



# Yahara CLEAN Compact

## **OUR LAKES HAVE VALUE**

The Yahara Watershed and its five lakes define Dane County and Greater Madison's sense of place. The lakes contribute significantly to the region's economic vitality, recreational offerings, and local quality of life.

## **OUR LAKES ARE IN TROUBLE**

Unhealthy lakes impact all of us, not just those who live, work, or play on the lakes. High levels of nutrients in the lakes lead to unattractive algal blooms and harmful bacteria near the shore, causing frequent beach closures and preventing us from enjoying the benefits of these natural amenities.

## **WE ARE TAKING ACTION, BUT WE NEED TO DO MORE**

Great efforts have been made over the years to improve the water quality of the Yahara Watershed. Sadly, these efforts have been undermined by increased urbanization, intensified farming production, and most especially climate change (more intense rain events), resulting in very limited progress toward our goal of improved water quality.

## **A SHARED ROADMAP**

The Yahara CLEAN Compact, is a coalition of community partners working collaboratively towards creating an action plan with recommendations and implementation tools to empower citizens, organizations, businesses, and policy-makers to improve lake water quality. The updated action plan will include:

- Shared community vision and goals
- A roadmap to cleaner lakes
- Identification of actions, roles and timeframes
- Funding strategies
- Milestones for tracking progress

## **THESE ARE OUR LAKES!**

It's time for a renewed effort and everyone has a role to play! It will take all of us pitching in for a better future for our lakes, our watershed, and our community.

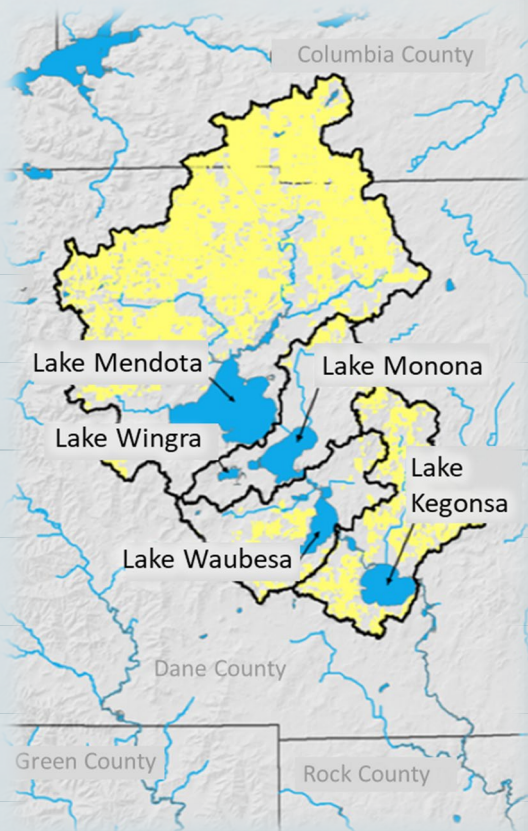
For more information about the Yahara CLEAN Compact, please visit the project webpage at <https://www.cleanlakesalliance.org/yahara-clean/>

Questions? Comments? Please contact Paul Dearlove at [info@cleanlakesalliance.org](mailto:info@cleanlakesalliance.org)



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## Yahara River Watershed



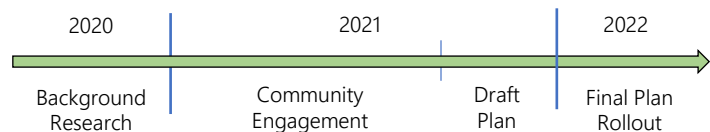
## *An Action Plan for Cleaner Lakes*

The Yahara CLEAN Compact, a 19-member coalition, seeks to improve the water quality of our five lakes by reducing the amount of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), *E. coli* bacteria, and phosphorus contamination, which are the main culprits threatening the quality and safety of our lakes and beaches.

### Project Goals:

- Help make our five lakes swimmable and fishable again (based on federal water quality standards).
- Educate and engage a wide diversity of residents to ensure their input influences recommendations to be included in the *Action Plan*.
- Expand and strengthen community partnerships.
- Develop a community action plan to effectively address complex water quality issues.
- Promote a culture of sustainability that will benefit the watershed community for generations to come!

### Timeline:



Visit the **CLEAN Compact website** to learn more:  
<https://www.cleanlakesalliance.org/yahara-clean/>

## We want to hear your thoughts about the lakes!

How do the lakes impact your own life? How can we improve the water quality of the lakes and keep them healthy?

Please take our short survey. Improving our lakes will require a full community effort! Your thoughts and perspectives will be used to help shape the recommendations to be rolled out in early 2022.

Scan code to  
access survey

