

Yahara WINS Partnership Offers Grants to Reduce Phosphorus Pollution

The Yahara Watershed Improvement Network partnership is now offering grants for 2018 to fund projects that will reduce algae-feeding phosphorus pollution in local waterways.



A Yahara WINS grant was used to restore 30 acres of prairie with more than 100 types of native plants at Holy Wisdom Monastery to reduce the stormwater runoff reaching Lake Mendota.

Yahara WINS has included a total of \$60,000 in its 2018 budget for grants to municipalities and organizations to implement projects that reduce the amount of phosphorus entering nearby water bodies. Projects funded by Yahara WINS may reduce any source of phosphorus, including agricultural runoff and urban stormwater.

“Practices to reduce urban and rural runoff are cost-effective solutions to phosphorus pollution in our waters,” said Martin Griffin, president of the Yahara WINS executive committee. “Yahara WINS is looking forward to funding projects that will reduce phosphorus at the lowest cost to our community.”

With partners including 23 area municipal entities, farm groups and water stakeholder organizations, Yahara WINS pools resources and provides funding for practices that reduce phosphorus runoff as part of a 20-year project to achieve

quality goals for the Yahara Watershed. The grants aim to reduce urban and agricultural runoff, the two main sources of phosphorus in local waters.

To support different types of projects, there are two categories of grants: conventional grants and innovation grants. A total of \$40,000 is available for conventional grants, with a maximum award of \$20,000 for a single project; a total of \$20,000 is available for innovation grants, with a maximum award of \$10,000.

Information about the grants is now available at www.madsewer.org/yaharawins. Applications are due by May 18, 2018, although if funding is still available after this date additional applications may be considered. Interested parties can contact Kathy Lake, pollution prevention manager at Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, at KathyL@madsewer.org with questions or to submit applications.