

The Dunn County Environmental Services Department Proudly Presents

# The Resource

Spring 2017

Your go-to guide for information  
regarding environmental services  
and community projects  
in Dunn County, WI

**Solid Waste &  
Recycling**

**Land & Water  
Conservation**

**Planning & Land  
Use Control**

**Surveying**

*A thing is right when it tends to preserve  
the integrity, stability and beauty of the  
biotic community. It is wrong when  
it tends otherwise.*

*~ Aldo Leopold*

**RECYCLING  
COUPONS  
INSIDE! →**



Welcome to the very first edition of *The Resource*, a biannual publication distributed by the Dunn County Environmental Services Department. The Resource will be your go-to publication for information about recycling and waste management, surveying, zoning, planning, and land/water conservation practices in Dunn County, and will serve as an excellent reference. Take a look at the exciting articles, contacts, and how-to guides inside, and look for some valuable coupons for recycling as well!

## What is the Dunn County Environmental Services Department?

The Dunn County Environmental Services Department consists of four unique government divisions working together as a team to serve the public regarding environmental policy development while ethically implementing the vision, regulation, and enforcement of these protective policies. These include the Solid Waste & Recycling Division, Land & Water Conservation Division, Surveying Division, and the Planning & Land Use Control Division.

In partnership with our diverse communities, and as proud stewards of the natural world, the Environmental Services Department is dedicated to lead and inspire our communities in the responsible care of our environmental resources. We acknowledge that our efforts and initiatives will be judged by future generations, as we strive to protect our ecosystems for all to utilize and enjoy. We respect the rights of people, and of all living things, because we share a common bond in chorus with the incredible diversity of the natural world around us.



## Cover Photo

The “**Devil’s Punchbowl**” is a unique geological feature located in Dunn County in the Town of Menomonie, WI. This small preserve features towering rock walls that form a natural amphitheater with a beautiful waterfall that exposes rocks dating back 515 million years. A small stream flows year-round through the property before entering the Red Cedar River approximately ¼ mile from the property. The Devil’s Punchbowl is an iconic signature property, and renowned throughout Dunn County for its scenic beauty as well as its share of memories for residents and visitors alike.



Front Cover photo provided by Adam Dorn Photography.  
[www.adamdornphoto.com](http://www.adamdornphoto.com)



Printed on recycled & recyclable paper

# DUNN COUNTY Wisconsin

## Inside this Guide:



<b>Solid Waste &amp; Recycling Division</b> .....	4
2017 Spring Hazardous Waste Collection Event .....	4
Why do Latex Paints Incur a Fee? .....	6
Recycling Makes Perfect Sense .....	6
Backyard Composting .....	8
Soda & Beer Boxes - Now Recyclable! .....	8
Agricultural Plastic Film Recycling .....	9
#1 PET Thermoform Recycling Pilot Program .....	9
Dunn County Recycling Guide .....	10
Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities and Hours of Operation .....	11
<b>Land &amp; Water Conservation Division</b> .....	12
Water Quality Initiatives in Dunn County .....	13
Today's Youth...Tomorrow's Stewards .....	14
Get Rich or Farm Trying .....	15
Manure Management Ordinance .....	16
Buy Local & Permitted, Gain Reclaimed Land! .....	17
Invasive Plants .....	18
<b>Survey Division</b> .....	19
Survey Map Review .....	20
Reestablishment, Preservation & Maintenance of the Public Land Survey System .....	20
Public Land Survey System .....	20
Survey Records .....	22
Work for Other County Agencies .....	23
Frequently Asked Questions .....	23
<b>Planning &amp; Land Use Control Division</b> .....	25
Planning: A Vision for the Future .....	25
What is a Comprehensive Plan? .....	27
Planning is Not Zoning .....	28
Zoning 101 .....	29
What Can I Do on My Property? .....	31
How Do I Get a Zoning Permit? .....	31



For a 2017 Solid Waste Permit, contact the Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Office by calling 715-232-4017 or e-mailing [swr@co.dunn.wi.us](mailto:swr@co.dunn.wi.us), or contact your Municipal Treasurer.

**01234**

# Solid Waste & Recycling Division

## Office Address:

800 Wilson Avenue, Room 235  
Menomonie, WI 54751

## Office Hours:

Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

## Office Phone:

715-232-4017

[www.co.dunn.wi.us/swr](http://www.co.dunn.wi.us/swr)

Morgan Gerk – Director

Amanda Haffele – Recycling  
Specialist

Diane Duerst – Support Specialist



Solid Waste & Recycling Division Staff Photo

L to R: Amanda Haffele, Morgan Gerk, Diane Duerst



[dunncountyrecycling](https://www.facebook.com/dunncountyrecycling)

## 2017 Spring Hazardous Waste Collection Event

You've asked for it, and we delivered! Residents will have more opportunities this year to dispose of hazardous wastes and unwanted chemicals. In addition to Dunn County's annual fall collection event (September 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>), Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling is bringing back its Spring Hazardous Waste Collection Event! This event will take place on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Dunn County Highway Shop in Boyceville, and on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Dunn County Transfer Station & Recycling Center in Menomonie.

Appropriate items for these collection events include wastes and unwanted chemicals from automotive, garden, garage, workshop, or household sources that are labeled toxic, caustic, poisonous, corrosive, flammable, etc. By disposing of these materials in a safe, legal, and environmentally responsible manner, you are helping to keep Dunn County clean and green! For an expanded list of acceptable hazardous materials, go to the Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Division's event webpage at [www.co.dunn.wi.us/hazardouswaste](http://www.co.dunn.wi.us/hazardouswaste), or call the Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Division office at 715-232-4017.



**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR VSQG BUSINESSES & FARMS:** All VSQG businesses and farms must pre-register by Friday, April 21, 2017, with the Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Division at 715-232-4017 or online by using the fillable form at [www.co.dunn.wi.us/hazardouswaste](http://www.co.dunn.wi.us/hazardouswaste). You will be asked for a list of materials you plan to dispose of, the quantities you have, and if leak proof containers are available for transportation. Special arrangements can be made in advance of the event for safe transportation of your materials if suitable containers are not available to you.

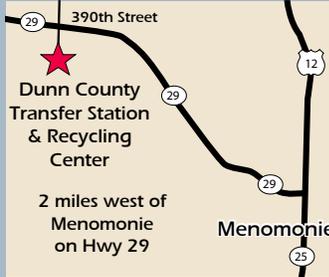


**Wednesday, April 26, 2017 (New Location)**

**Dunn County Highway Shop- Boyceville**

1220 State Road 79, Boyceville, WI

4:00pm to 6:00pm for Households, VSQG Businesses, and Farms



**Thursday, April 27, 2017**

**Dunn County Transfer Station & Recycling Center**

E3900 Hwy 29, Menomonie, WI

2:00pm to 3:00pm for VSQG Businesses

3:00pm to 4:00pm for Farms

4:00pm to 7:00pm for Households

Recycle up to (5) one-pound Propane Gas Cylinders for **FREE** in the Month of July, 2017

Resident Name & Address

Limit one coupon per household, per month

**TIP: Recycle alkaline batteries and propane or helium gas cylinders for FREE during this event! Other gases may incur a fee.**

**Costs of Disposal:**

VSQG Businesses - Costs for businesses classified as "Very Small Quantity Generators" (VSQG) will be significantly less than on-site pick-up by a licensed hazardous waste hauler. To be considered a VSQG business, no more than 220 pounds of hazardous waste can be generated in a single month, and no more than 2,205 pounds of hazardous waste can be accumulated at your facility at any time.

Farms & Households - There is no charge for household or agricultural hazardous waste or chemicals, except for **latex paints**.



Merien DeRaad and John Reneau prepare antifreeze for recycling during the 2016 Fall Hazardous Waste Collection Event at the Transfer Station & Recycling Center.

**Costs for Latex Paints:** \$1 pint, \$2 quart, \$4 gallon, \$20 five-gallon bucket. The charge is based on the size of the container, not the amount of paint remaining in the container, so consolidate and save money.

If you can't fit any of the 2017 Dunn County Collection Events into your schedule, residents may also utilize the St. Croix County and Polk County Hazardous Waste Collection Events. Dates are as follows: May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, or October 6<sup>th</sup> in St. Croix County, and August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Polk County. If you wish to utilize one of these events call the Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Office at 715-232-4017 for more details.

**\$5 off (1) TV or Computer Monitor Recycling Fee in the Month of September, 2017**

Resident Name & Address

Limit one coupon per household, per month

**Thank you for participating in these events to ensure that your hazardous materials are being legally and responsibly disposed of!**

## Why do Latex Paints Incur a Fee at Hazardous Waste Collection Events?

The funding for the Dunn County Hazardous Waste Collection Events is supported through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. This grant only covers items that are defined as hazardous, and latex paint, when used and disposed of properly, is not considered hazardous by definition. However, liquid latex paint that is not disposed of properly and responsibly can cause tremendous environmental harm, and it is therefore accepted at these events as a separate fee item to cover the costs of disposal.

**TIP:** If latex paint is completely dried out, it can be disposed of safely in the trash. Latex paint can also be hardened within a couple of days by filling the can with kitty litter or other granular absorbents such as "oil-dri." Once the paint is dry, the container can be discarded.



## Recycling Makes Perfect Sense

Most residents of Dunn County do a fantastic job of ensuring that they separate and recycle everything they can in their curbside bins, at the various Dunn County Area Collection Stations, and at the Dunn County Transfer Station & Recycling Center. Despite this excellent level of participation in recycling, some residents question why recycling is such a priority for Dunn County. There are two main reasons why you *must* recycle in Dunn County, and throughout the State of Wisconsin.

