

# Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge

## PROGRESS UPDATE: THE POWER OF PARTNERS



*Fox River Ecosystem Partnership  
Annual Meeting  
January 11, 2023*



**On August 15, 2012,  
Secretary of the  
Interior Ken Salazar  
announced the  
approval of  
Hackmatack NWR, the  
Nation's 561<sup>st</sup> National  
Wildlife Refuge**



# Goals of Hackmatack NWR

- 1) Protect wetlands and grasslands, and protect and enhance habitats for grassland-dependent and other migratory birds





# Goals of Hackmatack NWR

- 2) Create opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation



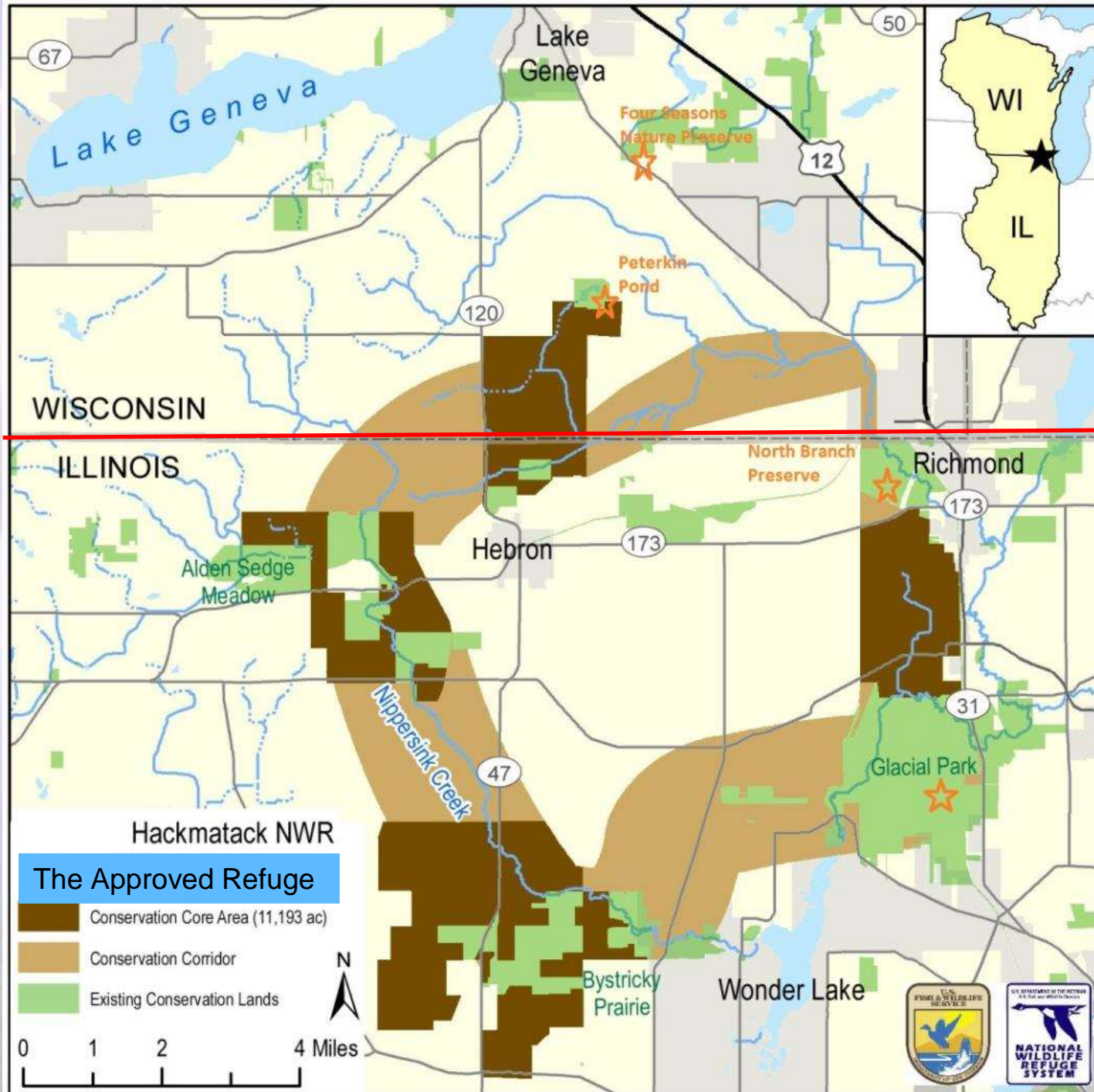
# Goals of Hackmatack NWR

- 3) Promote science, education, and research to encourage responsible stewardship of our natural resources



