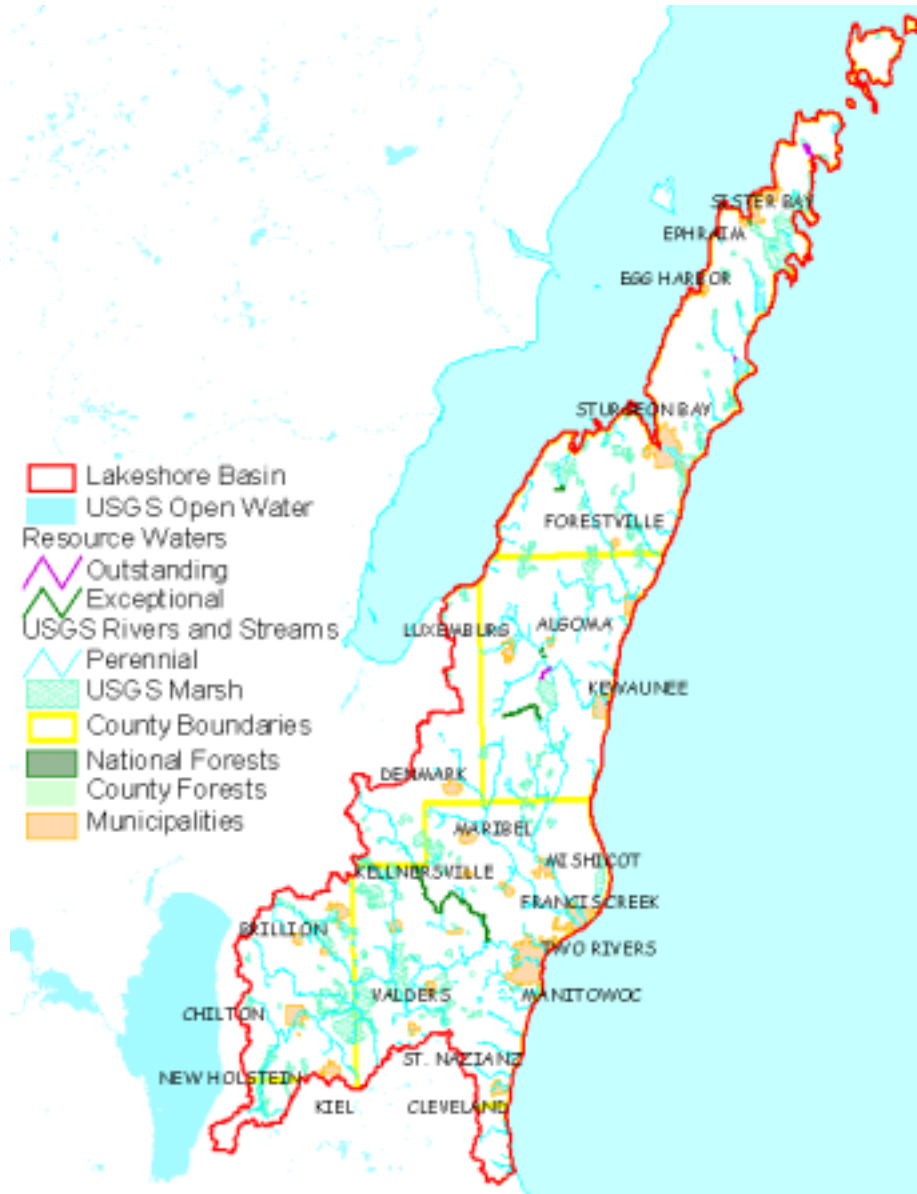


The Lakeshore Basin



- The Lakeshore Basin includes 12 watersheds and has over 309 miles of Great Lakes shoreline.
- Counties in the basin include all of Door, Kewaunee and Manitowoc, plus portions of Brown and Calumet.
- The population of Door, Kewaunee and Manitowoc counties in 2001 was almost 132,000 people.
- The predominant land use in the basin is agriculture – 68% of the land in the basin is farmed. Forests make up 13% of the basin. Urban development (1% of the basin) is located in the cities of Manitowoc (34,000), Two Rivers (12,000), Sturgeon Bay (9,400), Algoma (3,300) and Kewaunee (2,800). Grasslands (6%) and wetlands (12%) make up the remaining uses.
- Maple-basswood is the most common forest type, and the tree species with the greatest volume in the Lakeshore basin is ash followed by soft maple, aspen, basswood and beech.
- Private forests make up 89% of the basin's timberland, government owns 7%, and the forest industry owns 4%.
- The number of live trees over ten feet tall in the basin increased by nearly 15 million between 1983 and 1996 to reach 150 million trees.
- There are 193 miles of streams in the basin and over 139 inland lakes.
- The basin's larger rivers include the Ahnapee, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, and East and West Twin Rivers.
- Exceptional Resource Waters include portions of Branch Creek, Krok Creek (E. Twin), Keyes Creek, Casco Creek, and Hidden Springs Creek.
- Recreational highlights include: hiking, birding, camping, rafting, canoeing, hunting, fishing, and boating on Lake Michigan and Green Bay.
- The basin's scenic beauty and abundant wildlife can be enjoyed in five state parks, one state forest and 17 state natural areas.
- The diversity of islands, forests, wetlands, sand dunes, and ridge and swale topography provide habitat to an abundance of rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals.

Lakeshore Basin

Basin Ecology

- The Basin includes the Northern Lake Michigan Coastal and Southeast Glacial Plains Ecological Landscapes. In the Northern Lake Michigan Coastal area, low sand dunes and beach ridges along the shoreline support unique plant species. Vegetation is maple-basswood-beach forests and wetlands. In the Southeast Glacial Plains area, former savanna (now farmed) and wetlands are predominant, along with kettle lakes and the Kettle Moraine landscape feature. This area's wetlands are highly productive for plants, insects, and invertebrates.
- Surface waters are a mix of lakes and cold and warm water streams with smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, panfish and trout. Great Lakes fisheries provide lake trout, lake whitefish, salmon and yellow perch.
