

Sauk County, Wisconsin
Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Annual Report

2018 Mission: To conserve natural, cultural, and community resources by promoting, planning, and implementing efficient and effective programs.

Departmental Program Summary:

Planning and Zoning – Creation and implementation of local and countywide development or comprehensive plans. Administration of conditional use permits, zoning map amendments, subdivision plats, and certified survey map requests. Implement solar/wind energy systems, tower siting, shoreland zoning, farmland preservation, and floodplain/wetland zoning.

Code Enforcement - Administration of the comprehensive zoning, flood plain, shoreland protection, subdivision, tower siting, rural identification, nonmetallic mining, private sewage, manure management, and Tri-County height regulation ordinances of Sauk County. Included are violation investigations and inspections to determine compliance.

Permits - Review and issuance of land use and sanitary permits. Complete inspections as they relate to department programs and permit follow-up.

Septic Maintenance - Administration of the maintenance program / scheduled pumping and inspection of private sanitary systems. Wis. Fund private sewage system replacement grant for failing septic systems to conclude at the end of 2018.

Signs - Maintain a rural identification system in all the unincorporated areas of Sauk County. Assign, map, assemble, install and coordinate location with Land Records for GIS updates. Notification provided to fire protection districts, ambulance, post office locations, and townships.

Non-Metallic Mining - Administer permitting, reclamation plan review and inspection, financial assurance review, reporting requirements, public hearings, enforcement and fee for non-metallic mining program. Ensure accuracy of annual reporting to DNR.

Baraboo Range Monitoring - Continued monitoring of easements purchased through the Baraboo Range Preservation Association program.

Board of Adjustment - Enforcement and review authority for provisions of the county zoning ordinance, as related to special exception permits, variances, and challenges to administrative decisions through a quasi-judicial hearing process.

Recycling/Hazardous Waste/Clean Sweep/Ag Plastics - Upon dissolution of the Environmental Resources Committee and the Solid Waste Department, the CPZ Department was assigned responsibility for recycling and hazardous waste disposal. These efforts involve advising and

providing educational resources regarding recycling and the coordination of the county Clean Sweep initiative for proper disposal of household, agricultural and very small quantity generator waste.

Dam Maintenance - Oversees management and compliance with state safety standards for the dams owned by Sauk County. Work performed in conjunction with Parks staff responsible for similar obligations. Workload varies with higher needs at times of repair and rehabilitation projects. CPZ's Dams: Shanahan, White Mound, Hwy N; Park's Dams: Mirror Lake, Lake Redstone, Hemlock Dam.

Community Outreach, Education, and Monitoring - This is a combination of all educational programs within the department. This includes educational, sustainability, monitoring, storm water management, forestry, and invasive activities and efforts. These activities are necessary to complete many of the requirements and objectives in which to allow the department to gain or compete for grant funding.

Farmland Preservation - A critical component of the department efforts, the program requires conservation compliance and farmland development protection in exchange for tax credits. The program provides roughly \$500,000 to \$950,000 per year in tax credits to landowners that does not show up in the county budget. The conversion to the Working Lands Initiative program will require considerable additional staff time but will also achieve considerably more conservation as well as provide considerably more in tax credits.

Land & Water Resource Management - The County is mandated to operate under an LWRM Plan to be eligible for grants for staff and cost-sharing from the WI DATCP. These grants amounts have historically amounted to \$120,000 per year for staff and \$98,000 for cost-sharing with landowners for installation of conservation practices. The annual commitment is the time spent developing contracts, designing and inspecting the installation of cost-shared practices and issuing payments for projects implemented through these grants. The practices focus on achieving compliance with the non-point rules. Every ten years considerable time is devoted to rewriting the plan for the next period.

Multi-Discharge Variance - The County is delegated some responsibility for enforcement of non-point pollution requirements for agricultural operations. The Multi-Discharge Variance program enables municipalities subject to WPDES permits to provide payment of \$50 per pound of phosphorus to Counties within the same HUC 8 watershed to exceed phosphorus discharge limits for a period of time. Such payment is to be used by the County to implement conservation practices on non-point source properties to balance phosphorus discharge levels.