- 1) Recycling is mandatory and required by Wisconsin Law. The **Solid Waste Reduction, Recovery and Recycling Law** was enacted in 1990 to promote the development of responsible waste management policies and structures to encourage the reduction, reuse, and/or recycling of Wisconsin's solid waste. When the law passed, only 17 percent of total municipal solid waste was being recycled. As public awareness increased through broader efforts in educational outreach and programs, studies showed the percentage had climbed to 36 percent by 2009. Today, recycling markets and financial opportunities are rapidly expanding due to increased incentives, technological advancements, and industry-related job creation in Wisconsin. All of these positive effects of recycling result in the diversion of wastes from landfills at a greater percentage rate than ever before.

*Wisconsin's recycling law applies to everyone in the state, including all residences, businesses, and farms, and also prohibits anyone from burning trash and/or recyclable materials. It is illegal to burn garbage, oily substances, asphalt and tarred materials, tires and rubber products, and plastic of any kind, including agricultural and horticultural plastics like silage film, feed bags, bale wrap, woven tarps, and nursery pots and trays. Open burning of any waste material is illegal because it results in toxic air pollution, causes health problems, poisons the environment, and is also the leading cause of wildfires in Wisconsin.*



Sergeant Scott McRoberts of the Dunn County Sheriff's Office demonstrating recycling at the Judicial Center.

- 2) Recycling makes perfect sense for a number of reasons. Materials that are recycled help to conserve our natural resources and raw materials for future generations, decrease our energy consumption when manufacturing new products, and supports our responsibility to protect and preserve our world through accountable environmental stewardship. When we fail to recycle properly, all of these benefits are lost. We consume resources and energy at unsustainable rates, increase costs associated with the production of everyday items, and we put ourselves and all living things at great risk from the resulting negative effects of environmental degradation.

Recycling supports jobs and strengthens economic growth in Wisconsin. When recyclable materials are sent to landfills, our industries lose valuable resources. By recycling everything you can, you are helping to bolster employment opportunities and fuel the growing recycling industry in Wisconsin. As stated above, most residents of Dunn County enjoy recycling and are in compliance with Wisconsin recycling laws, but there is tremendous need for improvement. On any given day at the Dunn County Transfer Station, thousands of perfectly recyclable items are dumped from garbage trucks onto the tipping floor, and are loaded into trash hauling trucks destined for the landfill.



*Recyclables found inside of a trash bag demonstrate the need for increased recycling awareness and compliance in Dunn County.*

Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling staff do their best to collect and divert as much of these recyclables as possible by carefully looking over the trash to find and remove as many bottles, cans, jugs, cardboard, metals, electronics, and other recyclable materials as possible, before they are loaded into trucks as landfill waste.

Needless to say, this is a filthy and unenviable responsibility that few people would consider, yet there is incredible passion and stewardship mentality that exists in these individuals. This is why it is critically important that you help us in our efforts to eliminate the mixing of recyclables with common trash from your households, businesses, and farms. At the Transfer Station, all recyclables are sorted according to type and grade, and then mechanically baled in preparation for shipping to end recyclers that utilize the material in the making of

new products. The revenue that is generated from the sale of these commodities is used to offset the costs associated with our solid waste & recycling programs, which in turn helps minimize the per-capita fees that are paid for by participating municipalities.

To some, mandatory recycling requirements may be difficult to understand. The Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Division stands ready to assist you, and is an excellent resource for residents to contact for support in achieving compliance with Wisconsin recycling laws. This year more than ever before, we will be increasing our efforts to control and mitigate non-compliance through direct communication and outreach to urban and rural households, businesses, factories, farms, restaurants, trailer parks, and rental units that need assistance in understanding their recycling responsibilities. By actively participating in these efforts, you avoid the potential of receiving embarrassing letters of non-compliance, or ultimately, incurring significant fines as a result of refusal to comply with the law. Remember, we are all in this together, to improve our lives and those of all living things by taking on the responsibility of good environmental stewardship in Dunn County. Your efforts matter, and are greatly appreciated.

**Recycling makes perfect sense ...**



*Workers at the Dunn County Transfer Station remove valuable metals from the tipping floor trash pile for recycling.*

**\$5 off (1) Construction & Demolition Fee  
in the Month of May, 2017**



Resident Name & Address

Limit one coupon per household, per month



## Backyard Composting

The National Composting Council estimates that the average U.S. household generates 650 pounds of compostable items every year. Composting is a great way to deal with food waste, leaves, and grass clippings. Backyard compost systems reduce the amount of waste going to a landfill and keeps household garbage odors at bay. Finished compost is a valuable soil amendment that increases the health of the soil and the plants that grow in it. When composting at home it is important to remember that a healthy compost pile needs food, oxygen and water to function properly.

Finished compost is dark, loose, crumbly, and has an earthy smell. The original materials will be unrecognizable once broken down, and the pile will have shrunk to one-third of its original volume. To test whether your compost is finished or is done “cooking”, try a simple bag test. Using a sealable plastic bag, add a sample of compost and let it sit for a week, then open the bag and check for any odors. If the compost has an ammonia smell, the process needs more time to cook and finish breaking down the material.

Finished compost can be added to gardens, flower beds, and lawns. It also makes an excellent soil additive for house plants. In areas with sandy soils it will increase the soil’s ability to hold water and nutrients. In areas with clay soils it will create pores throughout the soil that allow water to drain and encourages plant roots to spread. Compost adds beneficial slow-release macro and micronutrients, absent in most synthetic fertilizers, which can stay in the soil for years.



Backyard compost bins are available for purchase at the Dunn County Transfer Station & Recycling Center and at the Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling office. The Home Composter holds 13 cubic feet of material, is 2.5 feet tall and 3 feet wide. It is made from 100% recycled materials. Bins are \$55 each.

## Soda and Beer Boxes - Now Recyclable!

Beverage fridge packs and frozen food boxes, also known as “Carrier Stock” in the paper recycling industry, can now be recycled in Dunn County. Examples of common carrier stock include soda and beer fridge packs, and frozen food boxes for pizzas, sandwiches, vegetables, etc. Residents can now recycle these items curbside with other cardboard such as corrugated boxes, cracker, and cereal boxes, or bring them to any of the Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities, where there will be dedicated bins for collection of these materials.



In the past, recycling markets were extremely limited for this type of fiber. Thanks to advancements in the way the paper recycling industry processes this material, attendants have begun sorting these boxes for proper recycling. Once separated from normal cardboard materials, the carrier stock is acceptable as its own unique form of recyclable fiber.



Carrier stock is baled and shipped to paper recycling mills independently from other common cardboard and paper stocks. When it arrives at a mill, it’s processed differently than other recyclable fiber due to its unique construction, which gives the material greater rigidity and resistance to moisture- a property referred to as “wet strength”. To aid in the processing of carrier stock at the mill, it must be soaked for longer periods, and an additive is mixed into the material to aid in the breakdown of the fibers during the pulping process. The carrier stock pulp is then used in the manufacture of new fridge packs and food boxes.

Recycle up to (10) Incandescent Bulbs or (10) four-foot Fluorescent Tubes for **FREE** in the month of June, 2017

Resident Name & Address

Limit one coupon per household, per month

## Agricultural Plastic Film Recycling

Opportunities for farms to recycle agricultural plastic films is growing. A great option for smaller farms is to bring agricultural plastic films to the Connorsville Area Collection Station or the Transfer Station & Recycling Center for free recycling.

Larger farms are encouraged to obtain a free onsite recycling dumpster by contacting Revolution Plastics at 844-490-7873 or online at [www.revolutionplastics.com](http://www.revolutionplastics.com). As of Spring 2017, approximately 60 agricultural plastic film recycling dumpsters have been placed on Dunn County farms.

As a reminder, please remove trash, wood, rocks, twine, net wrap, tires, tire sidewalls, and other foreign materials before placing plastic film into a dumpster. Bunker covers with scrim are not recyclable in this program.

Future agricultural plastic film recycling locations will include the Colfax and Ridgeland Area Collection Stations. These sites will each receive an agricultural plastic film recycling dumpster from Revolution Plastics during their next distribution.



## #1 PET Thermoform Recycling Pilot Program

Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling is excited to offer residents a new opportunity to participate in a recycling pilot program for clear #1 PET thermoform containers. These include common “clamshell” type containers typically used in supermarkets to package deli salads, strawberries and other food products. #1 PET thermoforms also include certain types of packaging known as “blister packs” that are used to enclose and protect their contents. Clamshells and blister packs must be sorted separately from normal #1 PET plastic bottles because they require their own specific recycling processes, and act as contaminants if mixed with standard #1 PET plastic. At this time, we can only accept clear thermoforms. Colored thermoforms should be discarded with your trash.



These items cannot be included in your regular curbside recycling services, but we will accept #1 PET thermoforms at all Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities. Please ensure that you rinse your containers thoroughly and remove as much labeling as possible before recycling.

### Curbside Hauler Information:



715-235-9511



**Advanced Disposal**  
800-839-9553

**Viking Disposal 715-962-3309**

Recycle up to (2) Passenger or Light Truck Tires without rims for **FREE** in the Month of August, 2017



Resident Name & Address

Limit one coupon per household, per month



# Dunn County Recycling Guide

## Curbside & Drop-off Recyclables

Sort & Separate -  
Do not use Plastic Bags



**STEEL CANS**

**ALUMINUM CANS**



**#1 PLASTICS**



**#2 PLASTICS**



**#5 PLASTICS**



**GLASS BOTTLES & JARS**



**PAPER**



**CARDBOARD**



Carrier stock, fridge & freezer boxes, must be separated from other cardboard at any drop-off facility

## Drop-off Only Recyclables

Take to any Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Facility for Recycling.



