

WISCONSIN WETLAND DASHBOARD

This dashboard summarizes impacts, restoration projects, and mitigation activities that have been permitted through the DNR Wetland Program. Initiated by the Wetland Study Council in 2020, this dashboard does not include wetland impacts or restoration acres that are not permitted by DNR, such as agricultural projects.

By 1990, Wisconsin had lost an estimated 46% of ten million wetland acres ([Dahl, 1990 \[PDF exit DNR\]](#)). Today, statewide wetland acreage is estimated at 6 million acres according to the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory. This increase is the result of improved wetland mapping data and methods and wetland protection and restoration.

Summary

Impacts

Restoration

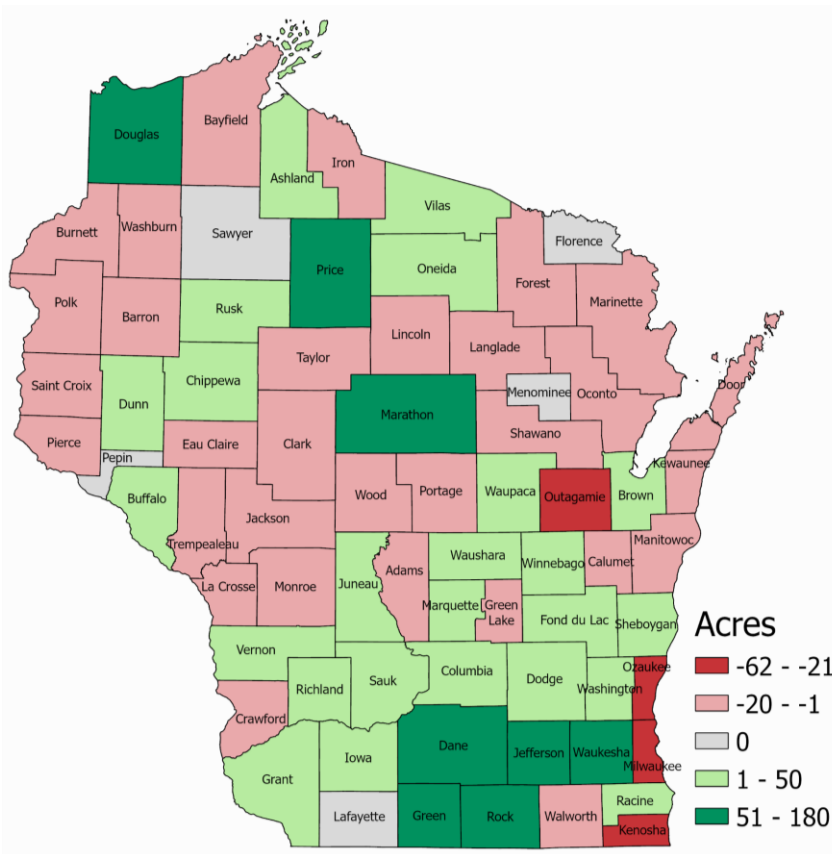
Mitigation

WisDOT

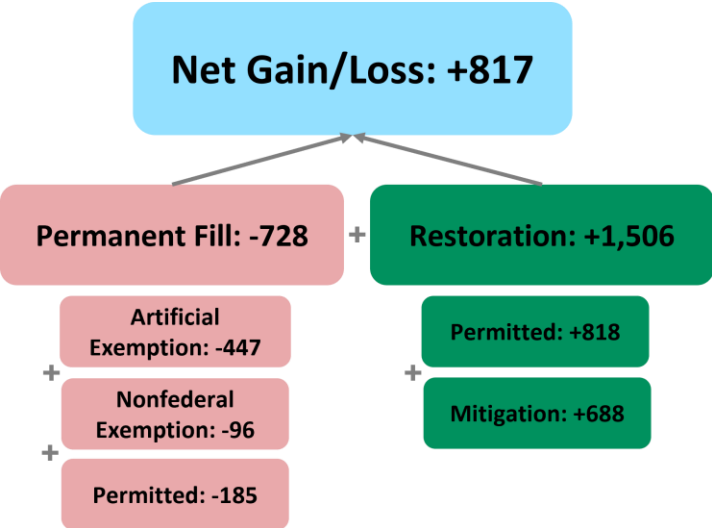
(Summary content appears here automatically, can click on the others. Or if this design is discouraged due to mobile/ease of access, try vertical clickable headers. Current page)

