

# Pine Bend Bluffs - Spring Lake

**Conservation Challenges:**

- \*Urbanization
- \*Conversion to agricultural uses
- \*Changes in agricultural practices
- \*Increased draitiling 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/TMDL

**Conservation Opportunities:**

- \* Watersheds are engaged in natural resource managment planning
- \* Dakota County Regional Park Reserves
- \* Metro Greenways

**Existing Conservation Network:**

State Parks:

State Forests:

SNAs: Grey Cloud Dunes  
Hastings  
Hastings Sand Coulee  
Pig's Eye Heron Rookery  
Pine Bend Bluffs

Wildlife Management Areas:

National Wildlife Refuge:

**Rare Features:**

|                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| American Ginseng                | Monkeyface                 |
| Bald Eagle                      | Mucket                     |
| Black Buffalo                   | North American Racer       |
| Black Sandshell                 | Paddlefish                 |
| Blanding's Turtle               | Pallid Shiner              |
| Blue Sucker                     | Pawnee Skipper             |
| Butterfly                       | Peregrine Falcon           |
| Colonial Waterbird Nesting Site | Pirate Perch               |
| Creeping Juniper                | Pistolgrip                 |
| Ebonshell                       | Purple Sand-grass          |
| Elephant-ear                    | Red-shouldered Hawk        |
| Elktoe                          | River Bed                  |
| Ellipse                         | Rock Pocketbook            |
| Fawnsfoot                       | Round Pigtoe               |
| Fluted-shell                    | Salamander Mussel          |
| Gopher snake                    | Sand Beach/Sandbar (River) |
| Henslow's Sparrow               | Sea-beach Needlegrass      |
| Hickorynut                      | Sheepnose                  |
| Higgins' Eye                    | Short-beaked Arrowhead     |
| Hill's Thistle                  | Shovelnose Sturgeon        |
| James' Polanisia                | Snow Trillium              |
| Kentucky Coffee-tree            | Snuffbox                   |
| Kitten-tails                    | Spectaclecase              |
| Lake Sturgeon                   | Spike                      |
| Laurentian Bladder Fern         | Tall Nut-rush              |
| Lilia-leaved Twayblade          | Tubercled Rein-orchid      |
| Loggerhead Shrike               | Walter's Barnyard Grass    |
| Long-bearded Hawkweed           | Wartyback                  |
| Louisiana Broomrape             | Washboard                  |
|                                 | Western Foxsnake           |
|                                 | Winged Mapleleaf           |
|                                 | Yellow Sandshell           |

## Pine Bend Bluffs -Spring Lake Opportunity Area

**Ecological Significance:**

A number of biomes are present within this Opportunity Area: goat prairies, dry-mesic oak forests, white pine-oak forests, floodplain forests, and mesic hardwood forests with outlier species such as Canadian Yew in very close juxtaposition. Many portions of this OA have limited accessibility due to the rugged terrain, and provide conservation opportunities, yet are located within a metropolitan open space corridor. This assemblage of communities creates a particularly unique landscape at the edge of the urbanized Twin Cities areas that flanks the Mississippi River corridor. The OA also contains important backwaters for the Mississippi Flyway, and ties into a developing regional recreation system. It also provides a backbone of conservancy that extends across the Twin Cities along the Minnesota, Mississippi, and Saint Croix Riv-



**Counties:**  
Dakota  
Washington



**Rare Native Plant Communities:**

- Black Ash - (Red Maple) Seepage Swamp
- Dry Barrens Prairie (Southern)
- Dry Bedrock Bluff Prairie (Southern)
- Dry Sand - Gravel Prairie (Southern)
- Elm - Ash - Basswood Terrace Forest
- Mesic Prairie (Southern)
- Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class
- Oak - (Red Maple) Woodland
- Oak - Shagbark Hickory Woodland
- Red Oak - Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) Forest
- Silver Maple - (Virginia Creeper) Floodplain Forest
- Southern Dry Cliff
- Southern Seepage Meadow/Carr
- Southern Wet Cliff
- Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) Forest
- White Pine - Oak - Sugar Maple Forest
- White Pine - Oak Woodland (Sand)
- Willow Sandbar Shrubland (River)

