

GREATER MADISON

# LAKE GUIDE

SUMMER 2023



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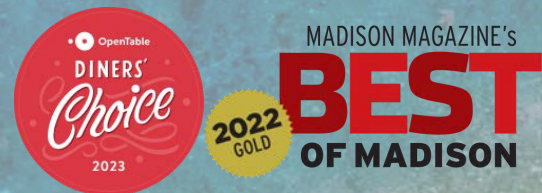
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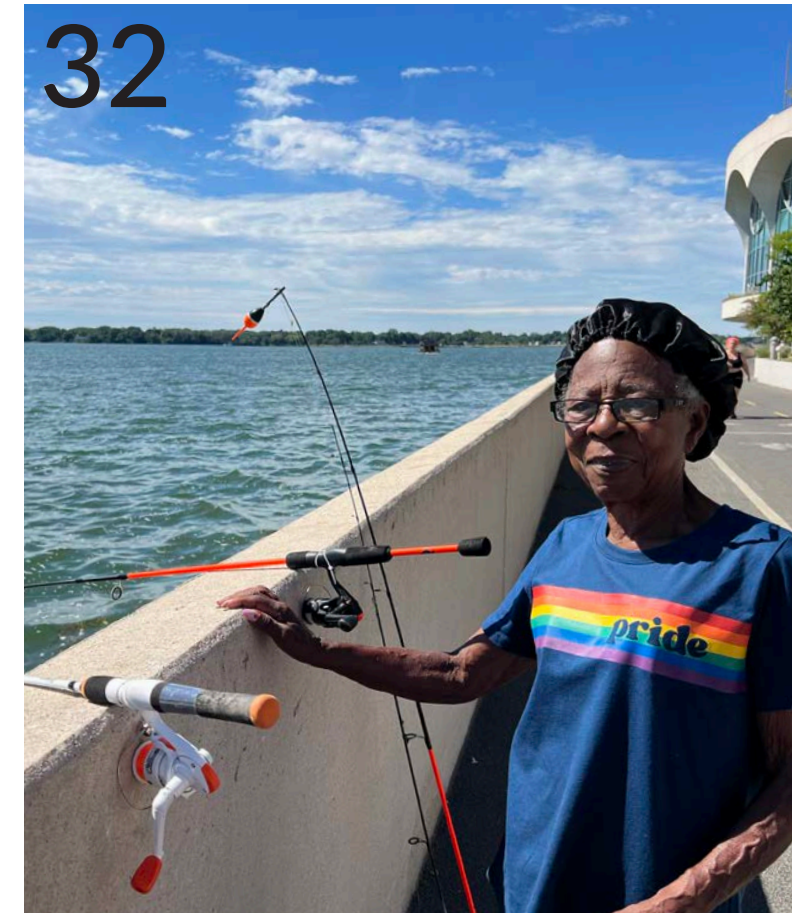


# FEATURES

COVER: VIEW OF LAKE MONONA AND THE MONONA TERRACE COMMUNITY & CONVENTION CENTER, COURTESY BRENT NICASTRO  
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Thank you to Foley & Lardner LLP for the donated office space since 2012. (The Gialamas Company donated office space to Clean Lakes Alliance for our first two years.)





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# PEACE, BEAUTY, AND ACCESS

## A MESSAGE FROM CLEAN LAKES ALLIANCE

You may have heard that Madison is known as the “city of four lakes.” (Just so you know, there are actually more than four of them!) What you may not know is that when city planners designed our community, they intentionally made sure lake access was abundant. Sure, there are plenty of great lakeside parks, but there are also places like the one shown in this photo. It’s the end of a street – and in fact, all streets that dead end into the lake have public access. Some, like this one in the City of Monona, are better than others, but many offer a peaceful escape and a beautiful view.

But even though access to our waters is plentiful, we know it can improve. Many of these areas, along with our parks, need an update – especially to help control runoff that brings cyanobacteria-causing phosphorus to our lakes. We also know that access means more than just land, it means making sure all members of our community have an opportunity to use the lakes.

We don’t have all the answers yet, but we’re working on them with as many people as possible. Our *Renew the Blue* roadmap,

which is recapped each year in the *State of the Lakes*, will help steer lake-improvement projects in the right direction. Our partnerships with groups around the community will ensure access doesn’t just mean access for some, but access for all.

I hope you enjoy your summer and encourage you to find one of these hidden lakeside access points. It may become your favorite place to read, reflect, or just get away from the busyness of life... even if it’s only for a short time.

Happy summer,

James Tye  
Clean Lakes Alliance  
Founder & Executive Director







Clean Lakes Alliance board and staff at a November 2022 board meeting at TruStage, formerly known as CUNA Mutual Group



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# BUILDING ON SUCCESS

## AN UPDATE TO CLEAN LAKES ALLIANCE'S VISION AND MISSION

BY LINDA NEDELCOFF, CLEAN LAKES ALLIANCE BOARD CHAIR

In May of 2010, a small, one-day festival received a large donation from Lands' End. The Clean Lakes Festival, run by the very popular Mad-City Ski Team put on the event with a goal of "raising money for the lakes." Quickly, it was realized that many businesses and community members wanted to invest in the lakes more than just one day a year. Born out of that festival was Clean Lakes Alliance.

A lot has happened over the last 13 years. We've grown our alliance, funded important projects that are improving water quality, created a community invested in our lakes, and educated the public on how everyone can make a difference. As we worked deeper into our second decade, we realized our original goals have either been met, or need to be updated as we move forward.

### VALUABLE VISION

A vision outlines what an organization sees as its long-term goals. Our original vision was simple – "We see a future in which everyone realizes the lakes are the center of our community." But as our organization grew, we started to realize more and more people are seeing the lakes like we want – at the center of the community.

Looking to the immediate future, our new vision needed to reflect where we've been and where we still need to go. After great work with partners in the community, we have updated our vision to, "We envision a community renowned for its healthy lakes, lands, and waters." To us, the future sees not only clean lakes and rivers, but it makes Madison and its surrounding communities a nationwide leader in putting water health at the top of the list.

**WE ENVISION  
A COMMUNITY  
RENNOWNED FOR  
ITS HEALTHY  
LAKES, LANDS,  
AND WATERS.**  
– New Clean Lakes  
Alliance Vision

### MINDFUL MISSION

From the beginning, our mission was always to bring as many people and groups to the table as possible to solve the issues facing our lakes. Our mission said, "Clean Lakes Alliance strives to continue building a community of people, businesses, organizations, and government agencies dedicated to improving and protecting water quality in the Yahara River Watershed and its lakes." A bit long maybe, but straightforward. Our list of over 2,000 individual and organizational donors, coupled with our more than 40-person Community Board made up of government, individual, and business leaders, shows we are on our way to building that community.

Updating our mission meant we needed to build on the great success we achieved over the past 13 years. Streamlining and improving a mission on why we exist and what we do came down to a simple statement, "Our mission is to champion our lakes and watershed stewardship for the benefit of all." It was important for us to look at the entire community – not just those groups that are currently using the lakes, but the groups that could or would use the lakes if they were clean and accessible. Our updated mission aims to build up community members so they can act as stewards of the lakes and take action with the tools provided by Clean Lakes Alliance.

**OUR MISSION IS  
TO CHAMPION  
OUR LAKES AND  
WATERSHED  
STEWARDSHIP  
FOR THE BENEFIT  
OF ALL.**  
– New Clean Lakes  
Alliance Mission

### FUTURE FOCUS

A focused team will help make sure our mission is followed and our vision is achieved as we move forward. We are also updating our core values to not only show the standard we hold ourselves to in the community, but also inside our office where the decisions are made that drive action.

We are excited to keep moving the needle forward on water health, lake access and use, and of course a community that thinks about water in all of its decisions. Clean Lakes Alliance has been working for you for 13 years, and we've only just started to make our lakes and rivers the best in our nation.

2019 Community Breakfast

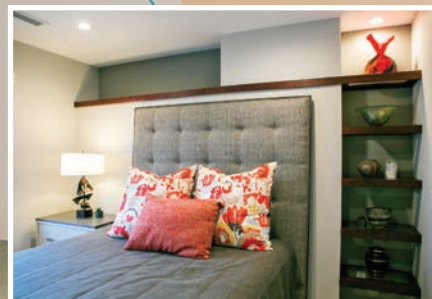
Lake Explorer Camp in 2017



*I love my new “digs” on the second floor of my hundred year old four-square house. They took a small, cramped, cut-up space and made it into a light, airy open space with clean, contemporary lines and amenities, that utilized absolutely every square inch of space and includes all of my “must haves”.  
~ Madison, WI*

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## GROW AND TELL: CONSERVATION SHOWCASED AT THE EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE

BY GARRETT HOPKINS, ROCK RIVER COALITION

Summers in Wisconsin are as fleeting as they are lovely, and the first cold autumn day typically serves as a brisk recalibration for those who will soon endure winter weather. In 2022, that day fell on the 24th of September, and it also happened to be the day of the shoreline garden installation event at the Executive Residence in Madison, the home of Wisconsin's Governor. But while the day was gray-skied, damp, and chilly, the vibe among the dozens of participants in attendance was a far cry from cold.

Wisconsin may lack national notoriety for its nature-based offerings, but those who live here know it as a corner-to-corner splendor of lakes, rivers, and streams. It's a state that has so much more to offer than it gets credit for, and one that's filled with people who are eager to restore and preserve the natural spaces they cherish; many of whom simply need some direction for where to apply their enthusiasm.

In 2008, a novel idea sprouted from a meeting at the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute: turn the Executive Residence into a showcase for a specific conservation action many people can take on their own property. Patricia Cicero, Director of the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department, has been a leading champion of this project since its inception as part of the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute. "We were talking about lake issues, native plants, and protecting water quality, and somehow it came up that the Executive Residence had mowed grass all the way to the water," she recalled. "The 2008 crew of Wisconsin Lake Leaders decided to make it our project to get a shoreline restoration at this important site."

The Executive Residence, which sits on the eastern shore of Lake Mendota, is bordered by a field of Kentucky bluegrass, one of the most common species of lawn grass in the country. While Kentucky bluegrass brings a clean appearance and is easy to maintain, it offers little benefit to the environment.

"Its roots are only about an inch-and-a-half deep," said Gregg Breese, Regulatory Manager at Resource Environmental Solutions (the nation's largest ecological firm), and one of the partners for this project. "It creates a hard surface that leads to a high runoff rate." In other words, as rainwater flows over the land, it picks up harmful nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, and flows into adjoining waterbodies.



Top of page: Volunteers, including Clean Lakes Alliance staff, plant native plants along Lake Mendota's shoreline at the Executive Residence in September 2022  
Above: Becca Dymzarov, Rock River Coalition Executive Director, with native plants ready to go into the ground at the Executive Residence





Five months later, on a gray-skied, damp, and chilly September day, dozens of volunteers and conservation leaders put on their gardening gloves and got to work.

The temperature of the crowd was a stark contrast to that of the air. Warmed by kinship and a unified purpose, they operated with the calculated hum of honeybees. Bright faced and buzzing with joy, the group moved mounds of mulch, carried pallets of plants, dug holes by hand, and eventually sat on the earth to settle a swath of new vegetation along the shore. In total, approximately 1,700 native plants were set into approximately 3,000 square feet of land.

The Executive Residence shoreline garden has rich ecological value, but its pinnacle impact will be in the inspiration it sows. For many hobby environmentalists, the word “conservation” is shadowed by an intimidating cloud of uncertainty. While a will to make a difference is innate, the knowhow often is not. But thanks to the efforts of those who started the project, and to those who saw this first phase through, Wisconsin now has a beautiful, green beacon of conservation shining on the shores of Lake Mendota.

Native shoreline gardens are specifically designed to prevent this runoff from happening. By replacing a section of grass with native species of plants that have three to five-foot roots, pollutant runoff rates are significantly decreased. The roots increase water infiltration by absorbing water, and serve as a filtration system that helps prevent harmful substances from entering the connecting lake, river, or stream. Additionally, the native plants help reduce erosion, and serve as a habitat for bees, birds, butterflies, moths, wasps, bats, and small mammals that support the local ecosystem and food web.

Planting a native shoreline garden is a relatively doable task for even a novice landscaper, but planting a shoreline garden at the Executive Residence is a challenging web of approvals, logistics, and resources. The journey to the garden was one of countless starts and stops, but on April 7, 2022, the light finally lit green when Governor Tony Evers publicly announced the project at the Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention.



#### PHOTOS

Page 14 Top: Volunteers work to improve lake water quality by improving Lake Mendota's shoreland

Page 14 Right: Volunteer gets native plants ready for planting (Courtesy Garrett Hopkins)

Page 14 Bottom Left: Volunteers and Clean Lakes Alliance staff planting along the shoreline of Lake Mendota (Courtesy Garrett Hopkins)

Page 14 Bottom Right: Approximately 1,700 native plants were placed into approximately 3,000 square feet of land (Courtesy Garrett Hopkins)

Page 15 Top: Dozens of volunteers and conservation leaders along Lake Mendota's shoreline (Courtesy Garrett Hopkins)

Page 15 Right: A volunteer and Clean Lakes Alliance staff member, Paul Dearlove (right), moved mulch, dug holes by hand, and helped improve the Executive Residence shoreland in September 2022



“For our company, this is a small project,” said Breese. “But the lesson here is that small changes can make big differences. People can now look at the Executive Residence and see that a native prairie doesn’t necessarily have to be a conceptual weed garden, it can be beautiful.” He not only feels optimistic about the inspiration the project could have on those who own shoreline property, but for all eco-minded individuals. “Prairies belong everywhere, even in small backyards.”

Additional types of at-home, eco-friendly restorations include rock infiltration areas, native plant gardens, and rain gardens. People who own land within 1,000 feet of lakes and 300 feet of rivers and streams may be eligible for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Healthy Lakes & Rivers Grant – an initiative launched in 2014 that funds these types of projects each year. To find out more, contact your local lake group and your county’s Land and Water Conservation Department as both are eligible to apply for the grant on the behalf of property owners.

While the planting was a monumental achievement, it was just the beginning. Phase 2, which is scheduled for completion in 2023, will result in an additional 1,400 plants across another 4,117 square feet. Donations are currently being accepted online ([wisconsinexecutiveresidence.com](http://wisconsinexecutiveresidence.com)) and through the mail.

“It’s hard to put this into words,” said Cicero, attempting to sum up her experience at the event. “It’s been emotional for me. I was amazed by how many volunteers we had, and I can’t say enough good things about the staff at the Department of Administration. It’s just so exciting to finally see it all come together, and it means so much that so many people wanted to spend a Saturday morning helping us out.”

The 24th of September, 2022, was the type of day that happens every autumn, its cold air novel to the faded days of summer. But it was also the type of day that we too rarely see, a before-

and-after flashbulb moment in conservation. By welcoming the shoreline restoration, Wisconsin’s state government instantly became one of the most visible ecological leaders in the Midwest. The cultural wake of this achievement may take time to fully set in, but when it does, the consequences – much like the roots in the Governor’s new garden – will run deep.

*This project was made possible through collaboration between Wisconsin Department of Administration, the Wisconsin Executive Residence Foundation, Wisconsin Lake Leaders, Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department, Extension Lakes at UW-Stevens Point, Rock River Coalition, Resource Environmental Solutions, and Clean Lakes Alliance.*



Clean Lakes Alliance is proud to be counted among the devoted partners helping to bring this project to fruition. Modeling improved lakeshore sustainability at the Executive Residence on Lake Mendota, and emulates the principles and action recommendations set forth in *RENEW THE BLUE: A Community Guide for Cleaner Lakes & Beaches in the Yahara Watershed* (see page 56).

As the lead project fundraiser, we are inspired by the outpouring of private dollars that are covering the cost of the native plants and their installation. As the work continues, additional donations are being graciously accepted to build a reserve for future plant-maintenance and replacement needs.

Charitable contributions can be made to the Executive Residence Foundation or through the "Seed the Need" donation page on our website ([cleanlakesalliance.org](http://cleanlakesalliance.org)). This project would not be possible without the generous financial, volunteer, and in-kind contributions provided by the project partners and their supporters.



# What do you enjoy most about the John Nolen Drive causeway and path?



"We come out here to fish a lot - easy access, right off the road. We catch mostly panfish. I've been coming here to fish since I was my son's age - I was born and raised in Madison."  
-Jerry & Timothy Thao, Sun Prairie, WI



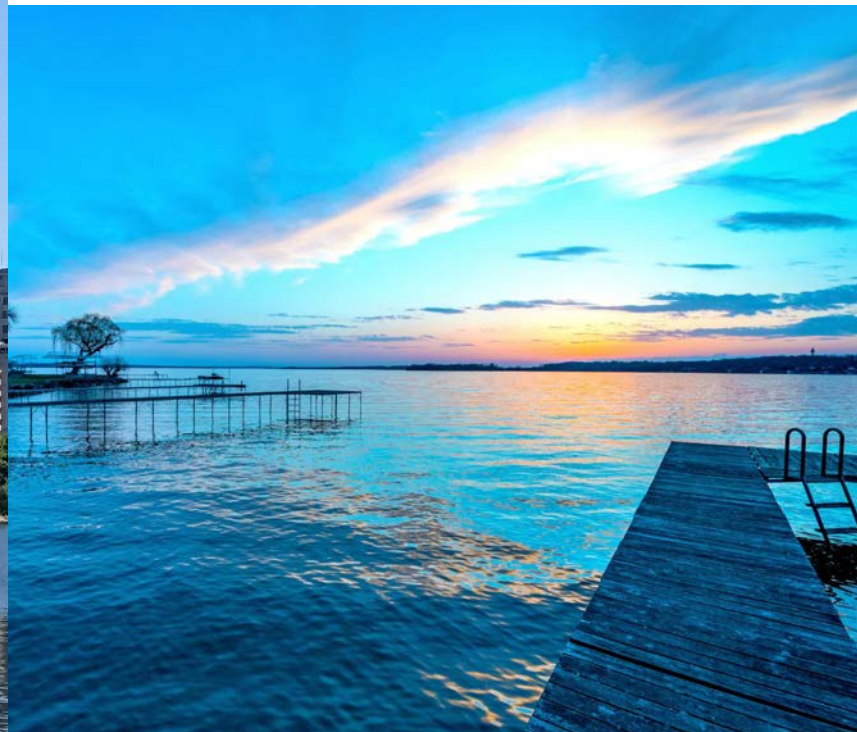
"I like the separation of the bike path, which is very helpful. Toronto doesn't have that. It's also very peaceful."  
-Veronica, Collin, & Charlie the dog, Toronto, Canada



"It allows us to see Madison while walking."  
-James & Kristel, Lenexa, KS



"We just moved here three days ago. We kayaked in Arizona all the time. Your lakes are huge! It's a different scenery here. We've seen a few fish and some ducks so far."  
-Amanda & Stephanie, Las Vegas, NV



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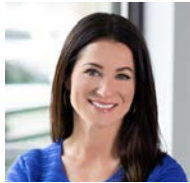
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\* 2022 data for all lake sales on Lake Mendota, Lake Monona, Lake Waubesa and Lake Kegonsa pulled from the SCWMLS on 3/6/23.



# KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE ON GREATER MADISON'S LARGEST LAKE

## AN INTERVIEW WITH UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LIFESAVING STATION STAFF

**S**ituated on the southern shore of Lake Mendota is a very unassuming building. You may not recognize the building, but you've probably seen one of the boats housed here out on the lake. It's the University of Wisconsin Lifesaving Station and its job is to help keep everyone safe on Greater Madison's largest lake.

So who are the people who work in the building, drive the boats, and keep an eye on more than 15 square miles of water? Clean Lakes Alliance's Adam Sodersten visited the building and took a ride on one of the rescue boats to get a better understanding of why this operation is one of the most unique in the country.

**Our visit began with a conversation with Sean Geib, the UW Lifesaving Station Supervisor.**

**Adam Sodersten:** How long have you been doing this?

**Sean Geib:** I hate to admit it, but this is my 26th season.

**AS:** Did you start when you were in college?

**SG:** I graduated college from here [UW-Madison]. At the time, I was an instructor at Hoofers and I was working at the Center for Limnology, and there was a classmate who was a lifeguard – this program [UW Lifesaving Station] used to be in charge of the student lifeguards at the Wisconsin Union. And he said, “Hey, you should go down to the Lifesaving Station and apply. It sounds like this game is right up your alley!” So, I came on down one day and I've been here for 26 years!

**AS:** How long has the Lifesaving Station been around?

**SG:** We were originally chartered in 1909, when Charles Van Hise was the University President. And if you think back in 1909 there are no cell phones. In fact, there are probably hardly any phones. There's no sheriff, there's no fire department, there's no Coast Guard on the lake, there's nothing. Students were going on the lake and drowning, so Van Hise chartered us as the way to prevent students from drowning. And we've been here ever since.

**AS:** Have you always been at this site?

**SG:** When our program was originally created in 1909, we were behind the Red Gym. That building deteriorated and they moved us down here in the fall of 1967. This used to be where the governor's mansion's old boathouse was located. When that

building was on its way to be demolished, the University was looking for shoreline space to move the lifesaving station to, and the state, which owned this property, said, “Hey, we have this property, would you like it?” The University took it, tore down the boathouse, and built this station more than 50 years ago.

**AS:** Is it kind of unique to have a university lifesaving station?

**SG:** Very unique!

**AS:** There aren't too many other universities around the country that have lake access like this?

**SG:** No. And it's taken me many years to wrap my head around it in that you have a fairly large urban environment on an inland lake that is large enough to get what would be considered small craft advisory conditions. So, if you're on Lake Michigan or on the coast, and the weather's bad, the Coast Guard sends out an alert like, “Hey, small craft advisory, don't go out.” Well, because there's no Coast Guard jurisdiction on this lake, due to no commercial traffic, this lake doesn't get those small craft advisories. So, you have a large lake, no Coast Guard jurisdiction, and an urban environment right in downtown Madison, plus the University - 40,000 plus undergrads, second largest inland sailing program in the nation; and it's a combination of all these factors that make it why we're here.





**AS:** What is a typical year for you?

**SG:** We'll do about 600 to 800 runs a year, with about 85-90% of them being UW students. The vast majority of what we do is not life threatening – the water is warm, the weather is good, people wear life jackets. But there are always a handful every year where people are terrified and you're able to help them or save them.

**AS:** Are there specific days when you come in and you know it's going to be a busy day?

**SG:** Nothing is guaranteed, but there are certain factors. Often, when the day starts off fairly calm or with light winds, and then the winds pick up during the day, and people don't recognize they've picked up.

**AS:** Is that when you hear the steam whistle if you're on the lake?

**SG:** The automatic timer on the steam whistle goes off an hour before we close – around sunset. We also can manually deploy it here at the tower. We will go "red flag" and blow the whistle three times alerting people to get off the lake. Then our person in the tower can triage and see which boat is farthest out and figure out if everybody has enough time to get back on shore before it gets really bad.

**Next, we took a tour of the UW Lifesaving Station tower while UW student Cody Nechvatal sat watch.**

**SG:** So, this is the tower. When we're open, we always have one person in the watch tower. Ninety percent of our calls come from this tower person seeing somebody they need us to check on with our lifesaving boat. We have different types of binoculars and spotting scopes of different magnification. We have cameras on areas over by the University. We have today's weather here. We have a VHF radio for ship-to-ship or ship-to-shore communication. And we have a police band radio to communicate with our boat or if SCUBA 1 or the Dane County Sheriff gets on the water.

**AS:** Where do most of the employees come from? Do students make up the lion's share of the staff?

**SG:** Let's see, we have a couple of teachers – this is a great teacher job. Couple of firefighters. We have three students, a couple of recent grads. I'd say 40% of our employees come from some sort of lifeguarding realm. Everyone who works here loves the water. That's probably the one thread that unites us all.



**After some time spent in the tower with Nechvatal and a tour of the facility, we headed out on to one of the Lifesaving Station's three boats with Geib, boat operator Paul Wittkamp, and crew member Luke Stover.**

**SG:** This boat you can see has a lot of electronics. We have different types of sonar underneath. We have a full digital chart of the lake. We have a FLIR [Forward Looking InfraRed] camera so if there is a person in the water, the temperature difference will be really noticeable compared to the water.

**AS:** When you send out the boat, how many people are usually on it?

**SG:** We typically have one operator and two crew.

**AS:** Not that I need to see it, but how fast will the boat go?

**Paul Wittkamp:** Oh, we'll show ya!

**Before we brought it up to speed, we stopped to chat with Dane County Sheriff Deputy Sgt. Kyle McNally. The UW Lifesaving Station and Dane County Sheriff's Department partner often on lake rescues.**

**PW:** Everybody ready? Comin' up!

**AS:** 35 miles per hour? Pretty fast!

**SG:** If you want to do some sharper turns, go ahead.

**PW:** Hard turn port!

**SG:** Why don't we stop and go through what we do for a warm-up.

**PW:** Ok, coming down!

**SG:** If we were coming out on a warm-up run, we would get all the current conditions so we could let Hoofer sailors know. That would include getting wind direction and speed as well as a Secchi disk [water clarity depth].

**AS:** Why is it great to have these rescue boats on this lake?

**SG:** There's a level of security that people have going out. They think, "Hey, if I get into trouble, Harvey [the Lifesaving Station's boat nickname] will rescue me." You don't have that safety blanket if you go to other bodies of water. So that is nice for everybody here learning to sail.

**AS:** Are there ever times when even the Lifesaving Station doesn't go out? Do you think, "We're going to get out there, get next to a boat, but it's not going to be safe for them or us."

**SG:** You always do the risk/reward analysis. There are times we can't right the sailboat. Just because we're here doesn't mean everything can be rescued. Most of the time we can help, but there are times we just can't. And that's hard for the staff too – they think we can get everything. If you've been here long enough, you start to see there are always exceptions to everything.

**After a run around the southern part of the lake, we headed back into the Lifesaving Station.**

**AS:** Kind of a tight squeeze docking it back here between the pier and the breakwater.



**PW:** We'll come up to the end of the pier here and spin 180 degrees.

**AS:** Oh, right, we were bow out when we left.

**SG:** What people don't realize is we come within feet if not inches of people and equipment in the water. So being able to handle, operate, and maneuver these boats is really a core component of this job. It takes about three years for a person to go from first driving this boat to being an operator. You're constantly learning.



