

# About the Yahara CLEAN Compact

## *Capital Lakes Environmental Assessment and Needs 3.0*

### **Clearer water. Open beaches. Fewer cyanobacteria blooms.**

*Vision: All community members feel connected to, proud of, and responsible for our lakes and streams.*

- We see clearer lakes with open beaches and safer water at the center of our community.
- We believe the lakes belong to and benefit all of us.
- We believe consideration of diverse voices and perspectives makes for strong decision-making.
  - Land Acknowledgment: The Yahara River Watershed has a long history of ethnic cleaning and colonization that sought to forcibly remove the Ho-Chunk from Wisconsin. The Yahara CLEAN Compact partners acknowledge that we reside on stolen land and respect the inherent sovereignty of the Ho-Chunk Nation, along with the eleven other First Nations of Wisconsin. We recognize that the First Nations are the traditional stewards of this land and protectors of water. Therefore, as we work towards developing an action plan for the Yahara River Watershed, we will strive to respectfully listen and learn from our Indigenous communities.
  - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: The Yahara CLEAN Compact is a diverse group of partners working to make a collective impact on the health of the Yahara River Watershed. We recognize the importance of providing an equitable forum for all communities to share their perspectives on lake use. We further recognize the importance of ensuring an inclusive decision-making approach to improve the health and accessibility of the lakes for all users.

### **Effective, achievable, lasting, equitable.**

*Path: Yahara CLEAN 3.0 is building on progress.*

- We recognize that community efforts are already making a difference.
- We have new tools to help us expand and accelerate our progress, and to account for the impacts of climate change and other factors.
- We are bringing new partners, collaborators and resources to the table.
- We believe a strong set of strategies will be equitable, effective, lasting, affordable, inclusive, achievable, and adaptable. They will be urban and rural; communal and individual. They will help us nurture and celebrate the lakes we love.
- We are committed to an inclusive and transparent process.

### **Less phosphorus. Less E. coli. Less runoff.**

*Tools: We will leverage science, experience, culture change, collaboration, outreach and funding*

- Our work will lead to healthier soils, cleaner water, and healthier shorelines. It will reduce the phosphorus, E. coli and runoff entering our lakes.
- We listen to each other. We bring our passion, creativity, and experience to the table in service of our common goals. Working together, we will choose proven strategies; create metrics to keep them on track; identify funding to support them; and design outreach to sustain them.