

VERMILLION RIVER —EMPIRE PARK RIVER RESTORATION



PROJECT: The Vermillion River through Empire Park contained tree and branch snags that were inhibiting flow, reducing oxygen levels, and causing erosion where flow was directed towards the streambank. Crews from the Conservation Corps of Minnesota cleared the snags from a 3,000 foot stretch to restore river flow and improve dissolved oxygen. Crews also installed cedar tree revetments to stabilize eroded banks.



Clean Water Fund:
*Protecting and restoring
Minnesota's waters for
generations to come.*



PRACTICE:

- Stream Blockage Clearing
- Cedar Revetment

BENEFITS:

- Reduced bank erosion
- Phosphorus and sediment prevented from traveling downstream
- Improved available oxygen
- Improved water quality

PARTNERS:

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
- Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa
- Empire Township
- Dakota County

WATERSHED:

- Vermillion River

RECEIVING WATERS:

- Vermillion River

INSTALLATION:

- Summer 2022

VERMILLION RIVER - EMPIRE PARK

RIVER RESTORATION



Multiple locations along the Vermillion River had accumulated snags of branches, logs, and uprooted trees that inhibited flow and reduced oxygen levels. Many of the snags also directed river flow towards the banks, causing streambank erosion.



Smaller branches were removed by hand. Larger logs were cut into manageable sizes using chainsaws and then removed from the river channel.



Crews harvested cedar trees and anchored the trees along eroding portions of the streambank in a practice called cedar tree revetment. This practice will help reduce future erosion and stabilize the eroding banks.



Crews from the Conservation Corps of Minnesota completed the project over the course of three weeks. The project will help improve dissolved oxygen levels and reduce future bank erosion.