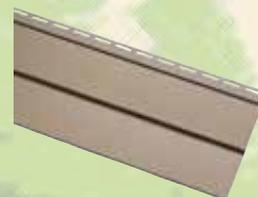
**Plastic Film & Bags**



**Tires\***



**Batteries\***



**Vinyl Siding**



**Mixed Rigid Plastics**



**Electronics\*\***



**Compressed Gas Cylinders\***



**Textiles**



**Bulbs & Lamps\***



**Grain & Seed Sacks**



**#1 PET Thermoforms**

**Also Accepted:**  
Scrap Metals, Appliances, Used Oil, Used Antifreeze,  
Used Oil Filters, and Printer/Toner Cartridges

\* Fees are associated with some of these materials to cover the costs of recycling.

\*\* Electronics are only recyclable at the Boyceville, Colfax, & Elk Mound Area Collection Stations or the Transfer Station & Recycling Center.

**Please See Site Attendant for Assistance!**

## **Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center\***

E3900 Hwy 29, in the Town of Menomonie

**Mondays** 6:30am -- 4:30pm  
**Wednesdays** 1:00pm -- 6:00pm  
**Saturdays** 7:00am -- 12:00pm

## **Dunn County Yard Waste Drop-off Site**

N5515 377th Street, Town of Menomonie

April 1st through November 15th (weather permitting due to road conditions)

**Mondays** 6:30am -- 4:30pm  
**Wednesdays** 1:00pm -- 6:00pm  
**Saturdays** 7:00am -- 12:00pm

*Accepts brush, leaves and garden/grass clippings*

## **Boyceville Area Collection Station\***

E2698 County Road N, Boyceville

**Wednesdays** 10:00am -- 7:00pm (April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>)  
**Wednesdays** 10:00am -- 5:00pm (November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>)  
**Saturdays** 8:00am -- 4:00pm

*Also accepts brush, leaves, and garden/grass clippings*

## **Colfax Area Collection Station\***

N9417 810th Street, Colfax

**Wednesdays** 10:00am -- 7:00pm (April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>)  
**Wednesdays** 10:00am -- 5:00pm (November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>)  
**Saturdays** 8:00am -- 4:00pm

*Also accepts brush, leaves, and garden/grass clippings*

## **Connorsville Area Collection Station**

E1285 1256th Avenue, Connorsville

**Wednesdays** 8:00am -- 12:00pm  
**Saturdays** 8:00am -- 12:00pm

## **Downsville Area Collection Station**

N2723 440th Street, Downsville, WI 54735

**Wednesdays** 8:00am -- 3:00pm  
**Saturdays** 8:00am -- 3:00pm

## **Elk Mound Area Collection Station\***

401 570th Avenue, Elk Mound

**Wednesdays** 8:00am -- 7:00pm (April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>)  
**Wednesdays** 9:00am -- 5:00pm (November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>)  
**Saturdays** 8:00am -- 4:00pm

*Also accepts brush, leaves, and garden/grass clippings*

## **Ridgeland Area Collection Station**

N12184 Hwy 25, Ridgeland

**Wednesdays** 12:00pm -- 7:00pm (April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>)  
**Wednesdays** 12:00pm -- 5:00pm (November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>)  
**Saturdays** 8:00am -- 12:00pm

## **Rock Creek Area Collection Station**

N1825 980th Street, Rock Falls

**Wednesdays** 1:00pm -- 5:00pm  
**Saturdays** 8:00am -- 12:00pm

## **Sand Creek Area Recycling Drop-off Site**

Across the street from the Fire Department

**Saturdays** 8:00am -- 4:00pm

*Accepts recyclables only*

**\*Electronics including TV's & monitors are accepted at these locations only.**

# Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities and Hours of Operation

# Land & Water Conservation Division

## Office Address:

800 Wilson Avenue, Room 330  
Menomonie, WI 54751

## Office Hours:

Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

## Office Phone:

715-232-1496

Dan Prestebak  
County Conservationist Ext. 2

Chris Gaetzke  
Conservation Planner Ext. 6

Amanda Hanson  
Conservation Planner Ext. 4

Rick Ingli  
Conservation Planner Ext. 7

Bob Kaner  
Conservation Engineering  
Technician Ext. 3

Janell Newcomb  
Support Specialist Ext. 1

Lindsay Olson  
Water Quality Specialist Ext. 8

**The Land & Water Conservation Division** works with Dunn County residents to conserve and promote healthy soils, clean water, productive forests, and wildlife. Staff work with landowners, managers, and local units of government to coordinate assistance from all available sources including public and private, local, state, and federal, to find sustainable solutions to address local natural resource concerns.

Examples of some of the services we provide:

- Implement farm and nutrient management conservation practices to protect soil productivity, water quality and quantity, air quality, and wildlife habitat.
- Conserve and restore native plant communities, streams and wetlands, which purify water and provide habitat for birds, fish, and other animals.
- Protect groundwater resources.
- Issue new manure storage and non-metallic mining reclamation permits.
- Help builders control soil erosion and protect water quality during construction.
- Reach out to communities and schools to teach the value of natural resources and conservation.



**Land & Water Conservation Division Staff Photo**

L to R (Front): Amanda Hanson, Lindsay Olson, Janell Newcomb  
(Back): Rick Ingli, Bob Kaner, Dan Prestebak, Chris Gaetzke

# Water Quality Initiatives in Dunn County

It's no secret that water quality is a primary concern of Dunn County citizens. There are many pieces to the puzzle and it will take time to see change, but we are on the road to recovery. Dunn County staff are working with many partners to implement water quality projects around the county. Here is a summary of a few of them:

## Red Cedar Water Quality Partnership

The Red Cedar Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan, which sets forth the amount of phosphorus reduction needed to achieve good water quality in Lake Menomin and Tainter Lake, was written by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and finalized in 2012. Following that, the Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership was created to develop an implementation plan to meet the phosphorus goal. The group consists of partners from federal, state, and local agencies and non- and for-profit businesses. The implementation plan, titled "A River Runs Through Us: A Water Quality Strategy for the Land and Waters of the Red Cedar River Basin," was completed in 2015. The implementation plan outlines strategies for phosphorus reduction, education and outreach, and tracking/monitoring of progress.



*Chippewa River at the Dunnville Wildlife Area, Dunn County.*

Recently, a sub-group of the partnership put together a project called the Red Cedar Basin Assessment for Water Quality Improvement (RCBA). This is a large-scale project funded by US Army Corps of Engineers Section 22 and a WDNR Lake Planning Grant with match through the UW-Stout LAKES REU program, the Tainter-Menomin Lake Improvement Association

(TMLIA), and Dunn and Barron Counties.

The purpose of the RCBA is to gather information needed to update the TMDL (the original was based on 1990s water quality data) and assess the community's capacity to initiate change. Focus areas of the project include sociological and economical research and analysis, the development of a community capacity model, and research and modeling of biophysical properties of the Lake Menomin and Tainter Lake reservoirs. The biophysical modeling will improve our understanding of the factors driving blue-green algae blooms, while the economic and sociological data will be developed into a community capacity model that will aid in the development of evidence-based policies and projects that will support long-term water quality improvement in the Red Cedar Basin.

## Wilson and Annis Creek Watershed Partnership

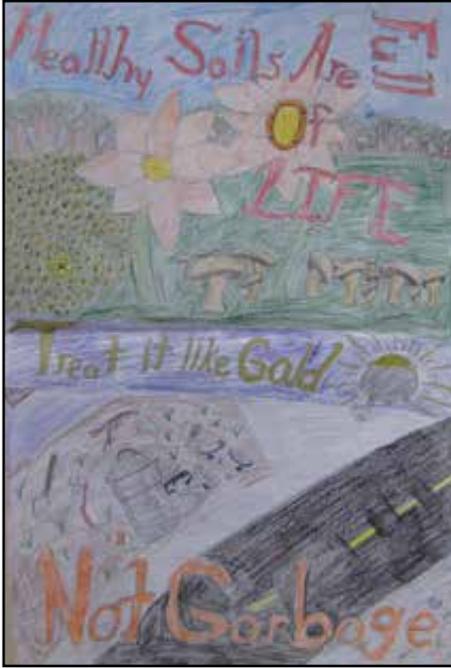
The focus of this project is to improve water quality in the Wilson and Annis Creek watersheds, both of which contain federally listed impaired waters. The USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded the project area its National Water Quality Initiative funding to provide a means for accelerated private lands conservation. Up to \$300,000 is available annually for 3-5 years to cost-share practices that will improve water quality such as cover crops, grassed waterways, barnyard improvements, and much more. Trout stream restoration is another focus of the project. Dunn County is working with WDNR, NRCS, Trout Unlimited, and other groups to coordinate restorations in publicly owned easements on Wilson Creek. These will improve trout populations and provide recreational opportunities for citizens.

In addition to those outlined here, there are many other water quality initiatives and programs throughout the county and beyond. Citizens are encouraged to reach out and find ways to get involved to drive change for the benefit of our lakes, rivers, and groundwater. Good places to start include contacting the Land and Water Conservation Division, consider starting a Farmer-Led Watershed group, or get involved with The Tainter-Menomin Lake Improvement Association.

For more information contact Lindsay Olson, Water Quality Specialist.

