



Records related to the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

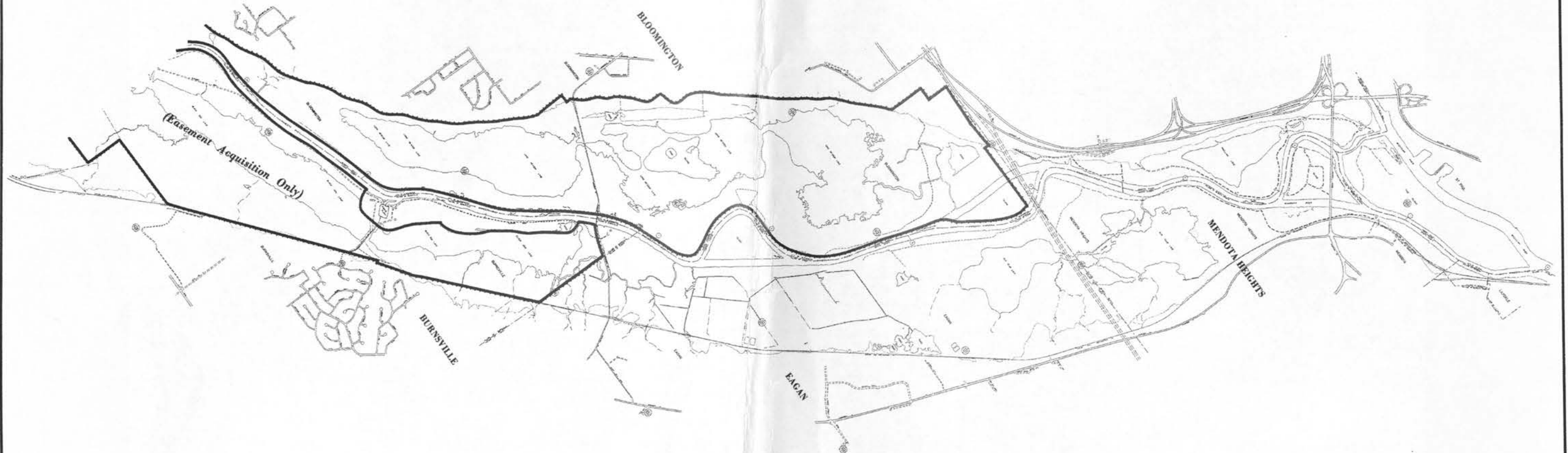
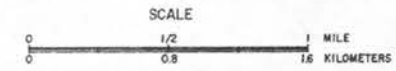
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MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA

CARVER, DAKOTA, HENNEPIN & SCOTT COUNTIES, MINNESOTA



HR. 11323 S. 2097

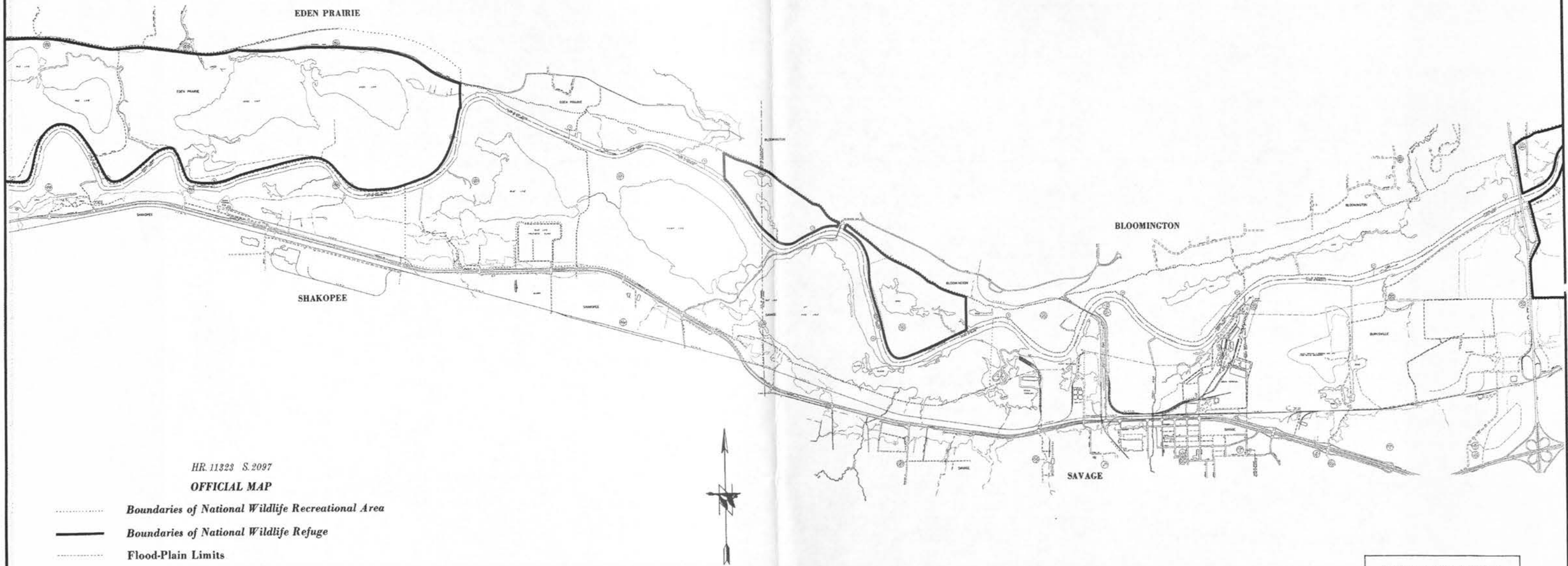
OFFICIAL MAP

- Boundaries of National Wildlife Recreation Area
- Boundaries of National Wildlife Refuge
- Flood-Plain Limits
- Floodway Limits

Nov. 1975

U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
Federal Building, Ft. Snelling
Twin Cities, Minnesota

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA
CARVER, DAKOTA, HENNEPIN & SCOTT COUNTIES, MINNESOTA



HR. 11323 S. 2097

OFFICIAL MAP

..... *Boundaries of National Wildlife Recreational Area*

———— *Boundaries of National Wildlife Refuge*

..... *Flood-Plain Limits*

----- *Floodway Limits*

Nov. 1975

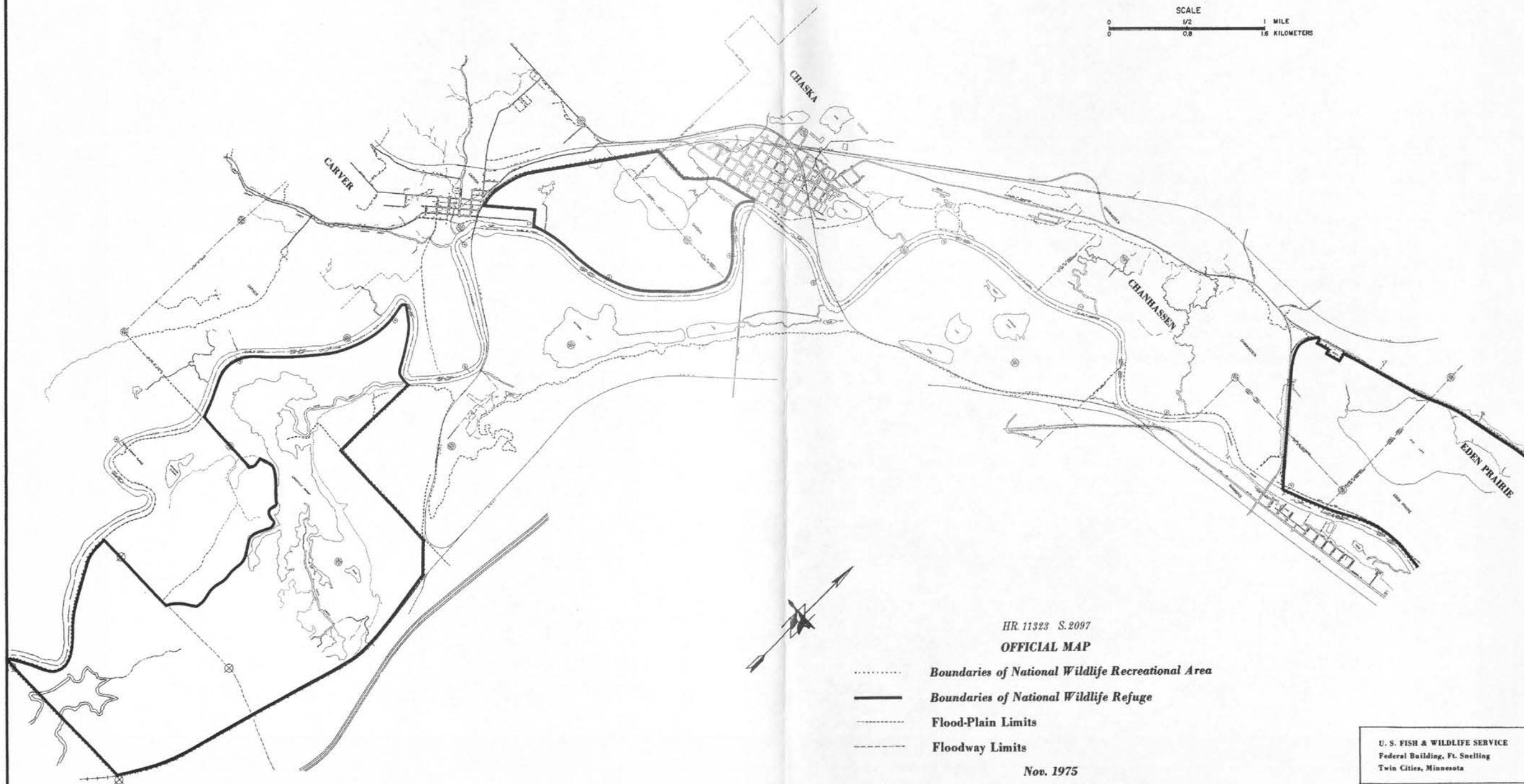
U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
 Federal Building, Ft. Snelling
 Twin Cities, Minnesota

3

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA

CARVER, DAKOTA, HENNEPIN & SCOTT COUNTIES, MINNESOTA

SCALE
0 1/2 1 MILE
0 0.8 1.6 KILOMETERS



HR. 11323 S. 2097
OFFICIAL MAP

Nov. 1975

U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
Federal Building, Ft. Snelling
Twin Cities, Minnesota



the TRUMPETER

Volume 27 Number 6

Bloomington, Minnesota

February 1994

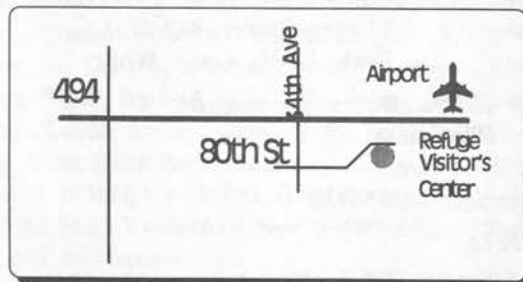
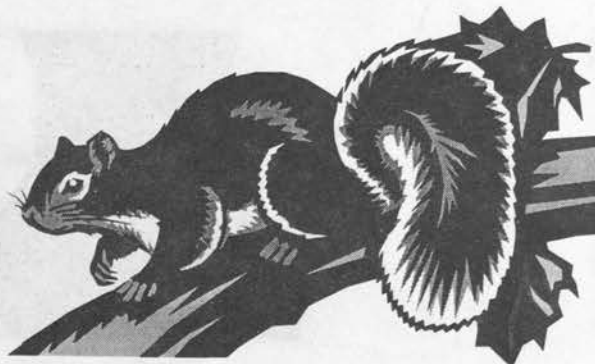
National Wildlife Refuge System

The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of United States lands and waters managed specifically for wildlife. Over 400 refuges, encompassing nearly 90 million acres in 49 states and five trust territories, now comprise the system.

Edward Crozier, the speaker at MRVAC's February meeting, will give us an insight into the operation of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Ed is a MRVAC member and was instrumental in the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Ed's career with refuges spans 36 years and has been marked by an innovative and visionary style, which continues today. He is currently the Wildlife Associate Manager (Refuge Supervisor) in charge of administration and guidance for 20 national Wildlife Refuges and Wetland management Districts in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

Please join us on **Thursday, February 24, 1994, at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge** in Bloomington. You may wish to come early for a social period with coffee, cookies and committee displays beginning at 7:00 pm.



The New Birdathon

...submitted by Drew & Becky Smith

The days are getting longer, and every birder's favorite month will soon be here - May! Along with spring migration also comes National Audubon's annual fund-raiser, Birdathon. MRVAC will once again be participating in this event. A few things have changed for this year. National has expanded the Birdathon concept, allowing broader participation for more chapters nationwide. Birdathon even has a name change: BirdAmerica! The dates of BirdAmerica will be May 7 or 8. We will be looking for participants to bird and solicit sponsors. The event is really fun, regardless of your expertise. It's a great way to get out and experience first hand the spectacle of migration and raise some cash for worthwhile environmental causes. If you haven't participated in the past, why not consider it this year? Some specifics about the event are still being planned. We will be at the general meeting to answer questions, or have participants sign up. Watch the *Trumpeter* for more information, or call us at 688-6467.

Nesting Owls?

...submitted by Mark Lystig

I am planning to get some snowshoes and go into Murphy-Hanrehan park on Sunday **February 13, 1994**. I have not done this before, so it's going to be somewhat of an experiment. Please call me to let me know if you are planning to join me. I plan to start at 9:00 am at the parking lot of the ski area. If you've never been there, I think that I can give you directions. Great Horned Owls start nesting in January and February, so maybe we will be able to find one or more on a nest and observe it in the daytime. With any luck, it won't be as cold as it was the third week of January. Call **Mark Lystig** at 452-1133.

THE TRUMPETER is published monthly, September through May, by the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

President Robin Chaney, 941-9439
Editor Cathy Whittemore, 929-3372
Membership Margery Stoner, 443-2703
Mailing Becky Lystig, Louise White

Please address all correspondence to:

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4134 Beard Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55410
929-3372

Next TRUMPETER deadline: February 15, 1994

URGENT - ACTION - URGENT

STOP THE PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR DUMP

We need your help to stop NSP from being permitted the authority to build 17 Dry Casks to permanently store nuclear waste on an island in the Mississippi River. NSP claims it is temporary storage ... the Courts say it is permanent. You have the power to stop this dump, but only if you act. Call your legislators, write your legislators but please come to the lobby day on Wednesday, February 23rd. We need you!

LOBBY DAY: Wednesday, February 23rd
10am - 5pm

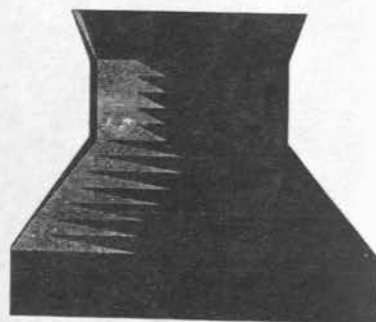
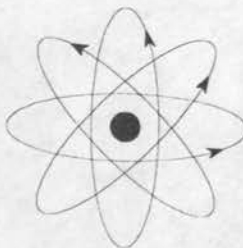
MEET AT: 10am (training & materials given)
State Capitol Room 123

RALLY AT: 12noon-1pm
State Capitol Rotunda

LOBBY: 1pm-5pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Dick Reynolds, MN Audubon Society

PHONE #: 612 / 454-3503



Signs of Spring

...submitted by Mark Lystig

We are rapidly approaching the time of year when birding becomes both more physically possible and more exciting with the returning migrants. Please check your schedules and remember some of the upcoming events.

Dave Baden is planning a **ski/birding trip to Telemark, Wisconsin** on the weekend of **March 4-6** (which may have to be canceled due to problems at the Hostel at Telemark). Call Dave (445-4353) for the latest details.

Linda Getz will be leading a **Saturday, March 5 Signs of Spring** trip to the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge area. She knows the area very well, and can point out signs of spring like wildflowers that are sometimes overlooked (and walked over) by those less aware (such as the author - Mark Lystig). Call her (888-1315) for details.

Finally, **Kathy Heidel** and **Karol Gresser** will again be offering **Bird ID classes** this spring on **March 15 and 22**. They can give you tips about what to look for to make your birding more enjoyable and even easier. Check with either of them for details (Kathy 474-9604 or Karol 890-6533), and look to the *Trumpeter* for details about even more field trips in the coming months. Good Birding!

Environmental Issues Committee

...submitted by EIC

Anyone who lives in Minnesota and is a member of the National Audubon Society is a member of the Minnesota Audubon Council and is welcome to be on the Environmental Issues Committee (EIC). EIC members help formulate legislative actions and conservation policies. A chairperson is elected every two years at the winter Minnesota Audubon Council meeting.

The following list of meetings is subject to change - please call the State Office at 225 - 1830 to confirm.

February 15

March 2

March 23

April 5

April 20

May 24

June 22

September 13

October 26

November 17

All meetings will be held at 7:15 am at Egg & I restaurant, located on University Avenue in St. Paul near Hwy. 280, with the following exceptions: March 23 and April 20 will be 5:30 pm, at the Audubon Office, located at Cedar Avenue and East Exchange.

Beginning Birder's Class

...submitted by Karol Gresser

For those who would like to start birding - or have been at it a year or less - we will cover binoculars, scopes, field guides, and other facets of this popular hobby. Bring your binoculars, if you have them, and paper and pen. Accompanied youth are welcome. Limited class size. Call **Karol Gresser** at 890-6533 for reservations and information. We meet at 9:15 am to noon on **April 9, 1994**, at the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge Center - same place as our regular meetings. This is an indoor class but we will go out at the end if time permits.

1993 Christmas Count

...submitted by Mark Ochs

December 18, 1993, was cloudy but unseasonably warm, with temperatures in the lower to mid thirties. The balmy weather helped to produce the second largest number of species ever recorded on the Bloomington count. We were able to tally 53 different species, which was exceeded only by the 1971 count with 55 species. Additionally, the following six species were recorded during count week: Thayer's Gull, Gadwall, Northern Goshawk, Barred Owl, White-Throated Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow. This year's highlights included an injured Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Song Sparrow, 364 House Finches, Glaucous Gull, and first winter Iceland Gull.

I would like to thank everyone who participated, including the crew who worked on the soup supper at the refuge. The soups, breads, and desserts were great!

This year marked the 25th year of the Bloomington count. I prepared a spreadsheet of all the count totals, in celebration of the count's Silver Anniversary. Thanks to all of the past counters, compilers, and contributors, for making possible these 25 years. I hope that these statistics bring back good memories.

The following individuals participated in this year's count: Mary Heltsley, William Hendrickson, Lou Hibbard, Ken Oulman, Becky Lystig, Vicky Hallman, Arden Aanestad, Tom Goodwin, Crisfor Town, Jan Baker, Helen Lien, Muriel Johansen, Sue Kratsch, John Rehbein, Steve Weston, Lois Sorenson, Phyllis Basford, Jack Telfer, John Falch, Linda Falch, Joe White, Louise White, Joanne Husby, Dave Homzik, Lynn Homzik, Mary Ziegenhagen, Dan Ray, Mary Enley, Doug Mayo, Ruth Hiland, Linda Getz, Doug Roy, Dave Cahlander, Mark Ochs, Mary Vanderford, Ned Winter, Elaine Mellotte, Clare Lutes, and Irene Mills.

MRVAC CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	TOTALS	
DOWNY WOODPECKER	28	60	88	59	61	97	77	91	45	89	91	109	118	76	106	91	53	97	64	47	115	85	112	80	84	2,023	
HAIRY WOODPECKER	17	29	36	35	39	49	70	86	32	65	60	59	71	47	57	47	34	45	33	28	65	41	48	34	46	1,173	
NORTHERN FLICKER	2		1	1		1		6		5	10	3	1	1	2		1				1	1	2	1	3	42	
PILEATED WOODPECKER	5	2	5	5	4	4	3	4	6	11	6	9	6	4	8	5	3	8	4	1	12	9	2	10	3	139	
HORNED LARK				3		2			2					12												19	
BLUE JAY	103	172	146	88	134	193	182	243	128	29	304	205	256	156	149	173	192	52	172	111	281	54	321	166	225	4,239	
AMERICAN CROW	77	52	86	88	65	158	107	192	145	244	225	217	209	301	373	428	402	350	246	637	343	543	700	605	604	7,455	
BLACK - CAPPED CHICKADEE	90	186	254	265	217	391	288	462	304	323	357	399	584	376	458	427	368	395	374	350	468	425	574	349	516	9,170	
BOREAL CHICKADEE				1																						1	
TUFTED TITMOUSE	4	4	7	2	3	6	2																			28	
RED - BREASTED NUTHATCH	3	1	6	5		5	2		8	5	2	5	4		9		15	5	4	2	9	2	2	3	7	104	
WHITE - BREASTED NUTHATCH	35	60	157	99	82	236	95	143	77	107	95	123	193	112	134	111	121	131	120	96	167	117	119	84	121	2,935	
BROWN CREEPER	6	11	23	8	8	10	10	12	6	6	20	13	12	2	7	5	1	6	16	6	9	2	2	5	8	214	
CAROLINA WREN																						1				1	
GOLDEN - CROWNED KINGLET				1										1				5								7	
EASTERN BLUEBIRD																							1			1	
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE															1											1	
HERMIT THRUSH											1															1	
AMERICAN ROBIN	59	5	5	1	1		1	6	3	1	10	4	17		33	2	8	7	138	3	190	16	15	31	14	570	
VARIED THRUSH				1																						2	
GRAY CATBIRD				1																						1	
BROWN THRASHER		2													1											3	
BOHEMIAN WAXWING									1						2											3	
CEDAR WAXWING		1	47			9	24	13		69	87	70	47	84	199	2	31	172	93	13	141	36	71	71	39	1,319	
NORTHERN SHRIKE	3	4	3	5	2	1	5	7	1	9	2	2	6	2	2		1			1	1	1	4	1	1	64	
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE										1																1	
EUROPEAN STARLING	1320	976	1502	284	645	1932	2087	856	711	7999	2990	983	1804	1212	695	1039	802	1440	667	660	714	538	1440	885	1184	34,678	
NORTHERN CARDINAL	41	66	70	56	44	45	43	52	51	44	81	96	109	45	59	84	77	92	130	81	141	128	342	121	157	2,206	
ROGE - BREASTED GROSBEAK							1																			1	
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	246	113	70	277	1448	397	452	925	133	64	458	797	74	360	46	277	77	77	609	142	500	116	41	62	58	7,660	
CHIPPING SPARROW						1																				1	
FIELD SPARROW												1														1	
FOX SPARROW				1			2																			3	
SONG SPARROW						2	1	7			1	2					2		12	11					1	44	
SWAMP SPARROW										1																1	
WHITE - THROATED SPARROW	1			1									1		2				2							7	
WHITE - CROWNED SPARROW			2	1											1											4	
HARRIS' SPARROW															2						10					12	
DARK - EYED JUNCO	81	87	126	114	329	238	191	570	195	195	336	485	193	361	176	317	197	118	306	87	353	242	129	98	216	5,630	
SPARROW (SPECIES)																					4					4	
SNOW BUNTING								225	83			7					1									316	
RED - WINGED BLACKBIRD		6	3	28	2	335		5	2		6	2	5	1	81		2								1	479	
MEADOWLARK (SPECIES)				2																						2	
YELLOW - HEADED BLACKBIRD							1																			1	
RUSTY BLACKBIRD								1				1														3	
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD						1		2																		3	
COMMON GRACKLE	4	8	9	4	77	53	5	14		3	14	64	50	38	38	11	17	10	3	44	5	1	9	5	4	47	535
BROWN - HEADED COWBIRD									35																	132	
NORTHERN ORIOLE			1																							1	
BLACKBIRD (SPECIES)																								16		17	
PINE GROSBEAK			1						11								3				15					30	
PURPLE FINCH	37	2	43	25	2	43	14	8		4	14	4	85	17	16	9	4	9	5	29	1	14	9	13	20	427	
HOUSE FINCH																						19		91	364	474	
WHITE - WINGED CROSSBILL									8				6													14	
COMMON REDPOLL	232		768		186		868		1587	34		107	108	2	2	11	8	113			63	14	55		2	4,160	
HOARY REDPOLL			1																							1	
PINE SISKIN	102		6	67	80	1	1	73	80	50	1	95	17		49	2	60	59	49		114	22		2	9	939	
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	68	287	66	29	204	131	185	195	81	223	181	215	260	104	122	181	155	93	114	118	163	224	120	185	209	3,848	
EVENING GROSBEAK			19				6			3				1	1											32	
HOUSE SPARROW	786	2213	1650	1005	805	1492	1009	1520	1389	1231	1207	1705	1738	1103	885	947	1108	1184	1234	1288	1645	1566	1593	995	1158	32,514	
TOTALS	8,008	6,545	7,288	5,615	6,000	14,772	9,576	13,213	7,899	13,386	10,643	11,753	10,238	8,638	7,569	5,550	5,985	6,317	7,701	6,857	11,374	8,362	9,768	12,942	10,937	226,936	

PRAIRIE ISLAND / NSP HAZARDOUS NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE

If nuclear power created no hazardous waste there would be little discussion over Prairie Island or any other nuclear power plant in the country. That, however, is the focus of the issue. While nuclear power has many attributes, the nuclear industry has refused to address the hazardous nuclear waste which is produced by such facilities.

The citizens of Minnesota were convinced by NSP in the 70's to build two nuclear power plants on the Mississippi River. They promised that each facility would only hold six months of hazardous nuclear waste because the federal government would remove from the state whatever hazardous waste the plants produced. Unfortunately the federal government never met that commitment. Now they've piled up, and we're stuck with, over 30 times that amount. Did anyone ask any of us if we were willing to accept that high a risk? What would have been our answer in the 70's if we would have known this? An old adage goes something like this, getting fooled once is understandable but getting fooled the second time is stupidity! Now, with NSP's proposed dry cask storage, they are asking us to almost double that amount again. NSP's words today are strangely familiar to those of the 70's..."this is just temporary"... "don't worry the federal government is going to haul it away". This time, however, we've got some help from our state courts. NSP failed to convince the Minnesota courts that the federal government would be in a position to take possession of the nuclear waste in less than 25 years, if at all. Subsequently the court ruled that NSP's plan constituted permanent storage not temporary and therefore must be approved by the legislature.

How much hazardous nuclear waste are we willing to accept responsibility for in the state?. There are two apposing groups within the legislature. First the politicians that simply want to give NSP the permit and be done with it. The other recognizes the need to address nuclear power and the hazardous nuclear waste it produces through a comprehensive state energy policy. That state policy would address all energy issues on a long term basis along with where, how, and how much hazardous nuclear waste should be allowed in the state. Once established any permit issued would be in the context of that policy. The line is now being drawn in the sand. One group of legislators wants a quick fix and chooses to pass the problem on to our children and grandchildren. The other recognizes its responsibility and is trying to convince their fellow members in the legislature to form a constructive long range solution.

Who wins in this legislative battle is up to you. What can you do? Write, phone, meet with your legislator, help organize your chapter, join Audubon's state committee, add your phone number to Audubon's energy phone tree, attend lobby day at the state capitol on February 23rd, or whatever you can. If you have questions or need additional information call or write Dick Reynolds 1794-E. Bluestone Dr. Eagan, MN 55122, phone (612) 454-3503



Saint Paul Audubon Society
30 East 10th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101



1994 Experience Spring!

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNOUNCES SPRING BIRDING CLASSES

Want to be a better birder? The 1994 Experience Spring! class is being offered for birders in the Twin Cities using slides from the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and conducted by Chase Davies. Chase is an enthusiastic leader and educator who enjoys taking groups into the field. An experienced environmental educator, she taught a similar class in 1992 and other birding classes for the Bell Museum (University of Minnesota extension classes) in the *Compleat Scholar* Program. A life member of Audubon and a long time birder, Chase has been an invaluable birding resource person on our Crane trips to the Platte River, and is spending March, 1994 in Grand Island engaged in public education about the Sandhill Cranes and Platte River ecology. This class is especially helpful to beginning and intermediate birders.

