



## 2009 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 and protection 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. 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.

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

#### **PLANNING DIVISION:**

#### **COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING / PLANNING** ([www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/smartgrowth](http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/smartgrowth))

The Department completed the six-year multi-jurisdictional comprehensive planning effort, which included 14 local communities in Ozaukee County and SEWRPC. This effort was being conducted under a Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) Comprehensive Planning grant for \$408,000 for a total project budget of \$680,000. In 2009, the Department continued to staff and coordinate efforts of the County *Comprehensive Planning Board* [Mtgs. = 6], *Comprehensive Planning Public Outreach Committee* and *Technical Staff Work Group*. 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 the public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan Amendment 01-2009 before the Comprehensive Planning Board. In addition, the County planning website was updated and maintained with the final adopted County Comprehensive Plan including Amendment 01-2009 as well as the minutes of all the various planning committees, boards, and work groups. The Department attended, presented and assisted at numerous participating local government meetings throughout 2009. The most significant accomplishments in 2009 were the adoption of Amendment 01-2009 by ordinance on May 6, 2009, the final printing of "A Multi-jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan for Ozaukee County: 2035" including Amendment 01-2009, the filming and development of a comprehensive plan outreach DVD with UWEX and the close out and final reimbursement (\$94,500) of the WDOA grant. The Department also worked with the remaining participating communities on the adoption of their local comprehensive plans. The Environment and Land Use Committee reviewed and was an approving authority for two preliminary plats / certified survey maps for land divisions in 2009. Several other land divisions were reviewed for objecting authority, preliminary submittal or as advisory reviews in the cities and villages. The Department also began the process of updating the Park and Open Space Plan and the Farmland Preservation Plan for Ozaukee County. The Department also took the lead to create and staff the new *Land Preservation Board*.

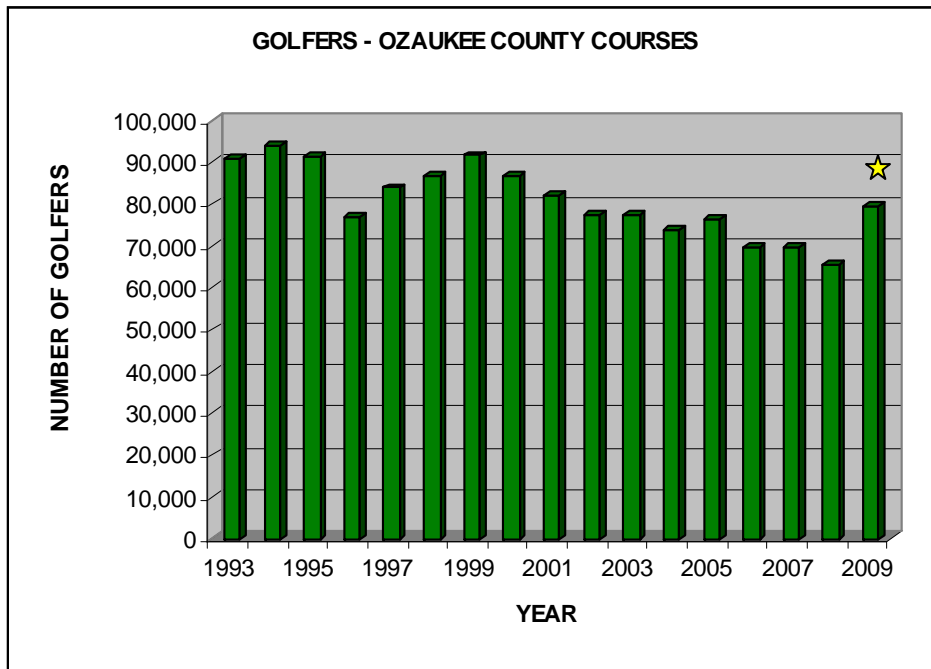
#### **DEPARTMENT WEBSITE**

In 2009, the Department rolled out an entirely new and updated website with information on the four Department divisions; namely, 1) Planning; 2) Parks, Natural Areas/Open Space & Trails; 3) Golf Course and 4) Ecological. This new 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 new NOAA Fish Passage Program and the protection and preservation of natural areas, open space and farmland.

