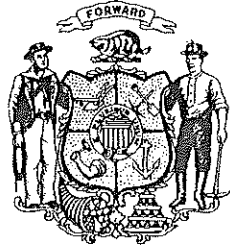


State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Howard Marklein

316 East. State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Phone: (608) 266-0703



ASSEMBLY CHAIR
Mark Born

308 East. State Capitol
P.O. Box 8592
Madison, WI 53708-8953
Phone: (608) 266-2540

Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Howard Marklein
Representative Mark Born

Date: May 28, 2024

Re: 14-Day Passive Review Approval – DNR

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Stats., attached is a 14-day passive review request from the Department of Natural Resources, received on May 28, 2024.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Marklein** or **Representative Born** no later than **Friday, June 14, 2024**, if you have any concerns about the request or if you would like the Committee to meet formally to consider it.

Also, please contact us if you need further information.

Attachments

HM:MB;jm

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
101 S. Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Tony Evers, Governor

Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711



MAY 28 2024
St. Finance

May 15, 2024

The Honorable Howard Marklein Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 317 East
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison WI 53707

The Honorable Mark Born, Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 308 East
State Capitol
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Marklein and Representative Born:

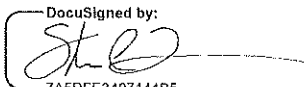
Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you as co-chairs of the Committee on Joint Finance of a proposed acquisition grant of \$394,280 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to The Prairie Enthusiasts for land acquisition.

The acquisition is located in the Town of Blue Mounds, Dane County. The proposed project will provide popular outdoor recreation options in the southcentral part of the state, while protecting 77.1 acres of critical habitat for prairie and grassland endangered and threatened species, the headwaters of two trout streams, and the quality and supply of groundwater at one of the highest groundwater recharge areas in Dane County. The property will be open to nature-based outdoor activities, as defined in s. 23.0916(1)(b), Wis. Stats.

As provided in s. 23.0917(6m)(a), Wis. Stats., if the Department does not receive notification of the scheduling of a hearing from either of the Joint Committee on Finance co-chairpersons within 14 working days from submission of this letter, the Department will award this grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

7A5DFE3497144B5...
Steven Little
Deputy Secretary

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 15, 2024
TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance
FROM: Steven Little, Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT: Request for approval of a Stewardship grant exceeding \$250,000

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources is notifying you of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant of \$394,280 to The Prairie Enthusiasts for the acquisition of 77.1 acres in Dane County. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: The Prairie Enthusiasts
Grant Sub-Program: Habitat Areas

Location: The subject property is located in the Town of Blue Mounds, Dane County. Project maps are attached as Appendix A.

Project Description: The property has slightly rolling topography, with 70ft. of elevation change, and no improvements on-site. The property is located between Mt. Horeb and Blue Mounds, with access to the parcel by access easement off Hwy E to the east of the parcel.

Key Benefits: The property will provide outdoor recreation for hiking, hunting, trout fishing and bird watching, expanding on the same popular outdoor recreation opportunities offered by TPE's adjacent Erbe Grassland property. Acquisition and restoration will protect a parcel with one of the highest groundwater recharge rates in Dane County, maintaining and increasing groundwater quality and quantity. The property also contains the headwaters of two Class II trout streams, German Valley Branch and Gordan Creek. The project will protect and restore original prairie vegetation, as well as critical habitat for 14 threatened, endangered or special concern prairie/grassland dependent species. The Prairie Enthusiasts have a long-term agreement on the adjacent 60 acres immediately west of the subject parcel for grassland management.

