

The Upper Fox & Wolf River Watersheds

OUR OPPORTUNITY *The Upper Fox and Wolf River ecosystem is challenged by nutrient loading, sedimentation, habitat degradation, and other stressors, but a deep and rich outdoor heritage and a dedicated conservation community provides vast potential for collective impact to improve the system for current and future generations.*

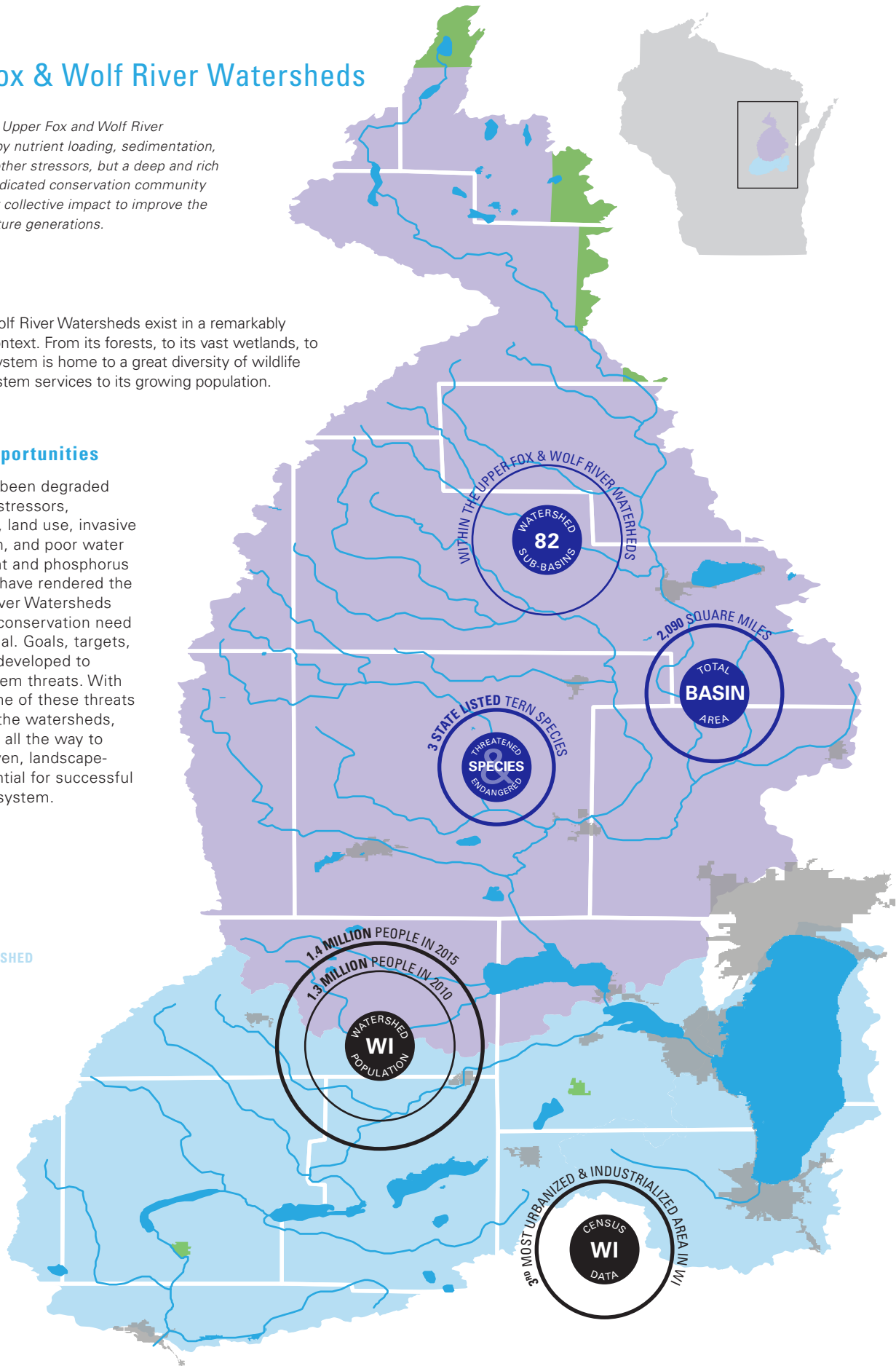
A Special Place

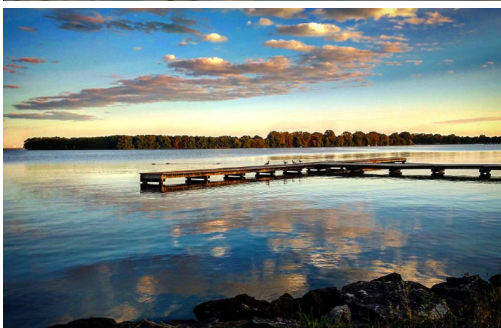
The Upper Fox and Wolf River Watersheds exist in a remarkably diverse ecological context. From its forests, to its vast wetlands, to its pool lakes, this ecosystem is home to a great diversity of wildlife and provides key ecosystem services to its growing population.

Challenges and Opportunities

This ecosystem has been degraded due to a variety of stressors, including: urbanization, land use, invasive species, contamination, and poor water quality due to sediment and phosphorus loading. These factors have rendered the Upper Fox and Wolf River Watersheds an area of substantial conservation need and restoration potential. Goals, targets, and actions are being developed to address these ecosystem threats. With the root causes of some of these threats extending throughout the watersheds, and impacts extending all the way to Green Bay, partner-driven, landscape-scale planning is essential for successful restoration of this ecosystem.

- URBAN AREAS
- FEDERAL LANDS
- RIVERS AND LAKES
- UPPER FOX RIVER WATERSHED
- WOLF RIVER WATERSHED





Photographs courtesy of WI DNR and Winnebago Waterways.

Success via Collective Action

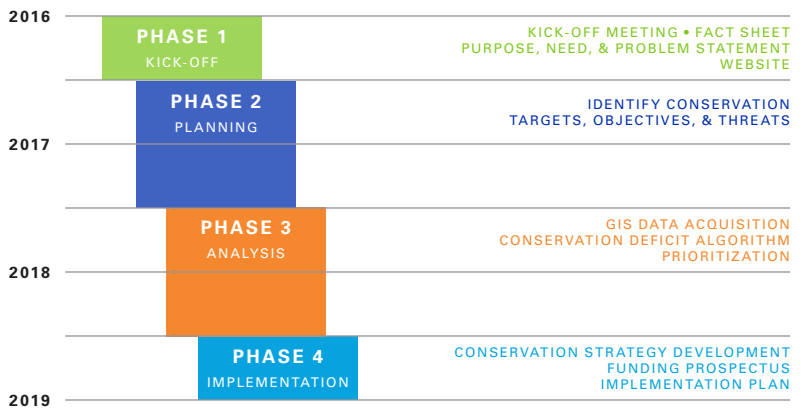
For many decades, public and private organizations, in cooperation with concerned citizens, have worked to restore the health of this unique ecosystem. By combining our knowledge, experience, and resources as we move forward, we can achieve our shared goals to improve quality of life, clean water, reduce water treatment costs, promote productive fisheries, enhance recreational opportunities, and increase economic vitality.

A SUCCESS STORY The Pool Lakes (including Lake Winnebago) in the Upper Fox and Wolf River Watersheds are among the most unique fisheries in all the world. Each year thousands of lake sturgeon migrate up the tributaries of the Winnebago System (Wolf, Upper Fox, Embarrass and Little Wolf Rivers most notably) to spawn. The sturgeon spawn along rocky shorelines on outside river bends and literally spawn at your feet. This provides a great opportunity to view sturgeon spawning in the wild, which is an experience not available anywhere else in North America. Ultimately, this system supports the largest self-sustaining population of Lake Sturgeon in all the world.

What IS Landscape Conservation Design?

The Green Bay Conservation Partners' Landscape Blueprint is both **the process and products that achieve the collaborative conservation community's shared missions, mandates, and goals.** The shared conversations that take place within the Blueprint process are as important as the products that are produced. The Blueprint allows for collaborative decision making about the kind, quantity, and configuration of lands and waters required to sustain critical ecosystem functions and services while informing decision makers on what activities to undertake, and where. Geospatial and biological information are used to inform models, create tools and maps, and to evaluate every acre of the system. These ultimately feed tangible products—such as story maps, a priority action areas portfolio, decision support tools, and a comprehensive collaborative action strategy—aimed at improving conservation outcomes. Partners and stakeholders will use these products to leverage funding for, plan, and implement projects while ensuring the sustainability of ecosystem services for current and future generations.

The UFWR Landscape Blueprint Timeline



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