**GOLF COURSE DIVISION:**

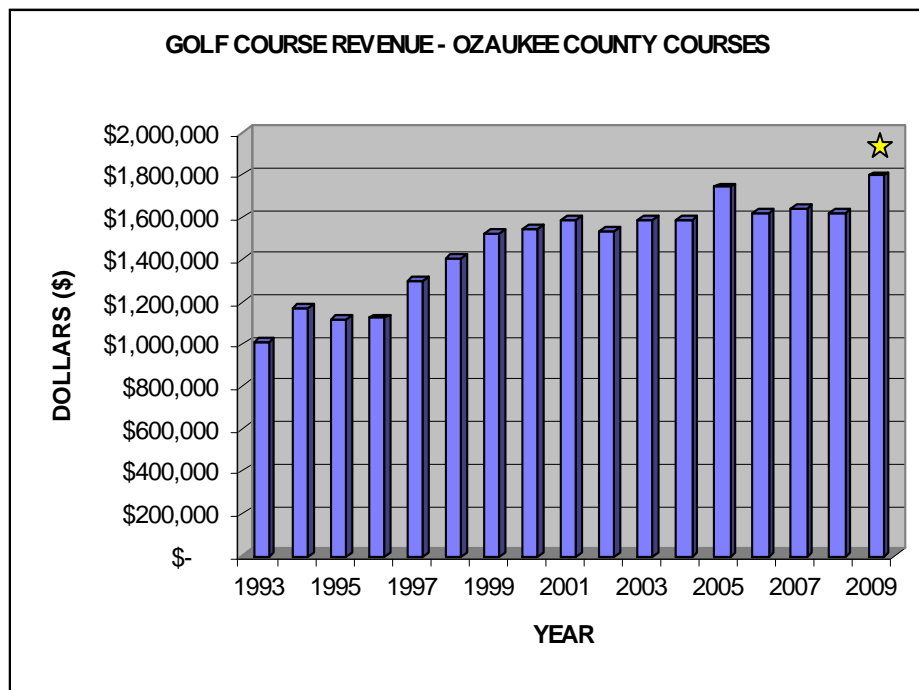
**OZAUKEE COUNTY GOLF COURSES – MEE-KWON PARK AND HAWTHORN HILLS**

The County's courses hosted 79,535 golfers this year. This is an increase of 13,935 golfers from the 2008 season. The total revenue for both courses was \$1,795,969, an increase of \$179,547 compared to the 2008 season. Hawthorne Hills Golf Course opened on April 6, 2009 and Mee-Kwon Park Golf Course opened on April 1, 2009 and stayed open until November 20 and December 1, 2009 respectively. Also, the transition to a new computer software and hardware package for tracking reservations, golfers and revenue was implemented. A new golf course superintendent was hired at Mee-Kwon Park Golf Course. The following illustrates the revenue and golfers from 1993 to 2009:



GOLFERS	
1993	91,053
1994	93,815
1995	91,226
1996	76,886
1997	83,906
1998	86,869
1999	91,660
2000	86,690
2001	82,292
2002	77,281
2003	77,204
2004	73,776
2005	76,373
2006	69,767
2007	69,541
2008	65,600
2009	79,535

REVENUE	
1993	\$ 1,015,000
1994	\$ 1,167,000
1995	\$ 1,118,000
1996	\$ 1,122,374
1997	\$ 1,294,794
1998	\$ 1,410,635
1999	\$ 1,524,159
2000	\$ 1,548,718
2001	\$ 1,591,597
2002	\$ 1,533,655
2003	\$ 1,587,470
2004	\$ 1,585,153
2005	\$ 1,742,190
2006	\$ 1,618,575
2007	\$ 1,637,643
2008	\$ 1,616,149
2009	\$ 1,795,969



★ CURRENT YEAR - 2009

**PARKS, NATURAL AREAS / OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS DIVISION:**

<b>PARK AND TRAIL RESERVATION NUMBERS AND REVENUE COMPARISON</b>						
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2008</b>			<b>2009</b>		
<b>PARK</b>	<b>Amt (\$)</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Amt (\$)</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
H. H. PETERS YOUTH CAMP	\$ 1,900.00	30	22.4%	\$2,600.00	24	23.36%
OZAUKEE INTERURBAN TRAIL	\$ 150.00	3	1.8%	\$250.00	9	2.25%
TENDICK NATURE PARK	\$ 700.00	8	8.2%	\$800.00	12	7.19%
VIRMOND PARK	\$ 1,160.00	21	13.7%	\$1,300.00	22	11.68%
WAUBEDONIA PARK	\$ 4,580.00	243	53.9%	\$5,700.00	333	49.87%
COVERED BRIDGE PARK	--	--	--	\$630.00	9	5.66%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 8,490.00</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$11,130.00</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**COVERED BRIDGE PARK**

In 2009, the Department worked with the County Board of Supervisors on documenting a potential transfer of Covered Bridge Park from the County to the Town of Cedarburg. After significant discussions, the County Board of Supervisors decided to retain ownership of Covered Bridge Park. The Department subsequently completed several infrastructure repairs at the Park including: the removal of the old pit toilets, installation of new decking and railings on the pedestrian bridge over Cedar Creek, repair of the asphalt approaches to the pedestrian bridge and installation of portable bathrooms. Abandonment of the existing "old" well and pump and installation of a new well and pump is planned for 2010.

**EHLERS PARK**

In 2009, 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.

**HARBORVIEW PARK**

Harborview is a 0.45 acre County Park near the Administration Center in the City of Port Washington that has a native prairie and companion tree planting along with a stormwater rain garden. In 2009, an overlook deck with picnic tables, benches and park signage was constructed as part of the master plan. In addition, the Department prepared and implemented the landscaping plan for the new 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 private parties reserved 20 weekends and 4 weekdays during the year. Compared with 2008, reservations were down by 6, but revenue was up by \$700 in 2009 as a result of making the facility available to other private reservations (e.g. weddings and golf outings). A new reservation policy and forms were developed. Two reservations were cancelled and not rescheduled. Also, several improvements were made to the Park Superintendent's house at the Shady Lane property including a new patio door, exterior maintenance and a new heating and cooling system.

**LION'S DEN GORGE NATURE PRESERVE**

In 2009, the Department continued to implement the park master plan. The Department worked with several Eagle Scout volunteers to construct the following projects: 1) built-in park benches along the bluff and 2) a wood carved map of the park and facilities. The Department also completed the construction of a designated gravel pad for placement of portable restrooms and several drainage and trail maintenance projects. The Department also permitted 10 hunters from 42 applicants for the lottery deer gun hunting season and 16 hunters for the bow deer season in 2009. No deer were reported taken from the property in 2009. Water quality monitoring and posting at the beach continued in 2009 as part of the BEACH Act.

### **MEE-KWON PARK**

In 2009, the Department considered a proposal to establish a dog exercise and recreation area jointly with the City of Mequon on approximately 24 acres in the Park. The proposal included significant private funding, but it was not endorsed by the Public Works Committee after reviewing the details and taking public comment. 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 not cleared for ice skating activities during this past winter. An Eagle Scout candidate started on a project to install an informational kiosk at Mee-Kwon Park, which is anticipated to be complete in 2010. Also, *Outdoor Wisconsin* filmed an episode on the new bluebird box trail at Mee-Kwon Park Golf Course.

### **OZAUKEE ICE CENTER / CARLSON PARK**

In 2009, the County turned over the Ozaukee Ice Center / Carlson Park to the Ozaukee Youth Hockey Association and the Ozaukee Ice Association. The transfer included payment of the approximately \$390,000 debt (loan and interest) through free public skate time for Ozaukee County residents.