Partnerships:

- Dane County Conservation Fund
- Dane County Continuous Cover Program
- Bobolink Foundation, will fund long-term management and endowment
- Southwest Grasslands and Stream Conservation Area
- Madison Community Foundation

Project Goals: The Uren Trust acquisition will advance several conservation and recreation objectives:

- Supports grassland acquisition and restoration in the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area.
- Supports the goals of the Department's Southwest Wisconsin Grassland & Stream Conservation Area feasibility study.
- Directly addresses multiple Ecological Opportunities identified in the Department's Southwest Savanna Regional Master Plan:

- Large-scale Grassland Management
- Native Prairie Remnants
- Directly address multiple goals and objectives identified in Dane County’s Land and Water Resource Management Plan:
 - Assess, protect and improve surface water and groundwater resources
 - Reduce the quantity of sediment and nutrients reaching surface waters and groundwater
 - Improve soil health to reduce erosion, improve infiltration and reduce nutrient losses
 - Protect groundwater resources

Public Uses: The property will be open to nature-based outdoor activities as defined in s. 23.0916(1)(b), Wis. Stats.

Property Management: The property will be managed by The Prairie Enthusiasts as part of Erbe Grasslands according to a Land Management Plan approved by the Department.

Timetable: Pending grant approval, The Prairie Enthusiasts will close on this property no later than March 31, 2025.

II. PROJECT FINANCES

A. Appraisals

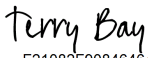
As required by s. 23.0917(7)(e)1., Wis. Stats., two appraisals were used to determine the fair market value of the land.

Appraisal 1	\$790,000
Appraisal 2	\$771,000
Value approved by Department	\$771,000

B. Grant Calculation:


Approved land value	\$771,000
Eligible related transaction costs	<u>\$17,560</u>
Total eligible project costs	\$788,560
Dane County Conservation Fund (pending)	\$386,000
Bobolink Foundation	<u>\$8,280</u>
Proposed Stewardship grant amount	\$394,280

III. RECOMMENDED:

DocuSigned by:

F24002F00846464...
 Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands

5/16/2024 | 1:37 PM CDT

Date

DocuSigned by:

D792C9F7A747460...
 Tim Cooke, Administrator, Internal Services Division

5/22/2024 | 11:50 AM CDT

Date

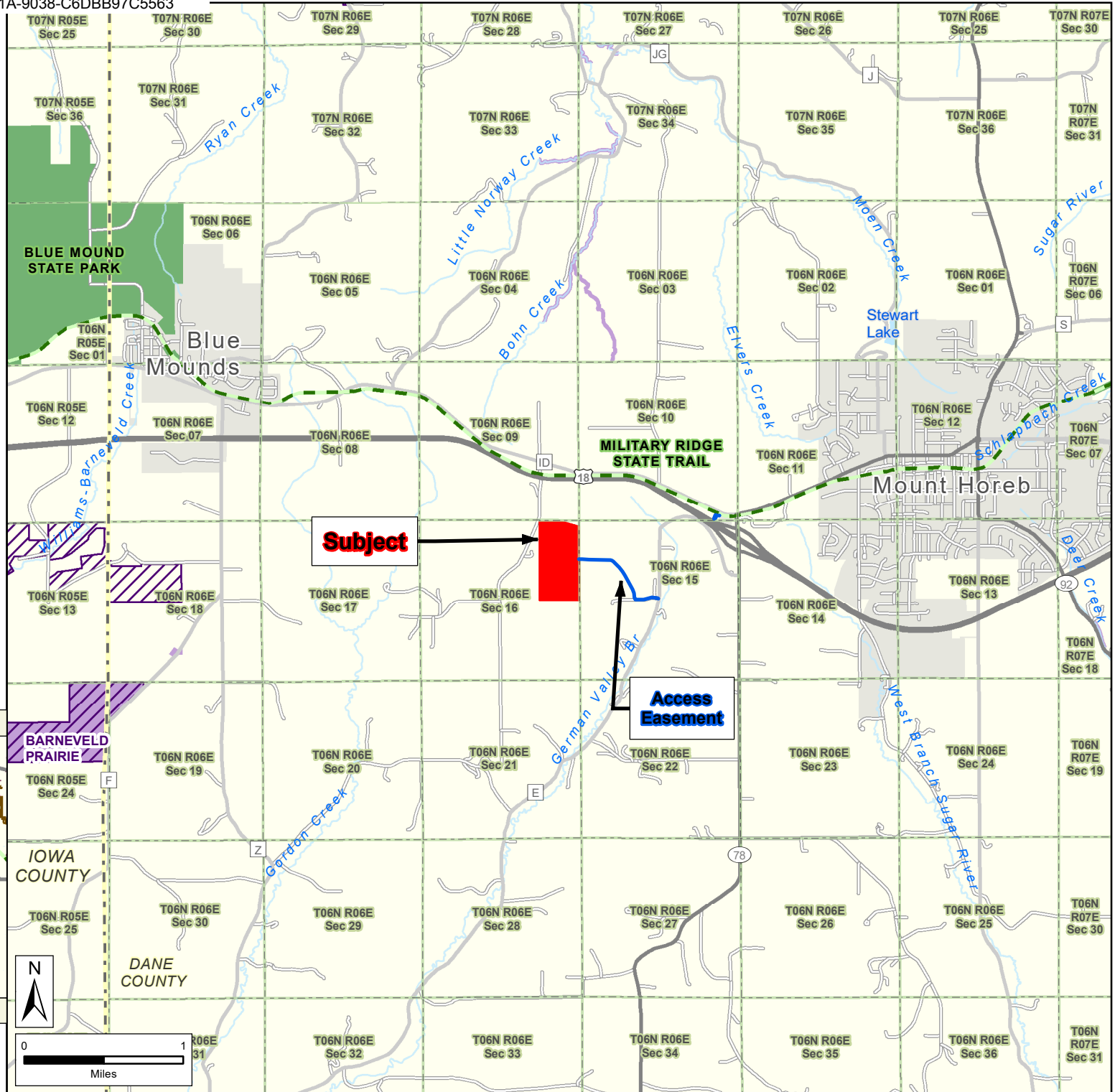
Appendix A. Project Maps

The Prairie Enthusiasts - Uren Trust

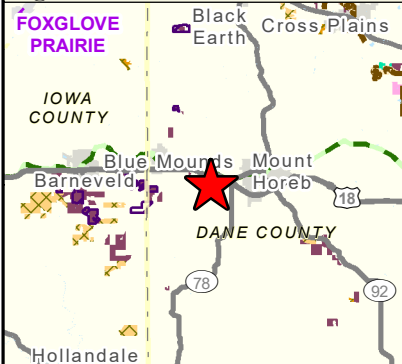
T06N R06E, Secs. 15 & 16
Town of Blue Mounds
Iowa County

- Subject
- Access Easement

- DNR Fee Title
- DNR Easement
- State Natural Area
- State Recreation Trail
- County Line
- Section Boundary



