

FRIENDS OF THE
MILL POND
GREEN LAKE WI.

COMMUNITY MEETING

May 21st, 2025

MEETING OBJECTIVES



1. **Introduce the Friends of the Mill Pond initiative to the broader Green Lake community.**
2. **Obtain feedback and input on the initiative, including project goals, and how we can collectively help ensure its success.**
3. **Explain opportunities for the community to get involved and help support the Friends of the Mill Pond initiative.**

**THANK YOU TO THE LEGION FOR HOSTING US
AND ALL THEY DO FOR GREEN LAKE**

OUR VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE



Jon Erickson
Co-Chair
Legal and Finance
and Grants



Richard Gerstein
Co-Chair
Administration and
City Liaison



Annette Doherty
Marketing,
Communication
& Fundraising



Sean Madden
Economic
Development



Ryan Meiborg
Dredging and
Construction



Rachel Nitz
Economic
Development,
Marketing,
Communication
& Fundraising



Greg Poulos
Environmental
Benefits

WHAT WILL WE COVER

- **Why is FOMP an important initiative**
- **What is currently under consideration as part of the plan**
- **Where are we on this long journey**
- **Next Steps**
- **How can you become involved**

PLEASE ASK QUESTIONS



FRIENDS OF THE
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GREEN LAKE WI.

BACKGROUND



Mill Pond facilitates essential water circulation, which distributes oxygen, prevents stagnation, and removes harmful waste.

- Invasive species and years of silt build-up.
- Mill Pond is becoming more unnavigable.
- Similar to Silver Creek, these secondary water tributaries affect the health of Green Lake and downstream.
- If left alone, Mill Pond will eventually become a swamp.

Mill Pond is a vital waterway for Green Lake and the surrounding towns.

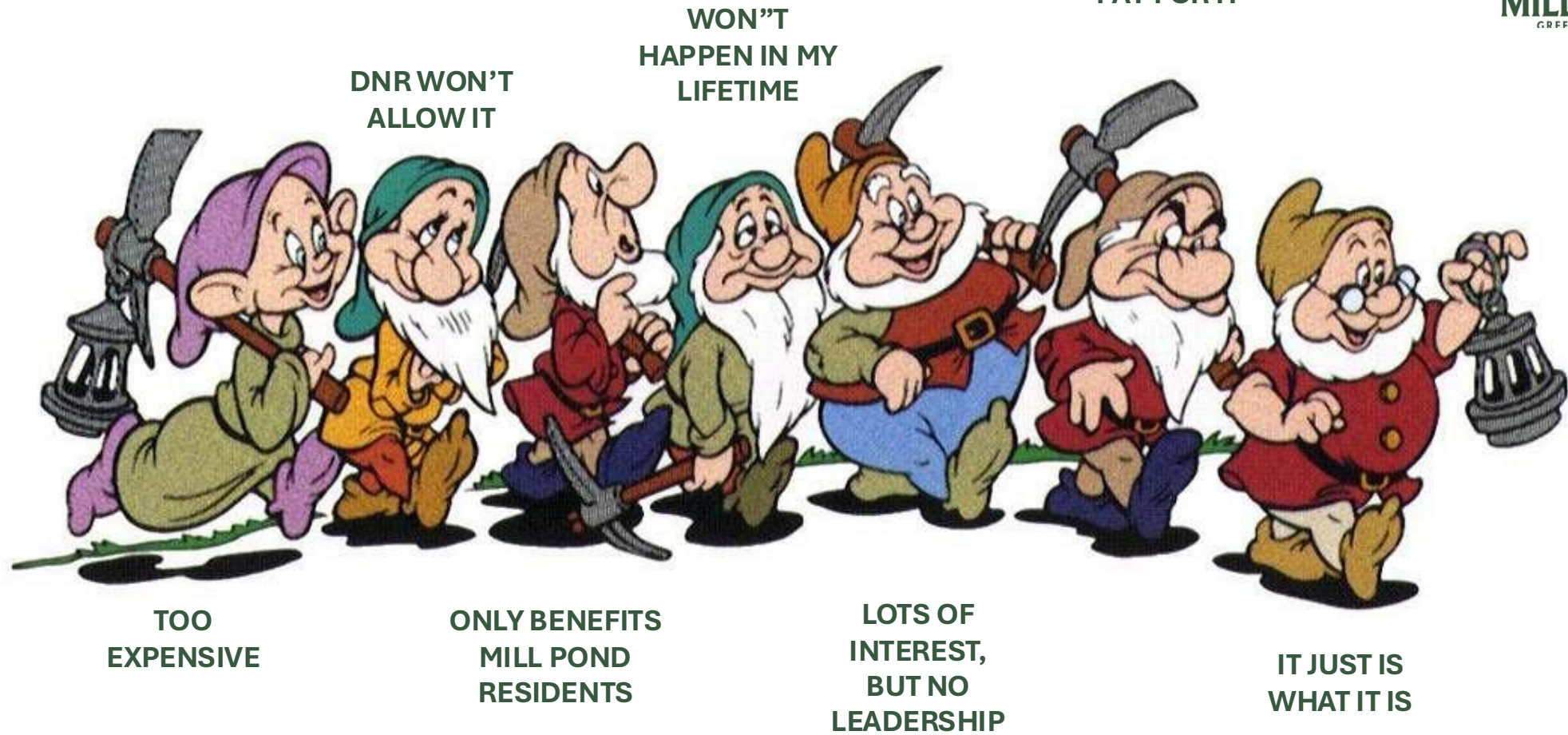
- The Canal St. boat ramp provides relief for the main Dartford Bay ramp.
- A calm and vibrant area for kayaking, paddle boarding, and fishing.
- The primary outlet for Green Lake to control lake height and ensure river flow downstream.

An Opportunity to drive economic growth in the North section of the town as part of the new Main Street Initiative.

THE PROBLEM AND POTENTIAL



THE CHALLENGE



A PARTNERSHIP, LIKE MANY GL PROJECTS

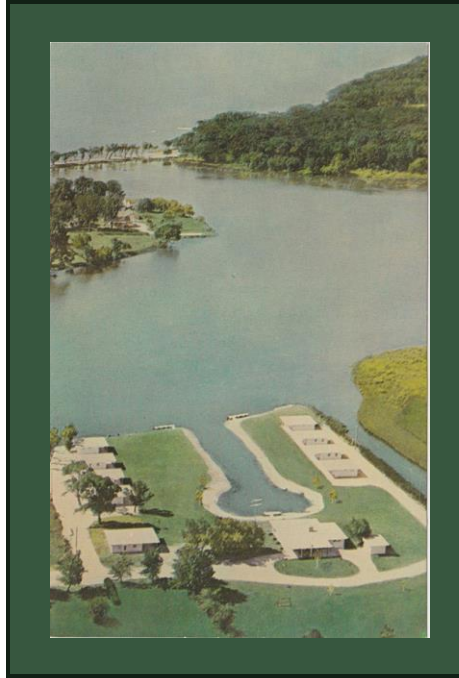
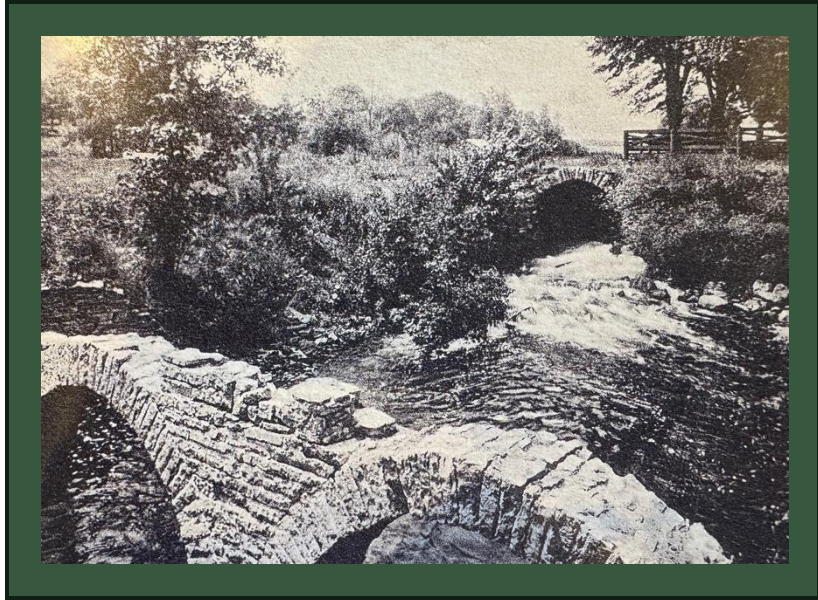
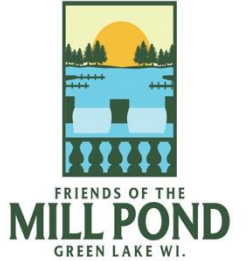


