

Critical Trends
Assessment Project
Phase II

*Inventory of
Resource Rich Areas
in Illinois*

*An Evaluation of
Ecological Resources*

Published by the
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
with Assistance from
The Nature of Illinois Foundation



This report is a product of the Critical Trends Assessment Project (CTAP), an ongoing process within the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Realty and Environmental Planning, to assess the extent and condition of Illinois ecosystems. Coordinated by the Division of Energy and Environmental Assessment, the project is a multi-disciplinary effort involving the Water, Geological, and Natural History surveys and the Hazardous Waste Research and Information Center. In 1994, CTAP completed Illinois' first 'state of the environment report', and in 1996 compiled this inventory of biologically rich areas for DNR's Ecosystems Program, a Conservation 2000 initiative to preserve and restore Illinois ecosystems. CTAP is currently conducting regional assessments of areas identified in this inventory. The Rock River Resource Rich Area will be the first report published in 1996.

For information about Critical Trends projects, call (217) 524-0500 or e-mail at ctap2@dnrmail.state.il.us; for information on the Ecosystems Program, call (217) 782-7940 or e-mail at ecoprgr@dnrmail.state.il.us.

All CTAP and Ecosystem Program documents are available from the DNR Clearinghouse at (217) 782-7498 or TDD (217) 782-9175. They are also available on the EcoForum Bulletin Board at 1 (800) 528-5486 or (217) 782-8447, and on the World Wide Web at <http://dnr.state.il.us/ctap/ctaphome.htm> and at <http://dnr.state.il.us/c2000/manage/partner.htm>.

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An Evaluation of Ecological Resources

Prepared for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
by Liane Suloway, Mark Joselyn, and Patrick W. Brown
Center for Wildlife Ecology
Illinois Natural History Survey

1996

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Nicholas P. Schneider, Executive Director

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INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM

“The Inventory of Resource Rich Areas in Illinois” and the Critical Trends Assessment Project

The following "Inventory of Resource Rich Areas in Illinois" is a product of the Critical Trends Assessment Project and the Ecosystems Program of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Both are funded largely through Conservation 2000, a six-year State of Illinois program to enhance nature protection, sport, and outdoor recreation by reversing the decline of the state's ecosystems.

Conservation 2000 is the culmination of three recent natural resource initiatives in Illinois. First, investigators for the Critical Trends Assessment Project inventoried and analyzed existing environmental, ecological, and economic data as part of an effort to establish baseline conditions from which future changes in ecological conditions might be measured. Phase I of CTAP, completed in the fall of 1994, concluded that:

- ◆ the emission and discharge of regulated pollutants over the past 20 years has declined in Illinois, in some cases dramatically;
- ◆ existing data suggest that the condition of natural systems in Illinois is rapidly declining as a result of fragmentation and continued stress;
- ◆ data designed to monitor compliance with environmental regulations or the status of individual species are not sufficient to assess ecological health statewide.

The Illinois Conservation Congress and Governor Edgar's Water Resources and Land Use Priorities Task Force underlined the urgency of these findings. The Conservation Congress concluded that better stewardship of the state's land and water resources could be achieved by managing them on an ecosystem basis. Traditional management and assessment practices focus primarily on the protection of relatively small tracts of land (usually under public ownership) and the cultivation of single species (usually game animals or rare and endangered plants and animals). However, ecosystems extend beyond the boundaries of the largest parks, nature preserves, and fish and wildlife areas. Unless landscapes are managed on this larger scale, it will prove impossible to preserve, protect, and perpetuate Illinois' richly diverse natural resource base.

It plainly being impossible for Illinois governments to acquire resources on the ecosystem scale when more than 90% of the state's land area is privately owned, the Task Force and the Congress called for public agencies and private landowners to cooperate in a new approach to natural resources programs. If landowners can protect, enhance, or restore precious natural resources through enlightened private management, the need for public acquisition can be reduced.

The Congress and the Task Force agreed that such programs ought to be:

- ◆ organized on a regional scale;
- ◆ voluntary and incentive-based;
- ◆ guided by comprehensive and comprehensible ecosystem-based scientific information;
- ◆ initiated at the grassroots rather than in Springfield.

Finally, the Congress and the Task Force agreed that natural resource protection need not hamper local economic development but may enhance it through tourism and outdoor recreation.

CTAP described the reality of ecosystem decline in Illinois, and the Congress and the Task Force laid out principles for new approaches to reversing it. Conservation 2000 is designed to achieve that reversal. This six-year initiative will implement a number of the recommendations of the Congress and the Task Force, drawing on \$100 million to fund nine new programs in three State of Illinois agencies.

One of these programs is IDNR's Ecosystems Program, whose purpose is to support cooperative public-private partnerships that merge natural resource stewardship with compatible economic and recreational development. The program redirects existing department programs to support new local and regional

resource protection initiatives. The Ecosystems Program also is the means by which the State of Illinois may support Ecosystem Partnerships. These are coalitions of local and regional interests seeking to maintain and enhance ecological and economic conditions in local landscapes (usually defined by watershed boundaries). In addition to coordinating its own programs with those of its local partners, the Ecosystems Program will:

- ◆ provide technical assistance to the partnerships, such as resource management plans for use by participating landowners;
- ◆ assess resources in the area encompassed by each Ecosystem Partnership, collecting data that the local partners themselves may use to set project priorities and design projects and supplying scientific support to ecosystem partners, including on-going monitoring of Ecosystem Partnership areas;
- ◆ fund site-specific ecosystem projects recommended by each partnership. Such projects may involve habitat protection and improvement, technical assistance, research, and education, including projects that seek to expand on the relationships between natural resources, economic development, and recreation.

The landscape level approach to identifying and managing natural resources is critical to the long-term preservation of the rich heritage of Illinois. This publication identifies and describes large areas where such resources are concentrated. Four parameters were used in the analysis: forests, wetlands, Illinois Natural Areas Inventory sites, and Biologically Significant Streams. Watersheds were used as the geographic unit for evaluation.



STATEWIDE SUMMARIES

The RRAs include 45% of the bottomland, 43% of the nonforested wetland, and 34% of the upland forest in Illinois while occupying less than 20% of the state's total area.

Thirty Resource Rich Areas (RRAs) (Figure 1) were identified using the methods described in Methodology (page 161). In total they cover 19.8% of the state (Table 1), encompassing seven of the state's 36 million acres. However, the actual area of biologically important natural resources is less than the total area of the RRAs. This results from the use of watersheds as the unit of analysis. In most RRAs, the existing natural resources occupy a concentrated portion of the watershed, or core area, often along riparian corridors. While nearly half the area within the RRAs is in agricultural production, less than 15% of the state's total cropland occurs in the RRAs. The RRAs include over one-third of the woodlands and nearly half the wetlands in Illinois (Table 1).

The RRAs range dramatically in size from 15,144 to 626,795 acres (Table 2). The largest RRAs are Big Rivers, the Southern Till Plain, and the Middle Illinois River. The smallest RRAs—Sugar River, Thorn Creek, Des Plaines River, Illinois Beach, and the DuPage River—are found in the northern part of the state, the latter four in highly urbanized areas. RRAs are distributed throughout the state and occur generally on the main stems of the larger rivers or in the southern part of the state.

LANDCOVER

Bottomland, nonforested wetland, and upland forest are well represented in the RRAs. The RRAs include 45.1% of the bottomland, 42.6% of the nonforested wetland, and 33.9% of the upland forest in Illinois, while occupying less than 20% of the total area in the state. Landcover classes with the lowest percentages in RRAs were cropland (14.9%), grassland (20.2%), and urban (20.6%). Within the RRAs cropland was the dominant landcover class (45.4%), followed by upland forests (19.8%) and grassland (18.3%).

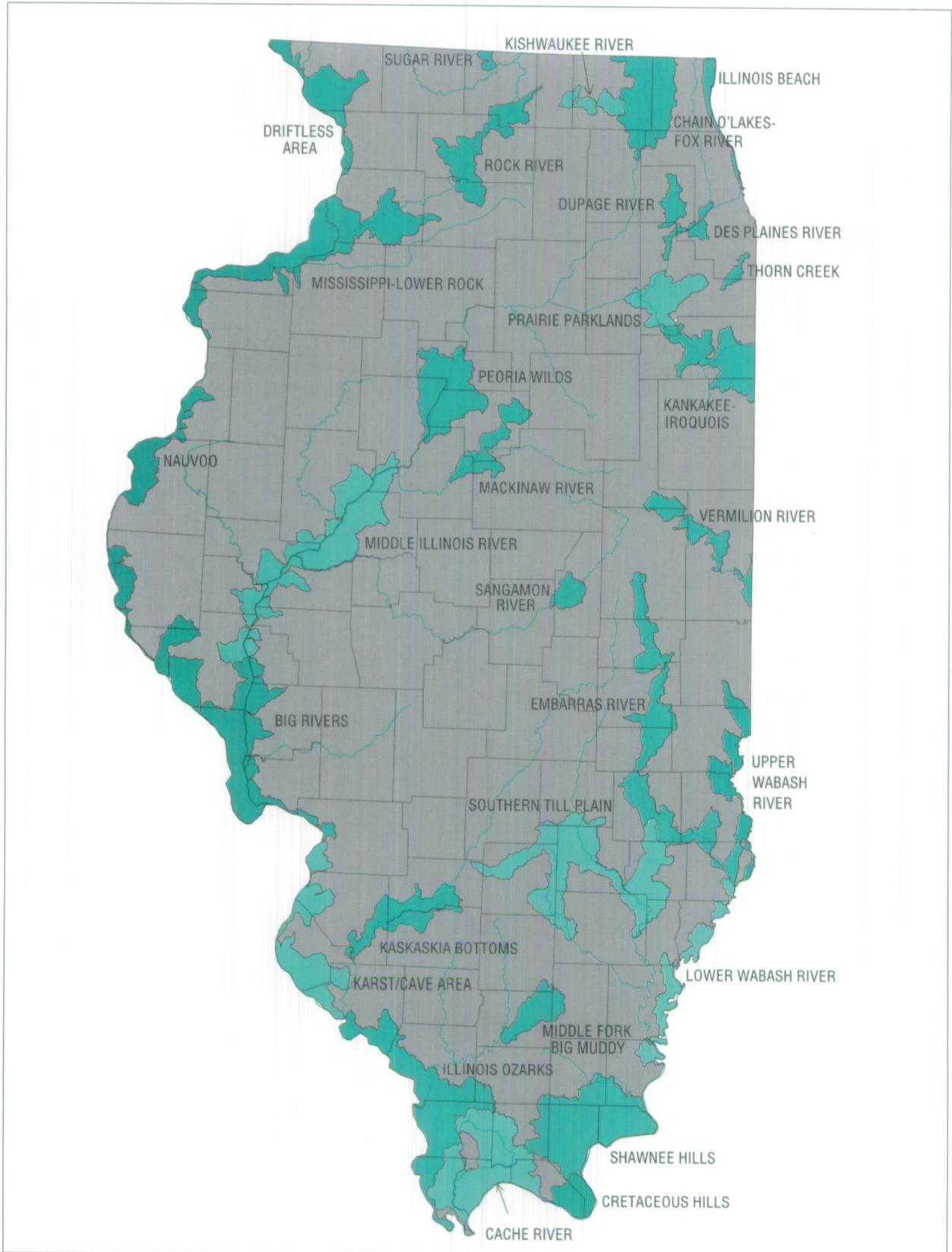
Table 1. Landcover Composition for Resource Rich Areas and for Illinois. The "Forest - total" category is the combination of upland and bottomland forest classes and the "Wetlands - total" category is the total of nonforested wetland and bottomland forest.

Landcover Class	%State Acreage Included in RRAs	Composition of RRAs	Composition of Illinois	Acres in RRAs	Acres Statewide
Upland Forest	33.9	19.8	11.6	1,416,602	4,179,367
(Forest - total)	(35.8)	(25.7)	(14.0)	(1,815,373)	(5,064,576)
Bottomland Forest	45.1	5.6	2.5	398,771	885,209
Nonforested Wetlands	42.6	1.1	0.5	77,552	182,245
(Wetland- total)	(44.6)	(6.8)	(3.0)	(476,323)	(1,067,454)
Urban and Built-Up	20.6	5.4	5.2	389,463	1,886,912
Cropland	14.9	45.4	60.4	3,246,905	21,773,580
Grassland	20.2	18.3	18.0	1,308,331	6,489,045
Water	47.9	4.5	1.8	319,439	666,266
Total	19.8% of state	100.0% of sites	100.0% of state	7,157,063	36,062,624

NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY, BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS, AND NATURAL HERITAGE SITES

The Resource Rich Areas include 76% of all Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) acreage and 55% of all INAI sites in the state. The distribution of INAI sites relative to RRAs is depicted in Figure 2. The Driftless Area and the Karst/Cave Area have the highest INAI acreages (Table 2). The greatest number of

Figure 1. Resource Rich Areas



INAI sites occurs in Shawnee Hills, followed by Chain O' Lakes-Fox River, Cache River, Big Rivers, and Illinois Ozarks.

Forty-eight percent of all Biologically Significant Stream (BSS) mileage lies within RRA sites. The Shawnee Hills and Embarras River RRAs have the highest BSS mileage with 126 and 112 miles respectively (Table 2). Eight RRAs have no BSS streams. The distribution of BSS streams relative to RRAs is depicted in Figure 3.

Chain O' Lakes-Fox River ranked highest in occurrence of Heritage points with 476, followed by three RRAs in southern Illinois—Cache River (298), Shawnee Hills (255), and Illinois Ozarks (227). The number reflects a combination of significant communities, endangered and threatened species locations, geological features, and colonial nesting bird sites (rookeries).

Table 2. Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI), Biologically Significant Streams (BSS), and Natural Heritage occurrences for Resource Rich Areas.

Name of Resource Rich Area	Total acres	INAI acres	# INAI sites	BSS Miles	# Heritage occurrences
Driftless Area	191,814	30,556	19	22.4	109
Sugar River	15,144	2,993	2	4.5	24
Chain O Lakes-Fox River	285,844	9,442	72	35.6	476
Illinois Beach	49,172	4,252	15	0	155
Kishwaukee River	64,386	362	3	15.0	8
Rock River	206,215	5,416	20	17.5	101
DuPage River	51,653	1,576	7	0	17
Mississippi-Lower Rock	457,449	18,590	17	44.2	74
Des Plaines River	43,470	2,115	11	0	61
Thorn Creek	20,614	927	5	0	13
Prairie Parklands	152,669	10,037	18	23.8	85
Kankakee-Iroquois	231,005	6,731	17	63.3	67
Peoria Wilds	277,847	1,859	24	0	51
Nauvoo	150,316	7,409	9	0	36
Mackinaw River	125,008	1,139	4	26.9	7
Middle Illinois River	575,515	13,474	38	0	134
Vermilion River	132,252	1,998	14	58.0	44
Big Rivers	626,795	10,514	61	28.9	150
Embarras River	447,925	5,009	15	112.5	50
Sangamon River	53,734	880	2	15.5	8
Upper Wabash River	170,654	2,212	4	76.4	8
Southern Till Plain	584,788	6,903	15	48.8	31
Karst/Cave Area	291,305	26,230	27	2.9	92
Lower Wabash River	163,894	4,639	12	75.5	34
Kaskaskia Bottoms	197,654	1,681	10	31.1	28
Middle Fork Big Muddy	114,908	388	1	0	2
Illinois Ozarks	466,755	17,010	59	33.1	227
Shawnee Hills	477,112	8,638	83	125.9	255
Cache River	443,616	18,444	63	52.8	298
Cretaceous Hills	87,928	1,940	19	14.1	74
TOTALS	7,157,441	223,364	*659	928.7	2,719

* Natural Areas occurring in more than one RRA are counted only once.

NATURAL HERITAGE COMMUNITIES

Of the 968 significant community occurrences in Illinois, 58% are located in RRAs (Table 3). Several community types are well represented in the RRAs, particularly caves, primary types, savannas, and wetlands. The distribution of significant community types relative to the RRAs is illustrated in Figures 4–11.

Table 3. Occurrence of Significant Community Types in Resource Rich Areas and in Illinois.

Community Type	Occurrences Statewide	Occurrences in RRAs	Percent of each type included in RRAs
Forest	190	80	42.1
Floodplain Forest	62	36	58.1
Wetland	188	133	70.7
Prairie	312	147	47.1
Savanna	54	40	74.1
Cave	49	44	89.8
Lake	42	25	59.5
Primary (glade, cliff, lake shore)	71	55	77.5
TOTAL	968	560	57.9

STATE AND FEDERALLY OWNED LAND

The number of state owned entities in RRAs varies from 0 to 9 (Table 4). The Middle Illinois River RRA has by far the most state-owned acreage with 31,630 acres, although this represents only 5.5% of its area. Illinois Beach has the highest percentage of area that is state owned (6.3%).

Federal ownership is concentrated in southern Illinois where the Shawnee National Forest is located (Shawnee Hills, Illinois Ozarks, Cretaceous Hills, and Cache River) and in the Driftless Area and Prairie Parklands RRAs (Table 4). State and federal lands are shown relative to the RRAs in Figure 12.

Table 4. State and Federally Owned Lands in Resource Rich Areas.

Name of Resource Rich Area	STATE LANDS*						FEDERAL LANDS**	
	# of Parks	# Cons Areas	# of Forests	# of FWA	State acres	% of RRA	Federal acres	% of RRA
Driftless Area	1	0	0	1	3,354	1.7	40,6122	1.2
Sugar River	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Chain O Lakes-Fox River	2	0	0	0	5,338	1.9	0	0.0
Illinois Beach	1	0	0	0	3,092	6.3	726	1.5
Kishwaukee River	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Rock River	3	0	1	0	4,706	2.3	0	0.0
DuPage River	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mississippi-Lower Rock	2	0	0	1	1,493	0.3	15,694	3.4
Des Plaines River	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Thorn Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Prairie Parklands	2	1	0	0	7,324	4.8	26,904	17.6
Kankakee-Iroquois	1	1	0	0	6,415	2.8	0	0.0
Peoria Wilds	0	4	0	1	9,570	3.4	1,589	0.6
Nauvoo	1	0	0	0	140	0.1	0	0.0
Mackinaw River	0	0	0	1	1,397	1.1	0	0.0
Middle Illinois River	1	5	1	2	31,630	5.5	21,499	3.7
Vermilion River	1	0	0	1	5,944	4.5	0	0.0
Big Rivers	1	1	0	0	9,547	1.5	37,901	6.0
Embarras River	3	0	0	3,226	0.7	0	0.0	1

table continued on page 7

Table 4. State and Federally Owned Lands in Resource Rich Areas. (continued)

Name of Resource Rich Area	STATE LANDS*					% of RRA	FEDERAL LANDS**	
	# of Parks	# Cons Areas	# of Forests	# of FWA	State acres		Federal acres	% of RRA
Sangamon River	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Driftless Area	1	0	0	1	3,354	1.7	40,6122	1.2
Upper Wabash River	1	0	0	0	3	0.0	0	0.0
Southern Till Plain	0	0	0	1	554	0.1	682	0.1
Karst/Cave Area	1	0	0	1	3,364	1.2	0	0.0
Lower Wabash River	1	1	0	0	1,261	0.8	0	0.0
Kaskaskia Bottoms	1	0	0	1	6,916	3.5	494	0.2
Middle Fork Big Muddy	0	0	0	1	22	0.0	0	0.0
Illinois Ozarks	1	1	1	1	18,668	4.0	81,266	17.4
Shawnee Hills	2	1	0	0	2,060	0.4	136,817	28.7
Cache River	3	2	0	0	11,924	2.7	53,741	12.1
Cretaceous Hills	1	0	0	0	619	0.7	11,999	13.6
TOTALS	30	17	3	12	138,567	0.6	429,924	6.0

* Parks, Cons Areas (Conservation Areas), Forests, and FWA (Fish and Wildlife Area) refer to state lands.

** Federal Land figures for Shawnee National Forest are based on ownership boundaries rather than the more general proclamation boundary.

NATURAL DIVISIONS

All 14 natural divisions are represented in the thirty RRAs. The Coastal Plain, Shawnee Hills, and Lower Mississippi Bottomlands divisions are particularly well represented (Table 5). The Western Forest-Prairie and Grand Prairie are the least represented; these divisions have been extensively converted from presettlement conditions to agricultural use (Schwegman, et al. 1973). Figure 13 illustrates the relationship of natural divisions to the RRAs. Many RRAs are comprised of a single natural division, such as Chain O' Lakes-Fox River, Kishwaukee River, DuPage River, Thorn Creek, Kankakee-Iroquois, Mackinaw River, Sangamon River, Kaskaskia Bottoms, and the Middle Fork of the Muddy River. Others are composites of several divisions, particularly the Mississippi-Lower Rock and Big Rivers RRAs.

Table 5. Natural Divisions in Illinois and in Resource Rich Areas. Natural divisions are listed from lowest to highest area in Illinois.

Name of Natural Division	Percent of Illinois	Percent of Division contained in RRAs
Wisconsin Driftless	1.0	37.3
Lower Mississippi Bottomlands	1.0	79.7
Illinois and Mississippi River Sand Areas	1.1	61.4
Ozarks	1.1	63.7
Coastal Plain	1.3	85.2
Shawnee Hills	2.5	81.6
Upper Mississippi and Illinois River Bottomland	3.3	64.5
Rock River Hill Country	4.2	14.8
Middle Mississippi Border	4.3	35.6
Wabash Border	4.8	34.0
Northeastern Morainal	6.8	22.6
Western Forest-Prairie	12.2	4.4
Southern Till Plain	19.8	15.2
Grand Prairie	36.1	8.6

Figure 2. Natural Areas Inventory Sites

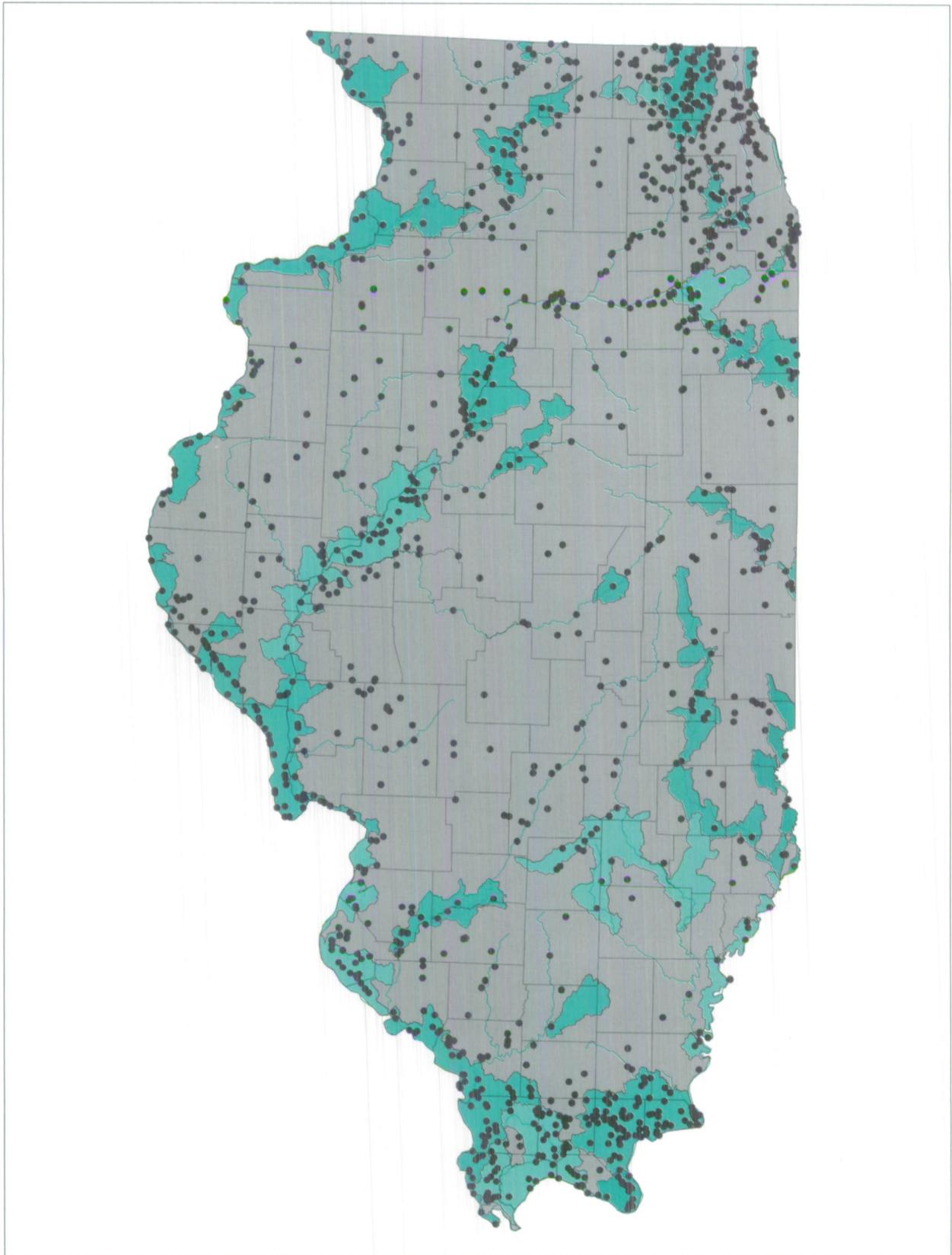
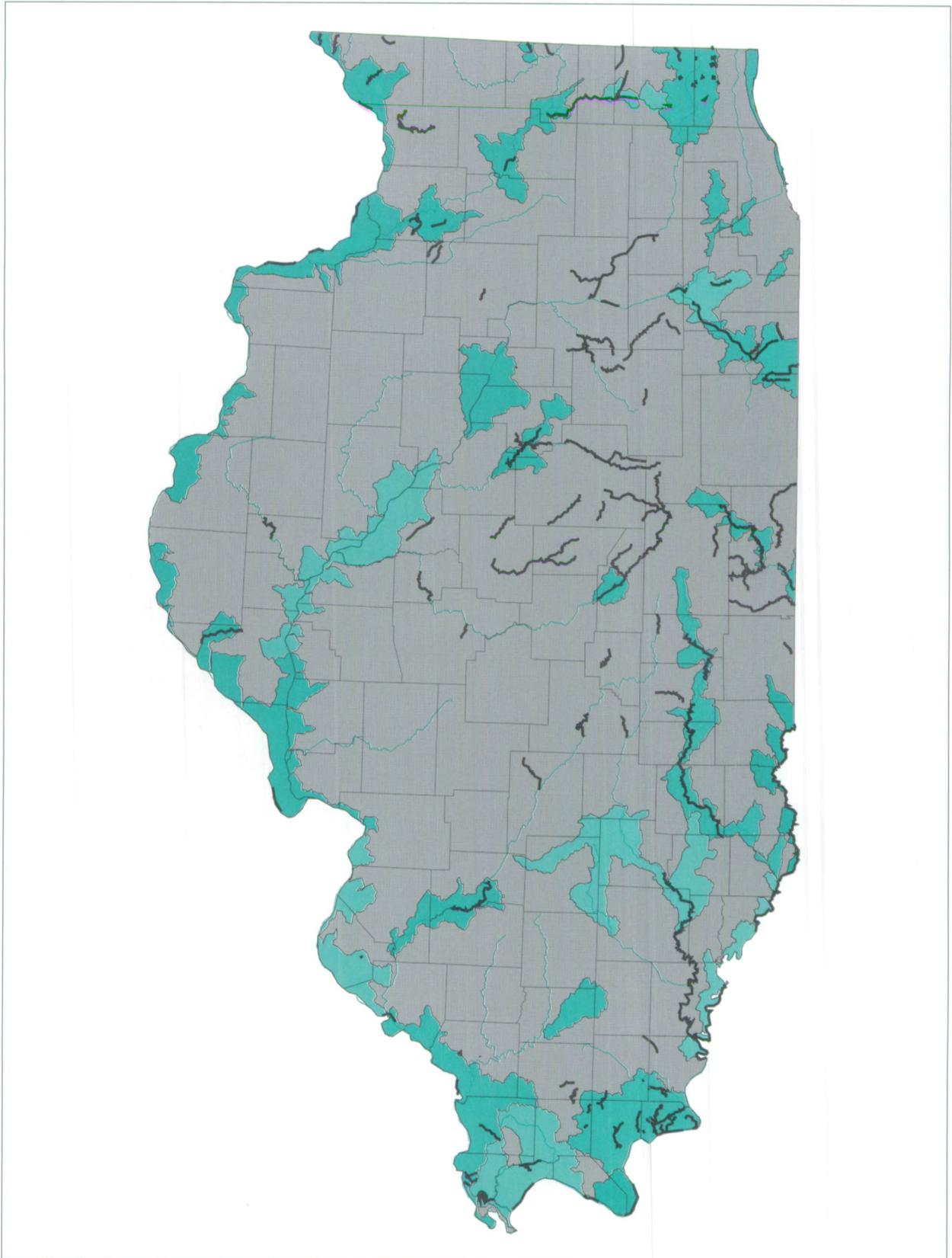


