Day Turnout

350 community members volunteered with Great River Greening this Earth Day. The weather was spectacular and in record time the volunteers planted nearly 2,000 trees, shrubs, and wildflowers along Bushaway Road in Wayzata.

This project perfectly encapsulates our mission of inspiring communities to restore land and water across Minnesota. We hope people will return over the years and watch it all grow.

“About 30 percent of the volunteers here today are kids. What we’re showing them is that people can come together, all backgrounds, all political persuasions coming together, because they care about their environment.” - Great River Greening Executive Director Deborah Karasov, speaking to KARE 11 Reporter

A project this size happens only with strong support from the local community. Cargill and Wayzata leaders, in particular, pulled the people together and worked to preserve the historic landscape character of the road.



Highlights

- Butler Family Foundation Grant helps to increase our pollinator seed supply
- Pilot Knob, a Great River Greening restoration site, earns spot on National Register of Historic Places
- Volunteers joined us in the snow for Buckthorn Brush Burn in Lindstrom’s Allemansratt Park.
- 1,100 volunteers that came out to xxx events, this spring

See inside for more great stories!



Support of an innovative partnership addresses a supply and demand problem for restoration environmentalists.

As Great River Greening looks to expand pollinator habitat restoration in Minnesota, a limiting factor is the shortage of seed. This is due in part by a rising demand for local seed types, as well as commercial seed production capacity.

This shortage severely limits the pollinator habitat restoration work Great River Greening and other restoration entities can do.

Thanks to a \$200,000 grant from The Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation, Great River Greening now has the support to initiate a partnership of nonprofits, municipalities, and counties to establish grow-out areas as sources of nectar/pollen-bearing plant seed. These areas could be part of a habitat restoration, stand-alone nurseries, or greenhouse contracts for species that are difficult to establish by direct seeding.

The primary goal is to create a sustainable future for pollinator habitat restoration and conservation by creating local sources of genetically appropriate seed which could be harvested when commercial seed suppliers lack sufficient inventory.

“The Butler Family Foundation is supporting the creation of an important and innovative partnership. Great River Greening has already been working with these partners, and our conversations have led to this exciting new venture. It will take great cooperation and coordination – which makes it challenging, exciting, and, ideally, replicable.”

- Great River Greening Executive Director Deborah Karasov

In Brief



Great River Greening restoration site earns spot on National Register of Historic Places

Pilot Knob is a high, prominent hill on the east bank of the Minnesota River near where it meets the Mississippi River. From atop, you can see both Minneapolis and Saint Paul downtown skylines. With such vistas, as well as its designation as a national historic site, this 25-acre urban, public space is a rarity.

After a nearly 15-year wait, the once-sacred place has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

When the City of Mendota Heights purchased Pilot Knob in 2005, the land was severely degraded. Great River Greening was brought in to restore its native Oak Savanna habitat. Since then, more than 1,800 volunteers have helped us transform the land.



Stoking the fire of environmental restoration

Great River Greening hosted a winter brush pile burning event at Allemansrätt Wilderness Park, using invasive buckthorn as the fuel. One hundred volunteers joined us in the snow on a sunny February morning to haul and stack pre-cut buckthorn. And burn it, while also roasting hotdogs and marshmallows.

Allemansrätt is located in Lindström. The 125-acre city park is home to high quality oak forest, wetlands, lakeshore, diverse wildlife, unique glacial geology, and several miles of trails. Great River Greening volunteers have also worked at this site to plant Bur Oak trees in an old hay field, as part of a joint study with the University of Minnesota to explore how Bur Oaks from three Midwest regions adapt to future weather patterns.

1,100 volunteers came out for healthy lands and water

During public, private, and youth education events, 1,100 community members of every age and ability got their hands dirty helping us improve habitat and water quality throughout Minnesota.

Spring Public Events:

- Earth Day Tree Planting on Bushaway Road in Wayzata (see cover story)
- Restoration along the MN River in Minnesota Valley Chapter of the Izaak Walton
- Creekside Planting at Ridges at Sand Creek in Jordan
- Shoreline Planting in Watertown
- Metro Woodland Restoration in Westwood Hills Nature Center, Saint Louis Park

RESTORING LAND, WATER AND WONDER



Sponsored  Xcel Energy*

The 11th Annual Great River Greening Gala was a great success

Your contribution helps Great River Greening build healthy land and water across Minnesota.

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Special thank you to Mary McGuire of WCCO

In the News

KARE11 covered Bushaway Event in Morning Live

Twin Cities Pioneer Press: More than just a pretty view: Pilot Knob named to National Register of Historic Places

Star Tribune: Rusty patched bumblebee first of species called endangered

LilliNews: A recognition centuries in the making

St. Peter Herald: Carlin named program manager for Seven Mile Creek Watershed

MN Corn Growers Association: Project Green finds common (green) ground between farm and city

Wayzata Sun Sailor: Help wanted: Volunteers called upon for Bushaway Road landscaping

Star Tribune: Pretty plantings along Bushaway Road

St. Thomas University: Measuring the Future of Minnesota's Trees Amidst Climate Change

See articles at greatrivergreening.org/news

Thank You!

MAJOR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS OF PROJECTS AND VOLUNTEER EVENTS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

Cargill
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Great River Greening inspires, engages and leads communities in conserving and caring for the land and water that enrich our lives