**PHOTOS**  
Page 20 Bottom Left: Cody Nechvatal monitors boaters from the UW Lifesaving Station tower  
Page 20 Top Right: On board one of two, twin inboard-engine rescue boats maintained by the UW Lifesaving Station  
Page 21 Left: Onboard monitors provide lake and weather conditions  
Page 21 Right: Left to right: Sean Geib, Paul Wittkamp, and Luke Stover on the bow of a rescue boat at the UW Lifesaving Station pier  
Page 21 Bottom: The newest of the two UW Lifesaving Station boats returns to port







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# FRIENDS AROUND THE WATERSHED

*Messages from local Friends groups about their latest projects and initiatives*



## FRIENDS OF UW 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 UW 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 LakeForecast, the Clean Lakes Alliance water quality monitoring program. LEARN MORE: [friendslakeshorepreserve.com](http://friendslakeshorepreserve.com)



**LAKE WAUBESA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**

Founded in 1989, Lake Waubesa Conservation Association (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.

Perhaps the biggest accomplishment in 2022 was placing focus on how Lake Waubesa and its watershed will be effectively managed for the next generation. LWCA is taking steps to pursue the creation of a comprehensive Lake Management Plan. The Plan will identify and prioritize projects aimed at improving water quality and maintaining healthy shorelines and wetlands with goals of reducing the nutrients flowing into the lake, and managing aquatic plants and invasive species.

LEARN MORE: [waubesa.org](http://waubesa.org)



**FRIENDS OF THE YAHARA RIVER HEADWATERS**

The group is dedicated to conserving and safeguarding the environmental health of the headwaters of the Yahara River. Last year, they expanded efforts to remove legacy trash from the Yahara headwaters and have been holding both spring and fall river cleaning events with volunteers. During these efforts, the Friends work to remove barriers to navigability to ensure that paddlers are able to navigate these scenic waters. The 2023 fall river cleanup will be on September 23rd.

The Friends have monthly meetings, lead and participate in water-related community events, support river education and enjoyment, and act as an essential river watchdog for neighbors in the Yahara Watershed. Members also serve as citizen-based stream monitors in order to sample parameters such as water temperature, dissolved oxygen, clarity, and phosphorus levels.

LEARN MORE: [yaharariver.org](http://yaharariver.org)



**FRIENDS OF CHEROKEE MARSH**

The Friends of Cherokee Marsh sponsored five interns to work in natural area restoration. Much of the interns' time was spent doing the hard work of pulling, digging, and cutting invasive plants that out-compete native plant communities. The interns also collected seeds for future restorations. The Friends of Cherokee Marsh provided funding and supervision for the interns and worked with Madison Parks and Dane County Parks to choose projects.

Other Friends activities included hosting volunteer work parties, sponsoring year-round monthly walks, funding outdoor environmental education, and advocating for the health of Cherokee Marsh's wetlands and watershed.

LEARN MORE: [cherokeemarsh.org](http://cherokeemarsh.org)

PHOTOS  
Top Right: LWCA partnered with Dane County Parks, Dane County Land & Water Resources Department, and the Village of McFarland on a shoreline cleanup day  
Left: Yahara River cleanup in fall of 2022 with Friends of the Yahara River Headwaters  
Lower Right: Friends of Cherokee Marsh interns remove invasive sweet clover from the prairie



**FRIENDS OF LAKE KEGONSA SOCIETY**

Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society (FOLKS) promotes activities to improve the ecology, water quality, fishing, and recreational use of Lake Kegonsa. In 2023, FOLKS is focused on phosphorus reduction and public education. FOLKS organized two native plant workshops with Dane County to familiarize individuals with the benefits of using native plants on their property to control runoff containing phosphorus into the lake. Other phosphorus reduction projects include supporting collection of phosphorus-laden leaves from around the lake, providing pick up of aquatic plants, maintaining educational native plant gardens at Fish Camp County Park, and monitoring water quality at piers, lake inlets, middle of the lake, and runoff areas.

LEARN MORE: [kegonsa.org](http://kegonsa.org)

PHOTOS  
Above: FOLKS native plant workshop  
Right: Friends of Monona Bay shoreline cleanup volunteers pull a bike out of Lake Monona  
Below: Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy at a restoration workday



**FRIENDS OF MONONA BAY**

Friends of Monona Bay (FOMB) is a watershed group that works to improve the health and promote the enjoyment of Monona Bay through monitoring, education, stewardship, and advocacy. Monona Bay's central location makes it ideal for year-round recreation of water and ice sports. FOMB organizes cleanups, monitors water quality, participates in community events, and promotes lake-friendly practices throughout the watershed.

FOMB coordinates monthly shoreline cleanups throughout the year on the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. Volunteers for the cleanup meet at the Brittingham Beach House, 701 West Brittingham Place. From January 2006 through December 2022, the FOMB has had almost 3,000 volunteers who have collected over 2,500 bags of trash. In addition, they have retrieved countless bicycles, grills, chairs, and other miscellaneous items from Monona Bay.

LEARN MORE: FOMB Monthly Shoreline Cleanup (On Facebook)



**FRIENDS OF PHEASANT BRANCH CONSERVANCY**

The Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy (FOPBC) will kick off 2023 with restoration workdays on the first and third Saturdays in spring. The summer lineup will include the popular Wisconsin Master Naturalist course, Conservancy Days talks, self-guided Wonder Walks, and naturalist-led FUN walks. As the Friends continue their mission to restore, protect, and promote the Conservancy in 2023, they'll partner with Color in the Outdoors to highlight the importance of access to green space for all, increasing diversity and inclusion for those using the conservancy.

The four-year Seed the Need Campaign continues to fund the planting of a "Platinum Prairie." Clean Lakes Alliance received a \$100,000 matching donation from Alliant Energy to help restore the former farmland to prairie and wetlands. FOPBC is also partnering with Clean Lakes Alliance to fundraise for this project. A Middleton resident's generous donation of \$50,000 will allow the Friends to reach a matching goal of \$100,000!

LEARN MORE: [pheasantbranch.org](http://pheasantbranch.org)





#### FRIENDS OF CAPITAL SPRINGS RECREATION AREA

Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area (FOCSRA) hosted its first Wisconsin Master Naturalist training course in 2022. Participants learned about the natural world through first-hand experiences and by engaging with field experts on a wide range of topic areas. FOCSRA also led youth and family education focusing on clean water, tree and pollinator services, prairies, birds, and other areas of the natural world.

FOCSRA hosted a Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin (HCN) Youth Week at the park in June and co-hosted a Dugout Canoe Celebration on the shores of Lake Waubesa. The latter event welcomed Bill Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and HCN Youth as they made a historic journey through the Four Lakes region in a dugout wood canoe, made by a cottonwood felled from Capital Springs (see page 77). Attendees took canoe rides, enjoyed traditional food and drum music, and listened to speeches from community leaders.

In addition, FOCSRA also conducts weekly prairie restoration workdays, monthly stream monitoring, American Kestrel monitoring, and bumble bee surveys. FOCSRA has bird and nature walks throughout the year and develops free nature guides and educational resources.

LEARN MORE: [friendsofcapitalsprings.org](http://friendsofcapitalsprings.org)

#### PHOTOS

Page 26 Top left: Stream monitoring at Nine Springs Creek with Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area

Page 26 Top Right: Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale, held every spring

Page 26 Bottom Right: Friends of Starkweather Creek

Page 27 Top: View of Lake Wingra



#### FRIENDS OF THE ARBORETUM

The mission of the Friends of the Arboretum is to build positive relationships between people and the land through support of the UW-Madison Arboretum.

**Native Plant Sale** - In 2023, the Friends continued their online preordering for native plants and their in-person tent sale.

**Grass-to-Gardens initiative** - The Friends awarded three rain garden kits complete with donated plants to applicants in the watershed and continued to foster education to support native plant gardens.

**Luncheon-Lectures Series** - The Friends are continuing their popular, monthly Luncheon-Lectures Series which are back in person at the Arboretum Visitor Center after being conducted via Zoom last year.

LEARN MORE: [foamandison.org](http://foamandison.org)



#### FRIENDS OF STARKWEATHER CREEK

Friends of Starkweather Creek is a nonprofit group dedicated to enhancing the watershed's environmental quality and providing public appreciation and enjoyment of the Creek. The Friends work with government and community partners to restore important native habitats and advocate for sound watershed planning and management practices. Many paddling, cleanup, and nature events offer direct creek experience and appreciation to folks of all ages. For 20 years, the Friends have co-sponsored the Summer and Winter Solstice Bonfire community celebrations at Olbrich Park.

LEARN MORE: [starkweatherfriends.org](http://starkweatherfriends.org)



#### FRIENDS OF LAKE WINGRA

Friends of Lake Wingra is looking to change this year by building a new, 15-person board representative of the diverse urban watershed. The goal is to find candidates who embrace the organization's long-standing scientific integrity, collaboration, and passion for Lake Wingra. The group recognizes there are gaps in its current board's capacity and expertise, and hopes a new board will expand diversity, historic and traditional knowledge, and community connections. If you or someone you know is interested in the Friends of Lake Wingra, and fits any of the qualities described above, please email [info@lakewingra.org](mailto:info@lakewingra.org).

LEARN MORE: [lakewingra.org](http://lakewingra.org)



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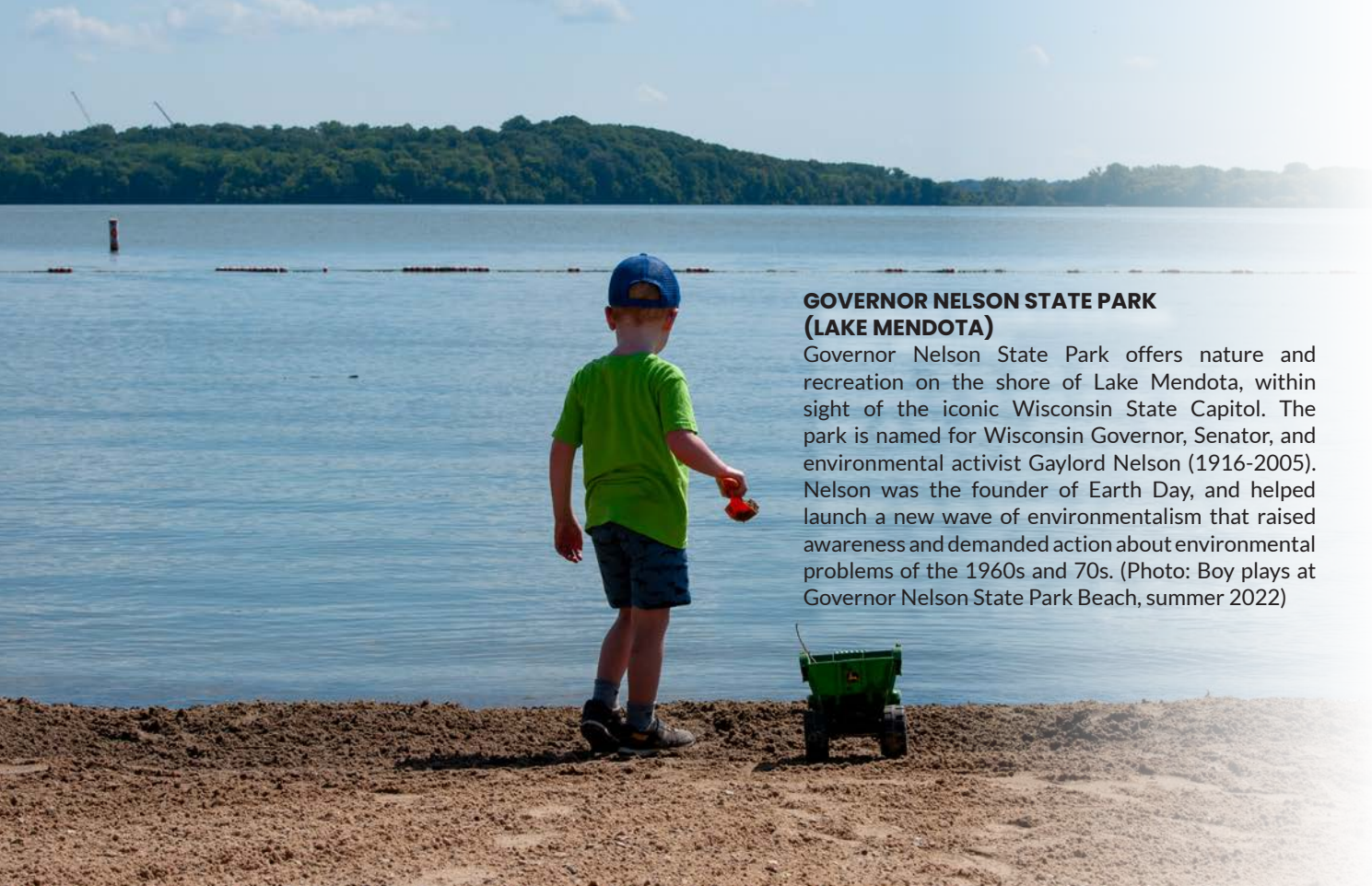
# THE NAMES BEHIND LOCAL, LAKESIDE PARKS

**HENRY VILAS PARK (LAKE WINGRA)**

Henry Vilas Park is one of Madison's oldest parks, and provides a gathering place along Lake Wingra for swimming, fishing, and even ice skating when the lagoon freezes over. The park was created from a 1904 donation from Wisconsin's U.S. Senator, William Freeman Vilas (1840-1908), to the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association, an organization

committed to the development of parks and scenic drives in the Madison area in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Vilas also served as U.S. Postmaster General and Secretary of the Department of the Interior under President Grover Cleveland. Henry Vilas Park is named in memory of William's son who died in childhood.





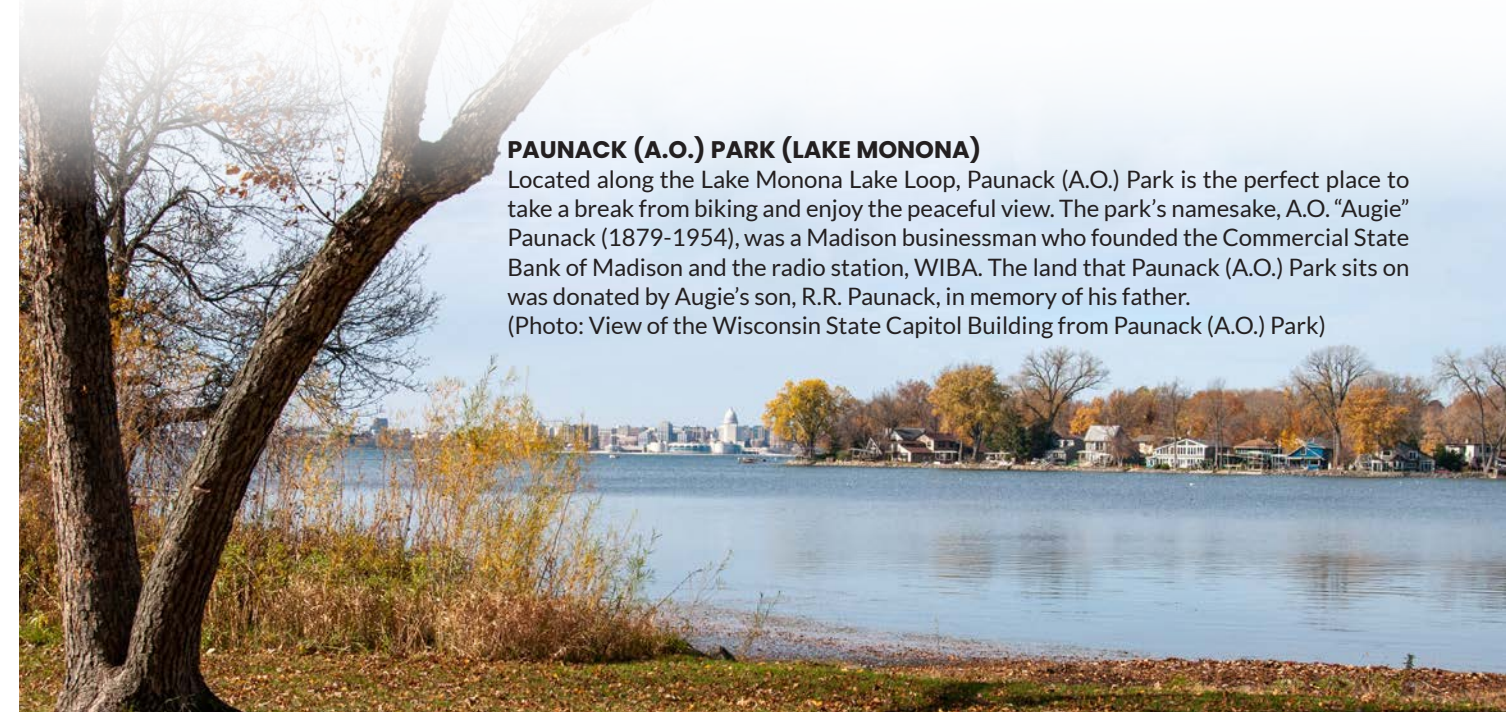
### GOVERNOR NELSON STATE PARK (LAKE MENDOTA)

Governor Nelson State Park offers nature and recreation on the shore of Lake Mendota, within sight of the iconic Wisconsin State Capitol. The park is named for Wisconsin Governor, Senator, and environmental activist Gaylord Nelson (1916-2005). Nelson was the founder of Earth Day, and helped launch a new wave of environmentalism that raised awareness and demanded action about environmental problems of the 1960s and 70s. (Photo: Boy plays at Governor Nelson State Park Beach, summer 2022)



### FISH CAMP COUNTY PARK (LAKE KEGONSA)

Fish Camp County Park lies on the northern shore of Lake Kegonsa, and has a rich economic and environmental history behind its name. Fish Camp Launch was one of many carp removal facilities established in the 1930s after the rapid reproduction and spread of carp in Wisconsin's waters began to impact fishing and recreation. Carp were harvested and shipped to stock ponds in other states, or sent to Chicago and New York to be sold at fresh fish markets. Carp are still considered an invasive species to this day. Work is ongoing to manage populations and reduce their harmful effects on aquatic ecosystems. (Photo courtesy Dane County Land & Water Resources Department)



### PAUNACK (A.O.) PARK (LAKE MONONA)

Located along the Lake Monona Lake Loop, Paunack (A.O.) Park is the perfect place to take a break from biking and enjoy the peaceful view. The park's namesake, A.O. "Augie" Paunack (1879-1954), was a Madison businessman who founded the Commercial State Bank of Madison and the radio station, WIBA. The land that Paunack (A.O.) Park sits on was donated by Augie's son, R.R. Paunack, in memory of his father. (Photo: View of the Wisconsin State Capitol Building from Paunack (A.O.) Park)

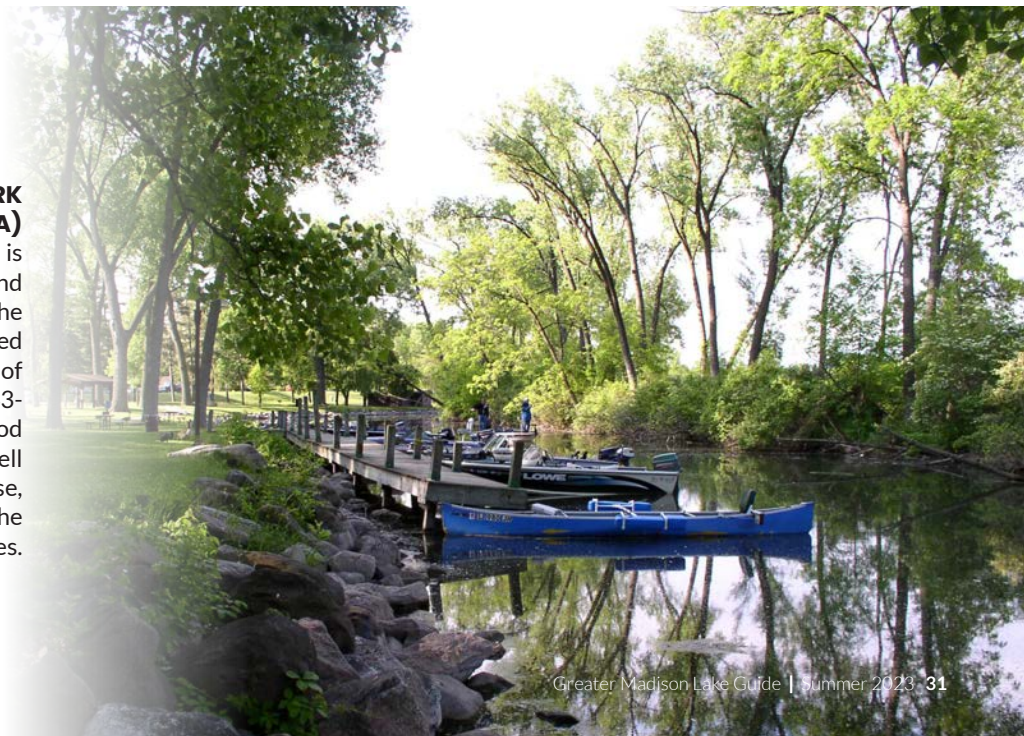


### HUDSON PARK (LAKE MONONA)

Hudson Park is nestled along the shores of Lake Monona on the east side of Madison, just a few blocks from the home of its benefactor and namesake, Belle Hudson Mahan (1856-1939). Hudson was a lifelong Madison resident. She played a large role in the development of the east side into a vibrant neighborhood with many economic opportunities for those who settled in the area. Hudson Park is also home to a memorial sculpture and burial mounds created by members of the Ho-Chunk Nation, who have lived on this land for thousands of years. (Photo: Hudson Park provides seating with a view along Lake Monona)

### BABCOCK COUNTY PARK (LAKE WAUBESA)

Lake Waubesa's Babcock County Park is a popular boat launch, campground, and recreational area located at the outflow of the Yahara River. Babcock County Park is named after Wisconsin dairy scientist and professor of agricultural chemistry Stephen Babcock (1843-1931). He created the Babcock test, a method of determining the fat content in milk, as well as the cold-curing process for ripening cheese, which allowed Wisconsin to become the leading cheese producer in the United States. (Photo: Babcock County Park's boat launch)





# CITY FISHING

## OUT-OF-TOWN ANGLERS DRAWN TO DOWNTOWN MADISON LAKES

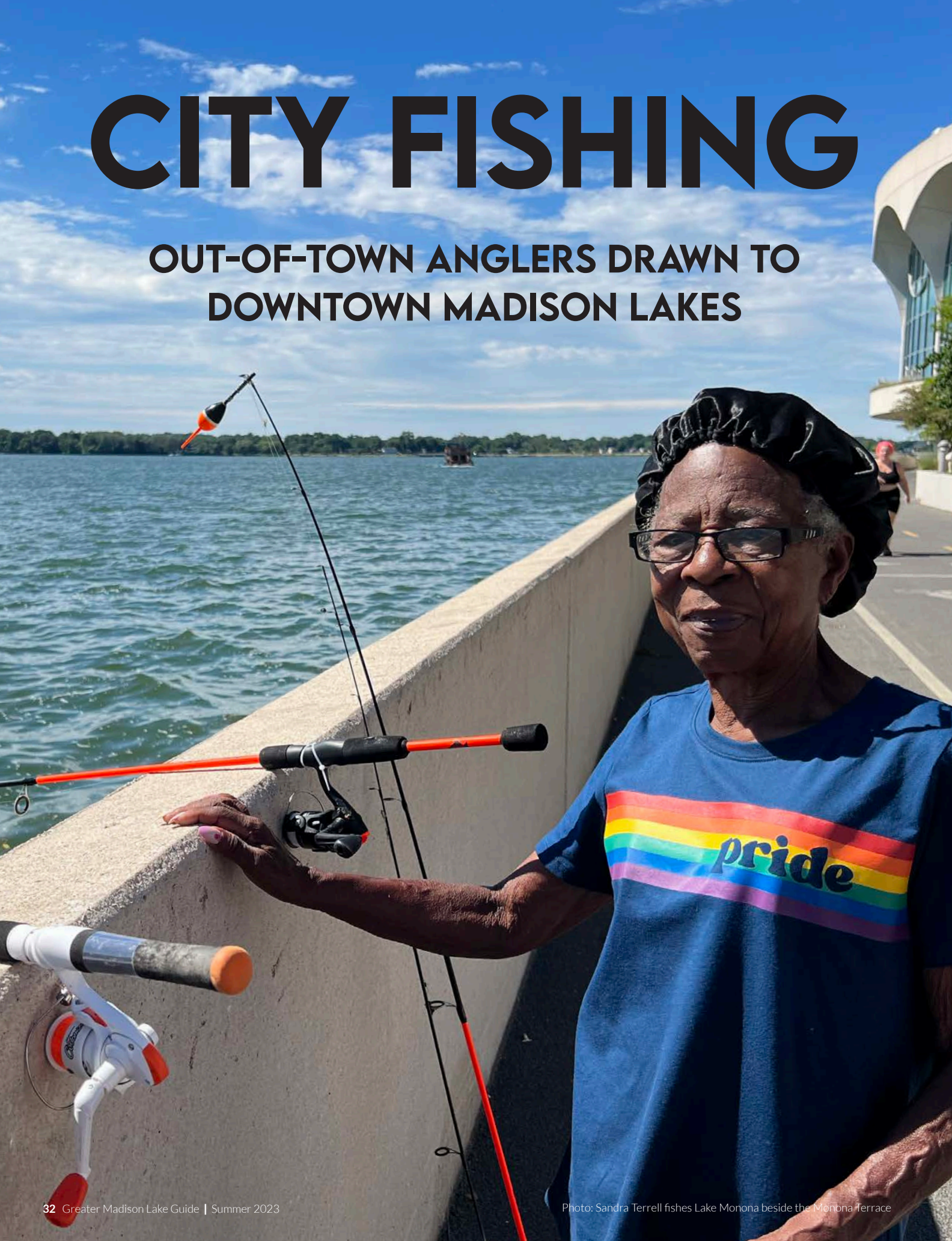


Photo: Sandra Terrell fishes Lake Monona beside the Monona Terrace

Spend time walking along Lake Monona between Law Park and Brittingham Park, and you'll notice anglers tossing lines from plenty of places. Unfortunately, there is a lack of accessible shoreline fishing locations. Folks fishing have to contend with hazards like the wall at the Monona Terrace or the railroad tracks...which are actually illegal to use for fishing. Still, the challenges of fishing on Lake Monona do not seem to stop diehard anglers from spending time doing what they love.

### FIFTY YEARS OF FISHING LAKE MONONA

*(A conversation with Sandra Terrell)*

Sandra Terrell of Rockford is 80 years old. She's been making the drive north to fish Lake Monona since the mid 1970s when a friend told her about a great spot.

"The first time the fish were biting so fast, we didn't know there was a limit," exclaimed Terrell. "I had 50 bluegills!" (The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources daily limit is 25 panfish.)

Terrell, who started fishing when she was six because her mom enjoyed fishing, said the benefits to fishing near the Monona Terrace are plentiful.

"I meet a lot of people here. The people when they come through here with gorgeous dogs - that's great! I like the dogs! But I also like it because there are a lot of fish and it's safe. There are so many people around, nobody is going to try anything. You can also park really close."

