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LAKE GUIDE

SUMMER 2022



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A VIEW THAT NEVER GETS OLD

A MESSAGE FROM CLEAN LAKES ALLIANCE

I've lived in Madison my entire life. As a child, I grew up swimming and playing in the lakes with my family and friends. And as an adult, well, I basically still do the same thing. And like the title above says, no matter how many times I catch a glimpse of our isthmus skyline from across a lake, the view never gets old.

We're so lucky to live in this midwestern jewel that includes a world-class university, start-up and 100-plus-year-old companies, a booming agricultural industry, and of course our lakes – the true center of the community.

Many of us have experienced the lakes by boating, fishing, or swimming, but some of us haven't. As we move forward, we not only want to improve the water quality, but also improve access for everyone. Better beaches, better parks, and better programs will lead to an even better community.

We're entering summer, which many people call "lake season." And sure, when the temperatures climb, there's nothing better than a day at one of our many lakeside parks. But for me, lake season never really ends. I hope you'll find time to enjoy our lakes this summer, but I hope you'll also find your way out onto one of them when they freeze and become our largest parks this winter.

Our lakes are 15,000-year-old glacial gifts. Let's celebrate and protect them for all they give to our lives.

In partnership,

James Tye,
Clean Lakes Alliance
Founder & Executive Director



Photo: Monona Bay, courtesy Robert Bertera

RENEW THE BLUE

A COMMUNITY GUIDE FOR CLEANER LAKES & BEACHES IN THE YAHARA WATERSHED



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Yahara Watershed Improvement Network

The following is the executive summary of **Renew the Blue: A Community Guide for Cleaner Lakes & Beaches in the Yahara Watershed**. Published by the 19-member Yahara CLEAN Compact, the guide serves as an updated community roadmap toward achieving cleaner and healthier lakes. Visit cleanlakesalliance.org for the full report.

OUR YAHARA LAKES

Lakes Mendota, Monona, Wingra, Waubesa, and Kegonsa provide 29 square miles of interconnected waters that bolster regional identity, pride, and quality of life. All this water—roughly 193 billion gallons worth—is held in the public trust, and 48% of the 66 miles of encircling lakeshore are owned by public entities.

The Yahara lakes have a long history of attracting people to their shores. They are natural wonders of incalculable value, literally and figuratively, putting our surrounding communities on the map as special places to live, work, and play. Property values, tax base, mental health, tourism, subsistence fishing, local employment, and biodiversity are but a handful of measures by which this value is gauged, appreciated, and experienced. Just as they provide for us, it is our responsibility to provide for them through our collective actions and stewardship.

So, how are the lakes doing? On one hand, they continue to support diverse aquatic life, provide scenic beauty, and offer an abundance of recreational opportunities. On the other hand, they can be so green and thick with algae that few people would want to swim in them. Their conditions are always changing, making it difficult for the average person to know when our lakes are safe. Perhaps not surprisingly, the lakes and beaches periodically fail to meet basic standards of water quality and usability.

We now stand at a crossroads where our collective choices have the power to lead us down one of two paths. One path takes us to a future in which stewardship actions prevail and the community is doubling down on cleanup efforts, transforming the lakes back into our greatest natural assets. The other leads us to a day when our lakes are widely seen as liabilities of neglect and underinvestment.

History is replete with past decisions that undervalued the lakes and underestimated our ability to degrade them. The very conception of how they *should* be is clouded by the slow pace of change and our lack of experience with their past condition. Although weather and other short-term events can influence their day-to-day status, an overall trajectory is set by the cumulative effect of how we use the land. It is time we made the lakes a higher priority in our decision-making and commit to guiding them back to a healthier state. *Renew the Blue* offers guidance on how to do just that.

SOLVABLE CHALLENGES

Considered among the most studied in the world, our Yahara lakes are both complex and dynamic. We know them well and their fate is in the math. With every pound of phosphorus capable of producing up to 500 pounds of algae, our waters mirror an upstream landscape that is out of balance. Watershed lands that surround and drain to the lakes will be the keys to their recovery.

That path to recovery begins with good news in the watershed's predominantly rural headwaters. More than ever, agriculture is adopting conservation practices that are helping to restrict sediment-bound phosphorus from washing off fields and into nearby streams. Conservation-minded farmers, producers, and land stewards are responsible for these gains, and their efforts to improve soil health and curb erosion merit continued celebration and support.

But a warmer and wetter climate is masking these gains, sending more snowmelt and stormwater runoff sweeping across the landscape. January, February, and March are particularly noteworthy months for their disproportionate impact. It is from thawing farm fields—made more vulnerable by winter and early-spring runoff—where most of the lakes' phosphorus originates. Phosphorus has accumulated in soils over decades of farming, but it is the fraction contained in raw manure spreading that is most mobile during this critical time. These early-season pulses of phosphorus then cascade down the rest of the chain, affecting each lake along the way. We are fortunate that farmers continue to innovate and adapt by composting manure and planting more grasses and forages in their rotations, efforts that provide for the more beneficial use and timing of manure applications. Although promising steps are underway to increase manure storage, digestion, and composting, more action and support are needed in these areas if current trends are to be reversed.

Meanwhile, in our urban settings, the autumn leaf-fall period presents its own challenges and opportunities. Dissolved phosphorus easily escapes from the wet, decaying leaves that accumulate on residential streets and parking lots, resulting in the largest source of urban phosphorus pollution. With each rainfall, a nutrient-rich "tea" washes down street gutters, into storm sewers, and eventually out to the lakes. Municipalities are increasingly stepping up to address the concern by expanding leaf collections, street sweeping, and composting operations, but more is still needed.

Great strides are clearly being made to rectify the past and find better paths forward. That progress is owed to a strengthening culture of leadership, investment, and cooperation that is getting more of the right practices adopted. Over the last 30 years, monitoring data show declining phosphorus and sediment concentrations entering Lake Mendota during the growing season. If it were not for increased rainfall and runoff during this same period, conservation efforts would have resulted in a 36% decrease in phosphorus delivered. These same measures often produce benefits extending well beyond water quality, such as improvements to soil health, wildlife habitat, air quality, flood abatement, drought resilience, weed and pest resistance, and cost savings.

We also know it will take more than these current "Best Management Practices" alone to reach our water quality goals, and rising phosphorus loads are the proof. With urban boundaries expanding to accommodate a rapidly growing population, the hardening of the landscape coupled with a shrinking rural land base is sure to magnify challenges in the years ahead. But the more we can build soil health, reduce runoff, and address the known sources of phosphorus and *E. coli*, the better the outlook for our lakes and surrounding communities.

A PATH TO RECOVERY

The 19 member organizations of the Yahara CLEAN Compact believe a better future is possible in which "all community members feel connected to, proud of, and responsible for our lakes and streams in the Yahara Watershed." With a commitment to "clearer lakes, open beaches, and fewer cyanobacteria blooms," Compact members sought to build upon prior work to address the root causes of today's lake impairments: excess phosphorus, *E. coli*, and runoff.

Grounded in science and informed by public input, priority actions are set forth in which all major stakeholders can participate, focusing effort where it can make the biggest difference. Action recommendations recognize that everyone has a part to play, that we are all in this together, and that more must be done to reach our goals. They are therefore allocated among five stakeholder groups believed

to have the greatest agency to affect change:

- Agriculture
- Builders & Developers
- Government
- Parks & Open Space Managers
- Residential & Commercial Landowners

A vision of cleaner and clearer lakes with fewer cyanobacteria blooms and beach closures is attainable. While past plans focused attention primarily on the Government and Agriculture stakeholder groups, this plan seeks to empower participation by a broader cross-section of the community. As more individuals implement changes at their homes and places of business, the more likely those same individuals will advocate for policies, incentives, and funding models that will help support and sustain the overall effort.

Scientists estimate that the number of summer days when our lakes are clear and free of algal blooms will double if average annual phosphorus loading is reduced to 47,600 pounds. This represents a 57% reduction from the current 30-year annual average (110,100 pounds), a gap that has increased by several percentage points since a decade ago. While closing the gap and reaching that target threshold is ambitious, it is achievable if enough of the right actions are taken. We also have improved understandings to help direct that action to where and when it is most needed.

FOUR MAIN PRIORITIES

- **Prioritize action in the high phosphorus-loading period between January and March.** During this time, runoff over frozen farm fields delivers large quantities of dissolved phosphorus to the lakes. Areas characterized by high levels of soil phosphorus and runoff, a lack of overwintering cover crops or vegetative cover, and/or the winter spreading of raw manure would be considered at greatest risk.
- **Prioritize actions that reduce urban phosphorus runoff from streets.** The autumn leaf-collection period is a time of high dissolved phosphorus delivery to the lakes. This “leaf tea” effect and urban runoff are increasing with climate change and development. Municipal efforts that strive for leaf-free streets and minimizing runoff, especially through coordinated action with area residents, can effectively address this source.
- **Prioritize actions that reduce net phosphorus availability in the watershed.** The most promising methods include transporting manure outside of the watershed (usually as digested or composted solids), transporting manure within the watershed to replace the use of commercial fertilizer, and reducing imports of phosphorus-containing fertilizers and feed supplements.
- **Prioritize action in areas most directly connected to the lakes.** Target resources to urban and rural areas where surface runoff drains directly to the lakes, rather than into closed depressions.

Reducing phosphorus helps keep our beaches open by limiting the magnitude and extent of potentially toxic cyanobacteria blooms. However, phosphorus-reducing actions should be paired with those that address the sources of *E. coli* (and associated pathogens) that threaten public health. *Renew the Blue* provides a framework for how these objectives can best be accomplished.



Photo courtesy Robert Bertera

Top Direct-Impact Actions

1. **Build additional manure-processing capacity.** Support farmers in using existing manure-processing facilities or to build their own on-farm systems. Pilot a manure-collection and processing program targeting the critical January-March period with the highest overall phosphorus loading.
2. **Increase the ability to handle and transport manure.** Use composting and other processing techniques to allow for improved timing and targeting of applications. Minimize chemical fertilizer use by substituting with composted manure or other sources of crop nutrients generated within the watershed.
3. **Increase farmland acres guided by a nutrient management plan.** Use plans to improve operational decision-making, ensure the most efficient use of costly nutrient inputs, and reduce the risk of phosphorus loss.
4. **Increase farmland acres under no-till (or reduced tillage) and continuous living cover.** Limit soil disturbance and maintain a living root in the soil with cover/forage crops, harvestable buffer strips, overwintering hay, etc. to build better soil health and reduce erosion.
5. **Increase municipal street-cleaning miles and frequency during fall.** Regularly remove leaf litter from streets to prevent rainwater-leached phosphorus from entering storm sewer systems.
6. **Protect internally drained lands and wetlands.** Use closed depressions (accounting for an estimated 41% of the watershed) to naturally retain and absorb runoff. Maintain and restore wetland function to achieve similar benefits.
7. **Increase green-infrastructure installations in parks, new developments, and on existing residential and commercial properties.** Incorporate nature-based solutions such as rain gardens, bioswales, infiltration trenches, and permeable pavement to capture, absorb, and filter runoff. Use tools such as stormwater utility credits, rate adjustments, and recognitions to reward action.

Top Indirect-Impact Actions

1. **Continue to work together as Yahara CLEAN Compact members.** Maintain ongoing member meetings to collaborate on recommended actions, report progress, and coordinate around new initiatives. Ongoing collaboration should consider how actions might affect the watershed phosphorus mass balance, among other factors.
2. **Increase participation in producer-led watershed groups.** Expand farmer involvement in conservation planning and practice adoption through continued learning, information sharing, and distribution of cost-share incentives.
3. **Complete an inventory of shoreline and beach conditions.** Establish guidelines and criteria for the sustainable design, development, management, and restoration of shorelines and public beaches.
4. **Increase *E. coli* testing at public beaches.** Focus efforts on beaches shown to be most susceptible to problems. Assess *E. coli* bacteria sources at beaches with high closure rates so corrective measures can be taken.
5. **Continue to track and report progress.** Use and support the annual *State of the Lakes Report* as a means of outreach to the community. Support continued maintenance and operation of stream-gaging stations that track changes in phosphorus loading.

TOP OVERALL ACTIONS

On page 11 are the top direct- and indirect-impact actions considered most foundational to reaching water quality goals. They are emphasized here over other important plan recommendations given their strategic significance in targeting high-loading time periods or locations, major sources of pollution or runoff, or because of their importance in facilitating effective implementation and progress reporting.

Because of their continued relevance and proven effectiveness, many recommended actions are carryovers from prior Yahara CLEAN planning efforts, highlighting continuing opportunities to expand their implementation within the watershed. For all actions, tactical approaches seeking to limit pollutant sources (“reduce”) are preferred over those that “restrict” the pollutant’s mobility on the landscape or try to “remove” it once it has entered a waterway.

Working to leverage and explore emerging market-based solutions and alternative funding models, many of which have proved successful in other areas, can be a game changer in moving all actions forward. *Renew the Blue* recommendations are not only meant to guide our own individual decisions as stakeholders, but to help the larger community promote policies and investments that can carry us into a new era of resource stewardship.

TODAY'S "WATERSHED MOMENT"

Good science and sound planning are vital, but they will only take us so far. Fostering a culture of action also depends on continued trust and relationship building among the five stakeholder groups and supporting nonprofit organizations. Yahara CLEAN Compact members placed a high emphasis on expanding the umbrella of participation in the watershed, including involving more organizations, perspectives, and public input as part of the planning process. The goal is to continue building a more diverse coalition of water quality champions motivated by shared values. If successful, vital feedback loops will be created. As more people use, appreciate, and help care for the lakes, more people will start demanding what is necessary to improve them.

Every action matters. We know what is expected of us, and now we are called upon to muster the willingness and resources to follow through. *Renew the Blue* offers guidance on stakeholder roles and lays the groundwork for recruiting more champions to the cause. Compact members have already stepped up to serve as leaders on

this front. And with the arrival of new conservation organizations and partnerships in the last decade like Clean Lakes Alliance, Yahara Pride Farms, and Yahara WINS, there is renewed momentum to propel us forward.

Designed to be an inclusive and accessible menu of solutions, *Renew the Blue* complements and reinforces other regional planning goals, such as those that relate to climate and flood resiliency, renewable energy, and sustainability. Greater Madison is poised to further its water quality goals through improved outreach, funding, and land management, and phosphorus reduction remains the central lever that must be pulled to get us there. Fortunately, the road ahead is built on a solid foundation of progress and collaboration, and it leads toward a vision for our lakes that is both possible and within our grasp.

WE SHAPE OUR OWN FUTURE

The lakes are counting on all of us. Creating a legacy of clean lakes is a shared responsibility, and we owe it to ourselves to take that responsibility seriously. Yahara CLEAN Compact members are united in the belief that while the challenges may seem daunting, the lakes are too valuable to let the difficult stand in the way of the possible. Our collective actions *do* make a difference, and the lakes *can and will* respond favorably. It may not be immediate, but undoing a long history of degradation rarely happens overnight.

Today, all of us are called upon to renew our efforts and lead by example, to become participants in the solutions, and to advocate for supporting initiatives and investments that will spur us forward. Whether you are a farmer practicing regenerative agriculture that builds critical soil health, a municipality or developer promoting green infrastructure, or neighbors planting rain gardens and raking leaves out of the street, each of us can be an example of leadership and healthy change for others to emulate.

Healthy lakes lead to a healthy community that benefits us all. By adopting a new water ethic, we open the door to making Greater Madison’s lakes among the best in the world. Now is the time to renew our efforts with greater knowledge, capacity, intensity, and passion to protect the lakes now and for generations still to come. We hope you join us in this worthy cause.

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HIDDEN GEMS OF THE YAHARA WATERSHED

Our watershed is full of well-known, well-visited locations. But there are some you may have missed. Check out these gems, hidden in plain sight.



FRAUTSCHI POINT

Walking along the UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve on Lake Mendota, it may be strange to come across an old stand-alone fireplace. Although its origins remain unclear, it is speculated that the fireplace was built for a family cottage in the 1920s. Take a walk on Frautschi Point and see the mysterious fireplace for yourself!



BERNIE'S BEACH

Bernie's Beach on Monona Bay may be a small neighborhood beach, but it is one of a kind. With a recent installation of a 24-foot-long mat, Bernie's Beach is Madison's first wheelchair-accessible beach! Not only is it more accessible, but it provides the space to spread out, relax, and take in the stunning views of downtown Madison.

Traditionally a gathering spot on campus to share stories, Muir Knoll offers tree-shaded stone seating overlooking Lake Mendota on the northern edge of Bascom Hill. With its peaceful atmosphere, Muir Knoll is the perfect place to step away from the busyness of campus and perhaps enjoy a story or two.

MUIR KNOLL (GARD STORYTELLERS CIRCLE)



PAUNACK (A.O.) PARK

Located along the Lake Monona bike loop, Paunack (A.O.) Park is the perfect place to take a break from biking, sit on a bench, and enjoy the peaceful view of the lake. With a playground and basketball court, it is also a great spot for kids to have some fun too!



MERRILL SPRINGS PARK

Merrill Springs Park on Lake Mendota was first called Makamai by the Ho-Chunk, which means "medicine springs." European settlers later referred to it as Merrill Springs after Alfred Merrill, a farmer who settled near Spring Harbor in the mid 1800s. Today, the historic lakefront park features a restored spring cistern and three stone benches constructed in 1934.

YAHARA PLACE PARK

(Right) Nestled along the shores of Lake Mendota and the Yahara River, Yahara Place Park is a quiet escape from the city. Take a stroll along the shoreline or spread out on a picnic blanket and watch the boats go by. Additionally, this park has its very own horseshoe game for the whole family to play!



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What do you enjoy most about the Memorial Union?



"I love the live music. I watched a movie at the open theater by the lake. It's so scenic too."
 -Isha, Chicago, IL

"This is my first trip to Wisconsin. I heard so many things and find it so wonderful and spacious and accommodating. I'm very pleased and surprised at how lovely it is."
 -Mary, Washington



"This is my first time at the Memorial Union Terrace. It's serene and calming and gives off a stress-free feeling."
 -Meghan, Columbus, OH





WINGRA DUDGEON SCHOOL PARK RAIN GARDENS

BY JAKE BLASCZYK,
CO-CHAIR **WATER (WATER ACTION TO ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBILITY) SUB-GRANT TEAM**

A COMPLEX OF RAIN GARDENS

In the summer of 2021, a rain garden with a footprint of 1,600 square feet was completed at Wingra School in Madison. The private school is in Dudgeon School Park on Monroe Street, across the street from the University of Wisconsin-Arboretum and Lake Wingra.

Wingra School completed another step in a long-range plan to reduce stormwater runoff from the site. Specifically, the rain gardens reduce runoff from the playground located above the stairs while beautifying the grounds and adding an outdoor learning space.

Deep-rooted native plants intercept rainwater by providing pathways for water to soak into the ground. A torrent of stormwater from the playground no longer pours down the steps, which benefits the well-being of nearby Lake Wingra.

The rain gardens are key components of stormwater mitigation initiatives. For example, the Lake Wingra Watershed Management Plan, developed by City of Madison Engineering and Friends of Lake Wingra, recommends 1,000 rain gardens be installed throughout the watershed.

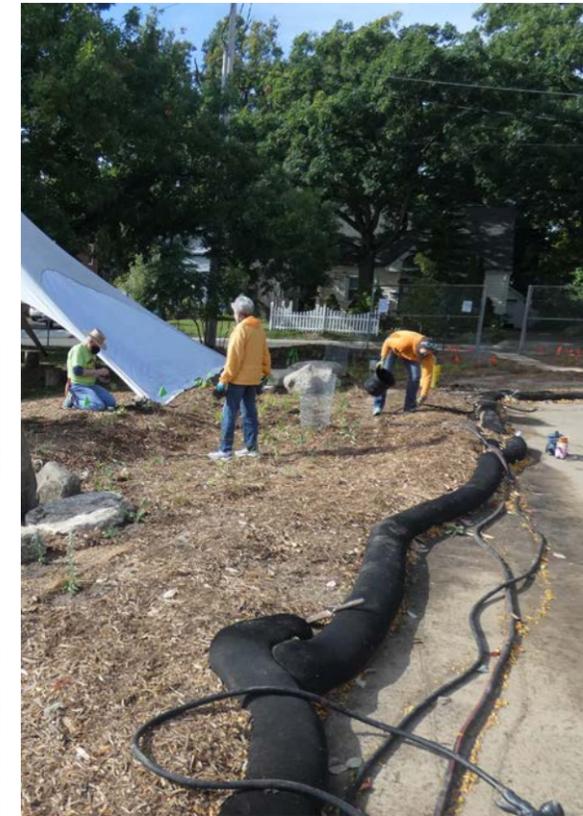
THE DESIGN

In April 2021, Phil Gaebler, Water Resources Engineer with the City of Madison, laid out the design along with Wingra School staff. Plans called for a small garden at the east end of the playground and a larger one at the west end. A swale would connect both along with underground plastic tubing. Each garden would have an overflow drain and engineered soil that filters and absorbs rainwater.

The gardens and educational activities for watershed residents are part of a sub-grant that the Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association's WATER Team received from the UW-Arboretum. The UW-Arboretum received funds from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support such projects. The team selected Wingra School and oversaw all aspects of installing, planting, and paying for the gardens. Grant funds paid for the plants. Other sources, including Wingra School, covered additional costs.

INSTALLATION

Installation began in mid-August, 2021. Dumpsters with 1,600 square feet of asphalt and 40 yards of clay were hauled away. The Phoenix construction crew dug down five feet and laid plastic tubing to connect the two gardens and installed the two overflow drains.



PHOTOS

Page 20 Top: Planting the rain gardens - dozens of volunteers helped get plants into the ground in September 2021 (photo courtesy James Winkelman)

Page 20 Right: Children play in the newly dug out rain garden space (photo courtesy Dave Hinterburg)

Page 21 Left: Children play in the rain in the newly finished rain gardens (photo courtesy Dave Hinterburg)

Page 21 Top: Silt sock buffers help prevent erosion of the rain garden while work is being done (photo courtesy James Winkelman)

Page 21 Bottom: Asphalt and clay were removed to create space for the rain gardens (photo courtesy Dave Hinterburg)

Twenty yards of pea gravel covered the tubing, followed by a mix of compost and the initial native soil. Next, 40 yards of engineered soil, consisting of 70% sand and 30% of compost, filled in the remaining top two feet. To prevent erosion, coir mat covered the footprint and silt socks lined the gardens' asphalt edges.

Early in September, the 1,200 plants arrived from Agrecol and Two Ferns nurseries. Twenty-seven volunteers from various neighborhoods, totaling 63 person hours, completed planting by late September. Eighty Wingra School students also helped with the planting. Watering continued into October.

SEEDS OF CHANGE

In an environment dominated by impervious surfaces, rain gardens like this are one of the truest, most actionable ways to create more resilient landscapes. Every drop of rain that we capture is a step toward cleaner lakes. As more individuals build rain gardens, we generate a growing stake in our lakes and reinforce the need for action for all stakeholders in the watershed.



What do you enjoy most about Picnic Point?



"Picnic Point is a nice escape from the city and you can't tell that it's a preserve. It has beautiful scenery and nature."
-Lauren & Terry



"This is our first time at Picnic Point. We love the large trees and also appreciate the history and preservation."
-Adam & Dylan, Sun Prairie, WI



"I am involved with drum circles once a month on the full moon. I have many good memories at Picnic Point."
-Heather, Madison, WI



"This is a toddler-friendly hike - not too many hills. My fiancé also proposed here."
-Lynette & Finley, Fitchburg, WI

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FRIENDS AROUND THE WATERSHED

Messages from local Friends groups about their latest projects and initiatives



Above: Ribbon cutting for Swan Creek Water Quality Monitoring Station, June 2021 with LWCA, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, City of Fitchburg, Town of Dunn, & Friends of Waubesa Wetlands

LAKE WAUBESA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (LWCA)

Founded in 1989, LWCA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is solely dedicated to advancing the well-being of the Lake Waubesa ecosystem. Members are primarily homeowners, lake users, and businesses located along the shoreline and surrounding areas of Lake Waubesa. Success in 2021 came from a strong membership and partnerships with local municipalities, Dane County, and other lake organizations and businesses. In collaboration with these groups, LWCA held events to clean up shorelines, roadsides, and wetlands; increased the number of leaf-collection sites around the lake; and assisted with the approval, funding, and implementation of a surface water quality monitoring station at Swan Creek.

