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“North American monarch butterflies are in trouble. Threats—including habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation—are having a devastating impact across the landscape on monarch populations. The native prairie restorations being done by Greenseams and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are providing valuable habitat for monarch butterflies and many other pollinators.”

—Rachel Samerdyke
Private Lands Biologist

Location

Greenseams® works to reduce flooding in a 720-square mile area that covers six watersheds and Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Waukesha and Washington counties. In partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and other local sources, Greenseams® now protects more than 3,400 acres of land.



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“I spent my childhood hiking in this wooded swamp in the spring and building forts in the summer. When the time came to sell this property, I’m glad our family decided to sell the property to the Greenseams program, so that this special place can be preserved.”

—Chris Bettridge, landowner and partner



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In partnership with:



THE
CONSERVATION FUND | www.conservationfund.org

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At The Conservation Fund, we make conservation work for America. By creating solutions that make environmental and economic sense, we are redefining conservation to demonstrate its essential role in our future prosperity. Top-ranked for efficiency and effectiveness, we have worked in all 50 states since 1985 to protect more than 7.8 million acres of land.



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Who We Are

Greenseams® is an innovative flood management program that permanently protects key lands containing water absorbing soils. The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) contracts with The Conservation Fund—a national, nonprofit conservation organization—to administer the program.

What We Do

By keeping rainwater where it falls and absorbing it naturally into the ground, Greenseams® helps prevent future flooding and water pollution while supporting and protecting MMSD’s urban structural flood management projects—infrastructure investments worth hundreds of millions of dollars. The program makes voluntary purchases of undeveloped, privately owned properties in areas expected to have major growth in the next 20 years and preserves important open space along streams, shorelines and wetlands.



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Our Numbers

Since 2001, Greenseams® has acquired more than 3,400 acres of flood-prone land within the greater Milwaukee area.

3,433
Acres Protected

105
Properties Preserved

223M
Gallons of Water Stored

103K
Trees Planted

\$10+M
Partner + Grant Funding

761
Acres Restored

THE
CONSERVATION FUND



2016 Greenseams® Preservation Highlights

Partnerships have proven to be a key ingredient to Greenseams® success. The program works collaboratively with landowners, local communities, land trusts, and a variety of national and state conservation and governmental agencies to protect environmental corridors that are open to the public for passive recreation. Among the significant areas targeted are:



Rachel Samerdyke of USFWS, and Angie Doucette of The Conservation Fund walk Ryan Creek Prairie, a Greenseams property in the City of Franklin.

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City of Franklin, Milwaukee County

The Greenseams® program protects 327 acres of land throughout the rapidly developing City of Franklin, all of which are available to the public for passive recreation. The headwaters of Ryan Creek, a tributary to the Root River, and the Dumke Lake Complex compose 284 continuous acres of the Greenseams® protected land in the city. Protection of the Root River reduces flooding risks to city residents and improves the quality of water that flows to Lake Michigan. Greenseams® also protects several other properties in the area, including the Victory Creek Prairie, which was restored in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Victory Creek Prairie not only improves natural stormwater management in the area, but also provides a network of trails through restored habitat for residents and students in the surrounding neighborhood and schools to enjoy.

Washington County's Lake 12

Greenseams® has permanently protected over 255 acres of wetlands, wooded swamps and upland buffer surrounding Lake 12 that provide natural storage for rain and snow melt. As identified by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, this natural area provides some of the most significant pre-European settlement open space in southeastern Wisconsin. By permanently protecting the Lake 12 complex, 255 acres of continuous habitat is available to endangered, threatened and rare plant and animal species in the region. The Lake 12 complex is part of a larger Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources prioritized project area and includes a 13-acre property with a public boat launch on Lake 12 provided by the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust.



Morning dew highlights the beauty of the Lake 12 complex.

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