

Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association, Inc. is a 501c(3) charitable organization whose purpose is the stewardship of the waters and land that make up the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes, nestled in Florence County, Wisconsin. Used by Native Americans, its first permanent settlement was in the early 1880's. Long recognized for its pristine waters and unique "spread eagle" configuration of the nine lakes, the Spread Eagle Chain has been a popular destination for visitors and residents for over 140 years.

In the 1960's, a group of residents foresaw the need to have an organization dedicated to preserving the waters and lifestyle of the lakes. In 1986, the Association was incorporated. Known for putting on a great Fourth of July fireworks show, the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association (SECOLA) spends much of its time and resources on lake enhancement and preservation issues.

Throughout the history of SECOLA, we have partnered with the township, county, and state to benefit the lakes and shorelines.

Some of SECOLA's most recent projects:

- Control of Invasive Species
  - Purchased the first decontamination station in the county for cleaning boats of invasive species before entering the lake.
  - Provided volunteers to man the "Boat Wash" now Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW).
  - Currently provides \$12,000 to the county each summer to pay for county employees manning the Spread Eagle CBCW decontamination station.
    - SECOLA's annual contribution provides the county's portion of a matching grant that funds the CBCW program in other at risk lakes in Florence County.
    - SECOLA maintains and repairs the equipment for Spread Eagle.
  - Provides over 100 hours per summer of volunteer labor to monitor and control invasives in the lakes.
  - Searches and applies for Grants to fund or partially fund ongoing eradication program for Eurasian Water Milfoil.
  - Funds the continued monitoring and eradication when grant funding is not available.
  - Partnered with Florence County Land Conservation Department to purchase an underwater drone to assist the county in monitoring all the lakes in the county.
  - SECOLA has solicited, received, and expended tens of thousands of dollars of donations from its members and others in this on-going battle and continues to be a leader in Wisconsin in monitoring and eradication programs and a model partner with local governments.
- Work with the DNR on various projects
  - Fish stocking: SECOLA spends thousands of dollars to be sure that the fish stock is healthy and plentiful.
  - Assists with the placement and removal of DNR navigation and hazard buoys each year.
  - Provides education and information on:
    - Lake front and property runoff.
    - Boating safety and Spread Eagle Chain's special rules including signage at the boat landing.
- Initiated, monitors, and funds repairs to the South Lake outlet dam which maintains a consistent water level.
- Works with the county and township on area development.
- Contributes to the local volunteer fire department.

SECOLA and its members remain committed to our successful partnership with the Town of the Florence and Florence County for the continued stewardship of the waters and lands that make up the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes.