



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 [foxriversnrda.org](http://foxriversnrda.org) for more information.

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### Preserving the Pristine on Detroit Island

Approximately 150 acres of coastal land was recently preserved through a partnership with the Herschberger family and with support from [Door County Land Trust](#). This tract of land on [Detroit Island](#) has been added to the [Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge](#), increasing the total protected land within the refuge to approximately 1,750 acres of coastal island habitat for migratory birds and fish spawning grounds. It will retain its primitive, natural landscape, while providing a nearly pristine place for hiking and nature photography. “When you go to a place like that as a child, it gets in your soul,” Lisa Herschberger said. “You just fall in love with it and you don’t ever want that place to change.” Lisa hopes her experience on this partnership shows other landowners they can get involved with local conservation efforts. Matching funds for the project were supplied by the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#).



### Lake Sturgeon Efforts in the Thousands

Recent years have seen an increase in sturgeon recovery efforts within the Fox River watershed thanks to an expanding partnership with [Marinette County](#) and the [Wisconsin DNR](#). Three restoration-focused projects yielded over 1,000 feet of completed streambank restoration and fish spawning habitat enhancements on the Peshtigo River. Additionally, the [Michigan DNR](#) release approximately 1,000 young sturgeon into tributaries annually to enhance current populations. The released fish will mature over the next 15-20 years, and monitoring efforts will continue to establish population estimates from annual spawning activity. Spawning activity has already been observed at one restored site. These restoration projects will also benefit other species such as walleye, northern pike, wood turtles and Blanding’s turtles.



### Fox River – A Greater Place to Recreate

The City of De Pere partnered with the Trustees to enhance the public’s ability to access fishing resources along the Fox River. Improvements were made at two high priority access points: the [Fox Point Boat Launch](#) and the [Bomier Boat Launch](#), both completed by the end of 2019. The Fox Point Boat Launch had been ‘loved to death’ and was in need of repairs; all dock boards were upgraded to recycled-plastic boarding and floats were replaced. The Bomier Launch was reconfigured to accommodate a larger and wider segment of the community, through a parking lot expansion, addition of a new launching lane, and the installation of a handicap accessible canoe/kayak launch. Improving access to the river in more functional and enjoyable ways will foster a greater appreciation for this natural resource.



### Ducks Thriving in the Pool Lakes

An ongoing partnership between the Fox River Trustees and [Ducks Unlimited](#) saw the addition of two recent land acquisition projects for habitat restoration and preservation purposes. These parcels of land total 213 acres of priority wetland and upland habitat added for conservation in the Rush Lake area west of Oshkosh. With these latest acquisitions, the overall effort is totalling nearly 381 acres of protected habitat for waterfowl, fish and other species sensitive to habitat degradation. The majority of the parcels will be managed as part of the [Uihlein Waterfowl Production Area](#) where future restoration efforts and ongoing management will ensure optimal habitat for at risk species. Species expected to benefit from the acquisitions include the Eastern prairie fringed orchid, a federally endangered species, and numerous migratory bird and fish species, reptiles, amphibians and mammals.

**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 [foxriversnrda.org](http://foxriversnrda.org)

Visit Our Website: [FoxRiverNRDA.org](http://FoxRiverNRDA.org)

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