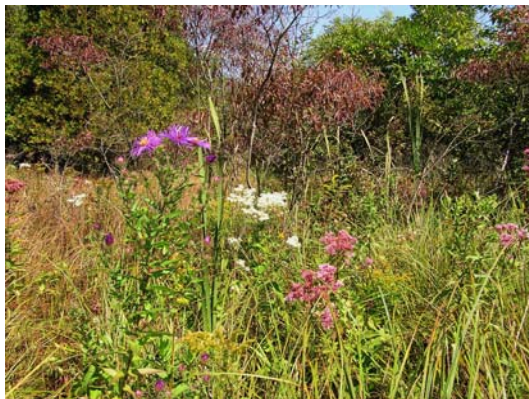


Threats to Ecological Value

The spread of non-native and aggressive plants presents the greatest threat to the wetlands at this site. Species like glossy buckthorn and reed canary grass are already well established in many areas and could easily spread into communities of high floristic quality such as the prairie fen.



Glossy Buckthorn



Prairie Fen Community

Management Recommendations

PCA 9 is a very good candidate for conservation priority. The Lawrence Lakes, Augusta Creek, and many wetlands represent areas that are ecologically important in terms of plant diversity and wildlife habitat.



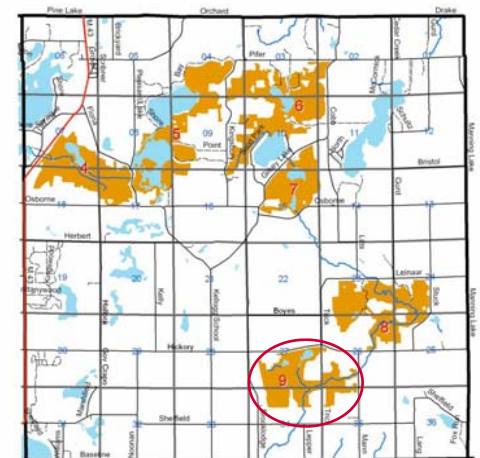
Wet Meadow Community

Because plants like glossy buckthorn and reed canary grass are very difficult to remove after they are well established, certain high quality communities like the prairie fen should be monitored in the future to ensure that they retain their high floristic value. In these select areas of botanical importance it may be worthwhile to remove glossy buckthorn to prevent it from becoming firmly established.

Barry Township Lawrence Lake and Augusta Creek PCA 9

Location

Potential Conservation Area (PCA) 9, located in sections 26, 27, 34, and 35 of Barry Township, is a 385-acre property that is roughly bounded by Hickory Rd., Mann Rd., Sheffield Rd., and Brooklodge Rd.



High priority potential conservation areas
Barry Township

Legend

- state highways
- county roads
- township boundary
- lakes
- rivers
- sections
- potential conservation areas



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Michigan
Natural
Features
Inventory



Diverse Ecosystems

Site Description

This Potential Conservation Area (PCA) includes Lawrence Lake, Little Lawrence Lake, and a stretch of Augusta Creek. Most of this site comprises wetlands associated with one of these groundwater-fed ecosystems. The border of this property consists of agricultural fields and old fields.



Potential conservation area 9
Barry Township
385 acres



Communities and Ecosystems

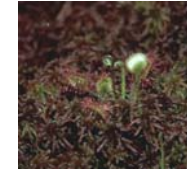
Augusta Creek flows through this site from the east to the west and then exits in the south. Similarly, springs and seeps in the western end of the property converge to form a network of creeks that flow north to Little Lawrence Lake, east to Lawrence Lake, and finally south into Augusta Creek.



Most of PCA 9 comprises wetland ecosystems. In the western portion of this PCA is a dense shrub swamp dominated by glossy buckthorn, an aggressive species that is not native to Michigan. The wet meadow north of this shrub swamp is a monoculture of reed canary grass and is of low ecological value. Amid this sea of communities dominated by aggressive grasses and shrubs lies a prairie fen of high floristic quality with an abundance of special plants.

Southern wet meadow and southern shrub-carr, which commonly co-occur in groundwater-fed settings, are also widespread in PCA 9.

Plants and Animals of Interest



Round-Leaved
Sundew

The wet prairie community west of Little Lawrence Lake is noteworthy both in terms of uncommon plant species and as a relatively rare plant community in the four-township area.

Most of the habitat in PCA 9 is excellent for wildlife because the wetland and aquatic habitats limit human access. Seven of the eleven frogs and toads found in southern Michigan were heard in this area.



Green Frog



American Woodcock

While conducting the 2004 summer inventories the field biologists stumbled on an American woodcock. The 2003 Michigan Breeding Bird Census noted 39 species of birds in this area.

**Four Township Water
Resources Council**

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