

Deer Lake Conservancy, Inc.



A Case Study of Watershed Protection





Deer Lake Conservancy

Dedicated to the preservation of Deer Lake

The purpose of the organization is the preservation of Deer Lake and the surrounding land that contributes to the natural, scenic, recreational and productive value of the lake.



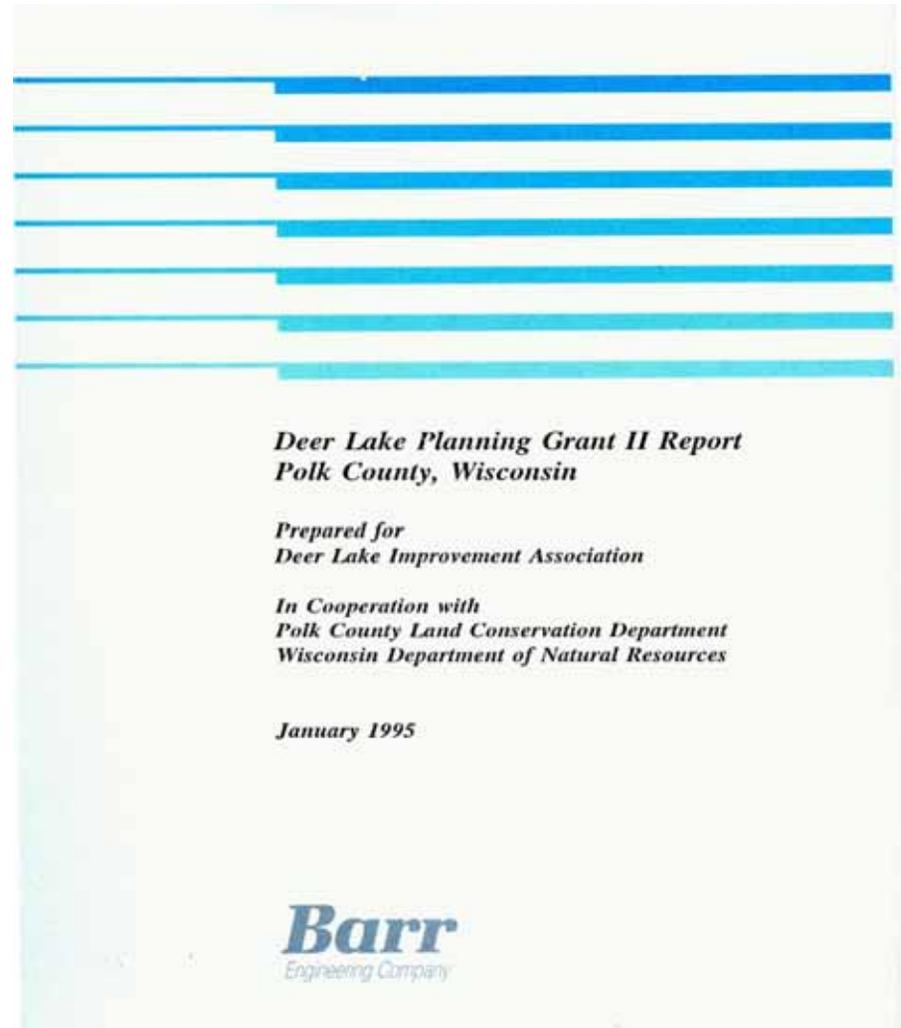
The Beginning

- ☞ 501(C)(3)
- ☞ Guided by plan recommendations
- ☞ Took advantage of Balsam Branch Priority Watershed Project
- ☞ Sought assistance of Polk County LCD and DNR

Planning Grant Study

Recommendations

- ∞ Increase stormwater retention
- ∞ Slow stormwater flow
- ∞ Stabilize streambanks
- ∞ Educate residents





Keys to Success

- 🌀 Organizational Structure
- 🌀 Developing Partnerships
- 🌀 Developing a Management Plan
- 🌀 Fundraising
- 🌀 Land Management
- 🌀 Project Management

Fundraising

- ☞ Show initial, visible success
- ☞ Pose solutions to manageable problems
- ☞ Newsletter important fundraising tool
- ☞ Member categories

The Deer Lake Conservancy Report



First Major Project Completed

In conjunction with the Polk County Land Conservation Department, the Deer Lake Conservancy and the Balsam Branch Priority Watershed staff, the first major watershed improvement project for Deer Lake was completed in the fall of 1997.

The Conservancy worked with Randy Christerson, the landowner, to develop the proposal for a Prairie Restoration Sediment Basin and a water retention structure for watershed #2.

Jim Miller, president of the Deer Lake Conservancy said, "Based on previous engineering studies, this watershed improvement project should effectively reduce the manageable phosphorous loading from surface runoff to Deer Lake by 22%."

The entire project encompasses 17 acres of former farm land of which 15 acres will contain native prairie grasses and flowers. When the prairie grass restoration portion of the project is completed in June 1998, the DNR, Polk County Land Conservation Department and the Deer Lake Conservancy will have contributed over \$25,000 to the restoration of this watershed.

1998 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the the Deer Lake Conservancy will be held on Saturday, July 18th at the Dalles House restaurant. The general meeting is open to interested parties and the public and will begin at 9:00 a.m. The official meeting of conservancy members will immediately follow.



Standing on top of the new water retention structure in watershed #2 are from left to right; John Bonneprise and Violet Wright of the Land Conservation Committee of the Polk County Board of Supervisors; Tim Ritzen, Engineer; Cheryl Bursick, Water Resources Supervisor; and Jeff Timmons, Director, Polk County Land Conservation Office.

Hugo Victor Memorial Fund Established

"Suki" Victor, long time resident of Deer Lake and founder and former president of the Deer Lake Conservancy passed away in August, 1997. He also served numerous terms and in various capacities on the Deer Lake Improvement board of directors. At the request of his family a memorial fund was established in his honor.

