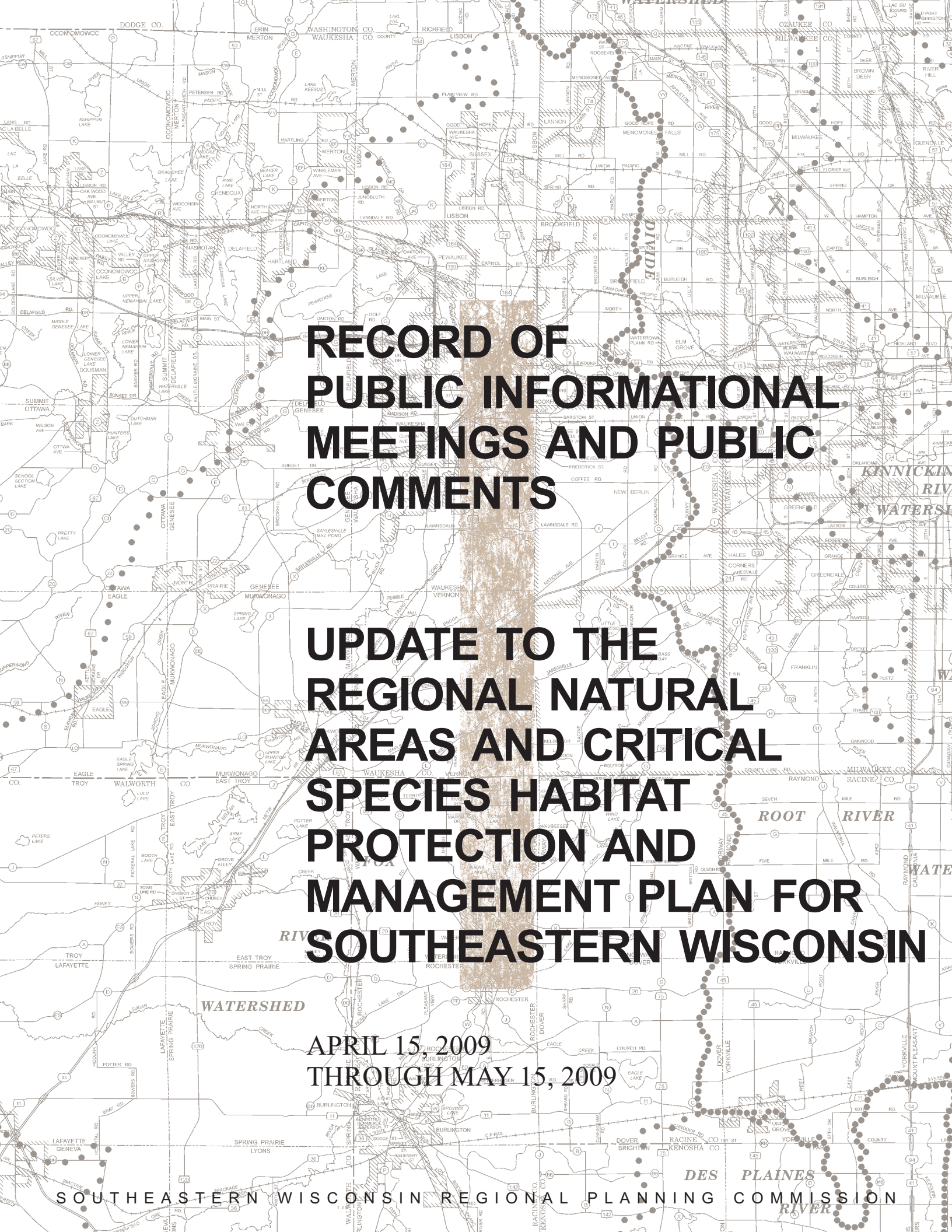

RECORD OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

APRIL 15, 2009
THROUGH MAY 15, 2009

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RECORD OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM
APRIL 15, 2009 THROUGH MAY 15, 2009

Prepared by the

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October 2009

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RECORD OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

This document constitutes the formal record of the public informational meetings and public comments received as part of the preparation and review of the proposed update to the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan for Southeastern Wisconsin. As such, this document focuses on a public participation effort conducted from April 15, 2009, to May 15, 2009, and the associated informational materials, advance notice, conduct, public discussion, testimony, and written comments and petitions. This document is intended to aid the Commission's Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection and Management of Natural Areas in Southeastern Wisconsin and the Regional Planning Commission in considering a plan to help protect biodiversity in Southeastern Wisconsin. The Technical Advisory Committee has been charged with considering the public comment and making any needed changes to the plan prior to forwarding a final recommended plan to the Regional Planning Commission for adoption.

FORMAL MEANS OF NOTIFICATION

Both the products and the processes used to notify the public regarding the preparation of the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan update are important. Because "the public" is in reality a complex fabric of many different segments having variably distinct and often conflicting interests, the task of reaching the entire public in a meaningful way is difficult. The Commission has therefore chosen to direct outreach efforts to targeted audiences consisting of State, county, and local elected and appointed officials, interested citizens and organizations, and central city, minority, and low-income community representatives.

One of the more important means of communicating both the subject matter and the status of the planning process was the SEWRPC *Newsletter*. The April 2009 *Newsletter* was devoted to a summary of the findings and preliminary recommendations of the natural areas protection planning process. This *Newsletter* was distributed to some 2,000 interested officials and citizens. The information contained in the *Newsletter* is sufficiently detailed, as well as comprehensive, for concerned citizens and elected officials to comprehend fully the scope, recommendations, and implications of the proposed regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan. A copy of the *Newsletter*, which includes the public informational meeting announcement, was posted to the SEWRPC website and is shown in Exhibit A-1.

A display advertisement regarding the public informational meetings was published in newspapers throughout the Region. Exhibit A-2 shows the announcement as published in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and distributed to the Commission's Environmental Justice Task Force and to other interested parties. Similar paid advertisements were also published in an additional 11 local newspapers in southeastern Wisconsin. Exhibit A-3 contains a listing of these newspapers.

Such notification of the general public supplemented the announcement of public informational meetings on page one of the *Newsletter* for the Regional Natural Areas Plan, which was direct-mailed first class to all individuals listed on the SEWRPC mailing list, and other interested parties. First-class mailings were also sent to the Commission's list of central city, minority, and low-income groups and organizations. Representatives of over 80 organizations thereby received the *Newsletter* enclosed with a personal letter, which included an invitation to meet individually or with their group regarding the preliminary recommended plan. Included within this latter mailing was a one-page summary describing the planning effort to protect the best remaining examples of natural areas, critical species habitat areas, geological sites, and archaeological sites in the Region. This "At a Glance" summary, shown as Exhibit A-4, later served as a public meeting handout.

Formal announcement of the public meetings was further given through a Commission news release sent to the 12 newspapers throughout the Region noted above, and to other interested parties. A copy of the news release is included in Exhibit A-5.

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A series of four public informational meetings regarding the update to the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan was conducted in April 2009. Upon entering the open houses, and at several junctures during each meeting, attendees were encouraged by staff to record their comments, so that their thoughts could be considered by the Regional Natural Areas Plan Advisory Committee and the Commission.

Comments during the public informational meetings were recorded in two basic ways: 1) attendees completing a written comment form—or submitting comments in writing by any other means found convenient; and 2) via dictation to a court reporter in which case the comments from persons registering were transcribed from oral to written form. Exhibits B-1 through B-4 contain the verbatim transcripts of the oral comments received. The complete attendance roster by respective event is attached to the end of each transcript. Exhibit B-5 is a sample court reporter registration and a sample comment form.

Attendees were also advised that their comments could be submitted at any time following the meetings via the Commission's website, email, fax, or the U.S. Postal Service. Similarly, these comment opportunities were noted in the *Newsletter* and newspaper advertisements discussed above, with a comment form also available on the SEWRPC website at www.sewrpc.org/environmental/na_plan_updated.

Citizens were apprised via the announcements, via speaker registration and plan comment forms, and via presentations at each meeting that the public record would be held open for a period of 15 days following the last of the public meetings, held on April 30, 2009, in Eagle, concluding with materials postmarked May 15, 2009.

A copy of the preliminary recommended plan, in its entirety, was noted as being available at the Commission offices during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Each of the meetings included an informal one-hour "open house" session at which Commission staff were present. During this time, participants were free to review maps and other plan materials, to ask specific and individualized questions, and to offer comments.

Following the open house at each of the public meetings, a presentation of the plan was made to help summarize and highlight important matters for the attendees. The staff presentation is reproduced at the end of this narrative, beginning on page 13, along with the accompanying power point.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Attendance at the four public informational meetings totaled 68 persons. Comments received by the Commission pertaining to the Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan Amendment were received from 18 persons, agencies, municipalities, and organizations, including written comments received at the meetings, comments dictated to the court reporter at the meetings, and comments received via U.S. mail, e-mail, and the comments page of the Commission website. Some submissions had multiple signatories. Some agencies, municipalities, or organizations made multiple submissions or comments.

The Commission's response to these comments are grouped according to support of, opposition to, and specific aspects of the proposed plan amendment as follows.

Comments in Support of the Preliminary Amendment to the Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan

Seven comments were received that expressed general support for the preliminary Plan Amendment. In addition, 10 comments were received that, in essence, expressed support for the plan, but also specifically referred to suggested additions or corrections to the plan, including new information that had not been previously received by the Commission staff. Furthermore, one comment was received from the Wisconsin Wetlands Association indicating their support for the joint proposal by the U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to update and re-verify the Advanced Identification (ADID) program in Southeastern Wisconsin. Comments received from one signatory were not relevant to the Natural Areas Plan or the Plan Amendment, but rather related to open space issues at the Milwaukee County Grounds.

Comments in Opposition to the Plan Amendment

The Commission received no comments expressing opposition to the plan.

Comments Regarding Specific Aspects of the Plan Amendment

- **Comment**: The Geneva Lake Conservancy recommended that the area locally referred to as the North Shore Woods, located along North Shore Drive in the Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake, be considered for inclusion in the Plan Amendment.

  Response: The Commission staff investigated the site in 2009 and concluded that the quality and species diversity were sufficiently high to warrant inclusion in the Plan Amendment as a natural area of NA-3 status.

- **Comment**: The suggestion was made that a site in "Ozaukee County," featuring an esker and dry-mesic upland deciduous 'old growth' woodland adjacent to an undeveloped glacial lake, be included in the Plan Amendment.

  Response: This site, actually located in Washington County, was included in Table 64, page 228, of Planning Report Number 42 as "Myra Wetlands," a natural area of NA-2 quality, and in Table 104, page 350, as "Myra Esker," a geological area of GA-2 quality.

- **Comment**: It was suggested that one of the last Silurian limestone rock outcroppings along the Menomonee River in Milwaukee County, located on the east river bank, and south of and nearly adjacent to Mill Road, be included in the Plan Amendment.

  Response: This site was included in Table 104, page 351, of Planning Report Number 42 as "Mill Road Reef," a geological area of GA-3 quality.

- **Comment**: It was suggested that the final approach area north of Layton Avenue, aligned with runway 19 at General Mitchell International Airport and consisting of degraded mowed grassland, be included in the Plan Amendment as it supports populations of grassland nesting birds.

  Response: While it is indeed apparent that grassland birds are using this artificial grassland for nesting, because of the potential conflict with low-flying aircraft, the Commission in consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, does not believe it would be prudent to encourage increased bird activity near or within airports by designating this area as a critical bird species habitat site.

- **Comment**: It was suggested that the Commission consider purchasing portions of the Hartland Marsh in Waukesha County so that pro-active land management practices such as controlled burning could be implemented.

  Response: The Commission, while not an agency that purchases and manages conservation lands directly, does encourage properly managing open space areas such as the Hartland Marsh, even though the site is not of Regional natural area quality according to the criteria set forth in Planning Report Number 42.

- **Comment**: Grootemaat Woods is actually owned by the Village of Greendale, not the City of Greenfield, as listed in the Plan Amendment.

  Response: The Commission will correct this error.

- **Comment**: The name of the site called "Carity Prairie" should be changed to better describe ecological conditions.

  Response: The Commission is following the name assigned the site by the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy, i.e., "Carity Prairie."

- **Comment**: The beech woodland in Bender Park, located along the north side of Fitzsimmons Road, should be included in the Plan Amendment. It includes critical plant species and a vernal pond. The woodland south of the road should also be included.

  Response: This site was included in Table 69, page 260, of Planning Report Number 42 as "Bender Park Woods—South," a Critical Species Habitat area so classified because of the presence of the State-designated endangered bluestem goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*). However, the woodland south of the road was not included since it did not contain any critical species nor was it continuous with the delineated woods, separated from it by a road.

- **Comment**: Considering the fact that sites in the north half of Milwaukee County are extremely rare, suitable areas should be given close scrutiny. Specifically, a small but diverse woodland owned by a Catholic order of nuns near N. 76th Street that was described by Dr. James Levenson in his dissertation should be considered.

  Response: The Commission staff, after reviewing the available data, agrees that this site (to be designated as "Convent Woods"), though small, is of sufficient quality to warrant inclusion in the Plan Amendment, and thus will be added as a natural area of NA-3 quality.

- **Comment**: Designation of the "Trestle Creek Woods" in St. Francis as a Critical Species Habitat area is encouraging. More areas near Seminary Woods Natural Area in St. Francis should be protected, including more open space owned by WE Energies, particularly areas planted to prairie (two comments).

  Response: "Trestle Creek Woods" provides habitat for the State-designated endangered bluestem goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*), which automatically classifies it as a Critical Species Habitat area. However,

the other open spaces mentioned do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the Natural Areas Plan, i.e., they do not support State-designated critical species, nor do they contain natural plant communities.

- **Comment**: There was a request that the Commission publish larger scale maps of the locations of natural areas and critical species habitat areas.

  Response: Publication of larger scale maps indicating more specifically the locations of the more than 700 sites would be prohibitively expensive. In addition, publication of such maps may contribute to unwanted attention to these critical resources, resulting in unwanted trespass on private lands and over-collecting and other uses on public lands. Finally, the specific locations of critical species habitat sites related to State and Federal endangered and threatened species is protected by law.

- **Comment**: Interest was expressed in creating some process by which updates to the Natural Areas Plan could be accomplished in a shorter period of time, rather than a 10-year cycle.

  Response: There is a general land use process through which the Commission updates plans, based on available funds. There is a possibility of an annual vetting process, with Committee and Bureau of Endangered Resources review. Changes in sites, and addition of new sites, could then be added to the Natural Areas Plan as part of that 10-year cycle. In addition, more frequent "interim" type updates to the plan could be addressed through amendments to the individual county park, recreation, and open space plans.

- **Comment**: There was a question as to whether there are minimum size criteria for ADID wetlands.

  Response: There are no minimum size criteria for ADID wetlands in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Comments Received From Washington County Planning and Parks Department

- **Comment**: Maps and tables should have a date (at least the year) showing data currency.

  Response: The year "2008" will be included in the title of all tables and maps in the Plan Amendment.

- **Comment**: Map 7 (page 18) and map 35 (page 164) in the Plan Amendment appear to be the same. It says Map 35 is 'to be updated.' When will the updated version be available?

  Response: It is estimated that the final versions will be made available in the Fall, 2009.

- **Comment**: Supposedly, the natural area known as "Cedar-Sauk Low Woods" lies within both Washington and Ozaukee counties, yet in both Planning Report Number 42 and the Plan Amendment it is listed as being in Ozaukee County only. Which is correct?

  Response: The protocol for the Commission for sites occurring across county boundaries is to identify them by the primary county only. This will prevent such multi-county sites from being tallied multiple times when total number of sites is calculated. However, the actual tables listing the sites also indicate the secondary county, plus the amount of acreage within that county.

- **Comment**: Table 18 (page 96) in the Plan Amendment doesn't list the Jackson Swamp State Natural Area as being in Section 17, or the Pike Lake Woods as being in Section 23. Are these errors?

  Response: The final version of Table 18 will include these U.S. Public Land Survey Sections.

- **Comment**: It would be helpful if Tables 19-22 listed the original (1994) and new net acreages for natural areas and critical species habitat areas. Are all changes in these tables based on the original data in Planning Report Number 42?

Response: All changes in these tables reflect the original acreages as presented in Planning Report Number 42. Tables 19-22 of the Plan Amendment will be revised to include the original acreages.

- **Comment**: Table 21 of the Plan Amendment (page 112) says that the boundaries of Kettle Moraine Drive Woods have been adjusted to include six additional acres. This site overlaps both Washington and Fond du Lac counties. Were the six acres added to Washington County, Fond du Lac County, or both?

  Response: The additional acreage was located only in Washington County. Fond du Lac County is not located within the Region and is accordingly not addressed in this report update.

- **Comment**: Table 21 of the Plan Amendment (page 113) states that the USH 41 Swamp has been changed to include 25 additional acres, but the notes explain there was a loss on the east boundary. Should it say "-25 acres" or should the notes say "Adjust boundary?"

  Response: The Commission will revise the notes to read "Boundary adjusted."

- **Comment**: Table 22 of the Plan Amendment (page 121) lists a Critical Species Habitat (CSH) site called "Silver Lake Wetlands" in Section 27. The original Planning Report Number 42 also lists a CSH site called "Silver Lake" in Section 34. Are these the same sites?

  Response: "Silver Lake" and "Silver Lake Wetlands" refer to two separate Critical Species Habitat areas. In the interest of clarification, the site in Section 27 will be changed to "Silver Lake Woods," and the site in Section 34 will be changed to "Silver Lake Swamp."

- **Comment**: Table 23 of the Plan Amendment (page 134) listed the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as both the original and revised recommended owner of the Milwaukee River Floodplain Forest State Natural Area. Planning Report Number 42 (Table 109; page 386) lists the WisDNR as the proposed acquisition agency. Should the revised ownership be corrected, or should the site not be listed in Table 23 at all?

  Response: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will continue as owner of the site. Table 23 will be revised accordingly.

Comments Received From The City of Muskego

- **Comment**: Big Muskego Lake was listed in Planning Report No. 42 as being of NA-3 quality. Because of the marsh's extensive use by wildlife, including breeding populations of several critical bird species, it was suggested that the status of the site be re-evaluated.

  Response: Following discussions with ecological and wildlife experts from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Commission staff determined that the Big Muskego Lake should be re-classified as NA-2.

- **Comment**: It was suggested that Peters Woods in the City of Muskego be included in the report.

  Response: Since there is present an active great blue heron rookery, and the heron is a State-designated special concern species, the site will be included as a Critical Species Habitat area.

- **Comment**: Reference was made to an extensive vegetation survey in the City of Muskego completed by Applied Ecological Services, and the recommendation was made that the Commission review the listed sites to determine whether any should be included in the Plan Amendment.

  Response: The Commission staff reviewed the vegetation survey. Several sites were already included as new sites in the Plan Amendment. One new area, to be identified as Schroeder Woods, supports red

trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*), a State-designated special concern species, and thus will be included as a Critical Species Habitat area. However, the majority of the sites listed, while perhaps of local interest, did not meet the standards for inclusion in a regional plan.

Verbal Comments Received During Open House Meetings Pertaining to Aspects of the Plan Amendment

- **Comment**: Landowner requested that the status of the Critical Species Habitat area located in the Town of Eagle listed in Planning Report Number 42 as "Holtz Oak Opening" be reconsidered as a natural area.

  Response: Communication with knowledgeable staff of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources agreed that the status should be raised to NA-3, with the recommendation that it be raised to NA-2 after appropriate management to restore more of an oak savanna community. The site will be listed as NA-3 in the Plan Amendment.

- **Comment**: A previously undocumented population of the State-designated threatened kittentails (*Besseya bullii*) on private lands near Hunters Lake in the Town of Ottawa was brought to the attention of the Commission staff.

  Response: At the invitation of the landowner, the Commission staff investigated the site. A good-sized population of kittentails was found, and the site will be included in the Plan Amendment as the Pogodzinski Kittentails Site, a Critical Species Habitat area.

- **Comment:** Mr. Glenn A. Christiansen of the Pleasant Prairie Parks Commission verbally indicated to the Commission staff that he had identified two State-designated threatened plant species—wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*) and tuberous Indian plantain (*Cacalia tuberosa*)—within the prairie remnant at the southwest corner of IH 94 and CTH C in the Village of Pleasant Prairie.

  Response: This site had initially been considered by the Commission staff for inclusion as a natural area of NA-3 status, but subsequent disturbance by the WisDOT during upgrading of the intersection had apparently diminished the quality of the site. These two sightings will enable the site to be included as a Critical Species Habitat area in the Plan Amendment as the "CTH C Low Prairie Remnant."

Additional Verbal Comments Made at the Informational Meetings, But Requiring No Specific Response.

<u>Riveredge Nature Center, Ozaukee County</u> (April 21, 2009)

1. From Anthony and Lillian Ritger:

   —remarked that they learned much from the hearing; specifically, they are interested in preserving a Critical Species Habitat area they own in Washington County ("St. Anthony Maple Woods")

2. From Benjamin Arnold:

   —"preserve as much land as you can"

<u>Boerner Botanical Gardens, Milwaukee County</u> (April 22, 2009)

3. From Barbara G. St. George:

   —she is opposed to selling any more of the Milwaukee County Grounds for development, and for demonstration logging

4. From Mike Ferentz:

—thanks for including Seminary Woods and some adjacent lands for protection

5. From Jacky and Glenn Smucker:

—thanks for including the Trestle Creek Woods (near Seminary Woods) as a Critical Species Habitat area; more open WE Energies land should be preserved in the vicinity

6. From William Krawczyk:

—thanks for the updated Plan, especially for including the Trestle Creek CSH area; more WE Energies land should be preserved

7. From Wayne B. Peter:

—"buy all of the land"

Kenosha County Center (April 28, 2009)

No comments received

Kettle Moraine State Forest—Southern Unit, Forest Headquarters, Waukesha County (April 30, 2009)

8. From Nancy Gloe, Friends of the Mukwonago River:

—gave full support for the revised Natural Areas Plan

9. From Ellen Gennrich, Waukesha County Land Conservancy:

—gave full support for the Plan and its update, which is used extensively in their land protection efforts

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING DISCUSSIONS

Questions of clarification were entertained during and following the meeting presentations, while comments were encouraged via written comment sheet, dictation to a court reporter, or any written means afterward, until the established deadline. The substantial subjects of group discussion at the public informational meetings were often not offered as nor accompanied by formal comments. However, both the tenor and content of these discussions were given careful consideration toward the preparation of a final recommended plan.

Topics addressed in the group setting associated with the respective public informational meeting presentations follow:

Riveredge Nature Center, Newburg, April 21, 2009

- Distinction between levels of natural area significance, and how are they determined.
- The Advanced Identification of Disposal Areas (ADID) in wetlands program.
- SEWRPC website location where map products shown in the evening's PowerPoint presentation can be found.
- Procedures by which Section 404 guidelines of the Clean Water Act may be applied.

- What groups oppose and/or reasons which may exist for resisting the ADID wetland designation.

- The possibility of amending the Natural Areas Plan on an ongoing basis so that gaps of 10 or more years may be avoided in applying new information and/or priorities.

- Whether there was a written process to streamline efforts aimed at identifying or refining significant natural areas.

- Whether there was a copy of the 1997 natural areas plan available, and how it could be accessed for review.

