PRIORITY WATERSHED PROJECT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The North Branch Priority Watershed Project is carried out in two phases--planning and implementation. Each is discussed below.

Planning Phase

The planning phase initiated in 1985 will:

a. Determine the conditions and uses of streams, lakes, and groundwater.

b. Inventory types and severity of nonpoint sources impacting streams, lakes and groundwater.

c. Evaluate the types and severity of other factors affecting water quality. Examples include discharges from municipal sewage treatment plants and natural stream conditions.

d. Determine levels of nonpoint source control and implementation measures necessary to achieve improved water quality conditions.

e. Prepare and approve a priority watershed plan documenting the above evaluations, implementation procedures, and costs.

Implementation Phase

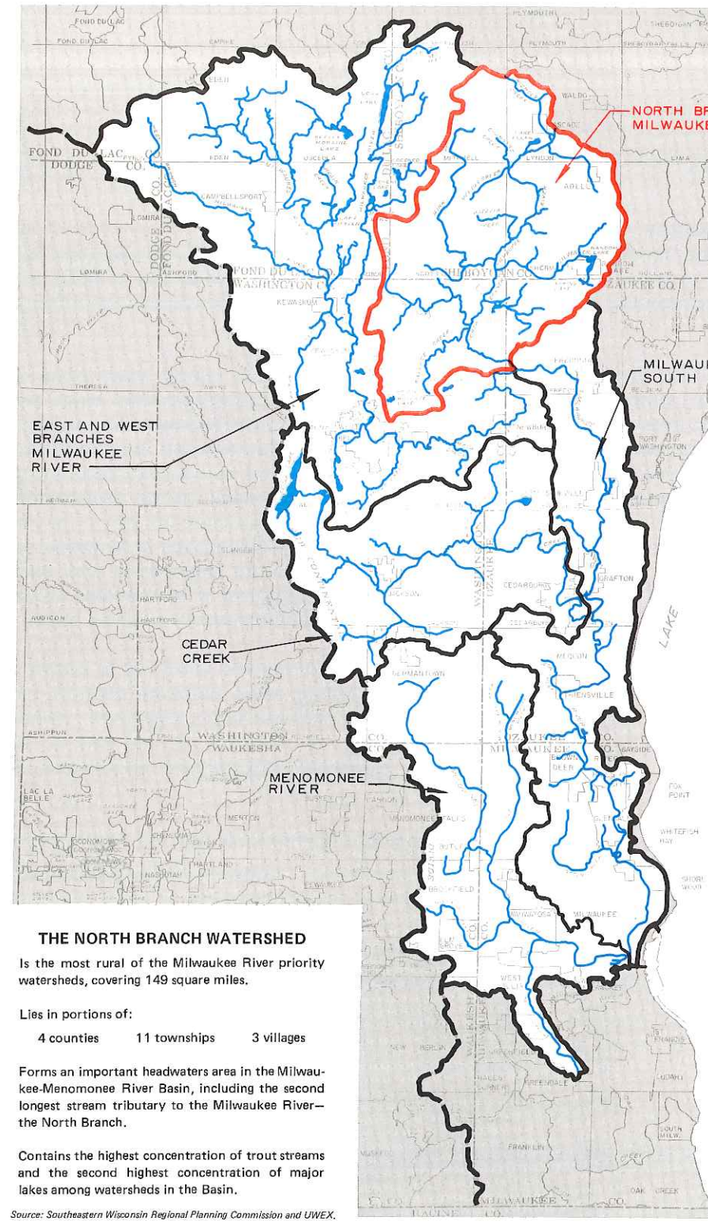
The implementation phase began in the summer of 1989, following a public hearing and approval of this plan by the Department, the DATCP, and the Board of Supervisors for counties within the project area.

Subsequently, the Department entered into local assistance agreements with the counties and other units of government identified as having implementation responsibilities. These agreements provided funds necessary to maintain the resources and staff necessary for plan implementation.

Plan implementation is achieved primarily by entering into cost share agreements with eligible landowners and the villages of Adell, Cascade, and Random Lake for installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) reducing pollutants from nonpoint sources. During an initial period, eligible landowners are contacted by the staffs of the Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Washington County Land Conservation Departments to determine their interest in voluntary installation of practices identified in the plan. Department staff work with the local units of government to develop cost effective measures to reduce urban and rural nonpoint pollution sources.

Cost share agreements signed by the landowner and the county or other implementing bodies outline the practices, costs, cost share amounts, and a schedule for installation. The practices are scheduled for installation up to five years from the date of signing.

Map 1



MAJOR STREAMS*

Name	Length (miles)
North Branch Milwaukee River	30.0
Mink Creek	17.3
Stony Creek	10.0
Wallace Creek	8.6
Silver Creek	7.1
Batavia Creek	5.0
Melius Creek	3.3
Nichols Creek	3.3
Chambers Creek	2.9

**Named perennial (year-round) streams.*

MAJOR LAKES*

Name	Size (acres)
Random Lake	209
Lake Ellen	121
Spring Lake	57
Lake Twelve	53
Wallace Lake	52

**50 acres or larger in size.*

THE NORTH BRANCH WATERSHED

Is the most rural of the Milwaukee River priority watersheds, covering 149 square miles.

Lies in portions of:

4 counties 11 townships 3 villages

Forms an important headwaters area in the Milwaukee-Menomonee River Basin, including the second longest stream tributary to the Milwaukee River—the North Branch.

Contains the highest concentration of trout streams and the second highest concentration of major lakes among watersheds in the Basin.

Source: Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and UWEX.

MILWAUKEE RIVER PRIORITY WATERSHEDS