

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### PRAIRIE BURNS

Controlled burns are used to manage prairies on the Flagstad Farm and North Rock Creek properties about every five years. These burns simulate the natural wildfires that maintained native prairies in the past. Fire keeps the prairies from being over-grown with trees and shrubs, allowing the native prairie plants to flourish. The Flagstad Farm prairie is one of Wisconsin's largest local ecotype prairie restorations with more than 100 species of flowers and grasses grown from seed collected within 50 miles of the prairie. Trails through the Flagstad Farm prairie provide an opportunity to walk through a landscape that covered more than one-third of the state from the retreat of the Wisconsin glacier more than 10,000 years ago to the rise of mechanical agriculture in the 1900s.



### The Flagstad Farm Prairie used local ecotype seed collected from nearby. Why Choose Local Ecotypes?

1. To ensure the greatest success in landscaping efforts. In general, the more closely you match the environmental conditions of the source of your plant material to that of the planting site, the better the plants will grow. Studies show that this is because species have become genetically adapted to the local conditions to varying degrees—some species more than others.
2. To help preserve local pollinators, insects, birds, mammals, and other wildlife which have co-evolved with plants local ecotype and depend upon them for food, shelter, etc.
3. To preserve the genetic diversity and integrity of native plants.



### BUCKTHORN CONTROL

The Department of Natural Resources awarded a Wisconsin Forest Landowner grant to the Deer Lake Conservancy for buckthorn control. This grant continues funding for buckthorn removal on Conservancy-owned property through 2021. For the past two years, we have focused on removing buckthorn along the trails on the Johnson Preserve and Lower Rock Creek conservation areas.

### SHARING OUR GOOD NEWS

Jim Miller, Deer Lake Conservancy Vice President and Cheryl Clemens, DLC Consultant, presented the Deer Lake Conservancy Watershed Management Story at the virtual Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference this past June. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Lakes, among other organizations, recognize the success of our efforts by inviting presentations at many statewide and regional conferences. In 2015 the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) recognized our work in watershed phosphorus reduction with a "Lake Management Success Story" award given at a national conference.

### 2020 CONSERVANCY OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Phillip Foussard, President  
 Jim Miller, Vice President  
 Tom Pesek, Secretary/Treasurer  
 Mark Boyken  
 Tom Bradley  
 Rod Johnson  
 Tom McBride  
 John Patterson  
 John Wright

# Deer Lake Conservancy Report



Fall Edition



October 2020

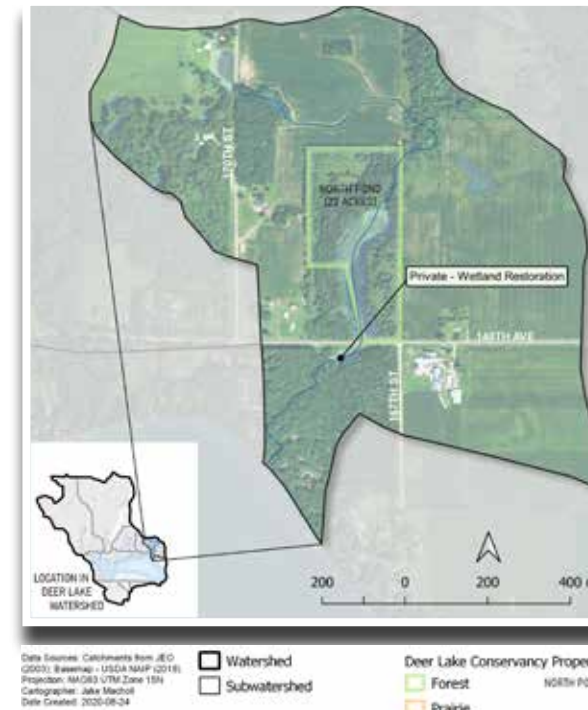
### LAND ACQUISITION

With the help of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grant, the Deer Lake Conservancy purchased 22 acres in Watershed 1 north of 140th Avenue. The parcel contains a 5-acre spring-fed pond which flows into the lake by the old Camp Lawton property. Springs feed the pond all year long making it the second-largest source of off lake spring water (after the DLC-owned Rock Creek property). We are seeking funds to provide the match needed for the DNR grant.

For the fifth year in a row the pond hosted a nesting pair of trumpeter swans. Trumpeter swans are the largest waterfowl in North America and require 100 yards of open water to fly. These swans are sensitive to disturbance and may abandon their nest or young if disturbed. Trumpeter swans mate for life and will return to a nesting site year after year. Trumpeter swans were nearly extinct in the 1930s with less than 70 individuals known to exist at that time. (Cornell University: All About Birds) Please stay away from the swans if you visit the property – especially during nesting season from June to August.

