

# The future of the forest is in our hands!

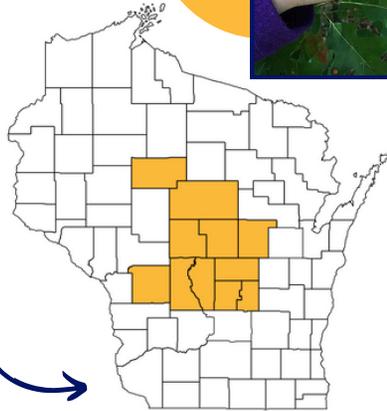


**Golden Sands**  
Resource Conservation  
& Development Council, Inc.

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

This organization is an equal opportunity provider.

# Marquette County Hill Woodland



**Demonstration  
FOREST**



# Hill Woodland

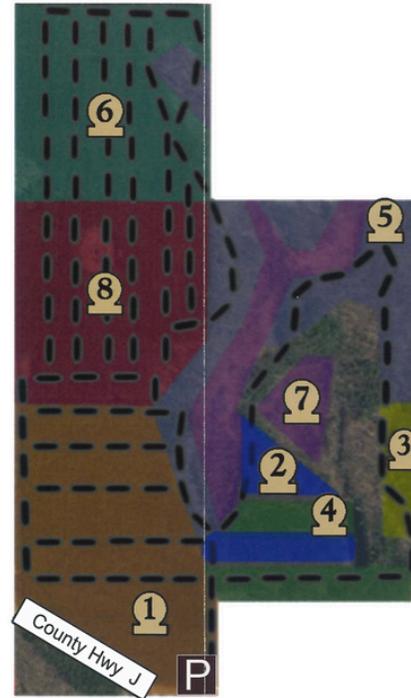
The Hill Woodland was originally owned by Joe Mills, who had purchased the land in the early 1950s when it was a simple hay field. It was his vision and dedicated tree planting which resulted in the property's bountiful forests. In 2000, Hazen and Mary Hill, who were good friends of Joe's, purchased the property. Owning quality property, like the Hill Woodland, was a lifetime dream of theirs. Hazen and Mary have since passed, but because of them, the 220-acre property will be in the Hill family for generations.



Mary and Byron Hill.

When the land was first purchased as a farm field with nutrient-poor soil, it was converted into a red pine plantation. After that, invasive species began impeding the regeneration of a successful understory. Current efforts involve the control of invasive honeysuckle and autumn olive, alongside thinning to facilitate the regrowth of white pine. Following a lightning strike several years ago, a portion of the white pine stand suffered damage and was left untouched. These fallen trees now serve as valuable foraging grounds and shelter for numerous bird species and small mammals. In 1989, a hardwood stand was created, which includes maple, oak, aspen, and birch species.

# Ecological Landscape of WI: Central Sand Hills



Map of the Hill Woodland site. Every number represents a different cover type or management practice.

The aspen trees are regularly maintained in order to provide ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat. Additionally, a black and white oak stand borders the site's wetland, which acts as a wonderful wildlife viewing point. The wetland includes tag alder thickets, willow trees, and unique tamaracks, all of which are supported by acidic peat soil.

**Area 1, 2, 6: Red pine mixed stands** with invasive species removal.

**Area 3: Early successional hardwood forest** managed for ruffed grouse and American woodcock.

**Area 4: White pine plantation** damaged by lightning. Debris left for bird nesting cover.

**Area 5: Oak Forest** bordering wetland.

**Area 7: Wetland** with alder thickets, marsh grasses, and tamarack.

**Area 8: Invasive species control** to encourage native woodland wildflower growth.

For more information about the Hill Woodland and other demo forest sites, visit

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

**The Hills and their efforts towards the development of Hill Woodland demonstrates that people have the power to leave lasting marks on their ecosystem and community.**

