UPDATES

1. Economic impact of the lakes
2. State of the Lakes
3. Renew the Blue Council

Our mission is to champion our lakes and watershed stewardship for the benefit of all

Healthy Waters = Thriving Community

Cultivate love for the lakes

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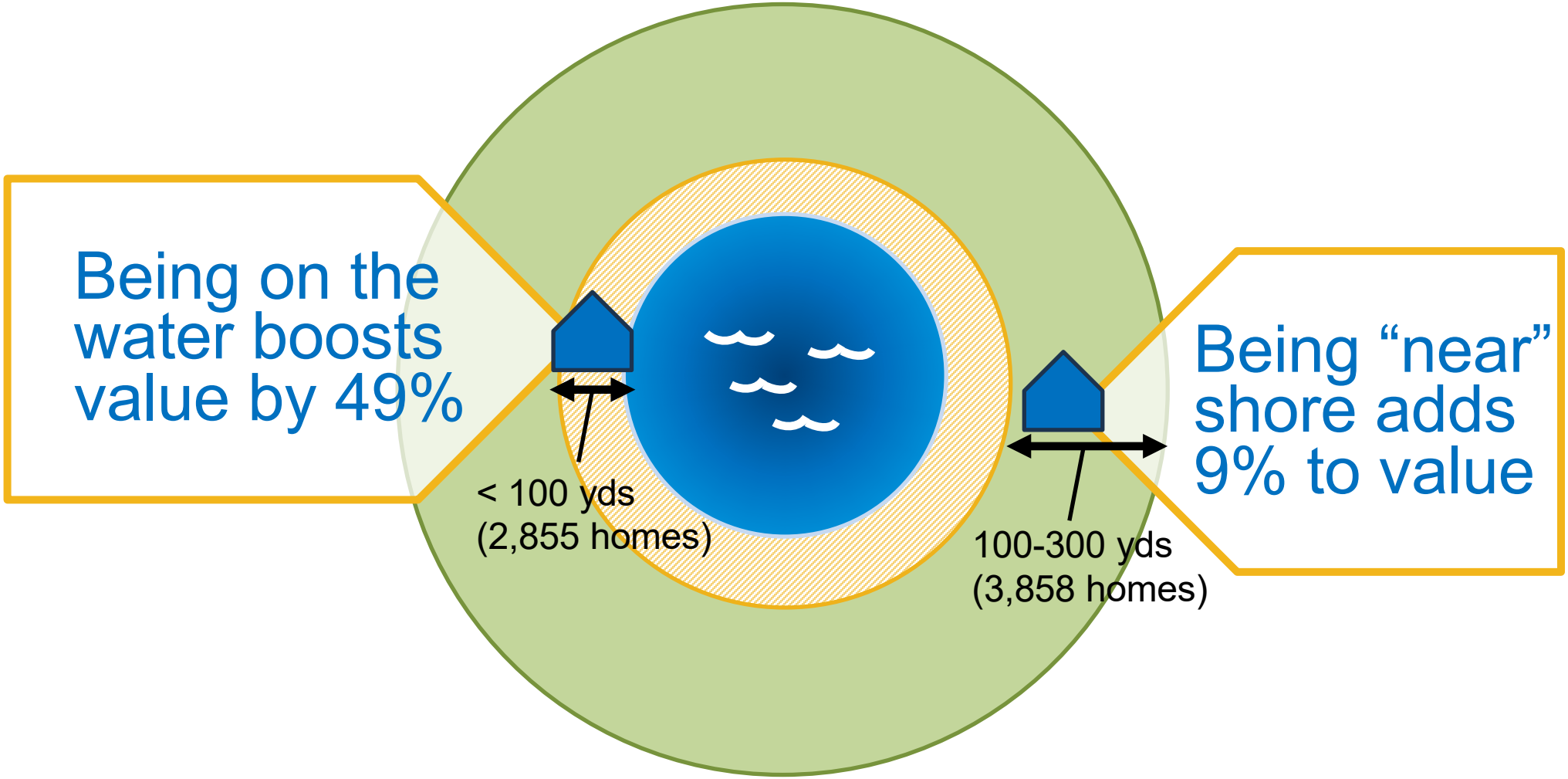
$220 million

