Land & Water Conservation Division - Conservation News

The Greening of America - Natural Plantings
Washington County 2008 Tree Program

Since 1993, the Washington County Land & Water Conservation Division has offered this environmental-friendly program to anyone interested in planting native plant species on their property. This year 23 native Wisconsin tree and shrub species are available for purchase, along with an assortment of prairie seed mixes, compost bins, bluebird and bat houses. All are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Seedlings range from 1-3 ft. in height and are available in bundles of 25. Plan for your future and enhance your property by protecting your soil and water resources while taking a proactive approach towards the greening of America.

Tree Orders are now being accepted for the upcoming year and are available on the web @ www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd under Tree Program or call 262.335.4810.

Comprehensive Planning News

Recent Chapter Approvals

The preliminary drafts of Chapters VIII, the Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element and XIII, the Economic Development Element of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan are complete. The Chapters received preliminary approval from the Multi-Jurisdictional Advisory Committee (MJAC) on September 26th. Chapter X, the Housing Element was reviewed by the Housing, Utilities and Community Facilities, and Economic Development Element Workgroup on October 24th. Please see pages 4 through 7 for summaries of chapters X and XIII. For full copies of the chapters, visit our website at www.co.washington.wi.us/smartgrowth
Reduced Principal Structures — Setbacks From the Water

The following setbacks are permitted where there is an existing pattern of development in the area of the proposed construction for principal structures.

**SETBACK EXAMPLE 'A'**

- When there is at least one principal structure on each side of the applicant’s lot and these structures are located within 200 feet of the proposed site and the existing principal structures are located at less than the required setback.

Then the setback is the average of the setbacks of the nearest principal structure on lots A and B as measured from the nearest point of the principal structure to the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) within 200 feet on each side of the proposed site.

See Figure below representing Setback Example “A”.

**SETBACK EXAMPLE 'B'**

- When there is an existing principal structure on only one side.

Then the setback will be the average of the existing principal structure’s setback and the required setbacks as follows.

Setback averaging must meet the following requirements:

- **Class 1 Waterbody**: No averaging less than 100 feet from the OHWM or reduced to 75 feet with mitigation.
- **Class 2 Waterbody**: No averaging less than 75 feet from the OHWM or reduced to 50 feet with mitigation.
- **Class 3 Waterbody**: Averaging is permitted between 62.5 feet to 75 feet from the OHWM without mitigation and averaging is permitted between 50 feet to 62.5 feet from the OHWM with mitigation.

See Figure below representing Setback Example "B".

For more information on Setback Averaging, please refer to Section 23.09 (2) of the County Code.
Chapter X: Housing Element

Chapter X, Housing Element, includes an inventory of the existing housing stock providing information on the total number of housing units, vacancy rates, median sales prices, monthly housing costs, and affordability. A summary of housing inventory was provided in the June 2007 newsletter. The final portion of the chapter has recently been completed and sets forth housing goals and objectives through the plan design year 2035. Recommended policies, which are steps or actions to achieve housing goals and objectives; and programs, which are projects or services necessary to achieve housing policies, are also identified. Goals and objectives were identified using the housing data inventoried in the chapter and in Chapter II, and the general planning issue statements and goals and objectives related to housing identified in Chapter VII. Results from the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analyses conducted at workgroup, advisory committee, and public meetings; workgroup and committee brainstorming sessions; and the public opinion survey were also reviewed to identify housing issues to be addressed by the goals, objectives, policies, and programs set forth in this element.

Housing Issues

The comprehensive planning law requires the Housing Element to include policies and programs to provide an adequate housing supply that meets existing and forecasted housing demand and provides a range of housing choices to meet the needs of all income levels, age groups, and persons with special needs. An adequate amount of housing is provided by the private market for households earning the median income or above. The housing element recommendations, therefore, focus on the provision of housing for households that earn less than the median income, housing for an aging population, and housing for people with disabilities.

Chapter X: Housing Element Continued

The following housing goals have been identified for Washington County:

General Housing Issue (from Issues and Opportunities Element)
Goal: Promote a range of safe and affordable housing choices for all income levels and age groups in the County.

