

Sherburne Sands

Conservation Challenges:

- *Urbanization
- *Conversion to agricultural uses
- *Changes in agricultural practices
- *Increased dewatering 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
- *Fire-dependent communities are likely to decline due to difficulty in restoring natural fire regimes

Conservation Opportunities:

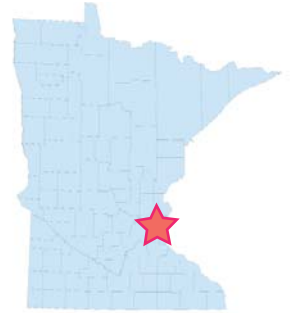
- * Watershed is engaged in natural resource management planning

Sherburne Sands

Opportunity Area

Ecological Significance:

The Sherburne Sands Opportunity Area hosts unusual landscapes and species that occur in Minnesota. While the Anoka Sand Plain is generally very level, the Sherburne Sands has several sizable areas of sand dunes. The largest area is concentrated around Sand Dunes State Forest and Uncas Dunes. Perhaps augmented by aeolian deposits from the Mississippi floodplain, these dunes are home to a number of rare plant communities such as the southern dry barrens oak savanna, which is one of the most imperiled NPCs in the Midwest, occupying only 0.02% of its former range. However, the sandy soils and frequent wetlands have made the lower cost lands of the Anoka Sand Plain a favorite location of very low-density development. Therefore, this area is a priority for its variety of biomes and its threats from urbanization, as it is located within the Twin Cities and St. Cloud suburban and exurban fringes.



Counties:

- Benton
- Mille Lacs
- Sherburne

Rare Features:

- A Jumping Spider (two species)
- American Bittern
- Annual Skeletonweed
- Autumn Fimbristylis
- Bald Eagle
- Beach-heather
- Black Sandshell
- Blanding's Turtle
- Common Gallinule
- Cowbane
- Creek Heelsplitter
- Creeping Juniper
- Cross-leaved Milkwort
- Gopher snake
- Hill's Thistle
- Lance-leaved Violet
- Least Moonwort
- Leonard's Skipper
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Long-bearded Hawkweed
- Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle
- Northern Myotis
- Old Field Toadflax
- Plains Hog-nosed Snake
- Plains Pocket Mouse
- Prairie Vole
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Sandhill Crane
- Sea-beach Needlegrass
- Small-leaved Pussytoes
- St. Lawrence Grape fern
- Tall Nut-rush
- Trumpeter Swan
- Tubercled Rein-orchid
- Uncas Skipper
- Wind Deposition (Quaternary)

Existing Conservation Network:

State Parks:

