

Yahara Chain of Lakes Lake Management Quarterly Update

December 3, 2020

Current Water Levels

Lake	Date	Lake Level	Summer Min	Summer Max	Winter Min
Mendota	12/3/2020	849.27	849.60	850.10	848.20
Monona	12/3/2020	845.60	844.70	845.20	842.20
Waubesa	12/3/2020	845.25	844.50	845.00	842.00
Kegonsa	12/3/2020	843.47	843.00	843.50	841.85

<https://lwr.d.countyofdane.com/Lake-Levels>



Number of Days within Summer Minimum and Maximum Levels Year to Date

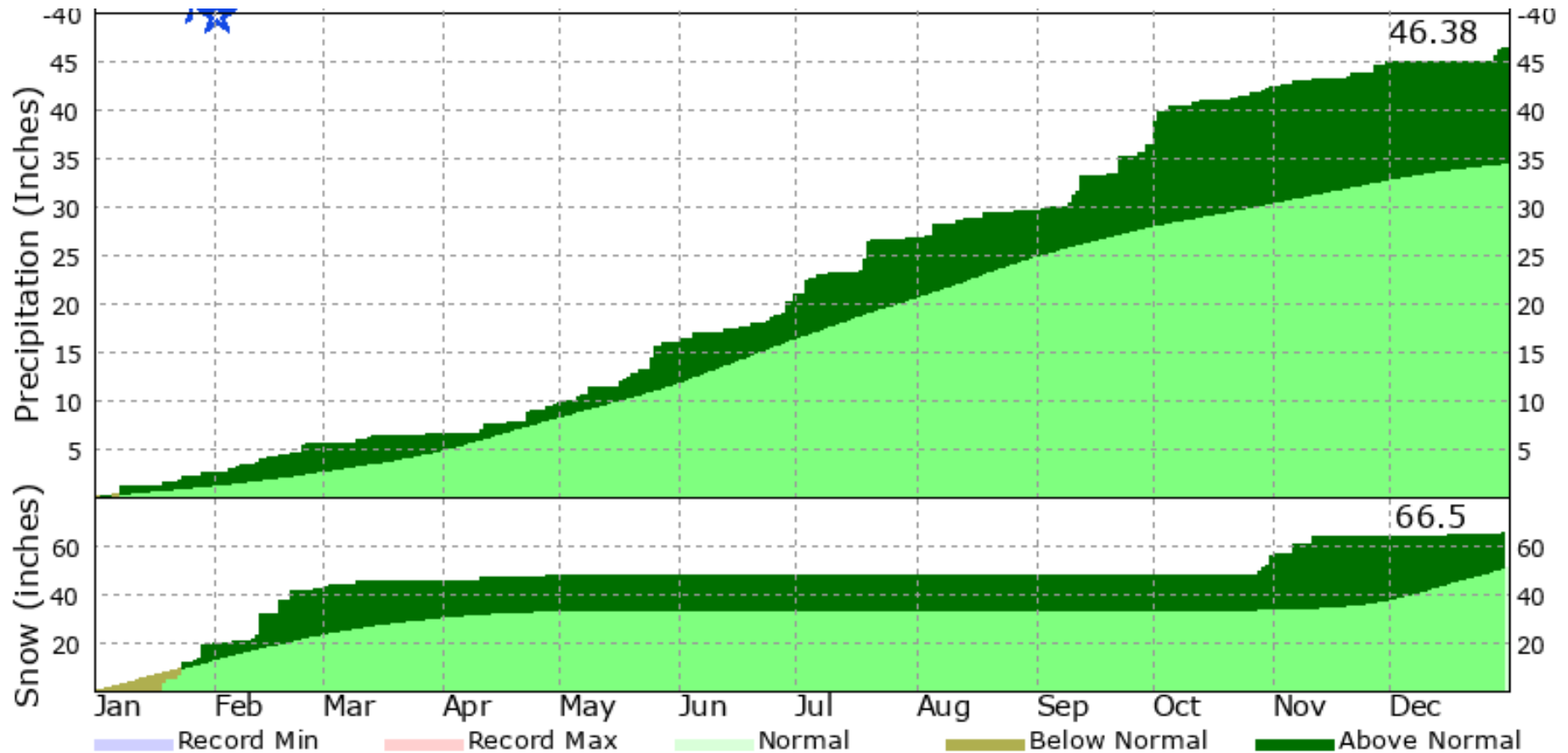
March 1 – October 31 (245 days)

Lake	Average (2008-2019)	2019	2020
Mendota	99	22	87
Monona	52	11	78
Waubesa	76	13	78
Kegonsa	145	23	79
Stoughton Dam	-	243	245

