



The Green Bay Ecosystem National Estuarine Research Reserve Project

The National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) System is a national network of coastal areas dedicated to the study of estuarine systems. Each NERR site provides a “living laboratory” in which scientists and educators conduct research, outreach, and education regarding our estuarine-based natural resources. Each NERR site enhances place-based research, creates distinct educational resources, facilitates local stewardship of aquatic natural resources, and supports local economic development.

What are the benefits of a NERR for Northeastern Wisconsin?

Regional Impact

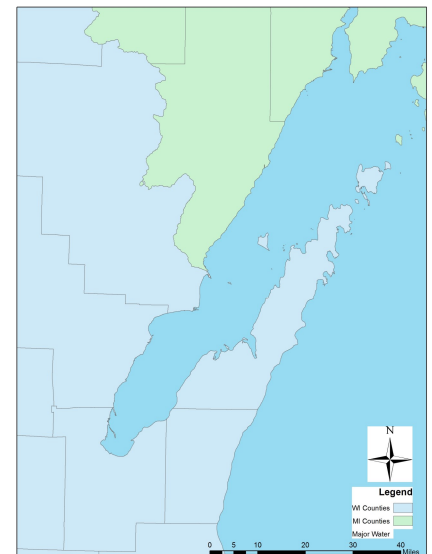
Established reserves have exemplary visitor centers, providing international exposure and significant drawing power for tourists. NERR centers draw significant research dollars, improving our understanding of the globally unique Green Bay Ecosystem. Research activities draw scholars, and their funding, from beyond Wisconsin and US borders, they provide employment opportunities to the region, and enhance the quality of UW-Green Bay’s scholarly activities, ultimately injecting money into the local economy.

Tourism

A NERR site will enhance the already robust tourism industry in the Green Bay/Door County region. Formal designation generates international visibility for the Green Bay Ecosystem and the communities it supports.

Education

The center will provide a centralized location for educational opportunities and will be a draw for families, young talent, retirees, and other visitors alike. It will be an exemplary resource for educators addressing students of all ages, from pre-K to retired learners. Imagine a well-funded center filled with aquariums stocked with Great Lakes fish, interactive stations addressing maritime topics from shipping to drinking water conservation, and regularly scheduled tours leaving for the waters of Green Bay.



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Workforce Development & Quality of Life

Through efforts towards research, education, stewardship, and training NERR designation will play an important role in attaining Northeastern Wisconsin's goal to attract and retain young talent.

A NERR System supports local economic development, enhances place-based research, creates distinct education based resources, and facilitates local stewardship of aquatic natural resources.

How do freshwater estuaries enhance quality of life in the Green Bay Ecosystem?

Freshwater estuaries occur in the Great Lakes where rivers meet the lake. The freshwater estuaries within the Green Bay Ecosystem provide critical habitat for wildlife, improve water quality, create recreational opportunities for sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts, and give our communities a strong sense of place.

Does a NERR restrict existing commercial, recreational, or cultural activities?

NERR designation does not preclude any uses, activities, or impose limits on development. No new federal regulations affecting land management or public access are required, and NERR regulations are agreed upon by the local community during the development of the reserve management plan. There are no regulations for shipping vessels, lakers, or ports. A NERR is not a sanctuary or refuge.

Will the public have to purchase new land for the reserve?

A local working group will work with NOAA to identify existing publicly owned land to house the Green Bay Ecosystem NERR. No increase in local public taxes or funding is required for a NERR. Final site selection is a collaborative process among interested local partners and citizens.

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