



**TRUST FOR
PUBLIC
LAND™**



Southeast Blufflands

The distinctive "driftless" region of southeast Minnesota was largely untouched by the most recent glaciation and is characterized by forests and prairies threaded by wandering trout streams and the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Nowhere else in the state can you find these limestone cliffs with their dramatic views of river valleys. This region is the most biodiverse area in Minnesota, yet it faces declining habitat for the 183 species of state listed rare plants and animals that reside there. Although the blufflands region is rich with diverse geology, wildlife habitat and recreation potential, less than 5 percent is protected and open for public use.

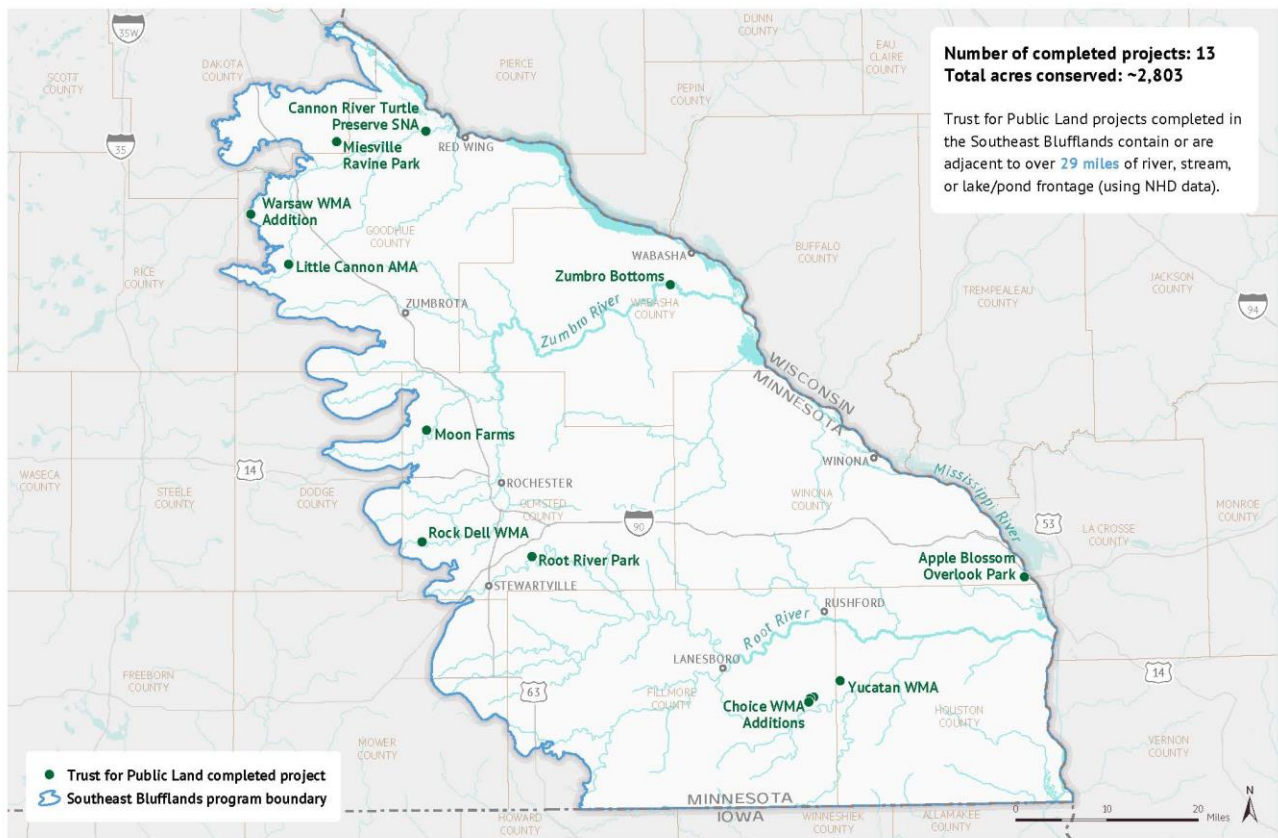
WHAT WE DO

Protecting large contiguous blocks of land allows public land managers to restore, enhance, and maintain high quality habitat at a scale that cannot occur with the current fragmented ownership. Protecting these lands provides much needed public access and will ensure the legacy of the blufflands is preserved for future generations.

Together with partners, Trust for Public Land is working with communities and the MN DNR to expand, restore, enhance, and connect public land in the blufflands area. Trust for Public Land is protecting high-priority property to conserve habitat and provide land for people to enjoy.

RECENT WINS FOR CONSERVATION

- Choice Wildlife Management Area Additions:** Trust for Public Land has added 480 acres to the Choice Wildlife Management Area and protected a mile of Heritage Brook Trout stream, Maple Creek. Acquired in three separate phases, these blufflands with oak savannah overlook the South Fork of the Root River—one of the best trout streams in the Midwest.
- Yucatan Wildlife Management Area:** Formerly operated as a Girl Scout camp, Trust for Public Land successfully protected these 840 acres from development in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, so that the Yucatan WMA is now available for everyone to enjoy.
- Root River Park:** This Olmsted County Park includes a section of an 1800 era stagecoach trail and connects previously conserved land. Trust for Public Land helped protect 90 acres of biologically significant land, and created new opportunities for canoeing, fishing, picnicking, and camping.



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MINNESOTA RIVERS: SUB-PROGRAMS

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