

## WHERE WE ARE GOING:

### Current and Upcoming Projects

While we've made great strides in controlling runoff from large watersheds, we still have a lot of work to do to meet our goals. Our current focus is to work with landowners on areas closest to the lake. We call this the Direct Drainage Area. The biggest challenge is that this work involves more people on smaller lots. The advantage is that these are the very people who benefit most from clean water in Deer Lake. Clear water means higher property values and a better lake experience. We currently have resources available through a Department of Natural Resources grant to provide educational materials as well as technical and financial assistance to homeowners interested in doing what they can to reduce runoff from their waterfront property.

We also need to focus on maintaining the progress we have made in the larger watersheds. We need to take care of the prairies, wetlands, and sediment basins already installed.

There are still opportunities to decrease runoff of nutrients from land and prevent activities that increase runoff when, and if, we have landowners who are interested in working with us.



#### Thanks to our Partners

Our progress to date is due, in large part, to the partners who support us with their knowledge and the financial resources needed to complete projects. Our first thank you is to our members. We also wish to thank the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources which has provided significant financial support in the form of grants.

#### For more information:

[www.deerlakewi.com/conservancy](http://www.deerlakewi.com/conservancy)

Thanks to the Deer Lake Improvement Association for providing this website.

## 2010 CONSERVANCY OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Phillip Foussard, President

Mark Boyken

Tom McBride

Jim Miller, Vice President

Cal Dinham

John Patterson

Tom Pesek, Treasurer/ Secretary

Rob Ilstrup

Dennis Raedeke

Mollie Keys

Tom Walther

John Marinovich

John Wright

## Dedicated to the Preservation of Deer Lake

The Deer Lake Conservancy is a tax exempt organization incorporated in the state of Wisconsin and also registered in Polk County. The purpose of the organization is to preserve Deer Lake and the surrounding land that contributes to its natural, scenic and recreational value. As a 501C (3) corporation, any contributions are fully deductible from federal and state income tax. Contributions may be in the form of cash, securities, property and land easements.

Contributions should be sent to

**Deer Lake Conservancy**

**P.O. Box 1139**

**St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin 54024**

Interested individuals may also contact Jim Miller by phone at 715-483-3338

# Deer Lake Conservancy Report



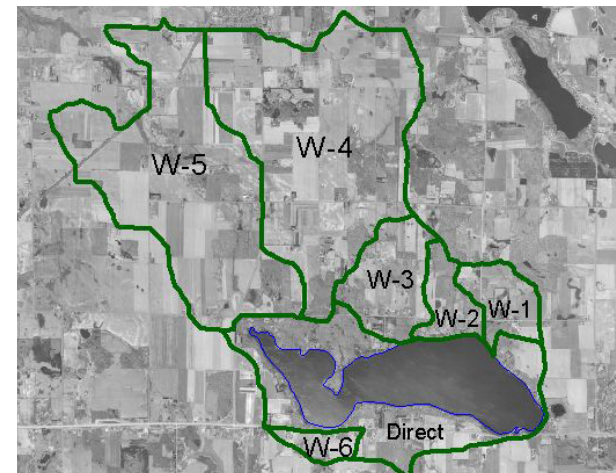
JULY 2010

## PROGRESS REPORT 1995 - 2009

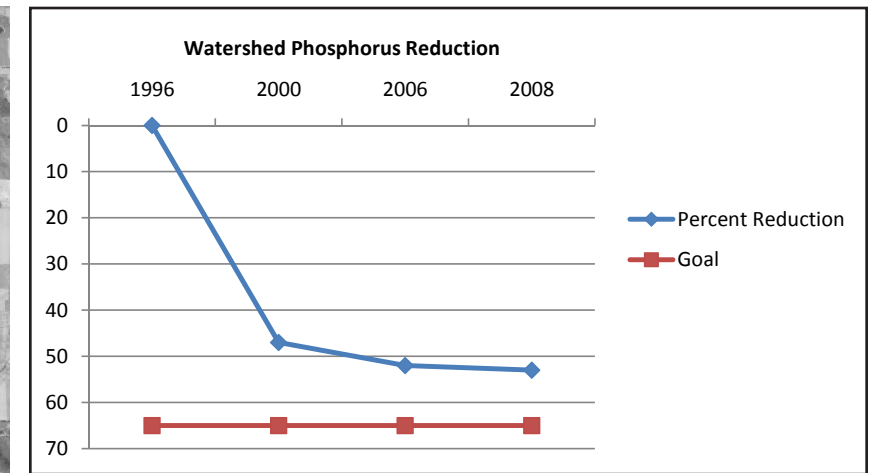
Our mission is to preserve Deer Lake and the surrounding land that contributes to its natural, scenic, and recreational value.

The main focus of the Conservancy is to improve water quality within the lake by reducing phosphorus in watershed runoff. Phosphorus is carried in runoff from the watersheds, or drainage areas, that flow to the lake. Phosphorus is the nutrient in the lake that determines how much algae will grow. Algae growth is the most visible detractor from water quality - when algae grows, the water is less clear.

Our efforts to reduce runoff and erosion in the watersheds have paid off. Based on recent studies, watershed runoff of phosphorus was reduced by over 50% from 1997 through 2006. This is unprecedented success for a Wisconsin Lake! The installation of about a dozen large projects on the 161 acres owned by the Conservancy and 7 acres under conservation easement contributed to this success. Our overall objective is to reduce phosphorus in watershed runoff by 65%, so we still have some progress to make. According to water quality studies from the early 1990s, a 65% reduction in watershed phosphorus will result in a 70% increase in lake clarity.



