

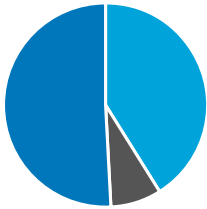


WISCONSIN WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Meeting Wisconsin's Water Needs Through Research, Training and Information Dissemination

Safeguarding Wisconsin's water quantity, quality and management.

These are critically important responsibilities. **For 59 years**, each has been undertaken with science-based rigor by the University of Wisconsin Water Resources Institute (WRI) through a federal-state partnership, stepping up to address present challenges and opportunities, along with emerging ones.



Funding Sources

- State of Wisconsin **51%**
- Federal Competed **41%**
- WRI Core **18%**

FROM DISCOVERY TO APPLICATION

Mercury in Waterways

WRI has long supported research into mercury, which acts as a neurotoxin and disproportionately affects children and pregnant women. This year, WRI collaborated with the U.S. Geological Survey Mercury Research Laboratory and the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene. Researchers developed a new way to measure mercury levels in phytoplankton and zooplankton, organisms that are at the base of the food web. The method helps determine the source of the mercury, whether it was added by air or water or whether it's a legacy pollutant. That information can then guide cleanup.



Randolph Femmer | USGS

BY THE NUMBERS

ALL FIGURES FROM 2022 REPORTING



84,000 MILES

Rivers and streams in Wisconsin

15,000

Lakes in Wisconsin



5

MILLION

Acres of wetlands in Wisconsin

1.2

QUADRILLION

Gallons of groundwater in Wisconsin



Madeline Gotkowitz

Finding Flooding Answers

To picture a flood often means picturing raging waters roaring through landscapes and wiping out all in their path. Groundwater flooding, though, can be just as destructive, causes unknown and solutions elusive. 2022 was the start year for a new study on groundwater flooding to examine the interplay of climate change and land use and management practices that might be causing groundwater flooding, holding the key to its mitigation. One solution being examined is strategic tree planting.

Knowledge Sharing and Training

WRI supports the Wisconsin Water Library, waterlibrary.aqua.wisc.edu. It houses more than 30,000 water-related volumes, including WRI research reports and valuable wastewater treatment operator manuals vital for training those important community practitioners. The library has expanded materials on underrepresented groups in the water sphere and it started a book club focused on Indigenous literature. WRI also supports the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Water Resources Association, which brings together more than 200 current and aspiring water professionals for presentations and poster sessions. It's a meeting that is specifically structured for student career development.

BY THE NUMBERS

CONTINUED



900,000

Private wells in Wisconsin



73%

Percentage of state residents who get drinking water from community water systems



20

Average annual number of research undergraduate and graduate students supported



4

Average number of research projects funded annually