



GREAT WATERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Fall, 2017 NO. 3

Milwaukee marchers honored

*Dianne Dagele
Conservation Chair and
former member, NAACP Youth Council*

This August marks the 50th anniversary of Open Housing marches by Milwaukee's NAACP Youth Council, advised by Fr. James Groppi and accompanied by hundreds of supporters.

On Aug. 28, 1967, as a member of the Youth Council, I joined fellow civil rights protesters who marched south across the 16th St. viaduct. We were met by thousands of angry residents with racial slurs and rocks, anger and fear. After Fr. Groppi lead us in prayer at Kosciusko Park where we could hardly
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Police were necessary to accompany open housing demonstrators when they marched across Milwaukee's 16th Street Viaduct fifty years ago and were met by rocks and racial slurs.

Autumn Programs

*Mayfair Mall, Lower level Community Room G110
Garden Suites East. Enter east side of mall under AMC Theatre.
Free and open to the public*

Mining Threats to Wisconsin Waters
Monday Sept. 18, 7 p.m.

Steve Watrous, a founder of the Midwest Coalition Against Lethal Mining, and Guy Reiter (Anahkwet), lead organizer for the Menominee Tribe Against the Back Forty Mine, will make their presentation with photos on the proposed mine near Stephenson, MI.

The site is located in Upper Michigan across the Menominee River from Wisconsin. The Penokee Hills mine, which is currently on hold, will also be covered. Both operations pose imminent danger of poisoning our rivers and have roused Native American opposition. Mining companies also have interest in several other Wisconsin sites.

Journey on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail
Monday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m. following Autumn Harvest potluck at 6:15 p.m.

In 2011 Chris Miller hiked the 1,200-mile Ice Age National Scenic Trail, which follows the outermost moraine of the glacial advance
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Notes from the Chair

Up until a few years ago we in the Great Waters Group used to name our every-third-Monday get togethers “meetings.” But that didn’t demonstrate that the main reason we meet is to inform and educate our membership (and welcome any others) in environmental subjects and causes. And so we changed the name of our meetings to “programs.”

Sure, we always do our duty to inform everyone of upcoming events and challenges that your Volunteer Leadership Council is working on during a short period in the program. And sure, we have social time before and after to enjoy each other’s company.

But the main reason we get together is the program. Each one is interesting, and you will head home afterward glad that you have

come to share in the knowledge presented.

We realize you have many choices for your time, but for only eight Mondays a year, plus the first Sunday in December for the Holiday Party, we hope you will consider blocking out our special days on your calendar to come, learn and commiserate with like-minded environmentalists.

You will also note an article this month that invites you to nominate yourself or someone else to run for our Executive Committee. Please do. (The Excom members are the voting members of the VLC.)

Bill Moore



Wildlife of all kinds can be found on 500 acres successfully conserved by the City of Muskego. Included is the 104-acre Badertscher Preserve.

Muskego conservation outing set for October

The City of Muskego has successfully conserved more than 500 acres over 25 conservation sites, and you’re invited to join us on an outing to one of the largest of them, the 104-acre Badertscher Preserve.

The site occupies rolling glacial hills, but also includes wetlands and artesian springs that create Spring Creek, the highest quality stream in the city and a major tributary to Little Muskego Lake. The Preserve also includes a restored prairie and oak savannah where we’ll learn about the processes undertaken to restore these landscapes.

Date: Saturday, Oct. 28. **Time:** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. **Level:** Easy
Location: S74W20312 Field Dr. Muskego. **Leader:** Dan Buckler.
Please RSVP at daniel.c.buckler@gmail.com or 330-261-2088.

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Nominations are welcome

Would you like to be more active on environmental issues? Here’s an opportunity to step forward to help get more folks outside to explore and enjoy nature, as well as to work to protect habitat and improve sustainability.

We are accepting nominations for three openings on our Executive Committee for the 2018-19 term. If you are interested in being an Ex Com member or in nominating someone else, contact our Nomination Committee Chair, Bill Moore, at 262-785-9022 or environ1@sbcglobal.net.

