

**USDA Geospatial Gateway**  
[datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov](http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov)

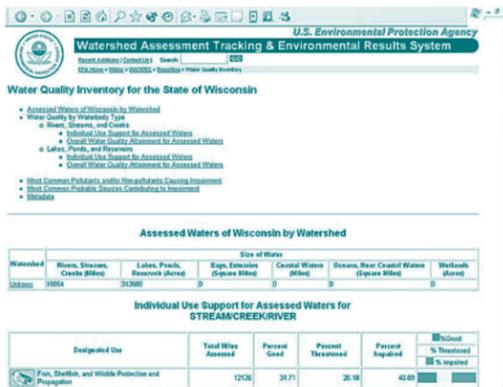
The Geospatial Data Gateway provides easy and consistent access to natural resources data. You can search for available data by geographic area (e.g., a county or state) or use a point-and-click map tool to find your area of interest. You can also search for data by theme, such as digital orthophotography images, digital elevation models (DEMs), or soils.



**Watershed Assessment, Tracking and Environmental Results**

[www.epa.gov/waters](http://www.epa.gov/waters)

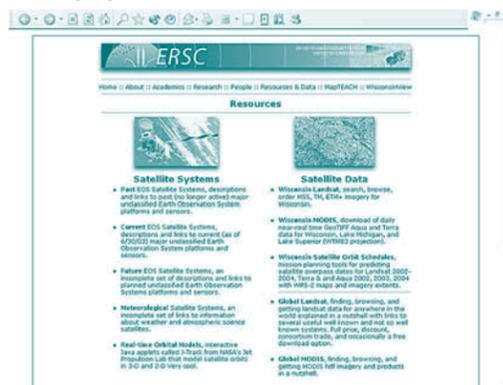
Watershed Assessment, Tracking, and Environmental Results (WATERS) is the U.S. EPA's integrated information system for the nation's surface waters. Through WATERS, the EPA's various water program databases are connected to a larger framework allowing you to tie together information for analysis and understanding of the causes and sources of impaired waters. You also can use WATERS to perform nationwide analyses across states and to examine border issues.



**University of Wisconsin Environmental Remote Sensing Center**

[www.ersc.wisc.edu/resources.php](http://www.ersc.wisc.edu/resources.php)

The Environmental Remote Sensing Center (ERSC) works on the development and application of cutting-edge remote sensing and geospatial technologies to improve our understanding of environmental systems. The ERSC web site allows you to search, browse, and order satellite imagery for Wisconsin. You can also download near-real time data for Wisconsin, Lake Michigan, and Lake Superior.



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Points of view expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Mention and depiction of trade names and commercial products does not constitute endorsement of their use.

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This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audiotape, etc.) upon request. Please call 608/266-0531 for more information.



# Using Computer Tools to Find the Information You Need



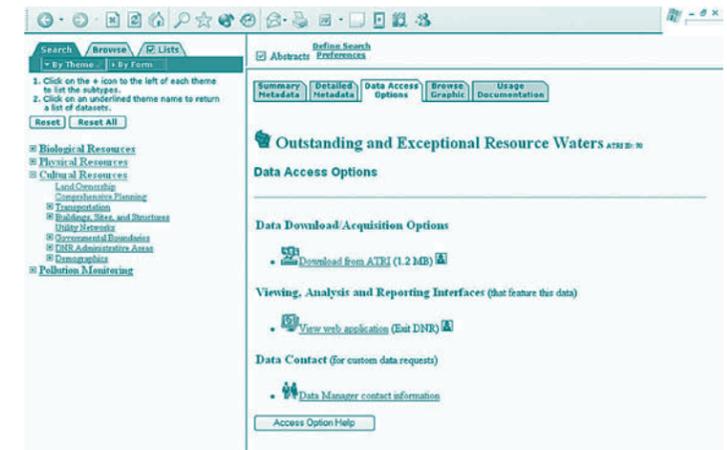
Federal, local, and state agencies invest significant resources collecting and managing data, much of which has value for local environmental protection and management efforts. The information holdings of agencies can include a broad range of data types in a variety of formats. Computer tools organize, catalog, and make these resources accessible, often in downloadable or online format.

These tools can be static web sites or searchable databases. Some focus only on a single data set or data source (e.g., data from a particular land use study) or only on information related to a specific resource (e.g., endangered and threatened species or historical resources). Other tools serve more as a clearinghouse, providing access to a variety of data sets and information sources. Some tools guide users by letting them know how and where to find information rather than actually providing the information.

