

# Habitat Conservation Program

## Habitat highlight: Kingswood



This tallgrass prairie, which was restored in an old hay field, along with an old growth maple-basswood forest growing on the slopes of a unique glacial esker (see photo on back page) were permanently protected by conservation easements co-held by Hennepin County and Minnesota Land Trust. The property also contains a rare rich fen, floating tamarack bog, and 70 percent of Little Long Lake's shoreline. It is the anchor of one end of the Little Long Lake Corridor, which connects south through the western edge of Lake Minnetonka 6 miles to Carver Park Reserve. Osprey nesting platforms on Lake Minnetonka in the Little Long Lake corridor have routinely fledged young birds, a legacy of reintroduction in Carver Park Reserve in 1984. In addition to the 112 acre Kingswood easement, 700 acres of this 4,000 acre corridor is permanently protected in fee title holdings and RIM easements. This leaves a 3,200 acre opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance habitat for the wide variety of wildlife that already call this area home.

## Habitat details

- Wildlife present: Ground nesting and canopy dwelling birds, migratory birds, amphibians, and mammals such as whitetail deer and wild turkey.
- Habitat present: Old growth maple-basswood forest, deep water marsh, rich fen, tamarack bog, and mesic tallgrass prairie.
- Location: Minnetrista, MN
- Protection and ownership status: Kingswood was protected by two conservation easements in 2003 and 2011. Subsequently, the property owner sold to Three Rivers Park District, and all parties are working together to ensure that the unique habitat value of this special place is retained.

## Connection nodes

This corridor's maple-basswood forests are particularly important to canopy-dwelling migratory birds, who need shelter along their migratory routes. The 3,700 acre Carver Park Reserve is home to **trumpeter swans, osprey, mink, otter, barred owls, bobolinks, meadowlarks,** and a variety of waterfowl and songbirds. Little Long Lake has pristine water quality, and, like its associated rich fen, is partially groundwater fed. It supports populations of **brook and rainbow trout.**

