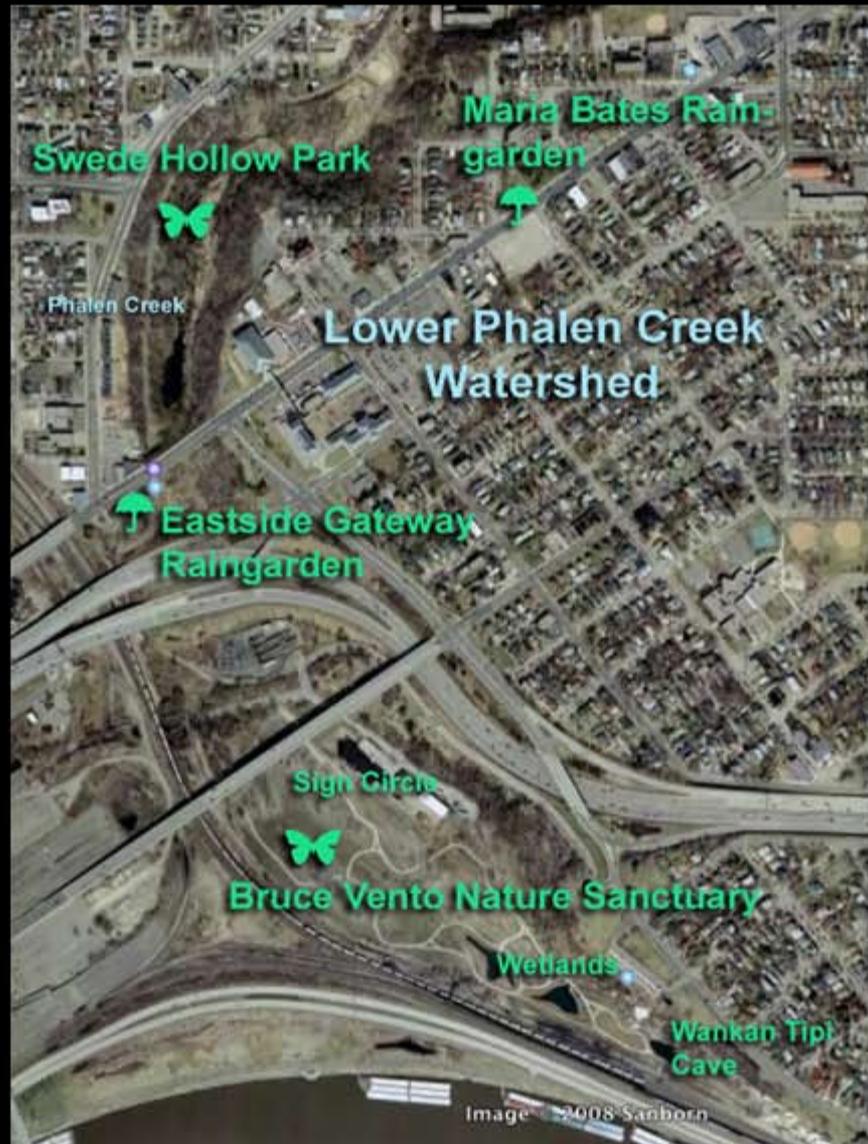


Community-Based Watershed
Restoration in the Lower Phalen Creek
Watershed





Goals:

- *Improve ecological conditions in an urban watershed**
- *Restore native vegetation**
- *Treat nonpoint source water pollution**
- *Create aesthetic and ecologically functioning urban greenspace**
- *Increase habitat for birds, insects, and other animals**
- *Reconnect youth and community members to natural world through environmental stewardship and art projects**
- *Reveal cultural and historical layers of the site**



Swede Hollow Historical Forest project, Swede Hollow Park, Saint Paul, begun in 1995.



Como Park Conservatory Conservation Youth, planting native wetland plants, 1997.



Maria Bates Rain garden near Swede Hollow Café and Community Design Center, 1997.
Artists Kevin Johnson, Christine Baeumler and Barr Engineering.



Two vegetated swales are at the core of the garden's design. The design redirects storm water from a residential street to the rain garden, or bioretention cell, through a specially installed catch basin. It captures runoff from a one-acre drainage, removing oil, grease, heavy metals, nutrients, and sediment from the storm water.



Two hundred Dayton's Bluff Elementary School students participate in planting the rain garden, 1997.



Maria Bates Rain Garden.

BRUCE VENTO
NATURE SANCTUARY



City of Saint Paul

Division of Parks & Recreation

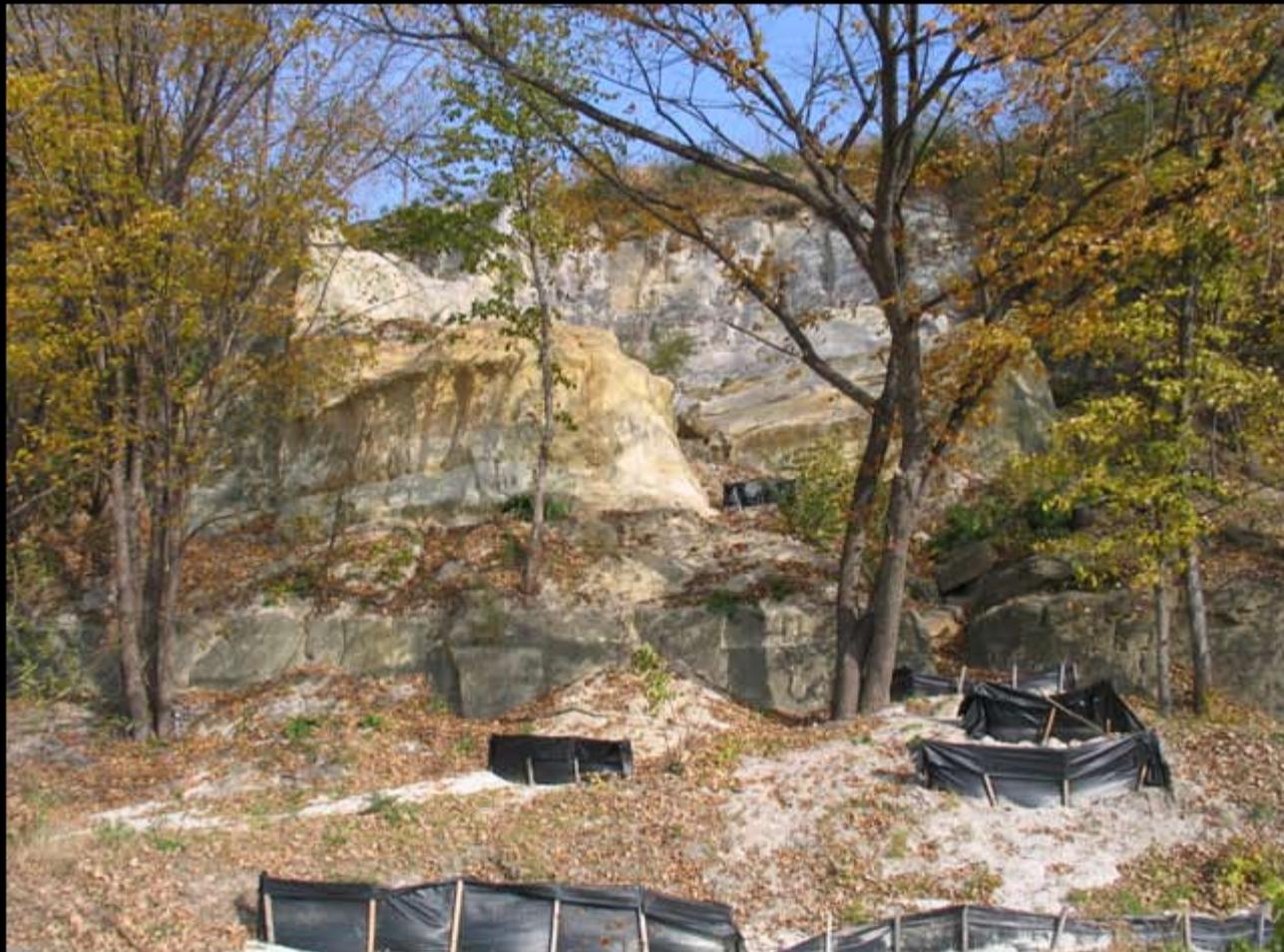
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Site of sanctuary on Mississippi before European settlement (imagined image), a floodplain where Trout Brook and Phalen Creek flowed together into the Mississippi.



