

CONSERVATION CHRONICLE



Newsletter of the Land Resources and Environment Department

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

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Sauk County Farm Master Plan

The Sauk County LRE Department has developed a twenty-year property master plan to transform the Sauk County Farm into a community agricultural education center. The Sauk County Farm is a 566-acre property that was initially purchased in 1871 as the “County Poor Farm and Insane Asylum” to provide care and housing for impoverished, mentally ill, and disabled people of Sauk County. The agricultural operation on-site was utilized not only to feed the residents and employees on-site, but was economically productive and utilized to research varieties of oats, alfalfa, and corn. The County Farm’s healthcare institutions evolved significantly over the course of the 20th century, eventually renamed to the Sauk County Healthcare Center until its closure in 2009 and with it, the removal of most of the buildings. Most of the property is comprised of cropland and pasture, which has been rented out to local farmers since the 1980s, but the land has produced

agricultural products throughout its 150-year history. The remainder of the property is comprised of the land where the former Healthcare Center stood, wooded forest, wetlands, and streams which run through a significant portion of the site.



Historic fire house building. Photo courtesy of Maxwell Lohse.

Over the next 20 years, the LRE Department envisions the County Farm becoming an important educational resource for Sauk County residents of all ages and backgrounds to learn and research regenerative, profitable, and resilient agricultural practices through on-site demonstration, research, and collaborative partnerships. The biggest change to the property involves converting the area where the former Health Center stood, into a central educational gathering hub. This will include the construction of an indoor education center and outdoor shelter to accommodate educational groups and provide restroom facilities to all visitors. Fields shall be set aside to be used by community partners for research, education,

and demonstration of agricultural practices. Walking paths will be established with educational signage to showcase the history of the property and conservation practices such cover crops, rotational grazing, and even stream restoration practices being demonstrated. Community gardens will be established for food production and education. Space will be left available for restoring prairie habitat and the installation of a memorial garden to commemorate those that have lived and worked on the property or within our agricultural community. The County Farm will become a space where educational institutions, non-profit organizations, public agencies, private entities, and any interested person in Sauk County can converge to learn about farming and train the leaders who will carry forward our community’s agricultural legacy.

Community members will be encouraged to get involved through the demonstration fields or small-scale projects located throughout the educational hub such as garden plots, prairie restorations, native plantings, water quality monitoring, and more. New leases for the cropland and pastureland will be put out for bid in the fall, along with a request for demonstration field project proposals. Demonstration plots will be leased free of charge, to community partners in exchange for their inputs on the land, the ability to use fields for educational events, and by sharing their research. These leases will be announced in the fall on the LRE website, through social media, and letters to our interested stakeholders. Small-scale projects will be accepted all year round through an application process beginning in 2023. We encourage everyone to learn more about this property, its history, and plans for the future on the LRE Department website or by contacting the Department directly.

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2022 Sauk County NACD Poster Contest Results

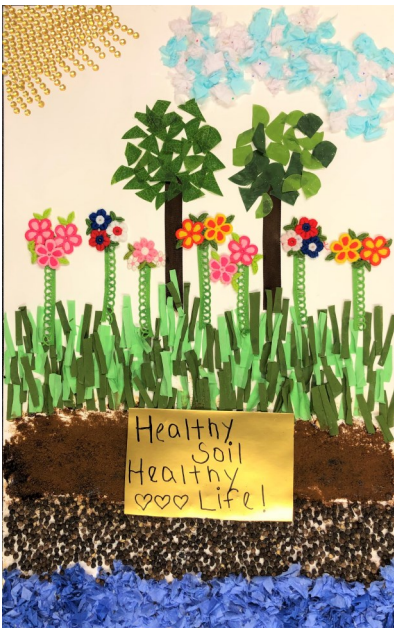
Forty-six Sauk County students in grades K-12 created posters for the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Conservation Awareness Poster competition. The Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department sponsored the program locally, encouraging students to submit unique artwork to address this year's theme, "Healthy Soil Healthy Life".



2022 NACD Contest Theme

The first-place poster from each grade division moves on to regional, state, and national competitions. Students receive prizes and awards at each level in which their posters compete and win. Sauk County awarded a special prize for the classroom with the most student participation at the local level. This year our winners received an Amazon gift card, wildflower seeds, and custard coupons, generously donated by Culver's.

