



Our Mission

To form an alliance of concerned citizens, landowners, and public and private organizations to protect and improve the water quality and natural habitats in the Ulao Creek Watershed.

Who We Are

The Ulao Creek Partnership, formed in 1995, is a well-established and focused alliance of concerned citizens, landowners, and public and private organizations dedicated to protecting and improving the water quality and natural habitats in the Ulao Creek Watershed of Ozaukee County.

The Evolution of Ulao Creek Partnership

[Past](#) | [Present](#) | [Future](#)

Past

- **1995** - Formation of the [Ulao Creek Partnership](#).
- **July 1996** - Ulao Creek Assessment completed by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff.
- **March 1997** - Village of Grafton stormwater management plan completed.
- **April 1997** - Established [goals](#) for Ulao Creek Partnership.
- **April 1997** - Adopted Land Registry Program with [Ozaukee Washington Land Trust](#).
- **May 1997** - Ulao Swamp elevation survey conducted.
- **August 1997** - Ground broken for Wetland Restoration Project on Wisconsin Electric Property.
- **November 1997** - Developed a plan for a Demonstration Project (vegetation, water levels, & peat depth) in Swamp.
- **March 1998** - Received \$3,000 grant from Riveredge Nature Center to initiate creek water quality monitoring program.
- **April 1998** - Held Tour of Ulao Creek Watershed.
- **May 1998** - Town of Grafton adopts [Stormwater Management Plan](#) for Ulao Creek Watershed.
- **May 1998** - Hold Public Information meeting regarding Ulao Creek Watershed.
- **December 1998** - Initiate development of long range Management Plan for Ulao Creek Watershed.
- **December 1998** - Ulao Creek Partnership incorporated.
- **April 1999** - Implement Tamarack Reforestation Project.
- **May 1999** - Held Citizen-Training Workshop on water quality monitoring for Ulao Creek.
- **May 1999** - Began Ulao Creek Monitoring Program at five sampling stations.
- **July 1999** - Started [Purple Loosestrife](#) Eradication Project utilizing beetles.
- **August 1999** - Consideration given to pursuing State Project Area status.
- **October 1999** - Town of Grafton committee formed to research Purchasing Development Rights.
- **April 2000** - Awarded River Protection Grant to do study the watershed and catalog its flora and fauna.

[back to top](#)

Present

- Work on the River Protection Grant is now in progress. This grant will allow us to collect baseline [vegetation](#) and water level information to understand the hydrology and plant life of the Ulao Swamp at the headwaters of Ulao Creek. We are initiating small tree-restoration demonstration areas (such as with tamarack) that will be monitored by our community volunteers with guidance from the Ulao Creek Partnership. We are also gathering wildlife species information relative to habitat conditions. The partnership would like to identify a specific list of species, including those rare, threatened, or endangered animals that occur, or could be present, in the watershed.
- Helping the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust in cooperation with the DNR to purchase conservation easements for the protection of the Ulao Swamp and riparian corridors of Ulao Creek
- Landowners participating in the Milwaukee River Priority Watershed Program have installed grassed waterways, conservation tillage, agricultural sediment basins, small wetland restoration projects and stream bank fencing to prevent cattle from entering Ulao Creek.
- The Ulao Creek Partnership received a \$3,000 grant from Wisconsin Electric through Riveredge Nature Center for a Water Quality [Monitoring](#) Program with landowner involvement. The monitoring program was initiated in the Spring of 1999. One flume was installed at the headwaters of Ulao Creek in the Ulao Swamp in cooperation with Northern Environmental Technologies. Three more flumes have also been installed at various reaches of Ulao Creek to measure base flow. Citizens continue to do monthly monitoring of the watershed at various locations.

[back to top](#)

Future

- Continue to grow our Restoration Program so we can initiate several small-scale, Demonstration Projects. The Partnership is committed to re-establishing diverse native woody plant communities in the swamp. Several landowners in the Ulao Swamp have already begun to reintroduce native woody species to areas (0.5 to 2.0 acres) which span a wide range of the hydrologic conditions and existing vegetation of the wetland. These areas will be evaluated to assess various planting techniques and species compositions.
- The Ulao Creek Partnership supports Purchasing Development Rights Programs and public education outreach efforts of the Town of Grafton and City of Mequon. The Partnership has a strong interest in promoting a successful PDR Program.
- Involvement - Our active projects allow us to continue to train Partnership members, volunteers and landowners to record and provide valuable scientific data regarding restoration plantings and management methods. They will be assisting to monitor the success of the introductions.
- Involvement of landowners, local school groups, and the community in the creation and monitoring of the restoration and inventory projects will provide the community with a keen interest in, and ownership of, the long-term project.