

SPRING 2026

FIELDS & SHORES

Official Newsletter of the Green Lake County Land Conservation Department

Arbor Day Breakfast Information

When: Friday, April 24th at 8AM

Where: Green Lake County Conference Center

W2511 WI-23, Green Lake WI, 54941

Cost: \$22 per attendee by April 10th.

Reservations after will be subject to a higher fee. Cash, credit, and check payments are accepted to the Land Conservation Department.

Green Lake County Native Plant Sale



or visit

greenlakecountynativeplantsale.square.site to shop our native plant sale!

Want help developing a plan, or not sure what mix is best for you? Please contact the office for some tips and assistance!

Save the Date! Arbor Day Celebration

April 24th, 2026 beginning at 8AM

It's that time of the year again! Please join us for the annual Land, Water, Parks, and Community Committee Breakfast to celebrate Arbor Day. Attendees can look forward to a delicious buffet style breakfast, educational presentation on woodland invasive species, a door prize drawing, and a complimentary blue spruce tree seedling.

Please RSVP to the Land Conservation Department by April 10th! We look forward to seeing you there!

From Lawn to Life – Plant Native!

Support your community by planting Wisconsin native plants!

Landscapes in Wisconsin aren't looking quite how they used to. This change in landscape increases flooding potential, allows for excess nutrients to end up in our water, and decreases suitable habitat for the wildlife that support our hobbies and careers. A simple way to improve your landscape would be to incorporate native plants!

Majority of Wisconsin's natives have deep root systems that support soil animals (microbes). These animals cycle nutrients before they have the opportunity to get into our lakes, streams, and groundwater. The more microbes in soil, the healthier the soil is. Healthy soil does a fantastic job infiltrating water, reducing water on the surface that flood our neighborhoods and farmland. Not only are the natives beautiful, but they support the natural food chain and attract animals that pollinate our gardens and crops.

Regardless of size, any addition of native plants to your landscape will do more help than you realize! From adding prairie strips to your farmland, creating a raingarden on your city lawn, making a pollinator pitstop, or putting natives across your shoreline, there is something all of us can do to benefit our community – people and wildlife alike.

Reminder: Farmland Preservation Checks

If you claim Farmland Preservation Tax Credits, you may be up for a spot-check! We do checks every 4 years to monitor soil erosion on fields and along waterbodies. We always call the landowners before the check. If you have more questions, please call the office.



Tree Planter Rental

We have a tree planter available for rent! This planter is good for those who are looking to do a great deal of tree planting. If you are interested, please contact the office.

Education & Outreach Spotlight

This past year, Liv has done a lot of programming to engage the public and encourage students to get involved in conservation. Over the fall, she did 9 Soil Health programs in schools, with ages ranging from 1st grade to seniors in high school. As a department, we did a stream study with Green Lake High school and presented to Princeton Elementary students at their school forest on drones, surveying, and macroinvertebrates. We also worked with Golden Sands RC&D on an invasive species removal workshop in Zobel Park.

This spring, there will be multiple presentations at the libraries around the county, all about the benefits to native planting! Along with that, there will be a native shoreline planting workshop at Sunset Park, in partnership with the Green Lake Association. All are welcome to these upcoming events!

Benefits to Native Planting:

- Caestecker Library – 4/10/26 from 10-11AM
- Markesan Library – 4/21/2026 from 5-6PM
- Princeton Library – 4/22/2026 from 6-7PM

Get Native with your Shoreline:

Sunset County Park on Saturday, June 13th from 10-11:30AM.

This workshop is for anyone who owns land on a shoreline, streambank, or simply enjoys learning about native plants! This event is completely outdoors, so please prepare for the weather. Water and snacks will be available. We will be actively planting, so wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty!

No-Till Drill Rental



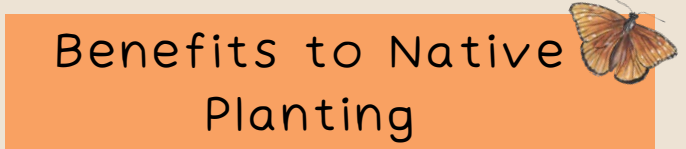
The LCD has a Great Plains Model 1006NT 10' drill available to rent for the purposes of no-till seeding, planting cover crops, pasture renovation, and more! There is a \$50 flat fee for a 2-day rental, with an additional \$8 per acre planted. For more information, call (920)-294-4051

Position Available!



FoxheadRAP is looking to add an executive director to their team! If you are interested in regenerative agriculture and connecting people to the land, this job is for you! This non-profit organization is all about growing local food sources, connecting the community to agriculture, preserving farms, and protecting the ecosystem.

If you'd like a further description or would like more details, please follow this link → apply before April 17th <https://foxheadag.org/about-foxrap/career-volunteer-opportunities/> or email grow@foxheadag.org.



Recent Construction

One of the most recent projects was the construction of a grassed waterway and diversion on a farm in the township of Manchester. In this part of the county, the soil is typically sandy. Sandy soils erode due to particle size and structure. They aren't as "sticky" as other soil types, so it's easy for water to dislodge the particles and carry them. But because of their size, the particles get deposited by water faster than a silt type soil. That is what happened here.

Rainwater and snow melt would dislodge the soil from where it was on the field and carry it until there wasn't enough force to move it along anymore. This caused a buildup of sand at the bottom of the field after every storm. With the implementation of these projects, water will be directed into the grassed waterway where the particles will settle out quicker, and the diversion will keep the water in the channel.

On top of this grassed waterway and diversion, the landowner has been adopting conservation practices, such as no-till and cover crops. Minimizing soil disturbance and keeping the ground covered will keep the soil where it should be, rather than have it carried away.



“Soil. Where it all Begins”

Each year, the Land Conservation Department hosts an art contest that encourages students K-12 to submit a poster based on a specific conservation topic. The topic this year was “Soil. Where it all Begins”. This theme inspired students to dig a little deeper into what lives in the soil and how important it is to our daily lives. In these posters, we were looking for the conservation message, creativity, and originality.

We received over 100 posters, covering 8 different schools and organizations throughout the county. From these posters, we picked the top three from each age division, and the first-place winner moved on to the area level. If they receive first at the area level, they move to State. This year, TWO Green Lake County posters moved on to the State level, and one of these posters placed third overall! All top 3 posters from each age division will be displayed at the Green Lake County Fair this summer!



K-1st Grade: State Qualifier



2-3rd Grade



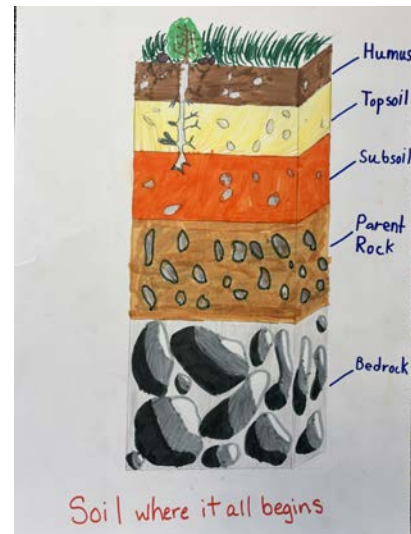
7-9th Grade



4-6th Grade



10-12th Grade: State Qualifier



Special Education



Staff Highlight!

Meet Heidi Weishaar, the Land Conservation Department's Administrative Assistant! Heidi is on her 12th year in her position. She is the first and last person you see in the office, always wishing you a good day as you go. Along with grant writing, contract creating, and sending out large mailings, Heidi works on our well-water testing program, youth poster contest, and organizing the Clean Sweep and Arbor Day Breakfast! She is great to have in the office as she is always willing to help you when you need it. Outside of work, Heidi enjoys "toodling" with her family and friends.

We want to hear from you!

If there is anything you want to learn more about, please feel free to give us suggestions! It could be anything from program information, best management practices, local farmer highlights, constructions projects, community and youth outreach, native plants, and more!

Please email ofischer@greenlakecountywi.gov with your suggestions, or if you'd like to be featured.

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Type in "Green Lake County Land Conservation Department" on the search bar or scan this QR code to go to our page!

If you want to learn more about our programs, cost-sharing opportunities, and other happenings in the department, please visit our page on the county website!



Land Conservation Department Staff and Contact Information

Todd Morris

County Conservationist
(920)294-4052
tmorris@greenlakecountywi.gov

Derek Kavanaugh

Soil Conservationist III
(920)294-4057
dkavanaugh@greenlakecountywi.gov

Jordan Dornfeld

Soil Conservationist II
(920)294-4054
jdornfeld@greenlakecountywi.gov

Heidi Weishaar

Administrative Assistant
(920)294-4051
hweishaar@greenlakecountywi.gov

Parker Richter

Soil Conservationist I
(920)294-4055
prichter@greenlakecountywi.gov

Olivia Fischer

Soil Conservationist I
(920)294-4053
ofischer@greenlakecountywi.gov

General

(920)294-4051
lcd@greenlakecountywi.gov

