

# Southeastern Wisconsin **Regional Planning Commission**



## **Regional Natural Areas Update**

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting  
August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# Funding

- Funded in part by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office for Coastal Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act, Grant #s
  - NA18NOS4190091
  - NA20NOS4190092
  - NA22NOS4190085





# ●●●●● Agenda



## ➤ Introductions

- No Motion required

## ➤ Approval of December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Meeting Minutes

- Motion required

## ➤ Summary and discussion of Chapter 7 and 10

- Motion required

## ➤ Adjournment

- Motion required



# ●●●●● 2025 Amendment-Format



- Chapter 1-Introduction
- Chapter 2-Background
- Chapter 3-Status of Implementation
- Chapter 4-New Sites
- Chapter 5-Changes in Listed Species
- Chapter 6-Changes to Site Boundaries and Ranks
- **Chapter 7-Natural Area Law and Policy**
- Chapter 8-Recommended Changes to the Plan
- Chapter 9-Preliminary Recommendations
- **Chapter 10-Final Recommendations**



# ●●●●● Chapter 7-Natural Area Related Law and Policy



- Retained general layout of the 2010 amendment
  - Federal
  - State
  - Local
- Updated and consolidated relevant information from the previous plan and amendment
- Additions
  - Federal – CRP, EQIP, RCCP
  - State – Lake and Stream (and wetland) Programs, Knowles-Nelson Program
  - Local- Milwaukee County Parks Ordinance, SCLI, Model Zoning Ordinance, Corridors





# Chapter 10: Recommended Plan

## ➤ 477 Natural Areas

- 42 NA-1
- 107 NA-2
- 328 NA-3
  - 2025 changes: One NA-3 combined with an existing NA-1

