

Vision Statement

*(Inspirational statement of where we ultimately want to be
and how we plan to get there)*

The rivers, lakes, streams, and waterways of the Eau Claire River Watershed are valued resources worthy of long-term management to improve water quality and to maintain healthy fisheries, wildlife habitat, and soil health.

This vision will be achieved by watershed residents working together to promote good land use practices, the economic benefits of good land and water management, and our shared responsibility for the problems facing our water resources.

Overall Goals

(long-term directional statements)

During the planning process, Coalition members stressed that the plan goals, objectives, and action plan must be realistic, achievable, and should encompass the surface waters of the entire Eau Claire River Watershed.

NOTE: **Red text** are additions not included in the version distributed at the 12/8 meeting.

Water Quality (Phosphorus & Sedimentation) Goal See Survey Q4, Q6, & Q7

Protect and restore water quality by reducing sediment, nutrient delivery, **and other pollutant loading** from point and non-point sources to the rivers, lakes, streams, and waterways for the Eau Claire River Watershed.

- Reduce phosphorus loading, as well as the occurrence and intensity of blue-green algae blooms.
- Reduce erosion and sediment loading from both shoreline and upland sources.
- Encourage land management practices that promote good soil health and decrease the speed and velocity of heavy stormwater runoff and flooding events that greatly contribute to sedimentation and bank erosion.
- Reducing phosphorus and sediment loading are entwined, are equally important, and are the surface water quality priorities for the watershed.
- By emphasizing sedimentation and phosphorus reduction and good soil health within this plan, there is an expectation that other facets of water quality (e.g.,

habitat, recreation, bacteria, flooding) will also be improved, though the target objectives for these other facets may be less measurable within the plan.

Fisheries and Habitat Goal *Modified based on results of Survey Q2 & Q3*

Maintain healthy surface waters and adjacent shoreland habitats that provide a visually appealing natural environment and support diverse, healthy, and resilient native communities of plants, fish, and other animals. Efforts will be made to prevent the introduction or expansion of invasive and exotic species, and remove these species when possible.

Recreation Goal *Based largely on existing lake plan goals*

The surface waters and shoreland areas within the watershed should provide safe, diverse recreational opportunities (e.g., fishing, swimming, boating, paddle sports, birdwatching) that are healthy, safe, attractive, and accessible for everyone. Improve and maintain the connectivity of waterways and channels when feasible and ecologically appropriate.

Education, Collaboration, and Capacity-Building Goal *See Survey Q9 & Q11*

Increase the awareness of the public and elected officials on the economic and ecological importance of good surface water quality and how good land and water practices benefit everyone.

Actively engage the citizens of the watershed and develop sustainable, meaningful relationships between residents and stakeholders to restore and protect water quality. Build community capacity for collaborative decision-making to advance the vision and goals of this plan.

Plan and Policy Coordination Goal *See Survey Q10—last two “sub-questions”*

Recognize and support the recommendations, plans, and activities of lake districts, lake associations, county land and water conservation offices, and other organizations advocating for water quality improvement within the watershed. This plan should complement, not duplicate, these other planning efforts, **while encouraging local and state policies that support the vision and goals of this plan.**