



Big Marine Lake North

Washington County Priority Conservation Area

Land Area

- **Total Area:** 1,021 acres
- **Forest/Woodland:** 534 acres
- **Grassland:** 33 acres
- **Wetland:** 344 acres

Primary Threats

- Invasive species
- Hydrological changes
- Shoreline erosion
- Land development

Species of Concern

- Red-Shouldered Hawk
- Bald Eagle
- Rose-Breasted Grosbeak
- American Woodcock
- Common Snapping Turtle
- Eastern Fox Snake
- Blanding's Turtle
- Milk Snake

Land and Water Legacy Program

In 2006, a \$20 million bond referendum passed, initiating the creation of the county's Land and Water Legacy Program, which purchases land or land interests to preserve its natural condition. The program is ongoing and has used collaborative partnerships to invest over \$40 million in protection, conserving over 1,300 acres of high-quality natural lands.

Washington County "Top 10" Priority Conservation Areas

The Washington County "Top 10" Priority Conservation Areas represent the county's highest priority areas for land protection. They were identified using a ranking system based upon the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System and other available nature-related datasets. These areas serve as a guide for county land protection projects, however land outside of these areas may still be considered.

Priority Area Description

The Big Marine Lake North Priority Conservation Area is located on the north end of Big Marine Lake in Scandia and within the Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District. Much of the land is owned by the Girl Scout Council and used for Camp Lakamaga, and the remaining area is in separate landholdings.

Big Marine Lake North is an area of biological significance with diverse habitats such as oak woodlands and forests, forested wetlands, and open wetlands and lakes.

Protection would help maintain the excellent water quality in Big Marine Lake, which is directly south and provides recreational opportunities for boating, swimming, fishing, and waterfowl hunting. The Big Marine Regional Park Reserve includes a large portion of the lake's south shoreline.