For an out-of-towner like Terrell, who sometimes comes up once a week, the parking is a big perk. Routinely, she packs a lunch and spends up to eight-plus hours watching her three poles - the legal amount she can have. Being able to go back to the car helps make this spot one of her favorites. And while fishing over the seawall may have its challenges, she ultimately loves the spot.

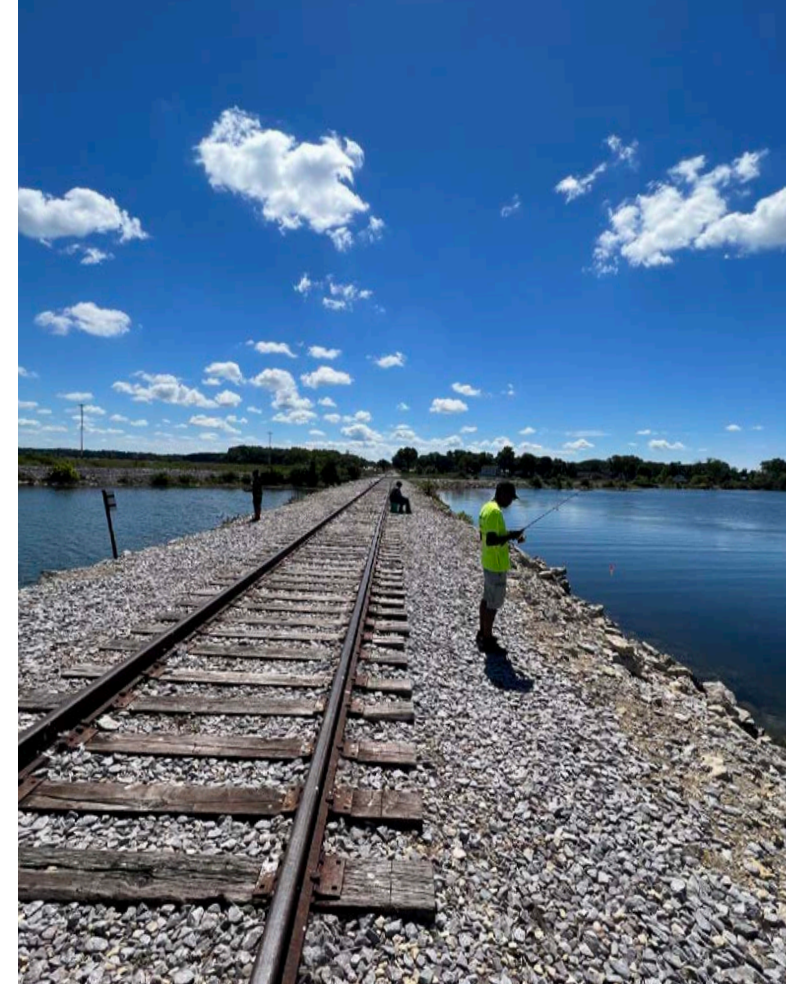
"I've lost a lot of poles in the water over the years! I line them up on the wall, but the fish are tricky and sometimes pull them in! But I love it here - they built this place so people can fish. People can bring their children and they don't have to worry about keeping them out of the water."

What's in the water sometimes has Terrell concerned. As someone who regularly consumes the fish she catches, she said the elevated PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) levels in the lake usually don't bother her because she doesn't eat more than a few fish a week. But when the fire in 2019 at the nearby power sub-station required foam to extinguish it, Terrell paused her favorite tradition.

"I didn't fish here that whole year because of the stuff that went into the lake."

Terrell usually fishes with her son or alone when she comes up to Madison. Her husband, who passed away in 2018, was also a fishing enthusiast. The husband and wife duo spent a lot of time fishing together, but only came up to this spot once - and that one time is one of Terrell's favorite memories.

"When my husband was alive, I took him here once. All the ladies running by in short shorts. He couldn't concentrate on fishing. The poor man could not fish. I wasn't mad, it was funny! I think about that every time I come here, and I laugh!"



Mark Hawkins Sr. and family fish along railroad tracks on Monona Bay

### FOUR GENERATIONS OF ANGLERS

*(A conversation with the Hawkins family)*

Fishing is truly a family affair for Mark Hawkins Sr. The Milwaukee electrician, who works almost every day in the summer, was in town with his family on a special day at his request.

"For my birthday today, I decided to take my grandfather, my son, and my uncle fishing. We have four generations right here, fishing."

The spot they usually choose on Monona Bay though...isn't exactly legal. Fishing from the railroad bridge over the bay, Hawkins and his family aren't alone. It's unfortunately one of the most accessible spots for people looking to fish the bay. Although it's private property, Hawkins, and his uncle, Aaron Coleman, say they've never been asked to leave by law enforcement. And if a train is coming, they say common sense keeps them safe.

"Trains aren't scary - just move," said Hawkins Sr.

"When a train comes, we get out of the way. They come slow, we can go down by the water or back over the bridge to land. We might see a few trains a day," commented Coleman.

When it comes to the other dangers, like PFAS and cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), the anglers say that forces them to adjust their plans.

"Our fishing is more recreational than eating. We throw most of them back. However, if there is algae, you go somewhere else - Beaver Dam, Pewaukee, Princeton," said Coleman.



When anglers like Hawkins, his uncle, son, and grandpa leave the Madison area, it means losing money for the local economy. If the group stays all day, it usually involves a lunch, or even a dinner run.

“We’ll be here all day, so I’ll run and grab something for lunch from somewhere for us,” commented Hawkins Sr.

The accessibility of the tracks to parking is one of the main reasons this group keeps coming back to this location.

“My dad has a hard time getting around, so this is nice and close to parking,” said Coleman.

And the ability to get everyone so close is the main draw.

“Part of the fun is spending time with family,” said Hawkins Senior's son, 13-year-old Dreadon Thompson.

Like Sandra Terrell, this group has been coming to this location for several years. For Booker T. Coleman, the oldest member of the group, it’s all about taking it easy and enjoying something he loves. “It’s real relaxing. I’m 90 years old. My fishing days are near the end...but it’s fun to fish with family.”

Both Terrell and the Coleman group primarily fish for bluegills, crappies, and bass. Every member of the group said the draw of Madison was the lakes and the many different spots they could go to fish.



**PHOTOS**

**Left:** Mark Hawkins Sr., fishes with four generations of family to celebrate his birthday  
**Above:** 13-year-old Dreadon Thompson fishes with his dad to celebrate his dad's birthday  
**Below:** Booker T. Coleman fishes along Lake Monona's Bay



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DNR fisheries crew conducting trout stream electrofishing survey with a tow-behind barge shocker

Have you ever wondered how the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) counts fish on the Yahara lakes? And, once they have these counts, what do they do with them? Our friend, Dan Oele at the DNR, took a deep dive into this interesting topic to give everyone a better understanding about the importance of fish surveys to our lakes.



WI DNR Fisheries Biologist Dan Oele with a black crappie on Lake Wingra

## BY DAN OELE, WISCONSIN DNR FISHERIES BIOLOGIST

Every year, the DNR fisheries management staff conducts fish surveys on the Yahara chain of lakes. Each lake gets a “comprehensive survey” every five years, which is DNR lingo for a deep dive into the fisheries of a lake. The types of data collected vary depending on the species. Typically, information shows what species are present, the size structure of the population, how many fish of a certain species are in a lake, understanding the male-to-female ratios, and how fast the fish are growing. The contemporary data are compared to longer-term trends to see if the population is stable, increasing, or decreasing.

### IMPORTANT DATA

Catching a bluegill is different than trying to corral a musky. Additionally, the types of data collected vary depending on the species of interest, and so does the type of gear used to sample the fish. Each year, the data collected help the DNR understand

and keep tabs on the ecology of the system. These surveys help evaluate angler impacts to a fishery, (e.g. selecting certain sizes of fish and species for harvest) as well as evaluate regulation changes, such as if a species rebounds or decreases after a new size or bag limit is implemented.

### SPRINGTIME NETTING AND TRACKING

After ice-off, fyke nets are used to sample adult northern pike, walleye, and musky populations. This gear takes advantage of these species’ life cycles and their affinity to patrol the nearshore habitats in the spring as they search for suitable spawning habitat and mates in the shallow water. The fish swim into a curtain of nets by entering through a series of funnels and are trapped in a holding area in the back of the net. The fish have plenty of room overnight and the nets are checked and emptied daily. Once in the boat, DNR fisheries staff record lengths and weights, and collect

age structures. Hard bony pieces of fins of fish can be read similar to tree rings, which tell how old the fish is and how fast it is growing.

Musky will get a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag, which is the same type of tag that is used to microchip a dog or cat. The PIT allows the DNR to track fish movement and growth at the individual level. External tags with unique serial numbers are sometimes used to accomplish the same goals. The DNR also collects genetic material to help understand the fish’s profile and how it differs across the state and in the Yahara Watershed for resident gamefish. Genetic tools have been recently used to help fisheries experts better understand stocked versus naturally reproduced northern pike in Greater Madison’s five lakes.

### SUMMER IS SHOCKING

Once the water temperature reaches 55 degrees, the majority of walleye, northern pike, and musky have completed their spawning efforts for the year and the focus switches to other popular gamefish like panfish (bluegills, yellow perch, black crappie), and largemouth and smallmouth bass. These species begin spawning when water temperatures are approximately 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit and are sampled using electrofishing boats and a three-person crew. One person drives the boat while the other two net stunned fish out of the water. While a lot of these species are caught in the fyke nets too, the electrofishing is specifically targeting adult spawning fish that are guarding nests – which are the ones anglers often target.

The boats used during electrofishing have many custom features including generators, a control box to regulate voltage and amperage, droppers to deliver the electricity to the water, and safety systems to keep staff safe and unelectrified. The electricity is closely monitored to ensure fish health. In ideal conditions, fish are momentarily drawn into the electric field and stunned just long enough for staff to scoop them up. Once the fish are placed into the holding tank onboard, they recover within seconds to minutes. The DNR collects similar data for these species as mentioned above for the predatory fish. At the end of each half-mile transect, all fish are released when the data collection is complete.

DNR fisheries survey  
reports for each lake in Wisconsin:  
[dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/fishing/reports](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/fishing/reports)

Below: Baby (young-of-year) bluegills, largemouth bass, yellow perch, and a black crappie being counted during a springtime electrofishing survey



Above: DNR fisheries crew conducting maxi-boom electrofishing survey on a northern Wisconsin lake

Below: DNR fyke net deployed on Lake Wingra designed to target adult spawning northern pike, musky, and walleye. Fish swim into the floating curtain in the background, through a series of tunnels, and eventually to the holding chamber in the foreground where DNR staff scoop them out to be measured, scanned, aged, counted, and released.



Below left: Cross-section of a walleye dorsal spine - the alternating dark and light bands help track age and growth

Below right: Yellow perch from Lake Mendota being measured



Below: Mini-boom electrofishing on a river in northern Wisconsin. This type of sampling is designed to get into shallow water and tight places, like when sampling the Yahara River.





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# YAHARA CHAIN OF LAKES: WATER LEVEL ORDERS & CHALLENGES

BY JOHN REIMER  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,  
DANE COUNTY LAND & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT



CASCADING FLOW

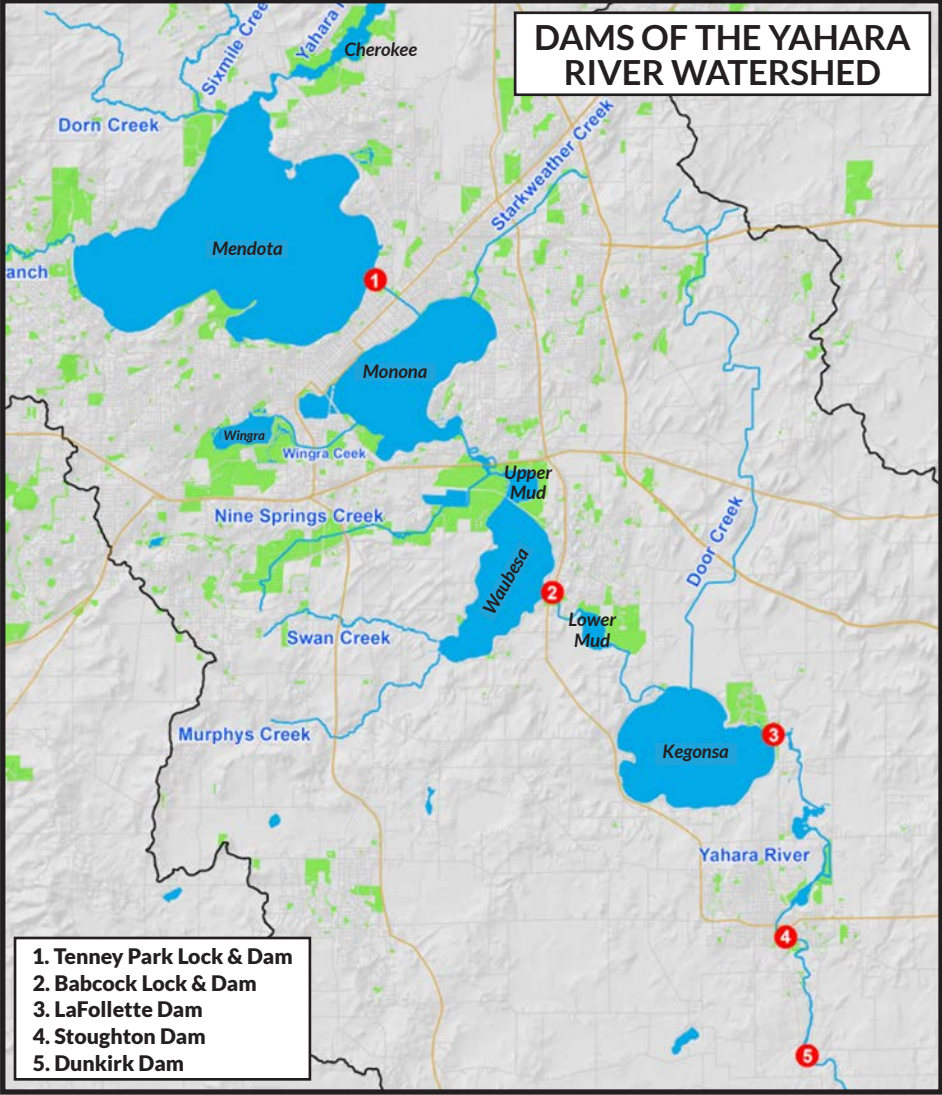
The Yahara River chain of lakes is made up of several "lakes," including Cherokee, Mendota, Monona, Upper Mud, Waubesa, Lower Mud, and Kegonsa (see map). The Yahara River inflow enters from the north and discharges into Lake Mendota through a narrow channel at the Highway 113 bridge. When storm events occur, large amounts of runoff enter Lake Mendota from the Yahara River. For example, in the summer of 2008, a large rain event produced peak flow of over 1,600 cubic feet per second (cfs), or about 12,000 gallons per second, entering Lake Mendota from the Yahara River. At Lake Mendota, the water level is controlled by Tenney Dam, which raised the original water level by 4.5 feet after its construction in 1847. Water released from Lake Mendota enters Lake Monona, travels through the uncontrolled river channel to Upper Mud Lake, and eventually reaches Lake Waubesa where the water level is controlled by Babcock Dam. Past the dam, water flows along the Lower Mud Lake river corridor and enters Lake Kegonsa. Finally the water level at Lake Kegonsa is controlled by the LaFollette Dam.

WATER LEVEL ORDERS

Water level orders were set by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 1979, establishing a summer maximum and minimum for lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, and Kegonsa. The summer orders establish a six-inch range on all lakes and seek to balance competing interests, such as navigation, flood control, fisheries, and recreation. The orders do not specify how to achieve water levels through the operation of the three dams. Thus in 2010 and updated in 2019, the Dane County Lake Level Management Guide for the Yahara chain of lakes was developed in consultation with experts, approved by the Lakes & Watershed Commission, and peer reviewed. The management guide is intended to provide guidance for lake managers such as in times of high lake levels.

FLOW BARRIERS

High lake levels caused by inefficient water delivery are often perceived by the public as failure to open the dams but are more often caused by flow limitations in the rivers and other factors. For example, in 2018, Babcock and LaFollette dams were wide open the entire year. However, flooding still occurred later that year. Several flow limitations in the Yahara River exist, such as narrow bridges, sediment deposits, and debris (tree trunks and boulders) which block flow. Also, the river slope between the lakes is nearly flat which moves water slowly through the river and out of the system. Under normal conditions, the change in water level between lakes Monona and Waubesa is 0.4 feet over 2 miles



DAMS OF THE YAHARA RIVER WATERSHED

DAM NAME	YEAR BUILT	PRIMARY WATERWAY	OWNER
1. Tenney Park Lock & Dam	1847 (Dam) 1904 (Locks)	Lake Mendota	Dane County LWRD
2. Babcock Lock & Dam	1938	Lakes Monona & Waubesa	Dane County LWRD
3. LaFollette Dam	1938	Lake Kegonsa	Dane County LWRD
4. Stoughton Dam	1843	Yahara River	City of Stoughton
5. Dunkirk Dam	1843	Yahara River	Dunkirk Dam Lake District

(0.004% slope). Aquatic plants restrict flow by creating friction to the moving water.

MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

During the 2018 flood, Dane County cut aquatic plants between lakes Waubesa and Kegonsa. The County obtained special permission from the Wisconsin DNR to conduct additional

harvesting in the Yahara River south of Lake Kegonsa, nearly doubling flow from approximately 400 to 900 cfs and helped minimize flooding. Other factors that contribute to flooding include increased runoff volumes due to urbanization, enhanced drainage of agricultural lands, wetland loss, and increases in the amount and intensity of rainfall. In order to combat these water volume challenges for the Yahara lakes, several actions are underway. Some examples of current actions being performed by Dane County to mitigate flooding are:

- Purchase of lands for prairie/wetland restorations
- Ordinance updates to improve storm water controls for construction of impervious surfaces
- Cost-share funds to municipalities for improving storm water runoff
- Cost-share programs to implement agriculture practices that improve water infiltration
- Increased aquatic plant cutting in the Yahara River
- Sediment removal in the Yahara River to improve flow

Learn more about Dane County  
Land & Water Resources  
lake level management:  
[lwrд.сountуofdane.com/lake-levels](http://lwrд.сountуofdane.com/lake-levels)



High water near the LaFollette Dam

WATER LEVELS BY LAKE  
(MEASURED IN FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL)

WATER LEVELS	MENDOTA	MONONA	WAUBESA	KEGONSA
Ordinary High Water Mark	850.70	845.82	845.67	841.85
Target Maximum	850.10	845.20	845.00	843.50
Target "Summer" Minimum (March 1 - October 30)	849.60	844.70	844.50	843.00
Target "Winter" Minimum (November 1 - February 28)	848.20	842.20	842.00	841.85



Tenney spillway, photo courtesy  
Dane County Land & Water  
Resources Department



# Partnership for the Environment

Foley values our continuing partnership with 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.

For more information about Foley, please contact:  
Paul Wrycha | Madison | [pwrycha@foley.com](mailto:pwrycha@foley.com)

[FOLEY.COM](https://www.foley.com)



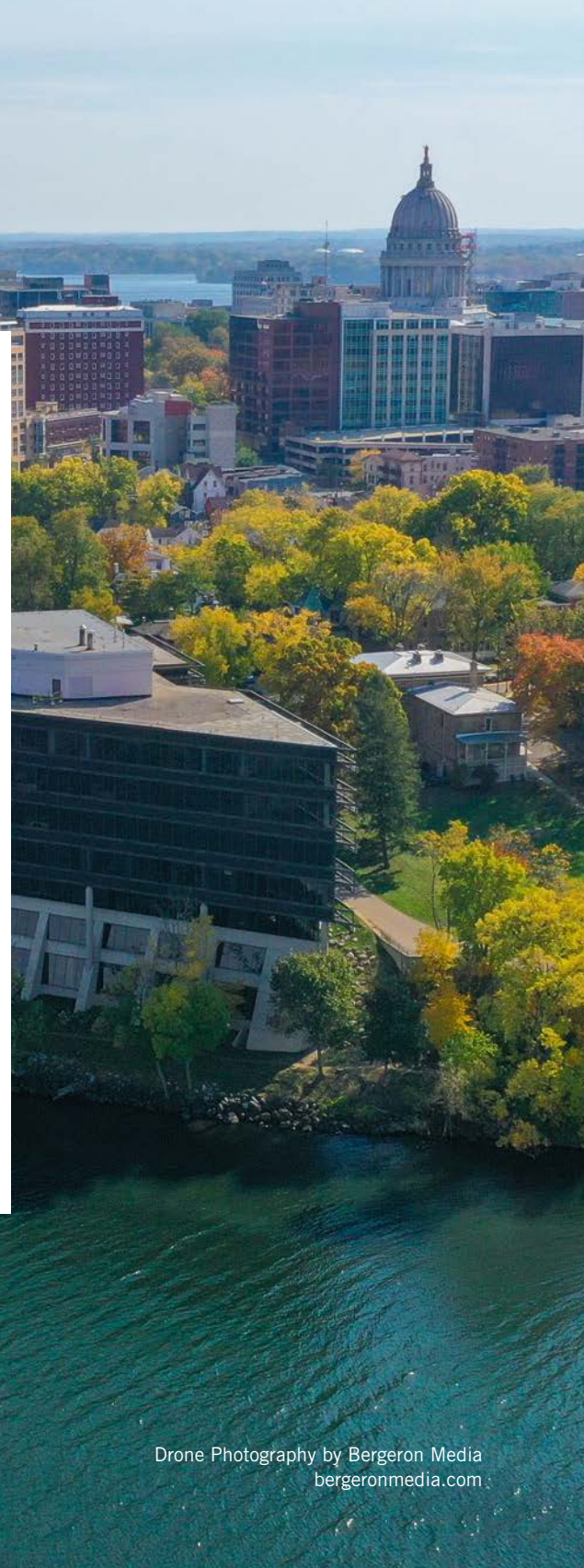
AUSTIN | BOSTON | BRUSSELS | CHICAGO | DALLAS | DENVER | DETROIT | HOUSTON | JACKSONVILLE  
LOS ANGELES | MADISON | MEXICO CITY | MIAMI | MILWAUKEE | NEW YORK | ORLANDO | SACRAMENTO  
SALT LAKE CITY | SAN DIEGO | SAN FRANCISCO | SILICON VALLEY | TALLAHASSEE | TAMPA | TOKYO | WASHINGTON, D.C.

**FOLEY**  
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP

# HAVE FUN WHILE SUPPORTING CLEAN LAKES

Through donations and events, Clean Lakes Alliance raises funds AND friends. Our vision is simple – we envision a community renowned for its healthy lakes, lands, and waters. Donations we receive help fund important lake improvement projects, community-wide educational programs, and our volunteer LakeForecast monitoring program.

We hope to see you at an upcoming Clean Lakes Alliance event where YOU can help support our lakes!  
To sponsor an event, please contact Development Director Alex Vitanye at [alex@cleanlakesalliance.org](mailto:alex@cleanlakesalliance.org).



Drone Photography by Bergeron Media  
[bergeronmedia.com](https://www.bergeronmedia.com)



## LOOP THE LAKE

Join more than 1,000 people in a family-friendly bike ride around Lake Monona. All entries receive a t-shirt compliments of Lands' End, a beverage courtesy of Wisconsin Distributors, and a food cart item. Kids 10 and under participate for free with a paid adult! Can't make it that day? Then join us virtually and run, bike, walk, or paddle anywhere!

WHEN: Saturday, June 17th at Olbrich Park  
REGISTER OR SPONSOR: [cleanlakesalliance.org/loop-the-lake](https://cleanlakesalliance.org/loop-the-lake)



## 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 3rd, 2024  
REGISTER OR SPONSOR:  
[cleanlakesalliance.org/frozen-assets](https://cleanlakesalliance.org/frozen-assets)



## FORE! LAKES GOLF OUTING

One of Greater Madison's premier golf events returns to Maple Bluff Country Club for a day of fun. Teams of four compete in a scramble on the course. Maple

Bluff Country Club helps the lakes by following a strict nutrient management plan. It mulches leaves, uses zero-phosphorus fertilizers, and partnered with the City of Madison and Village of Maple Bluff to build a pond to catch and filter stormwater runoff before it reaches Lake Mendota.

WHEN: Friday, September 22nd  
REGISTER OR SPONSOR:  
[cleanlakesalliance.org/fore-lakes-golf-outing](https://cleanlakesalliance.org/fore-lakes-golf-outing)



## 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 13th  
REGISTER OR SPONSOR:  
[cleanlakesalliance.org/surf-n-turf](https://cleanlakesalliance.org/surf-n-turf)





Clean Lakes 101 Science Café programs are held monthly at The Edgewater in Madison

## CLEAN LAKES 101 SCIENCE CAFÉ

Each month, Clean Lakes Alliance hosts educational events that are open to the public and free to Friend and Lake Partner donors. These monthly lectures are a great chance for lake enthusiasts to learn more about the science behind the issues impacting our lakes. Each month features a different expert to make the science accessible and interesting to technical and non-technical audiences alike.

Events are held at The Edgewater and also streamed live on Zoom. Attendees enjoy coffee, pastries, fruit, and free parking.

FOR INFORMATION ON DATES AND SPEAKERS:  
[cleanlakesalliance.org/clean-lakes-101](https://cleanlakesalliance.org/clean-lakes-101)

A special field trip edition of Clean Lakes 101 at the "Suck the Muck" site at Sixmile Creek with Dane County Land & Water Resources Department in August 2022



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\$29.95 first application offer available to new Bed Control customers with purchase of Bed Control program with prepay or autopay. Offer may be subject to bed square footage size restrictions, additional fees may apply. Cannot be combined with other offers or redeemed for cash value.



# What do you enjoy most about Lake Kegonsa State Park?



"It's beautiful. We like that it's not super busy and not overcrowded. Good place to get away and see nature."  
-Gabby Greenwald, Grace Greenwald, & Emma Hlavacek, Stoughton, WI

"I grew up a half of a mile away so I've been coming here most of my life. It's home. It's really an undiscovered gem. Wetlands, hills, it's just fantastic!"  
-Mike Lund, Stoughton, WI



"This is our first time here! It's nice. Lots of trees. Beautiful. Water is really nice."  
-Clark Conway, Shannon Mackey, & Baby Ellie, Janesville, WI



Photo: Lake Kegonsa State Park

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# Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge

BY ANN SHEA, MADISON PARKS PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Once in a generation there is an opportunity to transform a city's legacy. The Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge asked three award-winning design teams to create a new vision for Madison's connection to Lake Monona.