This year's class will have four evening meetings, each followed by a Saturday field trip to take advantage of your new knowledge. Each Monday evening meeting will be from 6:30 – 8:30, followed the next Saturday with a directly-related field trip.

Experience Spring Schedule:

- April 18 – Class at Harriet Alexander Nature Center in Roseville.....April 23 – Field trip to Lebanon Hills.
April 25 – Class at Dodge Nature Center in West Saint Paul.....April 30 – Field trip to Crosby Farm Park.
May 2 – Class at Harriet Alexander Nature Center in Roseville.....May 7 – Field trip to Frontenac.
May 16 – Class at Dodge Nature Center in West Saint PaulMay 21 – Field trip to Afton State Park.

Fee: \$75 per person for 1994 Experience Spring! includes four classroom sessions and four field trips. Registration is by check in order received. A confirmation letter and a map to Harriet Alexander Nature Center will be mailed. Field trip maps will be provided at the first class meeting. The non-refundable handling fee is \$10, with the balance returned if cancellation is received one week prior to the first class. No partial refunds.

Questions? Call Fred Waltz, Registrar, at 454-8994.

1994 Birding Classes Registration Form

Please register _____ people for the 1994 Experience Spring! class at \$75 per registrant:

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

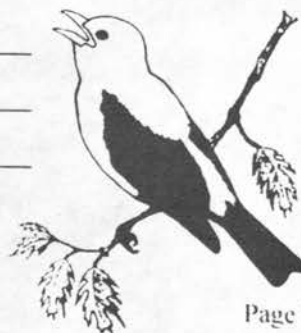
Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

Make check payable to *Saint Paul Audubon Society Class* and mail with this form to:
Fred Waltz, Registrar, 2095 Delaware Avenue, Mendota Heights, MN 55118-4801



Opportunity Knocks

To learn the secrets of Leading a Field Trip

If you have a favorite place to bird, perhaps you have shown it to someone else. If so, you already have led a field trip. Or maybe you would be willing to show it to others if you knew a bit more about leading a field trip of like-minded people.

Two leader-training mornings are planned for **Saturday, April 2** and **Saturday, April 16**, starting at the **Bass Ponds** in the Minnesota River Valley. Chase Davies will discuss and demonstrate field tested techniques which make the leader's position enjoyable. The ability to lead a bird trip is not dependent on expert bird identification skills. While birds are used as the focus, other environmental topics will be included.

No Fee! For additional information contact **Fred Waltz at 454-8994**.

"Leading a Field Trip" Training Registration Form

Yes, I want to learn how to lead a field trip. I understand the training is free. The date I will attend is:

_____ April 2

_____ April 16

8:00 am - 11:00 am Bass Ponds

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please mail this form to:

Fred Waltz, Registrar

2095 Delaware Ave

Mendota Heights, MN 55118-4801



Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter
P.O. Box 20400
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

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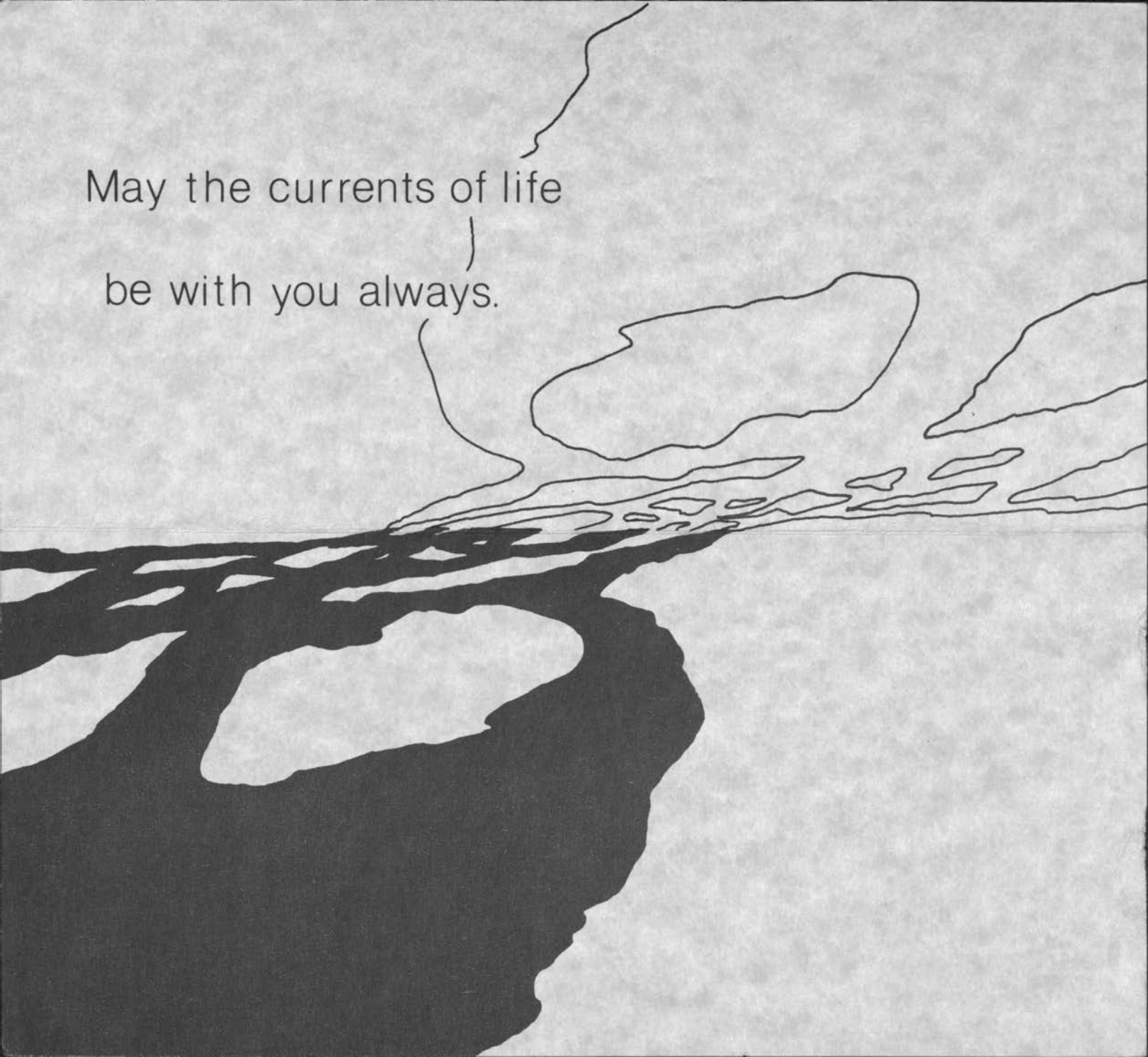
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Paid for with private funds from Friends of the Minnesota Valley



MINNESOTA VALLEY
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE

May the currents of life
be with you always.



THE 25 LARGEST MINNESOTA FOUNDATIONS

RANKED BY 1986 YEAR-END ASSETS

RANK	NAME ADDRESS	ASSETS	GRANTS PAID NO. OF GRANTS	YEAR ESTABLISHED TYPE	GEOGRAPHIC EMPHASIS	FOCUS OF FUNDING	CONTACT PHONE
1	The McKnight Foundation 410 Peavey Building Minneapolis, MN 55402	\$711.3 million	\$31.6 million* 334	1953 Independent/Family	State of Minnesota	Human Services, Arts & Humanities, Education, Health, Environment	Russell Ewald 612-333-4220
2	The Bush Foundation E-900 First National Bank Building St. Paul, MN 55101	\$344.9 million	\$17.9 million 142	1953 Independent/Family	Primarily Minnesota, N. Dakota, S. Dakota	Education, Human Services, Arts, Community & Social Welfare, Health, and Leadership Development	Humphrey Doerman 612-227-0891
3	Anderson Foundation Bayport, MN 55003	\$177.0 million	\$3.9 million na	1959 Independent/Family	National	Supports liberal arts colleges that do not use tax funding, and other areas	Anderson Foundation 612-439-5150
4	Northwest Area Foundation W-975 First National Bank Building St. Paul, MN 55101	\$173.5 million	\$6.8 million* 128	1934 Independent/Family	Minnesota, Iowa, N. Dakota, S. Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington	Economic Development & Community Revitalization, Health & Social Services, Environment & Technology, Leadership, Arts Youth Education	Terry T. Saario 612-224-9635
5	C.K. Blandin Foundation 100 Pokegama Ave. N. Grand Rapids, MN 55744	\$161.0 million ¹	\$6.5 million* 127	1941 Independent/Family	Northeast Minnesota and state of Minnesota	Economic Development, Human Services, Education, Leadership, Arts	Paul M. Olson 218-326-0523
6	The Saint Paul Foundation 1120 Norwest Center St. Paul, MN 55101	\$92.2 million	\$4.7 million 771	1940 Community	Greater St. Paul area	Welfare, Arts & Humanities, Education, Health & Human Services	Paul A. Verret 612-224-5463
7	Otto Bremer Foundation 55 E. Fifth St. St. Paul, MN 55101	\$62.3 million	\$3.3 million* 497	1944 Independent/Family	Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin	Early Childhood Education, Community Service Opportunities for Youth, Rural Community Issues, Health, Human Services, Religion	John Kostishack 612-227-8036
8	The Phillips Foundation 2345 Kennedy St. N.E. Minneapolis, MN 55413	\$56.8 million	\$2.2 million 55	1944 Independent/Family	Worldwide	Unmet Human and Social Needs	Thomas P. Cook 612-331-6230
9	F.R. Bigelow Foundation 1120 Norwest Center St. Paul, MN 55101	\$51.9 million	\$2.1 million 89	1947 Independent/Family	Greater St. Paul area	Education, Social Services, Humanities	Paul A. Verret 612-224-5463
10	Alliss Educational Foundation W-555 First National Bank Building St. Paul, MN 55101	\$48.3 million	\$3.0 million 23	1959 Independent/Family	State of Minnesota	Secondary and post-secondary education	Jeffrey Peterson 612-223-7000
11	The Minneapolis Foundation 500 Foshay Tower Minneapolis, MN 55402	\$45.6 million	\$4.4 million 518	1915 Community	State of Minnesota	Human Services, Community Affairs, Arts, Education, Health, Religion, Environment	Marion G. Etzwiler 612-339-7343
12	L.A. O'Shaughnessy Foundation W-555 First National Bank Building St. Paul, MN 55101	\$33.9 million	\$1.6 million 50	1941 Independent/Family	Primarily Minnesota, also Kansas, Texas, Illinois	Charitable organizations in general	Paul J. Kelly 612-291-5130
13	Jerome Foundation W-2090 First National Bank Building St. Paul, MN 55101	\$31.8 million	\$1.5 million 103	1965 Independent/Family	Minnesota and New York City	Supports programs in Dance, Film & Video, Literature, Music, Theater, Visual Arts, Humanities	Cynthia Gehrig 612-224-9431
14	The Cargill Foundation P.O. Box 9300 Minneapolis, MN 55440	\$29.5 million	\$2.0 million 131	1951 Corporate	Twin Cities metro area	Education, Social Programs, Health, Culture, Civic	Calvin J. Anderson 612-475-6122
15	Emma B. Howe Memorial Foundation 500 Foshay Tower Minneapolis, MN 55402	\$28.8 million	\$0* 0	1985 Support to Minneapolis Foundation	State of Minnesota	Low-Income Families & Children, Handicapped & Health Services, Self- Sufficiency Programs, Education & Training, Policy Development Programs, Other Family Support	Marion G. Etzwiler 612-339-7343
16	Ordean Foundation 501 Ordean Building Duluth, MN 55802	\$22.5 million	\$1.3 million 50	1933 Independent/Family	City of Duluth and budding townships in St. Louis County	Low-Income Groups: Aged, Children/Youth, Handicapped, Refugees	Antoinette (Toni) Poupore-Haats 218-726-4785
17	Mardag Foundation 1120 Norwest Center St. Paul, MN 55101	\$19.9 million	\$847,336 60	1969 Independent/Family	State of Minnesota	Education, Social Services, Conservation & Environment, Gerontology, Cultural Heritage & the Arts	Paul Verret 612-224-5463
18	B.C. Gamble and P.W. Skogmo Foundation 500 Foshay Tower Minneapolis, MN 55402	\$19.3 million	\$1.5 million 103	1948 Support to Minneapolis Foundation	Twin Cities metro area	Human Services, Health, Education, Community Affairs & Development, Arts	Marion G. Etzwiler 612-339-7343
19	General Mills Foundation P.O. Box 1113 Minneapolis, MN 55440	\$19.0 million	\$6.1 million 547 ²	1954 Corporate	Areas where a General Mills company is located	Social Service & Health, Civic, Cultural, Education	James P. Shannon 612-540-3164
20	Honeywell Foundation Honeywell Plaza Minneapolis, MN 55408	\$17.6 million	\$6.1 million 1,130 ³	1958 Corporate	Communities where Honeywell facilities are located	Human Services, Education, Arts & Civic	Donald Conley 612-870-6821
21	Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation 625 Fourth Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55415	\$17.1 million	\$177,377 29	1982 Corporate	National	Ethnic/Minority Ministry, Rural Intervention	Terry Tietz 612-340-5821
22	Carolyn Foundation 2106 First Bank Place West Minneapolis, MN 55402	\$16.8 million	\$710,000 46	1964 Independent/Family	Twin Cities, New Haven, Conn.	Education, Arts, Social Problems, Health, Environment	Carol J. Fetzer 612-339-7101
23	Bayport Foundation Bayport, MN 55003	\$16.0 million	\$516,503 125	1941 Corporate	Twin Cities metro area and western Wisconsin	Hospitals/Medical, Community Services, Religion, Education	W.A. Wellman 612-439-5150
24	Margaret Rivers Fund c/o First National Bank Stillwater, MN 55082	\$14.3 million	\$422,000 250	na Independent/Family	Communities of the St. Croix Valley	Health Care, Handicapped, Elderly, Religion, Education, Welfare	William Klapp 612-439-4411
25	Tozer Foundation W-555 First National Bank Building St. Paul, MN 55101	\$13.8 million	\$713,891 na	1946 Independent/Family	State of Minnesota	Individual scholarships to undergraduate college students, other educational and civic	David Robinson 612-223-7000

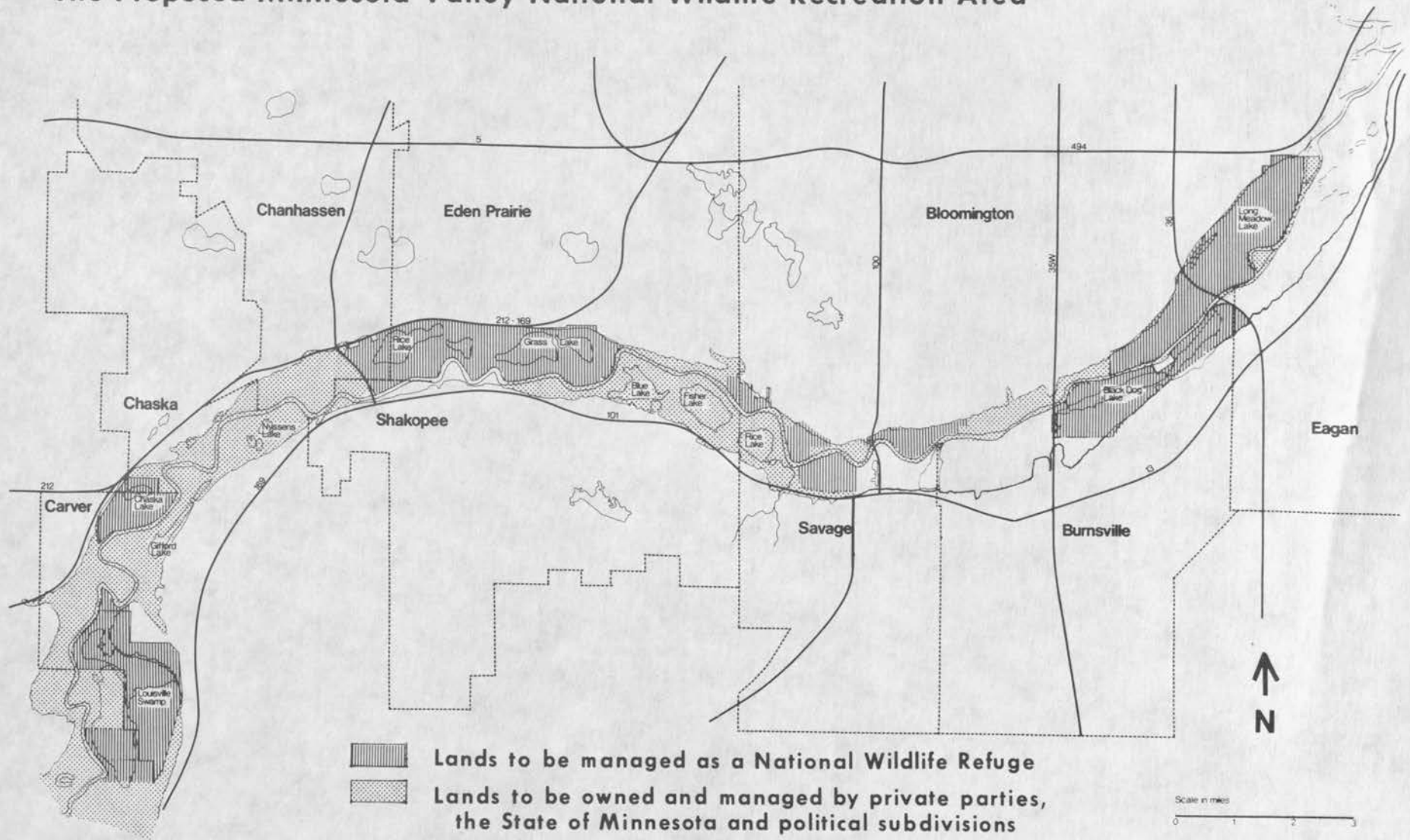
RESEARCH BY Jeanne Corbett

NOTES: ■ Information for this list was provided by the Minnesota Council on Foundations, annual reports, and phone interviews with foundation contacts. ■ Figures for corporate foundations show only foundation grants and do not include other corporate giving.

* Includes program-related investments paid during the year.

¹ Includes assets of the C.K. Blandin Residuary Trust. ² Represents grants paid during the five-month period from the establishment of the Emma B. Howe Memorial Foundation in October 1985, through the end of its first fiscal year in March 1986. Although it made no grants in its first five months, the Emma B. Howe Foundation paid \$1.8 million in grants during its 1987 fiscal year. ³ Does not include gift-matching grants.

The Proposed Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area



Gifts for Wildlife



National Wildlife Refuge

This Gifts Catalog is for people and organizations who care about wildlife. By making a donation, you can help build the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and guarantee future generations the gift of wildlife.

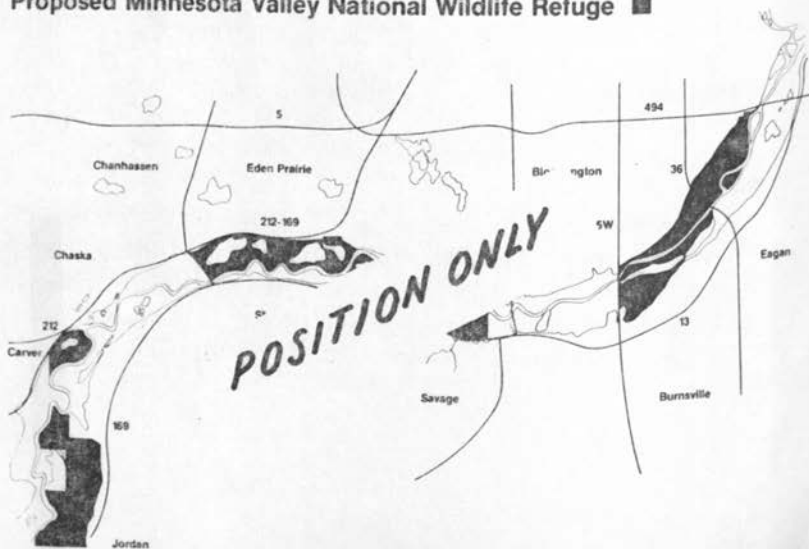
Help Create a Wildlife Refuge

Concerned citizens convinced Congress to authorize the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in 1976. Although portions are already in public ownership and facilities are being constructed, it will take years to complete the refuge. In the meantime, precious opportunities to protect wildlife habitats and to provide wildlife oriented recreation and education will be lost.

This gifts catalog describes how you can support the refuge with a gift, of money, equipment, materials, or your time. The examples listed give you an indication of the range of costs and the types of needs we have. Please indicate your choice on the donation form. Whatever form your tax-deductible gift takes we will recognize your generosity with a certificate and appropriate publicity, or if you prefer, your request for anonymity will be honored.

All donations (other than personal services) are tax-deductible charitable contributions. Federal tax law now allows a tax deduction for those who do not itemize deductions. You will receive a letter of appreciation acknowledging your gift and its value which can be used for income tax purposes.

Proposed Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge ■



Gift Ideas for Wildlife

Help Enhance Wildlife Habitat

By helping to improve refuge habitats you are helping to increase the refuge's value to wildlife without actually expanding its boundary.

Wetlands

You can help finance projects to improve existing marshes, restore previously drained marshes, and create new wetlands to benefit waterbirds, aquatic mammals and amphibians.

Ditch plugs	\$250 ea.	Dikes	\$50/ft.
Backhoe rental	\$120/hour	Bulldozer rental	\$125/hour
Nesting islands	\$10,000 ea.	Ponds	\$2,000 ea.
Major control structure	\$75,000 ea.	Small weir	\$800 ea.

Grasslands

Native prairie exists in the Minnesota River Valley today only in scattered patches and there is a need to improve and expand these areas to benefit songbirds, small mammals, and prairie flowers.

Prairie grass seeding	\$400/acre	Prairie flowers	\$2/plant
Controlled burning	\$60/acre	Mulching	\$600/acre
Mowing brush	\$50/acre	Spraying	\$100/acre

Woodlands

The mature bottomland and bluff edge forests that border the valley provide sheltered migration corridors and year round homes for wildlife ranging from pileated woodpeckers to white-tailed deer. Funds are needed to develop information materials that will encourage private landowners to protect the valley forests.

Help Preserve Wildlands

You can help create a living tribute to your own appreciation of the natural world by making a tax-deductible donation of land or dollars to purchase land in the valley. Any amount of donated money will help us purchase land that costs from \$1,000 per acre for wetland in the floodplain to several dollars per square foot for developable bluff land.

Help Wildlife Populations

Certain wildlife populations need monitoring and study to be maintained at optimum levels. Specialized equipment and people with special skills are needed to do this work.

Radio tracking equipment	\$6,000/set	Data processing	\$10/hour
Computer programming	\$50/hr.	Map plotter	\$10,000 ea.
Capture gear (nets, tags)	\$1,000/set	Vehicle	\$8,000 ea.

Help Sponsor Student Research

By funding research projects you can help provide the answers to questions crucial to the management of valley wildlife. University wildlife management students will conduct studies of white-tailed deer, wood ducks, egrets, herons, songbirds, muskrats and raccoons. Students will evaluate the effects of urban storm water run-off on refuge marshes.

Three month summer study	\$1,200
One year special study	\$8,000
Two year masters project	\$16,000
Two year Ph.D thesis	\$20,000

Help the Public Enjoy the Refuge

Minnesota Valley Refuge is new, and most planned public use facilities are still undeveloped. You can help us make the refuge a better place for wildlife and people to meet by giving to one of these categories.

Facilities

Trail construction	\$8/ft.	Trailhead parking	\$1,500/space
Trail signs	\$200 ea.	Footbridge	\$300/ft.
Information kiosk	\$3,000 ea.	Outdoor classroom	\$20,000 ea.
Marsh boardwalk	\$45/ft.	Observation blind	\$10,000 ea.

Program and Materials

Sponsor a student intern naturalist	\$1,500/semester
Brochure design and printing	\$3,000 ea.
Environmental study materials for students	\$50/kit
Audio-visual equipment	\$300/projector
Color slide-sound program	\$1,000 ea.
Environmental education teacher workshop	\$1,000 ea.
Story-teller school visits	\$75 ea.

Help the Volunteer Program

Many people contribute their time to help build the wildlife refuge. Equipment is needed to help them do an even better job.

Binoculars to conduct wildlife surveys	\$100 ea.
Volunteer uniforms	\$75 ea.
First aid and CPR training for trail patrol	\$50/volunteer
Volunteer recognition materials	\$25/set

The refuge is always looking for new volunteers. Contact volunteer coordinator Tom Worthington at the refuge headquarters if you have an interest in helping us build a better refuge.

Help Promote Wildlife Giving

Printing and distribution costs of this gifts catalog will have to be multiplied many times to reach those people most likely to contribute to this wildlife conservation effort. Your donation could have a multiplier effect by helping to promote additional giving by others.

Reprinting this gift catalog	\$300 per 2,500 copies
Bulk mailing postage	\$50 per 1,000 copies
Purchase select mailing lists	\$250 per 1,000 names
Advertising package	\$10,000
Fund raising campaign	\$50,000

How to Donate

Please specify below which activity in the Minnesota Valley Refuge gifts catalog you would like to support with your donation.

Activity _____ Gift\$ _____

Activity _____ Gift\$ _____

Activity _____ Gift\$ _____

Or, if you do not specify an activity, you can make a donation of any amount. Just check here () Amount \$ _____

IMPORTANT: If you wish to donate an item rather than money for its purchase, please contact Refuge Manager Ed Crozier at (612) 854-5900 for specifications and to make the necessary arrangements.

Please make your check payable to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and mail it, along with this gift selection form, to:

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, 4101 E. 80th St.,
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Your Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone Number () _____ Signature _____

If you wish to discuss your donation, please call Ed Crozier at refuge headquarters (612) 854-5900. Or, if you prefer to have him call you, please check here ().

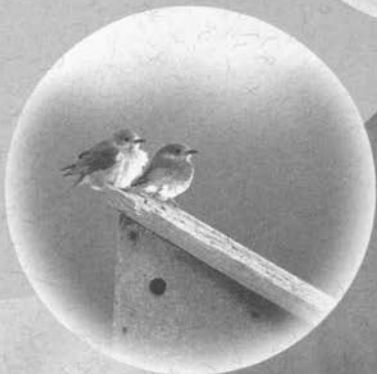
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Graphic design donated by Seitz Yamamoto Moss Inc., Minneapolis.
Printing donated by the Friends of the Minnesota Valley.



Friends of the Minnesota Valley

*Leadership in
Stewardship™*





Our Mission

Citizen leaders in the Lower Minnesota River Valley were instrumental in helping establish the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in 1976. The activities of this core group led to the founding of Friends of the Minnesota Valley six years later. As the primary non-profit support group for the Refuge and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed, the Friends' mission is to provide leadership and build partnerships within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed that will:

- Protect, restore and foster respect for natural and cultural resources;
- Improve water quality;
- Advance, through education, an understanding of individual connections to the watershed and the role they play in its protection; and
- Guide community decisions that impact the Lower Minnesota Valley.

Building on a strong tradition of citizens dedicated to the principles of individual responsibility for stewardship of our natural and cultural resources, the Friends' ***Leadership in Stewardship™*** campaign focuses on working with a variety of stakeholders to find common ground and develop innovative conservation strategies on issues affecting the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed.

Our Programs

Friends of the Minnesota Valley is focusing its conservation efforts in three areas:

Enhancing Refuge Support and Management

As the primary non-profit partner of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the Friends are working to ensure that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has the funding and other resources it needs to adequately conserve wildlife habitat and native plant communities; and to educate visitors on the importance of protecting this special place for future generations. We accomplish this by educating elected officials on Refuge funding needs; affecting short-term and long-term Refuge planning and management decisions; increasing public awareness and support for Refuge programs; and building relationships with area communities on issues such as controlling the spread of invasive non-native plants, limiting stormwater runoff, encouraging low-impact development, and banning inappropriate and damaging recreational activities within the Refuge.