"Suki was the driving force behind the creation of the conservancy. Clearly his vision and energy were responsible for getting us to where we are today. He very much wanted to ensure the quality of life on Deer Lake for future generations", commented Jim Miller, current president of the conservancy.

To date \$1,827 has been contributed to the fund. Dedicated contributions can be sent to the Deer Lake Conservancy, P. O. Box 1139, St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin 54024.

Deer Lake Watersheds

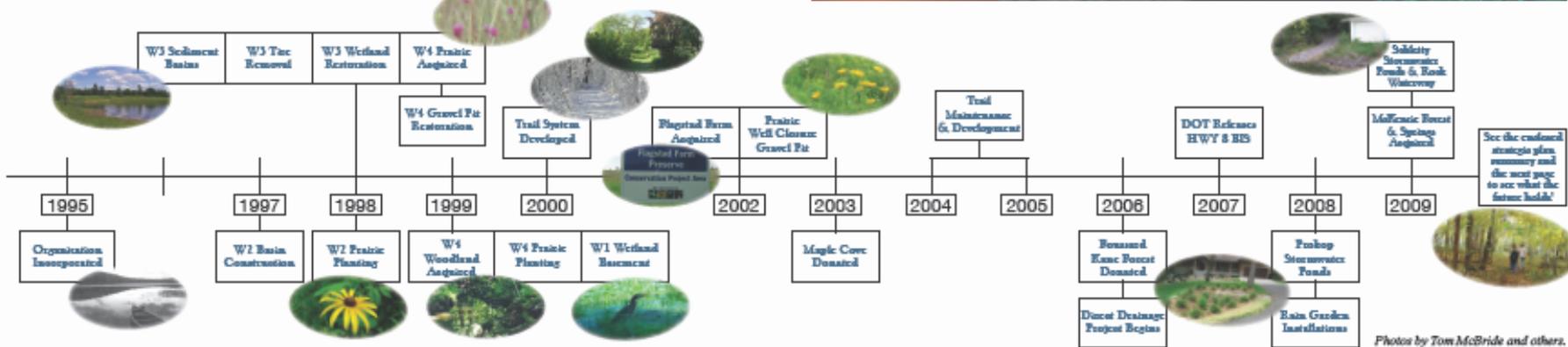


Deer Lake Conservancy, Inc.

WHERE WE'VE BEEN:

Deer Lake Conservancy Project Timeline

The *Deer Lake Conservancy Conservation Project Tour Guide* outlines the projects completed through 2006. The guide provides information about trail systems that are available to tour the projects and enjoy the natural beauty surrounding Deer Lake. Tour guides are available from Jim Miller (715.483.3338)

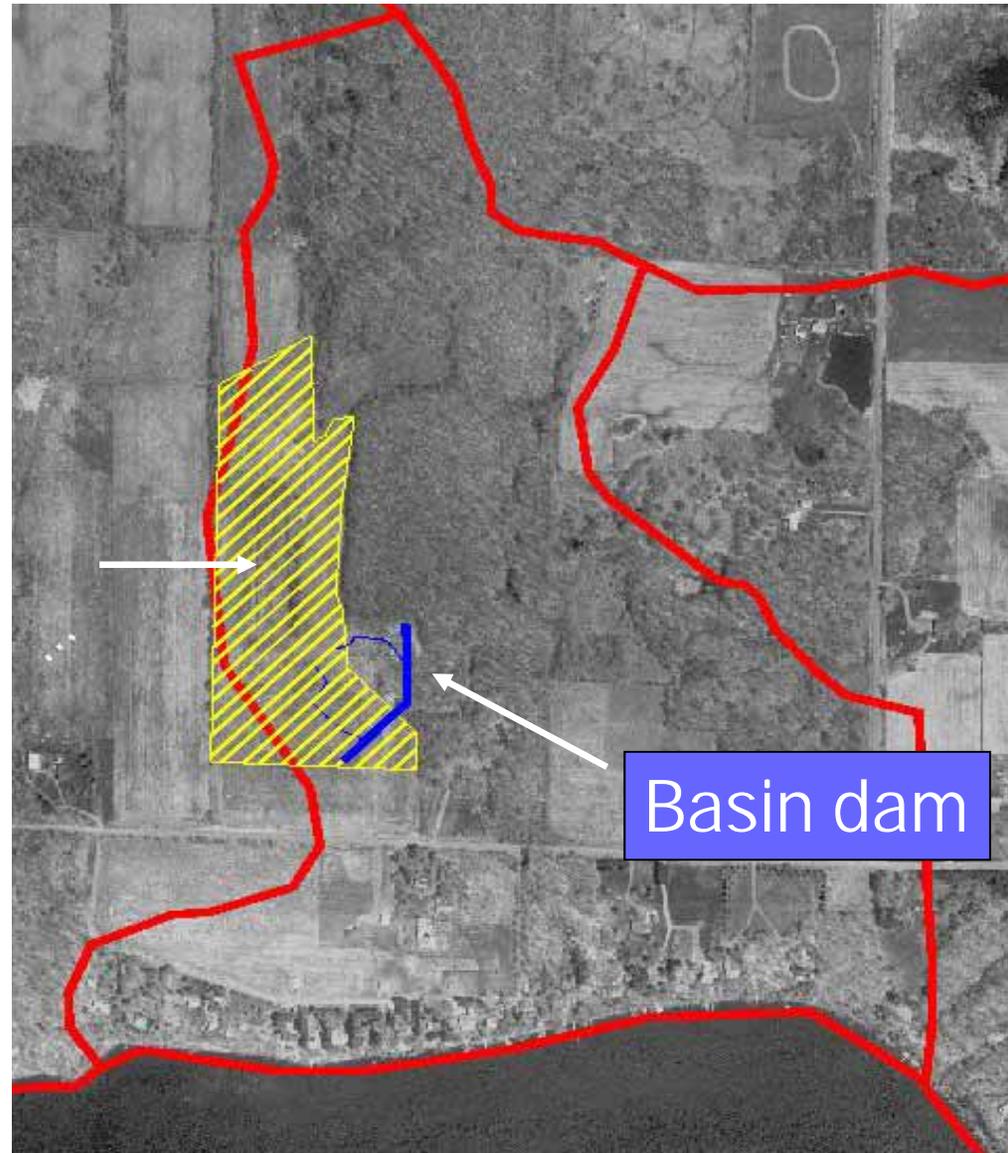


Photos by Tom McBride and others.