### **OZAUKEE COUNTY PIONEER VILLAGE / HAWTHORNE HILLS PARK**

In 2009, the Department worked with the Ozaukee County Historical Society, Inc. to complete a major rewriting of the lease agreement and legal descriptions for the leased parcels at Hawthorne Hills County Park for the operation of Ozaukee County Pioneer Village.

### **TENDICK NATURE PARK**

The Tendick Nature Park shelter revenue was \$800 with 12 reservations in 2009. In this fourth year of operation, the revenue was up by \$100 with 4 additional reservations. The Department completed several major maintenance projects in 2009 including: 1) the gazebo was restored, painted and landscaped, 2) a new fence was installed at the log cabin, 3) re-grading and drainage for the archery range, and 4) a new park entrance sign, planter bed and fencing was installed for the "river side" entrance. In addition, 36 concrete tee pads (2 at each of the 18 holes) were added in 2008 to the disc golf course and the final landscape restoration for the front 9 holes was completed in 2009. Several school cross-country run meets were held at Tendick Nature Park in 2009. An Eagle Scout candidate completed an improvement to the disc golf course with the addition of built-in benches.

### **VIRMOND PARK**

In 2009, Virmond Park had a total of 22 shelter reservations and revenue of \$1,300. Compared to 2008, reservations were up by 1 with an associated revenue increase of \$140. Significant invasive species control and native tree re-planting continued in 2009, primarily for non-native buckthorn and honeysuckle. New walking trails were also added in 2009 with implementation of the new "sustainable" mowing policy. Major infrastructure items were completed in 2009 including: the re-roofing, 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 including signage and picnic tables.

### **WAUBEDONIA PARK**

In 2009, there were 32 reservations for the park with revenue of \$1,750. Camping permits totaled 301 with revenue of \$3,015 and the sale of firewood resulted in an additional \$935 of revenue. Total revenue for Waubedonia Park was \$5,700, an increase in revenue of \$1,120 from 2008. The Department also added a new handicapped accessible water fountain to replace the existing water fountain that was damaged in the June 2008 floods and recouped \$3,257 in FEMA and State reimbursement. In addition, two additional campsites were constructed in 2009 for a total of 10 campsites. The operations at the Park were greatly assisted by having a part-time caretaker in 2009 after a vacancy in 2008.

### **OZAUKEE INTERURBAN TRAIL ([www.interurbantrail.us](http://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 2009. The Trail Improvement Project construction began in March 2009 and was approximately 90% completed by the end of 2009 including the Local Force Account construction work by the Highway Department on 1.3 miles of trail including a wetland boardwalk. The

low cost bid of \$1,140,511 for a pre-fabricated steel truss structure provided by Zenith Tech, Inc of Waukesha was awarded. The total project cost is approximately \$1.762 million including the bridge, approaches and the construction of 1.3 miles of paved off-road trail with a wetland boardwalk crossing. The local share for the total project is approximately \$353,000. The Trail Advisory Council continued to receive donations toward the project. The Trail Advisory Council and the Department sponsored a grand opening celebration for the Trail Improvement Project on October 3, 2009 that was attended by more than 250 people. Also, 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 both the south and north ends of the City. The Department also assisted the Trail Advisory Council in distributing an *Ozaukee Trailside Birding Guide*. The Trail Advisory Council privately raised over \$13,000 in funds for the development and printing of the Guide. Over half of the 10,000 copies were distributed by the end of 2009. In addition, \$5,000 in grant funds were received by the Trail Advisory Council to develop permanent outdoor educational signage of the *Ozaukee Trailside Birding Guide* along the Trail. The Department assisted with the development and installation of this signage in 2009. 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 2009. The Department also contracted with the Highway Department to fix pavement along several stretches in the Towns of Belgium and Port Washington. Nine group use permits were issued for events along the Trail. An Adopt-a-Trail program was promoted to assist with garbage clean-up along the Trail and a Hazard Report Form was implemented to notify local governments and the County of maintenance issues. Both the forms are located on the Trail website. Staff maintained and updated for the Ozaukee Interurban Trail website, [www.interurbantrail.us](http://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 booths at a SE Wisconsin Bike Expo, the County Fair and other conferences. The Trail main webpage from January through December 2009 had 12,636 hits up from 12,259 hits in 2008 with an average of 1,053 per month. The Trail map webpage from January through December 2009 had 15,065 hits with an average of 1,255 per month. A new Trail map was funded by advertisers, updated, printed and distributed in 2009. Also, six trail counters along the Trail were monitored and data analyzed in 2009 with average counts for the entire year (365 days) ranging from a low average of 42 users/day to a high average of 363 users/day at different locations along the Trail. Finally, the Department worked in conjunction with UWEX on the development of an economic impact study of the Trail, which included hosting several business forums, a comprehensive trail user survey in the summer of 2009, and a business survey. A final report on the economic impact study is anticipated in 2010.