- Whether there was a relationship between the Regional Natural Areas Plan and SEWRPC involvement with Lake Michigan waters.

- Given that Ozaukee County was first in the process for this series of public informational meetings, the means by which any additional natural area sites of significance may be included in the plan if local representatives wish to propose such sites.

- The field identification process for wetland boundaries; the importance of securing the landowner's invitation to proceed with the wetland delineation.

Boerner Botanical Gardens, Hales Corners, April 22, 2009

- Regarding the estimated cost distribution for land acquisition under the plan, whether there were instances of higher and lower actual dollar contributions than the 6 percent indicated for local government.

- The legal status of the Regional Natural Areas Plan, whether local governments ratify it, and any flexibility of recommendations for public or private status of preserved lands.

- Status of the plan in making local governments eligible for Wisconsin's Stewardship Fund and/or other funding sources regarding the acquisition of key areas.

- The relationship of field verification to determine how close map lines are to actual boundaries regarding the determination of ADID wetlands.

- Progression of the Regional Natural Areas Plan to a published document; and means of verification that maps actually reflect what is on the ground.

- Provisions of Chapter NR117 of the State *Administrative Code* with respect to shoreland wetlands, and protection of wetlands less than five acres in size.

- The shoreland zone extending inland 300 feet from navigable streams and 1,000 feet from lakes with respect to shoreland wetland zoning, and possible other protections for a 300 foot streamside buffer zone.

- Milwaukee County parkland work with respect to wetland protection in communities, like Franklin, which may regulate more stringently than required by the State *Administrative Code*.

Kenosha County Center, Bristol, April 28, 2009

- Whether the Lake Michigan shoreline fits the definition of a natural area regardless of development status.

- The possible inclusion for acquisition of an environmental corridor in the Village of Pleasant Prairie that had been identified in a 1995 Master Plan for preservation, but which encountered opposition at the time.

- The areal extent necessary for a grassland to be included in the plan for protection.

- Reasons why 298 species were listed as uncommon in the Region in the 1997 Regional Natural Areas Plan, whereas 401 species are listed as uncommon now.

- Regarding ADID wetlands, whether there is a size limit on field-delineated wetlands to be regulated.

- The prospects of regulating widespread or smaller wetlands, given the present regulation of shoreland wetlands five acres or greater in size in Walworth County.

- Potential conflicts between active and passive uses of natural areas.

- The issue of bike trails through designated natural areas.

Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters, Eagle, April 30, 2009

- When a wetland is not identified within an environmental corridor and perhaps should have been, whether that would constitute an ADID wetland.

- Clarification regarding 82 percent of estimated plan implementation costs being associated with recommendations that have been made in prior State, regional, county, and local plans.

- Whether ADID protects wetland natural areas, and whether there are other programs to protect non-wetland woodlands.

- When a field delineation of an environmental corridor shows the wetland boundary farther out (more extensive) than on a map, whether the prospect of such a finding can be part of policy comments taken now regarding ADID review (since the distance between 50 feet and 75 feet, for example, under stormwater guidelines is significant).

- The timing of plan completion and adoption so that it is available for use.

- Possibilities for land trusts to use the plan to leverage or make a case for land preservation grants.

- How to access detailed maps regarding ADID wetlands.

- The extent to which a county or local municipality may have jurisdiction over management of an ADID wetland, such as for burning.

- Possible timing for the next version of the Regional Natural Areas Plan, given that the new plan under review came about because of a request.

- Ways in which the Commission may work with the Paradise Valley project.

- Since critical species habitat areas did not seem to have received much protection since the previous version of the plan, the ways by which better protection can be achieved.

- Opportunities for entities to find out that they own and/or manage a natural area of special concern, reflecting on a report that a nature center was listed without representatives being aware.

- The relationships between 2010 comprehensive planning and getting information out so that preliminary natural areas recommendations can be factored-in, and whether any conflicts exist between a local plan and the Regional Natural Areas Plan.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Newspaper editorials and articles related to the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan and its preparation are displayed in Exhibit D. These were generated in response to the Commission announcement, *Newsletter*, and news release, and the public informational meetings.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection and Management of Natural Areas in Southeastern Wisconsin is charged with guiding the preparation of the regional natural areas protection plan update. The membership of the Advisory Committee includes representatives of cooperating governmental agencies as well as representatives from both public and private agencies concerned with, and knowledgeable about, natural areas within Southeastern Wisconsin. Committee membership is displayed in Exhibit A-1, page A-16.

The record of the Committee's deliberations and actions is documented in meeting minutes. Together, these minutes comprise an important record of the direction given to the planning effort by the Committee. The Regional Planning Commission is composed of elected public officials and knowledgeable citizen leaders from throughout the Region, and has the final responsibility for the adoption of the natural areas protection plan amendment.

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STAFF PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN[1]

Good evening. My task this evening is to provide an overview of the draft update to the regional natural areas protection and management plan which the Commission's Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection and Management of Natural Areas in Southeastern Wisconsin is proposing for the remaining natural areas and critical species habitats located in Southeastern Wisconsin.

First, I will provide a brief background and overview of the initial natural areas and critical species habitat plan, which is documented in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, *A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin*. That initial plan was prepared and adopted by the Commission in 1997. It was subsequently adopted by all seven County Boards and endorsed by the state Natural Areas Council. The initial plan identified the most important natural areas, critical species habitats, aquatic areas, geological areas, and archaeological sites known to remain in the Region. It recommended a means for the protection and management of these types of sites, and it helped increase the dissemination of information concerning these resources.

Before I go any further, there are a few key terms which should be defined:

Natural Areas (NA) are tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or which have sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant/animal communities believed representative of the pre-European settlement landscape. The plan classified these natural areas as:

- Natural areas of statewide or greater significance (NA-1)
- Natural areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2)
- Natural areas of local significance (NA-3)

Critical species habitats (CSH) are defined as tracts of land or water which support endangered, threatened, or rare (special concern) plant/animal species.

Geological sites include tracts of land that include glacial features, fossil beds, and rock outcrop and exposed bedrock sites of scientific and educational value.

Finally, archaeological sites include tracts of land, stream beds, or lake bottoms that include objects or other evidence of archaeological interest 100 years or more old.

The subject plan update now before us is a response to a March 31, 2005, letter submitted by Gathering Waters Conservancy. This plan update reflects the physical changes that have occurred in the Region, as well as new findings, since preparation of the initial plan.

The initial Planning Report No. 42 recommended the public or private protection and management of 427 (96 percent) of 447 identified natural areas, which totaled about 88 square miles. That recommendation included all

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[1] *This presentation was given by Dr. Donald M. Reed of the SEWRPC staff at each of the four public informational meetings held on the draft plan update. A Copy of the PowerPoint accompanying the presentation begins on page 17.*

40 NA-1 sites, all 122 NA-2 sites, and 265 (93 percent) of the NA-3 sites. At the time of adoption, about 40 square miles (46 percent) were already under protective ownership. In addition, the plan recommended the public or private protection of 111 (78 percent) of the 142 critical species habitat sites located outside of the natural areas. At the time of adoption, 15.1 square miles (72 percent) of those critical species habitat sites were already under protective ownership. That initial plan also recommended the acquisition and restoration of:

- Three grassland reserves (21.3 square miles) for grassland nesting birds, of which 10.5 square miles (49 percent) were already protected and being managed.

- Five forest interior sites (0.9 square miles) to accommodate forest interior nesting birds.

- The plan also recognized that the significant aquatic habitat sites are held in the public trust, and therefore, are already protected by the State of Wisconsin.

Further, the plan recommended the protection of 71 (83 percent) of the significant geological sites (67.1 square miles) of which about 24 square miles (36 percent) were already under protective ownership at the time of plan adoption. Finally, it recommended the protection of 14 archaeological sites that were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. At the time of adoption, five sites (36 percent) were wholly or partially protected.

What has been done since the adoption of the initial plan?

To date, 21 recommended natural area sites (1,261 acres) have, in their entirety or in part, been acquired for protection and management, a total of 42 square miles. However, only one critical species habitat site has been partially protected. There have been essentially no change to the grassland, forest interior, geological area, or archaeological sites, although about 76 additional acres of proposed grassland habitat at Lulu Lake is pending before the Natural Resource Board at this time.

The initial plan was an essential step toward protecting the Region's natural resource base and promoting biodiversity.

However, that plan has not been fully implemented. We continue to experience a loss and degradation of these habitats regionwide. There is a lack of proper management, such as controlled burning of prairie sites, and invasive species management, which continues even on protected sites. However, it is also important to know that, new areas have been discovered and others restored.

Plan implementation must continue to be guided and monitored. We need to ensure that protection and management funds are available in a timely way; we need to ensure that management plans are prepared and implemented in a timely manner; and we need to help guide the restoration of previously degraded lands. Also, the plan must be updated to include new sites and eliminate lost sites; the plan must be adjusted to recognize changes in endangered, threatened, and rare species, their habitats, and related regulations and policies; and the plan must be adjusted to recognize changes in land acquisition goals and ownerships of the various protection agencies and organizations. Finally, the plan has been and continues to be an essential element of the land use plan. So, it should provide a mechanism to verify the extent to which the protection actually leads to preservation and sound management of the Region's natural resource base.

An overview of the newly identified natural areas, critical species habitats, and geological sites follows:

Since the adoption of that initial plan, 44 additional natural area sites totaling 2,033 acres have been identified, including six NA-2 sites (202 acres) and 38 NA-3 sites (1,831 acres). A total of 133 critical species habitat sites (4,692) acres have been identified. And, one additional geological site (47 acres) has been identified, which is located just to the northwest of the City of West Bend.

As part of the plan analysis, the relationship to the Commission's revised 2005 delineated primary environmental corridors was conducted. It was found that 27 (61 percent) of the new natural area sites are located in the primary

environmental corridor [1,496 acres (74 percent)]; and 60 (45 percent) of the new critical species habitat sites are located in the primary environmental corridor [3,808 acres (81 percent)]. An additional six sites are partially within the corridor. A total of nine natural areas and critical species habitat sites were upgraded in classification. A total of 241 natural area sites showed a net change in their areal extent. Similarly, a total of 104 critical species habitats showed a net change in their areal extent.

With respect to the changes in status of endangered, threatened, and special concern species within the Region, under the initial plan, a total of 36 vertebrates and 45 plants were identified as endangered or threatened; and 61 vertebrates and 69 plants were identified as being of special concern. Currently, however, 38 vertebrates and 56 plants are identified as endangered or threatened; 59 vertebrates and 97 plants are identified as being of special concern.

The Commission also identified regionally uncommon plant species. Under the initial plan, 298 plant species were identified as being uncommon. Under the plan update, 401 plant species are so classified. Currently, these regionally uncommon plant species may have extensive and stable statewide population. However, there is a high concern for the long term stability of these plant species on a regional level due to their low populations in southeastern Wisconsin; the few locations that support these species within the region; and the significant habitat threats that are occurring in this rapidly urbanizing section of the State.

With respect to laws and policies, protections for natural areas and critical species habitats remain limited. Federal and State protections are primarily related to the taking, possession, transport, and sale of endangered and threatened species and migratory birds. However, regulations have been promulgated that do require consideration of endangered and threatened species, their habitats, and certain high quality habitats for permits and approvals. For example, the State of Wisconsin has created programs that affect protection of natural areas and critical species habitats that are located in wetlands; and if located in sanitary sewer service areas designated under the Federal Clean Water Act, primary environmental corridors, and ADID wetlands are considered in the issuance of permits, approvals, and water quality certifications.

The advanced identification of disposal areas (ADID) in wetlands program is a Federal program under Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of the Clean Water Act. It is a planning process that is used to identify wetlands and other waters that are generally suitable or unsuitable for the discharge of dredge and fill materials. It is an advisory procedure which has been in effect in southeastern Wisconsin since 1985. The ADID process is designed to add predictability to the wetland permitting process, and better account for the impact of losses from multiple projects occurring within a geographic area. All Federal Section 404 permitted projects are required to follow those section 404(b)(1) guidelines.

All ADID wetlands in southeastern Wisconsin have been determined to be generally unsuitable for the discharge of dredge and fill materials. No suitable sites were identified. Accordingly, proposed projects located in ADID waters are unlikely to meet the 404(b)(1) guideline requirements. Current ADID wetlands in southeastern Wisconsin include all surface waters and wetlands located within the 1980 primary environmental corridors. The original designation of such ADID waters is based upon the non-point source pollution findings of the areawide water quality management plan for southeastern Wisconsin. The original ADID wetland and surface waters were noticed in a joint public notice issued by the U.S. EPA and U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers in 1985. The 1980 primary environmental corridors are shown in Map 1 (see top of page 30).

What are the proposed recommended changes to the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan?

Under the plan update, it is recommended that 472 (96 percent) of the natural area sites (98.3 square miles) be placed in protective public or private ownership. This recommendation includes all of the 44 newly identified natural area sites (less than 3.2 square miles) (see Map 2 top of page 31). It is recommended that 190 (74 percent of critical species habitat sites (19.2 square miles) be placed in protective ownership. That includes all 133 of the newly identified critical species habitat sites (less than 6.0 square miles) (see Map 2). The plan update recommends that over 29.1 square miles of suitable grassland nesting bird habitat be established, which includes an additional less than 7.8 square miles at Lulu Lake (see Map 3 bottom of page 31). Presently, there are no changes proposed to the forest interior bird habitat recommendation (see Map 3).

Under the plan update, a total of 72 (83 percent) geological sites (35.6 square miles) would be placed in protective public or private ownership (see Map 4 on bottom of page 32). That includes the proposed addition of the West Bend Kames (47 acres). Presently, there are no changes to the archaeological site recommendations. Under the plan update, all acquisitions continue to be on a willing seller, willing buyer basis.

With respect to ADID wetlands, the plan update recommends that all surface waters and wetlands located in the 2005 primary environmental corridors be designated as ADID waters. In addition, it is further recommended that those plan identified natural area wetlands located outside the primary environmental corridors (1,802 acres) also be designated as ADID waters. Under this set of recommendations, only about 12 percent of region total area is proposed as ADID waters. The ADID maps are attached by County as Maps 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 (see bottom of page 33 through page 36). An analysis of the areal extent by County is shown in Table 1 (see top of page 37).

Under the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, proposed projects located in ADID waters are unlikely to be permitted in designated natural areas, critical species habitats, and aquatic habitats identified in the plan. Map 12 (bottom of page 37) is an example of the mapping prepared under the plan. However, it should be emphasized that all ADID wetland boundaries are subject to field verification.

Finally, the plan update recommends that a separate survey designed to update the aquatic natural area habitat element of the plan be conducted under the direction of a technical advisory committee. That advisory committee should consist of experts in aquatic resources.

What are the acquisition costs associated with the plan?

The estimated total land acquisition cost in 2008 dollars of the proposed recommended plan is $589.7 million, distributed over a 20 year period. That is an estimated average annual cost of $14.75 per capita for 20 years. The plan recommends that the plan costs be distributed as follows:

—45 percent State government,
—32 percent private conservation organizations,
—16 percent county government, and
—6 percent local government.

Finally, it should be noted that 82 percent of the total land acquisition cost is already included in previously adopted plans.

Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Plan Amendment For Southeastern Wisconsin

Donald M. Reed, Ph.D., SEWRPC Chief Biologist

#142581

Reconstituted Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection and Management of Natural Areas in Southeastern Wisconsin

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL AREAS IN SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

Dr. Susan E. Lewis, Chairman	Professor of Biology, Carroll University; Vice Chair, State of Wisconsin Natural Areas Preservation Council
Dr. Donald M. Reed, Secretary	Chief Biologist, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Fay U. Amerson	Urban Conservation Specialist, Walworth County
Dr. Philip J. Arnholt	Professor of Science, Biology Department, Concordia University
Susan Black	Parks Director, Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture
Dr. Owen Boyle	Regional Ecologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Gerald H. Emmerich, Jr.	Member, Board of Directors, Land Trust of Walworth County
Shawn Graff	Executive Director, The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
Duane Grimm	Waukesha County Park System Manager
Andrew A. Holschbach	Land Conservation Director, Ozaukee County
Signe L. Holtz	Director, Bureau of Endangered Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
B. Martinus Johnson	Wildlife Manager, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Marlin P. Johnson	Associate Professor Emeritus, Field Station Manager, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin Waukesha Center; Vice President, Waukesha County Land Conservancy
Mary J. Lichter	Parks Director, Kenosha County Parks
James P. Morrissey	Land/Facilities Supervisor, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Paul E. Mueller	Administrator, Washington County Land Use and Parks Department
Dr. Patricia Nagai	Horticulture Educator, UW Extension Service, Racine County
Kevin L. Shafer	Executive Director, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
Dr. Stephen L. Solheim	Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin Whitewater
Scott Thompson	Director of Freshwater Conservation, Wisconsin Chapter, The Nature Conservancy
Marc White	Director of Research, Stewardship, and Adult Education, Riveredge Nature Center
Dr. Joy J. Wolf	Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Parkside

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- UPDATE TO SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NO. 42, A REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN
- INITIAL PLAN PREPARED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION IN 1997.
- ADOPTED BY ALL SEVEN COUNTY BOARDS
- ENDORSED BY THE STATE NATURAL AREAS COUNCIL

3

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND (CON'T)

- THE INITIAL PLAN:

1. IDENTIFIED THE MOST IMPORTANT NATURAL AREAS, CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS, AQUATIC AREAS, GEOLOGICAL AREAS, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES KNOWN TO REMAIN IN THE REGION
2. RECOMMENDED A MEANS FOR THEIR PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT
3. INCREASE THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

4

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND (CON'T)

- DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS:
- NATURAL AREAS [NA] - TRACTS OF LAND OR WATER SO LITTLE MODIFIED BY HUMAN ACIVITY, OR WHICH HAVE SUFFICIENTLY RECOVERED FROM THE EFFECTS OF SUCH ACTIVITY, THAT THEY CONTAIN INTACT NATIVE PLANT/ANIMAL COMMUNITIES BELIEVED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRE-EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT LANDSCAPE.

1. NA-1: STATEWIDE OR GREATER SIGNIFICANCE.
2. NA-2: COUNTYWIDE OR REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.
3. NA-3: LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE.

5

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND (CON'T)

- CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS [CSH]: TRACTS OF LAND OR WATER WHICH SUPPORT ENDANGERED, THREATENED, OR RARE [SPECIAL CONCERN] PLANT/ANIMAL SPECIES.
- GEOLOGICAL SITES: TRACTS OF LAND THAT INCLUDE GLACIAL FEATURES, FOSSIL BEDS, AND ROCK OUTCROP AND EXPOSED BEDROCK SITES OF SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL VALUE.
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: TRACTS OF LAND, STREAM BEDS, OR LAKE BOTTOMS THAT INCLUDE OBJECTS OR OTHER EVIDENCE OF ARCHAE-OLOGICAL INTEREST 100 YEARS OR MORE OLD.

6

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND (CON'T)

- **UPDATE IS A RESPONSE TO A MARCH 31, 2005, LETTER SUBMITTED BY GATHERING WATERS CONSERVANCY**
- **PLAN REFLECTS THE PHYSICAL CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE REGION, AS WELL AS NEW FINDINGS, SINCE PREPARATION OF THE INITIAL PLAN.**

7

INITIAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PLAN

- **PROPOSED THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF 427 (96%) OF 447 IDENTIFIED NATURAL AREAS.**
- **A TOTAL OF ABOUT 88 SQ. MILES.**
- **INCLUDED ALL 40 NA-1 SITES, ALL 122 NA-2 SITES, AND 265 (93%) NA-3 SITES.**
- **AT THE TIME OF ADOPTION, ABOUT 40 SQ. MILES (46%) ALREADY UNDER PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP .**

8

INITIAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PLAN (CON'T)

- **PROPOSED THE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROTECTION OF 111 (78%) OF THE 142 CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE NATURAL AREAS.**
- **AT THE TIME OF ADOPTION, 15.1 SQ. MILES (72%) ALREADY UNDER PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP.**

9

INITIAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PLAN (CON'T)

- **PLAN ALSO RECOMMENDED THE ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION OF:**
- **3 GRASSLAND RESERVES : 21.3 SQ. MILES FOR GRASSLAND NESTING BIRDS**
- **5 FOREST INTERIOR SITES: 0.9 SQ. MILES FOR FOREST INTERIOR NESTING BIRDS.**
- **AQUATIC HABITAT SITES ALREADY PROTECTED BY THE STATE OF WISCONSIN (PUBLIC TRUST).**

10

INITIAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PLAN (CON'T)

- **PROTECTION OF 71 (83%) GEOLOGICAL SITES (67.1 SQ. MILES)**
- **ABOUT 24 SQ. MILES (36%) ALREADY UNDER PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP AT THE TIME OF PLAN ADOPTION.**
- **PROTECTION OF 14 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTOR OF HISTORIC PLACES.**
- **5 SITES WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY PROTECTED.**

11

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- **SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE INITIAL PLAN:**
- **21 RECOMMENDED NATURAL AREA SITES (1261 ACRES) HAVE, IN THEIR ENTIRETY OR IN PART, BEEN ACQUIRED FOR PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT.**
- **ONLY 1 CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITE HAS BEEN PARTIALLY PROTECTED.**
- **NO CHANGE TO THE GRASSLAND, FOREST INTERIOR, GEOLOGICAL AREA, OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES.**

12

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN AMENDMENT

- **INITIAL PLAN – ESSENTIAL STEP TOWARD PROTECTING THE REGION'S NATURAL RESOURCE BASE AND PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY.**
- **PLAN NOT FULLY IMPLEMENTED.**
- **CONTINUED LOSS AND DEGRADATION OF THESE HABITATS REGION WIDE.**
- **LACK OF PROPER MANAGEMENT CONTINUES EVEN ON PROTECTED SITES**
- **NEW AREAS DISCOVERED, OTHERS RESTORED.**

13

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN AMENDMENT (CON'T)

- **PLAN IMPLEMENTATION MUST CONTINUE TO BE GUIDED AND MONITORED.**
- **NEED TO ENSURE THAT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN A TIMELY WAY.**
- **NEED TO ENSURE THAT MANAGEMENT PLANS ARE PREPARED AND IMPLEMENTED IN A TIMELY MANNER.**
- **NEED TO HELP GUIDE THE RESTORATION OF PREVIOUSLY DEGRADED LANDS**

14

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN AMENDMENT (CON'T)

- PLAN MUST BE UPDATED TO INCLUDE NEW SITES AND ELIMINATE LOST SITES.
- PLAN MUST BE ADJUSTED TO RECOGNIZE CHANGES IN ENDANGERED,THREATENED, AND RARE SPECIES, THEIR HABITATS, AND RELATED REGULATIONS AND POLICIES.
- PLAN MUST BE AJUSTED TO RECOGNIZE CHANGES IN LAND ACQUISITION GOALS AND OWNERSHIPS OF THE VARIOUS PROTECTION AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

15

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN AMENDMENT (CON'T)

- PLAN HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE LAND USE PLAN.
- SHOULD PROVIDE A MECHANISM TO VERIFY THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PROTECTION ACTUALLY LEADS TO PRESERVATION AND SOUND MANAGEMENT OF THE REGION'S NATURAL RESOURCE BASE.

16

NEWLY IDENTIFIED NATURAL AREAS, CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS, AND GEOLOGICAL SITES

- 44 ADDITIONAL NATURAL AREA SITES TOTALING 2033 ACRES:

1. SIX NA-2 SITES (202 ACRES)
2. 38 NA-3 SITES (1831 ACRES)

- 133 CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES (4692 ACRES)
- ONE GEOLOGICAL SITE (47 ACRES).

17

NEWLY IDENTIFIED NATURAL AREAS, CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS, AND GEOLOGICAL SITES (CON'T)

- RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMISSION DELINEATED PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS (2005):
- 27 (61%) OF THE NEW NATURAL AREA SITES ARE LOCATED IN THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR [1496 ACRES (74%)].
- 60 (45%) OF THE NEW CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES ARE LOCATED IN THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR [3808 ACRES (81%)].
- [NOTE: AN ADDITIONAL 6 SITES ARE PARTIALLY WITHIN THE CORRIDOR]

18

CHANGES TO THE INITIAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES

- **A TOTAL OF NINE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES WERE UPGRADED IN CLASSIFICATION.**
- **A TOTAL OF 241 NATURAL AREA SITES SHOWED A NET CHANGE IN THEIR AREAL EXTENT.**
- **A TOTAL OF 104 CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS SHOWED A NET CHANGE IN THEIR AREAL EXTENT.**

19

CHANGES IN STATUS OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND SPECIAL CONCERN SPECIES WITHIN THE REGION

- **INITIAL PLAN:**

1. **36 VERTEBRATES AND 45 PLANTS ENDANGERED OR THREATENED;**
2. **61 VERTEBRATES AND 69 PLANTS SPECIAL CONCERN**

- **CURRENTLY LISTED:**

1. **38 VERTEBRATES AND 56 PLANTS ENDANGERED OR THREATENED;**
2. **59 VERTEBRATES AND 97 PLANTS SPECIAL CONCERN.**

20

CHANGES IN STATUS OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND SPECIAL CONCERN SPECIES WITHIN THE REGION

- **REGIONALLY UNCOMMON PLANTS:**
1. **INITIAL PLAN: 298 SPECIES.**
2. **UPDATE: 401 SPECIES.**

- **CURRENTLY, MAY HAVE EXTENSIVE AND STABLE STATEWIDE POPULATIONS.**

- **HIGH CONCERN ON A REGIONAL LEVEL DUE TO:**
1. **LOW POPULATIONS IN REGION;**
2. **FEW LOCATIONS IN REGION;**
3. **SIGNIFICANT HABITAT THREATS.**

21

CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES

- **PROTECTIONS FOR NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS ARE LIMITED.**

- **FEDERAL AND STATE PROTECTIONS MOSTLY RELATED TO THE TAKING, POSSESSION, TRANSPORT, AND SALE OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES AND MIGRATORY BIRDS.**

- **REGULATIONS PROMULGATED REQUIRE CONSIDERATION OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES, THEIR HABITATS, AND CERTAIN HIGH QUALITY HABITATS FOR PERMITS AND APPROVALS.**

22

CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES (CON'T)

- **STATE OF WISCONSIN: CREATED PROGRAMS THAT AFFECT PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS:**

1. **LOCATED IN WETLANDS; AND**
2. **IF LOCATED IN SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREAS DESIGNATED UNDER THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT [PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS, ADID WETLANDS]**

- **ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, APPROVALS, AND WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS**

23

CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES (CON'T)

- **ADVANCED IDENTIFICATION OF DISPOSAL AREAS [ADID] IN WETLANDS.**
- **FEDERAL PROGRAM UNDER SECTION 404(b)(1) GUIDELINES OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT**
- **PLANNING PROCESS; IDENTIFY WETLANDS AND OTHER WATERS THAT ARE GENERALLY SUITABLE OR UNSUITABLE FOR THE DISCHARGE OF DREDGE AND FILL MATERIALS.**

24

CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES (CON'T)

- **AN ADVISORY PROCEDURE;**

1. **PREDICTABILITY TO THE WETLAND PERMITTING PROCESS, AND**
2. **BETTER ACCOUNT : IMPACT OF LOSSES FROM MULTIPLE PROJECTS WITHIN A GEOGRAPHIC AREA.**

- **ALL PERMITTED PROJECTS MUST FOLLOW THE SECTION 404(b)(1) GUIDELINES.**

25

CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES (CON'T)

- **ADID WETLANDS IN SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN DETERMINED TO BE GENERALLY UNSUITABLE FOR THE DISCHARGE OF DREDGE AND FILL MATERIALS**
- **CURRENT ADID WETLANDS – ALL SURFACE WATERS AND WETLANDS LOCATED WITHIN THE 1980 PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS.**
- **BASED UPON THE NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION FINDINGS OF THE AREAWIDE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN.**
- **1985 PUBLIC NOTICE: U.S. EPA AND CORPS.**

26

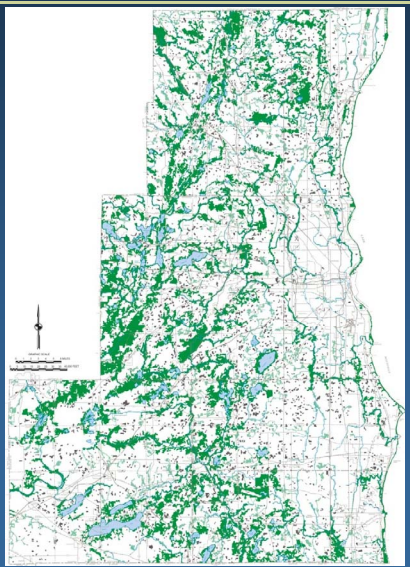
CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES (CON'T)

PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR

SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR

ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

SURFACE WATER



27

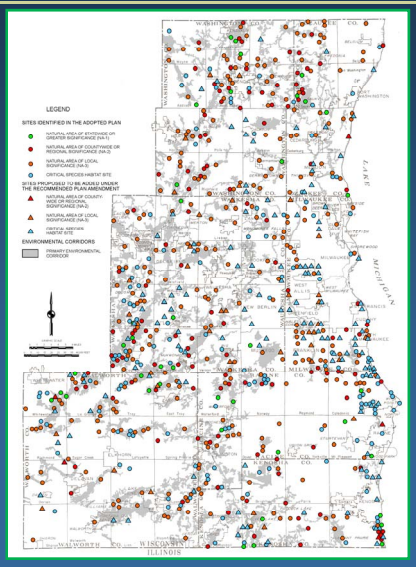
RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 472 (96%) NATURAL AREA SITES (98.3 SQ. MILES) PLACED IN PROTECTIVE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP.
- INCLUDES ALL 44 NEWLY IDENTIFIED NATURAL AREAS (<3.2 SQ. MILES).
- 190 (74%) CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES (19. 2 SQ. MILES)PLACED IN PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP.
- INCLUDES 133 NEWLY IDENTIFIED CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES (<6.0 SQ. MILES)).
- >29.1 SQ. MILES OF SUITABLE GRASSLAND NESTING BIRD HABITAT ESTABLISHED.
- INCLUDES ADDITIONAL >7.8 SQ. MILES.

28

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

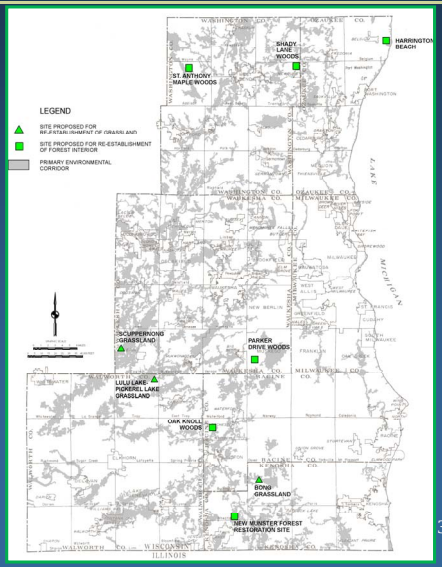
NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IDENTIFIED IN THE ADOPTED NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AND SITES PROPOSED TO BE ADDED UNDER THE PLAN AMENDMENT



29

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

LOCATION OF FINAL RECOMMENDED SITES TO REESTABLISHED LARGE TRACTS OF GRASSLANDS AND FOREST INTERIORS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION



30

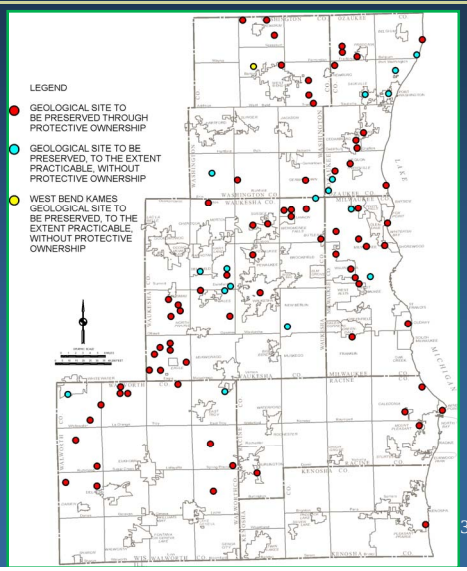
RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

- **NO CHANGES TO THE FOREST INTERIOR BIRD HABITAT RECOMMENDATION.**
- **72 (83%) GEOLOGICAL SITES (35.6 SQ. MILES) BE PLACED IN PROTECTIVE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP.**
- **INCLUDES THE PROPOSED ADDITION OF THE WEST BEND KAMES (47 ACRES).**
- **NO CHANGES TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECOMMENDATIONS.**

31

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION



32

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

- **PROPOSED 2005 ADID WETLANDS:**

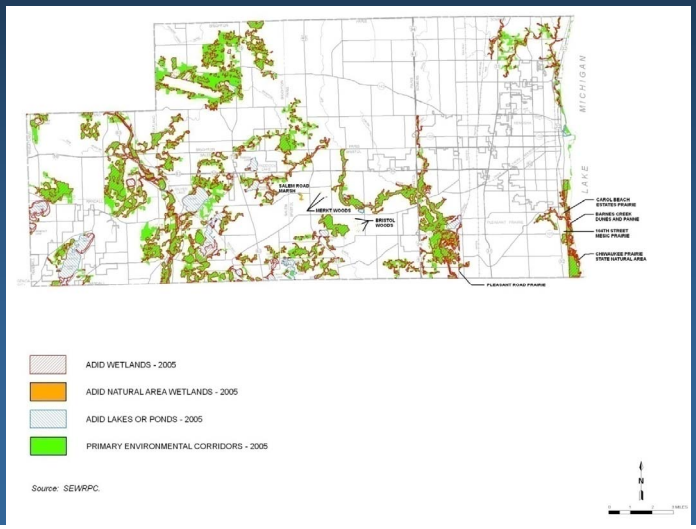
1. **ALL SURFACE WATERS AND WETLANDS LOCATED IN THE 2005 PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS.**
2. **PROPOSED NATURAL AREA WETLANDS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS [1802 ACRES].**

- **12% OF REGION PROPOSED AS ADID WATERS.**

33

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

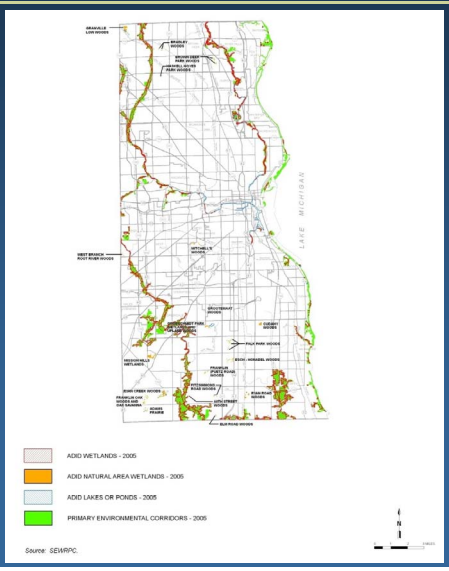
ADID WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE WITHIN KENOSHA COUNTY



34

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADID WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE WITHIN MILWAUKEE COUNTY



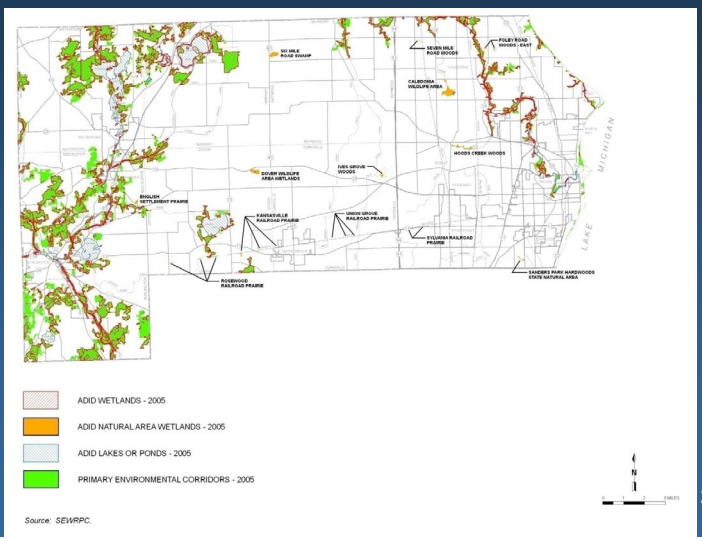
RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADID WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE WITHIN OZAUKEE COUNTY

36

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADID WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE WITHIN RACINE COUNTY

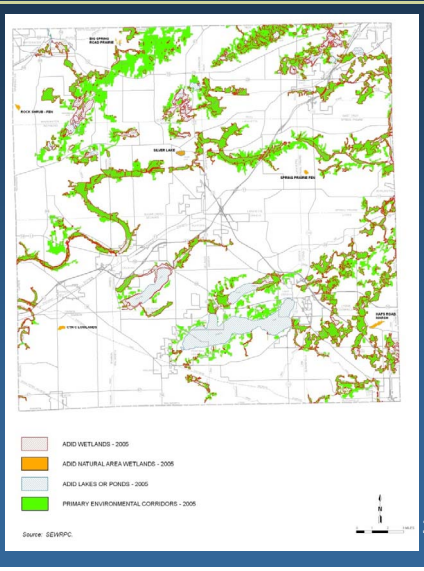


Source: SEWRPC.

37

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADID WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE WITHIN WALWORTH COUNTY

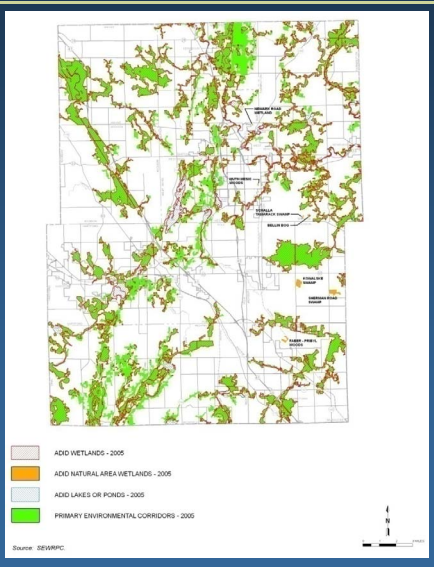


Source: SEWRPC.

38

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

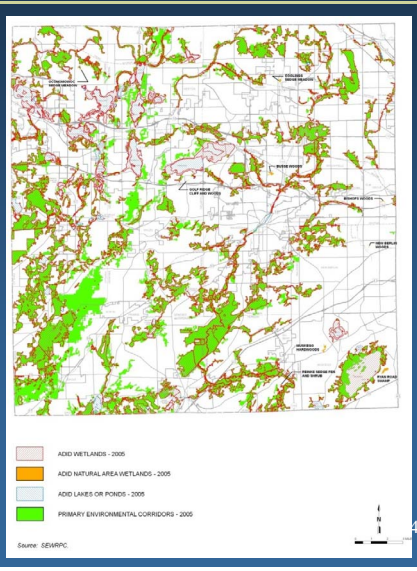
ADID WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE WITHIN WASHINGTON COUNTY



39

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

ADID WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE STATE WITHIN WAUKESHA COUNTY



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RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

County	Total Wetland Area (Acres)	ADID Wetlands (Acres)			ADID Lakes and Ponds (Acres)	Total ADID Surface Water System (Acres)
		Primary Environmental Corridor	Natural Areas	Percent of Total Wetlands		
Kenosha	21,526	14,099	42	66	3,528	17,669
Milwaukee	8,289	4,275	255	55	737	5,267
Ozaukee	21,296	12,880	532	63	1,148	14,560
Racine	22,027	11,370	314	53	3,958	15,642
Walworth	39,230	28,971	272	75	9,918	39,161
Washington	50,147	38,065	248	76	2,326	40,639
Waukesha	68,166	56,430	139	83	8,593	65,162
Region	230,681	166,090	1,802	73	30,207	198,099

Source: SEWRPC.

Percent of Total PEC as ADID: 63 Percent
Percent of Region designated as ADID: 12 Percent

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MAPPING PRODUCT

PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR

ADID WETLAND IN PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR

ADID WETLAND IN NATURAL AREAS

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

- **3. UNDER THE SECTION 404(b)(1) GUIDELINES:**
- **PROJECTS PROPOSED IN ADID WATERS:**
- **UNLIKELY TO BE PERMITTED IN DESIGNATED NATURAL AREAS, CRITICAL SPECIES HABITATS, AND AQUATIC HABITATS IDENTIFIED IN THE PLAN.**
- **4. ADID WETLAND BOUNDARIES SUBJECT TO FIELD VERIFICATION.**

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RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

- **SEPARATE SURVEY DESIGNED TO UPDATE THE AQUATIC NATURAL AREA HABITATS**
- **CONDUCTED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**
- **TO CONSIST OF EXPERTS IN AQUATIC RESOURCES.**

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PLAN COSTS

- **ESTIMATED TOTAL LAND ACQUISITION COST:**
- **$ 589.7 MILLION OVER A 20 YEAR PERIOD.**

- **$14.75 PER CAPITA FOR 20 YEARS.**

- **45% STATE GOVERNMENT**
- **32% PRIVATE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS**
- **16% COUNTY GOVERNMENT**
- **6% LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

- **82% ALREADY PART OF ADOPTED PLANS.**

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EXHIBITS

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Exhibit A

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING THE DRAFT UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND RELATED PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

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NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PLAN UPDATE FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2009

This newsletter provides an overview of the updated preliminary Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. Specifically, this newsletter presents:

- Status of implementation of the original regional plan recommendations.
- A description of the natural areas and critical species habitats that have been identified since completion of the original plan.
- Changes to the original natural areas and critical species habitat sites.
- Changes in status of endangered, threatened, and special concern species in the region.
- Changes to natural area and critical species related laws and policies.
- Preliminary recommended changes to the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan.

BACKGROUND

The updated plan documents a proposed amendment to the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan for southeastern Wisconsin. The updated plan was prepared in direct response to a March 31, 2005, letter submitted to the Commission by Gathering Waters Conservancy, a statewide land conservancy organization that serves many local land trusts and related groups in the Region, requesting the Commission to update the plan. This update reflects physical changes in the Region, as well as new findings, which have occurred since the preparation of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, *A Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin* in September 1997. The initial study identified the most important remaining natural areas, critical species habitat areas, aquatic areas, geological areas, and archaeological sites in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region, and the recommended means for their protection and management. The study was also intended to increase the dissemination of information regarding such sites to State, county and local units and agencies of government and to private interests, in order that the preservation of these sites may be properly considered, as proposals for development within the Region are advanced.

STUDY PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

A series of public informational meetings have been scheduled to be held throughout the Region in April. The purpose of these meetings is to brief residents of the Region on the preliminary recommended update to the Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan and to provide an opportunity for comment. The table below provides information on the dates and locations of the upcoming meetings. Persons may choose to attend any of the meetings they find most convenient. Staff will be available in an "open house" format from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to individually answer questions and provide information about updates to the regional natural areas and critical species habitat plan. A brief presentation of the plan will be made by the study staff at 6:00 p.m. Written comments may be submitted throughout the meetings, including via dictation to a court reporter.

Persons with special needs are asked to contact the Commission offices a minimum of 72 hours in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Contact information may be found on the back page of this newsletter. The comment period on the preliminary recommended plan update extends through May 15, 2009, with comments accepted via U.S. mail, fax, and e-mail.

Date	Location
April 21, 2009	Riveredge Nature Center 4458 W. Hawthorne Drive Newburg, Wisconsin
April 22, 2009	Boerner Botanical Gardens Visitor Center Multi-Media Room 9400 Boerner Drive Hales Corners,Wisconsin
April 28, 2009	Kenosha County Center 19600 75th Street Bristol, Wisconsin
April 30, 2009	Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters-Southern Unit Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources S 91 W 39091 Highway 59 Eagle, Wisconsin

Following these meetings, a record of public comments will be assembled and provided to the Technical Advisory Committee for the Protection and Management of Natural Areas in Southeastern Wisconsin and to the Commission for consideration in preparing a recommended plan.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORIGINAL PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The original plan proposed the public or private protection of 427 (96 percent) of 447 identified natural areas. This total included all 40 of the natural areas of statewide or greater significance (NA-1 sites), all 122 of the natural areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2 sites), and 265 of the 285 natural areas of local significance (NA-3 sites). The total area of natural area sites proposed to be protected under the original plan was 56,346 acres. At that time, 25,865 acres were already under protective ownership (about 46 percent), leaving a total of 30,481 acres to be acquired.

Twenty-one natural area sites recommended in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42 for protective ownership have, in their entirety or in part, been acquired for protection since preparation of the original plan. Specifically, 1,261 acres of natural areas have been placed under protective ownership by public and private agencies. This total includes four NA-1 sites, totaling 93 acres (3.2 percent) of the NA-1 area proposed to be acquired; seven NA-2 sites, totaling 552 acres (4.3 percent) of the NA-2 area proposed to be acquired; and 12 NA-3 sites, totaling 616 acres (3.6 percent) of the NA-3 area proposed to be acquired. Eight of these sites are located in Waukesha County, six in Ozaukee County, four in Washington County, and one each in Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties. Of the 1,261 acres, 74 acres (6 percent) located within five different natural area sites in the Carol Beach area of Kenosha County were acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The total area acquired also includes areas acquired by two land trust organizations—the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust and the Waukesha Land Conservancy. Specifically, these two land trusts' acquisitions accounted for all or parts of 15 natural area sites. A total of eight natural area sites had their protective acquisition completed, according to the recommendations of the original plan.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS IN THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN AMENDMENT

Term	Definition
Archaeological Sites	Archaeological sites are defined as those tracts of land, streambeds, or lake bottoms that include objects or other evidence of archaeological interest 100 years or more of age including, but not limited to, pottery, tools, structures, human skeletal remains, aboriginal mounds and earthworks, and ancient burial grounds.
Critical Species Habitats	Critical species habitats are broadly defined as tracts of land or water which support endangered, threatened, or rare plant or animal species. Many of the designated natural areas provide habitat for endangered, threatened, or rare species. For purposes of the natural area plan, and the plan amendment, then, critical species habitats were more narrowly defined as those sites which are located wholly or partly outside designated natural areas and which support endangered, threatened, or rare plant or animal species.
Geological Sites	Geological sites are defined as tracts of land that include such glacial features as eskers and kames, fossil beds, and rock outcrop and exposed bedrock sites of scientific and educational value. Geological sites identified as significant under the plan and the plan amendment, are classified as being of statewide or greater significance, or “GA-1” sites; of countywide or regional significance, or “GA-2” sites; or of local significance, or “GA-3” sites.
Natural Areas	Natural areas are defined as tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity, or which have sufficiently recovered from the effects of such activity, that they contain intact native plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the pre-European-settlement landscape. Natural areas identified under the plan, and the plan amendment, are classified as being of statewide or greater significance, or “NA-1” areas; of countywide or regional significance, or “NA-2” areas; or of local significance, or “NA-3” areas.
Rare Species	Rare species are defined as those species of wild animals or wild plants native to the State of Wisconsin which occur infrequently either as individuals or in specific communities on the landscape. These are also referred to by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as “special concern” species. They represent species about which a problem regarding their abundance or distribution in the State is suspected but not yet proven.
State-Designated Endangered Species	State-designated endangered species are defined as any species of wild animals or wild plants native to the State of Wisconsin whose continued existence in the State is determined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, on the basis of scientific evidence, to be in jeopardy.
State-Designated Threatened Species	State-designated threatened species are defined as any species of wild animals or wild plants native to the State of Wisconsin determined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, on the basis of scientific evidence, likely to become endangered in the State within the foreseeable future.

