



State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Secretary Randy Romanski

DATE: November 2022
TO: DATCP Board
FROM: Farmland Preservation Program
SUBJECT: Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) Update
REQUESTED ACTION: For information only.

Agricultural enterprise areas are community led efforts establishing designated areas important to Wisconsin’s agricultural future. More specifically, an AEA is an area of productive agriculture that has received designation from the state at the request of landowners and local governments. As a part of the state’s Farmland Preservation Program, AEAs strive to support local farmland protection goals. Local communities can voluntarily pursue designation of an AEA by submitting a petition to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Through this designation, the community can encourage continued agricultural production and investment in the agricultural economy. Landowners within designated AEAs are eligible to enter into voluntary farmland preservation agreements committing all or a portion of their farm to agricultural use and maintaining state soil and water conservation standards. In return, they may be eligible to claim the farmland preservation tax credit annually.

On August 10, 2022, the petition evaluation committee (committee), a team of individuals with technical expertise in agriculture, conservation and financing met to review two AEA petitions received during this petition cycle. The committee recommended to the Secretary the designation of the Stanton Farmland Heritage Preservation AEA in St. Croix County and the Town of Princeton AEA in Green Lake County. See attachment A for a summary of the Stanton Farmland Heritage Preservation AEA and Town of Princeton AEA.

Table 1: *Recommended for AEA designation 2022*

AEA Name	Approximate acres	Number of petitioners	AEA Location County and Town
Stanton Farmland Heritage Preservation	23,771	24	St. Croix County, Towns include Cylon, Stanton, and Star Prairie
Town of Princeton	17,031	7	Green Lake County, Towns include Princeton and Brooklyn

Designation of the two successful petitions would result in 47 AEAs statewide totaling 1,577,457 acres covering portions of 30 counties, 130 towns, and the Bad River Reservation (Attachment B).

Attachment A: Summary of the 2022 AEAs recommended for designation
Attachment B: Map of existing AEAs, highlighting the recommended AEAs



State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Secretary Randy Romanski

Attachment A: Summary of the areas recommended for AEA designation 2022

Stanton Farmland Heritage Preservation AEA

Overview

- St. Croix County, Towns of Cylon, Stanton, and Star Prairie
- 23,771 acres
- 24 petitioners, 4 non-petitioning cooperators
- This area supports a wide array of agricultural production from grazing, beef, dairy, other livestock including goats, soybeans, corn, specialty vegetables including sweet corn, canning beans, and pumpkins, to Christmas trees, and organic farming.

Goals

- Preserve farmland and the right-to-farm in an environmentally sustainable and regenerative manner.
- Enrolling 50% of the farmland acres in the AEA in Farmland Preservation within five years.
- Promote soil conservation and nutrient management among all farmers in the AEA through local education, demonstrations, and research.
- Promote a farm business environment that encourages farmers to develop new crops, livestock, and marketing ventures.

Items of Note

- Close-knit community that works together to support local agriculture and conservation.
- The proximity to the Twin Cities and the City of Richmond, low-cost land, and proximity to state-owned lands make this area particularly at-risk for development.

Wisconsin - America's Dairyland

2811 Agriculture Drive • PO Box 8911 • Madison, WI 53708-8911 • Wisconsin.gov

An equal opportunity employer

Town of Princeton AEA

Overview

- Green Lake County, Towns of Princeton and Brooklyn
- 17,031 acres
- 7 petitioners, 4 non-petitioning cooperators
- Corn, soybeans, wheat, rye, oats, fresh market vegetables, annual forage, grazing, beef, dairy, and Federal Conservation Programs including Environmental Quality Incentive Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Wetland Reserve Program and Conservation Reserve Program.

