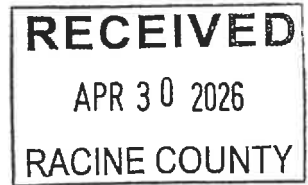




Wildlife Management Specialist: Bryan Perrizo
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02/07/2026



Justin,

Below you will find a document in letter form that will discuss and describe ecological benefits to the property and parcel behind your home in Union Grove, Wisconsin (Racine County).

This letter details the benefits to wildlife and historically Wisconsin's natural ecological importance through preservation and restoration of our natural resources and wildlife habitat. The information in this letter is taken from sourced and cited literature that can be found through Web searches. Wisconsin has had a long history of preserving ground with historical, ecological, and habitat importance where rare remnants of such savanna can still be found and brought back to restoration goals through human effort and intervention.

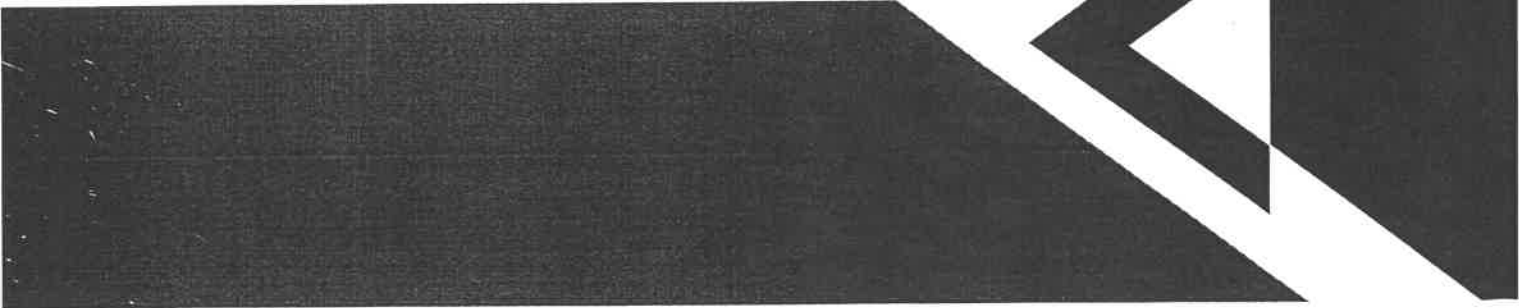


Rare Oak Savanna Habitat

The property's mature bur oak savanna is an exceptionally rare ecosystem. Historically, oak savanna covered roughly about 30% of southern Wisconsin, but today only about 0.01% of that habitat remains. Large open-grown bur oak trees (like those on this site) are hallmark features of savanna, and their acorns are "the most important wildlife food". In fact, healthy bur oaks can support over 600 species of butterflies and other insects, and surveys show people find oak savanna landscapes (with big old oaks, wildflowers and open understories) aesthetically pleasing, highly attractive and park-like. Protecting these veteran oaks and remnant savanna grasses is therefore critical for preserving a disappearing native heritage.

Native Prairie Grasses and Plant Diversity

This parcel is a host of a rich mix of native prairie grasses (switchgrass, big and little bluestems, Indian grass) that sustain wildlife. For example, switchgrass grows in dense clumps that stabilize soil and provides seeds and nesting cover. Switchgrass patches supply food and shelter for upland wildlife like rabbits, pheasants, quail, and even support native butterflies as larvae. Similarly, big bluestem and little bluestem have tall, upright stalks that give nesting cover in summer and protective cover in winter for grassland birds and small mammals. The other co-dominant species, Indian grass, attracts many insects such as caterpillars and grasshoppers that feed songbirds and game birds. Its stiff stalks also offer excellent nesting and winter refuge. In short, preserving these native grasses allows the property to fuel a complex and diverse food web (from insects and songbirds to upland game and deer).








Wildlife and Ecological Diversity

As a hidden green oasis among housing and farmland, this parcel supports an unusually broad array of wildlife. The mix of savanna oaks, tall grasses, and wetland edges attracts deer, foxes, rabbits, wild turkey, and numerous songbirds and raptors. Grassland birds (even some at risk or of conservation concern) rely on such prairie remnants. Insect life is likewise abundant – the site's oak-grass matrix hosts pollinators and butterflies that local experts note thrive in savannas. Furthermore, the small creek and wetland areas on the property likely support amphibians and fish. (Nearby conservation efforts illustrate this benefit. For instance, the protected Mukwonago River headwaters in Waukesha County support 59 species of fish – including five threatened species – thanks to intact prairie and woodland buffers.) In summary, the property is an "outstanding habitat for wildlife", providing food, cover, and breeding grounds in a landscape where natural areas are otherwise scarce.

Community Benefits and Zoning Recommendation

Preserving this oak savanna benefits not only wildlife but also the local community. People value savanna landscapes for their beauty and biodiversity, and parcels with native plants improve quality of life. Allowing the land "to grow wild" enhances water quality and flood protection along the creek and creates educational and recreation opportunities (hunting, birdwatching, and nature studies) in our suburban-agricultural area or region. In recognition of such values, local conservation organizations along with the Wisconsin DNR have long sought to protect prairie-sand savanna remnants like this one. For these reasons, we respectfully urge the zoning authority to amend the property's restrictions in favor of conservation. This change would permit restoration actions (such as tree planting, selective thinning, and prescribed burning) that revive the oak savanna and prairie on-site, while preventing development that would ultimately destroy it. Such an amendment aligns with Wisconsin's land conservation goals and would preserve one of Racine County's few remaining high-quality savanna ecosystems for future generations.





Sources: Research on Wisconsin oak savanna and prairie ecosystems. These documents highlight the rarity of oak savanna, the ecological roles of native grasses (switchgrass, bluestems, Indian grass), and the habitat's importance for birds, insects, and aquatic life.

All Sources and Citations:

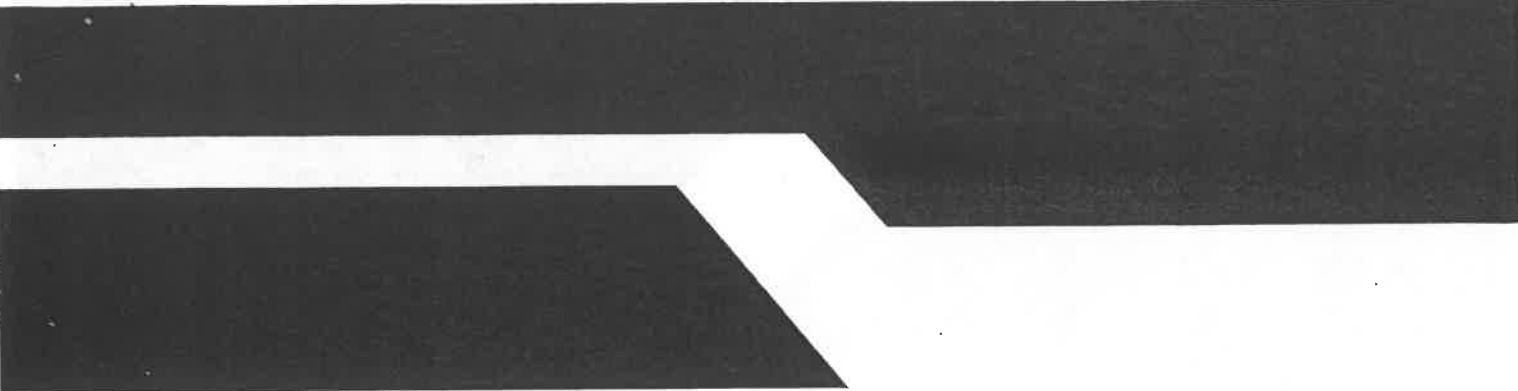
Oak Savannas

<https://pleasantvalleyconservancy.org/oak-savannas/>

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Native Plant Profile: Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

<https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2020/09/20/native-plant-profile-switchgrass-panicum-virgatum/>

Andropogon gerardii

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/database/feis/plants/graminoid/andger/all.html>





.Natives to Know: Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) - Wild Ones River City - Grand Rapids Area Chapter

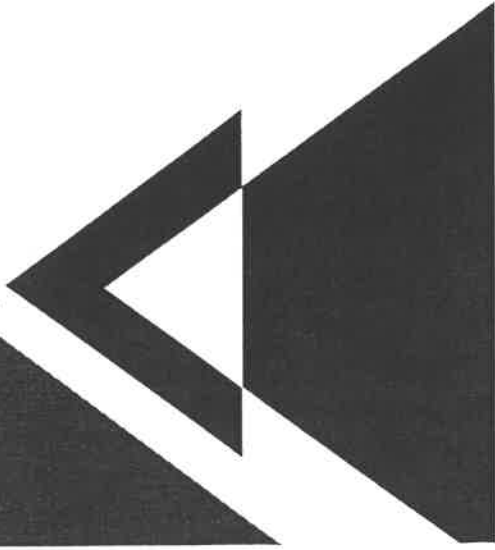
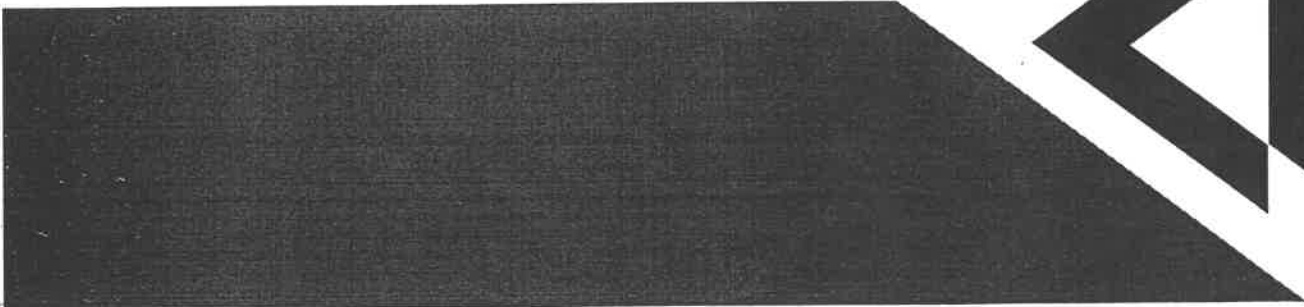
<https://rivercitygrandrapids.wildones.org/natives-to-know-indian-grass-sorghastrum-nutans/>

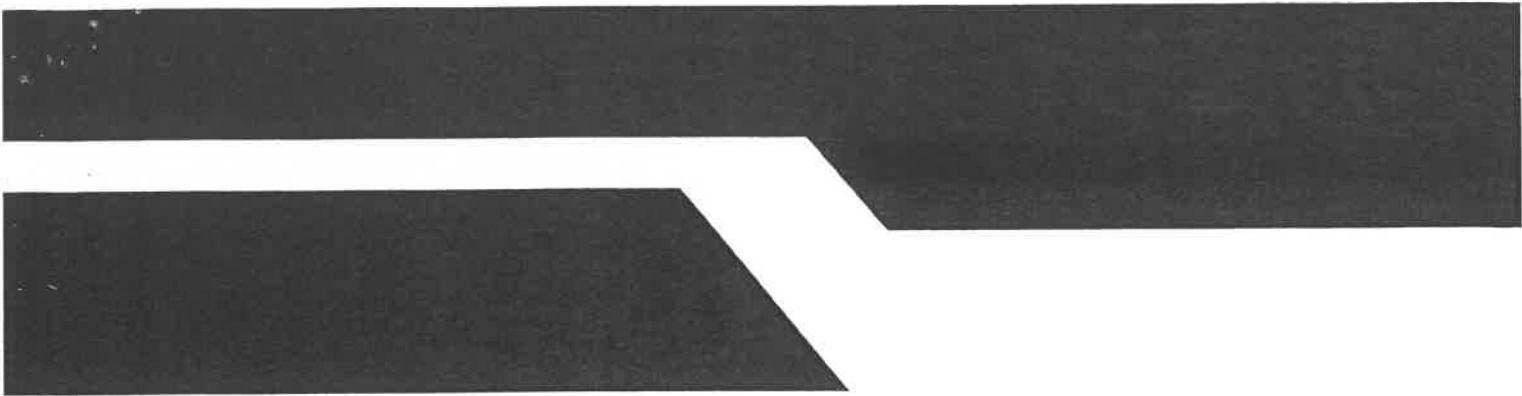
Albany Sand Prairie & Oak Savanna | No. 680 | Wisconsin DNR

https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/statenaturalareas/AlbanySandPrairie_OakSavanna

Newell and Ann Meyer Nature Preserve | The Nature Conservancy

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/newell-and-ann-meyer-nature-preserve/>





If you have any other questions regarding your food plots or Whitetail habitat, please contact us. We want nothing more than to see your success through our assistance. Feel free to search us out and leave a review. We encourage feedback.

Thank you,

Wildlife Management Specialist with Custom Game Land Services, LLC

Bryan Perrizo