#### **SNOWMOBILE TRAILS ([www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/planningparks](http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/planningparks))**

In 2009, the existing 2008 snowmobile trails map, which includes all the snowmobile trails and clubs in Ozaukee County, was distributed (a total of 3,000 copies printed) and placed on the new Department website. The total operating costs and WDNR grant revenue for the Snowmobile Clubs in 2009 administered by the Department was \$28,551.33, which included an additional WDNR supplemental grant funding award.

#### **ECOLOGICAL DIVISION:**

##### **FISH PASSAGE FOR THE MILWAUKEE RIVER WATERSHED PROGRAM – NOAA / ARRA GRANT**

In June 2009, the Department was awarded \$4.71 million in ARRA funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for a comprehensive 18-month "Milwaukee River Watershed Fish Passage Program". This highly competitive award was just one of fifty in the nation from 814 applications and just one of three in the Midwest. The program will modify or remove stream impediments to reconnect naturally occurring high quality habitats in the Milwaukee River Watershed. The program will reconnect and allow fish to freely migrate within and between the lower 20 miles of the Milwaukee River/Estuary below the Thiensville-Mequon (T-M) Dam, Lake Michigan, and 158 miles of the Milwaukee River and nine tributaries for which fish passability is being restored. Major, completed elements include the hiring of three program staff, acquisition of office space and equipment, permitting, initial design and engineering

for the T-M fishway and dam improvements, permitting and design for the abandonment of the Lime-Kiln Dam, work on the Bridge Street Dam and initial permitting and design for multiple "public works" crossings on major tributaries. Staff has retained the services of the Milwaukee Community Service Corps, Inc., a non-profit job-training and work program for at-risk youth, to remove 84 smaller barriers and the County Highway Department to conduct most of the "public works" projects. Staff has secured numerous landowner access agreements, initiated a public education and outreach campaign, and generated significant volunteer interest from area universities and non-profit groups. Program information has been presented at several conferences and forums, including the First Friday's Forum, the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association Conference, Milwaukee Audubon Society's Natural Landscapes Conference, the American Metropolitan Milwaukee Engineers Association, and the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Council. Program information has also been added to the Department website.

#### **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) DEVELOPMENT – NATURAL RESOURCES**

Significant progress was made on two major GIS development projects; namely, the modernization of all the shoreland, floodplain and wetland zoning maps and stormwater management mapping. The modernization of the shoreland and floodplain zoning maps is being conducted by the Department in conjunction with SEWRPC. With recent changes and the adoption of NR 115 in 2009, it is anticipated that this mapping work will be completed in 2010, but will require annual updating. In 2009, the Department took the lead and completed the process of stormwater management GIS mapping for Ozaukee County per the requirements of NR 216 & NR 151 and the WDNR General Permit. Several GIS data layers have been completed as part of the Comprehensive Plan and Fish Passage Program. In addition, the Department developed a new County Highway map and printing is anticipated in early 2010.

#### **NATURAL AREAS / OPEN SPACE / FARMLAND**

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. In addition, the Department provided lead staffing for the new Land Preservation Board.

Thank you for your support of our many initiatives, programs and projects.

Respectfully submitted,



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