



Racine County

W I S C O N S I N

Land Conservation - 2017 Annual Report



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County Executive

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SERVICES—LAND
CONSERVATION
DIVISION**

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County Board Member

Tom Hincz

County Board Member

Tom Greil

USDA Representative

***THE MISSION of the Land Conservation
Division is to protect, preserve, and enhance the
natural resources of Racine County.***

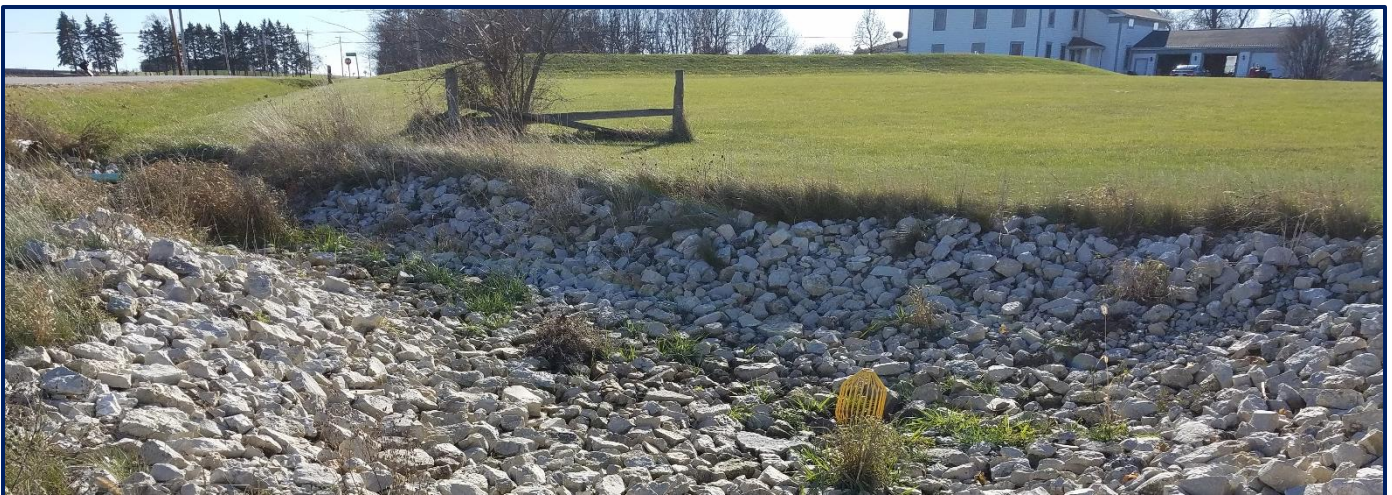
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Racine County Land and Water Resource Management Plan

Under the direction of the Racine County Land Conservation Committee (LCC), the Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP) provides conservation goals and workload guidance for the Land Conservation Division (LCD). Updated in 2013, the LWRMP focuses on preventing soil erosion and improving water quality throughout Racine County. The current plan is in effect through 2022.

In 2017, the Land Conservation Division received \$130,054 from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WI-DATCP) for staff support, and \$90,300 for conservation practice installation. With LCC oversight, the LCD staff assessed Racine County resource needs, and utilized appropriate Federal and State funds to meet soil erosion and water quality goals.



