



Since European settlement in the mid-1800s, much of the region's best topsoil has eroded to streams and lowlands.

This map displays the soil erodibility factor (K-factor) for the Upper Mississippi River Basin. K is a measure of the susceptibility of soil particles to detachment and transport by rainfall and runoff. Texture is the principal factor affecting K, but structure, plant cover, organic matter, and permeability also contribute.

Darker areas on the map are more susceptible to erosion (i.e. silt, loam) and lighter areas are less susceptible to erosion (i.e. sand, clay).