Waterway Program Overview
Goals of the Waterways Program

Public Health and Safety
• We will collaborate with landowners and communities to safeguard life, health and property.

Nature
• We will protect and enhance diverse recreational opportunities, natural and scenic beauty, water quality & quantity and habitat in Wisconsin’s waterways, wetlands, shorelands and floodplains.

Balance
• We will balance public and private rights and interests.

Relationships
• We will ensure public trust and support, to enhance, protect and promote the wise use of Wisconsin’s water resources

Staff
• We will create and maintain a purposeful, professional work environment for all staff.
Meet Our Teams

- Waterway
- Wetland
- Habitat and Outdoor Recreation
- Compliance
- Tech and Support
Habitat and Outdoor Recreation
Team Scope

**Mission**

Support environmental or publicly beneficial projects

**Scope**

- Habitat projects
- Recreation projects
- Water quality trading and adaptive management projects
- Forestry projects
- Mitigation support

**Example Permit Types**

- In-steam trout habitat projects
- Wetland scrapes
- Lake fish habitat – fish sticks, tree drops
- Floodplain restoration
- Hiking, biking, snowmobile, ATV/UTV
- Boat ramps
Priorities for the Team

**Project Consultation**

- Is it a waterway?
- Is it a wetland?
- What are some options to avoid and minimize impacts for trail or other projects?
- What is the ordinary high water mark?

**Training, Outreach & Learning**

- Restoration successes and failures
- Current and future trends and needs
- Climate change responsiveness
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Releases Latest Research On Net Economic Impact Of Trails In Wisconsin During Ceremony For 2019 Rail-Trail Champion Award

Former RTC President Keith Laughlin recognized as steward of rail-trail movement and Route of the Badger trail network visionary, a project that can maximize the $1.5 billion annual economic impact of Wisconsin’s trails

By Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  October 2, 2019  \n
Grant will help restore, stabilize Pike River in Hawthorn Hollow

By Austin Schmitz  September 30, 2021  \n
Levi Antonick, wildlife technician, takes one of the restored wetlands located on the property. A great way for the land owners to make the land more valuable through the project.

GRANT WANTED PROVEN TEAM HILLCREST
Compliance Team

Complaint Response

Environmental Enforcement

Shoreland Zoning

Water Management Engineering

Floodplain Zoning
How to Submit Complaints

- SITE LOCATION
- PROPERTY OWNER AND CONTACT INFORMATION
- CONTRACTOR INVOLVEMENT, IF APPLICABLE
- DATE OF VIOLATION
- NATURE OF VIOLATION
- PHOTOS
Enforcement Priorities

- **Threat to life, health, safety, and/or property**
  - Dam Safety
  - Floodplain
  - Manure Discharges
  - Recreational Safety/Navigation Hazards

- **Significant Environmental Harm**
  - Trout Waters
  - ASNRI Waters
  - Floodplain Wetlands
  - Sensitive Ecosystem
  - Coastal Estuaries
  - Fragmentation
Managing Flood Risk

- Dam Safety and Floodplain Emergency Response
- Dam Inspections, Analysis and Permits
- Floodplain Zoning
Examples

Listen To US House Impeachment Inquiry Hearings
Listen to the public hearings of the U.S. House of Representatives impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump. The hearings will begin at about 2 p.m. Listen.

Listen Live

The VOX Network
Progressive News
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Sealed Stories

Study: Outliers Within Wisconsin’s Annual Floods Are Attributable to Elevated Temperature, Precipitation and Lake Levels
Nathan Kaczor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Wisconsin Has Seen 14 Dams Fail In The Last Decade — 8 Failed Last Year Due To Flooding
Severe Storms, Flooding Are Stressing already-Prepared Infrastructure
By Danica Kaczor Published Tuesday, December 15, 2020 6:00am:

CRANES environmental group says Dane County should lower Lake Mendota level

AUGUST 14, 2020 AT 10:00 AM

CRANES environmental group says Dane County should lower Lake Mendota level

BROWNTOWN (WISCONSIN) – A structural failure of the Beckman Lake dam in Castile Springs State Recreation Area drained the water to levels low enough that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources closed several of the park’s amenities.

BROWN COUNTY — Dam failure drains Beckman Lake in Green County

August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Dam failure drains Beckman Lake in Green County

BROWNTOWN (WISCONSIN) – A structural failure of the Beckman Lake dam in Castile Springs State Recreation Area drained the water to levels low enough that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources closed several of the park’s amenities.

Coon Creek causes flood damage in Coon Valley again

July 19, 2020 at 6:56 PM

Coon Creek causes flood damage in Coon Valley again

Southwestern Wisconsin could see more flooding this spring

Now we can try and convey some of the impacts of climate change, particularly in the southern part of Wisconsin, as we move into the spring season. Coon Creek floods again.

Most Popular

Extended Coverage

Hello New Home Goodbye Old TV Settling

Coon Creek floods again

Extended Coverage

Wisconsin floods again

Extended Coverage

Coon Creek floods again

Extended Coverage

Wisconsin floods again

Extended Coverage

Wisconsin floods again
Waterway Team

- General waterway projects
- Piers, dredging, culverts and bridges
- High water, coastal erosion and coastal resiliency
- USACE stream mitigation
This group wants to sink cars, boats and a ship in Lake Michigan to create an artificial reef near Port Washington

A former Navy tug boat, which later was used by the Coast Guard to rescue passengers from the Andrea Doria and during the Perfect Storm, was sunk Wednesday more than 20 miles off Indian River Inlet. Daniel Safro/The News Journal

Most people don't want to find their car at the bottom of Lake Michigan.

