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Native broadleaf cattails and hybrid/narrow leaved cattails can both dominate marshes, but they produce radically different physical structures, which have consequences for biodiversity and nutrient cycling.

← Native Typha latifolia in both deep and shallow marsh settings tends to be shorter, and grows less densely. These types of marshes seem to have become much less common to the point where seeing it is almost noteworthy.

Common issues (sites overwhelmed with hybrid cattail, narrow-leaved cattail, and Eurasian giant reed)



Most of our cattails seem to be hybrid *Typha* x *glauca*.

←Hybrid cattail forms extremely dense, tall monospecific stands which, in turn support fewer invertebrates, and fewer species of birds than more diverse marshes. Thick layers of dead plant material also maintain a cool environment in the root zone, which reduces microbial activity. Most of our marsh and sedge meadow natural areas in Racine and Kenosha counties are >95% hybrid cattail.

Typha x glauca from the Tichigan Wildlife Area.

Common issues (buckthorn)



- Affecting "oak ecosystems," prairies, and some wetlands (common buckthorn)
- Affecting low prairies, fens, sedge meadows, and bogs (glossy buckthorn)
- Loss of diversity
- No oak regeneration, mature trees in decline
- Lack of herbaceous vegetation and loss of leaf litter (high nitrogen buckthorn litter and earthworms)
- Alteration of aquatic foodwebs with buckthorn litter inputs
- Embryo mortality and malformation in chorus frogs; other deleterious effects on plants, mammals and birds (emodin from buckthorn)

Common issues (Oriental Bittersweet)



Common issues (woody encroachment in general)



Extreme Deer Tick Numbers



It's not all bad.



