



2010 ANNUAL REPORT PLANNING AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF OZAUKEE COUNTY

The Planning and Parks Department's mission is *to provide an organized framework for Ozaukee County residents and visitors of Ozaukee County to appreciate and enjoy the natural and cultural resources, local ecology, recreational experiences, well planned sustainable growth and improved quality of life in Ozaukee County through the preservation, protection, and restoration of natural resources, increased awareness and education, stewardship, comprehensive planning, and the acquisition, development, enhancement and operation of large scale, intergovernmental recreational opportunities including exceptionally well-maintained golf courses, multi-use trails, parks and open space.*

OVERVIEW OF MAJOR DIVISIONS AND PROGRAMS: (www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/planningparks)

PLANNING DIVISION: (www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/smartgrowth, www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/planningparks) COMPREHENSIVE, FARMLAND PRESERVATION, AND PARK & OPEN SPACE PLANNING

The Department, in conjunction with SEWRPC and UWEX, developed several draft chapters (1-3, & 5) for the Park and Open Space Plan (POSP) for Ozaukee County with an anticipated adoption by the County Board in summer 2011. As part of the POSP effort, the Department completed an on-site park user survey at 6 of the 9 county parks and both golf courses, completed a statistically significant public opinion survey for both the POSP and the Farmland Preservation Plan and conducted several visioning sessions and other public input forums. The Department also began the first year of a two year planning process for the development of the Farmland Preservation Plan for Ozaukee County (FPP). The Department hosted numerous public informational meetings, initiated the FPP Citizen Advisory Committee, and reported to both the Land Preservation Board and Comprehensive Planning Board on these planning efforts. The Farmland Preservation Planning effort is being conducted under a \$30,000 competitive grant from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). A grant reimbursement of \$15,000 was received in 2011 for work conducted in 2010. The Department continued to implement and amend the *Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Ozaukee County: 2035*, which included processing amendments from the local communities in Ozaukee County. In 2010, the Department continued to provide lead staffing and coordination for the County *Comprehensive Planning Board* [Mtgs. = 6], *Comprehensive Planning Public Outreach Committee* and the *Land Preservation Board* [Mtgs. = 6 and a County Parks and Natural Areas Tour]. Furthermore, several public participation efforts were undertaken including: a booth at the Ozaukee County Fair, a First Fridays Forum, interest group meetings (e.g. Land Conservation Partnership of Ozaukee County), articles in the Department newsletter and updates to the Department website. The Department attended, presented and assisted at numerous participating local government meetings throughout 2010. The Department, in conjunction with UWEX, also completed the development and started the distribution and public showing of *A Comprehensive Plan for Ozaukee County: Enhancing the Quality of Life* DVD, brochure and bookmark. The Environment and Land Use Committee reviewed and was an approving authority for two preliminary plats / certified survey maps for land divisions in 2010. Several other land divisions were reviewed for objecting authority, preliminary submittal or as advisory reviews in the towns, villages and cities.

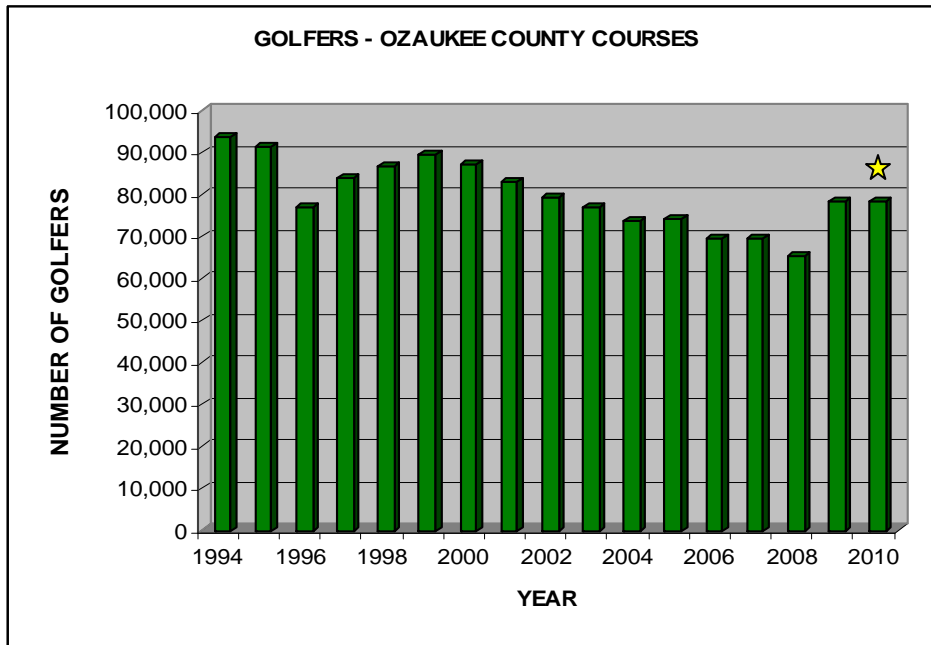
DEPARTMENT WEBSITE (www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/planningparks)

