



German Lake

Washington County Priority Conservation Area

Land Area

- **Total Area:** 376 acres
- **Forest/Woodland:** 148 acres
- **Grassland:** 30 acres
- **Wetland:** 167 acres

Primary Threats

- Land development
- Water quality and levels
- Invasive species

Species of Concern

- Red-Shouldered Hawk
- Bald Eagle
- Common Snapping Turtle
- Blanding's Turtle



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 German Lake Priority Conservation Area is located in Scandia, within the Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District. Most of the land is owned by private landowners with little development. Tiller Corporation owns about 90 acres within the area.

German Lake is a shallow, high quality, landlocked lake surrounded by limited development. It is fed by groundwater and is sensitive to hydrologic alterations that could change water levels or increase stormwater fluctuations. This area is ranked as high value for ecology, wildlife habitat, and rare features potential by the Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District's lake management plan. Habitats in the area include oak, maple basswood and aspen birch forests, tamarack swamps, and wet meadows. These habitats have intact natural processes and limited invasive species.

Conservation Objectives and Benefits

Protecting Water Quality

Protecting wetlands and undeveloped uplands helps maintain a high surface water quality in German Lake as well as ensuring clean aquifer recharge.

Managing stormwater inputs will also help combat increasing lake levels.



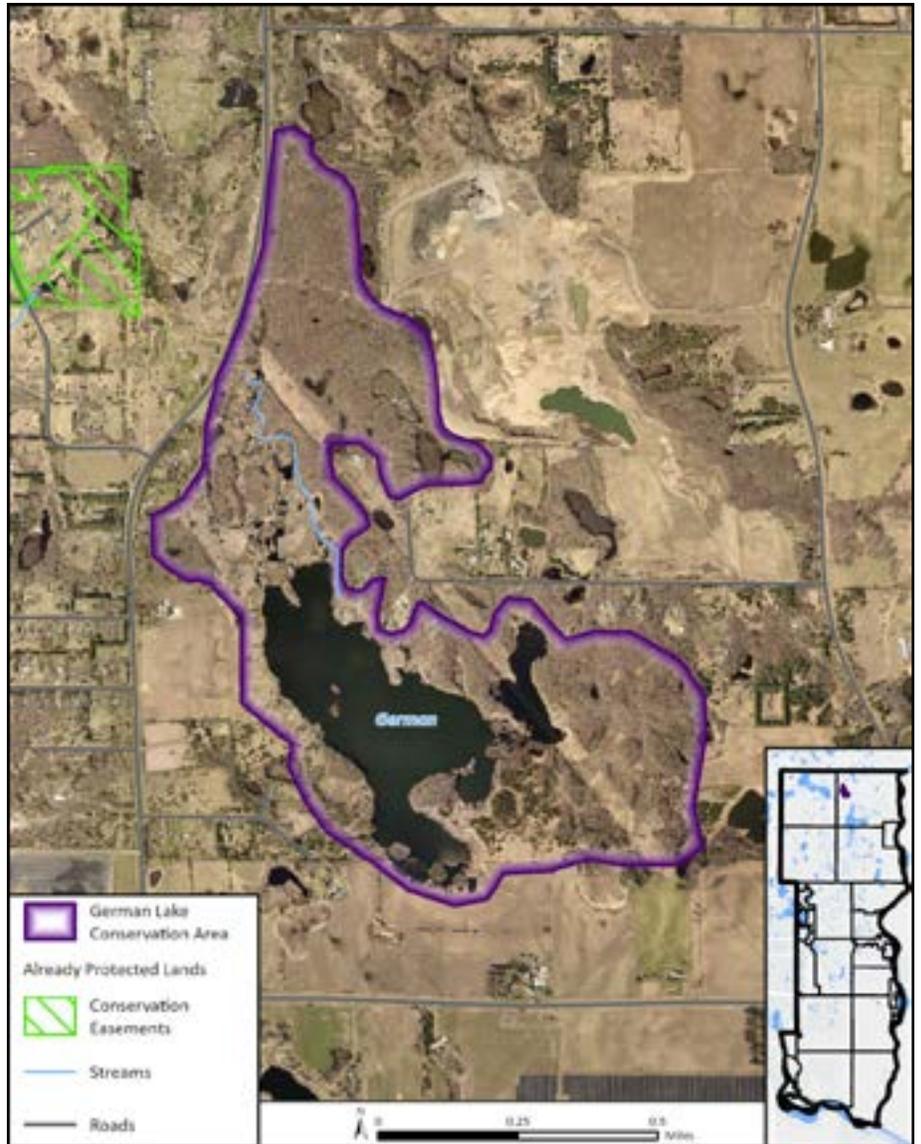
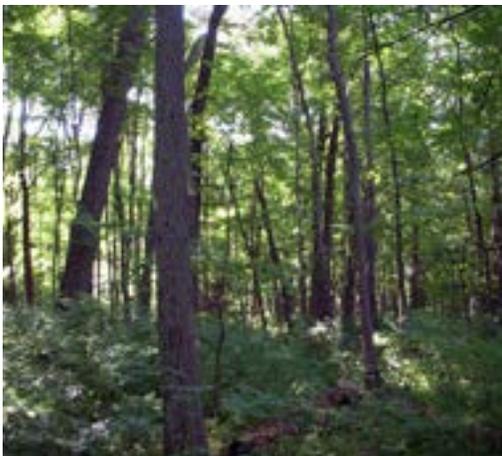
Protecting Habitats

Permanently protecting a portion of the lake or its watershed will help preserve a habitat corridor in northern Washington County.

Targeting Invasives

Removing the increased abundance of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species, including curlyleaf pondweed in German Lake and buckthorn in the uplands, will protect land and water quality.

Additionally, addressing diseases like oak wilt early will reduce the threat of having to remove large oaks.



For more information:

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

