



City of Lake Geneva, 626 Geneva St, Lake Geneva, WI 53147-262.248.3673-www.cityoflakegeneva.gov

Committee of the Whole Agenda
Wednesday, September 9, 2026 - 6:01 PM or immediately following adjournment of the
Special Council meeting, whichever is later
Lake Geneva City Hall; Council Chambers

Members:

Council President: Cindy Yager , Council Vice-President: Cathy Stoodley
Alderpersons: JaNelle Powers, Sherri Ames, Linda Frame, Mary Jo Fesenmaier, Brian Smith and Joel Hoiland

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call**
- 4. Approval of the Committee of the Whole Minutes from**
- 5. Comments from the public as allowed by Wis. Stats. §19.84(2). Comments will be limited to 5 minutes. Be further advised that matters brought up at this time may be referred to the appropriate committee or individual for further discussion and consideration.**
- 6. Presentations**
 - a. Swift Night Out; Sarah McConnell, Avian Committee Chairperson**
 - b. Hillmoor Ecological Restoration Plan; Clay Frazer, Native Range Ecological (NRE)**
- 7. City Administrator Report**
- 8. Discussion regarding City of Lake Geneva Municipal Code Section 2.42(c): Items referred to the Council by two Aldermen, Mayor, Administrator, Committees, boards, or commissions are included in the agenda**
- 9. Reports Received from Alders for Standing Committees, City Committee, Commissions, and Boards & other Boards and Committees with Council Representation**

Personnel Committee	Piers, Harbors and Lakefront Committee	Public Works Committee	Utility Commission	Plan Commission	Library Board	Tree Board
Cemetery Board	Board of Park Commissioners	Hillmoor Commission	Historic Preservation Commission	Tourism Commission	Avian Committee	VISIT Lake Geneva
Geneva Lake Museum	Lake Geneva Economic Dev Corp	Geneva Lake Environmental Agency	Geneva Lakes Family YMCA	Geneva Lake Use	Business Improvement District	

10. Adjournment

A quorum of the Council may be present; however, no official Council action will be taken. Requests from persons with disabilities who need assistance to participate in this meeting should be made to the City Clerk's office in advance so that the appropriate accommodations can be made.



**The City of Lake Geneva Avian
Committee and the Geneva Lake**

Swift Night Out

A FREE event!

Thursday, September 10, 2026

**Geneva Lake Museum
(255 Mill Street)**



- 5:00 pm** gather and eat - local food truck
- 6:00 pm** “Eagles and Friends” - indoor program by Schlitz Audubon
- get close and enjoy an educational program with a live eagle and other raptors
- 7:15 pm** head outside and watch as thousands of Chimney Swifts
dive down the Museum’s chimney as they migrate for the season. Learn why tall chimneys are so important!

Hillmoor Ecological Restoration Plan Committee of the Whole Project Update Meeting September 9, 2026



**NATIVE RANGE
ECOLOGICAL**

Hillmoor Property Restoration Plan Objective

NRE's objective is to develop a Ten-Year Ecological Restoration Plan that will serve as a blueprint for the City of Lake Geneva to restore a diverse and resilient ecological landscape capable of supporting a high level of biodiversity and wildlife habitat.



Updates and Current Status

- Site Assessment and Survey Complete, including mapping of invasive species.
- Preliminary findings and prioritized recommendations.
- What can be accomplished for a stated budget of \$300K over the FIRST three-year period?
- Plan to be completed and submitted in December.



Specific Deliverables to Date

- Figures (maps) – zones and subzones defined.
- Invasive species mapped
- Plant inventory
- Photo documentation
- Site tours with contractors to establish costs
- Coordinate with WDNR officials and engineering partners for wetland & waterway inputs (Zone 1)
- Detailed cost spreadsheets developed
- Four presentations to city officials and Hillmoor Commission

The Process of Ecological Restoration

- ⦿ Patience and Perseverance are required. Trust the Process.
- ⦿ Prepare for stark and rapid visual changes.
- ⦿ Ecological restoration is not always a linear and predictable process.
- ⦿ Surround yourself (and hire) with professionals who have actually done the work before on this scale.
- ⦿ Stay the course – make a financial commitment. No such thing as Zero-Maintenance Vegetation.
- ⦿ Costs reduce over time, but annual maintenance and monitoring will always be required.



Benefits of Ecological Restoration

- Wildlife habitat improvement
- Increase in biodiversity
- Improve soil health
- Improve water quality
- Educational opportunities (volunteers, students, community members)
- Increase resilience to climate change
- Improved Aesthetic



Recommended Priorities

- Oak woodland and oak savana restoration (oak regeneration is currently NOT occurring in Hillmoor woodlands) and black locust removal –Zone 3
- White River corridor – Zone 1
- Prairie restoration – Zones 4 & 5
- Emergent wetland and forested wetland complex – Zone 2



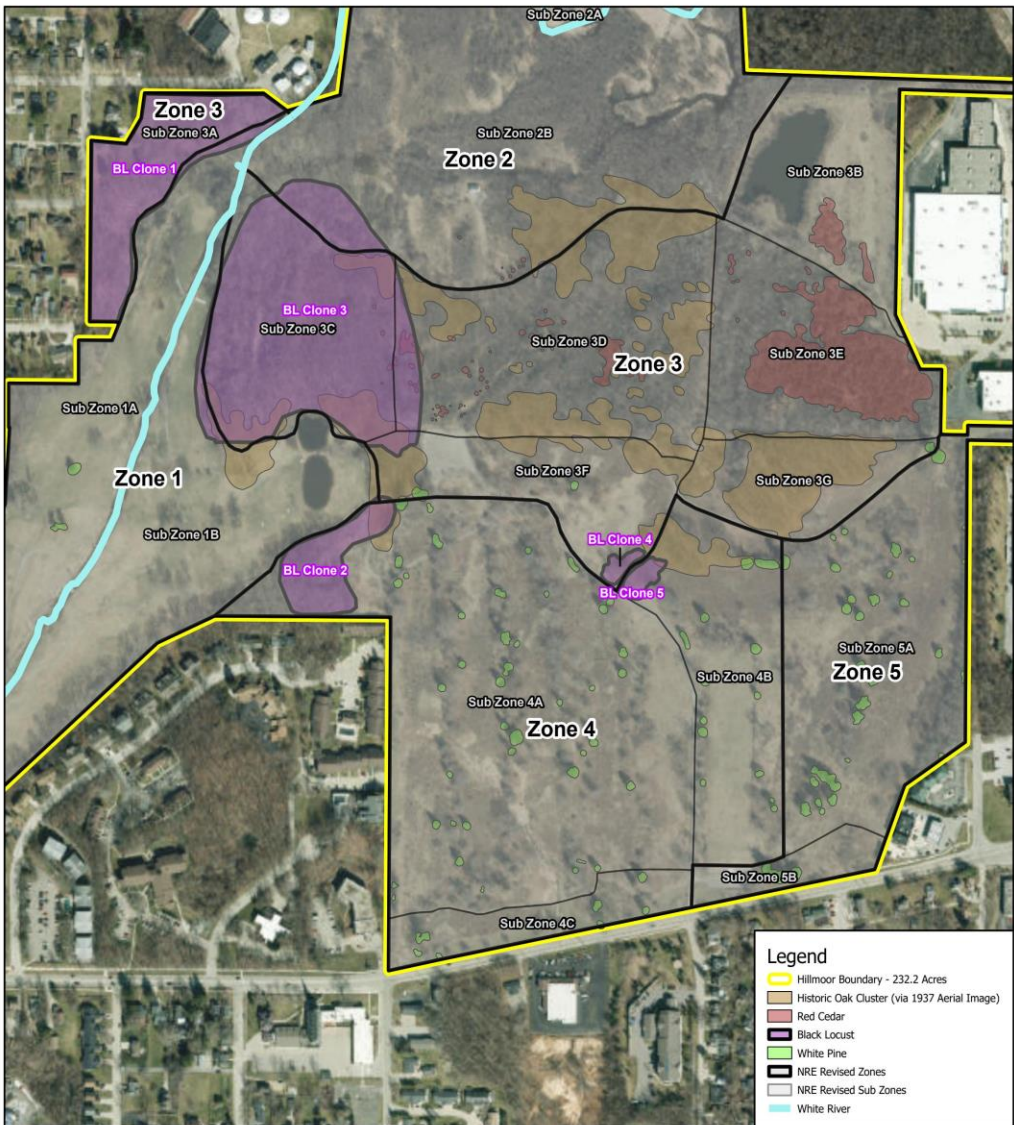
Target plant communities for Restoration

- Oak Savana
- Floodplain Forest
- Sedge Meadow
- Emergent Wetlands
- Upland Tallgrass Prairie



An Altered Landscape. 1937 to 2024





 NATIVE RANGE ECOLOGICAL PO Box 127 Holmen, WI 54636 www.nativerange.net	Project Location 333 E. Main Street Lake Geneva, WI 53147 Section 31 T2N R18E City of Lake Geneva Walworth County 88.4219066°W 42.5975091°N	Landowner Lake Geneva		Drawn By: Daniel Fuhs
	Figure Title Lake Geneva - Hillmoor Historic Oak Communities	1 inch equals 612 feet	Image Sources : NRE Drone Image 2/10/2026 SE Wisc Reg Planning Comm 3/11/2024	Date: 7/7/2026 Project Number: 25075

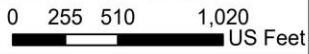
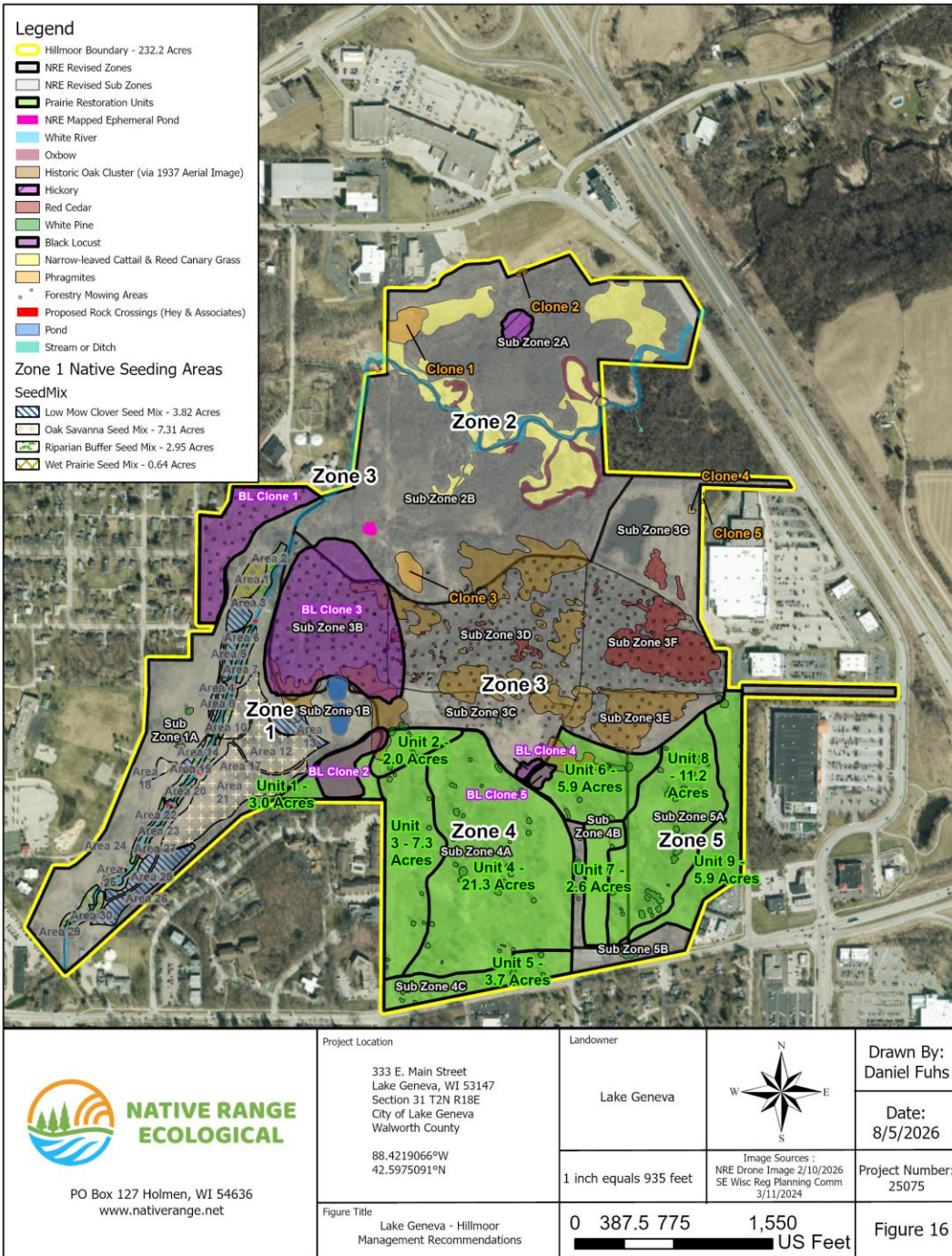


Figure 8



Woody Invasive Species (WIS) Management

- common buckthorn
- black locust
- Asian honeysuckles
- European alder
- multi-flora rose
- white mulberry
- Siberian elm

● Management Strategies

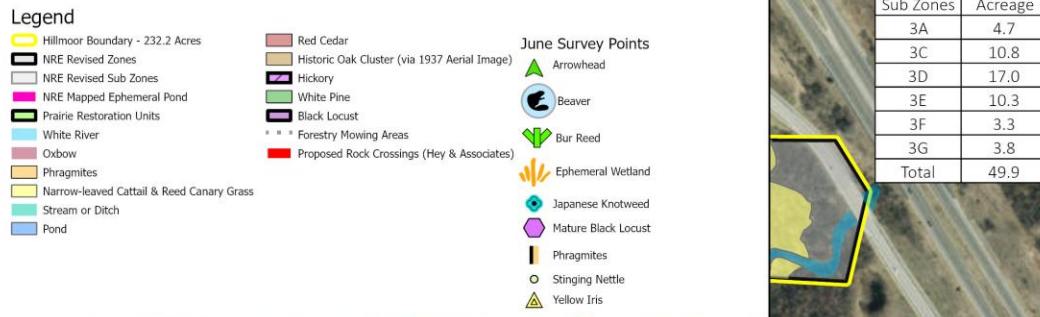
- mechanical removal and stump herbicide treatments – DO NOT CUT WIS unless herbicide can be properly applied the same day.
- selective timber harvest (not clear cutting)
- prescribed fire
- Replant native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous native species.



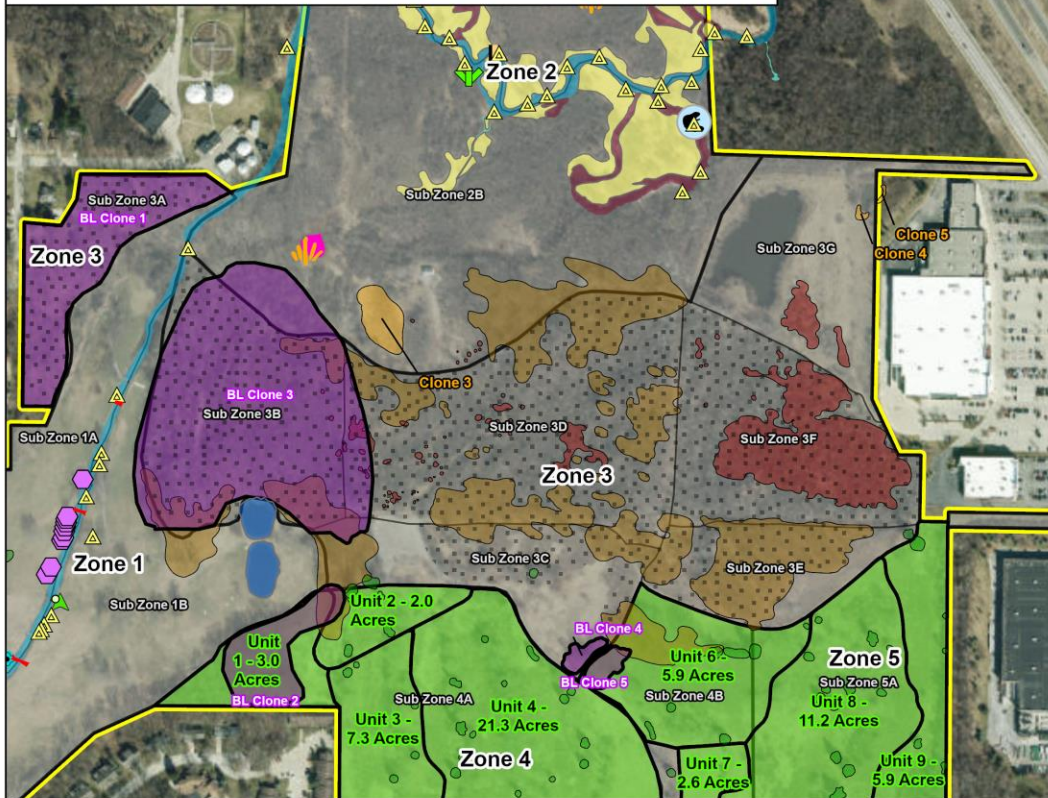
Forest Stand Improvement (FSI)

- Commercial logger with trees marked by a professional forester
- Selectively remove black locust and select lower value native trees
- Merchantable value of black locust and utilization for play structures and in stream structure/aquatic habitat
- Crop tree release
- Opportunity to create new pockets of light for reforestation efforts
- Encourage oak regeneration and growth of higher value native trees (crop trees) such as oaks, maple, hickories, and hackberries





Sub Zones	Acreage
3A	4.7
3C	10.8
3D	17.0
3E	10.3
3F	3.3
3G	3.8
Total	49.9



Recommend WIS Removal and Management for Zone 3.

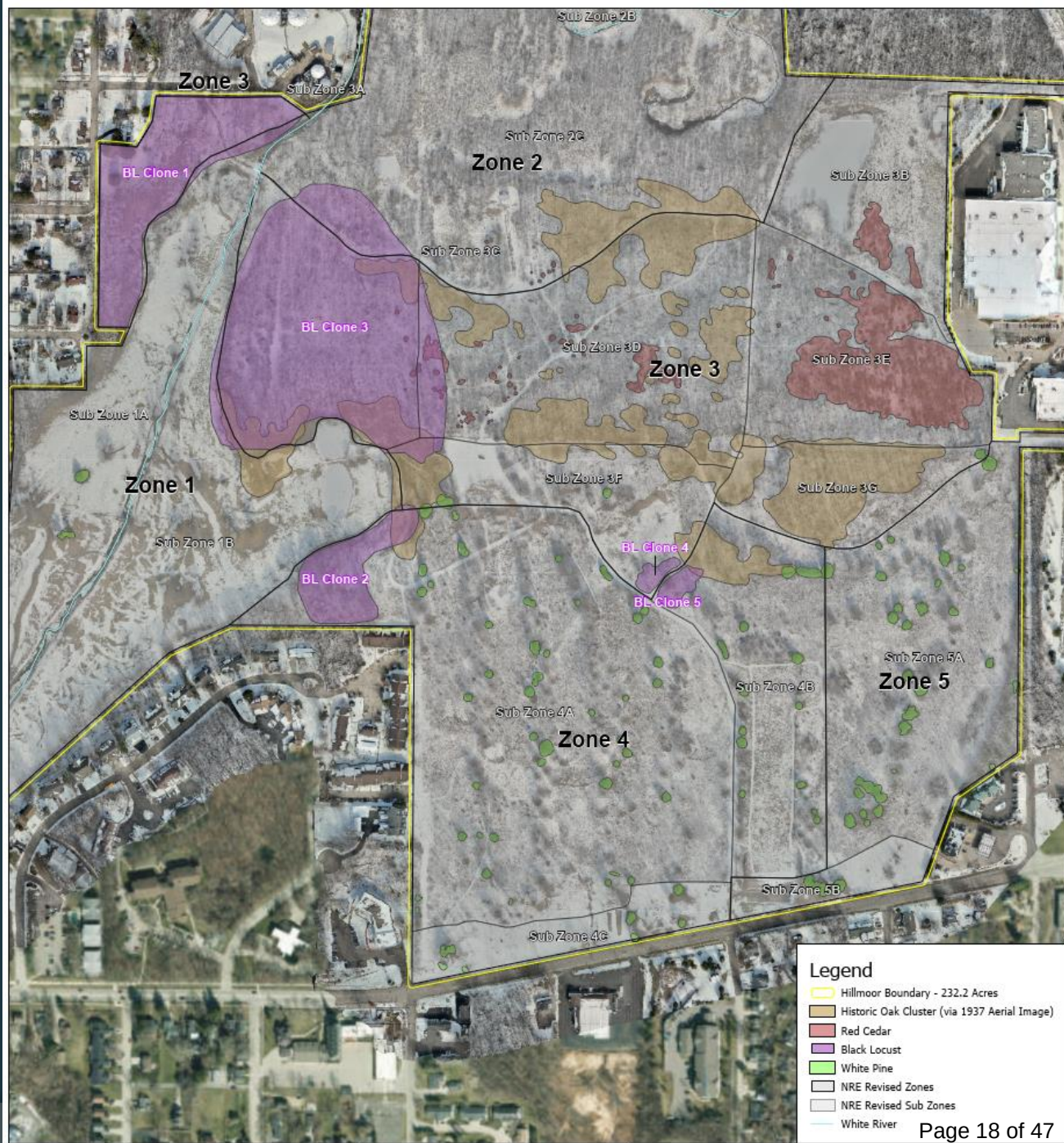


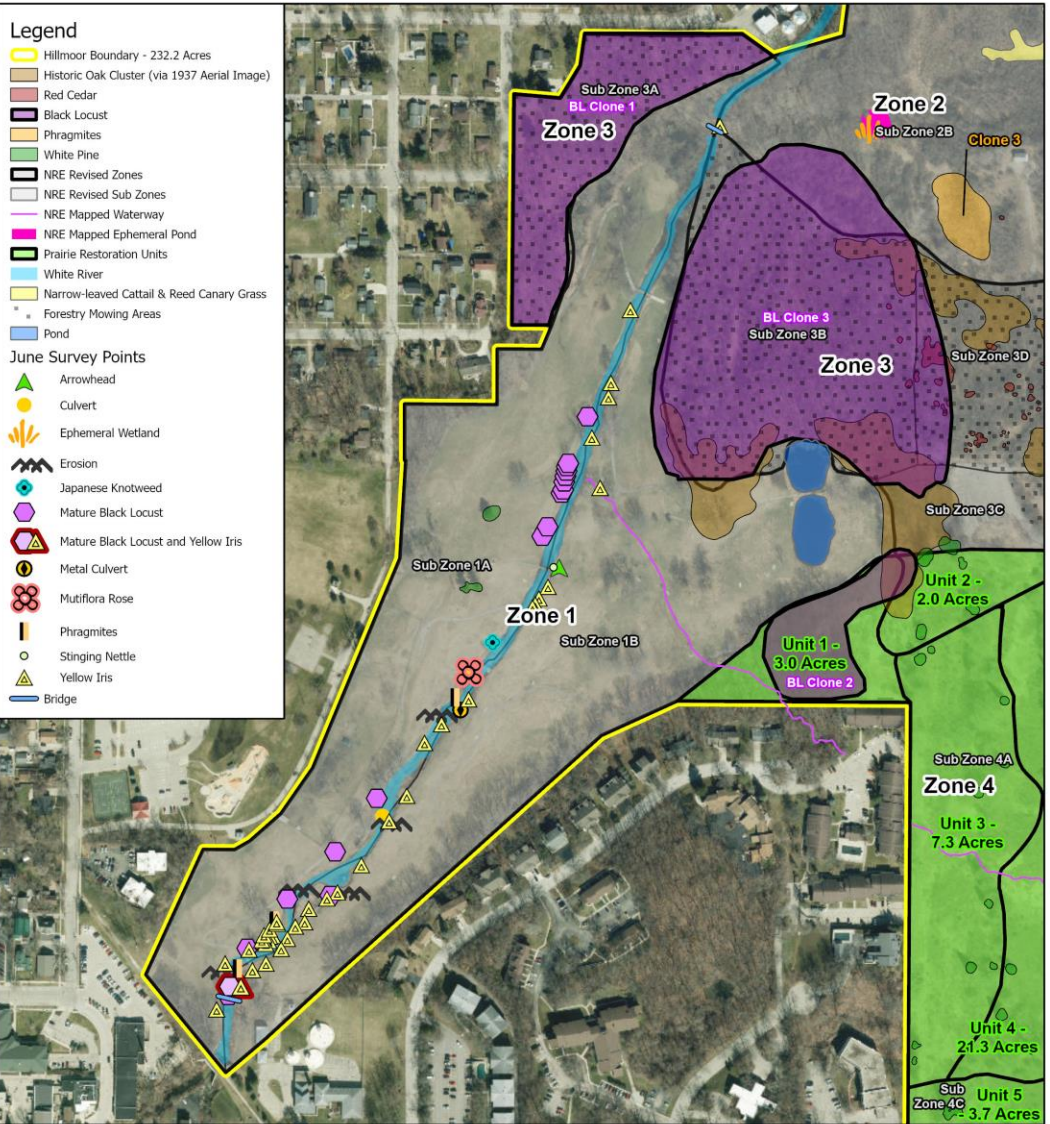
PO Box 127 Holmen, WI 54636
www.nativerange.net

Project Location	Landowner		Drawn By: Daniel Fuhs
333 E. Main Street Lake Geneva, WI 53147 Section 31 T2N R18E City of Lake Geneva Walworth County 88.4219066°W 42.5975091°N	Lake Geneva		Date: 8/5/2026
Figure Title	1 inch equals 604 feet	Image Sources : NRE Drone Image 2/10/2026 SE Wisc Reg Planning Comm 3/11/2024	Project Number: 25075
Lake Geneva - Hillmoor - Zone 3	0 250 500 1,000 US Feet		Figure 14



Historic oaks vs. black locust





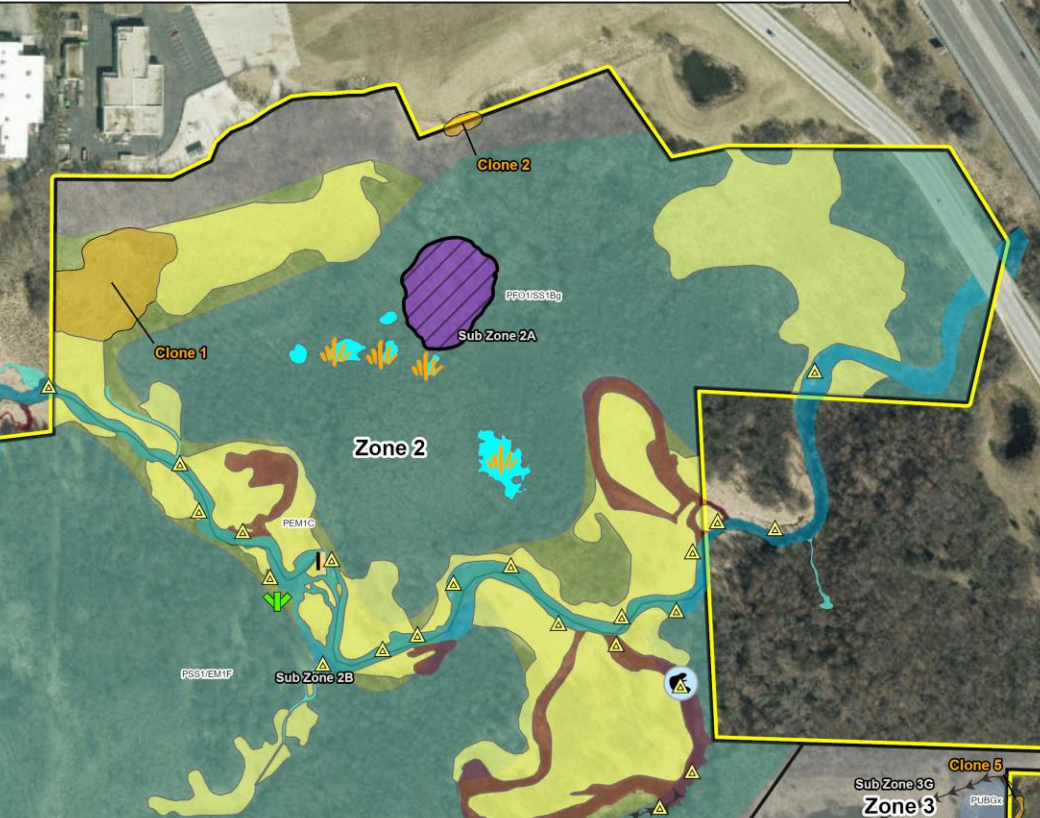
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	333 E. Main Street Lake Geneva, WI 53147 Section 31 T2N R18E City of Lake Geneva Walworth County	Lake Geneva		Date: 8/5/2026
	88.4219066°W 42.5975091°N	1 inch equals 479 feet	Image Sources : NRE Drone Image 2/10/2026 SE Wisc Reg Planning Comm 3/11/2024	Project Number: 25075
	Figure Title Lake Geneva - Hillmoor - Zone 1			Figure 11











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	333 E. Main Street Lake Geneva, WI 53147 Section 31 T2N R18E City of Lake Geneva Walworth County	Lake Geneva		Date: 7/7/2026
	88.4219066°W 42.5975091°N	1 inch equals 336 feet	Image Sources : NRE Drone Image 2/10/2026 SE Wisc Reg Planning Comm 3/11/2024	Project Number: 25075
	Figure Title Lake Geneva - Hillmoor - Zone 2A	0 140 280 560 US Feet		Figure 12

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Hillmoor Wetlands



























“When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect” – Aldo Leopold



Questions and Comments?



**NATIVE RANGE
ECOLOGICAL**



Memo

To: Committee of the Whole

From: David De Angelis, City Administrator

Date: September 2, 2026

RE: Future Trainings and COW Presentation

Previously in discussion with the Council the thoughts of doing monthly trainings at Committee of the Whole was reviewed and requested be put together by staff for initiation in the fall of this year. The League of Municipalities currently has a 7-module series geared toward government basics as well as other general topics available. The first three modules are Municipal Organization and Authority, Open Meetings Law and Parliamentary Procedure. It is our suggestion that we start with these modules and then move forward from there. If the module is too long for a specific meeting, we can break it up into multiple meetings. If for some reason the Council does not find value in these we can look for other training opportunities.

As has also been discussed previously at Council the potential changing of the attorney position from elected to contracted service will need to be discussed at the October meeting if this potential change were to be brought to the voters in April next year at the spring election. The Council President has indicated she would like this item on the agenda and to give the Council plenty of notice prior to allow for consideration well in advance of the meeting.

*City of Lake Geneva, WI
Friday, August 28, 2026*

Chapter 2. Administration

ARTICLE II. CITY COUNCIL

Sec. 2-42. Order of business.

- (c) The City Clerk shall ensure that all items referred to the Council by two Alderman, Mayor, Administrator, committees, boards, or commissions are included in the agenda. Referrals from members of the Common Council must be received by the Clerk two Fridays prior to the scheduled meeting. A consent agenda may be included within the regular agenda for items to be voted upon en bloc without discussion. Any item listed on the consent agenda may be removed at the request of any member of the Council. The request requires no second, is not discussed, and is not voted upon. After a request is made, the item shall be placed on the regular agenda under the proper category for discussion and/or action.
[Amended 2-25-2013 by Ord. No. 13-05]



CITY OF LAKE GENEVA Agenda Item Request Form

Please attach backup materials related to the agenda item request.

1. Name of individual(s) requesting agenda item. (Per § 2.42(c) of the municipal code, agenda item request must be submitted by two Aldermen, Mayor or Administrator and must be received by the City Clerk at least two Fridays prior to the scheduled City Council meeting.)

2. Item requested to be placed on agenda. (Please list as you would like to see it on the agenda.)

3. Date of Council Meeting

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For Office Use Only

Date Received by Clerk: _____

Committee/Council and Meeting Date Scheduled: _____

Notes: _____

Copies Provided to: City Administrator

Committee of the Whole Report

Tree Board met on August 11 the following was discussed and if needed voted on.

Candy Kirchberg was voted as Chairman

Dennis Loeser Secretary

Sonja Dailey Vice-Chairman

John Foster gave an update about the July 3, 2026 storm. The city took an estimate of 50 trees that needed to come down. They are still working on cleanup.

The city will be working cleanup priorities.

Fall planting will be an estimate of 75 trees, mostly Oaks and Maples.

The tree Board will be doing a Christmas tree at the Museum.

The Library Board met on August 20, 2026.

Dragon Days was discussed; they will pay the Library 900.00 for expenses.

Financially in good standing.

The plaques will be put up on the outside of the building.

We discussed the outside of the building where the restrooms were. The cement will be removed; grass and bushes will be planted.

We received a 2,000.00 donation from the Friends of the Geneva Theater.

An anonymous donation of a stained-glass window from the old Geneva Hotel has been accepted. Ed Gilbertson will be looking at it.

Continuation discussion of Highway 50 construction.

Sunday programing was discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Ames

Tourism Commission:

Grants Awarded -

Abominable Trail Race

Abominable Snow Race

Paused grant submissions through the end of October.

Using the next few months to review and make changes to the grant application, including adding more specific criteria.

Looking at adding a calendar or list of events for approved grants to the Tourism Commission website for visitor and hotel usage.

www.lakegenevahotels.org

Business Improvement District (BID) will no longer present written/oral reports to the Commission because they are not a contracted entity.

Utility Commission:

Projects - Sewer Lining and Lead Service Replacements

Funding options for the STH 50 Utility Improvements

Geneva Lake Environmental Agency:

Abbey Marina - starry stonewort

Steel Pier Update - Fontana

E. Coli Signage - boxes

<https://www.gleawi.org/>

PWC did not meet in August

1. Update to Cook Street and Alley: work to begin September 6, expected to be completed by October 31, 2026.
2. Water Fountain Bottle Fillers:
West end and library need some plumbing work completed
3. Broad and Dodge intersection: signs in middle of the street to be removed. Red flashers on all signs and STOP painted on Broad Street.
4. Riviera Public Restroom Fall Hours: Working with Public Works and city staff to ensure consistent hours through September and October, including Riviera leasees who wish to remain open past last boat tour of the day
5. August Event Parking and shuttle update will be provided at COW

BID

1. Christmas Decoration planning is happening.
2. Oktoberfest is October 10 & 11 in Flat Iron Park
3. Look for new banners highlighting what makes Lake Geneva so special

Cemetery Board did not meet in August

1. Clean up continues
2. Cold storage shed work proceeds
3. Two columbariums have been ordered and will be installed by year's end
4. New fee structure proposed during budget workshops
5. Working with historic Preservation on a Historic grave marker

Cathy Stoodley
District 4 Alderperson

Committee Notes - COW meeting Sept. 9, 2026-Yager

Piers, Harbors and Lakefront Committee - Cancelled

- Next meeting on Sept. 8, 5 PM will be discussing the Waitlist process for all lakefront locations

Board of Park Commissioners - Summary from Aug. 18, 2026

- Budgeting for native plantings discussion
- Alliant Energy request for easement on Symphony Bay property on Townline Rd. The committee recommended to have Alliant come back to the committee with more information and in person presentation
- Budget development discussed
- CORP survey completed, report being developed

Hillmoor Commission - Summary from Aug. 13, 2026

- Presentation and recommendation for the Geneva Lakes Astrophysics and Steam Project to continue to move forward with planning. Temporary placement considered to be on the old clubhouse parkinglot.
- Presentation on forming a City Parks Foundation
- Budget process discussion with priorities being set
- Discussion regarding future planning process zones 2-5

VISIT Lake Geneva - Summary from Aug. 13, 2026

- A new partnership manager has been hired. Melissa McMahon will be starting her new position on Sept. 14, 2026
- Jill Gaulke won the Meeting Planners International Volunteer of the Year Award for the State of Wisconsin
- Lake Geneva ranked #3 in the 2026 Best American Lake Town Awards
- 6 new partners have been accepted
- The next partner meeting will be held at Holiday Home Camp in Williams Bay on Sept. 15, 2026 from 8 -9 AM
- 2026 Impact Award Nominations are still being accepted until Aug. 31, 2026