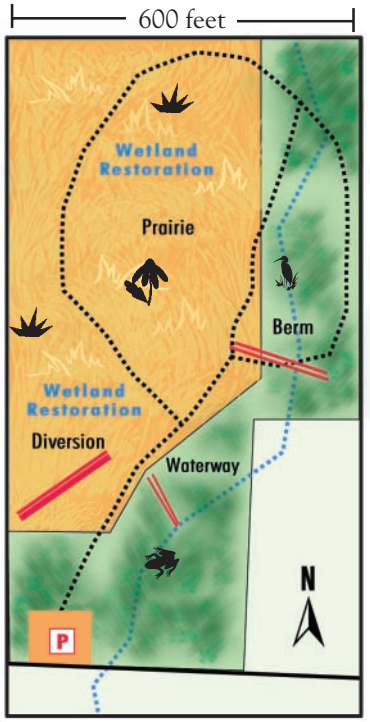
Dry Creek

Sediment Basins

Earthen berms were constructed to capture runoff water from agricultural drainages. The ponds that form behind the berms allow dirty water to settle, and release clean water slowly. By reducing the rate of flow, downstream erosion is also decreased.

The pond created by the earthen berm near the trail reaches the base of the trees more than 100 feet north of the dam during periods of peak runoff. A second pond with a permanent pool of over an acre is located on private property to the north.

Conservancy Property



1/2 mile of trails

Wetland Restorations

Wetlands were restored by removing drainage tiles installed to increase the land available for farming. These wetlands now serve to capture runoff water and provide habitat for pond-dwelling creatures.

Prairie Restoration

Ten acres of native prairie were planted here in 1999. Prairies provide habitat for butterflies and grassland birds. Burning is used occasionally to reduce growth of weeds, shrubs and trees.

Tire Clean-up

Over twenty truckloads of discarded tires were removed from the stream bed as part of this project. A water diversion directs clean runoff away from a farmstead and down a rock waterway to the stream.

Conservancy Property

Maple Cove

Maple Cove is a 17-acre Conservancy parcel on the northwest side of Deer Lake. Donation of this property by the Miller family allowed treatment of runoff water and prevented back lot development in an area that drains to Deer Lake.

A deep ravine previously carried pollutants from agricultural fields directly to Deer Lake. A sedimentation basin now installed on the property captures field runoff allowing it to soak into the soil. Allowing infiltration of runoff water not only captures agricultural pollutants but also feeds the springs that flow into the lake along its western shore. The fields were planted with eighty prairie species from seed collected within 50 miles of the site. A walking trail is open to the public.

Conservancy Property

Foussard Kane Forest

The Foussard Kane Forest is a 17-acre parcel of native mixed hardwoods and conifers. The Foussard and Kane Families decreased runoff to Deer Lake from agricultural fields by planting them to spruce, pine, black walnut, oak, and maple. This protection was assured into the future, when the families donated the property to the Conservancy. Preventing residential development on Deer Lake back lots is important. Dense residential development creates more impervious surfaces that lead to increases in runoff and pollutants flowing to the lake.

Conservancy Property

Hugo “Suki” Victor Pond and Prairie Restoration

This project, completed in 1997, is named for Suki Victor, a driving force in establishing the Deer Lake Conservancy. Donations of $1000 from each of 40 founding members financed the construction of the pond. The contributions also provided cash to match financial assistance available from Polk County and the Department of Natural Resources for subsequent projects.

A 630 foot berm creates a five acre pond during periods of peak runoff. Like other Conservancy projects, this pond is important to the lake because it captures stormwater runoff laden with sediment. Sediment carries phosphorus, the nutrient that leads to algae blooms in Deer Lake and many other Wisconsin Lakes.

Privately Owned

Blakeman/Hill Wetland Restoration

This one-half acre wetland was restored by excavating four thousand cubic yards of wetland sediments laden with nutrients from barnyard runoff. The pond allows some of the nutrients to settle-out and provides shallow water habitat for water birds such as wood ducks and great blue herons.

The Amery High School Science Department and the United States Geological Survey monitored water quality for the project.

The project was financed through a Lake Protection Grant from the Department of Natural Resources. Landowners Don Hill and Rudy Blakeman generously granted easements to allow the project to occur.

Privately Owned

Flagstad Farm

The Conservancy acquired the Flagstad Farm Preserve, a 70 acre parcel on the south side of Deer Lake, in August 2002 to prevent development of the parcel and to allow water quality improvements. Purchase of the property also initiated Conservancy involvement with a Department of Transportation plan that will result in U.S. Highway 8 moving from within approximately 15 feet of the lake to a full half mile south of the lake in this area.

Prairie Restoration

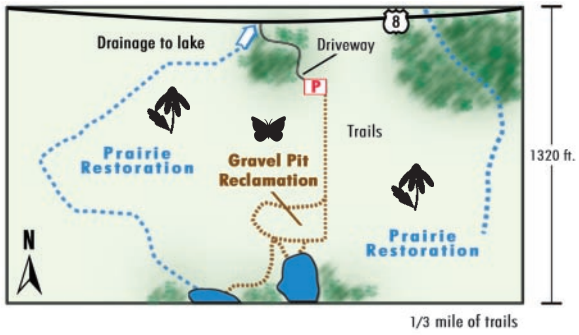
Row-cropped farm fields draining directly to the lake through three large culverts were planted to native prairie grasses and flowers in June 2003. This conversion will significantly reduce pollutant loading to the lake. Seeds for the 100+ prairie species planted here were collected and grown within 50 miles of the prairie restoration site creating one of the largest local-ecotype prairies in the state.

Gravel Pit Reclamation

The Conservancy hauled out three truckloads (five tons) of scrap metal and other garbage, and then had the area shaped and seeded to native prairie.

Wetland Restoration

Plugging a drainage ditch along the southern property boundary resulted in additional water-holding capacity in a pond and decreased agricultural runoff to Deer Lake.



Conservancy Property