## ➤ 438 CSH Sites

- 2025 changes: added 27 CSH sites, removed 1 new proposed site

## ➤ 87 Geological Sites

- No change

## ➤ 15 Archeological Sites

- No change

## ➤ 11 Grassland and forest interior re-establishment sites

- No change

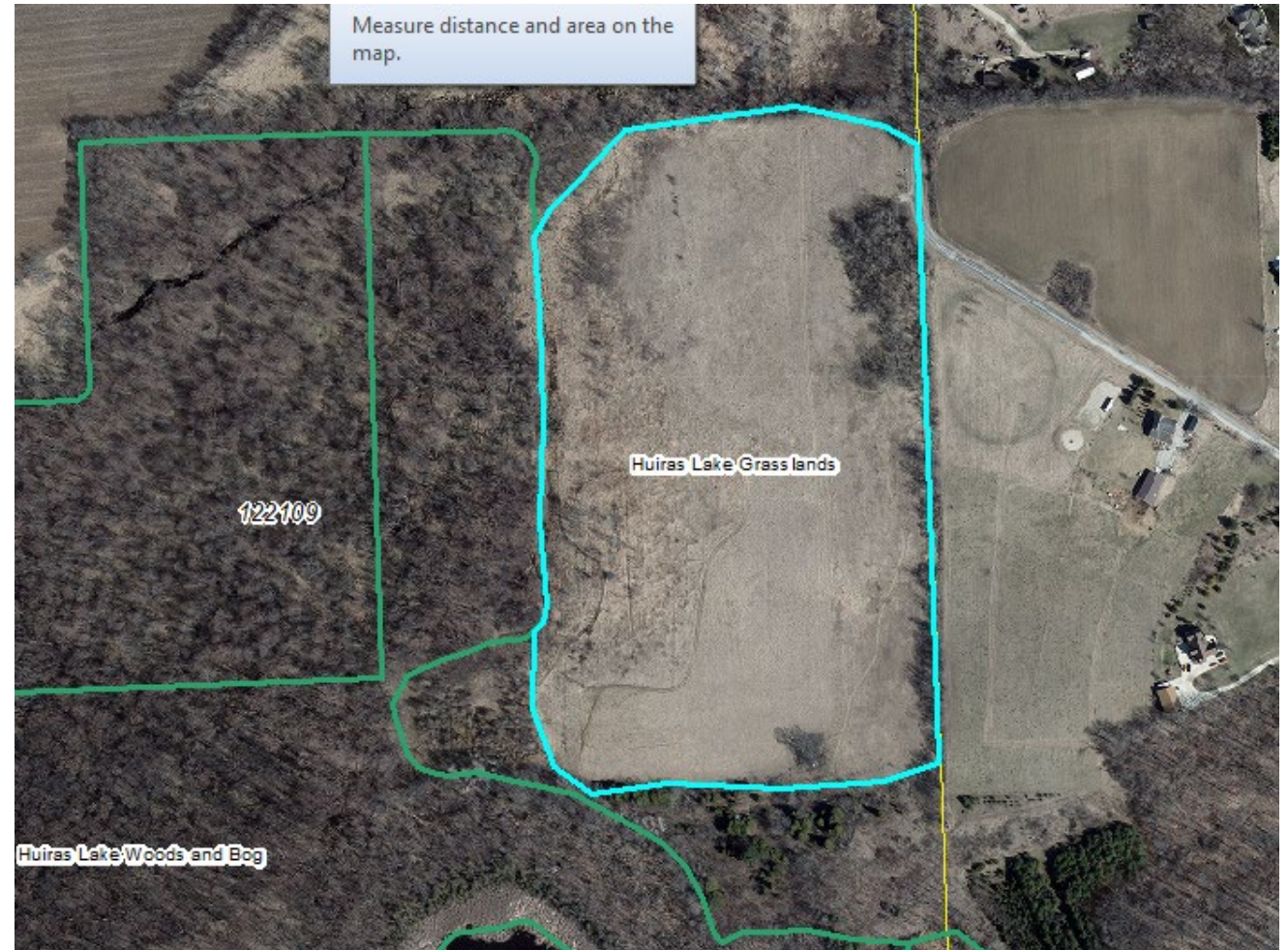




# Chapter 10: Recommended Plan

## ➤ CSH Sites Added

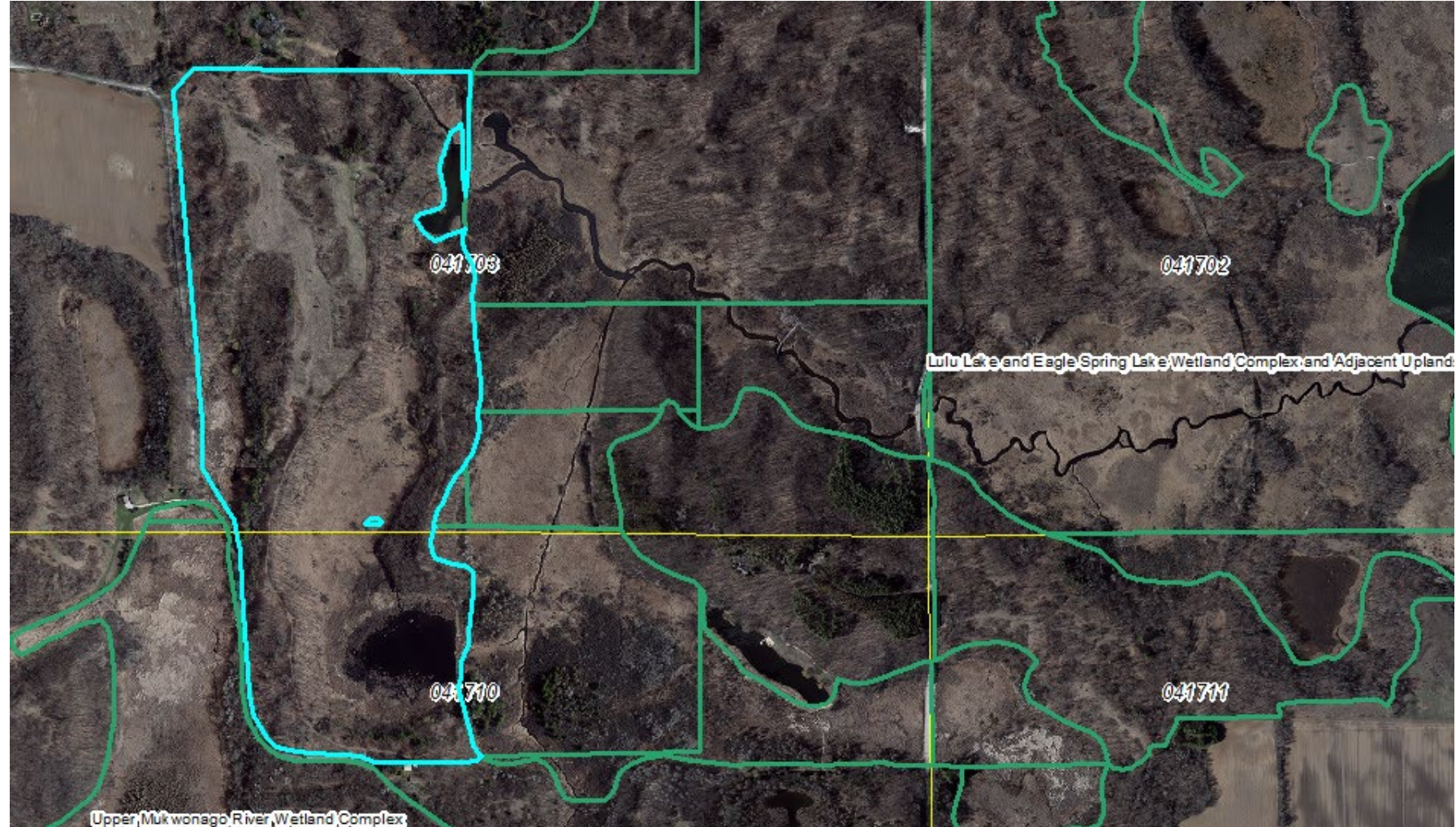
- **Milwaukee County** – 14 sites
  - Southwood Glen Woods, Grobschmidt Park Meadow, Root River Pkwy Section 10, Kohl Park East, Dineen Park Meadows, Ryan Creek Prairie, Root River Pkwy Section 16, Root River Pkwy Section 17, Oak Creek Pkwy Section 12-South, Underwood Creek Pkwy Section 3, Greenfield Park Meadow, Brown Deer Park Recovering Woods, Koch Woodlands, Dale Creek Parkway
- **Ozaukee County** - 3 sites
  - Spirit Lake Wetlands and Grasslands, Forest Beach Migratory Preserve, Huiras Lake Grasslands
- **Washington County** - 10 sites
  - Decorah Woods, Schoofs Preserve, Pavcek Woods Preserve, Mayhew Prairie, Fellenz Prairie, South Oak Preserve Prairie, Riverbend Conservancy, Fox Hill Nature Preserve, Cedar View Grasslands, Kratzsch Conservancy





# Chapter 10: Recommended Plan

- CSH sites lost
  - Veteran's Park, City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County
- Natural Area Changes
  - Crooked Creek Wetlands (NA-3) added to Lulu Lake (NA-1)





# Chapter 10: Recommended Plan



## ➤ New Addition

- Clear and concise recommendations

## ➤ **Recommendation 1.1: Acquire Natural Area sites of statewide or greater significance**

- Natural Area sites of statewide or greater significance (NA-1 sites highest acquisition) are the highest acquisition priority. All 42 of the identified NA-1 sites are recommended for protective ownership ....

## ➤ **Recommendation 1.2: Acquire Natural Area sites of Regional and Local Significance within primary environmental corridors**

- The second-highest acquisition priority are Natural Areas of countywide or regional significance (NA-2 sites) and those Natural Areas of local significance (NA-3 sites) which lie within Commission-delineated primary environmental corridors...