Among our most significant achievements, the Friends led an effort that resulted in a \$26.09 million settlement making it possible for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge to replace resource values and environmental educational opportunities lost due to airport expansion.



Building Partnerships for Stewardship of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed

As the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area continues to expand, associated development pressures are increasing and threatening the integrity of the Refuge and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed. The Friends are acting on several fronts to engage citizens, businesses, public agencies, and elected officials in discussions on how to minimize the impacts of public works projects, private construction projects and other activities on natural and cultural resources linked to the Refuge and the Minnesota River.

In addition, we are working with private landowners, city leaders, water planners and others to instill a sense of appreciation and connection to both the Refuge and the River. The Friends are striving to find new and proactive ways to promote private investment in resource conservation efforts in the Lower Minnesota River Valley, including teaming up with our **Corporate Associates for Conservation** for on-site restoration projects and linking community economic and environmental goals through our **Minnesota Valley Community Partners** program. Among the tools we use are education of city officials and staff on non-point source pollution and the negotiation of cooperative agreements that identify joint resource management goals, increase community investment in Refuge and Watershed protection, manage community growth, and facilitate communication on important issues.

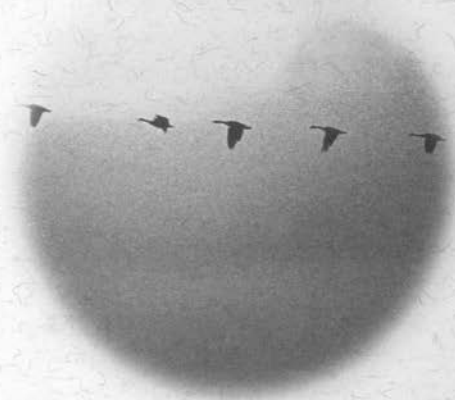
Expanding Resource Conservation Partnerships within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Beyond

The cornerstone of the Friends' program agenda is our **Heritage Registry**. Initially conceived as a landowner outreach program to develop relationships with Refuge neighbors, the Registry has grown into a broader conservation effort. Upon enrollment in the program, Friends staff work with each individual or corporate registrant to develop a personalized land stewardship plan designed to maximize the representation of native plants and animals found on each property. By working intensively with private landowners, neighborhood communities, and professional resource managers, the Friends are working to eradicate exotic plants such as European buckthorn, leafy spurge, and purple loosestrife and to restore native plant communities such as tallgrass prairie, floodplain forest, and oak savannah. In addition, the Friends are spearheading a campaign to prevent the destruction of rare calcareous fens found in the Minnesota River Valley caused by encroaching development.

The Friends' **Watershed Initiative** puts an exciting twist on traditional approaches to watershed management within the Lower Minnesota River Valley. Through this creative grassroots program, Friends of the Minnesota Valley has taken the lead in addressing degradation of the water quality of the Minnesota River and its tributaries within the Lower Minnesota River



Watershed by forming teams that are identifying solutions and taking action to remedy pollution problems caused by municipal wastewater treatment, certain land use practices, and stormwater runoff from heavy rain events. The Friends' Community Clean-Up Program is a mainstay of our Watershed Initiative. The Community Clean-Ups actively engage citizens in the removal and disposal of leaf litter and other organic debris containing phosphorus, a major contributor to excessive algae growth and decreased oxygen levels in area lakes, streams and rivers.



***For More Information
Or to Join the Friends,
Contact Us At:***

FRIENDS OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY
3815 AMERICAN BLVD. E.
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55425-1659

Phone: (952) 858-0737

Fax: (612) 725-3279

e-mail: info@friendsofmnvalley.org

Website: <http://www.friendsofmnvalley.org>

For Program Information:

Land Conservation: (952) 858-0720

Watershed Initiative: (952) 858-0737

Community Partners: (952) 858-0706

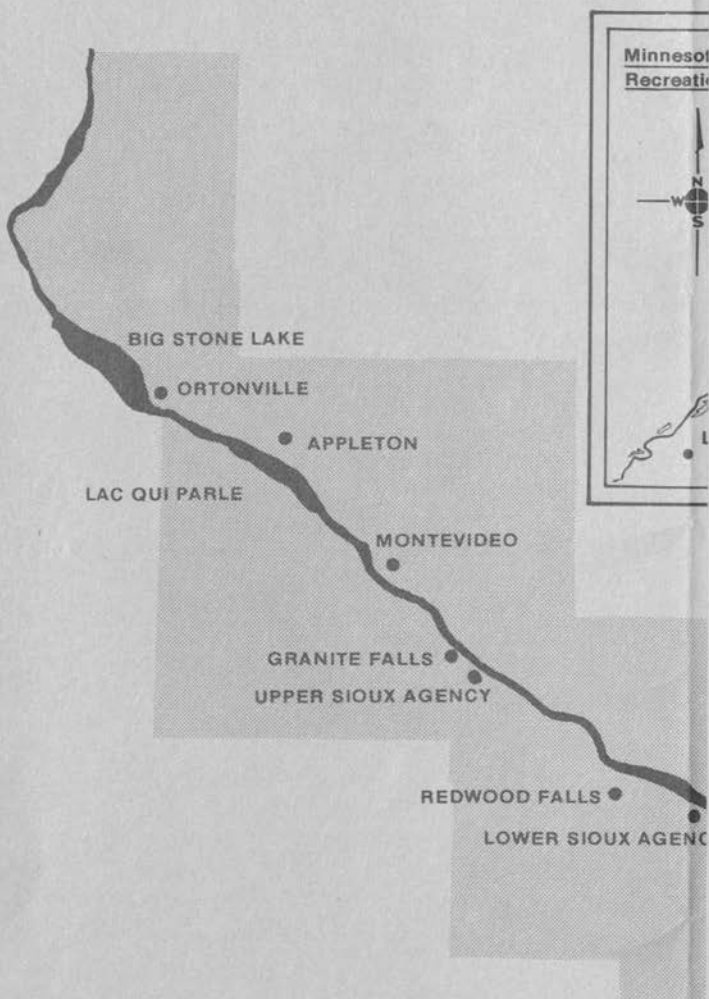
Corporate Associates: (952) 858-0706

Friends of the

Minnesota Valley



**Working to
conserve and manage wisely
the cultural and natural resources
of the
Minnesota Valley**



People concerned about the future of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area now have a voice, and would like to add yours. A recently formed organization represents the interests of citizens who care about what happens to this special place.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley was created to preserve the natural and cultural resources of the area, while promoting wildlife oriented education, recreation and compatible economic opportunity.

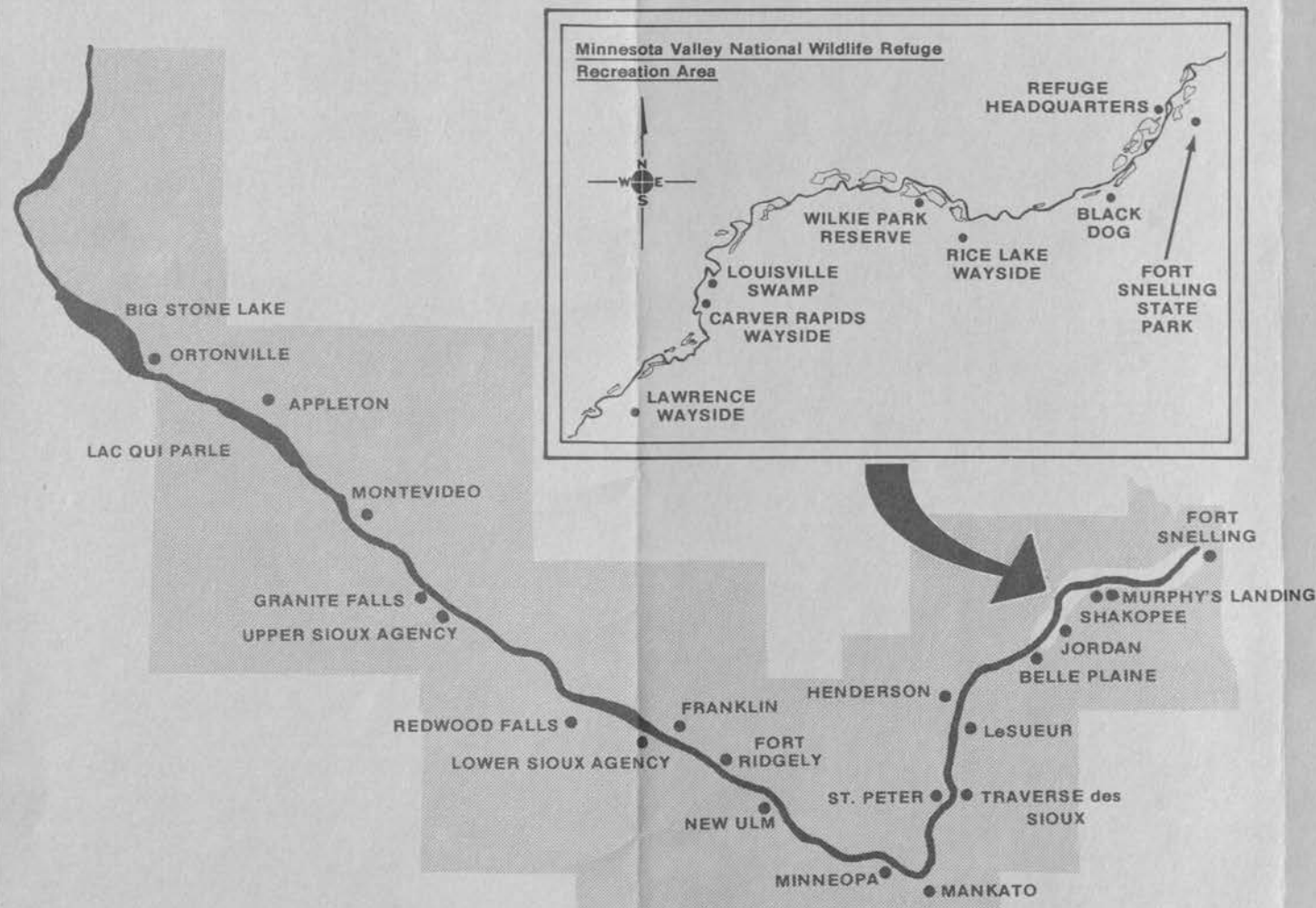
Friends is the organization to bring the talents of a great pool of concerned citizens to bear on the challenges of preserving the qualities of our environment and our lives.

Do You...

- enjoy the beauty of the Minnesota Valley?
- appreciate the abundant wildlife of the Valley?
- want to learn more about wildlife?
- enjoy hiking, horseback riding along the trails?
- like to be involved with a project from its early beginnings?
- like to do volunteer work (such as trail monitoring; bird, deer or wild flower surveys; prairie management; computer work; newsletter, etc.)?
- enjoy a quarterly gathering with the Friends?
- wish to keep informed via the newsletter—"Valley Vision"?
- want to help protect an area for future generations?
- like to see local involvement in a large scale project?
- want to be involved in fund raising for land acquisition?
- want to learn how the valley may be used by all?
- wish to offer encouragement to others concerned with the Valley?
- want to have a part in the preservation of this marvelous resource?
- like to share your talents?
- want to make new friends?

If So...

- Join FRIENDS of the Minnesota Valley NOW!
- Your annual donation is tax deductible.
- Fill out the application on the reverse side of this panel, and mail today!
- Enjoy a quarterly gathering with the Friends.
- Keep informed via the newsletter—"Valley Vision".



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Friends is the organization to bring the talents of a great pool of concerned citizens to bear on the challenges of preserving the qualities of our environment and our lives.

The specific objectives which were recently adopted include:

- Encouraging implementation of refuge and recreation area goals.
- Promoting popular awareness of the refuge and recreation area.
- Monitoring a diversity of land uses for compatibility with the purpose of the refuge and recreation area.
- Providing public involvement in management decision-making.
- Soliciting funds for land acquisition.
- Enlisting volunteers for refuge and recreation area program assistance.

Complete this application and join the FRIENDS of the Minnesota River Valley

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ \$10.00 Senior & Students
☐ \$15.00 General
☐ \$25.00 Supporting
☐ \$50.00 Sustaining | ☐ \$250.00 Corporate
☐ \$1,000.00 Life
☐ Other |
|--|---|
- Mark your donation level and mail to:
- FRIENDS of Minnesota Valley
Box 20244
Bloomington, MN 55420

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If you have any questions, write to
FRIENDS of the MINNESOTA VALLEY
P.O. Box 20244
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420



FRIENDS OF THE

Minnesota Valley



"No stream in Minnesota—perhaps in the nation—has had its future so threatened, its natural character so marked for destruction, its existence made so uncertain by serious development proposals, and yet has emerged to symbolize an awakened ethic of land stewardship, as has the Minnesota River."

THOMAS F. WATERS

The Streams and Rivers of Minnesota

Working to
conserve and manage wisely
the cultural and natural resources
of the
Minnesota Valley

METRO MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY



In the Twin Cities area, we are blessed with an abundance of natural resources and recreational opportunities. The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Recreation Area and State Trail forms one of the most unique natural, historic and cultural areas in the United States.

Although the scenic beauty and home of countless species of birds and animals of the Minnesota River Valley is protected, urban encroachment continues to be the most serious problem facing the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The lands adjacent to the Refuge are a developer's dream.

It is time to build for the future...time to act so that your children and grandchildren may still find refuge in a faster paced world. With your efforts now, there always will be a Minnesota Valley greenbelt to enjoy.

This resource will live through the sounds, sights and signs of hundreds of wildlife species that

The Friends of the Minnesota Valley is a nonprofit citizens group devoted to conserving the natural and cultural resources of the Minnesota Valley, and to promoting environmental education.

The Friends work to:

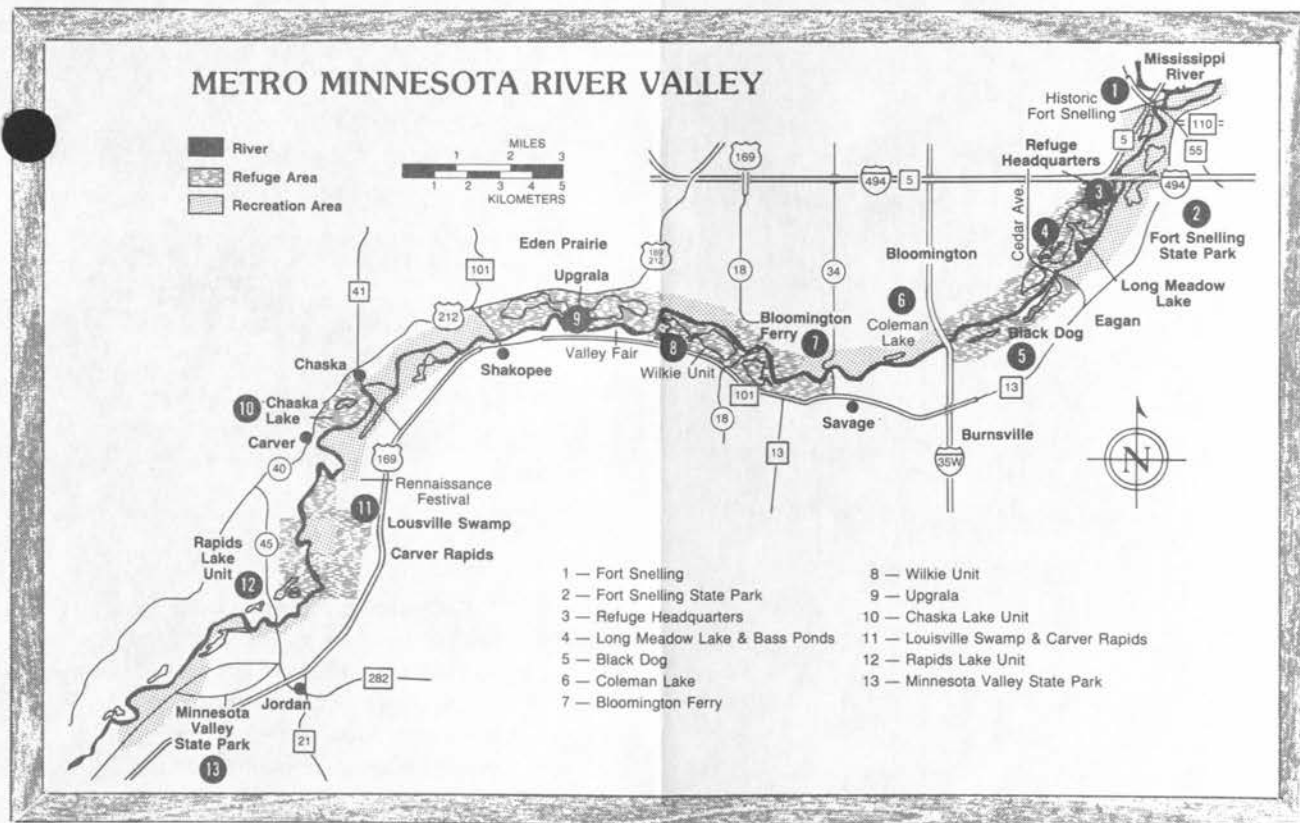
- Advocate for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge;
- Promote awareness of the Refuge and river valley;
- Build a Heritage Registry of Minnesota Valley landowners to voluntarily preserve their acreage;
- Involve the public in Refuge management decisions;
- Enlist volunteers for Refuge and program assistance; and
- Foster partnerships to improve the Minnesota River watershed and its ecosystems.

Friends' operations are supported by membership dues, and individual, foundation and corporate contributions and grants. All contributions are tax deductible.



Membership in the Friends provides these benefits to you:

- Newsletters;
- Opportunities to plan and participate in Friends' projects;
- Invitations to special events and programs; and
- Participation in stewardship of the Minnesota Valley.



In the Twin Cities area, we are blessed with an abundance of natural resources and recreational opportunities. The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Recreation Area and State Trail forms one of the most unique natural, historic and cultural areas in the United States.

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It is time to build for the future...time to act so that your children and grandchildren may still find refuge in a faster paced world. With your efforts now, there always will be a Minnesota Valley greenbelt to enjoy.

This resource will live through the sounds, sights and signs of hundreds of wildlife species that

reside in the Minnesota Valley. It will also live through the expressions of those who come to the Minnesota Valley to listen, watch and learn. With caring work, the Minnesota Valley will remain a tranquil yet accessible resource, diverse in its habitats and its uses—a treasure for the many people who use the refuge now and who will visit the area many years from now.

The Friends of the Minnesota Valley is responsible for the establishment and creation of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Recreation Area and State Trail. While work to complete the refuge continues, the Friends is positioning itself to move into the 21st Century by doing projects and programs to help meet the demands of urbanization, outdoor recreation and natural resources protection. To accomplish our goals we need your help!

Please move into the future with us. Join the Friends today.

Complete this application and join the FRIENDS of the MINNESOTA VALLEY

(The Friends is a non-profit organization; all contributions are tax-deductible)

Valley Stewards

\$1000 and up: Legacy Club
 \$500 Eagle Circle
 \$250 River Council

\$100 Wood Duck

\$50 Great Blue Heron
 \$25 River Otter
 \$15 Eastern Cottontail

Circle your donation level and mail to:

FRIENDS of Minnesota Valley
 Box 20244
 Bloomington, MN 55420

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

State _____

Zip _____

Fax _____

E-Mail _____

☐ Please do not share my name and address with other organizations.

If you have any questions,
write to

FRIENDS of the MINNESOTA VALLEY

P.O. Box 20244

Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

or call

(612) 854-5900

Minnesota Valley

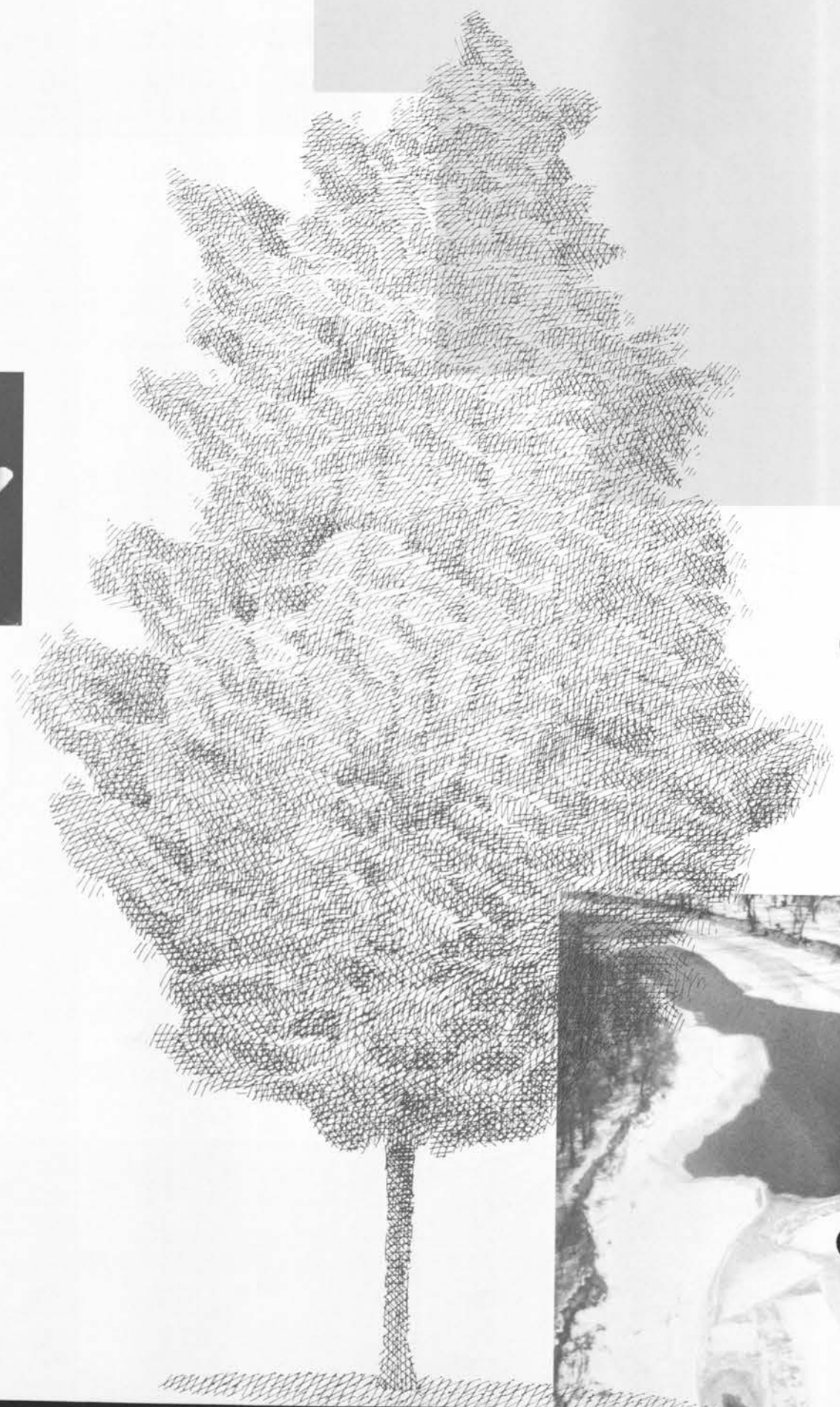
National Wildlife Refuge

Recreation Area and State Trail



Summary of the
Comprehensive Plan for the
Minnesota Valley National
Wildlife Refuge, Recreation
Area and State Trail





The lower Minnesota River Valley has always been a place where civilization and wilderness converged. Historically, Dakota Indian villages were scattered along the banks. Then came trading posts and farms. Now high rise buildings crowd the bluffs for the best view of the scenic Valley below.

As the Minnesota River approaches its confluence with the Mississippi in the Twin Cities, the adjacent uplands are transformed from a landscape of farms and quiet river towns to a glistening metropolis—a transition reflecting the physical changes that have taken place through time.

Values have changed, too. Yet the Minnesota Valley's attraction to people remains undiminished. The urge to explore the marshlands, meadows and wooded ravines in search of adventure and wildlife is the same impulse that captivated people in the past. It is a yearning to rest the eye on a distant horizon; to share the thrill of migration with restless flocks of waterfowl.

Today, as in the past, there is the realization that as the fruits of the land are harvested, there is an obligation to put something back into the land as well.

In 1976, Congress passed legislation authorizing the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area. The project was to incorporate the Minnesota Valley Trail, authorized by the State Legislature in 1969.

Recognizing the Minnesota Valley's unique qualities and opportunities, this landmark legislation called for the development of a comprehensive plan to guide land protection and management for wildlife and public use. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources would lead a cooperative effort encouraging local governments and private citizens to help complete the plan.

The comprehensive plan for this urban resource is the product of public workshops, hearings and meetings with people interested in the future of the Valley. It aims to enhance resources and opportunities in ways that are sensitive to the diverse concerns of area residents.

Although the initial planning for the Minnesota Valley's future is essentially completed, the real work lies ahead. Even with legal sanction and continued support

from citizens and organizations, it will take many years of cooperative effort to fully implement this ambitious undertaking.

Only through continuing effort can the Minnesota Valley remain a quiet place in an increasingly noisy world. It is a place where wildlife can continue to thrive within a stone's throw of the city, a place where special experiences and values are recreated—again and again.



"No stream in Minnesota—perhaps in the nation—has had its future so threatened, its natural resources so marked for destruction, its existence made so uncertain by serious development proposals and yet has emerged to symbolize an awakened ethic for land stewardship as has the Minnesota River."

Thomas F. Waters
*The Streams and Rivers
 of Minnesota*

Active Partnership

The significance of the Minnesota Valley was first officially recognized by Governor Floyd B. Olson in 1934, when he proposed a 42,000 acre park between Fort Snelling and the City of Shakopee through Theodore Wirth's "Metropolitan Park Plan."

Although the plan was never implemented, the seeds of citizen awareness had been sown. They germinated during the 1960s, when Fort Snelling State Park was established, the Minnesota River was designated a State Canoe and Boating Route, and the Minnesota Valley Trail was authorized. The multi-use trail was to extend 72 miles between Fort Snelling and Le Sueur.

By the 1970s, Minnesota Valley public concern and activism was beginning to flower. Concerned citizens from Burnsville and Bloomington formed the Lower Minnesota Valley Citizens' Committee. They solicited support from local governments in pushing for Valley protection and planning. An active partnership was born between the area's citizens and federal, state and local governments.

This active partnership was rewarded when Congress passed the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act in 1976. The Act called for preservation of the area's natural resources and development of opportunities for people to enjoy wildlife and to learn from their outdoor experiences. The Act mandated the construction of a Wildlife Interpretation and Education Center and the inclusion of the Minnesota Valley Trail. It also formalized this unique partnership by mandating the development of a comprehensive plan to guide multi-agency management, based on systematic analysis of resources and opportunities.

The planning analysis focused on resource characteristics and ways to manage resources to accommodate changing patterns of recreation and land use.

Throughout the planning process, it has been the people living near the Valley and in the metro area surrounding it who have helped establish the objectives and guidelines that will define all future action. Their intentions as stated in the comprehensive plan are to heighten

user awareness and to foster a sense of stewardship toward the Valley's natural and cultural resources. . . to protect unique or sensitive ecological communities. . . and to serve people from all social, economic and experience levels through a thoughtfully managed program.



