



Notice of Public Meeting

AGENDA

Committee:	Land Management Committee
Date:	Friday, February 6 th , 2026
Time:	8:00 a.m.
Location:	3 rd Floor County Board Room, 407 S. 2 nd Street, Alma, WI 54610
Remote Access:	Join the meeting now

This meeting is open to the public, but portions of the meeting may be closed if this notice indicates that the committee may convene in closed session.

The following matters may be reviewed, discussed and acted upon at this meeting, but deviations from the order shown may occur:

	Public Hearing Agenda	
1.	Call to Order	
2.	Roll Call of Members	
3.	Reading of Notice for Public Hearing	
4.	S&J Properties Rezone Application	
5.	Public Testimony	
6.	Correspondence	
7.	Adjournment	
	Land Management Committee Agenda	
8.	Review/Discussion/Action	Call to Order
9.	Review/Discussion/Action	Roll Call of Members
10.	Review/Discussion/Action	Public Comments Regarding Posted Agenda Items
11.	Review/Discussion/Action	Previous Meeting Minutes
12.	Review/Discussion/Action	An Ordinance to Amend the Official “Buffalo County Zoning District Map” – Town of Milton
13.	Review/Discussion/Action	Wildlife Services report
14.	Review/Discussion/Action	LWRMP questionnaire and answers
15.	Review/Discussion/Action	Surveyor Report
16.	Review/Discussion/Action	GIS/LIO Report
17.	Review/Discussion/Action	Department Manager Report
18.	Review/Discussion/Action	Committee Chair Report
19.	Review/Discussion/Action	Public Comments Unrelated to Agenda Items
20.	Review/Discussion/Action	Next Meeting Date and Time:
21.	Review/Discussion/Action	Adjournment

Date: 1-30-2026 Max Weiss, Chair

By: Lisa Schmitt, County Clerk

Board Members: If unable to attend, please contact the Chair. If the Chair is unavailable, please contact the County Clerk’s Office at 608-685-6209. If the Chair and the County Clerk are not available, please call the Administrative Coordinator at 608-685-6234.

Persons with Disabilities: Buffalo County shall attempt to provide reasonable accommodations to the public for access to its public meetings, provided reasonable notice of special need is given. If you require special accommodations to attend this meeting, please contact the County Clerk’s Office at 608-685-6209.

Public Access to the Courthouse: The South Entrance will be the only access to the building after 4:30 p.m.

Persons who are members of another governmental body, but who are not members of this committee, may attend this meeting. Their attendance could result in a quorum of another governmental body being present. Such a quorum is unintended, and they are not meeting to exercise the authority, duties, or responsibilities of any other governmental body.

{Publish: January 15th and January 22nd, 2026 in the Buffalo County News}

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE
BUFFALO COUNTY LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
AND BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

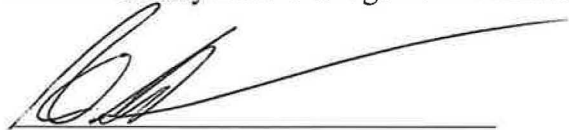
Please be advised that the Buffalo County Land Management Committee will hold a public hearing to consider amending the district boundaries of the “Buffalo County Zoning Districts Map” at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 6th, 2026, in the Third Floor Board Room, Buffalo County Courthouse, Alma, Wisconsin.

A petition made by S J Properties, S2945 Retriever Trail, Fountain City, WI 54629, requests changing the zoning district from Agriculture/Natural Resource Transition – 5 to Residential pertaining to a parcel of land approximately 25.17 acres in area located in the NE ¼, - NE ¼, Section 36, Town of Milton, Buffalo County, Wisconsin. Parcel #022-00518-0000.

Immediately following the public hearing, the Land Management Committee will take action making a recommendation to the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors, who will consider the ordinance/ petition for change in zoning district boundaries at their next regularly scheduled meeting on March 23rd, 2026, in the Third Floor Board Room, Buffalo County Courthouse, Alma, Wisconsin.

You are further notified that copies of the rezone petition are on file and open for public review in the office of the Buffalo County Clerk and the Buffalo County Department of Land Management for a period of not less than two weeks prior to the February 6th, 2026, 8:00 a.m. Buffalo County Land Management Committee public hearing and the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors consideration, in accordance with Wisc. Stats. 59.69(5)(e).

Buffalo County Land Management Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AD', is written over a horizontal line.

Alexander Dunlevy

Buffalo County Department of Land Management

BUFFALO COUNTY



Department of Land Management

P.O. Box 492: Alma, WI 54610 | 608-685-6218 | Hours of Business 8:00AM – 4:00PM M-T 8:00AM – 12:00PM F

Report to the Land Management Committee

Zoning Districts Map Amendment/Rezone Application

Applicant: S J Properties LLC

Public Hearing: February 6, 2026

S J Properties LLC has submitted a rezone application to amend the Buffalo County Zoning Districts Map. The applicant seeks to rezone a parcel of land from Agriculture/Natural Resource -5 to Residential.

The parcel, PID# 022-00518-0000, consists of 25.17 acres of land in Section 36, Town of Milton. The site has historically been used as farm land. See the plat map and orthophotography for site information.

The applicant proposes an addition to the subdivision Pine Court, with a petition map attached detailing parcels that abide by the Buffalo County Zoning ordinance in terms of width, size, and road frontage as stated in CH7(F) of the 2018 Buffalo County Zoning Ordinance defining the bounds of which to design a residentially zoned area. To further their development of the area to meet the standards set in the ordinance it is required that the land be rezoned.

Soils: The soils at the site have historically been mostly used as farmable land with portions being covered by forest. The USDA soil survey identifies the primary soil type of the parcel as 502C2, Chelsea Fine Sand, 6 to 15 percent slopes. With most of the proposed development on 511C, Plainfield Sand, 6 to 15 percent slopes.

Towns Position: On October 7th, 2025, the applicant's rezone application was presented to the Milton Town Board. The requisite Towns Acknowledgement Form was signed by Town Chairman, Robert Platteter, indicating that the town supports the rezone. The Milton Town Board commented on the Towns Acknowledgement Form, stating "The board sees no issue with this rezone. After discussion on the amount being rezoned, we determined that it included the entire 25.18 acres"

Public Comment: As of the drafting of this report the Zoning Department has not received any written, verbal or e-mailed public comments or correspondence that is in conflict with or in opposition to the proposed property rezone.

