



Strengthening community resilience in northern Wisconsin

The past year was like no other. Through its strong community network, the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve responded. Throughout the challenges of the pandemic, the Reserve developed engaging learning experiences for students and teachers, created new opportunities for citizen engagement and dynamic student research, and advanced water quality monitoring on the St. Louis River Estuary.

In 2020, the Reserve:

-  Provided educational experiences for **730 YOUTH**
-  Held **128 HOURS** of professional learning for educators
-  Created opportunities for **3,575 VISITORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS**
-  Collected **OVER 150 PHOTOS** documenting high water level impacts in Lake Superior
-  Logged a **HALF-MILLION PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DATA POINTS** in the Estuary



Research, education, monitoring and outreach along the Lake Superior coast in 2020

Bringing science education safely to students' backyards:

When schools went virtual, so did the Reserve's Rivers2Lake education program. Staff developed weekly videos and activity sheets that became the Superior School District's online elementary science curriculum. These engaging videos focused on the local environment have received over 1,600 views.

Engaging the community in documenting high water levels:

When local city staff and resource managers requested easily understandable data about the effects of water levels, the Reserve created WaterSpotter, an online portal to collect photos showing coastal impacts. UW-Superior student Sara Rybak also created a visual database of high-quality photos that may be duplicated over time. This visual record will improve future coastal decisions and documents current shoreline and infrastructure impacts.

Technology to track harmful algal blooms:

The Reserve joined 10 other NERRs on a funded project to improve real-time harmful algal bloom monitoring in the Estuary. UW-Superior student Staci Reynolds is supporting the project by combing through past algae data looking for trends. Her discoveries will advance the Reserve's progress towards creating a real-time algal bloom detection tool for natural resource managers.



Launching NOAA's Margaret A. Davidson Fellowship:

Our first Margaret A. Davidson Fellow is Molly Wick, a PHD student at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Her two-year project will focus on the benefits and well-being people receive following restoration and remediation efforts in the St. Louis River ecosystem. We are deeply grateful to Congress and the State of Wisconsin for their support of this fellowship.



LakeSuperiorReserve.org

