

# Wetland Restoration Project







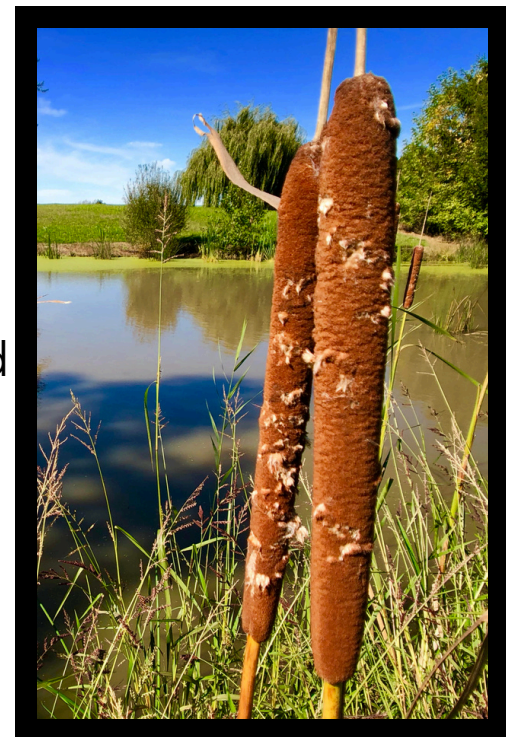
# PROJECT PROPOSAL

## Wetland Restoration Project



Our wetland restoration project on the northside of JJ/Eaton Rd (north of the Paul Hartman Prairie) will restore 10 acres of agricultural land and 6 acres of degraded wet meadows to high quality wetland habitat and diverse grassland/forb prairie.

This habitat enhancement project, including wetland scrapes, will meet the goals BCPF has to protect the Baird Creek Watershed and help increase water retention on the greater landscape to protect/increase water quality. This project will benefit waterfowl and other wetland dependent species. Once the restoration work is complete in 2025, the desire is to build trails and boardwalks so the public can access the area for walking, bird watching, and nature observation.

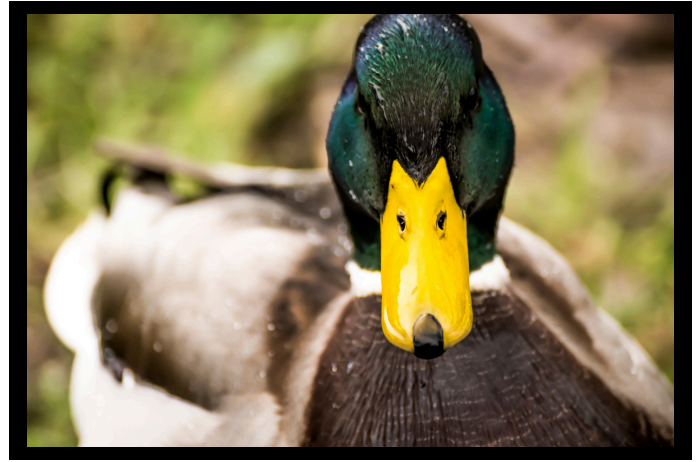


# Why Are Wetlands Important?

Water quality is often dependent upon wetlands because they serve to trap sediment, remove nutrients, protect shorelines and slow the effects of flood water.

They also serve as both discharge and recharge areas for

groundwater and provide habitat for many species of plants and animals. In part, due to these functions, wetlands exhibit higher biological productivity than most other community types and support rare biota. Currently, 43% of all federally listed threatened and endangered species use wetlands at some point in their life cycles.



In Wisconsin, 32% of the state's listed species are wetland dependent. Over the last 200 years, more than 50% of the wetlands in continental United States have been removed. Much of the remaining wetlands have been degraded. At present, Wisconsin has lost 47% of its original ten-million acres of wetlands. The focus of the

project in the Baird Creek Watershed is to restore wetlands to benefit macro-invertebrates, fish, and waterfowl, restore habitat, and improve water quality.



# Next Phases of the Project

Phase 1, Winter 2024/2025: Work with Custom Manufacturing Boardwalks to design, build and install .05 of a mile boardwalk, leading to a raised observation platform in the middle of the 10-acres of restored wetland. We have \$30,000 for the boardwalk section, and \$35,000, thanks to a generous donor, for the observation platform.

Phase 2: Add an additional .15 boardwalk section to the initial boardwalk. \$90,000

Phase 3: Add the last section to the boardwalk, .20 of a mile, \$120,000, which will complete a .4 mile loop through the wetland.



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