

Mukwonago River Unit / Lulu Lake Regional and Property Analysis

Addendum to the Mukwonago River/Lulu Lake Regional Property Analysis 11/07/13

The Regional Ecological Setting will be expanded to add a more inclusive regional view of the wetland and terrestrial natural communities, and a paragraph to the summary.

Add to the document at the conclusion of The Mukwonago Watershed description on page 13:

Wetland and Terrestrial Features

The Ecological Landscapes Handbook (in press) states the Mukwonago River system supports a wealth of native aquatic and wetland species, including rare fish, mussels, butterflies and moths, and dragonflies, and is associated with extensive wetlands of good quality and significant biodiversity values. Among the important wetland communities are Emergent Marsh, Southern Sedge Meadow, Calcareous Fen, and Wet-Mesic Prairie. Southern Tamarack Swamp is present in several locations, and small patches of Wild Rice Marsh occur where conditions are suitable.

The uplands bordering the river also afford significant conservation opportunities. Towards the headwaters, near and just upstream from Lulu Lake, remnant Oak Openings, Oak Woodland, and Southern Dry-Mesic Forest communities occur, with scattered small patches of native prairie. Project managers at The Nature Conservancy and Wisconsin DNR have reintroduced fire to the oak-dominated uplands to restore characteristic structural and compositional features of the now very rare Oak openings and Oak Woodland communities.

Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan (2005-2015) indicates a priority action to focus management and restoration efforts in the Southern Kettle Moraine Conservation Opportunity Area (COA). The upper portions of the Mukwonago Watershed, including Lulu Lake are part of this COA. The management here is to emphasize restoration efforts on Oak Openings, Oak Woodland, and prairie communities. This plan also emphasizes the protection and management of Wet-mesic Prairie and Calcareous Fens.

Add to the SUMMARY after the paragraph under Ecological and Resource Management:

Lulu Lake is one of the highest quality examples of pristine wetland and upland communities in the southeast part of the state. The Oak Opening and Oak Woodland communities are well known for being among the best in the Midwest. In addition, nearly one dozen rare animals and over 25 rare plants find suitable habitat at the site. The exceptional quality of the natural communities at Lulu Lake can be at least partially attributed to the extensive restoration work that has been conducted on the site. These activities will continue to be critical to maintaining high-quality portions of the site. Also, an evaluation of use patterns at Lulu Lake may be needed to develop management strategies.