

DANE COUNTY WATER PRIORITIES

Do not re-invent the wheel. Make sure you work with other agencies (i.e., DNR) and take advantage of any analytical data, priority projects or other work efforts they have planned or on-going. Money is too tight and staffs stretched too thin to not coordinate. Don't just rely on people showing up at a meeting as the sole source of information used to determine priorities. So much work has been previously done by many governmental and educational institutions. These efforts need to be the template for future protection or restoration work.

Restoration of Token Creek coupled with protection of the infiltration areas critical to maintaining the Culver Springs should be the number one priority of the county. Taking an aggressive protective approach towards Token Creek should be implemented.

Development should be done in a two-fold manner. First, construction activities need to be done in a manner that reduces surface water flow. An increase in surface water flow will be counter to the restoration of a cold water system. Second the area that provides the infiltration zone for the Culver Springs must be protected. This area has already been identified so acquisition of the most critical areas should be considered, or appropriate zoning implemented to protect the springs. If they are lost Token Creek will no longer function as a cold water system.

An added benefit to protecting Token Creek is it is the largest tributary to Lake Mendota. Thus, actions which protect Token Creek and preserve or improve its water quality also help protect Lake Mendota.

The second most important priority should be implementing the recommendations of the Lake Mendota Priority Watershed Project. While the implementation of the no phosphorus in lawn fertilizers was admirable. It is but a minor part of the total phosphorus (p) loading to Lake Mendota. The benefits to reducing p to Lake Mendota are well understood and documented. If you do not reduce the loading of p into Lake Mendota, then you are not adequately addressing the significant negative water quality impacts in the lake. Lake Mendota is the largest source of phosphorus to Lake Monona, etc., etc. If you truly want a bang for your buck and sincerely desire to improve the Yahara Chain of Lakes, and the significant recreational and investment value they represent, then you need to seriously

implement the recommendations of the Priority Watershed Project. Expending effort and time in other ways is just not as cost effective.

Dane County is obviously going to grow at very high rate. Run-off needs to be controlled via ordinances and design of systems that encourage infiltration need to be done. Excessive run-off will only exacerbate a wide range of problems to surface waters, but you also will continue to lose the positive impacts of infiltration. Particular attention needs to be paid to the areas involving cold water surface systems, or other unique systems (i.e., Outstanding Resource Waters, etc.).