

What Can I Do to Make a Difference through Greening?

- ✦ Set aside a few hours a month to care for your local park, woodland, shoreline, river or creek. There may already be a Great River Greening event in your area. Check our website: www.greatrivergreening.org
- ✦ Give a tax deductible donation to Great River Greening through our website www.greatrivergreening.org
- ✦ Donate through workplace giving. Did you know you can write in Great River Greening for your United Way contribution? Talk to your United Way leader.
- ✦ Talk to your company about a corporate Great River Greening volunteer event. Sometimes companies will also donate to Great River Greening if their employees are involved. Contact Mark Turbak, Volunteer Manager, mturbak@greatrivergreening.org, to discuss a possible project.



Great River Greening

35 W Water St # 201, Saint Paul, MN 55107
651 665.9500 www.greatrivergreening.org



OUR MISSION

Great River
Greening
leads and
inspires
community-
based
restoration
of our prairies,
forests, and
waterways

Great River Greening & Climate Change: With Your Help



Golden-winged warbler

She can't take care of them herself

"Rapid movement of climatic zones is going to be another stress on wildlife ... In effect we are pushing them off the planet."
James Hansen, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, 2006

Birds are well-known barometers of environmental health. Changes in their condition can warn of threats to habitats and natural systems critical to all life on earth.

Like canaries in a coal mine, they can alert us to danger. And, if we heed their warnings, caring for the birds can help us protect ourselves and the future of the world we share.

**With Your
Help...
we can moderate
the impact of
climate change**



restoring the land, renewing communities

For the Birds: Join Us to Help Now

Birds seen in North America during the first weeks of winter have moved dramatically northward—toward colder latitudes—over the past four decades. Rising winter temperatures from climate change make northern latitudes increasingly more hospitable to many species commonly found farther south. Range shifts and human-imposed stresses that erode ecosystem resilience such as development, pollution, habitat fragmentation, and the introduction of invasive species are causing an expected 30 percent decrease in migratory birds in the Midwest.



Black-throated blue warbler



Common yellow-throat

Essential Steps

- Assess, prioritize and restore habitats of significance for species survival
- Expand and improve large areas of protected habitat
- Reduce existing human-imposed stresses
- Protect and enhance the carbon stored in tree biomass

Great River Greening improves canopy cover within the St. Croix, Minnesota, and Mississippi River Corridors and also builds many landscape-scale partnerships (e.g. Anoka Sandplain Conservation Project, state Scientific & Natural Areas, and Sherburne and Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuges). Greening's expert team of ecologists considers the needs of birds and other wildlife in all our projects.

Plants and Climate Change: the Extent of Change is in Our Hands

The effects of climate change on plant species and natural communities is a fairly recent conservation concern. Although research is required, that should not divert us from taking action. The effects on plants is of enormous importance, influencing primary productivity, ecosystem structure, soil composition, and carbon sequestration. Action now can help us to conserve plant biodiversity and ensure options for the future. Since monocultures don't do well with changing conditions, maintaining high diversity is important.

Essential Steps

- Conserve existing biodiversity
- Reduce sources of harm not linked to climate change
- Develop ecologically resilient and varied landscapes
- Integrate adaptation and mitigation measures into conservation practice.

Great River Greening uses state-of-the-art land management practices in its work with private and public landowners. Great River Greening implements land management to preserve local ecotype and biodiversity. Our Anoka Sandplain Conservation project emphasizes oak savanna and prairie, which are resilient communities; and in cultural landscapes we promote native plants, which have deeper roots to store carbon.