The Design Challenge is the result of decades of private advocacy and support. Through the efforts of volunteers, design professionals, stakeholder groups, and community leaders, the City approved funding for the development of a signature park master plan in 2018.

In 2019, the City of Madison Parks Division hired a multi-disciplinary consultant team to prepare a preliminary report for the Lake Monona Waterfront corridor. The initial study area focused on Law Park; a 4.7-acre green space that offers more than 2,500 feet of shoreline three blocks from the Capitol Square. In late 2019, with the John Nolen Drive Reconstruction Project identified, the study area expanded to include the John Nolen Drive causeway and northern portion of Olin Park. The unique opportunities and challenges of the project area required an approach beyond the standard master planning process.

As part of the Lake Monona Waterfront Project, the first step is choosing a design firm to create the Master Plan for the 1.7 miles

of lakefront. Over the last year, the City of Madison convened a committee of residents with a wide variety of backgrounds to facilitate the Lake Monona Waterfront Design Challenge, launched in early 2022. The primary goals of the Design Challenge include creating a welcoming destination, increasing physical and visual access to the lake, and improving Lake Monona's water quality and aquatic habitat, while celebrating Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural legacy in Madison, and preserving Lake Monona's cultural history from the Ho-Chunk Nation to the present day.

In the fall of 2022, the Ad-Hoc Committee selected three firms to compete for the final contract. On January 26, 2023, Agency Landscape + Planning, James Corner Field Operations, and Sasaki presented their designs to reimagine the lakefront to a crowd of more than 200 people at the Madison Central Library.

The proposals are bold statements incorporating nature, water, accessibility, and history. The designs focus on themes, such as Madison's historic connection to the lakes, connecting the community to the waterfront, sustainability and water quality, and creating public spaces that are welcoming for all. Learn more about the proposals, including introductory videos and design reports at:

[cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/lake-monona-waterfront-design-challenge](https://cityofmadison.com/parks/projects/lake-monona-waterfront-design-challenge)





Dane County Executive  
Joe Parisi

# A Message from Dane County

BY JOE PARISI, DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dane County continues to lead the way protecting our lakes, building bike trails, reducing emissions to slow climate change, and caring for our rural farmland. The work done by the Land and Water Resources Department is unrivaled by any county in Wisconsin and beyond. Our leadership on water quality, conservation, and outdoor recreation is exemplary and should be the standard bearer for any community that prioritizes our precious air, water, and land for current and future generations.

### MANURE TREATMENT PLANT

Community manure treatment is a priority action identified in the 2022 report, *RENEW THE BLUE: A Community Guide for Cleaner Lakes and Beaches in the Yahara Watershed*, which was developed by a coalition of partners including Clean Lakes Alliance, Dane County, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, Dane County Cities & Villages Association, Dane County Towns Association, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, and 13 other organizations. I've included \$3 million in funding in the County's 2023 budget for feasibility work and acquisition of a site to develop a commercial scale manure treatment facility. There are tens of thousands of cows in the Lake Mendota Watershed that produce hundreds of millions of gallons of manure each year. Manure spread during the winter onto frozen land spurs phosphorus delivery to area lakes. At least 50% of the annual total phosphorus load into our lakes comes in late winter and early spring. Reducing winter spreading will help decrease the phosphorus load. We have ways as a society to manage human waste at a community-wide scale. If we apply the same principles to animal waste we can substantively move the dial on cleaning these lakes in a way never previously conceived as possible.

Such a project will require millions of dollars in public investment over the next few years, but it's clear we need a grander scale solution to address the challenge at hand if we want to reach our phosphorus runoff reduction goals. Some of the most highly productive farmlands in Dane County exist within the headwaters and watersheds of its most sensitive rivers and lakes. Agriculture is an enormous part of Dane County's economy, and the community values its farms. This manure processing plant will provide yet another way to keep multi-generational family farms farming while dramatically reducing phosphorus runoff.

Manure digester facility in Middleton - anaerobic digester tanks, solar panels, manure storage, Solids Processing Building, Nutrient Concentration Building, and RNG Processing Building are visible



### SUCK THE MUCK

Our ground-breaking clean lakes program "Suck the Muck" is now going on its sixth year of cleaning miles of streambeds to prevent one of the causes of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) we see in our lakes. We've removed 180,000 pounds of phosphorus and 56,000 tons of sludge from four miles of Dorn, Token, and Sixmile creeks. In 2023, I've allocated \$2 million to next tackle phosphorus-laden muck in Door Creek.

### CONTINUOUS COVER INITIATIVE

We also know that where we prioritize conservation and restoration we contribute greatly to our goal of reducing carbon emissions. Since 2019, our Continuous Cover Program has converted nearly

2,000 acres into pastures for grazing, native prairies, and pollinator habitats. Those lands alone have helped trap 800 tons of carbon dioxide and stopped the flow of more than 15 million gallons of phosphorus loaded rain runoff from racing toward our lakes.

### YAHARA RIVER SEDIMENT REMOVAL

Our flood-risk reduction dredging within the Yahara River continues to progress and we are on track by the end of this year to have removed more than 40 million gallons of debris and dirt that contributed to our lakes rising faster from the heavy rains caused by climate change. In just a couple of short years we have removed the equivalent of 13,400 dump trucks of built-up sludge.

Manure digester facility in Middleton - anaerobic digester tanks, solar panels, and stormwater basin shown







# 2022 STATE OF THE LAKES



Yahara River and agricultural land (foreground), Lake Kegonsa (background), October 2022  
Photo courtesy Robert Bertera





# 2022 STATE OF THE LAKES

Initiated by Clean Lakes Alliance in 2013, the *State of the Lakes* provides an annual synopsis of conditions, trends, and water quality drivers affecting the five Yahara lakes (Mendota, Monona, Wingra, Waubesa, and Kegonsa). This yearly report distills the relevant science while drawing attention to major efforts reported by community partners working toward cleaner lakes and a healthier watershed.

While authored by Clean Lakes Alliance Deputy Director and Chief Science Officer Paul Dearlove, all findings and conclusions are a product of collaboration involving multiple governmental partners and scientific contributors. We especially thank the following organizations and individuals for their data and analytical contributions to this 2022 *State of the Lakes*: UW-Madison Center for Limnology (Richard Lathrop), UW-Madison Departments of Agronomy and Civil & Environmental Engineering (Eric Booth), U.S. Geological Survey (Todd Stuntebeck and Matthew Diebel), Dane County Land & Water Resources Department (Kyle Minks), Public Health Madison & Dane County, and Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts.

Welcome to the 10-year-anniversary edition of the *State of the Lakes*. Along with the original release of the *Yahara CLEAN Strategic Action Plan for Phosphorus Reduction* (2012), Clean Lakes Alliance has brought key implementation partners together to collaborate on advancing recommended actions and tracking our collective progress. Yearly updates are then reported as part of this annual snapshot, raising public awareness about the health of our waters and the major factors driving those conditions.

A lot can happen over a decade: floods, droughts, major project completions, new research discoveries and understandings, technological advancements, land-use change, and even aquatic invasive species infestations (see pages 66-67 for a Clean Boats, Clean Waters program update). The list goes on and on. Like canaries in a coal mine, our lakes respond to these changes in good ways and bad, signaling what is working and where we might be falling short on the path to improvement. While some of these lake responses can unfold quickly, others can take years to materialize.

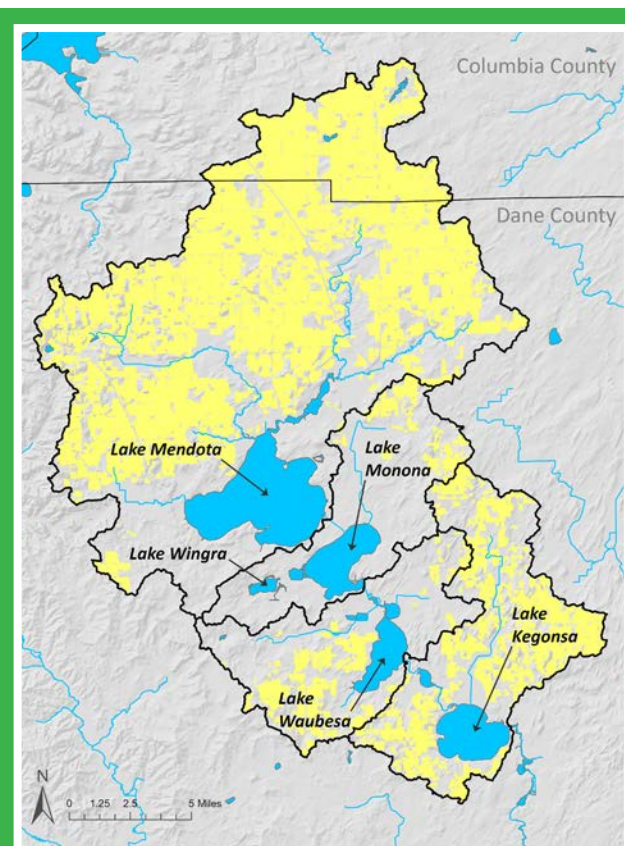
Now, after 10 years of implementing the action plan, a fully updated and amended version is steering our collective efforts. Called *RENEW THE BLUE: A Community Guide for Cleaner Lakes & Beaches in the Yahara Watershed* (2022), this latest body of work by the Yahara CLEAN Compact recalibrates the roadmap for achieving healthy waters. Its recent signing by the leaders of 19 partnering organizations is a credit to the power of shared values, science-based planning, and broadly inclusive participation in solution-making. (See page 56 for early examples of leadership around recommended actions.)



In 2022, the Yahara chain of lakes generally fared well. Comparatively less runoff and phosphorus pollution were aided by a span of unusually dry weather and the continued adoption of conservation practices across the watershed. These factors, along with others, contributed to mostly good water clarity, fewer cyanobacteria-bloom sightings, and a lower number of beach closures.

## IMPACT ZONE

Our Yahara chain of lakes lies within the lower reaches of a 385-square-mile watershed, a land-drainage basin beginning at the southern edge of Columbia County and extending south through much of Dane County, including Wisconsin's capital city of Madison. Precipitation falling over this land area either soaks into the ground or runs off and into a network of streams or storm sewers toward the lower-elevation lakes.



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

Water that is able to soak into the ground recharges groundwater which feeds springs, providing dry-weather “baseflow” to streams or direct springwater to the lakes. The lakes collect and temporarily hold the inflowing surface and ground water before it exits the Yahara lakes watershed and continues its journey through the Yahara River and into the Rock River near the southern edge of Dane County. The water then enters the Mississippi River where it is sent to the Gulf of Mexico.

The largest four of the five waterbodies—lakes Mendota, Monona, Waubesa, and Kegonsa (in downstream order)—are interconnected by the Yahara River. Figure 1 shows the Yahara lakes watershed divided into smaller subwatersheds, also called subbasins or direct drainage areas, that funnel water to a specific waterbody.

Lake Mendota's comparatively large, direct drainage area is predominantly agricultural while Lake Monona's is mostly urban. Lake Waubesa's is a mix of urban and agricultural, whereas Lake Kegonsa's is predominantly agricultural. The much smaller and shallower Lake Wingra, which drains east to Lake Monona, is contained within an entirely urbanized subbasin. Together, these subbasins gather and direct surface water that then moves from one lake into the next.

The time it takes each lake to completely cycle through its volume of water ranges from 4.3 years for deeper Lake Mendota to only 2.8 months for shallower, downstream Lake Waubesa. These flushing rates for each lake increase during wet, high-runoff years and decrease during drought years.

The five Yahara lakes have a complex relationship with their surrounding watershed. Much has been learned about this relationship and the land conditions needed to sustain it. But because many variables are at play (i.e., climate, geology, soil health, land cover, land use, lake ecology, etc.), teasing out the precise causes of water quality change can often prove complicated. And because the lakes themselves exhibit their own unique characteristics, each lake can behave somewhat differently in response to internal (in-lake) and external (watershed) influences.

## ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

This report looks at five, interconnected areas of interest that represent vital pieces of the larger water quality puzzle (Figure 2). Progress-tracking metrics include a combination of outputs (i.e., actions taken, or areas affected) and outcomes (measured water quality responses), with phosphorus management as a central theme given its dominant role in generating algal growth. In general, we track phosphorus and its impact on algal abundance, water clarity, and beach closures, factors that influence the perception of water quality and the recreational suitability of the lakes.

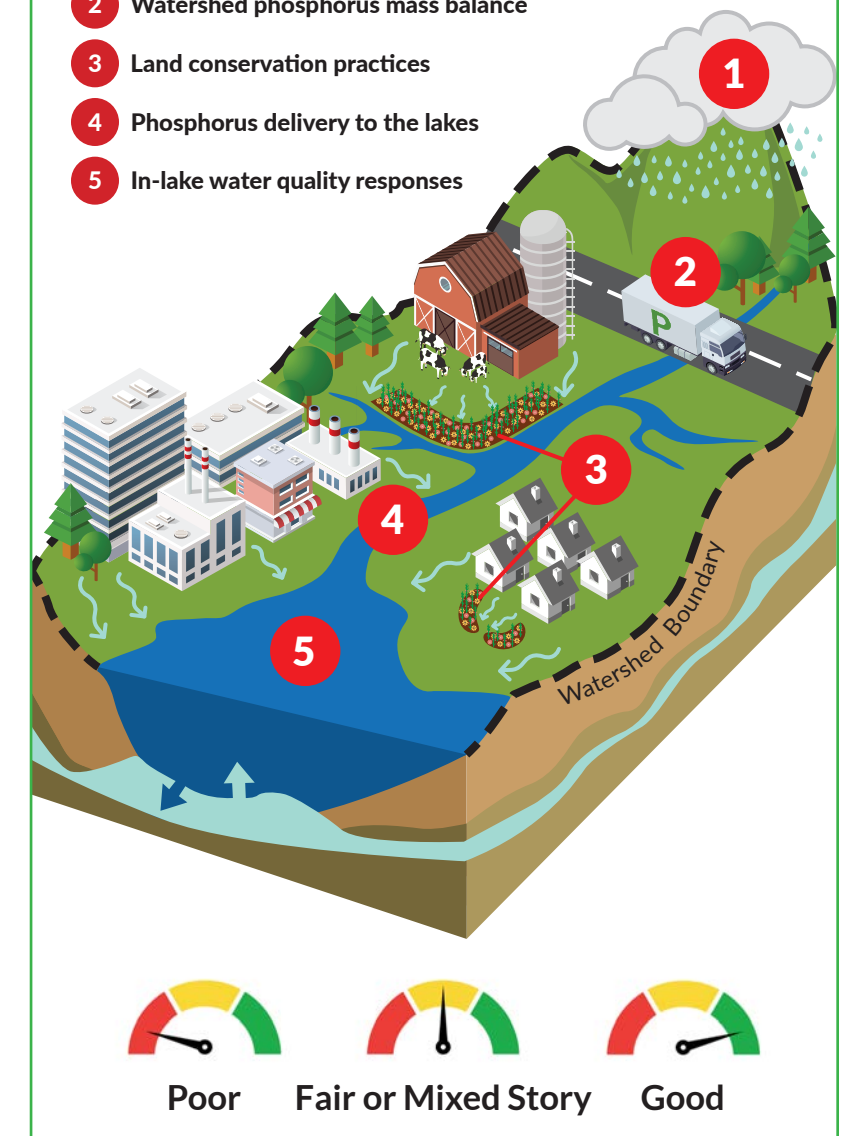
## WHY PHOSPHORUS?

Too much phosphorus harms water quality and turns the lakes green. It can be found in fertilizers (note: phosphorus lawn 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.

Whenever applicable, the 2022 condition status is described relative to a particular water quality goal or target. Status is also compared to historical findings to provide context and reveal potential trends. This allows us to make more informed judgements regarding lake conditions, the possible factors affecting those conditions, and the overall state of progress toward our goals. Finally, each of the five areas of analysis is assigned two, color-based “scores,” one for 2022 status and one for the longer-term trend.

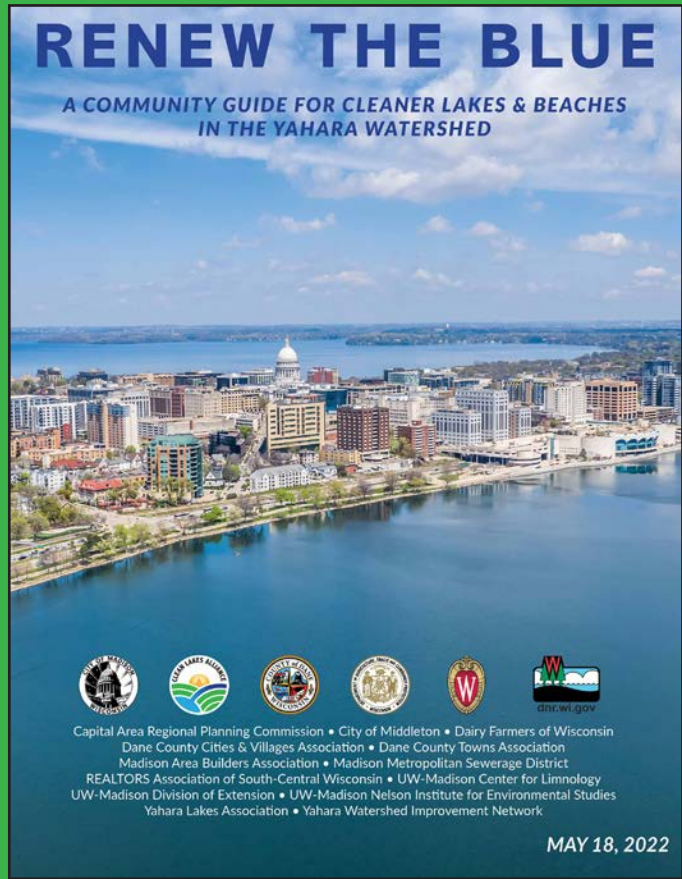
## AREAS OF ANALYSIS

- 1 Weather and climate drivers
- 2 Watershed phosphorus mass balance
- 3 Land conservation practices
- 4 Phosphorus delivery to the lakes
- 5 In-lake water quality responses



**Figure 2:** Cross-section illustration of an example watershed showing five areas of analysis. Example scoring dials represent condition status and trend for each area of analysis.





TOP DIRECT-IMPACT ACTIONS
1. <b>Build additional manure-processing capacity.</b> 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. <b>Increase the ability to handle and transport manure.</b> 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. <b>Increase farmland acres guided by a nutrient management plan.</b> Use plans to improve operational decision-making, ensure the most efficient use of costly nutrient inputs, and reduce the risk of phosphorus loss.
4. <b>Increase farmland acres under no-till (or reduced tillage) and continuous living cover.</b> 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. <b>Increase municipal street-cleaning miles and frequency during fall.</b> Regularly remove leaf litter from streets to prevent rainwater-leached phosphorus from entering storm sewer systems.
6. <b>Protect internally drained lands and wetlands.</b> 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. <b>Increase green-infrastructure installations in parks, new developments, and on existing residential and commercial properties.</b> 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 direct-impact actions from *Renew the Blue* stakeholder-action guide

# RENEW THE BLUE

As we move forward with *Renew the Blue*, several initiatives are already underway to improve our watershed.

## DANE COUNTY

- Laying the groundwork to quadruple its manure-treatment capabilities (see story page 50)
  - Expanded the Door Creek Wildlife Area by 128 acres near Lower Mud Lake while budgeting another \$10M for future land acquisitions
  - Launched the next phase of “Suck the Muck” to excavate legacy phosphorous from area streambeds, removing an estimated 25,000 tons of sediment from Sixmile Creek north of Lake Mendota
- ## CITY OF MADISON
- Adopted a first-of-its-kind ordinance requiring that excessive residual salt be removed from public sidewalks (not specifically addressed in *Renew the Blue*, but important for protecting vulnerable aquatic life)
  - Created its third, permeable-pavement street near Midvale Elementary School to better infiltrate runoff
  - Increased native plant diversity in stormwater-treatment systems, improving runoff infiltration and pollinator habitat

## YAHARA WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT NETWORK (YAHARA WINS)

- Significantly increasing financial support to farmer-led groups working to grow participation and the cost sharing of eligible conservation practices like manure composting

## TOWN OF WESTPORT

- Strengthened its stormwater and erosion-control ordinance following *Renew the Blue* guidelines
- Purchased and permanently protected 105 acres of conservation land stretching from Governor Nelson State Park to State Highway 113 on the north side of Lake Mendota

## MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT

- Deploying low-disturbance biosolid injection to better protect soils while limiting erosion and phosphorus runoff on participating farms

## NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL REALTORS' ASSOCIATIONS

- Financially contributing to a Clean Lakes Alliance-commissioned study quantifying the economic value and impact of the Yahara lakes (important for building awareness and action)

## FRIENDS OF LAKE KEGONSA SOCIETY (FOLKS)

- Initiated expanded phosphorus monitoring around Lake Kegonsa to help pinpoint problem areas
- Continued fall leaf vacuuming around the lake in cooperation with the City of Stoughton, Town of Dunn, and Town of Pleasant Springs



Flooding at Governor's Island on Lake Mendota in 2018

## 1. WEATHER & CLIMATE DRIVERS



Weather variability and longer-term climate trends impact our lakes in many ways. For example, the timing and intensity of rainfall and snowmelt largely dictate how much runoff reaches the lakes and what it can carry along the way. Rain during a mild winter over frozen ground produces more runoff than if the rain fell during the summer when plants are actively growing. And while wetter years can transport more pollutants as surface runoff through the watershed’s drainage system and into the lakes, droughts will have the opposite effect.

Long-term climatological data show a region that is getting wetter and warmer. According to the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI), the last two decades have been the warmest on record, and the past decade has been the wettest, with average annual precipitation increasing 17 percent (about five inches per year) since 1950.

Increasing rainfall volume and intensity represent an unwelcome trend that can negatively affect the performance of many conservation practices. In addition, warmer winters are leading to greater runoff and phosphorus delivery as liquid precipitation falls across frozen soils, especially where winter manure spreading occurs. The longer-term precipitation trend finally broke in 2021 and the first half of 2022. As a result of this short drought period, less surface runoff occurred, causing total phosphorus delivery to be lower than normal. This contributed to lake conditions that were generally more favorable. It speaks to the lakes’ responsiveness to reduced, external (watershed-sourced) phosphorus inputs and the rationale behind reduction goals.

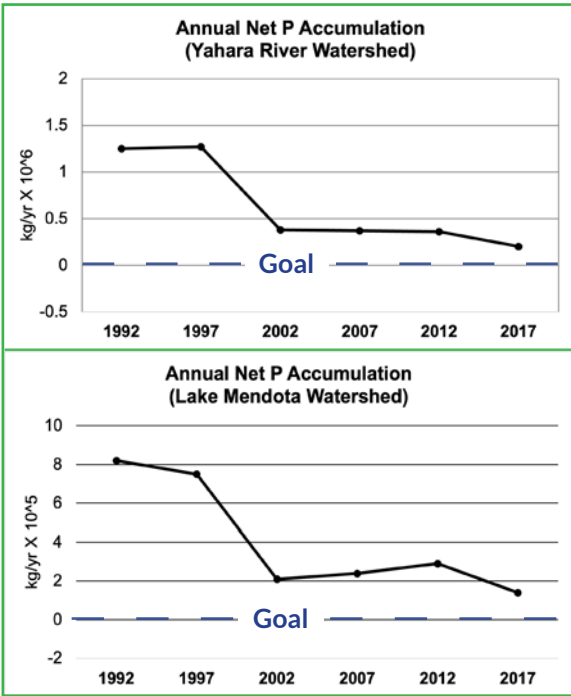
## 2. WATERSHED PHOSPHORUS MASS BALANCE



Calculating the difference between the mass of phosphorus entering (imported into) and leaving (exported from) the watershed tells us whether the net balance is trending in the right direction. The goal is to attain a negative balance, indicating more phosphorus is being exported than imported on an annual basis. This situation reduces the overall availability and potential of phosphorus to reach area waterways.

Conversely, a positive balance points to an annual net accumulation of phosphorus in the watershed, usually leading to its gradual buildup in area soils. Phosphorus-saturated soils subject to erosion from farm tillage or a lack of protective, year-round plant cover can eventually end up at the bottom of nearby lakes and streams. Phosphorus is also more easily “leached” (or released in dissolved form) from such soils when in contact with rainwater and snowmelt. Dane County’s stream-dredging project, commonly referred to as “Suck the Muck,” is designed to remove this sediment-bound phosphorus that has accumulated in stream channels.

According to Eric Booth, author of *Phosphorus Flows and Balances for the Lake Mendota and Yahara River Watersheds: 1992-2017*, there was a notable decline in annual net phosphorus accumulation over the study period, but with plenty of room for continued improvement (Figure 3). The study looked at how much phosphorus in animal feed, fertilizer, and other phosphorus sources was imported annually into each watershed compared to how much phosphorus was leaving through the export of crops, livestock products, manure compost, and stream outflow. The difference between inputs and outputs is the change in storage or mass balance for the given watershed.



**Figure 3: Watershed phosphorus mass balances in the Yahara River (top) and Lake Mendota (bottom) Watersheds.** See Figure 1 for the Lake Mendota Watershed, located in the northern portion of the larger Yahara lakes watershed. Research credit: Eric Booth, Ph.D., Associate Scientist, UW-Madison Department of Agronomy and Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

The most precipitous decline, observed between 1997 and 2002, is attributed to a decrease in imported commercial fertilizer and less phosphorus-containing feed supplements consumed by livestock. However, a growth in livestock numbers and milk production beginning in 2002 caused earlier declines to flatten or reverse, even masking the positive effects of advanced phosphorus-management and removal strategies implemented by the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District. While bans on phosphorus-containing lawn fertilizers (2005) and household detergents (2007) helped to moderate these livestock-production impacts, it was the start of Dane County-subsidized manure digestion and associated compost export (2012) that saw accumulation rates begin to once again trend downward for both watersheds.



Booth explains that not all phosphorus accumulation is the same. The amount of risk depends on where it is accumulating and how "slippery" it is on land. He points out that the watershed is a leaky system and phosphorus tends to move around. "Reducing the transport of that slippery phosphorus from land to water is a key strategy. While many are working diligently on this through various conservation practices, we also need to treat the strategy of reducing phosphorus accumulation as an equal complement," said Booth. "If phosphorus accumulation is not addressed, it will pose a long-term risk to water quality and can frustrate future efforts."

3. LAND CONSERVATION PRACTICES



According to the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI), the combination of warmer winters, wetter springs, and extreme weather events is impacting agricultural production throughout the state and overwhelming conservation practices designed to keep soil in place and protect water quality. WICCI's latest report recommends regenerative adaptations that build landscape resiliency. Examples include preserving and increasing grasslands and natural vegetation by limiting their conversion to row-crop production or urban development; planting more cover crops on farm fields; and raising livestock on rotationally-grazed pastures.

