

The WAUCONDA WIRE

SUMMER 2025



Summer on Bangs Lake

Bangs Lake, the lake that forms the heart of our community, is a precious resource worth protecting. In 2023, the Village contracted with Integrated Lakes Management (ILM) for a lake management study, which was then reviewed by a committee of residents. The committee recommended expanding education and outreach to residents and other lake users. As part of that, the Village is dedicating this year's summer newsletter to Bangs Lake.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bangs Lake is a natural glacial lake created as the glaciers that covered the region retreated approximately 10,000 years ago. In Lake County, Bangs Lake consistently ranks near the top in terms of water quality.

The lake covers an area of about 300 acres with an estimated average water depth of 10.9 feet and a maximum depth of 32 feet. As a glacial lake, Bangs Lake does not necessarily rely on a significant water source to maintain its water level, but it does receive water from the north, east and south-east. The natural outlet of Bangs Lake was modified to a dam/culvert in the mid-1900s near what is now Phil's Beach. As water leaves the lake, the water flows toward Slocum Lake and ultimately, the Fox River.

The lake is named after Justus Bangs who settled in the area in 1836. In 1913 a railroad connecting Wauconda to Chicago was completed, making Bangs Lake a popular weekend destination.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As I begin my second term as mayor, my deepest gratitude goes out to each and every one of you for your continued support. It is an honor to serve the residents and businesses of our wonderful Village of Wauconda, and I eagerly anticipate working alongside you to further enhance our community in the years ahead.

I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing Trustee, Jennifer Kuhn, for her numerous contributions that have enriched the quality of life in our Village.

With the recent election behind us, please join me in welcoming back re-elected Trustee Howe, Trustee Stein, and Clerk Radcliffe. We also extend a warm welcome to a new face on the board, yet a familiar one within our community, Trustee Matthew Brown. I encourage you to introduce yourselves when you see them around town.

We are also pleased to welcome back Josh Marshall, Marine Unit Sergeant, filling the role previously held by Sergeant Paul Mydlach. Additionally, please join me in welcoming our newest police officer, Eduardo Perez-Santos, who was sworn in April 21st, and will begin his training at the academy in May.

I would also like to announce the departure of our Streets, Collections and Forestry Foreman of over 10 years, Joe Coulter. Joe was a significant asset to the Public Works team, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

In an effort to further connect us with our beautiful natural surroundings, we've added a new feature to our quarterly newsletter focusing on Bangs Lake. This section will provide valuable information on water quality, erosion remediation efforts, the lake's status, fish reports, and ways you can get involved through volunteer opportunities.

Speaking of Bangs Lake, a recent Natural Resources Committee meeting highlighted the concerns of an HOA representative regarding the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus and nitrogen, which contribute to weed growth in the lake due to runoff. I'm pleased to report that their proactive engagement with the fertilizer company led to a positive outcome. The company has agreed to switch to a phosphorus and nitrogen-free fertilizer, Anderson Golf Turf Products 0-0-50. This collaborative effort demonstrates our community's commitment to preserving the health of our lake.

Looking ahead at development within the Village, we will see activity at the site of the old Fifth Third Bank building, which will be demolished. We are also excited to be working with a local mill house to repurpose the oak trees from that site. Other ongoing and upcoming developments include the Brown Street extension, the Bradford Marketplace, the Meadows home development (which is 80% sold and scheduled for completion this year), the continued progress of the Highland Terrace townhouse development, and the Sky Hill subdivision, where construction on 16 new homes is set to begin in the next couple of months.

We are also thrilled to announce the upcoming Bangs Lake Outfall and bank stabilization project, made possible through a significant \$2.7 million grant from the SMC. This project is vital in protecting and enhancing our precious lake.