The original plan recommended that 110 Critical Species Habitat sites, encompassing a total of 21.1 square miles, be protected through public or private protective ownership. A single Critical Species Habitat site—the Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Right-of-Way located in Racine County—has been partially protected since preparation of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42. This habitat is known to support one endangered plant species, bluestem goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*), and two special concern plant species, hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*) and heart-leaved skullcap (*Scutellaria ovata*).

The original plan recommended that three grassland reserve sites, totaling about 21.3 square miles, be established to provide critical habitat for grassland nesting bird species. There have been no known grassland habitat acquisitions since the adoption of the plan.

There have been no known documented changes in the status of the forest interior habitats, significant aquatic areas, geological areas, and archaeological sites listed in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42.

NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED SINCE COMPLETION OF THE ORIGINAL PLAN

A total of 44 additional natural area sites, including six NA-2 sites and 38 NA-3 sites, and 133 additional critical species habitat area sites, have been identified in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region since the preparation of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42.

One new geological area of local significance (GA-3) has also been identified.

These sites have all been added to the regional inventory and are documented in the updated plan (see Map 1). Table 1 lists the 44 additional natural area sites. Detailed descriptions and plant associations of each site have been coordinated and shared with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Endangered Resources.

CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES

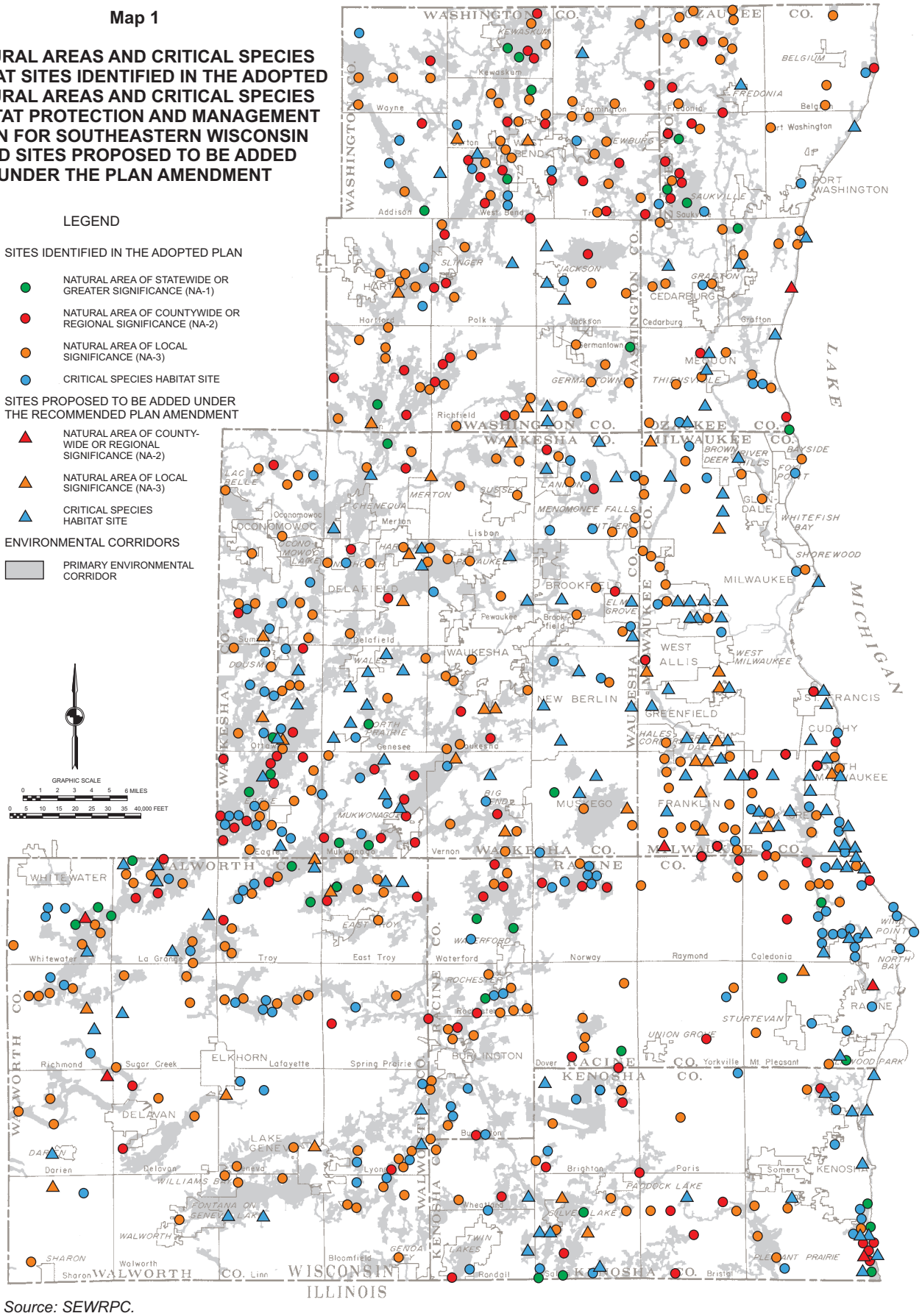
To remain vital, the Natural Areas Plan must be periodically reviewed and revised to incorporate changes in the regional landscape. In this regard, this update of natural areas uses more complete and current information, while still employing the basic principles and concepts of the previously adopted plan, to enable a better comparison to other similar sites in the Region. Because it should not be assumed that the boundaries of natural areas should necessarily remain static, these changes often result in refinements in the delineation of the areal extent of sites. Certainly, losses of portions of natural areas are to be expected. However, expansion of boundaries may also take place through such factors as proper management techniques of surrounding marginal habitat; examination of the most recent, highest quality color aerial photography that makes natural boundaries more apparent; and additional field inspections.

Results of this review effort follow:

- A total of nine natural areas and critical species habitat sites were upgraded in classification through a thorough re-evaluation of their status (see Table 2). This includes four critical species habitat areas upgraded to NA-3 status, three NA-3 quality sites upgraded to NA-2 status, and two NA-2 quality sites upgraded to NA-1 status.
- A total of 22 NA-1 quality sites showed a net change in their areal extent. Of this total, nineteen showed net increases, while three decreased in mapped area. The largest increase—141 acres— occurred in the Scuppernong Prairie State Natural Area, where recent management, including prescribed burning and brush removal, has effectively restored what had been adjacent marginal habitat.
- A total of 63 NA-2 quality areas showed a net change in their areal extent. Forty-seven of these showed net increases, while 16 decreased in mapped area. The largest increase—606 acres—occurred in the Eagle Oak Opening and Dry Prairies with the addition of adjacent Kettle Moraine State Forest woodland.
- A total of 156 NA-3 quality sites showed a net change in their areal extent. Ninety-seven of these showed net increases, while 59 decreased in mapped area. The largest increase—1,965 acres—occurred in the Muskego Lake Marsh where managed water level fluctuations have increased the area of shallow marsh and decreased the areal extent of open water.

Map 1

NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES IDENTIFIED IN THE ADOPTED NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN AND SITES PROPOSED TO BE ADDED UNDER THE PLAN AMENDMENT



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 1

ADDITIONAL NATURAL AREAS IDENTIFIED SINCE PREPARATION OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NUMBER 42

Site Name	Location	Proposed Classification Code	Size (acres)	Existing and Proposed Ownerships	Site Description
First Avenue Prairie	Kenosha County T1N R23E Sections 29, 30 Village of Pleasant Prairie	NA-2	12	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	High quality Lake Michigan wet-mesic prairie complex
Center Lake Woods and Wetlands	Kenosha County T1N R20E Sections 21, 22 Town of Salem	NA-3	72	Town of Salem and private	Species-rich ravine woods associated with good quality wetland
Silver Lake Wetlands	Kenosha County T1N R20E Section 8 Town of Salem	NA-3	101	Private	Good quality wetlands at north end of Silver Lake
Adams Prairie	Milwaukee County T5N R21E Section 32 City of Franklin	NA-2	37	Private	Species-rich, high quality wet-mesic prairie and sedge meadow complex
60th Street Woods	Milwaukee County T5N R21E Section 27 City of Franklin	NA-3	11	Milwaukee County	Small, but species-rich upland woods
Bike Trail Marsh	Milwaukee County T5N R21E Section 3 City of Franklin	NA-3	3	Milwaukee County	Good quality shallow marsh
Glenwood School Woods	Milwaukee County T6N R21E Section 14 City of Milwaukee	NA-3	7	Glenwood School	Good quality woodland in highly developed part of county
Granville Low Woods	Milwaukee County T8N R21E Section 6 City of Milwaukee	NA-3	50	Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District	Good quality low woods
Grootemaat Woods	Milwaukee County T6N R21E Section 35 Village of Greendale	NA-3	20	City of Greenfield	Dry-mesic woods with ephemeral ponds
McGovern Park Woods	Milwaukee County T8N R21E Section 35 City of Milwaukee	NA-3	14	Milwaukee County	Remnant woodland within urban park
Mitchell's Woods	Milwaukee County T6N R21E Section 11 City of Milwaukee	NA-3	37	Milwaukee County	Mixed quality woods bordering Kinnickinnick River
Oak Creek Parkway Woods	Milwaukee County T5N R22E Sections 11, 12 City of Oak Creek	NA-3	24	Milwaukee County	Dry-mesic woods along Oak Creek
Root River Bike Trail Woods	Milwaukee County T5N R21E Section 15 City of Franklin	NA-3	108	Milwaukee County	Wet-mesic and dry-mesic woods along Root River
Root River Low and Upland Woods	Milwaukee County T5N R21E Section 3 City of Franklin	NA-3	76	Milwaukee County	Mostly wet-mesic and floodplain woods along Root River
Ryan Road Woods	Milwaukee County T5N R22E Section 29 City of Oak Creek	NA-3	42	Private	Dry-mesic woods
West Branch Root River Woods	Milwaukee County T6N R21E Section 7 City of West Allis	NA-3	12	City of West Allis	Small remnant of native forest in highly developed area

Table 1 (continued)

Site Name	Location	Proposed Classification Code	Size (acres)	Existing and Proposed Ownerships	Site Description
Abbott Woods and Ravine	Ozaukee County T10N R22E Sections 21, 28 Town of Grafton	NA-2	31	Private, protected through conservation easement with Ozaukee Washington Land Trust	Mesic woods and white cedar-covered ravines along Lake Michigan
Colonial Park Woods	Racine County T3N R23E Section 8 City of Racine	NA-2	94	Racine County and private	Complex of upland and lowland woods along Root River
Hoods Creek Woods	Racine County T3N R22E Section 3 Village of Mt. Pleasant	NA-3	72	Private and Village of Mt. Pleasant	Upland and lowland woods along Hoods Creek
Bluff Creek Prairie	Walworth County T4N R15E Section 23 Town of Whitewater	NA-2	21	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Good quality wet-mesic prairie, including a number of rare species
CTH C Lowland	Walworth County T1N R15E Section 4 Town of Sharon	NA-3	60	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Wetland complex in an agricultural landscape
East Troy Bog	Walworth County T4N R18E Sections 7, 18 Town of East Troy	NA-3	6	Private	Good quality leatherleaf bog
Jackson Creek Wetlands	Walworth County T2N R17E Section 7 City of Elkhorn	NA-3	22	Walworth County Land Trust	Wetland complex, including prairie fen, along Jackson Creek
Oak Hill Cemetery Woods	Walworth County T2N R17E Section 25 City of Lake Geneva and Town of Geneva	NA-3	138	Private	Good quality upland dry-mesic woods
Turtle Lake Fen	Walworth County T3N R15E Section 14 Town of Richmond	NA-3	21	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Prairie fen on southwest side of Turtle Lake
Voskuil Dry Prairie	Walworth County T2N R15E Section 1 Town of Darien	NA-2	7	Town of Darien and private	Good quality dry prairie on long exposed ridge
Amy Bell Lake Bog	Washington County T9N R19E Section 25 Town of Richfield	NA-3	5	Private	Good quality floating bog mat
Kohlsville River Upland Woods and Wetlands	Washington County T11N R19E Section 7 Town of Barton	NA-3	100	Private	Complex of upland and lowland woods
Little Oconomowoc River Woods and Wetlands	Washington County T9N R18E Section 33 Town of Erin	NA-3	226	Town of Erin or Washington County and private	Dry-mesic woods and wetland complex
Pike Lake Wetlands—South	Washington County T10N R18E Sections 23, 26 Town of Hartford	NA-3	37	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Wetland complex, including sedge meadow and shrub-carr
Regner Park Woods	Washington County T11N R19E Section 11 City of West Bend	NA-3	25	City of West Bend	Small, but good quality dry-mesic woods within urban park

Table 1 (continued)

Site Name	Location	Proposed Classification Code	Size (acres)	Existing and Proposed Ownerships	Site Description
Colgate Road Swamp and Woods	Waukesha County T8N R19E Section 2 Town of Lisbon	NA-3	170	Private	Mix of upland and lowland woods
Dousman Road Fen-Meadow	Waukesha County T7N R17E Section 33 Town of Summit	NA-3	3	Private	Sedge fen
Eagle Spring Lake Bog, Woods, and Prairie	Waukesha County T5N R17E Section 36 Town of Eagle T4N R17E Section 1 Town of Troy	NA-3	66	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Leatherleaf bog, dry upland woods, and small prairie remnants
Golf Cliff Ridge and Woods	Waukesha County T7N R18E Section 23 Town of Delafield	NA-3	8	Private	Small woods contains limestone outcrops
Merton Millpond and Woods	Waukesha County T8N R18E Section 13 Town of Merton T8N R19E Section 18 Town of Lisbon	NA-3	66	Village of Merton, Waukesha County, and private	Woods and wetlands bordering millpond
Ottawa Lake Prairie	Waukesha County T6N R17E Section 34 Town of Ottawa	NA-3	12	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Wet-mesic prairie, enhanced by prescribed burn management
Pebble Creek Woods—North	Waukesha County T6N R19E Section 22 Town of Waukesha	NA-3	9	Private	Small, but species-rich dry-mesic woods
Pebble Creek Woods—South	Waukesha County T6N R19E Section 22 Town of Waukesha	NA-3	15	Private	Small, but species-rich dry-mesic woods
Prairie Wind Farms Woods	Waukesha County T7N R18E Section 2 Town of Delafield	NA-3	22	Private	Moderate quality dry-mesic woods within residential development
Pretty Lake Tamarack Relict	Waukesha County T6N R17E Sections 21, 28 Town of Ottawa	NA-3	84	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and private	Tamarack relict, lowland hardwoods, and sedge fen
Reinke Sedge Fen	Waukesha County T5N R19E Section 26 Town of Vernon	NA-3	18	Private	Relatively diverse prairie and sedge fen complex on sloping hillside
Ryan Road Swamp	Waukesha County T5N R20E Section 24 City of Muskego	NA-3	45	Private	Lowland hardwood swamp with some northern elements
Vernon Marsh Low Woods	Waukesha County T5N R19E Section 5 Town of Vernon	NA-3	24	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Species-rich low woods within the Vernon Marsh

Source: SEWRPC

- A total of 104 Critical Species Habitat sites showed a net change in their areal extent. Sixty-three of these showed net increases, while 41 decreased in mapped area. The largest increase—588 acres—occurred in the Vernon Marsh with the inclusion of additional surrounding wetlands.

Table 2

NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT AREAS LISTED IN SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NUMBER 42 THAT HAVE BEEN UPGRADED IN CLASSIFICATION

Area Name	Location	Former Classification	Revised Classification	Reasons for Upgrading
Root River Bike Trail Woods	Milwaukee County T5N R21E Section 15 City of Franklin	Critical Species Habitat	NA-3	Additional surveys revealed greater species diversity and higher ecological quality
Huiras Lake Woods and Bog	Ozaukee County T12N R21E Sections 8, 9, 10, 16 Town of Fredonia	NA-2	NA-1	Additional, more extensive field surveys added to knowledge of this large area, revealing high ecological quality
Fish and Wildlife Service Area	Ozaukee County T10N R22E Sections 9, 10 Town of Grafton	Critical Species Habitat	NA-3	Improved wildlife habitat
Sandy Knoll Swamp	Washington County T11N R20E Sections 4, 5, 12 Town of Trenton T12N R20E Section 33 Town of Farmington	NA-3	NA-2	Additional, more extensive field surveys added to knowledge of this large area, revealing high ecological quality
Jackson Swamp State Natural Area	Washington County T10N R20E Sections 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 Town of Jackson	NA-2	NA-1	Additional, more extensive field surveys added to knowledge of this large area, revealing high ecological quality
Pike Lake Woods	Washington County T10N R18E Sections 23, 24 Town of Hartford	NA-3	NA-2	Additional field surveys by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC staff biologists
Sawyer Road Sedge Meadow	Waukesha County T7N R17E Section 36 Town of Summit	NA-3	NA-2	Additional surveys revealed greater species diversity and higher ecological quality
Stute Springs (formerly "Mounded Fen")	Waukesha County T5N R17E Section 19 Town of Eagle	Critical Species Habitat	NA-3	Additional surveys revealed greater species diversity and higher ecological quality
Old World Wisconsin Marsh	Waukesha County T5N R17E Section 21 Town of Eagle	Critical Species Habitat	NA-3	Additional surveys revealed greater species diversity and higher ecological quality

Source: SEWRPC.

CHANGES IN STATUS OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND SPECIAL CONCERN PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES IN THE REGION

Vertebrate animal (mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, and fish) and vascular plant species found in Southeastern Wisconsin that were officially listed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Endangered Resources, on the "Wisconsin Natural Heritage Working List," were identified in SEWRPC Planning Report Number 42. Specifically, that list named 20 plant and 19 vertebrate animal species known to occur in the Region as endangered; 25 plant and 17 animal species of the Region as threatened; and 69 plant and 61 animal species of the Region as special concern.

Since preparation of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42, the Bureau of Endangered Resources has updated its list periodically, adding or removing species and changing the status of other species as more knowledge is obtained about native species, as species become more or less rare, and as the degree of endangerment increases or decreases. Currently, 18 vertebrate animal species of the Region are listed as endangered; 20 are listed as threatened; and 59 are listed as special concern. Table 3 lists the revisions that have been made in the status of the Region's critical vertebrate animal species.

Table 3

RECENT CHANGES IN THE STATUS OF STATE OF WISCONSIN-DESIGNATED RARE ANIMAL SPECIES AS LISTED IN TABLES 42, 43, 44, 45, AND 46 OF SEWRPC PLANNING REPORT NUMBER 42 (latest State revision: January 1, 2007)

Animal Group	Scientific Name	Common Name	Status in PR-42	Current Status
Mammals	*Clethrionomys gapperi*	Red-backed vole	Special Concern	Not listed
	Lynx rufus	Bobcat	Special Concern	Not listed
	Sorex thompsonii	Thompson's pigmy shrew	Special Concern	Not listed
	Synaptomys cooperi	Southern bog lemming	Special Concern	Not listed
Birds	*Thryomanes bewickii*	Bewick's wren	Endangered	Not listed
	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald eagle	Threatened	Special Concern
	Ammodramus henslowii	Henslow's sparrow	Special Concern	Threatened
	Carduelis pinus	Pine siskin	Special Concern	Not listed
	Coccothraustes vespertinus	Evening grosbeak	Special Concern	Not listed
	Coturnicops noveboracensis	Yellow rail	Special Concern	Threatened
	Dendroica fusca	Blackburnian warbler	Special Concern	Not listed
	Icterus spurius	Orchard oriole	Special Concern	Not listed
	Mergus merganser	Common merganser	Special Concern	Not listed
	Mergus serrator	Red-breasted merganser	Special Concern	Not listed
	Vermivora peregrina	Tennessee warbler	Special Concern	Not listed
	Wilsonia canadensis	Canada warbler	Uncommon	Special Concern
	Vermivora pinus	Blue-winger warbler	Uncommon	Special Concern
	Vermivora ruficapilla	Nashville warbler	Uncommon	Special Concern
	Hylocichla mustelina	Wood thrush	Uncommon	Special Concern
	Loxia curvirostra	Red crossbill	Uncommon	Special Concern
	Vireo griseus	White-eyed vireo	Uncommon	Special Concern
	Ardea herodias	Great blue heron	Uncommon	Special Concern
	Caprimulgus vociferus	Whip-poor-will	Uncommon	Special Concern
	Empidonax minimus	Least flycatcher	Uncommon	Special Concern
	Empidonax traillii	Willow flycatcher	Uncommon	Special Concern
	Catharus fuscescens	Veery	Uncommon	Special Concern
	Scolopax minor	American woodcock	Uncommon	Special Concern
	Vermivora chrysoptera	Golden-winged warbler	Uncommon	Special Concern
Herptiles	*Hemidactylium scutatum*	Four-toed salamander	Uncommon	Special Concern
	Thamnophis butleri	Butler's garter snake	Uncommon	Threatened
Fish	*Coregonus artedii*	Lake herring	Special Concern	Not listed

Source: Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory Working List, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2007, and SEWRPC.

Critical plant species determined to be, at least historically, part of the regional flora now include 23 endangered plant species, 33 threatened plant species, and 97 special concern plant species. These changes in totals are due to a combination of factors, including changes in species classification by the Bureau of Endangered Resources, newly discovered regional species, and the most recent revisions in the taxonomic nomenclature classifying species.

Recent and reliable records, however, only include 112 (73 percent) of these original plant species as having a good probability of remaining in the Region today. Accordingly, it is estimated that 41, or 27 percent, of these critical plant species have been extirpated from the Region. Of the 112 listed plant species for which there are current records, 16, or 14 percent, are classified as endangered (see Table 4); 22, or 20 percent, are classified as threatened (see Table 5); and 74, or 66 percent, are classified as special concern (see Table 6).

