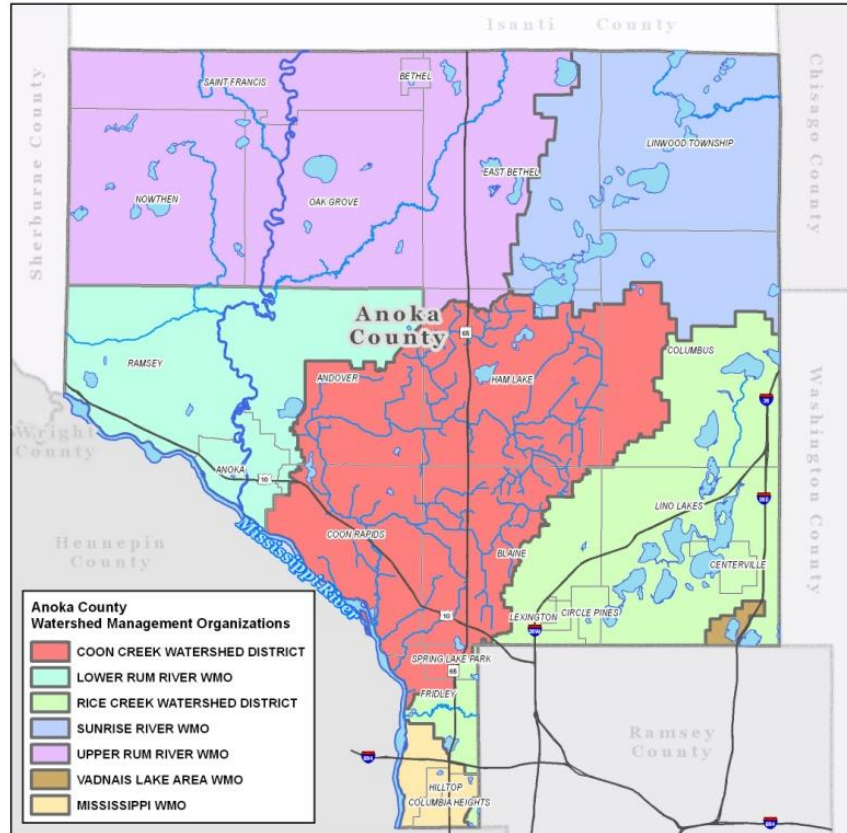


Overview of the Coon Creek Watershed

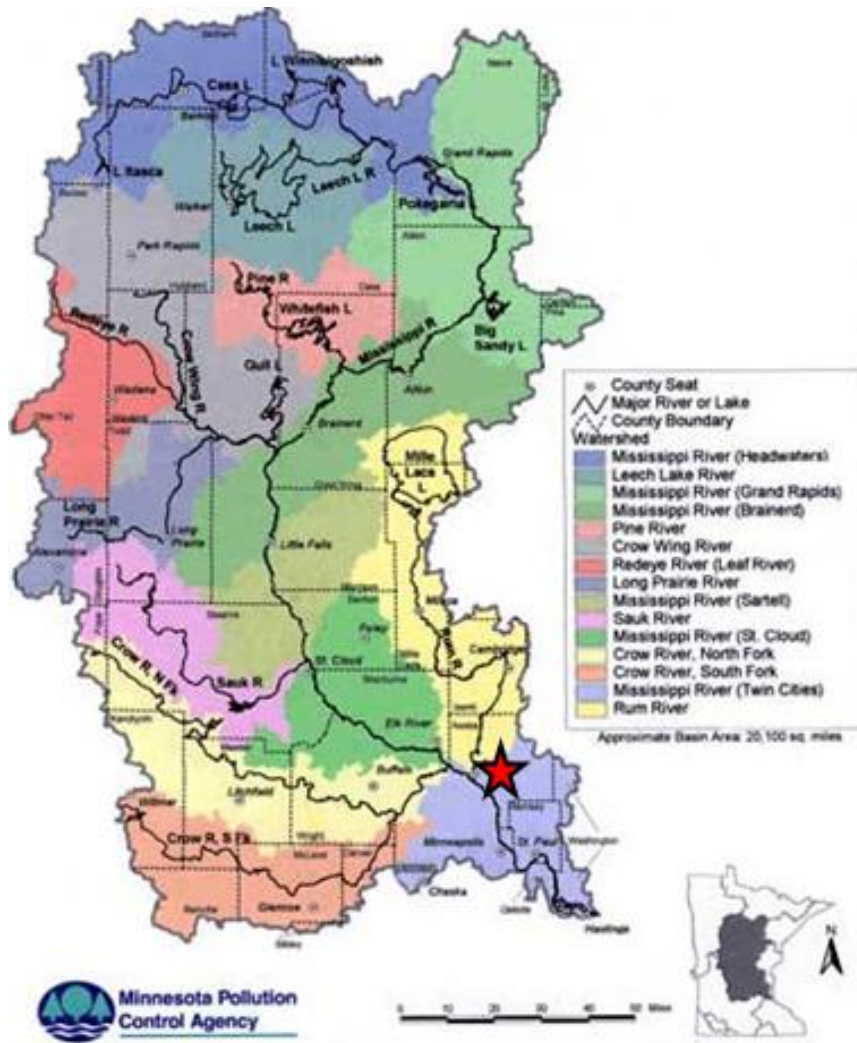
Location The Coon Creek Watershed District is a 106-square mile drainage area in Central Anoka County, Minnesota.

