Form 1100-1
Rev. 5-91

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 3.B.6

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - STATEWIDE WILDLIFE HABITAT – CHIPPEWA COUNTY

FOR: APRIL 2008 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Chippewa Valley Pheasants Forever, Inc. has offered to donate 77 acres of land to the Department for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat program in Chippewa County.

The 77 acres of land, located in south-central Chippewa County just southeast of Chippewa Falls, was acquired with the assistance of a Stewardship grant and with assistance from Chippewa County. Donation of this tract to the state will consolidate public land ownership in this area since the tract abuts 102.6 acres protected by county held conservation easements and 376 acres owned by the Department. This donation will bring the total amount of permanent open space in this area to nearly 556 acres. The parcel would provide additional habitat for game and songbirds and blocks well with existing Department owned lands.

This donation will allow wildlife habitat management, provide public access for hunting and other recreation and consolidate state and county ownership.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 77 acres of land for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat program, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Pheasants Forever and Chippewa County and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No ☒	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes ☐	Attached
No ☒	Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required	Yes ☐	Attached
No ☐	Background Memo	Yes ☒	Attached

APPROVED:

Real Estate Director, Richard E. Steffes - LF/6 — Date

Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/8 — Date 3/28/08

Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD/8 — Date

cc: S. Miller – LF/6
R. Steffes – LF/6
L. Ross – AD/8
T. Hauge – WM/6
S. Humrickhouse – WCR/Eau Claire

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: March 21, 2008 FILE REF: W-1740

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Matthew J. Frank

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Pheasants Forever, Inc., Tract, File # W-1740,

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Statewide Wildlife Habitat
Chippewa County

Grantor:

Pheasants Forever, Inc.
c/o David Swan, President
3144 Greenview Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Acres: 77
Price: Donation
Appraised Value: $161,700
Interest: Donation in fee.
Improvements: None

Location: The tract is located in southern Chippewa County, three miles southeast of Chippewa Falls, in the Town of Hallie.

Land Description: The subject area is mainly low with a small portion of open agricultural land.

Covertype Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Wetland	46.0
Cropland	31.0
TOTAL:	77.0

Zoning: 46 acres zoned Conservancy; 31 acres zoned Agricultural
Present Use: Recreation and Limited Cropland
Proposed Use: Wildlife Habitat and Public Recreation
Tenure: Purchased by Pheasants Forever in August 2007 for $160,600
Option Date: January 31, 2008

2. JUSTIFICATION:

The Department recommends the acceptance of a 77-acre donation from Pheasants Forever for the Statewide Habitat Program. The parcel, located in south-central Chippewa County in the Town of Hallie just southeast of Chippewa Falls, was acquired with a Stewardship grant and assistance from Chippewa County. Donation of this tract to the state will consolidate public land ownership in this area since the tract abuts 102.6 acres protected by county-held conservation easements and 376 acres owned by the Department. This donation will bring the total amount of permanent open space in this area to nearly 556 acres. The parcel would provide additional habitat for game and songbirds and blocks well with the existing department-owned lands.

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The Statewide Wildlife Habitat project was established in 1991 to increase populations of ring-necked pheasants, waterfowl, and grassland songbirds in locations throughout the state. The project uses a landscape scale approach to habitat management that incorporates a patchwork of wetland and grasslands with cropland to create habitat conditions more favorable for self-sustaining wildlife populations. The intent is to widely scatter suitable habitat, rather than concentrating the habitat in one area. The mix of agricultural land, grasslands, and wetlands is the key to productive wildlife populations.

The need for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat program is based on a documented decline in grassland and wetland wildlife populations. Reductions in habitat quality and quantity because of land use changes have contributed to the decline of grassland nesting wildlife populations. In addition, wetland loss or degradation has been an important factor in the decline of many wetland wildlife species.

The donation will provide important habitat for pheasants, waterfowl and songbirds. The land's proximity to Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire will ensure public use for hunting, bird watching and nature appreciation.

The Department recommends acceptance of this donation to allow wildlife habitat management, to provide public access for hunting and other recreation, to consolidate state ownership and to prevent incompatible development.

3. FINANCING:

No additional funds are necessary for this land donation. Pheasants Forever acquired this land from the landowner for $160,600. They received a Stewardship grant of $80,850 toward this acquisition. Additionally, Chippewa County granted $40,000 toward the purchase price and the landowner gifted $10,600.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE STATEWIDE WILDLIFE HABITAT:

Established: 1991
Acres Acquired to Date: 3,498.74
Acquisition Goal: 6,000 Acres
Percent Complete: 58%
Cost to Date: $2,375,785

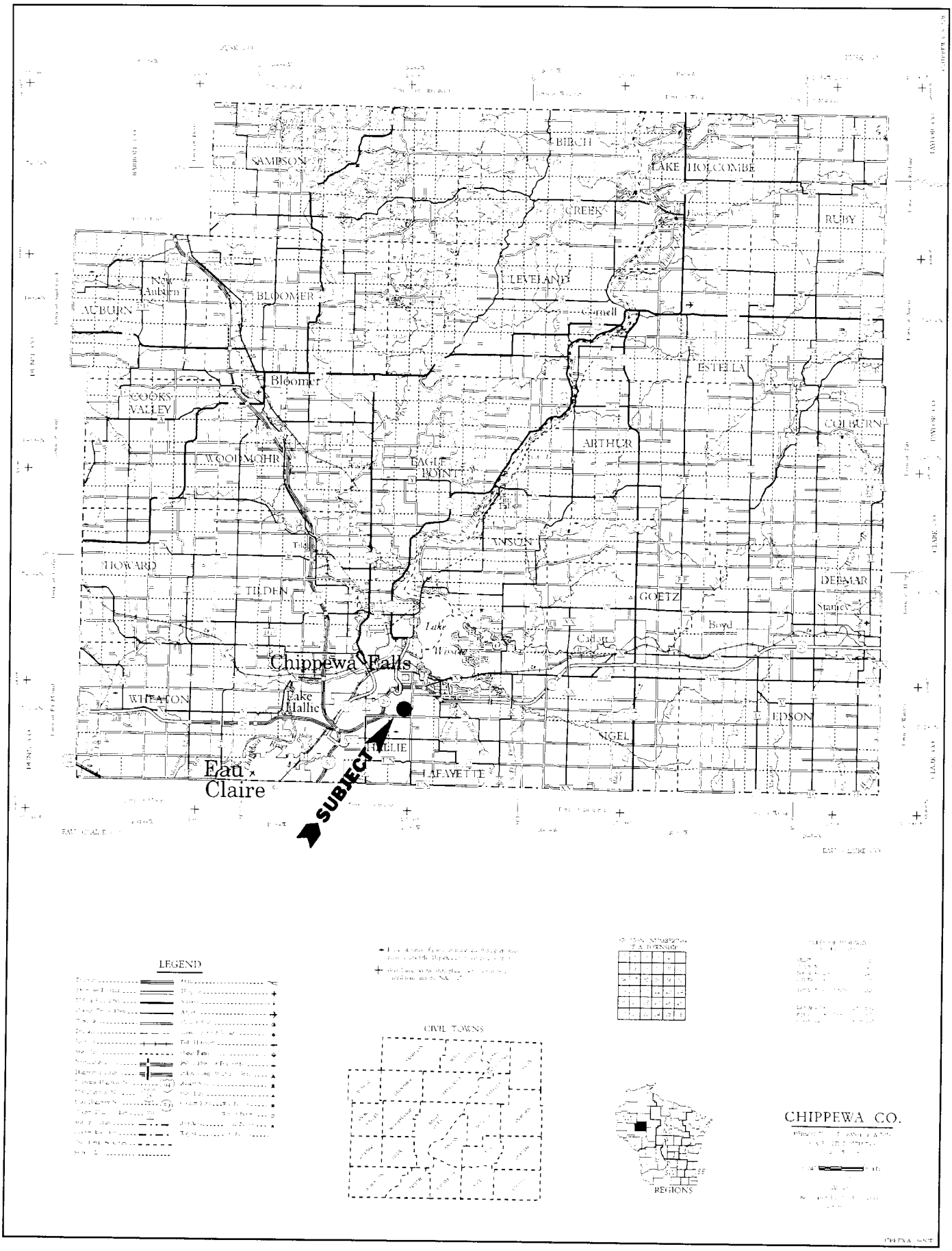
RECOMMENDED:

Richard E. Steffes — Date

Joseph Wm. Remsik
Bureau of Legal Services — Date 3/25/08

Laurie Osterndorf — Date 3/25/08

RES:dv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BIRCH
SAMPSON
LAKE HOLCOMBE
CREEK
RUBY
LEVELAND
New Auburn
AUBURN
BLOOMER
Cornell
ESTELLA
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COLBURN
ARTHUR
WOODMOHR
EAGLE POINT
ANSON
HOWARD
TILDEN
GOETZ
DELMAR
Stanley
Boyd
Lake Wissota
Chippewa Falls
WHEATON
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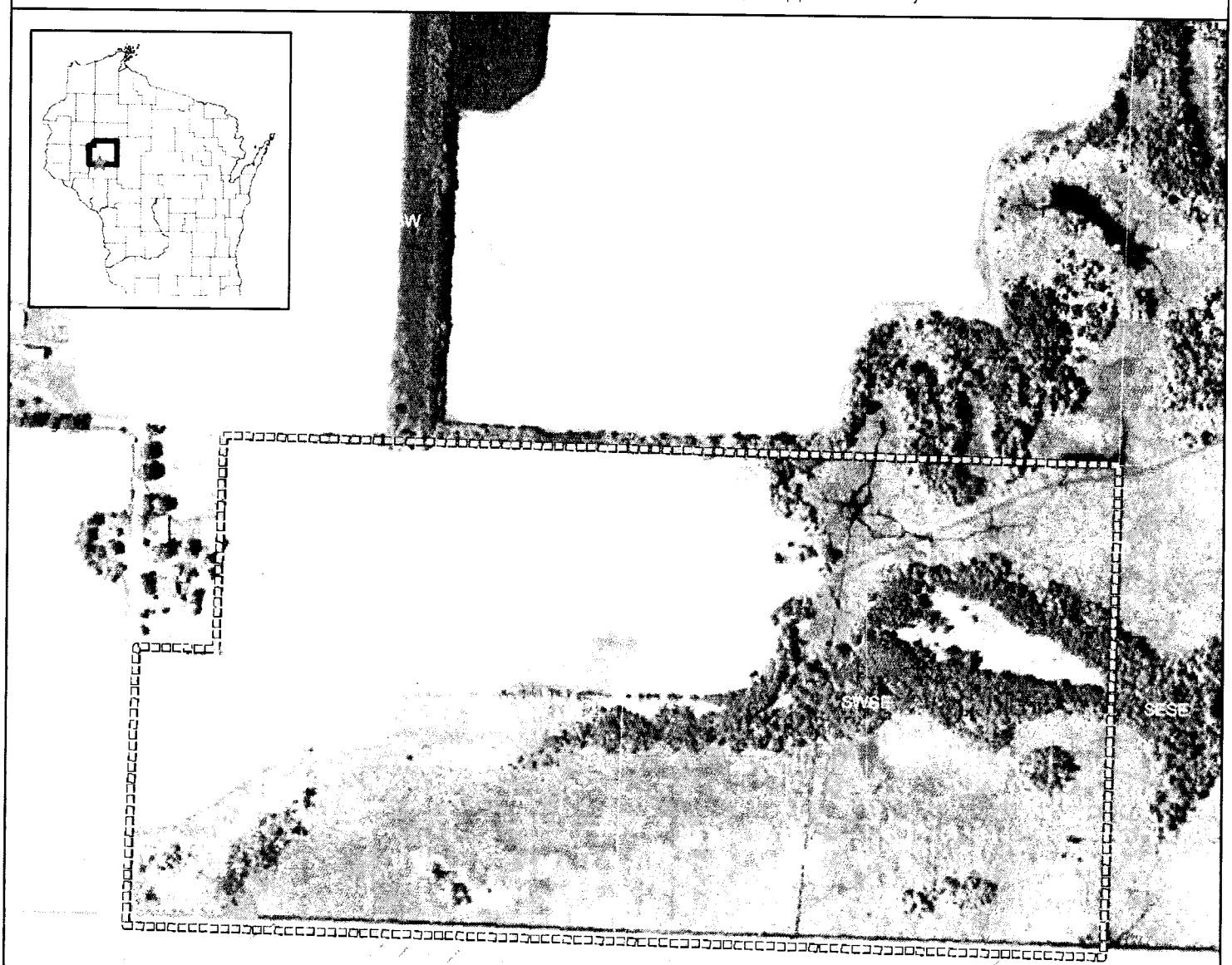
Pheasants Forever Property

T 28N R 8W Section 16, Town of Lake Hallie, Chippewa County



Subject Parcel

DNR Owned Land

DNR Eased Land

N

0 385 770 1,540 2,310 Feet

Created by Bureau of Facilities and Lands
Real Estate Section
February 28, 2008

Pheasants Forever Property

Scattered Wildlife Habitat Area

Subject Property

WDNR Owned

WNDR Eased

WDNR Leased

Ice Age Trail

Project Boundary

Open Water

Miles

0 0.35 0.7

The DNR Managed Lands represent the boundaries of lands managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Wisconsin DNR manages these lands through ownership, easement or lease rights. This data set is a spatial representation of the Oracle Land Records System maintained by the DNR, Bureau of Facilities and Lands (LF), and may include errors and/or omissions. The data should not be interpreted as a legal representation of legal ownership boundaries.

