

## File# G 1280 – Barron County - 8.3 Acres

The Department was gifted this property in 1962. The property has approximately 930 feet of two bank frontage on Quaderer Creek. Much of the property is submerged and wetland.

Historically there was a large beaver dam on the property that made an impressive flowage which was enjoyed by local residents. When the beaver dam went out, the idea was developed to put in a permanent dam. It was many years in the making, and a lot of local support went into actually implementing the project.

This is a small parcel of Department land that is key to the entire project. Much of the land around it is hunting easement that was donated or acquired based on the expectation a flowage would be developed. A water control structure was constructed on this parcel in 1992 or 1993. The dam was designed by DNR engineers and paid for by Ducks Unlimited. Local involvement was critical in developing the flowage and public access points. The sign established on the property names only a fraction of those involved and who contributed financially, through labor or both.

The Department has made other investments in improvements on the property including a small parking lot and boat landing.

The Department has also made investments in habitat improvements. Wild rice was seeded into the flowage about 10 years ago and has become very well established. This provides habitat for waterfowl, including trumpeter swans. There has been trumpeter swan nesting on the flowage and department staff have done some banding and neck collaring of cygnets in the past. Currently, Trumpeters still use the flowage for nesting and during migration in spring and fall.

There is minimal ongoing maintenance for the property. Mowing of parking lot as needed and painting of the property sign occurs.

The property is accessible to the public through 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The area is popular for waterfowl hunting and bird watching. If this land was in private ownership, access to the flowage might be denied. This would completely negate all the work that was done by Ducks Unlimited, DNR, and private cooperators. Trumpeter swans nest on the flowage and utilize the habitat during migration. If this land ownership changed, it could make this area less appealing for trumpeter swans.

The Department recommends retaining this parcel.

