

Backlog of Proposed Changes

Site scores are from the SEWRPC Natural Area Assessment Scheme on page 47 of Planning Report No. 42 (1997, http://www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPCFiles/Publications/pr/pr-042_nat_areas_critical_species_habitat_protection_management_plan.pdf)

Walworth

- 1) Army Lake Lowlands (NA-3). Rename to “Army Lake Wetlands and Oak Woodlands,” and upgrade to NA-2. The remnant oak woodland at the boat launch is small, but it is the highest quality remnant oak woodland in SE WI, likely owing to not having been grazed in the early 1900s. Other nice oak woodland and savanna remnants are present on other “islands.” This site ranks 5th in the entire inventory for number of native plant species (215), ahead of several State Natural Areas. Forked aster (*Eurybia furcata*) and kittentails (*Besseyia bullii*), both State-threatened, are present. Location: T4N R18E, Sections 8, 9, 16, 17 (~115 acres, score 80/100 or 100/135).
- 2) Originally proposed as Camp Charles Allis Oak Woodland and Tamaracks, now proposed as Beulah Bluff Oak Woodland and Tamaracks (NA-3), which includes portions of the adjacent Kettle Moraine Land Trust Beulah Bluff property. The tamarack seepage swamp is in good condition. Somewhat degraded oak woodland still supports kittentails, forked aster, and large yellow false foxglove. Location: T4N R18E, Section 8 (~40 acres, score 90/135).
- 3) Radio Station Wetland: This former CSH has been revised downward in size due to extensive shrub encroachment, but a previously un-inventoried area is dominated by high quality calcareous fen vegetation, so this is proposed as a new NA-3, though somewhat borderline. Twig rush (*Cladium mariscoides*) and Beak rush (*Rhynchospora capillacea*) are co-dominant, and Ohio goldenrod (*Solidago ohioensis*) and lesser fringed gentian (*Gentianopsis procera*) are present. However, 2018 aerial imagery shows extensive wide ad-hoc trails and ruts, so I’m inclined to withdraw the proposal. Location: T2N R18E Section 32 (~0.5 acres, score 52/100).
- 4) Natureland Park Fen: This is a small calcareous fen at Natureland Park. It has a good representative of fen calciphiles like grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassia glauca*), sterile sedge (*Carex sterilis*), sage willow (*Salix candida*), and northern bog violet (*Viola nephrophylla*). There is also a patch of forked aster immediately above the fen. This is proposed as a new Na-3. Location: T3N R15E, Section 3 (0.65 acres, score 65/100).
- 5) Kestol Prairie dry prairie (NA-2): Enlarge to include all portions Kettle Moraine Oak Opening SNA in Walworth County. The oak opening, dry prairies, and dry-mesic prairies support many rare and uncommon plant species as well rare insects, birds, and eastern hognose snake. Rename to Kettle Moraine Oak Opening – South and Kestol Prairie and upgrade to NA-1. Oak savanna and woodland portions of this area 142 native plant species. The dry and dry-mesic prairie support 96 native plant species. Location: T4N R16E, Section 4 (~95 acres, score 115/135 or 90/100)

Waukesha

- 1) Hidden Knoll Dry Prairie (NA-3): The prairie supports 54 native species, including 16 that are regionally uncommon and two that are special concern. An area on the hilltop is dominated by prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), and pasque flower is abundant (*Pulsatilla patens*). Location: T5N R17E, Section 13 (~4 acres, score 74/100).

- 2) Faulkner Road Fen (NA-3): This fen is immediately adjacent to the southbound lanes of I-43. It supports 92 native species. Fen specialist plant species include hair beak-rush, sage willow, autumn willow (*Salix serissima*), and shrubby cinquefoil (*Dasiphora fruticosa*). Location: T5N R19E, Section 16 (~3 acres, score 74/100)
- 3) Party Island Oak Woodland and Dry Prairie (originally proposed as savanna, but I changed my mind): This site consists of a small, dry hill prairie and oak-dominated woodland with a good number of representative oak woodland / savanna indicator species. Sixty-two native species were observed during the November site visit. This site is borderline score-wise, especially if considered as a forested NA. Location: T8N R18E, Section 30 (~2.3 acres, score 64/100 or 84/135).
- 4) Stephenson Shrub-Fen (upgrade from CSH to NA-3): This area includes much of the eastern shoreline of Hunters Lake as well as the waters of a bay on the eastern side of the lake. Ninety-three native species are known to occur there, including numerous fen species/calciophiles. While isolated areas remain open and in good shape, particularly a twig-rush-dominated area around the bay, other areas are degraded from glossy buckthorn invasion. Still, eleven regionally uncommon and one special concern species were present in 2015, and ten of them were new additions to the inventory. White lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium candidum*, State-threatened) has previously been observed at this site, but its present status there is unknown. Location: T6N R17E Section 11 (~31 acres, score 60/100).
- 5) Utica Lake Tamaracks (upgrade from CSH to NA-3) and change name to "Utica Lake and Tamaracks": This area includes the waters and shoreline of Utica Lake, adjacent tamarack seepage swamp, and adjacent sedge meadow and shrub-carr. This site was originally proposed to be larger, but some of it has undergone a fairly rapid invasion by reed canary grass and narrow-leaved cattail over the last four years. I originally visited this site to re-locate little yellow lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *makasin*), which I was able to do. I also discovered a population of showy lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium reginae*) and a number of other regionally uncommon species. While glossy buckthorn is abundant in the tamarack swamp, it is tall and its canopy is open enough to allow for native herbaceous community with abundant bulblet-fern (*Cystopteris bulbosa*), spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*), naked miterwort (*Mitella nuda*), and skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) is present below it. Rare birds and numerous herptiles are present, including Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*). Location: T6N R17E, Section 4 (~50 acres, score 76/135 or 60/100).
- 6) Saylesville Road Fen (NA-3): Its springs form the headwaters of a tributary to Genesee Greek. Areas around the springs are dominated by sterile sedge (*Carex sterilis*) and hair beak-rush. A larger, broader area of groundwater discharge is dominated by tussock sedge. While only 41 native species were recorded, this site was visited during the second half of October and much of the vegetation was already dormant. This fen complex was once quite a bit larger, but the surrounding, slightly less wet areas of organic soils have been dominated by common buckthorn for some time (buckthorn now tree-sized). Location: T6N R18E, Section 35 (~1.8 acres, score 74/100).