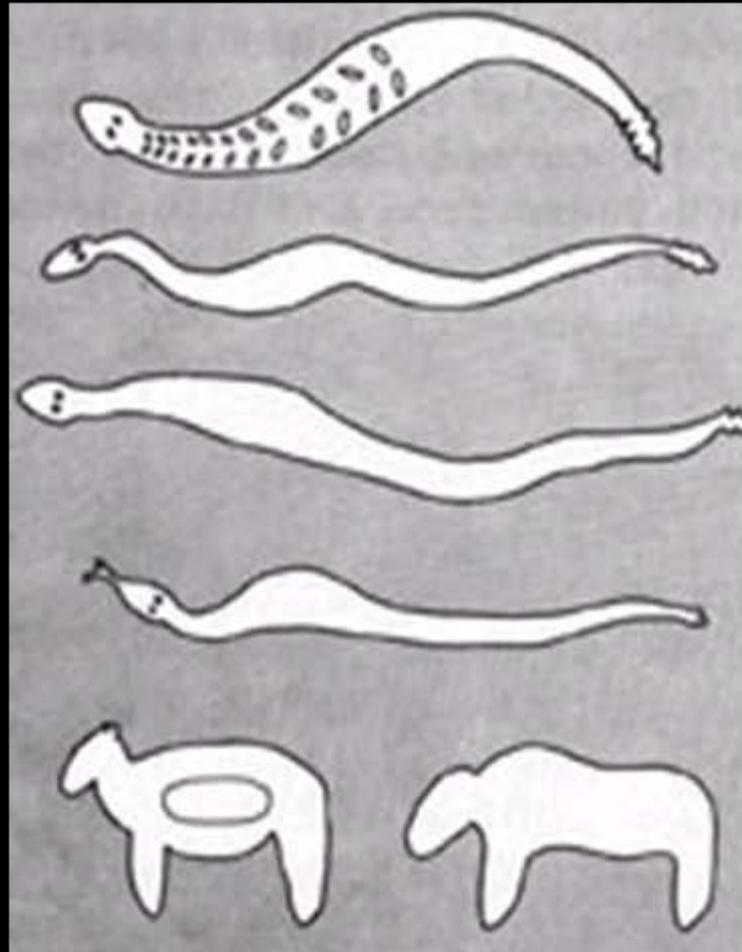
Dakota people lived along Mississippi river in the area near present _____ sanctuary. Located midway between three Dakota tribes, the sanctuary land was a _____ common meeting place for trade and ceremony.



The limestone and sandstone bluffs on the sanctuary date back more than 450 million years. The land that is now the sanctuary was known in Dakota as Iminiza-Ska, the “place with the white cliffs.”



A cave sacred to the Dakota tribes, Wakan Tipi (House of Mystery), is located below the bluffs. Jonathon Carver, British explorer in Wakan Tipi Cave, 1766.



Snakes and other images were carved into the Wakan Tipi cave wall and ceiling. These ancient petroglyphs are believed to have been created by the Hopewell culture and were destroyed by railroad expansion activities.



Railroad companies began filling in the mouth of Phalen Creek in 1868. The land was covered with multiple sets of trains and rail-related buildings that included machine shops, repair shops, and oil and gas storage areas.



Rail use decreased in the 1970s, the land was largely abandoned and most buildings and tracks were removed. The abandoned depot at the entrance of the sanctuary is future site of the Interpretive Center.



Members of Friends of Swede Hollow and founding members of the Lower Phalen Creek Project, 1996. Colleen Ashton, Weiming Liu, Kristin Dawkins, Karin DuPaul and Christine Baeumler



Bruce Vento

Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
from Minnesota's Fourth district. In office
1977–2000.



Lower Phalen Creek Project Secures Funds from the Environmental Protection Agency, 2003.



150 volunteers remove 50 tons of garbage, 2003.



Removal of toxic soils from
site, 2003



East Side Conservation Youth Corps members, 2004.
A program run by the Community Design Center in
Saint Paul.



East Side Conservation Corps , Ecolab volunteers and other volunteers removing invasive buckthorn, 2004.



Volunteers and East Side Conservation Corps Youth plant hundreds of



Constructed spring-fed wetland and stream, 2004.



Bike and walking trails were constructed throughout the site,
2004/05.



East Side Conservation Corp youth planting native wetland plants, 2005.



Site is donated to the City of St. Paul Department as a new city park,
Dedication ceremony, spring 2005.



Park opening and dedication by Dakota elder, 2005.



Six sign panels communicate the history of the site and the project, 2007.
Collaboration with architect Chip Lindeke and poem by James Silas Rogers.



The Wakan Tipi cave entrance remained sealed and a wetland has been constructed in front of the entrance.



Computer image of restored habitat in the Bruce Vento Sanctuary, 100 years into the future. Restoration work continues with work by Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary Eco Stewards, 3 M employees, and East Side Conservation Corps.

Beauty, according to Simone Weil, requires us to give up our imaginary position in the center.

It is not that we cease to stand at the center of the world, because we never stood there. It is that we cease to stand even at the center of our own world. We willingly cede our ground to the thing that stands before us.

Elaine Scarry, *On
Beauty and Being Just*