**THE CITY OF
GREEN LAKE**



**COMMUNITY
NON-PROFIT**

MILL POND HISTORY



- The Mill Pond has a long history as part of Green Lake.
- It has been 35 years since the last significant effort to ensure the health and longevity of Mill Pond.

- In 1845, Anson Dart constructed the first dam and sawmill on this site, effectively raising the level of Green Lake and forming Mill Pond and Dartford Bay.
- In 1905, Victor Lawson of Lone Tree Point bought the “mill square” from Sherwood and, wishing to raise the lake level at the West end, added large boulders to the existing dam structure.
- In the early 20th century, local women's organizations initiated efforts to transform the area into a public park, which Lawson later deeded to the Village.
- During the 1960s, to facilitate the development of the back side of town, canals were dug to support development on West Bay Court and East Bay Court.
- In the 1980s, the dam fell into disrepair. There was a significant fundraising campaign program, and construction was finished in 1988, dedicating the dam.
- In 1989, the DNR engineers determined that the spill water capacity into the waters of the Puchyan River was too small. With financial aid from the state and support from the local residents, the required repairs were made, and waterways were “shored” with necessary but decorative rock.
- A wooden bridge across the old Mill Race stream was completed (the flower bridge) and is a centerpiece of Green Lake today, used by many for pictures and fishing.

OUR GOALS



HEALTH OF THE POND

The Mill Pond is of crucial ecological importance to the health of Green Lake. The Mill Pond facilitates essential water circulation which distributes oxygen, prevents stagnation and removes harmful waste. However, the health of the Mill Pond is in jeopardy.



RECREATION

Since the 1860's families have discovered Green Lake for its fishing, swimming, sailing and boating. A restored Mill Pond will provide a beautiful and tranquil setting for canoeing, paddle boarding and fishing.



VIBRANT DOWNTOWN

Green Lake is a tourism and economic engine, providing jobs and tax-revenue. Inspired by the Deacon Mills Wharf we envision a vibrant boardwalk along the back of Mill Pond providing docking and bringing economic development to the backside of town.



OUR GOALS CONTINUED



ENJOYABLE FOR ALL

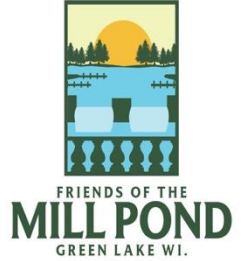
The creation of a Veterans' and First Responders' Facility designed to benefit all, including our nation's heroes, people with mobility impairment, as well as older adults, including ADA-compliant and accessible kayak and canoe launches.



LAKE ACCESSIBILITY

Improved utilization of the Canal Street and Hattie Sherwood Camp Ground Boat ramps would provide relief for the main Dartford Bay ramp and its limited parking. Homeowners who live on the Mill Pond would benefit from more functional access to the main Lake.

VISION AND MISSION



Vision

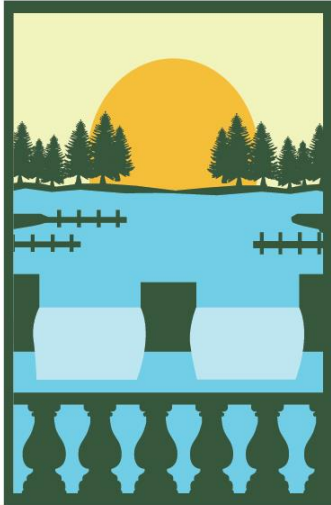
To restore Mill Pond long-term to serve as a recreational and economic centerpiece accessible for the entire Green Lake community (residents and visitors alike).

Mission

The mission of the Friends of Mill Pond is to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to restore the Mill Pond to its natural beauty, ensuring it remains clean, navigable, and accessible for both residents and visitors. As a result, we aim to create new economic opportunities for downtown Green Lake and make it a unique recreational destination for everyone while ensuring water health both in Green Lake and downstream.

IT IS A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT





FRIENDS OF THE
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GREEN LAKE WI.

KEY ELEMENTS CURRENTLY IN CONSIDERATION

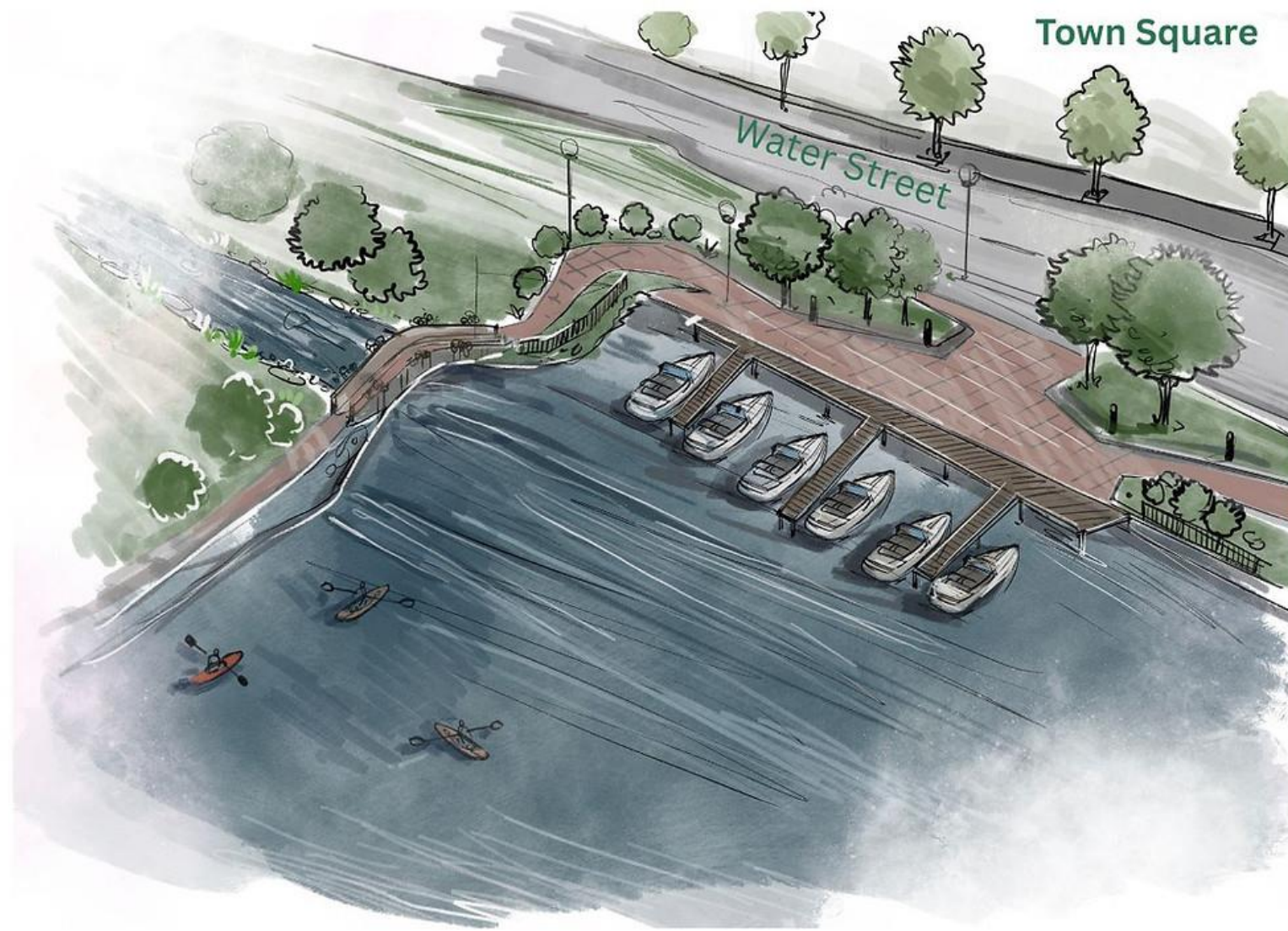
DREDGING



Canal Street Boat Launch Revival



Economic Driver through Boat Parking Access



Compliment New Playground Park Centerpiece



and Yes, The Bridge



So, Where are We



ESTABLISHED COMMITTEE

- Non-Profit Established
- Website Developed
- City Council Updated



KEY STAKEHOLDERS INPUT

- City Council
- Community Members
- DNR, GLA, Sanitary District,
- Chamber and Business Leaders



DREDGING FEASIBILITY

- Identifying DNR requirements
- Identifying potential dredgers
- Identify testing required
- Estimate the cost and area covered



FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEERS

- Fundraising for initial testing
- Identify grants for the planning stage
- Partner with MainStreet Initiative
- Build a Volunteer Base

UPDATE – STAKEHOLDER INPUT



- **The Green Lake Community and Beyond:** To Serve all of the People of Green Lake, the Surrounding Communities and Visitors - Your voices are Critical.
- **Mayor Radis and the City Council:** Invaluable Support and Guidance –
 - Periodic Updates at Council Meetings.
- **Green lake Association & Green Lake Sanitary District:**
 - Mill Pond is Part of GL Watershed & Lake Mngmt Plan: Our Efforts are Represented by the GLA
 - Opportunities for Collaboration – Provide Herbicide Studies for Sediment Testing, Fish Study & Aquatic Plant Management Plan
- **Green Lake Chamber of Commerce and Business Leaders** – Support and Shared Goals:
 - Create a Boardwalk/Docking along the South Shoreline for Economic Development.
 - Periodic Updates/Input from GL Chamber of Commerce.
- **Integrated Plan with Rachel’s Playground Park Redevelopment** - ADA
- **Veterans Organizations:** Local American Legion and VFW Post – Thirteen (13) in Local Area. Canoe and Kayak Launch
- **DNR:** Guidance, Regulations from A-Z

UPDATE – POND HEALTH AND TESTING



- Need to test for sediment volume and characteristics
- Working with Engineering/Consultant firms to perform...
 - Bathymetric survey to measure depth and sediment volume
 - Lab testing for contaminants (metals, pesticides, etc.)
- Results of the testing will inform our conversations with the DNR
- Testing could happen within 6 months
- Funding required to do Bathymetric testing as a first step
- Next steps determined by our discussions with the DNR

UPDATE - DREDGING



Contacted Several Companies that work in the Wisconsin Area

Key Learnings

1. We need to calculate the amount of silt we would like to remove and the amount and areas where the DNR will allow us to remove it.
2. We then need to test the silt for contaminants that could increase the cost or make dredging difficult.
3. Given the scale of our project, Hydraulic Dredging is likely the most practical method.
4. A key cost of dredging is the transport and disposal of the silt. Finding a nearby location to dry and dispose of the silt would be a significant savings.
5. There are no DNR grants for dredging, but there are other Economic Development and Boating Access programs that do include dredging.

UPDATE – RAISING THE BRIDGE



- The bridge across from the dam will be redone using significant DOT funds in 2026 due to failing the inspection.
- The bridge on Lawson is nearing failure and is slated for a 2030 rebuild.
- Our understanding is the WI DOT will pay to replace it, but won't pay to improve its overall design (so we may need to find the funds associated with raising it, if any).
- Raising the bridge will most likely involve moving it down the road towards the campground, which may have other benefits for construction.
- A key next step is to engage more deeply with the city and WI DOT to gain a deeper understanding of the planning and approval process.

