

The Geneva Lake Conservancy (GLC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of environmentally sensitive lands, open space and the unique character and quality of life of Walworth County, Wisconsin. In all situations, the primary mission of the organization is to protect the “Environmental Character” of the Geneva Lakes area.

GLC | Policy on Development:

The Geneva Lake Conservancy (GLC) understands that the quality of life we enjoy in the Geneva Lakes area is inseparable from the economic health of our local communities. As such, we recognize the need for policies and programs that support development and redevelopment of the built environment. The GLC equally understands that poorly planned growth and development can devastate our natural open spaces; the irreversible loss of which degrades the “environmental character” of our entire region.

To ensure the protection of the special natural places and agricultural lands that make this area such a wonderful place to live, work and play, the GLC adopts the following development guidelines:

1. Development should be discouraged in the following areas: Prime Agricultural Land (USDA-NRCS: Class I, Unincorporated), Environmental Corridors, Natural Resources Areas, Critical Species Habitat, Wetlands, and Shorelands.
2. To minimize the impact on our natural environment, development should be confined to areas that are already established. Such areas are typically serviceable by existing public utilities, roads, schools, emergency services, etc., and are thereby less expensive to serve (i.e. In-fill Development); by doing so, the adverse impacts on rural agriculture lands and natural amenities are avoided in general.
3. Development should be compact in general form, as opposed to sprawl, and the mix of land uses contained therein should be clustered to minimize land disturbance and the amount of impervious surface.

Advocacy Policy:

- The GLC opposes development plans that fail to incorporate the policies adopted herein.
- The GLC does not formally endorse individual development plans; however, the organization will recognize and acknowledge the effective use of conservation design techniques and sustainable planning measures in development proposals under its review.

As part of the GLC's commitment to the “Standard and Practices” developed by the LTA (Land Trust Alliance), this policy shall be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure compatibility with the Mission of the organization.