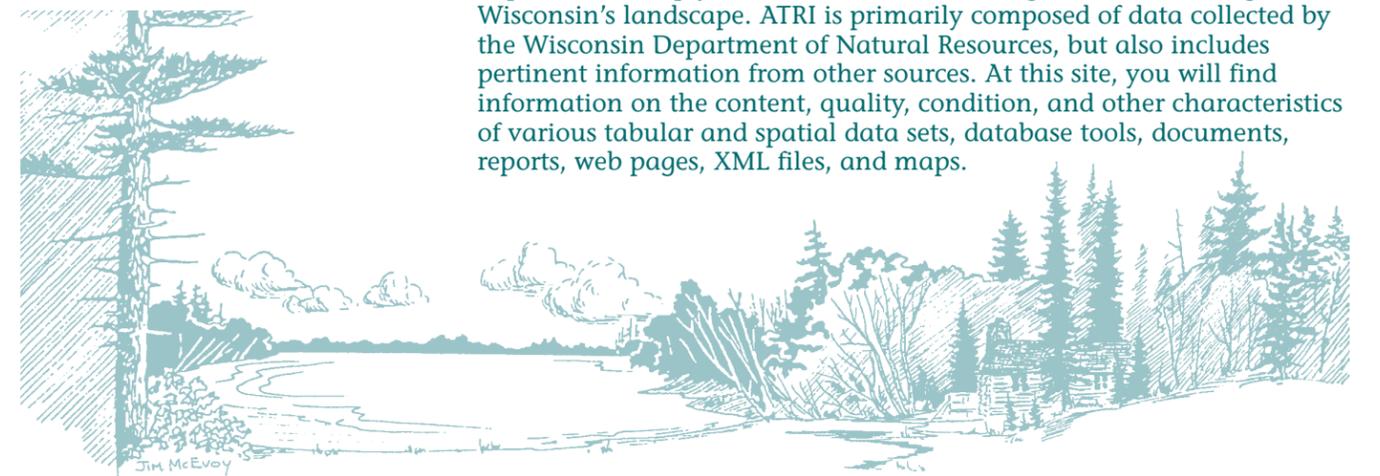
## Some Environmental Data Tools

**Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Inventory – Metadata Explorer**

[maps.botany.wisc.edu/atri/Metadata](http://maps.botany.wisc.edu/atri/Metadata)

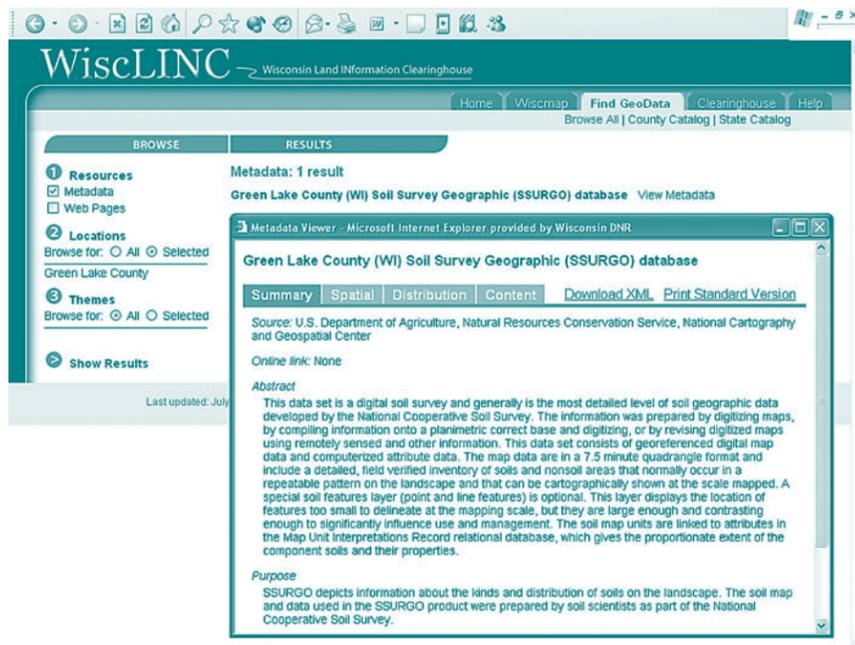


The Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources Inventory (ATRI) Metadata Explorer can help you locate and access ecological data affecting Wisconsin's landscape. ATRI is primarily composed of data collected by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, but also includes pertinent information from other sources. At this site, you will find information on the content, quality, condition, and other characteristics of various tabular and spatial data sets, database tools, documents, reports, web pages, XML files, and maps.



