



The Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation (CLCF) is one of the oldest land trusts in Wisconsin. Since its founding in 1974, CLCF has partnered with property owners to conserve over 2,500 acres of land in the Cedar Lakes region of Washington County.

CLCF’s land protection projects seek to preserve one or more of the following:

- natural habitat
- shorelines and wetlands
- water quality
- unique scenic landscapes and open spaces, including farmland and forest land
- wildlife corridors
- outdoor recreation and/or education areas

CLCF’s mission is to conserve the natural environment of the Cedar Lakes region.

CLCF’s vision is to sustain the abundant natural beauty, clean water, and biodiversity of the Cedar Lakes region for generations to come.

CLCF’s work focuses on the ecosystem health of Wisconsin’s Cedar Lakes watershed, made up of six lakes: Gilbert, Big Cedar, Little Cedar, Lucas, Silver and Quaas. Much of this area composes the headwaters of Cedar Creek, which flows southeast, joining the Milwaukee River and eventually making its way to Lake Michigan.

At the heart of CLCF’s vision is a vital land trust – one that is an important resource and works hand-in-hand with the community as well as with local regional and national conservation partners to protect and care for the natural aspects of the region. CLCF envisions diverse natural ecosystems, sustainable working farms, healthy watersheds, habitat for recreational and educational opportunities, and scenic vistas.

CLCF’s Mission in Action

The protection of the Little Cedar Lake watershed is a wonderful example of CLCF’s mission in action. CLCF’s

conservation of land around Little Cedar Lake stretches back to CLCF’s very first land protection project, otherwise known as Parcel #1, which was conserved in 1978. Since that time, CLCF has conserved just over 280 acres in the Little Cedar Lake watershed. A summary of these transactions is included in Table 1.

Table 1: Land Transactions Around Little Cedar Lake

Parcel #	Date	Acres	Method
1	1978	44.4	Donation
2	1981	59.0	Donation
5	1986	23.0	Donation
7	1985	26.3	Donation
33	1999	11.0	Donation
58	2014	92.6	Purchase
61	2018	11.7	Purchase
64	2020	12.8	Purchase
Total		280.8	



Cedar Creek to the West of the Little Cedar Kettle

Map 1 shows the location of these protected parcels, including the most recent purchase in May 2020 of Parcel

#64, which is slightly north of Ackerman's Grove County Park on the eastern side of Little Cedar Lake.

Map 1: CLCF Protected Lands around Little Cedar Lake



Land Protection on the Western Side of Little Cedar Lake

The land directly to the west of the Little Cedar Kettle, shown in Map 1 as Parcels #1, 2, 5 and 7, were some of the very first properties protected by CLCF.



Cedar Creek to the West of the Little Cedar Kettle

The first, Parcel #1, was donated by CLCF's founder, Geoff Maclay and lies just west of County Hwy NN and contains portions of Cedar Creek as it winds its way to Little Cedar

Lake. Prior to donating this land, Geoff purchased the 44.39-acre parcel from the heirs of the Alvina Werner estate.

The second, Parcel #2, was donated by Bernie Ziegler in 1981 and contains 59.0 acres just west of the Little Cedar Kettle. Cedar Creek, as part of its journey from Big Cedar Lake to Little Cedar Lake, winds its way through this Parcel #2 before entering the Little Cedar Kettle. Kayaking the creek through this property provides not only beautiful scenery but also a chance to spot birds, turtles and fish in their natural environment.

Rounding out the protection of the land west of Little Cedar Kettle, Bernie Ziegler donated another 26.3 acres in 1981, Parcel #7, just south of County Hwy NN and Geoff Maclay donated an additional 23.0 acres in 1986, Parcel #5.

Altogether, these protected parcels west of the Little Cedar Kettle total nearly 153 acres. The majority of this land is comprised of wetlands and flowage from Cedar Creek. These 153 acres of undeveloped wetland and riparian area serve to sustain the scenic beauty of the area, improve the water quality of Little Cedar Lake, provide habitat for wild plant and animal life, and protect an ecologically sensitive area that would be hugely impacted by development.



Cedar Creek to the West of the Little Cedar Kettle

When you travel southward on CTH Z and come to the crest of the hill at German Village Road, the view of the Little Cedar Kettle with Fox Hill in the distance is absolutely spectacular--no matter the season of the year.