Waste Ordinance/Nutrient Management – In 2017, the ordinance (Chapter 26) was amended, to include state performance standards. The inclusion of the state performance standards has created an additional workload for staff. Under this ordinance, County permits are required for the construction rehabilitation, expansion, and abandonment of ownership of any manure storage facility. The obligation to have an ordinance is required through previous grant agreements and enforcement of the ordinance. All farms are required to have a nutrient management plan in place and responsibility for monitoring is with the CPZ. Efforts include educational programming that allows farmers to develop their own plans and oversight of the plans provided for program compliance.

Grazing Assistance - Promotion of managed intensive grazing reduces erosion and runoff pollution from farm operations. Creation and implementation of grazing plans provide farms with management options to maximize animal production with less input costs. Staff promote and advise on this transition with funds distributed through grants to the department to offset cost.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - Staff assist with the implementation of this cooperative federal/state program designed to protect water quality by buffering waters from runoff pollution. The payments made to owners are from state and federal funds and the County commitment consists of the staff time to qualify applicants and provide needed design and installation inspections of conservation practices. County landowners have received over \$1.1 million in payments for participation from the state through DATCP and \$3.2 Million for from federal Farm Service Agency (FSA) dollars.

Wildlife Management/Damage Program - Service provision is contracted to the federal Wildlife Damage Services agency. Minimal staff time is spent dealing with the occasional call, referral, approving claims and payments through committee and developing and submitting reimbursement requests.

Health Care Center Farm Management - The department is charged with responsibility to ensure the rental land located at the Health Care Center Farm is managed in an appropriate manner that will provide revenues to the County without harming productivity or other natural resources located on the property. Revenues from the rental of these lands amount to over \$30,000 per year. It is a showcase of land and farm practices for Sauk County.

USDA Assistance - Staff assist with federal program implementation to further the conservation benefits provided to the county and the cost share assistance provided to landowners. The practices installed help achieve resource protection goals. Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides about \$150,000 in cost sharing each year. Maintaining eligibility for federal farm programs provides additional payments directly to farmers.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program - The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between USDA-NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. The Baraboo River Watershed RCPP project began in 2015 as a partnership between USDA-NRCS, Sauk County CPZ, and five (5) neighboring county land conservation departments. The partnership consists of \$1 million in financial assistance being provided by USDA-NRCS while \$1 million in technical assistance and additional financial assistance is provided by collaborating partners. The CPZ department was successful in securing an additional \$1 for the Baraboo River Watershed RCPP project in 2018.

2018 Goals Review

2018 GOALS REVIEW

OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED IN 2018?
	Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
Annual monitoring of farmland preservation plan to ensure DATCP compliance.	Yes – Ongoing.
Complete a comprehensive revision of the County Land Division and Regulations Ordinance (Chapter 22).	No – Initial internal review of draft revisions is complete. Adoption to take place in 2019.
Implementation of the Placemaking Initiative.	Yes – Placemaking Planner hired to carry the project forward.
Monitor and update the Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 7) as needed.	Yes – Ongoing. Further amendments were identified as needed in 2018. Draft amendments to be completed in 2018.
Update the Uniform Citation Ordinance as it relates to Chapter 7, Chapter 25, and Chapter 22.	Yes – Ongoing. Was updated with amendments to Chapter 25 POWTS.
Provide planning assistance to other County departments and committees.	Yes – Ongoing.
Provide planning assistance to the Great Sauk Trail – Badger Unit, Devils Lake, and Baraboo-Reedsburg.	Yes – Ongoing. Completed segment 2 into Badger.
Complete process of entering/scanning planning and zoning related and BOA records into new computer tracking system.	Yes.
Provide assistance to the Baraboo River Corridor Plan/Baraboo Reedsburg implementation.	Yes – Ongoing, as needed.
Implementation of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan.	Yes – Ongoing.
Assist in the development of special purpose planning processes and studies that further goals and implementation efforts of local comprehensive plans.	Yes – Ongoing, as requested and staff time allows.
Organize and administer annual Clean Sweep event(s) to dispose of hazardous materials	Yes – June 2018 event and October 2018 event.
Maintain and assess the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue into 2019.
Continue intergovernmental cooperative efforts with local municipalities in order to apply shoreline and floodplain regulations.	Yes – Ongoing.
Provide at least four school programs to educate youth and promote awareness of natural resources.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue into 2019.
Implement the established compliant driven enforcement of the	Yes – Ongoing. Continue into 2019.

