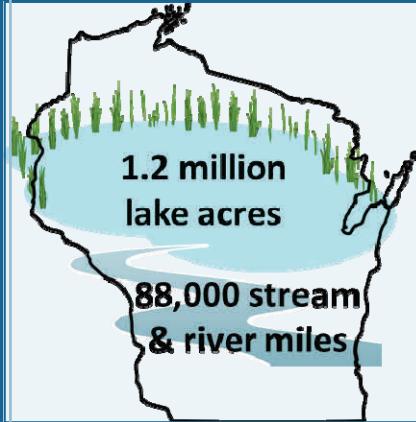




ASSESSING WISCONSIN'S WATERS

HOW HEALTHY ARE OUR LAKES, RIVERS, AND STREAMS?



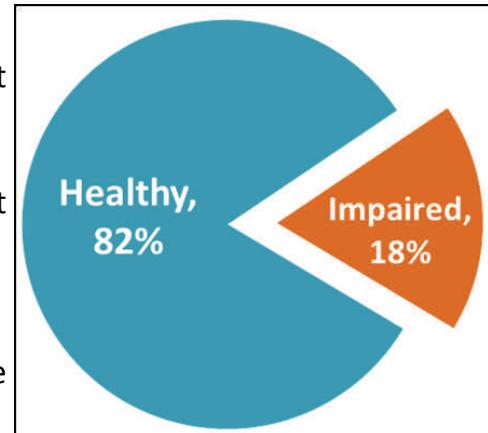
By assessing the condition of our surface waters we're taking care of our resources and protecting human health. Wisconsin is a state rich in water resources that are shared by over 5.5 million residents.

The majority of assessed waters are healthy.

A water is considered healthy when it supports:

- safe human recreation like swimming,
- healthy aquatic animal and plant communities, or
- safe fish consumption.

If any of these are not supported then the water is considered impaired.



Impaired water listings in Wisconsin have increased—but that's only half the story.

Since 2008, the number of impaired waters has increased from 738 to 1,319 in 2016. However, there are several reasons for that increase.

More waters assessed: Since 2008 the number of river and stream miles assessed has increased more than 80%. In addition to identifying impaired waters this has allowed for identification of healthy waters.

Investigating problem areas: DNR's surface water monitoring strategy includes monitoring focused on waters that DNR biologists or citizens suspect to be impaired in order to develop management plans for restoration.

Improving technology: Automated assessment tools allow larger datasets to be assessed. These tools assess any waters, across the entire state, that have certain types of data.

New or updated water quality criteria: Water quality criteria allow us to identify waters that have existing water quality issues and begin restoration work. Criteria help protect human health and water quality.

