

# WHY IS THE LAKES ADVISORY COMMITTEE HERE TONIGHT

- As a volunteer group dedicated to the long-term health and enjoyment of Trippe and Cravath lakes, the lakes advisory committee respectfully requests that the City Council pass a resolution to initiate the formation of a City of Whitewater Trippe & Cravath lakes district. Establishing a lakes district under Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin Statutes would provide a formal, democratic framework for managing the lake's water quality, shoreline, recreational use, and environmental sustainability.
- A lakes district allows all stakeholders—lakefront property owners, residents, and local governments—to participate in the decision-making process, ensuring that lakes management is transparent, fair, and responsive to the needs of the community. It also opens the door to long-term funding solutions, including the ability to apply for state grants and levies approved by lakes district members for vital improvement projects.
- Creating a lakes district is a proactive step that empowers local citizens to work collaboratively with the city and surrounding areas to preserve and protect one of our community's most valuable natural resources—for today and for future generations.
  - As of 2024 there are 4 lake districts in Jefferson County and 10 in Walworth County.



# WHO WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY OF WHITEWATER TRIPPE & CRAVATH LAKES DISTRICTS?

- The Lakes Advisory Committee is recommending the entire City of Whitewater be included as a City of Whitewater Trippe & Cravath Lakes District.





# WHAT IS THE MAX LEVY THAT CAN BE CHARGED

- Lakes district taxes are capped at the rate of 2.5 mills or \$2.50 per \$1,000 of equalized valuation. Wis Stat 33.30(4)(a)

Home Value	Amount Charged
\$100,000	\$250.00
\$200,000	\$500.00
\$300,000	\$750.00

# WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF A \$250,000 BUDGET

- To reach an example \$250,000 budget, residents could see an estimated \$0.26 per thousand of assessed value to their annual tax bill. **There is a maximum levy amount, BUT there is no minimum levy amount. The budget could be voted at a zero dollar amount.**

Home Value	Amount Charged
\$100,000	\$26.00
\$200,000	\$52.00
\$300,000	\$78.00



# WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AS CITY COUNCIL

- Once city council passes a resolution to create a city lakes district, your role doesn't end there — city council typically takes on oversight, coordination, and support duties to ensure the lake district functions as intended.

## Establishment of the Lake District

- **Governing Body as Commissioners:** Upon establishment, the city council itself serves as the board of commissioners for the lakes district. This means the council directly oversees the district's operations and decision-making processes.
  - The city council is required to provide for an election of the board of commissioners if a petition requesting that form of governance is filed. The petition must be signed by at least 20% of property owners within the district. Upon presentation of such a petition, an election must be held at the next annual or special meeting of the district, whichever occurs first. Most lakes districts have five commissioners. Three members are elected from the residents or property owners within the district. The other two commissioners are appointed by the local units of government. The new board of commissioners will become effective immediately after the election.
  - Immediately following each annual meeting, the board of commissioners is required to meet to elect a chair, secretary and treasurer from board members to serve for one-year terms. Only commissioners may hold these offices.



# WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AS CITY COUNCIL

## Governance and Operations

- **Annual Meetings:** The district is required to hold annual meetings between May 22 and September 8 each year. During these meetings, property owners and residents discuss and vote on key matters such as budgets, tax levies, and major projects.
- **Budget Approval:** The city council, acting as the board of commissioners, is responsible for approving the district's annual budget, which is funded through tax levies or special assessments
  - The annual budget will be set on the first meeting, therefore setting cost. The budget is approved by majority vote of the residents and landowners, so you set the budget.
  - For example , if the budget were to be set at \$250,000, residents could see an estimated \$0.26 per thousand of assessed value to their annual tax bill. A home assessed at \$100,000 would see an estimated \$26 a year increase. A home assessed value at \$200,000 would see an estimate of \$52.
  - There is a maximum levy amount, BUT there is no minimum levy amount. The budget could be voted at a zero dollar amount.
  - The statutes do not specify the date a lake districts budget should start. Most lake district budgets operate on the calendar year.



# LAKES DISTRICT & PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY

- **Shared Governance & Representation**
  - Lake districts often include representatives from local municipalities, like a city council member on their board of commissioners.
  - This ensures the city has a voice in decisions about lake management, zoning, and budget priorities.
- **Planning & Zoning Coordination**
  - The city government handles zoning and land use around the lake, while the lakes district provides input to ensure developments don't harm water quality or natural habitats.
  - Joint reviews of building permits or shoreline developments can be conducted to align goals.
- **Environmental Projects**
  - They may partner on grants and funding for dredging, weed control, stormwater runoff improvements, or conservation efforts.
  - Example: A city might handle stormwater infrastructure upgrades while the lakes district focuses on shoreline restoration.
- **Public Services and Infrastructure**
  - The city maintains roads, parks, and public access points around the lake, often in coordination with the lakes district to balance recreation and conservation.
- **Tourism & Events**
  - Both entities might co-sponsor events like fishing tournaments, lake festivals, or educational programs.
  - Promoting lakes tourism can benefit the local economy, so marketing and infrastructure planning are often joint efforts.
- **Communication & Public Involvement**
  - Regular public meetings, newsletters, and joint public education efforts help engage residents and stakeholders.
  - Emergency communication and policy updates (e.g., lake level changes, invasive species alerts) are sometimes coordinated.



# WHERE WE ARE IN OUR TIMELINE





# WHAT HAS THE LAKES ADVISORY COMMITTEE DONE TO GET TO THIS POINT?

2024



2025

**Together for Healthy Lakes Educational Listening Sessions**

City of **WHITewater** Parks & Recreation | [www.wwparks.org/lakes](http://www.wwparks.org/lakes)

**Juntos por Lagos Saludables Sesiones de Escucha Educativa**

**Public Listening Sessions Sesiones de Escucha Pública**

The City of Whitewater Lakes Advisory Committee is hosting informational sessions to increase awareness regarding the upcoming City of Whitewater Trippe & Cravath Lake District resolution, which will be presented to the City Council on May 6, 2025.	<b>March 12</b>	Starin Park Community Building Edificio Comunitario del Starin Park 504 W. Starin Rd. Whitewater, WI 53190	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>
El Comité Asesor de la Ciudad de Whitewater Lakes está organizando sesiones informativas para aumentar la conciencia sobre la próxima resolución del Distrito de Trippe y Cravath Lakes de la Ciudad de Whitewater, que se presentará al Concejo Municipal el 6 de mayo de 2025.	<b>March 20</b>	Cravath Lakefront Building Edificio Cravath Lakefront 341 S. Fremont St. Whitewater, WI 53190	<b>10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.</b>
	<b>April 5</b>	Municipal Building - 1st Floor Edificio Municipal - Primer Piso 312 W Whitewater St. Whitewater, WI 53190	<b>10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.</b>

\*Monthly meetings to move forward with goal setting, event planning, addressing concerns made by residents, protect and improve lakes environment



# TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY LAKES EDUCATION SESSIONS SUMMARY

Date	Location	Time	# Attended	Lives on a body of water	Does Not live on the water
Wednesday, March 12	Starin Park Community Building	11:30am	23	11	12
Thursday, March 20	Cravath Lakefront Building	10:00am	5	1	4
Thursday, March 20	Cravath Lakefront Building	6:00pm	6	3	3
Saturday, April 5	City Hall	10:00am	13	10	3
Saturday, April 5	City Hall	6:00pm	2	2	0



# MOST COMMON QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS ASKED AT PUBLIC EDUCATION SESSIONS

- March 12<sup>th</sup> Session

- Statement: Renters voting could cause trouble voting against landlords.
- Questions: Is the city planning to dredge more locations? What are we doing about the Geese? Can we remove the carp?
  - Response Given: The city does not have a permit for additional dredging at this time. Geese control is on the radar and the swan program will be placed out again this year. The committee is looking into organizing a Carp tournament.
- Question: Will the DNR let you take out all the cattail?
  - Response: The Committee would like to restore the shoreline back to its state before the dredging took place. They will work with the DNR to approve adequate and safe amount of cattail removal.
- Question: Will the Dam come out?
  - Response: No
- Question: What is the timeline for the Annual Meeting to take place?
  - Response: The first meeting is required to take place between May 22- September 8



- **March 12<sup>th</sup> Session**

- Statement: We would like to be able to put in kayaks at the south end of Cravath.
- Question: Why were the swans in the lake?
  - Response: The city placed the swans in Cravath to experiment on keeping the Geese away from the shoreline, and pooping on the park sidewalks.
- Statement: I hope we can get something going!
- Statement: The city messed it up, we shouldn't have to pay to fix it!
- Statement: Lake Districts are great, power back to the people.
- Statement: When will our taxes stop going up!

- **March 20<sup>th</sup> 10am Session**

- Question: Can you clean up the creek below the Dam in Trippe Lake, lots of debris & fishing line?
  - Response: We most certainly can!
- Question: Can you replace the rocks under the railroad bridge?
  - Response: City staff will communicate with the DNR on rock replacement.



- **March 20<sup>th</sup> 10am Session**

- Question: Who put the swans in Cravath?
  - Response: City staff put in the swans to help encourage geese away from the shoreline and park walk ways.
- Statement: Mailers are helpful getting information to the public.
- Statement: Please open up the areas to fish by the 5 flags by cleaning up the shoreline.
- Statement: Cattails are beneficial to muskrats!
- Statement: You might want to check out the west end of Cravath, there is a concrete footing trapping turtles.

- **March 20<sup>th</sup> 6pm Session**

- Question: Who cleaned up the cattail by the Dam?
  - Response: City staff removed some stuck cattail obstructing flow of the spillway.
- Statement: It would be fun for the swans to wear a swan cam for fun videos!
- Statement: I would like to see the old swimming hole at Trippe back.



- **March 20<sup>th</sup> 6pm Session**

- Question: Are the lakes a tourism draw?
  - Response: The city has seen an increase in special events applications for the use of Cravath Lakefront due to the aesthetics of the lake. Both parks are consistently booked during graduation and good weather months for family gatherings.
- Statement: It would be great to have a walking path around both lakes for the community.
- Question: Will the lake district encompass the creeks?
  - Response: The district can scope and fund projects beyond the boundary of the lake district; arguably, that would be better off happening upstream of the lakes, but some districts do have projects downstream as well. Upstream, the district would want to work on protecting healthy watershed areas and restoring areas that need work, with a goal of reducing nutrient and sediment loads into the lake.
- Question: Are there any grants that only the lake district can apply for?
  - Response: The city and lake district can apply for the same grants.



- **March 20<sup>th</sup> 6pm Session**

- Question: Why is it better to have a Lake District?
  - Response: The lake district gives the stewardship to the community.
- Question: What type of funding can a Lake District Receive?
  - Response: The legislature has given lake districts a broad range of financial and administrative powers to undertake lake management programs. All lake districts have been granted the power to:
    - Levy taxes and impose special charges and special assessments
    - Borrow money
    - Disburse money
    - Make contracts
    - Accept gifts
    - Buy, hold, and sell property
    - Undertake projects to enhance recreational uses, including recreational boating facilities (such as boat launches or breakwaters)
    - Sue and be sued
    - Take other acts necessary to carry out a program of lake protection and rehabilitation.
- Question: Are there items in the lake such as cars & boats that need to come out?
  - Response: When the lake was drawn down, there were some trash items pulled from the lake, but no known big items.



- **April 5<sup>th</sup> 10am Session**

- Statement: You should think about getting a public relations intern to share important about lakes and helpful community education.
- Statement: Maybe we can do berms on farmland to help keep nutrients from going into waterways
- Question: Who pays the fees in a condo association?
  - Response: Owners of the property will pay the fees, not the association.
- Question: Is the taxing happening to the entire city or lakes residents?
  - Response: The resolution is asking for the entire city of whitewater limits be included in the taxing.
- Question: Are you planning to dredge more?
  - Response: There are currently no permits applied for in regards to dredging.
- Statement: You should work with the gravel pit to make sure any water coming out is safe.

- **April 5<sup>th</sup> 6pm Session**

- Statement: You should look into Beloit Conservancy programs and offerings for ideas.
- Question: When does the decision take place?
  - Response: The decision will take place at the City Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm.
- Statement: Thank you for offering information!



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

## **QUESTIONS ?**

Lakes Advisory Committee  
Members:

Kurt Zipp  
Carol McCormick  
Gayle Stettler  
Geoff Hale  
Ginny Coburn  
Elvira Kau