# Natural Areas Profiles-Updated format

**Eagle Spring Lake Bog, Woods, & Prairie** is a complex of dry upland woods and dry-mesic prairie remnants surrounding a leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) bog relict. Just southeast of Eagle Spring Lake, this natural area is in the Town of Eagle in Waukesha County as well as the Town of Troy in Walworth County and is owned and managed by the Department of Natural Resources as part of Lulu Lake State Natural Area. The woods are dominated by white oaks (*Quercus alba*) and bur oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*) and contain a population of a state-threatened plant species. The included prairie remnants, although small, house many regionally uncommon species, such as prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), small skullcap (*Scutellaria leonardii*), rock sandwort (*Minuartia michauxii*), and pasqueflower (*Anemone patens*). The bog is of good quality and is dominated by sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum sp.*), poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*), and running bog sedge (*Carex oligosperma*) in addition to leatherleaf. Regionally uncommon species also occupy the bog, such as small cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*), round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*), and slender cotton grass (*Eriophorum gracile*). A state-listed animal is also present.

Several surrounding Department of Natural Resources owned open space parcels provide buffer to the natural area. However, the northern boundary is lined by residential development. These homes are likely facilitating siltation and sedimentation as well as chemical inputs into the natural area from stormwater runoff. Fire suppression is also facilitating the establishment of exotic species in the uplands. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) are present in the wood while spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) and orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) have invaded the prairie remnants. Although the woods and prairie provide buffer to the bog at the center of the natural area, exotic species such as reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) have also begun to encroach on the bog. The Department of Natural Resources manages the upland communities through brushing and regular intervals of prescribed fire while the bog is managed through brush cutting and targeted herbicide treatment.



Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
Planning Report No. 42, 2nd Amendment to the Natural Areas & Critical Species Management & Protection Plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region (Sept 2025)

## Regional Natural Areas



### Eagle Spring Lake Bog, Woods, & Prairie

T04 R17 Sec. 1 & T05 R17 Sec. 36  
Waukesha & Walworth Counties

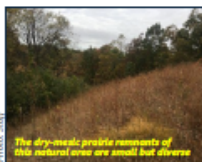


Photo: Staff  
The dry-mesic prairie remnants of this natural area are small but diverse.

#### Natural Areas Rank



Natural Area of Local Significance

Level of Protection	High (Conservation Ownership w/Site Mgmt Plan)
Level of Threat	Medium (Surrounding Land Use, Invasive Species)
Size	69 acres
Ownership	DNR
Site Management Plan	Yes
Number of Native Plant Species	189
Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern Species	Yes, Plant & Animal

The preparation of this natural areas site profile was funded in part by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act, Grant # NA18N054190091, NA20N054190092, & NA22N054190085



## Regional Natural Areas

### Eagle Spring Lake Bog, Woods, & Prairie



Photo: Staff  
A view of the included leatherleaf bog with tufts of cotton grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) bursting through the shrub layer.

Natural Area Boundaries	NA-1	NA-2	NA-3
Surface Water	Stream	Intermittent stream	Open water
Parcel Boundaries	Protected	Highlighted Yellow	Not Protected
Protected Lands	Lands owned by Federal, State, County, and local units of government or via conservation easements		



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# Combine Chapter 9 and 10?



- Chapter 9 (Pre-Public Meeting and Plan Summary) and the new Chapter 10 are virtually the same information with minor additions/subtractions
- This information could be combined into a single concise chapter for clarity





# ●●●●● Timeline for Completion

- August 28<sup>th</sup> final TAC (Chapters 7 and 10)
- September-November- editing and formatting
- Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup>—Commission's Planning and Research Committee—  
Submit chapters 7-10 for approval
- December TBD —Commissioner's Quarterly Meeting—approve PR-42 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Plan draft and webtool
- December-Publish final plan on Commission's website