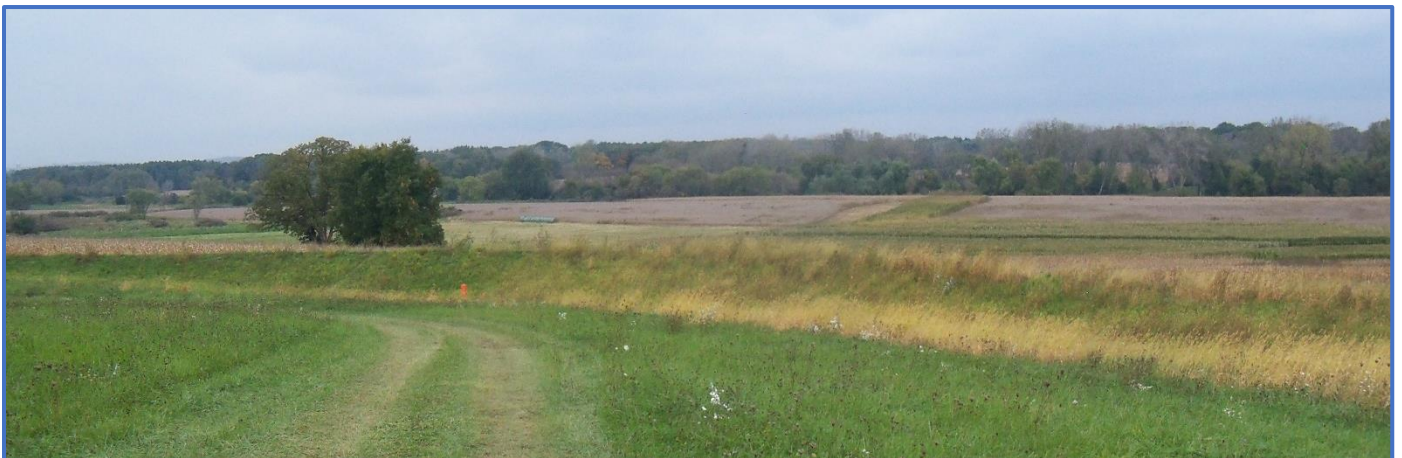
Cost-Share Assistance

Practice	Total	Unit
Subsurface Drainage	11,641	Feet
Grassed Waterway Systems	9,959	Feet
Underground Outlet	3,820	Feet
Grassed Diversion	0	Feet
Shoreline Protection	45	Feet
Rock Lined Waterway Systems	217	Feet
Fencing	0	Feet
Nutrient Management	678.3	Acres
Surface Inlet	11	Jobs
Water & Sediment Control Basin	5	Jobs
Stream Crossing	1	Jobs
Animal Waste Storage Closure	0	Jobs
Barnyard Runoff Control System	0	Jobs
Well Abandonment	0	Jobs
Critical Area Stabilization	3	Jobs

Cost-Share Assistance

2017 Conservation Practices Installed

Cost-share assistance for conservation practices is provided through multiple Federal and State grants. However, the Division's primary cost-share funding source is WI-DATCP's Soil and Water Resource Management Program (SWRMP). The maximum cost-share rate for eligible conservation practices via SWRMP is 50% - 70%. In 2017, our office assisted 13 separate landowners with the implementation of 19 different conservation practices. The total construction cost of installing conservation practices in 2017 was \$287,492.82.



Racine County Riparian Buffer Program

The riparian buffer program was funded by a not-for-profit grant called “The Fund for Lake Michigan”. The Fund for Lake Michigan is focused on making a positive impact on the health of Lake Michigan, its tributaries, and the life it supports. In Racine County, this grant focuses on habitat preservation, restoration, and the improvement of water quality in the Root River and the Lake Michigan watersheds.

Riparian buffers help to reduce agricultural runoff and erosion and are achieved by the installation of grassed buffers that filter out sediment and slow the rate of runoff and erosion. This grant program paid qualifying landowners \$3,000 per acre for establishing and maintaining riparian buffers over a 15-year contract. Racine County Land Conservation Division fulfilled these installations through the grant received from the Fund for Lake Michigan. Racine County worked with farmers to install a total of 30 acres of riparian buffers along the Root River and its tributaries reducing agricultural runoff and subsequent erosion and sedimentation. In 2017, the remaining available funding through this grant was used to install 15.2 acres of riparian buffers on qualifying properties. Our three-year contract ends in 2018. Racine County will continue to actively pursue applications for grants to create programs like this in the future. This program is very well received by county residents.



**Fund for
Lake Michigan**
Clearly making a deep impact.



A Grass Buffer Can:

- Minimize Soil Erosion
- Intercept and Buffer Pollutants
- Improve Water & Air Quality
- Enhance Wildlife Habitat
- Conserve, Beautify, & Protect

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP is a partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Farm Service Agency (FSA), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WI-DATCP) and participating Land Conservation Departments throughout the State. CREP pays landowners to install filter strips along waterways or to return continually flooded fields to wetlands while leaving the remainder of the adjacent land in agricultural production. It is an opportunity for landowners to enroll agricultural lands into various conservation practices. If you are interested in participating in this program, call the Racine County Land Conservation Division at 262-886-8440 for more information.



Eligible Practices

- FILTER STRIPS
- RIPARIAN BUFFERS
- GRASSED WATERWAYS
- WETLAND RESTORATIONS
- MARGINAL PASTURLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT BUFFER
- PERMANENT INTRODUCED GRASSES
- PERMANENT NATIVE GRASSES
- ESTABLISHED LEGUMES AND GRASSES
- OAK SAVANNA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND TALL GRASS PRARIE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION



Federal Conservation Program Assistance

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length. Contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns. This in turn provides opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and other resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. Another purpose of EQIP is to help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal and local environmental regulations. In 2017, 6 new contracts were created for a total of \$32,236. There are a total of 15 landowners within Racine County that have received \$202,942 in cost-share assistance using this program.

