



Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Designation Newsletter, January 2020

Welcome to the first edition of the Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Designation newsletter. We have developed this newsletter to keep our partners, community members, and stakeholders informed about the designation of a NERR in the Green Bay coastal area of Lake Michigan. Designating a NERR is a complex, multi-year process, and your support and feedback are needed to make it a success. To ensure that you are updated along the way, you can expect to receive updates on major milestones reached in the reserve designation process, information on how to get involved, and what to expect in the coming months through this quarterly newsletter.

What is a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)?

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System, the nation's leading estuary science program, is a network of 29 protected sites that protects over 1.3 million acres of estuaries. In addition to promoting conservation and scientific study, NERRs also provide programs that help children, teachers, and the community understand the multitude of benefits derived from this spectacular natural resource.

Each NERR is a partnership between NOAA and a coastal state or territory. NOAA's Office for Coastal Management is responsible for administering the reserve system. Each reserve is managed on a day-to-day basis by a lead state agency or university, with input from local partners. The mission of the reserves is to practice and promote coastal and estuarine stewardship through innovative research and education, using a system of protected areas.

Who is leading the designation process? How will the site of the NERR be selected?

Selecting where the NERR will be located is critically important, and the decision will be made through a transparent, objective process that involves a diverse set of partners, such as First Nations, local officials, non-profit organizations, state and federal agencies, academic institutions, community groups and members of the general public.

The University has outlined a two year process to recommend a site for the NERR within the Bay of Green Bay. The site selection process will be conducted by three teams with different responsibilities. The Site Coordination Team will oversee the work of all other teams and eventually develop a formal nomination document for the recommended site. The Site Development Team will identify all possible sites for the NERR, develop a set of site selection criteria in consultation with NOAA, create a process to apply the site selection criteria, and pre-screen potential sites to narrow the list to the most viable options. The Site Evaluation Team will evaluate the pre-screened sites using the site selection criteria and recommend a site for nomination.



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What work has been done so far?

As of January 2021, the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay's main focus has been to assemble its Site Coordination Team. A list of committee members is included below for reference. In the next few months, this team will be working to plan a public kick off meeting for the NERR designation (targeting to host this meeting in the Spring of 2021) and also identify individuals to serve on the Site Development Team. While the Site Coordination Team has met once so far, new members may be added if gaps in representation come to light.

Site Coordination Committee Roster

- Matt Dornbush, Dean, Cofrin School of Business, UW-Green Bay (Chair)
- Tehassi Hill, Chairman, Oneida Nation
- Mike Friis, Manager, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program
- Jim Hurley, Director, Wisconsin Sea Grant
- Michelle Schuler, Manager, Microsoft TechSpark Wisconsin
- Steve Galarneau, Director, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Office of Great Waters
- Patrick Robinson, Associate Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin Extension
- Val Klump, Dean, School of Freshwater Sciences, UW-Milwaukee
- Janet Bonkowski, Executive Director, Marketing and Communications, UW-Green Bay
- John Katers, Dean, College of Science, Engineering, and Technology, UW-Green Bay
- Tony Werner, Vice Chancellor for Advancement and Alumni Relations, and Foundation President, UW- Green Bay (Ex Officio)
- Ben Joniaux, Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor, UW-Green Bay (Ex Officio)
- Emily Tyner, Director of Freshwater Strategy, UW-Green Bay (Ex Officio)

How do I get involved?

If you are interested in attending the public kickoff meeting, serving on the Site Evaluation Committee, or have any questions or concerns about the NERR designation, please contact Emily Tyner (tynere@uwgb.edu), Director of Freshwater Strategy at University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and Bridget Faust-Accola (bridget.faust@noaa.gov), Great Lakes Program Analyst at NOAA's Office for Coastal Management. We look forward to hearing from you!



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