



**GREEN LAKE  
ASSOCIATION**  
WE CARE FOR OUR LAKE

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release

## **WHY A SMALL RIPON NEIGHBORHOOD IS FIGHTING TO PROTECT THE WATERWAYS OF ONE OF WISCONSIN'S LARGEST LAKES**

By: Kristen Rasmussen – Director of Communication, GLA

**GREEN LAKE, WISCONSIN, OCTOBER 17, 2022**— On the east end of Big Green Lake, Wisconsin's deepest natural inland lake, lies a small neighborhood that is fighting to protect livelihoods and local waterways from a proposed mining operation.

If the approved plans for the Kopplin & Kinas Skunk Hollow Mine move forward, the 40-acre quarry would be located just one field away from several iconic springs that are sensitive to groundwater fluctuations, and would abut a neighborhood that relies on clean drinking water wells.

Nonmetallic mines have been shown to disrupt groundwater levels, which can negatively affect conditions in surrounding springs and deplete local drinking water supplies.

Carl Nehm, a Grade A dairy farmer whose fields are adjacent to the potential quarry, is concerned about Skunk Hollow Mine harming his operation. Nehm depends on a reliable supply of potable water and must undergo routine water quality testing of his well. Any compromises to his well—the farm's only water source—would require that he truck in water for his cows, an economically unsustainable option for an industry already burdened by thin profit margins.

"The farm is approximately 300 acres and we've been on this location since 1990," shared Nehm. "A quarry at this location could have substantial disruption to our dairy operation."

The Green Lake County Land Use Planning & Zoning Committee public hearing in July was packed with community members who expressed concern over the lack of public notice and insufficient consideration of ecological risks of the proposed project. After hours of public comment and testimony, committee members approved a conditional use permit for the Kopplin & Kinas Skunk Hollow Mine.

Since then, members of the surrounding community have come together to form a coalition called "Stop the Mine. Save Green Lake." to prevent the mine from going forward.

One resident, Mat Boerson, expressed frustration that the public outcry has largely gone unnoticed by governmental officials and committee members tasked with protecting the public.

"If this proposed mine is supposedly so good for the community, then why are so many people sad, angry, and frustrated by Kopplin & Kinas?" questioned Boerson, a local farmer whose children and wife grew up

exploring Mitchell Glen, a nearby sandstone gorge with a 40-foot waterfall and a microclimate that sustains unique flora and fauna for the region.

“To survive in farming, we need to respect the land and the water,” said Nehm. “Commencing a mining operation so incredibly close to this treasure of Mitchell Glen seems short-sighted.”

In August, three local entities—the Green Lake Association (GLA), the Green Lake Conservancy (GLC), and the Green Lake Sanitary District (GLSD)—united with a landowner to file two appeals challenging Green Lake County’s approval of a conditional use permit for Skunk Hollow Mine.

“We are not opposed to mining, but we are concerned about mining *here*,” said Stephanie Prellwitz, Executive Director of the GLA, on behalf of the appellants. “Our organizations have been working tirelessly to protect these natural resources. We cannot sacrifice short-term gains for potential permanent damage to our tremendous ecological assets.”

Green Lake and its surrounding watershed are exceptional resources to the community. The GLA, GLC, and GLSD remain committed to protecting the natural resources under threat due to their proximity to the mine, including nearby unique waterways like Mitchell Glen, Green Lake’s two primary trout streams, and Powell Spring—which discharges enough fresh spring water to form a 10-foot-wide river directly from the exposed limestone bedrock.

On behalf of its water resources, ecological treasures, and the community, the three organizations urge you to take action. The Green Lake Association welcomes supporters to sign their petition, which is already 850 signatures strong, and growing. Learn more by visiting [www.greenlakeassociation.org/skunk-hollow-mine](http://www.greenlakeassociation.org/skunk-hollow-mine).

