



## Special Announcement

April 30, 2021

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## Special Announcement

### **It's Official!**

We are now a registered nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization called the **14 Mile Watershed Alliance**. This allows us to broaden our outreach to the entire 14 mile watershed.

Please read the letter from our President below.



[14milewatershed.org](http://14milewatershed.org)

**Dear Friend of the 14 Mile Watershed,**

We've had evidence of Blue-Green Algae (BGA) in our Rome area lakes since 2016 when pets died and people were sickened. As you know, our lakes sit at the end of the 14 Mile Watershed which begins at Plainfield, nearly 30 miles upstream. On average, 23.4 million gallons flow through our watershed daily, so we know the solution to our BGA and water quality issues involves many stakeholders, including you.

Lakes-area volunteers have invested over 4,000 hours the past 4 years testing soil and water to identify the cause, and suggest improvements we can all do. We received the state DNR Secretary/Directors award for our efforts and were involved in applying for the Nine Key Element Plan for restoration of our watershed recently approved by the EPA. It's a 10-year plan involving one to three-year improvement milestones for agriculture and lake shorelines throughout the four counties (Adams, Wood, Portage and Waushara) and 55,000 acres of watershed. We worked with Tri-Lakes, Adams County and the DNR to obtain grants this past fall to fund water testing and to fund an experienced person to oversee the plan for at least three years.

We'll be out in the community this spring and summer educating and promoting "Clean Water Cooperators", and we're focusing on building relationships with our upstream neighbors to encourage their involvement. With all there is to do, we need your help as we increase our reach into the upstream watershed and begin working more closely with our lakes community. We'll be starting a denitrification project upstream this spring to reduce nitrates flowing into the lakes and assisting with

Healthy Lakes projects to reduce runoff and shoreline erosion as well as improve fish habitat.

If you have the time and ability, we would welcome your involvement on one of our standing committees. And, as we've recently expanded our reach into the watershed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, now called the **14 Mile Watershed Alliance**, your tax-deductible monetary donations could help fund outreach and education activities as well as watershed improvement projects.

So we are asking for your help. Think about what we are leaving for future generations. Have a look at our new website at [14milewatershed.org](http://14milewatershed.org) and decide if you too want to be a part of the solution. While there, you may volunteer to help, or support us through a donation by check, credit card or PayPal. **We appreciate your support.**

Thank you,

Don Ystad, President  
14 Mile Watershed Alliance

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**Join the 14 Mile Watershed Alliance Meeting Monday, May 10th at 2:00 p.m.**

Our next 14-mile Watershed Alliance meeting is Monday, May 10th at 2:00 p.m. Visit our website at [14milewatershed.org](http://14milewatershed.org) in early May for meeting agenda and Zoom link.

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*The 14 Mile Watershed Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of surface and groundwater in the 14 Mile Creek Watershed in central Wisconsin. See us at [14milewatershed.org](http://14milewatershed.org) or <https://www.facebook.com/14MileWatershed>*

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