Straight River
Opportunity Area

Conservation Challenges:

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

Conservation Opportunities:

*
*

Existing Conservation Network:

State Forests:

SNAs:
  Clinton Falls Dwarf Trout Lily
Aquatic Management Areas:

Wildlife Management Areas:
  Faribault
Reinvest in Minnesota:

Rare Features:

Bald Eagle
Bullfrog
Butternut
Creek Heelsplitter
Dwarf Trout Lily
Ellipse
Fluted-shell
Loggerhead Shrike
Mucket

Round Pigtoe
Smoothish Orach
Spike
Western Fox snake
Wood Turtle

Ecological Significance:

Rich, mesic hardwood forests of sugar maple, basswood, red oak, and American elm dominated the landscapes of south-central Minnesota prior to European settlement. These forests were able to persist as the frequent lakes, wetlands, and hummocky terrain provided firebreaks to stop the prairie fires. These were highly productive forests with a rich wildflower layer that is being lost to impacts from non-native earthworms, deer, common buckthorn, and garlic mustard. Fully intact forests are also disappearing quickly as they are also converted to residential development and agricultural cultivation. Only two percent of the Big Woods landscape remains forested, therefore these forest remnants should be a priority for conservation.

Counties:

Rice
Steele

Rare Native Plant Communities:

Calcareous Fen (Southeastern)
Dry Barrens Oak Savanna (Southern), Oak Subtype
Dry Bedrock Bluff Prairie (Southern)
Elm - Ash - Basswood Terrace Forest
Elm - Basswood - Black Ash - (Hackberry) Forest
Northern Rich Fen (Basin)
Oak - Shagbark Hickory Woodland
Red Oak - Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) Forest
Sedge Meadow
Sedge Meadow, Tussock Sedge Subtype
Silver Maple - (Virginia Creeper) Floodplain Forest
Silver Maple - Green Ash - Cottonwood Terrace Forest
Southern Dry-Mesic Oak Forest
Southern Mesic Oak-Basswood Forest
Sugar Maple Forest (Big Woods)
Wet Sandstone Cliff (Southern)
Willow - Dogwood Shrub Swamp
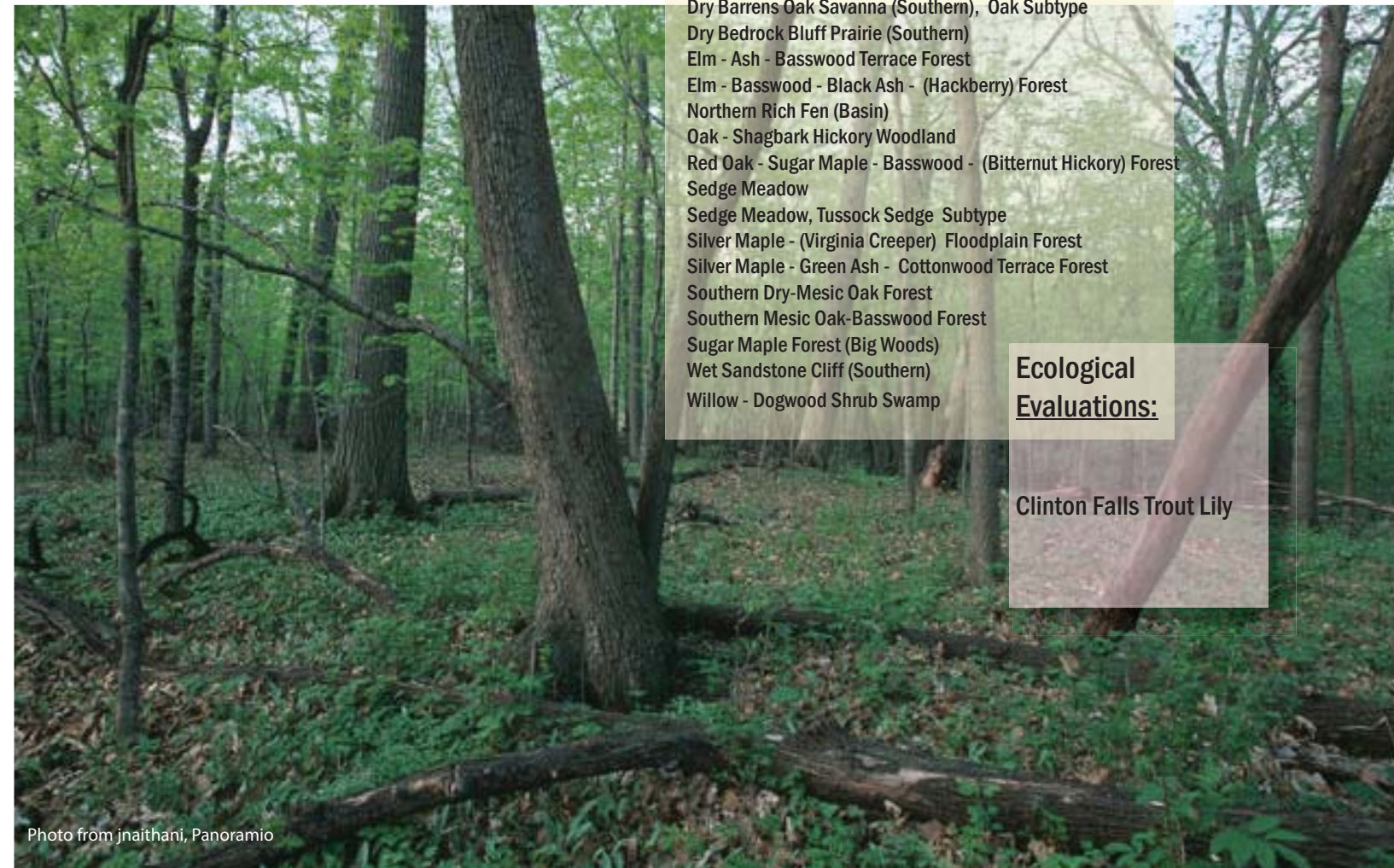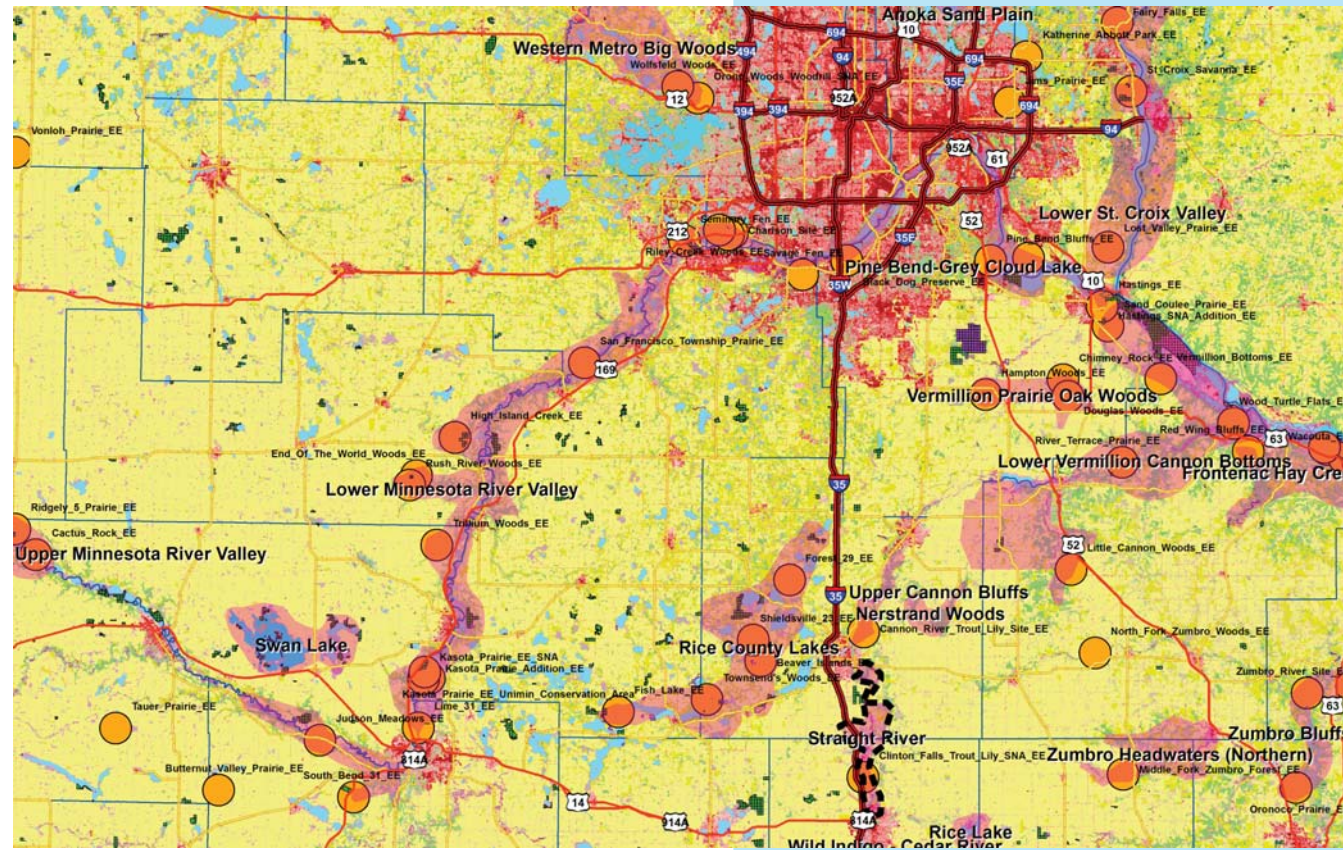
Ecological Evaluations:

Clinton Falls Trout Lily
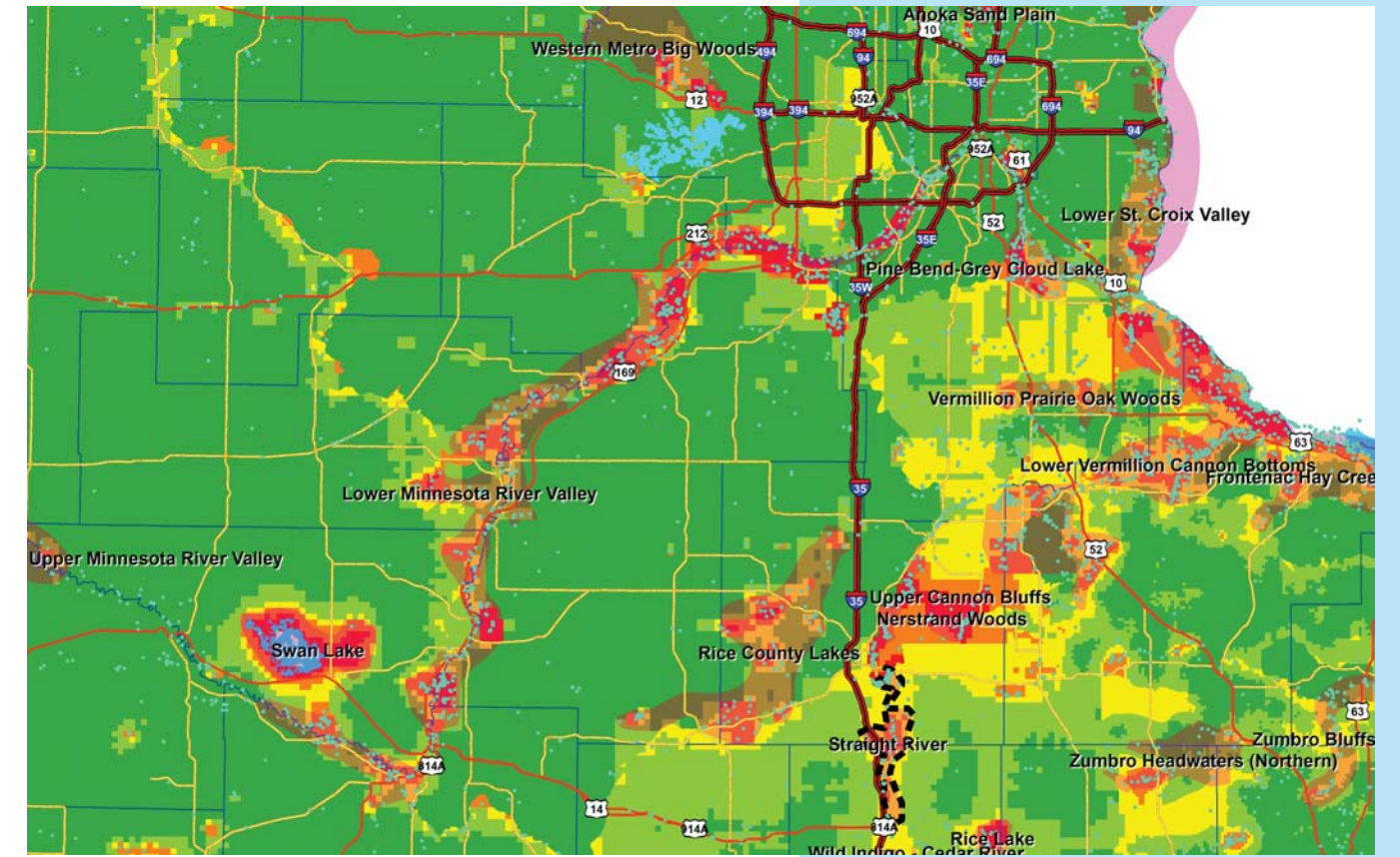
Photo from jnaithani, Panoramio

