

State Land Managed by the DNR

Land type	History	Use of Land
School trust land (school, swamp and internal improvement land)	Federal land grants: (1) School lands (generally Sections 16 and 36) granted to state for use of schools, (2) Swamp lands conveyed for state to sell and use money to construct levees and dams; and (3) Internal improvement lands to sell and use money for improvements in state.	School lands were generally sold to early settlers to encourage population and growth of state; remaining school lands not as suitable for agriculture or in more sparsely settled areas of state. About 2.8 of the 4.7 million acres of swamp lands granted to railroads, with other swamp lands granted for internal improvements or special projects, with some land sold to settlers; remaining swamp lands in northern area of state generally not suitable for agriculture. Most internal improvement lands sold and money used for public buildings. Primary use of land today is forest management, with revenue also from mining.
University land	Federal land grant; lands to be used for use and support of a state university.	A third of the lands were sold in first years of statehood to pay debts of university. Another third sold over the years. Primary use of land is forest management with revenue from mining.
Consolidated conservation land	State received lands that forfeited within ditch areas after assuming obligation to pay county bond debts incurred to construct ditches to drain land.	Lands classified as to suitability for agriculture, reforestation, or for use by state for preserving, propagating, breeding and hunting of wildlife. Most lands suitable for agriculture were sold. Remaining lands primarily used for wildlife purposes.
Land acquired through purchase, gift, county board resolution or condemnation	Acquired through purchase, gift from individuals and corporations, conveyed from counties free from trust in favor of taxing districts for conservation or forest purpose, and, at a minimum, through condemnation for water access or with the seller's permission.	Lands acquired to fulfill legislative directives, with particular focus on units of outdoor recreation system: state parks and recreation areas, state trails, scientific and natural areas, wildlife management areas, water access sites, and aquatic management areas. Recent acquisitions also focus on preservation (e.g., prairie bank easements) and accesses for the public (e.g., trout stream easements).