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First-ever in the Twin Cities: Flint Hills Resources earns gold certification for wildlife habitat preservation on its Dakota County land

Designation awarded annually by the Wildlife Habitat Council

ROSEMOUNT, Minn. (July 19, 2023) — The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) today announced that Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend site is its first-ever certified gold site in the Twin Cities and the only current one in Minnesota. The WHC awards the annual designation to companies that provide meaningful habitat and species management and education programs around the world. Flint Hills Resources' properties in Rosemount have been recognized by the WHC since 2001. This is the first time Flint Hills has received the gold certification, the highest level of recognition available. The designation is part of the WHC's Conservation Certification® program, a voluntary sustainability standard for habitat and species management and conservation education on corporate lands. It is the only standard of its kind in the world.

"Globally, businesses manage a great portion of lands, and what they do with those lands makes a big difference to the health and biodiversity of our environment," said WHC President Margaret O'Gorman. "Through WHC Certification, companies like Flint Hills Resources can measure their impact and make a difference for nature and communities."

This recognition of corporate lands includes Flint Hills' [Pine Bend refinery](#) and the area surrounding it, including the [Pine Bend Bluffs](#) along the Mississippi River. In total, this land spans more than 5,000 acres in Dakota County, where the company voluntarily works to promote conservation and habitat creation. From bluebird nesting boxes and a snake hibernaculum to pollinator gardens and landscape restoration efforts, Flint Hills employees and community volunteers work together to create healthy habitat and promote biodiversity. [Click here](#) to watch a video about Flint Hills' habitat program.

"It's been thrilling to see how our habitat program has evolved over the years, becoming the first Gold Certified site ever in the Twin Cities and currently the only one in the entire state," said Geoff Glasrud, vice president and manufacturing manager at Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery. "We thank all of our employees, community volunteers and community partners who have spent countless hours caring for these lands and demonstrating how industry and nature can not only coexist, but thrive together."

Since 2000, as part of the company's habitat efforts, Flint Hills Resources has partnered with Friends of the Mississippi River and Great River Greening to restore hundreds of acres of natural prairie and oak

savanna in the Pine Bend Bluffs with the goal of restoring the land to pre-settlement conditions. These hundreds of acres are a key migration corridor for millions of songbirds and 40 percent of North America's waterfowl and shorebirds. Since the site was first certified, 113 species of migrating birds have been identified there. The rare, federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee was recently discovered in the Pine Bend Bluffs.

About Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery

The Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery produces transportation fuels used throughout the Midwest, including most of Minnesota's gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, as well as other products people rely on such as propane and asphalt. Located 17 miles southeast of Minneapolis, Pine Bend has a refining capacity of 375,000 barrels per day and is among the most efficient refineries in the country. Flint Hills Resources directly and indirectly supports more than 4,000 Minnesota jobs and has invested nearly \$1.7 billion in upgrades and improvements to its Minnesota facilities since 2010. With 1,000 full-time employees, the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery is one of the largest employers in Dakota County. More information about the Pine Bend refinery is available at PineBendRefinery.com.

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