Figure 3. Biologically Significant Streams



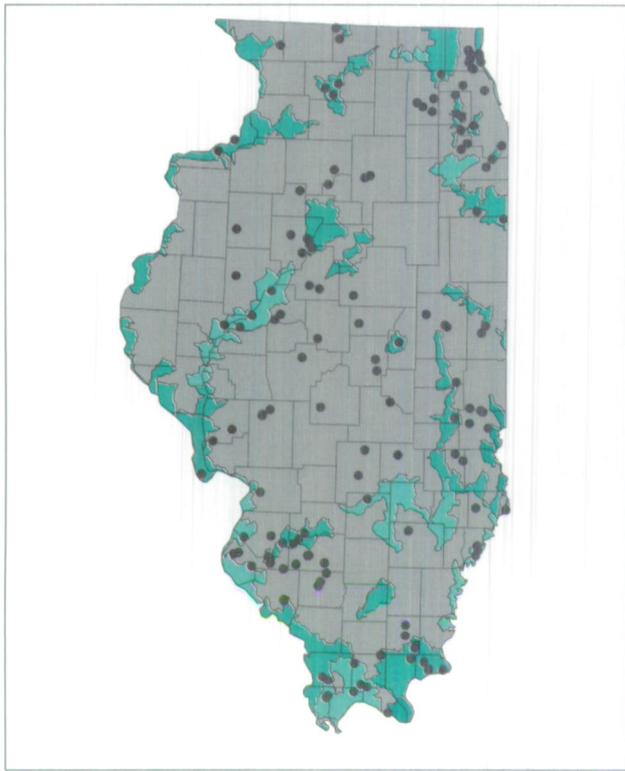


Figure 4. Upland Forest Heritage Sites

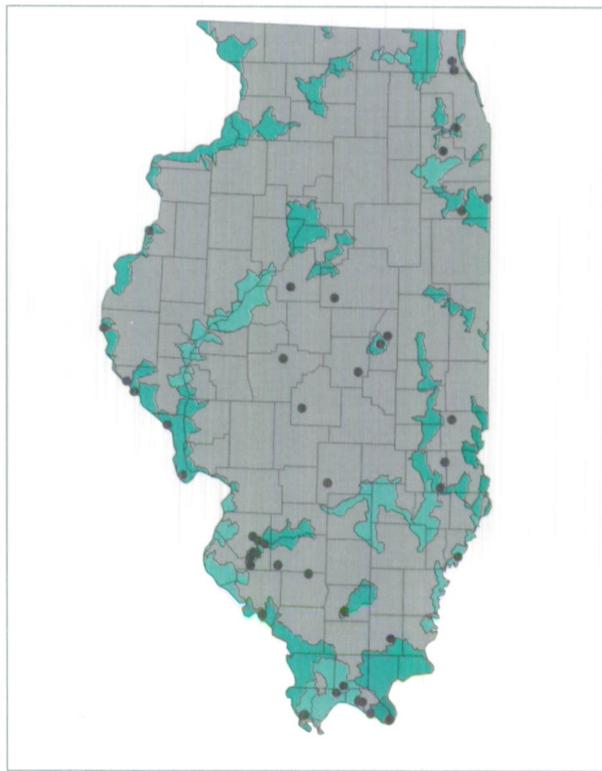


Figure 5. Floodplain Forest Heritage Sites

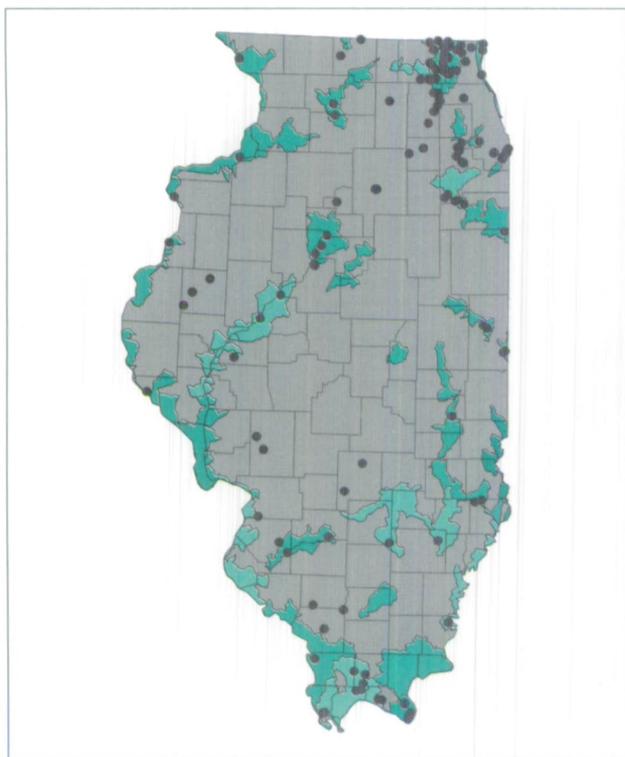


Figure 6. Wetland Heritage Sites

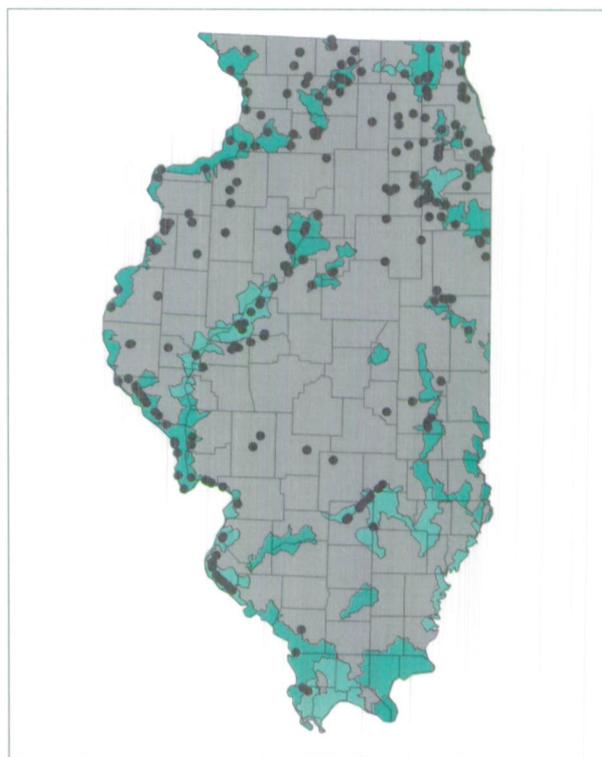


Figure 7. Prairie Heritage Sites

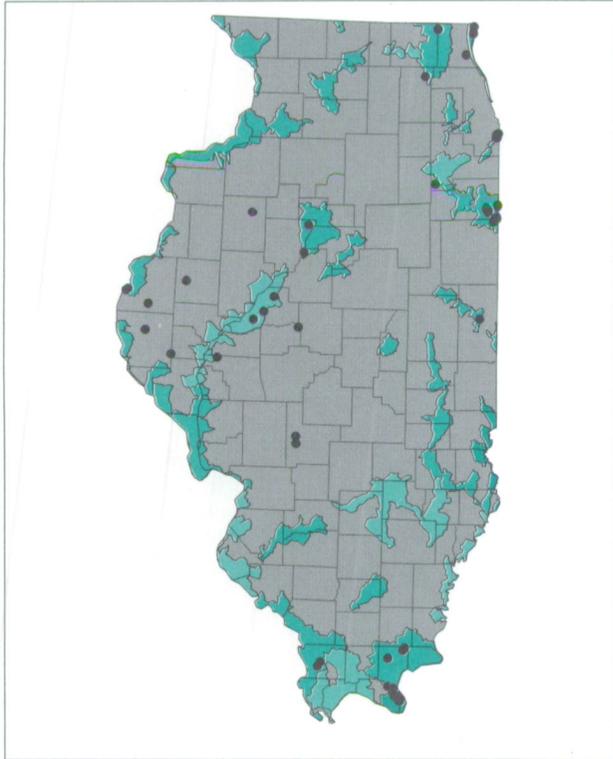


Figure 8. Savanna Heritage Sites

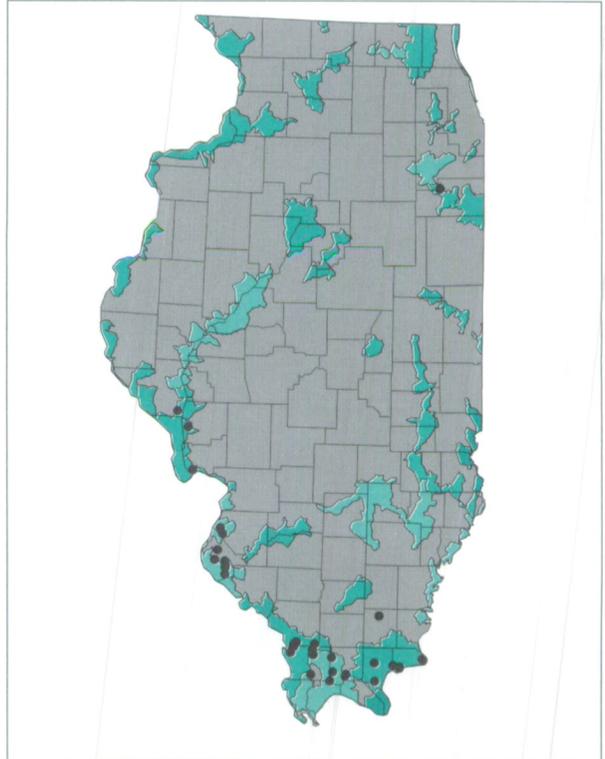


Figure 9. Cave Heritage Sites

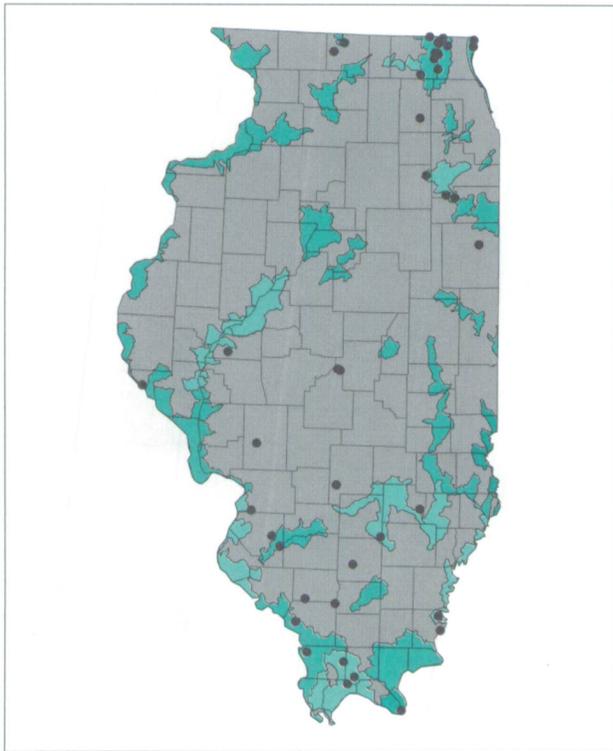


Figure 10. Lake Heritage Sites

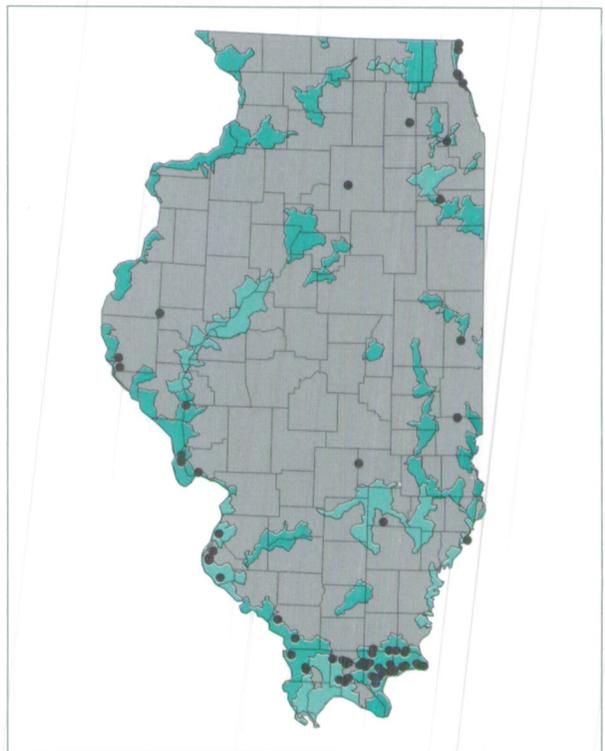


Figure 11. Primary Heritage Sites

Figure 12. State and Federal Land

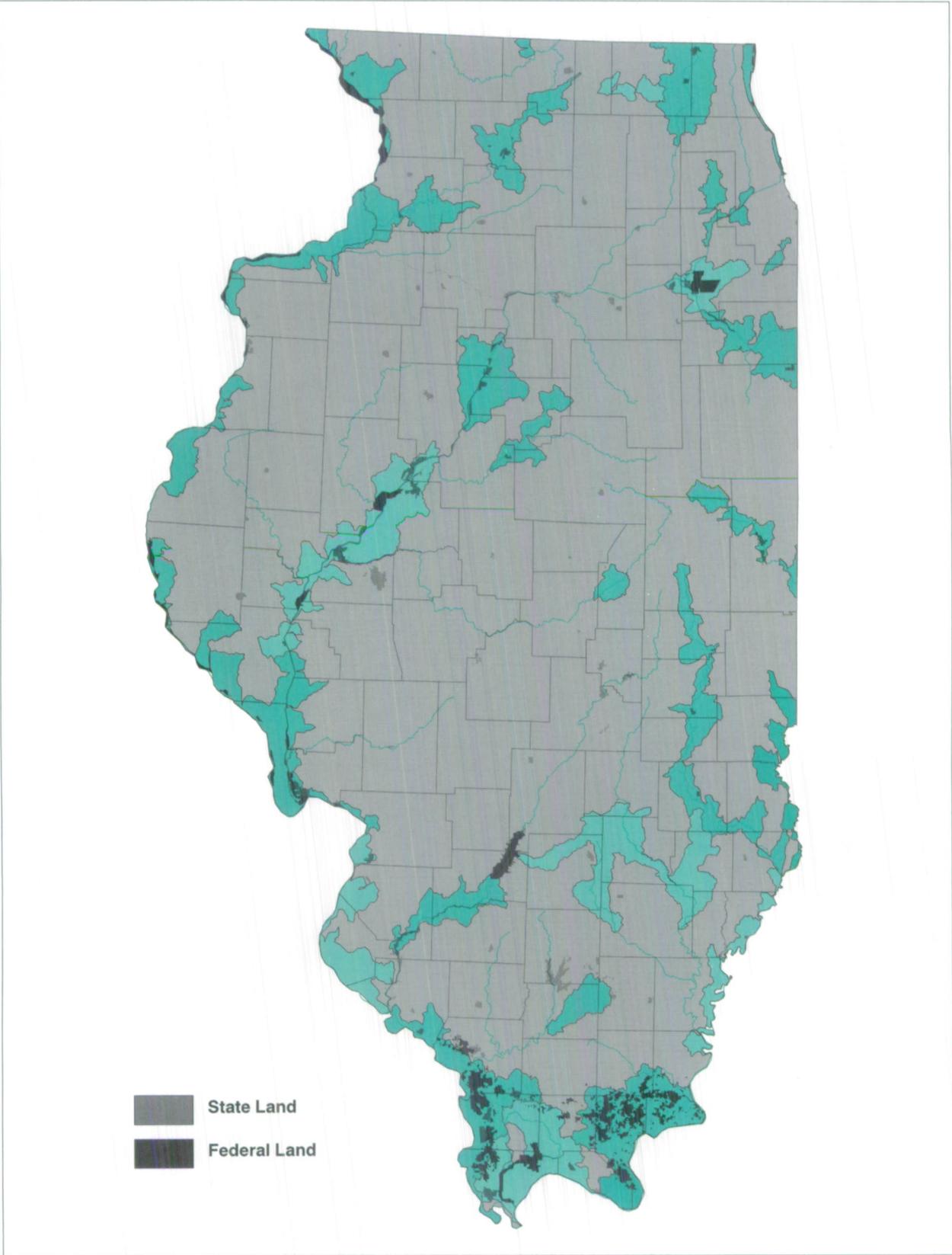
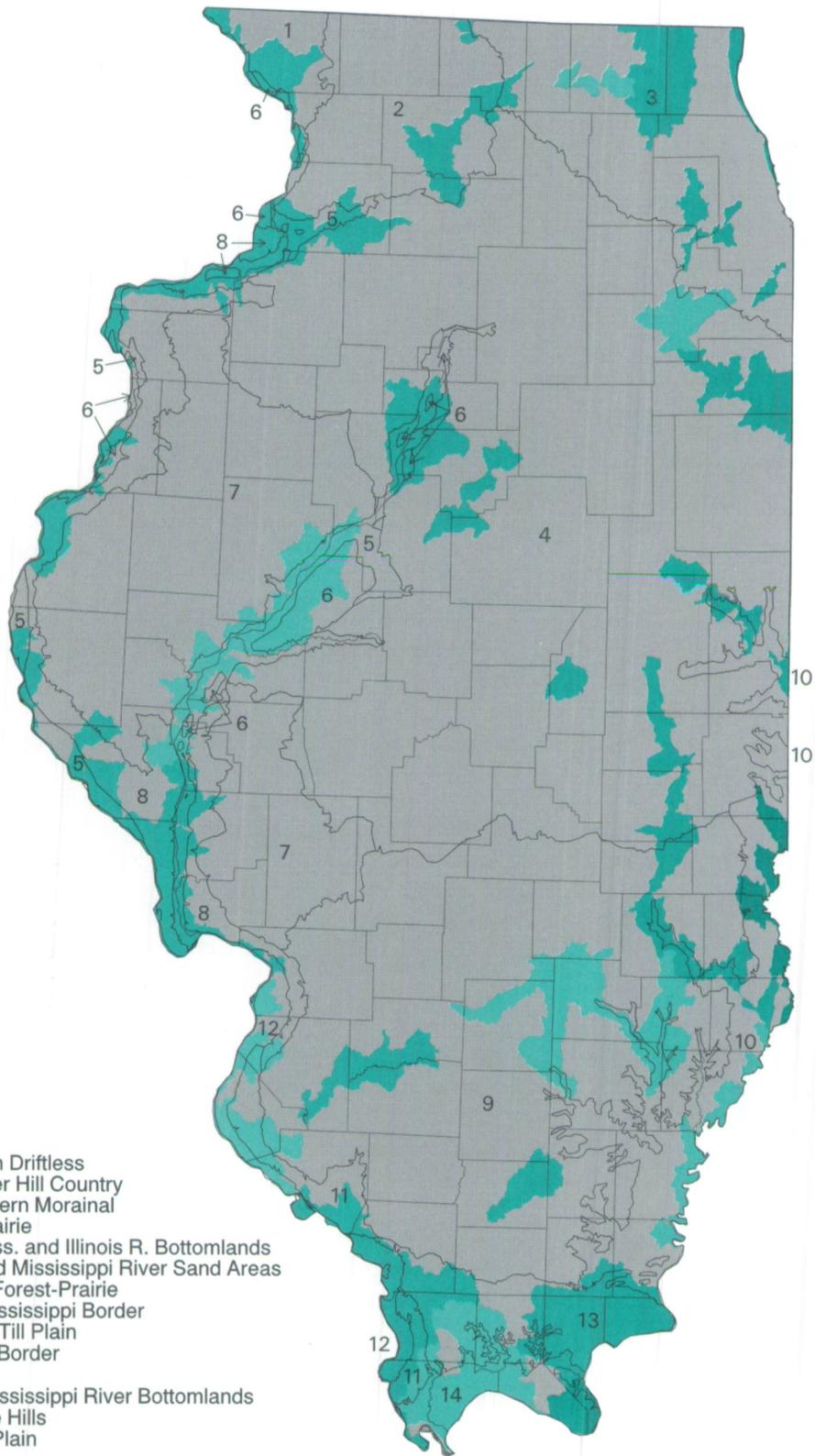


Figure 13. Natural Divisions



- 1 Wisconsin Driftless
- 2 Rock River Hill Country
- 3 Northeastern Morainal
- 4 Grand Prairie
- 5 Upper Miss. and Illinois R. Bottomlands
- 6 Illinois and Mississippi River Sand Areas
- 7 Western Forest-Prairie
- 8 Middle Mississippi Border
- 9 Southern Till Plain
- 10 Wabash Border
- 11 Ozark
- 12 Lower Mississippi River Bottomlands
- 13 Shawnee Hills
- 14 Coastal Plain

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN THE RESOURCE RICH AREA SUMMARIES

The 30 RRAs are described in detail in this section of the report. The following information is provided for each RRA:

- Overview (brief characterization of the site and graph of the landcover composition)
- Summary table of total size, Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Sites (INAI),
Biologically Significant Streams (BSS), and state and federally owned land
- Landcover data table
- Illinois Natural Areas Inventory table
- Biologically Significant Streams table
- Natural Heritage Categories table
- State and Federal Lands table
- Nature Preserves table
- Natural Division table
- Natural Resource Map (locations of Natural Areas, Biologically Significant Streams,
state and federal lands)
- Landcover map

IN THE SUMMARY TABLES OF THE 30 SITE DESCRIPTIONS, THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE NOTED: The slight variation in total acreages of RRAs listed in the Summary table and the Landcover table is related to the use of different analysis methods. Acreages in this publication are generated from digital coverages and are not authoritative; they may differ slightly from acreages listed in other sources. For Illinois Natural Areas, some sites are represented in the Geographic Information System (GIS) only by point locations because maps were not available at the time of this analysis. Therefore, no acreages were listed (the acreage for these sites is marked with an *). Some of the features included in the Biologically Significant Streams Inventory are lakes, in which case the mileage was calculated as the perimeter of the lake. In the analysis of Heritage occurrences, the stream community type was not used because of the difficulties of using point locations as representations for stream lengths and because significant streams were well represented in other tables (Natural Areas Inventory and Biologically Significant Streams). State land in this publication is limited to parks, conservation areas, forests, and fish and wildlife areas. The grasslands category includes pastures, hayfields, idle fields, rural road and railroad rights-of-way, and prairie remnants.

EACH RRA IS REPRESENTED BY A NATURAL RESOURCES MAP AND A LANDCOVER MAP. Feature labels are generally to the right of the feature unless this was not possible. The maps were designed to maximize the area on the page, therefore scales vary between maps. A key to feature names contained on the maps follows.

NA	Natural Area
NA*	Natural Area represented as points
SP	State Park
SCA	State Conservation Area
FWA	State Fish and Wildlife Area
SF	State Forest
NF	National Forest
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
	Federal Land labels are in capital letters.

The Shawnee National Forest is represented on the maps by many scattered ownership boundaries, which are unlabeled, and a more general proclamation boundary.



DRIFTLESS AREA

The Driftless Area RRA occupies a physiographically unique part of the state that escaped Pleistocene glaciation. The area is characterized by rolling hills and a dissected pattern of wooded ridges and includes such prominent features as canyons, ravines, bluffs, and palisades. Some of the flora and fauna are distinctive and unique in the state, including several plant species which are northern species or preglacial and interglacial relicts.

LANDCOVER ♦ The predominant landcover type in this RRA is grassland. The Driftless Area RRA has the highest percentage of grassland of all the sites (37%). The site is one-fourth wooded—22% upland woods and nearly 6% bottomland woods. Much of the woodland is found on ridges. Twenty percent of the area is cropland; this is one of the few nonurban RRAs where cropland is not the predominant landcover type.

NATURAL AREAS ♦ There are 19 Natural Areas in this RRA. This site contains more Natural Area acreage than any other RRA (30,556 acres, 16% of the site area). The Savanna Army Depot accounts for over 14,000 acres; otter habitat and Spring Lake, a large lake associated with the Mississippi River, are other large Natural Areas.

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ This site contains 22.4 miles of streams identified as biologically significant.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ There are 109 Heritage occurrences in the Driftless Area RRA: three significant community types, 30 plant species, 20 animal species, and three rookeries.

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND ♦ Mississippi Palisades State Park is located in this RRA as well as one state fish and wildlife area. This site has the second highest percentage of area in federal ownership (21% of the area; 40,612 acres). Federal lands are the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge (26,579 acres) and the Savanna Army Depot (14,033 acres). See sidebar on page 16.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ There are four Nature Preserves in this RRA. Significant features include sand prairie, sand dune and blowout, cliff, hill prairie, and seep springs.

NATURAL DIVISIONS ♦ Nearly three-fourths of the Driftless Area RRA is comprised of the Wisconsin Driftless Division. This RRA is the only site that includes this division; 37% of the division, which itself covers only 1% of the state, lies within this site.

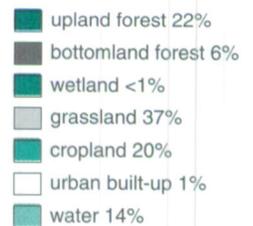
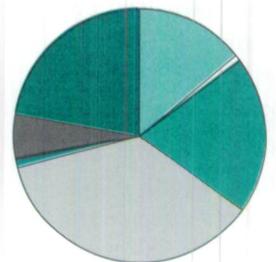
SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LANDS

Total Acreage	191,814
Natural Areas	
Acreage	30,556
Number	19
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage	22.4

Size:
191,814 acres
300 square miles

Location:
Northwestern Illinois on the Mississippi River; Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Whiteside counties

Landcover at a Glance



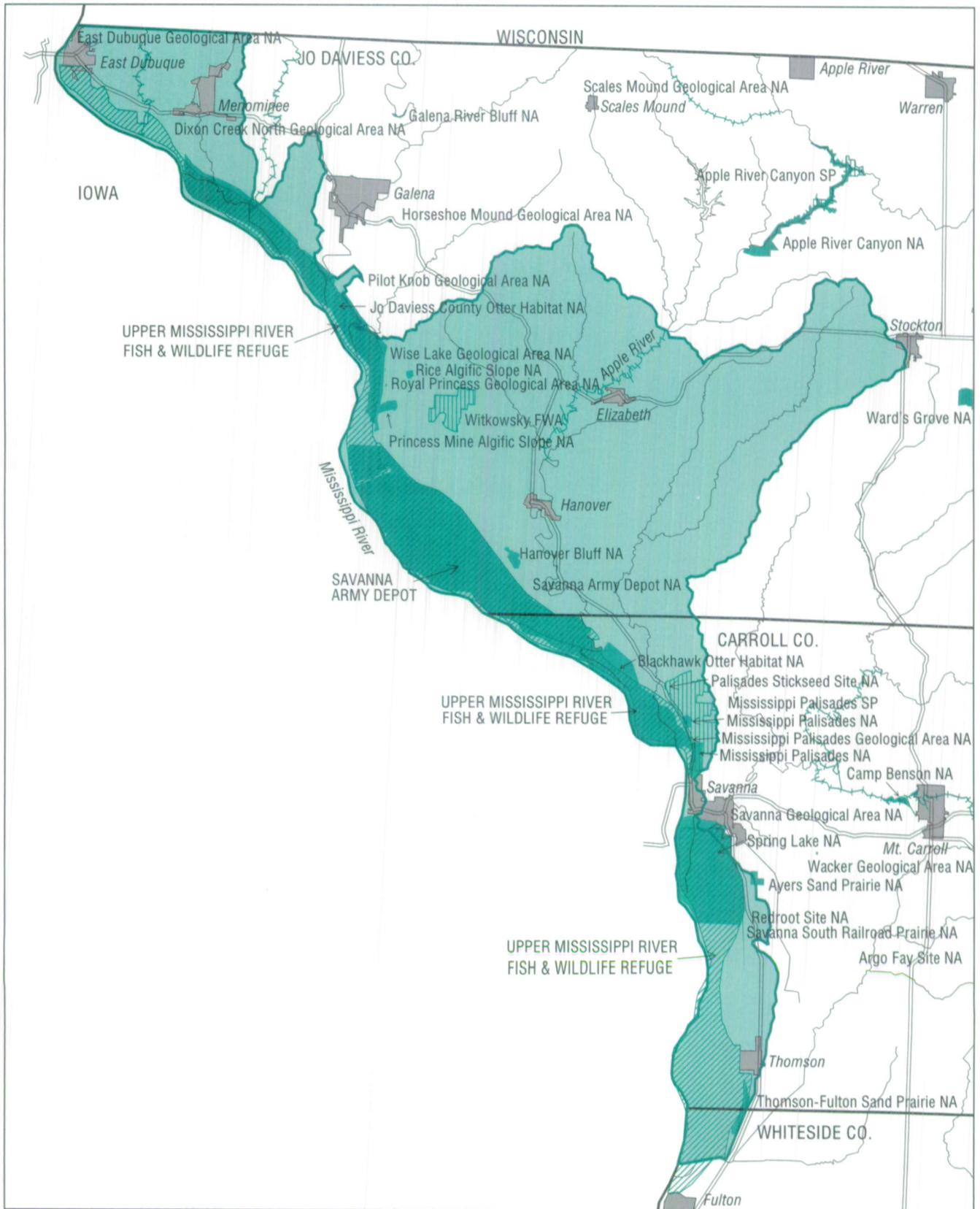
The Savanna Army Depot is currently being decommissioned as an ordnance storage facility. It covers approximately 20 square miles and includes bottomland, oak forest, wetlands, upland sand prairie, and habitat for 32 endangered or threatened plants and animals. Approximately 9,000 acres will be transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for addition to the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Natural Heritage Sites		109
State Land		
State Parks		1
State Conservation Areas		0
State Forests		0
State Fish & Wildlife Areas		1
Acreage		3,354
Percentage of RRA		1.7
Federal Land		
Acreage		40,612
Percentage of RRA		21.2
LANDCOVER	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Upland forest	41,587.13	21.68
Bottomland forest	10,643.35	5.55
Wetland- nonforested	1,119.55	0.58
Grassland	71,811.77	37.44
Cropland	37,603.67	19.60
Urban/Built-up	2,710.36	1.41
Water	<u>26,338.33</u>	<u>13.73</u>
TOTAL	191,814.16	99.99
ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES		<u>Acres</u>
Ayers Sand Prairie		29
Blackhawk Otter Habitat		3,625
Dixon Creek North Geological Area		2
East Dubuque Geological Area		5
Hanover Bluff		164
Jo Daviess County Otter Habitat		6,550
Mississippi Palisades		412
Mississippi Palisades Geological Area		2
Palisades Stickseed Site		<1
Pilot Knob Geological Area		1
Princess Mine Algific Slope		154
Redroot Site		1
Rice Algific Slope		49
Royal Princess Geological Area		3
Savanna Army Depot		14,323
Savanna South Railroad Prairie		61
Spring Lake		4,913
Thomson-Fulton Sand Prairie		262
Wise Lake Geological Area		2
BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS		<u>Miles</u>
Apple River, Wolf Creek to Mill Creek		12.0
Menominee River		5.1
Mississippi River, rm 545-550, Carroll Co.		5.3
NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES		
Communities	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Wetland	1	1
Prairie	2	2
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	27	11
Fish	3	2

Mammal	15	2
Reptile	3	2
Crustacean	1	1
Mollusk	2	2
Threatened and Endangered Plants		
Plant-Dicot	29	21
Plant-Gymnosperm	1	1
Plant-Monocot	11	7
Plant-Fern/Fern Ally	6	1
Geological Feature		
Geological Feature	5	1
Other		
Rookery	3	1
STATE AND FEDERAL LAND		
State Parks		<u>Acres</u>
Mississippi Palisades		2,350
State Conservation Areas		0
State Forests		0
State Fish and Wildlife Areas		
Witkowsky		1,004
Federal Land		
Savanna Army Depot		14,033
Upper Mississippi River Fish & Wildlife Refuge		26,579
NATURE PRESERVES		
		<u>Acres</u>
Ayers Sand Prairie		23
Hanover Bluff		390
Sentinel		51
Thomson-Fulton Sand Prairie		83
NATURAL DIVISIONS		
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of</u>
	<u>in RRA</u>	<u>RRA</u>
Wisconsin Driftless	135,938	72.6
Major Water Bodies	21,236	11.3
Upper Mississippi R		
and Illinois R Bottomlands	18,658	10.0
Illinois R and Mississippi R Sand Areas	11,501	6.1
		<u>% of</u>
		<u>Division</u>



Algific slopes are north-facing rocky slopes that retain subsurface ice through most of the year. In Illinois they occur only in the Driftless Area. The cold microclimate created on the surface of the slope supports relict northern and Pleistocene biota, including many endangered, threatened, and rare species.



