

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
SWIMS Project Summary

General Project Information

**Project ID:** NKE11

**Name:** Lake Mendota PWS Plan - Nine Key Element Plan

**Type:** Water Quality Planning

**Subtype:** Priority Watershed Plan

**Status:** COMPLETE

**Start Date:** 6/1/1997

**End Date:** 12/31/2018

**Purpose:** [http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nonpoint/documents/9kep/Lake\\_Mendota-Plan.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nonpoint/documents/9kep/Lake_Mendota-Plan.pdf) The purpose of this watershed plan is to assess the nonpoint pollutants in the Lake Mendota watershed and to guide the implementation of control measures. Implementation of best management practices to control polluted runoff and education are needed to meet very specific water resource objectives designed to protect and enhance Lake Mendota and other lakes, streams, groundwater, and wetlands in the watershed.

**Objective:** Sediment, and its associated nutrients, are deposited in streams, marshes, Lake Mendota, and other small lakes in the watershed. Nonpoint source pollution in the Lake Mendota watershed has led to a general decrease in the quality of the lake and its tributaries. The decrease over time in the number of wetlands, through ditching and conversion to cropland or development, has contributed to decreased water quality and unstable base flow fluctuations. Other sources of nonpoint pollutants in a watershed originate from stream bank erosion and some gully erosion resulting in sediment deposition in the stream or lake.

**Comments:**

**Outcome:** Lake Mendota, a 10,000-acre glacial lake, is intensively used for recreational purposes including fishing and water contact sports. Excessive phosphorus loading results in noxious blue-green algae blooms and excessive weed growth. Most of the lake's water quality problems are linked to current and past rural and urban runoff carrying sediment, nutrients, and possibly toxins to the lake. About 50% of the original wetlands in the watershed have been drained or filled. A reduction in nutrient and sediment loading to Lake Mendota will likely result in improvement in the three downstream lakes in the Yahara Lake Chain--Lakes Monona, Waubesa, and Kegonsa. There are five major tributaries that drain directly into Lake Mendota: Pheasant Branch Creek, Dorn Creek, Sixmile Creek, the Yahara River, and Token Creek. Each of these tributaries is degraded from runoff pollution. Segments of the Pheasant Branch Creek, Token Creek, and the Yahara River have restoration potential if excessive sedimentation and nutrient inputs are controlled.

Study Design:

QA Measures:

People						
Name	Role	Status	Start Date	End Date	Organization	Comments

Project Statuses			
Date	Reported By	Status	Comments

Actions

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
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Action	Detailed Description	Start Date	End Date	Status
Nine Key Element Plan	Lake Mendota PWS Plan - The purpose of this watershed plan is to assess the nonpoint pollutants in the Lake Mendota watershed and to guide the implementation of control measures. Implementation of best management practices to control polluted runoff and education are needed to meet very specific water resource objectives designed to protect and enhance Lake Mendota and other lakes, streams, groundwater, and wetlands in the watershed.	6/1/1997	12/31/2018	IN_PROGRESS

Monitoring Stations

Station ID	Name	Comments
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Assessment Units

WBIC	Segment	Local Name	Official Name
805400	1	Mendota Lake	Lake Mendota

Lab Account Codes

Account Code	Description	Start Date	End Date
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Forms

Form Code	Form Name
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Methods

Method Code	Method Description
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Fieldwork Events

Start Date	Status	Field ID	Station ID	Station Name
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Documents

Title	Description	Author	Published	Comments
Lake Mendota Capitol View	Lake Mendota Capitol View	Jennifer Filbert		
Lake Mendota Tenney Park	Lake Mendota from Tenney Park Locks, facing Northwest. Photo taken 9/14/2012 Photo by Ashley Beranek	Ashley Beranek	9/17/2012	
Nonpoint Source Control Plan for the Lake Mendota Priority Watershed	Lake Menota Priority Watershed Plan PWS, Plan Approved, June, 1997	WDNR AND Partners	6/1/1997	

Budget

Combined Budgets:

Combined WSLH:

Combined Total: \$0.00

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Funding					
Organization	Source	Type	Amount	Start Date	End Date