

PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

BACKGROUND AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

PROPERTY TYPES AND DESIGNATIONS

Exceptional Resource Waters (ERW) – [NR 102.11, Wis. Adm. Code](#)

These are surface waters which provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat, have good water quality, and are not significantly impacted by human activities. ERW status identifies waters that the State of Wisconsin has determined warrant additional protection from the effects of pollution. An ERW waterbody may have existing point sources at the time of designation. New discharges are required to maintain background water quality levels; however, exceptions can be made for certain situations when an increase of pollutant loading is warranted if human health would otherwise be compromised.

Habitat Areas - [s. 23.092 Wis. Stats.](#) and [NR 51.40, Wis. Adm. Code](#).

The department designates habitat areas to enhance wildlife-based recreation, including hunting, fishing, nature appreciation, and the viewing of game and nongame species.

Ice Age Trail - [s. 23.17 Wis. Stats.](#)

The Ice Age Trail is a National Scenic Trail located entirely within Wisconsin. The trail is one of the designated Wisconsin state trails and the only one specifically designated as a "State Scenic Trail." From Interstate State Park on the Minnesota border to Potawatomi State Park on Lake Michigan's Green Bay, the Ice Age Trail winds for more than 1,000 miles, generally following the edge of the last continental glacier in Wisconsin.

Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) – [NR 012.10, Wis. Adm. Code](#)

These are surface waters which provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support valuable fisheries and wildlife habitat, have good water quality, and are not significantly impacted by human activities. ORW status identifies waters that the State of Wisconsin has determined warrant additional protection from the effects of pollution. ORW receive the state's highest protection standards. They typically do not have any point sources discharging pollutants directly to the water (e.g., no industrial sources or municipal sewage treatment plants), though they may receive runoff from nonpoint sources. New discharges may be permitted only if their effluent quality is equal or better than the background water quality of that waterway at all times. No increases of pollutant levels are allowed.

State Fish Hatcheries- [s. 29.709 Wis. Stats.](#)

DNR's 17 hatcheries, egg collection facilities and rearing stations raise millions of fish to be stocked every year in lakes and rivers where there is no or little natural reproduction. Hundreds of waters statewide get this help to provide more fishing opportunities for anglers.



State Forests-[s. 28.04 Wis. Stats.](#)

State forests are managed to assure sustainably managed forests that provide ecological, social, and economic benefits for present and future generations. The purposes and benefits of state forests are designed to reflect each forest's unique character and position in the regional landscape.

State Natural Areas-[s. 23.27\(4\)\(5\) Wis. Stats.](#) , [s. 23.28 Wis. Stats.](#) and [s. 23.29 and NR 1.32, Wis. Adm. Code.](#)

Natural Areas are defined and authorized as "an area of land or water which has educational or scientific value or is important as a reservoir of the state's genetic or biological diversity and includes any buffer area necessary to protect the area's natural value." State statute defines natural areas as "reserves for native biotic communities...habitat[s] for endangered, threatened, or critical species...or areas with highly significant geological or archaeological features." State Natural Areas can be either designated or dedicated, which provides a higher level of permanent protection. Their locations are essentially unaltered by human-caused disturbances or have substantially recovered from such disturbances. SNAs are considered the state's best examples of native biodiversity. Protection and enhancement of these natural features receive major consideration in management and property planning.

State Parks - Wis. Stat. [s. 23.09](#) , [23.11](#), [23.14](#), [27.01](#) and [NR 45 Wis. Admin. Code.](#)

State parks are managed to assure the preservation of their scenic value, their historical value, and the natural wonders they contain. The Wisconsin State Park Mission is "To protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of our Wisconsin State Park System properties while providing high quality recreational and educational opportunities and programs."

State Recreation Areas- [s. 23.091Wis. Stats.](#)

State Recreation Areas are lands and waters that are environmentally adaptable to multiple recreational uses, or are so located to provide regional or urban recreational opportunities or for preservation.

State Trails – [s.23.175 Wis. Stats](#) and [NR 51.70 Wis. Admin. Code](#)

Wisconsin has 43 State Trails open to the public, covering more than 2,000 miles. State Trails are established to help meet the increasing demand for trail-based recreation and promote the preservation of public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of Wisconsin's outdoor resources. Some trails are managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and some are managed by county partners.

Stream Bank Protection Areas – [s. 23.094 Wis. Stats](#) and [NR 51.60-65 Wis. Admin. Code](#)

The Stream Bank Protection Program was established in 1990 as a supplement to the traditional Fishery Area program, with the goal of protecting and restoring corridors along coolwater and coldwater streams to improve water quality and provide public access, particularly in those streams threatened by agricultural and urban runoff. Stream Bank Protection Areas (SBPA) are open for traditional outdoor recreation activities such as fishing, hunting, trapping, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, walking, skiing, snow-shoeing, nature study, berry-picking, and other low-impact, non-motorized uses that do not detract from the primary purpose of these properties.



Wild Rivers – [s. 30.26 Wis. Stats](#) and [NR 302 Wis. Adm. Code](#)

Wild Rivers are designated by the state legislature and are established specifically to provide the people of the state an opportunity to enjoy natural streams, to preserve some rivers in a free-flowing condition, protect them from development, and to attract out-of-state visitors and assure the well-being of the tourist industry. Only five Wisconsin rivers, or portions of rivers, are designated as Wild Rivers. Special provisions apply to management of department lands bordering state designated wild rivers. The provisions are intended to limit the impact of natural resource management activities on the river users, keeping their experience as well as the river “wild”, and preserving the wild and scenic qualities of the river.

Wildlife and Fishery Areas – [s. 23.09\(2\)\(d\) 3 Wis. Stats](#) and [NR 1.51 Wis. Adm. Code](#)

Wildlife and Fishery Areas are designated to provide places where people can hunt, trap or fish. Wildlife and Fishery Areas are also open for traditional outdoor uses of walking, cross-country skiing (ungroomed), snow shoeing, nature study, berry picking, and other low-impact recreational activities. Other recreational uses may be allowed by the master plan if those uses do not detract from the primary purpose of these properties.

Statewide Scattered Acquisition Authority Property (SSAAP) Categories

The property category names listed in the table below are being discontinued, and properties are being renamed through the newly created statewide scattered acquisition authority process. With this process, properties will be consolidated and renamed with a more specific name (for example “Mud Lake State Habitat Area” vs. “Extensive Habitat Area 1, Waukesha County”) to enable more specific property tracking in department databases and to make it easier for the public to find state-owned properties for recreational use.



SSAAP Property Category Listing

Fisheries
Statewide Habitat Areas
Statewide New Hatcheries
Remnant Areas Program (REMs) (These are already named, but could possibly be consolidated with adjacent fishery areas.)
Statewide Public Access
Statewide Small Lakes Creation
Statewide Spring Ponds
Natural Heritage Conservation
Statewide Natural Area (These properties are already named, but are considered SSAAP. They most likely will not need to be addressed during a naming process.)
Forestry
State Owned Islands
Parks and Recreation
Glacial Heritage Area
Ice Age Trail
Wildlife Management
Central Wisconsin Grassland Conservation Area
Extensive WL Habitat
Glacial Habitat Restoration Area
LUP Grants
Scattered Forest Lands
Western Prairie Habitat Restoration Area
Scattered Wildlife
Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Stream Conservation Area
Statewide Wildlife Habitat
No Assigned Program
Gift Lands
Miscellaneous Lands
Statewide All Regulatory-Wetland Mitigation Program (currently assigned to Wildlife.)
Statewide Non-point Easement Program (currently assigned to Wildlife)
Forestry Legacy Easements
Stream Bank Easement Program