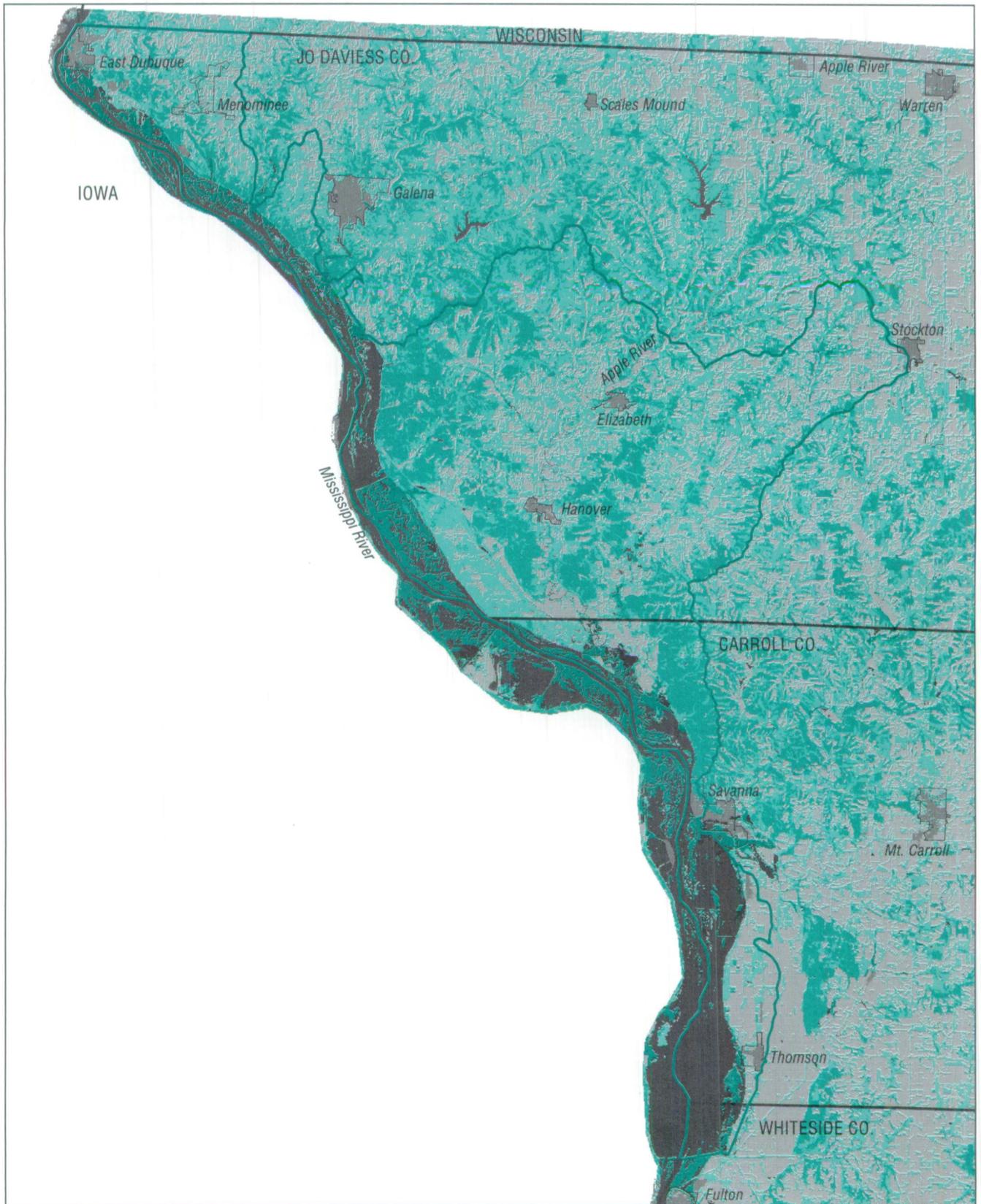
Driftless Area

- Natural Area
- Town
- State Land
- Federal Land

- Stream
- Significant Stream
- Highway
- County

5 Miles





Driftless Area

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------|
|  | Upland Forest |  | Cropland |
|  | Bottomland Forest/Swamp |  | Water |
|  | Nonforested Wetland |  | Urban/Built-up |
|  | Grassland | | |

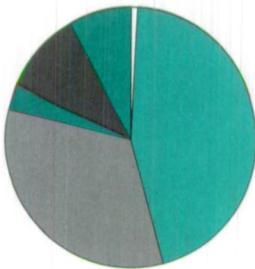
5 Miles




Size:
15,144 acres
23.7 square miles

Location:
North-central
Illinois bordering
Wisconsin;
Winnebago County.

Landcover at a Glance



- upland forest 8%
- bottomland forest 10%
- wetland 3%
- grassland 33%
- cropland 45%
- urban built-up <1%
- water <1%

SUGAR RIVER

The Sugar River RRA is characterized by a wide, wooded riparian corridor of floodplain forest and upland woods. It is the smallest RRA. The Sugar River area is along an important bird migration route and provides habitat for several unusual amphibians and reptiles.



LANDCOVER ♦ The predominant landcover type is cropland (45%), followed by grassland (33%). This site has the second highest percentage of grasslands among the RRAs. The site is 18.5% wooded (8% upland and 10.5% bottomland forest). The percentages of bottomland woods and nonforested wetlands are relatively high, but the total acreages are low, reflecting the site's small size.

NATURAL AREAS ♦ The Sugar River Natural Area occupies 20% of this RRA. A small prairie is the only other Natural Area in this RRA.

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ The Sugar River RRA has 4.5 miles of biologically significant streams.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ Twenty-four Heritage Sites occur in this RRA. There are three significant community types, 12 plant species, and four animal species.

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND ♦ There is no state or federal land in this RRA.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ There are two Nature Preserves in this site. Natural features include bluffs, sand savanna, and prairie.

NATURAL DIVISIONS ♦ This site lies in the Rock River Hill Country (84%) and Northeastern Morainal (16%) Divisions.

SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LANDS

Total Acreage	15,144
Natural Areas	
Acreage	2,993
Number	2
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage	4.5
Natural Heritage Sites	24
State Land	
State Parks	0
State Conservation Areas	0
State Forests	0
State Fish & Wildlife Areas	0
Acreage	0
Percentage of RRA	0.0
Federal Land	
Acreage	0
Percentage of RRA	0.0

LANDCOVER	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Upland forest	1,208.87	7.98
Bottomland forest	1,581.98	10.45
Wetland-nonforested	424.10	2.80
Grassland	4,979.97	32.88
Cropland	6,803.81	44.92
Urban/Built-up	16.86	0.11
Water	<u>129.46</u>	<u>0.85</u>
TOTAL	15,145.05	99.99

ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES	<u>Acres</u>
Shirland Railroad Prairie	4
Sugar River	2,989
BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS	<u>Miles</u>
Sugar River, Otter Creek	4.5

NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Communities		
Lake	1	1
Prairie	2	2
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	4	3
Mammal	1	1
Threatened and Endangered Plants		
Plant-Dicot	11	7
Plant-Monocot	2	2
Plant-Fern/Fern Ally	3	3

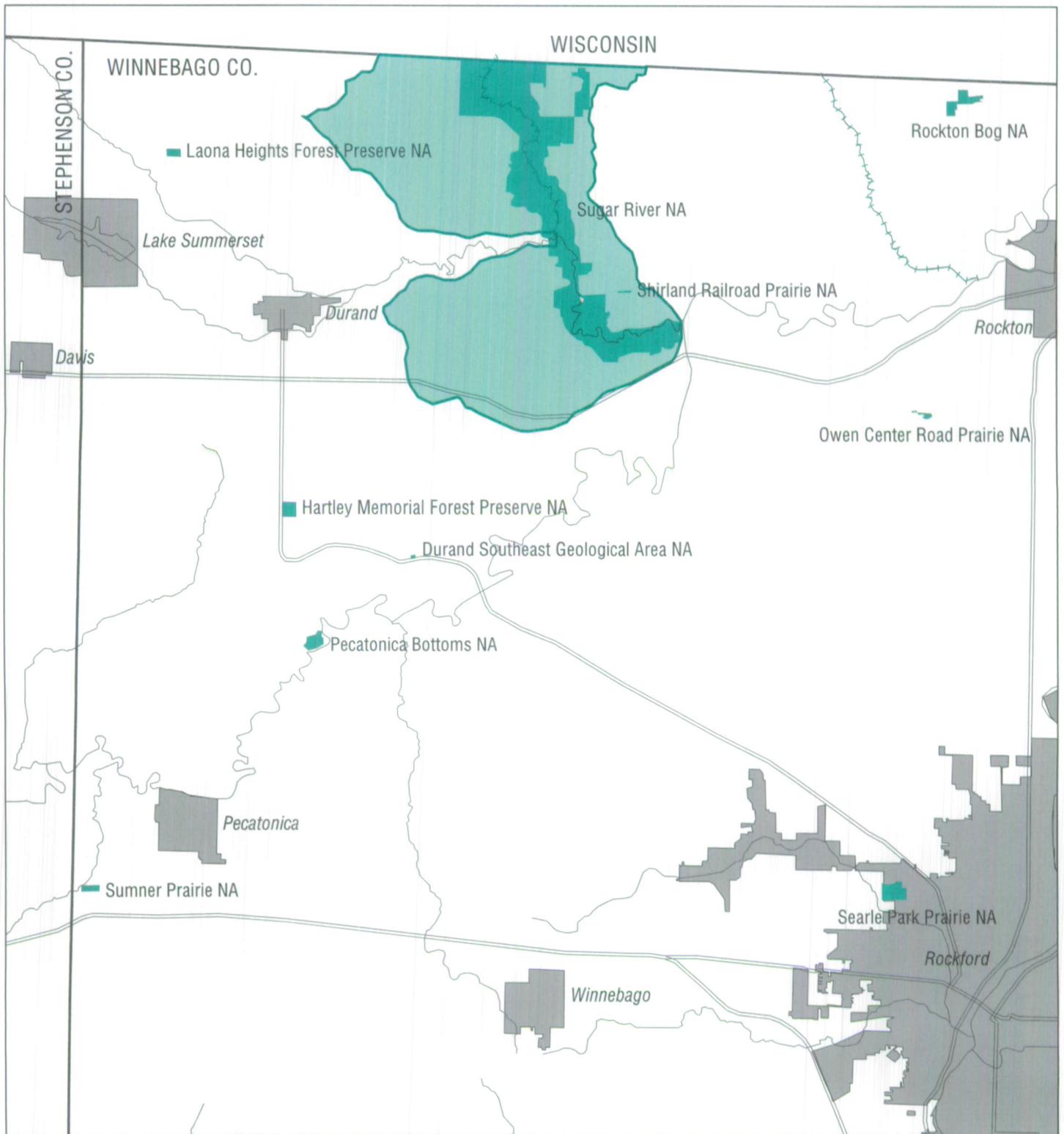
Geological Feature	<u>Acres</u>
Other	
STATE AND FEDERAL LAND	<u>Acres</u>
State Parks	0
State Conservation Areas	0
State Forests	0
State Fish and Wildlife Areas	0
Federal Land	0

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES	<u>Acres</u>
Colored Sands Bluff	56
Sugar River Alder Site	167

NATURAL DIVISIONS	<u>Acres</u> <u>in RRA</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>RRA</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>Division</u>
Rock River Hill Country	12,675	83.7	0.8
Northeastern Morainal	2,470	16.3	0.1



Sand deposited by the wind after the last glaciation formed dunes and ridges along the Sugar River. The dunes and ridges were eventually stabilized by forest and prairie vegetation. Sugar River is a migration route for birds; over 150 species have been banded at the bird-banding station in Colored Sands Bluff Nature Preserve.



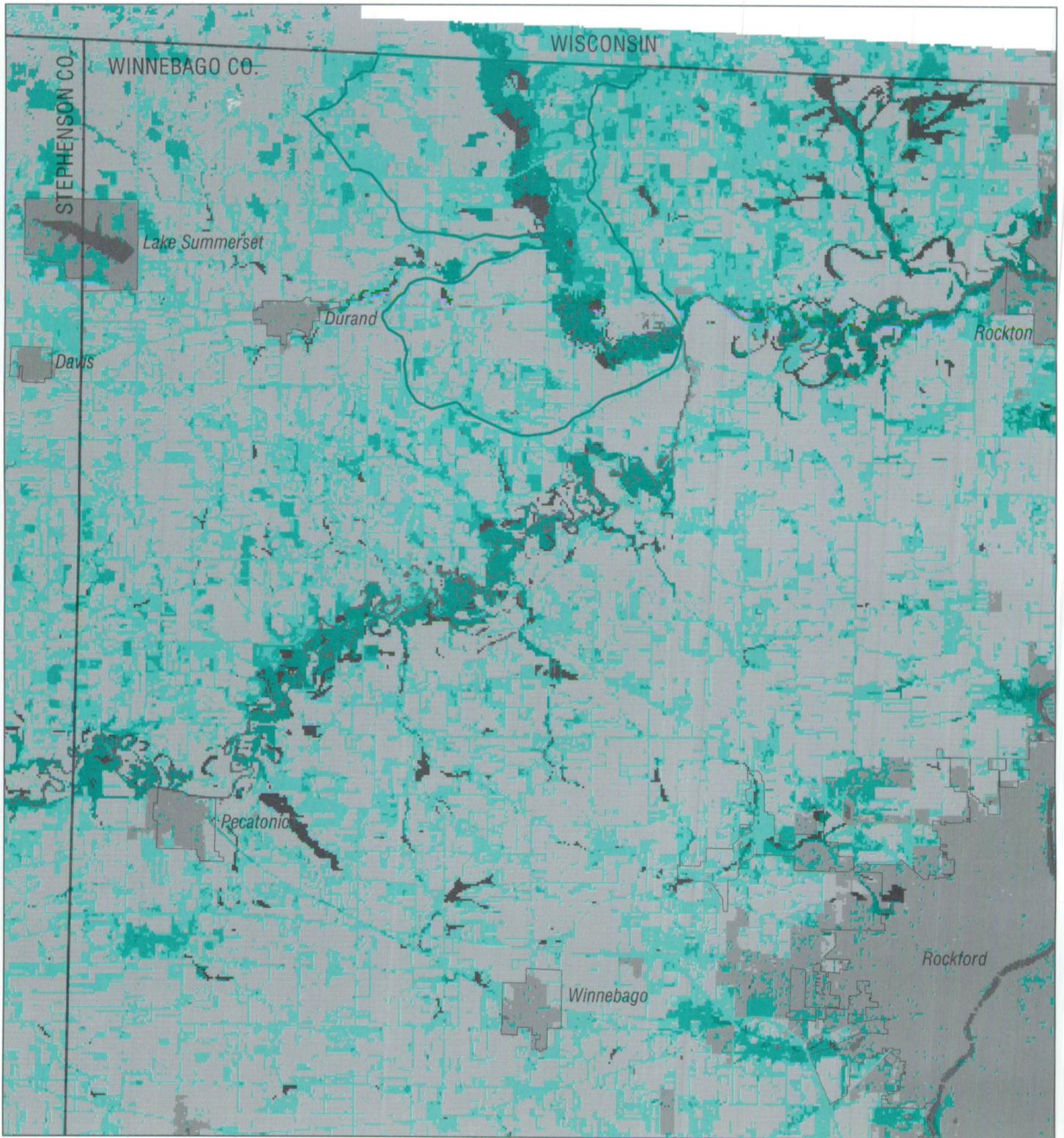
Sugar River

-  Natural Area
-  Town
-  State Land
-  Federal Land

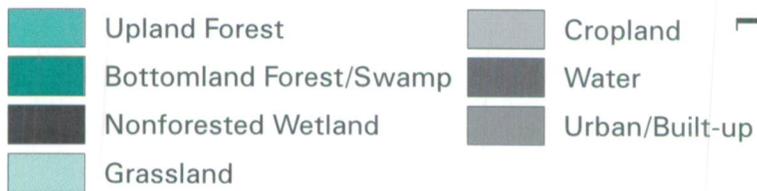
-  Stream
-  Significant Stream
-  Highway
-  County

2 Miles



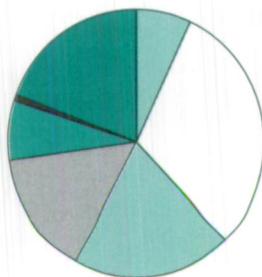
Sugar River



Size:
 285,844 acres
 447 square miles

Location:
 Northeastern
 Illinois; Lake,
 McHenry, Cook,
 and Kane counties.

Landcover at a Glance



- upland forest 19%
- bottomland forest 1%
- wetland 7%
- grassland 15%
- cropland 20%
- urban built-up 30%
- water 7%

CHAIN O' LAKES - FOX RIVER

The Chain O' Lakes-Fox River RRA encompasses the area of most recent glaciation in Illinois. Significant natural features in this poorly drained area include glacial landforms, natural lakes, and wetlands. Many wetland types are found in this RRA, such as bogs, fens, seeps, and shallow and deep marshes. Some rare species and community types are limited in their distribution to this area of the state. Urban expansion from the Chicago metropolitan region continues to put severe pressure on the natural resources in this region.



LANDCOVER ♦ The predominant landcover in this RRA is urban/built-up (30%). This site has the highest urban/built-up acreage and ranks fifth in percentage of urban-built up area. Twenty percent of this site is wooded and 20% is cropland. Chain O' Lakes - Fox River has the most nonforested wetlands acreage (20,839 acres) and ranks first for percentage of nonforested wetlands among the RRAs.

NATURAL AREAS ♦ This site has the second highest number of Natural Areas. The 72 Natural Areas include bogs, fens, seeps, marshes, sedge meadows, natural lakes, glacial features, and prairies.

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ The Chain O' Lakes - Fox River RRA has 15 BSS locations, 14 of which are lakes.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ This site has 476 Heritage occurrences, the highest number among the RRAs. There are 23 significant community types, 73 plants species, 23 animal species, and five rookeries in this area.

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND ♦ State land in this RRA consists of two state parks: Chain O' Lakes and McHenry Dam & Lake Defiance. There is no federal land in this site.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ There are 34 Nature Preserves within this RRA. Principal natural features are bogs, fens, marshes, glacial lakes, sedge meadows, and prairies.

NATURAL DIVISIONS ♦ This site is entirely within the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division.

SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LANDS

Total Acreage	285,844
Natural Areas	
Acreage	9,442
Number	72
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage	35.6
Natural Heritage Sites	476
State Land	
State Parks	2
State Conservation Areas	0
State Forests	0
State Fish & Wildlife Areas	0

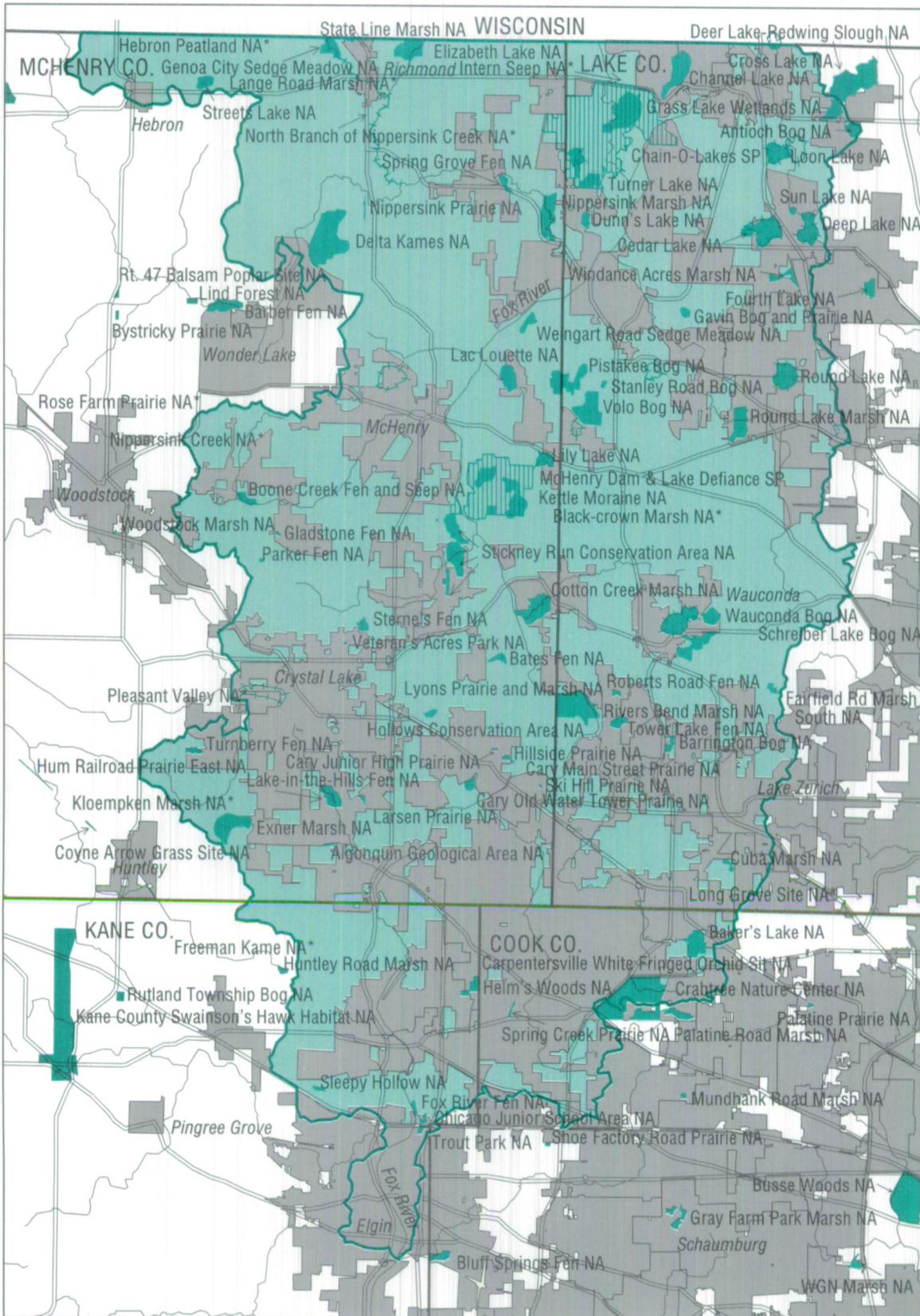
Acreage	5,338
Percentage of RRA	1.9
Federal Land	
Acreage	0
Percentage of RRA	0.0

LANDCOVER	<u>Acres</u>	<u>%of RRA</u>
Upland forest	53,844.17	18.84
Bottomland forest	3,548.32	1.24
Wetland-nonforested	20,839.32	7.29
Grassland	43,652.61	15.27
Cropland	58,220.21	20.37
Urban/Built-up	86,778.57	30.36
Water	<u>18,956.48</u>	<u>6.63</u>
TOTAL	285,839.68	100.00

ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES

	<u>Acres</u>
Algonquin Geological Area	10
Antioch Bog	85
Baker's Lake	207
Barrington Bog	46
Bates Fen	50
Black-crown Marsh	*
Boone Creek Fen and Seep	71
Carpentersville White Fringed Orchid Site	1
Cary Junior High Prairie	7
Cary Main Street Prairie	4
Cary Old Water Tower Prairie	50
Cedar Lake	344
Channel Lake	320
Chicago Junior School Area	23
Cotton Creek Marsh	294
Crabtree Nature Center	601
Cross Lake	22
Cuba Marsh	32
Deep Lake	225
Deer Lake--Redwing Slough	129
Delta Kames	699
Dunn's Lake	62
Elizabeth Lake	229
Exner Marsh	299
Fairfield Road Marsh South	34
Fox River Fen	27
Gavin Bog and Prairie	41
Genoa City Sedge Meadow	126
Gladstone Fen	11
Grass Lake Wetlands	557
Hebron Peatland	*
Helm's Woods	83
Hillside Prairie	17
Hollows Conservation Area	37
Intern Seep	*
Kettle Moraine	443
Lac Louette	167

Because of its glacial history, wetlands are particularly concentrated in northeastern Illinois. A variety of wetland types, such as marshes, sedge meadows, fens, and bogs, support a unique and sometimes rare flora and fauna. Bogs in Illinois are limited to glacial depressions in the northeastern part of the state. Acidic conditions created by the lack of drainage and accumulation of layers of peat support uniquely adapted flora, such as leatherleaf, blueberry, cranberry, ferns, orchids, pitcher-plant, sundew, poison sumac, and tamarack.



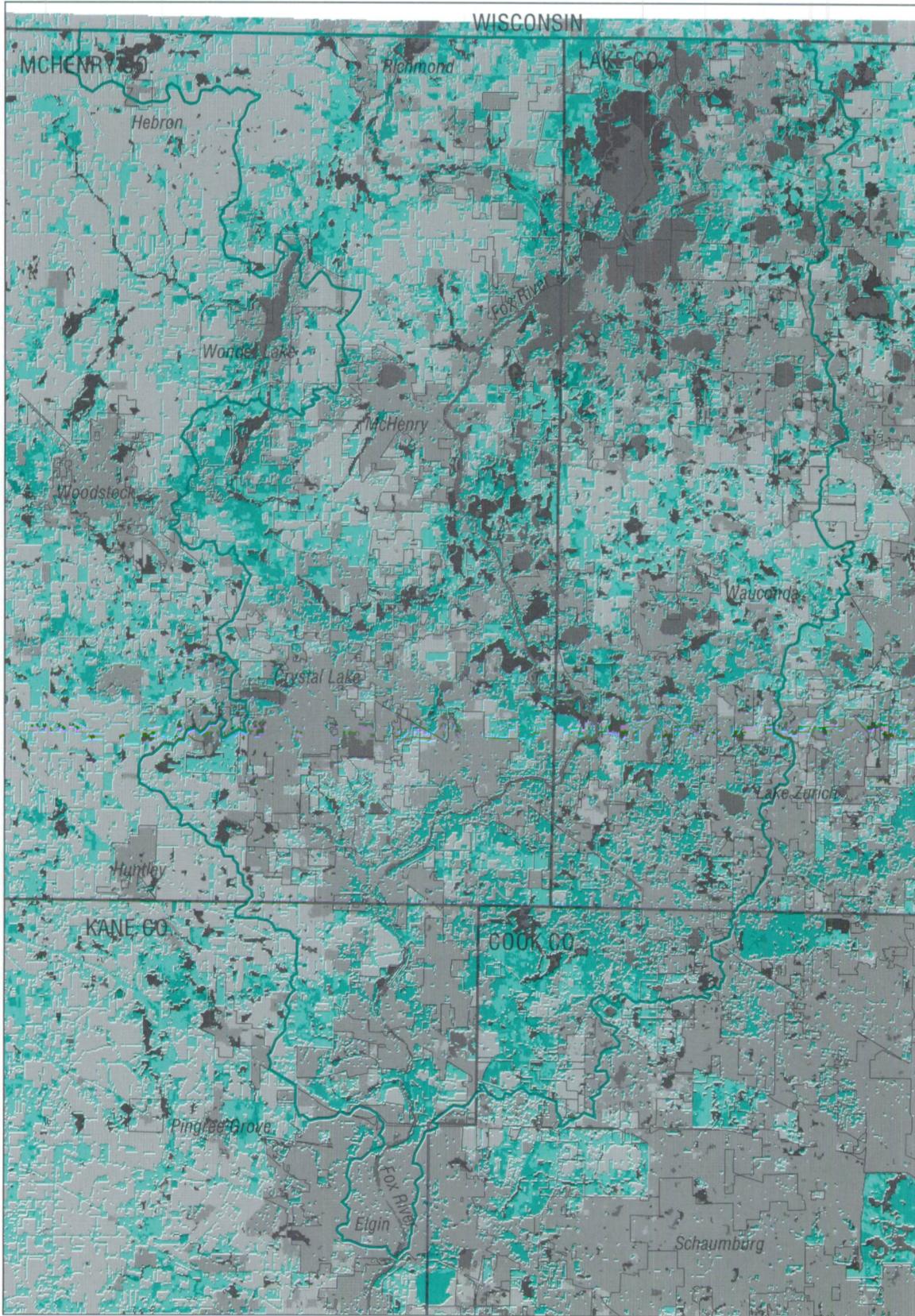
Chain O Lakes-Fox River

- Natural Area
- Town
- State Land
- Federal Land

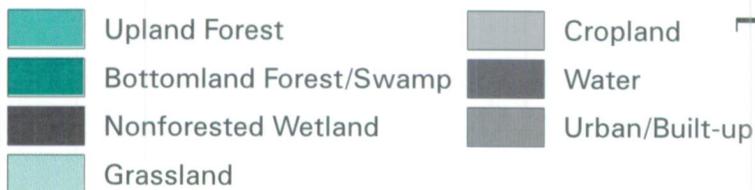
- Stream
- Significant Stream
- Highway
- County

4 Miles





Chain O Lakes-Fox River



4 Miles



Volo Bog is an exceptional example of a bog where all successional stages are present. The open water center is surrounded by a floating mat of sphagnum moss. A variety of grasses, reeds, and flowering plants grow on the sphagnum mat. Farther from the open water shrubs and trees, such as the tamarack, grow on the more consolidated peat.

ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES (*continued*)

	<u>Acres</u>
Lake-in-the-Hills Fen	147
Lange Road Marsh	*
Larsen Prairie	20
Lily Lake	88
Loon Lake	166
Lyons Prairie and Marsh	451
Nippersink Marsh	270
Nippersink Prairie	22
North Branch of Nippersink Creek	*
Parker Fen	8
Pistakee Bog	291
Rivers Bend Marsh	5
Roberts Road Fen	24
Round Lake	227
Round Lake Marsh	222
Schreiber Lake Bog	*
Ski Hill Prairie	5
Sleepy Hollow	22
Spring Creek Prairie	18
Spring Grove Fen	61
Stanley Road Bog	16
State Line Marsh	15
Sterne's Fen	51
Stickney Run Conservation Area	445
Streets Lake	88
Sun Lake	25
Tower Lake Fen	74
Trout Park	26
Turnberry Fen	40
Turner Lake	140
Veteran's Acres Park	5
Volo Bog	324
Wauconda Bog	623
Weingart Road Sedge Meadow	73
Windance Acres Marsh	93
* = point location, map not available	

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS

	<u>Miles</u>
Bangs Lake	3.3
Cedar Lake	3.1
Cross Lake	0.5
Crystal Lake	3.1
Deep Lake	2.6
East Loon Lake	2.4
Grays Lake	1.3
Lily Lake	1.7
McCullom Lake	2.3
N. Br. Nippersink Cr., WI border to Nippersink Cr	7.1
Round Lake	2.3
Sullivan Lake	1.4
Turner Lake	1.1
West Loon Lake	1.9
Wooster Lake	1.6

NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES

	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Communities		
Lake	11	2
Wetland	65	12
Forest	2	2
Savanna	2	2
Prairie	10	5
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	84	15
Fish	33	5
Insect	2	2
Mollusk	2	1
Threatened and Endangered Plants		
Plant-Dicot	117	32
Plant-Gymnosperm	9	2
Plant-Monocot	133	39
Geological Feature		
Geological Feature	1	1
Other		
Rookery	5	1

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND

	<u>Acres</u>
State Parks	
Chain-O-Lakes	3,669
McHenry Dam & Lake Defiance	1,669
State Conservation Areas	0
State Forests	0
State Fish and Wildlife Areas	0
Federal Land	0

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES

	<u>Acres</u>
Bakers Lake	170
Barrington Bog	46
Bates Fen	229
Carl&Claire Marie Sands-Main St. Prairie	75
Cary Prairie	7
Cedar Lake Bog	25
Cotton Creek Marsh	252
Elizabeth Lake	99
Exner Marsh	115
Farm Trails North	23
Fox River Fen	8
Gavin Bog and Prairie	103
Glacial Park	446
Gladstone Fen	4
Helm Woods	106
Julia M. & Royce L. Parker Fen	11
Kemper Park	13
Kettle Moraine	281
Kishwaukee Fen	50
Lake-in-the-Hills Fen	184
Lyons Prairie and Marsh	237
Oakwood Hills Fen	11
Pistakee Bog	87

Glacial landforms are common in the northeastern part of Illinois, the most recently glaciated region of the state. Rolling topography is the result of moraines (long ridges of glacial debris) and kames (conical mounds of glacial debris). Kettle holes and other depressions scooped out by the glaciers created an abundant variety of wetlands. Many of these features can be seen at Glacial Park in McHenry County.

Pitcher-plants and sundews are carnivorous plants found in bogs, fens, and on calcareous floating mats in northeastern Illinois. Insects fall into the rolled tube of the pitcher-plant and are digested by enzymes. Sundews actively trap insects with sticky droplets secreted on the tips of hairs; the hairs slowly curl around the prey, which is digested and absorbed by the plant.

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES *(continued)*

	<u>Acres</u>
Spring Grove Fen	30
Spring Lake	535
Sterne's Fen	196
Tower Lakes Fen	8
Trout Park	18
Turner Lake Fen	86
Volo Bog	151
Wagner Fen	46
Wauconda Bog	67
Weingart Road Sedge Meadow	47
Wingate Prairie	64

NATURAL DIVISIONS	Acres <u>in RRA</u>	% of <u>RRA</u>	% of <u>Division</u>
Northeastern Morainal	285,845	100.0	11.6





ILLINOIS BEACH

Illinois Beach RRA is one of the most ecologically rich and unique areas in Illinois. The diversity of habitats created because of its location on the shores of Lake Michigan support a wide variety of plants and animals. Significant and unusual topographic features include beaches, ridges and swales, and dunes. The area is an important migratory route for birds. This site's boundaries include urbanized areas of the Chicago metropolitan region.

LANDCOVER ♦ The predominant landcover in Illinois Beach RRA is urban/built-up (63%), followed by upland woods (15%). Illinois Beach RRA has the second highest percentage of urban/built-up acreage among the RRAs. This RRA ranks third in percentage of nonforested wetlands.

NATURAL AREAS ♦ There are 15 Natural Areas, covering almost 9% of the site. Illinois Beach and Illinois Dunes North account for three-fourths of the total Natural Area acreage.

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ This site has no BSS streams.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ Illinois Beach RRA has 155 Heritage points. Twenty-one significant community types occur in this RRA, several of which are primary communities—foredunes, beaches, and bluffs—specific to this part of the state. The Heritage database lists 47 plant species, 17 animal species, and a peregrine falcon nesting site for this RRA.

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND ♦ State land consists of Illinois Beach State Park. Fort Sheridan is currently federally owned.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ There are three Nature Preserves in this site. Many unique lakefront communities such as lakeshore, foredune, sand prairie, sand savanna, fen, panne, sedge meadow, marsh, and pond are found in these Nature Preserves.

NATURAL DIVISION ♦ Illinois Beach RRA is in the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division.

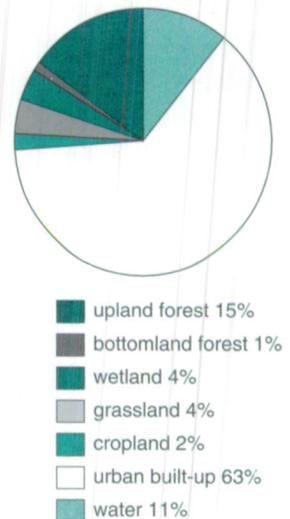
SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LANDS

Total Acreage	49,172
Natural Areas	
Acreage	4,252
Number	15
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage	0
Natural Heritage Sites	155
State Land	
State Parks	1
State Conservation Areas	0
State Forests	0
State Fish & Wildlife Areas	0

Size:
49,172 acres
77 square miles

Location:
Northeastern Illinois
on Lake Michigan;
Lake and Cook
counties

Landcover at a Glance



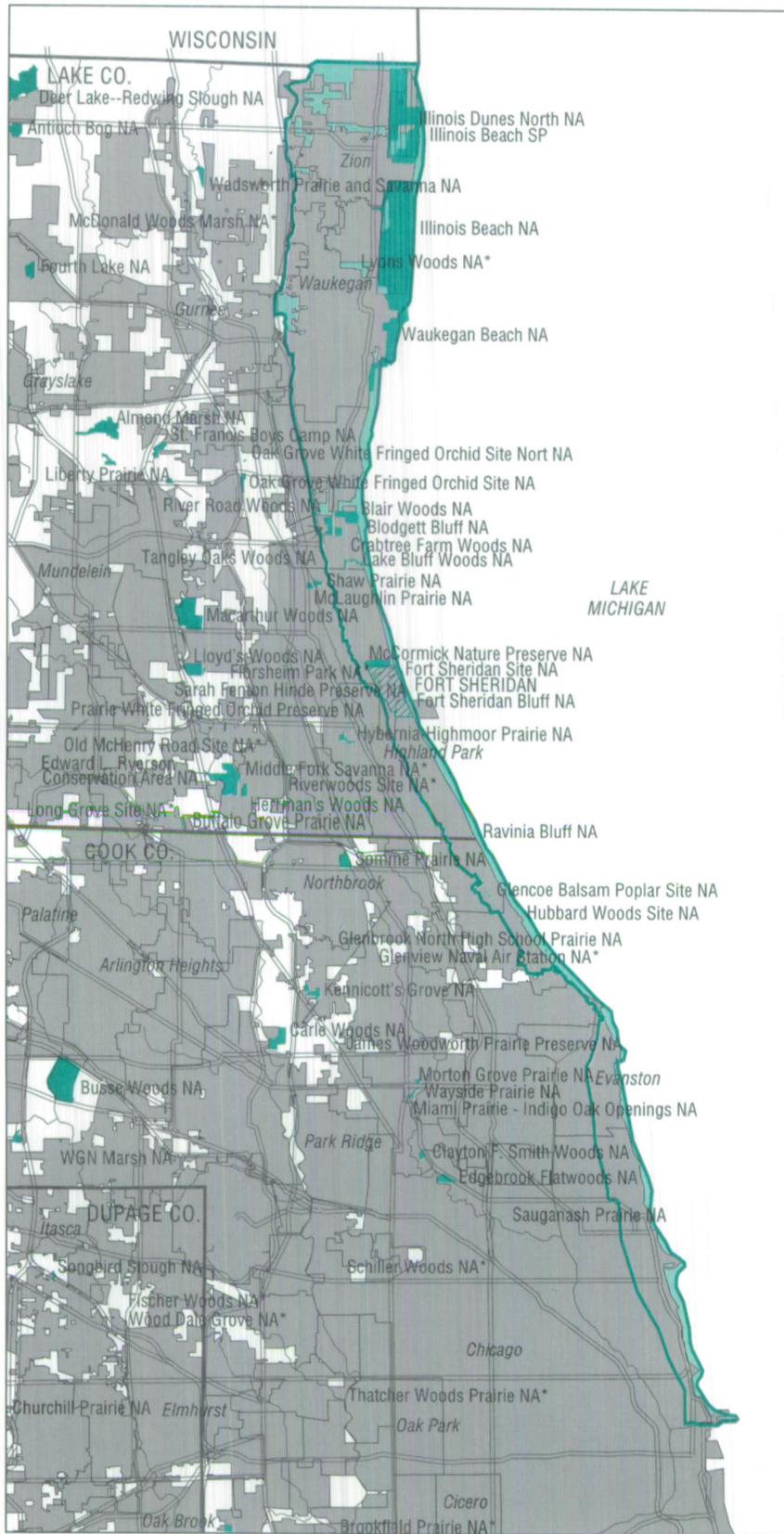
Bordering the edge of Lake Michigan in Lake County is a landscape unique in the state. A long, narrow band of beaches, sand dunes, swales, marshes, sand prairies, savannas, and oak forests occurs here, the result of the gradual lowering of Lake Michigan. Illinois Beach is one of the most biologically diverse areas in the state; more than 650 species of plants have been identified from this area.

State Land <i>(continued)</i>		
Acreage		3,092
Percentage of RRA		6.3
Federal Land		
Acreage		726
Percentage of RRA		1.5
LANDCOVER	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Upland forest	7,134.37	14.51
Bottomland forest	504.58	1.03
Wetland-nonforested	2,180.29	4.43
Grassland	1,909.74	3.88
Cropland	927.27	1.89
Urban/Built-up	30,866.50	62.77
Water	<u>5,350.88</u>	<u>10.88</u>
TOTAL	48,873.63	99.39
ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES		<u>Acres</u>
Blair Woods		135
Blodgett Bluff		5
Crabtree Farm Woods		37
Fort Sheridan Bluff		24
Fort Sheridan Site		2
Glencoe Balsam Poplar Site		6
Hubbard Woods Site		2
Illinois Beach		2,013
Illinois Dunes North		1,222
Lake Bluff Woods		34
Lyons Woods		*
McCormick Nature Preserve		135
Ravinia Bluff		4
Tangley Oaks Woods		87
Waukegan Beach		547
* = point location, map not available		
BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS		
None		
NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Communities		
Lake	2	2
Wetland	9	5
Forest	8	2
Savanna	2	2
Prairie	11	7
Primary	7	3
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	11	9
Fish	4	2
Reptile	2	2
Insect	4	4
Threatened and Endangered Plants		
Plant-Dicot	46	22
Plant-Gymnosperm	16	4
Plant-Monocot	1632	21

Geological Feature				
Other				
Hacking Site Peregrine Falcon		1		1
STATE AND FEDERAL LAND				
State Parks				
Illinois Beach			3,092	
State Conservation Areas			0	
State Forests			0	
State Fish and Wildlife Areas			0	
Federal Land				
Fort Sheridan			726	
ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES				
			<u>Acres</u>	
Illinois Beach			1,095	
North Dunes			242	
Spring Bluff			214	
NATURAL DIVISIONS				
		<u>Acres</u>		<u>% of</u>
		<u>in RRA</u>		<u>RRA</u>
Northeastern Morainal		48,685		99.0
Major Water Bodies		487		1.0
				<u>Division</u>
				2.0
				.0

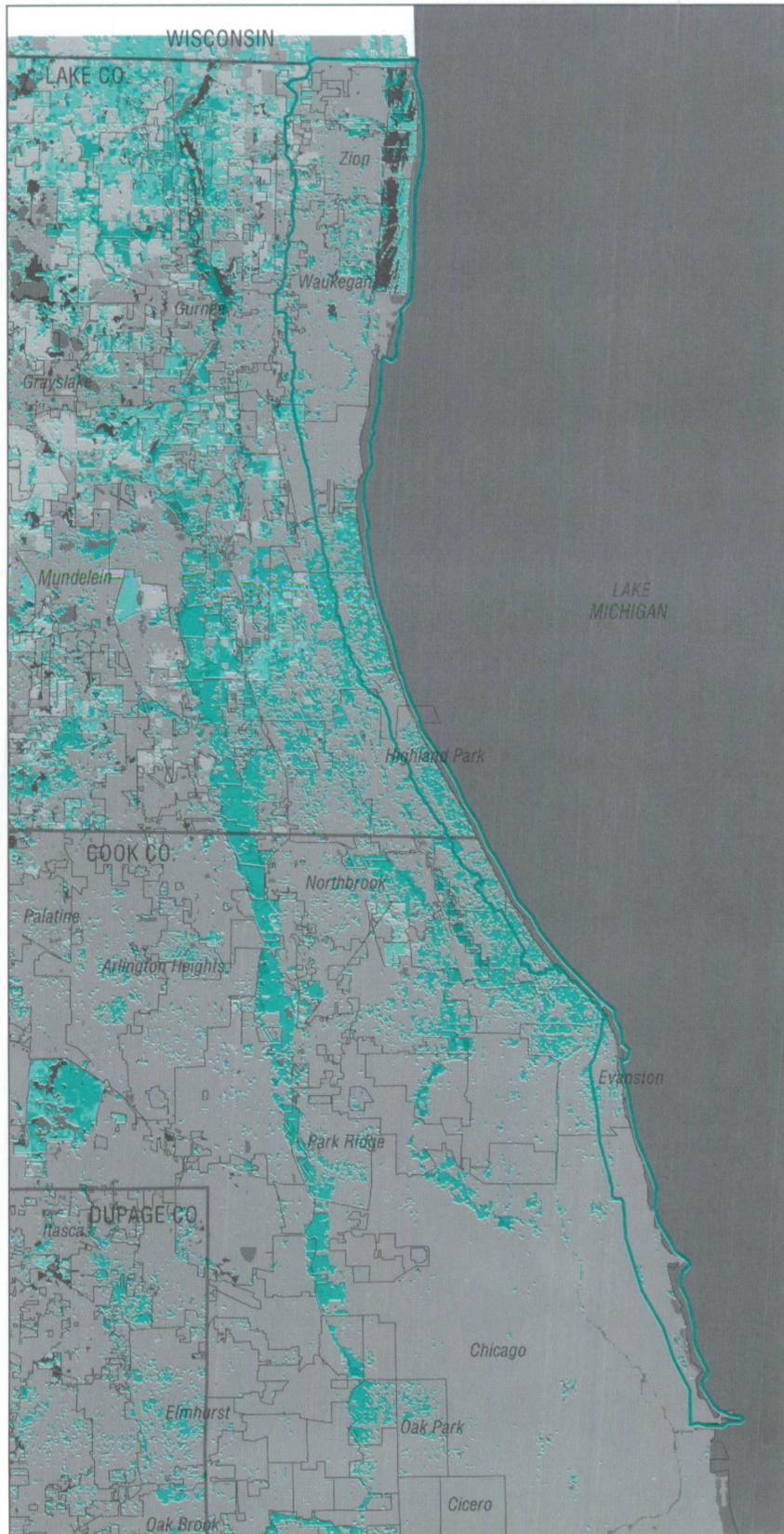


Microclimates along the lakefront range from extremely dry beaches and sand dunes to the moist swales or sloughs between the sand ridges. In this relatively small area the flora ranges from the prickly pear cactus and creeping juniper to wetland plants and wildflowers such as orchids, wood lilies, gentians, and Indian paintbrushes.

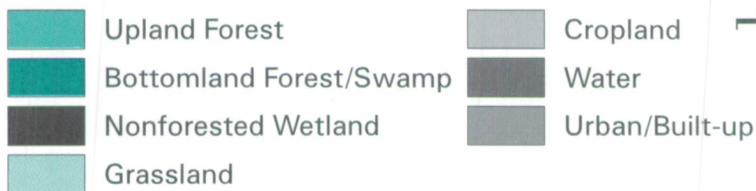


Illinois Beach





Illinois Beach



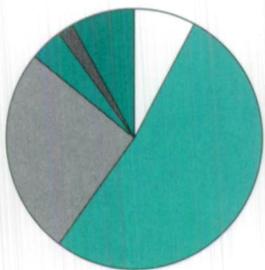
4 Miles



Size:
 64,386 acres
 101 square miles

Location:
 North-central
 Illinois; McHenry
 and Boone
 counties

Landcover at a Glance



- upland forest 8%
- bottomland forest 2%
- wetland 4%
- grassland 26%
- cropland 52%
- urban built-up 8%
- water <1%

KISHWAUKEE RIVER

The natural resources of the Kishwaukee River RRA are concentrated along the wooded corridor of the river. Originally savanna with many sloughs and marshes, the area is now primarily agricultural. This RRA drains to the Rock River. The Chain O' Lakes-Fox River RRA, which adjoins the Kishwaukee River RRA on the east, drains to the Fox River and ultimately the Illinois River.



LANDCOVER ♦ This site is approximately half cropland and one-fourth grassland. Forest cover accounts for 11% of the area and is concentrated along the river. The Kishwaukee River RRA ranks fourth in percentage of nonforested wetlands.

NATURAL AREAS ♦ There are three Natural Areas in this RRA.

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ Fifteen miles of the Kishwaukee River are designated as high quality by BSS standards.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ The eight Heritage points in this RRA include two significant community types, two plant species, and four animal species.

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND ♦ There is no state or federal land in this RRA.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ There are no Nature Preserves in this RRA.

NATURAL DIVISIONS ♦ This site lies entirely within the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division.

SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LANDS

Total Acreage		64,386
Natural Areas		
Acreage		362
Number		3
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage		15.0
Natural Heritage Sites		8
State Land		
State Parks		0
State Conservation Areas		0
State Forests		0
State Fish & Wildlife Areas		0
Acreage		0
Percentage of RRA		0.0
Federal Land		
Acreage		0
Percentage of RRA		0.0
LANDCOVER	<u>Acre</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Upland forest	5,264.98	8.18
Bottomland forest	1,567.73	2.44
Wetland-nonforested	2,456.07	3.81
Grassland	16,722.80	25.97

Cropland	33,178.06	51.53
Urban/Built-up	4,935.01	7.67
Water	<u>258.51</u>	<u>0.40</u>
TOTAL	64,383.16	100.00

ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES

Hum Railroad Prairie West		<u>Acres</u>
Kishwaukee River		137
Pleasant Valley		224
* = point location, map not available		*

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS

Kishwaukee River		<u>Miles</u>
Rush Creek		15.0
		0.0

NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES

Communities	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Prairie	2	2
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	2	2
Fish	1	1
Mammal	1	1
Threatened and Endangered Plants		
Plant-Dicot	2	2
Geological Feature		
Other		

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND

State Parks		<u>Acres</u>
State Conservation Areas		0
State Forests		0
State Fish and Wildlife Areas		0
Federal Land		0

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES

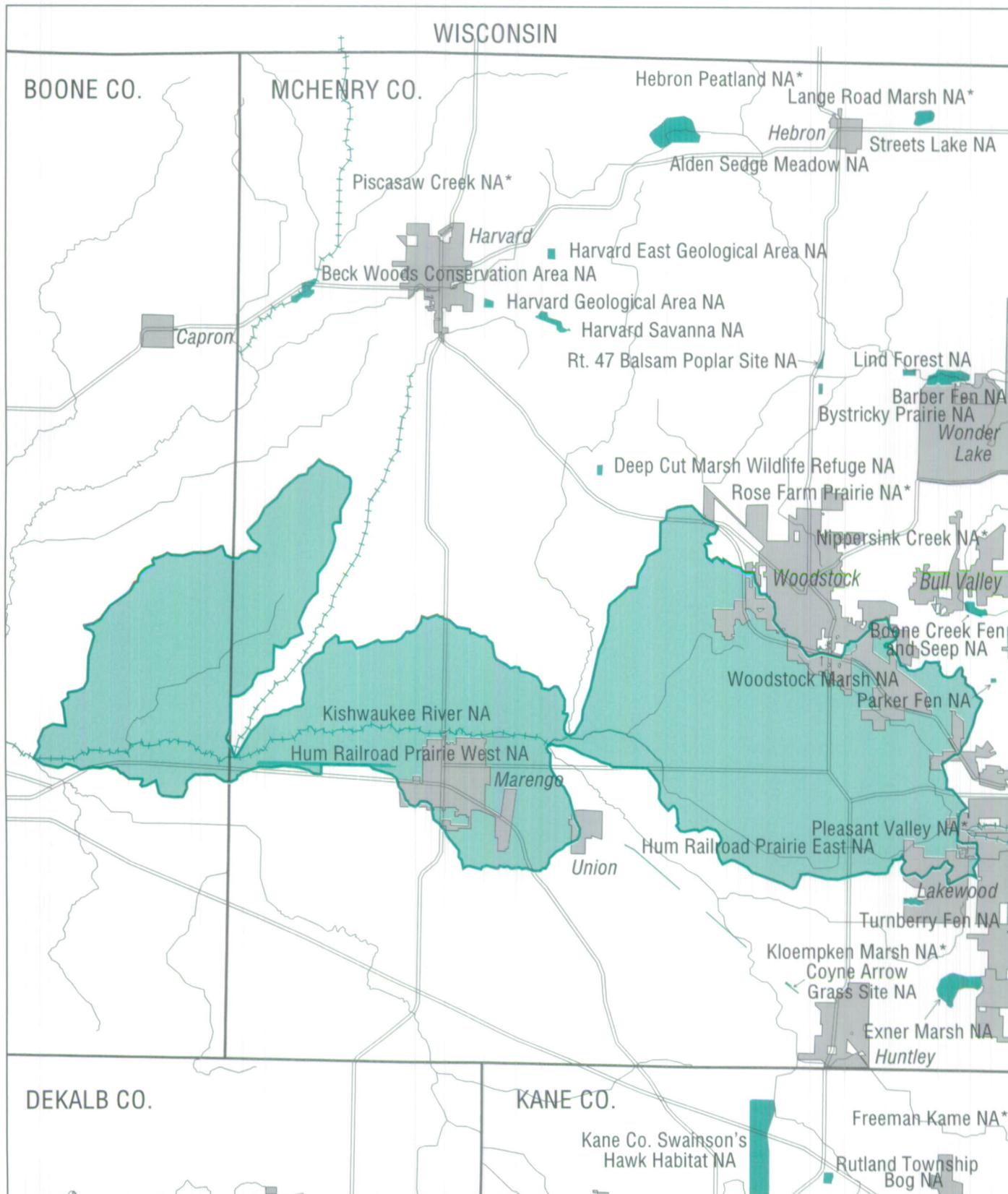
None

NATURAL DIVISIONS

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of</u>	<u>% of</u>
	<u>in RRA</u>	<u>RRA</u>	<u>Division</u>
Northeastern Morainal	64,387	100.0	2.6



Fifteen miles of the Kishwaukee River is identified in the Biologically Significant Illinois Streams Inventory. The clear water of this medium-sized stream with its gravel, sand, and cobble substrate supports a diverse mussel fauna.