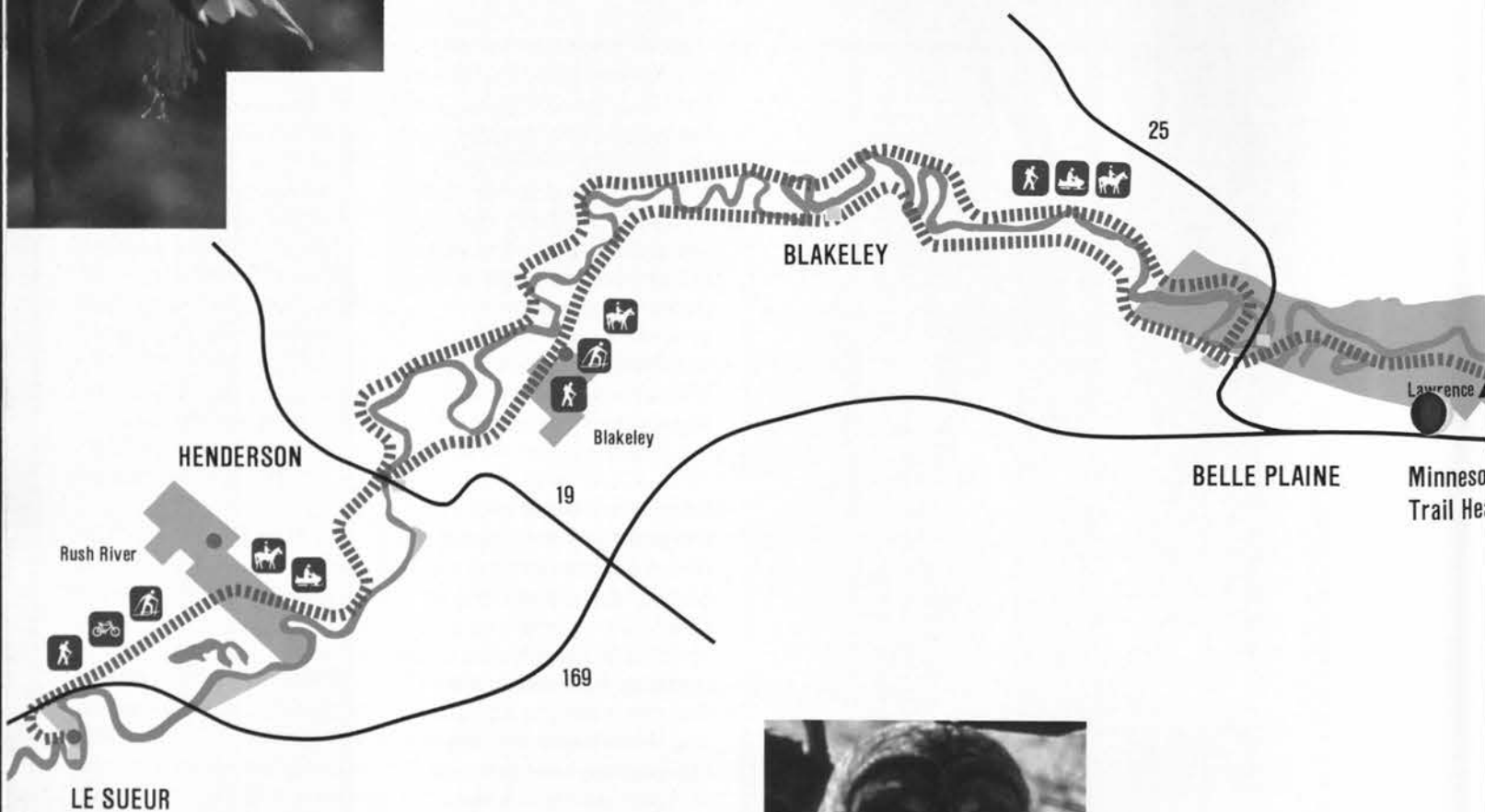
The Plan

The Minnesota Valley Project, as proposed, would protect the natural floodplain and perpetuate the valuable wildlife and cultural resources of the Valley while providing unique recreational and educational opportunities for countless future visitors. A comprehensive plan prepared by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service presents the initial conceptual strategy for successful management of the 24,000 acres of authorized wildlife areas, parks, trails and open spaces. Specific management information is found in the detailed technical reports and appendices to the plan.

The plan outlines many of the problems and concerns which could affect the viability of the project. It also establishes guidelines and specific procedures for coordinating the interrelated roles of the many agencies and institutions involved in the management process. The plan will be implemented in stages and financed by federal, state and local governments as funding becomes available.

While some land acquisition is still required, that need will be minimized by using public lands wherever possible. Private land development will be encouraged for uses that complement the project goals as established in the planning process.





Wildlife Management

Wild land and wildlife resource management for the Minnesota Valley is shared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and local governments. Private landowners also have an important role in providing for the overall habitat needs of wildlife throughout the Valley. Close cooperation and coordination are essential if these resources are to be maintained and enhanced.

Management studies and wildlife-oriented recreational opportunities will also be promoted. Hunting will be encouraged in certain areas. [redacted], especially, may present future population control problems if no provisions are made for regular harvest.

For management purposes, habitats of the Minnesota Valley can be broken down into wetland, woodland, grassland and agricultural land.

Wetlands in the Valley are lush and plentiful. They are usually spring-fed, but may also be influenced by storm water runoff and flooding. By improving artificial controls on water levels in these areas, they can be regulated to enhance breeding, feeding and migration habitats for waterbirds and mammals.

Wetlands can also be improved by plugging or diking low areas to increase adjacent shallow water habitats during spring migration and courtship periods. Deepwater marshes may be periodically drawn down to control rough fish populations that suffocate aquatic food plants.

Some areas can be periodically drained to stimulate seed-bearing plants and then flooded for waterfowl during migration. Mud flats may be exposed for shorebird foraging in late summer. Muskrats will also be encouraged to help "manage" marshes by clearing openings in dense aquatic vegetation for food and house building materials.

In the **woodlands**, thick stands of cottonwood saplings could be thinned to favor other trees and undergrowth. Reintroduction of nut-bearing oaks, black cherry trees and others may be needed to replenish these over-harvested species that produce edible fruits for wildlife.

Mature forests need to be maintained as well, since they take many years to develop and are disappearing from the river bottomlands of the United States. Species like the pileated woodpecker and great horned owl depend

on these habitats. Some openings need to be maintained within the forested areas for the songbirds and small mammals that prefer shrubby areas and grassy clearings.

Dead snags, downed timber and brush should be left in the woodlands to provide homes, perches, and food for ground dwelling wildlife, and nutrient replenishment for the forest floor.

Most **grasslands** will be burned periodically to stimulate preferred native species and to reduce competition from invading brush. Mowing will also be used occasionally to slow brush encroachment and to maintain firebreaks. Where the grasslands have been degraded, new stands of nesting cover will be planted for upland nesting birds.

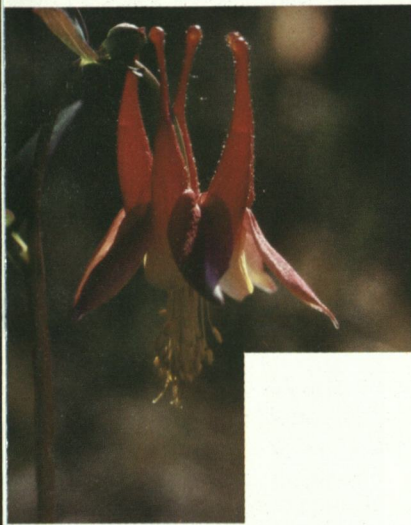
On lands suited to **agriculture**, cooperative biological farming will be encouraged to demonstrate how certain techniques can increase economic return while providing for wildlife. Minimum tillage, reduction in use of pesticides and fertilizers, and food and cover plots will be part of cooperative management.

Lands inappropriate for farming under public jurisdiction will be converted to the production of wildlife

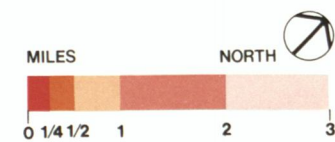
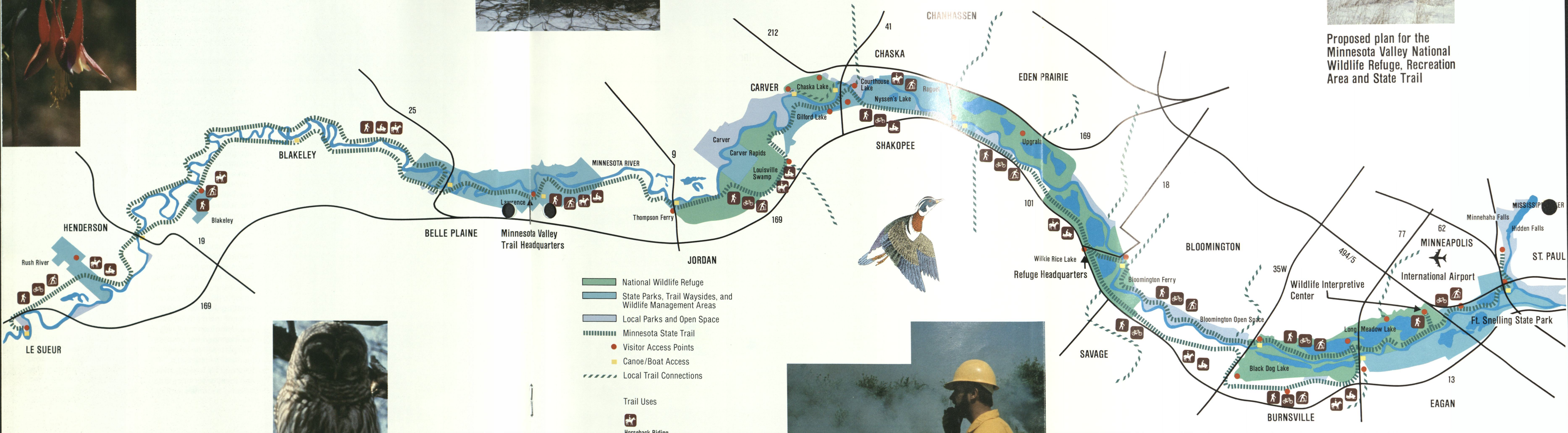
and recreational opportunities. Some abandoned fields will be seeded to native grass, while others will be allowed to return to forest through succession.

Special protection will be given to unique habitats such as the rock outcrops that support the fragile prickly pear cactus or the fens and bogs supporting other rare, exotic plant life.

Ensuring vegetative diversity is essential to promoting a corresponding diversity and health of wildlife populations. This will require coordinated planning and management.



Proposed plan for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Recreation Area and State Trail



Access to Awareness

Public services provided throughout the Minnesota Valley will actually support management of wildlife by encouraging citizen involvement in a variety of activities and projects. Some individuals or groups will assist with habitat and population studies, others will participate in trail monitoring or school outdoor education programs, while others will simply enjoy wildlife interpretive programs at leisure.

Because of the proximity of people and wildlife in this urban refuge and recreation area, a link can be provided between those with special skills in wildlife management and others with interest but limited experience. This creates an opportunity to demonstrate, by improving the quality of wildlife habitats within the refuge, that the health and vitality of wild environments can also be improved through management worldwide.

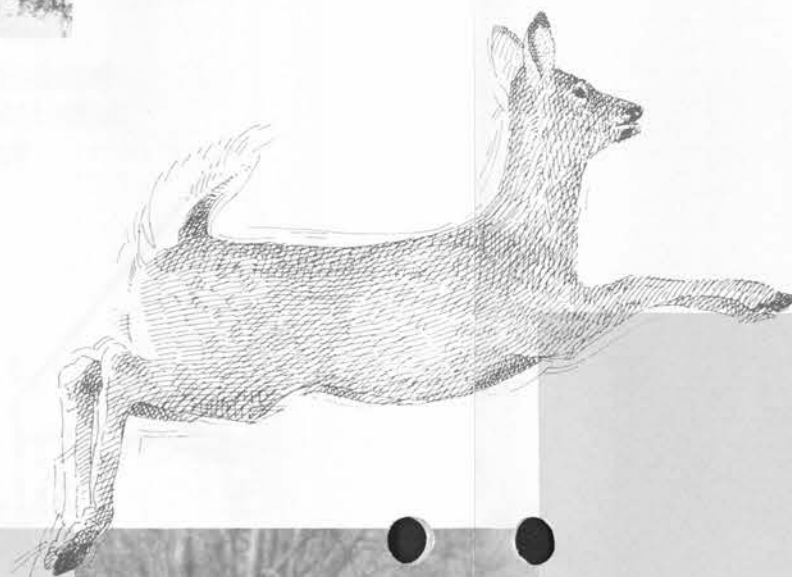
There are two million people and over 500 public schools located within a half-hour drive of the Minnesota Valley. Preliminary designs have been completed for a federally-mandated Wildlife Interpretation and Educa-

tion Center at a site selected near major freeways, mass transit routes, service organizations, schools, airport and hotels in Bloomington.

The center and a secondary facility between Savage and Shakopee will provide hundreds of thousands of hours of educational and recreational opportunity each year for both Minnesotans and visitors from outside the state. They will include wildlife management exhibits indoors and out; auditorium, classroom and laboratory space for school activities and special seminars; and immediate access to nearby marshes and prairies.

Outreach programs will be provided through mass media and public appearances to make the Minnesota Valley accessible to those who might have trouble visiting the area.

Project managers will work together with neighboring interpretive facilities to prevent duplication of services. Whenever possible, volunteers will assist in providing quality public services.



Minnesota Valley Trail

The Minnesota Valley Trail is the visitor's link with the National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area. It will eventually provide a 72-mile connecting corridor, hooking up trail systems in Hennepin, Dakota, Scott, Carver, Sibley and Le Sueur Counties.

Adventurous trail users roaming the trail that has already been established report spotting deer, ospreys, sandhill cranes, gray and red foxes and a tremendous variety of local flora. They also take advantage of opportunities to stop at historic sites or at shops in riverside communities.

The Minnesota Valley Trail is designed for a variety of uses throughout all seasons, from hiking, bicycling and horseback riding to snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

Eventually, there will be additional waysides and trailheads offering information as well as parking, restrooms, and in some cases picnic areas and boat launches. Some campgrounds are already available; others are planned.

Water-based activities are also expected to increase.

Fishing, canoeing and boating on the Minnesota River upstream from Shakopee is an excellent way to experience the Valley. By travelling the river you can find solitude and observe wildlife in much the same way as the explorers in times past.

In the future, trail and touring experiences will tie together outdoor activities, interpretive programs, and community facilities throughout the Valley. Public transit to trailheads will help bring these opportunities to an ever-widening spectrum of area residents, within minutes of home or workplace.



The Future

It is difficult to see far into the future. But more than 50 years ago, planners had a vision for an urban area that would be rich in natural beauty as well as economic opportunities. Minneapolis and St. Paul grew in size and reputation as a highly livable metropolitan area, prized for its quality of life.

Today, the core cities still provide quality recreational opportunities for many of the greater metropolitan area's two million people. Every weekend, hundreds of thousands crowd the city's parks, trails and waterways. Their numbers now strain many of the resources that were so well-planned decades ago.

It is time to build for the future once more. Time to act so that fifty years hence, metro region dwellers and visitors may still find refuge in a hectic and sometimes frightening world. With concerted effort now, there will always be a Minnesota Valley green belt for all to enjoy.

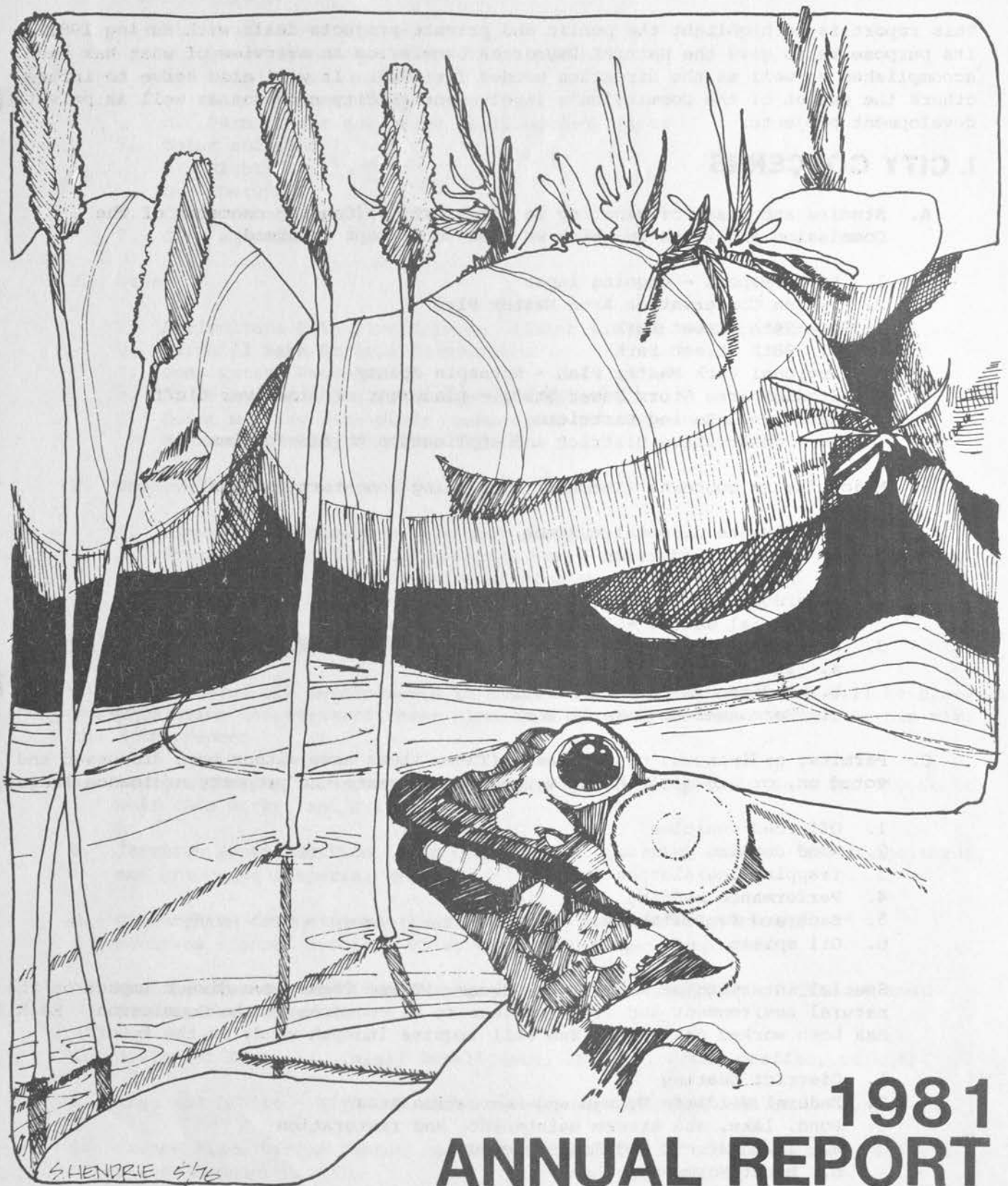
This resource will live through the sounds, sights and signs of hundreds of wildlife species. It will also live through the expressions of those who come to the Minnesota Valley to listen, watch and learn. It will remain a tranquil yet accessible resource, diverse in its habitats and its uses. It will be a rare treasure for the diverse people who will visit the area many years from now.





U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources





1981 ANNUAL REPORT

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON,
MINNESOTA

This report is to highlight the public and private projects dealt with during 1981. Its purpose is to give the Natural Resources Commission an overview of what has been accomplished as well as the direction needed for 1982. It will also serve to inform others the extent of the Commission's involvement in City concerns as well as private development projects.

I. CITY CONCERNS

- A. Studies and plans originating in city staff (Ongoing concerns of the Commission and items on which we wish to be kept informed)
 - 1. Bluff Report - ongoing input
 - 2. Warren Conservation Area Master Plan
 - a. 94th Street Park
 - b. 98th Street Park
 - 3. Regional Park Master Plan - Hennepin County
 - 4. Stadium Area Storm Sewer Study - placement of line over bluff
 - 5. Additional Zoning Districts
 - a. Conservation District and application to floodplains
- B. Major future concerns (Items of continuing long-term concern)
 - 1. Solid waste disposal systems
 - a. Energy production
 - b. Recycling
 - 2. Hazardous waste processing
Industrial wastes - location and disposal
 - 3. Management plan for natural resources of the city
 - a. Inventory of resources
 - b. Ordinances to help protect
 - c. Personnel to make it work
- C. Permits, ordinances, or problems (These items have either been discussed and voted on, or are still being worked on to create the property ordinance language)
 - 1. Off-road vehicles
 - 2. Wood cutting permits
 - 3. Trapping legislation
 - 4. Performance bonding
 - 5. Backyard fertilizers
 - 6. Oil spills
- D. Special interests of Natural Resources (These items have direct impact on the natural environment and will continue to be concerns of the Commission. Each item has been worked on in 1981 and will require indepth study in the future)
 - 1. District Heating
 - 2. Federal Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area
 - 3. Pond, lake, and stream maintenance and restoration
 - a. 112th Street and France Avenue
 - b. Mount Normandale Lake
 - c. Skriebakken Pond - dewatering
 - d. Bush Lake
 - 1. Testing
 - 2. Use of fertilizer
 - 3. Dam on North arm
 - 4. Fish quality - de-carpiing
 - e. Condition of Nine Mile Creek

4. Minnesota River Valley
 - a. Barge fleeting study (future plans)
 - b. Flood Plain Ordinance
 - c. Masonic Home dredge site
 - d. Permits for new barge fleeting facilities
 5. Solar and wind
 - a. Rights
 - b. Energy
 6. County Road 18
 7. City aquarium
- E. Other
1. Agriculture Extension Service (Joint project to determine priorities)
 2. Tarnhill Park Prairie Restoration
 3. Pond Estate Restoration
 4. James Avenue storm sewer system - update
 5. Joint meeting with other commissions to review concept plan for Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge
- F. Observe Problems
1. Glasrud Development - teenagers partying
 2. Storm sewer outlet - Bloomington Ferry Road
 3. Pinehill Road - construction erosion onto road
 4. Control Data Corporation - oil spill

II. PRIVATE PROJECT REVIEWS

This consists of all developments in areas where natural resources will be disturbed. The Commission has reviewed these plans and has made recommendations to minimize the disturbances.

- A. Brutger Company Incorporated (Drainage and development plan - Thrifty Scott, West 80th Street and Bridge Road)
- B. Jeremiah Scott Addition (Old Cedar Avenue and 92nd Street - earth sheltered, and graywater dispersal system)
- C. Countryside Condominiums (East Bush Lake Road and Utah Avenue concerns - pond, erosion, view, trees, berming, fireplaces)
- D. RHP Investments (Office warehouse - Northeast quadrant of CSAH 18 and Interstate Highway 494)
- E. Northwest Airlines (Bluff development, erosion, pond, traffic, refuge)
- F. Wang and DeWitt - Highwood Drive (West Bush Lake Road and Utah Avenue)
- G. France Place Office Center (Northwest corner of Interstate Highway 494 and France Avenue)
- H. Normandale Lake Office Park (84th Street and Normandale Boulevard -- concerns - pond, grading, trees, erosion, protection for Normandale Lake, reflective glass, shadow cast and wind patterns)
- I. Minnesota Valley Country Club - Pentom Condominiums
- J. Kidder Nursery

- K. Comprehensive Plan amendments - West 78th Street (Office/warehouse -- concerns - too large for location, Nine Mile Creeks, trees)
- L. Control Data Corporation - River Ridge Project (Environmental Assessment Worksheet, report of hearing examiner, site and building plans)

III. 1982 PRIORITIES

Joe White and Roger House have been selected by the Commission to serve as Chairman and Vice-chairman for 1982. This will be the last year of service to Commission for Joe White and the Commission appreciates his willingness to serve in this capacity for another year.

For 1982, the Commission identifies the following as priorities:

1. Adopt Bluff Protection Regulations and adopt Bluff Report District Plan;
2. Adopt Off-road Vehicle Ordinance;
3. Develop a proposal for long-term protection of Bush Lake;
4. Apply Conservation Zoning District to the Minnesota River Floodplain;
5. Adopt other environmental controls identified in the Comprehensive Plan.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Orville J. White, Chairman
Roger House
Kitty Eliason
Tom Stahl
Allan R. Thiem
Douglas R. Engelbretson
Frederick W. King
Wesley F. James
John M. Kendall

STAFF

Rick Geshwiler - Senior Planner
Staff representative

Vonda Vettrus - Minutes Secretary

News Release



RELEASE DATE: September 15, 1982

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Harriet Lykken
(612)827-3402

Friends of the Minnesota Valley will present a new film of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge plus color slides by photographer Craig Blacklock narrated by naturalist Tex Hawkins on Monday, September 27th, 7:30 PM at Nicollet Jr. High School cafeteria, 400 E. 134th St., Burnsville. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served. No admission charge.

W.D.C. Trip
2/84

MASTER PLAN MAPS



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

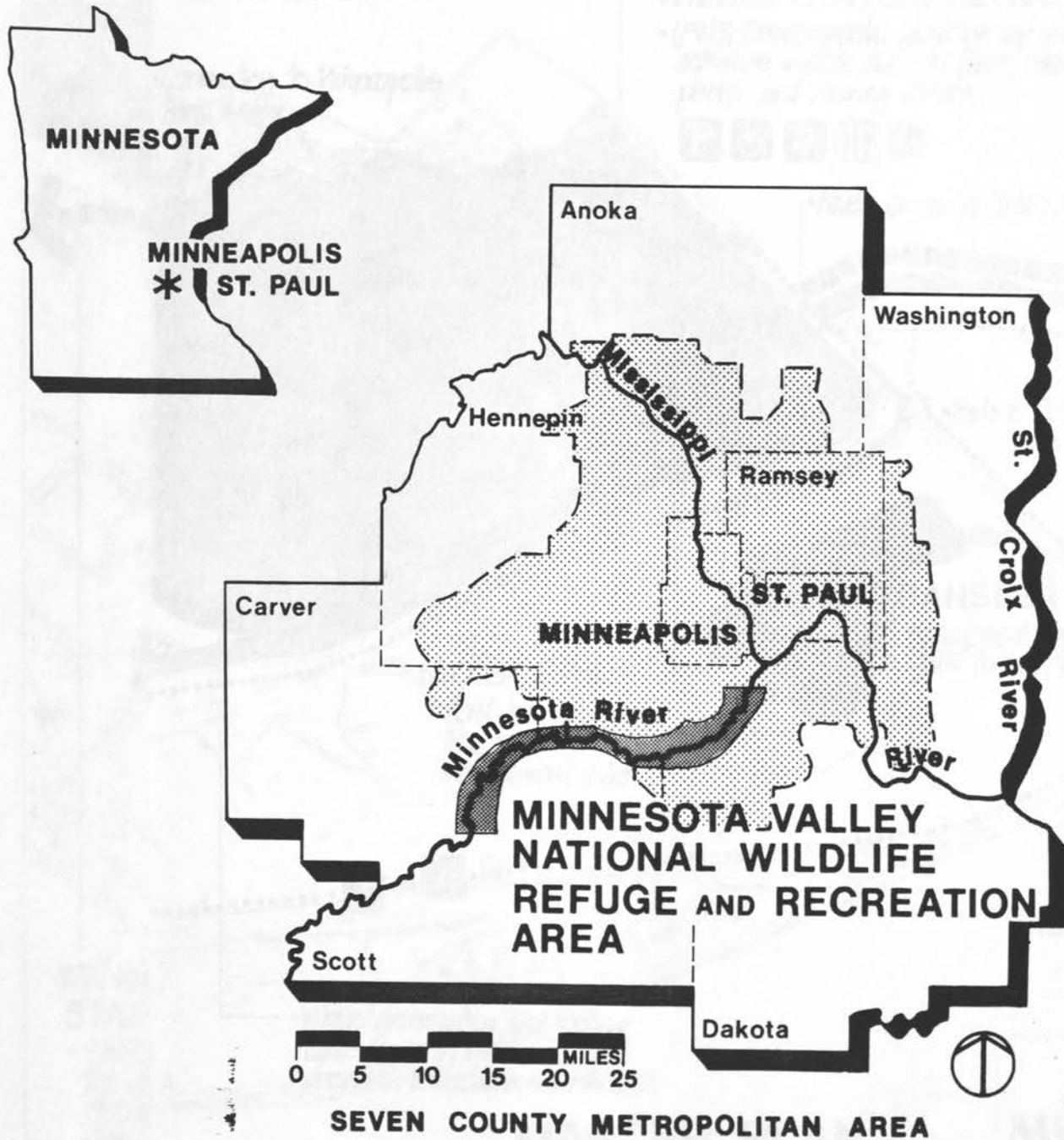
REGION 3 TWIN CITIES, MN



**Minnesota
Valley**



Location



LONG MEADOW LAKE UNIT (FWS)

- (West)
- Wildlife sanctuary emphasis
 - No internal marsh trails
 - Manage resource for diversity and abundance of wildlife.
 - Biological food production for wildlife.

