

Hillmoor Ecological Restoration Plan
Committee of the Whole
Project Update Meeting September 9, 2026



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Hillmoor Property Restoration Plan Objective

NRE's objective is to develop a Ten-Year Ecological Restoration Plan that will serve as a blueprint for the City of Lake Geneva to restore a diverse and resilient ecological landscape capable of supporting a high level of biodiversity and wildlife habitat.



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Updates and Current Status

- Site Assessment and Survey Complete, including mapping of invasive species.
- Preliminary findings and prioritized recommendations.
- What can be accomplished for a stated budget of \$300K over the FIRST three-year period?
- Plan to be completed and submitted in December.



Specific Deliverables to Date

- Figures (maps) – zones and subzones defined.
- Invasive species mapped
- Plant inventory
- Photo documentation
- Site tours with contractors to establish costs
- Coordinate with WDNR officials and engineering partners for wetland & waterway inputs (Zone 1)
- Detailed cost spreadsheets developed
- Four presentations to city officials and Hillmoor Commission

The Process of Ecological Restoration

- ⦿ Patience and Perseverance are required. Trust the Process.
- ⦿ Prepare for stark and rapid visual changes.
- ⦿ Ecological restoration is not always a linear and predictable process.
- ⦿ Surround yourself (and hire) with professionals who have actually done the work before on this scale.
- ⦿ Stay the course – make a financial commitment. No such thing as Zero-Maintenance Vegetation.
- ⦿ Costs reduce over time, but annual maintenance and monitoring will always be required.



Benefits of Ecological Restoration

- Wildlife habitat improvement
- Increase in biodiversity
- Improve soil health
- Improve water quality
- Educational opportunities (volunteers, students, community members)
- Increase resilience to climate change
- Improved Aesthetic



Recommended Priorities

- Oak woodland and oak savana restoration (oak regeneration is currently NOT occurring in Hillmoor woodlands) and black locust removal –Zone 3
- White River corridor – Zone 1
- Prairie restoration – Zones 4 & 5
- Emergent wetland and forested wetland complex – Zone 2



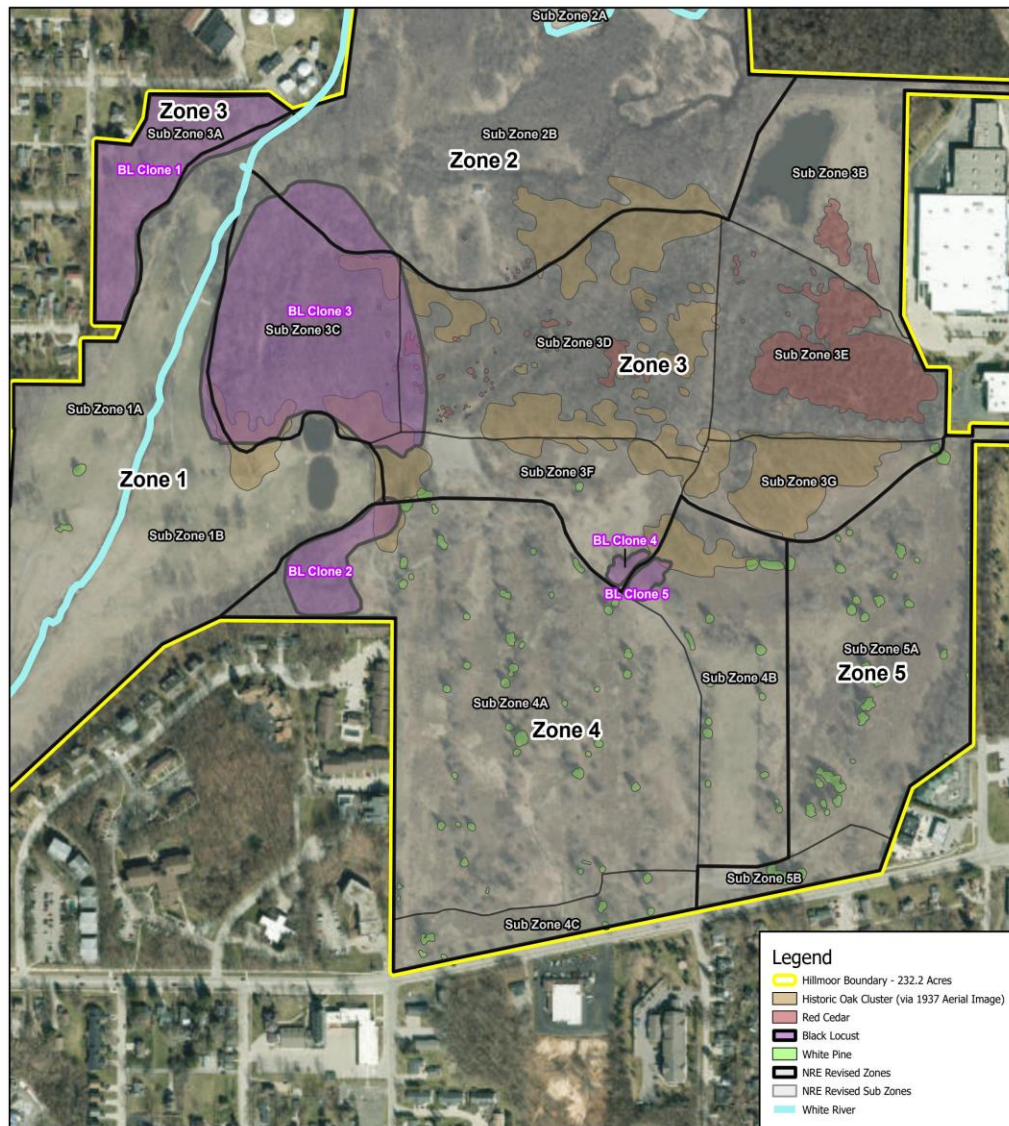
Target plant communities for Restoration

