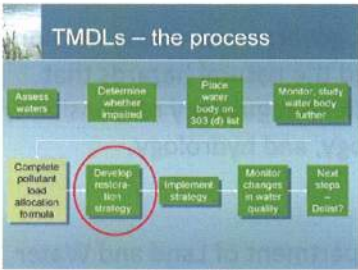


# Water Quality Fact Sheet



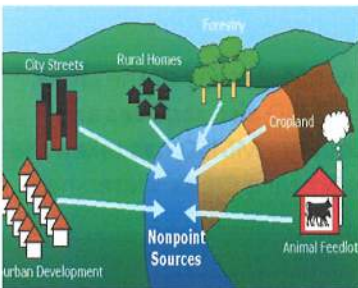
**Impaired water body:** a stream segment, river segment or lake that fails to meet one or more water quality standards. In the Yahara watershed, the most common impairments are related to phosphorus or sediment.



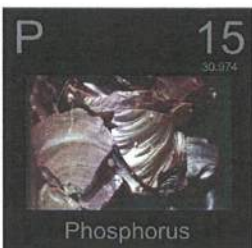
**TMDL:** A total maximum daily load or TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant that an impaired water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. A TMDL also identifies sources of the pollutant and allocates allowable loads between sources.



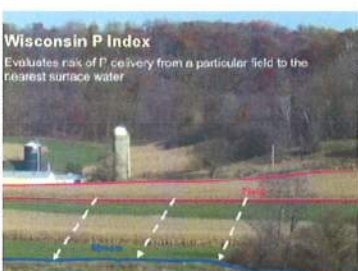
**Point source pollution:** a direct discharge from a single, identifiable source to a water body, usually from a pipe. Wastewater treatment plans and certain industries are two common examples. Stormwater runoff from certain urban areas is also considered a point source.



**Non-point source pollution:** a discharge to a water body from land use activities over a large area, such as agriculture, usually the result of runoff resulting from rain or snow melt.



**Phosphorus:** is a nutrient that is essential for plant, animal and human growth. Too much phosphorus in the wrong place can cause problems. The most limiting nutrient in most lakes and rivers is phosphorus. One pound of phosphorus can produce 500 pounds of algae.



**Phosphorous Index:** is a planning and assessment tool for managing runoff phosphorus losses from cropland. It uses information that is readily available to evaluate the potential for phosphorus in runoff from a specific field entering a nearby stream or lake. The higher the number, the greater the likelihood that a field is contributing phosphorus to a local water body.





**EPA (Environmental Protection Agency):** An agency of the U.S. government which was created for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment by writing and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress.



**WDNR (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources):** An agency of the state of Wisconsin whose purpose is to preserve, protect, manage, and maintain the natural resources of the state. The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board has the authority to set policy for the DNR and to recommend regulations for approval by the State Legislature and the Governor.



**USGS (United States Geological Survey):** A scientific agency of the U.S. government whose mission is to study the landscape of the United States, its natural resources, and the natural hazards that threaten it. The organization is a fact-finding research organization with no regulatory responsibility and includes four major science disciplines -- biology, geography, geology, and hydrology.



**LCD (Land Conservation Division):** The division of the Dane County Department of Land and Water Resources that deals with land conservation issues. Specifically, their mission is to provide conservation planning assistance and technical service in the area of soil and water conservation to the landowners, land users, and decision-makers of Dane County, Wisconsin.



**Yahara WINS:** Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (WINS) is a diverse group of towns, villages, cities and others who are working together to meet phosphorus and sediment reductions in the Yahara watershed. Yahara WINS is testing a new, innovative approach called watershed adaptive management that gives participants a great deal of flexibility to identify and implement cost effective phosphorus and sediment reduction practices.



**Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District:** provides wastewater treatment for many of the cities, villages, towns and sanitary districts located in the Yahara Watershed. MMSD also receives and treats septage generated from rural homes located throughout Dane County. MMSD has taken the lead in organizing the Yahara WINS pilot project, which is located in the Six Mile Creek Watershed.



**Yahara Pride Farms:** A 501(c)(4) non-profit, farmer-led organization that focuses on identifying and resolving natural resource problems, without the need for regulatory measures. Ultimately, Yahara Pride Farms strives to preserve farm heritage; continue agriculture and proactive environmental stewardship that will result in the preservation and enhancement of high quality soil and water resources not only for today but for generations to come.



**DATCP (Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection):** licenses individuals, business and locations to protect human and animal health, the environment, and consumers. Also provides annual statistics on top Wisconsin export markets and products.



**CLA (Clean Lakes Alliance):** A non-profit organization devoted to improving the water quality of the lakes, streams, and wetlands of the Yahara River watershed. Their goals include raising community awareness of the issues facing the watershed, advocating for the welfare of the lakes, and helping procure the necessary funding to clean and protect the waterways within the Yahara Watershed.