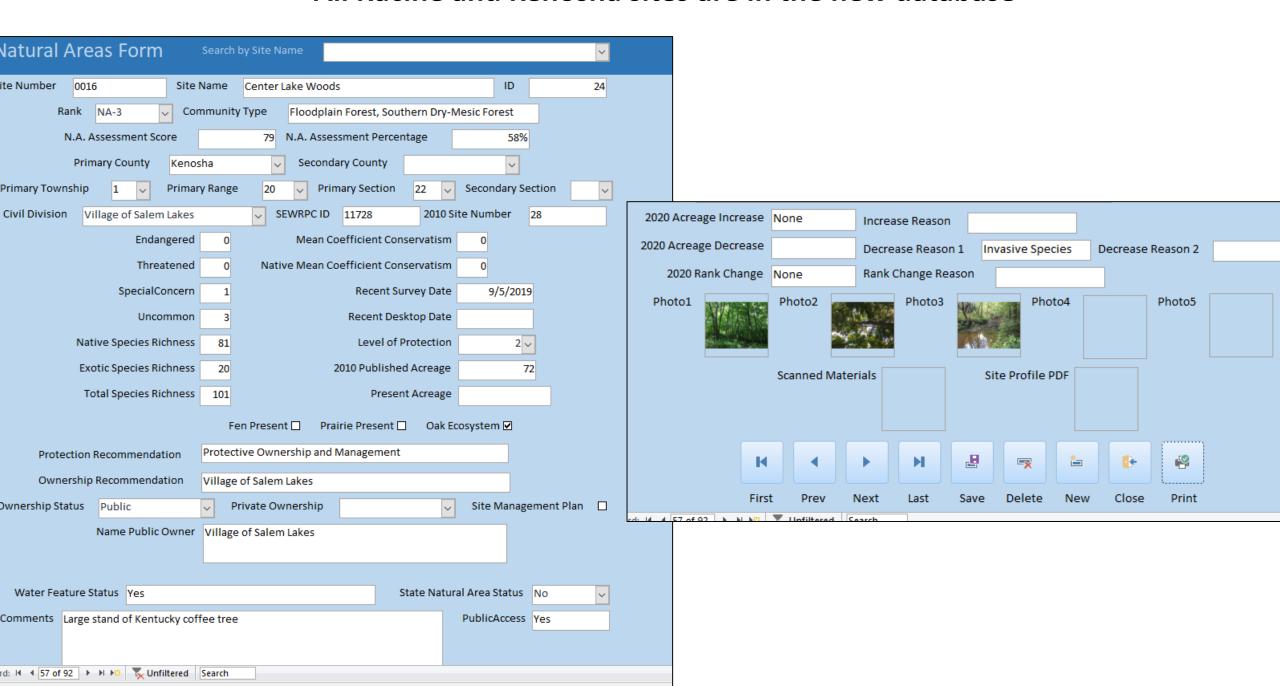








All Racine and Kenosha sites are in the new database



Sites (10) Recommended for Removal in Kenosha County

SiteName	Rank	County	Score	Percent	2010#	Acres	Loss Reason	Other Comment
Elizabeth Lake Lowlands	XNA-2	Kenosha	0	0.00%	8	48	Invasive Species	Typha x glauca / T. angustifolia, Phragmites
Peterson Creek Sedge								
Meadow	XNA-3	Kenosha	37	37.00%	37	69	Invasive Species	Typha x glauca / T. angustifolia
Dong Low Drainia	VNIA 2	Kanasha	15	1F 000/	20	2	Invasive Species / Woody	Erongulo olnus
Bong Low Prairie	XNA-3	Kenosha	15	15.00%	39		Encroachment	Frangula alnus
Paris (Ehlen) Prairie						_		0
Remnant	XNA-3	Kenosha	12	12.00%	40	1	Agriculture	Simply gone
Harris Marsh and Oak Woods	XNA-3	Kenosha	63	47.00%	9	237	Invasive Species	Original biotic structure gone
Friendship Lake Marsh	XNA-2	Kenosha	32	32.00%	20	119	Invasive Species	Typha x glauca / T. angustifolia
CTH NN Sedge Meadow	XNA-2	Kenosha	34	34.00%	21	60	Invasive Species	Typha x glauca / T. angustifolia
Hooker Lake Marsh	XNA-3	Kenosha	26	26.00%	25	47	Invasive Species	Typha x glauca / T. angustifolia
CTH B-CTH AH Sedge								Typha x glauca / T. angustifolia,
Meadow	XNA-3	Kenosha	20	20.00%	27	12	Invasive Species	Phragmites
Salem Road Marsh	XNA-3	Kenosha	20	20.00%	30	27	Invasive Species	Typha x glauca / T. angustifolia

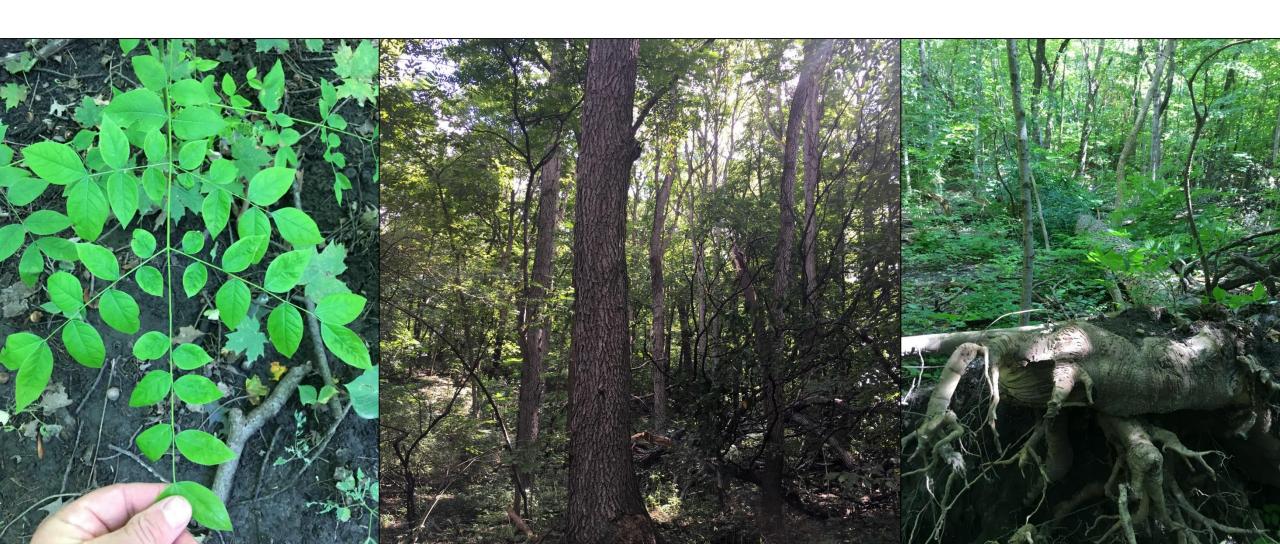
Sites (2) Recommended for Rank Downgrades in Kenosha County

SiteName	New Rank	Old Rank	County	Score	Percent	Site #	Acres	Rank Change Reason	Other Comment
									Typha x glauca / T.
Camp Lake Marsh	NA-3	NA-2	Kenosha	46	46.00%	10	292	invasive species	angustifolia, Phragmites
									Much of originally mapped
									area now conists of
									dogwood-buckthorn-grape-
Benedict Prairie	NA-3	NA-2	Kenosha	54	54.00%	12	6	Invasive Species	blackberry thicket;



Other Changes in Kenosha County:

Center Lake Woods and Wetlands (2010 #28) becomes Center Lake Woods. The wetland is invasive-dominated. The woods merits retention as a natural area. It supports a previously unknown large population of Kentucky coffee tree.



