



**TRUST FOR
PUBLIC
LAND™**



Metro Big Rivers

The iconic Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix rivers all flow through the Twin Cities metro region, where millions of Minnesotans live. In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, these rivers and their tributaries are often overlooked and increasingly inaccessible natural assets. Historically, these rivers have been predominately used for industry and commerce. Trust for Public Land is working with communities throughout the metro to protect the environmental and recreational benefits their rivers offer as nearby natural assets for public enjoyment.

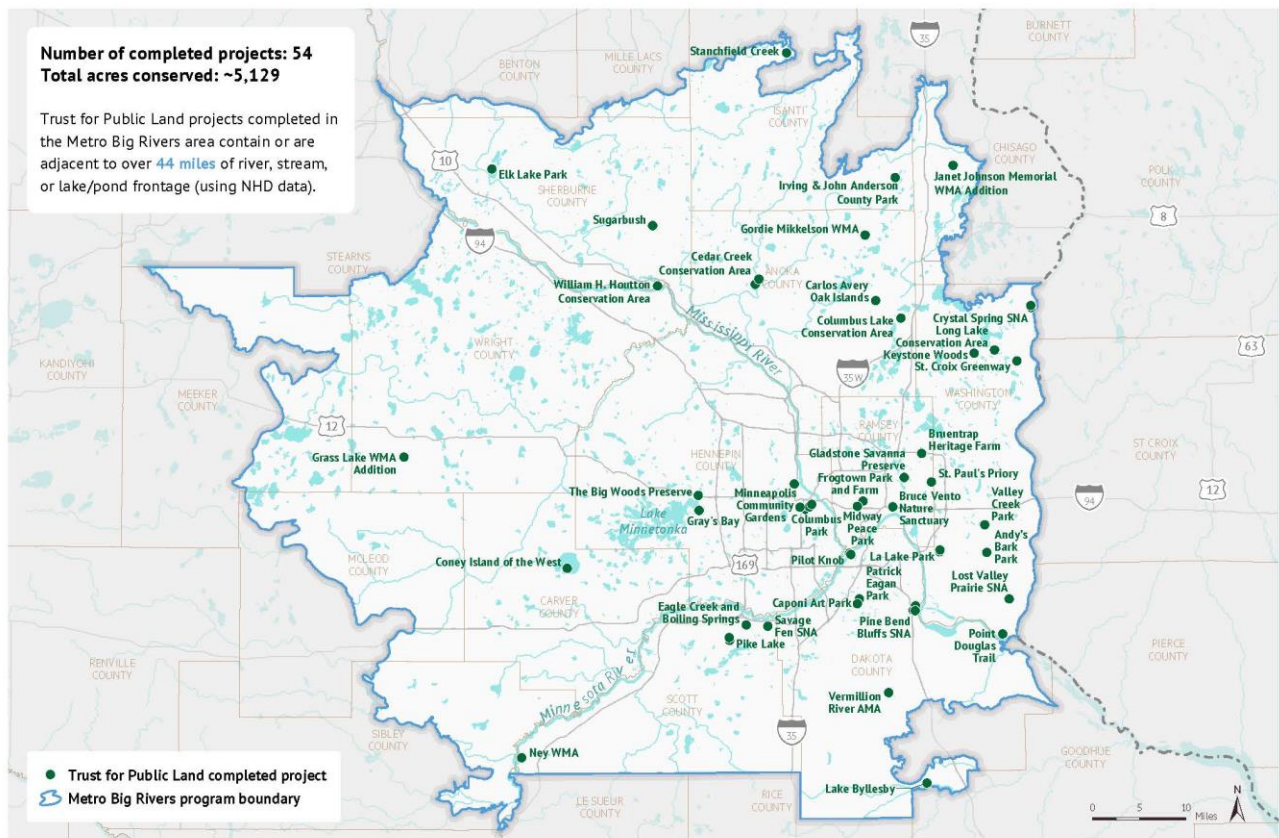
WHAT WE DO

Trust for Public Land is working with several conservation organizations to collaborate with local and state governments to expand, restore, enhance, and connect quality habitat throughout the Twin Cities metro area. Trust for Public Land is protecting high-priority property in the Twin Cities region to conserve habitat and safeguard lands that increase outdoor access for people to enjoy.

Despite the impacts of the Twin Cities metropolitan urbanizing area, high-quality habitats remain. By protecting these threatened lands, we are able to create close-to-home opportunities for millions of Minnesotans to experience a variety of wildlife-based recreation opportunities

RECENT WINS FOR CONSERVATION

- **Crystal Spring Scientific and Natural Area:** This property contains thriving communities of native plants, and habitat for several rare species of birds and plants. Its dramatic geologic features include a scenic waterfall, steep rocky cliffs, a winding cold-water stream, thick old forests, and panoramic views of the National Wild and Scenic St. Croix River. The Trust for Public Land protected 60 acres near Scandia to help create the Crystal Spring Scientific and Natural Area.
- **Coney Island of the West:** Located in Lake Waconia, this former island resort is now thriving with nature and is available for the public to enjoy. Trust for Public Land protected the island as an addition to Carver County Lake Waconia Regional Park.
- **William H. Houlton Conservation Area:** With seven miles of shoreline at the confluence of the Mississippi and Elk Rivers, this 335-acre property was previously one of the largest pieces of unprotected land along this stretch of the Mississippi River. Now the area's floodplain forest, oak savanna, and restored prairie will provide outstanding opportunities for public recreation.



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MINNESOTA RIVERS: SUB-PROGRAMS

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