## **ABOUT THE GREEN LAKE ASSOCIATION**

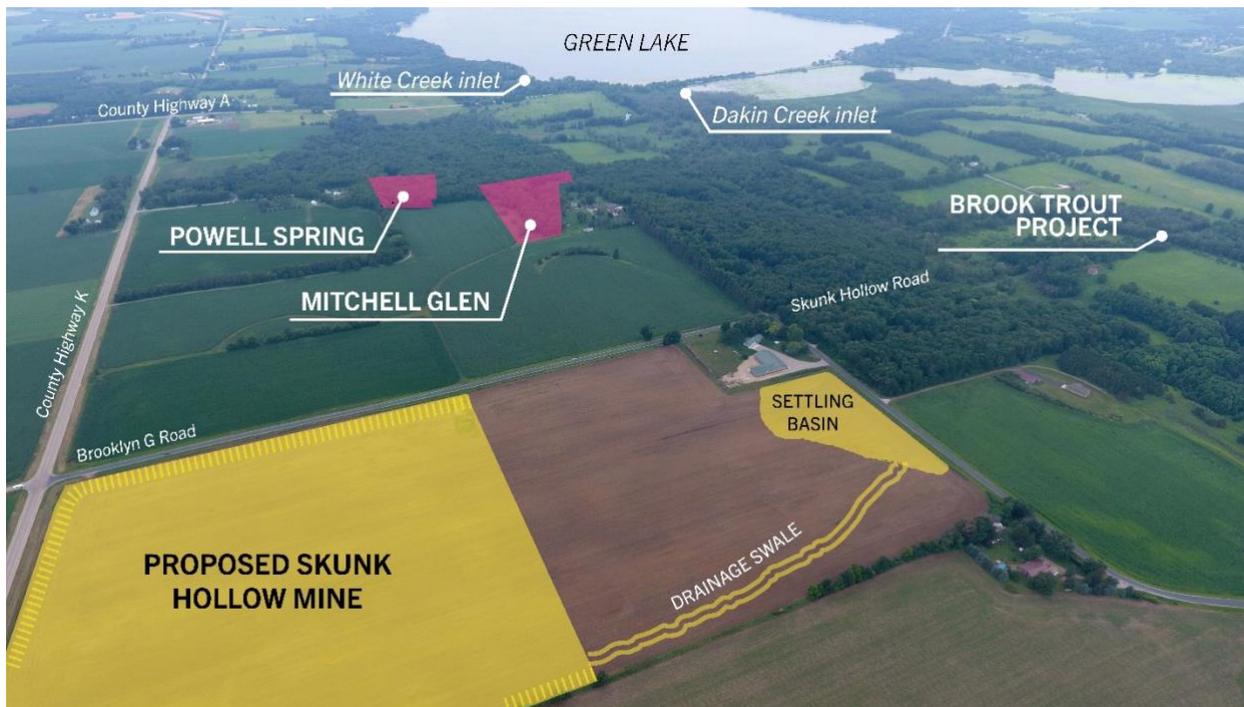
The Green Lake Association is an environmental non-profit based in downtown Green Lake, Wisconsin. To support their mission for a cleaner, more resilient Big Green Lake, visit [greenlakeassociation.org](http://greenlakeassociation.org).

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**VISUALS:** For supporting visuals, find high-resolution photos and video available for download here. <https://we.tl/t-75tj22CgFD>

**Video Credit:** © ClearView Productions

**Photo Credit & Captions:** Listed below



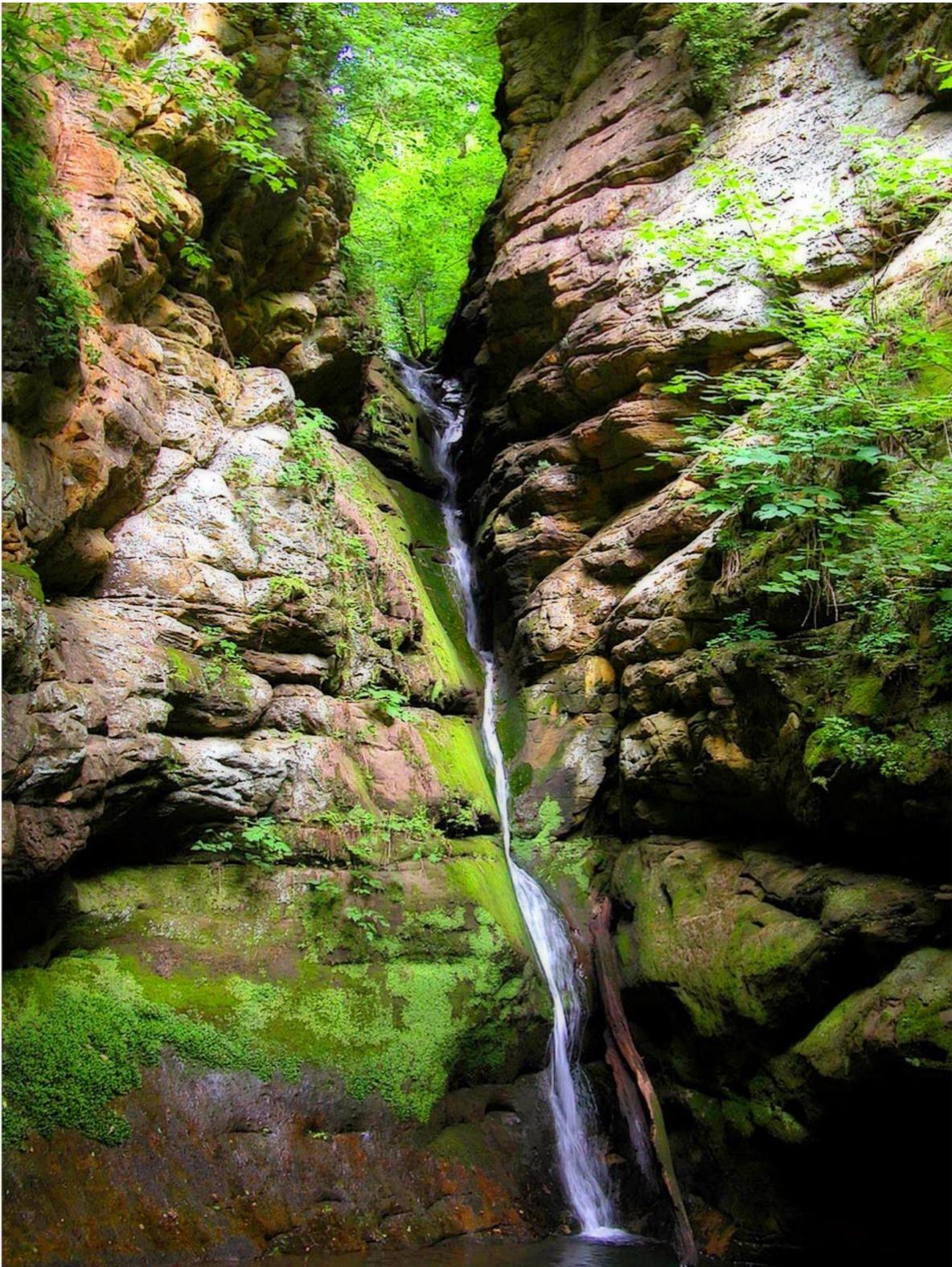
*Caption:* Aerial overview of the approximate location of the Skunk Hollow Mine and its stormwater features in proximity to Green Lake and surrounding water resources. Groundwater flows from the proposed mine site northwest, toward Green Lake.

*Photo Credit:* Mat and Henry Boerson; graphics by the Green Lake Association.



*Caption:* The source of Powell Spring pours out from the side of a limestone rock face, located just below the cabin shown in this image. Powell Spring is dependent on groundwater and is located 2,000 feet from the proposed Skunk Hollow Mine site.

*Photo credit:* Green Lake Conservancy.



*Caption:* Mitchell Glen, an iconic Green Lake landmark owned by the Green Lake Sanitary District, supports a remarkable biodiversity of plants and animals, and provides ecosystem services that benefit the public.

*Photo credit:* Tom Eddy



*Caption:* Two local children explore Mitchell Glen, a groundwater-dependent system that features sandstone bluffs, springs, and a waterfall—all located one farm field away from the proposed Skunk Hollow Mine.

*Photo Credit:* Local Green Lake family



*Caption:* A sign placed by the “Stop the Mine. Save Green Lake.” neighborhood coalition highlights the proximity of the proposed Kopplin & Kinas Skunk Hollow Mine to local ecological treasure, Mitchell Glen, which opponents worry will cause harm to nearby natural resources.

*Photo Credit:* Green Lake Association