Other Changes in Kenosha County:

Consolidate Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area into two sites, Kenosha Dunes and Low Prairie and Chiwaukee Prairie. In 2010, this was divided into 9 sites.

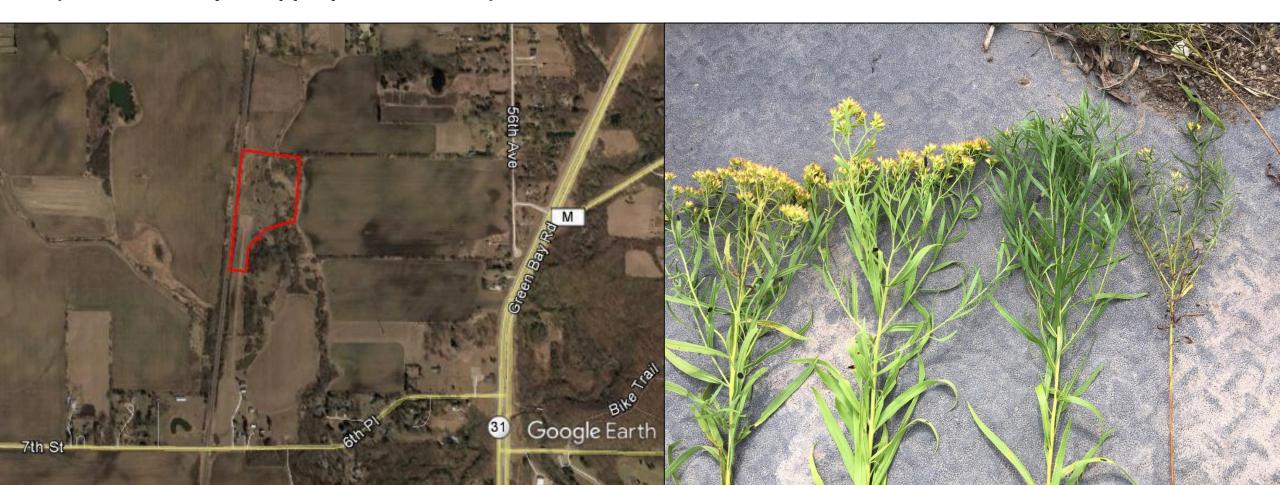
This would be more consistent with the WDNR's site nomenclature and simplify the plan.

Our records/inventories are divided at a smaller scale than even the many separate sites in the 2010 plan, so this doesn't complicate our record keeping. It simplifies it.



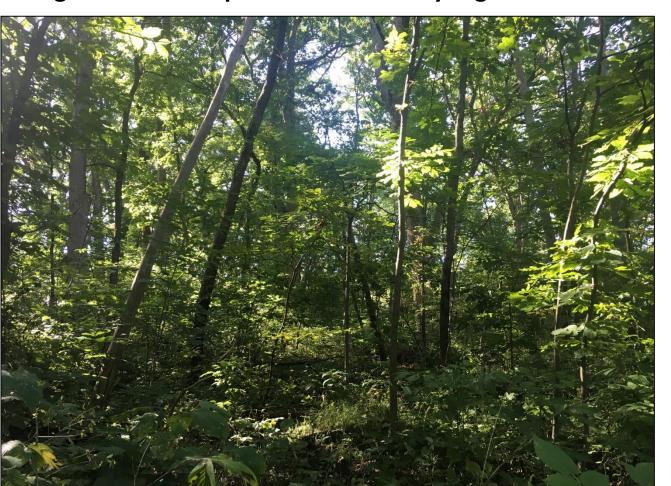
New Natural Area Designations in Kenosha County:

Heide Prairie (NA-1): ~10 acres of mesic to wet-mesic prairie with at least 300 native vascular plant species and many rare/listed species. The site is privately owned, but actively managed. The recommendation is Protective Ownership and Management by a Private Conservancy Organization (easement may be appropriate for now).