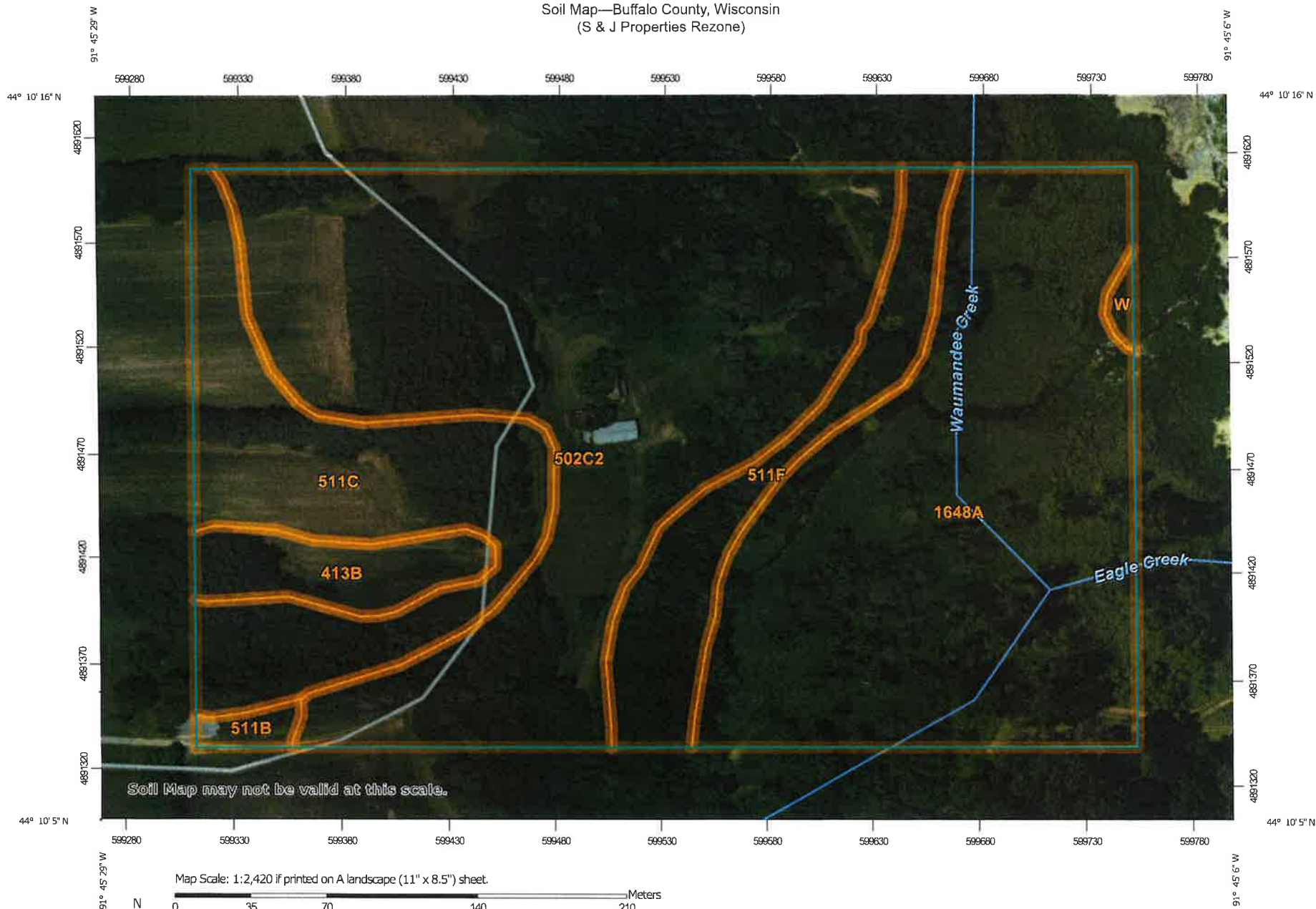
Access: The property would abut a current residentially zoned parcel owned by S J Properties with plans for roads to be developed in the petition map. The parcel currently stands 1319ft from

state road 35, 1143ft from Hager Drive, and 900ft from Pine Street currently accessed via shared driveway with parcel 022-00519-0030.

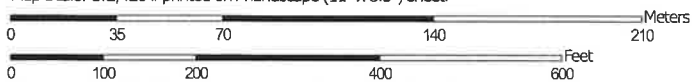
Zoning Department Statement: The parcel of land is located on the East side of the State Road 35. The land use immediately surrounding the parcel is dedicated primarily to agricultural practices, also pertaining to the confluence of Waumandee and Eagle Creeks. A large part of the land towards the creek is in the floodplain and thus is unbuildable, but the plans proposed should remain unaffected by such.

The land rezone proposed would abide by the Zoning Ordinance, and plans proposed for development with a preliminary view are within the bounds of the Residential district. The rezone petition and the proposed use of the property is not in conflict with or inconsistent with the Buffalo County Zoning Ordinance or the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Soil Map—Buffalo County, Wisconsin
(S & J Properties Rezone)



Map Scale: 1:2,420 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.



Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 15N WGS84



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey
National Cooperative Soil Survey

1/28/2026
Page 1 of 3

MAP LEGEND

	Area of Interest (AOI)		Spill Area
	Area of Interest (AOI)		Stony Spot
Soils			Very Stony Spot
	Soil Map Unit Polygons		Wet Spot
	Soil Map Unit Lines		Other
	Soil Map Unit Points		Special Line Features
Special Point Features		Water Features	
	Blowout		Streams and Canals
	Borrow Pit	Transportation	
	Clay Spot		Rails
	Closed Depression		Interstate Highways
	Gravel Pit		US Routes
	Gravelly Spot		Major Roads
	Landfill		Local Roads
	Lava Flow		Background
	Marsh or swamp		Aerial Photography
	Mine or Quarry		
	Miscellaneous Water		
	Perennial Water		
	Rock Outcrop		
	Saline Spot		
	Sandy Spot		
	Severely Eroded Spot		
	Sinkhole		
	Slide or Slip		
	Sodic Spot		

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:12,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL:
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Buffalo County, Wisconsin
Survey Area Data: Version 19, Sep 10, 2025

