

Table 1. Natural Areas Ranking Criteria*

| Criteria | Description | Detail | Points | |
|---|--|---|-----------|---|
| Total Size Size is recognized as an important factor for viability of species and ecosystems. | Total size of Natural Area in acres. | <20 acres | 0 | |
| | | >20-80 | 1 | |
| | | >80-200 | 2 | |
| | | >200 | 4 | |
| Size of Core Area Greater core area limits negative impacts on "edge sensitive" animal species. | Acres of core area. Core area is defined as the total area minus 300 ft. buffer from edge of polygon. | 0-6 acres | 0 | |
| | | >6-25 | 1 | |
| | | >25-48 | 2 | |
| | | >48-313 | 4 | |
| Stream Corridor Stream corridors provide wildlife connections between patches of habitat. | Presence/absence of a stream or river within the Natural Area. | None | 0 | |
| | | Present | 2 | |
| Landscape Connectivity Connectivity between habitat patches is considered a critical factor for wildlife health. | Percentage | Percentage of Natural Areas within ¼ mile. | 0-11% | 0 |
| | | | >11-22 | 2 |
| | | | >22-33 | 3 |
| | | | >33 | 4 |
| | | | Proximity | Number of potential Natural Areas within 100 feet. |
| 1 | 1 | | | |
| 2 | 2 | | | |
| 3 | 3 | | | |
| >4 | 4 | | | |
| Wetlands Wetlands are considered important ecosystems as they provide wildlife habitat as well as environmental benefits including flood retention, groundwater recharge, and sediment and pollutant filtering. | Percentage | Measures the percentage of wetland within the Natural Area. | 0-16% | 0 |
| | | | 17-41 | 1 |
| | | | 42-70 | 2 |
| | | | 71-100 | 4 |
| | | | Area | Measures the actual area in acres of wetland within the Natural Area. |
| >6-26 | 1 | | | |
| >26-69 | 2 | | | |
| >69-131 | 4 | | | |



| Criteria | Description | Detail | Points |
|-----------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| Wetlands continued | | | |
| Quality | Area-weighted measure of wetland quality based on field assessment. | Low Med-Low Medium Med-High High | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| Woodlands | | | |
| | Woodlands are considered important ecosystems as they provide wildlife habitat, critical habitat linkages, visual buffers, and improved air quality. | | |
| Percentage | Measures the percentage of woodland within the Natural Area. | 0-22% 23-60 61-85 86-100 | 0 1 2 4 |
| Area | Measures the actual area in acres of woodland within the Natural Area. | 0-11 acres >11-44 >44-116 >116-247 | 0 1 2 4 |
| Quality | Area-weighted measure of woodland quality based on field assessment. | Low Med-Low Medium Med-High High | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| Parcel Fragmentation | Measures the feasibility of conservation for a site by analyzing parcel numbers and size. Multiplies the percent area of the largest parcel in the site by the mean size of the parcels within the site. | 0.00-0.46 0.47-1.20 1.21-2.41 2.42-5.97 5.98-17.99 | 0 1 2 3 4 |
| Total Points - 48 | | | |

* Modified from the 2004 Oakland County Potential Conservation/Natural Areas Report criteria ranking system.