Housing Supply and Quality Issue
Goal: Promote the addition of an adequate number of housing units to the current housing stock to meet housing demand through 2035.
Goal: Allocate sufficient land for housing development and to accommodate current and future populations.
Goal: Promote adequate housing choices.
Goal: Encourage the development of “life-cycle” housing.
Goal: Provide safe and decent housing for all County residents.

Housing Cost / Workforce Housing Issue
Goal: Promote a range of affordable housing choices for persons of all income levels.
Goal: Promote the conservation of the existing housing stock as one source of affordable housing.

Aging and Disabled Population Issue
Goal: Promote a range of housing choices for Washington County’s aging and disabled population.
Goal: Promote housing options that allow elderly and disabled persons to remain in their homes.

Housing Preference Issue
Goal: Support a range of housing types to meet the housing needs and preferences of Washington County residents.

Housing Distribution Issue
Goal: Promote the distribution of a variety of housing structure types and sizes including single-family, two-family, and multi-family homes across Washington County for all income and age groups.

Fair Housing Issue
Goal: Promote fair housing practices in Washington County.

For a full copy of Chapter X – Housing Element, please contact the Washington County Planning & Parks Department, UW-Extension office or visit our website at: www.co.washington.wi.us/smartgrowth.
Intergovernmental Cooperation Workshop Results

On October 9, 2007, the Washington County Planning and Parks Department with the assistance of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and UW-Extension, conducted an Intergovernmental Cooperation Workshop at Washington County Fair Park.

The majority of the workshop consisted of presentations regarding successful intergovernmental cooperation efforts including boundary agreements, revenue sharing and shared services. All of the presentations were very insightful and informative. Presentations were provided by: Del Beaver, Village of Jackson Administrator; George Hall, Director of Municipal Boundary Review, Department of Administration; Amy Volkmann, Town of Burke Administrator; and Al Reuter, Attorney for Reuter, Whitish & Cole, S.C.

A brainstorming session was also conducted on ways to improve intergovernmental cooperation between local municipalities.

The results of the brainstorming session can be found at www.co.washington.wi.us/smartgrowth.

The Benefits of Good Intergovernmental Cooperation

Cost savings
Cooperation can save money by increasing efficiency and avoiding unnecessary duplication. Cooperation can enable some communities to provide their residents with services that would otherwise be too costly.

Address regional issues
By communicating and coordinating their actions, and working with regional and state jurisdictions, local communities are able to address and resolve issues which are regional in nature.

Early identification of issues
Cooperation enables jurisdictions to identify and resolve potential conflicts at an early stage, before affected interests have established rigid positions, before the political stakes have been raised, and before issues have become conflicts or crises.

Reduced litigation
Communities that cooperate are able to resolve issues before they become mired in litigation. Reducing the possibility of costly litigation can save a community money, as well as the disappointment and frustration of unwanted outcomes.

Chapter XIII: Economic Development

Chapter XIII, Economic Development Element, includes an inventory and analysis of numerous aspects of economic development such as the labor force, employment, annual wages, personal income, business parks, and environmentally contaminated sites. The chapter also gives an overview of economic development organizations and programs that have been created to assist in the establishment, retention, and expansion of area businesses.

Information on employment projections and desirable businesses is also provided in the chapter. A list of businesses and industries the County would like to attract, retain or expand was developed by the Housing, Utilities and Community Facilities, and Economic Development Element (HUED) Workgroup based in part on the inventory and analysis presented in the chapter and consideration of the recommendations in the Washington County Economic Development Strategic Plan and the Milwaukee 7 Strategic Framework.

The final portion of the chapter sets forth economic development goals and objectives through the plan design year of 2035. Policies, which are steps or actions recommended to be taken to achieve economic development goals and objectives; and programs, which are projects or services intended to achieve economic development policies, are also identified in the chapter. A variety of economic development issues surfaced in the SWOT analysis. Although good job opportunities, a diverse manufacturing base, and a good workforce were identified as strengths in the SWOT analysis, the aging workforce, lack of jobs paying a living wage, lack of affordable housing, and loss of job growth were viewed as weaknesses for Washington County. Opportunities identified included the creation of new jobs and a good highway system. The following goals have been identified for Washington County:

General Economic Development Goals (from Chapter VII)

Goal: Identify and encourage desirable and sustainable businesses and job development.