Goals

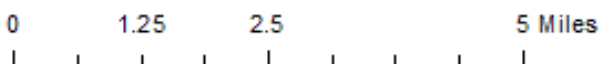
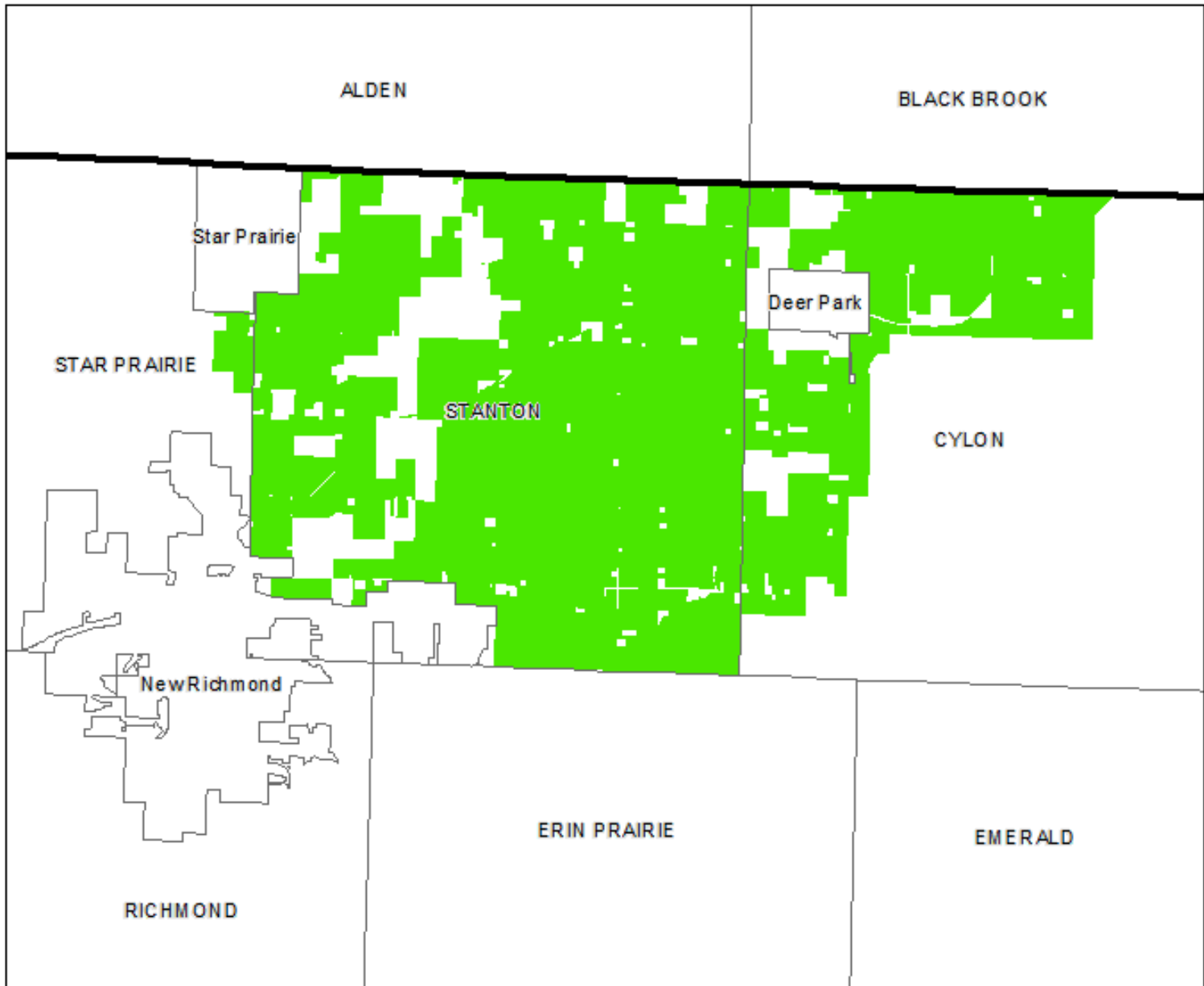
- Preserve the local farming economy and support agricultural related businesses within the AEA.
 - Promote small-scale agriculture (beekeeping, fresh market vegetables, etc.)
 - Support local food production and markets, create a local brand to be sold at local groceries, farm markets, and direct marketing
- Promote regenerative agriculture practices to improve the soil health.
- Promote the Farmland Preservation Program tax credit incentives with the use of Farmland Preservation Agreements.

Items of Note



- Landowners saw the success of the neighboring AEA to the north and wanted the same opportunities to protect and preserve agriculture in their town.
- Township is unzoned and unlikely to adopt zoning. The AEA will not only give landowners a route to participate but also the support and tools needed to protect agricultural lands from conversion.

