

PROPERTIES PURCHASED WITH FUNDS FROM THE  
KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM  
ON WHICH ONE OR MORE  
NATURE-BASED OUTDOOR ACTIVITY IS PROHIBITED

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017



SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
November 15, 2017

PUB-LF-077 2017

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). For more information on the Stewardship Program, please contact the following:

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Real Estate Program: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/RealEstate>  
Stewardship Grants Program: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stewardship>  
Public Access Lands mapping: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/PAL/application.html>

Additional copies of this report may be obtained from the DNR Bureau of Facilities and Lands.

## BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1989 to serve the public by expanding outdoor recreation opportunities, protecting fish and wildlife habitat, and preserving valuable natural areas. The Stewardship Program is named for two of Wisconsin's most revered conservation leaders - Warren Knowles (Governor 1965-1971) and Gaylord Nelson (Governor 1959-1963, U.S. Senator 1964-1981). Based on the Program's continued success delivering quality outdoor recreation opportunities for the public, the Wisconsin Legislature reauthorized the Stewardship Program in 1999 and again in 2007 (via the 2007-2009 Biennial Budget Act, 2007 Wis. Act 20).

Concurrent with the 2007 reauthorization, the Legislature required that lands acquired with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program be open for nature-based outdoor activities (NBOAs) unless otherwise approved by the DNR Natural Resources Board (NRB). Section 23.0916(1)(b), Wis. Stats., defines nature-based outdoor activities as "... hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and any other nature-based activity designated by rule by the department ..."; no additional NBOAs have been added by rule.

Chapter NR 52, Wis. Adm. Code, became effective on August 1, 2010, and describes criteria the NRB may consider when reviewing a proposed acquisition where one or more NBOAs would be prohibited. Proposed Stewardship acquisitions (DNR or grant-funded) require NRB review and approval if one or more NBOAs would be prohibited post-acquisition. Section 23.0916, Wis. Stats., allows the NRB to approve acquisition of property with an NBOA prohibition only if the prohibition is necessary to protect public safety or unique animal/plant communities. An NBOA prohibition is assumed to be necessary for public safety if all the following conditions of Ch. NR 52.05(1)(a)5, Wis. Adm. Code, apply to the subject property:

- The parcel is five acres or less in size;
- The parcel is located within the boundary of a city or village;
- The parcel is not adjacent to a public waterway; and
- The parcel is not adjacent to another parcel where the NBOA proposed for prohibition is allowed.

In accordance with s.29.089(1m)(b), prohibition of hunting and trapping in State Parks and on State Trails is allowed if the property is within 100 yards of a designated use area or if the NRB determines that prohibiting hunting or trapping is necessary to protect public safety or protect a unique animal or plant community. NRB approval is not required prior to acquisition for properties acquired with Stewardship grant assistance by local governments or nonprofit conservation organizations where the prohibition originates from an entity other than the grant recipient.

By November 15 of each biennium, the department is required to issue a report on all lands purchased during the preceding biennium in whole or in part with funds from the Stewardship Program on which public access for any NBOA is prohibited (s. 23.0916(6), Wis. Stats.). This report satisfies the NBOA reporting requirement for the 2015-2017 biennium. The information provided in this report is based on information available to DNR as of November 15, 2017, and represents a combination of fee title and easement acquisitions.