Board and Committee Meeting Dates

MAY 6 / JUNE 3 / JULY 1 / AUG 4

- 4:30 PM Village Services Committee Meeting
- 5:15 PM Fire & Police Commission Meeting
- 6:00 PM Village Board Meeting
- COW Immediately Following

MAY 7 / JUNE 4 / JULY 2 / AUG 6

- 7:00 PM Plan Commission/ Zoning Board of Appeals

JULY 14

- 3:30 PM Police Pension Board

MAY 13 / JUNE 10 / JULY 8 / AUG 12

- 4:30 PM Economic Development Commission Meeting

MAY 20 / JUNE 16 / JULY 14 / AUG 18

- 4:30 PM Natural Resources Committee Meeting
- 6:00 PM Village Board Meeting
- COW Immediately Following



Summer Reading Program

This summer, let reading inspire you to dream big! We invite everyone to sign up and discover the incredible impact reading can have, no matter your age. Once you are registered, you can check out books at the Wauconda Area Public library and earn prizes for reading! Stop in and see us for more details. Program runs June 2 through July 27.

(Mayor's Message continued)

Adding to our community spaces, we eagerly anticipate the opening of the Village Victory Gardens, conveniently located next to the police department. We believe this will be a wonderful opportunity for residents to connect with nature and each other.

Finally, as summer approaches, we will be undertaking road repaving projects in the Whispering Pines neighborhood, as well as in the LVVA and Maimans Two areas, along with other necessary repairs throughout the Village. Your safety is our priority, so please exercise caution whenever you are near a construction zone. If you have children, please emphasize the importance of not playing or gathering near these sites, as construction workers may have limited visibility and hearing, making these areas potentially dangerous.

I encourage you all to come out and enjoy the many events our Village will be hosting this summer. It's a fantastic way to support our local businesses and connect with your neighbors.

Wishing you all a safe, happy, and enjoyable summer.

Jeff A. Sode Jeff A. Sode

50 Years of Growing Together

Fifty years ago, the Wauconda Garden Club blossomed from a shared love of gardening among three visionary women: Jo Ann Bickers, Lynn Hampel, and Carol Ann Kapheim. What began as The Plant & Garden Club evolved over the years, reflecting its expanding membership, to become the Wauconda Garden Club we know today. Proudly holding memberships in the National Garden Clubs, Inc., Central Region, and Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. District IX, the Wauconda Garden Club's green thumbprints are visible throughout our town. Admire their work in the vibrant Pollinator Garden on Main Street, the poignant Path of Honor at the 9/11 Memorial, and the recent beautification of the Wauconda Township Hall gardens.

Beyond their horticultural endeavors, the club actively gives back to the community through engaging social and civic activities at Kuester Manor and Alta Rehab. Their annual Plant Sale not only offers beautiful additions to local gardens but also funds a yearly scholarship for a deserving Wauconda High School student, ensuring the spirit of growth continues for generations to come.

MAY

- May 2** Coffee with the Mayor 8:30am at Honeybella
- May 10** WACC Tree & Shrub Sale
- May 11** Mother's Day
- May 26** Memorial Day
10:00 AM Parade followed by Ceremony
Village Hall Closed
LRS Service Delay

JUNE

- June 6** Coffee with the Mayor 8:30am at Whisk
- June 14** Flag Day
- June 15** Father's Day
- June 17** Wauconda Cruise Night
- June 26-29** Wauconda Fest
- June 26 – Sept 25** Wauconda Farmer's Market Thursdays

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JULY

- July 3** Fireworks
- July 4** Independence Day
Village Hall Closed
LRS Service Delay
- July 11** Coffee with the Mayor 8:30am at Honey Hill Coffee Co.
- July 15** Wauconda Cruise Night
- July 26** Kids Triathlon
- July 27** Adult Triathlon Multisport Event



AUGUST

- August 1** Coffee with the Mayor 10am at Lots-A-Knots
- August 5** National Night out
- August 19** Wauconda Cruise Night
- August 23** Cops & Bobbers
- August 30** Wauconda Street Dance

SUGGESTIONS

Save the Date September 13 Latin Heritage Fest

Newsletter suggestions should be emailed to Alise at acoulter@wauconda-il.gov

Be Sure to Get Your Fishing License

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) requires a fishing license for anglers age 16 and older. Certain exemptions apply for those that are disabled and/or active duty military. You can purchase your IDNR fishing license online or at various locations throughout Lake County. The only in-person location in Wauconda is located at the ACE Hardware off of Liberty Street. The BP gas station in Island Lake also sells licenses.

