



Dane County Land & Water Resources Department
2007 Annual Report

Congratulations to the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department for another year of exceptional success in fulfilling its mission to protect and enhance the County's natural, agricultural, cultural and historic resources. Thanks to your hard work, individually and in partnership with conservationists and local officials, our citizens have more and better parks and trails for healthy recreation and better protected waters and farmland. Thank you.

Kathleen Falk—Dane County Executive

From the Director

Greetings and welcome ...

...to the Land and Water Resources Department 2007 Annual Report. The following pages convey only a portion of the achievements department staff, along with support from a variety of partners and volunteers, have accomplished this past year.

These contributions to county citizens come in the form of protection and enhancement of county soil and water resources; recreational based services and facilities for our park and natural resource users; and educational support and technical services to individuals, local units of government and agencies in their resource management activities.

On behalf of everyone in the Land and Water Resources Department, I hope you enjoy this report and find it informative. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 608-224-3731 or by email: connors.kevin@co.dane.wi.us

- Kevin Connors, Director

Strategic Planning—Focusing on Our Mission

2007 marked the continuation of the LWRD Strategic Plan, with current efforts focused on strategy development. Three strategic issues have been identified and an internal team assembled to answer the first question:

What improvements do we need to make to internal structures, systems and processes to improve operating effectiveness and efficiency?

From late 2006 through June of 2007, the team met regularly and recommended the following improvements, which are currently under implementation:

- Spring and Fall All-Staff Meetings: Began holding half-day meetings twice a year. Two divisions will present in addition to an outside speaker and a question/answer session with the Department Director.
- Organizational Review: Assembled a team to determine if the LWRD organizational chart should be modified.
- Employee Recognition: Include employee bios, birthdays, retirements and new hires in the employee newsletter. Award the "Making a Difference Award" to recognize employees for achievements both professionally and personally.
- Employee Newsletter: Created an employee newsletter that is released in the summer and winter. Responsibility for the newsletter will be rotated among divisions.
- Procedures Manual: Began assembling a LWRD procedures manual.
- LWRD Logo: Explore the creation of a LWRD logo that will complement existing division logos and identities.
- Computer/GIS Support: Continually identify LWRD technology needs and make budget recommendations.
- LWRD Directory and Organizational Chart: Created a LWRD staff directory, and updated the organizational chart.
- Social Events: Began holding educational and social events that will provide opportunities to get to know each other better in informal settings.

Implementation of these efforts will continue into 2008. Additionally, LWRD will begin examining the remaining strategic issues.

LWRD Mission Statement

The Dane County Land and Water Resources Department exists to ensure the protection and enhancement of Dane County's natural, cultural, and historic resources; to provide the County's citizens with a broad array of accessible, high quality resource-based recreational services and facilities; and to support citizens, communities, local government and other agencies, and organizations in their resource management and protection activities.

LWRD Strategic Issues

- ◆ *What improvements do we need to make to internal structures, systems and processes to improve operating effectiveness and efficiency?*
- ◆ *What can the Land and Water Resources Department do to conserve and protect Dane County's land and water resources at a time when growth, development and use pressures are creating a growing array of threats?*
- ◆ *What can we do to help create and sustain an environmental ethic among Dane County citizens as a means of better aligning individual and collective behavior with sound land and water protection principles and actions?*

Measuring Performance and Communicating the Value of Our Work

In the early stages of developing a strategic plan for our Department, we asked for input from over 100 stakeholders including elected officials and policy makers; agency and nonprofit partners; service recipients; park users and others. Those stakeholders assisted us in identifying critical issues and work priorities, and in providing other ideas on how we can fulfill our mission and meet others' expectations.

One of the questions we asked was: "What performance criteria do you use to judge the Department's performance of its basic roles?" Stakeholder suggestions for evaluating Department performance included:

- environmental quality measures (e.g. meeting benchmarks for soil and water resources; green spaces mitigating water, air and noise pollution);
- effectiveness measures (e.g. lake levels in compliance with lake level orders);
- productivity measures (e.g. acquisition of properties; volunteers engaged in development and maintenance of parks and natural resource areas);
- innovation measures (e.g. applying new methods to tackle issues);
- technical assistance measures (e.g. number of workshops hosted; availability of personnel and technical assistance);
- behavior change measures (e.g. people changing practices on the ground); and
- user satisfaction measures (e.g. friendly and professional treatment of customers; calls returned and other requests filled in a timely manner; customers receiving accurate answers).