Deer Lake's Watersheds



Progress toward Phosphorus Reduction Goal

Based on recent studies, watershed runoff of phosphorus was reduced by over 50% from 1997 through 2006. This is unprecedented success for a Wisconsin Lake!

## WATER QUALITY GOAL

Deer Lake water quality is improved and maintained in mesotrophic status.

- Reduce watershed phosphorus loading by 65%.
- Increase lake clarity by 70%.

The above goal states that we want to improve lake water clarity and maintain the lake in a mesotrophic status. **What does this mean?**

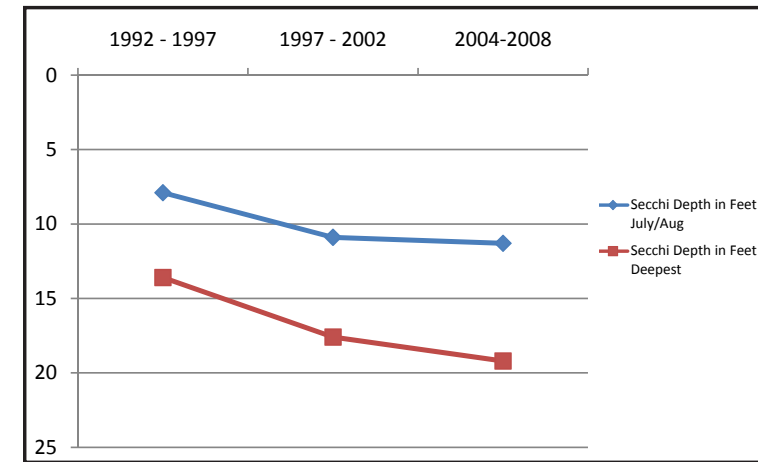
MESOTROPHIC LAKES have moderate nutrient levels. Lakes with higher nutrient levels have excessive algae growth and low water clarity. Nutrient status can be measured directly by algae growth or phosphorus concentration in the lake, but water clarity is easier to observe and understand.

Lake volunteers and scientists use Secchi depth (the depth at which a black and white disk lowered into the water is no longer visible) to measure water clarity. Mesotrophic lakes have average summer water clarity as measured by Secchi depth of 6 to 12 feet. Oligotrophic lakes, with even lower concentrations of nutrients, have average Secchi depths of 12 to 45 feet.

**HELP US MEET OUR WATER QUALITY GOAL!**

Sign up for a site visit to evaluate runoff from your property!  
Call Cheryl at Harmony Environmental - 715.268.9992  
or email [harmonyenv@amerytel.net](mailto:harmonyenv@amerytel.net)

To keep results comparable, the DNR reports Secchi depth averages for July and August only. As measured at the deepest spot on Deer Lake and shown in the chart below, water clarity seems to be steadily improving. Because it takes a while for phosphorus to be flushed out in water that flows from the lake – about 5 years with average rainfall – it will take some time to see the full effect of watershed efforts on water clarity.



Deer Lake Water Clarity Improvements 1992 - 2008

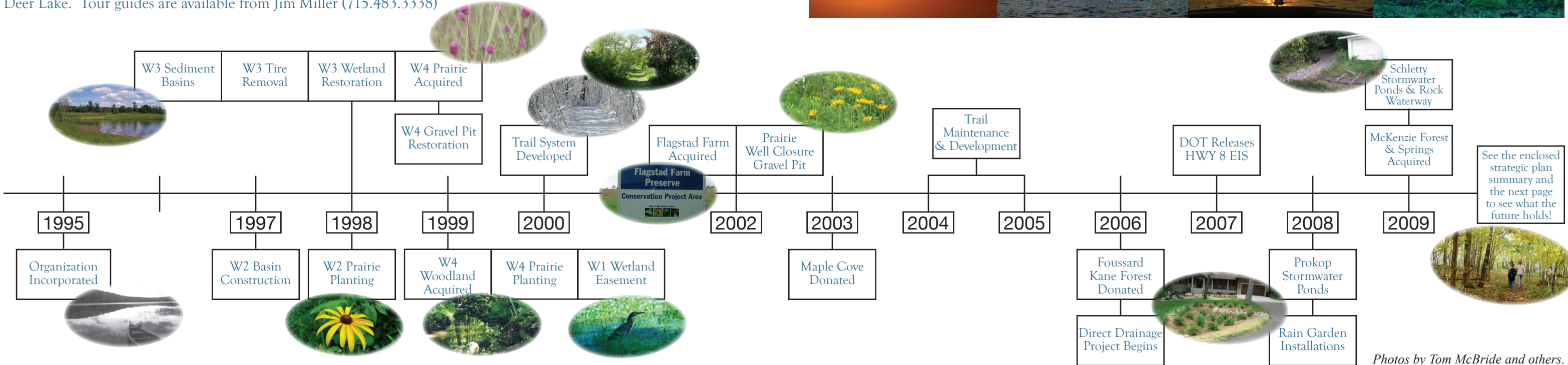


**2010 Annual Meeting**  
Please join us for our Annual Meeting  
Saturday, July 10th  
9:00 a.m.  
Trollhaugen Convention Center

## WHERE WE'VE BEEN:

### Deer Lake Conservancy Project Timeline

The *Deer Lake Conservancy Conservation Project Tour Guide* outlines the projects completed through 2006. The guide provides information about trail systems that are available to tour the projects and enjoy the natural beauty surrounding Deer Lake. Tour guides are available from Jim Miller (715.483.3338)



Photos by Tom McBride and others.