



## Join Minnesota's Rare Plant Rescue Program *Working to protect Minnesota's rare plant species*

### Who We Are

We are a collaborative network with a common goal of rescuing, protecting, conserving, and expanding the collective knowledge of Minnesota's rare plant species. We are working to expand this program and want you to consider joining our network.

### Background

There are [179 plant species](#) listed as threatened or endangered in Minnesota. By definition these plants are rare and are vulnerable to state extinction. In the past three decades, thousands of rare plants have been legally destroyed as a part of permitted development activities, and additional development plans with unavoidable impacts to rare plants are pending. In 2019, the MNDNR created a [new permit option](#) that allows for the rescue of individual rare plants from permitted development footprints. This new and innovative permit provides an important opportunity to advance rare plant conservation in Minnesota. From this, the Rare Plant Rescue Program was formed.

### Focal Area

The program is focused in the 1.1 million acre [Anoka Sand Plain \(ASP\)](#) of central Minnesota. The ASP is a biodiversity hotspot and home to at least 59 species of rare plants. The ASP is situated close to the metropolitan center and is under continual development pressure, providing opportunities to rescue rare plants.

### Program Goals

Rescue thousands of live rare plants and seed from permitted development footprints.

Identify permanently protected sites to provide refuge for rescued plants.

Protect rare plant genetics through seed banking.

Develop species-specific rescue protocols.

Share and disseminate program findings.

### To Join Us Please Contact

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Or [complete this online form](#) to connect with us!

### Collaborations & Partnerships

There are many ways to get involved with the program, here are just a few!

#### Citizen Scientists & Volunteers:

On-the-ground rescue and transplant efforts.  
Aftercare and monitoring of transplanted material.  
Help with event organization. Project promotion.

#### Landowners & Land Managers:

Finding and evaluating suitable protected sites for rescued plants.

#### Municipalities & Permitting Authorities:

Notification when a rare plant take permit is applied for or issued. Opportunities for us to educate staff about rare plants.

#### Developers & Conservation Professionals:

Notify the network of upcoming projects containing rare plants. Securing access to planned development sites containing rare plants. Identify potential recipient sites. Develop and implement transplanting and monitoring methods.



Critical Connections  
Ecological Services, Inc.



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Anoka Sand Plain Partnership