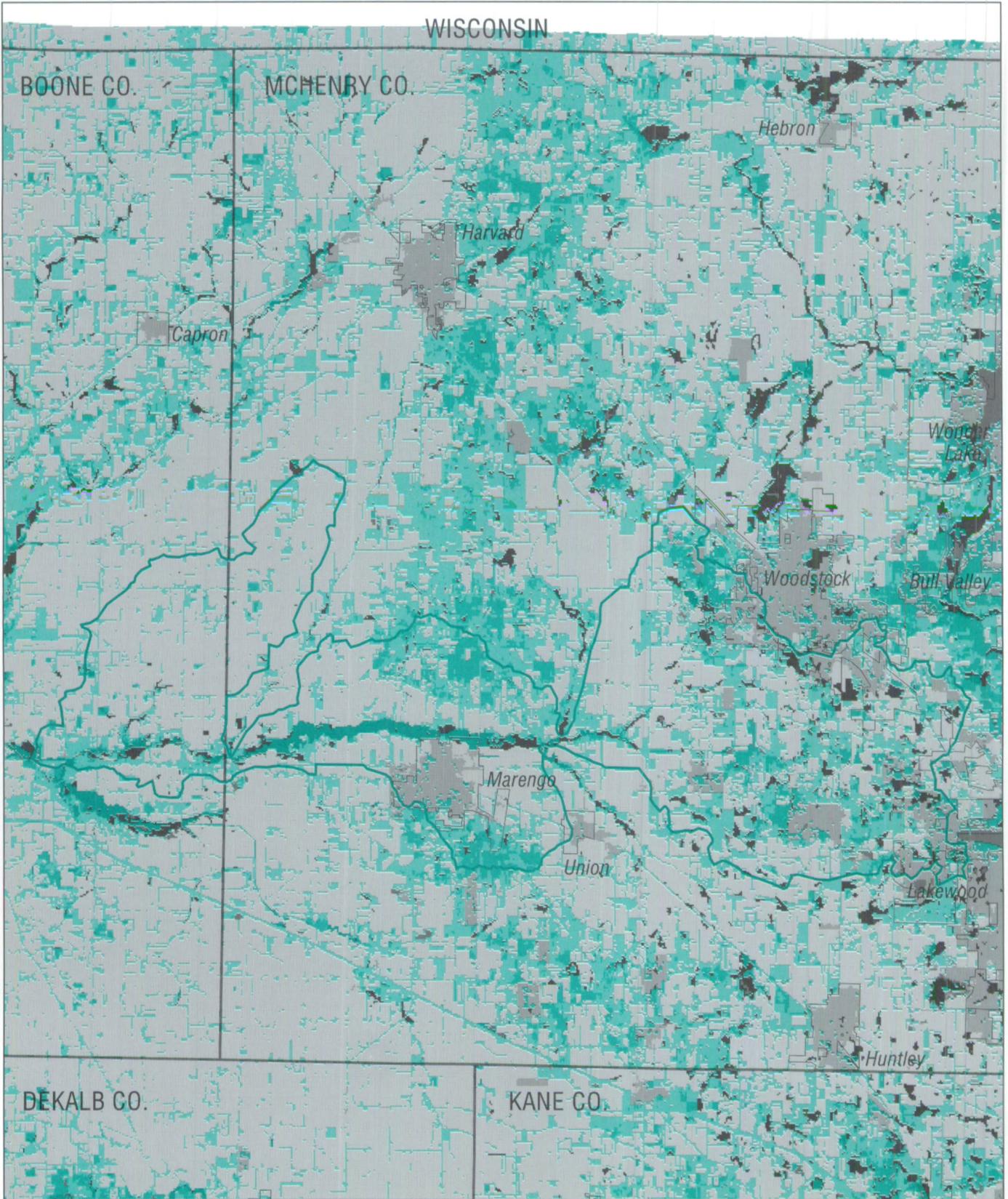
Kishwaukee River

- Natural Area
- Town
- State Land
- Federal Land

- Stream
- Significant Stream
- Highway
- County

3 Miles





Kishwaukee River

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------|
|  | Upland Forest |  | Cropland |
|  | Bottomland Forest/Swamp |  | Water |
|  | Nonforested Wetland |  | Urban/Built-up |
|  | Grassland | | |

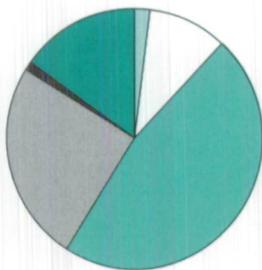
3 Miles




Size:
 206,215 acres
 322 square miles

Location:
 North-central
 Illinois; Boone,
 Lee, Ogle, and
 Winnebago
 counties

Landcover at a Glance



- upland forest 15%
- bottomland forest 1%
- wetland <1%
- grassland 25%
- cropland 47%
- urban built-up 10%
- water 2%

ROCK RIVER

The ecological core of this RRA is the Rock River corridor from Rockford to Dixon. Significant features include upland and floodplain forests, seeps, springs, prairies, aquatic systems, cliffs, and bedrock outcroppings. Some of the habitats support relict boreal plants which are more normally found farther north in Wisconsin and Minnesota and in the Appalachian Mountains. Principal landcover in the area is cropland and pasture; forest cover is concentrated along the river. This site is a pilot area for efforts by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to implement its local partnership program.



LANDCOVER ♦ Cropland is the predominant landcover (47%), followed by grassland (25%) and upland woods (15%). This RRA ranks 15th in percentage of upland woods. The percentages of nonforested wetland and bottomland forest are low compared to the other RRAs (24th and 28th, respectively).

NATURAL AREAS ♦ The 20 Natural Areas range from less than an acre (Stronghold Hill Prairie) to 2,311 acres (Lowden-Miller Forest). Nachusa Grasslands is the second largest Natural Area with 1,583 acres.

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ BSS designated streams are a nearly seven mile stretch of the Rock River and the entire length of the Kishwaukee River in this RRA.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ There are 101 Heritage occurrences consisting of seven significant community types, 32 plants species, eight animal species, and a rookery.

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND ♦ There are three state parks within the site and one state forest.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ Four Nature Preserves are present and contain such significant features as upland forest, sandstone cliffs, gorges, and prairie.

NATURAL DIVISIONS ♦ This RRA is within the Rock River Hill County (84%), Northeastern Morainal (11%), and Grand Prairie (5%) Natural Divisions. This site has the largest acreage of the Rock River Hill Country division among the RRAs.

SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LANDS

Total Acreage	206,215
Natural Areas	
Acreage	5,416
Number	20
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage	17.5
Natural Heritage Sites	101
State Land	
State Parks	3
State Conservation Areas	0
State Forests	1
State Fish & Wildlife Areas	0

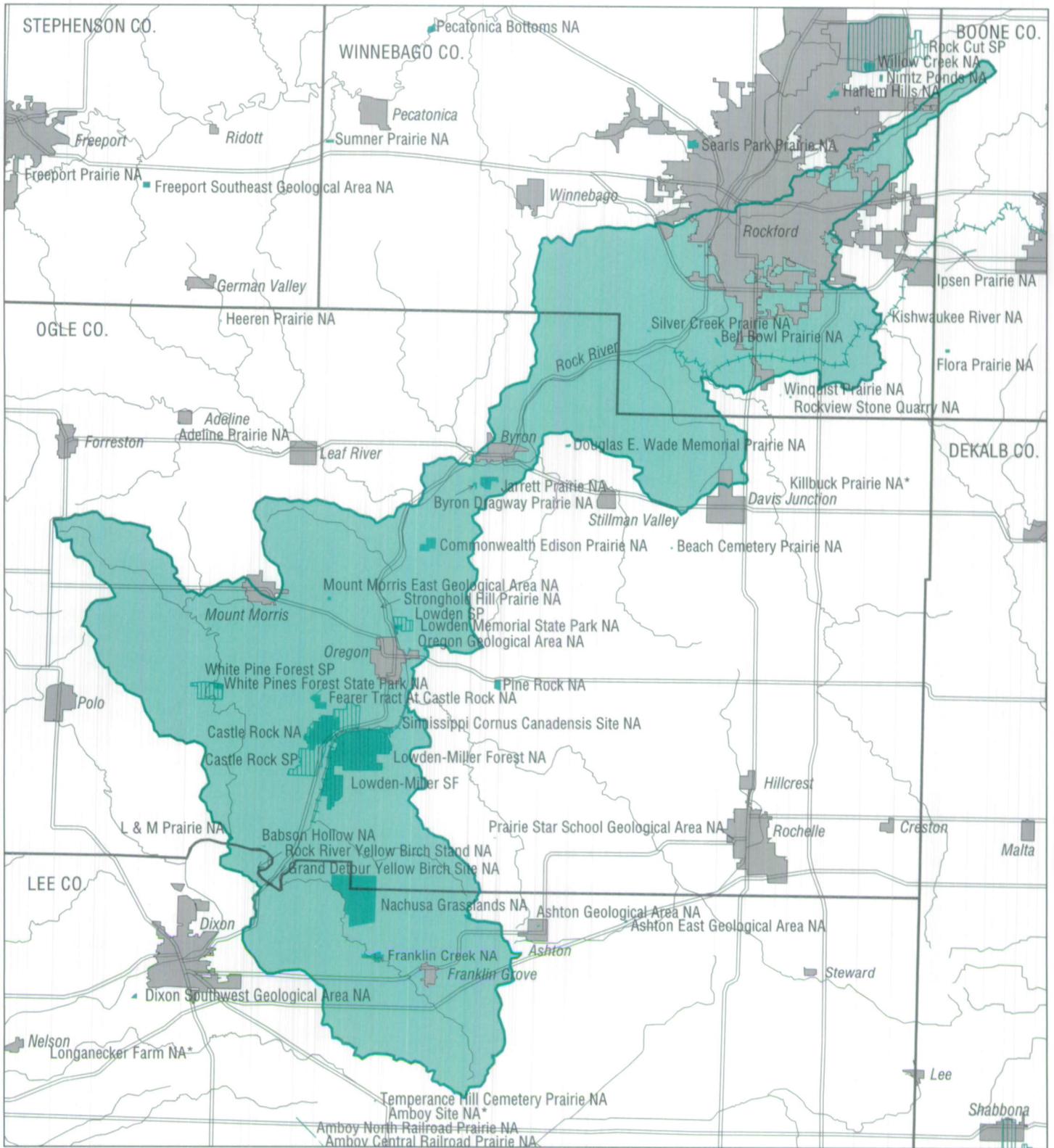
Acreage	4,706
Percentage of RRA	2.3
Federal Land	
Acreage	0
Percentage of RRA	0.0

LANDCOVER	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Upland forest	30,458.06	14.77
Bottomland forest	2,552.41	1.24
Wetland-nonforested	608.75	0.30
Grassland	50,586.08	24.53
Cropland	96,519.14	46.81
Urban/Built-up	21,146.41	10.25
Water	<u>4,340.92</u>	<u>2.11</u>
TOTAL	206,211.77	100.01

ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES	<u>Acres</u>
Babson Hollow	4
Bell Bowl Prairie	21
Byron Dragway Prairie	16
Castle Rock	644
Commonwealth Edison Prairie	147
Fearer Tract At Castle Rock	145
Franklin Creek	148
Grand Detour Yellow Birch Site	11
Jarrett Prairie	140
Kishwaukee River	129
Lowden Memorial State Park	22
Lowden-Miller Forest	2,311
Mount Morris East Geological Area	10
Nachusa Grasslands	1,583
Oregon Geological Area	7
Rock River Yellow Birch Stand	7
Silver Creek Prairie	4
Sinnissippi Cornus Canadensis Site	2
Stronghold Hill Prairie	<1
White Pines Forest State Park	64
BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS	<u>Miles</u>
Kishwaukee River	10.7
Rock River, Honey Creek to Clear Creek	6.8

NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Communities		
Wetland	3	2
Communities		
Forest	4	2
Prairie	3	3
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	9	6
Mammal	1	1
Reptile	2	1
Threatened and Endangered Plants		
Plant-Dicot	47	17
Plant-Monocot	11	7
Plant-Fern/Fern Ally	15	8

Castle Rock State Park is named for a large outcropping of sandstone along the Rock River. Although this type of sandstone (St. Peter) underlies most of the state, it is exposed at the surface in only a few places. A diversity of natural communities is found here, including ravine, upland and floodplain forest, prairie, stream, and sandstone outcrops. Many plant associations of more northern climates exist in the deep ravines. Relict boreal plants such as native white pine, bunchberry, hairy woodrush, round-leaved shinleaf, and wild sarsaparilla are found in shaded areas with acidic sandy soil.



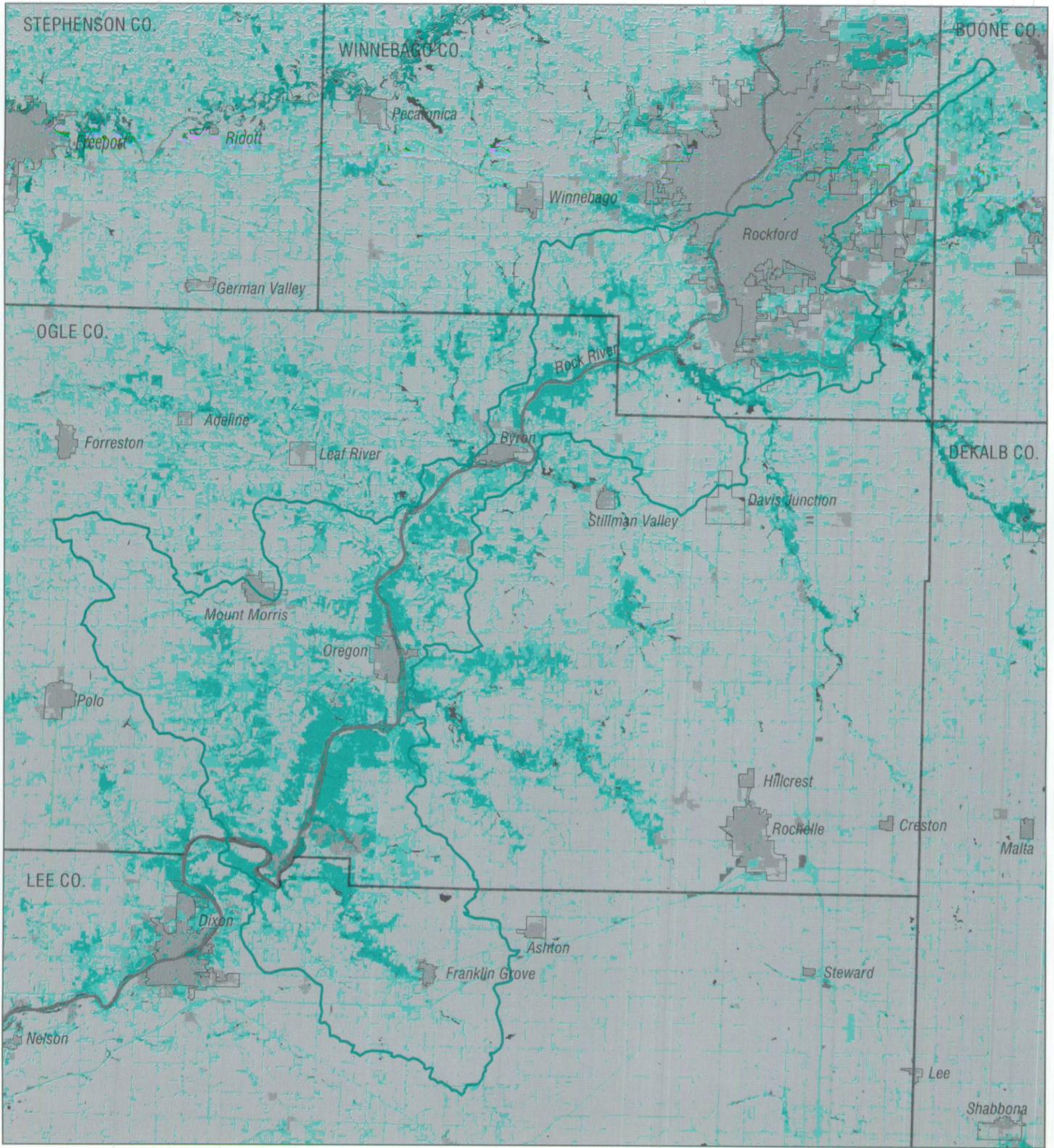
Rock River

-  Natural Area
-  Town
-  State Land
-  Federal Land

-  Stream
-  Significant Stream
-  Highway
-  County

5 Miles





Rock River



The largest remnant of native white pines in Illinois is found at White Pines State Park. Local citizens began petitioning for the area to be saved as early as 1903. The mixed hardwood-conifer forest is unique in Illinois.

NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES <i>(continued)</i>		<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types</u>
Geological Feature		5	1
Other			
Rookery		1	1
STATE AND FEDERAL LAND			
State Parks			<u>Acres</u>
Castle Rock			1,793
Lowden			205
White Pine Forest			397
State Conservation Areas			0
State Forests			
Lowden-Miller			2,311
State Fish and Wildlife Areas			0
Federal Land			0
ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES			
Franklin Creek			<u>Acres</u>
George B. Fell			100
Jarret Prairie			670
Severson Dells			102
			21
NATURAL DIVISIONS			
	Acres	% of	% of
	<u>in RRA</u>	<u>RRA</u>	<u>Division</u>
Rock River Hill Country	173,663	84.2	11.5
Northeastern Morainal	22,274	10.8	0.9
Grand Prairie	10,279	5.0	0.0





DUPAGE RIVER

The DuPage River site is located in the highly urbanized western suburbs of Chicago. It is comprised of the watershed of the East Branch of the DuPage River. Because of its small size, this RRA ranked relatively high among the watersheds based on percentage of forest and nonforested wetlands in the watershed. Wooded areas such as Morton Arboretum and county forest preserves contributed to inclusion of this site as a Resource Rich Area.

LANDCOVER ♦ This RRA is the most urbanized of the sites; urban/built-up land accounts for 68% of the area. Upland woods cover 19% of the area, some of which is heavily wooded residential areas. There is little bottomland woods. The DuPage River RRA ranks sixth in percentage of nonforested wetlands; they are concentrated along the river.

NATURAL AREAS ♦ Seven sites covering 1,576 acres occur in this RRA. They range in size from small prairie sites (10 and 33 acres) and a marsh (eight acres) to Morton Arboretum (1,423 acres).

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ There are no BSS streams in this site.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ There are relatively few Heritage Sites; they include three community types, six plant species, and five animal species.

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND ♦ There is no state or federal land in this site.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ Principal natural features at the two Nature Preserves in this RRA are prairies, upland forest, savanna, and sedge meadow.

NATURAL DIVISIONS ♦ This site lies entirely within the Northeastern Morainal Division.

SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LANDS

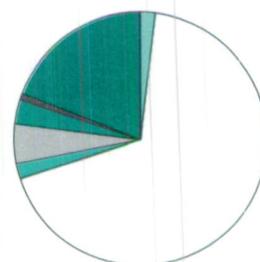
Total Acreage	51,653
Natural Areas	
Acreage	1,576
Number	7
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage	0
Natural Heritage Sites	17
State Land	
State Parks	0
State Conservation Areas	0
State Forests	0
State Fish & Wildlife Areas	0
Acreage	0
Percentage of RRA	0.0
Federal Land	
Acreage	0
Percentage of RRA	0.0

LANDCOVER	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Upland forest	9,593.45	18.57

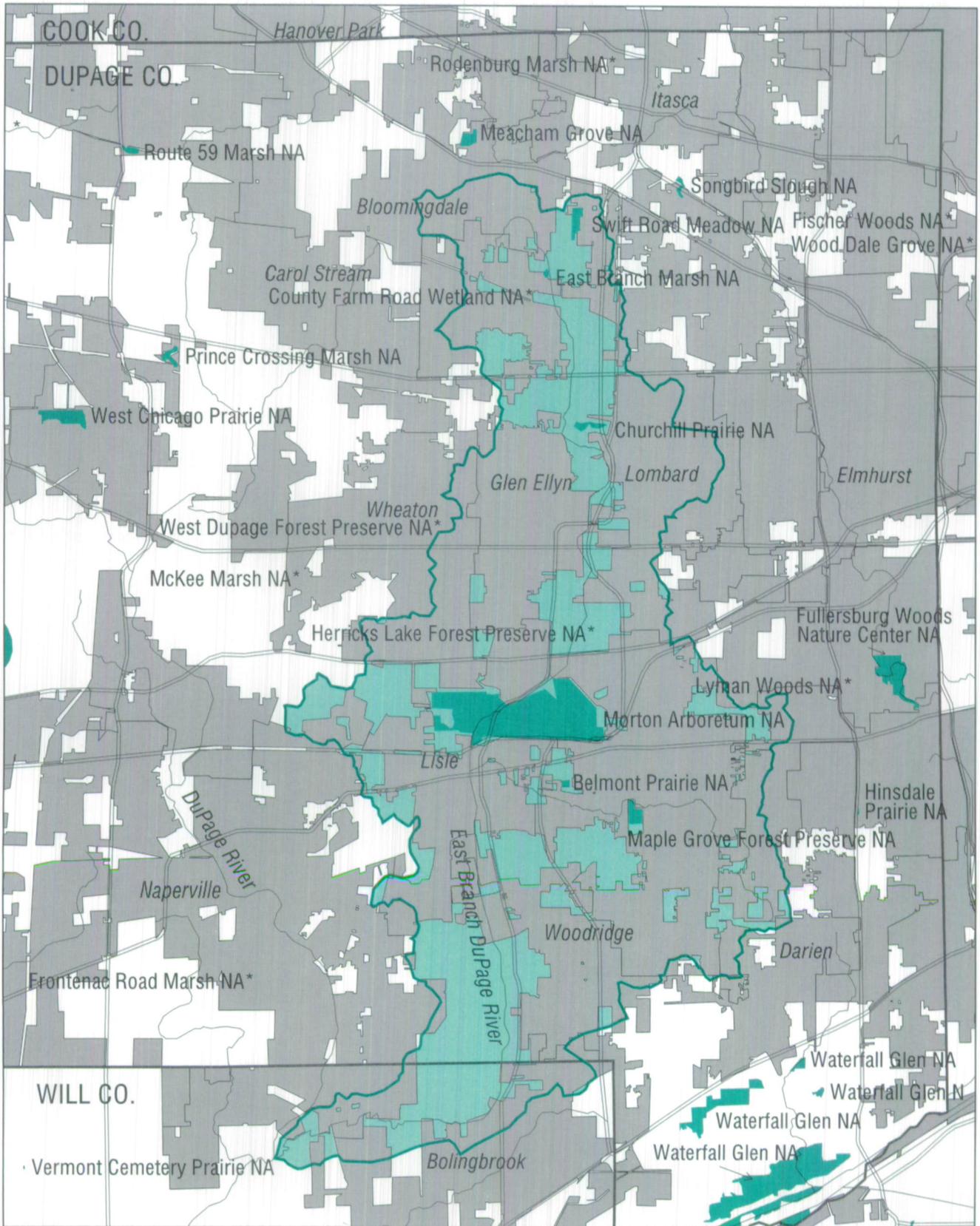
Size:
51,653 acres
81 square miles

Location:
Northeastern Illinois, western Chicago metropolitan area; DuPage and Will counties

Landcover at a Glance



- upland forest 19%
- bottomland forest <1%
- wetland 3%
- grassland 5%
- cropland 2%
- urban built-up 68%
- water 2%

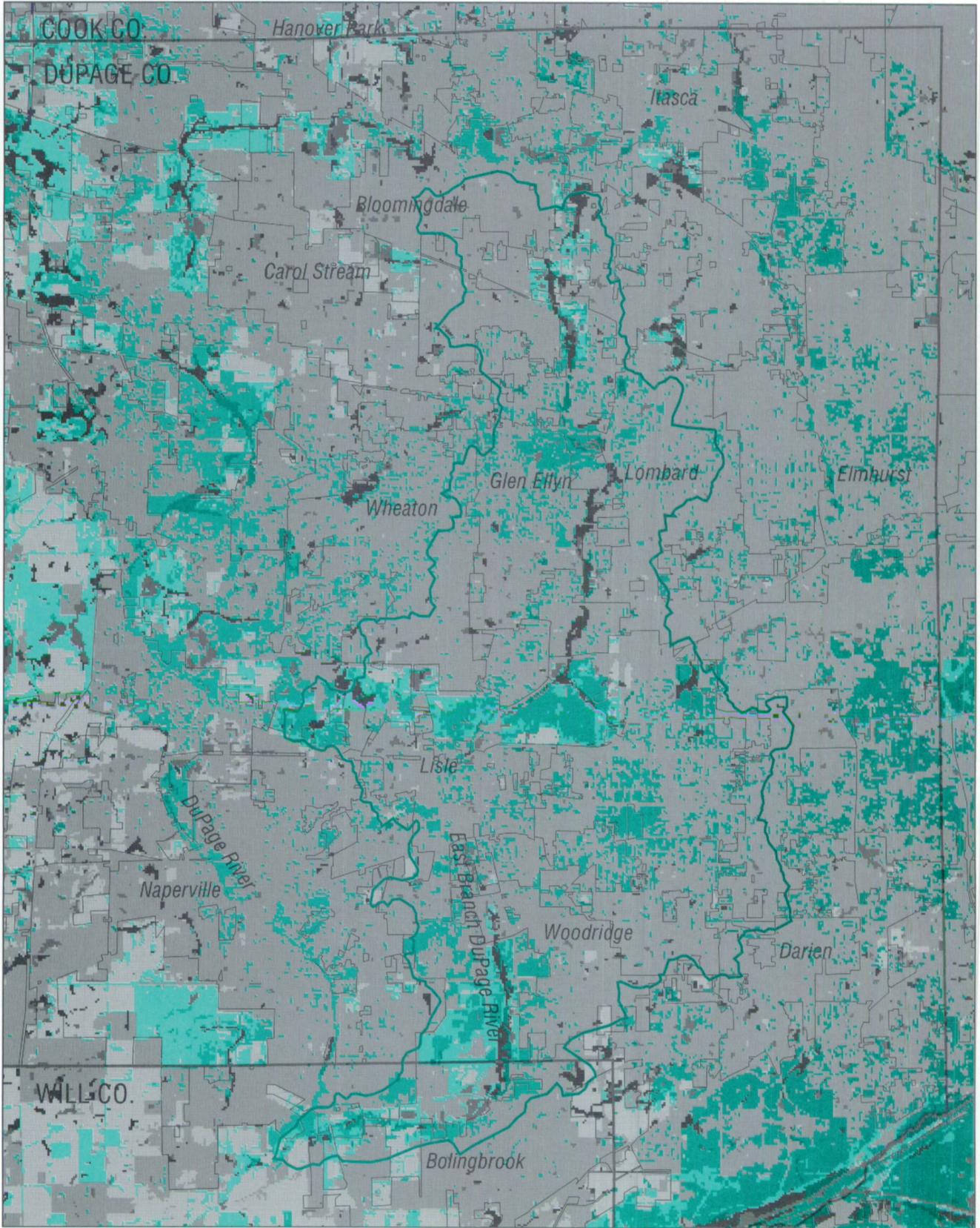


DuPage River

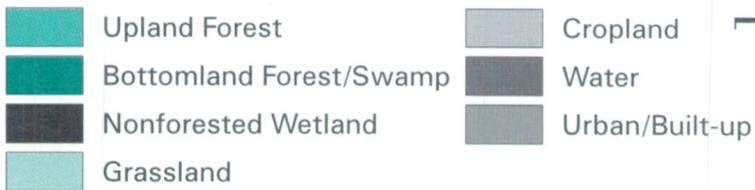
- | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|--------------------|
|  | Natural Area |  | Stream |
|  | Town |  | Significant Stream |
|  | State Land |  | Highway |
|  | Federal Land |  | County |

2 Miles





DuPage River



2 Miles



Morton Arboretum, comprised of designed landscapes, plant collections, and restored natural communities, is a living museum for research and education. Originally the land was mostly forested with some prairies, wetlands, and aquatic communities. The Morton family designated land from the family farm to be converted to an arboretum beginning in 1917. The Arboretum's prairie restoration site is one of the best places in Illinois to experience the prairies of presettlement times.

LANDCOVER <i>(continued)</i>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Bottomland forest	507.39	0.98
Wetland-nonforested	1,351.77	2.62
Grassland	2,706.95	5.24
Cropland	1,309.42	2.54
Urban/Built-up	35,252.98	68.26
Water	<u>925.26</u>	<u>1.79</u>
TOTAL	51,647.22	100.00
ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES		<u>Acres</u>
Belmont Prairie		10
Churchill Prairie		33
East Branch Marsh		8
Lyman Woods		*
Maple Grove Forest Preserve		52
Morton Arboretum		1,423
Swift Road Meadow		51
* = point location, map not available		
BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS		
None		
NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES		
Communities	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Forest	2	1
Prairie	2	2
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	4	4
Reptile	1	1
Threatened and Endangered Plants		
Plant-Dicot	3	2
Plant-Monocot	5	4
Geological Feature		
Other		
STATE AND FEDERAL LAND		<u>Acres</u>
State Parks		0
State Conservation Areas		0
State Forests		0
State Fish and Wildlife Areas		0
Federal Land		0
ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES		<u>Acres</u>
Belmont Prairie		10
Churchill Prairie		65
NATURAL DIVISIONS	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of</u>
	<u>in RRA</u>	<u>RRA</u>
Northeastern Morainal	51,653	100.0
		<u>% of</u>
		<u>Division</u>
		2.1





MISSISSIPPI - LOWER ROCK RIVER

The Mississippi - Lower Rock River RRA includes major rivers, bottomlands, upland forests, prairies, and river bluffs. This RRA has a relatively high total acreage of Natural Areas due primarily to Mississippi River sites.

