NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Form 1100-1 Rev. 5-91 Item No. 2.C.

SUBJECT:

- 1. Land Donation Big Swamp Wildlife Area Buffalo County
- 2. Land Donation New Munster Wildlife Area Kenosha County
- 3. Land Donation Rush Creek Natural Area Crawford County
- 4. Land Donation Rush Creek Natural Area and Rush Creek Streambank Protection Area Crawford County

FOR: AUGUST 2021 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: James W. Lemke, Real Estate Section Chief

SUMMARY:

The following four donations located within project boundaries will provide opportunities for public recreation and will be open to the public for all five nature-based outdoor recreational activities to include hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and cross-country skiing.

1. Big Swamp Wildlife Area

The department is requesting approval to accept a donation of 1.5 acres of land from Thomas Ancis Jatnieks for the Big Swamp Wildlife Area in Buffalo County, under authority provided in s. 23.09(2)(d)15., Wis. Stats., and s. NR 1.41(1)(e), Wis. Admin. Code. The subject parcel consists of sedge/wet meadow wetlands and road ditch uplands with approximately 207 feet of two-bank frontage along Bear Creek, a class III trout stream. This parcel also has the potential to provide additional roadside parking for Big Swamp Wildlife Area, a significant need for this property.

2. New Munster Wildlife Area

The department is requesting approval to accept a donation of 1.5 acres of land (tax delinquent lot) from Kenosha County for the New Munster Wildlife Area in Kenosha County, under authority provided in s. 23.09(2)(d)15., Wis. Stats., and s. NR 1.41(1)(e), Wis. Admin. Code. The parcel habitat includes oak-hickory woodland, dry prairie, and emergent marsh. The department maintains a mowed trail that crosses the county-owned parcel. The trail is important for management and access, serving as a firebreak, a pheasant stocking road, and providing hunter access.

3. Rush Creek Natural Area

The department is requesting approval to accept a donation of 28.61 acres of land from Mycelium LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company, for the Rush Creek Natural Area in Crawford County, under authority provided in s. 23.09(2)(d)8., Wis. Stats., and s. NR 1.41(1)(e), Wis. Admin. Code. The subject tract consists of a ridgetop parcel that is irregular in shape and is mostly oak forest which provides additional habitat for rare plants and animals found on the adjacent SNA.

4. Rush Creek Natural Area and Rush Creek Streambank Protection Area
The department is requesting approval to accept a donation of 222.95 acres of land from Mycelium LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company, for the Rush Creek Natural Area and the Rush Creek Streambank Protection Area (RCSPA) in Crawford County, under authority provided in s. 23.09(2)(d)8., Wis. Stats., and s. NR 1.41(1)(e), Wis. Admin. Code. The subject is mostly oak forest and includes 2,700 feet of two-bank frontage on Rush Creek, a Class II trout stream, and 1,127 feet of two-bank frontage on Cooley Creek, a Class I trout stream. The portion of the parcel within RCSPA will be designated as a state natural area and will be managed together with the Rush Creek Natural Area. This large contiguous block of oak forest provides critical habitat and will provide additional recreational opportunities for the public.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the four donations: (1) 1.5 acres of land for the Big Swamp Wildlife Area; (2) 1.5 acres of land for the New Munster Wildlife Area; (3) 28.61 acres of land for the Rush Creek Natural Area; and (4) 222.95 acres of land for the Rush Creek Natural Area and the Rush Creek Streambank Protection Area. For all four donations, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to the landowners, and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (Check all that are applicable):

Background Mem	เก
----------------	----

Maps and Documents

Approved By	Signature	Date	
Terry H. Bay Bureau Director	DocuSigned by: 1 WY H. BAY F21082F90946494	7/13/2021 8:14	PM CDT
Timothy C. Cooke Internal Services Division Administrator	Docusigned by: Ismathy C. Carfe D792C5F7A747460	7/23/2021 9:10	AM CDT
Preston D. Cole, Secretary	Docusigned by: 10dd Amb's 6793A7BA427C4CD	7/26/2021 11:05	AM CDT

By: Todd L. Ambs

Form 1100-001N (Rev. 09/14) Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

Program and reviewer	Signature	Date	Comments
Energy, Transportation and; Environmental Analysis N/A			
Environmental Analyst			
N/A			
Economist			
Management and Budget N/A			
Budget Analyst			
Legal Services Diane L. Milligan			
Attorney	Docusigned by: Dianu L. Milligan E031E75D4B9E438	7/13/2021 4:5	7 PM CDT
Other reviewers N/A			

THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 13, 2021 FILE REF: WM 60745

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Secretary Preston D. Cole

Department of Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Mr. Thomas Ancis Jatnieks Tract, File # WM 60745

PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Big Swamp Wildlife Area Buffalo County

Grantor:

Thomas AncisJatnieks 5805 Quentin St. Weston- WI 54476

Acres: 1.50 Price: Gift

<u>Assessed Value</u>: \$800 <u>Interest</u>: Fee simple <u>Improvements</u>: None

Location: The tract is located six miles west of the Village of Mondovi in Buffalo County.

Land Description: The subject land is basically level.

Covertype Breakdown:

covery pe Breakdo Wil.		
Туре		Acreage
Wetland		1.00
Urban / Developed		0.50
	Total:	1.50

Zoning: ANR-20 – Agriculture/Natural Resource - 20

Present Use: Recreation

Proposed Use: Public recreation

Tenure: 12 years

Option Date: June 8, 2021

2. JUSTIFICATION:

The department is requesting approval to accept a donation of 1.5 acres of land from Thomas Ancis Jatnieks for the Big Swamp Wildlife Area in Buffalo County, under authority provided in s. 23.09(2)(d)15., Wis. Stats., and s. NR 1.41(1)(e), Wis. Admin. Code. The subject parcel consists of sedge/wet meadow wetlands and road ditch uplands with approximately 207 feet of two-bank frontage along Bear Creek, a class III trout stream. This parcel has frontage on County Highway A and has the potential to provide additional roadside parking for the Big Swamp Wildlife Area, a significant need for this property.

Acquisition for the Big Swamp Wildlife Area began in 1956 with the goal of protecting winter cover for pheasants. It is currently a 796-acre property in Buffalo County with its only access



being from County Highway A on the south side of the property. The property consists of a mix of upland hardwoods and marsh, including tamarack swamp and lowlands.

The department recommends acceptance of this donation to consolidate department ownership, to provide a location for a potential parking area, and to provide additional opportunities for public recreation.

3. LAND MANAGEMENT:

The parcel will be managed in conjunction with the adjacent Big Swamp Wildlife Area. The management of this parcel will be mostly passive. This site has the potential of providing additional parking for property users. Management and funding of a parking lot would be completed by wildlife management.

4. <u>FINANCING</u>:

No funding is required for this transaction.

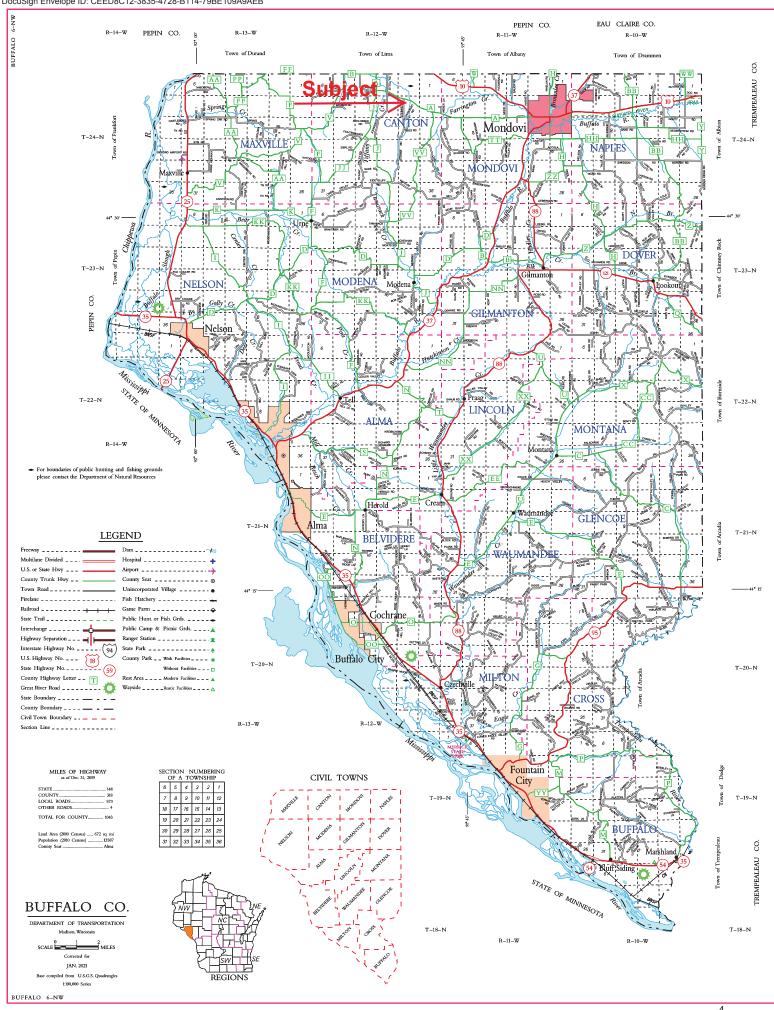
5. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE BIG SWAMP WILDLIFE AREA:

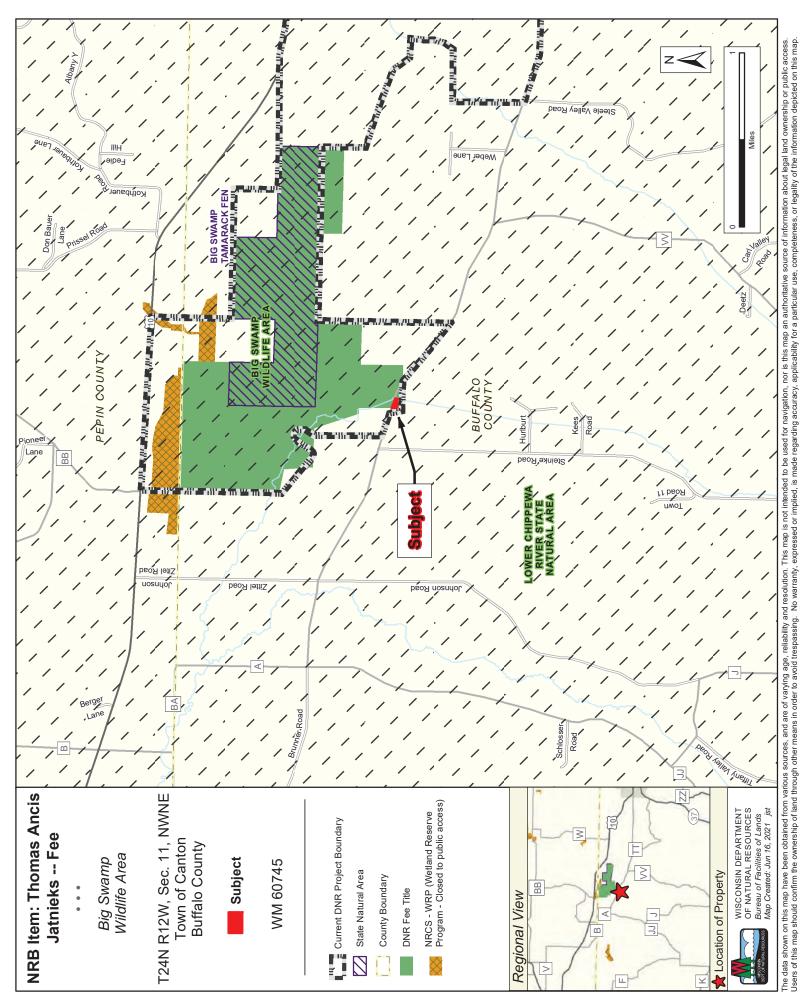
Established: 1956

Acres Purchased to Date: 800.16 Acquisition Goal: 2,714.40 Percent Complete: 29.48 % Cost to Date: \$227,089.00

RECOMMENDED:

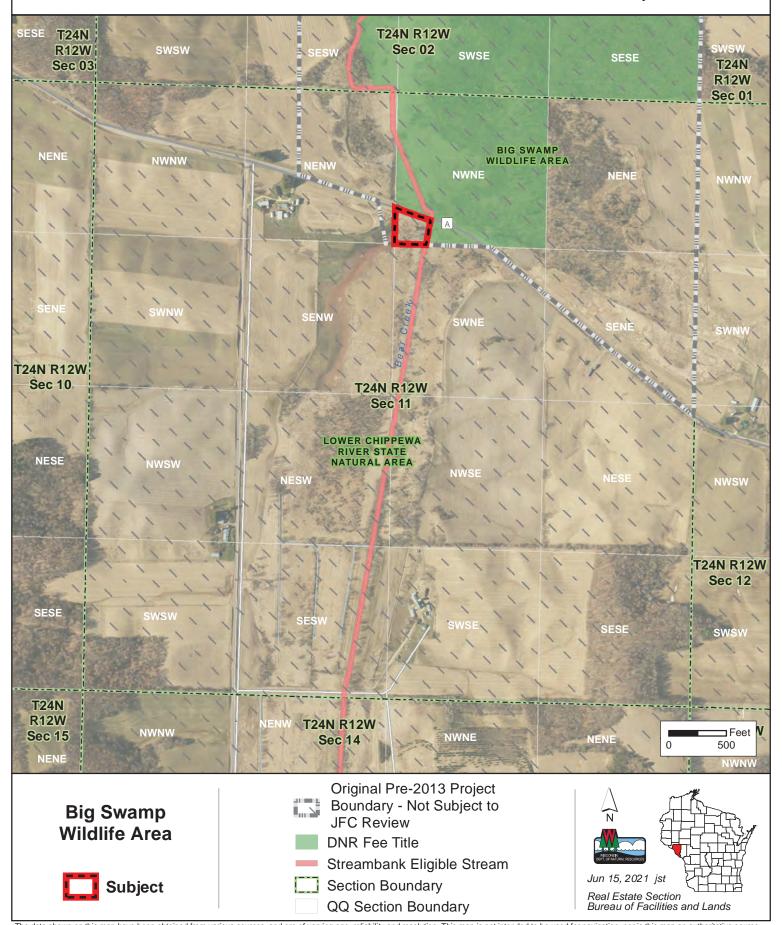
Docusigned by: 1 Tirry H. Bay F21082F90846464	7/13/2021 8:14 PM CDT
Terry H. Bay, Bureau Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands	Date
Diane L. Milligan E031E75D4B9E436	7/13/2021 4:57 PM CDT
Diane L. Milligan, Bureau of Legal Services	Date
DocuSigned by: Innolpy C. Cafe D792C5F7A747460	7/23/2021 9:10 AM CDT
Timothy C. Cooke, Internal Services Division Administrator	Date





