



Door County Land Trust

Protecting Door County's Exceptional Lands and Waters...Forever

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Honorable Dave J. Ward, Mayor
City of Sturgeon Bay
421 Michigan Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

February 6, 2023

Re: Sturgeon Bay NERR Site Nomination

Dear Mayor Ward,

The Door County Land Trust is writing to express support for inclusion within the proposed boundaries of the Bay of Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). A Bay of Green Bay NERR will benefit this region's population and natural resources base by enhancing research capacities, providing access to the talent of the 30 reserves within the NERR system, creating a robust framework for stewardship, training, and K-12 educational programming, and bringing proven coastal best management practices throughout the country to the shores of Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and Lake Huron. The exposure that comes from inclusion in the reserve system will help strengthen the connection between regional communities and our natural resources, enhance economic benefits resulting from our water resources, and serve as a clear coordinating force for NGOs, government agencies, and industry working to the benefit of the Green Bay ecosystem.

Door County Land Trust lands within the proposed boundaries include the Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal Nature Preserve. This preserve is an ecological gem located within the city limits of Sturgeon Bay and is home to rare and threatened species such as dune thistle, dune goldenrod, dwarf lake iris, bald eagle, Caspian tern, and osprey. It is also one of the region's most critical resting spots for numerous migrating neo-tropical birds.

There is great potential for collaboration with the Bay of Green Bay NERR and opportunities to forge new partnerships for continued stewardship of the estuary. The NERR designation will increase awareness of the value of the Green Bay watershed to the nation and foster a sense of pride for this natural resource treasure among the citizens of Wisconsin.

Yours in conservation,

Emily A. Wood
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