

RESTORATION Efforts

THE IMPROTANCE OF PRESCRIBED BURNS

Oak woodlands require a periodic stabilizing disturbance, in the form of fire, to maintain their structure and diversity. Fire manages weeds and removes invasive plants. Prescribed burns recycle nutrients back to the soil, which leads to more desirable plant growth in the future. Additionally, many native trees, such as oaks, have evolved adaptations to protect themselves from fire injuries such as thick bark.



FORESTRY MOWING AT HARTLAND MARSH

Woodlands, savannas, and prairies are being infested with unwanted invasive woody species. Forestry mowing is a cost effective way of controlling and removing these species.

This process is more advantageous over traditional bulldozing because it creates nutrient rich mulch and eliminates the need to burn or haul off large piles of brush. This method also helps prevent erosion and runoff pollution by not disturbing the root structure of larger trees. There is no need for hand cutting, stacking, and disposing of material anymore. A forestry mower can do all of this in one step. Some even follow up with a herbicide application.



Forestry Mowing at Hartland Marsh



WHY GO Outside?

As cities and suburbs continue to expand, nature is parceled off more, and we all seem to spend less time in a fenced-in yard, let alone take a long walk in the woods. Instead, indoor activities can seem easier (no sunscreen necessary!), safer, and even more sociable for kids who are growing up with multiplayer video games and social media accounts.

However, recent studies have exposed the benefit—even necessity—of spending time outdoors, for both kids and adults. Even a picture of greenery can benefit mental health.

Here are a few benefits from enjoying the outdoors & making space available for the future generation to experience:

- Builds Confidence
- Promotes Creativity and Imagination
- Teaches Responsibility
- Provides Different Stimulation
- Makes Us Think
- Reduces Stress and Fatigue
- Gets Us Moving!



WAUKESHA COUNTY LAND CONSERVANCY
PO BOX 2572
BROOKFIELD, WI 53008
(262) 875-3070



ADOPT-A-PRESERVE

embrace nature.
find your place.



ABOUT Hartland Marsh

Hartland Marsh is a 180 acre nature preserve protected in partnership by Waukesha County Land Conservancy, Ice Age Trail Alliance and the Village of Hartland. This beautiful preserve provides the citizens of Hartland with wonderful nature-based recreational opportunities such as hiking and birding. In addition, local school students and youth groups learn about nature by helping care for the preserve by removing invasive plants that threaten the great oak trees populating the property.

Intact oak woodlands are now one of the rarest plant communities on earth. As a keystone species—a species that plays a critical role in its ecosystem—oaks keep forests healthy by maintaining a richer mix of plants, insects, birds and other animals wherever they grow. And as a source of food and habitat, they are critically important for wildlife.



THE MIGHTY OAKS: THE TREES OF LIFE

Oak woodland natural communities provide an enormous food source for wildlife. Over 300 species of insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals depend on oak woodlands for food, shelter and reproduction. Nearly every part of an oak tree, from the roots, bark, and branches, to the leaves and acorns, provides food for insects. Oaks provide cover, nesting sites, and food for salamanders, lizards, frogs, toads, bats and over 80 mammal species and 170 bird species.

The red headed woodpecker, eastern whip-poor-will and cerulean warbler are some of the species that are in significant decline due to the loss of this important habitat.



Purpose OF ADOPT-A-PRESERVE

WCLC's Adopt-A-Preserve will build a vibrant community of people and local businesses, organizations, and government entities that will focus on making nature fun and connecting people to the environment.

The program will also create a sustainable volunteer base and financial support through public and private partnerships to restore and steward the rare oak ecosystem in Hartland Marsh. It will also encourage public recreational and educational opportunities by spending time outdoors.

5 MORE BENEFITS

It is well documented that regularly being immersed in a natural setting can:

- Lower Anxiety and Stress Levels
- Boost Immunity and Cancer-Fighting White Blood Cells
- Reduce Feelings of Anger and Depression
- Increase Energy, Creativity, and Even Generosity
- Improve Memory and Attention Span

THE Plan, Impact, and Purpose

WCLC will create a business plan for Hartland Marsh modeled after the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and the US Fish & Wildlife Service model to bring land stewardship, human dimension, and funding together.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?

There are many reasons why this project is a priority. Through WCLC's Adopt-A-Preserve program, our community is able to make a global impact locally. A few other benefits include:

- Restoring and Stewarding Rare Oak Woodlands & the Bark River
- Strengthening Community Partnerships
- Addressing the Growing Nature Deficit and Emphasis the Health Benefits of Exploring Nature
- Creating a Better Community for All

This will be accomplished through several objectives:

- Update Joint Land Restoration and Stewardship Plan
- Develop an Outreach and Education Plan that Strengthens

Existing Partnerships, Including:

- ◊ Ben Goss Bird Club
- ◊ Waukesha County Parks and Land Use
- ◊ Ice Age Trail Alliance
- ◊ Local Boy & Girl Scouts of America Troupes
- ◊ Pewaukee Area Arts Council
- ◊ Carroll University
- ◊ Hartland Arrowhead High School
- Develop Funding Levels and Benefits
- Update Website Using GIS Story Mapping to Integrate Drone Videos, Mapping, Volunteer Opportunities, and More