EQIP		
Year	New Contracts	Contract Value
2017	6	\$32,236

Conservation Security Program

CSP provides payments to farmers following their conservation plans, which are handled by the NRCS. The Conservation Security Program is important to landowners because it provides much needed financial assistance allowing them to properly follow their conservation plans. CSP also assists the Racine County Land Conservation Division achieve the goals and objectives of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan. In 2017 there were 6 newly created contracts in Racine County covering a total of 650 acres. The 5-year value of these contracts is \$108,400. There are a total of 17 active CSP contracts on Racine County in varying stages of their 5 year contracts.

CSP						
Year	Existing	New	Total Contracts	New Acres	Total Acres	5-Year Value
2017	11	6	17	650	5,480	\$108,400

Working Lands Initiative

The Working Lands Initiative was signed into law in 2009 and is comprised of the following three programs:

- Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)
- Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) Program
- Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program

The Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) has existed since 1981, signed into fruition with that year's Farm Bill by Racine County in an effort to protect valuable farmland from being lost to development. Eligible landowners located within the Towns of Waterford, Burlington and, A-1 general farming district I can claim tax credits through the FPP's "Exclusive Agricultural Zoning" (A-1) provision.

Working Lands Initiative started July 1, 2009 for WI farmers to **decrease income tax due or increase tax refund** in exchange for keeping land in AG use and complying with soil and water conservation requirements using **Schedule FC-A**.

\$5.00/acre if under a farmland preservation agreement in an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA)

\$7.50/acre if in a certified farmland preservation zoning district

\$10.00/acre if under an agreement in an AEA and in zoning district

Instructions and a tutorial for claiming your FPP tax credit is available at:

http://datcp.wi.gov/Environmental/Working_Lands_Initiative/



Farmland Preservation Program

Racine County Farmland Preservation Program

In 2017, there were 21 participating farmers enrolled in the FPP with cropland totaling 3,291 acres. The average tax credit of this land was \$1,270. All participating farms receive annual conservation compliance letters and forms for participation in the program. Starting in 2010, the State's revised FPP provisions adopted via the "Working Lands Initiative" went into effect. The County is required to spot check participating farms for conservation compliance every four years.



A farmer must comply with applicable state standards and a schedule of compliance to receive the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit even if cost sharing is not available. This requirement applies to farmers whose land is located in a certified farmland preservation zoning district (i.e. exclusive agriculture). Farmers can contact Racine County Land Conservation Division at 262-886-8440 for more information regarding applicable standards and compliance documentation.



Installation of Drainage Tile

Agricultural Performance Standards & Prohibitions

- **Soil Erosion**
Meet tolerable soil loss (T) on fields
- **Soil Erosion on Pastures**
Pastures must meet tolerable soil loss (T)
- **Nutrient Management**
Follow 590 nutrient management plan technical standard on all cropland
- **Barnyards and Feedlot Runoff**
Prevent direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure to waters of the state
- **Livestock Accesses**
Limit livestock access along waters to maintain vegetative cover
- **Manure Storage Structures**
Maintain manure storage structures to prevent leaking and overflow
- **Stacking**
Follow manure storage technical standards for constructing and abandoning
- **Clean Water Diversion**
Near surface water or areas susceptible to groundwater contamination
 - Do not stack manure in an unconfined pile
 - Divert clean water away from feedlots, manure storage, and barnyards
- **Phosphorus Index (PI)**
An average rotational PI of 6 or less and an annual PI of less than 12 on all cropland and pastures
- **Tillage Setback**
Prohibits tillage between 5 and 20 feet from perennial surface water to protect bank integrity
- **Process Wastewater**
Prevent discharges to waters of the state



Nutrient Management Planning

RECEIVE \$40 PER ACRE!

Nutrient management (NM) is a way for Wisconsin farmers to ensure that their crops receive nutrients at the right rate, time, and place to match crop needs and minimize nutrient losses from fields. Nutrient management planning is one of the best practices farmers can use to reduce excess nutrient applications to their cropland and the water quality problems that result from nutrient runoff to lakes, streams, and groundwater. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) tracks farms that develop and update their NM plans when NM Plan Checklist forms are submitted to DATCP by farmers, agronomists, and public agency staff. In 2017, Wisconsin farmers made impressive strides toward implementing soil and water conservation through the development of NM plans. Farmers can now receive \$40 per acre towards establishing a nutrient management plan for eligible cropland.

To take advantage of current available funding and find out if your land is eligible, contact Racine County Land Conservation at (262) 886-8440. Farmers may work with a crop consultant or advisor to write nutrient management plans or they may also qualify to write their own plans by successfully completing a training course every four years. Free software (SnapPlus) is also available for download.

All farmers are required to comply with new performance standards in 2016 and having a NM plan is part of that compliance requirement. Racine County Land Conservation staff will work with farmers and landowners to add new practices to those they are currently implementing. More information can be found online about the benefits of establishing a NM plan at:

http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Nutrient_Management/index.aspx.

If you are interested in establishing a nutrient management plan for the cropland you rent or own contact the Racine County Land Conservation Division.



Livestock Facility Siting

Laws, Regulations, & Permit Requirements

The Livestock Facility Siting Law, consisting of State Statute 93.90 and Rule ATCP 51, has changed how local governments regulate siting of new and/or expanding livestock operations. In 2006, Racine County adopted a Livestock Siting Ordinance (2006-91). State and County regulations require new and expanding livestock facilities with more than 500 animal units (AU) to apply for a Livestock Siting permit. Racine County continues to monitor current sites and review potential livestock facility sites.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

- ◆ Property line and road setbacks
- ◆ Management and training plans
- ◆ Odor management
- ◆ Nutrient management
- ◆ Manure storage facilities
- ◆ Runoff management

For more information about the livestock facility siting program, visit:

<http://livestocksiting.wi.gov>



Animal Waste Management Ordinance

Ordinance Guidelines

The Racine County Animal Waste Management Ordinance states that unregulated animal waste storage facilities not meeting current technical design and construction standards may cause pollution of the surface water and groundwater of Racine County. It may also result in harm to the health of county residents, livestock, aquatic life and other plants and animals, and decrease the property tax base of Racine County. It also finds that improper management of animal waste storage facilities and utilization of animal wastes, including but not limited to the land application of animal waste, may cause pollution of the surface water and groundwater of Racine County. Furthermore, technical standards developed by the United States Department of Agriculture – NRCS and adopted by the Racine County Board, provide effective, practical, and environmentally safe methods of storing, spreading and managing animal waste.



THE MAIN ISSUES

- New waste storage facilities require a permit
- Substantially altered waste storage facilities require a permit
- All cropland is required to have a certified nutrient management plan
- There is an animal waste stacking/storage setback of 20 feet from property lines
- All abandoned waste storage facilities must obtain a permit and be properly closed



Racine County Farmland Lease Program & Water Quality Analysis (MS-4)



RACINE COUNTY FARMLAND LEASE

There are seven agricultural parcels rented for farming owned by Racine County. These fields range from 6 to 51 acres, and in total encompass 165 acres of tillable land. Lessees must develop and follow a Nutrient Management Plan in accordance with the NRCS 590 Standard. A copy of the plan must be provided to the lessor every four years. The 2017-2020 leases have been awarded to five bidders. Lease rates ranged from \$70/acre (on a land locked parcel) to \$252/acre.



MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS-4)

The County's Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit requires the development and implementation of a storm water management program. This program includes, but is not limited to, the installation and maintenance of pollutant controls, or "best management practices (BMP's)", for the reduction of total suspended solids (TSS) discharged from the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS-4) to the receiving waters of the state.

Racine County is required to achieve 20% TSS reduction in its MS-4 discharge areas. To assess the current pollutant loadings and reductions from the County's MS-4 System, Racine County hired a private engineering firm to perform a water quality analysis utilizing the Source Loading and Management Model (SLAMM). The results of the water quality analysis completed indicate that the existing storm water management facilities reduce the total suspended solids attributed to storm water runoff by approximately 45.4%. This meets the current 20% reduction requirement set forth in the Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 216.

Shoreland Reviews

With increased construction along lakes and other navigable waters, it is important that the health and integrity of the land be maintained as much as possible and runoff is kept to a minimum. Usually, shoreline alterations should be avoided when they are not necessary. Leaving established native plants along shorelines helps reduce sediment and pollution runoff and helps reduce bank erosion and property loss. Staff recommendations for erosion control practices are administered for any new construction, proposed alterations, and/or additions to structures within the County's shoreland jurisdictional areas.

Staff field checks are completed per landowner request for construction, or due to public concerns and/or complaints on shoreland property to determine if ordinances and standards are being met. Typical concerns include drainage, flooding, soil erosion, and animal waste runoff. Once a review has been completed, recommendations are made to prevent runoff issues into waterways, wetlands or abutting properties. Spot checks will be conducted during construction to ensure proper installation and maintenance of erosion control practices are properly maintained. If erosion control practices are not installed properly it can negate their effectiveness in controlling erosion and will require proper correction before work can begin.