County Grounds session scheduled

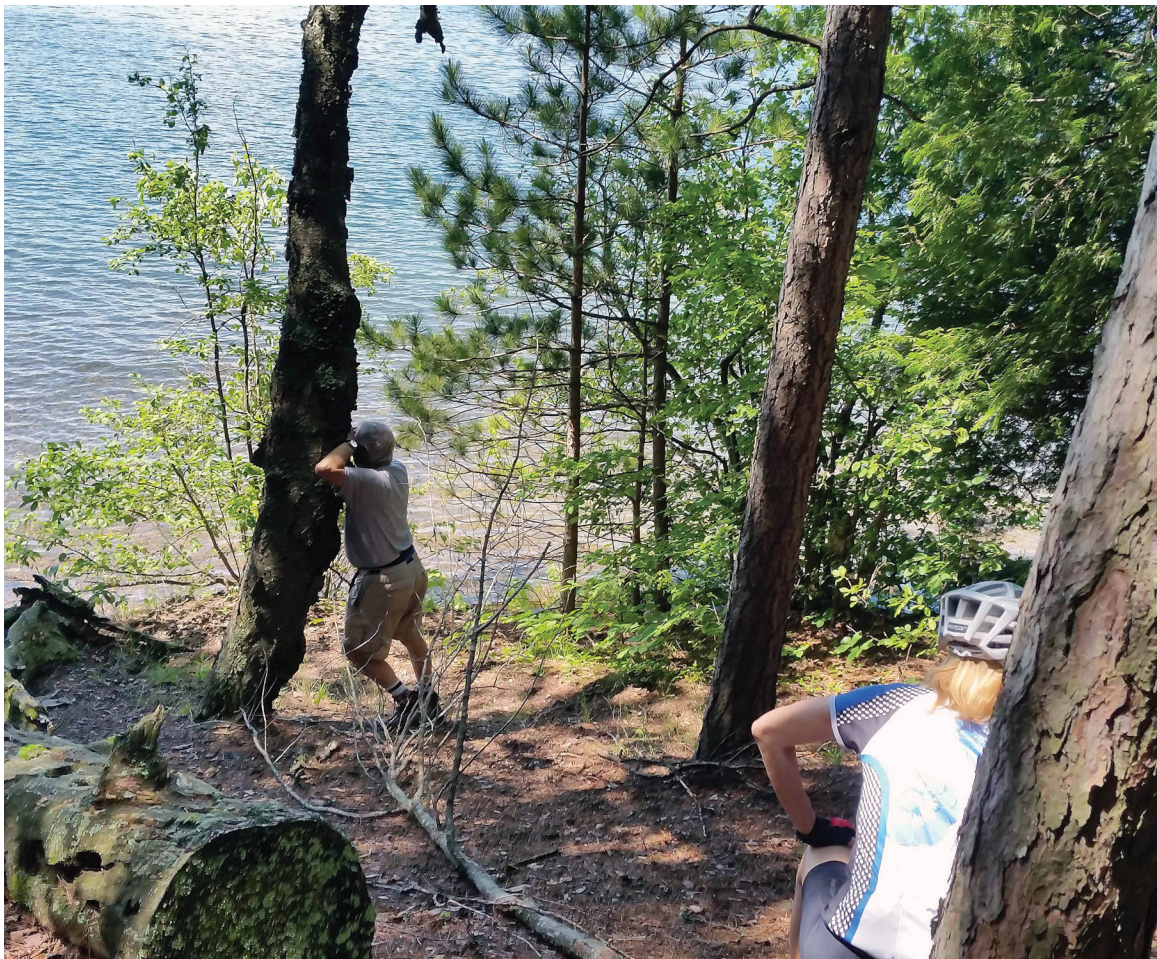
The County Grounds Coalition will host a community visioning session from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sept. 14 at the Wauwatosa Library Firefly Room, 7600 W. North Ave.

The purpose of the meeting is to seek citizen input to help shape the future design and uses for the vacant public land in Wauwatosa. The goal of this session is to incorporate citizen recommendations into a “citizen’s plan” for the county grounds to be submitted to the Common Council for its consideration.

After months of meetings and discussions, the Wauwatosa Common Council Community Affairs Committee has placed the final disposition of the Life Science District Plan on hold, awaiting reports from other government authorities who have jurisdiction over management of the county grounds land. While they are waiting, we want those who care about the land to have a voice.

Please join us at this important meeting. If you are not able to attend but want to share your ideas with the County Grounds Coalition please send your comments to: mail@countygroundscoalition.org or call coalition chair Peter Abbott at: 414-467-8757.

Fall 2017



Sierra Club members were treated to woods, water and plenty of exercise when they toured the Northern Highlands State Forest bike trails in Vilas County to celebrate the summer solstice.

