



The future of the forest is in your hands!

We all have a role to play in land stewardship. Whether you are a student, landowner, or interested in volunteering, you can make a difference in central Wisconsin.

If you do not own land, consider the management of public lands where you hike, hunt, or fish. Connect with the land managers of the property, learn about their management objectives, and ask them how you can help. Also, be sure to buy certified sustainably managed paper and wood products.

If you own a woodland in Wisconsin, there are a number of programs and organizations that can provide stewardship guidance for you and your woods.



Managed Forest Law:

State program for forest management and property tax benefits. dnr.wi.gov keyword MFL



WI Tree Farm:

Program that supports sustainable forest management. www.witreefarm.org



My Wisconsin Woods

A public, private partnership serving woodland owners across Wisconsin. mywisconsinwoods.org



Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association:

Educational community of fellow woodland owners and professionals. wisconsinwoodlands.org

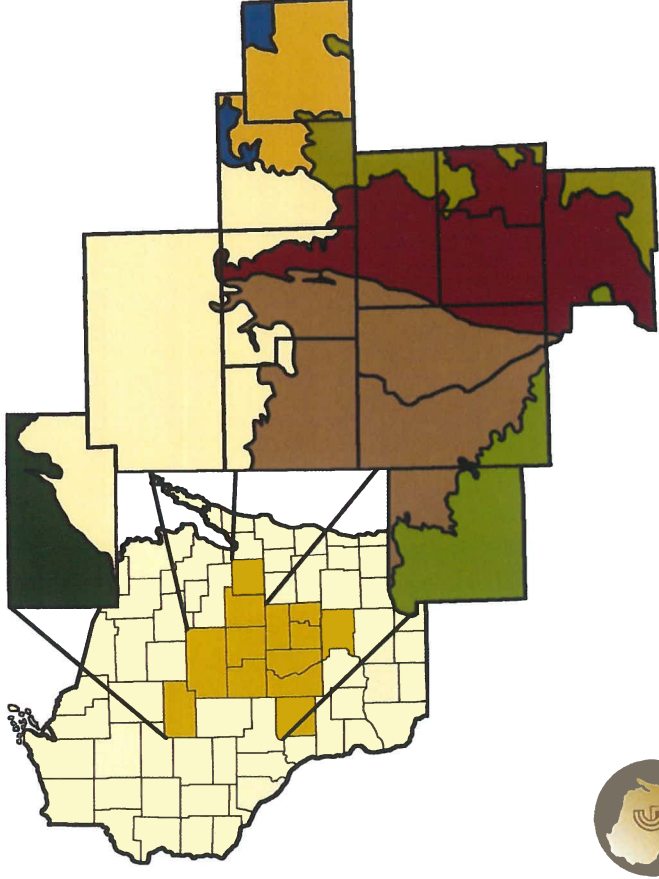


EQIP / CSP:

Federal cost share for forest and habitat improvement. www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov

Deer Management Assistance Program:

State program for learning how to improve habitat and manage wildlife. dnr.wi.gov keyword DMAP



Golden Sands RC&D Ecological Landscapes

- North Central Forest
- Forest Transition
- Central Sand Plains
- Western Coulees & Ridges
- Northern Lake Michigan Coastal
- Central Lake Michigan Coastal
- Southeast Glacial Plains
- Central Sand Hills

Golden Sands RC&D is a regional conservation 501(c)3 nonprofit. We work in 13 counties in central Wisconsin that contain eight different ecological landscapes. The Pinevilla Tree Farm serves as an example of a Central Lake Michigan Coastal Ecological Landscape. We encourage you to visit our website to learn more about other Demonstration Forests and to get involved in woodland and wildlife habitat management. Our website provides information about land management programs, cost share for habitat improvement, and/or tax benefits. There are lots of ways you can get involved in the land management movement in Wisconsin. We want to help landowners connect to state and federal programs that will work for them. With proper forest management, we hope more landowners across Wisconsin see the benefits of productive and healthy forests and wildlife habitat.



The Golden Sands RC&D Demonstration Forest Network

"Connecting Communities to Land Stewardship"
www.goldensandsrcd.org/livingclassrooms
 715-343-6215

Marquette County



Demonstration FOREST

Hill Woodland

This is private property! Please call Golden Sands RC&D to schedule a free site visit with the landowner.

Questions? Call our office: 715-343-6215

Printed: January 2021

This organization is an equal opportunity provider.



Welcome to the Hill Woodland!

The Hill Woodland was originally owned by Joe Mills who had purchased the land in the early 1950s when it was a simple hay field. It was his vision and dedicated tree planting which resulted in the property's bountiful forests. In addition to the forest, the 220 acres includes wetlands, a small grassland area and a pond. In 2000, Hazen, a good friend of Joe's, and his wife Mary Hill purchased the property. Owning quality property like this was a lifetime dream of theirs. Hazen and Mary have since passed but because of them the property will be in the Hill family for generations.

The Hill Woodland Tour

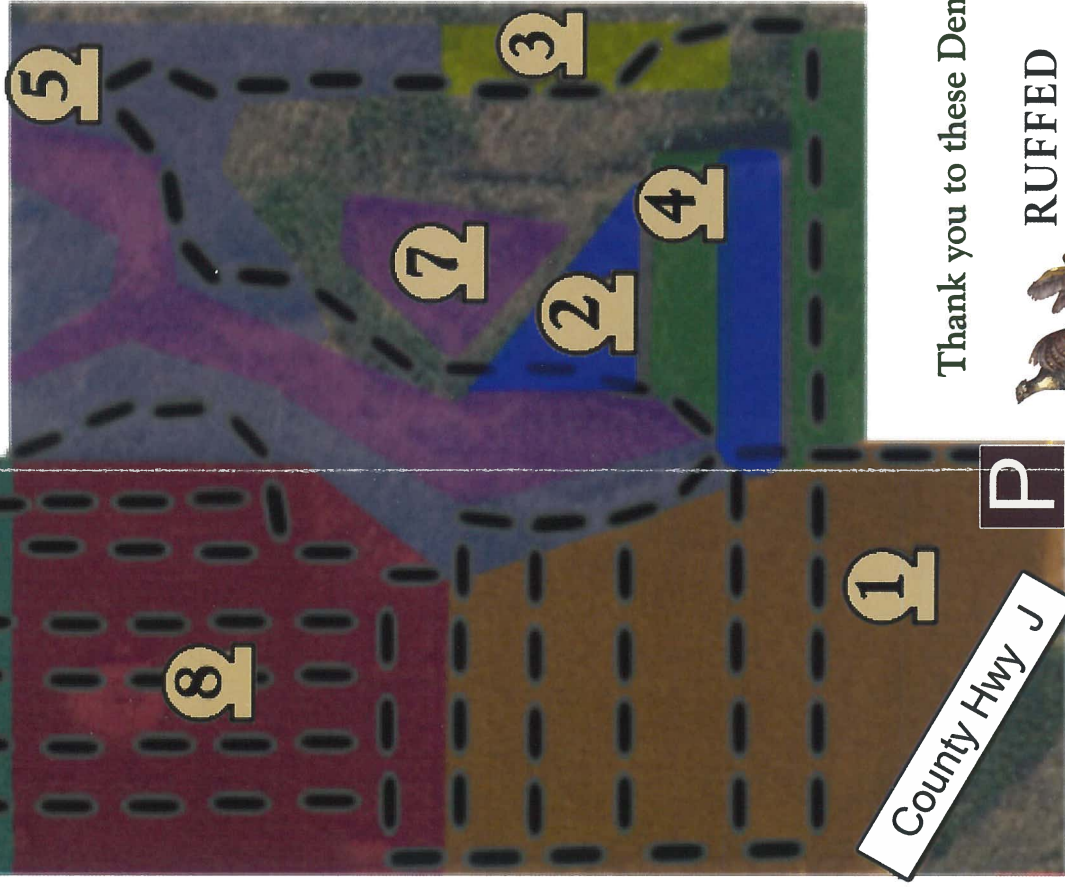
Area 1, 2 and 6: Changing Land Uses
 Since European settlement, many forests in central Wisconsin have been harvested for timber and converted for agricultural use. In the 1950s many acres of agricultural lands were abandoned due to the nutrient-poor soil which failed to support successive yields. Over time these fields were successfully afforested with a red pine plantation. Currently, this area is being managed for invasive species including autumn olive and honeysuckle which outcompete forest seedlings in the understory. These areas are also thinned periodically to aid the natural conversion of the forest to white pine.

Area 3: Maple Forest with Scattered Oaks
 This stand originated in 1989. The majority of trees are red maples which are hardy and shade tolerant. Other trees in the stand include aspen and white birch. The aspen will need to be managed in order to maintain early successional forest habitat which supports species like ruffed grouse and woodcock.

Area 4: White Pine Plantation
 This site was also planted in the 1950s with white pine. The stand has been thinned to maintain stand quality. During one storm event a pocket of this stand was killed by a lightning strike. Some of the dead trees were left standing to provide foraging sites for woodpeckers and nuthatches and provide cavities for flying squirrels and cavity nesting birds like owls and chickadees. In the years since the storm, the forest has healed itself with little remaining evidence.

Area 5: Oak Forest
 This area borders a wetland which branches across the property. The area's tree density is variable with the most common trees being black and white oak and white pine. Aspen, maple and birch are also present but are more common where the water table is closer to the surface. The canopy of the stand offers wildlife viewing opportunities.

Area 7: Wetland and Lowland Brush Alder
 Wetlands are an important vegetation cover and provide habitat to wildlife on the property. This area is dominated by marsh grasses which are interrupted by patches of lowland brush including tag alder and willow. This area is characterized by peat soils which are acidic and created through the accumulation of vegetation and organic matter. Tamarack, which prefer to grow in acidic soils can be found in the southern part of the site.



Area 8: Controlling Invasive Species Within a Pine Plantation

Managing invasive species is a challenge faced by many landowners. Invasive species can be difficult to detect and once established are even more challenging to control. They often lead to the degradation of site health as they outcompete tree seedlings and inhibit woodland wildflower growth. Species being monitored and controlled by the landowner include non-native bush honeysuckle and spotted knapweed.

Thank you to these Demonstration Forest sponsors!