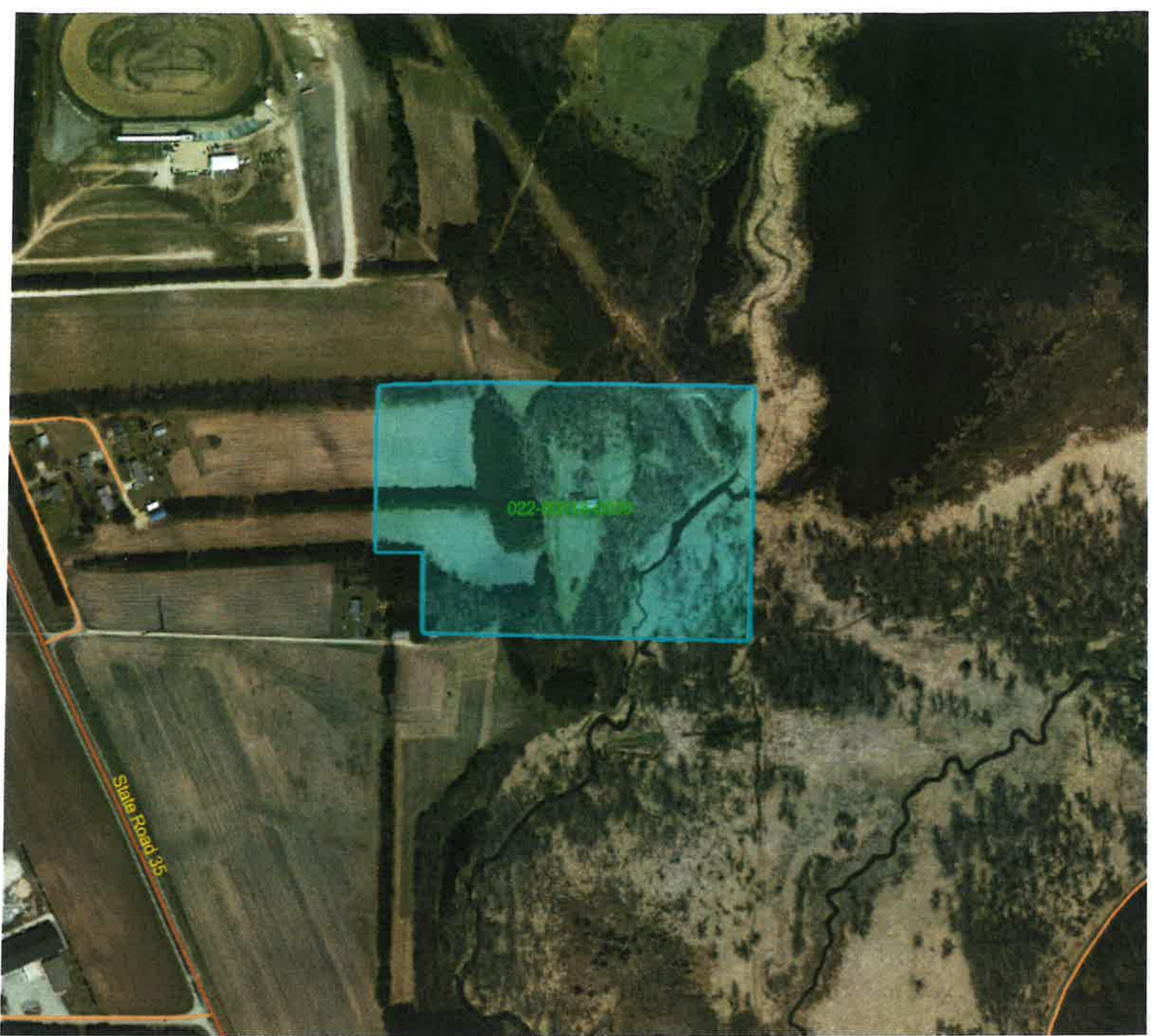
Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Jul 21, 2022—Sep 13, 2022

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
413B	Rasset sandy loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	1.1	3.6%
502C2	Chelsea fine sand, 6 to 15 percent slopes, moderately eroded	12.0	39.9%
511B	Plainfield loamy sand, river valley, 1 to 6 percent slopes	0.2	0.7%
511C	Plainfield sand, river valley, 6 to 15 percent slopes	4.5	14.9%
511F	Plainfield sand, river valley, 15 to 60 percent slopes	2.2	7.4%
1648A	Northbend-Ettrick silt loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes, frequently flooded	10.0	33.1%
W	Water	0.1	0.3%
Totals for Area of Interest		30.1	100.0%



[illegible]

Use:	Residential ☒ ANR-40 ☐ ANR-20 ☐ ANR-10 ☐ ANR-5 ☐ ANRT-5 ☐ Commercial ☐
	Industrial ☐ Conservation ☐
Type:	New Dwelling ☐ Addition ☐ Accessory Structure ☐ Mobile Home ☐ Land Alteration ☐ Sign ☐
Dimensions:	Length: _____ Width: _____ Height: _____
Structure Setbacks:	Side Yard (near): _____ Side Yard (far): _____ Rear Yard: _____
	Road Centerline: _____ Stream/Water Feature: _____
	Septic Tank: _____ Drainfield: _____ Well: _____
Value: _____ (required for new dwelling)	Number of Bedrooms: _____

SITE PLAN	
A detailed site plan must be submitted with your application or the application will be deemed incomplete and returned. The site plan may be drawn on the following page or on a separate piece of paper or survey map. The location of the following features must be included on the site plan:	
☐ Configuration of Parcel with all Dimensions	☐ North Arrow ☐ Roads Including Driveways
☐ All Existing Structures	☐ Proposed New Structure(s) or Addition(s) ☐ Easements
☐ Distances from Property Lines and Road Centerline	☐ Septic Tank and Drainfield
☐ Well Location	☐ Water Features and Potential Wetlands

WETLAND NOTICE

You are responsible for complying with state and federal laws concerning construction near or on wetlands, lakes and streams. Wetlands that are not associated with open water can be difficult to identify. Failure to comply may result in removal or modification of construction that violates the law or other penalties or costs. For more information, visit the Department of Natural Resources Wetlands Identification Web Page or contact a Department of Natural Resources Service Center.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

I certify by my signature that all information presented herein is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I am subject to all applicable codes, statutes and ordinances of Buffalo County and the State of Wisconsin. Providing incorrect information may cause a delay in permit processing or denial. I give permission for the staff of the Buffalo County Zoning Department to enter upon my property for the purpose of verifying that the standards and requirements of the Zoning Ordinance are met.

The undersigned hereby applies to the Buffalo County Zoning Committee for a report and recommendation to the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors for a determination that the following described site be rezoned from that designated on the "Official Buffalo County Zoning Maps" to the proposed land use district indicated.

