



FOX RIVER
GREEN BAY
Natural Resource
Trustee Council

Project 177: Upper Fox River Habitat Preservation (Uihlein Waterfowl Production Area Acquisition) – Phase 2

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Restoration Category: Wetlands and Associated Uplands Habitat Preservation

Actions: 70 acres of land purchased as part of the Uihlein Waterfowl Production Area

Benefits: Waterfowl and associated species habitats and hydrologic restoration

Funding: \$100,000 in natural resource damage assessment settlement funding plus matching funds and/or in-kind services for a total budget of \$176,600

Timing: Land acquisition completed in 2013

Land Ownership: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (managed by the Leopold Wetland Management District)

MAIN BODY

Goal: To preserve and protect waterfowl and associated species, as well as protecting the habitat and hydrologic connections within the Uihlein Waterfowl Production Area (WPA).

Project Description:

The WPA provides important habitat for waterfowl breeding, nesting, and migration stopover, and for wetland and grassland birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. This project involved the acquisition of 70 acres of land that would increase habitat for wildlife in this area. Future restoration on these parcels provides the opportunity to increase acres of wet meadow and woods and to improve hydrologic connections the existing WPA.

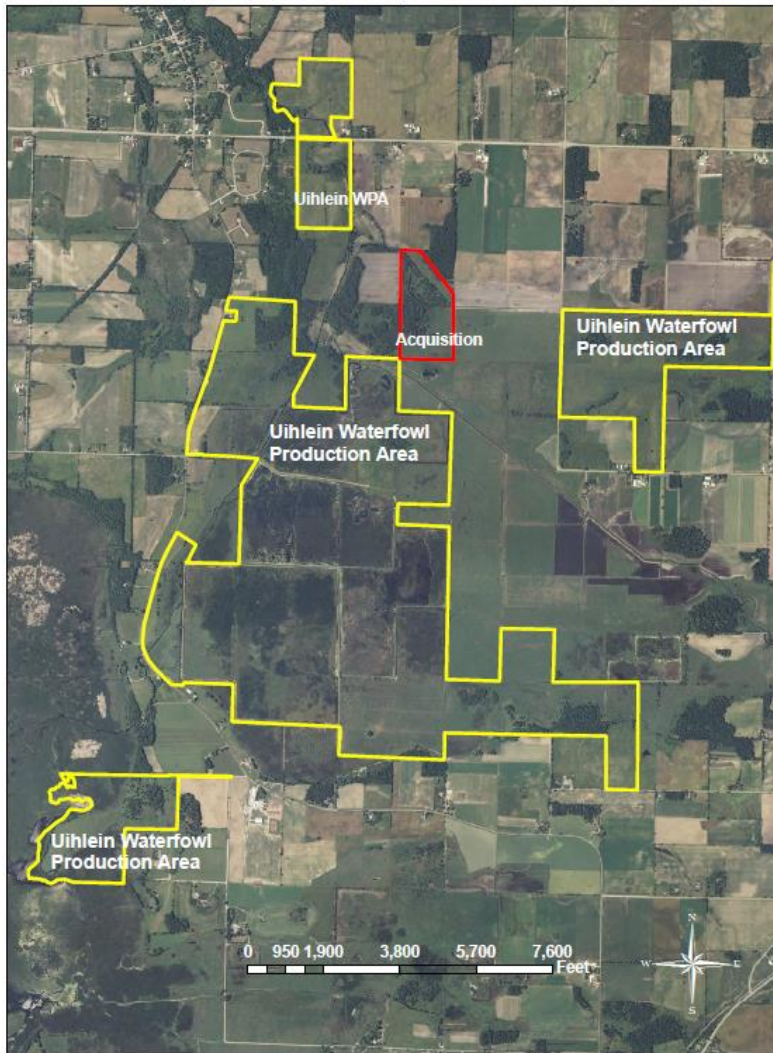
Benefits:

Waterfowl and other birds are the primary beneficiaries of this preservation project. Some of the birds that will benefit from this project include: Forster's tern (*Sterna forsteri*), black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), and common tern (*Sterna hirundo*); many species of waterfowl including mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), blue-winged teal (*Anas discors*), and wood duck (*Aix sponsa*); great egret (*Ardea alba*), great blue heron (*Ardea Herodias*) and black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*); red-necked grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) and pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*); Virginia rail (*Rallus limicola*) and sora rail (*Porzana carolina*); American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*); bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*); several species of shorebirds; and many grassland birds including dickcissel

(*Spiza americana*), bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), eastern meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), sedge wren (*Cistothorus platensis*), Henslow's sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*), and northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). In addition, the acquisition protects substantial populations of the federally threatened, state endangered Eastern prairie-fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*). The public also gains opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation activities.

Spatial Extent of the Project:

The protected parcel was 70 acres and is adjacent to the existing 2,000 acres of the Uihlein Waterfowl Protection Area (WPA). Natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) settlement funds were credited with the acquisition of 39.6 acres (56.6% of the total); other funds were credited with the acquisition of 30.4 acres.



Lower Fox River and Green Bay System Natural Resources Acquisition Project Boundary

Status and Funding:

NRDA settlement funding was awarded in 2013 and the land acquisition was completed within the year. The project received \$100,000 in NRDA settlement funding and attracted matching funds and/or in-kind services for a total budget of \$176,000.

Project Accomplishments:

This project increased the size and connectivity of an existing waterfowl production area, benefiting the birds and other species that use this area as migratory and breeding habitat.

Contact Information:

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<http://midwest.fws.gov/leopold>