

Cannon River Watershed

The Cannon River slowly meanders across gently sloping cropland areas as it heads east through the historic mill towns of Faribault, Northfield, and Red Wing before it empties into the Mississippi River. Located just an hour south of the Twin Cities, the Cannon River watershed has suffered significant habitat loss and degradation, as well as water quality impairment, due to increased development pressure and intensive agricultural practices. Trust for Public Land is working to remedy these issues by acquiring and restoring core parcels of land contributing to a large complex of restored prairies, grasslands, forest, wetlands, lakeshore, and river shoreline.

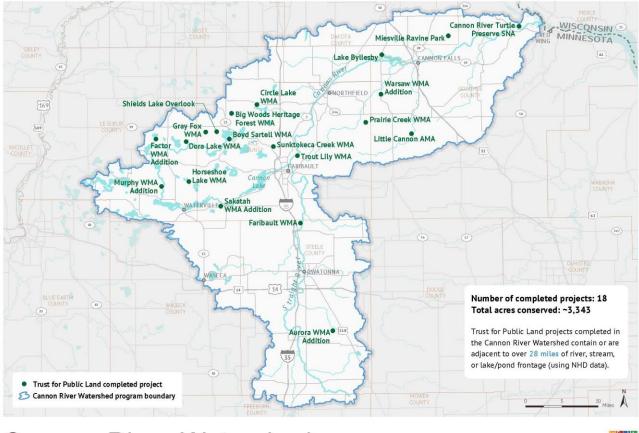
WHAT WE DO

The Cannon River Watershed is 97% in private ownership and the protection of this area will reverse habitat loss, help protect water quality, and provide much-needed public access for hunting, angling, and other outdoor recreational opportunities within an hour's drive for over half of the state's population.

Trust for Public Land is leading a multi-year, multipartner conservation effort to acquire and restore land so that it's protected and publicly accessible. Together with Clean River Partners and Great River Greening, we work in partnership with the Minnesota DNR and local governments to protect and restore land for people to enjoy.

RECENT WINS FOR CONSERVATION

- Horseshoe Lake Wildlife Management Area: We helped protect 152 acres of gorgeous forest, wetland, and grassland habitat as Horseshoe Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) with the help of our partners at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Conserving this land not only means expanded recreational opportunities that are close to home, but it's also a crucial step in creating larger habitat blocks that connect to Horseshoe Lake, and protecting the quality of the watershed.
- Little Cannon Aquatic Management Area: We protected 77 acres of land and conveyed it to the Minnesota DNR as the Little Cannon Aquatic Management Area (AMA). Bisected by the Little Cannon River, a DNR designated trout steam, this newly created AMA is a mix of river shoreline, mature forest, and agricultural fields that will be converted back to their natural habitat. This project creates angler access and an opportunity for streambank restoration.
- **Prairie Creek Wildlife Management Area:** This property is one of the largest expanses of native grassland in the region and is protected so everyone can enjoy this wildlife haven. In 2013. Trust for Public Land worked with the Koester family to protect and create the 460-acre Prairie Creek Wildlife Management Area. An additional 134 acres were recently acquired to expand and further buffer this rare grasslands.



Cannon River Watershed



March 21, 2024. Copyright @ Trust for Public Land. Trust for Public Land and Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered man





Connecting everyone to the outdoors[™] tpl.org

Contact Information

Bob McGillivray Land Protection Director 651.999.5307 Bob.McGillivray@tpl.org

Photo: Andy Richter