



Minnesota Stewardship Report

November 2011

This has been a great year at The Trust for Public Land and we are excited to highlight a few of the many land protection efforts and events you've helped us accomplish. We are grateful for your continued commitment to our land-for-people mission!

Parks for People – Twin Cities Program

The Gateway, Downtown Minneapolis

The Trust for Public Land's [Parks for People](#) program serves cities nationwide to ensure that everyone has access to close-to-home nature to enjoy and that our cities stay liveable. With this vision, the Parks for People – [Twin Cities program](#) is working to develop The Gateway, a linear park connecting the Mississippi River to the downtown core. For the past year, TPL has been solving transportation issues, analyzing the project's economic impact, raising public awareness and support, welcoming leaders to the steering committee, identifying funding, and engaging landowners. Our goal is to have a "shovel in the ground" by 2014.

Cedar Creek, Anoka County

This year we helped conserve 550 acres of land at the juncture of the Rum River and [Cedar Creek](#) in Anoka County. This land will feature restored native prairie habitat, unpaved trails, and facilities for recreational use.†



Location of The Gateway—a proposed linear park in downtown Minneapolis.

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



Many TPL-led initiatives are made possible, in part, by the [Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment \(CWLLA\)](#), “the Legacy Amendment,” which Minnesota voters passed in 2008. The amendment created four funds marked for clean water, habitat, the arts and cultural heritage, and parks and trails. Thank you for supporting public funding for parks, water and natural areas!

Northwoods Program

In the [Minnesota Northwoods](#), TPL has been focused on advocating for continued Federal [Land and Water Conservation Fund \(LWCF\)](#) support with members of Congress and policy-makers. The LWCF designates that a portion of receipts from off-shore oil and gas leases be dedicated to protecting our national parks, forest, and wildlife areas. The LWCF is crucial to ensuring that the Northwoods receives funds for important projects this year.

Leadership Events

The Trust for Public Land held two notable leadership events this year to recognize conservation pioneers and to strategize for the future. This winter, at **TPL’s Annual Conservation Leadership Luncheon**, we gathered to recognize two outstanding champions of conservation in Minnesota: Representatives Larry Howes (R-Walker), and John Ward (DFL-Brainerd). During our **National Leadership Council and Board of Directors Meeting, held October 19-21, 2011**, The Trust for Public Land-Minnesota was honored to welcome many leaders and donors to the Twin Cities for exciting discussions, presentations and tours.



Land Conservation Pays!

Every \$1 invested in conservation yields up to \$4 return on investment, according to a study published in December 2010 by the University of Minnesota & The Trust for Public Land.

“It never would have happened if TPL hadn’t stepped in and helped us through the very complicated process. Now our citizens can walk across the street and have access to the town’s namesake lake.” — Brian Lehman, Mayor of Nisswa

Nisswa Lake, Crow Wing County

TPL purchased 5.8 acres of lakefront on [Nisswa Lake](#) in the popular Brainerd Lakes area. Prior to TPL-led conservation efforts, residents and visitors lacked permanent public access to the lake. The new park and public access will offer swimming, fishing, picnicking, boating, and many other recreation opportunities for nearby citizens to experience.[‡]

Healthy Waters Program

Dead Lake, Otter Tail County

This year, we helped protect a key piece of the 8,000-acre [Dead Lake](#), which – contrary to its name – is teeming with fish, fowl, and other wildlife. For years, a battle raged between local conservation-minded landowners and would-be developers over 260 acres of Dead Lake shoreline. Now, with the help of TPL, this sensitive shoreline is protected for people and wildlife to enjoy.[†]

Celebration at Savage Fen June 3, 2011

TPL and many partners and donors joined for a ribbon-cutting celebration at [Savage Fen Scientific and Natural Area \(SNA\)](#) in Scott County. Located 30 minutes southwest of Minneapolis, Savage Fen SNA is an ecological treasure of wetlands and forest home to the endangered calcareous fen. TPL helped add 69 acres to the preserve, which is slated to include a regional trail connecting nearby protected lands in the Minnesota River Valley and the Minnesota Valley State Trail.^{*†}



Thank you!

Thank you for your enthusiasm and support of The Trust for Public Land’s land-for-people conservation work in Minnesota. We welcome your feedback and inquiries about our year’s work and what lies ahead: please contact our Director of Philanthropy, Nancy Appel, at nancy.appel@tpl.org or 651.999.5322. You can also stay up-to-date on TPL happenings throughout the year by signing up for our email updates, which include local and national news, at www.tpl.org/publications/e-newsletters. We look forward to a productive and exciting 2012! Thank you again for your support!

View this report with links to important additional information under the Publications side bar at www.tpl.org/minnesota.

* A portion of the funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)

† A portion of the funding provided by the Outdoor Heritage Fund, part of the Legacy Amendment (CWLLA)

‡ A portion of the funding provided by the Parks and Trails Fund, part of the Legacy Amendment (CWLLA)