contributed annually
from the lakes

Direct:	$118 million
Indirect:	$ 53 million
Induced:	$ 49 million

Homes close to the lakes add **$1.2 billion** in increased tax base



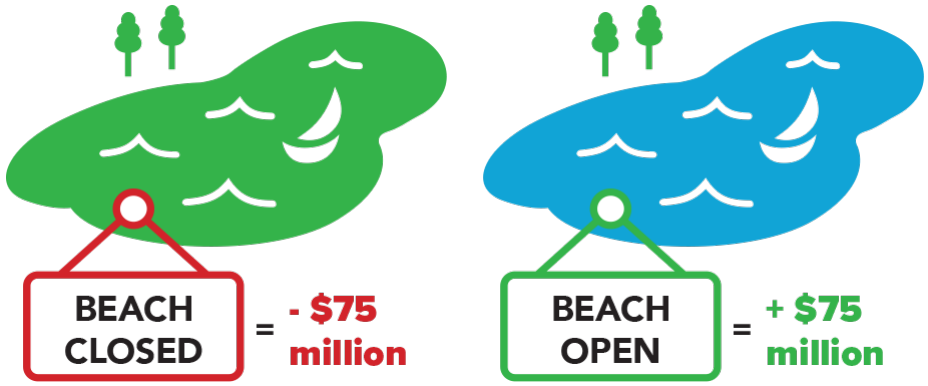
12 inch
decrease in
water clarity

=

-$80 million

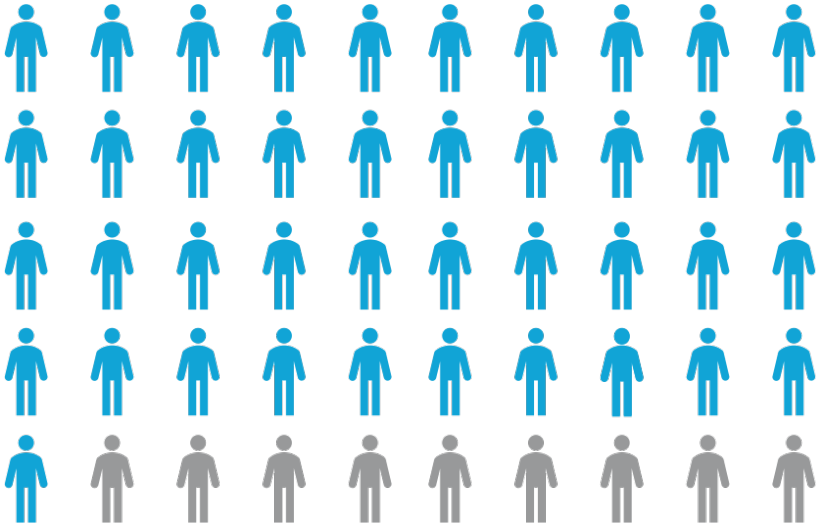
2.7 million

visits to Yahara chain of lakes



82%

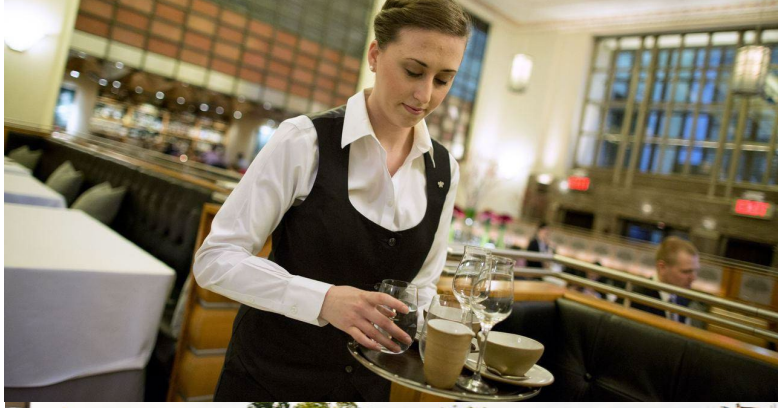
of Dane County residents are concerned about cyanobacteria blooms



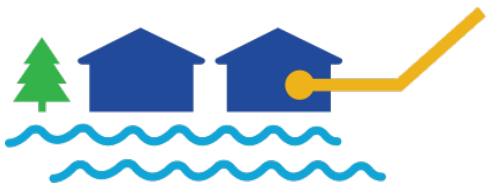
Lake users spend (on average)
$21.11 per visit

1,800

FTE jobs supported by lake-user spending



$22.5 million



generated annually in property tax revenues through the contribution of near-shore homes.

- $1.6 million
  state personal income tax
- $0.7 million
  state business income tax
- $6.0 million
  state and local taxes
- $4.9 million
  local taxes from lake-related business activity