In addition to the Region's endangered, threatened, and special concern plant species, a number of species may have relatively extensive and apparently stable statewide populations, but may still be of high concern on a regional level. New information concerning uncommon plant species abundances and distribution in the Region has led to a reconsideration of their status. A total of 298 plant species considered to be regionally uncommon were listed in SEWRPC Planning Report No. 42. Additional field surveys revealed that some species originally listed as uncommon were more abundant and/or widespread than suspected, while others, not listed, were less common than first thought. Accordingly, the list of regionally uncommon plant species was adjusted to reflect these new data. These plant species have been determined to exist at such low densities at so few locations in the Region, or whose habitat is threatened, as to be vulnerable to local extirpation. All populations are therefore noteworthy. It should be noted that although these regionally uncommon plant species are not considered critical species for purposes of this report, they occur in such low numbers or in such restricted locations in the Region that it is recommended that their status be monitored and their locations tracked.

Table 4

ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES OF THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: 2007
(latest State revision: January 1, 2007)

Species Name	Common Name	Listed in PR-42	Notes
Agalinis skinneriana	Pale foxglove	No	Very rare
Armoracia lacustris	Lake cress	No	Possibly extirpated from Region
Asclepias purpurascens	Purple milkweed	Yes	--
Camassia scilloides	Wild-hyacinth	No	One known population in Region
Carex crus-corvi	Crow-spur sedge	Yes	Very few locations
Carex lupuliformis	Hoplike sedge	Yes	Identification difficult
Collinsonia canadensis	Canada horse-balm	Yes	Probably extirpated from Region
Conioselinum chinense	Hemlock-parsley	Yes	Probably extirpated from Region
Eleocharis quadrangulata	Square-stem spike-rush	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Erigenia bulbosa	Harbinger-of-spring	Yes	Probably extirpated from Region
Fimbristylis puberula	Chestnut sedge	Yes	One known population in Region
Lespedeza leptostachya	Prairie lespedeza	Yes	Probably extirpated from Region
Muhlenbergia richardsonis	Mat muhly	No	One known population in Region
Phlox glaberrima	Smooth phlox	Yes	--
Plantago cordata	Heart-leaved plantain	Yes	Two known native populations
Platanthera leucophaea	Prairie white-fringed orchid	Yes	All individuals should be protected
Polygala incarnata	Pink milkwort	No	--
Prenanthes aspera	Rough rattlesnake-root	Yes	Probably extirpated from Region
Pterospora andromeda	Giant pinedrops	Yes	One known population in Region
Ranunculus cymbalaria	Alkali buttercup	Yes	One known population in Region
Ruellia humilis	Wild petunia	Yes	One known population in Region
Solidago caesia	Bluestem goldenrod	Yes	May be locally common
Trisetum melicoides	False melic	Yes	Revised from Special Concern

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

CHANGES TO NATURAL AREA-, CRITICAL SPECIES-, AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES

Protections provided natural areas and critical species habitats under Federal policies and regulations are limited. The major remedies available under Federal law generally relate to the taking, possession, transport, and sale of federally designated endangered and threatened animal and plant species and migratory game and nongame birds. No Federal regulations have been promulgated per se to protect natural areas and critical species habitats identified by Federal agencies or by States. However, regulations have been promulgated which require consideration of endangered and threatened animal and plant species, and certain high quality habitats, in the issuance of Federal permits and other approvals. Further, programs which grant funds, usually to State agencies, have been enacted. These funds may be used to acquire and manage natural areas and critical species habitats in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Protection of natural areas and critical species habitats under State policies and regulations is also limited. The major remedies available under State law, as with Federal law, generally relate to the taking, possession, transport, and sale of Federally designated and State-designated endangered and threatened plant species, and game and nongame animal species. However, even endangered or threatened plant species do not receive the same level of protective consideration that extends to native animal species, the latter being considered property of the State. Further, no State regulations have been promulgated to directly protect natural areas and critical species habitats, unless they are located within designated State natural areas owned or managed, or both, by the State. Designated State natural areas on privately held lands and non-State owned public lands are managed only under a mutual-agreement (Articles of Dedication) policy. Similarly, the State has promulgated rules for the establishment of conservation easements that may be applied to privately held lands. When combined with sound conservation management plans, such easements may be an effective method to ensure the long term protection of natural areas, critical species habitats, and significant geological and archaeological sites.

Table 5

THREATENED PLANT SPECIES OF THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: 2007
(latest State revision: January 1, 2007)

Species Name	Common Name	Listed in PR-42	Notes[a]
Agalinis gattingeri	Round-stem foxglove	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Agastache nepetoides	Yellow giant hyssop	Yes	--
Amerorchis rotundifolia	Round-leaved orchid	Yes	Probably extirpated from Region
Asclepias lanuginosa	Woolly milkweed	Yes	--
Asclepias ovalifolia	Dwarf milkweed	Yes	Listed in Planning Report No. 42 as Uncommon; changed by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Asclepias sullivantii	Sullivant's milkweed	Yes	Grows in mesic prairies
Aster furcatus	Forked aster	Yes	--
Besseya bullii	Kittentails	Yes	A species of oak savannas
Cacalia plantaginea	Prairie Indian plantain	Yes	= *C. tuberosa* and *Arnoglossum plantagineum*
Calamovilfa longifolia var. *magna*	Sand reed grass	Yes	Lake Michigan sand dunes and beaches
Carex formosa	Handsome sedge	Yes	Changed from Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Carex garberi	Elk sedge	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Cirsium hillii	Hill's thistle	Yes	Probably extirpated from Region
Cypripedium arietinum	Ram's-head lady's-slipper	Yes	Extremely rare
Cypripedium candidum	Small white lady's-slipper	Yes	A species of wet-mesic prairies and fens
Drosera linearis	Linear-leaf sundew	Yes	One population in Region
Echinacea pallida	Pale purple coneflower	No	Probably extirpated from Region
Eleocharis rostellata	Beaked spike-rush	Yes	In calcareous fens
Elytrigia dasystachya subsp. *psammophila*	Thickspike wheatgrass	Yes	= *Elymus lanceolatus*
Fraxinus quadrangulata	Blue ash	Yes	Very few sites
Gentiana alba	Cream gentian	Yes	--
Hypericum sphaerocarpum	Round-seeded St. John's-wort	No	Very rare
Iris lacustris	Dwarf lake iris	Yes	Extirpated from Region
Orobanche fasciculata	Clustered broom-rape	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Parthenium integrifolium	Wild quinine	Yes	Mesic prairies
Platanthera flava	Tubercled orchid	Yes	Probably extirpated from Region
Poa paludigena	Patterson's bluegrass	No	Possibly extirpated from Region
Polytaenia nuttallii	Prairie-parsley	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Ribes oxyacanthoides	Canadian gooseberry	No	--
Scirpus cespitosus	Tussock bulrush	Yes	Changed from Endangered by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Tofieldia glutinosa	False asphodel	Yes	--
Trillium nivale	Snow trillium	Yes	A very early blooming species
Valeriana uliginosa	Marsh valerian	No	Possibly extirpated from Region

[a]*An equal sign indicates that the species is known by other names.*

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

The State of Wisconsin has created some programs, however, which both directly and indirectly affect the protection of natural areas and critical species habitats if they are located in wetlands or are located in sanitary sewer service areas designated under the Clean Water Act. The presence of State-designated or Federally designated rare, threatened, or endangered species and their critical habitats, as well as the presence of high-quality natural areas within the State's wetlands and in primary environmental corridors, does have an effect on the issuance of necessary permits, water quality certifications, and approvals for activities not consistent with the protection of these species and areas. In addition, the State of Wisconsin has enacted programs under which funds may be made available to the Department of Natural Resources, county and local units of government, and to nonprofit conservation organizations to locate, evaluate, acquire, protect, and manage important natural areas and critical species habitats in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Table 6

SPECIAL CONCERN PLANT SPECIES OF THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION: 2007
(latest State revision: January 1, 2007)

Species Name	Common Name	Listed in PR-42	Notes[a]
Adlumia fungosa	Climbing fumitory	No	Recent addition to historic regional flora; possibly extirpated from Region
Agrimonia parviflora	Swamp agrimony	Yes	--
Aplectrum hyemale	Adam-and-Eve	Yes	Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Arabis shortii	Short's rock-cress	No	Possibly extirpated from Region
Arethusa bulbosa	Swamp-pink	Yes	--
Artemisia dracunculus	Dragon sage-wort	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Artemisia frigida	Fringed sage-wort	No	Possibly extirpated from Region
Athyrium pycocarpon	Glade fern	No	= *Diplazium pycnocarpon;* possibly extirpated from Region
Cacalia muhlenbergii	Great Indian plantain	Yes	= *Arnoglossum reniforme*
Cakile edentula	Sea rocket	Yes	Along Lake Michigan beaches
Calamagrostis stricta	Slim-stem reed grass	No	--
Cardamine pratensis	Cuckoo flower	Yes	--
Carex crawei	Crawe sedge	Yes	--
Cares gracilescens	Slender wood sedge	Yes	--
Carex gynocrates	Northern bog sedge	No	--
Carex livida	Livid sedge	No	--
Carex pallescens	Pale sedge	No	--
Carex richardsonii	Richardson's sedge	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Carex suberecta	Prairie straw sedge	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Carex swanii	Swan's sedge	Yes	Very few populations in Region
Carex sychnocephala	Many-headed sedge	Yes	Very few populations in Region
Carex tenuiflora	Sparse-flowered sedge	Yes	--
Carex torreyi	Torrey's sedge	No	Very few populations in Region
Ceratophyllum echinatum	Spiny hornwort	Yes	Listed as Uncommon in PR-42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Cirsium flodmanii	Flodman's thistle	No	Probably extirpated from Region
Corallorhiza odontorhiza	Late coralroot orchid	Yes	An inconspicuous orchid species
Coreopsis lancelolata	Sand coreopsis	Yes	Possibly naturalized
Cypripedium parviflorum	Small yellow lady's-slipper	Yes	--
Cypripedium pubescens	Large yellow lady's-slipper	Yes	Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Cypripedium reginae	Showy lady's-slipper	Yes	--
Deschampsia caespitosa	Tufted hair grass	Yes	--
Dryopteris clintoniana	Clinton's wood fern	Yes	--
Eleocharis compressa	Flat-stemmed spike-rush	No	--
Eleocharis olivacea	Bright green spike-rush	Yes	--
Eleocharis pauciflora	Few-flowered spike-rush	No	= *E. quinqueflora*
Epilobium strictum	Downy willow-herb	Yes	--
Equisetum palustre	Marsh horsetail	No	--
Equisetum variegatum	Variegated horsetail	Yes	--
Eupatorium sessilifolium	Woodland boneset	Yes	--
Euphorbia polygonifolia	Seaside spurge	Yes	--
Festuca paradoxa	Cluster fescue	No	Possibly extirpated from Region
Gentianopsis procera	Lesser fringed gentian	Yes	= *Gentiana procera*
Glycyrrhiza lepidota	Wild licorice	No	Possibly extirpated from Region
Gymnocladus dioica	Kentucky coffeetree	Yes	--
Hasteola suaveolens	Sweet Indian plantain	Yes	= *Cacalia suaveolens*; listed as Uncommon in PR-42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Hibiscus palustris	Rose mallow	No	= *H. moscheutos*; nativity questionable
Houstonia caerulea	Bluets	Yes	= *Hedyotis caerulea*
Hydrastis canadensis	Goldenseal	Yes	--
Hydrophyllum appendiculatum	Great waterleaf	Yes	Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Jeffersonia diphylla	Twinleaf	Yes	--
Juglans cinerea	Butternut	No	Added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Table 6 (continued)

Species Name	Common Name	Listed in PR-42	Notes[a]
Juncus marginatus	Grass-leaved rush	No	Recent addition to regional flora
Liatris spicata	Marsh blazing-star	Yes	--
Lithospermum latifolium	American gromwell	Yes	--
Malaxis brachypoda	White adders-mouth	Yes	= *M. monophyllos var. brachypoda*; possibly extirpated from Region
Medeola virginiana	Indian cucumber-root	Yes	Probably extirpated from Region
Myriophyllum farwellii	Farwell's water-milfoil	No	Probably extirpated from Region
Nyssa sylvatica	Black gum	Yes	Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Oenothera serrulata	Yellow evening-primrose	Yes	= *Calylophus seerulatus*
Ophioglossum pusillum	Northern adder's-tongue	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Opuntia humifusa	Eastern prickly-pear cactus	Yes	Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Orobanche uniflora	Cancer-root	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Panax quinquefolius	Wild ginseng	Yes	--
Panicum wilcoxianum	Wilcox's panic grass	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Penstemon hirsutus	Hairy beard-tongue	Yes	--
Penstemon pallidus	Pale beard-tongue	Yes	--
Phegopteris hexagonoptera	Broad beech fern	Yes	--
Phlox bifida	Sand phlox	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Platanthera dilatata	White bog orchid	Yes	--
Platanthera hookeri	Hooker's orchid	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Platanthera orbiculata	Large round-leaved orchid	Yes	Probably extirpated from Region
Platanus occidentalis	Sycamore	Yes	Few native occurrences
Polygala cruciata	Cross milkwort	Yes	--
Polystichum acrostichoides	Christmas fern	Yes	--
Ptelea trifoliata	Hoptree	Yes	--
Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinkapin oak	Yes	Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Satureja arkansana	Limestone calamint	Yes	= *Calamintha arkansana*
Scirpus heterochaetus	Slender bulrush	Yes	= *Schoenoplectus heterochaetus*; listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; possibly extirpated from Region
Scirpus hudsonianus	Alpine cotton-grass	No	= *Trichophorum alpinum; Eriophorum alpinum*
Scleria triglomerata	Tall nut-rush	Yes	--
Scleria verticillata	Low nut-rush	Yes	--
Scutellaria ovata	Heart-leaved skullcap	Yes	--
Senecio plattensis	Prairie ragwort	Yes	Listed as Uncommon in PR-42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Possibly extirpated from Region
Sisyrinchium angustifolium	Stout blue-eyed-grass	Yes	Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Solidago ohioensis	Ohio goldenrod	Yes	--
Talinum rugospermum	Fame-flower	Yes	Probably extirpated from Region
Taxus canadensis	Canada yew	Yes	Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Thalictrum revolutum	Marsh meadow-rue	Yes	--
Thaspium trifoliatum	Purple meadow-parsnip	Yes	Possibly extirpated from Region
Tomanthera auriculata	Eared false foxglove	Yes	Recently re-discovered in State
Triglochin matitima	Bog arrow-grass	Yes	--
Triglochin palustris	Marsh arrow-grass	Yes	--
Trillium recurvatum	Red trillium	Yes	Locally common
Utricularia purpurea	Spotted bladderwort	No	--
Verbena simplex	Narrow-leaved vervain	Yes	Listed as Uncommon in Planning Report No. 42; added Special Concern by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Viburnum prunifolium	Blackhaw	Yes	In dry-mesic woods
Viola rostrata	Long-spurred violet	Yes	--

[a]*An equal sign indicates that the species is known by other names.*

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

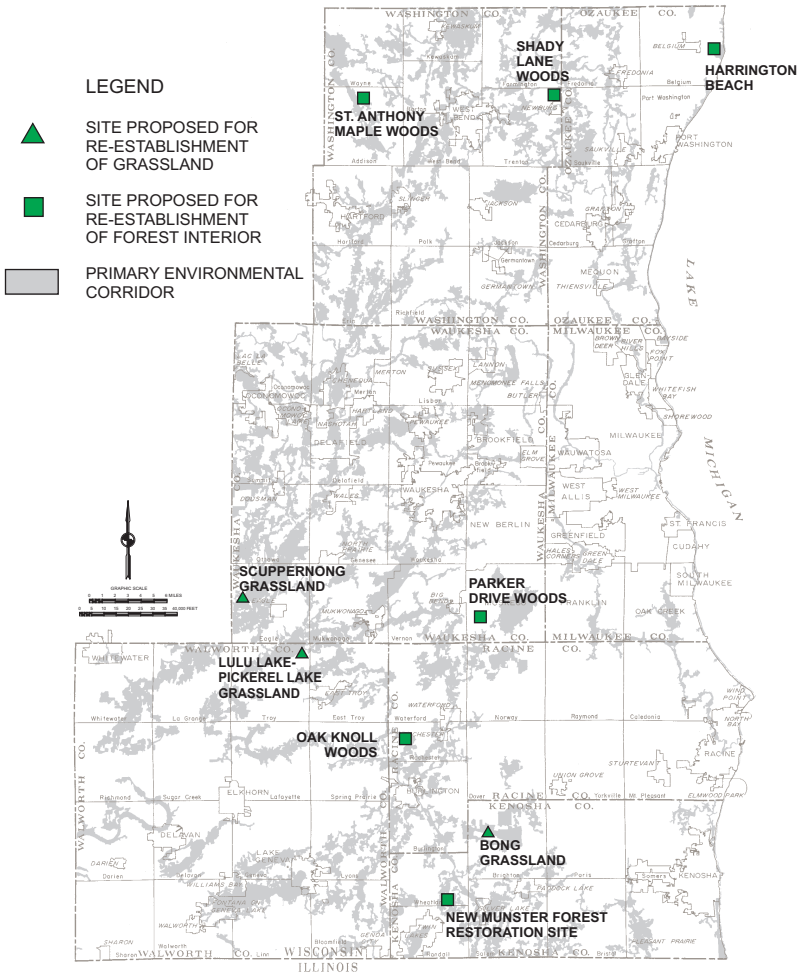
RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The following is a summary of the recommended changes to the natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan under the plan amendment:

- **Changes to the Natural Area site recommendations:** The original plan recommended that 427 Natural Area sites, totaling approximately 88 square miles be placed in protective public or private ownership. The proposed plan update recommends that 472 of the 494 identified Natural Area sites, or 96 percent, totaling 98.3 square miles, would now be placed in protective public or private ownership. That total includes all 44 of the newly identified natural area sites. A summary of the recommended protective ownership of the newly identified Natural Area Sites that are not currently under protective ownership is shown in Table 7.
- **Changes to the critical species habitat recommendations**: The original plan recommended that 110 Critical Species Habitat sites, totaling approximately 21 square miles, be placed in protective public or private ownership. The proposed plan update recommends that 190 of the 256 identified Critical Species Habitat Area sites, or 74 percent, totaling 19.2 square miles, would now be placed in protective public or private ownership. That includes 133 of the newly identified critical species habitat sites, that is, those located within Commission-delineated primary environmental corridors, whose total area is 3,808 acres. A summary of the recommended protective ownership of the newly identified Critical Species Habitat Area Sites that are not currently under protective ownership is shown in Table 7.

Map 2

LOCATION OF FINAL RECOMMENDED SITES TO REESTABLISH LARGE TRACTS OF GRASSLANDS AND FOREST INTERIORS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION



Source: SEWRPC.

Table 7

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED PROTECTIVE OWNERSHIP OF NEWLY IDENTIFIED NATURAL AREA AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT SITES THAT ARE NOT CURRENTLY PROTECTED

Proposed Acquisition Agency	Site Category			Total
	NA-2	NA-3	CSH	
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	0	1	2	3
Local Unit of Government	1	4	4	9
Lake Management District	0	1	0	1
School District	0	0	2	2
WE Energies	0	0	5	5
Private Conservancy Organization	1	13	34	48
To be properly managed without protective ownership	0	0	32	32
Total	2	19	79[a]	100

[a]*This total does not include the 54 of the 133 newly identified Critical Species Habitat sites that are currently completely or partially under protective ownership.*

Source: SEWRPC.

- **Changes to grassland bird nesting habitat recommendation:** The original plan recommended that a total of 21.3 square miles of grassland be established and managed to provide suitable nesting habitat for grassland nesting birds. The proposed plan update recommends that an additional 7.8 square miles be added to the area of grassland bird nesting habitat at the Lulu Lake site (see Map 2).

- **Changes to woodland (forest interior bird habitat) recommendation:** No changes are recommended to the original woodland forest interior bird habitat area.

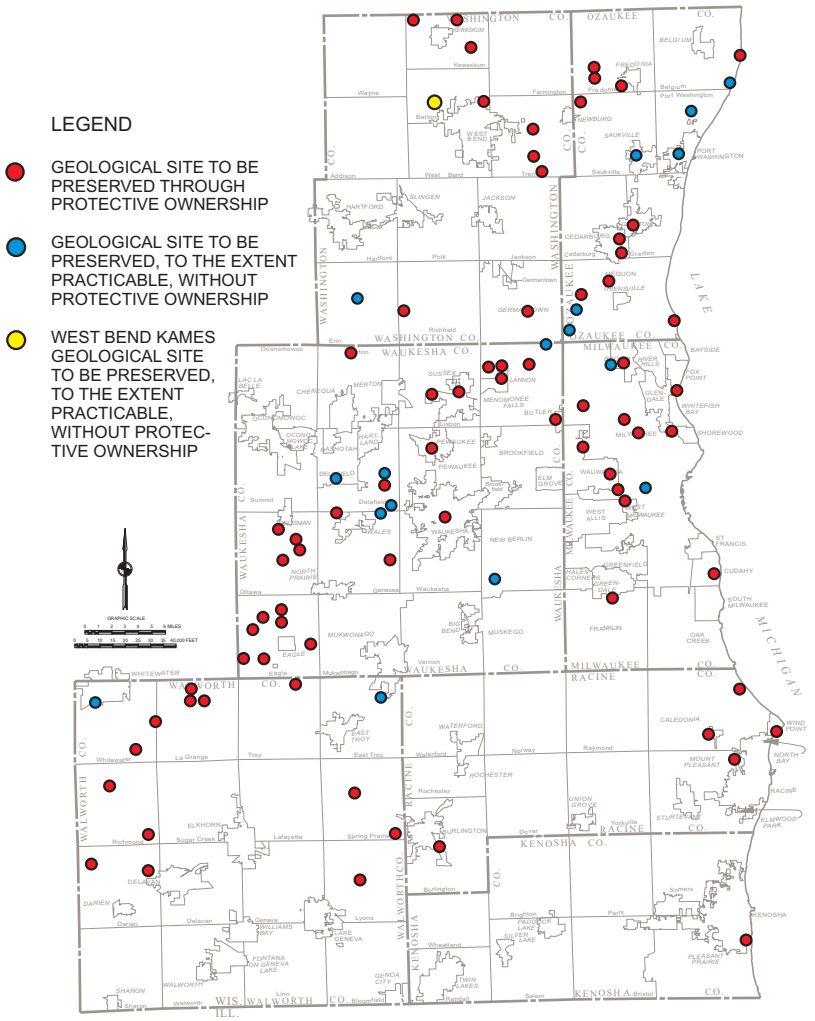
- **Changes to the geological area recommendations:** The original plan recommended that 71of the 86 identified geological sites, totaling 35.6 square miles, be placed in protective public or private ownership. The proposed plan update recommends that the single newly identified geological area—the West Bend Kames—be protected under a scenic easement held by an appropriate private conservation organization, such as the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust (see Map 3).

- **Changes to the Archaeological site recommendations:** There are no changes recommended to the original archaeological site recommendations.

- **Recommended 2005 ADID wetland updates:** Under the Section 404(b) (1) Guidelines of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, working in coordination with other Federal agencies and the States, may identify certain wetlands and other waters that are generally unsuitable for the discharge of dredge and fill materials. Under these guidelines the Federal agencies have developed the Advanced Identification of Disposal Areas (ADID) in wetlands program (40 CFR 230.80). This program is an advisory procedure intended to add predictability to the Section 404 wetland permitting process and better account for the impacts of wetland losses from multiple projects within a geographic area. In 1985, ADID wetlands were identified and designated by the Corps and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Commission for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. The Southeastern Wisconsin ADID waters "include lakes, streams, and wetlands" located within the Commission delineated primary environmental corridors as they were shown on the Commission's 1980 Regional Plan maps.