LEARN MORE: waubesa.org



Aerial view of UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve

FRIENDS OF LAKESHORE NATURE PRESERVE

The Friends inspire people to connect to, and care for, the UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Members are committed to land stewardship, education, and advocacy in this living classroom stretching 4.3 miles on Lake Mendota. The Friends host land restoration projects and promote knowledge sharing with guided nature walks, outreach events, and an annual poetry reading. The Lakeshore Nature Preserve is an outdoor laboratory, and the Friends are proud to engage in this mission through support for research and contributions to citizen science like the Clean Lakes Alliance water quality monitoring program (LakeForecast).

LEARN MORE: friendslakeshorepreserve.com

FRIENDS OF LAKE WINGRA

With funding from the City of Madison, Friends of Lake Wingra is partnering with the UW-Madison Arboretum to monitor chloride levels at seven Lake Wingra springs. These chlorides come from the salt spread on roads, parking lots, and sidewalks, and enters our waters when snow and ice melt.

Chlorides increase the salinity of ground and surface water and can be toxic to plants and wildlife. By collecting these long-term data, Friends of Lake Wingra can monitor the health of the groundwater and understand each spring's chloride concentration trend. These data will also inform actions needed to reduce chloride contamination in the watershed.

LEARN MORE: lakewingra.org



Friends of Lake Wingra monitor chloride levels in springs around Lake Wingra



FOLKS educational outreach event

FRIENDS OF LAKE KEGONSA SOCIETY (FOLKS)

FOLKS promotes activities to improve the ecology, water quality, fishing, and recreational use of Lake Kegonsa. In 2022, FOLKS is focused on phosphorus reduction and public education.

FOLKS arranges talks with Dane County and DNR scientists and distributes quarterly newsletters with information about Lake Kegonsa and its surrounding watershed. Phosphorus-reduction projects include carp removal, collecting phosphorus-laden leaves from around the lake, providing pickup of aquatic plants from shorelines around Lake Kegonsa, and monitoring phosphorus at inlets and other runoff areas. FOLKS maintains public gardens at Fish Camp County Park to show how native plants reduce stormwater runoff containing phosphorus.

LEARN MORE: kegonsa.org



Friends of Starkweather Creek community art picnic tables

FRIENDS OF STARKWEATHER CREEK (FSC)

Along with a new rain garden, educational signage about native plants, and community art picnic tables, FSC has added a row of native shrubs at the new "Landsness Legacy Park" located at 538 McCormick Avenue in Madison. Native shrubs provide many benefits to birds including nectar, nesting opportunities, cover from predators, and foraging opportunities from berries and insects.

The Friends of Starkweather Creek also worked with Mapping Specialists, Ltd. to create a new paddling map of Starkweather Creek. The map shows where to access the creek, including the location of three new canoe and kayak launches. You can find a downloadable PDF version of the map and more information on safety and navigation on the Recreation Map Page on the FSC website.

LEARN MORE: starkweatherfriends.org



Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale

FRIENDS OF THE ARBORETUM (FOA)

FOA has supported the UW-Madison Arboretum for 60 years through a combination of fundraising and educational activities; including the popular Luncheon-Lecture Series, day trips, and the annual Native Plant Sale, which sold over 20,000 plants last year. This work featured a partnership with Journey North to sell Hummingbird and Monarch Citizen Science Kits.

FOA currently serves the Arboretum as a sub-grantee for its EPA WATER grant, applying grant funds to establish rain gardens. In 2021, three gardens were planted, one at a nonprofit and two at residential sites. Additional gardens will be installed with follow-up support to study and ensure long-term success.

In collaboration with the Arboretum, FOA spearheaded a project to develop and distribute thousands of copies of a "Property Owner's Guide to a Healthy Lake Wingra Watershed" in nearby neighborhoods.
LEARN MORE: arboretum.wisc.edu

FRIENDS OF CHEROKEE MARSH

The Friends of Cherokee Marsh work to protect, restore, and foster appreciation and enjoyment of Cherokee Marsh, Dane County's largest wetland. In cooperation with Madison Parks, Dane County Parks, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Friends sponsor work parties, walks, paddle tours, and citizen science. Other projects include raising funds to support outdoor environmental education and advocating for responsible management of public and private lands and waters.

LEARN MORE: cherokeemarsh.org



Summer interns help remove invasive plants at Cherokee Marsh
Photo courtesy Mary Binkley

FRIENDS OF CAPITAL SPRINGS RECREATION AREA

The Friends welcome and work to connect the entire community with the wonders of nature found at Capital Springs Recreation Area, including miles of undisturbed lakeshore, large stretches of oak savanna and prairie, meandering Nine Springs Creek, mixed oak woodlands, and many acres of wetlands. This 2,500-acre, urban-edge park is centrally located in Dane County, extending from Fish Hatchery Road to the western shore of Lake Waubesa.

In 2022, the Friends offer citizen science focused on bumble bee and American Kestrel conservation, water monitoring, and a year-long park bird count. The Friends co-host a Waubesa lakeshore cleanup, conduct weekly volunteer prairie restoration days and woodland stewardship, lead nature walks, and will host a Wisconsin Master Naturalist training course. A special opportunity this year includes collaboration with the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin in youth programming and a traditional plant-use project. Capital Springs Recreation Area is the ancestral homeland of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin.

LEARN MORE: friendsofcapitalsprings.org



Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area Wisconsin Master Naturalist training course



Nature table at Pheasant Branch Conservancy

FRIENDS OF PHEASANT BRANCH CONSERVANCY

The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy looks forward to its 2022 education program lineup including virtual Conservancy Days talks, self-guided Wonder Walks, and naturalist-led FUN walks. The Friends also host organized exploration for school-aged children and Wisconsin Master Naturalist courses for adults.

Volunteers will continue prairie and wetland invasive species removal workdays during the winter and spring, and transition to seed collection in the summer and fall. Collected seed will be used to grow the "Platinum Prairie"—a diverse seed bank partnership with Dane County Parks—in the 160 acres added to Pheasant Branch in 2019.

LEARN MORE: pheasantbranch.org



Volunteers clean up Lake Monona's shoreline

FRIENDS OF MONONA BAY (FOMB)

FOMB is a watershed group that works to improve the health and enjoyment of Monona Bay through monitoring, education, stewardship, and advocacy. Monona Bay's central location makes it readily accessible to thousands of people who fish, boat, paddle, water ski, and swim in the Bay. FOMB organize shoreline cleanups, monitor water quality, participate in community events, and promote lake-friendly practices throughout the watershed.

Monthly shoreline cleanups occur throughout the year on the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. - noon. Volunteers for the cleanups meet at the Brittingham Beach House, 701 W. Brittingham Place. Since FOMB started keeping track of shoreline cleanups in January 2006, more than 1,000 volunteers have collected a cumulative 2,400 bags of trash.

LEARN MORE: friendsofmononabay.blogspot.com



Wild Warner volunteers collect lotus seeds for restoration projects

WILD WARNER

Wild Warner is dedicated to protecting and expanding the natural beauty of Warner Park. Central to all our activities is the protection of Warner Pond, its wetlands, and Castle Creek. In 2021, we dedicated over 400 hours of volunteer time to removing invasive species, seeding wildflowers, leading educational nature walks, and removing the plastic and other litter washed into the pond from 1,200 acres of homes, streets, and parking lots.

Wild Warner is working with the city to get funding to dredge 60 years' worth of road sediment and debris from Warner Pond, a long-overdue project that will dramatically increase water quality and improve habitat for fish, turtles, marsh birds, and humans. In 2022, Wild Warner is working on finding any possible sources of funding for this vital project, as it continues its work of restoration, wildlife protection, and cleanup.

LEARN MORE: wildwarnerpark.org

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Present-day view of Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District



PHOTOS

Top left: Horses are used to help excavate a circular area to be used for a clarifier. Three clarifiers were added as part of the first addition to the plant. (1935)

Top right: With the ground excavated, crews begin construction of a clarifier. (May 1935)

Right: A construction worker stands on wood scaffolding that forms the interior mold of a circular clarifier while guiding a cement trough. The cement is pumped up the vertical platform, then flows back down the trough to a pivot point in the center of the clarifier so the worker can guide the cement trough around the inside scaffolding to ensure an even fill. (1935/36)

Bottom: Construction workers install a 54-inch effluent pipe. This pipe moves wastewater from the Nine Springs Treatment Plant to Badfish Creek, one of two discharge points for the District. (1950s)



Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

KEEPING LOCAL WATERS HEALTHY FOR MORE THAN 90 YEARS

BY AMANDA WEGNER,
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER, MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT

Residents of the Greater Madison area love their local lakes, rivers, and streams. For more than 90 years, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District has played a key role in maintaining the health of our cherished local waterways.

THE BEGINNING

The area's wastewater management efforts date back to the late 1880s, when 18 districts around Madison were served by public sewers that discharged sewage into lakes Mendota and Monona. While this provided a new convenience to residents, it quickly became evident that the raw sewage was negatively impacting the lakes. As a result, the city authorized the first sewage treatment plant in 1898, nearly 50 years before most other communities in the nation had such a facility.

That first plant, however, was abandoned within a few years and replaced by a new treatment plant on the Madison Isthmus near the Yahara River. But with Madison's explosive growth, this plant quickly became overloaded. In 1914, the Isthmus Plant was replaced by the Burke Plant on Madison's north side. Credited as the first trickling filter plant in the United States, the Burke Plant provided higher-quality treatment and greater capacity than the initial plant.

However, as the community continued to grow, an additional sewage treatment plant was needed. In 1928, the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant, the current home of District operations, was brought online. Two years later, in 1930, driven by growth in surrounding communities and a rally cry for a more unified, metropolitan approach to sewage collection and treatment, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District was established. The District is one of the oldest regional sewer utilities in the United States.



TODAY'S WATER TREATMENT

Today, the District serves about 380,000 people in 26 Madison-area owner communities covering about 186-square-miles. The District owns and operates 142 miles of pipe and 18 regional pumping stations that convey approximately 41-million gallons of wastewater to the Nine Springs Plant daily. To put that into context, if wastewater came to the plant via semi-trailer, a new truck would come through the gates every 11 seconds.

While the technology supporting wastewater treatment has changed over the last 90 years, our mission to protect human health and the environment has not. Driven by a passionate and experienced resource recovery team, our staff fulfill the District's mission not only by responsibly treating wastewater, but like

our predecessors, through sustainability, adaptability, and innovation.

“Today, as in the past, the District continues to strive to improve its operations and processes and roll out new programs to protect our local waters,” said Chief Engineer and Director Michael Mucha. “By promoting innovation, resiliency, and adaptability, the District is poised to meet the challenges of the decades to come.”

PROTECTING OUR LAKES

A great example of innovation is how the District has taken a pioneering, multi-pronged approach to reducing phosphorus in local waterways. Phosphorus is a valuable resource found in fertilizer, but too much phosphorus can cause dangerous and unsightly algal blooms in our waterways. In 1999, the District modified its biological treatment processes to remove most phosphorus from the wastewater. In 2014, the District took further action by installing cutting-edge technology to harvest struvite, a form of phosphorus, from wastewater.

The District is also a leader in adaptive watershed management through Yahara WINS (Watershed Improvement Network). This collaborative effort among municipalities, farmers, landowners, and others, including Clean Lakes Alliance, supports the implementation of land-based practices to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering local waterways.

Another challenge to our local waters is chloride, a component of salt. District staff are also setting the bar for reducing chloride pollution. In addition to being part of the Wisconsin Salt Wise partnership, the District is running a pilot project to test incentives for water softener optimization and replacement. Water softeners are a major contributor of chloride to local waters but adding the technology needed to remove chloride at the treatment plant would be expensive for ratepayers. As such, staff are seeking ways to reduce the amount of chloride that comes into the plant.

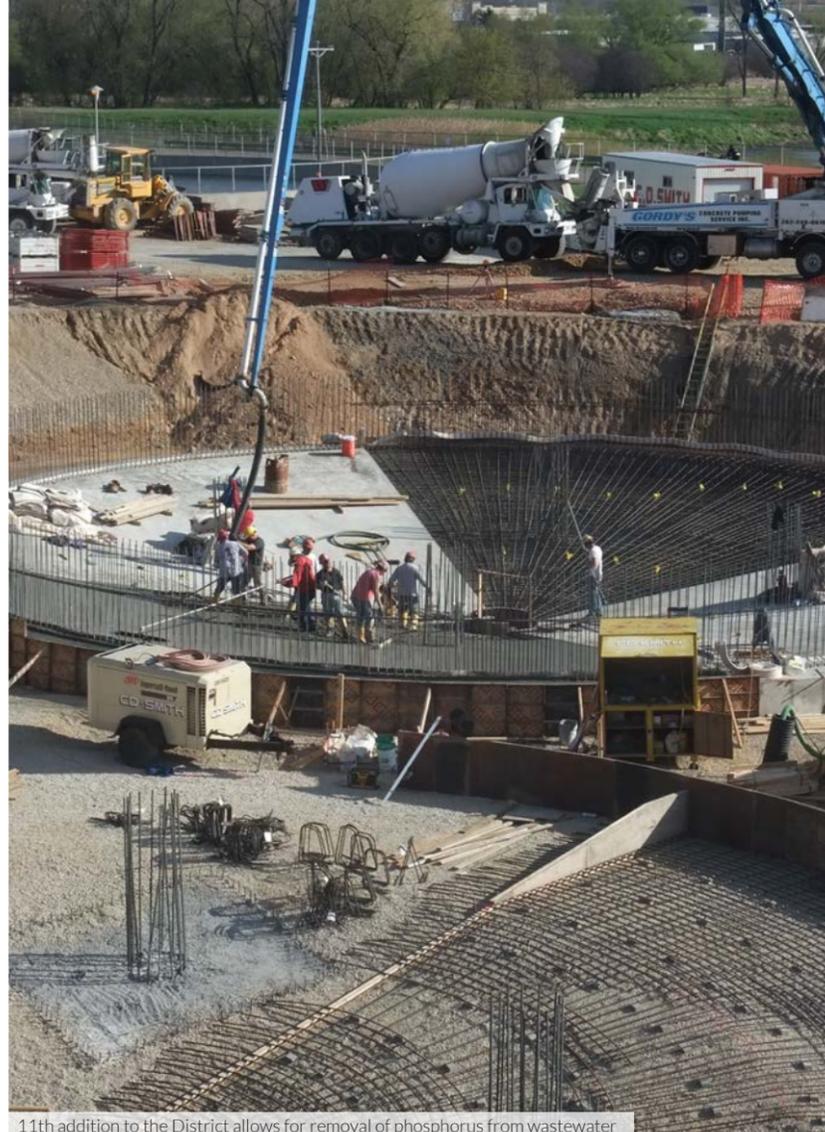
“The Madison area has always been an early adopter in sustainable wastewater management and local resource protection,” said Mucha. “We are proud of our history, but even more proud of our ongoing work to protect human health and the environment, now and for generations to come.”

LEARN MORE

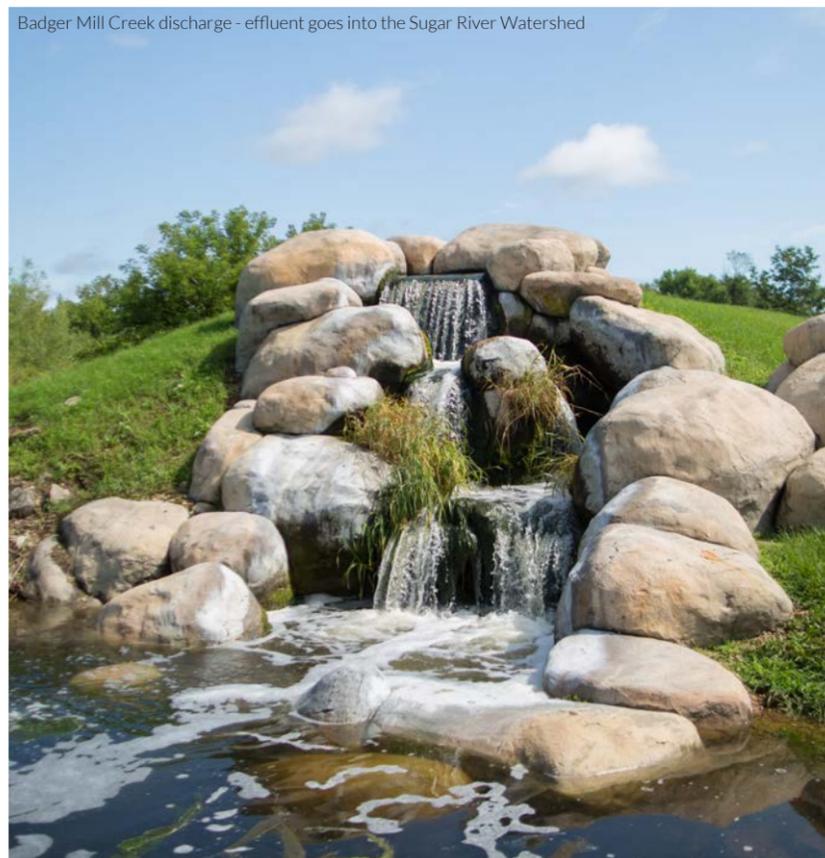
Learn more about the District at madsewer.org, and connect on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.



Struvite, a form of phosphorus, harvested from wastewater



11th addition to the District allows for removal of phosphorus from wastewater



Badger Mill Creek discharge - effluent goes into the Sugar River Watershed



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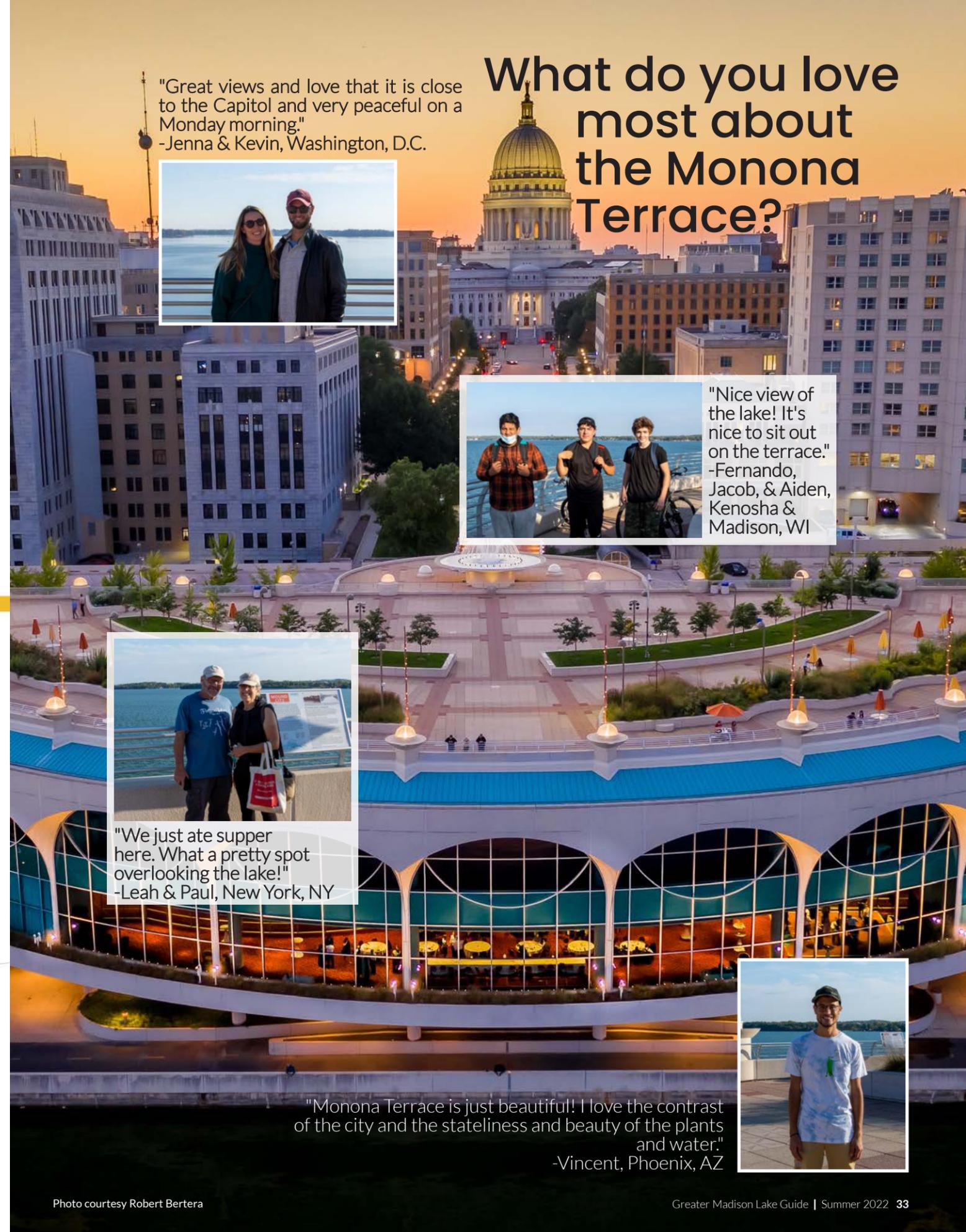
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What do you love most about the Monona Terrace?

"Great views and love that it is close to the Capitol and very peaceful on a Monday morning."
-Jenna & Kevin, Washington, D.C.



"Nice view of the lake! It's nice to sit out on the terrace."
-Fernando, Jacob, & Aiden, Kenosha & Madison, WI



"We just ate supper here. What a pretty spot overlooking the lake!"
-Leah & Paul, New York, NY



"Monona Terrace is just beautiful! I love the contrast of the city and the stateliness and beauty of the plants and water."
-Vincent, Phoenix, AZ



Photo courtesy Robert Bertera

A CONVERSATION WITH A LOCK OPERATOR



The first dam at Tenney Park was built with earth and mud in 1847 – two full years before Wisconsin became a state. Since then, the dam has been rebuilt twice, with the most recent version coming online in 1959. Sixty-plus years later, the “new” lock and dam operates the same way it did when it was built – with a single person pushing a button inside a booth that overlooks the structure. It may sound simple, but it’s a pretty impressive job. Clean Lakes Alliance’s Adam Sodersten caught up with Blaise Besant, one of the lock operators responsible for helping people make the five-foot depth change between Lake Mendota and the Yahara River.

Adam Sodersten: How long have you been doing this?

Blaise Besant: This is my fourth season. They (Dane County) had several of the long-timers retire. You kind of have to wait for somebody to retire or die to get one of these jobs! There are four of us and we are all retired. We each have seven shifts a month, unless it’s a holiday.

AS: So people want to have this job because it’s cool?

BB: Oh yeah. It is cool. You get to talk to boaters all day. Today I haven’t had a lot of boaters... we do one Thursday a month and that is definitely our slow day.

AS: I suppose the busier days are Friday, Saturday, Sunday?

BB: Oh, it will be hopping. Here are our numbers (*referencing chart on wall*) – we keep track of up and down so we'll get an idea of where we're looking because if we have a lot more people on Lake Mendota, we know that they'll be coming back because it gets pretty close to even. Here is Sunday...we had 41 boats. We had 100 boats even on Saturday. On a busy day we'll run 250ish.

AS: How long does it take to run the locks up and down?