= **$35.7 million**

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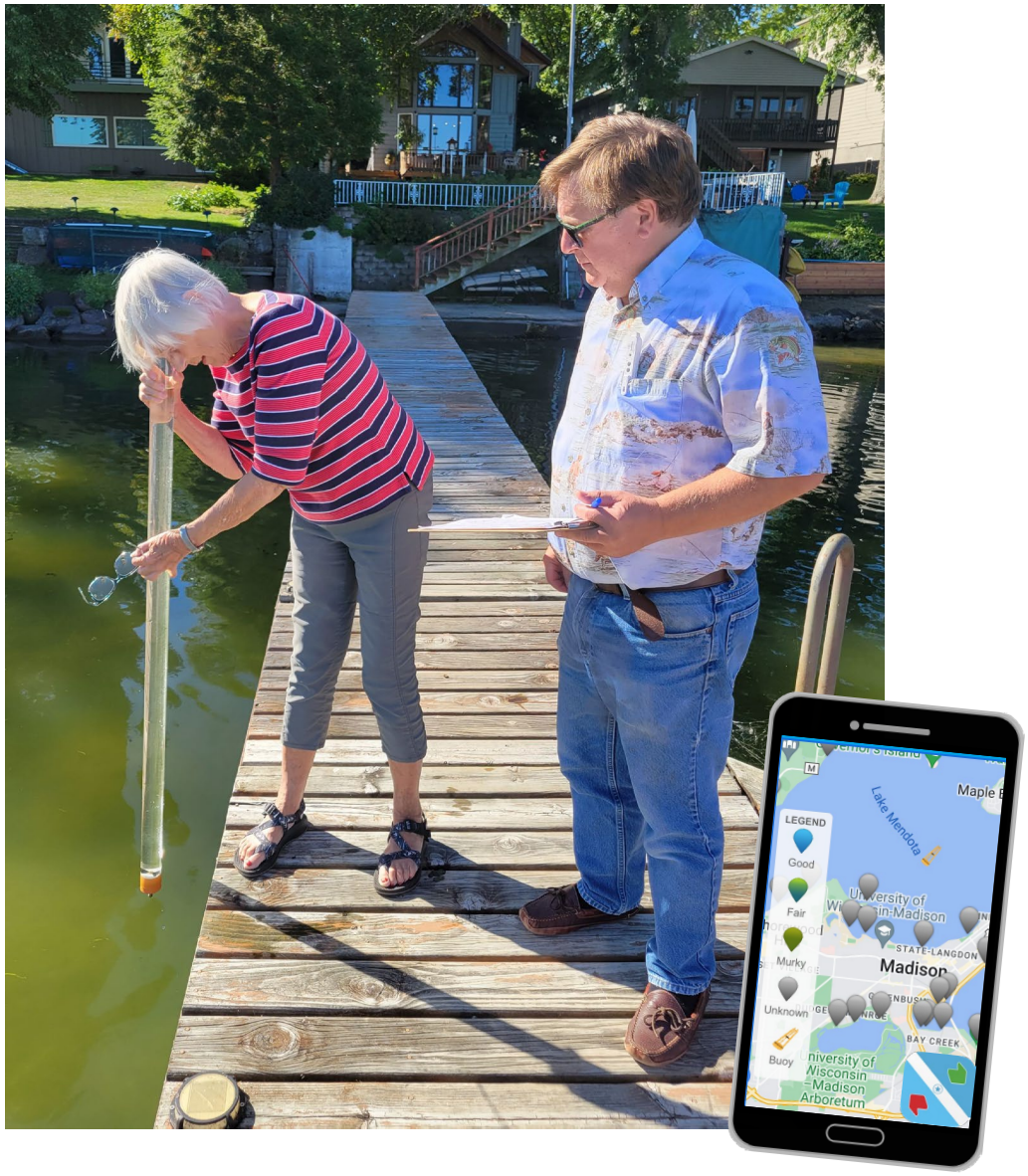
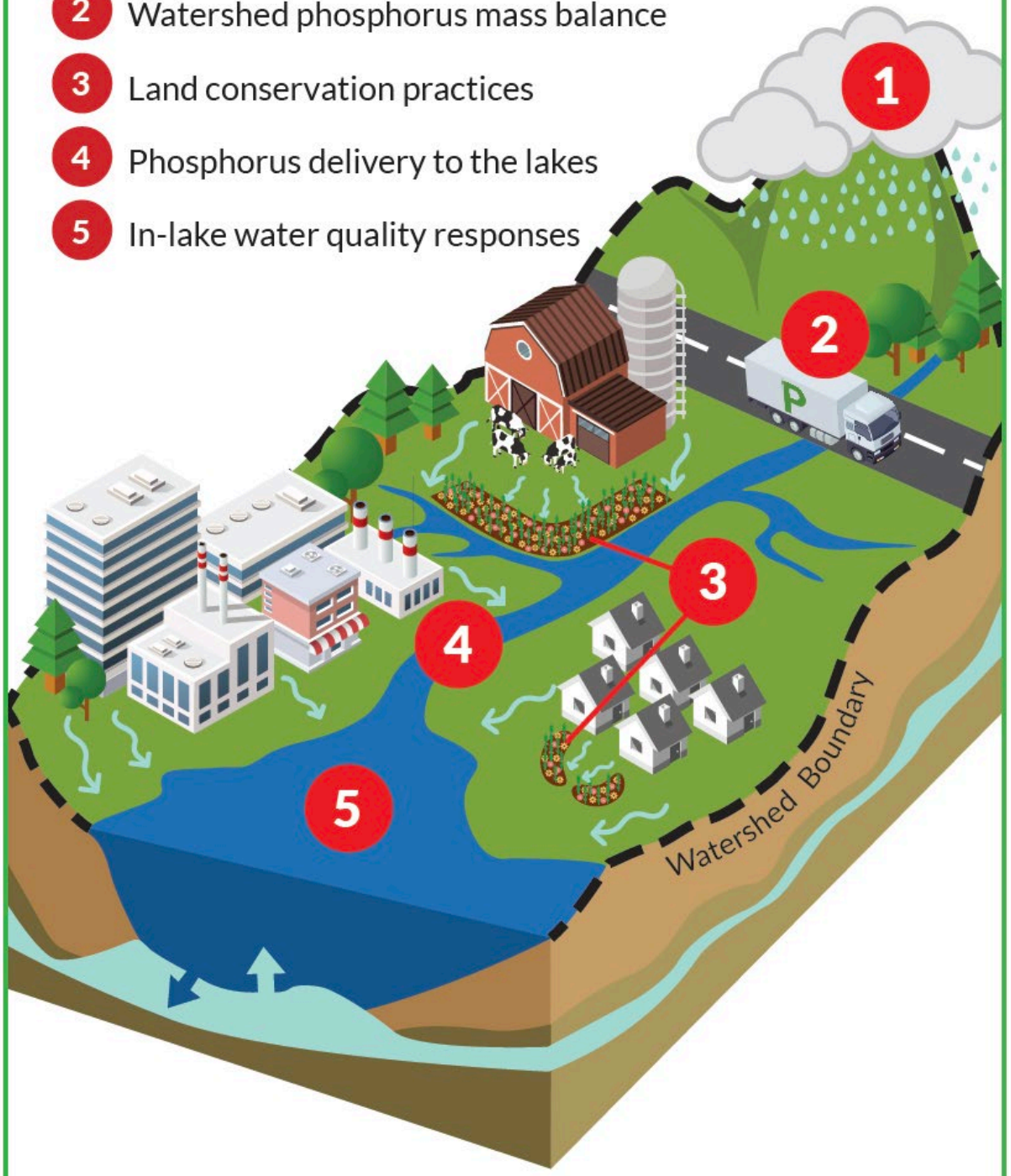
Nurture and guide stewardship