In 2010, the Department continued to update its website with information on the four Department divisions; namely, 1) Planning; 2) Parks, Natural Areas/Open Space & Trails; 3) Golf Course and 4) Ecological – Fish Passage. The Department website includes information on: the County Comprehensive Plan; land divisions; photographs, maps and descriptions of each County Park and its facilities; rental information; Trail information – Ozaukee Interurban Trail and Snowmobile Trails; Golf Course information, maps, course and hole descriptions, online tee time reservations, green and cart fees, specials, and golf outing information; and comprehensive information on the Ecological division including: the NOAA and USEPA funded Fish Passage Program, *Bird City Wisconsin* recognition and efforts, invasive species management and the protection and preservation of natural areas, open space and farmland.

GOLF COURSE DIVISION: (www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/planningparks)

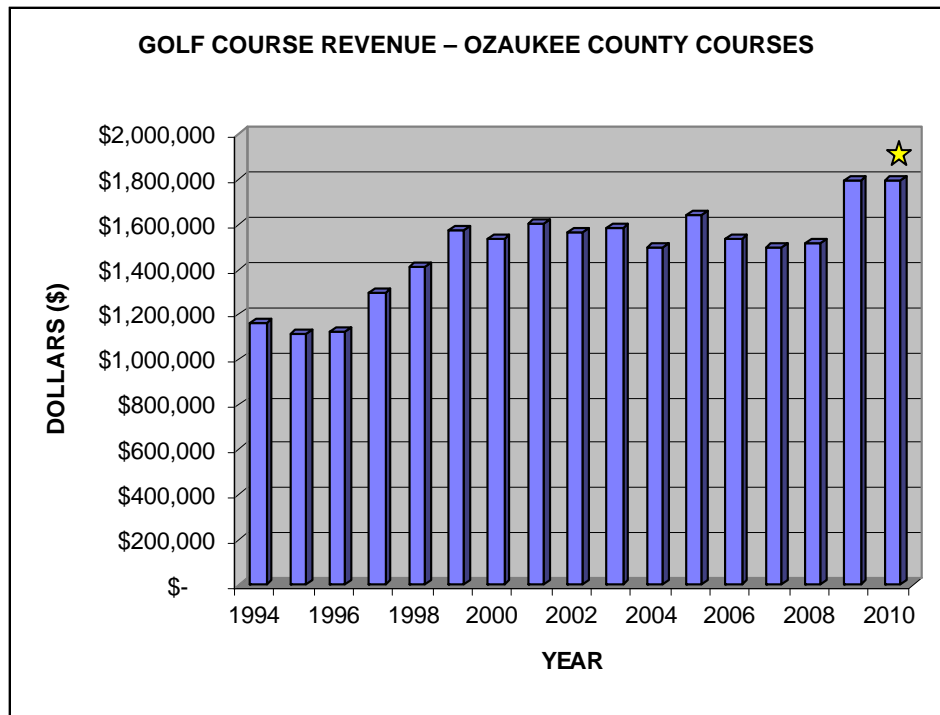
OZAUKEE COUNTY GOLF COURSES – MEE-KWON PARK AND HAWTHORN HILLS

The County's courses hosted 78,271 golfers in 2010. This is a decrease of 266 golfers from the 2009 season. The total revenue for both courses was \$1,799,060, an increase of \$1,603 compared to the 2009 season. Hawthorne Hills Golf Course opened on March 25, 2010 and Mee-Kwon Park Golf Course opened on March 18, 2010 and stayed open until November 19 and November 23, 2010 respectively. Also, a new computer software and hardware package for tracking reservations, golfers and revenue was completed. A new golf course mechanic and assistant superintendent were hired at Mee-Kwon Park Golf Course. The following illustrates the revenue and golfers from 1994 to 2010:



GOLFERS	
1994	93,815
1995	91,226
1996	76,886
1997	83,906
1998	86,869
1999	89,404
2000	87,049
2001	82,873
2002	79,338
2003	76,908
2004	73,585
2005	74,137
2006	69,470
2007	69,463
2008	65,472
2009	78,537
2010	78,271

REVENUE	
1994	\$ 1,167,000
1995	\$ 1,118,000
1996	\$ 1,122,374
1997	\$ 1,294,794
1998	\$ 1,410,635
1999	\$ 1,575,800
2000	\$ 1,538,862
2001	\$ 1,600,698
2002	\$ 1,566,722
2003	\$ 1,587,358
2004	\$ 1,501,579
2005	\$ 1,645,611
2006	\$ 1,532,754
2007	\$ 1,498,589
2008	\$ 1,518,005
2009	\$ 1,797,457