Progress Report 1995-2012

Watershed 2 Practices

Prairie restoration



Basin dam

Watershed 2

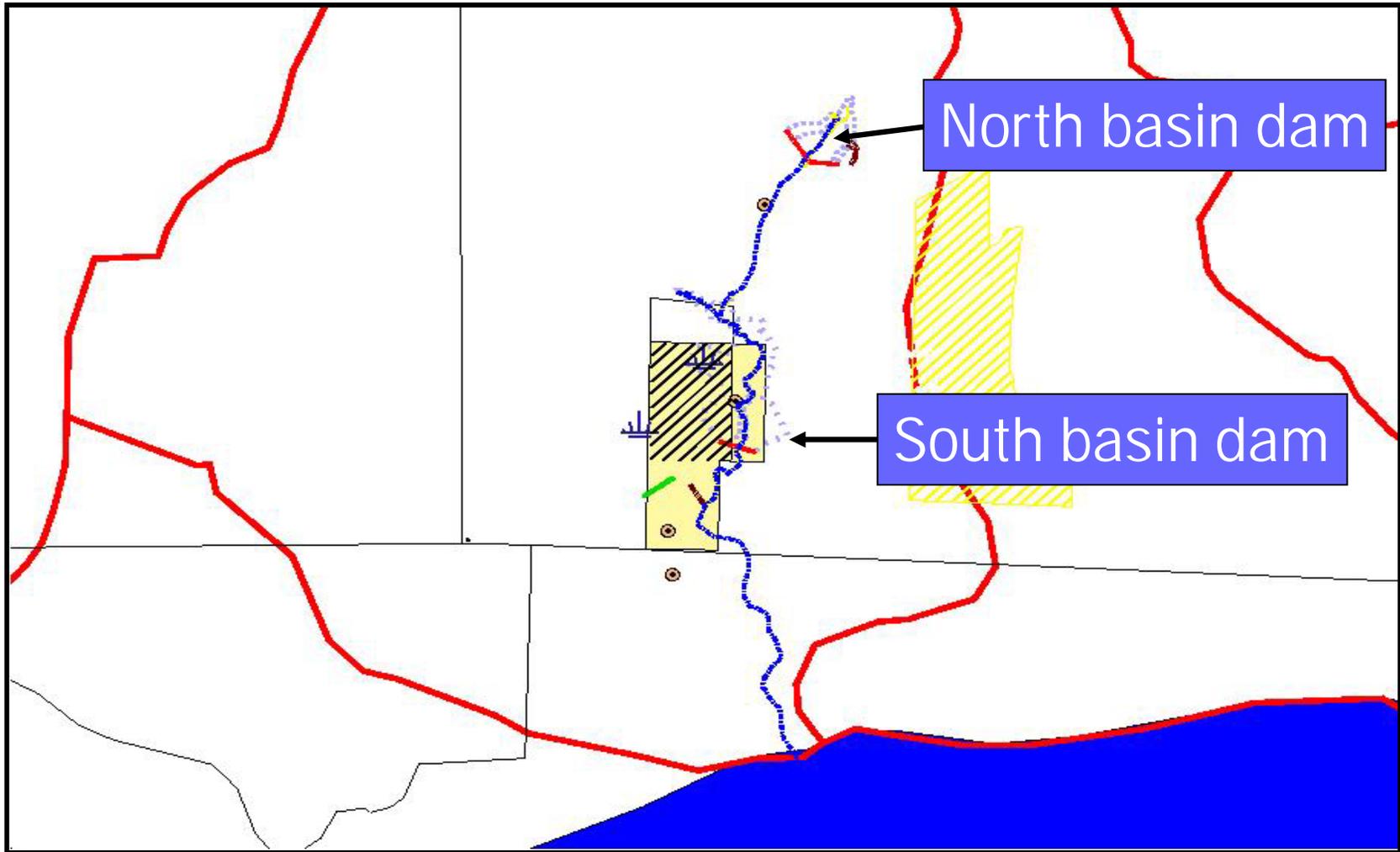


Sediment Basin

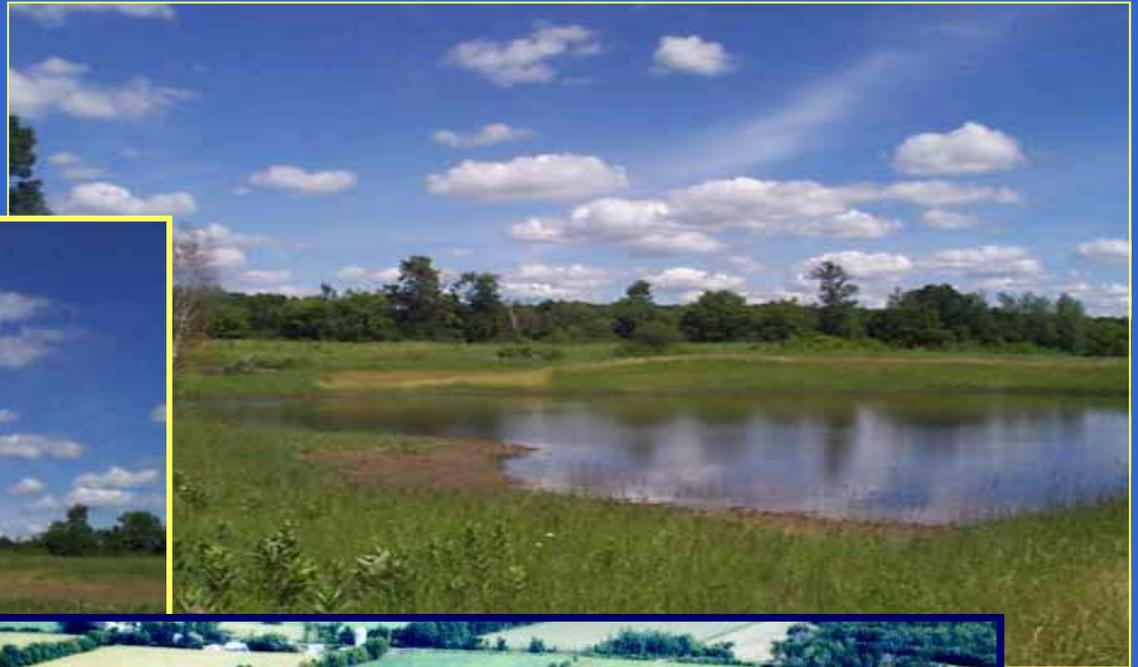


Prairie

Watershed 3 Practices



W3 North Basin

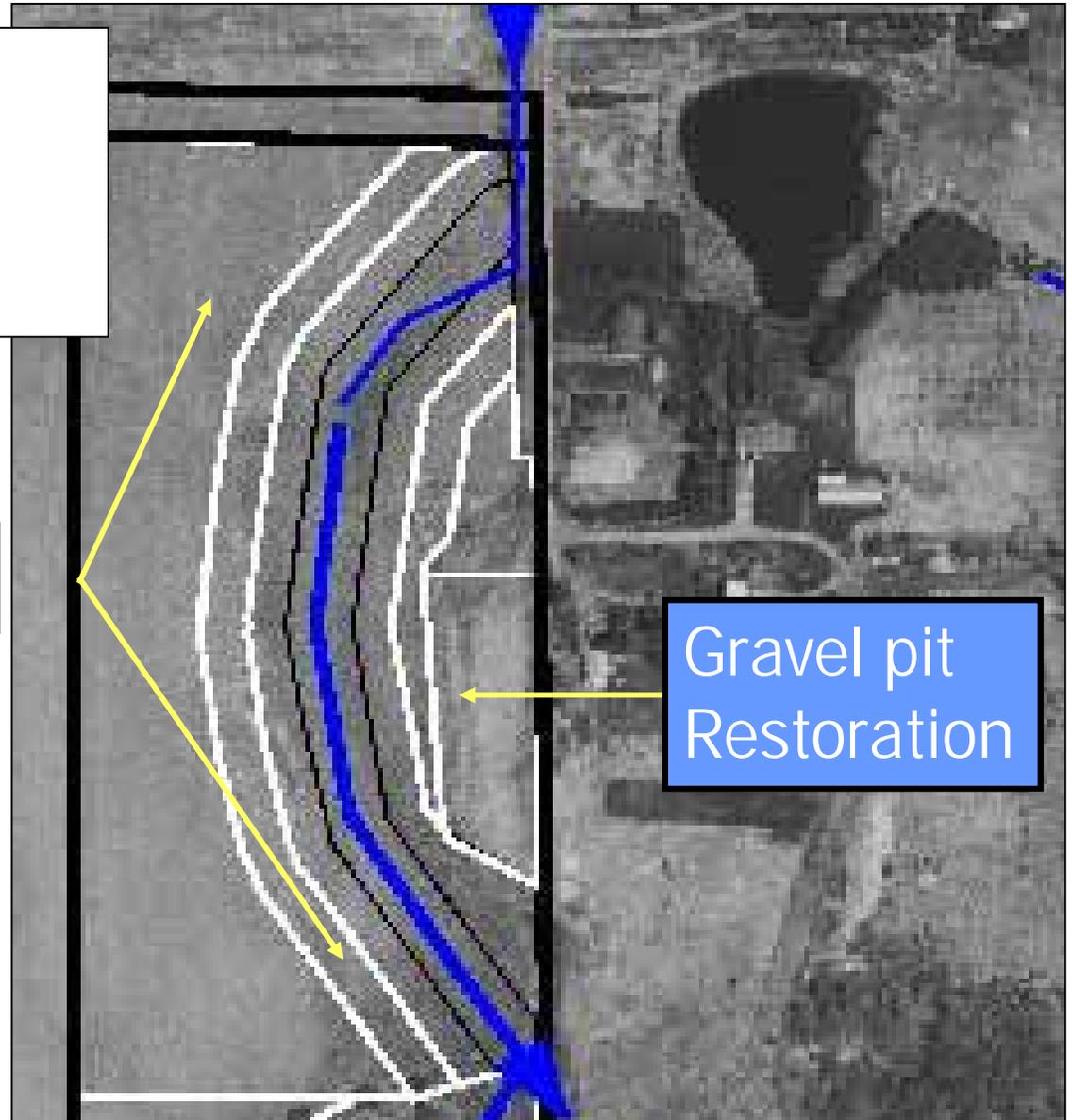




Watershed 4 Practices

Prairie Planting

Gravel pit
Restoration



Rock Creek Prairie





McKenzie Parcels





Flagstad Farm Preserve

Conservation Project Area

Deer Lake Conservancy



Flagstad Farm



Gravel Pit Restoration



Wetland Restoration



Prairie Restoration



Before Planting



Prairie Burn



**Cup Plant
Spiderwort**

Wild Bergamot



Pond via Trail



Showy Tick Trefoil



Scenes from the Prairie

Black-eyed Susan



**Purple Prairie Clover
with Little Bluestem**



**Smooth
Penstemon**



This rare local ecotype prairie restoration features more than 100 species of native prairie flowers and grasses. A local ecotype prairie restoration uses seed sources collected from nearby. The prairie replaces row-cropped farm fields that tend to have high erosion rates. Periodic, prescribed burns maintain the prairie.

