



# The Bay of Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

## A Freshwater Asset for Wisconsin & the Nation

A Reserve in the Bay of Green Bay will make Congressional investment in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) more impactful, while serving the needs of Wisconsin communities by preserving the state's water culture, addressing local challenges, and promoting the long-term environmental health of the Bay of Green Bay.

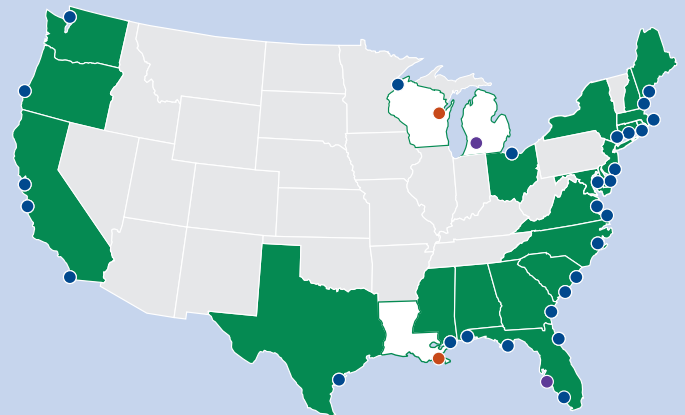
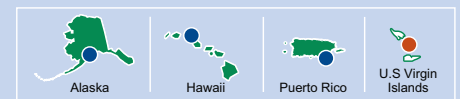
### 7 Reasons why we need the Bay of Green Bay Reserve...

- 1. Steward the world's largest freshwater estuary.** Designating the Bay of Green Bay as a National Estuarine Research Reserve will preserve a one-of-a-kind freshwater ecosystem.
- 2. Advance clean water and habitat restoration.** Following the \$1.5 billion cleanup and PCB removal of the Fox River from 2004 to 2020, the Reserve will lead and support efforts to restore critical habitats and protect the health of local waters, such as the ongoing work on the [Lower Green Bay Area of Concern](#), whose boundaries overlap with proposed Reserve areas.
- 3. STEM education for the next generation.** There are 100+ schools within easy reach of the proposed Reserve, creating opportunities for K-12 students to learn through educational programming, field trips, and hands-on science.
- 4. Promote cultural heritage and community engagement.** Collaborating with local tribes and partners, the Reserve will honor Wisconsin's deep cultural connections to water through storytelling, historical exhibits, and community-driven art projects.
- 5. Tackle problems with advanced technology.** The Reserve will be a testing ground for cutting edge tools and technology for environmental monitoring, data analysis, remote sensing, and archiving to improve research; public accessibility, and educational outreach.
- 6. Contribute to the local economy.** The Reserve will support local jobs and Wisconsin's tourist and recreation economy. The Reserve will protect and steward places that provide many valuable benefits to industries and communities, as well as become a hub for visitors to hike, birdwatch, kayak, and fish.
- 7. Provide solutions for today's challenges.** The Reserve will support local decision-makers with science-backed strategies to address pressing environmental issues, such as emerging contaminants, water quality, and coastal flooding and infrastructure.

Photo courtesy Ben Young



● designated reserve  
● designation underway  
● governor proposed



### NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SYSTEM

- **Atchafalaya Reserve (LA) designation underway**
- ACE Basin (SC)
- Apalachicola (FL)
- **Bay of Green Bay (WI) designation underway**
- Chesapeake Bay (MD)
- Chesapeake Bay (VA)
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Elkhorn Slough (CA)
- Grand Bay (MS)
- Great Bay (NH)
- Guana Tolomato Matanzas (FL)
- He'eia (HI)
- Hudson River (NY)
- Jacques Cousteau (NJ)
- Jobos Bay (PR)
- Kachemak Bay (AK)
- Mission-Aransas (TX)
- Narragansett Bay (RI)
- North Carolina
- North Inlet-Winyah Bay (SC)
- Lake Superior (WI)
- Old Woman Creek (OH) Padilla Bay (WA)
- Rookery Bay (FL)
- San Francisco Bay (CA)
- Sapelo Island (GA)
- South Slough (OR)
- Tijuana River (CA)
- **U.S. Virgin Islands designation underway**
- Waquoit Bay (MA)
- Weeks Bay (AL)
- Wells (ME)

### MORE INFORMATION

Emily Tyner | Director of Freshwater Strategy | [tyner@uwgb.edu](mailto:tyner@uwgb.edu) | 920-465-2586 | [uwgb.edu/NERR](http://uwgb.edu/NERR) | [Subscribe to our newsletter](#) to stay current on the designation, events, and volunteer opportunities.

Established in 1972, the National Estuarine Reserve System is a network of 30 special places in 25 coastal states and territories.

Each Reserve is a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and a U.S. state or territory. NOAA provides funding and national guidance, and Reserve-based monitoring, research, education, stewardship, and training programs provide information and services that communities need to protect people and property along the coasts. Learn more at [coast.noaa.gov/nerrs](https://coast.noaa.gov/nerrs).

The National Estuarine Research Reserve Association (NERRA) works to strengthen the Reserve network so it can better address growing challenges to our nation's estuaries, coasts, and communities. Learn more at [nerra.org](https://nerra.org).

# National Estuarine Research Reserve System



## 30 special places like Bay of Green Bay

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) is a network of 30 sites around the United States. Every Reserve has programs for...

- **Monitoring:** Reserves keep watch over our changing estuaries through the System-Wide Monitoring Program, the only national network to meet community need with site-based monitoring.
- **Research:** Reserves combine local and state partnerships with federal funding to support collaborative science that helps communities protect and restore habitats, keep water clean, and manage our changing coasts.
- **Education:** Reserves connect students of all ages with the estuary in their "back yard" to create meaningful educational experiences. They also help educators bring local science and data to the classroom.



Photo courtesy Collette Larue

*Heron taking flight on Bay of Green Bay.*

- **Stewardship:** Reserves help conserve and protect nearly 1.4 million acres of estuarine lands and waters. These places serve as living laboratories, where scientists leverage local data to test, refine, and share innovative approaches to habitat stewardship—locally and across the national network of Reserves.
- **Coastal Training:** Reserves provide local decision makers with timely, scientific information; access to technology; and skill-building opportunities. They bring together decision makers, scientists, educators, and others to address the complex challenges facing coastal communities.



OFFERING EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE



SAFEGUARDING PEOPLE & PROPERTY



PROVIDING SCIENCE THAT MATTERS

4,900+ educators & **73,500+** K-12 students received STEM education in 2022. **53 fellows** have participated in the Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship. Reserves help sustain **10,000+** jobs, provide training to 13,400+ people, and assist **2,000+** decision makers & **570+** businesses.

Reserves help protect **~1.4+M acres** of public land and waters, including **4.5K miles** of waterfront and diverse habitats. **95% of Reserves** allow recreational fishing; **85% allow hunting**. **36,000+** community members support Reserves nationwide.

Reserve programs help sustain more than **10,000** jobs, provide training to more than **13,400** people and assist more than **2,000** community decision makers and **570** businesses nationwide. Nearly **95%** of Reserves welcome recreational fishing; **85%** are open to hunting. All Reserves provide commercial fishery habitat.