- (East)
- Environmental education and wildlife interpretation
 - Special consideration given to programs and facilities for handicapped, elderly and youth.
 - Biological food production for wildlife.
 - Restore wetlands.

LYNDALE MARINA TRAIL HEAD (FWS)

- Access to state trail and secondary trails



MINNESOTA VALLEY STATE TRAIL

- (DNR) Multi-use trail using existing dirt road located on the natural levee adjacent to the river. Fort Snelling to County Road 16.

BLOOMINGTON BLUFFS

- Steep south facing slopes on coarse sandy loam soils, highly susceptible to erosion resulting in sedimentation of lakes streams and wetlands. Strict enforcement of bluff development guidelines outlined in the Bloomington comprehensive plan. The process begins with the development and adoption of specific policies.

Bloomington bluff trail (FWS) existing foot trail.

BLOOMINGTON

connection with Bloomington trails

HOGBACK RIDGE TRAIL

- Connector trail linking E. 26th street and the Cedar trail head. Views and access to Bass Ponds, Hogback marshes, and Long Meadow Lake.

HOGBACK MARSHES

- Reclaimed gravel pit demonstrating resource management techniques.
- Bloomington storm water retention and filtering pond.
- Research and scientific study area.

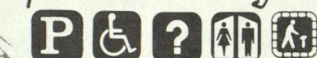
BASS PONDS

- Environmental education and interpretation site, wetland mgt. demonstration, wildlife viewing blinds, trails for school groups, handicapped groups and the general public. Bus and auto parking by permit only.



WILDLIFE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

- (FWS) Environmental education and interpretation activities, wildlife exhibits, films, interpreting-photo, and viewing blinds.



River crossing (trail) on 494 bridge.

Trails to Ft. Snelling State Park.

ISLAND TRANSFER

- Transfer land management responsibility from FWS to DNR through title transfer.

MOIST SOIL

- Moist soil and green tree reservoir management sites

BLACK DOG LAKE UNIT

- Limited public use.
- Managed in accordance with agreement with Northern States power Co.
- Wildlife management and research.

MINNESOTA VALLEY STATE TRAIL south

- (DNR) Multi-use trail following top of bluff and river levee Ft. Snelling State Park to Rice Lake, Waukegan



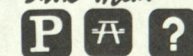
BURNSVILLE

FEN (orchid bog/wet prairie)

- Recommend FWS acquisition
- Rare and sensitive fen plant community requiring protection.
- Research and scientific study area.

BLACK DOG PARK TRAIL HEAD

- Burnsville access to the state trail.

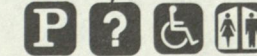


CEDAR SPRINGS

- Highly diverse habitat abundant with wildlife. Sensitive and unique vegetation communities requiring protection. Recommend FWS acquisition.

STATE PARK TRAIL HEAD (DNR)

- Access to state trail and Ft. Snelling State Park Trail system.



MN. HWY. 13

FEN

- Rare and sensitive vegetation. Protection by acquisition or strict enforcement of land use regulations.

ISLAND TRANSFER

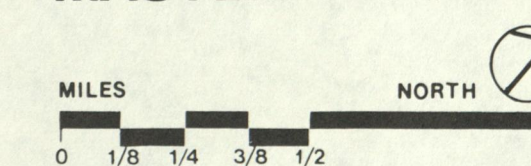
- Transfer land management responsibility from DNR to FWS through title transfer.

Trail connection to Burnsville, Eagan, etc.

LEGEND

Hiking	Bicycling	Handicapped Accessible	Historical Point
Cross Country Skiing	Trail Head	Information	Interpretive Trail
Horseback Riding	Parking	Toilets	Camping
Refuge (FWS)	Recreation Area	Water Control Structure	Boat Access
	Viewing Point	Bridge	

MASTER PLAN



Minnesota Valley



National Wildlife Refuge Recreation Area and State Trail

Long Meadow Lake

DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE • MINNESOTA DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BLOOMINGTON FERRY UNIT

West:

- Wildlife sanctuary
- Public use to include hiking and skiing trails on levee.

East:

- Manage for abundance and diversity of wildlife.
- Restore wetlands.
- Interpretive trails.

Primitive river edge trail connecting Bloomington Ferry and Upgrilla units.

VISITOR ACCESS POINT

- Emphasis on historic site interpretation.
- Access to state trail and Bloomington Ferry unit.
- River crossing and potential parking to be coordinated with "new" Co. Rd. 18 bridge.

RICE LAKE UNIT (DNR)

- Proposed to be managed by FWS.
- Manage vegetation and water for wildlife resource. Public uses to include hunting, wildlife observation, picnicking, and trail activities.

Wildlife observation and interpretation trail



MINNESOTA VALLEY STATE TRAIL (DNR)

FWS ADMINISTRATIVE HDQTRS./TRAIL HEAD

- Proposed refuge administration office, maintenance facility and trail head. Facility development to depend upon FWS ownership.



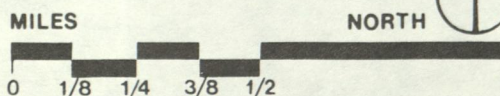
RICE LAKE EXPANSION

- Proposed expansion of the Rice Lake unit to include marsh complex of approximately 240 acres.

LEGEND

Hiking	Information
Cross Country Skiing	Toilets
Horseback Riding	Water Control Structure
Bicycling	Historical Point
Boat Access	Interpretive Trail
Refuge (FWS)	Recreation Area
Boundary Adjustment	Trail Head

MASTER PLAN

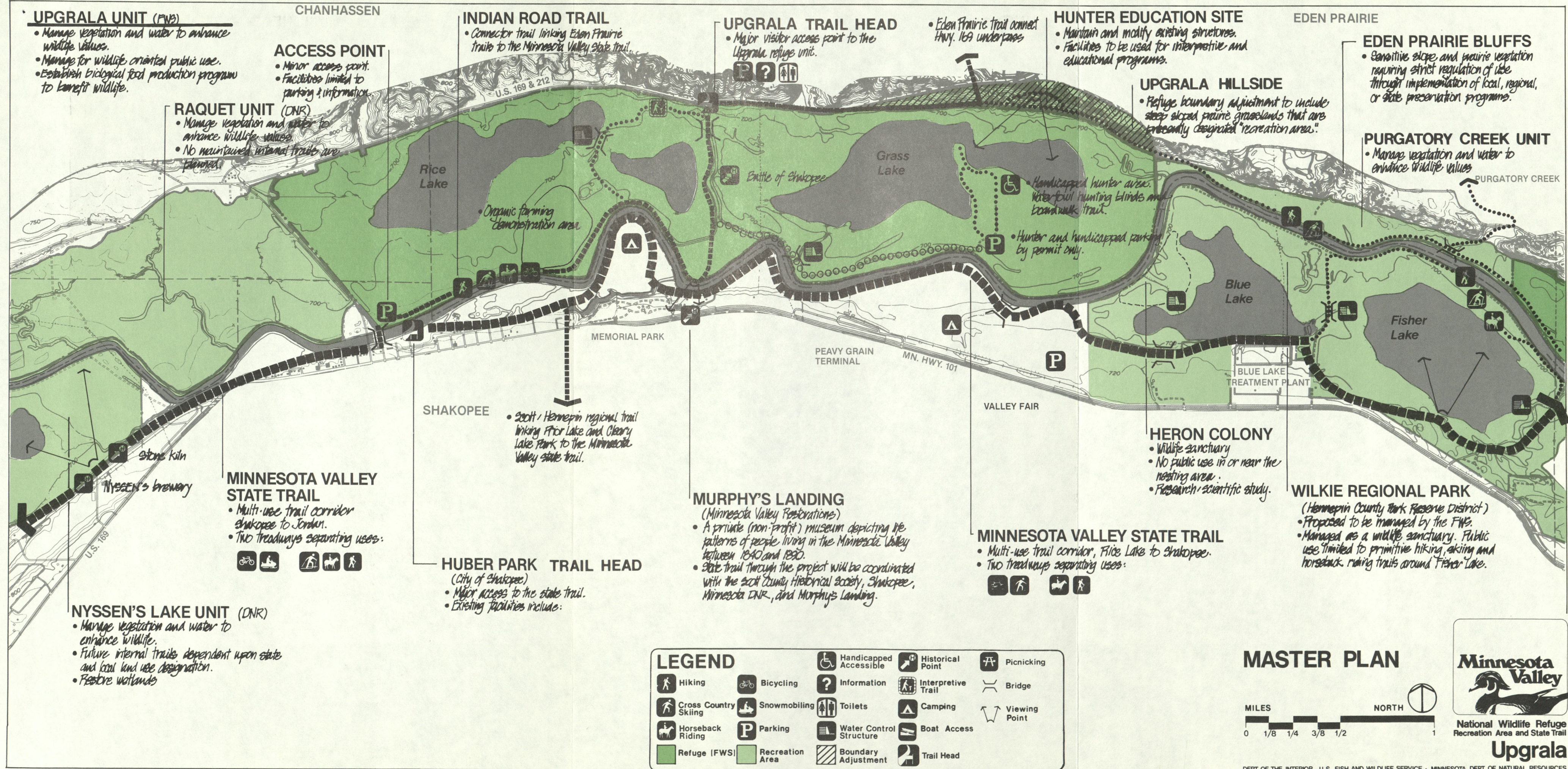


Minnesota Valley

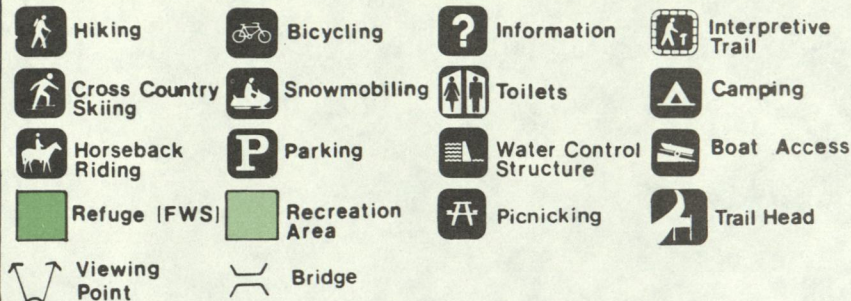


National Wildlife Refuge
Recreation Area and State Trail

Bloomington Ferry



LEGEND



COURTHOUSE LAKE UNIT (Chaska / DNR)

- Floodplain north and east of Courthouse Lake to be managed as an extension of the Raquet unit.
- No maintained internal trails.

TRAIL HEAD (Courthouse Lake)

- City of Chaska. Major access to state trail utilizing abandoned railroad bridge and grade.



MASTER PLAN

RAQUET UNIT (DNR)

- Manage vegetation and water to enhance wildlife.
- No maintained internal trails.

NYSSEN'S LAKE UNIT

- Wetland restoration.
- Future internal trails dependent upon state land use designation and land acquisition.
- Manage vegetation and water to enhance wildlife.

CHASKA LAKE UNIT (FWS)

- Manage vegetation and water to encourage use by shorebirds and waterfowl.
- Biological food production for wildlife.
- Interpretation of wildlife management techniques.

WINKEL PARK

- City of Chaska.
- Facilities include:



VISITOR ACCESS

FWS / City of Chaska

MOIST SOIL UNIT

- Managed feeding area for waterfowl and shorebirds.

ORGANIC FARMING AREA

- Agricultural exhibit (field) demonstrating organic farming techniques.

INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

- Hiking and skiing trail linking Chaska and Carver. Key features include: organic farming area, moist soil unit, and wildlife observation blinds.

VISITOR ACCESS

- FWS / City of Carver
- Facilities to include:



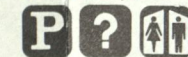
- Proposed riverfront park City of Carver

CARVER UNIT

- Manage land and water to enhance wildlife.

TRAIL SITE 2 TRAIL HEAD

- Major access to state trail. Facilities to include:



MOIST SOIL UNIT

- Approximately 15 acre demonstration site.
- Managed feeding area for waterfowl and shorebirds.

MALKERSON UNIT (DNR)

- Proposed area for special use events, i.e. field dog trials, sled dog racing, etc.
- Protect marsh bird feeding area - Gifford Lake.

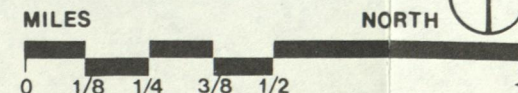
MINNESOTA VALLEY STATE TRAIL

- Multi-use trail Shakopee to Jordan.
- Two treadways separating.



Louis LaCroix fur trading post historic point of interest.

Indian mounds site, historic point of interest.



National Wildlife Refuge
Recreation Area and State Trail

Chaska Lake

• Proposed bikeway to Jordan, Mn

CARVER UNIT (DNR)

- Manage vegetation and water to enhance wildlife values.
- Propose acquisition to include hillside bluff.

• Improve water control structure (FWS)

JAB'S FARM (FWS)

- Interpretation of historic farm site



• Primitive trail campsite

• Proposed canoe campsite

CARVER RAPIDS UNIT

- (DNR) Manage for wildlife habitat and compatible recreational uses

• Bikeway to Jordan using existing roads (Carver to Jordan)

Horseshoe Lake

RED ROCK QUARRY

- Scenic easement protection, restore wetland complex.

MALKERSON UNIT (DNR)

- Promote natural vegetation diversity. Provide opportunity for special use events, i.e. field dog trials, etc.

TRAIL HEAD (FWS)

- Access to Mazomani Trail and Minnesota Valley State Trail



MILLER'S FARM

- (FWS) Interpretation of historic farm site.
- Restore trail crossing.

MAZOMANI TRAIL (FWS) Hiking and cross-country skiing access to interior portions of Louisville Swamp and Carver Rapids units.

MINNESOTA VALLEY STATE TRAIL (DNR)

- Multi-use trail from Jordan to Shakopee. Treadways designed for appropriate separation of trail uses.

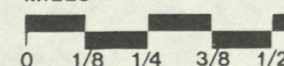


LOUISVILLE SWAMP EXTENSION (FWS)

- Proposed refuge boundary extension. To include marsh complex of approximately 500 acres.

MASTER PLAN

MILES



NORTH



LEGEND

	Hiking		Information
	Cross Country Skiing		Toilets
	Horseback Riding		Water Control Structure
	Bicycling		Historical Point
	Snowmobiling		Interpretive Trail
	Parking		Camping
	Shelter		Trail Head
	Refuge (FWS)		Recreation Area
	Bridge		Viewing Point

LOUISVILLE SWAMP

- Manage for abundance and diversity of wildlife and for wildlife oriented public use.
- Manage grasslands and oak savanna to preserve native veg. species and associated wildlife.
- Biological food production (wildlife).



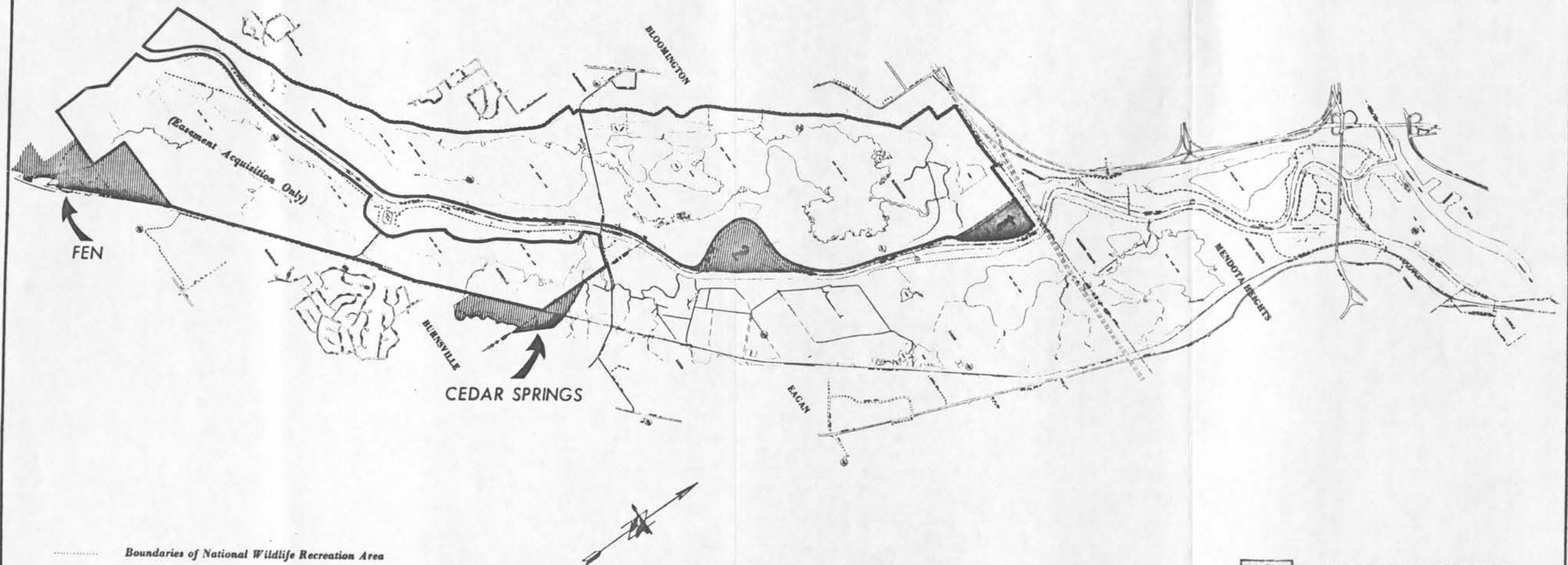
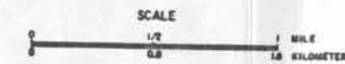
National Wildlife Refuge
Recreation Area and State Trail

Louisville Swamp

1

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA

CARVER, DAKOTA, HENNEPIN & SCOTT COUNTIES, MINNESOTA

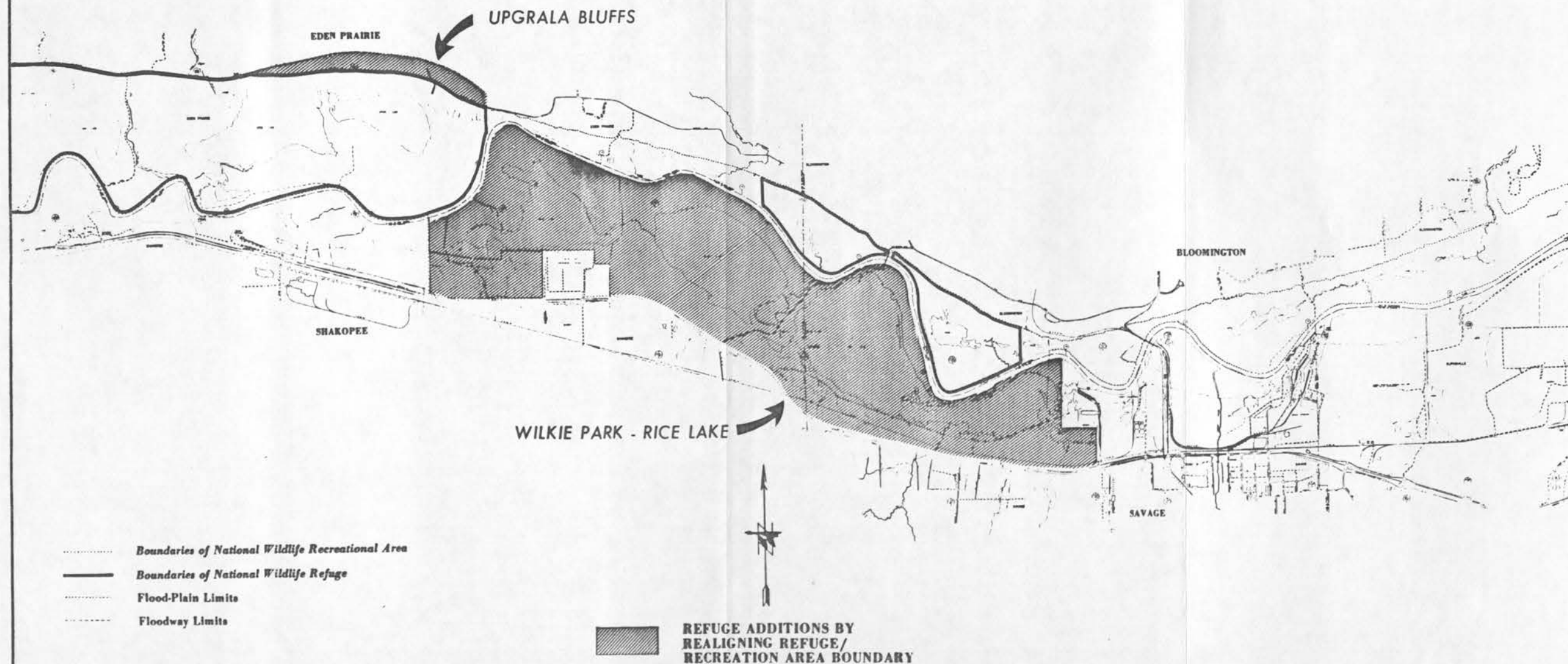
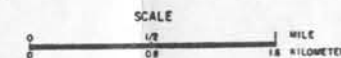


- Boundaries of National Wildlife Recreation Area
- Boundaries of National Wildlife Refuge
- Flood-Plain Limits
- Floodway Limits

- 1** DIVESTED BY EXCHANGE
- ?** ACQUIRED BY EXCHANGE
- REFUGE ADDITIONS

2

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA CARVER, DAKOTA, HENNEPIN & SCOTT COUNTIES, MINNESOTA



Friends of the



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

**Honorary
Board of Directors**

Elmer L. Andersen
Roseville, Minnesota

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James E. Kelley
Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

March 9, 1984

TO: Friends of the Minnesota Valley National
Wildlife Refuge

The Refuge needs help at your
March 20, 1984 (Tuesday) Minnesota State Caucus

Please attend your caucus and introduce a resolution supporting accelerated completion of the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge and visitor center construction beginning in 1985.

By this means we can alert our candidates and the Minnesota Congressional Delegation that we care about the Refuge and wildlife protection and its importance to our community and personal well being.

Please help and ask a friend or neighbor to help too.

Sincerely,

Elaine Mellott
President
Friends of the Minnesota Valley



Box 20244
Bloomington, MN
55420

Harriet Lykken
4600 Emerson Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409



3815 East 80th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1600
(612) 854-5900

Press Release

May 6, 1995

Contact: Sue Beiseker
Friends of the MN Valley
(612) 854-5900 or
(612) 322-5007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HELP PREVENT POLLUTION IN THE MINNESOTA RIVER

The Friends of the Minnesota Valley is beginning a program to keep hazardous wastes out of storm drains in our communities. Local groups and individuals are now being sought to help with this project. The program will involve stenciling a sign "Dump No Waste, Drains to the MN River" on curbs near storm drains. The signs will serve as a reminder to area residents that they should not pollute the Minnesota River by putting wastes down storm drains.

What are storm drains?

Storm drains are found in most communities in Minnesota. They draw off rainwater to prevent street flooding. Rainwater often carries street debris--trash, leaves, grass clippings, pet wastes, car fluids--into storm drains. Pesticides, paints antifreeze and used motor oil can end up in storm drains when people improperly dispose of these substance by dumping them in the street or down a storm drain.

Where does water go?

Have you ever wondered where rain water goes after it "disappears" into a storm drain? Water flowing into storm drains empties directly into lakes and rivers without going to a wastewater treatment plants first. Any pollutants carried with the storm water end up in our waterways.

What is storm drain stenciling?

Together with local governments, The Friends of the Minnesota Valley are stenciling "Dump No Waste" messages on our street next to storm drains. This message will remind us to keep waste and other pollutants out of our storm drains. By following this advice, we can help keep our ponds, lakes and rivers clean.

Volunteers needed

The Friends of the Minnesota Valley are looking for volunteers to stencil "Dump No Waste" messages on the streets next to storm drains in the communities along the Minnesota River. Citizens and local organizations such as Girl and Boy Scouts, 4-H groups, civic and church groups, environmental volunteers and other service organizations are encouraged to contact Sue Beiseker with the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, 854-5900, to receive more information or to sign up for the stenciling.

COPY

For Immediate Release
April 3, 1997



3815 East 80th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota
55425-1600

Honorary Board of Directors

Shirley K. Hunt Alexander
Edina, Minnesota

Elmer L. Andersen
Arden Hills, Minnesota

Raymond Black
Mound, Minnesota

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Minneapolis, Minnesota

Charles M. Moos
Deephaven, Minnesota

Samuel H. Morgan
St. Paul, Minnesota

Richardson & Susan Okie
White Bear Lake, Minnesota

Aileen Ridder
St. Paul, Minnesota



For More Information:

Ann Haines, Friends of the Minnesota Valley Executive Director, 612/858-0706

Snakes, spiders and other Minnesota critters coming to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Bloomington -- Live snakes, spiders and other Minnesota critters will be at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center in Bloomington on Saturday, April 12 from noon-4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Friends of the Minnesota Valley, the day will feature Naturalist Dany Newbauer with his Minnesota critters, critter movies, critter crafts, an art exhibit, animal crackers, outdoor interpretive programs and a workshop on how to attract wildlife to your backyard.

The art exhibit titled "Minnesota Critters" will show artist Dodie Logue's unique way of presenting critters through her work in dyed jute and wood mediums. Interpretive programs range from observing Great Blue Herons to looking for beaver signs.

"How to Attract Wildlife to Your Backyard" will be presented by Shelly Shreffler of the Saint Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. This free program will feature native plants and habitats that can help create an urban natural area. Participants will learn the benefits of native plants, how to attract different kinds of birds and butterflies and tips on using less fertilizer and fewer pesticides as well as get some ideas on how to landscape your own yard.

The Visitor Center and activities are free and open to the public.

For directions/information, call Minnesota Valley at 612/854-5900.

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Friends of the



3815 East 80th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota
55425-1600

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St. Paul, Minnesota

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White Bear Lake, Minnesota

Kathleen Ridder
St. Paul, Minnesota

For More Information:

Ann Haines, Friends of the Minnesota Valley Executive Director
612/858-0706

Calendar Information

Saturday, April 12

Family/Special Event

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. "Minnesota Critters".

Noon-4:00 p.m. Saturday, April 12, Refuge Visitor Center, Bloomington. Snakes, spiders, and other Minnesota critters along with critter crafts, movies, animal crackers, wildlife observation, an art exhibit and program on how to attract wildlife to your backyard. Outdoor interpretive programs include "Eager Beavers", "Heron Watch" and "Sky Dance".

FREE. Call 854-5900 for more information.

###

Schedule of Events

9:30-10:30 a.m.

"Heron Watch", interpretive program (Wilkie Unit)

Noon-4:00

Live Minnesota Critters, critter movies, critter crafts, animal crackers, art exhibit, wildlife observation

1-2:00 p.m.

"Eager Beaver" interpretive program

2-3:00 p.m.

"How to Attract Wildlife to Your Backyard"

2:30-3:30 p.m.

"Eager Beaver" interpretive program

8-9:00 p.m.

