

TODAY

The Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area now (1968) includes approximately 6,000 acres within the State project boundary and of this, over 3,000 acres are owned and 600 acres are leased land.

Three large flowage areas have been constructed to provide excellent waterfowl hunting and in an attempt to bring back the furbearing animals that were once so abundant.

Several thousand upland game hunters use the area every year; thus continued upland management is necessary. Deer are also numerous on the area and many are taken with the bow as well as with the gun.

Some of the planned roads and parking lots have been constructed and these are shown on the accompanying map.

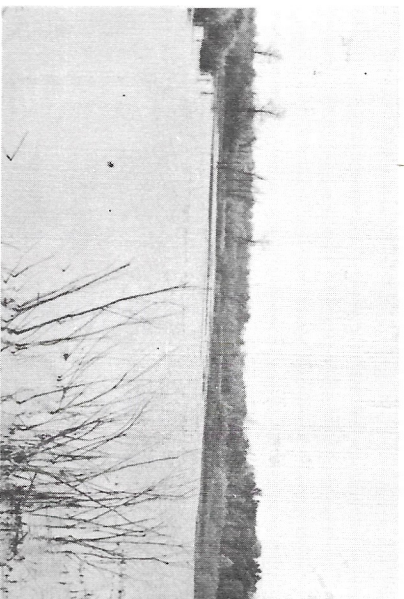
TOMORROW

Flowages, totalling over a thousand acres of surface water, have been installed or are planned. The Fox River will be kept open for boating; and the construction of roads, parking areas and boat launching areas will be completed as funds become available. Cooperative support by the public will be needed for the development of group camping sites, lookout towers, dog-training areas and nature trails.

PUBLIC USE

The Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area is within 30 minutes' drive of over 1,000,000 Wisconsin residents and will provide continuous recreation for thousands of sportsmen and naturalists. The area is administered by the Bureau of Game Management with a Manager's office located in Delafield.

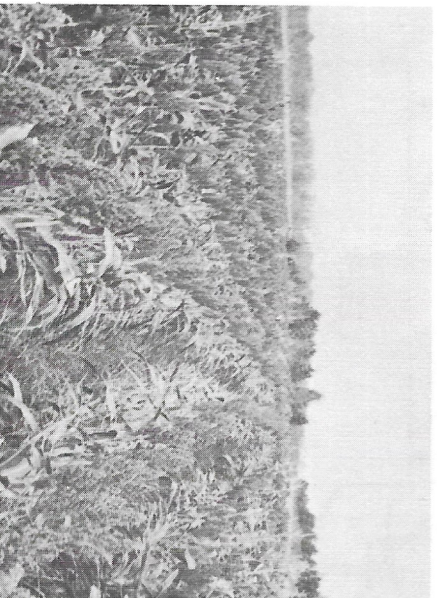
Continuous wise use by the public and proper management by the Department of Natural Resources will provide excellent recreation for this and future generations.



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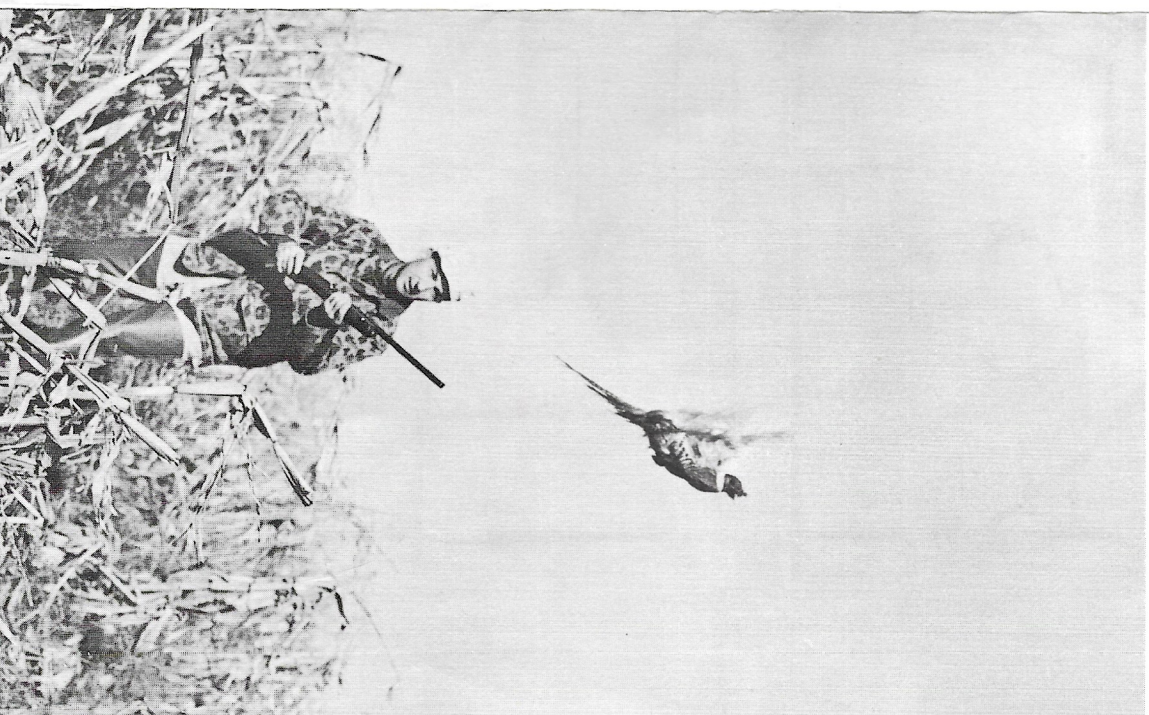


Many kinds of game can be hunted here as the habitat is diversified.



A share-cropping program provides an abundance of food.

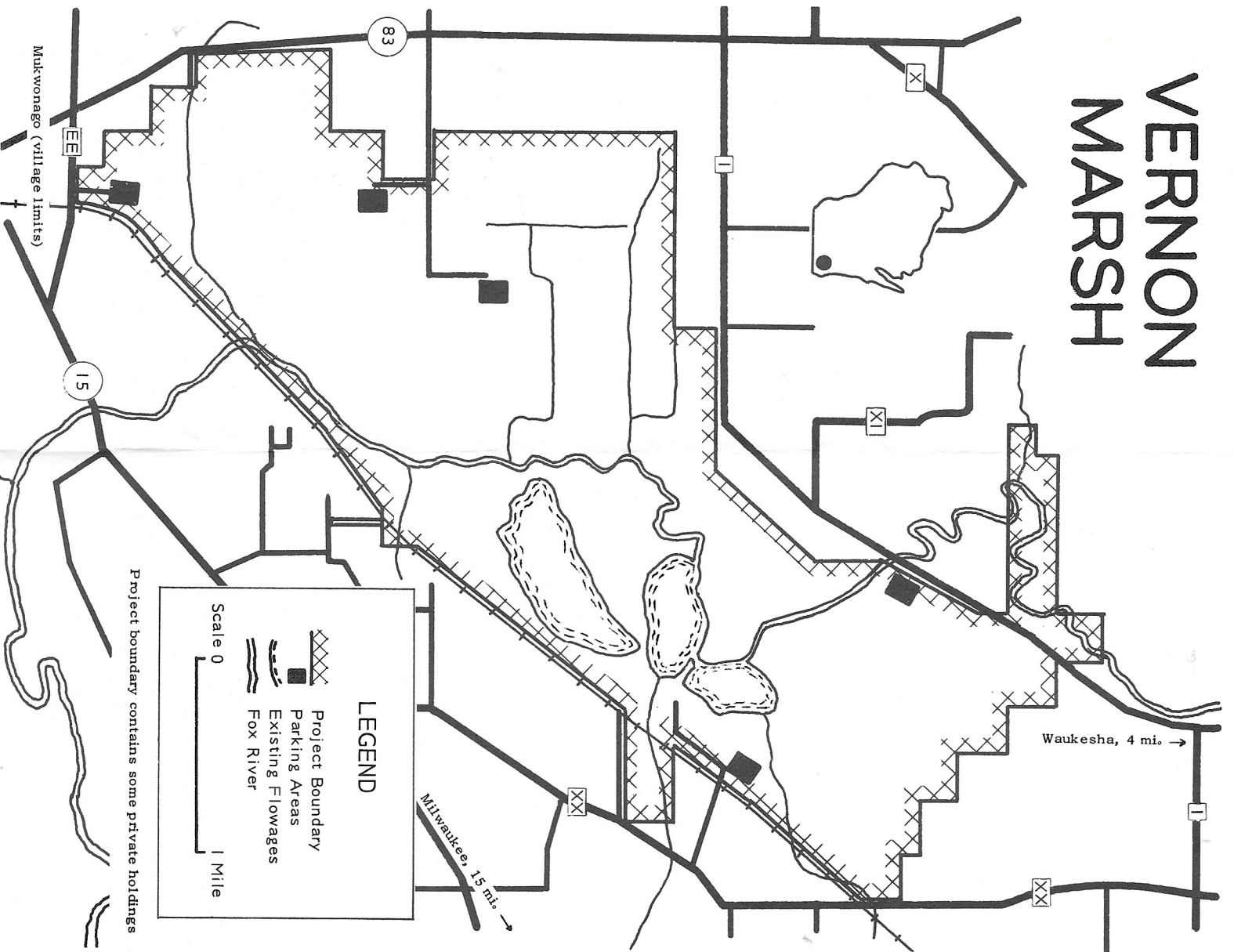
VERNON MARSH



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Folder GM 14-68

VERNON MARSH



LOCATION

The Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area lies adjacent to the village of Mukwonago (an Indian term also pronounced "Meguanigo", meaning "in dispute"), located four miles southwest of the city of Waukesha and only fifteen miles from the city of Milwaukee metropolitan area.

YESTERDAY

Probably the first white man to see the marsh area was a French trader who visited the area in 1804-1805. What is now designated the "big marsh" was at that time covered with water and called "Mud Lake" on early maps. The water was clear and filled with wild rice, bulrushes and pond lilies. Beaver, otter and mink were plentiful and the lake area was studded with a thousand muskrat houses. The Potawatomi, an Indian tribe, had several villages in the vicinity and harvested the furbearing animals and bartered with "Elmore" (Ne-o-ke-shuk) in his log trading post.

Through the last hundred years, siltation from the surrounding hills and decaying plant life has lifted the level of the marsh and changed it from a floating condition to a peat or muck soil.

The first public land sales took place in Milwaukee in 1839, but many early settlers lost their claims because they borrowed money at a high interest rate.

In the early 1900's, attempts were made to develop the marsh area for truck farming, but the lack of sufficient fall, or drain of the marsh prevented good cultivation. Marsh hay was raised by adjoining farmers during dry periods.

The Department of Natural Resources became interested in the marsh in 1946 and began leasing land as a public hunting ground. Later in 1951, this Department launched an acquisition program to purchase the entire area for waterfowl, furbearer and upland game management.

In 1964, a Milwaukee group, "Wetlands for Wildlife, Inc.", graciously donated monies to assist in the acquisition program.