Conservation Challenges:

*Conversion to agricultural uses
*Changes in agricultural practices
*Increased draintiling makes stream flow more flashy, reduces groundwater
*Waterways are more incised, with more alluvium, and higher turbidity
*Invasive spp.: spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, EAB
*Habitat fragmentation
*Valley bottoms prone to high-volume floods of increased frequency
*Fire-dependent communities are likely to decline due to difficulty in restoring natural fire regimes

Conservation Opportunities:

* Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan
* Close proximity to other OAs

Existing Conservation Network:

State Forests: Camden

SNAs: Western Prairie
Richard & Mathilda Rice Eliot

Aquatic Management Areas:

Wildlife Management Areas:
Atherton
Rothsay

Rare Species:

Alkali Cord-grass
Alkali Grass
American Bittern
Bunch Speargrass
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Few-flowered Spike-rush
Greater Prairie-chicken
Hair-like Beak-rush
Hairy Fimbristylis
Hall's Sedge
Henslow's Sparrow
Loggerhead Shrike
Marbled Godwit
Marsh Arrow-grass
Nelson's Sparrow
Northern Gentian
Northern Grasshopper Mouse
Northern Singlespike Sedge
Poweshiek Skipper
Regal Fritillary
Sandhill Crane
Short-eared Owl
Shortray Fleabane
Small White Lady's slipper
Sterile Sedge
Upland Sandpiper
Whorled Nut-rush
Wilson's Phalarope
Yellow Rail

Rothsay Prairie
Opportunity Area

Ecological Significance:

Rothsay Prairie is different from many of the remnant prairies in the valley as it is located within the main portion of the valley floor and not along the larger, and more gravelly, beach ridges that typically harbor remaining prairies due to their poor soils. Much of the original land cover was a mosaic of mesic prairie and wet meadows. Soils tend to be alkaline as does the surface drainage, favoring halophilic species that don't have much of a presence farther east within the state. With the highly ditched and drained nature of this productive landscape, there are few examples of prairie remaining.

Counties:

Wilkin

Rare Native Plant Communities:

Calcareous Fen (Northwestern)
Mesic Prairie (Northern)
Wet Prairie (Northern)
Wet Saline Prairie (Northern)
Wet Seepage Prairie (Northern)

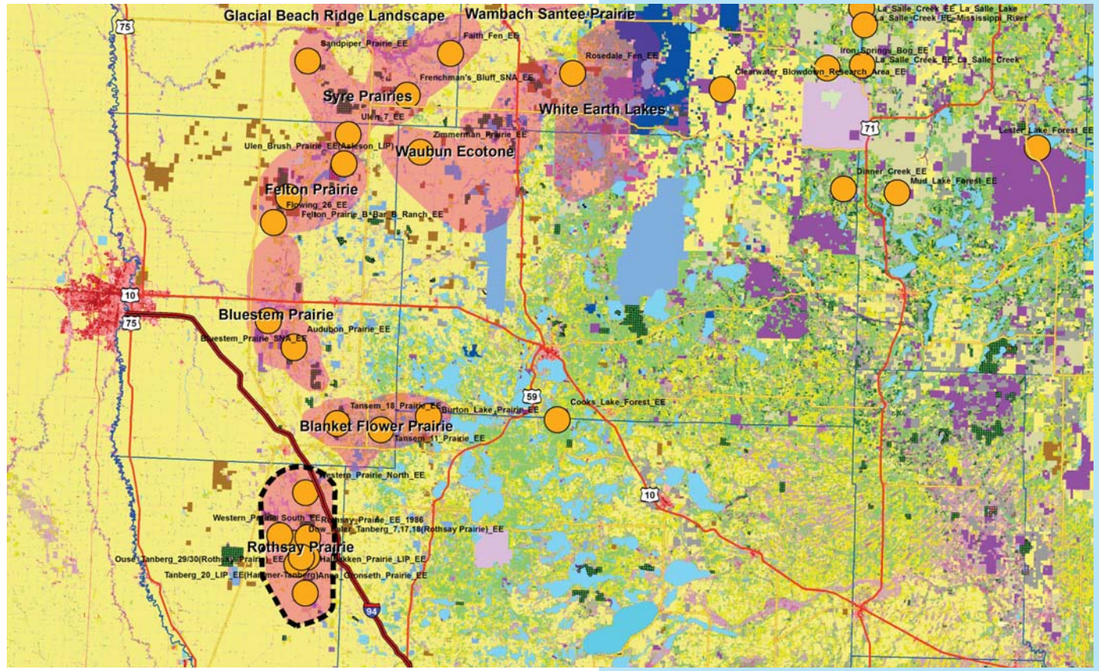
Photo courtesy of minnesotaseasons.com

Ecological Evaluations:

Anna Gronseth Prairie
Ouse Tanberg 29/30 Prairie
Rothsay Prairie
Western Prairie North/South

Rothsay Prairie

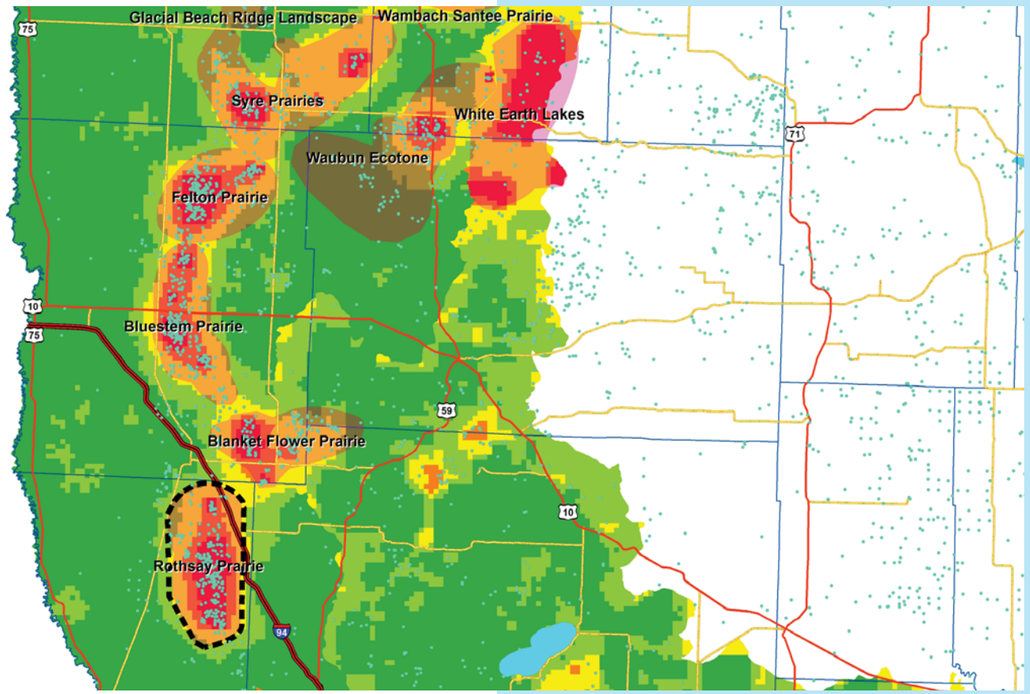
Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



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

Rothsay Prairie

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