

Badger Mill Creek Watershed Management Plan

PROJECT TYPE

Watershed Management Plan

START February 2025

COMPLETION December 2025

LOCATION

Entire Badger Mill Creek Watershed

DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Badger Mill Creek Watershed. A central goal of this proposal is to create a plan that supports effective and timely communication among partners, especially organizations developing and implementing projects. An outcome of stakeholder group meetings is that stakeholders, organizations, and municipalities are passionate about not only protecting the Badger Mill Creek Environmental Corridor as a resource, and they collectively are willing and prepared to invest in restoration and other improvements. However, it is imperative that planned projects include coordination so that limited resources are leveraged effectively and necessary approvals are not ignored. The plan would be developed under a contract with (the UW Water Resources Management practicum, or similar entity, CARPC, consultant, or another organization).

Key elements proposed for inclusion in the plan are:

- Asset inventories (species other than fish, recreational amenities, etc.) – could get community participation with inventories.
- Comprehensive set of maps and mapping tools
- Community input – goal to increase public awareness and buy-in.
- Modeling (climate variability, urban development, economic shifts)
- How could community types be affected by projects?
- Issues assessment
- Specific implementation projects with funding tied to each project.
- Establish a coordinating council with representatives from stakeholder groups that meet bimonthly to share and discuss planned projects early in development and progress of ongoing projects.

BACKGROUND

The Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, Dane County Parks, and Capital Area Regional Planning Commission members of the stakeholder group put forward this project proposal to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Badger Mill Creek Watershed. This subcommittee agreed that developing a comprehensive management plan is a logical next step that would also include advancing the other priorities of base flow augmentation and groundwater recharge. The project is recommended to:

- Provide data to make informed decisions both short-term and long-term.
- Generate community awareness, buy-in and support.
- Gain an understanding of the community's watershed priorities across jurisdictional boundaries. (Most planning efforts are within these boundaries, not at a watershed level).
- Mobilize support for a broad range of goals and activities across potentially disparate groups.

PARTICIPATING STAKEHOLDERS

Lead Organization(s): USRWA, CARPC, Dane County Land and Water Resources Department/Dane County Parks

Supporting Organization(s): City of Fitchburg, City of Madison, City of Verona, Friends of Badger Mill Creek, MMSD, Town of Verona, Trout Unlimited

FUNDING

Estimated Project Cost

\$150,000 (100% paid from MMSD BMC funds)

RESOURCE LINKS