

by the
Minnesota County Biological Survey¹

Native plant communities are groups of native plants that interact with each other and with their environment in ways not greatly altered by modern human activity or by introduced organisms. These groups of native species form recognizable units, such as an oak forest, a prairie, or a marsh, that tend to repeat over space and time. Native plant communities are generally classified and described by considering vegetation, hydrology, landforms, soils, and natural disturbance regimes. The native plant community types and subtypes on this map are classified primarily by vegetation and major habitat features. The Minnesota County Biological Survey located areas of native plant communities in Stearns County from 1997 to 1998 using aerial photo interpretation followed by field surveys of selected sites. The description and approximate acreage of each native plant community type and subtype given below are based on the results of the survey. White or light-gray areas on the map represent land where modern human activities such as farming, overgrazing, wetland drainage, recent logging, residential and commercial development have destroyed or greatly altered the natural vegetation. Native plant communities covered approximately 141,933 acres, or 1.6% of the land area of Stearns County from the time of the Survey.



FOOTE

- [illegible]

— Section lines
 - - - City and township lines
 — Managed area boundaries
 (WTP = National Waterfowl Production Area)
 (SNA = State Scientific and Natural Area)
 (WMA = State Wildlife Management Area)
 ■ Disturbed land in public ownership within statutory boundaries
 of managed areas
 — Primary roads
 — Secondary roads
 — Other roads
 - - - - Railroads
 — Rivers, streams, and ditches
 ■ Lakes and Rivers = open water, sometimes with beds of submergent
 vegetation. Approximate total area: 28,598 acres.