- Oak Savana
- Floodplain Forest
- Sedge Meadow
- Emergent Wetlands
- Upland Tallgrass Prairie



An Altered Landscape. 1937 to 2024





PO Box 127 Holmen, WI 54636
www.nativerange.net

Project Location

333 E. Main Street
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
Section 31 T2N R18E
City of Lake Geneva
Walworth County

88.4219066°W
42.5975091°N

Figure Title

Lake Geneva - Hillmoor
Historic Oak Communities

Landowner

Lake Geneva

1 inch equals 612 feet



Image Sources :
NRE Drone Image 2/10/2026
SE Wisconsin Planning Comm
3/11/2024

0 255 510 1,020
US Feet

Legend

- Hillmoor Boundary - 232.2 Acres
- Historic Oak Cluster (via 1937 Aerial Image)
- Red Cedar
- Black Locust
- White Pine
- NRE Revised Zones
- NRE Revised Sub Zones
- White River

Drawn By:
Daniel Fuhs

Date:
7/7/2026

Project Number:
25075

Figure 8

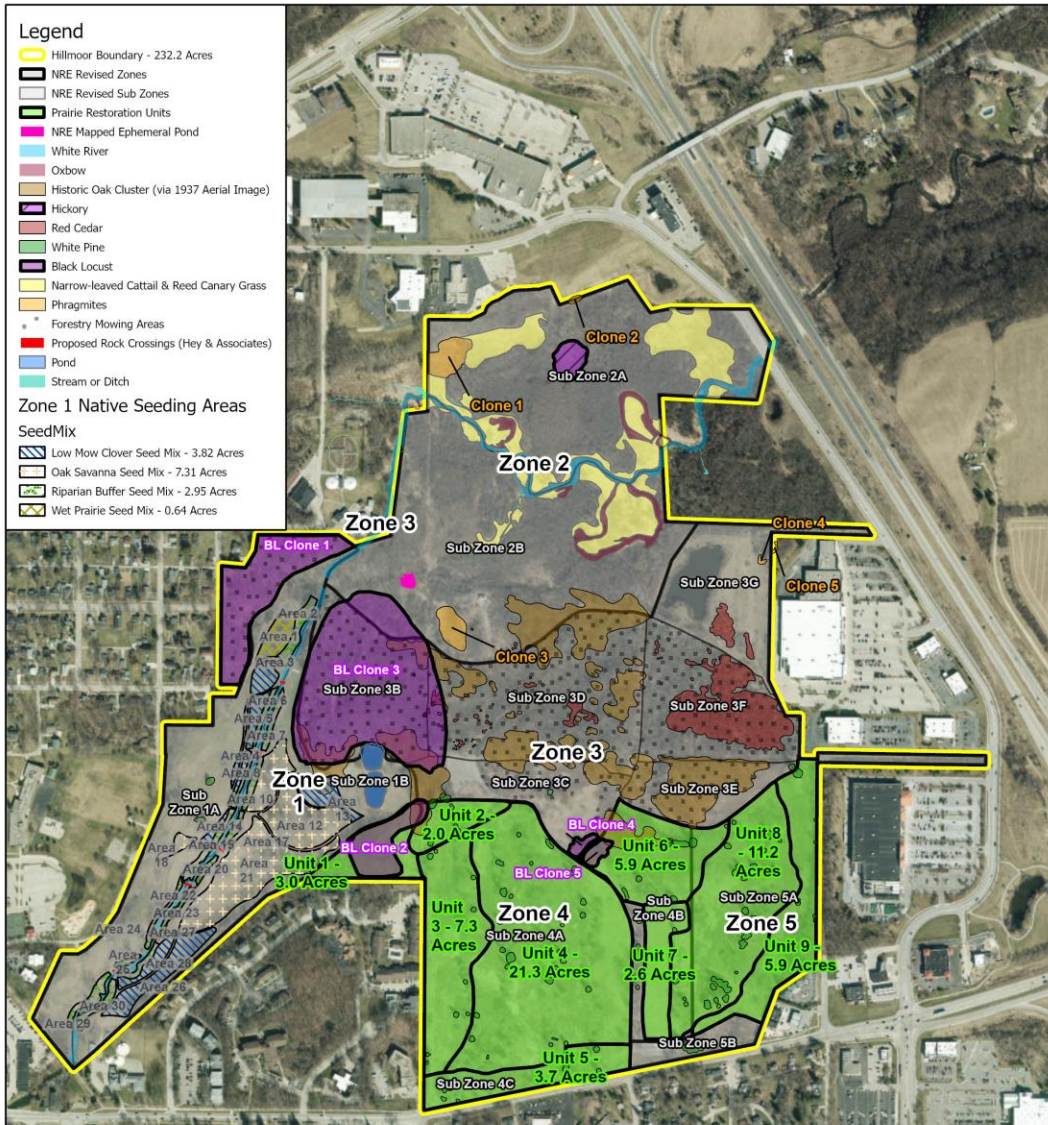
Legend

- Hillmoor Boundary - 232.2 Acres
- NRE Revised Zones
- NRE Revised Sub Zones
- Prairie Restoration Units
- NRE Mapped Ephemeral Pond
- White River
- Oxbow
- Historic Oak Cluster (via 1937 Aerial Image)
- Hickory
- Red Cedar
- White Pine
- Black Locust
- Narrow-leaved Cattail & Reed Canary Grass
- Phragmites
- Forestry Mowing Areas
- Proposed Rock Crossings (Hey & Associates)
- Pond
- Stream or Ditch

Zone 1 Native Seeding Areas

SeedMix

- Low Mow Clover Seed Mix - 3.82 Acres
- Oak Savanna Seed Mix - 7.31 Acres
- Riparian Buffer Seed Mix - 2.95 Acres
- Wet Prairie Seed Mix - 0.64 Acres



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Figure Title

Lake Geneva - Hillmoor
Management Recommendations

Landowner

Lake Geneva

1 inch equals 935 feet



Image Sources :
NRE Drone Image 2/10/2026
SE Wisc Reg Planning Comm
3/11/2024

0 387.5 775 1,550
US Feet

Drawn By:
Daniel Fuhs

Date:
8/5/2026

Project Number:
25075

Figure 16

Woody Invasive Species (WIS) Management

- common buckthorn
- black locust
- Asian honeysuckles
- European alder
- multi-flora rose
- white mulberry
- Siberian elm

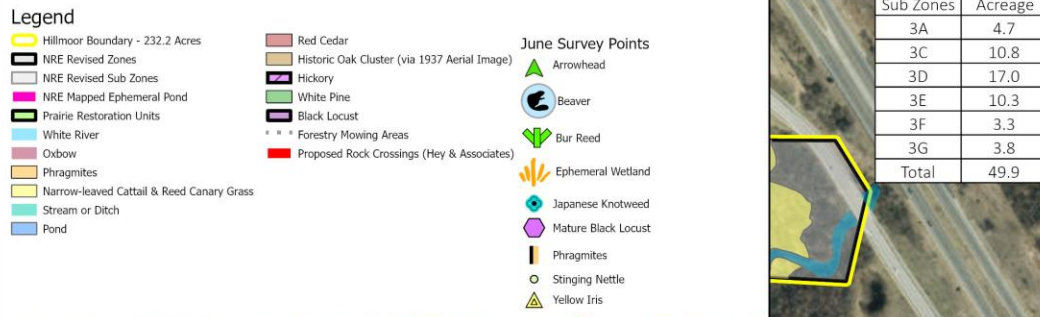
● Management Strategies

- mechanical removal and stump herbicide treatments – DO NOT CUT WIS unless herbicide can be properly applied the same day.
- selective timber harvest (not clear cutting)
- prescribed fire
- Replant native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous native species.

