

The future of the forest is in our hands!

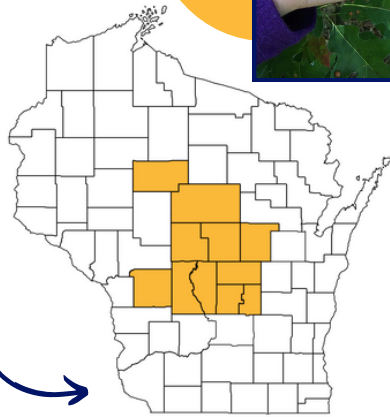


Golden Sands
Resource Conservation
& Development Council, Inc.

What is Golden Sands RC&D?

Golden Sands RC&D is a regional conservation 501(c)3 nonprofit. We work in 12 counties in central Wisconsin. Our goal is to make central Wisconsin a better place to work and live by promoting clean water, healthy forests, abundant wildlife, and sustainable agriculture.

Our service area includes Taylor, Marathon, Wood, Portage, Waupaca, Monroe, Juneau, Adams, Waushara, Marquette, Green Lake, and Columbia counties.



What is a demonstration forest?

Demonstration forests were established to teach landowners the importance of land stewardship and strategies to enhance woodland productivity and wildlife habitat. These forests are privately-owned properties to showcase different management strategies.

More about this forest

Scan the QR code below to see more about this demo forest or to learn about our cost-share programs, landowner opportunities and more.



Thank you to our
Demonstration
Forest sponsor!



Portage County Hans Schabel Woodland



**Demonstration
FOREST**

<https://www.goldensandsrcd.org/demonstration-forests>
(715) 343-6215

This organization is an equal opportunity provider.



Hans Schabel Woodlands

Ecological Landscape of WI: Central Sand Hills



Hans and his partner purchased this 50 acres of farmland in 1978 with the intention of restoring the land and creating an enriching space to raise their family. The Schabel Woodland is located in Portage County between the Plover and the Tomorrow/Waupaca Rivers. It is uniquely located in Wisconsin's Tension Zone, which means it supports a diverse set of species from the southern and northern parts of the state.



A path leading into the Hans Schabel Woodlands.

Over the past 40 years, Hans, a former University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point forestry professor, has managed his property following the Dauerwald concept. Dauerwald is a German word which means "permanent, perpetual, continuous, or sustainable forest." Hans' strategy was based on uneven-aged silviculture and required "major restoration efforts that recreate forests which closely express their natural potential in structure, composition, and stability while meeting various product and service functions." Essentially, Hans wanted to convert the pastures, alfalfa fields, and poorly managed woodlot to its former, pre-colonial state. Some of the techniques Hans has utilized include removal of invasive species, selective timber harvests, and strategic tree planting.



The landcover of the Hans Schabel Woodlands. This property is 50 acres total and showcases high diversity in vegetation.

Today, the property has more than 40 species of coniferous and deciduous trees. This includes hemlock, white pine, red pine, spruce, burr oak, basswood, sugar maple, red maple, elm, birch, and aspen. Hans has also successfully planted his favorite tree, juneberry. The property also supports a variety of wildlife species including deer, small mammals, and a variety of birds.

For more information about the Hans Schabel Woodlands and other demo forest sites, visit

<https://www.goldensandsrccd.org/demonstration-forests>

Hans and his progress with the restoration of Schabel Woodlands demonstrates that people have the power to leave lasting marks on their ecosystem and community.

