



*“If you have knowledge,  
let others light their  
candles at it.”*

**Margaret Fuller**  
(1810 - 1850)

# Contacts

Where can you turn for help with your open space? On these pages we list the major government, university and non-profit organizations involved in natural resource management in Wisconsin. On the last page we list volunteer opportunities for invasive species control and citizen wildlife monitoring.

## Agency Contacts

### USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

National Office Home Page: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Conservation Programs Page: <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

NRCS (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) is best known for the work they do to protect farmland and stop soil erosion, but they also offer assistance with other types of open space. If you own land that is farmed now, or was farmed within the last 5 years, you may qualify for technical and financial assistance available through this agency. NRCS maintains six Service Centers in Southeast Wisconsin:

Racine & Kenosha  
1012 Vine St  
Union Grove 53182  
(262) 878-3353

Walworth  
225 O'Connor Drive  
Elkhorn 53121  
(262) 723-3216

Milwaukee & Waukesha  
1320 Pewaukee Rd  
Waukesha 53188  
(262) 547-8241

Washington  
333 East Washington St  
West Bend 53095  
(262) 335-4860

Ozaukee  
121 West Main St  
Port Washington 53074  
(262) 284-8273

Jefferson  
134 West Rockwell St  
Jefferson 53549  
(920) 674-2020

### Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Home Page: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/>

The DNR coordinates a large variety of environmental protection programs, many focused on land protection and open space management. The DNR maintains four service centers in southeast Wisconsin:

Milwaukee (Milwaukee Metro Area)  
2300 N Dr. Martin Luther King Dr  
Milwaukee 53212  
(414) 263-8500

Plymouth (Washington, Sheboygan & Ozaukee Area)  
1155 Pilgrim Rd  
Plymouth 53073  
(920) 892-8756

Sturtevant (Racine & Kenosha Area)  
9531 Rayne Rd Ste 4  
Sturtevant 53177  
(262) 884-2300

Waukesha (Waukesha Area)  
141 NW Barstow Rd, Rm 180  
Waukesha 53188  
(262) 574-2100

### US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Wisconsin Contacts Page: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/maps/wisconsin.htm>

Partners for Wildlife Program: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/WisconsinPartners/>

The FWS is a federal agency focused on protecting wildlife, fish and plants. They employ prairie and wetland specialists at two southern Wisconsin field offices:

Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha,  
Walworth, Jefferson, Rock, Waukesha  
4511 Helgesen Drive  
Madison, WI 53718  
608-221-1206 ext. 14

Washington, Ozaukee, Dodge  
W10040 Cascade Mountain Road  
Portage, WI 53901  
608-742-7100 ext. 14



## Contacts

### Open-Space and Nature Education Centers

Visit *Nature Net* for an up-to-date list of Environmental Learning Centers throughout Wisconsin: <http://www.naturenet.com/index.html>

#### Southeast Wisconsin Education Centers:

**Havenwoods State Forest**  
6141 N. Hopkins St.  
Milwaukee 53209  
414-527-0232

[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/havenwoods/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/havenwoods/index.html)

#### Michael Fields Agricultural Institute

W2493 County Rd. ES  
East Troy, WI 53120  
262-642-3303  
FAX: 262-642-4028  
[www.michaelfieldsaginst.org](http://www.michaelfieldsaginst.org)

#### Pringle Nature Center

9800 160<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Bristol 53104  
262-857-2688  
[www.kenoshaymca.org/kymca\\_pringle\\_nature\\_center.htm](http://www.kenoshaymca.org/kymca_pringle_nature_center.htm)

#### Retzer Nature Center

W284 S1530 County Rd "DT"  
Waukesha 53188  
[www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/retzer.html](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/retzer.html)

#### River Bend Nature Center

3600 N. Green Bay Road  
Racine, WI 53404  
262-639-0930  
[www.ywcaofracine.org](http://www.ywcaofracine.org)

#### Riveredge Nature Center

4458 W. Hawthorne Dr.  
Newburg 53060  
1-800-287-8098  
[www.riveredenaturecenter.org](http://www.riveredenaturecenter.org)

#### Schlitz Audubon Nature Center

111 E. Brown Deer Rd.  
Milwaukee 53217  
414-352-2880 Ext. 500  
[www.sclitzauduboncenter.com](http://www.sclitzauduboncenter.com)

### University of Wisconsin—Extension (UW-Extension)

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/>

A local link to University of Wisconsin research and specialists, UW-Extension has offices in every Wisconsin county. Traditionally focused on farmland and horticulture topics, your local UWEX office is a good resource if you need help finding information about any of the open space types listed in this guide.

