



**Join your local watershed group.**

Go to [www.danewaters.com/resource/WatershedMap.aspx](http://www.danewaters.com/resource/WatershedMap.aspx) to learn what watershed you live in and then look up active groups in your area. If there isn't one, consider starting one. Persuade your local officials that the lakes, streams and wetlands are an important issue, since the quality of the water resources depend on continuing action and adequate funding for maintenance and protection.

These are just a few of the things you can do. Go to [www.danewaters.com](http://www.danewaters.com) for more information on our lakes and streams, rain gardens, Take a Stake in the Lakes Days, the Yahara Lakes Legacy Partnership, the Commission, water conservation, friends and watershed groups and their events and activities and much more.

We think of storm drains and ditches as methods to quickly and efficiently remove stormwater. Unfortunately, untreated stormwater is quickly and efficiently drained to the nearest lake, river or stream.

**Pollutants are not removed and subsequently washed into the water where we boat, swim and fish. They also cause our lakes to look and smell bad.**

Lakes and rivers are sensitive ecosystems. So, remember, if you wouldn't put it in your fish tank, don't let it go down the storm drain.



**Dane County Office of Lakes & Watersheds**

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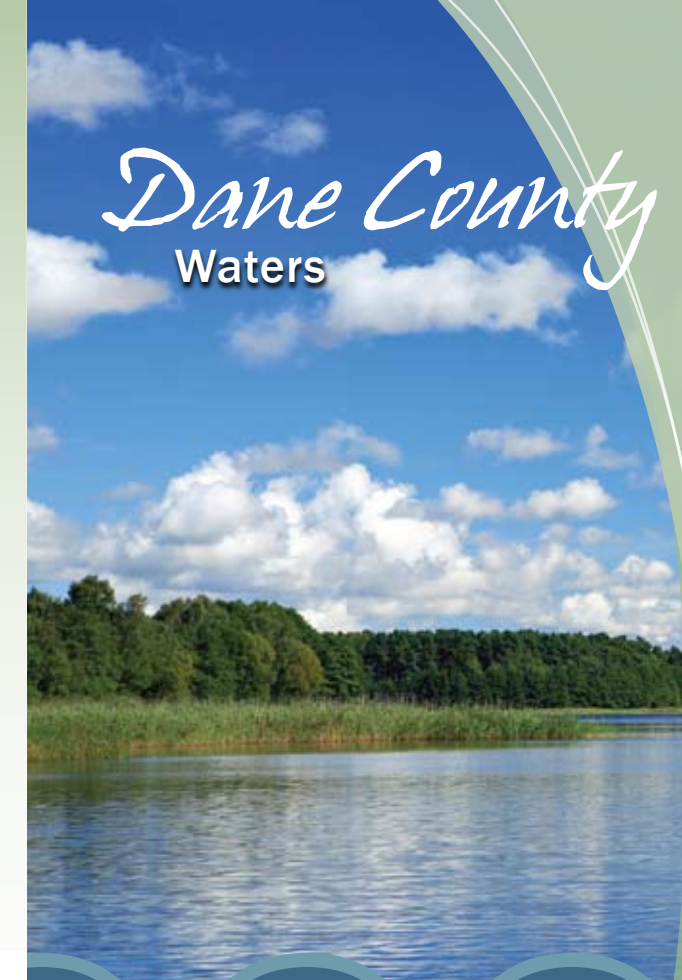
Phone: 608-224-3730

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**Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission**

A coordinating and advisory agency within Dane County government, the Commission works to protect and improve water quality, as well as the scenic, economic, recreational, and environmental value of Dane County's water resources.

# Dane County Waters



*Yours to Enjoy,*

**Yours to Protect and Improve**

**Water Stewardship for  
Dane County Lakes and Streams**

*The many lakes, rivers and streams of Dane County are part of what makes this a special place to live, work and play.*

They are vital to the region, contributing tremendously to its environmental and economic well-being as well as the quality of our daily lives. We have 69 named lakes and ponds, over 475 miles of streams and rivers, and more than 52,000 acres of wetlands. As the population of Dane County continues to increase, demands on the lakes, streams, wetlands and drinking water supplies will also increase. So, we all need to be aware of how our individual activities directly impact these resources and learn what we each can do so that they can continue to be enjoyed by people today as well as tomorrow and years to come.



## What Can You Do?

### To keep it out of the lakes, we've got to keep it out of the streets, gutters and drainage ditches.

Keep leaves, grass clippings, yard waste, garbage, fertilizer and water from your yard from making its way to the street and storm drain, and eventually, our lakes and streams. Pick up litter, even if it's not yours. Take your hazardous wastes to Clean Sweep. [www.danecountycleansweep.com](http://www.danecountycleansweep.com) Sweep your driveway and street gutters. Never use the hose to wash debris away.



### Install rain gardens and rain barrels.

Preventing stormwater from leaving your property helps

prevent excess water going down the storm drain and promotes infiltration.

**Direct downspouts to grassy areas** rather than driveways and sidewalks that send stormwater to storm drains.

**Mark storm drains.** Help spread the word with a spray painted stencil or colorful marker alerting everyone that the storm drain delivers stormwater—and everything that stormwater flushes out of the street—directly to the nearest waterbody. Go to [www.danewaters.com](http://www.danewaters.com) or call **608-224-3718** to learn more about storm drain marking. Find the nearest storm drain to your house. Then learn which lake or stream receives the stormwater from that drain.



**Keep your vehicle properly maintained** so it doesn't leak any fluids on streets, parking lots and driveways. If you wash your car at home, wash it on the lawn so the soapy dirty water doesn't go down the storm drain. Or wash it at a car wash that sends its used water to the sewage treatment plant.

### Limit your use of pesticides and commercial fertilizers.

If you must use them, carefully follow label instructions. Remember that lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus are prohibited unless you have a soil test proving it is needed or your lawn is in its first growing season.



**Pick up after your pet.** Flush it down the toilet or bury it six inches deep.

**Prevent the spread of aquatic invasives.** Dane County waters are threatened by invasive plants and animals, including zebra mussels and viral hemorrhagic septicemia. When boating or fishing, please take the following steps before traveling to a new water body. Remove aquatic plants, animals and mud from boat, trailer and equipment before leaving the landing. Drain all water from boat, motor, live wells, bilge, bait buckets and other containers before leaving the landing. Ice your catch; don't leave landing with any live fish, bait or fish eggs. Dispose of any unused bait in trash, not in the water or on the land. Rinse your boat and equipment with hot or high pressure water or let your boat and equipment dry for at least five days. [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/CBCW](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/CBCW)

**Learn more about the water resources in your area.** Check out the Yahara Waterways Water Trail guide for fun cultural, historical and environmental facts from the water ([www.danewaters.com/YaharaWaterTrail.aspx](http://www.danewaters.com/YaharaWaterTrail.aspx)). If biking's your thing, take a spin using Bike Tours of the Lake Mendota Watershed (<http://danenet.wicip.org/bcp2006/mendota/>) or the Lake Wingra watershed bike tour (<http://danenet.wicip.org/fowingra/images/bikemap.pdf>).