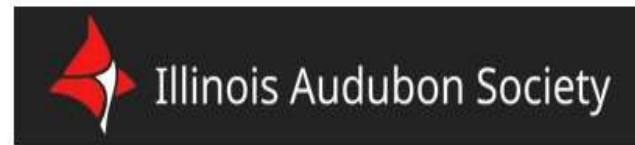


**Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge, the Nation's 561<sup>st</sup> Refuge, calls for protection of 11,193 acres in four core areas and provides for connecting corridors along both the North and South Branches of Nippersink Creek.**



# Hackmatack Conservation Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (12 PARTNERS)

Six original partners, including USFWS, signed on to a corresponding MOU that defines roles of partnership members – and six new partners have signed on since 2014



# **Hackmatack Conservation Partnership Land Protection Plan (2019-2022) and MOU**

A collaborative, consensus-based, short-term land protection plan

Plan defines project selection parameters and land protection priority areas based on USFWS-defined priorities for Hackmatack NWR

Updated in 2019. Illinois Audubon added as 12<sup>th</sup> Land Protection Partner



# Support for Building the Refuge

- Several million from Illinois Clean Energy
- FY21 - \$500,000 to USFWS from Land & Water Cons. Fund,
- FY21 - \$1,032,728 to USFWS from Migratory Bird Conservation Fund,
- FY22 - \$500,000 to USFWS from Senator Durbin, Appropriations Bill.
- Land acquired by Illinois Dept. Natural Resources – MCCD
- Land protected by individuals via conservation easements





