

WINTER 2026

FIELDS & SHORES

Official Newsletter of the Green Lake County Land Conservation Department

Nutrient Management plans are a great way to protect the environment around us while increasing on-farm profitability!

Register Here:



www.greenlakecountywi.gov/nutrient-management-training-registration/

Submit your plan to Green Lake County!

For those of you having your NMP's written by a CCA or are writing your own using V3 of SnapPlus, please make sure you submit your plan to Green Lake County!

Search "Green Lake County Land Conservation" in the user group section of V3 to share your plan with us. You will still have to submit a signed 590 Checklist to us via email or mail.

If you need assistance with this, please let us know. We will still be accepting V2 plans in 2026.

Save the Date! Nutrient Management Farmer Education

February 19th, 2026 at 10AM-3PM

Join us on Thursday, February 19th, 2026, for our annual Nutrient Management planning & training session. During this training, you will learn about the importance of having a 590-compliant nutrient management plan, criteria needed, and a brief "how to" use SnapPlus Version 3. By the end of the training, you will be certified to write your own plan for your farm.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided. The first 22 applicants will receive a \$500 stipend after a plan is submitted to the Land Conservation office. Stipend is issued to one person per farm. Sign up by February 17th. NMP's are due to the county by April 15th, 2026.

Funding Opportunities

Funding is available for the implementation of certain practices in Big Green Lake Watershed and other places throughout the county. If you are interested, please contact the office before March 15th, 2026.

Big Green Lake Watershed:

- Buffers: Harvestable buffers trap sediment and excess nutrients from entering surface water. Annual payments differ depending on location. Buffer must encompass 50% cropland.
- Cover Crop/Residue Management: No-till and/or cover crop reimbursement is available in the watershed through the Green Lake Sanitary District. Prices vary depending on practice.

County Wide:

- Nutrient Management & Cover Crops: Cost-sharing is available to support the implementation of a nutrient management plan. \$10 per acre for 4 years is paid upfront the first year you submit to us. There is also money available for the implementation of cover crops.
- Structural Practices: 70% of project cost is covered for practices such as grade-stabilization structures, streambank/shoreline restoration, water and sediment control basins and more. If you have erosion concerns, please reach out.

Recent Construction



Before: Southern Field right before construction.

These practices may look familiar as they have been mentioned in past newsletters. This one project features 3 different structural practices to prevent soil erosion happening in the fields.

There were two things happening in these fields that were of concern. The first started from the South (pictured above), where a small channel, known as an ephemeral gully, was recurring. This may not seem like much, but channelized water in a field can transfer tons of topsoil and nutrients to areas where it doesn't belong. The solution to this was to create a terrace, using a berm and channel (shown top right), and direct the water to a grassed waterway on the edge of the field where it can flow downhill with more stability to the road ditch, entering a culvert that flows under the road.

The second issue was that the grassed waterway previously in



Before: Northern Field right before construction.



After: Southern Field right after construction.

the northern field (below, left) was not long enough, nor was it working as needed. The culvert that captured the water from the southern field and transferred it under the road to the northern field was about 50 feet away from the old grassed waterway, resulting in a washout and another gully.

The solution to this was to extend the grassed waterway across the field (bottom right), as well as add a plunge pool where the water outlets under the road from the southern field. The plunge pool is lined with rock to prevent erosion from occurring by fast moving stormwater, slowing it down before it reaches the waterway. The water that travels through the grassed waterway also outlets into another rock plunge pool.

These practices were installed during the Fall of 2025 in the Big Green Lake Watershed.



After: Northern Field right after construction.

Producer-Led Watershed Group

Next Meeting: January 29th, 2026 11AM-1PM

Producer-led groups are exactly what they sound like – the producers are in charge! The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) offers funding to groups like this so that farmers in the group can decide what conservation practices they find important to implement. The goal is to have farmers determine what they want to promote to protect water quality and soil health in the targeted watershed (the Upper Fox in this case).

The next meeting is January 29th from 11AM to 1PM in the Green Lake County Government Center's Extension room. There will be decisions made on the governing structure, the membership process, solidifying what practices the group is most interested in cost-sharing, and the rates of those practices. All decisions are made by the producers, which is the best part!

Lunch will be provided. We really hope to see you there! If interested, please contact Pete Badtke (President) at (920)229-2936, petebadtke@gmail.com or Liv (GLC LCD) at (920)299-0585, ofischer@greenlakecountywi.gov.

Benefits to Shoreline Planting



Having native plants along your shoreline is not just for aesthetic purposes. Although they look gorgeous, they do have more practical uses too.

I'm sure all landowners along the shoreline have had problems with geese. Geese love short, mowed lawns to get out of the water on. They leave large amounts of feces behind, causing all sorts of water quality issues such as E. coli and harmful algae blooms. Geese don't like exiting the water in tall grass. By planting natives, you're deterring geese from your property.

Native plants will help to stabilize your shoreline. Waves from boats, or shifting of ice, cause soil particles to dislodge from one another which leads to erosion. By planting natives, you are allowing the long roots to hold soil in place and letting plants dissipate the energy from waves.

If you want a variety of wildlife on your property, a native shoreline will definitely help you achieve that. From birds, to butterflies, to mammals, your native shoreline will attract all sorts of creatures (besides the geese).

There are certain native plant species that work better in wet areas. Some of these plants include boneset, blue vervain, and swamp milkweed.

If you are interested in a shoreline planting project and would like some advice, please reach out to our office!

**REMINDER:
Native Plant
Sale**



www.greenlakecountynativeplantsale.square.site



GLC's Native Plant Sale!

It's never too early to start thinking about filling your yard with Wisconsin natives! Whether it's adding a small section of pollinator friendly plants near your vegetable garden, restoring a native prairie on your land, or adding gorgeous vegetation along your shoreline, the plants from the Green Lake County plant sale will add value to your land.

When planting natives, you're not only adding to your view, but you're building habitat for wildlife! Birds eat the seeds in the fall, native bees hide in the stems during the winter, butterflies eat the nectar from the flowers all summer, and beneficial insects live around the roots helping cycle nutrients.

Your purchase goes to providing scholarships to future conservationists to attend a Youth Conservation Camp in

the summer. The sale starts February 2nd and ends May 1st. Check out the Land Conservation Department on the Green Lake County website for a link to the sale!



Plants from last year's plant sale!



Staff Highlight!

Another long-time employee with Green Lake County's Land Conservation Department is Derek Kavanaugh. He has been with the department for 24 years and specializes in shoreline and streambank restorations, though he has worked on a plethora of projects. His favorite part of the job is working with Green Lake County citizens to address issues they are having on their properties, especially if they are on any of the lakes. The Lake Puckaway breakwater that was installed in 2023 has been his favorite project to work on. The cool thing about this project was that it made an immediate impact on the shoreline of the lake, it was unique, added habitat for aquatic life and shoreland birds, and was highly visible to everyone.

In his free time, he likes to hunt, fish, and remodel homes.



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!



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