## Wisconsin Land Information Clearinghouse

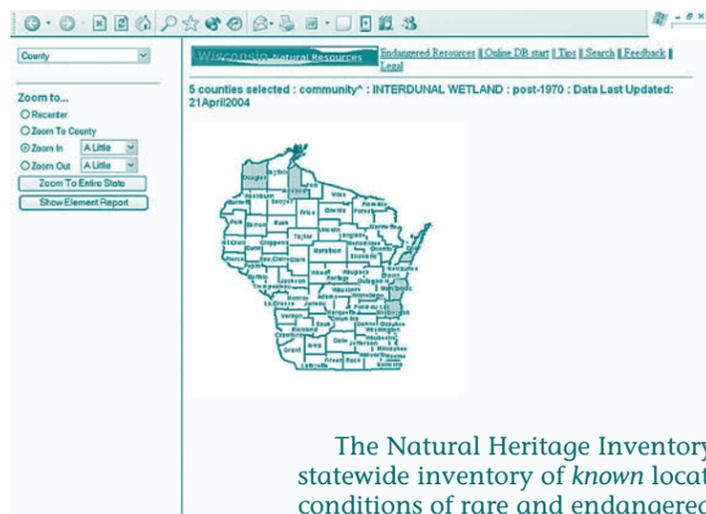
[www.sco.wisc.edu/wisclinc](http://www.sco.wisc.edu/wisclinc)



The Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office maintains a Wisconsin Land Information Clearinghouse (WISCLINC), which provides a gateway to geospatial data, metadata, related land and reference information, and the agencies that produce or maintain these items. Use this web site to search WISCLINC and related clearinghouses for available Wisconsin data. You can also browse and download local data, where they are available.

## Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory Online Database

[dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/nhi/nhi\\_ims/online.db.htm](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/nhi/nhi_ims/online.db.htm)



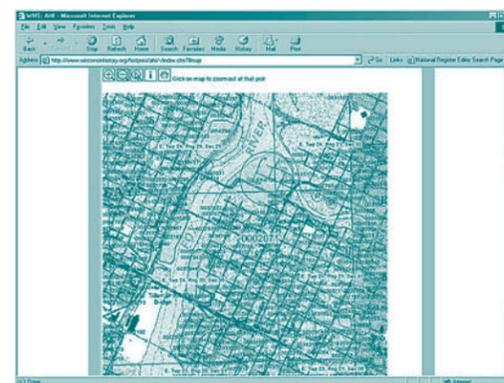
The Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) is a statewide inventory of known locations and conditions of rare and endangered species and natural communities. This online application allows you to search the NHI database for the status and distribution of endangered resources or to learn what species or natural communities are known to exist within a particular area of interest.



## Wisconsin Archeological and Historical Resources Database

[www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/wisahrd/index.asp](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/wisahrd/index.asp)

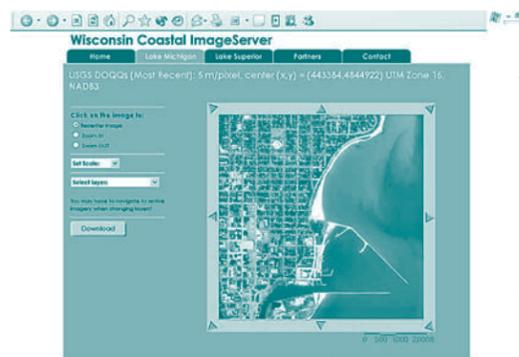
The Wisconsin Historical Society maintains three inventory databases: the Archaeological Sites Inventory, the Architectural History Inventory, and the Bibliography of Archaeological Reports. The Wisconsin Archeological and Historical Resources Database (WisAHRD) allows you to search the most up-to-date versions of these databases. You can access WisAHRD free-of-charge from the Wisconsin Historical Society's office in Madison or from any Internet connection for an annual online subscription fee.