For grades K-1, awards went to Paizley Helmers, 1st Place; Mackenna Herrild, 2nd Place; and Elizabeth Burch, 3rd Place. Paizley's poster moved onto compete at the Southern Area Regional Competition, where she won first place again! Paizley's poster went on to compete at the Wisconsin State competition in March, and again won first place. Paizley's poster will be moving onto the National competition to represent Wisconsin for the K-1st grade division.



1st place poster for grades K-1st submitted by Paizley Helmers

Regional Competition.

These posters help bring awareness to important conservation topics. We would like to congratulate all of the students for their hard work, research into the topic, and creativity! The judges, at every level of the competition, were very impressed with the level of creativity and thought that each student put into their poster.

To see the 2022 winning posters for Sauk County, visit our [website](#). For the results of the 2022 state competition, you can visit the [WI Land & Water](#) site for pictures of the winning posters from each grade division.

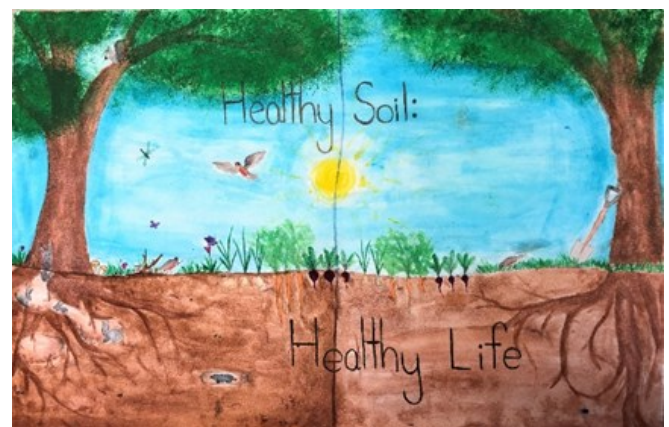
Information and registration forms for the 2023 NACD Conservation Poster Contest will be made available on our website this fall. If you would like to participate or have any questions about this program, contact Justine Bula at (608) 355-4842 or email justine.bula@saukcountywi.gov.

Awards for grades 2-3 went to Alexandra Herrild, 1st Place; Kallie Sadler, 2nd Place; and Zynita Stanek, 3rd Place. Judges also awarded an honorable mention to Fritzi Busse. Alexandra's poster moved on to compete at the Southern Area Regional competition to win another first-place award and moved on to the state competition as well.

Award winners for grades 4-6 were Elijah Quigley, 1st Place; Garrett Beyer, 2nd Place; and Brodie Ruff, 3rd Place. Judges also awarded honorable mention awards to Everett Wozniak and Olivia Eames.

The winning poster for grades 7-9 was awarded to Kessie Breitbach, 1st Place. With her first-place poster, Kessie moved onto the Southern Area Regional Competition, receiving a first-place award. Kessie's poster joined Alexandra Herrild's, and Paizley Helmer's posters to compete in their respective grade division at the Wisconsin State competition, on March 2nd at the annual WI Land + Water Conference, where conservation employees from around the state vote on the top posters for each grade division.

For the 10-12 grade division, the winning posters were awarded to Ashlyn Lichman, 1st Place; Trenna Cherney, 2nd Place; and Sydney Cherney, 3rd Place. Ashlyn's first-place poster went on to win second place at the Southern Area



1st place poster for grades 7-9 submitted by Kessie Breitbach.

Farmland Preservation Incentive Program for Landowners in Bear Creek AEA

The Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department is working with landowners in the [Bear Creek Agricultural Enterprise Area](#) (AEA) to further protect and support farmland preservation. The Bear Creek AEA includes over 30,000 acres of wooded ridges, high slopes, and pastureland in southwestern Sauk County.

Sauk County connects with landowners about farmland preservation and the benefits of nutrient management planning. Sauk County's goals are to:

- Use nutrient management planning as a tool to improve conservation and to move toward long term solutions to improve soil health.
- Increase communication with landowners they have not worked with in a while.
- Build stronger relationships through farm visits.
- Empower landowners to strive for conservation goals through education and networking with others in the community.

Landowners interested in claiming the farmland preservation tax credit, meeting conservation goals, and preserving land from non-agricultural related uses should contact the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department. Landowners in the AEA who sign a new farmland preservation agreement will receive a \$2,000 signing bonus for enrolling up to 200 acres, or a \$3,000 signing bonus for enrolling more than 200 acres. A limited amount of funding is available.

To find out if your land is located in the Bear Creek AEA, to sign a farmland preservation agreement, or to learn more about conservation initiatives and resources in Sauk County, contact Brian Sadler, county conservation technician, by phone at (608) 355-4841, or email brian.sadler@saukcountywi.gov



Sauk County LRE Conservation Technician, Brian Sadler, conducting an infiltration test with an area farmer.

About Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEAs)

AEAs are community-led efforts to establish designated areas important to Wisconsin's agricultural future. As a part of the state's Farmland Preservation Program, AEAs strive to support local farmland protection goals. Through this designation, communities can encourage continued agricultural production and investment in the local agricultural economy.

Eligible landowners within an AEA can sign a 15-year farmland preservation agreement committing all or a portion of their farm to agricultural use and maintaining state soil and water conservation standards. In return, they may be eligible to claim the farmland preservation tax credit. Learn more about [AEAs and the Farmland Preservation Program](#). To start or join a current AEA, contact the county land conservation department in the county where your land is located.

Manure Storage Ordinance Updates - Ch. 26

In January 2022, the Sauk County Board of Supervisors adopted updates to Chapter 26 Agricultural Performance Standards and Manure Management Ordinance. Many of the updates were administrative; however, below are a few changes worth highlighting:

1. Owners of manure storage facilities that are idle (not used in 24 months), must obtain a permit and properly abandon those facilities. An owner may retain the facility for future use by signing an agreement with the LRE department. This agreement acknowledges the facility is idle and it must be evaluated by a professional engineer prior to future use. All manure storage facility owners have until June 1, 2022 to sign the retainment agreement with the department. Failure to sign the agreement may result in additional action including citations.
2. All manure storage facilities must be maintained at or below the margin of safety level. This level shall be visible and clearly marked. LRE staff will be completing inspections every five years of manure storage facilities to verify status (idle/active) and ensure facilities are being properly operated and maintained.

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3. All farmers are required to have a nutrient management plan (NMP) that accounts for all the manure and commercial fertilizer being applied to their crop fields. NMPs help maintain farm productivity and profitability while protecting land and water resources. Farmers may become certified to write their own NMP after attending proper training.
4. All manure storage facility owners have until June 1, 2022 to notify the department if their facility is idle and sign the retainment agreement. Updated NMPs are also due by June 1st. Failure to sign the agreement and/or submit an updated NMP may result in additional action including citations.

Please contact Melissa Schlupp or Mitch McCarthy at (608) 355-3245 if you have questions regarding Chapter 26. Additional information on the ordinance is posted on the department website at: www.co.sauk.wi.us/landconservation/chapter-26-and-manure-storage

Sauk County Hazardous Waste Voucher Program: Clean Sweep Alternative

Sauk County and Dane County are working together to provide Sauk County residents the opportunity to dispose of their household hazardous waste at the Dane County Clean Sweep facility through a new voucher program. Sauk County residents who would like to participate in this program should come to the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department, located in the West Square Building at 505 Broadway Street, Ste 248, Baraboo, to complete a voucher form to utilize the Dane County Clean Sweep facility to dispose of their household hazardous waste. Please be sure to bring all materials when applying for the voucher program. All materials for disposal through the voucher program need to be approved by LRE staff. Once participants receive the approved voucher from Sauk County, they are then able to attend the Dane County Clean Sweep facility. Participants with the Sauk County voucher are required to pay a \$10.00 fee upon arrival at the Dane County Clean Sweep instead of the \$75.00 fee for out-of-county participants.

Sauk County residents are limited to one voucher per household per year and must use their voucher within 30 days of approval by the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department. This voucher program is for household hazardous wastes only. Any businesses, including agricultural businesses, will be classified as very small quantity generators (VSQGs) and will need to contact Dane County Clean Sweep to register and set up an appointment. For any VSQGs, there is a per pound charge.



