

MANITOBA

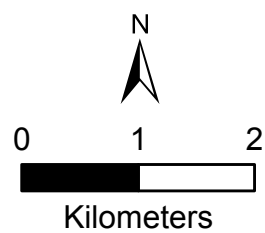
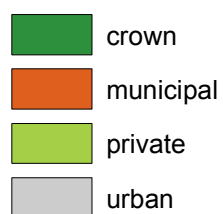
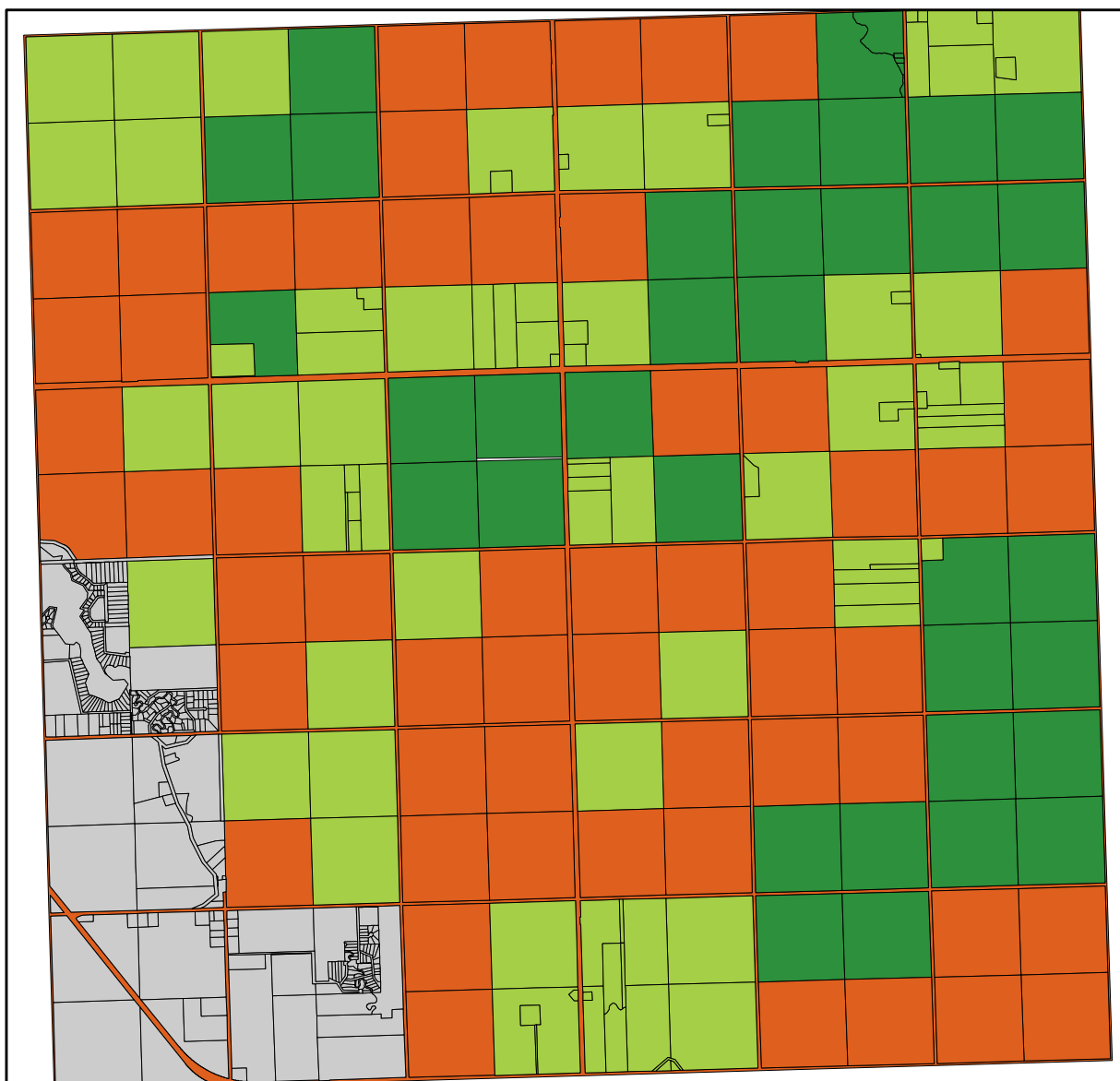
Today, less than half a percent remains of the original tall-grass prairie ecosystem that once dominated the landscape in central North America from southeastern Manitoba to Texas. The Tall-grass Prairie Natural Area is one of the last remaining strongholds of this ecosystem in Canada, and home to hundreds of species protected under Federal SARA legislation. Natural communities in this part of the province are unique and diverse. Micro changes in elevation give way to extensive marsh wetlands, interspersed by woodland ranging from aspen-dominated deciduous forests to rocky jack pine outcrops in the west. However, most species are dependent on native tall-grass prairie, which is threatened by fire suppression that results in prairie succeeding to shrubland and deciduous forest.

