

Land Resources and Environment Department: Monthly Report

Land Conservation

Highlights

- Staff completed the annual spring transect survey & assisted Lake Redstone Protection District with a transect survey that encompasses their watershed.
- Staff participated in media day on 6/5 for Farm Technology Days and assisted with staking out the vendor spaces (aka Tent City) at the show grounds.
- Staff taught 180 K-5th graders and 129 2nd graders using the Enviroscape Model.
- Staff assisted with the WI Land and Water Middle School Conservation Camp at Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells on 6/15 & 6/16
- Staff attended and assisted with Conservation Observance Day on 6/23 at Schoepp Farms. Nearly 200 people attended the event near Lodi.

Farmland Preservation Program Status Reviews



Each year, approximately 25% of the farms enrolled in the Farmland Preservation Program are evaluated to ensure they meet state agriculture performance standards related to soil erosion, nutrient management, and manure management. These standards are considered minimum conservation measures that every farm should be meeting. Farms that are not in compliance will be provided with a schedule to come into compliance, typically 6-12 months.

Another Successful Pasture Walk on June 15th



Laukant Farms hosted a Pasture Walk on June 15th. Connor talked about incorporating custom/contract grazing into his operation. This option allows landowners to have livestock on their pastures without investing in the capital expenditure of purchasing animals. Livestock are present throughout the grazing season and then leave the farm in the fall. Connor also shared information about the cattle shade structures he is manufacturing and using on his farm. A total of 50 people attended the pasture walk.

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Planning and Zoning

Highlights

- Staff working with the Towns of Sumpter, Excelsior, Honey Creek, Freedom, Winfield, and La Valle on Comprehensive Plan updates.
- Staff launching Hemlock County Park master planning process.
- Utilizing public and stakeholder input, staff will begin working with HKGi to begin identifying viable GSST routes.
- Staff continue to work with WisDOT, WSOR and the Town of Merrimac on the rails with trails connection to Goette Road and parking lot.
- Staff are reviewing a first draft of a new zoning ordinance that will replace the current ordinance and are considering a unified development code.

Junk Violation Town of Prairie du Sac



The Town of Prairie du Sac submitted a complaint about junk/illegal operation of a junkyard. PZ staff are working with the landowner to rectify the violation.

The case is at Step 11 of the violation process adopted by the LRE Committee in 2021 and is now under the jurisdiction of Judge Michael Schrenock as part of a long form complaint process. The image to the left depicts a typical junk pile on this property; there are numerous other piles. The property also has numerous inoperable vehicles.

GSST Planning and Public Input and Next Steps



The results of the first phase of Community Engagement for the Great Sauk State Trail master planning process are in! Engagement took the form of a community survey, two listening sessions, and comments provided through our online platform, Social Pinpoint. Staff will now be working with our consultant, HKGi to begin mapping out trail corridor options and alternatives. Many thanks to those who took the survey, attended a listening session or posted thoughts online. To see all of the results go to:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a150ea25965842a0aeda66cac535a0e5>

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Parks and Recreation

Highlights

- Construction at the horse campground started
- A safety meeting with Personnel was held with all staff
- The first Music in the Park event with Mark Croft Duo was held, with over 115 people attending
- The Lake Redstone Dam was inspected by the Sauk County Dive Team
- Staff started planning for Movies at the Park at White Mound County Park, which will occur once per month in July, August and September
- Staff virtually attended the DNR Snowmobile Council meeting, which discussed funding for the GSST bridge

Accessible Hunting Area at White Mound County Park



Staff has been working on developing a permitted hunting area with increased accessibility at White Mound County Park. In 2022, preparations started with planting a food plot in the area. The food plot will also act as a pollinator habitat as well. Last fall, staff sawed lumber to use for interior walls from a white oak log that fell from the park. Walls were formed in winter, and recently assembled to create an accessible hunting stand. Electricity and heat will be available in the hunting stand.

New Sauk County Parks and White Mound County Park brochures



Over the winter and spring, staff designed and created new brochures for all Sauk County Parks and one specifically for White Mound County Park. The Sauk County Parks brochure details locations and amenities of each park. The White Mound County Park brochure includes trail lengths, descriptions, amenities and maps for both the campground and horse campground.