- The basin's groundwater in Door County is underlain by Niagara Dolomite, or Karst (fractured limestone), which allows pollutants such as bacteria to move quickly and which makes this resource highly susceptible to contamination.
- Wildlife include white-tailed deer, turkey, ring-necked pheasant, ruffed grouse, waterfowl, geese, beaver, mink, otter, colonial waterbirds, trumpeter swans, eagle, osprey, northern goshawk, shorebirds
- Grasslands, which support over 105 bird species, are promoted through prescribed burns and mowing.

Environmental & Social Concerns

- Loss of aquatic habitat and open land to development, pollution threats to surface waters and contamination of drinking and groundwater.
- Water quality problems are from in-place pollutants, dams, urban and agricultural runoff.
- Preserve biodiversity and protect endangered and threatened species.
- Protection of large contiguous blocks of forestland, grassland and wetland that serve as habitat for mammals, birds, and amphibians, as well as providing a large self-sustaining forest ecosystem for all to enjoy.
- Exotic nuisance species, stocking issues, declining fishing opportunities, inadequate boat access.
- Monitoring of wildlife populations, water quality, and ecosystem function are needed to understand the status and trends of resources in the basin.

Basin Prioritized Issues List

In 2000 DNR asked the Lakeshore Basin Partnership Team to develop a prioritized list of the most pressing issues impacting natural resources in the basin.

1. Loss of riparian (stream and lakeside) buffers (streamside habitat)
2. Inadequate identification and protection of wetlands, wetland corridors, and groundwater recharge areas
3. Need for better land use Planning & improved local zoning*
4. Inadequate management & protection of woodlots
5. Absence of stewardship ethic
6. Loss of small farms and/or Conversion to large farms
7. Contamination of drinking water
8. Illegal dumping of toxins
9. Loss of biodiversity
10. Loss of shoreline habitat

*numbers 2 and 3 are of equal priority

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<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/gmu/lakeshore/index.html>



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[Above: Niagara Dolomite, with white cedar, Bjorklund Estate, Door Co., 1999., EJ Epstein, DNR Bur. End. Resources] This document produced by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 **PUBL WT-720-2001**

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