

OUR PROJECTS

HABITATS AND SPECIES

MICHELE WHEELER WETLAND/
FLAG RIVER ESTUARY RESTORATION



In 2016 WDNR initiated work to restore wastewater settling ponds back to healthy wetland. In partnership with the Town of Port Wing, 10 acres of wetland and prairie habitat were restored and reconnected to the Flag River Estuary in 2019. From 2020-2024, WDNR focused efforts on establishing native wetland and prairie plants through seeding and plug planting, as well as management of invasive species with a focus on non-native cattail to restore to a healthy and diverse plant community. Public amenities were also incorporated in 2024 including upgrades to the canoe launch and viewing benches installed.

ALLOUEZ BAY MARSH BIRD
HABITAT RESTORATION



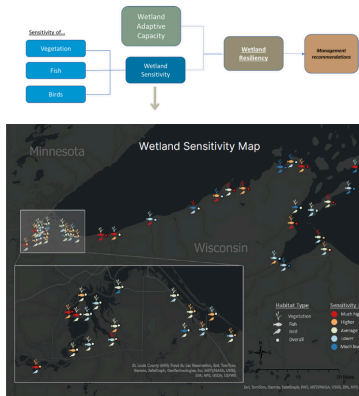
This project advances the Headwaters Sustainability Partnership's restoration vision for Alouez Bay by enhancing hemi-marsh habitat. Co-led by WDNR and Audubon Great Lakes, with involvement from several other local partners, this project engages species experts and local communities in effective restoration efforts. In 2024, data was collected on birds and vegetation in the marsh. Additionally, non-native cattail was removed, channel/pothole/habitat mounds were created, as well as a hemi-marsh restoration design.

WISCONSIN POINT RESILIENCY STUDY



In response to concerns about the loss of beach habitat and risks to infrastructure from coastal erosion, this study will collect information to evaluate and develop conceptual plans to protect and enhance coastal resiliency of the point. The City of Superior, US Army Corps of Engineers, WI Sea Grant, WDNR, and Wisconsin Coastal Management Program are partnering on the study. In 2024, a community visitor use assessment was initiated. The resiliency study is scheduled to begin in 2025.

LAKE SUPERIOR COASTAL WETLAND
RESILIENCY STUDY



The WDNR is collaborating with Wisconsin Sea Grant to establish a framework to assess the sensitivity and resiliency of 38 coastal wetland habitats to climate change. This understanding will guide prioritization for climate adaptation tactics. Throughout 2024, management and adaptation strategies were developed based on coastal wetland resiliency assessments and input from regional wetland experts.



LAKE SUPERIOR GROUNDWATER STUDY

This project is focused on the importance of groundwater in groundwater-dependent ecosystems, specifically coastal wetlands. The need to better understand groundwater in the Lake Superior Basin has been a highlight in the Lake Superior Lakewide Area Management Plan. The WDNR Water Use program is partnering with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey to complete this important work. The study launched in 2024, with site selection and year one of data collection to occur in spring/summer 2025.