

# Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative

A not-for-profit organization and land trust

Working across state boundaries to enhance Wolf Lake



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May 2, 2025

## Wetlands Festival Features Walk, Hike

Contact: Michael Boos, 219 933-7149 or 312 220-0120

### Immediate Release

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Wolf Lake Bi-State Wetlands, Wind & Water festival starts at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 24, with a mile walk between Wolf Lake and Powderhorn Lake and back.

The Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative sponsors the event. The group's president, Dr. Phil Willink, will lead the walk from 133<sup>rd</sup> and Avenue K south to 136<sup>th</sup> Street east of Avenue K and back again.

A half-mile-long underground system has been engineered to prioritize safe passage that serves a diverse aquatic ecosystem, including fish, turtles and wetland birds. Between 2021 and 2024, more than 100 acres of wetlands were restored.

Using a water control structure at the north end of Powderhorn Lake, land managers are now able to lower, raise, or maintain the water level as needed, allowing water to drain safely from Powderhorn Lake through the northern marsh and into Wolf Lake and the Calumet River.

The return trip of the festival's walk should be much faster.

A second event of the Wetlands festival, a hike, begins at 2 p.m. at the entrance to the Mitigation Wetlands in Hammond. It lies a block west of 129<sup>th</sup> Street and Sheffield Avenue.

Park bikes and cars near the entrance.

Joe Kruczek, director of this year's cleanup of the Wolf Lake Watershed, will lead the hike. It will be a tour of spring wildflowers, sedges, and shrubs and spring activity of water fowl and small animals.

Hikers should wear long pants, sturdy shoes and long-sleeved shirts.

On-line registration is required for both events. Consult AWLI's website at [www.wolflakeinitiative.org](http://www.wolflakeinitiative.org). Registration deadline is May 22.

AWLI is a bi-state not-for-profit organization and land trust seeking to protect and enhance the thousands of acres within the Wolf Lake watershed. It serves a population base of 3.4 million

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