











## **Project Manager Qualifications:**

### **Paul Kortebein:**

Paul has extensive experience managing many forest restoration projects. After earning his graduate degree in Forestry, he served as project manager for eight years on forest restoration projects in New York City, where he supervised a \$550,000 New York State Clean Water/ Clean Air Bond Act project. In that project, Paul identified and designed appropriate upland and riparian restorations throughout the 5,000+ acres of natural area parkland in New York City. Emphasis was placed on watershed protection, species diversity enhancement, and parkland preservation via the promotion of appropriate native species plantings.

As Natural Lands Manager for Milwaukee County Parks, Paul was responsible for the overall direction and management of approximately 8,000 acres of natural area within a 15,000 acre park system. Responsibilities included the overall operation and smooth functioning of the natural areas crew, including project oversight, procurement, purchasing, and planning. All of his restoration efforts have included science-based methods, with a variety of data collection and monitoring techniques aimed at evaluating the efficacy of the project. Paul is also experienced in evaluating and sharing results; he has presented at international conferences such as the Society for Ecological Restoration.

## **Organizational Description:**

Three Rivers Park District is a natural resources-based park system located in the suburban Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area of Minnesota that manages nearly 27,000 acres of park reserves, regional parks, regional trails and special-use facilities. As an independent, special park district established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1957, the Park District is charged with the responsibilities of acquisition, development and maintenance of large park reserves, regional parks and regional trails for the benefit and use of the citizens of the metropolitan area and the State of Minnesota. Three Rivers Park District is governed by an independent, seven-member Board of Commissioners. Five members of the Board are elected from districts in suburban Hennepin County, and two members are appointed by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. Each of the Park District's facilities is located within watersheds that flow into three rivers: the **Mississippi, Minnesota and Crow.**

The mission of Three Rivers Park District is to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system. Three Rivers' policy for planning and management of natural resources has distinguished it from other park and recreation agencies in Minnesota. The policy specifies that no more than 20 percent of a park reserve may be developed for active use, and that at least 80 percent of a park reserve shall be restored to and retained in a natural state. As a result, the Park District has been actively involved in the preservation and restoration of wildlife and plant species. Once-rare osprey, bald eagles, sandhill cranes and trumpeter swans are now nesting in the park reserves. Woodland and prairie restorations have been accomplished using native wildflowers, shrubs and trees produced from seed collected in the park reserves.

Park visitors are offered abundant opportunities to view and learn about these natural resources. Careful routing of bike, hike and ski trails provides intimate views of woodlands, wetlands and prairie, as well as the wildlife that inhabit them. Outdoor education staff offer an array of programs that foster a better understanding of our environment.