AREAS OF ANALYSIS

1. Weather and climate drivers
2. Watershed phosphorus mass balance
3. Land conservation practices
4. Phosphorus delivery to the lakes
5. In-lake water quality responses



Status

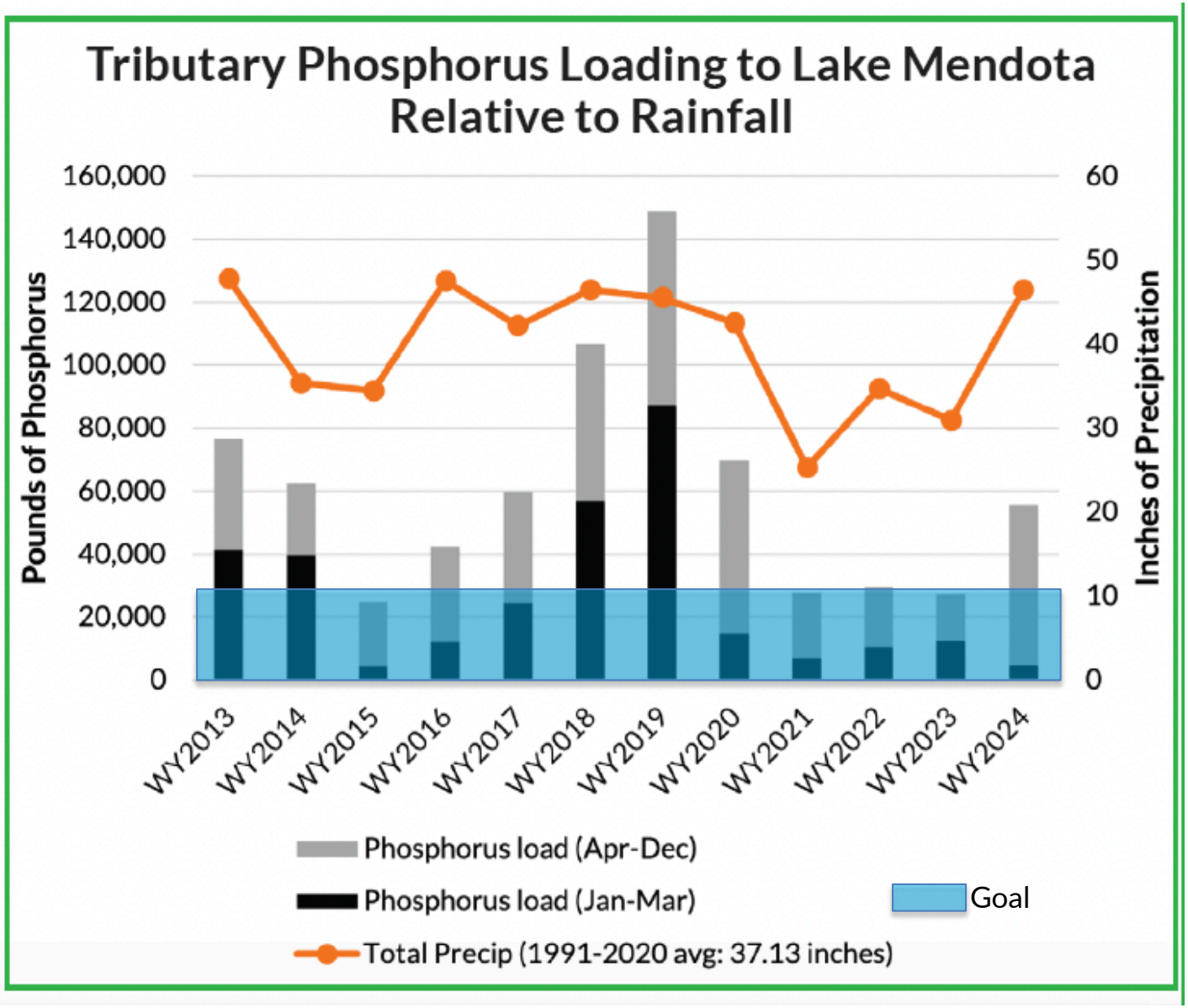
Trend

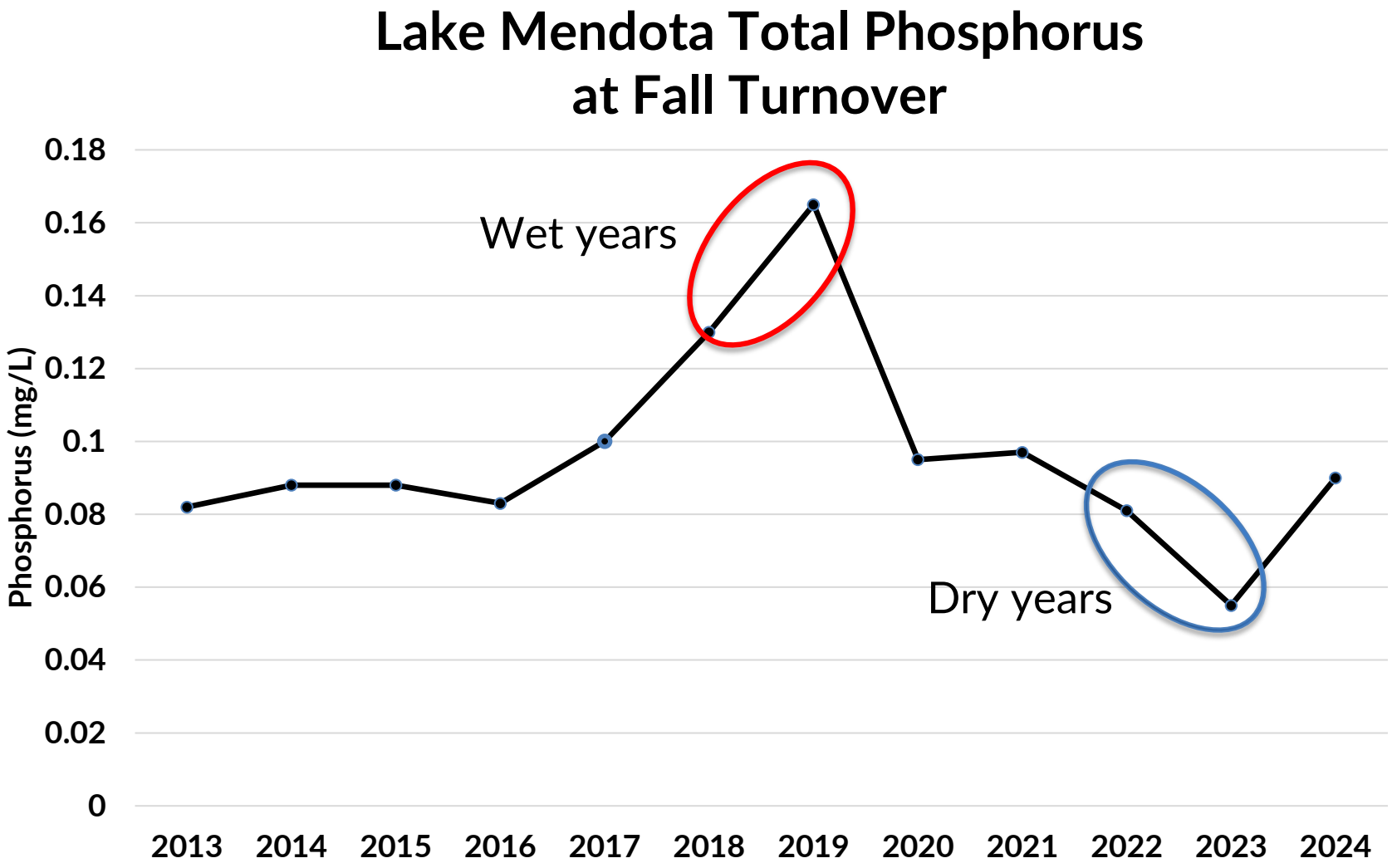
Mendota, Waubesa, Monona, Kegonsa

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
2024 Phosphorus:		✓		
2024 Clarity:		✓		

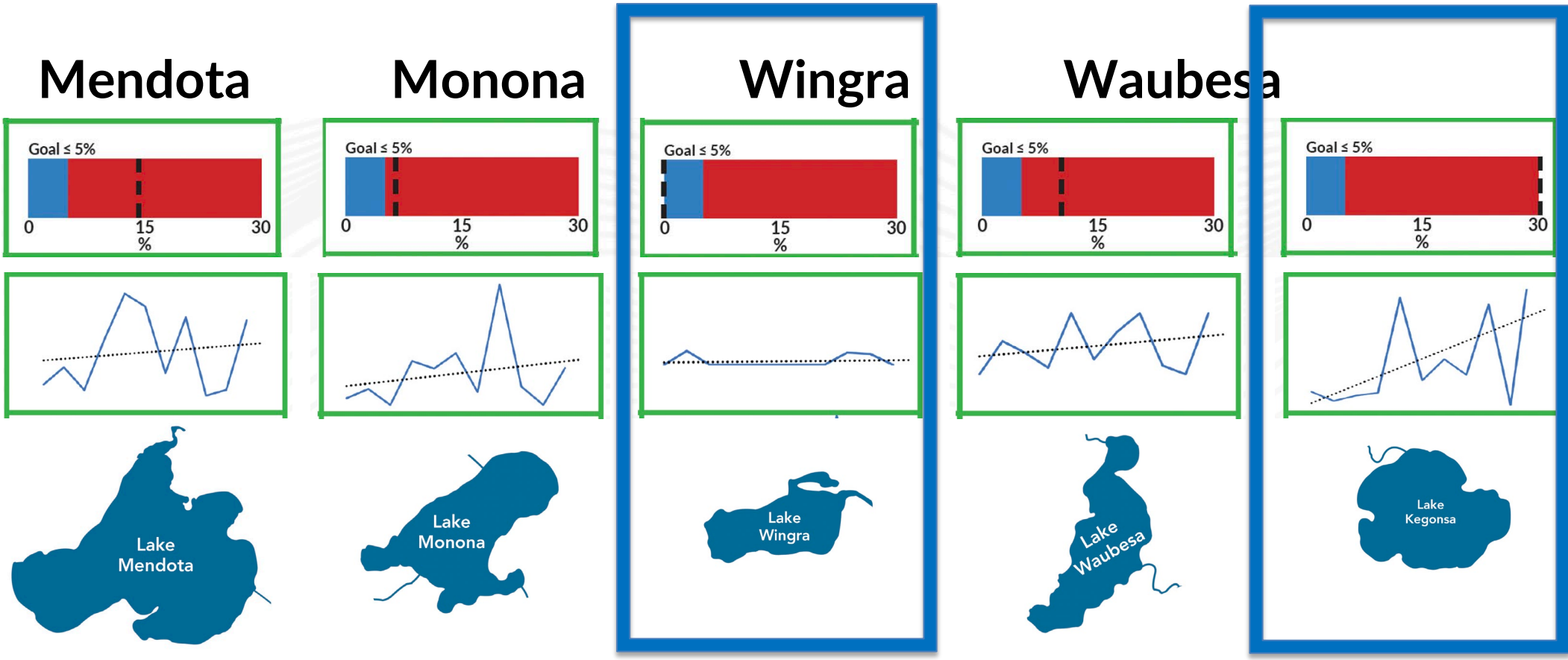
Wingra

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
2024 Phosphorus:			✓	
2024 Clarity:			✓	


Tributary Phosphorus Loading to Lake Mendota Relative to Rainfall
Pounds of Phosphorus
160,000
140,000
120,000
100,000
80,000
60,000
40,000
20,000
0
Inches of Precipitation
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
WY2013
WY2014
WY2015
WY2016
WY2017
WY2018
WY2019
WY2020
WY2021
WY2022
WY2023
WY2024
Phosphorus load (Apr-Dec)