Fishing is for Everyone!

Not a lakefront or lakefront HOA resident? You can still take advantage of the recreational benefits of Bangs Lake, especially fishing. The Wauconda Park District's accessible fishing pier at Cook Park is open year-round. You can borrow a fishing pole and tackle for FREE at the Wauconda Park District Community Center located in Cook Park.

Daily Fishing Regulations

Type	Size	Limit
Pike	min 36"	1
Musky	min 36"	1
Walleye	14-16"	2
Crappie	min 10"	8
Panfish	min 6"	10
Perch	min 8"	10
Bass	catch & release	

SUMMER ON BANGS LAKE

Exciting Improvements to Come At Bangs Lake Marina

An exciting makeover for Bangs Lake Marina is coming soon! The Wauconda Park District purchased the Wauconda Boat property in 2022 and has now been awarded a large state grant to make improvements to the marina for all community members to enjoy. The project includes an accessible kayak/canoe launch, accessible restrooms, boardwalk, native shoreline plantings, interpretive signage, a fishing station, patio with tables and umbrellas, picnic tables, game tables, an overlook with sunning steps, and a connecting path to the downtown business area. The budget for this project is estimated at \$1.2 million dollars, with \$600,000 coming from the State of Illinois Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant.

Wauconda Park District has been selected to receive a \$600,000 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant from the State of Illinois.



The Bangs Lake Marina Development Project will provide more public access to Bangs Lake both for active and passive users.

- Executive Director, Tim Staton



Staton said, "these funds will allow us to accelerate the development process." To learn more about the redevelopment plans and timeline, please visit Waucondaparks.com/parks-facilities/beach-marina/.

Free Summer Concert Series at Phil's Beach

Grab your family and friends, bring a chair or blanket, pack a picnic or enjoy Phil's Beach concessions while listening to a variety of great local bands.

- JUNE 12** Josh Skaja & Friends – Acoustic Rock
- JULY 10** Jon Rand Band – Cover band
- AUGUST 14** Cluewater Creek Band – Americana
- SEPTEMBER 14** Industrial Drive – Classic Rock

Visit the Wauconda Park District website for other exciting summer events planned for this summer.

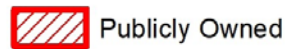


Boater Safety Course



The Village of Wauconda encourages all boaters to complete a Boaters Safety Course. It is required under state law for any boater operating a watercraft with horsepower greater than 10 horsepower and born on or after January 1, 1998. There are a number of local agencies that offer the class and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has also authorized an online program. Find out more by scanning the QR code. Dnr.illinois.gov/safety/boatingsafety.html

Who Owns the Lake?



Publicly Owned

Much of the lake bottom is privately owned or owned by the Village of Wauconda. In privately owned areas, the public is still permitted to bathe, canoe or kayak. However, private property rights come into play when lake users moor on privately owned lake bottom. To avoid conflicts, it is recommended to anchor or moor only in publicly owned areas of the lake, unless given permission by the property owner.

Bangs Lake is a community asset where neighbors, friends and visitors come together for some of the best recreation in Lake County. **Keeping our lake safe and enjoyable is every user's responsibility.** If you encounter an emergency or see reckless behavior on the lake, call 911 (*If no Marine Officer is on duty, call 911 and Police will respond*).

Drinking and Boating

Remember that the Village takes a zero tolerance approach to reckless or intoxicated boating actions with penalties for violations that could include fines ranging up to \$750 or Revocation / Non issuance of future permits.

Boating & Safety Regulations

- Emergency Call **911**
- **Speed limit** 30mph
- **No wake** sunset - 10:00 am
- **Counterclockwise** Direction of boat traffic
- **Safety flag** required when pulling a person
- **Life jackets** required

Under age 13, waterskier, PWC or similar



Stop aquatic hitch hikers - clean your boat and trailer and don't dump bait in the lake.

Reel In & Recycle

Do you know what happens when used fishing line is not disposed of properly?