BB: It takes like three and a half minutes to send them up once the gate is closed, and sending them down is like 34 seconds. And it's not just because of gravity. It's how quickly we let the water out. We can let the water out quickly because there is nobody parked right there (below the lock). We actually send a kind of wave down the river. The MSCR (Madison School & Community Recreation) pontoons – they go up by about four or five inches, and then settle back down as the wave goes by. Here, I'll show you.

(Blaise pushes the button to close the gate and flood the locks)

So, when we have boats in the chamber – we have to have our hand on this switch to make sure we aren't crushing a boat.

AS: Ok, so it's just like how a subway train has the dead man's switch?

BB: Yeah, so once the gate is lowered, we just push this flood button here and start flooding it – and that's what takes the three minutes and 38 seconds to fill.

AS: Does the vegetation affect anything? The pumps?

BB: No pumps. It's just a hydraulic ram that raises the gate.

AS: Oh, so that's it...it just raises the gate and lets the water rush in from one side?

BB: You'll see, if you're up front it really pulls on the boats that are near the gate. You really have to hold on. Every once in a while, we have a boat where somebody lets go, and the boat will start rushing toward the gate. And the gate doesn't care! So you have to stop, reverse it, and let them get back in control of their boat. We also have the option, if there are no boats in the chamber, we can fill it as fast as we dump it. We only do it if somebody is waiting and we have to fill the chamber to get them.

AS: Is it only one boat per lift, or can you get more?

BB: Oh, you can get way more. The most I've ever had was 17 because there were kayaks and jet skis.



Blaise Besant, Dane County Parks Lock Operator

AS: Seventeen?!

BB: Seventeen. As long as they all have a place to hold onto the sides, it's safe. On a busy weekend you have to decide if it's safe to stack it like...what's that game...Tetris...or if it's just faster to keep flowing them through. Because with a lot of drivers, it's easy to drive in the middle of the lake, but it's not as easy to maneuver in the lock.

AS: Does it get boring, or is it exciting every time you come in here?

BB: If it's a nice day and you're going to be busy, it's fun. Otherwise, it's good to bring something to read.

AS: What's it cost to go through the locks? Ten bucks?

BB: It's ten bucks a day, or 30 bucks for the whole season.

AS: What are you pulling out of here [the lock chamber]...anything exciting?

BB: As far as junk? The corners of pontoon boats – those tend to get knocked off. Sunglasses. Hooks. Cellphones. Unfortunately, our annual passes don't float, they sink!

AS: What did you do in your "real life" before you got this job in retirement?

BB: Oddly enough I worked in the construction of cruise ships. I worked for Cunard and Royal Caribbean and Princess and Disney – I worked with building ships doing IT systems.

AS: So, when you retired you thought, hey this will be a fun little thing to do?

BB: I started coming back to Madison after retirement (from Florida) because I grew up in Madison. I started volunteering at MSCR with the pontoon program and a couple of years ago we were really stuck because we couldn't get under the Willy Street Bridge. And the County was very helpful, but they had trouble linking up staffing, especially on short notice, because we often didn't know when we needed to get out. I was available to fill a need for them

and I was also available to open whenever MSCR needed to get out. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday when the locks were closed, I could come open them and get the pontoon boats out.

AS: It's interesting how it's, more or less, just a couple of buttons on a panel.

BB: Yeah, don't tell the secrets!

AS: How fun is it to interact with the boaters?

BB: That's what it's all about. I mean, I'm a boater. Nobody takes the job because they like pushing buttons, because you don't even push them that often. It's all about the interactions.

AS: Do you ever see fish jump in here?

BB: Yeah. And sometimes when we leave on a Sunday night, we're not back here until Thursday, so they've been in there that long. So, you'll see them circling around.

AS: What's it like riding out a storm in this little box? You must see them coming across the lake.

BB: Storms are really fun in here because this building isn't going anywhere. This is a very solid concrete building.

AS: Do the locks ever close because of inclement weather?

BB: No. Nope. We have people needing to get through, presumably to safety, so we don't close for anything.

AS: Anybody ever...you're walking out at 11:05 (p.m.) and they're like "come on, I'm stuck."

BB: Oh yeah. Or the people you see the next morning – usually in September when we change hours. Now you CAN have the locks

open. The county is very reasonable about it if you call in advance and ask to have the locks open.

AS: What's the coolest boat you've ever seen?

BB: Oh, we get those beautiful Chris-Crafts. Especially when they have the boat show down at Christy's Landing. But I tell ya what, pontoon boats are tricked out these days.

AS: What's this "old-school" record book I see here?

BB: That's our log book – just to get notes to each other. We mostly share by email. But we leave...let's see what we have...clogged urinal drain (*referencing bathroom in operator building*)...all the important stuff is in here!

After we left, Blaise emailed more about how much he enjoys meeting people that come through the locks.

BB: After you left, I realized that I totally failed to mention how much we enjoy many of our regulars. We actually become friends. In fact, I went to the wedding of two of my most frequent boaters earlier this summer. Fittingly, they had their reception at the Elks Lodge where they store their boat.

I've had numerous folks bring back food from the Memorial Union or other waterfront restaurants. We get frequent offers of snacks from boaters who have a veritable smorgasbord onboard. Of course, we also get offers for beverages – alcoholic and not. As tempting as a cold beer might be during a long shift on a hot day, it's not an offer we can accept.

It's those friendly interactions that make it such a fun job!

To purchase a daily or season lock pass, visit:
danecountyparks.com/permits



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AQUATIC PLANT HARVESTING IN DANE COUNTY

BY PETE JOPKE,
WATER RESOURCES PLANNER, DANE COUNTY LAND & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT



The Dane County Land & Water Resources Department manages an aquatic plant harvesting program with much of the harvesting occurring on lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, and Kegonsa. Occasionally, other smaller waterbodies are harvested to aid in recreation and invasive plant management. The program dates to the early 1980's when five harvesters were in operation. In those years, harvests totaled over 300 tons of plant material. In 2021, the existing fleet of 12 harvesters recorded plant harvests of more than 12,000 tons!

Aquatic plants, which may include both desirable native plants along with invasive species, are an important part of any lake ecosystem. They provide oxygen, cover, food, shoreline stabilization, water quality improvements, and more. While the plants can become a

nuisance at times, their advantages far outweigh the inconvenience and negative aspects that accompany them.

The Dane County Aquatic Plant Harvesting Program is intended to provide relief when excessive plant growth interferes with recreational interests. Harvesters are not designed for, nor can they remove cyanobacteria (blue-green algae).

The Yahara chain of lakes is an incredibly complex system, and growth patterns of aquatic plants often change dramatically from one year to the next. During high-growth years, which many would say occurred in 2021, plant growth will always exceed harvesting, regardless of the number of harvesters or time spent cutting. We've also seen that improved water clarity conditions sometimes lead to more aquatic

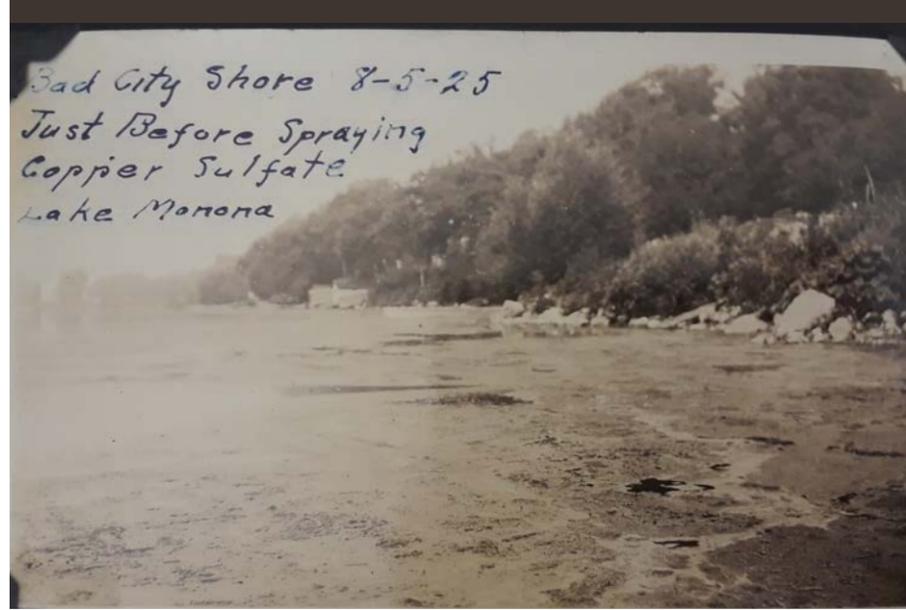
plant growth, which is a good reminder that aquatic plants do not always indicate a problem.

Over time, there have been tremendous changes within the watershed or land area that drains to the lakes. Our community creates runoff, which carries nutrients that help feed plants and algae. This isn't necessarily a new problem as the area lakes were often treated with copper sulfate dating back to the 1920s as algae and plants created excessive water quality impairments.

Harvesting follows permit requirements from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Each lake must have an approved Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Every five years, Dane County staff update plant management plans based on extensive field work along with public comments. Field work includes performing a point intercept survey or plant survey on all approved waterbodies, which involves sampling thousands of pre-determined locations where plants are identified and densities are recorded. The data are then entered into a spreadsheet that calculates many different metrics and helps guide any potential changes to the plans. All harvesting of aquatic vegetation occurs in DNR-approved locations. The areas typically avoid undeveloped shoreline areas or those with known hazards. Permits also restrict harvesting to waters deeper than three feet. This often means no cutting between piers as they may lie in shallower water.

An additional component to the program includes a barge pickup program. Dane County, in partnership with the City of Madison, Town of Westport, City of Monona, Lake Waubesa Conservation Association, and Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society, has a shoreline barge crew working to pick up aquatic trash and debris from residents' piers from May through August. Barges service all of lakes Monona, Waubesa, and Kegonsa, while on Lake Mendota, barges only cover the City of Madison and Westport locations.

Aquatic vegetation collected from piers as part of the Dane County Pier Pickup Program (only "lake-generated" debris is accepted)



The goals of the harvesting are to provide:

- Flood mitigation (keep water flowing through the Yahara River)
- Improved recreation, navigation, and beach access
- Shallow cuts for filamentous algae control
- Improved conditions for special events

Dates and lake locations are posted on the Dane County website (lwr.dane.gov/what-we-do/lake-management/aquatic-plant-management). Only material from the lake is allowed to be placed on the end of piers for Dane County staff to remove and dispose.



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Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

A Message from Dane County

BY JOE PARISI, DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

From scenic lakes and pristine natural areas to popular parks and outstanding bike trails, Dane County has some of the best outdoor recreational spaces in the country. It is through the hard work and vision of our Land and Water Resources Department that we are able to preserve these precious resources and ensure they remain a vibrant part of our community for many generations to come. Initiatives we started years ago address the shared goals of keeping our lakes clean, combatting the climate crisis, and preserving the rural character of our fast-growing county.

CONTINUOUS COVER INITIATIVE

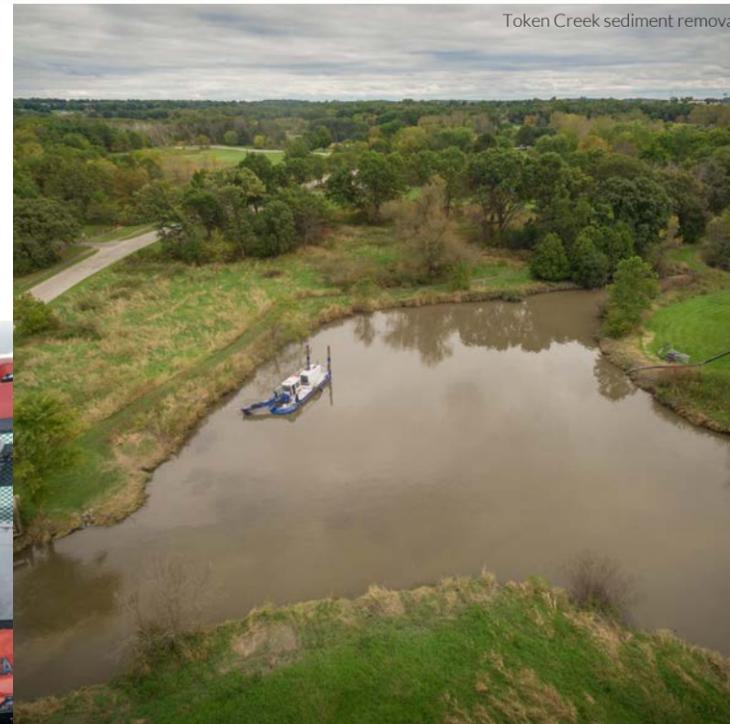
We launched the first-of-its-kind Continuous Cover Program three years ago converting lands into grasses and prairies to reduce farm nutrient runoff and erosion, trap carbon in the soil, and keep farmers and growers on the land. The program has been a resounding success and has protected 1,600 acres of land. I started this effort with \$750,000 in 2019, doubled it the year after, and this year increased funding to \$2.5 million to help us convert and conserve more lands. To date, 40% of the lands in the program are used for grazing, 30% are in a cool-season grass mix, and 30% have been converted to native prairie for pollinators and wildlife habitat.

PHEASANT BRANCH CONSERVANCY RESTORATION

The County's 2019 investment in a 160-acre addition at the Pheasant Branch Conservancy is a good demonstration of how our Conservation Fund improves water quality. Following the purchase, the County took on the duty of restoring the wetland function of the property, improving flood control and water quality. We are now partnering with the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy and Clean Lakes Alliance to restore the surrounding uplands to

an exceptionally diverse native prairie. Together, these projects will prevent 2.6-million gallons of rainwater and 500 pounds of phosphorus from running directly into Lake Mendota each year. This year I've increased funding for Dane County's Conservation Fund by an additional \$1 million, bringing the total to \$6 million available for land preservation work in 2022.

Loading seeds into a spreader for use at Pheasant Branch Conservancy



Token Creek sediment removal

SUCK THE MUCK

Our cutting-edge program has another full year of work ahead removing phosphorus-soaked sludge from Six-Mile Creek in the Town of Westport. To date, we have extracted 31,000 tons of sediment (about 2,500 dump truck loads) containing over 100,000 pounds of phosphorus from Dorn and Token creeks. I put an additional \$500,000 in the budget for "Suck the Muck" this year bringing the total invested on this water quality project to \$12 million since 2017.

YAHARA RIVER SEDIMENT REMOVAL

Our flood risk reduction dredging work in the Yahara River better prepares us for the impacts of flooding brought about by the unpredictability of climate change rains. Our 2022 budget has \$3 million for the third phase of flood risk reduction dredging in the Yahara River south of Lake Kegonsa. This work is seeing success. Dredging between lakes Monona and Waubesa removed 40,000 cubic yards of sediment, deepening the Yahara River by as much as four feet. This year's phase is projected to remove an estimated 65,000 of sediment from the river bottom. The County has committed \$13.5 million to flood prevention dredging since 2019. We will be better prepared for the next round of record rains and, more importantly, our communities will be safer.



Dane County staff conducts a habitat survey of the Yahara River



City of Madison Mayor
Satya Rhodes-Conway

Improvements Coming to Madison's Lake Monona Waterfront

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY OF MADISON

The City of Madison is embarking on two projects that will change and improve Lake Monona's waterfront. The John Nolen Drive Reconstruction and Lake Monona Waterfront projects together will change the entrance, vision, and way Madisonians and visitors enter the heart of the city for generations to come.

The City's approach to these projects is centered around community engagement and environmental protection. We want our waterfront to reflect our community and support our environment.

"Our lakes are an incredible asset," said Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway. "This planning process is an opportunity to create a vision for better access to them, and to reorient this space away from cars and toward people. It's an opportunity to create all sorts of connections, and to center equity and inclusion in the process."

The work includes two projects: reconstructing John Nolen Drive, and a design competition for the Lake Monona Waterfront.

JOHN NOLEN DRIVE RECONSTRUCTION

The John Nolen Drive Reconstruction is in the planning stages, with construction estimated to begin in 2026. The work will place a high emphasis on lake impacts.

"Our goal is to have a positive impact on the lakes, and by minimizing pavement widths and looking for opportunities to treat stormwater, we hope to improve water quality," said Principal Engineer, Chris Petykowski.

One challenge of the street portion is the tight space staff have to

work with, while fitting in use for bikes, vehicles, pedestrians, and greenspace.

The work for John Nolen Drive between North Shore Drive and Olin Avenue includes reconstructing bridges, reconfiguring lanes, expanding the bike and pedestrian path, shoreline reconstruction, and storm sewer reconstruction.

LAKE MONONA WATERFRONT PROJECT

The Lake Monona Waterfront Project reenvision 1.7 miles of Lake Monona shoreline. The Parks Division is leading a waterfront design challenge with support from the Friends of the Nolen Waterfront to develop a visionary, inclusive, and environmentally-focused master plan for the Lake Monona shore.

"Three planning teams will participate in the challenge, and each team is required to identify how their proposed plan meets the City's water quality and habitat improvement goals," said Parks Division Landscape Architect, Mike Sturm. "The final master plan should promote sustainable practices while improving the natural environment and supporting existing ecological systems."

The City considers a wide variety of factors with waterfront projects, including preserving and enhancing aquatic habitat, wetlands, shorelines, archaeological resources, and managing water quality.

Work will be ongoing until 2025. The City looks forward to collaborating with the Madison community to create a waterfront that represents and serves the full diversity of Madison's history and communities.



2021 STATE OF THE LAKES REPORT



Lake Wingra (foreground), Lake Mendota and Lake Monona with Madison's Isthmus (background)
Photo courtesy Robert Bertera

2021 STATE OF THE LAKES



Clean Lakes Alliance envisions a future in which everyone realizes the lakes are the center of our community. Surrounded by water, Greater Madison thrives because these stunning natural amenities make us special and different from anywhere else. The lakes are also constantly changing and being impacted by the decisions we make. Like a living organism, the health of our waters reflects the quality of the surrounding environment that protects and nourishes them.

This annual *State of the Lakes Report* provides a window into how the lakes are doing each year. Additionally, it highlights the root causes of water quality challenges and casts a light on the status and effectiveness of cleanup efforts. We thank the many partners, scientific experts, and volunteer monitors whose contributions make these public reports possible. As stewardship action unfolds across a 485-square-mile watershed (Figure 1), knowing how the lakes are responding to ongoing change is the first step in charting a path toward their recovery.

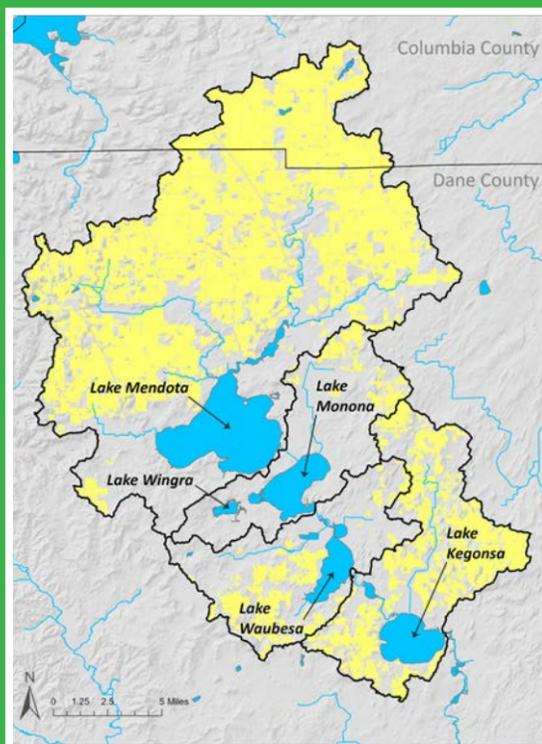


Figure 1: Yahara Watershed showing land areas that drain directly to each lake. Yellow denotes agricultural areas that comprise most of the watershed.

SUCCESSSES AND SETBACKS

Conservation actions work. Thirty years of monitoring data from Lake Mendota's stream tributaries show these actions lead to declines in sediment and phosphorus concentrations in streamflow entering the lakes. That means practices like cover crops, low-disturbance tillage, and following farmland nutrient management plans are doing their jobs. According to Dane County Land & Water Resources (2019), if

climate variations were held constant, models show that the amount of phosphorus delivered to Lake Mendota would have *decreased* by 36% over the last two decades. Those findings speak to the effectiveness of conservation actions as they get adopted across the watershed.

But a wetter climate and other factors are masking those impacts. Greater rainfall volumes and intensities combined with milder winters means more runoff and more algae-loving phosphorus entering the lakes. Today, all five Yahara lakes are classified as "impaired," mostly because of excess phosphorus. There are also 13 beaches already listed (9) or proposed to be listed (4) as impaired due to problems with *E. coli* bacteria. The failure of our lakes and beaches to meet basic standards of quality and usability is seen in water resembling thick green paint. It is experienced with every beach closure warning of toxic cyanobacteria or *E. coli* contamination. And it is the smell in the air as thick mats of algae wash to shore and rot. Conservation actions may be working, but the lakes tell us much more is still needed.

WHY THE FUSS ABOUT PHOSPHORUS?

Too much phosphorus harms water quality and turns the lakes green. It can be found in fertilizers (phosphorus fertilizers are banned in Dane County), soil, animal waste, and organic material. With one pound of phosphorus capable of generating up to 500 pounds of algae, every pound matters.

While phosphorus can enter the lakes in different forms and through various pathways, it is what we put on and do to the land surface that most impacts downstream waters.

FOLLOW THE WATER

The story of our lakes is written in the pathways of its water, beginning at the source. Data from the Dane County Regional Airport gauge show a total of 25.29 inches of precipitation fell across the watershed during the last "water year" (Oct. 1, 2020 – Sep. 30, 2021). Compared to the normal of 34.48 inches, the significantly drier conditions interrupt a trend of above-average rainfall. The lakes typically respond favorably to drier weather, with less runoff meaning fewer opportunities for pollutants to move from land to water.

Throughout the year, surface water steadily flows from north to south as it is funneled from the upper reaches of the watershed, through Yahara River stream tributaries, and down the chain of lakes before entering the Rock River. Monitoring data allow scientists to estimate the mass of phosphorus transported to the lakes over the year (called "loading"). Total loading can be highly variable, but long-term trends paint a picture that illustrates how climate and landscape interactions are impacting lake and stream quality.

A BELLWETHER FOR THE CHAIN

Perched at the top of the chain and receiving most of the watershed's drainage, the condition of Lake Mendota is a good indicator for how the downstream lakes will be impacted. Lake Mendota is also the largest lake with the greatest number of monitored streams and the most complete long-term dataset. The lion's share of phosphorus received by the lower lakes is through the outlet of Lake Mendota as

it gathers from the northern headwater regions of the watershed and cascades down the rest of the system.

Figure 2 shows the total pounds of phosphorus delivered from Lake Mendota's monitored streams during the 2021 water year compared to prior years. During the 2021 water year, the 28,160 pounds of phosphorus loading to Lake Mendota was 48% below the long-term average (1990-2021).

Maintaining an annual average loading of 32,600 pounds is a Yahara CLEAN target recommendation. If attained, the number of days our lakes are clear and free of algal-blooms each summer should double. Yet an increasingly wetter climate makes reaching this target more challenging, and monitoring data show a widening gap between annual average loading and the desired target level. According to *Renew the Blue: A Community Guide for Cleaner Lakes & Beaches in the Yahara Watershed* (2022), a 57% reduction from current conditions is now needed to reach water quality goals (Table 1).

Figure 2 also shows total precipitation by water year and how it relates to loading. While yearly totals can be telling, it is the timing, intensity, and frequency of rainfall and snowmelt that ultimately offer the best predictors of runoff and phosphorus-loading conditions. For example, runoff events when the ground is frozen can have a disproportionately large impact regardless of yearly totals. This is evidenced by high ammonium concentrations in winter runoff samples. These findings link the land spreading of manure to high phosphorus loads observed during the January-March period (Figure 3). On average, phosphorus loading during that period accounts for 54% of the annual total.

