

File# W 754 – Sheboygan County - 39.8 acres

The Department acquired this property for \$155,000 in 1987. At the time of acquisition the Natural Resources Board approved the set of buildings and the 40 acres outside the approved project boundaries to be sold outright or traded for lands within the boundaries. However, the private lands in that proposed trade were sold to another party and remain a private in-holding within the project boundary to this day.

This property is located in a priority township of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. These townships have the highest potential of providing critical habitat for projects under this plan. One of the goals of this plan is to restore or enhance wetland-upland complexes and protect existing complexes, using fee title and perpetual easements.

The property is also located in the mid to north Kettle Moraine Conservation Opportunity Area (COA), which is recognized as having continental ecological significance in Wisconsin's wildlife action plan. Some of the noted species of greatest conservation need that are present in this COA include: Blanding's Turtle, Pickerel Frog, American Woodcock, Blue-winged Teal, Bobolink, Field Sparrow, and Northern Harrier.

There is a pole-shed on the property used for DNR grass drill storage. It also has a concrete silo that should be removed from the property. The Department has not made investments in infrastructure on the property, but has made investments in habitat improvements. From 1996-1998 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funding was used to restore 30 acres of grassland on the property for grassland nesting birds and waterfowl.

Other maintenance of the parcel includes three prescribed burns, herbicide treatments, and mowing that have cost an estimated \$900.00. On adjacent Department property, NAWCA funding was used to restore several wetland potholes, which complement the grassland on this property by providing nearby waterfowl brood habitat. Other investments include routine maintenance such as boundary issues and building upkeep.

There is a trail segment of the county-wide snowmobile trail system adjacent to the entire northern boundary of this parcel. Other public uses include waterfowl and pheasant hunting.

Department recommends retaining this parcel.