Milwaukee County

- 1) Sydney Woods Preserve (NA-3): While very small, its urban setting is a consideration. This fragment of pre-European forest supports beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and 136 other native plant species. Location: T8N R22E Section 30 (~4 acres, score 68/135).

Ozaukee County

- 1) Mee-Kwon Park Woods (NA-3): Site upgraded. Approximately 40 acres consists of a publicly-owned northerly portion and a privately-owned southern portion and contains a decent stand of beech. Rare and uncommon species include Chinkapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*), butternut (*Juglans cinerea*), and leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*), American gromwell (*Lithospermum latifolium*), and grove sandwort (*Moehringia lateriflora*). While somewhat small and fragmented, the woods is a good example of beech-maple forest that has recovered from past selective logging Location: T9N R21E Section 10 (Score 85/135).
- 2) Awana Road Lowlands (NA-3): New site proposed by Dr. Larry Leitner that contains white cedar swamp, a very rare community type in SE Wisconsin. Species more typical of northern Wisconsin like goldentread (*Coptis trifolia*) and starflower (*Trientalis borealis*) are present Location: T12N R21E Section 6 (~20 acres, 80/135).
- 3) Port Washington Clay Banks (NA-3) upgrade from CSH: This coastal clay bluff community supports species mostly restricted to coastal clay bluffs in southeastern Wisconsin, including buffaloberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*), and ivory sedge (*Carex eburnea*). Some small seeps on the bluff and meadows above the bluff support some fen species like greater fringed gentian (*Gentianopsis crinita*), golden-fruited sedge (*Carex aurea*), and variegated horsetail (*Equisetum variegatum*). Location: T10N R22E Sections 3 and 10 (~35 acres, score 71/100).
- 4) Sauk Trail Road Ravine (NA-3): This coastal ravine contains northern mesic forest (sugar maple-beech-yellow birch) and seeps that feed a small stream that empties into Lake Michigan. Uncommon plant species include large yellow lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium pubescens* var. *pubescens*) and crooked aster (*Symphotrichum prenanthoides*). Location T12N R23E Section 7 (~7 acres, 74/135).

Washington County

- 5) Kohlsville River Woods: This was proposed in an annual update is an NA-3. It consists of a fragment decent mesic to dry mesic woods with a small area of forested seep with black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) and skunk cabbage along the river, and a separate area of forest on a knoll to the north. However, it is very borderline, particularly due to its small size and the recent construction of a large home and excavation of what was previously a nice kettle wetland to make a pond; also any black ash is either dead or soon to be dead. It scores 58/135, which is less than Sydney Woods in Milwaukee. Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), beech, wood betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*), Wood rush (*Luzula acuminata*), and Robin's plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus*) are among the less common or more conservative species present. **However, a house has been built and a kettle wetland associated with the woods has been heavily modified (rip-rapped pond with beach), so this proposed site should be withdrawn.** Location: T12N R 18E Sections 26 and 35.
- 6) Silver Lake Fen and Tamaracks: This area of tamarack seepage swamp with springs and openings supporting calcareous fen vegetation consists of several fragments generally around Silver Lake and includes two areas formerly designated as critical species habitat. Calcareous fen along the

western shoreline of the lake supports green bog orchid (*Platanthera huronensis*), fen twayblade orchid (*Liparis loeselii*), twig rush (*Cladium mariscoides*), grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassia glauca*), slender bog arrow-grass (*Triglochin palustris*), sage willow (*Salix candida*), and few-flowered spike-rush (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*). Location: T11N R19E Sections 27 and 34 (Area of combined fragments is 36 acres, 92/135).

DLC

Natural Areas Plan September 23 Backlog Sites (#250099)