NEWSLETTER

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14 Mile Watershed Friends and Supporters . . .

The Walden Park Project
More than Just a Kayak Launch

A recent addition to all the recreational activities available in Rome, the **Walden Park Kayak Launch** was the result of collaborations between Visit Rome, DRAFT, the Town of Rome Parks and Rec Committee and Knee Deep Shore Supplies LLC. Located at 9th Avenue, the launch can be used for kayaks, paddleboards, and canoes. Don't have a kayak? No problem, kayaks and paddleboards are available for rental at the site. In addition to exploring Walden, you can also access Lake Camelot by paddling under County Road D.

Between the rental area and Walden, there was a steep grassy slope. This area required mowing by the Town and because of the steepness of the slope, often resulted in erosion and nutrient runoff issues during storms.

Solutions to these issues were discussed and finalized in a decision to install a buffer zone planting of native plants after removing the grass. The deep roots of native

plants prevent erosion, improve soil health and absorb excess nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen. The plants help maintain a balanced lake ecosystem and reduce harmful algae blooms. In addition to improving the ecosystem of the lakes, native plants are a valuable resource for pollinators, insects, caterpillars and our native songbirds.

Unloading the mat rolls

and putting in place

Going from idea to implementation required funding as well as many hands throughout the installation that took place last fall. Funding or labor was provided by a DNR shoreland restoration grant, DRAFT, Lake Camelot Property Owners Association, Lake Sherwood Property Owners Association, Visit Rome, Rome Home Town Players, Sand Valley Resort, the Town of Rome, and 14 Mile Watershed Alliance.

Instead of planting individual plants or a native seed mix, a Native Vegetated Mat (NVM) produced by Agrecol, a Wisconsin native nursery company was chosen. This product is designed to be used in applications where the need or desire for instantaneous vegetation is required. It is especially suited for erosion control and slope stabilization projects. The vegetative mats are four square yards in size and come with a native plant mix already growing on a soilless media. This project required a total of 177 mats.

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Prior to installation of the mats, the grass in the area needed to be removed, so the soil was rototilled. Electrical power and a water source from a sand point well and an underground sprinkler system also needed to be installed. On installation day, the

mats were delivered from Agrecol to the site and off loaded by the Town of Rome Public Works. Many volunteers arrived to lay out the mats, water them in well and insert over 5,000 earth staples to hold the mats in place and to ensure good contact with the soil below. Thanks go out to the all of the volunteers who played an integral role in the success of this huge project.

Laying down grid for living pathway

Current view of the native planting

The plants made it through a very tough winter and each year will become more and more beautiful. This planting will showcase what can be done to promote shoreland protection on private properties in the area.

By planting and preserving this Buffer Zone at Walden, we all can help protect water quality as well as support wildlife.

Are you a shoreline owner who would like to learn more about establishing a buffer zone on your property? Did you know that the Wisconsin DNR has a Healthy Lakes grant available to help with the planning and expenses for such a project. One thousand dollars of funding is available for each 350 square foot area that you'd like to address. To find out more and discuss possible solutions tailored to your specific property, contact Dave Trudeau at dtrudeau@wctc.net

Reminder

The Visit Rome Summer Concert Series featuring "The Blue Notes"

August 23 at 5:00 pm at the bandshell

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(benefitting the 14 Mile Watershed Alliance)

Please Join Us

The 14 Mile Watershed Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of surface and groundwater in the 14 Mile Creek Watershed in central Wisconsin. See us at 14milewatershed.org or https://www.facebook.com/14MileWatershed

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