



The Fox River Trustees support the long term recovery, protection, and enhancement of the Lower Fox River and Green Bay ecosystem. This e-newsletter highlights several recent projects and provides partner updates. Visit foxrivernrda.org for more information.

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Expanding the Point Au Sable Nature Preserve

This 74 acre land acquisition preserves an important intact floodplain wetland and Wequiock Creek, a naturally meandering stream that enters Green Bay at the Point Au Sable Nature Preserve. Now 1 mile of the 1.9 mile corridor of Wequiock Creek will be protected. Additionally, agricultural fields on the parcel will eventually be restored to native oak savanna. "The property provides critical coastal and riparian wetland ecological benefits," said Julie Hawkins Tyrriver, [Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust](#). "Not only is the area extremely important for providing public access and recreation, it has high cultural significance for several Tribes." Funding sources include NRDA, US-Fish and Wildlife Service, WI-DNR, and other private funders. The land will expand the [Point au Sable Nature Preserve](#) by 40%, enhancing educational and research opportunities for local schools.



Fishing in the Pool Lakes - Going from Good to Great

Shoreline development and urbanization on Little Lake Butte des Morts (LLBDM) have led to the removal of shoreline trees and vegetation, resulting in less woody habitat available for fish and wildlife populations. WI DNR worked with various groups to carry out a [fish sticks project on LLBDM](#) on the lower Fox River. Ten fish stick complexes located within [Herb and Dolly Smith Park](#) and [Arrowhead Park](#) and another 15 fish sticks complexes on WI DNR property in Asylum Bay were constructed. The [Asylum Bay area](#) is known for good panfish angling and is popular throughout the open water season, providing good fishing action for families from shore. Therefore, the Fox River Trustees also supported the installation of two new ADA accessible fishing piers at this location.



Fish Passage Improves in Oconto County

Oconto county [land conservation](#) and [highway departments](#) are teaming up to improve fish passage in local waterways. Impediments such as rock dams, poorly placed culverts, and farm crossings that restrict water flow are being removed or corrected. In some cases, wetlands have also been restored and reconnected to streams for fish spawning. [The Nature Conservancy's fish passage tool](#) helps county conservation department staff identify and prioritize project sites. Once designs by conservation technicians are complete, the highway department provides the staff and equipment to implement the project. "These projects are a win-win for Oconto County," states Ken Dolata, county conservationist. Sites are monitored for both adult and young of year northern pike reproduction. Northern pike along with many other fish, amphibians, and other wildlife benefit from the improvements. Funds from the Nature Conservancy and the US FWS Coastal Program also supported these projects.



Area of Concern Project Connections

The WI DNR is leading the effort to restore habitat and support fish and wildlife populations within the [Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern \(AOC\)](#). Designated in the 1980's due to environmental degradation, the AOC includes the last 7 miles of the Lower Fox River and 21 square miles of the Lower Bay. With the assistance of local partners, WI DNR is compiling a management action list of restoration projects that will be completed by spring 2020. WI DNR and the Fox River Trustees are exploring exciting opportunities to advance the management action list that will address both AOC and NRDA interests. "With so many shared goals and an overlapping geographic footprint, it makes sense for us to work together," states Brie Kupsky, WI DNR Green Bay AOC Coordinator. In combination with the PCB remediation project, these combined efforts are significantly contributing to the recovery of the ecosystem.

Does your organization have a project idea?

The Trustees support projects that restore, acquire, or enhance natural resources and their supporting habitats injured by the release of PCBs in the Lower Fox River & Green Bay ecosystem through settlement funds provided by Responsible Parties. If your organization has a project concept that matches with Fox River Trustee goals, please contact us. View the [Restoration Plan](#) and [instructions to submit](#) a project at foxrivernrda.org

Visit Our Website: FoxRiverNRDA.org

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