- It can injure osprey, ducks, geese, and other wildlife
- It damages boat propellers and shafts
- It creates potential dangerous litter
- It takes **600** years to decompose

Please recycle your used fishing line at convenient receptacles and drop-off locations.

- Park District Pier – Murphy Street
- Park District Fishing Pier
- Bangs Lake Marina

If you or your HOA would like a recycling receptacle, please email

acoulter@wauconda-il.gov.

Paddle Sports Safety

Whether you're kayaking, paddleboarding, or canoeing, safety is key. Please keep the following tips in mind:

- Stay within or close to designated buoy areas
- Use caution near docks and piers
- Always assume boaters may not see you
- Keep at least 100 feet away from boats pulling tubes or skiers
- Avoid congested boating areas
- Be courteous to anglers—don't cross fishing lines
- Always wear a life jacket
- Avoid paddling in poor weather (high winds or waves)
- Complete the voluntary one-time registration for \$5 with the Wauconda Police Department

Do You Have a New Boat?

All watercraft other than non-powered watercraft operated on the waters within the jurisdiction of Illinois shall be registered. All registered watercraft over 21 ft. in length are required to be titled.

State law requires that the purchaser of a watercraft shall complete and submit an application to the Department of Natural Resources for registration/titling within 15 days after purchase. To learn more or renew an existing registration, visit Exploremoreil.com/.

RULES OF THE LAKE



Josh Marshall

Meet the Marine Unit

The Village is proud to welcome Josh Marshall as our new Marine Unit Sergeant. Josh brings over 20 years of law enforcement experience, having served as Sergeant at Tower Lakes Police Department and Commander at Holiday Hills Police Department. He also led physical security operations for DHL at O'Hare.

Josh's credentials include roles in major crimes, homicide investigations, K-9 handling, gang enforcement, and more. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Social and Criminal Justice and is certified by the Illinois DNR as a Boater Education Instructor.

A passionate outdoorsman, Josh enjoys boating on Bangs Lake with his family, along with hiking, fishing, and off-road adventures.

Marine Patrol Keeps Bangs Lake Safe

The Wauconda Police Department's Marine Patrol Unit works to ensure Bangs Lake remains a safe and enjoyable space for all. Staffed by sworn officers, the unit monitors lake activity year-round, enforces boating laws, responds to emergencies, and promotes safety on the water.

Officers enforce both state and local boating regulations, including registration, operation, fishing rules, and conservation laws. They also assist boaters in distress and conduct searches as needed. Through an agreement with the Lake County Sheriff's Department, the Marine Unit also helps enforce regulations in nearby unincorporated lake areas, such as Elmcrest and Spencer Highlands.

Boat Inspections and Registration

All motorized watercraft on Bangs Lake require an annual safety inspection by a Marine Unit Officer. Once passed, boaters receive a lake usage sticker valid for the season.

In 2024, inspection fees increased for the first time in a decade. These funds support Bangs Lake maintenance, safety efforts, and patrols.

The Village recently launched a new online registration system, allowing boaters to start the process and pay online before completing an in-person inspection. Visit the Village's website for more information.

Horsepower Rating	Annual Fee	After July 3rd
More than 0.0 to 9.9	\$50	\$75
10.0 - 39.9	\$70	\$95
40.0 - 74.9	\$100	\$125
75.0 - 140.0	\$130	\$155
Over 140.0	\$160	\$185

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Like the road, there are rules on the water to keep traffic flowing and prevent accidents. Keep these rules in mind. Violations of these rules, which are found in the Village Code, can result in a fine of up to \$750 per occurrence. If you are letting family or friends borrow your boat or use your slip, be sure they are aware of these rules.

DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC

Counterclockwise boat traffic only. Towing requires display of a bright orange flag (minimum 12 inches per side) at the helm's highest point, visible 360°, from tow preparation until person(s) re-enter the watercraft. Improper flag display is prohibited.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Sunset to 10:00 AM:

- Minimum wake speed only.
- Personal watercraft/specialty prop-craft: Prohibited.

GENERAL LAKE RULES:

- Maximum motorboat speed 30 mph.
- Within 300 feet of shore/in "No Wake" zones: Minimum wake speed.