Annual Precipitation

2019

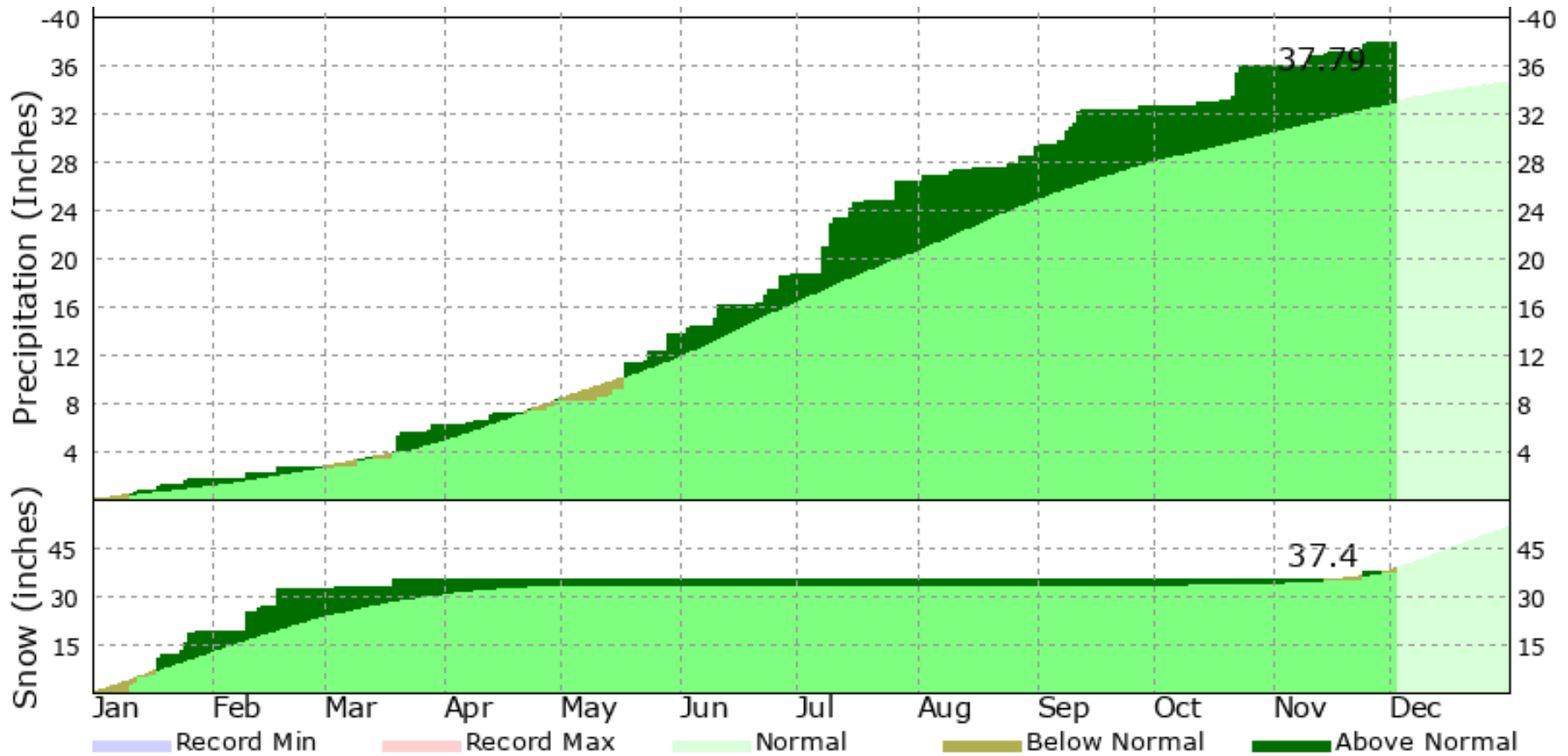
46.38



Annual Precipitation

2020 Year to Date

37.79



Slow No Wake Status

Wicawak Bay

July 16, 2020 to August 24, 2020

Previous 10 Emergency Orders

7/16/2020 - Emergency Slow-no-wake orders have been issued for the following lake(s):
Wicawak Bay (formerly known as Squaw Bay) (Entire Surface),

Please note: Slow-no-wake will be effective noon July 16, 2020. Slow-no-wake will be rescinded when Lake Monona water level is at or below elevation 846.40' for 5 consecutive days.