Phosphorus load (Jan-Mar)
Goal
Total Precip (1991-2020 avg: 37.13 inches)


Lake Mendota Total Phosphorus
at Fall Turnover
Phosphorus (mg/L)
0.18
0.16
0.14
0.12
0.1
0.08
0.06
0.04
0.02
0
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
Wet years
Dry years

Cyanobacteria Blooms



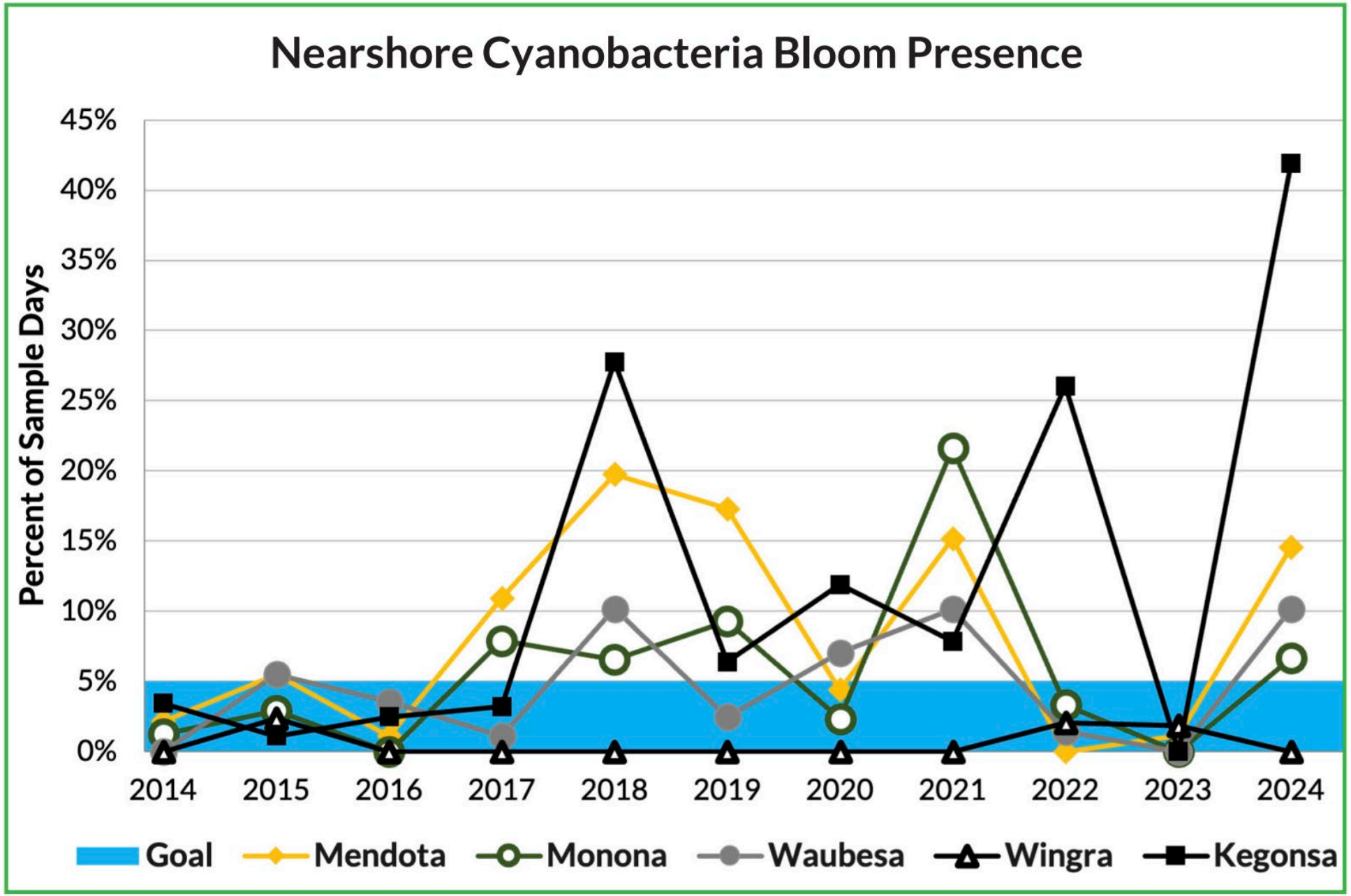


Figure 11: Percent of sampling days (Jun-Aug) when strong evidence of a cyanobacteria bloom was observed at one or more sites on each lake.

