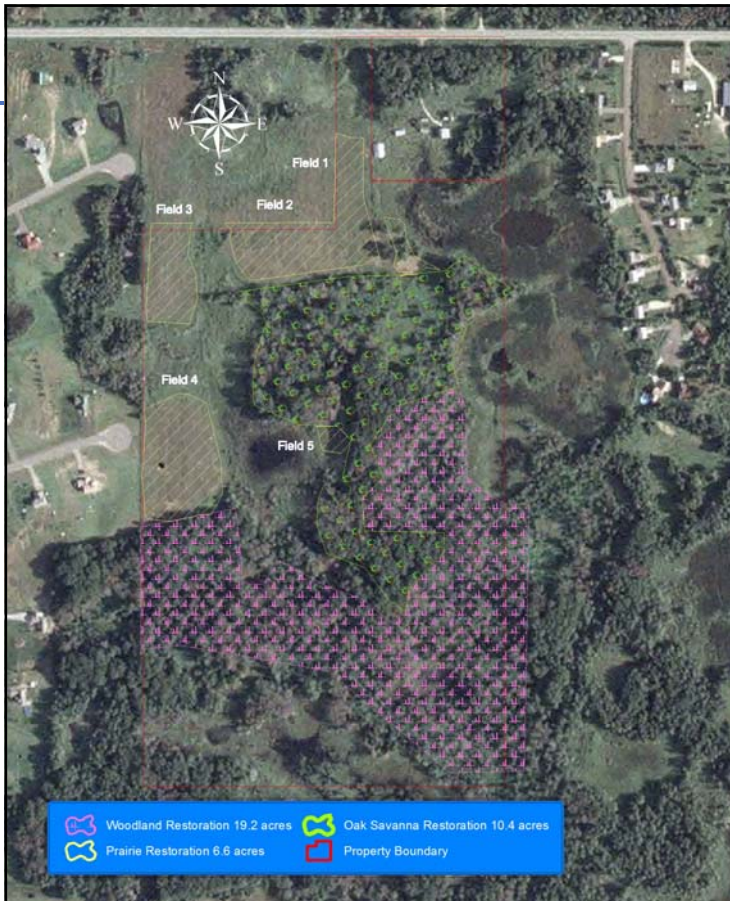


HERB BEACH



Project Background

Since the fall of 2001 the Anoka Conservation District has been working with the owner of a 65 acre property in the City of St. Francis to establish a conservation easement on the property. The landowner has lived on the property since he was 11 years old. His family raised livestock and farmed the fields. He and his brother took over the farm and continued to raise livestock and some crops while working other jobs off the farm. After his brother passed away, and developments encroached on the east and west of the farm, he was committed to protecting the land he has spent nearly his entire life on. In the fall of 2004 the landowner and the Minnesota Land Trust signed a conservation easement that will ensure the property is never developed and will continue to be a source of habitat for area wildlife.



Beach Restoration Map

Restoration Goals

- Remove oak wilt infested trees
- Convert non-native grassland to tall-grass prairie
- Establish oak savanna forbs and grasses
- Restore oak woodland with native trees



Restoration efforts focus on re-establishing native communities

Project Specs

Restoration Type	Acres
Prairie	6.6
Oak Savanna	10.4
Oak Woodland	19.2

Planting	Number
Native Trees and Shrubs, Mixed Variety	3,300

Seeding	Pounds
Prairie grass	215
Oak Savanna Mix	104

Project Partners

- NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Minnesota Land Trust
- Metro Wildlife Corridors Program
- Great River Greening
- Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
- Minnesota DNR



Site-prep

The site was prepared by removing oak-wilt killed and infested trees. Non-native vegetation was eliminated in some areas using a controlled burn. Other areas were treated with glyphosate (e.g. Rodeo®). Good site prep promotes seed germination and allows plants to establish, preventing the invasion of undesirable species.



Installation

Several areas of the property were seeded with a mix of native grass and forb species selected to replicate grasslands and oak savanna. Native trees were also planted with the help of volunteers to re-establish the oak woodland that has been impacted by oak-wilt.



Monitoring

The site will be monitored for several years to ensure the native plants and trees are establishing. Periodic maintenance, including controlled burns, mowing and herbicide treatments may be required to control the spread of undesirable species.