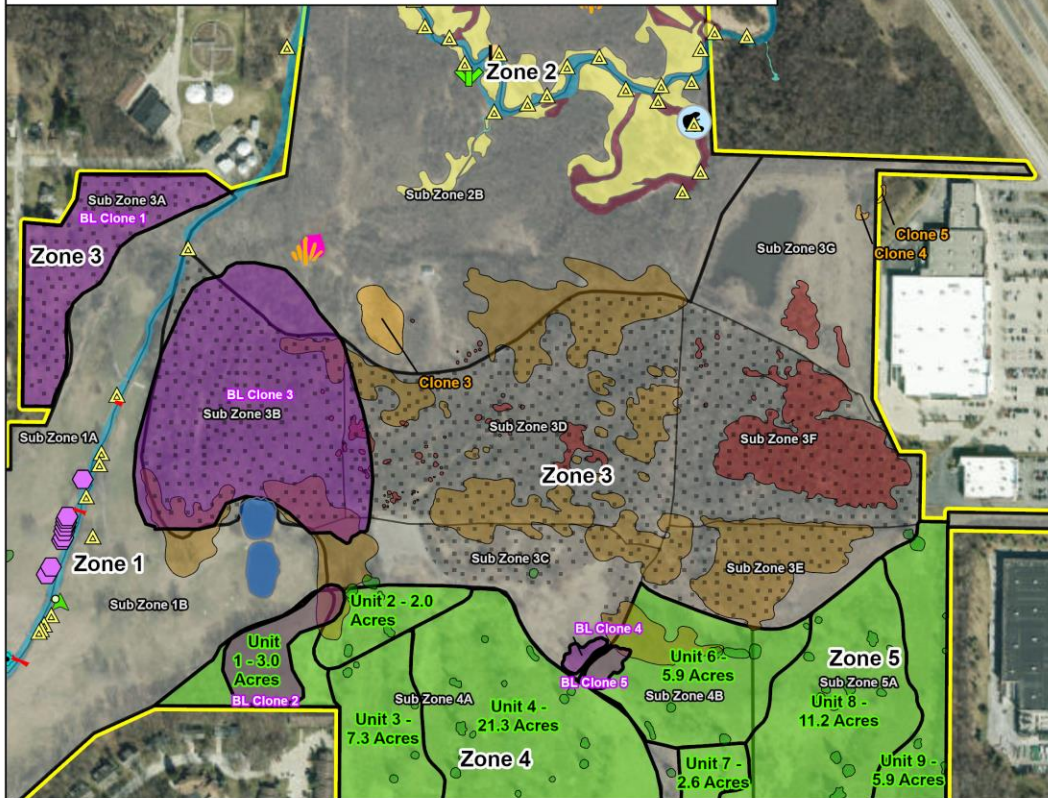
Forest Stand Improvement (FSI)

- Commercial logger with trees marked by a professional forester
- Selectively remove black locust and select lower value native trees
- Merchantable value of black locust and utilization for play structures and in stream structure/aquatic habitat
- Crop tree release
- Opportunity to create new pockets of light for reforestation efforts
- Encourage oak regeneration and growth of higher value native trees (crop trees) such as oaks, maple, hickories, and hackberries





Sub Zones	Acreage
3A	4.7
3C	10.8
3D	17.0
3E	10.3
3F	3.3
3G	3.8
Total	49.9



Recommend WIS Removal and Management for Zone 3.



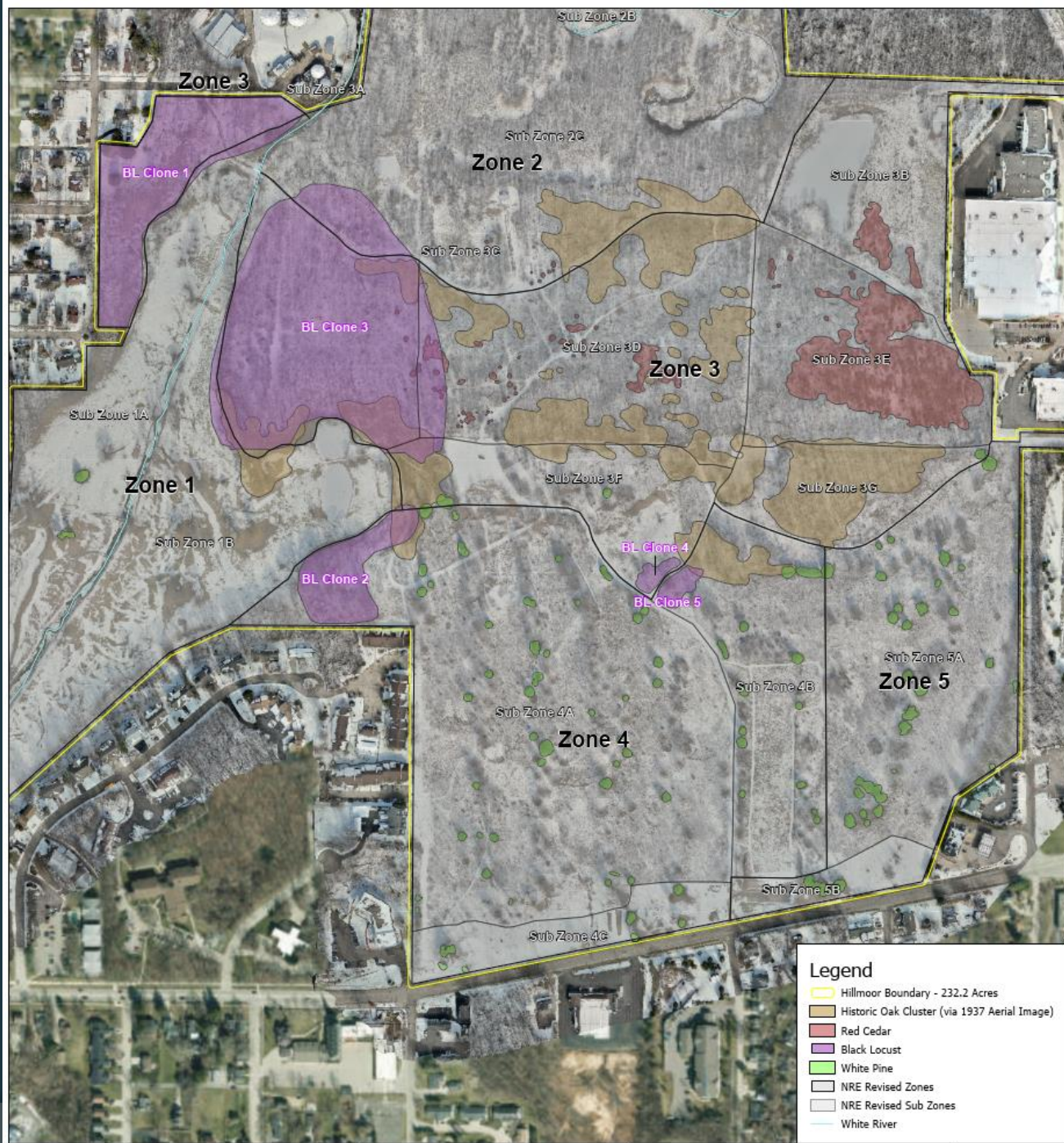
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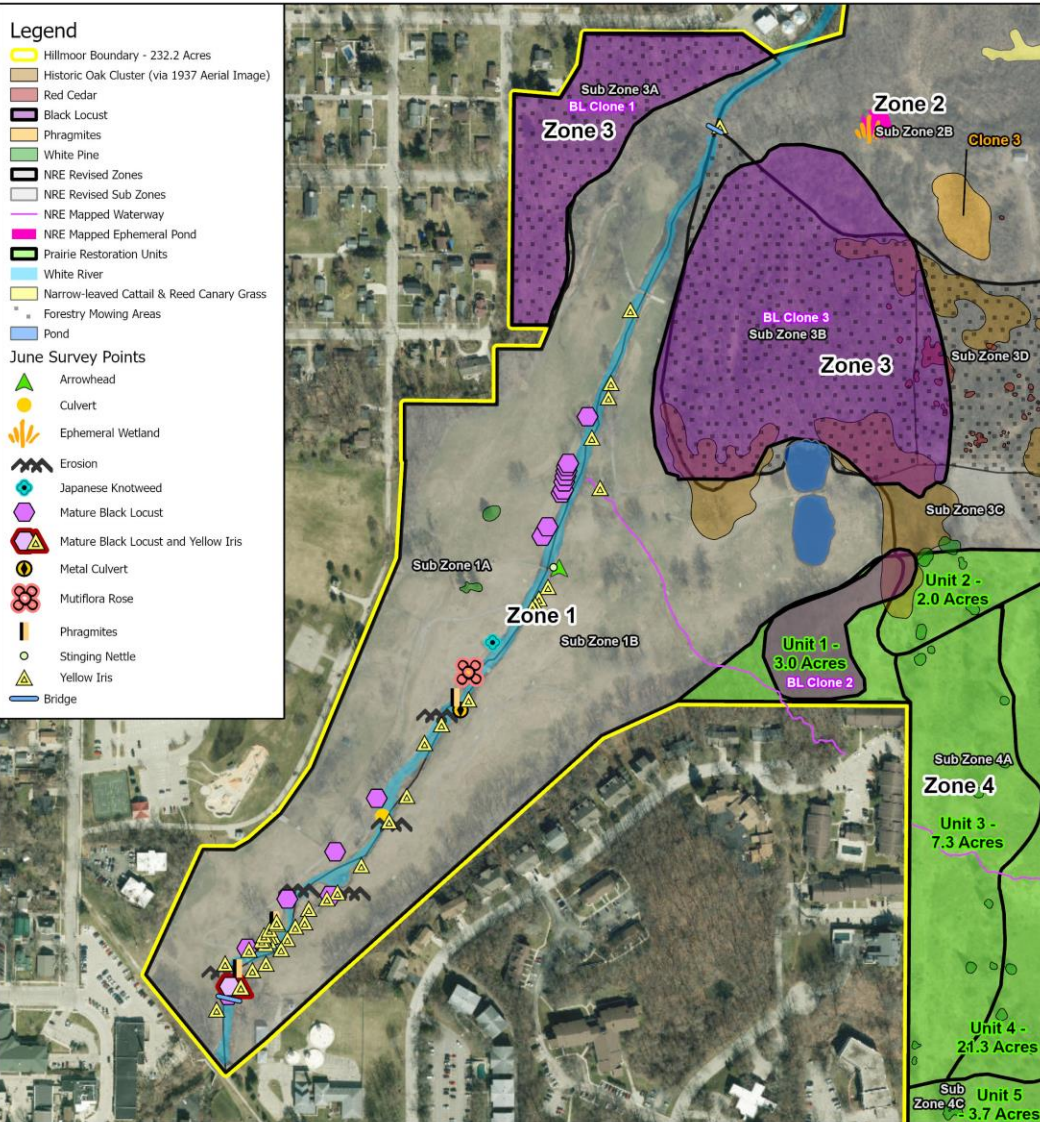
Project Location 333 E. Main Street Lake Geneva, WI 53147 Section 31 T2N R18E City of Lake Geneva Walworth County 88.4219066°W 42.5975091°N	Landowner Lake Geneva		Drawn By: Daniel Fuhs
			Date: 8/5/2026
	1 inch equals 604 feet	Image Sources : NRE Drone Image 2/10/2026 SE Wisc Reg Planning Comm 3/11/2024	Project Number 25075
Figure Title Lake Geneva - Hillmoor - Zone 3	0 250 500 1,000  US Feet		Figure 14



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Historic oaks vs. black locust





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Walworth County

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42.5975091°N

Landowner

Lake Geneva

1 inch equals 479 feet

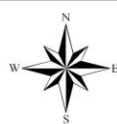


Image Sources :
NRE Drone Image 2/10/2026
SE Wisc Reg Planning Comm
3/11/2024

Drawn By:
Daniel Fuhs

Date:
8/5/2026

Project Number:
25075

Figure Title

Lake Geneva - Hillmoor - Zone 1

0 200 400 800
US Feet

Figure 11









Legend

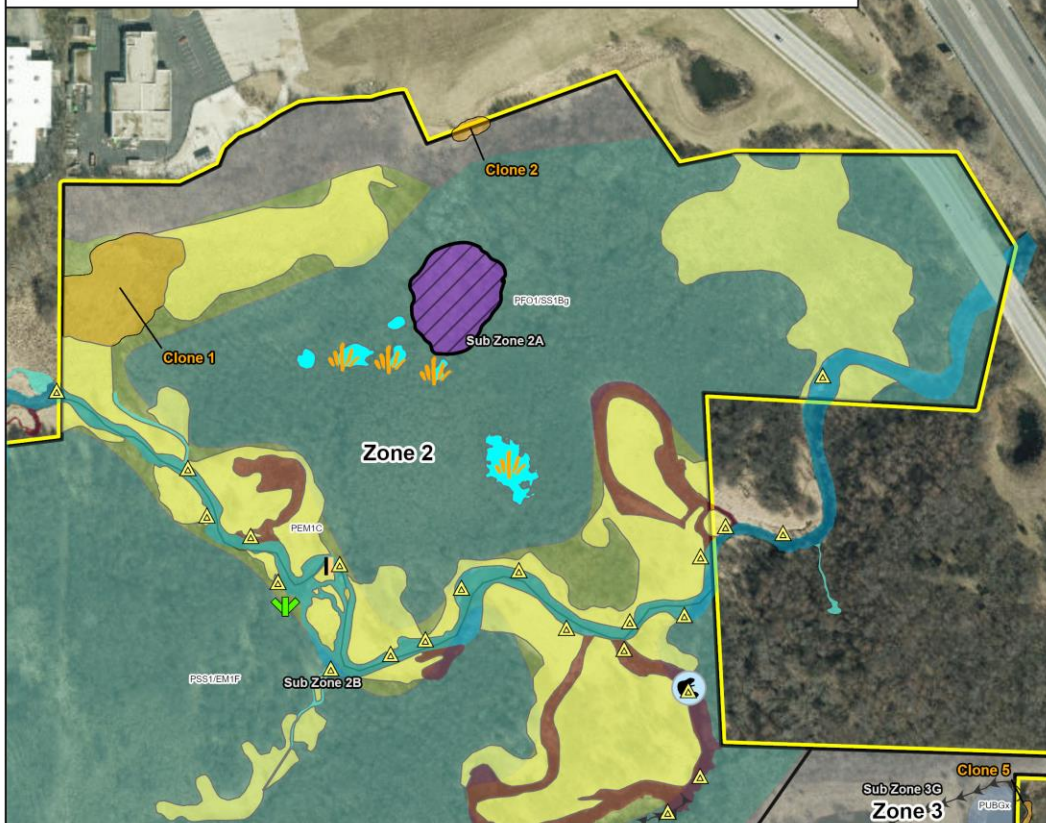
- Hillmoor Boundary - 232.2 Acres
- NRE Revised Zones
- NRE Revised Sub Zones
- Stormwater Flow Pattern
- NRE Ephemeral Wetlands
- NRE Mapped Ephemeral Pond
- White River
- Oxbow
- Phragmites
- Narrow-leaved Cattail & Reed Canary Grass
- Stream or Ditch
- Pond

- Hickory
- June Survey Points**
- Beaver
- ▼ Bur Reed
- ▲ Ephemeral Wetland
- Phragmites
- ▲ Yellow Iris

HillmoorNWI

Wetland Type

- Emergent Wetland
- Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Pond
- Riverine



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Landowner

Lake Geneva

1 inch equals 336 feet

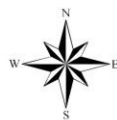


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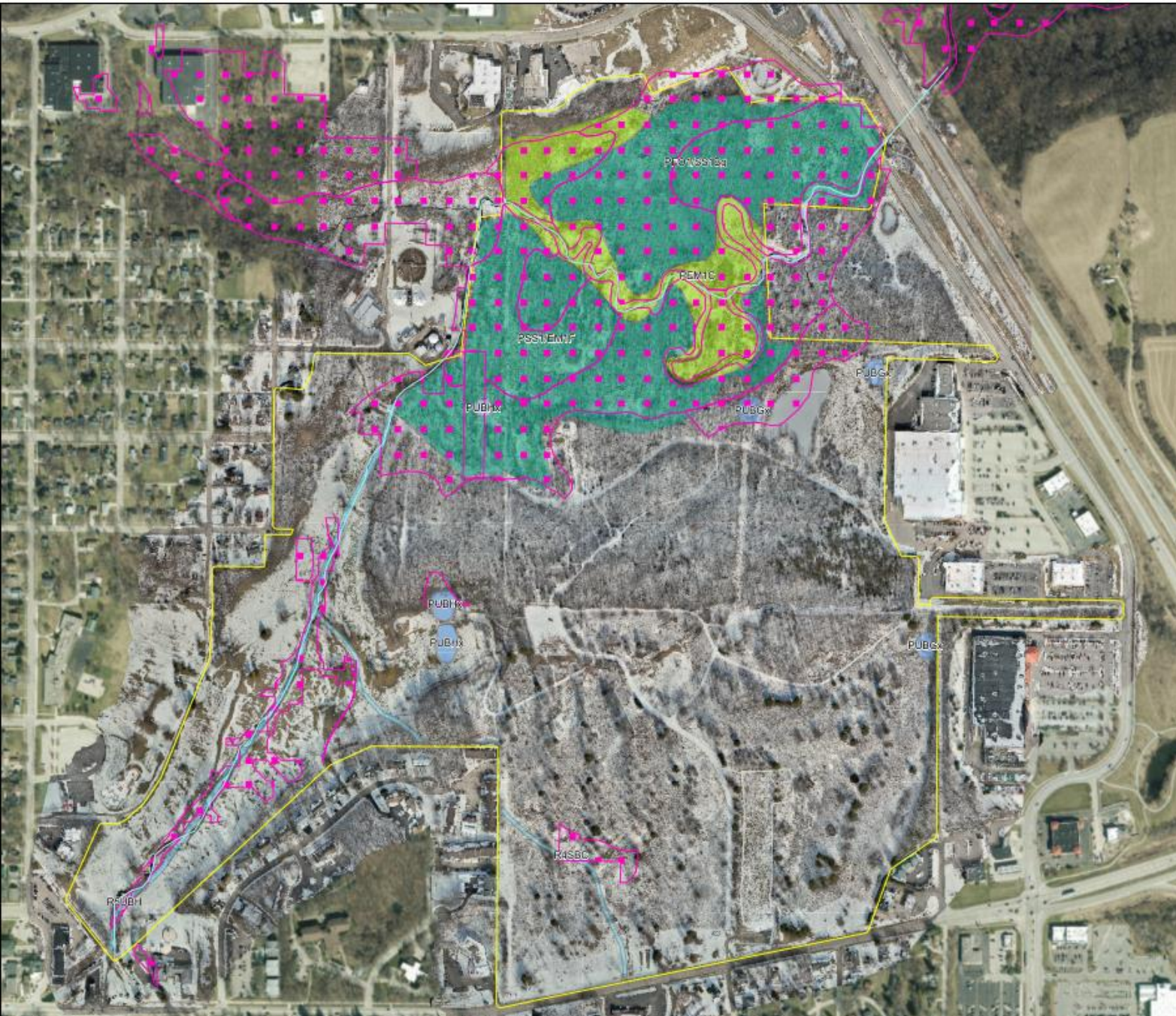
Project Number:
25075

Figure Title

Lake Geneva - Hillmoor - Zone 2A

0 140 280 560
US Feet

Figure 12



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Hillmoor Wetlands



















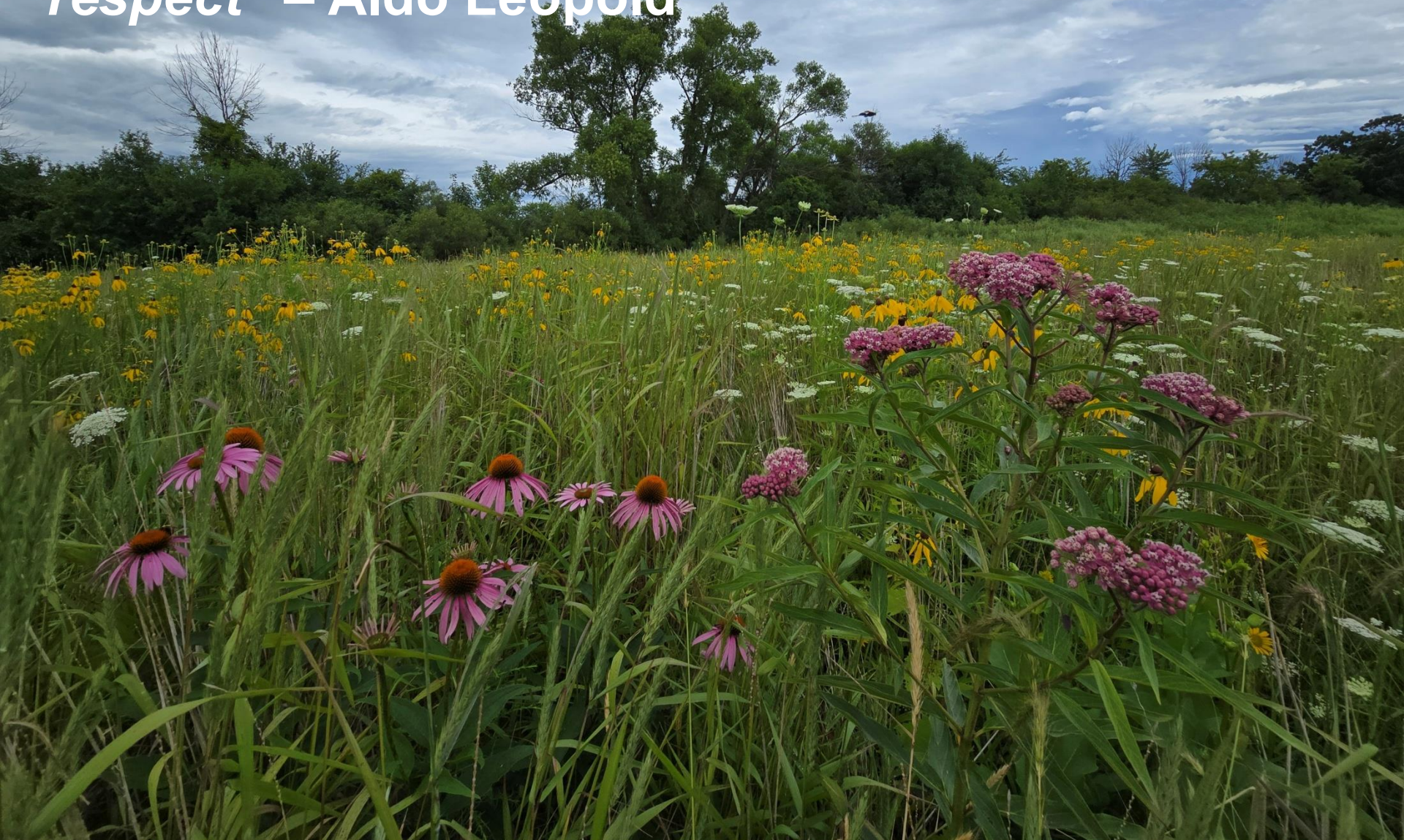








“When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect” – Aldo Leopold



Questions and Comments?



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