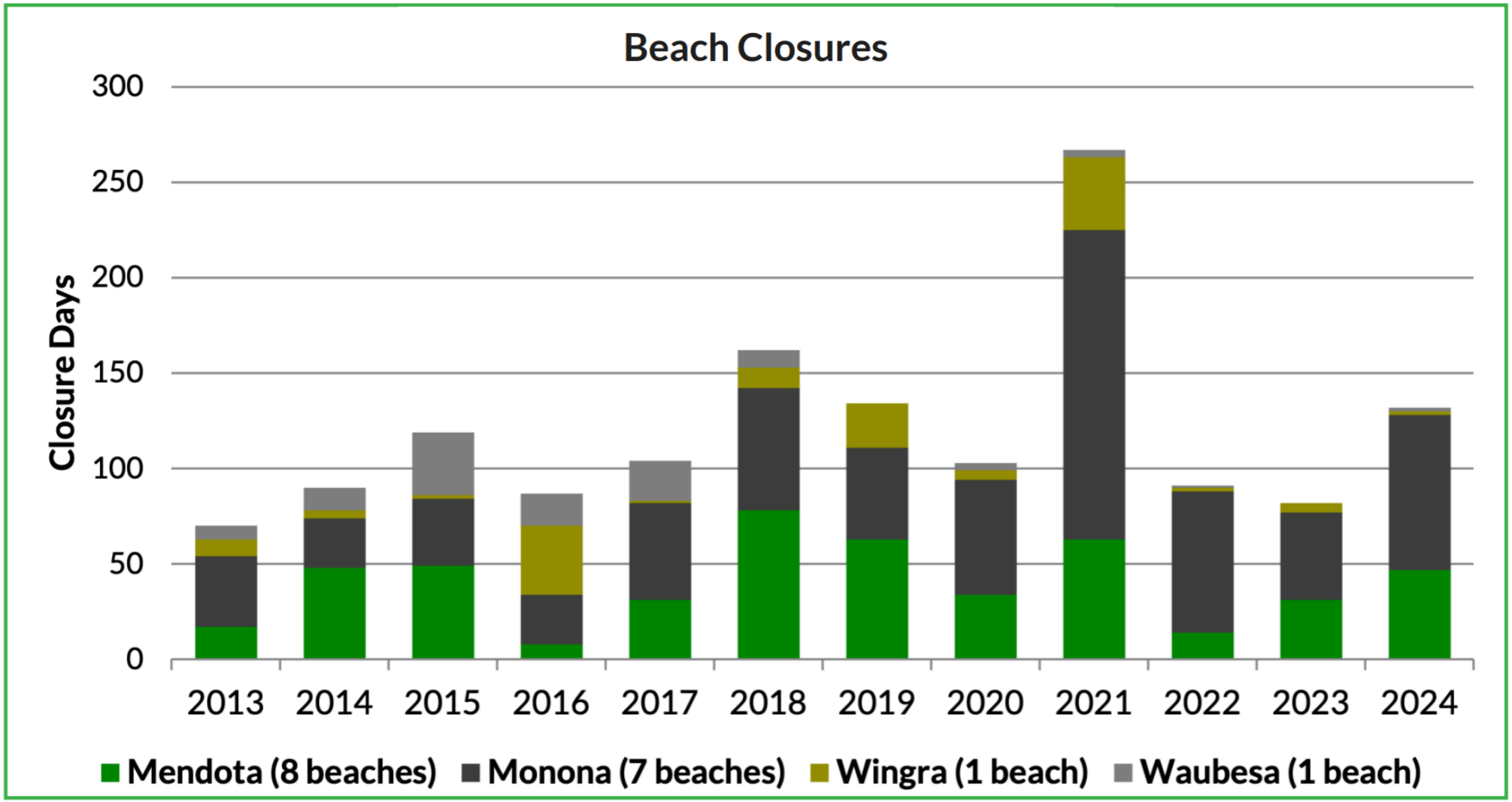


Figure 12: Beach closure days by lake. Includes beaches consistently monitored since 2013. Lake Mendota: Governor Nelson, Warner, Mendota County, James Madison, Memorial Union Pier, Marshall, Tenney (not tested in 2024), and Spring Harbor; Lake Monona: B.B. Clarke, Bernie's, Brittingham, Esther, Hudson, Olbrich, Olin; Lake Wingra: Vilas; Lake Waubesa: Goodland County; Lake Kegonsa: None. Data credit: Public Health Madison & Dane County.