LANDCOVER ♦ Cropland (54%) and grassland (18%) cover almost three-fourths of the land area. This RRA ranks 14th in percentage of bottomland woods, and 23rd in percentage of upland woods. Overall, woods accounts for almost 13% of the land area. This site has the fourth highest acreage and the ninth highest percentage of nonforested wetlands.

NATURAL AREAS ♦ This RRA ranks third among the RRAs in terms of the Natural Area acreage. Four Mississippi River sites account for the majority of Natural Area acreage. The natural features found in the 17 Natural Areas in this RRA include prairies, marshes, aquatic features, and forests.

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ Six BSS designations account for over 44 miles of BSS streams within this site. Three BSS segments occur on the Mississippi River and one on the Rock River.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ This RRA has 74 Heritage occurrences. Of the ten significant community types, seven are prairies. Four plant species, 17 animal species, and six rookeries are found in this site.

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND ♦ Within this RRA there are two state parks and one state fish and wildlife area. Federal land along the Mississippi River totals 15,694 acres.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ Three Nature Preserves occur within the site. Elton E. Fawks Bald Eagle Refuge is the largest (164 acres) and serves as an important winter roosting site for bald eagles. Black Hawk Forest is one of the few remaining areas representative of the narrow, forested bluff lines which characterizes the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division.

NATURAL DIVISIONS ♦ Seven natural divisions comprise this RRA. The Upper Mississippi and Illinois River Bottomlands is the predominant Natural Division (40%), followed by the Grand Prairie Division (22%) and the Middle Mississippi Border (20%).

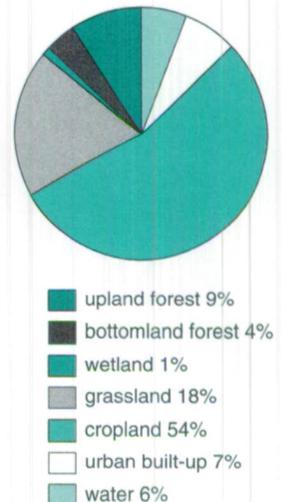
SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LANDS

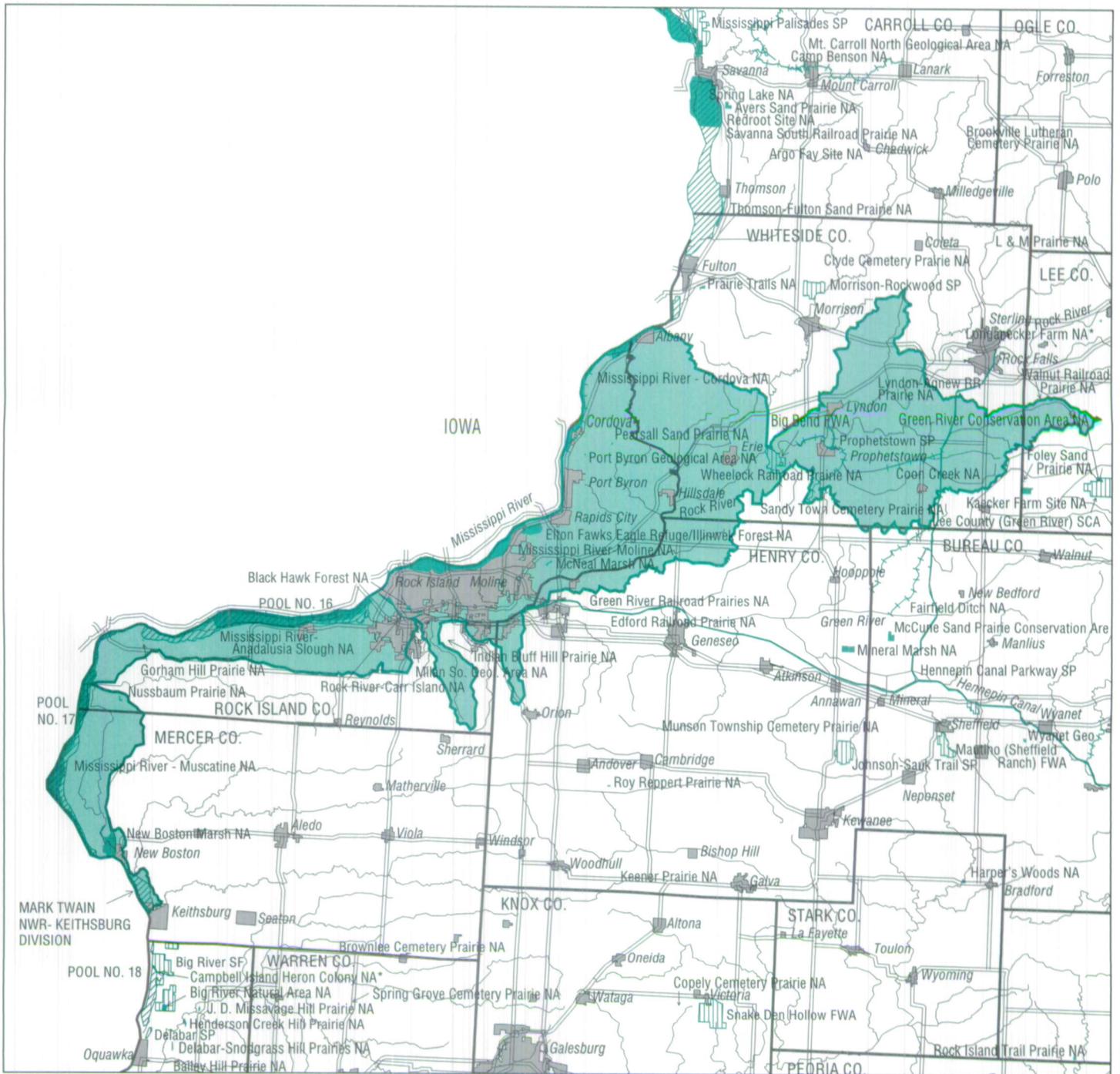
Total Acreage	457,449
Natural Areas	
Acreage	18,590
Number	17
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage	44.2
Natural Heritage Sites	74
State Land	
State Parks	2
State Conservation Areas	0

Size:
457,449 acres
715 square miles

Location:
Northwestern
Illinois along the
Mississippi and
Lower Rock Rivers;
Bureau, Henry, Lee,
Mercer, Rock
Island, and
Whiteside counties

Landcover at a Glance



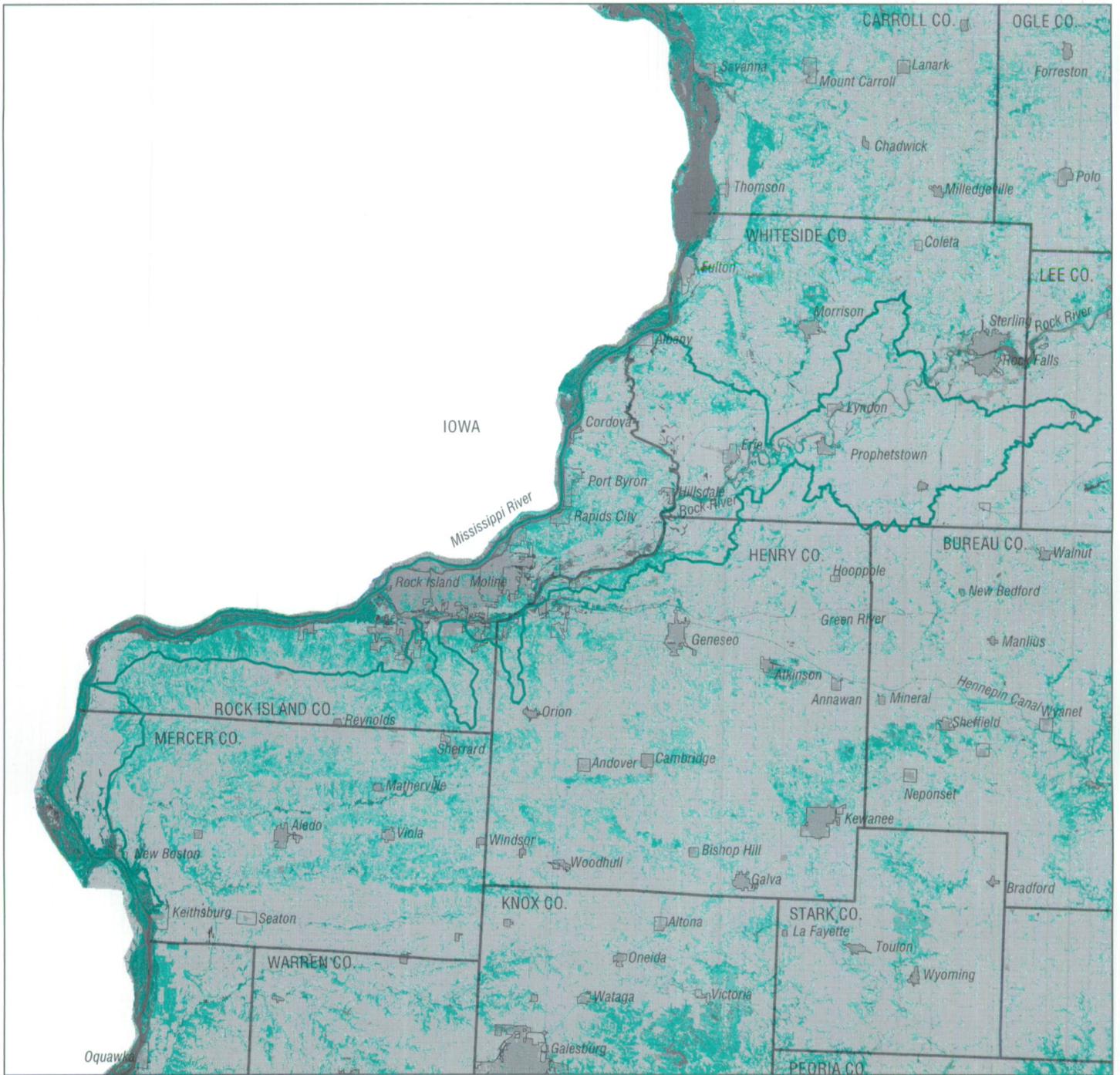


Mississippi-Lower Rock

- | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|--------------------|
|  | Natural Area |  | Stream |
|  | Town |  | Significant Stream |
|  | State Land |  | Highway |
|  | Federal Land |  | County |

10 Miles





Mississippi-Lower Rock

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------|
|  | Upland Forest |  | Cropland |
|  | Bottomland Forest/Swamp |  | Water |
|  | Nonforested Wetland |  | Urban/Built-up |
|  | Grassland | | |

10 Miles



Bald eagles once commonly nested along the large rivers in Illinois. Declines in the continental population were reflected in the small number of eagles observed in Illinois from the late 1800s to the mid 1900s. Although nesting bald eagles are rare in Illinois, important wintering sites for bald eagles are found along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. Eagles which nest further north migrate to this area to feed on the fish below the dams where the turbulent water remains open even in the coldest winters. One important winter roost is just upstream from the Quad Cities at the Elton E. Fawks Bald Eagle Refuge Nature Preserve.

State Land (<i>continued</i>)		
State Forests		0
State Fish & Wildlife Areas		1
Acreage		1,493
Percentage of RRA		0.3
Federal Land		
Acreage		15,694
Percentage of RRA		3.4
LANDCOVER	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Upland forest	39,064.63	8.54
Bottomland Forest	18,722.26	4.09
Wetland-nonforested	5,834.99	1.28
Grassland	84,511.77	18.47
Cropland	246,919.00	53.98
Urban-Built Up	33,937.74	7.42
Water	<u>28,449.17</u>	<u>6.22</u>
TOTAL	457,439.56	100.00
ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES		
		<u>Acres</u>
Black Hawk Forest		93
Coon Creek		58
Elton Fawks Eagle Refuge/Illiniwek Forest		706
Gorham Hill Prairie		11
Lyndon -Agnew Railroad Prairie		32
McNeal Marsh		47
Mississippi River - Andalusia Slough		6,455
Mississippi River - Cordova		2,034
Mississippi River - Moline		2,297
Mississippi River - Muscatine		5,106
New Boston Marsh		1,147
Nussbaum Prairie		41
Pearsall Sand Prairie		13
Port Byron Geological Area		10
Rock River-Carr Island		530
Sandy Town Cemetery Prairie		4
Wheelock Railroad Prairie		6
BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS		
		<u>Miles</u>
Coon Creek		7.5
County Ditch #1		5.6
Mississippi River, Andalusia Slough		10.6
Mississippi River, Sylvan Slough/Arsenal Island		4.9
Mississippi River, rm 501-509, Rock Island Co.		8.5
Rock River, Lyndon to Indian Island		7.1
NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES		
Communities	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Wetland	2	1
Forest	3	2
Prairie	10	7
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	13	5
Fish	7	4
Mammal	4	2
Reptile	2	1

Mollusk		22		5
Threatened and Endangered Plants				
Plant-Dicot		2		2
Plant-Monocot		1		1
Plant-Fern/Fern Ally		1		1
Geological Feature				
Geological Feature		1		1
Other				
Rookery		6		1
STATE AND FEDERAL LAND				
State Parks				<u>Acres</u>
Hennepin Canal Parkway				325
Prophetstown				60
State Conservation Areas				0
State Forests				0
State Fish and Wildlife Areas				
Big Bend				1,108
Federal Land				
Mark Twain NWR -Keithsburg Division				1,440
Pool No. 16				8,305
Pool No. 17				5,267
Upper Mississippi River Fish & Wildlife Refuge				681
ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES				
Black Hawk Forest				<u>Acres</u>
Elton E. Fawks Bald Eagle Refuge				97
Lyndon Prairie				164
				59
NATURAL DIVISIONS				
		<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of</u>	<u>% of</u>
		<u>in RRA</u>	<u>RRA</u>	<u>Division</u>
Upper Mississippi R and				
Illinois R Bottomlands		182,894	40.0	15.5
Grand Prairie		99,974	21.9	0.8
Middle Mississippi Border		90,877	19.9	5.8
Rock River Hill Country		35,157	7.7	2.3
Illinois R and Mississippi R				
Sand Areas		26,283	5.8	6.8
Major Water Bodies		19,551	4.3	1.8
Western Forest-Prairie		1,949	0.4	0.0

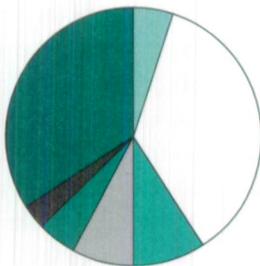


Mussel harvesting in the rich mussel beds of the upper Mississippi River has taken place since the early 1900s. Mussel shells were sold to the button industry until the widespread use of plastics after World War II. Since the 1960s, mussels have been harvested for export to Japan, where the shells are cut up and ground into round pellets and implanted into oysters to produce cultured pearls. Mussels are no longer abundant. Of the eighty species native to Illinois, more than half are threatened, endangered, extirpated, or extinct.

Size:
 43,470 acres
 68 square miles

Location:
 Northeastern
 Illinois, southwest-
 ern Chicago
 metropolitan area;
 Cook, DuPage, and
 Will counties

Landcover at a Glance



- upland forest 34%
- bottomland forest 3%
- wetland 5%
- grassland 8%
- cropland 9%
- urban built-up 36%
- water 5%

DES PLAINES RIVER

The Des Plaines River RRA is a small, highly urbanized site which forms a narrow corridor along the river from just west of Chicago to Joliet. Relatively high percentages of upland woods and nonforested wetlands occur in this site. Important natural features include prairie, savanna, river bluff, cliff, wetlands, floodplain and upland forest.



LANDCOVER ♦ This site is one-third urban and one-third upland woods. The Des Plaines River RRA ranks third in percentage of upland woods and second in percentage of nonforested wetlands, although actual acreages are relatively low. Larger wooded tracts are located in county forest preserves, especially at the confluence of the Calumet Sag Channel and the Des Plaines River. Nonforested wetlands are concentrated along the river.

NATURAL AREAS ♦ Eleven Natural Areas occur in this RRA. They are predominantly woods or prairie sites and range in size from three to 675 acres.

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ There are no BSS streams at this site.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ There are 61 Heritage Sites representing 15 significant community types, eight plant species, ten animal species, one large forest tract, and a rookery.

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND ♦ There are no state or federal lands at this site.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ There are nine Nature Preserves. Cap Sauers Holdings, at 1,548 acres, is one of the largest preserves in northeastern Illinois. Principal natural features found in the Nature Preserves are river bluffs, ravine forests, springs, sedge meadows, marshes, fens, prairies, savannas, floodplain, and upland woods. Some of the natural features represent the last remaining examples in northeastern Illinois.

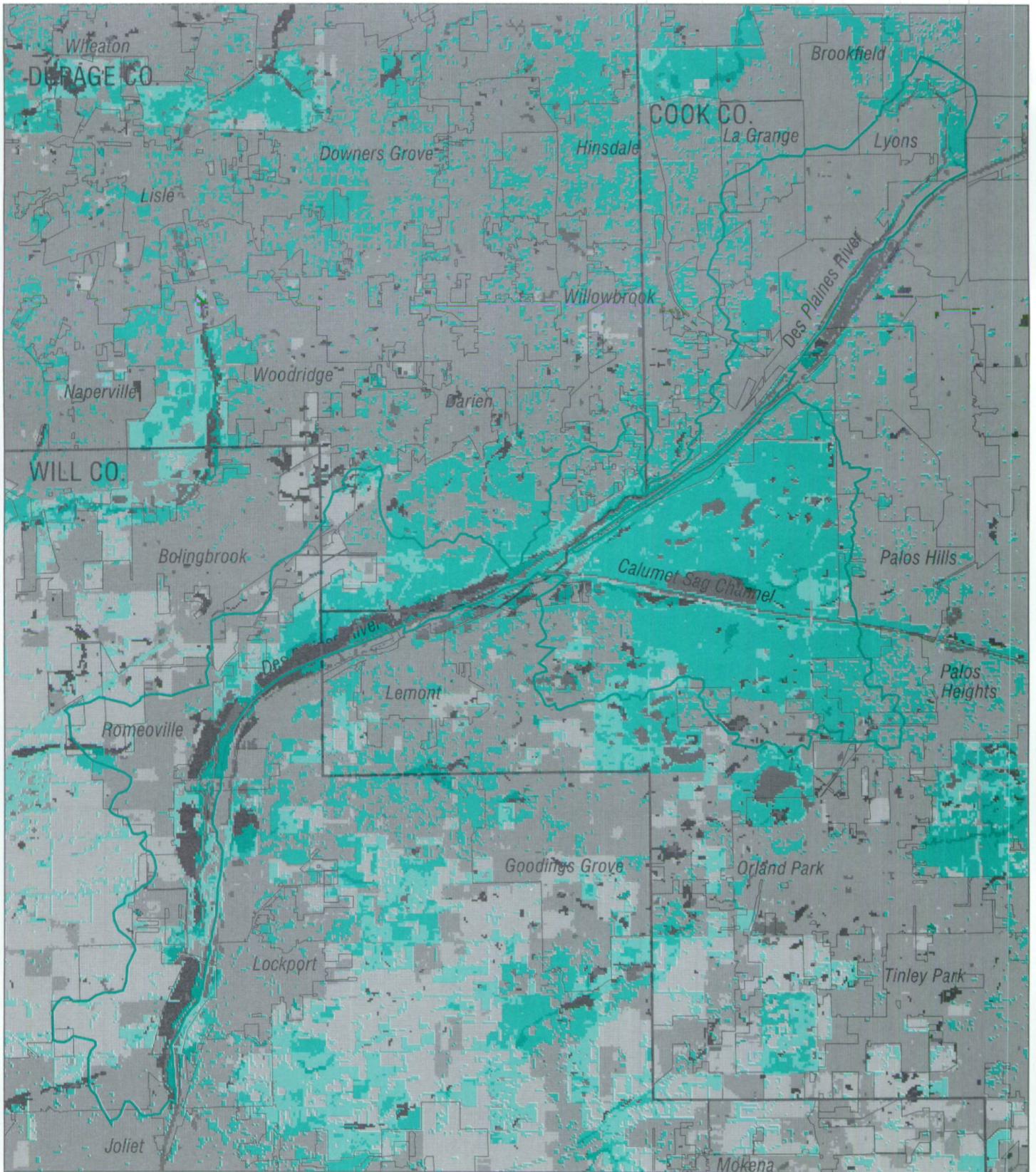
NATURAL DIVISIONS ♦ This RRA lies almost entirely within the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division.

SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LANDS

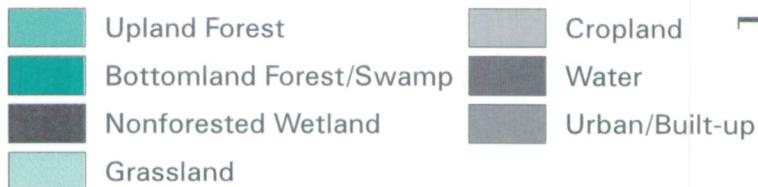
Total Acreage	43,470
Natural Areas	
Acreage	2,115
Number	11
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage	0
Natural Heritage Sites	61
State Land	
State Parks	0
State Conservation Areas	0
State Forests	0
State Fish & Wildlife Areas	0
Acreage	0
Percentage of RRA	0.0
Federal Land	
Acreage	0

Percentage of RRA		0.0
LANDCOVER	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Upland forest	14,695.45	33.81
Bottomland forest	1,247.40	2.87
Wetland-nonforested	2,072.71	4.77
Grassland	3,400.80	7.82
Cropland	3,985.66	9.17
Urban/Built-up	15,795.73	36.34
Water	<u>2,273.22</u>	<u>5.23</u>
TOTAL	43,470.97	100.01
ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES	<u>Acres</u>	
Black Partridge Woods	80	
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center	354	
Lockport Prairie	246	
Material Services Prairie	73	
O'Hara Woods	51	
Palos Fen	6	
Paw Paw Woods	410	
Romeoville Prairie	203	
Sagawau Canyon	3	
Santa Fe Prairie	14	
Waterfall Glen	675	
BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS		
None		
NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES		
Communities	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Floodplain Forest	2	2
Wetland	5	4
Forest	4	2
Prairie	9	6
Primary	1	1
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	10	6
Mammal	1	1
Reptile	4	2
Insect	6	1
Threatened and Endangered Plants		
Plant-Dicot	9	5
Plant-Monocot	8	3
Geological Feature		
Other		
Forest Block >500 Acres	1	1
Rookery	1	1
STATE AND FEDERAL LAND		<u>Acres</u>
State Parks		0
State Conservation Areas		0
State Forests		0
State Fish and Wildlife Areas		0
Federal Land		0
ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES		<u>Acres</u>
Black Partridge Woods		70

The Des Plaines River valley from just southwest of Chicago's Midway Airport to Joliet is remarkable for its glacial history and its resultant landscape. Vertical cliffs were carved by torrential meltwaters from the last glaciers. Where the dolomite (a type of limestone) is exposed, a harsh environment supports a limited number of hardy plants. Low gravel ridges parallel to the river stay dry while the floodplain stays wet for long periods. The fens, marshes, and wet prairies that occur in low spots add to the variety of habitats. Dolomite prairies, like those found here, have almost completely disappeared from the Midwest.



Des Plaines River



2 Miles



The habitat of the Hine's emerald dragonfly is a rare and localized wetland type found in Illinois only along the Des Plaines River. This dragonfly is found in shallow marshes, wet meadows, and small streams where calcareous water emerges between the limestone bedrock and overlying glacial till. Currently found at only a few sites in Illinois and Wisconsin, the Hine's emerald dragonfly is a state endangered species. In Illinois, the largest threat to this dragonfly is habitat loss due to development.

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES *(continued)*

	<u>Acres</u>			<u>Acres</u>
Cap Sauers Holdings	1,548			
Cranberry Slough	985			
Lockport Prairie	269			
O'Hara Woods	45			
Palos Fen	22			
Paw Paw Woods	116			
Romeoville Prairie	100			
Sagawau Canyon	9			
NATURAL DIVISIONS		Acres	% of	% of
		<u>in RRA</u>	<u>RRA</u>	<u>Division</u>
Northeastern Morainal		43,115	99.2	1.7
Grand Prairie		355	0.8	0.0





THORN CREEK

The Thorn Creek RRA is characterized as heavily urbanized with its natural resources confined along streams and in forest preserves. This is a relatively small site.

LANDCOVER ♦ The site is 61% urban/built-up and 24% upland woods. Much of the woods occurs in the county forest preserves; some is wooded residential areas. Small amounts of nonforested wetlands and bottomland forest acreages are located in this RRA.

NATURAL AREAS ♦ The five Natural Areas in Thorn Creek RRA total 927 acres. The natural areas include examples of upland, bottomland and ravine woodlands, glacial potholes, prairies, and streams.

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ There are no BSS streams in this RRA.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ There are 13 Heritage occurrences: three significant community types, seven plants species, and three animal species.

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND ♦ There is no state or federal land at this site.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ The two Nature Preserves located in this site feature forest, prairie, and marsh communities.

NATURAL DIVISIONS ♦ This site lies entirely within the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division.

