If you’re looking for a useful and convenient way to improve your life through active living – you’ve found it. Get Moving Washington County is your new information source for when you want to “Go!” The Get Moving Washington County website includes a user-friendly mapping application that allows you to locate recreational resources and map your plans to be active.

The Washington County Planning and Parks Department and the Healthy People Project of Washington County have partnered to create an active living website for Washington County. The Get Moving Washington County website is designed to be very user-friendly and includes informational resources that will help you find ways to get up and “Go!” See pages 2 and 3 for more information.
Go Walk! Go Run! Go Bike! Go Play! Go Swim!

The Get Moving Washington County mapping application features publicly accessible recreational amenities such as county, state and local parks and trails, lakes, common walking and jogging routes, historical sites, farmers markets, and much more. Zoom in to your community and see the public recreational resources close to home. If there is a specific activity you want to do, simply click on a “Go!” link under the “Get Moving” heading. Clicking a “Go!” link and selecting a community will automatically list places where you can enjoy that specific activity. For example, click “Go Swim” to search for publicly accessible swimming opportunities in Washington County.

You could then select “Town of Polk” and a list of places to swim in the Town of Polk will appear. By clicking on Ackerman’s Grove, you are able to either visit the park’s website for more information, or you could click the Interactive Map, and the map would display Ackerman’s Grove County Park.

An informational pop-up box will also be displayed that includes a brief description of the park, a series of icons that depict activities and amenities available, and a web link for more information.

The new site also includes an events calendar. The calendar promotes local, nonprofit events that relate to healthy living and wellness. Become aware of what’s going on in your community and participate in healthy living activities.

www.getmovingwashingtoncounty.com
This new active living website is loaded with helpful tools and information to help you live a healthier life! This website is intended to benefit you, all residents of Washington County, and also those who wish to visit Washington County for tourism and recreational purposes.

The site also allows a user to search for dozens of activities, with the “Choose Your Activities” link under the “Get Moving” heading. You can search for activities and amenities such as camping, community gardens, public boat launches, and public fishing piers to name a few. Users can also search for activities and amenities with ADA accessibility. The interactive map allows users to zoom into different areas of the County to look for parks, lakes and trails or search for activities by address.

**Stressed out?** Stress is a common cause of poor health. Washington County is known for its bountiful natural resources and scenic beauty. When you’re stressed out, take the opportunity to soak in some nature. Use local resources to improve your life.

**Looking for ways to improve nutrition?** The food you eat plays a huge role in overall health. Use this site to find farmers markets in Washington County.

**Explore history!** What made Washington County the wonderful community it is today? Use this site to locate and map cultural resources in Washington County that you can visit as you embrace an active living lifestyle.

*Take a walk through downtown West Bend and check out the Old Courthouse Museum.*
GET MOVING PARK AND TRAIL MAP

The Washington County Planning and Parks Department and the Healthy People Project of Washington County have also been busy creating a hard copy active living park and trail map to take along with you on a hiking, walking, or biking trip.

Similar to the website, the map is available for no charge and features publicly accessible recreational amenities in Washington County such as parks and trails. The map includes brief descriptions on specific amenities. Maps can be obtained at the following locations:

Kettle Moraine YMCA
1111 W. Washington St, West Bend
(262) 247-1057

Washington County Planning & Parks Department
333 E. Washington St, Suite 2300, West Bend
(262) 335-4445

The map will soon be available at additional locations throughout Washington County. Call the Kettle Moraine YMCA at (262) 247-1057 for information on how to obtain a map.

A special thank you…
The Washington County Planning and Parks Department and the Healthy People Project of Washington County would like to thank our local communities, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, local land trusts, and everyone else who has provided information and data to be included on the website and map. The website and map would not have been possible without your help.

Now, let’s Get Moving Washington County!
WHY GO WASHINGTON COUNTY?

Know the Benefits of Parks and Open Spaces!

An update to Washington County’s Park and Open Space Plan (POSP) is underway. Washington County is using this opportunity to promote the benefits of park and open spaces:

- Social
- Environmental
- Economic
- Community
- Individual

“Active living” is a term that has gained popularity in recent years. It is defined as “a way of life that integrates physical activity into daily routines. The goal is to accumulate at least 30 minutes of activity each day. Individuals may achieve this by walking or bicycling for transportation, exercise or pleasure; playing in the park; working in the yard; taking the stairs; and using recreation facilities.”

Washington County is blessed with plentiful natural and recreational resources, but many residents aren’t aware of the resources around them and how such resources can be used to improve their lives.

Social Benefits
Recruitment provides opportunities for interaction with other individuals in the community and increases awareness of the natural environment when residents attach positive memories to their experiences.

