Habitat Management Plan

Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park
South Unit

November 10, 2025

Photo credit: Jan Axelson

Plan originally adopted in 2018.

Site information

Address: 802 Wheeler Road

Acreage: 240 acres. This includes contiguous and non-contiguous parcels located within the City of Madison both north and south of the Yahara River

Watershed: Upper Yahara River, Lake Mendota

Site summary: Prior to its acquisition by the City in the mid 1960s, the uplands within Cherokee Marsh – South Unit (South Cherokee Marsh) were used for agriculture, and sand and gravel mining. Major restoration to date has included converting fallow agricultural land to tallgrass prairie and removing invasive woody species from overgrown oak woodlands. The park offers 3 miles of trails and a primitive boat launch with a pier and is one of six Madison parks that are groomed for cross-country skiing.

Adjacent lands: Adjacent natural areas and areas of ecological significance include a 23-acre parcel owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Yahara Heights County Park.

Madison Parks' Land Management Plan (2023) defines land cover categories found in the City's parklands and provides general parameters for their management. That document provides a foundation upon which more detailed, site-specific work plans can be built. The natural areas of the park include:

Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna
Urban forest – *Woodlands*
Wetlands and Waterfronts – *River and lake shorelines*
Wetlands and Waterfronts – *Ponds*
Wetlands and Waterfronts – *Emergent Marsh*
Wetlands and Waterfronts – *Sedge Meadows*
Wetlands and Waterfronts – *Shrub carr*

These land cover categories are delineated on a map in Appendix A, Figure 2.

Numerous sources have studied and written about the resources of and threats to Cherokee Marsh on scales ranging from the entire watershed to single management units within the conservation park, and from various perspectives such as hydrology, ecology, botany and public policy. The focus of this management plan is the restoration of the natural areas within the conservation park.

Conservation values

Madison is located in the Southeast Glacial Plains Ecological Landscape as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WiDNR) in The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin (2015). The park itself is located within the limits of the ancient Glacial Lake Yahara, and is in the present-day Upper Yahara River watershed, upstream of Lake Mendota.

The dominant natural features of Cherokee Marsh – South Unit (the South Unit) include the expansive wetland complexes, three artificial ponds constructed for storm water management, and uplands dominated by oak woodland and tallgrass prairie.

Several remnant plant communities occur in each of these habitats, and work has focused on protecting and expanding these high-quality areas. Work in wetlands and uplands has focused on invasive species removal, re-establishment of native plant communities, and prescribed burning. The size of this natural area is important for wildlife, as is the diversity of habitats present.

The land cover and habitats at Cherokee Marsh South Unit can be further described as the following recognized Natural Communities, described by the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory:

Southern Dry Forest	Mesic Prairie	Southern Sedge Meadow
Southern Dry-Mesic Forest	Wet-Mesic Prairie	Shrub-Carr
Southern Mesic Forest	Wet Prairie	Emergent Aquatic
Oak Woodland	Calcareous Fen	Pond (see Aquatic Features)

These reference communities provide benchmarks that help guide ecologically appropriate restoration efforts. They help define more technical and specific restoration targets based on the ecology of Wisconsin. Descriptions are found at: apps.dnr.wi.gov/biodiversity/Home/Index/Communities.

Soil types include Houghton muck and Adrian muck in the large wetland complexes, silt loam on most uplands, and sandy loam on the higher ground that extends northward through the center of the property (Daryl's Woods, Bluebird Hill, and the Boat Launch Hill). A map and chart of the soils found at Cherokee Marsh South Unit is found in Appendix A, Figure 3.

Extensive use of web-based data collection platforms such as iNaturalist and eBird by local experts has allowed compilation of inventories for several taxa. 274 native species of vascular plants have been documented in the park. A total of 210 bird species have been documented, including 32 species identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan (DNR 2015). This includes the state-endangered Peregrine Falcon, and Black, Caspian, and Common Terns, the state-threatened Red-shouldered Hawk, Great Egret, Henslow's Sparrow, and the Cerulean, Hooded, and Kentucky Warblers. Breeding pairs of the Red-Headed Woodpecker regularly nest within the park. 199 species were most recently observed within the past five years, and the remainder since 2006.

Several species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects have been documented from the park as well, including river otter, northern leopard frog, Blanding's turtle, three imperiled species of bat, and the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee which is listed as federally endangered. Appendix B contains lists of plant and animal species that have been documented to date.

Red-Headed Woodpecker.
Photo by Arlene Koziol

River otter tracks.
Photo by Jan Axelson

Blanding's turtle.
Photo by Katie Schilling Pollock

Ecological threats

Fire suppression – Although fire management has increased in recent years, a legacy of fire suppression has resulted in mesophication of woodlands and woody species encroachment and succession in prairies and sedge meadows. Woodland canopy cover is dense enough to prevent oak regeneration and suppress herbaceous species diversity in some areas. Fire intolerant species have grown into the sub-canopy and overstory, shading and competing with older oak trees.

Invasive species – Major non-native plant species include reed canary grass, hybrid cattail, common reed, buckthorn and honeysuckle. Bird's-foot trefoil, garlic mustard, Japanese hedge parsley, and sweet clover are also present in significant numbers. Monk Parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*) have been observed in neighboring residential areas and have the potential to establish large colonies that could compete with native bird species. This non-native species has been moving father north for several decades and is a prohibited invasive species under Wisconsin's NR40 Invasive Species rule.

Storm water pollution – Storm water runoff has delivered heavy salt and nutrient loads to the wetlands. Although some storm flow has been re-routed through a series of ponds that have been constructed in more recent years (2012-2018), runoff continues to flow from WI Hwy 113 into the west end of the marsh. This pollution here, and its legacy in the other portions of the marsh, has resulted in the replacement of sedge meadows by monocultures of reed canary grass, hybrid cattail and common reed.

Overabundant wildlife – White-tailed deer populations are very large in and around Madison, particularly on the north side of the City and northeast into the villages of Windsor and DeForest. Low hunting pressure and relatively low natural mortality contribute to population growth. The Parks Division contracts the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) to conduct annual harvests by sharpshooting. Effort in recent years has focused on the North Unit and the Mendota Unit, while little activity has been observed during the winter at the South Unit.

Foraging – Collecting wild foods has become very popular in recent years, and Parks staff frequently encounter park users off trail and engaged in collecting edible plants, fruits, and mushrooms. While City ordinances are referenced in the rules signs posted at each conservation park, many people are either unaware of or outright disregard the prohibition on collecting any natural object from conservation parks. Despite sustainable practices that may be employed by some foragers individually, the sheer number of visitors to Madison's conservation parks collectively would outweigh any effort to conserve populations and habitats.

Conservation goals

1. *Restore and maintain existing woodlands.*
   Much progress has been made in restoring areas characterized as Oak Woodland, Southern Dry Forest, and Southern Dry-Mesic Forest throughout the park. Dense invasive shrub understories have been removed, and herbaceous invasive species populations are declining. Next steps include maintaining appropriate overstory and mid-story canopy cover to allow establishment of native shrub regeneration and oak seedlings and sustainable recruitment into larger size classes, thus ensuring continued woodland cover.

   In woodlands characterized as Mesic Forest and dominated by mesic and fire-intolerant tree species, work is still needed to remove invasive understories and balance tree species composition to ensure a diverse, sustainable diameter distribution of longer-lived species. More work is needed to restore the herbaceous plant communities in these mesic woodlands.

2. *Restore and maintain native herbaceous plant diversity and natural community vegetation structure.*
   Management objectives and prescriptions should consider both species and habitat diversity, and ensure that actions result in a heterogeneous landscape. For example, variability in the timing and frequency of prescribed burns will ensure optimal herbaceous plant diversity in prairies. Likewise,

woody species removal efforts should create or retain a variety of species, seral stages, and stem densities, and canopy cover.

3. *Conserve animal diversity.*
   Continue to support animal research and respond to new information. While management efforts will generally focus on habitat diversity to support a wide array of wildlife species, attention will be given to ensuring specific requirements are met when possible to do so at the scale of the park. For example, prescribed burns can be scheduled and implemented to always retain areas that have at least two years of grass litter accumulation for Henslow's Sparrow nesting. Similarly, snags can be retained and aspen clones managed to complement natural tree mortality to provide sufficient snag density for Red-headed Woodpeckers. Large snags and mature live trees both support roosting sites for several bat species, and the surrounding wetlands and diverse native plant communities provide water and abundant insect populations.

4. *Restore and maintain sedge meadows and shrub carr habitats.*
   Portions of the riverine marsh complex have been degraded and invaded by monocultures of reed canary grass, common reed, and hybrid cattail. Shrub carr habitat has been invaded by buckthorn and tree species are becoming established due to a history of fire suppression. Opportunities exist to convert reed canary grass back to sedge meadow and wet prairie. Increased prescribed fire frequency, along with targeted woody species management will help sustain shrub carr habitat.

   Cherokee Marsh South Unit has been included in planning for a major effort to map and control the invasive strain of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) across ownerships throughout the Cherokee Marsh complex.

Management considerations

Madison Parks' vision is "to provide the ideal system of parks, natural resources and recreational opportunities which will enhance the quality of life for everyone." Ord. 8.40, Preservation of Conservation Parks, includes, "It is important to the residents of Madison that the City preserve Madison's native landscapes, its plant and animal populations for residents' careful use and full enjoyment."

In pursuit of this, we strive to balance ecological management needs with the needs of the community. These needs include a system of trails to support nature recreation such as hiking and cross-country skiing. They also include the placement of municipal infrastructure including storm water ponds, a sewer pump station, and a waste oil facility. In 2018, the waste oil facility, which had been located partly on park land, was moved to a right-of-way adjacent to a parking area shared by users of the waste-oil facility and park visitors.

Management decisions and actions at the South Unit should consider the following:

Prairie-dependent insects and grassland nesting birds – Proper fire regime (frequency and rotation) is critical to maintaining diverse populations of prairie-dependent insects, and habitat for grassland-nesting birds such as Henslow's Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows.

Red-headed Woodpecker populations - Red-Headed Woodpeckers (RHWO) have been observed in the park and regularly nest northeast of the intersection of Wheeler Road and School Road. Canopy management activities in woodlands will follow Madison Parks' internal Snag Protection Policy, which incorporates a snag inventory to monitor this habitat feature.

Engineered stormwater infrastructure – While beaver activity would actually support he goals of managing some wet prairie, sedge meadow and shrub carr habitat, damming in stormwater pond outlets will prevent their function as designed. The Engineering and Parks Divisions are cooperating to install devices that allow beaver activity while preserving drainage. We expect the beaver to have a desirable effect on woody species abundance.

Friends of Cherokee Marsh

Established in 2007, the Friends of Cherokee Marsh have become integral to the management of Cherokee Marsh. They lead monthly tours and organize volunteer workdays each year to promote the park and support Parks staff in ecological management and restoration. Their volunteers document more than 400 hours of labor annually, in addition to many volunteer hours not documented.

Parks staff and the Friends communicate regularly, and together, they coordinate work plans and priorities as they implement the habitat management plan. The Friends involve and engage new park users and active stakeholders, and regularly work on invasive plant removal, native plant establishment, and vegetation monitoring.

Management history

Major restoration work to date has focused mainly on restoring the upland portions of the park through invasive species removal, re-establishment of native plant communities, and prescribed burning. Specific projects have included converting former agricultural land to prairie and removing invasive woody species from overgrown oak woodlands. Emergent aquatic plants have been established in the artificial storm water ponds and invasive plant species have been controlled in the surrounding, revegetated basins. Ongoing management of invasive species has reduced populations of bird's-foot trefoil, buckthorn, dame's-rocket, garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle, Japanese hedge parsley, and wild parsnip on a large proportion of the uplands in the park.

Construction of a sanitary sewer main in 1971 destroyed a portion of a fen located north of the sewer pump station. Attempts were made to return the excavated material and reestablish the native plant community here, but high water levels limited the success of this effort. The fen is still monitored by UW researchers.

More recent accomplishments (since 2018) include:

- Major efforts to thin canopy and remove woody debris in the West Unit, Daryl's Woods, Wheeler Woods and East Woods units.
- Establishment of permanent vegetation monitoring transects.
- Conversion of selected small areas dominated by reed canary grass to diverse native prairie vegetation.
- Continued implementation of prescribed burns. See Appendix A, Figure 4 for a map of recent prescribed burns.


Volunteers sampling vegetation


Wheeler Woods restoration


Prescribed burn April 2025

Management units

The park can be divided into several management units to facilitate implementation of management. See Appendix A, Figure 5, for a map of management units.

West Unit (25 ac) This unit encompasses a range of habitats and is bounded by Hwy 113 to the west, DNR land to the north, and a residential area to the south. Woodland restoration efforts began in the northern part of this unit (the "White Oak Loop") in 2014, then were expanded in 2023 to include wet-mesic woods along Hwy 113 and the upland north of Deb's Road.

West Marsh Complex (73 ac) Riverine marsh complex dominated by sedge meadow and shrub-carr with some small pockets of calcareous fen and emergent marsh. This unit is situated along the south side of the Yahara River and also borders the adjacent DNR land to the northwest.

Wheeler Prairie Unit (15 ac) Upland prairie restoration in the western portion of the park. Wild parsnip and sweet clover have been greatly reduced in this unit in recent years.

Daryl's Woods Unit (12 ac) Features oak woodland, sedge meadow, and two ponds.

Bluebird Hill Unit (16 ac) Upland dominated by tallgrass prairie, with oak woodland on the north-facing slope. The prairie features conservative species such as painted cup and prairie parsley. This unit includes a former borrow pit/sand mine on the south-facing slope and is separated from the Central Woods unit by the hiking trail.

Central Woods Unit (15 ac) Transitions from oak and hickory along the southern edge, to black cherry and hackberry, then cottonwood, silver maple, black willow and ash, along the stream to the north. This unit is heavily infested with buckthorn, garlic mustard, dame's rocket and reed canary grass. Management of this unit began in 2022 with removal of buckthorn and honeysuckle, followed by prescribed grazing and limited effort to control herbaceous invasive species. More work is needed to establish a sustainable natural community.

Boat Launch Hill Unit (8 ac) Located on a ridge that separates the West Marsh and East Marsh, this unit features a prairie restoration on the hill and the boat launch on the canal.

Ilene Pond Unit (11 ac) High-quality prairie restoration adjacent to a 3.8-acre pond with abundant emergent aquatic vegetation. The east side of the unit features a swale and several cottonwood snags in which Red Headed Woodpeckers regularly nest.

Wheeler Woods (12 ac) Open wet-mesic oak woodland adjacent to a storm water pond. The woodland supports significant natural oak regeneration, and the pond is surrounded by robust prairie vegetation.

East Marsh Complex (44 ac) Sedge meadow and emergent marsh in the northeast corner of the park divided by two buried storm water outfalls that each create strips of upland occupied by tallgrass prairie. This unit is bordered by Wheeler Woods to the south and a canal to the north.

East Woods Unit (8 ac) Located at the corner of Wheeler Rd. and Comanche Way, this unit features mowed turf along the road frontage and a low-quality mesic forest heavily invaded by honeysuckle, dame's rocket and hedge parsley. Management of this unit began in 2024 with forestry mowing followed by prescribed grazing. Herbicide treatments to invasive herbaceous species are planned, along with seeding to augment the native herbaceous layer.

Cherokee Park Unit (5 ac) Located along the south bank of the river between the canal and Cherokee Park. This unit is dominated by reed canary grass and cattails, with some native sedge meadow habitat still present. The southern portion of the unit is dominated by cottonwoods and black willow with buckthorn, honeysuckle and some native shrubs in the understory. This unit has not been actively managed to date.

Yahara Heights Unit (15 ac) Located north of the Yahara River and contiguous with Yahara Heights County Park. This unit is not actively managed by City of Madison staff, but is included in planning for a major non-native Phragmites control project that will span several properties. The project is being coordinated by the South Central Invasives Partnership led by the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association.

Objectives

The following objectives are recommended to repair and sustain the natural communities at this site:

- Achieve and maintain 50%-70% overstory canopy cover, measured within individual management units, in areas characterized as Oak Woodland.
- Establish and maintain oak regeneration throughout the diameter distribution in Oak Woodland and Southern Dry-mesic Forest habitats.
- Establish and maintain sufficient tree regeneration throughout the diameter distribution in areas characterized as Southern Mesic Forest.
- Establish and maintain 10-15% native shrub cover, measured in individual management units, in wooded habitats.
- Establish and maintain native shrub dominance in areas delineated as shrub carr. This will include controlling non-native species as well as limiting the establishment of *Acer* and *Populus* species to prevent succession to forested habitat.
- Limit native woody species cover to 5% or less in areas characterized as prairie and sedge meadow.
- Re-establish native prairie vegetation in small, manageable areas currently dominated by reed canary grass, in order to help contain monocultures and provide anchor points for larger reed canary grass removal projects.
- Initiate larger scale reed canary grass removal projects in wetland areas contained by physical boundaries such as topography or adjacent human-created cover types (turf, roads, etc.).
- Burn tallgrass prairie and sedge meadow units on 3-year return interval, allowing a minimum of 2 years thatch to accumulate and remain present on a portion of the park at all times. Alternate timing of upland grassland burns to retain availability of appropriate nesting habitat for grassland birds. Burn no more than ½ of prairie habitat in one season to conserve invertebrate diversity.
- Burn woodland units on a 5-year maximum return interval.

Specific Management Unit Prescriptions:

Timeline	Unit	Task
Fall 2025	Central Woods	Conduct tree and snag inventory
Winter 2026	Central Woods	Buckthorn removal, canopy thinning to release sub-canopy dominants and allow recruitment of diverse species
	Daryl's Woods	Selective canopy removal to release oaks along Wheeler Road
	Bluebird Hill	Remove red pines from southern rim
	Cherokee Park Unit	Invasive shrub removal (contract)
Spring 2026	East Marsh Wheeler Woods Ilene Pond	Rx burn
	Ilene Pond	Sow grass hemiparasites in prairie near trailhead kiosk

Timeline	Unit	Task
Spring 2026 (continued)	West Unit Daryl's Woods Central Woods Wheeler Woods East Woods	Garlic mustard, dame's rocket, and hedge parsley control in wooded areas- includes contracts for West Unit, Central Woods and East Woods
	Daryl's Woods Central Woods	Mow reed canary grass
	Central Woods	Plant native shrub species along stream (in place of former buckthorn thickets)
	Wheeler Prairie	Mow sweet clover, wild parsnip
Summer 2026	West Marsh	Determine feasibility of reed canary grass control west of Daryl's Woods unit.
	West Marsh East Marsh Cherokee Park Unit	Phragmites treatments under CISMA project
	East Woods West Unit	Prescribed graze
	Wheeler Woods	Reed canary grass control contract
	East Marsh	Cattail control (contract)
	Boat Launch Hill	Establishment mow former RCG areas
	Daryl's Woods Central Woods	Mow and spray RCG areas
	Wheeler Prairie	Mow and spray silver grass
Fall 2026	Daryl's Woods Bluebird Hill	Conduct tree and snag inventory
	East Woods	• Spray biennial invasive species • Sow woodland graminoids
	Bluebird Hill Daryl's Woods Central Woods (RCG control areas)	Rx burn
	Bluebird Hill	Seed woodland mix post-burn
	Daryl's Woods Central Woods	Sow seed mix in former RCG areas
Winter 2027	West Unit Central Woods	Complete buckthorn removal
	West Marsh	Tree species control in shrub carr habitat
	Central Woods	Industrial and woody debris removal in E portion of unit
Spring 2027	West Unit Wheeler Prairie	Rx burn
	West Unit Daryl's Woods Central Woods Wheeler Woods East Woods	Garlic mustard, dame's rocket, and hedge parsley control in wooded areas- includes contracts for West Unit, Central Woods and East Woods
	Central Woods	Plant emergent aquatic and obligate wetland herbs along stream corridor
	East Marsh	Plant emergent aquatics in former cattail stands

Timeline	Unit	Task
Summer 2027	West Marsh	Reed canary grass control contract
	West Marsh East Marsh Cherokee Park Unit	Phragmites treatments under CISMA project
	West Marsh	Cattail control north of lift station (staff and volunteers)
	West Unit	Determine feasibility of reed canary grass control in marsh
Fall 2027	West Unit East Woods	Conduct tree and snag inventory
	West Marsh	Rx burn (*At least the RCG treated area if not entire unit)
	West Unit	Sow native seed mix in woodlands prior to leaf drop
	East Woods	Spray biennial invasive species
Winter 2028	East Woods	Canopy management to create sustainable diameter distribution.
Spring 2028	East Marsh Boat Launch Hill Cherokee Park Unit	Rx burn
	West Unit Daryl's Woods Central Woods Wheeler Woods East Woods	Garlic mustard, dame's rocket, and hedge parsley control in wooded areas
Summer 2028	West Unit	Reed canary grass control contract
	East Marsh	Cattail control (contract)
Fall 2028	West Unit	• Rx burn • Sow seed mix in former RCG areas
Winter 2009	West Unit	Canopy management in woodlands
Spring 2029	Central Woods Ilene Pond	Rx burn
	East Marsh	Plant emergent aquatics in former cattail stands
	West Unit	Plant native shrubs and deer-resistant native herbaceous species in woodlands
	various	Follow-up maintenance level invasive species control
Summer 2029	Daryl's Woods	Cattail control (staff)
Fall 2029	Wheeler Prairie	Rx burn
	East Woods	Sow native woodland forb seed mix
Winter 2030	various	Follow-up maintenance level woody invasive species control
Spring 2030	West Unit Central Woods East Woods	Augment natural tree regeneration with bare-root seedlings where needed
	various	Follow-up maintenance level invasive species control
Summer 2030	East Marsh	Reed canary grass control contract
Fall 2030	East Marsh	• Rx burn • Sow seed mix in former RCG areas
	Bluebird Hill	Rx burn
	West Unit	Sow native woodland forb seed mix

In addition to the actions outlined above for stewardship of this natural area, the following initiatives would advance the restoration trajectory of the park, resulting in greater benefit, achieved sooner. These actions would be accomplished through implementation of capital improvement projects, special initiatives directed at a specific goal, or a general, longer-term increase in resources, including volunteer labor.

- Collect and sow acorns to assist regeneration of white and bur oaks.
- Plant bare root and non-dormant herbaceous plants in woodland units, particularly in wooded portions of the West Unit, Central Woods, and East Woods units.
- Plant additional native shrub and understory tree species in limited numbers in areas that had been overgrown with non-native shrubs and recently re-set (cleared). Target areas would include the East Woods, Central Woods, and the portion of the West Unit along Hwy 113

Monitoring and Evaluation

Measuring results is critical to determining success. Refer to Appendix C for an outline of the goals for monitoring natural areas in Madison Parks.

Parks staff currently have very limited capacity to conduct monitoring. However, Parks is supported by a network of volunteers and researchers. Community science programs are available to collect data on sensitive ecological indicators and provide crucial information on which to base management decisions. Many of the programs listed below are currently implemented in other conservation parks, and with the recent addition of Parks staff to support volunteer engagement, these can be further implemented at Cherokee Marsh as well.

Program	Coordinator	Website
Bluebird Trail (currently implemented at Cherokee Marsh)	Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin	braw.org
Wisconsin Bat Program	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	wiatri.net/inventory/bats/
Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	wiatri.net/inventory/bbb/
Wisconsin Odonata Survey	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	wiatri.net/inventory/odonata/
Wisconsin Frog and Toad Phenology Survey	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	wiatri.net/inventory/frogtoadsurvey/
Friends of Amphibians	Hua Lab, UW Madison	jhua13.wixsite.com/jhua
Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program	Monarch Joint Venture	monarchjointventure.org/mjvprograms/science/integrated-monarch-monitoring-program
Monarch Larva Monitoring Program	Monarch Joint Venture and UW Madison Arboretum	mlmp.org/

Open-source data collection platforms such as eBird and iNaturalist provide valuable information on species occurrences. Staff access datasets through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF.org), and use them to compile species inventories for the parks.

In addition, volunteers monitor vegetation along permanent transects, using a protocol where plant species richness and cover is measured in randomized square-meter quadrats. This data is stored and maintained by Parks staff and is used to calculate diversity and floristic quality. See Appendix A, Figure 6 for a map of vegetation monitoring transects.

Vegetation surveys have been conducted by volunteers since 2019. Three permanent transects have been established in Cherokee Marsh South Unit. Along each transect, 1-meter by 1-meter quadrats are randomly located and all plant species present are recorded and percent cover estimated for each species. This data has been compiled and analyzed to track changes in the plant community over time within specific management units. Initial results are summarized in Appendix D. Many more years of data are needed to overcome the small sample size and inherent variability of the site to truly discern trends. However, initial data from the three years included in Appendix D show relative stability in floristic quality and diversity of all transects at Cherokee Marsh South Unit.

Additional monitoring needs include:

- Tree species recruitment and diameter distribution in woodlands
- Canopy cover in woodlands, measured at different heights
- Total woody species cover in prairie
- Mammal and amphibian inventories

Budget

The work outlined in this plan is accomplished through financial and in-kind support from the City's General Operating budget, special Capital Improvement Project funding, and volunteer labor.