PASSING

When two boats are approaching each other head on or nearly head on (so as to involve risk of collision), each boat shall bear to the right and pass the other boat on its left side.

BUFFER ZONE, WATERCRAFT

It is illegal to operate a personal watercraft or specialty prop-craft within 100 feet of the following:

- Another boat towing a skier or person engaged in similar activity
- The tow rope of another motorboat towing a skier or person engaged in similar activity
- A person involved in skiing or a similar activity

CROSSING

When boats approach each other obliquely or at right angles, the boat approaching on the right side has the right-of-way.

OVERTAKING

One boat may overtake another on either side but must grant right-of-way to the overtaken boat.

SAILBOATS AND ROWBOATS

When a motorboat is approaching a boat propelled solely by sails or oars, the motorboat must grant the right-of-way to the sailboat or rowboat.

Registration for Kayaks and Canoes

The Village now offers a one-time low-cost voluntary registration for kayaks, paddleboards, and canoes. Registering your contact information for your non-motorized watercraft will benefit both owners and Village staff if the watercraft becomes lost. The cost for the sticker is \$5.00 and will be available at the Police Department, located at 311 S. Main Street, or while on the water through the on-duty Marine Unit Officer.

Help Emergency Responders

Install a reflective address at the end of your pier for easy identification during an emergency.

Water Safety Tips

- Always wear a properly fitted, Coast Guard-approved life jacket
- Never swim or boat alone—use the buddy system
- Closely supervise children near water; avoid distractions
- Only dive in marked areas with at least 9 feet of depth
- Watch for currents, cold water, and hidden hazards
- Check the weather forecast and stay alert to changes

Prevent Geese from Ruining Your Beach

Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) are migratory waterfowl common throughout North America. Geese in urban areas can be undesirable primarily due to the large amount of feces they leave behind. Although there are several options for getting rid of geese, very few, if any, of them have shown long-term success. The best thing to do is prevent geese from residing on your property in the first place by establishing buffered shorelines.

One of the best methods to deter geese from using an area is through habitat alteration. Habitats that consist of mowed turf grass to the edge of the shoreline are ideal for geese. Low vegetation near the water allows geese to feed and provides a wide view with which to see potential predators. In general, geese do not favor habitats with tall vegetation. To achieve this, create a buffer strip (*approximately 10-20 feet wide*) between the shoreline and any mowed lawn. Planting natural shoreline vegetation (*i.e. bulrushes, cattails, rushes, grasses, shrubs, trees, etc.*) or allowing the vegetation to establish naturally can create buffer strips.






SHORELINE

Native, Well-Maintained Shorelines are Best

Native plant buffers, or riparian buffers, are vegetation located along shorelines of water bodies. The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission states buffers help protect water quality, reduce erosion, enhance wildlife habitat, minimize impacts of human activities, and provide positive aesthetics. Native plants act as a natural filtration system from water runoff before it enters bodies of water which leads to immense benefits of water quality and environment health. Not only do riparian buffers filter water, but they also prevent soil erosion which in turn keeps water clear from sediment.

Bangs Lake Status

The Village of Wauconda monitors the water level on Bangs Lake year round. To prevent flooding on shoreline properties, the Village puts the lake in no wake or closed status when the lake reaches certain levels.

When the lake elevation reaches 10.0 inches above normal mean water elevation, Bangs Lake is considered restricted and is placed in a 'No Wake' status . At 12.0 inches above, the Village closes the lake to all activities,  even kayaks and paddle-boards. The green flag  indicates that Bangs Lake is OPEN with no restrictions.

We understand the desire to enjoy the lake, but high-water levels necessitate access restrictions to prevent flooding and shoreline erosion. The inclusion of kayaks and SUPs in these restrictions is purely a matter of safety. Emergency situations dictate immediate response and supersede all other considerations.

Lake users may check the lake status by visiting the Village website at Wauconda-il.gov or at the Wauconda Park District boat launch site. The blue flag indicates that the Marine Unit is on the lake for boat inspections.

Lake Level Monitoring

Bangs Lake is important to Wauconda not just as a recreational gem, but also because it collects rainfall and runoff from surrounding properties, preventing flooding. According to the Village's engineering, an estimated 1 inch of rain in the Bangs Lake watershed can cause the lake to rise as much as 9.3 inches above its normal level. Depending on the lake's water levels and how dry soil is before rain falls, it can take up to 11 days to drain back to a normal water level.

The Village maintains the water level by manually managing a series of boards at the main outlet of the lake at Phil's Beach. Since 2020, the Village has monitored the lake level using an automated water level measuring device. The device measures the water level, but does not automatically control the level.

The approved Standard Operating Procedure calls for removing bars to allow water to exit the lake if the water level is more than seven inches above normal lake level. If the lake level rises to between 10 and 11.5 inches above normal, the entire lake is put in No Wake status. If it rises to 12 inches, the lake is closed until it recedes. The Village cannot control how quickly the lake drains.

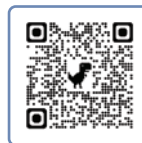


Watershed Management Board Grant

The Watershed Management Board (WMB) program is a 50% cost-share reimbursable grant program that aims to help fund drainage improvement and flood reduction projects. Projects are assessed and prioritized based on nine scoring criteria (inter-jurisdictional, flood hazard reduction, structural damage, water quality, natural resources, nuisance flood reduction, multiple use, outside funding utilization, and a phosphorus public education component). Projects for individual homeowners or maintenance needs are not eligible for WMB funds. For more information about the program, please visit: [Lakecountytill.gov/3635/Watershed-Management-Board-WMB](https://lakecountytill.gov/3635/Watershed-Management-Board-WMB) and [Lakecountytill.gov/5131/Homeowner-Association-HOA-Workshop](https://lakecountytill.gov/5131/Homeowner-Association-HOA-Workshop). For information on how to submit an application, please watch: [Youtube.com/watch?v=YPA_8L-MwmCY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPA_8L-MwmCY). If have any more questions about the program or would like to set up a pre-application meeting, please contact Sharene Gould-Dulabaum at SGould-Dulabaum@lakecountytill.gov or Michelle Pope at mpope@lakecountytill.gov.

Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Wastes

Do not pour old oil or pesticides into the ditch or wash paint brushes at the end of your driveway. Where do these pollutants end up? In our groundwater, lakes and streams! Gasoline, oil, solvents, old paints, thinners, fertilizers, pesticides, cleaners and many other products need to be disposed of properly. SWALCO hosts multiple Household Chemical Waste (HCW) collection events throughout the year. The next event is scheduled for May 24th, 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM at the Mundelein Metra Station Parking Lot. Visit their website for more information:



Seawalls

Seawalls contribute to erosion and sedimentation because they deflect waves, rather than absorbing the energy. If your property must use a seawall, be sure to keep it in good shape and consider installing a native plant buffer behind the seawall. The native plants have deep root systems and can help prevent the erosion of soil behind the seawall.

Rip rap, or layers of stones, also help protect shorelines, especially when combined with native plants, rather than turf grass. Maintaining rip rap ensures that the stone continues to provide the shoreline benefits over time.

Beach Advisory



From May to September, the Lake County Health Department's Lakes Management Unit (LMU) samples beaches and inland lakes biweekly (2 times per month). The water samples are tested for E. coli bacteria, which are found in the intestines of almost all warm-blooded animals. While not all strains of E. coli are the same, certain strains can make humans sick if ingested in high enough concentrations.

If water samples come back high for E. coli (235 E. coli/100 ml), the management body for the bathing beach is notified and a sign is posted indicating the beach closure. Additionally, since rain events tend to lead to elevated bacteria levels in the water column, the LMU advises that persons avoid swimming after a large rain event.

Protect our Wetlands

Protecting wetlands is vital because they provide numerous ecological and economic benefits. Wetlands are crucial for biodiversity, flood control, water quality improvement, shoreline erosion control, and climate change mitigation. They also offer important resources like food, water, and natural products.

