

Metro Greenways 2007 Community Conservation Assistance Grants

Project Profile

Project Name: ***Critical Areas Inventory***

Geographic Context: ***City of Andover***

Project Contact: ***Courtney Bednaz, City Planner***

Phone 763-767-5147

email courtneyB@ci.andover.mn.us

website link: <http://www.ci.andover.mn.us>

Grant Amount: \$9,746

Project Goal: Classify Andover's natural and semi-natural areas and assess the overall quality to aid staff and commission members to protect, restore and encourage private land stewardship.

Project Outcome: MN Land Classification Cover System (MLCCS) Level 5 Inventory with quality and invasive modifiers at 11 sites. This information will be used to develop management goals and plans.

Project Overview:

Base maps for the inventory incorporated the following information:

- 2005 Farm Service Administration true-color low altitude aerial
- MLCCS 2001 Inventory
- MCBS
- DNR Infrared aerial photos
- National Wetlands Inventory
- parcel & geopolitical boundaries
- transportation information

Landowners with holdings in the 11 sites were contacted to request access to their property. Public outreach about the inventory and the city's larger effort to protect and manage natural areas using resources from the successful ballot referendum passed in 2007 were part of the project. The field inventory was conducted between mid-August and October of 2008. In addition to assigning the 5-digit MLCCS code and modifiers, the inventory identified dominant plant species within the natural area. Good quality natural areas were thoroughly inventoried and more extensive searches were conducted for uncommon or rare species. The field inventory emphasized gathering data on composition, structure and function of natural communities, including disturbance such as exotic species and erosion.