2010	\$ 1,799,060



★ CURRENT YEAR - 2010

PARKS, NATURAL AREAS / OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS DIVISION:
www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/planningparks

PARK AND TRAIL RESERVATION NUMBERS AND REVENUE COMPARISON						
YEAR	2009			2010		
PARK	Amt (\$)	#	%	Amt (\$)	#	%
H. H. PETERS YOUTH CAMP	\$2,600.00	24	23%	\$4,450.00	46	34%
OZAUKEE INTERURBAN TRAIL	\$250.00	9	2%	\$300.00	10	2%
TENDICK NATURE PARK	\$800.00	12	7%	\$940.00	15	7%
VIRMOND PARK	\$1,300.00	22	12%	\$1,720.00	30	13%
WAUBEDONIA PARK	\$5,700.00	333	50%	\$5,266.00	306	40%
COVERED BRIDGE PARK	\$630.00	9	6%	\$415.00	4	3%
EHLERS PARK				\$0.00	1	
LION'S DEN GORGE NATURE PRESERVE				\$150.00	2	1%
TOTALS	\$11,130.00	409	100%	\$13,241.00	414	100%

COVERED BRIDGE PARK

In 2010, the Department completed several infrastructure repairs at the Park including: the abandonment of the existing "old" well and pump, installation of a new drinking water well, removal of several large hazard trees, trail / drainage improvement, and site preparation and floodplain fill permitting for the well and potential bathroom site.

EHLERS PARK

In 2010, the Department completed a major restoration project at Ehlers Park that included: removing approximately 100+ yards of the existing park road and restoring it to native vegetation and a pedestrian trail, removing several old fire grates, removing several large fallen trees, installing a new park entrance sign with planter bed, development of an improved access for a kayak / canoe launch, improving the current parking lot layout and planting of several species of trees at the park entrances. One reservation was taken for a rest stop for Tour de Cure bike ride hosted by the American Diabetes Association.

HARBORVIEW PARK

Harborview is a 0.45 acre County Park near the County Administration Center that has an overlook deck, native prairie and companion tree planting along with a stormwater rain garden. In 2010, the Department completed the installation of a split rail fence around the entire park and installation of a donated bird house for purple martins. In addition, the Department maintained the landscape at the Administration Center parking lot including a stormwater management infiltration basin/rain garden and native plantings.

HERBERT H. PETERS YOUTH CAMP / HAWTHORNE HILLS PARK / SHADY LANE PROPERTY

Ozaukee County youth groups and other groups reserved 41 weekends and 5 weekdays during the year. Compared with 2009, reservations were up by 24, and revenue was up by \$1,850 in 2010 as a result of making the facility available to other reservations (e.g. golf outings). A new reservation policy and forms were developed. The Department also made significant improvements to the building's kitchen and health office. One reservation was cancelled and not rescheduled. Also, several improvements were made to the Park Superintendent's house at the Shady Lane property including a several new windows.

LION'S DEN GORGE NATURE PRESERVE

In 2010, the Department continued to implement the park master plan. The Department completed the construction of several drainage and trail maintenance projects, installed new educational and Eagle Scout recognition information at the kiosk, continued the removal of invasive species (e.g. buckthorn) and assisted with the *Treasures of Oz* passport program. The Department also permitted 10 hunters from 37 applicants for the lottery deer gun hunting season and 15 hunters for the bow deer season in 2010. One deer was reported taken from the property in 2010. Water quality monitoring and posting at the beach continued in 2010, in conjunction with the Public Health Department, as part of the BEACH Act.

MEE-KWON PARK

In 2010, Mee-Kwon Park enjoyed another great season for sledding. The Department conducted snow removal activities to ensure access to the sledding hill throughout the winter. The pond was further investigated for ice skating activities during this past winter. Also, an Eagle Scout candidate completed the installation of an informational kiosk near the sledding hill parking lot. Furthermore, the *Outdoor Wisconsin* TV episode on the new bluebird box trail at Mee-Kwon Park Golf Course aired.

OZAUKEE ICE CENTER / CARLSON PARK

In 2010, the Department advertised free public skate time for Ozaukee County residents via the website.

OZAUKEE COUNTY PIONEER VILLAGE / HAWTHORNE HILLS PARK

In 2010, the Department worked with the Ozaukee County Historical Society, Inc. to complete the installation of two new drinking water wells at the Caretaker House and the historic Railroad Depot.

TENDICK NATURE PARK

The Tendick Nature Park shelter revenue was \$940 with 15 reservations in 2010. In this fifth year of operation, the revenue was up by \$140 with 3 additional reservations. The Department developed and ordered supplies for new tee and basket/hole signs in 2010 for installation in the spring of 2011. Several school cross-country run meets were held at Tendick Nature Park in 2010. Also, an Eagle Scout candidate completed the development of a new sand volleyball court next to the pavilion for use in 2011.

VIRMOND PARK

In 2010, Virmond Park had a total of 30 shelter reservations and revenue of \$1,720. Compared to 2009, reservations were up by 8 with an associated revenue increase of \$420. Significant invasive species control and native tree re-planting continued in 2010, primarily for non-native buckthorn and honeysuckle. The Department completed several major infrastructure items in 2010 including: the painting, clean-up, insulation, installation of a new door and heating of the small barn near the caretaker house to establish a winter woodworking shop for parks projects such as signage and picnic tables, and the relocation of the playground area to the west side of the shelter access road for safety considerations. This also included the installation of a replacement merry-go-round after the original one was damaged beyond repair.

WAUBEDONIA PARK

In 2010, there were 29 reservations for the park with revenue of \$1,440. Camping permits totaled 277 with revenue of \$2,766 and the sale of firewood resulted in an additional \$1,060 of revenue. Total revenue for Waubedonia Park was \$5,266, a decrease in revenue of \$284 from 2009. The operations at several of the Parks were greatly assisted by having a part-time caretaker at Waubedonia Park.

OZAUKEE INTERURBAN TRAIL (www.interurbantrail.us)

The Department continued to coordinate with the Ozaukee Interurban Trail Advisory Council, Ozaukee County Tourism Council and four associated committees, namely the Sustainability Committee, Rules and Ordinance Committee, Trail Promotions Committee and Trailside Facilities Committee. The Trail Advisory Council met four times in 2010. The Trail Improvement Project construction began in March 2009 and was completed by the end of 2010 including the Local Force Account construction work by the Highway Department on 1.3 miles of trail including a wetland boardwalk. The Trail Advisory Council continued to receive donations toward the project. The Department, in conjunction with the Trail Advisory Council, continued to assist the City of Port Washington in implementing a WisDOT Multi-modal Transportation Enhancement grant for the Ozaukee Interurban Trail. The City of Port Washington, Ozaukee County and the Trail Advisory Council were approved for a \$150,000 Trail Improvement Project, which includes a significant off-road trail extension on the north end of the City. The Department also assisted the Trail Advisory Council in distributing an *Ozaukee Trailside Birding Guide*. In addition, \$5,000 in grant funds was received by the Trail Advisory Council to install permanent outdoor educational signage of the *Ozaukee Trailside Birding Guide* along the Trail. Work continued on the enhancement, operation and maintenance of the Ozaukee Interurban Trail, in conjunction with the Highway Department, local municipalities and the Trail Advisory Council. Vegetation management along the County-maintained portion of the Trail occurred four times and the Department also cleared the Trail of snow throughout the winter between Grafton and Port Washington in 2010. The Department also contracted with the Highway

Department to fix pavement along several stretches in the Towns of Belgium and Port Washington. Ten group use permits were issued for events along the Trail. An Adopt-a-Trail program and a Community Broom program were promoted to assist with garbage clean-up and sweeping of debris along the Trail respectively. In addition, a Hazard Report Form was implemented to notify local governments and the County of maintenance issues. The forms are located on the Trail website. Staff maintained and updated for the Ozaukee Interurban Trail website, www.interurbantrail.us. Work continued with the Ozaukee County Tourism Council and other partners to market the Trail, including coordination with Milwaukee and Sheboygan Counties and Trail booths at a SE Wisconsin Bike Expo, the County Fair and other conferences. The Trail main webpage from January through December 2010 had 13,261 hits up from 12,636 hits in 2009 with an average of 1,105 per month. The Trail map webpage from January through December 2010 had 16,744 hits up from 15,065 hits in 2009 with an average of 1,395 per month. A 2010-11 Trail map was funded by advertisers, updated, printed and distributed in 2010. Also, six trail counters at different locations along the Trail were monitored and data analyzed during the main trail season (mid-April through October) in 2010 with average counts ranging from a low average of 141 users/day to a high average of 444 users/day. Finally, the Department worked in conjunction with UWEX on the development of an economic impact study of the Trail. A final report on the economic impact study is anticipated in summer 2011.

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS (www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/planningparks) (Snowmobile Hotline 262-284-8259)

In 2010, the Department developed, printed (a total of 5,000 copies) and distributed a new snowmobile trails map (last published in 2008), which includes all the snowmobile trails and clubs in Ozaukee County and also placed it on the Department website. The total operating costs and WDNR grant revenue for the Snowmobile Clubs in 2010 administered by the Department was \$28,790.45, which included an additional WDNR supplemental grant funding award of \$3,216.64 and a separate Trail Bridge Grant of \$2,000.

ECOLOGICAL DIVISION: (FISH AND WILDLIFE) (www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/planningparks)

FISH CONSERVATION - FISH PASSAGE FOR THE MILWAUKEE RIVER WATERSHED PROGRAM

In 2010, the Fish Passage Program was awarded a combined \$2,505,990 in highly competitive federal funding, including \$536,350 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and \$1,969,640 from two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grants, to continue environmental activities in Ozaukee County. Program staff (three full-time federally funded) worked with multiple stakeholders, including regulatory agencies, local municipalities, non-profit organizations, volunteers, and landowners, to meet programmatic goals, remove fish passage impediments, and provide ecological education and outreach opportunities to County residents. Notable achievements completed include: engineering, design, and permitting of 34 road and stream crossings, reconstruction of 14 major road and stream crossings, Thiensville – Mequon fishway and dam repair construction, Lime Kiln Dam removal, Bridge Street fishway engineering and design, and implementation of a comprehensive environmental monitoring program. Program staff worked with landowners to secure access agreements and the Milwaukee Community Service Corps to remove over 110 small-scale impediments to fish passage. On-the-ground activities on the main-stem Milwaukee River and 9 tributary streams reconnected over 97 river and stream miles to aquatic organism passage, represented over \$1.25 million in infrastructure and waterway improvements in 2010. In addition, 175 volunteers contributed over 1,600 hours to Program activities. Program staff presented at several national, regional, statewide and local conferences and forums, including the Ozaukee County / MATC First Friday's Forum (2/5/10); Milwaukee Audubon Society 30th Natural Landscapes Conference (2/13/2010); Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association Conference (3/5/2010); American Society of Civil Engineers' Environmental & Water Resources Institute Watershed Management Conference (8/23/10); 2010 U.S. Areas of Concern Program Annual Meeting (9/22/10-9/23/10); and the 71st Upper Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (12/13/10-12/15/10).

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION – BIRD CITY WISCONSIN RECOGNITION

In 2010, the Department applied for and was awarded *Bird City Wisconsin* recognition for Ozaukee County's efforts to preserve, protect and manage for bird and other wildlife populations and habitat. Ozaukee County was among only 15 other communities and the only county in the State of Wisconsin to achieve recognition as a "Bird City" in 2010 for the County's efforts to make their community a better place for birds and other wildlife. Ozaukee County, through the Planning and Parks Department,

achieved recognition as a "Bird City" by submitting a detailed written application outlining how the County, in collaboration with several partners, complied with a menu of established criteria. Modeled on the "Tree City USA" program, Bird City Wisconsin developed 22 criteria across five categories, including habitat creation and protection, community forest management, limiting hazards, public education, and recognizing International Migratory Bird Day. If a community meets at least seven criteria, it becomes an official "Bird City," receiving street signs, a flag and plaque, and publicity to recognize its efforts. Ozaukee County achieved the highest level of compliance of all 15 recognized communities, meeting 18 of 22 established criteria. Bird City Wisconsin reviewers said, "This is the most impressive application they have seen to date, going beyond what Bird City Wisconsin ever envisioned. If other communities can do a fifth of what Ozaukee County has accomplished, Wisconsin will surely be in the lead with "urban bird" conservation and education. The application has included an impressive amount of information, which is arranged well and on the website." Other reviewers stated, "Simply a wonderful, thorough, encompassing application" and "If there ever was a model for other counties in Wisconsin, this is it. They absolutely wrote the book on thorough -- an outstanding application... Extraordinary documentation and having electronic files is particularly helpful."

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) DEVELOPMENT – NATURAL RESOURCES

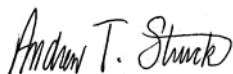
Significant progress continued on two major GIS development projects; namely, the modernization and website availability of all the shoreland, floodplain and wetland zoning maps and stormwater management mapping. Also, the Department initiated the development of a GIS decision support tool for fish and wildlife habitat in conjunction with the Fish Passage Program in 2010. Several GIS data layers have been completed as part of the Park and Open Space Plan, Farmland Preservation Plan, Comprehensive Plan and Fish Passage Program. In addition, the Department developed, printed and distributed a new County Highway map in 2010. In 2010, the Department also created, printed and began distribution of a complete set of park brochures for each park in the Ozaukee County Park System and the Ozaukee Interurban Trail.

NATURAL AREAS/OPEN SPACE/FARMLAND PROTECTION, RESTORATION & IMPLEMENTATION

The Department worked with the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, other non-profits and the Highway Department on property restorations to natural areas / wildlife habitat preserves including the Hetzel Pit / Bee-Keeper Bog and Hawthorne Hills Park / Shady Lane property and the potential acquisition of new natural areas near Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve.

It was a pleasure to serve Ozaukee County taxpayers, visitors to Ozaukee County and other users of the Department in an efficient, effective and professional manner. Thank you for your support of our Department's divisions, programs, initiatives, and projects.

Respectfully submitted,



*Andrew T. Struck, Director
Planning and Parks Department*