Environmental Benefits
The acquisition of land for parks and open spaces contributes to a broad range of environmental benefits including the long-term preservation of environmentally significant land, protection of wildlife and plant communities, enhancement of air quality, and reduction of sediment load, toxins, and excess nutrients that cause water pollution.

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1 As defined by Active Living By Design (ALBD). ALBD was founded in 2001 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and was a founding program in its Active Living initiative. Active Living By Design creates community-led change by working with local and national partners to build a culture of active living and healthy eating.
**Economic Benefits**
The development of parks and open space sites benefits the economy by contributing to a healthy and productive working environment, making communities more desirable for tourism and economic development, and increasing the values of nearby properties.

**Community Benefits**
Parks and open spaces benefit communities by providing people of different cultures with a sense of community and opportunity for those differing in ethnic backgrounds to interact. Parks contribute to a high quality of life for residents, can serve as a good place to take children, and provide opportunities for families to recreate together.

**Individual Benefits**
Individual benefits of parks and open spaces include opportunities for the improvement of physical health and opportunities for learning and teaching which contribute to a person’s well being through rest, relaxation, and revitalization. Access to public parks and open spaces can clearly affect the quality of life in a community, and residents of Washington County have proven that they value park and open spaces close to home.

**Why Be Active?**
A lot of research has been done in recent years that proves the importance of living actively. The following are facts that reflect the need to live actively at the national level.

- Regular physical activity reduces the risk of developing diabetes, high blood pressure and colon or breast cancer and lowers blood pressure, helps build and maintain healthy bones, muscles and joints, and promotes psychological well-being.
- An obese 4-year-old has a 20% chance of becoming an obese adult, and an obese teenager has up to an 80% chance of becoming an obese adult.
- Communities that develop pedestrian and bicycle-friendly infrastructure with links to destinations of interest have more physically active residents.
- Communities that build bicycling and walking trails, support exercise programs, and provide public areas for exercise, such as parks and sidewalks, can boost the physical activity levels of residents.


(http://www.activelivingresearch.org/resource/search/resourcesforpolicymakers/fastfacts)
Are you interested in preserving farmland in Washington County? Do you want to know more about the Working Lands Initiative? Do you want to be involved in the update of the Washington County Farmland Preservation Plan? Please attend the Washington County Farmland Preservation Planning Kickoff Event being held on June 29, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm at the Washington County Fair Park Pavilion located at 3000 Hwy PV in the Town of Polk.

Farmland Preservation Planning Kickoff Event

June 29, 2010
Washington County Fair Park Pavilion
3000 Hwy PV in the Town of Polk

6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
(Refreshments will be served)

Contact Information

Debora Sielski
Deputy Administrator,
Washington County Planning & Parks Department
(262) 335-4445

There will be a presentation at 6:30 pm:

- Keith Foye, Chief-Land Management Section, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will present information on the Working Lands Initiative
- Debora Sielski, Deputy Administrator, Washington County Planning and Parks Department, will present information on the Washington County Farmland Preservation Planning process.

The updated Farmland Preservation Plan will incorporate new programs and policies as recommended through the Working Lands Initiative. The updated plan must be completed and certified by DATCP by December 31, 2011.
Planning Division

Why Should We Plan for Farmland Preservation?

Declining Farmland
- Farming in Wisconsin has undergone considerable change in the last few decades. According to the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistical Service, the state has seen an 18 percent decline in the number of acres of land in farmland production between 1980 and 2007.

- Washington County saw about a 38 percent decline in the number of acres of land in farmland production between 1972 and 2007. Chart 1 illustrates the decline in the number of acres of land in farmland production.

- Agriculture is the largest single land use in the County, compromising about 129,754 acres, or about 47 percent of the area in the County in 2006.

- From 2002 to 2007, the number of farms and the total number of cattle and calves in Washington County declined by 2 percent and 13 percent respectively while the acreage of farmlands remained nearly the same.

Farmers Currently Claiming Tax Credits Through Exclusive Agricultural Zoning
Farmers now claiming tax credits through exclusive agricultural zoning will need their land designated within a farmland preservation area in a certified County Farmland Preservation Plan and for their local government to adopt a farmland preservation zoning ordinance to continue to claim tax credits after the zoning ordinance certification deadline of Dec. 31, 2012.