Summary

Wetland Net Gain/Loss by County (Acres)



Statewide Summary 2020-2022 (Acres)

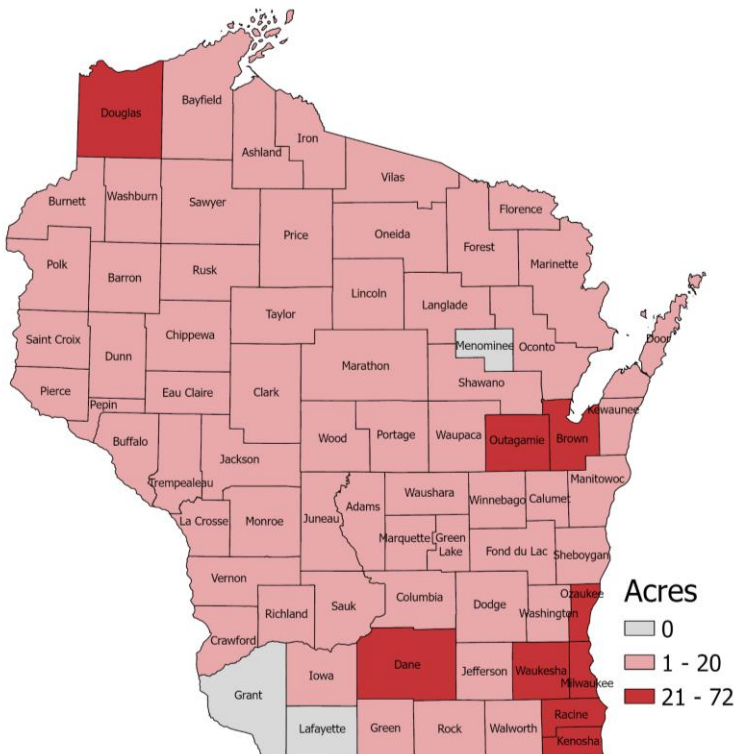


The net gain/loss map for 2020-2022 shows the difference between DNR permitted permanent wetland impacts and DNR permitted restoration projects and constructed mitigation sites in acres for each county. Statewide, restored acres are greater than permanent impacts, but some counties saw a net loss of wetland acreage.

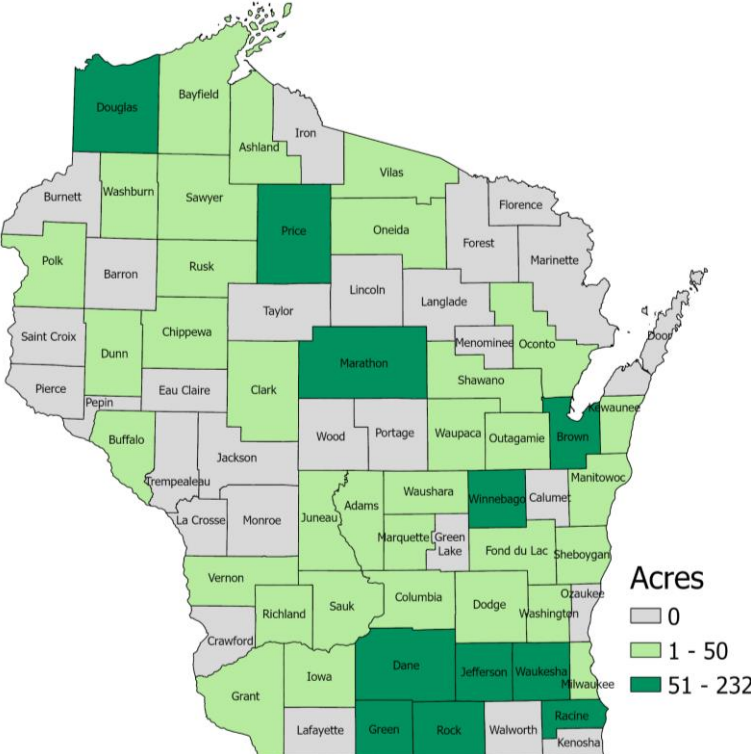
View the tables below for data by county:

- Link to pdf of county tables

Wetland Permanent Impacts by County (Acres)

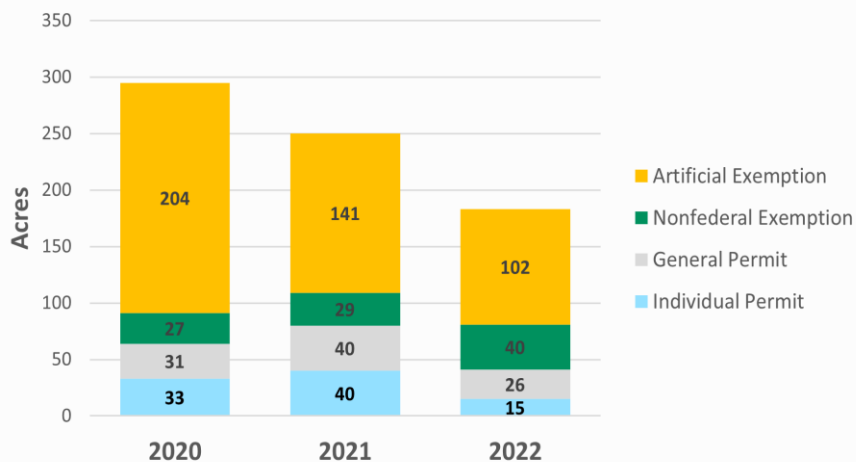


Wetland Restoration & Mitigation by County (Acres)

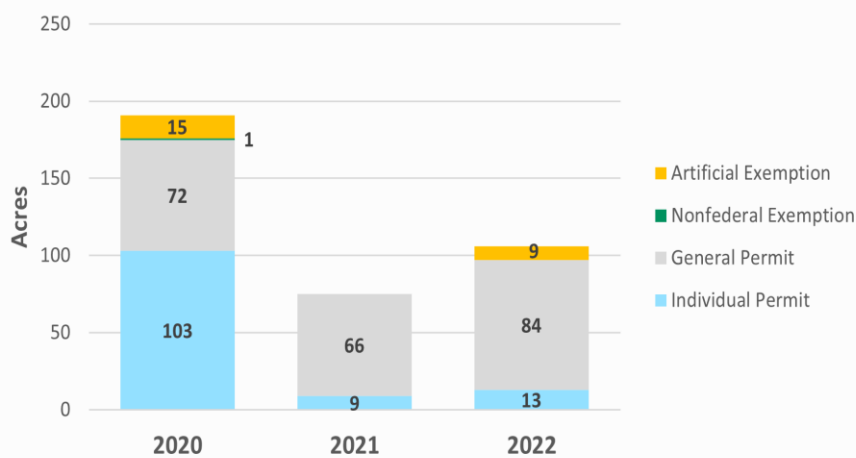


Impacts

2020-2022 Authorized Permanent Fill



2020-2022 Authorized Temporary Impacts



PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

PAA 2022	requested	authorized	% reduction
individual permit	67	15	78%
general permit	35	26	26%
PAA 2021	requested	authorized	% reduction
individual permit	56	40	29%
general permit	56	40	29%
PAA 2020	requested	authorized	% reduction
individual permit	44	33	25%
general permit	42	31	26%

From 2020-2022, DNR authorized permanent impacts ranged from 180-295 acres, and authorized temporary impacts ranged from 75-190 acres.

DNR authorizes wetland impacts through exemptions, general permits, and individual permits. Filling and converting wetlands to uplands are considered permanent impacts. Temporary impacts include excavation and backfilling in a wetland, or plant community conversion.

The artificial wetland exemption applies to a wetland that is the result of human modification to the landscape and which does not show any wetland history prior to August 1991.

