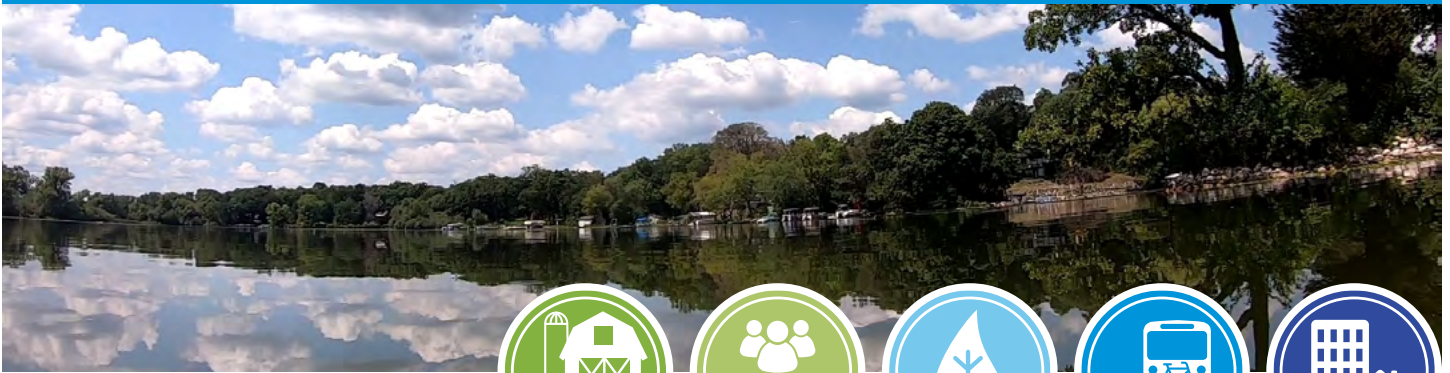


REGIONAL PLANNING NEWS

A publication of the **Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission**



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SWITCH TO E-NEWS

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Discover Alternatives to Driving Alone with CommuteWISE

In January, the Commission launched CommuteWISE, a new initiative that encourages a shift from drive-alone commuting to cost-effective and sustainable options like riding the bus, carpooling, or biking. CommuteWISE will work with employers and commuters to provide tools and resources to enhance access to jobs, reduce traffic congestion, and improve air quality.

An exciting part of this initiative is a regional ride-matching platform called CommuteWISE Connect. SEWRPC worked with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization to update the existing RIDESHARE platform and debut CommuteWISE Connect as a regional solution for Southeastern Wisconsin. Users can register for free and use Connect's website and mobile app to search for commute options (including real-time transit information), find potential carpool partners, and log sustainable trips to calculate cost and greenhouse gas savings. Businesses can utilize CommuteWISE Connect to promote carpooling at their worksites and can even set up specialized networks within the platform. Commission staff can assist businesses by helping to identify and promote available commute options.



2 Protecting Healthy Lakes



Visit **commutewise.org** to learn more about the initiative and go to **connect.commutewise.org** to register for an account and search your commute options.



Eagle Spring Lake, Waukesha County



Lauderdale Lakes, Walworth County



Nagawicka Lake, Waukesha County

Protecting Healthy Lakes

Much of the time, attention, and funding directed towards Wisconsin surface waters is focused on restoring impaired and poor-quality lakes and rivers. While these efforts are necessary, there has been less focus on protecting high-quality lakes and rivers from becoming impaired. Over the past few years, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has worked to change that by embarking on an effort to identify high-quality lakes and rivers within the state and develop strategies to protect these waterbodies. The WDNR published its list of “high-quality” lakes, rivers, and wetlands in 2022 as part of its Healthy Watersheds, High-Quality Waters program. Within Southeastern Wisconsin, there are 24 lakes and 32 streams identified by WDNR as “high-quality” as well as 105 “healthy and rare” wetlands.

High-quality lakes in Southeastern Wisconsin are vulnerable to numerous stressors, including shoreline development, intense recreational use, invasive species, land use practices, and climate change. Although there are many tools and resources available to help lake protection, awareness of these tools and the ability of lake stakeholders to make use of them is an ongoing challenge.