Map 3

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION



Source: SEWRPC.

Proposals to discharge any dredge or fill materials into wetlands and other waters of the United States require adherence to the Section 404(b) (1) Guidelines of the Act. Under these Guidelines, the discharge of any dredge or fill materials into designated natural areas, critical species habitat areas, and aquatic habitats identified in the plan would be subject to the conditions, set forth in Section 40 CFR Part 230.10(b). Accordingly, projects proposed in ADID waters would not be likely to receive a section 404 permit under these guidelines.

The updated plan, utilizing the 2005 Wisconsin Wetland Inventory as a base, recommends that the Region's ADID wetlands be updated to include those wetlands and other surface waters located in the 2005 primary environmental

corridor. Further, wetlands located in those Natural Areas identified in this plan that are located outside the primary environmental corridor are also recommended to be designated as ADID wetlands. The proposed updated ADID wetlands and other surface waters are shown by County on Map 4.

- **Aquatic Habitat Survey:** Finally, the plan recommends that a separate survey designed to update the aquatic natural area habitats be conducted under the direction of a technical advisory committee consisting of experts in the area of aquatic resources.

PLAN COSTS

The total cost of land acquisition recommended under the plan is estimated at $589.7 million. These costs would be distributed as follows: State government--$267.7 million, or 45 percent; county governments--$96.5 million, or 16 percent; local governments--$35.6 million, or 6 percent; and private conservancy organizations--$189.9 million, or 32 percent. Of the $589.7 million in plan implementation costs, about $482.1 million, or 82 percent, would be associated with recommendations that have been made in prior State, regional, county, and local plans, and do not, therefore, represent proposed new expenditures. If the recommended plan were to be implemented over a 20-year period, the average annual cost, expressed in constant 2008 dollars, would approximate $29.5 million, or $14.75 per capita.

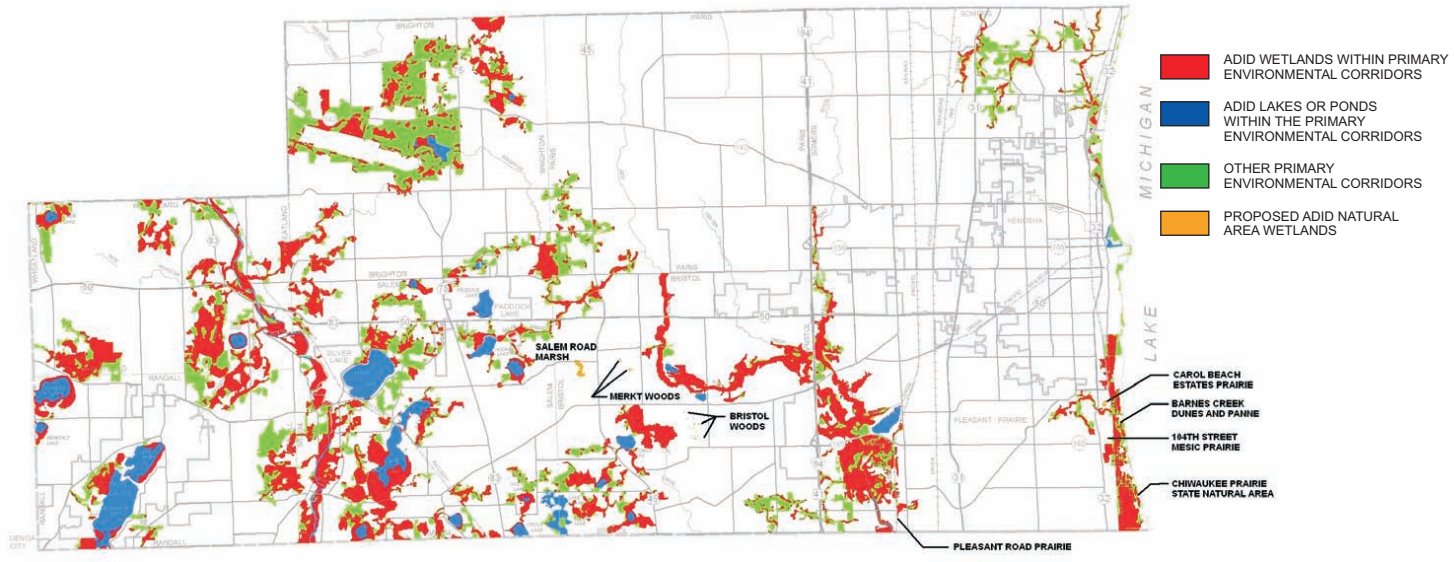
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL AREAS IN SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

Dr. Susan E. Lewis, Chairman	Professor of Biology, Carroll College; Director, Greene Field Station; Member, State of Wisconsin Natural Areas Preservation Council
Dr. Donald M. Reed, Secretary	Chief Biologist, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Fay U. Amerson	Urban Conservation Specialist, Walworth County
Dr. Philip J. Arnholt	Professor of Science, Biology Department, Concordia University
Susan Black	Parks Director, Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture
Dr. Owen Boyle	Regional Ecologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Gerald H. Emmerich, Jr	Member, Board of Directors, Land Trust of Walworth County
Shawn Graff	Executive Director, The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
Duane Grimm	Waukesha County Park System Manager
Andrew A. Holschbach	Land Conservation Director, Ozaukee County
Signe L. Holtz	Director, Bureau of Endangered Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
B. Martinus Johnson	Wildlife Manager, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Marlin P. Johnson	Associate Professor Emeritus, Field Station Manager, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin Waukesha Center; Vice President, Waukesha County Land Conservancy
Mary J. Lichter	Parks Director, Kenosha County Parks
James P. Morrissey	Land/Facilities Supervisor, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Paul E. Mueller	Administrator, Washington County Land Use and Parks Department
Dr. Patricia Nagai	Horticulture Educator, UW Extension Service, Racine County
Kevin L. Shafer	Executive Director, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
Dr. Stephen L. Solheim	Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Wisconsin Whitewater
Scott Thompson	Director of Freshwater Conservation, Wisconsin Chapter, The Nature Conservancy
Marc White	Director of Research, Stewardship, and Adult Education, Riveredge Nature Center
Dr. Joy J. Wolf	Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Map 4

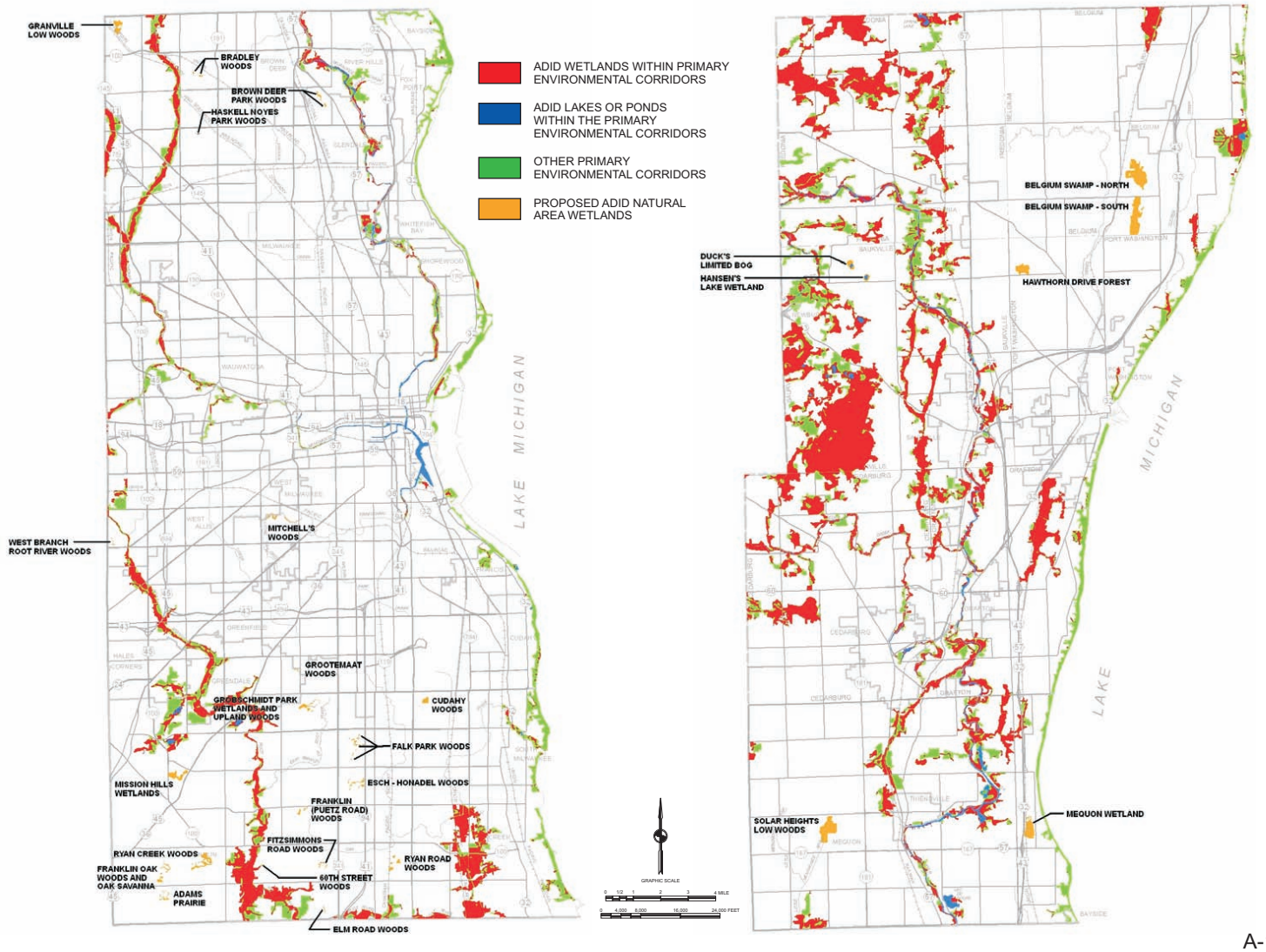
ADID WETLANDS AND WATERS WITHIN THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGION BY COUNTY: 2005

KENOSHA COUNTY



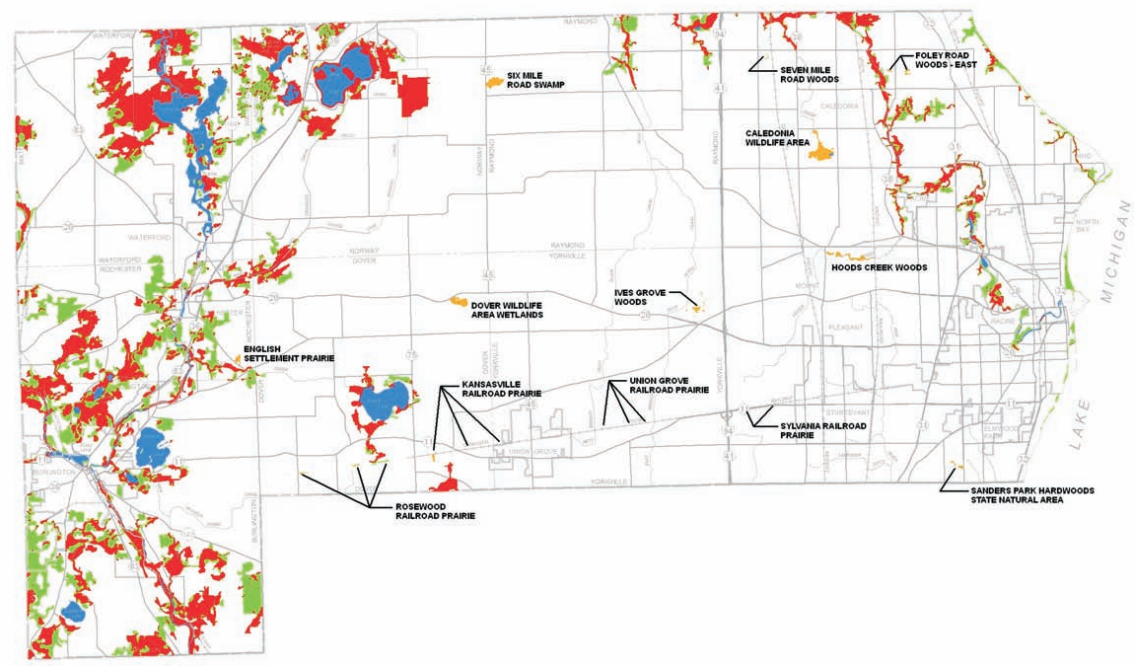
MILWAUKEE COUNTY

OZAUKEE COUNTY



Map 4 (continued)

RACINE COUNTY



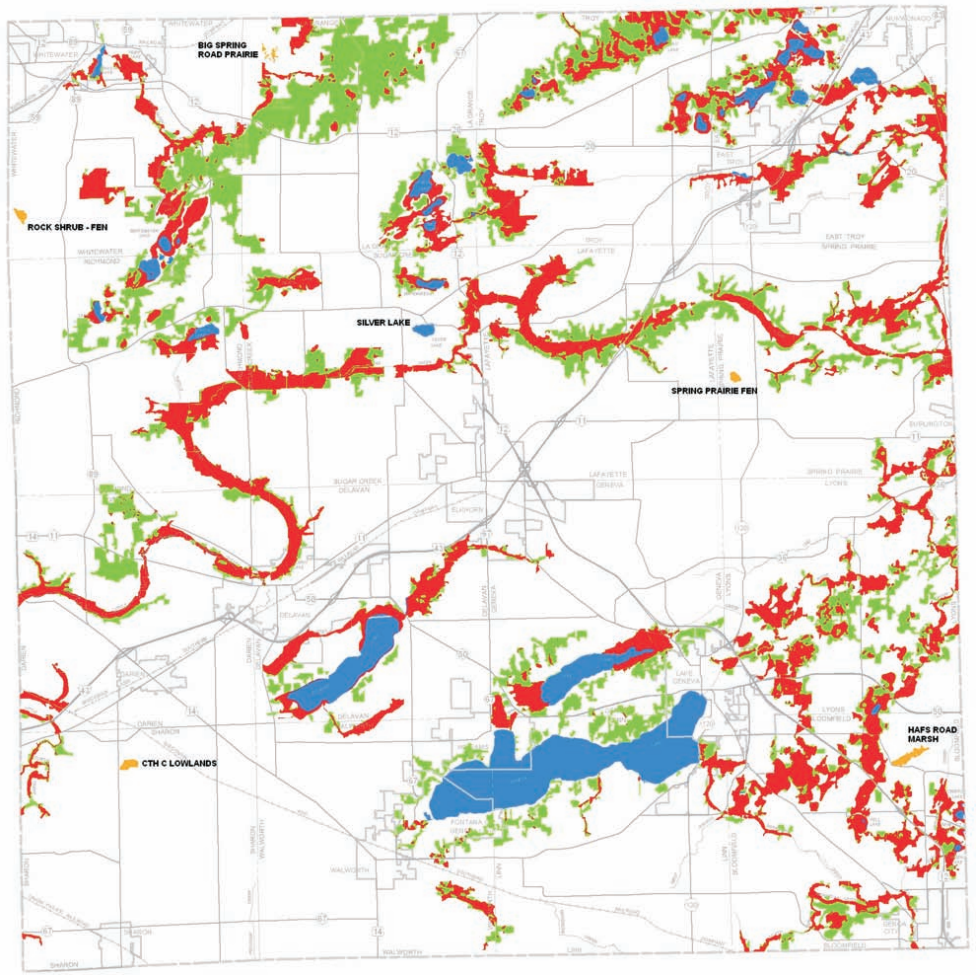
ADID WETLANDS WITHIN PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

ADID LAKES OR PONDS WITHIN THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

OTHER PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

PROPOSED ADID NATURAL AREA WETLANDS

WALWORTH COUNTY



ADID WETLANDS WITHIN PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

ADID LAKES OR PONDS WITHIN THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

OTHER PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

PROPOSED ADID NATURAL AREA WETLANDS

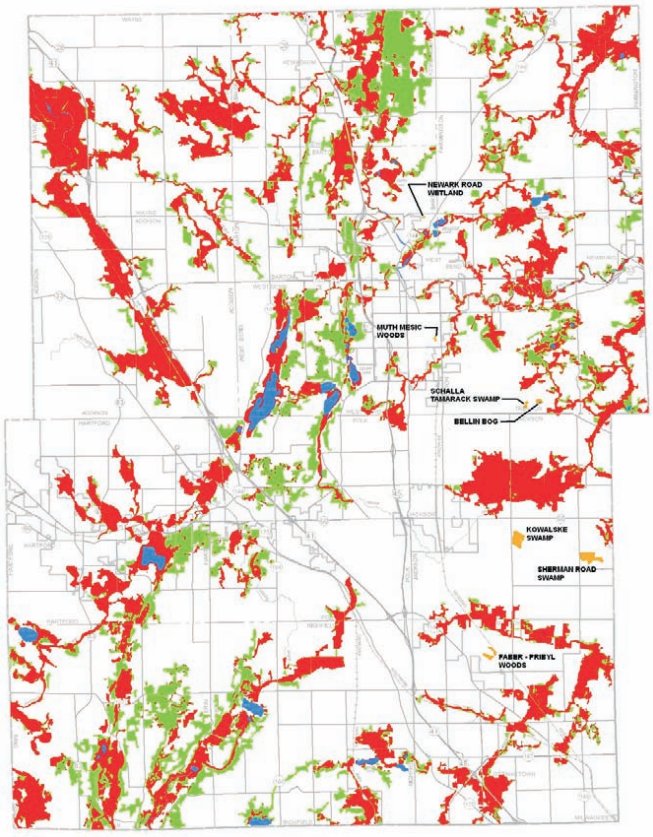
GRAPHIC SCALE

0 1/2 1 2 3 4 MILE

0 4,000 8,000 16,000 24,000 FEET

Map 4 (continued)

WASHINGTON COUNTY



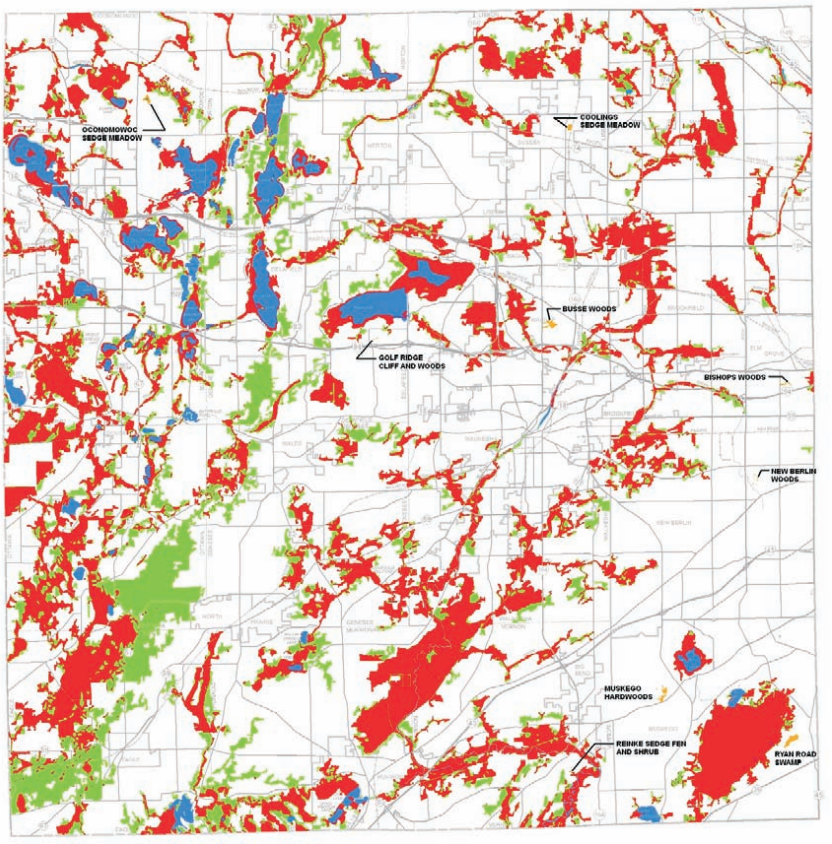
ADID WETLANDS WITHIN PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

ADID LAKES OR PONDS WITHIN THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

OTHER PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

PROPOSED ADID NATURAL AREA WETLANDS

WAUKESHA COUNTY

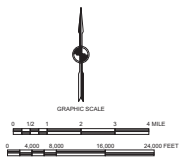


ADID WETLANDS WITHIN PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

ADID LAKES OR PONDS WITHIN THE PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

OTHER PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

PROPOSED ADID NATURAL AREA WETLANDS



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and SEWRPC.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Further information on the regional natural areas and critical species habitat study, including all study materials—Advisory Committee meeting minutes, plan chapters, presentations, and study reports—are all available from the Commission.

Phone:	(262) 547-6721
Fax:	(262) 547-1103
Mail:	W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive P.O. Box 1607 Waukesha, WI 53187-1607
E-mail:	sewrpc@sewrpc.org

This newsletter was mailed directly to a list of individuals and organizations that have expressed interest in receiving such information. If you did not receive this newsletter directly, and would like to receive future issues, please contact the Commission using the contact information above.

THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS:

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

W239 N1812 ROCKWOOD DRIVE
PO BOX 1607
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN 53187-1607

First Class Mail
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Exhibit A-2

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE

HAVE INPUT – ATTEND A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) is encouraging public review and comment on a preliminary update of the Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region. The Region consists of seven counties: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha.

The Natural Areas Plan updates a 1997 document which identified the most important remaining natural areas, critical species habitat areas, geological sites, and archaeological sites in Southeastern Wisconsin. Such areas are essential for environmental diversity, preservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals, outdoor recreation and education opportunities, and quality of life in the Region. They serve as a benchmark to help measure the impacts of changing land uses.

Public informational meetings, each at 5:00-7:00 p.m., will be held in latter April. The purpose of these meetings is to brief residents of the Region on the preliminary recommended update to the plan and to provide an opportunity for comment. Staff will be available in an "open house" format from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to individually answer questions and provide information. A brief presentation of the plan will be made by staff at 6:00 p.m. Written comments may be submitted anytime during the meetings, including by speaking to a court reporter.

The meeting schedule is shown below; and more information, including a newsletter with maps, is on the Commission's website: **www.sewrpc.org/environmental/na_plan_update/**.

Date	Building/Room	Location
April 21, 2009	Riveredge Nature Center	4458 W. Hawthorne Drive, Newburg
April 22, 2009	Boerner Botanical Gardens, Visitor Center Multi-Media Room	9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners
April 28, 2009	Kenosha County Center	19600 75th Street, Bristol
April 30, 2009	Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters -Southern Unit, Wisconsin DNR	S91 W39091 Highway 59, Eagle

Following the meetings, a record of public comments will be assembled. This will be provided to a Technical Advisory Committee and to the Commission for consideration in preparing a final recommended plan.

Persons with special needs are asked to contact the Commission offices a minimum of 72 hours in advance of the meeting date so that appropriate arrangements can be made. This may involve site access, mobility, materials review or interpretation, questions or comments, or other needs.