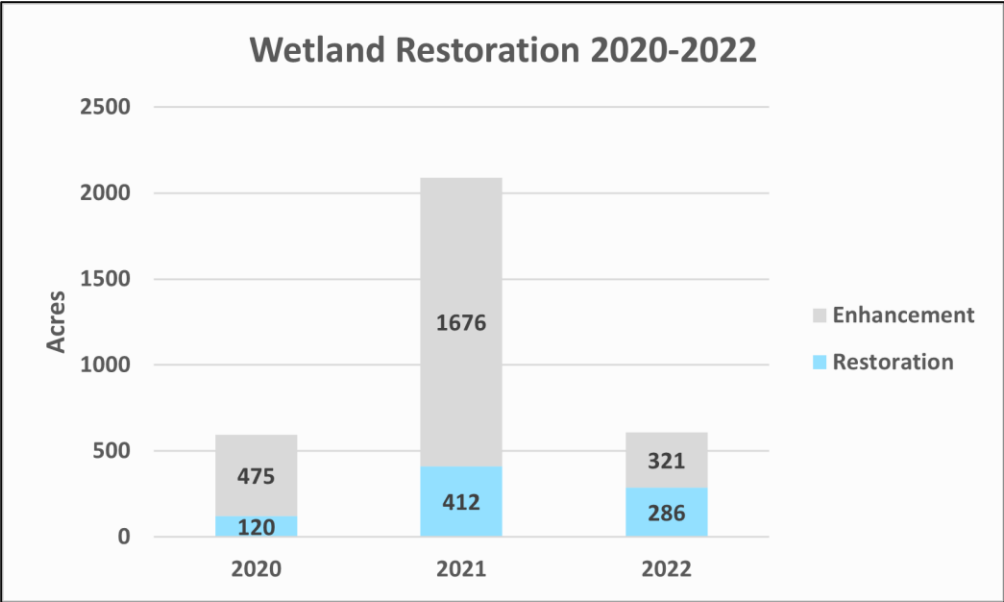
The nonfederal wetland exemption applies to wetlands that are determined to be non-jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

For general and individual permits, applicants must complete a practicable alternatives analysis to demonstrate that the preferred project alternative:

1. Cannot avoid wetland impacts
2. Minimizes wetland impacts to the maximum extent practicable while meeting the basic project purpose.

The practicable alternatives analysis typically results in approved development projects that avoid and minimize wetland impacts.

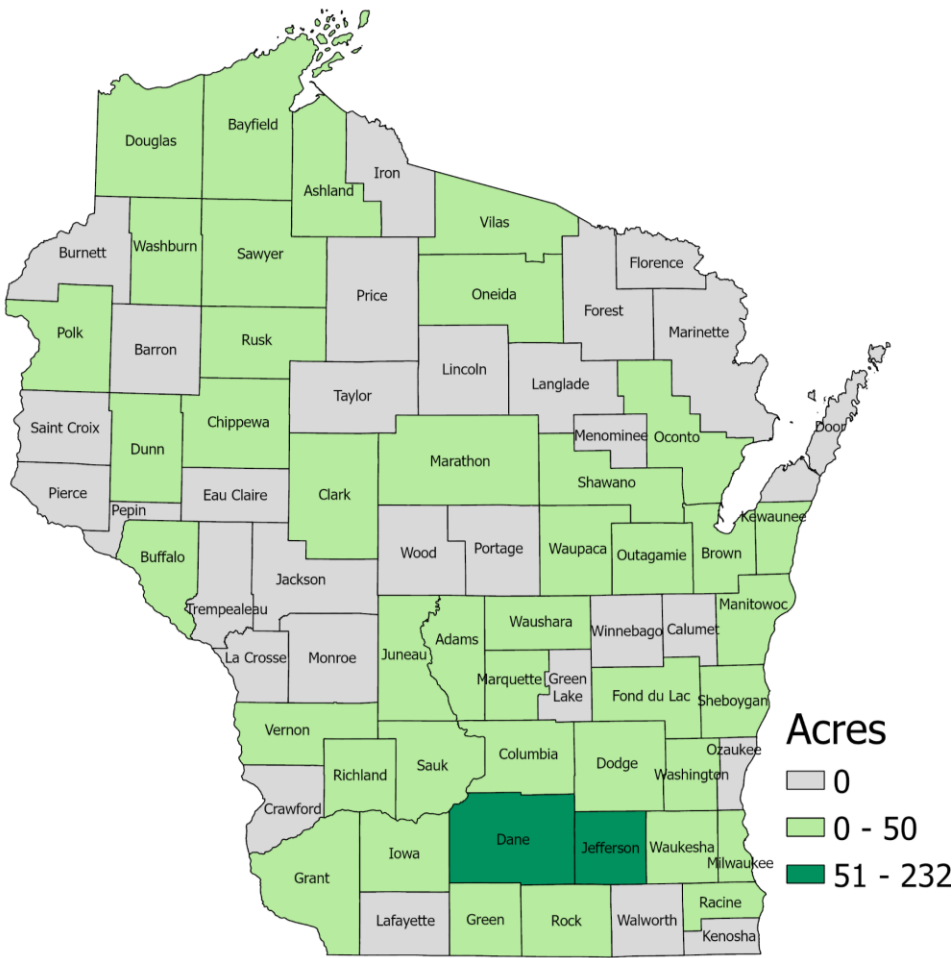
*Note – the practicable alternatives analysis is not applied to wetlands that meet either the artificial or nonfederal exemptions.



