UPPER MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP
Project Portfolio

Closing the Canopy

BACKGROUND
The Metro Wildlife Corridors partnership will restore forest habitat and link regionally significant forests. Invasive exotic species will be controlled and native forest species will be re-established.

LOCATION
The focus of the Metro Wildlife Corridor project is the 12 county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Closing the Canopy will focus on 2-6 sites within the designated metro wildlife corridor. These interconnected focus areas link protected priority conservation lands.

ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED
The Closing the Canopy project aims to restore degraded forest habitats that are part of, link or buffer regionally significant forest areas to increase their support of priority forest bird species. Emphasis will be on sites and practices which support forest interior and riparian forest birds known to migrate through or nest in the area.

GOALS
- Restore forest openings and improve forest structure and native species diversity.
- Control exotic invasive species.
- Implement demonstration projects using light-on-the-land state-of-art habitat restoration techniques.
- Integrate monitoring feedback and adaptive management.
- Educate and inform landowners and the public about this project.
- Target forest restoration on areas which link, buffer, or enhance regionally significant forest habitat.

RESULTS
Long term protection of the Acrola Mills site was assured when the Minnesota DNR pursed 47 acres through a conservation easement in June 2006. A forest management plan for the site has been completed. A bird survey at the Tangewood site found 29 species, including four species of interest. All species were forest species underscoring the importance of restoring the forest canopy at the Tanglewood site. Bird species response to treatments will continue to be monitored at both sites.

OUTCOMES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- Partnered with Friends of the Mississippi River for 15 acres of invasives removal and restoration work.
- 90 acres of oak forest restoration at Wilder Forest, primarily invasives removal.
- Oak wilt treatment at Arcola Mills including closing the canopy gap with 55 white pine seedlings.
- Four acres of local oaks planted at Tanglewood Forest.

PARTNERS
- **Metro Greenways**
- **Great River Greening**
- **Friends of the Mississippi River**

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The USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry and the Midwest State Foresters have joined in partnership to build a watershed-wide approach to forestry efforts in the Upper Mississippi watershed in order to improve water quality.