INCORRECTLY INSTALLED SILT FENCE.



PROPERLY INSTALLED SILT FENCE.



Non-Metallic Mining & Reclamation

Racine County adopted the non-metallic mining ordinance on May 22, 2001, and revised it on May 7, 2007. This ordinance requires all operators of active non-metallic mining sites to have a reclamation plan, permit, and financial assurance. The reclamation plan must comply with the State Standards in Administrative Code 135.

Nonmetallic mining is the extraction of stone, sand, rock or similar material from natural deposits. Racine County contains 23 permitted non-metallic mining sites totaling 1,834 acres. All mining owners or operators are required to identify their operation as active or inactive. A site is considered active if one load of material has left the site during that calendar year.

Mining operators are required to identify the total mining area, the active mining area and the reclaimed areas annually with the County. The total mining area is the total acreage of the permitted area allowed to be mined. The active area is the portion of the mining operation that is currently opened as part of the mining operation. This includes material extraction, exposed side slopes, stock piles, wash ponds, equipment, travel lanes or other buildings/facilities associated with the mining operation on site. Finally, the reclaimed areas are the portion of the mine that has been restored as stated in the reclamation plan on file.



ACTIVE MINING SITE

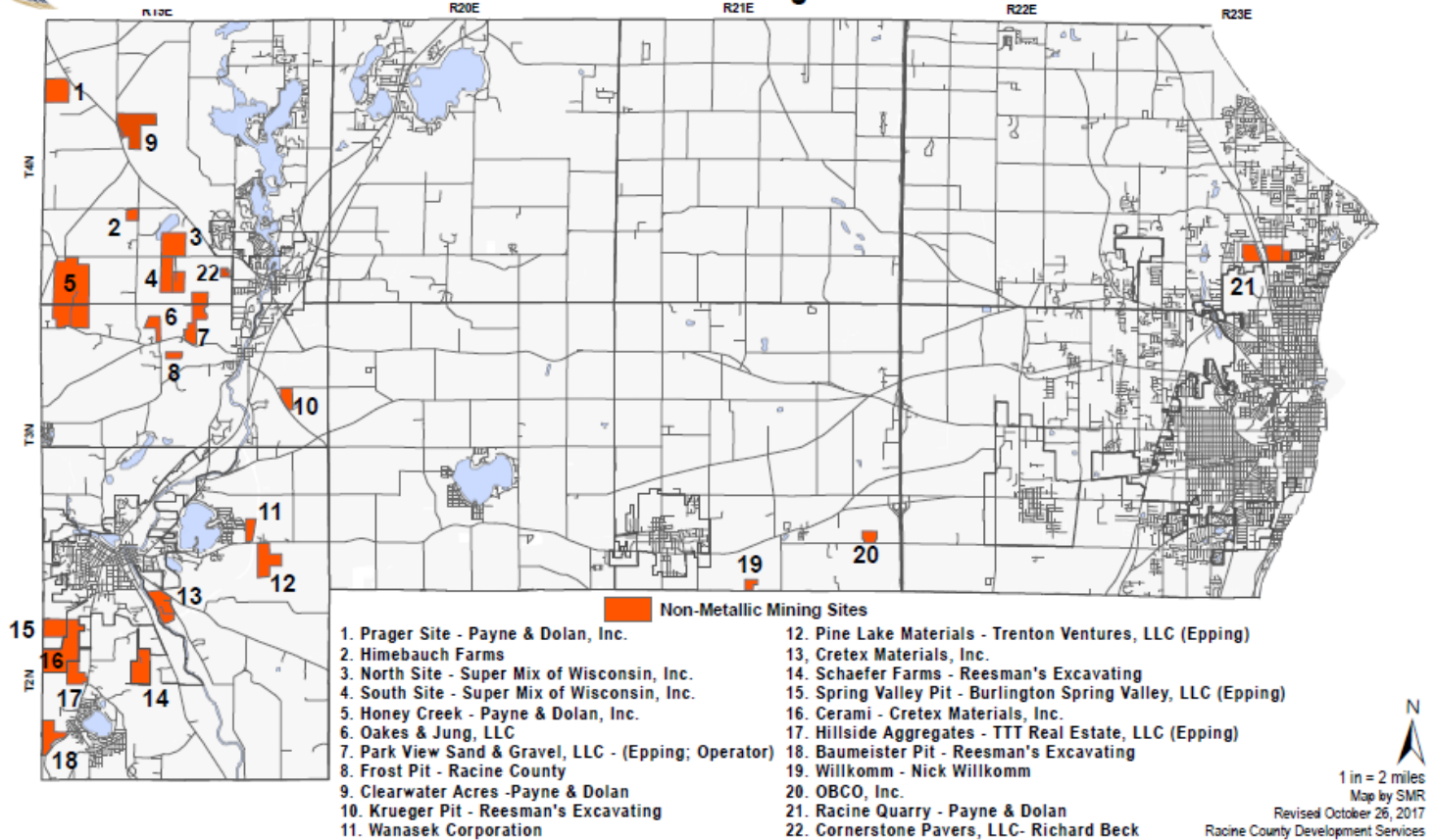


RECLAIMED LAND

Non-Metallic Mining & Reclamation



Non-Metallic Mining Sites



RACINE COUNTY NON-METALLIC MINING RECLAMATION

The LCD staff conducts reclamation plan reviews, on-site mine reclamation inspections, and site plan related analysis in reference to non-metallic mining compliance. In determining the phases of reclamation and compliance, our staff works cooperatively with private sector geologists, environmental specialists, and reclamation managers. The staff reviews include analysis of setbacks, slopes, topsoil replacement, plantings, erosion control, and other site-specific concerns. This program will ensure that mine sites are returned to a productive and beneficial land use once mining is completed.

Once a site is fully reclaimed and returned to proposed post-mining condition, the site becomes a valid asset for agriculture, wildlife habitat, or residential/commercial/industrial development. The Reclamation Plan developed is based on the desired future use. Without proper site reclamation, this scarred land could be left in an undesirable state of overburden stockpiles, dangerous vertical slopes, unwanted substances, and potentially polluted surface and ground water.

Root River Watershed Restoration Plan

RESTORATION PLAN

