

**Kinnamon Conifer Swamp** is a large, good quality complex of northern wet forest, southern hardwood swamp, and southern coniferous swamp in a morainal depression with a small stream running through the interior. Glacial ridges in the swamp support mesic sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)-beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) forest, adding to site diversity. Kinnamon Conifer Swamp exhibits little overall human disturbance, and the preservation of this natural area promotes water quality improvement of the Milwaukee River Watershed. Kinnamon Conifer Swamp is dominated by white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), tamarack (*Larix laricina*), and tag alder (*Alnus incana*). Yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) are also occasional throughout the site. The diverse, more northern understory is composed of many regionally uncommon species such as fringed polygala (*Polygaloides paucifolia*), naked mitrewort (*Mitella nuda*), bluebead lily (*Clintonia borealis*), along with critical plant species. Kinnamon Conifer Swamp is also large enough to support populations of northern birds as well as critical animal species. This natural area, just two miles west of Cedarburg Bog State Natural Area (NA-1) in the Town of Saukville, is partially owned and managed by Ozaukee Washington Land Trust as part of their Center Lane Preserve while the remainder of the site is privately owned.

Kinnamon Conifer Swamp is primarily composed of medium age trees with intermixed older patches, indicating scattered logging activity in the distant past. Long encompassed by agricultural land use, this conifer swamp is oddly shaped with less forest interior in the central portion of the site. The adjacent lands have also threatened floristic integrity of the site through water level changes due to ditching and a manmade pond. Portions of the natural area were historically grazed, however, white cedar and tamarack regeneration in the natural area is good and exotic species are not currently widespread or dominant. Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) are present in localized portions of the site. With emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) invasion, Kinnamon Conifer Swamp has sustained areas of canopy loss due to the die-off of mature black (*Fraxinus nigra*) and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), favoring the proliferation of these species. However, the largest threat to Kinnamon Conifer Swamp is the recent residential encroachment on private lands. It is recommended that OWLT acquire the entire site to establish official protection. This would also allow OWLT to incorporate the entire natural area into their implemented management plan of mechanical and chemical treatment of exotics and hydrologic restoration of the area.

Learn more here:  
[sewrpc.org/Regional-Planning/Natural-Areas](http://sewrpc.org/Regional-Planning/Natural-Areas)



Southeastern  
Wisconsin  
Regional  
Planning  
Commission

Planning Report No. 42, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Amendment to the Natural Areas &  
Critical Species Management &  
Protection Plan for the Southeastern  
Wisconsin Region (Dec 2025)

## Regional Natural Areas



# Kinnamon Conifer Swamp

T11 R21 Sections 18 & 19  
Ozaukee County



Photo: Google Street View

### Natural Areas Rank

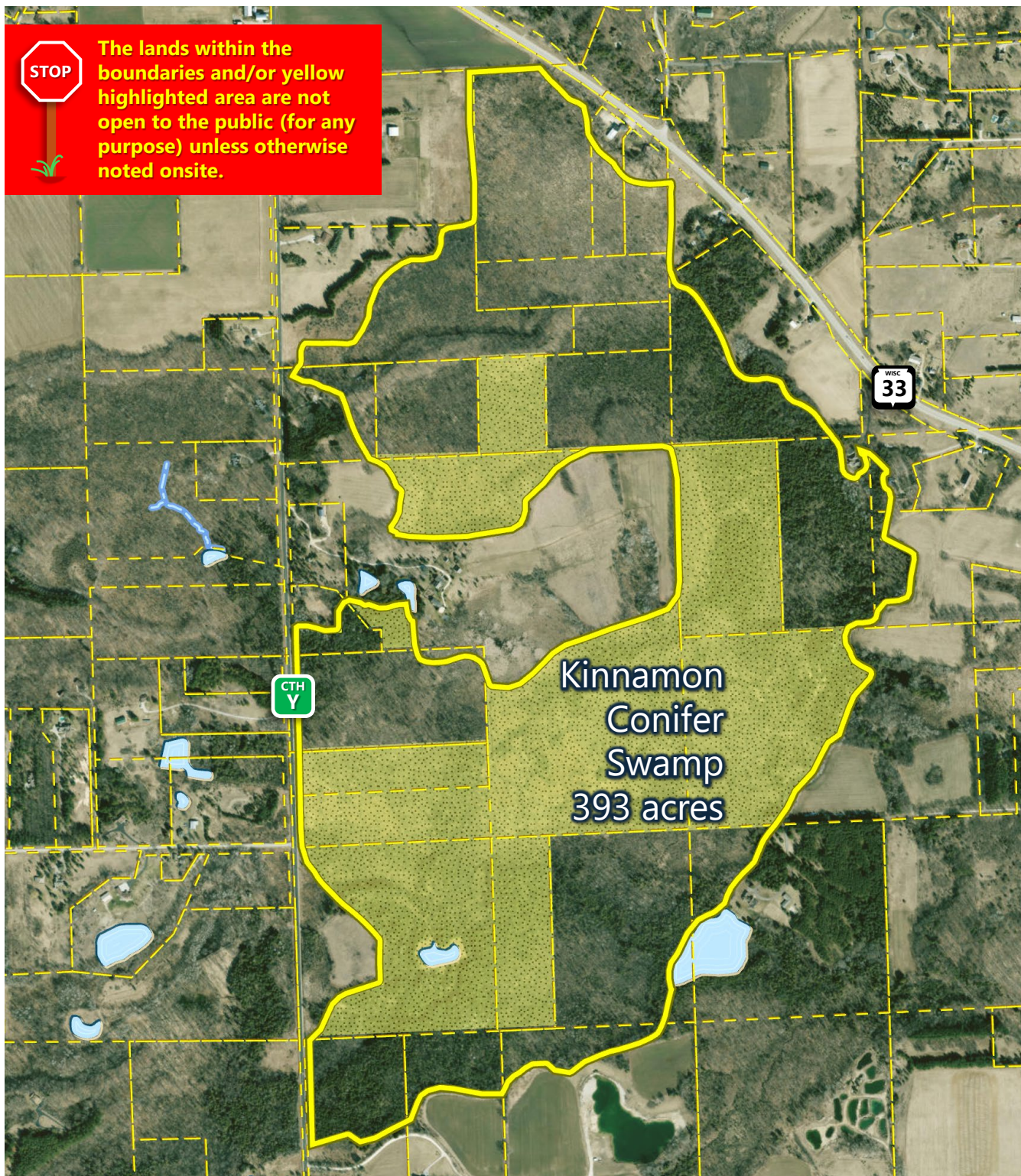


Natural Area of  
Regional or County  
Significance

|                                                    |                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Level of Protection                                | Medium (Partial Conservation Ownership w/Site Mgmt Plan) |
| Level of Threat                                    | Medium (Surrounding Land Use, Invasive Species)          |
| Size                                               | 393 acres                                                |
| Ownership                                          | Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Private                   |
| Site Management Plan                               | Yes                                                      |
| Number of Native Plant Species                     | 216                                                      |
| Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern Species | Yes, Plant & Animal                                      |

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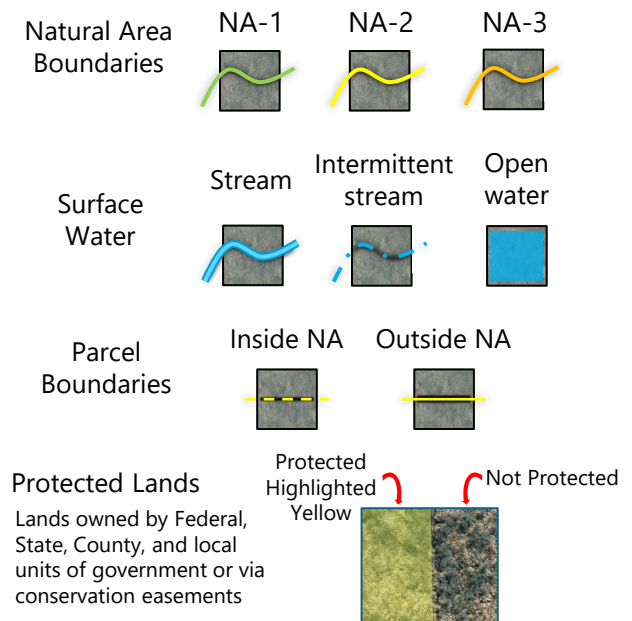




## Regional Natural Areas

# Kinnamon Conifer Swamp

NA-2



Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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