

2008 ANNUAL REPORT
DOOR COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
<http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/>

Mission Statement and Summary of Responsibilities:

The Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department is created under the authority of Chapter 92 of Wisconsin Statutes. Chapter 92 gives the SWCD the responsibility for the administration of the County soil and water conservation program and the authority to exercise the powers granted to the Land Conservation Committee. The legislative declared policy of the State in Chapter 92 is to halt and reverse the depletion of the State's soil resources and pollution of its waters. The SWCD has a responsibility, and directive under Chapter 92, to promote landuses and programs which advance conservation and the protection of Door County's natural resources. The mission of conservation and environmental advocacy is the standard by which SWCD programs are developed and implemented.

2008 Soil and Water Conservation Department Program Summary

Aggressive Invasive Non-indigenous Species Initiative - The Door County SWCD maintains a major role in the Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST). DCIST is a collaboration of natural resource professionals, community leaders and interested citizens who are concerned with preserving Door County's natural environment. DCIST seeks to halt the invasion of exotic non-native plants by empowering citizens with the education, the tools, and the skills necessary to control invasive species.

Agricultural Performance Standards and Animal Waste Storage Ordinance - Inventory agricultural operations for status of compliance with minimum state standards for protection of water quality;

Animal Waste Storage Facility Ordinance - Permits are issued through Chapter 23 of Door County Code. The ordinance regulates the location, design and construction of animal waste storage facilities to reduce the impact to ground and surface water quality.

Beaches - The quality of the surface water at Door County beaches is the focus of a project which the SWCD and Door County Public Health Department (DCPHD) have joint responsibility for. The SWCD is responsible for the pollution source identification, and beach contamination reduction portions of the project. Efforts in 2008 focused on the planning and pollution abatement plans for municipality owned public beaches.

Buffer Programs - The SWCD works with several agencies utilizing available funding sources to install vegetated buffer strips in critical and riparian areas, to protect surface and groundwater resources.

Door County Greenprint Project – The Door County Greenprint Model, a joint project with the Door County Planning Department, is being developed to provide a tool for analysis of lands for natural resource protection and land use planning in the county.

Dunes Lake Watershed Study – The SWCD along with The Department of Natural Resources, and The Nature Conservancy have teamed up to form the Dunes Lake Partnership (DLP) to begin the investigation into the cause of the accelerated eutrophication occurring in Dunes Lake, located in the Town of Sevastopol.

Farmland Preservation - Eligible landowners receive income tax credits for maintaining land in farming activities and meeting conservation standards required by the county.

Gypsy Moth Suppression Program - This program protects trees from mortality by controlling gypsy moth population outbreaks through an aerial spraying program sponsored by the WI DNR. Aerial spraying typically occurs in late May to early June. More specific information can be viewed at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/gm/suppression.htm>.

Land & Water Resource Management Plan & Program – The LWRM Plan establishes the SWCD programming and priorities. State funds are allocated to the SWCD by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection and Department of Natural Resources to address conservation issues identified in the approved LWRM Plan.

Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation Ordinance – Door County Code Chapter 36 is administered by the SWCD and was established to ensure that local nonmetallic mining sites would be properly reclaimed in accordance to State administrative code and Statutes. Annual compliance inspections are performed for each site. Financial assurance is also required and monitored annually to ensure compliance. There are currently 52 sites permitted through the Door County SWCD.

Nutrient Management Program - The purpose of the program is to minimize nonpoint pollution in ground and surface waters by avoiding the over-application of nutrients to crop fields through the proper placement, timing and crediting of nutrients such as animal manure, legumes, and commercial fertilizers.

Planning Department Referrals - The SWCD provides technical reviews and onsite inspections of proposed plans for stormwater, erosion control, rockhole alternative protection, mine operations, and land disturbance projects. This review process is included in an inter-departmental agreement between the SWCD and the Planning Department for permitted land uses under County Ordinances.

Red River/Sturgeon Bay Priority Watershed - This is the final year of implementation for this program which was designed to identify agricultural operations that are potential sources of water quality degradation within the geographic boundaries of this watershed and provide cost-share assistance for abatement through state funding.

Targeted Runoff Management Program - A competitive grant program through the Department of Natural Resources to address water quality issues over a two-year grant period.

Technical Assistance Provided - Technical Assistance to the public is a service provided by the SWCD. The SWCD maintains a personnel resource base of diverse knowledge and expertise in natural resources to serve the public. Maintaining a resource network for referrals to other departments and agencies is also an important element of the technical assistance provided to the public. Technical assistance to the public will continue as SWCD resources are available and where the service will provide an environmental or conservation benefit.

Tree and Shrub Program - The tree/shrub and native seed mix program encourages both tree plantings and establishing new grassland/wildflower plantings in the county.

Water Pollution Abatement Cost-share Program - This program financially assists landowners in the cost of installing practices, which prevent and/or reduce ground or surface water pollution.