Cyclists observe summer solstice

*By Ed Anderson
Political and Membership Chair*

Fifteen Sierra Club members celebrated the summer solstice in June on the pine-shrouded bicycle trails of Vilas County in the Northern Highlands State Forest.

Big Lake state forest campground near Manitowish Waters was our home for the weekend and starting point for our adventure. Despite threatening weather, the clouds opened up to blue skies on Saturday for a 30-mile ride to Boulder Junction, ending at the spectacular scenery of Cathedral Point overlooking Trout Lake.

The lovely trail gave us a close-up view and better understanding of the glacier-created lakes and terrain as well as current management practices in the Northern Highland State Forest.

It wasn't all pedaling though. The group had a fun lunch at the Outdoorsman Restaurant and a very enjoyable pot luck dinner on the shores of Big Lake. If you have never joined one of our outings I encourage you give it a try. You will have fun and make friends with some great people.

Fall 2017

SAVE THE DATE Annual GWG Holiday Party and Fundraiser

Fun, camaraderie, socializing, silent auction, entertainment! Mark this date on your calendar right now. Details will be provided in the next Newsletter. If you have questions or auction items to donate, call Janet Anderson at 414-258-5624.

Date: Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017 **Time:** 4 p.m.-8 p.m.

Location: Underwood Wil O Way Recreation Center, Wauwatosa.

Cost: \$35; EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT by November 3: \$30.

Checks payable to: "Great Waters Group – SC"

Mail to: Janet Anderson, 2130 N. 85th St., Wauwatosa, WI 53226.

Members to get acquainted during GWG pizza party

Get to know your local Sierra Club Great Waters Group better and explore if you want to become more involved in its activities at a fun evening of pizza, refreshments and socializing Thursday Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. at Ed Anderson's home in Whitefish Bay.

Tell us about your skills or passion for an environmental issue. We can use your help. Special areas include conservation efforts, newsletter development, expanding our political influence, planning outings and assisting membership development. Call Ed Anderson at 414-520-2751 for pizza party details.

Volunteers look beyond coal

By Miranda Ehrlich

Sierra Club staff and volunteers are reaching out to support local efforts to stop pollution from the coal-fired power plants at Oak Creek. It is important that community members, leaders and environmental advocates hold accountable all of the utilities that are invested in the polluting plants.

If you are interested in joining Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign to move to clean energy, please contact organizer Miranda Ehrlich at 612-998-2758 or miranda.ehrlich@sierraclub.org.

The Beyond Coal Campaign works with myriad local groups to

block the construction of new coal-fired power plants and to retire existing plants across the country. It is one of the most successful environmental efforts in history.

Investigative reporting has documented significant problems at both the Oak Creek Power Plant and the Elm Road Generating Station, two coal power plants that have sat side-by-side on Lake Michigan for years.

Leakage of toxic metals from coal ash into the lake and surrounding groundwater has long been a concern of residents. In a high-profile incident in 2011, a bluff on the property collapsed, dumping
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Picnic with nature on Monarch Trail

Enjoy an evening on the Monarch Trail when you join us Sunday, Aug. 27, for our Annual Migration Celebration and "Picnic with Nature." Bring a blanket or chair and listen to the toe-tapping tunes of "Ceol Cairde" and grab some food from the Cousins Sub Truck.

There will be a guided tour of the Monarch Trail with new habitat areas and roosting sites. Learn about the habitat restoration that has been accomplished with several grants from the Fund for Lake Michigan and Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Green Infrastructure, as well as hard work from our dedicated volunteers. Best of all, see the Monarchs being released to the autumn migratory winds.

We will gather from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Discovery Parkway and Eschweiler Dr. (9810 Eschweiler Dr.).

Drop off unwanted items at Tosa Green Summit

Drop off your hazardous waste, textiles, shredded paper, used bicycles, e-waste (but no TV's or computer monitors) and old prescription drugs (but no needles) in the parking lot at the Wauwatosa Civic Center, 7600 W. North Ave from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9.

Get rid of old batteries and outdated drugs you'd rather not put in a landfill or pour down the drain and then come indoors to view more than 25 exhibits on sustainability. It's an opportunity to exchange ideas with other green folks and learn some new eco tips and resources.

It's all at the Tosa Green Summit, organized by local Wauwatosa residents who care about the Earth and want people to be aware of and learn from organizations that are focused on improving the environment.



