

Wisconsin River Basin

Clean Waterways Project



November 2015

Updates on the Wisconsin River TMDL and water quality improvement efforts.

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Project Updates

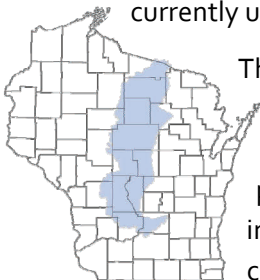
Over the past three months significant progress has been made in TMDL development! The following draft deliverables were completed and made available for stakeholder review in October.

- Calibrated SWAT watershed model were completed and made available for stakeholder review .
- Model analysis and preparation memo for CE-QUAL-W2 modeling of Castle Rock and Petenwell Reservoirs.

We anticipate that draft models of Big Eau Pleine, Castle Rock and Petenwell Reservoirs will be completed and made available by the end of November. Draft models of Lake Wisconsin and DuBay were made available for review in mid-August.

New to the project?

There is a major effort underway to improve water quality in the Wisconsin River Basin. The framework for this effort is a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), which is the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive while still meeting water quality standards. The [Wisconsin River TMDL](#) is currently under development and scheduled to be finalized in 2017.



Through this newsletter, the Wisconsin River Clean Waterways team is working to communicate progress on the different stages of TMDL development and invite public feedback. This quarterly newsletter also highlights information, tools and resources available to help with conservation efforts in the state.



Healthy Soil/Healthy Water workshop

Save the date for the February 2016 Healthy Soil/Healthy Water workshop in Wisconsin Rapids. This workshop will bring together a diverse community of people to learn about and discuss strategies for water quality improvement.

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Improving Soil Health in the Watershed

Learn more about the connection between healthy soil and healthy water, and why promoting healthy soil in the basin is an important component of TMDL implementation.

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Tools and Resources

Tools and resources available to help with conservation efforts.

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[Subscribe](#) to receive email updates about the Wisconsin River TMDL.

HEALTHY SOIL

HEALTHY WATER

workshop

Save the date for the Healthy Soil/Healthy Water workshop!

Monday, Feb. 22 @ Mid State Technical College - Wisconsin Rapids

Wisconsin DNR along with UW Extension and a number of our Wisconsin River basin watershed partners will be hosting a Healthy Soil/Healthy Water workshop this winter. This workshop will bring together a diverse community of people within the Wisconsin River watershed to hear firsthand from farmers, practitioners, and conservation organizations about innovative strategies and successful projects that are working to conserve nutrients, reduce erosion, build soil health, and protect farmland for future generations. The workshop will also showcase partnerships of groups working together at a local level to develop strategies to conserve soil and nutrients and accomplish their water quality goals. Save the date now, and watch for the registration opening announcement in early January!

An announcement and registration link will be sent out via the Wisconsin River TMDL GovDelivery list. Not signed up yet? [Sign up here!](#)



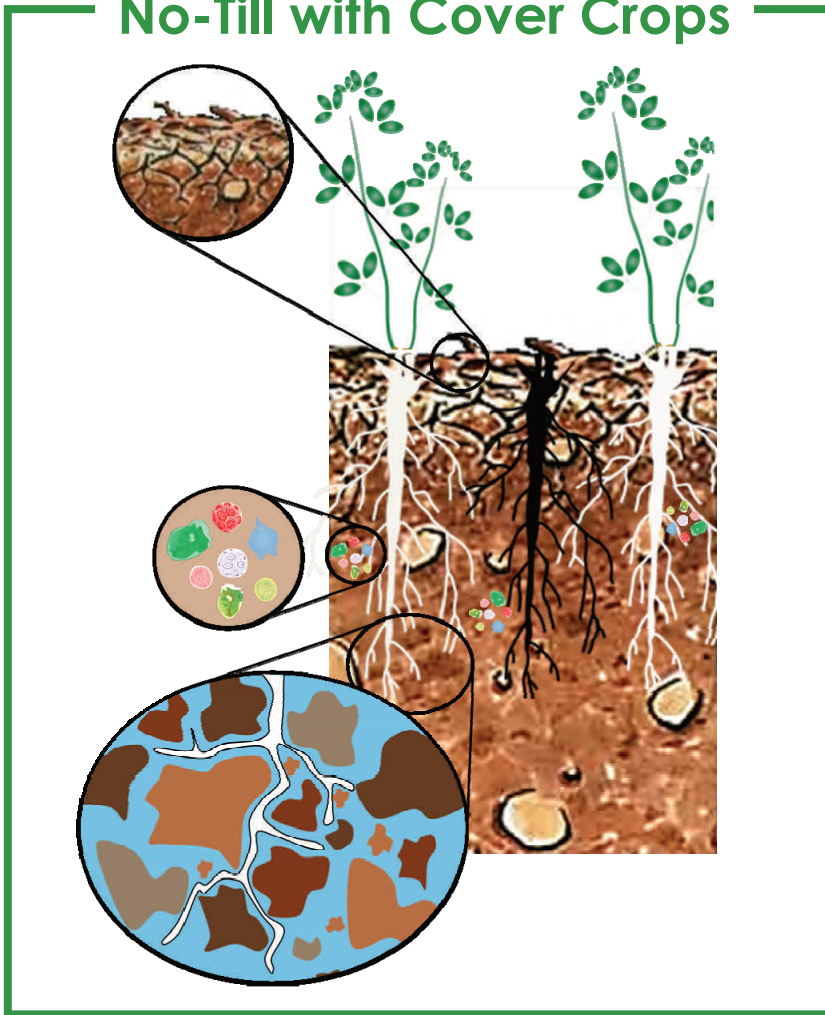
Interested in learning more about healthy soil? Check out the next page!







