



14 Mile Watershed Alliance Spring Newsletter Articles for the Rome Tri-Lakes Associations

Save the Date! State of Our Lakes

Annual update on Lakes health and actions taken to protect our Lakes.

June 6, 2026 11 AM to 2 PM. Rome Town Hall

Free Lunch Provided, Prizes, Presentations, Information, Raffles

Spring Thaw: Keep Algae Causing Nutrients from Running Into the Lakes!

Time to thaw out from a very cold Winter! As Spring rolls around, our ground may still be somewhat frozen but Winter runoff is in progress. Be very careful what you add to that runoff since it will head directly into our lakes.

That means you need to be very thoughtful about what you put on your property during this time. By now, you already know there is more than enough of the fertilizer you need in the grass alone to sprout any grass on your property. No need to add any additional either through a service or by your own sweat! Each time you cut the grass, you fertilize it with the grass clippings.

14 Mile Watershed and our partners are working to have an impact on all sources of this additional nitrogen and phosphorus, both around the lakes, upstream and throughout the entire 14 Mile Watershed stretching back to Plainfield. You can help by doing your part to reduce or eliminate those additional sources of fertilizer you can control. As residents of the Town of Rome, we all thank you! 14MileWatershed.org

Short Sips of Water: Issues and Solutions

- We are now the fiduciary agent for a producer-led group that started in the watershed: The Farmers of the FourteenMile Creek. 2026 is their first full year of action and that comes with good news – we have secured grant funding to help them implement farm based nutrient management practices to add to their already active nutrient reduction programs. This is a valuable addition to the work in the Watershed.
- One of our farm scientists who lives on Lower Lake Camelot led a 2025 test of Biochar bags as a method to reduce the nutrients in our waterways throughout the Watershed. The results were very promising and that focused test will continue in 2026 to get longer term results. In addition, we have received grants from the Green Bay Packers Foundation, Incurage Community Foundation – Rome Area Fund, and Visit Rome to perform a wider test of these biochar bags, something we are calling ***'Socks For Docks,'***

on all three lakes in 2026. We are working with the WDNR to finalize the lab testing protocol and expect to roll that out in early June. If you are on the lakefront and would like to be considered as a dock site for this test to reduce the nutrients that cause algae blooms, please go to this link to apply: <https://14MileWatershed.org/socks> The bags hang under your dock. There is no cost to you and all testing is done during the summer by trained lab personnel in WDNR approved labs. There is no harm to humans or wildlife, just nutrients!

- 14 Mile Watershed Alliance returns in 2025 for our 6th year at the Rome Farmer's Market, every Friday morning from 9 AM to 1 PM. Plenty of information, displays, maps, and discussion with members of the Alliance about our Watershed! See you there!
- As you might expect, some of the work we do has some cost to it and those costs are not going down. As a not-for-profit organization, the 14 Mile Watershed Alliance will always accept your donations. If you would like to donate to the 14 Mile Watershed Alliance, please click this link: <https://14MileWatershed.org/donate>

14 Mile Watershed Alliance is Looking For Skilled Volunteers!

We hope you'll share your skills with your fellow watershed/lake residents (or part-time residents!) or alert someone you know that can help.

Public Relations

Education

Grant Writer

Graphic Arts

Government Relations

Social Media

Go to 14MileWatershed.org/qr-recruiting. Learn more about our need for skilled people.



Recruiting QR Code