



Inspiration Conservation Development

Contractor Property Developers Company (CPDC)
 Bayport, Minnesota
 Project Initiation Date: January 2004
 Project Size: 242 acres

Project Goals

- Restore over 150 acres of native historic communities
- Create a habitat buffer to protect State Scientific and Natural Areas
- Maintain the integrity of an existing oak savanna and wetland
- Provide community accessible trail system
- Minimize site grading and restore, enhance, expand and connect habitats in association with the St. Croix River bluffs
- Protect Native American burial areas and other significant resources.
- Treat stormwater through natural systems to improve water quality
- Ensure the perpetual stewardship of natural resources

Project Statement

After several attempts to create a residential development were thwarted by a strong anti-development presence in Bayport, CPDC retained Applied Ecological Services, Inc. (AES) to help design an environmentally friendly development that would gain support of local residents and public officials.

AES presented their vision of a residential development focused on “working with the land, not against it,” balancing the desires of CPDC with the concerns of Bayport residents by acknowledging ecological and social values important to the community. AES conducted a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI), prepared an ecological assessment and developed concept plans for lots, streets and stormwater run-off mitigation. The new conservation development design—which include 170 acres of open space—was overwhelmingly accepted by CDPC and the citizens of Bayport.

AES used existing features of the site as guiding principles for location of developed areas, with specific attention to stormwater management, preserving rural character, and providing views of rolling lands, oak savannas and the St. Croix River Valley. The plan emphasized the importance of conserving existing natural resources and restoring previously degraded ecosystems. AES included innovative techniques, such as their Stormwater Treatment Train™ (STT) system that emulates natural hydrologic systems such as swales, prairie buffers and wetlands to manage stormwater. AES contractors installed all native areas from site preparation to installation and on to maintenance. AES installed the formal site areas using native plants.

Current Status

The project has been approved. AES continues to provide professional consulting services. AES restoration and native landscape installation activities began in September 2005. The installation is set to be completed in Fall of 2006.