Typical Annual Budget Estimate:

Task	Labor required (hours)	Annual cost
Prescribed burning (2 days, 8 person crew)	160	$5,600
Native seed mix and growing stock	-	$5,000
Native plant establishment ($20/hr)	100	$2,000
Invasive species control ($30/hr)	400	$12,000
Contracts for invasive species control and canopy management	-	$35,000
Monitoring ($25/hr)	300	$7,500
Trail maintenance and repair ($20/hr plus materials)	150	$4,000
Totals		**$71,100**

Hourly rates reflect average staff wages and volunteer "in-kind" rates.

Citations

GBIF.org (17 October 2025) GBIF Occurrence Download https://doi.org/10.15468/dl.sa77ua

GBIF.org (28 October 2025) GBIF Occurrence Download https://doi.org/10.15468/dl.8ktspt

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Document History

This Habitat Management Plan is consistent with Madison Parks' Land Management Plan. This Habitat Management Plan has 5-year lifespan and should be reviewed yearly. It can be revised whenever new information is discovered. If no changes have been made, it should be updated in its 5th year.

Version	Description
10/26/2018	First draft, presented to Friends of Cherokee Marsh
11/12/2018	Minor edits incorporated, presented to Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee
11/10/2025	5-year update. Presented to Habitat Stewardship Subcommittee on 11/18/25

Appendices

A. Maps
   - Figure 1. Park Overview
   - Figure 2. Land Cover Categories (Parks Land Management Plan)
   - Figure 3. Soils Map
   - Figure 4. Recent Prescribed Burns
   - Figure 5. Management Units
   - Figure 6. Vegetation Monitoring Transects

B. Species Lists
C. Natural Areas Monitoring Goals
D. Vegetation Monitoring Data Summary

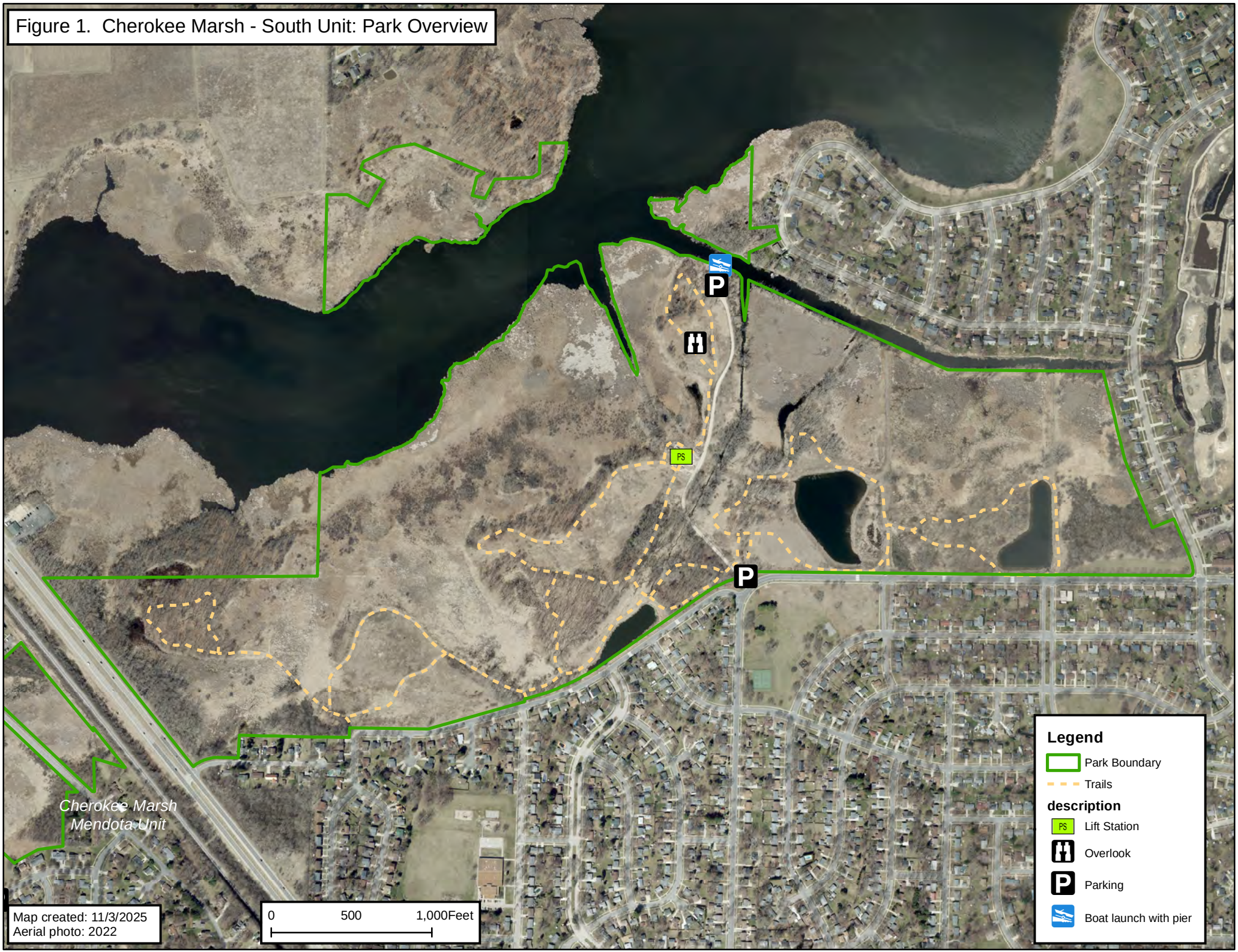


Figure 1. Cherokee Marsh - South Unit: Park Overview
PS
Cherokee Marsh
Mendota Unit
Map created: 11/3/2025
Aerial photo: 2022
0
500
1,000Feet
Legend
Park Boundary
Trails
description
Lift Station
Overlook
Parking
Boat launch with pier

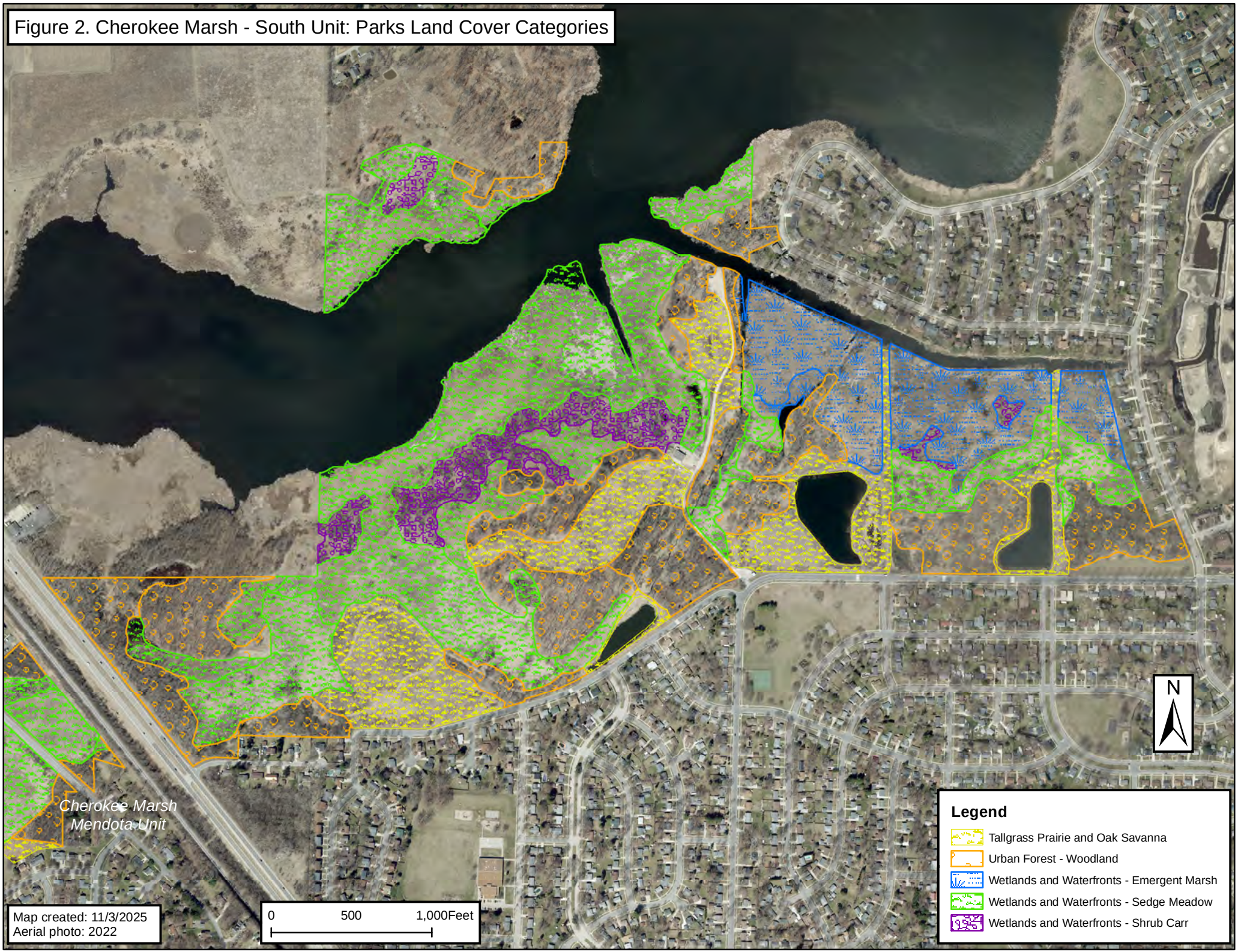


Figure 2. Cherokee Marsh - South Unit: Parks Land Cover Categories
Cherokee Marsh
Mendota Unit
N
Legend
Tallgrass Prairie and Oak Savanna
Urban Forest - Woodland
Wetlands and Waterfronts - Emergent Marsh
Wetlands and Waterfronts - Sedge Meadow
Wetlands and Waterfronts - Shrub Carr
0
500
1,000Feet
Map created: 11/3/2025
Aerial photo: 2022

Soil Map—Dane County, Wisconsin
(Cherokee Marsh South Unit)

Map Scale: 1:12,000 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.

N

Meters: 0 150 300 600 900

Feet: 0 500 1000 2000 3000

Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 16N WGS84

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)
- Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils
- Soil Map Unit Polygons
- Soil Map Unit Lines
- Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features
- Blowout
- Borrow Pit
- Clay Spot
- Closed Depression
- Gravel Pit
- Gravelly Spot
- Landfill
- Lava Flow
- Marsh or swamp
- Mine or Quarry
- Miscellaneous Water
- Perennial Water
- Rock Outcrop
- Saline Spot
- Sandy Spot
- Severely Eroded Spot
- Sinkhole
- Slide or Slip
- Sodic Spot
- Spoil Area
- Stony Spot
- Very Stony Spot
- Wet Spot
- Other
- Special Line Features

Water Features
- Streams and Canals

Transportation
- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background
- Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:15,800.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL:
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Dane County, Wisconsin
Survey Area Data: Version 24, Sep 10, 2025

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Jun 13, 2020—Sep 13, 2022

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
629A	Orion silt loam, wet	12.3	4.5%
7009A	Houghton muck, 0 to 2 percent slopes	35.8	13.1%
7030A	Adrian muck, 0 to 2 percent slopes	93.2	34.0%
7105A	Batavia silt loam, gravelly substratum, 0 to 2 percent slopes	1.7	0.6%
7105B	Batavia silt loam, gravelly substratum, 2 to 6 percent slopes	4.4	1.6%
7122B	Westville silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	4.1	1.5%
7204A	Virgil silt loam, gravelly substratum, 0 to 3 percent slopes	6.8	2.5%
7243B	St. Charles silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	1.5	0.6%
7325B	Dresden silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	3.9	1.4%
7325C2	Dresden silt loam, 6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	13.8	5.0%
7327B	Kegonsa silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	22.4	8.2%
7374A	Radford silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes	3.5	1.3%
7506A	Wacousta silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	7.2	2.6%
7706D2	Boyer sandy loam, 12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	21.5	7.8%
M	Marsh	24.1	8.8%
W	Water	17.8	6.5%
Totals for Area of Interest		**274.1**	**100.0%**

