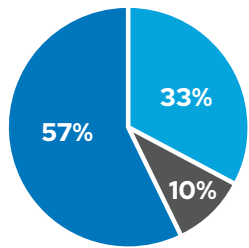




WISCONSIN WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE

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

**Safeguarding Wisconsin’s water quantity, quality and management.** Those are critically important responsibilities. **For 60 years**, each has been undertaken with science-based rigor by the University of Wisconsin Water Resources Institute (WRI) through a federal-state partnership that steps up to address present challenges and opportunities, along with emerging ones.



### Funding Sources

- State of Wisconsin **57%**
- Federal Competed **33%**
- WRI Core **10%**

## FROM DISCOVERY TO APPLICATION

### What Is in Our Water? WRI Finds Out

WRI has long supported research into what’s in our water, what we drink, bathe in, cook with and use in industry. Research in 2023 and 2024 is tracking how per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) move through groundwater, how to reduce the amount of nitrate reaching drinking water supplies and what the level is of naturally occurring contaminants — uranium, radium, arsenic and manganese — in Wisconsin’s groundwater.



A research project team collects maple tree sap for PFAS sampling on Lac Courte Oreilles tribal land in spring 2023. Pictured, left to right, are Eve Milusich, Andre Bennett, Gavin Dehnert, Jonathan Gilbert and Zhewaab Reggie Cadotte. Image by Wisconsin Sea Grant

### BY THE NUMBERS

ALL FIGURES FROM 2023 REPORTING



# 84,000 MILES

Rivers and streams in Wisconsin

# 15,000

Lakes in Wisconsin

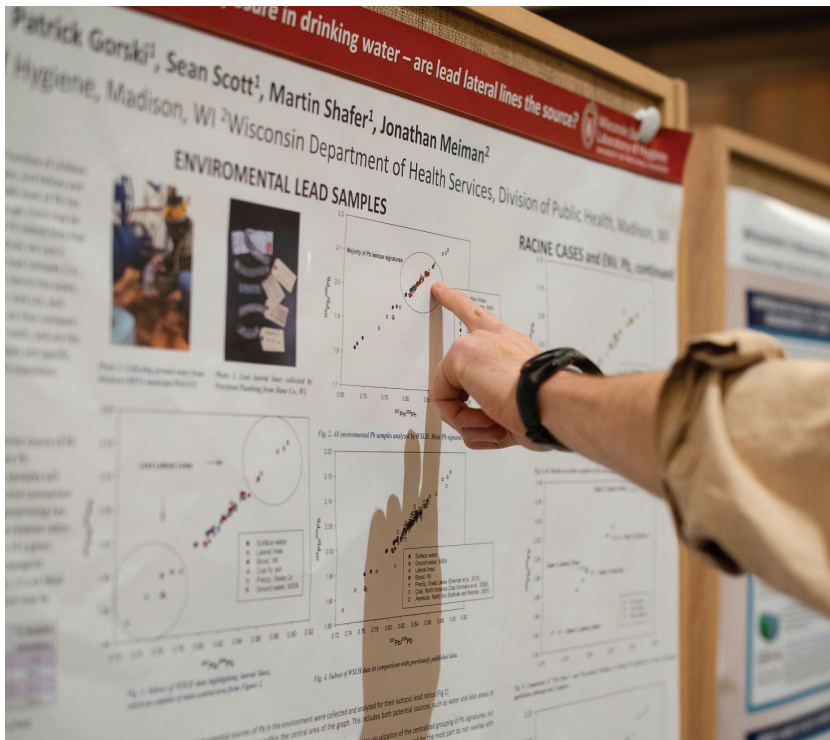


# 5 MILLION

Acres of wetlands in Wisconsin

# 1.2 QUADRILLION

Gallons of groundwater in Wisconsin



WRI-funded researchers and students present their findings at conferences and events around the state and the country to collaborate and share their findings. Image by Wisconsin Sea Grant

## Valuing What Rural Wisconsin Has to Say

Getting a pulse on the views held by those who live in rural Wisconsin and then acting to meet needs and answer questions is an important goal and one that is being met through a WRI project called “Aligning the Wisconsin Idea on Water.” Researchers surveyed 1,500 randomly selected households across counties within a designated “rural” census block. The team also analyzed news stories, research reports and county plans and published public comments about water to tune into rural conversations about water. The findings will shape future research projects to address rural concerns.

## Knowledge Sharing and Workforce Training

WRI supports the Wisconsin Water Library, [waterlibrary.aqua.wisc.edu](http://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 greatly expanded its collection of materials on underrepresented groups in the water sphere, and it offers 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 to offer students 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



**5**

Average number of research projects funded annually