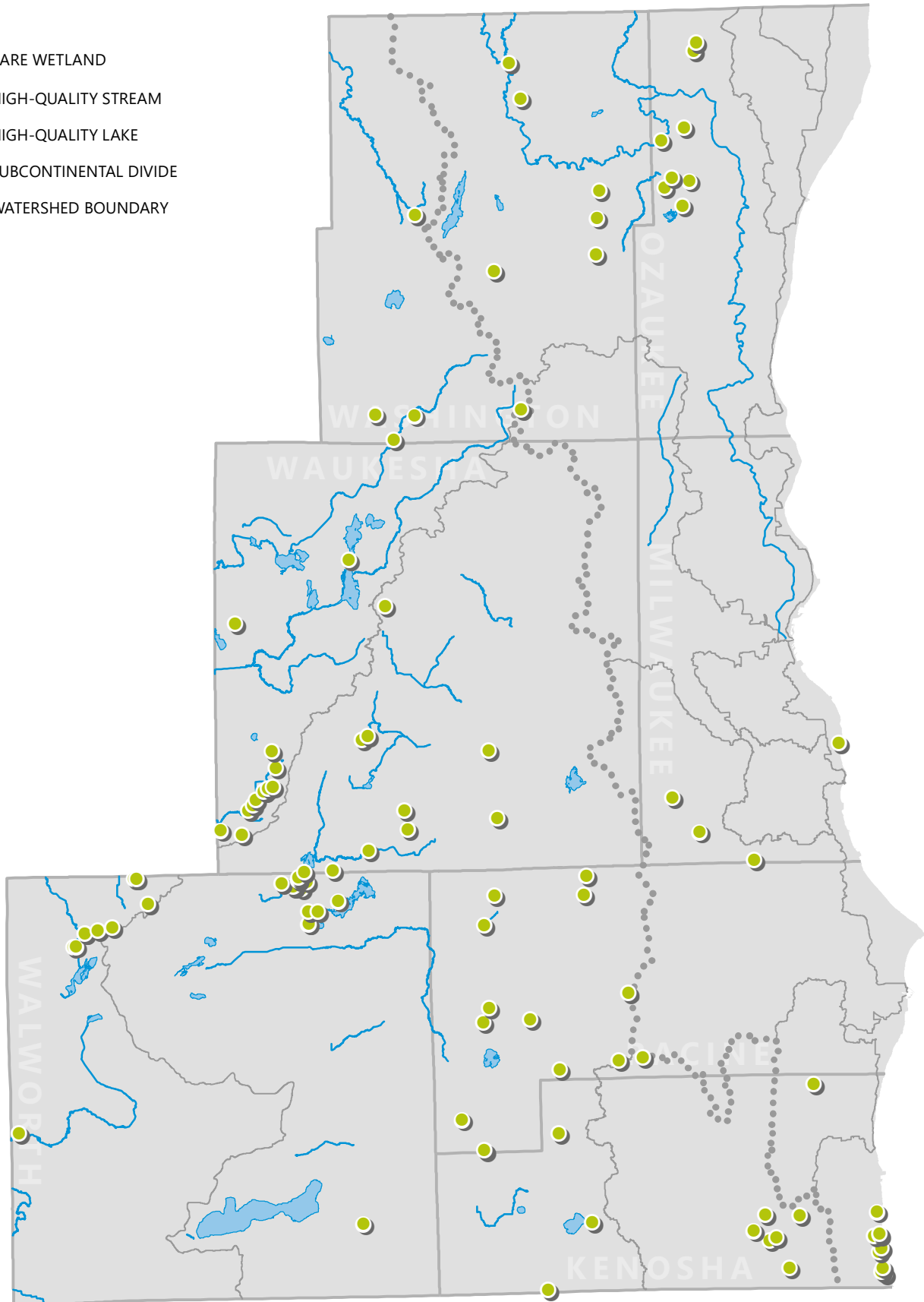
The Commission has recently received four WDNR Surface Water Grants to help establish a network of well-informed stakeholders from WDNR-designated “high-quality” lakes within Walworth and Waukesha Counties. Commission staff will begin reaching out to interested stakeholders at these lakes to learn about the lakes’ ecology as well as management practices employed on the lakes. As part of this effort, Commission staff will also provide a toolkit and a practice-based workshop to inform and train stakeholders on lake data inventory, best management practices (BMPs), and available funding options. Workshop minutes and the BMP toolkit will be published on the Commission’s website for use on all lakes in Southeastern Wisconsin.

For more information on the WDNR’s Healthy Watersheds, High-Quality Waters effort, including the published list of waterbodies, see the following link:

dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/HQW.html



- RARE WETLAND
- HIGH-QUALITY STREAM
- HIGH-QUALITY LAKE
- ● ● ● SUBCONTINENTAL DIVIDE
- WATERSHED BOUNDARY





Did You Know?

Bowling, or the game of tenpins, is once again becoming a favorite past-time of teenagers in the Milwaukee area. Not surprising since Milwaukee was once the Bowling Capital of America. Bowling evolved in the mid 1800s from similar European games, such as the German kegling game. Bowling became popular in Milwaukee as German-Americans settled here, and played the game in the many beer gardens and saloons that were abundant in the City.

The American Bowling Congress (ABC) was formed in New York in 1895. In 1905, Milwaukee hosted a successful bowling tournament. This left a favorable impression of Milwaukee on the ABC and they moved their headquarters here. The ABC remained in Milwaukee until 2008, when the headquarters moved to Texas as part of the U.S. Bowling Congress. Despite the loss of the ABC headquarters, Milwaukee is home to the oldest bowling alley in America. The Holler House has the nation's oldest certified bowling lanes and has been owned by the same family since 1908. The pins are set by neighborhood kids, the scoring is kept by hand, and the lanes are real wooden planks.

Source: wi101.wisc.edu/milwaukee-the-bowling-capital-of-america, geneandmarcyhollerhouse.com