Considerable progress has been achieved to-date with the adoption of conservation practices throughout the watershed, including among many of those listed on page 56. Thanks to the ongoing leadership and support of many governmental, nonprofit, and private-sector partners, the cumulative effect of these actions is largely holding the line against several growing headwinds described in this report.

One example of a practice making a big difference comes from Kyle Minks of the Dane County Land & Water Resources Department. He reports the continued increase of farmland acreage under nutrient management plans. This tool is used by agricultural producers to understand how on-farm operational decisions can improve efficiencies while minimizing soil and phosphorus loss. Based on landowner records filed with the County (an under-representation of the total amount of watershed acres under nutrient management planning), 40,547 out of roughly 97,000 agricultural acres in the Yahara lakes watershed were mapped as



Highland Spring Farm in Oregon, WI uses rotational grazing with its Scottish Highland cattle

having a nutrient management plan in 2021 – a 25% increase over numbers mapped in 2016. Dane County is also actively working to significantly expand manure-processing capacity in the watershed, among other water quality-improvement initiatives. If successful, the increased manure treatment will help address a primary source of phosphorus pollution to the lakes, especially during late winter and early spring when manure spreading is most susceptible to runoff.

4. PHOSPHORUS DELIVERY TO THE LAKES



When phosphorus accumulates in the watershed, it is easier for it to build up in area soils where it puts local waterways at risk. Most phosphorus is delivered to the Yahara chain of lakes through tributary streams that collect and channel upland-generated runoff as it moves downhill. How much is transported depends on multiple factors. The seasonal timing and intensity of runoff events, the location and availability of major phosphorus sources, and measures taken to contain those sources and manage runoff all affect the delivery process.

Stream monitoring may be used to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation practices by tracking phosphorus loading. Loading describes the total mass of phosphorus delivered to a specific location in a stream over time. In our case, we characterize loading in pounds of phosphorus (calculated by multiplying in-stream concentrations by streamflow) delivered through Lake Mendota's monitored stream tributaries in a given water year (Oct. 1 – Sep. 30).

**LAKE MENDOTA:  
BELLWEATHER 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 outlets of the upper lakes as it cascades through the system.



Pheasant Branch Creek flowing into the west side of Lake Mendota, courtesy Robert Bertera

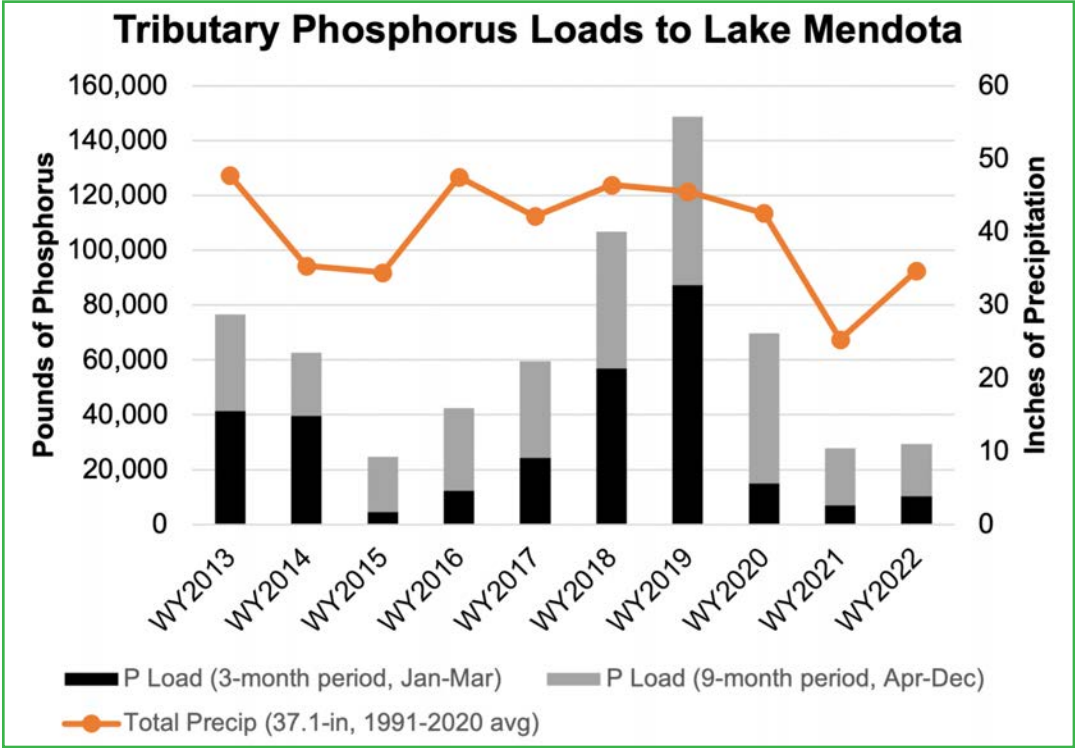
Figure 4 shows the change in stream-monitored phosphorus loading to Lake Mendota since 2013. Total precipitation is also plotted in orange to distinguish between wet and dry years. In both 2021 and 2022, phosphorus loading to Lake Mendota significantly declined. This was largely due to recent drier weather after years of above-average precipitation, reducing the amount of runoff and phosphorus delivery.

Based on the most recent 10 years of phosphorus loading data, there is a 56% gap between the annual average load to Lake

Mendota over this period and the goal of 32,600 pounds per year. Scientists estimate a doubling of summer days when the lakes are clear and free of algal blooms if this lower average loading goal can be achieved. However, this objective remains elusive due to the increasing volume of runoff and streamflow from a wetter climate that is bringing more phosphorus into the lakes.

"The good news is that if runoff and streamflow volumes had not changed, modeling indicates a significant decline in phosphorus loadings would have occurred over the last 30 years. This is due,

in part, to increased adoption of conservation practices that have decreased the concentration of phosphorus in runoff," said Matt Diebel of the U.S. Geological Survey and former chair of the Yahara CLEAN Compact's scientific advisory committee. In other words, the long-term trend of wetter weather and increased runoff is counteracting the positive effects of these practices under their current rate of adoption.



**Figure 4: Phosphorus loading through Lake Mendota's monitored stream tributaries relative to total precipitation.** Monitored streams include Pheasant Branch Creek, Dorn Creek, Sixmile Creek, and Yahara River at Windsor. January to March (shown as black bars) is historically the 3-month period of highest phosphorus delivery to the lakes. Phosphorus-loading data credit: Todd Stuntebeck, U.S. Geological Survey. Precipitation data credit: NOAA Regional Climate Center, Dane County Regional Airport



5. IN-LAKE WATER QUALITY RESPONSES



Several in-lake metrics are used to assess overall lake health and track changes over time. Those metrics include water clarity, phosphorus concentration, presence of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) blooms, and beach closures. Each is summarized below. Generally, most of the lakes fared relatively well in 2022. Lake Kegonsa, the shallowest and most downstream lake in the chain, was the exception with respect to median phosphorus concentration, nearshore clarity, and cyanobacteria bloom sightings.

Mid-Lake Clarity & Phosphorus Concentrations

Water clarity readings are taken by lowering a Secchi disk from the surface over the deepest point in each lake. The depth at which the disk can no longer be seen is known as its Secchi transparency. As shown in Figure 5, summer median clarity values in 2022 were indicative of "good" water quality conditions in lakes Monona, Wingra, and Kegonsa. Summer clarity was borderline "good" in Lake Mendota and "fair" in Lake Waubesa.

Because the amount of algal growth in the lakes is usually influenced by the availability of phosphorus as its main fuel source, clarity changes often mirror changes in phosphorus concentrations. In the case of Lake Wingra, the continuation of favorable water clarity may likely be attributed to a major carp-removal effort in March of 2008. The non-native carp stir up the lake bottom and uproot aquatic plants through their feeding behaviors.

In 2022, summer median phosphorus concentrations were indicative of "good" to "excellent" conditions for lakes Mendota, Monona and Wingra (Figure 6). The lakes lower in the chain did not fare as well, with Waubesa classified as "fair" and Kegonsa as "poor." According to Richard Lathrop of the UW-Madison Center for Limnology, "Lake Kegonsa's concentrations were very high with dissolved phosphorus elevated way above analytical detection. This means summer algal growth in the lake was not limited by how much phosphorus was available. In contrast, the upstream lakes, including shallow lakes Wingra and Waubesa, had undetectable levels of dissolved phosphorus as algae effectively utilized available supplies."

Recent drought years continue to have a positive effect on in-lake phosphorus concentrations. Lake Mendota's concentrations after

fall turnover hit a record low in 2022, a consequence of less runoff and external phosphorus loading (Figure 7). Turnover occurs when deeper lakes cool to the point where the water column can completely mix, usually around early November. This seasonal phosphorus index is thought to offer a better estimate of Lake Mendota's phosphorus status. During turnover, high phosphorus concentrations accumulating in the lake's bottom waters are mixed throughout the lake.

Fall turnover phosphorus concentrations were also low in 1988 and 2012 following those extended droughts. "This is good evidence that Lake Mendota's phosphorus status declines when external loads are low with benefits that should cascade down through the lower Yahara lakes," said Lathrop. He says this shows the lakes can respond quickly and positively when phosphorus inputs are reduced. In addition, he points to 2008 and 2018-19 as high-loading years after which Lake Mendota's phosphorus status quickly recovered. This reveals that internal (in-lake) loading does not continue to maintain the lake's high phosphorus concentrations.

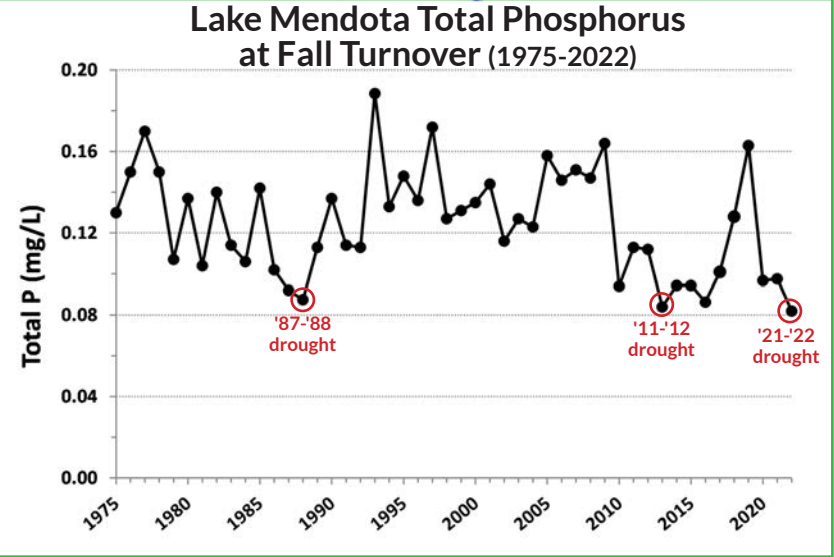


Figure 7: Lake Mendota total phosphorus concentrations at fall turnover measured at the lake surface. Credit: Richard Lathrop, UW-Madison Center for Limnology

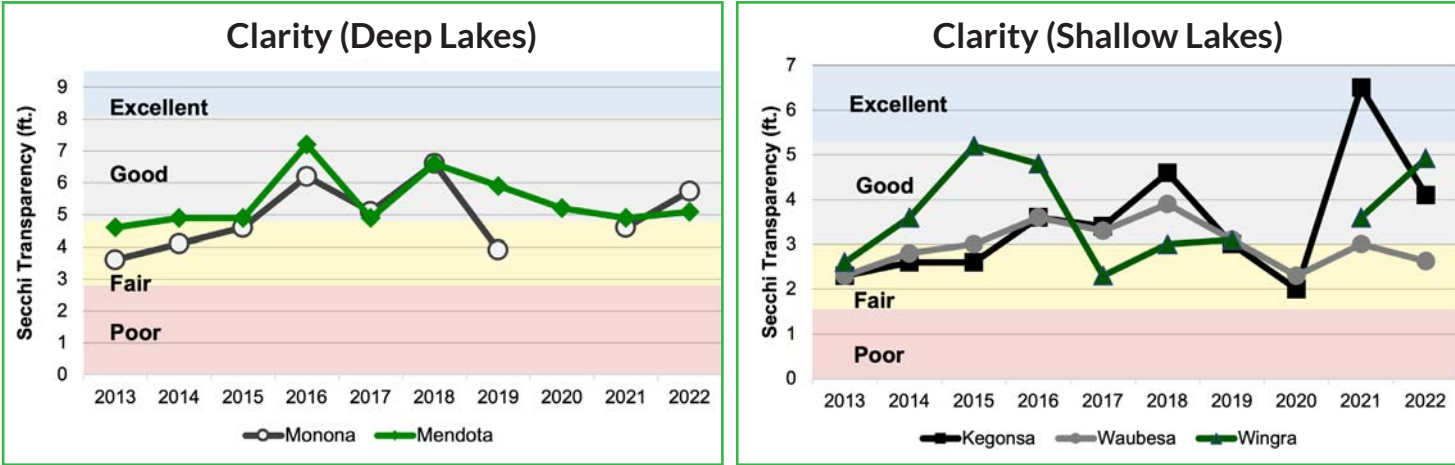


Figure 5: Median summer (Jul-Aug) water clarity readings and corresponding water quality classifications by lake type. Notes: Water clarity information was not available for Lake Monona and Lake Wingra in 2020. Water quality classifications based on Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' criteria. Data credit: Richard Lathrop, UW-Madison Center for Limnology

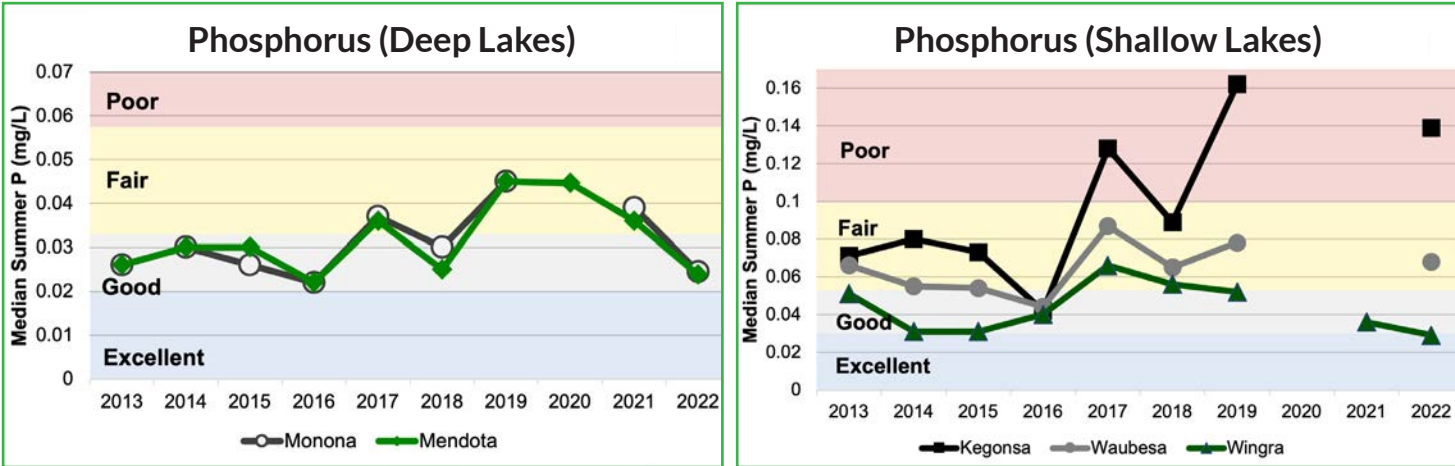


Figure 6: Median summer (Jul-Aug) phosphorus concentrations and corresponding water quality classifications by lake type. Notes: Phosphorus sampling was not performed in lakes Kegonsa, Waubesa, and Wingra in 2020, and in lakes Kegonsa and Waubesa in 2021. Water quality classifications based on Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' criteria. Data credit: Richard Lathrop, UW-Madison Center for Limnology



Clear water on the southeast shoreline of Lake Monona shows a lake-mixing phenomenon known as langmuir circulation. The windrows of white foam show where upwelling is occurring as a result of wind-driven mixing.



# LAKEFORECAST MONITORING

Clean Lakes Alliance’s volunteer water quality monitoring program continues to thrive as we enter our 11th year of water sampling. This program relies on the power and passion of trained volunteers to submit real-time water quality information to our free app, LakeForecast, so lake users can be informed about the conditions of their favorite beaches across the five Yahara lakes.

In 2022, Clean Lakes Alliance utilized 96 monitors to cover 87 nearshore and seven offshore locations throughout the watershed, including all 25 public beaches in the area.

Volunteers begin every summer with training on how to measure turbidity (an indicator of water clarity), water temperature, waterfowl presence (a source of *E. coli* bacteria), and perhaps most important, the presence of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae). Cyanobacteria can have detrimental effects on human and pet health, as well as aquatic life.

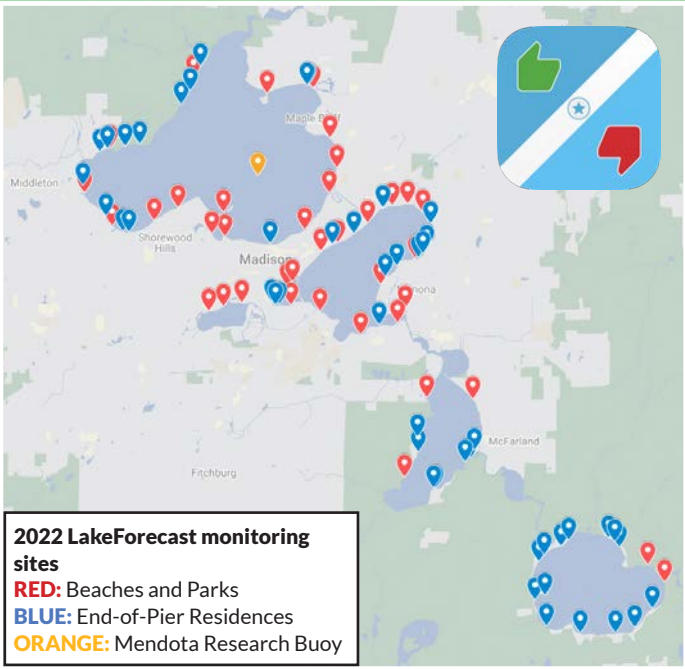
The purpose of the LakeForecast water quality monitoring program is not only to gather useful information on the state of our lakes, but also to let community members know when our lakes are safe to enjoy through beach-closure reports. Learn more about what Clean Lakes Alliance is doing to gather more data specifically on cyanobacteria blooms below.

## BLOOMOPTIX

There are certain visual clues that indicate a cyanobacteria bloom: murky, sometimes stinky, floating scum that looks like paint spilled across the surface of the water. But it is incredibly difficult to determine what specific strains and concentrations of bacteria are causing the blooms just by looking at it with the naked eye. For that, microscopes and lab analysis are needed which can be cumbersome, time sensitive, and costly.

To make this process more accessible, companies like BloomOptix are working to create software that use microscopic images taken of harmful algal blooms (HABs) to determine what types of cyanobacteria are present in a more timely, cost-effective manner. Clean Lakes Alliance partnered with BloomOptix in the summers of 2021 and 2022 to be a part of their HABAlert Pilot Program to grow their stock of algal bloom images that helps the software to fine-tune itself.

Clean Lakes Alliance-trained volunteers from our LakeForecast program used pocket-sized microscopes to take photos of algal blooms they noticed at their monitoring sites. These images were then uploaded to the BloomOptix app to determine what strains and quantities of bacteria were present during various algal bloom events. This information is helpful as lake managers, researchers, and other interested parties look to find solutions. The HABAlert Pilot Program aims to be a resource for any entity wanting to learn more about their local blooms. The more information we can gather, the more we can move forward in mitigating these beach-closing phenomena in the first place.



Lake	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Median (2015-2022)
Mendota	84.7	95.7	89.7	95	92.4	92.9	80.7	87.8	92.4
Monona	94.5	100.6	100	102.8	82.5	92.6	84.1	101.6	94.5
Wingra	107.3	102.8	70.5	81.5	75.1	100.9	102	111.3	100.9
Waubesa	90.4	95.5	91	99	85.5	86.2	80	82.35	90.4
Kegonsa	85.7	77.5	85.6	78.6	84.7	67.7	79.2	78.9	79.2

Table1: Average nearshore clarity on each lake relative to the eight-year median.  
Note: Units shown in centimeters as measured by a 120-cm turbidity tube.

## Nearshore Clarity & Cyanobacteria Blooms

Clean Lakes Alliance trains and coordinates a network of volunteer monitors who also track water quality changes as part of its LakeForecast program (page 62). In 2022, monitors submitted 2,094 lake-condition reports. The bulk of these reports provide real-time information on the status of nearshore areas where most people interact with the water. Clarity, water temperature, and cyanobacteria bloom evidence are among the water quality parameters evaluated. The data complement center-of-the-lake measurements, painting a more complete picture of how conditions can vary over time and space.

Volunteer monitor reports indicated a relatively good year for the lakes for nearshore clarity and cyanobacteria bloom evidence, except for Lake Kegonsa that had an above-average number of bloom sightings (Figure 8). Lakes Mendota, Monona, and Waubesa had some of the lowest reports of strong cyanobacteria blooms since LakeForecast monitoring began in 2013. For the first time since 2014, Lake Mendota lasted the entire season without a single

report of a strong cyanobacteria bloom. Lake Wingra had only one day of strong cyanobacteria presence reported in early July. In stark contrast to the other Yahara lakes, Lake Kegonsa volunteers reported strong blooms on 31% of all sample days (May-September).

Compared to 2021, all lakes except Kegonsa showed improvement in average nearshore water clarity and were representative of "good" conditions as defined by Clean Lakes Alliance (Table 1). Lakes Monona and Wingra reported particularly high average clarity that was greater than their respective long-term medians. Lake Kegonsa, despite increased cyanobacteria bloom sightings, reported similar average clarity to 2021 and only slightly less than the 2015-2022 median. The lake’s shallower depth and its low-elevation watershed position likely contribute to its lower nearshore clarity readings. Water clarity for most lakes generally decreases throughout the summer with a peak decline in August. Lakes Monona and Wingra deviated from this pattern by exhibiting relatively high clarity readings throughout the monitoring season (Figure 9).

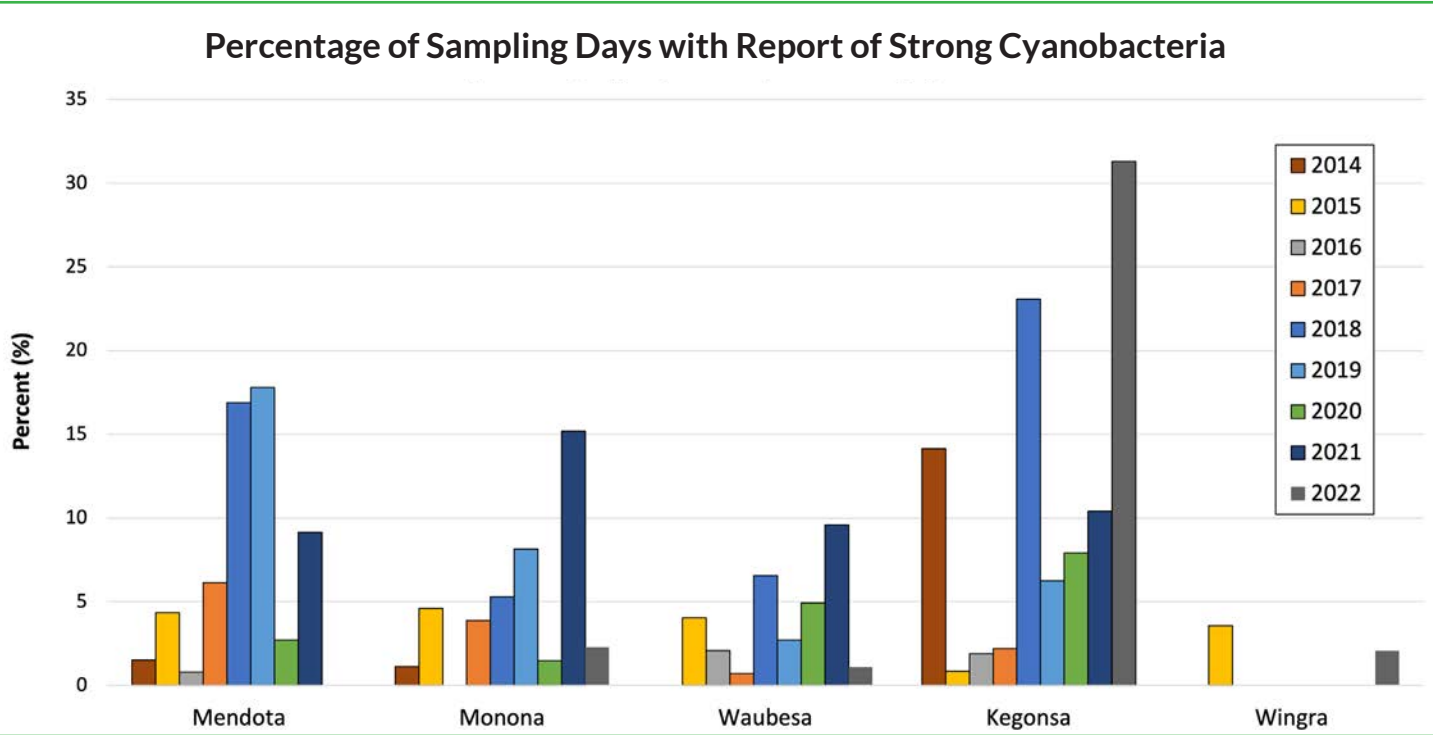


Figure 8: Percentage of sampling days with report of strong evidence of cyanobacteria shown by lake and year





Cyanobacteria bloom spotted on Lake Monona near the Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center in 2022. Photo courtesy Robert Bertera

### Beach Closures

Beach closures prompted by observed and measured water quality concerns are another useful indicator of general lake health. Clean Lakes Alliance looks at closure data provided by Public Health Madison & Dane County for 17 beaches (Figure 10). Covering four of the five Yahara lakes, these tested public beaches were selected due to the consistency of tracking data over the prior 10-year period. Results are reported as total closure days recorded for each season, roughly running from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For example, if two beaches on a given lake are closed for a total of five days each, 10 closure days would be reported for that lake.

