

DNR River Planning Grant

Black Earth Creek Project

Final Report

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Project Overview

The Wolf Run Association used the funds provided by the DNR River Planning Grant to do several projects that will enhance the Black Earth Creek corridor and to bring people to our community to utilize and appreciate what a great resource we have in the Black Earth Creek and Lake Marion area.

Chuck Nahn from Nahn and Associates was retained by the Wolf Run Association to engineer the recreation trail from the Village of Mazomanie to WI Heights High School and Middle School. This included working with the DNR and Heritage Foundation to obtain an easement through the DNR land and to locate the wetlands along the Black Earth Creek. Chuck designed a multi-use trail to accommodate pedestrians as well as snowmobiles and horses. The trail will be handicapped accessible according to the current ADA specifications. The trail is planned for construction in part with PARC grant funds in the spring/summer of 2012.

In order to apply for grants and to accept monetary donations, the Wolf Run Association applied for a Federal 501(c)(3) status. This application has recently been approved by the Internal Revenue Service.

We also contracted with Bradley Vowels to design educational and informational signage along the proposed trail and to identify the history and habitat along the Black Earth Creek. So far, the Wolf Run Association has approved the concept plans for signage to Lake Marion. It is our plan that the signage will be installed when the trail is constructed after the Black Earth Creek dam is removed in the spring.

The students with the UW Madison Environmental Studies and Water Management program worked over the past two years to do research as part of their curriculum on Lake Marion. The studies included the habitat in and around the lake as well as the temperatures of the water, the amount of seepage from the lake, how much water is coming from the Black Earth Creek into Lake Marion, etc. The results of their research were published in a book, the cost of which was provided in part by the UW Madison and in part by the Wolf Run Association. An executive summary of the book was created to condense the information found in the book.

Through the generosity of Fred Wolf, a parcel of land was donated to locate the recreation trail. The land that was donated by Fred Wolf was surveyed, along with a small portion of land owned by Steve Schmitt, by Thom Grenlie.

The Wolf Run Trail is the first segment of the Good Neighbor Trail to be implemented and is the result of cooperative and collaborative efforts by the Wolf Family, the Wolf Run Association, the Village of Mazomanie, Wisconsin DNR, NRCS, and Trout Unlimited.

The trail will be a 1.4 mile long shared use trail extending from Crescent Street in the Village of Mazomanie to the Wisconsin Heights School campus. The trail will be a benefit to the community as it:

- provides a safe non-vehicular route to Wisconsin Heights School for Village residents including snowmobiles in the winter months,
- Creates convenient and safe access to Grandma's Park – a new park in the Village,
- Enhances environment education and cultural enrichment opportunities with interpretive signage throughout the trail corridor explaining environmental and historical information about the area and community, and
- Expands accessible fishing facilities along the nationally recognized Black Earth Creek.

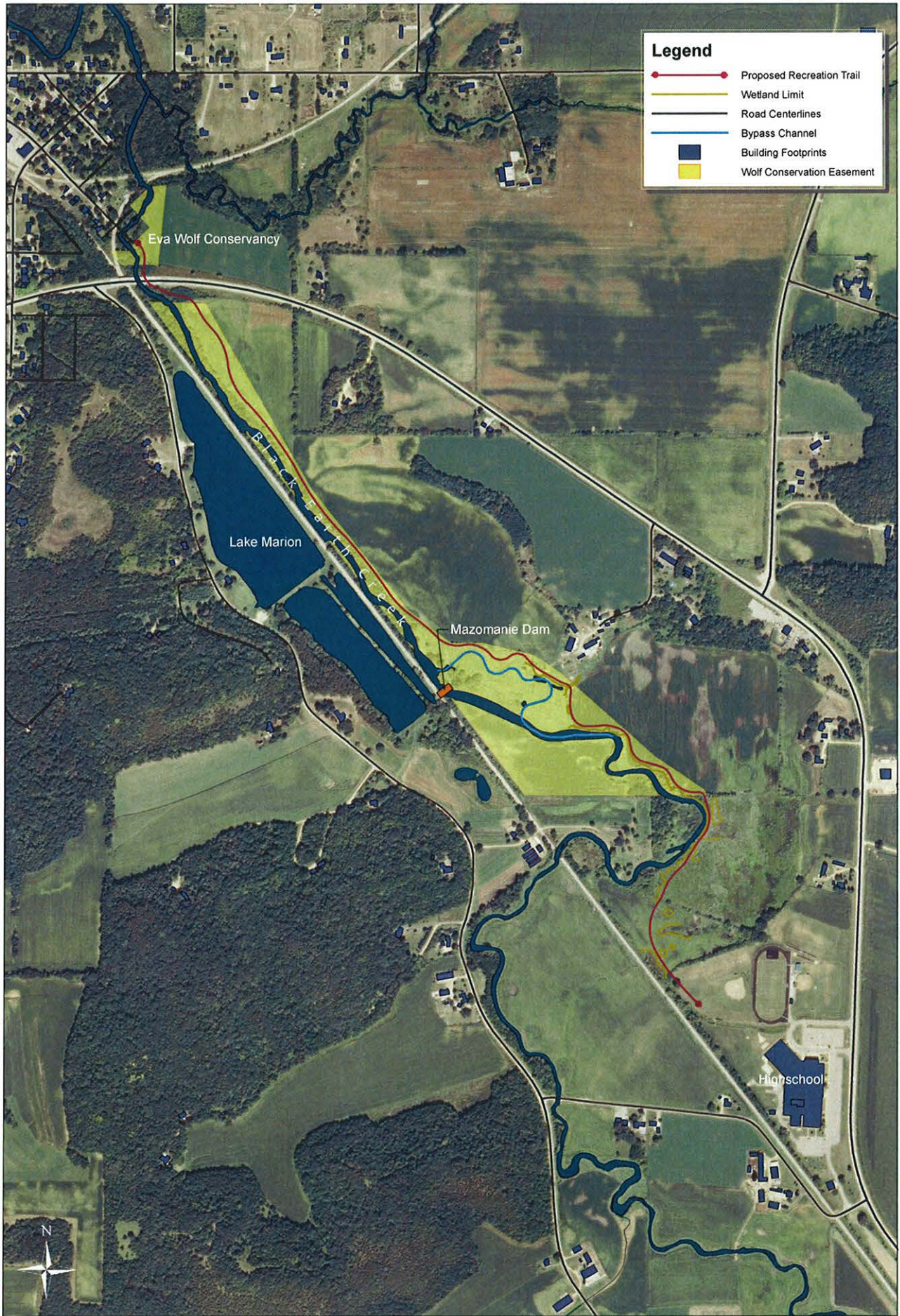
The trail corridor will have a 10 foot wide crushed limestone surface with 1 foot wide vegetated shoulders. At a later date, the trail may be expanded to include a 12 foot porous asphalt surface next to the limestone surface to accommodate multiple users. Planted vegetation in the trail corridor will consist of native short grass seed mix blends, with sedges and little blue stem.

