



# 2024-2025 DANE COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNANCE PROGRAM (YGP)

**PROJECT SUMMARY**





# THE EVENT!



THE SUSTAINABILITY SAFARI WAS OUR BIG PROJECT THIS YEAR.

WE CREATED AN INTERACTIVE EVENT AT THE HENRY VILAS ZOO, WHERE KIDS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS COULD EXPLORE DIFFERENT EDUCATIONAL STATIONS LED BY Y6P YOUTH AND DANE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS.

- WASTE AND RENEWABLES
- LAND AND WATER RESOURCES
- HENRY VILAS ZOO
- UW-EXTENSION

JOIN THE DANE COUNTY YOUTH GOVERNANCE PROGRAM LEADERS!

# SUSTAINABILITY SAFARI

JOIN US AT THE SUSTAINABILITY SAFARI, AN INTERACTIVE EVENT DESIGNED TO INSPIRE ACTION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE! EXPLORE THE HENRY VILAS ZOO WHILE PARTICIPATING IN ENGAGING, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES FOCUSED ON FOOD WASTE REDUCTION, COMPOSTING, RECYCLING, AND MORE!

WHERE: **HENRY VILAS ZOO**  
702 S Randall Ave,  
Madison, WI 53715

WHEN: **05/28/2025**  
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

**EXPLORE - LEARN - TAKE ACTION!**

THIS EVENT IS COMPLETELY FREE AND PERFECT FOR YOUNG ECO-LEADERS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

[HTTPS://DANE.EXTENSION.WISC.EDU/YOUTH-LED-PROJECTS/](https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/youth-led-projects/)

UW-MADISON EXTENSION | DANE COUNTY | LAND & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT | **TRASHLAB** | RETHINK. PROTECT. REDESIGN. HENRY VILAS ZOO





# THE EVENT! ➔

**WE WANTED TO CREATE SOMETHING FUN AND MEANINGFUL THAT WOULD INSPIRE YOUNGER STUDENTS AND SHOW HOW SUSTAINABILITY CONNECTS TO EVERYDAY LIFE AND HOW YOUTH CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTIONS.**

**THIS YOUTH-LED INITIATIVE WAS AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO CLIMATE EDUCATION—CREATED BY YOUTH, FOR YOUTH—TO FOSTER ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY IN AN ENGAGING, CREATIVE, AND APPROACHABLE WAY!**





# HOW WE GOT HERE:



**Brainstorming & Research:** Explored different topics and conducted research around sustainability, composting, and food waste, identifying what mattered most to us.

**Learning from Experts:** Guest speakers shared insights, sparking ideas for the project. **Shoutout to Delaney Gobster (W&R) and Wade Moder (UW-Extension)!**

**Tapping into County Resources:** Inspired by these conversations and our research, youth decided to bring together multiple departments such as Waste and Renewables, Henry Vilas Zoo, UW-Extension, Land and Water Resources, etc., for this initiative.

**FROM THE START, THIS WAS A COMPLETELY YOUTH-LED PROJECT. THE YOUTH ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN RESEARCH, CONNECTING WITH EXPERTS, AND TOOK INITIATIVE TO SHAPE A PROJECT THAT REFLECTS OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY.**





# THE BEHIND THE SCENES:



- **Worked in Teams:** Each group focused on a different piece of the project, logistics, outreach, and content.
- **Created Action Plans:** Organized ideas to engage, inspire, and involve the community and make an impact.
- **Explored Funding & Resources:** Wrote and applied for a grant opportunity and discussed ways to support the project!
- **Designed Interactive Activities:** Brainstormed hands-on ways to deliver their content.





# THE BEHIND THE SCENES:



- **Planned Event Logistics:** Mapped out schedules, setups, and materials needed.
- **Connected with the Community:** Identified local partners to collaborate.
- **Planned Outreach Strategies:** Planned messaging, promotional materials and communications.





# THE EXPERIENCE:

**“PLANNING THE SUSTAINABILITY SAFARI HAD THE MOST IMPACT ON ME. SEEING MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS WORK TOGETHER, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND EDUCATION ALL OCCURRING THROUGH A PROJECT LARGELY DUE TO YOUTH LEADERSHIP IS INCREDIBLE”**

**“I HAD A GREAT TIME PLANNING OUR YGP GROUP PROJECT WITH MY FELLOW PEERS. THE MEMORIES AND RELATIONSHIPS THAT WERE CREATED AT EACH OF THESE MEETINGS ALLOWED US TO BUILD A SUCCESSFUL EVENT THAT HAD A LASTING IMPACT ON YOUNG MINDS. AFTER THE SUSTAINABILITY SAFARI, I FELT TRULY ACCOMPLISHED BECAUSE OF THE JOURNEY WE HAD EMBARKED ON AS A TEAM”**





# THE EXPERIENCE:

**“THE PROGRAM NOT ONLY ENRICHED MY UNDERSTANDING OF GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP BUT HAS ALSO PROVIDED A PLATFORM TO ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO MY COMMUNITY.”**

**“PARTICIPATING IN THE YOUTH GOVERNANCE PROGRAM HAS BEEN TRANSFORMATIVE FOR MY PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT. THE MENTORSHIP PROVIDED HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN GUIDING ME THROUGH THE INTRICACIES OF GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP.”**

**“THE PROGRAM HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCED MY PERSPECTIVE ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. IT HAS REINFORCED MY BELIEF IN THE POWER OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO DRIVE MEANINGFUL CHANGE AND HAS INSTILLED IN ME A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS CONTRIBUTING POSITIVELY TO SOCIETY.”**





**PROGRAMS LIKE YGP SHOW US WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN YOUTH  
ARE GIVEN SPACE TO LEAD AND BE HEARD.**

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THIS GROUP!**

