

**SUBJECT: LAND DONATION AND PROJECT BOUNDARY MODIFICATION – CHIWAUKEE PRAIRIE  
NATURAL AREA – KENOSHA COUNTY**

**FOR: OCTOBER 2011 BOARD MEETING**

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Richard Steffes

**SUMMARY:** The Nature Conservancy has offered to donate 4.42 acres of land to the Department for the Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area. The parcel is known as Barnes Prairie and is located a short distance west of the main part of the project.

The land is an important Lake Michigan wetland prairie complex. The Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Beach Natural Area is located south of the City of Kenosha and borders Lake Michigan and the Illinois state line. The 4.42 acres are covered by a natural area conservation easement and articles of dedication that were approved by the Governor in 2004. The Department desires ownership in order to manage the prairie habitat along with nearby state land.

Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area was established in 1985 as a cooperative project with the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and The Nature Conservancy. The project protects the natural area values of the area while providing public access for scientific, educational, and limited recreational use. The project is a ridge and swale-wetland complex formed by a series of beach ridges and dunes left by receding water levels of Glacial Lake Chicago. Most of the area is wetland, which includes scarce prairie wetland and fens that have changed little in the last 250 years. Rare plants and animals, including several state-listed species, live here. The Chiwaukee Prairie area has been recognized as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service.

Barnes Prairie is a small remnant of a once extensive wet mesic prairie which stretched for seven miles along the coast of Lake Michigan in Kenosha County, Wisconsin and into the state of Illinois. Larger examples of this prairie type exist to the south on Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy lands that are known as Chiwaukee Prairie and Illinois Beach State Park. Rare species such as Ohio goldenrod, smooth phlox and tuberous indian plaintain are present at Barnes Prairie.

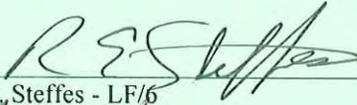
Acceptance of this gift of land from The Nature Conservancy will allow for natural area management, protect the natural values of the site, and provide opportunities for public recreation. The Department also has a proposed donation of .4 acres from James and Roberta Whitlock, which adjoins the TNC gift.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board accept the donation of 4.42 acres of land for the Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area and approve a project boundary modification to include the parcel.

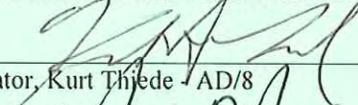
**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- |  |   |   |          |
|--|---|---|----------|
| 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 |

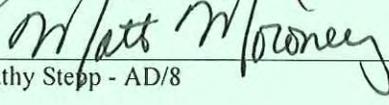
**APPROVED:**

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

9-19-11  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8

9-22-11  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8

10/5/11  
Date

- cc: S. Miller – LF/6  
R. Steffes – LF/6  
L. Ross – AD/5  
L. Osterndorf - ER/6  
J. Hammen - Milwaukee

## CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 19, 2011  
 TO: Natural Resources Board  
 FROM: Cathy Stepp  
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, The Nature Conservancy  
 Tract, File NA 20067

FILE REF: NA 20067

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area  
 Kenosha County

Grantor:

The Nature Conservancy  
 Attn: Patricia Stocking  
 533 Main St.  
 Madison, WI 53703

Acres: 4.42Price: GiftInterest: Fee TitleImprovements: NoneLocation: The property is located one mile south of the City of Kenosha.Land Description: The subject land is level.

<u>Covertypes Breakdown:</u>	Type:	Acreage:
	Wet Prairie	4.42

Zoning: Natural and Scientific Resource Conservancy DistrictPresent Use: Vacant landProposed Use: Natural Area Protection and Public Outdoor RecreationTenure: Long TermAgreement Date: April 7, 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:

The Department has opportunity to accept a 4.42 acre gift of land for the Statewide Natural Area Program from The Nature Conservancy to protect an important Lake Michigan wetland prairie complex and for public recreation. Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area is located south of the City of Kenosha and borders

Lake Michigan and the Illinois state line. The Department recommends acceptance of the parcel to allow for natural area management, to protect the natural values of the site, and to provide opportunities for public recreation on the state natural area.

Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area was established in 1985 as a cooperative project with the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and The Nature Conservancy. The project will protect the natural area values of the property while providing public access for scientific, educational, and limited recreational use. The project is a ridge and swale-wetland complex formed by a series of beach ridges and dunes left by receding water levels of Glacial Lake Chicago. Most of the area is wetland, which includes scarce prairie wetland and fens that have changed little in the last 250 years. Rare plants and animals, including several state-listed species, live here. The Chiwaukee Prairie area has been recognized as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service.

Barnes Prairie, a unit of the Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area, is a small remnant of a once extensive wet mesic prairie which stretched for seven miles along the coast of Lake Michigan in Kenosha County, Wisconsin and into the state of Illinois. Larger examples of this prairie type exist to the south and east on Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy lands that are known as Chiwaukee Prairie and Illinois Beach State Park. Rare species such as Ohio goldenrod, smooth phlox and tuberous indian plaintain are present at Barnes Prairie.

The Department recommends the acceptance of this gift of land from The Nature Conservancy to allow for natural area management, to protect the natural values of the site, and to provide opportunities for public recreation.

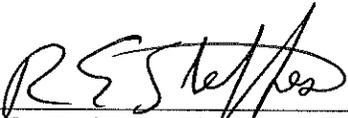
3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE CHIWAUKEE PRAIRIE NATURAL AREA

Established: 1985  
Acres Purchased to Date: 449.58  
Acquisition Goal: 4000 acres  
Percent Complete: 112 %  
Cost to Date: \$2,164,383

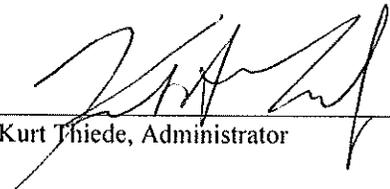
RECOMMENDED:

  
Richard E. Steffes, Real Estate Director

9-19-11  
Date

  
Kris Hess, Bureau of Legal Services

9/20/11  
Date

  
Kurt Thiede, Administrator

9/22/11  
Date

## *Acknowledgment Of Gift*

This is to certify that at its October 2011 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 4.42 acres of land in Kenosha County for the Chiwaukee Prairie-Carol Natural Area from

