

SUMMER 2026

FIELDS & SHORES

Official Newsletter of the Green Lake County Land
Conservation Department

Save the Date: Clean Sweep

Friday, August 14th from 11AM-5PM

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Clean Sweep event on Friday, August 14th! This free program is designed to help community members dispose of hazardous agricultural and household items responsibly.

Products such as fertilizers, pesticides, and cleaning sprays can create serious and irreversible damage to our ecosystem. When disposed of improperly, these products can contaminate our drinking water, degrade our soil, and poison our air. Let's all do our part in keeping the county safe from pollution by disposing waste the right way!

This event is by registration and for Green Lake County residents only. The drop off site is located at the Green Lake County Fairgrounds;

570 South St., Green Lake, WI 54941

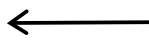
Please register here: <https://www.greenlakecountywi.gov/clean-sweep-registration-form/>

For a comprehensive list of allowed items, please visit our website or call our office.



Accepted Items:

Register here!



- agricultural chemicals
- lawn and garden products
- household cleaners
- poisons
- swimming pool chemicals
- oil-based paint
- antifreeze
- fluorescent bulbs
- + more!
- Tires of all sizes are accepted with a fee
- Check out our website for a detailed price list for tires

Green Lake Farmers Coalition

The Green Lake Farmers Coalition had a busy spring! Two field days were hosted by farmers in the group to teach others about the conservation practices they've implemented on their farms.

In April, Pete Badtke of Badtke Dairy LLC, located in the Big Green Lake Watershed, hosted a field day to display two fields of different cover crops. This was his first year planting winter camelina, which he drilled in with rye. In the adjacent field, he planted a multi-species mix of radish, turnip, sunflower, vetch, millet, buckwheat, berseem clover, crimson clover, and sorghum sudan grass. These species were picked to put nitrogen back into the soil, anchor soil, build organic matter, suppress weeds, and breakup compaction.



In mid-June, David Affeldt of Affeldt Acres Lake Farm hosted a field day where he discussed his first year strip-tilling. This farm has been no-tilling or using minimal tillage for over 20 years. They wanted to see if increasing the seed-soil contact will help their crops germinate faster and reduce the need for fertilizer applications, while keeping cover crop residue on majority of the field.

Dave also left a test strip of no-till corn in the same field so he can do a yield comparison at harvest. With strip-tillage being reliant on GPS, there was a bit of a learning curve, but he now knows what to do next season.

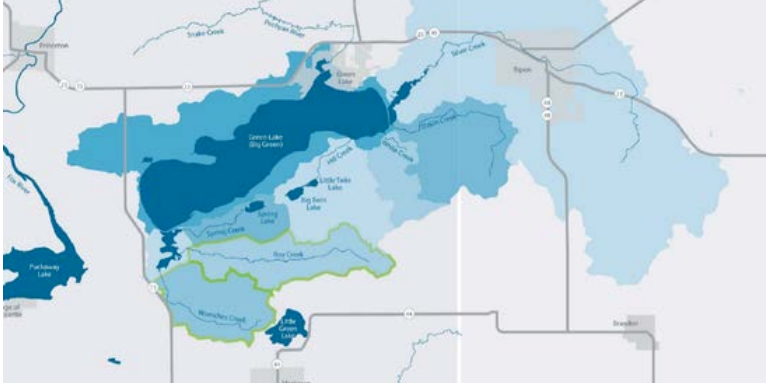
Events like these help spread ideas and start conversations amongst people who may not cross paths. Even if you rent your land or don't farm yourself, these events will help you understand what farmers are doing to better water quality and keep soil on the ground.

Be on the lookout for upcoming field days on their Facebook page: Search "[Green Lake Farmers Coalition](#)"



Recent Construction

In recent years, there has been a large effort to decrease phosphorus loading in Roy and Wuerches Creek watersheds, both sub watersheds located on the south side of Big Green Lake.



Roy and Wuerches Creek watersheds are areas of high phosphorus loading to Green Lake. The light soils, steep topography, and land use make it very susceptible to soil erosion. Landowners in this area have been putting in structural practices (water and sediment control basins, grade stabilization structures) and implementing cropping practices (no-till, cover crops) to help slow down or stop soil from entering waterways.

This spring, a landowner along Roy Creek allowed us to restore 2000 feet of streambank on their property. The land above the creek has slopes anywhere from 2%-35%, allowing rainwater or snowmelt to gain speed and pick up sediment as it makes its way to the creek. Intense rainfalls have been becoming exceedingly prevalent in Wisconsin, leading to larger amounts of water entering the creek more often. By stabilizing this eroding streambank, it is estimated that 80 lbs of phosphorus is saved from entering Green Lake each year.

Get Native with your Shoreline!

At the beginning of June, the Land Conservation team and the Green Lake Association hosted an event to show shoreline property owners what they could do to improve the lake ecosystem.

Native plants along the shoreline are the last line of defense for a body of water. Not only are they beautiful to look, but they attract pollinators, create food for wildlife, shade the water for fish habitat, protect against soil erosion, and absorb excess nutrients before they enter the lake or stream.

At this event, we went over how we chose the plant species, how to pick plants for soil type, layout design, and finished by planting! We had a great turnout which got landowners talking about implementing this on their own properties! We hope to do more events like these in the future.

We couldn't have done this event without the help of the Green Lake County Parks & Maintenance Department and the volunteers from Grande Cheese in Fond du Lac. They helped prep the garden so we would be ready for the event.



Visit us at the Fair!

We will have a booth set up at the Green Lake County Fair! There will be hands on activities for all ages, aquatic invasive species identification, informational handouts, and more! Don't forget to check out our Conservation Poster contest top 3 winners displayed on the back wall!

Staff Highlight!



If you've worked with the Land Conservation office before, you have probably met Jordan Dornfeld. Jordan has been a Soil Conservationist for the county for 11 years and grew up in the Town of Manchester. Being from this county and having a father who farms, Jordan's favorite part of the job is being able to help problem solve with the landowners he grew up around.

Jordan does a lot of the technical design work for the office. His most memorable project was a grade stabilization structure located on the Terrace of Big Green Lake. This project was unique to the office because of its location. We typically design for farm fields, but this structure is located in a residential area.

Outside of work, Jordan likes to bow hunt, golf, and help his dad and uncle on the farm.

Like/Follow us on Facebook!

Type in "Green Lake County Land Conservation Department" in 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!



General

(920)294-4051

lcd@greenlakecountywi.gov