New Natural Area Designations in Kenosha County:

Hamilton Woods (CSH to NA-3): Small (18 acres), but one of the larger decent tracts of woods in the Twin Lakes area. There are many large, mature trees (esp. red oak, white oak, and black walnut) and a decent ground layer typical of dry-mesic forest. Acquisition recommendation would change from local government to private conservancy organization.





Sites (10) Recommended for Removal in Racine County

SiteName	Rank	County	Score	Percent	2010#	Acres	Loss Reason	Other Comment
Six Mile Road Swamp	XNA-3	Racine	60	44.00%	46	55	Invasive Species	Utility corridor, EAB, Phragmites
Rosewood Railroad Prairie	XNA-2	Racine	25	25.00%	11	25	Invasive Species / Woody Encroachment, Trail Development	Margins of ROW are brush/exotic species, and center of ROW is trail. A very small remnant still exists in undeveloped area at east in, but not NA quality
Schroeder Road Marsh	XNA-2	Racine	32	32.00%	12	188	Invasive Species	Typha x glauca / T. angustifolia
Burlington Hills Woods	XNA-3	Racine	0	0.00%	25	502	Development / Quarry	Reduced to fragments by residential development and active quarry
Burlington Railroad Prairie	XNA-3	Racine	0	0.00%	26	6	Development	Most lost to Burlington bypass, the small amount remaining will be CSH
Fox River Prairie	XNA-3	Racine	0	0.00%	32	2	Development	Most/best part lost to Burlington bypass
Church Road Lowlands	XNA-3	Racine	25	25.00%	37	24	Invasive Species	Typha x glauca / Typha angustifolia
Eagle Lake Wetlands	XNA-3	Racine	28	28.00%	38	46	Invasive Species	Typha x glauca / Typha angustifolia
Vandenboom Road Marsh	XNA-3	Racine	25	25.00%	39	27	Invasive Species	Typha x glauca / Typha angustifolia
Wind Lake Wet Meadow	XNA-3	Racine	27	27.00%	45	11	Invasive Species	Frangula alnus

Sites (6) Recommended for Rank Downgrades in Racine County

SiteName	New Rank	Old Rank	County	Score	Percent	Site #	Acres	Rank Change Reason	Other Comment
								Invasive Species /	
Kansasville								Woody	>80% woody cover, mostly
Railroad Prairie	NA-3	NA-1	Racine	0	0.00%	2	28	Encroachment	all but the wettest areas
								Invasive Species /	
Franksville								Woody	
Railroad Prairie	NA-3	NA-1	Racine	0	0.00%	3	4	Encroachment	~90% woody cover
Tichigan Fen,									
Springs, and									Frangula alnus, Typha x
Woods	NA-2	NA-1	Racine	60	60.00%	5	131	Invasive Species	glauca / T. angustifolia
									Fen is essentially gone,
									consumed by Frangula
									alnus, Typha x glauca / T.
									angustifolia, and
									Phragmites. Sedge meadow
Karcher Springs									heavily invaded by Frangula
State Natural Area	NA-3	NA-2	Racine	50	50.00%	8	19	Invasive Species	alnus
Union Grove								Woody	
Railroad Prairie	NA-3	NA-2	Racine	66	66.00%	13	44	Encroachment	>60% woody cover
									Floodplain forest decimated
Colonial Park								EAB / Invasive	by EAB and quite a few
Woods	NA-3	NA-2	Racine	72	53.00%	14	94	Species	invasives in that area.





New Natural Area Designations in Racine County:

North Beach dunes (NA-3): Small (~9 acres) remnant of great lakes dune and swale extending northward from North Beach owned by the City of Racine. Dunes are dominated by little bluestem, American beach grass, and beach wormwood. Three State special concern species are also present.



Sites (4) Recommended for Removal in Waukesha County

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SiteName	Rank	County	Score	Percent	2010#	Acres	Loss Reason	Other Comment
Pewaukee Park Sedge								
Meadow	XNA-3	Waukesha	29	29%	96	42	Invasive Species	Typha x glauca / Typha angustifolia
Pewaukee Sedge Meadow	XNA-3	Waukesha	36	36%	95	13	Invasive Species	Typha x glauca / Typha angustifolia
Capital Drive Sedge								Typha x glauca / Typha angustifolia, Phalaris arundinacea, Rhamnus cathartica, Frangula
Meadow and Wet Prairie	XNA-3	Waukesha	40	40%	87	90	Invasive Scecies	alnus; mowed as lawn
Pewaukee Lake Wetland	XNA-3	Waukesha	32	32%	88	65	Invasive Species	Frangula alnus, Typha x glauca / Typha angustifolia

