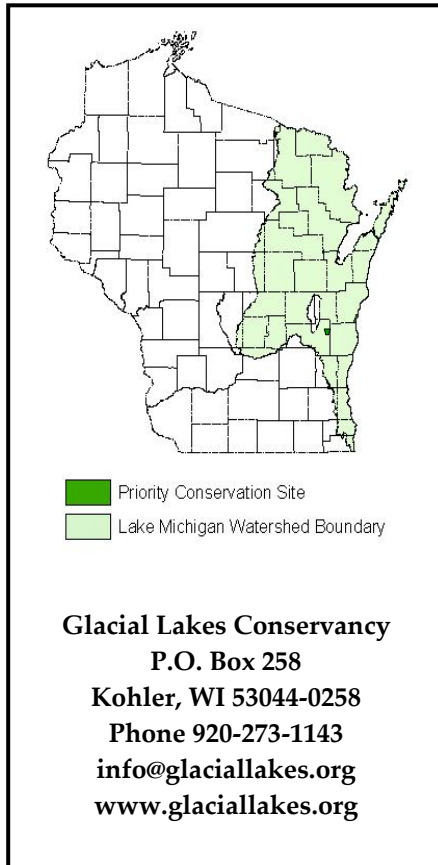


# Mullet Lake and Mullet River

## Connecting conservation



Mullet Lake is a 200-acre lake surrounded by large expanse of tamarack swamp. The lake and the surrounding wetlands create a duck paradise. Mullet River originates from the outlet of Mullet Lake in Fond du Lac County, and runs through Mullet Creek Wildlife Area and the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit. This area is overflowing with mixed hardwoods, emergent wet meadow, and an array of fish and wildlife including trout, white tailed deer, and turkey.



### Ecological Significance:

Mullet Lake and Mullet River are significant primarily because of the unique fish and wildlife habitats they provide. The river flows 62 miles northeast, originating from an outlet at Mullet Lake. The quality of the water flowing in the Mullet River is considered good from its headwaters into Plymouth, and fair from Plymouth downstream to its union with the Sheboygan River. What makes the Mullet River unique is that it flows from its warm water headwaters into a cold water segment, and then into a warm water segment once again for the last third of the river. This classification difference is due to an increase in spring flow between Glenbeulah and Plymouth. The Mullet River flows through the Mullet Creek Wildlife Area and the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, which are both professionally managed for wildlife, fish, and forestry by the Wisconsin DNR and provide habitat for abundant wildlife, hunting access, trout and sport fishing, and public recreational destinations.

### Potential Threats:

Major threats to water quality are agricultural and urban runoff, point source discharge in urban areas, stream channelization and dams. The WDNR is conducting a study on the Mullet River near the Old Wade House State Park to determine the possible impacts of placing a dam in that location. Some potential impacts may include an increase in water temperature, lower dissolved oxygen levels, and loss of riffle spawning habitat. Controlling agricultural and urban runoff is top priority for the Mullet River, especially as the surrounding communities continue to grow. A potential threat to surface waters and wetland areas is the invasion of exotic species that are not native to the area that are able to outcompete and harm native species. Another potential threat to this landscape is the fragmentation of existing habitat areas and farm fields needed for groundwater recharge, caused by extensive rural housing development.



The Mullet River flowing through Glenbeulah

### Current Activities:

Mullet Lake and Mullet River has been identified as a *Conservation Priority Site* by Glacial Lakes Conservancy due to the opportunity to widen the environmental corridor that already exists in the eastern portion of this 98-square-mile watershed. The Conservancy is interested in working with willing landowners and other partners who wish to engage in land conservation practices, like permanently creating lake and stream buffer zones with conservation easement agreements, while keeping the land private.

*Glacial Lakes Conservancy is a private, non-profit land trust serving Sheboygan ▪ Manitowoc ▪ Kewaunee ▪ Calumet ▪ Fond du Lac Counties providing enduring solutions for land conservation in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Basin*