Throughout this Annual Report, you will find sections highlighting Department progress toward some of these measures. Beyond only reporting on those measures, we want to interpret the importance of our work in terms of both quality of life and economic value. Some examples of how *quality of life* is enhanced by our work are listed below:

- National studies document that people who have the best access to open spaces and park facilities are 43% more likely to get the 30 minutes of physical activity most days of the week, recommended by the Surgeon General, than those people who have poor access to such facilities.
- Studies show that people who have better access to parks, visit parks frequently, and engage in physically-active park behaviors also make fewer visits to their doctor for reasons other than a regular check-up.
- Health studies published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine show that contact with nature such as plants, animals, pleasing landscapes and wilderness areas offer a wide range of health benefits including lower blood pressure and reduced cholesterol levels.

(Continued on next page)



Measuring Performance & Communicating Value (Continued)

Some examples of *economic value* for several areas of Department work are found below:

- Several studies in Wisconsin, the Upper Midwest, and Maine, all report that clean and healthy lakes are valuable in a tangible way:
 - Delavan Lake (Walworth County) is responsible for an estimated \$77 million in annual spending and the generation of over 800 jobs. An improvement in the management of Eurasian water milfoil there would increase economic activity by 8% to 11%.
 - Recreational use of Dane County lakes and streams for boating, fishing, etc contributes many millions of dollars annually to the local economy.
 - Water clarity significantly affects lakeshore property values.
- Protection of open space and park lands for the benefit of the public increases property values on nearby private lands.
- Total annual economic impacts in Wisconsin from active outdoor recreation (trail-based, bicycle-based, camp-based, snow-based, and paddle-based) are \$5.5 billion, and support 84,549 jobs.

We're going to continually refine our thinking about these topics, and welcome your feedback on how we should meaningfully measure our progress and interpret the value of our work.

Land and Water Legacy Fund

The Land and Water Legacy Fund made its first splash in 2007. With a budget of \$1.5 million, LWRD was able to implement the following Land and Water Legacy projects:

- North Mendota environmental study: A consultant has been hired to identify and map important environmental features in the North Mendota area. The information will be used for many purposes, including park, open space and transportation planning.
- Capital equipment grant program: Special thanks to the Environmental Council for managing this program, which provides grants ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 for equipment purchase, rental, or lease; construction of conservation measures; or maintenance of previously constructed conservation measures that improve, protect, and enhance land and water resources in Dane County.
- Stormwater outfall retrofits: LWRD partnered with the City of Madison and the City of Sun Prairie to retrofit stormwater outfalls.
- Streambank restoration: A total of 1.5 miles of streambank were restored.
- Purchase of streambank easements and North Mendota wetland restoration sites: A streambank easement program was developed to convert 20-year easements to permanent easements that provide public access along trout streams. Using a streamlined acquisition approach, three easements were purchased for a total of two miles of protected streambank. Several additional streambank easement purchases are in the works for 2008. LWRD is also pleased to report the purchase of 80 acres in the Town of Westport. Planning and engineering is underway for restoring wetlands on this site.



Wetland Restoration

LWRD looks forward to the continuation of the Land and Water Legacy Fund in 2008. With an increased budget of \$2 million, many exciting projects are on the way, including more streambank easements and wetland restoration purchases, and community-wide collaboration as part of the Yahara Lakes Legacy Partnership.

Stewart Lake Restoration Initiated in 2007



View of drawn-down Stewart Lake looking south from the dam

In early August the plug was officially pulled.....and the water from Stewart Lake flowed out of the dam and into Moen Creek! The drawdown of Stewart Lake will serve multiple purposes with the end result being improved water quality and enhanced recreational opportunities. The nutrient rich sediment has contributed to excessive algae and macrophyte growth which has negatively impacted the water quality and fishery. The initial phase of the project includes maintenance of the concrete dam and associated earthen embankment. While the concrete repairs will not be completed until mid 2008, the Department did contract for the removal of the woody vegetation and trees on the earthen structure in December 2007. In addition to the concrete repairs slated for

2008, staff will develop a dredging and lake restoration plan and begin a master planning effort for the park. An estimated 20,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed.