**Todd Boonstra – first Refuge Manager**



# Land Protection Projects (Completed and Pending)

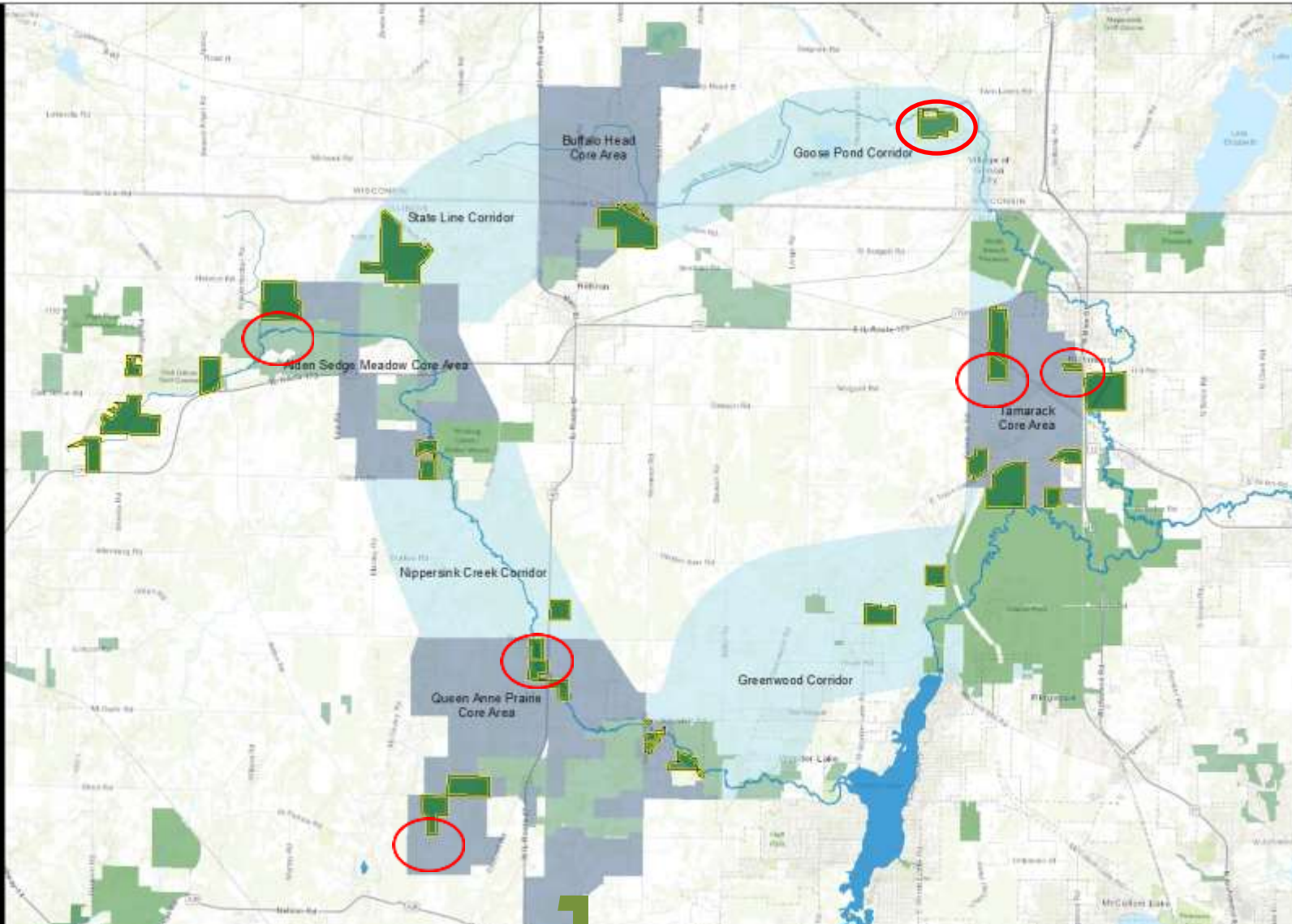
Nearly 30 parcels, totaling over 2000 acres, have been protected by the Land Protection Partners. Six parcels now conveyed to USFWS – 491ac.

Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge:  
Current Protected Sites\*

- Protected for Hackmatack\*\*
- Other Protected
- NWR Core Areas
- NWR Corridor Areas

\*Includes lands protected through: both fee simple purchase and conservation easement

\*\*Includes sites protected for Hackmatack outside Core & Corridor Areas with clear hydrological connection (Nippersink mainstem or tributary)





# THANKS TO FREP!



<https://underwood.house.gov/services/community-project-funding>

**Friends were notified by Congresswoman Underwood that \$975,000 will be available in FY23 to restore 100 acres of wetlands and headwater streams on a 165-acre parcel owned by Openlands and located just north of Glacial Park.**

