



# Yahara WINS Adaptive Management

Dane County Land & Water Resources  
2022 Annual Report

Dane County’s continued participation in the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (Yahara WINS) resulted in another successful year of conservation implementation in 2022. By providing planning services and technical assistance to landowners and agricultural producers throughout the watershed, Dane County was able to meet and exceed phosphorus reduction goals in the Yahara Watershed.

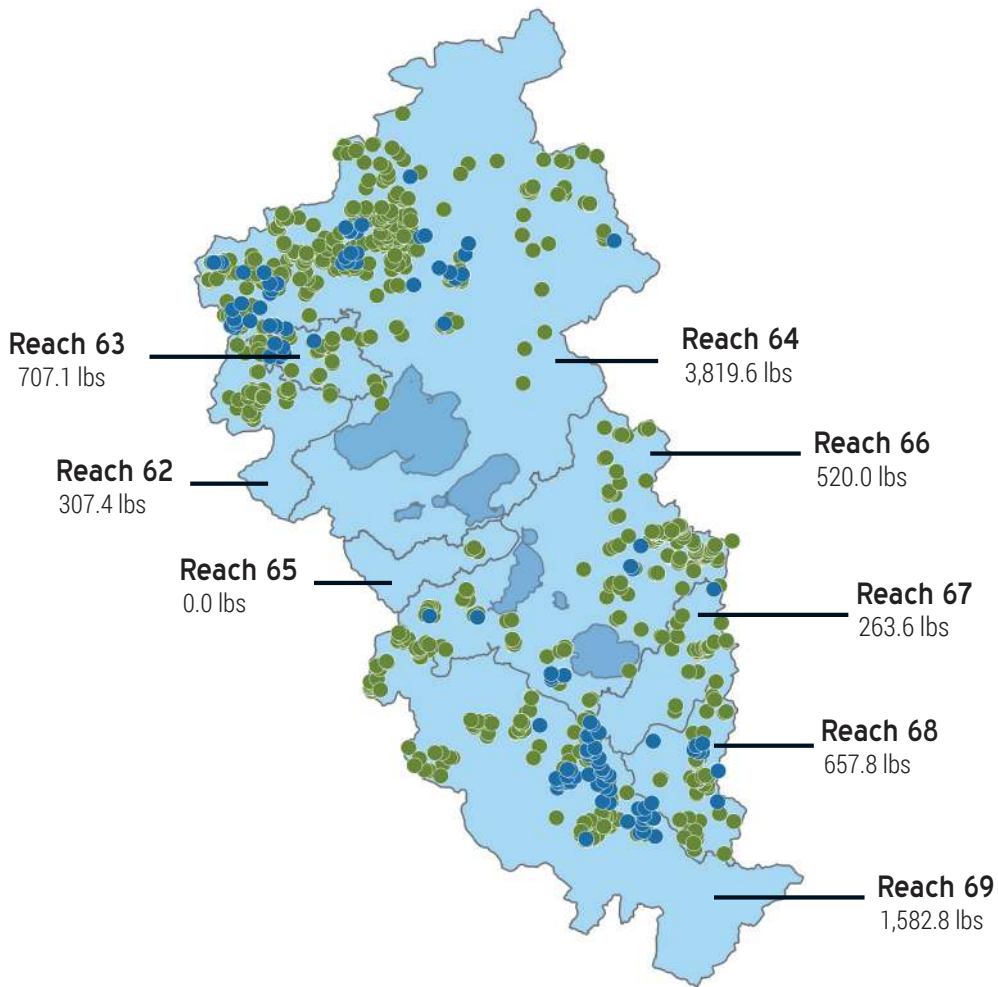


The collaborative and innovative nature of the Yahara WINS Adaptive Management Plan supports practical, impactful implementation of conservation practices. This approach has again shown to provide meaningful, positive benefits to local water quality. Additionally, the increase in conservation implementation has brought added benefits such as increased wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration and enhanced flood mitigation throughout the watershed.

This annual report highlights the variety of conservation practices and systems that Dane County helped plan, implement, and promote in 2022. The 136 completed conservation practices in 2022 brings the total number since 2008 to 1,190 practices. Last year, over 1 million dollars was allocated to cost share agreements in the watershed, the highest amount since 2019. This includes over \$500,000 from Dane County, distributed to landowners and operators through the Soil Health Equipment Program, Continuous Cover Program and Yahara CLEAN. The total amount of acres tracked through nutrient management have also steadily increased throughout the past years. Yahara WINS continues to make a positive impact to address natural resource concerns.



# Pounds of phosphorus reduced in 2022



**Reduction in 2022 from newly implemented practices: 7,858.3 lbs**

**Reduction in 2022 from carryover practices: 14,230.8 lbs**

Reach 62: 186.1 lbs	Reach 66: 5,411.6 lbs
Reach 63: 1,616.3 lbs	Reach 67: 523.2 lbs
Reach 64: 4,069.3 lbs	Reach 68: 788.6 lbs
Reach 65: 182.2 lbs	Reach 69: 1,453.5 lbs

**Total phosphorus reduced throughout the watershed: 22,089 lbs**

# Number by unit of completed conservation practices in 2022

Total new pounds of phosphorus removed, reported by TDML Reach within the watershed



**Reach 62** → 307.4 lbs

**Reach 63** → 707.1 lbs

- 1 Waste Storage Facility Closure
- 136.6 Acres of No-Till Drill
- 136.6 Acres of Cover Crops

**Reach 64** → 3,819.6 lbs

- 90.3 acres of No-Till Drill
- 1,216.2 acres of Cover Crops
- 3.1 acres of Grassed Waterway
- 452 feet of Underground Outlet
- 1 Waste Storage Facility Closure
- 1 New Waste Storage Facility

**Reach 65** → 0.0 lbs

**Reach 66** → 520.0 lbs

- 392 feet of Access Road
- 29.2 acres of Conservation Cover
- 23.1 acres of Critical Area Planting
- 2,793 feet of Fence
- 11.3 acres of Prescribed Grazing

**Reach 67** → 263.6 lbs

- 53.3 acres of Cover Crops
- 31.2 acres of Forage and Biomass Planting
- 700 feet of Livestock Pipeline
- 31.2 acres of Prescribed Grazing

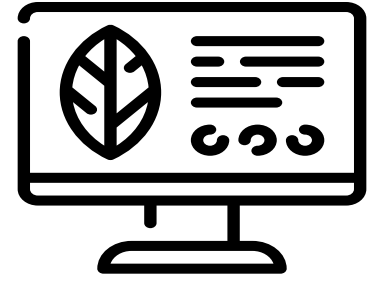
**Reach 68** → 657.8 lbs

- 144.9 acres of Cover Crops
- 13 acres of Forage and Biomass Planting
- 990 feet of Livestock Pipeline
- 5 acres of Conservation Cover

**Reach 69** → 1,582.8 lbs

- 1,152 acres of Cover Crops
- 14,299 feet of Fence
- 1 Grade Stabilization Structure
- 0.3 acres of Grassed Waterway
- 1,830 feet of Livestock Pipeline
- 1 Stream Crossing
- 2 Watering Facilities

## Nutrient Management Planning



In agricultural operations, the use of nutrient management plans (NMP) can minimize the risk of nonpoint source pollution while still ensuring crops are receiving the nutrients they need when they need them. Properly applied nutrients can support plant production while still minimizing risk to nearby natural resources.

Dane County staff receive, review and map nutrient management plans within the Yahara watershed. Additionally, the County requires participants receiving cost share assistance through some of their conservation programs to submit nutrient management plans. Utilizing this tool is another display of Dane County's ongoing commitment to protecting water quality and soil health.

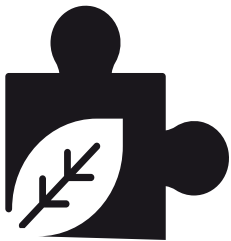
52,465 total acres tracked in 2022, including internally drained areas:

<b>Reach 62:</b> 3,152	<b>Reach 66:</b> 4,122
<b>Reach 63:</b> 4,341	<b>Reach 67:</b> 1,772
<b>Reach 64:</b> 26,983	<b>Reach 68:</b> 4,637
<b>Reach 65:</b> 0	<b>Reach 69:</b> 7,458

47,144 total acres tracked in 2022, excluding internally drained areas:

<b>Reach 62:</b> 3,074	<b>Reach 66:</b> 4,093
<b>Reach 63:</b> 4,339	<b>Reach 67:</b> 1,700
<b>Reach 64:</b> 24,455	<b>Reach 68:</b> 4,589
<b>Reach 65:</b> 0	<b>Reach 69:</b> 4,895

## Another piece of the puzzle: Practice Verification Checks



Implemented practices have a range of expected lifespans. Many of them require different amount of maintenance and attention based on their purpose, usage and other outside factors. Each year staff conduct verification checks on a predetermined number of practices to ensure they are functioning as intended and well maintained. If the practices are not, staff can provide touch up work and assistance to help get these practices back on track to be adequately addressing natural resource concerns.