Regional View



★ Location of Property



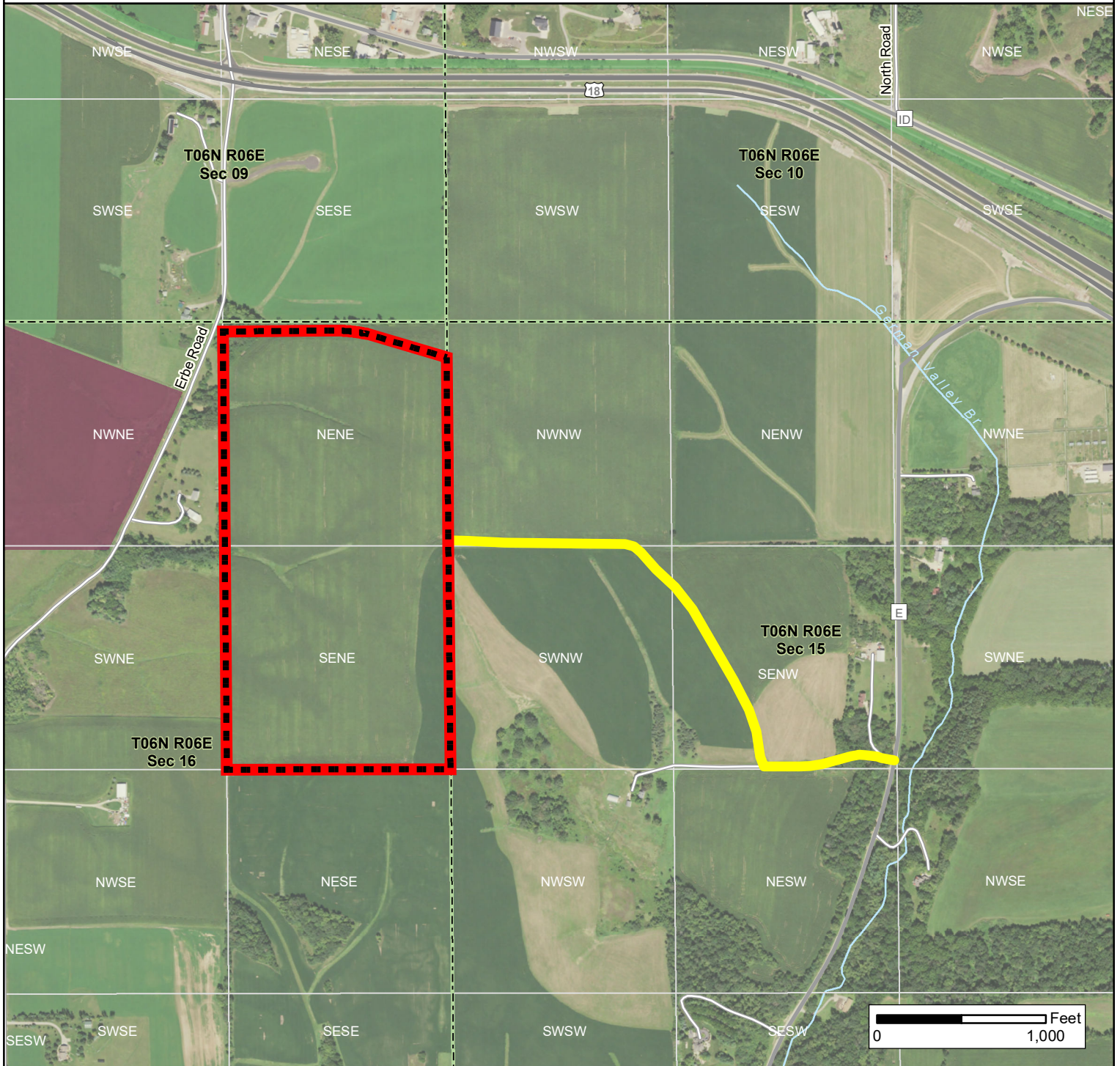
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: May 15, 2024 jst




