

Wetland Restoration



The Outagamie County Land Conservation Department (LCD) provided technical assistance to a landowner for a wetland restoration project in the Town of Liberty. The landowner was looking to find effective ways to enhance their property to benefit wildlife. The existing cropland had some areas that were too wet for agricultural crop production but would be well suited for wetland scrapes. Wetland scrapes are shallow excavations used to restore hydrologic conditions and wetland plant communities. A typical scrape design is pond-like with flat side slopes, an irregular shape, and does not exceed 4 feet in depth. These restored wetland areas benefit plant and animal biodiversity and provide quality habitat for wildlife.

The Wetland Restoration included three scrapes, ranging in size from 0.5 acre to 1 acre. The adjoining cropland was planned for the spreading of the excavated spoils. The spoils from the scrapes were placed and covered with organic material for agricultural land use. The wetland scrapes were constructed during the winter of 2021. The timing of this project coincided with frozen ground conditions to allow heavy equipment and trucks to operate in the project area.

LCD staff assisted the landowner in researching permit requirements prior to construction to eliminate unforeseen "road-blocks". Soil borings were completed to confirm the site conditions. Next the design plan was completed. LCD staff applied for cost-share funding to offset the construction costs. Once permit approval was granted, contractors were determined and construction began. Throughout the construction, LCD staff performed construction checks to make sure landowner objectives were met, the project was compliant with permit conditions, and the project met design standards and specifications.

A wildlife habitat planting adjacent to the scrape area and other wildlife enhancement measures are scheduled to take place in 2022. This will provide native vegetation for wildlife values.

The project was made possible by utilizing a combination of funds provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the US Fish and Wildlife Service - Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), Pheasants Forever, and landowner contributions. If you have any interest regarding a wetland restoration project on your property, please contact the Outagamie County Land Conservation Department for more information.

-Jim Poweleit

Spoil Spreading



Wetland Scrape



Jim Poweleit
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Cooperating Partners:

