

File W 611- Manitowoc County 55.38 Acres

The Department acquired this property as a part of a larger 206 acre acquisition for \$135,500 in 1985. It is a part of the Collins Marsh Wildlife Area and is located approximately 13 miles west of the City of Manitowoc, in the Town of Rockland in Manitowoc County. At the time of acquisition, the Natural Resource Board approved that the property, except for these 55.38 acres, should be added to the project boundary. These 55.38 acres were to be held for future exchange or sale.

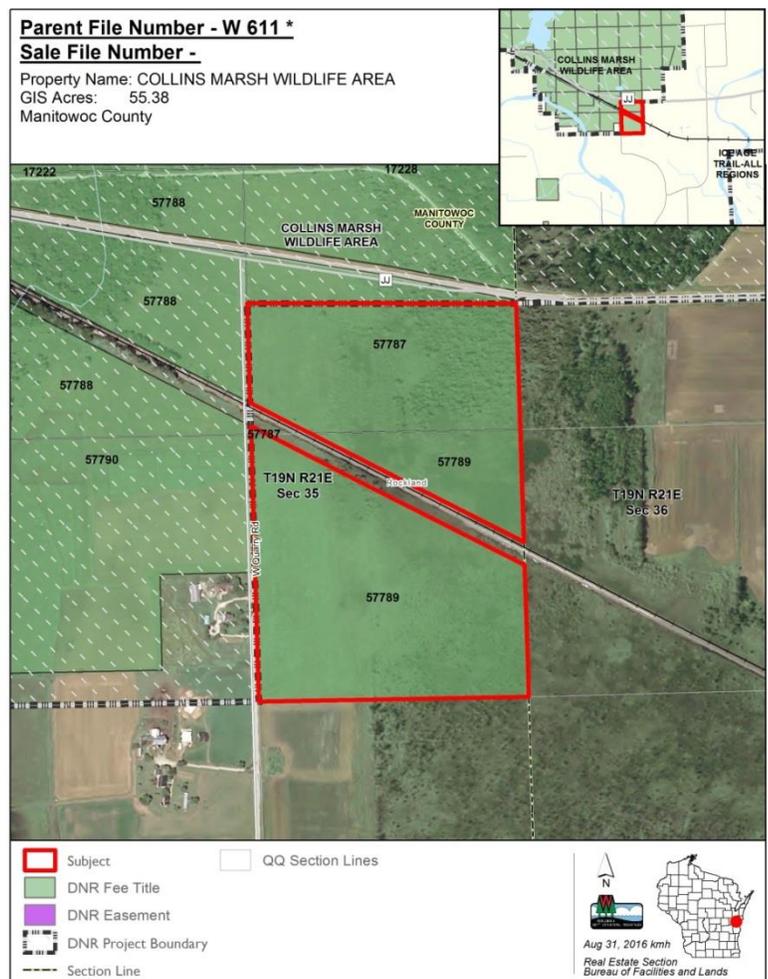
There are 5 Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) hits on this parcel: the American Bittern, State Endangered Black Tern, State Threatened Red-Shouldered Hawk, Southern Hardwood Swamp community, and a Migratory Bird Concentration site. 42.7 acres of the 55.6 acre total (77%) is comprised of Southern Hardwood Swamp and provides foraging and nesting habitat for the American Bittern and Red-Shouldered Hawk. There are very few comparable habitats left intact in Manitowoc County and the surrounding area; most of the historical wetlands and swamps have been drained and filled, leaving small fragmented habitat for marsh birds and raptors.

The parcel is easily accessible to the public through CTH JJ and West Quarry Road; a parking lot is located on the west side of Quarry Road. This parcel is heavily used by hunters for deer and turkey hunting. Manitowoc County manages a snowmobile trail that runs through the northern half of this parcel.

There is a 9.6 acre field on the west edge of the parcel that is leased to the neighboring landowner for sharecropping soybeans. There are also two lease contracts on the property that do not expire until December 2017; a marsh hay and sharecrop contract.

The Department invests very little time and money to maintain the property; boundary posting is the primary management activity.

The Department recommends retaining this parcel.



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