



*Natural Resources and Land Use Planning Handbook.* Did you ever wonder what to do with that detailed natural resources inventory recently completed by your county conservation district? Would you like to know how to use this information in your comprehensive plan update for 2008 review by the Metropolitan Council? CR Planning completed a handbook answering these questions. Working with the MN Department of Natural Resources and the Metropolitan Council, CR Planning conducted three pilot projects incorporating natural resource information into land use planning. The pilot projects were then used as examples in a handbook explaining how to use natural resource information in updating your comprehensive plan. The handbook serves as a detailed companion to the Metropolitan Council's Local Planning Handbook for metro area communities.

*Growing Oak Grove.* CR Planning worked with citizens in the City of Oak Grove in Anoka County to sponsor several events educating residents on the natural resources in their backyards. An open house and several "coffee parties" were held. The open house provided information on natural resources and land use trends. The small coffee parties were a forum for citizens to express their views about natural resources and future development. The events helped engage community members who assisted in the creation of a parks and open space plan, and the comprehensive plan update.

*Shakopee Natural Resource Corridors.* CR Planning provided intensive mapping assistance to the Shakopee Environmental Advisory Committee. The project resulted in a detailed, defensible natural resources corridor map adopted by the City Council. To implement the natural resources corridor, Shakopee is developing a Natural Resources Design Manual. Similar to roadway or utility design standards, new subdivisions will have to comply with the natural resources design standards. Development design will be required to incorporate natural resource protection.