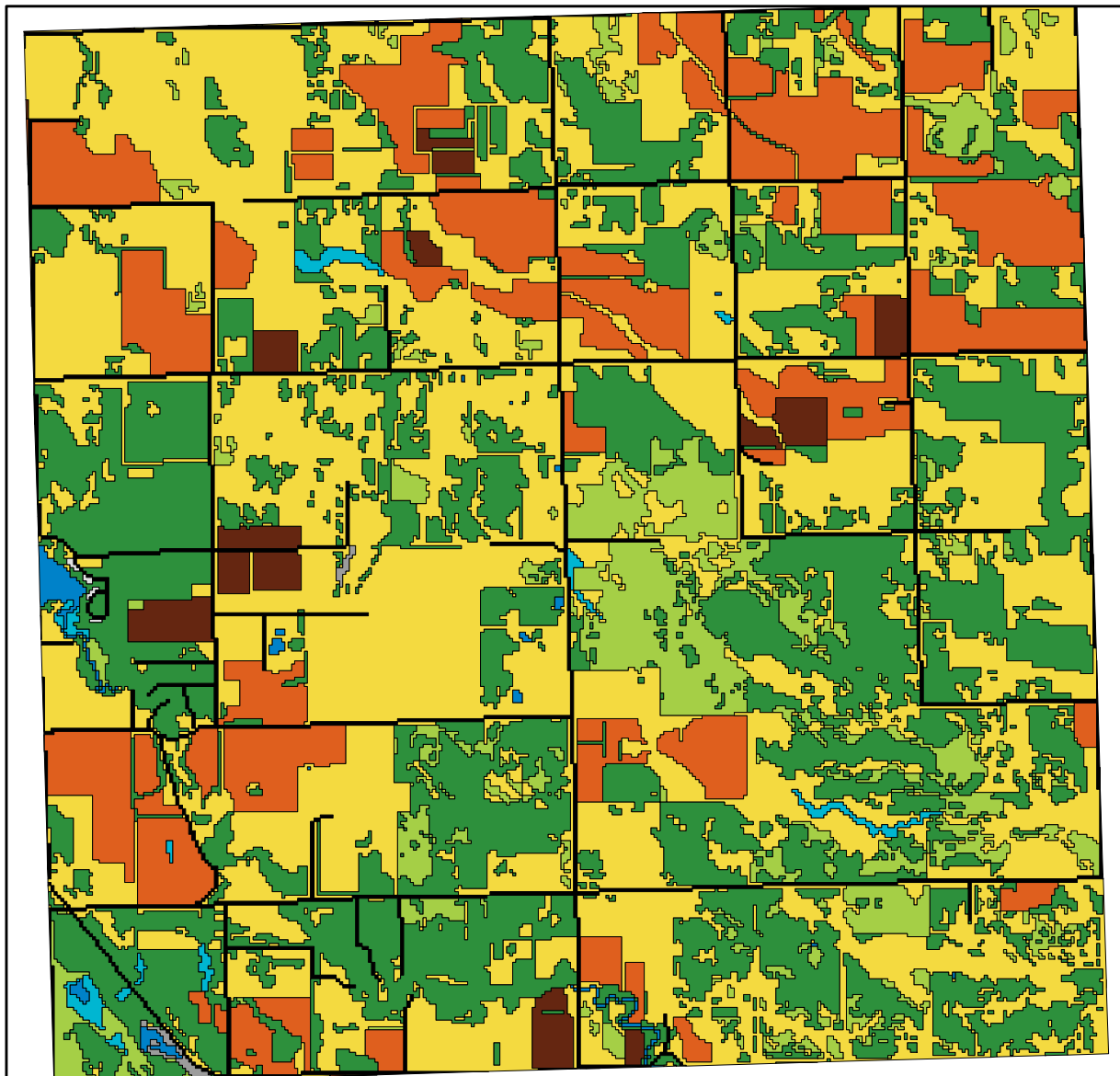
Some of NCC's current species of concern in the natural area include:











- Poweshiek Skipperling: Relies on open native tall-grass prairie surrounded by shelter from shrubs or trees. Intolerant to agriculture or development. High fidelity to breeding sites. Current population is estimated at ~30-50 individuals.
- Small White Lady's Slipper: Thrives with some disturbance. Often found near roads and ditches, but also inhabits native tall-grass prairie. Does not tolerate shading, so sensitive to forest encroachment.
- Eastern Tiger Salamander: Inhabits small wetlands and abandoned sloughs with muddy shores. Cannot tolerate livestock grazing or disturbance to breeding habitat along wetland shores. Requires corridor habitat without agriculture or development to migrate between its overwintering and breeding habitats.
- Yellow Rail: Breeds in sedge-dominated marshes. Requires dead vegetation for nesting, so sensitive to removal by grazing and harvest.

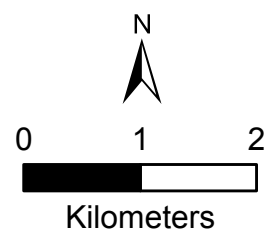
NCC's conservation targets in the Tall-grass Prairie Natural Area are tall-grass prairie ecosystems, Poweshiek Skipperling, Small White Lady's Slipper, Eastern Tiger Salamander, and Yellow Rail. NCC needs to maintain ties with the local community in order to continue to work in the area, but its relationship with local farmers is fragile, as some feel NCC will drive them out of the area by buying up land. An anonymous donor has provided NCC Manitoba with \$50,000 to establish a nature reserve. Given the information you have, work as a group to identify where you would like to place this reserve.