Anoka County Minnesota



Upper Mississippi River Watershed

The Coon Creek watershed is part of the Twin Cities portion of the Upper Mississippi River Watershed (UMRW). The UMRW includes the headwaters of the Mississippi River and its outlet is at its confluence with the Minnesota River. The Coon Creek Watershed outlets to the Mississippi River approximately 21 miles upstream from where those rivers join.



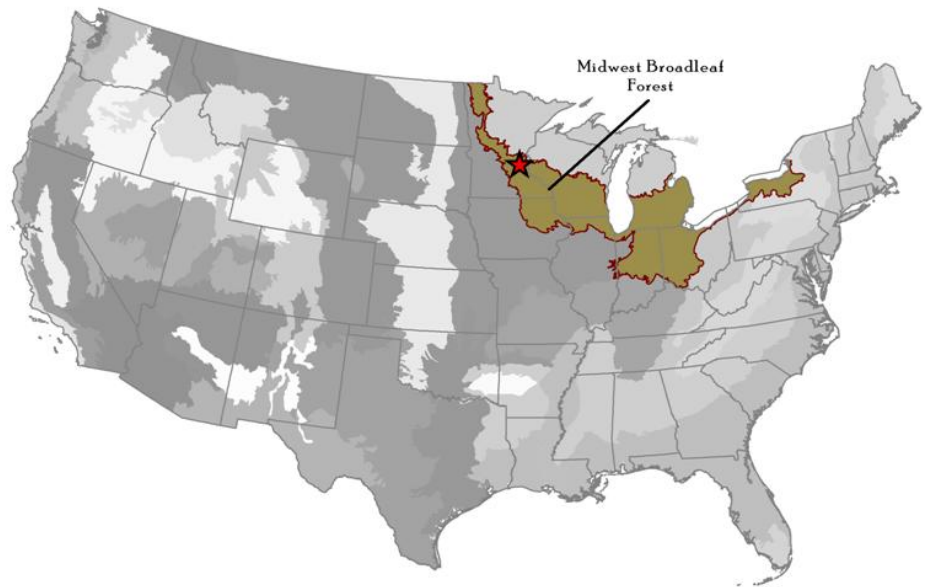
Ecological Setting

To address ecosystem hierarchy we will use the National Framework of Ecological Units based on terms defined by Bailey (1995). The Ecological Classification System (ECS) is a method to identify, describe and map units of land with different capabilities to support natural resources. This is done by integrating climatic, geologic, hydrologic, topographic, soil and vegetation data.