Figure 4. Cherokee Marsh - South Unit: Recent Prescribed Burns

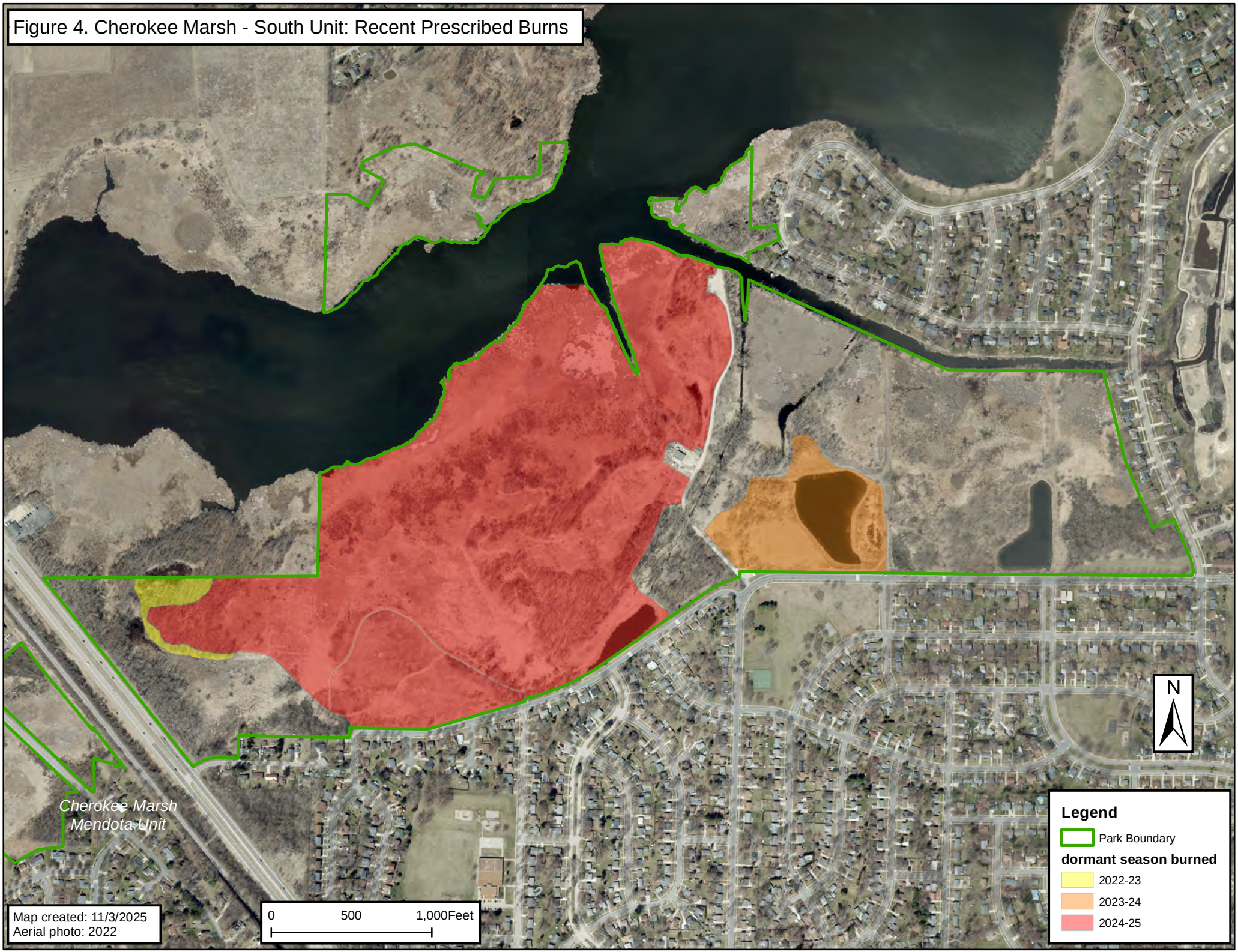



Figure 5. Cherokee Marsh - South Unit: Management Units
Cherokee Park Unit
Yahara Heights
Boat Launch Hill
West Marsh
East Marsh
Bluebird Hill
Central Woods
Ilene Pond
Wheeler Woods
East Woods
Daryl's Woods
West Unit
Wheeler Prairie
Cherokee Marsh Mendota Unit
N
Legend
Management Units
Map created: 11/3/2025
Aerial photo: 2022
0
500
1,000Feet

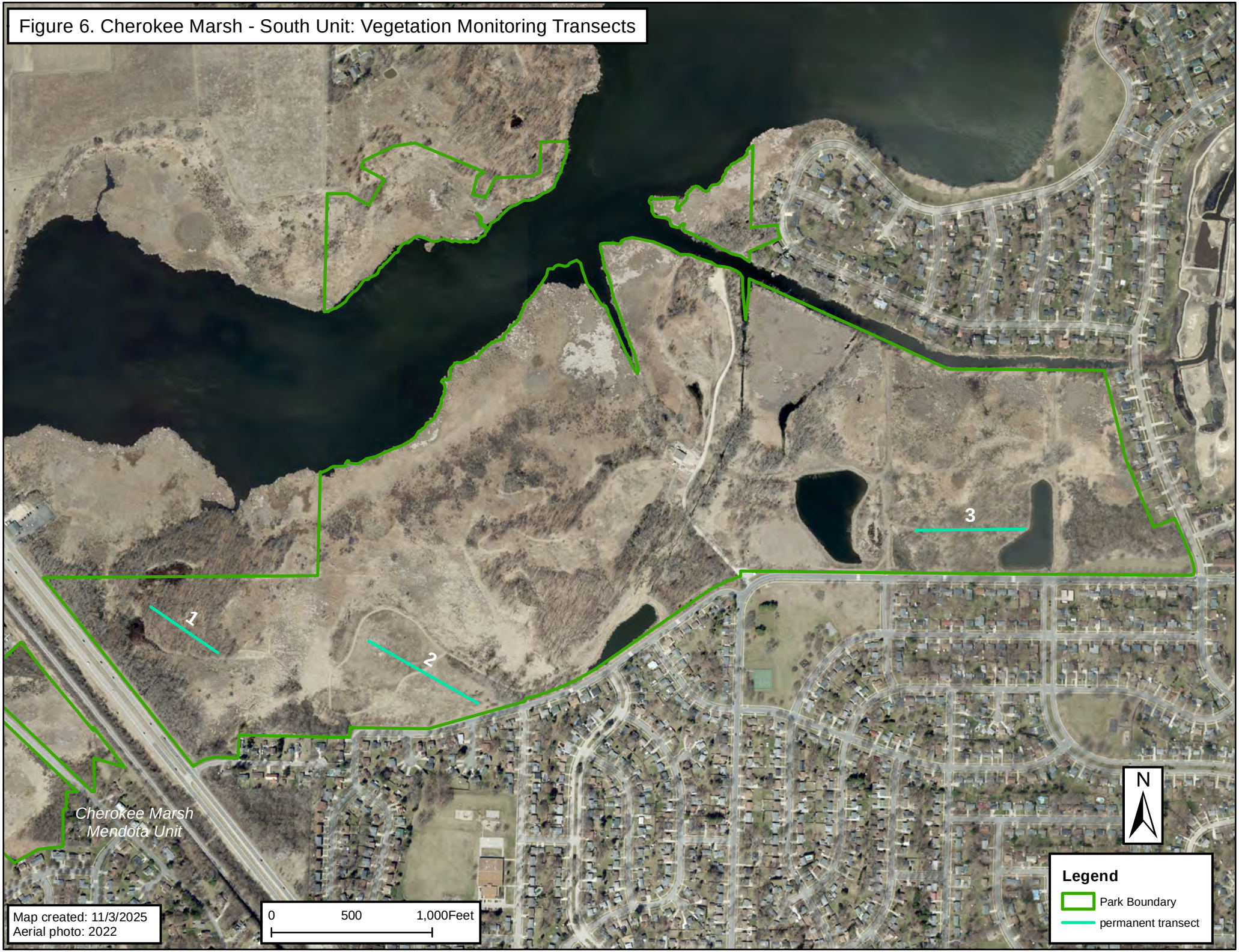


Figure 6. Cherokee Marsh - South Unit: Vegetation Monitoring Transects
1
2
3
Cherokee Marsh
Mendota Unit
N
Legend
Park Boundary
permanent transect
Map created: 11/3/2025
Aerial photo: 2022
0
500
1,000Feet

Vascular Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Native	Introduced	last observed
Acer negundo	X		2025
Achillea millefolium	X		2024
Actaea rubra	X		2024
Agastache scrophulariifolia	X		2024
Ageratina altissima	X		2025
Agrimonia gryposepala	X		2023
Alliaria petiolata		X	2025
Allium canadense	X		2017
Allium cernuum	X		2022
Allium tricoccum	X		2022
Ambrosia artemisiifolia	X		2020
Ambrosia trifida	X		2024
Amorpha canescens	X		2024
Amphicarpaea bracteata	X		2025
Andropogon gerardi	X		2025
Anemone quinquefolia	X		2025
Anemone virginiana	X		2021
Apocynum cannabinum	X		2024
Aralia nudicaulis	X		2024
Arctium minus	X		2025
Arisaema triphyllum	X		2024
Arnoglossum atriplicifolium	X		2025
Arnoglossum plantagineum	X		2019
Artemisia ludoviciana	X		2025
Asclepias incarnata	X		2025
Asclepias syriaca	X		2025
Asparagus officinalis		X	2025
Athyrium angustum	X		2020
Aureolaria grandiflora	X		2018
Baptisia alba	X		2024
Berteroa incana	X		2024
Bidens connata	X		2023
Blephilia hirsuta	X		2024
Bouteloua curtipendula	X		2025
Bromus ciliatus	X		2018
Calamagrostis canadensis	X		2018
Caltha palustris	X		2018
Calystegia sepium	X		2023
Campanula aparinoides	X		2018
Campanula rapunculoides	X		2024
Campanulastrum americanum	X		2025
Cardamine bulbosa	X		2024

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Native	Introduced	last observed
Carduus acanthoides	X		2024
Carex aquatilis	X		2018
Carex bebbii	X		2018
Carex blanda	X		2024
Carex buxbaumii	X		2018
Carex lacustris	X		2018
Carex lasiocarpa	X		2018
Carex prairea	X		2018
Carex sartwellii	X		2018
Carex sterilis	X		2018
Carex stricta	X		2018
Carya ovata	X		2025
Castilleja coccinea	X		2024
Celtis occidentalis	X		2024
Chelone glabra	X		2025
Cichorium intybus	X		2024
Cirsium altissimum	X		2025
Cirsium arvense	X		2024
Cirsium discolor	X		2025
Cirsium muticum	X		2025
Clematis virginiana	X		2024
Convolvulus arvensis	X		2017
Coreopsis tripteris	X		2019
Cornus racemosa	X		2024
Cornus sericea	X		2024
Cryptotaenia canadensis	X		2024
Cuscuta gronovii	X		2022
Dalea candida	X		2024
Dalea purpurea	X		2024
Daucus carota		X	2025
Decodon verticillatus	X		2025
Desmodium illinoense	X		2021
Diarrhena obovata	X		2021
Dioscorea villosa	X		2025
Dodecatheon meadia	X		2024
Doellingeria umbellata	X		2023
Drymocallis arguta	X		2021
Dryopteris carthusiana	X		2020
Dryopteris cristata	X		2018
Echinacea pallida	X		2023
Echinacea purpurea	X		2023
Echinochloa walteri	X		2025
Echinocystis lobata	X		2025
Eleocharis elliptica	X		2018

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Native	Introduced	last observed
Eleocharis obtusa	X		2018
Epilobium leptophyllum	X		2018
Equisetum arvense	X		2025
Equisetum fluviatile	X		2018
Erigeron annuus	X		2017
Erigeron canadensis	X		2025
Erigeron philadelphicus	X		2018
Erigeron strigosus	X		2019
Eriophorum angustifolium	X		2018
Eryngium yuccifolium	X		2025
Eupatorium altissimum	X		2024
Eupatorium perfoliatum	X		2025
Euphorbia corollata	X		2024
Euphorbia virgata	X		2017
Eutrochium maculatum	X		2025
Eutrochium purpureum	X		2025
Fragaria virginiana	X		2024
Frangula alnus	X		2024
Galium aparine	X		2025
Galium boreale	X		2018
Galium labradoricum	X		2018
Gentiana alba	X		2025
Gentiana andrewsii	X		2025
Gentianella quinquefolia	X		2023
Geranium maculatum	X		2025
Geum canadense	X		2019
Glechoma hederacea	X		2024
Glyceria striata	X		2018
Hackelia virginiana	X		2025
Helenium autumnale	X		2024
Helianthus divaricatus	X		2021
Helianthus grosseserratus	X		2025
Helianthus pauciflorus	X		2023
Helianthus strumosus	X		2021
Heliopsis helianthoides	X		2025
Heracleum maximum	X		2024
Hesperis matronalis	X		2025
Heuchera richardsonii	X		2022
Hydrophyllum virginianum	X		2025
Hylodesmum glutinosum	X		2024
Hypoxis hirsuta	X		2018
Impatiens capensis	X		2022
Iris versicolor	X		2018
Iris virginica	X		2024

