

Watershed News

A publication of the Greater Culver Lake Watershed Conservation Foundation | Spring 2022

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The GCLWCF continues on with its mission in protecting and improving the Greater Culver Lake watershed which feeds the upper northern Paulins Kill River.



Projects that we continue to work on include the Culver Lake golf course. The remediation of fungicides and pesticides used on the greens at the golf course years ago is a top priority for the foundation, clearing the way for the subsequent acquisition of the property for preservation, environmental education and passive recreation. In addition, we are diligently moving forward with the purchase and preservation of a 158 acre parcel of open space directly across from the golf course fronting on Ridge Rd. These two parcels will make up the Culver Brook Preserve.



Much thanks to Frankford Township for using far fewer grits on the roadways around Culver Lake during winter storm events. These grits are flushed into the lake carrying undesirable nutrients along with them.

The Foundation was mentioned in Frankford Township's most recent newsletter for our work with the DPW: "The GCLWCF supplied the department with insert protection bags to line the catch basins around Culver Lake. These inserts are designed to prevent phosphorus laden sediment from entering the water and fostering harmful algae blooms."

Several WWCSs (waste water conditioning systems) have been installed at private residences around Culver Lake, and at the clubhouse. These systems will reduce the phosphorus load generated by septic systems by more than 90 percent, removing a source of food which algae blooms depend on. Thank you to those homeowners who stepped up and recognized the importance of this technology in protecting lakes within our watershed. We are hopeful to eventually see all homes located around the various lakes in our watershed equipped with these systems. The cost of installation is very reasonable and minimal maintenance and expense is associated with operating them.

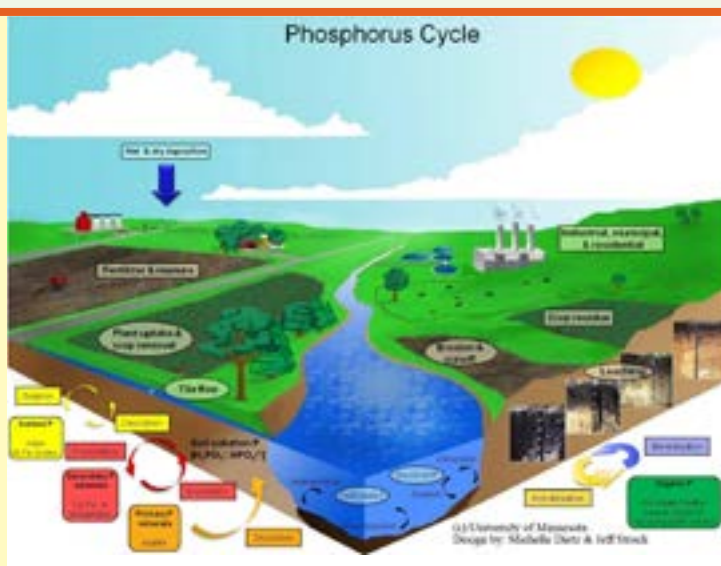
I want to thank you for your continued support which helps us with our goal of seeing through to fruition the programs and projects necessary to protect the Northern Paulins Kill Watershed and its fine lakes and tributaries.

Rick Ferruggia, President

What is Phosphorus?

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring nutrient that is necessary for plant growth.

In aquatic ecosystems, phosphorus along with nitrogen, another essential nutrient, supports the growth of algae and aquatic plants. These provide food and habitat for fish and other organisms. However, high nutrient levels can jeopardize water quality by fueling overgrowth of algae (or algal blooms) which can have serious impacts on the environment, human health, and our economy.



Phosphorus Reduction in Culver Lake

The Foundation is in the process of installing Alum Injection Systems around the lake to help mitigate phosphorus from entering the lake. At our initial test station at Hill Street, one 30 gallon tank of alum was used (between October 2020 and October 2021) to remove 17 pounds of a soluble phosphorus. This amount of phosphorus is capable of stimulating 17,000 lbs. of algae/weed growth!

