



NEWS RELEASE

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SIXTY-FIVE VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATE IN SAVANNAH RESTORATION WORK ON FLINT HILLS RESOURCES PROPERTY

ROSEMOUNT, Minn—On Saturday, October 14, sixty-five volunteers braved cold weather to continue restoration work on Flint Hills Resources property that is part of the Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area in Dakota County. Thirty-five community volunteers joined with thirty Flint Hills' employees and family members to plant 5,000 acorns in an effort to reestablish oak trees in the savanna, collect prairie seed, and plant sand-gravel prairie seedlings.

The 1,300-acre Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area encompasses oak forest, oak savanna, black ash swamp and rare sand-gravel prairie plant communities. Pine Bend Bluffs is a crucial part of the Mississippi River flyway, the annual migration corridor for millions of songbirds and 40 percent of North America's waterfowl and shorebirds. The area was identified as a site of high biological significance by the DNR County Biological Survey in 1999. Ecologists consider the area to be one of the largest and most diverse native ecosystems left in the seven-county metro region.

Since 2000, Flint Hills Resources, Friends of the Mississippi River and Great River Greening have been working together to restore and reconstruct a 78-acre parcel of prairie, savanna and woodland owned by the company within Pine Bend Bluffs. Community volunteers and Flint Hills' employees have pulled buckthorn, cut honeysuckle, collected and sown prairie seeds, and planted native species. The work is helping restore ecological balance to the area, reduce erosion,

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improve wildlife habitat, protect species diversity and, ultimately, improve and protect water quality.

Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area was named one of 10 Twin Cities Treasures by the Embrace Open Space campaign of the McKnight Foundation in 2002 representing the kind of open space that needs protection from development. The restoration work by Flint Hills Resources, its employees, environmental groups, and volunteers earned the company-owned parcel certification by the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) in 2001. WHC re-certified the parcel in 2006.

Pine Bend Bluffs presents a unique opportunity for collaboration among its several private and corporate landowners, state and local governments, local environmental organizations and the community. Funding for this project has been provided by Flint Hills Resources, the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Flint Hills Resources LP is a leading provider of transportation fuels used in the Upper Midwest. Flint Hills' Pine Bend refinery has a crude oil processing capacity of approximately 280,000 barrels per day and employs about 800 people full-time. Flint Hills Resources is headquartered in Wichita, Kansas and also has refineries in Corpus Christi, Texas and North Pole, Alaska, as well as a chemical facility in Joliet, Illinois. More information about the company is available at www.fhr.com.

Great River Greening is a non-profit organization that restores valuable and endangered natural areas and open spaces in the greater Twin Cities by engaging individuals and communities to be stewards of the Mississippi, Minnesota and St. Croix river valleys and watersheds. Greening involves on-the-ground volunteers on a larger scale than any other local organization—14,000 since 1995. Great River Greening—restoring the land, renewing communities.

Friends of the Mississippi River is a citizen-based nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities. Through education, outreach and advocacy, we protect water quality, conserve vital land along the river and its tributaries, and foster a sense of place that is rooted in the unique cultural, historical and recreational assets of the Mississippi.

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