

Cedar River Prairies

Conservation Challenges:

- *Conversion to agricultural uses
- *Changes in agricultural practices
- *Deforestation/logging
- *Increased dewatering makes stream flow more flashy, reduces groundwater
- *Fluctuating/declining lake levels
- *Invasive spp.: Buckthorns, Eurasian honeysuckle, garlic mustard, leafy spurge, EAB
- *Habitat fragmentation
- *Urbanization/lakeshore development
- *Eutrophic lakes
- *Fire-dependent communities are likely to decline due to difficulty in restoring natural fire regimes
- *Wind farms

Conservation Opportunities:

Existing Conservation Network:

- State Parks:
- State Forests:
- SNAs:
- Wildlife Management Areas:
 - Lyle-Austin
 - Cedar River
- Aquatic Management Areas:
- Waterfowl Production Areas (USFWS):

Rare Species:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| American Ginseng | Mucket |
| Black Sandshell | Nodding Onion |
| Cowbane | Ozark Minnow |
| Creek Heelsplitter | Plains Wild Indigo |
| Elktoe | Rattlesnake-master |
| Ellipse | Round Pigtoe |
| Fluted Shell | Sheepnose |
| Green Dragon | Spike |
| Kentucky Coffee Tree | Sullivant's Milkweed |
| Least Darter | Tall Green Milkweed |
| Monkeyface | Tuberous Indian-plantain |
| Meadow Phlox | Valerian |
| | Western Fox snake |
| | White Wild Indigo |
| | Wild Quinine |
| | Wood Turtle |

Cedar River Prairies Opportunity Area

Ecological Significance:

Southeastern Minnesota has some of the highest potential for remnant tall-grass mesic prairies in the state due to its rich soils and ample rainfall. However, these same characteristics and its level terrain have encouraged conversion to agriculture. Therefore, the few remaining prairies are important resources to conserve. In addition to prairies, this Opportunity Area also contains riparian habitat in which a number of rare mussel species live. Maintaining habitat quality in the headwaters of major rivers, such as the Cedar is important as it will have positive impacts along its watershed.



Counties:

Mower

Rare Native Plant Communities:

- Calcareous Fen (Southeastern)
- Dry Sand - Gravel Prairie (Southern)
- Mesic Prairie (Southern)
- Red Oak - White Oak Forest
- Sedge Meadow
- Seepage Meadow/Carr
- Seepage Meadow/Carr Tussock: Sedge Subtype
- Silver Maple - Green Ash - Cottonwood Terrace Forest
- Southern Floodplain Forest
- Southern Wet-Mesic Hardwood Forest
- Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) Forest

Ecological Evaluations:

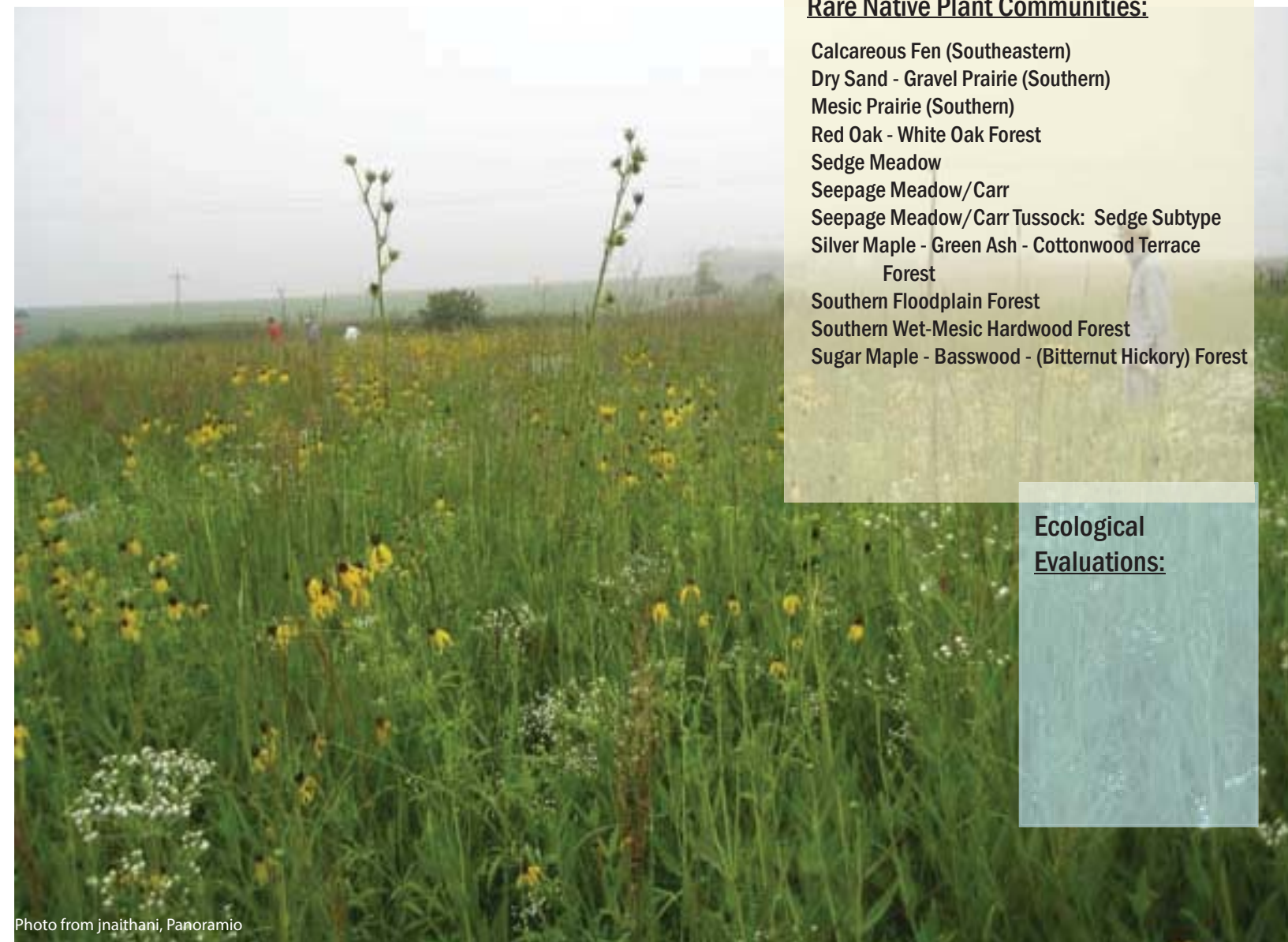
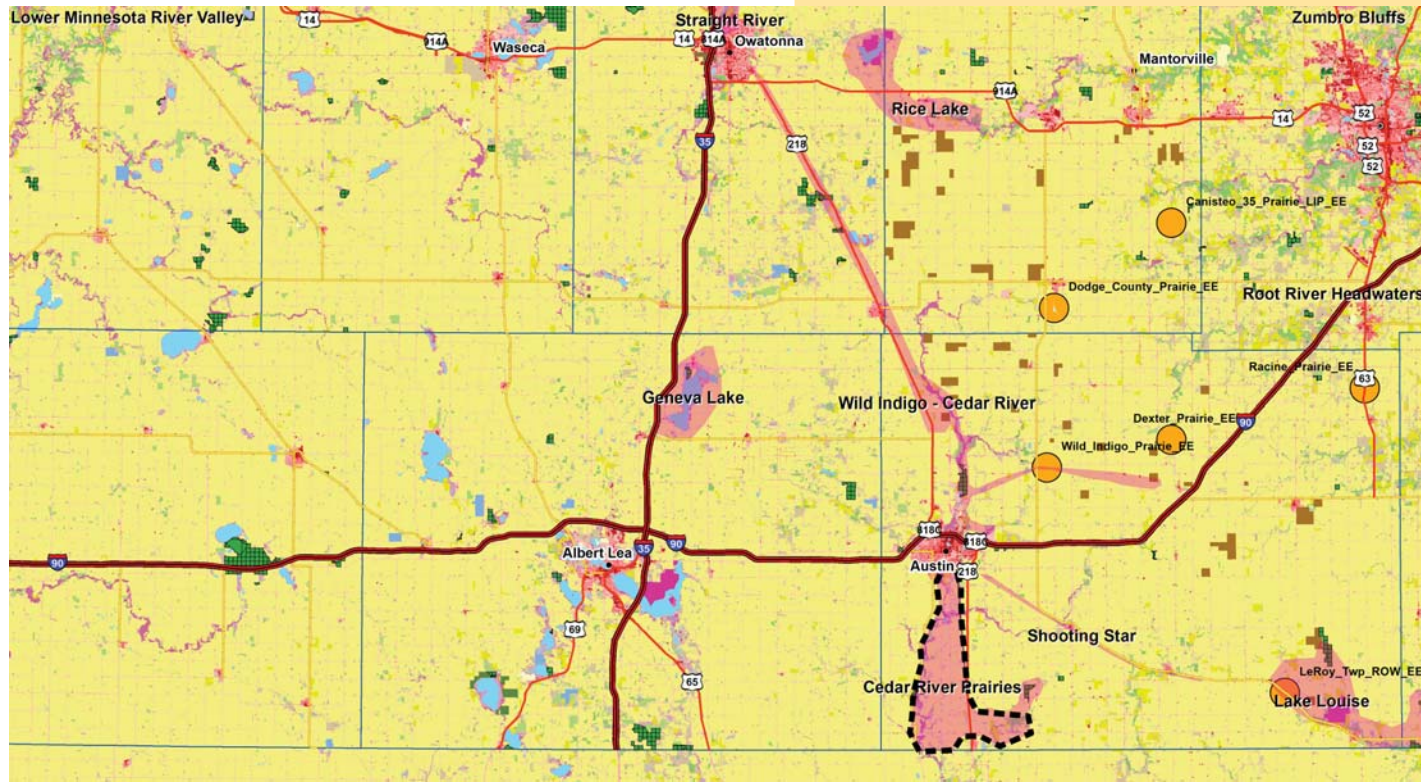


Photo from jnaithani, Panoramio

Cedar River Prairies

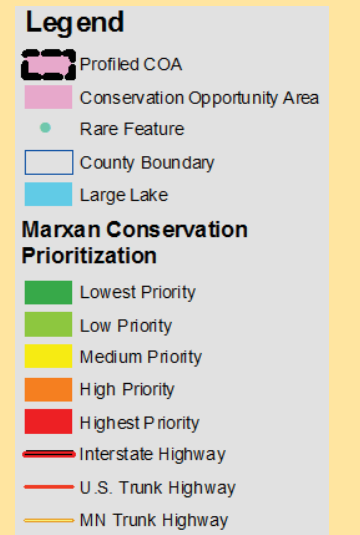
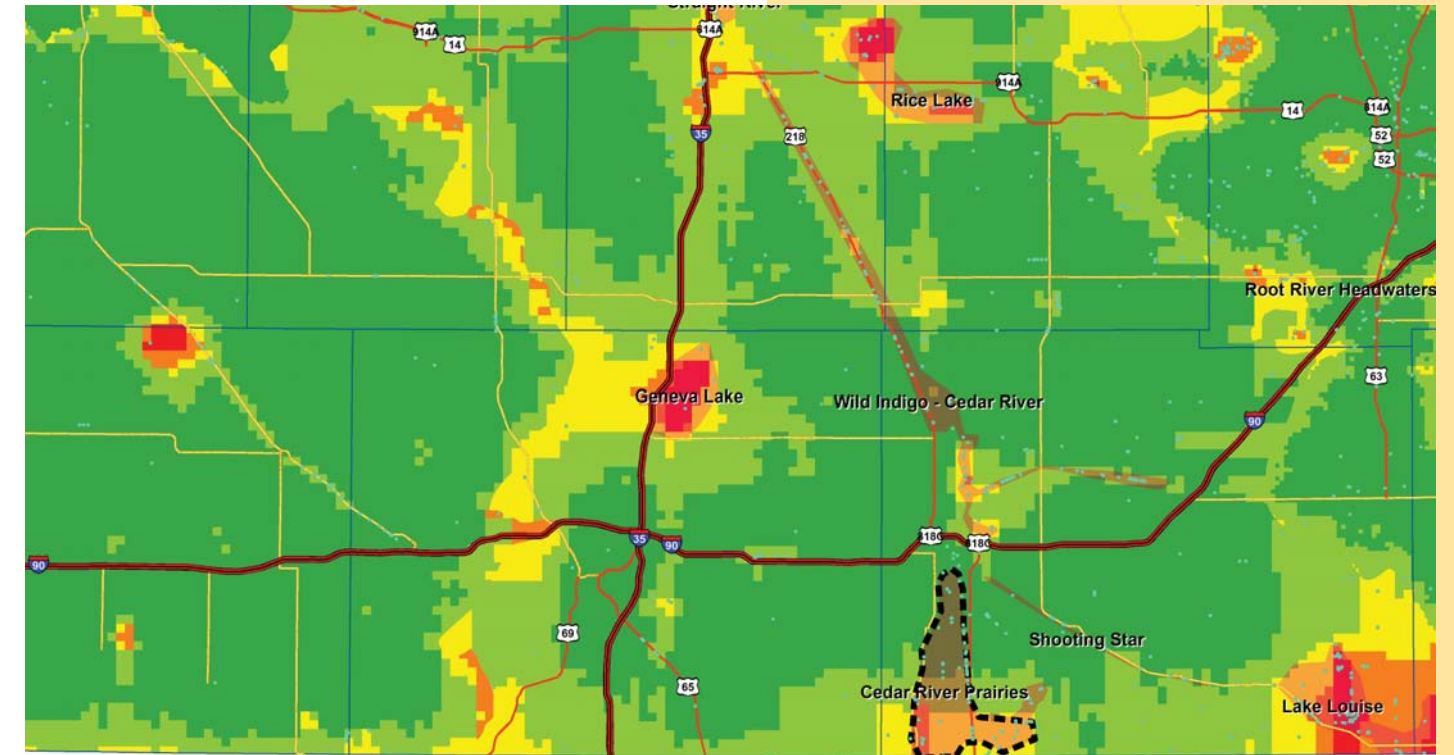
Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



