

The Glacial Heritage Area

*Do you wish there were more opportunities close to home to enjoy the outdoors?
Do you like watching waterfowl and shorebirds during their spring and fall migrations?
Would you enjoy cross-country skiing, riding your bike or horse back riding on paths
winding through the countryside?
Do you get a thrill hunting ducks on a cool October morning or wetting a line for bass?
Are you concerned about the growing disconnect between kids and the outdoors?*



If your answer to any of these questions is "yes," then a new, community-based outdoor recreation and conservation effort, known as the Glacial Heritage Area, is intended for you.

What's proposed?

The Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) project would link parks, preserves, wildlife and natural areas, and other conservation lands to nearby cities and villages with different types of trails. This **network** aims to:

- **Connect people to the outdoors** – provide readily accessible opportunities for residents and visitors to get outdoors and participate in hiking, biking, wildlife watching, fishing, paddling, hunting, camping, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and other activities. The project also seeks to help keep kids connected to nature.
- **Protect the pearls** – protect and restore native grassland, savanna, woodland, and wetland habitats, and improve water quality in area lakes, wetlands, and rivers.



Who's involved?

Some of the groups that have been most active in planning and designing the proposed GHA project are:

- Jefferson County Board
- Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium
- State Trails Council
- Rock River Coalition
- Jefferson County Tourism Council
- Pheasants Forever & local conservation clubs
- Jefferson County Bike Club & TREK Bicycle
- Natural Heritage Land Trust & Madison Audubon
- Land use experts from local planning firms
- Department of Natural Resources

Why here?

This area supports high quality grasslands, wetlands and forests interspersed with productive agricultural land. Together, this mix of conservation lands and farmlands provides a **unique opportunity to protect a landscape that harbors a wide variety of habitats, provides a wide range of outdoor, nature-based recreation, and sustains viable farming operations.**

The proposed Glacial Heritage Area project originates from the Wisconsin Land Legacy Report. The Report identified the most important places to meet conservation and recreation needs over the next fifty years. One of the highest priorities the public told the Department of Natural Resources during the development of the Legacy Report was to protect places **near where people live** that provide high quality outdoor recreation opportunities.

How would this happen?

The proposed project is intended to be a partnership involving many local groups, organizations, landowners, and levels of government. In particular, the partners involved in developing the proposal seek to **ensure that the GHA project meets the needs of local citizens** and provides residents and landowners with a variety of ways to be involved, should they so desire.

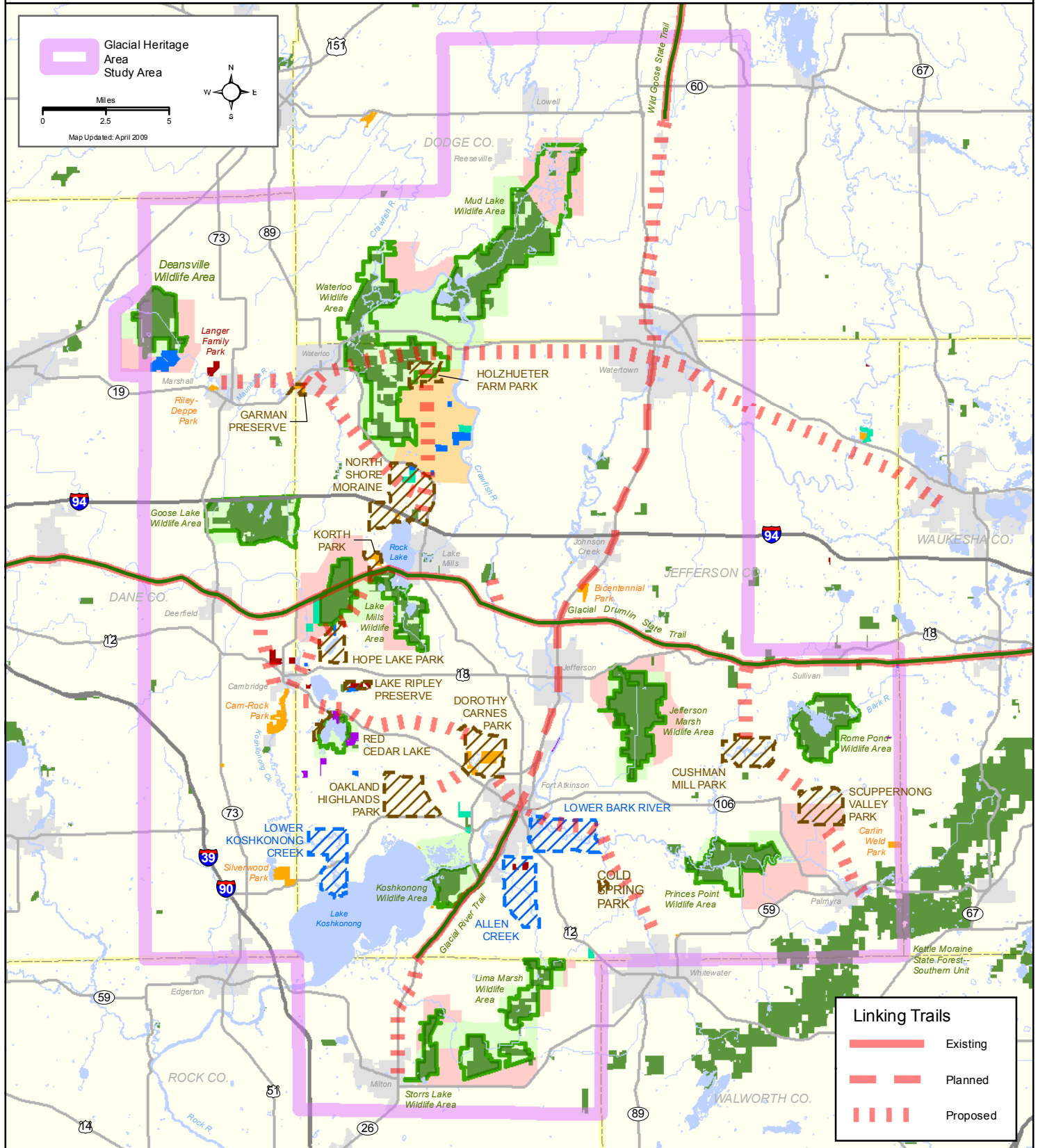
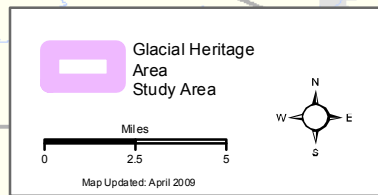
One option for landowners within the proposed GHA is to be part of the actual network. For example, some landowners may be interested in allowing a trail along the edge of their property. Others may be interested in selling or donating land to help create or expand parks, linking trails, wildlife areas, or other conservation areas. *Land would **only** be acquired from those landowners who wish to sell or donate land or land rights.*



GLACIAL HERITAGE AREA

Proposed Plan

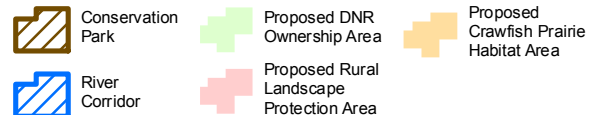
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Land and Facilities



Existing Land Ownership



Proposed Protection Areas



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A vertical strip of 20 white icons on a green background. The icons are arranged in two identical columns of ten each. From top to bottom, the icons represent: a person walking, a person climbing, a fish, a castle, a bicycle, mountains, a tent, a person running, a person swimming, a person riding a horse, a person on a bicycle, a person holding a rifle, a person walking, a person climbing, a fish, a castle, a bicycle, mountains, a tent, a person running, a person swimming, a person riding a horse, a person on a bicycle, a person holding a rifle, a person walking, a person climbing, a fish, a castle, a bicycle, mountains, a tent, a person running, a person swimming, a person riding a horse, a person on a bicycle, a person holding a rifle.

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[illegible]

A woman wearing a red tank top, black shorts, and a black helmet is riding a blue bicycle across the Milwaukee Street Bridge. The bridge has a wooden arch structure and metal railings. In the background, there are trees, a yellow building, and a road with cars. A green banner with a logo is visible on the left side of the bridge. The text "Milwaukee Street Bridge, Jefferson" is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

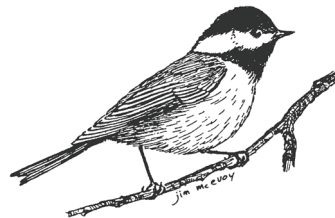
How does the project relate to existing land uses?

The GHA project is designed to integrate with existing land uses and complement local growth plans. Similarly, the partners helping develop the proposed project understand the importance and value of farming and advocate for ensuring a strong, vibrant agriculture community for the area. Not only does farming form a critical component of the local culture and econ-

omy, but the agricultural landscape provides the ideal setting within which to establish the network of parks and trails.

The GHA project seeks to ensure that the proposed recreation facilities and conservation lands have minimal impact to agricultural operations and are

compatible with the various federal, state, county, and local efforts to maintain the area's farmland.



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For more information about the GHA project, visit:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/orq/land/facilities/glacial/index.html>