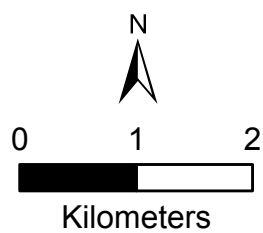
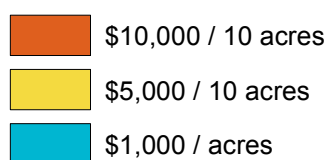
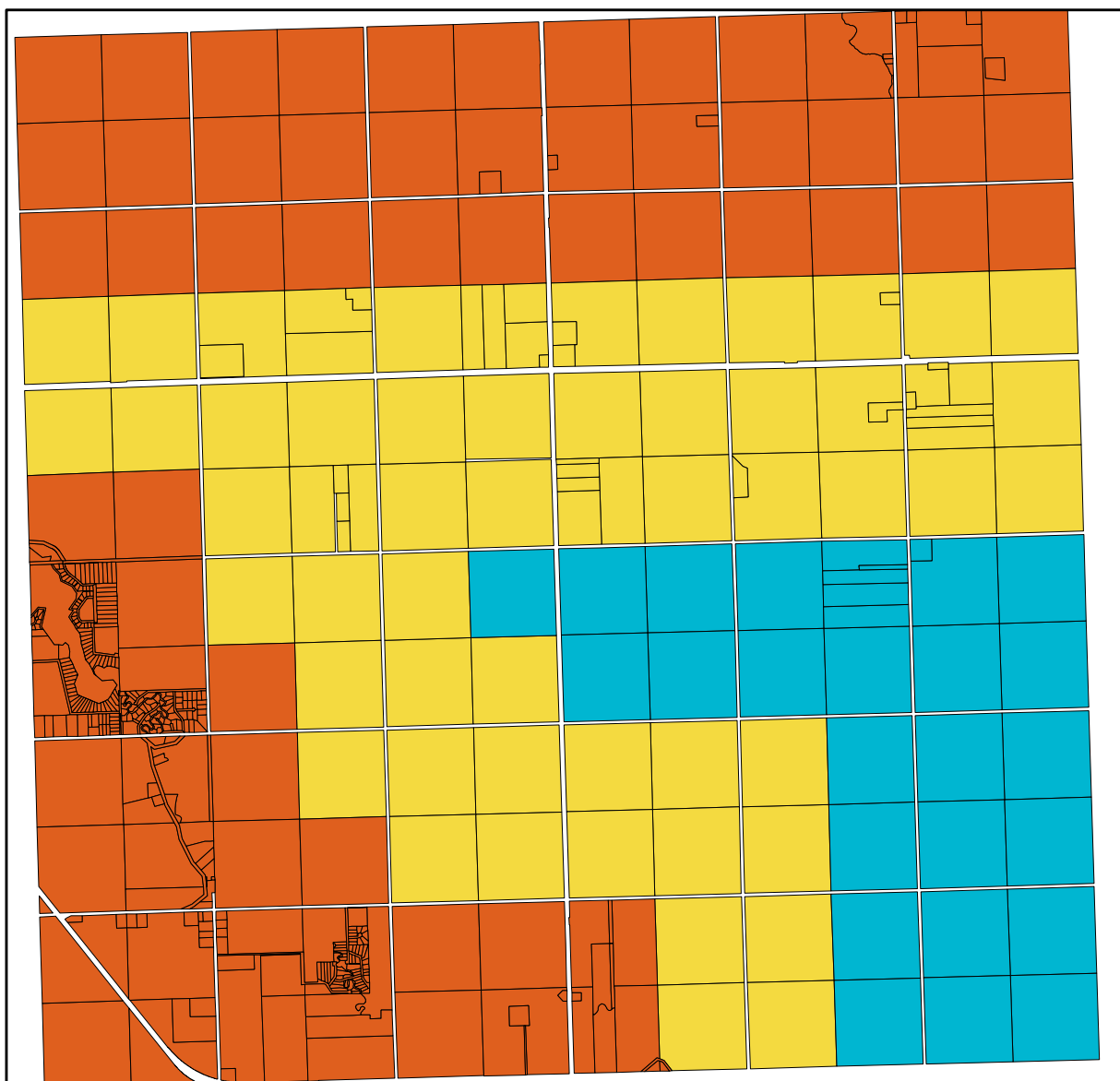
- Your nature reserve must protect at least one of the conservation targets
- You must stay within your budget of \$50,000
- You may only protect private land and must purchase full 10-acre squares
- As a group, you will present your nature reserve to the class including:
 - Showing its location and size
 - Explaining your reasoning behind your decisions
 - Sharing ideas on how to work with the local community
 - Outlining any additional considerations
- As soon as you know the location of your nature reserve, bring your map to Megan at the front