Along with several restored wetlands, which had been drained for agricultural use, this prairie serves to slow water flow and infiltrate water thereby reducing phosphorus loading from this watershed by more than ninety percent. Two abandoned gravel pits on the property have also been reclaimed.

Please enjoy this opportunity to see a landscape that once covered more than one third of the state of Wisconsin and is now greatly diminished. Native prairies were common from the end of the last glacial period until the early 20th century.

The Flagstad Farm restoration project is a cooperative effort of the Deer Lake Conservancy, the Deer Lake Association, and the Department of Natural Resources.

Deer Lake Conservancy



Prairie Maintenance





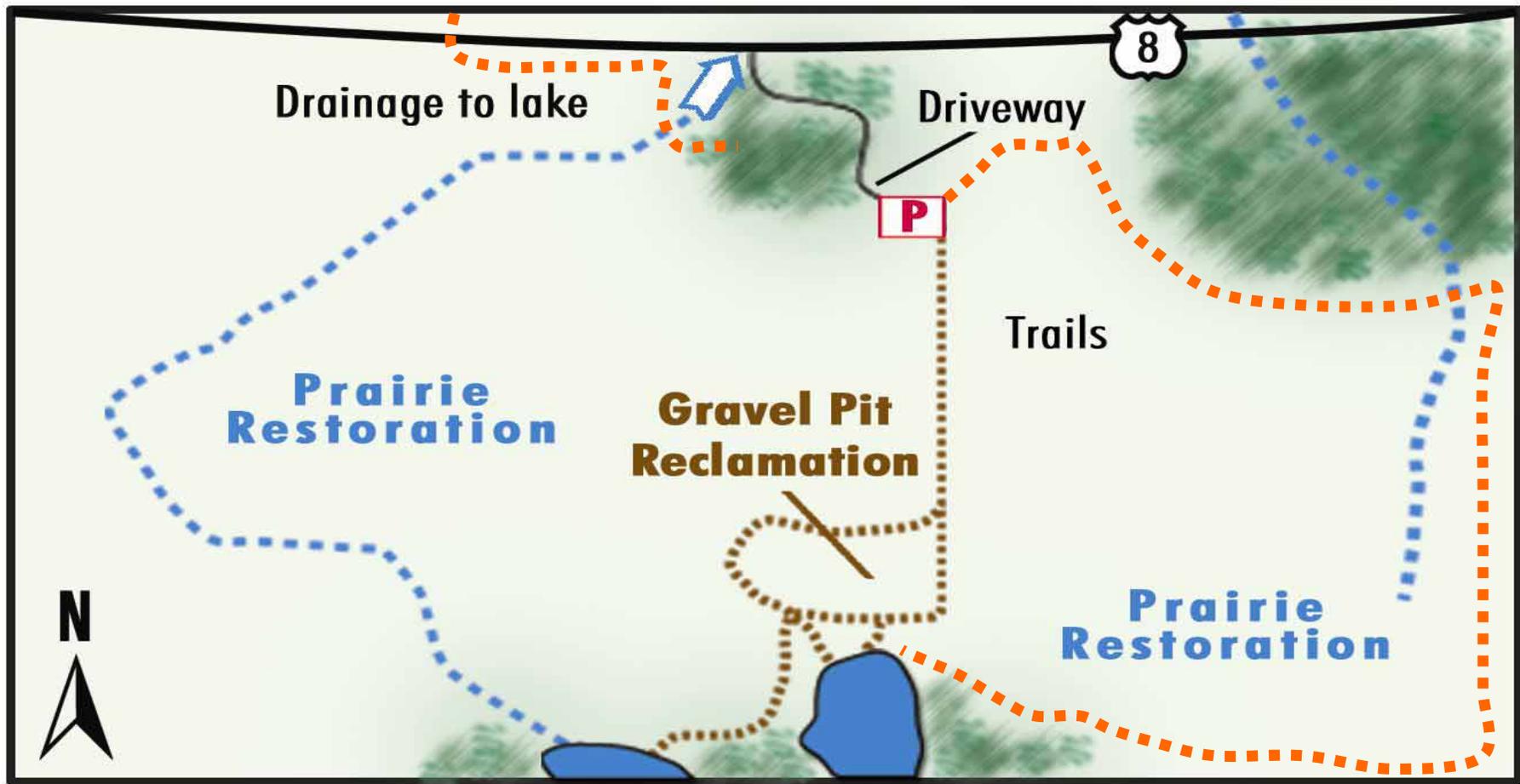
Watershed 1 Pond



Trail Systems



Deer Lake Park Road



1320 ft.

East Prairie Loop Trail











Direct Drainage Project

Concerns

- Medium-sized Gullies
 - Waterfront Runoff
- Back-lot Development

Solutions

- Technical Assistance
- Financial Assistance
 - Education



Schletty Area Close-up

General Rock V-Channel Location

Stormwater Infiltration Ponds General Locations

LEGEND

- Contour Data Lines
- Well Icons
- ▲ Airport
- ⊞ Cemetery
- ⊞ Church
- ⊞ Well Densities
- ⊞ Government Center
- ⊞ Hospital
- ⊞ Library
- ⊞ Post Office
- ⊞ Public County Information Center
- ⊞ School
- ⊞ Sub-Access Canyons
- ⊞ Sub-Access Ramps
- US Highway Shield
- US Highway
- MI State Highway Shield
- State Highway
- MI Route Road Shield
- County Road Shield
- County Road
- Township Road
- City and Village Road
- Highway On Off Ramp
- Private Road
- Private Driveway
- MI Route Road
- Lake and River
- River and Stream
- City Village Land
- Conservation Land
- Public County Land
- State Land
- Township Land
- Section
- Parcel ID Number
- Parcel
- Railroad
- City (Scale 1:25000)
- Village (Scale 1:25000)
- Town

Disclaimer: This map is not guaranteed to be accurate, correct, current, or complete and conclusions drawn are the responsibility of the user.

