

A scenic view of a lake with mountains in the background and a wooden dock in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.

Geneva Lake Association Water Quality Comments Focus Group Meeting Series

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Geneva Lake Association:

- Founded in 1935, GLA is a 501(c) tax exempt organization
- GLA has a broad membership of residents and businesses
- GLA's foundation and financial support come from its dues-paying membership
- GLA's Board of Directors, Officers and its Executive Secretary govern the organization
- GLA serves and supports the Geneva Lake community through coordinated relationships with other lake-serving groups and ongoing communication and education of its membership

GLA's Purpose and Mission:

- Since 1935, the Geneva Lake Association has served as a guardian of Geneva Lake and its surrounding area.
- GLA's mission is to help inform and educate its membership on a variety of topics related to the conservation, preservation, environmental integrity, and general welfare of Geneva Lake.
- GLA advances its mission by providing timely and issue-centered communications to a wide membership base of area residents and local businesses.

How does the GLA support the Geneva Lake community?

Collaborates with state, regional and local organizations to identify, monitor, communicate and educate about lake and water quality concerns

Communicates with its members through *GLA Waves* email updates, *GLA Guardian* newsletters, website information and water quality resources, and GLA's Annual Meeting

Provides grants to Geneva Lake entities and not for profit organizations to support water quality initiatives in the community

Geneva Lake: Water Quality Considerations

- GLA has prioritized water quality as the key focus of its work and grants because of impacts arising from and insights related to:
 - Increasing community-wide development including new piers
 - Heavier rain events damaging tributaries
 - Entry of more invasive species, i.e., starry stonewort
 - More boating and heavier boats eroding shorelines, including concerns raised by increased wake boating
 - Lessons learned from other lakes managing a variety of water quality challenges
 - Growing array of water quality data
 - Importance of maintaining Geneva Lake's high-quality water
 - Coordinated resources required to manage today's water quality challenges



GLA's Watch List: Important Developments and Updates

1. SEWRPC Lake Management Plan for Geneva Lake
2. High Quality Waters (HQWs)—SEWRPC's Stakeholder Interviews and Upcoming Workshop
3. GLA Membership Annual Meeting—August 3, 2024

Raising awareness
about possible
solutions to improve
management of
Geneva Lake's water
quality, e.g., a Lake
District

- A “Lake District” is a special purpose unit of government
- Authorized by Wisconsin’s Legislature since 1974
- Public Inland Waters, Ch. 33 of WI statutes, Sections 33.001-33.60
- Authorized to tax property within the Lake District to maintain, protect and improve the quality of the lake and its watershed
- In essence, a single unified entity that can “manage the lake” for the mutual benefit of stakeholders and the environment

WHO ELSE USES A LAKE DISTRICT STRUCTURE?



2024 marks the 50th anniversary of Wisconsin's ability to use a lake district to better manage local affairs



There are over 200 lake districts currently formed and working through out the State of Wisconsin



Local lake districts include Lauderdale Lakes, Powers Lake, Whitewater/Rice Lakes among many others

HOW TO LEARN MORE

- **Geneva Lake Association**

<https://genevalakeassoc.org/>

- **Lake Districts/General Information-
University of Wisconsin/Stevens Point**

<https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/organizations/districts/default.aspx>