Executive Order



Slow-no-wake Restriction Map

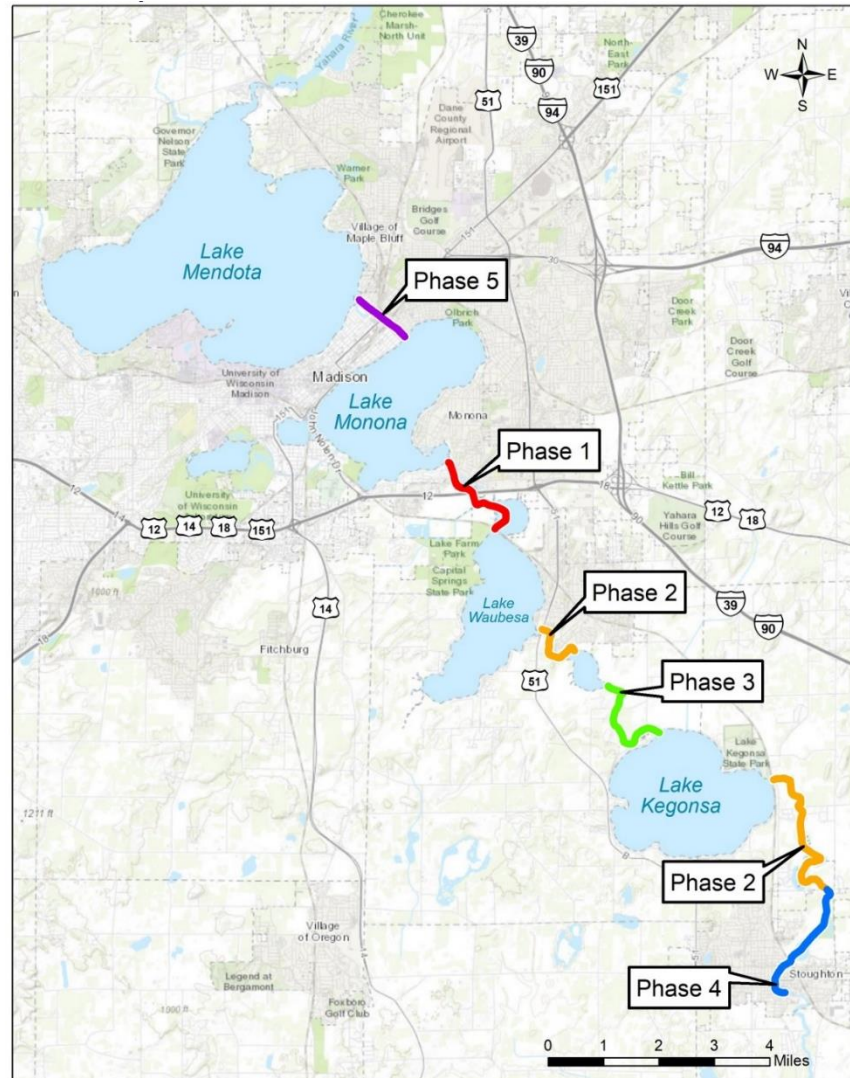
Green Lake = Normal Slow-no-wake Restrictions

Yellow Lake = Emergency Order: slow-no-wake within 500 feet of shore


Red Lake = Emergency Order: slow-no-wake entire surface area

<https://lwr.d.countyofdane.com/slownowake#>

Sediment Removal Update



Phase 1 Status



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Yahara River Sediment Removal Project

Multiphase Project to Reduce Flooding and Improve Water Flow

Currently, water comes into the Yahara Lakes faster than it goes out. Therefore, after repetitive and heavy rainfall events, the lake levels increase and can lead to flooding. The efficient movement of water through each lake is undermined by sediment build-up in the Yahara River. While sediment movement is a naturally occurring process, the accumulation of sediment in the Yahara River and Lakes is greatly increased by human activity, including urban development and winter sand operations.

Today, two inches of rain takes over two weeks to leave the Yahara Lakes system due to its sluggish nature. This project will remove sediment in the Yahara River in five phases with a goal to improve water flow so that the delivery of two inches of rain that normally takes two weeks to travel through the Yahara Lakes system will take half as long, or one week.



Project Phases Schedule Construction Updates Videos News Contact

Project Phases

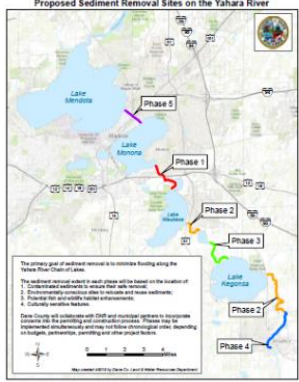
Dane County's sediment removal project in the Yahara Lakes system will take place in five phases, with each phase carried out as Dane County secures permitting - see [Phase Map](#) (PDF). The benefit to reduce flooding for all lakes is realized when sediment accumulation has been removed along the Yahara chain, thus it is critical that the phases are planned as timely as possible.

Several factors were considered for a five phase plan including:

- Readily available sediment and bathymetry data for developing engineering plans
- Presence of contaminated sediment that would impact permitting timelines
- Proximity of dewatering locations to the river
- Existence of culturally sensitive features

Phase 1

The first phase, between Lakes Monona and Waubesa, is expected to be completed in 2020. The project will involve removal of approximately 40,000 cubic yards of sediment which equates to over 3,000 dump truck loads of sediment. The sediment will be removed hydraulically by suctioning the sediment from the river bottom and transferring through a pipeline to a dewatering basin. The sediment will be separated from the water at the dewatering basin and reused for other projects such as roadways.



