

## FLOODING THE YAHARA

How Greater Madison's record rainfall impacts the watershed

PG. 3

## A WINNING LAKE AGENDA

Dane County Task Force moves forward with recommendations

PG. 11

# LAKE-GRAM



SUMMER REVIEW & FALL PREVIEW 2018

## JOIN THE MOVEMENT! RAKE FOR OUR LAKES



TAKE ACTION FROM HOME TO REDUCE POLLUTION AND HELP IMPROVE OUR LAKES

Do you wish you had more days on the lake this summer? Our lakes had an exceptionally rough season, with numerous cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) blooms and record beach closures. One of the main factors of poor lake quality is high amounts of phosphorus running off our land and into our lakes.

So how can you help? Grab a rake! Leaves represent one of the largest sources of urban phosphorus pollution. When left in the street, leaves make a phosphorus-rich tea that flows through storm sewers and directly into our lakes. Over the course of a year, more than 50% of phosphorus in urban stormwater can come from leaves in the street.

But we can make a difference! Removing leaves from the street before it rains will reduce the amount of phosphorus in urban stormwater. Try to implement these four easy actions into your autumn routine to help improve our lakes. For more resources on leaf removal, visit our website at [cleanlakesalliance.org/leaves](http://cleanlakesalliance.org/leaves).



### Rake leaves from the street

Every time you rake your yard, check the street! Keep nearby street gutters and storm drains leaf free for clean, healthy lakes.



### Start backyard composting

Instead of throwing leaves away, consider starting a compost pile in your yard to create healthy soil for your landscape.



### Use leaves as garden mulch

Leaves are a cost-effective source of garden mulch or lawn fertilizer. Mow leaves directly onto your lawn or use around garden beds.



### Tell your neighbors

It will take a cultural shift to save our lakes. Help make raking the street edge the "norm" in your neighborhood and get everyone involved!