

Land Resources and Environment Department: February 2025 Monthly Report

Land Conservation

- Interviews for conservation interns were completed on February 19th and an offer extended to one applicant.
- Staff are finalizing bid documents for the pavilion and porta john at the Sauk County Farm.
- Staff have been working with Pheasants Forever to finalize details for a prescribed burn at the Sauk County Farm on March 13th.
- Staff attended a listening session hosted by Representative Kurtz on February 10th.
- Staff presented at and attended "Becoming an Effective Communicator" training on February 24th. A total of 24 people attended the training from the Southern Area Association.
- Staff hosted and presented at the Sauk County Farmland Owner webinar series in February.
- Annual reports were submitted for the Multi Discharger Variance (MDV) program and the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Soil and Water Resource Management grant.

Annual Soil Health Workshop



The annual soil health workshop was held on February 4th. The workshop is a collaboration between multiple producer led watershed groups, Sauk, Columbia, and Juneau Counties. Lance Gunderson was the keynote speaker and shared his expertise in establishing and promoting newly developed agronomic tests designed to aid producers managing their operations under the regenerative ag model. State specialists with Extension and USDA-NRCS also presented information at the event. A total of 79 people were in attendance.

Sauk County Farm Precision Farming Review



Anna Karls with Pheasants Forever provided staff with a summary of precision farming activities from 2024 at the Sauk County Farm. Anna collects the inputs and outputs of the farm fields and completes an economic analysis of each field. Then, she identifies any low yielding areas and completes an analysis for the field removing the low yielding portion of the field. We will complete this analysis over the life of the current lease agreement and reference it when determining where additional land may need to be taken out of production.

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Planning & Zoning

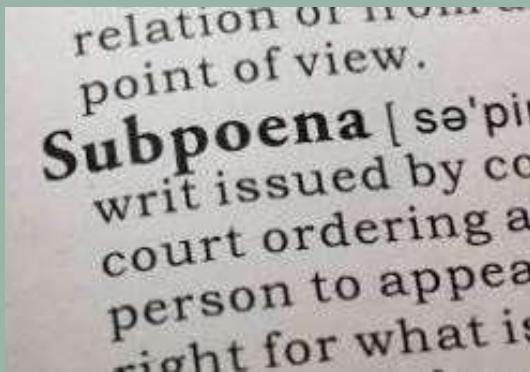
- Interviews for planning & zoning interns were completed on February 20th and an offer extended to one applicant.
- Staff conducted interviews with finalists to select a planning firm that will support the Sauk County's Comprehensive Planning process, which is set to commence later this year.
- Staff are revising the Farmland Preservation Plan draft based on comments received from DATCP and Towns.
- Staff continue to review and revise the Chapter 7 Zoning Code rewrite.
- Staff attended a communication training led by Extension Sauk County.

Annual Clean Landfill Inspection



Sauk County has three permitted clean landfills in the 18 towns under county zoning. A clean landfill is a site used to dispose of material such as clean soil, brick, stone, concrete not painted with lead-based paint, broken pavement, and wood not treated or painted with preservatives or lead-based paint are disposed. The zoning ordinance requires annual inspections to verify compliance with the material being stored and any additional conditions of the conditional use permit. The site in the picture is a quarry that is no longer used for extraction, but is filled primarily with brush and concrete as well as soil to level out the site to allow vehicle traffic to haul additional layers of material.

Subpoena Duces Tecum - A Command to Appear



Subpoenas are formal legal documents used in civil and criminal cases to order someone to bring documents or other physical evidence to a court proceeding or to order someone to appear to testify at a court proceeding. In February, a Planning & Zoning staff member was commanded to appear before a court reporter to present records and provide testimony about a civil matter regarding a land dispute. While the dispute did not directly involve Sauk County, the case included a process of 'discovery' where both parties on each side of the civil case were provided testimony by the staff member. The testimony provided pertained to timeframes, and adherence to county ordinances and Administrative Code. In this particular case, the discovery revealed that all interpretations and practices administered by the Sauk County complied with applicable laws.

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Parks and Recreation

- The accessible hunting blind application was updated for the 2025 hunting periods, and are now being accepted until March 28, 2025.
- Work continued on a stage for the Music in the Park events.
- Staff attended the 2025 Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association conference.
- Contracts with local clubs for the off-highway motorcycle, ATV and snowmobile grants have been updated.
- Most of the snowmobile trails in Sauk County were opened for approximately 6 days.
- Multiple items were sold with Wisconsin Surplus Auction, including miscellaneous lumber, picnic tables and a previously used golf cart. Approximately \$3,700 was collected from the sale.
- The Park Manager attended a career day at Webb Middle School in the Reedsburg School District.

Accessible hunting blind awarded Park Design Award



Our nomination for the accessible hunting blind at White Mound County Park was awarded for the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association (WPRRA) Park Design Award under \$250,000 category. Staff accepted the award at the annual WPRRA conference held in Wisconsin Dells. The total cost of the accessible blind was approximately \$7,034. Pictured left is the Park Manager accepting the award.

Work started on Wisconsin River Recreation Bridge



Staff attended a preconstruction meeting with MSA Professional Services and Zenith Tech, the prime contractor for the project. An access road to the job site where the crane has been stationed has been installed along Water Street. The job site will provide access to the existing bridge as well. Pilings were installed to extend their platform base for the crane and other equipment.