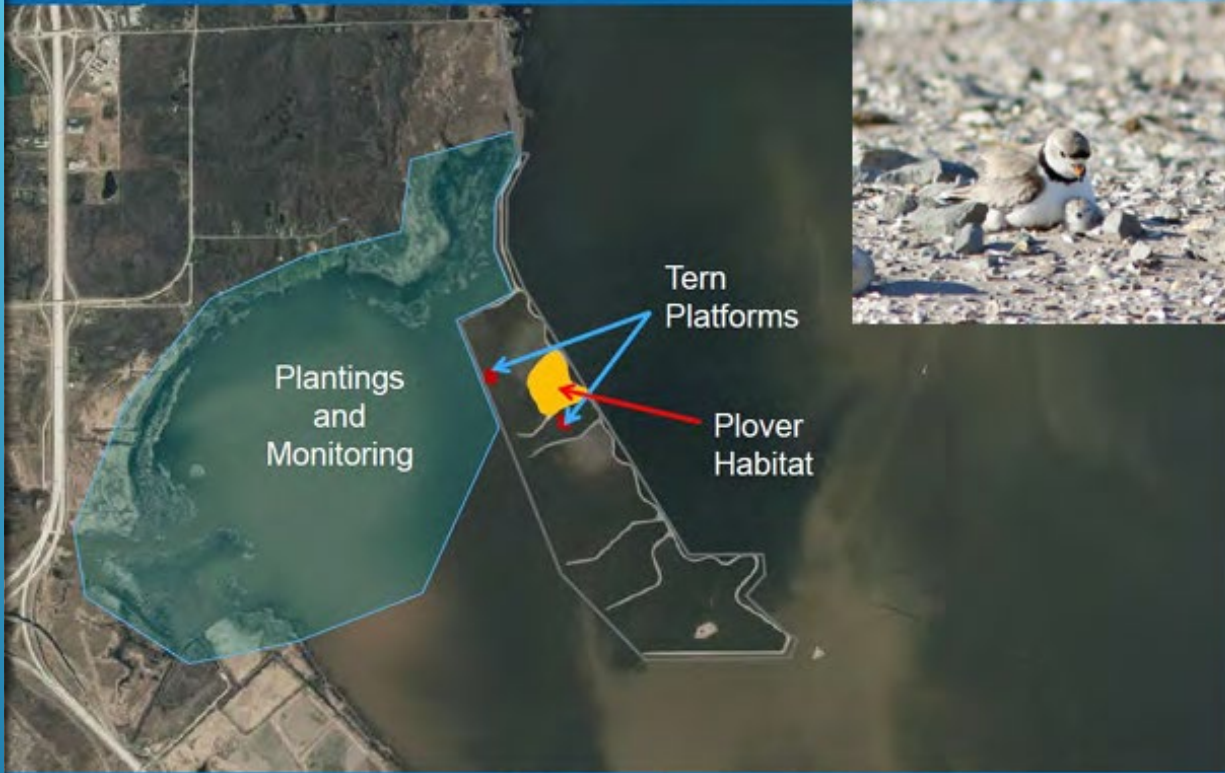


WELCOME TO THE 2024 PORT SYMPOSIUM

Brown County Executive
Troy Streckenbach

Cat Island Habitat Projects



Brown County Aerial Photography, 2017

- ▶ The Cat Island Chain project developed out of the 1988 Lower Green Bay Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and was the top priority project for habitat restoration.
- ▶ Partnership between Brown County, WDNR, WDOT, US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, USEPA, UW-Sea Grant, UW-Green Bay, Port Operators and the Fox River Group of paper mills.
- ▶ A Piping Plover was successfully bred on the westernmost island in 2016 and 2017, the first local breeding in over 75 years. They are a federally endangered species.
- ▶ Last July, the US Fish & Wildlife Service released four 28-day-old captive-reared Great Lakes Piping Plover chicks at the Cat Island Restoration Site. It's the first release in Wisconsin history.

CAT ISLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

WEST SHORE PIKE HABITAT PROJECT

- Located along the west shore of Southern Green Bay, the Suamico/Little Suamico River watersheds have some of the most productive wetlands remaining in the Great Lakes system.
- The scarcity of top predator species such as Northern Pike, which helps control predators of desirable fish species, has been recognized as a significant problem in the waters of Green Bay.
- Since 2007, Brown County's Land & Water Conservation Department has helped restore 49 wetland acres, added 72 acres of riparian buffers, removed 20 stream impediments, and opened 93 miles of stream for fish passage.
- Northern Pike's ability to spawn leads to increase in recreational opportunities at a world-class fishery. A study from UW-Whitewater puts the region's annual economic impact at \$264.3 million from recreational sport fishing.





- ▶ To date, Brown County has secured \$17.1 million in state grants, \$10.2 million from a federal grant, along with committing \$3.9 million for this generational project.
- ▶ Brown County and the City of Green Bay are working together on securing funding to cover the approximately \$22 million shortfall in project costs due to inflation.
- ▶ The redevelopment of this strategic site for active Port uses is expected to generate an \$87 million economic impact in the first 5 years.
- ▶ It will also allow for the City of Green Bay to redevelop downtown riverfront property so it can be revitalized as a multi-use public destination.

FORMER PULLIAM PLANT SITE

NERR VISITOR CENTER DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Work continues in developing a Public-Private partnership to locate the future visitor center for the National Estuary Research Reserve (NERR) here in Brown County.
- ▶ One of the main overarching themes identified in the Renard Island Strategic Master Plan (2019) is to create, “**New pedestrian pathways will extend the length of Green Bay’s waterfront, linking UWGB to the river and downtown with Renard Island becoming the new centerpiece of Green Bay’s new waterfront.**”
- ▶ The NERR designation allows for intensive research into protecting and maintaining the Bay of Green Bay, allowing our vital Port businesses to freely move through without limitations on passage.



Figure 4-1. Three-dimensional artistic rendering of Renard Island Strategic Master Plan, looking west