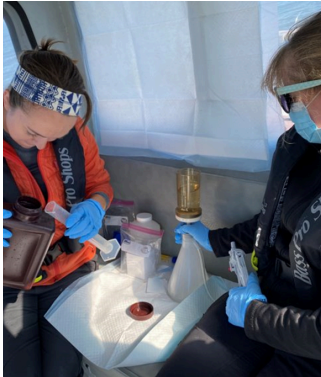


OUR PROJECTS

NEARSHORE MONITORING AND NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION



LAKE SUPERIOR NEARSHORE ALGAL MONITORING

This project gathers water quality and algal community data to characterize nearshore nutrient dynamics and what conditions lead to harmful algal blooms. As the dataset grows it will be used to assess long term trends in nearshore health with partners.

In 2024, WDNR Office of Great Waters staff collected samples in partnership with the Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation at Northland College and the National Park Service. Twenty locations were sampled six different times along the south shore of Lake Superior between June-September 2024. Sampling results from 2024 will be compiled and analyzed in 2025.



MARENGO RIVER NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT COORDINATION

This project demonstrates nature-based solutions to mitigate flood hazards and local water infrastructure challenges in the Marengo River Watershed. For this project a series of in-stream and wetland conservation practices were installed to increase water storage and reconnect floodplains along eroding ravines. The project funds provided capacity support for Ashland County and Wisconsin Wetlands Association to provide project coordination, restoration design and measures of success for the catchment-scale Natural Flood Management (NFM) strategy. Taking lessons learned from this initial project, project planning continued in 2024 to expand the NFM work into an additional sub-basin of the watershed that is highly vulnerable to flooding and erosion, and at risk for washing out a local town road.



FISH CREEK NINE KEY ELEMENT WATERSHED PLAN AND BMP IMPLEMENTATION

This project is intended to restore riparian corridors and reduce nutrient discharges into Lake Superior from the Fish Creek Watershed. The project includes work by the Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation Department to develop a Nine Key Element Watershed Plan for the North and South Fish Creek watersheds, as well as implement five projects in Bayfield County with BMPs to improve water quality on agricultural lands and a road crossing. The project also includes work by the City of Ashland to map a portion of their stormwater system, implement green infrastructure, and stabilize eroding stream banks and restore habitat within the Bay City Creek corridor. WDNR's Nonpoint program is leading grant funding and providing support and technical input. In 2024, two wetlands were installed on ag lands in Bayfield County, the Burke Center was contracted by the county to lead the watershed planning effort, and the City of Ashland initiated their work to map the stormwater system flowing into Bay City Creek.