

# OPENLANDS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Tamarack Farms South Property (Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge)

### SECTION 1: PROPERTY INFORMATION

**Property Address:** 6169 Tryon Grove Road, Richmond, IL 60071 (address approximated using GIS)

**Legal Description (Section, Township, Range, County):** Section 21, T46N, R8E, McHenry County

**Acreage:** 191.46 acres per GIS. Property consists of two non-contiguous units: 32.18 acres in two parcels known as the East Unit and 159.28 acres in four parcels known as the West Unit)

- **Location Information and Regional Context:** *e.g. regional project connections, geological or natural community history, etc.*

The Tamarack Farms South property is located in the small village of Richmond and within the Tamarack Core Area of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge (“Hackmatack”). The property is comprised of six parcels totaling 191.46 acres, with two of the parcels located close to Route 12 (the “East Unit”) and the remaining four located about 0.3 miles to the west (the “West Unit”). The two units are not contiguous.

The property is a pre-acquisition for Hackmatack. It will eventually be transferred to the McHenry County Conservation District (“MCCD”) for permanent protection.

McHenry County has a glaciated landscape with excellent farmland soils and variable topography. McHenry County is host to 86 species on the Illinois endangered and threatened list, with three of those species currently cross-listed as federally endangered or threatened. The Nippersink Creek watershed serves as the anchor for the Hackmatack footprint and it is designated as a Biologically Significant Stream in the state of Illinois, as well as a Class A stream of high quality. A small section of the Nippersink’s main stem flows through the southernmost portion of the property’s West Unit. Nearby to the northeast, the Nippersink’s North Branch flows down from Wisconsin through Richmond’s village center, and eventually joins with the main stem of the Nippersink in Glacial Park before the waterway finds its terminus in the Chain O’Lakes.

The property has high visibility from Tryon Grove Road, a well-traveled local roadway that extends westwards from the nearby intersection of two highways (Route 12 and Route 31) just to the east. The McHenry County Conservation District’s Prairie Trail bike path, part of the Grand Illinois Trail System, is located alongside the eastern boundary of the East Unit. An active, intermittently-used freight railway runs on an approximately east-west alignment about 0.5 miles to the north. Richmond Burton Community High School borders the East Unit on its southern edge, and an access road to the high school runs through the center of the East Unit’s easternmost parcel.

The entire property is located within Richmond’s municipal limits under an annexation agreement from the early 2000’s, which expires in 2020.

- **Land Use History:** *e.g. past ownership history, adjacent land uses including public lands, potential adjacent threats, land use history such as agriculture or development, etc.*

The property has been owned by a developer since the late 1990's. In the early 2000's it was annexed to the Village of Richmond for the purposes of a Planned Unit Development with commercial and residential opportunities. No development has taken place since that annexation and there are no structures present on the property.

Some areas of the property are farmed in conventional corn production. It is not presently known if there is a written farm lease agreement.

Protected lands owned by Hackmatack partners are located to the south (MCCD's Glacial Park Conservation Area) and north (MCCD's North Branch Preserve and the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Turner Tract, another Hackmatack site).

- **Topography:** *e.g. dominant landforms or glacial features*  
Both the West Unit and the East Unit of the property are mostly flat with very gentle sloping found around wetland areas, the edges of farm fields, and waterways.
- **Soils:** *e.g. soil type description, drainage, runoff and erosion potential, agricultural potential, etc.*  
On the East unit north of Richmond-Burton High School the soils 323C2 – Casco loam (4-6% slopes, eroded) and 327B – Fox silt loam (2-4% slopes) are arranged in the center portion of the unit and occupy approximately 29 acres of the total 32 acres. The soils 323D2 – Casco loam (6-12% slopes, eroded), 343A – Kane silt loam (0-2% slopes, eroded), 523A – Dunham silty clay loam (0-2% slopes), 791B – Rush silt loam (2-4% slopes), and 969E2 – Casco-Rodman complex (12-20% slopes, eroded) are arranged on the outer portions of the unit and occupy the remaining the acreage of approximately 3 acres.
- **Hydrology:** *e.g. presence of surface water on property such as streams or wetlands, potential for flooding, general water quality, etc.*  
Approximately 60% of the West Unit is classified as wetland with around 50% located in a flood zone. The East Unit does not have surface water present and is not located in a flood plain.
- **Natural Communities and Wildlife:** *e.g. natural community type, evidence of remnant communities, endangered or threatened species, known wildlife species, etc.*  
<EDIT AFTER UPCOMING SITE VISIT>
- **Exotic Species:** *e.g. species observed, distribution, frequency, etc.*  
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- **Cultural and Aesthetic Resources:** *e.g. historic structures, archaeological resources, etc.*  
No structures are currently found on the property. No archaeological or cultural resources are known to be associated with the property.

- **Restrictions:** *e.g. any leases, mineral rights, right-of-ways, easements, etc. associated with the property, if applicable.*  
None known at this time.

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## SECTION 2: MANAGEMENT PLAN

- **General Restoration and Management Goals:** *Provide a brief overview of project vision and purpose, e.g. maintain land health, restore pre-settlement vegetation, target habitat for key species, etc.*
  - 1) Remove and manage invasive woody, herbaceous, and wetland species
  - 2) Enhance native woodland and wetland vegetations with appropriate seeding and/or plugs
  - 3) Coordinate and work with Richmond-Burton High School on the East unit to gather support for future Hackmatack volunteer workdays
- **Key Objectives:** *List specific tasks that are instrumental in reaching goals, e.g. discourage brush encroachment, control invasive species, restore native vegetation, etc., and include reason for each objective*

It is recommended that management objectives related to the above goals include:

- 1) Managing for invasive species with appropriate methods across the property. Considerable attention should be paid to woody invasive species removal around mature and seedling native trees to improve space and sunlight. Wetland invasive species management should be assessed to determine preferred removal methods.
- 2) Performing ongoing management related to the above objectives.

<EDIT SECTION AFTER UPCOMING SITE VISIT>

- **Recommended Management Practices:** *Provide overview of tools and methods used to complete objectives, e.g. prescribed fire, herbicide treatment, selective thinning, etc.*
- Invasive species may be controlled by cutting, pulling, selective herbicide application, prescribed burning, and/or mowing. Seed may be distributed by hand or mechanical application if feasible. Plugs may be installed by hand.
- **Timeline (per funding availability):**

Priority		Anticipated Completion
1	Clear woody invasive brush from oak savanna remnants	TBD
2	Manage herbaceous invasive species	TBD
3	Perform ongoing management as needed	TBD

- **Additional Remarks:**

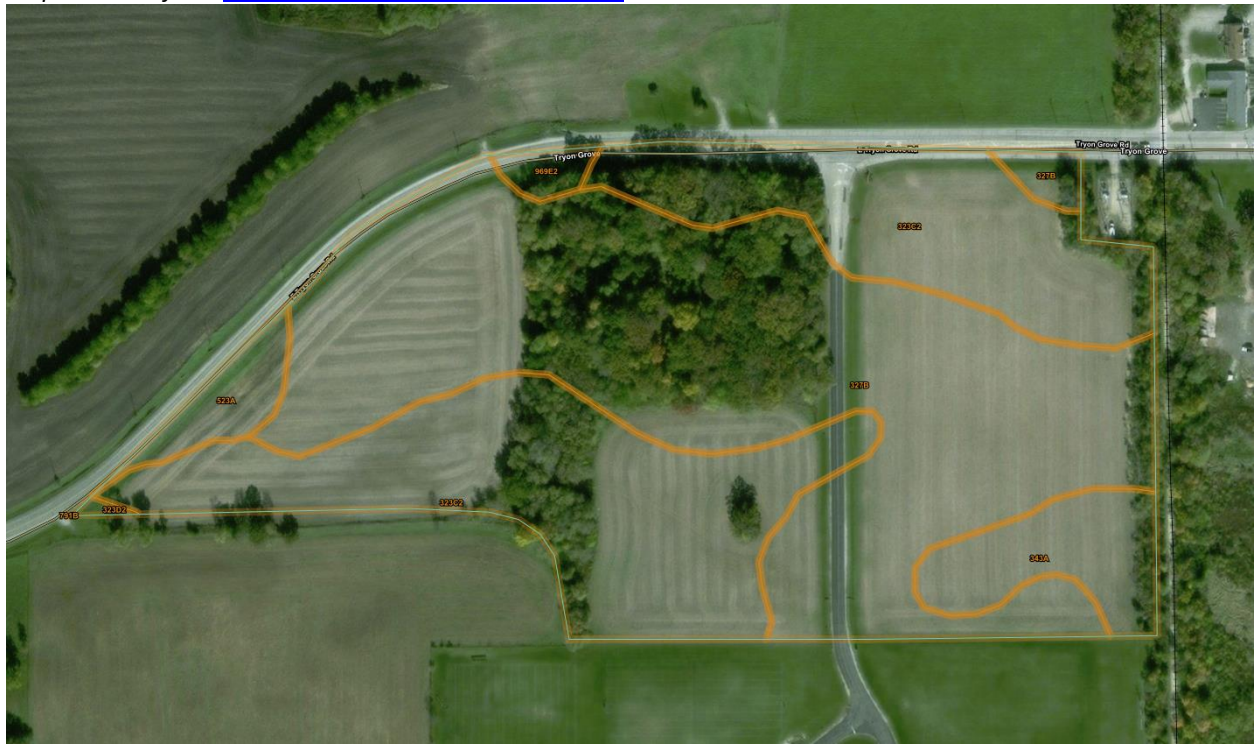
This management plan serves as a working document that may be revised as necessary.

Management Plan Date: November 8, 2018

Last Updated: August 12, 2019

# Soils Map

Map obtained from <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>



**Note: Map is not to scale and boundaries of property are approximate**

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Notes	Acres	Percent
323C2	Casco loam	4 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	12.0	37.7%
323D2	Casco loam	6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	0.1	0.2%
327B	Fox silt loam	2 to 4 percent slopes	16.9	53.0%
343A	Kane silt loam	0 to 2 percent slopes, eroded	1.8	5.7%
523A	Dunham silty clay loam	0 to 2 percent slopes	0.8	2.5%
791B	Rush silt loam	2 to 4 percent slopes	0.0	0.0%
969E2	Casco-Rodman complex	12 to 20 percent slopes, eroded	0.3	1.0%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>			<b>31.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# Attachment A-2 Soils Map

Map obtained from <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>



Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Notes	Acres	Percent
103A	Houghton silt loam	0 to 2 percent slopes	94.5	57.9%
290B	Warsaw loam	2 to 4 percent slopes	4.2	2.5%
310B	McHenry silt loam	2 to 4 percent slopes	3.0	1.9%
323D2	Casco loam	6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	11.6	7.1%
327B	Fox silt loam	2 to 4 percent slopes	1.5	0.9%
327C2	Fox silt loam	4 to 6 percent slopes, eroded	3.2	2.0%
361B	Kidder loam	2 to 4 percent slopes	0.0	0.0%
361D2	Kidder loam	6 to 12 percent slopes, eroded	2.1	1.3%
488A	Hoopole loam	0 to 2 percent slopes	7.7	4.7%
523A	Dunham silty clay loam	0 to 2 percent slopes	23.0	14.1%
557A	Millstream silt loam	0 to 2 percent slopes	0.8	0.5%

791B	Rush silt loam	2 to 4 percent slopes	0.3	0.2%
1103A	Houghton muck	0 to 2 percent slopes, undrained	5.5	3.4%
8082A	Millington silt loam	0 to 2 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	5.9	3.6%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>			<b>163.2</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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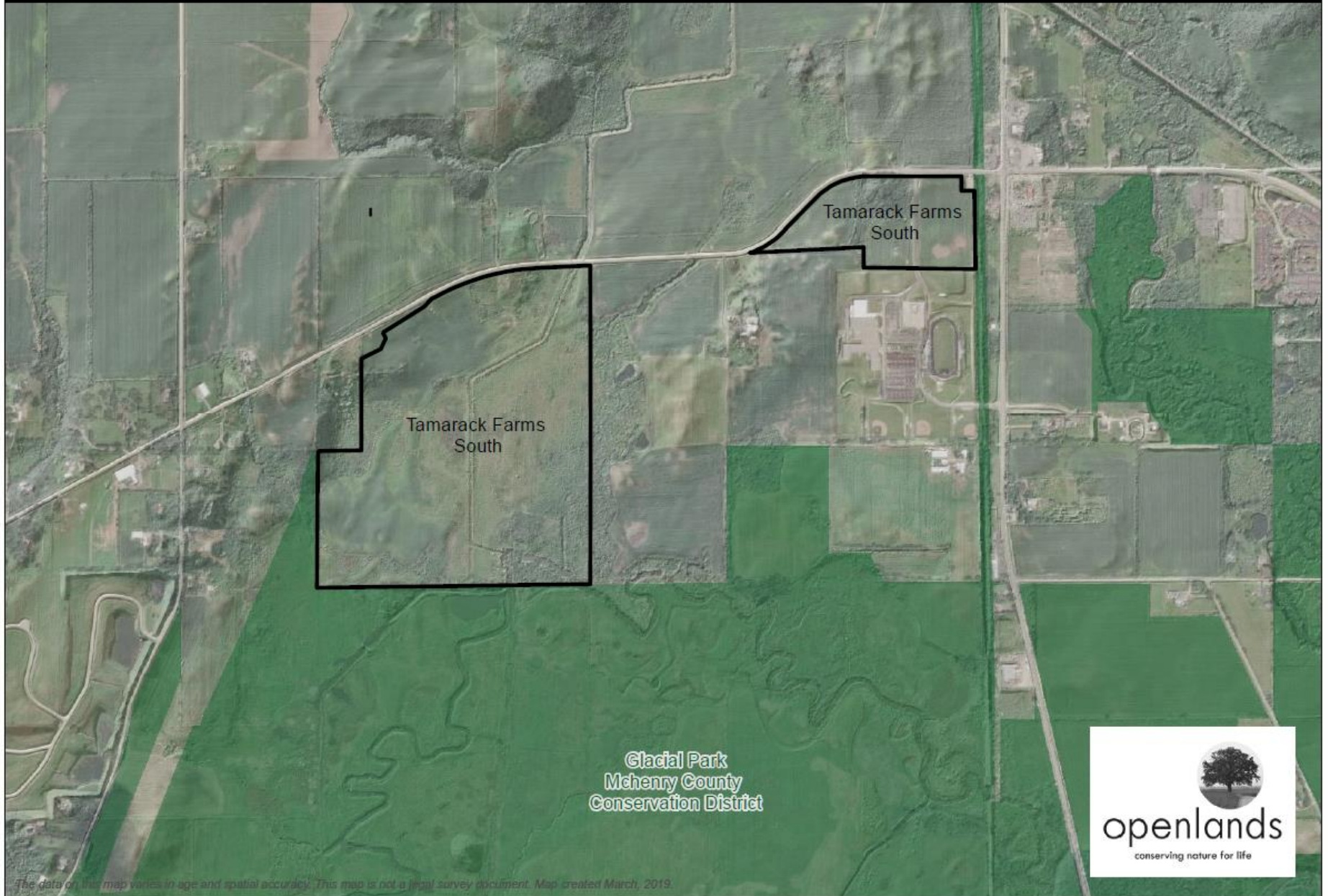
**Tamarack Farms South Property  
Parcel Locations**

*Image obtained from <http://www.mchenrycountygis.org/Athena/>*

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# Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge Tamarack Farms South



The data on this map varies in age and spatial accuracy. This map is not a legal survey document. Map created March, 2019.