The Torinus Property – Parcel #33

Additionally, a lot to the south of the Little Cedar Kettle is Parcel #33, an 11-acre property donated by John and Kine Torinus in 1999. This Parcel provides natural habitat west of Little Cedar Lake as well as open space for scenic enjoyment.

The site is mostly lowland forest with the edges having areas of higher ground. The property is within an environmental corridor, specifically an isolated natural resource area, and contributes to the mitigation of stormwater runoff into Little Cedar Lake.



The Torinus Property

The Thoma Preserve – Parcels #61 and #64

On the eastern side of Little Cedar Lake is Washington County's Ackerman's Grove County Park, encompassing over 60 acres of land. When in 2017, Washington County decided to sell the northernmost field of Ackerman's Grove County Park as part of its Fiscal Sustainability Plan, CLCF was eager to ensure that the 12-acre property remained open and natural.

In 2018, the Washington County Board approved the sale of the parcel to CLCF, and Parcel #61, the Thoma Parcel (now part of the Thoma Preserve), came permanently under the protection of CLCF.



The Thoma Preserve

Just north of the Thoma parcel on the other side of Birchview Road, is CLCF's Parcel #64. CLCF acquired this 13-acre parcel of pine forest habitat in May 2020. The parcel drains directly into Little Cedar Lake. Protection of this wooded habitat

promotes healthy hydrology of the soils and mitigates runoff into the lake, thereby helping to preserve water quality. CLCF partnered with the Greenseams Program of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) in the purchase of this property.

As part of CLCF's purchase, MMSD acquired a conservation easement that will ensure that the natural, scenic and open space values of the property will be retained in perpetuity.



CLCF Stew Crew Making Trails at the Thoma Preserve

Following CLCF's purchase of the parcel, CLCF's Volunteer Stew Crew quickly got to work establishing walking trails. There is now nearly a mile of walking trails between the woods and the prairie of what is now the 25-acre Thoma Preserve. With parking available along Thoma Park Drive, we hope that you will come out to enjoy a hike sometime soon!



New Trails in the Woods at the Thoma Preserve

The Fehring Property – Parcel #58

A little to the south of Ackerman's Grove County Park and alongside Cedar Creek as it flows out of Little Cedar Lake, is CLCF's Parcel #58, the former Fehring property. In June 2014, CLCF purchased this 91-acre property, composed of four separate tax parcels.

The parcel bordering Cedar Creek has many unique and important ecological characteristics, and sandhill cranes use the property for habitat. The larger upland parcels extend all the way east to County Hwy Z. The forest canopy is mostly hardwoods with a mix of maple, oak and shagbark hickory.



View across the Fehring Fields

In recent years, the highland fields have been in hay. The fields support numerous grassland nesting birds like meadowlarks, which have been in serious population decline as a result of habitat loss and early season mowing.

This is a scenic property with sweeping vistas across Cedar Creek valley to the west as well as scenic views to the north and east. On a clear day, you can see the Milwaukee high-rise buildings 30 miles away.

Thank You!

The protection of these 281 acres would not have happened without the generous support of our donors and partners.

If you would like to learn more about CLCF, please visit our website at www.conservecedarlakes.org.

There are several additional trails to hike--including the Fox Hill Nature Preserve, Polk Kames, the Rudorf Farm, Water Spirits, the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve, and Lockman/Ice Age Trail. Trail maps for each of these are available on the website.

If you'd like to help out with our Volunteer Stew Crew, please call the office at 262-353-4866 or sign up online. We'd welcome your help!

Come Visit CLCF's New Office at the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve

In September, CLCF relocated its headquarters from the Zuern Homestead to Joan Pick's former residence at the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve. Over the past six months, Board member Mike Nast oversaw the transformation of Joan's home into CLCF's new office. CLCF is incredibly grateful to the Melitta S. and Joan M. Pick Charitable Trust for providing a grant to fund this renovation project. With this move, CLCF is able to showcase its mission in action to its members, donors, and landowners through its work stewarding the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve. On October 10th, CLCF held an Open House to do just that, offering a tour of the new office, a prairie pollinator talk with CLCF's new Stewardship Coordinator, Jaron Cook, and an opportunity to meet CLCF's volunteer Stew Crew which has performed over 800 hours of volunteer work on CLCF properties since April. We hope that you will come visit us. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. During this Covid time, we suggest that you call ahead.





