

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to more than 15,000 inland freshwater lakes, 84,000 miles of rivers and streams, and approximately 800 miles of Great Lakes shoreline; and

WHEREAS; lakes and reservoirs are among Wisconsin’s most valuable natural resources, providing drinking water, irrigation, food, energy, scenic beauty, and recreation opportunities to communities across the state; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin lakes are home to abundant wildlife and biodiverse ecosystems, and their health is essential to the nourishment of aquatic communities and the prosperity of neighboring terrestrial species and transitional wetland areas; and

WHEREAS; these bodies of water improve the quality of life for individuals across Wisconsin and are fundamental to the collective identity of Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; the state recognizes the need to deploy strategic and data-informed conservation efforts to help mitigate the effects of climate change and protect lakes and reservoirs for future generations; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin is committed to upholding and defending clean water initiatives that protect lakes across the state, including efforts to protect drinking water from PFAS, lead, nitrate, and other harmful pollutants in the state’s water supply; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins its agencies, organizations, and thousands of volunteers dedicated to the stewardship of Wisconsin lakes in promoting the preservation of the natural environment for the benefit of all Wisconsinites;

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

**LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH**

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 15th day of June 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State