

How Will it Happen? Putting the Plan into Action

The Corridor vision will be implemented through enhanced coordination and collaboration with partner agencies, landowners, and stakeholder organizations on a range of projects and best practice adoption.

- Individual Landowner Projects and Buffer Easements
- Small Area Projects with Multiple Landowners
- Demonstration Projects
- Integrated Development and Re-development Solutions
- Public Sector Corridor Preservation
- Joint Planning Initiatives
- Major Restoration Projects

Plan and Project Implementation Funding

Resources are available to implement the vision:

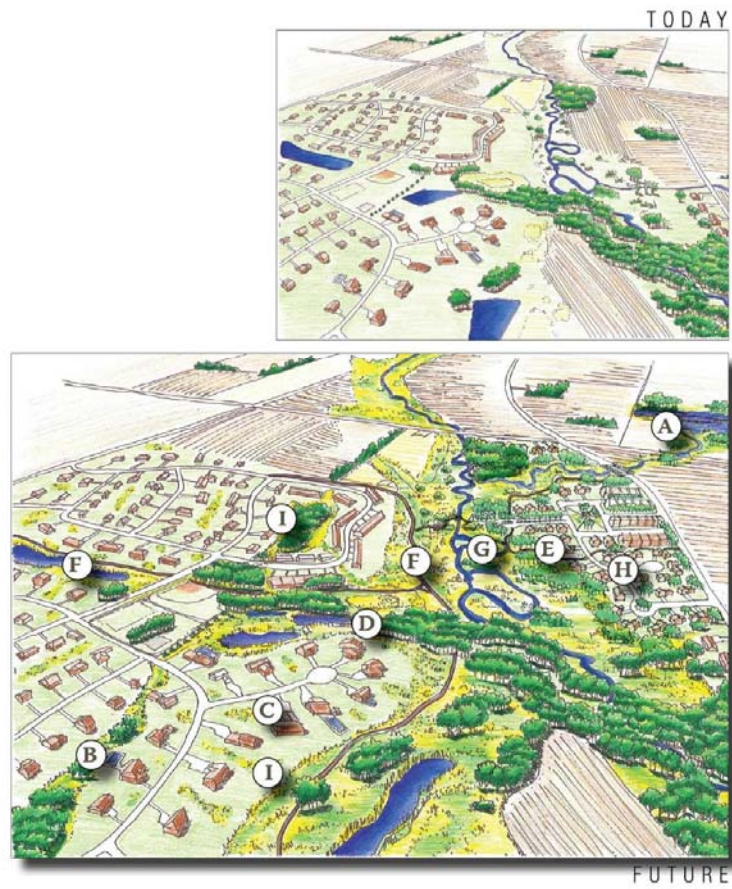
\$0.5 M	LCCMR Corridor Plan Grant
\$1.2M	Potential additional LCCMR buffer grant
\$1.0M	Potential Farmland Natural Area Program funds
\$3.0M	Outdoor Heritage Funding

How It Could Look: Example for a Developing Context

DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENT

DESIGN APPROACH

These hypothetical illustrations depict how multiple design techniques can be applied to a landscape to achieve a full range of community values.



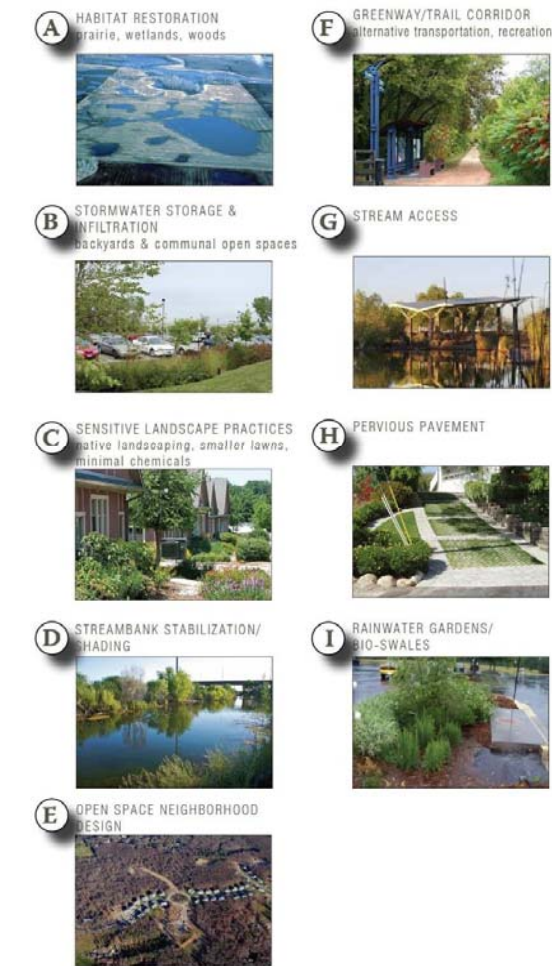
Online Resource for Management Practices

