

Conservation Challenges:

- *Urbanization
- *Conversion to timber, mining and agricultural uses
- *Changes in agricultural practices
- *Increased draintiling makes stream flow more flashy, reduces groundwater
- *Fluctuating/declining groundwater levels
- *Invasive spp.: Buckthorns, Eurasian honeysuckle, garlic mustard, leafy spurge, EAB
- *Habitat fragmentation
- *Agricultural water pollutants/sedimentation
- *Thin soils over bedrock

Conservation Opportunities:

- * Watershed is engaged in natural resource management planning

Existing Conservation Network:

State Parks: Jay Cooke

State Forests:

SNAs: Hemlock Ravine
Minnesota Point Pine Forest

Wildlife Management Areas:

National Wild and Scenic River:

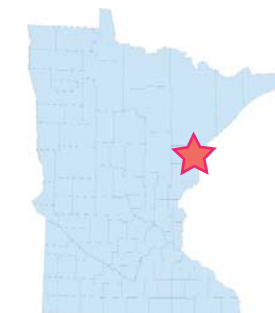
Rare Features:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| A Species of Sedge | Moschatel |
| Bald Eagle | Mucket |
| Beach Grass | Necklace Spike Sedge |
| Beach-heather | Northern Goshawk |
| Black Sandshell | Northern Myotis |
| Blanding's Turtle | Pale Moonwort |
| Blunt-lobed Grape fern | Pale Sedge |
| Bur-marigold | Peregrine Falcon |
| Carolina Spring-beauty | Piping Plover |
| Chives | Pointed Moonwort |
| Clustered Bur-reed | Ross' Sedge |
| Colonial Waterbird Nesting Site | Slender Hairgrass |
| Common Tern | Small Shinleaf |
| Creek Heelsplitter | St. Lawrence Grape fern |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Stream Erosion (Quaternary) |
| Eastern Hemlock | Stream Process (Holocene) |
| Hairy-necked Tiger Beetle | Torrey's Manna-grass |
| Lake and Wetland Deposition (Quaternary) | Tricolored Bat |
| Lake Sturgeon | Twoleaf Waterweed |
| Lanceleaf Grape Fern | White Baneberry |
| Least Moonwort | Woolgrass |
| Marsh Reedgrass | |
| Matricary Grapefern | |
| Michigan Moonwort | |
| Mixed Unit or Sequence (Lower Proterozoic, Upper Proterozoic) | |

Lower St. Louis Estuary Opportunity Area

Ecological Significance:

The Lower St. Louis Estuary Opportunity Area is a rich landscape located at the "top" of Lake Superior. Due to the rocky Laurentian Shield that comprises much of the lake's watershed, few opportunities exist for large estuaries. The estuary is located within the graben (a sunken rift valley) that creates much of the lake basin that also houses the lowest portions of the OA. The St. Louis River drops down the side slope of the graben to create the dramatic gorge that comprises Jay Cooke State Park. The other habitats that occur within the OA include boreal forest, freshwater estuaries, baymouth bar pine forests and dunes, and mesic hardwood forests.



Counties:

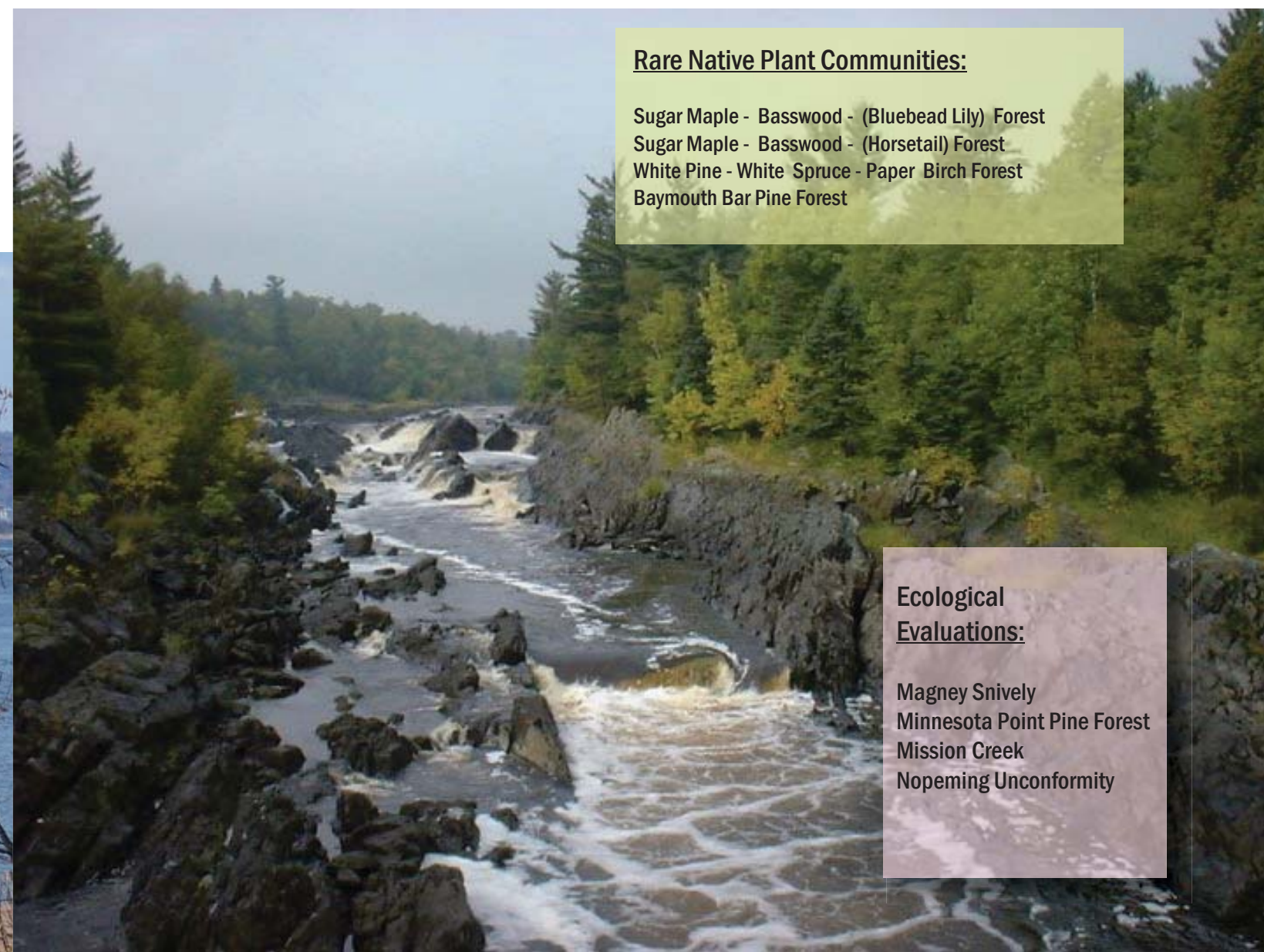
Carlton
St. Louis

Rare Native Plant Communities:

- Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bluebead Lily) Forest
- Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Horsetail) Forest
- White Pine - White Spruce - Paper Birch Forest
- Baymouth Bar Pine Forest

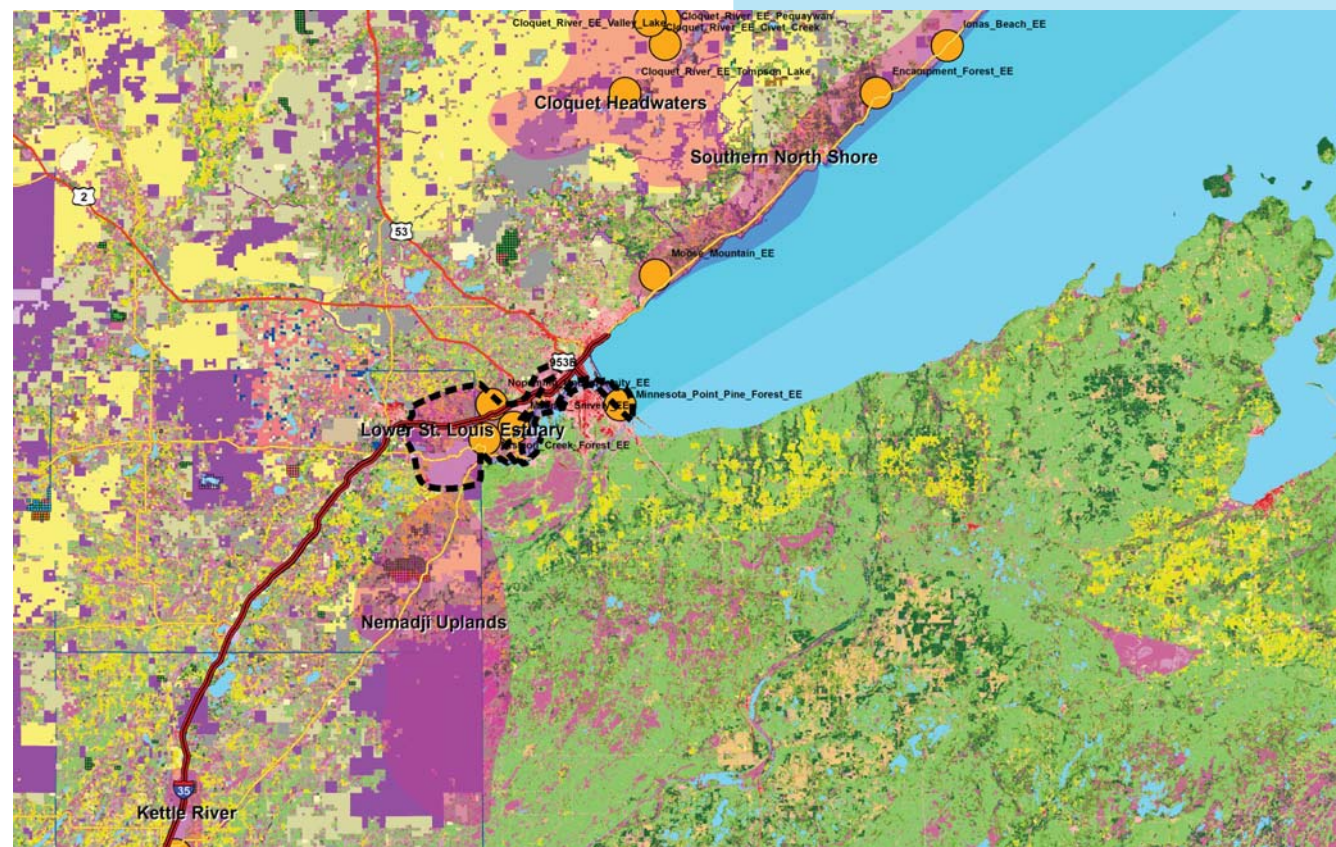
Ecological Evaluations:

- Magney Snively
- Minnesota Point Pine Forest
- Mission Creek
- Nopeming Unconformity



Lower St. Louis Estuary

Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



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

Lower St. Louis Estuary

Marxan Prioritization, Element Occurrences

