

WAUSHARA COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT **SUMMARY AND BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF MAJOR PROGRAMS**

Pine River / Poygan South Priority Watershed

The Pine River / Poygan South Priority Watershed was selected as a priority watershed in 1995 and covers 308 square miles. Approximately \$367,000 is available annually to share the cost of meeting the project goals of a 34% reduction in sediment and phosphorus in rivers, streams, and lakes. This project will end in 2009.

Land and Water Resource Management Plan & Cost-Sharing

This plan was done in 1999 in response to a legislative call to redesign Wisconsin's programs to reduce pollution from unknown sources. It is intended to guide and direct the Land Conservation Department by identifying long term goals and implementation strategies to reduce sediment and phosphorus in rivers, streams, and lakes in Waushara County. Some of the other goals include bringing all lands to within tolerable soil loss; providing sufficient areas of shoreline plants between the water and buildings along the edge of all lakes, rivers, and streams; and provide technical assistance to landowners. Money is available to share the cost of implementing practices that accomplish these goals and objectives.

Farmland Preservation Program

The Farmland Preservation Program began in 1980, and is a tax incentive program encouraging farmers to keep their farms in agriculture production. Contracts with the State Department of Agriculture can be signed for periods of 10-25 years. The farmers agree to keep their lands in agricultural production and to farm in accordance with an approved conservation plan. In turn they are eligible for a reduction in their state income tax. Currently there are approximately 85 active agreements in Waushara County.

Construction Site Erosion Control / Stormwater Management Assistance

The Land Conservation and Zoning Department staff currently assist individual landowners by providing erosion control and stormwater management assistance during residential construction. Many of these properties abut lakes and streams. In addition, staff also provides review of minor and major subdivisions and large development projects to assure that these types of developments will not compromise water quality or the environment.

Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners

Formed in 1995, this coalition of counties, the Central Wisconsin Vegetable Growers and the Golden Sands RC&D was organized to provide planning, layout, installation, maintenance and to share the cost measures to reduce wind erosion of the soil. The partners provide assistance to area farmers resulting in the annual planting of approximately 15 miles of trees or shrubs to reduce the force of wind, so less soil is blown off the farm fields.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP is an opportunity for Wisconsin landowners to voluntarily enroll agricultural lands in CREP designated townships (Bloomfield/Poy Sippi/Aurora) into conservation practices, such as riparian buffers, filter strips, wetland restorations, waterways and the establishment of native grasslands in the grassland project area. It is a joint partnership between the United States Department Of Agriculture (USDA), the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and County Land Conservation Departments (LCD). Fifteen-year agreements and perpetual easements are available. USDA is providing \$200 million in funds for the implementation of the federal portion of the program and the State of Wisconsin is contributing \$40 million for the state portion of the program. Depending on a variety of factors and application options, annual rental rates can range from \$35-\$120 per acre. USDA also provides an incentive payment of 35%-60% of the annual rental rate, maintenance payments of \$5-\$10 an acre, 50% cost sharing of installing the practice, and \$140-\$150 up-front signing bonus. In addition the State of Wisconsin offers an incentive of 1.5 times the annual rental rate for 15-year agreements and 12 times the annual rate for perpetual easements. Contact FSA, NRCS or the LCD office to check for eligibility.

Information & Education

Land Conservation Staff work with schools, camps, lake associations, groups & organization and individual property owners in teaching land and water stewardship, and conservation education in general. Two annual events involving local school children are the Conservation Speaking Contest and the Conservation Poster Contest. The Land Conservation Department also provides a scholarship each year for a student to attend Conservation Camp.

WAUSHARA COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT USER SURVEY 2004

1. What do you think are the 5 most important natural resource issues that should be addressed in Waushara County over the next 5 years?

Rank the most important issue 1, the 2nd most important issue 2, the 3rd issue 3, and so on. Use each number once.

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater / drinking water quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Surface water / lakes, streams, river quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat quality and availability | <input type="checkbox"/> Management of forest and wood lots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disposal and handling of manure and septic waste | <input type="checkbox"/> Over development / too many houses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education programs on conservation issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Air quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Control of exotic / foreign plants, bugs, and animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Need for more parks and natural areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wind erosion | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

2. The following are the major programs the Land Conservation Department is currently involved with. Rank the programs in the order you feel the Waushara County will benefit the most from over the next 5 years.

Rank the most important program as 1, the 2nd issue as 2, the 3rd as 3, and so on. Use each number once.

- Pine River / Poygan South Priority Watershed
This watershed project provides \$367,000 to share the cost of projects to reduce sediment and phosphorus.
- Land and Water Resource Management Plan & Cost-sharing
This plan directs program priorities throughout the County to reduce sediment and phosphorus and provides Dollars to share in the cost of implementing management practices that result in less sediment and phosphorus.
- Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)
A state income tax incentive program to encourage farmers to keep their lands in agricultural production.
- Construction Site Erosion Control / Stormwater Management Assistance
Technical assistance is provided to residential property owners to reduce erosion and improve water quality.
- Central Wisconsin Windshed Partners (CWWP)
A cooperative effort between Counties and vegetable growers to provide for the design and installation of trees and shrubs to reduce the amount of soil and wind plows off the fields in the Central Sands area.
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
A joint partnership between state, federal and local conservation depts.. to provide landowners an opportunity to Voluntarily enroll agricultural lands in CREP designated townships (Bloomfield/Poy Sippi/Aurora) into specified conservation practices.
- Information & Education
A variety of education programs promoting conservation education in the schools and to landowners.

3. If applicable, which of the above listed major programs of the Land Conservation Department have you been involved with and how (employed by, learned from, recipient of benefits)?

4. Please list what other important issues or programs the Land Conservation Department should focus on in Waushara County for the next 5 years.

Please describe why you answered as you did.

Please return to:

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