

The Lakes Advisory Committee Is Here To Move Forward.



The Lakes Advisory Committee, a volunteer group committed to preserving the long-term health and enjoyment of Trippe and Cravath Lakes, respectfully urges the City Council to pass a resolution initiating the creation of a City of Whitewater Lakes District for Trippe and Cravath.

Forming a lakes district under Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin Statutes would establish a formal and democratic structure to guide efforts in maintaining water quality, protecting shorelines, enhancing recreational opportunities, and ensuring environmental sustainability.



Sample Referendum

- **Sample Question:** Creation of Cravath and Trippe Lake District. Shall the City of Whitewater create a Cravath and Trippe Lakes District, pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Chapter 33, subchapter IV, encompassing all areas within the city limits, with an initial budget not to exceed \$200,000 for the purpose of supporting environmental restoration, maintenance, and recreational enhancement of Cravath and Trippe Lakes?
- **Timing:** Spring Election: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

2024 Wisconsin Statutes & Annotations

Chapter 33 - Public inland waters.

33.35 - Dissolution of districts

- **33.35 Dissolution of districts.** A petition to dissolve an existing district created under this chapter may not be considered at an annual meeting of the district unless an elector within the district or a property owner within the district notifies the district board of commissioners in writing at least 90 days before the annual meeting that the elector or property owner intends to petition for dissolution at that annual meeting. The notice of the annual meeting must include a statement that a petition to dissolve the district will be considered. The district may be dissolved upon a two-thirds vote of the electors and property owners present at the annual meeting. The county board shall by order dissolve the district following receipt of the petition if the county board finds that one or more of the standards for the creation of a district under s. 33.26 (3) are not met. The order for dissolution shall be conditioned upon proper petition to the circuit court and appointment of a receiver to administer the winding up of the district under the supervision of the court and a final order of the court. The attorney general shall represent the state and shall be a party to every dissolution proceeding where state money is involved.

Budget Sample & Borrowing

Sample Lake District Budget

Cravath and Trippe Lakes
2026 Budget Summary

	Proposed
Revenues	
Tax Assessments	\$ 200,000.00
Total Revenues	\$ 200,000.00
Expenditures/Appropriations	
Aquatic plant control	\$ 5,000.00
Cost sharing with city for piers	\$ 29,000.00
Shoreline Restoration (Erosion control & buffer zones)	\$ 10,000.00
Harvesting/Dredging	\$ 84,500.00
Harvesting/Dredging Fund	\$ 20,000.00
Matching Grant Funds	\$ 15,000.00
Insurance	\$ 2,000.00
Office Costs (Copying/Postage/Supplies)	\$ 1,500.00
Cost sharing with city for lakes management plans	\$ 19,000.00
Public Outreach & Education (Newsletters, Workshops)	\$ 3,000.00
Fish stocking	\$ 5,000.00
Wildlife management (example: Carp)	\$ 2,000.00
Permit Fees	\$ 2,500.00
Water Quality Testing	\$ 1,500.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 200,000.00
Non-lapsible fund*	
Harvesting& Dredge Projects	\$ 20,000.00

* A non-lapsible fund may be established by the voters at an annual meeting in order to finance specifically identified capital cost and for maintenance of capital equipment

- The City may not borrow money for the District as the District has its own borrowing power under Wis. Stat. 33.31 ((1) Every district may borrow money and use any other financing method prescribed by law.)
- The Lake District can finance a capital project work with the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL). This is a state agency that lends to local governments, government units, and school districts. Lake Districts may apply for up to \$10,000,000 annually from the BCPL.
- The District's debt limit is equal to 5% of the equalized valuation of the district.

Riparian Owners Only- Trippe Lake

Current Riparian Owners

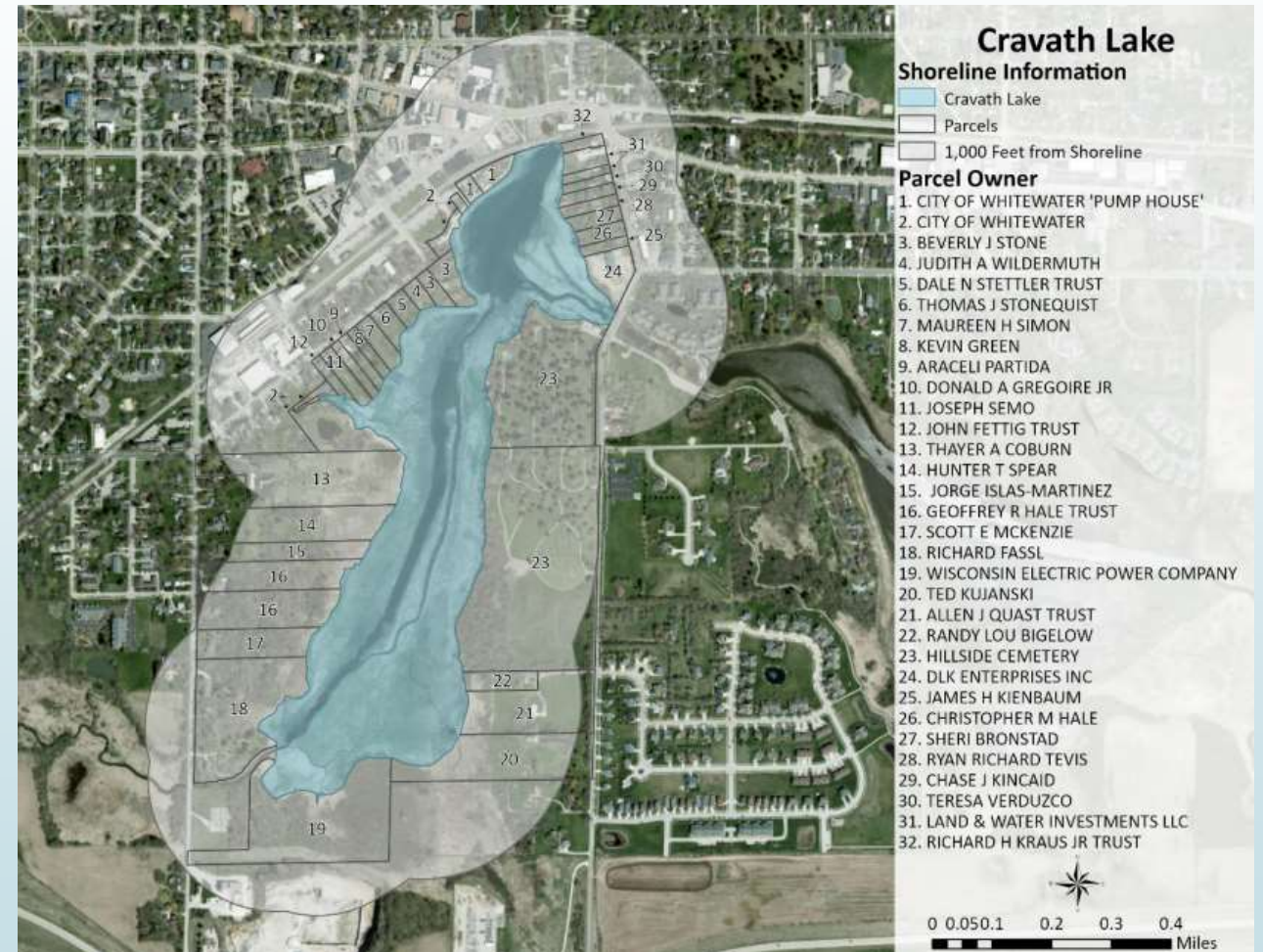
- Aggregate estimated property value based on information gathered from Walworth County GIS 2024.
- Trippe Lake = \$10,175,300



Riparian Owners Only – Cravath Lake

Current Riparian Owners

- Aggregate estimated property value based on information gathered from Walworth County GIS 2024.
- Cravath Lake = \$10,527,800



Riparian Owner Only Budget

Charges to riparian owners only with the levy almost at it's max, the budget is around \$51,000

Lake District Tax Calculation			
10,527,800	Cravath		
10,175,300	Trippe		
20,703,100	Total Assessed Value For Both Lakes		
\$ 51,000.00	Budget		
0.002463399	Mill Rate		
\$ 2.46	Per Thousand of Assessed Value		
Assessed Value	Tax Increase		
150,000	\$	369.51	
200,000	\$	492.68	
250,000	\$	615.85	
300,000	\$	739.02	

Numbers formulated from 2024
Walworth County GIS



Reasons Why A Cravath & Trippe Lake District is the best choice for the City of Whitewater!

- Everyone has the opportunity to enjoy both lakes
- People voting know where the money is being spent
- The Lakes District oversees the budget and projects
- A Lake District is the only way to insure that at least four times a year, an elected body holds a public meeting dedicated to discussion of the lakes.
- A well-developed lake district can attract tourists, boosting local businesses such as restaurants, shops, and tour services, thereby stimulating the economy
- Incorporating a lake district into a city's design not only enhances the urban environment but also contributes to the well-being of its residents and the sustainability of the city

A lake is more than just water — it's a living part of our community