Autumn Programs

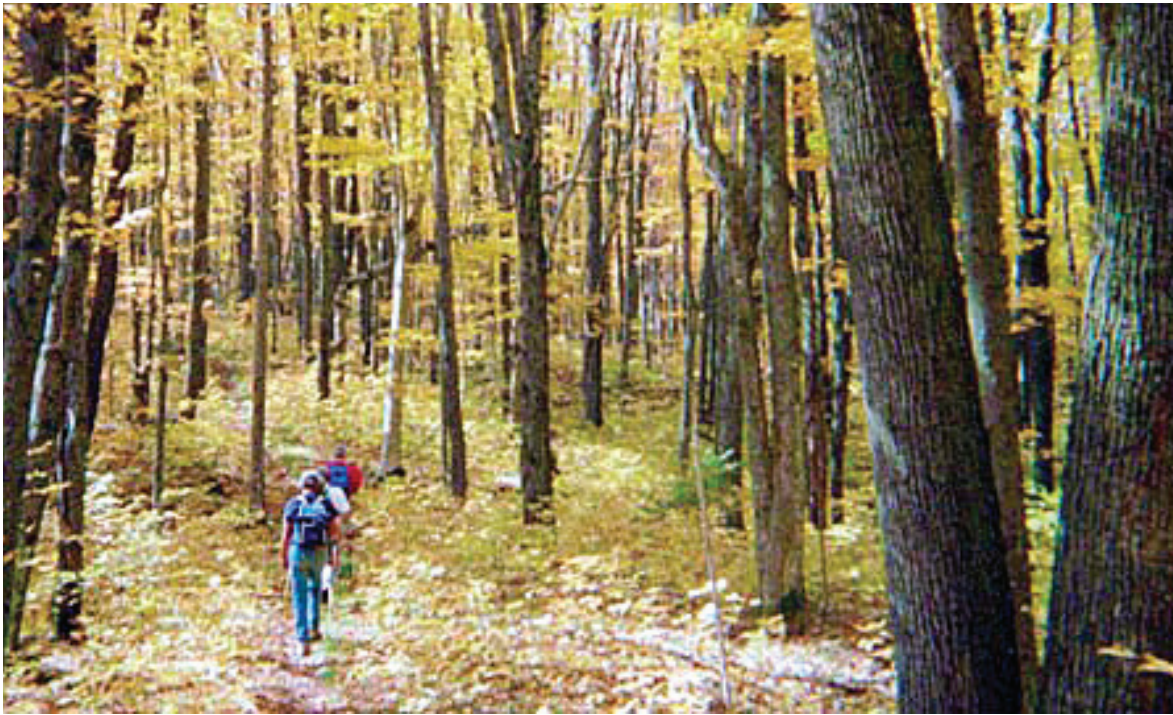
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in Wisconsin. Beginning with a brief history of the evolving Ice Age Trail, Christine will share a taste of the joy she experienced while hiking, illustrated with her photographs.

Join us before the talk for an Autumn Harvest Pot Luck from your garden, farmer's market or favorite grocery store. Please bring a dish to share if you can, although it's not required. Contact Program Chair Bill Bearecht at 920-279-9594 by Oct. 19 to help us plan the food.

Changing Climate Policy from the Inside Out
Monday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

Mike Arney and Terry Hansen of Citizens' Climate Lobby will discuss the urgent need for federal climate legislation, what that might look like, and how we as citizens can act in a variety of ways to reach that goal.



GWG Volunteers will discover a scenic glacial forested trail while helping to extend it in September.

GWG volunteers will help to blaze a trail

The North Country National Scenic Trail is currently under construction, stretching from Upstate New York to North Dakota. Hundreds of volunteers are involved in building the trail by hand, and you can join them for a two-day weekend service outing.

We will be working with the Heritage Chapter of the North Country Trail Association. You will love discovering this glacial forested trail and enjoy the feeling that you helped to create it. We will camp two nights beginning Friday evening,

Sept. 15, and we will work Saturday and Sunday, quitting early on Sunday to allow for travel home.

We will camp in the State Park group overflow site #2 which is near the “pet area” before the concession parking lot on the north end of the park.

Date: Sept. 15-17. **Level:** Moderate. **Location:** Copper Falls Rd, Mellen, WI. **Leader:** Dan Buckler. Please RSVP at daniel.c.buckler@gmail.com or 330-261-2088.


