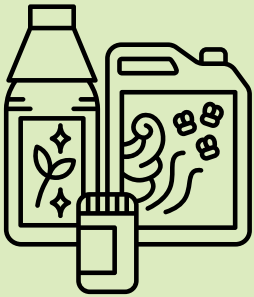


SUMMER 2025

FIELDS & SHORES

Official Newsletter of the Green Lake County Land
Conservation Department



Accepted Items:

- agricultural chemicals
- lawn and garden products
- household cleaners
- poisons
- swimming pool chemicals
- oil-based paint
- antifreeze
- fluorescent bulbs
- + more!

Check out our website for an in-depth list!

QR CODE TO CLEAN SWEEP REGISTRATION



Save the Date! Clean Sweep

Friday, August 8th 2025 from 11AM-5PM

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Clean Sweep event on Friday, August 8th! 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.

Save the Date! Green Lake County Fair

Thursday, July 31st - Sunday, August 3rd, 2025

The Green Lake County Fair is almost here! This year's theme is "Candyland", so expect lots of "sweet" learning opportunities and even more fun!

Lineup of Main Events:

Thursday, July 31st: Truck & Tractor Pull (\$10 admission fee)

Friday, August 1st: Truck & Tractor Pull (\$10 admission fee)

Concert – BuckNeck-Ed

Saturday, August 2nd: Concert – Smoke Road

Demolition Derby (\$10 admission fee)

General admission is free, and all are welcome!

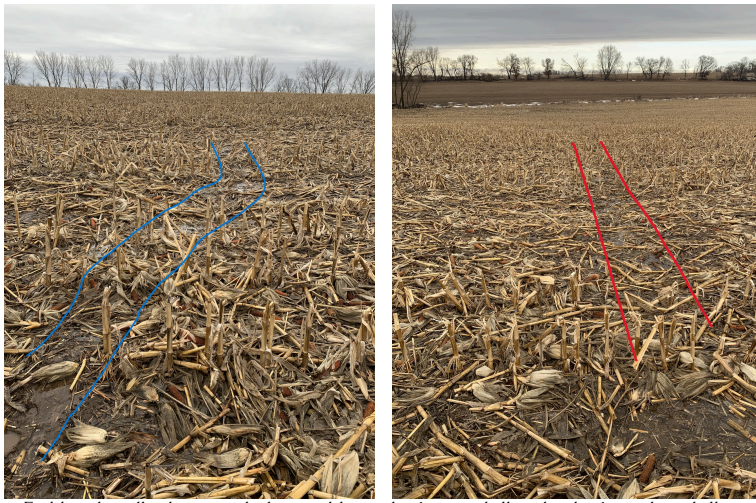


With questions: sgraff@greenlakecountywi.gov

Recent Construction

Farmable Terrace

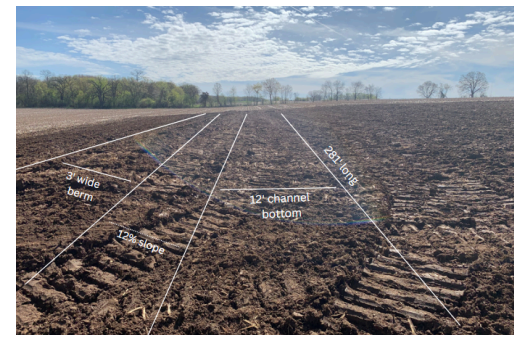
In February, we received a call from a farmer looking for a way to deal with a small gully starting in his field. We call this an ephemeral gully, which is a channel made by concentrated water flow and occurs after a rain event or during snow melt in easily erodible soils & steep slopes. These gullies can be filled in with farming equipment but will keep occurring after each rainstorm. They may not seem like much, but this type of erosion has the ability to wash out tons of precious topsoil with each runoff event.



Field with gully, drawn to help see: blue is looking uphill, red is looking downhill.

To combat this, the farmer asked if a terrace would work to get rid of this channel and direct the water to a stable outlet. There are multiple types of terraces, but in this case, the farmer didn't want to lose any croppable land. We decided that a farmable terrace would work well due to the slope of the field, length of the gully, and the volume and speed of water flowing through the channel.

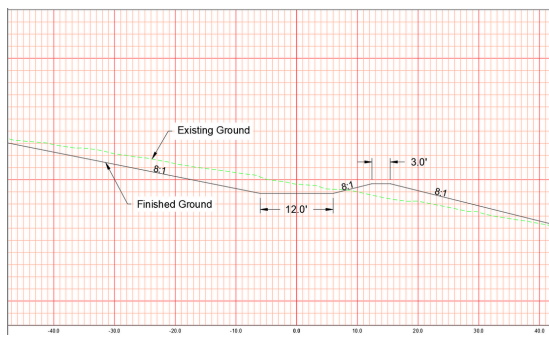
A terrace in this sense is a channel with a berm built down slope to intercept the flow of water from one area and redirect it into a stable outlet somewhere else. In this case, the stable outlet was a grassed ditch off the edge of the field where water naturally flows already. We made sure the side slopes weren't too steep for farming equipment, but that there was enough depth to contain water flow. This practice was installed at the beginning of May, just before planting.



Field right after construction with berm and channel finished.



Stable outlet where water will leave the field.



Profile view: channel on the left, berm on the right.

Soil Health w/ Cover Crops

With it already being the middle of summer, now would be a good time to start thinking of how you're going to protect your topsoil after harvest. As mentioned in previous newsletters, topsoil is very difficult to reestablish. Not only is it difficult to replace, but it carries nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus to our water, creating human health and environmental concerns.

There are 5 soil health principles to help landowners and farmers protect the most precious resource they have – healthy, productive soil.

Minimize Soil Disturbance:

With tillage comes the breakdown of natural soil structure. Tillage removes pore spaces in the soil resulting in water and wind erosion, organic matter depletion, and compaction. We offer numerous cost-share opportunities for reduced/no till implementation in the county. Give us a call if you'd like to learn more!

Maximize Plant Diversity

A farm is a working ecosystem, so by adding crop rotations, intercropping, and cover crops, the soil food web will work better, creating better nutrient cycling.

Maximize Soil Cover:

By leaving leftovers from cash crops or planting covers, you can help your soil become healthier. Soil cover helps with controlling erosion, keeps moisture in the ground, keeps soil temperature cool, and makes compaction less likely to occur. If you're thinking about trying out cover crops, or already have been implementing them, there may be some cost-share opportunities for you!



Maintain Living Roots:

By planting different species that grow in cool and warm seasons, the microbes in the soil will always have something to munch on before and after harvest. These guys are so important for the catch and release of nutrients.

Integrate Livestock:

All healthy ecosystems include animals, so it would make sense that integrating livestock in your fields would be beneficial. Although this is not possible for all, it may be something to think about. We are always here to help you explore your options!



No-till soybeans into corn residue from a farm in the Green Lake Watershed.

Protect Green Lake from Aquatic Invasive Species!

With summer comes boating, fishing, and fun, but also comes with the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species to different lakes across Wisconsin.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) can be incredibly destructive to the ecosystem of the lake. AIS already identified in Green Lake are zebra mussels, German carp, Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, rusty crayfish, and purple loosestrife. These species out-compete native species for food and habitat, ruin piers, restrict boats from moving in the water, and exacerbate weed growth.

Boat-washing stations use pressurized water to decontaminate boats and other watercraft from carrying invasive species from one body of water to another. It's crucial to clean the boat before entering the water, in case it is carrying any unwanted hitch hikers. There is also a waterless cleaning system which acts as a vacuum that can clean outside and inside the boat.

The boat washing station is located at Dodge Memorial County Park, and there is a waterless cleaning system located at Horner's Landing on the south side of Green Lake. We encourage you to use these tools before entering the water. The future health of Big Green Lake relies on all of us working together to stop the spread.



Boat washing station at Dodge Memorial County Park.

Aquatic Invasive Species Fast Facts

- The spiny water-flea can live on a boat for 6 hours if completely dry, but their eggs can survive months.
- Eurasian watermilfoil was introduced to Green Lake in the 1940s.
- Carp were first introduced as a cheap food source by the U.S. Government.
- One female carp can lay a million eggs per year!
- Zebra mussels were first introduced to the Great Lakes by water carried over by cargo ships.

New to the Green Lake Association

John Strauser was recently hired as the Program Manager for the Green Lake Association. John brings a valuable combination of academic training, hands-on conservation experience, and practical leadership that will work to improve water quality outcomes in the Green Lake Watershed.

John holds a PhD in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Most recently, he served as a Scientist at UW-Madison's College of Agricultural & Life Sciences. His work focuses on how communities and landscapes influence each other as we seek to develop healthier socio-ecological systems. At the GLA, John will lead water quality sampling and fieldwork, manage stream restoration projects, build strong relationships with local landowners, and support the development and implementation of grants. If you are in the community and would like to discuss conservation in the Green Lake Watershed, please contact John. He would love to meet you and discuss how we can work toward an exciting future together.





The yellow figure is the Puckaway Watershed, and the red outline is Lake Puckaway.

Important Watershed Terms:

drainage lake: a type of lake that has both an inlet and an outlet, with streams being the primary source of water.

floodplain: the flat land next to a river or stream that is periodically flooded.

hydrologic unit code (HUC): a system used to classify watersheds by size and scale. The smaller the number, the larger the watershed.

tributary: a river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake.

upland: a place of higher elevation where river originates.

Where does Water Go?

With 14 named lakes in the county, you may hear the term “watershed” quite often. A watershed is a network of creeks, streams, and rivers that empty into the same body of water, such as a lake. You can think of a watershed as like a depression or cavity – the streams and rivers are at the top of the depression and make their way down to the bottom.

An example of a watershed in the county is the Lake Puckaway watershed. Puckaway is a drainage lake that is located in both Marquette and Green Lake County and has a large watershed of over 422,000 acres. This means that all surface water within this area will end up in the lake at some point. Lake Puckaway is part of an even larger watershed. Part of the Upper Fox River, the water going through Puckaway will ultimately end up in Lake Winnebago.

Water can travel from near to far places, carrying pollutants with it. Contaminants from fields, lawns, roads, and businesses can start in one area close by and end up in a community far away. That’s why it is important to develop a nutrient management plan and implement conservation farming practices, so we can not only help our community, but others as well. By controlling when/what we put on our fields & how we farm, we can minimize the spread of excess nutrients and sediment from negatively affecting our quality of water.

Sign up to keep receiving this newsletter!

Visit our website



www.greenlakecountywi.gov/connect-with-us/



Follow us on Facebook!

Look up: Green Lake County
Land Conservation Department
or copy and paste this site:
<https://www.facebook.com/GreenLakeCountyLCD>



<https://www.greenlakecountywi.gov/departments/land-conservation/>

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