

File FI 1803 - Dane County 167.63 Acres

The Department acquired this property for \$100,000 and a partial donation of \$150,000 in 1985. It is a part of the Statewide Habitat Areas project and is located in the Town of Westport in Dane County. The parcel was purchased to protect Six Mile Creek and to buffer wetlands surrounding Lake Mendota to maintain water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, to provide public access to water and to provide a buffer to Governor Nelson State Park.

Sixmile creek runs through the southwest portion of the parcel, providing approximately 960 feet of two bank frontage and approximately 1000 feet of one bank frontage. The creek serves as a valuable migratory corridor for game fish and non-game warm to cool water forage species to migrate from the lake to Six Mile Creek to spawn.

The Department and partners have made investments in the parcel including a prairie restoration and building and maintaining trails through the parcel. The Department and partners have also built an impoundment on the parcel to raise northern pike fingerlings for direct release into Sixmile creek and Lake Mendota. There is a storage building on the parcel that was recently re-furbished for Department Fisheries staff use. Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) dollars have been used for the rearing of Northern Pike on the property.

There are two land use agreements with the Town of Westport on the parcel, one for walking trails through the parcel and the second for a recent construction of a parking lot for use of the bike trail that is being constructed along Woodland Drive.

The public can access the property from CTY M on the south and Woodland Drive to the east. A club snowmobile trail skirts the southern edge of this parcel. The parcel is heavily used by hikers and the trails on the parcel as it links to Governor Nelson State Park. It is also used for small game, deer and waterfowl hunters in the fall.

The Department recommends retaining this parcel.