The project’s online Corridor Handbook is a searchable database of practices with descriptions, information, and cost-sharing and technical assistance resources.

<http://www.improvethevermillionriver.org>

TECHNIQUES

These images from other places depict how the highlighted techniques may look in the landscape.



Vermillion River Corridor Plan

Improving Water Quality, Habitat, and Recreation

Project Funding and Support:

Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
Active Living Dakota County
Dakota County

Why Plan for the Corridor?

The Vermillion River is a “prairie river” slowly winding through rural and urban areas, draining 335 square miles in Dakota and southeastern Scott counties. With all or part of twenty municipalities, the Vermillion is the largest watershed in the Twin Cities metro. The Corridor Plan looks at the River as a complex shared resource and a place where human interests and natural systems converge. The purpose of this plan is to:

- Improve water quality
- Improve and interconnect habitat in the corridor and adjacent lands
- Improve visitor access and provide compatible recreation
- Build a resilient natural framework in which to live, work, and grow in the future



Corridor Plan Scope: Mainstem to Vermillion Falls; North, Middle, and South Creeks; South Branch

Corridor Conditions:



- River of contrasts: urban/rural, warm-/cold-water, public/private
- State-listed as impaired: bacteria, low dissolved oxygen, turbidity
- World class urban trout stream, but waters have been warming
- Altered and degraded channel and bank conditions
- Pearls on a necklace – adjoining wetlands, woods, prairies, rare species
- Limited public access, growing interest in recreation and future trails
- Community interest in the Corridor as a natural amenity for future growth
- Complex regulatory framework: federal, state, and local agencies

Draft Plan Review and Comment:
August 25 to September 25, 2010
www.vermillionriverwatershed.org

What Does the Plan Propose? Goals and Vision

The Vermillion River Corridor Plan seeks balance between broad public good and individual pursuits, between restoring what once existed and improving on the current reality, and between cost and benefit. Within this context of balance, the goals and vision are about a more sustainable healthy environment that is achievable. Concepts for water quality, habitat, recreation and economy communicate the vision for the Corridor.