2018 GOALS REVIEW

OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED IN 2018?
	Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
County's Manure Management Ordinance (Chapter 26).	
Provide a minimum of two youth and adult environmental education activities in the county.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue into 2019.
Promote and support initiatives to reduce and eliminate problematic populations of invasive species.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue into 2019.
Work with the mapping and MIS department to ensure that all pertinent information and resources are accessible via the County's website, GIS system, and Granicus.	Yes – Ongoing. Looking at additional improvements in 2019.
Monitor best practices and distribute information about department resources and public educational activities through various media outlets, newsletters, and the internet.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue into 2019.
Assist farmers with nutrient management plans and their applications.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue into 2019.
Install Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) buffers along streams, wetland, ponds, and lakes.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue into 2019.
Complete conservation evaluations for program participants in the agricultural programs.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue into 2019.
Continue the well abandonment program.	Yes – Ongoing. While the program was thought to be concluded in 2017. Additional requests have come forward for assistance.
Monitor water quality to establish background information and identify resource needs.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue into 2019.
Assist lake associations with water quality issues and report to Committee.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue into 2019.
Install water quality improvement projects through Land and Water Resource Management, Baraboo River RCPP, and other grant programs.	Yes – Ongoing. Continue into 2019.

Changes / Accomplishments:

- The Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Department ended 2018 with changes to the department structure and updates to individual job descriptions. In order to be more efficient and effective in the programs and services we deliver, our new structure not only reassigns the workload; it ensures cross training amongst staff and succession planning for the future of the department. We continue to look for opportunities to utilize the expertise that the department's members bring to the table to provide quality policies, programs, and service to the people of Sauk County.
- August 17, 2018 was Conservation Observance Day. The event held at Echo-Y Farms owned by the Yanke Family recognized the families' prestigious honor of being the Conservation Farmer of the Year. Sauk County conservation staff have a long and successful working relationship with the Yanke Family. Staff nominated their farm due to the outstanding and innovative efforts towards conservation. Around 225 people from all over the state of Wisconsin came to see first-hand the efforts of the Yanke family. CPZ staff played a pivotal role in organizing the event, which placed Sauk County in the spotlight for new, innovative farming practices.
- Sauk County CPZ, UW-Extension, Sauk Area Climate Awareness and Action, and Midwest Renewable Energy Association undertook the "Solar Sauk County" initiative. This initiative was a group purchase program for residential and commercial solar throughout Sauk County. From March to July, various Solar Power Hours held in various locations in Sauk County aimed to help interested homeowners determine if going solar was right for them. The Solar Sauk County's Advisory Committee comprised of members of the organizations initiating the program assisted in the competitive bid process to hire a single installer to help carry out the solar program.
- The Badger Unit (Phase II) of the Great Sauk State Trail was completed. This segment of the trail is 6 miles long; and crosses property owned by the USDA, the Ho-Chunk Nation, Bluffview Sanitary District and the State of Wisconsin (former Badger Army Ammunition Plant property). This segment of the trail provides local residents and tourists with access to the unique beauty of the land and an opportunity to learn of the area's unique history, ecology, and continuing natural changes to the landscape. The grand opening for this segment was held on October 26, 2018 at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.
- In order to fund a portion of the construction costs associated with Phase II of the Great Sauk State Trail, staff led the effort to prepare and submit an application for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant. On October 8, 2018, staff received notification from the DNR that the grant in the amount of \$200,000 from the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks and Urban Rivers sub-programs had been tentatively awarded.
- In 2015, the department was awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the USDA-NRCS to provide financial and technical assistance to producers in the Baraboo River Watershed over 5 years. Financial assistance is provided to producers to install conservation practices that prevent soil erosion and reduce agricultural runoff to surface and groundwater. The department and other partners provide technical assistance to producers in the watershed through one-on-one meetings and outreach and educational events. At the end of 2017, the financial assistance had been fully exhausted – two years earlier than anticipated. In December 2017, the department was notified that it will be awarded a

second grant of nearly \$1.1 million to continue the efforts in the Baraboo River Watershed starting in 2018. In May 2018, the County Board approved a new Memorandum of Understanding to embark on RCPP II for an additional five (5) year period.

