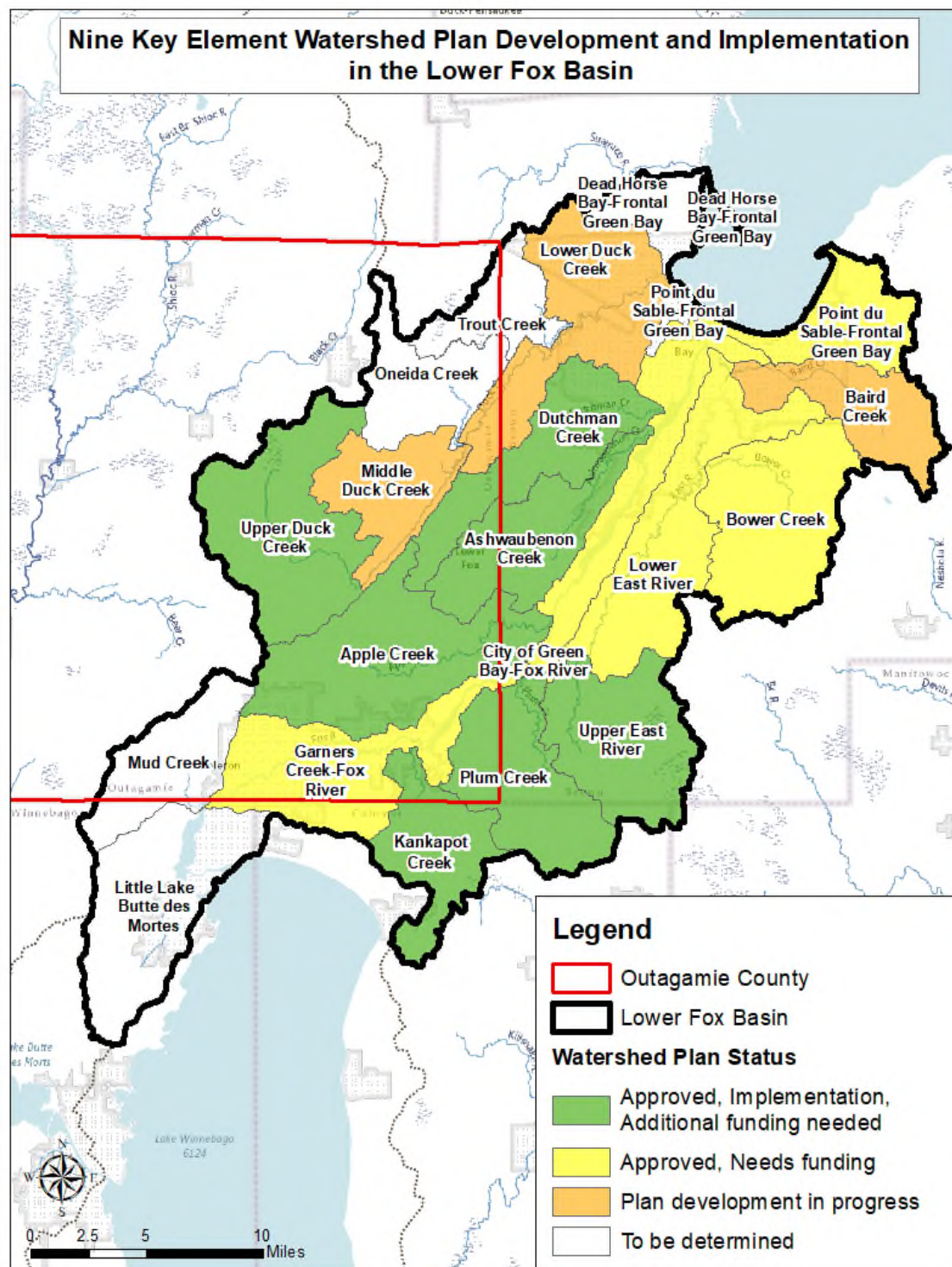


Nine Key Element Watershed Plans



In 2012, a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment and phosphorus was approved for the Lower Fox River Basin and Lower Green Bay. A TMDL is an analysis used to determine the amount of pollutants a waterbody can receive and while still meeting water quality standards. Outagamie County has been working in partnership with Brown County, Calumet County, and other stakeholders to develop nine key element watershed plans for subwatersheds in the Lower Fox River Basin since 2014.

Nine key element watershed plans provide a framework for improving water quality within a watershed. A watershed becomes eligible for state and federal funding to perform conservation work when a nine key element watershed plan has been approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Typical conservation practices recommended in a plan include: Adoption of Soil Health Farming Practices (Cover Crops, No-Till/Reduced-Till, Low-Disturbance Manure Application, Grazing), Streambank Stabilization, Stream Corridor Restoration, Riparian Buffers, Grassed Waterways, Wetland Restoration, and Treatment Wetland Systems.

The plan characterizes and sets goals to address nonpoint source pollution (which is pollution that is not tracked to a single, identifiable source), determines resources needed (e.g. funding, technical assistance, outreach), and specifies criteria to implement and evaluate the plan. The plans are typically written for a 10-year time period. Plan implementation progress is tracked annually and compared with plan goals and milestones. Adjustments can be made to the plan if targets are not being met.

A stakeholder group that addresses agricultural implementation of the Lower Fox TMDL called The Lower Fox River TMDL Agriculture Implementation Committee decided on a strategy to develop nine key element watershed plans in order of the highest-pollutant rankings. In 2015, The Plum and Kankapot Watersheds became the first two subwatersheds to have a plan developed and approved. Currently, plans have been developed and approved covering 12 subwatersheds in the Lower Fox Basin. There is currently one plan in progress for Baird Creek and another plan undergoing WDNR and EPA review for Middle and Lower Duck Creek subwatersheds.

For more information about nine key element watershed plans, contact Sarah Kussow, GIS/Watershed Planner at (920) 832-6076.

Find Out More

- Completed Nine Key Element Watershed Plans for watersheds in Outagamie County can be viewed on the [County Webpage](#).
- Nine Key Element Watershed Plans completed for subwatersheds in the Lower Fox River Basin can be accessed on the [WDNR Webpage](#).



Sarah Kussow