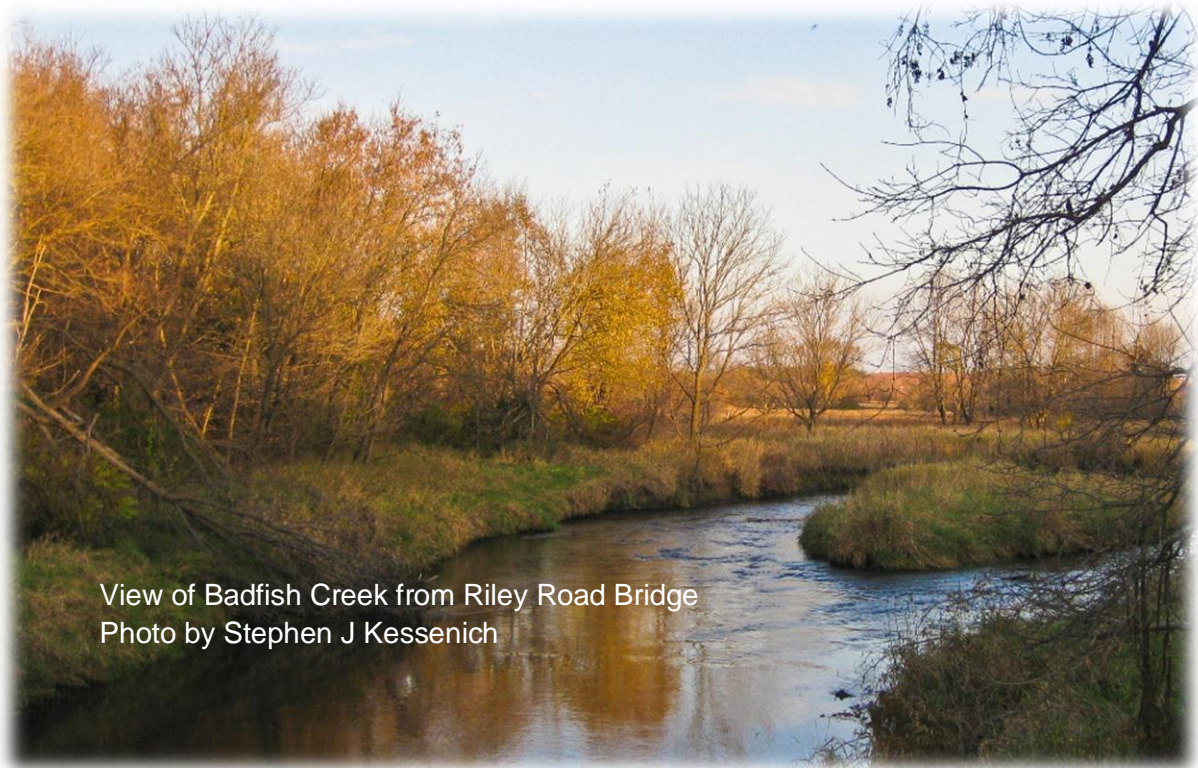


FBCW Strategic Plan



View of Badfish Creek from Riley Road Bridge
Photo by Stephen J Kessenich

Five Years 2012 – 2017

Mission

The mission of the Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed (FBCW) group is to educate ourselves and others about Badfish Creek and its watershed, to work in partnership to improve riparian habitat and water quality, and to encourage land use policies that protect the creek. FBCW is a chapter of the Rock River Coalition.



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FBCW Strategic Plan

Five Years 2012 – 2016



Badfish Creek Watershed at a Glance



- Located in Rock and Dane Counties
- 53,894 acres in size
- 79 miles of streams and rivers
- 218 acres of lakes
- 3,800 acres of wetlands
- Contains both federal and state protected lands

Overview

This document outlines the goals of the Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed (FBCW) for the five years from 2012 through 2017. During this period, we will focus on improving the environment of the Badfish Creek Watershed by gaining a better understanding about how people might better utilize this resource and increasing awareness of the Creek's potential.

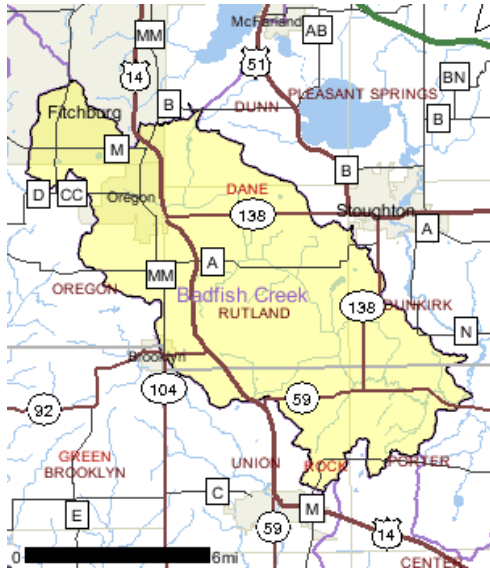
We will focus on the lands immediately adjacent to the Badfish Creek as a method of gaining greater support from the various communities with a stake in the watershed, including paddlers, hunters and those interested in improving the environment where they live and recreate.

We will work closely with Dane County Parks and Recreation to maximize the effect of the watershed's recent designation as a Dane County Natural Resource Area. We will also work closely with land managers to further the plans formulated by county, state and federal agencies.

To a smaller degree, we will also coordinate with our parent group, the Rock River Coalition, to address overall Rock River watershed issues.



Brief description of the watershed



The watershed is located in southeast Dane County and northwest Rock County in south central Wisconsin.

The lands surrounding the creek are primarily in agricultural use but there is surprisingly wild-feeling land adjacent to the creek downstream of Cooksville. Because of this and the lively nature of the creek on this reach, the Badfish Creek offers impressive paddling in an area of the State without a lot of opportunities in that sport. There are hunting opportunities on both federal and state lands.

The Village of Oregon is the largest concentration of population in the watershed. Stoughton is close by as are Edgerton and Evansville.

Per the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) has an ongoing monitoring program to track water quality in Badfish Creek. MMSD has conducted biotic index monitoring of Badfish Creek tributaries semi-annually since 1983 and periodically conducts biotic index monitoring in selected tributaries to Badfish Creek to ensure that its effluent discharges are not harming the environment.

Goals

The major goals for the five years are:

- Understand the current and future utilization of Badfish Creek and its watershed by various stakeholders.
- Increase awareness of the value of the resource.
- Work to improve the environment of the watershed, primarily focusing on water quality through monitoring and controlling invasive species.

The following sections describe some strategies for accomplishing these goals.

Understand Usage

Conduct usage survey with stakeholders and interest groups.

Use QR Codes on signs to pull information from people who use the resource.



Increase Awareness

Develop canoe landings with information signs at:

- Old Stone Road
- Cooksville
- Riley Road
- Hwy 59 and the Yahara River.

Work with Capitol Water Trails, LTD (<http://www.capitolwatertrails.org>) to produce a pocket guide to paddling the Badfish.

Promote MMSD tours for middle school students to enhance public awareness of work that is done at the facility.

Publish annual status reports.

Improve Adjacent Environment

Survey the Badfish Creek

In November of 2008, the Friends conducted a baseline survey of a portion the Badfish Creek by canoe to document bank erosion and invasive plants. The section surveyed was from Old Stone Road to Leedle Mill Bridge. Riparian land in this section includes the DNR Badfish Wildlife Area and private land owned by Cathy and Henry Royer. Detailed results are included in Appendix A.

The Friends will conduct a baseline survey of the select portions of the Creek on an annual basis. In 2012, the Creek will be surveyed from Leedle Mill Bridge to Riley Road.

Invasive Species

Complete an invasive species map indicating location, area and type of invasives observed along the creek.

Continue ongoing work to eradicate Japanese knotweed and control Wild Parsnip and Japanese hedge parsley in riparian areas of the creek.

Engage managers of public lands adjacent to the Creek and collaborate in addressing invasive plants.

Recruit a UW Madison graduate student to study Japanese Hedge Parsley and its control or eradication.

FBCW Strategic Plan



Coordinate with land managers and other agency contacts

Federal

Kurt Waterstradt, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

State

Nancy Frost, WDNR property manager, Badfish Creek Wildlife Area

Sue Graham, WDNR Water Resources Management Specialist

Dane County

Chris James, Dane County Parks

Rock County

Lori Williams, Director Rock County Parks

Timeline

| | |
|--|---|
| Develop strategic plan | February 2012 |
| Conduct usage survey with stakeholders and interest groups. | Spring 2012 |
| Use QR Codes on signs to pull information from people using the resource. | Summer 2012 |
| Develop canoe landings | Contingent upon funding and land acquisitions |
| Old Stone | 2014 |
| Cooksville | 2013 |
| Riley Road | 2015 |
| Hwy 59 and Yahara River. | 2016 |
| Place information signs at each landing | Ongoing |
| Produce pocket guide to paddling the Badfish | February 2013 |
| Promote MMSD tours for middle school students to enhance public awareness of work they do. | Ongoing |
| Publish annual status report | January of each year |

FBCW Strategic Plan



| | |
|---|-------------|
| The Friends will conduct another survey of the portion of the Creek from Leedle Mill Bridge to Riley Road Bridge. | Summer 2012 |
| Complete map of invasive species observed along the creek | Fall 2012 |
| Coordinate with land managers. | Ongoing |
| Continue efforts to control invasive plants | Ongoing |
| Obtain graduate student help as internship to study Japanese Hedge Parsley and develop control plan | 2012-2013 |

Finances

Uses of Funds

Signs

Publication materials

Land acquisitions

Building materials for canoe landings

Recruit a graduate student intern or hire using grant monies

Supporting expenses for intern

Sources of Funds

Grants

- Dane County Environmental Council grant program
- WDNR Aquatic Invasive Species grant program

MMSD

Dane County Parks Natural Resource Area (POSP)

- Land acquisitions
- Building materials for canoe landings



Appendix A

Badfish Creek Canoe Stream Survey, November 1, 2008

Canoe from Old Stone Road to Leedle Mill Bridge in Dane County through public and private lands.

Attendees: Scott Taylor, Lynne and Bob Diebel, and Sharon Beall (data recorder)

Objective: Observe and locate via GPS invasive species and stream bank erosion

| Bob's Waypoint | Scott's Waypoint | Description |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| #1 Landing at Old Stone | | Trash, plastic bags, duck feathers and wings |
| #3 on Creek N42° 52' 50.2" W89° 16' 34.9" | | |
| #4 N42° 52' 45.0" W89° 16' 33.0" | | 100 feet left bank cut away. Black organic matter 3 feet up from water level with lighter soil 1.5 to 2.5 feet? Flood sediment or dredged material from the 1950s? |
| #5 N42° 52' 43.6" W89° 16' 32.6" | | left bank cutaway, as above |
| #6 N42° 52' 39.4" W89° 16' 31.8" | | right and left banks slumping into creek, deadfall tree across creek |
| #7 N42° 52' 35.1" W89° 16' 23.5" PHOTO badfish11-1-08 004 | #3 | left bank cutaway--worst bank so far right bank with dead falls, buckthorn and erosion |
| #8 N42° 52' 35.1" W89° 16' 19" | #4 | field drain left bank |

