

# Restoring the Black River

December 2010

## Project Description

- **Location:** Black River Falls, Jackson County, Wisconsin
- **Size:** 300 feet of shoreline
- **Date of Storm:** Sept. 22, 2010
- **Completed:** Dec. 3, 2010

## Partners

- Jackson County Land Conservation Department
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



## Summary

A major storm on Sept. 22-23, 2010, with significant rains caused the Black River in Jackson County, Wisconsin, to rise rapidly. The swift moving currents severely eroded and undercut the streambank along the river as it winds through the city of Black River Falls. The erosion jeopardized the stability of five homes situated along river, which would pose an immediate threat to life and property in the event of additional rains.

Through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, a plan was developed to stabilize the homes and alleviate the danger of additional damage. Rock riprap was used to stabilize the base of the slope. Earth fill was placed, seeded and covered with an erosion control matt.

NRCS paid \$120,000 of the construction costs above the local share for the site. Jackson County Land Conservation Department sponsored the project.

The homeowners reported to the Sponsor that they were particularly pleased with how quick the EWP response was. They were bracing for a stressful winter, worrying about further streambank erosion eating into their property.

