

## Important?

They are “**landscape protectors**” – reducing the impact of flooding and erosion.



They are “**trash compactors and recyclers**” decomposing organic matter and cycling important elements through plant and animal life.



They are “**happy places**” – granting open space for us to enjoy and connect with our natural world when we need a break from the hustle and bustle that surrounds us.



## Why Are Wetlands

They are “**biological supermarkets**” - very productive ecosystems, yielding food at the base of the food web to support all other living things in that environment.



They are “**residential developments**” - providing habitat for all life stages of many species of plants and animals, including rare, threatened, and endangered species.



They are “**filters and sponges**” – soaking up excess nutrients and pollutants, replenishing surface and groundwater, and providing benefits for water quality and hydrology.



11980 Lexington Ave NE  
Blaine, MN 55449

For information about the site or programs, contact the Blaine Parks and Recreation Department at 763-785-6164 or [recreation@blainemn.gov](mailto:recreation@blainemn.gov)

[Blainemn.gov/BlaineWetland Sanctuary](http://Blainemn.gov/BlaineWetlandSanctuary)  
#BlaineWetlandSanctuary  
#BWSBlooms  
#BWSWildlife



Explore With Us

# Explore!

An extensive boardwalk meanders through the wetland, allowing you to experience a serene and natural environment. The boardwalk extends from the trailhead on Lexington Avenue through both wetland and upland habitats connecting to East Lake Park.

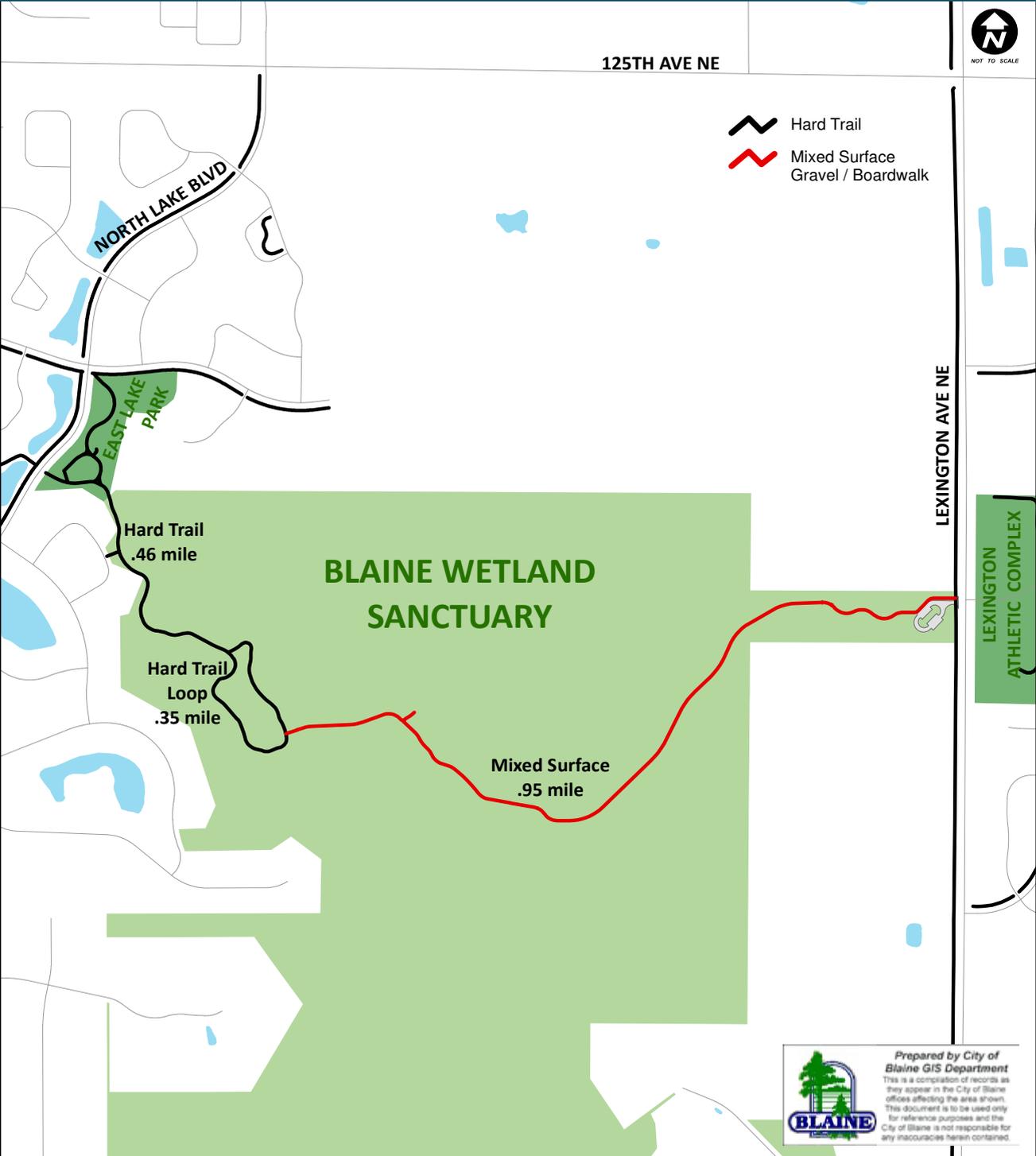
Future plans for the BWS include additional trails (exact locations are yet to be determined) and a nature center at the Lexington Avenue trailhead.

Management of the wetland site will continue into the future to accomplish the plan approved by the regulatory agencies.

During spring and summer, crews will be out applying pollinator friendly herbicides to control the invasive species which inhibit the growth of the native vegetation.

Prescribed burns and over-seeding with native herbaceous species will allow the area to thrive and provide important habitat for birds, pollinators, and wildlife.

The health of a wetland takes maintenance and care. The City of Blaine is committed to preserving this area for the enjoyment of the community now and into the future.



# Vision and Concept

In 2000, the residents of Blaine passed a referendum to levy taxes supporting the acquisition of open space. With these funds, the City purchased over 500 acres of land now known as the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary with the mission of restoring it to its natural state.

The Blaine Wetland Sanctuary includes four distinct habitat communities: Anoka Sand Plain Wet Meadow, Rich Fen, Poor Fen, and upland forest.

Each provides a unique habitat for a variety of plants, wildlife, and pollinators. Several species of rare and endangered plants can be found at the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary.

The Blaine Wetland Sanctuary is undergoing a major restoration process. The overall goals of the restoration are to:

- Increase plant biodiversity
- Create a habitat for Minnesota rare plant species
- Permanently protect groundwater recharge/discharge
- Restore and manage native pollinator habitat
- Provide a space for education, recreation and aesthetics

The Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) is the citizen advisory committee responsible for overseeing the maintenance and preservation of Blaine's open spaces. The NRCB is the caretaker of Blaine's natural resources ensuring they are protected for current and future residents and safeguarding habitats for wildlife and pollinators.