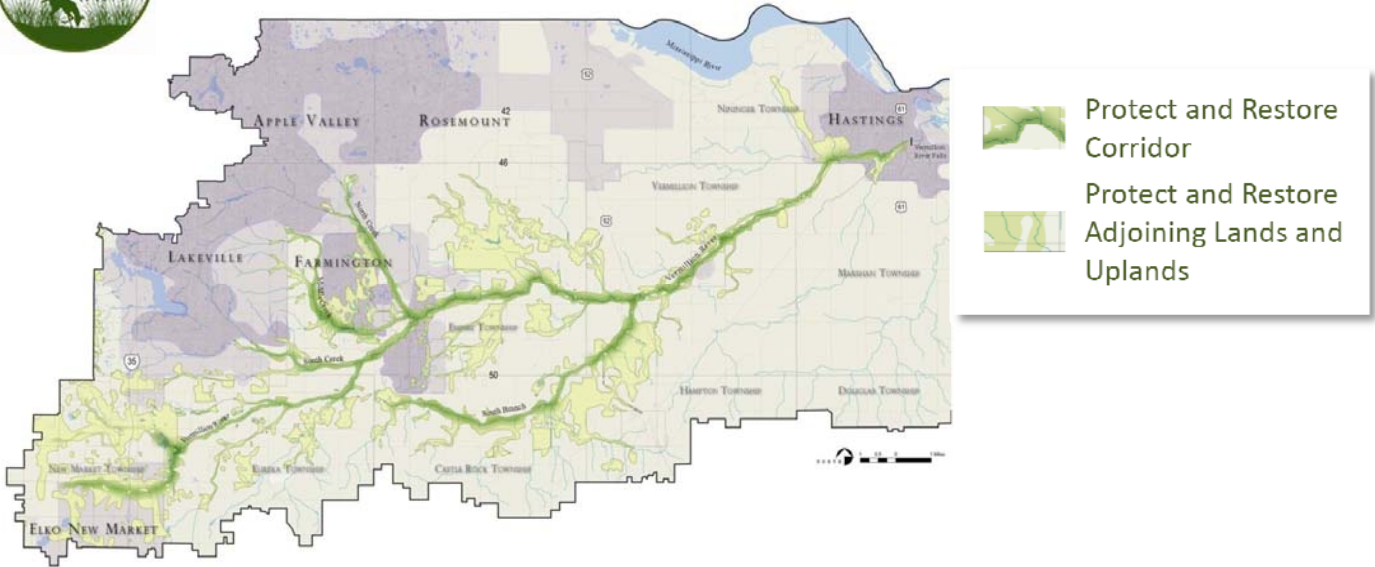


Corridor Goals

- 1. Improve stream water quality and quantity
- 2. Improve stream channel and floodplain structure and function
- 3. Improve, stabilize, and connect Corridor habitat
- 4. Build and protect a healthy natural framework for the future
- 5. Improve quality of life for Corridor residents, businesses, and visitors with opportunities for healthy recreation and sustainable economic development
- 6. Promote sustainable development patterns within a protected natural framework
- 7. Optimize efficient placement of new infrastructure into the Corridor
- 8. Promote continued research about the watershed and Corridor
- 9. Educate and inform the public about the corridor and its goals
- 10. Build partnerships to implement the plan and maintain projects
- 11. Identify and leverage new funding for Corridor projects and maintenance



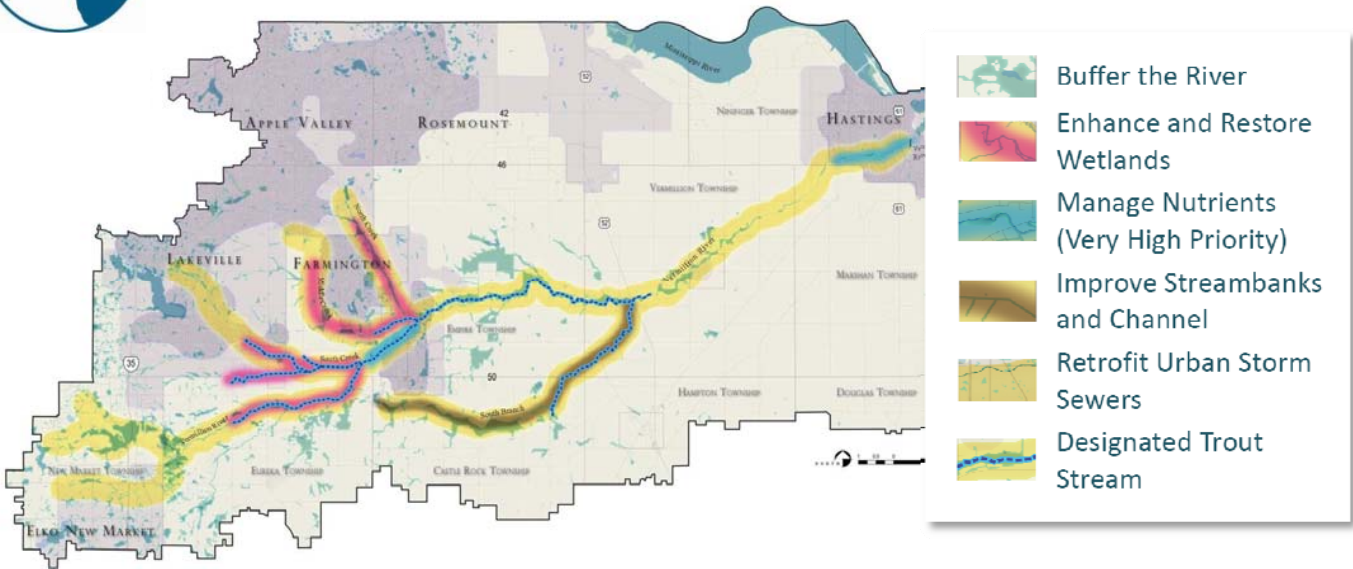
Natural Area Stewardship and Protection Concept:
A Healthy Ecological Balance