# Today's Youth... Tomorrow's Stewards

What does stewardship mean to you? The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it as "The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." Approximately two years ago, a committee was formed to challenge youth to become more involved in the stewardship of our natural resources. The committee, called the Dunn Environmental Education Steering Committee (DEESC), has been working with other conservation organizations and groups in the county to organize events to engage youth and get them excited about all aspects of conservation.



Poster Submitted by  
Alyssa Haseltine

Two events held in January were the 2017 Conservation Awareness Poster and Speaking Contests. Approximately 40 students in grades 2-9 participated in the poster contest. The theme, "Healthy Soils Are Full of Life!", allowed them to use their creativity and draw their interpretation of what healthy soils look like. The poster submitted by Alyssa Haseltine, representing Colfax Middle School, won 1<sup>st</sup> place honors at both the Dunn County and the West Central Area Conservation Poster Contest, and it moved on to the state competition that was held on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Alexis James, a student at Wakanda Elementary School, won 1<sup>st</sup> place with her poster at the county level and 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the West Central Area level.

Students from two schools participated in the speaking contest giving speeches that promoted the conservation of natural resources and the protection or enhancement of environmental quality. Benjamin Styer took 1<sup>st</sup> place honors in the Senior Division at both the Dunn County and West Central Area with his speech entitled, "Sustainable Conservation: A Travel Through Time". He represented Dunn County at the state speaking contest on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Some of the other events planned for this year are the Environmental Field Day with Boyceville, Colfax, and Elk Mound 5th grade students, Kid's Day at the Farm-City Day, and the Land Judging Contest. These events will give kids the opportunity to learn about stream ecology, native and invasive plants, forestry, recycling, land management choices, and soil properties to name a few.

Whether you live in an urban or rural area, you can encourage your children to be good stewards of the land. Some activities you could do with them include:

- Planting a variety of herbs and flowers to support a wide range of pollinators and beneficial insects.
- Mulch your plants to help prevent soil erosion, retain moisture, suppress weeds, and improve your soil fertility.
- Reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill by composting and turning it into a nutrient-rich soil amendment.
- Create a rain garden to catch and hold stormwater run-off, allowing the water to slowly percolate to naturally irrigate the soil and recharge the groundwater.
- Plant deciduous trees to provide food, shelter and shade for wildlife, opportunities for pollination, harvest of fruit, and acquire a supply of leaves for mulching and composting.



Poster Submitted by Alexis James

If you would like to find out more about the Dunn Environmental Education Steering Committee (DEESC), visit Dunn County's website at <http://www.co.dunn.wi.us/> and search for "youth education."

For more information contact Janell Newcomb, Support Specialist.

# Get Rich or Farm Trying

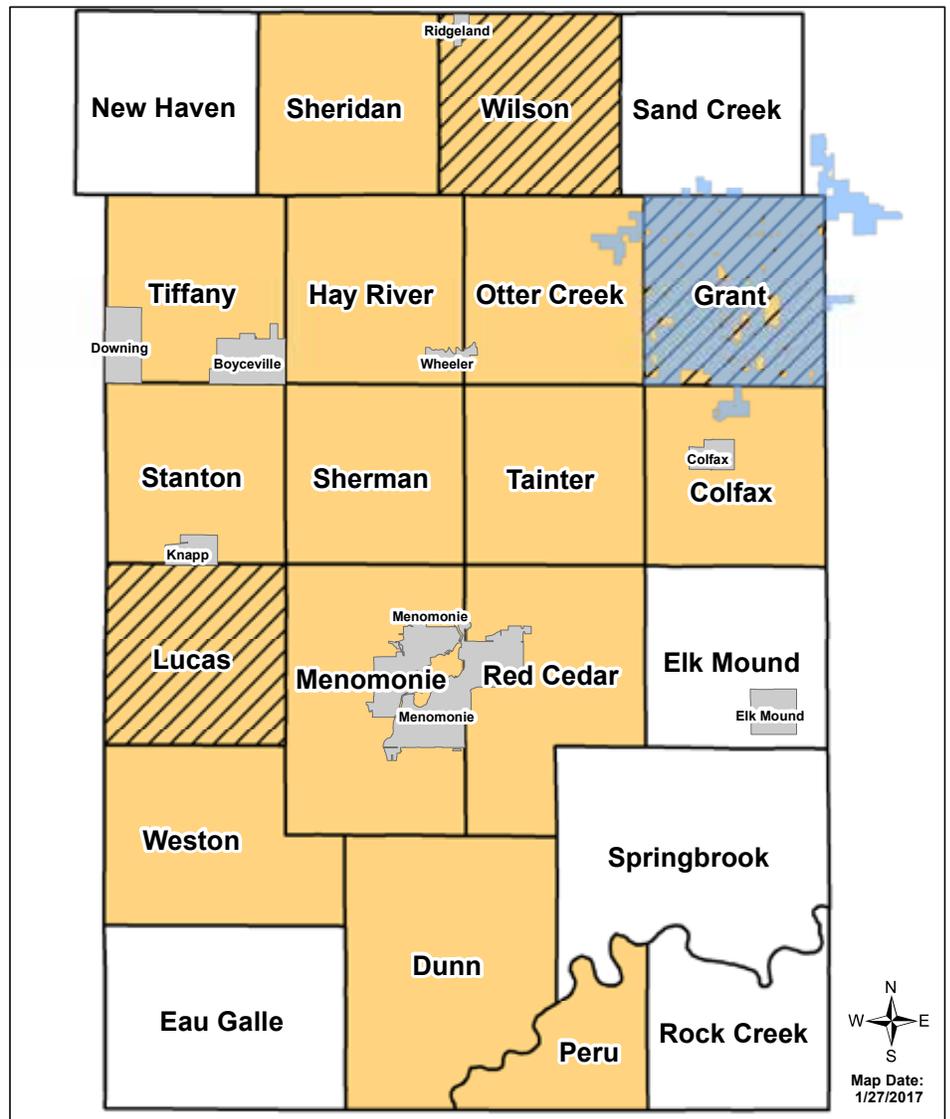


While the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) might not make anyone rich, it may certainly enrich the lives of Dunn County residents. Wisconsin landowners who

are located within designated areas have the opportunity to claim an annual income tax credit in exchange for preserving farmland and meeting State performance standards. Not only does the program help bring money into the local economy, but it also protects our shared environment.

Preserving farmland may allow urban residents to enjoy a variety of dairy products produced from a local farm. Rural residents may appreciate the many rolling hills, open fields and woodlands allowed by slowing suburban sprawl. Farmers may receive a little incentive for being stewards of the land and preserving it for future generations to come. So regardless of where one lives, it is necessary to understand the importance of preserving farmland and conserving the land and water resources on which we all depend.

## Dunn County Farmland Preservation Program Eligible Areas



The Farmland Preservation Program is an effective tool in helping to protect natural resources, stimulate the local economy and prevent land use conflict. Towns who voluntarily choose to participate in FPP give their landowners a chance to claim the annual income tax credits. Depending upon location, a landowner can claim either \$5.00/acre, \$7.50/acre or \$10.00/acre. The tax credit is intended to offset some of the costs associated with meeting the State Soil and Water Conservation Standards. At the same time, it helps farmers do their part in maintaining the land and water resources of Dunn County.

There is no deadline to enroll in the program, and it is possible for more Towns to participate. If you are interested in FPP but your town does not currently have the proper zoning or an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA), please contact your Town Board representatives to discuss your options for FPP participation. If you have general questions or want to learn if your land is eligible for FPP, please contact Rick Ingli, Conservation Planner.



# Manure Management Ordinance



In April of 2000, Dunn County adopted a “Manure Management Ordinance” that regulates the siting, construction, and use of manure storage structures that were built after that date. As guidance for this ordinance, Dunn County determined that the construction standards found within the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) would be used to determine compliance with this ordinance. The ordinance also requires that the application and spreading (use) of the animal waste must be done in accordance with an approved Nutrient Management Plan. It also requires that any storage structure that is no longer in use must be closed properly if left idle for 2 or

more years. *Cost share funding is generally available to assist with this closing.*

As Land & Water Conservation Division staff, one of our duties is to work with landowners wishing to build or remove animal waste storage structures and guide them through the permit process.



## Possible Questions and Answers:

### Why have the ordinance?

The citizens of Dunn County had concerns these structures and the manure they contain have a high potential to pollute ground and surface water if constructed and operated incorrectly. Thus, a citizen’s committee consisting of dairy, beef and crop farmers along with conservation club reps, county board members and other interested citizens was formed. Through this group, the ordinance was crafted and enacted by Dunn County.

### Who does it effect?

This is a “county-wide” ordinance that controls any new manure structures and systems constructed after April 1<sup>st</sup> of 2000. Un-zoned townships are included. It also regulates application of the manure.

### What type of manure structures and systems are covered?

Any man-made, stationary containment type of structure constructed to hold solid and liquid animal manure. This includes structures lined with concrete, HDPE plastic or qualified soil such as clay, as well as piping and precast concrete reception pits.

For more information contact Bob Kaner, Conservation Engineering Technician

The photos on the left, top to bottom, show a HDPE plastic lined pit; an in-ground unlined pit that was built in the 1970s and recently removed; construction of a vertical walled sand separation pit; and use of PVC water stop joints and blankets to prevent freezing of the new concrete. The NRCS standards for construction and design are required to ensure that manure does not leak into groundwater. Applying the manure in accordance with a Nutrient Management Plan greatly reduces the risk of runoff entering surface water while making wise use of the valuable nutrients found within the manure.

# Buy Local & Permitted, Gain Reclaimed Land!

Have any plans to bring in some fill to your land? Have you thought about asking the excavator or contractor where it came from? Or are you planning to excavate and remove fill from your land? You may need a reclamation permit, and we can help you!

