

Conservation Challenges:

- *Changes in agricultural practices
- *Conversion to mining
- *Deforestation/logging
- *Increased draitiling makes stream flow more flashy, reduces groundwater for algific habitats
- *Waterways are more incised, with more alluvium, and higher turbidity
- *Invasive spp.: Common buckthorn, Eurasian honeysuckle, garlic mustard, leafy spurge
- *Valley bottoms prone to high-volume floods
- *Fire-dependent communities are likely to decline due to difficulty in restoring natural fire regimes

Conservation Opportunities:

- * Conservation Partners in the Mississippi Flyway

Whitewater Valley

Opportunity Area

Ecological Significance:

The Whitewater River Valley is one of the most distinctive landscapes in southern Minnesota. It is one of the first watershed-based conservation efforts in Minnesota started in the 1940s by reducing grazing and burning of bluff-slope forests, purchasing erosion-prone areas, promoting contour cultivation, and installing other flood-control features. As a result, *natural landscapes have flourished, and the valley provides habitat for 50 species of mammals and 250 bird species.* Not only does the valley have significant biological importance, but it has important recreational and scenic value too.



Counties:

Winona
Wabasha

Among the many aspects that make the Whitewater Valley a special place are that it is home to one of the only a handful of jack pine communities located south of the Anoka Sand Plain within the state. Approximately 90 acres of Dry Barrens Oak Savanna--Jack Pine subtype are located within the valley. The valley hosts not only the popular Whitewater State Park, but it also has the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area, and the Whitewater Valley Important Bird Area. Rare bird species that use the valley include the cerulean warbler, Louisiana water-thrush, Acadian flycatcher, red-shouldered hawk and bald eagle. The valley also provides prime trout fisheries.