Milwaukee County 932 South 60th St West Allis 53214 414-290-2400	Racine County 14200 Washington Ave Sturtevant 53177 262-886-8460	Waukesha County 1320 Pewaukee Rd Waukesha 53188 262-548-7770	Walworth County W3929 Cty Rd NN Elkhorn 53121 262-741-3190
Washington County 333 East Washington St West Bend 53095 262-335-4480	Ozaukee County 121 West Main St Port Washington 53074 262-238-8288	Jefferson County 864 Collins Rd Jefferson 53549 920-674-7295	Kenosha County 19600 75th St Bristol 53104 262-857-1945

### Contacts by Open Space Type

#### Bird Sanctuaries

**Wisconsin Society of Ornithology:** The Badger State's premiere birding organization. Supports the study and enjoyment of Wisconsin birdlife.  
<http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/wso>

**Audubon Society Chapters:** This organization is focused on habitat protection with a special emphasis on birds. Visit the national web site for links to Wisconsin's many local chapters. <http://www.audubon.org/nas/>

#### Farmland

**American Farmland Trust:** A national non-profit organization focused on farmland protection. <http://www.farmland.org/>

**Natural Resource Conservation Service:** Federal agency that offers financial and technical assistance to protect and manage privately owned land. Visit the Wisconsin's state office for more information. <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/>

**University of Wisconsin—Extension:** Agriculture and Horticulture educators focus on farmland education and research. Contact your county office  
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/>

#### Lawns

**University of Wisconsin—Extension:** Horticulture and Environmental educators focus on water friendly yard care practices. Contact your county horticulture educator or visit home horticulture web page.

County UW-Extension Offices: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/>  
Home Horticulture: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/index.html>

#### Prairies and Oak Savannas

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:**

Bureau of Endangered Resources: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/>,  
Prescribed Burning: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/Articles/prescribed.htm>  
Native Plant Nurseries and Consultants: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/info/nurseries.htm>

**The Prairie Enthusiasts:** Non-profit group dedicated to prairie and savanna protection and management in the Upper Midwest.  
<http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org/>

Contacts

**Shoreline Buffers**

**University of Wisconsin — Extension:** Visit the lakes program or the river basin educator in your watershed.

Lakes Program: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/>

River Basin Educators: <http://basineducation.uwex.edu/basins/staff/index.htm>

**Walworth County Lake Protection Program:** A county based lake management program with an emphasis on shorelines. Email: [agreen@co.walworth.wi.us](mailto:agreen@co.walworth.wi.us)

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:** Visit the Wisconsin Lakes web page for a variety of shoreline management contacts and shoreline/lake related grants. <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/lakes/>

**Wisconsin Association of Lakes:** A statewide organization working exclusively to protect and enhance the quality of Wisconsin's 15,000 lakes. <http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/AboutLakes/shorelands.htm>

**Stormwater Ponds**

**University of Wisconsin — Extension:** Contact your nearest River Basin Educators. <http://basineducation.uwex.edu/basins/staff/index.htm>

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:** Visit the runoff management section for information about stormwater runoff contacts and publications. <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/stormwater/contact.htm>

**Wetlands**

**Wisconsin Wetland Association:** A Wisconsin based non profit organization focused on wetland protection and education. Their web site includes a directory of wetland contacts for Wisconsin. <http://www.wiscwetlands.org/directory.htm>

**Department of Natural Resources:** Contact your local DNR water management specialist before proceeding with a wetland improvement project. <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/waterway/watermanagementspecialists.html>

**Natural Resources Conservation Service:** This federal agency offers technical and financial assistance for wetland protection and restoration. <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp.html>

**US-Fish and Wildlife Service:** Like NRCS this federal agency has a program focused on wetlands protection on private land. <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/WisconsinPartners/contact.html>

**Woodlands**

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:** The DNR maintains a list of their local foresters and a web page with information about other professional forester contacts. DNR County Foresters: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/ftax/County.asp>  
Forester Assistance Locator: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/Private/Assist/>

**University of Wisconsin—Extension:** River Basin Educators do forestry related educational programming, or contact specialists available at the UW-Madison and Stevens Point.