Environmental issues raised by Foxconn deal

Dianne Dagen
Conservation Chair

As we go to press, state leaders have signed an agreement with Taiwanese business, Foxconn, to build a huge electronics factory in southeastern Wisconsin. Environmental and social justice issues abound.

The state legislature is already poised to waive the need for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), although there is concern about impacts to air, water and habitat, including vulnerable wetlands. There is also talk of limiting air quality standards, while one in 13 Wisconsin children suffer from asthma, at a cost of more than \$100 million a year.

In addition, there are transit limitations for those without cars, including many of the 17% of African Americans unemployed in Fall 2017

	<p>Thank you to everyone who contributed through workplace giving to the Sierra Club Foundation and Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee.</p>
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Milwaukee, who would like to take advantage of a job in Kenosha or the Racine area. Northern Illinois workers could hop on an inexpensive light rail Metro line to Kenosha, but prospective Wisconsin workers are still waiting for the Kenosha/Racine/Milwaukee Metro line (the KRM) to be built.

Ironically, seven years ago Governor Walker turned down an \$850 million federal grant for high speed rail, which included hundreds of jobs for Milwaukeeans building Talgo trains at the old AOSmith/Century City industrial site. No tax money or lax environmental standards were required.

But with Foxconn, taxpayers will be on the hook for billions of incentives to lure them to our state, while sacrificing air quality and wetlands and risking possible pollution of Lake Michigan, as well as locking out disadvantaged workers from Milwaukee where jobs are needed most.

Wisconsin Fall puts on its own show

By Dan Buckler
Outings Chair

There's a Sunday episode of the Calvin and Hobbes comic strip that I always think about in autumn. Calvin, channeling every student the world has known, bemoans autumn Sundays, knowing that he has to go to school the next day.

Meanwhile Hobbes, his tiger friend, claims the season as his favorite. After all, the "trees are like nature's own fireworks display!" As if there's any doubt about Hobbes' enthusiasm, the strip closes with him, arms wide, making fireworks noises. "Kapow! Fwoosh! Zingg!"

I think we have a bit of Calvin and Hobbes in each of us. It's an enchanted time, all right. And more awe-inspiring than any Fourth of July fireworks show is the October explosion of color. Propelled from maples, poplars and hickories, the carotenoids and anthocyanins are shot into the sky in a dazzling reminder of the Earth's beauty.

But summer is over. The salad days, the long vacations, the lazy journeys downstream are all in the rear-view mirror. Kids go back to school while adults realign their minds to work.

Shorter days and cooler nights weigh on plants too. While the tilting planet reveals a million stories to humans, it tells only one thing to plants: change or die.

And so after the leaf veins close, stopping the transport of sugars,



October color provides visual fireworks for outdoor enthusiasts who take advantage of a Wisconsin fall.

water and other nutrients into leaves, the plant cuts off its exposed organs. There is too much water in them. A tree will even go further than dropping its leaves, also reducing the water content in its other living tissues in order to minimize the danger of freezing.

Over the autumn the green world of the summer effectively transitions to a state of dormancy. But we don't need to mimic the slow pace of plant life. For us, each season is a new opportunity to view and experience the world differently, and I would be loath to ever truly decry our seasonal diversity.

As Calvin declares on another day: "It's a magical world, Hobbes, ol' buddy... let's go exploring!"

Milwaukee council backs up on BRT plan

On July 31st the Milwaukee Common Council unanimously approved an amended resolution restricting the use of dedicated lanes for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on a substantial portion of the county's proposed East-West Bus Rapid Transit line. Specifically, on Bluemound Road west of Hawley Road.

The approximately nine mile long project is proposed to run from a park and ride lot just northwest of the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center to the proposed The Couture tower on the lakefront. Using traffic light control technology, the BRT was to become even more "rapid" by using a dedicated lane without other vehicles.

"After careful review of the BRT analysis and listening to area citizens and businesses at various public hearings, it doesn't seem practical to develop and use single, dedicated lanes west of Hawley Road. The only way this project could move forward is if the BRT buses operate in mixed traffic," sponsor Alderman Murphy said.

The amended resolution further stipulates that the city 'shall not

incur any direct or indirect expenses. . . related to the development or operation of the BRT system'.

The BRT project is seeking a grant from the federal government to fund up to 80 percent of its estimated \$48 million cost. The project would be operated by the Milwaukee County Transit System.