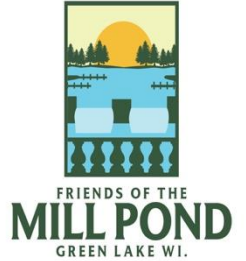
UPDATE – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



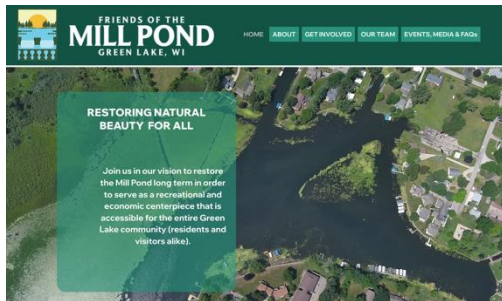
More Navigable, Accessible, Recreational Area

- Ensure long-term property values on Mill Pond and Green Lake
- Support existing and new businesses in town
- Better access to businesses on “the other side of the hill”
- Potential for Mill Pond public boat slips by Town Square
- Recreational destination creates more opportunities to be in town
- Improve visitor and camper boat access (two Mill Pond launches)
- Efforts aligned with the Chamber’s Main Street growth vision

UPDATE - MARKETING



WEBSITE



COMMUNITY MEETING



EVENTS

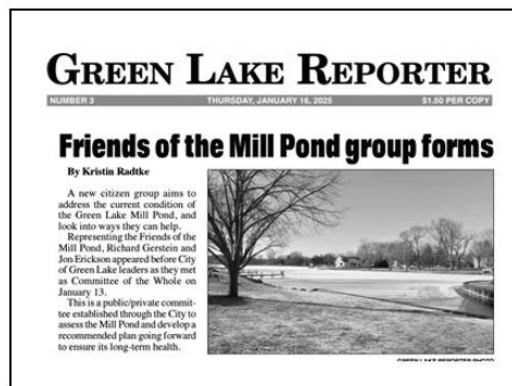


Community Volunteer Fair

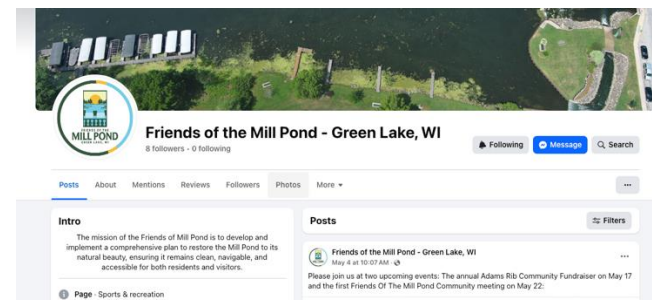
Make a Difference. Get Involved.

FRIDAY, MAY 23 | 3- 5PM
BALLROOM | TOWN SQUARE

NEWS



SOCIAL MEDIA



UPDATE - FUNDRAISING



SHORT TERM FUNDING NEEDS

Admin

Establishing Non-Profit
Website Hosting

Testing

Bathymetric Survey
Silt and Water Testing
Grant Writing
Engineering Design
Permit Fee's

SHORT TERM FUNDING SOURCES

Donations

Individuals
Businesses
Non-profits
City
Grants

Fundraising

T-shirt Sales
Adams Rib Community Event
50/50 Raffle Chamber Event
Brat Fry

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE



- SIGN UP FOR COMMITTEES OF INTEREST
- BUY A T-SHIRT AND CONSIDER DONATING
- SPREAD THE NEWS AS WE NEED TO DRIVE AWARENESS
- STAY UPDATED BY SIGNING UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES
- COMMUNICATE YOUR SUPPORT WITH THE CITY AND OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS

VOLUNTEER AREA OF INTEREST SIGN-UP SHEETS



MARKETING

DREDGING

THE BRIDGE

FUNDRAISING

POND HEALTH

DESIGN AND
ENGINEERING

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

GOVERNMENT

GRANT WRITING

QUESTIONS