Attachment B: Map of designated and recommended AEAs

Stanton Farmland Heritage Preservation AEA

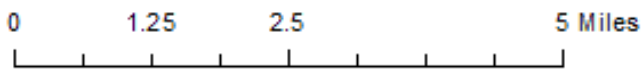
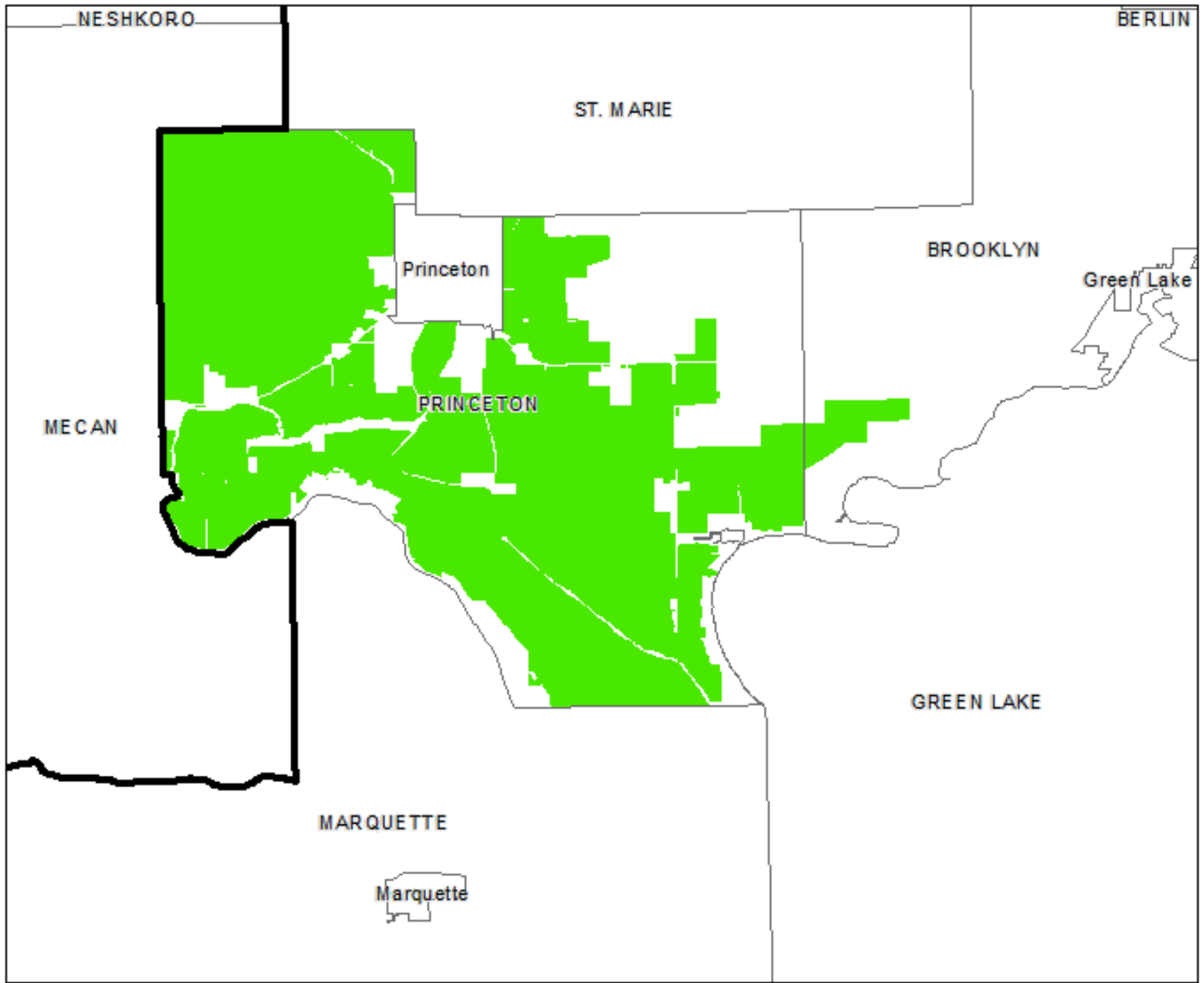


Legend



-  Proposed AEAs (2022)
-  County Boundary



Town of Princeton AEA



Legend

-  Proposed AEA's (2022)
-  County Boundary



2022 Statewide Map of designated and recommended AEAs