The Wolf Run trail follows upland soil types and vegetative communities adjacent to, and paralleling the east bank of Black Earth Creek. Boardwalks will be constructed to cross two 30 foot long sections where the trail alignment crosses over wetland habitats. At the northern end, the trail will span Black Earth Creek and connect to Crescent Street in the Village of Mazomanie.

Chuck Nahn of Nahn and Associates was hired to assist Wolf Run Association with the trail engineering issues. The scope of work included:

1. **Prepare CADD drawing of proposed trail alignment and typical cross-section** - Prepare a 24-inch by 36-inch plan drawing of Trail location and typical Trail cross-section using creek realignment, Wisconsin Wetland Inventory Information (from WDNR), Good Neighbor Trail Master Plan and existing Dane County 2-foot contour information.
2. **Coordinate Highway 14 crossing with the WDOT** - Prepare for and attend an initial meeting with WDOT officials to discuss permitting issues associated with crossing under the Highway 14 Viaduct. Prepare and submit Highway Right-of-Way permit (DT 1812) for Highway 14 crossing.
3. **Determine extent of wetland boundary** Conduct a field delineation to determine boundaries of existing wetlands along project limits on east side of the Creek from Highway 14 to Wisconsin Heights High School.
4. **Obtain and analyze existing soil information**- Compile existing surface and subsurface soil information from UW graduate study and wetland delineation (task 4 above) to determine depth of trail base course.

5. **Configure trail cross-section for multiple users** - Snowmobile users, equestrian users, skate-boarders must be able to access this path. Determine modifications to standard trail dimensions to accommodate diverse users (Snowmobile, Equestrian etc)
6. **Write up Engineering Plan** Based on results from Tasks 1 through 6, write narrative for engineering plan and develop trail alignment, typical trail cross-sections. Determine cost estimates for Phase 1 of Trail. Conduct meeting with Jewell to discuss coordinating trail project with Dam Removal.
7. **Present Engineering Plan at numerous meetings of Wolf Run Association** - Present results of the engineering plan and trail location map to the Wolf Run Association for preliminary and final plan review and approval.
8. **Prepare and submit Chapter 30 permit application to WDNR** - Prepare and submit WDNR general Chapter 30 permit application for trail fill within bank of navigable waterway.
9. **Prepare and submit Railroad crossing petition**- Prepare and submit a petition for at-grade crossing of Wisconsin and Southern Railroad tracks at Crescent Street.
10. **Negotiate with WDNR/NRCS for Trail Crossing**- Negotiate with WDNR and NRCS to allow trail crossing of WDNR lands south of Wolf Road.



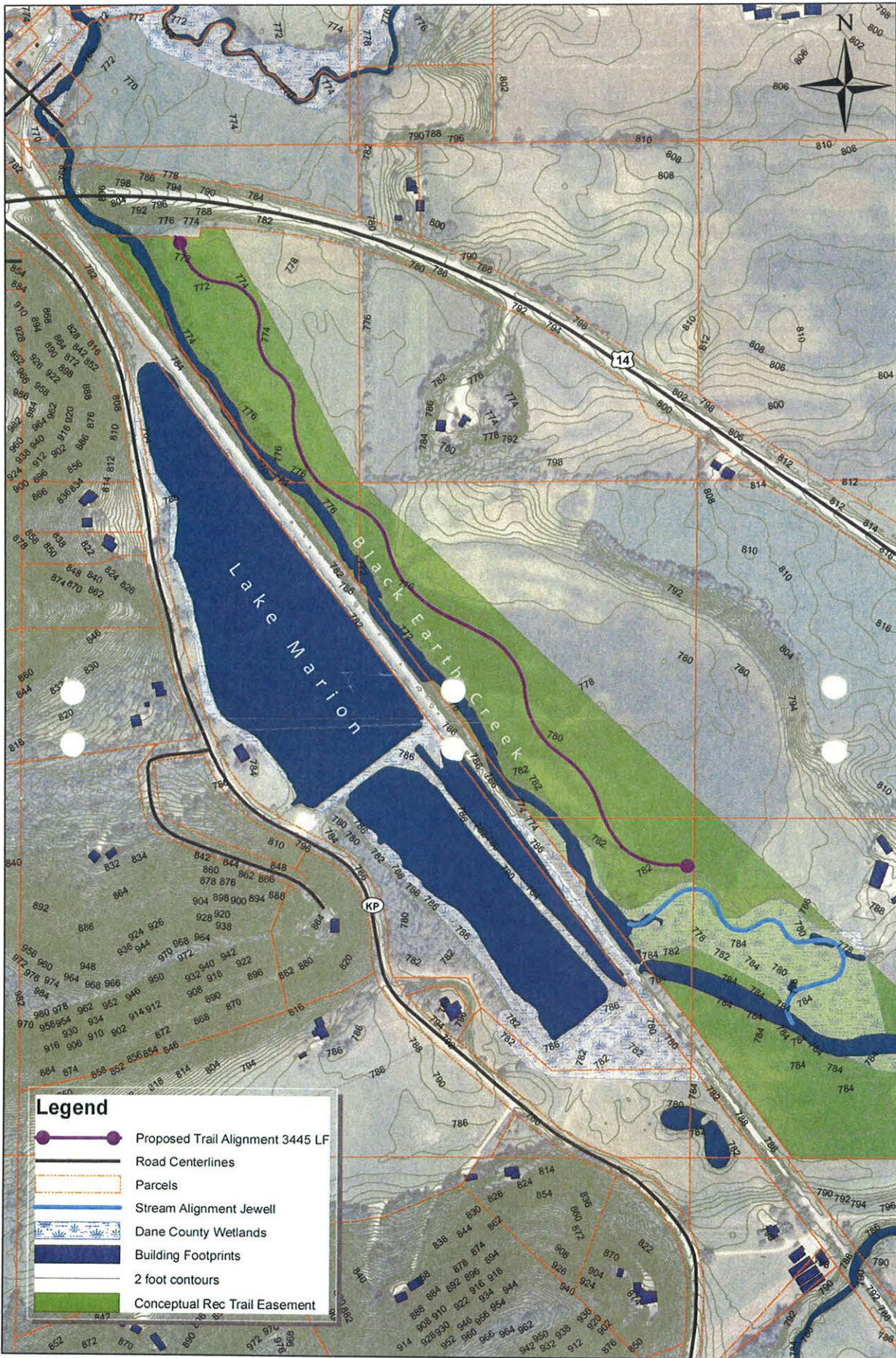
Legend

- Proposed Recreation Trail
- Wetland Limit
- Road Centerlines
- Bypass Channel
- Building Footprints
- Wolf Conservation Easement

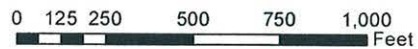
Black Earth Creek Lake and Stream Restoration

Mazomanie, WI

January 12, 2012



Plan View: Mazomanie Black Earth Creek Trail
 Chapter 30 Permit Application



UW Water Resource Management Practicum

The students with the UW Madison Environmental Studies and Water Resource Management program, under the guidance of Dr. Ken Potter, worked over the past two years to do research as part of their curriculum on Lake Marion and the Black Earth Creek Corridor. The studies included the habitat in and around the lake as well as the temperatures of the water, the amount of seepage from the lake, how much water is coming from the Black Earth Creek into Lake Marion, etc. The results of their research were published in a book, "The Restoration and Recreational Enhancement of Lake Marion and the Black Earth Creek Corridor".

Several public meetings were held during the study and during those public meetings, input was taken from those in attendance as to what they would like to see happen in the Black Earth Creek Corridor and around Lake Marion. Informational sessions were also held at Lake Marion in show the public the results of the research as well as demonstrate some of the methods used in doing the research. There were also samples of the plants and species that were discovered in the lake and creek.

Members of the U.S. Geological Survey also helped install four groundwater monitoring wells at Lake Marion. The wells were approximately 1-inch in diameter and a maximum of 30 feet in depth. Soil cores were collected and analyzed for texture, moisture and color during the well construction. After the installation of the wells, the water table was depth was measured and groundwater samples were taken.

Also included in the book are concept plans for Lake Marion for after the removal of the dam on Black Earth Creek. Removal of the dam is planned to begin in Spring, 2012. The Village of Mazomanie would like to keep Lake Marion, but since it is currently fed by the Black Earth Creek, an alternative water source needs to be explored. The students worked with Jewell Associates, an engineering firm hired by the Village of Mazomanie, to try to locate sites for a groundwater fed well.

An executive summary of the book was created from the information in the book, a copy of which is included in this report.

Executive Summary

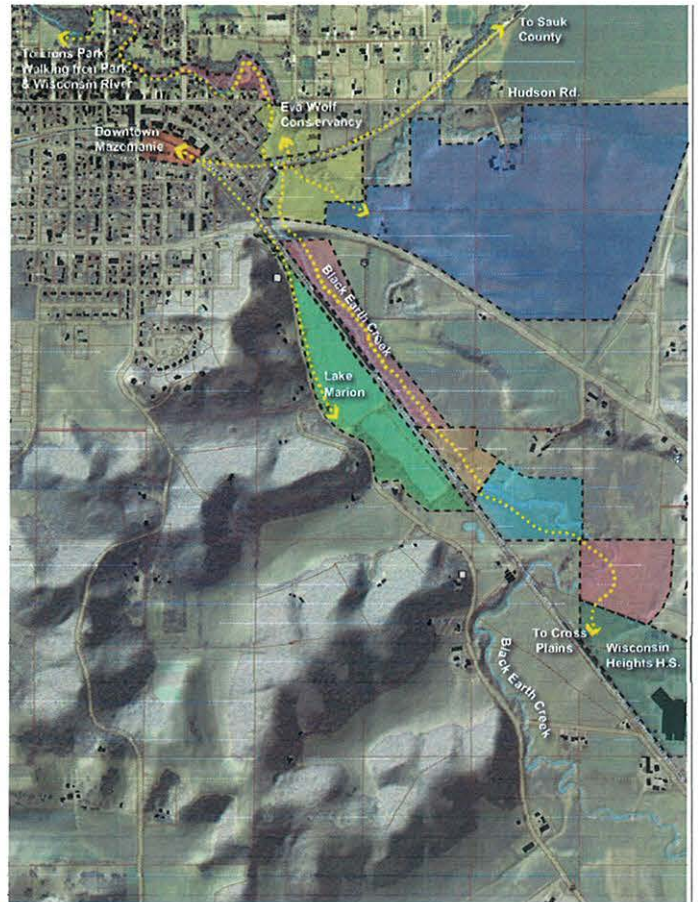
The Restoration and Recreational Enhancement of Lake Marion & the Black Earth Creek Corridor

Introduction

Lake Marion was created as a millpond on the outskirts of Mazomanie in the 1850s. Over time, the lake has evolved from millpond to fish rearing station to recreational hub. In 2009 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) ordered the Village of Mazomanie to repair, replace, or remove the dam that diverts water from Black Earth Creek (BEC) into Lake Marion. The Village Board voted to remove the dam on BEC. Consequently, Lake Marion will require an alternative water source to maintain its water level. In addition, restoration will be necessary to return BEC to a healthier and more natural state. The community recognizes the significant value of the lake and the adjacent stream corridor and there is strong stakeholder support for protecting and enhancing this valuable natural resource.

Improvements to Lake Marion and the Black Earth Creek corridor have the potential to provide not only ecological benefits but also recreational, economical, and educational enhancements for the Mazomanie community. If the water source is replaced with ground water, Lake Marion will experience improved water and habitat quality. In turn, the improved ecological condition will enhance the recreational opportunities, such as fishing and remote controlled boat racing. The opportunity for sediment and invasive species removal and bank re-configuration exists if Lake Marion is drained between the time of dam removal and the start of the new water supply. This will further enhance the ecological and recreational quality of Lake Marion. Finally, the abandonment of the dam will increase the free flowing distance of BEC by over a mile, which will extend cold water trout habitat and navigability. The restoration of the BEC can reconnect the stream with the original floodplain and wetland habitats. The changes associated with the BEC restoration will promote diverse habitats and encourage the growth of native plants and wildlife.

The Wolf family, dedicated stakeholders, have made the creek restoration possible by donating an easement on a portion of their land, (see Figure C). The easement will allow for public access to the creek, restored wetlands, and will connect Lake Marion Park with DNR owned



A: Segments of the Wolf Run Trail connect Black Earth Creek to Lake Marion, the Eva Wolf Conservancy and downtown Mazomanie. *Created by Bradley Vowels.*

LAKE MARION

LAKE HISTORY
Lake Marion was formed in 1855 when the Chicago Milwaukee Railroad constructed a dam on the Black Earth Creek to supply power for the Lynch and Walker Feed and Flour Mill. Due to the dam's power, Mazomanie was one of the first communities in Wisconsin to receive electricity. During the 1870s through the 1920s the lake was stocked regularly with fish and declared a fish refuge in 1939. During that time the lake was only one larger body of water. The Department of Natural Resources put forth an effort in the 1950s to develop a fish rearing station at Lake Marion. The lake was reshaped into three distinct ponds during this time. Due to the failure to establish a successful fish hatchery however, the DNR sold the property to the Village of Mazomanie in 1984. Shortly thereafter, the Wisconsin River Sportsmen Club helped to make improvements to the lake as a fishery and later added a fishing pier and picnic shelter. Today Lake Marion is enjoyed by many for fishing, photography, birdwatching and large community events such as the annual Depot-to-Depot run.

- Wisconsin Heights High School
- Avenue Food & Spirits
- Black Earth Creek Dam Site
- School bus and Bus Route
- Eva Wolf Conservancy
- Golf Course
- Promenade Park
- Mazomanie Historic Society
- The Wolf Run

WOLF RUN TRAIL
 The Wolf Run Trail runs from the Wisconsin Heights High School along Lake Marion along the Black Earth Creek to the Eva Wolf Conservancy. The trail eventually leads owned to Downtown Mazomanie and to the Wisconsin River or Sauk County.

ICE HARVESTING AT LAKE MARION
During the early 1900s, ice was harvested at Lake Marion and stored in the ground. The ice was used for commercial and residential use in the area. The ice was used for ice cream, frozen meats, and other frozen goods. The ice was harvested until the 1940s when it was replaced by mechanical refrigeration.

OLD ROAD
Cross Street, which was 2000 ft. long and 100 ft. wide, was the only road that was used to transport goods from the lake to the city. The road was used for many years and was a major part of the local economy. The road was eventually replaced by a modern road, but the old road was still used for many years.

BEFORE & AFTER
The Wolf Run Trail runs from the Wisconsin Heights High School along Lake Marion along the Black Earth Creek to the Eva Wolf Conservancy. The trail eventually leads owned to Downtown Mazomanie and to the Wisconsin River or Sauk County.

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The Wolf Run Trail runs from the Wisconsin Heights High School along Lake Marion along the Black Earth Creek to the Eva Wolf Conservancy. The trail eventually leads owned to Downtown Mazomanie and to the Wisconsin River or Sauk County.

B: Example of Educational Signage designed for the trail. *Created by Bradley Vowels.*

lands that are located upstream. It will also provide a safe path from the Village of Mazomanie to Wisconsin Heights High School. In addition, the recreational trail could be expanded to connect with the Dane County's Good Neighbor Trail and other regional recreation trails. The park, trails, and conservancy can become an educational resource through the development of interpretive signage throughout the area.

Regional Significance

The enhancement of Lake Marion and BEC will not only benefit the Village of Mazomanie, but the region as a whole. A Lake Marion recreational area will add to opportunities at the four existing Dane County parks in the Mazomanie area (Walking Iron, Halfway Prairie, Festge, and Salmo Pond). The proposed plan complements the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan by improving natural habitat and farm fields, and reducing flooding in the area of the BEC dam. Furthermore, this restoration will extend the excellent trout fishing opportunities offered by Black Earth Creek, which is listed as one of the 100 best trout streams in the nation. The restoration will also provide places for children to fish and learn about nature.

The enhancement of the Lake Marion area will complement efforts to create a regional trail system. The project will encourage the development of a trail through Mazomanie that connects east to Middleton and west to Devil's Lake. This trail will be ADA accessible to hikers, bikers, snowmobilers, and horseback riders. In addition, the trail will provide access to Wisconsin Heights High School from the village to offer a year round, safe and educational trail for both students and all stakeholders.

The research and planning of this project benefited from the involvement of multiple stakeholders. The process involved the Wolf Run Association (WRA), the Village of Mazomanie, three local engineering firms, the University of Wisconsin Madison Water Resource



C: Map of Wolf Run Association Conceptual Stream Easement and Restoration showing the connection between the WHHS and the Eva Wolf Conservancy . *Source: Dane County, Aerial Photo. Created by 2010 WRM Practicum.*

Management Practicum (WRM), local citizens and various other interested groups. The multi-stakeholder involvement has allowed planning for many aspects of the project to take place simultaneously. For example, Jewell Associates Engineers is concentrating on dam abandonment, while Vierbicher is focusing on Lake Marion preservation and identifying an alternative water supply. Together, the Village of Mazomanie, Nahn and Associates, and the WRA are focusing on the development of the recreational trails. Finally, the WRA along with the Wolf family will organize the BEC restoration and creation of the Eva Wolf Conservancy.

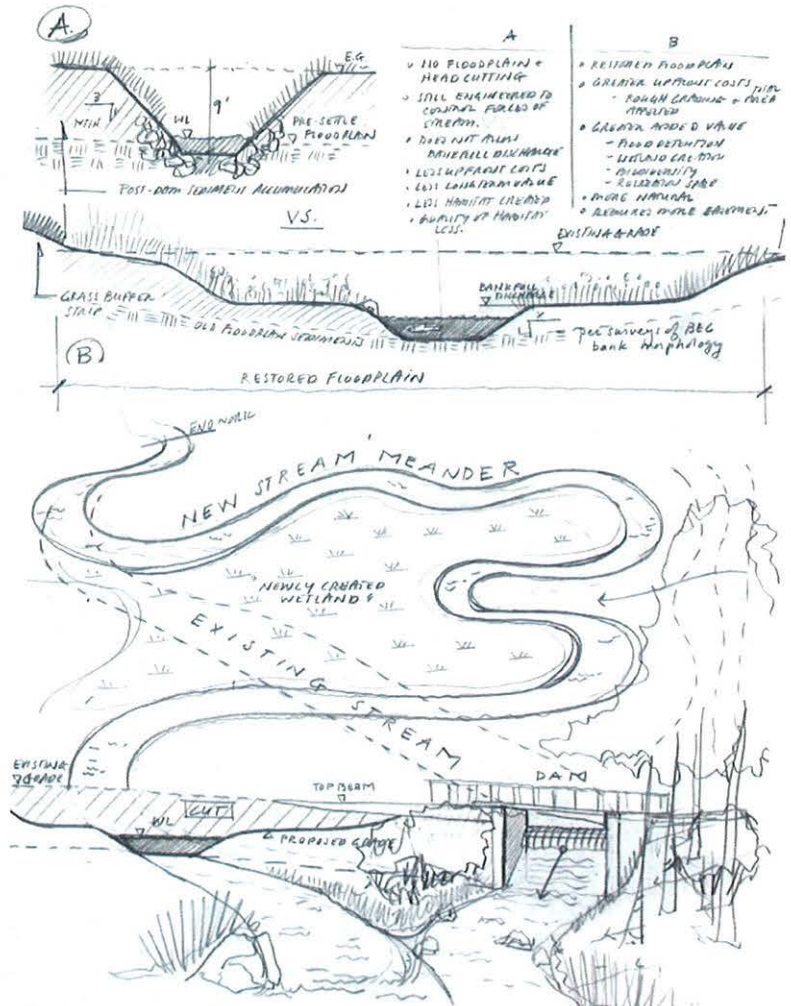
Black Earth Creek

The removal of the dam on BEC provides an opportunity for stream restoration. The stream channel has been significantly altered by human activities. Thanks to the generosity of the neighboring land owner there will be space to reroute and restore BEC and the surrounding wetlands.

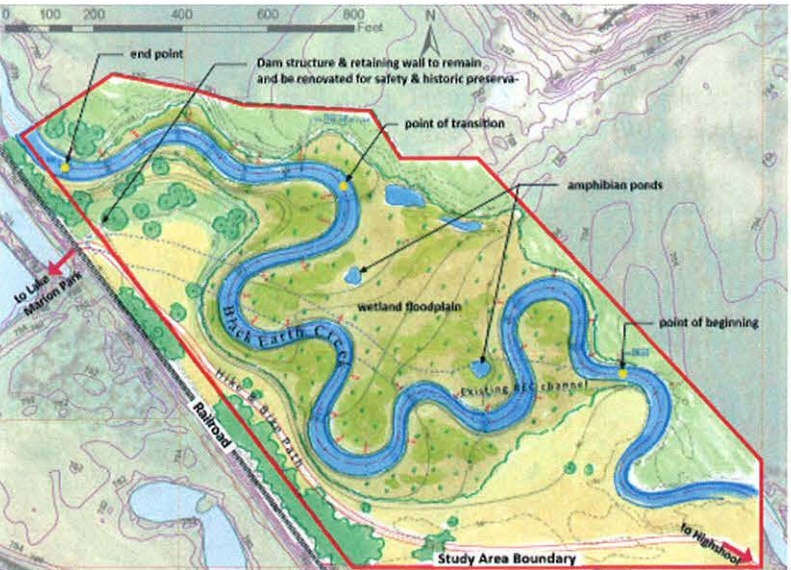
Due to the placement of the dam, sediments have accumulated behind the structure and there is now approximately a six foot drop from the dam to the stream level below. When the dam is removed, either the water will cut down through the accumulated sediments or the sediments will have to be excavated. In either case this will leave high banks that are susceptible to erosion. Excavating along the banks and into the floodplain will lower the bank elevations and create a wetland habitat (See Figure D). Furthermore, to avoid severe erosion along the channel, the elevation must be accounted for in the stream restoration plans.

To begin the planning process, two conceptual stream restoration options have been considered. Option A (See Figure F) attempts to restore this portion of BEC to the historic path and stream bed. However, a restored channel with meanders and length similar to the historical path would not be able to incorporate the six foot elevation change that will result from dam removal; there would be significant erosion. Therefore a channel with fewer corners and a steeper gradient is recommended. The total restored channel length would be approximately 3,000 feet. Option A would not require additional bed material, but the banks may need to be armored with rocks, woody debris, or root wads to prevent erosion at certain locations.

The second stream alignment, Option B (See Figure F), would have a straighter channel with fewer meanders. The stream's gradient would be increased to accommodate a greater elevation change over a shorter distance. Riffle pools would be used to control the flow as it alternates between shallow and deep water. Due to the increased gradient, the riffle pools would need to be created with an imported course gravel bed. If only the natural fine sand and silt are used the riffle-pools may never develop and erosion may become a problem. Option B would have a channel length of



D: Sketch of Floodplain restoration at the Black Earth Creek Dam. Drawn by Lauren Brown, 2010 WRM Practicum.



E: Flooplain and Stream Restoration: Option A at the Black Earth Creek Dam. Drawn by Lauren Brown, 2010 WRM Practicum.

approximately 2,500 feet, which is 500 feet shorter than Option A.

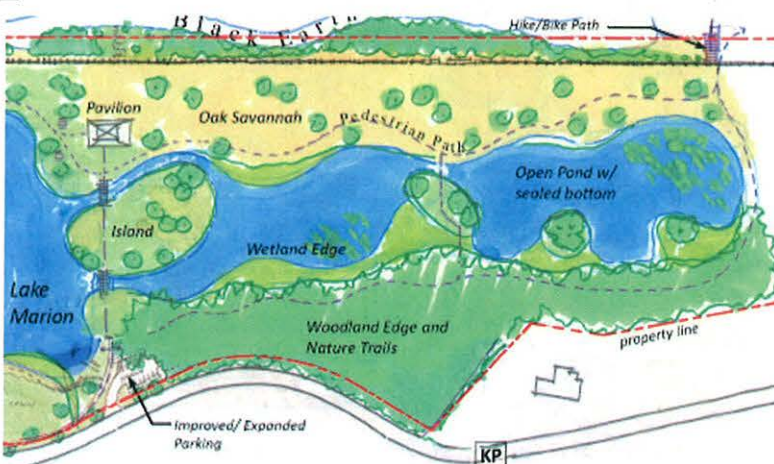
In addition to the stream restoration options, there is an excellent opportunity for wetland restoration. A successful wetland restoration depends on the hydrology of the area and the soil type. Historical records have identified floodplain soils, a type of wetland soil, on either side of BEC. Historical floodplain elevations can be determined by visually identifying the pre-settlement floodplain surface soils through soil cores. Accumulated sediments can then be excavated to restore the pre-settlement floodplain elevation. Once wetland elevations have been restored, wetland plant communities, such as a wet mesic sedge meadow mix, can be established. In addition, a management plan to control invasive species, such as *Phalaris arundinacea* L. (reed canary grass), should be considered.



F: Floodplain and Stream Restoration: Option B at the Black Earth Creek Dam. *Drawn by Lauren Brown, 2010 WRM Practicum.*



G: Lake Marion Conceptual Design Plan. *Drawn by Lauren Brown, 2010 WRM Practicum.*



H: Scenario A: Water Garden. *Drawn by Lauren Brown, 2010 WRM Practicum.*

Lake Marion

Opportunities exist to make improvements to Lake Marion such as sediment and invasive species removal and bank reconfiguration. There are also multiple opportunities to improve the recreational options and wildlife habitat around the lake. Amenities such as canoe launch areas, a habitat island, wetland edges, fishing areas, and native shoreland buffers can add to the enjoyment and beauty of Lake Marion.

When the dam is removed the two small retention ponds south of Lake Marion will no longer be necessary and will dry up quickly if they do not have an alternative water supply. These ponds make up a 10 acre area of Lake Marion Park; there are many design opportunities for this area. The three scenarios outlined below are based on input from a series of community brainstorm and design sessions. More design sessions can be held to further refine the scenarios.

The first option, with the greatest amount of open water preserved, is the Water Garden scenario. This design maintains the large pond and reconnects it with Lake Marion by removing

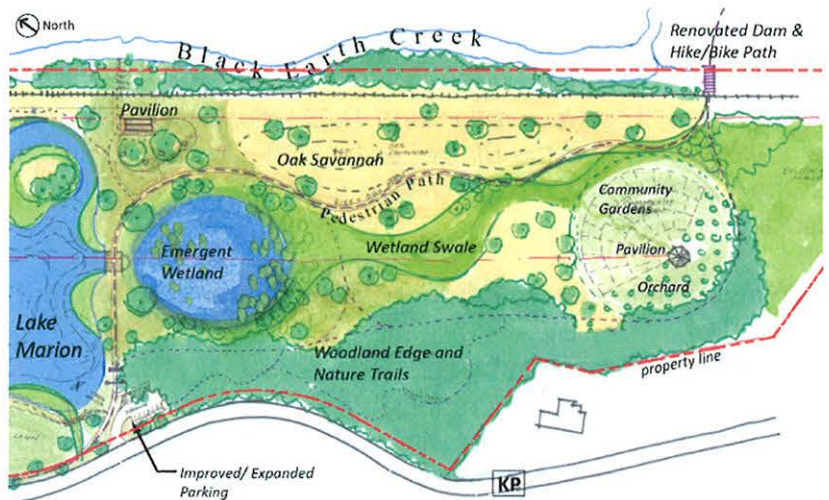
a portion of the dyke. To create a variety of habitats, islands and wetlands can be created throughout the pond. The small pond could then be filled and provide an area for terrestrial habitat restoration. While this plan provides both aquatic features and enhanced park space, it would require a large supply of water, which would increase the cost and complexity of long term maintenance.

The Wetland Park scenario almost completely eliminates the water features on the south end of the park and preserves only a small wetland. The wetland could be created in a portion of the large pond. The remaining portion of the large pond and the small pond can be filled in and utilized as park space. However, the groundwater is very deep and to create a self-sustaining wetland it would have to be excavated roughly 10 feet. It would be more feasible to create a shallow wetland and provide water from the same source that is supplying Lake Marion. Some options for the upland park area would be a community garden, picnic area, or natural habitat such as oak savannah and prairie restorations.

The final planning scenario creates the most upland park space by filling the ponds. This area could be kept open, or planted with canopy trees to provide shade and habitat. If a trace of the dykes are maintained it would provide a terrace down to a multi-purpose space that could be used as playing fields, event space or ice skating. Moreover, the marsh at the far south of the large pond could be extended to enhance the natural wetland and expand the wildlife habitat and nature observation opportunities. To complete this plan, a significant volume of fill material is required for both ponds.

Conclusion

In the end, the Black Earth Creek Corridor and Lake Marion Park hold many possibilities for recreational, educational, and ecological enhancement. The removal of the dam provides the village and stakeholders a



I: Scenario B: Wetland Park. Drawn by Lauren Brown, 2010 WRM Practicum.



J: Scenario C: Sunken Open Space. Drawn by Lauren Brown, 2010 WRM Practicum.

prime opportunity to make improvements to the area. The community has shown strong dedication to the project. Lake Marion Park and BEC Corridor have the potential to be a significant destination drawing regional visitors to visit the BEC and Lake Marion area for a multitude of recreation opportunities.

UW-Madison 2010 WRM Report

The information in this summary is available in more detail in the WRM report, *The Restoration and Recreational Enhancement of Lake Marion and the Black Earth Creek Corridor*, available at the Village of Mazomanie Village Office, Mazomanie Public Library, or online at:

http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/docs/mazomanie_wrm2010.pdf

Stakeholder Partnerships

Local governments and organizations have been an integral part of sustaining and improving Lake Marion and the Black Earth Creek corridor. The following groups have been involved with the project:

- Black Earth Creek Watershed Association
- Friends of Lake Marion
- Good Neighbor Committee
- Southern WI Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Town of Mazomanie
- Wisconsin River Sportsmen's Club
- Wolf Run Association
- Village of Mazomanie
- UW Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies Water Resources Management

The interest of these groups will ensure that future projects to enhance Lake Marion and the Black Earth Creek corridor will receive the support they need to be successful and to enhance recreational opportunities for both local and regional stakeholders.

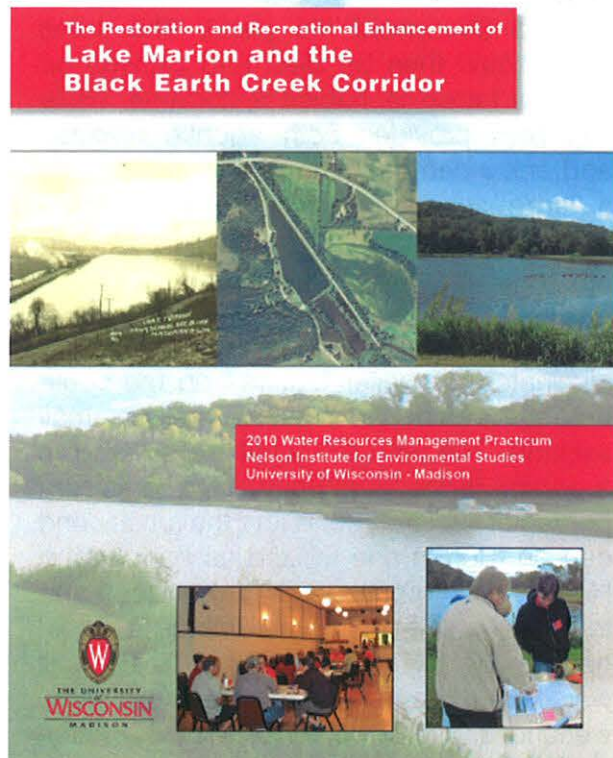
Contact Information

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K: Cover of the 2010 Report on Lake Marion and Black Earth Creek. Created by 2010 WRM Practicum.

Creation of a 501(c)(3)

The mission statement of the Wolf Run Association is “to support the preservation, protection, and improvement of Lake Marion, the Lower Black Earth Creek, and its watershed, for the benefit of the general public.

To educate and assist volunteer workers, landowners, resource users, youth, and the general public about the interrelationship of our waters, ground waters, soils, plants, animals, local and regional trails and people who share the ecosystem of the lower Black Earth Creek, and the effects of best science practices to improve and sustain the quality of life along the watershed.

To develop and maintain the use of Lake Marion and the lower Black Earth Creek watershed area for multi use recreational and other healthy life style activities and trails that are complementary to enjoying, preserving, and protecting the ecosystem of the watershed and the economic well being of the area.

To encourage and provide leadership to promote Mazomanie as a focal point for recreational use of the lower Black Earth Creek.

To provide a collective forum for national, state, county and local governments, chambers of commerce, companion watershed and recreation trail groups, landowners and individual enthusiasts along the watershed and trails.

To promote community growth and economic development designed to strengthen and expand the economic development and aesthetic value within the area.”

In order to accomplish this, the Wolf Run Association applied for a Federal 501(c)(3) status. This application has recently been approved by the Internal Revenue Service.

Part of the mission of the Wolf Run Association is to be able to apply for grants that will enhance the Black Earth Creek Corridor and the land donated by the Wolf Family as well as to accept donations from generous contributors and allow them to do it in a tax deductible way. The Wolf Run Association will accept monetary donations, but according to a change in the bylaws, will not accept the donation of land.

Signage to Enhance the Black Earth Creek and Lake Marion areas

Bradley Vowels was retained to design educational and informational signage along the proposed trail and to identify the history and habitat along the Black Earth Creek. To date, the Wolf Run Association has approved the concept plans for signage to Lake Marion. It is our plan that the signage will be installed when the trail is constructed after the Black Earth Creek dam is removed in the spring.

Bradley will also be working with the Wolf Run Association to create signage along the Black Earth Creek corridor from the Village limits of Mazomanie to the Wisconsin Heights High School/Middle School. The plans for this signage will be accomplished in the future when the trail is under construction. An example of the signage that has been approved for the Lake Marion area is seen below.

LAKE MARION

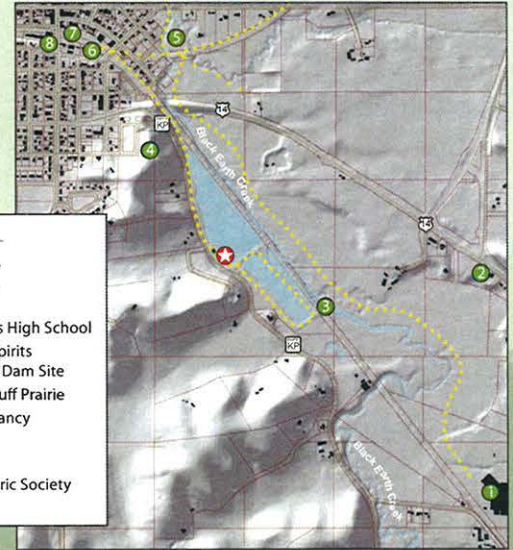
LAKE HISTORY

Lake Marion was formed in 1855 when the Chicago Milwaukee Railroad constructed a dam on the Black Earth Creek to supply power for the Lynch and Walker Feed and Flour Mill. Due to the dam's power, Mazomanie was one of the first communities in Wisconsin to receive electricity. During the 1870s through the 1920s the lake was stocked regularly with



Postcard: Mazomanie Historical Society

fish and declared a fish refuge in 1939. During that time the lake was only one larger body of water. The Department of Natural Resources put forth an effort in the 1950s to develop a fish rearing station at Lake Marion. The lake was reshaped into three distinct ponds during this time. Due to the failure to establish a successful fish hatchery, however, the DNR sold the property to the Village of Mazomanie in 1984. Shortly thereafter, the Wisconsin River Sportsmens Club helped to make improvements to the lake as a fishery and later added a fishing pier and picnic shelter. Today, Lake Marion is enjoyed by many for fishing, photography, birdwatching and large community events such as the annual Depot-to-Depot run.



WOLF RUN TRAIL

The Wolf Run Trail runs from the Wisconsin Heights High School past Lake Marion along the Black Earth Creek to the Eva Wolf Conservancy. The trail eventually leads onward to Downtown Mazomanie and to the Wisconsin River or Sauk City.



Postcard: Private Collections

ICE HARVESTING AT LAKE MARION

During the early 1900s, ice was harvested at Lake Marion and used in taverns, meat markets, filling station coolers and refrigerated railroad cars. This ice house stood until the 1940s when it was partly rebuilt in downtown Mazomanie.



Postcard: Private Collections

OLD ROADS

County Road KP, which was little more than a wide dirt path, ran along Lake Marion's edge before the lake was dredged by the DNR in the 1960s. During this time the lake was one larger body of water. Sediment at the bottom of the lake was dug up and used to create lawn areas around Lake Marion. A thick clay lining was added during this period to help the lake more effectively hold water.



1937 Aerial Image: UW Map Library



1967 Aerial Image: UW Map Library

BEFORE & AFTER

Up to the early 1950s, Lake Marion was still used to power the Lynch and Walker Feed Mill in downtown Mazomanie. During that time the mill race ran through the village in a series of covered channels that fed the mill with a constant supply of water to turn the wheel. Once Lake Marion was dredged in the 1960s by the DNR, it was divided into three separate ponds to be used as a fish hatchery. The mill race was partially filled in, however, segments of it are now used to carry storm water under the village streets.

Paid for by the DNR River Planning Grant
and gracious contributions from:

Mazomanie Historical Society
The Old Feed Mill
Rookies Food & Spirits

Wisconsin River Sportsmens Club
Wolf Run Association

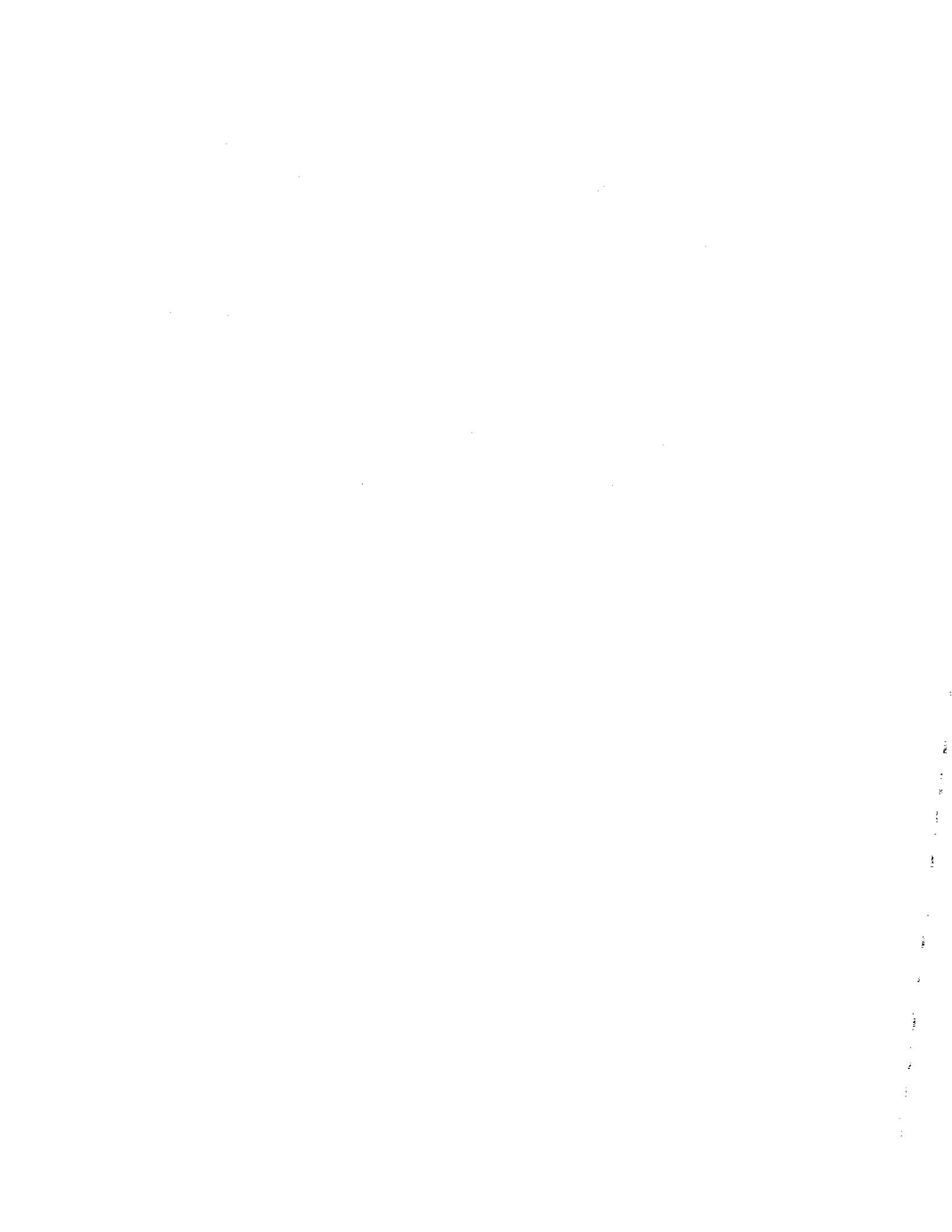
Creation of a Trail to Enhance the Black Earth Creek

In 2010, the Frank Wolf, Sr. family donated a piece of land, known as the Eva Wolf Conservancy, or "Grandma's Park", to the Village of Mazomanie. This land is located adjacent to the location where the Black Earth, Spring Valley and Halfway Prairie Creek come together. This is one of the only pieces of land in the state that has never been tilled. It has always been used for feed. It was Eva Wolf's wish before she passed away that this piece of land be donated to the Village of Mazomanie and used for recreational purposes.

Through the generosity of Fred Wolf, 60+ acre parcel of land adjacent to the Black Earth Creek on the south side of Highway 14 was also donated to locate a multi-use recreation trail.

The land that was donated by Fred Wolf was surveyed, along with a small portion of land owned by Steve Schmitt, by Thom Grenlie, Surveyor. The final plan is to have the land donated by the Wolf family, the "Eva Wolf Conservancy", connected to the land donated by her son, Fred, and become part of a trail that would connect the Village of Mazomanie and the Wisconsin Heights High School/Middle School. This trail hopefully would also become part of the "Safe Routes to School" program to get children safely from the Village of Mazomanie to school. Further plans are to have the trail extend to the Village of Black Earth along the Black Earth Creek.

The multi-use trail would extend along the Black Earth Creek corridor, through the land owned by the DNR to accommodate horses, snowmobiles, walking, running, bicycles, and also be ADA accessible. This trail would help to promote the Black Earth Creek corridor as a recreational area.

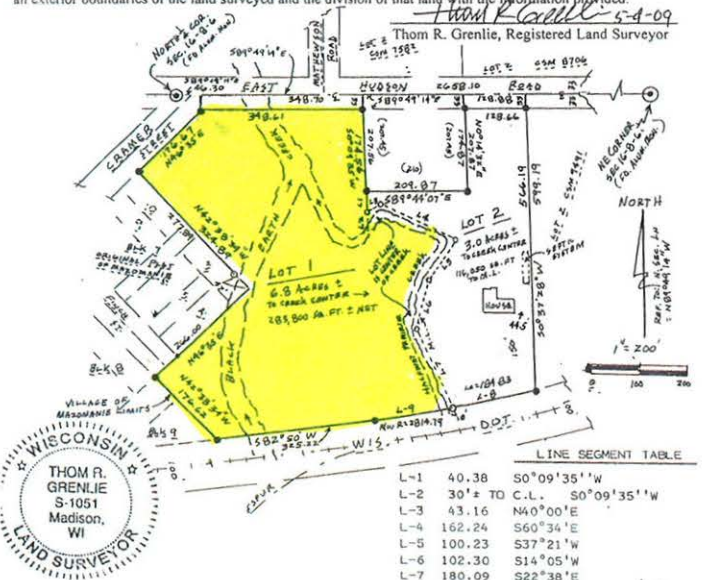


LAND SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE
 State of Wisconsin)
 County of Dane)

CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP

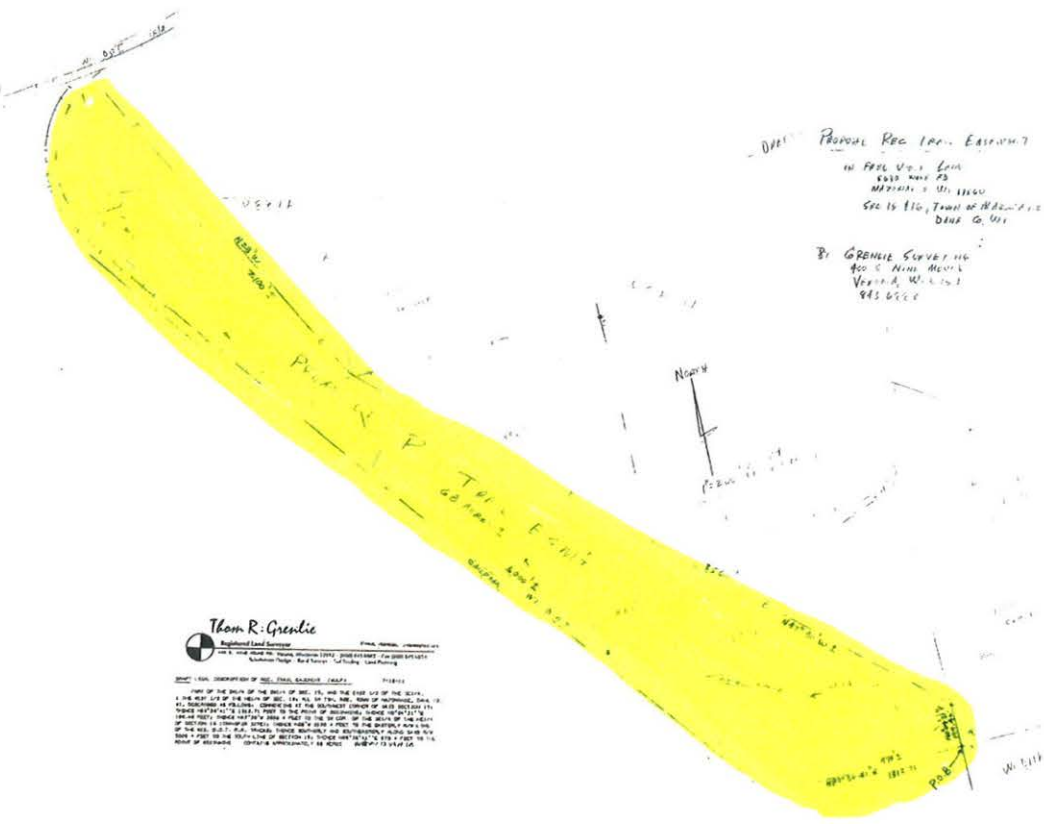
ALL OF LOT 1, C.S.M. NO. 9491, VOL. 54, PAGES 118-119, OF DANE COUNTY
 CERTIFIED SURVEY MAPS, DOC. NO. 3166119, AS LOCATED IN THE NW 1/4 OF
 THE NE 1/4, SEC. 16 - 8 - S, T1N. OF MAZOWANIE, DANE COUNTY, WI.
 I, Thom R. Grenlie, hereby certify that this survey is in compliance with Chapter 236.34 of Wisconsin Statutes.
 so certify that I have surveyed and mapped the lands described hereon and that the map is a correct representation
 all exterior boundaries of the land surveyed and the division of that land with the information provided.

Thom R. Grenlie 5-4-09
 Thom R. Grenlie, Registered Land Surveyor



EVA WOLF CONSERVANCY
"GRANDMA'S PARK"

FRED WOLF'S LAND DONATION



Thom R. Grenlie
 Registered Land Surveyor
 S-1051
 400 S NINE MOUND RD, VERONA, WI 53593
 (608) 845-6882

