

1. Establish a *sustainable community conservation partnership* to protect the resources of Red Banks Glades/Gilson Creek. Build partnerships and capacity through a collaborative, community-based approach to conservation. (Beginning October 2003)
  - *Actively involve local residents* in identifying natural attributes that are important to them.
    - Prior to this grant period, Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust's involvement in the Gilson Creek/ Red Banks area had been initiated by Darcy Kind from the Bureau of Endangered Resources of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, leading to a Landowner Informational Meeting on October 2, 2002 attended by 20 people.
    - Leslie Taylor and Sue Kinde saw the area with Darcy on August 14, 2002, and Leslie made many additional trips. Jim Klinkert *visited landowners or properties* on August 26, 2002; May 4, 10, 11, 12 and 14, July 11 and 13, and November 11, 2004, and February 9, 16, and 19, 2005, plus additional trips after the grant period. Executive Director Lori Dehlinger and Leslie Taylor visited the area with Darcy on November 7, 2003. Attorney Dennis Simon toured with Jim in May 2004.
    - Leslie and Darcy met several times with landowners Dennis and Ann Bryan in 2003, and on January 29, 2004, Jim Klinkert of NEWLT, Darcy, John Wolf of WDNR, and Jon Bechle and Brad Holtz of the Brown County Land Conservation office also met with the Bryans. This led to the *WDNR's purchase of a conservation easement* on Bryan's 42 acres which is within the Red Banks State Natural Area, and protects the threatened dwarf lake iris (*Iris lacustris*). Jim met with the Bryans July 16, 2004.
    - Neighboring landowners were invited to an *informational meeting* at 7 P.M. on October 19, 2004 at the St Louis Parish Center, Dykesville. Twenty-one attended to hear about the Bureau of Endangered Resources successful Landowner Contact Program, Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust's Registry Program, establishing a new community group, and Brown County Land Conservation and U.S. Fish & Wildlife programs. The initial meeting of the Friends group was held June 28, 2005.
    - *Two field trips demonstrated the unique features of the Red Banks.* Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust, National Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, and Wisconsin Wetlands Association presented the 1-4 pm Red Banks Field Trip on May 29, 2005. Leaders were Jim Uhrinak (International Oak Society), Richard Barloga (naturalist), and Bob Howe (Director of UW-GB Biodiversity Center). Forty-two attended. The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin represented by David Clutter held a second Field Trip on June 4, 2005 which attracted 30 people.

- *Actively involve potential funding partners* in development of the project.
  - Natural Resource Damage Assessment funding was requested from the Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resources Trustee Council on October 16, 2003, and \$222,300 was allocated to NEWLT towards the “Gilson Creek Glades Preserve.”
  - Jim Klinkert met with Ed Weidner on February 22, 2005 to discuss possible funders.
  
- *Establish a local steering committee.*
  - The *Friends of the Red Banks-Red River Watershed* steering committee has worked to set up a permanent organization, which will be a 501(c)(3) public charity incorporated as a Friends group for the Red Banks Alvar State Natural Area under the auspices of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.
    - Led by Jim Klinkert, meetings of landowners and potential friends were held at the community meeting October 19, 2004, [on November 10, 2004, and March 9,] May 12, and [June 28] July 26 of 2005. Since the ending date of the River Planning grant, the *Friends of Red Banks Red River Watershed* or the Friends steering committee have met an additional 6 times to incorporate the organization, write articles of incorporation and bylaws, attract members and elect officers, select priority parcels and prepare 2006 workplans. Members are attending Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning meetings.
  
- 2. *Create a Gilson Creek Glades conservation plan* that will be supported by the community. Develop a plan for protection of critical land in the project area. (Beginning November 2003)
  - *Convene planning partners*, those with expert knowledge about the natural resources in the Gilson Creek watershed and those who know what conservation tools are already available.
    - The *Lake Michigan Shorelands Alliance* was facilitated by Gathering Waters Conservancy to strengthen land trusts in the Lake Michigan basin, through collaboration and capacity building of nine land trusts along Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan shore. Meetings began in 2002, and continue to the present. This initiative led to a document called *Landscapes of Opportunity: A Regional Conservation Plan for Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan Basin* (November 2003). *Red Banks Glades* is highlighted as one of these special sites. Quarterly meetings have been attended by staff and volunteers of NEWLT.
  - *Interface with community partners* in establishing conservation priorities and strategies.
    - A *Site Conservation Plan* was developed for the *Gilson Creek Watershed-Red Banks Alvar*, led by Karen Bassler of Gathering Waters Conservancy. After a preliminary meeting on February 19, 2004, Site Conservation Planning meetings were held March 22, July 19 and August 3 of 2004, and a conference call July 14, 2005. Partners working together in the Gilson Creek watershed and involved in this planning include:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
 The Nature Conservancy – Wisconsin Chapter  
 Gathering Waters Conservancy  
 Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission

University of Wisconsin- Green Bay  
UW-Extension Basin Educators  
Brown County Planning Commission  
Brown County Land Conservation Department  
Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust

- NEWLT's Jim Klinkert met with Mike Grimm of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Door County office on February 19, 2004 to look at Green Bay's west shore, and Sue Kinde attended a UW-Extension-Gathering Waters conference on Smart Growth Planning on June 5, 2004. The Nature Conservancy Green Bay Integrity Assessment Project was introduced at a meeting at the University of Green Bay on September 28, 2005, and Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust met with TNC's Mike Grimm and Julie Schartner on November 23, 2005 to discuss how we might work together.
3. *Develop Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust's capacity* to protect sensitive land in the Gilson Creek watershed through direct conservation actions (resource management agreements, conservation easements and preserve acquisitions).
- WDNR purchased a conservation easement on 42 acres within the Red Banks State Natural Area which protects the threatened dwarf lake iris.
  - Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust is negotiating to purchase a conservation easement on 32 acres with 1000 feet of frontage on Gilson Creek. Meetings with the landowner have been frequent, including February 9, 2005. NRDA funding has been committed for this project.
- Develop, produce and use *outreach materials and methods* to support the goals of the project. (Beginning October 2003)
    - Create brochure about the project for community leaders and residents
    - Hold community open house to present conservation plan. (October 19, 2004 and June 28, 2005)
  - *Develop Landowner "Registry" Packet* – establishing a voluntary land management agreement program and a positive relationship between the landowner and NEWLT.
    - *Registry Training*, Iola (July 14, 2004). Milly Rugland and Jim Klinkert trained volunteers in developing a Registry program, a voluntary program for landowners who sign a non-binding agreement to steward their property.
    - Land Registry brochures and signs designed and ordered (2004 and 2005)
    - *First Land Registry* on 20 acres in the Red Banks November 21, 2005.
    - Newsletter article on Registry project.
  - Work individually with landowners on *conservation options available through NEWLT*, including financial planning to facilitate conservation easements.
  - *Raise funds for implementation of land protection plan.* (Beginning November 2003)
    - Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funding of \$222,300

- Northeast Wisconsin Audubon grants totaling \$900
- Greater Green Bay Community Foundation grant of \$1000
- Lux Foundation grants of \$12500
- Northeast Wisconsin grant and membership funding, plus the extraordinary efforts of volunteers, enabled the Friends of the Red Banks-Red River Watershed to be created and for the land trust to pursue the purchase of a 32-acre conservation easement.
- These accomplishments through the Gilson Creek Glades River Planning grant were supplemented by funds received by other partner groups, such as Gathering Waters Conservancy, the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and Wisconsin Wetlands Association who were then able to contribute their expertise to the project.