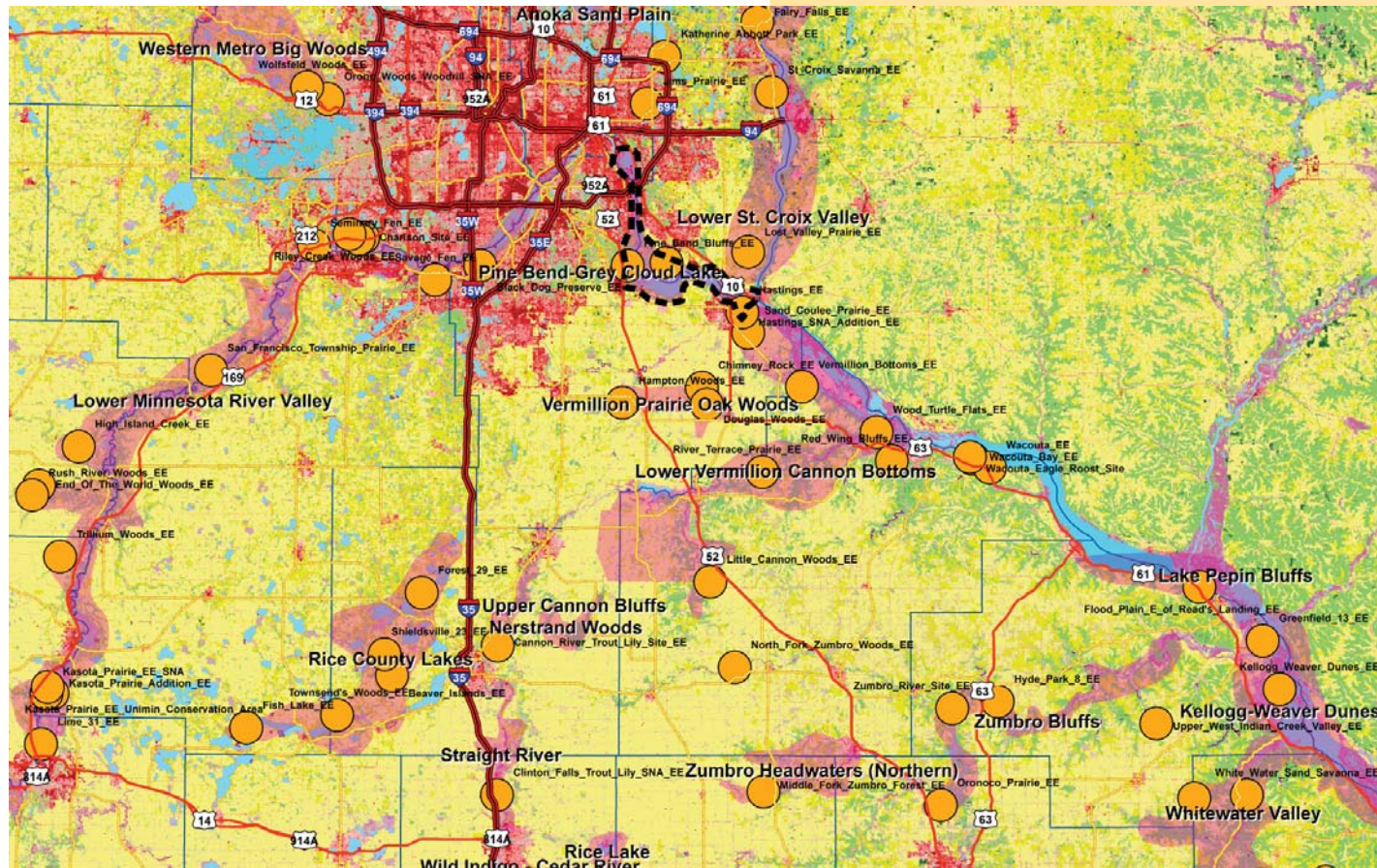
**Ecological Evaluations:**

- Grey Cloud Dunes
- Hastings
- Hastings SNA Addition
- Pine Bend Bluffs



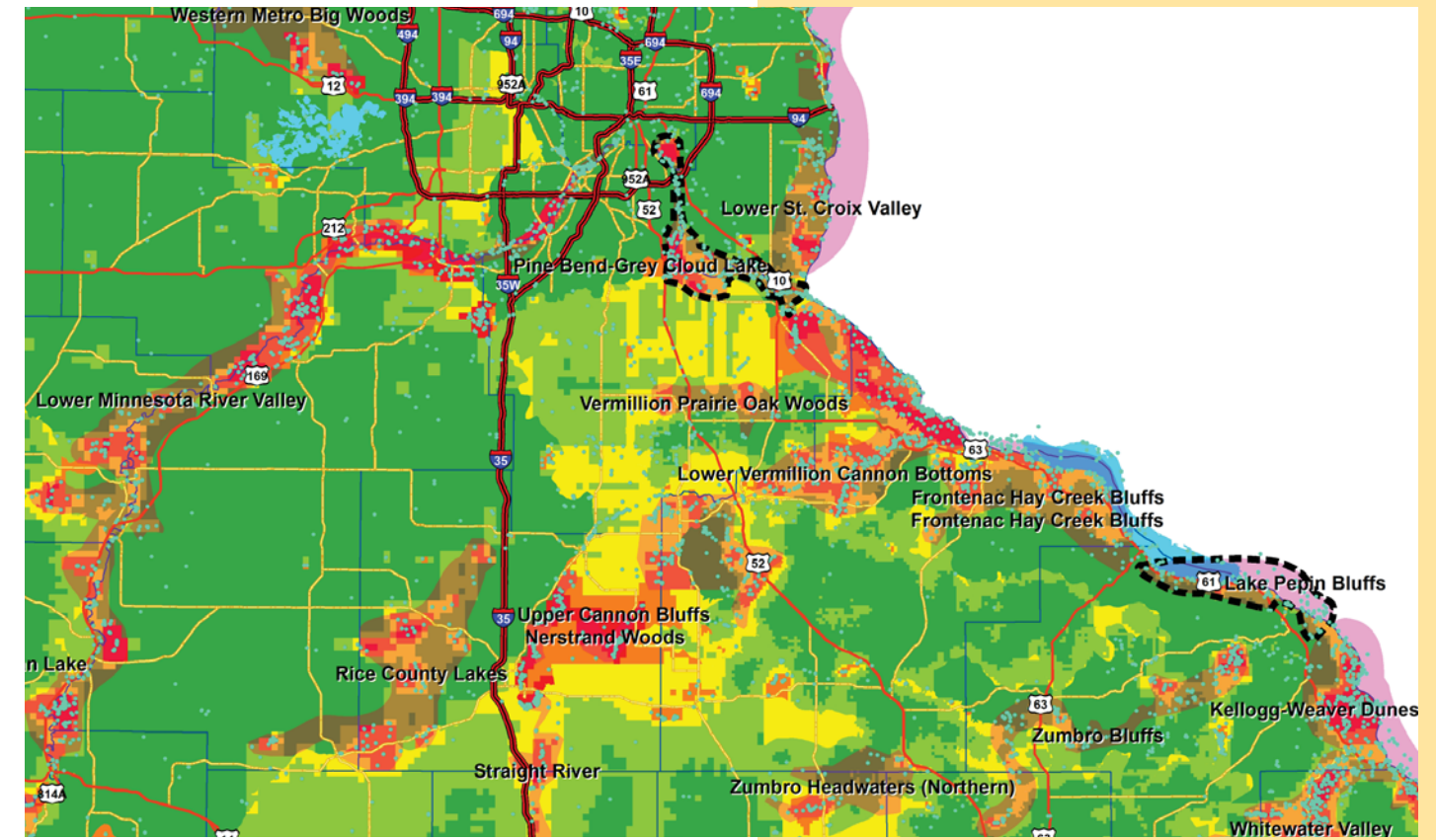
# Pine Bend Bluffs - Spring Lake

## Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



# Pine Bend Bluffs - Spring Lake

## 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