Owner / Agent Signature



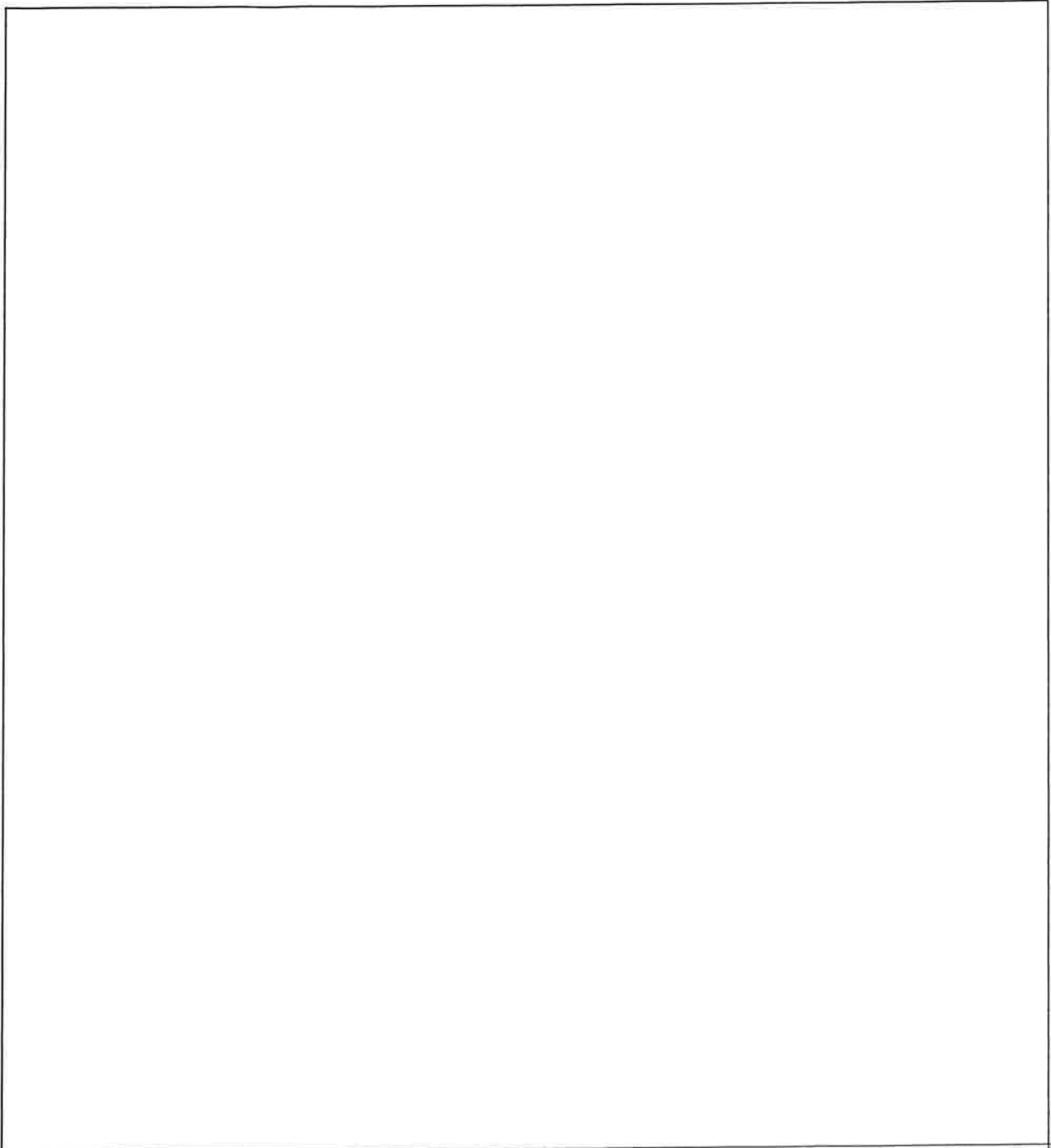
Date:

9-23-25

SITE PLAN

Applicant: _____ Section _____ Town of _____

Include all features listed on previous page.



EROSION CONTROL AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Sediment and erosion control and stormwater management are an important aspect of all land disturbing activities. Additional review and permitting may be required if your site is within 300 feet of a stream or if your site is on steep slopes of 12% or greater. If your development activity will disturb one acre of land or more you are required

to apply for a Conditional Use Permit and a Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Inspection Date

11/13/26

Inspector

Alex Dunlevy



Comments

Does not conflict with the Buffalo County Zoning Ordinance or Comprehensive Land Use Plan

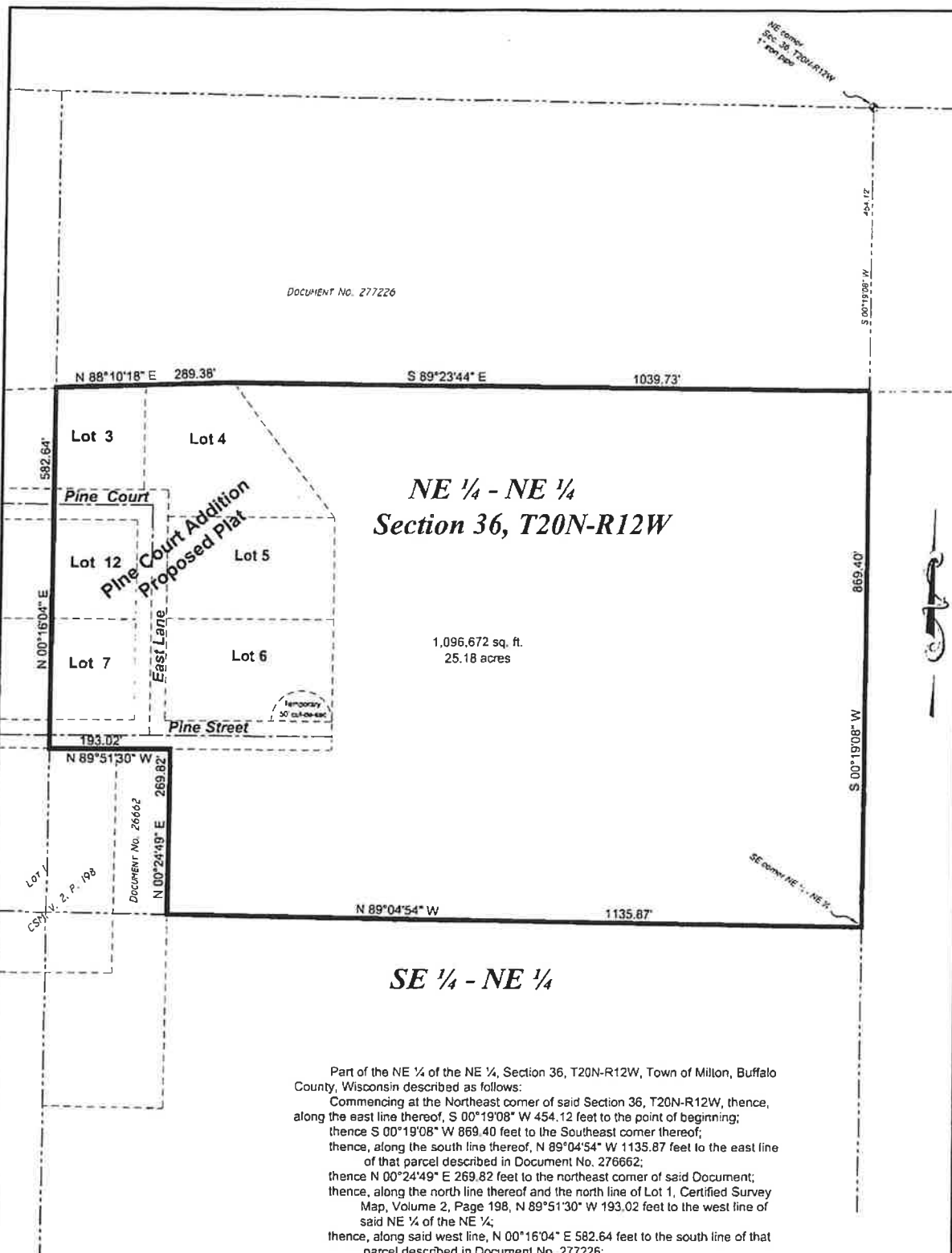
proposed development within bounds of residential zoning.