The comment period extends through May 15, 2009, with opportunities to submit comments during or after the public meetings. To forward written comments on the Natural Areas Plan update, to view a paper copy or see other SEWRPC materials online, or to ask questions, please contact:

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
P.O. Box 1607
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607

Phone: 262-547-6721 Fax: 262-547-1103
www.sewrpc.org
email: lleitner@sewrpc.org

Exhibit A-3

NEWSPAPERS IN WHICH DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS WERE PURCHASED FOR THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS: April 21 – 30, 2009

CSI Community Shoppers (Walworth County)
Daily News (West Bend)
El Conquistador (Greater Milwaukee area)
Freeman (Waukesha)
Insider News (Greater Racine area)
Journal Times (Racine)
Kenosha News
Lake Country Sunday Post (western Waukesha County)
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Milwaukee Times
News Graphic (Ozaukee County)
Oconomowoc Enterprise

NOTE: The set of four meetings was also promoted by means of a news release sent to the above newspapers. Ads in *El Conquistador* were published in both Spanish and English.

Exhibit A-4

REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE
– AT A GLANCE –

This is a regional planning effort of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) working under the guidance of a Technical Advisory Committee. The Region consists of seven counties: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha, which contain 146 cities, villages, and towns.

THE PLANNING REPORT

The *Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region* updates a 1997 document identifying the most important natural areas, critical species habitat areas, geological sites, and archaeological sites in the Region. Recommendations are made on protecting the best remaining examples of such features on the landscape.

IMPORTANCE OF KEY NATURAL AREAS

Very little of the Region's original vegetation or relatively pristine habitat remains intact. Natural areas which have escaped clearing, plowing, development, and other alterations thus become very important to protect. This is true of environmental corridors and wetlands, and is particularly true for significant natural areas, critical species habitat areas, and related sites. Such areas are essential for environmental diversity, preservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals, outdoor recreation and education opportunities, and quality of life in the Region. These features serve as a benchmark to help us measure the impacts of changing land uses.

TODAY'S STATUS

Twenty-one natural area sites recommended for protective ownership in SEWRPC's 1997 Natural Areas Plan have since been acquired, at least in part. This translates to 1,261 acres of natural areas which have been placed under protective ownership by public and private agencies, including land trust organizations.

A total of 44 additional natural areas, 133 additional critical species habitat areas, and one new geological site have been identified since the original plan was prepared. In some cases, these additions reflect the improved management or natural recovery of land parcels so that their natural area value has increased. In other cases, additional sites were identified because of new records of plants or animals which are endangered, threatened, or of special concern.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

The 1997 Natural Areas Plan recommended the protection of over 56,000 acres of significant natural areas, about 26,000 acres of which were already under protective ownership (about 46 percent). That leaves over half of the most rare, and most fragile, landscape sites in southeastern Wisconsin still in need of protection, even after the recent acquisition of 1,261 acres. These acreage numbers for protection are actually quite modest when compared to our Region of nearly 2,700 square miles (1.72 million acres).

When completed and adopted, the Plan will be an important source of information to State, county and local units of government, and to private interests, so that the preservation of key natural resource gems may be properly considered as proposals for development within the Region are advanced. More information is available at www.sewrpc.org/environmental/na_plan_update/.

#144023 v1
Natural Areas Plan/Glance
GKK/gkk, 4/13/09

Exhibit A-5

COMMISSION NEWS RELEASE NO. 09-01

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
W239 N1812 ROCKWOOD DRIVE • PO BOX 1607 • WAUKESHA, WI 53187-1607• TELEPHONE (262) 547-6721
FAX (262) 547-1103

Serving the Counties of: KENOSHA
MILWAUKEE
OZAUKEE
RACINE
WALWORTH
WASHINGTON
WAUKESHA

News Release

April 13, 2009
Release No. 09-01

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information,
contact Donald M. Reed,
Chief Biologist,
at (262) 547-6721
e-mail: dreed@sewrpc.org

SEWRPC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS ON NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE

Public informational meetings have been announced on an important plan update regarding natural areas in southeastern Wisconsin. Scheduled over the last 10 days of April, and spanning Earth Day, the meetings will help explain and take comments on recommendations to protect the most important natural areas, critical species habitat areas, geological sites, and archaeological sites in the Region.

Leading the planning effort is the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). The Region consists of seven counties: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha.

The following 5:00-7:00 p.m. meetings are scheduled for April 2009:

- April 21 at Riveredge Nature Center, 4458 W. Hawthorne Drive, a mile north of STH 33 on CTH Y northeast of Newburg;
- April 22 at Boerner Botanical Gardens in the Visitor Center Multi-Media Room, 9400 Boerner Drive in Whitnall Park, Hales Corners;
- April 28 at the Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th Street, at the intersection of USH 45 and STH 50, Bristol;

-more-

- April 30 at the Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters – Southern Unit, S91 W39091 Highway 59, west of the Village of Eagle.

Staff will be available in an "open house" format from 5:00-7:00 p.m. to individually answer questions and provide information. A brief presentation of the Natural Areas Plan will be made by staff at 6:00 p.m. Persons with special needs are asked to contact the SEWRPC offices at 262-547-6721 a minimum of 72 hours in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Comments may be submitted anytime during the meetings, including by speaking to a court reporter. The comment period extends through May 15, 2009, with written comments also welcome by mail, fax, email, or on the Commission's website: SEWRPC, P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, WI 53187-1607; fax 262-547-1103; lleitner@sewrpc.org; or www.sewrpc.org/environmental/na_plan_update/.

The plan update recommends the protection of 44 additional natural areas, 133 additional critical species habitat areas, and one new geological area, which have been identified in the Region since the first *Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin* was prepared in 1997. In some cases, these additions reflect the improved management or natural recovery of land parcels so that their natural area value has increased. In other cases, additional sites were identified because of new records of plants or animals which are endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Such additions to the plan will be discussed during the public meetings, and are identified in a detailed newsletter available from the Commission.

Following the comment deadline of May 15, 2009, a record of public comments will be assembled. This will be provided to a Technical Advisory Committee and to the Regional Planning Commission for consideration in preparing a final recommended plan.

# # #

#143986 v1 Natural Areas Plan News Release
GKK/gkk

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Exhibit B

RECORD OF PUBLIC MEETINGS CONCERNING THE DRAFT UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

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TRANSCRIPTED COMMENTS AND ATTENDANCE RECORD, PUBLIC MEETINGS, NEWBURG, WISCONSIN, APRIL 21, 2009

PUBLIC COMMENTS IN RE:
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON
REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE

Public comments taken before DANNIELLE COX, Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, at Riveredge Nature Center, 4438 West Hawthorne Drive, Newburg, Wisconsin, on April 21st, 2009, commencing at 5:00 p.m. and concluding at 7:13 p.m.

* * * * *

I N D E X

BENJAMIN ARNOLD: Preserve as much land as you can.

JENNIFER ROTHSTEIN: I guess my main concern is that since there can be a long period of time, many, many years between the updates of the plans and since Dr. Reed had spoken to the issue of the fact that the science can change over that time, I am very interested in there being some sort of a specific written process by which we, the counties, could possibly amend the natural areas plan on an ongoing basis between these major updates, and you know, again, have that written process. To be able to deal with a couple of different things, to be able to add sites that we would find that would meet whatever this written process is, methodology would be for approving, if you will, that these are sites that should be added, whether it be an expert in the area, the DNR, the federal government, whatever, for us to be able to do that on a county level and have that go into the plan, and also along with that, to be able to add new sites, and also if SEWRPC could get to us documentation of lost or degraded sites that had

been listed in the original plan from 1997 that are no longer available. Put in there somehow, in this written process, to tell -- tell the county, you know, what criteria they need to use, what field studies they need to use or whatever it is, data resources, or whatever they need to make it as specific as possible so that, you know, we have a plan that we can work off and fulfill the needs of what they're looking for to allow this to occur.

BROWN & JONES REPORTING, INC.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS:
COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE)

I, DANNIELLE K. COX, Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the above public comments were recorded by me on April 21, 2009, and reduced to writing under my personal direction.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested directly or indirectly in this action.

In witness whereof I have hereunder set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 27th day of April, 2009.

Notary Public
In and for the State of Wisconsin

My Commission Expires: November 6th, 2011.

735 North Water Street, Suite M185
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 224-9533
(800) 456-9531

Riveredge Nature Center
N.A. Plan Update 4/21/09

	NAME	ADDRESS / AFFILIATION
(2)	Rick & Jane Fellenz	4237 Highland Dr Pw
	BENJAMIN ARNOLD	4225 W. PIONEER RD. MEQUON 53097
	Diane A Grimm	516 W. Moreland Blvd Waukesha
	Susan Sanders	4939 Bonnie View Ln
	Renate Witt	7550 N 53 St Milw 53223
	Jennifer Rothstein	247 E. Chancellor Dr Mequon 53092
	ANDREW STRUCK	121 W. MAIN ST. PORT WASHINGTON 53074
	Silke Patzer	6394 Cty Rd W Cedarburg WI 53012
	John F. Ritger	1471 Wayne Rd West Bend WI 53090
(2)	CLAIRE NANCY BIGLER	6746 REUTER LN
	Jennifer Rungquist	3002 E. Kenwood Blvd. Self Mil WI 53211
	Al Rungquist	" Self
	Mark Piotrowicz	1115 S. Main St. Waukesha City of West Bend
	Bill Hayes	9100 W DEBORAH ROAD WEST BEND
	Karen Skuldt	6757 Eastwood Trail West Bend
	DICK YAHR	5270 N. MKE River Pkwy MKE WISS 3209
	ANDY HOLSCHBACH	121 W MAIN ST. PORT WASHINGTON, 53074
	Greg Wirth JR	W62 N562 Washington Cedarburg 53012

20 persons

Exhibit B-2

TRANSCRIPTED COMMENTS AND ATTENDANCE RECORD, PUBLIC MEETINGS, HALES CORNERS, WISCONSIN, APRIL 22, 2009

PUBLIC COMMENTS IN RE:

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON

REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS

PLAN UPDATE.

Public Comment taken before KAREN RENEE, Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, at Boerner Botanical Gardens Visitor Center, Whitnall Park, 9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners, Wisconsin, on April 22, 2009, commencing at 5:00 p.m. and concluding at 7:30 p.m.

* * * * *

I N D E X

WAYNE B. PETER: Buy all of the land. We need all the forest land and wet lands we can get.

I would like slightly bigger maps so I know where to go.

(Proceedings concluded at 7:30 p.m.)

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS:
COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE)

I, KAREN RENEE, Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the above Public Comment was recorded by me on April 22, 2009, and reduced to writing under my personal direction.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested directly or indirectly in this action.

In witness whereof I have hereunder set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 23rd day of April, 2009.

_____
Notary Public
In and for the State of Wisconsin

My Commission Expires: March 11, 2012

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE

DATE: April 22, 2009

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Boerner Botanical Gardens
Visitor Center
9400 Boerner Drive
Hales Corners, WI

	Name (Please Print)	Agency/Organization	Address
1.	JIM CIHA	MILW CTY PARKS	9480 WATERTOWN PLK.
2.	Lisa Bardenwerper	Monarch Trail	2704 S Delaware Ave
3.	Cathy Garra	EPA	Chicago
4.	Mike Ferentz	Friends of St Francis	St. Francis
5.	BILL KRAWCZYK	BUD N BLOSSOM LANDSCAPE	CUDAHY
6.	DARLENE LOCHBIHLER	RIVER HILLS COMM. ON ENVIRON.	8150 N. RIVER RD RIVER HILLS, WI 53217
7.	DELENE HANSON	MILWAUKEE AREA LAND CONSERVANCY	10203 W. RIDGE RD HALES CORNERS, WI 53130-1437
8.	[illegible]	Friends of [illegible]	[illegible] 53207
9.	Paul Ryan	Northern Lights Natural Landscaping	2033 N Hubbard St., Milw. 53212
10.	MARK FEIDER	OWLT	
11.	WAYNE B. PETERS		4340 S. 68th ST.
12.	MARTY WALL	CITIZEN	5705 W. TRENTON PL 53213
13.	Kristen Wilhelm	City of Franklin	9229 W Loomis Rd
14.	RON ANDERSON	WEST ALLIS	2046 SO. 93 53227
15.	Katharine Brenner	Designer	Brookfield
16.	Konrad Baranowski		11045 W. [illegible] HALES CORNERS 53130
17.	SUSAN BUCHANAN	TALL PINES CONSERVANCY	
18.	BRIAN RUSSART	MILWAUKEE CNTY PARKS	
19.	LuAnne Washburn	7196 W. 49th St Tosa	
20.	Renate Witt	7556 N 53 St Milw	
21.	Bill Lavelette	3137 S. Superior ST. Milw 53207	
22.	KEVIN HALEY	MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS	
23.	GERRY EMMERICH	LT OF WC	
24.	Betsy Abert	Preserve Our Parks	

TRANSCRIPTED COMMENTS AND ATTENDANCE RECORD, PUBLIC MEETINGS, BRISTOL, WISCONSIN, APRIL 28, 2009

BROWN & JONES REPORTING, INC.

PUBLIC COMMENTS IN RE:

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON

REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE

Public Comments taken before MARY RING, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, at Kenosha County Office Building, 19600 75th Street, Bristol, Wisconsin, on April 28, 2009, commencing at 6:00 p.m. and concluding at 7:07 p.m.

735 North Water Street, Suite M185
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 224-9533
(800) 456-9531

APPEARANCES

SEWRPC STAFF:

Dr. Donald M. Reed
Dr. Larry Leitner
Mr. Gary Korb
Ms. Kristi Sherfinsk

* * * * *

INDEX

There were no citizen comments.

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS:
COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE)

I, MARY RING, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the above Public Hearing was recorded by me on April 28, 2009, and reduced to writing under my personal direction.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested directly or indirectly in this action.

In witness whereof I have hereunder set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 4th day of May, 2009.

_____
Notary Public
In and for the State of Wisconsin

My Commission Expires: April 29, 2012.

#1411376 v2 - sign-in sheet-nat areas pub info mtg

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE

DATE: April 28, 2009

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Kenosha County Center
19600 75th Street
Bristol, WI

	Name (Please Print)	Agency/Organization	Address
1.	Glenn A. Christiansen	SEWRPC	9108 Rima Rd Pl. PR. 53158
2.	Oliver H. Christiansen	—	9109 Rima Rd. Pl. PR. 53158
3.	Kevin Rose	Mil Pub Schools-Rose Dr	2414 W. Mitchell St. Mil. 53204
4.	GERRY EMMERICH	LAND TRUST OF WALWORTH CO.	N8446 PICKEREL LAKE ROAD EAST TROY, WI 53120
5.	John Berge	Sierra Club	1529 Crabapple Dr. Racine, WI 53405
6.	Robert Fay	—	3903-8th Ave Kenosha WI 53140
7.	Nathan Kraby		325 Sheridan Rd, Racine (Somers) 53403

BROWN & JONES REPORTING, INC.

PUBLIC COMMENTS IN RE:
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON
REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE

Public comments taken before
RACHEL GWIDT, a Notary Public in and
for the State of Wisconsin, at
Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters -
Southern Unit, South 91 W39091 Highway 59,
Eagle, Wisconsin, on April 30, 2009,
commencing at 6:10 p.m. and concluding
at 7:30 p.m.

735 North Water Street, Suite M185
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 224-9533
(800) 456-9531

BROWN & JONES REPORTING, INC.

* * * * *

I N D E X

* * * * *

735 North Water Street, Suite M185
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 224-9533
(800) 456-9531

RICHARD BARLOGA: I was at the Whitnall Park meeting and in reading through the report I noticed that the Grootemaat Preserve which is listed here is -- in the report it's listed as being owned by the City of Greenfield. And it's actually owned by the Village of Greendale, so that's a minor error. They mention Greendale in the report as to where it's located, but it's actually located -- it's owned by the Village of Greendale.

Then there's a site called the Carity Prairie and I'm just, like, suggesting they consider a name change. Carity Prairie is fine, but what they're describing is as mostly an area of shooting stars and shrubs. And the site is owned by the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy and we have found 140 species of plants on the site. So although it has Milwaukee County's largest remaining population of shooting stars, it is described -- it also has Milwaukee County's largest remaining population of New Jersey tea. That's the scientific name for the species. And here is a picture of the -- there are sedge meadows on the site, so, for example, this area is dominated by hummox sedge (phonetic), so

I'm just suggesting that they review the title and call it mainly shooting stars and shrubs. And it's because it is a prairie sedge meadow and savannah complex that that name would or some other name would probably be more accurate.

It's also at the headwaters of Legend Creek, a tributary to the river. So it could be Legend Creek Headwaters. Well, you know, there are watersheds, so if water is coming from the top of the watershed sometimes the term headwaters is fine.

So at this point we've invested about $30,000 in brush control, so, and it's in permanent conservation ownership, so if anything its quality's going to improve. So in this report here it's described as mostly shrubs and shooting stars, and I'm just trying to say that it's substantially more than that. Here is a picture. This is the sedge portion. This is a photograph of New Jersey tea. It's the shrub of the prairie, so the population there is probably 300 plants. It doesn't sound like it's very big, but in the rest of Milwaukee County there's probably ten plants.

There's a Milwaukee County-owned park called Bender Park located along Lake Michigan, and

there's a woodland described in that report as being the north woods, but what I'm saying is that looking at Planning Report 42, the previous report and this one, I don't hear this -- I didn't notice a title that would describe a beach woodland in Bender Park that's located along the north side of Fitzsimmons Road. I use the word extended because Fitzsimmons Road is now blocked that far east, so the site is that orange dot on the map. So this beach woodland does have a population of the blue stem goldenrods. It's a state endangered species. Its scientific name is Solidago caesia, so it's also listed in the report. So the report is generally protective of sites with critical species habitat and it may be a newly listed site, one of the 43, but in my reading of it, it didn't seem like it had been picked up. So I'm suggesting that because as one of the remaining populations of beech trees and blue stem goldenrod that it be included.

This site is a wooded wetland portion of the site that extends south of Fitzsimmons Road, this one here. The upland portion is about five acres and the woodland south of Fitzsimmons Road is another five or more acres. Both sites are located

about 500 feet from Lake Michigan. That site. I'm going to describe a portion of the site north of Fitzsimmons Woods. It does have vernal pond. That means a spring pond, so this pond is filled in the winter and then in dry years will dry completely up. And the two species of concern in that vernal pond are sedge, Carex tuckermanii (phonetic). I have photos available and I've documented it repeatedly. It's regarded as being very rare in the region, and it may be that it has not been seen in the region, but I do have pictures here. And it also has one of the two hop sedges, so the report indicates that there's a sedge called Carex lupuliformis, and it is very similar in appearance to what's called common hop sedge. One of those two is also very prominent in the vernal pond of the woods, so I respect the woods because it has both a canopy, a significant shrub layer and not just a scattering of wild flowers, but a continuous ground layer of wild flowers as evidenced in this picture.

There's one other site. The sites in the north half of Milwaukee County are extremely rare. In other words, they've been displaced, destroyed. And there's a woodland that's owned by a Catholic

order of nuns. That's east of 76th Street and south of Brown Deer Road on a hilltop. Get in that vicinity, look for a tree cap and you'll see it. And it was mentioned by Dr. James Levinson (phonetic) in his 1970s UW-M report. So because of the total lack of woodland in northern Milwaukee it should be reviewed even though it has a small size.

7

order of nuns. That's east of 76th Street and south of Brown Deer Road on a hilltop. Get in that vicinity, look for a tree cap and you'll see it. And it was mentioned by Dr. James Levinson (phonetic) in his 1970s UW-M report. So because of the total lack of woodland in northern Milwaukee it should be reviewed even though it has a small size.

BROWN & JONES REPORTING, INC.
414-224-9533

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) SS:
COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE)

I, RACHEL GWIDT, a Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the above public comments were recorded by me on April 30, 2009, and reduced to writing under my personal direction.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested directly or indirectly in this action.

In witness whereof I have hereunder set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 1st day of May, 2009.

____
Notary Public
In and for the State of Wisconsin

My Commission Expires: January 08, 2012.

#144376 v3 - sign-in sheet-nat areas pub info mtg

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS PLAN UPDATE

DATE: April 30, 2009

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Kettle Moraine State Forest
Headquarters - Southern Unit
S91 W39091 Highway 59
Eagle, WI

	Name (Please Print)	Agency/Organization	Address
1.	Evan Eifler		34545 Waterside Road Oconomowoc 53066
2.	Barb Holtz	Town of Mukwonago	W324 S7825 Hwy E Muk
3.	Pamela Meyer	Town of Eagle	S101 W34899 CTH LO Eagle
4.	Patricia Holman	Waukesha Land Conservancy / IAA	3612 N. 79th ST. Milw, WI 53222
5.	Paul Mozina	WCLC	3612 N. 79th St Mil, WI 53222
6.	Donald Skalla	Kishwauketoe	266 Frost Circle Wms Bay 53191
7.	Jill Bedford	Tall Pines & Hunters Lake Assoc.	PO Box 11 53118
8.	Frank Murn & Friend		S62 W30960 Rd X Dousman
9.	Richard Barloga	Mt. Area Land Conservancy	
10.	Joseph A. McIlvain	Geneva Lake Conservancy	398 Mill St. Fontana WI
11.	Tom Parsons		W322 S9945 Hwy 67 Eagle
12.	Fay Amerson	Walworth County	262-741-1909
13.	Jim Storch	citizen	S36 W35576 Hwy D
14.	Ellen Gennrich	Wauk Cty Land Conservancy	PO Box 2572, Bkfld 53008
15.	Nancy Gloe	- Friends - Mukwonago River	19355 Bennington, Brkfld 53045
16.	Anne Duffy	Hawthorn Glen	1130 N. 60th St Milwaukee, WI 53208
17.	William Schultheis	—	S46 W39028 Hwy ZC Dousman 53118
18.	(one additional woman present who did not sign in with Mr. Murn)		
19.			

Exhibit B-5

SAMPLE COURT REPORTER REGISTRATION AND WRITTEN COMMENT FORMS

COMMENT REGISTRATION FOR COURT REPORTER No. _____

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
REGIONAL NATURAL AREA PLAN UPDATE

April 30, 2009
Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters-South Unit
S91 W39091 Highway 59
Eagle, Wisconsin

Name _____ Affiliation _____

Mailing Address _____

_____

_____

Comments may be dictated to a court reporter or written and left at the registration table or given to a SEWRPC staff member. Written comment forms are available at the registration table. Additional comments will be accepted through May 15, 2009, and may be sent to the SEWRPC offices: W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive, P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607. Comments may also be submitted via fax, (262) 547-1103, e-mail to lleitner@sewrpc.org, or online at *www.sewrpc.org/regional natural area plan update*.

Thank you.

#143947

WRITTEN COMMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
REGIONAL NATURAL AREA PLAN UPDATE

April 22, 2009
Boerner Botanical Gardens Visitor Center
9400 Boerner Drive
Hales Corners, Wisconsin

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Mailing Address _____

_____

_____

Comment _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

_____

_____

Add sheets as needed and leave at the registration table or give to a SEWRPC staff member. Or, send by May 15, 2009, to:

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607
Fax: (262) 547-1103

Regional Natural Area Plan Update
E-mail to lleitner@sewrpc.org

Thank you.

