



WEPP Citizen Monitoring Network

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A.



An Ephemeral Pond is a unique wetland type that provides critical habitat to certain amphibians and non-vertebrate species dependent upon a wetland environment that is isolated from other surface waters and that exhibits a wet-and-dry seasonal ponding cycle. Ephemeral ponds also provide benefits to a variety of plants and other animals throughout the year, and they contribute to the natural maintenance of key hydrologic functions (e.g., aquifer recharge and storm-water retention).

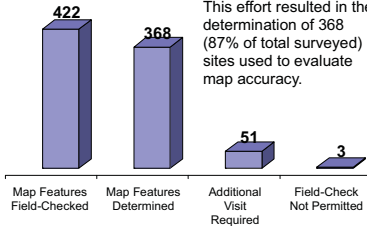
Recent advancements in mapping technology have enabled the WDNR wetlands program to target mapping ephemeral ponds, in conjunction with other wetlands, as a distinct natural community.

The Southeast Wisconsin Ephemeral Pond Monitoring Network, consists of a consortium of state and local governments, state and private academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and individual citizens. This network has been established to facilitate mapping and documentation of ephemeral ponds in southeast Wisconsin, and also to serve as a mechanism to increase public awareness of their conservation value.



B.

By working together, committed citizens, non-profit partners, and staff from local and state agencies field checked a total of 422 sites mapped as potential ephemeral ponds (PEPs). This effort resulted in the determination of 368 (87% of total surveyed) sites used to evaluate map accuracy.



C.

Sixty seven percent of the 368 sites field-checked, and that were conclusive in determining map accuracy, were correctly identified as verified ephemeral ponds (VEP). This result is based on a non-structured sampling analysis.