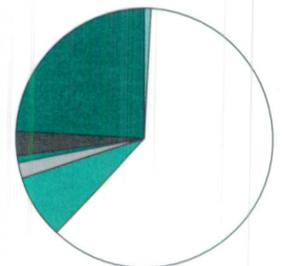
SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LANDS

Total Acreage		20,614
Natural Areas		
Acreage		927
Number		5
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage		0
Natural Heritage Sites		13
State Land		
State Parks		0
State Conservation Areas		0
State Forests		0
State Fish & Wildlife Areas		0
Acreage		0
Percentage of RRA		0.0
Federal Land		
Acreage		0
Percentage of RRA		0.0
LANDCOVER	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Upland forest	4,904.91	23.80
Bottomland forest	673.18	3.27
Wetland-nonforested	132.87	0.64
Grassland	478.29	2.32
Cropland	1,669.69	8.10

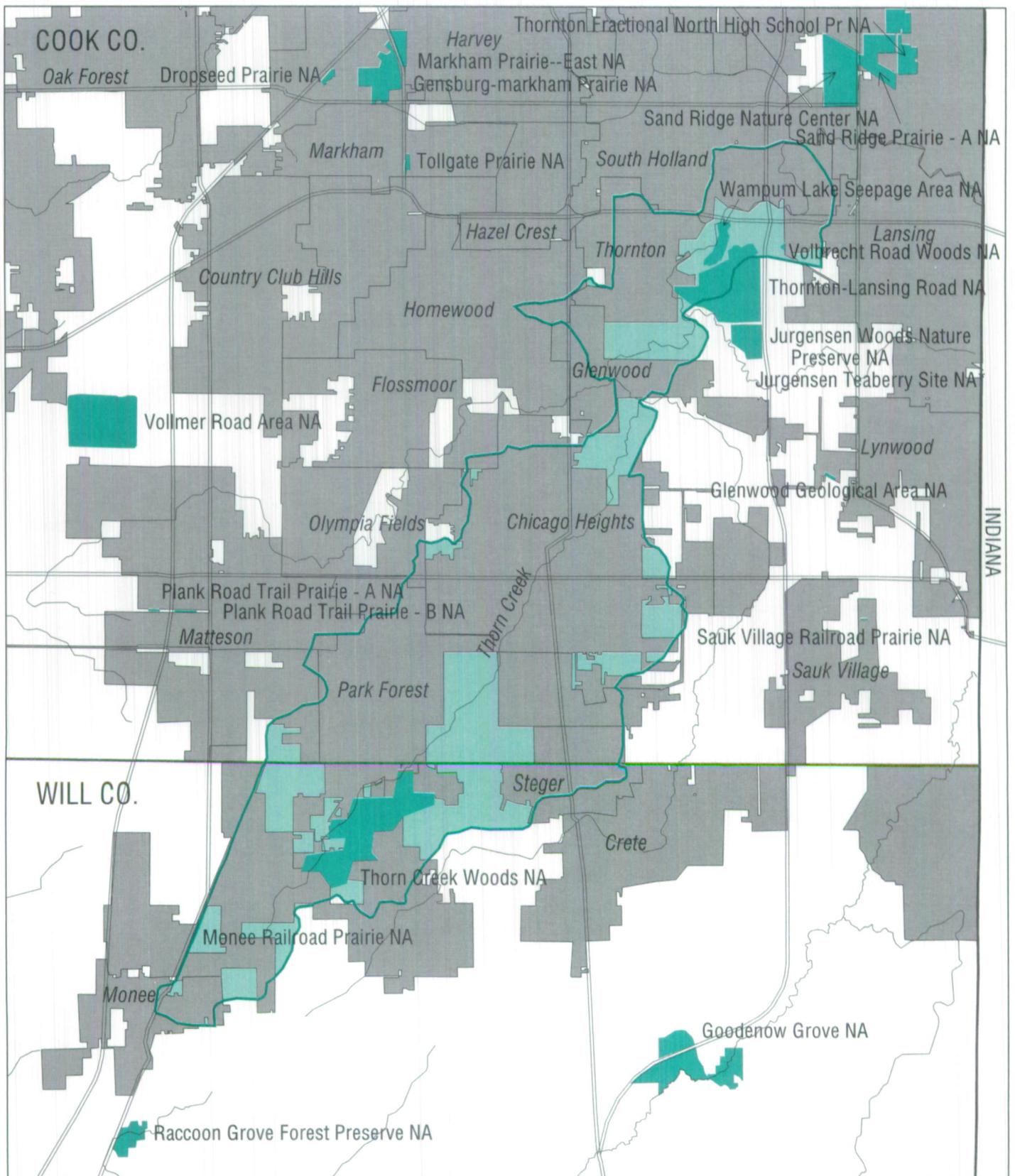
Size:
20,614 acres
32 square miles

Location:
Northeastern
Illinois,
southern Chicago
metropolitan area;
Cook and Will
counties

Landcover at a Glance



- upland forest 24%
- bottomland forest 3%
- wetland <1%
- grassland 2%
- cropland 8%
- urban built-up 61%
- water 1%

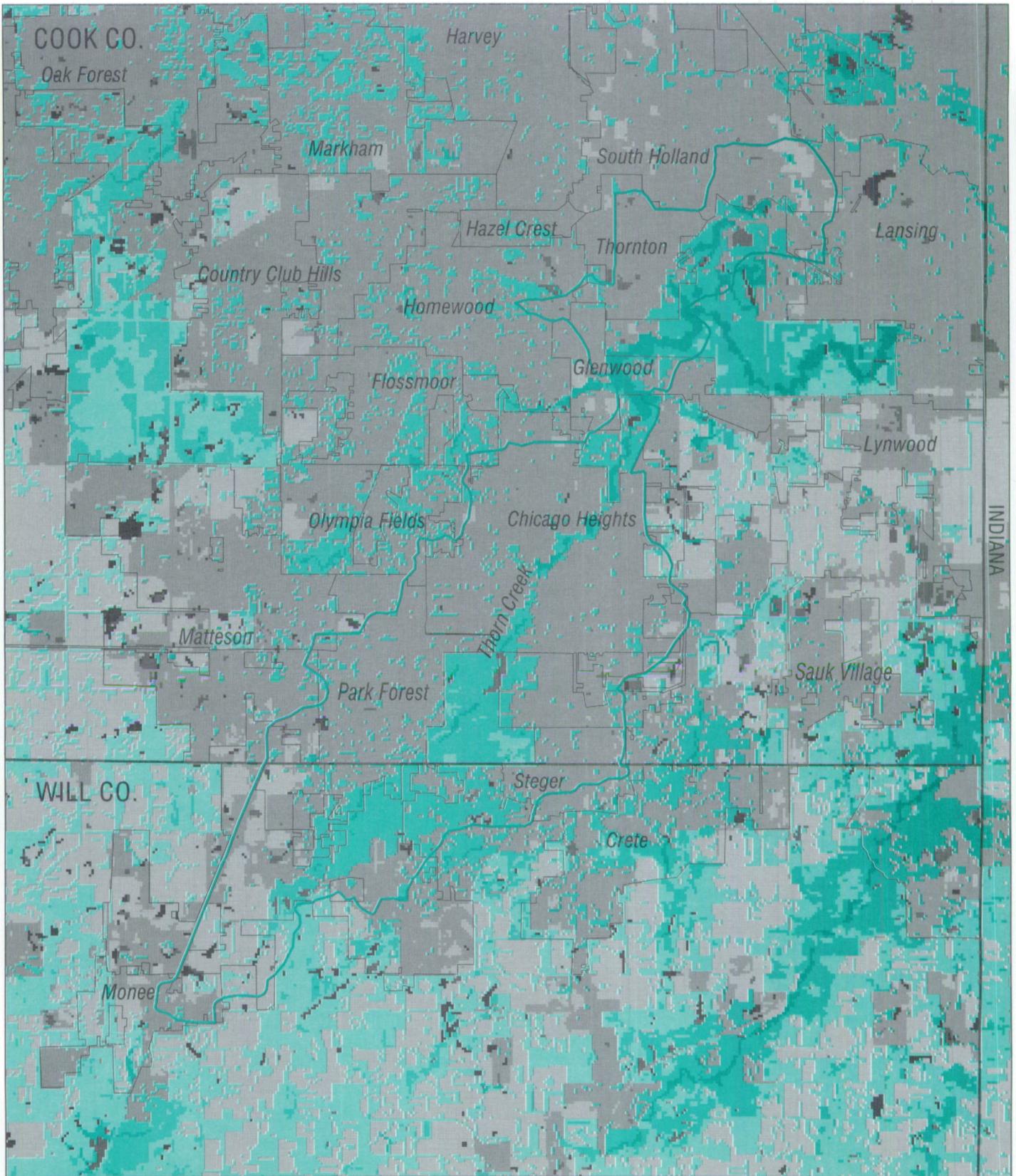


Thorn Creek

- | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|--------------------|
|  | Natural Area |  | Stream |
|  | Town |  | Significant Stream |
|  | State Land |  | Highway |
|  | Federal Land |  | County |

2 Miles





Thorn Creek



2 Miles




Thorn Creek Woods Nature preserve is a 500-acre area at the southern end of a broad woodland along Thorn Creek. Narrow ridges and deep ravines, broad uplands, shallow depressions, and the stream valley are characteristics of the area. Red oak, white oak, sugar maple, black maple, and basswood are the predominant tree species.

LANDCOVER (<i>continued</i>)	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Urban/Built-Up	12,511.54	60.70
Water	<u>242.25</u>	<u>1.18</u>
TOTAL	20,612.73	100.01
ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES		<u>Acres</u>
Monee Railroad Prairie		8
Thorn Creek Woods		631
Thornton-Lansing Road		219
Volbrecht Road Woods		3
Wampum Lake Seepage Area		66
BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS		
None		
NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES		
Communities	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Wetland	1	1
Forest	1	1
Prairie	1	1
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	3	3
Threatened and Endangered Plants		
Plant-Dicot	5	5
Plant-Monocot	2	2
Geological Feature		
Other		
STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS		<u>Acres</u>
State Parks		0
State Conservation Areas		0
State Forests		0
State Fish and Wildlife Areas		0
Federal Land		0
ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES		<u>Acres</u>
Thorn Creek Woods		513
Thornton-Lansing Road		80
NATURAL DIVISIONS	Acres	% of
	<u>in RRA</u>	<u>RRA</u>
Northeastern Morainal	20,614	100.0
		<u>% of Division</u>
		0.8





PRAIRIE PARKLANDS

The dominant feature of the Prairie Parklands RRA is the recently created Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, the nation's first federally designated tallgrass prairie, at the former Joliet Arsenal. Significant natural features in the RRA include prairies, wetlands, and streams. The southern border of Prairie Parklands RRA adjoins the Kankakee-Iroquois RRA.

LANDCOVER ♦ The landcover at this site is predominantly cropland (45%) followed by grassland (30%). This site ranks third in percentage of grassland and has the highest percentage outside of northwestern Illinois. Prairie Parklands ranks eighth for percentage of nonforested

wetlands. Compared to the other RRAs, the percentages of upland and bottomland forest are low.

NATURAL AREAS ♦ More than 10,000 acres (18 sites) of Natural Areas are recognized in this RRA. Joliet Army Ammunition Plant (i.e. Joliet Arsenal) accounts for half of the acreage. The other Natural Areas include prairies, savannas, geological features, and aquatic systems.

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ BSS streams in this RRA are the Illinois and Kankakee Rivers and Manhattan Creek, which total approximately 24 miles.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ The 85 Heritage sites include 12 significant community types, eight of which are prairies. Sixteen species of plants and 17 species of animals are listed as Heritage occurrences.

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND ♦ Twenty-two percent of this RRA is state or federal land. Two state parks and a state conservation area are located in the Prairie Parklands RRA. At the time of this analysis the largest public holding, with 26,904 acres, was the Joliet Arsenal; much of this land will become the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ The six Nature Preserves in this RRA include several prairies, as well as savannas, wet meadows, and marshes. They range in size from a prairie in a cemetery of less than an acre to Goose Lake Prairie (1,580 acres).

NATURAL DIVISIONS ♦ Most of the Prairie Parklands RRA is in the Grand Prairie Division; 10% is Northeastern Morainal Division.

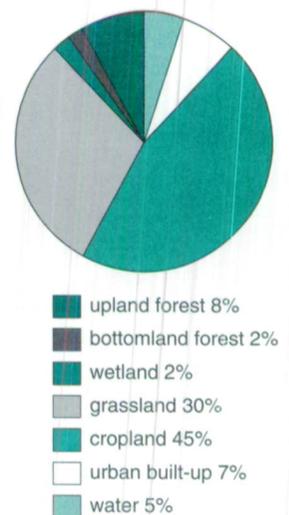
SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LANDS

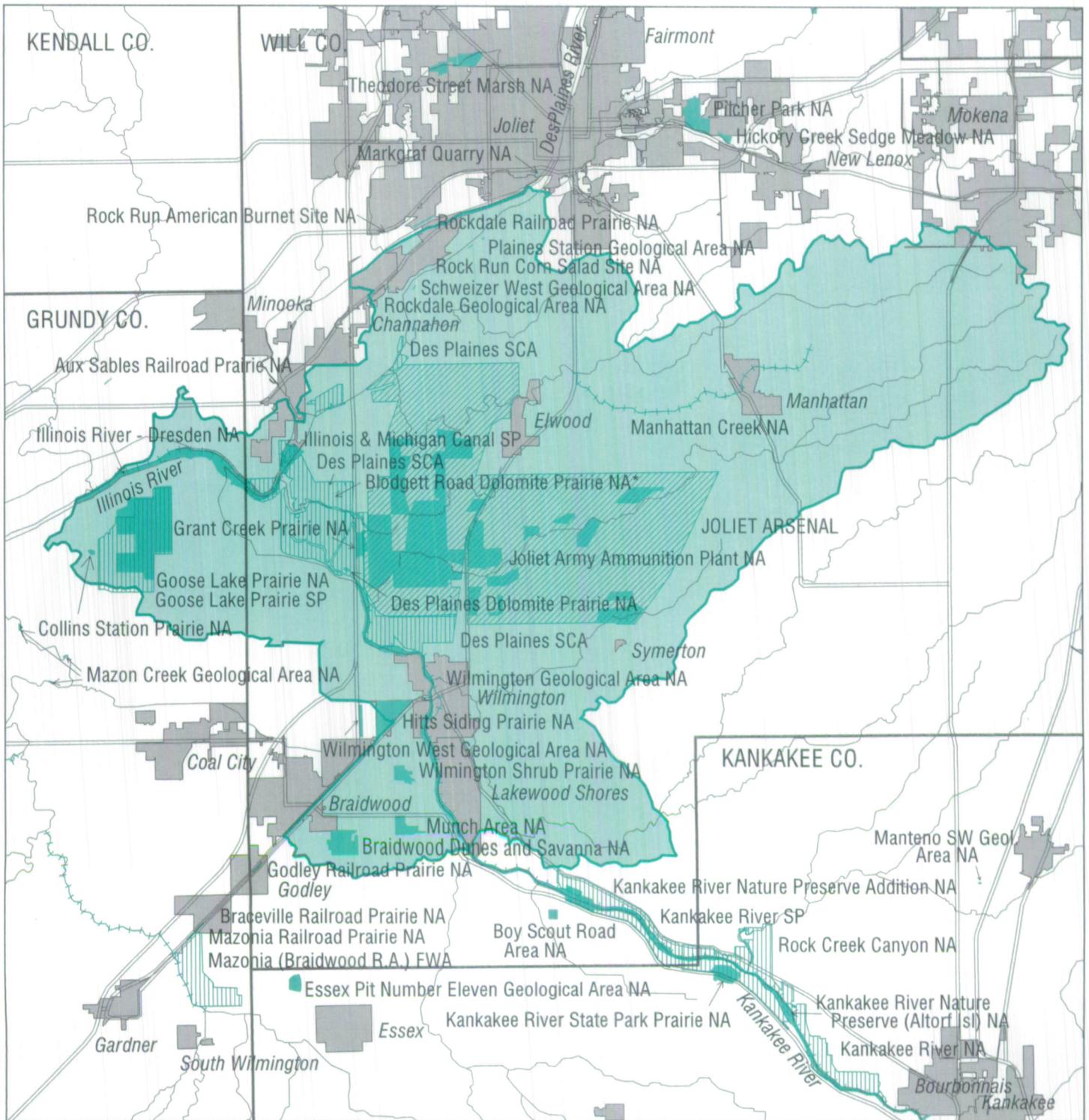
Total Acreage	152,669
Natural Areas	
Acreage	10,037
Number	18
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage	23.8
Natural Heritage Sites	85
State Land	
State Parks	2

Size:
152,669 acres
239 square miles

Location:
Northeastern
Illinois south of
Joliet;
Grundy and
Will counties

Landcover at a Glance



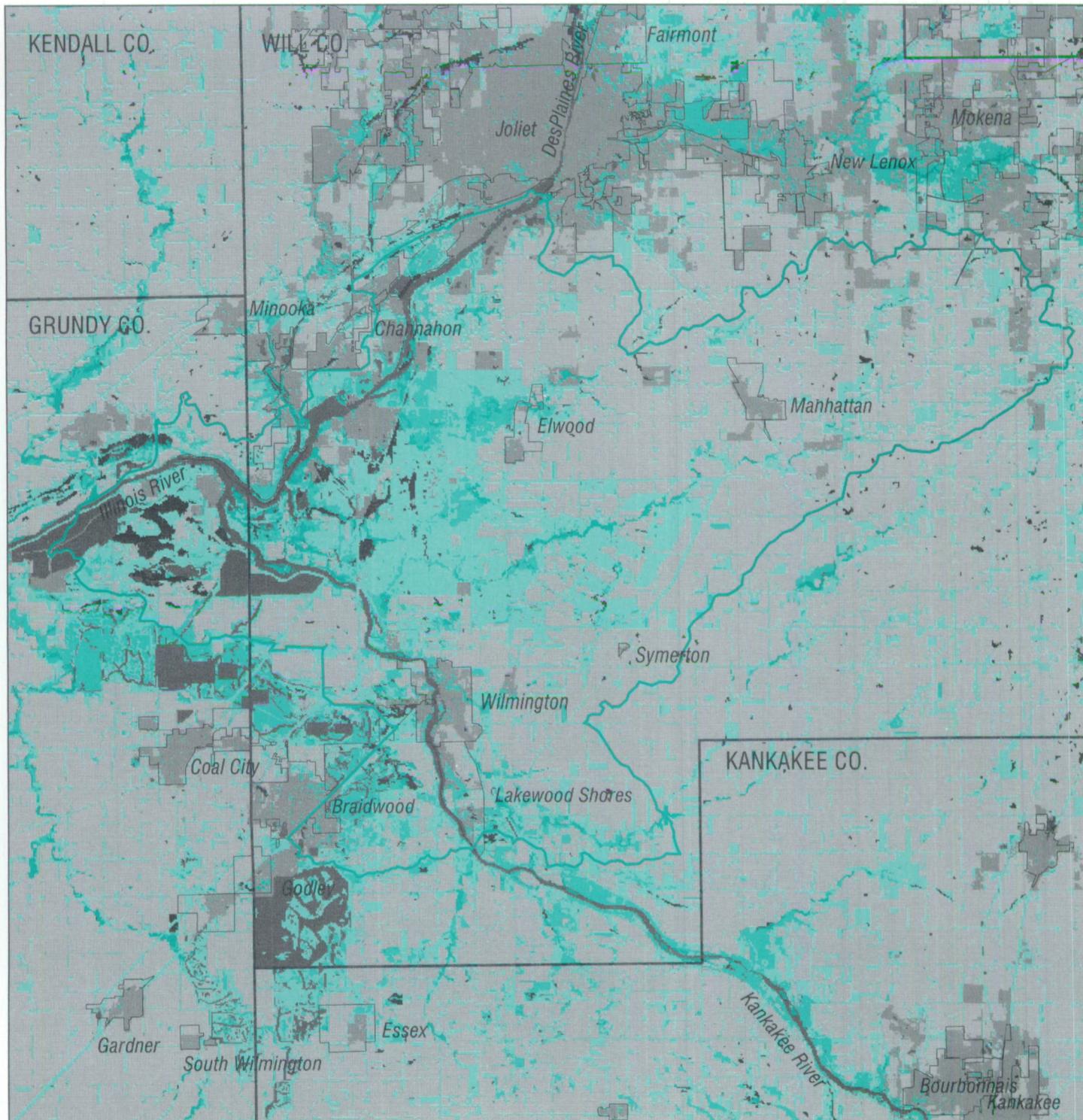


Prairie Parklands

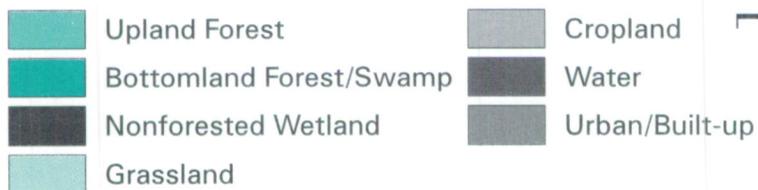
- | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|--------------------|
|  | Natural Area |  | Stream |
|  | Town |  | Significant Stream |
|  | State Land |  | Highway |
|  | Federal Land |  | County |

4 Miles





Prairie Parklands



4 Miles



Goose Lake Prairie is the largest prairie remnant in Illinois. What remains today are prairies and marshes with a large and diverse biota; over 326 species of vascular plants are present. Several unusual birds, such as the least bittern, Henslow's sparrow, Virginia rail, and northern harrier nest or inhabit the area.

State Land (<i>continued</i>)		
State Conservation Areas		1
State Forests		0
State Fish & Wildlife Areas		0
Acreage		7,324
Percentage of RRA		4.8
Federal Land		
Acreage		26,904
Percentage of RRA		17.6
LANDCOVER	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Upland forest	1,691.45	7.66
Bottomland forest	3,225.38	2.11
Wetland - nonforested	3,485.30	2.28
Grassland	46,474.97	30.44
Cropland	68,991.81	45.19
Urban/Built-up	10,778.23	7.06
Water	<u>8,023.51</u>	<u>5.26</u>
TOTAL	152,670.65	100.00
ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES <u>Acres</u>		
Blodgett Road Dolomite Prairie		*
Braidwood Dunes and Savanna		298
Collins Station Prairie		15
Des Plaines Dolomite Prairie		9
Goose Lake Prairie		1,674
Grant Creek Prairie		117
Hitts Siding Prairie		244
Illinois River -Dresden		847
Joliet Army Ammunition Plant		5,831
Kankakee River		698
Manhattan Creek		29
Munch Area		142
Plaines Station Geological Area		5
Rock Run Corn Salad Site		3
Rockdale Geological Area		4
Schweizer West Geological Area		3
Wilmington Geological Area		2
Wilmington Shrub Prairie		115
* = point location, map not available		
BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS <u>Miles</u>		
Illinois River, above Dresden L&D		7.1
Kankakee River, Momence to Des Plaines Cons. Area		8.4
Manhattan Creek		8.4
NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES		
Communities	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Lake	1	1
Wetland	3	2
Savanna	1	1
Prairie	17	8
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	23	10
Fish	6	4
Insect	5	2

Mollusk		1	1
Threatened and Endangered Plants			
Plant-Dicot		13	9
Plant-Monocot		7	5
Plant-Fern/Fern Ally		4	2
Geological Feature			
Geological Feature		4	1
Other			
STATE AND FEDERAL LAND			
State Parks			<u>Acres</u>
Goose Lake Prairie			2,412
Illinois & Michigan Canal			260
State Conservation Areas			
Des Plaines			4,652
State Forests			0
State Fish and Wildlife Areas			0
Federal Land			
Joliet Arsenal			26,904
ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES			
			<u>Acres</u>
Braidwood Dunes and Savanna			244
Goose Lake Prairie			1,580
Grant Creek Prairie			69
Sand Ridge Savanna			158
Short Pioneer Cemetery Prairie			<1
Wilmington Shrub Prairie			157
NATURAL DIVISIONS			
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of</u>	<u>% of</u>
	<u>in RRA</u>	<u>RRA</u>	<u>Division</u>
Grand Prairie	136,906	89.7	1.1
Northeastern Morainal	15,763	10.3	0.6

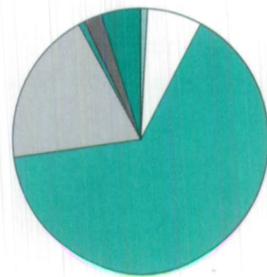


The upland sandpiper, a bird that inhabits prairies, pastures, and hayfields, nests in the Prairie Parklands area. Formerly a common summer resident throughout the state, the upland sandpiper is now an endangered species in Illinois, driven to near-extinction by the loss of prairies and market hunting. The largest concentration of upland sandpipers in the state is in the Prairie Parklands area. Preservation and proper management of large grassland areas are critical for this species.

Size:
 231,005 acres
 361 square miles

Location:
 Northern part of
 east-central Illinois
 near the Indiana
 border; Iroquois,
 Kankakee, and Will
 counties

Landcover at a Glance



- upland forest 5%
- bottomland forest 2%
- wetland 1%
- grassland 19%
- cropland 65%
- urban built-up 7%
- water <1%

KANKAKEE - IROQUOIS

The Kankakee River RRA is relatively flat with low sandy ridges. Before the land was drained and cultivated, sand prairie and marsh were common; the area is now largely agricultural. Aquatic systems and savannas are important remaining natural resources of the area. The Kankakee River forms the core of the RRA and is unusual in Illinois because it is on or near bedrock.



LANDCOVER ♦ Cropland covers 65% of this RRA, followed by grassland (19%) and urban/built-up (7%). The Kankakee-Iroquois RRA ranks low among the RRAs in percentage of upland and bottomland woods. Nonforested wetland acreage is moderate.

NATURAL AREAS ♦ There are 17 Natural Areas in this RRA. Several are associated with the Kankakee River and account for the largest acreage. Many savannas occur in this RRA.

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ This site ranks fifth in terms of total BSS stream mileage with 63 miles. Approximately half the mileage is the Kankakee River.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ Several significant community types are included in the 67 Heritage points located in this RRA. Fourteen significant community types, 17 plant species, and nine animal species are located here.

STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS ♦ Kankakee River State Park and the Iroquois County Conservation Area are the state owned land in the RRA. There is no federal land in this site.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ Three Nature Preserves are located in this site. Large sand savanna with dune and swale topography, and upland and bottomland forest are significant natural features in the preserves.

NATURAL DIVISIONS ♦ This site lies entirely within the Grand Prairie Natural Division.

SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LAND

Total Acreage	231,005
Natural Areas	
Acreage	6,731
Number	17
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage	63.3
Natural Heritage Sites	67
State Land	
State Parks	1
State Conservation Areas	1
State Forests	0
State Fish & Wildlife Areas	0

Acreage	6,415
Percentage of RRA	2.8
Federal Land	
Acreage	0
Percentage of RRA	0.0

LANDCOVER	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Upland forest	12,558.11	5.44
Bottomland forest	3,603.51	1.56
Wetland- nonforested	1,986.61	0.86
Grassland	44,240.49	19.15
Cropland	149,688.50	64.80
Urban/Built-up	15,551.07	6.73
Water	<u>3,383.74</u>	<u>1.46</u>
TOTAL	231,012.03	100.00

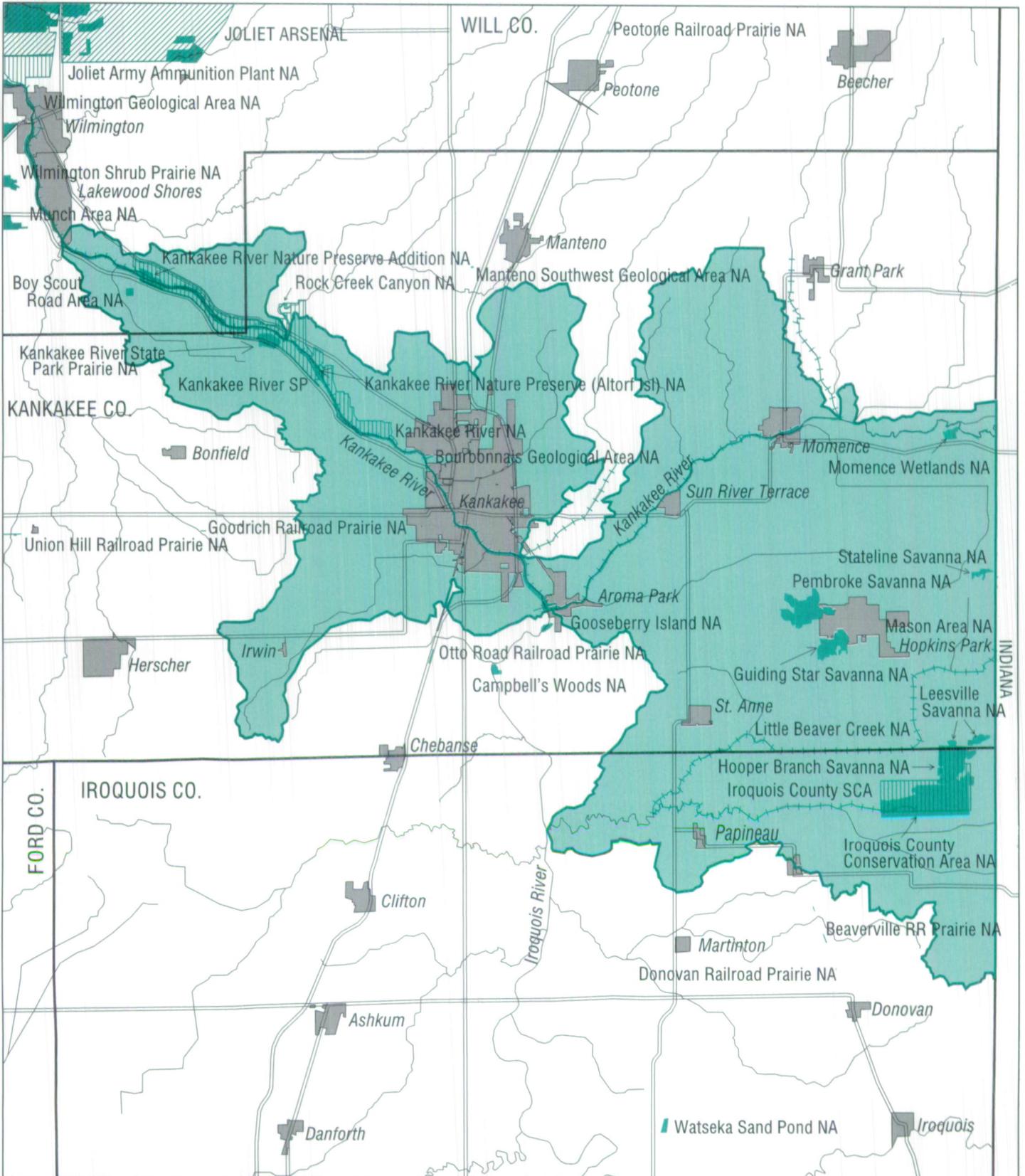
ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES	<u>Acres</u>
Bourbonnais Geological Area	12
Boy Scout Road Area	42
Guiding Star Savanna	406
Hooper Branch Savanna	783
Iroquois County Conservation Area	1,609
Kankakee River	2,115
Kankakee River Nature Preserve (Altorf Island)	65
Kankakee River Nature Preserve Addition	124
Kankakee River State Park Prairie	199
Leesville Savanna East	97
Leesville Savanna West	32
Little Beaver Creek	323
Mason Area	<1
Momence Wetlands	94
Pembroke Savanna	755
Rock Creek Canyon	2
Stateline Savanna	72

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS	<u>Miles</u>
Baker Creek, Exline to Kankakee River	0.0
Beaver Creek	11.4
Kankakee River, Momence to Des Plaines Cons. Area	35.0
Little Beaver Cr., state line to SE of St. Anne	16.8
Trim Creek, Grant Park to Kankakee River	0.0

NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES

Communities	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Floodplain Forest	1	1
Lake	2	1
Wetland	6	4
Forest	1	1
Savanna	12	2
Prairie	5	5
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	4	3
Fish	10	4
Mollusk	4	2
Threatened and Endangered Plants		
Plant-Dicot	14	11

In the six miles from the Illinois-Indiana border to Momence lie 1,800 acres of one of the largest wetland areas in Illinois, the Momence Wetlands. These are a remnant of a vast 400,000-acre wetland that stretched east from Momence to South Bend, Indiana. Presidents Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt, as well as European nobility, hunted in the marsh before it was drained in 1917. West of Momence, the Kankakee River is a scenic, recreational resource flowing on or near bedrock with numerous riffles, pools, and islands for much of its length.