Calling all X-Country Skiers and Snowshoers to join CLCF Nordic and embrace winter!

CLCF Nordic is a membership category within Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation Inc. (CLCF) that provides access to parking and expertly maintained x-country classic and skating trails at the Fox Hill Nature Preserve and more open, rustic x-country trails at the Rudorf Farm. Snowshoeing is permitted on both preserves.

- The Fox Hill Nature Preserve parking lot is at 4214 Sleeping Dragon Road, West Bend, WI.
- The Rudorf Farm parking lot is at 5020 Division Road, West Bend, WI.

Visit www.conservecedarlakes.org for directions, to download trail maps and to complete your 2020-2021 Season application and waiver on-line. Day Passes are available on-line or on-site at the Fox Hill Nature Preserve.

You can also complete the form below, sign the waiver on the back of the form and enclose with payment in the envelope provided. Check for updated x-country ski and snowshoe conditions at www.skinnyski.com or www.laphampeakfriends.org.

2020-2021 CLCF Nordic Ski Pass / Family – Individual Membership - \$75

Primary Name: _____

Additional Family Members: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Email addresses will be used exclusively for communications related to CLCF Nordic and the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation.

\$75.00 **Nordic Membership**

\$_____ Optional Additional Trail Maintenance Donation

\$_____ Total enclosed

Please Make Checks Payable to: Cedar Lake Conservation Foundation
and return in the enclosed envelope. *You will receive your Nordic Season Pass in the mail.*

REMEMBER TO SIGN THE WAIVER ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the CLCF office at 262-353-4866.

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!
THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT THAT AFFECTS YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

This Release and Waiver of Liability (“Release”) is executed by the undersigned Nordic Member and, if applicable, additional family members and on behalf of minor child(ren) in favor of Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, Inc. and its officers, directors, employees, volunteers and agents (collectively, “CLCF”).

In consideration for CLCF permitting access and use of the Fox Hill Nature Preserve for skiing, snow shoeing, walking, hiking and any other recreational activity (“Activities”), I agree to the following of behalf of myself and, if applicable, my minor child(ren):

I waive, release and discharge CLCF of any claims, liabilities, demands of whatever kind or nature, either in law or in equity arising from bodily injury, personal injury, illness (including communicable diseases such as COVID-19), death or property damage to myself or my minor child(ren) as a result of participating in Activities whether such claims or liabilities arise from my negligence or the negligence of CLCF. I understand that this Release does not release and discharge CLCF from liability or a claim for harm caused by the intentional or reckless acts of CLCF.

Assumption of Risk: I further understand that the Activities may be hazardous to myself, and if applicable, my minor child and that such hazards could include bodily injury, personal injury, illness (including communicable diseases such as COVID-19), death or property damage. I represent that I am familiar with the hazards related to or arising out of the performance of the Activities. I further represent that I have the education, experience, and/or skill to participate in the Activities in a safe, efficient and proper manner. As provided in this Release, I hereby expressly and specifically assume the risk of injury or harm to myself and, if applicable, my minor child arising from the Activities. I have reviewed and understand all of the terms and conditions of this Release and believe them to be reasonable. I acknowledge that I had the opportunity for this Release to be reviewed by legal counsel and I either had such review performed or chose not to have such review performed.

Additional Provisions: I expressly agree that this Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Wisconsin, and that this Release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin. I agree that in the event any clause or provision of this Release is held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of this Release, which shall continue to be enforceable.

I understand I have the right to negotiate the terms and conditions of this Release by contacting CLCF prior to participating in the Activities and that my participation in the Activities without negotiation is deemed to be my acceptance of the Release’s terms and conditions.

On behalf of myself and my minor child (if applicable), I have executed this Release as of the day and year written below.

Signature: _____ Signature: _____

Print Name: _____ Print Name: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

Print Name of Minor Child: _____

Print Name of Minor Child: _____

Print Name of Minor Child: _____

CLCF's Mission Area

