



Carnelian Creek Corridor

Washington County Priority Conservation Area

Land Area

- **Total Area:** 4,369 acres
- **Forest/Woodland:** 1,894 acres
- **Grassland:** 425 acres
- **Wetland:** 921 acres

Primary Threats

- Invasive species
- Hydrological changes
- Habitat fragmentation

Species of Concern

- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Bald Eagle
- Rose-Breasted Grosbeak
- American Woodcock
- Common Snapping Turtle
- Eastern Fox Snake
- Blanding's Turtle
- Milk Snake
- Halbered-Leaved Tearthumb
- Humped Bladderwort

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 Carnelian Creek Corridor is located in May Township and within the Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District. Most of the land in Carnelian Creek Corridor is undeveloped but not permanently protected.

This area includes upland and wetland complexes connecting Big Marine Lake to Big Carnelian and Square Lake. Wetlands such as swamps, fens, bog, and marshes surround open water and slow-



Conservation Objectives and Benefits

Protecting Water Quality

Preserving wetlands allows runoff to be filtered before reaching lakes and the St. Croix River and improving surface water quality. This helps to meet goals of a multi-lakes total maximum daily load (TMDL) study to address water quality issues for impaired water bodies in the area.

Protecting highly permeable soils, recharge wetlands, and upland depressional areas will also help facilitate aquifer recharge.

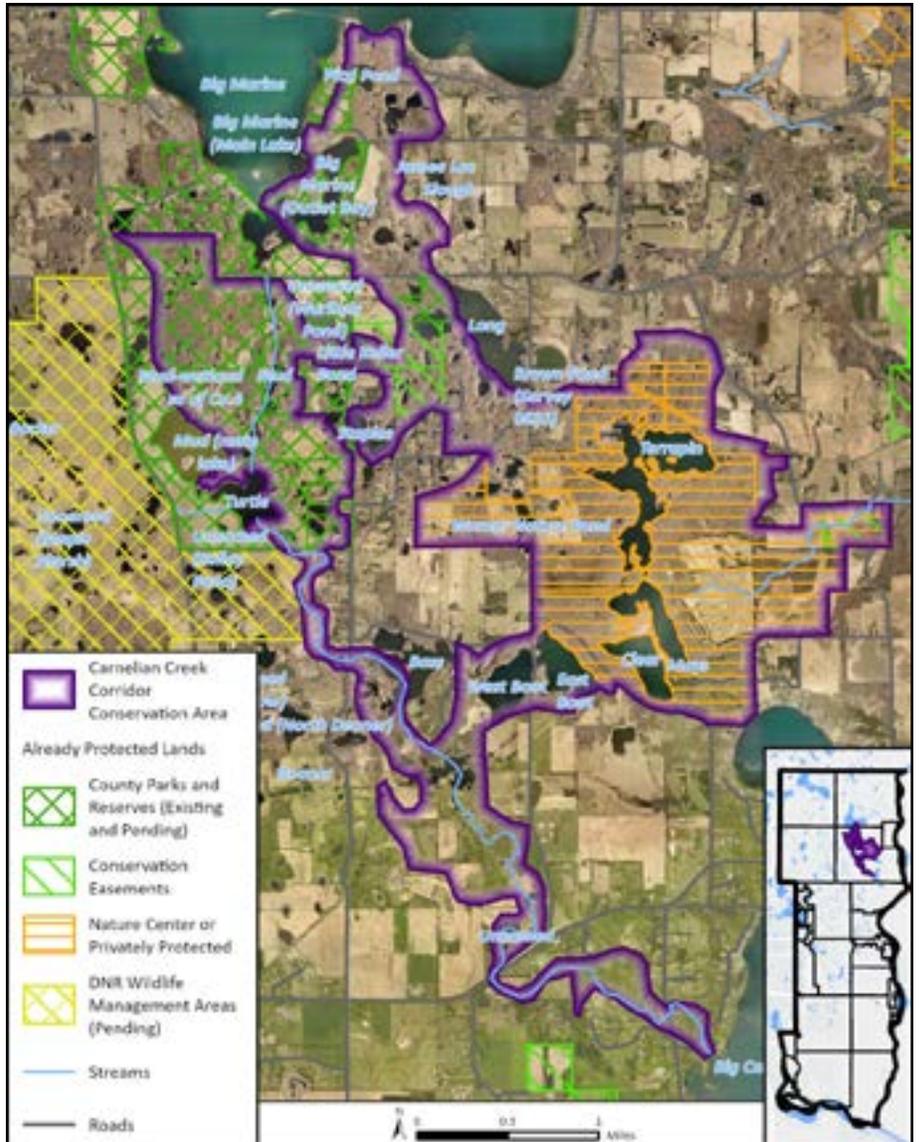


Protecting Habitats

Protecting the land through easement acquisition or other means will help avoid the division of large landholdings and resulting habitat fragmentation by preserving the natural corridor of intact wetlands, forests, and grasslands that provides habitat for a wide variety of rare species. Avoiding hydrological changes will also protect unique habitats like poor and rich fens.

Targeting Invasive Species

Removing species of concern, including buckthorn, hybrid cattail, and reed canary grass will support land and water ecosystems and allow native species to thrive.



For more information:

Washington County
Land and Water Legacy Program
WashingtonCountyMN.gov/LWLP