

Wisconsin communities need to become more flood resilient

Wetland, stream, and floodplain restoration can help us get there!



Increasing storm events put Wisconsin communities in harm's way, cause many millions in private & public infrastructure damages, and devastate fish & wildlife habitat. Degraded landscape conditions increase the severity of these problems.

Wisconsin communities need more tools to help reduce flood risks and damages.

The good news is wetlands can help solve the state's water management problems. Reestablishing wetland and floodplain storage can reduce flood flows, protect infrastructure, and improve watershed health.

Natural Flood Mitigation Demonstration Projects Support Senate Bill 252 and Assembly Bill 266

This legislation supports natural flood mitigation projects in Ashland County, a region where 2016 and 2018 storms caused upwards of \$50 million in damages to public infrastructure.

The bills direct the DNR to provide \$150,000 from existing funds to Ashland County for the design and construction of 2-3 shovel-ready demonstration projects showcasing techniques to restore upper watershed wetlands and streams.

A final report will summarize the results and make recommendations on adapting state policies to create incentives to protect and restore wetlands and streams to reduce floods.

These bipartisan bills have been authored by Senators Petrowski and Bewley, and Representatives Steineke and B. Meyers.

Hydrologic Restoration in Wisconsin Support Senate Bill 631 and Assembly Bill 701

Hydrologic restoration aims to reestablish the landscape's natural capacity to manage water. These bills create a general permit for wetland, stream, and floodplain restoration that improves hydrologic connections, conditions, and functions. This simplifies the permit process and protects the rights of riparian owners, the public's right to navigable waters, and maintains local authority.

These bills also create an advisory council to advance hydrologic restoration priorities across the state. The Hydrologic Restoration Advisory Council will include DNR, federal and state agencies, local governments, restoration practitioners and other technical experts.

These bipartisan bills have been authored by Senators Cowles and Bewley, and Representatives Oldenburg and Steineke.

Please call the Legislative Hotline at **1-800-362-9472** and ask your legislators to support SB 252/ AB 266 and SB 631/AB 701 or thank them for already doing so! You can also share your support for these bills with Governor Evers at <https://evers.wi.gov/> -> Connect -> Voice an Opinion.

We are dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education, and advocacy.



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