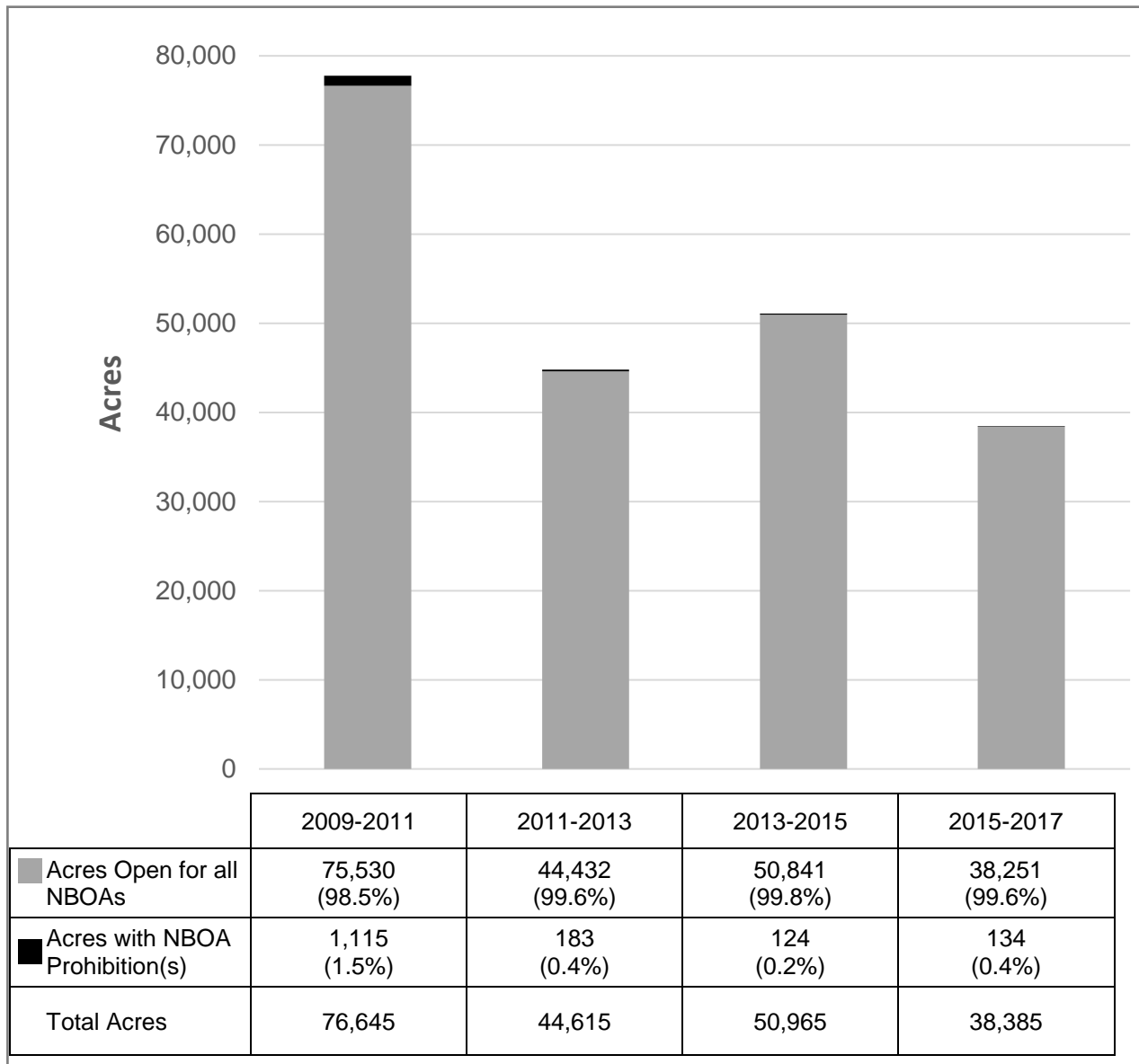
## **2015-2017 BIENNIUM**

In the 2015-2017 biennium, DNR and local grant recipients acquired 38,385 acres with Stewardship funds, more than 99.5% of which are open for all five NBOAs (38,251 acres). All NBOA prohibitions in the last biennium were deemed necessary for public safety. The most common prohibition is gun hunting.

In this biennium, DNR acquired two properties on which hunting and trapping are prohibited. Both properties were abandoned rail corridors that DNR acquired to extend state trails. Local governments and nonprofits acquired 48 acres with Stewardship grant assistance where gun hunting is prohibited. Local partners allow archery hunting on 34 (72%) of these 48 acres.

Exhibit A, Table A, and Table B below summarize NBOA access on land acquired with Stewardship funds in the last biennium. Project-specific information is in Appendix A. Further details are available from the DNR.

In addition to land acquisition, Stewardship funds also support capital development. In the last biennium, 47% of all Stewardship fund expenditures supported construction of outdoor recreation facilities on state and local government property. Common project types included park shelters, restrooms, campsites, parking lots, and multi-use trails. Capital development projects constructed with Stewardship funds add value to existing public outdoor recreation properties and help meet changing recreation demands of residents and visitors.



**Exhibit A: Acres Acquired with Stewardship Funds Open for All NBOAs and Subject to Prohibition(s)**

**Table A. DNR Stewardship Land Acquisitions subject to s. 23.0916(5), Wis. Stats.: July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2017**

County	Project Name	Acquisition Type	Stewardship Amount	Project Acres with NBOA Prohibition(s)	Justification
Manitowoc	Devil's River State Trail	Fee	\$209,300	71.9	Public Safety [per s. 29.089(1m)(b)1]
Barron	Wild Rivers State Trail	Fee	\$183,800	14.5	Public Safety [per s. 29.089(1m)(b)1]

**Table B. Stewardship Grant Acquisitions Subject to s. 23.0916(5), Wis. Stats.: July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2017**

Grant Recipient	County	Project Name	Stewardship Grant Amount	Project Acres with NBOA Prohibition(s)	Prohibited NBOA(s)	Justification
Dane County	Dane	Schuepbach Acquisition: Capital Springs Recreation Area	\$129,714	15.3	Gun Hunting (Bow Hunting Allowed)	Public Safety
City of Middleton	Dane	Gerhardt Acquisition: Pheasant Branch Trailhead	\$172,250	0.5	Hunting; Trapping	Public Safety
City of Eau Claire	Eau Claire	1625 Loken Lane Acquisition	\$26,135	1.1	Hunting; Trapping	Public Safety
City of Marinette	Marinette	Menekaunee Harbor Jozaitis Acquisition	\$303,189	2.9	Hunting; Trapping	Public Safety
Ozaukee Washington Land Trust	Ozaukee	Ville du Parc: Weickardt Acquisition	\$149,040	19.0	Gun Hunting (Bow Hunting Allowed)	Public Safety
City of Racine	Racine	Machinery Row Acquisition	\$470,750	5.6	Hunting	Public Safety
Village of West Baraboo	Sauk	Haskins Park Acquisition	\$47,075	0.2	Hunting; Trapping	Public Safety
City of Shawano	Shawano	Wolf River Sturgeon Trail Acquisition	\$111,280	1.6	Hunting	Public Safety
Ice Age Trail Alliance	Washington	Marth Acquisition, West Bend: Ice Age Trail	\$180,665	1.4	Hunting; Trapping	Public Safety
City of Delafield	Waukesha	St. John's Park Expansion	\$68,300	0.6	Hunting; Trapping	Public Safety

## APPENDIX A

### Project Details: Stewardship Grant Acquisitions with NBOA Prohibitions

**DNR Acquisition Project Name:** Devil's River State Trail

**County:** Manitowoc

**Details:** On October 29, 2015, the Department acquired 6.8 miles (71.9 acres) of abandoned rail corridor to extend the Devil's River State Trail. The trail is open to pedestrian use, biking, and snowmobiling. Hunting and trapping are prohibited on this state trail, consistent with provisions of s. 29.089(1m)(b)1. The DNR NRB approved the acquisition with prohibitions on May 27, 2015. The Joint Committee on Finance approved the acquisition on July 16, 2015, and the Governor approved the acquisition on August 14, 2015.

**DNR Acquisition Project Name:** Wild Rivers State Trail

**County:** Barron

**Details:** On October 29, 2015, the Department acquired 0.8 miles (14.5 acres) of abandoned rail corridor to extend the Wild Rivers State Trail. The trail is open for pedestrian use, bicycling, horseback riding, ATV riding, and snowmobiling. Hunting and trapping are prohibited on this state trail, consistent with provisions of s. 29.089(1m)(b)1. The DNR NRB approved the acquisition with prohibitions on May 27, 2015. The Joint Committee on Finance approved the acquisition on July 16, 2015, and the Governor approved the acquisition on August 14, 2015.

**Grant Recipient:** Dane County

**Project Name:** Schuepbach Acquisition: Capital Springs Recreation Area

**Details:** On May 1, 2017, the County received an Urban Rivers Subprogram grant to acquire 15.3 acres in the City of Fitchburg. The Capital City State Trail will be re-routed onto the subject property to provide a safer crossing at CTH MM. The DNR Recreational Safety Warden and Regional Warden Supervisor concurred that prohibition of gun hunting on this property is appropriate to protect public safety. Bow hunting is allowed on the property, by permit. The DNR NRB approved the prohibition on March 1, 2017, pursuant to s. 23.0916(6) Wis. Stats., and Ch. NR 52 Wis. Admin. Code.

**Grant Recipient:** City of Middleton

**Project Name:** Gerhardt Acquisition: Pheasant Branch Trailhead

**Details:** On January 31, 2017, the City received grants from the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks and Urban Green Space subprograms to acquire 0.46 acres adjacent to Pheasant Branch Conservancy. The property will be developed into a regional trailhead with a park shelter, picnic area, restrooms, and parking. Hunting and trapping are not allowed, per local ordinance. Prohibition of hunting and trapping is appropriate to protect public safety, as the property meets all requirements of Ch. NR 52.05(1)(a)5.

**Grant Recipient:** City of Eau Claire

**Project Name:** 1625 Loken Lane Acquisition

**Details:** On March 2, 2016, the City received an Urban Rivers Subprogram grant to acquire 1.1 acres. The property provides land to expand an existing multi-use trail and opportunities for public access to the Chippewa River. Hunting and trapping are not allowed, per local ordinance. The DNR Recreational Safety Warden and Regional Warden Supervisor concurred that prohibition of hunting and trapping on this property is appropriate to protect public safety. The DNR NRB approved the prohibition on February 24, 2016, pursuant to s. 23.0916(6) Wis. Stats., and Ch. NR 52 Wis. Admin. Code.