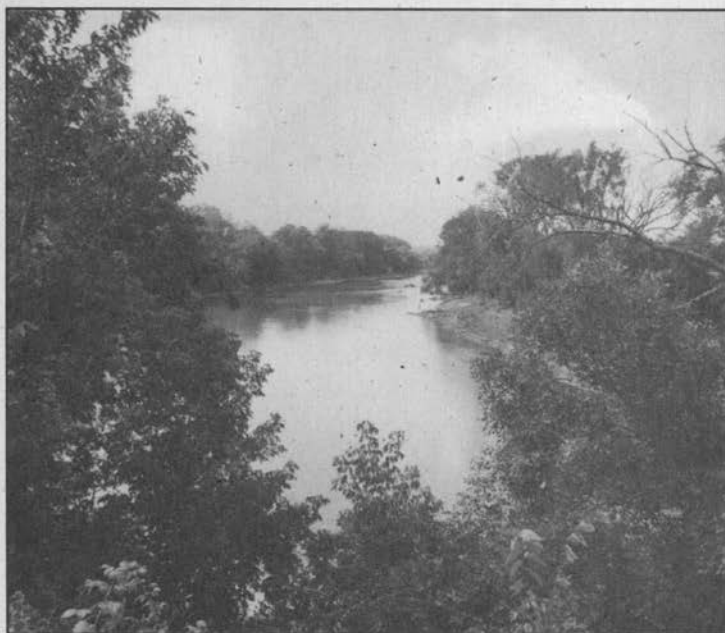
"Sky Dance" interpretive program



Working to conserve and manage wisely the cultural and natural resources of the Minnesota Valley.

ESTABLISHING the refuge

PROTECTING the valley



and PROMOTING stewardship



FRIENDS OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY

25 Years of Stewardship

Friends of the
**Minnesota
Valley**



Leadership in Stewardship.

*Dedicated to
Elaine Mellott
1932-1997*

*Founder,
Friends of the
Minnesota Valley*

INTRODUCTION to the Friends

The Friends of the Minnesota Valley and its predecessor groups have been instrumental in supporting conservation of the Lower Minnesota River Valley for more than 25 years.

Although the Friends have been responsible for several Valley protection efforts, perhaps the Friends is best known for its involvement in the creation and establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is an urban green belt, stretching 34 miles from Fort Snelling to Jordan, Minnesota.

The Refuge is an instrumental tool in protecting the Valley, acting as a buffer around the Minnesota River. The Refuge enhances the scenic beauty of the Valley, reduces flood damage, provides habitat for countless species of plants and animals and provides recreational opportunities for 2.2 million people.

The benefits of having an urban Refuge do not come without challenges. Development in and around the Lower Minnesota Valley grew by 156 percent between 1960-1990 and it is predicted there will be an additional 49 percent increase in Valley development by the year 2020. Runoff, erosion and habitat fragmentation associated with this tremendous growth have all had a direct impact on the natural resources of the Valley.

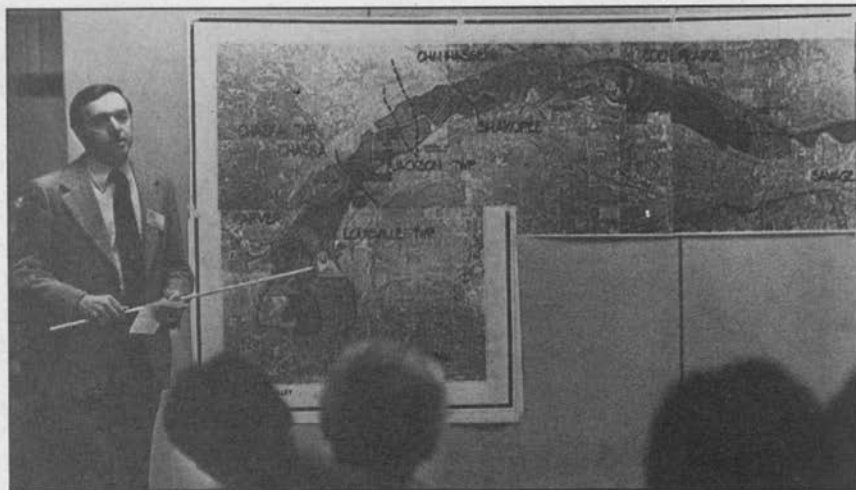
To address these issues, the Friends is positioning itself to move into the next century by continuing to support management efforts of the Refuge, expanding the Heritage Registry, promoting environmental awareness, and working to keep issues facing the Valley in the forefront.

The following outlines the 25 year history of the Friends, highlighting key activities, and providing information on how you can get involved in this important effort.

*“The Lower Minnesota River floodplain stands as a testimony of nature's perseverance. Humans have polluted its waters, filled its marshes with garbage and crisscrossed its skies with utility lines. Yet it remains an incomparable urban resource; a place where wildlife, its habitat, weather and the river play roles in a fantastic drama of the living natural world. The area is remarkably wild and when traveling across it by foot it is easy to slip back to a bygone era and forget the teeming metropolis around you...
It is a rare and precious legacy that we must not lose.”*

*Excerpted from
"Save the Minnesota River"
Ad-hoc Lower Minnesota
River Committee, 1973-74*

ESTABLISHING THE REFUGE: A History of Stewardship



Acting Refuge Manager Ed Crozier presents the Refuge concept at a meeting in January of 1980.

The dream of creating a national wildlife refuge to help protect the Minnesota Valley originated with the work of the Burnsville Environmental Council in the early 1970s. Frustrated with their failure to stop the expansion of landfill operations on the Burnsville portion of the Minnesota River floodplain, they decided a more comprehensive approach was necessary to protect the river bottoms.

The Council envisioned the establishment of an urban national wildlife refuge surrounding the Minnesota River. Ideally, the Refuge would act as a buffer, protecting the Minnesota River from increasing development, flooding and urban runoff. The Refuge would provide habitat for hundreds of species of animals and a place where 2.2 million people could easily access recreational opportunities.

The Council quickly realized the project was more than they could handle. In 1973, members of the Burnsville group combined efforts with the Bloomington Natural

Resources Commission and formed the ad-hoc Lower Minnesota River Committee.

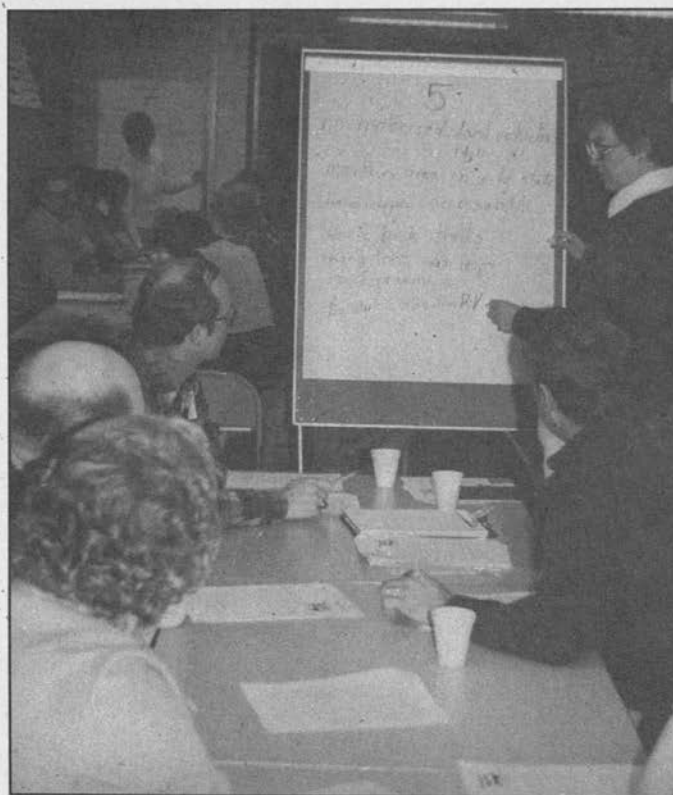
With a proposal for a national wildlife refuge in hand, the Lower Minnesota River Committee generated support for the plan by giving countless presentations up and down the river, educating people about the potential of having a national wildlife refuge in the Valley and seeking their support. More than 40 private groups, chambers of commerce, corporations and city councils supported the Committee's efforts.

On July 11, 1975, Senator Walter Mondale introduced a bill to establish the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Recreation Area. On October 6, 1976, Congress passed the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act.

On June 21, 1982, the Friends of the Minnesota Valley was incorporated. They had nonprofit status, a membership of 90, a board of nine, and the determination to continue to support the Refuge and to promote stewardship of the Minnesota Valley.

THE REASON THE REFUGE EXISTS
IS BECAUSE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE FRIENDS OF THE
MINNESOTA VALLEY
AND PREDECESSOR GROUPS
THAT HAVE LABORED FOR IT
FOR OVER 25 YEARS.

Since 1982, the Friends have been an advocate for and promoted awareness of the Refuge through support for environmental education, community involvement, fund-raising, monitoring legislation, recruiting new members and volunteers, and developing a Registry of landowners that are voluntarily committed to protecting and preserving their land.



More than 200 people representing 44 groups attended this meeting to help determine the recreational uses of the Refuge in 1980.

1934	1963	1965	1968-1971
• Need for protection of Minnesota River Valley recognized. • Minnesota Department of Health declares Minnesota River unfit for human contact and development of fish.	• Minnesota River designated as one of four rivers in Minnesota as a canoe and boat route.	• Unsuccessful proposals for a state forest park in Lower Minnesota Valley. • Flooding causes \$3.5 million in damages in Lower Minnesota Valley.	• Plans for Minnesota River Valley Trail extending from Fort Snelling to Ortonville developed. • Flooding causes \$5.8 million in damages in Lower Minnesota Valley.

PROTECTING THE VALLEY: The Heritage Registry

What began in 1983 as a way to respond to increasing pressures on natural communities surrounding the Lower Minnesota Valley, has now grown into one of the most positive approaches to educating, organizing and maintaining natural areas in the Minnesota Valley.

Originally designed to create a buffer zone of privately protected lands around the Refuge, the Friends' Registry program now targets privately owned lands in the entire Lower Minnesota Valley that are immediately adjacent to or "ecologically connected to" the Refuge. The goal is to conserve and protect biodiversity in the Valley so it will continue to be a resource for wildlife, environmental education and recreation.

HERITAGE REGISTRY TRENDS/GOALS

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Goal 2000
Private Landowners Enrolled	19	83	110	122	130	200
Businesses/Corporate	0	0	2	4	5	20
Total Number of Acres	656	1,311	1,522	1,941	2,500	4,000

As one of only six urban wildlife refuges in the United States, Minnesota Valley is a corridor and home for hundreds of species of plants and animals, and offers recreational and educational opportunities for 2.2 million people in and around the Twin Cities.

Development, erosion, increased urban runoff and flooding are just some of the issues that continue to face the Lower Minnesota Valley. The Metropolitan Council predicts that this area will be experiencing a 49 percent growth rate by the year 2020. Statistics like these underscore the need for an alternative, voluntary program like the Heritage Registry.

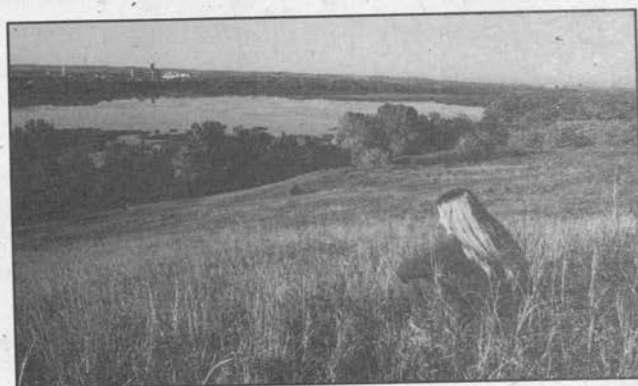
The Registry encourages a hands-on approach to stewardship by providing landowners, private and corporate, with access

1972-1973	1975	1976	1978-1979
• Burnsville landfill expanded despite efforts of Burnsville Environmental Council. The Council begins efforts to protect Valley leading to creation of Lower Minnesota River Committee.	• Lower Minnesota River Committee works to establish a national wildlife refuge, aimed at protecting the Minnesota Valley from further development.	• Refuge Act passed. • President Ford calls for \$8.3 million for land acquisition (9,500 acres) and \$6 million for building of a visitor center.	• Refuge acquires first lands. • First Refuge manager, Ed Crozier, moves into temporary headquarters.

THE HERITAGE REGISTRY IS A
 PROVEN TOOL FOR
 EDUCATING LANDOWNERS,
 BOTH PRIVATE AND CORPORATE,
 ABOUT THE IMPACTS
 THEY HAVE ON THE
 VALLEY'S NATURAL RESOURCES

to an information network on stewardship techniques. In return for a voluntary, verbal commitment to protect and preserve the natural qualities of their lands to the best of their abilities, landowners are offered incentives and recognition for their efforts.

With knowledge and a network of information, citizens are able to take a more active role in Minnesota Valley stewardship and make more informed decisions about their property. Since the Registry began, more than 75 percent of Registrants have made improvements on their land.



Registered lands include blufftop prairie remnants, woodlands and wetlands along the Minnesota River Valley.

1980	1982	1983	1984
• Two hundred people representing 44 groups attend public meetings to help determine recreational uses of Refuge.	• Friends of the Minnesota Valley officially forms. • Plans begin to develop a Registry of Valley landowners.	• Friends testify at Senate hearings urging increased support for Refuge.	• Refuge Act ammended increasing size to 12,500 acres and authorizing up to \$18.7 million for land acquistion and up to \$9.8 million for Visitor Center.

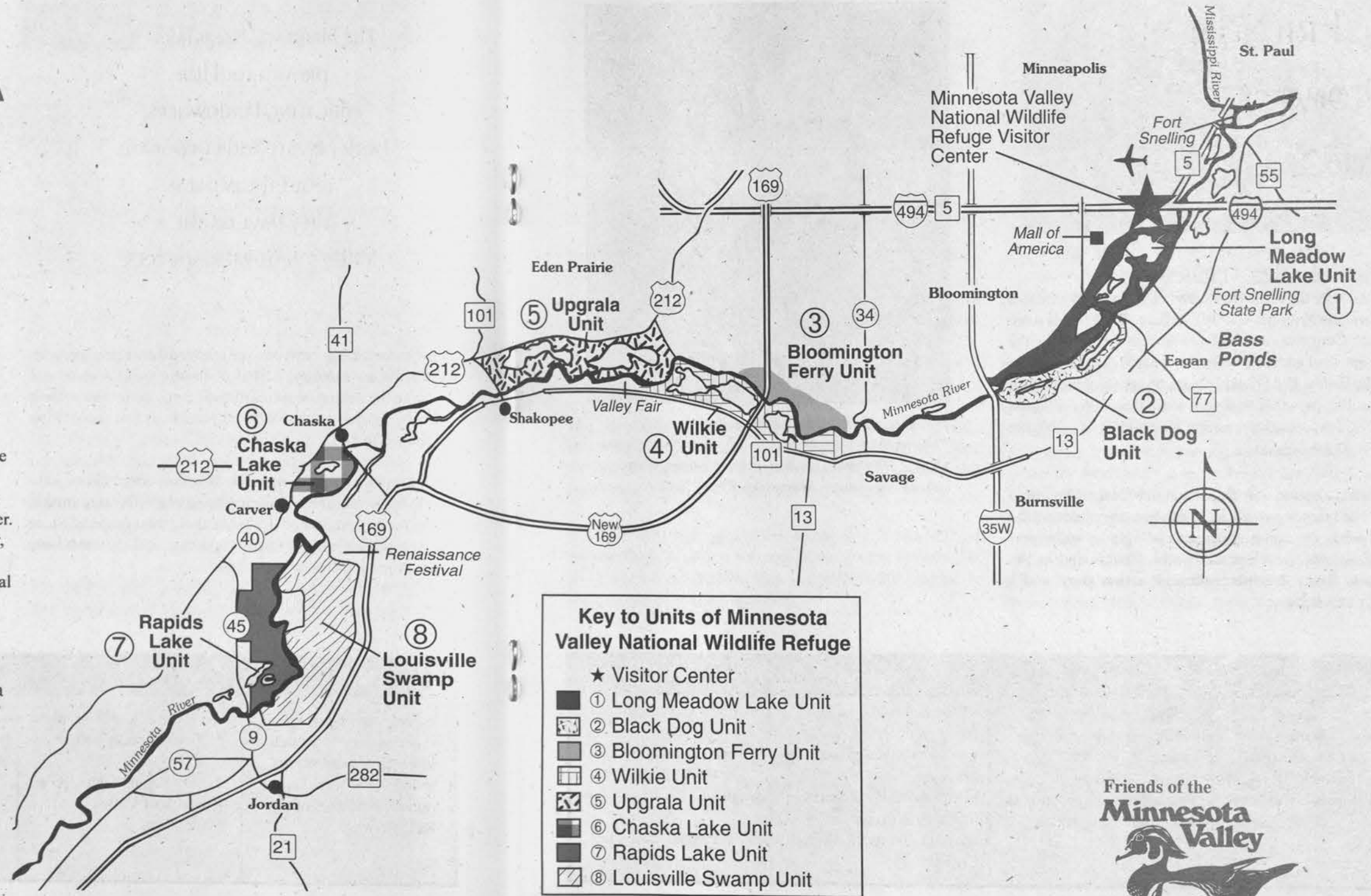
LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY

Units of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is a 34 mile urban green belt stretching from Fort Snelling to Jordan, Minnesota. The Refuge is comprised of eight units, four of which have trails and interpretive facilities. This area is an instrumental tool for protecting the Lower Minnesota River Valley, acting as a buffer to the Minnesota River. The Refuge enhances the scenic beauty of the Valley, reduces flood damage, provides habitat for countless species of plants and animals and provides recreational opportunities for 2.2 million people.



-  Minnesota River Basin
-  Lower Minnesota River Valley



THE FRIENDS:

Promoting Stewardship

REFUGE AND VALLEY SUPPORT

The Friends are the collective citizen voice for the Minnesota Valley and the National Wildlife Refuge. The Friends work to garner Congressional and community support for the Refuge and host annual briefings to update elected officials about the Valley. The Friends' efforts on behalf of the Refuge have resulted in authorization of more than \$28 million in appropriations for land acquisition and building of the Visitor Center in Bloomington.

The Friends also monitor issues that impact the Minnesota Valley. The Friends provide information to members and the general public regarding issues such as highway and airport expansions; and development on bluffslands and in the Minnesota River floodplain through action alerts and a quarterly newsletter.



More than 200 volunteers stenciled the words "Dump No Waste, Drains to MN River" near more than 2,500 storm drains in nine communities across the Lower Minnesota River Valley.

1985	1986	1987-1989	1990
• Friends comment on proposals for trash burning at Black Dog, mosquito control in the Valley, and a Bloomington bluffland townhouse development.	• Friends testify at Senate hearings in support Refuge funding. • Friends oppose proposal to dump fill in Savage Fen.	• Friends begin raising funds for Registry. • Visitor Center ground breaking. • Friends testify at Senate hearings in support of operating funds for Visitor Center.	• Visitor Center opens. • Friends receive national "Take Pride in America" award. • First Friends staff hired.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The Friends work to develop public and private partnerships across the Minnesota Valley and to develop and distribute information to Valley citizens and Friends members.

In 1997, the Friends began producing and distributing publications promoting the Refuge, developing River Steward Kits, and co-sponsoring special events designed to educate members and the general public about a particular topic as it relates to the Refuge or the Lower Minnesota River Valley.

The Friends also support Refuge environmental education initiatives such as the pre-school program and National Fishing Day. Increasing support will be given to a new water quality testing initiative called the Water Quality Trekking Pack program. This program is designed for students in grades 7-12 and will focus on testing water quality on Refuge sites in the Lower Minnesota River Valley.

The Friends are also actively promoting hands-on stewardship in communities along the Lower Minnesota Valley. In 1995, the Friends coordinated a storm drain stenciling effort and coordinate Valley and Refuge clean up efforts.

Because these programs are supported by individual memberships, private grants and donations, the Friends also work to increase membership and to generate interest in sponsorship of Friends' programs.



Heritage Registry member Minnegasco and the Friends teamed up to build 40 birdhouses. The houses were installed on Registry land in Burnsville.

HERITAGE REGISTRY

In addition to working with and encouraging Valley Citizens to enroll their land in the Registry, the Friends work with community groups to provide incentives for the Registry. In 1995, Bravo School in Bloomington built and donated 30 bat houses for Registrants and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge's Private Lands Program provided six wood duck houses and prairie seed for five acres of prairie restoration. The Friends also coordinate educational workshops and connect Registrants to local organizations who offer permanent conservation easements or funding to implement soil or water conservation practices.

1991	1992	1993	1994
• Heritage Registry land-owner contacts begin. • Friends comment on airport expansion proposal.	• Governor Carlson sets goals for a "fishable and swimmable" Minnesota River by the year 2002. Friends participates on Minnesota River Citizen's Advisory Committee, to develop a plan to meet the challenge.	• Minnesota River floods. • Friends receive McKnight Foundation grant to expand Registry.	• Friends comment on proposals to extend airport runway, expand highway 35W, build on bluffs and mosquito control on the Refuge. • Friends co-sponsor Minnesota River Rally.

STEWARDSHIP 2000:

The Future of the Friends

As the Friends prepare for the challenges of the next Century, your help is critical. The Friends are working to promote stewardship through increased outreach and programming efforts.

The Friends have created information packets called River Steward Kits. The Kits contain simple stewardship techniques that are easily implemented and are distributed to Friends members and those who enroll in the Heritage Registry. With your help, our goal is to enroll 200 private landowners and 20 businesses in the Heritage Registry by the turn of the century.

Other goals of the Friends are to continue to raise concern among bluff and floodplain landowners about stewardship of the Minnesota River, to raise public awareness of the River and the Refuge, and to participate and initiate hands-on projects that will directly make a difference to improving the Minnesota River.

Your help is needed to continue, expand and enhance these efforts. Volunteering your time or talents or providing funding for Friends programs are two ways to get involved.

Individual memberships and corporate support of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley helps build a base of support and a stronger presence in the community. Donations and sponsorship of programs provides the means for the Friends to continue outreach and education efforts.

The result of your help will be the continuation and expansion of a network of Minnesota River neighbors who are aware of the importance and uniqueness of this urban river corridor, who recognize their connection to the river and who are taking an active role in stewardship of the Minnesota Valley.

Help is needed to support the Friends' work on behalf of the Valley. Join us and become a *real* friend of the Minnesota Valley.

1995	1996	1997	2000 and Beyond
• 216 volunteers stencil 2,512 storm drains with "dump no waste, drains to MN River". • Friends comment on radio tower construction in floodplain and Eagle Creek development in Savage.	• Heritage Registry receives funding from Metropolitan council and DNR. • Refuge celebrates 20 years. • Friends receive 2 year McKnight grant for public education and outreach project.	• Friends launch "Leadership in Stewardship" campaign to provide educational and stewardship information to Valley residents. • Minnesota River floods.	Creation of network of River neighbors who are taking an active role in stewardship of the Minnesota Valley.

FRIENDS TRENDS

Year	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1997
Income	\$2,200	\$5,500	\$3,500	\$19,800	\$3,100	\$12,700	\$44,600	\$139,700	\$291,000
Expenses	\$2,400	\$1,800	\$1,600	\$7,000	\$3,400	\$18,700	\$51,800	\$135,000	\$291,000
Members	90	86	119	75	125	175	200	405	500
Registry Land (in acres)	-	-	-	-	-	656	1,522	2,500	3,000

JOIN THE Friends of the Minnesota Valley

(The Friends is a non profit organization; all contributions are tax-deductible)

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

*Please note your donation and
mail to the address below:*

- ___ \$15 Student
- ___ \$20 Individual
- ___ \$30 Household
- ___ \$50 Sponsor
- ___ \$100 Supporter
- ___ \$500 Sustainer
- ___ \$1,000+ Patron

Name _____

Organization/Business _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____

- ☐ I am interested in volunteering
- ☐ Our organization/business is interested in co-sponsoring
Friend's programs
- ☐ I would like more information about
enrolling in the Heritage Registry



Mail to: Friends of the Minnesota Valley,
Post Office Box 20244, Bloomington, Minnesota, 55420

“ If we cannot act as responsible stewards in
our own backyard, the long-term prospects
for biological diversity on the rest of the
planet are grim indeed. ”

*from Biodiversity,
by Dennis Murphy*



Leadership in Stewardship.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley
3815 East 80th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425

phone 612/854-5900
fax 612/725-3279
mnvalley_friends@mail.fws.gov



Printed on recycled paper with soy based ink. September 1997.

ESTABLISHING the refuge

PROTECTING the valley



and PROMOTING stewardship

Friends of the
**Minnesota
Valley**



FRIENDS OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY

25 Years of Stewardship

Friends of the
**Minnesota
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Leadership in Stewardship.

*Dedicated to
Elaine Mellott
1932-1997
Founder,
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INTRODUCTION

YES! I want to make a special year-end contribution to the Friends!



Here's my additional gift of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50
☐ \$100 ☐ \$500
☐ \$1000 Other \$

(This is not your membership renewal.)

Thank You!

The Friends is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; all contributions are tax-deductible.

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It is a rare and precious legacy that we must not lose.”

Excerpted from
"Save the Minnesota River"
Ad-hoc Lower Minnesota
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Ad-hoc Lower Minnesota
River Committee, 1973-74*

THANK YOU!

Your gift is important!

Friends' programs are supported by memberships, individual donations, private grants and donations.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley

612/854-5900

minvalley_friends@mail.fws.gov

INTRODUCTION to the Friends

The Friends of the Minnesota Valley and its predecessor groups
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years.



Friends of the Minnesota Valley
P.O. Box 20244
Bloomington, MN 55420

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The Friends of the Minnesota Valley and its predecessor groups have been instrumental in supporting conservation of the Lower Minnesota River Valley for more than 25 years.

Although the Friends have been responsible for several Valley protection efforts, perhaps the Friends is best known for its involvement in the creation and establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is an urban green belt, stretching 34 miles from Fort Snelling to Jordan, Minnesota.

The Refuge is an instrumental tool in protecting the Valley, acting as a buffer around the Minnesota River. The Refuge enhances the scenic beauty of the Valley, reduces flood damage, provides habitat for countless species of plants and animals and provides recreational opportunities for 2.2 million people.

The benefits of having an urban Refuge do not come without challenges. Development in and around the Lower Minnesota Valley grew by 156 percent between 1960-1990 and it is predicted there will be an additional 49 percent increase in Valley development by the year 2020. Runoff, erosion and habitat fragmentation associated with this tremendous growth have all had a direct impact on the natural resources of the Valley.

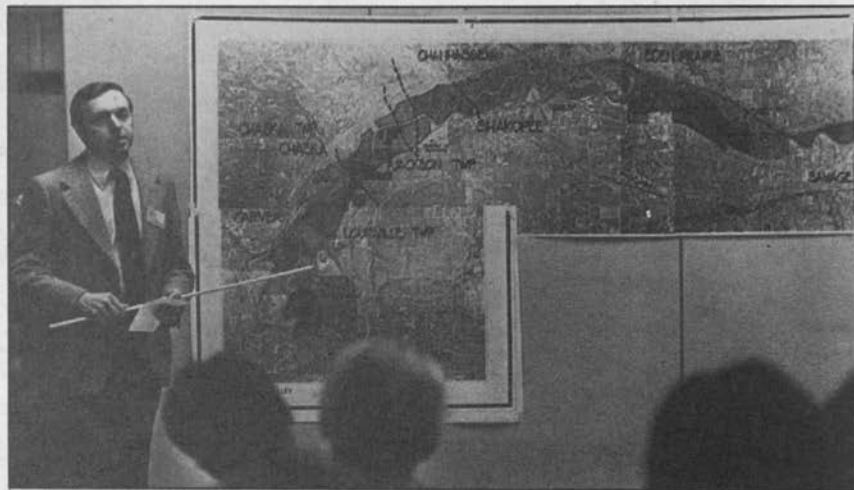
To address these issues, the Friends is positioning itself to move into the next century by continuing to support management efforts of the Refuge, expanding the Heritage Registry, promoting environmental awareness, and working to keep issues facing the Valley in the forefront.