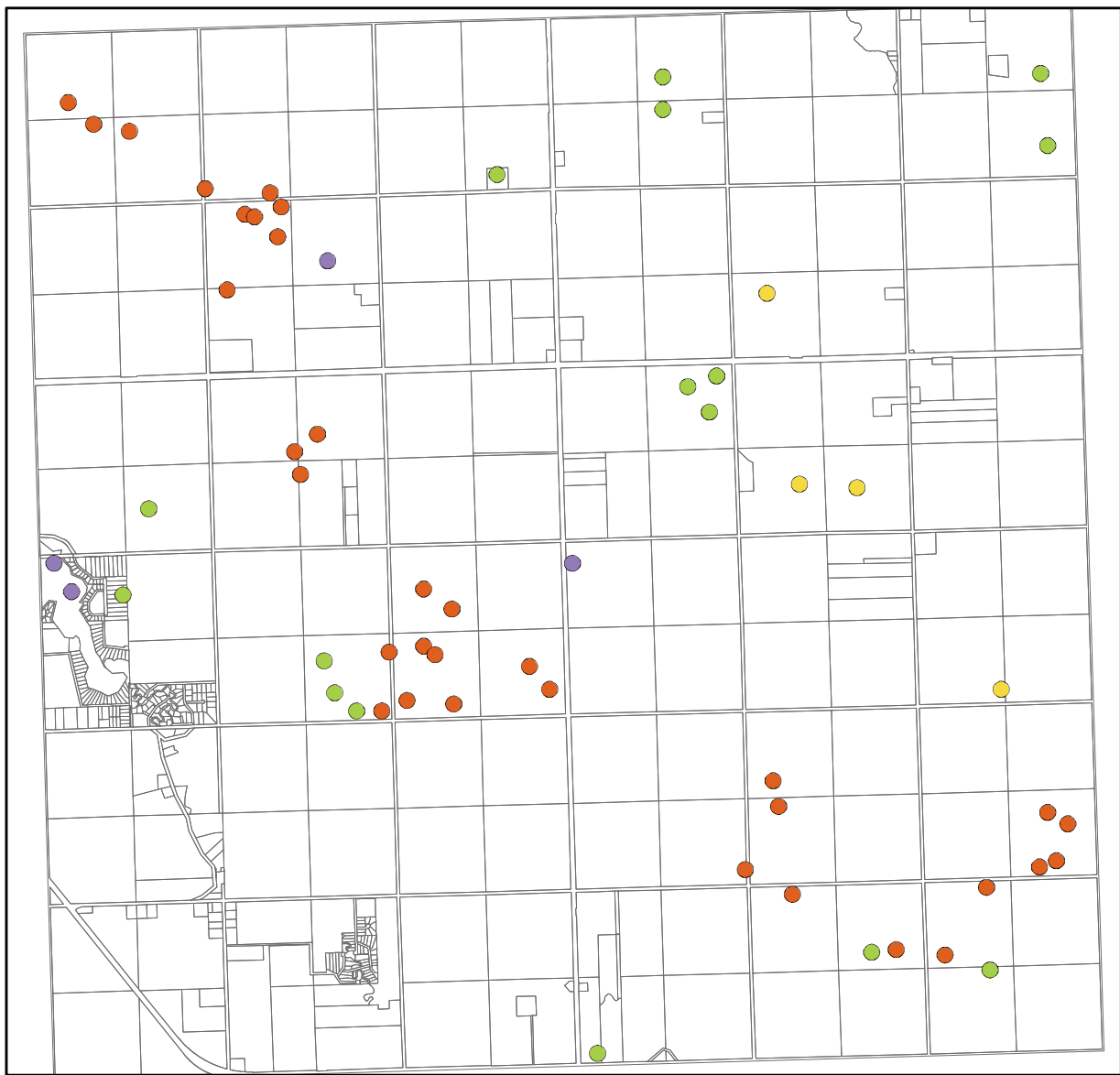








-  Annual Cropland
-  Deciduous Forest
-  Forage Crop
-  Gravel Extraction
-  Marsh
-  Native Prairie Pasture
-  Road/Rail Line
-  Shrubland
-  Urban Misc.
-  Water Body







-  P. Skipperling
-  Sm. Wh. Lady's Slipper
-  E. Tiger Salamander
-  Yellow Rail