The Root River watershed is located in Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine, and Waukesha Counties. It reaches into eight cities, six villages, and five towns in southeastern Wisconsin. The restoration plan for the Root River watershed was completed in 2014. It provides specific, targeted recommendations to address a set of issues related to conditions in the watershed. Through the input of the Root River Restoration Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from county and municipal governments within the watershed, MMSD, the Racine Wastewater Utility, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Sweet Water, Root-Pike WIN, and others representing a broad range of interests within the watershed. Four major focus areas emerged for this watershed restoration plan from this group. They are water quality, recreational use and access, habitat conditions, and flooding.

The Root River Watershed Restoration Plan is designed to assist local units of government, State and Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners in identifying actions that will restore and benefit the natural assets of the watershed. By implementing the actions identified in this plan, results will be achieved that preserve, restore, and enrich the natural environment. This watershed restoration plan serves as a practical guide for the management of water resources within the Root River watershed and for the management of the land surfaces that drain directly and indirectly to this body of water.

If you would like to see a copy of the plan, visit the website listed below:

<http://www.sewrpc.org/SEWRPC/Environment/Root-River-Watershed-Restoration-Plan.htm>



Source: Chad Sampson, Racine County Land Conservation

Pollution from agriculture can be reduced through best practices such as grass swales and inlets for collecting and filtering runoff.



Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission

The Southeastern Wisconsin Fox River Commission (SEWFRC) was established in 1997 by the State of Wisconsin pursuant to 1997 Wisconsin Act 27. The SEWFRC was created in response to citizen and community concerns over water resources problems in the Illinois-Fox River system. At the time, severe restrictions on navigation, flooding and drainage, water uses, and water quality were reported along the Fox River mainstem and its impoundments. These problems had been an increasing concern of the communities and residents within the Fox River watershed since the late-1960s, or for more than 25 years prior to the establishment of the SEWFRC.

The initial SEWFRC implementation plan was published in 1998; another plan issued in 2011 updates that plan and makes recommendations for SEWFRC activities over the next decade. Since its formation, SEWFRC has undertaken and completed a number of significant projects within its jurisdiction, along the reach of the Fox River between the City of Waukesha in Waukesha County, and the Village of Waterford in Racine County. These projects have addressed a number of serious concerns related to erosion, water quality, and navigability of the River. Funding for these efforts has been largely through direct appropriation by the Wisconsin Legislature, although the 2017 Racine County has budgeted \$10,000 toward the Commission. The project applicants provided additional funding in support of these projects. The Commission has supported numerous projects within the planning area and has contributed approximately \$1.7 million to projects that help improve the Illinois Fox River basin. If you would like more information on this subject, go to www.SEWFRC.org.



