

# Land Resources and Environment

## Department: June 2025 Monthly Report

### Land Conservation

- Staff have begun status reviews for the Farmland Preservation Program. Approximately 25% of participating farms are evaluated each year. Visits will continue throughout the summer.
- Staff continue to work with UW-Madison Extension Forestry program staff with the Getting Started with Stewardship Field Day scheduled at the Sauk County Farm on July 19th.
- Staff presented to the Lake Redstone Garden Club on June 3<sup>rd</sup> with 25 people in attendance.
- Staff represented the department at the Sauk County Dairy Breakfast held at SSWIG member Ken Nolden's farm on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The Sauk County Rainfall Simulator was also on display at the event.
- Staff hosted a Working Lands Grassland Bird ID Training at the Sauk County Farm on June 11<sup>th</sup> with 6 people in attendance.
- Staff participated in a Farmland Preservation Program review conducted by DATCP on June 18th. Implementation of the program is reviewed every 5 years. DATCP provided a positive review for Sauk County.
- Staff presented the Sauk County Rainfall Simulator at a Cover Crop Field Day on June 24<sup>th</sup> with 25 people in attendance.
- Staff assisted with Project RED, a program focused on early detection of aquatic invasive species, on June 28<sup>th</sup> with 8 people in attendance.

### Conservation Farm Promotional Film



Filming for the Conservation Farm Family Award took place on June 20<sup>th</sup>. This professionally produced short film will showcase Roger Bindl's farm, highlight the conservation practices, and share his unique story. Roger along with DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski, WI Land + Water Executive Director Matt Krueger, SSWIG members, and LRE Staff were interviewed at the farm. Action shots were taken of Roger moving cattle and drone footage captured a view of the farm from overhead. The film will premier at the 2025 Conserve Sauk Film Festival on November 6th.

### Virtual Fence Pasture Walk



The second pasture walk of the season was held on June 26<sup>th</sup> at Echo Y Farms near Leland. The Yankes are one of only a few farms in Wisconsin using virtual fences for their grazing herd. Similar to an invisible fence for pets, the cattle wear an e-collar that is contained by an invisible fence that can be set up right from your phone. This allows the Yankes to move their cattle multiple times a day and intensively manage their paddocks. Nearly 60 people were in attendance for the event and the weather held off just enough for attendees to see the pastures up close.

# Land Resources and Environment

## Department: Quarterly Report (Q2 2025)

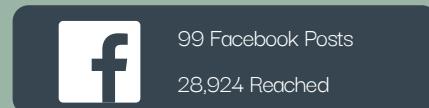
### Land Conservation

#### Output & Outcome Measures

**Share information and engage with the public utilizing social media and email marketing.**

Several emails have been sent out in Q2 utilizing MailChimp on topics including Sauk County Native Plant Sale, Conservation Farm Family of the Year Award, Hemlock County Park Open House, and pasture walks and other events.

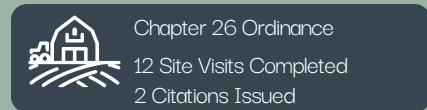
Engagement with Facebook users continues to help inform followers about programs that are offered and topics of interest. Some popular posts during Q2 included the following topics: 2025 Pasture Walk Line Up, Conservation Farm Family of the Year Award, Well Water Testing Program, and birds nesting in rotational pastures.



**Inspect farms to determine compliance with state and local soil and water conservation standards for Farmland Preservation Program and Sauk County Chapter 26 Ordinance.**



Staff have completed several status reviews on farms participating in the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP). Active participation in the program helps to reduce soil erosion and agricultural runoff.



Site visits are completed in response to complaints related to soil erosion and manure runoff. During the visit, staff verify compliance with Sauk County Chapter 26 Agricultural Performance Standards and Manure Management Prohibitions Ordinance.

**Provide outreach and education programs to school aged audiences and adults.**

Staff have provided school aged programming including the following topics in Q2: Wheat Week and Youth Conservation Days.

Adult outreach and education programs for Q2 included the WIWIC Spring Educator Conference, Sauk County Dairy Breakfast, pasture walks, and multiple events featuring the Sauk County Rainfall Simulator.



**Provide technical assistance to landowners to install conservation practices.**

Staff have assisted with the installation of conservation practices that protect land and water resources including the following:

- 10.6 acres native prairie planting
- 309 acres rotational grazing
- 314 acres no till
- 70 acres pasture improvements
- 350 ft<sup>2</sup> Healthy Lakes Buffer



Staff have provided technical assistance to several landowners this year. Staff meet individually with farmers to assist with developing nutrient management plans. Staff also survey and design conservation practices that address soil erosion and runoff issues. Some projects take multiple site visits and hours of design time behind the computer before they are installed.



# Land Resources and Environment

## Department: June 2025 Monthly Report

### Planning and Zoning

- The Hemlock County Park Master Plan draft has been completed and is available on the website for public review with proposed adoption in August.
- Annual Baraboo Range Protection Program conservation easement monitoring inspections are underway in the Towns of Greenfield and Merrimac.
- Staff met with City of Baraboo administration to discuss areas of mutual cooperation and coordination of overlapping land division jurisdiction.
- The comprehensive revised zoning ordinance has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel and final revisions are underway.

### Hemlock County Park Open House



On June 16<sup>th</sup> staff hosted an open house at the La Valle Town Hall from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. Staff presented on the goals and action items included in the Hemlock County Park Master Plan. Thirty-one members of the public attended the open house, spoke with staff, and provided comment on the draft plan. Overall, citizens were pleased with the plans and excited for additional restoration work on the property to begin. The draft plan and all its appendices are available on the website at <https://bit.ly/HemlockCountyPark> for public viewing. Staff are planning to bring the plan for adoption in August before the Committee and County Board.

### County Comprehensive Plan



We are launching the County Comprehensive Plan with our consultants the Lakota group. Staff hosted a kick-off meeting with Lakota and their subconsultants to start the planning process. Initial goals of the process were discussed along with strategies for data gathering. Following the kick-off, staff led a tour around the County to showcase, businesses, residential developments, and landscapes from Baraboo, to Hillpoint, to Spring Green and back again. The various highlights and opportunities of the communities of Sauk County were identified for future engagement. Moving forward, staff will be planning public input opportunities and reaching out to local municipalities to hear their opinions on County needs.

# Land Resources and Environment

## Department: Quarterly Report (Q2 2025)

### Planning and Zoning

#### Output & Outcome Measures

##### Land Use Permits Issued Quarter 2

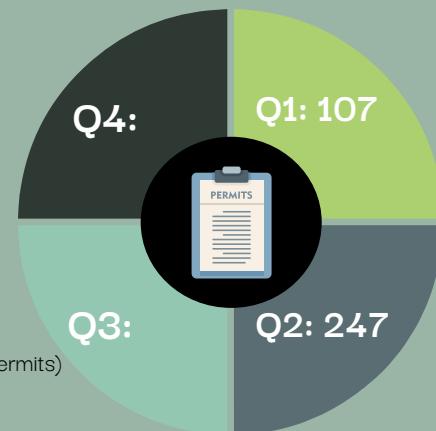
Compared to Q1 outputs, the number of land use permits issued has more than doubled, which is consistent with the start of the heart of the building season. Collectively land use permits issued for building projects typically include single family homes, accessory buildings for farms and residences, and septic systems. The estimated value of new home construction for Q2, based on data obtained in Opengov, is \$12,823,721 while the value of farm and residential accessory buildings is \$3,803,248.

##### Quarter 2 Land Use Permit Details

Single Family Residential: 36 permits Residential Additions: 14

Accessory Buildings: 74 permits (Farm: 25 permits) (Residential: 49 permits)

Sanitary: 123 permits (Reconnects: 7) (Replacements: 17) (New: 99)



##### Planned Rural Developments

The Planned Rural Development program can be utilized in the Resource Conservancy and Exclusive Agriculture zoning districts. The metrics of the program in reflect both zoning districts, however acres converted out of an agriculture use, such as crop and pastureland, apply only to the Exclusive Agriculture zoning district, which is certified to meet the farmland preservation requirements expressed in Wis. Stat ch 91. The maximum conversation rate allowed annually in the Exclusive Agriculture Zoning District is 5%.

