



**SITE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT SHEET
TIER-3 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROPERTY**

Property Name: Thorp Pond

Property Designation or Type: State Natural Area

SNA Designation Number: 403

Property Location: Door County

Real Estate:

Project boundary acreage: 480

Fee acres owned: 81

Dedicated acres: 60 (File #D175E (2003))

DNR Easement acres: None

Federal aid interest: None

Land use agreements: None

Maps:

A. Project Boundary

Property Manager: **Joe Henry, Upper Lake Michigan Ecologist**
2894 Shawano Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54313
920-662-5194

Prepared By (District Ecologist):

Name: Joe Henry

Title: Conservation Biologist

Date: 4/10/2017

Reviewed/Approved By: (Bureau)

Name: Drew Feldkirchner

Title: Bureau Director, Natural Heritage Conservation Date: 4/10/2017

Approved by Natural Resources Board: Date: 6/28/2017

A. Regional and Property Assessment

- 1. General Property Description (topography, soils, vegetation, water resources):** Thorp Pond contains a mosaic of wetland communities including boreal rich fen, northern wet-mesic forest and hardwood swamp. The 6.4-acre seepage pond is actually a hard-water bog lake ringed by tall shrubs, coarse sedges, and cedar saplings. Surrounding the small pond is the boreal rich fen, an open wetland that features an exceptionally diverse plant community with numerous fen species. In some areas, tussocks of state-threatened coast sedge (*Carex exilis*) and tufted bulrush (*Scirpus cespitosus*) are separated by muck pockets vegetated with beaked bladderwort and white beak-rush along with the rare slender-leaved sundew (*Drosera linearis*). Elsewhere, characteristic fen species are present including grass-of-Parnassus, bog buckbean, lake sedge, and northern bog goldenrod. An extensive, mature forest dominated by white cedar, tamarack, black spruce, and black ash borders the fen. All but tamarack are reproducing successfully. Other trees include white spruce, balsam fir, yellow birch, and red maple. Shrubs include alder-leaf buckthorn, red-osier dogwood, and creeping snowberry. The herbaceous layer contains dwarf red raspberry, naked miterwort, green adder's-mouth, moccasin flower, and numerous sedges. Green ash and red maple along with black ash dominate the hardwood swamp, a rare community in this ecoregion. Characteristic herbs include marsh fern, cinnamon fern, royal fern, American water-horehound, water-parsnip, and hop sedge. To the east, dominance shifts to conifers, with a corresponding change in the groundlayer as well.
- 2. Ecological Landscape:** The [Northern Lake Michigan Coastal Ecological Landscape](#) borders Lake Michigan and Green Bay, encompassing over 200 miles of Great Lakes coast. The shorelines and related habitats, some of them unique to the Great Lakes, are used during the spring and fall by large numbers of migratory birds. In recent years, tens of thousands of diving ducks have been recorded wintering in offshore Lake Michigan habitats. Both Lake Michigan and Green Bay are highly significant for fish.

The northern Door Peninsula and associated Grand Traverse Islands present conservation opportunities offered nowhere else in Wisconsin. Unusual physiographic features such as ridge and swale complexes, embayment lakes and freshwater estuaries are rich in rare natural communities, including beach, dune, bedrock shore, coastal fen and boreal forest. These, in turn, support one of Wisconsin's greatest concentrations of rare species, some of them endemic to Great Lakes shoreline environments.

The dolomite Niagara Escarpment is a dominant geological feature of this landscape. On the west side of the Door Peninsula the Escarpment is exposed as cliffs, ledges and talus slopes. Springs and seeps are present, and some of Wisconsin's oldest trees grow on the Escarpment. To the east, along Lake Michigan, the same bedrock forms extensive horizontal rock "beaches."

Management opportunities vary greatly in different parts of the Northern Lake Michigan Coastal Ecological Landscape because of its variability. The factors responsible for this include the past and present influence of Lake Michigan and Green Bay, the dolomite bedrock, the composition of the glacial till and the highly variable landforms and their effects on land use.

3. **Ownership and Adjacent Land Uses:** Northern forest, wetlands, residential and agricultural lands. Private land under DNR easement and land owned by Door County Land Trust to the east.

4. **Property Management Issues, Trends and Needs:**

Invasives: European marsh thistle, glossy buckthorn, honeysuckle, autumn olive, reed canary grass, black locust, juniper and white poplar.