Latex paint and motor oil are not accepted with this voucher program. Latex paint is non-hazardous, but it must be solidified before throwing away. It's easy to dry out. If you have a small amount, simply remove the lid and allow it to dry outside. Mix larger amounts with cat litter or a paint drying product sold at hardware stores. Never dispose of liquid paint in your trash.

Used motor oil may be taken to the Sauk County Highway shop during their drop off hours, Monday–Thursday from 8:00 am–3:00 pm. Please note that only clean waste oil will be accepted. No anti-freeze, gasoline, or any contaminated oil will be accepted. For more information, please contact the Highway Shop at (608) 355-4856.

To prepare for your Dane County Clean Sweep facility visit, please make sure to package any materials in boxes or rigid totes to keep products upright and prevent spills, keep materials in their original containers, and do not mix materials or co-mingle your waste in plastic bags.

For more information regarding the Sauk County voucher program or the Sauk Clean Sweep Program, please contact the Land Resources and Environment Department at (608) 355-3245 or email conservation@saukcountywi.gov. You can also visit www.co.sauk.wi.us/landconservation for a more complete list of accepted items and alternative disposal options.

Sauk County Clean Sweep

Saturday, September 24, 2022 from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Old Sauk County Landfill
E8795 Evergreen Lane, Baraboo



Dispose of household hazardous waste safely.

Items accepted for **no charge** include: pesticides, cleaners, oil-based paint, batteries, light bulbs, and a wide variety of electronics.

For more information call 608-355-3245 or email conservation@saukcountywi.gov

If you are or recently were ill, please stay home.

Stay in your vehicle at all times while at Clean Sweep. Event staff will unload items at each station.

In an effort to minimize close contact, items located in the cab or passenger seats of vehicles will not be accepted. Please make sure ALL items are loaded in the rear of vehicle, trunk, truck bed, or trailer to be unloaded by the event staff.

ALL electronic items need to be cleaned/wiped down before they are brought to the event, electronic items that are not cleaned/wiped down may not be accepted.



Latex paint is not accepted at Sauk County Clean Sweep events.



Fees for Tires

Car and light truck tires	\$6
Car and light truck w/rims	\$8
Ag and Semi tires	\$13
Ag and Semi tires w/ rims	\$25
<13" tires	\$2
<13" w/rims	\$4

Payment for tires can be made in CASH or CHECK payable to Sauk County Treasurer.

What is NOT ACCEPTED:

- Latex Paint
- Pharmaceuticals, IVs, needles
- Explosives, detonators, blasting caps
- Radioactive materials including smoke alarms
- Infectious and biological waste
- Compressed gas cylinders
- Recyclables, yard and household waste
- Asbestos
- Demolition Materials
- Mattresses

Small businesses **MUST pre-register for Paint & Chemicals with Veolia at least 1 week prior.**
Please contact Zach Davis at (262) 253-3504.

Agricultural producers should contact Sauk County directly at (608) 355-4842.

No Late registration will be accepted

Resource Solutions will accept the following items at Clean Sweep:

Please remove all batteries from electronics

No Charge: CPUs, Computer Printers, Speakers, Scanners, Fax Machines, Vacuum Cleaners, Phones, Laptops, Record Players, Tape Players, CD Players, iPods, VCRs, DVD Players, Beta Tape Players, Electric Saws, Drills, Calculators, Paper Shredders, Coffee Machines, Heaters, Game Systems, Sewing Machines, Electronic Toys, Most Household electrical items.

10 - Hard Drive Removal and Destruction
\$15 - Microwaves & Large Copy Machines
\$20 - Small AC Units, mini fridges, dehumidifiers
\$25 - Stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, treadmills, lawn mowers (oil/gas drained, tires removed)
\$35 - Refrigerators & Large Freezers
\$20 - All monitors, CRT & Flat Screen
\$20 - CRT/Flat Screen TVs 29" and under
\$40 - CRT/Flat Screen TVs 30"-49"
\$60 - CRT/Flat Screen TVs 50" and up, projection, wooden console

Payment for electronics can be made in CASH, CREDIT, or CHECK payable to Resource Solutions at the event.

Contact Resource Solutions at (608) 244-5451 regarding electronic items not included on the list above.

Harvesting Forest Products on Your Property?



The County Notice of Intent to Cut, Wisconsin State Statute 26.03 Harvest of raw forest products may pertain to you. There are two parts of the law.

