

The Fish Creek Watershed Plan

Available on the Town Website: <http://www.townofgibraltar.com>

[Click on the Community tab](#)

On October 4, 2017 the Town Board approved a plan for the restoration and protection of Fish Creek and its watershed. The plan was born out of the Town's desire to steward its water resource. It was funded through a DNR River Planning Grant and prepared for the Town by Nancy Turyk at the Center for Watershed Science and Education, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The plan promotes a healthy stream ecosystem that supports the environmental and economic interests of our community. The goals and outcomes came from input given by citizens at the public meetings where they expressed both their love and concern for the creek. They are as follows:

- Goal 1: Prevent the degradation of surface & groundwater quality
- Goal 2: Protect and improve fish and wildlife habitat.
- Goal 3: Make Fish Creek accessible to residents and visitors.

The Planning Commission has been given the job of overseeing the implementation of the plan. Bob Bultman was hired as a consultant to help us pursue a DNR River Management Grant. On April 2, 2018, the Town was awarded a grant of \$24,750. As proposed in the grant application, the money will be used to pursue designs from engineering firms that will allow fish to get past the current barriers of the Hwy 42 culvert and the Half Mile Bridge dam in order to spawn in the wetlands. In addition, restoration of the meander upstream of the Hwy 42 culvert where the channel has been straightened will be sought.

The Park & Lands Committee has agreed to head up the invasive species piece of the plan beginning in Fish Creek Park. They also agreed to pursue the outcome in the plan that addresses the dying ash trees along the creek in Fish Creek Park and their replacement with other shade giving hard woods. In addition, they agreed to begin to look at the piece of the plan that proposes increasing public access to Fish Creek within Fish Creek Park.

The restoration of the creek will take lots of work. Some of that work will need to be carried out by professionals. **Other work may require the help of local volunteers!**

Please consider offering your assistance to the Town in bringing our creek back to life!

Call the Town Office 920-868-1714