

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; from drinking, bathing, and household use, to agriculture, food production, and industrial processes, water is a fundamental part of our everyday lives and serves as the basic support system for all life on our planet; and

WHEREAS; as Wisconsinites, we pride ourselves on our bountiful natural resources, which include 84,000 miles of rivers and streams, approximately 1,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, more than 15,000 inland freshwater lakes, five million acres of wetlands, and 1.2 quadrillion gallons of groundwater, and we recognize that we must uphold and defend clean water initiatives in our state, such as protecting drinking water from PFAS and nitrate pollution, and replacing lead service lines and pipes, among other measures; and

WHEREAS; in 2020, Wisconsin had 11,252 public water systems—the largest number of any state—serving as the drinking water source for about three-quarters of residents, and the majority of those who do not utilize our state's public water systems rely on private wells as their water source; and

WHEREAS; healthy waters are recognized by the sovereign Native Nations that call Wisconsin home—including elders, tribal councils, water walkers, and conservation professionals—as a critical foundation for maintaining cultural traditions and practices, sustaining hunting and fishing territories, and retaining a bright future for future generations; and

WHEREAS; bodies of water, including lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands, provide critical habitats, flood protection, and opportunities for fishing, boating, swimming, and other recreational activities that improve our quality of life; and

WHEREAS; enshrined in our state's constitution, and supported by a history of legislation and legal decisions regarding the conservation of our waters, the Public Trust Doctrine establishes that the people of Wisconsin have the right to access, use, and protect the waters of our state; and

WHEREAS; through strategic partnerships, the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership strives to develop programmatic solutions that meet the current and future water needs of Wisconsinites while educating the public on water issues and opportunities; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated organizations like the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership in celebrating the importance of water to our collective well-being, and reaffirms its commitment to protecting our recreational waters, investing in conservation, and working to ensure that every Wisconsinite is able to drink straight from their tap without fear of contamination;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 4 – 10, 2022, as


WISCONSIN WATER WEEK

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 4th day of March 2022.


TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