Wetland restoration activities include disabling drain tile, filling drainage ditches, or returning farmed wetlands to their natural, vegetated state. These activities reestablish or rehabilitate wetland hydrology.

Wetland enhancement activities include vegetation management to promote native species and shallow scrapes to eradicate invasive vegetation and improve wildlife habitat in wetlands where wetland hydrology is intact.

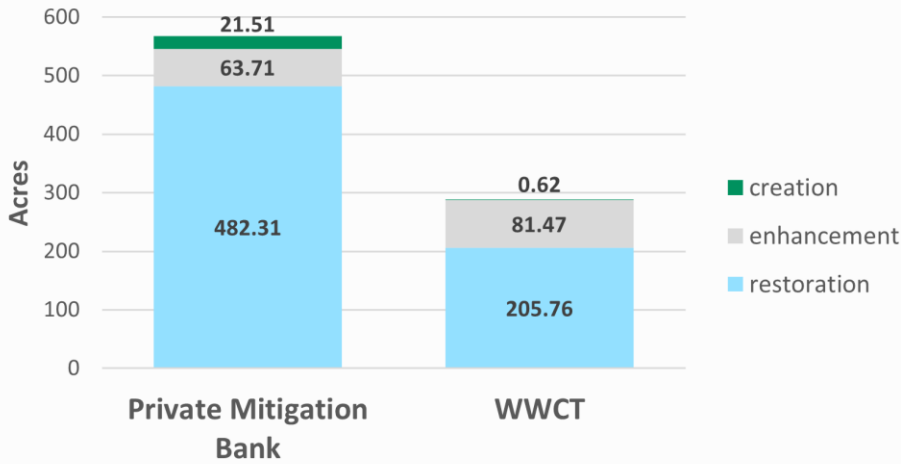
Wetland Restoration by County (Acres)



These acres include wetlands restored through DNR authorized restoration projects implemented by private landowners; government agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and county land and water conservation departments; and conservation groups such as Ducks Unlimited and the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association. *These do not include wetland mitigation projects.*