Farmers Currently Claiming Tax Credits Through Farmland Preservation Agreements
Farmland Preservation Agreements entered into before July 1, 2009 will remain in effect for the term specified in the agreement. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will not extend or renew a farmland preservation agreement entered into before July 1, 2009. Farmers that are now claiming tax credits through an agreement with DATCP will need their land designated within a farmland preservation area in a certified County Farmland Preservation Plan and be within a state designated agricultural enterprise area for them to enter into a new farmland preservation agreement with DATCP to continue to claim tax credits after their current agreement date has expired. The new law provides higher tax credits if land is in an agricultural enterprise area with a new farmland preservation agreement and is also in a certified farmland preservation zoning district:

- $5.00 for farmers with a farmland preservation agreement signed after July 1, 2009 and located in an agricultural enterprise area
- $7.50 for farmers in an area zoned and certified for farmland preservation
- $10.00 for farmers in an area zoned and certified for farmland preservation and in an agricultural enterprise area, with a farmland preservation agreement signed after July 1, 2009
Farmland Preservation Planning Workshop

On Thursday, March 25, 2010 the Washington County and Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Departments hosted a joint workshop regarding farmland preservation planning and the Working Lands Initiative at Riveredge Nature Center.

Keith Foye of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) gave a presentation on farmland preservation planning and zoning and provided information on the tax credit program, conversion fees, and comprehensive plan consistency. Debora Sielski, Deputy Washington County Planning & Parks Administrator, and Andrew Struck, Ozaukee County Planning & Parks Department Director, each gave an overview of the farmland preservation planning processes for their respective counties.

Thank you to all who attended!

Washington County & 11 Local Government Partners Have Adopted Their Comprehensive Plans!

Town of Farmington

The last of the 11 local governments that partnered with Washington County and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) has adopted their comprehensive plan. On January 19, 2010, the Town of Farmington held a public hearing and adopted its plan. The adopted plan will soon be available on the Town of Farmington website: www.town.farmington.wi.us.
Dog owners; did you know that Washington County Planning & Parks Department receives many complaints about dog waste on the Eisenbahn Trail and in the County Parks?

Washington County currently does not prohibit dogs in any of the County Parks or on the Eisenbahn Trail. Many pet owners are very conscientious about picking up after their pets and keeping them on a leash while walking in the park or on the trail to avoid having their dogs run up to and scare children, unsuspecting trail users or attack other dogs. It is the few who don’t follow these rules that are causing problems for the rest.

In response to complaints, in an effort to remind dog owners to pick up after their pets and to keep them on leashes over seventy-five new green and white signs have been placed at strategic locations throughout the Washington County Park System including the Eisenbahn Trail.

All park visitors should be aware that Section 21.07 of the Washington County Code requires all dogs be kept under control and on a leash not more than six feet in length. Dogs are also not permitted within a posted swimming area. A citation written by the Sheriff’s Department for a dog off leash is $181.00.

Dog owners that want a place where they can allow their dogs to be off leash in the Washington County Park System may do so at Cedar Lake Wayside County Park, a five acre park located on County Highway NN at County Highway Z, 3 miles south of State Highway 33. The Washington County Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee has authorized dogs off leashes at this site only. Cedar Lake Wayside is a 35 year-old park that has a picnic area, tables, water, and a portable restroom. Dog owners should be aware that the area is not fenced and they must have their dogs under control at all times. Owners are also responsible for picking up and disposing of all dog waste. For further information please contact the Washington County Planning and Parks Department at 1-262-335-4445 or visit the website at www.co.washington.wi.us.

Arbor Day

In celebration of Arbor Day (April 30th) Washington County Park Section crews planted thousands of trees at various sites in the park system and around county buildings. Among the trees the Parks crews planted are:

- Seventy-nine potted evergreens trees at various park sites
- Several thousand bare root evergreens for screening in various parks
- Ninety oak and maple seedlings supplied by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources along the Eisenbahn Trail corridor
- Over 50 deciduous trees at Leonard J. Yahr County Park
- Over 25 deciduous trees at other park and County campus locations
Residents holding a disabled Wisconsin vehicle license plate will receive one annual boat launch sticker at half price ($40.00). This change was requested by citizens last year and was approved for 2010 by the Planning Conservation and Parks Committee during the budget process.

Golf Course News

Opening day for the Washington County Golf Course located one mile north of Hartford on Highway 83 and Clover Road was March 25th. For pictures and reviews of the golf course and information on rates and services or to make a tee time please visit our website: www.golfwgcw.com or call 1-262-670-6616 or toll free at 1-888-383-4653. You can also contact the golf course by email at wcgc@charter.net or visit us on Facebook.

2010 Summer Park Projects

There are lots of projects planned for construction in the County Parks this summer. Keep your eyes open for new developments in these parks:

♦ **Homestead Hollow** – new paved trail to wind throughout the northeastern part of the park

♦ **Lizard Mound** – construction of an Interpretive Center

♦ **Ridge Run** – completion of the Tennis and Basketball Courts started in fall of ‘09

♦ **Glacier Hills** – invasives control in portions of the park

♦ **Leonard J. Yahr** – establishment of a prairie in the western portion of the park where the agricultural field currently exists.
2010 Data Acquisition Projects Underway

Aerial Photography

Aerial photography is one of the most widely used datasets in the Washington County Geographic Information System (GIS). In addition to county departments, federal and state agencies, the regional planning commission, local units of government and the private sector frequently use aerial photography. Since 1970, new photography has been acquired every 5 years. That update schedule will continue in 2010.