Please see Legend at the front of the Opportunity Area Descriptions for a key to this map

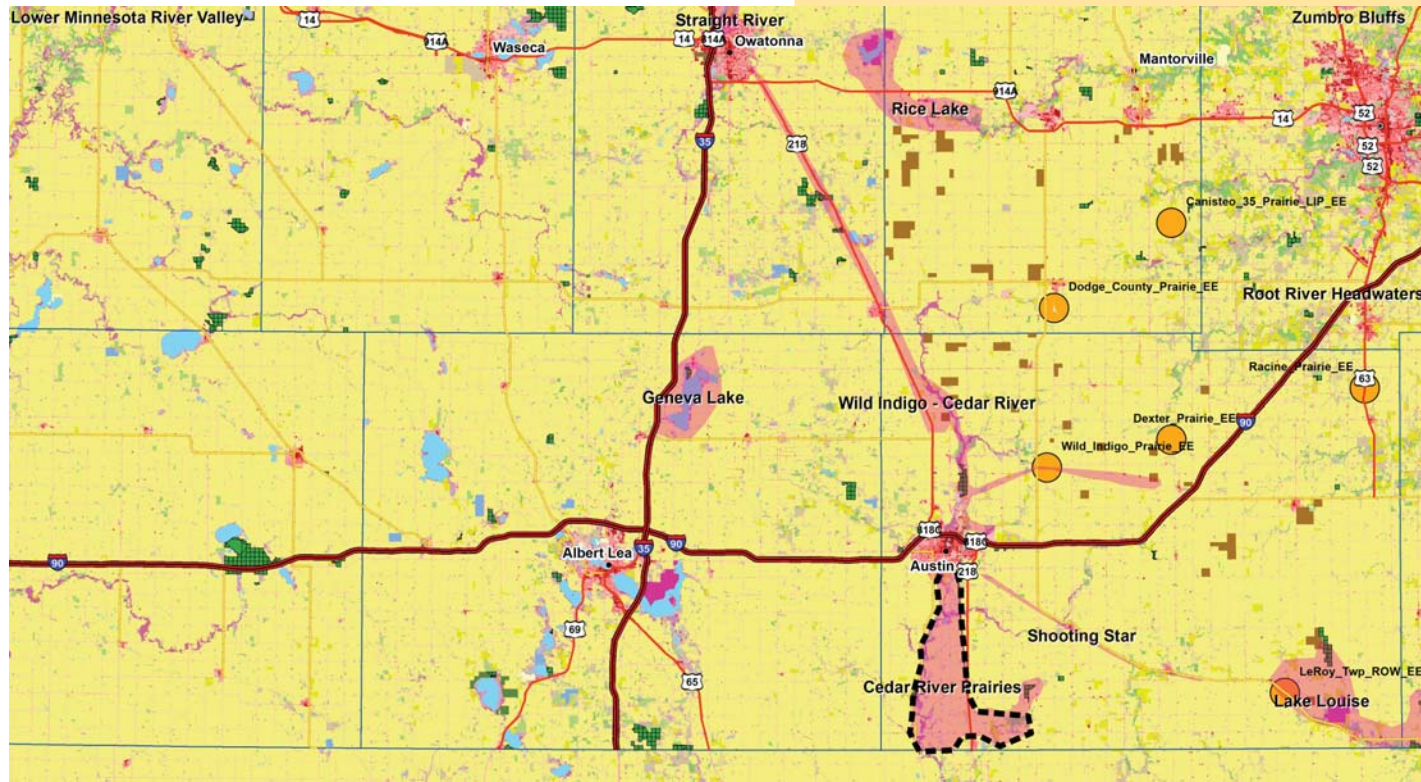
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Marxan Prioritization, Element Occurrences



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