

# Land Resources and Environment Department: Monthly Report

## Land Conservation

### Highlights

- Staff completed status reviews for the farmland preservation program. A little over 100 farms were visited to ensure agricultural performance standards are being met.
- Staff attended and set up an information booth at the Sauk County Fair and participated in the Sauk County Herdsmanship Judging.
- Staff assisted in planning, organizing, and hosting of 2023 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days (WFTD) Event.
- Staff attended and set up an information booth, ran the Rainfall Simulator Simulator multiple times each day, and assisted with and led 6 farm tours at WFTD.
- SSWIG Committee Meeting was held on 7/26 with 11 attendees.

### Sauk County Fair July 12-16



LRE and SSWIG had a booth at the Sauk County Fair. The "Soiled Your Undies" display is always a popular attraction. This challenge has been created to show how different farming practices can impact soil health. Farmers "plant" undies for 30-60 days to see how active their soil biology really is. The soil is filled with living organisms, just one teaspoon of healthy soil contains more living organisms than there are people on the planet. Microbes and bacteria in the soil will break down the cotton undies so the more deteriorated the undies, the better!

### Wisconsin Farm Technology Days July 18-20



Wisconsin Farm Technology Days was held in Sauk County last month. The three day event moves throughout the state showcasing the latest in farm technology and agribusiness. Land conservation staff put in many hours preparing for this event. Staff laid out nearly 50 acres of exhibitor spaces, organized 6 off-site farm tours, and coordinated garbage and recycling collection. Staff also set up an informational display, helped establish cover crop plots and ran the rainfall simulator multiple times each day. It was ALOT of work but a fun experience overall!

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## Planning and Zoning

### Highlights

- Staff assigned and posted 15 fire signs for the DNR at Dell Creek State Wildlife Area access points.
- Staff working with the Towns of Sumpter, Excelsior, Honey Creek, Freedom, Winfield, and La Valle on Comprehensive Plan updates.
- Staff in coordination with HKGi are meeting with stakeholders and municipalities to finalize viable draft GSST routes.
- Staff are reviewing a first draft of a new zoning ordinance that will replace the current ordinance and are considering a unified development code.

### PRD Program



The PRD program was introduced into Sauk County Ordinance in 2006. The program was introduced when it was noticed that zoning districts with 35 acre minimum lot size were losing active agricultural acreage to single family dwellings. The conservation easement restricts the use of structures used for human habitation on the easement area. The purpose is to protect productive agricultural lands, large contiguous woodlands, wetlands, floodplains, and other environmentally sensitive areas. To date, over 9,360 acres have been placed under easement.

### Sauk County Farm Education Hub Design



The County has been working with Snyder and Associates to draft a concept design for the Education hub at Sauk County Farm. This draft design is to be presented to the public on August 7th at an open house in the Community Room of the Reedsburg Public Library. Staff worked with consultants to create development phasing, traffic circulation and vegetation plans. Construction plans have been created for the first phase of development to improve access and circulation on the site.

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## Parks and Recreation

### Highlights

- The accessible hunting shack at White Mound County Park nears completion after siding was installed and painting completed.
- Music in the Park was held with Water Street Jacks performing and approximately 75 people attending.
- The first Movie at the Park was cancelled due to bad weather.
- Trails at the Sauk County Forest were mowed.
- Multiple fallen trees were removed from the Great Sauk State Trail.
- A donation in the amount of \$150 was received for continued maintenance.

### Sasquatch Search



**A life-size sasquatch was hidden in the woods of White Mound County Park. When park users find him, they simply take a picture with him, send it to our office to be entered to win a prize. Over 30 park users have found him so far!**

### Improvements continue at the Horse Campground



**Improvements continue at the horse campground at White Mound County Park. All electrical and water lines have been installed at each campsite. The mechanical building will be installed in August and the project should be wrapped up this fall.**