Site Recommended for Rank Downgrade in Waukesha County

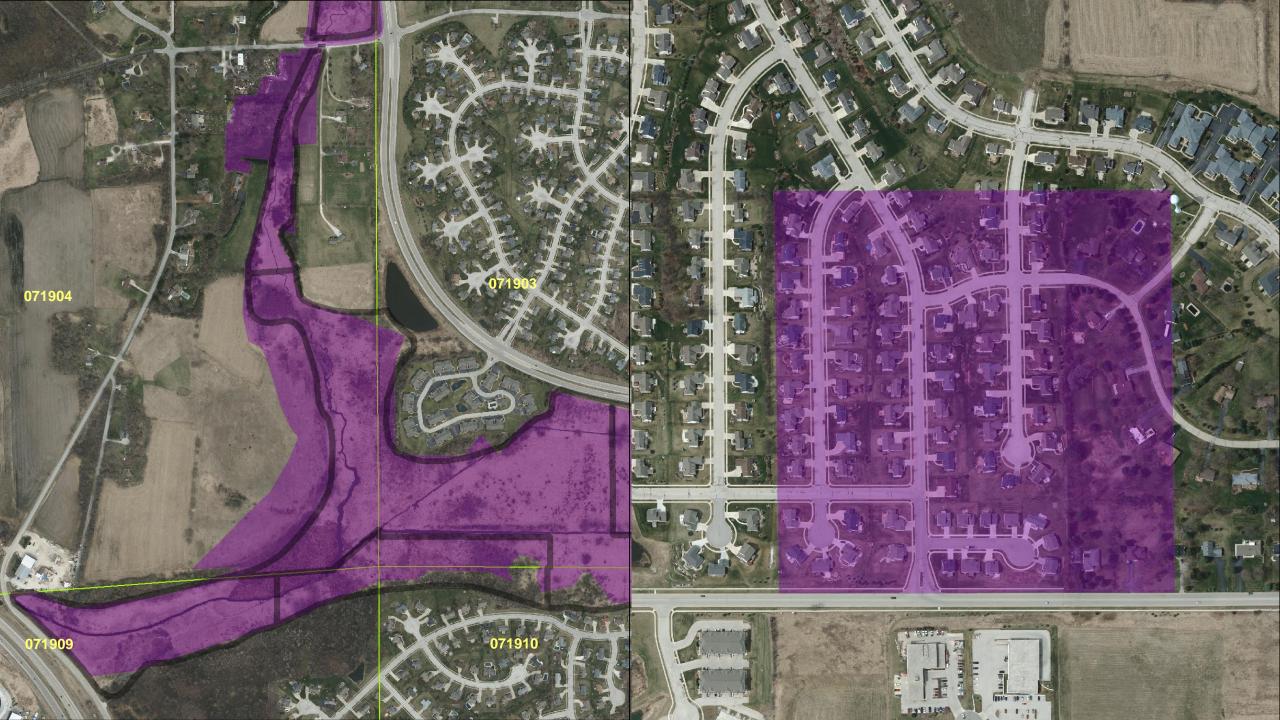
SiteName	New Rank	Old Rank	County	Score	Percent	Site #	Acres	Rank Change Reason	Other Comment
									Typha x glauca / T.
	1			1	1	1			angustifolia, Frangula alnus;
	1			1	1	1			Deer browse is having
Pewaukee Lake	1			1	1	1		Invasive Species	conspicuous negative
Access Fen	NA-3	NA-2	Waukesha	60	60%	35	10	/Deer Browse	effects





Critical Species Habitat—Moving Forward

- The main problems are multiple information sources; that a large fraction of open space, once surveyed, supports at least one critical species; and that species designations change.
- Utilize data from the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI), other sources, and SEWRPC and present those data in a generalized "critical species habitat" layer. Polygons based on information from NHI will carry no species-specific information.
 - 2010 Critical species habitats that still meet the definition will be embedded into this layer and carry their associated 2010 recommendations (except any changes deemed appropriate in this committee).
 - Ultimate publication will be through a data viewer granting access to the generalized layer and as a contextual layer for other mapping efforts (e.g. maps of natural areas made for natural area site profiles.
 - Map independently of natural areas such that some locations would carry both designations.



We are looking for information on whether or not there are monitoring or citizen science efforts pertaining to sites, and who is leading them.



