

**Big Hill Savanna (New Name)**

**Recommended Name of Feature: Big Hill Savanna**

**Current Name of Feature: Unnamed**

Unnamed	USGS - Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)
Unnamed	WDNR – Register of Waterbodies
Unnamed	WDNR - 24k Hydrology
Unnamed	County GIS
Unnamed	Google Maps
Unnamed	USGS Topography
Big Hill Savanna	Local Names

**Location & Description:** T05N, R5E, Sec 12.

The feature is a 350 acre hill located in the Town of Perry, Dane County and the Town of Moscow, Iowa County. There are currently no hills or savannas in Wisconsin with the name “Big Hill Savanna.”

**Proponent:** David W. Marshall – underh2o@mhtc.net

**Summary:** The proponent states “The ridge is the site of a locally important historic site and significant for ecological restoration and conservation efforts located within the Southwest Grassland and Stream Conservation Area.” According to the Perry Historical Center, the ridge was called Big Hill since at least the early part of the 20th Century. “The Clay Hill Road used to run up a very steep hill called Big Hill.”

The site has rich native American and European settlement cultural histories that are located within an important ecological Driftless Area setting. Research conducted on the site and research initiatives originating at the site include a major study documenting migratory grassland bird nesting (Byers et al. 2017) and a study of improved trout stream habitat associated with grassland management (Marshall et al. 2008).

Seventy-six Federal Migratory bird species have been identified on the conservation easement property within a diverse savanna and prairie plant ecosystem. The property will be maintained as a permanent conservatory under the terms of the conservation easement. The proponent has sited his sources and included the Big Hill Savanna Management Plan. which can be provided by request.

This case was previously reviewed by the Council in 2022 but they had questions that needed clarification before a recommendation could be made. Staff followed up with the proponent and the US Bureau of Geographic Names (BGN) was consulted on some technical issues. The BGN response is included in the meeting material folder for Big Hills Savanna.

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**Local Opinion:**

Dane County- Approved

Iowa County-

Town of Perry- Approved

Town of Moscow-

**Decision:**