

# Oconomowoc River Watershed Improvement Program

## About the Program

The **City of Oconomowoc** is embarking on an innovative program called **Adaptive Management** to improve the water quality of the many lakes and rivers in the Oconomowoc River watershed.

## Goal

To **reduce non-point source pollution** from urban storm water, construction sites, and agricultural land to improve water quality, thus enabling the City to **reach compliance** with the Department of Natural Resources wastewater and storm water permit requirements in a cost-effective manner.

## Benefits

Since the Oconomowoc River is upstream of the Rock River, the program will also **improve the water quality** of the Rock River and aid in the objectives of the Rock River Total Maximum Daily Load rule. The specific pollutants to be reduced are phosphorus and total suspended solids. Other benefits of the program in addition to improving surface water quality in area streams and lakes will be **enhanced habitat and wildlife, reduced aquatic weed growth and algal blooms.**



Oconomowoc River

The **ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM** aims to prevent pollutants from getting into the waterways through improved conservation practices such as:

**INCORPORATION OF COVER CROPS, FILTER STRIPS AND IMPROVED TILLAGE PRACTICES** on agricultural land.

Implementation of agricultural **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANS**



Siltation after heavy rains in Mason Creek flowing into North Lake



Implementation of an **AGGRESSIVE STREET CLEANING PROGRAM** and **STORM WATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

**LEAF COLLECTION PRACTICES AND URBAN PROPERTY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES** such

as rain gardens, porous pavement, infiltration basins, retention ponds, and residential fertilizer control





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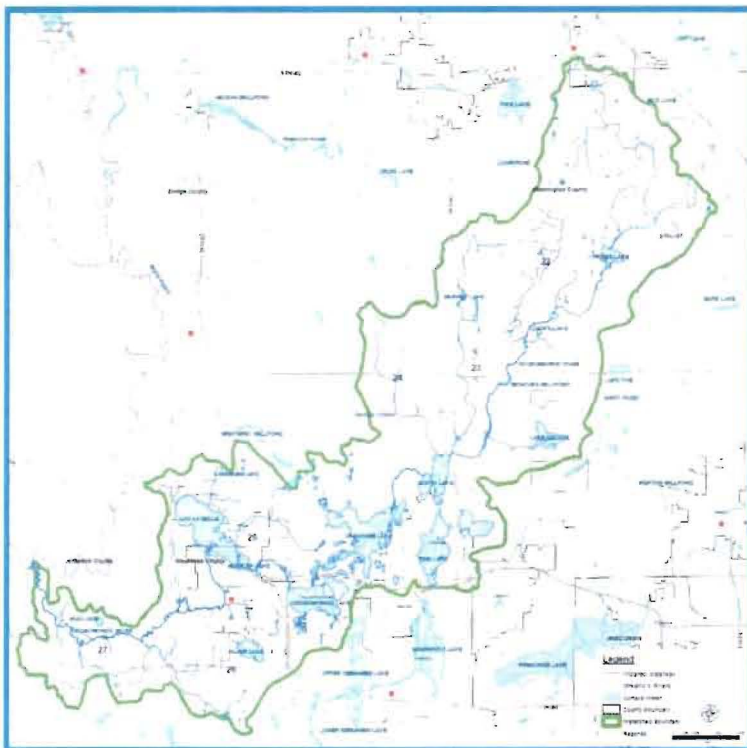
## Leading the Effort

**City of Oconomowoc Wastewater Utility**

**Other lead partners:** Tall Pines Conservancy and Ruckert & Mielke, Inc.

**Other partners:**

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department
- Waukesha County Land and Water Conservation Department
- Washington County Land and Water Conservation Department
- Carmelites of Holy Hill
- North Lake Management District
- Rock River Coalition
- Friess Lake Management District
- Mid-Kettle Moraine
- UWM School of Freshwater Sciences
- Town of Erin



Oconomowoc River Watershed



If you would like to learn more, please contact Tom Steinbach at 262-569-2192 or [tsteinbach@oconomowoc-wi.gov](mailto:tsteinbach@oconomowoc-wi.gov)



Oconomowoc Lake at Dusk

**ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**  
Take the **PLUNGE** toward  
**CLEAN WATER**

