



Forest Legacy Program-Blood Run

South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry
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The Blood Run Area consisted of privately owned 236 acres of cropland, grassland, upland and riparian forests. The South Dakota Forest Action plan places a high priority on the conservation of riparian forests. Because of these forests, the area was of historical significance for several Native American cultures. As a result of its ecological and cultural uniqueness, the Blood Run site was a prime candidate for protection.

The South Dakota Departments of Game, Fish and Parks and Agriculture worked with South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation and Conservation Fund to acquire the site from private ownership. The property was purchased in 2014. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry also drafted a stewardship plan for the property to guide future management to protect the ecologic value of the site. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks will manage the Blood Run property as part of Good Earth State Park.

Forest Legacy Strategies

The Blood Run Forest Legacy Project supports the South Dakota Forest Action plan by utilizing eight strategies and address all three national themes (Conservation Rural Forest, Protect Forest from Harm, & Enhance public benefits from trees and forest) outlined by the state and private forestry (S&PF) National Priorities and Objectives. The strategies used addresses 10 threats identifies in the forest Action Plan.

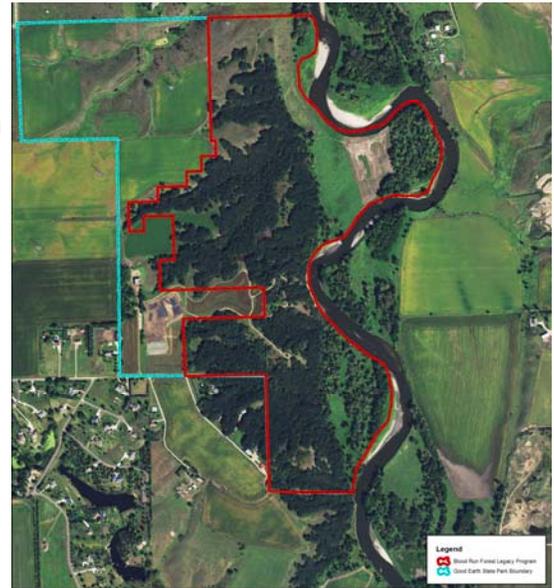
Examples of the strategies are as followed:

- **Create public awareness and educate the public about forest fragmentation**
- **Work with other Federal, State, and Local agencies to discourage fragmentation of Forest Lands**
- **Collaborate with and engage Federal, State, and Local land managers to improve Forest Health**
- **Promote natural species diversity within native forest lands**
- **Encourage the planting of a diverse mix of trees species**
- **Work with The South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks to help implement strategies found in the Wildlife Action Plan**

Forest Stewardship Plan

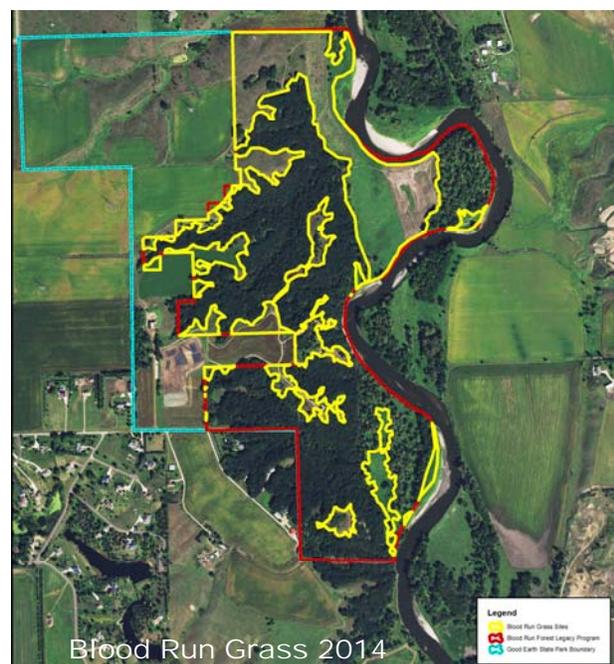
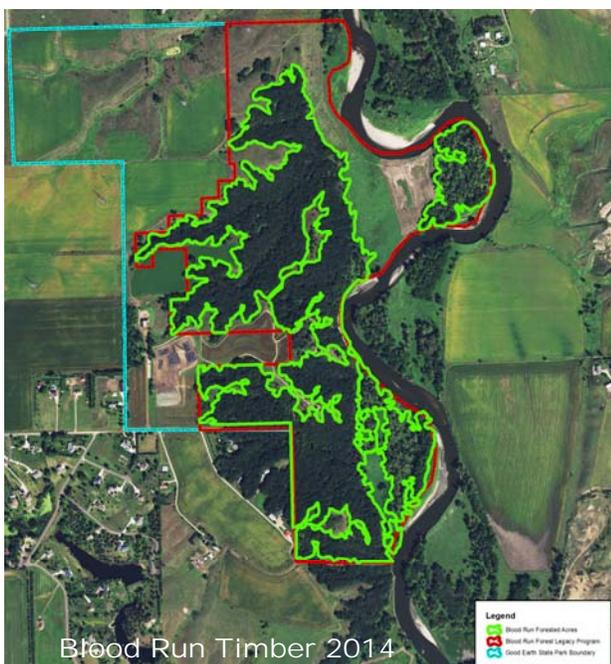
The Forest Stewardship Plan was drafted to improved habitat for wildlife, maintain the health and improve the aesthetics of the property, and to promote regeneration in the forested area with an emphasis on bur oak. The plan was designed to address concerns within the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) acquisition and non-FLP acquired portions of Good Earth State Park. Specific to the FLP acquired portion, the plan addresses:

- Grassland — 51 acres
- Cropland — 6 acres
- Forest — 146 acres
- Areas to be reforested—33 acres



Current Vegetative Cover

The properties' components are labeled and maps are made for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks' reference. The Good Earth State Park project maps will be revised as the site is changed over the next 10 years. Some of the cropland has already been planted to native grasses and forbs. Additionally, 33 acres of grass will be planted back to forests within the next ten years.



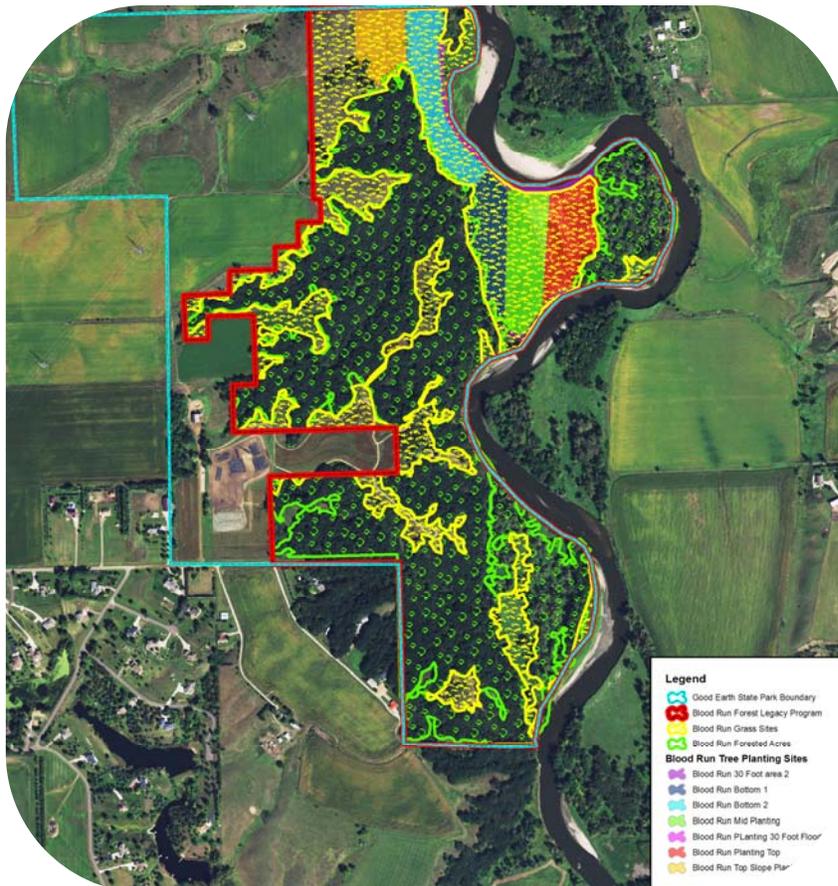
Good Earth State Park Reforestation Plan

The Forest Legacy Program requires the acquired site to be at least 75% forested cover. The existing Good Earth State Park project site needed an additional 33 acre of tree and shrubs to meet the threshold. South Dakota Department of Agriculture foresters worked closely with Game, Fish and Parks to recommend the planting of native trees and shrubs. The planting site was divided up into four different locations; a top slope, a mid-slope, a bottom slope, and a side slope. Species of trees and shrubs were selected based on their ability to thrive based on the locations of these sites. As of 2015, 6,000 new trees and shrubs were planted. Reforestation plans call for another 20,000 trees and shrubs to be planted over the next nine years.

Tree and Shrub Plantings

Tree List

- Peachleaf
- willow
- Eastern cottonwood
- Honeylocust
- Basswood
- Box elder
- Silver maple
- Bur Oak
- Hackberry
- Black walnut



Shrub List

- Nannyberry
- Elderberry
- Redosier dogwood
- Eastern Wahoo
- Northern gooseberry
- False indigo
- Beaked hazelnut
- Sandbar willow

Future Plans

The Good Earth State Park Project is a site that will be changing over time. The next few years will bring the addition of a visitor center, maintaining and adding new trails, adding more shelters and picnic areas with restrooms on the adjacent land that was acquired outside of the Forest Legacy Program. The planting of more trees and grasses on the Forest Legacy site and the adjacent site is being planned.

Future sites are being considered for acquisition.



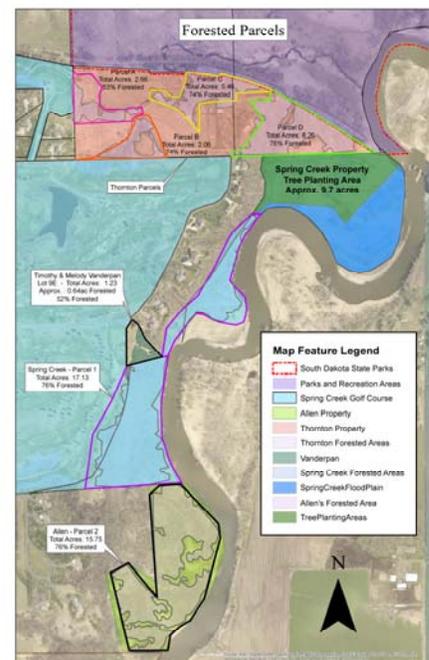
Future Forest Legacy Program Sites

There are three sites under consideration for addition to the Forest Legacy Program. Those include the Thornton, Spring Creek, and Allen properties.

The Thornton property is a mixture of hardwoods and grass along the Big Sioux River that borders the southern boundary of Good Earth State Park.

The Spring Creek property is immediately south of the Thornton property and touches Good Earth State Park with the Thornton property at the Big Sioux River. This site has a forested areas, grass, and a possible future tree planting site.

The Allen property is a mostly forested site with a few opening with a small wetland on the south west part of the property.



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