NRB Item: Thomas Ancis Jatnieks -- Fee

T24N R12W, Sec. 11, NWNE, Town of Canton, Buffalo County





Drive 188 miles, 2 hr 58 min 101 South Webster Street, Madison, WI to Canton, WI 54755

Cancel

Print



101 S Webster St

Madison, WI 53703

Get on WI-30 E

9 min (3.3 mi) 1. Head northwest on S Webster St toward E Main St 2. Turn right at the 2nd cross street onto E Washington Ave Pass by Burger King (on the right in 2.5 mi) 2.9 mi 3. Use the right lane to take the WI-30 E ramp to 1-90/1-94 0.2 mi

Follow I-94 W to US-10 W/10th St in Osseo. Take exit 88 from I-94 W

2 hr 13 min (154 mi) 4. Continue onto WI-30 E 2.5 mi

٦	5.	Use the left lane to take exit 3 B to merge or N/I-90 W/I-94 W toward I-94 W/Wis Dells	ito I-39
4	6.	Keep left to continue on I-90 W/I-94 W	-29.0 mi
1	7.	Keep right at the fork to continue on I-94 W	-63.7 mi
r	8.	Take exit 88 for US-10 W toward Osseo	-58.5 mi -0.3 mi
Cont	inue	e on US-10 W. Drive to Co Rd A in Canton	(30.5 mi)
4	9. ①	Use any lane to turn left onto US-10 W/10th Continue to follow US-10 W	St
	0	Pass by Subway (on the right in 0.4 mi)	24.6 mi
4		. Turn left onto Co Rd A/W Main St Continue to follow Co Rd A	

Canton

Wisconsin 54755

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.

5.9 mi

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 13, 2021 FILE REF: WM 60746

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Secretary Preston D. Cole

Department of Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Kenosha County Tract, File # WM 60746

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

New Munster Wildlife Area Kenosha County

Grantor:

Kenosha County Attn: Regi Bachochin 1010 56th St. Kenosha- WI 53140

Acres: 1.50 Price: Gift

Assessed Value: N/A – Tax exempt

<u>Interest</u>: Fee simple <u>Improvements</u>: None

Location: The tract is located one mile south of New Munster in Kenosha County.

Land Description: The subject land is sloping.

Covertype Breakdown:

Туре	Acreage
Upland Woodland	0.60
Wetland	0.30
Brush	0.60
Total:	1.50

Zoning: Lowland Resource Conservancy District, Park – Recreational District

<u>Present Use</u>: Public recreation <u>Proposed Use</u>: Public recreation

Tenure: 23 years

2. JUSTIFICATION:

The department is requesting approval to accept a donation of 1.5 acres of land (tax delinquent lot) from Kenosha County for the New Munster Wildlife Area in Kenosha County, under authority provided in s. 23.09(2)(d)15., Wis. Stats., and s. NR 1.41(1)(e), Wis. Admin. Code. The parcel is a landlocked inholding and the habitat includes oak-hickory woodland, dry prairie, and emergent marsh. The department maintains a mowed trail that crosses the parcel. The trail is important for management and access, serving as a firebreak, a pheasant stocking road, and providing hunter access. Public access will be through the surrounding department-owned land.

The New Munster Wildlife Area is a 1,524-acre heavily-used property located in western Kenosha County that was established in 1947 by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission to provide important pheasant and upland game habitat in a rapidly developing area of Wisconsin. The project protects water quality, improves fish habitat, and provides public access for fishing, hunting and trapping. The New Munster Bog Island State Natural Area, an early state natural area designated in 1967, is found within the project boundary of the wildlife area. A 177-acre Department of Transportation (DOT) wetland mitigation site was added to the property in 2008, including 3,050 feet of two bank frontage on the Fox River. The addition of the DOT property to the wildlife area added riverine and emergent/open water wetland habitat to an area that was predominately oak woodland, lowland woodland, shallow marsh, grassland and agricultural fields to create a larger contiguous block of habitat. Two perennial streams, Palmer Creek, a class III trout stream stocked with brown and rainbow trout, and New Munster Creek, flow through this property into the Fox River.

The department recommends acquisition of the subject parcel to enhance and protect the resource values of the New Munster Wildlife Area, to improve public access and to provide much needed outdoor recreation lands near our largest population centers of the state.

3. LAND MANAGEMENT:

The property is a small land-locked inholding and will be managed in conjunction with the surrounding New Munster Wildlife Area at no additional cost to the wildlife program. The department currently maintains a mowed trail across the property. Acquisition of the inholding will allow for easier management of the dry prairie with prescribed burning and developing firebreaks. Acquisition of this parcel will provide consistent management and consolidated ownership.

4. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

5. <u>ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE NEW MUNSTER WILDLIFE AREA:</u>