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Native	Introduced	last observed
Juglans nigra	X		2024
Juncus dudleyi	X		2018
Lactuca canadensis	X		2024
Lactuca serriola	X		2024
Lathyrus ochroleucus	X		2024
Lathyrus palustris	X		2022
Leersia oryzoides	X		2018
Leonurus cardiaca		X	2024
Lespedeza capitata	X		2024
Liatris ligulistylis	X		2023
Liatris pycnostachya	X		2022
Lilium michiganense	X		2024
Lobelia siphilitica	X		2025
Lobelia spicata	X		2021
Lonicera morrowii		X	2025
Lotus corniculatus		X	2024
Lycopus americanus	X		2018
Lycopus uniflorus	X		2018
Lysimachia quadriflora	X		2018
Lysimachia thyrsiflora	X		2024
Maianthemum racemosum	X		2024
Maianthemum stellatum	X		2025
Melilotus albus		X	2024
Melilotus officinalis		X	2024
Mentha canadensis	X		2018
Moehringia lateriflora	X		2024
Monarda fistulosa	X		2025
Monotropa uniflora	X		2023
Morus alba		X	2025
Muhlenbergia glomerata	X		2018
Napaea dioica	X		2025
Nepeta cataria		X	2024
Nymphaea odorata	X		2025
Oenothera biennis	X		2024
Oenothera gaura	X		2025
Oenothera parviflora	X		2021
Onoclea sensibilis	X		2025
Osmorhiza longistylis	X		2025
Oxypolis rigidior	X		2018
Parthenium integrifolium	X		2024
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	X		2025
Pastinaca sativa		X	2024
Pedicularis canadensis	X		2025
Pedicularis lanceolata	X		2025

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Native	Introduced	last observed
Penstemon digitalis	X		2024
Persicaria maculosa	X		2025
Persicaria sagittata	X		2025
Phalaris arundinacea		X	2018
Phlox paniculata	X		2025
Phragmites australis		X	2025
Phryma leptostachya	X		2024
Pilea pumila	X		2018
Pilosella aurantiaca	X		2024
Platanthera psycodes	X		2018
Poa palustris	X		2018
Podophyllum peltatum	X		2024
Polemonium reptans	X		2025
Polygonatum biflorum	X		2025
Polytaenia nuttallii	X		2022
Pontederia cordata	X		2024
Populus alba	X		2024
Populus deltoides	X		2024
Populus tremuloides	X		2025
Potentilla recta	X		2024
Prenanthes racemosa	X		2019
Prunella vulgaris	X		2024
Prunus americana	X		2024
Prunus serotina	X		2025
Prunus virginiana	X		2024
Pycnanthemum virginianum	X		2024
Quercus alba	X		2025
Quercus bicolor	X		2025
Quercus ellipsoidalis	X		2024
Quercus macrocarpa	X		2023
Ranunculus abortivus	X		2024
Ranunculus aquatilis	X		2023
Ranunculus recurvatus	X		2024
Ratibida pinnata	X		2025
Rhamnus cathartica		X	2025
Rhus glabra	X		2024
Rhus typhina	X		2024
Ribes americanum	X		2024
Rubus allegheniensis	X		2024
Rubus idaeus	X		2024
Rubus occidentalis	X		2025
Rudbeckia hirta	X		2017
Rudbeckia laciniata	X		2025
Rudbeckia triloba	X		2025

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Native	Introduced	last observed
Rumex britannica	X		2018
Sagittaria latifolia	X		2018
Salix bebbiana	X		2018
Salix candida	X		2024
Salix discolor	X		2023
Salix eriocephala	X		2024
Salix interior	X		2024
Salix nigra	X		2025
Sambucus canadensis	X		2024
Schizachyrium scoparium	X		2024
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	X		2018
Scilla siberica	X		2025
Scirpus atrovirens	X		2018
Scutellaria galericulata	X		2018
Setaria pumila	X		2025
Silene latifolia	X		2024
Silene stellata	X		2021
Silphium integrifolium	X		2024
Silphium laciniatum	X		2025
Silphium perfoliatum	X		2025
Silphium terebinthinaceum	X		2025
Smilax lasioneura	X		2021
Solidago canadensis	X		2025
Solidago flexicaulis	X		2020
Solidago gigantea	X		2025
Solidago nemoralis	X		2023
Solidago riddellii	X		2018
Solidago rigida	X		2025
Solidago uliginosa	X		2018
Sorghastrum nutans	X		2025
Sporobolus michauxianus	X		2022
Symphyotrichum boreale	X		2018
Symphyotrichum laeve	X		2020
Symphyotrichum lanceolatum	X		2025
Symphyotrichum lateriflorum	X		2024
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae	X		2024
Symphyotrichum oblongifolium	X		2020
Symphyotrichum oolentangiense	X		2021
Symphyotrichum pilosum	X		2025
Symphyotrichum puniceum	X		2020
Symplocarpus foetidus	X		2020
Taraxacum officinale		X	2024
Teucrium canadense	X		2025
Thalictrum dasycarpum	X		2022

SCIENTIFIC NAME	Native	Introduced	last observed
Thelypteris palustris	X		2024
Thlaspi arvense	X		2024
Tilia americana	X		2024
Torilis japonica		X	2025
Toxicodendron radicans	X		2024
Toxicodendron vernix	X		2025
Tradescantia ohiensis	X		2024
Tragopogon pratensis		X	2025
Trifolium pratense		X	2024
Triosteum aurantiacum	X		2019
Triosteum perfoliatum	X		2023
Typha angustifolia	X		2017
Typha X glauca		X	2018
Urtica gracilis	X		2020
Utricularia intermedia	X		2018
Uvularia grandiflora	X		2024
Verbascum thapsus	X		2024
Verbena hastata	X		2024
Verbena stricta	X		2023
Verbena urticifolia	X		2025
Vernonia fasciculata	X		2023
Veronica serpyllifolia	X		2024
Veronicastrum virginicum	X		2025
Viburnum lentago	X		2025
Viburnum opulus	X		2024
Viburnum prunifolium	X		2024
Viola cucullata	X		2018
Viola sororia	X		2024
Viola striata	X		2024
Vitis riparia	X		2025
Zizia aurea	X		2025

total species	**293**
total native	**274**
total exotic	**19**

Animals- Birds

Source: GBIF.org (28 October 2025) GBIF Occurrence Download https://doi.org/10.15468/dl.8ktspt

State listings:
END = endangered
THR = threatened
SC/M = special concern, but fully protected by federal and state laws under the Migratory Bird Act

SGCN = Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as identified in the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan
SINS-Monitoring = Species has numerical conservation status ranks and sufficient information to be assessed, but does not meet SGCN criteria.
SINS-Ranking = Species for which there is basic information, but not enough to assign a numerical rank

See Wisconsin natural heritage working list website for more information:
https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/NHI/WList.html

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	last observed	state listing	Wi DNR Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan
Alder Flycatcher	Empidonax alnorum	2023		
American Avocet	Recurvirostra americana	2014		
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus	2024	SC/M	SGCN
American Black Duck	Anas rubripes	2024	SC/M	SGCN
American Coot	Fulica americana	2024		
American Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos	2024		
American Goldfinch	Spinus tristis	2024		
American Herring Gull	Larus smithsonianus	2024		
American Kestrel	Falco sparverius	2024		
American Pipit	Anthus rubescens	2020		
American Redstart	Setophaga ruticilla	2024		
American Robin	Turdus migratorius	2024		
American Tree Sparrow	Spizelloides arborea	2024		
American White Pelican	Pelecanus erythrorhynchos	2024		
American Wigeon	Mareca americana	2024		
American Woodcock	Scolopax minor	2024	SC/M	SGCN
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	2024		
Baltimore Oriole	Icterus galbula	2024		
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia	2023		
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	2024		
Barred Owl	Strix varia	2023		
Bay-breasted Warbler	Setophaga castanea	2024		
Belted Kingfisher	Megaceryle alcyon	2024		
Black Tern	Chlidonias niger	2023	END	SGCN
Black-and-white Warbler	Mniotilta varia	2024		
Black-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus erythropthalmus	2024		
Blackburnian Warbler	Setophaga fusca	2024		
Black-capped Chickadee	Poecile atricapillus	2024		
Blackpoll Warbler	Setophaga striata	2024		
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Setophaga caerulescens	2024		
Black-throated Green Warbler	Setophaga virens	2024		

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	last observed	state listing	Wi DNR Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Polioptila caerulea	2024		
Blue-headed Vireo	Vireo solitarius	2024		
Blue-jay	Cyanocitta cristata	2024		
Blue-winged Teal	Spatula discors	2024		
Blue-winged Warbler	Vermivora cyanoptera	2024		
Bobolink	Dolichonyx oryzivorus	2023	SC/M	SGCN
Bonaparte's Gull	Chroicocephalus philadelphia	2023		
Broad-winged Hawk	Buteo platypterus	2024		
Brown Creeper	Certhia americana	2024		
Brown Thrasher	Toxostoma rufum	2024		
Brown-headed Cowbird	Molothrus ater	2024		
Bufflehead	Bucephala albeola	2024		
Cackling Goose	Branta hutchinsii	2024		
Canada Goose	Branta canadensis	2024		
Canada Warbler	Cardellina canadensis	2024		
Canvasback	Aythya valisineria	2024		
Cape May Warbler	Setophaga tigrina	2024		
Carolina wren	Thryothorus ludovicianus	2024		
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia	2015	END	SGCN
Cedar Waxwing	Bombycilla cedrorum	2024		
Cerulean Warbler	Setophaga cerulea	2021	THR	SGCN
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Setophaga pensylvanica	2024		
Chimney Swift	Chaetura pelagica	2024		
Chipping Sparrow	Spizella passerina	2024		
Clay-colored Sparrow	Spizella pallida	2024		
Cliff Swallow	Petrochelidon pyrrhonota	2023		
Common Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula	2024	SC/M	SGCN
Common Grackle	Quiscalus quiscula	2024		
Common Loon	Gavia immer	2023		
Common Merganser	Mergus merganser	2024		
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor	2024	SC/M	SGCN
Common Redpoll	Acanthis flammea	2018		
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	2022	END	SGCN
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas	2024		
Connecticut Warbler	Oporornis agilis	2020	SC/M	SGCN
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis	2024		
Double-crested Cormorant	Phalacrocorax auritus	2024		
Downy Woodpecker	Dryobates pubescens	2024		
Eastern Bluebird	Sialia sialis	2024		
Eastern Kingbird	Tyrannus tyrannus	2024		
Eastern Meadowlark	Sturnella magna	2022	SC/M	SGCN
Eastern Phoebe	Sayornis phoebe	2024		
Eastern Screech-Owl	Megascops asio	2020		
Eastern Towhee	Pipilo erythrophthalmus	2024		
Eastern Wood Pewee	Contopus virens	2024		
European Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	2024		
Field Sparrow	Spizella pusilla	2024		
Forster's Tern	Sterna forsteri	2024	END	SGCN
Fox Sparrow	Passerella iliaca	2024		

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	last observed	state listing	Wi DNR Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan
Gadwall	Mareca strepera	2024		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Regulus satrapa	2024		
Golden-winged Warbler	Vermivora chrysoptera	2024	SC/M	SGCN
Grass Wren	Cistothorus platensis	2024		
Grasshopper Sparrow	Ammodramus savannarum	2020	SC/M	SGCN
Gray Catbird	Dumetella carolinensis	2024		
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Catharus minimus	2023		
Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	2024		
Great Crested Flycatcher	Myiarchus crinitus	2024		
Great Egret	Ardea alba	2024	THR	SGCN
Great Horned Owl	Bubo virginianus	2024		
Greater Scaup	Aythya marila	2023		
Greater White-fronted Goose	Anser albifrons	2024		
Green Heron	Butorides virescens	2024		
Green-winged Teal	Anas crecca	2024		
Hairy Woodpecker	Leuconotopicus villosus	2024		
Harris's sparrow	Zonotrichia querula	2019		
Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus	2023		
Henslow's Sparrow	Centronyx henslowii	2024	THR	SGCN
Hermit Thrush	Catharus guttatus	2024		
Hooded Merganser	Lophodytes cucullatus	2024		
Hooded Warbler	Setophaga citrina	2011	THR	SGCN
Horned Grebe	Podiceps auritus	2023		
Horned Lark	Eremophila alpestris	2014		
House Finch	Haemorhous mexicanus	2024		
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	2024		
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	2024		
Indigo Bunting	Passerina cyanea	2024		
Kentucky Warbler	Geothlypis formosa	2014	THR	SGCN
Killdeer	Charadrius vociferus	2024		
Least Flycatcher	Empidonax minimus	2024	SC/M	SGCN
Least Sandpiper	Calidris minutilla	2023		
Lesser Scaup	Aythya affinis	2024		
Lesser Yellowlegs	Tringa flavipes	2020		
Lincoln's Sparrow	Melospiza lincolnii	2024		
Louisiana Waterthrush	Parkesia motacilla	2014		
Magnolia Warbler	Setophaga magnolia	2024		
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	2024		
Marsh Wren	Cistothorus palustris	2024		
Merlin	Falco columbarius	2024		
Mourning Dove	Zenaida macroura	2024		
Mourning Warbler	Geothlypis philadelphia	2023		
Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	2018		
Nashville Warbler	Leiothlypis ruficapilla	2024		
Northern Cardinal	Cardinalis cardinalis	2024		
Northern Flicker	Colaptes auratus	2024		
Northern Parula	Setophaga americana	2024		
Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	2024		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Stelgidopteryx serripennis	2024		