This data set does not differentiate between lands that are open or closed to the public for hunting and/or general public access. Some lands represented in this data set may not be open to the general public, or may have specific limitations or restrictions on public use. This data set is not intended for use as a land management tool; it is a listing of all DNR real estate transactions that have occurred on these lands over time.

For information about the actual management, including public use and public access of the lands, contact the nearest DNR Regional office. Contact information for DNR Regional Offices and Service Centers is provided on the following internet site:

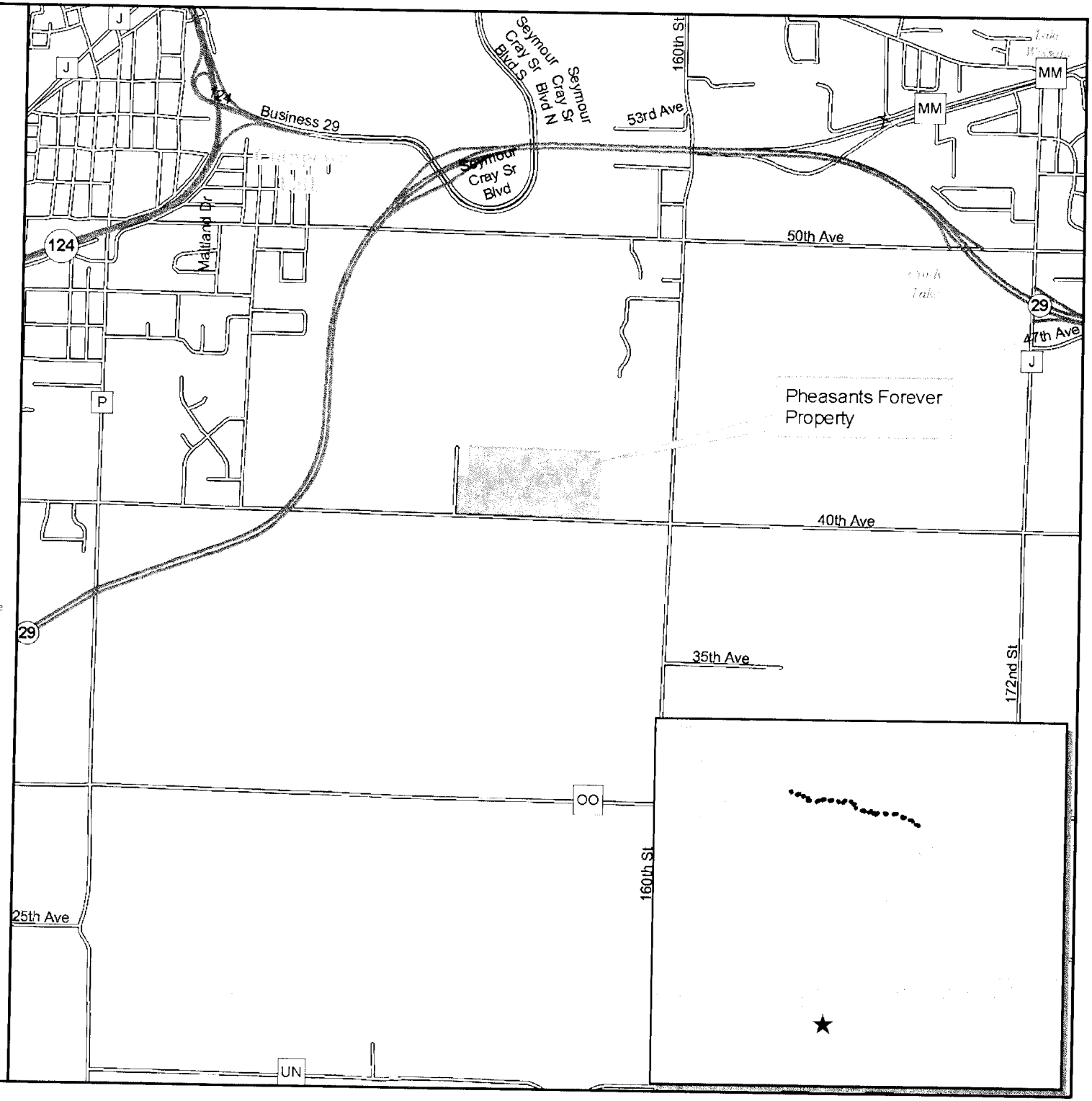
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cs/servicecenter/locations.htm

Updates to this data set are ongoing, and will be incorporated into future versions when available.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bureau of Facilities and Lands

February 28, 2008



Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its April 2008 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 77 acres of land in Chippewa County for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat Area from

CHIPPEWA VALLEY PHEASANTS FOREVER WITH ASSISTANCE FROM CHIPPEWA COUNTY

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

Christine Thomas, CHAIRMAN