



About Lake Winnebago – the Largest Freshwater Lake Entirely Within a U.S. State

The lake is characterized by having many shallow reefs along the west shore, and a drop-off type shoreline on the east. There are several islands along the west shore. Lake Winnebago has two primary tributaries, the Wolf River and the Fox River. It is drained by the Fox River which flows north towards the Bay of Green Bay and serves as part of the Fox-Wisconsin Waterway. Lake Winnebago is part of a larger system of lakes in Wisconsin known as the **Winnebago Pool Lakes System**. It has a maximum depth of 21 FEET. Some of the communities on its shores include Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, Neenah and Menasha.

Cities that draw their drinking water directly from Lake Winnebago include Oshkosh, Neenah, Menasha and Appleton – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The blue areas of this graphic include from the left: Lake Poygan and Winneconne, Lake Butte des Morts and Lake Winnebago. Info and graphic courtesy of www.battleonbago.org

What is a shallow lake?

A lake that is less than 25 feet deep with a large surface area to volume ratio, and undergoes frequent mixing and fluctuation of water levels from seasonal changes such as summer drought, spring/fall rainfall and snow melt.

What are wetlands?

Wetlands are areas where water saturates and sometimes covers the soil all year long. The amount of saturation largely determines how the soil develops and the types of plant and animal communities living in and on the soil. Wetlands act as natural filters for the water flowing through them by trapping sediment suspended in the water and taking up nutrients and other pollutants dissolved in the water.

What is impaired water?

Impaired water means the waterway is too polluted or otherwise degraded to meet water quality standards as set by the USEPA.

What is wind fetch?

Wind fetch refers to the distance the wind blows over a body of water. The longer the distance and the stronger the winds, the higher the wave and the more wave action and energy will be exerted on the shorelines and the more damage can occur.