Straight River
Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership

Western Metro Big Woods
Anoka Sand Plain
Vonloh_Prairie_EE
Fairy_Falls_EE
Katherine_Abbott_Park_EE
St_Croix_Savanna_EE
Lower St. Croix Valley
Lost_Valley_Prairie_EE
Chamson_Fen_EE
Riley_Creek_Woods_EE Savage_Fen_EE
Pine Bend-Grey Cloud Lake
Pilot_Bend_Bluffs_EE
Hastings_EE
Carpel_Coulee_Prairie_EE
Vermillion_SNA_Addition_EE
San_Francisco_Township_Prairie_EE
Chimney_Rock_EE Vermillion_Bottoms_EE
High_Island_Creek_EE
Hampton_Woods_EE
Vermillion Prairie Oak Woods
Douglas_Woods_EE
Wood_Turtle_Flats_EE
End_Of_The_World_Woods_EE
River_Terrace_Prairie_EE
Red_Wing_Bluffs_EE
Lower Vermillion Cannon Bottoms
Frontenac Hay Creek
Rush_River_Woods_EE
Waconia_EE
Ridgely_5_Prairie_EE
Lower Minnesota River Valley
Trimont_Woods_EE
Cactus_Rock_EE
Upper Minnesota River Valley
Little_Cannon_Woods_EE
North_Fork_Zumbro_Woods_EE
Forest_29_EE
Upper Cannon Bluffs
Nerstrand Woods
Shieldsville_Prairie_EE
Swan Lake
Cannon_River_Trout_Lily_Site_EE
Zumbro_River_Site_EE
Kasota_Prairie_EE_SNA
Kasota_Prairie_Addition_EE
Rice County Lakes
Beaver_Islands
Kasota_Prairie_EE Unimin_Conservation_Area Fish_Lake_EE
Townsend's_Woods_EE
Zumbro Bluffs
Tauer_Prairie_EE
Line_31_EE
Judson_Meadows_EE
Clinton_Falls_Trout_Lily_SNA_EE
Zumbro Headwaters (Northern)
Butternut_Valley_Prairie_EE
Straight River
Middle_Fork_Zumbro_Forest_EE
South_Bend_EE
Oronoco_Prairie_EE
Rice Lake
Wild Indigo - Cedar River

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

Straight River
Marxan Prioritization, Element Occurrences

Anoka Sand Plain
Western Metro Big Woods
Lower St. Croix Valley
Pine Bend-Grey Cloud Lake
Vermillion Prairie Oak Woods
Lower Minnesota River Valley
Lower Vermillion Cannon Bottoms
Frontenac Hay Creek
Upper Minnesota River Valley
Swan Lake
Upper Cannon Bluffs
Nerstrand Woods
Rice County Lakes
Zumbro Bluffs
Straight River
Zumbro Headwaters (Northern)
Rice Lake
Wild Indigo - Cedar River

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