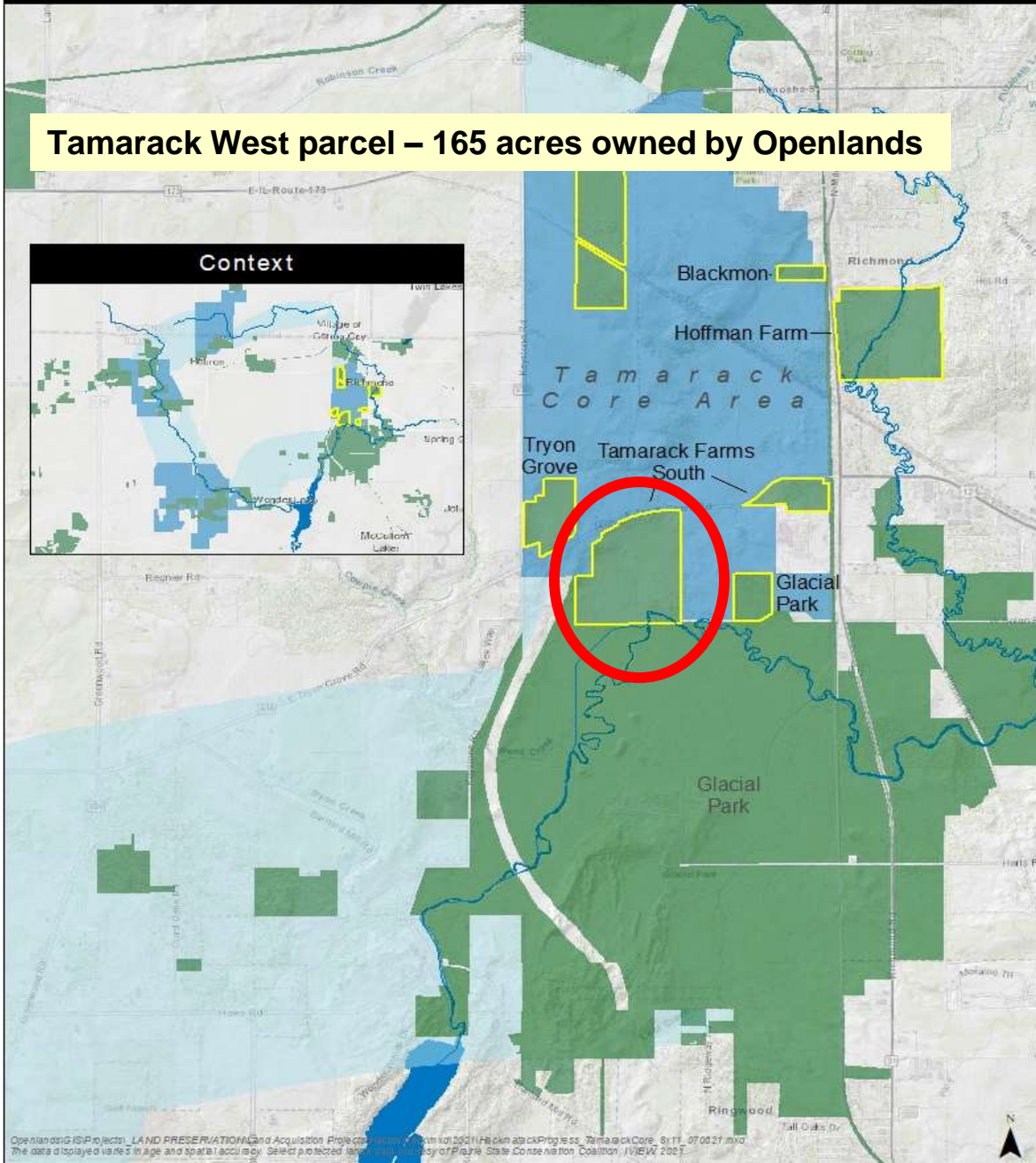
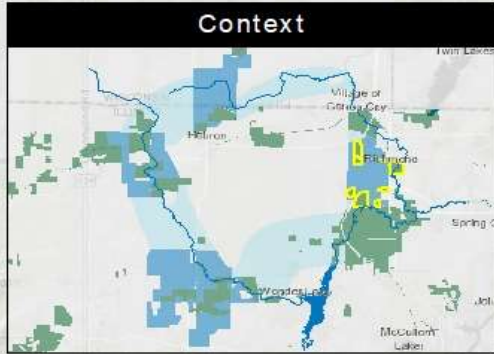


# Tamarack Core Area Completed Projects

- Completed Project
- Protected Land

- Hackmatack Natl Wildlife Refuge - Core Area
- Hackmatack Natl Wildlife Refuge - Corridor