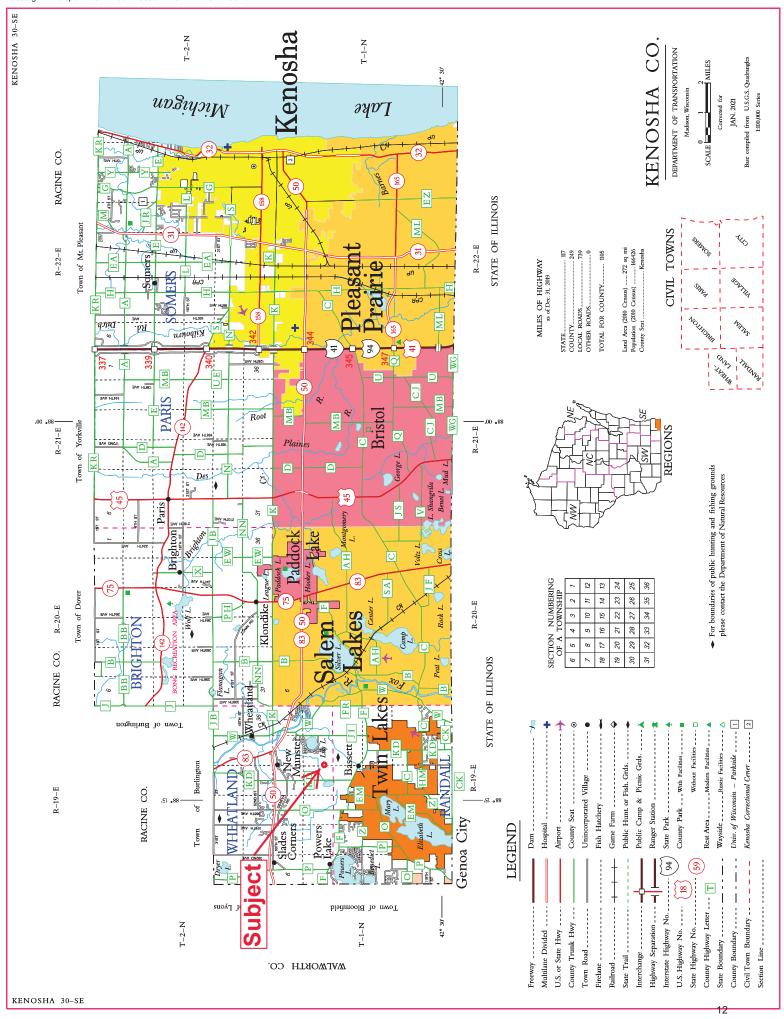
Established: 1947

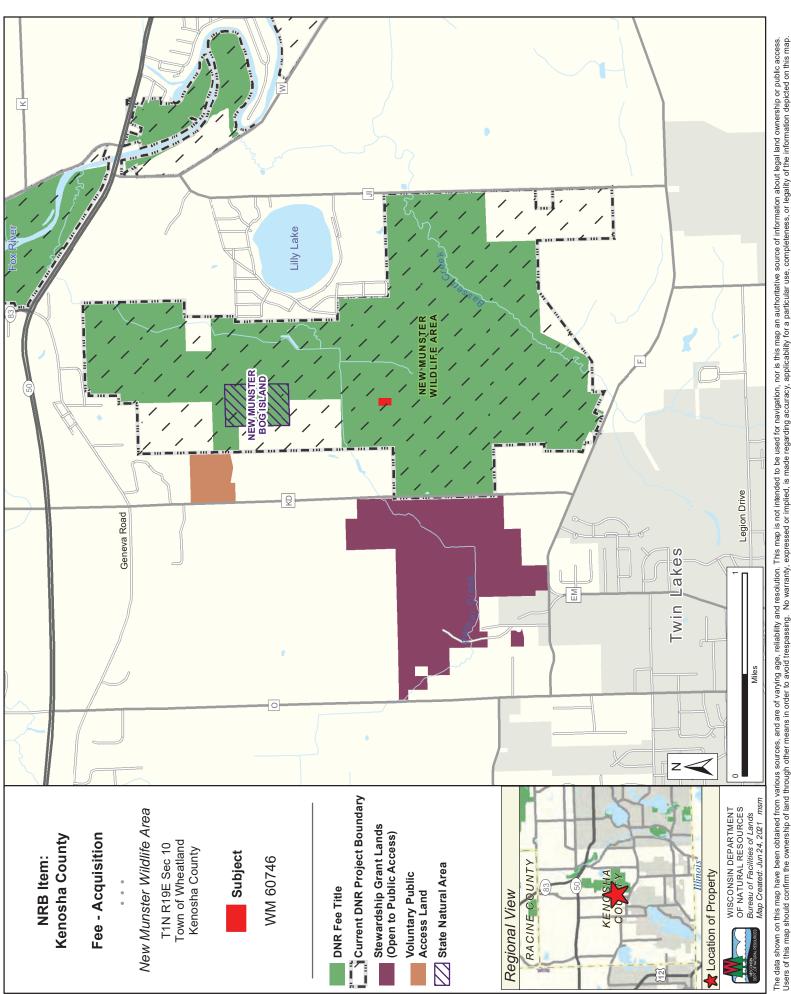
Acres Purchased to Date: 1,495.04

Acquisition Goal: 1,892.13
Percent Complete: 79.01 %
Cost to Date: \$1,157,334.26

RECOMMENDED:

Docusigned by: Tury H. Bay F21082F90846484	7/13/2021 8:14 PM CDT
Terry H. Bay, Bureau Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands	Date
Diane L. Milligan E031E75D489E436	7/13/2021 4:57 PM CDT
Diane L. Milligan, Bureau of Legal Services	Date
Docusigned by: Terrolly C. Carfe D792C5F7A74460	7/23/2021 9:10 AM CDT
Timothy C. Cooke, Internal Services Division Administrator	Date

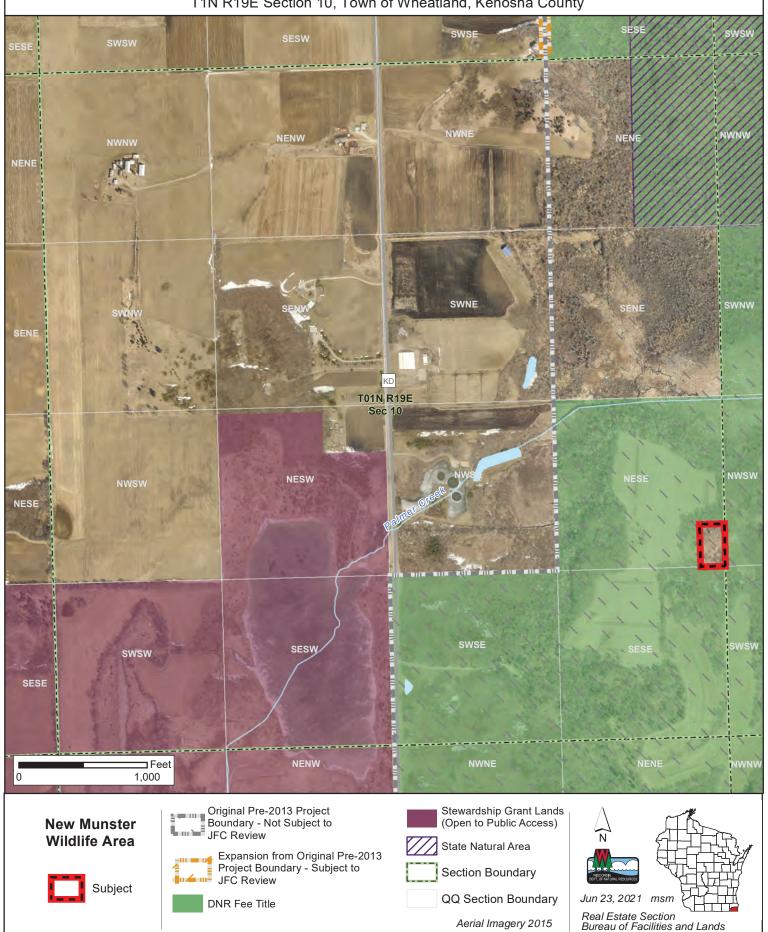




13

NRB Item: Kenosha County Fee - Acquisition

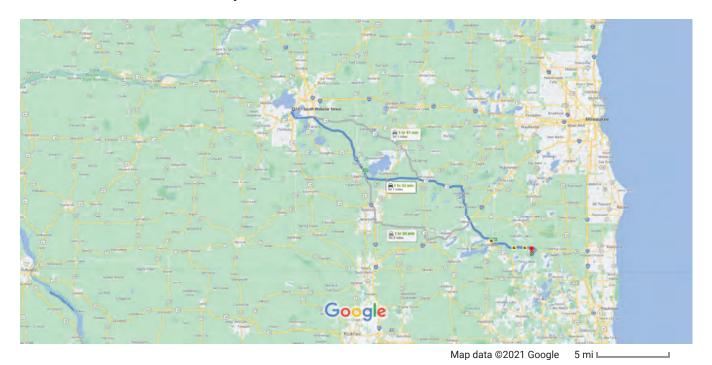
T1N R19E Section 10, Town of Wheatland, Kenosha County





101 South Drive 84.1 miles, 1 hr 33 min Webster Street, Madison, WI to Kenosha County, WI 53105





101 S Webster St

Madison, WI 53703

Take S Butler St and E Wilson St to John Nolen Dr

		2 min (0.3 mi)
1	1.	Head northwest on S Webster St toward E Main St
		112 ft
L →	2.	Turn right at the 1st cross street onto E Main St
		335 ft
₽	3.	Turn right at the 1st cross street onto S Butler St
		0.1 mi
4	4.	Turn left onto E Wilson St
		0.1 mi

Take US-12 E/US-18 E and I-39 S/I-90 E to County Hwy N in Milt

Milto	n	20 min /	01 1:\
J *	5.	Sharp right onto John Nolen Dr	,
1	6.	Continue straight to stay on John Nolen Dr	−0.8 mi
			-1.8 mi

