

Drake Woods

Conservation Challenges:

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

Conservation Opportunities:

- * Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan

Existing Conservation Network:

State Parks:

SNAs:

Wildlife Management Areas:

Waterfowl Production Areas:

Rare Features:

- Bullfrog
- Creek Heelsplitter
- Kentucky Coffee-tree
- White Wild Indigo

Drake Woods Opportunity Area

Ecological Significance:

Drake Woods is one of the largest forested areas remaining in the largely unforested landscape of Faribault County and the till plains of the highly agricultural Minnesota River Prairie. The woods flank upper tributaries of the Blue Earth River with only the Des Moines River Valley providing riparian and valley slope woodlands to the west of this. Riparian forest types such as the silver maple-green ash-cottonwood terrace forest occur in this OA. The Blue Earth River valley has other forest types such as sugar maple-basswood forest farther north, so the corridor has importance as one of the few semi-forested to forested corridors within south-central and southwestern Minnesota.



Counties:

Faribault

Rare Native Plant Communities:

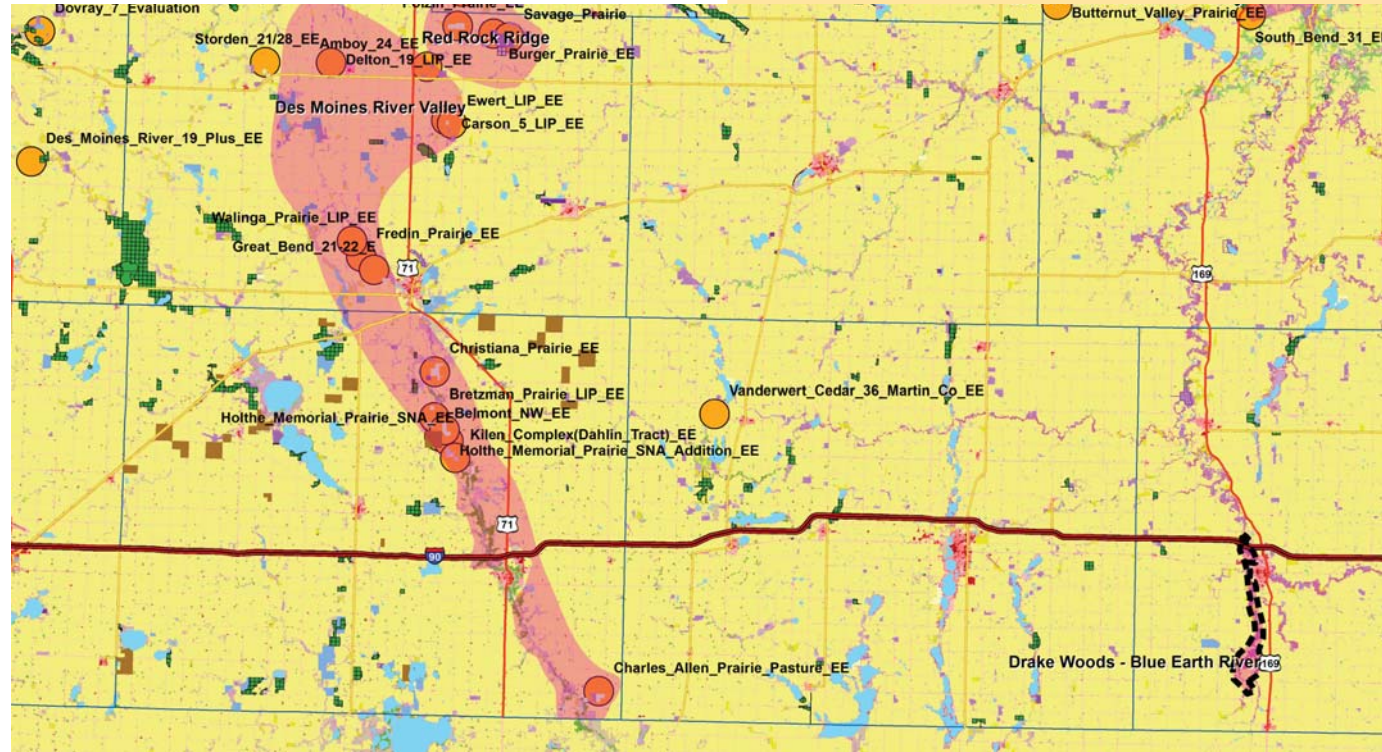
Undetermined Plant Community of Black Walnut, Bitternut Hickory, American Elm, and Basswood.