**Tamarack West parcel – 165 acres owned by Openlands**



## **TAMARACK FARM SOUTH (West Parcel)**

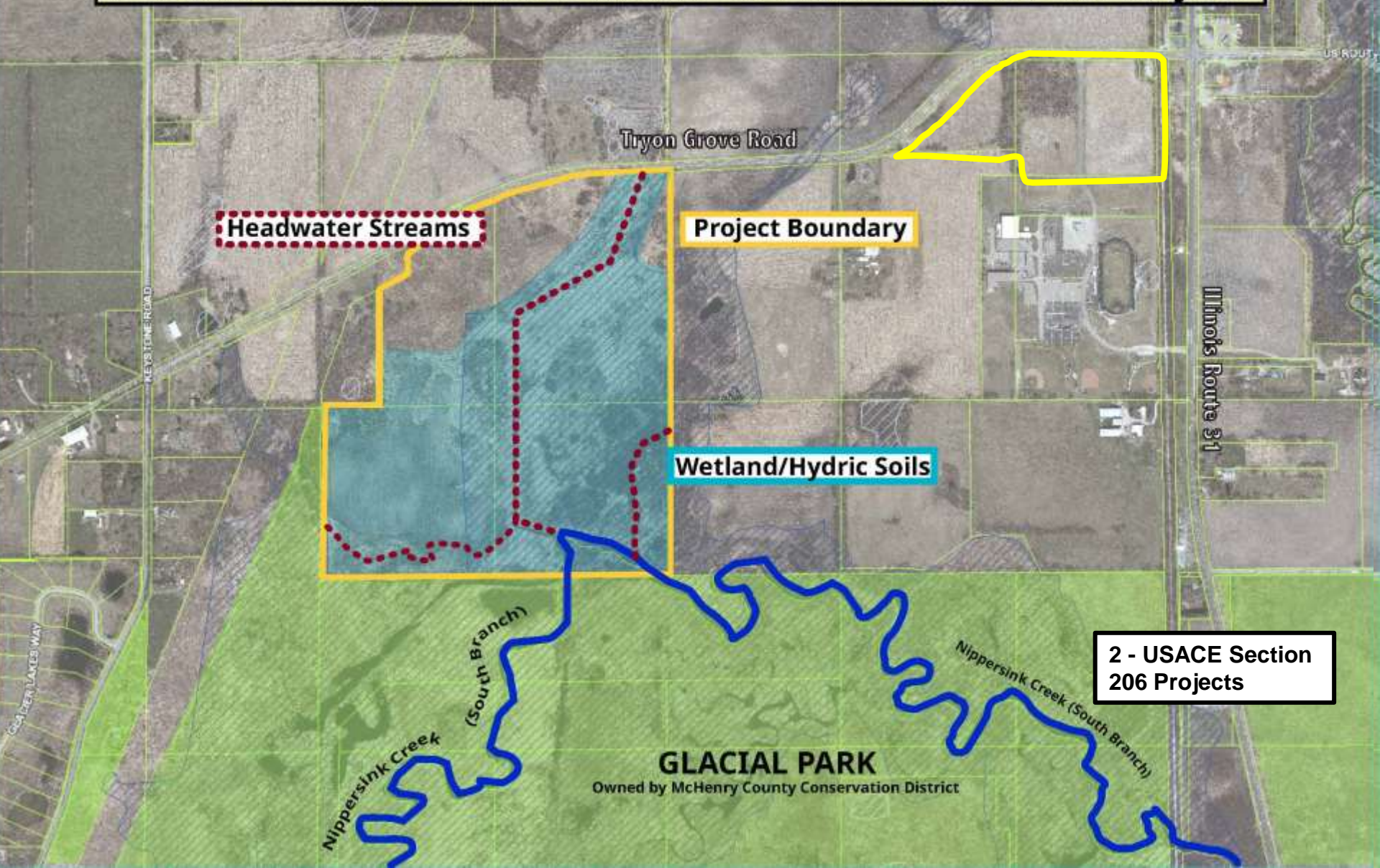
159 acres in Tamarack  
Core

Contains wetlands,  
woodlands and sedge  
meadow. Borders the  
north side of Glacial  
Park.





# HACKMATACK NWR - NIPPERSINK CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT





## TAMARACK FARM SOUTH (East Parcel)

29 acres in Tamarack Core

Contains oak woodland. Former ag fields planted with prairie seeds in 2020 with support from Partners, DU and MCCD. Friends held several workdays and has an ICE Challenge Grant. Borders the north side of Richmond Burton High School.







