



Green Lake looking east across Norwegian Bay | Photo by James Knapp

STATE OF THE LAKE

On April 4th, Dr. Dale Robertson of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), presented the annual “State of the Lake” to the GLSD Board of Commissioners, several members of the GLA staff and Board of Directors, as well as the Lake Management Planning (LMP) Team. The focus of this annual presentation was for Dr. Robertson to provide an overview of the nutrient loading (specifically phosphorus) into the lake from the watershed as well as recap lake sampling results from 2023. Three main points made by Dr. Robertson during the meeting included: 1) recent water quality improvements are related heavily to the ongoing drought, 2) in-lake phosphorus numbers dropped to around 11 ppm, and 3) the metalimnetic oxygen minima was absent from the lake in 2023.

While this water quality information is very positive and welcome news, Dr. Robertson reiterated that the results relate heavily to multiple years of low precipitation & reduced runoff into the lake. He further stated that a few consecutive drought years will not create long-term improvement to the lake’s water quality. Dr. Robertson’s comments outline the need for the GLSD and our lake management partners to continue to develop and assist in funding projects in the watershed to limit nonpoint source runoff.

Eddie Heath of Onterra Consulting also spoke during the meeting regarding his work on the Green Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan. He stated that a multitude of ideas, concerns, and issues are being included and addressed in the final plan which is nearing completion. He also provided information on recent shoreland habitat evaluations which indicate that native vegetation within the shoreyard area around the lake has declined dramatically over the past 7 years. Restoring this habitat (which acts as a buffer filtering nonpoint source runoff from lakeshore properties) was a critical recommendation Mr. Heath offered for the health and protection of the lake. He went on to say results of the lake-wide aquatic plant survey indicate the native in-lake plant population of Green Lake is healthy overall. Additional points he made to

the group included that Eurasian watermilfoil (an aquatic invasive species long found throughout the lake) is less frequent now than it had been in previous studies; no new, non-native species were discovered; and that unfortunately, emergent and floating-leaf plant communities are now found in troubling low numbers around the lake. Public input meetings for the Aquatic Plant Management Plan are being planned for this summer. The GLSD will be posting information as it becomes available.

This past winter, Green Lake did not fully ice-over for the second consecutive year, and only the 3rd time since ice records have been kept dating back to 1939.



Emergent rushes near Dodge Memorial Park, July 2023



NEW CONSERVANCY PROPERTY PURCHASE

The GLSD and Green Lake Conservancy are very proud to announce the purchase of a new Conservancy Partnership property on Green Lake. The property which is located along Silver Creek by Spaulding Hill Road, was purchased for \$300,000; with \$200,000 of the property and associated costs being funded by the WI DNR through their Land Acquisition Grant Program and an additional \$150,000 in funding awarded to the GLSD by Ducks Unlimited.

The property was purchased from the 4M Bison Farm who raised and pastured bison on the site for many years. The property was purchased in mid-April by the GLSD after 18 months of discussion and negotiations with Marian and Marcel Mildebrandt.

The Mildebrandts, in memory of Marian's father Fred Luchsinger who had owned and cared for the land for decades, wanted to see the property made into an undeveloped sanctuary where the public could enjoy nature and the wonderful diversity of the landscape. The property holds beautiful old oak trees, a wide variety of native wetland vegetation, and wonderful views of both Green Lake and the Silver Creek wetlands.

Melissa Curran, President of the Green Lake Conservancy, worked closely with District staff on the final negotiations as well as the grant funding opportunities to secure this important property.

GLSD staff will be working to create hiking trails and a small parking area off Spaulding Hill Road during much of 2024. Information on the progress will be posted on our Facebook page and website. We hope to have it ready for public use in early 2025.



GLSD WASTEWATER PERMIT COMPLIANCE

Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Permit Compliance – Last November, the GLSD acquired 120 acres of fallow farmland to utilize in recycling our treated wastewater onto the landscape. GLSD staff have begun the task of preparing fields for seeding into perennial groundcover including native prairie species. Identified by the DNR as our most “environmentally friendly” alternative, land applying our treated wastewater is not uncommon in Wisconsin though the District’s use of prairie groundcover, is a newer approach. The GLSD is working in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service on the project to create the best vegetation plan possible considering plant species moisture and nutrient needs, pollinator and wildlife benefits, as well as harvestability limitations. District staff are working closely with our Engineers, Cedar Corporation, WDNR staff, and a local agronomist to create the best project possible to meet the DNR wastewater requirements, protect local groundwater, and create long-term WPDES compliance for the GLSD. We hope to complete the infrastructure design phase in 2024 with construction occurring in 2025.

GLSD FUTURE SEWERING STUDY

In 2021, the GLSD board authorized a high-level study to determine the following: 1) If sewerage of the unsewered areas of the District is possible, 2) What the associated costs would be for impacted landowners, and 3) If the GLSD wastewater treatment facility has the capacity to accept the additional wastewater.

The study draft was presented to the public at two public meetings last August held at the Green Lake High School. Since that time, the District accepted public comments as Cedar Corp. has worked to complete the study. The final version of the study will be available on our website, www.glakesd.com, in the coming weeks.