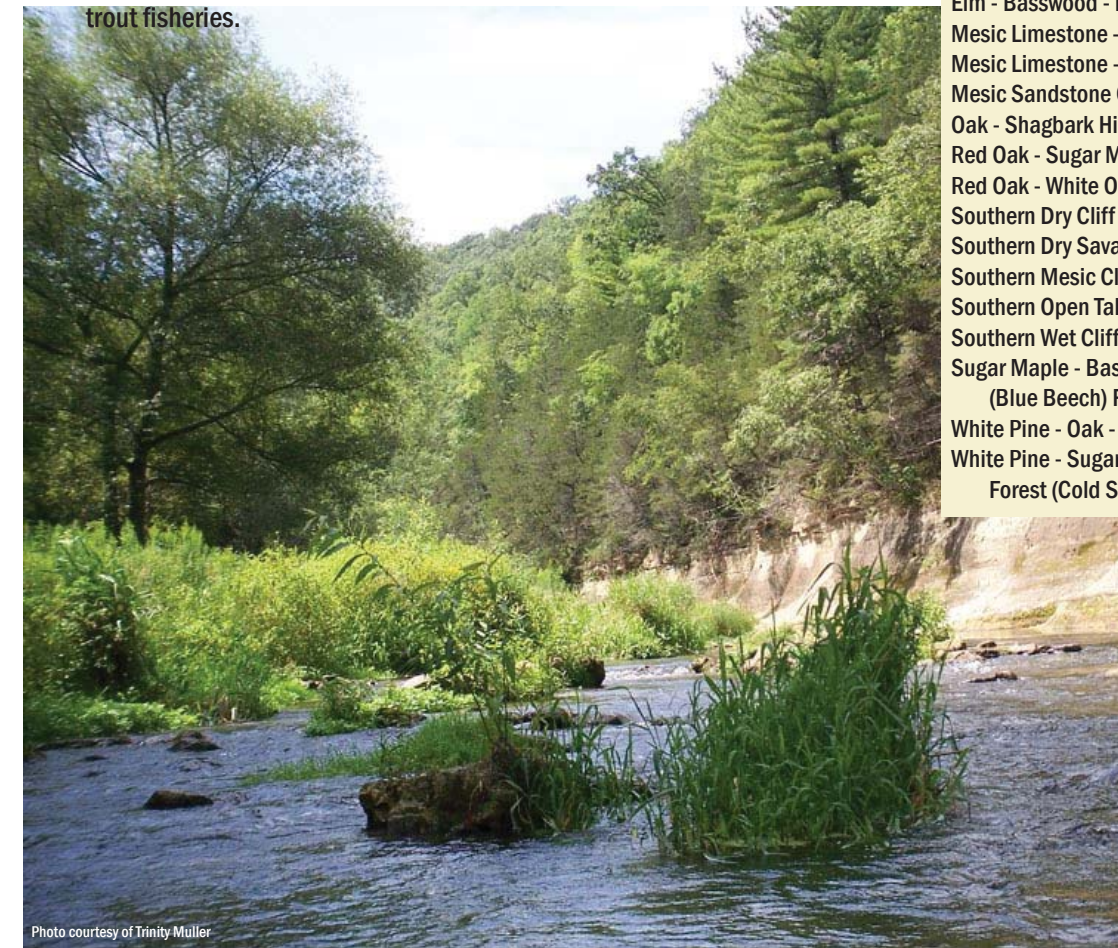


Photo courtesy of Trinity Muller

Existing Conservation Network:

State Parks:

Whitewater

State Forests:

Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood

SNAs:

Aquatic Management Area:

North Branch Whitewater

Middle Branch Whitewater

Trout Valley Creek

Wildlife Management Area:

Whitewater

Important Bird Area:

Whitewater Valley

Rare Features:

Acadian Flycatcher
American Brook Lamprey
American Ginseng
Arogos Skipper
Bald Eagle
Bat Concentration
Beach Heather
Beaked Snakeroot
Bell's Vireo
Big Tick-trefoil
Blanding's Turtle
Bluff Vertigo
Blunt-lobed Grape Fern
Bog Bluegrass
Canadian Frostweed
Carey's Sedge
Cerulean Warbler
Christmas Fern
Clasping Milkweed
Cliff Goldenrod
Common Five-lined Skink
Common Gallinule

Creeping Juniper
Dune Grape
Eastern Hognose Snake
Ebony Spleenwort
Ellipse
False Mermaid
Fernleaf False Foxglove
Glade Mallow
Goldenseal
Goldie's Fern
Goat's-rue
Gopher snake
Great Indian-plantain
Green Dragon
Henslow's Sparrow
Hill's Thistle
Hooded Warbler
Hubricht's Vertigo
Iowa Golden Saxifrage
James' Sedge
Jewelled Shooting Star
Jumping Spider
Karner Blue
King Rail
Laurentian Bladder Fern
Leedy's Roseroot
Leonard's Skipper
Licorice Bedstraw
Lilia-leaved Twayblade
Long-bearded Hawkweed
Louisiana Waterthrush
Milk snake
Moschatel
Narrow-leaved Spleenwort
Nodding Wild Onion
North American Racer
Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle
Old Field Toadflax
One-flowered Broomrape
Ottoe Skipper
Ovate-leaved Skullcap
Ozark Minnow
Pickerel Frog
Peregrine Falcon

Persius Duskywing
Plains Wild Indigo
Prairie Vole
Rattlesnake-master
Red-shouldered Hawk
Regal Fritillary
Reniform Sullivantia
Rock Sandwort
Rough-seeded Fameflower
Round-stemmed False Foxglove
Sandhill Crane
Sea-beach Needle grass
Short's Aster
Silverleaf Grape
Silvery Spleenwort
Smooth Rock Cress
Smooth-sheathed Sedge
Splendid Tiger Beetle
Spreading Sedge
Squirrel-corn
Stemless Tick-trefoil
Timber Rattlesnake
Tricolored Bat
Tuberous Indian-plantain
Twinleaf
Upland Boneset
Valerian
Western Fox Snake
Western Harvest Mouse
White Baneberry
Witch-hazel
Wolf's Bluegrass
Woodland Bluegrass
Woodland Vole
Wood's Sedge
Yellow Pimpernel

Rare Native Plant Communities:

Algific Talus, Dolomite Subtype
Black Ash - Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Blue Beech) Seepage . Swamp
Dry Bedrock Bluff Prairie (Southern)
Elm - Basswood - Black Ash - (Blue Beech) Forest
Mesic Limestone - Dolomite Cliff (Southern)
Mesic Limestone - Dolomite Talus
Mesic Sandstone Cliff (Southern)
Oak - Shagbark Hickory Woodland
Red Oak - Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) Forest
Red Oak - White Oak - (Sugar Maple) Forest
Southern Dry Cliff
Southern Dry Savanna
Southern Mesic Cliff
Southern Open Talus
Southern Wet Cliff
Sugar Maple - Basswood - Red Oak - (Blue Beech) Forest
White Pine - Oak - Sugar Maple Forest
White Pine - Sugar Maple - Basswood Forest (Cold Slope)

Ecological Evaluations:

Upper Beaver Creek Valley--
Whitewater WMA

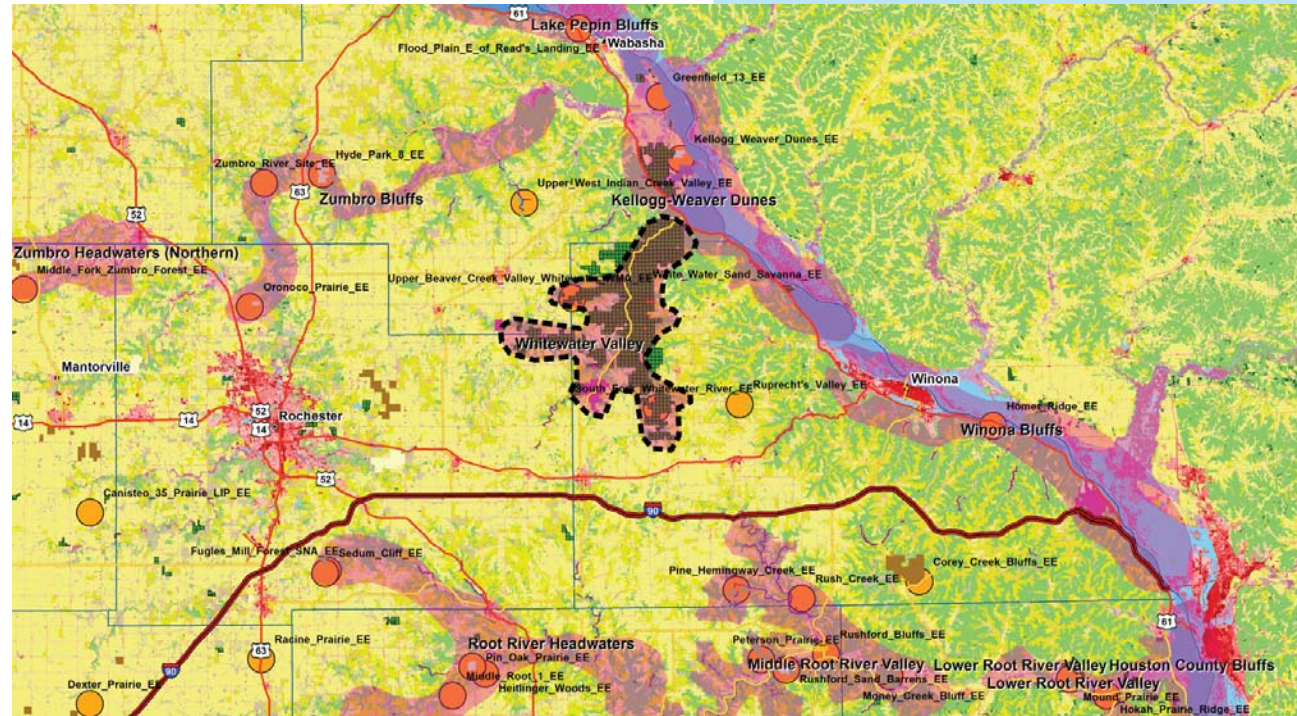
Whitewater Sand Savanna



Photo from Mark Lissick, Parksandtrails.org

Whitewater Valley

Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



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

Whitewater Valley

Marxan Prioritization, Element Occurrences