Community Manure Feasibility Study—Phase 1 Complete

Dane County established a manure management advisory task force in the spring of 2006. The task force’s main goal was to initiate an independent study of alternatives to manure management in the County. As a result, a request for proposals was developed later that fall. Fourteen proposals were received and Strand Associates, Inc., from Madison, WI, was selected. They delivered the completed study report in December 2007.

The study considered various community and individual farm manure management alternatives, with the ultimate goal of strengthening the livestock industry while protecting water quality in the County.

The study focused on two clusters of farms in upper Lake Mendota watershed. The Waunakee Cluster (three farms) and the Middleton Cluster (seven farms) were selected as a result of a survey sent out to 117 farms in the watershed. Farm locations and farmer participation were important factors in the study area selection.

A couple of very important conclusions have come from this report. There is a great deal of interest from the farm community and Dane County to develop alternative strategies for helping farmers manage manure in nontraditional ways. The report clearly identified strategies that have the potential to vitalize the livestock industry while at the same time safeguard the high caliber of water in Dane County.

The results will be presented to the task force, farmers, and county officials early in 2008. Phase 2 is expected to start soon after. Results are online at: www.danewaters.com/management/manureCommittee.aspx



Aquatic Plant Management Program Advances

Continued improvements to the APM program were evident in 2007; some quite visible and some behind the scenes. The program advances built on past County Aquatic Plant Management Committee recommendations, public comment, insights and analysis by Parks and Land Conservation Divisions and Office of Lakes and Watersheds staff, and the many years of experience of the harvesting crews and supervisors in the Public Works Lakes Management Division.

The most visible change to lake users and shoreline residents is two brand new harvesters that were placed in service May of 2007. The eco-friendly harvesters are more energy efficient, faster, quieter, have greater load capacity and are easier to operate and maintain. This increases the harvester fleet to 10 machines. We also installed a GPS unit on one harvester to help track harvesting locations and improve harvesting accuracy in windy or murky conditions.

We piloted a plant scout program in 2007, and the budget allows us to continue this program into 2008. The scout's job is to regularly survey summer plant growth in the lakes to identify potential problem areas, and to direct harvesting to areas of greatest need.

Improvements to our aquatic plant harvesting database and streamlined data entry mean that we can much more easily report on harvesting activity by area and effort. In 2007, harvesters worked on the water for a total of 3,810 hours, harvesting 2,010 truckloads of aquatic plants (that's 9,246 tons of wet weight!) that were removed and hauled to compost sites. Location of the harvester work is determined by plant growth/need, and it will be no surprise to area residents that Lake Monona including Monona Bay received 64% of harvester operation time last year. Lake Mendota, which because of its depth and therefore more limited plant growth does not usually see that much harvester activity, took 12% of the time expended, and Lake Waubesa 7% of the time. Harvesters also worked on Fish Lake, Indian Lake, Interlake, Lake Kegonsa, Tenney Lagoons, Verona Quarry, Lake Wingra, and the Yahara River.

Most of our harvesting focuses on dealing with an existing infestation of an aquatic invasive species, Eurasian water milfoil, that was introduced to this area in the 1960s. Control of existing invasives will also be the focus of a new initiative, in cooperation with Wisconsin DNR and the US Army Corps of Engineers: a research project to evaluate the potential for

early season mechanical harvesting and selective herbicide treatment to give native plant communities a competitive advantage over Eurasian water milfoil. The other initiative that was planned in 2007 and will complete in 2008 is development of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species prevention and control plans.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

FISH, CRYSTAL and INDIAN LAKES
Lower Wisconsin River Basin

DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN



SCUBA cut channels through Eurasian watermilfoil in Fish Lake, 1990

January 2007

OFFICE OF LAKES AND WATERSHEDS
DANE COUNTY LAND AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
1 FEN OAK COURT, RM 234
MADISON, WI 53718

Of Note...

- 377 acres on 14 waterbodies harvested during 2007
- 3,810 hours spent by harvester operators on the water
- 2,010 truck loads harvested, for a total wet weight of 9,246 tons

The Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission and Wisconsin DNR approved several aquatic plant management plans in 2007: for Lakes Mendota, Wingra, Kegonsa (and Lower Mud Lake); Fish, Crystal and Indian Lakes; Jenni and Kyle Preserve Ponds; Tenney, Vilas and Warner Park Lagoons; and Verona Quarry.



Public Works - Lakes Management crews are justifiably proud of their great work in building and operating this new harvester

RESERVE DANE—Parks New Online Reservation System

Reserve Dane, Parks Division's new online camping and shelter reservation program, went live November 1, 2007. With the new reservation system, located at www.reservedane.com/, patrons can browse the County park facilities to determine which campsite or shelter best meets their needs, reserve the facility using a major credit card, and then immediately receive an e-mail confirmation for services. Patrons who wish to talk directly to park staff or have questions regarding a reservation, can continue to make reservations either by phone or over the counter.



The new online program is the first e-commerce program initiated by the County. The Division of Information Management (IM) staff must be credited for work that has been accomplished on this new program. IM started with a very basic program and our ideas, and developed a cutting-edge computer program that manages a great deal of information. Currently, Parks manages approximately 1,100 facility reservations annually during the summer months. Park Rangers will utilize portable net stations to manage the reservations in the parks. Managing reservations electronically will provide greater utilization of facilities, easy tracking of reservations, a simplified reservation process for patrons, and reduced paperwork, which will in turn reduce fuel and labor costs of delivering paperwork to each park. Over the next year the program will continue to be improved and adjusted as customers and staff provide suggestions.

Administration Division

The Administration Division provides solutions to meet the ever-changing needs of internal and external customers. Our goal is to remain a valuable resource for everyone who works with us.

In 2007, we supported projects across all divisions, including:

- Stewart Lake restoration project
- citizen stream monitoring program
- budget preparation and single audits
- grant management
- preparation for committee/commission meetings
- monitoring and management of lake levels
- Invasive Species program development
- State and Federal program reporting requirements
- educational outreach programs to area youth
- erosion control and stormwater management
- conservation programs
- mapping tools and programs
- park permit sales
- North Mendota Parkway planning
- manure management
- Aquatic Plant Management plans
- State of the Waters Report
- Gypsy Moth spray blocks
- GIS dataset development and map creation



Of Note...

- administered 25 grant-funded projects for a total of \$1,356,237
- continue to implement and update the Parks Division Online Reservation System
- assisted with the design and publication of LWRD's first newsletter

The *Office of Lakes and Watersheds* (OLW) is involved in many efforts within the Department and with many external partners.

OLW staff worked with the Dane County Environmental Council and many other partners to develop the **Yahara Waterways Water Trail Guide**, which features the environmental, cultural and historical treasures of the Yahara chain of lakes. This full-color booklet can be downloaded from www.danewaters.com or can be purchased for \$5.

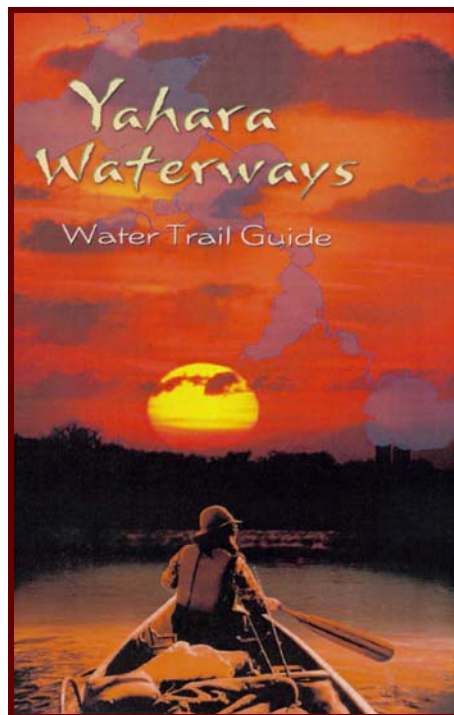
In recognition of the 20th anniversary of spring cleaning for the lakes, Yahara Lakes Week became **Take a Stake in the Lakes Week** (TAS), tying the historic Saturday clean-up events that bookend the June 9-17 activities to the weeklong celebration. Mad-City Ski Team initiated an annual Clean Lakes Festival this year. The Team donated \$21,000 in proceeds to the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission for aquatic plant harvesting.

