

Habitat Conservation Program

Habitat highlight: Hidden Lake



Hidden Lake is a tamarack bog and one of the county's most pristine and ecologically significant natural areas. The 47 acre bog is immediately surrounded by about 200 acres of farmland, including 25 acres of restorable wetlands. Hidden Lake is the anchor of a 1,600 acre complex of habitat (the Hidden Lake Corridor) that connects the southern part of Lake Sarah to the northern part of Lake Independence. It is also a critical part of a 4.5 mile long corridor connecting Baker Park Reserve in the east and Lake Rebecca Reserve and the Crow Wing River in the west. By focusing private land protection and restoration in the Hidden Lake Corridor, we seek to create an overall habitat complex in excess of 4,000 acres, allowing wildlife like trumpeter swans more room to spread their wings in Hennepin County.

Habitat details

- Wildlife present: insects, canopy and ground nesting birds, amphibians, migratory birds, whitetail deer, wild turkey and many other mammals
- Habitat present: deep and shallow water marshes, wet meadows, tamarack bog, old growth maple-basswood forest, and mesic tallgrass prairie
- Location: Medina, MN
- Protection and ownership status: Hidden Lake is divided among 6 private landowners, and Hennepin County holds a conservation easement with one of those landowners so far. Of the larger 1,600 acre complex, about 70 acres are protected in conservation easements. The rest is largely privately owned and unprotected.

Connection nodes

The Hidden Lake Corridor connects fragmented natural areas, providing sanctuary and a pathway for animal and plant species. This corridor connects 2,700 acres of high quality habitat at Baker Park Reserve (pictured below) in the east to the 3,000 acre Lake Rebecca Reserve, a high-quality gem of habitat in its own right, and the Crow Wing River in the west. Baker and Lake Rebecca are both home to **trumpeter swans**, which were once endangered and are one of Minnesota's greatest wildlife and habitat success stories.

