

Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance, Inc.
Project Selection Criteria

Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance protects and improves habitat for birds and other wildlife in south-central Wisconsin. SoWBA's current service area includes all or portions of Adams, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Marquette, Richland, and Sauk counties.

A project is understood to be a single parcel/collection of parcels with an approved management plan. Goose Pond Sanctuary, Fair Meadows Sanctuary, and Faville Grove Sanctuary are SoWBA's three existing projects. A new fee title or easement acquisition that will be managed as part of one of SoWBA's existing sanctuaries requires a different level of assessment/evaluation than an acquisition of an additional project. A parcel within or adjacent to a SoWBA sanctuary, with appropriate attributes and without unacceptable risk factors, is likely to be eligible for selection, while the creation of an additional project requires extensive consideration of these criteria. Any fee title or easement acquisition must be approved by the board and be consonant with the mission of SoWBA.

The below criteria shall be used to inform documentation for a potential fee title or easement acquisition and will be used in conjunction with the Land Project Assessment Form. Inappropriate or unacceptable parcel acquisition opportunities should be directed to other land trusts or appropriate organizations

Project Selection Criteria

- Parcel location
 - The parcel is within SoWBA's 10-county service area
 - Priority shall be given to a parcel within or adjacent to an existing project
- Conservation values of the parcel
- Habitat type(s)
- Opportunity for preservation of unique habitat or species of concern
- Overall quality of parcel
- Potential for restoration or preservation
- Parcel contributes to the goals/objectives of other natural resources initiatives (e.g., WDNR's Glacial Heritage Area)
- Accessibility
- Potential as a passive recreational resource (e.g., bird watching, photography, hiking)
- Community resource value
- Potential as a resource for environmental education initiatives
- Cost/funding availability or plan for acquisition and management/stewardship
- Preliminary risk assessment results

Approved by the Board of Directors August 10, 2015