Regulation of coal tar sealants for driveways and parking lots was prepared by the Lakes and Watershed Commission and went into effect in July to prevent polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are toxic to fish and other aquatic life, from entering our lakes, rivers and streams.

OLW staff regularly give presentations and provide advice to municipal and state governments across the state and country on developing successful phosphorus-restricting lawn fertilizer legislation. Dane County's ordinance was the model for the legislation now being considered by the State of Wisconsin.

Another change moved the **Better Lawns and Gutters Tour** from the Take a Stake in the Lakes Week in June to August when many native species found in rain gardens and prairie plantings are at their peak. This year the tour featured public and private plantings on the north side of Madison.

Dane Waters: A Reflection of Us All is an award-winning 26-minute DVD developed by OLW staff and the **Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership** (MAMSWaP) I&E Committee to bring attention to how storm water affects each of us and what we all can do to mitigate its effects. Copies are free and available from the Office of Lakes and Watersheds.



Of Note...

- 28 acres planted with native species through the Plant Dane! program
- 742 Take a Stake in the Lakes volunteers
- 44 Take a Stake in the Lakes Week events
- 420 storm drains stenciled/marked (267 during TAS Week)
- 32 tons of garbage and debris collected during TAS clean up events

Twenty-one applications to the **Plant Dane! Grant Program** were received in 2007, representing over 28 acres that were planted with native plant species. OLW and MAMSWaP staff manage this program, which is made possible through support from the Graham-Martin Foundation.

In October, OLW, the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission, MAMSWaP, and the City of Madison collaborated on a **Parking Lot and Sidewalk Winter Maintenance** workshop. This workshop, well-received by public and private staff, focused on the water quality and economic benefits of reducing de-icer application rates.

OLW staff also made significant contributions to several LWRD-wide initiatives, including aquatic plant management and strategic planning.

From the transfer of Erosion Control and Stormwater Management county-wide program administration, to the final years of Lake Mendota Priority Watershed project, this short report highlights just a few of the very successful conservation projects implemented by the Land Conservation Division in 2007.



*Lake Mendota Priority Lake Project
(Kickaboo Diversion Basin)*

Lake Mendota Priority Lake Project

As part of a 10-year project, technical and cost share assistance is available to landowners with land draining to Lake Mendota for the installation of best management practices to reduce sediment and phosphorus runoff. The project is scheduled to end in December of 2008. To date, landowners have received over \$1.4 million in state and federal cost share assistance, reducing phosphorus loading to surface water from animal waste by over 7,500 lbs annually (60% of project goal) and from upland sediment by over 25,000 lbs annually (40% of project goal).

Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program

The Land Conservation Division received a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection for the development and implementation of approximately 3,600 acres of Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) in the Black Earth Creek Watershed. In 2006-2007, there were 1,820 acres contracted for NMP, representing a total of \$50,963 funds disbursed.

Land and Water Resource Management Plan

The Land and Water Resource Management (LWRM) plan was developed to address soil erosion and water quality issues using local, state and federal programs. Each year the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection can allocate funds to assist counties in the protection of their land and water resources.

In 2007, the Dane County Land Conservation Division received a grant of \$97,000 to plan, design, and implement conservation practices. Eighteen landowners applied for cost-share assistance through the LWRM plan, representing 100 % allocation of funds for the implementation of conservation practices.

Of Note...

- landowners assisted 1,576
- acreage in conservation plans updated in 2007 38,725
- erosion control & stormwater management:
 - inspections 5,300
 - plan reviews 688
 - permits 402
- acreage under winter spreading plans 57,623
- acreage of nutrient management plans developed in 2007 43,537
- streambank protection & restoration (miles) 2.3

Erosion Control and Stormwater Management

LCD staff experienced a general increase in erosion control and stormwater management permitting activity during the 2007 calendar year. This increase can be partly attributed to an increased field presence, and benefits derived from educational and outreach workshops. LCD staff completed a total of 5,352 inspections on 667 sites, and issued 402 permits. Through diligent review and frequent inspection, sites are held in compliance throughout the construction process. Increased compliance results in enhanced resource and water quality protection within Dane County.

Community	Plan Submittals			Permits Issued	Sites Inspected	Inspections Performed	Verbal Noncompliance Notices Issued	Written Noncompliance Notices Issued	Enforcement Actions Issued
	2007	2006	Percent Change						
# DeForest	12	21	-43%	NA	17	335	74	1	0
# Middleton	93	70	33%	NA	62	906	154	4	2
# Stoughton	19	14	36%	NA	17	207	69	4	0
# Sun Prairie	60	76	-21%	NA	69	1211	216	8	0
# Waunakee	15	22	-32%	NA	29	540	82	1	0
Contracted Communities (Listed Above) Sub Total	199	203	-2%	NA	194	3199	595	18	2
Dane County (Unincorporated Areas)	688	482	43%	402	473	2153	*	*	12
Grand Total	887	685	29%	402	667	5352	595	18	14

*Information not readily available.

#Community under contract with Dane County for erosion control and/or stormwater management plan review and inspection services

Many amazing acquisitions took place in 2007. Thanks to the generosity of several individuals, Dane County was able to protect more land than ever before. A sincere thanks for the following donations:

- 2.5 acres at Brigham County Park from Anita Gurda
- A conservation easement on 34 acres from Max and Betty Rosenbaum
- A pledged life estate on 137 acres along the Maunasha River from George Socha Sr. and Joyce Baehr
- A pledged conservation easement on 157 acres at Stewart County Park from Beatrice Wencil

Of Note...

Lands protected in 2007—

- conservation easement. 801 acres
- fee title 867 acres
- permanent streambank fishing access 2 miles

The Conservation Fund also added to the Dane County Parks system through the acquisition of 537 acres plus 198 acres under conservation easement. Lands were protected in the following areas: North Mendota Natural Resource Area, Door Creek Wetlands Natural Resource Area, Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area, Fish Lake Natural Resource Area, Pleasure Valley Natural Resource Area, Donald County Park, and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Additionally, the Conservation Fund Grant Program helped:

- The Deer Creek Sports and Conservation Club protect 70 acres within the Sugar River Natural Resource Area
- The Natural Heritage Land Trust protect 23 acres within the Patrick Marsh Natural Resource Area
- The Town of Windsor and the Natural Heritage Land Trust protect 17 acres within the Token Creek Natural Resource Area.

The Land and Water Legacy Fund marked its first year with the purchase of 80 acres within a wetland complex identified in the North Mendota Priority Watershed Plan. The Land & Water Legacy Fund also protected two miles of public fishing access as part of the streambank acquisition program.

The Hwy 12 Purchase of Development Rights Program continued in 2007, with the majority of funds spent or committed. This program works to protect viable farms in the Towns of Springfield, Roxbury, Dane and Middleton. To date, 1,282 acres have been protected, 412 of which were acquired or committed in 2007.



The Land Acquisition Division also coordinated land management activities, including oversight of the crop lease program and habitat restoration. Several restoration projects were made possible by a federal North American Wetland Conservation Act grant. These projects included a 1-acre wetland restoration at the Jenni and Kyle Preserve, 50-acre of grassland and prairie restoration along the Capital City State Trail and a 28-acre prairie restoration in the Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area.

County Executive Kathleen Falk joins conservation partners at a streambank easement purchased in 2007

Parks Division

The Parks Division provided a year-round seven-day operation in 2007. Full park services were provided between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.