#143945

Exhibit C

WRITTEN COMMENTS AND PETITIONS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION AS PART OF PLAN PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

(This page intentionally left blank)

WRITTEN COMMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
REGIONAL NATURAL AREA PLAN UPDATE

April 21, 2009
Riveredge Nature Center
4458 W. Hawthorne Drive
Newburg, Wisconsin

RECEIVED
APR 23 2009
SEWRPC

Name Anthony + Lillian Ritger

Affiliation landowners

Mailing Address 6394 Cty Rd W
Allenton, WI 53002

Comment Our son John and I attended the meeting, and learned much from it. Thank you!
Our interest is in the critical species habitat woods north of hwy 41 and hwy 33 intersection as we own the southern 11 acres which is part of a 69 acre conservation easement with OWLT since end of 2005. also with MEL
We want greatly to be assured that the entire woods will be saved. A builder owns the section of woods adjacent to ours.
Lillian Ritger

Add sheets as needed and leave at the registration table or give to a SEWRPC staff member. Or, send by May 15, 2009, to:

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607
Fax: (262) 547-1103

Regional Natural Area Plan Update
E-mail to lleitner@sewrpc.org

Thank you.

WRITTEN COMMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
REGIONAL NATURAL AREA PLAN UPDATE

April 22, 2009
Boerner Botanical Gardens Visitor Center
9400 Boerner Drive
Hales Corners, Wisconsin

Name MARK FEIDER

Affiliation OWLT / consultant

Mailing Address 2125 W. Brantwood AVE
Glendale WI 53209

Site: ½ mile SSE of Myers/Ozaukee Co. between Co. M & Evergreen Drive, south of Decorah Rd.

(10) Comment ~~Environs~~ LOCATION: (43.4108, -88.0931) On private lands, including former Kikcamp. Undeveloped glacial lake with ± native vegetation. Fairly intact esker geological feature runs the length from east to west. At or near the above LAT/LONG.* It's a small fragment of a dry mesic upland deciduous "old growth" woodland dominated by sugar maple and other late successions trees. While not extensive, the tract is nonetheless impressive!

(2) See Reverse Side:

Add sheets as needed and leave at the registration table or give to a SEWRPC staff member. Or, send by May 15, 2009, to:

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607
Fax: (262) 547-1103

Regional Natural Area Plan Update
E-mail to lleitner@sewrpc.org

Thank you.

(2) Final approach threshold area ~~south~~ north of Layton Avenue, aligned with runway 6/19 - at Mitchell Field. While the site is a degraded mowed landscape, it has items worthy of protection, including:

A. NESTING Grassland Birds, which have (breeding) observations of Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow and possibly - Henslow's Sparrow. With proper recognition and management, this site would markedly improve & suspect, in it's diversity & quality.

B. Low growing ~~wet prairie~~/sedge meadow plants are in evidence, including Sysirynchium - Blue-eyed Grass. Mowing ± lack of prescribed burns may be limiting the presence of other species.

(3) The last (or nearly last) Silurian limestone Rock outcropping along the Menomonee River in Milwaukee County. Located on the eastern River bank, south of and nearly adjacent to the Mill Road.

WRITTEN COMMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
REGIONAL NATURAL AREA PLAN UPDATE

April 22, 2009
Boerner Botanical Gardens Visitor Center
9400 Boerner Drive
Hales Corners, Wisconsin

RECEIVED
MAY - 8 2009
SEWRPC

Name MIKE FERENTZ

Affiliation Friends of St. Francis Greenspace

Mailing Address 4430 S. New York
St. Francis, Wisc 53235

Comment Thank you for listing Seminary Woods and parts of WE property for some protection. These areas are vital to protect Lake Michigan water quality as well as being needed by various species of birds, mammals and plants.

Add sheets as needed and leave at the registration table or give to a SEWRPC staff member. Or, send by May 15, 2009, to:

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607
Fax: (262) 547-1103

Regional Natural Area Plan Update
E-mail to lleitner@sewrpc.org

Thank you.

WRITTEN COMMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
REGIONAL NATURAL AREA PLAN UPDATE

RECEIVED
MAY 15 2009
SEWRPC

April 22, 2009
Boerner Botanical Gardens Visitor Center
9400 Boerner Drive
Hales Corners, Wisconsin

Name William Krawczyk

Affiliation local conservationist

Mailing Address 3919 E. Lunham Ave.
Cudahy, WI 53110

Comment Dear Sir/Madam;
Thank you for hosting the informational meeting concerning natural areas. It was wonderful to see Trestle Creek recognized as a "critical species habitat" in St. Francis, WI. I feel this area is a compliment (along with WE energies capped ash pits), to the nearby Seminary Woods. Along with the adjecency to Lake Michigan and the primary environmental corridor, these quality wildlife habitats, in close proximity to downtown Milwaukee (within 5 miles), certainly enhance the quality of life for citizens. It may also help Milwaukee in being recognized as a world class city.

Add sheets as needed and leave at the registration table or give to a SEWRPC staff member. Or, send by May 15, 2009, to:

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607
Fax: (262) 547-1103

Regional Natural Area Plan Update
E-mail to lleitner@sewrpc.org

Thank you.

WRITTEN COMMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
REGIONAL NATURAL AREA PLAN UPDATE

RECEIVED
MAY - 5 2009
SEWRPC

April 30, 2009
Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters-South Unit
S91 W39091 Highway 59
Eagle, Wisconsin

Name Paul J. Mozina

Affiliation Waukesha County Land Conservancy + Ice Age Trail Alliance

Mailing Address PAUL Mozina
3612 N. 79th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53222

Comment Thanks for considering my comments. My wife and I have been working to eradicate buckthorn, honeysuckle Garlic Mustard and other invasive species at the Hartland Marsh for 5+ years. We have also been planting Oak Savanna grass and flowers. This is a fabulous site with some of the biggest oaks in Southeastern WI. The IAT trail no longer passes through this specific property (see map) and it is not in their mission to hold onto land like this. They are looking to trade or sell it to aquire land on the IAT corridor. Please consider purchasing this land so that pro-active land management practices like controlled burns can be implemented. The IAT forbids burning on their properties and they are not interested in managing this property that is not their primary mission.
Thanks Paul
Home 414 535-1473

Add sheets as needed and leave at the registration table or give to a SEWRPC staff member. Or, send by May 15, 2009, to:

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
P.O. Box 1607, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1607
Fax: (262) 547-1103

Regional Natural Area Plan Update
E-mail to lleitner@sewrpc.org

Thank you.

Waukesha County Land Conservancy

April 30, 2009

The Waukesha County Land Conservancy is a non-profit land trust whose mission is to preserve environmentally significant land in Waukesha County. Since 1992 the organization has protected 2,201 acres of such lands.

The SEWRPC Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin plays a significant role in the work done by the Waukesha County Land Conservancy. The Natural Areas Plan is the instrument the Conservancy uses for prioritizing its protection efforts. As there will never be enough money to buy all of the lands that might come up for sale in the County, the Conservancy must decide which lands house the greatest environmental significance. The Conservancy's biologist and board of directors make this determination after studying the SEWRPC Natural Areas Plan.

Funding to acquire lands is also made available based on the significance of a particular site in the Natural Areas Plan. When applying for grants, including the Wisconsin DNR Stewardship Grants, extra points are granted to applications that will protect parcels that are highly ranked in the Natural Areas Plan. SEWRPC's scientific studies from this Plan are also used by the Conservancy when writing these grant applications. The scientists' tracking and monitoring of rare species for the Natural Areas Plan also keeps this information up to date.

For these reasons, the Waukesha County Land Conservancy supports the study and work done to prepare this new edition of the Natural Areas Plan. For the Plan to be an effective tool, it must be kept up to date. SEWRPC's well-respected scientists have done so in this edition of the Natural Areas Plan. Sites that were lost to development have been removed, and new, significant sites have been added. This will greatly help the Waukesha County Land Conservancy's biologist and board when analyzing which properties are most in need of protection.

The Waukesha County Land Conservancy supports the updates to the Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

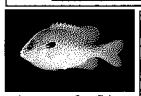
Ellen Gennrich

Ellen Gennrich, President
Waukesha County Land Conservancy

RECYCLED PAPER

P.O. Box 2572, Brookfield, WI 53008
Phone & Fax: (262) 821-2044
www.waukeshalandconservancy.org

Friends of the Mukwonago River



Longear Sunfish
(*Lepomis megalotis*)

The Mukwonago River watershed is home to over 50 species of fish including the threatened Longear Sunfish (*Lepomis megalotis*), several species of rare freshwater mussels, an incredible diversity of wetlands, and some of the highest water quality in Southeastern Wisconsin. The mission of the Friends of the Mukwonago River is to protect the Mukwonago River and its associated watershed ecosystems by way of education, advocacy, and promotion of sound land use throughout the watershed.

April 30, 2009

To: Southeast Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this letter to express our organization's full support of the revised "Natural Areas Plan." Simply put, if we don't know where the important natural areas are we can't work to protect them.

Thank you for your efforts in revising this plan.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me as indicated below.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gloe

Nancy Gloe, President
19355 Benington Dr.
Brookfield, WI 53045
(262) 782-8876

Leitner, Lawrence A.

From: Joseph McHugh
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2009 2:32 PM
To: Leitner, Lawrence A.
Cc: lynn@genevalakeconservancy.org; obriengardensforlife@gmail.com; Reed, Donald M.
Subject: Regional Natural Area Update - Written Comment
Attachments: EXHIBIT 09-0501 Fontana North Shore Woods (-).pdf

Name:
Joseph A. McHugh

Affiliation:
Geneva Lake Conservancy

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 588 | 398 Mill Street
Fontana, Wisconsin 53125

Comment:
The Geneva Lake Conservancy strongly suggests that the area locally referred to as the "North Shore Woods", located along North Shore Drive in the Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake, be considered for inclusion in the current Plan Update. Attached please an exhibit showing the referenced area.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at the number listed below.

Thanks and have a fantastic day.

Joseph A. McHugh
Executive Director
Geneva Lake Conservancy
P.O. Box 588 | 398 Mill Street
Fontana, WI 53125
Phone: (262) 275-5700
Cell: (262) 203-1541
E-Mail: jmchugh@genevalakeconservancy.org
Web: www.genevalakeconservancy.org

RECEIVED
MAY 14 2009
SEWRPC

12223 Woodside Ct.
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-2941
13 May 2009

Southeastern Wisc. Planning Comm.
Waukesha, WI

Re: Regional Natural Areas

1. No more of the Milwaukee County Grounds should be sold for development. The UWM Engineering Scholl shoul NOT be allowed to build there. This is area valuable to residents both human and others. It should be left natural, cared for as such, and available for hiking, dog walking/ off-leash dog exercise, x-c skiing.

   Further, using any of this land for demonstrationlogging and sawmill is inappropriate, a degradation.

2. If the DNR still thinks a demo logging and sawmill is of any benefit, locate it at Havenwoods. Because of its location, this site is not considered safe for solitary users. With "safety in numbers", school and other group users of the environmental center and trails could also conveniently visit the lumbering exhibit.

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) Barbara G. St.George

Leitner, Lawrence A.

From:
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2009 12:06 PM
To: Leitner, Lawrence A.
Subject: Comment from Regional Natural Area Plan Update Website Form

Submitted: 5/14/2009 10:45:27 AM
Name: Mary Parker
E-mail:
Organization: Friends of St. Francis Green Space
PO Box/Street:
City: St. Francis
State: WI
Zip: 53235
Phone:
Comments: I think that you should include in your plan the 94 acres of grasslands, wetlands, and prairie that We Energies owns in the city of St. Francis which abuts Seminary Woods and thus is a natural buffer. It's also critical habitat for many migratory birds, grassland birds, owls, hawks, and other wildlife. The preservation of this area could only enhance Trestle Creek which flows through this land on it's way to Lake Michigan. Western chorus frogs and blue-spotted salamanders have been documented to be in this area. Also endangered blue-stemmed goldenrod, the rare nodding ladies tresses orchids, and pale purple coneflowers are only a few of the many wild flowers which grow on the We Energies land. The site is spectacular in mid-late summer when everything is in bloom. To have such a site, which is adjacent to Lake Michigan, is a rare gem situated in an urban area. Please include the We Energies land in your Regional Natural Area Plan Update. Thank you!

Leitner, Lawrence A.

From:
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2009 3:32 PM
To: Leitner, Lawrence A.
Cc:
Subject: Natural Area Update - St. Francis

Dear Mr. Leitner:

Thank you very much for holding the recent SEWRPC series of public information meetings to brief residents on updated designated natural areas and critical species habitat. We were especially encouraged by your designation of Trestle Creek Woods as Critical Species Habitat.

We have been working with a coalition of environmental groups to secure the protection and preservation of the precious Seminary Woods and adjacent We Energies property in St. Francis. The SEWRPC designation of Trestle Creek on the We Energies land is most encouraging. We hasten to add, however, that this useful designation is not sufficient to save the remediated We Energies site as green space. The prairie plantings on the We Energies land are very successful. The site is presently teeming with life and has become a prime bird habitat, together with the adjoining Seminary Woods. Our coalition would appreciate any advice or suggestions you might have to ensure the protection of these natural areas for future generations. Our coalition includes the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy, South Shore Park Watch, Friends of St. Francis Green Space, and the Friends of Seminary Woods.

Sincerely,

Jacky and Glenn Smucker
Friends of Seminary Woods
(414) 483-1514

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Exhibit D

NEWS ARTICLES AND OPINION-EDITORIAL PIECES CONCERNING THE DRAFT UPDATE TO THE REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS AND CRITICAL SPECIES HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND RELATED ISSUES

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Original habitat returns

William J. Lizdas

Wisconsin DNR park ranger Brian Cieszynski sets a fire at the Scuppernong Prairie natural area in the Town of Eagle. The department planned to burn 480 acres to help restore the area to its prairie condition. Biologists say that many areas in southeastern Wisconsin are recovering their native species.

More natural land found in region

By Don Behm of the Journal Sentinel

Posted: April 19, 2009

Scientists studying the landscape of seven counties in southeastern Wisconsin say 44 more places in the region should be added to an existing inventory of 447 natural areas worthy of protection from

development.

Their new report also states that fully 163 of the places listed in the original inventory, and protected to some extent at that time, have grown in size.

This happened not by buying more acres to protect, but by management of the landscape, especially removing exotic shrubs and weeds by hand, said Don Reed, chief biologist with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Eliminating the competition gave native plants a chance to take back these places.

A steadily increasing number - more than two dozen and counting - of the natural areas listed in the 1997 inventory have gained full or partial protection by land trusts, counties or state agencies.

Those organizations responded to the original plan by purchasing land or conservation easements restricting development at those places, according to an update of the commission's natural areas and critical species habitat plan.

Among the 44 recently identified natural areas are parcels as small as 3-acre wetlands in Franklin and the Town of Summit, and as large as a 226-acre complex of upland woods and wetlands along the Little Oconomowoc River in the Town of Erin.

None had been designated among the best remaining natural areas in the region when the regional planning commission published the original inventory.

Better aerial photos taken in recent years revealed some of the sites, convincing commission biologists to take a closer look, Reed said. Routine work assignments brought biologists in contact with others.

Many simply received attentive care as volunteers, in most places, removed purple loosestrife, buckthorn or other unwanted, invading plants.

The 44 places recommended for preservation and to be included in the inventory encompass a total of 2,033 acres. The 1997 plan recommended protecting 56,346 acres in the seven counties.

Properties designated as natural areas have been little modified by development since European settlement, or have sufficiently recovered from earlier damage, and now are home to intact native plant and animal communities.

Recovery is the main reason that commission biologists recommended expanding 163 of the natural areas included in the 1997 plan.

Fire as a tool

Fire is one of the recovery tools used at the 3,500-acre Scuppernong River Habitat Area in southwestern Waukesha County - the largest low, or wet, prairie east of the Mississippi River in the U.S. It is northwest of Eagle, within the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Regular burns and cutting of nuisance brush since 1999 have encouraged growth of native prairie grasses and flowers, said Ron Kurowski, a naturalist with the state Department of Natural Resources.

Today, bobolinks and meadowlarks and other grassland birds nest among big and little bluestem grasses and native flowers, such as prairie dock, cornflower, lupine and indigo, Kurowski said. "We

haven't planted anything," he said. "This is all native stuff coming back in here. The seeds were waiting for this opportunity."

One plant to rise out of the ashes of past fires is eared false foxglove, once thought to be extinct in Wisconsin, Kurowski said. Today, it is found at only two places, and both are in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

By last year, an additional 141 acres of natural area had regrown, for a total of 713 acres, according to commission biologists.

Kurowski said he isn't done working. He expects the entire 3,500-acre mosaic of meadow, savanna and marsh in this low prairie to someday achieve natural area status.

Last week, Kurowski and a team of 11 other DNR employees purposefully burned vegetation on about 480 acres of state-owned and private land along the Scuppernong River, west of county Highway N.

Buckthorn had been cut out of a woods close to the road, then aspen was removed for sale, leaving only fire-resistant bur oak.

As wind pushed flames across open land, smoke billowed up a few thousand feet high. Sandhill cranes, ducks and other birds could be seen flying to safety in advance of the fire.

SEWRPC does not detail acres of natural areas lost to development since 1997. But a growing number of the places have been protected, fully or in part, in the last 12 years, according to Reed.

A partnership of the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation and the DNR has protected almost all of the designated Slinger upland woods natural area, known locally as the Polk Kames. The partnership has amassed 414 acres of glacier-formed conical hills and ridges northeast of U.S. Highway 41 in the Town of Polk for a future park and Ice Age Trail corridor.

The Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, a land trust, also has protected much of three other natural areas in the Town of West Bend, said Geoff Maclay, president of the foundation. Those are the Little Cedar Lake wetlands, Ziegler woods and Gilbert Lake tamarack swamp.

The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust has protected 100% of the Fellenz hardwood swamp in the Town of Trenton, Grafton woods in the Town of Grafton, and the Donges Bay gorge - home of a nesting pair of bald eagles - in Mequon.

The 1997 plan is used extensively by all land trusts in the region to evaluate whether properties merit protection, said Shawn Graff, executive director of Ozaukee Washington Land Trust.

The Waukesha Land Conservancy used the original plan as a guide in protecting 757 acres at seven natural areas since 1997, according to Marlin Johnson, vice president of the conservancy and a retired biology professor at the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha County.

The conservancy has protected much of the Falk fen, a groundwater-fed wetland, in the Town of Waukesha, and the Menomonee Falls tamarack swamp near the center of the village.

Public hearings set

The Southeastern Regional Planning Commission has scheduled four public meetings later this month

to release information on revisions to the Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Protection and Management Plan. All meetings will be scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Commission staff will be available throughout each meeting. A brief summary of the revisions will be presented at 6 p.m.

Tuesday – Riveredge Nature Center, 4458 W. Hawthorne Drive, Town of Saukville.

Wednesday, Earth Day – Visitor Center, Boerner Botanical Gardens, 9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners.

April 28 – Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th St., Bristol.

April 30 – Headquarters, Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit, S91-W39091 state Highway 59, Eagle.

For information on the natural areas plan update, go to the commission Web site: *www.sewrpc.org*.

Biologists take stock of nature at Camp/Quad

Inventory of plant life will help restoration

By Don Behm of the Journal Sentinel

Posted: June 6, 2009

Town of Erin – Larry Leitner steps into a forest at Camp/Quad and immediately starts identifying the trees and other plants, stating scientific names for an assistant taking notes for a first-ever biological census of the 325-acre property, then adding common names for the sake of other visitors.

"Virginia creeper. False Solomon's seal. Poison ivy," Leitner said, without slowing a brisk pace. "White oak. Basswood. American elm. White ash."

Waxy petals of May apple hang below its umbrella-like leaves.

"We try to be complete as possible with these species lists," said Leitner, principal biologist with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in Waukesha. "Red maple. Sugar maple."

In a two-hour tour of a 60-acre forest west of the Little Oconomowoc River, Leitner and other biologists found 99 species of plants.

The list will be used to prepare a management plan aimed at restoring much of the forest and wetland landscape here to a pre-settlement condition, said Susan Buchanan, executive director of Tall Pines Conservancy, a land trust with offices in Nashotah.

Quad/Graphics, the Sussex-based printing company, earlier this year donated a conservation easement on the entire camp to the conservancy. The company remains owner of the land.

The easement prohibits subdivision of the land; prohibits commercial or industrial uses, such as a printing plant; and does not allow construction of additional storage or residential buildings at the former Boy Scout camp. Billboards, mining, aircraft runways, marinas, snowmobile and ATV trails, golf courses and waste landfills also are prohibited.

Regional planning commission biologists on a late May visit to the property confirmed there were plenty of native species - 87 of the 99 listed - residing in the land to assist future restoration efforts, Leitner said. The camp is northeast of the intersection of state Highway 83 and county Highway Q.

"Sweet cicely."

Research assistant Jen Dietl informs a visitor, "That has a faint anise smell."

"Ironwood," Leitner said. "Yellow violet. Wood anemone. Round-lobed Hepatica."

White trillium flowers are past their peak, and the petals are fading to light pink.

Leitner finds several native sedges on the forest floor, but garlic mustard, a nuisance invasive plant, is scattered throughout the 60-acre oak and maple forest.

A management plan would fail without control of garlic mustard, he said. The alien species eventually would form a carpet on the forest floor and shade out the natives, Leitner said.

Buchanan expects to enlist volunteers among conservancy members and students from Carroll University in Waukesha and local high schools to battle invasive plants - pulling garlic mustard out of the soil by its roots or cutting buckthorn, a shrub.

The volunteers will not be assisted by white-tailed deer. They do not eat the garlic mustard or another invasive mustard known as yellow rocket.

But leaves of wild leek in the forest have been chewed off by deer.

"A management plan should include reducing the size of the deer herd," Leitner said.

Dietl interprets a Latin name shouted by Leitner as enchanter's nightshade, a member of the evening primrose family that grows on the moist floors of woodlands.

"Jack-in-the-pulpit. Maidenhair fern."

White flowers of red baneberry are blooming. There are pink petals of wild geranium in all directions.

"Bur oak."

"The tree structure is nice," Leitner said. "This has been logged. Not clear-cut but selectively logged in the past.

"You don't see giants here, but there are nearly mature red oaks, probably from the 1850s. They are only half-way through their lifespan."

"Fawn. There's a fawn," Leitner announced. The small, spotted deer rests amid maple seedlings and garlic mustard at the base of a sugar maple. It watches the biologists as they walk slowly away.

Leitner quickly returns to his list.

"Squaw root. That is a parasite of oak roots," he said.

"Wide-leaved panic grass. That is a native woodland grass and that is nice to see here."

Don Reed, chief biologist at the commission, walked a separate segment of the forest.

Reed spots morel mushrooms adjacent to a slippery elm.

Patches of spring-beauty are still in bloom. Their white-pink petals have pink veins.

"Ideally, we will make three trips here in different seasons, to identify all the plants here and add any plant species that may not be up in the spring," Reed said.

The first visit confirms the forest deserves its earlier designation within a high-quality natural area that stretches from Murphy and McConville lakes downstream along the Little Oconomowoc River to the camp, Reed said.

"If deer, garlic mustard and buckthorn are controlled," Reed said, "this woods will be in this good of shape for years and years."