



Green Infrastructure for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project



Clean Water Funds: 2010

Clean Water Grant	\$665,000
Leveraged Funds*	\$4,449,865
Total Project Budget	\$5,114,865

* Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match

Targeted Water:
Mississippi River

Project Sponsor:
Capitol Region Watershed District

Partners:
City of Saint Paul, Metropolitan Council, Ramsey County

Grant Period:
January 2010 - December 2011

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Project Narrative

From 2011 to 2013, the full reconstruction of University Avenue in Saint Paul for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) presents a unique opportunity to improve the quality of stormwater runoff from the Corridor that will not be seen again. Assistance from the Clean Water funds will augment large investments being made by Capitol Region Watershed District, Saint Paul, Ramsey County, and Metropolitan Council implementing highly visible, green infrastructure practices in this transportation corridor to achieve significant stormwater volume reduction and water quality improvements. Other environmental benefits include improved aesthetics, better air quality, and reduced air temperatures.

The Corridor is highly urbanized and comprised of primarily commercial and industrial land uses with a small amount of residential property. The existing drainage system conveys untreated stormwater runoff from paved surfaces to the Mississippi River, which is impaired for turbidity, nutrients, and bacteria.

Four categories of green infrastructure practices will be constructed to achieve the runoff reduction and water quality goals of the project. These are: integrated tree trench system, stormwater planters, rain gardens, and infiltration trenches.

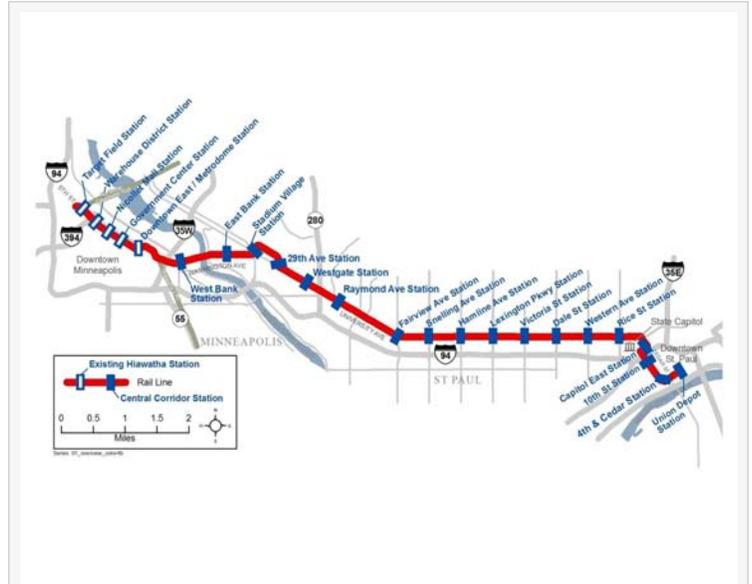
The integrated tree trench system will be constructed on both sidewalks along 5.2 miles of University Avenue. Street runoff will be directed to infiltration trenches while runoff from sidewalks will go to pervious pavers and structural soils. The structural soils will support the trees that provide evapotranspiration, infiltration, and nutrient uptake. Ten additional green infrastructure practices will be constructed on adjacent streets to University Avenue to further “green” this Corridor.



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Example stormwater planter to be installed



Map of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit route



Example of rain gardens to be installed



Rendering of a completed portion of the central corridor