

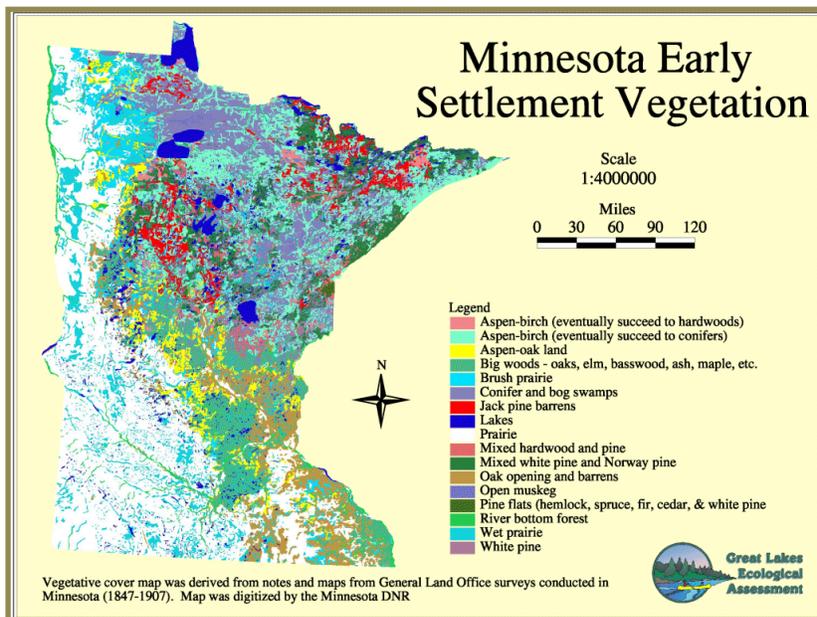
Oak Savanna Restoration

Isanti County lies within the Anoka Sandplain and historically consisted of prairie and scattered oak barrens. Due to human disturbance and lack of natural fires this ecotype has become dominated by cool season non native grasses along with woody vegetation.

Isanti County Parks has received Legacy grant funding from the Lesard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to restore 20 acres within Springvale County Park and 25 acres within Becklin Homestead County Park / WMA into oak savanna.



Pre Settlement



This map was created by the U.S. Forest Service from the DNR's digitized version of Francis J. Marschner's map.

In the area of Becklin Homestead County Park / WMA and Springvale County Park this map shows that vegetation in early settlement consisted of oak openings and barrens.

Oak Savannah Habitat

Oak savanna, an ecosystem that was once widely distributed, is currently one of the most endangered, with less than 0.1% of the original tract remaining. Remnants still exist, mostly on infertile soils that are unsuitable for farming. They have been widely destroyed or degraded through cultivation, overgrazing, and fire suppression.



Oak savannas are one of the most characteristic native habitats of the Region. Restored oak savannas contribute to vital ecosystem services such as water quality protection, flood control, air quality improvement and creation of wildlife habitat.

Prescribed Burning



Prescribed fire removes the thin-barked shrubs and trees from the understory of the forest without harming the dominant oaks. Controlled fire in an oak savanna is a slowly moving, low-intensity ground fire, consuming the dry oak leaves as well as savanna grasses and forbs, encouraging the regeneration of oak. Most importantly, it kills invasive shrubs and trees and keeps the savanna open.