Back in 2001, Dunn County passed the Chapter 20 Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance. This ordinance is in compliance with Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code and Subchapter I of Chapter 295, Wisconsin State Statutes. The purpose of the ordinance is to restore land that has been mined for non-metallic minerals. Dunn County's ordinance covers the entire county, including:

**Towns:** Colfax, Dunn, Eau Galle, Elk Mound, Grant, Hay River, Lucas, Menomonie, New Haven, Otter Creek, Peru, Red Cedar, Rock Creek, Sand Creek, Sheridan, Sherman, Spring Brook, Stanton, Tainter, Tiffany, Weston and Wilson.

**Villages:** Boyceville, Colfax, Downing, Elk Mound, Knapp, Ridgeland and Wheeler.

**City:** Menomonie.

This ordinance applies to landowners and operators, including private individuals, companies, and local governments as well. Applying for a permit requires fees, an application, reclamation plan and review, public notice, and possible public informational meetings. To receive the permit, financial assurance will be required to ensure the site is reclaimed. Once a permit is obtained, financial assurance will need to be updated as the mine site changes, site visits will occur, and an annual fee and report will be due. Upon successful reclamation of a mine site, a certification of completion is issued to the permit holder, and the permit and financial assurance is released.

Reclamation permit holders have made the commitment to Dunn County that their site will be reclaimed to a post-mining land use that is approved in their reclamation plan. By utilizing permitted mine sites, you are buying local materials from our county and supporting businesses and individuals who are committed to following Dunn County's Chapter 20 Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance.

Materials from these permitted sites include sand used for animal bedding, lime for adjusting pH in agricultural crop fields, rip rap rock for use on the banks of streams, rivers and lakes, cut stone for building materials, sand and gravel for winter road maintenance and non-winter road construction and repair, sand for creating glass, sand for use in natural gas and oil exploration, fill for building sites, fill for earthen base under constructed manure pits, materials for use in concrete, and much more!



*The right side is an active mining area, and the left side is a reclaimed area. Before the photo was taken, and prior to reclamation, the entire site was active (like the right side without vegetation).*

## Thank you to our non-metallic mining reclamation permit holders in Dunn County!

BS Construction - Elmwood

Cemstone Ready Mix - Mendota Heights

Dan Davis - Knapp

DKS Construction Services Inc. - Menomonie

Dunn County Public Works Highway Dept. - Menomonie

Dunnville Cutstone Company - Menomonie

FG Minerals LLC - Menomonie

Henderson Excavating & Landscape Supply - Menomonie

Milestone Materials - Eau Claire

Pepin County Highway Department - Durand

The Kraemer Company - Plain

Tim Lamm - Eau Galle

Wirth Brothers Excavating LLC - Ridgeland

Do your part as a responsible citizen of Dunn County! Ask your contractor: "Where is the fill coming from? Does the site have a reclamation permit? Do I need a reclamation permit to remove this soil?"

If you have any questions, contact Amanda Hanson, Conservation Planner.

# Invasive Plants – What they are, where they exist, why to care and how to control

Even without an official county-wide survey, it is a safe hunch that most of us are pleased with the greening of our landscape this spring. However, some of this greening warrants a closer look. It may represent one of the invasive plants' very clever tricks to beat out the native plants. Invasive plants are plants that are not native to the area and when introduced are likely to cause economic, environmental and or harm to human health. Within Dunn County, there have been 32 confirmed invasive plants, some of which are in very scattered and minute populations.

These plants get a quick start on leafing-out before native plants, which usually wins the race for sun, moisture, nutrition and space. Three of the common invasive "quick starters" in Dunn County are garlic mustard, common buckthorn and wild parsnip.

**Garlic Mustard** is primarily a woodland, biannual invasive that will produce white flowers in May on its second year of growth. The seeds can remain viable in the soil for at least 7 years. The first year rosette and the second year flower are easily pulled in moist conditions, but care should be taken to get the entire taproot so they don't resprout. To control, pull the entire mature plant and place it in a bag for disposal, as they can continue to grow and develop seeds if left in piles. For dense infestations, foliar spraying with approved herbicides is an option.



**Common Buckthorn** leafs-out early and holds leaves late into the fall. Couple this with its rapid growth rate, buckthorn can eliminate native tree and ground layer plant populations. The best way to control buckthorn is to catch it early and pull them out. If buckthorn has grown beyond pulling size, then controlling it yet this spring is more perplexing. The sap is rising up the

plant now, and herbicide application is not effective, but will be in fall when you can cut and treat the plant's stump with herbicide or use a basal bark spray technique. If you have just a few large buckthorn trees, one option you can use this spring is the Buckthorn Baggie®, which covers the cut stump for a year with heavy plastic that is tightly wrapped around the stump with a zip tie.



**Wild Parsnip** leafs-out early and if not controlled will crowd out native plants, especially along roadsides. Wild parsnip has yellow umbel flowers and a sap that causes extreme skin rashes when sun activated. Taproots may extend 6 feet in to the soil. If you just cut or mow wild parsnip above the ground without using herbicide, it will resprout in even larger numbers. The recommendation is to tackle small populations by cutting the taproot 4 inches below the soil surface at the late flowering stage with a spade shovel, or using an approved herbicide at the appropriate time, which is either spring or fall.



**To find out more visit [lcinvasives.org](http://lcinvasives.org), email [lcinvasives@gmail.com](mailto:lcinvasives@gmail.com) or call 715-231-6540.**

# Survey Division

## Office Address:

800 Wilson Avenue, Room 310  
Menomonie, WI 54751

## Office Hours:

Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm.

*Appointments are recommended as staff may be in the field.*

**Tom Carlson – County Surveyor**  
715-231-6526

**Gregg Batzer – Professional Land Surveyor**  
715-231-6525

**Troy Stowell – Survey Technician**  
715-231-6527

**Tom Carlson** has worked in the land surveying profession since 1996. He attended Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI and obtained a bachelor's degree in Land Surveying in 1997. He worked for surveying firms in Menominee, MI as well as Menomonie, WI and obtained licensure in Wisconsin as a professional land surveyor (S-2557) in 2000. He also earned a master's degree in Vocational & Technical Education from U.W. Stout in 2000 and taught evening classes in the Construction Program at U.W Stout for several years. Tom began working in the Dunn County Environmental Services Survey Division in 2008 and was appointed as the Dunn County Surveyor in October of 2012. Tom is a member of the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors and the Wisconsin County Surveyors Association. Tom resides in the Cedar Falls area and enjoys hunting, fishing, antique tractors and volunteering.

**Gregg Batzer** has been in the land surveying profession since 1999. He worked for private businesses until 2001, when he accepted a position

working for the Eau Claire County Surveyor's Office. In 2006 he moved to Winona, Minnesota where he worked for the Winona County Surveyor's Office. Gregg joined the Dunn County Environmental Services Survey Division in 2013. He went to college at Michigan Tech and obtained an associate's degree in Civil Engineering Technology before beginning his career. He took additional surveying classwork from Madison Area Technical College which allowed him to obtain licensure in Wisconsin as a professional land surveyor (S-2866). In addition to his formal education, Gregg has attended numerous continuing education seminars over the years which help to keep his knowledge of surveying fresh. Gregg lives in a 100 year old house in Menomonie with his wife.

**Troy Stowell** has worked for the Dunn County Environmental Services Survey Division since March of 1995. Prior to this, he worked for a private survey firm for a year, worked for the Chippewa County Surveyor for two years and also worked in the Land Conservation Department of Trempealeau County for two years. He received his associate's degree in Natural Resources Technology from Fox Valley Technical College in May of 1990. Troy lives in Chippewa Falls.



*Remains of a black oak bearing tree blazed in 1849  
Left-Right Tom Carlson, Gregg Batzer & Troy Stowell*

The Survey Division is responsible for duties as described in Chapter 59.45 of Wisconsin State Statutes, as well as the following:

- Provide technical review of Certified Survey Maps and Plats prior to recording.
- Reestablishment, Preservation & Maintenance of the Monuments of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS).
- Maintain a filing system for all survey records.
- Complete surveys for other county agencies.
- Assist with survey related questions from the public and other agencies.



## Survey Map Review

Certified survey maps, condominium plats and subdivision plats are reviewed prior to recording to assure compliance with Wisconsin State Statutes and Administrative Code as well as the Dunn County Subdivision/Condominium Ordinance. The County Surveyor's Office does not have specific authority to review maps in incorporated areas of Dunn County such as the City of Menomonie and within the Villages. During the platting process, the County Surveyor's Office provides recommendations to the County Planning, Resources, and Development Committee as part of the approval process. The county charges a fee to review certain types of survey maps, which are outlined below.