The 2010 project will acquire color photography countywide. The photography will be collected before trees leaf-out, providing a view of the ground that is critical for many County applications. A grant obtained by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) from the U.S. Geological Survey and Federal transportation planning funds will provide major funding for this project.

The updated aerial photography should be available in late 2010 or early 2011.

Topographic Mapping

In 2007, Washington County completed a project to acquire topographic (contour) mapping for nearly half of the County. With the conclusion of the 2007 project, topographic mapping was available countywide from either the County or City of West Bend. Although available, the currency of information varied dramatically.

The 2010 project will process raw data collected in December 2006 to update the topographic mapping available for 60⅞ sq. miles. The specific areas included in this project are the Town of Erin (previous data from 1995), 10 sections around the Village of Slinger (1997) and a 14⅞ section ring around the City of West Bend (1999).

The updated topographic data should be available in June 2010.

The updated aerial photography and topographic mapping will be available, along with a wealth of additional information, for viewing/printing on the Washington County Interactive Mapping Application visit: http://maps.co.washington.wi.us/
Septic Tank Maintenance

Washington County has had a POWTS maintenance program in effect since 1980 and is the result of the County participating in the Wisconsin Fund Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Replacement or Rehabilitation Grant Program. A condition set forth by the State for counties participating in the grant program, was that every POWTS installed after adoption of the grant program must be entered into their maintenance program.

The main requirement of the maintenance program is that each POWTS must have the septic tank(s) pumped out at a certain interval; two years for mound and at-grade systems and three years for conventional systems. The amount of gallons pumped must be filled out on a form that is sent to the property owner, and the form signed and submitted by the Licensed Septage Pumper. An alternate to pumping is to have the pumper or Licensed Plumber measure the sludge depth in the bottom of the tank. If the sludge level is not greater than 1/3 the volume of the tank, the tank does not have to be pumped, but a future recommended date of pumping determined by the pumper or Licensed Plumber must be written on the form and the form signed and returned to our office.

The purpose for having the tank(s) pumped is to remove solids (sludge) before they get to a level that allows solids to leave the tank at an undesirable level, which can lead to the pipes in your drain field to clog prematurely. At the time of pumping, your pumper should also inspect the outlet filter to make sure that it is functioning properly. The pumper should clean the filter screen of accumulated solids. If the screen gets too clogged, the liquid level of the tank will rise and either back up into the residence or overflow onto the ground. (All septic tanks installed after 2000 were required to have an outlet filter installed). If your system also employs a dose tank to lift effluent to a POWTS, it should also be inspected and have the contents pumped so as to prevent premature pump failure.

Depending on your maintenance interval, a notice/pumping form will be mailed out to all required POWTS owners notifying them that maintenance is required and the form must be returned within 30 days. (An example of the notice/pumping form is found on the following page.) If after the first notice, compliance is not met, a second letter will be sent out reminding the owners of the maintenance requirement. After the second letter if compliance is still not achieved, enforcement measures may occur to achieve compliance.

Holding Tanks Maintenance

Holding tanks are handled differently than POWTS that utilize septic tanks. Since holding tanks are pumped out on a more frequent basis, owners are required to have their panners submit bi-annual reports of pumping dates and the volume of liquid removed at each pumping event. A letter is sent to owners of holding tanks if the maintenance form is not provided by the Licensed Septage Pumper.
PRIVATE SEWAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE FORM

The Washington County Code Chapter 25 requires proof of the maintenance of private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS). All POWTS tanks with subsurface Conventional private sewage systems (CONV) installed since 1980 shall either be inspected or pumped by a licensed pumper/master plumber (MP) or master plumber sewer restricted (MPRSW) or a certified POWTS inspector a minimum of once every three years. All Mound (MND), At-Grade (AG), In-ground Pressure (IGP) and experimental (EXP) systems installed since 1980 shall either be inspected or pumped by a licensed pumper/MP or MPRSW or a certified POWTS inspector a minimum of once every two years. The system type for your property is noted in the lower section of this form.

If you have not yet occupied your newly constructed home for 2 or 3 yrs as noted above based on your type of system, please submit a copy of the occupancy permit. If you do not have a copy, contact your town building inspector. Even if the property is vacant or unoccupied the form must still be submitted.

The licensed pumper/master plumber/master plumber restricted or a certified POWTS inspector should complete the detached maintenance form. Return the bottom portion of this form and send it to this department immediately after the inspection/pumping has been conducted. If you fail to comply, a Wisconsin Uniform Municipal Citation can be issued. This is a continuing program. Your time and attention to this matter are appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Planning and Parks Department Staff

Return bottom portion to: Washington County Planning & Parks Department
PO Box 2003
West Bend WI 53095-2003

CUT LINE

THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY AND ACCURATELY BY A LICENSED PUMPER/MP/MPRSW/CERTIFIED POWTS INSPECTOR.

TAX KEY #: ______________________ PERMIT #: ______________________ SYSTEM TYPE: __________________________

PROPERTY OWNER’S NAME: ______________________________________________________

PROPERTY ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________________

NAME OF PUMPER/MP/MPRSW/POWTS INSPECTOR: __________________________

DATE PUMPED or INSPECTED*: ________________________ GALLONS PUMPED: __________________________

Surface ponding of sewage effluent or wastewater observed by tank(s) or absorption area: YES ______ NO ______

(if YES, explain/diagram on back of report)

*IF INSPECTED AND PUMPING WAS NOT NECESSARY, HAVE PUMPER STATE REASON(S) AND RECOMMENDED PUMPING DATE:

______________________________________________________________

SIGNATURE OF PUMPER/MP/MPRSW/POWTS INSPECTOR: __________________________

(12/07) Public Agency Center - Suite 2300, 333 East Washington Street, P.O. Box 2003, West Bend, WI 53095-2003
Phone: (262) 335-4445, Toll Free: 800-616-0446, FAX: (262) 335-6868

Page 14
On April 26, Josh Odekirk, started as the new District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Josh grew up on a dairy farm in Fond du Lac County. While in high school his parents started a deer farm that he still helps them manage. He has been living in Columbus, WI for the last four years with his wife, LeaAnn, and his two black labs, Gus and Libby.

Josh has a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management and Soil Science from UW-Stevens Point. While in school, he interned for two years with NRCS in Dodge County. After graduation, he began a short lived career in natural area management in South-West Wisconsin, before moving to Madison to do contract pharmaceuticals research. After a few years in that position, he was given the opportunity to come back to the NRCS as a Soil Conservationist in Jefferson County.

Josh is very excited for the opportunity to move to the West Bend area, where he will be closer to family and friends. He is also looking forward to assisting the landowners and agricultural producers in Washington and Ozaukee counties to achieve their conservation goals.

Joining Josh as a new employee will be Elsie Gonzalez, student from Puerto Rico. She will be starting her career here on June 7, as a Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). In addition, Wendy Fiala, the current Soil Conservationist will be going to a new office in summer.

NRCS has many farm programs including the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The 2010 sign up just ended and we have 4 CSP contracts and 3 EQIP contracts in Washington County. Both of these programs have a continuous sign up and applications can be submitted at anytime, if you are interested contact the USDA NRCS office at 262-335-4801, or go to our website.

http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/
June is Invasive Species Awareness Month:  Here’s what you can do to slow the spread

The new Wisconsin NR 40 – Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control rule regulates the transportation, possession, transfer, and introduction of invasive species. The most common invasive plants in our region include:

- Autumn olive
- Bird’s foot trefoil
- Black locust
- Canada thistle
- Common buckthorn
- Crown vetch
- Curly leaf pondweed
- Dame’s rocket
- Garlic mustard
- Glossy buckthorn
- Honeysuckle
- Eurasian water milfoil
- Oriental bittersweet
- Common reed grass
- Purple loosestrife
- Reed canary grass
- White and yellow sweet clovers
- Wild parsnip

Invasive garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata)

An “invasive species” is a species that is non-native to the ecosystem and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive species can be plants, animals, fish, and other organisms. Human actions such as transporting from one infested area to another or purchasing from landscapers are the primary means of invasive species introductions.

Invasive species cause problems by out-competing native plants, degrading fish and wildlife habitat, reducing agricultural yields, and hindering recreational activities. When a plant is introduced to a new area, its natural enemies are left behind. Plants in new environments tend to become invasive because their populations are no longer controlled by insects, fungi, disease, grazing animals and competition from other plants.

Invasive plants tend to be highly adaptable and are generally successful in a wide variety of habitats. They readily establish in disturbed areas such as recently cleared parcels of land.

Weeds cost private citizens and agencies billions of dollars in North America every year. It is estimated that the cost of controlling these plants, combined with the economic loss to our rangelands, crop fields, waterways and forests, approaches $35 billion annually in the United States alone.