Wetlands are highly productive ecosystems that support a wide variety of plant and animal life. These essential habitats provide nursery grounds for many fish and wildlife species. Wetlands produce large amounts of food, such as detritus (decaying organic matter), which supports insects, shellfish, and forage fish. These organisms, in turn, serve as food for larger animals, creating a complex food web.

Please do not dump lawn clippings or leaves in the wetlands. Dumping yard waste in wetlands is harmful because it fills the wetlands, altering their natural structure and function, which can lead to flooding problems and habitat loss for wildlife. Yard waste can also impact water chemistry, causing nutrient overload and potential harm to aquatic life.



ENVIRONMENT

Become Part of the Native Plant Movement

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) program provides simple steps and a wealth of resources to create beautiful spaces that make a big impact for local and migratory species from small window boxes to vast habitat corridors. Implementing climate smart sustainable gardening practices benefits people and communities across North America.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Native habitat gardens can support two times the amount of wildlife when compared to properties with primarily turf lawn.
- Native plants are the foundation of a wildlife habitat garden. NWF suggests you strive for a minimum of 70% native plants.
- Over 2 million habitat acres are lost annually to development and agriculture.

Native plants are essential to support local wildlife like butterflies, bees, birds, and more. Adding even one or two of these native species into your garden could make a difference.

- Milkweed: Common Milkweed, Butterflyweed, Swamp Milkweed, Purple/White/Green Milkweed
- Local Goldenrod, Asters, Black-eyed Susan, Yellow Coneflower, and more

Visit Dnr.illinois.gov/education/pollinatormain/pollinatornativeplants.html to learn more.

Save the Turtles

Worldwide, there are 260 species of turtles. Seventeen of these species inhabit Illinois, dwelling in forests, prairies, marshes, swamps, ponds, lakes, streams and rivers. Those aquatic species that bask are regularly seen on sunny days lining logs and sand banks. Other species are most often encountered in the spring while crossing highways and fields in search of new habitats, mates or nesting sites. The chief conservation issue for turtles is the loss or alteration of critical habitats. Over-exploitation of turtles for food and the pet trade are also serious problems in Illinois.

In and around Wauconda, you're likely to encounter painted turtles, red-eared sliders, and common snapping turtles.

The Blanding's Turtle Recovery Program in Illinois focuses on headstarting: collecting eggs, raising hatchlings in safety for a year, and releasing them back into protected areas. Wild females are tracked to find nests, and released turtles are monitored to assess the program's success.

Collaboration among state agencies, conservation groups, and educational institutions is vital for the program. Efforts address habitat loss, road mortality, and nest predation. While a fungal shell disease temporarily halted headstarting, research into this threat continues, demonstrating the program's ongoing adaptation to ensure the recovery of Blanding's turtles in Illinois. Learn how you can help at lcfpd.org/what-we-do/projects/blandings-turtle-recovery-program/.

WATER QUALITY

Bangs Lake Weed Management

Bangs Lake is in year two of a three-year weed management program to target invasive plants that increased significantly in density over the past decade, despite the Village's weed harvesting program and cost-share program for herbicide. The Village's contractor ILM applied a whole lake herbicide called Sonar on April 4. The herbicide is applied at a very low dosage of 4 parts per billion. The purpose of the treatment is to target non-native European Milfoil and Curly-leaf Pondweed. In 2024, the first year of treatment, the post-treatment plant survey showed positive results. In place of the invasive species, the survey found that native plants like eel grass, flat stemmed pondweed, leafy pondweed and Chara reestablished a presence. Native plants are important to maintaining water quality and fish habitat.

The herbicide dissipates over eight weeks. There are no restrictions on using the lake during the treatment.

The Village is monitoring water quality this summer through a monthly testing program beginning in May. The monthly results will be posted on the Village's website.

Natural Shorelines are Best for Bangs Lake

Everyone plays a role in Bangs Lake water quality. Because Bangs Lake sits at a low elevation compared to the rest of the landscape, it naturally collects rainwater runoff and the nutrients and sediment that come with runoff. Excessive nutrients like phosphorous contribute to algae growth. Sediment collects on the bottom of the lake, which reduces our enjoyment of the Bangs Lake.