Invasives control history: This is a lower priority SNA. No control work was been completed to date.

Forestry/Silviculture: Opportunities exist to use commercial timber harvests to help reach ecological restoration goals for the property.

Prescribed burning: Prescribed fire will not be used as a management practice to maintain this property.

5. **Facility/Amenity development:**

- a. **Existing:** None
- b. **Future:** None

6. **Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern Species or Habitats, and wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need:** 5 state threatened species, 3 state special concern species, 1 state special concern habitat, and 1 federal threatened species are known to occur here and/or in the general area. For detailed EO data, see Appendix A.

7. **Conservation Opportunity Area:** Thorp Pond (14.11)
8. **Easements:** None
9. **Land use Agreements:** None
10. **Significant Cultural and Archaeological Features:** State Natural Areas (SNAs) may contain historic Native American or Euro-American sites. Activities with potential to disturb archaeological sites will only be undertaken after consultation with the DNR Archaeologist. Any sites with cultural or historical value will be managed in accordance with guidance and statutory requirements (see ss. 44.40 and DNR Manual Code 1810.10). More details can be found in Appendix B.
11. **Refuges and other Closed Areas:** None
12. **Primary Public Use:** Recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, cross country skiing, hunting, trapping, scientific research, wild edibles collection, , and wildlife viewing are allowed. Reference the State Natural Areas [Visitation Guidelines](#) and the property's specific [webpage](#) for more information.
13. **Biotic Inventory needs:** Currently, no plant or vertebrate inventory needs have been identified beyond normal monitoring through established SNA Site Inspection protocol.

**B. Property Purpose and Goals/
Management Objectives and Prescriptions**

1. **Property Purpose and Goals**
 - a. **Purpose:** The purpose of the SNA Program is to protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape of natural communities, significant geological formations and archeological sites. Natural areas are valuable for research and educational use, the preservation of genetic and biological diversity, and for providing ecological benchmarks for determining the impact of use on managed lands. They also provide habitat for numerous rare plants and animals.
 - b. **Goal:** Manage the site as a reserve for boreal rich fen, an aquatic reserve and wetland protection site, and as an ecological reference area. Natural processes will determine the structure of the pond and associated wetlands. Provide opportunities for research and education on the highest quality native wetlands.

- 2. Management Objectives by Natural Community Type:**
 - a. Passively manage 37 acres of cedar swamp and associated lowland brush.
 - b. Maintain northern hardwood and swamp hardwood stands via managed old-growth or extended rotation.
 - c. Regenerate and expand aspen stands.
 - d. Convert swamp hardwood stands with ash component to non-ash species such as red maple, and swamp white oak.
 - e. Retain snags and important habitat features, unless they conflict with other objectives (such as hazard trees near roads).
 - f. Prevent the introduction of new invasive species, and ensure long-term limitation of the spread, reproduction and impact of existing invasive species.
 - g. Retain or increase existing populations of Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

