



Points of Interest: Towell Family Donation, Westport Wisconsin

Specific Name of the Parcel: Towell Family State Habitat Area

Acreage: 40.93 Acres

Management Staff: Bureaus of Fishery and Wildlife Management, located at Nevin Fish Hatchery, Fitchburg, Wisconsin.

Property Managers: Dane County Fisheries Biologist Dan Oele and Dane County Wildlife Biologist Julie Widholm.

Closing Date of the Parcel: 11-30-2021

Intended Management of the Property:

The parcel is comprised mostly of wetlands and the primary goal for the property, when combining it with the adjacent approximate 34 acres owned by the department is to restore the existing ditches, ponds and degraded wetlands into a high functioning wetland complex suitable for northern pike spawning, migration and recruitment into Lake Mendota. Restored wetlands play an important role in our ecosystems, providing benefits such as clean water, flood control and would also benefit migrating waterfowl and may offer increased hunting opportunities. Management of the parcel by the department would aid in reducing nutrient inputs into the four lakes surrounding Madison and all the associated creeks, rivers and streams, as well as assist in achieving Dane County's goal of utilizing wetlands to address flood mitigation.

Public Access: Not only will this donation provide an aesthetically unique green space area for public enjoyment, it will also be open to the public for all five nature-based outdoor recreational activities which include hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and cross-country skiing.

Primary access to the property at this time is from the Town of Westport's adjacent park and parking lot located off CTH M.

DNR Contacts: Dane County Fisheries Biologist Dan Oele 608-275-3225 and Dane County Wildlife Biologist Julie Widholm 608-267-0866.