Wild About Parks 2015
A Nature-Based Recreation Program for the Washington County Park System

Join Us for a Day of Fun!
Saturday- June 27, 2015
Heritage Trails County Park
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
4668 Cty Hwy E, Slinger, WI  53086
www.co.washington.wi.us/parks
Follow us on Twitter @WashCoWisco   #wildaboutparks

Pick up your copy of the Quest booklet and begin your letterboxing and geocaching adventure throughout our County Park and Trail System. Explorers use a series of clues to find 29 hidden treasures. Learn about the Quest prizes and finale event which will be held on August 15.

- Solar Viewing Program -
Provided by: Northern Cross Science Foundation Astronomy Club of Wisconsin
Take a look through a solar telescope to see spectacular views of our nearest star - the Sun!

- Recreational Tree Climbing (Noon-2pm) -
Conducted by: Riveredge Nature Center
(Ages 7 +) Explore Heritage Trails County Park at a new elevation! Ascend ropes and explore the world way above your feet. All equipment will be supplied; all you need is loose clothing (T-shirt and long pants recommended), closed toe shoes (hard soles recommended), and an adventurous spirit. Facilitators from Riveredge have been trained by the Global Organization of Tree Climbing.

- Learn Archery -
Provided by: Ackerville Archery Outdoors
(Ages 8 +) Great opportunity to learn archery – it’s fun for the whole family! All equipment will be provided and will be taught by a National Archery in the Schools Program certified instructor.

- Learn to Play Foot Golf & Disc Golf -
Try out the first 9-hole foot golf course in the County - it combines the skills of soccer with the rules of golf. Staff will be on hand to get you started playing foot golf or disc golf. A limited number of soccer balls and discs will be available for use.
- Frog Stories and Night Sounds -

Thursday - July 9, 2015
Ridge Run County Park – (7:00 pm – 9:30 pm)
From Hwy 33 in West Bend, go south on Scenic Drive and turn left onto Wheat Ridge Lane. Meet at Shelter #1.

- 7:00 pm – **Meet Smokey Bear** and hear Smokey’s Fire Safety Program.
- 7:45 pm – **Frog Wetland Walk** - Venture out with a Riveredge Naturalist along the Ridge Run wetland boardwalk to look and listen for frogs, toads, and other creatures of the evening.
- 8:30 pm – **Frog Stories** - Listen to the frog stories around the family campfire with s’mores.

- Little Cedar Lake Guided Kayaking Adventure -

Sunday - July 12, 2015
Ackerman’s Grove County Park – (8:30 am – 11:00 am)
4875 County Highway Z - Meet at boat launch.

- **Kayaking Adventure** - Are you up for an early 2-hour guided kayak adventure? Join us for a serene morning on Little Cedar Lake. With a Riveredge Naturalist to guide you in your explorations and Cabela’s staff to provide a safety tutorial- you are bound to have an exceptional experience taking in the scenery! Wear sunscreen and clothing that can get wet. Don’t forget to bring your binoculars!
- Must be at least 16 years of age and accompanied by an adult. Some kayaking experience recommended.
- Equipment will be provided for registered adventurers.
- To reserve your spot – contact the Washington County Planning and Parks Department at 262-335-4445. Limit of 8 participants. If you would like to use your own kayaking equipment, please contact the Department to let us know you will be joining the adventure.

- Paddle & Hike at Sandy Knoll -

Sunday - July 19, 2015
Sandy Knoll County Park - (4:00 pm – 6:30 pm)
2064 Wallace Lake Road. Meet at the Sandy Knoll pond.

- **Learn to Kayak** - Have you always wanted to learn how to kayak? Take advantage of this opportunity at Sandy Knoll County Park pond. Equipment and expertise will be provided by Zodiac. Must be at least 10 years of age and accompanied by an adult. To reserve your spot – contact the Washington County Planning and Parks Department at 262-335-4445. Limit of 36 participants. Kayaking adventures start at 4:00 pm, 4:45 pm and 5:30 pm.
- 5:30 pm - **Hike the Knoll** - Join a Riveredge Naturalist for a guided 1.5 mile hike on Sandy Knoll trails to learn about the flora and fauna of the park.
- Lizard Mound Guided Tour and Campfire -

Tuesday - July 21, 2015

Lizard Mound County Park – (6:30 pm – 10:00 pm)
2121 County Highway A

- Tour the Mounds - Join the County Historical Society for a guided tour of the effigy mounds as Cindy Leinss, Washington County and Robert Jeske, UW Milwaukee Anthropology Dept., present the history of this extraordinary site listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

- 8:00 pm - Family Campfire - After the tour, join us for a family campfire to learn more about the effigy mounds.

– Wild About Parks Quest Finale -

Saturday - August 15, 2015

Leonard J. Yahr County Park - (1:00 pm – 4:00 pm)
7999 Orchard Valley Road - Rain date of Sunday, August 16.

- 1:30 pm– 4:00 pm - Kayaking Adventure - Join us for a 45-minute kayaking adventure on Erler Lake. Explore the lake with a Riveredge Naturalist to guide you and Cabela’s staff to provide a safety tutorial. Wear sunscreen and clothing that can get wet. Don’t forget to bring your binoculars! Kayaking adventures start at 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm. Must be at least 12 years of age and accompanied by an adult. Equipment will be provided for registered adventurers. To reserve your spot – contact the Washington County Planning and Parks Department at 262-335-4445. Limit of 16 participants.

- 1:30 pm - Prairie Walk – Explore a 3-year old prairie with Landscape Designer Cindy Leinss to learn about native wildflowers and grasses and how to create your own backyard prairie oasis.

- 2:00 pm - Shoreline Discovery - Visit a restored shoreline along Erler Lake with AIS Coordinator Brad Steckart to learn how riparian buffers protect our water. We will also get a good look at some wetland invasive species in the area and discuss the success of prevention methods.

- 2:30 pm - Wild About Parks Quest Finale Prize Package Giveaway - Join the celebration as we wrap up our Wild About Parks Quest – be sure to bring your completed Quest Clue Booklets.

- 3:00 pm - Grasshoppers, Spiders, and Butterflies - Oh My! - Sweep the fields in search of cool critters of the prairie. Let a Riveredge Naturalist help you understand why insects are SO important to people.

- Come for the Quest Finale or make a day of it and enjoy beach swimming, fishing and picnicking.

- Picnic lunch of mini Cousins Subs, chips and water will be available on site during the event for $2.

(Continued on Page 4)
-- Gaze & Glow at Glacier Hills --
Saturday - August 22, 2015

Glacier Hills County Park - (6:30 pm – 10:00 pm)
1664 Friess Lake Road - Meet at overflow parking lot.

- 6:30 pm – **Meet Smokey Bear** and hear Smokey’s Fire Safety Program.
- 7:15 pm – **Family Campfire with S’mores**
- 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm – **Night Star Gazing** provided by Northern Cross Science Foundation – Astronomy Club of Wisconsin.
- 8:00 pm – **Glow Stick Hike!** A Riveredge Naturalist will lead this night hike and test your night vision and listen for creatures of the night.

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-- Wheels & Water Family Adventure --
Sunday - Sept. 27, 2015

Meet at the Eisenbahn State Trail kiosk located by the public parking lot between Main Street and First Street in Kewaskum with your bike.

- 7:00 am – **Registration Begins** with bike and helmet safety check provided by Pedal Moraine.
- 8:00 am - **Start of Event** – Bike the Eisenbahn State Trail from Kewaskum to West Bend. Kayak the Milwaukee River from Zodiac to River Road (Hwy G). Equipment and transportation will be provided by Zodiac.
- Must be at least 10 years of age and accompanied by an adult.
- To reserve your spot – contact the Washington County Planning and Parks Department at 262-335-4445. Limit of 60 participants. There will be two runs of 30 kayaks.
- If you would like to use your own kayak, you can drop it off at Zodiac in West Bend prior to meeting in Kewaskum.

For more information on how you can get involved please visit:

[www.co.washington.wi.us/parks](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/parks)
or call 262.335.4445

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Follow us on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/washcowisco](http://www.facebook.com/washcowisco)
Become a Wild About Parks Quest Explorer!

The Wild About Parks Quest is a geocaching & letterboxing treasure hunt for Explorers of all ages. Explorers will use a series of clues to find letterboxes and coordinates to find geocaches hidden throughout the County Park and Trail System. Explorers will have a chance to win prizes based on the number of Quest clues that they complete before the August 15, 2015 finale event at Leonard J. Yahr County Park. Pick up your Quest Clue Booklet at the June 27 event at Heritage Trails County Park (see Page 1 for details) or at the Washington County Planning and Parks Department, Pike Lake Unit of the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest Office, Zodiac, Pedal Moraine or Riveredge Nature Center.

Prize Eligibility

Explorers that have completed all 29 clues are eligible to win the Quest Grand Prize – a Trek Bike Package. Explorers that have completed 15-28 clues are eligible to win one of the Expedition Explorer Prizes. Explorers that have completed 1-14 clues are eligible to win one of the Adventure Explorer prizes. All explorers that have completed a Quest booklet are also eligible to win the Elite Explorer Prize - Kayaking Package, but must be present at the August 15, 2015 Wild About Parks Quest Finale event to win.

Explorers 17 years old or younger are eligible to win Wild About Parks Quest Prizes and must have completed at least one Quest clue. No Washington County Planning and Parks Department employee or their immediate family members are eligible to win Quest prizes.

Entry Logistics

Quest Clue Booklets must either be dropped off at the Planning and Parks Department (8 am – 4:30 pm) prior to August 15 or dropped off at the August 15 Wild About Parks Quest Finale event by 2:00 pm at Leonard J. Yahr County Park.

Visit www.co.washington.wi.us/parks for a complete list of Quest rules and entries.

Grand Prize - Bike Package:

- Trek Marlin 5 Sport Mountain Bike
- Kickstand
- Water Bottle Cage
- Water Bottle

(Provided by Pedal Moraine)

Elite Explorer On-Site Prize - Kayaking Package:

- Emotion™ Spitfire 8 Kayak - Red in Color
- Caviness® CavPro KPA Series Curved Blade Kayak Paddle
- Cabela’s TPU Roll Top Dry Bags

(Provided by Cabela’s)
Expedition Explorer Prize Packages:

**Fishing Package:**
- Cabela’s Pro Guide® Bass/Abu Garcia® Silver Max™ 2 Casting Reel
- Cabela’s Fishing Utility Bag
- Eagle Claw 180-Piece Fishing Kit

**(Provided by Cabela’s)**

**Hiking Package:**
- Cabela’s Strata 8L Hydration Pack
- 4-Function Survival Tool
- Cabela’s Watertight First Aid Kit by Adventure Medical

**(Provided by Cabela’s)**

**Backyard Safari Package:**
- Backyard Safari Walkie Talkies
- Backyard Safari® Mini Lantern™
- Backyard Safari Mini Scoop Net
- Backyard Safari® Field Binoculars

**(Provided by Cabela’s)**

**Bag Toss Game**

**(Provided by Cabela’s)**

**Washington County Golf Course Package:**
- for 18 Holes of Golf for 2 Players - Walking
- Valid Weekdays Only

**(Provided by WCGC)**

**Adventure Explorer Prizes:**

**Emergency Hand Crank Flashlight with AM/FM radio**

**(Provided by Cabela’s)**

**Cabela’s Keep-It Clear® Case & $10 Gift Cards**

**(Provided by Cabela’s)**

**Ladder Ball Game**

**(Provided by Cabela’s)**

**Family of 4 Culvers Gift Cards**

**(Provided by Culvers)**

(Continued on Page 7)
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**FootGolf Rules**

1) Please be respectful of soccer players, FootGolf players and everyone in the County Park.

2) Please see FootGolf map for routing of each hole and return your pencil upon completion.

3) Play the ball on the ground when it has come to rest. Do not punt the ball or stop the ball from rolling with the wind.

4) The ball must be played in a single movement. You are not allowed to push the ball with the top or bottom of your foot.

5) Play the ball from where it lies. **EXCEPTION:** You may mark the spot and lift the ball if it may obstruct another player’s kick or ball.

6) Wait your turn, make sure your kick will not interfere with other players.

7) The order of play is based on your score on the previous hole. The player with the best score kicks first.

8) On the FootGolf course, the player farthest from the hole is the first to kick the ball.

9) Have fun and enjoy your time at Heritage Trails County Park in Washington County.

**Thank You!**
Golf Course News

Are you and the kids ready to dust off the golf clubs and get outside and play some golf? After such a long winter the 4 ½ star Washington County Golf Course is open!! The course is located at 6439 Clover Road near Hartford and it opened for the 2015 season on Monday March 30th. This was a fairly early date for opening. You and your friends will be able to sharpen your skills in a hurry because all golf holes, the driving range, the 3 hole practice course, and the chipping and putting greens are open for play. At this stage the turf appears to be in excellent condition.

If your swing needs professional help we can assist with that. We have PGA professionals on staff that can quickly help golfers of all ages and abilities learn the fundamentals, lower your scores and have more fun. Individual and group lessons and clinics are available throughout the season and can be scheduled by calling the clubhouse at 1-262-670-6616.

To better serve our customers the County Board approved leasing a new 60 cart fleet and a new beverage cart this past January to replace our aging fleet. The new electric carts have arrived and have been placed in service. Please visit our website: www.golfwcgc.com to view seasonal specials and upcoming events. Feel free to visit us on Facebook and Twitter!

Disc Golf at Heritage Trails!

The 18 hole disc golf course at Heritage Trails County Park is being readied to reopen by the end of June. The layout of the course has been changed from its previous design to provide a more varied experience for both beginners and experienced players. Each hole will have two basket locations and two tee locations. Permanent tees will be installed later as their locations may be tweaked after the course has been played for a while.

8th Annual Kids Free Fishing Clinic

Over 1,000 parents and kids (397 kids registered) sharpened their fishing skills on Saturday April 11th at Sandy Knoll County Park thanks to the West Bend Early Risers Kiwanis, SE Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and the DNR. A free lunch combined with a beautiful sunny day and lots of help from experienced fisherman made it a great experience for all!

Boat Launches are Open

All boat launches operated by the Washington County Park System are open! The daily launch fee at Ackerman’s Grove County Park and Henschke Hillside Lake Access is $8.00. Annual passes are available for $80.00 and $40.00 for vehicles with a Wisconsin disabled license plate. No charge for carry in launches.
Enough Outdoor Time? *Think again.*

Opinions and behaviors adults in the United States have around getting outdoor time on a regular basis

**Getting Outdoors**
Nearly three in ten U.S. adults do not spend time outside daily.

- 28%

**Time Spent Outdoors**
Of those adults heading outside, quick jaunts are popular.

- 30 or minutes or less: 47%
- At least 30 minutes: 22%
- More than 60 minutes: 31%

**What’s Getting in the Way of More Outdoor Time?**

- Work: 35%
- Computers/Tablets/Smartphones: 20%
- Watching TV: 19%

**Give it Up!**
What adults are willing to give up or do less of to get more time outdoors.

- Watching TV: 46%
- Time on Computer/Tablet: 24%
- Smartphone: 19%

**What Adults Like to Do Outside**

- Getting active through sports, exercise, play: 54%
- Experiencing nature: 53%
- Hanging out, spending time with family, socializing, festivals: 54%

*About the Survey:* Ipsos online poll conducted May 2-5, 2014, with a national sample of 1,005 adults aged 18 and older, including 991 who typically go outside at least once a week. Access the survey findings at [www.nrpa.org/july](http://www.nrpa.org/july). #JulyOUTisIN.
My name is Kathy Eggers and I am happy to introduce myself as the new NRCS District Conservationist for Washington and Ozaukee Counties. I have had the chance to meet some of you since I started my position in early December 2014 and look forward to meeting and working with the landowners and producers in the area. I am a Wisconsin native with a farming background in egg production. Most recently I was the Soil Conservationist in Dodge County and am familiar with the agricultural practices of the area.

For those unfamiliar with the NRCS, we are a division of the USDA and serve the agricultural community by providing federal funding to address resource concerns and implement conservation practices on agricultural land. One of the ways we do this is through Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding. The other program we administer is the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). This newsletter article will provide an overview of EQIP. Stay tuned for information on CSP in an upcoming newsletter article.

**EQIP**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program. It supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land. EQIP offers contracts for practice implementation from 1-10 years.

EQIP in Wisconsin offers financial assistance to help off-set the costs of eligible conservation practices. Payments may also be made to encourage a farmer to adopt land management practices, such as nutrient management, manure management, integrated pest management, or wildlife habitat management. EQIP offers many practices geared to livestock operations of all types.

**Eligibility**

Any producer engaged in livestock or crop production on eligible land, or owner of eligible production land, may apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pasture, non-industrial private forestland, and other farm or ranch lands, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

**How EQIP Works**

Sign-up and details about eligible practices and payment rates are announced each year. NRCS will evaluate each application, with higher priorities given to applications that use cost-effective conservation practices, address local priorities, and provide the most environmental benefit.

Farmers will develop a conservation plan, if they don’t already have one, for the acreage affected by the EQIP practices. Conservation practices must meet NRCS technical standards. Farmers may elect to use an approved third-party provider for technical assistance, if available.

**What Are My Chances of Being Funded?**

EQIP is a competitive program. Since program inception in 1997, demand for EQIP financial assistance has exceeded the funds available. Final results for an annual sign-up will depend on the number of applications and the level of funding received.
You can now look up sanitary permits on the Washington County’s website and find out when your system is due for maintenance service.

1. To look up a permit, visit http://www.co.washington.wi.us - click on “Maps” which will take you to the interactive maps application.
2. Clicking on the “Advanced Map” feature will allow you to look up a property by address or tax key number.
3. The “Identify” icon is used to identify your parcel. When the “tax parcel feature information box” appears, click on “POWTS”. This will show POWTS components and service dates.
4. Click on “Documents” and the individual images of the POWTS permit will be displayed to view or to print.

**Note:** You must click on each individual page in order to view the POWTS permit. To view the site plan, it is identified next to the image and is labeled “site plan”. The inspection report is included with the permit images. Other portions of the permit may be listed separately such as, plats of survey, repairs and holding tank agreements or contracts. These may be indicated as being “oversized” pages. Some of the “oversized” pages may not be able to be viewed or printed due to incompatibility with computers. If this is the case, please do not hesitate to call our office and documents can be emailed or faxed to you. Pages over 8-1/2” x 14” are considered as being “oversized”.

The POWTS permits have been scanned from present back to 1982. Currently, 1981 POWTS permits are being prepared for scanning. POWTS permits from 1980 to 1969 will also be available soon. Prior to 1969, no information is available.

Need help? Contact: Washington County Planning & Parks Department 262.335.4445 or stop in and see us!
The Washington County Planning and Parks Department Land Use Division is currently finalizing a county-wide inventory of all Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) previously called septic systems. The drive to inventory all POWTS in the County is from a State mandate that directs every County to conduct an inventory of all POWTS within their boundaries. The purpose of this inventory is to identify all systems that are under no maintenance requirements at this time. The goal of the State is that every POWTS have their septic/dose tanks pumped every two to three years (three years for conventional systems, and two years for mound and at-grade systems). The required date to have all POWTS inventoried is October of 2017.

In Washington County, all systems installed since 1980 (approximately 12,500 POWTS) are currently in our maintenance program. Preliminary analysis indicate that approximately 8,000 additional POWTS are in existence in the County that are older than 1980. This is the number of POWTS that will be added to our maintenance program after the inventory is complete. Once inventory is complete the approximate 20,500 POWTS that exist in Washington County will be on a maintenance cycle. It is a goal to migrate these 8,000 systems into our maintenance program incrementally to allow Septage Pumpers to adjust to the increased amount of systems that will have to be pumped.

No date has been determined when the Planning and Parks Department will start requiring those POWTS that are not currently being maintained to be incorporated into the maintenance program. The inventory process should be completed within four months. The County will then start bringing older POWTS into the maintenance program. As is currently practiced, post cards will be sent to homeowners indicating the requirements to have their tanks pumped, and the septage pumpers will enter online the amount of wastewater pumped.
New Interactive Webpage!
Learn More About Washington County's
Groundwater Resources & Well Testing!

The Land & Water Conservation Division has created a new interactive tool for County residents who are interested in learning about the groundwater resources of Washington County and private well water testing. There are over 10,000 private wells in Washington County providing drinking water for many. Most of these wells go untested year after year. It is up to the individual well owner to ensure that their drinking water is safe for their own use and use by their family and friends.

- Learn more about the geology and aquifers of Washington County.
- Get information on how to test your own well and how to interpret the results.
- Find your own well construction log to learn more about where your water comes from.
- Learn about the pollutants that can be found in drinking water and the potential health impacts.

In Washington County a number of towns, villages and cities along with the County itself are required by state and federal laws to obtain MS4 permits. Coverage under these permits is required when a portion of a municipality is located within federally designated urbanized areas or when the population exceeds 10,000. According to the DNR, “MS4 permits require municipalities to reduce polluted storm water runoff by implementing storm water management programs with best management practices.” Below is a list of some of the permit requirements with brief explanations.

- **Public Education, Outreach, Involvement, and Participation** – Educate the public on the impact of polluted urban runoff and encourage the public to help reduce storm water pollution.

- **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination** – Storm sewers and road ditches are meant to carry only storm water but occasionally other harmful fluids and waste make their way into these. Storm sewers and ditches are inspected annually for harmful illicit discharges.

- **Construction Site Pollutant Control and Post-Construction Storm Water Management Ordinances** – Washington County has an ordinance that requires certain size construction projects to have an erosion control plan and in some cases a storm water plan with permanent best management practices.

- **Pollution Prevention Practices** – All County owned properties and roadways must meet certain pollutant reductions by using best management practices like detention basins and vegetated roadside swales.

In essence MS4 Permits are holding municipalities responsible for harmful impacts to all the streams, rivers and lakes that make most of these areas such great places to live.

(See Map on Page 16)

Well Water Test Kits
Include 8 Analyses:
- Coliform Bacteria
- Nitrates plus Nitrite Nitrogen
- Total Hardness
- Alkalinity
- Conductivity
- pH
- Corrosion Index
- Chloride

**Know What You Drink!**

Well water test kits are available for pick-up in the office. If your drinking water comes from a private well we recommend having the water tested annually. Stop in at for a test kit today. More information can be found on the website: www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd - click Well Water Testing
Washington County MS4 Municipalities

Town of Hartford
Town of West Bend
City of Hartford
City of West Bend
Village of Germantown
Village of Jackson
Village of Kewaskum
Village of Richfield
Village of Slinger
Washington County
SnapPlus (Soil nutrient application planner) is Wisconsin’s nutrient management planning software. The program helps farmers make the best use of their on-farm nutrients, as well as make informed and justified commercial fertilizer purchases. The program calculates potential soil and phosphorus runoff losses on a field-by-field basis while assisting in the economic planning of manure and fertilizer applications. Also, SnapPlus provides Wisconsin farmers with a tool for protecting soil and water quality. Source: http://snapplus.wisc.edu/

Please come and sharpen your computer skills and become more proficient in nutrient management planning for YOUR farm. Land Conservation staff will walk you through the basics of SnapPlus and answer questions you may have regarding the program. This class is tentatively planned for December. Contact Stephanie at 262.335.4804 for more information or to get your name on a contact list.

Nutrient Management Keeping it REAL

Formal Nutrient Management (NM) planning (according to the NRCS 590 standard) has become a fact of farming for many of you. Whether required for rule compliance or done so voluntarily, soil fertility management is more structured than in the past.

Many NM plans are completed in a computer program called SnapPlus. This is a very good, comprehensive, NM planning program that will calculate soil erosion, provide fertilizer recommendations, phosphorus loss, and other NM numbers needed to complete a certified NM plan. It is very precise in its output.