**Grant Recipient:** City of Marinette

**Project Name:** Menekaunee Harbor Jozaitis Acquisition

**Details:** On April 4, 2016, the City received an Urban Green Space subprogram grant to acquire 2.9 acres at Menekaunee Harbor. The property provides land for a public boating and fishing area on the Menominee River. Hunting and trapping are not allowed, per local ordinance. The DNR Recreational Safety Warden and Regional Warden Supervisor concurred that prohibition of hunting and trapping on this property is appropriate to protect public safety. The DNR NRB approved the prohibition on February 24, 2016, pursuant to s. 23.0916(6) Wis. Stats., and Ch. NR 52 Wis. Admin. Code.

**Grant Recipient:** Ozaukee Washington Land Trust

**Project Name:** Ville du Parc: Weickardt Acquisition

**Details:** On May 30, 2016, the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust received a Habitat Area subprogram grant to acquire 19 acres along the Milwaukee River in the City of Mequon. The acquisition provides new public access to the Milwaukee River. A City of Mequon ordinance prohibits gun hunting on the property. Bow hunting is allowed on the property, by permit. NRB review was not required for this acquisition because the prohibition originated from City ordinance, not the grant recipient.

**Grant Recipient:** City of Racine

**Project Name:** Machinery Row Acquisition

**Details:** On June 22, 2016, the City received an Urban Green Space subprogram grant to acquire 5.6 acres downtown Racine along the Root River. The property is an abandoned industrial site. The City intends to convert the parcel to a river promenade and waterfront green space. Hunting is not allowed, per local ordinance. The DNR Recreational Safety Warden and Regional Warden Supervisor concurred that prohibition of hunting and trapping on this property is appropriate to protect public safety. The DNR NRB approved the prohibition on February 24, 2016, pursuant to s. 23.0916(6) Wis. Stats., and Ch. NR 52 Wis. Admin. Code.

**Grant Recipient:** Village of West Baraboo

**Project Name:** Haskins Park Acquisition

**Details:** On May 5, 2016, the Village received an Urban Green Space subprogram grant to acquire 0.2 acres adjacent to Haskins Park. The Village intends to develop the property to serve the existing non-motorized boat launch on the Baraboo River. Hunting and trapping are not allowed, per local ordinance. Prohibition of hunting and trapping is appropriate to protect public safety, as the property meets all requirements of Ch. NR 52.05(1)(a)5.

**Grant Recipient:** City of Shawano

**Project Name:** Wolf River Sturgeon Trail Acquisition

**Details:** On April 30, 2016, the City received grants from the Urban Green Space and Urban Rivers subprograms to acquire 1.6 acres that provide public access to the Wolf River. Hunting is not allowed, per local ordinance. The DNR Recreational Safety Warden and Regional Warden Supervisor concurred that prohibition of hunting on this property is appropriate to protect public safety. The DNR NRB approved the prohibition on February 24, 2016, pursuant to s. 23.0916(6) Wis. Stats., and Ch. NR 52 Wis. Admin. Code.



**Grant Recipient:** Ice Age Trail Alliance

**Project Name:** Marth Acquisition, West Bend: Ice Age Trail

**Details:** On May 8, 2017, the Ice Age Trail Alliance received a State Trails subprogram grant to acquire 1.4 acres in the City of West Bend. The Ice Age Trail will be re-routed from N. University Drive onto the subject property, enhancing safety for trail users. A City of West Bend ordinance prohibits hunting and trapping on the property. Because the Ice Age Trail Alliance intends to transfer the property to the City post-acquisition, the project was reviewed by the NRB per Ch. NR 52, Wis. Admin. Code. The DNR Recreational Safety Warden and Regional Warden Supervisor concurred that prohibiting hunting and trapping on this property is appropriate to protect public safety. The DNR NRB approved the prohibition on March 1, 2017, pursuant to s. 23.0916(6) Wis. Stats., and Ch. NR 52 Wis. Admin. Code.

**Grant Recipient:** City of Delafield

**Project Name:** St. John's Park Expansion

**Details:** On April 7, 2016, the City received an Acquisition and Development of Local Parks Subprogram grant to acquire 0.6 acres in downtown Delafield. The property provides new public access to the Bark River and Nagawicka Lake. Hunting and trapping are not allowed, per local ordinance. The DNR Recreational Safety Warden and Regional Warden Supervisor concurred that prohibition of hunting and trapping on this property is appropriate to protect public safety. The DNR NRB approved the prohibition on February 24, 2016, pursuant to s. 23.0916(6) Wis. Stats., and Ch. NR 52 Wis. Admin. Code.