



Bay of Green Bay NERR Relevant Coastal Geography

1. What is the Relevant Coastal Geography? The Relevant Coastal Geography are the areas of the Bay of Green Bay most influenced by the estuarine conditions resulting from the interactions between Lake Michigan water inputs in the north, and river and stream inputs occurring along the West Shore and Lower Green Bay. These are the geographic bounds around the land and water areas (i.e. the natural areas) that will be considered during the site selection process. The Relevant Coastal Geography will be used to determine the natural areas included within the NERR designation. These **are not** the boundaries of the NERR; those will be established after a site has been selected.

2. How was the Relevant Coastal Geography determined? The Relevant Coastal Geography was determined by the Bay of Green Bay [Site Development Committee](#) with input and consultation from the [Site Coordination Committee](#). To determine what areas should be included in the Relevant Coastal Geography, the Site Development Committee carefully examined maps of the Wisconsin lands and waters that drain to the Bay of Green Bay, considered environmental data, information on how water circulates around the Bay, and consulted with outside experts. Through this analysis, the committee determined that the Relevant Coastal Geography should follow the boundaries of the small coastal watersheds (U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Code [HUC] 12) that surround the Wisconsin-portion of the Bay of Green Bay

Specifically, the Relevant Coastal Geography:

- Includes Dutchman and Ashwaubenon Creeks because of their direct connection to the Lower Fox River, a significant river input into lower Green Bay.

- Excludes portions of the HUC 12 watersheds above the Lower Fox River and the Menominee Dams.
- The coastal HUC 12 around the tip of Door County was split to delineate the land areas where water flows into Green Bay.
- The entire areas of Plum and Rock Islands are included because they are publicly owned and the water around them is mixed Green Bay-Lake Michigan waters.
- The littoral zone (~20-foot depth) around all islands and lands is included. The littoral zone was determined using NOAA bathymetric maps.
- Where existing public lands were bisected by a HUC 12 watershed boundary, the Site Development Committee assessed whether a majority of the publicly owned parcel was within the HUC 12. When a majority of the parcel was within the HUC 12 watershed boundary, the Relevant Coastal Geography boundary was extended to include the full parcel. There are only a handful of occurrences where this determination was necessary.

3. How will the Relevant Coastal Geography be used? The Relevant Coastal Geography will first be used by the Site Development Committee to conduct a preliminary screening of the potential land and water areas to be included within the NERR. Through the preliminary screening process, the Site Development Committee, in partnership with NOAA, will use a simplified process to eliminate potential sites within the Relevant Coastal Geography that are clearly not suitable candidates for a National Estuarine Research Reserve. NOAA recommends conducting a preliminary screening process to reduce the amount of time and effort that is required to apply the full range of site selection criteria to sites within the Relevant Coastal Geography.