The following outlines the 25 year history of the Friends, highlighting key activities, and providing information on how you can get involved in this important effort.

“The Lower Minnesota River floodplain stands as a testimony of nature's perseverance. Humans have polluted its waters, filled its marshes with garbage and crisscrossed its skies with utility lines. Yet it remains an incomparable urban resource; a place where wildlife, its habitat, weather and the river play roles in a fantastic drama of the living natural world. The area is remarkably wild and when traveling across it by foot it is easy to slip back to a bygone era and forget the teeming metropolis around you... It is a rare and precious legacy that we must not lose.”

Excerpted from
"Save the Minnesota River"
Ad-hoc Lower Minnesota
River Committee, 1973-74

ESTABLISHING THE REFUGE: A History of Stewardship



Acting Refuge Manager Ed Crozier presents the Refuge concept at a meeting in January of 1980.

The dream of creating a national wildlife refuge to help protect the Minnesota Valley originated with the work of the Burnsville Environmental Council in the early 1970s. Frustrated with their failure to stop the expansion of landfill operations on the Burnsville portion of the Minnesota River floodplain, they decided a more comprehensive approach was necessary to protect the river bottoms.

The Council envisioned the establishment of an urban national wildlife refuge surrounding the Minnesota River. Ideally, the Refuge would act as a buffer, protecting the Minnesota River from increasing development, flooding and urban runoff. The Refuge would provide habitat for hundreds of species of animals and a place where 2.2 million people could easily access recreational opportunities.

The Council quickly realized the project was more than they could handle. In 1973, members of the Burnsville group combined efforts with the Bloomington Natural

Resources Commission and formed the ad-hoc Lower Minnesota River Committee.

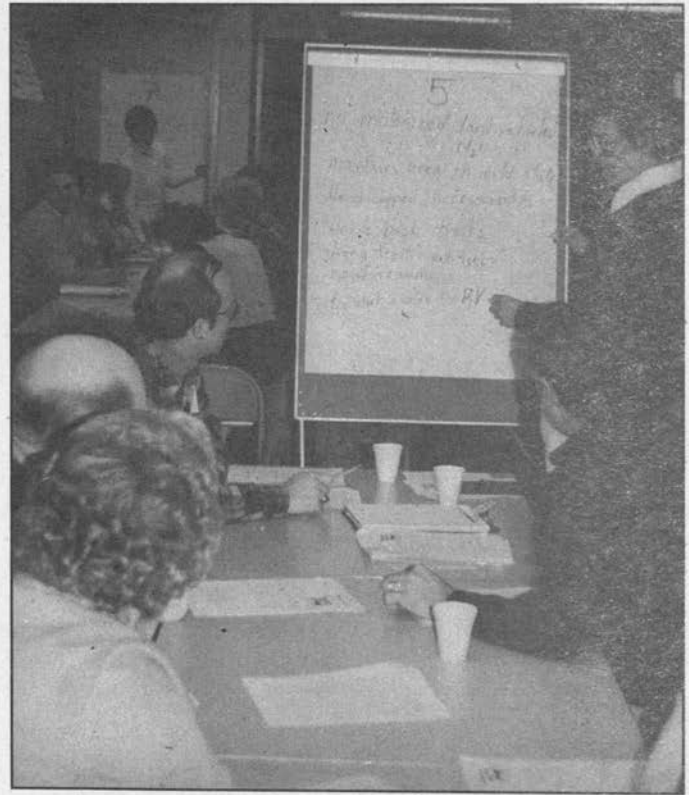
With a proposal for a national wildlife refuge in hand, the Lower Minnesota River Committee generated support for the plan by giving countless presentations up and down the river, educating people about the potential of having a national wildlife refuge in the Valley and seeking their support. More than 40 private groups, chambers of commerce, corporations and city councils supported the Committee's efforts.

On July 11, 1975, Senator Walter Mondale introduced a bill to establish the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Recreation Area. On October 6, 1976, Congress passed the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act.

On June 21, 1982, the Friends of the Minnesota Valley was incorporated. They had nonprofit status, a membership of 90, a board of nine, and the determination to continue to support the Refuge and to promote stewardship of the Minnesota Valley.

THE REASON THE REFUGE EXISTS
IS BECAUSE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE FRIENDS OF THE
MINNESOTA VALLEY
AND PREDECESSOR GROUPS
THAT HAVE LABORED FOR IT
FOR OVER 25 YEARS.

Since 1982, the Friends have been an advocate for and promoted awareness of the Refuge through support for environmental education, community involvement, fund-raising, monitoring legislation, recruiting new members and volunteers, and developing a Registry of landowners that are voluntarily committed to protecting and preserving their land.



More than 200 people representing 44 groups attended this meeting to help determine the recreational uses of the Refuge in 1980.

1934	1963	1965	1968-1971
• Need for protection of Minnesota River Valley recognized. • Minnesota Department of Health declares Minnesota River unfit for human contact and development of fish.	• Minnesota River designated as one of four rivers in Minnesota as a canoe and boat route.	• Unsuccessful proposals for a state forest park in Lower Minnesota Valley. • Flooding causes \$3.5 million in damages in Lower Minnesota Valley.	• Plans for Minnesota River Valley Trail extending from Fort Snelling to Ortonville developed. • Flooding causes \$5.8 million in damages in Lower Minnesota Valley.

PROTECTING THE VALLEY: The Heritage Registry

What began in 1983 as a way to respond to increasing pressures on natural communities surrounding the Lower Minnesota Valley, has now grown into one of the most positive approaches to educating, organizing and maintaining natural areas in the Minnesota Valley.

Originally designed to create a buffer zone of privately protected lands around the Refuge, the Friends' Registry program now targets privately owned lands in the entire Lower Minnesota Valley that are immediately adjacent to or "ecologically connected to" the Refuge. The goal is to conserve and protect biodiversity in the Valley so it will continue to be a resource for wildlife, environmental education and recreation.

HERITAGE REGISTRY TRENDS/GOALS

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Goal 2000
Private Landowners Enrolled	19	83	110	122	130	200
Businesses/Corporate	0	0	2	4	5	20
Total Number of Acres	656	1,311	1,522	1,941	2,500	4,000

As one of only six urban wildlife refuges in the United States, Minnesota Valley is a corridor and home for hundreds of species of plants and animals, and offers recreational and educational opportunities for 2.2 million people in and around the Twin Cities.

Development, erosion, increased urban runoff and flooding are just some of the issues that continue to face the Lower Minnesota Valley. The Metropolitan Council predicts that this area will be experiencing a 49 percent growth rate by the year 2020. Statistics like these underscore the need for an alternative, voluntary program like the Heritage Registry.

The Registry encourages a hands-on approach to stewardship by providing landowners, private and corporate, with access

1972-1973	1975	1976	1978-1979
• Burnsville landfill expanded despite efforts of Burnsville Environmental Council. The Council begins efforts to protect Valley leading to creation of Lower Minnesota River Committee.	• Lower Minnesota River Committee works to establish a national wildlife refuge, aimed at protecting the Minnesota Valley from further development.	• Refuge Act passed. • President Ford calls for \$8.3 million for land acquisition (9,500 acres) and \$6 million for building of a visitor center.	• Refuge acquires first lands. • First Refuge manager, Ed Crozier, moves into temporary headquarters.

THE HERITAGE REGISTRY IS A
 PROVEN TOOL FOR
 EDUCATING LANDOWNERS,
 BOTH PRIVATE AND CORPORATE,
 ABOUT THE IMPACTS
 THEY HAVE ON THE
 VALLEY'S NATURAL RESOURCES

to an information network on stewardship techniques. In return for a voluntary, verbal commitment to protect and preserve the natural qualities of their lands to the best of their abilities, landowners are offered incentives and recognition for their efforts.

With knowledge and a network of information, citizens are able to take a more active role in Minnesota Valley stewardship and make more informed decisions about their property. Since the Registry began, more than 75 percent of Registrants have made improvements on their land.



Registered lands include blufftop prairie remnants, woodlands and wetlands along the Minnesota River Valley.

1980	1982	1983	1984
• Two hundred people representing 44 groups attend public meetings to help determine recreational uses of Refuge.	• Friends of the Minnesota Valley officially forms. • Plans begin to develop a Registry of Valley landowners.	• Friends testify at Senate hearings urging increased support for Refuge.	• Refuge Act ammended increasing size to 12,500 acres and authorizing up to \$18.7 million for land acquisition and up to \$9.8 million for Visitor Center.

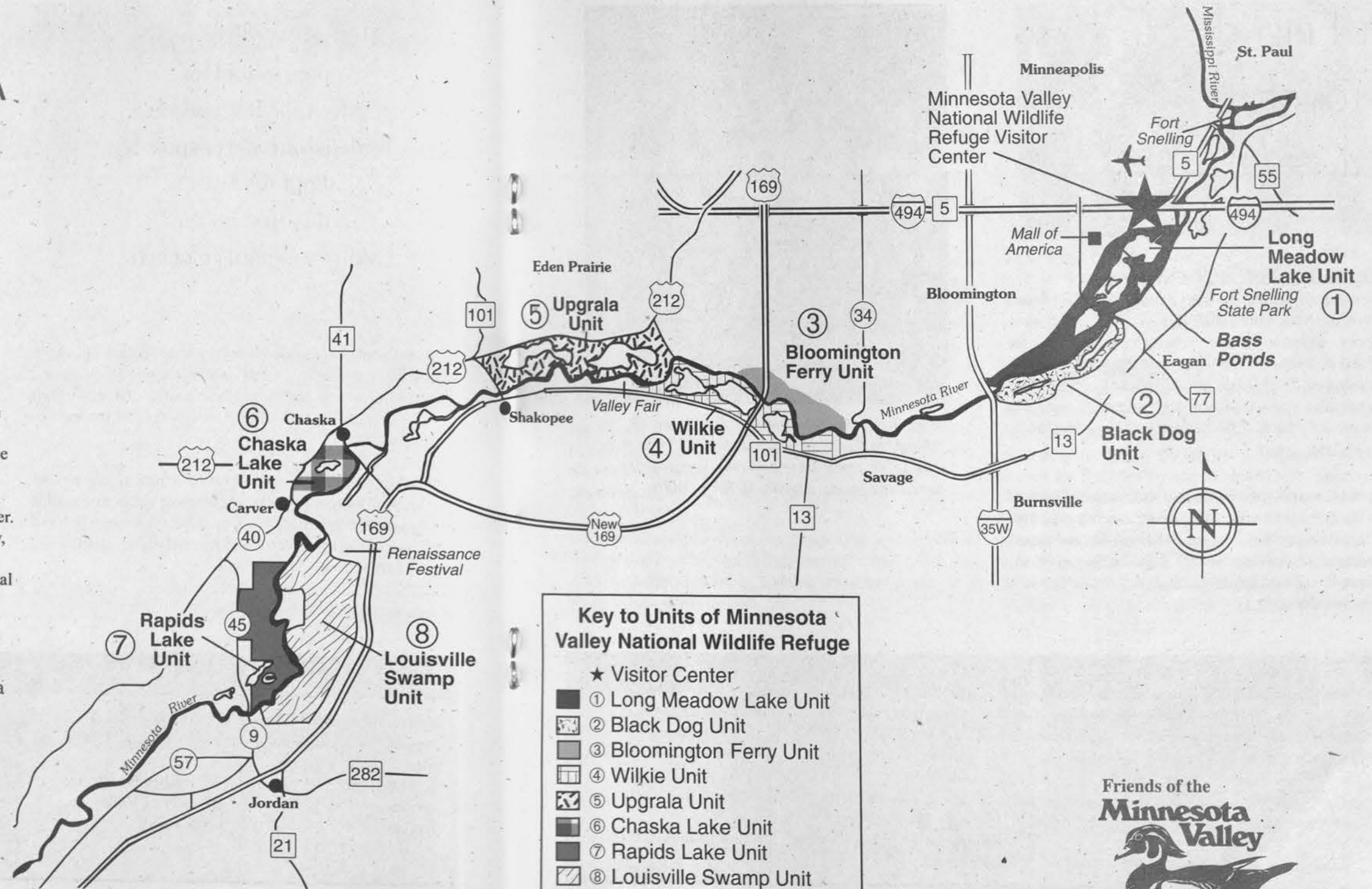
LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY

Units of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is a 34 mile urban green belt stretching from Fort Snelling to Jordan, Minnesota. The Refuge is comprised of eight units, four of which have trails and interpretive facilities. This area is an instrumental tool for protecting the Lower Minnesota River Valley, acting as a buffer to the Minnesota River. The Refuge enhances the scenic beauty of the Valley, reduces flood damage, provides habitat for countless species of plants and animals and provides recreational opportunities for 2.2 million people.



-  Minnesota River Basin
-  Lower Minnesota River Valley



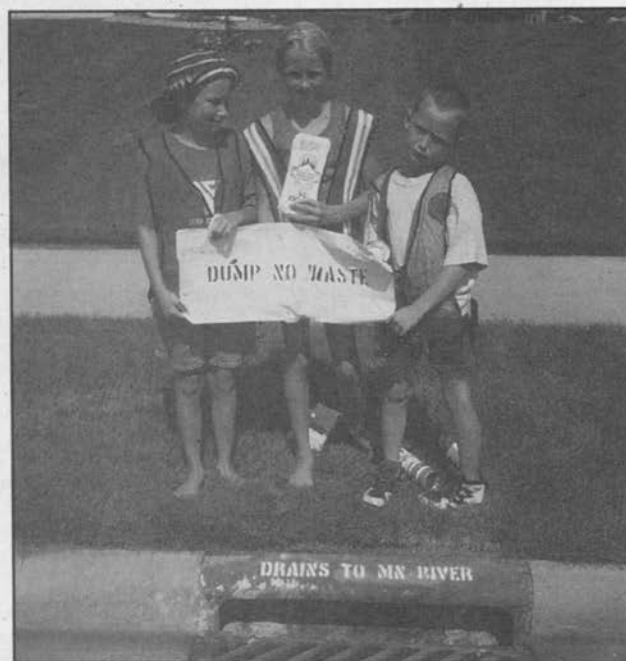
THE FRIENDS:

Promoting Stewardship

REFUGE AND VALLEY SUPPORT

The Friends are the collective citizen voice for the Minnesota Valley and the National Wildlife Refuge. The Friends work to garner Congressional and community support for the Refuge and host annual briefings to update elected officials about the Valley. The Friends' efforts on behalf of the Refuge have resulted in authorization of more than \$28 million in appropriations for land acquisition and building of the Visitor Center in Bloomington.

The Friends also monitor issues that impact the Minnesota Valley. The Friends provide information to members and the general public regarding issues such as highway and airport expansions; and development on bluffs and in the Minnesota River floodplain through action alerts and a quarterly newsletter.



More than 200 volunteers stenciled the words "Dump No Waste, Drains to MN River" near more than 2,500 storm drains in nine communities across the Lower Minnesota River Valley.

1985	1986	1987-1989	1990
• Friends comment on proposals for trash burning at Black Dog, mosquito control in the Valley, and a Bloomington bluffland townhouse development.	• Friends testify at Senate hearings in support Refuge funding. • Friends oppose proposal to dump fill in Savage Fen.	• Friends begin raising funds for Registry. • Visitor Center ground breaking. • Friends testify at Senate hearings in support of operating funds for Visitor Center.	• Visitor Center opens. • Friends receive national "Take Pride in America" award. • First Friends staff hired.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The Friends work to develop public and private partnerships across the Minnesota Valley and to develop and distribute information to Valley citizens and Friends members.

In 1997, the Friends began producing and distributing publications promoting the Refuge, developing River Steward Kits, and co-sponsoring special events designed to educate members and the general public about a particular topic as it relates to the Refuge or the Lower Minnesota River Valley.

The Friends also support Refuge environmental education initiatives such as the pre-school program and National Fishing Day. Increasing support will be given to a new water quality testing initiative called the Water Quality Trekking Pack program. This program is designed for students in grades 7-12 and will focus on testing water quality on Refuge sites in the Lower Minnesota River Valley.

The Friends are also actively promoting hands-on stewardship in communities along the Lower Minnesota Valley. In 1995, the Friends coordinated a storm drain stenciling effort and coordinate Valley and Refuge clean up efforts.

Because these programs are supported by individual memberships, private grants and donations, the Friends also work to increase membership and to generate interest in sponsorship of Friends' programs.



Heritage Registry member Minnegasco and the Friends teamed up to build 40 birdhouses. The houses were installed on Registry land in Burnsville.

HERITAGE REGISTRY

In addition to working with and encouraging Valley Citizens to enroll their land in the Registry, the Friends work with community groups to provide incentives for the Registry. In 1995, Bravo School in Bloomington built and donated 30 bat houses for Registrants and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge's Private Lands Program provided six wood duck houses and prairie seed for five acres of prairie restoration. The Friends also coordinate educational workshops and connect Registrants to local organizations who offer permanent conservation easements or funding to implement soil or water conservation practices.

1991	1992	1993	1994
• Heritage Registry land-owner contacts begin. • Friends comment on airport expansion proposal.	• Governor Carlson sets goals for a "fishable and swimmable" Minnesota River by the year 2002. Friends participates on Minnesota River Citizen's Advisory Committee, to develop a plan to meet the challenge.	• Minnesota River floods. • Friends receive McKnight Foundation grant to expand Registry.	• Friends comment on proposals to extend airport runway, expand highway 35W, build on bluffs and mosquito control on the Refuge. • Friends co-sponsor Minnesota River Rally.

STEWARDSHIP 2000:

The Future of the Friends

As the Friends prepare for the challenges of the next Century, your help is critical. The Friends are working to promote stewardship through increased outreach and programming efforts.

The Friends have created information packets called River Steward Kits. The Kits contain simple stewardship techniques that are easily implemented and are distributed to Friends members and those who enroll in the Heritage Registry. With your help, our goal is to enroll 200 private landowners and 20 businesses in the Heritage Registry by the turn of the century.

Other goals of the Friends are to continue to raise concern among bluff and floodplain landowners about stewardship of the Minnesota River, to raise public awareness of the River and the Refuge, and to participate and initiate hands-on projects that will directly make a difference to improving the Minnesota River.

Your help is needed to continue, expand and enhance these efforts. Volunteering your time or talents or providing funding for Friends programs are two ways to get involved.

Individual memberships and corporate support of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley helps build a base of support and a stronger presence in the community. Donations and sponsorship of programs provides the means for the Friends to continue outreach and education efforts.

The result of your help will be the continuation and expansion of a network of Minnesota River neighbors who are aware of the importance and uniqueness of this urban river corridor, who recognize their connection to the river and who are taking an active role in stewardship of the Minnesota Valley.

Help is needed to support the Friends' work on behalf of the Valley. Join us and become a *real* friend of the Minnesota Valley.

1995	1996	1997	2000 and Beyond
• 216 volunteers stencil 2,512 storm drains with "dump no waste, drains to MN River". • Friends comment on radio tower construction in floodplain and Eagle Creek development in Savage.	• Heritage Registry receives funding from Metropolitan council and DNR. • Refuge celebrates 20 years. • Friends receive 2 year McKnight grant for public education and outreach project.	• Friends launch "Leadership in Stewardship" campaign to provide educational and stewardship information to Valley residents. • Minnesota River floods.	Creation of network of River neighbors who are taking an active role in stewardship of the Minnesota Valley.

“ If we cannot act as responsible stewards in
our own backyard, the long-term prospects
for biological diversity on the rest of the
planet are grim indeed. ”

*from Biodiversity,
by Dennis Murphy*



Leadership in Stewardship.

Friends of the Minnesota Valley
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Bloomington, Minnesota 55425

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mnvalley_friends@mail.fws.gov



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Friends of the



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BURNSVILLE MN 55337

A quarterly publication from the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, promoting the goals and activities of the Friends, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Refuge volunteers, and the Blufftop Bookshop.

25 Years of Protecting and Preserving the Valley

Friends Celebrate 25 Years of Stewardship

1997 marks 25 years that the Friends of the Minnesota Valley and its predecessor groups have been working to protect and preserve the Lower Minnesota River Valley.

Over the past 25 years the Friends have dedicated themselves to supporting conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the Minnesota Valley and to promoting environmental awareness. Although the Friends have achieved many goals that ultimately resulted in protection of the Valley, their greatest achievement was the establishment of Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

The history of the Refuge and Friends began with the work of the Burnsville Environmental Council in the early 1970s. The Council envisioned an urban wildlife refuge surrounding the Minnesota River. In 1973, the Council combined efforts with Bloomington's Natural Resources Commission and formed the ad-hoc Lower Minnesota River Committee.

With proposal in hand, the Committee generated support for the refuge throughout the valley.

"The reason the Refuge exists is because of the activities of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley and predecessor groups that have labored over it for over 25 years."

On October 6, 1976, Congress passed the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act.

By 1982, the Committee had evolved into the Friends of the Minnesota Valley. Since then, the Friends have been an advocate for the Refuge through support of environmental education, community involvement, fund-raising, monitoring activities that could adversely impact the Valley, recruiting members and volunteers, and developing a Registry of landowners voluntarily committed to protecting and preserving their lands.

Over the past 25 years, interest in protecting and preserving the Minnesota Valley has grown, and today it is stronger than ever. Currently, the Friends have 500 members and a Board of 16 Valley citizens. This support is critical, because the Lower Minnesota River's health is being threatened at an increasing rate.

Silver Celebration Friends Membership Meeting

Saturday September 20th
details on page 2

Runoff, erosion and habitat fragmentation associated with development and urbanization have contributed to make the Minnesota River one of our nation's most threatened.

The Friends have determined a course of action for the next decade that will meet these challenges. Their goals are:

To protect and conserve biodiversity of the lower Minnesota Valley; instill within the community a sense of appreciation, responsibility, and stewardship for the lower Minnesota Valley; and to develop a strong base of resources to sustain and nurture the Friends organization into the future.

The result will be the continuation and expansion of a network of Minnesota River neighbors who are aware of the importance of this urban river corridor, who recognize their connection to the river, and who are taking an active role in stewardship of the Minnesota Valley. 

Silver Celebration & Trash and Treasure Hunt

In honor of 25 years of helping protect and preserve the Lower Minnesota River Valley, the Friends of the Minnesota Valley will host a "Silver Celebration" on Saturday, September 20 at the Refuge Visitor Center in Bloomington.

The Trash and Treasure Hunt will begin at 9:00 a.m. Participants will help cleanup Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge trails while searching for 2,500 silver keys that will be hidden in cleanup areas. Lunch and the unlocking of the treasure chest will follow the Hunt. Only twenty-five keys will open the treasure chest - filled with prizes, gift certificates and more.

The day will also feature the Friends annual membership meeting, the unlocking of the treasure chest, hands-on water activities, interpretive programs, a historical slide show and display, singing Park Ranger Charlie McGuire, a birthday cake, Minnesota River Twister and more.

Afternoon activities are free and open to the public, but preregistration is requested for the Trash and Treasure Hunt. Individuals, families, groups, organizations, and businesses are encouraged to participate in the Hunt. For more information, fill out and return the form in this newsletter, or call the Friends at 612/858-0733. 

One Performance Only!



Charlie Maguire
"The Singing Ranger"
Mississippi National River
and Recreation Area
National Park Service

On September 20th at 1 pm, join award-winning Minnesota musician and composer Charlie Maguire, "The Singing Ranger" as he takes us for a journey on the "Great Mississippi".

Celebrating Conservation

by Judie Miller, Public Affairs Officer

National Wildlife Refuge Week is celebrated during the second week of October each and every year. The National Wildlife Refuge System, created in 1903 by the visionary Theodore Roosevelt, now totals 511 refuges with more than 92 million acres of prime wildlife habitat that is home to more than 1,370 different species.

Recently, Dr. Richard A. Coleman, the newly appointed chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, said that he is committed to increasing public awareness, understanding, and an appreciation of the refuge system. Dr. Coleman sees the importance of informing the public about what refuges do for wildlife conservation

and why it is done. Dr. Coleman says, "Our business is really about people--- everything we accomplish on the behalf of wildlife we accomplish on behalf of, and through the support of, the American People."

A "hometown refuge" celebration will be held at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge from October 12 through 18. The theme for this year's celebration is "Preparing for Winter". The celebration will feature talks and demonstrations on winter bird feeding, opportunities to construct bird feeders from recycling products, and birding hikes. The celebration will culminate on Saturday the 18th with a River Steward Saturday, canoe tours, interpretive programs, and other special activities. 



Youth and Mentor Waterfowl Hunting Program

by Terry Schreiner, *Refuge Operations Specialist*

The Refuge is proud to be a partner with the Minnesota Waterfowl Association in offering a Youth and Mentor Waterfowl Hunting Program to encourage youths and mentors to learn, start, and continue the sport of waterfowling. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to supporting the long tradition of ethical waterfowling.

Participants are instructed by experts in just about every aspect of this sport including gunning, calling, decoy placement, duck identification, ethics,

boat and blind safety, hunting regulations, retriever work, and habitat. Participants are tested at the end to ensure proficiency in each aspect before the real fun begins.

Next comes a series of actual hunting trips with an experienced adult on Refuge wetlands. Each participant, mentor, and guide will have exclusive use of the wetland area to give the best opportunity for a memorable and educational experience. The role of the mentor is to assist the youth in a hands-on experience.

Plans for this year's program are not yet finalized. An open house format is being considered with a basic overview of the program and how to apply. The highlight would be a computerized firearm training system, called FATS. This simulator is similar to the one used by law enforcement professionals to recreate virtually real experiences; it is sure to be a hit with young and old alike. For more information contact the Refuge at 612/854-5900 or the Minnesota Waterfowl Association at 612/922-2832. 



Wood Ducks

by Janet Peterson, *Volunteer*

As fall and winter approach, the ducks begin their migration southward. For the wood duck in Minnesota, southern migration begins in September and continues into November.

Wood ducks from Ontario and Quebec start their migration earlier, joining the flight of the Midwest population and swelling the ranks as they migrate to southern wetlands. At this time, pairing begins between males and females as they find habitat in beaver ponds, wooded swamps, and meandering streams.

The wood duck is considered the most beautiful native American duck. Brightly colored hues of purple and green identify the drake, as it perches on a log or alights on the water. The wood duck hen is more distinct than other brown hens with her pronounced white rings that surround her eyes and trail behind, like exclamation marks, on the sooty gray, slightly crested head. Her loud squealing call, wee-e-e-ek, wee-e-e-ek, indicates her presence.

Degradation of wetlands remains a concern for both future breeding grounds and habitat of wood ducks. The Refuge preserves wood duck habitat through the Waterfowl Protection Area (WPA) program according to Tom Kerr of the Refuge's Private Lands program. WPAs are purchased with dollars raised through the sale of duck stamps to hunters, collectors, and conservationists.

The Refuge has protected approximately 2,000 acres of prairie wetland habitat. One example is the Soberg WPA, in Lakeville near Highway 35W and County Road 70. It is open to the public.

The Refuge also protects wetlands by working with private landowners to restore wetlands on their property. Landowners are encouraged to place wood duck boxes on their property to provide nesting habitat. Conservation organizations and groups such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts often build wood duck boxes and provide them to willing landowners. You may purchase plans to build your own (see bookshop article on page 5). 

Nest Box Management

by Deanne Endrizzi,
Resource Librarian

It is a good idea to clean out and maintain nest boxes after the nesting season to encourage species to nest again. With small-cavity nesting birds, remove the nest as soon as the babies have fledged. Birds such as house wrens and eastern bluebirds may return to have a second brood, so wait to clean out these boxes.

Checklist:

- Make sure box is in good shape and the bottom is solid.
- Remove insects, such as fly larvae or wasp nests.
- Ensure that the box is securely attached to post or tree.
- Plug the holes to keep out squirrels, mice and competing cavity nesters that stay during winter. This also prevents starlings and house sparrows from claiming the boxes before migrants return.

