

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative's (NALMC) Resource Book!

This book is a joint publication of the NALMC Steering Committee, NALMC landowners, and the resource professionals who have been hired to assist in this dynamic, exciting project. As noted in the Prologue and Foreword, this report documents the *process* as much as it does the facts and events surrounding the creation and evolution of this unique organization. The philosophy and commitment of the NALMC contributors are firmly entrenched in the 'Leopoldian Land Ethic,' one where the dictates of the ecosystem and a fundamental respect for nature drives the actions of stewardship and land use on the ground.

You will find in the following pages two principal parts to the story. The first represents a critical underpinning of the Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative, that is, an accounting of the oral tradition by which it arose and the connections between people – neighbors for the most part – by which it has become a success. Part One is entitled "The Social Fabric of the NALMC Neighborhood." It is meant to provide a point of context for the reader, as well as a review of why and how this organization came about. It contains many voices, both of the players in the NALMC story and the people who have documented its evolution.

Part Two presents the ecological context within which the NALMC residents live. Entitled "The Natural Resource Make-up of the NALMC Neighborhood," it tells the story of how the many disparate elements of the natural world interact, where and when they are found, and how they play a significant role in the way people think about 'their piece of the Earth.' This part is more of a scientific document in that it also describes the methods used to generate data, the organization and classification of organisms and their physical environment, as well as the way in which people might approach using the land from the perspective of knowing how the ecosystem works.

The bulk of Part Two is comprised of maps, species lists, and parcel by parcel summaries of what lives out on the land. It also contains management recommendations for each parcel. These have been crafted from an approach that is at once sensitive and respectful of all

aspects of the ecology within the parcel, as well as cognizant of the need to derive certain goods and services from the land itself. In that way it can be considered a “Road Map” for moving forward, both for the residents that intend to use their land and for those who wish to share in its natural bounty.

You will find at the beginning of Part Two is an explanation of how it is structured, as well as a review of how it can be used. There are both large maps and smaller maps contained within the report. The larger ones are folded and inserted into pockets for use of unfolding and folding back up. The species lists are organized by group, such as mammals, birds, amphibians, etc. and include both recorded species and possible (but unrecorded) species in the NLAMC area. No claims are made as to the completeness of these lists – it is up to the user to find what has not yet been discovered on these lands and to bring it to the attention of the NALMC Steering Committee!

In that way, this document should be considered a *living document*. It is bounded loosely so that it can be changed, added to, and updated. The story of NALMC will certainly continue, and hopefully, this document can help track this evolution over time.

So ENJOY THE READ! And more importantly, ENJOY THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE WITHIN WHICH WE ALL LIVE!