

BUTTE DES MORTS CONSERVATION CLUB STRATEGIC PLAN

2022

MISSION STATEMENT

In striving to Conserve, Preserve and Restore the Upper Winnebago Pool Lakes and their tributaries, wetlands and natural resources, and specifically Terrell's Island, the Butte des Morts Conservation Club takes an active approach to environmental issues through public awareness, education and hands-on projects. Efforts are focused on balancing the provision and restoration of natural habitat for local and migrating birds, fish and animals with offering the public educational and recreational (hiking trail) opportunities.

VISION STATEMENT

Butte des Morts Conservation Club will continue its commitment to the Conservation, Preservation and Restoration of the Upper Winnebago Pool Lakes and its tributaries, including Terrell's Island, through projects and funding generated for such purposes, and in partnerships with Department of Natural Resources, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, local businesses, educational institutions and community members, so that future generations are provided the opportunity to experience an outstanding natural resource.

GOAL 1

Develop guidelines for access and acceptable use of club property and resources.

Action Steps:

- Develop written guidelines that define acceptable uses of the club property and resources. This should include (but is not limited to):
 - open hours for allowable use of property
 - allowable events and restrictions for public use
 - use of Schoolhouse
 - use of property for activities such as bird walks, nature walks, and by school groups, etc.
 - specific rules for security access to keys/codes to buildings and gates
- Present new guidelines to the Board for review
- Revise guidelines as directed by the Board
- Communicate policies to the membership and public via signage and media

GOAL 2

Establish a long-term maintenance plan to sustain club property and resources.

- Produce a written property and facilities condition report to understand current needs and safety issues. This should include (but is not limited to):
 - Buildings
 - Breakwall
 - Bridges
 - Dock
 - Trails

- Fallen or dangerous trees, etc.
- Inventory all equipment and tools. Document each item and where it is located.
- Identify necessary updates, changes and repairs to property and equipment.
- Present condition and maintenance plan to Board for review.
- Prioritize maintenance needs and set a timeline for implementation.
- Continue planning for on-going maintenance, including development of a comprehensive management plan for Terrell's Island to restore native plant communities, water quality and diversity and abundance of desirable fish and wildlife.
- Control non-native plants such as cattails and phragmites
- Install tern nesting signage and maintain fencing and control vegetation.
- Document legal structure of real estate to understand implications for future planning
- Remove non-native plants from the adjacent cane beds.
- Regularly engage with DNR staff.
- Document by list and photo all the plant species, native and invasive, on and adjacent to Terrell's Island

GOAL 3

Develop ways to educate the public about the resources and uniqueness of Terrell's Island.

- Explore educational programming in partnership with UWO, FVTC, DNR, Wild Ones and other groups
- Develop a plan for active education tools and alerts within the property. The parking lot kiosk and Facebook could be used for items such as:
 - A "What To Look For As You Hike" poster than changes weekly. This poster would highlight wildlife and/or plants that are prominent each week.
 - Posting of appropriate uses of property
 - Seasonal alerts for what to watch for
 - Seasonally appropriate warnings and safety alerts – eg, snapping turtles, nesting geese, ticks, etc.
 - How to communicate issues and problems with the Club.
- Update brochures that are available at trail entrances.

GOAL 4

Maintain the financial sustainability of the organization now and for future generations.

- Create Wish Lists for those wishing to donate items or funds to BDMCC - one list for those wishing to donate under \$500 and a separate list for larger donations. Lists can be shared with prospective donors.
- ??? Improve accounting practices to track and report back to foundations.
- Pursue additional income streams, including memberships, relationships with individual or corporate donors, foundation grants and on-going fund-raising.
- Develop ideas to encourage younger members to join BDMCC.
- Develop a succession plan for club officers.