##### Q1 and Q2 PRDs in EA



##### Land Division / Certified Survey Maps

Staff have completed or are currently reviewing CSMs that have been submitted since April 1st. Of the 34 newly created/reconfigured lots created during the second quarter, roughly 1/3rd may be utilized as building lots that can support the construction of new rural single-family homes.



##### Violations/Citations

There were 10 new violation cases opened for Q2, many of which resulted from complaints submitted by the public or a town. New violations included an illegal business, filling & grading without permits, wastewater discharge into a stream, and an unpermitted mobile home park expansion. There have not been any court hearings/court orders thus far in 2025.



# Land Resources and Environment

## Department: June 2025 Monthly Report

### Parks and Recreation

- Staff got the weed harvester out after many years and have begun weed harvesting.
- Staff have been on the Great Sauk State Trail numerous days mowing the trail.
- With the recent storms, staff spent many hours cutting down trees on the Great Sauk State Trails.
- Park's staff had safety training at White Mound County Park.
- This seasons first Music in the Park took place on June 10. Sam Ness came and performed with around 100 people in attendance.
- Staff assisted with an open house for the Hemlock County Park master plan on June 16.
- Staff prepped items to sell at auction.
- Staff moved the ceiling heater in the shop in preparation for the future building.
- Multiple events were held at the Prairie Smoke Terrace.

### Parks + Recreation Retirement



Happy retirement to our Parks + Recreation Manager, Matt Stieve! Matt was employed with Sauk County for over 29 years. Throughout Matt's career with Sauk County, he has greatly contributed to the success and growth of Sauk County Parks and Recreation through multiple different achievements. Matt's last day with Sauk County was June 18, 2025. Matt will be greatly missed but we know he will stop out!

### Delton Dam Project Underway



After many months working with the surrounding land owners and WI DNR the Delton Dam project has finally started. Staff have been on site almost daily to keep an eye on the water levels. Along with attending weekly project meetings. Improvements include installation of Erosion control measures and a turbidity barrier, demolition has started on the concrete overlook area, and excavation of the area for the gabion baskets (pictured).

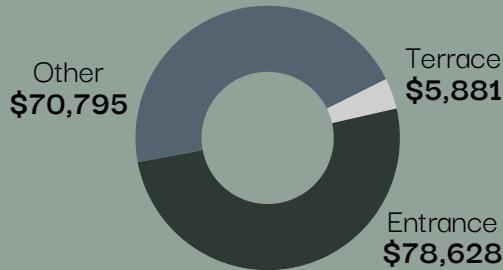
# Land Resources and Environment

## Department: Quarterly Report (Q2 2025)

### Parks and Recreation

#### Output & Outcome Measures

##### Revenue Collected



Approximately **\$153,304** in revenue has been collected from January 1 to June 30, 2025.

##### Social Media

Engagement with social media (Facebook and Instagram) users continues to help inform followers about events that are offered and topics of interest. Some popular posts included the announcement of Matt's retirement, the white deer at the park, and the horse trails being open.

**50**

social media posts  
Jan. 1 - Jun. 30

**302,800**

social media views  
Jan. 1 - Jun. 30

##### Camping Reservations



Over **1076** total camping reservations have been made from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025.

● 2025 ● 2024 ● 2023

325 268 222

Passes Given to Sauk Co. Veterans

##### Programs and Activities Offered

We have had four events including the Crossword, Egg Hunt, Guess the Temp and this seasons first Music in the Park was held on June 10. Sam Ness, a local artist came out to perform. Around 100 people came out to enjoy the music. Guess the Temp is a new event and will be wrapping up in July!

**4**

event

**8**

prizes

**535**

participants

##### Prairie Smoke Terrace & Shelter Rentals

From January 1 through June 30 we have had a total of 50 Prairie Smoke Terrace reservations. These range from weddings, birthday parties, graduations, family reunions, staff retreats, baby showers and much more. Each year we see numerous guests return to make new reservations!

**23**

Shelter #1  
reservations

**50**

Prairie Smoke Terrace  
reservations