Healthy Soil Promotes Healthy Water

Healthy soil gives us clean air and water, bountiful crops and forests, productive grazing lands, diverse wildlife and beautiful landscapes. As such, promoting healthy soil is an important component of TMDL implementation.

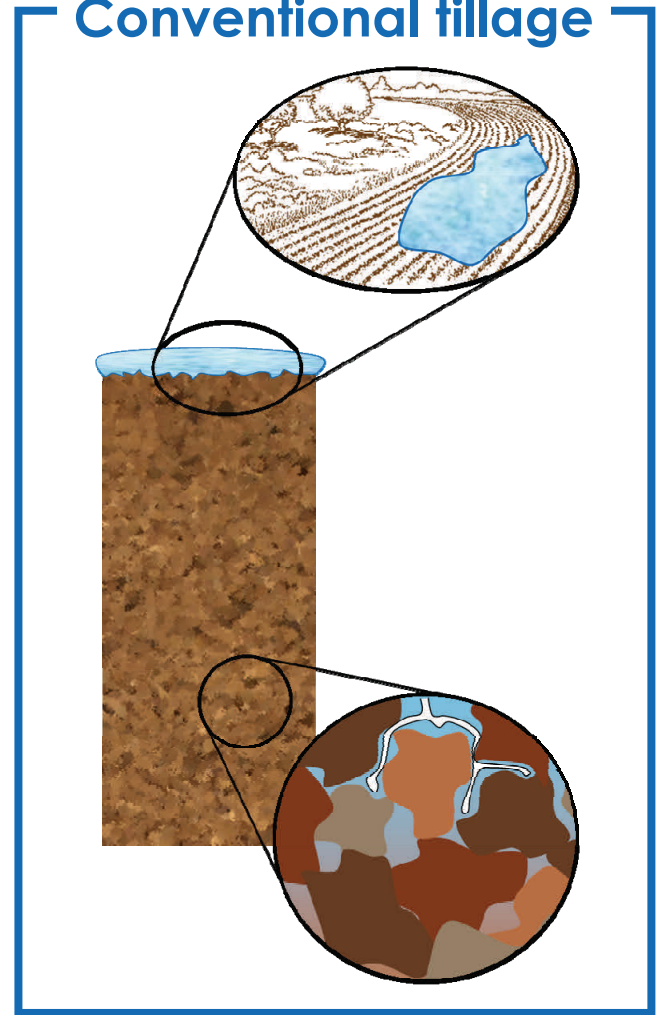
Many farmers and urban gardeners use tillage as a way to loosen up soil prior to planting, however these systems can damage soil structure and soil health. An increasing number of farmers are exploring no-till systems together with cover crops as a way to conserve soil and nutrients while simultaneously improving soil structure and crop yields.




No-Till with Cover Crops



-  Cover crops increase soil organic matter, reduce erosion, conserve soil moisture, suppress weeds, and provide nitrogen for future crop use.
-  Residue on the soil surface helps reduce wind and water erosion, suppress weeds, and conserve soil moisture.
-  Using cover crops to maintain a living root system between cash crops reduces soil compaction and supports  microbes that help plants grow & thrive.
-  No-till preserves old root channels that help water soak down into the soil.
-  Pore spaces between soil particles improve aeration, water holding capacity, and resistance to drought.

Conventional tillage



- Compaction occurs when soil particles are pressed together. Negative impacts include:
-  Reduced water infiltration, poor drainage and increased runoff of sediment and nutrients.
 -  Poor aeration, reduced pore space, less water holding capacity, and shallow, stunted root systems.
 -  Death of soil microbes that help crops grow.



Tools and Resources

This page highlights tools and resources available to help with conservation efforts in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Waterways:

Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Annual Progress Report

This [annual report](#) [exit DNR] is a joint effort between WDNR and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection. Check out the 2014 report to learn about progress made on land and water conservation programs in the Wisconsin River Basin and throughout Wisconsin. This report highlights the diversity of issues that conservation professionals in Wisconsin encounter every day and the creative projects and solutions they are using to improve water quality in the state.

WDNR Grant Opportunities:

Lake Management Planning Grants

[Lake Planning grants](#) help pay for developing management plans to protect and restore lakes and their watersheds. Often, these plans turn into projects funded with Lake Protection grants. There are two categories of lake management planning grants: small-scale and large-scale. **Due December 10!**

Lake Protection Grants

[Lake Management grants](#) assist eligible applicants with implementation of lake protection and restoration projects that protect or improve water quality, habitat or the elements of lake ecosystems.

River Protection Grants

[River Protection grants](#) provide assistance in the formation of river management organizations and provides support and guidance to local organizations that are interested in helping to manage and protect rivers, particularly where resources and organizational capabilities may be limited.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention and Control Grants

[AIS Prevention and Control grants](#) share the costs of aquatic invasive species education programs that teach about the threats posed by invasive species and how to prevent and control them. These grants also help with projects that prevent new introductions, control existing populations, and restore habitat



Photo: Juneau County Wisconsin



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