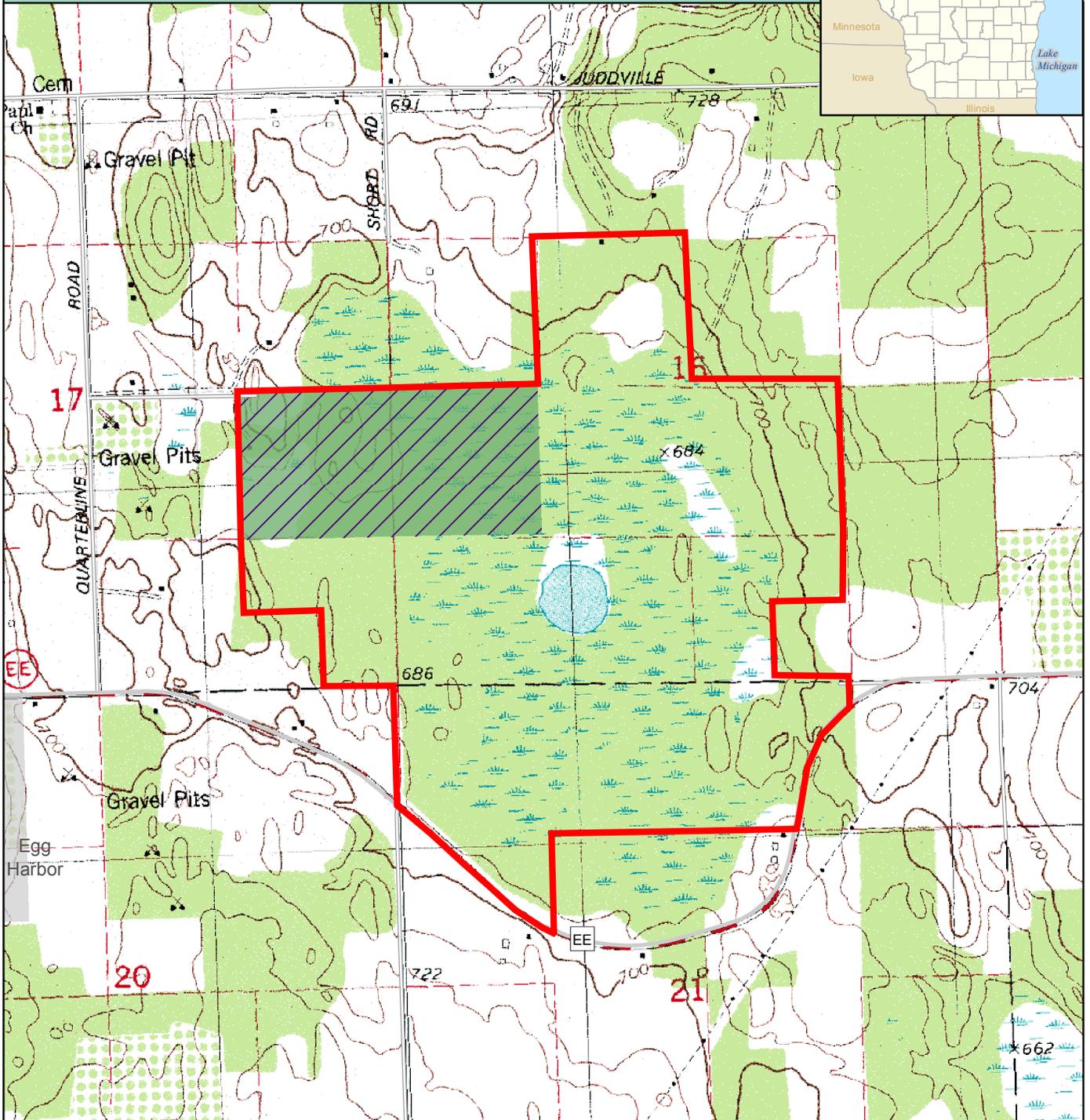
- 3. Management Prescriptions by Natural Community Type:**
 - a. Contain or eradicate invasive species through the use of department approved manual, chemical, biological, and mechanical practices.
 - b. Continue outreach to secure volunteer site stewards to help reach management objective and strengthen the joint public/private partnership.
 - c. Coppice aspen stands.
 - d. In northern hardwood stands apply uneven-aged management via selection (single tree or group) harvests to encourage long-term multi-aged diversity. Gaps will be created to encourage age class diversity and edge cover.
 - e. In swamp hardwood stands susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer apply intermediate thinnings to favor non ash species. Install canopy gaps with follow-up monitoring/regeneration efforts in ash dominant areas.
 - f. Apply for a forestry afforestation grant to plant and fence hardwood tree plantations as needed.

- 4. Special Management Issues and/or constraints:**
 - a. Access to suppress wildfires is allowed.
 - b. Salvage of trees in northern hardwoods and swamp hardwoods stands after a major wind event may be allowed if the volume of trees is merchantable.

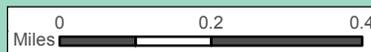
Table 1: Current Facilities or Infrastructure

Type of Facility	Total (number/length)	Management Activities	Management Issues and Constraints
Roads – public	None		
Roads – maintenance/service	None		
Roads – access easement	None		
Parking lots	None		
Boat landings	None		
Designated trails	None		
Dikes, ditches	None		
Dams	None		
Other			

Thorp Pond State Natural Area PROJECT BOUNDARY



-  Project Boundary
-  DNR Owned
-  State Natural Area



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Bureau of Natural
Heritage Conservation

Jul 07, 2017

SNA Tier 3 dmh

MAP A

The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.