

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - CHIWAUKEE PRAIRIE NATURAL AREA- KENOSHA COUNTY

FOR: OCTOBER 2011 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: James and Roberta Whitlock have offered to donate 0.4 acre of land for the Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area in Kenosha County. These parcels are adjacent to lands owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in an area locally called Barnes Prairie. Acquisition helped protect critical habitat for rare plants, including the federally threatened Prairie White Fringed Orchid.

Chiwaukee Prairie SNA is a unique natural community located in an urbanized area in SE Wisconsin. The project was created in 1985 through the efforts of Kenosha County, Town of Pleasant Prairie, TNC, the Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, the Southeastern Regional Planning Commission, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department. It is the most diverse prairie in Wisconsin, home to over 400 plant species including twenty-six rare plants and several rare animals and is an important refuge for the orchid. It is listed as a critical site in the federal recovery plan with the largest and only viable population in the Lake Michigan basin. It is also designated as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service.

The Whitlock parcels are undevelopable due to the presence of wetlands. The two lots are bounded by TNC lands on east, west and south sides and 94th Street on the north side. The Board is in the process of considering a donation of Barnes Prairie from TNC, also at the October meeting

Chiwaukee Prairie serves as an excellent outdoor laboratory for environmental education and formal research on natural communities and their component species. Other compatible activities include low impact recreation including hiking, bird watching, and nature study. Acceptance of the gift of land from the Whitlocks will allow for natural area management and protection of rare plant species.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 0.4 acre of land for the Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area that, a certificate of appreciation be sent to the donors and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|----------|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

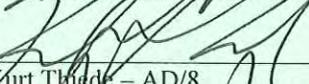
APPROVED:



Real Estate Director, Richard E. Steffes - LF/6

9-26-11

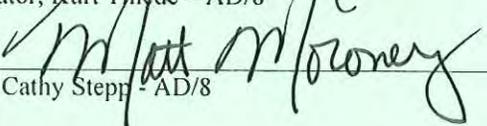
Date



Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8

9-29-11

Date



Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8

10-5-11

Date

- cc: S. Miller - LF/6
 R. Steffes - LF/6
 L. Ross - AD/8
 Laurie Osterndorf - ER/6
 J. Hammen - SER/Milwaukeee

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 26, 2011 FILE REF: NA 20074
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, James and Roberta Whitlock Tract, File # NA 20074

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area
 Kenosha County

Grantor:

James and Roberta Whitlock
 168 Mockingbird Lane
 Wheeling, IL 60090

Acres: 0.4
Price: Gift

Interest: Fee Title
Improvements: None

Location: The tract is located in Kenosha County one mile south of Kenosha.
Land Description: The subject land is low wetland.

Coverture Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Wetland	0.3
Grass	0.1
Total:	0.4

Zoning: Conservaney
Present Use: Idle
Proposed Use: Natural Resource Protection and Public Recreation
Tenure: 20+ years
Agreement Date: September 9, 2011

Stewardship Land Access: This property will be open to the public for hiking, nature appreciation and cross-country skiing. Proximity to residences preclude hunting and trapping. Since no Stewardship funding is needed for this gift, provisions of s. 23.0916, Stats. do not apply.

2. JUSTIFICATION:

James and Roberta Whitlock have offered to donate 0.4 acres of land for the Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area in Kenosha County to the Department. These parcels are adjacent to lands owned by The Nature



Conservancy (TNC) in an area locally called Barnes Prairie, which were originally purchased by the Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund. Acquisition helped protect critical habitat for rare plants, including the federally threatened Prairie White Fringed Orchid.

Chiwaukee Prairie SNA is a unique natural community located in the midst of a subdivision. The project was created in 1985 through the efforts of Kenosha County, Town of Pleasant Prairie, TNC, the Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, the Southeastern Regional Planning Commission, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department. It is the most diverse prairie in Wisconsin, home to over 400 plant species including twenty-six rare plants and several rare animals and is an important refuge for the orchid. It is listed as a critical site in the federal recovery plan with the largest and only viable population in the Lake Michigan basin. It is also designated as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service.

The Whitlock parcels are undevelopable due to the presence of wetlands. The two lots are bounded by TNC lands on east, west and south sides and 94th Street on the north side. In the past the Whitlock's had interest in donating their lots to TNC, but it never came to fruition. They are again interested in donating the lots, this time to the department. (The Board is in the process of considering a donation of Barnes Prairie from TNC.)

Chiwaukee Prairie serves as an excellent outdoor laboratory for environmental education and formal research on natural communities and their component species. Other compatible activities include low impact recreation including hiking, bird watching, and nature study. Hunting is allowed but due to the number of lots situated with an urban environment, it is limited to bow hunting on a large block of land to the southeast. In combination with the small size of the lots, the proximity of residences, and public safety issues, the Department is recommending that the area be closed to hunting and trapping.

3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE CHIWAUKEE PRAIRIE NATURAL AREA:

Established: 1985
Acres Purchased to Date: 449.57
Acquisition Goal: 400.00
Percent Complete: 112.39 %
Cost to Date: \$2,166,212.62

RECOMMENDED:



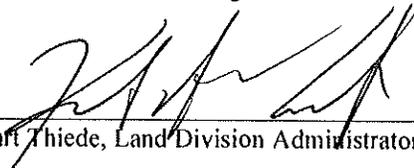
Richard E. Steffes, Real Estate Director

9-26-11
Date



Kris Hess, Bureau of Legal Services

9/27/11
Date



Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

9/29/11
Date

RES:sjs

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its October 2011 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 0.4 acres of land in Kenosha County for the Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area from

James C. Whitlock and Roberta B. Whitlock

It is significant that you are interested in helping protect Wisconsin's natural heritage and contribute materially toward this end.