Closures are most often the result of high cyanobacteria and/or *E. coli* bacteria levels, with closure rates strongly influenced by timing

and frequency of testing. Most beaches are tested once per week and then daily for beaches with a closure in effect. Cyanobacteria blooms, which are generally a product of high lake fertility, can be dangerous due to their potential to release toxins that can harm people, pets, and wildlife. High *E. coli* bacteria concentrations, on the other hand, indicate the presence of human or animal fecal matter that often carries pathogens that can cause illness.

In 2022, there were 91 beach-closure days reported, which is below the long-term median. Closures were relatively split between cyanobacteria and *E. coli* as the causes. This follows a year with a record 267 closures, with most occurring on Lake Monona.

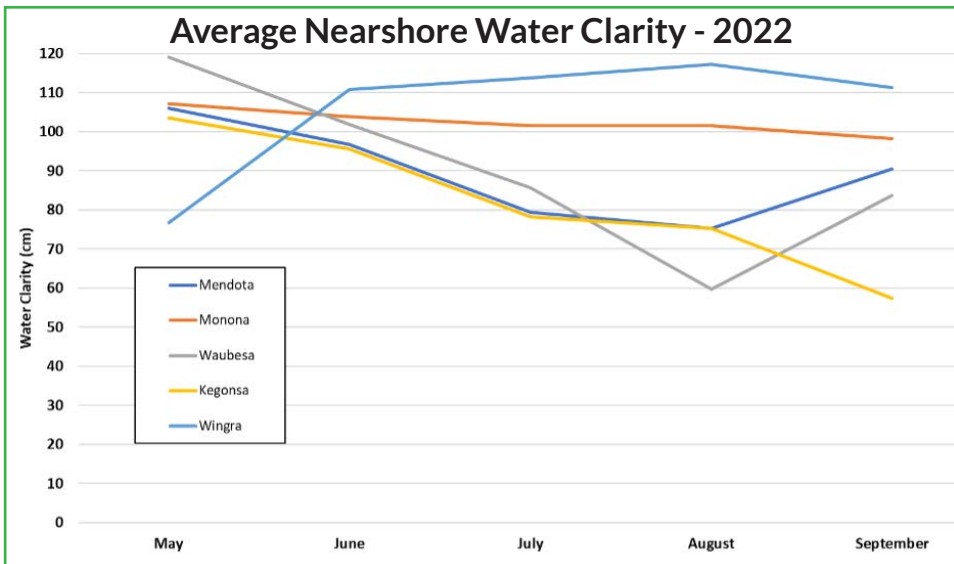


Figure 9: 2022 average water clarity by month for each lake using a 120-cm turbidity tube

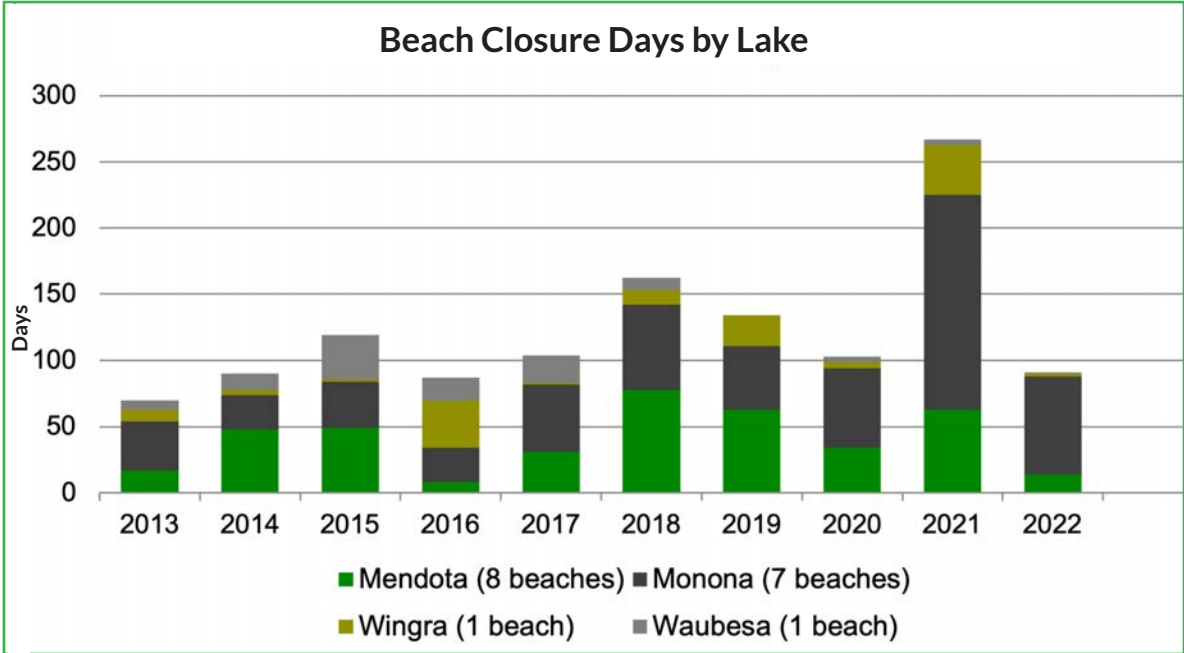
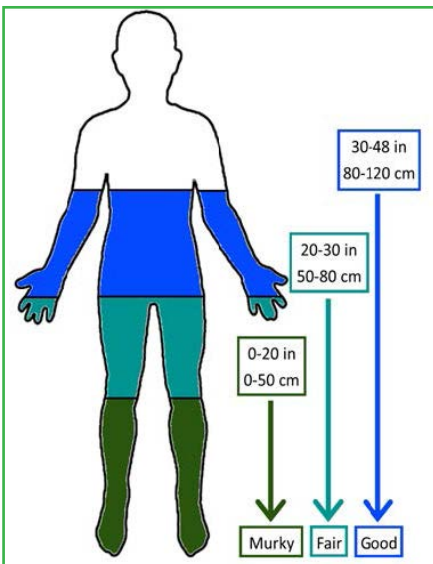


Figure 10: Beach closure days by lake. Includes beaches consistently monitored since 2013. Lake Mendota: Governor Nelson, Warner, Mendota County, James Madison, Memorial Union (pier), Marshall, Tenney, and Spring Harbor; Lake Monona: B.B. Clarke, Bernie's, Brittingham, Esther, Hudson, Olbrich, Olin; Lake Wingra: Vilas; Lake Waubesa: Goodland County; Lake Kegonsa: None. Data credit: Public Health Madison & Dane County

### TALE OF TWO WATERSHEDS

The path to recovery rarely follows a straight line and disconnects sometimes happen between celebrated action versus how and when the lakes might respond. There will be successes and setbacks, good times and bad, and progress that elicits both hope and disappointment. All in all, the lakes belong to a watershed community that cares, collaborates, and acts. We value the health of our lands and waters. We also possess the knowledge and motivation to be effective stewards. Only time will tell if we are headed in the right direction through our investments and actions – a reality that can often lead to frustration among the people working toward cleaner lakes.

A recent article from Adam Hinterthuer at the UW-Madison Center for Limnology addressed this frustration, responding to an exasperated resident who wrote in to say they were sick of all the studies with no better water quality.

Hinterthuer began his post by quoting Victor Hugo – "Science says the first word on everything and the last word on nothing."

He then continued, "Yes, science can tell us about the current state of our lakes and explain how they got that way and offer suggestions

for how we head in a different direction. But that's where science stops. It rarely gets the final say. It's up to society to take it from there. Policymakers, resource managers, business leaders, and (perhaps the biggest agent of change) concerned citizens, are the actors that then get involved. When it comes to informed decision making, science provides the info. Society makes the decision."

The "last word" is up to us. While annual *State of the Lakes* findings may at times send mixed messages, significant inroads are being made by many people and groups working for cleaner lakes. The guidance and tools are there, and we as stakeholders are called upon to play a positive role and leverage what is already working. If that happens, the days of consistently clear water, open and safe beaches, and a thriving lake community will certainly lie ahead and not behind us.

The *Renew the Blue* plan gives us hope that this is possible. As pointed out in Chapter 2 of that plan (State of the Science), "Even gradual change may produce noticeable improvements in water quality before the [phosphorus loading] target is met." A welcome conclusion in a world full of uncertainty.



Paddling near Brittingham Boats on Monona Bay with members of Madison Magnet and Out Professional Engagement Network (OPEN)





# CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS

In 2022, Clean Lakes Alliance received funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to participate in its first season of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) program. CBCW is a state-wide aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention program aimed at increasing awareness among boaters, anglers, and general lake users on best practices to prevent the further spread of AIS at our local boat landings.

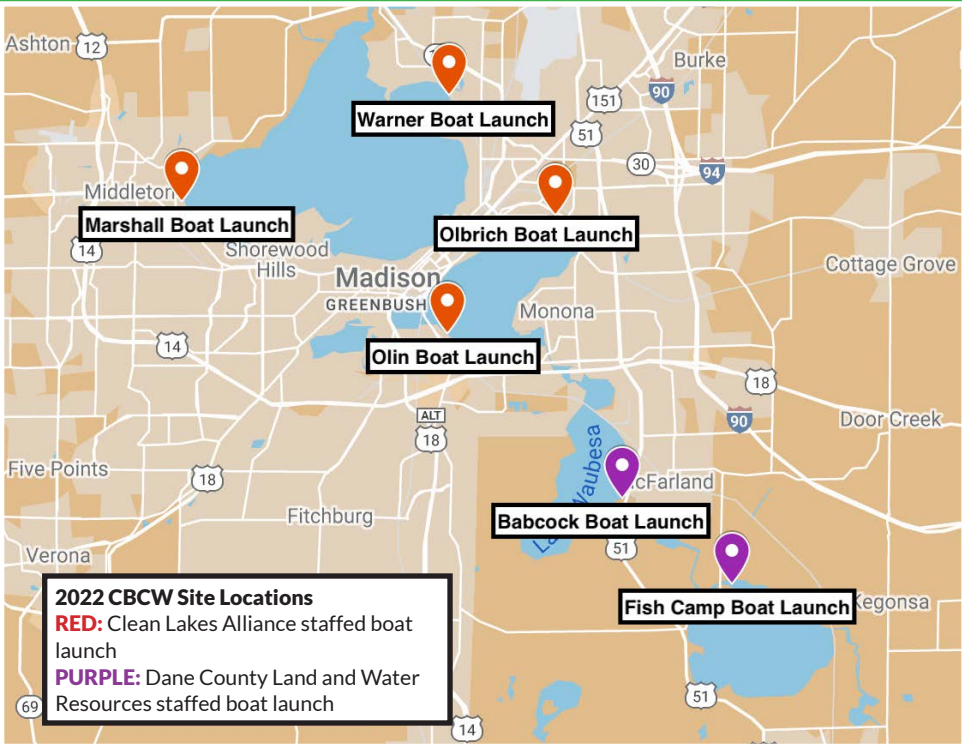
Aquatic invasive species can have broad and detrimental effects on our lakes. Their presence comes with severe economic and ecological impacts: spiny water flea populations worsen algal blooms; Eurasian watermilfoil reduce dissolved oxygen levels in the water; and zebra mussels alter food webs and damage lake infrastructure. Many AIS can move to new water bodies by “hitchhiking” on watercraft and surviving inside undrained live wells. To address the issue, trained inspectors offered courtesy boat and trailer inspections on the Yahara lakes at four of the busiest boat launches: Olin, Olbrich, Marshall, and Warner. Clean Lakes Alliance also coordinated with the Dane County Land and

Water Resources Department which covered two additional locations on Lake Waubesa (Babcock Boat Launch) and Lake Kegonsa (Fish Camp Boat Launch).

The CBCW program's courtesy watercraft inspections serve as a front-line defense to the threat of emerging AIS. Educating lake users on how to identify and report AIS, as well as how to implement best management strategies when moving watercraft between water bodies, provides additional safeguards for the lakes when it comes to harmful invasives.

## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- Hired and trained 3 watercraft inspectors
- Staffed 4 boat landings
- Invested 433 inspection hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day
- Interacted with 3,615 lake users



The CBCW program utilizes the guidelines established in NR 40 (a DNR invasive species rule making it illegal to possess, transport, transfer, or introduce certain invasive species in Wisconsin without a permit) to prevent the spread of invasive species. The rule establishes “preventive measures” to highlight what actions boaters can take to slow AIS spread. For all boaters, paddlers, and anglers, the following rules apply:

- INSPECT your boat, trailer, and equipment
- REMOVE any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading, and before transporting on a public highway)
- DRAIN water from boats, motors, and equipment
- NEVER MOVE live fish away from a waterbody
- DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash
- BUY minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer

Below is a table summarizing AIS currently found within the Yahara lakes, highlighting the importance of measures to prevent their spread or introduction. The data collected from inspectors showed that 10% of boaters using Lake Mendota or Lake Monona boat launches had used their watercraft on another waterbody within the last 5 days. Many AIS species can survive on watercraft, trailers, motors, live wells, and equipment for several days after you leave the boat launch.

LEARN MORE: [cleanlakesalliance.org/clean-boats-clean-waters](https://cleanlakesalliance.org/clean-boats-clean-waters)



## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE YAHARA LAKES

	Spiny Water Flea	Zebra Mussel	Chinese Mystery Snail	Banded Mystery Snail	Eurasian Water-milfoil	Curly Leaf Pondweed	Purple Loose-strife	Water Lettuce	Aquatic Forget-me-not	Yellow Iris
Lake Mendota	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		
Lake Monona	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Lake Wingra					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Lake Waubesa	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Lake Kegonsa	✓	✓			✓	✓				

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

## WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BEING A WATERCRAFT INSPECTOR?

“I enjoyed how much I learned about invasive species management, and also the specific issues that face the Yahara Watershed. I’m someone who likes to learn and then be able to effectively communicate with others about these types of issues, and the CBCW program gave me the information to do that.” – Chloe Czachor



“Getting to interact with the public and converse about scientific concepts was the most enjoyable part for me. It was great practice talking about AIS while making them more understandable to a wider audience. I also enjoyed being able to go to different boat landings and enjoy the fresh air and the environment.

Lastly, I enjoyed understanding how the public connected with the lake and, time permitting, have a great talk about their time on the lake – whether it be fishing or just casual boating.” – Pharaoh Graham

“I enjoyed being able to work outside for my summer. I think working outside, or even being outside for long periods of time in nature is something that is getting harder for people to do as time goes on.” – Alyssa Martin







Lands' End is proud to support  
Clean Lakes Alliance.



# WHO DO YOU CALL?

THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS THAT CLEAN LAKES ALLIANCE IS FREQUENTLY ASKED. THE GOOD NEWS, THE INFORMATION IS ONLY A FEW CLICKS AWAY. HERE ARE THE SEVEN MOST COMMON TOPICS THAT COME INTO THE CLEAN LAKES ALLIANCE INBOX, AND WHERE YOU CAN LOOK TO FIND THE ANSWERS.

	 dnr.wi.gov		
<b>AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT</b>	General information, rules, & permits: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/lakes/plants	Plant Harvesting: lwr.d.countyofdane.com/what-we-do/lake-management/aquatic-plant-management Pier pick-up schedule: lwr.d.countyofdane.com/what-we-do/lake-management/aquatic-plant-management/pier-pickup	
<b>LAKE LEVEL MANAGEMENT</b>	Dam Safety Program (rules & dam operating permits): Email dnrdamsafety@wisconsin.gov	Land & Water Resources Department: lwr.d.countyofdane.com/lake-levels	
<b>FISHING LICENSES, FISHING REGULATIONS</b>	Fishing License: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/fishing/outreach/fishinglicenses Fishing Regulations: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/fishing/regulations		
<b>LOCK &amp; DAM PERMITS</b>		Lock info and permit purchase: parks-lwr.d.countyofdane.com/tenney-lock-for-boaters	
<b>LIFEGUARD SCHEDULE FOR BEACHES</b>	No lifeguards at state parks (Governor Nelson State Park and Lake Kegonsa State Park)	No lifeguards at County beaches (Goodland, Mendota, and Lake Farm County Parks)	City of Madison beach info: cityofmadison.com/parks/beach
<b>REPORT A LARGE FISH KILL</b>	Dan Oele, WI DNR Fisheries Biologist: Email Daniel.oele@wisconsin.gov		
<b>BOAT LAUNCH DAILY FEES &amp; ANNUAL PERMITS</b>	Daily or annual park pass required at state parks (Governor Nelson State Park & Lake Kegonsa State Park): dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/admission	Dane County boat launches: parks-lwr.d.countyofdane.com/recreation/lake-access-boating	City of Madison boat launches: cityofmadison.com/parks/boatlaunch



# MEET DAVID BUOY!



If you've been out on Lake Mendota in the last decade, you've probably seen this large, yellow buoy floating in the water between Picnic Point and Maple Bluff. But did you know it has a name? Meet David Buoy!

According to University of Wisconsin Professor Paul Hanson, the structure measures above the water, meteorology, and below the water, limnology. The buoy was named by UW Center for Limnology (CFL) graduate student Luke Winslow. Winslow was a big fan of the late pop icon David Bowie and paid homage by naming the new structure when it was first installed by the CFL in the spring of 2008.

Built with the help of the UW Space Science and Engineering Center (SSEC), the buoy stays busy monitoring air and surface water temperatures, humidity, photosynthesis rates, oxygen and carbon dioxide concentrations, conductivity, turbidity, dissolved organic matter, chlorophyll levels, the presence of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), as well as temperature readings every few meters to near the bottom of the lake. Readings are relayed back to the CFL every 15 minutes from spring through fall. Luckily, it gets winters off!

As a part of Winslow's graduate thesis, David Buoy's collected data was processed through software created and appropriately named "Ziggy Stardust" (David Bowie's occasional stage name). Unfortunately, Ziggy Stardust is no longer in use since Winslow's graduation. However, data from David Buoy is still accessible through the SSEC's website, as well as through archives of the Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network, which maintains the buoy.

Next time you're out enjoying Lake Mendota, head to the deepest spot in the lake and say hi to David Buoy, Madison's own aquatic rockstar.

See real-time water temperature and meteorological data from David Buoy at [LakeForecast.org](https://lakeforecast.org), or by downloading the free LakeForecast app.

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# ANCIENT CANOES INITIATE WORLDWIDE INTEREST, RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

BY KENDALL POLTZER,  
WISCONSIN HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Recent efforts from the Wisconsin Historical Society, in collaboration with Wisconsin's Native Nations, have put Lake Mendota in worldwide headlines. It started with the finding of a 1,200-year-old dugout canoe, carved from a single piece of white oak, most likely by ancestors of the Ho-Chunk Nation. News of the canoe recovery spread across the world and offered new opportunities for a deeper understanding of Native history, canoe making, and ancient shorelines.

The 15-foot canoe, uncovered by maritime archaeologist Tamara Thomsen, is the oldest, fully-intact vessel ever to be extracted from Wisconsin waters. It is also the first canoe found with artifacts on board—in this case, net sinkers used for fishing.

Archaeologists from the Wisconsin Historical Society Office of State Archaeology verified its age by carbon dating and consulted the state's Native Nations. Next, Society archaeologists received permission for a precarious recovery mission.

## AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY

On November 2, 2021, Society archaeologists and volunteer divers spent several hours retrieving the canoe from Lake Mendota as members of the Ho-Chunk Nation welcomed this piece of history to shore. Despite frigid temperatures, dozens of curious observers also gathered at nearby Spring Harbor Beach.

"The thing that has been sticking with me is the experience of pulling it out," said Wisconsin State Archaeologist James Skibo, who led the team that planned and executed the recovery effort. "People were sitting there for hours and when we came out of the water, some cried and some cheered. It was an emotional experience."

Following the recovery, the canoe was transported to the State Archive Preservation Facility where it was submerged in a vat filled with water to protect it through a three-year preservation process.

**"PEOPLE WERE SITTING THERE FOR HOURS AND WHEN WE CAME OUT OF THE WATER, SOME CRIED AND SOME CHEERED. IT WAS AN EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE."**

**—JAMES SKIBO, WISCONSIN STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST**

The 3,000-year-old canoe was recovered from Lake Mendota on September 22, 2022







#### LUCK STRIKES TWICE

Incredibly, Thomsen experienced another once-in-a-career find during a recreational dive in 2022. Another canoe—this time dating to 1000 B.C.—was recovered from Lake Mendota on September 22, 2022, in close collaboration with members of the Ho-Chunk Nation and Bad River Tribe. At 3,000 years old, the canoe is the oldest ever found in the Great Lakes region.

The recovery of both canoes opens the door to many avenues of research that will help tell a more complete story of the past.

For a deeper look at the canoe recovery and preservation process, visit [wisconsinhistory.org/canoe](https://wisconsinhistory.org/canoe)

To support the work of the Wisconsin Historical Society, visit [wisconsinhistory.org/membership](https://wisconsinhistory.org/membership)

Above: Members of Wisconsin's Native Nations help clean the 3,000-year-old canoe found in Lake Mendota  
Below: The 3,000-year-old canoe was found in May 2022 by Tamara Thomsen, in the same area where the 1,200-year-old canoe was recovered in 2021



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# 27 storm TRACK

## WE TRACK STORMS





Demetria Abangan-BrownEagle on her voyage in a replica dugout canoe during the summer of 2022, photo courtesy Rebecca Comfort

In the summer of 2022, a group of 20 from the Ho-Chunk Nation took a week-long trip through southern Wisconsin in a replica of a dugout canoe used by tribal ancestors who first inhabited this area. The canoe was built from a large cottonwood log given to the Ho-Chunk Nation Cultural Resource Division from Dane County in 2020.

Demetria Abangan-BrownEagle, from Oklahoma, who takes part in a weekly Ho-Chunk cultural class, was one of 10 Ho-Chunk youth on the trip. She took part in the entire trip and logged the most hours in the replica canoe. Below is her account of the historic voyage.

# CANOEING WITH MY ANCESTORS

BY DEMETRIA ABANGAN-BROWNEAGLE

My name is Demetria Abangan-BrownEagle. I am 11 years old. I was very lucky to be able to participate in an amazing journey in the summer of 2022. It started in my Ho-Chunk traditions class. Bill Quackenbush, our instructor, was talking about a dugout canoe like the one they found in Lake Mendota (see story, pages 72-74). Bill said they were going to make one like the one that was found. That was a while before the trip though. [Work on the canoe took roughly two years prior to the voyage.]

Throughout my classes, Bill would give us updates on how the canoe was going. He said that once it was finished, they could use it on water. Sadly, I lived far from that area, so it was out of the picture for me to use the canoe.

Sometime in the summer, my mom decided it would be a good idea to go to Wisconsin and visit some family members. Coincidentally, that was around the time of the canoe trip. And so, the journey started. After a long car ride and some days of visiting family, it was finally the first day of the canoe trip. My mom drove me to where the canoe trip would start. It was very hot, but nothing I couldn't handle.

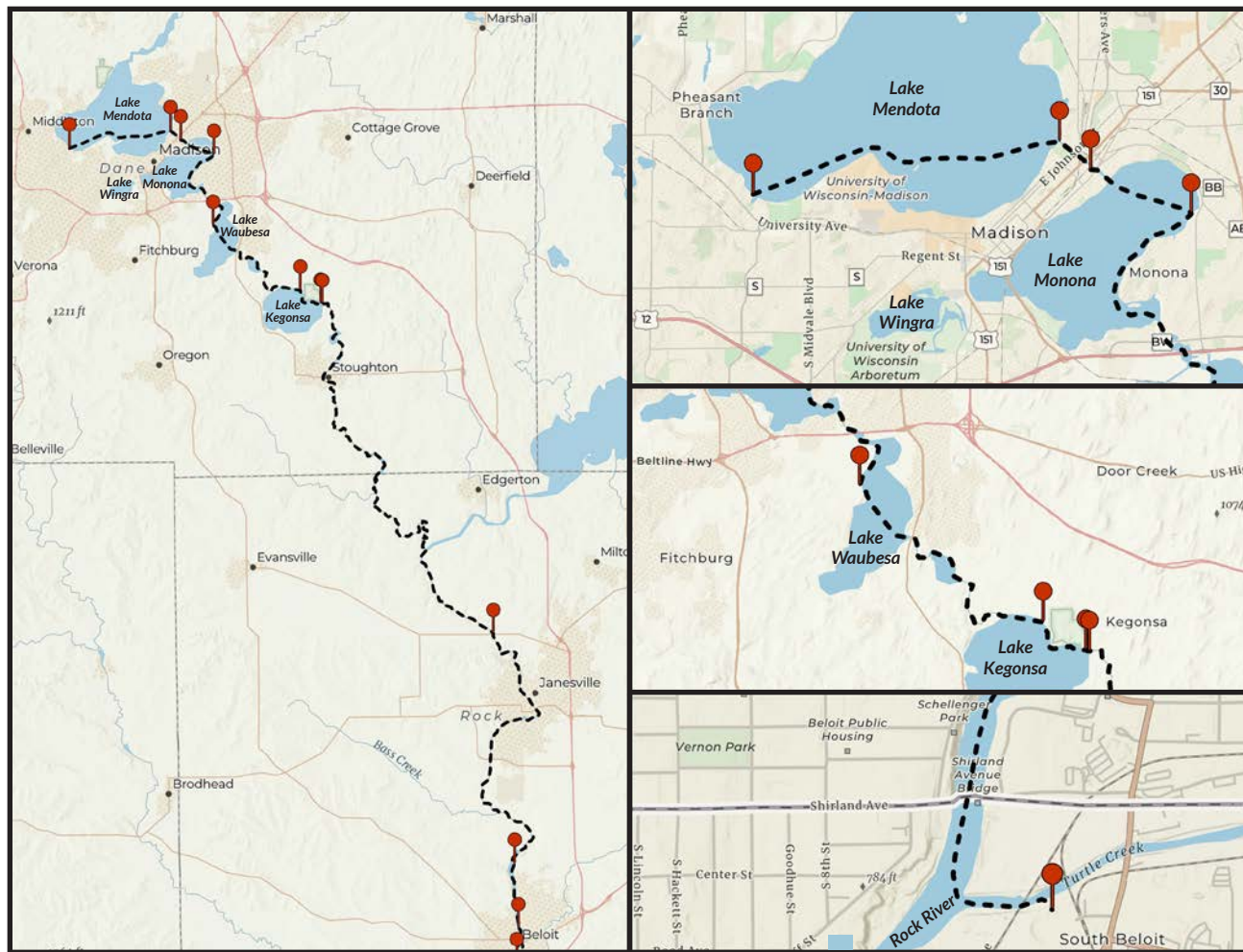
Before they started thinking about launching the canoe, someone who was coming along for the first day of the trip gave me a small pouch of tobacco – a traditional symbol of protection and guidance. After a few minutes of waiting, it was finally time to get the canoe on water. I was the first to get into the canoe. It was wobbly and long. After we got our life jackets and paddles, we were off. As we paddled, there was a “safety boat,” the Wisconsin Historical Society boat, kayakers, and drones following us. The Historical Society boat stopped in the water to tell us about the 1,200-year-old Ho-Chunk dugout canoe they found underwater! The ride in our canoe was bumpy and sometimes it got hard to steer. But overall, it wasn't that hard to paddle or control. Nobody fell in, but sometimes we had to bail out the water. We paddled 12 miles the first day!