ECS divides the landscape into a series of ecosystems that are nestled within one another in a hierarchy of spatial sizes. In Minnesota, the classification and mapping is divided into six levels of detail. These levels are:

Province	Midwest Broadleaf Forest
Section	Minnesota and NE Iowa Moraine
Subsection	Anoka Sand Plain
Land type association	Anoka Lake Plain
Land types	Glacial Lake Hugo Lake Plain Glacial Lake Fridley Lake Plain Mississippi Sand Plain

Midwest
Broadleaf
Forest
Province

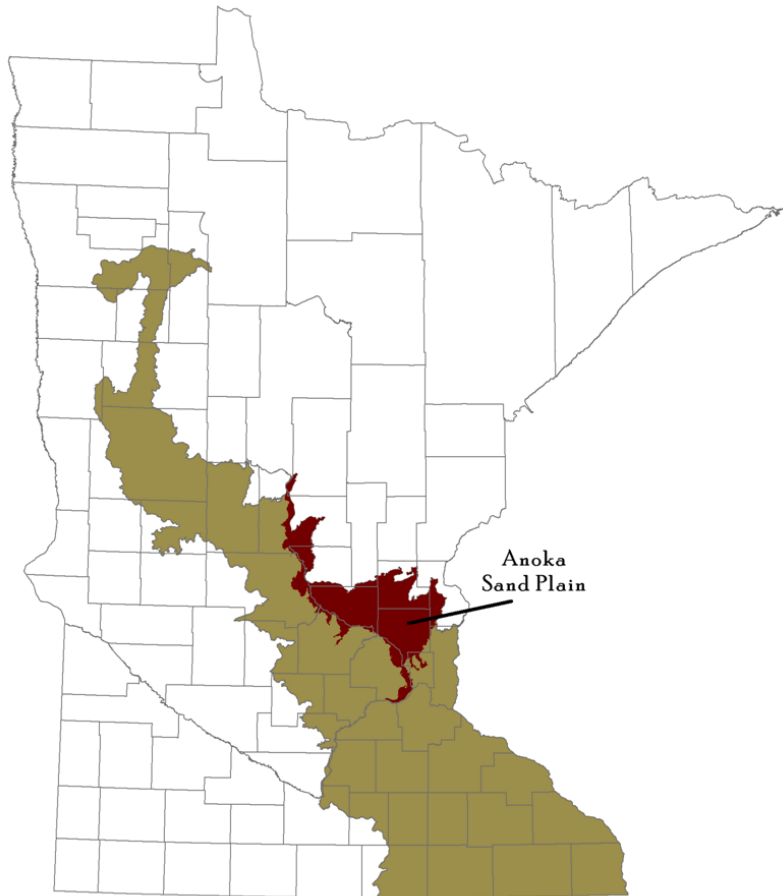


**Subsection -
Anoka Sand
Plain**

The Anoka Sand Plain is approximately 1,960 square miles in size. It is a sand outwash plain formed by the retreat of the Superior Lobe of the Grantsburg Sub-lobe of the Late Wisconsin glaciers.

Outwash plains consist mainly of sandy and coarsely textured material of glaciofluvial origin; generally smooth, and where pitted is of generally low topographic relief.

The Anoka Sand Plain consists of a flat, sandy lake plain along the Mississippi River.