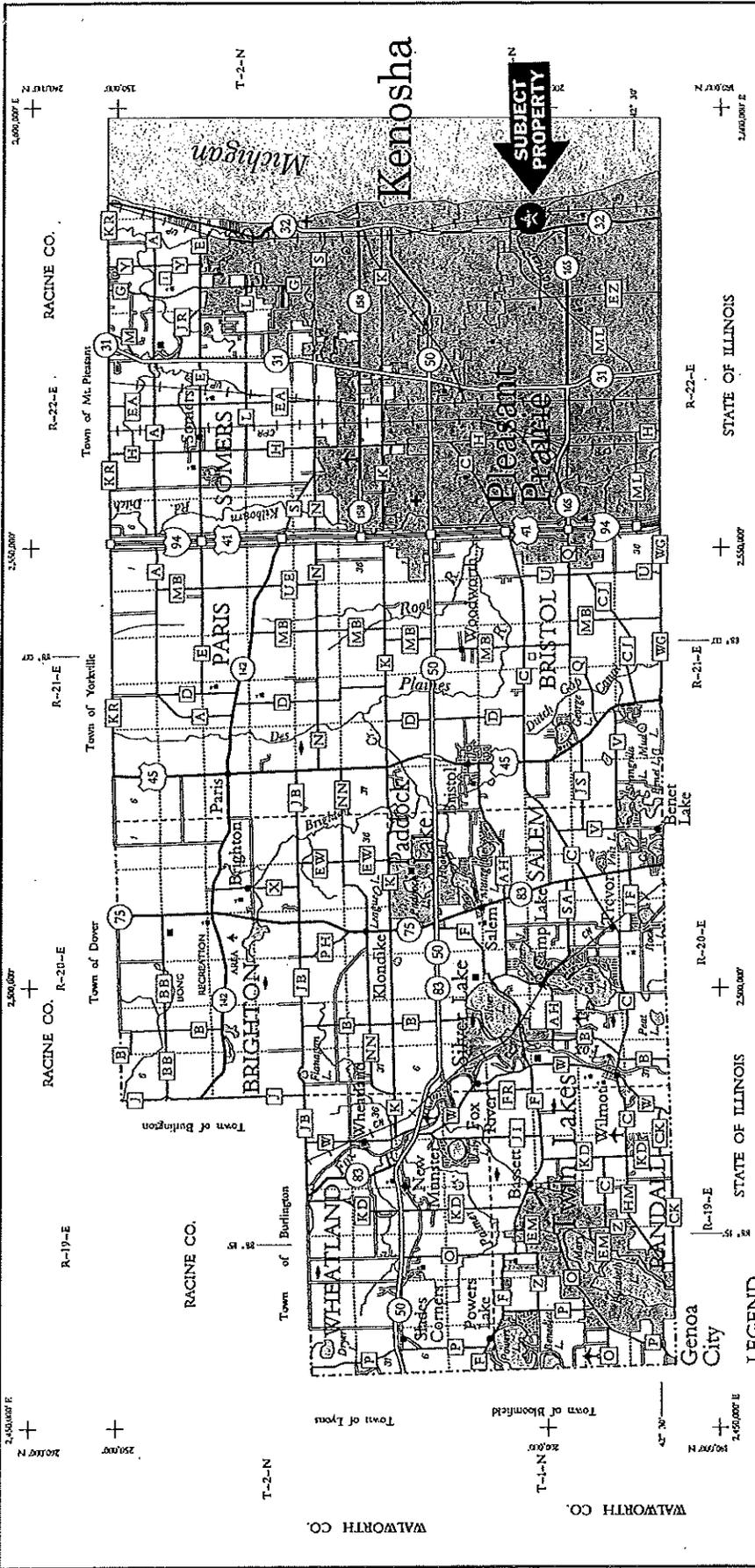
**The Nature Conservancy**

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*

David Clausen, Chair



- LEGEND**
- Freeway
  - Multiple Divided
  - U.S. or State Hwy
  - County Trunk Hwy
  - Town Road
  - Firelane
  - Railroad
  - Interchange
  - Highway Separation
  - Interstate Highway No.
  - U.S. Highway No.
  - State Highway No.
  - County Highway Letter
  - County Boundary
  - County Boundary
  - County Boundary
  - Section Line
  - Dam
  - Hospital
  - Schools
  - Airport
  - County Seat
  - Unincorporated Village
  - Fish Hatchery
  - Game Farm
  - Public Hunt or Fish Crd.
  - Public Camp & Phone Crd.
  - Ranger Station
  - State Park
  - County Park
  - Recreation Facility
  - Recreation Facility
  - Wayside
  - Wayside
  - Unit of Wisconsin - Parkside

**SECTION NUMBERING OF A TOWNSHIP**

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36

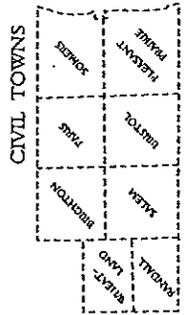


**MILES OF HIGHWAY as of Dec. 31, 1942**

STATE..... 19  
 COUNTY..... 203  
 LOCAL ROADS..... 648  
 OTHER ROADS..... 0  
 TOTAL FOR COUNTY..... 1048

Land Area (2480 Acres)..... 272 sq. mi.  
 Population (2000 Census)..... 141,577  
 County Seat..... Kenosha

**KENOSHA CO.**  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
 Madison, Wisconsin  
 SCALE 0 1 2 MILES  
 Corrected for JAN. 1944  
 Base compiled from U.S.G.S. Quadrangle 155180 Series



