



World Wetland Network

Wetland Globes

Category: Blue Globe Award, North America

Name of wetland: Marais Kergus

Location : Lat: 48.3121, long: -78.1409. Québec, Canada. Area: 40ha, part of a wider reserve.

Award won and categories identified: Blue Globe

Type and characteristics: The reserve is situated on the boundary of two river basins. On the Arctic side is Lake Kergus and its tributaries. The water level fluctuates by 1.5 m with seasonal flooding of the peripheral wetland areas and, in the spring, of surrounding agricultural land. On the Atlantic river basin side, there are two small artificial lakes, and an intermittent stream that feeds into the river Outaouais.



Detailed justification for why the wetland won the award: The reserve was bought by the current owners in 1992, and is managed on the basis of 'ecozones'. The site is divided into areas that range from undisturbed areas, only accessible for scientific reasons, to areas accessible for education and visitors, to areas that are sympathetically farmed. In addition, the owners have purchased the mining rights to the site. Had the mining rights not been purchased, mining activities could have

had significant impacts on the natural habitats and biodiversity of the Marais (as has happened in other areas where only surface ownership was secured).

Lessons learnt: Sub-surface mining rights must be purchased in addition to surface land ownership to ensure the long-term security of nature reserves in land that has potential value for mineral exploitation. Also, that multiple uses benefiting different communities can be achieved from sustainable management approaches.

Management organisation: Corporation du Marais Kergus, <http://maraiskergus.voila.net/>

Future plans : To extend the management plan to the rest of the river basin.