Description for rezoning petition

Part of the NE ¼ of the NE ¼, Section 36, T20N-R12W, Town of Milton, Buffalo County, Wisconsin described as follows:

Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Section 36, T20N-R12W, thence, along the east line thereof, S 00°19'08" W 454.12 feet to the point of beginning; thence S 00°19'08" W 869.40 feet to the Southeast corner thereof; thence, along the south line thereof, N 89°04'54" W 1135.87 feet to the east line of that parcel described in Document No. 276662; thence N 00°24'49" E 269.82 feet to the northeast corner of said Document; thence, along the north line thereof and the north line of Lot 1, Certified Survey Map, Volume 2, Page 198, N 89°51'30" W 193.02 feet to the west line of said NE ¼ of the NE ¼; thence, along said west line, N 00°16'04" E 582.64 feet to the south line of that parcel described in Document No. 277226; thence, along south line thereof, N 88°10'18" E 289.38 feet; thence, continuing along said south line, S 89°23'44" E 1039.73 feet to the point of beginning.

Containing 1,096,672 sq. ft., 25.18 acres.



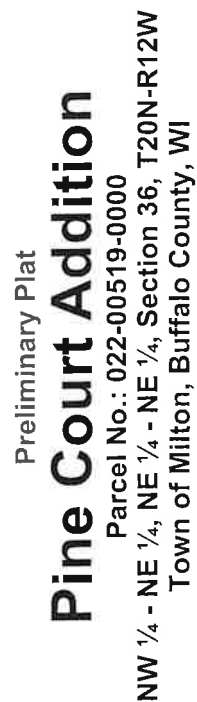
NE 1/4 - NE 1/4
Section 36, T20N-R12W

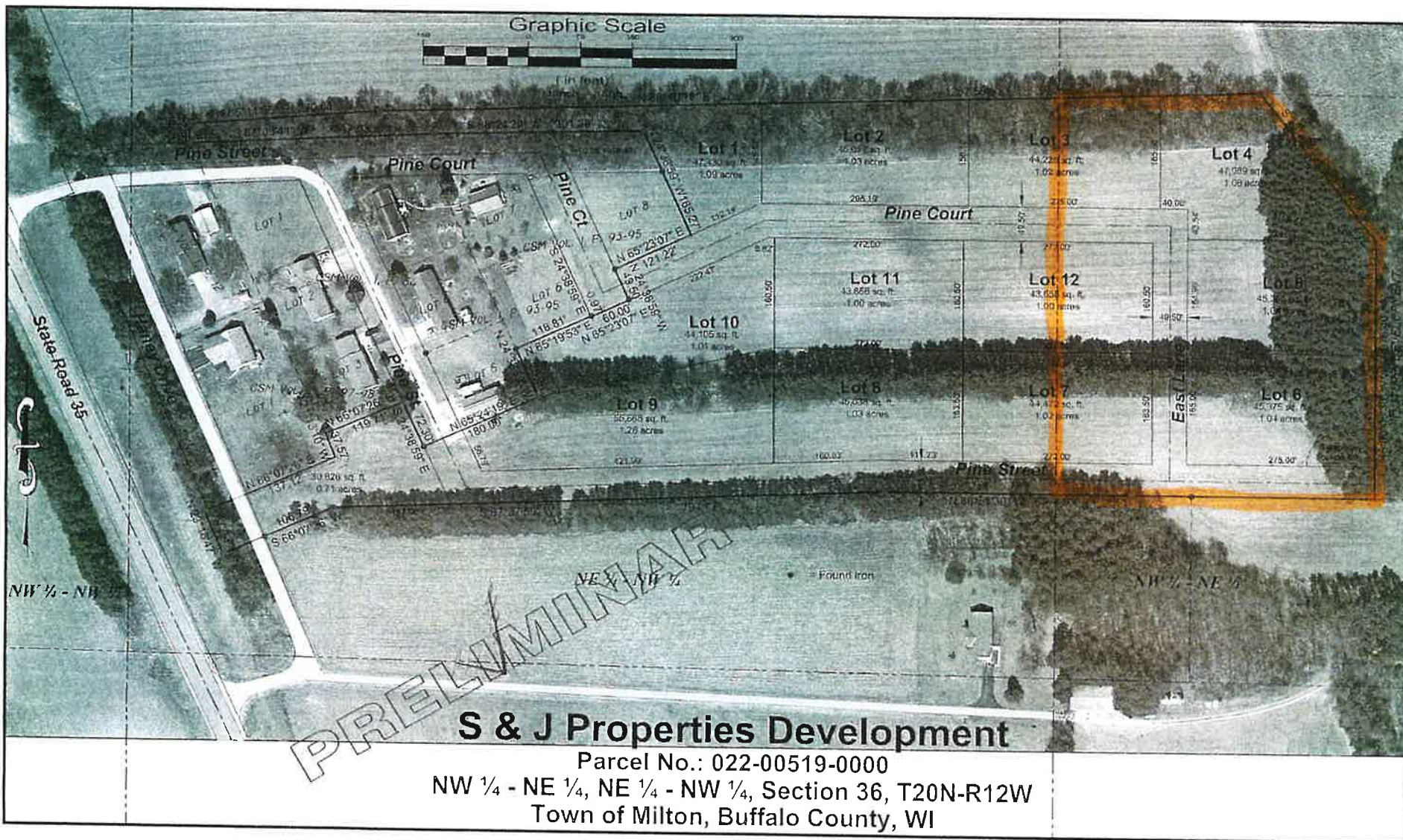
SE 1/4 - NE 1/4

Part of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, Section 36, T20N-R12W, Town of Millon, Buffalo County, Wisconsin described as follows:
Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Section 36, T20N-R12W, thence, along the east line thereof, S 00°19'08" W 454.12 feet to the point of beginning; thence S 00°19'08" W 869.40 feet to the Southeast corner thereof; thence, along the south line thereof, N 89°04'54" W 1135.87 feet to the east line of that parcel described in Document No. 276662; thence N 00°24'49" E 269.82 feet to the northeast corner of said Document; thence, along the north line thereof and the north line of Lot 1, Certified Survey Map, Volume 2, Page 198, N 89°51'30" W 193.02 feet to the west line of said NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4; thence, along said west line, N 00°16'04" E 582.64 feet to the south line of that parcel described in Document No. 277226; thence, along south line thereof, N 88°10'18" E 289.38 feet; thence, continuing along said south line, S 89°23'44" E 1039.73 feet to the point of beginning.



