

HABITAT PROTECTION IN URBAN AND DEVELOPING AREAS

INDICATOR: Number of habitat acres protected and restored in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area

WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Urban growth patterns directly and indirectly impact natural habitats. Current patterns of low-density development continue to threaten remaining habitats by fragmenting areas into smaller and smaller parcels that cannot sustain healthy plant and animal populations or by eliminating habitat altogether. By 2030, more than 1 million new residents and nearly 500,000 new homes are projected in the 11-county metropolitan area alone. In the face of such growth pressures, the protection and restoration of undeveloped lands is essential to conserve the many benefits of natural habitats that contribute to our quality of life and Minnesota's economic stability.

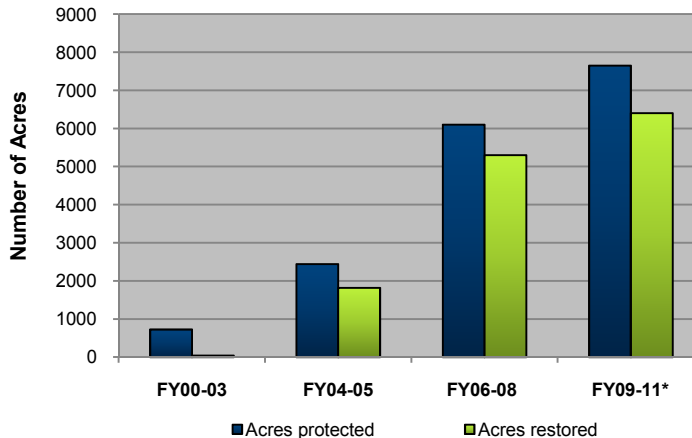
WHAT IS DNR DOING?

For over a decade the Metro Greenways and the Metro Conservation Corridors programs worked in partnership with other organizations to conserve habitat in the rapidly urbanizing metropolitan region. This collaboration protected and restored over 14,000 acres of habitat. In 2008, the DNR began to broaden local options for conservation by providing Community Assistance grants so that cities, townships, and counties could better plan for and implement conservation as growth occurs.

To expand the scope of Metro Greenways statewide, it has morphed into the Community Conservation Assistance program. Future efforts will focus on working with local governments to achieve land and water conservation through a variety of voluntary ways.

TARGET: To be defined in 2011.

Cumulative Habitat Acres Protected and Restored



*FY 09-11 includes only acres from the Metro Conservation Corridor Program

Green Infrastructure - Central Region



This green infrastructure map for DNR's Central Region is one of many important tools the Community Conservation Assistance program uses to help local governments achieve land and water conservation.

LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- Community Conservation Assistance at: www.mndnr.gov/nrplanning/cca
- Metro Conservation Corridors at: www.mndnr.gov/metroconservationcorridors