

WHEREAS; Wisconsin’s rivers and waterways serve as gateways to outdoor adventure and present opportunities for cultural and economic development; and

WHEREAS; these rivers and waterways are some of the state’s most valuable natural resources, serving as important habitats for wildlife while also providing tourism, recreation, and commercial opportunities for Wisconsin residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS; throughout the year, millions of Wisconsinites and visitors explore and enjoy Wisconsin’s lakes, streams, rivers, and waterways, which may be in close proximity to a dam, especially during the spring and summer seasons; and

WHEREAS; dams create renewable energy from rivers and waterways and manage the flow of water to enhance recreation and prevent flooding, but also present real safety concerns for those who access or use waters near the dams; and

WHEREAS; every year, people across the United States are killed or seriously injured by tragic accidents at or near dams, and most of these accidents could be prevented by staying away from restricted areas and learning about and respecting the dangers associated with dams; and

WHEREAS; individuals can practice personal safety around dams by knowing the risks, obeying warning and portage signs, staying away from restricted areas, respecting safety barriers, heeding horns or sirens, being alert to rapidly changing water conditions, practicing safe boating, wearing a personal flotation device, and exercising caution when swimming, wading, and walking near a dam; and

WHEREAS; dam owners also play an important role in managing and restoring their dams, as well as notifying the public of potential risks a dam structure and associated flow releases may create; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in encouraging all Wisconsinites to practice dam safety when utilizing the state’s rivers and waterways, and all dam owners to minimize risk at their dams;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim May 31 2026 as

WISCONSIN DAM SAFETY AWARENESS DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 27th day of May 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State