

# What is Community-Based Conservation?

Community-based conservation (CBC) is a grass-root activity that incorporates the improvement of the lives of local people with conservation



These initiatives bring individuals and organizations together to work toward common goals. CBC movements reflect the desires of involved parties (specifically the community) to have a greater say in issues that affect them. The idea is that participants, if provided with enough information and support, are capable of determining the most appropriate solution.



## Benefits of CBC

- ★ uses a wide knowledge base which is not available from scientific studies alone, including ethics, economics, politics and traditional knowledge
- ★ allows communities to be active participants in conservation projects rather than passive bystanders, taking into account issues of equity and social justice
- ★ encourages addressing environmental issues from the "ground up," resulting in local solutions

## Overcoming Challenges

- ★ differing ideas and values can cause conflict, but their communication can create great innovations and leads to the development of a cross-cultural definition of conservation
- ★ difficulties may arise in finding fair ways of including a diversity of interests, but these interests can be honored through dialogue which carefully considers and respects each point of view
- ★ tensions between parties can be overcome by building trust between stakeholders and in the process itself and recognizing that consensus and agreement are not always possible

## CBC at Badger

After the Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP) was decommissioned in 1998, the future of the land was uncertain because many people had an interest in how the land would be used. The Sauk County Board of Supervisors stepped in and established a locally driven reuse planning process.

This bottom-up approach brought individuals and organizations together to work towards development of a reuse plan for the land at Badger. The Badger Reuse Committee (BRC) was comprised of representatives from local, state, and tribal governments, as well as interested local citizens who had a desire for a greater say in issues related to Badger.

The committee worked together to establish a core set of values that guide the future management and preservation of the land.



"It's the community that is  
the glue of this project."

Mike Degen,  
DNR liaison for the Badger reuse process



*Geum triflorum*  
Courtesy of Scott Weber

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## Working Together at Badger



a community-based  
conservation approach

Courtesy of Sauk-Prairie Conservation Alliance