



For Immediate Release

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**BROWN COUNTY BEGINS EXCAVATING NORTHERN
PIKE BY-PASS AT REFORESTATION CAMP**

*[Project Will Allow Pike to Migrate from the Bay of Green Bay to Haller Creek
Opening Up Over 300 Acres of Spawning Wetlands for the first time in Fifty Years]*

(BROWN COUNTY, WI) Work to excavate a fish by-pass around a pond formed by a dam on Haller Creek has begun in Brown County. The Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department is completing the project with \$137,000 in grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) Trustee Council.

“It’s exciting to see work begin to open up the pike migration and spawning passage to Haller Creek and northern Brown County,” said Brown County Executive Troy Streckenbach. “Northern Pike play a positive role in the ecosystem, so projects like this one are vital if we want to protect the Bay of Green Bay and its resources for future generations. I appreciate the support of our community partners for helping make this possible.”

A sluice gate will control water flowing through the fish by-pass. It will be opened to allow enough water to allow passage of Northern Pike and other fish species during their spring spawning migration to the Haller Creek headwater wetlands, while maintaining the existing water level in the Reforestation Camp’s pond. The Project will also reconstruct and improve culverts on Haller Creek in Brown and Oconto Counties. These culverts currently restrict fish passage.

“Removing the impediments to Northern Pike passage will allow them to continue their journey from the Bay of Green Bay to Haller Creek’s headwaters and will open up over 300 acres of wooded wetlands for spawning,” commented Charles Larscheid, Project Manager for the Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department’s West Shore Northern Pike Habitat Restoration Project who wrote the grant for Brown County. “We are attempting to return the Northern Pike population, one of Green Bay’s largest fish predators, to prominence after decades of decline.”

Brown County Land and Water Conservationist Mike Mushinski noted, “Brown County has finished over 50 Northern Pike spawning habitat improvement projects and stream impediment



removals since 2007. In addition to restoring Northern Pike spawning habitat, the wetlands we've created benefit many other fish and animal species".

The project will be finished this spring and the fish by-pass will be open for use in the spring of 2017.

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