RESOLUTION NUMBER 23-2026

Resolution Recognizing Big Green Lake's Economic Impact upon Green Lake County

The County Board of Supervisors of Green Lake County, Green Lake, Wisconsin, duly assembled at its regular meeting begun on the 20th day of October 2026, does resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, Green Lake County is home to an abundance of water resources in the form of lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, clean water is essential to life, health, and the well-being of families, ecosystems, and lands and is the foundation of a vibrant community, economy, and high-quality life; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin holds all natural, navigable waters in public trust for use by all; and

Fiscal note is N/A.

A majority vote is needed to pass.

Roll Call on Resolution No. 23-2026

Ayes 16, Nays 0, Absent 2, Abstain 0
Vacant 1
Passed and Adopted/~~Rejected~~ this 20th day of October, 2026.

/s/ David Abendroth
County Board Chairman

/s/ Samantha Stobbe
ATTEST: County Clerk
Approve as to Form:

/s/ Jeff Mann
Corporation Counsel

Submitted by Land, Water, Parks & Community Committee:

/s/ Bill Boutwell
Bill Boutwell, Chair

/s/ Mike Skivington
Mike Skivington

/s/ Nancy Hiestand
Nancy Hiestand

/s/ David Albright
David Albright

/s/ Chuck Buss
Chuck Buss

WHEREAS, Green Lake County citizens are affected by a variety of water resource issues, including: nitrate contamination; bacteria; PFAS; toxic algae blooms; flooding; and excess sediment & nutrients; and

WHEREAS, a study on the economic impact of Big Green Lake has shown that property values are directly tied to the clarity of the water, with depletion in water quality reducing recreational opportunities and adversely impacting the tourism industry, property values, and local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, studies estimate that Big Green Lake contributes to more than $100 million in annual economic activity and over 1,000 jobs in and around Green Lake County; and

WHEREAS, the Land Conservation Department is directly involved in local and regional surface and groundwater protection efforts and is statutorily charged with addressing these topics; and

WHEREAS, Green Lake County staff are active participants on the Green Lake Management Planning Team (LMPT).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Green Lake County Board of Supervisors supports the right to clean water to protect human health, the environment, and the cultural and natural heritage of Wisconsin for the citizens of Green Lake County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in recognition of this right to clean water, that actions, policies, plans, and procedures of the County reflect the intent to conserve, protect, and restore clean water; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Green Lake County expects that the Governor of Wisconsin, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, members of the Wisconsin Legislature, and all locally elected officials support programs and adequately fund staff to allow Green Lake County to protect surface and groundwater for current and future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Green Lake County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution, if approved, to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, members of the State Legislature representing Green Lake County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.