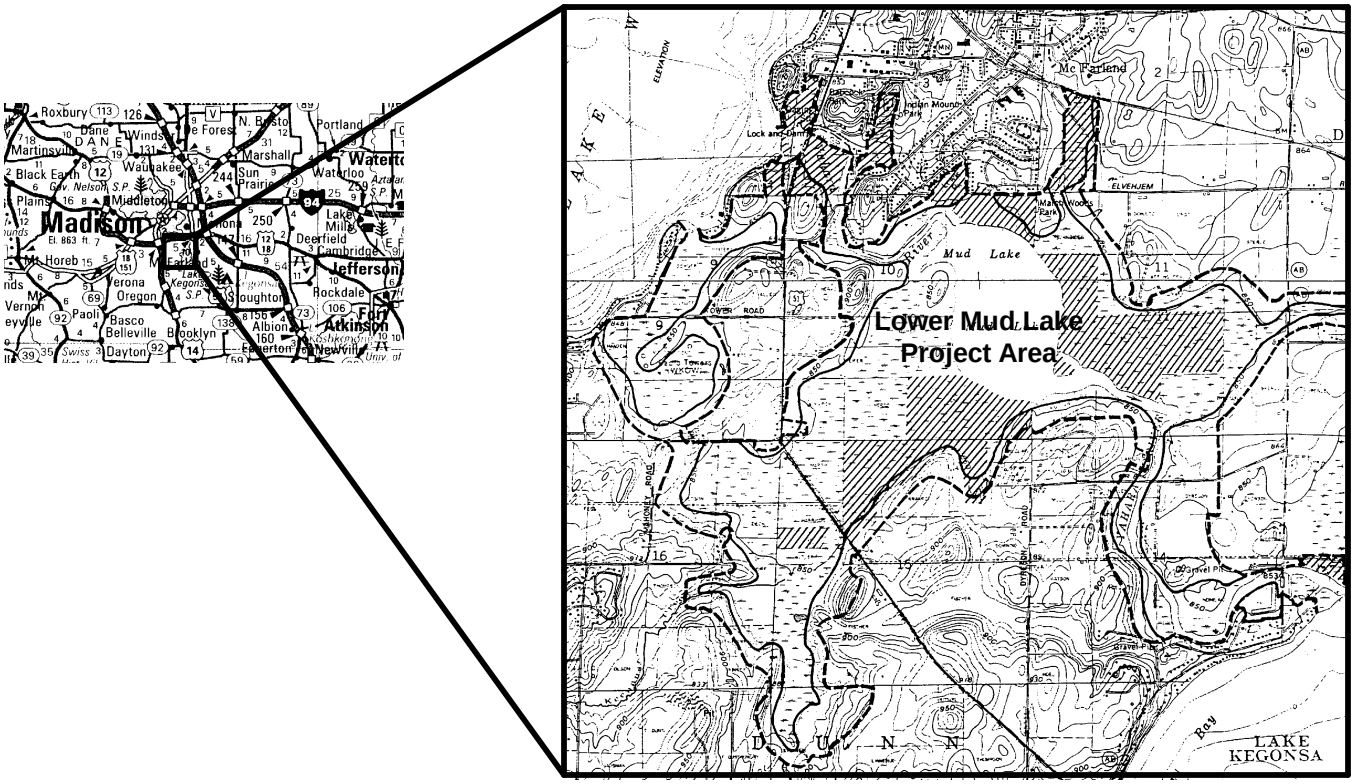
Lower Mud Lake Resource Protection Plan

Dane County, Wisconsin

Lower Mud Lake (LML) is a 195-acre shallow water body created by a natural widening of the Yahara River located between Lakes Waubesa and Kegonsa in Dane County, Wisconsin. The open water and wetlands of LML, along with surrounding upland oak woodlands and open space, provide important breeding, nesting, and foraging opportunities for fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife including sand hill cranes.

Natural systems of LML and the Yahara River system have been seriously compromised by past land-use practices, and more recently by expanding urbanization. Applied Ecological Services, Inc. conducted an ecosystem health and land-use assessment for the LML project site for the Dane County Parks Department, Madison, Wisconsin. Existing ecological conditions of selected public and private lands were evaluated during extensive field investigations focusing on species diversity of plant and animal communities, and identification of ecological restoration and management needs resulting from natural and human-induced disturbance. A vegetation/land cover type map and ranking system were developed as a guide for prioritizing future land acquisitions, and for developing restoration and land management programs for the LML system.



Applied Ecological Services, Inc.