

Sitework

PROJECT MANAGER:
Dennis Roundy

OWNER:
USDA-Natural Resources
Conservation Service

DESIGNER:
Caroline Clarin,
USDA-Natural Resources
Conservation Service,
Jefferson, WI

The Zeloske Marsh, also known as the Muck Farms, is located in Lake Mills. The Muck Farms was started in 1946 by the Zeloski family. Dennis Zeloski kept the farm operating until his recent retirement. He wanted to preserve the land that is recognized as part of the Southern Wisconsin and the Northern Illinois Drift Plain. The area is ranked third in the top 20 most threatened major resources based on market value. About two years ago the farm was sold and the process of converting the farm into wetlands was started. The project consisted of restoring 1,500 acres of marginal farmland to wildlife habitat and required filling in 2 miles of ditches, disabling 12 miles of drain tile and constructing 4 miles of berms. Wondra Excavating installed 7 water controls structures in four wetland basins resulting in 560 acres of shallow marsh and constructed six islands totaling over 19 acres and four smaller islands. Over 151,000 cubic yards of fill was placed to create the berms and islands and 55 steel sumps and junction boxes were removed. The project had to be completed in 67 calendar days. The Muck Farm was turned from marshland to farmland over a 60 year period. The Zeloske Marsh was returned to wildlife habitat in a little over 60 days.

ABC MEMBERS USED:
The Brehmer Agency, Inc.
Davies Water Equipment Co.
Positioning Solutions Co.
Richards Insurance



WONDRA EXCAVATING INC.
IRON RIDGE, WI



ZELOSKE MARSH WETLAND RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT
JEFFERSON COUNTY, WI