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	last observed	state listing	Wi DNR Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan
Northern saw-whet owl	Aegolius acadicus	2021		
Northern Shoveler	Spatula clypeata	2024		
Northern Shrike	Lanius borealis	2023		
Northern Waterthrush	Parkesia noveboracensis	2024		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Contopus cooperi	2024	SC/M	SGCN
Orange-crowned Warbler	Leiothlypis celata	2024		
Orchard Oriole	Icterus spurius	2024		
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	2024		
Ovenbird	Seiurus aurocapilla	2024		
Palm Warbler	Setophaga palmarum	2024		
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	2022	END	SGCN
Philadelphia Vireo	Vireo philadelphicus	2024		
Pied-billed Grebe	Podilymbus podiceps	2024		
Pileated Woodpecker	Dryocopus pileatus	2023		
Pine Siskin	Spinus pinus	2024		
Pine Warbler	Setophaga pinus	2024		
Prothonotary Warbler	Protonotaria citrea	2024	SC/M	SGCN
Purple Finch	Haemorhous purpureus	2024		
Purple Martin	Progne subis	2024	SC/M	SGCN
Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra	2024		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Melanerpes carolinus	2024		
Red-breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator	2024		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta canadensis	2023		
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus	2024		
Redhead	Aythya americana	2024		
Red-headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes erythrocephalus	2024	SC/M	SGCN
Red-shouldered Hawk	Buteo lineatus	2018	THR	SGCN
Red-tailed Hawk	Buteo jamaicensis	2024		
Red-winged Blackbird	Agelaius phoeniceus	2024		
Ring-billed Gull	Larus delawarensis	2024		
Ring-necked Duck	Aythya collaris	2024		
Ring-necked Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	2022		
Rock Dove	Columba livia	2024		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Pheucticus ludovicianus	2024		
Rough-legged Hawk	Buteo lagopus	2024		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Regulus calendula	2024	SC/M	SGCN
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Archilochus colubris	2024		
Ruddy Duck	Oxyura jamaicensis	2024		
Rusty Blackbird	Euphagus carolinus	2024	SC/M	SGCN
Sandhill Crane	Grus canadensis	2024		
Savannah Sparrow	Passerculus sandwichensis	2024		
Scarlet Tanager	Piranga olivacea	2024		
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Calidris pusilla	2024		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Accipiter striatus	2024		
Short-eared Owl	Asio flammeus	2006	SC/M	SGCN
Snow Goose	Anser caerulescens	2023		
Solitary Sandpiper	Tringa solitaria	2024		
Song Sparrow	Melospiza melodia	2024		
Sora	Porzana carolina	2024		

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	last observed	state listing	Wi DNR Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan
Spotted Sandpiper	Actitis macularius	2024		
Summer Tanager	Piranga rubra	2023		
Swainson's Hawk	Buteo swainsoni	2020		
Swainson's Thrush	Catharus ustulatus	2024	SC/M	SGCN
Swamp Sparrow	Melospiza georgiana	2024		
Tennessee Warbler	Leiothlypis peregrina	2024		
Tree Swallow	Tachycineta bicolor	2024		
Trumpeter Swan	Cygnus buccinator	2024		
Tufted Titmouse	Baeolophus bicolor	2024		
Tundra Swan	Cygnus columbianus	2024		
Turkey Vulture	Cathartes aura	2024		
Veery	Catharus fuscescens	2024		
Vesper Sparrow	Pooecetes gramineus	2020	SC/M	SGCN
Virginia Rail	Rallus limicola	2023		
Warbling Vireo	Vireo gilvus	2024		
White-breasted Nuthatch	Sitta carolinensis	2024		
White-crowned Sparrow	Zonotrichia leucophrys	2024		
White-throated Sparrow	Zonotrichia albicollis	2024		
Wild Turkey	Meleagris gallopavo	2024		
Willow Flycatcher	Empidonax traillii	2024		
Wilson's Snipe	Gallinago delicata	2024		
Wilson's Warbler	Cardellina pusilla	2024		
Winter Wren	Troglodytes hiemalis	2024		
Wood Duck	Aix sponsa	2024		
Wood Thrush	Hylocichla mustelina	2024		
Yellow Warbler	Setophaga petechia	2024		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Empidonax flaviventris	2022		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus varius	2024		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus americanus	2024		
Yellow-headed blackbird	Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus	2020	SC/M	SGCN
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Setophaga coronata	2024		
Yellow-throated Vireo	Vireo flavifrons	2024		
totals	**210**		**32**	**32**

Other Animals

Source: iNaturalist Occurrence data set and personal observations reported to City of Madison staff
GBIF.org (17 October 2025) GBIF Occurrence Download https://doi.org/10.15468/dl.sa77ua

Observer names available on request

Common names are only provided for Chordates

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Species	last observed	Common name
Chordata		Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	*Notemigonus crysoleucas*	2023	Golden shiner
Chordata		Perciformes	Centrarchidae	*Lepomis gibbosus*	2025	Pumpkinseed
Chordata		Perciformes	Centrarchidae	*Lepomis macrochirus*	2018	Bluegill
Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Bufonidae	*Anaxyrus americanus*	2025	American toad
Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	*Lithobates clamitans*	2025	Green frog
Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	*Lithobates pipiens*	2025	Northern leopard frog
Chordata	Mammalia	Artiodactyla	Cervidae	*Odocoileus virginianus*	8/12/2025	White-tailed deer
Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Canidae	*Canis latrans*	2022	Coyote
Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Mustelidae	*Lontra canadensis*	7/17/1905	River otter
Chordata	Mammalia	Didelphimorphia	Didelphidae	*Didelphis virginiana*	2020	Oppossum
Chordata	Mammalia	Lagomorpha	Leporidae	*Sylvilagus floridanus*	9/1/2025	Eastern cottontail
Chordata	Mammalia	Rodentia	Castoridae	*Castor canadensis*	2022	Beaver
Chordata	Mammalia	Rodentia	Cricetidae	*Ondatra zibethicus*	2025	Muskrat
Chordata	Mammalia	Rodentia	Sciuridae	*Marmota monax*	4/26/2025	Woodchuck
Chordata	Mammalia	Rodentia	Sciuridae	*Sciurus carolinensis*	2025	Gray squirrel
Chordata	Mammalia	Rodentia	Sciuridae	*Tamias striatus*	2024	Eastern chipmunk
Chordata	Squamata		Colubridae	*Nerodia sipedon*	2022	Northern water snake
Chordata	Squamata		Colubridae	*Storeria dekayi*	2021	DeKay's brown snake
Chordata	Squamata		Colubridae	*Thamnophis sirtalis*	2024	Common garter snake

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Species	last observed	Common name
Chordata	Testudines		Emydidae	*Chrysemys picta*	2025	Painted turtle
Chordata	Testudines		Emydidae	*Emydoidea blandingii*	9/12/2025	Blandings turtle
Arthropoda	Arachnida	Araneae	Thomisidae	*Misumena vatia*	2024	
Arthropoda	Arachnida	Trombidiformes	Eriophyidae		2022	
Arthropoda	Diplopoda	Polydesmida	Xystodesmidae	*Pleuroloma flavipes*	2020	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Cantharidae	*Chauliognathus pensylvanicus*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Carabidae	*Cicindela sexguttata*	2020	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Cerambycidae	*Neandra brunnea*	2021	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Cerambycidae	*Tetraopes tetrophthalmus*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Cerambycidae	*Typocerus velutinus*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Chrysomelidae	*Diabrotica undecimpunctata*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Chrysomelidae	*Labidomera clivicollis*	2020	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Chrysomelidae	*Trirhabda canadensis*	2023	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Coccinellidae	*Cycloneda munda*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Coccinellidae	*Harmonia axyridis*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Curculionidae	*Anthonomus quadrigibbus*	2018	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Elateridae	*Alaus oculatus*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Scarabaeidae	*Popillia japonica*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Staphylinidae	*Oiceoptoma noveboracense*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Cecidomyiidae	*Asteromyia carbonifera*	2022	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Cecidomyiidae	*Rabdophaga strobiloides*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Cecidomyiidae	*Rhopalomyia solidaginis*	2021	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Dolichopodidae	*Condylostylus patibulatus*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Stratiomyidae	*Myxosargus nigricormis*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Syrphidae	*Eristalis transversa*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Syrphidae	*Eurimyia stipatus*	2017	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Syrphidae	*Helophilus fasciatus*	2024	

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Species	last observed	Common name
Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Syrphidae	*Toxomerus geminatus*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Syrphidae	*Toxomerus marginatus*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Syrphidae	*Toxomerus politus*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Tephritidae	*Eurosta solidaginis*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Aphididae	*Melaphis rhois*	2021	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Cicadellidae	*Jikradia olitoria*	2021	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Lygaeidae	*Lygaeus kalmii*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Lygaeidae	*Lygaeus turcicus*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Lygaeidae	*Oncopeltus fasciatus*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Reduviidae	*Phymata pennsylvanica*	2023	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Rhopalidae	*Boisea trivittata*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Apidae	*Apis mellifera*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Apidae	*Bombus affinis*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Apidae	*Bombus auricomus*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Apidae	*Bombus griseocollis*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Apidae	*Bombus impatiens*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Apidae	*Bombus rufocinctus*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Apidae	*Bombus vagans*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Crabronidae	*Sphecius speciosus*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Cynipidae	*Kokkocynips imbricariae*	2021	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Cynipidae	*Neuroterus quercusverrucarum*	2021	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Eumenidae	*Polistes dominula*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Eumenidae	*Polistes fuscatus*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Hymenoptera	Halictidae	*Halictus ligatus*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Crambidae	*Nomophila nearctica*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Erebidae	*Euchaetes egle*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Erebidae	*Pyrrharctia isabella*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Erebidae	*Spilosoma virginica*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Geometridae	*Eusarca confusaria*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Hesperiidae	*Ancyloxypha numitor*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Hesperiidae	*Polites coras*	2024	

Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Species	last observed	Common name
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Lycaenidae	*Elkalyce comyntas*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae	*Cercyonis pegala*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae	*Danaus plexippus*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae	*Euphydryas phaeton*	2021	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae	*Junonia coenia*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae	*Limenitis archippus*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae	*Limenitis astyanax*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae	*Nymphalis antiopa*	2021	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae	*Phyciodes tharos*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Nymphalidae	*Vanessa atalanta*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Papilionidae	*Papilio glaucus*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Papilionidae	*Papilio polyxenes*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Pieridae	*Pieris rapae*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Sphingidae	*Hemaris thysbe*	2023	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Mantodea	Mantidae	*Tenodera sinensis*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Aeshnidae	*Anax junius*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Coenagrionidae	*Enallagma carunculatum*	2020	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Coenagrionidae	*Enallagma geminatum*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Coenagrionidae	*Enallagma signatum*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Coenagrionidae	*Ischnura verticalis*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Corduliidae	*Epitheca cynosura*	2020	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Gomphidae	*Arigomphus furcifer*	2020	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Libellulidae	*Erythemis simplicicollis*	2020	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Libellulidae	*Leucorrhinia intacta*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Libellulidae	*Libellula luctuosa*	2020	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Libellulidae	*Libellula quadrimaculata*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Libellulidae	*Pachydiplax longipennis*	2025	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Libellulidae	*Plathemis lydia*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Libellulidae	*Sympetrum obtrusum*	2024	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Odonata	Libellulidae	*Sympetrum vicinum*	2022	
Arthropoda	Insecta	Orthoptera	Acrididae	*Melanoplus bivittatus*	2024	

Appendix C. Madison Parks Natural Areas Monitoring Goals

August 2023

Monitoring is necessary to track the success of restoration efforts as well as the overall quality of the habitat being managed. Data collected can quantify results, show trends in natural area health, and reveal potential concerns. The following framework identifies some possible monitoring subjects and strategies. Objectives and tasks can be implemented and completed as staff and volunteer capacity allow.

Much information can be gained by engaging and supporting various formal community science programs, and less formal community-populated databases. Data from many of these are accessible from the individual host organizations, as well as through clearing houses such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Many volunteers currently conduct monitoring within conservation parks and other natural areas. These programs are recognized below as well.

Taxa: Plants

Objectives:

1. Complete and update species inventories for each park, and each management unit where applicable (Managed Meadow, Woodland, management unit within a conservation park, etc.).

