



LULU LAKE WETLAND TYPES

Gerald H. Emmerich, Jr.

Sedge meadow, fen, low prairie, shrub carr, open bog, coniferous swamp

WALWORTH COUNTY



### ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Located within the Mukwonago River watershed in the Kettle Moraine region, this Wetland Gem, which includes Pickerel Lake Fen, features an exceptionally high quality and diverse complex of wetland plant communities, some of which are extremely rare in southeastern Wisconsin. Lulu Lake, designated an Outstanding Resource Water by the state, is a 95-acre hardwater drainage kettle lake fed by the Mukwonago River. The superb open waters, wetlands and uplands at this site collectively support a diversity of wildlife, including a number of rare species.

### FLORA & FAUNA

Surrounding the lake to the north and west is a large sedge meadow matrix with patches of calcareous fen and shrub carr. The aptly named Crooked Creek (the Mukwonago River) meanders into the meadow, which supports many rare species such as beaked spikerush, slender bog arrowgrass, Ohio goldenrod, lesser fringed gentian, Kalm's lobelia and downy willowherb. This site also includes a small bog with sphagnum moss and tamarack and many northern bog species including bog birch, bog rosemary, wiregrass and bog willow. High quality upland habitats, including prairie, oak openings and woodlands, surround the wetland complex and support rare plant species such as the state threatened kitten tail. Other wetland plants common at the site include marsh marigold, cattails, marsh cinquefoil, upright sedge and speckled alder.

Clean and clear water in Lulu Lake, the Mukwonago River, and associated wetlands supports a diversity of

fish, amphibians and reptiles. Notable species include the state threatened longear sunfish, the pugnose shiner, and the rare pickerel frog. Many bird species use the site including two state threatened species – Cooper's hawk and osprey – as well as nesting pairs of sandhill crane. The rare Dion skipper butterfly also uses these wetlands.

### THREATS

Boating activity and recreational use must be managed to prevent impacts. Terrestrial and aquatic invasive species should be monitored and controlled to prevent encroachment on native wetland plant communities. Watershed development may lead to degraded water quality in the Mukwonago River, which feeds this site. The lack of fire and resulting encroachment of woody vegetation into open wetland areas is also of concern. Glossy buckthorn, mute swan, and other invasive species should be monitored and controlled.

### ACCESS

These wetlands can be seen by canoe as well as from hiking trails in the preserve. For details, visit the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program website: [dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna).

# LULU LAKE

**Property Owners:** The Nature Conservancy, WDNR  
**Recognitions & Designations:** WI State Natural Area, WI Land Legacy Place, WI Wildlife Action Plan Reference Site, The Nature Conservancy Preserve & Priority Conservation Area, Outstanding Resource Water

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Lulu Lake at sunset — Gerald H. Emmerich, Jr.



Pickerel frog — Rich Staffen

**Sources:**

- Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program (WDNR)
- Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (WDNR)
- Wisconsin's Strategy for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (WDNR)
- The Prairie-Forest Border: An Ecoregional Plan (TNC)