Statistical Summary:

OUTPUT MEASURES

DESCRIPTION	2013 ACTUAL	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL	2017 ACTUAL	2018 ACTUAL
Subdivision Plats and Certified Survey Maps (CSMs) approved.	2 / 63 \$1,080 / \$6,220	1 / 61 \$1,480 / \$6,360	2 plats /74 CSM's \$1,3600 / \$7,880	0 plats /81 CSM's \$0 / \$7,120	4 plats/82 CSM's \$1,620/\$8,740	1 plats / 111 CSM's \$680 / \$11,310
Planned Rural Development (PRD) (Lots, agricultural acres converted, and acres protected)	15 PUD / \$3,900 1 FC / \$150	6 PUD / \$2,100 0 FC / \$0 13 / \$3,000	PRD lots: 24 Total participating acres: 1082.11 PRD lot acres: 80.87 Active Ag Acres converted: 15.14 5% allowance: 54.10 (under by 38.96 acres) \$8,950	PRD lots: 16 Total participating acres: 702.24 PRD Lot Acres: 59.89 (approx.) Active Ag acres converted: 22.64 5% allowance: 35.10 under by 7.5 \$5,500	PRD lots: 16 Total participating acres: 637.11 PRD Lot Acres: 37.97 (approx.) Active Ag acres converted: 17.75 5% allowance: 31.85 under by 14.10 \$8.500	PRD lots: 24 Total participating acres: 842 PRD Lot Acres: 80.15 (approx.) Active Ag acres converted: 22.75 5% allowance: 42.10 under by 19.35 \$10,250
Conditional Use Permit (CUP)	N/A	6 / \$3,250	23 permits \$9,750	21 permits \$10,250	22 permits \$10,000	18 permits \$7,250
Conditional Use Permit (Exclusive Agricultural (EA) Zoning Dwelling)	N/A	2 / \$600	6 permits \$600	5 permits \$500	2 permits \$200	4 permits \$300
Land Use Issued	286 permits \$60,284	321 Permits \$68,769	404 permits \$103,667	416 permits \$114,273	402 permits \$100,246	392 permits \$104,506
Sanitary Permits Issued	156 permits \$64,650	141 Permits \$58,550	185 permits \$71,450	175 permits \$66,350	158 permits \$66,900	203 permits \$81,400
Code Enforcement Citations	26 citations \$1,489.50	42 citations \$1,201.30	20 citations \$2,458.31	61 citations \$1,154.02	31 citations \$1,077	61 citations \$2,449
Wisconsin Fund Grant Awards / Grant Amount	19 / \$59,107	12 / \$49,544	12 / \$49,835	12 / \$26,264	6 / \$28,075	2 / \$7505

Septic System Maintenance Verifications	4,476 reported \$130	5,044 reported \$70	4,117 reported \$70	5,369 reported \$100	4,495 reported \$40	5,265 reported
Non Metallic Mining Reclamation Program - Total Sites/Total Acres			32/2400 acres			32/2400 acres
Board of Adjustment Hearings/ Total Appeals	19 Hearings	14 Hearings	20 Hearings	10 Hearings	13 Hearings	16 Hearings 3 Non-Hearing