What you can do (residents):

- Learn what invasive species look like and teach others.
- Promote responsible gardening by considering natives as alternatives. Learn about the native plants around you.
- Remove invasive exotic plants from your landscape and replace them with native plants or non-invasive exotics. Remove invasive exotics before they are a problem, when densities are low. Scout annually for invasive plants.
- Buy nursery-propagated native plants. Never dig or buy plants that have been harvested from the wild.
- Minimize landscape disturbance and promote healthy native plant communities.
- Avoid using garden plants from other regions whose invasive potential is poorly understood. In addition to potential threats to natural areas, some exotics become pests in carefully managed landscapes and gardens.
- Support organizations such as the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium. SEWISC is

(Cont. on Page 22)
Fall Conservation Poster Contest

Washington County’s K-12th grade students are invited to participate in the 2010 Conservation Poster Contest scheduled for October. This year’s theme is “Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats”.

Everyone entering the competition will be rewarded. Each participant will receive a certificate commending his/her interest and concern for the environment. The top 3 winners (local level) in each category will be awarded U.S. Savings Bonds and entered into the next Regional level of competition. The competition is sponsored by the Land & Water Conservation Division, the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA) and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). Questions? Contact Stephanie at (262) 335-4804 or stephanie.hofmann@co.washington.wi.us.

2010 Conservation Camp

Sand Lake Conservation Camp takes place at Camp Bird Youth Camp in Marinette County, Wisconsin. This camp is situated on scenic 20-acre Sand Lake. It’s sandy swimming beach, dock, canoes, stream and lake access, hiking trails, nature center, and log cabins are essential to the outdoor experience. Conservation Camp provides youth with positive educational outdoor experiences, helps them better appreciate and understand nature, and introduces them to the variety of opportunities in natural resources and conservation careers. Professionals from various natural resource and conservation agencies present programs on topics like wildlife, habitat, ecosystems, water quality, fisheries, forestry, orienteering, and canoeing. Students entering grades 6-8 this fall who have an interest in the outdoors are encouraged to attend.

Early registration ($50) is on or before June 4th. Registrations ($65) will not be accepted after June 14th. For more information contact the Land & Water Conservation Division at 262.335.4800.

Visit the website at: www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd
Click on: Well Water Test Kits
Utilize & Infiltrate Rainwater with Rain Gardens & Rain Barrels

Rain gardens and rain barrels are mechanisms for homeowners as well as businesses to participate in the reduction of polluted runoff simply by using the rainwater from roof tops. Rain Gardens are an infiltration technique. Water is captured in a garden that contains native plantings. The water has a chance to slowly filter or infiltrate into the ground rather than run off into the storm sewer. Both rain gardens and rain barrels are a popular way to reduce nonpoint source pollution and protect our lakes and streams.

http://runoffinfo.uwex.edu/urban/education.html or http://www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd

A Rain Garden installed at the Germantown Library captures the runoff from the rooftop.

Spring 2010 Dripper Tip

Shade trees help reduce energy costs at home. When planning your landscape, opt for native species which will be adapted to our soils and climate.

Here are some tips for planting a native tree:
- Prepare a planting area where the seedling will have adequate space to grow into a full sized tree both above and below the ground. (Pay special attention to utility wires.)
- Place the root collar (the place where the roots join the stem) at soil level.
- Settle soil with water to avoid air space.
- Protect seedling from damage caused by feet, lawn mowers, pets, etc.

Planting trees around your home will conserve energy and lower the cost of utility bills. Three well-placed deciduous (leaf-losing) trees on the east, south, and west sides of a home will shade it from summer sun and lower air conditioning costs by 10 to 50 percent. In addition to saving money, conserving energy directly translates to less carbon dioxide produced at the power plants.

Source: Sierra Club

Fay Fitts Receives State Award for Outstanding Service

Fay Fitts was recently honored during the annual Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees (WALCE) Professional Improvement Conference in La Crosse, WI. During the annual awards ceremony, WALCE members honor a few of their own for outstanding contributions to land and water conservation in their perspective county, and beyond. Fay was presented with the 2009 Outstanding Conservation Employee Award. She has served Washington County as Administrative Secretary for the Land & Water Conservation Division for the past 22 years.

The WALCE awards selection committee received more than a dozen letters of recommendation from federal, state and local agencies who have worked with Fay regarding County Land & Water Conservation Programming over the years. The letters gave testament to her helpful and knowledgeable demeanor and one agency representative adequately described Fay as “the smile on the face of the Washington County Land and Water Conservation Office”. Congratulations Fay!
On April 15, 268 students left their everyday lives to experience a new and exciting adventure. Washington County 4th graders from St. Boniface, St. Gabriel, Friess Lake, Richfield, Decorah, Rockfield and Erin Elementary Schools attended the 13th annual Ag Day on the Farm. Hosts Ross Bishop and Shawn Maney welcomed children to their beef and dairy operations giving them an opportunity to learn more about farm life and where their food comes from. The day was filled with dairy cows, calves and beef cattle; corn, soybeans and alfalfa; tractors, planters, wagons and combines as well as soil conservation and manure management. Ross and Shawn shared many experiences throughout the tour, helping students understand “a day in the life of a farmer”. Milk, cheese and crackers were provided by the Washington County Farm Bureau & the Washington County Dairy Promotion Committee.

