

## Phosphorus Reduction

To improve lake conditions and reduce algae blooms **FOLKS** continues to focus on phosphorus reduction and public education projects. **FOLKS** emphasizes ways to reduce phosphorus input to the lake. Continuing projects to achieve this long-term goal include:

### 1. Leaf Management:

As water flows over leaves, phosphorus is leached out of the leaves and into the storm water. By removing leaves from areas around the lake the amount of phosphorus leaching into the lake is greatly reduced. Managing leaves is one of the most effective ways we can reduce phosphorus run-off to the lake each year.



Leaf Vacuum Truck

**FOLKS** coordinates and helps fund the Lake Kegonsa leaf management project. We partner with the **Town of Dunn**, the **Town of Pleasant Springs** and the **City of Stoughton** to vacuum leaves from around Lake Kegonsa. The Towns also have drop off sites and composting for leaves.

### 2. Aquatic Debris Pick-up:

**FOLKS** partners with Dane County to provide bi-weekly pick up of aquatic debris from the end of piers on Lake Kegonsa during the summer. Removing aquatic plants and debris removes phosphorus and keeps the lake cleaner and safer. In 2024, 47 barge loads of debris were removed from Lake Kegonsa.

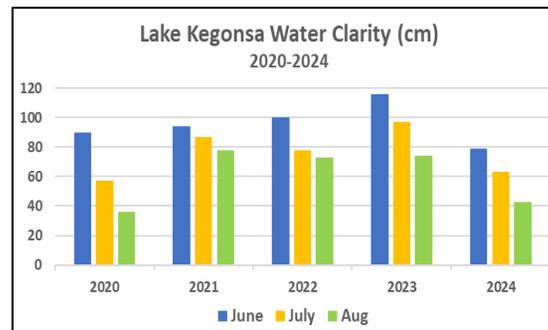
## 3. Monitoring Phosphorus and Run-off Areas:

**FOLKS** volunteers work with **Clean Lakes Alliance**, **Rock River Coalition**, **Dane County Land & Water Resources** and **UW Limnology** to build a scientific database of measurements for Lake Kegonsa such as nutrient (phosphorus) analysis, water clarity and other observations.

**FOLKS** sponsors 16 sites where we sample and record data at the end of piers. **FOLKS** volunteers monitor the deepest part of the lake, sites of major water inflow (Yahara River and Door Creek), and at the Yahara River outlet at LaFollette Dam.

**FOLKS** also monitors stormwater run-off at other areas that only flow for a short time after heavy rains. Input levels of phosphorus are the amount of phosphorus in the water times the volume of water flow, so many of these smaller run-off areas don't contribute significant phosphorus to the lake.

Historical water monitoring data is available on our website at [www.kegonsa.org](http://www.kegonsa.org).



## 4. Native Plants Projects:

Planting long-rooted native plants along a shoreline helps keep nutrients from the soil from going into the lake during periods of heavy rain. The root systems of a native plant garden form a much more effective buffer for nutrient absorption than lawns.

**A. Planting Prairie at Fish Camp County Park**  
In January, **FOLKS** volunteers winter seeded the areas of Fish Camp Park where ash trees were removed with native plants.

**B. Planting and Maintaining Gardens**  
**FOLKS** continues to maintain three educational native plant gardens at Fish Camp Park on Lake Kegonsa. These gardens show the different kinds of native plants that can be used to reduce run-off.



Shoreline Garden

**FOLKS** volunteers helped Dane County plant new rain gardens at the park in 2024.

**C. Permanent Prairies**  
**FOLKS** is working with landowners and a number of municipal partners to evaluate the possibility of permanent prairie plantings near the new roundabout at Hwy 51 and Hwy AB to reduce stormwater run-off.



Native Plant Prairie

**D. Educational Events**  
To continue **FOLKS** educational workshops on using Wisconsin native plants in residential projects to reduce run-off, we have an event scheduled for April 2025, "**Native Shoreline Gardens, Protecting our Lake**". See the **FOLKS** website for details.

## Other **FOLKS** Projects

### Fish Cribs:

**FOLKS** added 4 new fish cribs to Lake Kegonsa this year. Both Log Cabin and Fish Stick designs were used and **FOLKS** volunteers built and supervised the placement of the cribs in July 2024. Improving fish habitats benefits both the fish and the fishermen.



“Log Cabin” Style Fish Cribs



“Fish Stick” Style Fish Crib

### Migrating Birds of Lake Kegonsa:

**FOLKS** held an educational event about the migratory birds of Lake Kegonsa in April 2024.

The event featured Alissa Kakatsch, from the WDNR, discussing Migratory birds in Wisconsin and our area. There were a number of displays about bird predators, water and city dangers, and how to establish bird habitats in your backyard.

### Permanent Wingspan Sign:

**FOLKS** installed a permanent “What’s Your Wing Span?” sign at Fish Camp County Park so visitors can check their wingspan against an eagle, crane, osprey, owl and hawk. This sign was made possible through a grant from Alliant Energy.



### What is **FOLKS**?

**Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc. (FOLKS)** is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1988. **FOLKS's** primary objectives:

- To protect, maintain and enhance environmental and recreational values of Lake Kegonsa and its surroundings.
- To organize and conduct activities intended to maintain, or improve the ecology, water quality, fishing and recreational use of Lake Kegonsa.
- To obtain and provide information to members regarding lake users concerns about Lake Kegonsa and its surrounding watershed.

**FOLKS** has an all-volunteer board and an active membership of 440 households and businesses.

**FOLKS** is at [www.kegonsa.org](http://www.kegonsa.org).

**FOLKS** website holds helpful **FOLKS** and lake information, project descriptions, membership forms and past newsletters. You can also find many volunteer opportunities.



**Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.  
(FOLKS)  
2025**



**Migrating Birds on Lake Kegonsa**

**Become a member of  
Friends of Lake Kegonsa  
Society (FOLKS) today!**

This brochure provides an overview of the **FOLKS** organization and some of our current projects. Please join us in 2025 as we continue our efforts on behalf of Lake Kegonsa and the surrounding area.

**Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, Inc.**  
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