

Watershed News

A publication of the Greater Culver Lake Watershed Conservation Foundation

Fall/2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We have been very busy, even during the pandemic...meeting via Zoom conferences to stay in touch and to keep the momentum going on our various projects. We have also strengthened our partnership with the Wallkill River Management Group, which has shown such enthusiastic support for our vision and goals.



Our number one priority is Storm Water Management. We have been most fortunate to have received a major donation designated for that purpose. By the spring, we expect to have plans to start construction of separator chambers at one or more of these priority sites, where storm water influx is particularly damaging to the lake and adjacent properties. Additionally the Township has placed sediment bags in some current storm drains and will maintain them.

We hope, as the year winds down, that you will generously send a donation to the GCLWCF to help us to continue our work to protect and preserve our watershed.

Recent Activities/Projects

Catch Basins: We have had several meetings with the Frankford Township representatives to discuss possible remedies for uncontrolled storm water inflow to lakes Owassa and Culver. The Township has installed filter bags in storm catch basins on the north shore of Culver Lake. The Township will be responsible for maintaining and determining the durability and efficacy of the bags in blocking sediment flow into the lakes.

The Township has also agreed to limit the use of grits to icy conditions on the roads during winter storms. The grits create unwanted sediment and phosphorus, salts, and other pollutants into the lakes.

As noted in Rick's letter, the Foundation is currently seeking bids to begin working on drawings for BMP (best management practices) engineered separator chambers. These will be installed around Culver Lake, where stormwater inflow is particularly damaging. Installation of these chambers will proceed as funding becomes available.

Storm Water Pipes/Drains: Our technical advisor, retired engineer Paul Sutphen, has installed a solar-powered prototype storm alum injection system. In a storm event the alum will be injected into the drain pipe and bind with the phosphorus, rendering it inactive. Phosphorus is a primary catalyst in the creation of Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs), creating unsafe water quality. ▶



Storm Water Sampling: Under the supervision of Paul Sutphen, four teams of volunteers manned from both the Normanoch Association and the Foundation trudged out three times... 8pm, 1am, and 5am to take samples from ten pipes on September 30th. The rain event produced 2-2½" of rain during an 8 hour period.

Samples from each site were collected and combined, and sent off to a lab to be tested on four parameters: nitrates, total phosphorus, soluble reactive phosphorus, and total suspended solids. The last time storm water samples were taken was in October 2013. Based on the new results and comparison to the 2013 data, the Foundation can better prioritize the installation of the separator chambers and alum systems based on which ones will make the biggest environmental impact to Culver Lake.

Septic Systems: Remember to have your septic systems checked and pumped on a regular schedule. Mal-functioning septic systems and cess pools (yes there are still some out there) are major contributors of phosphorus into the lakes.

▶ **If you are a Culver Lake/Normanoch Member you can get a rebate every two years on your dues if you show that your septic system has been pumped.**

Rain Garden Program: Six Culver Lake families took advantage of the free design sessions and are looking forward to building their gardens engineered by staff at Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Nathaniel Sajdak, Wallkill River Management Group Watershed Director, co-sponsor of the event, has solicited funds to help offset the cost of the garden installations. Families should receive these grant-funded offsets next spring.



Earth Day Clean-up Update: Due to Covid-19, we had postponed the annual Earth Day Clean-up until September 12th; the groups that went out did a great job in their areas. Co-sponsored by Frankford Township, the GCLWCF received a Township donation for the work done by our faithful volunteers.



Land Acquisition: We continue to move forward with plans to acquire the 92 acre former Culver Lake Golf Course as a preserve and passive recreation area. We have secured a \$250,000 Green Acres grant and are actively pursuing other grant options and donations.

We have been conducting walking tours of this breathtaking property for those interested in our vision for the preserve. ▼



DONATE NOW

Sending a Generous Gift to the Foundation NOW

will help us preserve and protect the precious waterways and lakes in the northern Paulinskill River Watershed that we love so much. GCLWCF is a 501(c)(3) environmental charity.

All donations are tax deductible.



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