State Forests: Sand Dunes

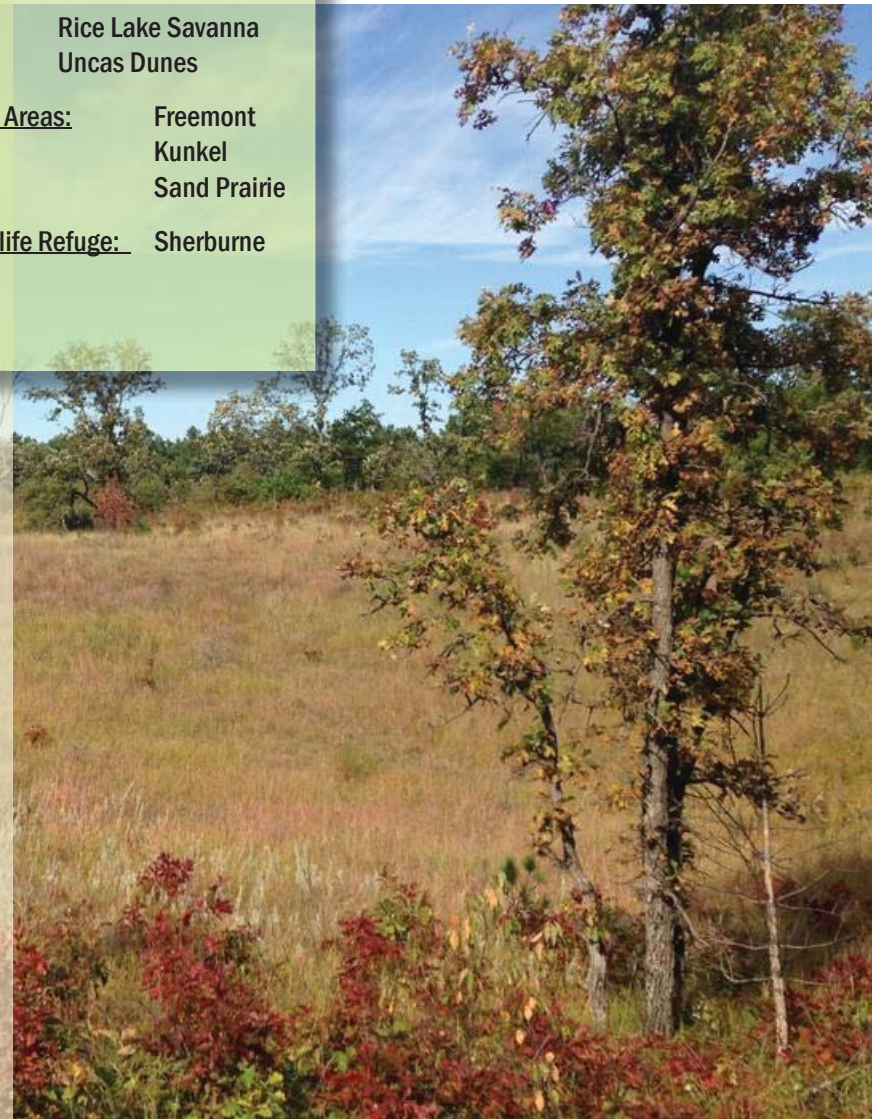
SNAs: Rice Lake Savanna
Uncas Dunes

Wildlife Management Areas: Freemont
Kunkel
Sand Prairie

USFWS National Wildlife Refuge: Sherburne

City:

Private:



Rare Native Plant Communities:

- Dry Barrens Oak Savanna (Southern), Oak Subtype
- Dry Sand - Gravel Oak Savanna (Southern)
- Elm - Basswood - Black Ash - (Hackberry) Forest
- Mesic Prairie (Southern)
- Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class
- Northern Poor Fen
- Oak - (Red Maple) Woodland
- Pin Oak - Bur Oak Woodland
- Prairie Rich Fen
- Red Oak - White Oak - (Sugar Maple) Forest
- Sedge Meadow
- Sedge Meadow, Tussock Sedge Subtype
- Seepage Meadow/Carr
- Silver Maple - (Virginia Creeper) Floodplain Forest
- Southern Dry-Mesic Oak (Maple) Woodland
- Tamarack Swamp (Southern)
- Wet Prairie (Southern)
- Willow - Dogwood Shrub Swamp

Ecological Evaluations:

- Cater Prairie
- Clear Lake
- Clifty Lake North
- Conklin Savanna
- Elk River Sand Dunes
- Mississippi River Islands
- Sand Dunes State Forest
- Uncas Dunes

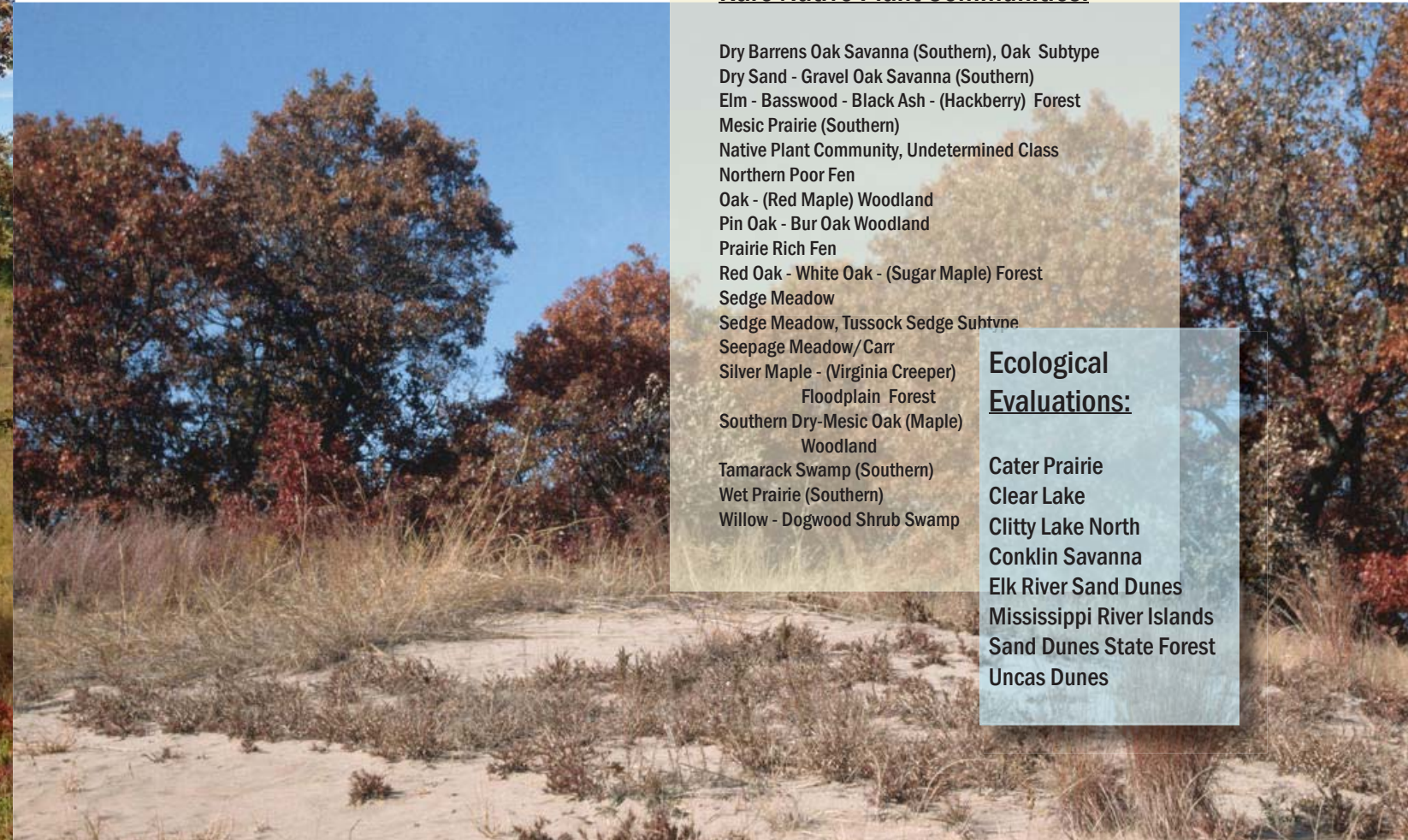
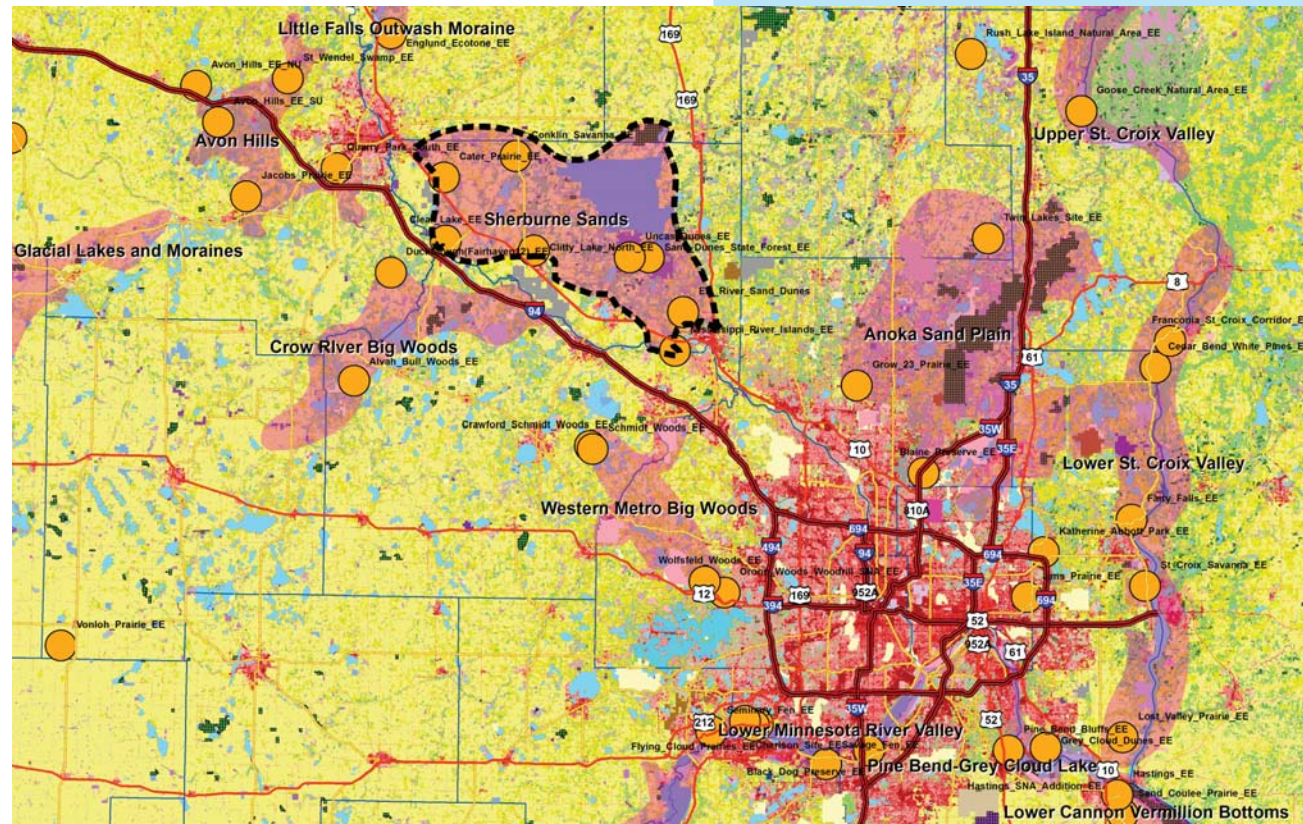