Strategies to reduce pollution from rural runoff

- Riparian buffers
- Conservation tillage
- Grassed waterways
- Cover crops
- Manure storage
- Nutrient management
- Barnyard runoff controls
- Livestock controls
- Wetlands and prairies
- Milking wastewater controls
- Drainage water management
- Saturated buffers
- Woodchip bioreactors (trenches)
- Drain tile controls



Racine County Information, Programs, and Events

Racine County Tree Program

Beginning in 1984, the tree program has provided Racine County citizens the opportunity to purchase and plant seedling trees at minimal prices for conservation uses (i.e., wind breaks, wood lots, and the promotion of wildlife habitat). Trees are preordered and delivered to the Racine County fairgrounds in mid-April and must be picked up within two days of delivery. In 2017, the Land Conservation Division sold over 32,950 trees to 248 landowners. The two to three year old seedlings are sold in bundles of 25, priced at \$15 per bundle. A variety of pines, spruces, shrubs, and hardwoods are available for purchase on an annual basis. The program also includes native prairie mixes and wildflowers for owners interested in a native conservation cover.

For questions regarding the tree program, contact our office at 262-886-8440. The deadline for ordering your trees typically ends in February. For additional USDA plant guides visit: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>



Racine County Fair

Each year the LCD staffs a booth at the Racine County Fair. This has always been a great opportunity to provide the public with informational pamphlets and to answer questions on how the LCD can assist citizens with their conservation concerns. It also helps build relationships with landowners that have been helped in the past and people we hope to serve in the future.

Poster Contest

The Annual National Conservation Poster Contest provides kindergarten through twelfth grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water, and related natural resource issues through art. It also highlights the educational outreach efforts of conservation districts and their state conservation associations, auxiliaries, and agencies. The poster contest theme follows the annual Stewardship theme. The contest is co-sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts and the NACD Auxiliary.

Each year, the poster contest starts at the district level. Individuals and teachers with questions regarding district contests or for more information can visit: <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/programs/youth-education>

District winners advance to the state level, and state winners advance to the National Contest. National winners are recognized each year at the NACD Annual Meeting and are also eligible for cash prizes. For participating, all kids will receive a certificate of participation and the new knowledge of the yearly theme. Please help Racine County bring back this fun and educational event to the students K-12.

Racine County Information, Programs, and Events

LEAN – “Efficiency in Government”

LEAN Management is an idea based on a collection of principles, methods and tools to improve speed and efficiency by eliminating the wasteful expenditure of resources. Essentially, LEAN works to preserve the quality of a product or practice while eliminating steps that may convolute it. Although LEAN Management originated in private sector manufacturing, the tools and methods are being successfully applied to public sectors. Racine County Land Conservation has successfully used this LEAN Management in various processes. It also gives staff an effective tool to suggest modifications to procedures, they use daily, where improvements to the process could be helpful.



Brochures

Educational literature with a focus on restoration, lawn care, and water quality are distributed to the public via this office and UW-Extension online at: <https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Publication-Catalogs-C240.aspx>

Gypsy Moth Suppression Program

The Gypsy Moth Suppression Program is a voluntary partnership involving the State, County, local municipalities, and landowners in a WI-DNR organized aerial insecticide treatment to suppress damaging Gypsy Moth populations; which in turn can cause heavy tree defoliation. The suppression program sprays are completed in May and June; areas qualifying as spray blocks are determined in the fall. In 2017 there were 2 investigations, and no block sprays within Racine County.

To schedule an investigation, contact our office at: 262-886-8440 or for more information call 1-800-642-6684, email dnrfrgypsymoth@wisconsin.gov or go online at <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/>

Ties to the Land Newsletter

Our quarterly newsletter, “Ties to the Land”, provides timely updates on conservation programs, as well as news and information that can be used to promote a healthy environment. Currently, the newsletter is distributed via email. Please contact our office if you would like to be on the recipient list or read online at: <http://racinecounty.com/government/public-works-and-development-services/land-conservation/partners-resources>

Racine County Information, Programs, and Events

Wildlife Damage Abatement Program

Wisconsin has a program that assists farmers when wildlife damage their agricultural crops. The Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) provides damage prevention assistance and partial compensation to farmers. The Wildlife Damage and Abatement Claims Program is a cooperative effort by Racine County, USDA Wildlife Services, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI-DNR), to control agricultural crop damage caused by wild deer, elk, bear, geese, and turkeys. Wildlife managers issue agricultural damage shooting permits to farmers for removal of deer, and occasionally bear, geese, and turkey, that cause damage. Contact wildlife service within 14 days of the first observation of damages to crops each year to be eligible for abatement and/or compensation. If you have crop damage that you believe qualifies, USDA APHIS Wildlife Service. Contact: USDA-WAUPUN – Wildlife Service at 1-800-433-0663 or 920-324-4514 within the allotted time or online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/wdacr.html>

Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County

The Watershed Protection Committee of Racine County (WPCR) consists of a board of several local farmers consisting of Russell Weis, Randy Newholm, John Vyvyan, Brian Gunderson, Tom Greil, and Alvin Wilks. The WPCR leads efforts in erosion control, water quality improvement, and providing information to farmers and rural landowners regarding the use of conservation practices. These practices include grassed buffers, ditch bank sloping, and streambank protection. The WPCR also considers other conservation practices showing the benefits of soil health such as strip till, no till and cover crops. The WPCR also increases awareness to be good stewards of the land while improving yield. This information will establish conservation knowledge to improve land and water quality, work with all agencies and partners to achieve better land and water quality, and host field days and winter meetings to improve local knowledge. The Mission Statement of the WPCR is as follows: “Establish growing conservation knowledge to improve land and water quality.”

Deer Donation Program

The deer donation program will be continuing Wisconsin’s autumn tradition of helping those in need. Since the program began in 2000, hunters have donated over 85,000 deer which were processed into over 3.8 million pounds of ground venison. As in previous years, Racine County participated in this program in 2014. A list of state-wide drop off sites can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/donation.html> or contact Dan Hirschert, Wildlife Damage Biologist by phone at 608-267-7974.



State Mandated Services and Local Resolutions

Land Conservation Division-State Mandated Services

Land & Water Resource Management Plan: (ATCP 50, Ch. 92)

*Mandated by ATCP 50 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code found under chapter 92 (Wisconsin Statutes)
Funded by State of Wisconsin Soil and Water Resource Management Program (SWRMP)*

Under the direction of the Racine County Land Conservation Committee, and administered by the Land Conservation Division, this program protects the environment through agricultural conservation measures including: farm compliance, agricultural planning, conservation engineering, animal waste management, nutrient management, erosion control, and water quality issues related to the SWRMP.

Identifying Farmland Preservation Plans & Zoning Purpose and Eligibility: (ATCP 49, Ch. 91)

ATCP 49 is a new rule that will govern Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program, along with Chapter 91 of Wisconsin's Statutes.

Administered by DATCP in cooperation with local governments. The rule took effect January 1, 2014

Farmland Preservation Program-Working Lands Initiative: (ATCP 50, Ch. 91)

Mandated under Chapter 91 (Wisconsin Statutes)

This program reviews compliance on farm conservation plans, and requires appropriate crop rotations, tillage methods, erosion control plans, animal waste storage and handling practices, as well as nutrient management. Qualifying farmers with an A-1 zoning classification or with a farm certificate are eligible for tax credits.

Livestock Facility Siting: (ATCP 51, Ch. 93.90)

State statute (s93.90) and rule (ATCP 51)

The Land Conservation Office regulates new and expanding livestock operations within Racine County. The County uses the application and worksheets in ATCP 51 to determine if the proposed facility meets the following standards: property lines and road setbacks, management plans, odor management, manure management, animal waste storage facilities, and runoff management.

Non-point source Program: (NR 151)

Wisconsin Administrative Rule NR 151: Agricultural Standards and Prohibitions and Non-agriculture Performance Standards

This is a companion administrative rule to ATCP 50

NR 151 regulates runoff management from agricultural and non-agricultural sources. Runoff from agricultural facilities includes: erosion, manure storage, clean water diversions, and nutrient management. The manure management prohibitions include: no manure storage facility overflows or unconfined manure piles within 1000 feet of a lake, 300 feet of a stream; and/or areas susceptible to groundwater contamination.; no direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into the waters of the state; and no unlimited access to State waters by livestock.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS-4):

Under Chapter 283 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and Chapter NR 216 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) issued the Racine County Department of Public Works & Development Services a Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Storm Water Discharge Permit requirement for its facilities and property located within the designated urbanized area.

Non-Metallic Mining (NR135):

In reference to the non-metallic mining compliance requirements, the LCD conducts on-site mine reclamation inspections, reviews, and planning related analysis.

This report is available on the following website:

<http://racinecounty.com/government/public-works-and-development-services/land-conservation/partners-resources>

This report features some of the 2017 programs and projects, which highlight the responsibilities of the Land Conservation Division. If you have any question regarding this report, our programs, or the County's natural resources, please contact this office at: 262-886-8440

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