River Basin Educators: <http://basineducation.uwex.edu/basins/staff/index.htm>

UW Forestry Specialists: <http://forest.wisc.edu/extension/contacts.htm>

**Wisconsin Woodlands Owners Association:** A statewide non-profit organization, with local chapters, that helps private woodland landowners manage woodlands for timber, wildlife and recreation. <http://www.wisconsinwoodlands.org/>

**Open-Space and Nature  
Education Centers  
...continued**

**Urban Ecology Center**  
1500 E. Park Place  
Milwaukee 53211  
414-964-8505  
[www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org)

**UW-Madison Arboretum**  
1207 Seminole Highway  
Madison 53711  
608-263-7888  
[www.wiscinfo.doit.wisc.edu/arboretum/](http://www.wiscinfo.doit.wisc.edu/arboretum/)

**UW-Milwaukee Field Station**  
3095 Blue Goose Road  
Saukville 53080  
262-675-6844  
[www.uwm.edu/dept/fieldstation/home.html](http://www.uwm.edu/dept/fieldstation/home.html)

**UW Waukesha Field Station**  
1234 S. Waterville Rd.  
Oconomowoc 53066  
262-965-2227  
[www.waukesha.uwc.edu/ur/fieldstation.html](http://www.waukesha.uwc.edu/ur/fieldstation.html)

**Wehr Nature Center**  
9701 W. College Ave.  
Franklin 53132  
414-425-8550  
[www.countyparks.com/horticulture/wehr/](http://www.countyparks.com/horticulture/wehr/)

*Contacts*

**Invasive Plants**

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:** Visit the Bureau of Endangered Resources.  
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/contact.htm>

**University of Wisconsin—Extension:** This web page lists contacts for aquatic invaders, including purple loosestrife:  
<http://www.uwex.edu/erc/invasives.html>

**Long Term Protection Options\***

**Gathering Waters Conservancy:** A statewide non-profit organization that assist land trusts, landowners, and communities protect Wisconsin's land and water resources. Visit the home page to learn more about all the resources and services this group offers, or go directly to their listing of local land conservancies.

Home Page: <http://www.gatheringwaters.org/>

Local Land Trust Directory: <http://atriweb.info/projects/landTrusts/LandTrustMap.cfm>

**Land Trust Alliance:** A national organization that promotes and assists local land conservation. <http://www.lta.org/>

\* See the Long Term Protection Options chapter for a list of local land trusts.

*Volunteer Programs*

**Controlling Invasive Plants**

**Invasive Plants Reporting and Prevention Project:** Become an Wisconsin Weed Watcher by participating in this early detection and strategic response initiative. <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/futureplants/weedwatcher.htm>

**Purple Loosestrife Control:** Volunteers can help Wisconsin combat purple loosestrife by rearing and releasing beetles that eat purple-loosestrife. [http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/action\\_water.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/action_water.htm)

**Clean Water Clean Boats:** This volunteer watercraft inspection program is an opportunity to take a front line defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species. <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/CBCW/>

**Milwaukee County Parks Invasive Species Removal:** Help the Park People, a non-profit group, remove invasive plants from the world class Milwaukee County park system. <http://www.theparkpeople-milwaukee.org/>

*Options for Open Space*

A guide for private and public land owners and managers.

Produced by the Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Partnership to protect, restore and enhance the Fox River watershed.

Major support from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the University of Wisconsin Extension and Siepmann Realty Corporation. For more information please contact:

**SE WI Fox River  
Partnership  
P.O. Box 111  
Pewaukee, WI 53078  
414-290-2431**

[http://  
basineducation.uwex.edu  
/southeastfox/](http://basineducation.uwex.edu/southeastfox/)

**Collecting and Reporting Nature Observations**

**Citizen Based Monitoring Network of Wisconsin:** A relatively new initiative attempting to facilitate and improve statewide nature monitoring efforts of all types. Website includes a comprehensive listing of volunteer monitoring opportunities. <http://atriweb.info/CBM/index.cfm>

**River and Lake Water Quality Monitoring:** Programs for citizens who want to collect data on lake, streams and rivers. Sponsored by the DNR and UW-Extension. Rivers & Streams: <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/wav/>  
Lakes: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/clmn/>

**Wisconsin Nature Mapping:** A wildlife survey program that allows citizens, school groups, and professionals to enter observations into a statewide database for use in natural resource management and scientific studies. <http://www.wisnatmap.org/>

**Audubon Sponsored Bird Counts:** Collect and report information about the birds that visit your open space. <http://www.audubon.org/bird/citizen/index.html>

**Earth Alive:** An interactive web site from the Aldo Leopold Nature Center in Madison designed to get young people excited and involved in nature observation and science. <http://www.naturenet.com/earthalive/nhome.asp>

**Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey:** A volunteer program coordinated by the DNR and initiated in 1981 to help determine the status and population trends of Wisconsin's 12 species of frogs and toads. <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/wifrog/frog.htm>