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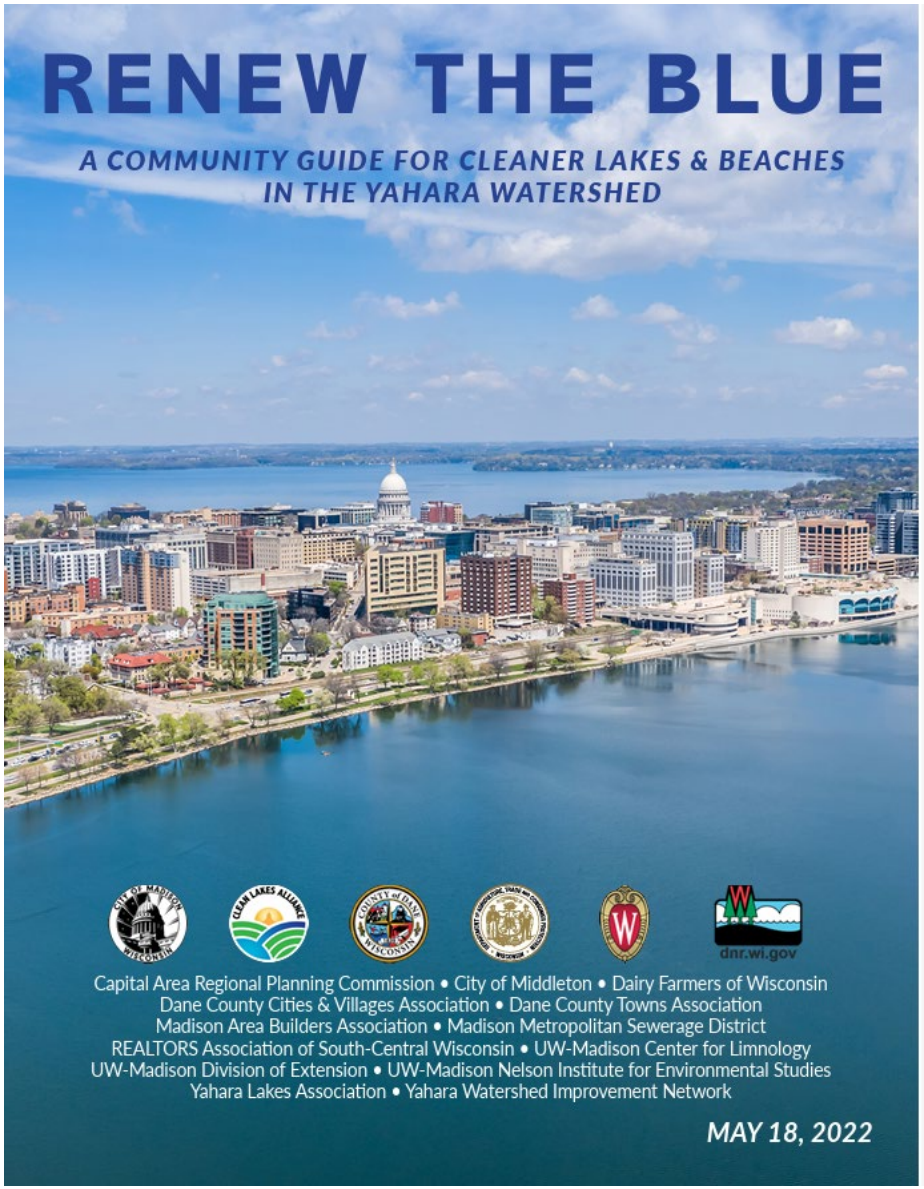
Advocate for needed solutions



Top Indirect-Impact Actions

1. **Continue to work together as Yahara CLEAN Compact members.** Maintain ongoing member meetings to collaborate on recommended actions, report progress, and coordinate around new initiatives. Ongoing collaboration should consider how actions might affect the watershed phosphorus mass balance, among other factors.

2. **Increase participation in producer-led watershed groups.** Expand farmer involvement in conservation planning and practice adoption through continued learning, information sharing, and distribution of cost-share incentives.

3. **Complete an inventory of shoreline and beach conditions.** Establish guidelines and criteria for the sustainable design, development, management, and restoration of shorelines and public beaches.

4. **Increase *E. coli* testing at public beaches.** Focus efforts on beaches shown to be most susceptible to problems. Assess *E. coli* bacteria sources at beaches with high closure rates so corrective measures can be taken.

5. **Continue to track and report progress.** Use and support the annual *State of the Lakes Report* as a means of outreaching to the community. Support continued maintenance and operation of stream-gaging stations that track changes in phosphorus loading.

September 9th

4:00-5:00 p.m.

The East Side Club

Top Direct-Impact Actions

1. **Build additional manure-processing capacity.** Support farmers in using existing manure-processing facilities or to build their own on-farm systems. Pilot a manure-collection and processing program targeting the critical January-March period with the highest overall phosphorus loading.

2. **Increase the ability to handle and transport manure.** Use composting and other processing techniques to allow for improved timing and targeting of applications. Minimize chemical fertilizer use by substituting with composted manure or other sources of crop nutrients generated within the watershed.

3. **Increase farmland acres guided by a nutrient management plan.** Use plans to improve operational decision-making, ensure the most efficient use of costly nutrient inputs, and reduce the risk of phosphorus loss.

4. **Increase farmland acres under no-till (or reduced tillage) and continuous living cover.** Limit soil disturbance and maintain a living root in the soil with cover/forage crops, harvestable buffer strips, overwintering hay, etc. to build better soil health and reduce erosion.

5. **Increase municipal street-cleaning miles and frequency during fall.** Regularly remove leaf litter from streets to prevent rainwater-leached phosphorus from entering storm sewer systems.

6. **Protect internally drained lands and wetlands.** Use closed depressions (accounting for an estimated 41% of the watershed) to naturally retain and absorb runoff. Maintain and restore wetland function to achieve similar benefits.

7. **Increase green-infrastructure installations in parks, new developments, and on existing residential and commercial properties.** Incorporate nature-based solutions such as rain gardens, bioswales, infiltration trenches, and permeable pavement to capture, absorb, and filter runoff. Use tools such as stormwater utility credits, rate adjustments, and recognitions to reward action.