The second day of the trip we launched the canoe at San Damiano Park. Around lunch time, we stopped at William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park on Lake Waubesa where I was interviewed by the local news stations and Discover Wisconsin. That day we traveled nine miles!



View of the replica dugout canoe at one of the stops along the voyage





Route of the 2022 dugout canoe voyage through southern Wisconsin

The third day, we started on Lake Waubesa and paddled down an ancient village site, and over an ancient fishing weir. We ended up in Lake Kegonsa State Park. It was so hot that I swam! As I jumped into the water where my ancestors once lived, it made me wonder about them fishing and swimming there, too. We paddled three miles that day.

Day four of the trip we started in Janesville and paddled on the Yahara and Rock rivers. I paddled for a short time, but others wanted to paddle. A kayaker who followed us every day named Jessie let me try out her kayak!

Day five was the last day of the trip. I paddled three miles down the Rock River in Beloit, from Preservation Park to Wootton Park.

Throughout my journey, I felt like I was learning more about my ancestors every time I would pick up my paddle. I learned about where they used to live, where a 1,200-year-old Ho-Chunk canoe was found, and so much more! I met so many nice people.

Photos (left and below) from along the 2022 dugout canoe voyage



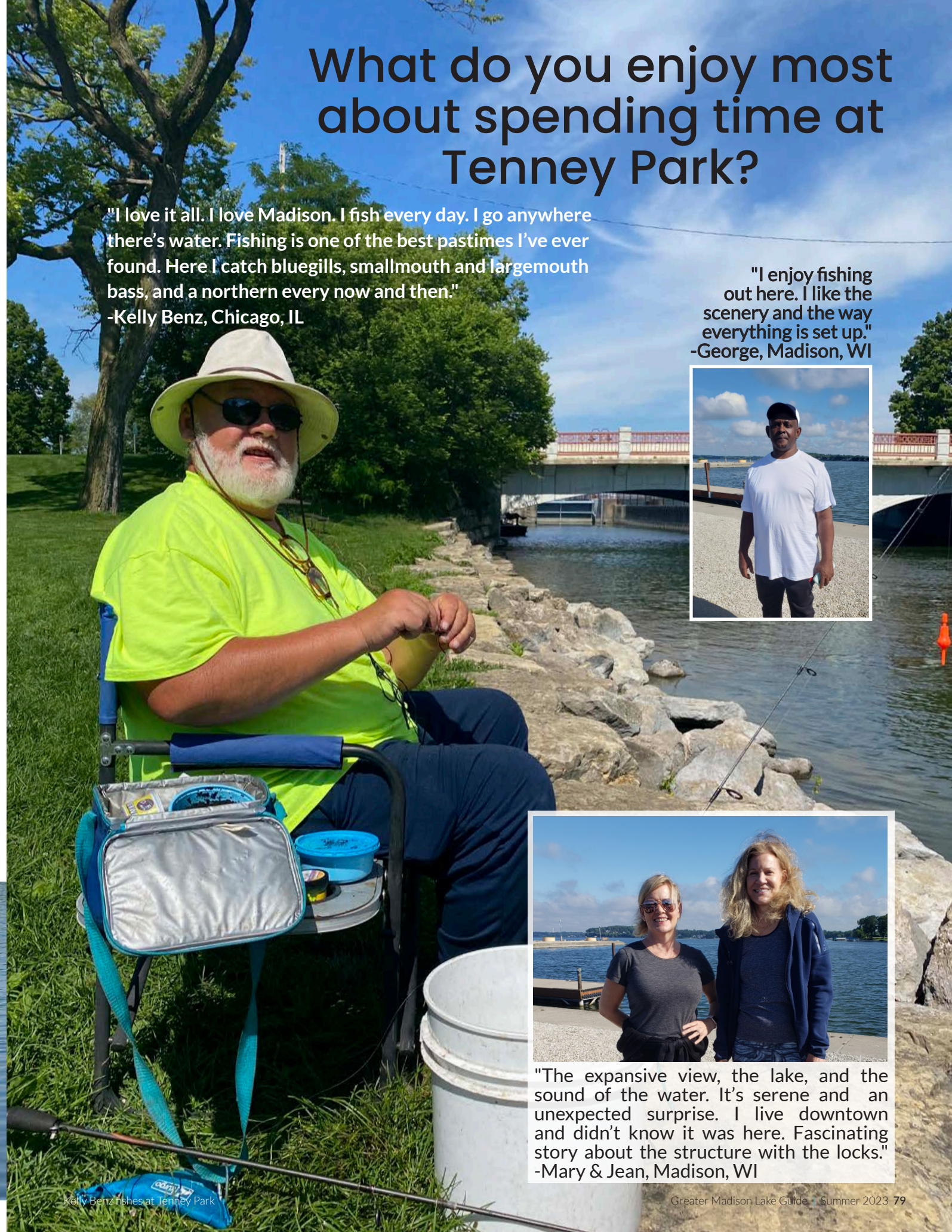
# What do you enjoy most about spending time at Tenney Park?

"I love it all. I love Madison. I fish every day. I go anywhere there's water. Fishing is one of the best pastimes I've ever found. Here I catch bluegills, smallmouth and largemouth bass, and a northern every now and then."

-Kelly Benz, Chicago, IL

"I enjoy fishing out here. I like the scenery and the way everything is set up."

-George, Madison, WI



"The expansive view, the lake, and the sound of the water. It's serene and an unexpected surprise. I live downtown and didn't know it was here. Fascinating story about the structure with the locks."

-Mary & Jean, Madison, WI



THANK YOU, LAKE PARTNER BUSINESSES



Volunteers from CG Schmidt and Sprinkman Real Estate clean up Tenney Park Beach on Lake Mendota



"Clean Lakes Alliance is important and valuable to Lands' End. The impact of their work helps local lakes and beaches where the majority of our workforce lives and spends their free time. The improvements enjoyed in our public areas are visible and tangible."  
-Angie Rieger, Lands' End

"My entire life being on, in, or around the water has always lifted my spirits and filled my soul with joy. As a team, we love supporting Clean Lakes Alliance and their efforts to ensure future generations are able to have the same experience playing on, in, or around the water to lift their spirits and fill their souls with joy."  
-Paul Stokes, American Family Insurance, Stokes & Associates Inc.



"When we bought our lake home, I thought the lakes would be a fun summertime thing. It's been a wonderful surprise to discover our lakes in every season - the blustery fall waves, walking on our frozen lakes with my dog in the winter - storms that roll through Madison are magical when you see them from across the water. What a gift this has been!"  
-Susan Thomson, ActionCOACH Business & Executive Coaching

Volunteers from Illumina Inc. and Hy Cite Enterprises collect native seeds at Lake Farm County Park



Volunteer from Hovde Properties collects native seeds at Holy Wisdom Monastery



Current Lake Partners as of January 1 - April 15, 2023

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Chads Design Build  
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Cherokee Park Inc. DBA TPC Wisconsin  
Christy's Landing  
City of Madison\*  
City of Monona  
Corner Stone Construction of Janesville Inc.  
CPU Solutions Inc.  
Cresa Madison\*  
Crown Point Resort  
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D.L. Anderson Marine Contractors  
Dane Buy Local Inc.  
Dane County Conservation League  
Dane Manufacturing  
Delta Beer Lab  
Destination Madison  
Dixon Shoreline/Landscaping  
Don's Marine LLC  
DORN True Value Hardware

Downtown Madison Inc.  
Dream House Dream Kitchens\*  
ecomaid of Madison-Sun Prairie-Verona  
Edgewood Campus School  
Edinger Surgical Options  
EZ Office Products  
FarWell Project Advisors LLC\*  
FCS Partners LLC  
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First Weber Inc.\*  
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Friends of Lake Wingra  
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JD McCormick Properties\*  
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Lake Monona Sailing Club  
Lake Ridge Bank

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Volunteers from Foley and Lardner LLP and John Deere at UW Lakeshore Nature Preserve



"True partnerships work when there are mutually aligned values and committed passion. As a Lake Partner, and as a board member of Clean Lakes Alliance, these definitions are vivid in the daily actions, efforts, and results of the work to ensure vibrant and healthy lakes. Through partnerships with businesses and with business leaders, together we are seeing success from this focus and commitment to our lakes and community."  
-Linda Nedelcoff, TruStage



"Madison and its surrounding communities are all connected to its lakes and parks. Being a Lake Partner is our opportunity to make a positive impact on the conservation of these beautiful resources for our children."  
-Darren Port, Tota Vita Financial Services



"A big part of our mission is to be connected to the entire Madison community, and there is no greater connector than Clean Lakes Alliance. Being a Lake Partner was an easy call, and in addition to supporting this important cause, it has led us to invaluable business partnerships and personal friendships."  
-Sam Sorenson, Studio 88



Volunteer Day with Lands' End at Pheasant Branch Conservancy



The Lake Partner program recognizes businesses and organizations that support Clean Lakes Alliance through annual donations (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31) made independent of events, sponsorships, or programs, **directly benefiting our efforts to improve the 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. Lake Partners who donate at the \$1,000 level or more are also recognized as part of the Yahara Society (denoted with asterisks).



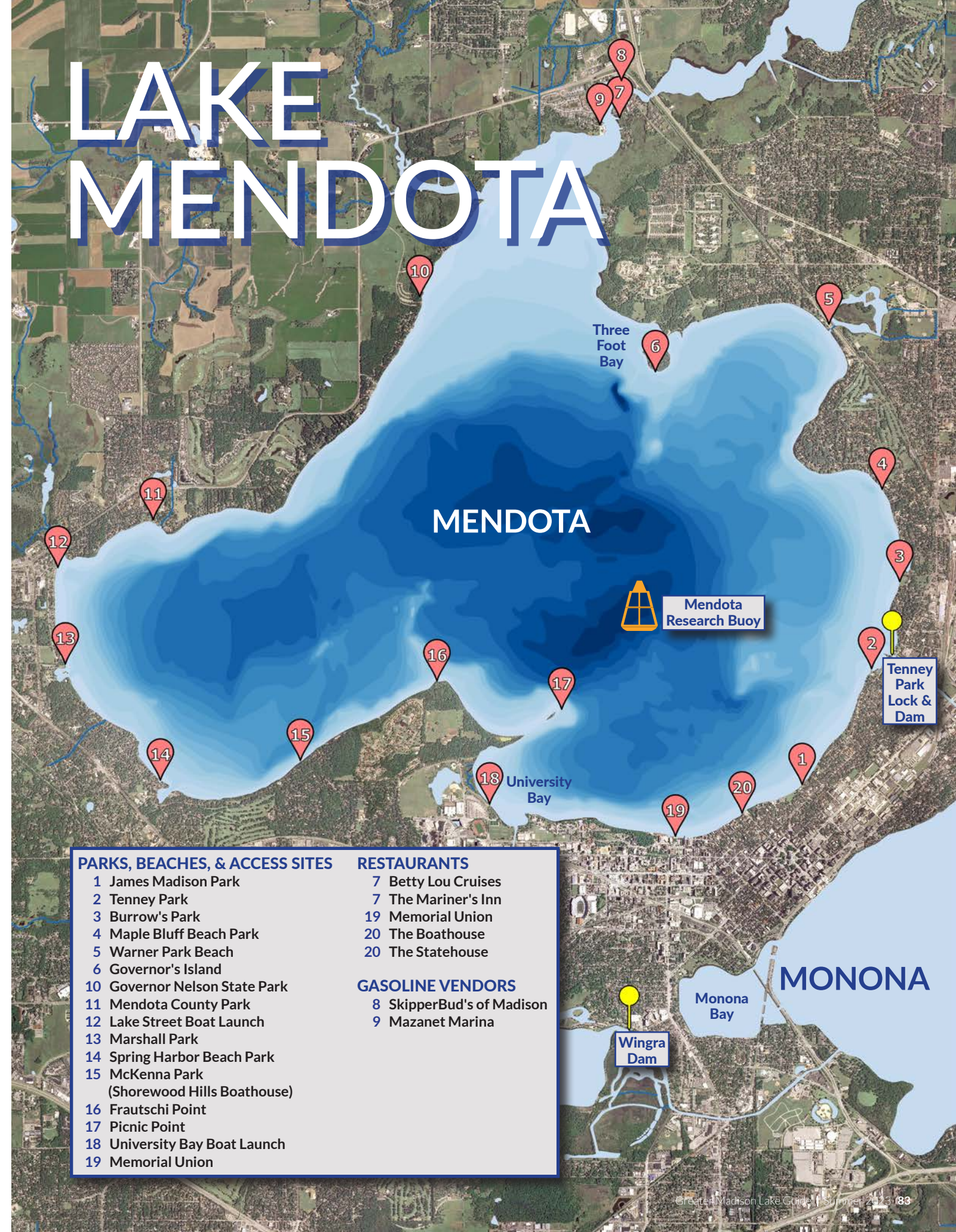


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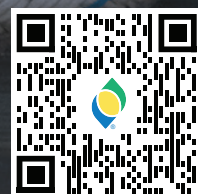
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#### PARKS, BEACHES, & ACCESS SITES

- 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
- 16 Brittingham Park
- 17 Vilas (Henry) Park
- 18 Wingra Boat Launch & Livery
- 19 Bernie's Beach Park
- 20 Olin Park

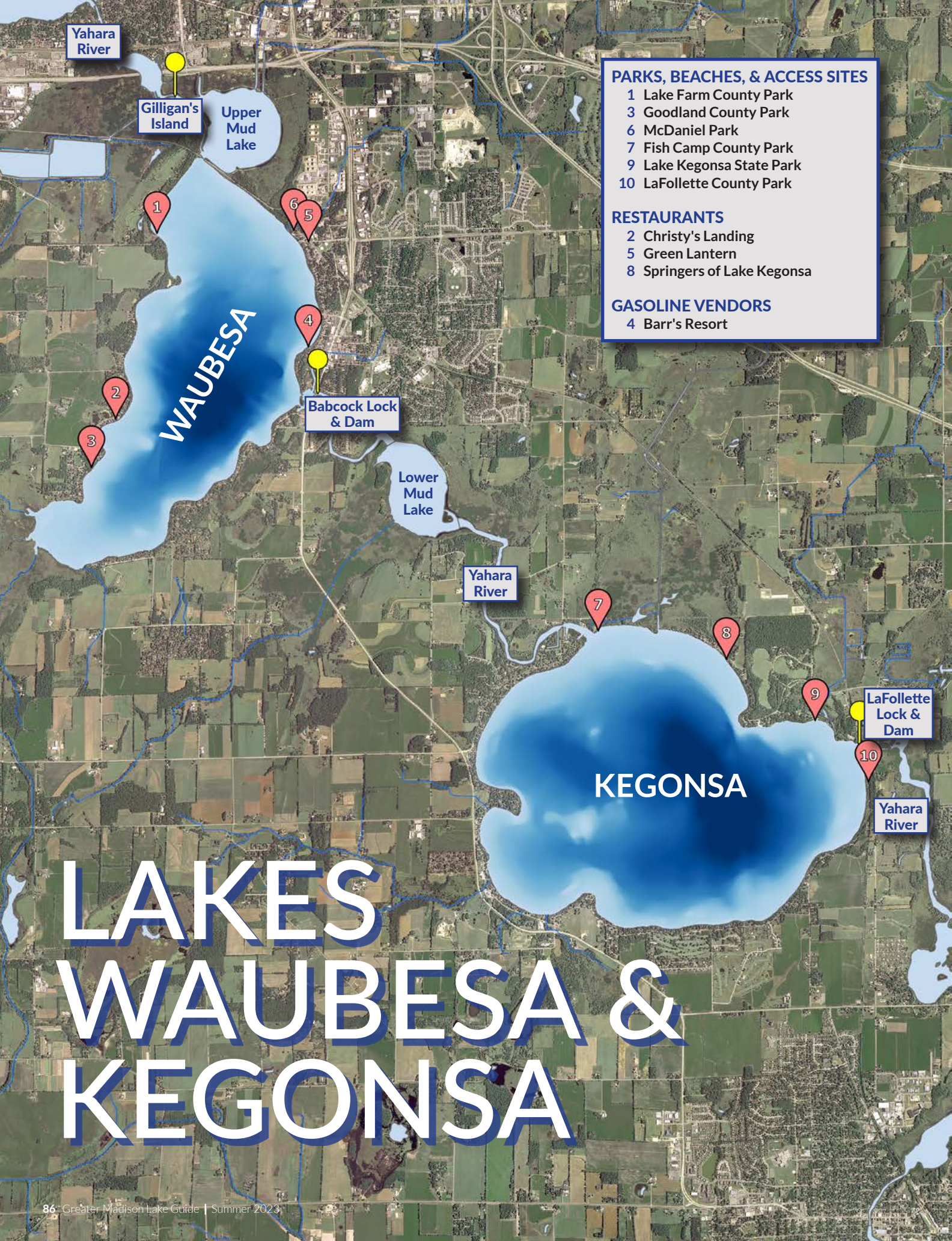
#### RESTAURANTS

- 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
- 19 Lakeside St. Coffee House

#### GASOLINE VENDORS

- 2 Four Lakes Yacht Club





**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

# LAKESIDE EATS & ACTIVITIES



*We reached out to 20 lakefront restaurants to find out what they felt makes them special – besides their great food and drinks! The following are the responses we received.*

**LAKE VISTA CAFÉ (LAKE MONONA)**

(Above) Lake Vista Café features delicious fare and some of the best views in the city, with sprawling views of Lake Monona and downtown Madison's cityscape. The café is located in the Monona Terrace William T. Evjue Rooftop Gardens. With more than 4,000 plants on display, the gardens cover over 68,000 square feet and include plantings of both native and non-native grasses and perennials selected for their beauty, resilience, and ecological function.

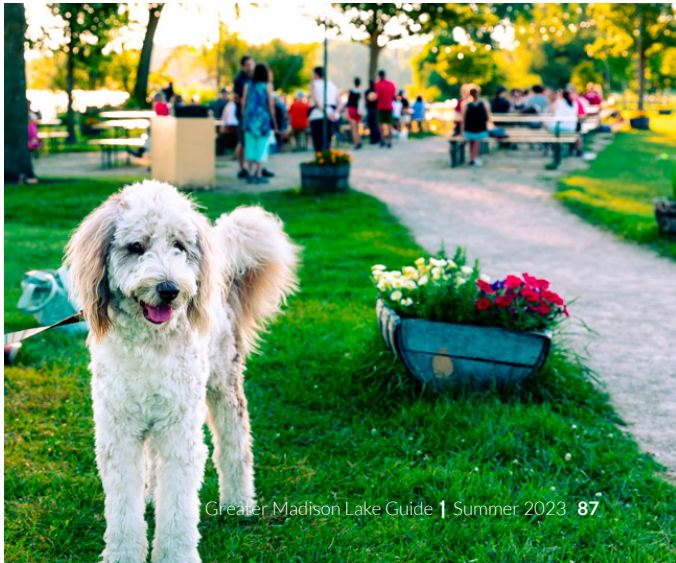


**EAST SIDE CLUB (LAKE MONONA)**

(Above) What says summer like listening to live music and playing in a Bocce or Kubb league while enjoying views of Lake Monona and the capitol building? Voted 2022 Best Place for Live Music per the Herald-Independent Best of Monona, the East Side Club offers live music twice a week during the summer, 12 taps for draft beer, and rental space available to the public. Plus, boat up to our dock to visit the Tiki Bar!

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

(Below) The Biergarten is certainly a very family-friendly place! Kids tagging along with their parents/guardians often keep busy with our giant Jenga set, playing in the sandbox, or learning how to play bag toss. Biergarten patrons seem to especially enjoy the ability to bring their leashed dogs with them. May - August we offer live music every other Saturday in partnership with the Sugar Maple Festival, and local accordionist Mike Schneider makes an appearance about once a month all season long. Also, it's hard to top our view of Madison and the Wisconsin State Capitol as the sun sets over Lake Monona.





## MARINER'S INN (YAHARA RIVER)

(Right) Mariner's Inn not only offers Madison's only Lobster Boil, served the last Thursday of the month from June through October, but also provides indoor and outdoor dining featuring live music overlooking the marina. Owned and operated by the von Rutenberg family since 1996, Mariner's Inn is celebrating its 57th year in business this year!



## SPRINGER'S OF LAKE KEGONSA (LAKE KEGONSA)

(Left) Several things make Springers unique, including a location on the county snowmobile trail and on the proposed bike trail. Located across the street from Lake Kegonsa State Park where there are cross country ski trails, hiking trails, an abundance of wildlife, and a beach - with full public facilities! The lake bottom in front of the restaurant is sandy and shallow, so kayak-launching is quite easy from the piers. The Stoughton Conservation Club holds an Ice Fisheree every winter and headquarters at the restaurant. And, of course, the sunsets are out of this world!



## LAKESIDE ST. COFFEE HOUSE (MONONA BAY)

(Above) The Friday night "Bayside Music Series" features an eclectic mix of great music from jazz to bluegrass, with the sun setting over Monona Bay and the Madison skyline as a background. This combination offers a unique experience fit for the City of Madison.



## BUCK & HONEY'S - MONONA (YAHARA RIVER)

(Above) Every effort is made at Buck & Honey's to make you feel as though you've dropped by an old friend's house. A friend that has an undeniable passion for service and prepares amazingly fresh food. A friend with an upscale casual atmosphere, huge patios, live music, craft brews on tap, specialty craft cocktails, and an extensive wine list. A true friend, indeed!

Our mission 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 (LAKE WAUBESA)

(Left) Family owned since 1936, Christy's Landing is a classic lakeside Wisconsin tavern. Offering cold beer and great cocktails, you can dine and enjoy a drink in the comfortable bar or outside on the spacious patio overlooking beautiful Lake Waubesa! An outdoor tiki bar and volleyball courts add to the summer fun. With ample docking for your watercraft, it's a great spot for casual meals and drinks. Christy's Landing is also a proud host and sponsor of the annual Waubesa Surf 'n Turf golf and fishing tournament, benefiting Clean Lakes Alliance.



## MEMORIAL UNION (LAKE MENDOTA)

(Left) Unique doesn't begin to describe the Wisconsin Union's Memorial Union and Memorial Union Terrace that are part concert venue for free music, art gallery and studio, outdoor recreation outlet, free movie theater, and, on top of all that, a highly-rated dining destination. The Terrace provides dozens of free events and low-cost activities - during warmer months, it's a place for kayaking, canoeing, free outdoor concerts, free outdoor film showings, and outdoor art experiences. When cold temperatures envelop Wisconsin, Lake Mendota turns into an icy, gorgeous setting to use snowshoes rented from the Wisconsin Union's outdoor recreation desk and to savor wintertime events, such as a freestyle snowboard and skiing competition.





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Board Member



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608-219-8959  
Friend of Clean Lakes

[www.firstweber.com](http://www.firstweber.com)

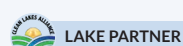


## CLEAN LAKES ALLIANCE DIRECTORY TO GREATER MADISON'S LAKE-RELATED BUSINESSES

### APARTMENTS

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

Featuring luxury apartments on the shore of Lake Monona within walking distance from the Lake Monona Lake Loop, Crema Café, and other local hot spots. Every day starts with unmatched views of the Wisconsin State Capitol and Madison skyline.

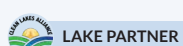
**Lakelawn Place Apartments**   
(608) 819-6500  
210 Lakelawn Pl  
Madison, WI 53703  
jdmccormick.com

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  
accentapts.com/riverwood-apartments

**The Current**  
(844) 932-1992  
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) 256-3013  
661 Mendota Ct  
Madison, WI 53703  
thesurfapartments.com

**The Waterfront Apartments**  
(608) 455-8777  
633 N Henry St  
Madison, WI 53703  
waterfrontmadison.com

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

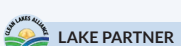
**Yahara Terrace**  
(608) 949-3399  
320 W Broadway  
Monona, WI 53716  
yaharaterrace.com

### ASSOCIATIONS

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

**Black Earth Creek Watershed Association**  
PO Box 164  
Cross Plains, WI 53528  
becwa.org

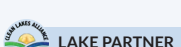
**Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin**  
PO Box 5274  
Madison, WI 53705  
ipaw.org

**Lake Waubesa Conservation Association (LWCA)**   
PO Box 6521  
Monona, WI 53716  
waubesa.org  
LWCA consists of people who value Lake Waubesa and its ecosystem. We strive to keep members and the community informed and involved in current issues, activities, and events affecting Lake Waubesa.

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

**Token Creek Watershed Association**  
PO Box 366  
Windsor, WI 53598  
tokencreek.org

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

**Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA)**   
608-262-2551  
650 N Lake St  
Madison, WI 53706  
uwalumni.com  
The WAA is your connection to UW-Madison and we work to advance the University's mission. WAA's Alumni Park is a place where alumni stories are shared and celebrated.



The Lake Partner program recognizes businesses and organizations that support Clean Lakes Alliance through annual donations (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31) made independent of events, sponsorships, or programs, **directly benefiting our efforts to improve the 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.





View of Lake Waubesa, courtesy Robert Bertera

**Wisconsin Wetlands Association**  
(608) 250-9971  
214 N Hamilton St, Suite 201  
Madison, WI 53703  
wisconsinwetlands.org

**Yahara Lakes Association (YLA)**  
(856) 298-0703  
yaharalakes.org  
The YLA is dedicated to representing waterfront property owners and advocating for the vitality of the Yahara chain of lakes so all 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  
facebook.com/DornOutdoorProShop  
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!

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

**Highway 51 Liquor & Bait**  
(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! Dropoff 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 Boat 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**  
1610 Sherman Ave  
Madison, WI 53704

**Veith Avenue Boat Launch**  
4106 Veith Ave  
Madison, WI 53704

**Warner Park Boat Launch**  
1201 Woodward Dr  
Madison, WI 53704

**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**  
3401 Atwood Ave  
Madison, WI 53714

**Olin Park Boat Ramp**  
302 E Lakeside St  
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  
We are a small family-run store on Lake Waubesa established in 1935. We rent fishing boats with or without outboard motors, kayaks, and canoes. We sell recreational gas, fresh bait, tackle, and refreshments. Open from Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day, Monday - Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Brightwork Boats**  
(608) 849-9200  
5864 Easy St  
Waunakee, WI 53597  
madisonboathouse.com/brightwork-boats

**Brittingham Boats**  
(608) 250-2555  
701 W Brittingham Pl  
Madison, WI 53715  
Madisonboats.com  
Downtown's premier paddle destination. Rentals of stand up paddle boards, kayaks, canoes, paddle boats, and fishing boats. Special events including excursions and Burgers on the Bay every Friday make it a Madison must.