1. No person may harvest any raw forest products (such as logs, pulpwood & bolts, Christmas trees, Misc. – Scotch pine pulp), or direct the harvesting of any raw forest products, from any land until 14 days after the clerk of the county in which the land is located is notified of the person's proposal to harvest.
2. No person may harvest any raw forest products, or direct the harvest of any raw forest products, from any land which taxes are delinquent.

It is the landowner's responsibility to file the County Notice of Intent to Cut, though a forester or logger can file on behalf the landowner. (Clarification on who will file, either the landowner, forester, or logger) should be addressed prior to harvesting timber. The best way to address it would be in a timber sale contract. The County Notice of Intent to Cut is free, and it must be filed **each year** with the County Clerk where the land is located. The Clerk checks with the Treasurer for unpaid taxes. The Clerk then notifies the landowner, logger, Town Chair, and DNR forester. The DNR forester checks for tax law status and tax law Cutting Notice. Notification shall describe the land by quarter quarter, section, government lot, or fractional lot.

Failure to file - Citation with forfeiture of \$200.50

Failure to file if taxes are delinquent – Citation with forfeiture of \$767.50

A County Notice of Intent to Cut is not needed for: Fuelwood for home consumption, clearing land for agriculture, boughs for own use, and up to 5 Christmas trees for own use.

Contact: Sauk County Clerk at (608) 355-3286 Fax (608) 355-3522
Sauk County West Square Bldg
505 Broadway, Room #144
Baraboo, WI 53913

Is your property enrolled in a Forest Tax Law program? You would then have to file a Managed Forest Law and Forest Crop Law Cutting Notice and Report of Wood Products (Form 2450-032, R 09/20)

The Cutting Notice proposes and reports harvesting on tax law land. The submittal of this notice is mandatory under Wisconsin Statute S. 77.06, and 77.86. Any person failing to file notice or report, or intentional filing of a false report is subject to a forfeiture of not more than \$1,000 and withdrawal from the Managed Forest Law.

Harvesting must be done in compliance with the management plan or schedule and must be filed at least 30 days prior to the harvest.

Contact:

Paul L. Kloppenburg at (608) 604-4846 or
DNR Forester - Sauk County
124 2nd Street, Room 31
Baraboo, WI 53913
Paul.Kloppenburg@wisconsin.gov

Allen King at (608) 723-9007
DNR Forester - Sauk County
124 2nd Street, Room 31
Baraboo, WI 53913
Allen.King@wisconsin.gov

Read Your Newsletter Online!

Would you prefer to read the Conservation Chronicle online? Please e-mail conservation@saukcountywi.gov if you would like to receive an email notifying you when the newsletter is available for viewing on our website at: www.co.sauk.wi.us/landconservation. This will help us reduce postage costs as well as paper. If you know of someone who would enjoy receiving this newsletter, please let us know!

We're on Facebook



Follow us on Facebook and stay up-to-date on events, deadlines, articles, videos, and more!

Search @sauk.lre then "like"

Upcoming Events

Pasture Walks

- **Thursday, April 7th at 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm:** Held at the West Square Building, located at 505 Broadway, Baraboo, in room B-30. We will be hosting a viewing of “Ranching For Profit” video featuring Dave Pratt. Learn about three core principles for increasing profit through grazing.
- **Thursday, June 2nd at 6:00 pm:** Hosted by Jennifer and Eric Rittenhouse at W9598 Co Rd O, Elroy. We will learn about woody vegetation & invasives control.
- **Thursday, June 16th at 6:00 pm:** Stop out to Jacob and Jessica Hutter’s farm, E3505 East Harris Rd, La Valle to learn about pasture plant identification & discuss all the different characteristics of those plants. We will also be discussing custom grazing.
- **Thursday, July 14th 6:00 pm:** Hosted by Bill Powers at N2651 HWY 12 + 16, Mauston. The focus for this pasture walk will be coming together to share tips & tricks learned along the way for rotational grazing.
- **Thursday, August 18th 6:00 pm:** Hosted by Connor Laukant at S5737 Rock Elm Rd, Rock Spring. Learn all about stockpiling forage to extend your grazing season.
- **Thursday, September 8th 5:00pm:** Hosted by the [Savanna Institute](#) at 6511 Hillside School Rd, Spring Green, WI. We will branch out to learn more about Silvopasture and how to manage animals, trees, and forages across the landscape.
- **Thursday, October 20th 5:00pm:** Hosted by Roger Bindl, at S10620 Weidner Rd, Spring Green. This pasture walk will be focused on grazing cover crops and will showcase information collected as part of an ongoing research project with the [Sand County Foundation](#) and four graziers from [SSWIG](#).



