

Yahara Lakes Legacy Partnership



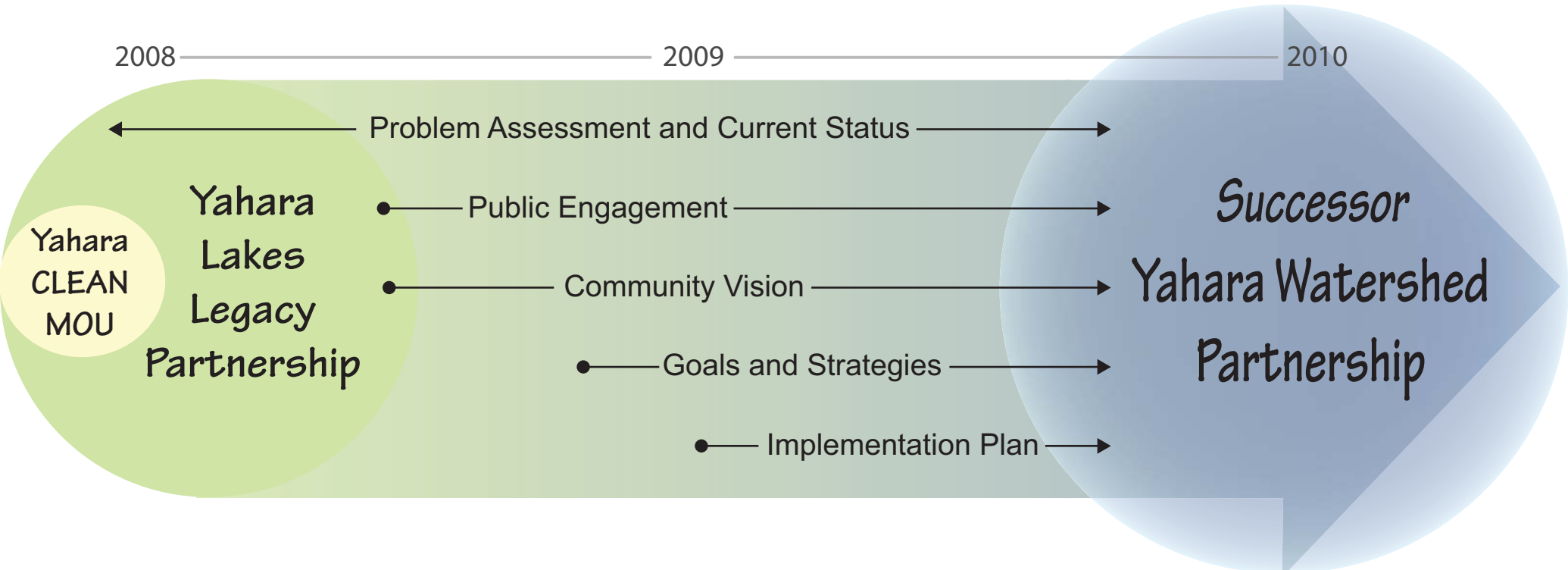
Working toward a visionary plan for the Yahara lakes that provides:

- Community ownership in a common vision for the lakes, resulting from a well thought-out process of public engagement
- Detailed outline of implementation steps that spells out how and when each action will be taken, who is responsible, how it can be funded, and what results can be expected
- Collaboration and cooperation among all political jurisdictions, organizations, and community members with a “stake in our lakes”

Mission:

- Supporting near-term goals for reducing sediments, nutrients, and beach bacteria as defined by the Yahara CLEAN (Capital Lakes Environmental Assessment and Needs) MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the WDNR (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources), DATCP (Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection), Dane County, and City of Madison
- Developing a framework for a long-term community-wide visionary plan for protecting and improving the quality of the Yahara chain of lakes

	Yahara CLEAN (MOU)	Yahara Lakes Legacy Partnership	Successor Yahara Watershed Partnership
Issues of Interest	Sediment, Nutrients, Beach Bacteria	Focus on those of Yahara CLEAN, plus identify all lake issues and stakeholders; create framework for long-term successor partnership	All lake issues (including invasive species, fisheries, flooding, water levels, wetlands, shorelines, and community partnerships)
Lead Groups	MOU signatories: WDNR; DATCP; Dane County; City of Madison	WDNR; DATCP, Clean Wisconsin; Gathering Waters Conservancy; Dane County Land & Water Resources Dept. and Lakes & Watershed Commission; Public Health for Madison and Dane County; City of Madison Engineering	Inclusive, diverse group of stakeholders (actual structure and make-up to be determined)
Outcomes	Identify specific, achievable, short-term actions to reduce sediments, nutrients, and beach bacteria that are consistent with public vision; initiate these actions	Complete goals of Yahara CLEAN MOU; report to Madison Community Foundation on efforts to protect and improve Yahara lakes and identify future actions and costs; finalize framework for long-term successor Yahara Watershed partnership	A community-wide, visionary plan to protect and improve the quality of the Yahara chain of lakes; community-wide funding and implementation
Time frame	Now to Dec. 2009		From 2010 into Future



The Yahara River's chain of five beautiful lakes defines our community and region and is integral to everything we are and do.

The quality of these lakes deteriorated significantly over time as our population and use increased.

Many public and private organizations have dedicated time and resources over decades and have solved many Yahara Lakes problems, yet new challenges have emerged.

We are at a critical moment in the health of the lakes, and have an unprecedented opportunity to bring together key stakeholders from all sectors.