Leveraging Hazard Mitigation Plans for Conservation Acquisitions

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Land Trust
What is a Land Trust?

A land trust is a private, non-profit organization working with willing landowners to:

- Preserve land and special places;
- Hold development rights and land in trust;
- Provide tools for land protection;
- Provide long-term monitoring and compliance;
- Partner with other local organizations.
Preserve

Perpetuity

Protect

Land

Natural Resources

Water
Conservation Values

* 18 square miles of watershed delivered to Lake Superior

* Northern Sedge Meadow Community with listed species (slender spike rush, Arrow-leaved sweet colts foot)

* Migratory Bird Concentration Area

* Function? The positive impact it has on water quality and stream bank stability as Bluff Creek flows into the City
Resource Initiatives in the Watershed

*Wisconsin’s Lake Superior Coastal Wetlands Evaluation”, WDNR

- City of Superior Hazard Mitigation Plan

*Douglas County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

*St. Louis River Area of Concern

*Douglas County Resource Conservation Conservation District

- Douglas County and the Fish and Game League

*The Nature Conservancy Conservation Target Area

*Nemadji River Watershed Plan
City Of Superior Hazard Mitigation Plan

• Protection of the Bluff Creek Watershed was drawn from the strategies under City of Superior Mitigation Plan, 2004, Natural Environment and Research:
  • Protect integrity of wetlands, steep slopes, flood plains
  • Develop new research projects…. to quantify the effects of erosion, flooding and other related hazards
Funding Approach

The land was purchased with 50% of the funding coming from WDNR Stewardship Program and 50% from the landowners by way of a bargain sale.

The following year, Douglas County sold a 5-acre adjoining parcel to West Wisconsin Land Trust for $1000.00.
Public Value?

* WWLT continues to own, monitor annually and pay property taxes
  * Open to the public
* Citizen Science Stream Monitoring
  * College for Kids
* Riparian Restoration