A woodland path in spring with twiggy brush forming a tunnel through which to walk becomes a seemingly impenetrable wall of leaves enclosing the trail in summer; this is a typical condition in many properties that are left alone to ‘let nature take its course.’ Without land management invasive species can colonize and spread unimpeded and threaten and destroy native plant communities that populate our woodlands and open areas. 

Glacier Hills County Park has been chosen as the first site to implement a formal plan for invasives control in the Washington County Park System. In part because of its rolling terrain and areas that have been left relatively undisturbed by farming for a long time, there exists a wide diversity of habitats and plants within the park that should be preserved. In cooperation with state agencies and a private environmental company, a plan to control invasive species was developed using data gathered from field inventories of existing vegetation. During December 2010, 4.5 acres of invasives including buckthorn, honeysuckle and black locust were cleared from various areas within the park using mechanical and chemical controls. An approximate 50 ft. by 1,300 ft. area along the north side of the park entrance road was included in the treatment area. Park crews have already begun chipping trees and brush cut by the environmental company. Follow-up for 2011 will include removal of some garlic mustard and retreatment of previously cleared areas. Additional clearings are anticipated in the future.

Invasive Species can thrive on properties when left unattended or unmanaged. Be aware of invasives when you ‘let nature take its course.’
After many months of planning, the open octagonal shelter at the Lizard Mound Interpretive Center site will be constructed in spring/summer of 2011. Other site amenities planned include gravel walkways to connect the existing parking lot to the Interpretive Center, portable toilets and a gravel access drive to allow visitors to be dropped off before parking in the existing lot. Interpretive components, when completed will be available inside the shelter, and will include signage and audio information to tell the story of the site.

At Left: Artist rendering of Lizard Mound Interpretive Center Site Plan.

Homestead Hollow County Park
Paved Walkway Construction

If you are among those who have hiked portions of Homestead Hollow County Park in the springtime or after a significant rainfall and had wet feet after trying to hop over puddles or walking through squishy ground, you will now have approximately 4,800 linear feet of new paved walkway that’s high and dry to walk on. Many low level areas in Homestead Hollow County Park are within the wetlands and water doesn’t drain away from paths to allow them to dry out. In fall of 2010 some of the existing park pathways were relocated and paved. This served several purposes; the new paved walkways connected amenities within the park and provided a dry accessible walkway for hikers and handicapped. Relocation of some of the walkways also provided the opportunity to abandon some of the pathways within the wetlands, allowing those areas to revegetate, and still provide hikers with access to all areas of the park. The project also included reconstruction of the basketball court and the old parking lot which was badly in need of repair.
Free Fishing Clinic for Kids!
Saturday - April 16 (9am-3pm)
Washington County Sandy Knoll Park

Have you always wanted to teach your kids how to fish for Rainbow Trout? Well, here’s an opportunity you shouldn’t pass up. Rainbow Trout will be stocked by the DNR at Sandy Knoll Park and chances are the trout will be hungry. Children 15 years of age and younger can fish, learn about equipment, techniques, knot tying, safety, fish identification and more. Equipment and bait provided or you can bring your own. No registration is required and no fishing license necessary for children 15 years old and younger. Door prizes every hour. Free food and refreshments will be provided for children. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Come rain or shine, don’t miss this great opportunity for fishing and fun!

Sponsored by: Trout Unlimited; Kiwanis Club of West Bend-Early Risers; Washington County Planning & Parks Department; City of West Bend Park & Recreation & Forestry; Klotz’s Piggly Wiggly, Bitzer Creek, Frabill and Cabela’s. Need more information? Contact the Washington County Planning & Parks Department at 262.335.4445.

Wild Wacky Weekdays Day Camps
Glacier Hills County Park
June 13, 15 & 17

Fun, Learning and Parks are a great combination for youth education! UW-Extension 4-H Program has partnered with the Planning and Parks Department for the past 24 years to offer educational outreach day camps to youth in Washington and Dodge County. The program is a joint program with Dodge County UW-Extension. Youth ages 5-9 can sign up for fun hands-on programs focused on nature education.

In June, over 300 youth ages 5-9 will participate in day camps at Glacier Hills Park focused on nature in the woods. A team of over 40 youth serve as counselors for campers to help them learn from each session. Teams of 15 youth and adult leaders work together to teach hands-on sessions that help the youth learn and explore as they participate in the day camp.

Wild Wacky Weekdays Camp dates for 2011 are June 13, 15 and 17. The theme is “Bats, Rats and Habitats”, Safety Day Camp will be held on June 24th. This UW-Extension outreach program is for youth who may not already be involved in the 4-H program. If you are interested in day camp this summer, check out the UW-Extension website in early April or call 262-335-4478. Visit the website at http://washington.uwex.edu
Park fees will remain the same for the upcoming season for the Washington County Park System. The Planning Conservation and Parks Committee (PCPC) through the budget process did not increase park fees for 2011. As a result of this action, there will not be any changes for park shelter reservation fees on weekdays or weekends for residents or non-residents. Daily and annual boat launch fees at Ackerman’s Grove and Henschke Hillside Lake Access will also remain at $8.00 and $80.00 respectively for 2011. Both daily and annual passes can be purchased at the launch sites. Also approved by the PCPC was discontinuing the maintenance and operation of disc golf course at Heritage Trails County Park located on County E in the Town of Polk. Declining fees and maintenance costs were the main reasons for closing the disc golf course.

Take a Walk on the Wild Side - Board Walk Style at Ridge Run County Park

The Ice Age Trail running through Ridge Run County Park takes a dip where it cuts through wetlands at the south end of the park. Many years of use and higher than normal water levels had taken their toll on the boardwalk that carried many hikers through this area. In the summer of 2010, park crews rebuilt the entire boardwalk using salvaged lumber and new supports. This spring you will again be able to walk through the wetlands, enjoy the lush plant life and wildlife and do it with dry feet!!
Farmland Preservation Plan Advisory Committee Meetings are in Full Swing

The first meeting of Washington County’s Farmland Preservation Plan Advisory Committee (FPPAC) was held on October 27, 2010. The FPPAC has been busy with a number of tasks including the review of draft plan chapters and development of farmland preservation areas. Staff from Washington County’s UW-Extension office facilitated the development of the following farmland preservation vision statement for Washington County.

**Washington County’s Farmland Preservation Vision Statement**

Washington County strives for the preservation of sufficient amounts of prime and specialized agricultural lands to ensure farming remains viable. Productive farmlands and family-owned farms and related businesses are an important economic resource, and the presence of appropriate agricultural infrastructure is encouraged. County residents value the area’s agricultural heritage and recognize that the continued health of the industry adds to their quality of life.

The FPPAC recently defined the farmland preservation areas (FPAs) in Washington County. County staff will be presenting local FPA maps to each participating local government over the next few months for their review.

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You’re Invited!

Please join us during these local government meetings to learn about the new Farmland Preservation Program, also known as the Working Lands Initiative, and…

- How the program may affect you as a landowner
- How Farmland Preservation Areas have been determined
- How you might be eligible to claim farmland preservation tax credits

Please attend these meetings to provide input and have your questions answered. At the time this newsletter was published, the following meetings had been scheduled. Please visit [www.co.washington.wi.us/pln](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/pln) or call (262) 335-4445 for the latest meeting information.

**Farmland Preservation Meetings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Town of Addison</td>
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<td>Addison Town Hall</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Village of Germantown</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Germantown Village Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Town of Barton</td>
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<td>Town of Polk</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Town of Kewaskum</td>
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<td>Kewaskum Community Center</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Town of Erin</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Village of Richfield</td>
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<td>Richfield Village Hall</td>
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<td>Town of Germantown</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Riteway Bus Company</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Town of Trenton</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Trenton Town Hall</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Town of Jackson</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Jackson Town Hall</td>
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</table>
Overview of Farmland Preservation Plan Chapters

*Chapters 1-6 have received preliminary approval from
the Farmland Preservation Plan Advisory Committee*

Chapter 1 – Introduction and Background
The chapter provides an overview of the history of farmland preservation planning in Washington County, the Working Lands Initiative, statutory requirements, the new farmland preservation planning process, and plan implementation.

Chapter 2 – Population, Housing and Employment Trends and Projections
The chapter reviews population, housing, and employment trends and projections as they specifically relate to agriculture.

Chapter 3 – Existing Recommendations for Farmland Preservation in Washington County
The chapter summarizes the goals, objectives, policies and programs that pertain to farmland preservation as described in A Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Washington County: 2035 and local government comprehensive plans.

When comparing the adopted comprehensive plans of rural communities in Washington County, many similar recommendations related to farmland preservation and agricultural development emerge. Examples of common goals, objectives, policies and programs that were adopted by rural communities include:

- Preserve the rural character and small town atmosphere of the community.
- Support local farms including specialty, niche, and hobby farms.
- Direct non-agricultural development to hamlet areas or within sewer service areas.
- Utilize cluster development and conservation subdivisions when planning residential development to minimize the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses.
- Ensure that economic development coincides with the rural atmosphere of the community.

Chapter 4 – Inventory of Agricultural Resources
Information on the characteristics and location of agricultural resources in the County is needed to help properly locate future land uses. Since agricultural resources are limited and very difficult or impossible to replace if destroyed or converted to other uses, an inventory of these resources is necessary to ensure their protection and to avoid serious environmental problems. Key findings in Chapter 4 include:

- About 141,755 acres, or 51 percent of the County, were in agricultural use in 2000 making agriculture the predominant land use in Washington County.
- From 1975 to 2000, land in agricultural use declined by 32,805 acres, or about 19 percent. Meanwhile, the amount of land in residential use more than doubled, increasing from 12,742 to 25,916 acres.
- In 2010, there were approximately 84 participating landowners, with about 10,459 acres of farmland enrolled in the farmland preservation program through farmland preservation zoning. There were also approximately 1,148 acres enrolled through 12 farmland preservation agreements.

1 All towns in Washington County and the Villages of Germantown and Richfield were categorized as “rural communities.”

(continued on Page 7)
Overview of Farmland Preservation Plan Chapters (continued from Page 6)

Chapter 5 – Trends, Needs, or Plans that May Affect Farmland Preservation
The chapter identifies, describes, and documents non-farm development trends, plans, or needs related to the following elements that may affect farmland preservation and agricultural development in the County:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Energy
- Communications
- Business development
- Community facilities and services
- Waste management
- Municipal expansion
- Environmental preservation

Chapter 6 – Preserving and Supporting Farmland Preservation
The chapter describes farmland preservation tools and techniques as identified in the Working Lands Initiative (WLI) and explores other preservation techniques. This chapter also explains local programs and marketing techniques that support local farmland preservation efforts.

Preservation Tools of the Working Lands Initiative

- Farmland Preservation Zoning – May be implemented by a local zoning authority (town, village, or city)\(^1\)
- Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs) – May voluntarily be established via a petition process by landowners located in a farmland preservation area.
- Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program – Provides state funding (up to 50 percent matching grants) for the purchasing of agricultural conservation easements thereby prohibiting development that would make the land unavailable or unsuitable for agricultural use. Easements are voluntary, permanent, and are carried over to subsequent landowners if the property is sold.

Additional Preservation Techniques

This section lists regulatory and incentive based preservation tools referencing a “Farmland & Open Space Preservation Tools” report published by the Washington County Planning & Parks Department in June 2005. The report is available online at www.co.washington.wi.us/pln.

Supporting Farmland Preservation

This section describes programs that promote local agriculture acknowledging the need to preserve local farmland. Although these programs will not directly preserve the land itself, they may help generate awareness of local farmland preservation needs and create a sustainable environment for existing agriculture.

To view preliminarily approved chapters, please visit www.co.washington.wi.us/pln.

\(^1\)Farmland preservation zoning districts must follow farmland preservation areas identified in a certified County Farmland Preservation Plan.
Identifying Farmland Preservation Areas

Farmland Preservation Areas (FPAs) are the backbone of Wisconsin’s new farmland preservation law, the Working Lands Initiative (WLI). To be eligible to claim farmland preservation tax credits or to participate in the purchase of agricultural conservation easements (PACE) program through the WLI, land must be located within a FPA as identified in a certified County Farmland Preservation Plan.

At their March 9th meeting, the Farmland Preservation Plan Advisory Committee approved the following criteria to define FPAs:

1. Minimum block of 3 contiguous farms of common ownership
2. Minimum block size of 100 acres
3. All parcels within the block must have a LESA score of 6.8 or higher
4. All parcels must be located outside of a city or village boundary and sewer service area
5. All parcels must not have or be planned for non-agricultural development
6. All parcels must not be located in a non-agricultural zoning district
7. All contiguous farms of common ownership must have at least 30% of land in agricultural use

Maps will be prepared for and presented to each rural local government in the county over the next few months. The local governments will have the opportunity to modify their maps based on reasonable rationale. A final countywide FPA map will be created reflecting any changes made at the local level. The final draft Farmland Preservation Plan for Washington County will be considered for adoption by the Washington County Board of Supervisors later this year.

More information regarding FPAs and the WLI is available at datcp.wi.gov.

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1 Farms separated by a road, railroad or stream are considered contiguous.
2 The Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Analysis was completed as part of the development of the Multi-jurisdictional Plan for Washington County 2035 to help identify areas that should be designated for farmland protection. Each parcel analyzed was scored on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best score. The median score was 6.8. Lands scoring 6.8 or higher are considered Tier 1 farmlands, which are the best suited for long-term protection. Lands scoring below 6.8 were defined as Tier II farmlands, which are areas that should be considered for long-term protection by County and local officials on a case-by-case basis. The LESA subcommittee agreed that setting the benchmark at 6.8 left adequate amounts of acreage for development in the next 25-30 years, yet also protected a suitable amount of land for future agricultural production. For a full description of the LESA analysis, please consult the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Analysis Report available online at www.co.washington.wi.us/pln.
3 Where a farm is completely surrounded by an FPA, but was not included as part of that FPA only due to a LESA score between 6.0 and 6.79, that farm will become part of the FPA.
4 Parcels may be located within the Villages of Germantown and Richfield, but not within a sewer service area.
5 Chapter 91.10 of the Wisconsin Statutes requires that areas for farmland preservation “may not include any area that is planned for nonagricultural development within 15 years after the date on which the plan is adopted.” Agricultural use and agricultural-related uses may include undeveloped natural resource and open space areas. Planned land uses are based on adopted local comprehensive plans. An updated Washington County Land Use Plan 2035, based on local government amendments current to December 2010 was used in this analysis. The planned land use categories that were included in the FPAs include Farmland Protection, Agricultural and Rural Residential, Primary Environmental Corridor, Secondary Environmental Corridor, Isolated Natural Resource areas, Wetlands Outside of Environmental Corridor and Isolated Natural Resource Areas and Other Conservancy Lands to be Preserved.
6 All residential, commercial/business, industrial/manufacturing, institutional, quarrying/extractive, park/recreation, planned unit development and agricultural transition zoning districts were not included in the Farmland Preservation Areas (FPAs). All exclusive agricultural and general agricultural districts, along with most conservancy districts and those Town’s where agriculture and rural residential are in one zoning district were included in the Farmland Preservation Areas.
7 Contiguous parcels meeting all criteria above, but have less than 30% agricultural use and are contiguous to two separate farmland preservation areas will be included in the FPA to connect the two FPAs, but will be identified on the map as crosshatched indicating that the parcel “Does not have to be zoned farmland preservation zoning and will remain in the current zoning district”.

Page 8
The results of a recent farmland preservation survey, prepaid by UW-Extension, offer a glimpse into the needs and wishes of major landowners in Washington County. Results also describe the degree of local interest in participating in Wisconsin’s new farmland preservation programs. Your community can use the information gathered from key stakeholders throughout Washington County to assess how local plans and policies should incorporate Wisconsin’s changed farmland preservation law. Survey results for individual local governments can be viewed at www.co.washington.wi.us/pln.

The farmland preservation survey was developed to provide a means to foster public participation into Washington County’s farmland preservation planning process. In November 2010, surveys were mailed to 1,954 landowners of 20 acres or more in Washington County. Responses were accepted until January 4, 2011 and 344 were returned (a response rate of 17.6 percent).

Summary of Survey Results:

• **Interest in Receiving Tax Credits for Preserving Farmland (n=329)**
  Interest was nearly equal among those who were interested (34 percent), not interested (30 percent), and not sure (36 percent) if they were interested in receiving farmland preservation tax credits.

• **Proximity of Agricultural Infrastructure (n=281)**
  The majority of survey respondents (96 percent) indicated that either everything or most of the agricultural infrastructure they needed was close enough to their farm site.

• **Infrastructure That Would Increase Efficiency of Farm Operation (n=104)**
  Respondents were asked what type of infrastructure, if not already present, would help increase the efficiency of their farming operation. The most commonly selected responses were agricultural suppliers (33 percent) and storage facilities (30 percent).

• **Future of Agriculture in Washington County (n=337)**
  Survey respondents indicated that they would like to see the future of agriculture in Washington County to be the same as it is today (33 percent) and for County to be farm-friendly in general (58 percent).

• **Current Issues with Non-Ag Landowners (n=292)**
  The loss of prime farmlands was the most frequently cited issue faced by survey respondents (41 percent). Respondents also named traffic (40 percent) and a lack of tolerance for agriculture-related noises, odors, and activities (36 percent) among the issues they commonly face.
Farmland Preservation Survey  (cont. from Page 10)

• *Future Plans for Farm Operation (n=294)*

When asked what their future plans were for their farm operation, the two most frequently selected responses were continuing to farm within the County until retirement (36 percent) and passing the farm on to children or others in the next generation (52 percent).

Thank you to all landowners that participated in the survey! Your feedback is extremely valuable to Washington County’s farmland preservation planning process.

Update to Park and Open Space Plan Continues

The Park and Open Space Technical Advisory Commission met March 17, 2011 to continue discussion on updates to the Washington County’s Park and Open Space Plan. Chapter II (Inventory Findings); Chapter IV (Benefits of Park and Open Spaces); and Chapter V (Public Comment and Survey Results) were reviewed.

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!” Visit the following site:

www.getmovingwashingtoncounty.com
The Land Use Division administers the Floodplain Zoning Ordinance under the jurisdiction of Chapter 23 which is the Shoreland, Wetland & Floodplain Zoning Ordinance of Washington County. The Ordinance is administered by utilizing the 100-year floodplain boundaries which are shown on the official Shoreland, Wetland & Floodplain Zoning Maps for Washington County.

Washington County is being required to adopt Digital Floodplain Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), after they issue a Letter of Final Determination (LFD). This requirement from FEMA is also known as the “FEMA Map Modernization” process. Once FEMA issues the LFD, the County will have six months to adopt the maps. If the County does not adopt the new maps within six months of the LFD, the County will be suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). If the County is suspended, property owners will be unable to obtain floodplain insurance.

The new maps will be “digital” and replace the existing paper maps. However, the new maps will actually be taking a step backward as far as detailed floodplain studies which are already shown on the County’s existing maps. The current floodplain maps not only show the 100-year floodplain for the County but, they also include the floodway and floodfringe districts. The new maps will only show floodplain without floodway or floodfringe districts.

Floodway and floodfringe districts are being removed from the maps because the detailed floodplain studies that were originally completed to map the districts are no longer acceptable for FEMA’s mapping standards. This means future development in those areas currently shown as floodway or floodfringe will potentially be more expensive and time consuming for property owners. Any project proposed in the floodplain where the floodway and floodfringe districts are not delineated can potentially require the property owner to complete a detailed floodplain study at the owner’s expense.

The map on the following page shows the areas of the County that will be affected by the new floodplain maps. The map shows approximately 3,150 parcels potentially affected by the map change. Please be aware that the map does not show all floodplains in the County. Some floodplains currently in the County are “unstudied” and never have had a detailed floodplain study that shows the floodway and floodfringe districts. The map does not show floodplains within the cities and villages of the County either.

Should you have any questions regarding the proposed map changes, please contact: Phil Gaudet, Land Resources Manager  262.335.4445.
Parcels in county jurisdiction potentially impacted by the removal of floodway from the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps

Map prepared on March 2, 2011 by the Geographic Information System maps. Similar problems will likely exist in the incorporated areas, but were not included in this analysis.

Affected parcels were determined by selecting the parcels that intersected the floodplains as shown on the current Washington County zoning. Washington County.
Wetlands are often called the “kidneys of the landscape” because like kidneys, they filter out harmful materials. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program to restore and protect wetlands on private property. It is an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to restore wetlands that have been drained for agriculture.

Landowners who choose to participate in WRP may sell a conservation easement or enter into a cost-share restoration agreement with USDA to restore and protect wetlands. The landowner voluntarily limits future use of the land, yet retains private ownership. The landowner and NRCS develop a plan for the restoration and maintenance of the wetland. Noxious weed control is the responsibility of the landowner.

In Wisconsin alone, over 45,000 acres have been restored and protected through WRP. The program has been successful, in part, because of the unique relationship between NRCS and the landowner. The program offers landowners three options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements for a 10-year minimum duration. In Wisconsin, there are four major wetlands restoration projects: Turtle Valley in Walworth County; Zeloski Marsh Lake Mills Wildlife Area in Jefferson County; Baraboo River Wetland Restoration in Columbia County and Duffy’s Marsh in Marquette County.

**The Wetland Ecosystem:** Wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs. An immense variety of species of microbes, plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish, and mammals can be part of a wetland ecosystem. Physical and chemical features such as climate, topography, geology, and the movement and abundance of water help to determine the plants and animals that inhabit each wetland.

The Benefits of Wetlands Include:

- slowing and retaining flood water;
- trapping sediment that has eroded from uplands;
- increasing water quality and purifying surface and ground water by filtering through its plant community;
- providing a setting for recreation and study;
- supporting a diverse wildlife population across the landscape;
- providing habitat for breeding, nesting, feeding and predator escape;
- assisting to moderate local climate; and
- recharging the groundwater and aquifers.

Wetland Classification Examples:

- VERNAL POOLS - Pools that hold water for a short period in early spring, small depressions in woodlands.
- BOGS - Found on saturated, acid peat soils that are low in nutrients.
- MARSHES - Areas with have saturated soils that are usually covered with water during the growing season.
- WOODED SWAMPS - Usually associated with ancient lake basins or river oxbows.
- SHRUB CARR - Dominated by trees and shrubs that are less than 20 feet tall, seasonally or permanently saturated.

Contact:
Josh Odekirk, USDA-NRCS
Washington / Ozaukee County
District Conservationist
phone 262.335.4801 or josh.odekirk@wi.usda.gov

Visit the web:
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/
The Greenseams Program, an innovative flood management project of the MMSD, comprises many acres of wetlands throughout the Greater Milwaukee area. Greenseams permanently protects key undeveloped lands in the region’s urbanizing watersheds in order to reduce future flooding risks and damages. After the program’s inception in 2001, a total of 29,000 acres of wetlands and other areas with water storage capacity within four counties and four watersheds were identified as prospects for acquisition. As of spring 2009, Greenseams had protected 1,881 acres of mature forests, stream corridors, and most importantly, wetlands. The Greenseams Program estimates that the 1,287 acres of hydric (wetland) soils that they have protected can hold more than 830 million gallons of water! These wetland acres are hard at work reducing flood risks and damages for the 1.1 million residents and 28 communities in Greater Milwaukee area.

More than a million people live and work in the Milwaukee metro area—many in flood prone neighborhoods. The Conservation Fund collaborates with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) in running the Greenseams Program, a pioneering flood management plan that utilizes green infrastructure technology. Since 2001, the Conservation Fund has assisted in acquiring over 2,000 acres of flood prone, hydric (water absorbing) soils within the Milwaukee metropolitan area.

Each acquired property is managed by a local community or land trust and subject to a conservation easement held by the MMSD. All property sales are voluntary and all land remains as open space. These lands, which also preserve wildlife habitat, often become treasured community assets for residents who enjoy hiking, bird-watching, and other outdoor recreational activities. By acquiring lands outright and purchasing conservation easements, Greenseams permanently protects key properties in the Milwaukee, Menomonee, Oak Creek and Root River watersheds, where major suburban growth is expected to occur. Properties are chosen due to their proximity to water, hydric soil composition, environmental corridor and natural area designations and their connectivity to public spaces.

Once purchased, many properties need to be restored back to their pre-European settlement vegetation. Through restoration these properties not only absorb more rain and snow melt, which slows water flow into the City of Milwaukee, but they also act as buffers, filtering out pollutants and increasing water quality. Funding sources are provided by MMSD, the
Buffers - Green Infrastructure - (cont. from page 15)

Infrastructure is often thought of in terms of highways and power grids or gas pipelines. In much the same way, green infrastructure provides crucial services, such as clean air, drinking water and local food, to communities. These are known as ecosystem services. Green infrastructure planning identifies areas where nature is benefiting communities and ensures those areas are protected.

Green infrastructure can be explained as a network of natural areas and open spaces—woodlands, wetlands, trails and parks—that conserves ecosystems, helps sustain clean air and water and provides many other benefits to people and wildlife. Green infrastructure offers many significant benefits. When there is an increase in the amount of land for natural stormwater retention, communities become more disaster resistant. Green infrastructure also can reduce the erosion of top soil, which aids local farms. The entire region benefits when a collection of local farms can provide healthy food.

Sources:
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Greenseams Program
The Conservation Fund
Wisconsin Emergency Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: Wetland Functional Values
USEPA Watershed Academy Web Module: Wetlands Functions and Values
Wetland Functions, Values, and Assessment. USGS Water Supply Paper 2425
Ramsar International Convention on Wetlands Fact Sheet Series: Shoreline Stabilization and Storm Protection: Flood Control

Sand Lake Conservation Camp
June 23-25, 2011
held in Marinette County

Children entering grades 6-8 in the fall of 2011 who have an interest in the outdoors are encouraged to attend this fun filled north-woods camping experience. Kids will learn about a variety of conservation careers, provided by professionals in their field of expertise.

Topics covered include: wildlife, habitat, ecosystems, water quality, fisheries, forestry, orienteering and canoeing.

Participants get to experience a diverse group of outdoor activities and a chance to test their skills through this educational conservation camp.

The cost is $50.00 per student on or before May 30th. Scholarships are available through the Land & Water Conservation Division.

Visit www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd - click on Conservation Education - Kids
What are aquatic invasive species and why should you care? Invasive species are non-native plants and animals that get introduced into an area outside of its native region that cause ecological, recreational, and economic hardship. There are many accidental as well as intentional ways this happens. The main problem is that the non-native region they are now in, has few if any natural elements that keep their populations balanced within the ecosystem. There are plenty of non-native species in nature that have harmful effects due to 1) the lack of ideal propagating conditions; 2) predatory species that have adapted to them; or 3) native species occupying the same niche are out competing them. Some examples include salmon that thrive in Lake Michigan, Ring-neck pheasants, turkeys, and bison.

On November 29, 2010, Paul Klein, a native to Washington County with roots from the Hartford area was hired as the Washington County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator. Through partnerships with various local Lake Groups, Washington County was awarded a 3-year DNR State AIS Control Grant to combat invasive species. The ultimate goal of the AIS position is to develop a strategic plan for long-term prevention and control of aquatic invaders, with the objective to protect and prevent the 3,100 acres of lakes and 220 miles of rivers and streams in Washington County from the increasing threat of invasive species.

In Washington County, the main aquatic invasive species being targeted are the following; Eurasian water milfoil, Curly leaf pondweed, Zebra mussels, Rusty crayfish, Purple loosestrife, and Smelt (to a certain extent). Other invasive species which are arriving and considered threatening to our waterbodies are Spiny and Fishhook waterfleas, Floating yellow heart, Round gobies, Red swamp crayfish, Chinese mystery and Banded snails.

There are two main goals individuals should consider to prevent the introduction of an invasive species into our lakes and streams;

1) Thoroughly clean (remove all weeds and lake bottom sediment from boat and trailer), and drain all water use equipment (boat live wells and bilge, lower unit of motor, and bait buckets) when leaving a body of water and before entering another body of water. Don’t forget the stream or lake bed contents on your waders can also be a means that invasives can get transferred; and

2) Never release any plant or animal into the wild that was not originally harvested there. What this means is, dispose of any unused live bait in the trash if it is not going to be used later, and do not “let go” any aquarium or water garden plants or animals into the wild. Minnows are allowed to be transported in two gallons or less of lake water.

Protecting, preventing and controlling invasive species from the County’s lakes and streams will be accomplished through a network of various lake and conservation groups established around the County. By working together, the Lake Groups comprised of Property Owner Associations and Lake Protection and Rehabilitation Dis (cont. on page 18)
Aquatic Invasive Species (cont. from page 17)

Residents will benefit by keeping their lakes and shorelines as healthy as possible. Much of these lake efforts will be on a volunteer basis lead by the AIS Coordinator; this will include taking part in the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) watercraft inspection activity at boat landings, and through a Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN).

**Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW)**
- The intention of this program is to have trained volunteers at as many boat landings as possible throughout the high use periods of summer and early fall. Volunteers at the landings will be informing and assisting boaters regarding proper AIS cleaning procedures for boats, trailers, bilge water, motors and bait buckets of water. Legally, all must be clean before entering a roadway.

**Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN)**
- Included in the CLMN, trained volunteers along with the AIS Coordinator will be conducting point intercept plant surveys to map known and newly found aquatic plant populations. In some cases, through the survey, a native plant protection and invasive plant control plan will be developed. Again, lake volunteers will be needed and will be a vital component necessary to assist the AIS Coordinator with lake monitoring throughout each season. Surveys and mapping are essential for quick reaction to any new infestations that may occur.

**Bio-Control of Purple loosestrife**
- Another area which will be targeted is biological-control of Purple loosestrife. This will also require network based volunteers. Presently, there is a strong coordinated volunteer effort being conducted through Lee Krueger, resident of West Bend and also the Hartford Union High School’s Outdoors Club to combat Purple loosestrife.

One of the most important aspects for the AIS Coordinator is the task to develop a rapid response plan in case a pioneer invasive species infestation occurs. The rapid response plan would then be in place to coordinate actions between lake volunteers, the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, Inc. (SEWISC), and WDNR to identify, confirm, control and eradicate the new AIS populations before they become established.

All of these initiatives will be combined to preserve the ecological health of Washington County surface waters (i.e., lakes and rivers) through the development and implementation of a county-wide AIS education and prevention program. Community awareness and education is a vital component in this effort involving knowing the benefits of native habitats and utilizing native plants for landscaping and water garden purposes. Before purchasing landscaping plants, get familiar with prohibited species, (as well as native species) through Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Chapter NR40, visit the website, http://dnr.wi.gov, search Invasive. To get involved, or if you have any questions, contact Paul Klein, Washington County AIS Coordinator at 262.335.4806.
Every five years a summary is done of all soil test results from samples submitted to state and private soil testing labs. The data for Washington County is presented in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Samples</th>
<th>Mean pH</th>
<th>Mean O.M.%</th>
<th>Mean P (ppm)</th>
<th>Mean K (ppm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974-77</td>
<td>3,381</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>99.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-81</td>
<td>3,930</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>29.8</td>
<td>98.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982-85</td>
<td>3,645</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>119.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986-90</td>
<td>1,524</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>116.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-94</td>
<td>2,205</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>129.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-99</td>
<td>6,337</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>127.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-04</td>
<td>6,972</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>11,104</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Several interesting observations can be made in regard to the most recent summary. The number of samples has considerably increased. This is likely due to the push to promote soil testing as a part of nutrient management plans. As to be expected, soil pH and organic matter percent (O.M.%) has stayed relatively consistent throughout the years.

Soil phosphorus (P) has stayed consistent over the last fifteen years. 44 ppm falls in the excessively high category of soil fertility making applications of P fertilizers unnecessary. We are concerned with Soil P because P fertilizers are the most expensive per unit and the detrimental environmental impacts associated with P entering surface waters.

Soil potassium (K), which is not a significant environmental threat, dropped from 126 to 121 ppm. This is likely due to the high prices of K fertilizers in recent years. However, 121 ppm still falls into the high category of soil fertility.

An important point to be made from this data is the importance of performing soil tests. Based on the data above most farmland in Washington County does not need any additional P fertilizer and only minimal amounts of K fertilizers for the typical crops grown. For most farmers there is a potential for cost savings from soil testing. For more information on how to perform soil testing, call our office 262.335.4800.
Land & Water Conservation Division

Full Service
CLEAN SWEEP

Disposal for Washington County Residents
(Includes Hazardous Waste, Electronic Goods, Medicine & Used Tires)

May 21st & October 15th

Washington County is pleased to be able to provide residents an opportunity to properly dispose of Hazardous Waste, Electronic Goods, Medicines and Used Tires. The dates are set: Saturday, May 21st and Saturday, October 15th, 2011. Collection times for both events will be 8:00 am - 12:00 (noon), held at the Washington County Highway Facility, 900 Lang Street in West Bend. Participants will need to pre-register and submit a $10.00 per vehicle fee for the Hazardous Waste and E-Goods Collection.

The Clean Sweep Registration Form is enclosed for your convenience.

- **Hazardous Waste and E-Goods Collection** - Registration plus $10.00 per vehicle fee
- **Medicine Collection** - FREE and NO Registration is necessary
- **Used Tire Collection** - NO Registration necessary, disposal fees do apply

Residents can either fill out the Registration Form provided, go online to download the form, or call the Land & Water Conservation Division at 262.335.4808 and materials will be mailed to you. Search for a more complete listing of accepted and unaccepted materials on the County’s website: [www.co.washington.wi.us/cleansweep](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/cleansweep) or call if you need further information. Please keep in mind the registration form and payment are in one location (Land & Water Conservation Division) and the waste drop off site is in another location (Washington County Highway Facility). Help keep the land and water resources in Washington County clean. See you there!

**As in the past, computers and computer accessories will be accepted** at the 2011 Clean Sweep. Visit the county’s website [www.co.washington.wi.us/cleansweep](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/cleansweep)

**Other Disposal Options:**
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [http://www.epa.gov/wastes/conserve/materials/ecycling](http://www.epa.gov/wastes/conserve/materials/ecycling)
- Earth 911 [http://earth911.com](http://earth911.com)

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**Did you know?** Used oil filters and absorbents are now banned from landfills.

New state statute introduced as 2009 Wisconsin Act 86 prohibits disposal of used oil filters and oil absorbent materials in a solid waste disposal facility. It amends Chapter 287 and took effect on January 1, 2011. Unfortunately used oil filters and absorbents will not be accepted at the Clean Sweep. Please contact your automobile vendor for proper recycling options.
Washington County
2011 Clean Sweep Registration Form
(Hazardous Waste and/or Electronics)

- Participation is limited to 250 vehicles per event.
- Registration for each event is on a First Come, First Serve basis.
- A $10.00 per vehicle registration fee must accompany this form.
- Registration is only required if you are bringing in Hazardous Waste and/or Electronics.

Q. I would like to register for the **May Event / October Event** (please circle one)

Q. If you circled the “May Event” above and attendance is full would you like to be registered for the October event? **Yes / No** (Please Note: If you circled “No” or if the events are full your check will be returned.)

Name: ____________________________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________

Day Phone: ____________________________________________

Please submit this form (at least one week prior to the event) and a $10.00 check payable to:

**Washington County**
Land and Water Conservation Division
333 E. Washington St., Ste 3200
PO Box 2003
West Bend, WI 53095

**Need To Contact us? Phone:** 262.335.4800

A receipt will be mailed to your address indicated above and shall serve as your Confirmation Notice that you have been registered for the event indicated - **Bring your Confirmation Notice to the event, it will be your ticket in.**

Very Small Quantity Generators/Businesses (VSQG) may also participate in these events based upon obtaining a quote and signed contract for waste disposal – VSQG forms available on the website. *(Note: staff is instructed to report businesses that are not registered as a VSQG.)*

Please visit our website for further information regarding accepted and unaccepted items for the hazardous waste and E-goods collections. *(For Example: latex paint, televisions, appliances will not be accepted.)*

**www.co.washington.wi.us/cleansweep**

Thank you!
2011 Full Service Clean Sweep

Pharmaceutical / Medicine Collection

Bring your expired and unused medicine in the original container (if possible). Never flush or pour unused medicine down the drain. Please see our website for a list of acceptable pharmaceutical substances. No needles or sharps accepted. **No Pre-registration** is necessary if you only have medicines.

Used Tire Collection

Bring your used vehicle tires to the Full Service Clean Sweep. Charges apply depending on the size of the tire (on or off rim). Prices double if tires are on rims. Cash or check will be accepted at time of drop off. For larger quantities (20+) please call 262.335.4800. **No Pre-registration** is necessary if you only have tires.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tire Disposal Costs:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(includes tax)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle Tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tires &lt; 16”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tires 16-19.5”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tires &gt; 19.5”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Front Tractor Tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear Tractor Tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skid Steer Tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fork Lift Tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End Loader or Spreader Tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combine Tires</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hazardous Waste & Electronic Goods Collection

As a Washington County resident this Full Service Clean Sweep is your opportunity to dispose of unwanted hazardous chemicals and electronic goods from your household, farm, or abandoned farm operations. **Pre-registration and $10.00 per vehicle fee** is necessary for hazardous waste and/or E-goods. To pre-register, see directions on the back of this brochure.

The following list includes accepted and unaccepted items (*not all inclusive*). For a more detailed listing please visit our website or call the office.

**Accepted Hazardous Waste**

- Drain cleaner, floor-care products, acetone, brake fluid, gasoline, stain, varnish, wood preservative, fungicide, insect spray, poisons, rechargeable batteries, thermometers, and weed killer.
- Unused, damaged, canceled, banned or otherwise unwanted agricultural chemicals, including herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides and wood preservatives.
- Common pesticides such as: 2,4-D, captan, chlordane, DDT, heptachlor, lindane, malathion, parathion, penta, toxaphene and 2,4,5-T. Unknown chemicals.
- Other agricultural chemicals including veterinary supplies, lead or metal based paint, mercury manometers, acid washes, wood finishes and engine cleaners.

**Unaccepted Hazardous Waste**

- Latex paint, Radioactives (including smoke alarms), Infectious and biological wastes, Freon 11 and 12, Vehicle batteries, Explosives (including detonators & blasting caps). Please see the website for Disposal Waste Alternatives.

**E-Goods**

Electronic technology is always evolving and residents are constantly upgrading their computer equipment. Recycle your end-of-life electronics through the Full Service Clean Sweep. Our website lists all accepted electronic items. Sorry, no TVs or appliances accepted.
2010 Orthophotography

Updated color aerial photography, acquired in spring 2010, is now available for all areas of Washington County. Additional detail will be discernable on these 6” pixel resolution images when compared to the 12” pixel resolution imagery acquired in 2005.

The image files are available for a fee in MrSID format. Color prints can be made for $15 per page. Contact the Planning and Parks Department – GIS Division at 262-335-4445 for more information.

The images will be added to the Washington County Interactive Mapping Application in the coming months. Imagery, along with a wealth of additional information, is available for viewing/printing on the Interactive Mapping Application.

Visit the following website -  http://maps.co.washington.wi.us

The 2010 Washington County Orthophotography project was part of a regional consortium with funding coming from the County, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC), United States DOT, and the United States Geological Survey.

NEW Tool Available!
Address Finder Database

Although Washington County is not responsible for assigning addresses, a high quality address database is required for a variety of County programs. The GIS Division maintains an address database used for many of these functions, including e911 dispatch.

The GIS Division gets frequent inquiries for address information. In response to these inquiries, the GIS Division developed an on-line tool to provide a window into their address data. In addition to basic navigation tools, the application allows the user to search for a specific address or zoom into an area and view the information about individual address points. The user can toggle between a ‘streets’ and an ‘aerial’ base map.

http://maps2.co.washington.wi.us/AddressFinder/
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. 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

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
Paul Sebo, County Conservationist

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- **Golf & Parks Division**
  - Glacier Hills County Park - Invasives Removal Project
  - Lizard Mound Interpretive Center/Homestead Hollow
  - Free Fishing Clinic for Kids!
  - UWEX Offers Wild Wacky Weekend Camps
  - Ridge Run County Park Improvements

- **Planning Division**
  - Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee Meetings
  - Overview of Farmland Preservation Plan Chapters
  - Identifying Farmland Preservation Areas & Map
  - Farmland Preservation Survey / Results

- **Land Use Division**
  - Floodplain Zoning & Floodplain Map Modernization

- **USDA - NRCS**
  - Wetland Reserve Program

- **Wisconsin’s Wetland Gems**
  - MMSD - Green Seams Program - Prevents Flooding

- **Land & Water Conservation Division**
  - Sand Lake Conservation Camp
  - Aquatic Invasive Species Control
  - Soil Testing Analysis
  - Clean Sweep Program / 2011 Registration Form

- **Geographic Information Systems Division**
  - 2010 Orthophotography & Address Finder Database

Science for Everyone Lecture Series:
A collaborative effort between Riveredge Nature Center, Lac Lawrann Conservancy and the UWM Field Station providing an opportunity to engage, educate and increase public awareness. Lectures on various topics being held at the Washington County Public Agency Center in West Bend - Rooms 1113A/B @ 7:00 p.m. - visit www.riveredge.us for additional information on other lectures offered in 2011.