

**SUBJECT: LAND DONATION AND PROJECT BOUNDARY MODIFICATION STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA-
GREEN LAKE COUNTY**

FOR: JANUARY BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust has offered to donate to the Department 50.0 acres of land for the Statewide Natural Area program, specifically the Puchyan Prairie State Natural Area in Green Lake County. The parcel falls outside of the project boundary, and adding it improves public access to other state land. The parcel abuts Department lands along the north side. The land trust recently acquired the property using US Fish and Wildlife Service, North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funds. Acceptance of the donation will assure permanent access to more than 500 acres of Department ownership lying to the north. Acquisition will protect the natural values of the site; allow for natural area management, and provide for public recreation, research, and education.

The purpose of the Statewide Natural Area program is to protect the best remaining examples of Wisconsin's native plant and animal communities, their component species, and habitat for rare plant and animal species. Puchyan Prairie State Natural Area, established in 1981, features a mosaic of wetland communities including a large wet-mesic prairie, marsh and sedge meadow in the floodplain of the Puchyan River. The prairie is particularly diverse with 130 plant species and includes Wisconsin's largest population of prairie parsley, a state-threatened plant.

The property contains 40 acres of wetlands including wet-mesic prairie, shrub-carr, and sedge meadow. There are eight acres of uplands including five acres are upland grassland and two acres of degraded oak savanna habitat. There is also a two-acre pond. On the west side of the parcel, the Township has an easement on a one-lane access road. If the road would be abandoned, and if it was privately owned there would be no access to the adjacent large block of state land. State ownership will allow for development of a small parking lot and direct access to the county highway.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 50.0 acres of land for the Statewide Natural Area program; that the property be added to the project boundary and that a certificate of appreciation be sent to the donor.

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:

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

1-5-11
Date

Shirley Stepp
Administrator, Division of Land - AD/8

1/6/11
Date

Matt Mowrey
Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8

1/10/11
Date

- cc: S. Miller - LF/6
R. Steffes - LF/6
L. Ross - AD/5
L. Osterndorf - ER/6
J. Romback-Bartels - NER



CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 5, 2011
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust Tract, File NA 20063

FILE REF: NA 20063 *

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Statewide Natural Area
 Green Lake County

Grantor:

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust
 14 Tri-Park Way, Building 1, Suite 1
 Appleton, WI 54913

Acres: 50
Price: Gift of land
Appraised Value: \$195,000
Interest: Fee Title Acquisition
Improvements: None

Location: The tract is located in Green Lake County about 7 miles northeast of the City of Princeton.

Land Description: The subject land is level to gently rolling.

Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Marsh	40.0
Grassland	5.0
Oak Savanna	2.0
Water	2.0
Access Lane	1.0
Total:	50.00

Zoning: No Comprehensive zoning /shoreland
Present Use: Recreational Land
Proposed Use: Resource Protection and Public Recreation
Tenure: 30 years (Mabbot); The land trust purchased the land December 21,2010 for \$195,000
Option Date: December 03, 2010

Stewardship Land Access: This property will be open to the public for all nature based outdoor recreational activities to include hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and cross-country skiing.

2. JUSTIFICATION:

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust has offered the Department 50 acres that is located in the Town of St. Marie in Green Lake County about seven miles northeast of City of Princeton.



The parcel falls outside of the project boundary of the natural area, and it is recommend that it be added. The parcel abuts Department lands along the north side. The Land Trust acquired the property using US Fish and Wildlife Service, North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funds secured from The Nature Conservancy and Audobon Society. Acceptance of the donation will assure permanent access to more than 500 acres of Department ownership. Acquisition will protect the natural values of the site; allow for natural area management, and provide for public recreation, research, and education.

The purpose of the Statewide Natural Area program is to protect the best remaining examples of Wisconsin's native plant and animal communities, their component species, and habitat for rare plant and animal species. Natural areas protect the natural diversity of the landscape for future generations. Natural areas are used for study by school groups of all ages and researchers as well as by the general public. Other recreational activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, and hunting are also popular.