Washington County
Breakfast on the Farm
Saturday – June 12, 2010
6:30am – 11:30am
KT Organic Farms
2342 Highway 28
Kewaskum, WI 53040
(Kevin & Lynn Thull & Family)

Sponsored by:
Washington County Dairy Promotion Committee
In its 18th annual year, the National No-Tillage Conference gathered nearly 40 of the very best no-tillers, crop consultants, agronomist and researchers to share cutting edge ideas, tips and techniques to raise their no-till profitability, efficiency and effectiveness to a higher level. This year’s theme, “A Powerful New Decade for No-Till” reflects many growers who are looking to make no-till an integral part of their farming operation. Here are a few of the highlights…

It was evident right away that the buzz word of the conference was cover crops. This conference drew individuals from across the nation who farm in diverse environments and this “new craze” was actually novel to many. In Wisconsin, soil conservation and cover crops are just something we practice, especially since the dairy state grows a diverse crop rotation that helps protect the soil (and provides feed) during rotation. Some of the conference presentations included “An In-Depth Look at Managing Cover Crops”, “Fitting Cover Crops into Your No-Till Rotation” and “Ground-Breaking World of Tillage Radishes”. Options were given on many of the different ways one can establish these crops: Frost Seeding, Over Seeding, No-Till Drill, Broadcast, Aerial Seeding and Manure Slurry Seeding. The most important messages taken home were that cover crops will help suppress the weed population, break up compaction (tillage radish), capture nitrogen and release it in the spring and lastly help the farmer increase soil tilth. Steve Groff, one of the early pioneers in cover cropping, continues with his guiding motto of “Soil is meant to be covered”.

Glyphosate Resistance was another hot topic that seemed to be on the minds of many individuals. One of the No-Till presentations entitled “Strategies for Fending off Glyphosate-Resistant Weeds” shared weed-control management plans to control these weeds and keep them from reducing our no-till yields. It was interesting to hear that, globally, there are over 340 resistant genotypes that exist. It wasn’t until 1997 that the first examples of resistance were discovered. The sad part is that it has continually been on the rise. Resistance is a natural phenomenon and herbicides do not directly cause change. Palmer Amaranth, Waterhemp, Ragweed (Giant & Common), Hairy Fleabane, Horseweed (marestail), Italian Ryegrass, Rigid Ryegrass and Johnsongrass are 9 confirmed species that were mentioned at the conference. Knowing your herbicides and their Modes of Action are very important.

Here are a few tips on how to influence resistance: act on a single site of action, choose a herbicide with long residual activity and possibly plan for multiple applications. “There’s More To No-Till Fertility Than Just N, P and K”. There are 17 essential plant nutrients that the soil and air supply to the crops, every time you harvest, you remove levels of all of these nutrients. As yields increase over time, our soils may not be able to supply everything the plant needs. Soil testing is the key! It is important to track your soil test values, crop and yield goals and crop removal over time. Additive recommendations were given for Zinc, Copper, Manganese, Boron and Chloride. A common product Epsom Salt (MgSO4·7H2O) can be added in the sprayer (for wheat) to effectively deal with magnesium deficiencies. The importance of knowing your soils and how they’re formed was emphasized. Climate, Organisms, Relief, Parent Material and
from Page 20... No-Tillage

Time (CLORPT) determine soil formation and can be defined by varying a single factor and keeping the other factors constant.

Lastly, here are a few money-saving no-till techniques given by Marion Calmer, a well known farmer who has 25 years of on-farm research experience at the Calmer Agronomic Research Center in Illinois. If you are going to add more input costs to your no-till operation, you had better see income increase faster than your expenses! There are 5 proven areas where growers can cut costs while maintaining production. They include: adding no-till planter attachments; reducing your phosphorus and potassium application rates; reductions in cracked grain at harvest; reducing soybean seeding rates, and reductions in field losses from auto-steer and auto-height. These 5 money-saving techniques have been found to give you your biggest return on investment.

Cover Crops “What I’ve Learned From No-Tilling” (Ross Bishop, Town of Jackson, as interviewed by Ron Ross, Reporter)

“In 2008, I started experimenting with deep-rooted annual ryegrass planted after winter wheat harvest in early August. Following a burndown herbicide application, I used a seeding rate of 15-18 pounds per acre and got a heavy growth of ryegrassss. About 10 pounds per acre is probably a high enough seeding rate for us. The annual ryegrass did an awesome job of reducing weed populations in the wheat stubble, but it survived the winter under a heavy snow cover and I had to spray it twice before planting. On the plus side, some areas of that field produced better than 250 bushels of corn per acre.”