The trail planned for the property will keep well away from the swan's nesting area. Trail development, planned for 2020 into 2021, will be challenging because of varying topography. However, with the pond, wetlands, and small prairie opening it promises to be very scenic. We will also be investigating opportunities to further improve the quality of water running into the lake with the installation of projects to stabilize inflow to the pond and potentially to divert water from the spring pond around a treatment pond south of 140th Avenue.

### Deer Lake Subwatershed W-1



Data Sources: Catchments from JEC  
 QGIS: Basemap - USDA NMAP (2018)  
 Population: NACSO 1/18 Zone 134  
 Cartographer: Jake Machut  
 Date Created: 2020-08-24



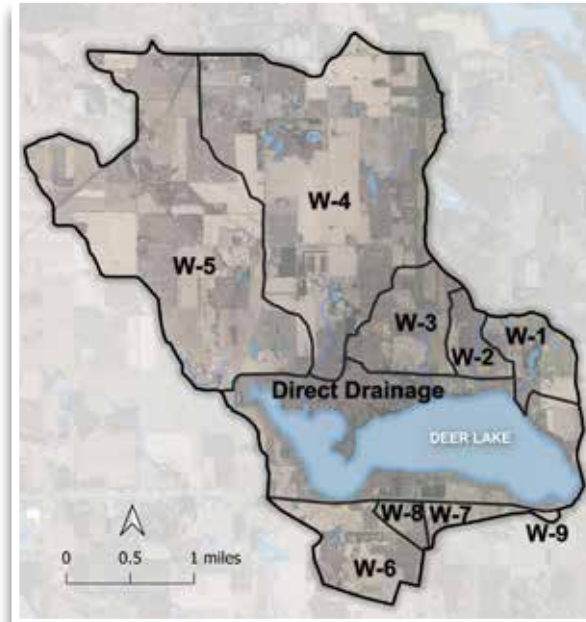
Deer Lake Conservancy  
 P.O. Box 1139  
 St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

## DEER LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources approved the newly updated 10-year Deer Lake Management Plan on September 18, 2020. If you completed the lake resident survey this year, you helped in the development of the plan. The management plan reviews 25 years of Deer Lake Conservancy efforts to reduce watershed phosphorus loading and improve lake water quality. It also looks forward to the next 10 years with the following goals:

- Deer Lake water quality is improved and maintained.
- Fish and wildlife habitats are enhanced in and surrounding Deer Lake.
- Deer Lake residents are actively engaged in preserving and restoring Deer Lake and its watersheds.
- The Deer Lake Conservancy has adequate resources and efficient operations to support its mission and provide community leadership.

The 93-page document is available on our website: [dlcwi.com](http://dlcwi.com).



## FUNDING PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Approval of the Deer Lake Management Plan maintains eligibility for important Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Surface Water Grants which have supported our efforts for decades. In the Direct Drainage Area of the watershed, DNR grants and Deer Lake homeowners have supported installation of water quality projects on 55 waterfront properties over the years! Our consultants have visited and provided technical advice to more than 40 percent of the owners of property on Deer Lake. Thanks to the many property owners who have sought advice and installed projects.

Projects include diversions to direct runoff to areas where water can soak into the ground and infiltration practices such as rain gardens and rock infiltration areas. We also support native plantings near the water for water quality and habitat benefits. In addition, larger neighborhood projects capture runoff and prevent erosion from roads and other off-site sources.

A new grant application is due to the DNR on November 1. With strong landowner interest and project installations, our previous three-year grant submitted in 2019, resulted in the installation of projects on eighteen waterfront properties and was depleted in only two years. To continue this strong trend of landowner participation with grant support, we need a list of landowners who are interested in completing projects. If you are interested in protecting Deer Lake water quality by reducing runoff and erosion from your property, please contact our consultant Cheryl Clemens ([harmonyenv@amerytel.net](mailto:harmonyenv@amerytel.net) or 715-268-9992). She can add you to our list of interested property owners for the next grant cycle.



Newly installed Deer Lake rain garden (below) and native planting (above)



FREE  
WATERFRONT  
SITE VISITS  
AVAILABLE

Contact Cheryl at:  
Harmony Environmental  
[harmonyenv@amerytel.net](mailto:harmonyenv@amerytel.net)  
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