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In 2022, there were 8 practice verification checks completed. Only one of the practices checked was not functioning and maintained as originally intended, a 5.1 acre filter strip located in Reach 66. All other checks were functioning and maintained. This includes: 1 acre of grassed waterway in Reach 62, 2.8 acres of grassed waterway in Reach 65, 2.8 acres of Forage and Biomass Planting as well as 0.6 acres of grassed waterway in Reach 66.

This support ensures the practices implemented are continuing to function as intended and minor touch up work can be done proactively to ensure function is not impaired throughout the lifespan.

# 2022 Financial Data

The total amount of money allocated towards cost share funding in 2022 reached over one million dollars for only the second time in program history. The 2022 total of \$1,087,599.09 is more than double the prior year in 2021. This brings the total dollars since 2008 to over \$7.3 million. There were no state dollars allocated in 2022.

# \$419,264.94

Federal dollars allocated

2018: \$463,868.59

2019: \$134,377.00

2020: \$0.00

2021: \$0.00

2022: \$419,264.94

Total last 5 years: \$1,017,510.50

# \$552,846.17

County dollars allocated

2018: \$371,239.25

2019: \$1,015,076.00

2020: \$839,021.76

2021: \$404,902.45

2022: \$552,846.17

Total last 5 years: \$3,183,085.63

# \$115,487.98

Other dollars allocated  
(Yahara WINS funding)

2018: \$0.00

2019: \$19,800.00

2020: \$0.00

2021: \$0.00

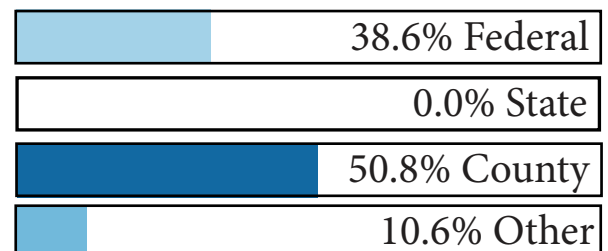
2022: \$115,487.98

Total last 5 years: \$135,287.98

Total dollars allocated towards  
cost share agreements in 2022

# \$1,087,599.09

Percentage of 2022 total by funding source



# 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

**42** total cost share agreements signed throughout the watershed, including 9 federal, 0 state, 20 county and 13 through Yahara WINS

Staff provided conservation planning assistance for an additional 29 practices, this technical support and guidance helps make the implementation of practices a more accessible option for landowners and operators



**136** conservation practices implemented during the year throughout the Yahara watershed.

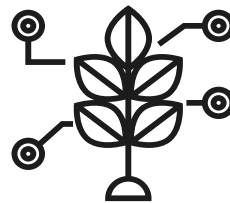
Dane County staff assisted landowners and operators with a variety of types of practices, including livestock pipelines, prescribed grazing plans, grassed waterways, waste storage facility construction and closures, fencing and more



**3,077** acres of various soil health practices and projects including cover crops, no-till drill, conservation covers, planting, prescribed grazing and more... that is roughly the same size of Lake Monona!

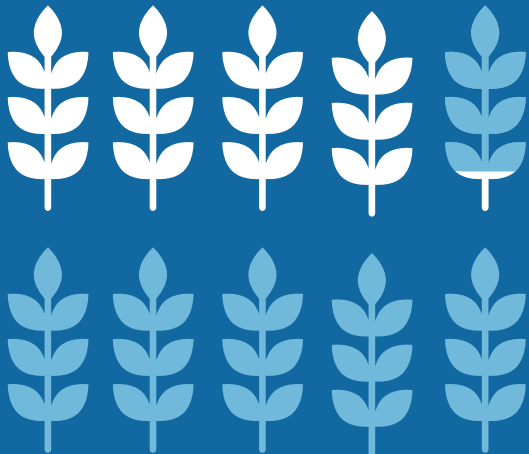
**17** different kinds of conservation practices implemented, with lifespans ranging from 1 to 20 years

Of the 124,966 acres of cropland in the Yahara Watershed, 42% (or 52,465 acres) was received and tracked by Dane County with nutrient management plans



**52,465**

Total acres of land (including internally drained) across the Yahara Watershed tracked with nutrient management plans in 2022



Total new and carryover pounds of phosphorus reduced in 2022

**22,089**

