



# Final delineation completes wetland restoration

July 2013 Snapshots



*MacNeill, a resident of North Branch, and his Jack Russell terriers may be the most frequent users of the site, visiting "twice a day, 360 days a year." He is one of many local residents who use the JJWMA for bird watching, cross-country skiing, hiking and hunting.*



*BWSR staff Megan Lennon, Eric Mohring and Greg Larson describes soil characteristics during final delineation on June 18.*

On a peaceful June day, Dave MacNeill pulls into the Robert Jacobson Memorial Unit - Janet Johnson Memorial Wildlife Management Area (JJWMA) to scout birds and other wildlife with his dogs.

Five years ago, MacNeill wouldn't have had this opportunity. Previously a privately-owned farm, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) partnered with the Department of Natural Resources to purchase the land and began restoring the site to its pre-settlement condition, a tamarack wetland.

Dan Shaw, BWSR Vegetation Specialist and Landscape Ecologist, said the restoration work included filling drainage ditches, restoring the flow to the natural outlet, and seeding with wetland and upland mixes.

"Today, the site consists of more than 600 acres of wetland, prairie, and forest. It has a wide variety of plant and animal life that make it an exceptionally diverse area," Shaw said.

Funding for the restoration came from state bonding dollars. This site is enrolled in the Local Government Roads Wetland Replacement Program, using the acres to offset degradation or other impacts to wetlands affected by road improvements. Wetland bank sites typically have an establishment period of five years before final wetland delineation can occur, marking the end of the establishment phase.

On the same day that MacNeill and his dogs frolicked around the WMA, BWSR staff carried out the delineation process – the final

determination of the location and size of the wetland through the evaluation of the soil, water levels and plant life.

John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director, said completion of this site is a great accomplishment and that the public will enjoy its many benefits. "This restored wetland will protect and improve water quality and provide fish and wildlife habitat," Jaschke said. "A WMA so close to the metro is a jewel for outdoorspeople who want to get away for the day to hunt, bird-watch or get some exercise."

*Upon wetland completion, the MNDNR will maintain custodial oversight and BWSR will monitor the site every few years. The JJWMA is open and free to the public. More information is available at the [DNR website](#).*