Υ	7.	Keep left at the fork, follow signs for US-12 E/18 E/I-90 and merge onto US-12 E/US-18 E	
۲	8.	Take exit 267 A to merge onto -39 S/I-90 E to Janesville/Chicago	
r	9.	Take exit 163 toward WI-59 E	20.9 mi 0.3 mi
4	10.	Keep left, follow signs for WI-59 E/Milton	-289 ft
ø	11.	At the traffic circle, take the 3rd exit onto WI	
φ	12.	At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit and sta WI-59 E	2 .5 mi
Follo	ow Co	unty Hwy N to US-12 E in Whitewater	⊕.9 mi)
4	13.	Turn left onto County Hwy N	-2.9 mi
1	14.	Continue straight to stay on County Hwy N	-0.1 mi
1	15.	Continue straight to stay on County Hwy N	7.9 mi
	ow US 1 US-1		
L	16.	3	18.5 mi
*	17.		to
1	18.		0.5 mi
۲	19.	Take exit 330B to merge onto WI-50 E	10.0 mi -0.5 mi
Cont	tinue	on WI-50 E. Drive to Lilly Lake Rd in Lily Lake	0.0 - "
*	20.		
			10.8 mi

Ļ	21.	Turn right onto County Hwy W/County Hwy Ji/Fox River Rd	
_	22	Turn right anta 72rd Ct/County Lluny li	0.3 mi
ľ	22.	Turn right onto 73rd St/County Hwy Ji	-0 2 mi
L	23.	Turn right onto 73rd St	0.2 1111
†	24.	Continue onto Lilly Lake Rd	-0.3 mi
			0.6 mi

Kenosha County

Wisconsin 53105

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.

THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 13, 2021 FILE REF: NA 20181

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Secretary Preston D. Cole

Department of Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Mycelium LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company

Tract, File # NA 20181

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Rush Creek Natural Area Crawford County

Grantor:

Mycelium LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company

Attn: Joe Rupke

150 E Gilman St, Suite 5000

Madison- WI 53703

Acres: 28.61 Price: Gift

Assessed Value: \$25,600 Interest: Fee simple Improvements: None

Location: The tract is located three miles northwest of the Village of Ferryville in Crawford

County.

<u>Land Description</u>: The subject land is a ridgetop with steep slopes.

Covertype Breakdown:

Covertype Breakdown.		
Туре		Acreage
Upland Woodland		20.07
Grass / Pasture		8.54
	Total:	28.61

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Present Use: Recreation

Proposed Use: Public recreation

Tenure: Two years

2. JUSTIFICATION:

The department is requesting approval to accept a donation of 28.61 acres of land from Mycelium LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company, for the Rush Creek Natural Area in Crawford County, under authority provided in s. 23.09(2)(d)8., Wis. Stats., and s. NR 1.41(1)(e), Wis. Admin. Code. The subject tract consists of a ridgetop parcel that is irregular in shape and is mostly oak forest which provides additional habitat for rare plants and animals found on the adjacent SNA. This parcel adds to the large contiguous block of oak forest that provides critical habitat for forest interior birds and stopover habitat within the Upper Mississippi River Flyway bird



migration corridor. It is also adjacent to the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The parcel has frontage on two sides on Lawrence Ridge Road, a town road, and the northern boundary is Schmitz Lane, a private road. The site will be accessible to the public from these roads.

The Rush Creek Natural Area, which is located 30 miles south of La Crosse in Crawford County, was established in 1980 with the purchase of a 1,100-acre tract from The Nature Conservancy. The goals of the Rush Creek project are to protect and manage native plant and animal communities and provide opportunities for public recreation and natural history education. The project contains a series of dry and dry mesic prairies surrounded by upland forest on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River and lowland forests on the valley floors. Several state-threatened species are protected within the project, and several forest-interior bird species nest at the site. Turkey, deer, squirrel, and ruffed grouse are also found on the property. The area is used by school groups and the general public for nature study, for scientific purposes by researchers, and for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, bird watching and hiking.

The department recommends acceptance of this donation to consolidate department ownership and provide opportunities for public recreation.

3. <u>LAND MANAGEMENT</u>:

The parcel would be managed with the surrounding Rush Creek Natural Area. Management goals for the parcel would include management for natural communities that may exist on the property, maintaining the oak forest with an occasional prescribed burn to maintain oak and stimulate rare understory plant species, and sweeping the area to find, locate, and control invasive plant species. Maintenance and overall property management activities will be overseen by Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) staff. Funding for management is anticipated to come from both gifts and grants obtained by the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation.

4. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

5. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE RUSH CREEK NATURAL AREA:

Established: 1980

Acres Purchased to Date: 2,652.98

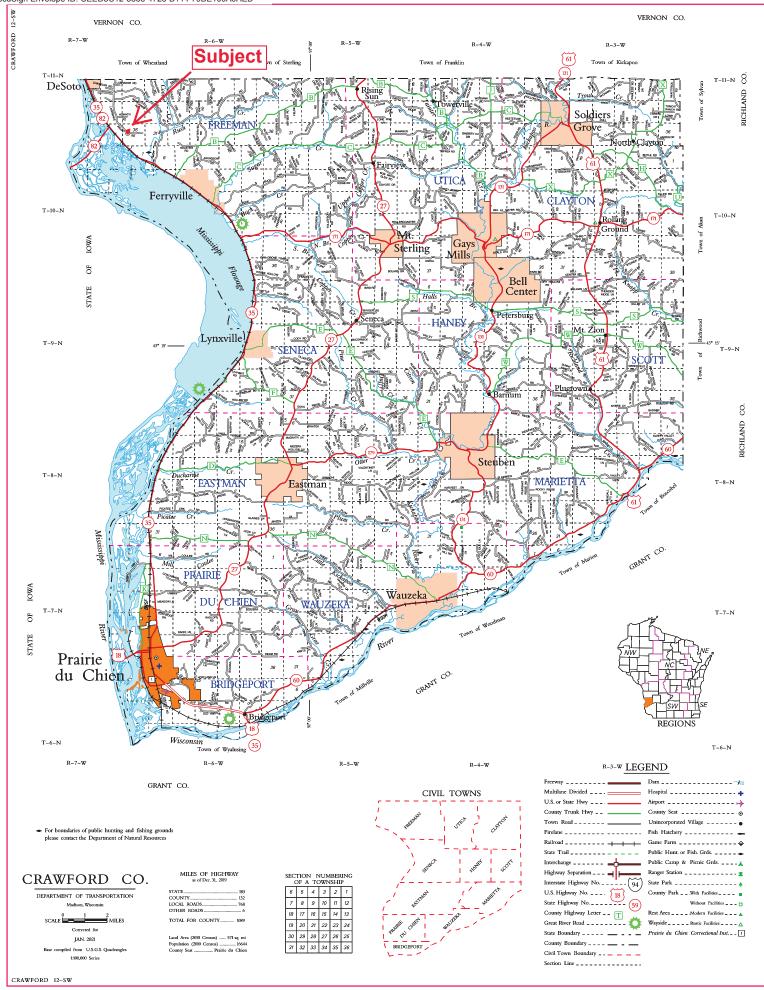
Acquisition Goal: 7,775.00

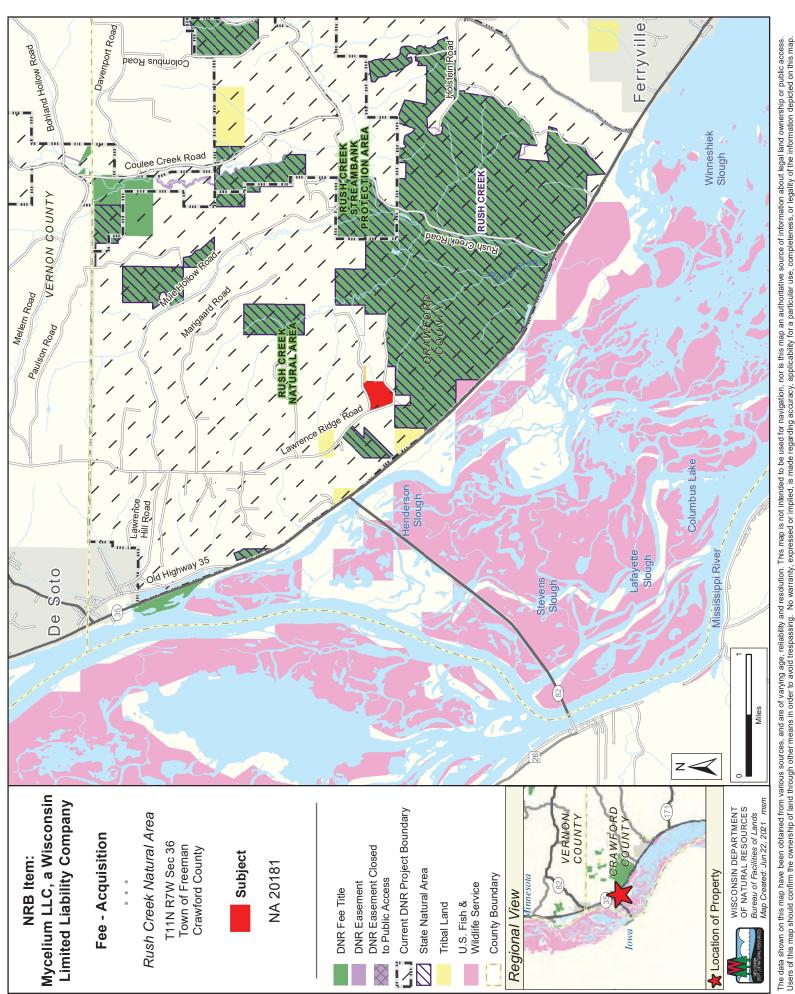
Percent Complete: 34.12 %

Cost to Date: \$3,599,338.80

RECOMMENDED:

Docusigned by: Twy H. Bay	7/13/2021 8:14 PM CDT
Terry H. Bay, Bureau Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands	Date
Diane L. Milligan E031E75D499E436.	7/13/2021 4:57 PM CDT
Diane L. Milligan, Bureau of Legal Services	Date
Docusigned by: Irmolpy C. Coop D792C5F7A747460	7/23/2021 9:10 AM CDT
Timothy C. Cooke, Internal Services Division Administrator	Date

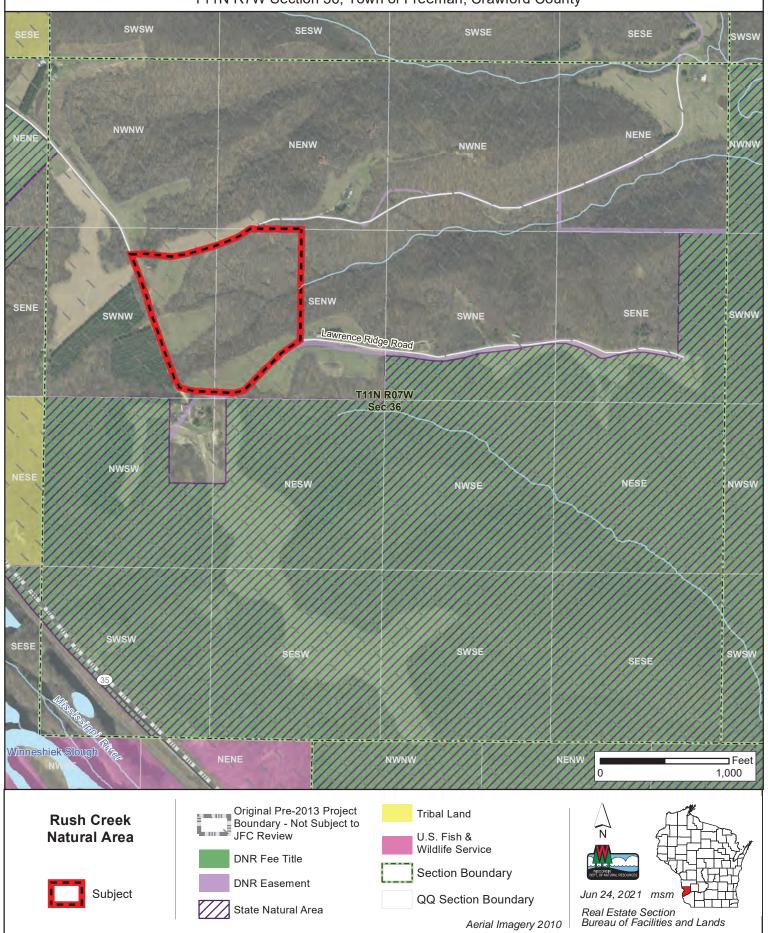




22

NRB Item: Mycelium LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company Fee - Acquisition

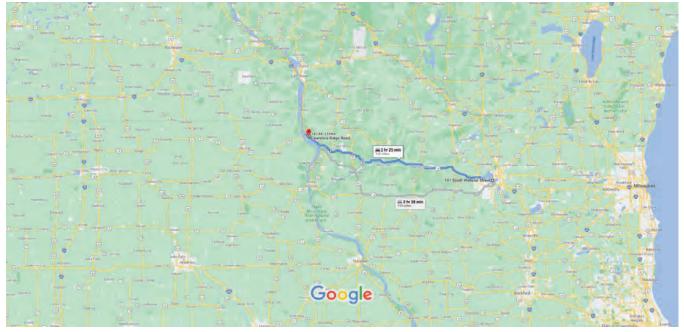
T11N R7W Section 36, Town of Freeman, Crawford County





101 South Drive 110 miles, 2 hr 25 min Webster Street, Madison, WI to 12146-11986 Lawrence Ridge Rd





Map data ©2021 Google

101 S Webster St

Madison, WI 53703

Take University Ave, US-14 W, WI-60 Trunk W, County Hwy W and WI-35 N/Great River Rd to S Mill Park Dr in Freeman

	- · · · ·	oo iy ordat kiroi ka to o kiiii i ank bi iii i tooni	u.,
t	1.	2 hr 18 min (10 Head northwest on S Webster St toward E Mai	,
ኻ	2.	S Webster St turns slightly left and becomes E Dayton St	9.2 mi
			315 ft
₽	3.	Turn right onto N Pinckney St	
).1 mi
4	4.	Turn left at the 2nd cross street onto E Gorham	n St
).5 mi
7	5.	E Gorham St turns slightly right and becomes University Ave	
			9.8 mi
₽	6.	Keep right to continue on Campus Dr	
			1.2 mi

1	7. Continue onto University Ave1 Pass by Valvoline Instant Oil Change (on the right 2.4 mi)	: in
1	8. Continue straight to stay on University Ave	3.4 mi
1	9. Continue onto US-14 W	—2.4 mi
4	10. Turn left onto WI-60 Trunk W	42.0 mi
L	11. Turn right onto County Hwy W	19.5 mi
4	12. Turn left to stay on County Hwy W	1.0 mi
4	13. Turn left to stay on County Hwy W	0.8 mi
L	14. Turn right onto US-61 N	5.3 mi
4	15. Turn left at the 1st cross street onto Count	0.4 mi y Rd S
r	16. Turn right onto WI-27 N	12.0 mi
4	17. Turn left onto Stoney Point Rd	0.6 mi
4	18. Turn left onto WI-171 W/WI-171 Trunk W	3.5 mi
r	19. Turn right onto WI-35 N/Great River Rd	3.4 mi
Drive	to Lawrence Ridge Rd	—9.0 mi
L	20. Turn right onto S Mill Park Dr	n (3.6 mi)
7	21. Slight right onto Lawrence Hill Rd	0.6 mi
L	22. Turn right onto Lawrence Ridge RdDestination will be on the left	1.1 mi
	Destination will be on the left	1.9 mi

12146-11986 Lawrence Ridge Rd

De Soto, WI 54624

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.

THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 13, 2021 FILE REF: NA 20182

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Secretary Preston D. Cole

Department of Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Mycelium LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company Tract,

File # NA 20182

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Rush Creek Natural Area Crawford County

Grantor:

Mycelium LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company

Attn: Joe Rupke

150 E. Gilman St., Suite 5000

Madison WI 53703

Acres: 222.95 Price: Gift

Assessed Value: \$401,700 Interest: Fee simple Improvements: None

<u>Location</u>: The tract is located three miles northwest of the Village of Ferryville in Crawford County.

<u>Land Description</u>: The subject land includes low, level land to the north and steeply sloping land to the south.

Covertype Breakdown:

Туре	Acreage
Brush	10.00
Grass / Pasture	35.67
Cropland	3.28
Upland Woodland	146.00
Lowland Woodland	28.00
	Total: 222.95

Zoning: Agricultural/Residential

Present Use: Recreation

Proposed Use: Public recreation

Tenure: Three months

2. <u>JUSTIFICATION</u>:

The department is requesting approval to accept a donation of 222.95 acres of land from Mycelium LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company, for the Rush Creek Natural Area and the Rush Creek Streambank Protection Area in Crawford County, under authority provided in s. 23.09(2)(d)8., Wis. Stats., and s. NR 1.41(1)(e), Wis. Admin. Code. The north and west portions of the property lie within the Rush Creek Streambank Protection Area project boundary and the south and east portions lie



within the Rush Creek Natural Area project boundary. The portion of the property within the project boundary of RCSPA will be designated as a state natural area and will be managed as part of the Rush Creek Natural Area.

The subject is mostly oak forest and includes wooded bluffland, some lowland grass, several spring steeps, 2,700 feet of two-bank frontage on Rush Creek, a Class II trout stream, and 1,127 feet of two-bank frontage on Cooley Creek, a Class I trout stream. This large contiguous block of oak forest provides critical habitat for forest-interior birds and stopover habitat within the Upper Mississippi River Flyway bird migration corridor. It is also adjacent to the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and will provide additional recreational opportunities for the public. The parcel has frontage on Rush Creek Road, which forms a portion of the northern property boundary and will provide public access to the parcel.

The Rush Creek Natural Area, which is located 30 miles south of La Crosse in Crawford County, was established in 1980 with the purchase of a 1,100-acre tract from The Nature Conservancy. The goals of the Rush Creek project are to protect and manage native plant and animal communities and provide opportunities for public recreation and natural history education. The project contains a series of dry and dry mesic prairies surrounded by upland forest on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River and lowland forests on the valley floors. Several state-threatened species are protected within the project, and several forest-interior bird species nest at the site. Turkey, deer, squirrel, and ruffed grouse are also found on the property. The area is used by school groups and the general public for nature study, for scientific purposes by researchers, and for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, bird watching and hiking.

The Statewide Streambank Protection Area program was established in 1991 to protect and improve water resources and fisheries throughout Wisconsin. This project was designed to protect stream bank corridors and secure public fishing access while protecting and improving water quality. The addition of this parcel will provide additional stream frontage for public fishing.

The department recommends acceptance of this donation to consolidate department ownership and provide opportunities for public recreation.

3. <u>LAND MANAGEMENT</u>:

The parcel would be managed with the surrounding Rush Creek Natural Area. Management goals for the parcel would include management for natural communities that may exist on the property, maintaining the oak forest with an occasional prescribed burn to maintain oak and stimulate rare understory plant species, and sweeping the area to find, locate, and control invasive plant species. Currently the parcel adds to the workload of managing adjacent lands because firebreaks need to go around this block rather than just including it within a larger unit using blufftop roads as firebreaks. By including this parcel, management will be more efficient and effective. Maintenance and overall property management activities will be overseen by Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) staff. Funding for management is anticipated to come from both gifts and grants obtained by the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation.

4. <u>FINANCING</u>:

No funding is required for this transaction.

5. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE RUSH CREEK NATURAL AREA:

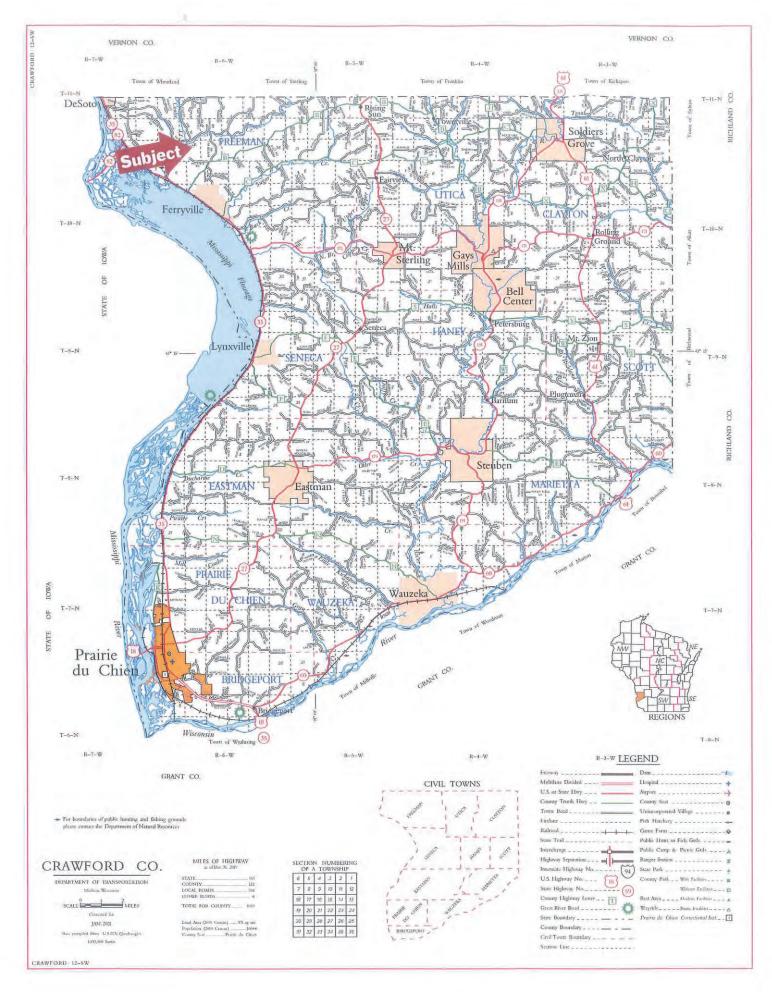
Established: 1980

Acres Purchased to Date: 2,652.98

Acquisition Goal: 7,775.00 Percent Complete: 34.12 % Cost to Date: \$3,599,338.80