SCREENING FOR LAKE HEALTH

In-lake clarity and phosphorus data are collected by UW-Madison's Center for Limnology as part of its Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) program. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on personnel availability, center-of-lake summer phosphorus concentrations were not obtained for lakes Monona, Wingra, Waubesa, and Kegonsa in 2020, and lakes Waubesa and Kegonsa in 2021.

Tributary Phosphorus Loads to Lake Mendota

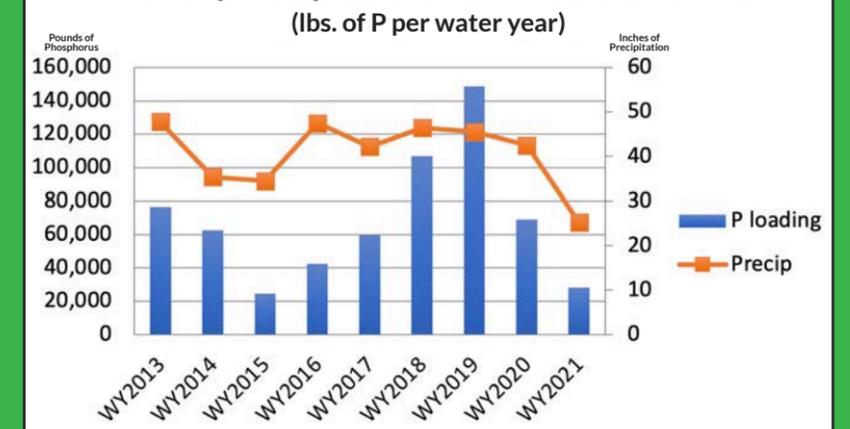
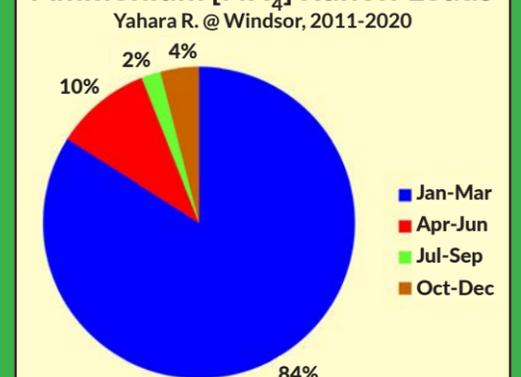


Figure 2: Phosphorus loads (in pounds) delivered to Lake Mendota through its monitored stream tributaries by water year. Also shown is total precipitation (in inches) during these time periods. Loading data source: T. Stuntebeck, USGS

Ammonium [NH₄] Runoff Loads



Runoff Phosphorus Load

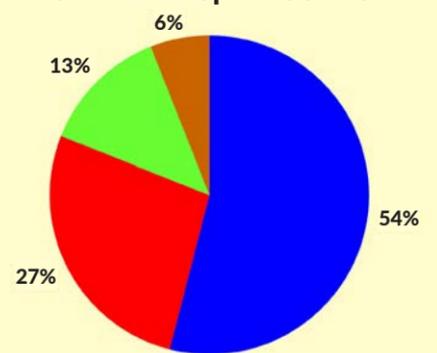


Figure 3: Ammonium runoff loads compared to phosphorus loads by season as measured between 2011-2020 from samples collected at the Yahara River at the Windsor stream gage. Loading data source and graphic: R. Lathrop, UW-Madison Center for Limnology

DIRECT DRAINAGE P LOAD	MENDOTA	MONONA	WAUBESA	KEGONSA	TOTAL
1976 - 2008 Average ¹	65,300	16,500	4,600	8,800	95,200
1990 - 2020 Average	75,500 ²	19,100 ³	5,300	10,200 ³	110,100
Target ¹	32,600	8,300	2,300	4,400	47,600

Table 1: Summary of average annual phosphorus (P) loads and targets (pounds/year) for the Yahara lakes. (1 - Lathrop & Carpenter, 2014. 2 - Sum of measured tributary loads plus estimates of ungauged areas (14%). 3 - 1976-2008 average multiplied by ratio of 1990-2020 to 1976-2008 averages for Lake Mendota.) Table credit *Renew the Blue: A Community Guide for Cleaner Lakes & Beaches in the Yahara Watershed*



Clear water at Warner Beach, 2021
Photo courtesy Robert Bertera

Figure 4 shows summer median total phosphorus concentrations for 2021 compared to recent years. For deeper lakes Mendota and Monona, phosphorus levels are considered “fair” by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources standards. For shallower Lake Wingra, conditions are considered “good.” No LTER phosphorus data were available for the lower lakes, Waubesa and Kegonsa.

Figure 5 shows summer median water clarity readings for 2021 compared to recent years. Values represent the depth to which a transparency-measuring device, called a Secchi disk, can be seen when lowered from the water surface. Clarity readings hover between “good” and “fair” conditions for lakes Mendota, Monona, and Wingra. The much smaller and shallower Lake Wingra continues to exhibit water quality benefits from carp removal in 2008. Carp are known to stir up lake bottoms through their feeding behavior. For Lake Waubesa, conditions are considered “fair,” while Lake Kegonsa experienced an “excellent” year for water clarity.

THE LAKE USER EXPERIENCE

Ultimately, we want our lakes to be safe and swimmable, and free of the cyanobacteria blooms and *E. coli* contamination that can close beaches and pose public-health risks. Thanks to the dedication of Clean Lakes Alliance’s all-volunteer monitoring network, a record 85 reporting stations were active across all five lakes during the 2021 season (Figure 6). Trained monitors contributed 2,105 LakeForecast condition reports from approximately Memorial Day to Labor Day.

LAKEFORECAST & VOLUNTEER WATER QUALITY MONITORING



Volunteer water quality monitor, Jeff Koziol, tests for microcystins

Other water quality parameters are reported by dedicated volunteers throughout the summer and provide lake users information to make informed decisions about when and where to enjoy the lakes safely. Lake conditions are dynamic and can change rapidly, making the frequent reporting by our volunteers all the more valuable.

The strength and success of the LakeForecast initiative can be attributed to its amazing volunteer network and its many partnerships. Bringing together beach closures issued by Public Health Madison Dane County, in-lake water conditions from the UW-Madison Center for Limnology Lake Mendota research buoy, and frequent reporting from our volunteer network has created a dynamic tool that provides a voice for the lakes. The data collected can help us identify long-term trends necessary to assess the state of our lakes and community progress toward cleaner water.

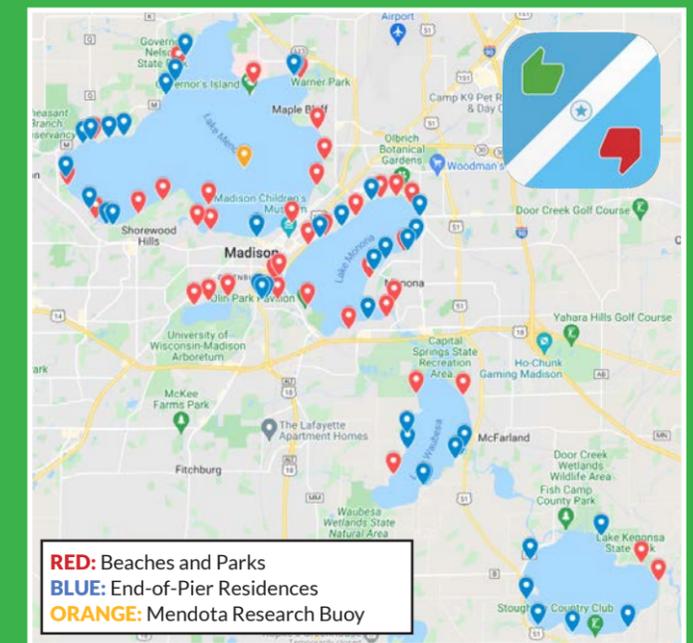


Figure 6: 2021 LakeForecast monitoring sites

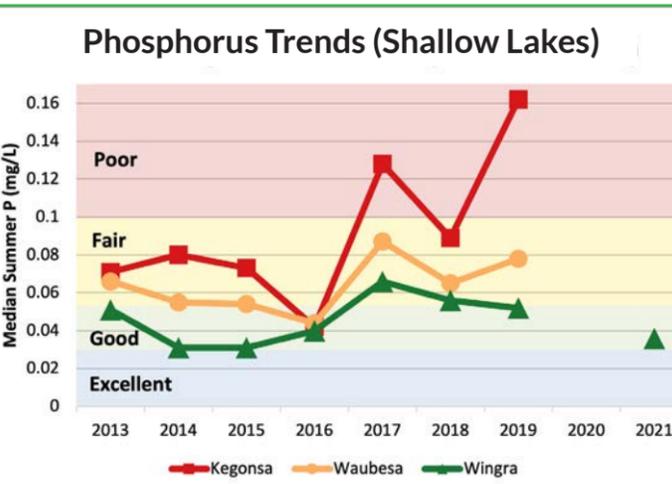
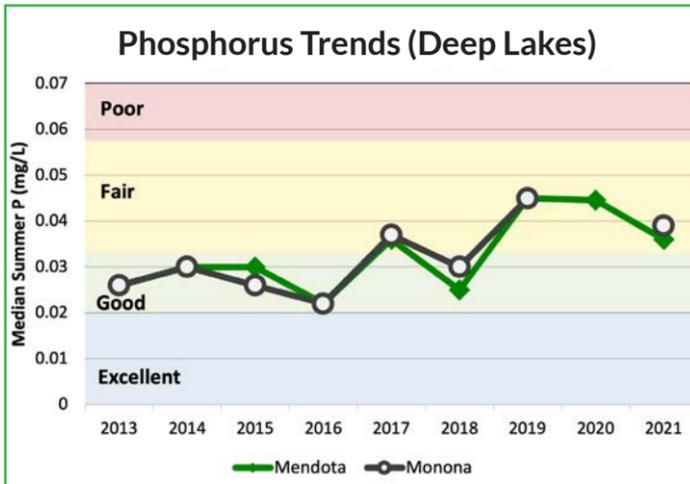


Figure 4: Median summer phosphorus concentrations (in mg/L) and corresponding water quality conditions as defined by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources standards. Data source: R. Lathrop, UW-Madison Center for Limnology



Figure 5: Median summer water clarity readings (in feet of transparency as measured by a Secchi disk) and corresponding water quality conditions as defined by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources standards. Data source: R. Lathrop, UW-Madison Center for Limnology



LakeForecast volunteer monitoring equipment
Photo courtesy Robert Bertera

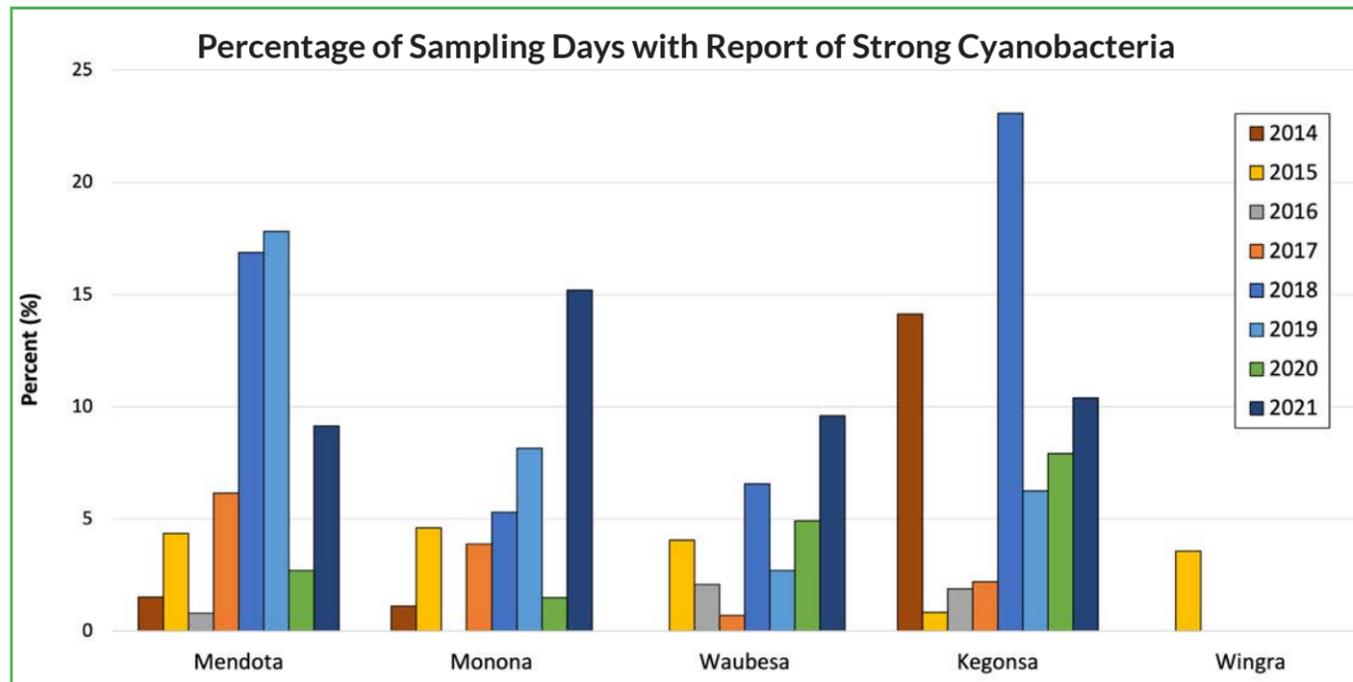


Figure 7: LakeForecast nearshore monitors reporting “strong evidence” of a cyanobacteria bloom represented as a percentage of total sampling days

The number of days when one or more monitors reported “strong evidence” of a cyanobacteria bloom is summarized for each lake in Figure 7. By comparing the number of ‘algal days’ to the total number of unique sampling days for each lake, a percentage can be generated that better represents the number of blooms witnessed each year. This method eliminates overreporting in situations when different monitors report the same algal bloom.

years. Lake Wingra remained consistent with no reports of strong cyanobacteria blooms.

There was significant variability in algal days across each lake. Generally, the highest number of strong cyanobacteria blooms are reported in June and July, followed by a sharp decline in August. May and September often have fewer strong reports of cyanobacteria. This is because fewer monitors are active, and the typically cooler weather does not support the rapid algal growth seen during warmer months.

Compared to the prior year, 2021 saw more “strong evidence” of cyanobacteria blooms on the four primary lakes, with Monona and Waubesa at their highest reported levels compared to the last six

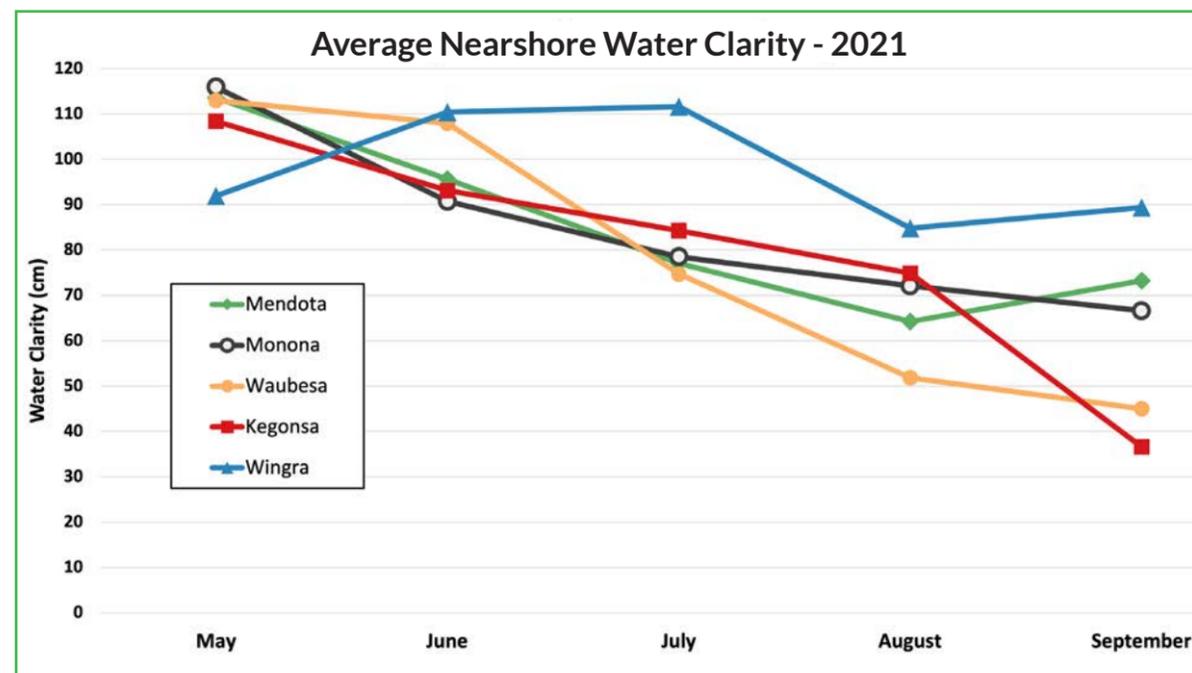


Figure 8: Change in average nearshore water clarity by lake during the 2021 season. Measured in centimeters of transparency using a 120-centimeter turbidity tube; murky is 0-50 cm, fair is 50-80 cm, and good is 80-120 cm of transparency.

Clarity reports did not reveal any consistent trends across the five lakes when compared to 2020. Lake Kegonsa and Lake Wingra demonstrated an improvement in water clarity, while Mendota, Monona, and Waubesa saw moderate reductions when compared to the previous year. These observations also hold true when compared to the long-term median water clarity measurement for each lake. Except for Lake Wingra, overall water clarity in 2021 for the Yahara lakes was relatively poor when compared to previous years.

As depicted in Figure 8, average clarity for most lakes decreased throughout the summer with a peak decline in August. Lake Kegonsa deviated from this trend as clarity readings were at a season low in September. The shallower depths of Lake Kegonsa, combined with its low-elevation position within the watershed and chain of lakes, likely contributed to the lower clarity readings.

Observations from the 2021 monitoring season demonstrate the difficulty in identifying whole lake trends in water clarity and algal presence. Despite an unusually dry year, water quality conditions were generally poor when compared to historical LakeForecast data. The data highlights the fact that the complex interactions of multiple variables affect water quality. There can also be long lag times between watershed actions that reduce phosphorus and lake response. The data collected by LakeForecast volunteers offer a valuable tool to help us better understand cause-and-effect relationships as they apply to ever-changing lake conditions.

As for beach closures, there were 267 total “closure days” documented during the 2021 summer-recreation season (Figure 9). Closure days represent the number of days each monitored beach had to be closed due to unsafe water conditions. These unsafe conditions are most often due to the presence of elevated and potentially harmful levels of *E. coli* and/or toxin-producing cyanobacteria. For historical comparison, the long-term median closure rate (2005-2021) is 107 days lost per season.

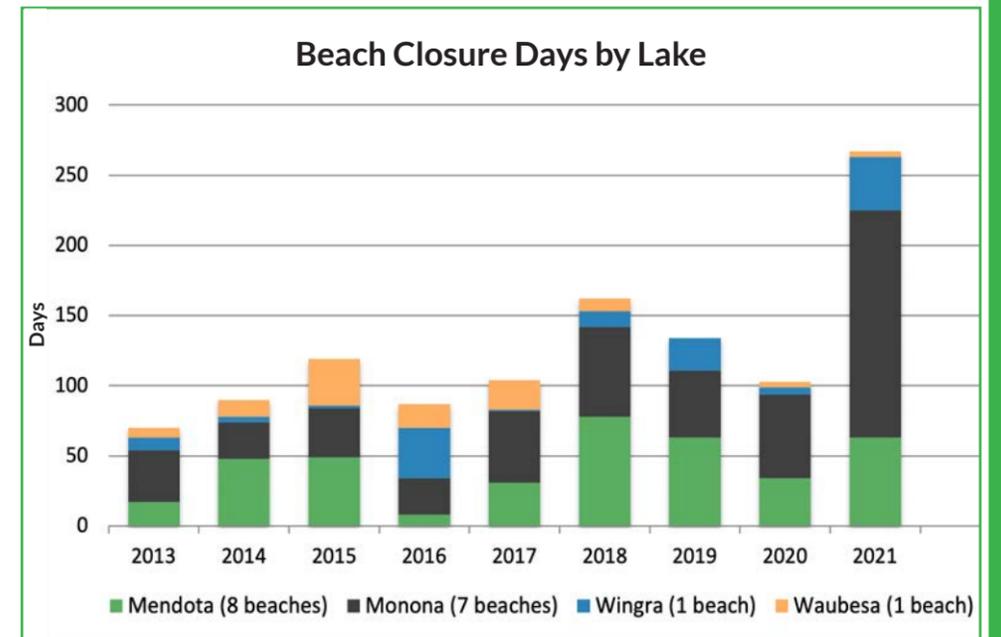


Figure 9: Beach closure days by lake from 2013-2021. Data source: Public Health Madison & Dane County

ENJOYING OUR FROZEN ASSETS

In winter, the lakes freeze over and become our largest public parks. Ice fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice boating, ice skating, and other activities are enjoyed during the coldest months. The winter of 2020-2021 was relatively warm, with Lake Mendota freezing for 77 days, only seven days longer than the previous year when it froze for 70 days. For reference, the median duration of ice cover on Lake Mendota is 104 days measured over the last 165 seasons.

A warmer winter can significantly shorten opportunities for cold-season recreation. It also leads to warmer water temperatures earlier in the year, creating a longer growing season for algae and aquatic plants while impacting the life stages of ice-cover-dependent organisms.



CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are a major threat to natural and cultural resources, ecosystem services, recreation, and tourism in the Yahara Watershed. AIS disrupt the ecological balance of our lakes. They can also decrease water quality and increase cyanobacterial growth. The impacts of AIS are not only costly to our lake health, but also to our economy. AIS cause millions of dollars in damages to our lakes, and our ability to enjoy them. If you have ever visited the Yahara lakes, you have likely experienced the effects of AIS, from stepping on sharp zebra mussel shells while swimming, to seeing large algal blooms, created in part by the spiny water flea.

Clean Lakes Alliance is committed to establishing measures to protect our lakes and mitigate the threats of AIS. We strive to raise awareness of AIS in our watershed through watercraft inspection, outreach, and education at boat launches. In 2022, in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Dane County, Clean Lakes Alliance will expand AIS efforts by participating in the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. This statewide initiative places inspectors at boat landings to educate boaters about aquatic invasive species and the steps they can take to prevent their spread. This spring and summer, keep an eye out for staff and volunteers leading these efforts at boat landings in Babcock, Fish Camp, Marshall, Olbrich, Olin, and Warner parks.

Everyone has a part to play in keeping our lakes healthy and preventing the spread of AIS. The goal of Clean Lakes Alliance is to raise the profile of AIS in our lakes and empower the community to take action. To make this vision a reality, we would like to see AIS inspection programs at every boat landing in the Yahara Watershed, clear and effective signage about AIS prevention, and increased resources for boaters, including more boat washes, cleaning tools, and educational materials.



Zebra mussels - an aquatic invasive species



Inspecting a boat for aquatic invasive species (AIS)
Photo courtesy Stephanie Boismenu, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

EMERGING CONCERNS

Clean Lakes Alliance has long focused on building capacity and partnerships around phosphorus reduction, seeking to apply maximum pressure to what is arguably the lakes' single largest driver of water quality problems. This laser focus allows us to direct the public's attention to where it is most needed, and has produced many notable wins, including leading the Yahara CLEAN Compact's work in producing a *Renew the Blue* stakeholder guide to cleaning up our lakes and beaches. A community unveiling and official launch of the *Renew the Blue* initiative begins in May of 2022 as part of a culminating public event. (Pages 8-12)

However, many other factors affect water quality conditions. They include over-salting during the winter months, the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels, and contamination by largely unregulated PFAS/PFOS "forever chemicals" that threaten human health (Figure 10) – to name a few. Clean Lakes Alliance will continue to raise awareness about these concerns while either leading or supporting actions that confront these challenges head on. That includes advocating for needed policies and bringing "Clean Boats, Clean Waters" watercraft inspectors to several busy boat landings in partnership with Dane County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

LOOKING AHEAD

Starting with the next *State of the Lakes Report*, readers will be introduced to a new progress-reporting dashboard. The new dashboard will follow guidance set forth in *Renew the Blue: A Community Guide for Cleaner Lakes & Beaches in the Yahara Watershed*, and offer a more accurate and comprehensive representation of our collective progress. As in past reports, the focus will be on celebrating successful partner efforts and to maintain transparency and accountability as our work together proceeds.

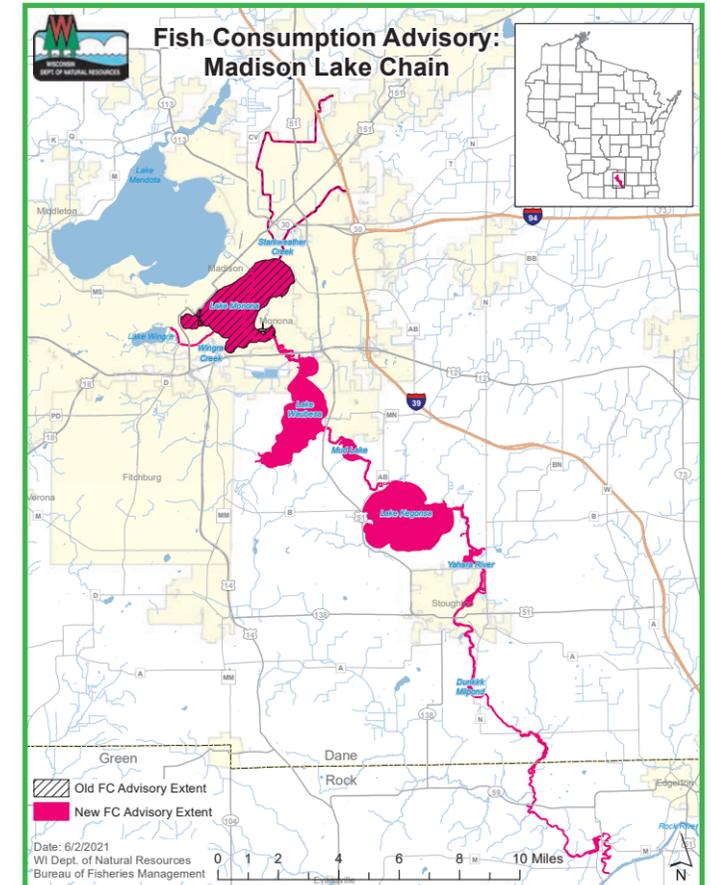


Figure 10: Fish-consumption advisories due to elevated levels of PFAS and PFOS. Credit: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

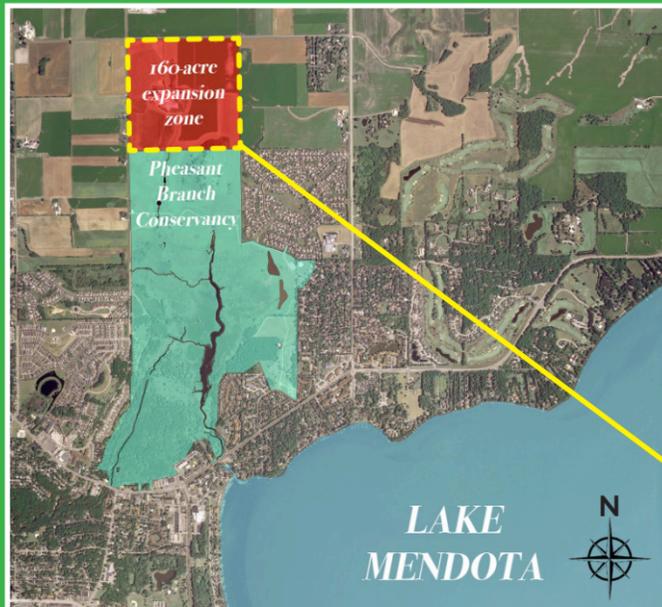


Volunteers work to clean up Esther Beach on Lake Monona, 2021



Overuse of sidewalk salt in the winter

PHEASANT BRANCH CONSERVANCY RESTORATION



The first quadrant of prairie was seeded in March of 2021 with 174 different plant species. Donated funds helped increase the seeding density from 80 to 100 seeds per square foot.

Earlier this year, the second quadrant was seeded with 203 different species. Dane County Parks was able to collect 139 species from volunteer collection programs and purchase an additional 64 species with funds from Clean Lakes Alliance and the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy.

Seeding takes place in the late winter or early spring because light snow cover holds the seeds in place, and as it melts, the seeds embed into a softening soil.

Over the next several years, Dane County Parks will mow these new prairies to combat annual and biannual weed seed production. The final, bloomed prairie should be noticeable in each quadrant a few years after initial planting.



In 2019, Dane County purchased 160 acres of land on the north end of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy. Formerly a dairy farm, this purchase was the largest conservation investment for land acquisition in the county's history.

After the purchase, the property was split into four quadrants – with the plan of seeding one section per year, starting in 2021. The goal was to achieve a “Platinum Prairie” by planting at least 100 different plant species in each quadrant.

Clean Lakes Alliance received an initial donation of \$100,000 from the Alliant Energy Foundation to help restore prairie and wetland areas. Additionally, the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy raised \$25,000 for the first, second, and third years of planting.



Collecting seeds from native plants at Pheasant Branch Conservancy to be used in the future, October 2021



Clean Lakes Alliance Executive Director James Tye participates in ceremonial seeding of second quadrant, March 2022

RENEW THE BLUE STAKEHOLDERS

RENEW THE BLUE

Renew the Blue seeks to spur collective action among those who live and work within the Yahara Watershed. Creating a legacy of clean lakes for this and future generations is a shared responsibility, and it will take motivated and empowered community members to make it happen. The following stakeholder groups were identified because they either own or control land within the watershed, or they are responsible for setting policy and allocating funding related to water quality improvement.

AGRICULTURE

This group includes farmers and landowners involved in agricultural production and processing. This group also includes farmer-led conservation groups and agricultural advisors and suppliers. After government, agriculture is the second most influential stakeholder group based on its ability to directly impact water quality.



Creating buffer strips on agricultural lands



Construction site beside waterbody

BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS

These stakeholders are land-development companies and builders involved in new development or redevelopment. The actions taken by this group are typically governed by ordinances and policies adopted by the local municipality in which a project is located. Some recommendations involve incentives to encourage going above and beyond standard regulatory requirements.

GOVERNMENT

This is the most influential of the five groups due to its capacity and authority to affect broad-scale change. Comprised of towns, villages, cities, counties, and state government, the largest number of priority actions apply to this group, especially those that involve policies, ordinances, or regional guidelines. Government also has the greatest ability to raise and allocate funds or commission research on behalf of water quality efforts.



Aerial view of Madison's Isthmus
Photo courtesy Robert Bertera



B.B. Clarke Beach Park on Lake Monona

PARKS & OPEN SPACE MANAGERS

This group includes department personnel at the municipal, county, and state levels whose responsibilities include designing, maintaining, improving, retrofitting, or adding new parks and open spaces. This group also includes land-conservation stewards and other nonprofit entities involved in management or recreational program offerings. Priority is given to actions targeted to lands located directly adjacent to lakes and streams.

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL LANDOWNERS

This group is comprised of the greatest number of potential participants. While those belonging to this group may not always feel that their individual actions have an impact, cumulative action can result in significant and meaningful impacts. As more individuals implement changes at their homes and places of business, the more likely they will advocate for policies, incentives, and funding models that will help support and sustain the overall effort.



Homeowners create a more resilient landscape

LEARN MORE

To learn more about these groups and how they fit into *Renew the Blue*, please read the plan's executive summary on pages 8-12.



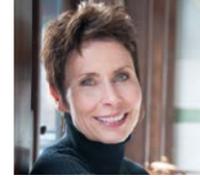
Clean Lakes +
FULL HEARTS
Proud Partner of Clean Lakes Alliance



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LAKE MENDOTA

PARKS, BEACHES, & ACCESS SITES	RESTAURANTS
1 James Madison Park	7 Betty Lou Cruises
2 Tenney Park	7 The Mariner's Inn
3 Burrow's Park	8 Nau-Ti-Gal
4 Maple Bluff Beach Park	20 Memorial Union
5 Warner Park Beach	21 The Boathouse
6 Governor's Island	21 The Statehouse
11 Governor Nelson State Park	
12 Mendota County Park	
13 Lake Street Boat Launch	
14 Marshall Park	
15 Spring Harbor Beach Park	
16 McKenna Park (Shorewood Hills Boathouse)	
17 Frautschi Point	
18 Picnic Point	
19 University Bay Boat Launch	
20 Memorial Union	

GASOLINE VENDORS
 9 SkipperBud's of Madison
 10 Mazanet Marina

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Enhancing your Life
Health & Smile



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LAKES MONONA & WINGRA

PARKS, BEACHES, & ACCESS SITES

- 1 Esther Beach Park
- 4 Frost Woods
- 5 Wyldhaven Park
- 6 Schluter Beach
- 9 Olbrich Park
- 10 Hudson Park
- 11 B.B. Clarke Beach Park
- 14 Law Park
- 17 Brittingham Park
- 18 Vilas (Henry) Park
- 19 Wingra Boat Launch & Livery
- 20 Bernie's Beach Park
- 21 Olin Park

RESTAURANTS

- 2 Breakwater
- 2 Buck & Honey's
- 3 Waypoint Public House
- 7 The East Side Club - Tiki Bar & Grill
- 8 The Biergarten at Olbrich Park
- 12 Madison Elks Lodge
- 13 Sardine
- 15 Lake Vista Café
- 16 Paison's
- 20 Lakeside St. Coffee House

GASOLINE VENDORS

- 2 Four Lakes Yacht Club



Identifying Waterway Markers

BOATING IN WISCONSIN COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

There are two main types of waterway markers designed to assist boaters in navigation and accident prevention. "Regulatory buoys" are designed to identify areas with speed limits or where boats are not allowed. "Navigation aids" are designed to identify lanes of navigation or "channels." It is important that boaters be familiar with each of these buoy types and the message each one conveys.

For safety reasons, except for an approved mooring buoy, no person may moor or fasten any vessel to a regulatory buoy or aid to navigation. It is unlawful for unauthorized people to move, remove, molest, tamper with, destroy, or attempt to destroy any waterway marker.

REGULATORY BUOYS

All regulatory buoys are white with a single orange band at the top and bottom of the exposed buoy. The control symbol is spaced between these bands and is also orange in color. Any wording or message will be in black letters.



BOATS KEEP OUT

This buoy is signified by a cross in the center of an open diamond. Boats Keep Out buoys mark areas where vessel operation is prohibited. Typical areas for these buoys are swim beaches and dams.

DANGER

This buoy is signified by an open diamond. Danger buoys mark areas that are hazardous to vessel operation. Typical areas for these buoys are submerged rocks or shoals.

CONTROLLED AREA

This buoy is signified by an open circle. Control buoys mark areas where vessel speed or wake is controlled for safety purposes. Some control buoys may limit water skiing or other activities. Typical areas for these buoys are around boat launches and other congested areas. NOTE: "Slow-no-wake" is a common message on controlled area buoys. Slow-no-wake means that speed at which a boat moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control.

INFORMATIONAL

This buoy is signified by an open rectangle. Informational buoys convey messages other than danger, control or restriction, which may contribute to health, safety, or well-being.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION



RED BUOY

Marks the right side of the channel when traveling upstream.



GREEN BUOY

Marks the left side of the channel when traveling upstream.



BLACK & WHITE VERTICAL STRIPES

Marks the center of the channel. Pass closely on either side.

MOORING BUOYS



Mooring buoys are white with a blue band and are spherical or ovate in shape.

SIGNAL FLAGS



SCUBA DIVERS FLAG

This red flag with a white diagonal stripe means that dive operations are underway. No vessel may operate within 100 feet.



DISTRESS SIGNAL FLAG

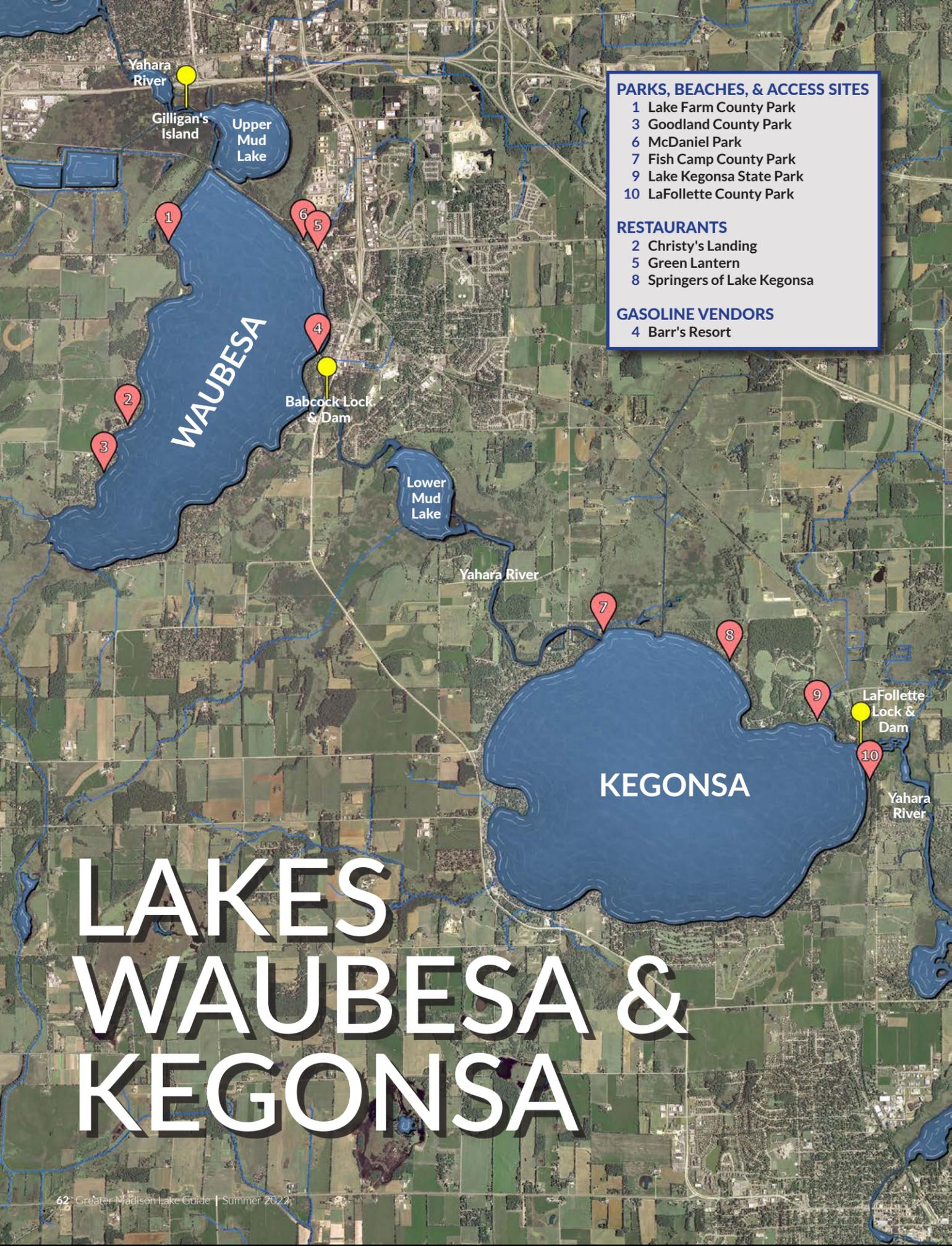
This orange flag has a black square over a black circle. It is the duty of any boat operator observing such a flag to stop and render aid. This signal shall not be displayed unless assistance is needed.



ALPHA FLAG

This blue flag with a white vertical stripe on the left edge means that the vessel has personnel and/or equipment in the water and is unable to maneuver. Do not approach. Maintain a distance of at least 100 feet from vessel and watch for divers.

LEARN MORE: dnr.wisconsin.gov/Topic/Boat/WaterwayMarkers



PARKS, BEACHES, & ACCESS SITES

- 1 Lake Farm County Park
- 3 Goodland County Park
- 6 McDaniel Park
- 7 Fish Camp County Park
- 9 Lake Kegonsa State Park
- 10 LaFollette County Park

RESTAURANTS

- 2 Christy's Landing
- 5 Green Lantern
- 8 Springers of Lake Kegonsa

GASOLINE VENDORS

- 4 Barr's Resort

LAKE WAUBESA & KEGONSA

RESTAURANTS AROUND THE YAHARA LAKES

We reached out to 20 lakefront restaurants to find out what each thought was the star of their menu. The following are the mouthwatering responses we received.



THE BOATHOUSE (LAKE MENDOTA)

Perhaps one of the most requested items at The Boathouse at The Edgewater each summer is the popular Lobster Roll, stacked high with Maine lobster, heirloom tomatoes, shredded lettuce, and herb mayo on a fresh brioche roll. Best enjoyed on the dock with a cold cocktail!



THE STATEHOUSE (LAKE MENDOTA)

Signature items at The Statehouse include the fried Clockshadow Creamery Cheese Curds, a Wisconsin favorite, served with spicy ranch sauce. And, you can't miss one of the best burgers in Madison - the popular Augie's Burger. You'll feast on a double patty with cheese, applewood smoked bacon, lettuce, tomato, pickles, and caramelized onion aioli.

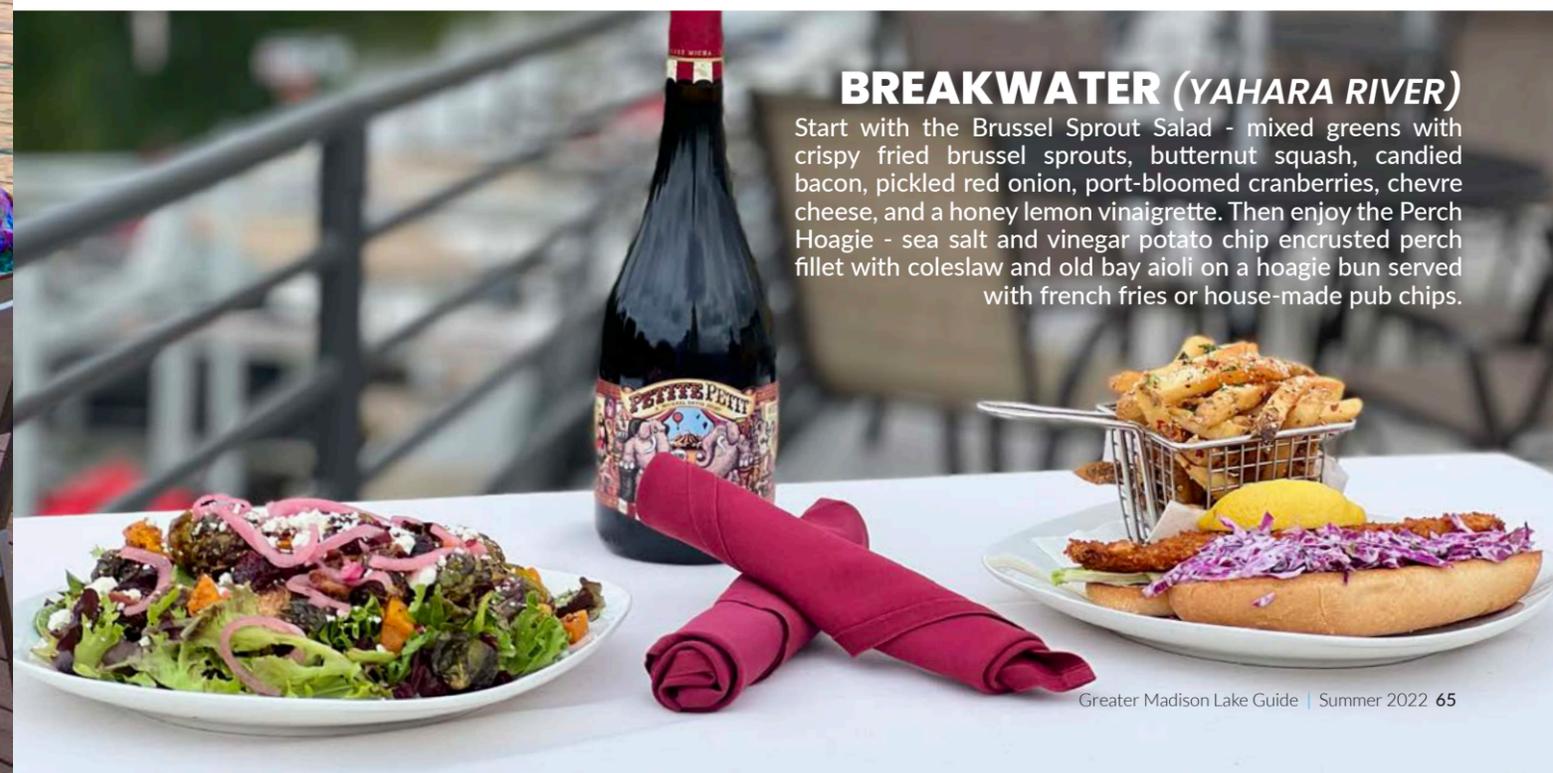


BUCK & HONEY'S (YAHARA RIVER)

The Firecracker Shrimp is a big favorite at Buck & Honey's! Lightly battered shrimp is served crispy, tossed in a creamy sriracha, and is finished with black and white sesame seeds. Served over napa cabbage and garnished with a lemon wedge, it is not too spicy but just spicy enough!

NAU-TI-GAL (YAHARA RIVER)

Known as "Madison's Best Brunch," the Sunday brunch buffet at the Nau-Ti-Gal is a can't miss! Eggs, fruit, hash browns, sausage and bacon, a carving station, ice cream sundaes for the kids, and more make this feast a great stop for the whole family.



BREAKWATER (YAHARA RIVER)

Start with the Brussel Sprout Salad - mixed greens with crispy fried brussel sprouts, butternut squash, candied bacon, pickled red onion, port-bloomed cranberries, chevre cheese, and a honey lemon vinaigrette. Then enjoy the Perch Hoagie - sea salt and vinegar potato chip encrusted perch fillet with coleslaw and old bay aioli on a hoagie bun served with french fries or house-made pub chips.

**CHRISTY'S LANDING
(LAKE WAUBESA)**



Christy's Landing offers a nice selection of casual, classic Wisconsin tavern fare, featuring homemade pizzas, specialty burgers like the boss hog, and the popular "Shrimp Christy's" appetizer. Along with the Friday Night Fish Fry, you may also reserve the banquet room overlooking beautiful Lake Waubesa and order from the extensive party menu.



LAKE VISTA CAFE (LAKE MONONA)

The Fish Tacos feature marinated adobo cod sautéed and served on tortillas. They are served with pickled onions, pico de gallo, chili sauce, and black bean salad over shredded cabbage. It's a perfect meal while enjoying the views from the rooftop of the Monona Terrace.

**SPRINGERS OF
LAKE KEGONSA**

On the southernmost lake in the Yahara chain, you won't want to miss a lunch or dinner on the sunset patio at Springers of Lake Kegonsa. The specialty house-seasoned, pan-fried walleye, paired with a baked potato, side salad, and a slice of pumpkin cheesecake for dessert will hit the spot during any meal.



WAYPOINT PUBLIC HOUSE (YAHARA RIVER)

Chicken Wings & Tenderloin Poutine - two great apps that will satisfy your hunger! Waypoint Chicken Wings are house smoked and fried, bone in, and then tossed in a house-made sauce or dry rub. The mouthwatering Tenderloin Poutine is made with Westby cheese curds melted over french fries and drizzled with house-smoked gravy and topped with seared tenderloin slices.



BOAT RENTALS

MADISON, WISCONSIN

3 LOCATIONS - 3 LAKES



**OPEN 8:30AM-8:00PM
EVERYDAY**

(LIMITED HOURS IN MAY AND SEPT)

**THE BIERGARTEN AT OLBRICH PARK
(LAKE MONONA)**

While there are terrific local eats on the menu at The Biergarten at Olbrich Park, the star of the show is the craft beverages. Biergarten staff visits brewers across the state to find the highest-quality and best fit beer, cider, and seltzer for the menu. On offer is a variety from light to dark to fruited to sour. The menu often includes brews that are only available at the Biergarten or made exclusively for Biergarten visitors.



MEMORIAL UNION (LAKE MENDOTA)

How about a lakeside burger at the Wisconsin Union's der Rathskeller in Memorial Union? Der Rathskeller's Impossible Greek Burger's plant-based burger is topped with fresh, delicious tomato and is joined by crisp, Midwest-grown lettuce. Sandwiched between the savory burger and vibrant tomato is a house-made, creamy tzatziki sauce that brings a tangy twist to this culinary creation.



Memorial Union Terrace on Lake Mendota

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**MARSHALL
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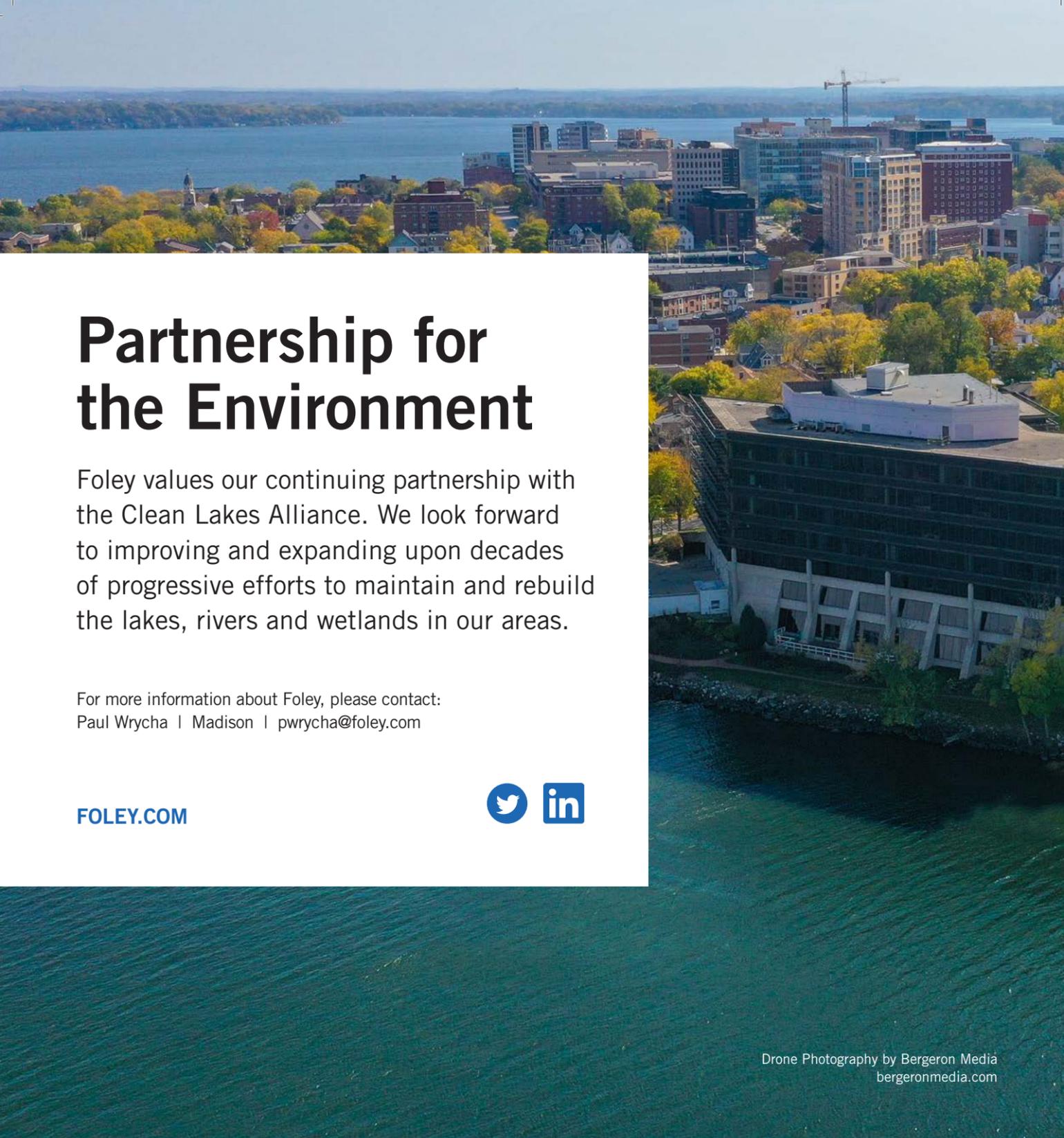
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Foley values our continuing partnership with the Clean Lakes Alliance. We look forward to improving and expanding upon decades of progressive efforts to maintain and rebuild the lakes, rivers and wetlands in our areas.

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Hawthorne Hills Bass Club members from left to right:
Ed Kindschi, Chris Hauski, Lance Baneck, Brian Bellin, Doug Showers



CASTING FOR COMPETITION

LOCAL FISHING GROUP MEETS MONTHLY TO FIND OUT WHO IS THE BEST ANGLER IN THE SUBURBS

For folks who grew up playing sports, finding ways to compete at middle-age and beyond can sometimes be difficult. Summer softball, volleyball, and golf leagues are usually great pastimes enjoyed by many people looking to stay active. But in Verona, a group of guys started their own league to compete in a different way. Meet the Hawthorne Hills Bass Club, or HHBC for short. Named after the planned neighborhood development, Hawthorne Hills, this group meets a handful of times in the summer to hammer the bass on Greater Madison's four large lakes.

The anglers come from different professional backgrounds. Some have kids, some don't. Some of them, like HHBC president and founder Jesse Rahn, are so passionate about fishing, they're out almost every night. While others only hit the water the five times a year the club meets for a competition.

Sure, there's a small cash prize at the end of the year for the angler who catches the most fish, but as the members will tell you...it's not really about the money. We caught up with a few members of the HHBC to find out why they say this club is better than all the rest.

WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

The HHBC officially lists 43 members, but not all of them are active at the same rate. Here's who we chatted with:

- Brian Bellin** – project manager in IT for an insurance company
- Randy Hampton** – medical sales
- Chris Hauski** - firefighter
- Brad Krause** – university administrator, retired
- Jesse Rahn** – lab manager/chemist
- Jeff Schaefer** – transportation broker
- Keith Schulz** – real estate broker & investor
- Matt Zimmerman** – medical sales

1. What is your favorite part about being in a fishing club?

Krause: The best part is interacting with the guys, the camaraderie, and the friendships I've made.

Hampton: My favorite part is catching up with friends. Life gets busy and it's nice to have a "calendar appointment" to spend a couple hours together.

Hauski: My favorite part about being in a fishing club would have to be learning new fishing techniques and just being around a great group of guys.

Schaefer: Being in this club gets me out on the lake five times per summer.

2. What is your favorite lake/spot to fish (if you can give up a secret!) on Greater Madison's lakes?

Zimmerman: I like fishing in University Bay on Lake Mendota.

Schaefer: Lake Mendota - no specific spot but I do like the piers in springtime and University Bay in summer.

Hauski: One of my favorite spots to fish would have to be around the docks on Lake Mendota. Great chance you can catch a big bass there.

Schulz: I'm not an expert and I don't know the secret spots. I just follow where the boat drivers and more serious fisherman take me... but I have my best luck under the docks.

3. Tell us your best fishing story on the Greater Madison lakes.

Krause: I was feeling down after 9/11 and went fishing with my buddy, Rick. We had a great day on Lake Mendota and I caught my personal best smallmouth bass. The experience really helped clear my head and improve my outlook.

Zimmerman: I was in Jeff Schaefer's boat and his trolling motor died in University Bay. We had no choice but to float around and it was some of the best bass fishing I have ever had on the chain.

Schulz: My family was just floating on the pontoon boat, and our young daughters were attempting to catch some panfish. One hooked a bass on her little Barbie pole. The excitement of a child's first bass makes good memories.

Rahn: I was musky fishing with a buddy from out of town, and he got one early in the morning, but we ended up at the ER for stitches after we landed it. The nurses and doctors had a good story as well, about the guy that got bit by a musky!

Schaefer: I don't have a good story to tell for a magazine article but sure have good ones for a backyard barbecue...

Two members had stories about Adam Wallace, a former HHBC member who passed away in 2018.

Hampton: A friend and HHBC member seemed to always end his club nights with a story to tell (showing up late but still winning the night, accidentally hooking into a massive catfish, boat issues, etc.) He passed away much too soon but I smile thinking about the times I got to spend with him on his boat.

Hauski: One of my favorite fishing stories would have to be with my late friend Adam. We were out fishing and we saw a storm brewing up and we took a chance thinking it would miss us... it didn't. We got soaked. We laughed pretty hard, and it all paid off. I ended up catching the biggest bass I ever caught with him that night! It was a night I will never forget.



Brad Krause

Jeff Schaefer - HHBC evening fishing



6. Have any of your kids started to go out more regularly since the start of the club?

Hampton: All of our kids enjoy fishing and it's directly as a result of HHBC. Almost every time I'm in the boat with more accomplished fisherman than myself (pretty much everyone in HHBC!) I pick up a trick or technique and share those with my family - we catch a lot more fish than we did before HHBC started.

Schaefer: My son just starting to like fishing at age seven. His first fish was a 24" northern on a kid pole. He handed the pole to his mom and said I'm tired. It was a fish that tired him out. Now he thinks fishing is pretty boring when he doesn't catch a fish as big as his first one.

Bellin: My kids are starting to enjoy it more, and by being in the club I have more and or better ideas of where to take them.

7. Why do you like to fish?

Rahn: It's my favorite passion and I grew up fishing with my grandpa and dad.

Bellin: I like being outdoors and enjoying nature around Madison.

Schulz: Mostly just to hang out with friends.

Schaefer: It gives me time to be optimistic... every cast you think maybe this is the one that will go on my wall!

Hauski: I love fishing. It was always a big part of my life. Ever since I was a child, we spent the summers as a family fishing up north in Hayward. It's fun and relaxing and it's a great hobby to pass on to your kids!

Hampton: Being in a boat with friends/family for a couple hours together is truly quality time - fresh air, good conversation, and a common goal.



Jesse Rahn holding a musky

4. How does being in the HHBC compare to say, being on a rec softball or rec basketball team?

Krause: I played ball for over 20 years and the atmosphere is similar. The HHBC members are fishing individually, but members share techniques and information. Club president Jesse Rahn is the driving force behind that spirit.

Schulz: It's a pretty similar team/club mentality. Just like you're excited when your teammate hits that home run, you get excited when somebody else catches the big fish.

Rahn: It gives me a rush and satisfies my competitive itch!

Bellin: I like it because it can be peaceful (no talking and just enjoying the sounds of nature) or can be very social (talking with who you're fishing with). I also enjoy learning about the lakes. I don't have a boat, so didn't know much about the lakes at all until we started doing this.

5. How does poor water quality affect fishing on the Greater Madison lakes?

Bellin: It's harder to see the terrain at the bottom or to see the fish if the water is cloudy.

Rahn: Some of the bad algae blooms can make an area almost unfishable.

Schulz: The weeds and water quality can be an annoyance at certain times of the year, but the Madison lakes are still fun to fish.

Schaefer: When the lake gets dirty the fish are hard to find, and if the weeds get thick you are pulling in "green bass" [weeds] versus catching what you came out for!

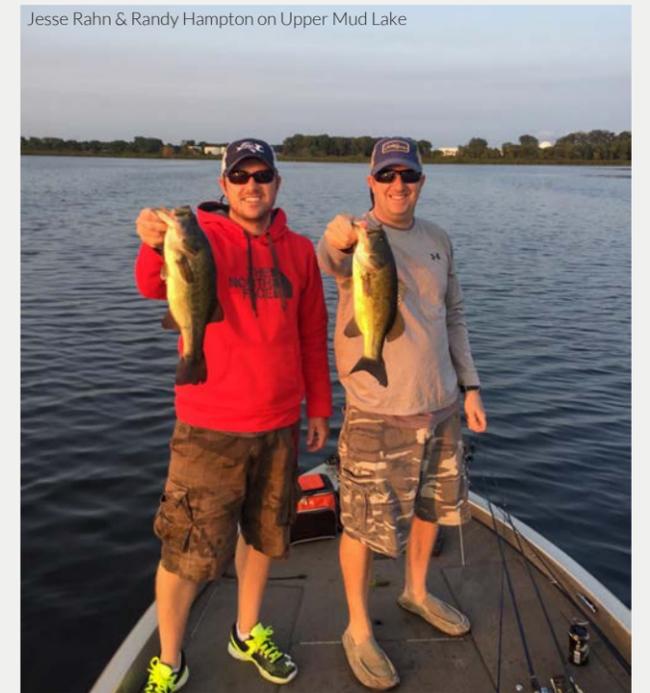


Matt Zimmerman with a 20" bass



Chris Hauski on Lake Mendota

Jesse Rahn & Randy Hampton on Upper Mud Lake



8. Tip to anybody looking to get into fishing on the Greater Madison lakes - maybe with or without a boat.

Bellin: Go to the sporting goods store at Dorn's True Value on Verona Road. They are very knowledgeable! Or find a friend or neighbor who has a boat.

Hampton: Ask someone who fishes regularly to take you out and ask them to teach you about their favorite lures, techniques, and spots!

Krause: There are shore fishing access points all over the Madison lakes. You can find them via a simple internet search. Dane County Parks and several bass clubs have programs to get new anglers involved in the sport. Or ask a friend or neighbor if you can join him or her - most anglers like to share information about the sport. A new angler should start simple with a spinning outfit, six pound line, and simple lures. Panfish and bass are plentiful.

To learn more about fishing in Wisconsin, including regulations and license requirements, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing



Brian Bellin on Upper Mud Lake

Beach cleanup at James Madison Park on Lake Mendota



Johnson Financial Group volunteers at Fore! Lakes Golf Outing



Native seed collection with Yahara Software and Madison South Rotary



Beach cleanup at Esther Beach on Lake Monona



"As a founding member and proud supporter of Clean Lakes Alliance, CG Schmidt is committed to advocating for the sustainability of our local lakes. Lakes not only provide our community recreational enjoyment — they are also important to the vibrancy of our community."

-Sarah Dunn, CG Schmidt



"Foley & Lardner LLP is proud to continue its partnership with Clean Lakes Alliance. We believe our employees, clients, and everyone in the community is impacted by healthy lakes which makes supporting Clean Lakes Alliance an easy choice."

-Paul Wrycha, Foley & Lardner LLP



"As our lakes principal advocate, Clean Lake Alliance is doing great work to make Madison even better. As a Lake Partner, First Weber appreciates all they do and also gladly volunteers our help in a variety of ways to support the cause."

-Dan Lee, First Weber Inc



"As a Johnson Financial Group associate, I am proud to work for an organization that is passionate about investing in what matters like protecting and improving one of Dane County's most precious assets — our lakes."

-Courtney Searles, Johnson Financial Group



"MGE is thankful for the opportunity to partner with Clean Lakes Alliance in support of its efforts to protect and preserve the quality of our water resources. By working together, we can protect our natural resources and create a more sustainable future for all to enjoy."

-Pam Christenson, Madison Gas and Electric



"Improving the quality of streams and lakes in the County is one of the major goals of the Town of Westport, so being a Lake Partner with Clean Lakes Alliance is an easy choice."

-Tom Wilson, Town of Westport



"Being a Lake Partner is important to Perkins Coie because investing in clean lakes creates a healthier and stronger Madison community."

-Sopen Shah, Perkins Coie LLP



"The extent to which downtown is a vibrant destination with a strong tourism economy is inextricably linked to health of our lakes. Clean Lakes Alliance works to ensure we maximize the health, well-being, and utilization of our lakes and is a great partner for The Edgewater."

-Amy Supple, The Edgewater



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- BumperMate USA LLC
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- Clean Fuel Connects, LLC

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- Crown Point Resort
- Culver's - Cottage Grove
- CUNA Mutual Group *
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- Dane County Conservation League
- Destination Madison
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- Edinger Surgical Options
- Endres Berryridge Farm
- EZ Office Products
- FCS Partners LLC
- Fields Auto Group Madison
- Fiore Companies *
- First Weber, Inc *
- Foley & Lardner LLP *
- Fontana Sports
- Foundry414 Church
- Four Lakes Traditional Music Collective

- Four Lakes Yacht Club
- Friends of Cherokee Marsh
- Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society *
- Friends of Lake Wingra
- Friends of Olin-Turville (FOOT)
- Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy
- Friends of Starkweather Creek Preserve
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- Mazanet Marina
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- The Biergarten at Olbrich Park
- The Buckingham Inn
- The Creative Company
- The Edgewater *
- The Livingston Inn
- Thrivent Financial - Michael Nowicki
- Tota Vita Financial Associates *
- Town of Westport
- Trei-Four Aces, LLC
- Tully's II Food & Spirits
- UW Health, UnityPoint Health - Meriter & Quartz *
- Village of McFarland

- Village of Waunakee
- Village of Windsor
- Virent *
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- von Rutenberg Ventures
- Walden Bay Single Family Condo Association
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*Denoted with asterisks above



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Through donations and events, Clean Lakes Alliance raises funds AND friends. Our vision is simple – we see a future in which the lakes are the center of our community. Donations we receive help fund important lake improvement projects, community-wide educational programs, and our volunteer monitoring program.

We hope to see you at an upcoming Clean Lakes Alliance event where YOU can help support our lakes!

LOOP THE LAKE

Join more than 1,000 people in a family-friendly bike ride around Lake Monona. Can't make it that day – then join us virtually and run, bike, walk, or paddle anywhere! All entries receive a t-shirt, compliments of Lands' End, and all kids 10 and under participate for free with a paid adult!

IN PERSON: Saturday, June 18th at Olbrich Park
VIRTUAL: Saturday, June 11th – Sunday, June 19th (Anywhere!)
HOW TO REGISTER OR SPONSOR: cleanlakesalliance.org/loop-the-lake



WAUBESA SURF 'N TURF

Build a team of three for a fun day on the links and in a boat. Teams compete in a scramble-style golf event at The Legend of Bergamont and then fish for four hours on Lake Waubesa. The more inches of legal game fish you catch and release, the lower your golf score goes. The event ends with dinner and drinks at Christy's Landing.

WHEN: Thursday, July 14th
HOW TO REGISTER OR SPONSOR: cleanlakesalliance.org/surf-n-turf



mge2050.com

Visit Madison Gas and Electric online.

Learn about our clean energy projects.

Find energy-saving tips.

Explore the benefits of electric vehicles.

Net-Zero
CARBON ELECTRICITY BY 2050

mge
your community energy company

FORE! LAKES GOLF OUTING

One of Greater Madison's premier golf events moves to Bishops Bay Country Club for a day of fun. Teams of four compete in a scramble on the course, but if golf isn't your thing, try your hand in our first-ever pickleball tournament!

WHEN: Monday, September 26th
HOW TO REGISTER OR SPONSOR: cleanlakesalliance.org/fore-lakes-golf-outing



CLEAN LAKES 101 SCIENCE CAFÉ

Join us monthly and hear experts speak on a variety of lake-related topics. Held both in person at The Edgewater and virtually, these events are free to Friends of Clean Lakes and Lake Partner donors.

WHEN: Second Wednesday of each month
HOW TO REGISTER OR SPONSOR: cleanlakesalliance.org/clean-lakes-101



FROZEN ASSETS 5K RUN/WALK

It's the only 5K held entirely on a frozen lake and it happens right here in Madison! Starting and ending at The Edgewater, runners and walkers follow a course laid out on Lake Mendota that passes the University of Wisconsin and Picnic Point. This event highlights why our lakes truly are our "frozen assets" in the winter!

WHEN: Saturday, February 4th, 2023
HOW TO REGISTER OR SPONSOR: cleanlakesalliance.org/frozen-assets

CLEAN LAKES ALLIANCE DIRECTORY TO GREATER MADISON'S LAKE-RELATED BUSINESSES

APARTMENTS

Lake Edge Apartments
(715) 574-1677
4033 Monona Dr
Monona, WI 53716



Lakelawn Place Apartments
(608) 819-6499
210 Lakelawn Pl
Madison, WI 53703
jdmccormick.com
REMODELED OPTIONS! These 1 to 5-bedroom apartments are a short walk from the Memorial Union Terrace and the Wisconsin State Capitol. Take a virtual tour with JD McCormick Properties online today!



Lakeshore Apartments
(608) 256-8525
122 E Gilman St
Madison, WI 53703
Lakeshore Apartments offers 1 and 2 bedroom apartments close to the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus with affordable rates and spacious floor plans!

Lake Towne Apartments
(608) 255-6550
22 Langdon St, Suite 101
Madison, WI 53703
laketowne.com

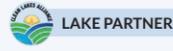
Mendota Lakeshore Apartments
(608) 257-1561
620 N Carroll St
Madison, WI 53703
mendotalakeshore.com

Monona Lakeview Apartments
(608) 222-6911
3819 Monona Dr
Monona, WI 53714

Mullins Apartments
(608) 257-2127
222 E Lakelawn Pl
Madison, WI 53703
mullinsapartments.com

Riverwood Apartments
(608) 222-5571
6431 Bridge Rd
Madison, WI 53713
riverwoodmadison.com

The Current
(608) 327-4021
800 W Broadway
Monona, WI 53713
currentmonona.com



The Lake House
(608) 819-6500
640 N Henry St
Madison, WI 53703
jdmccormick.com
Studio, 1, 3, 4, & 5-bedroom apartments on the shore of Lake Mendota. Enjoy living near UW-Madison Campus and State Street. Rooftop Deck and FREE INTERNET! Love lake life with JD McCormick Properties.

The New Monona Shores Apartments
(608) 224-1788
2 Waunona Woods Ct, #102
Madison, WI 53713
mononashores.com

The Surf
(608) 438-5049
661 Mendota Ct
Madison, WI 53703
thesurfapartments.com

The Waterfront Apartments
(608) 442-4200
633 N Henry St
Madison, WI 53703
mendotawaterfront.com



Watermark Lofts
(608) 575-1018
960 John Nolen Dr
Madison, WI 53713
twallenterprises.com/watermark-lofts

Yahara Terrace
(608) 949-3399
320 W Broadway
Monona, WI 53716
yaharaterrace.com

ASSOCIATIONS

Association of State Floodplain Managers
(608) 828-3000
8301 Excelsior Dr
Madison, WI 53717
floods.org

Black Earth Creek Watershed Association
(608) 209-9913
PO Box 164
Cross Plains, WI 53528
BECWA.org

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin
PO Box 5274
Madison, WI 53705
ipaw.org



Lake Waubesa Conservation Association
PO Box 6521
Monona, WI 53716
waubesa.org
Founded in 1989, LWCA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is solely dedicated to advancing the well-being of the Lake Waubesa ecosystem through projects, activities, and education. Our members are primarily homeowners, lake users, and businesses located along the shoreline and surrounding areas of Lake Waubesa.

North American Stormwater & Erosion Control Association of WI
PO Box 70714
Madison, WI 53707
nasecawi.org

Token Creek Watershed Association
(608) 334-8941
PO Box 366
Windsor, WI 53598
tokencreek.org

Upper Sugar River Watershed Association
(608) 437-7707
PO Box 314
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
usrwa.org



Wisconsin Alumni Association
(888) WIS-ALUM
650 N Lake St
Madison, WI 53706
uwalumni.com
The Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA) is for alumni and friends to continue their journey as Badgers and strengthen UW connections. WAA's Alumni Park builds on that pride through inspiring exhibits

Wisconsin Wetlands Association
(608) 250-9971
214 N Hamilton St
Madison, WI 53703
wisconsinwetlands.org

DIRECTORY



Paddling on Lake Monona

Yahara Lakes Association **LAKE PARTNER**
733 Struck St
PO Box 44521
Madison, WI 53744
yaharalakes.org
The Yahara Lakes Association (YLA) is dedicated to representing waterfront property owners and advocating for the vitality of the Yahara chain of lakes so all people may enjoy them.

BAIT & TACKLE

D&S Bait, Tackle & Archery
(608) 241-4225
1411 Northport Dr
Madison, WI 53704
dsbait.com



Dorn Outdoor Pro Shop
(608) 274-2511
1348 S Midvale Blvd
Madison, WI 53711
dornhardware.com
A complete fishing tackle outfitter. Rods, reels, lures for musky, walleye, bass, and panfish, and live bait! We service Minn Kota trolling motors and put line on your reel! Facebook: DornOutdoorProShop

Harley's Liquor & Bait
(608) 222-7941
3838 Atwood Ave
Madison, WI 53714
harleysliquorandbait.com

Highway 51 Liquor & Bait **LAKE PARTNER**
(608) 838-1424
5714 US-51
McFarland, WI 53558
highway51liquor.com
100% locally owned and operated in McFarland, providing beverages, fridge bait, and tackle for your lake fun! Drop-off site for local prop and reel repair. Free bag of ice with any purchase!!!
Monona Bait & Ice Cream Shop
(608) 222-1944
4516 Winnequah Rd
Monona, WI 53716
mononabaiticecream.yolasite.com

BOAT LAUNCH SITES - KEGONSA

Amundson Landing & Park
Quam Dr
Stoughton, WI 53589

Fish Camp Launch
3383 County Rd
McFarland, WI 53558

Lake Kegonsa State Park Boat Ramp
2405 Door Creek Rd
Stoughton, WI 53589

Town of Pleasant Springs Boat Launch
2267 Williams Point Dr
Stoughton, WI 53589

BOAT LAUNCH SITES - MENDOTA

Governor Nelson State Park Boat Launch
5140 County Hwy M
Waunakee, WI 53597

Governor's Island Boat Launch
Governors Island Pkwy
Madison, WI 53704

Lake Street Boat Launch
6000 Lake St
Middleton, WI 53562

Marshall Park Boat Launch
2101 Allen Blvd
Middleton, WI 53562

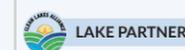
Mendota County Park Boat Launch
5133 County Hwy M
Middleton, WI 53562

Spring Harbor Boat Launch
5218 Lake Mendota Dr
Madison, WI 53705

Tenney Park Boat Launch
1414 E Johnson St
Madison, WI 53703

Veith Avenue Boat Launch
4106 Veith Ave
Madison, WI 53704

Warner Park Boat Launch
1201 Woodward Dr
Madison, WI 53704



The Lake Partner program recognizes businesses and organizations that support Clean Lakes Alliance through donations made independent of events, sponsorships, or programs, **directly benefiting our efforts to reduce phosphorus loading to our lakes.** Additionally, Lake Partners demonstrate their organizational commitment to clean lakes through one or all of the following avenues: making improvements on their properties, educating staff on watershed sustainability, and participating in volunteer opportunities.

DIRECTORY

Willow Drive Boat Launch
Willow Dr (Howard Temin Lakeshore Path)
Madison, WI 53705

BOAT LAUNCH SITES - MONONA

Law Park
410 S Blair St
Madison, WI 53703

Olbrich Park Boat Launch
3527 Atwood Ave
Madison, WI 53714

Olin Park Boat Ramp
1156 Olin-Turville Ct
Madison, WI 53715

Tonyawatha Park and Boat Launch
4609 Tonyawatha Tr
Monona, WI 53716

Winnequah Trail Boat Launch
5898 Winnequah Tr
Monona, WI 53716

BOAT LAUNCH SITES - WAUBESA

Babcock County Park Boat Launch
2909 US-51
McFarland, WI 53558

Goodland Park Boat Launch
2862 Waubesa Ave
Madison, WI 53711

Lake Farm Park Boat Launch
4286 Libby Rd
Madison, WI 53711

McConnell Street Boat Launch
4348-4398 McConnell St
Madison, WI 53711

BOAT LAUNCH SITES - WINGRA

Henry Vilas Park Boat Launch
1602 Vilas Park Dr
Madison, WI 53715

Wingra Park & Boat Livery
824 Knickerbocker St
Madison, WI 53711

BOAT LAUNCH SITES - YAHARA RIVER

Cherokee Marsh - South Boat Launch
5002 School Rd
Madison, WI 53704

Lottes Park Boat Launch
400 W Broadway
Monona, WI 53716

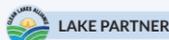
BOAT SALES, RENTAL, REPAIR, STORAGE

ARA Leisure Services
(608) 244-2458
1831 E Washington Ave
Madison, WI 53704
araofmadison.com

Barr's Resort
(608) 838-9917
6002 Lake Edge Rd
McFarland, WI 53558
facebook.com/BarrsResort

Brittingham Boats 
(608) 250-2555
701 W Brittingham Pl
Madison, WI 53715
Madisonboats.com
Free concerts, free film showings, outdoor gear rentals, dining & more, it's all at the Wisconsin Union. Check out the Union's Memorial Union, Union South, Memorial Union Terrace, & markets & cafes.

Capitol Boat Club
(608) 622-0205
5339 Lighthouse Bay Dr, Pier 5
Madison, WI 53704
capitolboatclub.com

D.L. Anderson Co - Marine Contractors 
(608) 249-3100
5371 Farmco Dr
Madison, WI 53704
piers-lifts.com
With over 40 years of experience, we are the pier and lift sales/service professionals. Come visit our new showroom where we are now proudly offering Lifetime Piers along with all our other great brands.

Deano Dock & Lift, LLC
(608) 850-4424
210 Knightsbridge Rd
Waunakee, WI 53597
deanodock.com

Decks Docks & More
(262) 593-2216
W1204 Concord Center Dr
Sullivan, WI 53178

Don's Marine, LLC 
(608) 592-4705
N1401 WI-113
Lodi, WI 53555
donsmarine.com
Family owned and operated since 1936. Dealer of Alumacraft and SmokerCraft Fishing Boats, Bennington Pontoon Boats, Skeeter Performance Fishing Boats, and Hobie Kayaks, as well as new and used boats and motors. Area's only Top 100 and Marine Industry Certified Dealer!

Endres Manufacturing Company
(608) 849-4143
802 S Century Ave
Waunakee, WI 53597
endresmfg.com

Gervasi Marine & Trailer Service
(608) 271-4239 or (800) 240-8425
2295 S Syene Rd
Madison, WI 53711
trailerrepairandpartsmadison.com

JD Hellenbrand Piers and Lifts 
(608) 513-0690
N1792 Ryan Rd
Lodi, WI 53555
jdhellenbrand.com
We sell, install/remove, and adjust or repair docks, piers, and boat lifts in central Wisconsin. We are currently focusing on servicing the following lakes: Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa, and Wisconsin.

Jet Ski Madison
(608) 259-6007
1101 Woodward Dr
Madison, WI 53704
jetskimadison.com

Mad City Marine/RV Sales
(608) 846-9329
N827 Hwy 51
Arlington, WI 53911
madcitymarinervsales.com

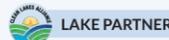
Manke Enterprises
(608) 592-4022
N1558 Sunset Dr
Lodi, WI 53555
manke.com

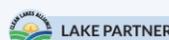
Marine Tops Unlimited
(608) 246-3979
219 N Fair Oaks Ave, Suite B
Madison, WI 53714
marinetops.com

Marshall Boats 
(608) 228-8333
2101 Allen Blvd
Madison, WI 53562
madisonboats.com
Paddle or Pontoon? Enjoy a quiet paddle into Pheasant Branch Conservancy or bring everyone for a pontoon boat ride—this is your destination for summer memories. Located on Madison's west side, this is perfect place for your next party!

Mazanet Marina 
(608) 249-9316
5320 Blue Bill Park Dr S
Madison, WI 53704
mazanetmarine.com
Full service marina on Lake Mendota for 60 years. Services include gas on the pier, wet boat slips, dry dock spaces, food concessions, boat accessories, service mechanics, and winter storage.

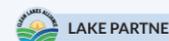
Outdoor UW 
(608) 262-1630
800 Langdon St
Madison, WI 53706
union.wisc.edu/outdoor-uw

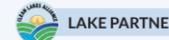
Pharo Marine 
(608) 849-5950
5341 W River Rd
Waunakee, WI 53597
pharomarine.com
Platinum sales and service center carrying brands of Lund, Godfrey, and Mercury. Sales, service, storage, and accessories.

Quam's Marine & Motor Sports 
(608) 873-3366
1896 Barber Dr
Stoughton, WI 53589
quamsmotorsports.com
Full-service dealership on Lake Kegonsa for over 50 years. Services include wet slips, winter storage, service, sales, parts, and accessories.

Redline Watersports
(608) 838-0838
4805 Voges Rd
Madison, WI 53718
redlinewatersports.com

Rock River Marina
(608) 884-9415
520 Richardson Springs Rd
Edgerton, WI 53534
rockrivermarina.com

Rutabaga Rentals - Olbrich Park 
(608) 513-1308
3527 Atwood Ave
Madison, WI 53714
rutabagashop.com
Rutabaga Paddlesport's Olbrich Boat Rentals opened in 2017, the only canoe and kayak rental that serves the east side of Madison and Monona. Explore the shores of Lake Monona or Starkweather Creek.

SkipperBud's 
(608) 246-2628
5381 Westport Rd
Madison, WI 53704
skipperbuds.com
SkipperBud's Boating Super Center offers boaters many options to fit any budget or lifestyle. New & used boats, service, storage, & boat rentals. Visit our showroom - or online at skipperbuds.com

TAC's ALEment 
(608) 512-9442
2466 County Hwy AB
McFarland, WI 53558
tacsalement.com
We are a small family-friendly campground in McFarland situated on the inlet between the Yahara River and Lake Kegonsa. We have waterfront and non-waterfront campsites. We also offer boat slips to our campers and the public. In the summer we offer water rentals including pontoons, kayaks, and paddle boards.

The Harbor at Newville
(608) 884-6007
807 Harbor Rd
Milton, WI 53563
theharboratnewville.com

The Undercover Shop
(608) 868-4089
305 E Madison Ave
Milton, WI 53563
theundercovershop.com

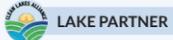
Yahara River downstream of Lake Kegonsa, courtesy Robert Bertera

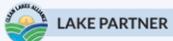


DIRECTORY

Tenney Park boat canal, courtesy Robert Bertera

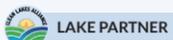


Wickcraft  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 244-9177
 2317 Daniels St
 Madison, WI 53718
 wickcraftboardwalks.com
 Wickcraft docks are designed to give you a lifetime of waterfront enjoyment, guaranteed. Known for ease of installation and removal, our docks will let you spend more time enjoying your waterfront than managing it.

Wingra Boats  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 233-5332
 824 Knickerbocker St
 Madison, WI 53711
 madisonboats.com
 Up-north beauty in downtown Madison. Surrounded by nature, this quiet lake is a mecca for paddling and the perfect place for the whole family to SUP, kayak, canoe, row, or paddle boat. Fish, paddle, and play.

BOAT TOURS, GROUP RENTAL

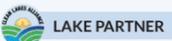
Badger Pontoon Rentals
 (608) 421-2355
 badgerpontoon.com

Betty Lou Cruises  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 246-3138
 Mariner's Inn on Lake Mendota and Machinery Row on Lake Monona
 bettyloucruises.com
 Madison's premier cruise line, cruising lakes Monona and Mendota since 1998. Enjoy a public or private charter aboard one of our four motor yachts while our experienced crew and captain make your event one to remember.

Capital Lake Pontoons
 (608) 571-4889
 410 S Blair St
 Madison, WI 53703
 capitallakepontoons.com

Jet Ski Madison
 (608) 259-6007
 1101 Woodward Dr
 Madison, WI 53704
 jetskimadison.com

Madison School & Community Recreation (MSCR)  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 204-3000
 3802 Regent St
 Madison, WI 53705
 mscr.org
 Offers a variety of recreation programs for all ages including arts, camps, fitness, sports, swimming, afterschool, and more. Check out paddling and pontoon boat drop-in rides, specialty trips, and group rentals.

Midnight Splash - Houseboat Charter  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 628-0730
 Madison, WI
 midnightsplash.com
 Houseboat charter on Lake Mendota

Pontoon Porch
 (608) 284-8727
 1 John Nolen Dr
 Madison, WI 53703
 pontoonporch.com

COMMUNITY & CONVENTION CENTERS

Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center
 (608) 261-4000
 1 John Nolen Dr
 Madison, WI 53703
 mononaterrace.com

The East Side Club - Tiki Bar & Grill
 (608) 222-9131
 3735 Monona Dr
 Madison, WI 53714
 escmadison.com

COMMUNITY EDUCATION / ADVOCACY

Clean Lakes Alliance
 (608) 255-1000
 150 E Gilman St, Suite 2600
 Madison, WI 53703
 cleanlakesalliance.org

Clean Wisconsin
 (608) 251-7020
 634 W Main St, Suite 300
 Madison, WI 53703
 cleanwisconsin.org

Ripple-Effects Wisconsin
 ripple-effects.com

River Alliance of Wisconsin
 (608) 257-2424
 612 W Main St, Suite 200
 Madison, WI 53703
 wisconsinrivers.org

Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network
 wiatrri.net/cbm/

FISHING GUIDES

A Big Fish Guide Service
 (414) 779-0479
 wibigfish.com

Big B's Guide Service
 bigbguideservice.com

Blue Ribbon Outdoors
 (608) 698-3332
 blueribbonoutdoors.com

Finseekers Guide Service
 (847) 707-1827
 finseekers.com

Fishing Guide Service with Lee Tauchen
 (608) 444-2180
 leetauchen.com

Fishing Thrills Guide Service
 (608) 921-8980
 fishingthrills.com

Klus Fishing & Hunting Guide Service
 (608) 469-1867
 klusfishandhunt.com

Madison Angling Guide Service
 (608) 210-9350
 madisonangling.com

Madison Musky Guide Service
 (608) 848-3906
 madisonmuskyguide.com

Madison Fly Fishers, LLC
 (608) 347-0444
 madisonflyfishing.com

Millenium Guide Service
 (608) 695-9703

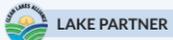
Okada Outdoors
 (608) 575-8597
 joeokada.com

Pike Pole Fishing Guide Service
 (608) 290-3929
 pikepolefishing.com

Spring Creek Specialties
 (608) 206-5951
 springcreekspecialties.com

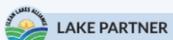
Wisconsin Outfitters
 (608) 206-7938
 wisconsinoutfitters.com

FRIENDS GROUPS

Capitol Water Trails  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 223-0995
 3806 Atwood Ave
 Madison, WI 53714
 capitolwatertrails.org

Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed
 (920) 650-0966
 rockrivercoalition.org/chapters/badfish

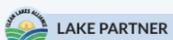
Friends of Capital Springs Recreational Area
 friendsofcapitalsprings.org

Friends of Cherokee Marsh  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 215-0426
 PO Box 14536
 Madison, WI 53708
 cherokeemarsh.org

We work to protect, preserve, and restore the beauty, value, and health of Cherokee Marsh, Dane County's largest wetland located at the head of the Yahara chain of lakes.

Friends of Edna Taylor Conservation Park
 facebook.com/friendsofetcp

Friends of Hoyt Park
 PO Box 5542
 Madison, WI 53705
 hoytpark.org

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society (FOLKS)  LAKE PARTNER
 PO Box 173
 Stoughton, WI 53589
 kegonsa.org
 FOLKS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1988 to provide the volunteer manpower and financial resources to help improve the ecology, water quality, fishing, and recreational use of Lake Kegonsa. Our more than 450 members are proud to be strong partners with Clean Lakes Alliance.

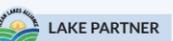
Friends of Lake View Hill Park
 (608) 249-9449
 PO Box 3272
 Madison, WI 53704
 lakeviewhill.org

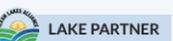
DIRECTORY

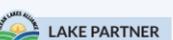
Friends of Lake Wingra  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 620-1906
 PO Box 45071
 Madison, WI 53744
 lakewingra.org

Friends of Lake Wingra promotes a healthy Lake Wingra through collaborations with those who live, work, and play in the watershed. You'll find us doing outreach, research, and projects during every season!

Friends of Monona Bay
 friendsomononabay.blogspot.com

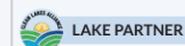
Friends of Olin-Turville (FOOT)  LAKE PARTNER
 olin-turville.org
 Friends of Olin-Turville (FOOT) was established in 2010 with the intent to preserve and improve the parks' facilities and landscapes and encourage the community to rediscover their beauty and unique offerings.

Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy  LAKE PARTNER
 PO Box 628242
 Middleton, WI 53562
 pheasantbranch.org
 A nonprofit whose mission is to restore, preserve, and promote the Pheasant Branch Conservancy and Watershed through education and collaborative restoration and management with the City of Middleton and Dane County.

Friends of Starkweather Creek  LAKE PARTNER
 PO Box 8442
 Madison, WI 53708
 starkweatherfriends.org
 Friends of Starkweather Creek (est. 2002). Nonprofit citizen's group dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of our creek and watershed through stewardship, education, advocacy, and fun!

Friends of Stricker's Pond
 (608) 836-5898

Friends of the Kettle Ponds
 kettleponds.org



The Lake Partner program recognizes businesses and organizations that support Clean Lakes Alliance through donations made independent of events, sponsorships, or programs, **directly benefiting our efforts to reduce phosphorus loading to our lakes.** Additionally, Lake Partners demonstrate their organizational commitment to clean lakes through one or all of the following avenues: making improvements on their properties, educating staff on watershed sustainability, and participating in volunteer opportunities.

DIRECTORY



Memorial Union Terrace on Lake Mendota

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve



PO Box 5534
Madison, WI 53705
friendslakeshorepreserve.com
The Friends inspire people to connect to, and care for, the UW-Madison Lakeshore Nature Preserve. Open to the public, this beautiful 300-acre natural area includes Picnic Point and the Lakeshore Path.

Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway

(608) 889-7597
PO Box 614
Spring Green, WI 53588
wisconsinriverfriends.org

Friends of the UW Arboretum

(608) 890-2555
arboretum.wisc.edu/get-involved/friends

Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters

PO Box 139
DeForest, WI 53532
yaharariver.org

Friends of the Yahara River Parkway

(608) 241-1711
facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Yahara-River-Parkway-284831311757

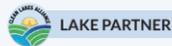
Friends of Wisconsin State Parks

(608) 294-0810
PO Box 2271
Madison, WI 53701
newfwsp.blogspot.com

GASOLINE

Barr's Resort
(608) 838-9917
6002 Lake Edge Rd
McFarland, WI 53558
facebook.com/BarrsResort

Four Lakes Yacht Club



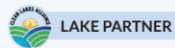
(608) 222-1401
6312 Inland Way
Monona, WI 53713
madison4lyc.com
Located on the Yahara River, Four Lakes Yacht Club promotes boating safety for all. Members have access to our private clubhouse, unlimited use of our boat ramps, and a discount at our public gas pumps.

Mazanet Marina



(608) 249-9316
5320 Blue Bill Park Dr S
Madison, WI 53704
mazanetmarine.com
Full-service marina on Lake Mendota for 60 years. Services include gas on the pier, wet boat slips, dry dock spaces, food concessions, boat accessories, service mechanics, and winter storage.

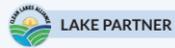
SkipperBud's



(608) 246-2628
5381 Westport Rd
Madison, WI 53704
skipperbuds.com
SkipperBud's Boating Super Center offers boaters many options to fit any budget or lifestyle. New & used boats, service, storage, & boat rentals. Visit our showroom - or online at skipperbuds.com.

LAKE SPORTS & RECREATION RETAIL

BumperMate USA



(608) 212-4609
bumpermateusa.com
Locally designed and manufactured premium boat bumper/fender holders. Made from billet aluminum and powder coated for durability. Available in two sizes. Store your necessary boat gear in style! Contact us at info@bumpermateusa.com

Cabela's

(608) 478-4100
1350 Cabela Dr
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
cabelas.com

Dick's Sporting Goods

(608) 829-1313
237 West Towne Mall
Madison, WI 53719
dickssportinggoods.com

Fontana Sports



(608) 257-5043
216 N Henry St
Madison, WI 53703
fontanasports.com
Established on family values, a deep respect for nature, and a passion for outdoor pursuits, Fontana Sports has been providing Wisconsin with the best in outdoor apparel & equipment since 1949.

Isthmus Sailboards

(608) 849-4991
5495 Catfish Ct
Westport, WI 53597
isthmussailboards.com

Machinery Row

(608) 442-5974
601 Williamson St
Madison, WI 53704
machineryrowbicycles.com

Madison Log Rolling

(608) 698-8171
madisonlogrolling.com

REI

(608) 833-6680
7483 W Towne Way
Madison, WI 53719
rei.com

Rich's Boardsports

(608) 244-6838
411 N Fair Oaks Ave
Madison, WI 53714
richsboardsports.com

Rutabaga Paddlesports



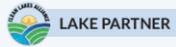
(608) 223-9300
220 W Broadway
Madison, WI 53716
rutabagashop.com
Purveyors of premium kayaks, canoes, and SUP's, along with the gear you need to use them. Over 40 years of experience and passion. Conductors of classes and trips through Madison and Wisconsin.

West Marine

(608) 221-8708
2455 W Broadway
Madison, WI 53713
westmarine.com

LODGING

Crown Point Resort



(608) 873-7833
2030 Barber Dr
Stoughton, WI 53589
crownpointresort.com
Rustic modern 1-3 BR cedar cottages on Lake Kegonsa. Located 15 minutes from Madison, near Stoughton. Kitchens, decks, grills, WiFi, cable TV, AC, two fireplaces, paddleboards, kayaks, and pontoon rentals for our guests. Piers to fish or tie up your boat. 5-Star Tripadvisor and VRBO ratings, 35 years in business.

Governor's Mansion Inn & Café

(608) 571-2866
130 E Gilman St
Madison, WI 53703
governorsmansioninn.com

Hilton Madison Monona Terrace

(608) 255-5100
9 E Wilson St
Madison, WI 53703
hilton.com/en/hotels/msnmhhf-hilton-madison-monona-terrace

Mendota Lake House Inn

(608) 620-3760
704 E Gorham St
Madison, WI 53703
mendotalakehouse.com

Big Swell Swim at Law Park on Lake Monona, benefiting Clean Lakes Alliance



DIRECTORY

The Edgewater
(608) 535-8200
1001 Wisconsin Pl
Madison, WI 53703
theedgewater.com



Located in the heart of downtown on beautiful Lake Mendota! Award-winning resort with 202 guest rooms, public pier, and 40 boat slips, Grand Plaza with free community programming, several dining outlets, full-service spa, and winter ice skating.

The Livingston Inn
(608) 238-6317
752 E Gorham St
Madison, WI 53703
livingstoninnmadison.com



Experience the history of a 160-year-old Gothic revival mansion at The Livingston Inn—a downtown Madison bed & breakfast featuring nine fireplaces, lake access, and stunning architectural details.

MOORING/SLIPS

Brittingham Boats
(608) 250-2555
701 W Brittingham Pl
Madison, WI 53715
madisonboats.com



Downtown's premier paddle destination. Walk-in rentals of SUP's, kayaks, canoes, paddle boats, and rowboats. Special events including group paddles and Full Moon Paddles make it a Madison must.

Goodspeed Family Pier
888-WIS-ALUM
650 N Lake St
Madison, WI 53706
uwalumni.com/goodspeed-family-pier

Hooper Sailing Club
(608) 262-1630
800 Langdon St
Madison, WI 53706
hoopersailing.org

Lake Monona Sailing Club
(608) 695-9181
lakemononasailing.com



We manage two piers for sailboats on Lake Monona: one at Olin Park in Madison, and one at Stonebridge Park in Monona. Please see the website for details, pricing, and membership information.

Maple Bluff Marina
(608) 244-3048
1321 Farwell Dr
Madison, WI 53704
villageofmaplebluff.com/our-neighborhood/marina

Marshall Park
2101 Allen Blvd
Madison, WI 53562

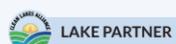
Mazanet Marina
(608) 249-9316
5320 Blue Bill Park Dr S
Madison, WI 53704
mazanetmarina.com
Full-service marina on Lake Mendota for 60 years. Services include gas on the pier, wet boat slips, dry dock spaces, food concessions, boat accessories, service mechanics, and winter storage.



McKenna Park Boathouse
(608) 267-2680
3400 Lake Mendota Dr
Madison, WI 53705
shorewood-hills.org/marina

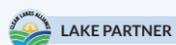
Monona Docks
(608) 251-8777
400 Interlake Dr
Monona, WI 53716

Quam's Marine & Motor Sports
(608) 873-3366
1896 Barber Dr
Stoughton, WI 53589
quamsmotorsports.com
Full-service dealership on Lake Kegonsa for over 50 years. Services include wet slips, winter storage, service, sales, parts, and accessories.



Shorewood Hills Marina
(608) 267-2680
3700 Lake Mendota Dr
Madison, WI 53705
shorewood-hills.org/marina

SkipperBud's
(608) 246-2628
5381 Westport Rd
Madison, WI 53704
skipperbuds.com
SkipperBud's Boating Super Center offers boaters many options to fit any budget or lifestyle. New & used boats, service, storage, & boat rentals. Visit our showroom - or online at skipperbuds.com



TAC's ALEment
(608) 512-9442
2466 County Hwy AB
McFarland, WI 53558
tacsalement.com

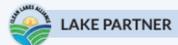


We are a small family-friendly campground in McFarland situated on the inlet between the Yahara River and Lake Kegonsa. We have waterfront and non-waterfront campsites. We also offer boat slips to our campers and the public. In the summer, we offer water rentals including pontoons, kayaks, and paddle boards.

Westport Marine
(608) 850-4774
5339 Lighthouse Bay Dr
Madison, WI 53704
westportmarinemandison.com



Wingra Boats
(608) 233-5332
824 Knickerbocker St
Madison, WI 53711
madisonboats.com
Up-north beauty in downtown Madison. Surrounded by nature, this quiet lake is a mecca for paddling and the perfect place for the whole family to SUP, kayak, canoe, row, or paddle boat. Fish, paddle, and play.



RESTAURANTS & BARS

Betty Lou Cruises
(608) 246-3138
Mariner's Inn on Lake Mendota and Machinery Row on Lake Monona
bettyloucruises.com
Madison's premier cruise line, cruising lakes Monona and Mendota since 1998. Enjoy a public or private charter aboard one of our four motor yachts while our experienced crew and captain make your event one to remember.



Breakwater
(608) 416-5388
6308 Inland Way
Monona, WI 53713
breakwatermonona.com



Sailboats on Lake Waubesa, courtesy Robert Bertera

Buck & Honey's
(608) 478-2618
800 W Broadway, Suite 300
Monona, WI 53713
buckandhoneys.com/monona



Our mission at Buck & Honey's is to consistently deliver creative, yet familiar food in a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere. We facilitate the fun to ensure each guest has a memorable experience at a great value.

Christy's Landing
(608) 222-5391
2952 Waubesa Ave
Madison, WI 53711
christyslanding.com



Located on beautiful Lake Waubesa featuring lakeside dining, tiki bar, live music, banquet facilities, and volleyball.

Green Lantern
(608) 838-4730
4412 Siggelkow Rd
McFarland, WI 53558
thegreenlanternrestaurant.com

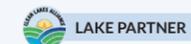
Lake Vista Cafe
(608) 261-4000
1 John Nolen Dr
Madison, WI 53703
mononaterrace.com/experience-monona-terrace/lake-vista-cafe

Lakeside St. Coffee House
(608) 441-7599
402 W Lakeside St
Madison, WI 53715
lakesidestcoffeehouse.com

Madison Elks Lodge
(608) 255-1644
711 Jenifer St
Madison, WI 53703
madisonelkslodge.org

Monona Bait & Ice Cream Shop
(608) 222-1944
4516 Winnequah Rd
Monona, WI 53716
mononabaiticecream.yolasite.com

Nau-Ti-Gal
(608) 246-3130
5360 Westport Rd
Madison, WI 53704
nautigal.com



Paisan's
(608) 257-3832
131 W Wilson St
Madison, WI 53703
paisansrest.com

Sardine
(608) 441-1600
617 Williamson St
Madison, WI 53703
sardinemandison.com

Springers of Lake Kegonsa
(608) 205-9300
3097 Sunnyside St
Stoughton, WI 53589
springersonthelake.com



A full-service bar and restaurant with outdoor lakeside seating and spectacular sunset views. Live entertainment on Friday evenings (weather permitting) from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend.

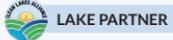
The Barge Restaurant
(608) 669-8422

The Biergarten at Olbrich Park
(608) 237-3548
3527 Atwood Ave
Madison, WI 53714
olbrichbiergarten.com

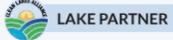


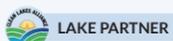
View the downtown skyline over Lake Monona with friends and family all around and a cold drink in your hand. Bring your own picnic or enjoy our local soft pretzels, sausages, and more.

DIRECTORY

The Boathouse - The Edgewater  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 535-8232
 1001 Wisconsin Pl
 Madison, WI 53703
 boathousemadison.com
 A Madison favorite offering casual lakeside dining like burgers, brats, the best cheese curds in town, craft beer, and ice cold margaritas. Accessible by land or by water. Visit BoathouseMadison.com for hours and menus.

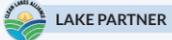
The East Side Club - Tiki Bar & Grill
 (608) 222-9131
 3735 Monona Dr
 Madison, WI 53714
 escmadison.com

The Mariner's Inn  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 246-3120
 5339 Lighthouse Bay Dr
 Madison, WI 53704
 marinersmadison.com

The Statehouse - The Edgewater  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 535-8320
 1001 Wisconsin Pl
 Madison, WI 53703
 statehousemadison.com
 Madison's signature restaurant overlooking Lake Mendota offers a little something for everyone—tavern fare, steaks, pasta, and seasonal specials. Features thoughtfully sourced ingredients and creative twists on the classics—and—sunset seating offering incredible views and a casual atmosphere both indoors and out on the lakeside terrace. Visit StatehouseMadison.com for hours and menus.

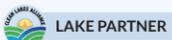
The Tasting Room
 (608) 223-1641
 800 W Broadway, Suite 100
 Monona, WI 53713
 tastingroomofmonona.com

Waypoint Public House
 (608) 222-0224
 320 W Broadway
 Monona, WI 53716
 waypointonthewater.com

Wisconsin Memorial Union  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 265-3000
 800 Langdon St
 Madison, WI 53706
 union.wisc.edu/visit/memorial-union
 Wisconsin Union: Memorial Union, Union South, Memorial Union Terrace, and many downtown markets and café.

SHORELINE LANDSCAPING & ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Adaptive Restoration, LLC
 (608) 554-0411
 8864 Offerdahl Rd
 Mount Horeb, WI 53572
 adaptiverestoration.com

Dixon Shoreline / Landscaping  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 742-5657 or (608) 432-0078
 N6780 County Hwy U
 Portage, WI 53901
 dixonshoreline.com
 thelakesaver.com

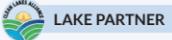
Professionally certified in rainwater harvesting, rain exchange, pondless waterfalls, and fountain scapes. We specialize in stormwater runoff issues with the revolutionary, easy to install Lake Saver Bag.

EC3 Environmental Consulting Group, Inc
 (608) 497-0955
 PO Box 44281
 Madison, WI 53744
 ec3grp.com

Envirolok, LLC
 (608) 226-2542
 10101 N Casey Rd
 Evansville, WI 53536
 envirolok.com

Good Oak, LLC
 (608) 209-0607
 4606 Pflaum Rd, Suite A
 Madison, WI 53718
 goodoak.com

MARS-EOR
 (608) 839-4422
 119 S Main St
 Cottage Grove, WI 53527
 eorinc.com

Meister's K&M Tree and Landscaping Inc  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 592-5244
 W 11924 County Rd V
 Lodi, WI 53555
 meisterskandm.com
 Meister's K&M Tree and Landscaping specializes in shoreline restoration, landscaping, and tree services. Free estimates insured.
 Email: info@meisterskandm.com

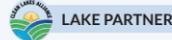
Olson Toon Landscaping, Inc
 (608) 827-9401
 3570 Pioneer Rd
 Verona, WI 53593
 olsontoon.com

SCS Engineers
 (608) 224-2830
 2830 Dairy Dr
 Madison, WI 53718
 scsengineers.com

Silt Sock Inc  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 438-7625
 N6110 Johnson Rd
 Portage, WI 53901
 siltsock.net
 Silt Sock Inc. manufactures tube and blanket-based erosion control products alongside other clean water focused items. All our products can be found through our diverse Wholesaler Network in the Midwest.

Strand Associates, Inc
 (608) 251-4843
 910 W Wingra Dr
 Madison, WI 53715
 strand.com

Sweeney's Aquatic Weed Removal  LAKE PARTNER
 (262) 501-0431
 850 N Golden Lake Rd
 Oconomowoc, WI 53066
 aquaticweedremovers.com
 Sweeney's Aquatic Weed Removal is your full service lakefront care company. We specialize in lakeweed removal, shoreline restoration, leaf & debris removal, and algae & muck control. Contact us today!

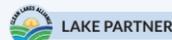
Weed Man Lawn Care  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 268-2002
 2211 Eagle Dr
 Middleton, WI 53562
 madison.weedmanusa.com
 Weed Man Lawn Care has been a strong advocate of clean water and reducing sediment runoff since the inception of the company. In creating high quality turf, we are reducing urban sediment runoff while creating beneficial filtering to our lakes and the Yahara Watershed.

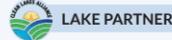
SPORTING OUTLETS & CLUBS

4 Lakes Bassmasters
 (608) 695-7595

Badger Flyfishers
 badgerflyfishers.org

Badger State Boating Society
 bsbs.org

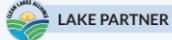
Camp Randall Rowing Club  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 556-7374
 617 N Shore Dr
 Madison, WI 53703
 camprandallrc.org
 Nonprofit offering junior competitive, senior, development camp, and learn to row programs. Primary purpose is to develop national/international competitive rowing and develop amateur athletes.

Capital City Muskies Inc  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 212-7941
 PO Box 8862
 Madison, WI 53708
 capitalcitymuskiesinc.org

Youth outreach, improving fisheries, promoting research, nonprofit 501(c)(3). Over 350 all-volunteer members nurturing muskie in the Yahara River Watershed. Adopt-A-Muskie under the Fisheries Tab on our website.

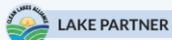
Fishing Has No Boundaries - Madison Chapter
 (608) 417-3474
 fhnbmadison.com

Four Lakes Ice Yacht Club
 (608) 347-3513
 iceboat.org

Four Lakes Yacht Club  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 222-1401
 6312 Inland Way
 Monona, WI 53713
 madison4lyc.com
 Located on the Yahara River, Four Lakes Yacht Club promotes boating safety for all. Members have access to our private clubhouse, unlimited use of our boat ramps, and a discount at our public gas pumps.

Hooper Sailing Club
 (608) 262-1630
 800 Langdon St
 Madison, WI 53706
 hoopersailing.org

Lake Kegonsa Sailing Club
 PO Box 75
 Stoughton, WI 53589
 lksc.org

Lake Monona Sailing Club  LAKE PARTNER
 (608) 695-9182
 lakemononasailing.com
 The Lake Monona Sailing Club is a volunteer-based organization that welcomes sailors of every skill level who want to enjoy Lake Monona. LMSC has been sponsoring sailboat races since 1969 and has fleets of C-scows, Flying Scots, Multihulls, and One Designs. Our club maintains two piers with slip rentals available at Stonebridge Park in Monona and Olin Park in Madison.

Mad City Paddlers
 (608) 833-1734
 madcitypaddlers.org

Mad-City Ski Team
 (608) 663-8326
 6516 Monona Dr, #193
 Madison, WI 53716
 madcityskiteam.com

Madison Area Antique & Classic Boat Society - Glacier Lakes Chapter
 glacbs.org

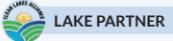
Madison Bass Club
 madisonbassclub.org

Madison Fishing Expo
 (262) 305-1907
 101 Kettle Moraine Dr S
 Slinger, WI 53086
 wifishingexpo.com

Madison Sail and Power Squadron
 madisonsquadron.org

Madison Sailing Center
 madisonsailingcenter.com

Madison Youth Sailing Foundation
 madisonyouthsailing.com

Mendota Rowing Club  LAKE PARTNER
 PO Box 646
 Madison, WI 53701
 mendotarowingclub.com
 Mendota Rowing Club welcomes people of all ages and levels of experience who wish to become involved in the sport of rowing. We offer Learn to Row classes for both youth and adults May through August.

Mendota Yacht Club  LAKE PARTNER
 PO Box 2062
 Madison, WI 53701
 mendotayc.org
 Founded in 1903, our mission is to encourage the sport of sailing among young and old.

Stoughton Country Club
 (608) 873-7861
 3165 Shadyside Dr
 Stoughton, WI 53589
 stoughtoncountryclub.com

Trout Unlimited - Southern Wisconsin Chapter
 (262) 470-1775
 PO Box 45555
 Madison, WI 53744
 swtu.org

Waubesa Sailing Club
 2867 Bible Camp Rd
 McFarland, WI 53558

Wisconsin Bass Federation
 wisconsinbass.com

Wisconsin Bowfishing Association
 wibfa.com

Wisconsin Fishing Team
 (612) 747-0933
 wisconsinfishingteam.com

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance, Ltd.
 PO Box 45555
 Madison, WI 53744
 wisconsinbass.com

Yahara Fishing Club
 (608) 212-2506
 PO Box 259803
 Madison, WI 53725
 yaharafishingclub.org



The Lake Partner program recognizes businesses and organizations that support Clean Lakes Alliance through donations made independent of events, sponsorships, or programs, **directly benefiting our efforts to reduce phosphorus loading to our lakes.** Additionally, Lake Partners demonstrate their organizational commitment to clean lakes through one or all of the following avenues: making improvements on their properties, educating staff on watershed sustainability, and participating in volunteer opportunities.

What do you enjoy most about the Lower Yahara Bike Trail?

"It's amazing – Google said it's the longest bridge for non-motorized vehicles in North America. I live a half mile from here, so I walk the bridge every day. I enjoy it tremendously."
-Darrell, McFarland, WI



"It's great for bike rides – we're out here 2-3 times a week. It has great views of the lake that you normally don't get on a bike."
-Lorraine & Gary, Madison, WI



"My take is it's one of the greatest assets McFarland has ever gotten – it gives us bike access to Madison. I'm out here every day exercising and enjoying nature and I see all age groups using this bridge."
-Gary, McFarland, WI



Innovating for a Low Carbon Future

Virent is putting Madison on the map with each sustainable milestone

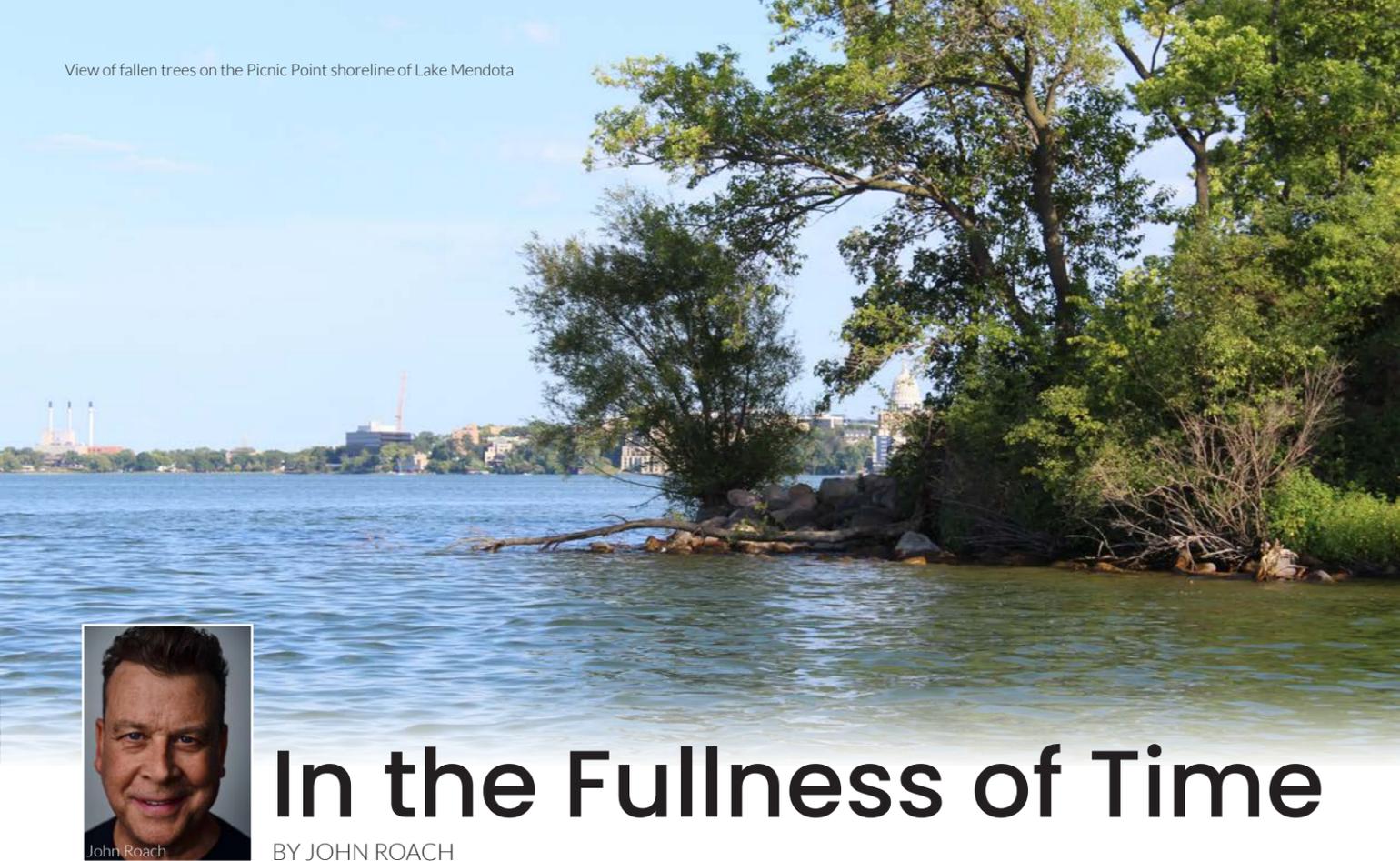
Proud to be a supporter of Clean Lakes Alliance.

Based on an innovative catalytic process, Virent's BioForming® platform is a pioneering technology poised to contribute to the energy evolution. It has the potential to make a broad impact on the future bioeconomy by developing pathways for producing both renewable fuels and chemicals from the carbohydrate portion of plants. Working with the agriculture industry, we aim to provide lower carbon products while supporting avenues for the adoption of more sustainable farming practices.

virent.com



*Celebrating
20 Years*



In the Fullness of Time

BY JOHN ROACH

Lakes, water have been around a long time on our planet.

According to Google, 4.6 billion years.

Which means, by any measure, water plays the long game.

Lake Mendota, Dane County's flagship lake, has only been around for only 15,000 years. In geologic time, it is a pup.

But it still operates on a different time frame than mere humans.

Compared even to our Dane County lakes, humans are mayflies; we are born, we breed, and we die much more quickly than rhythms of the natural world we inhabit.

But that does not mean that we do not affect our world. In fact, the argument has been made that for all our brains, industry, and creativity, humans are also Earth's most dangerous invasive species.

This concept was brought home to me when discussing our small body of water in Vilas County. The neighbors were lamenting the lack of fish. They wanted to blame the Chicago folks on the lake for keeping their catch. Blaming Chicago people is the easiest out for everyone in the Northwoods. They are loved for their money, but not much else.

But the lack of fish on our lake was not due to the Flatlanders. A discussion with my brother-in-law, a retired DNR scientist, was instructive for our little lake, and lakes everywhere.

My brother-in-law belly laughed when told of the conspiracy about the paucity of fish on our lake. He went on to explain that the two loons on our lake each eat two pounds of fish a day, which makes 28 pounds a week, and 112 pounds of fish a month. He also explained that the drought five years ago dropped the lake four feet, which

could have affected breeding grounds for certain fish species that would be reaching maturation now.

And then he said, "And of course there is the landscaping." When I pushed him, he observed that humans now manage much of the shoreline trees. As a result, they don't fall into the lake naturally as they did before Homo sapiens were around. For eons, fish used those fallen trees as habitat and a driver of the food chain. As they decay, the fallen trees also provide food for organisms that feed bait fish which in turn feed big fish. And so it goes.

He also mentioned the runoff into the lakes created by driveways, lawns, beaches, and other manmade structures.

And then my brother-in-law made his summation. He said that average folks don't realize all the factors that make a lake what it is. And most humans don't know that lakes develop, operate, and change based on factors that happen over decades, centuries, and longer.

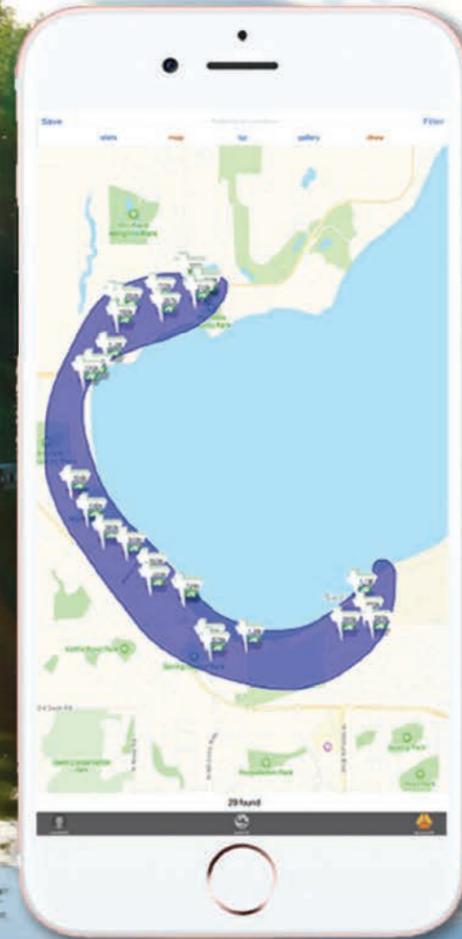
This also means we are doing things to our lakes today that may well not be manifested for long after we are gone, just as those who preceded us have.

I think what my brother-in-law was really trying to say is that when it comes to lakes, EVERYTHING matters. All that we do in and around our lakes affects them. And it is our job to be smart enough to make sure that in the fullness of time what we do affects them for the better. Not the worst.

Or better yet, not at all.

Born and raised in Madison, John Roach started in broadcast at ABC and CBS stations in Chicago where he wrote and produced Emmy award-winning shows. He also co-wrote the screenplay for the David Lynch film "The Straight Story". He is the founder of Roach Projects and writes a monthly column in Madison Magazine.

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