The Prairie Enthusiasts - Uren Trust

T6N R6E, Secs. 15 & 16
Town of Blue Mounds
County: Iowa

Proposed Stewardship Grant
Sponsor: The Prairie Enthusiasts





Subject

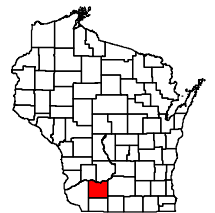
 Access Easement

 Public Land - Funded by Stewardship Grants

 DNR Fee Title

 Section Boundary

 QQ Section Boundary



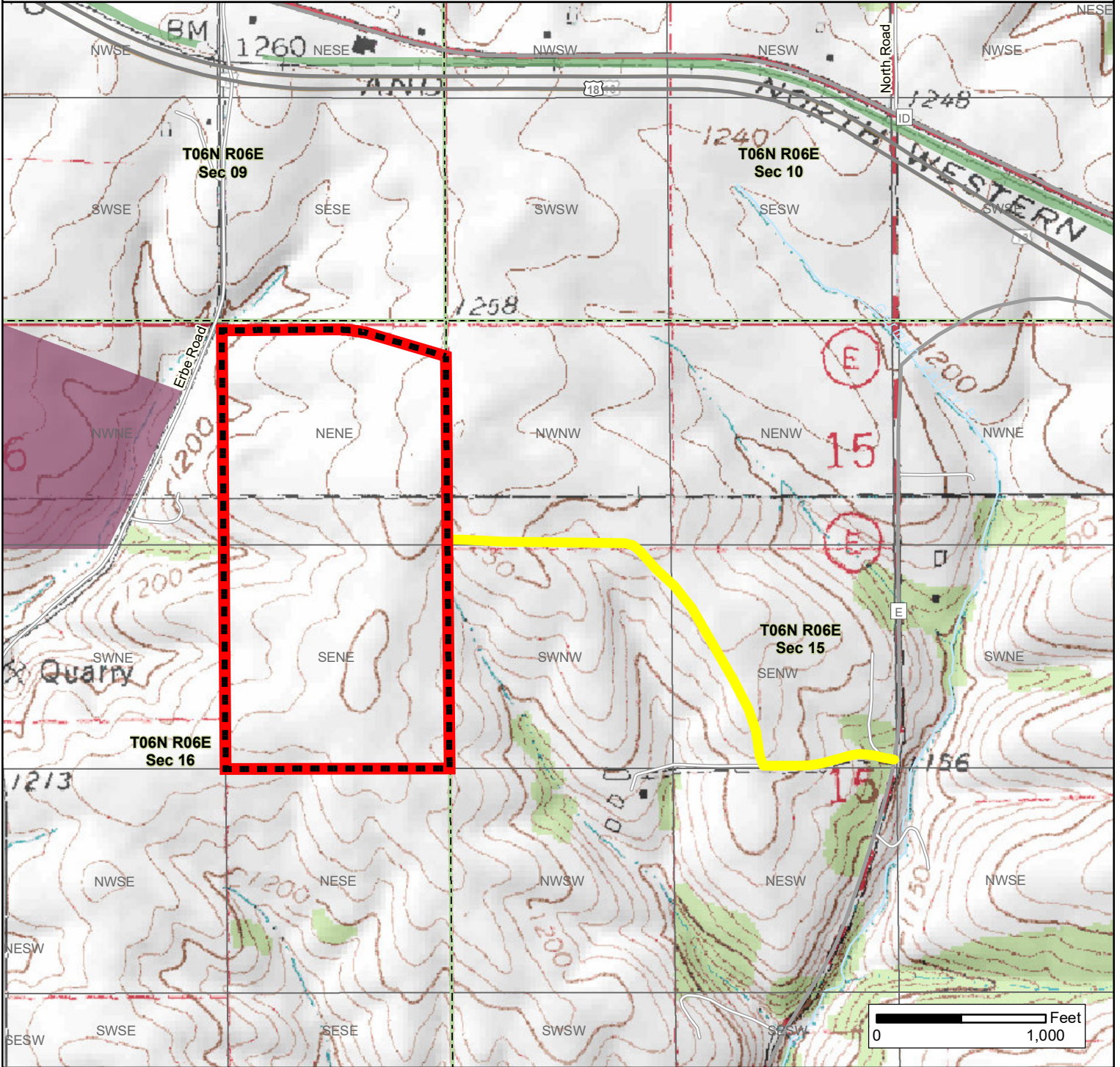
Apr 15, 2024 jst

Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

The Prairie Enthusiasts - Uren Trust

Proposed Stewardship Grant
Sponsor: The Prairie Enthusiasts

T6N R6E, Secs. 15 & 16
Town of Blue Mounds
County: Iowa



Subject

Access Easement

Public Land - Funded by Stewardship Grants

DNR Fee Title

Section Boundary

QQ Section Boundary



Apr 16, 2024 jst

Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands