Are you planning to build a new house, an addition to an existing house or landscape your property in a shoreland zoning district? By the end of 2011, Washington County along with all Counties in the State must revise their Shoreland Zoning Ordinance to meet new Department of Natural Resources (DNR) rules. DNR revised State Administrative Code NR 115 which now includes very restrictive impervious area limits for building projects. The new NR 115 rules are the result of seven years of advisory committee meetings, public information meetings and public hearings by the DNR and several other interested organizations and individuals.

This is the first update to NR 115 in forty years since the code was first adopted. The code revision process created many different drafts of the code with considerable debate about how the rule should be changed. The new rule allows all counties in the State to update their individual ordinances to have an effective date by February 1, 2012.

(Continued on Page 2)
The new code allows a property owner to keep what they have. However, if a change to a building or property is proposed, the County will only issue a permit if the proposal complies with the new code. Examples of changes include building a new home, adding an addition or remodeling that involves structural changes to the existing home, driveways, sidewalks or other impervious surfaces.

Portions of the current code remain unchanged, including the 75 foot setback of structures to the water. Also, the minimum lot size for a new lot remains unchanged at 20,000 square feet for properties on a Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) and 10,000 square feet for properties served by a public sewer system.

One change in the new code is allowing greater flexibility in adding an addition to an existing home within the 75 foot setback. Washington County currently allows the use of setback averaging within 75 feet of the water, however, averaging cannot be used to allow an addition to a house closer than 50 feet from the water. The Land Use Division staff will have to determine if the new NR 115 will require changes in this particular requirement of the Washington County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.

(Cont. on Page 3)
For new projects within 300 feet of the water, the new NR 115 code will restrict impervious areas to no greater than 15% of the parcel. If mitigation is implemented, the amount of impervious area can increase to 30%. Mitigation will typically involve the planting of a vegetative buffer consisting of trees, shrubs, native grasses or wildflowers located near the water to help reduce the increased water runoff and pollutants that can result from increased impervious areas. Mitigation can also be achieved by the removal of nonconforming structures, implementing stormwater measures and replacement of a non compliant POWTS just to name a few examples.

In 2001 Washington County adopted a Shoreland Zoning Ordinance that implemented a waterbody classification system. The updated County Ordinance utilized impervious areas to regulate development. However, the current impervious area limits in the existing County Ordinance allows for a much larger percentage of impervious area then the new revised NR 115 code. For example, a class three waterbody (most developed) can have up to 45% impervious area, a class two 40% and a class one 30%. Since the majority of lakes and rivers in the County are class three waterbodies, the new NR 115 will make administration of the new rule challenging. The majority of permits issued will require mitigation or a variance due to the majority of projects exceeding the impervious area limits because a significant number of properties along lakeshores and rivers already have more than 30% impervious area.

By late 2011, the Washington County Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee will hold a public hearing for the revised Washington County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. At this time it is uncertain if any public informational meetings will be held prior to the public hearing. Land Use Division staff will prepare a draft ordinance over the winter and next spring for DNR review and approval, prior to a public hearing and County Board approval.
Farmland Preservation Plan Advisory Committee Meetings Beginning Soon

A Farmland Preservation Plan Advisory Committee (AC) has been formed to guide the development of Washington County’s Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) and the first meeting of the AC will be held on October 27, 2010 from 5-7 p.m. in Room 1113A/B of the Public Agency Center in West Bend. All local governments within Washington County were invited to appoint a representative to serve on the committee. The following local governments and organizations will be represented on the Committee:

**Farmland Preservation Plan Advisory Committee**

- Town of Addison
- Town of Barton
- Town of Erin
- Town of Germantown
- Town of Hartford
- Town of Jackson
- Town of Kewaskum
- Town of Polk
- Town of Trenton
- Town of Wayne
- Village of Germantown
- Village of Kewaskum
- Village of Richfield
- City of Hartford
- City of West Bend
- Washington County
- Washington County Farm Bureau
- Ozaukee Washington Land Trust
- Citizen Representative
- Metropolitan Builders Association

Tasks of the Advisory Committee:
- Develop a vision for future farmland preservation efforts in the County
- Develop goals and objectives for the Farmland Preservation Plan
- Review draft plan chapters
- Determine farmland preservation areas

For more information on farmland preservation planning in Washington County and to stay updated on Advisory Committee activities, please visit: [www.co.washington.wi.us/pln](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/pln).

1Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission representative will serve as a technical advisor.
Working Lands Initiative (WLI) Quick Facts

2009 Wisconsin Act 28 repealed and recreated Wisconsin’s farmland preservation law under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 91 and related tax credits under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 71. It also created a new program under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 93.73.

State law components include:
1. Expand and modernize the state’s existing farmland preservation program
2. Establish Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs)
3. Develop a purchase of agricultural conservation easement (PACE) matching grant program

- The goal of the Working Lands Initiative is to achieve preservation of areas significant for current and future agricultural uses.
  - According to Ch. 91 of Wisconsin State Statutes, Washington County’s existing FPP (adopted in 1981) will expire on December 31, 2011.

Farmland Preservation Areas (FPAs)
- An area that is planned primarily for agriculture use or agriculture-related use.
- To be eligible for tax credits (through farmland preservation zoning or Agricultural Enterprise Areas) or to enter the PACE program, lands must first be located in a farmland preservation area in a certified county farmland preservation plan.

Farmland Preservation Zoning
- Local governments may voluntarily adopt a farmland preservation zoning ordinance.
- Farmers covered by the ordinance may claim state farmland preservation tax credits if the ordinance is certified for compliance with Chapter 91 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
- Rezoning lands out of a farmland preservation zoning district would result in a “conversion fee” collected by the zoning authority and paid by the person requesting the rezone.

Farmland Preservation Tax Credits
- WLI provides landowners with an opportunity to claim farmland preservation tax credits through participation in the program.
- There is $27 million available statewide annually to provide farmland preservation tax credits to landowners.
- Eligible landowners may collect one of the following per acre amounts:
  - $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 for farmland preservation
  - $10.00 for farmers in an area zoned for farmland preservation and in an agricultural enterprise area, with a farmland preservation agreement signed after July 1, 2009
- Acres claimed must be located in a farmland preservation area identified in a certified county farmland preservation plan.

Conversion Fees
- Intended to discourage excessive rezoning of agricultural land and/or termination of farmland preservation agreements.
- As defined by state law, a per acre conversion fee is calculated by multiplying the Grade 1 Agriculture Land Assessment value (~$298 in Washington County Towns) by three. This equals approximately $894 per acre.
- Fee revenues are paid to a state farmland preservation trust fund and used to help fund state, county and local farmland preservation programs.

For more information, please visit: www.datcp.state.wi.us/workinglands
Farmland Preservation Planning Process Timeline

To meet the mandatory state law deadline of December 31, 2011 to update the County Farmland Preservation Plan, the following tentative timeline has been developed.

**April 2010 – December 2010 (Introduction, Inventory, Visioning, and Goal Identification)**

- County staff met with all Towns in Washington County and the Villages of Germantown and Richfield to present an overview of the Working Lands Initiative and the County’s plan of action
- Conducted Farmland Preservation Planning kickoff meeting on June 29
- Compile agricultural inventory data including trends and projections
- 1st meeting of Advisory Committee (AC) to be held on October 27, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Washington County Public Agency Center, Rooms 1113 A/B.
- Conduct strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis with AC
- AC develops vision, goals and objectives for farmland preservation in Washington County


- Identify base farm tracts, establish criteria for identifying and delineation of farmland protection areas (FPAs)
- FPAs reviewed by local governments, AC, and County Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee (PCPC)
- Identify strategies and actions to preserve farmland and promote agricultural development

**July 2011 – August 2011 (Prepare Implementation Elements)**

- Prepare summary of public participation and intergovernmental planning efforts between the County and the local governments
- Identify implementation steps for County and local governments
- SEWRPC to prepare a model zoning ordinance based on Chapter 91 for local governments
- Compile preliminary plan report

**September 2011 – December 2011 (Plan Review, Refinement and Adoption)**

- Print and distribute Plan following Section 66.1001 (4) of the Wisconsin Statutes
- Conduct public informational workshop and refine Plan based on public comment
- PCPC holds public hearing and recommends Plan to County Board for adoption as an Appendix Amendment to the County Comprehensive Plan
- Submit plan to DATCP for certification
- According to Chapter 91, Washington County’s Farmland Preservation Plan must be certified by the State by December 31, 2011

**After Plan Adoption (Plan Implementation)**

- Print and distribute adopted plan following requirements in Section 66.1001 (4) of the Wisconsin Statutes
- County and local communities amend or adopt implementing ordinances as necessary (zoning, subdivision, etc.)
- Investigate private, local, state, and federal funding to help implement plan recommendations
On June 29, 2010, a farmland preservation planning kick-off event was held at Washington County Fair Park. The event was held to inform the public and local government officials of the new farmland preservation law, also known as the Working Lands Initiative (WLI). Informational displays were on hand and handouts were distributed to inform those who attended.

Keith Foye from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) gave a presentation and fielded questions regarding the WLI.

Debora Sielski, Washington County Deputy Planning & Parks Administrator, presented an overview of the County’s plan of action for updating the farmland preservation plan.

If you were unable to attend the event and are interested in obtaining copies of the handouts, displays, and presentations, please visit [www.co.washington.wi.us/pln](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/pln) to view and download all items. Thank you to all who attended!
Planning Division

Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Research Initiative 2010

In 2010, the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association (WPRA) initiated a research survey to assist in repositioning parks and recreation services.

A number of key findings from this survey will be incorporated into Washington County’s Park and Open Space Plan. Results of the study confirm that parks and open spaces are greatly valued statewide, and although state residents are happy with the recreational amenities currently provided, park and recreation organizations should continue to pursue new avenues and resources to provide additional park and recreational services.

**Key Survey Findings:**

- **93% of respondents indicated that recreational activities are important to their overall quality of life.** Further, 78% of respondents indicated that they visit their local community parks “frequently” or “sometimes” despite that half indicated that they don’t participate as they would like.

- **Wisconsin’s parents support tax dollars being spent to provide parks and recreation services to children.** In an era in which children have been described as “nature deficient”, 92% of parents responding to the survey rated government spending on recreational services for children as important.

- **Parks and Recreation service providers scored high marks for both availability and facilities and quality of service statewide.** More than 4/5 of respondents reported that they felt the quality (82%) and availability (80%) of parks and recreation facilities in Wisconsin were either good or excellent.

- **When compared to all types of government services, conservation/environmental protection efforts scored with other social services in the second tier of important services, just behind education, public safety, and public work functions.** Even in the second tier, more than 60% of respondents felt that these were very important government expenses. Support for these efforts as a governmental expense rose to over 90% when both “very important” and “somewhat important” responses were combined.

- **Wisconsin residents want parks in their neighborhoods.** 84% of respondents indicated that having a park or open space nearby would be an important criterion in their purchase of a home.

(continues on Page 9)
Wisconsin’s government agencies should strive to maintain a balance of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and services for their residents. The majority of respondents (54%) enjoy indoor and outdoor recreation activities equally. Of those who have a preference, a greater number prefer the outdoors.

Although all benefits listed in the survey were rated “important” by more than 84% of the respondents, the benefits of parks and recreation most highly valued by Wisconsin residents are cleaner air and water, healthy childhood development, and positive family activities.

Wisconsin residents understand that parks are beneficial to our well being. 95% agreed that spending time in the outdoors leads to happier and healthier lives. 88% agreed that local communities in Wisconsin have a responsibility to preserve and maintain open space.

Wisconsin’s parks and recreation agencies should be properly funded even in difficult economic times. 56% of respondents agreed that parks, open spaces, greenways, and conservation areas should be budget priorities even in difficult economic times.

Wisconsin residents feel safe in their parks. 72% rated safety in the parks in their community as good or excellent.

The Research:

The study, conducted by WPRA, included a random-digit telephone survey of 500 Wisconsin residents and a multi-model survey of recreation professionals and public officials. The survey had questions exploring the value of recreation, perceptions of strengths and weaknesses of the parks and recreation profession, and residents’ participation in recreation in Wisconsin.

For more information, contact the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association at (414) 423-1210.
Ten thousand years ago, the last continental glaciers receded from what is today Wisconsin, leaving behind a landscape of long braided ridges, rounded hills, potholes, lakes and wetlands – the area we now call the Kettle Moraine. The glaciers bestowed on Wisconsin a beautiful and rare landscape that stretches 135 miles south-southwest from Manitowoc County almost to Illinois.

In the 1930’s, the state instituted a plan for an unbroken green belt from Sheboygan County to Walworth County. Much progress was made in the north and south sections of the Kettle Moraine, which are now among the leading tourist destinations in Wisconsin. Land acquisition stalled in the 1960’s leaving a 40-mile-long gap unprotected in Washington and Waukesha Counties. This gap has since been named the Mid-Kettle Moraine.

In 1995, the idea of completing the connection between the north and south units of the Kettle Moraine was rekindled with emphasis on using the Ice Age National Scenic Trail as its backbone. With a mandate from the governor and the legislature, the Department of Natural Resources gave high priority to the Mid-Kettle Moraine in its Stewardship program and relied on its Southeast district office in Milwaukee to coordinate the citizen effort. Thus, in 2000, the Mid-Kettle Moraine Partners Group was formed. It is a coalition of organizations with a common interest in protecting the best remaining natural and scenic areas of the Kettle Moraine geological area of Washington and Waukesha Counties.

The Partners Group provides a forum for sharing information about the successes of member organizations, carries out programs to protect natural resources and scenic values of the Mid-Kettle Moraine, raises public awareness on the importance of protecting the area and encourages public use of the Mid-Kettle Moraine.

Many glacial features between the two state forests are already protected, including Pike Lake State Park, Holy Hill and Loew’s Lake in Washington County, and... (cont. on Page 11)
Mid-Kettle Moraine Partnership (cont.)

Hartland Marsh and Lapham Peak State Park in Waukesha County. Washington County is pleased to be a part of this diligent group. There are many County parks within the Mid-Kettle Moraine including Ridge Run, Ackerman’s Grove, Heritage Trails, Lizard Mound and Glacier Hills County Parks. The Eisenbahn State Trail is also located in this area.

For more information, please visit:  
http://midkettlemoraine.uwex.edu

The Pike Lake segment of the Ice Age Trail is located within the Mid-Kettle Moraine area.

Update to Park and Open Space Plan Continues

The updating of Washington County’s Park and Open Space Plan continues to progress as two chapters have received preliminary approval from the Technical Advisory Commission. Chapter I (Introduction) and Chapter III (Existing Park and Open Space Sites) received preliminary approval from the Commission at its July meeting. Topics to be discussed at upcoming meetings include the benefits of parks and open spaces and new park standards recently adopted by the National Park and Recreation Association.

Please visit www.co.washington.wi.us/pln for more information regarding park and open space planning.

Get Moving Washington County Website

If you still haven’t checked out Washington County’s new active living website, you should! 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. There are also many other informational resources that will help you find ways to get up and “Go!” Check out the site at:

www.getmovingwashingtoncounty.com
Flooding is a human health and safety issue with significant economic impact. Wisconsin Emergency Management calls the June 2008 flooding the most costly natural disaster in Wisconsin’s recorded history, citing hundreds of millions of dollars in damages to homes and businesses. Wetlands are a critical component of the long-term solution to flooding. Often likened to sponges and dubbed “nature’s hazard insurance,” wetlands store rain that runs off of our lands, slowly releasing it to the atmosphere, groundwater and adjacent lakes, rivers and streams. Because of their storage capacity, and the fact that wetland vegetation helps slow the speed of flood waters, wetlands can help reduce the severity of floods and associated damages in downstream areas. This wetland function is particularly important in urban and suburban areas where pavement creates fast-flowing runoff.

But not all wetlands are equal. Several factors affect the contribution of a given wetland to reducing downstream flooding during a given storm, including wetland size, position within the watershed, topography, vegetation and how full the wetland was preceding the rainfall. Nevertheless, watershed-wide wetland protection, including protection of isolated wetlands and floodplain wetlands, is needed to maximize the flood attenuation function of wetlands. Removal of homes and other structures from floodplains is one of the most effective ways to reduce the economic damages of floods. Restoring natural floodplain topography and wetland vegetation following removal of structures provides flood reduction benefits to areas downstream.

This Wetland Gem includes nearly 600 acres of diverse wetlands protected in two State Natural Areas: Milwaukee River Tamaracks Lowlands and Milwaukee River and Swamp. Located along the East Branch of the Milwaukee River within the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit, the site includes the highest quality example of floodplain forest in the region. Several spring runs are supported by groundwater connections at this site. This Wetland Gem is important for its wildlife habitat values as well as its water quality and flood attenuation functions within the rapidly urbanizing Milwaukee River basin.

The Germantown Swamp comprises several hundred acres of forested lowland in the southeast corner of Washington County along the headwaters of the Menomonee River. Protection of the Germantown Swamp, and other wetlands in the uppermost reaches of the Milwaukee River Basin, is of critical importance to preventing flooding downstream in the City of Milwaukee. The swamp contains some vegetation that is rare for this region and more typical of northern regions. The site includes vegetation of both lowland hardwood swamp and coniferous swamp community types. Germantown Swamp is part of the Village of Germantown Wilderness Park that is closed to public access in order to protect the Park’s sensitive natural resources.
Golf Course News

Fall is a great time to enjoy a few more rounds of golf at the Washington County Golf Course located one mile north of Hartford on Highway 83 and Clover Road. If you don’t have time for a round of golf try the 3 hole practice course or the driving range and chipping greens. Seasonal rates are in place and the course is in excellent condition. For pictures of the golf course and information on rates and services or to make a tee time please visit our website www.golfwcgc.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 Face book.

2010 Park Project Updates

A 3.75 acre field in the western portion of Leonard J. Yahr County Park has been sprayed, plowed and cultivated this past month so that a prairie planting can be done next spring. A weed free field with a proper seed bed is required for good germination of the native prairie grasses and flowers that will make up the seeding mix. After planting it will take several years for these plants to establish themselves. A trail will be installed in the future that will give access to this field providing park users a good show of native plants every fall. This is a planned project that is part of the master plan for the park.

Homestead Hollow Project -
Work on the new asphalt paved ADA walking trail in the northeastern part of Homestead Hollow County Park is underway and should be completed in early November.
Ridge Run Rettler Family Recreation Area -

Thanks to a generous gift from the estate of the late Bernice A. Rettler for improvements to the County Park System in the West Bend area, the basketball and tennis court project at Ridge Run County Park has increased in scope. A representative of the family has approved the project that will bear the Rettler family name. Current plans now include a second tennis court, new play equipment, a separate area with various fitness stations, and landscaping improvements. The area of the park that will contain these improvements is located at the University Drive entrance next to the University of Wisconsin-Washington County campus. Park crews have cleared trees and brush so that the site work can continue this fall. A completion date is dependent on the weather.

Triathlon & Marathon Held -

Two successful fund raisers for the Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and the Kettle Moraine YMCA were held at Washington County park sites in August. Over 665 individuals were registered for the two events which included a triathlon at Ackerman’s Grove County Park and a marathon and a half marathon on the Eisenbahn Trail. Most participants came from Wisconsin and 31% of the athletes resided in Washington County. According to Mary Simon, Director of the Council on AODA, participants were well pleased with the settings and facilities and the friendliness of the people.
Conservation Program Dollars Available Through Your Local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is currently accepting applications for several conservation programs available to agricultural producers and rural landowners.

The **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)** is a program that provides cost share assistance to agricultural producers to treat resource concerns in their operation. Farmstead practices such as roof run-off structures and manure storage facilities, cropland practices such as cover crop and nutrient management, and pasture practices such as fencing and pasture planting are all available for cost share assistance. For a complete list of available practices visit: [www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip.html](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip.html).

Special funding pools for EQIP are available to beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, and limited resource farmers.

The **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)** is a program that provides cost share assistance to rural landowners looking to enhance the wildlife habitat on their property. Practices such as tree and shrub establishment, weed control, prescribed burning, and wetland restoration are available for cost share assistance.

The **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** is a program that encourages agricultural and forestry producers to address resource concerns by undertaking additional conservation activities that will improve their existing conservation systems. CSP provides financial and technical assistance to help land stewards conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Payments are based on your current and future conservation activities and are made annually for five years.

For more information or to apply for these programs contact Josh Odekirk, District Conservationist for Washington and Ozaukee Counties at 262-335-4801 or josh.odekirk@wi.usda.gov.
2010 Conservation Camp

Washington County 6th - 8th graders enjoyed 3 fun-filled summer days in Marinette County this past June. Professionals from various natural resource and conservation agencies presented educational programs to the children. Programs included information and hands on experiences with wildlife, habitats, ecosystems, water quality, fisheries, forestry, orienteering, and canoeing. Contact the Land & Water Conservation Division for more information.

Farmers... you are invited to learn about crop nutrient needs (N-Nitrogen, P-Phosphorus & K-Potassium) and how to manage soil nutrients properly without adversely affecting the quality of our water resources. Increase your crop production and reduce your fertilizer cost by combining on-farm nutrient sources (manure and legumes) with commercial fertilizers to meet your specific crop needs. A landowner will be qualified to prepare a nutrient management plan for his or her farm after: 1) completing this training course; and 2) the course instructor approves the landowner’s first annual plan. Washington County & UW-Extension staff will host the 2-day workshop in West Bend on Wednesday, January 19th and 26th, 2011. Please call 262.335.4800 to register.


Nutrient Management Workshop
January 19th & January 26th

Well Water Testing Kits
Available through the Land & Water Conservation Division

Visit the website for more information:
www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd
Click on: Well Water Test Kits

or call 262.335.4800

Washington County
Well Water Testing

Center for Watershed Science and Education
Heavy Rains Result in an Increased Demand for Waterways

With heavier than normal rain events in 2008, and again in 2010, the Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD) has had increased requests for waterway projects to control gulley erosion. Whether it’s new sites that have finally eroded to the point of needing a permanent fix, or old waterways that have fulfilled their life expectancy and are now eroding along the sides, the LWCD provides both technical and financial assistance.

Grassed Waterways: How They Work

A natural drainageway is graded and shaped to form a smooth, shallow channel and then planted with sod-forming grasses. The drainageway carries runoff water from the field and the grass prevents the water from forming a gulley. The vegetation may also trap some sediment washed from cropland, absorb some chemicals and nutrients in the runoff water, and provide cover for small birds and animals.

Planning:

- The width and depth of the waterway will depend on the nature of the fields it drains.
- Use soil conservation measures on the fields to prevent siltation of the waterway.
- Significant land reshaping might be required in some situations.
- Establishing immediate vegetation cover is critical. Tile drainage, mulching or other temporary cover might be needed until grasses are established.

Maintenance:

- Lift equipment out of the ground and shut off spray equipment when crossing the waterway.
- Do not use the waterway as a roadway.
- Fertilize if needed and mow periodically; wait until after July 15 when birds are no longer nesting.
- Do not till into the edges of the waterway.
- Avoid end rows planted along the waterway because they may allow gullies to form on the waterway edge.

If you’re experiencing wash-outs, gullies or other flooding problems on your rural property contact the LWCD staff at 262.335.4800 for assistance and possible funding. You can improve and protect your land from these occurrences and also protect our surface water, groundwater and natural resources.
On September 23, 2010, Washington County hosted the annual Southeast Area Conservation Tour. The tour rotates throughout the southeast area and those on tour get a peek at various conservation initiatives. Fifty-six local, state and federal representatives from the region (Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington & Waukesha Counties) attended this year’s event.

Tour stops included:
1. **Sunset Farms**
2. **Butler Ridge Wind Farm**
3. **Allenton Creek Restoration**
4. **Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation - Oak Lodge**
5. **Mid Kettle Moraine Partnership - Kettle Hills Project**
6. **Germantown Swamp Wetland Gem & Greenseams Project**

Washington County passed the tour torch to Waukesha County, who will have the honor of hosting the event in 2011!


This year, the Washington County Land & Water Conservation Division revisited our work plan. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) requires counties to adopt a current Land & Water Conservation Work Plan to meet state criteria for obtaining cost share grants and staff funding allocations for implementation of conservation best management practices.

The Citizen Advisory Committee, Washington County Planning & Parks Department, staff from cooperating federal and state agencies and the Land Conservation Committee collaborated to revise the plan. Recommendations for conservation workload priorities were incorporated into the plan for the next decade.

On October 26, 2010, the plan will be considered for adoption by the Washington County Board of Supervisors.

The plan is available:  
www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd
Water covers approximately 70 percent of the Earth’s surface, but less than 1 percent of that is available for human use. The world must share this small amount for agricultural, domestic, commercial, industrial, and environmental needs. Across the globe, water consumption has nearly doubled in the last 50 years. Managing the supply and availability of water is one of the most critical natural resource issues facing the United States and the world. Homes use more than half of publicly supplied water in the United States, which is significantly more than is used by either business or industry. The average family of four uses approximately 400 gallons of water every day!

With water use in the United States increasing every year, many regions are starting to feel the pressure. In the last five years, nearly every region of the country has experienced water shortages. To help American homes and businesses make more efficient use of their water, a water-use calculator has been developed by the Field Museum in Chicago. The calculator also offers quick helpful tips on reducing daily water use, helping residents to save water and money.

To use the Field Museum water calculator visit the following website: http://watercalculator.fieldmuseum.org/watercalculator

Why Is Electronic Waste a Concern?

Computers, computer accessories, TVs, cell phones and other electronics contain harmful materials including lead, mercury, cadmium, chromium, other heavy metals and chemical flame retardants. When landfilled, burned or illegally dumped, these chemicals can leach into our soil and groundwater, where they may affect human and environmental health. Improperly handled discarded electronics may also pose health risks to workers at companies that manage the electronics.

Electronics Recycling Law: 2009 Wisconsin Act 50

As of Jan. 1, 2010, state law requires manufacturers of certain electronic devices to collect and recycle a specified amount of electronics from Wisconsin households, K-12 public schools and Milwaukee Parental Choice Program schools each year. The law also bans many electronics from disposal in a landfill or incinerator beginning Sept. 1, 2010.

Through the Washington County Full Service Clean Sweep Program, residents have an opportunity to properly dispose of electronic waste. If you need to dispose of your electronics before the next Clean Sweep, please visit our website www.co.washington.wi.us/cleansweep - click on Disposal Alternatives.