An expression of our appreciation is a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board. We present this certificate of sincere appreciation on behalf of present and future generations to thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR

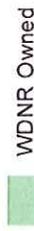
**James C & Roberta B
Whitlock Fee Gift
Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol
Natural Area**

NA 20074

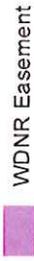
T01N R23E Sec 19
Town of Pleasant Prairie
Kenosha County
0.40 acres



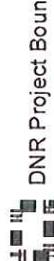
Subject Parcel



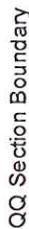
WDNR Owned



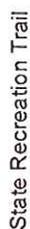
WDNR Easement



DNR Project Boundary



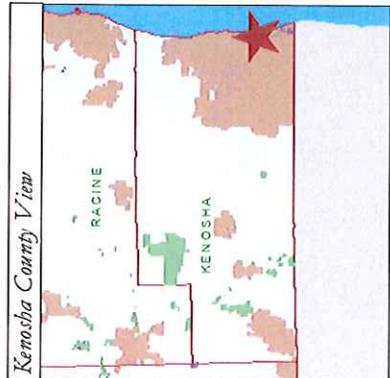
QQ Section Boundary



State Recreation Trail



Feet



★ Location of Property

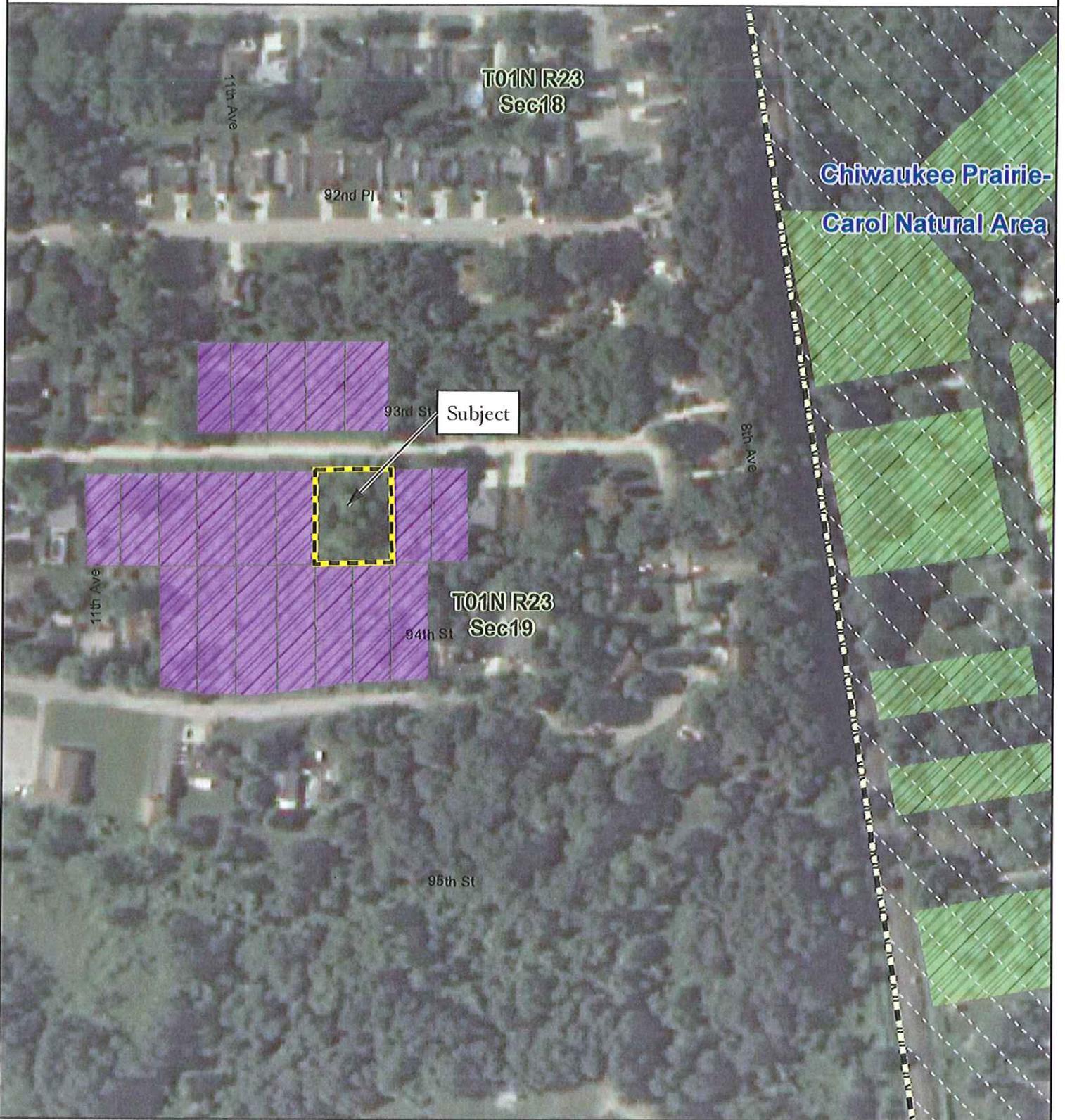


WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: Sep 21, 2011 kmh



James C & Roberta B Whitlock

T01N R23E Sec 19, Town of Pleasant Prairie, Kenosha County



Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Natural Area

 Subject Parcel

 DNR Owned

 DNR Project Boundary

 DNR Eased



Sep 21, 2011 kmb
Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands