



Funds Targeted For Buffer Establishment in Sauk Creek and Sucker Brook Watersheds

(\$200/acre/year available for harvestable buffers)

The Milwaukee Foundation's Fund for Lake Michigan has provided \$120,000 to the Ozaukee County Land & Water Management Department to provide landowners an incentive payment for the installation of vegetative buffers on agricultural land draining directly into a ditch, tributary, or main channel of Sauk Creek or Sucker Brook.

Landowners will have the option of installing a harvestable cool-season grass mix or native prairie grass mix for a contract period of ten years. The monies are distributed in a one time payment of \$2,000/acre for riparian buffers and \$1,000/acre for field borders. This one time payment will cover the entirety of the 10 year contract. The costs for establishing a buffer and field border (seeding, planting, etc.) will be shared between the landowner and the County 70-30%. The 70% from the County comes from existing Ozaukee County grants, including the Wisconsin DATCP Soil and Water Resource Management grant (SWRM) and the NRCS annual Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The overall goal for the \$120,000 grant is to install 50 acres of riparian buffers (\$100,000) and 20 acres of field borders (\$20,000).

Nonpoint source pollution remains a significant concern in Ozaukee County because it threatens the water quality of Sauk Creek and Sucker Brook, which discharge directly into Lake Michigan. Water samples taken in 2010 along Sucker Brook have consistently revealed high levels of agricultural pollutants, including phosphorus, nitrogen, and *E. coli*.

The relative health of this watershed is impaired by these contaminants, sedimentation, and erosion. This buffer initiative is designed to reduce the levels of pollutants such as phosphorus, nitrogen, and *E. coli* in Sauk

Creek and Sucker Brook, while restoring and preserving usable habitat for wildlife. The addition of riparian buffers and field borders will reduce erosion by catching sediment and slowing the rate of runoff. These buffers will also trap and absorb excess nutrients before they reach Sauk or Sucker Creeks.

Please contact the Land & Water Management Department at 262-284-8270 for more information regarding this special funding opportunity.



This Buffer Strip that was planted with a cool season grass mix.

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Special points of interest:

- Farmland Preservation Meeting
- Tar Spots
- E-Coli
- Wild Parsnip
- Rain Gardens
- Fish Passage
- Buffers

Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department Summary: Fish Passage Program



During 2009 and 2010, the Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department was awarded a combined \$7.2 million in funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the US Environmental Protection Agency (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative). The purposes of the funds are to develop, refine, implement, and expand the “Milwaukee River Watershed Fish Passage Program” (Program). Our goal is to reconnect existing high quality habitat in the Milwaukee River tributaries to Lake Michigan, Milwaukee Estuary, and the mainstream Milwaukee River reaches. Other aspects of the program include water quality, sediment contamination, fish assemblages, creating new connections between Ozaukee, Milwaukee, other governing bodies, businesses, schools, NGO’s, and most importantly community members.

Program Update

The Program continues making important connections across the Milwaukee

River Watershed. From June through August 2011, the Program and its partners* completed 66 impediment remov-



Citizens participating in electrofishing survey in Ozaukee County .

als on six Milwaukee River tributary streams. This brings the Program’s grand total to 206 impediments removed or modified since 2009! Those completed by the Highway Department include three low-head dam removals or modifications, two major road/stream crossing replacements, and one bridge replacement. Crews from WisCorps and MCSC, our vocational-training program partners, concentrated on log jam and invasive vegetation removals, as well as other small-scale impediment removals.

Program personnel have also continued monitoring restoration and re-vegetation of the former Lime Kiln Dam impoundment in the Village of Grafton. A pedestrian bridge and split-rail fence are planned for Lime Kiln Park to enhance public viewing and angling opportunities in the now free-flowing reach. Further,

Program staff continued working towards solutions to state permitting challenges for the Bridge Street Dam Fishway in the Village of Grafton.

Additional Program activities during summer 2011 included the deployment of water quality monitoring systems, extensive studies to locate potentially contaminated river sediments, and the field survey of fish communities in several Milwaukee River reaches across Ozaukee County. All surveys have yielded a tremendous amount of valuable data. The fish surveys have offered an exciting, educational experience for nearly two dozen citizen volunteers from across Southeastern Wisconsin, who provided necessary field crew labor to complete the important assessments.

Please contact Matt Aho, Program Manager, at 262-236-2005 or maho@co.ozaukee.wi.us for volunteer opportunities and additional Program information.

Visit us on the Web at: http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/planningparks/PlanningParks_Fish_Passage.htm

Like us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/MRWFishPassage>

Receive Fish Passage Tweets at: http://twitter.com/MRW_FishPassage

*Wisconsin Youth Conservation Corps (WisCorps), the Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC), and the Ozaukee County Highway Department

TREE, SHRUB & PRAIRIE SEED SALE PROGRAM



The LWM Department annually takes orders from the public for bare root trees, shrubs and prairie seed beginning in late fall through winter. Plants and seed are sold at a very reasonable price since the county receives a substantial discount for ordering a large quantity of plants and seed, and passing the savings on to the public.

Rain Barrels and Bluebird houses can also be ordered.

An order form can be obtained at <http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/LandWaterManagement/Trees/OrderFormWithDescriptions.pdf> or by calling the Land & Water Management Department at 262-284-8313

Over a million tree/shrub plants have been sold since 1987. The trees, shrubs and prairie seed plantings are encouraged to improve and sustain our natural resources.

New method to spread manure and plant cover crop at the same time

It is a known fact that cover crops are an excellent method to manage soil fertility and reduce the dependence on commercial fertilizers. When cover crops are decisively used with manure application a farmer can potentially replace all commercial fertilizers costs.

In Michigan, a Michigan State University Extension researcher is experimenting with a new method called slurry seeding. Slurry seed is a practice that allows “cover crops to be planted into a harvested field using a combination of low-disturbance tillage, manure and seed, all

in one pass.” *

The results have shown that using the slurry seeding method will provide an increased amount of biomass as compared to conventional seeding. The system is most effective when combined with low-disturbance aeration tillage, manure application, and cover crop seed-



ing.**

*Parker, R. (2011, August 11). Manure saves money: slurry seeding allows farmers to spread manure and plant a field, all in one pass. Retrieved from <http://www.mlive.com>

**Harrigan, T, Mutch, D & Snapp, S (2006). Manure slurry-enrich micro-site seeding of biosuppressive covers. *American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers*, 22(6), 827-834. Retrieved from http://www.mccc.msu.edu/SlurrySeedingCC/Slurry_Seeding_Biosuppressive_Cover_Crops.pdf

Impact of Nutrient Management Plans

Every 3-5 years private and public sector certified soil testers summarize the trends in phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) throughout the state. Identifying the trends of P and K has led to better identification of the impacts of sound resource management practices around the State. According to John Peter from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Soil Science Department, the amount of P and

K has decreased in the State. The reduction is directly related to the nutrient management plans being implemented across the state. The increase in the number of nutrient management plans is an indicator of the farming community’s willingness to participate in fertility management practices for profitable crop production. For information into creating a nutrient management plan contact: The Ozaukee County Land and Water Management Department.

Peters, J. (2011, May). Average soil test phosphorus and potassium levels decline in Wisconsin. *WCPA Industry News Quarterly*, 8(1), 11.

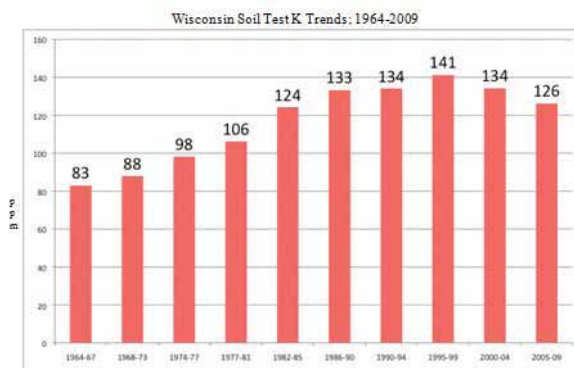


Figure 1: Potassium trends as reported by WCPA Industry News Quarterly

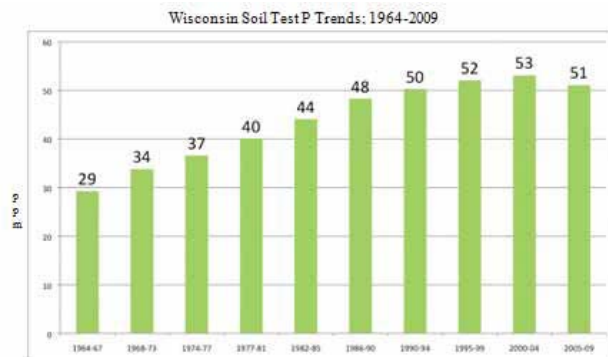


Figure 2: Phosphorus trends as reported by WCPA Industry News Quarterly

Rain Gardens – A Natural Way to Control Stormwater Runoff

The Ozaukee County Land and Water Management Department established several rain garden demonstration sites located in the Village of Fredonia, Village of Saukville, and Town of Cedarburg. Funds from the WI Costal Management Program were used to establish the rain gardens. Rain gardens are designed to catch stormwater directly from roofs, driveways, and sidewalks.

The garden is a shallow excavated basin typically 6 inches or less in depth and is planted with native vegetation. Rain gardens are not ponds, standing water does not occur due to the expansive root structure of the native plants promoting ground infiltration. This infiltration will return water directly to the local groundwater.

Stormwater pollution has the potential of picking up pollutants as it runs across the landscape and makes its way to local streams and rivers through storm drains. The water that enters the storm drain is not treated at a wastewater treatment plant and is a direct conduit to someone's favorite fishing hole.

Another benefit of the garden is the beauty that it can bring to your property. The grasses and forbs offer an abundance of color, which can attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and dragonflies. The added benefit of the dragonfly can result in a natural way to control the mosquito population.

If you are interested, you can take a tour of the locations. A map brochure is available online at the Land and Water Mgt. website. Look for the "What's New" heading to see the location and more information on rain gardens. Additional information may be obtained from the Land and Water Management office at:

(262) 284-8270



Rain Garden in Fredonia



Cardinal Flower
Lobelia cardinalis



Yellow Coneflower
Ratibida pinnata

FLOOD INSURANCE DISCOUNT – ARE YOU AWARE OF THIS?

Ozaukee County is a participating member in the National Flood Insurance Program for the unincorporated areas of the county. This means you as a property owner are able to obtain Flood Insurance that will cover structural damages to your residence in the event of flooding. The county through the Land and Water Management Department(LWMD) follow the Federal and State mandates in regards to the flood hazards areas of the county. Regular audits are performed by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on the Ozaukee County LWMD. During these audits, we are provided with guidelines on how we can improve upon our Community Rating for flood protection. By meeting these guidelines we can improve our rating, which translates into discounts for property owners who have to carry Flood Insurance or choose to carry Flood Insurance. As of 2009 Ozaukee County has a Community Rating of 8, which means residents receive a 10% discount on Flood Insurance Premiums. The LWMD has plans to reduce this rating and increase the discount on flood insurance premiums for the unincorporated areas. If you are carrying Flood Insurance and live in the unincorporated areas of the county you should contact your home insurance agent to make sure that you are getting this discount. For further information on this program visit www.fema.gov.

Action Needed to Improve Sucker Brook Unsafe *E. Coli* Levels

Water quality testing in 2010 and 2011 revealed extremely high levels of *E. coli* bacteria in Sucker Brook. It was not uncommon for the *E. coli* levels to exceed the safe swimming level of 235 MPN/100 mL. In fact, bacteria levels were so high that if there were public beaches on Sucker Brook, they would have been closed for swimming most of the summer as the *E. coli* levels exceeded 1000 MPN/100 mL. (Refer to chart). *E. coli* is a bacterium commonly found in natural bodies of water. Some strains of *E. coli*, such as *E. coli* 0157:H7, are associated with potentially deadly food poisoning, but the strain of *E. coli* being tested for in Sucker Brook poses a low

probability of making those who come in contact with the water ill. Instead, the bacterium is an indicator of the possible presence of other human risks in the water such as: bacteria, viruses, and other organisms.

All warm blooded animals have *E. coli* in their feces, which means that if high levels of *E. coli* are found in Sucker Brook, there is a high chance of fecal matter being in the water. Humans, livestock, birds, wildlife, and pets can all act as sources for the introduction of fecal coliforms such as *E. coli*, therefore *E. coli* can find its way into Sucker Brook from water that flows over land into the brook or from contaminated waters flowing through drain tiles to the brook. Animal waste from farms, failing septic systems, geese drop-

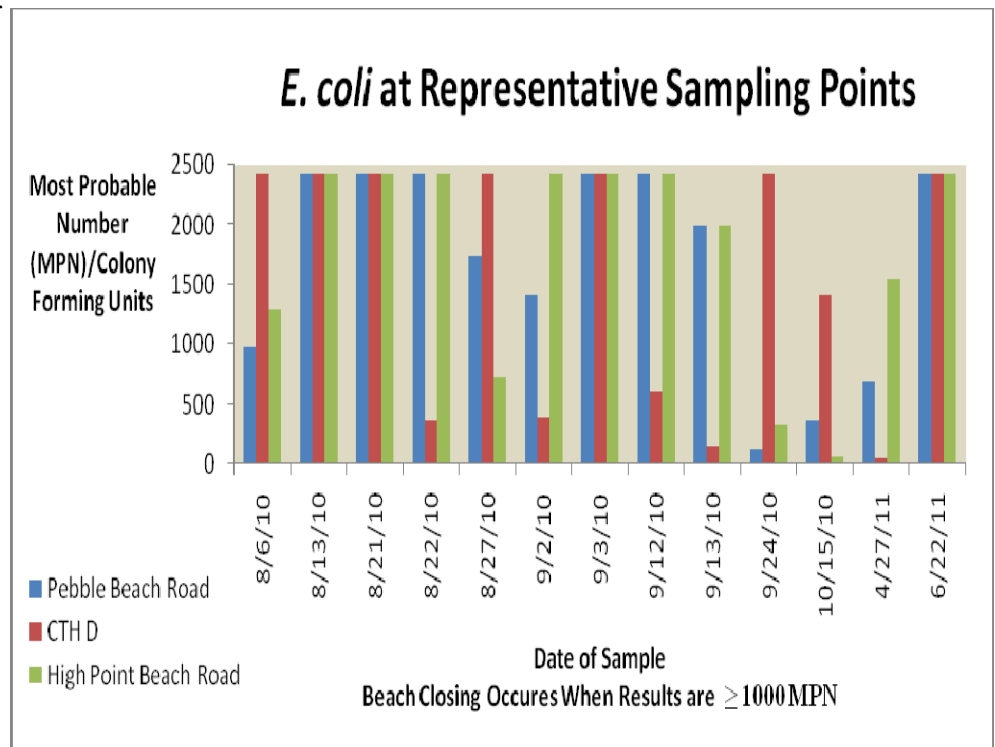
pings, and other animal feces are all examples of *E. coli* sources. Staff at the Land & Water Management department are working with landowners and providing incentives from the Fund for Lake Michigan to install vegetative buffers along Sucker Brook and its tributaries. Buffers are effective at trapping and filtering runoff before it reaches the brook.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has targeted resources to the Sucker Brook watershed as a result of the federal Great Lakes Initiative. Federal & State dollars are available for installing of agricultural conservation practices. Septic systems discharging to the brook are being corrected as the sites become known.

The Wisconsin Coastal Manage-

ment Program and Wisconsin River Protection Program funds allowed Cedarburg Science to sample, test, and assess the Sucker Brook water quality and habitat.

The Sucker Brook Partnership continues to grow as more people become interested in improving the water quality and habitat of Sucker Brook. Please contact the Land and Water Management Department at 262-284-8271 for more information about partnerships and to get information about various conservation programs and available funds to assist in improving the water quality of Sucker Brook



Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program

The Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP) helps farmers get abatement assistance and claims on crops being damaged by the following species; Canada Geese, Whitetail Deer, or Turkey. The WDC Program requires that in order to be eligible for program assistance you must:

- Own the crop and have the authority to control hunting access on all contiguous lands of the same ownership.
- Allow public hunting on lands enrolled
- File a complaint within 14 days of first damage and follow recommended abatement
- Call 10 days prior to harvest of the crop

Failure to meet any one of these above conditions will make you ineligible for damage abatement & claims compensation for that year's crop. This year there seems to be a lot of raccoon damage to corn fields. Unfortunately raccoon damage is not eligible for the program.

New last year the Wildlife Damage Abatement Program can issue Canada Goose Shooting Permits. The requirements are as follows:

- Geese causing crop damage between May 15th – August 31st.
- Enrollment in WDACP is required
- Must allow hunting access
- Must contact Ozaukee County Land & Water Mngt Dept within 14 days of first damage.
- Damage occurring is likely to meet or exceed \$1,000.00 in goose damage.
- Must follow carcass disposal requirements.



2011 Deer Donation Program

Ozaukee County is fortunate to be offering the Deer Donation Program again this year. There are two butcher shops which will accept donated deer and process into venison hamburger for local food pantries. The two butcher shops are Schwai's Meat & Sausage of Fredonia and Blau's Saukville Meats of Saukville. The local Food Pantries which will benefit from this are St Peters church in Port Washington, Random Lake Interfaith Food Pantry in Random Lake and Grafton Family Sharing in Grafton.

Invasive Species Lookout: Wild Parsnip

When driving down the interstate have you ever looked to the side of the road and wondered what is that yellow flower that is growing everywhere? Most likely that yellow flower is the invasive species Wild Parsnip. If you see this invasive species proceed with the utmost diligence in the process. Wild Parsnip can cause burns that are equivalent to minor burns. The most effective method to control Wild Parsnip is to physically remove the plant from the ground in an early stage.

To learn more about Wild Parsnip and other invasive species refer to the SE Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium web site <http://sewisc.org/>



Above: Wild Parsnip

Tar Spots

Have you noticed black blobs on your maple tree leaves? If you have, this may be an indication of a fungal leaf spot disease known as Tar Spot. The symptoms of tar spots are small yellowish spots that will eventually become raised and turn black. In Wisconsin, this disease most commonly affects maple trees. Homeowners need not worry, because tar spots will not kill the tree.

To reduce or even eliminate tar spots on maples remove the fallen, infected leaves from around the base of the tree in the fall.



Example of Tar Spots symptoms

Farmland Preservation Program Update

If you have agricultural land in Ozaukee County and applied for Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) by filling out the FC Tax Form in 2010, you should have contacted the Ozaukee County Land & Water Management Department (LWMD). This is a requirement of the program that is on the tax form. Ozaukee County had approximately 144 participants in the program back in 2008, however less than 10% of the participants notified the Ozaukee County LWMD annually. In 2010 a total of 55 landowners contacted the LWMD expressing interest to continue on with the program or sign up new for the program. The 55 landowners who contacted the department will be getting letters soon explaining what they need to do, if anything to stay eligible for the tax credit program. This letter will arrive before November 1st and you will have until 12/31/ 2015 to implement the requirements.

Of the landowners who filled out the 2010 FC tax form and did not contact the LWMD you will be ineligible for 2011 FPP unless the following requirements are met. These requirements are the same as enrolling new to the program:

1) Need to be in a FPP Zoning area/district.

2) Need to have a active or up to date 590 Nutrient Management Plan.

3) This plan has you working, planting, and harvesting all crops so the soil loss is at or below "T", which is tolerable soil loss.

4) The plan also has you applying nutrients (manure and commercial fertilizers) in a manner that will not exceed crop needs and to minimize runoff contamination to sensitive areas.

5) You will have to have all NR 151 & DATCP 50 Standards and Prohibitions installed before receiving the credit.

If you think you applied for the tax credit and forgot to contact the LWMD while filling out your 2010 FPP tax credit FC form, please contact Jeff Bell (262-284-8274) immediately. We will still work with you to get all NR 151 & ATCP 50 Standards & Prohibitions in place by 2015. Otherwise you will be required to have all Standards & Prohibition in place immediately and subject to penalties for being NOT IN COMPLIANCE with FPP tax standards and prohibitions.

Emerald Ash Borer Update

Since the initial find of the Emerald Ash Borer in Ozaukee County no new finds have been reported in the county. A new method was introduced in effort to control EAB at the River Edge Nature Center with the release of predatory wasps. It may be 5 years before the effects of the wasps are known. If a landowner suspects the presences of the beetle they should contact the EAB hotline: 1-800-462-2803. Any insects caught should be placed in rubbing alcohol or frozen.



Summer Intern

Aaron Reynolds, graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is an Intern for the Land & Water Management Department. Aaron graduated with a major in Resource Management and minors in Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis and Soil Science. Aaron grew up in Elkhorn Wisconsin and attended High School at Elkhorn Area High School. This summer Aaron entered over 7,000 acres into the NRCS database for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and created hundreds of maps for the Land and Water Department. Other areas Aaron has assisted include: surveying, fair displays, and completion of a County wide transect survey.





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GRAFTON, WI 53024
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**LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT
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Jennifer Rothstein, Vice-Chairman
Timothy F. Kaul, Supervisor
Joseph A. Dean, Supervisor
Glenn Stumpf, Supervisor
Rose Hass Leider, Supervisor
Carl Dobberfuhr, FSA Representative

	<h1>Land & Water Management Septic System Information</h1>	
	<table border="1"><tr><td>HOME</td><td>LOGON</td></tr></table>	HOME
HOME	LOGON	

All Ozaukee County private onsite wastewater treatment system (POWTS) owners are now able to check the status of their septic system maintenance by visiting the county's website @ www.powts.co.ozaukee.wi.us. Once the site is accessed, you are able to search by parcel number, permit number, or site address (information provided on your maintenance notification from the county). When your search returns the property of interest, press select on the left side of the screen for more detailed information about your septic system. Of particular interest is the Next Service Date which tells you when the components of the septic system are due for inspection, maintenance, or servicing. Please refer to this website to answer your questions on whether or not your service provider has submitted a report to the county on your behalf (see Last Service Date / Maintenance History). For more recently installed systems, you can access digital copies of the final inspection report and associated site plan identifying type and location of the components that are part of your septic system. For additional information regarding this program or septic system related questions, press the LOGON button on the top right of the webpage, then select the link to e-mail assigned personnel from this department.