Goal: Promote a range of safe and affordable housing choices for all income levels and age groups in the County.

Labor Force Issue

Goal: Promote an adequate supply of workers to meet the employment needs of businesses located in the County through the plan design year 2035.

Employment Goal

Goal: Promote an adequate number of jobs accessible to Washington County residents to serve the County’s projected 2035 population of 157,265 persons.

Creating, Attracting, and Retaining Local Businesses Issue

Goal: Create, attract and retain desirable businesses and industries.

Goal: Promote tourism in the County by capitalizing on tourism amenities, including historic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources.

For a full copy of Chapter XIII – Economic Development Element, please contact the Washington County Planning & Parks Department, UW-Extension office or visit our website at: www.co.washington.wi.us/smartgrowth.
The Benefits of Good Intergovernmental Cooperation (Continued)

Consistency
Cooperation can lead to consistency of the goals, objectives, plans, policies, and actions of neighboring communities and other jurisdictions.

Predictability
Jurisdictions that cooperate provide greater predictability to residents, developers, businesses, and others. Lack of predictability can result in lost time, money, and opportunity.

Understanding
As jurisdictions communicate and collaborate on issues of mutual interest, they become more aware of one another’s needs and priorities. They can better anticipate problems and work to avoid them.

Trust
Cooperation can lead to positive experiences and results that build trust between jurisdictions.

History of success
When jurisdictions cooperate successfully in one area, the success creates positive feelings and an expectation that other intergovernmental issues can be resolved as well.

Service to citizens
The biggest beneficiaries of intergovernmental cooperation are citizens for whom government was created in the first place. They may not understand, or even care about, the intricacies of a particular intergovernmental issue, but all residents can appreciate their benefits, such as cost savings, provision of needed services, a healthy environment and a strong economy.

The Washington County Planning and Parks Department would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Workshop to make it a success.
Retaining your Rainwater – ... through Rain Gardens & Barrels

Homemakers in many parts of the country are catching their rainwater or snowmelt by using rain gardens– landscaped areas or shallow depressions (3 to 4 inches to 2 feet deep) planted with wildflowers and other native vegetation that soak up rain water from the rooftops of houses or other buildings. Rain gardens fill with a few inches of water after a storm and the water slowly infiltrates into the ground rather than running into a storm drain or water drainage way. Compared to a conventional patch of lawn, a rain garden allows approximately 30% more water to soar into the ground. While an individual rain garden may seem like a small thing, collectively rain gardens can provide substantial neighborhood and community environmental benefits by:

- Increasing the amount of water that filters into the ground, recharging local and regional aquifers;
- Reducing flood events, shoreline/bank erosion and drainage problems;
- Reducing pollutants carried by urban stormwater such as lawn fertilizers and pesticides, oil and other fluids from cars, and numerous harmful substances that wash off roofs and paved areas;
- Enhancing the beauty of yards and neighborhoods and providing a valuable habitat for native plants and animals.

Rain Barrels

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rain water from your roof through your downspout that would otherwise be lost by water runoff. Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer and a rain barrel can save you up to 1,300 gallons of water during the peak summer months. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when you need it most. During periods of drought, it can provide you with an ample supply of soft water containing no chlorine, lime or calcium making it ideal for watering gardens and flower pots as well as car and window washing.

Construction of a rain barrel is relatively simple, all you need is: a 55 gallon drum, a vinyl hose, PVC couplings, a screen grate to keep debris and insects out and a few other inexpensive items.

For more information on conservation ideas for your backyard or to learn if your soil type is suitable for a prairie, visit the website below. Prairie mixes are now available through the Land & Water Conservation Division’s Tree Program.

http://www.co.washington.wi.us/fcd
http://learningstore.uwec.edu/pd/GWQ034.pdf
http://learningstore.uwec.edu/pd/GWQ037.pdf
http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/nps/nps/links.htm

Invasive Species

Prairie Species

- Garlic Mustard
- Giant Foxtail
- Green Foxtail
- Giant Ragweed
- Common Ragweed
- Field Bindweed
- Giant Hogweed
- Garlic Mustard

- Wild Sunflower
- Prairie Sunflower
- Common Sunflower
- Horse Nettle
- Wild Mustard
- Mustard
- Wild Flax
- Sunflower
- Ryegrass
- Brown Mustard
- Sheep Sorrel
- Redroot Pigweed
- Knotweed
- Mustard

- Wolf’s Bane
- Yellow Starshower
- Idaho Yarrow
- Green Bittercress
- Common Bittercress
- Yellow Rocket
- Wild Rye
- Wild Barley
- Narrowleaf Mustard
- Water Forget-me-not
- Water Bistort
- Water Smartweed
- Watercress
- Watercress
- Water Chestnut
- Water Chestnut
- Water Chestnut

Herbicide Resistant Weeds

Herbicide resistance is the inherited ability of a plant to survive and reproduce following exposure to herbicide treatment normally lethal to the wild type. There are 107 herbicide resistant weed biotypes in the USA. Wisconsin has confirmed 11 resistant biotypes: Velvetleaf, Smooth pigweed, Common waterhemp, Common lambsquarters, Large crabgrass, Kochia, Giant foxtail, Green foxtail, Shattercane, Giant ragweed, Eastern black nightshade. Common ragweed is also listed as a suspected biotype.

While the robotic approach is in the testing phase, Washington County is taking a proactive human approach by joining forces with seven other counties located in southeastern Wisconsin to cooperatively control invasive species. A Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) was recently established and includes Washington, Sheboygan, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Walworth, Racine and Kenosha Counties. The primary goal of the CWMA is to integrate all invasive species management resources across jurisdictional boundaries in order to benefit entire communities. The CWMA will function to prevent, manage, and eradicate invasive species and noxious plants through a coordinated program of public and private partnerships.

Increasing public awareness of the adverse impacts of invasive species and promoting “backyard conservation” will be an important focus of the organization.

Watch for more information as the CWMA unfolds in our area!
2007 Construction Season

The 2007 construction season proved to be a busy one for the Land & Water Conservation Division staff. With milk prices on a steady rise, many landowners took advantage of improving and expanding their facilities. Paul Sebo, Senior Project Technician of the Land & Water Conservation Division took the lead role; assisting the Beck Family with the manure storage and transfer system design and overseeing the installation of the practices as they were constructed. Other 2007 construction projects involved the Melzer Farm which included the installation of a manure storage facility, the Muth Farm installation of an earthen lined manure storage facility and the Dobberphul Family Farm installation of a new cow yard for their animals. Some interesting facts on the projects include:

- Approximately $500,000 were spent on the conservation practices for these four farms.
- Total manure storage capacity for the three facilities equals 4 million gallons.

A permit is required through the office prior to the installation, expansion or abandonment of a manure storage facility. The Land & Water Conservation Division continues to offer free technical assistance for the planning, design and construction supervision of manure storage facilities.

Deer Hunting in Wisconsin? Try the Deer Donation Program

Throughout the State of Wisconsin, hunters can participate in the Deer Donation Program and receive a charitable tax deduction! Legally harvested deer (outside of the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) zone) are accepted at local meat processing companies until January 7, 2008. In Washington County, Gehrings Meat Market in Hartford (262.644.6272) and Kewaskum Frozen Foods in Kewaskum (262.626.2181) are your local drop off point for the program. Deer are then processed and donated to the local food pantries. Call ahead for your processing needs.

For more information visit the website @ http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/damage/donation/mainindex.htm

Worten at right is the newly constructed Manure Storage Facility located at the Melzer’s Family Farm.

This 1.4 million gallon storage facility should provide John & Mike Melzer with approximately 9 months of storage holding capacity.
Cropping Former CRP Land – Literally Speaking
- Don’t Lose Ground

Thinking ahead for next year, before you decide to crop or graze former Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land, there are a number of issues you should consider.

Rebuilding Soil Quality...
After sitting untilled and unharvested for 10 years or more, the soils beneath the CRP cover have begun to recuperate. Soil tilth and organic matter have improved dramatically, as well as water-holding capacity, water infiltration, and microbial activity. Earthworms and micro-organisms have been busy recycling nutrients and aerating the soil increasing the root zone.