Installing additional units can make a huge difference in deterring algae/weed growth in our lakes.

UPCOMING FOUNDATION EVENTS



5th Annual Clean Up at the Lakes Day, Saturday April 23rd, 8:30am - noon

Join us for the annual Earth Day Clean-Up at the Lakes, sponsored by Frankford Township and the GCLWCF. Register between 8:30am and 9:30am at the Normanoch Clubhouse, East Shore Culver Road. Pick-up materials: gloves, safety vests, and zone maps will be supplied. Return to the Clubhouse by noon to deposit your bags into the provided dumpster. Let's help keep our Lakes clean and beautiful! **Any current COVID rules will apply.**

UPCOMING PARTNER EVENTS

Green Infrastructure Training Program

Rutgers Water Resources Program is in the midst of a Green Infrastructure Champions training program. The goal of the program is to educate and enable residents, decision-makers, and professionals on how green infrastructure can be incorporated into their community at all scales. There are several classes remaining and they are held virtually every other week. For more information about the topics, costs, and how to sign up go to: <http://water.rutgers.edu/Projects/GreenInfrastructureChampions/GIC.html>



NJDEP's 2022 Virtual HAB Summit, March 23, 10:00-3:30pm

For further information and to register for the Virtual Harmful Algae Bloom Summit, go to: <https://www.nj.gov/dep>

Tour SCUMA's Paulinskill Basin Water Reclamation Facility, May 5, 6:00pm

The Wallkill River Watershed Management Group will be hosting a walking tour of the Facility's Property on Thursday, May 5th at 6:00. The tour will highlight restoration activities that the WRWMG is planning to install or has already installed within the wetlands at the SCMUA's Paulinskill Water Treatment Facility in Branchville. Attendees will learn about reforestation, shallow water habitat pools, and other best management practices that will be completed at the site.

The GCLWCF is looking forward to implementing these practices at the golf course property. On site parking will be available at 178 Route 206. RSVP to Kristine Rogers at krogers@scmua.org if you are able to make it.

PROJECT UPDATES

New Website

We are pleased to announce that our new site is up and running! It was designed by Causality, an organization specializing in helping non-profits, which also provided a 50% grant for the project. Board member Judy Nysten took the lead on this project. She made sure that the site was both beautiful and easy to use. It contains current information about our projects, opportunities for volunteer involvement, and ways to donate. Please check it out!

On the website you will be able to find how we are putting your monetary contributions to work within our watershed community. **Without your contributions, none of the Foundation's work would be possible, so please respond to our appeals!**

Rain Garden Site Visits

After a long delay in receiving funding and dealing with COVID restrictions, representatives from the Wallkill River Watershed Management Group will be making site visits to the properties of the Culver Lake residents who had Rain Garden designs prepared by Rutgers. The funding received will help to cover some of the installation costs.

The GCLWCF was a co-sponsor of the event.

We Need You!

Board Members: We're looking for new members with public relations/marketing backgrounds and/or grant writing skills. Meetings are usually once a month. Please call Rick Ferruggia for more information at: 862-219-9979.

Website Skills: We need folks willing to work on fundraising goals as well as keeping this new website fresh and updated. Contact any Board member to volunteer—anytime that you can give would be of assistance.

How can you help the Watershed?

- Plant a Rain Garden.
- Reduce Impermeable Surfaces in your yard.
- Maintain your Septic Tank.
- Add an Alum Injection System to your home.

Send a Generous Gift to the Foundation NOW

to help us preserve and protect the precious waterways and lakes in the Upper Northern Paulinskill River Watershed that we love so much. GCLWCF is a 501(c)(3) environmental charity. **All donations are tax deductible.**



Greater Culver Lake Watershed Conservation Foundation

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Protecting the Lakes and Tributaries of the Upper Northern Paulinskill Watershed

BOARD MEMBERS: Rick Ferruggia, Danae Dotz, John Fabian, Judy Nysten, Dorothea Wefing
CONSULTANTS: Paul Sutphen, Terry McQuillin, Scott Myer