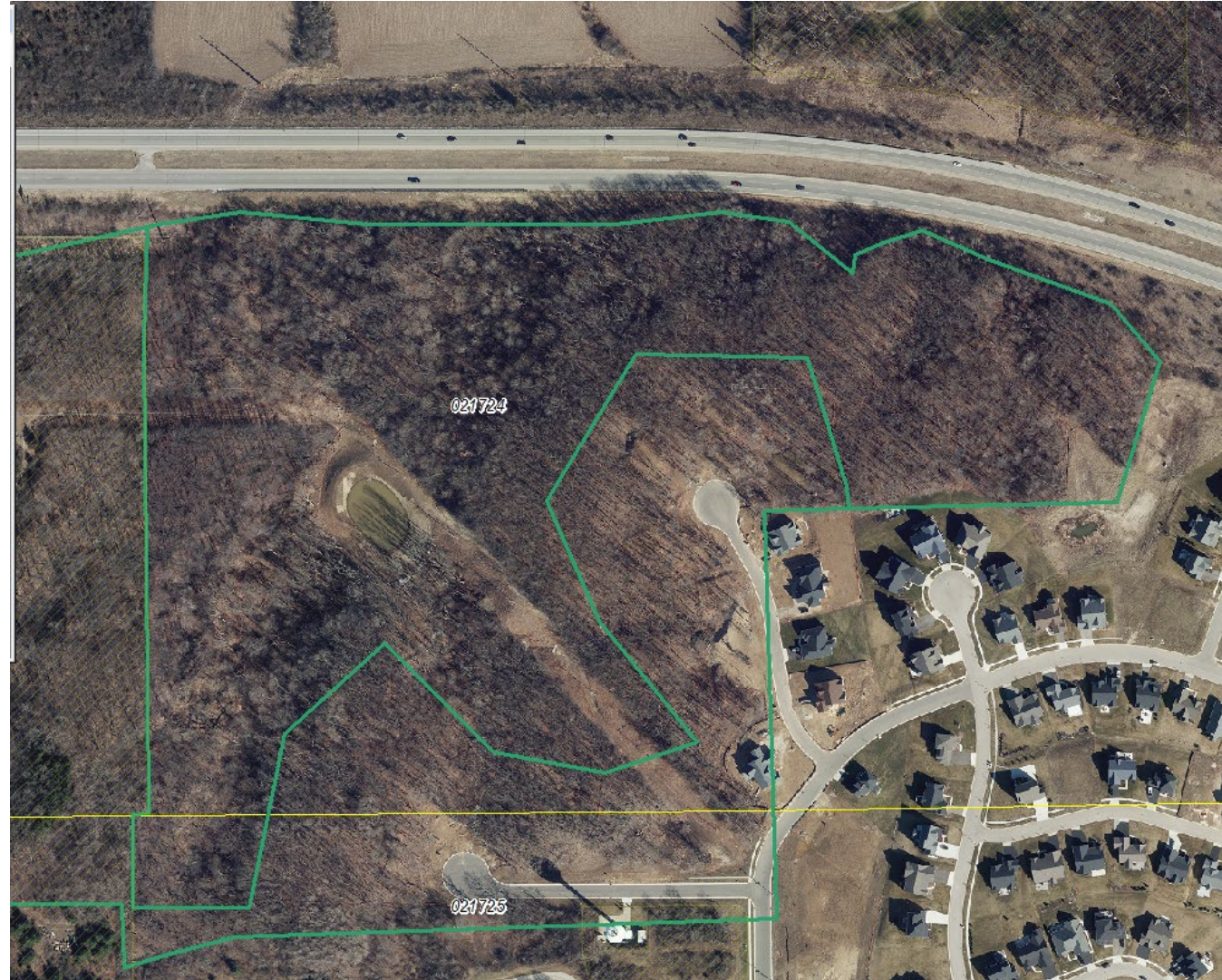


# Discussion - Outlots as Protective Ownership





# ●●●●● Discussion - Outlots as Protective Ownership





# Thank You

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