

Cullen Conservation Easement



Project Description: The land collectively known as the Cullen Easement features a mix of agricultural lands and riparian woodlands adjacent to Upper Nashotah Lake. The property has been identified as a primary environmental corridor. Its location along Upper Nashotah Lake provides an important environmental buffer between development and the lake and has the potential to improve water quality in the lake while providing woodland habitat.

Why: The Cullens had a dream of permanently protecting their land along the north shore of Upper Nashotah Lake, so they turned to Tall Pines for help. The Cullens are working hard to restore their unique shoreline, which supports rare species such as wild rice and aquatic emergents. They continue to incorporate a wide selection of native plants and have been diligent in removing invasive species. The goal is to create a wonderful habitat for wildlife that they so enjoy watching.

Where: Village of Nashotah, Waukesha County

Size: Two parcels totaling approximately eight acres

Owners: Mary and Meredith Cullen

Easement Holders: Tall Pines Conservancy through a donation by the Cullen family

Completion: 2017

“Meredith and I have always had a strong attachment to nature whether it be plants or animals. When we became aware of the concept of “conservation easements” which would enable us to protect, in perpetuity, the land that has been part of the family farm since the 1850’s, we were ‘hooked’. Much of that farmland is still in a relatively natural state and we are determined to keep it that way! Preserving the pollution-filtering wetland and protecting the shoreline whose springs feed the Bark River are goals which Tall Pines allowed us to realize.”

—Mary & Meredith Cullen