Puchyan Prairie State Natural Area, established in 1981, features a mosaic of wetland communities including a large wet-mesic prairie, marsh, and sedge meadow in the floodplain of the Puchyan River. The prairie is particularly diverse with 130 plant species and includes Wisconsin's argest population of prairie parsley, a state-threatened plant. The rich bird fauna includes many rare species such as American bittern, black tern, king rail, northern harrier, and Henslow's sparrow. Other rare animals include the state-threatened Blanding's turtle, black dash butterfly, and the state-endangered Poweshiek skipperling.

The former Mabbott property contains 40 acres of wetlands including wet-mesic prairie, shrub-carr, and sedge meadow. Dogwoods and willow are common in the wetland due to the lack of recent fire. There are eight acres of uplands including five acres are upland grassland and two acres of degraded oak savanna habitat. The entire area was probably grazed in the past and the wetland may have been used for harvest of marsh hay. There is also a two-acre pond. On the west side of the parcel the Township has an easement on a one-lane access road. If the road would be abandoned and if it was privately owned there would be no access to the adjacent state land to the north.

Protection of the parcel will also allow for easier management (prescribed burning and invasive species removal) of the existing state land. Many of the wildlife species found on the state natural area also occur on the property and wildlife usage, especially for grassland birds, will probably increase with natural area management.

The Department recommends acceptance of the property to complement adjacent protected lands, protect and restore natural values of this site, and provide access for scientific, educational, and non-intensive recreational use.

3. FINANCING:

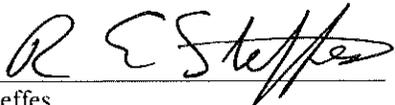
No funding is required for this transaction. The Department has agreed to reimburse the Land Trust for \$7,000 in out of pocket expenses.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA:

Established: 1972
Acres Purchased to Date: 46,184.00
Acquisition Goal: 41,000.00
Percent Complete: 112.64 %
Cost to Date: \$27,201,239.30

RECOMMENDED:

RECOMMENDED:


Richard E. Steffes

1-5-11
Date


Bureau of Legal Services

1-6-11
Date


Administrator, Division of Land - AD/8

1/6/11
Date

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its January meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of 50 acres of land in Green Lake County for the Puchyan Prairie State Natural Area from

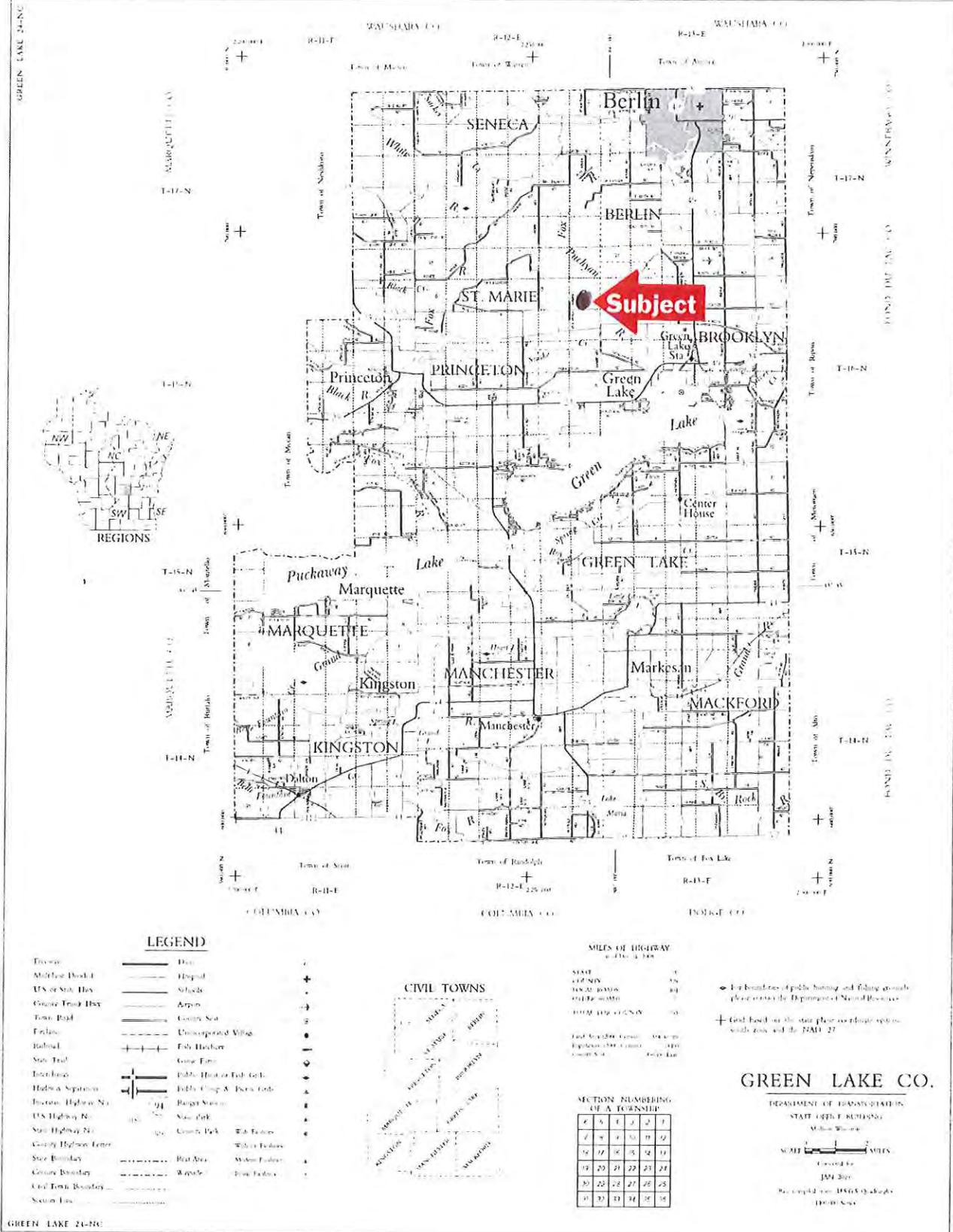
Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust

It is significant that organizations such as yours 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

Jonathan P. Ela, CHAIRMAN



Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust (Mabbot) Parcel

T16N R12E Section 1, Town of Saint Marie, Green Lake County, WI (50.00 Acres)



Legend

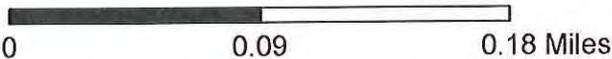
- - - PLSS Section Line
- PLSS Quarter-Quarter
-  DNR Project Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  DNR Eased
-  DNR Owned

Subject Property

NA 20063

Statewide Natural Area

-  Fee Simple
-  Easement
-  Ingress/Egress




State of Wisconsin
 Dec. 14, 2010
 Real Estate Section
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands

Use Advisory: Neither the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) nor any of its employees shall be held liable for any improper or incorrect use of the information and/or contained herein and assumes no responsibility for use of the information. Furthermore, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, adequacy, completeness, legality, or reliability of any information. The DNR has made reasonable efforts to provide accurate information, but cannot exclude the possibility of errors or omissions in source information. There is no guarantee the parcel boundaries are defined by a survey. The map user is expected to exercise reasonable use of the map information.

Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust (Mabbot) Parcel

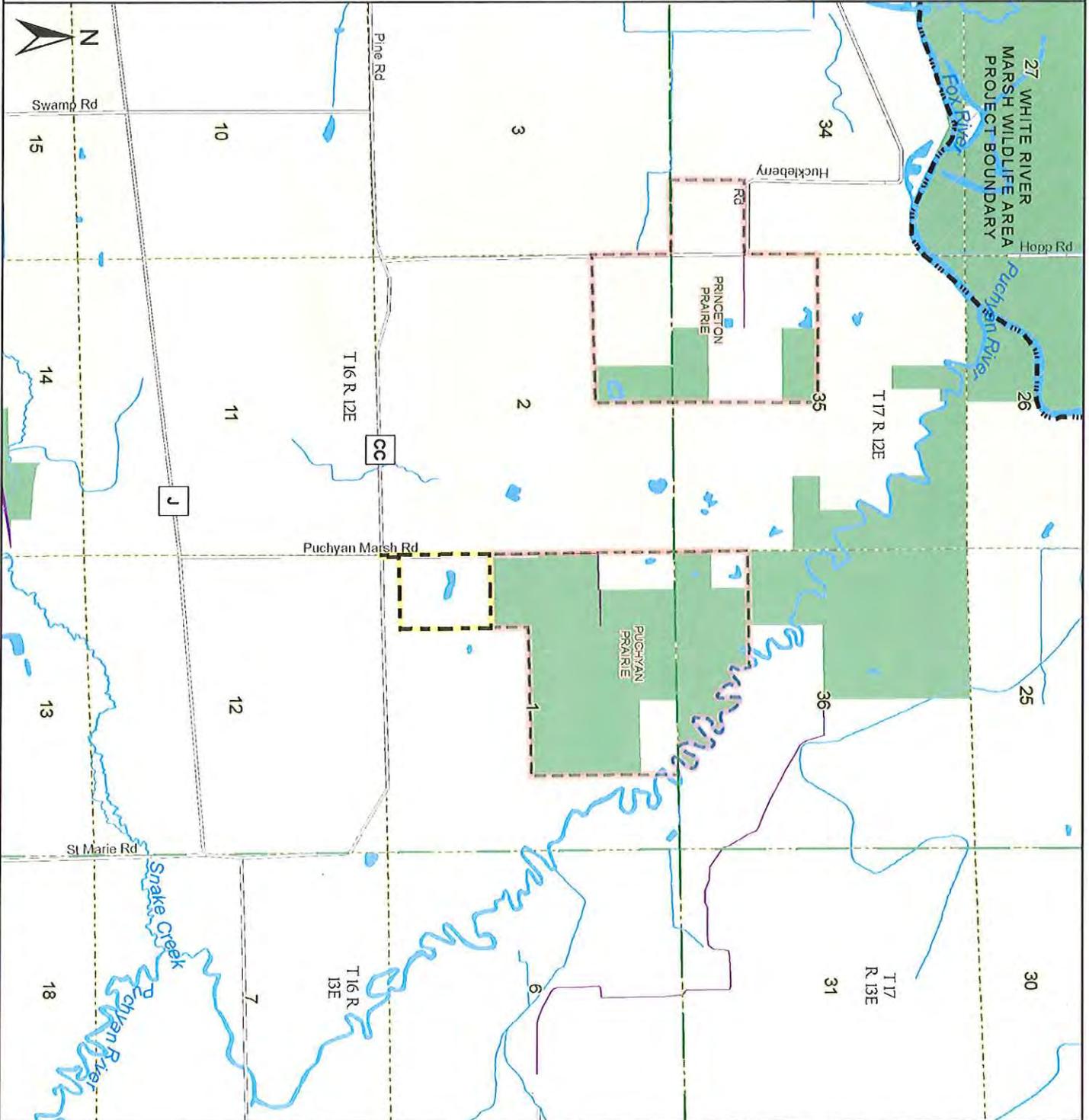
NA 20063
Statewide Natural Area

T16N R12E S1
Town of Saint Marie
Green Lake County, WI
(50.00 Acres)

- Subject Property**
- Fee Simple
 - Easement
 - Ingress/Egress

Legend

- DNR Project Boundary
 - State Natural Area
 - PLSS Section Line
 - County Boundary
 - DNR Owned
 - DNR Easement
- 0 0.2 0.4 Miles



The DNR Managed Land report the boundaries of lands managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Wisconsin DNR manages these lands through ownership, easement or lease rights. The dataset is a spatial representation of the Oracle Land Records System maintained by the DNR. Bureau of Facilities and Lands (BFL) and may include errors and omissions. The data should not be interpreted as a legal representation of legal ownership boundaries. The data is for informational purposes only. For information about the actual management, including public use and public access of the lands, contact the nearest DNR Regional office. The data is not intended for use as a land management tool; it is a listing of all DNR held estate transactions that have occurred on these lands over time. For information about the actual management, including public use and public access of the lands, contact the nearest DNR Regional office. Contact information for DNR Regional Offices and Service Centers is provided on the following internet site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/cew/cew/cew/cew/cew.htm>. Updated to this data set are ongoing, and will be incorporated into future versions when available.