

## Threats to Ecological Value

Two adventive plant species threaten the wetlands at this site: purple loosestrife and common reed. The common reed populations are the aggressive genotype, which is much more invasive than other native genotypes.



Common Reed



Because purple loosestrife is very competitive in environments with stabilized water levels, like those along these lakes, it will likely remain a dominant plant along the lakeshores. The common reed populations are localized now, but could expand into wet meadow communities and alter the plant community composition.



Silky Dogwood

## Management Recommendations

PCA 17 is an excellent candidate for conservation priority. The expansive wetland and aquatic ecosystems are important in terms of their plant communities, wildlife habitat, and as part of the Gull Creek drainage system.

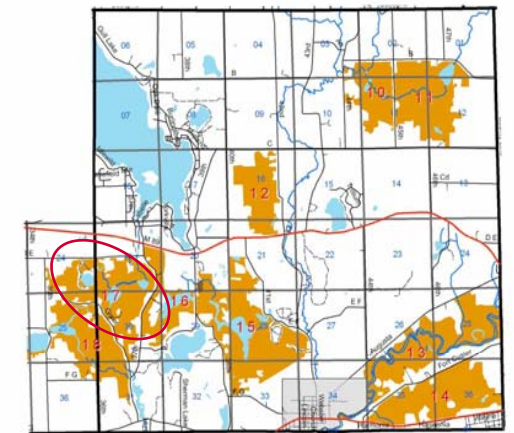


Much of the upland forest is of moderate ecological value, but provides the important service of connecting the wetland communities. In addition, this site is located between PCAs 15-16 and 18-19. Together, this group of conservation units provides the largest tract of potential conservation land in the four townships.

## Ross & Richland Townships Butterfield Lake and Graham Lake PCA 17

### Location

Potential Conservation Area (PCA) 17 is a 590-acre property located in sections 19 and 30 of Ross Township and sections 24 and 25 of Richland Township. The property is roughly bounded by DE Ave., 37th St., and Greer Rd., and 35th St.



High priority potential conservation areas  
Ross Township (and portion of Richland)

#### Legend

- state highways
- county roads
- ▭ township boundary
- ▭ Village of Augusta
- ▭ lakes
- rivers
- sections
- ▭ potential conservation areas



MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

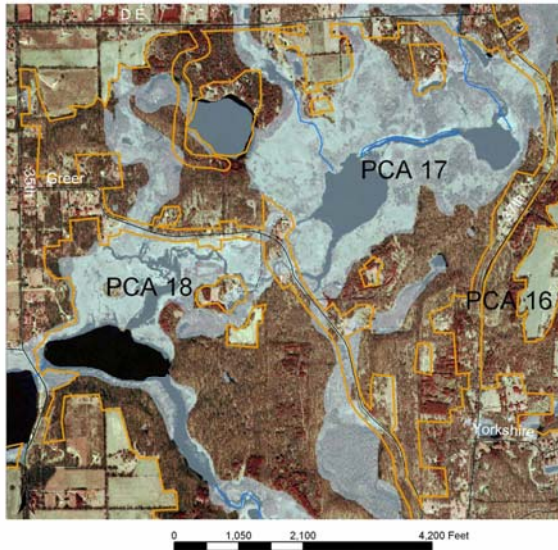


Michigan  
Natural  
Features  
Inventory

# Diverse Ecosystems

## Site Description

This Potential Conservation Area (PCA) features Butterfield Lake and Graham Lake. Upland forests surround these and several smaller basins. Roads, agricultural fields, old fields, and low-density housing surround the site.



Potential conservation area 17  
Ross and Richland Townships  
590 acres



## Communities and Ecosystems

Aquatic ecosystems dominate this PCA 17. In the central and north-eastern portions of the site a large depression includes Butterfield Lake, Graham Lake, and their associated wetlands. These wetland basins are part of the Gull Creek system, which flows south from Gull Lake, through these lakes, into Lower Three Lakes, and eventually joins the Kalamazoo River.

West of Butterfield Lake is a headwater swamp that is a blend of southern swamp and southern shrub-carr.



The extensive wetlands complex around Butterfield Lake and Graham Lake is mostly southern wet meadow and southern shrub-carr, but some areas of hardwood-conifer swamp are also present.

## Plants and Animals of Interest

This large area of open wetland and the adjacent uplands are suitable habitat for a number of species of wildlife. Nine of eleven frog and toad species found in this part of Michigan were heard in PCA 17.

The 2003 Michigan Breeding Bird Census recorded 49 species of breeding birds; one of these, the marsh wren, is considered of special concern.



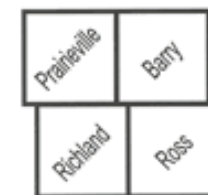
Swamp Milkweed

The floristic quality of the headwater swamp north of Lower Three Lakes is relatively high.

There are abundant host plants and sources of nectar for the eyed brown butterfly and the federally and state endangered Mitchell's satyr butterfly.



Eyed Brown



## Four Township Water Resources Council

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