

Fields of St. Croix

Lake Elmo, Minnesota, U.S.



Size:
241 acres, 113 homes, 12 attached homes






Dates:
1999 – 2004

Project Team:
Robert Engstrom, Developer

The Fields of St. Croix is a planned suburban community focused on preserving the architectural heritage and ecosystem of the region. It is focused on historic preservation, organic agriculture, and ecological restoration.

Goals & Strategies

Place	
Food	Goals: Preserve prime agriculture land. Strategies: 90-acre organic farm CSA is available. Private gardens.
Habitat	Goals: Preserve native ecosystem in open space. Protect and enhance ecosystem services. Strategies: 144 acres (60%) of the land is put into a conservation easement. Landscaping includes prairie, wetland buffers, and oak savannas.
Transportation	Goals: Promote a safe, walkable neighborhood. Strategies: Narrow streets sized for use. Walking paths, hiking trail. 5 miles from services, car-dependent development.
Water	
Water	Goals: 100% of wastewater treated through innovative wetland wastewater treatment system. Strategies: Stormwater infiltration into groundwater. Lake shoreline preservation and private wells.

 Energy	
Energy	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Solar PV-ready construction. Guidelines for solar PV. Otherwise, standard construction.
 Health + Happiness (Details not provided by researchers)	
 Materials	
Material Plan	Goals: Cohesive aesthetics respond to architectural heritage. Strategies: Strict rules enforced by community board.
Waste	Goals: Innovative wastewater treatment. Strategies: Waste collection.
 Equity	
Neighborhood & Access	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Houses clustered around community green. Community center, community meetings.
Access to Nature	Goals: Goals not defined. Strategies: Walking and biking paths around the acreage.
 Beauty (Details not provided by researchers)	

> See next page for Performance Levels achieved

Performance Levels Achieved:

	Standard	Good	Better	Living	Regenerative
Place					
Limits to Growth					
Food					
Habitat					
Transportation					
Water					
Energy					
Health + Happiness					
Civilized Environment					
Neighborhood Design					
Biophilia					
Resilient Connections					
Materials					
Material Plan					
Embodied Energy & Carbon					
Waste					
Equity					
Neighborhood & Access					
Access to Nature					
Access to Community Services					
Investment					
Beauty					
Beauty & Spirit	Not specified				
Inspiration					

Sources:

- http://www.robertengstromcompanies.com/prev_fields.html
- <https://fieldsofstcroix.wordpress.com/water-treatment-septic-documents/>

**Note: This case study was developed using found information.*

21st Century Development is a model for the creation of regenerative communities that strives to provide a healthy environment for all people and living systems now and in a dynamic future.

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