

Wildlife Habitat and Biodiversity Preservation

Scoured and sculpted by glaciers in ancient times, Wisconsin is the meeting place for the great forests of the north and east and the prairies and savannas of the west and south. We also enjoy an abundance of water—the Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi River on three sides and thousands of lakes, rivers and smaller streams in between.

Wisconsin's lands and waters provide critical habitat for a rich diversity of plant and animal life from tiny ferns and wildflowers to migratory songbirds and wide-ranging mammals.

Our lands and waters also provide important services to people including clean water, fertile soils, food, fuel, storm protection and flood control.

Since human settlement, we have lost most of our prairies and half of our wetlands. With increased pressure from population growth and development, we risk losing more pieces of our rich natural heritage.

The Stewardship Fund has played an important role in conserving some of Wisconsin's most outstanding and ecologically significant lands and waters for people and for nature:

- 51,700 acres of high quality natural areas have been protected through fee acquisition or conservation easements;
- The Stewardship Fund has protected some of our state's most outstanding natural lands and waters, including Lulu Lake in southeast Wisconsin, Rush Creek along the Mississippi River, as well as Spread Eagle Barrens, Peshtigo Flowage and the Lower Chippewa River in northern Wisconsin;
- Acquisitions have benefited rare species such as the Karner blue butterfly and the dwarf lake iris.



Great blue heron, © Gerald H. Emmerich, Jr.



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