S & J Properties LLC Rezone Petition Map







Buffalo County Zoning Department

407 South Second Street · PO Box 492 · Alma, WI 54610 · (608) 685-6218

Towns Acknowledge Form

Applicants seeking a Rezone, Variance, Conditional Use Permit, Special Exception Permit, or an Appeal are required to present their land use proposal and permit application to the appropriate Town within which the property and proposed use is located. Upon consideration of the permit application the Town Board will record any concerns, observations, and/or recommendations for the Zoning Committee and/or the Buffalo County Board of Adjustments to consider in their review and ruling on the application. The Zoning Department will not place the application on the Zoning Committee or Board of Adjustments agenda until the applicant fulfills this requirement and the form is returned to the Zoning Department.

Property Owner Name: <u>SJS Properties</u>	Phone #: <u>608 687 6006</u>
Mailing Address: <u>52945 Retriever Trail, Fountain City, WI 54629</u>	
Email Address: <u>jdullman@schoolproducts.com</u>	

Agent Name: <u>Emery Palmer</u>	Phone #: <u>608 382 2205</u>
Mailing Address: <u>PO Box 196, Lakesville, WI 54630</u>	
Email Address: <u>service@highcliffconsulting.com</u>	

SITE INFORMATION		Parcel Number: <u>022-00318-0000</u>
Site Address: <u>Pine Street</u>		
Property Description: _____ 1/4 _____ 1/4 Sec. _____ T _____ N, R _____ W. Town of <u>Milton</u>		
Parcel Size in Acres: _____ Square Feet: _____		
<u>* See Attached for Map's legal description</u>		

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT/LAND USE	
Complete Description: <u>Pine Court Addition Plat Per Attached</u>	
<u>11/12/2025 Rezone from Agricultural to Residential</u>	

Include a detailed Site Plan with your Acknowledgment Form for the Town Boards review.

Applicant: _____

Date: 10-9-20

After its review the Town Board has the option to execute one of the three options listed below. Should the Board need more information to complete the review process please contact the applicant or the Buffalo County Zoning Department. Please check and sign the appropriate option.

- ☐ I acknowledge that the applicant has informed the Town Board of the proposed use and/or development to occur within the Town and the Board has no comment regarding the applicant's petition.

Town Chair: _____ Date: _____

- ☒ I acknowledge that the applicant has informed the Town Board of the proposed use and/or development to occur within the Town and the Board supports the applicant's request. The Town will include a written statement explaining its reasons for supporting the petition.

Town Chair: *Bob Platt* Date: 12-3-25

- ☐ I acknowledge that the applicant has informed the Town Board of the proposed use and/or development to occur within the Town and the Board opposes the applicant's request. The Town will include a written statement explaining its reasons for opposing the petition.

Town Chair: _____ Date: _____

Town Board Comments & Recommendations: THE BOARD SEES NO
ISSUE WITH THIS REQUEST. AFTER DISCUSSION
ON THE AMOUNT BEING RE-ZONED, WE DETERMINED
THAT IT INCLUDED THE ENTIRE 25.18 ACRES.

{Publish: January 15th and January 22nd, 2026 in the Buffalo County News}

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE
BUFFALO COUNTY LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
AND BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

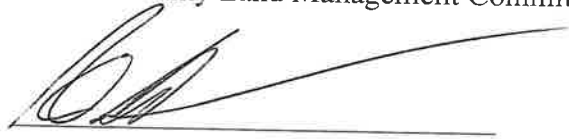
Please be advised that the Buffalo County Land Management Committee will hold a public hearing to consider amending the district boundaries of the "Buffalo County Zoning Districts Map" at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, February 6th, 2026, in the Third Floor Board Room, Buffalo County Courthouse, Alma, Wisconsin.

A petition made by S J Properties, S2945 Retriever Trail, Fountain City, WI 54629, requests changing the zoning district from Agriculture/Natural Resource Transition – 5 to Residential pertaining to a parcel of land approximately 25.17 acres in area located in the NE ¼, - NE ¼, Section 36, Town of Milton, Buffalo County, Wisconsin. Parcel #022-00518-0000.

Immediately following the public hearing, the Land Management Committee will take action making a recommendation to the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors, who will consider the ordinance/ petition for change in zoning district boundaries at their next regularly scheduled meeting on March 23rd, 2026, in the Third Floor Board Room, Buffalo County Courthouse, Alma, Wisconsin.

You are further notified that copies of the rezone petition are on file and open for public review in the office of the Buffalo County Clerk and the Buffalo County Department of Land Management for a period of not less than two weeks prior to the February 6th, 2026, 8:00 a.m. Buffalo County Land Management Committee public hearing and the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors consideration, in accordance with Wisc. Stats. 59.69(5)(e).

Buffalo County Land Management Committee



Alexander Dunlevy

Buffalo County Department of Land Management



Buffalo County Ordinance

Drafted By: C Severson
Month/Year: January, 2026
Committee: Land Management Com.

Department: Land Management
Fiscal Impact: Yes/No

Ordinance # _____

An Ordinance to Amend the Official “Buffalo County Zoning District Map” – Town of Milton

Whereas, a petition for a map amendment/rezone of a parcel of land located in Section 36, Town of Milton, Agriculture/Natural Resource Transition - 5 to Residential was received from Bridget O LLC and;

Whereas, official notice has been published in the Buffalo County News on January 15th and January 22, 2026, and placed the same and application documents on file in the Land Management Department and the Office of the County Clerk for two weeks prior to February 6th, 2025, and;

Whereas, the Town Board, Town of Milton was notified of the proposed rezone and land use change and the requisite Towns Acknowledgment Form was delivered to the Department of Land Management stating that the proposed rezone was acted on by the Town Board with the Town Board Chair signing the form indicating support of the rezone petition, and;

Whereas, a public hearing was held by the Buffalo County Land Management Committee at the Buffalo County Courthouse on February 6th, at 8:00 AM for the purpose of gathering public testimony regarding the proposed map amendment/rezone, and;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts and ordains as follows: That the Buffalo County Zoning District Map, Town of Milton; parcel #022-00518-0000, said parcel of land containing 25.17 acres more or less, shall be rezoned from Agriculture/Natural Resource Transition - 5 to Residential Zoning.

Adopted at a duly called and noticed meeting of the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors on this _____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

Buffalo County Clerk

Buffalo County Chairperson



Buffalo County Ordinance

Land Management Committee:

Max Weiss

Robert Sendelbach

William Bruegger, Sr.