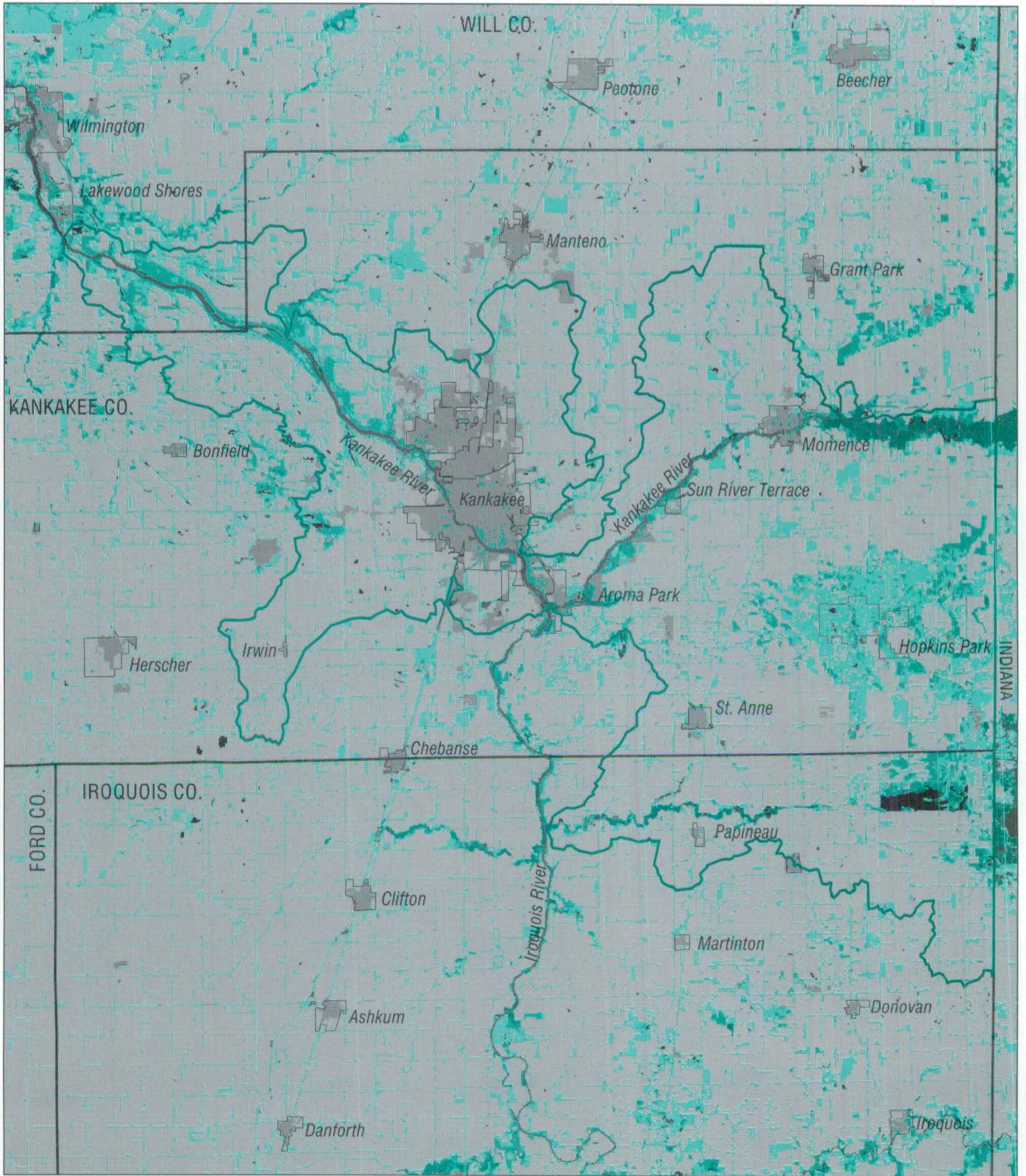
Kankakee-Iroquois

- Natural Area
- Town
- State Land
- Federal Land

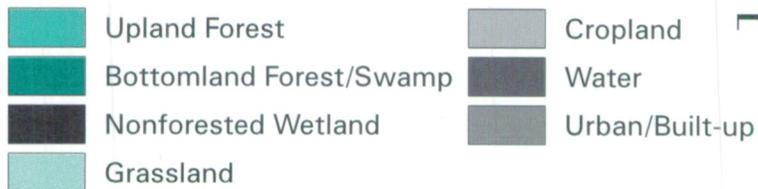
- Stream
- Significant Stream
- Highway
- County

5 Miles





Kankakee-Iroquois



5 Miles



One of the principal sand areas in Illinois is found in Kankakee and Iroquois counties. The area is the ancient bed of a large glacial lake. Dunes (some reaching almost 700 feet in height) and swales characterize the area. Sand savanna, sand prairie, and pin oak flatwoods are some of the interesting communities found here. The sandy bottom streams support fish species, such as the ironcolor shiner and weed shiner, that are rare in Illinois. The Kankakee River has one of the most diverse and abundant mussel populations in the state.

Plant-Monocot		6		5
Plant-Fern/Fern Ally		1		1
NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES (continued)				
Geological Feature			<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types</u>
Geological Feature		1		1
Other				
STATE AND FEDERAL LAND				
State Parks				<u>Acres</u>
Kankakee River				3,910
State Conservation Areas				
Iroquois County				2,505
State Forests				0
State Fish and Wildlife Areas				0
Federal Land				0
ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES				
Hooper Branch Savanna				<u>Acres</u>
Kankakee River				499
Momence Wetlands				119
				59
NATURAL DIVISIONS				
		<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of</u>	<u>% of</u>
		<u>in RRA</u>	<u>RRA</u>	<u>Division</u>
Grand Prairie		230,129	100.0	1.8





PEORIA WILDS

Peoria Wilds encompasses the floodplain of the Illinois River, deeply dissected bluffs and hills bordering the floodplain, and relatively flat agricultural areas away from the river. A large tract of forest runs along the bluff to the west of the Illinois River. Nonforested wetlands are concentrated next to the river.

LANDCOVER ♦ Cropland (46%) is the predominant landcover type at this site, followed by upland woods (20%) and grassland (16%). It ranks low in the percentage of nonforested wetland and has moderate bottomland percentages. The relatively high percentage of water is due to the large lakes associated with the

Illinois River and floodplain.

NATURAL AREAS ♦ Woodlands, hill prairies, marshes, fens, and seeps are some of the important natural resources in the 24 Natural Areas located in this RRA.

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ There are no BSS streams in this RRA.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ Of the 51 Heritage sites, nearly half are occurrences of significant communities of wetlands, forest, savanna, and prairie. Six plant species, four animal species, one forest block greater than 500 acres, and one rookery occur in this RRA.

STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS ♦ Four state conservation areas and one fish and wildlife area comprise the state land in the RRA. A unit of the Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge is located here. These public lands are associated directly with the Illinois River.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ Seven sites are recognized as Nature Preserves. The natural resources includes seeps, fens, hill prairies, and upland forest in deep ravines and on slopes and ridges.

NATURAL DIVISIONS ♦ The natural divisions occurring in the RRA are the Grand Prairie (62%), Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River Bottomlands (30%), and the Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Areas (7.5%).

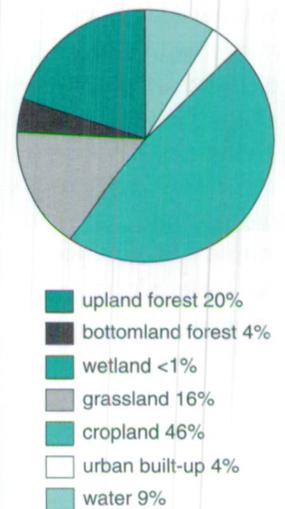
SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LANDS

Total Acreage	277,847
Natural Areas	
Acreage	1,859
Number	24
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage	0
Natural Heritage Sites	51
State Land	
State Parks	0
State Conservation Areas	4
State Forests	0
State Fish & Wildlife Areas	1
Acreage	9,570
Percentage of RRA	3.4

Size:
277,847 acres
434 square miles

Location:
Central Illinois on the Illinois River, Peoria area; Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford counties

Landcover at a Glance



The bluffs on the Illinois River near Peoria were a mix of oak woodlands and prairie openings in the early 1800s. One of the largest remaining oak woodland areas in Illinois is found here. The bluffs at Forest Park Nature Preserve provide a good example of the original vegetation, although the area was lumbered in the mid-1800s. White oak and shagbark hickory predominate on the drier, upper slopes and ridges; red oak and sugar maple characterize the lower slopes and ravines.

SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS *(continued)*

Federal Land		
Acreage		1,589
Percentage of RRA		0.6

LANDCOVER	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Upland forest	55,789.44	20.08
Bottomland forest	10,384.24	3.74
Wetland- nonforested	1,205.25	0.43
Grassland	44,725.80	16.10
Cropland	128,441.00	46.23
Urban/Built-up	11,740.22	4.23
Water	<u>25,567.61</u>	<u>9.20</u>
Total	277,853.56	100.01

ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES

	<u>Acres</u>
Blalock Creek Site	10
Boyd's Hollow Woods	41
Brown Run-Billsbach Lake	2
Caterpillar Hill Prairies	10
Cooper Park North	5
County Line Hill Prairie	83
Crow Creek Marsh	47
Detweiller Park	351
Dickison Run Hill Prairie	13
Fondulac Seep	16
Forest Park	502
Grandview Woods	60
Hancher Woods	21
Hopewell Estates Hill Prairie	78
Leigh Woods	41
Marshall County Conservation Area Hill Prairie	53
Mossville Road Hill Prairie	7
Partridge Creek Marsh	5
Robinson Park Hill Prairie	150
Root Cemetery	1
Sparland Unit	17
Spring Bay Fen	57
Springdale Cemetery	253
Wokanda Camp	34

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS

None

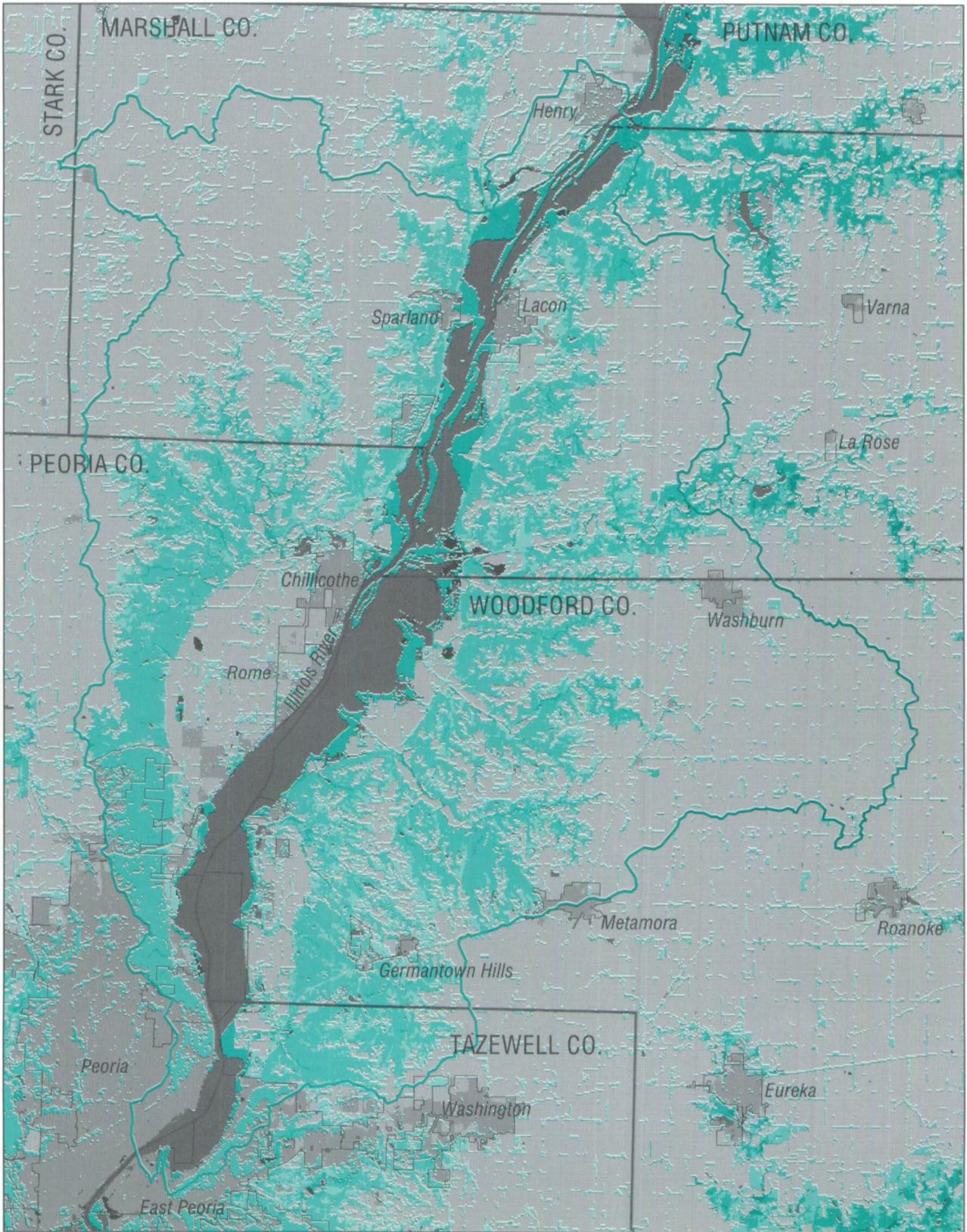
NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES

Communities	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Wetland	6	3
Forest	6	2
Savanna	2	2
Prairie	9	1
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	5	4
Threatened and Endangered Plants		
Plant-Dicot	20	5
Plant-Monocot	1	1

Geological Feature			
Other			
Forest Block >500 Acres		1	1
Rookery		1	1
STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS			<u>Acres</u>
State Parks			0
State Conservation Areas			
Marshall County			3,232
Sparland-Marshall County			1,077
Spring Branch-Marshall County			780
Woodford County			2,806
State Forests			0
State Fish and Wildlife Areas			
Illinois River			1,674
Federal Land			
Chautauqua NWR Cameron-Billsbach Unit			1,589
ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES			<u>Acres</u>
Bennett's Terraqueous Gardens			3
Detweiller Woods			290
Forest Park			379
Forest Park South			130
Robinson Park Hill Prairies			137
Root Cemetery Savanna			1
Spring Bay Fen			31
NATURAL DIVISIONS	Acres	% of	% of
	<u>in RRA</u>	<u>RRA</u>	<u>Division</u>
Grand Prairie	172,861	62.2	1.3
Upper Mississippi R and Illinois R			
Bottomlands	84,094	30.3	7.1
Illinois R and Mississippi R Sand Areas	20,893	7.5	5.4



Several hill prairies in this area have been included in the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. The sun- and wind-exposed west and southwest-facing slopes of hill prairies create a harsh environment more suited to prairie than forest. Few hill prairies have been plowed because of their steep slopes, but they are sometimes grazed.



Peoria Wilds



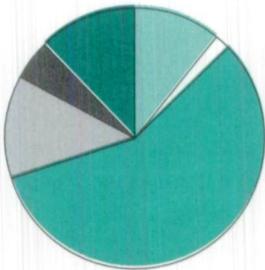
4 Miles




Size:
150,316 acres
235 square miles

Location:
Western Illinois on
the Mississippi
River; Hancock
and Henderson
counties

Landcover at a Glance



- upland forest 12%
- bottomland forest 5%
- wetland <1%
- grassland 13%
- cropland 56%
- urban built-up 2%
- water 11%

NAUVOO

The NauvoO RRA is located in west-central Illinois on the Mississippi River. Sharply dissected bluffs divide the low, level bottomlands along the river from the higher rolling uplands. The natural resources—woodlands, wetlands, and larger Natural Areas—are mainly associated with the river.



LANDCOVER ♦ Cropland is the predominant landcover type (56%) within this site. Approximately 17% of the RRA is wooded (12% upland and 5% bottomland woods). Nonforested wetlands are not abundant. The Mississippi River accounts for the high percentage of water.

NATURAL AREAS ♦ There are nine Natural Areas which range from a four-acre hill prairie site to a 3,856 acre forest tract (Cedar Glen). Natural resources in these areas include aquatic systems, forested bluffs, sand hills, and geological features.

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS ♦ There are no BSS streams in this RRA.

HERITAGE SITES ♦ Thirty-six Heritage sites occur within the RRA. Seven significant community types, two plant species, 11 animal species, and two rookeries are represented.

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND ♦ NauvoO State Park is the only state or federal land in the RRA.

NATURE PRESERVES ♦ Two Nature Preserves exist in this RRA. They protect a large forested tract surrounded by cropland and sand hills which support upland forest and prairie communities.

NATURAL DIVISIONS ♦ This RRA is comprised of five natural divisions, approximately half lies in the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division. The Upper Mississippi and Illinois River Bottomlands, Western Forest-Prairie, and Illinois and Mississippi River Sand Areas divisions comprise 14%, 13%, and 12%, respectively, of the RRA.

SUMMARY OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS: SIZE, BIOLOGIC RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC LANDS

Total Acreage	150,316
Natural Areas	
Acreage	7,409
Number	9
Biologically Significant Stream Mileage	0
Natural Heritage Sites	36
State Land	
State Parks	1
State Conservation Areas	0
State Forests	0
State Fish & Wildlife Areas	0
Acreage	140
Percentage of RRA	0.1

Federal Land		
Acreage		0
Percentage of RRA		0.0

LANDCOVER	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of RRA</u>
Upland forest	18,298.16	12.17
Bottomland forest	8,029.53	5.34
Wetland- nonforested	516.42	0.34
Grassland	19,645.11	13.07
Cropland	84,511.98	56.22
Urban/Built-up	2,884.98	1.92
Water	<u>16,423.34</u>	<u>10.93</u>
TOTAL	150,309.52	99.99

ILLINOIS NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY SITES	<u>Acres</u>
Cedar Glen Area	3,856
Gladstone Lake	*
Jackson Cemetery Geological Area	7
Mississippi River -Drew Chute	1,218
Mississippi River -Pontoosuc	1,189
Mt. Moriah Geological Area	7
New Crystal Lake Club	1,123
Tyson South Geological Area	5
Wagoner Creek Hill Prairie	4

* = point location, map not available

BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT STREAMS
None

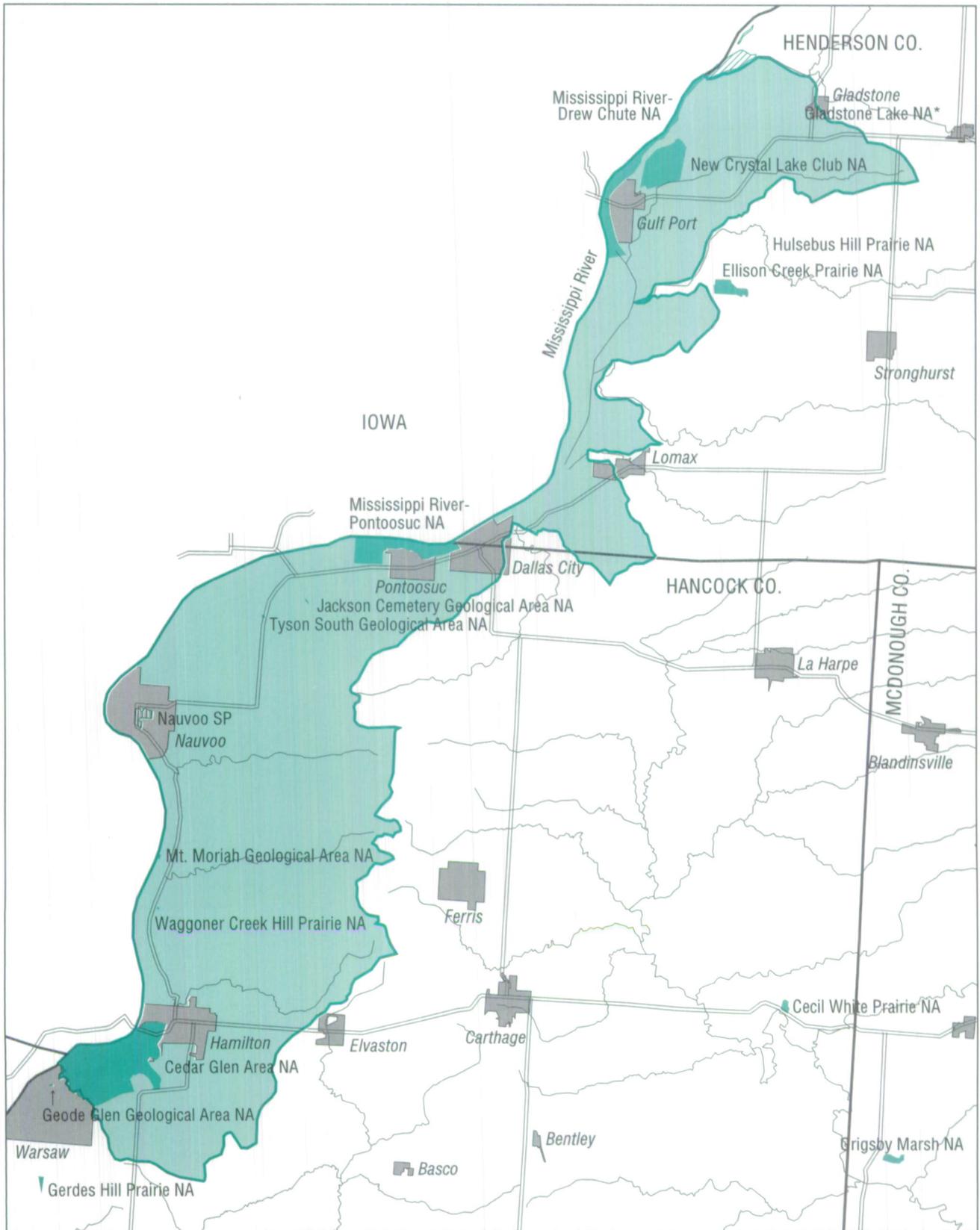
NATURAL HERITAGE CATEGORIES

Communities	<u>Occurrences</u>	<u>Types/Species</u>
Floodplain Forest	1	1
Wetland	1	1
Savanna	3	3
Prairie	2	2
Threatened and Endangered Animals		
Bird	8	2
Fish	2	2
Mammal	2	1
Reptile	2	2
Mollusk	6	4
Threatened and Endangered Plants		
Plant-Monocot	2	2
Geological Feature		
Geological Feature	5	1
Other		
Rookery	2	1

STATE AND FEDERAL LAND

State Parks	<u>Acres</u>
Nauvoo	140
State Conservation Areas	0
State Forests	0
State Fish and Wildlife Areas	0
Federal Land	0

Cedar Glen is a large, forested tract along the bluffs of the Mississippi River. The rugged bluffs are mostly mature second growth forest dominated by oak, hickory, sugar maple, and basswood. This Nature Preserve is a significant roosting site for wintering bald eagles.



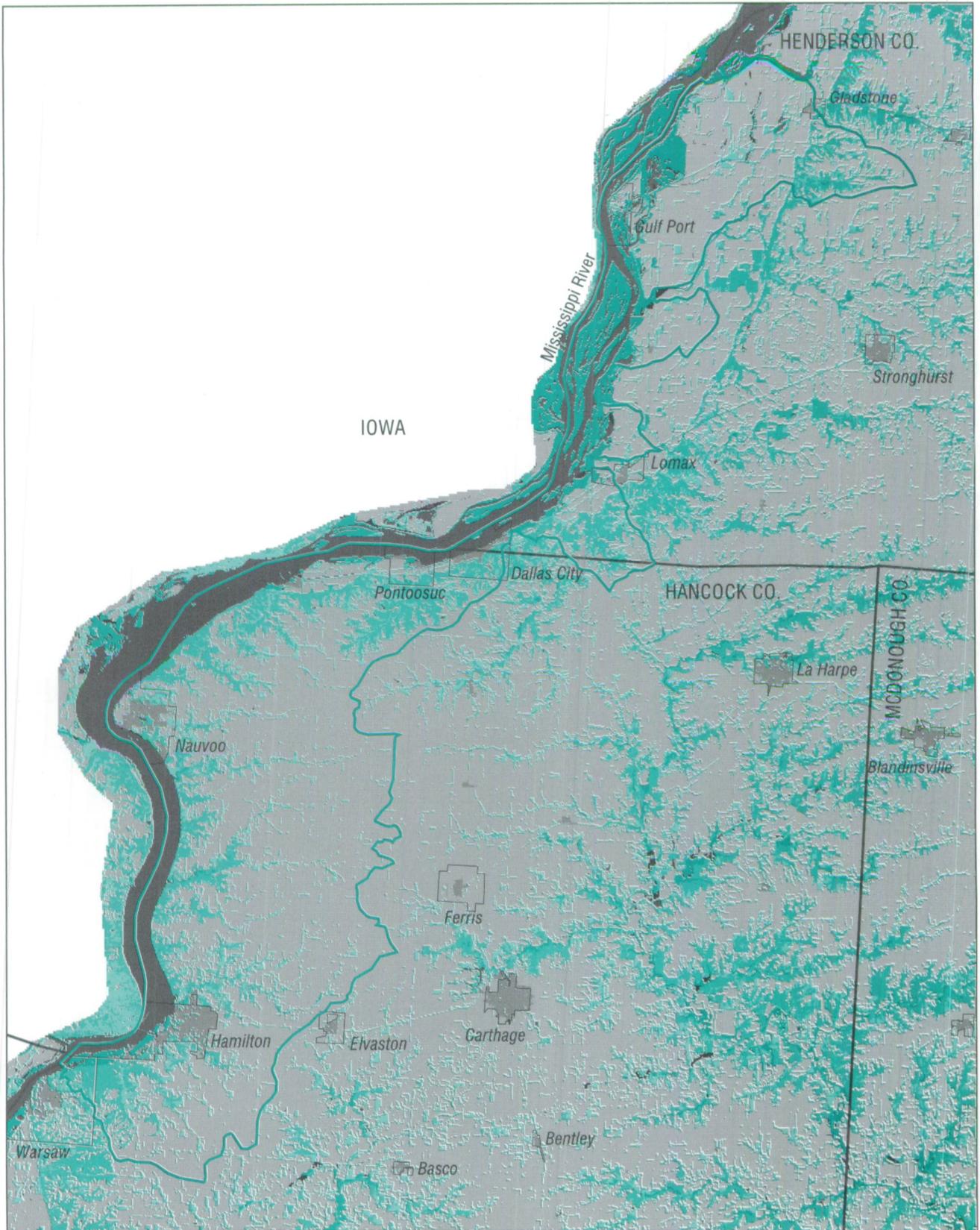
Nauvoos

- Natural Area
- Town
- State Land
- Federal Land

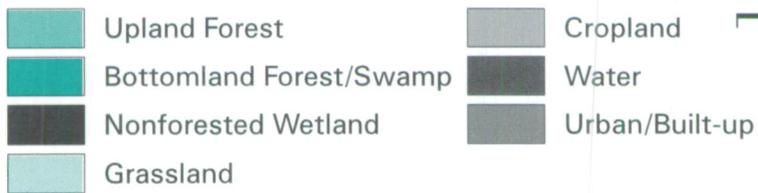
- Stream
- Significant Stream
- Highway
- County

5 Miles





Nauvoo



5 Miles




Nauvoo is probably most noteworthy for its history tied to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons). From 1839 to 1846 Nauvoo was the religious, governmental, and cultural center of the Mormons. With 12,000 inhabitants in 1844, it was one of the largest cities in Illinois.

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES
Cedar Glen
Mississippi River Sand Hills

Acres
191
53

NATURAL DIVISIONS

Middle Mississippi Border
Upper Mississippi R
and Illinois R Bottomlands
Western Forest-Prairie
Illinois R and Mississippi R Sand Areas
Major Water Bodies

Acres <u>in RRA</u>	% of <u>RRA</u>	% of <u>Division</u>
75,445	51.8	4.9
20,353	14.0	1.7
18,802	12.90	.4
17,266	11.9	4.5
13,800	9.5	1.1