Credits Gained from Soil Quality...
Using no-till will not only maintain but continue the gains or credits obtained in soil quality and organic matter (carbon). It will also keep the soil compaction-free. Generally speaking, soil quality improves noticeably after six years of no-till. Since CRP land has been left idle it is already in good shape and free of compaction. By managing your fields and the soil to maintain the benefits accrued during the CRP years, consider grazing instead of cropping. Former CRP land may convert easily to good grazing land, and may qualify as organic.

Grazing the land will continue the improvements in soil quality, without the risk of erosion that comes with cropping highly erodible fields.

Conservation Compliance...
Former CRP land is subject to Conservation Compliance, this means that highly erodible fields must be cropped using an acceptable conservation system or plan must be in place. Furthermore, ephemeral (gully) erosion must be controlled, leaving sod in the channels to serve as grass waterways. A conservation system must be in place to remain eligible for USDA benefits, including commodity price support payments and farm and storage loans.

For more information - http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/
**Planting Winter Rye following Corn Silage**

**Reasons to Plant Rye?**

Winter rye (*Secale cereale*) can be used as a cover crop after corn silage to protect against soil erosion. When properly managed, it has multiple uses and benefits beyond conservation, including forage production, nutrient management and weed suppression. Winter rye can also provide an edge against weather related forage shortage caused by alfalfa winterkill or drought. For farmers who focus on using rye as an early-season forage crop, conservation and nutrient management benefits will also be achieved. Rye planted in the fall, can produce substantial dry matter yield the following spring, often without undue planting delay for the following crop. When harvested at boot stage it typically produces dry matter yield in the 2 to 3 ton per acre range at quality levels acceptable for many animal production groups.

**Planting**

Rye should be planted as soon as possible after corn silage harvest. In southern Wisconsin, rye planted in mid-to-late September produces higher forage yield, and tends to mature slightly earlier the next spring. However, yield potential does not significantly decline until approximately October 10. Later planting results in less soil cover going into winter, thus reducing soil protection. However, rye grows rapidly in spring and acceptable forage yield can usually be achieved with later October planting.

**Harvesting**

For best harvest yield, harvest rye in the boot stage to balance yield and quality, similar to oats. Boot stage is just before seed head emergence, when the head can be felt near the top of the leaf whorl within the sheath of the flag leaf. Typically this occurs by mid-May in southern Wisconsin, but can vary depending mostly growing conditions. Earlier harvest results in high quality, but low tonnage and later harvest results in lower quality.

**Whole Farm – Nutrient Management Planning**

Rye can be an important component in whole-farm nutrient management planning and nutrient cycling. It grows actively, taking up nutrients during the late fall and early spring when significant infiltration and leaching occur. Harvest of rye forage, followed by a subsequent crop significantly increases annual nutrient removal from soil. Rye’s ability to reduce the amount of soil nitrate that remains from the previous crop is well documented in eastern and southeastern states where milder winters increase the likelihood of over-winter leaching losses. In Wisconsin, where frozen soil prevents leaching for much of the winter, rye can significantly reduce soil nitrate following fall manure application. This benefit occurs even if rye is not harvested and will help protect groundwater quality where heavy manure applications have been made. Removal of rye forage in spring can also remove significant amounts of P and K. Coupled with nutrient removal from the summer crop, annual nutrient removal is significantly increased, which can greatly benefit nutrient management planning.

For more information visit the following website: http://pcmu.wisc.edu

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**SAVING BUCKS AND BUNNIES: Wisconsin Managed Forest Law**

Are you a private landowner with wooded property and want to save money on your taxes, profit from your property’s timber and promote sound stewardship of your land? If so, you may wish to consider enrolling your property in Wisconsin’s Managed Forest Law Program or MFL. Designed to encourage private timber production, the Managed Forest Law, property owners can manage their woodlands and ease their property tax burden. Property owners enrolled in the program pay property taxes at a reduced rate. At the time of harvest, portions of these forgone taxes are recouped by the state. For qualifying properties, few other programs offer this level of tax savings.

In order to qualify under the Managed Forest Law property must be at least ten contiguous acres of productive forest meeting the following criteria: a) eighty percent of the land must be capable of producing a minimum of 20 cubic feet of wood acre per year; b) eighty percent of the land must currently be forested or will soon be forested; and c) the enrolled land must be at a minimum width of at least 120 feet. If a property qualifies under the law, an application fee and a management plan must be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources or DNR.

