

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

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023



SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
November, 7<sup>th</sup> 2023

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

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

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

## BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1989 to serve the public by expanding outdoor recreation opportunities, protecting fish and wildlife habitat and preserving valuable natural areas. The Stewardship Program is named for two of Wisconsin's most revered conservation leaders: Warren Knowles (Governor 1965-1971) and Gaylord Nelson (Governor 1959-1963, U.S. Senator 1964-1981). Based on the Program's continued success delivering quality outdoor recreation opportunities for the public, the Wisconsin Legislature reauthorized the Stewardship Program in 1999, 2007, 2019 and 2021.

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

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

- The parcel is not adjacent to a parcel where the NBOAs to be prohibited are allowed; or
- The parcel is not adjacent to a public waterway

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

By November 15 of each biennium, the department is required to issue a report on all lands purchased during the preceding biennium in whole or in part with funds from the Stewardship Program on which public access for any NBOA is prohibited (s. 23.0916(6), Wis. Stats.). This report satisfies the NBOA reporting requirement for fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

## **2021-2023 BIENNIUM**

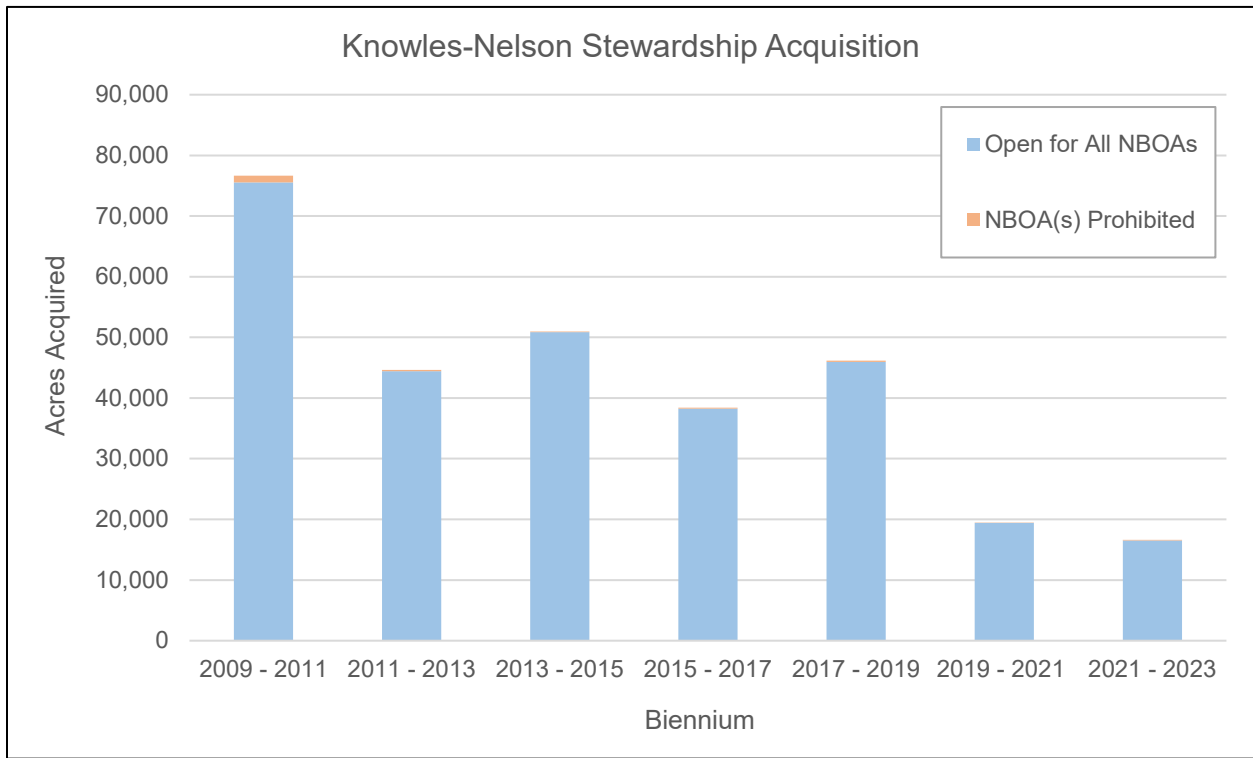
In the 2021-2023 biennium, DNR awarded Stewardship grants supporting acquisition of 3,616 acres. Approximately 99% of those acres are open to the public for all NBOAs.

In most cases, NBOA prohibitions come in the form of local ordinances disallowing hunting in urban centers and those prohibitions have been approved by the Natural Resources Board as necessary to protect public safety.

In this biennium, DNR acquired no fee title lands on which NBOAs are prohibited.

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

**Exhibit A: Acres acquired with Stewardship funds open for all NBOAs vs. those subject to NBOA prohibition(s).**



	2009 - 2011	2011 - 2013	2013 - 2015	2015 - 2017	2017 - 2019	2019 - 2021	2021 - 2023
Acres Open for all NBOAs	75,530 (98.5%)	44,432 (99.6%)	50,841 (99.8%)	38,251 (99.6%)	45,931 (99.5%)	19,401 (99.6%)	16,524 (99.4%)
Acres with NBOA Prohibition(s)	1,115 (1.5%)	183 (0.4%)	124 (0.2%)	134 (0.4%)	230 (0.5%)	79 (0.4%)	103 (0.6%)
Total Acres	76,645	44,615	50,965	38,385	46,161	19,480	16,627

**Exhibit B. Stewardship Grant Acquisitions Subject to s. 23.0916(6), Wis. Stats.: July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023**

<b>Grant Recipient</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Stewardship Grant Amount</b>	<b>Project Acres with NBOA Prohibition(s)</b>	<b>Prohibited NBOA(s)</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Groundswell Conservancy, Inc.	Dane	Village of Black Earth Cooper Acquisition	\$75,850	1.27	Hunting	Public Safety
City of Monona	Dane	San Damiano Friary Acquisition	\$249,999	0.75	Hunting and Trapping	Public Safety
City of Schofield	Marathon	Lake Wausau Boat Launch Acquisition	\$72,225	2.37	Hunting	Public Safety
City of Baraboo	Sauk	Vine Street Riverfront Acquisition	\$153,250	0.28	Hunting	Public Safety
Groundswell Conservancy, Inc.	Dane	Town of Dunkirk Adler parcel Acquisition	\$18,500	1.64	Gun Hunting	Public Safety
Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc.	Portage	Krogwold Fee Acquisition	\$41,895	9.8	Hunting and Trapping	Public Safety

## **Exhibit C. Stewardship Grant Acquisitions with NBOA Prohibitions**

**Grant Recipient:** Groundswell Conservancy, Inc.

**Project Name:** Village of Black Earth Cooper Acquisition

**County:** Dane

**Details:** DNR issued a grant and management contract on 3/15/22 to Groundswell for acquisition of 1.27 acres in the Village of Black Earth. The 1.27-acre parcel is comprised of three residential lots along Black Earth Creek, a class 1 trout stream. With acquisition of the property, the Village will create a Village Park to improve paddler access to Black Earth Creek. This acquisition is a partnership between Groundswell Conservancy and the Village of Black Earth. The subject properties include buildings that were damaged during the August 2018 flood and have not been occupied since then due to damage. The Natural Resources Board approved the hunting prohibition on the 1.27-acre parcel at the January 2022 board meeting.

**Grant Recipient:** City of Monona

**Project Name:** San Damiano Friary Acquisition

**County:** Dane

**Details:** DNR issued a grant and management contract on 4/1/22 to the City of Monona for acquisition of 0.75 acres in the City of Monona. The 0.75 acres of the 9.8-acre San Damiano property includes wetland, upland areas, and 100 feet of Lake Monona shoreline. The City intends to manage the 0.75 acres as an undeveloped open space. The Natural Resources Board approved the hunting and trapping prohibition on the 0.75-acre parcel at the January 2022 board meeting.

**Grant Recipient:** City of Schofield

**Project Name:** Lake Wausau Boat Launch Acquisition

**County:** Marathon

**Details:** DNR issued a grant and management contract on 4/1/22 to City of Schofield for acquisition of 2.37 acres in the City of Schofield. The 2.37-acres is a vacant waterfront parcel zoned for commercial use with frontage on Lake Wausau on the east, commercial buildings on the west, City owned land on the north and residential housing to the south. The property will be an expansion to an existing City park. The Natural Resources Board approved the hunting prohibition on the 2.37-acre parcel at the January 2022 board meeting.

**Grant Recipient:** City of Baraboo

**Project Name:** Vine Street Riverfront Acquisition

**County:** Sauk

**Details:** DNR issued a grant and management contract on 4/01/23 to City of Baraboo for acquisition of 0.28 acres in the City of Baraboo. The parcel is a commercial lot along the south side of the Baraboo River. The City will demolish the buildings and manage the property as park land. The property will be a connection to the City's riverwalk and it will also be a kayak/canoe access point. The Natural Resources Board approved the hunting prohibition on the 0.28-acre parcel at the December 2022 board meeting.

**Grant Recipient:** Groundswell Conservancy, Inc.

**Project Name:** Town of Dunkirk Adler parcel Acquisition

**County:** Dane

**Details:** DNR issued a grant and management contract on 1/19/23 to Groundswell for acquisition of 1.64 acres in the Town of Dunkirk. The property is located along the Yahara River near the Dunkirk Dam and is comprised of a vacant woodland lot. The primary purpose of acquiring this property is to protect the open space along the river, and further develop the site with an ADA-accessible public canoe/kayak launch and landing. The Natural Resources Board approved the gun hunting prohibition on the 1.64-acre parcel at the December 2022 board meeting.

**Grant Recipient:** Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc.

**Project Name:** Krogwold Fee Acquisition

**County:** Portage

**Details:** DNR issued a grant and management contract on 12/2/21 to Ice Age Trail Alliance for acquisition of 9.8 acres in the Town of New Hope. The property contains forest and agricultural land, as well as an existing section of the Ice Age Trail. The primary purpose of acquiring this property is to protect the existing trail section and provide access to more than ½ mile of addition existing trail. The Natural Resources Board approved the hunting and trapping prohibitions on the 9.8-acre parcel at the October 2021 board meeting.