

2012 Photo Contest

“Protected Places” info sheet



Gathering Waters 2012 photo contest invites images of Wisconsin’s protected lands, especially of places preserved by Wisconsin land trusts and through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund. Here’s a bit more about what all that means:

What’s “Protected Land?” When we talk about protected properties, we mean places where future development has been limited to benefit the conservation values on the land. There are hundreds of thousands of natural acres in Wisconsin permanently protected for public benefit.

Some lands are owned and stewarded by the state or other units of government (State and County Parks, for example). Nonprofit land trusts, conservancies, nature centers, wildlife conservation groups, etc. also own and care for protected lands.

What’s a land trust? “Land Trust” is a term for a conservation non-profit that either owns land or preserves natural places through other permanent, legal means. There are 50 land trusts in the state, from largest, The Nature Conservancy, to smaller, all-volunteer groups working locally. Many of them protect lands open for public recreation.

The best way to learn about places protected by your local land trust is to contact them! A directory of Wisconsin land trusts is on our website

www.gatheringwaters.org > [Wisconsin Land Trusts > directory](#)



What’s the Stewardship Fund? Where are Stewardship-protected properties?

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund has been the Department of Natural Resources land-acquisition fund since 1990. The Stewardship Fund is the account the state uses to purchase state park and forest lands and to protect important natural areas.

In addition to the state, land trusts and local governments can use Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grants to purchase conservation lands in their communities.

For over 20 years, the Stewardship Fund has set aside thousands of natural acres for our benefit and enjoyment. Your favorite places may well be Stewardship-protected properties. Your local land trust can tell you what Stewardship funds have protected in your area. Also, the DNR has mapped Stewardship purchases and you can locate Stewardship’s gems here: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/lr/stewardship/mapping.html>

Questions? Drop us an email – photos@gatheringwaters.org

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We help people protect Wisconsin’s special places

www.gatheringwaters.org