

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources SWIMS Project Summary

General Project Information

Project ID: NKE1

Name: Balsam Branch PWS Plan - Nine Key Element Plan

Type: Water Quality Planning

Subtype: Priority Watershed Plan

Status: COMPLETE

Start Date: 4/1/1995

End Date: 12/31/2016

Purpose: The Balsam Branch Priority Watershed Project plan examines the sources of nonpoint pollution in the watershed and guides the implementation of pollution control measures. The goal of the plan is to protect, maintain, and enhance the aquatic ecosystem of the watershed.

The major land use in the watershed is agriculture. Therefore, agricultural runoff is a significant concern. However, most of the lake shoreline is developed, and as seasonal homes are converted to permanent homes, pollutants from residential sources will increase. Village residents also contribute their share of pollution through stormwater runoff that drains to a stream or lake. Some residents of the watershed have already adopted best management practices (BMPs), such as conservation tillage and lakeshore buffer strips, that protect water quality. However, for the watershed project to be successful, many more residents and visitors to the watershed will need to be mindful of such practices.

Objective: Polk County Land and Water Conservation Department.

The Balsam Branch Watershed contains several high value recreational lakes that are developed with lakeshore homes, parks, and resorts. The watershed's proximity to the Twin Cities (Minneapolis - St. Paul, Minnesota) makes it a target for continued development and urbanization pressure. Lake fertility ranges from mesotrophic to highly eutrophic. Mesotrophic lakes have moderate nutrient levels and productivity, while eutrophic lakes have higher nutrient levels and are very productive with high concentrations of aquatic plants and algae. As plants and algae die back, the deeper waters of highly eutrophic lakes become depleted of oxygen and cold-water fish may die. The streams of the watershed are mostly tributary to one of the lakes. Streams in this watershed are low gradient and have large areas of associated wetlands. There do not appear to be many widespread nonpoint source related problems on these streams, however, there are site specific problems which can be addressed through this project. Runoff from eroding croplands and livestock operations is the major source of nonpoint pollution in the watershed.

http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nonpoint/documents/9kep/expired/Balsam_Branch-Plan.pdf

Comments: SC05 0703000508 2016 online location looks different than website location needs review.

Outcome: The control measures are designed to protect, maintain, and enhance the aquatic ecosystem of the watershed.

Sources of nonpoint pollution found in this watershed include: cropland, streambanks, gullies, construction sites, livestock manure, lakeshore property, urban land, and septic systems. These sources contribute sediment, nutrients, toxins, and organic matter to the water. The purpose of this project is to reduce the amount of pollutants originating from these sources, thereby reducing the amount of pollution reaching surface water and groundwater in the project area.

Study Design:

QA Measures:

People

Name	Role	Status	Start Date	End Date	Organization	Comments
Helmuth, Lisa D	COORDINATOR	INACTIVE	4/1/1995	12/31/2016	Wisconsin DNR	

Project Statuses

8/28/2024

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Date	Reported By	Status	Comments
4/1/2018	Lisa Helmuth	Complete	

Actions

Action	Detailed Description	Start Date	End Date	Status
Monitor Watershed (Status,Sources,Impairments)	The Balsam Branch Priority Watershed Project plan examines the sources of nonpoint pollution in the watershed and guides the implementation of pollution control measures.	4/1/1995	12/31/2016	COMPLETE
Nine Key Element Plan	The Balsam Branch Priority Watershed Project plan examines the sources of nonpoint pollution in the watershed and guides the implementation of pollution control measures. The goal of the plan is to protect, maintain, and enhance the aquatic ecosystem of the watershed. The control measures are designed to meet this goal. Sources of nonpoint pollution found in this watershed include: cropland, streambanks, gullies, construction sites, livestock manure, lakeshore property, urban land, and septic systems.	4/1/1995	12/31/2016	COMPLETE

Details: Parameter	Value/Amount	Units	Comments
Total Nitrogen	Y	Y/N	
Total Phosphorus	Y	Y/N	
Total Suspended Solids	Y	Y/N	

Nine Key Element Plan	The Balsam Branch Priority Watershed Project plan examines the sources of nonpoint pollution in the watershed and guides the implementation of pollution control measures.	4/1/1995	12/31/2016	COMPLETE
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Monitoring Stations

Station ID	Name	Comments
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Assessment Units

WBIC	Segment	Local Name	Official Name
2620600	1	Balsam Lake	Balsam Lake

Lab Account Codes

Account Code	Description	Start Date	End Date
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Forms

Form Code	Form Name
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Methods

Method Code	Method Description
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Fieldwork Events

Start Date	Status	Field ID	Station ID	Station Name
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Documents

Title	Description	Author	Published	Comments
Balsam Branch Lake Photograph		Wikipedia Commons	3/1/2017	
Balsam Branch Lake Photograph	Balsam Branch Lake Photograph	Wiki Commons		
Balsam Branch PWS Plan - Nine Key Element Plan (8MB)	Balsam Branch PWS Plan - Nine Key Element Plan (8MB)	Malischke, Jane and Cheryl Clemens	1/1/1995	
Balsam Branch PWS Plan - Nine Key Element Plan part1	Balsam Branch PWS Plan - Nine Key Element Plan	WDNR	4/1/1995	
Balsam Branch PWS Plan - Nine Key Element Plan part2	Balsam Branch PWS Plan - Nine Key Element Plan part2	WDNR	4/1/1995	
Balsam Branch Watershed (SC05) Ecological Landscapes Map			6/27/2011	
Balsam Lake Japanese Knotweed 9-23-2014	Photo of Japanese knotweed found by Katelin Holm on Balsam Lake, 9-23-2014	Katelin Holm	9/23/2014	

Budget

Combined Budgets:
Combined WSLH:
Combined Total: \$0.00

Funding

Organization	Source	Type	Amount	Start Date	End Date
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