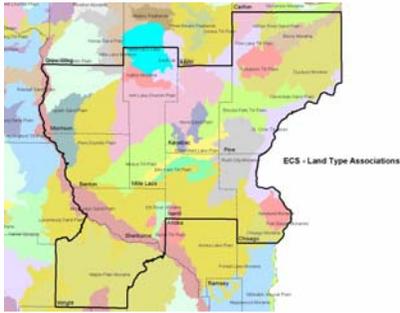
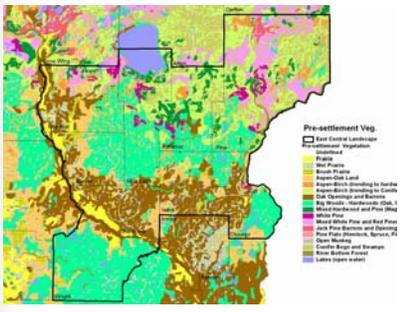


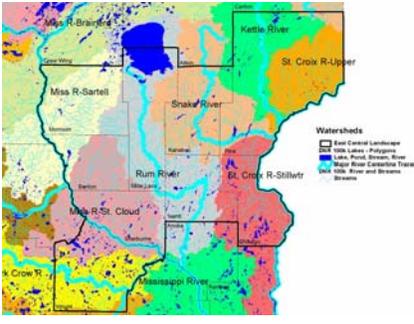
Ecological Land Type Associations



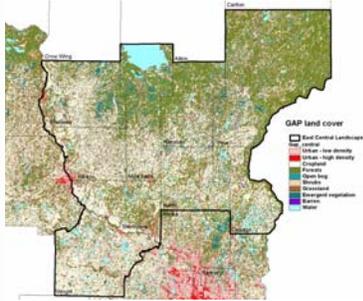
Presettlement Vegetation



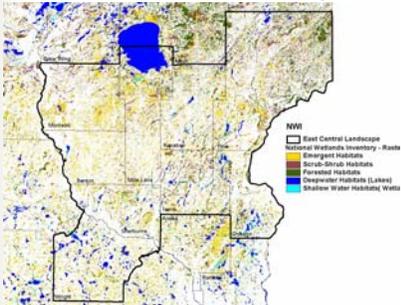
Watersheds



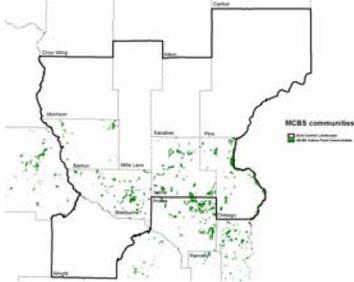
Present Day Land Cover



National Wetlands Inventory



Native Plant Communities Mapped by Minnesota County Biological Survey



Native Plant Communities

- New Classification
- Described in book: *Field Guide to the Native Plant Communities of Minnesota: The Laurentian Mixed Forest Province*, available from Minnesota's Bookstore
- Based on extensive vegetation plot data
- Uses Ecological Wystems to describe ecological processes
- Divides systems into floristic regions that reflect the distribution of plant species related to past and present climate

Examples of Rare Plants in East Central Landscape



- Cross-leaved milkwort & other species –fens
- *Botrychium* species (moonworts) – ferns of hardwood forests
- Plants of oak savannas

Examples of Nongame Animals of East Central Landscape



- Red-shouldered hawks & other forest-interior birds
- Four-toed salamander
- Wolves
- Blanding's turtles

Mille Lacs Uplands Summary

- Superior Lobe till plains and drumlin fields
- Loamy soils
- Mix of conifer and hardwood forests, peatlands
- Agriculture important to west, forestry to east
- Rare features: large forests, old forests, forest interior birds, salamanders, wolves

Anoka Sand Plain Summary

- Sandy lake plain, dunes, lakes, Mississippi River terraces
- Sandy soils, prairie soils on terraces, peatlands
- Oak savanna, small patches forest, forested swamps and open wetlands, frequent fire
- Agriculture, ditching, tree plantations, lack of fire, oak wilt, gypsy moth
- Rare features: oak savanna, rare plants and animals of savanna, fens & swamps, Blanding's turtles, hardwood forests

Big Woods Summary

- Des Moines Lobe till, lakes, basins
- Loamy soils, developed under forests
- Hardwood forests – maple-basswood, oak
- >75% landscape cropland, only 7% forested
- Rare features: maple-basswood forest, oak forest, forest interior birds, rare plants

East Central Landscape Ecological Issues

- Existing habitat fragmentation
- Tremendous development pressure
- Loss of pine forests
- Lack of natural disturbance in pine and oak forests and savannas
- Oak wilt, gypsy moth
- Loss of wetlands adjacent to forests and grasslands for wildlife; ditching and tiling
- Loss of older forests
- Conversion of prairies and savannas to forests

Ongoing Conservation Efforts

- Nature Conservancy Ecoregional Planning
- Wildlife Corridors
- DNR Subsection
Forest Plans
- County Land Use
Planning