Proposed Sediment Removal Sites on the Yahara River

The primary goal of sediment removal is to minimize flooding along the Yahara River Chain of lakes.

The sediment removal sites for each phase will be based on the location of:

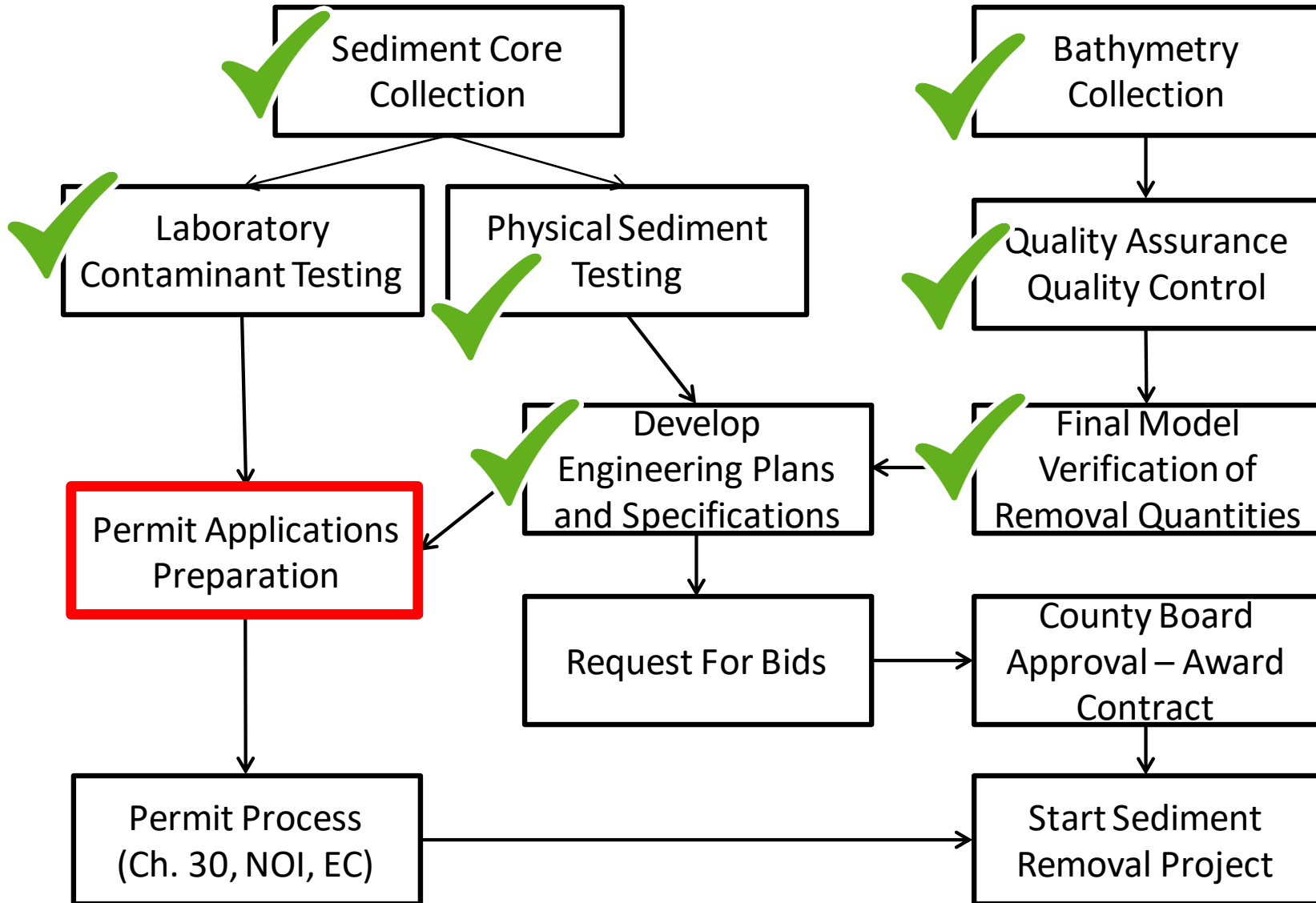
1. Contaminated sediment to be removed with dredging
2. Sediment accumulation sites to be removed and reuse sediment
3. Proximity for an available dewatering infrastructure
4. Culturally sensitive features

Dane County will collaborate with staff and municipal partners to incorporate concerns with the permitting and construction process. Please stay up to date on project developments and stay informed through our website, social media, and other communication channels.

Map prepared by Dane County Land & Water Resources Department

<https://lwr.d.countyofdane.com/yahara-river-sediment-removal>

Phase 2 Status



Questions?