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Goals & Accomplishments

Land Protection

Tall Pines Conservancy applied for and was accepted to the highly competitive Regional Conservation Protection Program (RCP) to purchase development rights on working lands through the Agriculture Land Easement (ALE) Program. The Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) on Mayer Farm, a 150-acre 7th generation family farm within the Oconomowoc Watershed, was funded in part through this program and the closing occurred in spring of 2020. In addition, near the close of 2020 TPC was grateful to receive a donation of an easement by Liesel Eschweiler Lavery on an ecologically rich property situated on an isthmus between North and Cornell lakes. This land is directly adjacent to family property protected in 2004 by an easement through the Conservancy.



Photo taken by Kayla Mayer.

During 2020, we had undertaken steps to complete conservation easements on several properties, including a 500-plus acre organic farm in Dodge County and a 160-acre farm in the City of Delafield. We continue our work with a number of farmland owners in the Ashippun River watershed that collectively could result in almost 1000 additional acres protected.

TPC continues to be a major partner in the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program (OWPP). This program assists landowners within



Fall aerial seeding.

the watershed in implementing sustainable land management practices to reduce phosphorus levels in our rivers, lakes and streams. Out of the 70+ critical source areas that have been identified, 33 of them have been addressed through installation of buffers, aerial seeding of cover crops, and grass waterways. Prior to the onset of COVID-19, TPC assisted the OWPP in presenting a highly attended, public presentation entitled, "Water Quality and Your Watershed." As a priority area within this project, we continue to execute the Mason Creek Watershed Management Plan together with the North Lake Management District, SEWRPC, the Wisconsin DNR, OWPP, the town of Merton and Carroll University. In 2019, we completed the purchase of 26 acres of land along the creek and received a grant to fund an engineering plan that will allow us to re-meander the stream course. The goal of this project is to positively affect the nutrient & sedimentation levels in the creek. With the completion of the engineering portion of the project planned for early 2021, we have applied for various DNR

(continued on PAGE 3)

Generous Supporters...

(continued from PAGE 1)

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 Wheel & Sprocket
 Sue Zager

Goals & Accomplishments

grants to fund the construction of the re-meander. The OWPP project has proven its critical role in reducing phosphorous reduction levels in the entire watershed, including our lakes.

Tall Pines also continues its collaboration with Farmers for Lake Country, a producer-led mentoring group, to educate and implement best practices on lands within the Oconomowoc River Watershed, including the aerial seeding of cover crops. During 2020, FFLC was able to continue to provide educational opportunities to its constituents virtually and through socially-distanced outdoor training

TPC partnered with many other outstanding non-profit organizations and government entities in 2020 to meet mutual land conservation goals. These groups include the Mid-Kettle Partners, Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust, the Rock River Coalition, Greener Oconomowoc, The Nature Conservancy, Waukesha Green Team, Waukesha County Land Conservancy, Savanna Institute, Gathering Waters and the Land Trust Alliance.

Land Management

Our outreach strategies included working with landowners in the towns of Oconomowoc, Ashippun,



Water Quality and Your Watershed presentation.

erty. TPC received a generous memorial donation of \$50,000 to design and create a scenic overlook on the second highest elevation in Waukesha County. The Hunt Eldridge Memorial Overlook was completed in spring 2020. In 2020 we also started a collaboration with the Healing Nature Center to implement a "Healing Nature Trail" through the financial support of the Kettle Moraine Garden Club. And we worked with volunteers from Laudato Si' to establish connector trails throughout the park and with OWPP and Waukesha County on a reforestation—tree planting program.

Every five years, TPC applies for renewal of our Land Trust Alliance accreditation. The lengthy and highly-detailed process, which involved our entire staff, as well as a team of volunteers from our board and sub-committees, examines every aspect of our organization – from our financial fitness to how we steward the land. In August 2020, the Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded us renewed accreditation. Tall Pines Conservancy is one of 16 land trusts in the state of Wisconsin, and 443 in the United States, to achieve this distinction. Renewing our accreditation shows Tall Pines



Trail building at Oconomowoc River Conservancy Park by Laudato Si' Project volunteers.

sessions. TPC also continued its partnership with Lake Country Clean Waters (formerly the Clean Water Association) in presenting its popular quarterly meetings and the 5th Annual Healthy Lakes Conference in June. The majority of programming was conducted via Zoom with impressive attendance.

Merton, Delafield and Erin. TPC continued our monitoring program with volunteers and conducted invasive species removal workdays. We have partnered with the Town of Merton to develop a conservation plan at the Oconomowoc River Conservancy Park and are working on implementing this plan for that prop-

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Goals & Accomplishments

Conservancy's ongoing commitment to permanent land conservation in the Lake Country region – and beyond.

Education and Outreach

Social distancing requirements made outreach activities more challenging in 2020, but TPC embraced digital technology by offering its second Owl Prowl as an online presentation in partnership with Laudato Si' Project and Wanaki Wildlife. Other videos, such as A Spring Nature Walk and an Earth Day Paddle Excursion, were produced to encourage healthful, socially-distanced outdoor activities. We were fortunate that the 2020 OWPP Paddle in July could be safely held in person. In August, TPC presented the 12th Annual Ride to the Barns as a virtual cycling event. Participants were provided with picturesque routes through the rolling countryside that they could complete at their leisure. Teams and individuals competed for prizes through a scavenger hunt and selfie contest.

We continue to promote our land protection work to the community through our sponsorship of the Chamber's Winter and Summer Farmers Markets in Oconomowoc. We also hosted a table at the pre-COVID Waukesha County Land Conservancy annual meeting and the Woodlands Conference. Tall Pines continues to conduct presentations for various garden clubs and community and municipal organizations as circumstances allow. ▲



OWPP Paddle.



DIY Ride to the Barns.

Sources of Funds

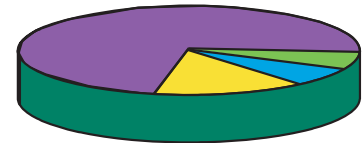


Contributions & Grants 84.2%	
Special Events 2.5%	
Investment Return 13.2%	

Sources of Funds

Sources of Funds	Amount
Contributions & Grants 84.2%	\$805,113
Special Events 2.5%	24,186
Investment Return 13.2%	126,552
Total	\$955,851

Uses of Funds



Program Services 82%	
Education & Outreach 8.53%	
Fundraising 2.87%	
Management 6.13%	

Uses of Funds

Uses of Funds	Amount
Program Services 82%	\$788,221
Education & Outreach 8.53%	81,552
Fundraising 2.87%	27,480
Management 6.13%	58,598
Total	\$955,851

*Please Note: An additional \$251,929 from Net Assets was utilized to fund Program Services such as acquisition of conservation easements.