Mitigation

2020-2022 Wetland Mitigation Activities

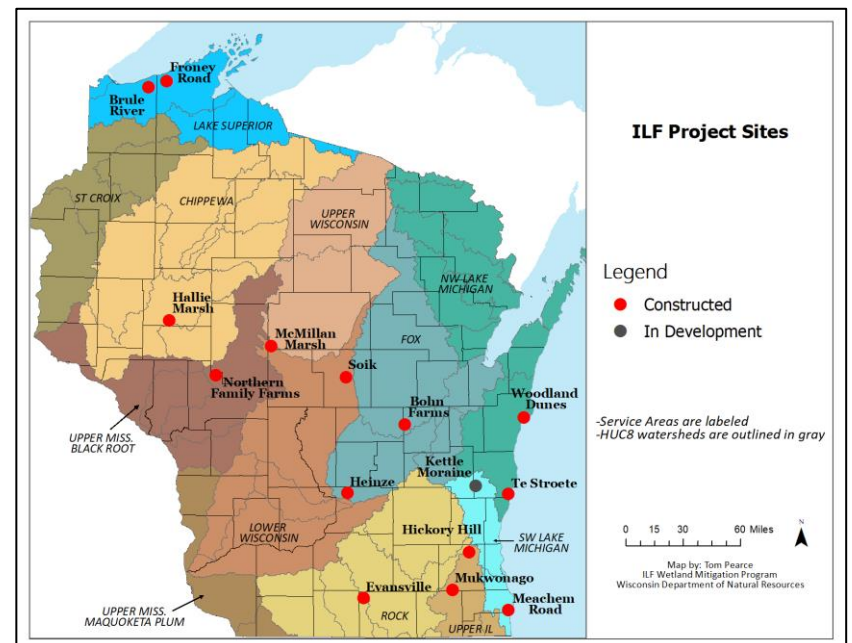
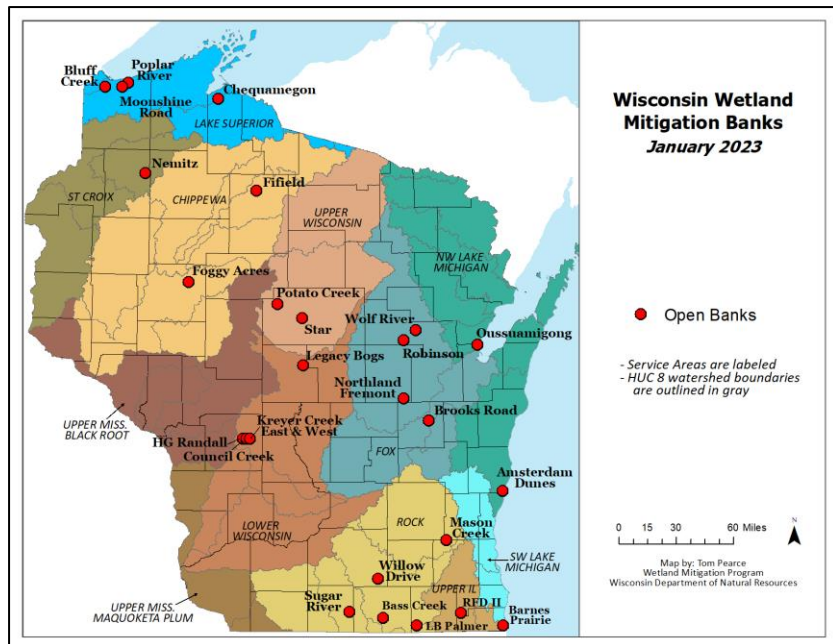


Wetland mitigation activities have accounted for over 680 acres of wetland restoration from 2020-2022. Mitigation project sites are spread throughout the state in 11 different Service Areas.

A wetland mitigation bank is a private wetland restoration project, operated by a sponsor who may sell credits to permittees or exempt project proponents to offset impacts associated with individual permits and some nonfederal exemptions.

The Wisconsin Wetland Conservation Trust, DNR's In Lieu Fee (ILF) mitigation program, offers an alternative credit purchase option to offset impacts if mitigation bank credits are not available in the same Service Area.

Wetland mitigation is required for all wetland individual permits and for projects that meet the nonfederal exemption that impact more than 10,000 square feet of wetlands in urban areas, or more than 1 acre of wetlands in rural areas.



Wisconsin DOT tracks wetland impacts separately from DNR and has its own wetland mitigation program to offset wetland impacts resulting from construction projects.

- Potential Info:
 - Table of statewide impacts 2022, 2021, 2020
 - Link to pdf table of county impacts 2022, 2021, 2020?
 - Brief description of mitigation process
 - Link to annual report information

Color reference