“In 2009, I grew 90 acres of annual ryegrass, mixing in tillage radishes on 40 acres. I was impressed by their size, how deeply the roots penetrated the soil and how quickly they produced ground cover. According to Steve Groff, the Pennsylvania cover-crop pioneer who has made several National No-Tillage Conference presentations, tillage radishes fit well into a no-till system like mine that utilizes corn, soybeans and winter wheat in rotation.”

Source: NoTill Farmer
– April, 2010 Issue

The 2010 Farm Fresh Atlas features farms and businesses that:

• Are family or cooperatively owned
• Operate in a way that protects and sustains the region’s land and water resources
• Provide safe and fair working conditions
• Produce, use, or sell Wisconsin farm products

The Farm Fresh Atlas of Southeastern Wisconsin is available at a variety of locations in Southeastern Wisconsin including local libraries, businesses, convention and visitor bureaus, municipal buildings, farmers markets, county fair, and local events such as dairy breakfasts. For more information, visit the website at http://www.farmfreshatlas.org/southeast/
On February 24, 2010 the Cities of West Bend and Hartford, the Village of Germantown, and Washington County co-sponsored a construction site erosion control and stormwater management workshop for contractors. Ninety-nine contractors attended the workshop where area engineers and other professionals explained how state, county and municipal rules relate to erosion control and stormwater management. Presentations were given on the planning, installation and maintenance of best management practices, the permitting process, infiltration practices, and product selection. Presentations can be viewed by visiting: www.cleanways.org/community_events.html

Invasive Species (cont. from Page 16)

- Working to educate the public and raise awareness about the threat posed by invasive exotics.
- Volunteer at a local park or natural area that needs help removing invasive plants.

What you can do (city councils, county boards, and other municipal officials and staff):
- Send out messages through your town or county newsletters and media releases before the start of the growing season (March, April) with information about avoiding invasive plant purchases and reminders to remove invasive plants before they spread.
- Provide incentives for homeowners and businesses to implement sound landscaping practices by considering natives as alternatives.
- Remove invasive exotic plants from your landscape and replace them with native plants or non-invasive exotics. Remove invasive exotics before they are a problem, when densities are low. Scout annually for invasive plants.
- Buy nursery-propagated native plants. Never dig or buy plants that have been harvested from the wild.
- Minimize landscape disturbance and promote healthy native plant communities.
- Train staff on early detection and rapid response techniques to catch invasive species before they establish and spread.
- Implement the NR 40 State Best Management Practices.
- Require the cleaning of landscape equipment before moving to a new location.

Visit the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species: http://invasivespecies.wi.gov

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin http://www.ipaw.org

2010 Native Tree & Prairie Seed Program

In April of 2010, participants picked up their native bare root seedlings and prairie seed orders at the Washington County Fair Park. This year over 44,000 transplanted seedlings found a new home. Our thanks to the participants and those who contributed making this event a success.

“The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago; the second best time is today.” - Anonymous

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<tr>
<th>Date of inception</th>
<th>1993; since that date, total Tree Sales have exceeded 1,116,000.</th>
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<th>2010 Tree Sale Summary</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<td>Trees/Shrubs/Accessories</td>
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<td>Native Trees &amp; Shrubs</td>
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<td>Native Prairie Seed (lbs.)</td>
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<td>Compost Bins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Test Kits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bluebird/Bat/Butterfly</td>
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<td>Rain Barrels</td>
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<td>Diverter Kits/Adapters</td>
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<td>Soil Testing Kits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tree Fertilizer Tablets</td>
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County residents have an opportunity to dispose of hazardous, electronic, and pharmaceutical waste throughout this year. The Planning & Parks Department has partnered with the Health Department, Highway Department, Sheriff’s Department and Administration Department - Office of Emergency Management to provide a full-service “Clean Sweep” program. All collection events are held at the Washington County Highway Facility in West Bend. This is a great time to clean out your basement, garage and medicine cabinet and properly dispose of any hazardous waste you may have collected over the years. Visit the web for further information on what materials are being accepted, pre-registration information and all collection dates and times:  www.co.washington.wi.us/cleansweep

To PreRegister Call  262.335.4808

Please keep in mind that Latex Paint will not be accepted.
Planning & Parks Department Newsletter is published semi-annually 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:
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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Michael R. Miller, Vice-Chairperson
Raymond W. Heidtke, Secretary
Gerald J. Schulz, County Board Supervisor
Michael C. Bassill, County Board Supervisor
Melvin K. Ewert, County Board Supervisor
Peter I. Sorce, County Board Supervisor
Ralph Dornacker, FSA Representative - LCC Member

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