



# Friends of Lake Wingra



Promoting a healthy Lake Wingra  
through an active watershed community

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August 9, 2005

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The Friends of Lake Wingra wish to express their support for the groundwater recharge project at Odana Golf Course that is being proposed by Madison Gas & Electric and the State of Wisconsin.

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The Friends of Lake Wingra (FOLW) have closely followed the development of this project since it was first proposed. The FOLW Wingra Watershed Management Plan calls for decreasing runoff to Lake Wingra by infiltrating storm water throughout the watershed (To see the full plan: [www.lakewingra.org](http://www.lakewingra.org)). The Odana Golf Course groundwater recharge project will help achieve this goal by infiltrating about 80 million gallons of the approximately 420 million gallons of storm water runoff entering Lake Wingra each year.

We have been encouraged by MG&E's willingness to work closely with watershed stakeholders to develop a project that provides for a positive environmental impact, with minimum disruption to the surrounding neighborhood and parkland. We also appreciate MG&E's commitment to support ongoing education of watershed residents and businesses about issues related to storm water management.

The Friends of Lake Wingra believe that it is very important to continue to help the community understand storm water and groundwater dynamics in the watershed. This project is only one of many steps needed to protect and improve the water quality of Lake Wingra.

Friends of Lake Wingra, Inc.

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We call on the City of Madison to build upon the benefits of the Odana Golf Course project, by taking action to:

Support outreach education about Wingra Watershed issues, including the placement of a rain garden and information kiosk at Odana Golf Course;

Improve habitat around Odana Ponds, including restoration of riparian borders, and removal of invasive species (e.g. common carp);

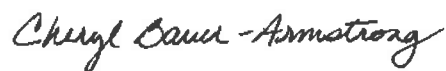
Moderate peak flows of runoff draining from the Odana Ponds, to reduce the resulting erosion and habitat degradation in the West Wingra Marsh;

Eliminate the soil erosion on City property in the Wingra watershed that is contributing to sediment and nutrients to Lake Wingra (e.g. at Westmorland Park, Glenway Golf Course/S.W. Bikepath, Forest Hill Cemetery);

Promote the adoption of innovative storm water runoff reduction measures throughout the watershed, including: residential rain gardens, biofiltration and porous pavement for commercial sites, street-side infiltration, and storm water detention and infiltration on public property.

We urge the City of Madison to support the leadership of MG&E in improving watershed conditions, by approving the proposed Odana Golf Course ground water recharge project. The Friends of Lake Wingra are eager to partner with the City and other Wingra Watershed stakeholders in transforming our watershed into a model of sustainable storm water management.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Bauer-Armstrong, Chair