The study determined that, though costs vary from area to area, it is possible to sewer the remaining unsewered areas and the GLSD has the capacity to receive the additional wastewater. The study further outlined:

- High potential costs to bring wastewater from the Sunnyside area to the District wastewater treatment plant
- Wastewater from the Sunnyside area could be sent to the City of Green Lake for treatment but would require a wastewater partnership between the local municipalities and could take

significant time to develop

- Excessive lateral length/costs/environmental impacts to sewer in the Sandstone area
- Limited current development in the Town of Marquette as well as high likelihood of parcel combinations
- Various options exist to provide service to lakeshore residents in Area 2 (Lill/Radtke/Wildwood Ln) and Area 9 (the Hickories) that could lessen lateral costs to landowners

As previously mentioned, the estimated assessments in the various areas are costly. They range from roughly \$28,000 to \$52,000. Several other areas of the GLSD have recently been sewerage, with costs ranging between \$22,000 and \$29,000 per property. The District board continues to evaluate the final version of the study.



WEEKLY TRASH & BI-WEEKLY RECYCLING

In 2024, we are excited to make bi-weekly recycling available to interested residents of the District. If you would like to have recycling service, Waste Management will provide you with a 64-gallon, yellow-topped cart. The cost for the service is only \$8.00 per month per cart. If you are not currently a recycling customer with Waste Management and would like to sign up for this service, call our office (920) 295-4488, and GLSD staff will work with WM to get an account set up for you. WM invoices on a quarterly basis.

Here are some reminders about trash collection within the District:

- WM collects household waste only – no

yard waste, construction materials, or electronics. Do not place extra bags of waste items on the ground next to the WM-issued trash cart. It will not be collected.

- Keep carts in easy to see locations near your fire number or mailbox.
- Have carts out Sunday evenings or by 6 am Monday mornings.
- Remember to place carts with top handles facing away from the road.
- Trash collection may extend into Tuesday on busy weekends.
- If roads are unsafe due to ice or snow, WM may not venture down that road.
- Check our Facebook page for updates on trash collection around holidays.

RECYCLING CENTERS

In addition to the curbside trash collection/recycling service for our residents, be aware that recycling can be dropped off to your local township as well. The list below outlines the services provided to residents of each township within the Green Lake Sanitary District boundaries.

TOWN OF BROOKLYN

N6285 Berlin Rd, Green Lake

Accepts garbage, recycling, and yard waste.

HOURS (NOV – APR)

Sat.: 7:30–11:30 am

Mon.: 7:30–10:30 am

HOURS (MAY – OCT)

Sat.: 7:30 am – 1:30 pm

Mon.: 7:30 – 11:30 am

TOWN OF GREEN LAKE

N2298 Cty Road A

(920) 398-2405

www.townofgreenlake.com

Accepts recycling and yard waste.

HOURS

Sat.: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

TOWN OF PRINCETON

County Trunk D

(920) 295-4057

www.cityofprincetonwi.com

Accepts recycling only.

HOURS

1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

TOWN OF MARQUETTE

306 Lyons St., Markesan

(920) 229-6360

Accepts recycling only.

Recycling receptacle available for township residents that can be accessed 24 hours per day.

GLSD COMMISSIONERS

Ken Bates | President
Justin Ellis | Treasurer
Nick Vandervelde | Secretary

GLSD STAFF

Lisa Reas | *Administrator*
Paulette Janssen | *Admin. Asst.*
Stuart Marks | *Plant Operator*
Dallas Lewallen
Plant Operator
Hannah Niewoehner
Watershed Coordinator
Scott Neuman
Conservancy Property Technician

OFFICE HOURS

7am–3pm, Mon–Fri

For sewer emergencies
after hours, please contact
Dallas Lewallen at
(608) 345-7484 or Stuart
Marks at (920) 369-8199.



N5295 CTY RD TT
PRINCETON, WI 54968

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
OSHKOSH WI
PERMIT NO 90

DID YOU KNOW.....

Over the past 8 years, emerald ash borer has killed thousands of ash trees around Big Green Lake and tens of thousands throughout our watershed. Please consider planting additional native trees to your yard. River Birch, Red/Silver/Sugar Maple, Linden and Swamp Oak are commonly found at local nurseries and make great replacement species to use.

SPRING CLEANUP 2024

Need to clean out your garage? The Green Lake Sanitary District's Annual Spring Cleanup event is scheduled for May 25th through June 1st. Dumpsters will be located within the Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility fences and identification proving GLSD property ownership will be required. The dumpsters will be available for garbage drop off from 8 am until noon on Saturday, 05/25; 8am until 3pm Tuesday, 05/28 thru Friday, 05/31; and 8 am until noon on Saturday, 06/01. The purpose of Spring Clean-Up is to give property owners in the District an opportunity to get rid of unwanted items that Waste Management will not pick up as part of regular/normal weekly household trash collection. Most trash will be accepted as well as scrap metal and yard waste.

REUSABLE ITEMS - The GLSD also accepts gently used items that are not ready for the landfill. Our staff will facilitate the donation of these items to other people and/or organizations. We will not accept hazardous materials such as used oils, paints, batteries, tires, microwaves, recyclables and appliances containing fluids etc. Electronic waste (e-waste) will also not be accepted. If you are unsure whether an item will be accepted, please contact the GLSD at 920-295-4488 or paulettej@glakesd.com.

We reserve the right to turn away property owners who abuse the privilege of this special service.

The City of Princeton is planning to schedule an E-waste collection event for Saturday, August 3rd at the Princeton Public Works garage. Please contact the Princeton Clerk's office 920-295-6612 for more information. You do not have to be a resident of the city to take advantage of this event.

Green Lake County Clean Sweep will be held August 9, 2024, from 11 am to 5 pm at County Highway Facility (fairgrounds) 570 South St., Green Lake. Pre-registration is required. You can register online at Green Lake County Land Conservation Website. Please contact Green Lake County for more information, 920-294-4051.

