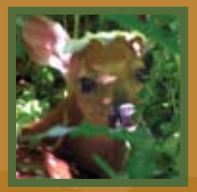


Restore.



Explore.



Discover.



Get off the Path

MEQUON *Nature Preserve*

A REPORT TO OUR DONORS



MISSION

Our mission is to be a guiding example of restoration by returning an urban/suburban area to pre-settlement conditions and establishing an environmental education conservancy and natural habitat that inspires exploration and cultivates stewardship, encouraging visitors to get off the path.

FOUNDING PARTNERS

City of Mequon

Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Ozaukee Washington Land Trust

MEQUON
Nature
Preserve

8200 W. County Line Rd.
Mequon, WI 53097
262.242.8055

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A BRIEF HISTORY....

With a generous gift from the Paddock Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Mr. Richard Paddock set in motion an effort that will save a square mile of land for future generations. As he looked out from his Alexian Village apartment, he saw woods and fields stretching north outward from Milwaukee's urban edge. Dick said with a twinkle in his eye, "It would be good to save 'a little land'." The City of Mequon and the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust took up his challenge, and today the Mequon Nature Preserve and adjoining Milwaukee County Kohl Park will preserve for future generations a green space that is the size of New York City's Central Park.



Swan Road Trail

CHECK OUT OUR PROGRESS

Land Acquisition In 2002, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, and the City of Mequon announced a goal to purchase a square mile of land to establish a premier environmental education and recreation facility for the greater Milwaukee community. Today, the partners have purchased 438 acres and protected in perpetuity another 112 adjoining acres. Only 90 acres remain to achieve the original goal.

Land Restoration Another goal is to return the land to hardwood forests and wetlands as it was prior to European settlement in the 1830's. So, volunteers have planted thousands of trees, and the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association has removed miles of drain tile. With the drain tile gone, wetlands have returned. The result is that a variety of species such as Sandhill Cranes, Leopard Frogs, and Crayfish are now returning to this newly emerging habitat. All of these changes will make for a richer learning experience for students of all ages.

PieperPower Education Center The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust renovated a 12,000 square foot building to create a "sustainable structure" that demonstrates eco-friendly products and practices as well as to house our partners' educational programs. Many generous gifts were supplemented by the efforts of volunteers and local businesses who donated equipment, supplies, materials, and their expertise. Today this education center has become an "environmental hub" for all to use.

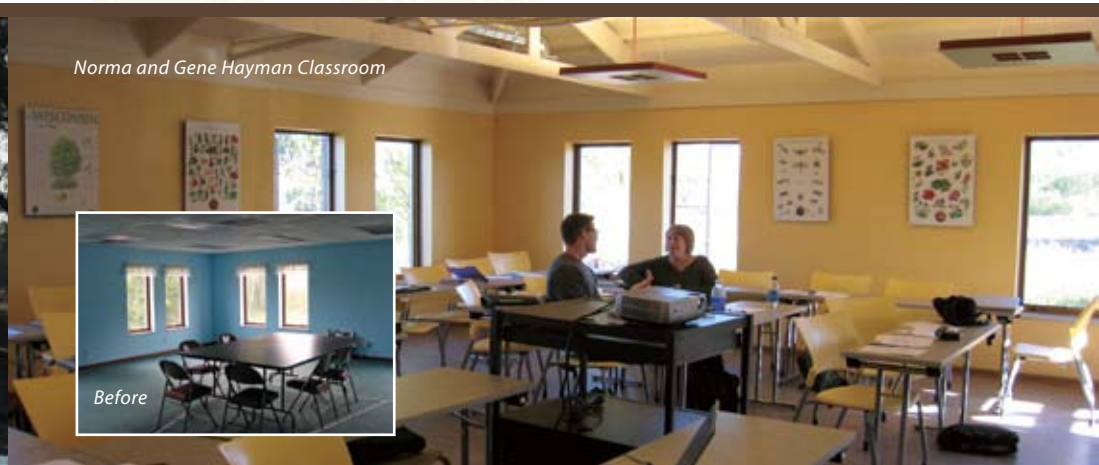
Trails and Observation Tower All visitors are welcome! The five-mile long trail system is nearing completion, and a 40 foot high observation tower has opened. A bridge and boardwalks over several wetlands allow visitors to explore and discover a variety of habitats. Park at 10000 North Swan Road, Mequon, to begin your journey.

Management and Operation The Ozaukee Washington Land Trust manages the land at the Mequon Nature Preserve as well as the PieperPower Education Center and several farmsteads with the assistance of one full-time employee, the Mequon Nature Preserve manager. To support the manager, the Land Trust relies on the dedication of volunteers, school groups, and university students as well as several seasonal college interns.

Endowment The partners established the Mequon Nature Preserve Endowment Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation with a bequest and a major gift. The Mequon Nature Preserve Advisory Board is working to raise $2.5 million to provide long-term financial support assuring future sustainability of the Nature Preserve and its mission. Please remember the Mequon Nature Preserve in your estate planning.



Trinity Creek Restoration



Norma and Gene Hayman Classroom

Before

Observation Tower given in Marie Kasten's daughters' names to honor their inspiring teachers



Concordia University undergraduate ecology class



Riveredge Nature Center teacher with MPS students at the Mequon Nature Preserve

A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

In 2002, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, and the City of Mequon announced an ambitious effort to establish the Mequon Nature Preserve. Six years later, many generous donors have, in total, given over $10 million to provide a premier environmental education and recreation site that will serve generations to come.

Gifts, Grants and Pledges–*the first six years*

Where they came from

City of Mequon	$2,530,000
Foundations	$2,184,000
Individuals	$2,135,000
Other Public Agencies	$1,708,000
Corporations	$1,351,000
In Kind Products and Services	$313,000
Total	**$10,221,000**

How they are being used

Land Acquisition	$6,954,000
PieperPower Education Center	$1,295,000
Trails and Observation Tower	$865,000
Land Restoration	$347,500
Management and Operations	$226,000
Endowment	$150,000
Undesignated Cash and Pledges	$383,500
Total	**$10,221,000**

This report shows figures through March 31, 2008.

NAMING GIFTS

Outdoor Features

Paul's Pond . . . . . *Karen Glanert*
Observation Tower . . . . . *Marie Kasten*
Trail and Kiosk . . . . . *Harris Bank*
Trail and Parking Lot . . . . . *Payne & Dolan*
Trails . . . . . *American Transmission Company, Ralph Evinrude Foundation, Mequon Community Foundation*
Bridge over Paul's Pond . . . . . *Mark and Cheryl Brickman*
Boardwalks . . . . . *Ann MacIver*

PieperPower Education Center Building/Grounds

Education Center . . . . . *Pieper Electric/Ideal Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning*
Wind Turbine . . . . . *Murphy, Scanlon, and Sullivan Mellowes/Charter Manufacturing Company*
Auditorium . . . . . *Pat and Harvey Wilmeth*
Classroom . . . . . *Norma and Gene Hayman*
Meeting Area . . . . . *Wisconsin Energy Corporation Foundation*
Resource Center . . . . . *Terrence Michael Murphy Family*
Committee Room . . . . . *Tom and Yvonne McCollow Memorial Family Meeting Room*
Lobby . . . . . *Allen-Edmonds Shoe Corporation/US Bank*
Prep Room. . . . . *Greater Milwaukee Foundation/Luedke Smith Fund*
Office . . . . . *Bank Mutual*
Office . . . . . *Alexian Village of Milwaukee*
Office . . . . . *Time Warner Cable*
Office . . . . . *Concordia University Wisconsin*
Education Center Wetland . . . . . *Streich Family Foundation*
Planting Beds . . . . . *Johnson's Nursery*

Please consider making a naming gift. Some items still available at the Education Center include a classroom and a green roof planted with sedum; features available on the land include a beech maple woods, an ephemeral pond, and an outdoor classroom. To learn about these and other opportunities, please contact Marybeth Budisch at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation (414-272-5808); Shawn Graff at the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust (262-338-1794), or Mayor Christine Nuernberg at the City of Mequon (262-236-2944).

"The Ralph Evinrude Foundation has been a strong supporter of the Mequon Nature Preserve because the project is making a real contribution to the community in multiple areas that we consider to be very significant. These include the very positive effect on the environment, the partnering with Milwaukee County to create a corridor of undeveloped land, and the educational benefits available to the entire metropolitan area through alliances with educational institutions."

Henry J. Loos
Trustee, Ralph Evinrude Foundation



"John and I are pleased to support the Mequon Nature Preserve because of the opportunity for our community of family, friends, neighbors and companies to enjoy the beauty of nature and the opportunity to learn from nature right in our back yard. Environmental issues surround us every day, and we need to be better informed. The Nature Preserve is a beautiful spot and a great legacy for our children and grandchildren."

Linda Mellowes
Immediate Past President
The Greater Milwaukee Foundation



"Supporting the Mequon Nature Preserve was a very easy decision for my family to make. We appreciated the opportunity to help fund an environment that provides nature education; preservation of green space and wildlife; tranquil relaxation and passive recreation and all of this so extraordinarily accessible to Milwaukee area citizens. It was an offer we could not refuse."

John Ridley, MD





"Starting small; thinking big! The Mequon Nature Preserve is a landmark action that will ultimately attain national significance and be held up as a model for others to follow. I'm thrilled to have played a small role to help create and restore the MNP and to educate others about its natural resource values."

Noel Cutright, Ph.D.

"We work to minimize our environmental impacts whenever possible and we help our customers do the same. Additionally, we partner with and support organizations, such as the Mequon Nature Preserve, who share our commitment to being a good environmental steward and making our communities a better place to live and work."

Mary Lou Young
Director, Global Community Relations
Rockwell Automation

"We at Allen-Edmonds Shoe Corporation are delighted to be a part of an idea which has turned into a project for all ages. It is only through the clear foresight of Mayor Nuernberg together with Milwaukee County that something so special was created for generations to come. This Nature Preserve will surpass New York's Central Park! It is unprecedented for a city to set aside such a large land mass in order to give people an area for environmental studies and recreation forever. Truly, this shows a clear vision of our leadership in Mequon. We continue to be proud and supportive of The Mequon Nature Preserve as all people in Southeastern Wisconsin should."

John Stollenwerk
Chairman
Allen Edmonds Shoe Corporation





MEQUON
Nature
Preserve

Greater Milwaukee Foundation
1020 North Broadway
Milwaukee, WI 53202

THE MEQUON NATURE PRESERVE
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Walter "Scott" Leedom, Chair
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Cheryl Brickman
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Norman Doll
Mark Murphy
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Kristin Gies

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