A Family Walk at Donald County Park

photo courtesy of Mark Opitz

In 2007, Parks managed 9,670 acres of land, including:

- 5,211 acres park land
- 4,156 acres natural resource areas
- 116 acres historic/cultural sites
- 187 acres forests

Park Use:

- 1,100 park reservations (670 camping and 430 shelter)
- over 8,000 camper nights
- more than 30 Special Events
- an estimated 304,550 patrons entered Lake Farm Park (April—December)
- an estimated 161,740 patrons used the Capital City State Trail (April—October)
- maintained over 130 buildings or structures throughout park system

County Recreation:

- Trails: 143 miles maintained by the Division; over 340 miles maintained by volunteers (snowmobile and equestrian)
- Vallart—Ast Disc Golf Course (18-Hole)—nationally recognized
- 5 dog exercise areas with a total of 170 acres—nationally recognized
- Lake access sites—4 improved, 3 unimproved and 6 canoe access sites
- 33 shelters and 36 picnic areas available for public use
- Play areas: 10 playgrounds, 15 volleyball and tennis courts, and 10 ball fields

Summer and Winter Grounds Maintenance Service Provided to Other County Agencies:

- Alliant Energy Center
- Human Services—Badger Prairie Health Care Center, Northport and Satellite Offices
- Juvenile Court Program—Shelter Home
- Sheriff’s Department—Law Enforcement Training Center and Work Release Center

Lussier Family Heritage Center

A total of 433 events were held at the Center in 2007. Out of 512 user days available, 389 were booked, giving the Center an 86% utilization rate. The breakdown is as follows:

- 28—county commissions, committees and Land & Water Resource Department events
- 208—local city, county, state and federal agency events
- 75—non-profit organization events
- 122—private or corporate events
- 21,000—total visitors to the Center

Adult Conservation Team (ACT) Volunteer Program

An estimated 1,430 volunteers worked a total of 23,641 hours in 2007. Park Friends Groups made up the highest percentage with over 8,000 volunteer hours .

(Continued on next page)

Of Note...

Major Park Projects

- park online reservation system
- park master plans for CamRock Park and Scheidegger Forest
- 100’ Cam-Rock bridge (sponsored by Cambridge Foundation)
- 60’ Nine Springs E-way bridge
- Badger Prairie Dog Exercise Area relocation (sponsored By Badger Prairie Heath Care Center)
- Scheidegger Forest demolition and site work
- Donald Park big springs observation deck
- Lower Mud Lake NRA—demolition, site work and Yahara River access site
- Stewart Lake restoration project

Natural Areas Management

- 57 acres restored to prairie and savanna
- 3 acres wetland restoration
- 116 events – an average of two per week (seed collecting, cleaning and vegetation control)
- 820 pounds of seed collected from County land and processed for planting in 2008
- 166 acres prescribed burned for grass lands and savanna management

Parks (Continued)

Wildlife Areas Designation

In October 2007, the Dane County Board adopted a new park ordinance providing the Park Commission authority to designate Wildlife Areas on lands under its jurisdiction. The new ordinance provides for greater opportunities for hunting and other passive recreation activities. Since 2002, the Park Commission has provided a permitted archery hunt. The Wildlife Areas designation allows for expanded partnerships with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Federal agencies in the management and public use of natural resource areas in the County. In November 2007, the Park Commission designated the first Wildlife Area in the North Mendota Natural Resource Area, 39 acres adjacent to the Dorn Creek State Fishery Area.

Awards

Marcia Hartwig, Office of Lakes and Watersheds

—Upper Sugar River Watershed Association "Candle on the Water Award"

Sue Jones, Office of Lakes and Watersheds

—Yahara Lakes Association "2006 Public Official of the Year" (presented in 2007)

Pete Jopke, Administration Division

—Black Earth Creek Watershed Association "For Inspiring Students Through Outstanding Educational Programs"

Pat Sutter, Land Conservation Division

—Black Earth Creek Watershed Association "For Outstanding Management of the Black Earth Creek Priority Watershed Project"

Wayne Pauly, Parks Division

—Madison Audubon Society "2007 Environmentalist of the Year"

Dane County Parks Division—Jenni and Kyle Preserve

—Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association "Award of Excellence"

Staff Changes

We welcome the following to our department:

- **Randy Lettebo**
Parks, Park Maintenance Technician
- **Brian Meixner**
Parks, Ranger
- **Angela Meszaros**
Land Conservation, Conservation Specialist
- **Ryan (Burt) Schwab**
Parks, Heavy Equipment Operator
- **Jess Starks**
Land Conservation, Erosion Control Specialist
- **Jason Tuggle**
Land Conservation, Erosion Control Specialist

Contact Us

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