**Capitol Boat Club**  
(608) 423-5202  
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  
N3427 Co Rd J  
Poynette, WI 535955  
deanodock.com

**Decks Docks & More**  
(262) 593-2216  
W1204 Concord Center Dr  
Sullivan, WI 53178  
facebook.com/decksdocks

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

LAKE PARTNER

The Lake Partner program recognizes businesses and organizations that support Clean Lakes Alliance through annual donations (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31) made independent of events, sponsorships, or programs, **directly benefiting our efforts to improve the 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.

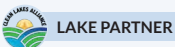


LAKE DIRECTORY

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

Gervasi Trailer  
(608) 271-4239  
2295 S Syene Rd  
Madison, WI 53711  
trailerrepairandpartsmadison.com

JD Hellenbrand Piers  
and Lifts



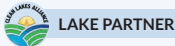
(608) 513-0690  
N1792 Ryan Rd  
Lodi, WI 53555  
jdhellenbrand.com  
We sell, install, remove, and adjust or repair new docks, piers, and boat lifts in central Wisconsin. We are currently focusing on servicing the following lakes: Monona, Waubesa, Kegonsa, and Wisconsin.

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

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

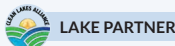
Marine Tops Unlimited  
(608) 246-3979  
4121 Terminal Dr  
McFarland, WI 53558  
marinetops.com

Marshall Boats  
(608) 228-8333  
2101 Allen Blvd  
Madison, WI 53562  
madisonboats.com



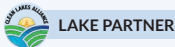
Paddle or Pontoon? Enjoy a quiet paddle into Pheasant Branch Conservancy or bring everyone for a pontoon boat ride—this is your destination for summer memories. Located on Madison's west side, this is the perfect place for your next party!

Mazanet Marina  
(608) 249-9316



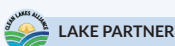
5320 Blue Bill Park Dr S  
Madison, WI 53704  
mazanetmarine.com  
Full-service marina on Lake Mendota for 60 years. Services include gas on the pier, wet boat slips, dry dock spaces, food concessions, boat accessories, service mechanics, and winter storage.

Outdoor UW at  
Memorial Union



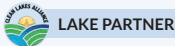
(608) 262-1630  
800 Langdon St  
Madison, WI 53706  
union.wisc.edu/outdoor-uw  
Outdoor UW is your outlet to the outdoors with equipment rentals, such as kayaks, stand-up paddle boards, canoes, showshoes and ice skates, events and activities.

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

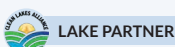
Rock River Marina  
(608) 884-9415

520 Richardson Springs Rd  
Edgerton, WI 53534  
rockrivermarina.com

Rutabaga Rentals -  
Olbrich Park

(608) 513-1308  
3527 Atwood Ave  
Madison, WI 53714  
rutabagashop.com

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 or used boats, service, storage, and 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

The Harbor at Newville  
(608) 884-6007

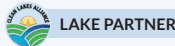
807 Harbor Rd  
Milton, WI 53563  
theharboratnewville.com

Wickcraft Boardwalks  
(608) 244-9177

2317 Daniels St  
Madison, WI 53718  
wickcraftboardwalks.com

Wingra Boats

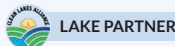
(608) 233-5332  
824 Knickerbocker St  
Madison, WI 53711  
madisonboats.com  
Up-north beauty in downtown Madison. Surrounded by nature, this quiet lake is a mecca for paddling and the perfect place for the whole family to SUP, kayak, canoe, row, or paddle boat. Fish, paddle, and play.



BOAT TOURS, GROUP RENTAL

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

Betty Lou Cruises  
(608) 246-3138

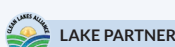


Mariner's Inn on Lake Mendota  
5339 Lighthouse Bay Dr  
Madison, WI 53704  
bettyloucruises.com  
Madison's premier cruise line, cruising Lake Mendota since 1998. Enjoy a public or private charter aboard one of our two motor yachts while our experienced crew and captain make your event one to remember.

Capital Lake Pontoons  
(608) 571-4889

capitallakepontoons.com

Madison School &  
Community Recreation  
(MSCR)



(608) 204-3000  
328 E Lakeside St  
Madison, WI 53715  
mscr.org  
MSCR is Madison's public recreation department providing a wide range of activities for all ages. Programs include afterschool, camps, arts, enrichment, outdoors, boating, paddling, fitness, and sports.

Midnight Splash - Houseboat Charter  
(608) 628-0730

midnightsplash.com

Pontoon Porch

(608) 284-8727  
pontoonporch.com

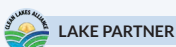
LAKE DIRECTORY



View of Lake Kegonsa, courtesy Robert Bertera

COMMUNITY & CONVENTION CENTERS

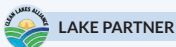
Monona Terrace  
Community &  
Convention Center



(608) 261-4000  
1 John Nolen Dr  
Madison, WI 53703  
mononaterrace.com  
With an obsession to critical details, top-notch technology, and concierge-caliber service, LEED Platinum certified Monona Terrace gives you the freedom to imagine your dream event, then bring it to life in an amazing lakeside location.

Pyle Center

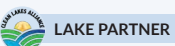
(608) 262-0881  
702 Langdon St  
Madison, WI 53706  
escmadison.com  
Overlooking the shores of Lake Mendota, Pyle Center offers visitors 135,000 square feet of comfortable meeting spaces, rooftop terraces, and more.



The East Side Club - Tiki Bar & Grill  
(608) 222-9131

3735 Monona Dr  
Madison, WI 53714  
escmadison.com

Wisconsin Memorial  
Union



(608) 265-3000  
800 Langdon St  
Madison, WI 53706  
union.wisc.edu/visit/memorial-union  
With event spaces for every occasion, ample seating, on-site dining, skilled event planners, free events, and a lakefront view, Memorial Union is the perfect place for your gathering, meeting, or conference.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION /  
ADVOCACY

Clean Lakes Alliance  
(608) 255-1000

150 E Gilman St, Suite 2600  
Madison, WI 53703  
cleanlakesalliance.org  
We are a unique partnership of diverse stakeholders who raise community awareness of the issues facing the watershed. We advocate for the welfare of our lakes and help procure the necessary funding to clean and protect these waterways.



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  
(608) 576-2446  
PO Box 7921 - NH/6  
Madison, WI 53707  
wiatri.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 Fishing Co.  
(608) 347-0444  
madisonflyfishing.com

Millenium Guide Service  
(608) 695-9703

Okada Outdoors  
(608) 575-8597

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

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


Wisco Outfitters  
(608) 206-7938  
wiscooutfitters.com

**FRIENDS GROUPS**

Capitol Water Trails  LAKE PARTNER  
3806 Atwood Ave  
Madison, WI 53714  
capitolwatertrails.org  
Capitol Water Trails is a nonprofit improving Dane County's moving waters and lakes. We clear for navigation, recreational use, and flood control. Improve habitat, teach the public, and clean waters.

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

Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area  
(608) 224-3606  
3101 Lake Farm Road  
Madison, WI 53711  
friendsofcapitalsprings.org

Friends of Cherokee Marsh  LAKE PARTNER  
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 nonprofit organization providing volunteer manpower and financial resources to help improve the ecology, water quality, fishing, and recreational use of Lake Kegonsa. Our 450-plus members proudly partner with Clean Lakes Alliance.


Friends of Lake View Hill Park  
PO Box 8813  
Madison, WI 53708  
lakeviewhill.org

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  
(608) 698-9708  
friendsofmononabay.blogspot.com

Friends of Olin Turville (FOOT)  LAKE PARTNER  
(608) 239-4299  
olin-turville.org  
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 volunteers work to restore, protect, 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 group dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of our creek and watershed through stewardship, education, advocacy, and fun!

Friends of the Kettle Ponds  
kettleponds.org

Friends of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve  LAKE PARTNER  
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) 471-7955  
PO Box 614  
Spring Green, WI 53588  
wisconsinriverfriends.org

Friends of the UW Arboretum  
(608) 890-2555  
1207 Seminole Hwy  
Madison, WI 53711  
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  
facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Yahara-River-Parkway-284831311757

Friends of Wisconsin State Parks  
23 S Main St, Suite O  
Hartford, WI 53027  
newfwsp.blogspot.com

Paunack (A.O.) Park on Lake Monona



**GASOLINE**

Barr's Resort  LAKE PARTNER  
(608) 838-9917  
6002 Lake Edge Rd  
McFarland, WI 53558  
facebook.com/BarrsResort  
We are a small family-run store on Lake Waubesa established in 1935. We rent fishing boats with or without outboard motors, kayaks, and canoes. We sell recreational gas, fresh bait, tackle, and refreshments. Open from Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day, Monday - Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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.

Mazanet Marina  LAKE PARTNER  
(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  LAKE PARTNER  
(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 or used boats, service, storage, and boat rentals. Visit our showroom - or online at skipperbuds.com.

**LAKE SPORTS & RECREATION RETAIL**

BumperMate USA  
(608) 212-4609  
bumpermateusa.com

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

Dick's Sporting Goods - East  
(608) 241-2764  
350 E Towne Way  
Madison, WI 53704  
dickssportinggoods.com

Dick's Sporting Goods - West  
(608) 829-1313  
237 W Towne Mall  
Madison, WI 53719  
dickssportinggoods.com

Fontana Sports  LAKE PARTNER  
(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 Bicycles  
(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

 LAKE PARTNER

The Lake Partner program recognizes businesses and organizations that support Clean Lakes Alliance through annual donations (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31) made independent of events, sponsorships, or programs, **directly benefiting our efforts to improve the 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.



LAKE DIRECTORY

Rutabaga Paddlesports  
(608) 223-9300  
2620 Rimrock Rd  
Madison, WI 53713  
rutabagashop.com

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  
Modern 1-3 BR Cedar Cottages on Lake Kegonsa, 15 minutes from Madison. Kitchens, decks, grills, wifi, cable, AC. Paddleboard, kayak, and pontoon rentals. 5-star rated VRBO and Tripadvisor.

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

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 historic resort with 202 guest rooms, public pier, 40 boat slips, Grand Plaza with free community programming, dining, 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.

Wisconsin Union Club Suites  
(608) 263-2600  
800 Langdon St  
Madison, WI 53706  
union.wisc.edu/hotel  
Beautiful, elegant rooms await you at the historic Memorial Union, all with views of Lake Mendota. While staying, enjoy free and low-cost events and activities as well as on-site dining.

MOORING/SLIPS

Brittingham Boats  
(608) 250-2555  
701 W Brittingham Pl  
Madison, WI 53715  
madisonboats.com  
Downtown's premier paddle destination. Rentals of stand up paddle boards, kayaks, canoes, paddle boats, and fishing boats. Special events including excursions and Burgers on the Bay every Friday make it a Madison must.

Goodspeed Family Pier  
888-947-2586  
650 N Lake St  
Madison, WI 53706

Lake Monona Sailing Club  
lakemononasailing.com  
The Lake Monona Sailing Club manages two piers for sailboats with 32 slips - one at Olin Park in Madison and one at Stonebridge Park in Monona.

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  
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.

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  
madisonproperty.com/boatslips

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 or used boats, service, storage, and 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

Westport Marine  
(608) 850-4774  
5339 Lighthouse Bay Dr  
Madison, WI 53704  
westportmarinemadison.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  
5339 Lighthouse Bay Dr  
Madison, WI 53704  
bettyloucruises.com  
Madison's premier cruise line, cruising Lake Mendota since 1998. Enjoy a public or private charter aboard one of our two 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

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 Café  
(608) 261-4000  
1 John Nolen Dr  
Madison, WI 53703  
mononaterrace.com/experience-monona-terrace/lake-vista-cafe  
Enjoy casual gourmet fare, drinks, and sprawling views of Lake Monona and downtown Madison's cityscape at Lake Vista Café on the Monona Terrace rooftop, open May through September weather permitting.

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

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

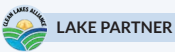


Painting along the shore of Lake Mendota at Warner Park

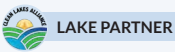


LAKE DIRECTORY

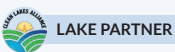
The Boathouse -  
The Edgewater  
(608) 535-8232  
1001 Wisconsin Pl  
Madison, WI 53703  
boathousemadison.com  
A Madison favorite offering casual lakeside dining like burgers, brats, the best cheese curds in town, craft beer, and ice cold margaritas. Accessible by land or by water. Visit BoathouseMadison.com 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  
(608) 246-3120  
5339 Lighthouse Bay Dr  
Madison, WI 53704  
marinersmadison.com  
Famous for Steaks and Seafood since 1966. Enjoy gorgeous sunsets as you look out over our marina from inside our cozy dining rooms or from our waterfront patio. Owned and operated by Madison's von Rutenberg family for six decades and still creating special memories.



The Statehouse -  
The Edgewater  
(608) 535-8230  
1001 Wisconsin Pl  
Madison, WI 53703  
statehousemadison.com  
Madison's signature restaurant on Lake Mendota featuring Modern-American fare with thoughtfully sourced ingredients, sunset seating, and a casual atmosphere. Visit StatehouseMadison.com for hours and menus.

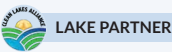
The Tasting Room  
(608) 223-1641  
800 W Broadway, Suite 100  
Monona, WI 53713  
tastingroomofmonona.com

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



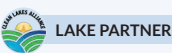
The Lake Partner program recognizes businesses and organizations that support Clean Lakes Alliance through annual donations (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31) made independent of events, sponsorships, or programs, directly benefiting our efforts to improve the lakes. Additionally, Lake Partners demonstrate their organizational 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.

Wisconsin Memorial Union  
(608) 265-3000  
800 Langdon St  
Madison, WI 53706  
union.wisc.edu/visit/memorial-union  
From made-to-order pub food and pizza to house-made grab-n-go food and beverages, the Memorial Union's lakefront dining is a year-round dining destination with first-come, first-served seating.



SHORELINE LANDSCAPING & ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

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



Dixon Shoreline /  
Landscaping  
(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.

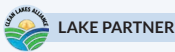
EC3 Environmental  
Consulting Group Inc.  
(608) 497-0955  
PO Box 44281  
Madison, WI 53744  
ec3grp.com

Envirolok LLC  
(608) 226-2565  
10101 N Casey Rd  
Evansville, WI 53536  
envirolok.com

EOR  
(608) 839-4422  
1334 Dewey Ct  
Madison, WI 53703  
eorinc.com

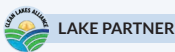
Good Oak LLC  
(608) 209-0607  
4606 Pflaum Rd, Suite A  
Madison, WI 53718  
goodoak.com

Meister's K&M Tree  
and Landscaping Inc.  
(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



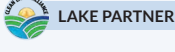
Olson Toon Landscaping Inc.  
(608) 827-9401  
3570 Pioneer Rd  
Verona, WI 53593  
olsontoon.com

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

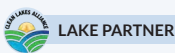


Silt Sock Inc.  
(608) 438-7625  
N6110 Johnson Rd  
Portage, WI 53901  
siltsock.net  
Silt Sock Inc. manufactures tube and blanket-based erosion control products alongside other clean water focused items. All our products can be found through our diverse wholesaler network in the Midwest.

Strand Associates Inc.  
(608) 251-4843  
910 W Wingra Dr  
Madison, WI 53715  
strand.com  
Strand Associates Inc. is a full-service, multidisciplinary engineering firm established in 1946 with headquarters in Madison. We are dedicated to helping clients succeed through excellence in engineering.

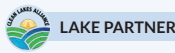


Sweeney's Aquatic  
Weed Removal  
(262) 501-0431  
aquaticweedremovers.com  
Sweeney's Aquatic Weed Removal is your full-service lakefront care company. We specialize in lakeweed removal, shoreline restoration, leaf & debris removal, and algae & muck control. Contact us today!



View of Madison's Isthmus between Lake Monona (foreground) and Lake Mendota (background), courtesy Robert Bertera

Weed Man Lawn Care -  
E3 Group  
(608) 268-2002  
2211 Eagle Dr  
Middleton, WI 53562  
madison.weedman.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.

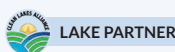


SPORTING OUTLETS & CLUBS

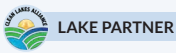
Badger Flyfishers  
badgerflyfishers.org

Badger State Boating Society  
bsbs.org

Camp Randall  
Rowing Club  
(608) 222-1401  
6312 Inland Way  
Madison, 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.



Capital City  
Muskies Inc.  
PO Box 8862  
Madison, WI 53708  
capitalcitymuskiesinc.org  
Youth outreach, improving fisheries, supporting research, NFP 501(c)(3). Over 350 members volunteering to promote musky fishing in the Yahara River Watershed.

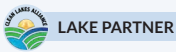


Fishing Has No Boundaries - Madison  
Chapter  
(608) 417-3474  
1618 Mayfield Ln  
Madison, WI 53716  
fhnbmadison.com

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

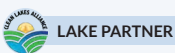


Four Lakes Yacht Club  
(608) 222-1401  
6312 Inland Way  
Madison, WI 53713  
madison4lyc.com  
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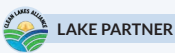
Lake Kegonsa Sailing Club  
lksc.org

Lake Monona  
Sailing Club  
lakemononasailing.com  
The Lake Monona Sailing Club offers recreational small boat fun sailing for several types of boats and races are held Wednesdays and Saturdays in the summer. Crew spots available.

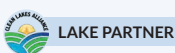


Mad City Paddlers  
madcitypaddlers.org

Mad-City Ski Team  
(608) 663-8326  
madcityskiteam.com  
Come visit us Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day at Law Park for FREE, on-water entertainment. Also check us out online or find us on Facebook.



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



Madison Bass Club  
Madisonbassclub.org

Madison Fishing Expo  
(800) 975-3474  
wifishingexpo.com



LAKE DIRECTORY

Madison Fishing Expo  
(800) 975-3474  
wifishingexpo.com

Madison Sailing Center  
madisonsailingcenter.com

Madison Youth Sailing Foundation  
madisonyouthsailing.com

Mendota Rowing Club   
622 E Gorham St  
Madison, WI 53703  
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   
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  
PO Box 45555  
Madison, WI 53744  
swtu.org

Waubesa Sailing Club  
waubesasailingclub.org

Wisconsin Bass Federation  
wisconsinbass.com

Wisconsin Bowfishing Association  
wibfa.com

Wisconsin Hoofers:   
Sailing, Outing, and  
Scuba Clubs  
(608) 262-1630  
800 Langdon St  
Madison, WI 53706  
hoofers.org  
The Hooper Sailing, Outing, and Scuba Clubs are 3 of 6 outdoors clubs at Memorial Union on the shore of Lake Mendota. Open to all, 18 and over, the Hoofers clubs make it easy to make friends and enjoy the lakes.

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance Ltd.  
wisconsin-smallmouth.com

Yahara Fishing Club  
PO Box 259803  
Madison, WI 53725  
yaharafishingclub.org

Regatta on Lake Mendota in September 2022



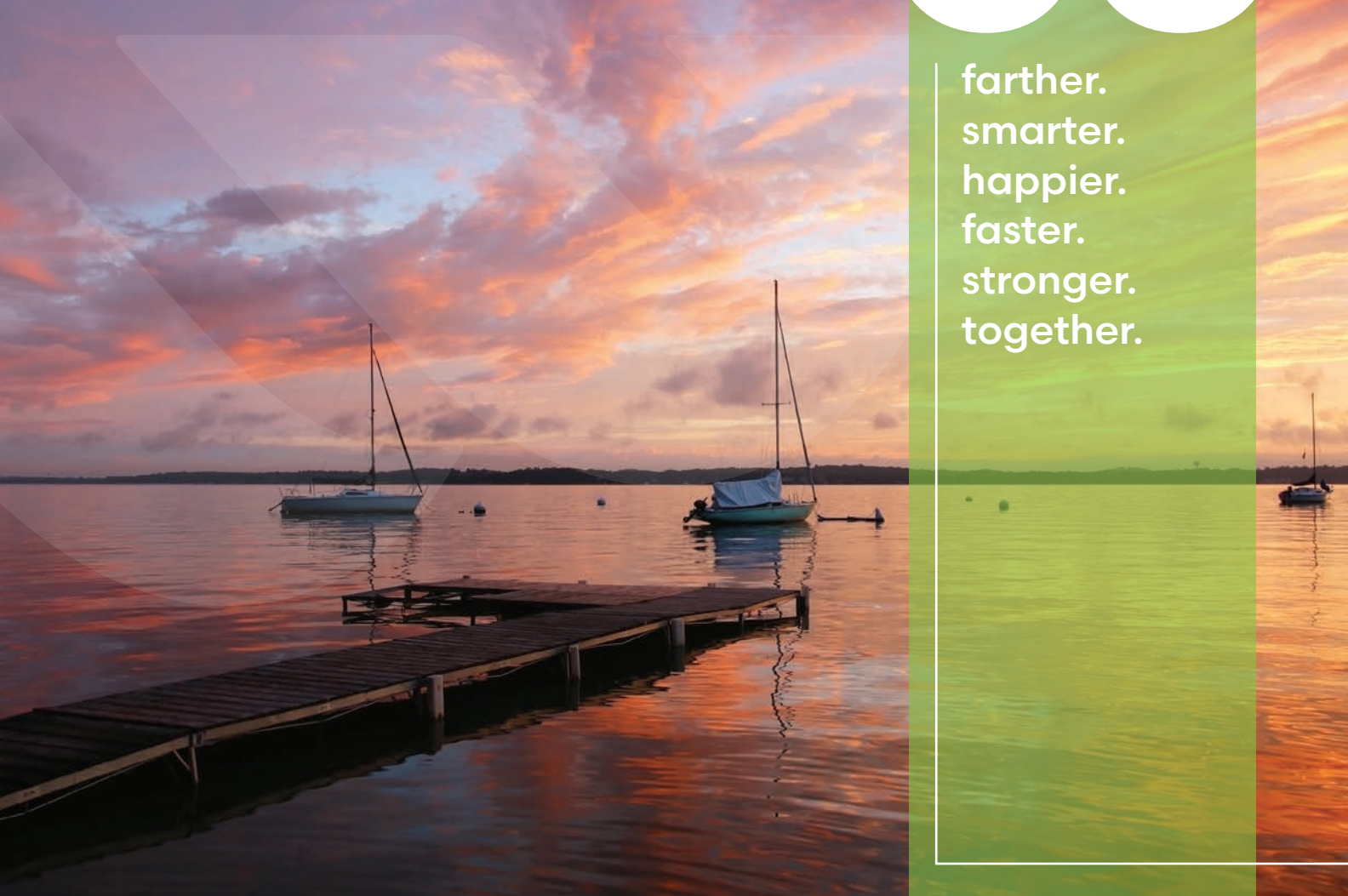
Lake Ridge Bank™

Go Far. Go Together.

LIFE IS BETTER  
AT THE LAKE.

GO

farther.  
smarter.  
happier.  
faster.  
stronger.  
together.







"It's great being outside and we love the zoo."  
-Kalli & Ray, Madison, WI

# What do you enjoy most about Henry Vilas Park?

"My son likes to fish here. Bluegills, bass, carp. There are a lot of frogs he likes to net. The zoo over here is nice too. We like to ride our bikes on the path. It's our favorite park."  
-Tara Hopmann & her kids, Fitchburg, WI



"It's quiet."  
-Hannah, Madison, WI

"We just moved here in June. Astro loves it and I love it. It's so beautiful in the morning. His favorite thing is the ducks on the ice skating pond. He just sits down and watches. He's scared of the cranes though! My husband has a canoe, so we can walk and canoe right here. Everything is really accessible: you can walk to restaurants and coffee shops too."  
-Valerie Muller & Astro, Madison, WI



Large photo: Hannah relaxes at Henry Vilas Park

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# Our Past Can Shape Our Future

BY SAMANTHA SKENANDORE

The Public Trust Doctrine of this great State of Wisconsin, which affords humans' rights to waters, absolutely paves the way for unprecedented and innovative solutions to protect our waters to the greatest extent possible. Water is life.

Underpinning that trust doctrine is our human connection to water - healthy, vibrant, abundant, and thriving bodies of water - ecosystems within themselves. Water connects us. Some of my earliest memories in ceremonies as a little girl involve being offered a drink of fresh spring water, carried with love from one of our precious spring sites here in Wisconsin. I remember the flavor, the coldness, and the healing of my flesh as I drank it - our first medicine. We followed with prayer in gratefulness for this gift from the Creator, Mauna - and we still do this today.

These teachings drastically affected my life choices. I helped in the fight to drive out a company that planned to extract thousands of gallons of sacred spring site water for commercial bottling here in Wisconsin. In that fight, I read the deed abstract for that parcel of land that reserved the rights of the Indians to collect water for ceremony and restricting land use - causing me to tear up. Hope. Soon thereafter, I took off to law school and clerked for the U.S. Department of Justice to fight for Indian water rights through litigation. That work resulted in wins for the Klamath Basin tribes. I currently fight for water rights for a western tribe through special congressional legislation. The fights for water rights are moving eastward and will someday land on our doorstep, too. Are we ready?

Others want our precious water. If they cannot buy it, they want to take it. The threat is very real and well-documented. How we work to prepare and position ourselves as stewards of entire watersheds for increasing threats here in Wisconsin can become refined

models of our very survival. We must master our coexistence and reconcile our differences with water before it is too late. Who has the blueprint for these models? Well, that's a good question. As a wise man once said, sometimes you must look backward to look forward.

Who are the original stewards of this very watershed? What are their mores, customs, laws, rules, and best practices? What is the traditional name and identity of the watershed? What can nature do, if allowed and encouraged to do so, to heal and replenish water sources and the flora and fauna that depend on them, and vice versa? When, where, and how can humans best play a role in this? How do we shift from reactionary roles to preemptive strikes?

Who are our visionaries, past and present? Why has a body of law under the Public Trust Doctrine not developed, but has remarkably developed elsewhere? What Indigenous Knowledge can be shared, absorbed, accepted, and practiced? What other science and data do we have to rely upon? What innovations exist or are yet to come? Please, hand me the crystal ball here...

Homework. I'm embarking on homework and invite you to join me in taking on the tasks at hand. I am absolutely in love with Teejop. My Ho-Chunk ancestors named this place after the water because it has an identity, a life, a meaning, and a purpose - deserving of the utmost care and protection. Join me.

Samantha Skenandore is a Federal Indian and Tribal Law experienced attorney for Quarles, and an enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation. She previously served as a tribal attorney for the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Justice, where her responsibilities included chairing the administrative grievance review board. As a rights-of-nature proponent, she supports advocating for laws that protect land and water.

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