Alternative BRT Routes

Per Urban Milwaukee: "Staunch public transit advocate Alderman Bauman took things further, stating 'I think, we're putting bus rapid transportation on the wrong corridor.'

"The alderman frequently travels the country and regularly rides public transit in other metropolitan areas. He's also a historian on all things transit.

"The alderman noted that he's in favor of dedicated lanes for the rapid transit proposal from Interstate 43 and W. Wisconsin Ave. to the Wisconsin Ave. bridge over the Miller Valley at N. 38th St. He notes that they fit there, unlike on W. Wisconsin Ave. from
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Fifty years ago open housing marches continued every evening in Milwaukee for 200 days. Those protests will be commemorated with local events over the same period of time beginning this month.

Milwaukee housing marches commemorated

(Continued from page 1)

hear him over the screaming of angry people who followed us there, we went through the same gauntlet to get home. We returned the next night to cross the viaduct again.

The marches continued every evening throughout Milwaukee County for 200 days. Beginning Aug. 28, 2017 there will be local daily events for 200 days to commemorate Milwaukee's open housing struggle.

This will be a good time to ask ourselves if much has changed in 50 years and to work together for environmental justice.

Is segregated housing a matter of environmental justice? Does being forced to live with vacant lots, boarded-up and

burnt-out buildings, leaky insulation with high energy costs, contaminated soil, lead water pipes and neighborhoods abandoned to crime, car crashes and gun fire qualify?

I think so. Segregated housing is environmental injustice.

If you would like to learn more about the marches, or participate in this conversation and take action with others, go to 200nightsof freedom.org to volunteer. Go to Facebook: "March on Milwaukee 50th" or uwm.edu/marchonmilwaukee or jsonline.com/50year for more information.

See the schedule for Crossing the Line: Milwaukee Open Housing traveling exhibit in southeastern Wisconsin at wisconsinhistory.org/records/article/CS15090.

Council takes a second look at BRT proposal

(Continued from page 6)

the freeway to the Milwaukee River. It's N. 38th St. to the west where he notes that the ridership sharply declines."

Futuristic Transit

"Instead of the current plans, Bauman believes that the BRT project team should be studying the 1996 light rail proposal that envisioned a light rail line from downtown dropping underneath the Wisconsin Ave. bridge and following the Canadian Pacific rail corridor into the Wauwatosa Village before turning south into the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center.

"Would a bus-only road fit in that corridor? An approximately 400-page study from 1996 says so. Bauman notes that light rail

vehicles and bus rapid transit vehicles are roughly the same width, and operate in the same right-of-way in cities such as Pittsburgh and Seattle.

"The 32-mile regional plan would have built stations along W. State St. and near the Wauwatosa Village. Bauman notes that there are more riders in that corridor."

Read more about national trends for BRT on former railroad corridors paralleling bike and pedestrian trails, buses riding on rails in tunnels shared with light rail, and express bus systems becoming light rail in an *Urban Milwaukee* article by Jeramey Jannene at: urbanmilwaukee.com/2017/07/19eyes-on-milwaukee-city-fighting-county-on-rapid-transit.



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Beyond Coal Campaign aims for clean energy

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an estimated 2,300 cubic yards of ash and soil directly into the Lake Michigan.

A report in 2014 by Clean Wisconsin found that coal ash produced by the plants has been spread or buried across Southeastern Wisconsin through “reuse” projects with little oversight or regulation.

In one particularly disturbing case, water at Yorkville Elementary School was found to be contaminated with molybdenum, an element commonly found in coal ash. A total of 856 tons of coal ash was used in a construction project at the site in 2000. Now students at the school can't drink out of the water fountains and must use bottled water instead.

Coal dust has also been a persistent problem for neighborhoods near the plant. Home videos have captured dust billowing off the plant's massive coal pile in windy weather. Uncovered train cars carrying coal have also contributed to dust in the air.

Recent tests conducted by We Energies, the utility that runs the plants, found the presence of coal dust in 19 out of 26 homes tested. Coal dust has been shown to exacerbate asthma and other respiratory diseases, and many families near the plant are experiencing these types of health complications.

In addition to its impact on local residents, the Oak Creek coal complex is the biggest carbon polluter in Wisconsin. When considered together, the combination of emissions from the Elm Road and Oak Creek Power Plants totals more than 12.5 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent annually, according to EPA data from 2015. Transitioning plants like these from coal to clean energy is essential to prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

Volunteer Leadership Council (VLC) Contact List

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