



Mississippi Bend

Washington County Priority Conservation Area

Land Area

- **Total Area:** 1,079 acres
- **Forest/Woodland:** 241 acres
- **Grassland:** 57 acres
- **Wetland:** 493 acres

Primary Threats

- Land development
- Invasive species
- Groundwater contamination

Species of Concern

- Bald Eagle
- Common Snapping Turtle
- Wartyback Mussel
- Black Sandshell Mussel



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

Mississippi Bend is located along the Mississippi River in Grey Cloud Island Township, St. Paul Park, and Cottage Grove, within the South Washington Watershed District. It is located west of Grey Cloud Trail, adjacent to Grey Cloud Island Regional Park, and just upstream from the Grey Cloud Dunes Scientific and Natural Area. A large portion of the land is owned by Aggregate Industries Ind., First Trust Company of St. Paul, and an individual private landowner.

Much of this area is a relatively undisturbed floodplain forest with intact vegetation, which is a unique natural feature for maintaining wildlife habitat corridors and providing water quality and flood protection. Restoration of the floodplain may help reduce flood-related issues in the area. This area also contains dry prairies that could provide additional habitat near the high quality prairie remnants of Grey Cloud Dunes Scientific and Natural Area (SNA).

Conservation Objectives and Benefits

Protecting Water Quality

Restoring and preserving the floodplain and its high quality floodplain forests helps protect water quality and reduce flooding issues in the area.

Protecting critical groundwater recharge areas will help facilitate clean, sustained recharge of aquifers that have been threatened by contamination from nearby lands in the past.



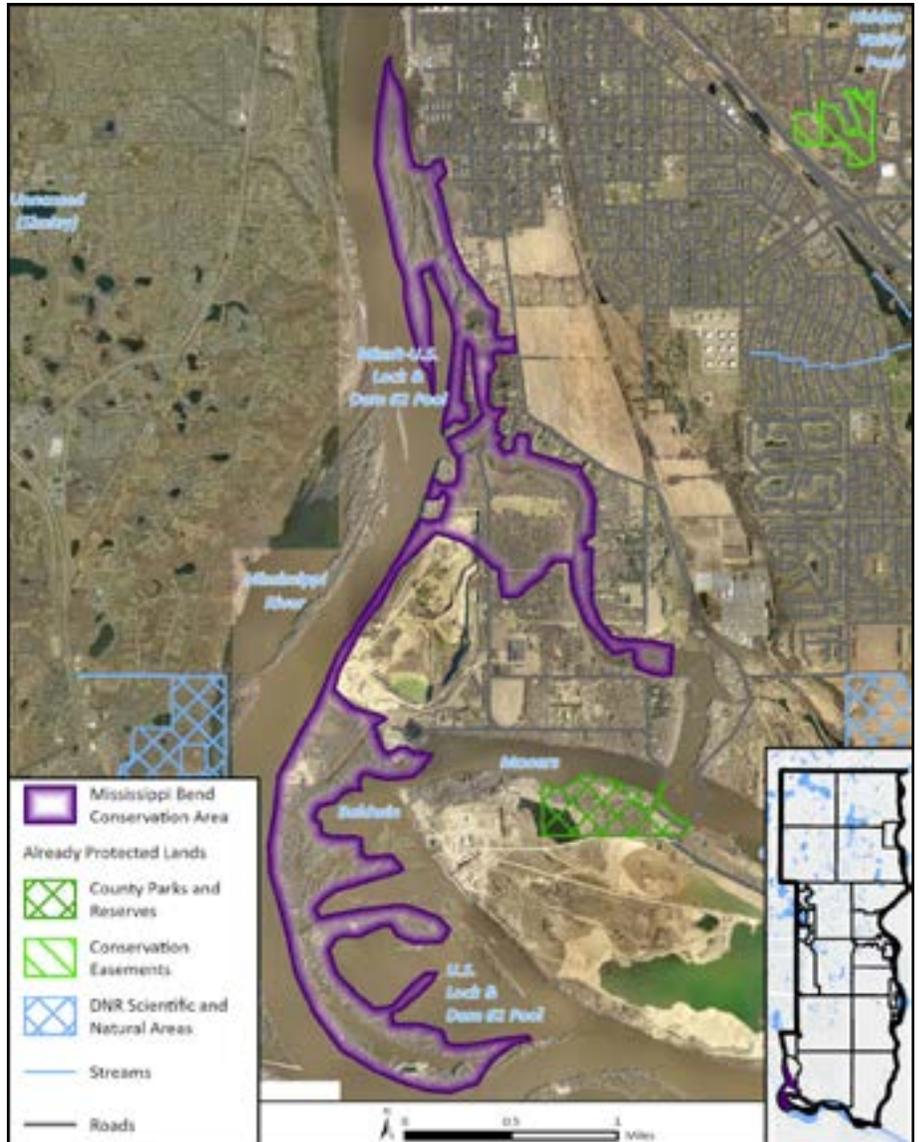
Protecting Habitats

Protecting this area from development through land acquisition, management, or other means will help reduce degradation and improve ecology in a continuous stretch of floodplain and upland communities along the Mississippi River and its channels, including critical floodplain forest habitat.

Additionally, restoration projects could increase dry prairie habitat near the Grey Cloud Dunes Scientific and Natural Area nearby.

Targeting Invasive Species

Removing the increased abundance of species of concern will allow native species to thrive near the Mississippi River.



For more information:

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