# The Nature Conservancy Fee Gift

Barnes Prairie/Chiwaukee Prairie  
Natural Area

NA 20067

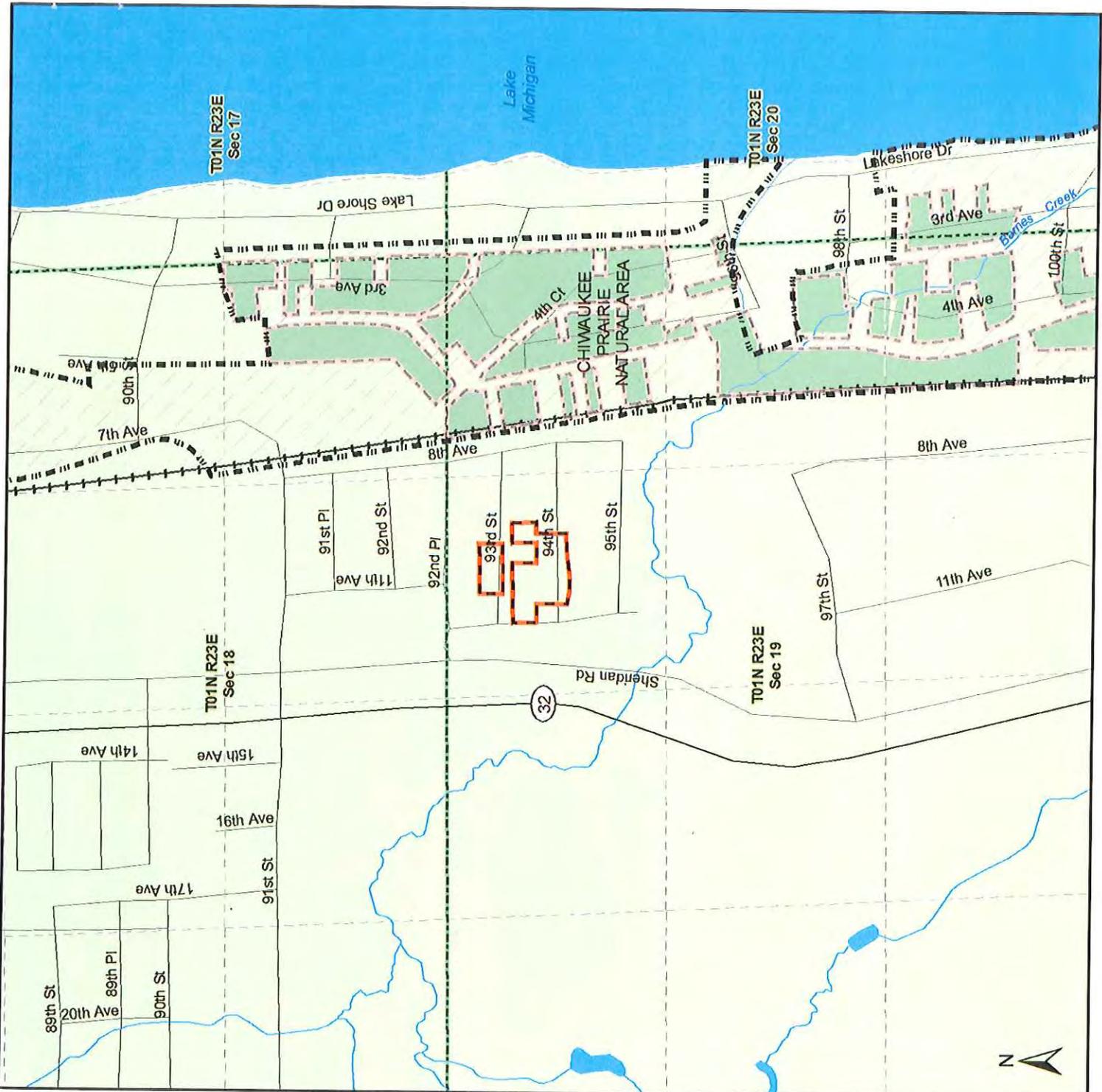
T01N R23E Section 19  
Village of Pleasant Prairie  
Kenosha County  
(4.42 acres--deed)

 Subject Parcel

-  Project Boundary
-  State Natural Area
-  WDNR Owned
-  PLSS Section Line
-  QQ Section Boundary



 Subject Property



# The Nature Conservancy Fee Gift

T01N R23E Section 19, Village of Pleasant Prairie, Kenosha County



## Barnes Prairie/ Chiwaukee Prairie Natural Area

 Subject Parcel

-  DNR Project Boundary
-  State Natural Area
-  DNR Owned
-  Section Line
-  1/4-1/4 Section Line





April 19, 2011  
Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands