

REPORT TO THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

PROPERTIES PURCHASED WITH FUNDS FROM THE
KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
ON WHICH ONE OR MORE
NATURE-BASED OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IS PROHIBITED

Covering the period: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013



SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
November 15, 2013

PUB-LF-077 2013

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). For more information on the Stewardship Program, please contact the following:

Bureau of Facilities and Lands
Division of Lands
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921

101 S. Webster Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921

Bureau main phone number: 608-266-2135

Program Web page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/about/divisions/land/bureaus.html>

Mapping Web page: http://dnrmaps.wi.gov/sl/?Viewer=Public_Access_Lands



Additional copies of this report may be obtained from the DNR by calling 608-266-2135 or may be obtained from the DNR web site at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/Pubs.html>

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
101 S. Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Scott Walker, Governor
Cathy Stepp, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711



November 15, 2013

The Honorable Alberta Darling, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance

The Honorable John Nygren, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance

The Honorable Neal Kedzie, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment

The Honorable Alvin Ott, Chair
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Pursuant to §23.0916(6), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources submits this *Report to the Wisconsin Legislature: Properties Purchased with Funds from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program on which one or more Nature-Based Outdoor Activities (NBOA) Is Prohibited*. This report covers the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013.

During the two years covered by this report, total acres acquired for public recreation and habitat preservation through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and acres with NBOA prohibitions are as follows:

Property Acquired by Local Governments and Nonprofit Conservation Organizations	Total Projects	Projects with NBOA Prohibitions	Percentage
Number of Projects	110	23.00	20.91
Stewardship Program Costs	\$22,793,119.67*	\$4,240,237.63*	18.60
Total Acres from Projects	13,496.19	183.37	1.36

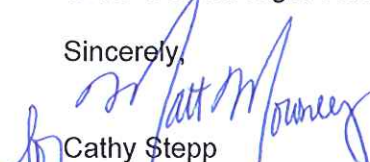
* reflects grant cost-share amount only

Property Acquired by the DNR	Total Projects	Projects with NBOA Prohibitions	Percentage
Number of Projects	287	0.00	0.00
Stewardship Program Costs	\$52,040,179.00	\$0.00	0.00
Total Acres from Projects	31,119.00	0.00	0.00

Where NBOA prohibitions have been approved, public safety is the predominant reason. The Appendix at the end of this report provides additional detail for each NBOA prohibition. Additional details about any project may be obtained from the Department.

I am happy to report that the Stewardship Program has made solid progress in reducing the number of acres with NBOA prohibitions. From a high of 1240.4 acres or 5.43% of the total acreage with NBOA limitations in the first biennium to the current biennium level of 183.37 acres or less than 1% of the total acreage. Additional information is in the attached report.

Sincerely,


Cathy Stepp
Secretary



November 15, 2013

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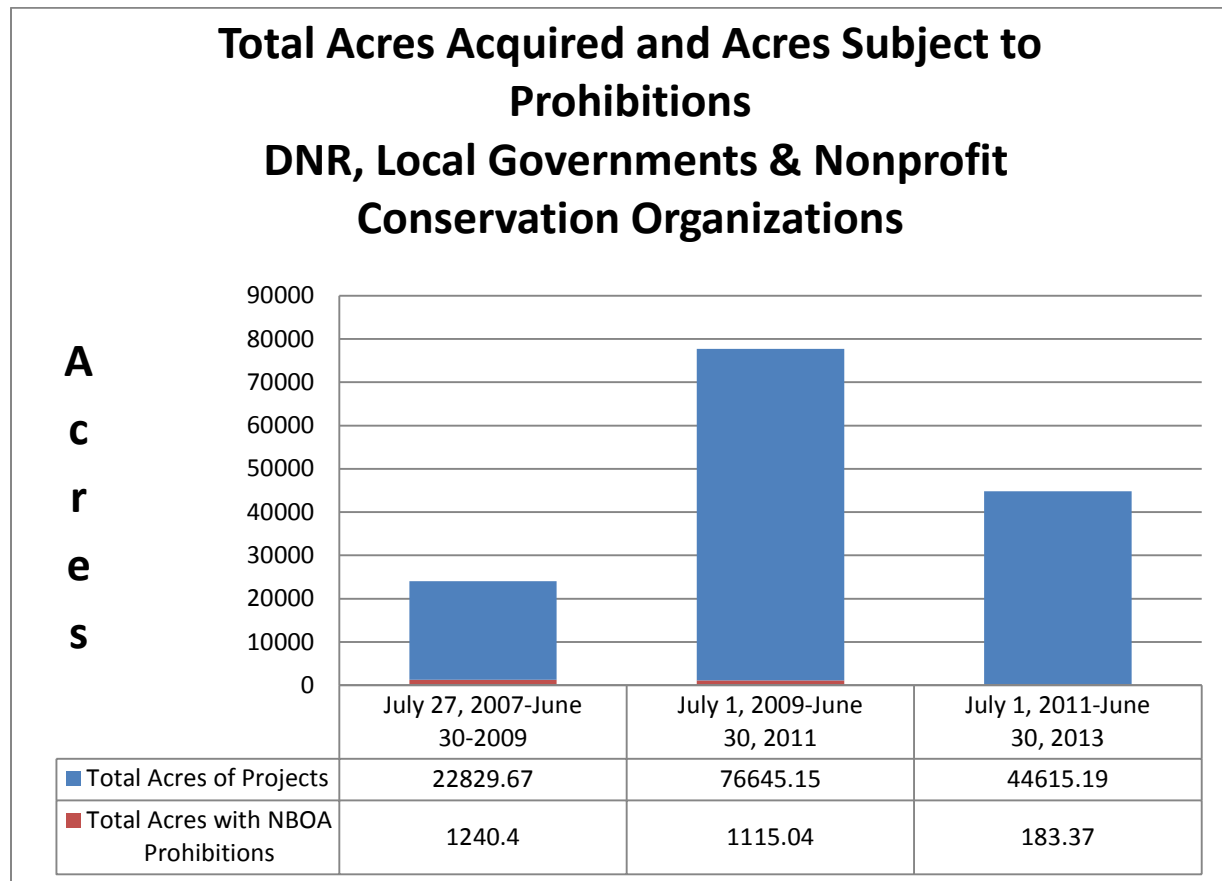
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BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Stewardship Program is named for two of Wisconsin's most revered conservation leaders, Warren Knowles (Governor 1965-1971) and Gaylord Nelson (Governor 1959-1963, U.S. Senator 1964-1981).

After 10 successful years, the Wisconsin Legislature reauthorized the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1999 for an additional 10 years. The 2007-2009 Biennial Budget act ([2007 Wis. Act 20](#); see pp. 280-287 of Act) reauthorized the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for a third decade – until June 30, 2020. The Act also required that lands acquired with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program after be open for nature-based outdoor activities (NBOA) as defined in Section 23.0916(1)(b), Wis. Stats.

Since October 27, 2007, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program has acquired 144,090 acres for public recreational use and only 2,589 acres have a prohibition on a nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) defined as hunting, trapping, hiking, fishing and cross-country skiing. The acreage with NBOA prohibitions has been reduced each biennium to the current level of 183.37 acres. The following diagram is a representation of the program's progress.



FY 2011-13 Biennium

This report satisfies the reporting requirement stated in §23.0916(6), Wis. Stats. By November 15, the department is required to issue a report on all lands purchased during the preceding biennium in whole or in part with funds from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for which public access for any nature-based outdoor activity (NBOA) has been prohibited. Section 23.0916(1)(b), Wis. Stats., defines nature-based outdoor activities as "... hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and any other nature-based activity designated by rule by the department ...". No additional NBOA were added by rule (ch. NR 52). This report must also include reasons for the prohibition.

The Department is required to submit this report to the Joint Committee on Finance, the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage.

During the past biennium, the department and its conservation partners have acquired a total of 44,615 acres for public recreation and habitat preservation through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. During this same timeframe, 183.37 acres acquired (0.41% of total) have prohibitions of one or more NBOA. Where prohibitions have occurred, public safety is the predominant reason. The Appendix at the back of this report provides additional detail for each project with an NBOA prohibition. Further details about any project may be requested from the Department.

FINDINGS

Tables A and B on the following pages summarize land purchases using Stewardship Program funds where one or more NBOA was prohibited during the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013.

Section 23.0916(6), Wis. Stats., allows the Natural Resources Board to approve an NBOA prohibition only for the following reasons (alpha codes appear in Tables A and B):

- A. To protect public safety
- B. To protect unique animal or plant communities
- C. This category -- to accommodate usership patterns -- was removed as a reason for a NBOA prohibition in the 2011-2013 Biennial Budget effective July 1, 2011.)
- D. In addition, an NBOA prohibition is automatically approved as necessary for public safety if all conditions of § NR 52.05(1)(a)5, Wis. Adm. Code, are met. Chapter NR 52, Wis. Adm. Code, became effective on August 1, 2010, and describes the process by which the Natural Resources Board may approve the use of Stewardship funds when one or more NBOA's are prohibited. The conditions under § NR 52.05(1)(a)5 are:
 - Parcel is five acres or less in size
 - Parcel is located within boundary of a city or village
 - Reason for NBOA prohibition is to protect public safety
 - Parcel is not adjacent to a public waterway
 - Parcel is not adjacent to another parcel where an NBOA prohibition already exists
- E. Lastly, Wisconsin Statutes identify other times when an NBOA prohibition is allowed without approval of the Natural Resources Board including: properties acquired by Nonprofit Conservation Organizations or governments other than the municipality who passed the public safety ordinance; state trails, and wildlife refuges.

Table A. Details of DNR Stewardship Land Acquisitions subject to § 23.0916(6), Wis. Stats., and occurring between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2013

County	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Stewardship Amount	Match Amount	Total Project Acres	NBOA Acres	Prohibition NBOA (1-5)	Reason (A-E)
N/A	No projects	DNR	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	none	none

Table B. Details of Stewardship Grant Land Acquisition subject to § 23.0916(6), Wis. Stats., and occurring between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2013 -- Sorted by County and listed in alphabetical order by Project Sponsor Name

County	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Stewardship Grant Amount	Sponsor Match Amount	Total Project Acres	NBOA Acres	Prohibition NBOA (1-5)	Reason (A-E)
Adams	Amery Pond	Natural Heritage Land Trust	\$16,692.50	\$16,692.50	10.23	10.23	1,3	E
Columbia	Kimball 2 Kingsley Bend Mound Group	Natural Heritage Land Trust	\$31,460.00	\$31,460.00	17.00	17.00	1,3	A
Dane	Esther Beach Park	City of Madison	\$411,000.00	\$411,000.00	0.68	0.68	1	A
Dane	Upper Mud Lake	Dane County	\$388,600.00	\$388,600.00	10.00	10.00	1	E
Dane	Wheeler Triangle	Natural Heritage Land Trust	\$220,157.50	\$220,157.50	5.80	5.80	1,3	A
Eau Claire	813 Cameron Street	City of Eau Claire	\$74,500.00	\$74,500.00	0.61	0.61	1,3	A & D
Eau Claire	925 Addison Avenue	City of Eau Claire	\$166,000.00	\$166,000.00	1.20	1.20	1	A
Jefferson	East Madison Street	City of Waterloo	\$13,500.00	\$13,500.00	0.22	0.22	1	A
Kenosha	Salvi, Mancini, Kibort	The Nature Conservancy	\$35,652.50	\$35,652.50	0.83	0.83	1,3	E
Kenosha	Brown	The Nature Conservancy	\$36,292.50	\$36,292.50	0.69	0.69	1,3	E
Milwaukee	Sidney Woods	Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy	\$112,700.00	\$112,700.00	3.76	3.76	1,3	E

Prohibited NBOA: 1-Hunting; 2-Fishing; 3-Trapping; 4-Hiking; 5-Cross-country Skiing

Prohibition Reasons: A –Protect Public Safety; B –Unique Plant and Animal Communities;
C –Usership Patterns; D –Compliance with s. NR 52.05(1)(a)(5), Wis. Adm. Code;
E –Other exceptions allowed by WI Statutes

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County	Project Name	Project Sponsor	Stewardship Grant Amount	Sponsor Match Amount	Total Project Acres	Prohibition		
						NBOA Acres	NBOA (1-5)	Reason (A-E)
Milwaukee	Rotary Arboretum	River Revitalization Foundation	\$1,323,920.00	\$1,323,920.00	1.97	1.97	1,3	A
Milwaukee	St. Nikola Parcel	The Conservation Fund	\$155,516.63	\$155,516.63	17.00	17.00	1,3	E
Ozaukee	Pochert	Riveredge Nature Center	\$162,000.00	\$162,000.00	8.92	8.92	1,3	E
Pierce	Jacques Park Addition	City of Prescott	\$122,338.00	\$122,338.00	0.25	0.25	1,3	A & D
Racine	Keland Woods	Caledonia Conservancy	\$136,370.00	\$136,370.00	15.20	15.20	1,3	E
Racine	Pike River Phases 7, 8, & 9	Village of Mount Pleasant	No prohibition- \$217,350.00 Prohibition - \$87,500.00	\$304,850.00	88.60	26.10	1	A
Sheboygan	Schinker Creek Park	Town of Wilson	\$52,500.00	\$52,500.00	4.90	4.90	1,3	A
St. Croix	Kinni View	Kinnickinnic River Land Trust	\$171,000.00	\$171,000.00	3.55	3.55	1,3	A
Washington	Serigraph	Ozaukee Washington Land Trust	\$222,525.00	\$222,525.00	45.50	45.50	1,3	E
Waukesha	Boxhorn Launch	City of Muskego	\$88,120.00	\$88,120.00	3.66	3.66	1,3	A
Waukesha	Lac La Belle Parcel	City of Oconomowoc	\$151,795.00	\$151,795.00	0.30	0.30	1,3	A
Winnebago	Woodlands Nature Park	City of Menasha	\$60,098.00	\$60,098.00	5.00	5.00	1	A & D
TOTALS:			\$4,457,587.63	\$4,457,587.63	245.87	183.37		

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Prohibition Reasons: A –Protect Public Safety; B –Unique Plant and Animal Communities;
C –Usership Patterns; D –Compliance with s. NR 52.05(1)(a)(5), Wis. Adm. Code;
E –Other exceptions allowed by WI Statutes

Details by Project: Stewardship Projects with NBOA Prohibitions
(listed in alphabetical order, by county)

I. DEPARTMENT LANDS WITH PROHIBITIONS

None.

II. NON-DEPARTMENT LANDS WITH PROHIBITIONS (Grants)

Adams County – Natural Heritage Land Trust

Amery Pond Wildlife Refuge

The Natural Heritage Land Trust was awarded Stewardship funds from the Habitat Area subprogram to acquire 10.23 acres in the Town of New Haven, Adams County. The property was transferred to the department and incorporated into the Amery Pond Wildlife Refuge identified in § NR 15.02(1), Wis. Adm. Code. The property is totally closed to the public from September 1 to December 31 for wildlife and waterfowl production. The property will be open for all outdoor recreational activities from January 1 to August 31. The prohibitions were allowed because this project met the requirements of § 23.0916(4) Wis. Stats.

Columbia County – Natural Heritage Land Trust

Kimball 2 Kingsley Bend Mound Group

The Natural Heritage Land Trust partnered with the Ho-Chunk Nation to acquire 17.0 acres in the Kingsley Bend Mound Group, with Stewardship funds from the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks subprogram. This acquisition will protect a tribal cultural site at the Kingsley Bend Mound Group. The property will be transferred to the Ho-Chunk Nation for restoration and management. Gun hunting and trapping are prohibited by local ordinance. The Natural Resources Board approved the prohibitions at their meeting on March 28, 2012.

Dane County – City of Madison

Esther Beach Park

The City of Madison was awarded Stewardship funds from the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks subprogram to acquire 0.68 acres to expand Esther Beach Park. This parcel provides public access to Lake Monona and future development plans include a picnic shelter, parking lot and landscaping. Hunting is prohibited by local ordinance. The Natural Resources Board approved this prohibition at their meeting on March 28, 2012.

Dane County – Dane County

Upper Mud Lake

Dane County was awarded Stewardship funds from the Urban Greenspace subprogram to acquire 10.0 acres in the Village of McFarland for outdoor recreation. The property will provide access to Upper Mud Lake. Dane County is not prohibiting any NBOA on this property. However, hunting is prohibited by a Village of McFarland ordinance.

Dane County – Natural Heritage Land Trust

Wheeler Triangle

The Natural Heritage Land Trust was awarded Stewardship funds from the Habitat Area subprogram to acquire 5.8 acres adjacent to Cherokee Marsh in the City of Madison, Dane County. The property will become part of the Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park and will include trails and wildlife viewing areas. Ownership of the property will be transferred to the City of Madison. Hunting and trapping are prohibited by local ordinance. The Natural Resources Board approved the prohibitions at their meeting on March 28, 2012.

Eau Claire County – City of Eau Claire**813 Cameron Street**

The City of Eau Claire was awarded Stewardship funds from the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks subprogram to acquire 0.61 acres to extend their urban trail system around Half Moon Lake. Hunting and trapping are prohibited by local ordinance. The prohibitions were approved because this project met all conditions of § NR 52.05(1)(a)5., Wis. Adm. Code.

Eau Claire County – City of Eau Claire**925 Addison Avenue**

The City of Eau Claire was awarded Stewardship funds from the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks subprogram to acquire 1.20 acres to expand Mount Simon Park for passive recreational activities. The acquisition will include 215 feet of frontage on the Chippewa River. Hunting is prohibited by local ordinance. The Natural Resources Board approved this prohibition at their meeting on February 2, 2013.

Jefferson County – City of Waterloo**East Madison Street**

The City of Waterloo was awarded Stewardship funds from the Urban Greenspace subprogram to acquire 0.22 acre along the Mauneshia River. Future development includes a trailhead with parking lot and a riverfront trail connecting Yourke Park and Firemen's Park. Hunting is prohibited by local ordinance. The Natural Resources Board approved this prohibition at their meeting on March 27, 2013.

Kenosha County – The Nature Conservancy**Salvi, Macini, Kibort**

The Nature Conservancy was awarded Stewardship funds from the Natural Areas subprogram to acquire 0.83 acres in the Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area in the Town of Pleasant Prairie, Kenosha County for natural area preservation and outdoor recreation. The Nature Conservancy is not prohibiting any NBOA on this property. However, hunting and trapping are prohibited by a local ordinance.

Kenosha County – The Nature Conservancy**Brown**

The Nature Conservancy was awarded Stewardship funds from the Natural Areas subprogram to acquire 0.69 acres in the Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area in the Village of Pleasant Prairie, for natural area preservation and outdoor recreation. The Nature Conservancy is not prohibiting any NBOA on this property. However, hunting and trapping are prohibited by a local ordinance.

Milwaukee County – Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy**Sidney Woods**

The Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy was awarded Stewardship funds from the Urban Greenspace subprogram to acquire 3.76 acres in the City of Glendale, Milwaukee County, for green space preservation and outdoor recreation. The Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy is not prohibiting any NBOA on this property. However, hunting and trapping are prohibited by a local ordinance.

Milwaukee County – River Revitalization Foundation

Rotary Arboretum

The River Revitalization Foundation was awarded Stewardship funds from the Urban Greenspace and Urban Rivers subprograms to acquire 1.97 acres along the Milwaukee River in the City of Milwaukee for outdoor recreation and environmental education. In addition, a 4.5 acre adjacent parcel was incorporated into the Stewardship program as match to the subject parcel. Ownership of the property will be transferred to Milwaukee County. Hunting and trapping are prohibited by local ordinance. The Natural Resources Board approved the prohibitions at their meeting on February 27, 2013.

Milwaukee County – The Conservation Fund

St. Nikola

The Conservation Fund was awarded Stewardship funds from the Habitat Area subprogram to acquire 17.0 acres in the Victory Creek corridor along the East Branch of the Root River, in the Village of Franklin. The property will be managed for wildlife habitat preservation and outdoor recreation. The Conservation Fund is not prohibiting any NBOA on this property. However, hunting and trapping are prohibited by a local ordinance.

Ozaukee County – Riveredge Nature Center

Pochert

The Riveredge Nature Center was awarded Stewardship funds from the Habitat Area subprogram to acquire 8.92 acres in Riveredge Wildlife Sanctuary in the Town of Saukville, Ozaukee County for natural area preservation and outdoor recreation. The property was incorporated in the Riveredge Wildlife Sanctuary identified in § NR 15.01(13), Wis. Adm. Code. Hunting and trapping are prohibited. The prohibitions were allowed because this project met the requirements of § 23.0916(4) Wis. Stats.

Pierce County – City of Prescott

Jacques Park

The City of Prescott was awarded Stewardship funds from the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks subprogram to acquire 0.248 acres adjacent to Jacques Park. Future development includes pavilion, restrooms, and parking area. Hunting and trapping are prohibited by local ordinance. The prohibitions were approved because this project met all conditions of § NR 52.05(1)(a)5., Wis. Adm. Code.

Racine County – Caledonia Conservancy

Keland Woods

The Caledonia Conservancy was awarded Stewardship funds from the Urban Greenspace subprogram to acquire 15.2 acres in the Village of Caledonia, Racine County for equestrian and pedestrian trail use and other outdoor recreation activities. In addition, a 32.5 acre adjacent parcel was incorporated into the Stewardship program as match to the subject parcel. The Caledonia Conservancy is not prohibiting any NBOA on this property. However, hunting and trapping are prohibited by a local ordinance.

Racine County – Village of Mount Pleasant

Pike River - Phases 7, 8, & 9

The Village of Mount Pleasant was awarded Stewardship funds from the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks subprogram to acquire 88.6 acres along the Pike River corridor for trail and outdoor recreational activities. Hunting on the 26.1 acres north of Braun Road is prohibited by local ordinance. The Natural Resources Board approved this prohibition at their meeting on April 25, 2012.

Sheboygan County – Town of Wilson

Schinker Creek Park

The Town of Wilson, Sheboygan County was awarded Stewardship funds from the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks subprogram to acquire 4.9 acres to develop a new passive recreation park. Future development plans include a shelter, trailhead, restrooms, a picnic area, a prairie restoration, and trails. Hunting and trapping are prohibited by local ordinance. The Natural Resources Board approved the prohibitions at their meeting on March 27, 2013.

St. Croix County – Kinnickinnic River Land Trust

Kinni View

The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust was awarded Stewardship funds from the Streambank Protection subprogram to acquire 2.41 acres along the Kinnickinnic River to protect the Kinnickinnic River shoreline. Ownership of the property will be transferred to the City of River Falls. Hunting and trapping are prohibited by local ordinance. The Natural Resources Board approved the prohibitions at their meeting on April 24, 2013.

Washington County – Ozaukee Washington Land Trust

Serigraph

The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust was awarded Stewardship funds from the Streambank Protection subprogram to acquire 45.5 acres in the City of West Bend, Washington County, for streambank protection along the Milwaukee River. In addition, a 34.0 acre adjacent parcel was incorporated into the Stewardship program as match to the subject parcel. The properties will be kept in a natural state. The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust is not prohibiting any NBOA on this property. However, hunting and trapping are prohibited by a local ordinance

Waukesha County – City of Muskego

Boxhorn Launch

The City of Muskego was awarded Stewardship funds from the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks subprogram to acquire 3.66 acres on Big Muskego Lake in the City of Muskego for a public boat launch facility. Hunting and trapping are prohibited by local ordinance. The Natural Resources Board approved the prohibitions at their meeting on February 27, 2013.

Waukesha County – City of Oconomowoc

Lac La Belle

The City of Oconomowoc was awarded Stewardship funds from the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks subprogram to acquire 0.3 acres adjacent to Lac La Belle. Future development plans include a boat launch, picnic area, shore fishing, and restroom facilities. Hunting and trapping are prohibited by local ordinance. The Natural Resources Board approved the prohibitions at their meeting on March 28, 2012.

Winnebago County – City of Menasha

Woodlands Nature Park

The City of Menasha was awarded Stewardship funds from the Urban Greenspace subprogram to acquire 5.0 acres to create Woodlands Nature Park for passive outdoor recreation. Future development includes trails and a parking area. Hunting is prohibited by local ordinance. The prohibition was approved because this project met all conditions of § NR 52.05(1)(a)5., Wis. Adm. Code.

KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Preserving valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat,
Protecting water quality and fisheries, and
Expanding outdoor recreation opportunities