What's Going on at Louisville Swamp?

by Vicki Sherry, *Wildlife Biologist*

If you have visited Louisville Swamp this summer, you may have seen glimpses of fluorescent orange and pink as you look through the woods. These streaks of flagging attached to trees and posts may be distracting, but they are important tools biologists use to identify study plots in woodland areas. At Louisville Swamp, the flagging denotes "study transects" set up in an oak savanna restoration area.

Why restore oak savanna? Oak savanna is a community composed primarily of oak trees with a groundlayer of prairie grasses and flowers. It is an ecosystem that is considered to be even rarer than prairie in Minnesota. In fact, at the time of settlement, oak savanna covered up to 32,110,000 acres of the Midwest. By 1985, only 6,440 acres of relatively high-quality oak savanna remained, about 0.02 percent of the presettlement extent (Nuzzo, 1986).

Deciduous savanna communities are early successional communities, and appear to have been historically maintained by fire and grazing bison and elk. With fire suppression and the destruction of bison and elk herds, many tracts of savanna have succeeded to forest. Since much of the areas that were historically oak savanna on the Refuge are now degraded forest, we decided to restore these degraded areas to oak savanna.

Before restoration efforts begin, it is important that a system be established to monitor the changes over time. This summer, staff and volunteers are completing baseline vegetation, nongame bird, and amphibian surveys in the restoration area, as well as a control (comparison) area. This will help us determine what birds and amphibians are currently using the habitat, as well as indicate what vegetation is present prior to restoration. We will monitor this area for at least ten years, since changes in the plant and animal communities may take many years to detect.

Restoration work will begin this fall. Our goal is to open the tree canopy by taking out brush and trees less than 12 inches in diameter. Trees will be removed by selectively cutting or using a hydroaxe, a giant lawnmower for brush and small trees. After cutting, controlled burns will be used to keep the canopy open. Soon we will see native grasses and bright flowers growing amongst the gnarled bur oak trees.

For additional information about the Louisville oak savanna restoration area, you can contact me at 612/858-0723. 

Rainforests in the Valley

by Chris Kane, *Biological Technician*

How far might you have to travel to find the most diverse and productive natural system on the planet? ...How about as far as a Minnesota Valley trail head? From here, a person has access to a myriad of wetlands that could be considered Minnesota Valley's own tropical rainforest. The overwhelming number and types of plant and animal species that thrive here are due in large part to water management.

The Refuge has some degree of watershed control on 19 bodies of water totaling more than 1,000 acres. That is to say, water levels can be manipulated throughout the year by the use of a structure that controls the amount of water flowing out of the wetland. Water input may come from such sources as the Minnesota River, springs, watersheds, or even hydraulic pumps. Fisher Lake, Rice Lake, Blue Lake, and our newest addition, Rapids Lake, are all examples of wetlands that have a water control structure and are manipulated for the highest possible productivity.



Each year a water management plan is developed for every body of water on the Refuge. The goal is to simulate the traditional up-and-down cycle of water within the wetland that Mother Nature used to do so well. This cycling of water creates the best possible growing conditions for aquatic plants and invertebrates, the resources that so many of our Refuge wildlife species depend on.

Unfortunately, with the changes that have taken place in the watershed and the consequent effects on the Minnesota River, these wetland systems no longer go through these cycles naturally. Without a boost from Refuge staff, our wetlands would not function at a very productive level. But, with a little extra effort and creativity in adapting to the changing landscape in and around the Refuge, we can continue to enjoy the plants and wildlife that depend on managed wetlands--our own rainforest in the valley. 

Citizens Advisory Committee Reconvenes

Counties Joint Powers Board Seeks Guidance

by John Hickman, Friends Board Member

In 1992, Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson declared that he wanted the Minnesota River to become "swimmable and fishable" within 10 years. Under the auspices of the Pollution Control Agency, the governor formed the Minnesota River Citizens Advisory Committee to develop a plan to accomplish this ambitious goal.

After almost three years of intensive research and discussion, the Citizens Advisory Committee released its final report, *Working Together: A Plan to Restore the Minnesota River*. It was a comprehensive plan that included, among other things, a call to restore the floodplain to its natural purpose, to increase the amount of wetlands in the river basin, and to increase technical assistance to local units of government. In addition, the Committee recommended that joint powers boards be created within each of the Minnesotas major tributaries to develop and implement localized, coordinated plans for cleaning up each major section of the river.

In response to this, 36 of the 38 county governments in the Minnesota Basin did form a joint powers board. While this board differs in composition from what was envisioned by the Committee (it is one board for the entire basin and consists only of county governments; the Committee recommended a separate board within each major tributary consisting of all units of government), the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board has worked

to implement many of the Committee's recommendations. Indeed, the Board has stated that its goal is to restore the Minnesota River by carrying out the plan delineated in *Working Together*.

To help achieve its goal, in February 1997 the Joint Powers Board asked the original members of the Citizens Advisory Committee to reconvene. Surprisingly, given the considerable volunteer time commitment more than three-fourths of the Committee members agreed to re-up.

The Citizens Advisory Committee is chaired by Scott Sparlin, coordinator of Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River, and Ken Albrecht, former Nicollet County Commissioner. I agreed to rejoin the Committee as a representative of the Friends of the Minnesota Valley. Four meetings have been held to date; it is expected that the Committee will continue to meet bimonthly for several years.

One of the major projects undertaken by the Joint Powers Board has been to nominate the Minnesota River for inclusion in the Presidents American Heritage Rivers program. If the nomination is accepted, the Minnesota River restoration effort will receive much-needed special assistance from the federal government.

Please feel free to contact me (612/884-3348 evenings) if you have any questions about the Citizens Advisory Committee in particular or the restoration of the river in general. 

Managing Backyard Habitats

by Nancy Pope, Bookshop Intern

Fall is the perfect season to take some time off, relax, read a book... and work on the yard! At the Blufftop Bookshop we have an entire section reserved just for you.

Landscaping for Wildlife, by Carrol Henderson (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources), is an introduction to the hows and whys of landscaping to help wildlife. Not only does it offer a detailed listing of grasses, flowers, trees, and shrubs that attract and support wildlife, it also teaches about animal habitats and survival needs. Fully half of the book is devoted to appendixes offering further information.

The natural companion to this book is Henderson's Woodworking for Wildlife. It is not just for the seasoned carpenter but the novice as well. Henderson teaches the reader about the needs of wild birds as well as giving designs for birdhouses, nest boxes, and feeding platforms.

For those seeking a less wild alternative, The Wild Lawn Handbook, by Stevie Daniels, is a great guide in how to design and grow a chemical-free, low-maintenance, natural lawn. It will assist you in planning, installing, and maintaining a wild lawn from start to finish. Convert your yard to native grasses and wild flowers -- and help the environment, too.

The Blufftop Bookshop is open
Tuesday through Sunday,
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
612/854-5900
Special orders welcome!

SEPTEMBER



Blue Lake Canoe Tour Wilkie Unit

Saturday September 6 & 13, 1 - 3pm

River otters love clean water. Blue Lake has otters, wild rice, abundant waterfowl, and herons. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon paddle before frost nips the marsh. Bring your own canoe. Call for reservations and directions. Ed Moyer, Wildlife Interpreter.



Minnesota Natural Landscapes Visitor Center Art Gallery September 6 - November 8

Mary Lingen, a regional artist from Backus, Minnesota, will be displaying her oil paintings of flowers and fall colors.



Poisonous Path Visitor Center

Sundays September 7 & 14
9 - 10am

Plants are chemical factories constantly evolving new products to keep themselves from becoming someone's salad! Meet a few of them on a guided walk along the Hillside Trail. Ed Moyer, Wildlife Interpreter.



Dining at Old Cedar Avenue Old Cedar Avenue Sunday September 7, 2 - 3pm

Meet at the Old Cedar Bridge trail head for a hike in search of autumn's wild edibles. Wade Barry, Wildlife Interpreter.



Evening Wildlife Walk Old Cedar Avenue

Wednesday September 10 and
Saturday September 20, 7 - 8 pm

Take an evening stroll to watch wildlife and learn the history of the Minnesota Valley through the eyes of a master storyteller. Duke Addicks, Wildlife Interpreter.



River Steward Saturday Visitor Center

Saturday September 20, 9 - 3pm

Silver Celebration & Trash and Treasure Hunt. River clean-up, Friends membership meeting, hands-on water activities, interpretive programs, historical slide show and display, singing Park Ranger Charlie McGuire, birthday cake, Minnesota River Twister, and more. (see page 2)



Eager Beaver Bass Ponds

Saturday September 20, 1 - 2:30pm

Imagine being an engineer and builder modifying the natural habitat for survival. Enjoy a visit to the Bass ponds and learn about beavers, how they live and are uniquely adapted for survival. Ralph Johnson, Wildlife Interpreter.



Fall Colors on the Minnesota River Belle Plain to

Thompson Ferry Landing
Saturday September 27, 10 - 3pm

Bring a canoe and a sack lunch. We'll paddle Minnesota's original corridor of exploration, trade, and settlement. Shuttle service provided. Ages 8 to adult. Limited to 10 canoes. Call for reservations and directions. Ed Moyer, Wildlife Interpreter.



Tails on Trails Visitor Center

Sunday September 28, 3:30 - 5pm

Learn about the history and anatomy of the white-tailed deer and the many signs which they leave behind. Then follow a deer trail, watching for white-tailed deer and their signs. Craig Mandel, Wildlife Interpreter.



River Steward Saturday - SEPTEMBER

Trash & Treasure Hunt!!

Saturday, September 20

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Begin the day with the Trash and Treasure Hunt at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge! Stop by the Visitor Center and pick up a map and other items necessary for your hunt. While cleaning up parts of the Refuge, be on the look out for little *silver keys*... Then, join us back at the Visitor Center to see if any of your keys unlock the Refuge Treasure Chest! Be sure to stay for Silver Celebration activities...

Silver Celebration

Noon - 3:00 p.m.

*Friends of the
Minnesota Valley*

**Annual
Membership
Meeting
Noon-12:30**

Minnesota Valley
National Wildlife
Refuge Visitor
Center Auditorium

Help celebrate 25 years of leadership in
stewardship of the Minnesota Valley!
Silver Celebration includes:

- unlocking the treasure chest
(see above)
- hands-on water activities
- interpretive programs
- historical slide show and display
- singing Park Ranger Charlie McGuire
- birthday cake
- Minnesota River Twister and more!

All activities are free and open to the public.

Join the Hunt...

Join the Friends...

*and help clean up and support conservation
a national treasure -- right in your own
backyard!*

Friends of the Minnesota Valley **Trash & Treasure Hunt Registration Form**

Contact Name _____

Organization _____

Estimated # of participants _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

☐ **I/our organization would like to become a
member of Friends of the Minnesota Valley**
*You do not have to be a member to participate in the
Trash and Treasure Hunt*

☐ **I/we can't participate in the Trash and Treasure
Hunt but would like to support Friends' efforts
by becoming a member**

Check your donation and mail to the address below:

___ \$15 Student

___ \$50 Sponsor

___ \$20 Individual

___ \$100 Supporter

___ \$30 Household

___ \$500 Sustainer

The Friends is a nonprofit organization; all contributions are tax deductible



**Friends of the
Minnesota Valley**
3815 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN 55425

612/854-5900

OCTOBER



Bird-watching Trek

Bass Ponds

Sundays October 5 & 12, 3:30 - 5pm

Visit a Refuge bird-watching hot spot. Learn where and when to see the more than 200 species of birds that live at or visit the refuge. Craig Mandel, Wildlife Interpreter.



Calling All Squirrels

Visitor Center

Sundays October 5 & 19

2 - 3:30pm

Squirrels talk to other animals and with each other. See how to call them and hear how city noise is affecting their habitat. Dress for a short walk in the woods. Ed Moyer, Wildlife Interpreter.



Fall Colors on the Minnesota River

Belle Plain to

Thompson Ferry Landing

Saturday October 11, 10am - 3pm

Bring a canoe and a sack lunch. We'll paddle Minnesota's original corridor of exploration, trade, and settlement. Shuttle service provided. Ages 8 to adult. Limited to 10 canoes. Call for reservations and directions. Ed Moyer, Wildlife Interpreter.



River Steward Saturday

Visitor Center

Saturday October 18

National Wildlife Refuge Week Hometown Celebration, Preparing for Winter. (see "Celebrating Conservation" on page 2)



Capture The Colors of Fall

Visitor Center

Saturday October 18

10:30 am - noon

Gather your own collection of Minnesota's finest fall colors, then learn three ways to preserve their beauty. Please bring along an old shirt and a toothbrush. Suzanne Trapp and Vickie Samuels, Wildlife Interpreters.



Eager Beaver

Bass Ponds

Saturday October 18, 1 - 2:30pm

Imagine being an engineer and builder modifying the natural habitat for survival. Enjoy a visit to the Bass ponds and learn about beavers, how they live and are uniquely adapted for survival. Ralph Johnson, Wildlife Interpreter.



Backwater Paddle

Long Meadow Lake

Saturday October 18, 1 - 3pm

For the beginner, canoes and PFDs supplied. \$5 per person. Learn skills and canoe Long Meadow Lake. Limit 20. Jim Bradley, Wildlife Interpreter.



Stories by the Hearth

Visitor Center

Saturday October 18, 1 - 2 pm

Owl Eyes - A native American story about the master of all spirits and a trouble-making owl. Dress up like an owl and learn to hoot like an owl. Vickie Samuels, Wildlife Interpreter.



Tails on Trails

Visitor Center

Sunday October 26, 3:30 - 5pm

Learn about the history and anatomy of the white-tailed deer and the many signs which they leave behind. Then follow a deer trail, watching for white-tailed deer and their signs. Craig Mandel, Wildlife Interpreter.

NOVEMBER



Floodplains

Visitor Center Art Gallery

November 11 - December 28

Photographers and artists, Dan Beers and Chris Foust, will display a series of panoramas and platinum prints featuring the wetland landscape.



River Steward Saturday

Visitor Center

Saturday November 15

Volunteer Recognition Event, a Carnival of Celebration. (see page 8)



The Lost 50 and Others

Wilkie Unit

Saturday November 22, 9 - 10:30 am

The Mound Builders were one of a succession of people who knew and lived on this land. Take a pedestrian survey and explore the human history of this remarkable Refuge unit. Ed Moyer, Wildlife Interpreter.

For a complete brochure on all Refuge environmental education opportunities, call 854-5900 and ask for the Wild Things EE Program and Opportunities brochure.

Volunteer-of-the-Month

May

Darrell Bower, Wildlife Ranger, was honored in May for his contribution to the Ranger program. Darrell spends his volunteer time hiking the trails gathering information for Refuge staff. His information about plants, animals, trail conditions, and visitation is of great value to Minnesota Valley.

June

Mark Nordby, Information Desk Staff, is one of the refuge's most dedicated volunteers. Mark fills that important weekend position on Sundays to answer all your questions concerning trails and upcoming events. Even with new family members arriving, he has still managed to squeeze in some volunteer time at the refuge.

July

Julie Birch, Friend's Office Assistant, started with us in April. Julie can be found every Friday morning helping out the entire Friend's staff with mailings, River Steward Saturday preparations, and other general office items. Julie's enthusiasm for her position makes her an excellent addition to the volunteer staff.



Volunteer News

by Maria Olson, Volunteer Coordinator

If you are interested in helping with any of the opportunities listed on these pages, please call Maria Olson, Volunteer Coordinator, 612/858-0716.

Attention all Volunteers!!

Mark your calendar now for November 15, 1997.

This year our Annual Volunteer Recognition Event will be combined with a River Steward Saturday for a full day of fun and activities with a carnival theme. This day is set aside to recognize and celebrate all of our volunteers and the variety of things that they do for the Refuge. Your family and friends are also invited to this special event.

There will be all the traditional goodies that River Steward Saturdays have offered in the past with activities for all ages. A dinner will be provided for those who volunteer, their family, and friends.

This will be a great chance to see what others are doing on the Refuge and to show off your talents and enthusiasm to potential volunteers. Watch for the upcoming flyer filled with information about the day's activities. 

Volunteer Opportunities

Partner School Intern

Work with Refuge staff and local schools in teaching environmental information to youth. This position is available during traditional school hours, the months of September through June. Great opportunity for those looking to fill an education credit. Help with service learning projects while acting as adjunct staff. Position will involve meeting time and workshop learning time. Training provided. Work will be indoors and out. To apply, contact Maria Olson, 612/858-0716.

Information Desk

This training session is for all those who have thought that working at the information desk looks like fun but who were a little intimidated by all the questions visitors might ask. Vickie Samuels, Information Desk Volunteer Supervisor, will hold a training on the basics for this position on September 16th from 6-8 p.m. Vickie will cover the "ins and outs" of the information

desk, helping with the cash register and Blufftop Bookshop, answering questions from the public, and general information about the Refuge that the public loves to ask. To sign up, call Vickie at 612/858-0724.

Training

"Dip into Water Quality on the Minnesota River" is being offered on September 23 & 24 from 4-8 p.m. each evening. This training is for the Water Quality Trekking Packs. These packs provide students with firsthand water quality testing experience, information about non-point source pollution, and the opportunity to take action by providing resource managers valuable data on the quality of the Minnesota River and its watersheds. All Refuge volunteers are welcome to attend these sessions. For information and reservations, call Suzanne Trapp at 612/858-0729. 

Expand Your Horizons

Our Refuge Volunteer and Friends Members-only enrichment series is still going strong. Reservations are currently being taken for the September program. Dates and times for the October and November programs will be in the next brochure, mailed out in mid-September. The final topics for 1997 are:

Butterfly Basics with Jan Welsh

Tuesday September 2, 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Here's your chance to learn about the 140 kinds of butterflies in Minnesota. Jan will share tips on how to attract them to your yard and she has a surprise in store for us!

Reservations must be in by August 26th. This program is filling up fast, so call Maria (612/858-0716) to reserve your spot today.

Mammals Nearby with Jim Malkowski October

Ever wonder about the wild critters that live in your neighborhood and how you can get a peek at them? Come and find out!

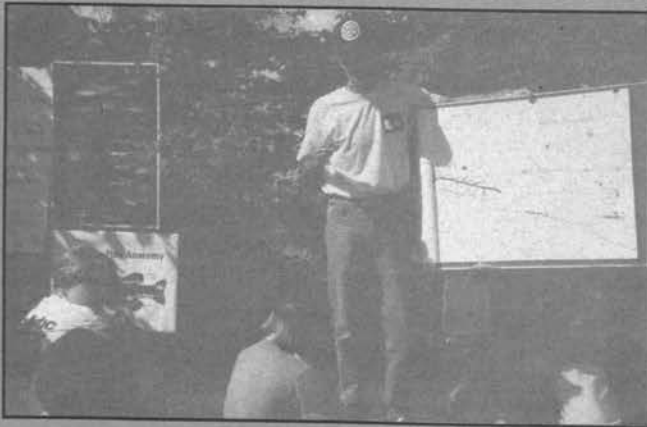


Calculated Movements with Brad Snyder November

Orienteering is considered a thinking person's sport and is an essential skill for navigating in the wilderness. North, south, east, west - with Brad's tips and a little practice, you will be ready to explore the wilds of the valley in no time! 



Volunteers Make National Fishing Day 1997 Another Spectacular Special Event



Once again our Refuge Volunteers made it happen. Seventy-two volunteers contributed 504 hours to help the Refuge bring a day of learning and fishing to over 200 metro area youth. Volunteers came from the Regional Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1854 Authority, Burger Brothers Outdoor Outfitters, and Minnesota Valley's own volunteer crew. A huge thank you goes out to all who helped out on this event including: Volunteer Rick Schuldt who taught youth about fish and their habitat (left); and Intern Sue Aker and Volunteer Cathy Graham who helped youth get an up close, personal look at the touch pool (right). 

Fall Yard Maintenance and River Stewardship

by Nancy Albrecht, Registry Coordinator

Try tackling fall yard routines with the Minnesota River in mind! Much of the of water pollution in the metro area results from rain and melting snow washing pollutants into storm drains which then empty into the river.

How you **dispose of leaves and lawn clippings** has an impact on the watershed you live in. By keeping leaves, grass clippings, and garden debris off of your sidewalk and street, you will reduce the nutrient loads that enter the Minnesota River.

Compost in your own yard or at a community composting site. Use leaves as **mulch** around trees, shrubs, and garden beds for protection from winter freezing and thawing.

Another source of water pollution is erosion of soil from construction sites and poorly maintained yards. When soil erodes, it takes soil-bound phosphates and pesticides with it. Fall growing conditions are favorable for **seeding** areas of your lawn that need re-establishment or new areas.

Fall is the best time to **fertilize**, but does your lawn need it? Have your soils tested to see if additional nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are needed. Grass clippings left on the lawn equal one fertilizer application.

Dealing with compacted soils or soils with poor drainage? Fall is the time to **aerate** your soil and promote better moisture and air penetration, deeper and healthier root systems, and microbial activity that decomposes the thatch layer.

Clean up organic materials such as **pet feces** that are washed directly off of paved or frozen grounds by rain or melting snow in the spring.

Take a look at the plants in your yard. Plants native to Minnesota are more likely to survive winter and less likely to threaten adjacent natural areas. Fall is a good time to discover whether you have the exotic European buckthorn since it holds its green leaves well into fall. Buckthorn invades woodlands and forests. Single trees and small clumps can be removed or controlled.

Tips for Fall River Stewardship

Avoid blowing or raking leaves and grass clippings into your street or driveway. Compost and/or mulch.

Keep organic materials out of gutters.

Use only as much fertilizer as your lawn needs and sweep up any that spills on your driveway or street.

Prevent soil erosion by maintaining healthy gardens and lawns.

Avoid paving unnecessary areas to reduce run-off.

Use more native plants and remove invasive species like buckthorn.

For more information contact:
Scott County Extension 492-2636
Carver County Extension 442-4496
Dakota County Extension 891-7700
Hennepin County Extension 374-8400

Sources for this article included MN Extension Service Info-U 624-2200.

Welcome New Registrants!

Kay & Jack Kern, Burnsville
Jeff & Liz Hilligos, Jordan

Students Give Bats a Helping Hand

Once again students at Bravo School in Bloomington have built bat houses for the Heritage Registry. "The bat houses are a big success for students who like working with their hands and for students who are concerned with the ecology of our Minnesota Valley. They are anxious to hear if bats move into their shelters!" says teacher Michelle Moe. The project is part of a summer curriculum entitled "Visit with a Wolf".

There are seven species of bats in Minnesota that are placed into two categories based on their roosting habits: cave bats and tree bats. The cave bats are little brown myotis, northern myotis, big brown, and eastern pipistrelle. The tree bats are silver-haired, red, and hoary.

They all feed on seasonally-abundant flying insects, including mosquitos and biting flies. A hungry little brown myotis can devour as many as 500 mosquitos per hour. That's 500 good reasons to have a bat house in your yard!

The houses are built from rough sawn cedar and each bears the names of the students who built it. The houses are available free to folks who have enrolled land in the Heritage Registry or for a \$25 donation. Proceeds will go towards supporting the Heritage Registry.

Contact Ann at 858-0706 to place your order.

Welcome, New Members!

Sustainer

Burger Brothers Outdoor Outfitters

River Council

Rahr Foundation

Wood Duck

Jodell S Rahr

Great Blue Herons

Martin & Esther Kellogg

John M Kley

Lee Roper-Batker

Mr & Mrs Loren G Smith

Household

Nancy Albrecht & Pete Crane

River Otters

Betsy Christopherson

LV Cox

Suzanne Hamann

Theresa Joos

Kathleen M Keenan

Roger & Maxine Linehan

Anne Ludvik

Dick & Linda Ruth

Eastern Cottontails

Judy & Dennis Abraham

Diane Boldon

Wendy Brown

Dwight M Buffum

Jaci & Luke Christenson

Sara Discenza

Nancy Dwan & Conrad Gold

AmyJo Grieme

Jim & Kathy Howe

Chuck Kernkamp

Kathleen King

Liz Mahon

John Mosiniak

Mary Mosiniak

Richard Mosiniak

Tracy Ohland

Jeffrey Schwieger

Nancy Stockhaus

Pat & Frank Victorson

Jim Winsor

Jim Vickery

Membership Exchange

Land Stewardship Project

Thank you for your recent donations!

\$1,000 and above

Beim Foundation

Environmental Support Center

Minnegasco

\$100 and above

Richfield Bank & Trust

Employee Match

Richfield Bank & Trust

In Memory of Elaine Mellott

Shirley Asklund

Phyllis Basford

Marion Cashdollar

Fritz & Jodell Rahr

Betty Robb

In Memory of Peter Maderitsch

Ed & Caryl Crozier

Mary Lawrence

Eugene & Maxine Jacobsen

From the Director....

During my five years with the Friends, I have learned that just as nature ebbs and flows so does an organization such as Friends.

This summer we said goodbye to several dedicated staff. Cindy Crum completed her internship with the Heritage Registry and is now finishing her nursing degree. Telari Hart, Environmental Educator, is taking a break before returning to school for

her masters degree. Sue Beiseker, Program Coordinator, has taken the position of Executive Assistant with Friends of the Mississippi River in St. Paul. She will bring valuable skills to this growing organization and we wish her well.

In June, Nancy Albrecht joined us as Registry Coordinator. Nancy brings a wealth of experience in ecology and resource management.

Membership Notes

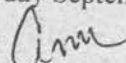
Thank you to the 185 members who have renewed so far this year. Renewals are mailed quarterly, with a reminder one month later. A special thank you to those who increased their membership level. For questions concerning your membership, please contact Ann at 858-0706. 

Sponsors Needed

We are seeking companies, foundations, and individuals that would be interested in helping to sponsor publication of the Minnesota Valley News. Minnesota Valley Interpretive Association has pledged to cover the cost of postage and the Watson Foundation has made a pledge of \$500 per issue to help with publication costs through 1998. If you know of a potential sponsor, please contact Ann at 858-0706. 

Our Board of Directors has worked very hard this year to develop a new vision. We have taken stock of our strengths and weaknesses and have chosen a direction for the future that will build on our past successes.

I invite you all to come and celebrate our accomplishments and our vision for the future at our membership meeting on Saturday September 20th.





Leadership in Stewardship.

A non-profit citizens group devoted to supporting conservation and management of the cultural and natural resources of the lower Minnesota Valley and to promoting environmental awareness.

**Minnesota Valley
National Wildlife Refuge**
Visitor Center: 612/854-5900
3815 E 80th St, Bloomington, MN
55425-1600
Open Tuesday-Sunday
9:00am-5:00pm

Web site:
http://www.fws.gov/~r3pao/mn_val/

Refuge Manager:
Rick Schultz 858-0701
Volunteer Coordinator:
Maria Olson 858-0716
Environmental Education Specialist:
Suzanne Trapp 858-0729

Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Executive Director:
Ann Haines 858-0706
Communications Coordinator:
AmyJo Grieme 858-0733
Registry Coordinator:
Nancy Albrecht 858-0720

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PO Box 20244
Bloomington, MN 55420

Paddle the Refuge!

Experience the Wonders of the Refuge by Canoe

This fall there are five interpretive canoe trips planned on the Refuge. These programs are the highlight of the fall calendar of events.

Canoeing on the Refuge is limited to the Minnesota River. Backwaters and wetlands are closed to the public to prevent any disturbance to nesting wildlife.

But, this fall you have the opportunity to experience areas not normally open to the public!

You can choose a leisurely afternoon paddle on Blue Lake where river otters frolic, herons fish, and waterfowl swim through clumps of wild rice. Bring your own canoe and PFD's.

Never been in a canoe? Then sign up for a beginner paddling class on Long Meadow Lake. Experience the beauty of this area while learning basic canoeing skills. Canoes and PFD's supplied. Cost \$5 per person.



Or, opt for a longer trip down the Minnesota River from Belle Plain to Thompson Ferry near Jordan. Enjoy fall colors, learn about the river's early use as a corridor for exploration and trade, and scramble up a sand dune. Shuttle service will be provided. Bring your own canoe, PFD's, and lunch.

For reservations and information call 612/854-5900. These programs are extremely popular and fill up quickly, so make your reservations today! 

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