



Photo by Richard Hurd

To: City of Madison Board of Park Commissioners
From: Casey Hanson, Executive Director of Friends of Lake Wingra
Date: March 9, 2021
Re: Friends of Lake Wingra Comments on Glenway Golf Course

Friends of Lake Wingra heard about the exciting and rare opportunity for Glenway Golf Course to receive a redesign due to the donation from Michael and Jocelyn Keiser. The initial design features offer some exciting ways to enhance a sense of community and restore native areas and improve infiltration in the watershed. At this time, we'd like to express our support for the ideas behind the native restoration and community-building. The purpose of this memo is to provide some context on how Glenway Golf Course ties into the Wingra Watershed goals, why this connection matters, and suggested opportunities to build off existing work and goals in the stormwater realm.



Figure 1. Glenway Golf Course's location relative to Wingra Watershed boundary (black dotted line)

Glenway's Connection to Lake Wingra

The Glenway Golf Course falls within the Wingra Watershed, as shown in Figure 1. It is one of three golf courses in the watershed. The Odana Golf Course and the Nakoma Golf Club are the other two. Our interest in Glenway Golf Course has particular meaning because of its connection to the [Wingra Watershed Management Plan \(WWMP\)](#). This plan, adopted by the Common Council in 2016, addresses three areas of concern for Lake Wingra: phosphorus, infiltration, and chlorides. ‘

Why this connection is important

Glenway Golf Course can act as an infiltration facility to help reach one of the WWMP's goals: restore 25% of infiltration lost due to development in the watershed. Infiltration remains important for Lake Wingra because it accounts for 35% of Lake Wingra's water budget and groundwater flow helps regulate the lake's temperature more naturally. As development has reduced infiltration, springs have dried up. These springs also provide habitat for native plants and animals.

One facet of the WWMP plan recommends a combination of 12 facility improvements throughout the watershed. One of these 12 is Glenway Golf Course. Based on modeling, Glenway could account for 12.5% of the total infiltration volume at these facilities. The WWMP plan suggests that part of the golf



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course could serve as an infiltration field for treated stormwater that drains to a wet detention basin as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Proposed infiltration opportunities at Glenway Golf Course in the WWMP

Opportunities to build off existing work and goals

We realize during the creation of the WWMP, no one anticipated a redesign of Glenway Golf Course. The additional benefits that can come out of this redesign sound promising! Our intent in this memo is to urge the different working groups and Board of Park Commissioners to consider how this redesign could honor the initial infiltration vision the WWMP set for Glenway. This consideration might result in a variation of the initial proposal. We understand that as long as authentic discussions and decision-making take place.

The City of Madison Engineering Division might provide insight and institutional knowledge on the initial vision of Glenway as they were involved in the WWMP's creation. Friends of Lake Wingra would also like to serve in an advisory stakeholder role to provide insight on the future vision for Lake Wingra's watershed health. The project seems like a genuine opportunity to restore native areas and build a sense of community. We look forward to seeing how that can lead to ripple effects throughout the watershed.