



Washtenaw County Natural Areas Preservation Program

Screening System for Review of Potential Acquisitions As Developed From Washtenaw County Ordinance No. 128

The screening system for review of potential land and easement acquisitions consists of four major categories. The system is intended to identify high-quality natural areas that are appropriate for protection through the Natural Areas Preservation Program.

SUMMARY OF CATEGORIES

- A. Public Water Resources
- B. Special Animals, Plants and Plant Communities
- C. Recreational and Scientific Values
- D. Proximity to Protected Land

SCREENING /REVIEW CRITERIA

A. Public Water Resources.

- I. **Water Resources Access/Frontage.** Does the property have frontage on a lake or perennial stream? Yes No

If the property borders an aquatic ecosystem assign relative screening score following table below. If it fits in more than one category use highest value

Borders Lake, large pond, or chain of ponds		Borders perennial stream (@1:24,000)	
Frontage is 100-500 ft. Frontage is 501-1000 ft. Frontage > 1000 ft. or the entire system is contained in the parcel	Medium High Very high	50-100 ft. 100-2000 ft >2000 ft.or >500 ft on both sides	Medium High Very high

- II. **Surface water quality protection.** Is the property directly connected to a surface-water ecosystem? Yes No

Does the property drain to:	
A seepage system with significant public access and/or ownership	Medium
A small drainage system (median discharge of 5-25 cubic ft/sec)	High
A larger drainage system (median discharge greater than 25 cubic ft/sec)	Very high

III. **Ground water quality protection.** Does the parcel contain any known or expected recharge areas? Yes No

Does the property contain significant areas of known or expected:	
Regional groundwater recharge	Medium
Local high velocity recharge for throughflow/groundwater connections to surface water	High
Local high velocity recharge for throughflow/groundwater connections to public well/water supply systems	Very high

IV. **Wetland Conservation/ protection.** Does the parcel contain or border wetland areas? Yes No

Does the property contain:	
5-15 acres of lacustrine fringe, riverine, or palustrine marsh wetlands	Medium
15-50 acres of lacustrine fringe, riverine, or palustrine marsh wetlands	High
>50 acres of any type of wetland or a complete palustrine wetland >20 acres in size	Very high
NOTE: Lacustrine = Lake; Riverine = River; Palustrine = Standing water	

B. Special Animals, Plants and Plant Communities

I. **Wildlife Habitat.** Does the property support important terrestrial or aquatic populations or habitat or add to already protected property/ies that would protect wildlife populations or habitat? Yes No

The property contributes high quality home range habitat for wide ranging resident wildlife compatible with surrounding land uses.	Medium
The property secures important habitat within the property or in combination with protected adjoining properties for at least one of the following: migrating songbirds, migrating waterfowl, desirable resident species requiring specialized habitat conditions.	High
The property secures essential habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species.	Very high

II. Special Plants and Plant Communities. Does the property have some native vegetation?

Yes No

The property contains sufficient components of pre-European settlement vegetation to allow restoration to pre-European settlement conditions.	Medium
The property supports populations of plant species that show a fidelity to high quality natural communities and specialized habitats within the property.	High
The property secures essential habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plant species or rare, imperiled or critically imperiled plant communities.	Very high

C. Recreational and Scientific Values

I. Recreation. Will the property provide access to public waters or trails, or protect a trail corridor? Yes No

(a) Will the property, or a specifically granted affirmative right to public access if a conservation restriction, provide deeded public access to public waters where no such permanent access now exists in the vicinity? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(b) Will the property abut a trail, or be within reasonable proximity of a trail that is now or could be regularly used by the general public for recreation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

II. Scientific Site. Is the property a recognized, or potential, site of scientific/interpretive study (e.g., natural communities, species, archeological resources)? Yes No

D. Proximity to Protected Land

I. Adjacency. Does the property abut, or is otherwise integral to, a permanently protected tract of public or private land being held for conservation or recreation purposes?

Yes No

II. Enhancement. Will the property enhance the ecosystem integrity of an adjacent, permanently protected tract of public or private land being held for conservation or recreation purposes? Yes No