



shoreland development standards to better protect the most pristine and most sensitive lakes, while leaving more liberal standards on those lakes that are least sensitive and heavily developed already.

A number of these counties are using sequential Lake Classification Grants over time to implement a series of lake management activities, such as:

- Creation shoreland development guides.
- Training workshops on shoreland development rules, erosion control and shoreland restoration techniques.
- Updates to the county's initial classification system
- Technical support to create geographical information systems and electronic land use permit systems to improve shoreland zoning administration and compliance.

### Lake classification guides countywide lake planning

Other counties are using the lake classification tool to guide countywide lake planning and to address watershed management goals. Lake Classification Grants can be used to gather physical, chemical, and biological data for the county's water resources

in a strategic, coordinated manner. This valuable information can then be used to:

- create lake management plans,
- aid land use decisions,
- tie in with other plans that address water quality goals, and
- link other funding sources to implement watershed best management practices.

Lake classification has helped to protect the water quality, habitat, natural beauty, and economic values of Wisconsin's waters. Over 80% of Wisconsin's lakes are found within the counties mentioned above. There have been many spin-off benefits from these projects. Most of the counties have incorporated rivers as well as lakes into their classification efforts. Interest generated by these projects has led to greater community support for lake protection, stimulated land use planning efforts, and spurred interest in shoreland restoration.

The potential of lake classification is just beginning to be tapped. As mounting pressures of all kinds threaten our lakes, the potential benefits of lake classification come into sharper focus. Lake classification is a flexible tool that helps counties tailor

water resource protection measures to the needs of the local resources and the community, creating a range of recreational and waterfront living experiences.

This is a tool that not only helps manage shoreland development, but it can also:

- Guide countywide lake planning,
- Protect water quality,
- Manage watershed land uses,
- Reduce recreational use conflicts,
- Coordinate aquatic invasive species prevention and control efforts.



For more information about how different Wisconsin Counties have used lake classification to address local lake management needs, download the Wisconsin Association of Lakes 2007 report, available on our website ([www.wisconsinlakes.org](http://www.wisconsinlakes.org))

### Wisconsin Lakes Partnership



This article was originally published in the fall 2007 of *The Lake Connection*, a quarterly publication of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes. The article was written by Susan Tesarik (Wisconsin Association of Lakes). This article may be reprinted for educational purposes with citation.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

<http://dnr.wi.gov>

UW-Extension Lakes Program

[www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/)

Wisconsin Association of Lakes

[www.wisconsinlakes.org](http://www.wisconsinlakes.org)