2011 Clean Sweep dates will be announced soon.
Native trees and shrubs have been offered to County residents for the past 18 years through our annual Land & Water Conservation Division tree sale. Staff is currently preparing for the 2011 event, and a variety of attractive native trees and shrubs will be offered including Tamarack (Larix laricina) and Witch-hazel (Hamamelis virginica).

Tamarack - Have you ever driven around wet or boggy areas in the late autumn and noticed evergreens that appear to be dying? Most conifers undergo normal browning and shedding of some needles, but tamarack needles turn a vibrant yellow-gold and eventually drop, leaving only the skeleton of a trunk and branches remaining. Those stark branches and cones are dusted with snow during the winter, providing unexpected beauty. In the spring, buds “magically” swell on the branches yielding thick, soft, blue-green tufts of needles that deepen in color throughout the summer. Most cold-hardy of any native tree, tamarack has one of the widest ranges of all North American conifers extending from the Atlantic to central Alaska. The species can tolerate a wide range of soil conditions but grows most commonly on wet to moist organic soils.

Tamarack is a small-to-medium-sized deciduous conifer with the strongest wood of all the conifer species. The principal commercial use is for making pulp products, especially the transparent paper in window envelopes. Because of its rot resistance, tamarack is also used for posts, poles, mine timbers, and railroad ties. Other wood products include rough lumber, fuel wood, boxes, and crates. In Alaska, young tamarack stems are used for dogsled runners, boat ribs, and fish traps; in northern Alberta the branches are used to make duck and goose decoys.

Historically, knees from larger trees were used in wooden ship construction and Native Americans used the fine roots to sew birch bark, wood for arrow shafts, and bark for medicine.

Other common names include eastern, American, or Alaska larch, and Hackmatack, which is an Abenaki word for ‘wood used for snowshoes’. Wildlife species use the tree for food and nesting; porcupines feed on the inner bark, snowshoe hares browse on seedlings, and red squirrels eat the seeds. Birds common in tamarack stands during the summer include the white-throated sparrow, song sparrow, veery, common yellowthroat, and Nashville warbler. The American osprey, a sensitive species, often nests in lowland trees such as tamarack; and the great gray owl, a rare winter visitor in the northern Lake States, apparently nests only in the tamarack peat lands of northern Minnesota. If your landscape includes a wet or boggy area, tamarack plantings are an excellent choice with four-season appeal!

Witch-hazel - If you walk in the woods during the fall and winter, you may come across a small tree with fragrant yellow blossoms. Wait a minute - does this plant have its seasons mixed up? Witch-hazel’s most outstanding characteristic is its unique habit of flowering in the winter when other blooms are scarce. The shrub is cherished for branches that can be cut and brought indoors to flower where their soft sweet perfume can be savored. The aromatic, yellow flowers with strap-like, crumpled petals appear in the fall and persist long after leaf drop. Lettuce-green, deciduous leaves maintain a rich consistency into fall when they turn brilliant gold.

The fruit, which are small brown capsules, is a favorite food of ruffed grouse, northern bobwhite, ring-necked pheasant, white-tailed deer, beaver and cottontail rabbit.

(Cont. on page 23)
Washington County Tree & Prairie Seed Program  2011 Order Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVERGREEN TREES</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Trees/Bundle</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Alt**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1  Balsam Fir (2-3)*</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2  Red Pine (2-2)*</td>
<td>7-15”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>3  Tamarack (2-2)*</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>4  White Cedar (2-3)*</td>
<td>12-16”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$21.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>5  White Pine (2-2)*</td>
<td>7-15”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>6  White Spruce (2-2)*</td>
<td>7-15”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$16.50</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROADLEAF TREES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7  American Plum</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>8  Black Cherry</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$26.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>9  Black Walnut</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Chokecherry</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Hackberry</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Kentucky Coffee-tree</td>
<td>NEW</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Linden/Basswood</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$42.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Red Maple</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Red Oak</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 River Birch</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Shagbark Hickory</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
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<td>18 Sugar Maple</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Swamp White Oak</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WILDLIFE SHRUBS</th>
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<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 American Hazelnut</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$28.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Gray Dogwood</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Nannyberry</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$28.50</td>
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<td>23 Silky Dogwood</td>
<td>12-24”</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
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<td>24 Witch-Hazel</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM EXTRAS</th>
<th>Unit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 Bat House</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>$33.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Bluebird House</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Butterfly House</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
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<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Soil Test Kit</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Well Water Test Kit</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Compost Bin</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Tree Fertilizer Tablets</td>
<td>25/bag</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>32 Rain Barrel Only</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>$13.50</td>
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<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>33 Diverter Kit Only</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>34 Field Guide to Terrestrial Invasive Plants</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>$2.10</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRAIRIE SEED PACKAGES</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35 Prairie Grass Only</td>
<td>1 lb.</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>36 Wildflower Only</td>
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<td>$75.00</td>
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<td>37 Wildflower Only</td>
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<td>38 Wildflower Only</td>
<td>¼ lb.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 Medium-Dry Site Mix</td>
<td>1 lb.</td>
<td>$47.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 Wet Site Mix</td>
<td>1 lb.</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
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<td>x</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* First number – years as a seedling; second number – years as a transplant.
** Please indicate your second choice for each item ordered. The alternative will only be used if your first choice is sold out.