OUTCOME AND EFFICIENCY MEASURES

DESCRIPTION	2013 ACTUAL	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 ACTUAL	2017 ACTUAL	2018 ACTUAL
Soil Test / Septic Closing On-site Inspections	151 Soils Onsite Verifications/149 Septic Closing Inspections	120 Soils Onsite Verifications/130 Septic Closing Inspections	145 Soils Onsite Verifications / 161 Septic Closing Inspections	158 Soils Onsite Verifications / 157 Septic Closing Inspections	152 Soils Onsite Verifications / 140 Septic Closing Inspections	110 Soils Onsite Verifications / 144 Septic Closing Inspections
Board of Adjustment (BOA) Inspections	54 Board of Adjustment Inspections/Follow ups	35 Board of Adjustment Inspections/Follow Ups	43 Board of Adjustment Inspections / Follow Ups	38 Board of Adjustment Inspections / Follow Ups	41 Board of Adjustment Inspections / Follow Ups	38 Board of Adjustment Inspections/Follow Ups
Shoreland Zoning Inspections	126 Shoreland Zoning Inspections	105 Shoreland Zoning Inspections	97 Shoreland Zoning Inspections	109 Shoreland Zoning Inspections	158 Shoreland Zoning Inspections	89 Shoreland Zoning Inspections
Quarry / Blast Inspections	22 Quarry Blast Monitoring/ Inspections	27 Quarry Blast Monitoring/ Inspections	38 Quarry Blast Monitoring / Inspections	47 Quarry Blast Monitoring / Inspections	67 Quarry Blast Monitoring / Inspections	37 Quarry Blast Monitoring/Inspections
Code Enforcement Complaint/Follow up Inspections	148 Code Enforcement or Complaint Inspections	203 Code Enforcement or Complaint Inspections	152 Code Enforcement or Complaint Inspections	225 Code Enforcement or Complaint Inspections	177 Code Enforcement or Compliant Inspections	112 Code Enforcement or Complaint Inspections
Planned Rural Development (PRD) (Lots, agricultural acres	15 PUD / \$3,900 1 FC / \$150	13 / \$3,000	PRD lots: 24 Total participating acres: 1082.11	PRD lots: 16 Total participating acres: 702.24	PRD lots: 16 Total participating acres: 637.11	PRD lots: 24 Total participating acres: 842

converted, and acres protected			PRD lot acres: 80.87 Active Ag Acres converted: 15.14 5% allowance: 54.10 (under by 38.96 acres)	PRD Lot Acres: 59.89 (approx.) Active Ag acres converted: 22.64 5% allowance: 35.10 under by 7.5	PRD Lot Acres: 37.97 (approx.) Active Ag acres converted: 17.75 5% allowance: 31.85 under by 14.10	PRD Lot Acres: 80.15 (approx.) Active Ag acres converted: 22.75 5% allowance: 42.10 under by 19.35 \$10,250
Assist with planning & installation of cropland practices; Complete landscape surveys/inventories; and Provide soil health assessments on farms	42 Completed; 9 conservation plans; 11 nutrient management plans	50 Completed; 21 conservation plans; 75 nutrient management plans	70 Completed; 6 conservation plans; 63 nutrient management plans	86 Completed; 17 conservation plans; 26 nutrient management plans	1,254.5 Acres Cover Crops Installed; 89 Acres No-till Installed; 6,776.58 Acres NMP Installed; 2.15 Acres Grassed Waterways Installed; 81 Acres contour strips installed; 1 Landscape Surveys/inventories completed (EVAAL & Transect Survey); 3 soil health assessments completed	754.7 Acres Cover Crops Installed; # Acres No-till Installed; 7,321 Acres NMP Installed; 1.25 Acres Grassed Waterways Installed; # Acres contour strips installed; 1 Landscape Surveys/inventories completed; 3 soil health assessments completed; and 6 Nitrogen Use Efficiency Sites Established
Assist with planning & installation of livestock practices	3 grazing plans	5 grazing plans	13 grazing plans	30 grazing plans	8 stream crossings installed; 601 Acres converted to managed grazing; 0 livestock watering facility installed; 61,507 feet livestock pipeline installed; 124,027 feet livestock fencing installed;	517 feet stream crossings installed; 1,090.3 Acres converted to managed grazing; 38,743 Feet Livestock pipeline installed; 72,993 Feet Livestock Fencing installed; 2 roof runoff system installed; and 1 manure

					1 roof runoff system installed; and 2 manure storage facility closures	storage facility closures
Install streambank/shoreline protection; Sample water quality of streams and rivers; Assist with planning & installation of CREP buffers; and Decommission abandoned wells	1 landowner for 965 linear feet and 4.6 acres of CREP	5 landowners for 18,770 linear feet and 77.5 acres of CREP; and 2 wells decommissioned	7 landowners for 35,340 linear feet and 67.82 acres; and 6 wells decommissioned	10 landowners for 32,921 linear feet and 65.96 acres of CREP; and 5 wells decommissioned	5,558 linear feet streambank/shoreline protection installed; 13 of streams sampled; 47,033 linear feet CREP buffers installed; and 4 wells decommissioned	8,800 linear feet streambank/shoreline protection installed; 15 streams sampled; 5,220 linear feet CREP buffers installed; and 7 wells decommissioned
Organize annual county tree sale; and Install instream habitat practices	Not tracked.	Not tracked.	Not tracked.	Not tracked	11,000 trees sold; and 183 instream structures installed	12,000 trees sold; and 82 instream structures installed
Enroll participants in Baraboo River RCPP project	No RCPP at this time.	No RCPP at this time.	Not tracked.	Not tracked	23 landowners enrolled	18 landowners enrolled
Review manure storage facility construction and closure plans and issue permits	Not tracked.	Not tracked.	Not tracked.	Not tracked	4 construction permits issued; and 1 closure permits issued	2 construction permits issued and 4 closure permits issued
Complete farm inspections to determine compliance with state soil and water conservation standards for FPP and LWRM participants and Chapter 26	122 on-site farm inspections	179 on-site farm inspections	61 on-site farm inspections	160 on-site farm visits	137 FPP inspections completed; 24 LWRM inspections completed; and 14 Chapter 26 inspections completed	70 FPP inspections completed; 30 LWRM inspections completed; and 13 Chapter 26 inspections completed
Host tours, field days, and workshops for farmers and landowners; provide conservation education	32 programs and presentations w/ 2,941 contacts	48 programs and presentations w/ 3,752 contacts	50 programs and presentations w/ 3,770 contacts	67 programs and presentations w/ 3,927 contacts	8 tour/field days hosted w/ 113 contacts;	14 tour/field days hosted w/ 513 contacts; 8 workshops

programs youth, and outreach communications for the public					9 workshops organized w/ 212 contacts; 13 youth programs hosted w/ 1,107 contacts; 1 newsletters published w/ 3,592 contacts; 14 press releases published; 49 social media posts; and 25 Presentations w/ 1,030 attendees	organized w/ 118 contacts; 14 school aged programs hosted w/ 1,578 contacts; 8 newsletters published; 9 press releases published; 75 social media posts; and 24 Presentations w/ 792 attendees
Organize Clean Sweep events so the public can properly dispose of hazardous waste	952 participants	2 programs 968 participants; 72,710 lbs waste/tires; and 65,513 lbs electronics	2 programs; 920 participants; 91,636 lbs waste/tire; and 51,739 lbs electronics	2 programs; 882 participants; 73,814 lbs waste; 64,657 lbs electronics	2 events organized w/ 1,064 participants; 65,000 Lbs. waste collected; and 82,364 Lbs. electronics collected	2 events organized w/ 1,236 participants; 95,139 Lbs. waste collected and 85,670 Lbs. electronics collected
Organize Ag Plastics events so farmers can properly dispose of used plastic	N/A – Program started in 2014	7 programs 135 participants 52.6 tons	6 programs 149 participants 64.6 tons	6 programs 125 participants 50.27 tons	6 events organized w/ 74 participants and 21.61Tons collected	6 events organized w/ 74 participants and 22.48 tons collected

MEASURABLE OUTPUT	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Practices installed	42	50	70	86	138	74
Tons Soil Saved	1606.3	2001.09	2,005.09	2,104.11	2,654.26	3,424.25
# Phosphorus reduced			2,807.13	3,421.96	6,095.10	10,096.1
Gallons water infiltrated	Not measured	Not measured	Not measured	Not measured	62,006,880.99	76,687,200