Leifila Hase, however, wants to put 10 cars under water next summer. She also wants to sink four boats and a large ship.

It may sound detrimental to the environment, but Hase said the underwater structures will improve local aquatic life, providing a place for fish to spawn and develop during their formative years.
DNR "saves" homeowners house from lakeshore erosion

Posted about one month ago by Paul Schmitt

A lakeshore property owner near Algoma is giving kudos to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Sue Patel, like many other shoreline homeowners this summer and fall along Lake Michigan, is dealing with high water levels jeopardizing her land and home. Patel reached out to the DNR about two weeks ago after finding out her foundation had cracked. After she was not able to connect with contractors, concrete companies or structural engineers, Patel finally reached out to the DNR as a last resort.
Ice shoves destroy family cottage

by WLUK | Wednesday, March 1st 2017

A home in Stockbridge along Lake Winnebago was destroyed by ice shoves, March 1, 2017. (WLUK/Amanda Cartwright)

STOCKBRIDGE (WLUK) -- The ice shoves along Lake Winnebago got a little too close for comfort for one homeowner in Calumet County Wednesday.

"It was ridiculous. I could not believe the power it had," said homeowner Roger Roth, who's a Wisconsin state senator.
Kenosha Tall Ships Festival
Wetland Team

Identification

Permitting & Exemptions

Mitigation
Evers signs wetlands credits bill

MADISON, Wisc. (AP) — Democratic Gov. Tony Evers has signed a bill that requires developers to purchase wetland mitigation credits within the watershed they’re impacting.

The Department of Natural Resources requires creation or expansion of other wetlands as a condition of an individual permit allowing dredging or filling wetlands. Builders can satisfy those conditions by purchasing credits from a mitigation bank funded anywhere in Wisconsin.

Banks are a start of credits generated by other developers who created or preserved wetlands.

The Republican-controlled bill required the state buy credits from banks in Missouri wetlands. The credit could allow purchases from other wetlands to better serve conservation goals, however.

Evers signed the bill privately Monday.

Associated Press

Lawmakers seek to limit restrictions on wetlands

Lawmakers are considering legislation to block some of the controversial federal wetland regulations that took effect under the Trump administration.

Several states, including Wisconsin, have already begun to formulate their own regulations.

Wisconsin Republican Sen. John Leingang, who is leading the effort, said he wants to ensure that the new regulations don’t unfairly impact the state’s residents.

The proposal would allow states to create their own rules for protecting wetlands, and it would give the state more flexibility to determine how much land is protected.

The bill also would require federal agencies to consult with states before implementing new regulations.

Leingang said the measure would help ensure that the federal government doesn’t interfere with state efforts to protect wetlands.

The bill was introduced earlier this month and now is moving through committee.

Wisconsin News

Flooding becoming more common but there is a solution

WISCONSIN — Wisconsin started off the month of October with widespread flooding. Areas such as Green Bay have already set the record for having their wettest year ever according to the National Weather Service — and there are still two more months to go.

Looking at annual rainfall averages for every state since 1950, it’s very noticeable that every single state east of the Rocky Mountains is seeing more rainfall this year. Wisconsin is seeing nearly 4-6” more on average — while Iowa is seeing over half foot in some areas.
General mitigation trends

16 approved banks, 18 proposed banks
Wisconsin’s In-Lieu Fee Program
Other Wetland Team Trends

- Formalizing Off-Site Delineation Methods
- Wetland Study Council
- Mitigation Rule Updates
- Process improvements including the assured delineation program
- Winter delineation reviews
- Using new scientific data in decision-making
Technology and Support Team

- Waterway and Wetland Information Line
  - Over 5,000 contacts since April 2019
  - General questions
  - E-permitting support and walk-through

- Floodplain mapping

- Wetland mapping

- Surface Water Data Viewer viewable to public

- Databases
Wisconsin Wetland Inventory Geodatabase

Wisconsin DNR’s Wisconsin Wetland Inventory geodatabase, containing wetland polygons and points.

Created: Oct 25, 2018   Updated: Jul 29, 2019
Number of Downloads: 1,184

Description

These Wisconsin Wetland Inventory (WWI) feature classes show graphic representations of the type, size and location of wetlands in Wisconsin. This data has been prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery in conjunction with soil surveys, topographic maps, previous wetland inventories and field work.

About

DNR Wi: Base Layer Open Data
Shared By: WI_DNR_Data
Data Source: www.arcgis.com
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FEMA Flood Map Service Center: Welcome!

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About Flood Map Service Center

The FEMA Flood Map Service Center (MSC) is the official public source for flood hazard information produced in support of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Use the MSC to find your official flood map, access a range of other flood hazard products, and take advantage of tools for better understanding flood risk.

FEMA flood maps are continually updated through a variety of processes. Effective information that you download or print from this site may change or become superseded by new maps over time. For additional information, please see the Flood Hazard Mapping Updates Overview Fact Sheet.
Finding us...

- Waterway and wetland information line
- Contact page