Aerial Photo (Color) (2006)

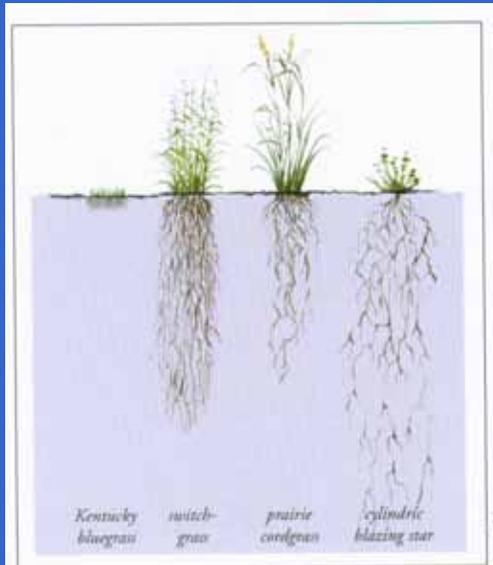




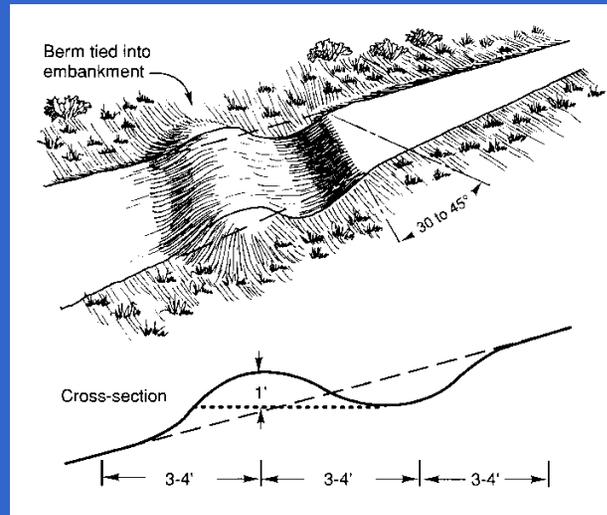


Managing Runoff

Minimize Hard Surfaces



Vegetate



Divert



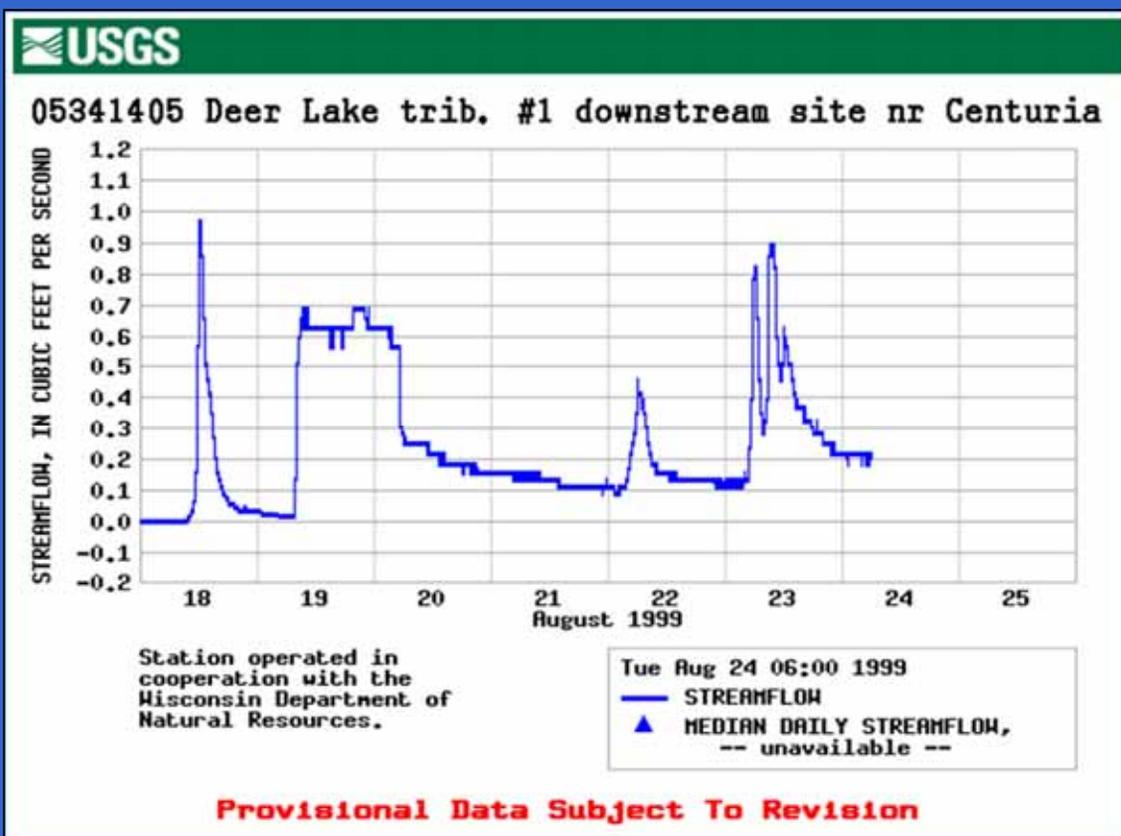
Infiltrate

Area 4-5 Rain Garden 2

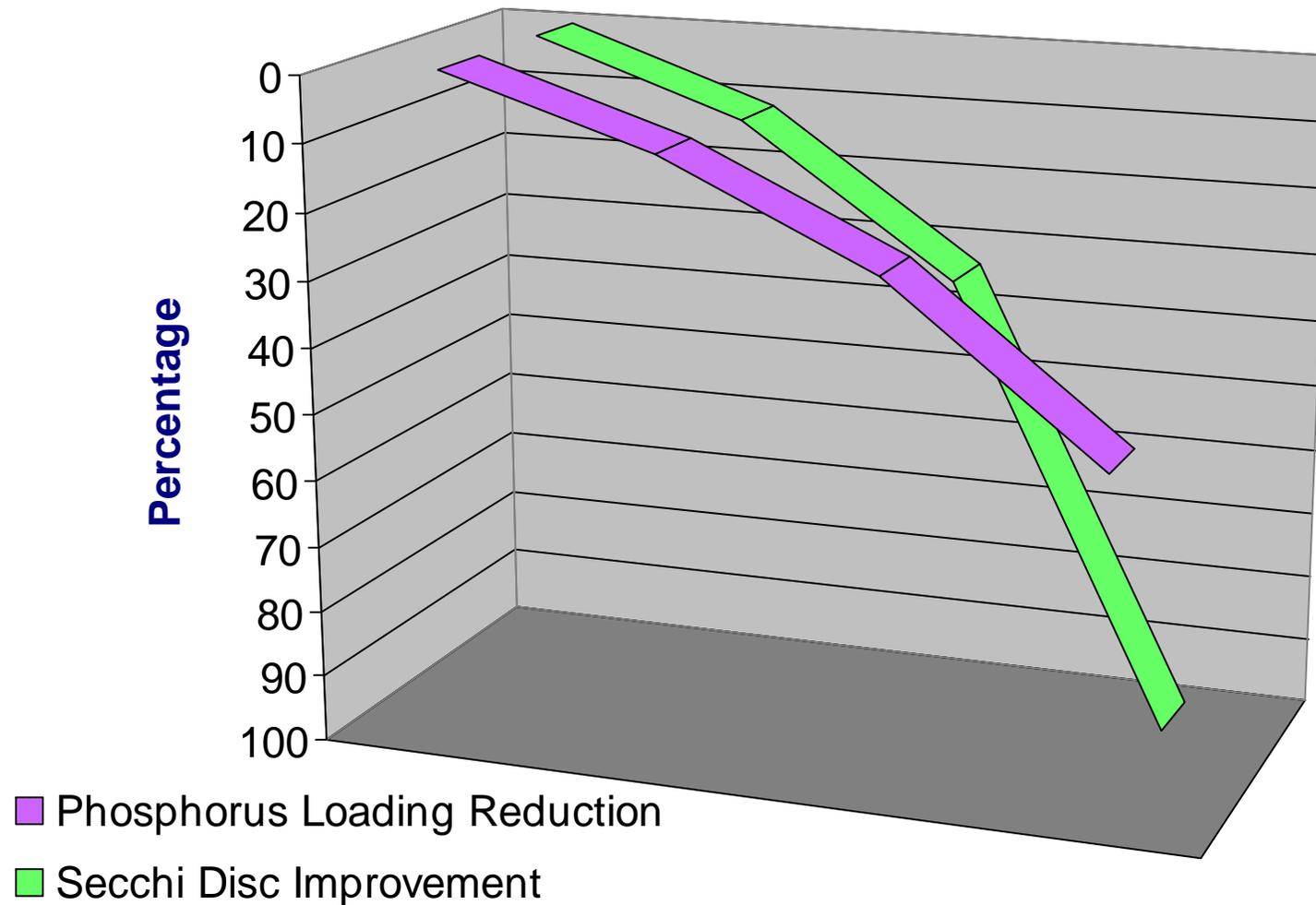