FBCW Strategic Plan



| Bob's Waypoint | Scott's Waypoint | Description |
|---|------------------|---|
| #9 N42° 52' 24.4" W89° 16' 09.4" | #5 | Tree with bare bank |
| #10 N42° 52' 16.3" W89° 16' 06.2" | #6 | active slough on left bank Right bank concrete field drain, little further away |
| #11 N42° 52' 04.6" W89° 16' 06.4" | #7 | pedestrian bridge |
| #12 N42° 52' 02.9" W89° 16' 06.8" | #8 | right tributary Short distance right bank light sandy soil; numerous 6 inch fish noted A little further past tributary, right bank with "beat up" wild black cherry tree; honeysuckle |
| #13 N42° 51' 49.8" W89° 16' 06.5" | #9 | "Ditch" with metal culvert right |
| #14 N42° 51' 44.6" W89° 16' 02.0" | #10 | Silt "delta" or wide bottom ditch; wide bottom drainage ditch possibly dredged if in drainage district; |
| #15 N42° 51' 44.1" W89° 15' 55.1" | #11 | Possibly ditch right |
| #16 N42° 51' 44.2" | #12 | Right inlet Left inlet |

FBCW Strategic Plan



| Bob's Waypoint | Scott's Waypoint | Description |
|---|------------------|--|
| W89° 15' 47.1" | | |
| #17 N42° 51' 44.2" W89° 15' 44.1" | #13 | Right bank completely detached Boulders appearing |
| | #14 | Left inlet, larger rocks on banks |
| #18 N42° 51' 44.3" W89° 15' 36.9" | #15 | Left large tributary with flow |
| | # 16 | Left small tributary with flow |
| #19 N42° 51' 44.3" W89° 15' 36.7" | #17 | Left small dry tributary Sandy pebbly substrate, several downed cottonwoods span the creek (able to pass under) Right bank pink marker tapes? Lots of box elders and black locust; GPS indicates we've traveled 2.38 miles so far. |
| #20 N42° 51' 24.4" W89° 15' 20.5" | #18 | Right and left undercut banks; small pink marker ribbons tied to trees/bushes at various intervals? |
| #21 N42° 51' 15.6" W89° 15' 20.9" | #19 | Right garlic mustard |
| #22 N42° 51' 11.6" W89° 15' 23.3" | #20 | Old Stage bridge with graffiti Native basswood after bridge |

FBCW Strategic Plan



| Bob's Waypoint | Scott's Waypoint | Description |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| #24 N42° 50' 58.7" W89° 15' 20.1" | #22 | Royer's home on left, lots of canary reed grass, few larger boulders and more river rocks, oak woods |
| #25 N42° 50' 51.7" W89° 15' 20.5" | #23 | Right tributary Corn field on right |
| #26 N42° 50' 40.9" W89° 15' 13.0" | #24 | Sloughed bank |
| #27 N42° 50' 37.7" W89° 15' 08.8" | #25 | Destination: Leedle Road bridge, Japanese hedge parsley along downstream side of the road near the bridge |



Appendix B

Observations by Brock Woods, WDNR

Floated Badfish Creek from above Cooksville to Riley Road Bridge in Rock Co. 1 August, 2011.

Jap hedge parsley at bridges over Badfish Creek:

Riley Road bridge at 42 deg. 49.890 min., 89 deg., 12.652 min. (27' accuracy) both sides of the creek I pulled all I could find.

Leedle Mill/Rutland Dunkirk bridge at 42 deg., 50.637 min., 89 deg, 15.077 min. West side of creek. There was too much for me to pull.

I will alert F.O. Badfish Creek to see if they can help eliminate it at both sites.

There's also = **Jap. Knotweed** at/under Riley Rd. bridge (within same coordinates above) that the Friends of BC have been working to control with glyphosate. Big stalks are gone, but lots of little stuff to clear out.

Purple loosestrife found along the south bank of Badfish Creek at 42 deg., 50.284 min., 89 deg., 13.339 min. (accuracy 20'). One older flowering plant and I cut it down.

Half a dozen sites of **plumeless thistle** on the creek stretch from Cooksville to Riley Road bridge. Garlic mustard, multiflora rose, buckthorn, honeysuckle, all common.