It is to the farmer’s advantage to think his/her plan through and make good crop nutrition and soil fertility decisions, as crop productivity and farm profitability are impacted. The goal is to match crop nutrient need with soil nutrient content and the best combination of on-farm nutrient sources (legumes/manure). Farmers must correctly manage crop nutrition, soil fertility and nutrient applications so that productive, profitable crops receive and utilize nutrients. Excess nutrients may be harmful when they enter the groundwater or leave from the soil in surface water runoff. A manure spreading plan helps pinpoint fields that need the nutrients for next year’s crop. It also helps the farmer designate the right time for applying manure onto each field. Discovery Farms data shows that excessive nutrient runoff is more likely to occur in February and March than in early winter.

Yes, there are reasons NRCS 590 NM plans need to be precise, however if you’re keeping it real, you have to understand how that plan fits into imperfect farming systems. So the message is this: “do the best you can.” Your nutrient management plan may be very precise on paper, but factor in an imprecise system. Take advantage of the information and educational opportunities to better understand YOUR NM plan and how it fits YOUR farm.

Plan early, plan wisely, the rest will fall into place…

Since 2010, Washington County has provided an annual county-funded clean sweep program. In the same year, the program was expanded beyond agricultural chemicals and household hazardous waste to include collections of pharmaceutical medications, electronics, and used tires. As part of the decision to offer a Full Service Clean Sweep, participation was limited to stay within a designated budget. The 2010 Full Service Clean Sweep Event was offered 4-times that year; but the cost of set-up and staffing the four events was prohibitive. Since then the County has conducted two collection events held annually in May and October.

The Full Service Clean Sweep provides for the safe disposal or proper recycling of agricultural chemicals, household hazardous waste, pharmaceutical medications, electronics, and used tires. Because of the high cost for disposal of chemicals and hazardous waste, participation is limited for this collection. Additionally, the recycler contracted to provide the electronics collection is also limited in their capacity to handle large volumes. As a result of these two issues the Full Service Clean Sweep Events allow for the participation of 250 vehicles per event with a $10 registration fee required in advance. Participation in the used tire collection is unlimited and disposal fees do apply. Disposal fees are paid at the time of tire drop-off and are based upon the size of the tires.

The pharmaceutical medication collection is free and each event provides unlimited participation. The next 2015 Full Service Clean Sweep Event is scheduled for Saturday, October 10th. For more information please see the website: www.co.washington.wi.us/cleansweep or call (262) 335-4808.

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Since 2010 over 200 tons of material have been collected and safely disposed of and/or recycled through the Washington County Full Service Clean Sweep! Thank you to all who have participated in the program.
There are some actions you can take next summer to protect your lake habitat health. The Wisconsin DNR has over $4 million dollars of grant funds for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) education, prevention, and planning.

The best way to prevent the spread of AIS is to stop it at the source of the spread; our contaminated lakes and streams. Boaters and anglers can unknowingly spread AIS such as zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil from one lake to another when visiting multiple bodies of water in a short period of time. Educating boaters and anglers as they are entering or leaving the lake is the best way to prevent the spread of AIS.

Through an AIS Education, Prevention, and Planning WDNR grant, you can fund a Limited Term Employee (LTE) to perform Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) inspections at your boat landing during the summer of 2016.

For Lake Associations to apply for the CBCW grant, there are four requirements: your LTE must take an AIS identification class, their boat inspection data must be entered into the DNR database, they must keep their record for three years, and they must perform 200 hours of boat inspections between May 1st and October 30th. Applications are taken on a first come, first served basis, and are due by December 10th, 2015.

Washington County’s AIS Coordinator, Bradley Steckart can provide the training of any LTE and assist with data entry, as well as keep records. All your LTE has to do is perform 200 hours of inspections throughout the summer.

This is a perfect opportunity for someone who is in need of a seasonal summer job and loves to be outside, talk to people, and/or build their resume! Bradley can also provide help and feedback in writing your grant as well!

Clean Boats, Clean Waters DNR website: http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/cbcw
Beetles Used as Biological Control throughout Washington County

What’s Going On?

Washington County has been partnering with 4-H, the Ozaukee-Washington Land Trust, Boy Scouts of America, various high schools, and individual families to grow a biological control for Purple Loosestrife called the Galerucella Beetle. The Galerucella Beetle has a strict diet of Purple Loosestrife, and has been helping keep plant numbers down in Washington County for over 15 years.

Purple Loosestrife is an invasive plant that competes with native wetland plants. It can adjust to various conditions of light and water level, and it used to be commonly planted as an ornamental. The plant can spread rapidly, destroying ecosystems that are important for other plants and animals.

A DNR grant provided to Washington County for Aquatic Invasive Species has provided additional resources for anyone interested in helping raise the Galerucella Beetle. For the past three years, Washington County has been documenting release points of the beetle to help reduce the invasion of purple loosestrife throughout our shorelines, wetlands, and highways.

What is the Solution?

YOU can grow Galerucella Beetles this summer! Help stop the spread of invasive species by getting involved in this project. It is easy, fun, and a great learning opportunity. All materials can be provided, as well as instructions and assistance. This is a fun family, classroom, club, or personal activity that helps preserve streams, lakes, and wetlands in Washington County!

For more details, visit:
www.co.washington.wi.us/ais
Our Thanks to
CHEESEVILLE DAIRY
Gordon & Kathy Michaels & Family
7660 Trading Post Trail
West Bend, WI 53090
for Hosting
Breakfast on the Farm
June 13, 2015
Kids and Conservation! Ag Day Farm Tours Educate Hundreds

In honor of National Ag Day* (March 18), Washington County Farm Bureau, Dairy Promotion and Land Conservation came together to provide fourth graders an opportunity to leave their city lives behind and “get their boots dirty.” Farmers spent Thursday, April 16 and Friday, April 17 sharing their story with over 700 students from the following 15 schools: Amy Belle, Decorah, Erin, Farmington, Friess Lake, Kewaskum, MacArthur, Morning Star, Richfield, Rockfield, Rossman, St. Boniface, St. Gabriel, St. John’s-Newburg and St. Lucas. Topics for the day were conservation (no-till) farming, agribusiness, farm equipment, crops grown, the food we eat, animal diets, milking the cows, and calf care. Thank you to Ross Bishop, Charlie Jones and Bob Falk for hosting the tours this year!

*The National Ag Day program believes that every American should:

- Understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industries.
Bees, Bats and Butterflies Oh My!

The Land & Water Conservation Division hosted its annual conservation poster contest for K-12th grade students last fall. The poster contest is a great way to get students involved in understanding the world around them and provides students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art. This event is sponsored by the WI Land+Water Conservation Association and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). “Local Heroes-Your Hardworking Pollinators” was chosen by NACD as the 2015 theme.

Nearly 350 posters from seven schools were submitted for local judging!

Congratulations to our Washington County winners listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades K-1</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Noelle Winquist</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plat Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 2-3</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Chloe Gapinski</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plat Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 4-6</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Natalie Ruppier</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Allenton Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 7-9</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Shannon Steiner</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Living Word HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 10-12</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Natalie Kaehny</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Living Word HS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on how to get involved in the 2016 competition, visit the following website: www.co.washington.wi.us/lcd under Conservation Education for Kids. Contact Stephanie Egner at 262.335.4804 or stephanie.egner@co.washington.wi.us.

*Noelle Winquist - 1st Place
**Chloe Gapinski - 1st Place
***Natalie Ruppier - 1st Place
Shannon Steiner - 1st Place
Natalie Kaehny - 1st Place

State Level Winners:
*K-1 Noelle Winquist - 3rd place
**2-3 Chloe Gapinski - 2nd place
***4-6 Natalie Ruppier - 2nd place
Planning & Parks Department Newsletter is published semi-annually for Washington County residents. Viewpoints of authors do not necessarily reflect those of the Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee or the Washington County Board of Supervisors. The Planning, Conservation and Parks Committee and the Planning and Parks Department staff encourage responses from the public.

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

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