Whether or not you have lakefront property, you can help preserve the quality of Bangs Lake by planting native plants on your property, installing a rain garden to slow the rate of runoff into storm sewers, and reducing or eliminating the use of chemical fertilizer on your lawn. Even better, when you plant native plants like milkweed, you're helping to protect pollinating birds and insects like butterflies. Learn about small steps you can take by visiting openlands.org or theconservationfoundation.org.

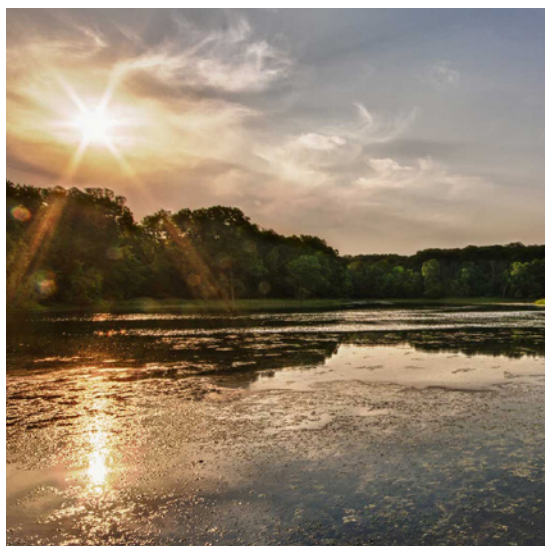
Resources



Lake County
Stormwater
Management



Illinois Lakes
Management
Blogs



Algae

For the past few years, the algae *Gloeotrichia* has been found in Bangs Lake. One of the best ways to reduce the prevalence of harmful algae blooms in the future is reducing nutrients from flowing into the lake. Nutrients come from things like chemical fertilizers, grass clippings and animal waste.

Since 2015, fertilizers containing Phosphorous have been banned in Illinois, unless a soil test proves that a lawn is low in phosphorous. You can easily boost phosphorus naturally by mowing lawn clippings back into the lawn instead of bagging lawn clippings. If you must use chemical fertilizer, verify that the fertilizer does not contain phosphorous and be sure to sweep up any leftover fertilizer on sidewalks and driveways, which can easily wash into storm sewers. In addition, it's important not to dump grass clippings or leaves into the lake or other waterways.

It's also important to remember to pick up pet waste and maintain your septic system if you are not on the Village's sanitary sewer system.

Helpful resource Lake County Stormwater Management Commission [Lakecountyil.gov94/P-Free-Fertilizers](https://lakecountyil.gov94/P-Free-Fertilizers).





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Wauconda, IL 60084

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Tom Shaw Sam Stein Matthew Brown

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(Summer on Bangs Lake Continued from page 1)

Five channels were created to increase user access to the lake. Washington Channel is the first to appear on the 1939 aerial. The stem section of the Circle Channel is apparent in the 1939 aerial, but the remaining sections are not constructed until 1952. The Kimball Channel is visible as a wetland stream in the 1939 aerial, and as a constructed channel by the 1961 aerial. The Berger Channel appears to be under construction in the 1961 aerial. The Peninsula Channel first appears on the 1993 aerial photo. Even though they are connected directly to the lake, the physical (lake bottom, shorelines) and ecological aspects (plant and fish life present) of the channels are very different than those of the lake.



12 Photo courtesy of the Wauconda Township Historical Society photo archives

Phil's Beach Information

Phil's Beach 2025 season passes are on sale now. Beach passes are available for resident and non-resident, daily or for the entire season. The 2025 season opens Saturday, May 31st and is open seven days a week until Sunday, August 10th. Hours are from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM daily.

Know Before You Go:

- Parking is available in the Phil's Beach parking lot and is first come, first served
- While concessions are available, outside food and beverages are permitted in Phil's Beach. Grilling is not permitted. No alcohol or glass.
- The Wauconda Park District reserves the right to close the WIBIT or facility due to weather, safety, or low attendance
- Children under age 13 must be accompanied by a person age 16 or older
- Phil's Beach is a smoke-free facility
- No pets

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