**Oak savanna north of Richmond-Burton HS before restoration**





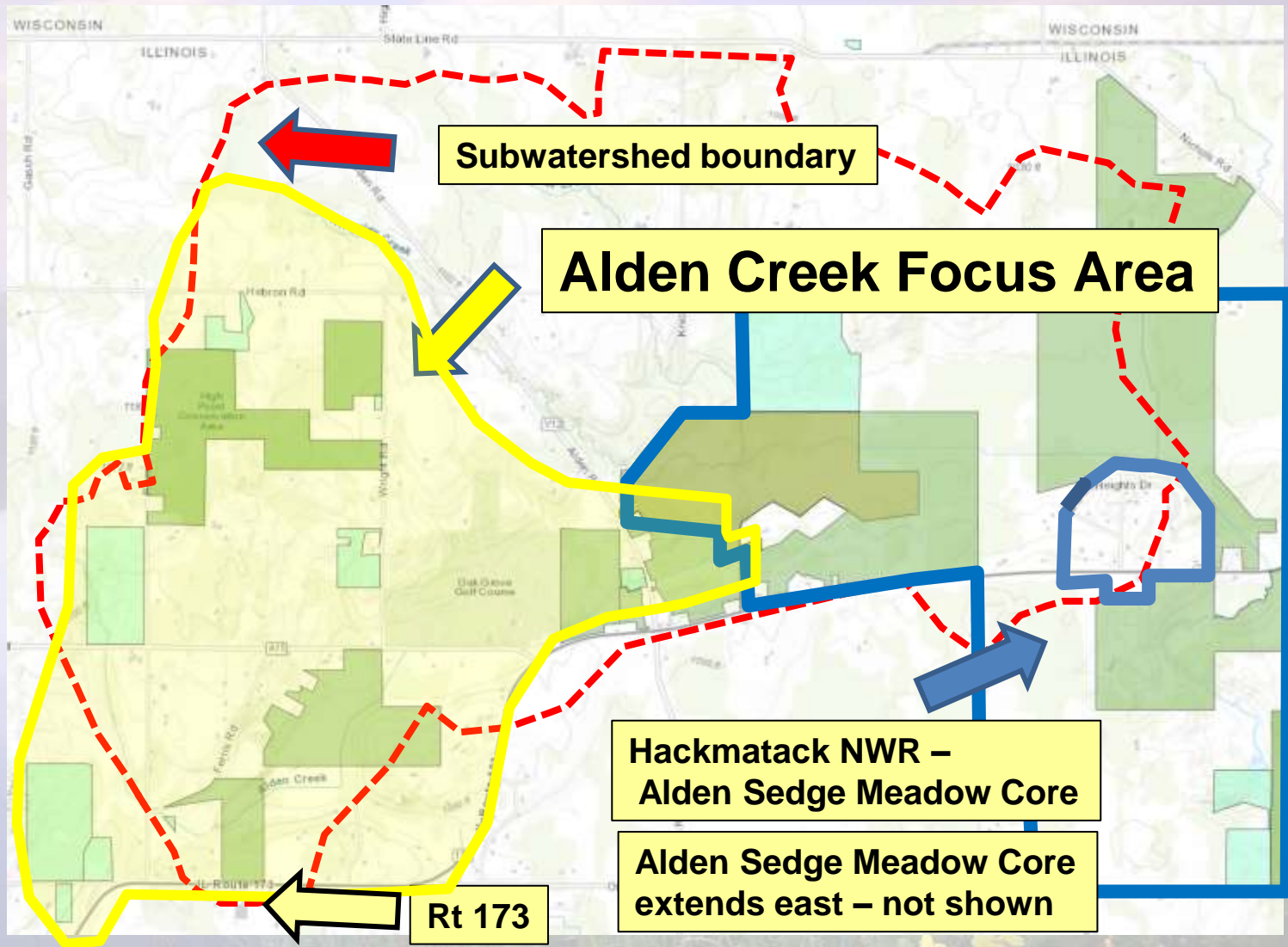
**Oak savanna north of Richmond-Burton HS after restoration**