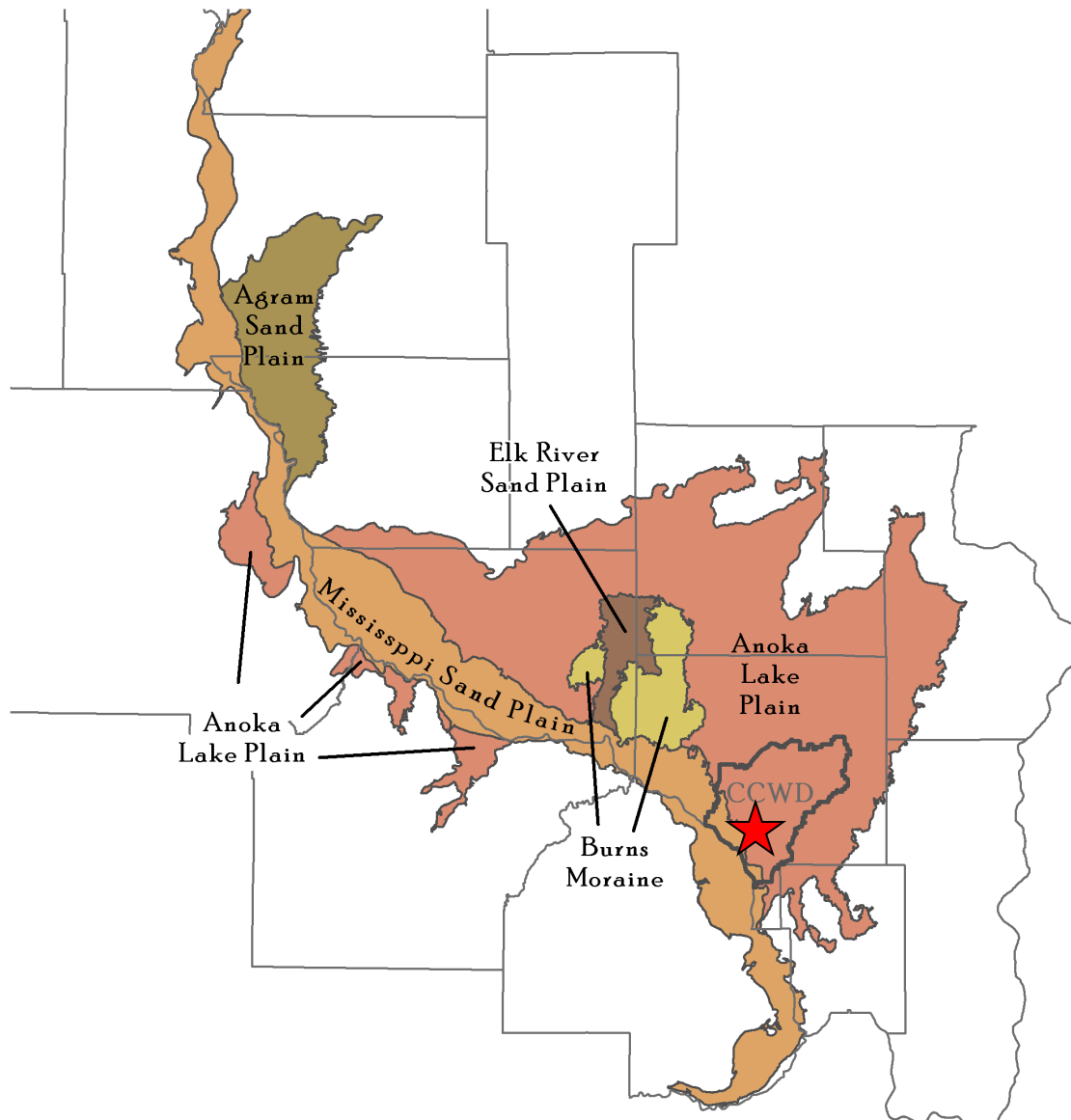


**Land Type
Association: Anoka
Lake Plain**

Coon Creek Watershed is included in a portion of the Anoka Sand Plain known as the Anoka Lake Plain.

The Anoka Lake Plain is a nearly level to gently rolling lake plain formed by melt water from the Grantsburg Sublobe. Some areas of the lake plain have been reworked by wind to form dunes.

The soils are primarily fine sands with organic and loamy and hemic hydric soils in depressions. The regional water table is very shallow, usually less than 17 feet below the surface with much of it exposed in the form of wetlands, lakes and streams.



Land Types

The basic character of the watershed landscape occurs in three geomorphic land types that contain distinctive landforms and landscape patterns (Glacial Lake Hugo, Glacial Lake Fridley and the Mississippi River Terrace).

Glacial Lake Hugo

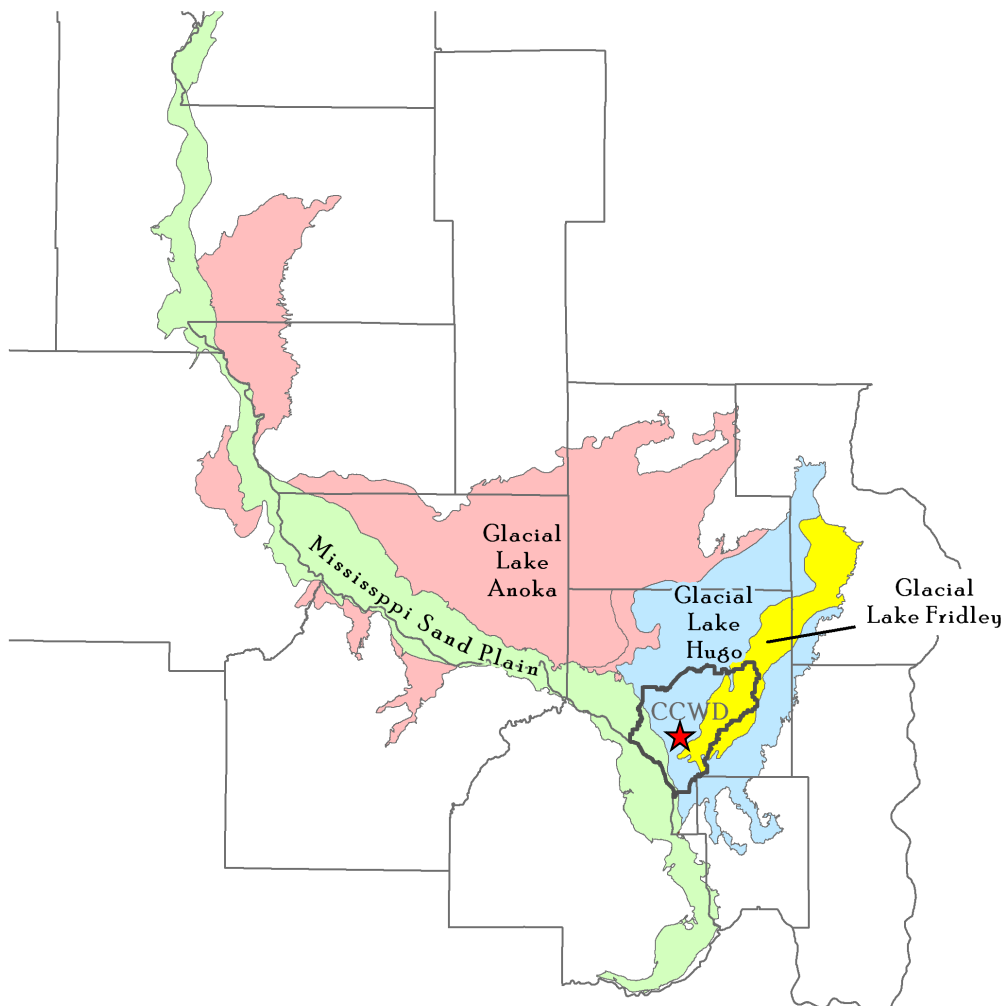
These land types were formed from glacial meltwater as the Grantsburg sublobe melted between 16,000 and 13,000 years ago. The meltwaters formed a large outwash and lake plain.

Glacial Lake Fridley

The outwash plain is mainly sandy or coarsely textured material of glaciofluvial material. An outwash plain is commonly smooth, and where pitted or contains depressions, generally is low in relief. The lake deposited sands across much of eastern part of the Anoka Sand Plain (Meyer, 1993).

Mississippi Sand Plain

A third land type, The Mississippi River Terraces provides a distinctive landscape formed by the Mississippi River. Here the erosion and down cutting created by the river is steep in some places in contrast to the smooth and flat landscape of the lake plains.



Major Land Types within Coon Creek Watershed District

