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CAMP GROW CONSERVANCY PROPERTY PURCHASE

There has been a tremendous outpouring of support over the last ten months involving our Green Lake Community's efforts to see Camp Grow get purchased and put into "permanent conservancy status"—assuring the protection of this property forever. Our Green Lake Conservancy Partnership has been working very hard since last summer to complete all of the work and fundraising to purchase Camp Grow and all of our efforts are going well with a targeted closing date of June 2018. A more detailed chronological timeline of important milestones for the Camp Grow Conservancy Property Purchase are outlined below:

SUMMER 2017: Our Green Lake Conservancy Partnership which consists of the Green Lake Sanitary District working in partnership with the Green Lake Conservancy was contacted by the owners of Camp Grow, American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago (ABC-MC), to determine our interest in purchasing Camp Grow and gauge our interest in putting the camp into permanent conservancy. The ABCMC had decided to sell Camp Grow for a number of reasons relating to their ministry mission. For the past several decades, Camp Grow had been operating as a church camp primarily used by children associated with their churches. Currently, the majority of Camp Grow consists of woods, water frontage (800 feet of water frontage on Big Green Lake and 1,500 feet of water frontage on Spring Lake) and open natural areas with various buildings sprinkled throughout the camp for various camp related activities.

AUG-SEPT 2017: After assessing the Camp Grow opportunity for several weeks, the Conservancy Partnership agreed to pursue the purchase of Camp Grow under the terms and conditions laid out by the ABCMC. More specifically, ABCMC agreed to give our Conservancy Partnership four months to submit a legitimate offer to purchase Camp Grow before the camp would be put on the open market for other interested parties. The Conservancy Partnership and the ABCMC tentatively agreed to a \$4 million dollar purchase price. In addition, the ABCMC understood the Conservancy Partnership's plan for purchasing Camp Grow and they were willing to give us until December 2017 to make our plan a reality. In short, the Conservancy Partnership's plan involved two primary funding mechanisms. First, the Conservancy Partnership would write and submit a State of Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant which would be used to fund roughly one-half of the Camp Grow

purchase price. The other half of the Camp Grow purchase price or \$2 million dollars would need to be funded through pledges/donations from our Green Lake Community. Both the State Grant as well as the local fund raising was a significant challenge to say the least. By September 15, 2017, the Conservancy Partnership had completed and submitted the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grant and the community fundraising was "kicked-off" by the Conservancy Partnership at approximately the same time.

SEPT-DEC 2017: Over the course of the next four months, the Conservancy Partnership worked thousands of hours on both the State Grant follow-up requirements as well as the ongoing efforts of many groups and individuals to raise the required grant match funding (\$2 million dollars) by the agreed to date of December 2017. By early December 2017, the feedback on our grant from the State of Wisconsin was looking very positive and our fundraising efforts were also close to our goal of \$2 million dollars. Consequently, representatives from our Conservancy Partnership wrote-up our official offer to purchase Camp Grow and delivered it to the home office of the ABCMC in Wilmette, Illinois. After a short negotiating period which lasted a couple weeks, both sides (buyers and sellers) agreed to a final purchase price of \$3.75 million dollars. In addition, two key conditions needed to be satisfied before both sides could feel comfortable with the Camp Grow sale. First, the Conservancy Partnership needed to receive tentative approval from the State of Wisconsin that the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant was going to happen. Second, all 65 churches in the ABCMC needed to vote to approve the final sale conditions. By the end of December 2017, over 500+ people and organizations had pledged slightly over \$2 million dollars to purchase Camp Grow and the feedback from the State of Wisconsin on our grant was continuing to look very posi-



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SEWER REMINDERS

Please DO NOT flush disposable wipes into the sewer system. These items fail to break-down and clog the lift stations. The wipes can also get caught in the homeowner's private lateral—a cost that must be paid for by the homeowner. Please also refrain from sending grease down your sink drain or any drain that ties into the sewer. The sewer system is owned by everyone using it around the lake. Proper use saves everyone from expensive repairs.

GREEN LAKE FISHING NEWS

On April 9, 2018 the DNR, GLSD and fish volunteers took over 28,000+ Lake Trout (Big Green Lake's quota) from our Fish Rearing Facility (FRF) and stocked them into Big Green Lake. Once again, the majority of these released fish ranged in size between 9 and 11 inches. None of the Lake Trout stocking would be possible without the continued support of the Big Green Lake Fishing Partnership. Besides the GLSD, our partners include: City of Green Lake, Green Lake Association, Green Lake County, Fishing Guide Mike Norton, Fishing Guide Dennis Walker, Citizen Volunteer Steve Siders, Walleyes for Tomorrow and the Wisconsin DNR. Last summer, we raised 25,000 Rainbow Trout and stocked them into our lake (first time we have reared fish at our facility over the summer months) in addition to our normal quota of Lake Trout.

GARBAGE REMINDER

Garbage is picked up on Monday mornings, except for the following holiday weekends:

Memorial Day: pick-up on Tues., May 29

Labor Day: pick-up on Tues., Sept. 4

If possible put your trash out on the morning of pickup by 6 am. If you have to leave before that, spray the outside of your garbage bags with an ammonia/water mixture to discourage animals from creating a "garbage mess". Recycling for property owners signed up is the first Monday of the month, except if a holiday weekend, then see Tuesday dates above.

CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES

Please notify our office of changes in your property status (i.e. owner, address etc.) so we can keep our records accurate. Please email paulettej@glakesd.com with changes.

SEWER RELATED WORK

If you are involved in or planning a building project in a sewer area, please contact the GLSD Office 920-295-4488 for permit and inspection related information.

CAMP GROW CONSERVANCY PROPERTY PURCHASE (CONTINUED)

tive. It was an exciting time for everyone and all the pieces were falling into place.

MAR-MAY 2018: Currently, the Conservancy Partnership is working to call in all of the pledges made toward the purchase of Camp Grow. As of April 2018 (the printing of this newsletter), over 80% of the pledges made have been collected (\$1.7 million of the \$2.1 million). We expect to achieve very close to 100%. Over the next 30 to 45 days, we will wrap-up the administrative requirements to complete the Knowles-Nelson Grant and continue to process the remaining pledge payments as they are sent to us from our generous supporters.

JUN-AUG 2018: The Big Green Lake Conservancy Partnership will set a closing date and officially purchase Camp Grow. The actual closing date has not been set, but it is expected to occur before the end of June. It is important for all "Camp Grow Supporters" to mark their calendars for Saturday, August 25, 2018, this will be the day to celebrate at Camp Grow with food and festivities for all of the 500+ people and organizations who made the Camp Grow Conservancy Property a reality (more on

this in the coming weeks and months).

JUL 2018-DEC 2020: This 24 month to 36 month window will be used to do the majority of the Camp Grow restoration. In this first phase of restoration, all of the current buildings will be removed or demolished and the entire camp will undergo a substantial facelift to bring the entire 40 acres back to the natural area resembling what it would have looked like 200 years ago. All current recreational trails on the Camp Grow property will be maintained for hikers, bikers and other permitted recreational uses. The main trail will be maintained in its present form and bikers will be able to pass safely across Camp Grow (the Western entrance will come off Oakwood Beach Rd and the Eastern entrance will come off Oakwood Ave)

We will continue to share more information on this historic project as the final pieces of this purchase are completed in the coming months. Lastly, as a partner in the Conservancy Partnership, the Green Lake Sanitary District Board wants all of the GLSD property owners to know how thankful they are to receive this type of generous support for a natural area project which will live on forever.

BIG GREEN LAKE IMPAIRMENT STATUS

What is the Big Green Lake impairment:

Big Green Lake was listed as impaired in 2014. The impairment is for unacceptable levels of Dissolved Oxygen at the lake's Thermocline. The Thermocline is the area of the lake where the warm water meets the cold water, this is generally at a depth of 30 to 50 feet down from the water's surface. The State of Wisconsin lists the primary cause of this impairment as too much phosphorus in our lake.

Why is the Big Green Lake Impairment Important?

Some people may say: "Why should I care about something that happens for approximately one month per year (late summer) and doesn't affect my enjoyment of the lake (can't even see what's happening 50 feet below the water's surface)". The answer is multifaceted: First, low levels of Dissolved Oxygen affect living organisms (i.e. fish) and their ability to live and survive in the Low Dissolved Oxygen Zone. Second, even though the "Low Dissolved Oxygen Impairment" isn't something new (this phenomenon has been in Big Green Lake for over 100 years and it exists in other lakes as well), it has gotten worse over the past couple decades and it can be a sign of other troubles with our lake.



USGS PRESENTS STATE OF THE LAKE

On February 13, 2018, Dr. Dale Robertson of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), presented the USGS's annual "State of Big Green Lake" to the GLSD Board of Commissioners at the regular board meeting of the GLSD. A summary of the USGS's key updates are provided below.

USGS GENERAL CONCLUSIONS FOR 2017:

- On a positive note, over the past twenty years, the percentage of phosphorus coming into our lake via various forms (streams, runoff, etc) has decreased by 25% from 0.134 mg/L (1997-1998) to 0.103 mg/L (2013-2017).
- On a negative note, the last two years have been two of the wettest years on record, the heavy rainfall and subsequent runoff have had a negative impact on water quality (sediment and phosphorus loading) to all Wisconsin water bodies, including Big Green Lake.
- In late 2017, the GLSD Board of Commissioners approved changes to install monitoring stations on both White Creek and Hill Creek in addition to the existing monitoring stations for Silver Creek, Dakin Creek, Spring Creek, Roy Creek and Wurches Creek. These upgrades will allow us to use actual monitoring data/information



for over 90 percent of the tributary waters coming into Big Green Lake on an ongoing basis. This data and information is critical to making important lake management decisions as well as measuring changes to the lake over time.

By way of background information, the USGS, in cooperation with the Green Lake Sanitary District (GLSD), has monitored Big Green Lake dating back to 2004 and its tributaries dating back to the 1980s. The USGS evaluates Big Green Lake's tributaries to the lake to quantify nutrient loading to the lake. The USGS uses very consistent and rigorous sampling protocols that enable the water quality of the lake and its tributaries to be regularly evaluated and examined for short and long-term trends. GLSD's annual contract with the USGS comes to just under \$100,000 per year, twenty five percent is paid for by the federal government. Tributary monitoring identifies total phosphorus and suspended sediment concentrations entering the lake; while lake monitoring includes measurements for total phosphorus, dissolved nitrate plus nitrate-nitrogen, dissolved ammonia nitrogen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, chlorophyll a, secchi (water clarity) and depth profiles for water temperature/dissolved oxygen/pH/specific conductance.

Ben Siebers of the USGS utilizes a secchi disc and other measuring tools to measure water clarity,

What is being done to fix the Big Green Lake Impairment:

Our Lake Management Planning (LMP) Team along with some of the State's best limnologists and biologists have been studying this phenomenon for the past several years and we believe we are on-track to discover the more detailed reasons for our problem in the next 12-24 months as we conclude the Low Dissolved Oxygen Study currently underway on our lake. Once we understand more of the specifics, we can better target our corrective actions and lake improvement strategies to improve our low oxygen levels back to acceptable state criteria levels in the next 5-10 years.

Isn't it inconsistent to call Big Green Lake a World-Class Lake if it's impaired?

No, Big Green Lake is an outstanding water body with relatively low levels of phosphorus when compared to other Wisconsin lakes. Nevertheless, our LMP Team needs to return all of our lake's water quality key measurements (Secchi, Chlorophyll, Phosphorus, Dissolved Oxygen) back to acceptable State of Wisconsin criteria and pending the results of our current Low Dissolved Oxygen Study, we believe we can more accurately understand our impairment causes and return our lake to acceptable water quality measurement levels within the foreseeable future.

Is there any Good News relating to our impairment?

Yes, on many fronts. First, being listed as impaired has allowed us to tap into many sources of funding (for protecting and improving our lake) to work on many good projects and improvements to our lake. We have invested millions of dollars over the past several years and our plans are to continue with our improvement activities for many years to come. Second, our impairment has brought many of our State's lake experts "to the table" and we are all comfortable that we are doing everything possible and making progress to both better understand and correct our impairment. Our lake is a huge water body and changes (both good and bad) occur very slowly, the average person won't notice anything differently about Big Green Lake over the next 10 years even as we continue to make relatively aggressive improvements as outlined in our current Lake Management Plan.



GLSD COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Specht | *President*
Ken Bates | *Treasurer*
Boni Jensen | *Secretary*

GLSD STAFF

Charlie Marks | *Administrator*
Paulette Janssen | *Admin. Asst.*
Stuart Marks | *Plant Operator*
Dallas Lewallen | *Plant Operator*

CONTACT US

www.glakesd.com
(920) 295-4488

N5295 Cty Rd TT
Princeton, WI 54968

OFFICE HOURS

7:30 am–3:00 pm, Mon–Fri

For sewer emergencies after hours, please contact Charlie Marks at 920-291-6688.

UPCOMING GREEN TEAM EVENTS

MAY 5th
Mitchell Glen Spring Tour

JUNE 2nd
Stream Bugs & Restoration Tour

JUNE 9th
Kayak or Canoe the Puchyan River

JULY 21st
Moonlight Paddle on Cty K Estuary

AUGUST 31st
Apple Orchard Tour

OCTOBER 6th
Mitchell Glen Fall Tour

DATE TBD
Buckthorn Cleanup Crew

NOVEMBER 3rd
Falconry Demonstration

For more information, please contact any of the following Green Team Partners: Green Lake Sanitary District (295-4488), Green Lake Conservancy (294-3592), Green Lake Association (294-6480) or Green Lake Schools (294-6411)



N5295 CTY RD TT
PRINCETON, WI 54968

2018 SPRING CLEANUP

The GLSD's Annual Spring Cleanup will be held from Sat., May 26, 2018 through Sat., June 2, 2018. Most trash will be accepted as well as scrap metal and yard waste. Garbage containers will be available at the GLSD Wastewater Treatment Plant (located at N5295 County Highway TT in the Town of Princeton) during the dates and times specified below. The garbage containers will be located within the facility fences and identification of being a GLSD property owner will be required. The containers will be available for garbage drop off on the following dates/times:

Sat., May 26: 8:30am – Noon

Tues, May 29 through Fri., June 1: 8am - 3 pm

Sat., June 2: 8:30am – Noon

ELECTRONIC WASTE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. This includes: TVs (any size), desktop or laptop computers, mice, keyboards, computer cables, computer speakers, desktop printers, CD players, DVD players, VCRs, DVRs and other video players, CPUs, monitors, fax machines, scanners, video recorders/players, video game consoles, zip drives, hard drives, external modems, copy machines and fluorescent light bulbs.

To properly dispose of electronic waste, the City of Princeton will be collecting E-Waste on May 14th. Specific times and other drop-off information

can be obtained from the Princeton Clerk's Office at 920-295-6612. You do not have to be a city resident to take advantage of this event.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If you have any type of hazardous waste materials for disposal (i.e. chemicals, paints etc.), Green Lake County Land Conservation will be holding a "Clean Sweep" on August 10, 2018 from 11am - 5pm. Please contact Green Lake County LCD at 920-294-4051 for more information. Preregistration is required or drop off hazardous materials.

For the 14th year in a row, GLSD will provide an area set up for reusable items during our Spring Cleanup. If you have gently used items that are not ready for the landfill, we will accept them and donate them to people and organizations that can reuse them.

We reserve the right to turn away property owners who abuse the privilege of this special service (i.e. bringing in multiple loads of garbage/brush/waste inconsistent with a normal single residence spring cleaning). If you are unsure about an item, contact the GLSD office at 920-295-4488 between 8am – 4pm for clarification.