



Wandschneider Audley Creek Preserve

Project Description: Audley Creek transects the property flowing from south to north. The headwaters originate from a large wetland complex south of the property in the Lapham Peak State Park. The creek was channelized into a deep ditch by the Army Corp of Engineers in the 1930s to drain the wetland for agricultural purposes. The agricultural practices were abandoned and since then, the land has reverted back to wetlands and vernal ponds.

Why: The property includes a variety of vegetative communities such as wet prairie, southern sedge meadow, forested wetlands, forested uplands and hardwood swamp. The upland portion to the west contains large healthy red, white and bur oaks along with hickories and other hardwoods. Herons, sandhill cranes, fox sparrows, wood-ducks and chorus frogs have been observed or heard on the site. By preserving this land in the Lake Nagawicka watershed, we are protecting the water quality in both Audley Creek and Lake Nagawicka. Since this property is adjacent to Lapham Peak State Park, preservation contributes to the larger picture of protecting large contiguous lands for wildlife corridors.

Where: City of Delafield, Waukesha County

Size: Approximately 13 acres

Owners: Tall Pines Conservancy through a generous donation by Chloe and Ross Wandschneider

Easement Holder: Tall Pines Conservancy

Completion: 2019

“We realize that the purpose of our journey on earth is to be temporary custodians of the planet. This donation provides preservation assurance—forever—for the land, the creek, and all the wonderful critters and wildlife that inhabit the land.”

—Chloe & Ross Wandschneider

