

## **PROJECT TYPE**

Agricultural / Urban Phosphorus Management Practices in the Badger Mill Creek Watershed

**START** 2025

**COMPLETION** Ongoing (Min 5 years)

## **LOCATION**

Badger Mill Creek Watershed

## **DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this proposal is to provide funding for use as cost-share to support the implementation of existing programs for agricultural and urban phosphorus best management practices in the Badger Mill Creek Watershed to reduce phosphorus loads to Badger Mill Creek.

Phosphorus has long been recognized as a major factor in plant and algae growth in Wisconsin's lakes and streams. Small increases in phosphorus can cause substantial increases in aquatic plant and algae growth, which can harm the natural ecosystem and water quality. It can also reduce recreational use, property values and human health. Phosphorus is a widely used nutrient with varying sources. It's used in detergents, animal feed and fertilizers, and is found in our food and our waste. Non-point pollution occurs when rain and melting snow wash over farm fields, feedlots, streets and parking lots. This can carry with it phosphorus containing pollutants such as fertilizers, manure, and soil from agricultural and urban areas which eventually feed into lakes and streams.

The Dane County Land and Water Resources Department implements a number of programs and initiatives for phosphorus reduction. Since 2005, Dane County has made cost-sharing funds, up to 60% of the total project cost, available to municipalities via their Urban Water Quality Grant Program. The goals of the Urban Water Quality Grant Program are to improve the quality of urban stormwater runoff entering Dane County lakes, rivers and streams, increase public awareness of urban water quality issues, and provide public education about urban stormwater quality improvement practices. The Land Conservation Division also manages a number of voluntary conservation-related projects and programs that can provide financial assistance for landowners and operators for phosphorus reduction.

In addition, since 2016, the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association has been working with a producer-led group - Farmers for the Upper Sugar River to reduce phosphorus in the Headwaters Sugar River and West Branch Sugar River watersheds. The goal of the program is to provide an opportunity for farmers to learn from each other about different types of conservation practices and offer a cost-share program.

## **PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDERS**

Lead Organization: Dane County Land & Water Resources Department

Supporting Organizations: CARPC, City of Fitchburg, City of Madison, City of Verona, Friends of Badger Mill Creek, MMSD, Town of Verona, Trout Unlimited, USRWA

## **FUNDING**

Estimated Project Cost:        \$200,000 (\$40,000 per year for 5 years)