## Wisconsin Coastal Image Server

[ortho.lic.wisc.edu/orthoserver](http://ortho.lic.wisc.edu/orthoserver)

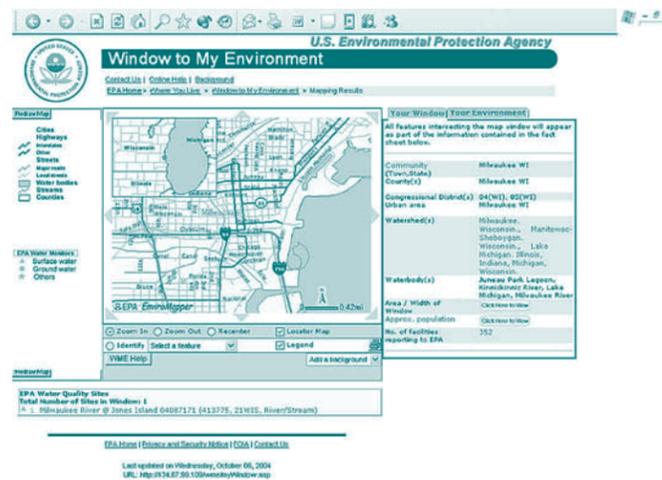
This web site makes geographic data about Wisconsin's Lake Michigan and Lake Superior coasts available. You can interactively select data layers and specific areas of interest at a variety of zoom levels. You can also download the geospatial data.



## Window to My Environment

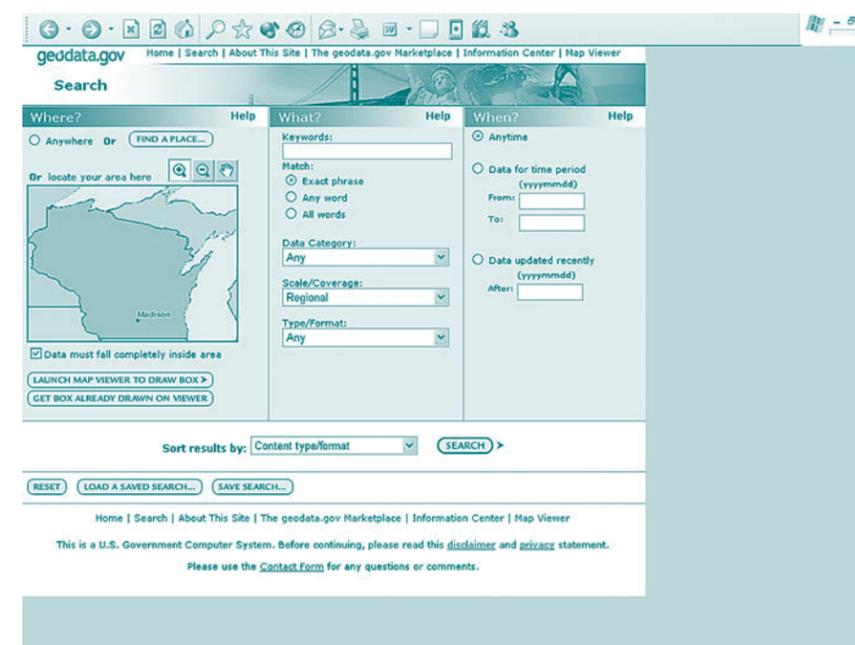
[www.epa.gov/enviro/wme/](http://www.epa.gov/enviro/wme/)

Window to My Environment provides a wide range of federal, state, and local information about environmental conditions and features in an area of your choice. You can use this U.S. EPA application to find and show the location of regulated facilities, monitoring sites, water bodies, population density, perspective topographic views, and more. The site also has links to information from federal, state, and local partners on environmental issues like air and water quality, watershed health, Superfund sites, fish advisories, and impaired waters.



## Geospatial One-Stop

[www.geodata.gov/gos](http://www.geodata.gov/gos)



Through the national Geospatial One-Stop, you can access geospatial information from federal agencies and a growing number of state, local, tribal, and private agencies. This intergovernmental portal improves the ability of the public and government to access and use geospatial information by providing "one-stop shopping."

## Soils Data Mart

[soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov](http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's primary source for online soil data is the Soils Data Mart. Soils Data Mart allows you to determine where tabular and spatial soils data are available and download those data. The site also provides a template database for working with the downloaded data.

You can generate a variety of reports for soil survey areas, find out who to contact for information about soil data for a particular state, and "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" to a soil survey area.