Pasture walk events are free and open to the public unless otherwise posted. Please contact Serge Koenig, (608) 355-4837 or serge.koenig@saukcountywi.gov for more information on the pasture walk programs or if you are interested in learning more about rotational grazing for your farm.



Bees, Butterflies and Beyond - The Wonderful Pollinators of Wisconsin

Join us for the first pollinator field day of the year! Stop out to learn about native pollinators, beneficial insects, and how to make space for these important insects in your gardens, lawns, or fields with PJ Liesch, Extension entomologist and director of the University of Wisconsin Insect Diagnostic Lab.

When: Wednesday, May 4th from 1pm until 2pm

Where: Prairie Smoke Terrace at White Mound County Park. (S7995 White Mound Dr, Hillpoint, WI)

Cost to attend: FREE & open to the public

Grazing School with Greg Judy

The [Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department](#), the [Sauk Soil & Water Improvement Group \(SSWIG\)](#) and [Echo-Y Farms](#) are teaming up to host a grazing school featuring Greg Judy, grazing expert and owner/operator of [Green Pastures Farm](#) located in Rucker, Missouri. At Green Pastures Farm, Greg and his wife Jan, graze south poll cattle and St. Croix sheep. This grazing school will begin with a classroom presentation at the UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County Campus through the in and will then head out in the afternoon to Echo-Y farm for a pasture walk.

When: Saturday, May 21st from 9 am until 4 pm

Where: UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County Campus in the Giese Lecture Hall—Room A001
(1006 Connie Rd. Baraboo, WI 53913)

Cost to attend: \$20.00/farmer \$40.00/Agency or staff


RSVP Deadline: Friday, May 13th Contact Justine Bula at (608) 355-4842 or email justine.bula@saukcountywi.gov to register.

Sauk County LRE
505 Broadway, Ste. 248
Baraboo, WI 53913
www.co.sauk.wi.us
conservation@saukcountywi.gov

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Baraboo, WI 53913
Permit No. 105

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LRE..... (608) 355-3245
NRCS..... (608) 355-4420, ext. 3
FSA..... (608) 355-4420, ext. 2
DNR Foresters (608) 235-5685
APHIS (WDS) (608) 837-2727
1-866-487-3297

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Lake Shoreline Erosion



Example of vegetated rock riprap along shoreline of lake.

Lakeshore erosion can be caused by a number of different reasons, from natural processes to human disturbances. It can be localized or widespread and may be the result of more than one factor. The natural energy of waves, currents, and ice move soil particles, causing erosion and soil displacement. Human disturbances can include powerboat wakes, vegetation removal, foot traffic, dredging, filling, or construction along the shoreline. Understanding these impacts will better help you contextualize your shoreline and how to be a better steward of your property along a lake.

There are other great resources to learn more about shoreline stabilization available. Check out the *Shoreline Stabilization: A Guide for Homeowners and Conservationists on Inland Lakes and Flowages* produced by the Wisconsin Shoreland Stabilization Outreach Project with assistance from the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation

Association. You can view the full publication on our website at: www.co.sauk.wi.us/landconservation/lake-shore-assistance-program

Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department is accepting applications for lake shore protection projects. Cost share funding is limited to 50% of the project cost up to \$2,500. Eligible projects will be practices that reduce sediment loads that cause degradation of habitat and water quality of lakes in Sauk County. These projects may include but are not limited to: vegetated buffers, bioengineering with natural fiber products, wave-reducing natural timbers, and rock riprap with bioengineering techniques. LRE staff will provide technical assistance installing these practices. Deadline to apply is May 31, 2022.

Contact Mitchell McCarthy, Sauk County Watershed Coordinator, to get your shoreline assessed and ask about potential cost share assistance to protect your shoreline. Email: mitchell.mccarthy@saukcountywi.gov or call (608) 477-3192.