   Tasks:

   a. Conduct meander surveys three times during the growing season to compile and update plant species list.

2. Determine and track floristic quality in managed natural areas

   Tasks:

   a. Establish permanent transects with randomized 1m^2 plots (quadrats)

   b. Survey quadrats and record percent cover of each species present.

   c. Analyze data to calculate species richness, diversity, and Floristic Quality Index.

Taxa: Insects

Objectives:

1. Complete overall species inventory per park

   Tasks:

   a. Conduct daytime surveys with sweep nets

   b. Conduct nighttime surveys with light traps

   c. Conduct surveys of soil surface insect fauna

2. Monitor pollinator abundance and species composition

   Tasks:

   a. Collect data using Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade protocols

   b. Support the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program

   c. Collect data using Pollard transects to target butterflies

   d. Support the Wisconsin Odonata Survey

Taxa: Herptiles

Objectives:

1. Complete overall species inventory per park

   Tasks:

   a. Conduct surveys with funnel traps

2. Conduct breeding survey

   Tasks:

   a. Establish Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey phenology survey locations where appropriate

Taxa: Birds

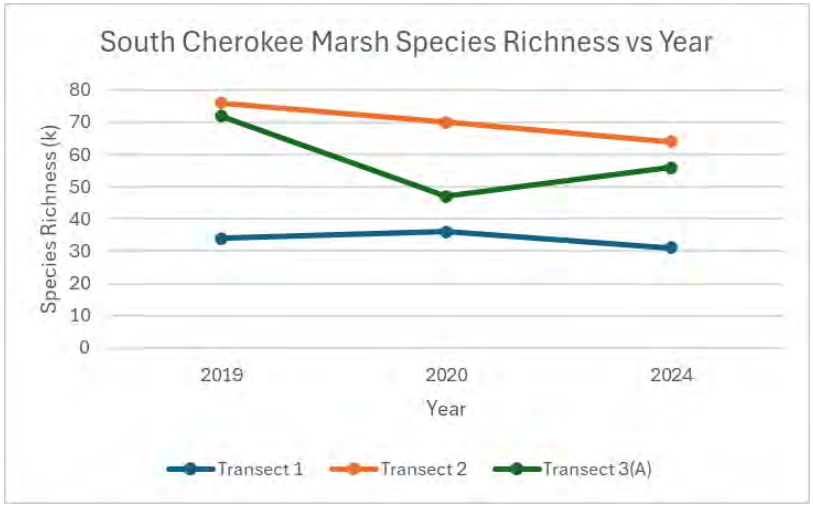
Objectives:

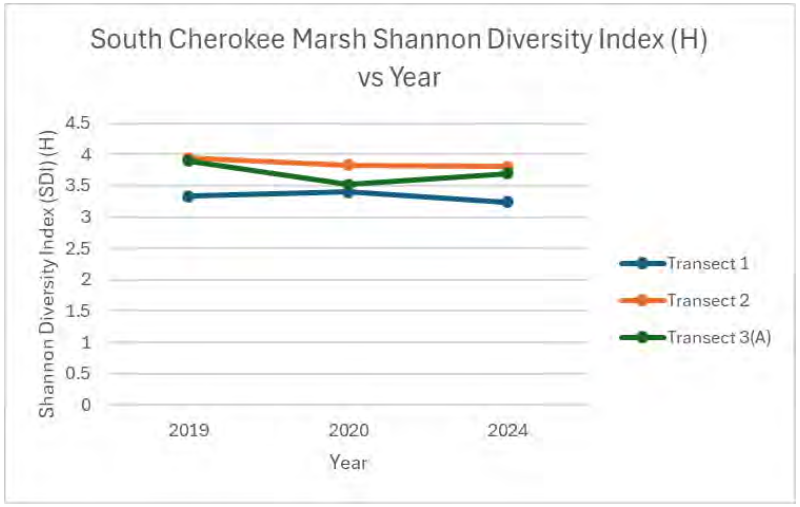
1. Conduct surveys and document species present.
2. Analyze data available from eBird through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

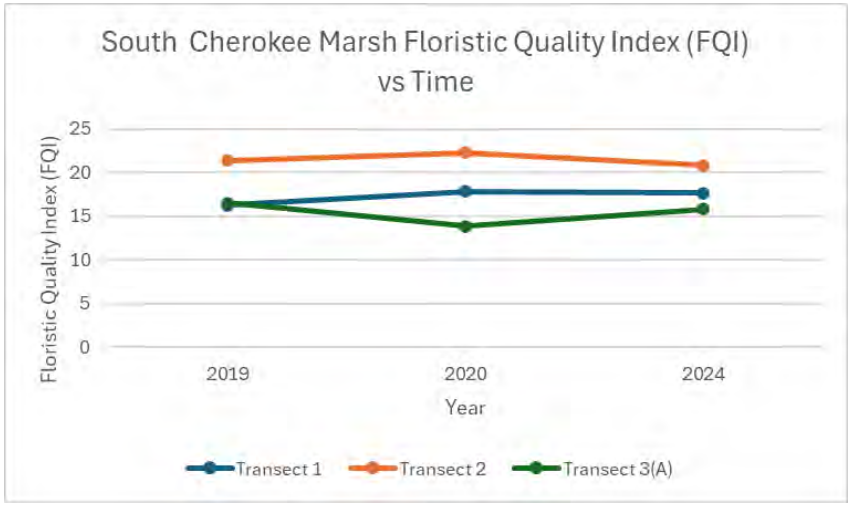
   Tasks:

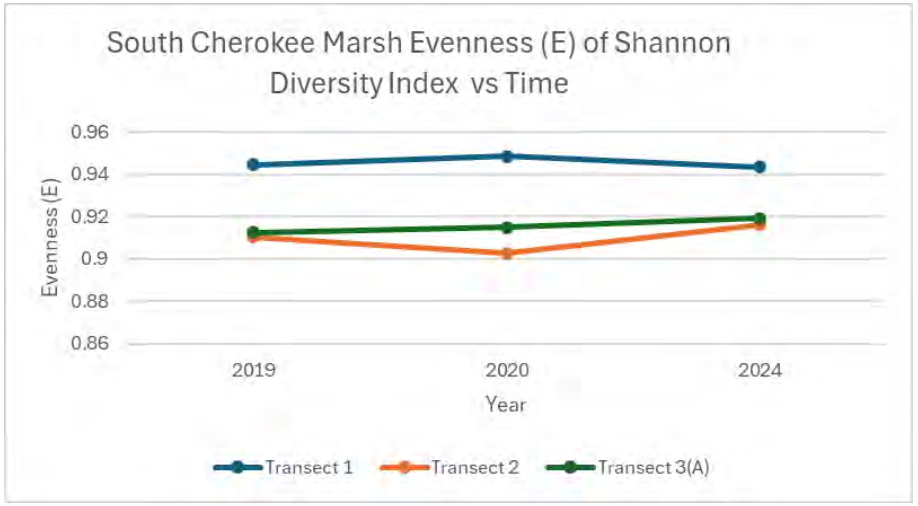
   a. Download data sets for each park

Appendix D. Cherokee Marsh South Unit Vegetation Surveys





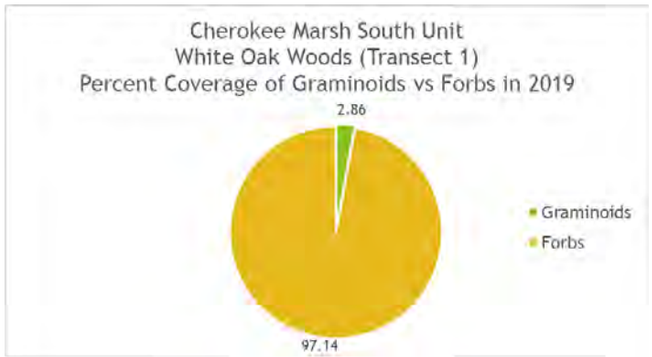


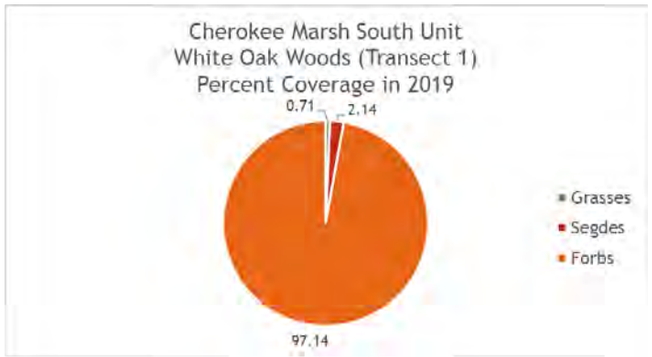


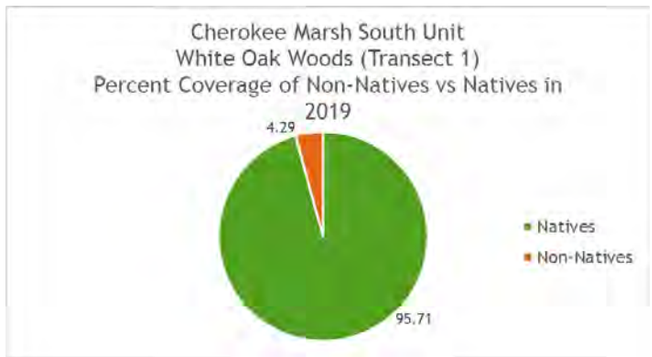
Appendix D. Cherokee Marsh South Unit Vegetation Surveys

Transect 1 – White Oak Woods:

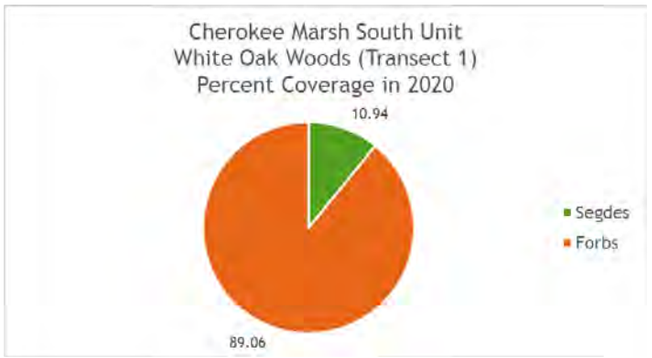
7/23/2019: 34 Species

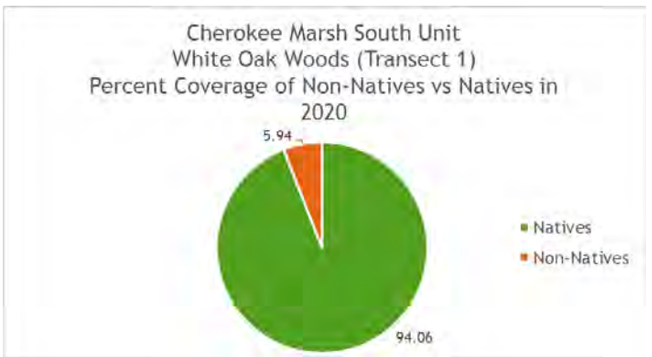




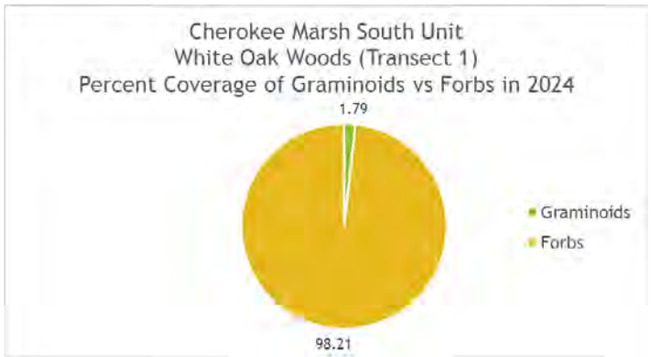


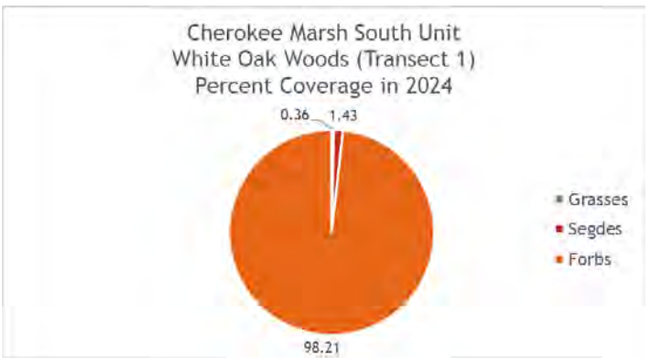
6/24/2020: 36 Species

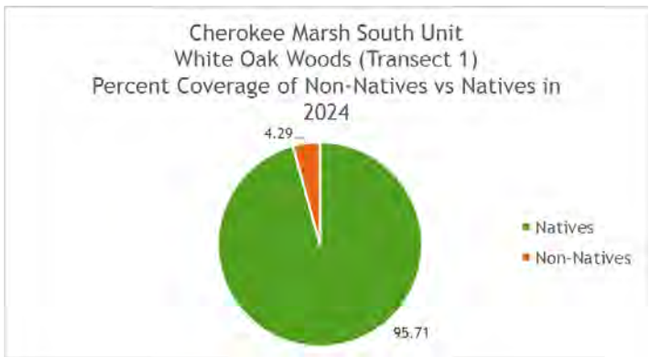




5/27/2024: 31 Species



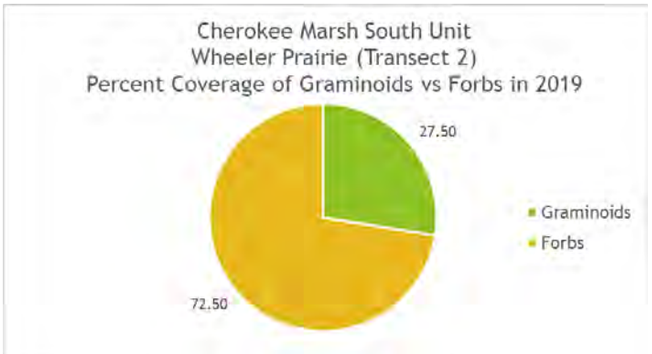


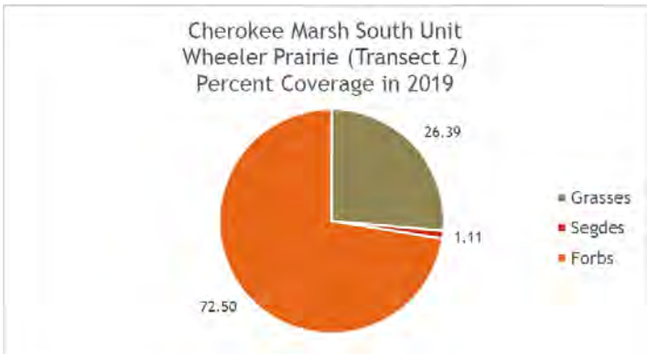


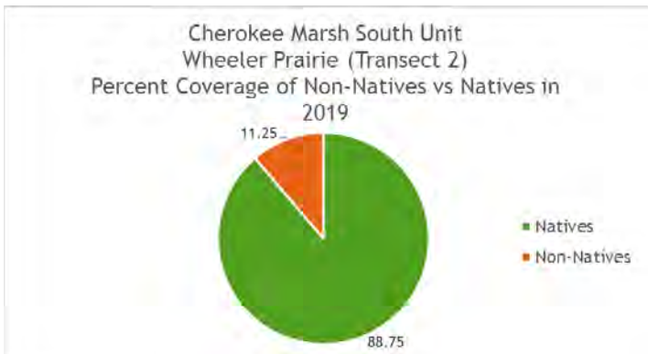
Appendix D. Cherokee Marsh South Unit Vegetation Surveys

Transect 2 – Wheeler Prairie: Species Richness

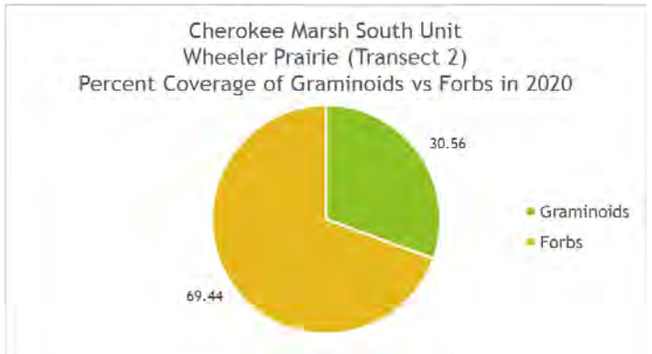
8/2/2019: 76 Species

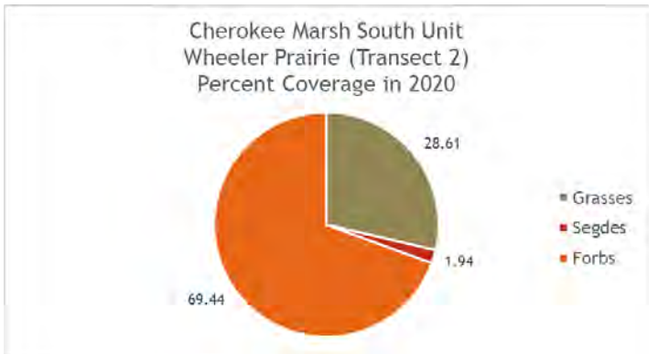


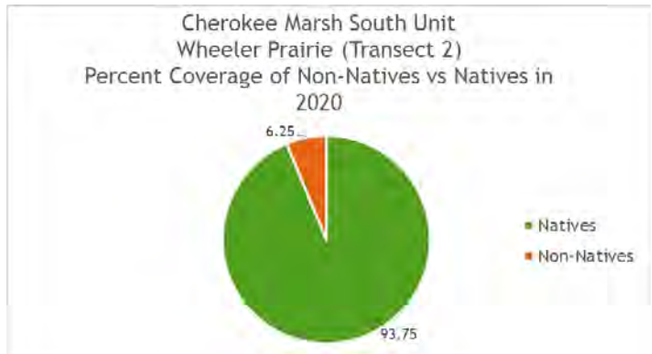




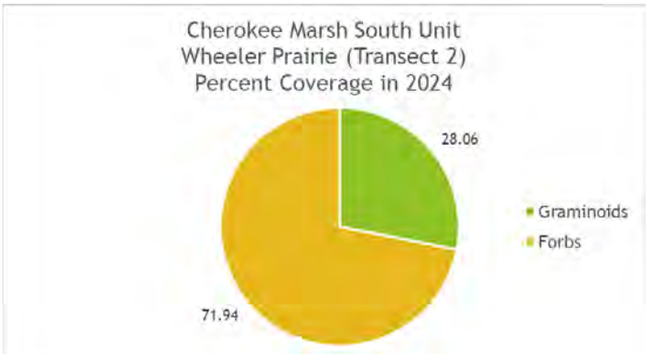
9/1/2020: 71 Species

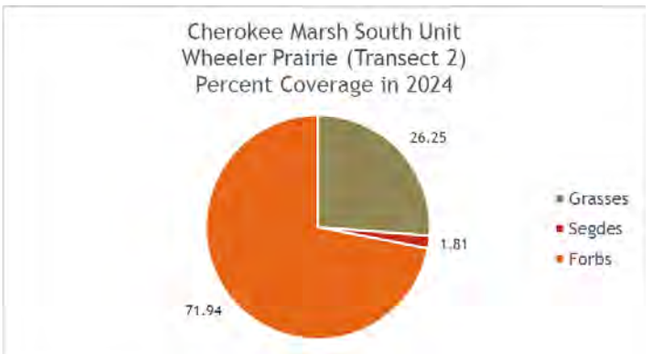


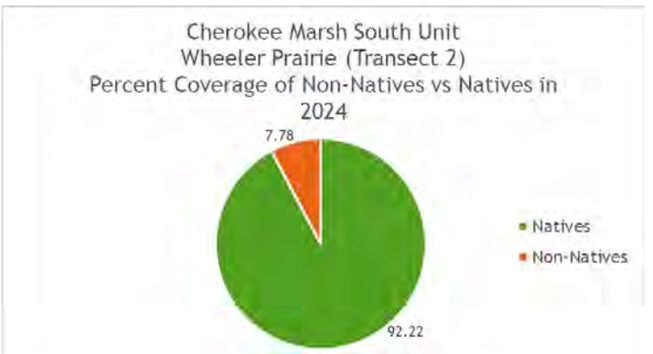




5/14/24: 64 Species



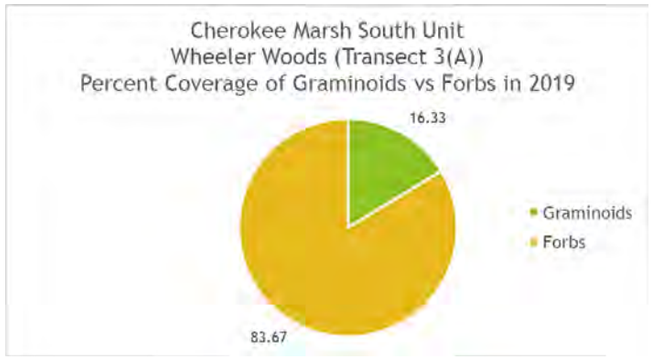


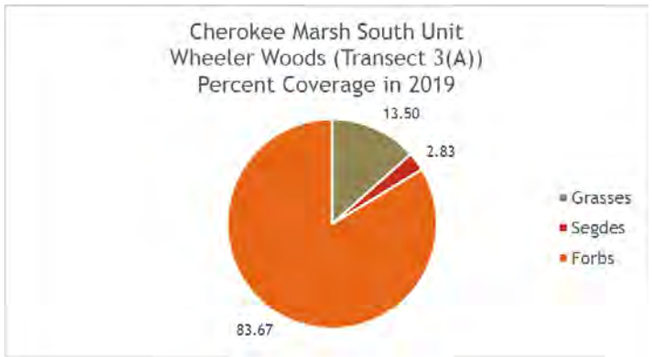


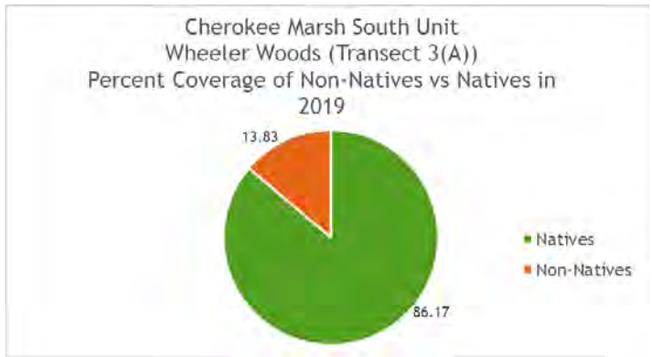
Appendix D. Cherokee Marsh South Unit Vegetation Surveys

Transect 3(A) – Wheeler Woods: Species Richness

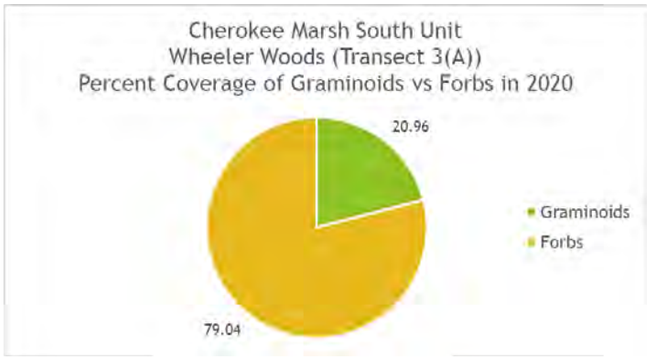
8/2/2019: 72 Species

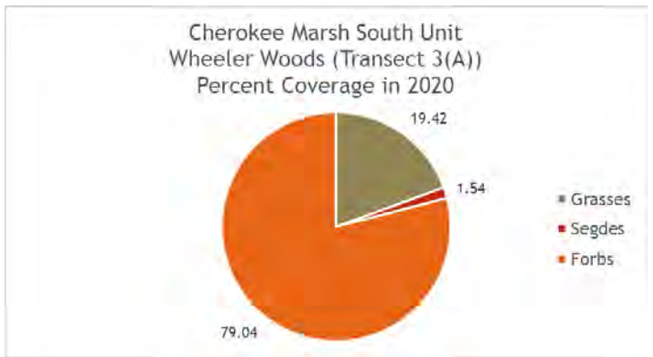


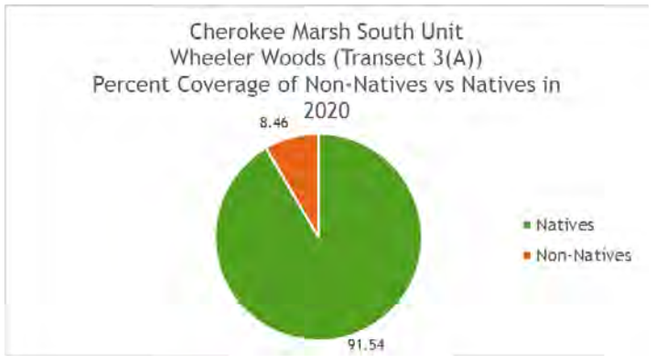




6/24/2020: 47 Species







8/31/2024: 56 Species