Protect and Restore Corridor Habitat: first priority, on both sides of the River
Protect and Restore Adjoining Lands and Uplands: second priority, for species diversity and infiltration
Build a Resilient Framework: first and second-order priorities build a resilient natural framework for growth



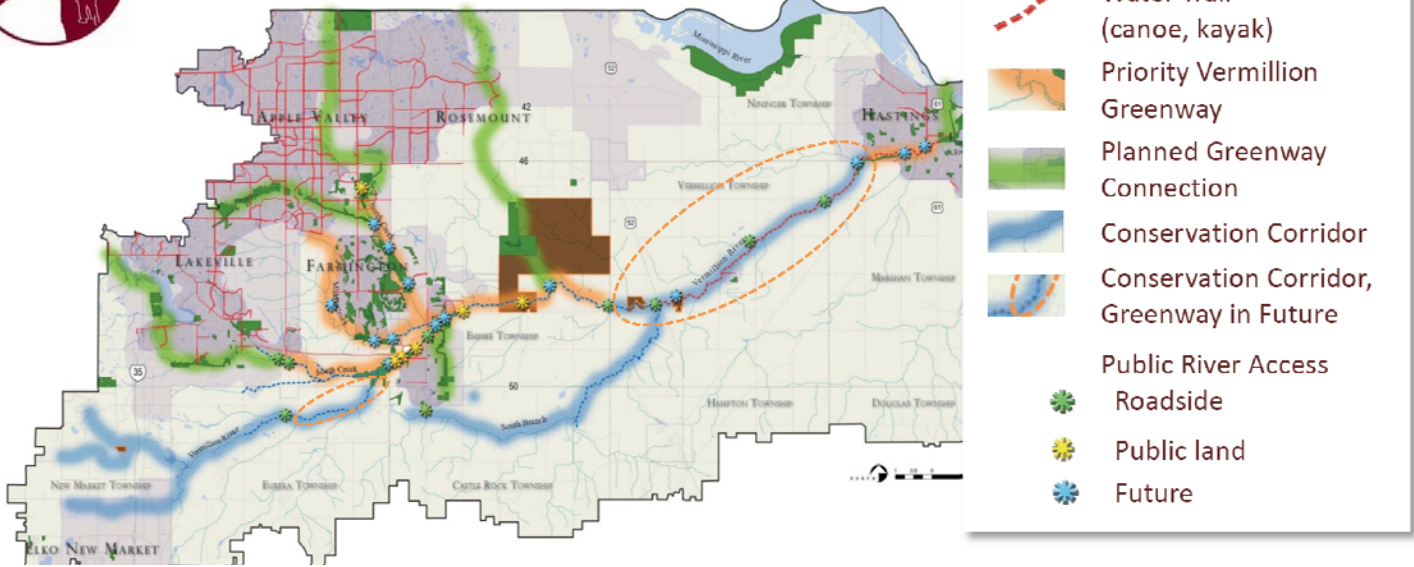
Water Quality Improvement Concept:
A Stable and Healthy Hydrologic Regime



Buffer the River: a continuous corridor of perennial, native vegetation
Enhance Wetlands: restore wetlands and establish buffers
Manage Nutrients: monitor soil nutrients and adjust fertilizer rates
Improve Streambanks and Channel: re-grade slopes, re-meander, and stabilize erosion
Retrofit Urban Storm Sewers: infiltrate rainwater, cleanse and cool runoff



Recreation Concept:
Connected, Compatible, Supportive Recreation



Existing and Future Parks: incorporate local recreation visions into a connected Corridor
Wildlife-Oriented Recreation: incorporate DNR undeveloped hunting and fishing lands into the corridor
Trout Fishing: protect habitat and provide access in designated trout reaches west of Highway 52
Vermillion River Water Trail: for canoeing and kayaking from Highway 52 to Hastings
Greenways: high priority corridors with trails in Hastings, Farmington, Lakeville, Empire Township
Conservation Corridors: habitat and water quality near-term, portions transition to greenways with subdivision/growth
Access Sites: enhance existing public access sites associated with roads and bridges and new public lands