

File# FI 813 – Marinette County - 39.1 acres

The Department acquired this property for \$6,965.00 in 1969. There is approximately 1,635 feet of two bank frontage on Eagle Cree, a class one trout stream, as well as an Outstanding Resource Water. Eagle Creek is a tributary stream that enters the Peshtigo River system between Caldron and High Falls Reservoirs. Eagle Creek is very important for trout recruitment in the Peshtigo River watershed, and is classified as a legacy place in the Land Legacy Report.

Substantial investment in natural resources has occurred on this property through stream restoration work as well as fish stocking efforts. This property is also sampled by DNR Fisheries staff as a trend site to access the brook trout fishery. Extensive habitat work was completed along a 1,320 foot segment of Eagle Creek downstream of the Eagle River Road crossing, which is located on this property. In 1979, DNR staff and Trout Unlimited volunteers installed an in-stream bank cover 198 feet in length. Face rock was placed along the cover, as well as backfilling with rock. Beginning in 1988, a State Trout Stamp habitat project was implemented, which consisted of installing 12 prefabricated bank covers, strategic placement of 150 boulder retards, rip rap placed along 360 feet of the bank covers, and construction of a sand trap at the downstream section of the habitat rehabilitation area. The project was completed in 1990. Routine maintenance of the sand trap is required and was last completed in 2005. The sand trap, which is 5 feet deep and 100 feet long, has been dredged every other year, which removes approximately 40 to 60 cubic yards of sugar sand. This dredged sand has been used to create upland habitat for wood turtles, a state threatened species in Wisconsin.

Brook trout were stocked annually from 1938 to 1974. Brown trout were stocked periodically from 1943 to 1950 and annually from 1959 to 1972. Since 1974, no trout have been stocked into Eagle Creek. Historically, natural reproduction of brook trout has occurred, but brown trout natural reproduction has been minimal.

Currently in 2015, 2 LTE's, funded by Trout Unlimited brushed both sides of the stream throughout this property in anticipation of renovating/repairing the bank covers during this biennium. There is ongoing involvement from partner groups on this property.

Eagle Creek sampling indicates that Brook trout reproduction and recruitment has been fairly consistent since 2006. The public can access the property through Eagle River Road or Tower Road. A gravel access road leading to a 15-vehicle gravel parking lot located on the property. This road also provides DNR Fisheries staff access to the stream for stream restoration work and trout sampling.

The property is used by the public for fishing, trapping, and hunting including species such as grouse, woodcock, deer, bear, squirrel and turkey. This property also provides access to adjacent Marinette County forest lands.

The Department recommends retaining this parcel.