Check Payable To: Washington County

(Cont. on next page)
Orders due March 4, 2011

For information on Prairie Seed Packages and other Program Extras
Visit: www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd
Click on: Tree & Prairie Seed Program
Or Call: 262.335.4800 (Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm)

Important Information

Payment in full must be received with your order or it will not be processed.

A limited quantity is available, so order early. All orders will be pre-packaged for pick-up.

Sorry…no credit cards accepted.

There is no guarantee/warranty on any tree, shrub or prairie seed mix. To minimize losses, please follow planting and maintenance instructions available on our website. We can direct you to equipment suppliers if needed.

5.6% Tax must be added to your total order.
Tax Exempt must supply certificate.

Prairie Seed Package information and planting instructions may be found online: www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd

You will receive confirmation in April. Orders not picked up on designated dates/times will not be available for refunds. Pick-up dates are tentatively set for April 28 & 29.

I have read and understand the program information as documented in this brochure. I have enclosed my full payment for the order as listed on this form.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Name: ______________________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________________
City: ________________________________________ State: ____________ Zip:____________________________
Telephone Number - Day: ______________________ Evening: ________________________________________________
Tax Exempt Number (If applicable- please also attach a copy of your tax exempt certificate): __________________________

If you are interested in next year’s program, Please check one box:

□ I do have access to the internet. I am able to download next year's brochure.
□ I do not have access to the internet. Please mail me a paper copy of next year's brochure.

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR WELL WATER TEST KITS ONLY

□ Check Here if the address for Well Water Test Kit is same as indicated above. If different than above or more than one kit is requested, please fill in the following information describing well location(s):

Name: ______________________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________________
City:_________________ State:_____ Zip:_________
Residents Demonstrate Good Stewardship Through the 2010 Clean Sweep Program

Our 2010 Waste Collection events were very successful thanks to conscientious residents, gracious volunteers and our partners from the County Health, Sheriff, and Highway Departments. More than 1,200 residents cleaned out their medicine cabinets, basements, garages, barns, etc. and dropped off:
- nearly 40,000 pounds hazardous waste!
- more than 25,000 pounds of electronic waste!
- nearly 2,000 pounds of unwanted and expired medicines!
- 751 used tires!

Waste Collections Events are also planned for 2011 and information will be available soon on our website

www.co.washington.wi.us/cleansweep
or call 262.335.4800

Tamarack & Witch-hazel
(Cont. from Page 20)
But watch out - upon drying, the contracting capsule can eject its small seed as far as 30 feet! The aromatic extract of leaves, twigs, and bark is used in mildly astringent lotions and toilet water. Witch-hazel is often multi-trunked and usually grows 10-15 ft. tall. The bark is smooth and gray and the large, crooked, spreading branches form an irregular, open crown. The species prefers full sun to partial shade, moist and cool acidic soil, and is somewhat pollution tolerant.

The forked twigs of Witch-hazel are preferred as divining rods. In colonial America, the shrub’s flexible forked branches were a favorite “witching stick” of dowsers used for searching out hidden waters or precious metals. This has nothing to do with witches, but rather originates from the old English word for pliable branches “wych.” Plant witch-hazel this spring and enjoy it's unique characteristics!
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.

Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee Members
John W. Stern, Chairperson
Michael R. Miller, Vice-Chairperson
Raymond W. Heidke, 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

Planning & Parks Department
Paul Mueller, Administrator
Debora Sielski, Deputy Administrator
Mike Kactro, Assistant Administrator for Golf & Parks
Phil Gaudet, Land Resources Manager
Eric Damkot, GIS Manager
Jill Hapner, Ph.D., County Conservationist

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Riveredge Speaks Out - Lecture Series:
Lectures on various topics will be held at the Washington County Public Agency Center in West Bend Rooms 1113A/B @ 7:00 p.m. - visit www.riveredge.us for additional info. and lectures offered in 2010 and 2011.

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