Gary Stanton

Chris Lindstrom

Joe Bragger

WISCONSIN WILDLIFE DAMAGE ABATEMENT AND CLAIMS PROGRAM
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

Wildlife Damage Program Summary
Wildlife Specialist Alec Sundelius

County: **Buffalo**
2025-Program enrollees

PROGRAM PARTICIPANT	RESOURCE	SPECIES	ABATEMENT	TOWN
Aaron Bergman	Apiary	Bear	Temp. electric fence	Dover
Dean Hestekin	Corn, soybeans, hay	Deer	Shooting Permit – Act 82	Dover
Tony Russell	Apiary	Bear	Temp. electric fence	##13
Jonas Schank	Apiary	Bear	Temp. electric fence	##4
Devon Stamm	Corn	Deer	Shooting Permit – Act 82	Mondovi
Shane Stuhr	Apiary	Bear	Temp. electric fence	Milton, Waumandee
Permanent Deer Fence Inspections:		Lin. Ft.	Constructed	Expires

Historic Enrollment

2010: 10 enrollees
2011: 15
2012: 10
2013: 20
2014: 15
2015: 13
2016: 11
2017: 11
2018: 6
2019: 5
2020: 5
2021: 6
2022: 9
2023: 7
2024: 7
2025: 6

26 deer donated through the WDNR's venison donation program in 2025 in Buffalo County (Eagles Peak Processing)

Wisconsin's Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program

what producers need to know

September 2023

The Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program

(WDACP) provides assistance to the commercial agricultural community. The program provides

abatement and financial compensation for wild white-tailed deer, black bear, Canada goose, turkey, cougar, and elk damage to commercial seedlings, crops grown on agricultural land, damage to crops that have been harvested for sale or further use but have not been removed from the agricultural land, damage to orchard trees or nursery stock, damage to apiaries, and livestock. Damage to crops or grasses grown for use by licensed bird hunting preserves is also eligible but only for abatement assistance, no compensation.

This fact sheet explains the basic information that producers need to know about this program and how to participate in the WDACP. It is recommended that producers contact their county land conservation staff for further details and enrollment (see county contact information below).

Other species that commonly cause damage (e.g., raccoons, sandhill cranes, blackbirds, beaver, and others) are not currently eligible for compensation or program benefits under current WDACP rules. There is a separate program that provides abatement and compensation for damages caused by wolves.



Agricultural Standards and Enrollment:

- The land where the wildlife damage is occurring is required to be in a county that is participating in the WDACP. Currently Menominee and Kenosha counties do not participate in the program, all other counties participate.
- Enrollees must be the crop owner and must have hunting access control. This requirement applies to owned and leased contiguous properties. The enrollee must follow the minimum hunting access requirement for all enrolled properties. The hunting access requirement does not apply to enrollee's where the damage is to apiaries on lands where the applicant does not have hunting access control.
- Enrollees may sign up their properties with the WDACP for more than one eligible species. The species with the greater acreage of "Land suitable for hunting" shall be used to determine the minimum hunting access requirement.
- Enrollees must notify the county damage specialist within 14 days of the beginning of damage to maintain compensation eligibility. Failure to give timely notice of the beginning of damage does not eliminate the ability for abatement assistance. Notification of damage can occur before the actual damage has occurred, based on past damage history, or anticipated damage.
- Damage to crops (by eligible species) that have been harvested for sale or further use (i.e., stored feed bags, hay bales, etc.), but have not been removed from the agricultural land, are eligible for program services and benefits. However, normal agricultural practices and implementation of practices and standards described in the WDACP Technical Manual are required.
- Enrollment is available under 1 of 3 options. Enrollment forms must be complete and accurate. The hunting requirement assigned to each enrollee shall be clearly identified. WDACP enrollment options are Open Public Hunting (OPH), Managed Hunting Access (MHA), or No Public Hunting (ACT 82- deer permit only) (Note: hunters are required to notify farmers of their intent to hunt regardless of whether the farmer chooses OPH or MHA). Enrollees must make a reasonable attempt to respond to hunter requests for access.
- Once enrolled in the WDACP, the enrollee must comply with program requirements until the end of the calendar year or the end of the species' hunting season. If the enrollee elects to withdraw from the WDACP prior to the end of the calendar year or species' hunting season, he/she may be required to reimburse the WDACP for services provided up to the date of withdrawal. Additionally, permits with Open Public Hunting (OPH) or Managed Hunting Access (MHA), must allow hunting access for one year or during the species' hunting season if issued a permit.
- Enrollees, the permittee, participant, or any other individual may not charge any form of fee for hunting, hunting access, shooting permit tags if issued, or any other activity that relates to hunting the species enrolled for program benefits. This includes verbal or written hunting leases for the species enrolled.
- Enrollees must be cooperative with county personnel and/or agents responsible for administering the WDACP. Abusive language, behavior, or threat of violence or otherwise will be considered a failure on the part of the enrollee to cooperate and may result in ineligibility to participate in the WDACP for the remainder of the calendar year in which they are uncooperative, and the following calendar year.

what producers need to know

Abatement Standards:

- Enrollees must follow abatement measures prescribed by county damage specialists. This includes, but is not limited to, shooting permits, temporary abatement measures, and/or permanent fences.
- Damage abatement cost sharing is on a 75-25 basis. The county shall determine the actual costs of providing wildlife damage abatement assistance and provide 75% cost sharing. For permanent abatement measures, the enrollee shall provide 25% of the cost of materials and installation. For determining the total cost of temporary abatement measures, cooperation by the enrollee in installation, construction, operation, notification if required, or maintenance of the temporary measure shall be considered 25% of its total costs.
- Shooting Permits. On properties where shooting permits have been issued, permit performance is directly related to current claims and/or future shooting permit eligibility. For deer, the enrollee must meet one of the two harvest objectives either killing at least 80% of the number of deer authorized for harvest on the permit by September 15 on properties that had \$1000 or more in appraised damages the prior year (WM-40), or if less than \$1000 of appraised loss or no appraised losses the previous year, kill at least 50% of the authorized harvest within 45 days of permit issuance and 80% by the permit expiration date.

Appraisals and Claims Standards:

- Enrollees are limited to a single claim application. Enrollees in multiple counties will require the county damage specialist(s) to appropriately distinguish abatement, claim, and deduction totals for the counties.
- Enrollees must notify the county damage specialist at least 10 days prior to harvesting enrolled crop fields. Fields that are harvested prior to field inspections are not eligible for compensation.
- Entire farms or crops will not be appraised if no appraisal request is received from the crop owner. Entire fields where damage has been reported and a request made by the crop owner will be appraised in their entirety.
- Requests for crop appraisals will be denied after a set date (determined by the county) indicating that 90% of fall harvested crops has been harvested county-wide.
- If the amount of the appraised loss is \$500 or less, the claimant will receive no payment, due to the standard deductible. If the amount of the appraised loss is more than \$500 but not more than \$5,500, then the claimant will be paid 100% of the amount of the claims that exceeds the standard deductible. If the amount of the appraised loss is more than \$5,500, the claimant will be paid the amount calculated under the \$5,500 level, plus 80% of the claim that exceeds \$5,500.00, with a maximum payment of \$10,000. A maximum claim has an appraised loss of at least \$11,750. ***Claims may be pro-rated if WDACP funding is inadequate.**
- If enrolled under OPH or MHA options, and the abatement harvest objectives have not been met, the claims payment will be denied. It may be possible to receive a deer harvest exemption if compelling evidence exists that deer were not available for harvest. The local damage specialist, county representative, and WDNR biologist will review such cases and make a recommendation to the county. The WDNR, through the claims audit process, will verify regulation compliance. Shooting permits issued for bear, geese, or turkeys currently do not have harvest objectives associated with those permits.
- Claim Audits. Claims shall be randomly audited for accuracy and to police fraud. Penalties exist in state statute 29.889(10) to address violations in the WDACP. If convicted in a court of law on charges of fraud, an enrollee may be fined two times the value of any paid claim, plus up to an additional \$1,000.00. Furthermore, the enrollee can lose their program privileges for up to 10 years. Any accessory to fraud may be subject to similar fines.

