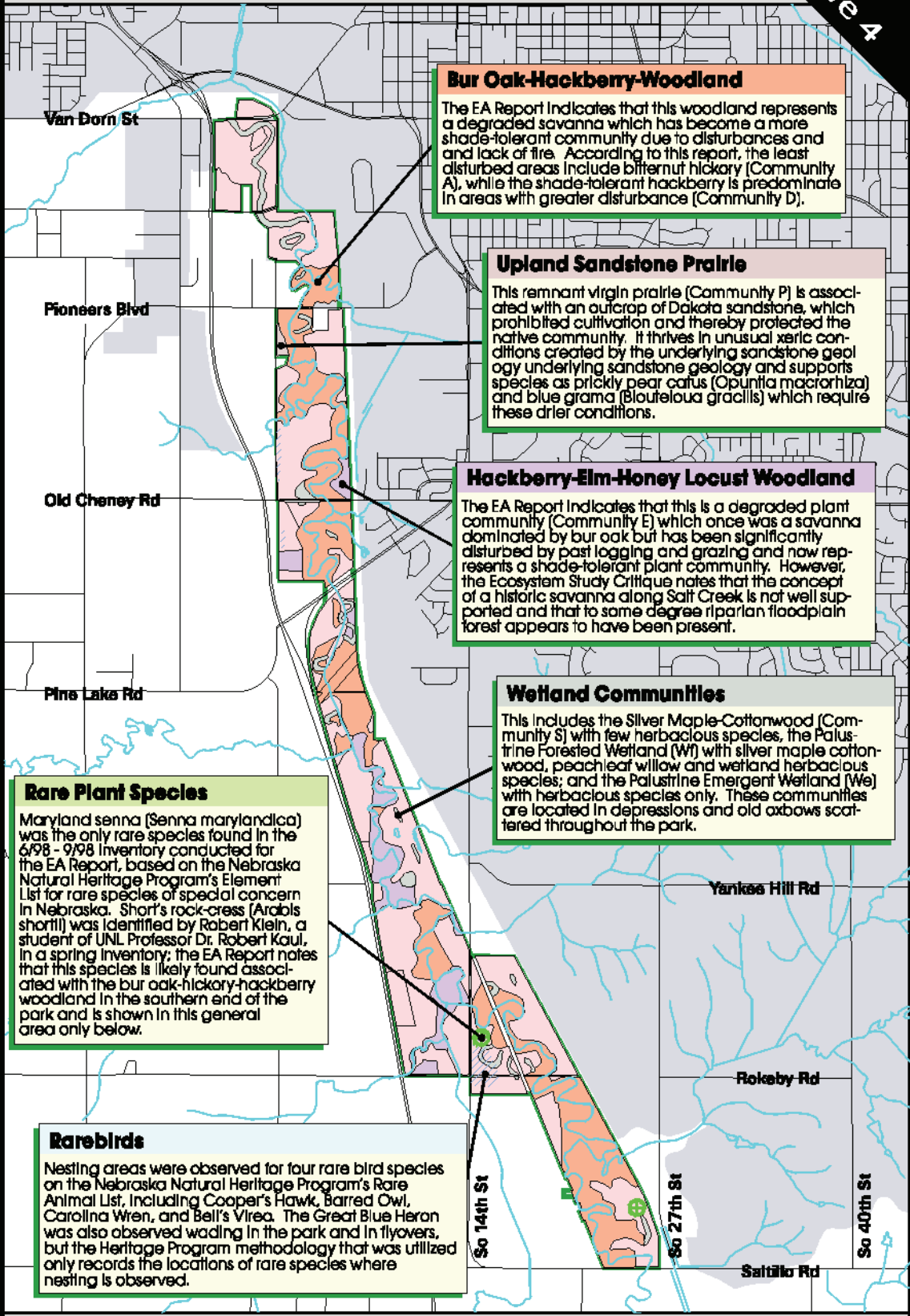


Resource Protection

1 Inch
equals
2750
ft.
Figure 4

Wilderness Park Study



Bur Oak-Hackberry-Woodland
The EA Report indicates that this woodland represents a degraded savanna which has become a more shade-tolerant community due to disturbances and lack of fire. According to this report, the least disturbed areas include bitternut hickory (Community A), while the shade-tolerant hackberry is predominant in areas with greater disturbance (Community D).

Upland Sandstone Prairie
This remnant virgin prairie (Community P) is associated with an outcrop of Dakota sandstone, which prohibited cultivation and thereby protected the native community. It thrives in unusual xeric conditions created by the underlying sandstone geology underlying sandstone geology and supports species as prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia macrorhiza*) and blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) which require these drier conditions.

Hackberry-Elm-Honey Locust Woodland
The EA Report indicates that this is a degraded plant community (Community E) which once was a savanna dominated by bur oak but has been significantly disturbed by past logging and grazing and now represents a shade-tolerant plant community. However, the Ecosystem Study Critique notes that the concept of a historic savanna along Salt Creek is not well supported and that to some degree riparian floodplain forest appears to have been present.

Wetland Communities
This includes the Silver Maple-Cottonwood (Community S) with few herbaceous species, the Palustrine Forested Wetland (WF) with silver maple cottonwood, peachleaf willow and wetland herbaceous species; and the Palustrine Emergent Wetland (WE) with herbaceous species only. These communities are located in depressions and old oxbows scattered throughout the park.

Rare Plant Species
Maryland senna (*Senna marylandica*) was the only rare species found in the 6/98 - 9/98 inventory conducted for the EA Report, based on the Nebraska Natural Heritage Program's Element List for rare species of special concern in Nebraska. Short's rock-crest (*Arabis shortii*) was identified by Robert Klein, a student of UNL Professor Dr. Robert Kaul, in a spring inventory; the EA Report notes that this species is likely found associated with the bur oak-hickory-hackberry woodland in the southern end of the park and is shown in this general area only below.

Rarebirds
Nesting areas were observed for four rare bird species on the Nebraska Natural Heritage Program's Rare Animal List, including Cooper's Hawk, Barred Owl, Carolina Wren, and Bell's Vireo. The Great Blue Heron was also observed wading in the park and in flyovers, but the Heritage Program methodology that was utilized only records the locations of rare species where nesting is observed.

- Map Elements**
- Park Boundary
 - Streams
 - Streets
 - Future Service Limit

Source: Compiled from the EA Ecosystem Report and Ecosystem Critique

Legend