## **WORK IN CORES AND CORRIDORS**

**DISCUSSION OF CONSERVATION FOCUS AREAS  
THAT ARE INTRINSIC VALUE THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE  
SUSTAINABILITY OF LANDSCAPES IN WHICH  
HACKMATACK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IS LOCATED**

*(Green Infrastructure Planning Exercise!)*





## KEIBLER-RICH NATURAL AREA (COMPLETED)

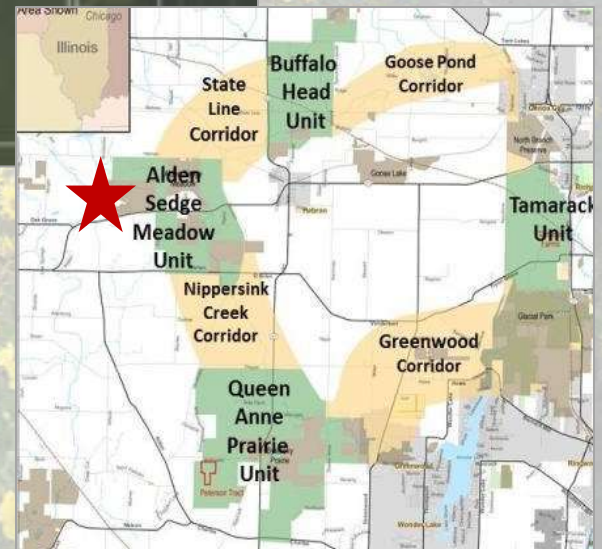
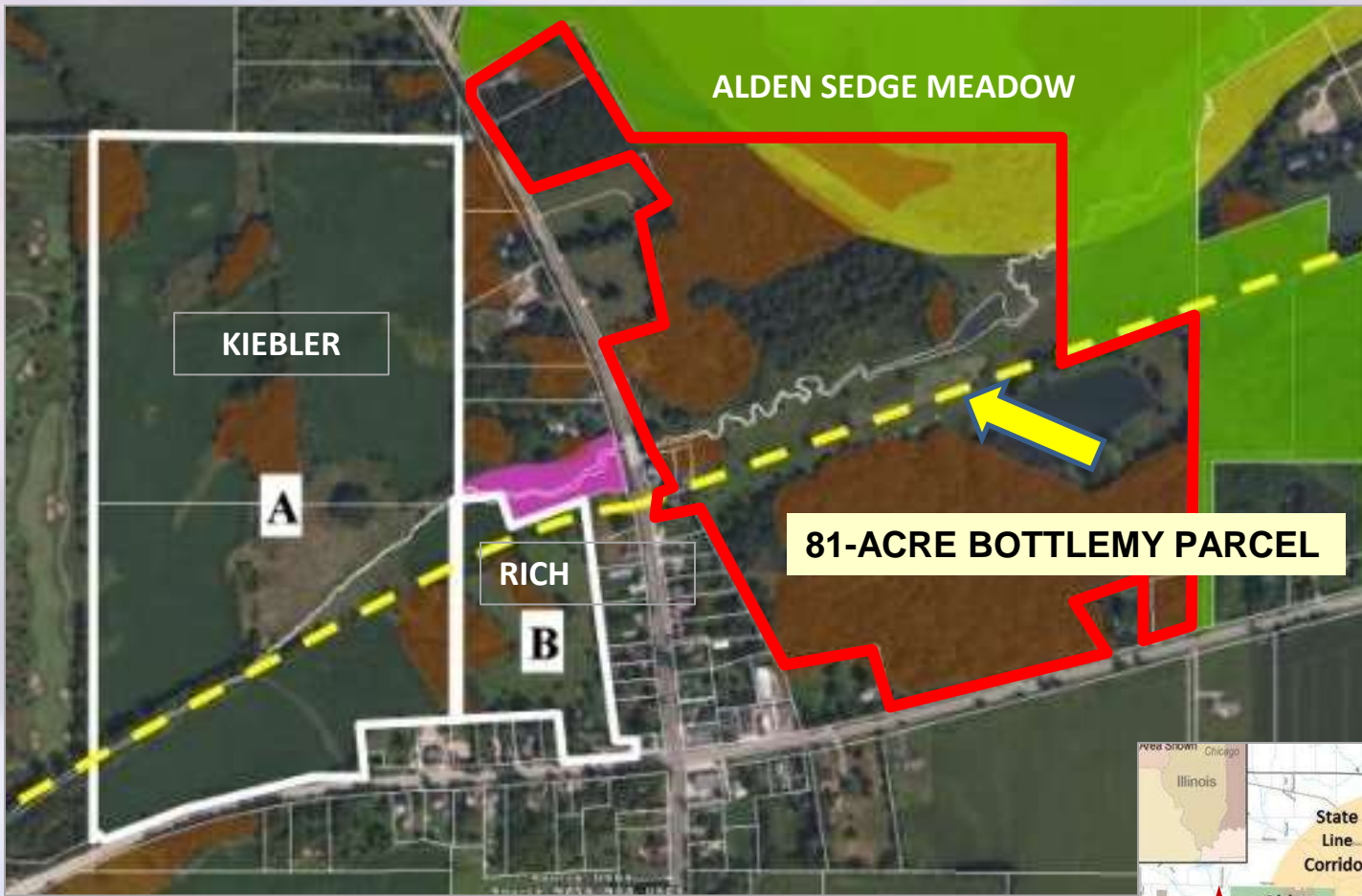
84 acres with hydrological connection to Hackmatack's Alden Sedge Meadow Core Area, including Steve and June Keibler's 73-acre Conservation easement donation and Rich, an 11-acre acquisition