Ecological Evaluations:



Drake Woods

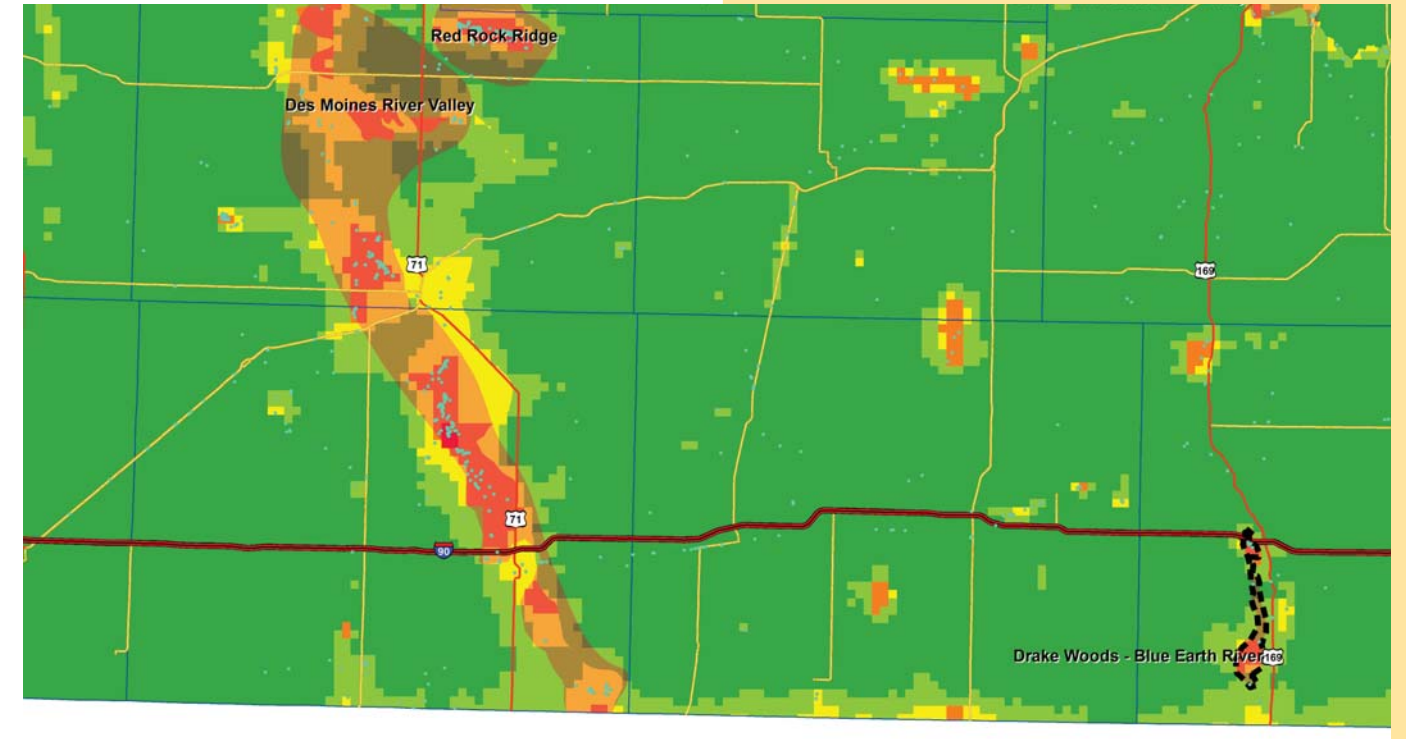
Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



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

Drake Woods

Marxan Prioritization, Element Occurrences



Legend

- Profiled COA
 - Conservation Opportunity Area
 - Rare Feature
 - County Boundary
 - Large Lake
- ### Marxan Conservation Prioritization
- Lowest Priority
 - Low Priority
 - Medium Priority
 - High Priority
 - Highest Priority
 - Interstate Highway
 - U.S. Trunk Highway
 - MN Trunk Highway