### 2017 Survey Review Fees

Certified Survey Map	\$200 first lot + \$20/additional lot
County and State Plat	\$1,000 first lot + \$20/additional lot
Condominium Plat ≤ 4 units	\$250 + \$20/unit
Condominium Plat > 4 units	\$1,000 + \$25/unit

*A discount of \$5/lot (\$15 minimum) will be implemented for Certified Survey Maps if the surveyor provides an electronic copy compatible with our system that meets our standards.*

1 Lot - \$185.00 (w/electronic copy)	2 Lots - \$205.00 ( " )
3 Lots - \$225.00 ( " )	4 Lots - \$240.00 ( " )

CSM re-submittal fee: \$75.00



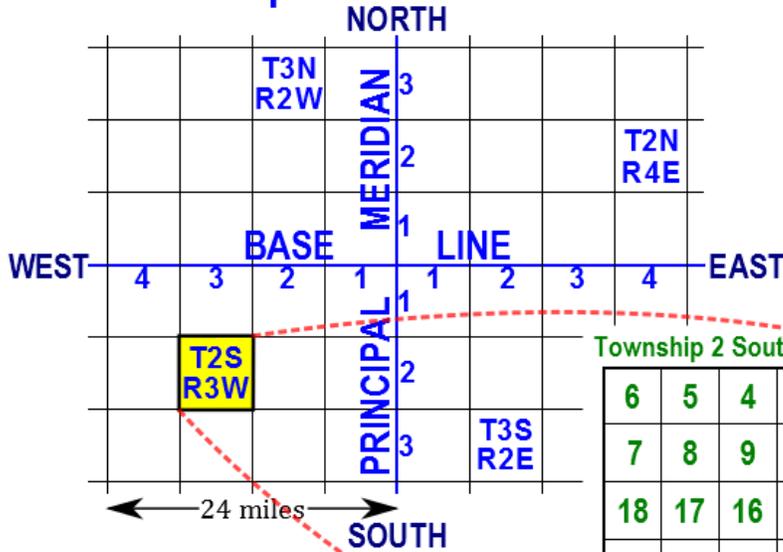
## Reestablishment, Preservation & Maintenance of the Monuments of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS)

### What is the public land survey system?

The PLSS is a legal reference system established by the Federal Government in 1785 to divide and convey lands from the public domain to settlers. The public domain encompasses major portions of the land area of 30 southern and western states. The PLSS typically divides land into 6 mile square townships. Those townships are composed of 36 one mile square sections. Sections can be further subdivided into quarter sections, quarter-quarter sections, or irregular government lots. Township boundaries were surveyed first; sections were then created within those township lines. Please note, PLSS townships should not be confused with Municipal townships. Municipal townships may align entirely with a PLSS township, or they may include parts of several PLSS townships. Typically, a permanent monument, or marker was placed at each section corner, quarter section corner and at other important points such as where a section line crossed a major body of water. The original PLSS corners were initially marked most often with wood posts. Witness trees were marked with blazes which would provide reference to the corner location. Over the years, time and the elements took their toll on the wood posts and witness trees. Some effects of the PLSS are quite visible such as many grid-like rural roadways which follow PLSS boundary lines. Many farm fields are laid out following the PLSS, creating a patchwork of rectangular patterns especially visible from the air.

# CONGRESSIONAL TOWNSHIP RECTANGULAR SURVEY GRID

## Township Grid



Starting at the *Principle Meridian* and *Base Line* a surveyor marked off the township lines into grids of 36 square miles.

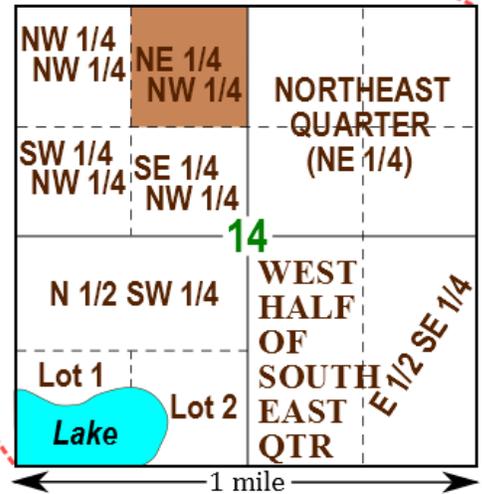
Townships were further divided into sections of one square mile (640 acres). Standard sections were then numbered from 1 to 36.

Sections were subdivided into a variety of sizes, most often rectangular in shape.

Township 2 South, Range 3 West

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	Sec. 14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

## SECTION 14



**Description.** The land description for the brown property parcel on the right would be written as:

"NE1/4NW1/4, Sec. 14, T.2 S., R. 3 W."

(that is, Northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 14 of Township 2 South, Range 3 West.)

The original PLSS corner markers were set in Dunn County from 1847 until 1853. The corner markers were typically wood posts, cut from local trees at the time they were needed. These wood posts were subject to rot and decay, logging, road building, land clearing, farming, malfeasance, and other factors that reduced their useful life. Ever since the original government survey was completed there has been a need to maintain and perpetuate the original corner positions. In Dunn County, it was mainly left up to the surveyors as to what was going to be used to replace the wood posts. Various sizes and types of iron pipes and rods were typical replacements.



Grid system of roadways and ownership lines is clearly visible.

In our re-survey records, one can see where pieces of ceramic or glass, stones, bricks, axes, plow parts, car parts (including axles, bumpers, drive shafts etc.), sleigh parts, wrenches, sand points, gun barrels and other items were used for corner markers. Currently, a common replacement monument set by the County Surveyor's Office for corners falling off-road is an aluminum capped monument. Corners that fall in a paved roadway are typically monumented with a magnetic survey nail. Private surveyors also monument PLSS corners and use a variety of other monuments including railroad spikes, pipes and rebars.



Old plowshare & broken red brick recovered at the northeast corner of Section 3, Town of New Haven

### Why is it so important that the PLSS system be protected and maintained?

The PLSS is one of Wisconsin's very first infrastructures. The system serves as the essential framework for property ownership and is the very foundation for all parcel mapping projects. Without a properly maintained network of PLSS corner monuments, there is an increased risk of property disputes, inequitable taxation, disagreements about resource rights, confusion over ownership and easement locations, and unnecessary expenditures by private citizens and local governments. One of the primary duties of the County Surveyor's Office is to reestablish, perpetuate and maintain the original PLSS corners in Dunn County. This includes the following:

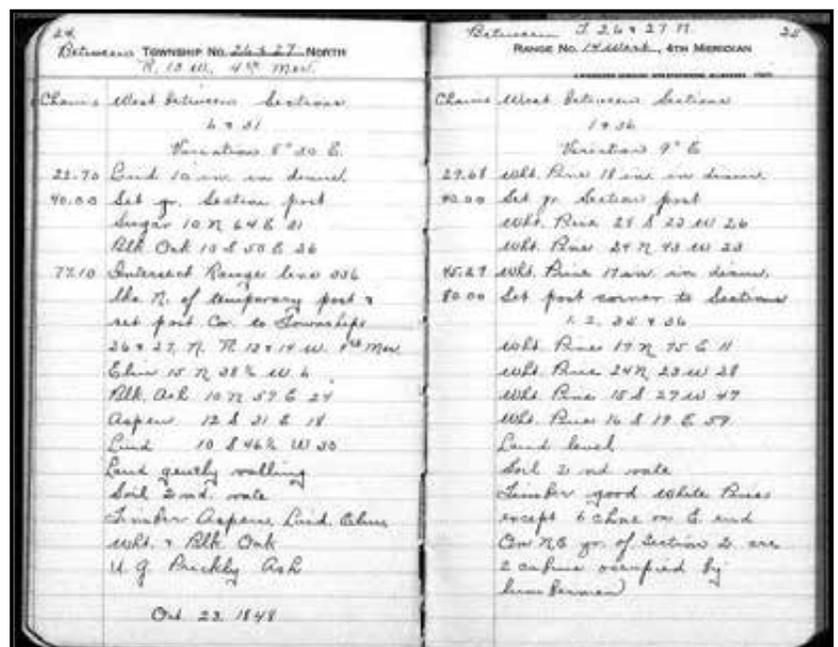
- Fieldwork (verification of existing monuments and placement of new monuments).
- Searching for field evidence including machine excavation in roadways.
- Resolve corner positions having conflicting survey records.
- Assess future surveying needs within the county.
- Perpetuate corners that have been damaged or destroyed, or are in danger of being removed because of factors such as road construction, farming and logging.
- Modern GPS (Global Positioning System) technology is used to measure highly precise geodetic coordinate values on the monumented positions.
- Records research.
- Obtain landowner testimony.

## Survey Records

Dunn County survey records consist of:

- \*County Surveyor Records back to the 1860s.
- \*Maps of surveys.
- \*Certified Survey Maps (copies).
- \*Subdivision/Condominium Plats (copies).
- \*Copies of original survey notes and plats from the 1840s & 1850s.
- \*PLSS monument record forms.
- \*Highway right-of-way plats.
- \*Town road & railroad records.
- \*Old plat books.
- \*High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) station information and geodetic coordinates.

Most of the above records have been scanned and are available in a digital format.



Original government survey field notes - 1848.

All surveys, within 60 days from the date of completion, are required to be filed in the County Surveyor's Office. The County Surveyor's Office indexes and maintains copies of all survey records in the county. Many of these records are also scanned into a digital format and can be provided to the public upon request. Private land surveyors access our survey records on a daily basis while performing their survey work. Land owners periodically inquire if a survey map is on file for their property. Please note, not every parcel in the county has been surveyed. Numerous parcels have been conveyed by written legal description without the benefit of a survey. The County Surveyor's Office also maintains and distributes to private surveyors, any information on the county geodetic control network and coordinate system, including documentation of county established coordinates on PLSS corners.

## Work for Other County Agencies

Highway	Facilities and Parks
Solid Waste & Recycling	Corporation Counsel
Real Property Lister	Land/Water Conservation
Land Information	Planning & Zoning

This work includes providing survey services in the field such as boundary and topographic surveys, verification of existing monuments, installation of new monuments, field measurements, marking lines, and locating encroachments. Office work consists of research, computations, analysis, writing and interpreting legal descriptions for real property and drafting of survey maps and exhibits.



Surveying flood damage along CTH Q, Town of Stanton.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

Land Surveyors	Land Owners	Other County Agencies
Realtors	Attorneys	Assessors/Appraisers
Title Companies	Lenders	Local Units of Government
Foresters	State Agencies	Federal Agencies

The County Surveyor's office assists the general public, private sector businesses, government agencies, and others with land surveying and land ownership questions. Please note, the County Surveyor's Office does not practice law and cannot provide legal advice. Following are some frequently asked questions we receive:

### ***Can the County Surveyor find my property lines?***

The County Surveyor performs assigned duties and executes surveys required by the county. The County Surveyor **DOES NOT** work as a private land surveyor and cannot perform surveys for private individuals or the general public. A list of private land surveyors can be found in your local yellow pages. Our office also maintains a list of private surveyors working in Dunn County.

### ***What marks the corners of my lot?***

Historically, a great number of parcels in the county were created by written legal description and not by field survey. Therefore, it is possible that there are no physical markers in the ground to show the lot corners. If your parcel has indeed been surveyed, it is likely that the lot corners are marked with an iron rebar or pipe. However, many other different objects have been used. The legend on your survey map should indicate the type of monument set. Most often the monument will be set below the surface to help avoid disturbance.

### ***Who is surveying at my neighbor's house, and what if I don't agree with their work?***

There are many private licensed land surveyors who work in the county. They are independent, do not work for the county, and are not supervised or approved by the county. You have a right to hire your own surveyor to confirm the work of another surveyor. The county cannot determine "who is right" in a property line dispute.



### What are those signs that say “Please Do Not Disturb Nearby Survey Marker” on them?

Typically, orange posts or small rectangular yellow signs are placed near government section and quarter section corners. They sometimes are marking the corner itself, and in other instances are placed around the corner in order to preserve its location. Please do not disturb or remove these signs or any survey monuments! If you are aware of any survey markers or monuments that are in danger of being disturbed or removed, please contact the Dunn County Surveyor’s Office.



### I have a GPS unit. Can't I just go find my lot corners with that?

County parcel mapping and/or coordinates obtained from it are not to be used for surveying. Land surveyors follow specific procedures and use legal descriptions and known points for determining lot corners. Surveyors are also required to adhere to accuracy standards that average hand held GPS units cannot meet.

### What kind of tools does the County Surveyor’s Office use to perform their work?

- Modern GPS equipment
- Total stations
- Levels
- Electronic data collectors
- Computers & other office equipment
- Computer aided drafting software
- Compasses
- Metal detectors
- Tapes
- Plumb bobs
- Machetes
- Chisels
- Chainsaws
- Waders
- Snowshoes



An iron shaft, stone and red brick recovered at the east quarter corner of Section 20, Town of Otter Creek.



Close up of iron shaft, stone and red brick.

One of the most basic and important tools we use is a **shovel**. Much of the survey evidence we are searching for falls beneath sod, soil and roadways. Our modern survey instruments and computer software can help us determine the most likely location to search for evidence, however, they cannot locate a stone monument that was called for in an old survey record from 1895. Following in the footsteps of our predecessors requires “boots on the ground” with a shovel in hand.

# Planning & Land Use Control Division

## Office Address:

800 Wilson Avenue, Room 310  
Menomonie, WI 54751

## Office Hours:

Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

## Office Phone:

715-231-6521

**Bob Colson**

Planner/Zoning Administrator

**Ben Bublitz**

Zoning Enforcement Officer/Planner

**Michelle Siegl**

Zoning Enforcement Officer/Planner

**Addison Vang**

Planner/Zoning Enforcement Officer

**Janet Riedel**

Zoning Specialist

**Nancy Radke**

Secretary

## Planning: A Vision For The Future

### Introduction

The Dunn County Planning & Land Use Control Division administers and enforces the county's zoning, shoreland and floodplain ordinances, and inspects private sanitation systems. The Division also drafts, maintains and manages planning documents and planning related activities within the county.

The Planning arm of the Division is charged with developing and maintaining planning documents including the county's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Outdoor Recreation Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridors Plan, Sustainability Action Plan and Directional Plan. A saying amongst planners is that "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." If the community you work, play and live in does not have a plan for its future, what ultimately may happen is that it may fail to adapt to change and take advantage of opportunities. When providing planning services, the Planning Division operates at three distinct levels:

- 1) Internal planning is a strategic effort with Departments and Standing Committees, to move the county in a positive direction.
- 2) External planning is an alignment strategy intended to link county-wide goals with those of local agencies, local jurisdictions and citizens (stakeholders).
- 3) Community-wide planning is a strategy of transparency by providing information about the county's planning efforts to the community at large.



This article focuses on the county's planning efforts, specifically its Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The remaining plans will be discussed in future publications of "The Resource."

### Planning & Land Use Control Division Staff Photo

L to R: Ben Bublitz, Bob Colson, Michelle Siegl, Addison Vang, Nancy Radke, Janet Riedel

## History

### The Planning Process:

- Explores community opinions and fosters shared values;
- Provides opportunities for public input;
- Demonstrates how shared resources of the community are interconnected; and
- Relies on analysis of trends, maps and public input to achieve a balance between differing opinions and ideas.

Comprehensive planning is deeply rooted in government. It goes as far back as the early 20th century, where the U.S. Department of Commerce Advisory Committee on Planning and Zoning institutionalized planning in the Standard Zoning Enabling Act of 1926, which was followed by the Standard City Planning Enabling Act of 1928. From that date forward many communities across the nation adopted land use plans.

In 1999, Wisconsin created enforceable Comprehensive Land Use Plan standards, known as the Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law. This law, also known as "Smart Growth", is based on Wisconsin Statutes Section 66.1001. On

November 10, 2009, by resolution, the Dunn County Board of Supervisors adopted the county's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It has since served as a policy development document, guiding land use decisions and community growth. On January 25, 2016, the plan was amended to include the county's Farmland Preservation Plan as part of the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources chapter. Dunn County is currently reviewing its Comprehensive Plan, with a projected amendment scheduled for late summer of 2017. Going forward, the county's plan will be amended on an as-needed basis or at least once every 10 years.

## What is Planning?

Change is inevitable and planning is a process the county uses to be proactive, rather than reactive regarding change. In general, planning strives to answer four basic questions;

1. Where is the county now?
2. How did the county get here?
3. Where does Dunn County want to be in 20 years?
4. How will the county get there?

Planning is an orderly, open process that defines and addresses the county's needs. These needs become goals and objectives, which in turn are used to guide future land use decisions.

When armed with this basic planning information, it helps to clarify planning misconceptions. Planning is not an "Action", it is only a guide. It is used to facilitate action and to implement county goals. It's not a silver bullet, yet it provides the county with a number of options to promote change. It isn't static or a one and done exercise. The county's plan is reviewed on an ongoing basis as a means to evaluate its implementation efforts and to justify necessary amendments.



## Effectiveness of Planning:

- **Balances competing interests.** John Q Public may want to store oil drums on his property. Jane R Citizen, his neighbor, wants to open a restaurant on her property. Planning tries to strike a balance between competing demands by creating orderly and rational development patterns, while avoiding nuisances and conflicts between land uses.
- **Protects public investments.** Planning helps to avoid digging up last year's new road to lay this year's new sewer pipe. It is a well-planned, orderly and phased development document.
- **Protects valued resources.** Planning identifies environmentally sensitive areas and suggest strategies for protecting them from inappropriate development.
- **Promotes economic development.** The plan contains valuable information that prospective developers can use to make informed decisions about locating their business in Dunn County.
- **Provides justification for decisions.** The plan provides a factual and objective basis to support zoning and land use decisions, and it can be used to defend county decisions if challenged in court.
- **Encourages public participation.** It provides opportunities for the public to be engaged, to brainstorm and to discuss the county's future.
- **Inclusive.** It provides opportunities for both incorporated and unincorporated jurisdictions to plan their future growth. The plan supports effective land use development throughout the entire county.

## What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The concept of comprehensive planning is very much related to the economic prosperity of a community. Most importantly, comprehensive planning addresses the constant change and evolution within a community. Comprehensive plans are sometimes referred to as land use plans and often deal with issues related to the appropriate uses of land. They address compatibility between land uses, management and preservation of natural resources, and preservation of historically significant lands.

The county's Comprehensive Plan establishes guidelines for its future growth. As the term "comprehensive" suggests, it is an all-inclusive approach to the county's future. The county's Comprehensive Land Use Plan was drafted in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 66.1001 and contains the following nine elements (chapters):

- 1) **Issues and Opportunities** contains demographic background information such as population, household and employment forecasts, trends, age distribution, educational levels, income levels and employment characteristics.
- 2) **Housing** analyzes how the county's housing supply can meet the forecasted housing demand.
- 3) **Transportation** is a "road map" for future development of transportation, including highways, transit, railroads and trucking.
- 4) **Utilities and Community Facilities** addresses the future development of utilities and community facilities in the county such as sanitary sewer service, water supply, solid waste disposal, recycling facilities, parks, power-generating plants, and other public facilities.
- 5) **Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources** analyzes conservation and effective management of natural resources such as groundwater, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources, and other natural resources. It also contains the county's Farmland Preservation Plan.
- 6) **Economic Development** examines methods to promote the stabilization, retention and expansion of the county's economic base.
- 7) **Intergovernmental Cooperation** addresses strategies for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions.
- 8) **Land-Use** serves as a guide for the future development and redevelopment of public and private property.
- 9) **Implementation** lays out specific actions, to implement the objectives, policies, plans and programs contained in the plan.

## Planning Is Not Zoning

Sometimes citizens, businesses, agencies, and local and regional governments react to land use problems by considering planning and zoning to be the same. Despite the planning efforts of the state, counties, cities, villages and towns, many citizens still hold on to this misconception. Planning is a forward thinking concept focusing on the future. The county's plan establishes goals, objectives and policies which address future land uses, development and land conservation practices. Planning defines where and how the county's physical development should unfold.

A zoning ordinance (zoning) is probably the most commonly used tool by units of government to implement their plan. Dunn County is no exception. In general, zoning divides areas into different districts, which are subject to different regulations. Each district addresses specific permitted land uses and sometimes restricts density of development. The county's zoning ordinance defines which parcels of land belong in a particular district. While planning and zoning are not the same, they are closely related and work best when they work together. The county's Comprehensive Land Use Plan establishes the long term foundation on which zoning decisions are made. Zoning is described in a different article in this issue of "The Resource."

A copy of the county's Comprehensive Land Use Plan is available for viewing at our office or it can be viewed electronically at <http://www.co.dunnwi.us/> Click the Department tab, then click the Environmental Services Department tab and search for it under Planning and Zoning. If you have questions or need assistance navigating to the plan online please contact our office.

More than any other  
time in history,  
mankind faces a  
crossroads. One  
path leads to despair  
and hopelessness,  
the other to total  
extinction. Let us  
pray that we have  
the wisdom to choose  
correctly.  
~ Woody Allen



# Zoning 101

## History of Zoning

In 1922, the U.S. Department of Commerce, under the leadership of then Secretary Herbert Hoover, published the Model Standard State Zoning Enabling Act. The Model Act, which was designed for adoption by states across the country, outlined the role and function of zoning and set out uniform standards that jurisdictions could use to guide land development practices. The national movement to adopt zoning got a big boost four years later (1926) when the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Euclid v. Ambler Realty* that zoning did not violate the due process clause of the federal constitution. The ruling resulted in the widespread adoption of zoning statutes across the nation. By 1940, zoning had become (and continues to be) the most common means of regulating local land use in the United States.

## History of Zoning in Wisconsin

- 1920 – First Wisconsin zoning ordinance created in Milwaukee.
- 1923 – Milwaukee zoning ordinance upheld by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Other Wisconsin cities and villages adopt zoning shortly thereafter.
- 1929 – Wisconsin Legislature authorizes zoning to regulate all uses in rural areas.
- 1933 – Oneida County adopts first comprehensive rural zoning ordinance in the U.S.
- 1968 – Wisconsin requires local governments to administer shoreland and floodplain zoning regulations.

Very early on, Dunn County officials recognized the need to exercise reasonable land use controls to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens. As such, on July 15, 1970, Dunn County adopted its first comprehensive zoning ordinance. Since then, the ordinance has been amended many times and in its current form, consists of thirteen zoning districts.

## What is General Zoning?

General zoning (zoning) is one of the most common methods of land use control used by local governments. At its core, it regulates how a parcel of land in Dunn County may be used and the density of development. Zoning also regulates the height, bulk or placement of structures. The intent of zoning is to balance individual property rights with the interests of the community to create a healthy, safe and orderly living environment. Among its many purposes, the county uses zoning to:

- Protect public health, safety and general welfare.
- Promote desired development patterns.
- Separate incompatible uses.
- Protect community resources such as farmland woodlands, groundwater, surface waters, historic or cultural resources.
- Protect public investments.
- Implement the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

*The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking used when we created them.*

~ Albert Einstein

For example, most homeowners don't much like the idea of having a noisy and busy business move in next door to them. Just the thought of customers coming and going at all hours of the day or night, the clatter and noise coming from a makeshift appliance-repair shop out in someone's garage, or the vision of partly assembled cars littering a neighboring driveway, is enough to send many homeowners into a fit of concern. When people buy their homes, they generally expect to get some measure of peace and quiet.

Zoning is a tool the county uses to keep residential areas residential and business areas business-related, while making everyone happy in the process. In general, the county's zoning ordinance works well. For example, if a citizen were to complain that they think their neighbor is running a business in a non-business zoning district, the county would follow up with an investigation. If it were determined a violation exists, then the county works with the land owner to become compliant with the ordinance. If the violation cannot be resolved in a cooperative manner, then as a last resort, the county turns to our legal system for assistance.



Currently, sixteen of the twenty-two Towns have elected to fall under the county's general zoning ordinance: **Colfax, Dunn, Grant, Hay River, Lucas, Menomonie, Otter Creek, Peru, Red Cedar, Sheridan, Sherman, Stanton, Tainter, Tiffany, Weston and Wilson**, are referred to as (zoned) Towns. The remaining Towns: **Eau Galle, Elk Mound, New Haven, Rock Creek, Sand Creek and Spring Brook** have elected not to fall under county zoning, and are referred to as (un-zoned) Towns.

Even if your Town is un-zoned, specialized ordinances such as Shoreland, Floodplain and Sanitation may still be in effect in your Town. It is also important to note that other jurisdictions such as the State of Wisconsin, other county departments and your Town may have regulations in addition to general zoning and specialized ordinances. Therefore, in zoned and un-zoned Towns alike, it is recommended that you always check with local and regional jurisdictions early in the planning stages of your project regarding their requirements, and certainly before any construction begins.

In addition to general zoning, specialized ordinances may be used to accomplish specific objectives different than general zoning. Specialized ordinances will be discussed in future publications of "The Resource".



### Zoning Districts

- Residential 1 (R1)
- Residential 2 (R2)
- Residential 3 (R3)
- General Agriculture (GA)
- General Commercial (GC)
- Shoreland Recreation (SR)
- Conservancy (CON)

# What Can I Do On My Property?

When trying to determine what can be done with your property, you should first view the zoning map to identify how your property is zoned, then read the ordinance to understand the permitted uses and other pertinent regulations. Zoning staff can answer questions regarding permitted uses in the various zoning districts, applying for a zoning permit, a special exception permit, or a variance.

Each zoning district is divided into the following general categories:

- **Permitted Uses** are allowed as a matter of right in all locations in a zoning district and may be authorized with a permit. In all cases, a permit shall be granted if the project complies with the general standards for that zoning district.
- **Special Exceptions** are also listed in the zoning ordinance for each district and may be allowed if they meet the standards listed in the zoning ordinance. Generally, they must be compatible with neighboring land uses, tailored to meet the limitations of the site, and not be in violation of the objectives of the zoning ordinance. Special Exceptions are decided by the Dunn County Board of Adjustment (BOA).

If the permitted uses in a zoning district do not permit for the use you want, you may request a zoning variance (variance). A variance authorizes you (landowner) to use your property in a manner that is not permitted by the zoning ordinance. The BOA determines whether to grant a variance based on the criteria outlined in state statutes and in the zoning ordinance.

## Zoning variances are divided into the following categories:

- **Use Variance**, allows a landowner to use their property in a manner that is not permitted by the zoning ordinance. Use variances are rarely granted to avoid undermining the purposes of the zoning ordinance.
- **Area Variance**, which are more common, allows a landowner to violate a dimensional requirement, such as a building setback or height limitation.

## How Do I Get a Zoning Permit?

When considering a new project, it is advisable that you contact our office to determine if a zoning permit is required. If a permit is required, zoning staff will provide you with a zoning application, answer any questions you may have, and if necessary, assist in completing your application. Once you believe the application is complete, submit it along with the fee to our office. Zoning staff will then review the application, verify it meets the standards of the zoning ordinance and any other regulations the county Zoning Office administers. Once complete, an onsite inspection will be scheduled where zoning staff will verify that the conditions and standards of the application have been met. If all conditions are met, a permit will be issued. **A zoning permit is not a building permit.** Building permits are issued at the Town level. Contact your Town Clerk regarding building permits and to find out if other permits are required.

## Resources:

Permit applications can be picked up at our office, mailed or emailed to you, or found online, under the Government tab of the Dunn County website at: <http://www.co.dunn.wi.us/>

If you would like assistance locating the ordinance online, please contact our office at 715-231-6521

# DUNN COUNTY *Wisconsin*

800 Wilson Avenue, Room 235  
Menomonie, WI 54751

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
EAU CLAIRE WI  
PERMIT NO. 366

\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

[www.co.dunn.wi.us/environmentalservices](http://www.co.dunn.wi.us/environmentalservices)

## Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Division

800 Wilson Avenue, Room 235  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-232-4017  
[swr@co.dunn.wi.us](mailto:swr@co.dunn.wi.us)

Morgan Gerik, Director  
Amanda Haffele, Recycling Specialist  
Diane Duerst, Support Specialist

## Dunn County Land & Water Conservation Division

800 Wilson Avenue, Room 330  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-232-1496

Daniel Prestebak, County Conservationist  
Christopher Gaetzke, Conservation Planner  
Amanda Hanson, Conservation Planner  
Rick Ingli, Conservation Planner  
Robert Kaner, Conservation Engineering Tech  
Janell Newcomb, Support Specialist  
Lindsay Olson, Water Quality Specialist

## Dunn County Planning & Land Use Control Division

800 Wilson Avenue, Room 310  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-231-6521

Bob Colson, Planner/Zoning Administrator  
Ben Bublitz, Zoning Enforcement Officer/Planner  
Michelle Siegl, Zoning Enforcement Officer/Planner  
Addison Vang, Planner/Zoning Enforcement Officer  
Janet Riedel, Support Specialist  
Nancy Radke, Secretary

## Dunn County Survey Division

800 Wilson Avenue, Room 310  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
715-231-6526

Tom Carlson, County Surveyor  
Gregg Batzer, Professional Land Surveyor  
Troy Stowell, Survey Technician