Photo courtesy of Craig Thlesen

Photo from Kelly Randall

Sherburne Sands

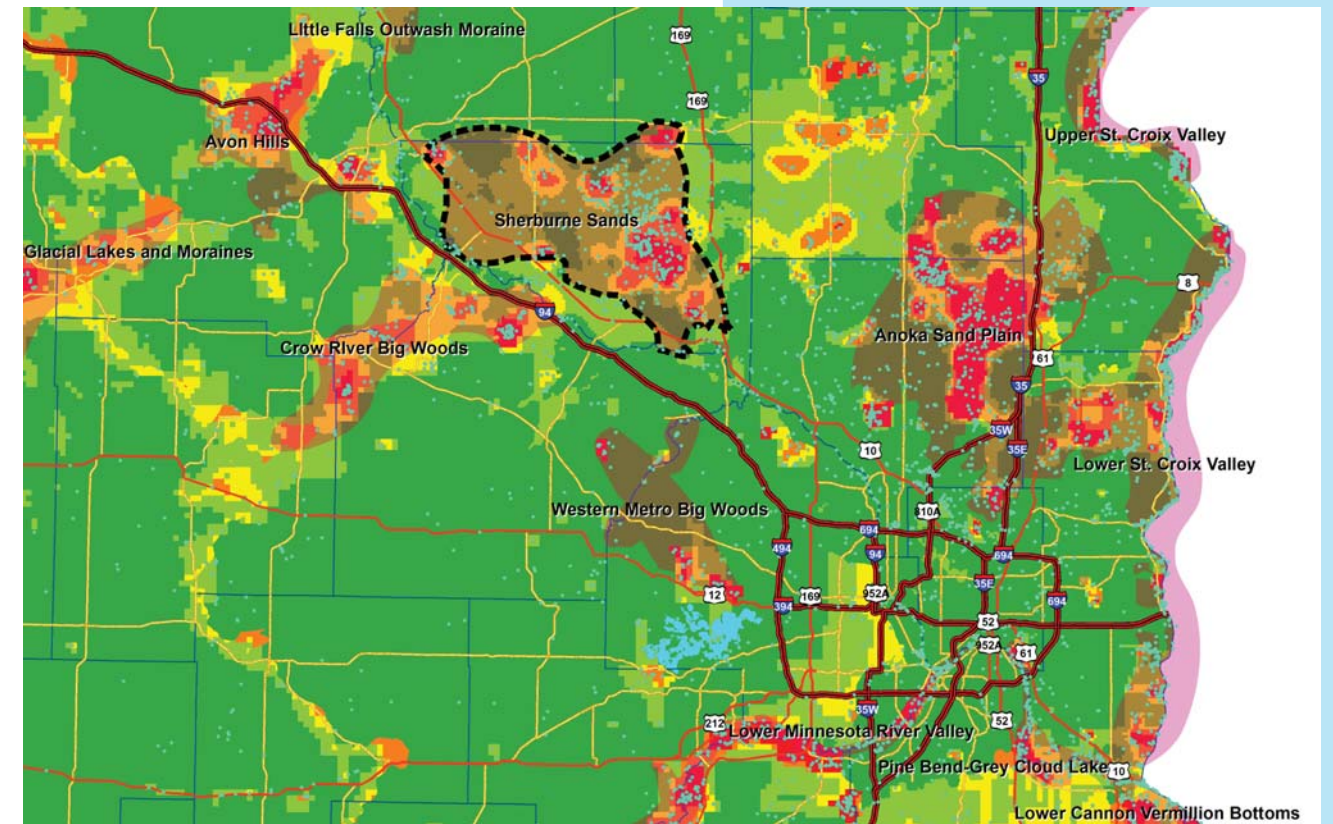
Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership
















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

Sherburne Sands

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