

# ECSM NEWS 2025

## EROSION CONTROL AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



This newsletter is an annual effort to inform and update our municipal partners, permit applicants, consultants, and contractors about the Dane County erosion control and stormwater management program.

## IS YOUR ORDINANCE UP TO DATE?

In October 2021, Dane County updated Chapter 14 of the code of ordinances, to reflect these changes:

- Allowed easement holders to apply for permits
- Added closed watershed requirements
- Added the current 200-year peak rate control
- Show flood elevation and lowest opening on plan
- Redevelopment - first half inch of runoff to green infrastructure

Municipal ordinances must meet county minimum requirements, and may include additional requirements. If you have not updated your local ordinance, please do.

We are available for questions you might have.



### \$\$ DID YOU KNOW? \$\$

The trigger for requiring financial surety has been increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 of all estimated costs of erosion control and stormwater management implementation. All costs must include labor/installation.

- Letters of credit and certified checks are accepted, and funds are returned upon project approval and final inspection

## TEMPORARY STABILIZATION

**We get a lot of questions about this ordinance requirement:**

*Temporary stabilization activity shall commence when land disturbing activity has temporarily ceased and will not resume for a period exceeding 14 calendar days.*

**What does this mean?** Any disturbed areas that go idle, must be stabilized by an acceptable practice- surface protection or seed, or both, depending on the time of year.

**Is this a requirement for all sites?** Yes, and it is actually a statewide requirement.

**What types are acceptable?** Straw or hay (crimped in or with tackifier), woodchips, annual seed like oats or winter wheat and mulch, even corn fodder or finished compost. We have reference pages with more information about mulching and temporary seeding.

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT IN STORMWATER PRACTICES



Almost all stormwater management practices incorporate some form of vegetation into their design. We have updated our guidance document for private owners to help empower you to maintain and manage the vegetation involved in your stormwater practice.

We also have a central location where our stormwater resources are housed- from Stormwater 101 to specific flyers on BMPs- check it out!



## OPERATION FRESH START PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Many of our county parks have stormwater facilities that slow down and clean runoff from parking lots and other impervious surfaces. They require regular maintenance to keep them in good shape and performing those functions.

Over the years, finding staff time to perform this maintenance has been challenging. However, for the past two years, the Operation Fresh Start (OFS) Graduate Crew has been able to help us with some long overdue maintenance in several parks. Their work has focused on vegetation management. This includes removing weeds, invasive species, and woody vegetation.

This partnership has been great! We are able to get maintenance done on our facilities, while they have the opportunity to learn about stormwater management and what is required to inspect and maintain stormwater facilities. These are important skills needed in the professional workforce. Thank you to OFS for the mutually beneficial project to ensure our parks' stormwater facilities stay in top-notch shape!

## ILLICIT DISCHARGE REPORTING SITE

The Dane County Illicit Discharge Ordinance (Ch. 50), prohibits illicit discharges and aims to prevent and eliminate illegal discharges to area waterways. The ordinance is administered in partnership with Public Health Madison & Dane County (PHMDC) and gives Dane County enforcement authority. Reports of potential illicit discharges can be submitted via the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department online form. All reports are evaluated by Dane County Land and Water Resources Dept. or PHMDC staff and follow up action is taken, if necessary. Municipalities are encouraged to share the online reporting form with their residents.



**Babcock Park stormwater facility BEFORE**



**Babcock Park stormwater facility AFTER**

### STORMWATER MANUAL

Dane County Land & Water Resources staff maintains a comprehensive site that is easily searchable in a wiki format. It contains all of the references we use to implement our erosion control and stormwater management ordinances.

If you have a question about what to do, or how to do it on a site, look here first- it is the most up to date resource, and has references for a deeper dive.

### Dane County Land & Water

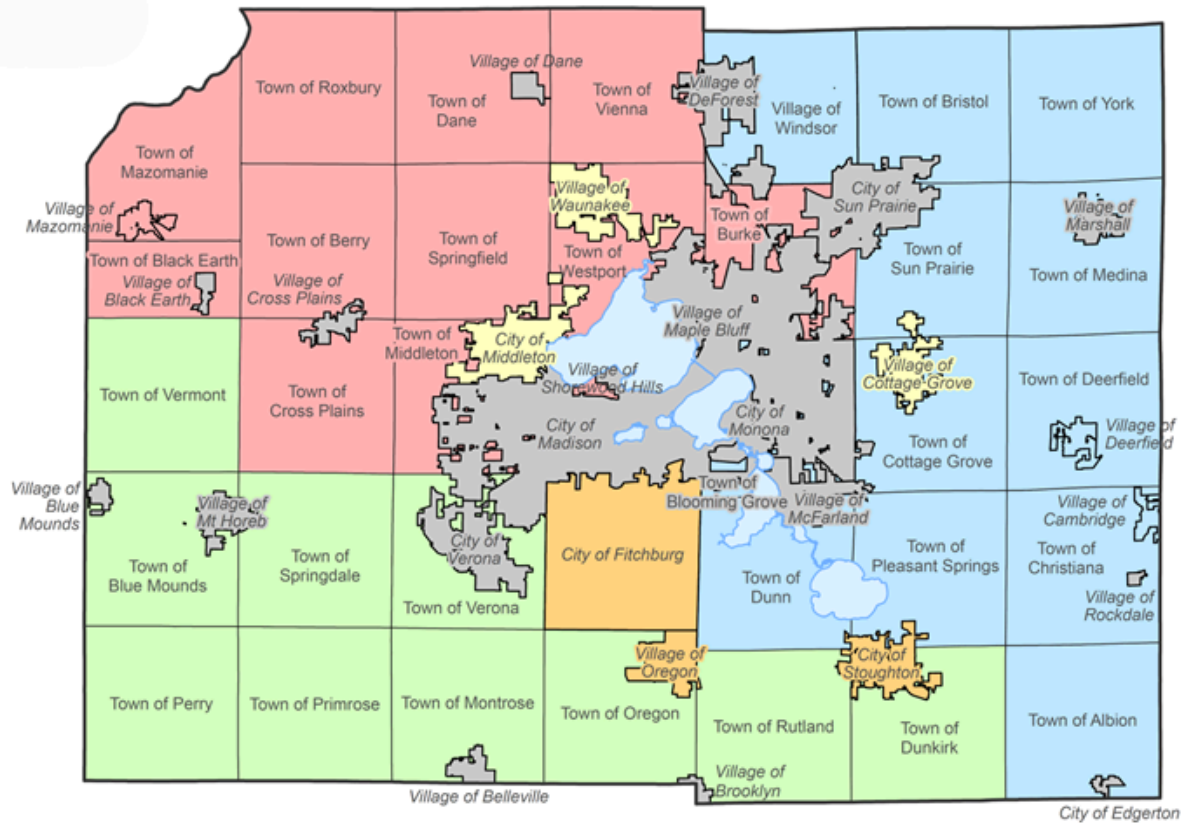
Water Resources Engineering  
5201 Fen Oak Drive, Rm 208  
Madison, WI 53718  
[lwrd.danecounty.gov](http://lwrd.danecounty.gov)

For more information regarding Erosion Control and Stormwater Management in Dane County, scan the QR code or visit us at [danecountystormwatermanual.com](http://danecountystormwatermanual.com)



# EROSION CONTROL AND STORMWATER PERMIT STAFF BY REGION

Use the map below to determine the staff contact for your project



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