

R12W

Tatural communities are groups of native plants and animals that interact with each other and their abiotic environment in ways not greatly altered by modern human activity or by introduced organisms. These groups hydrology, landforms, soils, and natural disturbance regimes. The natural community types and subtypes on this map are classified primarily by vegetation and major habitat features. The Minnesota County Biological

> Mixed Emergent Marsh - open wetlands along stream margins or in river backwaters on floodplains of the Mississippi River and its tributaries; standing water present throughout most of the growing season; dominant species vary but often include distinct zones of broad-leaved cattail (Typha latifolia), river bulrush (Scirpus fluviatilis), broad-leaved arrowhead (Sagittaria latifolia), and occasionally giant bur-reed (Sparganium eurycarpum). Approximate total area: 360 acres.

- Wet Meadow open wetlands occurring as dense mats of floating vegetation in old channels of the Zumbro River; dominated by graminoids including lake sedge (Carex lacustris), tussock sedge (Carex stricta), bristly sedge (Carex comosa), and giant bur-reed; common forbs include tufted loosestrife (Lysimachia thyrsiflora). spotted joe-pye weed (Eupatorium maculatum), northern marsh fern (Thelypteris palustris), common mint (Mentha arvensis), and Labrador bedstraw (Galium labradoricum); species more typical of rich fens, including prairie sedge (Carex prairea), sage-leaved willow (Salix candida), and bog birch (Betula glandulifera), are
- Seepage Meadow open wetlands on organic soil in areas of continuous groundwater discharge at bases of bluffs and river terraces; dominated by graminoids, most often including tussock sedge, beaked sedge (Carex rostrata var. utriculata), bristly sedge, hairy-fruited sedge (Carex trichocarpa), rice cut-grass (Leersia oryzoides), and fowl mannagrass; common forbs include swamp saxifrage (Saxifraga pensylvanica), rough bedstraw (Galium asprellum), marsh-marigold, and spotted touch-me-not (Impatiens capensis). Approximate
- Dry Cliff dry communities generally on south- to west-facing dolomite or sandstone cliffs; lichens often common; vascular plants sparse, but include smooth cliff-brake (Pellaea glabella), harebell (Campanula rotundifolia), cliff goldenrod (Solidago sciaphila), slender lip-fern (Cheilanthes feei), columbine (Aquilegia
- canadensis), and species typical of adjacent dry prairies, such as plains muhly. Approximate total area: 50 Moist Cliff - moist to wet communities on north- to east-facing dolomite or sandstone cliffs; mosses,
- liverworts, and lichens common; vascular plants include bulblet fern (Cystopteris bulbifera), slender cliff-brake Cryptogramma stelleri), columbine, jeweled shooting star (Dodecatheon amethystinum), and species typical of adjacent mesic forests, such as miterwort (Mitella diphylla). Approximate total area: 10 acres.
- Moist Cliff maderate subtype moist to wet communities on north-facing dolomite cliffs associated with river bends along tributaries of the Whitewater River; restricted to areas continuously cooled by air draining hrough ice-filled caves and fissures behind the rock face; often heavily moss-covered, with liverworts and lichens common; vascular plants include those of moist cliffs; cool microhabitat supports relict populations of rare land snail species that were more widespread in the region during the Pleistocene epoch when the climate was cooler. Approximate total area: 10 acres.
- Talus Slope algific subtype wet-mesic communities on dolomitic talus on steep north-facing slopes along tributaries of the Whitewater River; restricted to areas continuously cooled by air draining through ice-filled caves and fissures beneath the talus; often heavily moss-covered; vascular plants include species uncommon in southeastern Minnesota, such as mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), moschatel (Adoxa moschatellina), and swamp saxifrage; cool microhabitat supports relict populations of rare land snail and plant species that were more widespread in the region during the Pleistocene epoch when the climate was cooler. Approximate total area: 5 acres.
- Meadow-Marsh-Swamp Complex mosaic of wet meadow, emergent marsh, and shrub swamp in old channels of the Zumbro River near its confluence with the Mississippi River; wet meadow most often occurs as around margins of open water; both types grade into shrub swamp. Approximate total area: 1,450 acres.

RARE SPECIES AND ANIMAL AGGREGATIONS

Locations of rare plants, rare animals, and selected animal aggregations are maintained in the Natural Heritage Information System⁶. The following rare species and animal aggregations have been found in Wabasha County. Mapped locations include both historical records and Minnesota County Biological Survey field results. Most Minnesota County Biological Survey plant and animal surveys were done from 1993 to 1996. Most rare species are protected under the provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act or the Minnesota Endangered Species Statute and associated Rules'. An asterisk (*) indicates that no recent observation (1970-1996) of that species has been confirmed. A dagger (†) indicates that the species has been documented in the county but its exact location is

Baptisia bracteata var. leucophaea)

Plains pocket mouse Pipistrellus subflavus) Eastern spotted skunk * (Spilogale putorius) (Ammodramus henslowii) Red-shouldered hawk (Buteo lineatus) Cerulean warbler Dendroica cerulea) cadian flycatcher Empidonax virescens) eregrine falcon * Falco peregrinus) Common moorhen (Gallinula chloropus) Haliaeetus leucocephalus) Lanius ludovicianus) Seiurus motacilla) Smooth softshell (Apalone mutica) (Clemmys insculpta) Coluber constrictor) (Crotalus horridus) Blanding's turtle Emydoidea blandingii (Heterodon nasicus) Gopher snake (Pituophis catenifer) Massasauga * † (Sistrurus catenatus) (Acipenser fulvescens) Crystal darter Ammocrypta asprella) Blue sucker Cycleptus elongatus) Yellow bass Morone mississippiensis) (Notropis amnis) (Polyodon spathula) Mucket mussel (Actinonaias ligamentina) 'Cyclonaias tuberculata) iigona costata) lack sandshell mussel igumia recta) Sheepnose mussel Plethobasus cyphyus) Round pigtoe mussel Pleurobema coccineum) Monkeyface mussel Quadrula metanevra) Bluff vertigo (Vertigo meramecensis) A species of (Phidippus apacheanus) jumping spider Butterfliess (Hesperia ottoe) Ottoe skipper ♦ Animals, previously state-listed American bittern Botaurus lentiginosus) Sandhill crane (Grus canadensis) (Pandion haliaetus) (Elaphe vulpina) Fox snake Eastern hognose snake (Heterodon platyrhinos) Milk snake (Lampropeltis triangulum) American brook lamprey (Lampetra appendix) Pugnose minnow (Notropis emilae) Shovelnose sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus platorynchus)

♦ Animals, federally- or state-listed

Lakes and Rivers - open water, sometimes with beds of submergent

vegetation. Approximate total area: 16,260 acres.