

County Water Quality Is Well Supported

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State Journal writer John Nolan's Feb. 19 Outdoors page article, "Expo lends hand to fight sand," highlighted some of the work of the Madison Fishing Expo, held last weekend.

Dane County is fortunate to have a dedicated organization of anglers who raise money through their popular Expo to support conservation and habitat improvement work.

The Expo's support of storm water outfall retrofits to catch sand before it enters the water protects fisheries and other aquatic life and also reduces the likelihood that boats run aground in sediment.

Since 2005, Dane County's Urban Water Quality Grant program has funded 18 projects in seven municipalities through its cost-sharing program to improve storm drain outlets and other practices to improve the quality of storm water run-off into county waterways. County funds are matched by municipal applicants

The county contributed nearly \$391,000 through 2008 toward the over \$1 million installation cost of sediment basins, bioretention systems and more, resulting in reducing the sediment load by more than 190,000 pounds annually.

Funding for this program comes from County Executive Kathleen Falk's Land and Water Legacy initiative. The program is managed by the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department.

- Sue Jones, watershed management coordinator, Dane County Land and Water Resources Department