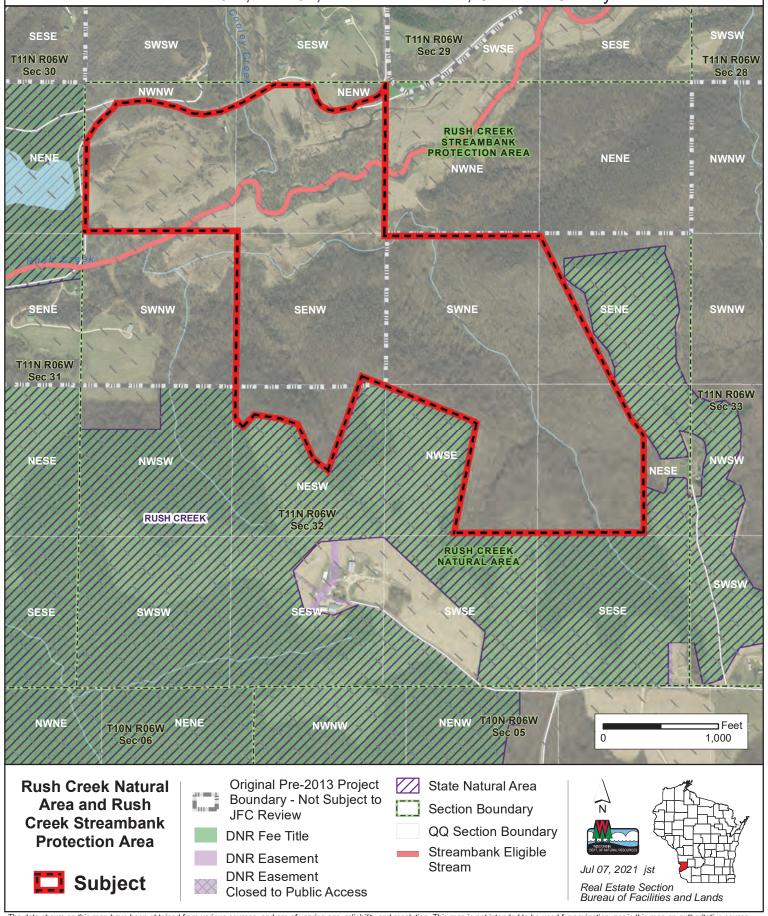
RECOMMENDED:

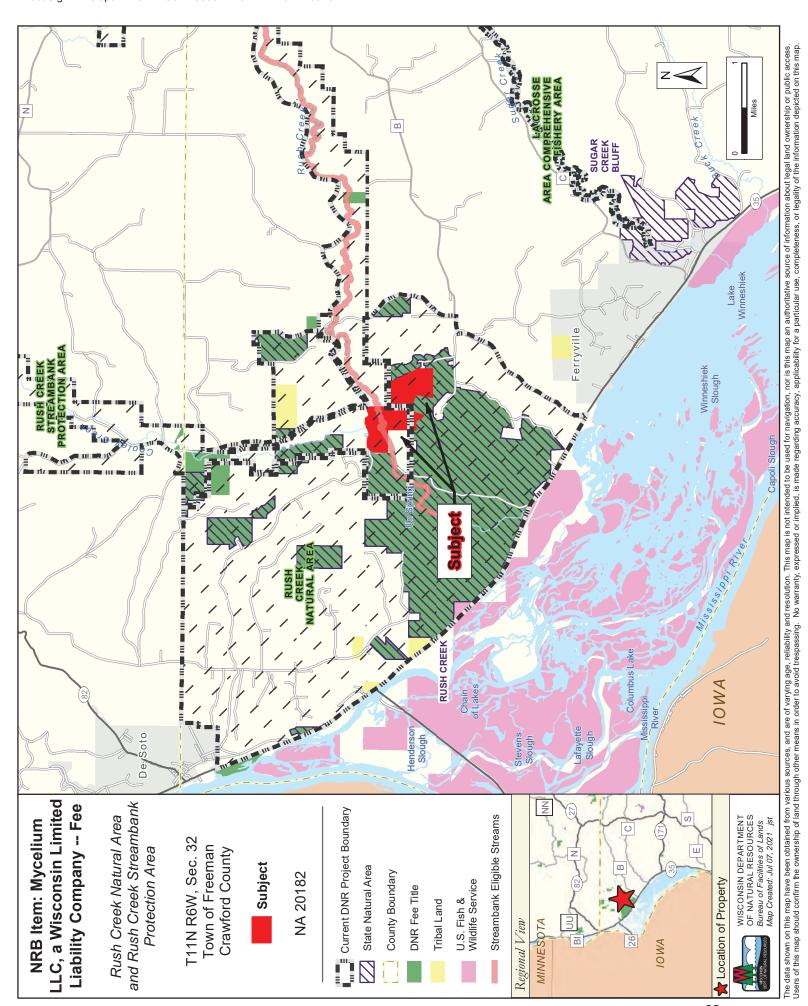
terry H. Bay F21082F90846464	7/13/2021 8:14 PM CDT
Terry H. Bay, Bureau Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands	Date
Diane L. Milligan E031E75D4B9E436	7/13/2021 4:57 PM CDT
Diane L. Milligan, Bureau of Legal Services	Date
DocuSigned by: I malfur C. Caefe D79205F7A747460	7/23/2021 9:10 AM CDT
Timothy C. Cooke, Internal Services Division Administrator	Date



NRB Item: Mycelium LLC, a Wisconsin Limited Liability Company -- Fee

T11N R6W, Sec. 32, Town of Freeman, Crawford County



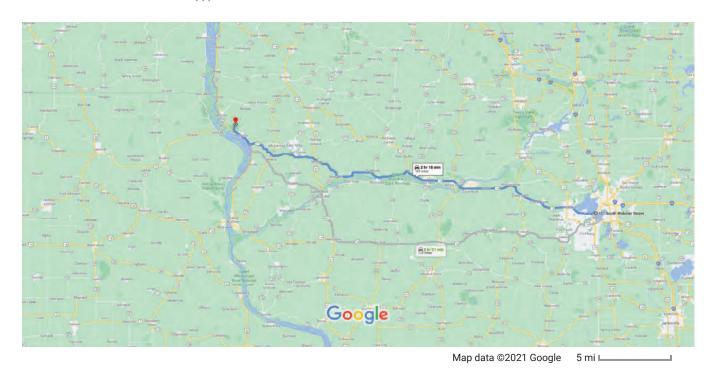




101 South Drive 104 miles, 2 hr 18 min Webster Street, Madison, WI to Freeman, WI

Cancel

Print



101 S Webster St

Madison, WI 53703

Take University Ave, US-14 W, WI-60 Trunk W and County Hwy W to Rush Creek Rd in Freeman

,		order order ra reeman	
		2 hr 14 min (10	2 mi)
1	1.	Head northwest on S Webster St toward E Mair	า St
		0	.2 mi
ኻ	2.	S Webster St turns slightly left and becomes E Dayton St	
			315 ft
₽	3.	Turn right onto N Pinckney St	
		0	.1 mi
4	4.	Turn left at the 2nd cross street onto E Gorham	St
		0	.5 mi
٣	5.	E Gorham St turns slightly right and becomes University Ave	
		0	.8 mi
L →	6.	Keep right to continue on Campus Dr	
		1	.2 mi

1		Continue onto University Ave Pass by Valvoline Instant Oil Change (on the right i mi)	
1	8.	Continue straight to stay on University Ave	-3.4 mi
1	9	Continue onto US-14 W	-2.4 mi
4	10.	Turn left onto WI-60 Trunk W	42.0 mi
r	11.		19.5 mi
4	12.	Turn left to stay on County Hwy W	−1.0 mi
4	13.	Turn left to stay on County Hwy W	0.8 mi
Ļ	14.	Turn right onto US-61 N	-5.3 mi
4	15.	,	
Þ	16.		12.0 mi
4	17.	Turn left onto Stoney Point Rd	0.6 mi
4	18.	Turn left onto WI-171 W/WI-171 Trunk W	-3.5 mi
L	19.	Turn right onto WI-35 N/Great River Rd	-3.4 mi
L	20.	Turn right onto Rush Creek Rd Destination will be on the left	-5.2 mi

Freeman

Wisconsin

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.

4 min (1.7 mi)