



# Silver-Twin Lakes Corridor

## Washington County Priority Conservation Area

### Land Area

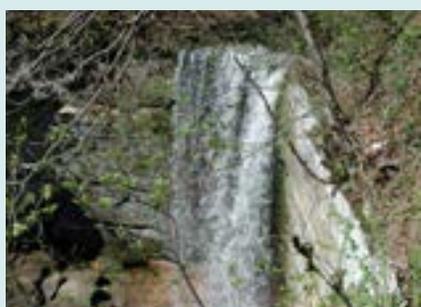
- **Total Area:** 470 acres
- **Forest/Woodland:** 159 acres
- **Grassland:** 30 acres
- **Wetland:** 231 acres

### Primary Threats

- Land use and hydrological alterations
- Invasive species
- Water quality

### Species of Concern

- Red-Shouldered Hawk
- Bald Eagle
- Snapping Turtle
- Blanding's Turtle
- Goldie's Fern
- Kitten-Tails



### 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

Silver-Twin Lakes Corridor is located Stillwater Township and includes Silver Lake and Carol Lake, which together form Silver Creek's headwaters. It is within the Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District and owned primarily by private landowners.

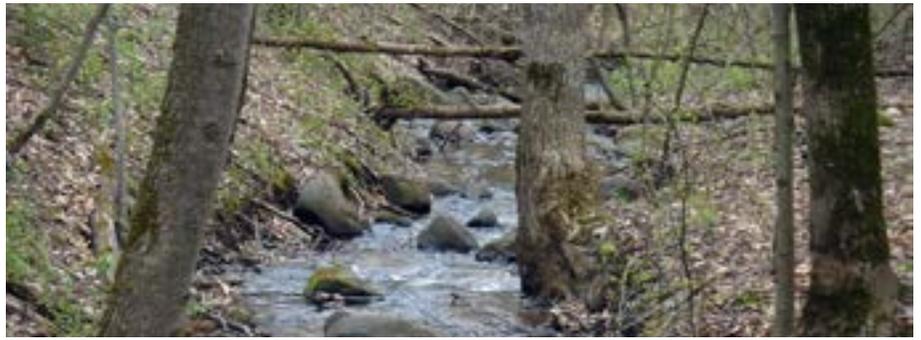
Silver Creek flows southeast and cascades over Fairy Falls, a 50 foot waterfall, just before entering the St. Croix River. The waterfall area is permanently protected by conservation easement. The Silver-Twin Corridor would maintain a natural buffer for Silver Creek's entire length under permanent protection. The headwaters have unique and high quality shallow lakes. The middle reaches contain unique groundwater-fed plant communities like rich fens and hardwood seepage swamps. The lower reaches contain ecologically-rich plant communities such as oak woodland and forest, maple-basswood forest, and alder swamp.

## Conservation Objectives and Benefits

### Protecting Water Quality

Reducing land use alterations and restoring Silver Creek's stream flow will limit disruptions to the creek's hydrology and ecology. Additionally, treating stormwater runoff to prevent temperature changes and pollution, as well as controlling invasive species like buckthorn, will protect Silver Creek's surface water quality.

Protecting groundwater hydrology also keeps Silver Creek functioning and protects drinking water sources.



### Protecting Habitats

Protecting the natural corridor extending from the headwaters of Silver Creek to the St. Croix River will help to sustain trout populations, especially when working with the Department of Natural Resources to establish a small population of heritage Brook Trout in Silver Creek's lower reaches.

Protection from development will also help preserve high-quality plant communities, including floodplain forest, river beach, and black ash seepage swamp.



### For more information:

Washington County  
Land and Water Legacy Program  
[WashingtonCountyMN.gov/LWLP](http://WashingtonCountyMN.gov/LWLP)