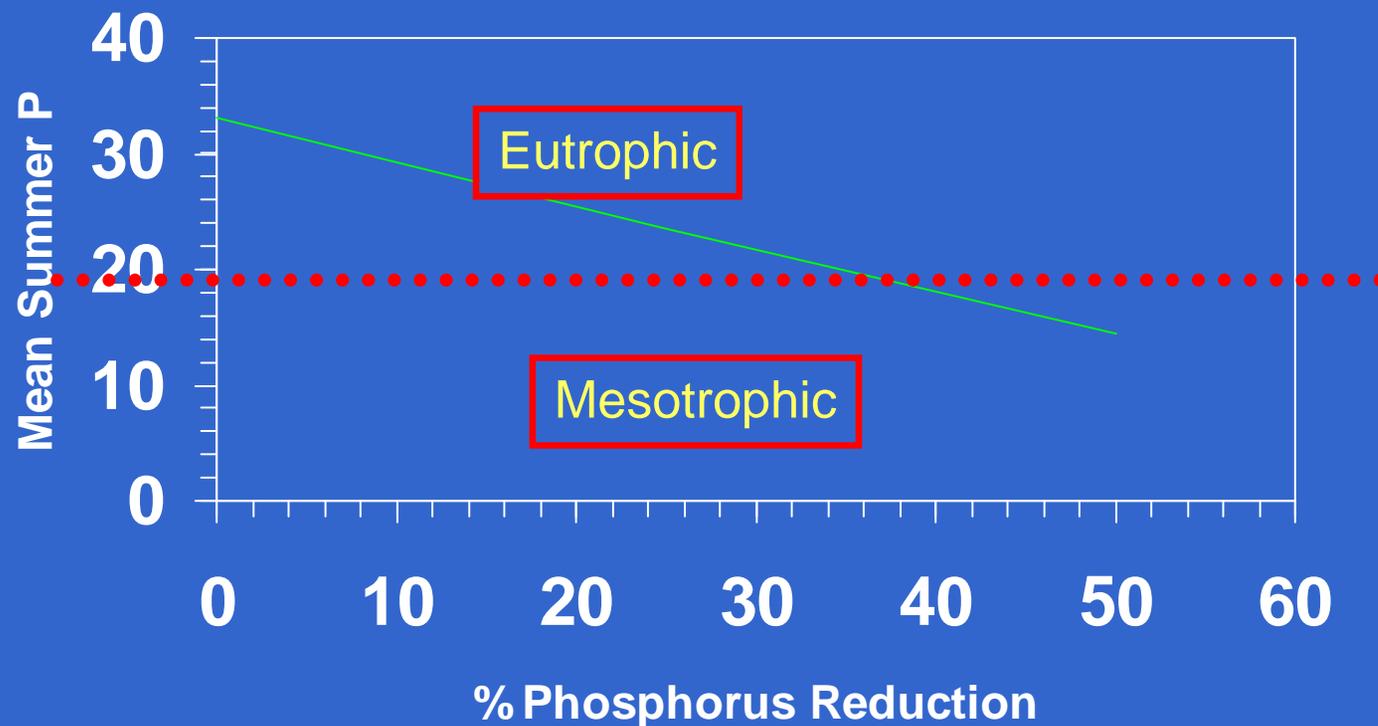
Monitoring



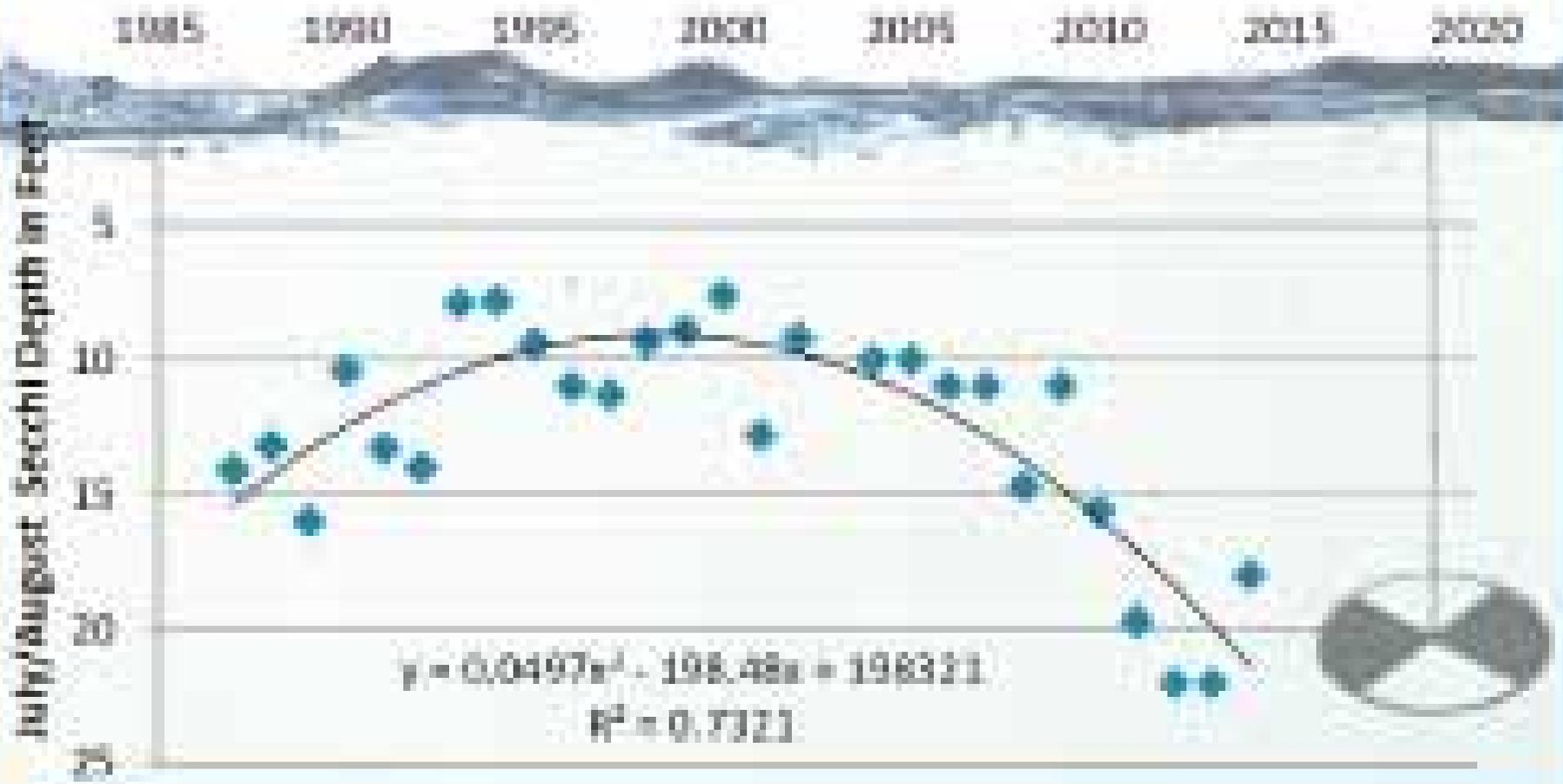
Secchi Disc Improvement with Phosphorus Reductions



Predicted Changes in Trophic Status



Deer Lake Secchi Depths



Developing Partnerships

Polk County Land and Water Resources

DNR

- ☞ Lakes planning grants
- ☞ Lakes protection grants
- ☞ Priority watershed program (Polk County)
- ☞ Monitoring assistance



Partners

- ☞ NRCS
- ☞ Farm Service Agency
- ☞ Pheasants Forever
- ☞ Ducks Unlimited
- ☞ Wisconsin Conservation Corps
- ☞ National Park Service
- ☞ Amery High School
- ☞ US Geological Survey

