The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade & Consumer Protection is pursuing the Working Lands Initiative and the timing is critical because of the following: we still have much to preserve and sustain in Wisconsin’s working lands; we have many diverse and rapidly urbanizing areas of Wisconsin; critical working lands are being lost or fragmented; Wisconsin is well positioned to be a leader in the bio-based economy, the next Federal Farm Bill presents opportunities for transitioning away from a commodity payment system to a conservation credit system. Wisconsin could be a pilot state for new models.

The premise of the Working Lands Initiative is that Wisconsin’s land base, along with its natural resources of clean waters, rich forests and ample habitat areas, are critical to the state’s economic sustainability and need to be maintained in an environmentally friendly way. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is focusing on key strategies for Wisconsin in the coming months one of which is The Working Lands Initiative.

Smart Growth Interactive Visioning Workshops

Twelve interactive visioning workshops were held in Washington County during the months of July to September of 2006. A Countywide workshop was held at Moraine Park Technical College and the remaining eleven workshops were held in each of the municipalities participating in the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning process. Each workshop offered six stations where participants had an opportunity to learn about the comprehensive plan and to participate in hands-on visioning activities. The visioning workshops were just one way Washington County has strived to fulfill the requirements of Section 66.1001 (4) of Wisconsin’s Statutes which require the written procedures of the County’s Comprehensive Plan to be “designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan”.

The municipalities that held visioning workshops include:

- Town of Addison
- Town of Barton
- Town of Erin
- Town of Farmington
- Town of Germantown
- Town of Hartford
- Town of Kewaskum
- Town of Polk
- Town of Trenton
- Town of Wayne
- Village of Kewaskum
- Washington County

Attendance varied at the workshops, averaging 27 participants. Feedback from those who attended was very positive.

(continued on Page 4)
What areas are included in the Shoreland District?

The Shoreland development regulations apply to the following lands in Washington County:

- Lands within 1,000 feet of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)* of navigable lakes, ponds or flowages.
- Or lands within 300 feet of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)* of navigable rivers, streams, or waterways.
- Or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever distance is greater.

*The Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) is the point on the bank or shore, up to which the presence and action of surface water is so continuous as to leave a distinctive mark indicated by erosion, destruction or prevention of terrestrial vegetation, predominance of aquatic vegetation or other easily recognizable characteristics. Waters are considered to be legally navigable if they have a bed differentiated from adjacent uplands and levels or flow sufficient to support navigation by a recreational craft of the shallowest draft on an annually recurring basis.

The above figure represents the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) for a lake and stream.
WETLANDS

The presence of wetlands affects how land is developed and where structures are located. In Wisconsin and throughout the United States, wetlands are protected on public and private property.

Thinking of wetlands frequently brings to mind a swampy, marshy place covered with wildlife and cattails. However, there are many different types of wetlands. Some appear to be dry for part of the year and may even be predominately covered with trees and shrubs. Some of the benefits that wetlands provide include wildlife habitat, flood control, groundwater recharge, and filtering capabilities. It is because of these functions that wetlands are protected.

What areas are included in a Shoreland-Wetland Zoning District?

- **Wetlands of two acres or more located in the County:** Shoreland-Wetland Zoning Districts include all wetlands of 2 acres or more within a shoreland and that are shown on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wetland Inventory Maps that have been adopted as a part of the Washington County Shoreland/Wetland/Floodplain Zoning Ordinance.

- **Cases where wetlands less than two acres are included:** A portion of a wetland which is less than two acres in size and which is located in the unincorporated shoreland area within the County, shall be included in the shoreland-wetland zoning district where the wetland as a whole is two acres or larger, but extends across the limits of a municipality, across the County boundary or across the shoreland limits, so that the wetland is not regulated in its entirety by the County.

For More Information Regarding this Topic Refer to Section 23.03 (1) of the County Code.
Smart Growth Interactive Visioning Workshops (continued)

The visioning workshops consisted of six interactive stations:

**Station 1: Comprehensive Plan Inventory & Survey Results**

Station 1 provided information on the planning process and summaries of the first six chapters of the plan report. The station consisted of numerous handouts such as inventory chapter fact sheets, summaries of comprehensive planning benefits, a public participation timeline, and countywide telephone survey results. Posters were also on display summarizing results of the countywide telephone survey and kickoff meetings held earlier in the year.

A presentation by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) staff was offered at each workshop summarizing the first six chapters of the comprehensive plan. During the presentation, the public was invited to ask questions and discuss the contents of the completed chapters.

**Station 2: Mapping Future Residential Growth**

Using Geographical Information System (GIS) technology and a touch screen display, participants could see where natural and agricultural resources were located in their community. After determining which resources to preserve, participants mapped where they preferred future residential growth to occur based on a projected population for the year 2035. This station was facilitated by County staff.

For many participants, this station was an eye-opening experience. This station allowed participants to understand the multitude of information that goes into determining a future land use plan. Many people were very surprised to see the amount of land needed to accommodate a 2035 population based on different residential densities.

Most participants opted to preserve most if not all of the natural and agricultural resources within Washington County and their community. It was common for groups to map higher density residential growth within planned sewer service areas and lower densities outside of such areas. Comments from all groups were recorded.
Smart Growth Interactive Visioning Workshops (continued)

Station 3: Development Preference Slideshows

Participants evaluated various pictures of development and shared their opinions as to why an illustrated use was either appropriate or not appropriate for their community. Participants were given a survey on which they could rate on a scale of zero to ten, whether they thought what they saw was always appropriate for their community (10), never appropriate (0), or it depends (5). Five different slideshows were prepared and UW-Extension staff facilitated discussion at this station.

The following three slideshows were offered at all visioning workshops:

Housing & Subdivision Design Slideshow
Images of housing and subdivision design were those depicting housing units close to natural resources and those in a rural setting were identified as most appropriate for a community. Images of mobile home parks and older apartment complexes received low scores indicating participants did not think these were appropriate for their community.

Retail, Office, and Industrial Slideshow
Participants indicated that images displaying traditional architectural design such as a historic bed and breakfast, large agricultural operations, and a town hall/fire house building were appropriate for their community. Most participants agreed that large retail stores were not appropriate.

Transportation & Parking Slideshow
Participants indicated that images of a town road with wide shoulders, a parking lot with generous landscaping, and an unpaved bike/pedestrian trail were appropriate for their community. An alley, a shared driveway, and a narrow street image were not appropriate.

Rural Hamlet Slideshow
This slideshow was offered at the Towns of Addison, Barton, Farmington, Germantown, Polk, Trenton, and Wayne visioning workshops. Images displaying natural-looking scenes such as rivers, agriculture, traditional architecture and a farmers market were identified as appropriate for a community. Participants indicated that non-agricultural industrial development and mobile home parks were not appropriate for their communities.

Village Scenes Slideshow
This slideshow was only shown at the Countywide and Village of Kewaskum visioning workshops. Participants indicated that recreational areas such as play areas, park shelters, and village centers were appropriate. Participants indicated that mobile homes and large billboard signage were not appropriate.
**Smart Growth Interactive Visioning Workshops (continued)**

**Station 4: Community Goals… Are We Still on Target?**

Station 4 provided an opportunity for participants to consider if their community’s current planning goals were still appropriate for the future. Goals from each community’s adopted land use plan were displayed. Participants were given colored stickers to place next to each goal indicating whether they thought the goal should be continued as written (green sticker), was mostly acceptable but could use updating (yellow sticker), or should be discontinued completely (red sticker).

Overall, participants thought that goals regarding the preservation of natural resources, agricultural resources, and community character should be continued. Goals mentioning the use of consistent and compatible land uses and the appropriate management of wastes and storm water should also be continued.

Goals regarding the accommodation of future residents, whether through housing, updated transportation systems, or other means, typically received a yellow or red sticker indicating the goal needed to be updated or discontinued. Goals mentioning growth of businesses received mixed feedback depending on the community.

**Station 5: Build A Visioning Statement for Your Community**

This station allowed participants to state what they envisioned for the future of their community. Visioning statements are a way to express long-term thoughts of what someone envisions for a community. Common themes of visioning statements included the preservation of rural character, agricultural resources, natural resources, and open space. Participants also wanted to retain the high quality of life experienced in their communities by providing a safe place to live and raise a family. Concerns expressed by participants in their visioning statements included lack of employment opportunities and too much future growth.

*A visioning statement written at the Countywide visioning workshop...

“I envision Washington County to be a place where people can live, work, and play while preserving agriculture, open space, and each community’s sense of place.”*

**Station 6: Parting Words**

Station 6 was an opportunity for participants to express opinions in an unstructured format. Participants were able to write their opinions on planning-related topics such as land use, transportation, housing, utilities, agriculture, and economic development. There was also an “other” category in which participants could express opinions about other planning topics or the workshop.

Concerns expressed regarded the need to preserve open space, agriculture, environmental corridors, and groundwater. Many participants preferred small businesses in their communities rather than big retail stores. Participants also wanted to see a mix of housing stock and an increase of recreational trails in many communities.

*For a complete set of visioning workshop results, please visit the Washington County website at www.co.washington.wi.us/smartgrowth*
Visioning Workshop Evaluation

Overall, participants expressed very positive feedback on the workshops. The public was very pleased to be able to express opinions and participate in the planning process. On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being the best), the overall rating of the workshops was a 4.3.

Common Themes Expressed at Visioning Workshops

It was clear that most participants of the workshops wanted to see agricultural land, natural resources, and open space preserved. There was also an interest in accommodating future residential growth within existing planned sewer service areas to preserve open space and to accommodate future commercial development along major transportation routes.

Countywide Visioning Workshop

- Future commercial/industrial growth along major transportation corridors
- Future residential growth within planned Sewer Service Areas (SSA’s)
- Redevelop areas within existing infrastructure
- Preserve agricultural land and limit rural residential
- Limit use of large billboard signage and mobile home parks
- Provide recreational opportunities
- Provide a mix of housing stock

Town of Addison

- Medium or high density residential growth inside planned SSA’s
- Commercial along major transportation corridors
- Increase rural residential densities
- Preserve lands best suited for agriculture

Town of Barton

- Preserve natural resources
- Preserve farmland and rural character
- Maintain Town’s governing authority
- Promote traditional and historic architecture

Town of Erin

- Protect wetlands
- Rural housing densities are appropriate
- Multi-family homes are not appropriate
- Industrial and commercial areas are not appropriate

Town of Farmington

- Preserve farmland and open space
- Concentrating residential development near hamlets
- Cell towers on silos are appropriate
- Commercial/industrial development are not appropriate
Comprehensive Planning News

Common Themes Expressed at Visioning Workshops (continued)

**Town of Germantown**
- Keep as rural as possible outside of SSA
- Promote conservation subdivisions

**Town of Hartford**
- Concentrate future residential development close to City within planned SSA
- Protect natural resources, agricultural land and rural character
- Multi-family, mobile homes, and large retail are not appropriate
- Wide town roads are appropriate

**Town of Kewaskum**
- Prefer higher residential densities inside or adjacent to planned SSA and rural densities away from Village
- Farmers should be able to sell small amounts of land
- Rural single-family housing is more appropriate than multi-family
- Mobile homes and alleys are not appropriate

**Town of Polk**
- Preserve natural and agricultural resources except along Hwy. 45
- Higher density housing and multi-family units are not appropriate
- Mobile homes and shared driveways are not appropriate
- Update goals concerning transportation, waste management, and community facilities and utilities

**Town of Trenton**
- Low residential growth inside or adjacent to SSA of the City
- Keep town as rural as possible preserving natural resources especially wetlands and groundwater
- Multi-family housing and mobile homes are not appropriate
- Update goals regarding future development and outdoor recreation

**Town of Wayne**
- Concentrated residential growth around hamlets
- Multi-family housing and mobile homes are not appropriate
- Continue preservation of rural character and natural beauty
- Update goals regarding hamlets and town centers

**Village of Kewaskum**
- Promote higher density residential growth inside planned SSA
- Expand highway through Village or create bypass to aid transportation flow
- Modern architectural design and subdivisions are more appropriate than rural housing
- Update goals concerning transportation, library resources, and housing

Workshop results were presented at the Advisory Committee meeting on November 29, 2006 and sent to all partnering local government officials. These results will be considered as Washington County and local governments determine their goals, objectives, and recommendations for their comprehensive plans.
### Comprehensive Planning News

#### Upcoming Planning Meetings

| Meeting Locations: | Washington County  
Public Agency Center (PAC)  
333 E. Washington Street  
West Bend, WI. 53095 |
<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee</strong></td>
<td><strong>Land Use and Transportation Elements Work Group</strong></td>
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| February 28, 2007, PAC - Room 1113A/B at 6:15 p.m.  
March 28, 2007, PAC - Room 1113A/B at 6:15 p.m.  
NO MEETING IN APRIL, 2007 | February 26, 2007, PAC - Room 1113A/B at 6:30 p.m.  
NO MEETING IN MARCH, 2007  
NO MEETING IN APRIL, 2007 |
| **Utilities and Community Facilities, Economic Development, and Housing Elements Work Group** | **Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Elements Work Group** |
| NO MEETING IN MARCH, 2007  
NO MEETING IN APRIL, 2007  
May 9, 2007, PAC - Room 1113A/B at 6:00 p.m. | March 7, 2007, PAC - Room 1113A/B at 7:00 p.m.  
NO MEETING IN APRIL, 2007  
June 6, 2007, PAC - Room 1113A/B at 7:00 p.m. |

Meetings are subject to change. Please contact the Washington County Planning and Parks Department for current meeting information at 262-335-4445 or www.co.washington.wi.us/smartgrowth

### Land Evaluation Site Assessment

**What is LESA?**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has developed a new method for identifying areas to be preserved as farmland. This method is known as the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system. LESA is a numeric system for rating potential farmland preservation areas by evaluating soil quality (LE or land evaluation) and geographic variables (SA or site assessment).

The Multi-Jurisdictional Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources (ANCR) Work Group is currently completing a LESA analysis for Washington County to identify farmlands well-suited for long-term agricultural use for incorporation into the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources and Land Use Elements of the comprehensive plan. The final LESA analysis will be presented at the March 7, 2007, ANCR meeting.

Results of the LESA analysis will be presented in a future issue of the Planning and Parks Department newsletter.
THE ENERGY CRISIS & RENEWABLE SOURCES

There are many types of energy, sources of power. For centuries, America has relied heavily on coal, wood, oil and natural gas for its energy. However, increased concerns about the nation’s need for foreign oil and related national security issues and improving technologies have caused a surge in the search for energy sources that are renewable. The commitment to renewable energy is stronger today than ever before and it is growing. Today, renewable energy comes in many different forms. Whether harnessing biomass, methane digesters, wind, or solar power for electricity or converting forest and farm products into transportation fuels, the processes all make use of local resources, strengthening local economies and reducing American dependence on foreign oil.

THE PRIMARY RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES:

BIOMASS—organic matter that is converted to energy—can be used for fuels, power production and products that would otherwise be made from fossil fuels. While wood is still the largest source of biomass energy, the use of other agricultural products is rapidly increasing (i.e., using corn for ethanol, soybeans for biodiesel and converting manure into electricity).

WIND—turbines are the modern equivalent of the windmills used by past generations to harness the wind’s energy. Pressure from the wind drives the turbine’s rotor, and the turning shaft spins a generator to make electricity.

SOLAR—the sun’s heat can be captured through various devices and converted into electricity. Solar power is a clean, and safe alternative that continues to become more competitively priced.

HYDROELECTRICITY—captures energy from flowing water and turns it into electricity. Similar to wind energy, flowing water causes a turbine to spin, and the spinning turbines are connected to a generator that produces electricity.

GEOTHERMAL—power is produced when the hot water and steam from reservoirs are distributed through pipes or used to drive turbines.

The distribution of renewable energy consumption in the United States in 2004, shows the nation using 6% of renewable energy sources or a total of 6.2 Quadrillion British Thermal Units (Btu’s). Of the 6.2% BTU’s- 47% was Biomass; 2% Wind; 1% Solar; 45% Hydroelectric and 6% from geothermal sources.

ENERGY SOURCES:
PETROLEUM: 40%  NATURAL GAS: 23%
COAL: 23%  NUCLEAR: 8%  RENEWABLE: 6%
ENERGY CRISIS (CONTINUED)... On a national scale, renewable energy accounts for a relatively small but quickly growing portion of the energy consumed in the United States. While nearly half of the consumption came from biomass in 2004, wood had historically provided a majority of biomass energy, in 2007, corn ethanol is currently the fastest growing renewable energy source. However, it should be noted that in order to meet the transportation fuel needs, the greatest future potential comes from cellulosic sources. *Examples include: trees, wood chips, corn stover, switch grass and urban residues (i.e., landfills).* Although they constitute a much smaller portion of America’s renewable energy supply, advances are also being made in developing energy from solar, wind, methane (anaerobic) digesters and geothermal resources. Additional research efforts are also ongoing to use tidal energy and biomass from algae as other sources of renewable energy.

FUTURE POTENTIAL - In April of 2005, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Energy released a joint report assessing the energy potential of the two largest potential biomass sources - energy and agricultural lands. The study found that forest and agricultural lands could produce a combined 1.3 billion dry tons of biomass, enough to meet one third of the current demand for transportation fuels. To put it in perspective, the fuel from 1.3 billion dry tons of biomass would be equivalent to the United States’ peak crude oil production that occurred in 1970.

Source: Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration

Winter - High Risk Period for Manure Runoff...

Livestock producers who apply manure applications to agricultural fields need to understand that spreading manure – regardless of the type – from now until the ground thaws is extremely risky. Studies on farms cooperating in the Discovery Farms Program indicate that solid and liquid manure applied to snow covered and/or frozen soils, both before and during conditions of snow melt or rain on snow, results in significantly higher nutrient losses than if manure was not applied. These snowmelt nutrient losses should not be underestimated, as they can contribute a majority of the nitrogen and phosphorus losses for the entire year. These conditions lead to a high potential for snowmelt. What can livestock producers do to reduce their risk of manure runoff?

*Producers who must haul manure from their barns should stack it in an area where the potential for runoff or groundwater infiltration is low. Producers who daily haul manure should work with their local conservation departments to identify safe stacking sites that have minimal potential to runoff into either surface or groundwater. Producers who have lots or facilities with bedded pack systems need to be cautious about spreading this manure during this high risk period. Cleaning lots and getting the manure on the fields before the frost goes out can greatly increase the potential for nutrient losses. Producers who must haul manure during this high risk period should identify fields that are away from streams or lakes and have minimal risk of manure running to surface or groundwater. They should also apply manure at low rates (< 7,000 gallons/acre liquid manure and < 15-20 tons/acre solid manure).*

There is no guarantee that we will see manure running off fields this spring, but producers need to listen to the weather forecast and make good management decisions. If we work together we can reduce the risk of manure runoff events and continue to protect our farms as well as our water resources.

For more information visit the Discovery Farms website @ http://www.uwdiscoveryfarms.org/
Cost Sharing for Rural Landowners regarding Well Abandonment . . .

In an effort to protect our groundwater quality, the Land & Water Conservation Division is now offering 70% cost sharing for well abandonment to any rural landowner in Washington County. Funding for this best management practice was made available through a limited grant amount obtained from the Department of Agricultural, Trade and Consumer Protection Agency (DATCP).

Unused and improperly abandoned wells are a significant threat to groundwater quality. If not properly filled with impermeable material, abandoned wells can directly channel contaminated surfaces of soil or water into groundwater. Water that gets into abandoned wells bypasses the purifying action that normally takes place in the upper layers of the soil. Because groundwater flows in soil and bedrock formations (aquifers), contamination that enters old wells can move to nearby drinking water wells. Many thousands of improperly abandoned wells are threatening our groundwater in Wisconsin.

Contaminated surface water can enter a well if the casing pipe does not extend high enough above the ground surface and the well cap has been broken or removed; or if there are cracks or holes in the casing due to damage or deterioration with age. Contaminated surface water can seep down along the casing pipe of an improperly constructed well. Wells in low areas are sometimes illegally left open to drain surface water from heavy rainfall or snowmelt. Open wells offer tempting disposal receptacles for liquid and solid wastes. The disposal of any pollutant or wastewater in a well is prohibited by State codes.

In addition to threatening our water quality, large-diameter open wells pose safety hazards for small children and animals. Improperly abandoned flowing wells can be a nuisance and may lower artesian water pressure in neighboring wells. After wells are removed from service or seldom used, they often get forgotten. Such is the case, when a property is sold and ownership is transferred. In time the property may get covered by a parking lot, building, etc. and history is lost. After a well is covered, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to find where it was located and determine if in fact, it was causing contamination. When new wells are constructed in an area with improperly abandoned wells, they may have to be cased much deeper, or alternate aquifers are used, in order to provide safe water. These problems can be avoided by using proper filling methods of unused wells. Although current law allows any person to do well abandonment work, the DNR recommends that licensed Well Drillers and Pump Installers be hired to fill wells. These contractors are familiar with abandonment materials and procedures; they are knowledgeable about wells and have access to the necessary equipment for abandonment. It’s usually more economical to fill an old unused well at the same time the Well Driller is at the site constructing a new well. Chapters NR 811 and NR 812, Wis. Adm. Codes, require proper abandonment, by permanent filling of unused wells.

Contact the Land & Water Conservation Division at 262.335.4800 if you’re interested in well abandonment or if you would like to have your well water tested. Water tests kits are available to the public through the office, testing for nitrates, bacteria and/or fluoride.
NonMetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance Changes

The Department of Natural Resources has recently revised its rules regarding the reclamation of nonmetallic mines in Wisconsin. In accordance with these changes, the Washington County Planning & Parks Department, Land & Water Conservation Division will be revising the NonMetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance. While most of the changes will not directly affect operations, mine owners need to be aware of changes in the submission of fees and information required for the annual report.

Both the fees and the annual report information will now be based on actual unreclaimed acreage as of December 31st for that year. Previously, the fees were based on projected unreclaimed acres for the upcoming year while the annual report information was for the previous year. Synchronizing the reporting for both submittals is based on actual rather than projected acreage. To accommodate this change, nonmetallic mining owners will have to submit their fees and annual report information to the Land & Water Conservation Division no later than January 31 for the previous year. Renewal fee letters will be mailed out annually in late December.

For Example:

If there is an active, permitted mine with five unreclaimed acres as of December 31, fees would be submitted on the five acres along with the annual report information by January 31 of the current year.

Other major changes to the rule included the elimination of outdated “grandfathering” provisions and changes to the annual reporting and fee payment to the DNR by the regulatory authority. For more information regarding the ordinance, visit www.co.washington.wi.us or search the Department of Natural Resources website @ http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/mining/nonmetallic/

WISCONSIN DEER DONATION PROGRAM

A record total of 11,845 donated deer was recorded in 2006, for the Wisconsin Deer Donation Program covering the State of Wisconsin. A total of 59 Counties participated in the program along with 143 food processors. Since the fall hunting season of 2000, hunters have donated over 54,000 deer and provided over 2.4 million pounds of venison. In Washington County, a total of 126 deer were donated by hunters to local processing plants, and for our local food pantries. Thank you to all who participated in this program and made a difference in the reduction of the deer population.

The Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program covers damage to crops caused by deer, geese, turkey and bear, with an emphasis being on damage abatement first. If you begin noticing damage occurring on your cropland, or agricultural commodity this spring, don’t wait until later this fall to call for assistance. Compensation may be available for damages exceeding $250.00, up to a maximum damage claim of $15,000.00 may be paid.

For more information visit the website http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/damage
Washington County
Land & Water Conservation Division
2007 Tree Program

Offering 23 Native Species of Trees & Shrubs
Bluebird/Butterfly/Bat Houses, Compost Bins &
5 Special Prairie Seed Mixtures at Low Cost!

For Brochures:
Visit Our Website – www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd
or Call the Tree Program Hotline 262.335.4810

Washington County Planning & Parks Department
Land & Water Conservation Division
333 E. Washington St., Suite 3200
PO Box 2003
West Bend, WI 53095-2003

Order Deadline
Friday, March 2, 2007

5th Nutrient Management Workshop Held

Nutrient Management: Code 590 Definition – Managing the amount,
source, placement, form and timing of the application of nutrients and soil
amendments.

Wisconsin’s rules to control polluted runoff went into effect October 1,
2002. The state Legislature passed the rules to help protect Wisconsin’s
lakes, streams and groundwater. DNR rule NR 151 sets performance
standards and prohibitions for farms. To meet the new nutrient management
standards, farmers may hire an agronomist or prepare their own nutrient
management plans if they complete a DATCP-approved training course.

On January 18 & 25, 2007, twelve farmers attended the Qualified
Planner Nutrient Management Workshop run annually by the Land
& Water Conservation Division. Producers were educated by Mike
Ballweg, UW Extension Crops and Soils Agent, on the importance of
Nitrogen Management on the farm. Topics included the new UW Nitrogen
Guidelines for Corn in Wisconsin and Legume Nitrogen Production.
Phosphorus and potassium management issues were addressed by Nancy
Paul-Drummy, UWEX Discovery Farms Watershed Educator. The focus
of her discussion was on recommendations for corn and alfalfa grown
in Southeast Wisconsin. Landowners completed hands-on activities
relating directly to their farm. Calculations were done to estimate manure
generated on-site (for both nitrogen and phosphorus)... as well as, the legume nitrogen production. Farmers
could see first hand how valuable these resources are when treated like a fertilizer.
Environmentally Significant Lands - Our Green Spaces

The following are elements of the natural resource base which are essential to the maintenance of both the ecological balance and the natural beauty of Washington County: lakes, rivers and streams and the associated undeveloped shorelands and floodlands; wetlands; woodlands; prairies; wildlife habitat areas; wet, poorly drained, and organic soils; rugged terrain and high relief topography.

It is important to realize that because of the many interlocking and interacting relationships between living organisms and their environment, the destruction or deterioration of any one element may lead to a chain reaction among the others. For example, the drainage of wetlands, may have far-reaching effects, such as drainage may destroy fish spawning grounds, wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge areas and natural infiltration and floodwater storage areas of interconnecting lake and stream systems. The resulting deterioration of surface water quality may, in turn, lead to a deterioration of the quality of the groundwater. Groundwater serves as a source of domestic, municipal and industrial water supply and provides a basis for low flows in rivers and streams. Similarly, the destruction of woodland cover, which may have taken a century or more to develop, may result in soil erosion and stream siltation and in more rapid runoff and increased flooding, as well as destruction of wildlife habitat. The combined effects may lead eventually to the deterioration of the underlying and supporting natural resource base and of the overall quality of the environment for life. Protecting and preserving remaining environmental areas are key and important for our future and future generations to come...

What methods, measures or components can you consider as a home owner to improve Nonpoint Source Pollution and improve groundwater quality and infiltration? And why is this important?

- **Buffers** are best described as small areas or strips of land in permanent vegetation that are designed to slow water runoff, improve water quality, provide shelter and stabilize riparian areas, (i.e., filter strips, riparian buffers, grassed waterways and restoring wetlands). Riparian Buffers serve as an important water quality related function, improve habitat for a variety of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, they are the nexus between the surface water and groundwater systems, including areas of groundwater discharge that coincide with the ability of streams to sustain coldwater species and groundwater recharge areas. Buffers serve as important water quality-related functions, including removal of nonpoint pollutants from both surface water and groundwater, reduction of instream water temperatures through shading of the stream channel and maintenance of streambank stability.

- **Disconnection of roof drains** and re-directed to rain barrels and/or rain gardens, with the runoff from roofs ultimately being infiltrated.

- **Reduction of chloride applications** for ice/snow control, alternative mixture of sand/salt. Chlorides used in water softeners can increase instream chloride concentrations when the water softeners discharge to Private Onsite Waste Treatment Systems (POWTS) posing elevated concentrations at wastewater treatment plants.

- **Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes** such as pharmaceuticals, personal care products. Through onsite waste disposal systems (i.e., both septic & mound systems), improper disposal of hazardous waste can introduce contamination of surface and receiving groundwater.

- **Increase plantings of trees, shrubs and prairie seed**, to help reduce global warming effects, flooding, lessens direct runoff from impervious surfaces into our water resources.

- **Increase efficiency and conservation measures regarding water usage**, controlling utility costs and assisting in maintaining proper water levels and recharge areas regarding aquifers.
The Working Lands Initiative (cont. from Page 1)

This is about preserving a critical mass of areas of land in Wisconsin for agriculture, forestry, recreation, tourism and achieve this with strategic planning for business and housing growth in an environmentally friendly way.

The Working Lands Initiative:

Finding common ground on new strategies for preserving Wisconsin working lands (agriculture, forestry, tourism & recreation use). Wisconsin can be green and growing.

Boosting Wisconsin's economic development, especially in rural communities, in order to strategically protect the land for the bio-economy (biomass of forestry and agriculture materials) and protect all our natural resources for future generations. Wisconsin must be planning for prosperity.

Goals include creating a policy tool kit for state and local government to protect these critical lands. These policy tools will include a natural resource portfolio that recognizes the "other" values of working lands such as water recharge areas, critical habitat for wildlife and carbon sequestration.

Seek innovative partnerships between public and private entities to maximize efforts in preserving our natural resources through Community Collaboration Networks and a shared vision.

The future of Washington County hangs in the balance of nature, preservation/development and keeping the working lands in production - you will be learning more about the Working Lands Initiative in the upcoming months ahead.

“Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?”

March 21, 2007
10 AM – 3:00 PM

Senior and Community Center
514 S. First St.,
Watertown, WI 53094

A One-Day Workshop

Presentation by: Larry Tranel,
Iowa State University Extension,
Dairy Field Specialist

How You Can Earn $1 Million in Net Worth in Dairy Farming
And Improve Your Quality of Life!

Through the Combination of:
Management Intensive Grazing
Crossbreeding of Dairy Cows
Low-Cost Milking Parlors
Labor Efficient Facilities
Modified or Complete Seasonal Calving

Pre-registration is required by March 13th. This event is being sponsored by USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service - Town and Country Resource Conservation and Development Council (through funding from the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative) and Grassworks, Inc. Please contact Haly Schultz, RC&D Grazing Specialist at 262-335-4808 or at haly.schultz@rcdnet.net if you would like to register or are interested in grazing practices.
**Signs of Spring: Flowers, Robins and Assessors**

It may still be winter outside, but in the world of property valuations this is the time of year when assessors prepare for the spring assessment season. With the return of the assessor to your door, often people have many questions about the assessment process and how the value of their property is determined. Here is a brief and hopefully useful explanation as to how assessors determine property values.

Wisconsin Law requires all municipalities to assess property at market value at least once every five years helping to assure that taxes are distributed equitably and uniformly. The value an assessor places on a property is based on fair market value. Think of fair market value as the price a typical, well-informed purchaser would be willing to pay for a property. Generally speaking, improvements that increase the market value of a property will increase the assessed value. Usually, your assessment will not be increased for individual minor repairs. Even if you have had no improvements to the property nor made any repairs, general economic conditions such as interest rates, inflation rates, supply and demand, and changes in tax laws, can and will influence the value of real estate. As property values change in the market place, those changes must be reflected on the assessment roll. Not all property assessments change at the same rate. There are differences between individual properties and neighborhoods. In one area the sales may indicate a substantial increase in value in a given year. In another neighborhood there may be no change in value, or even a decrease in property values. Likewise different types of properties within the same neighborhood may also show different value changes. For example, one-story houses may be in more demand than two-story houses, or vice-versa. Older homes in the same area may be rising in value more slowly than newer homes. There are numerous factors to be considered in each property which will cause the values to differ. Some of the factors which can affect value are location, condition, size, quality, and number of baths, basement finish, garages, and many others.

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**Additional Topographic Mapping Data Available Soon**

Since 1994, Washington County has been working to complete digital contour mapping throughout the County. In 2007, this long-term project will be complete. A major project covering 214 sq. miles is currently underway. The areas on the map shown in green are included in the 2007 project. The white areas already have digital contour mapping from projects previously completed.

Unlike previous topographic mapping projects that were completed using a process involving aerial photography, the current project will use newer LIDAR technology. Using LIDAR (Light Detecting and Ranging), the cost to acquire elevation data is reduced, but the ability to capture planimetric data (building footprints, edge of pavement, tree lines, poles, etc…) is limited. For this reason, the current project will include only the contour data and not the full range of planimetric data that has become part of the standard topographic mapping specification developed by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

The information from the 2007 project will be available in mid to late 2007. The information will be available on CD, on the GIS Interactive Mapping Application [http://maps.co.washington.wi.us/](http://maps.co.washington.wi.us/) and as hard copy prints.

Contact the GIS Division of the Planning and Parks Department for more information.
Enjoy the Winter Outdoors

The Washington County Park System offers many opportunities for all to enjoy the outdoors during the winter months. Something for everyone to enjoy . . .

**Lighted Sled Hills**... are open at Homestead Hollow County Park, Germantown, and Ridge Run County Park in West Bend with separate runs for children and adults.

**Cross Country Ski Trails**... offer a range of challenges from level, easy trails at Sandy Knoll, Ridge Run and Homestead Hollow County Parks and on the Eisenbahn State Trail South of Lighthouse Lane. Moderate to difficult ski trails are available on the hilly terrain at Glacier Hills County Park. A heated warming shelter with flush restrooms and water is available at Glacier Hills County Park.

**Lighted Ice Skating**... is available when conditions permit at Homestead Hollow and Ridge Run County Parks. Unheated shelters are available for skaters to put skates on.

**Ice Fishing**... access is available from Ackerman’s Grove (Little Cedar Lake), Ridge Run (Well’s Lake), Glacier Hills (Freiss Lake) and Henschke Hillside Lake Access (Silver Lake). Caution is urged when venturing out onto frozen lakes in winter.

**Snowmobile Trails**... run through Glacier Hills, Heritage Trails and Sandy Knoll County Parks and parking is available at Homestead Hollow County Park to access adjacent trails across Freistadt Rd. in Germantown. The portion of the Eisenbahn State Trail north of Lighthouse Lane is also open to snowmobiles when conditions permit. The Eisenbahn State Trail continues on into Fond du Lac County, north of the Village of Kewaskum. Anyone planning to use the Fond du Lac portion of the Eisenbahn State Trail should check with Fond du Lac County officials for their winter trail rules and regulations.

No entrance fee is required for Washington County Parks. The parks are open from 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. Please refer to the County website at [www.co.washington.wi.us](http://www.co.washington.wi.us) for additional information and for locations of all Washington County Parks.
Did You Know . . .

... that there are 21 reservable Shelters in the Washington County Park System, four of which are heated for winter use? Three more are under construction and will be ready for use later this season. Two of the shelters under construction are open air structures, built in Ackerman’s Grove County Park, located on County Z, south of West Bend; and the third is a heated structure that is located in Leonard J. Yahr County Park on Orchard Valley Road in the Town of Farmington.

Last year, there were 458 shelter reservations that served over 23,000 attendees. Park shelters that are currently in use range in size from a small heated cabin with a capacity of 30, to a large heated hall with a 200 person capacity. If you would like to reserve a shelter this must be done in person at the Planning and Parks Department Office located in the Public Agency Building at 333 E. Washington Street in West Bend. Rental fees do apply and vary depending on shelter size, county residency, weekday or weekend and the size of the group.

For more information on the location, specific fees, and pictures of the various park shelters go to the Washington County website at www.co.washington.wi.us, and click on Parks and Recreation. The General Park Brochure also lists park facilities information and these brochures are available free of charge at the Planning and Parks Department or in the park kiosks. For more information or assistance call the Planning and Parks Department at 262-335-4445.

What’s New for 2007

Slightly higher boat launch fees for trailered or motorized boats will be in effect at all launch sites operated by the Washington County Park System in 2007. Currently, there are two operating launch sites, one is located in Ackerman’s Grove Park on County Z which provides access to Little Cedar Lake, the other is at Henschke Hillside Lake Access located on Silver Lake in West Bend. The daily boat launch fee has increased to $7.00 and the annual boat launch fee has increased to $70.00. The annual boat launch permit allows unlimited boat launches at all launch sites operated by the Washington County Park System. There is no charge at either site to launch a carry-in such as a canoe or kayak provided they are not motorized or trailered. Only carry-in launches will be allowed at Leonard J. Yahr County Park when it opens later this year. Leonard J. Yahr County Park is located on Erler Lake in the Town of Farmington. Both annual and daily permits can be purchased at the launch sites or at the Public Agency Center in West Bend. For those who purchase an annual permit a windshield sticker will be provided. All annual boat launch permits are valid from January 1st - December 31st of the year purchased.

The 18 hole Disc Golf Course located in Heritage Trails County Park, will open on April 1st, weather permitting. After the second full year of operation for all 18 holes, many players are commenting on the challenge and quality of the course as it matures. More trees were planted and fertilizing the turf and spraying for weeds continues. The 9 hole fee is $2.00 per player, the 18 hole or daily fee is $4.00 per player. These fees are unchanged for 2007. Both daily and annual disc golf permits can be purchased on-site or at the Public Agency Center in West Bend. A tag is provided to those who purchase an annual disc golf permit.
Planning & Parks Department Newsletter is published quarterly for Washington County residents. Viewpoints of authors do not necessarily reflect those of the Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee or the Washington County Board of Supervisors. The Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee and the Planning and Parks Department staff encourage responses from the public.

Planning & Parks Department Mission Statement
Our Mission:
The public is provided with recreational benefits, environmental protection and increased awareness, compliance with regulations, vibrant local economy, sensible growth and an improved quality of life in Washington County.

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