

Wild Meadows Conservation Development

Bancor Group
Medina, MN
Project Initiation Date: 2000
Project Size: 345 acres

Project Statement

Wild Meadows is a residential development project located in Medina, Minnesota that elevates the practice of ecological restoration within a residential development to a new level. The design of Wild Meadows was inspired by other successful AES conservation developments including Prairie Crossing, an award-winning development outside of Chicago. AES served as the ecological consultant on the design team, which also included Dahlgren, Shardlow, and Uban. Bancor Group, Lundgren Brothers, VKO Enterprises, Lundgren, LeGran, and the Minnesota Land Trust make up the rest of the project development team. AES currently provides professional design and construction services.



AES worked with the development team to design around and with the existing natural resources on the site. 200 acres of the 345-acre site (58%) is being restored to native open space consisting of maple-basswood forest, oak savanna, dry prairie, mesic prairie, wet prairie, and wetlands. AES designed and restored / created 15 wetlands on the site, which function as part of the stormwater management system, as well as providing aesthetically pleasing wildlife habitat. The Contracting division of AES has installed and managed these restored and created wetlands and open space areas.

AES designed the ecological stormwater management system for the site (the Stormwater Treatment Train™ (STT) that guides stormwater naturally through gentle vegetated swales and a series of mesic to wet prairie restorations prior to entering restored wetlands.

Current Status

An extensive 6-year hydrologic monitoring program to provide data regarding the effectiveness of this alternative system will be completed in 2009 by AES. The hydrologic monitoring program includes analysis of runoff prior to, during, and immediately following full build-out. Conservation development techniques used in the project include minimal road widths, planted cul-de-sacs, reduced land alteration, reduced infrastructure, alternative stormwater management, forest conservation (preserving and expanding the onsite maple-basswood forest remnant), use of conservation easements and other restrictions, and devoting more than half of the site to restored and protected open space.



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