Contains part of Alden Creek, a primary feeder stream into the headwaters of the Nippersink Creek nearby


Protected habitats include riparian areas, sedge meadow, oak savanna

Partners included McHenry County Conservation District, Land Conservancy of McHenry County, Openlands, private landowners









*IN SEARCH OF EAGLES DAY*  
**Saturday, January 21, 8-10 a.m.**

McHenry Dam, Algonquin Dam, Carpentersville Dam, Lake Geneva  
Friends, USFWS, MCCD, IL DNR, Sierra Club, McHenry County Audubon





# International Migratory Bird Day

The Friends, Illinois DNR, Sierra Club,  
McHenry County Audubon, Friends of Volo Bog,  
McHenry County Conservation District, USFWS

Sunday May 7, 8am – 4pm LVVC in Glacial Park





# *Monarch Mania Family Fun Fair—Sunday Mid August*





**In collaboration with the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, TLC of McHenry County, McHenry County Conservation District, and the Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge.**





# SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 5pm - 9pm



## THE DOLE

401 Country Club Rd, Crystal Lake, IL

*Friends of Hackmatack's 10th Anniversary Annual Meeting Celebration and Thank You for our Members and Friends!!*

*Come at 5pm for hors d'oeuvres, drinks and "The Nature of Hackmatack" Art Show with our presentations at 6:30pm.*

**Ed Collins and John Rogner: keynote speakers**

### Our 10th Anniversary Speakers:

Ed Collins, Natural Resources Director for McHenry County Conservation District

John Rogner, Assistant Director Illinois Department of Natural Resources



# The Nature of Hackmatack

National Wildlife Refuge

## ART SHOW

**"From the Bottom Up"  
AN EVERYONE ART SHOW**







Timeline



~Approval, Establishment & Development~



2004

### WHAT IF ...

A small band of dreamers in McHenry pursue a national wildlife refuge.



2012

### SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ANNOUNCES THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE REFUGE

Secretary of the Interior Kenneth Salazar publicly announces the authorization of the refuge in a ceremony held at the East Valley Visitor's Center at Glacial Park, Ringwood, IL.







Follow on FACEBOOK:  
Friends of Hackmatack  
National Wildlife Refuge

Website: [www.hackmatacknwr.org](http://www.hackmatacknwr.org)

Twitter: @FriendsHackNWR

[info@hackmatacknwr.org](mailto:info@hackmatacknwr.org)

<https://underwood.house.gov/services/community-project-funding>

***Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge – Ten Years and Still Dreaming***