



BEULAH BOG WETLAND TYPES

Open bog, coniferous bog, shrub carr, marsh

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WALWORTH COUNTY



BEULAH BOG

Property Owner: WDNR

Recognitions & Designations: WI State Natural Area,
WI Land Legacy Area of Interest

Funding for this project provided by The McKnight Foundation, which seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations through grantmaking, coalition-building and encouragement of strategic policy reform.

ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Beulah Bog, located in Walworth County adjacent to Beulah Lake, is a relatively small (78 acres) but outstanding southern example of Wisconsin's bog communities. Undisturbed bogs are rare in southern Wisconsin, thus Beulah Bog supports many plants that are more typical of northern bogs. The site comprises four kettle holes and features a high quality open bog lake surrounded by a mat of sphagnum moss and coniferous bog habitat. A wide diversity of plants and animals flourish here, including a number of rare species.

FLORA & FAUNA

Deeper areas of this shallow lake include marsh plants such as watershield and white and yellow water lilies. The shore is surrounded by a quaking (floating) mat made up of sphagnum moss and various sedge species that is between 25 and 50 feet wide. Inland from this mat is coniferous bog habitat dominated by tamarack trees and various bog shrubs. The edge of the bog is delineated by a natural moat that is dominated by wild calla and cattails. These high quality habitats support a number of regionally rare plants that are more common in the northern half of the state, including dense cottongrass,

large and small cranberry, and small bladderwort. The site harbors at least six species of insectivorous plants including purple pitcher plant and round-leaved sundew as well as the state threatened kitten tails.

Beulah Bog provides high quality habitat for a diversity of dragonflies, moths, butterflies and other insects. The rare amber-winged spreadwing damselfly and some dragonfly species typically found in more northern habitats like the frosted whiteface and racquet-tailed emerald are found here. Birds species include blue-winged warbler, Nashville warbler, black-throated green warbler, common yellowthroat, song sparrow and swamp sparrow. A number of amphibians and reptiles also use the site, including chorus frog, bullfrog, blue-spotted salamander, spiny softshell turtle, painted turtle, common musk turtle and the state threatened Blanding's turtle.

THREATS

Watershed land use disturbances may lead to altered water quality. Proposed groundwater withdrawals in the region may affect the hydrology of these wetlands by drawing down the groundwater table. Heavy deer browsing pressure threatens the regeneration of the site's conifer trees. The invasive shrub glossy buckthorn is present in low numbers and may spread without control efforts. Climate change may facilitate population growth and outbreaks of some insect pests including the larch sawfly, which can seriously damage tamarack stands.

ACCESS

A trail from the parking area leads visitors down into the bog and onto a boardwalk, allowing visitors to view these wetland communities up close without harming sensitive vegetation. For details, visit the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program website: dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna.



Frosted whiteface dragonfly — R. Tod Highsmith

Sources:

- Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program (WDNR)
- Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (WDNR)
- Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory Program (WDNR)