



Slowing Erosion in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin



Clean Water Funds: 2010

Clean Water Grant	\$243,250
Leveraged Funds*	\$61,000
Total Project Budget	\$304,250

* Leveraged Funds include required 25% local match

Targeted Water:

County/Watershed Wide

Project Sponsor:

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance

Partners:

Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance, Member Counties and SWCDs - Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, Le Sueur, Martin, Waseca and Watonwan

Grant Period:

January 2010—December 2011

Project Contact:

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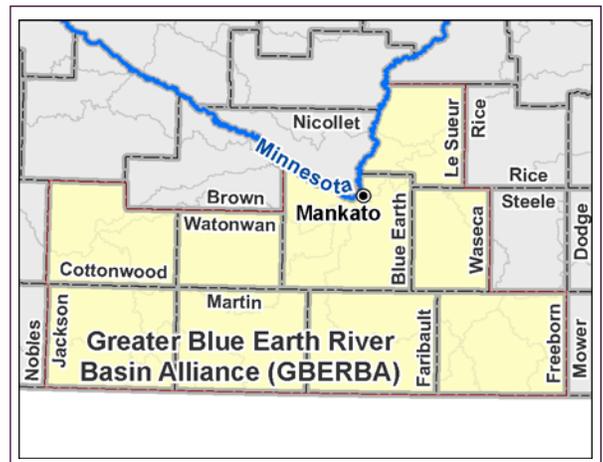


Project Narrative

The Greater Blue Earth River Basin is a large area within the Watonwan, Le Sueur, and Blue Earth River watersheds. Recent research by University of Minnesota, the National Center for Earth Dynamics, and others has found this basin to be the largest contributor of sediment to Lake Pepin. With this fact in mind, the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance, or GBERBA, has been working towards the adoption of beneficial practices and projects in both agricultural and urban landscapes to reduce the amount of sediment entering surface waters.

GBERBA's two prong approach aims to target riparian and bluff areas that are vulnerable to erosion and gullies. First, for agricultural practices, this project will target practices such as vegetative buffers, waterways, terraces, gully head protection structures, and water and sediment control basins in key positions on the landscape. These practices have been proven to not only reduce the loss of sediment to surface waters, but also reduce the impacts other pollutants.

This project also targets urban stormwater projects in smaller communities that typically do not have regulatory requirements for stormwater like larger cities. Practices such as rain gardens, pervious pavers, stormwater bioretention areas, and bio-swales will be implemented to trap sediment and pollutants before they enter surface waters and increase infiltration of stormwater runoff.



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Before shoreland stabilization



After project completion