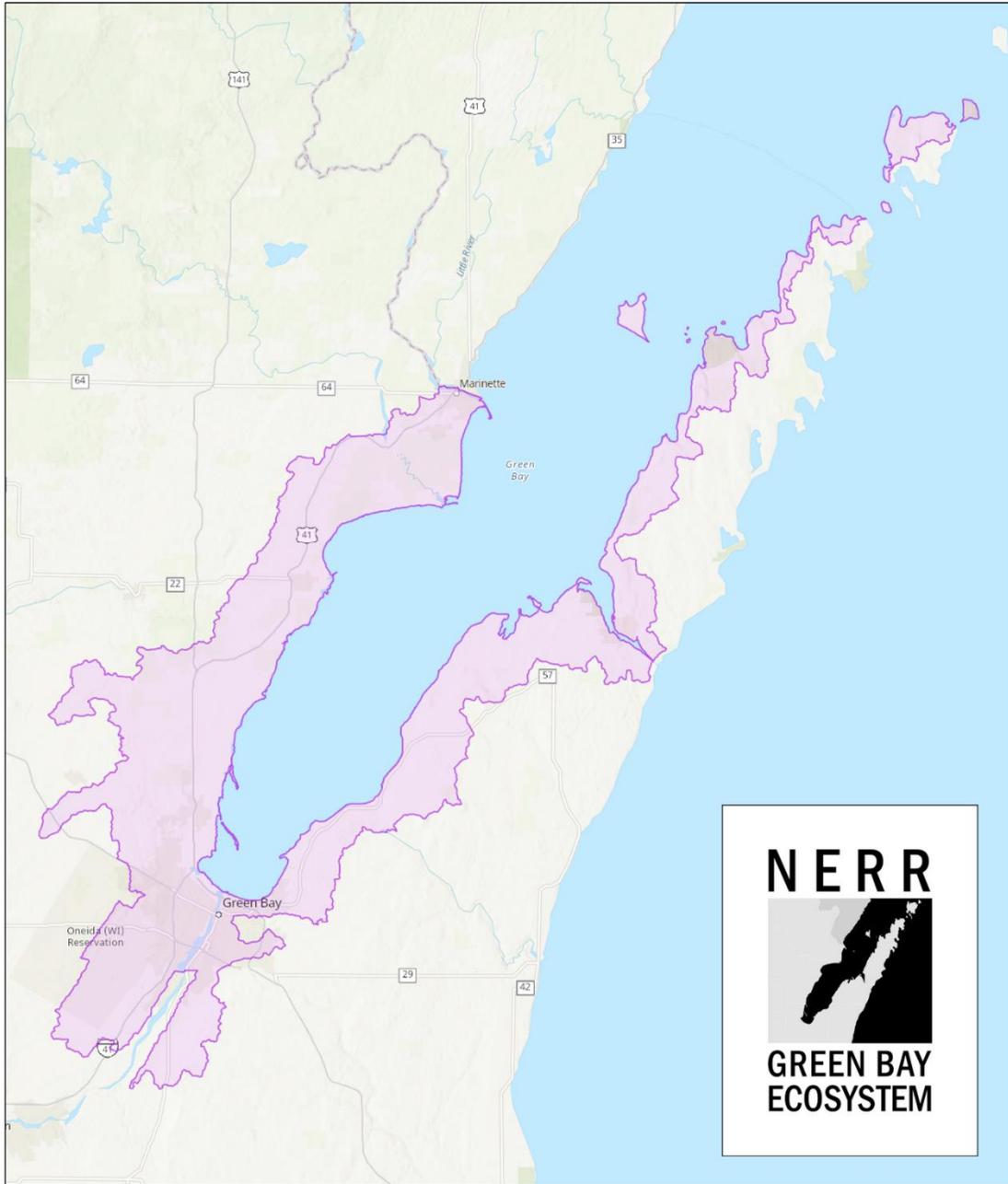
After the preliminary screening is complete, the [Site Evaluation Committee](#) will apply site selection criteria to pre-screened land and water areas within the Relevant Coastal Geography through a transparent, objective, and non-competitive process. The Site Development Committee began the preliminary screening process in September 2021 and expects to have a list of prescreened areas by January 2022.

4. I have information on an area within the Relevant Coastal Geography that should be considered in the site selection process; how do I share it with the Site Evaluation Committee? In late February 2022, interested parties within the Relevant Coastal Geography will hear from Emily Tyner (UW-Green Bay Director of Freshwater Strategy) with an invitation to provide a virtual presentation to the NERR Site Selection Committees about their region or site. To express interest in providing a presentation, please contact Emily Tyner (tynere@uwgb.edu). Emily will reach out to all parties that express interest with further details on the content and dates of these presentations. For updates on the Bay of Green Bay NERR designation, [sign up](#) for the quarterly newsletter and read past [issues](#).

5. How to obtain a GIS layer or digital map of the Relevant Coastal Geography?

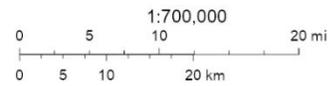
A map of the Relevant Coastal Geography can be seen below and [downloaded](#) from the Bay of Green Bay NERR website. The GIS layer for the Bay of Green Bay NERR Relevant Coastal Geography is [posted](#), and a [web map](#) is viewable. Contact Emily Tyner with questions on these resources.

Relevant Coastal Geography Map



10/19/2021

 Relevant Coastal Geography



Esri, CGIAR, USGS
Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA,
USGS, EPA, NPS

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