This plan, approved by a DNR Forester, may be written by a certified plan writer or a local DNR Forester. Each plan must state whether the property is enrolled for either a twenty-five or fifty year period. The plan must also state whether the land is to be enrolled as “Open” or “Closed” to public access. Property enrolled as “Open” must permit access for hunting, fishing, hiking, sightseeing and cross-country skiing. Accessing the land is only permitted on foot unless motorized access it permitted by the owner. On a “Closed” property, the landowner may restrict or permit access as desired. The tax rate for Managed Forest Law land is recalculated every five years by the Department of Revenue. The following table shows the rates in effect through 2007 and the new rates for 2008 through 2012:

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<th>Wisconsin Managed Forest Law</th>
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<th>NEW MFL Tax Rate effective 2008 through 2012 (per acre)</th>
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<td><strong>Land entered before 2005</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>OPEN to public</td>
<td>$0.83</td>
<td>$0.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLOSED to public</td>
<td>$1.95</td>
<td>$1.57</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Land entered after 2005</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPEN to public</td>
<td>$1.46</td>
<td>$1.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLOSED to public</td>
<td>$7.28</td>
<td>$8.34</td>
</tr>
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For more information on the Managed Forest Law program, contact your local Department of Natural Resources Forester or visit http://www.dnr.state.wi.us.
Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) - Survey Trees

The Washington County Parks Section is cooperating with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection on a study to determine if the emerald ash borer has moved into Wisconsin. The emerald ash borer adult is a green metallic beetle that is about ½” long and the larvae are about 1” long with bell-shaped segments. These insects are native to Asia and are threatening ash trees in the Great Lakes region.

Several small ash trees were marked in each county park and each will be examined next year for signs of emerald ash borer attack. All detection trees will be cut and peeled and trained personnel will look for signs of infestation by the emerald ash borer. Symptoms include S-shaped or winding galleries under the bark, and a 1/8” diameter exit hole in the bark.

To date no emerald ash borers have been found anywhere in Wisconsin. This insect was first confirmed in Michigan in 2002 and has been detected in Indiana, Ohio, Maryland, and in Illinois. Because transporting infected ash firewood can spread the emerald ash borer the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources created a permanent rule in 2006 which prohibits bringing firewood into Wisconsin or transporting firewood more than 50 miles onto DNR properties.

Call 1-800-462-2803 or 1-866-322-4512 or visit the following websites for more information:

- http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH/Ash/
- http://emeraldashborer.info/

Warm weather lead to increased play throughout October and has also allowed the greens, tees, and fairways to recover quickly from aeration. The irrigation system which includes over 900 irrigation heads was winterized in early November. A large air compressor is used to blow all the water out of the irrigation heads and piping so the water can’t freeze and damage the plastic pipe.

The closing date for play on the golf course is determined by the weather. Playing conditions and the turf are checked daily beginning in November. The golf shop always remains open on weekdays through December for holiday sales of merchandise and gift certificates.

On September 12th the Planning Conservation and Parks Committee gave approval to begin the process of replacing the cold storage barns that were destroyed by fire this past April at the Washington County Golf Course located in Hartford. Preliminary plans call for a 10,000 sq. ft. building located next to the existing maintenance building. After plans are developed and approved the project will be bid out. All construction costs will be covered by insurance. If the weather cooperates work could start later this year.
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.

Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee Members
John W. Stern, Chairperson
Donald J. Berchem, Vice-Chairperson
Kenneth W. Brandt, Secretary
Mark T. McCune, County Board Supervisor
Melvin K. Ewert, County Board Supervisor
Charlene S. Brady, County Board Supervisor
Daniel R. Knodl, County Board Supervisor
Michael Thull, FSA Representative - LCC Member

Planning & Parks Department
Paul Mueller, Administrator
Debora Sielski, Assistant Administrator for Planning
Mike Kactro, Assistant Administrator for Golf & Parks
Phil Gaudet, Land Resources Manager
Eric Damkot, GIS Manager
Brian Braithwaite, Real Property Lister
Jill Hapner, County Conservationist

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