Contact Information

- Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program County Contacts
 - A list of contacts for each county can be found at p.widencdn.net/w5fvmu/WDACPcountycontacts.

For more information about wildlife damage management in Wisconsin please visit:

dnr.wi.gov keyword *wildlife damage*



Wisconsin's
Cooperating
Counties



Other Resources:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/wdacr>

-WDNR's Wildlife Damage Program web page.

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/hunt>

-The public can access lists of properties (with maps) open to public hunting through this program. Additionally, the public can see who was issued a shooting permit in each county.



**Land and Water Conservation Board
County Land and Water Resource Management Plan
Five Year Review of LWRM Plans**

County: Buffalo

Implementation Covering Past Five Years and Future Directions

Answer these four questions in writing (not to exceed 4 pages)

1. Provide a representative number of accomplishments that can be directly traced to activities identified in multiple work plans. For each accomplishment, explain how the planning process helped the county achieve its outcome, including planning adjustments that helped better target county activities.

One strong goal of the plan was to reduce soil erosion. Funding for these practices have come from DATCP, MVD, Buffalo County, USFWS, and other non profits such as rod and gun clubs and Trout Unlimited. The mission of reducing soil erosion has held true due to the fact that several practices have been installed since plan inception. One common practice is that of grade stabilization dams that have showed up in work plans year after year. There have been 9 installed since the plan was written. The process of identifying soil loss as a critical component in the plan has assisted in the conversations with land owners and the general will of producers to keep soil where it belongs. We have also added 10 acres of grassed waterways to reduce erosion within fields. Another practice has been stream bank stabilization. In the past 5 years, 5,100 feet of streambank have been stabilized. Our partners in the NRCS have been the heavy hitters in these categories simply due to funding allotment. They have installed 43 grade stabilization dams and 25 acres of grassed waterways since the plan was passed. This partnership is a crucial key to spreading the message of conservation within the County. Another key component of the plan was reducing sheet and rill erosion. The Land Conservation Department has been actively engaging landowners on the importance of soil health. This has led to the cost share planting of 200 acres of cover crops to keep living roots in the soil, hold nutrients, and reduce erosion. The completing of a 9KE plan for the Bear creek HUC 12 was a huge milestone that was accomplished just recently. That plan outlines a future direction for the Bear Creek HUC 12 and lays the groundwork for a fundamental approach to addressing that impaired waterway.

2. Identify any areas where the county was unable to make desired progress in implementing activities identified in multiple work plans. For each area identified, explain the work plan adjustments that were made to refocus planned activities. If no areas are identified, explain how the county was able to make progress in all the areas planned.

The Farmland Preservation Program goals have fallen short of expected outcomes. In Buffalo County, 9 of the 17 townships are in Farmland Preservation zoning, and one township has a stand alone Agricultural Enterprise Area. Within the 9 townships enrolled in

zoning farmland preservation, only 10 farmers are in the program. Long term agreements and continuing compliance for little financial gain seems to be the hold up. The AEA has seen a little uptick, but the initial buzz has quickly faded. Staff commitment to outreach and teaching NMP and soil health will hopefully change this in the future.

3. Describe how the county's work plans implement its priority farm strategy and the effectiveness of county actions implementing agricultural performance standards and conservation practices on farms. In particular, the county should describe outreach, farm inventories, and additional funds that were pursued to implement its strategy.

The priority farm strategy in the plan are farms and critical area sites that (not in any specific order):

- o Farms in watersheds draining to DNR listed Impaired Water (303(d))
- o Farms that have significant manure management problems
- o Soil Erosion exceeding "T" (tolerable soil loss)
- o Cropping on slopes greater than 12% (and where soil erosion exceeds "T")
- o Barnyard Runoff from feedlot
- o Winter spreading on restricted fields (based on the DATCP spreading restriction maps)
- o Complaints (anonymous or other)

All conservation practices requires buy in from the farm, as they must pay their share of the practice. Funds used to implement practices comes from DATCP, DNR, NRCS, and MDV. Outreach is a critical component for landowner buy-in as site visits and conversations really help steer the contact on what changes can be made. When resource concerns are brought to our attention, staff work to come up with solutions and present them to the farm and describe why the practice would benefit the land and water quality. Giving several options and good communication skills are what is needed to turn the dial on conservation. Farm inventories are done any time they seek a manure storage pit or substantially altered one, as well as building a livestock structure, and farmland preservation. These avenues help start the conversation and allow us a good look at the farm as well as the conservation needs. If a complaint is received, county staff work with DNR non-point staff to come up with solutions that are needed and what actions can be taken.

4. Provide representative examples that show changes in direction for work planning in the upcoming five years, with specific examples provided showing adjustments in planned activities in the county's most recent work plan.

The county does not believe any change in direction is needed. if unexpected situations arise, the county make adjustments as needed. Buffalo County will stay the course as outlined in the plan in addressing soil loss, NMP training, priority farms, and overall resource concerns.

Annual Work Plans

Attach both of the following:

- a. The most current annual work prepared by the county.

- b. The work plan for the previous year that includes a column that identifies the progress in implementing the planned activities for that year.

Board Review Process

The goal of the review is not to fail counties. The board recognizes the dynamic nature of the planning process. Board members are interested in how counties tackle priorities over time and how they respond to changing conditions in pursuing their priorities. The board will evaluate a county's planning and implementation based on how well the county balances and prioritizes the following: agricultural performance standards, other state priorities (impaired waters, FPP checks), and local priorities. When needed, the Board will provide constructive support to counties to improve the quality of their planning. Counties have the option to prepare a brief presentation to illustrate their successes and future priorities.

Land Conservation Committee Notification

The LCC was provided a completed copy of these questions (including attachments) on:

Signature of Authorized Representative: _____ **Date:** _____
(e.g. County Conservationist, LCC chair)

Send completed questionnaire and attachments to:
jennifer.chakravorty@wisconsin.gov