Wildlife Damage and Abatement Claims Program - The wildlife damage program is a technical assistance program for landowners who are experiencing crop damage from deer, geese, turkey and/or bear. Eligible crops under the program include any commercial agricultural crop. Enrolled landowners must choose one of two public hunting options and follow their abatement plan to remain eligible for assistance, claim payments, and/or abatement reimbursements. If a landowner does not want their land open to the public for hunting, there is

a hunting option for them that would allow them shooting permits, but they are not eligible for any claim payments or abatement reimbursements.

Goals/Objectives Achieved in 2008

Aggressive Invasive Non-indigenous Species Initiative - Continued implementation of the DNR Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) terrestrial invasive species grants were support education and control activities. Also the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant aimed at educating municipal leaders and staff on the identification and control of invasive species was concluded in 2008. Volunteer numbers continue to grow; in 2008, just over 1,900 hours were logged in. Grants/donations totaling \$115,237 were received in 2008.

Agricultural Performance Standards Ordinance – This past year 215 notification letters were sent to landowners/ operators informing them of the compliance or non-compliance status findings regarding their property. Many of the landowners/operators were offered cost-share funds to facilitate correction of their non-complaintant status. Four citations were issued for Standards and Prohibition violations in 2008.

Animal Waste Storage Facility Ordinance - Seventeen waste storage permits issued for construction.

Beaches - Contracted with Miller Engineers & Scientists funded with a Wisconsin Coastal Management grant for the preparation of final construction plans, as well as, submitted and received an additional Coastal Management Grant award to be used towards a portion of the implementation of the final plans by local municipalities. Continued the implementation and administration of the beach source identification fieldwork, analysis, and research which facilitated by the continuing partnership with University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Biology and Microbiology Department. In 2008 we received \$1,550 in donations.

Buffer Programs - In 2008 the SWCD discontinued additional signups for the CREP program, due to limited funding and limited conservation benefits that could not be justified to continue with management and promotional efforts.

Door County Greenprint Project - In 2008 private donations of \$37,370 provided the required funding to begin the project with completion scheduled for 2009.

Dunes Lake Watershed Study- Through \$12,500 in donations from private landowners and a \$2,000 WLWCA grant in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, the first phase of the watershed study and water quality analysis was completed. Samples were collected throughout the watershed once a month and during two rain events per month. Surface water samples were collected from the stream and lake and groundwater samples were taken from nearby springs. Additional samples were taken in the fall 2008, during a pond discharge event. Applied for and was awarded a \$10,646.10 DNR Lake Planning Grant to continue monitoring.

Farmland Preservation - 83 participants are under contract or in an Exclusive Agriculture district in Door County.

Gypsy Moth Suppression Program - In 2008 approximately 131 acres were sprayed on Chambers Island in the Town of Gibraltar.

Land & Water Resource Management Plan & Program - \$42,129.77 in state cost-sharing was applied to a barnyard runoff control and manure storage project in 2008. \$20,200.23 was carried over into 2009 to finalize another project.

Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation Ordinance - In 2008 one site was certified as reclaimed, four new sites were permitted. There are 52 permitted mines representing 796 acres which are actively mined and/or unreclaimed.

Nutrient Management Program - In the spring of 2008 ninety-nine nutrient management plans were submitted to the SWCD, covering 36,189.2 acres. By the end of 2008, an additional 139 new cost-share agreements were signed and 60 other new landowners and producers began the program for 8,450 additional acres of nutrient management planning starting in 2009. Cost-sharing for the 2008 program was provided by a DATCP Soil & Water Resource Management (SWRM) Grant of \$196,000.

Planning Department Referrals - In 2008 the SWCD reviewed 16 projects with the Planning Department.

Plum Bottom Closed Depression Dye Tracer Project – Phase II of the project was completed and Phase III was initiated. The final results showed strong detection of dye consistently at three of the participating homes and at the groundwater spring that was sampled as part of the project. Bacteria samples collected at each sampling interval produced no unsafe results.

Red River/Sturgeon Bay Priority Watershed - Total cost sharing paid in 2008 for conservation practices: \$465,256.43.

Targeted Runoff Management Program - Eight grants totaling \$799,007 in state cost-sharing were applied for and awarded in 2008. One project was installed in 2008 and \$131,370 in cost-share funds provided to the landowner.

Tree and Shrub Program - 2,450 trees and shrubs and 15.5 pounds of seed mix were sold and delivered through the Door County SWCD program in 2008. The joint DNR/SWCD program sold and delivered 141,905 trees. Nine tree customers also rented the County's tree planters.

Wildlife Damage and Abatement Claims Program – Assisted 24 landowners with damage appraisals and abatement. Appraisals have decreased which may indicate a smaller deer population and/or that prescribed abatement is effective. The Deer Donation Program for Door County is also administered by the SWCD and in 2008 there were 253 deer donated for local food pantries.

2008 Knowledge Sharing

Beaches

- Conducted several presentations to the general public, organizations, and municipalities on beach water quality and non-point source pollution.
- Shared grant application information to other Lakeshore counties.
- Attended several beach meetings that included the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Milwaukee, Great Lakes Water Institute, Wisconsin DNR, and the Door County Public Health Department.

Invasive Species

- The DCIST website has been updated and features: video links, printable color publications, online resources and contacts, identification and controls methods, and an online calendar of DCIST events.
- Handouts, brochures, and wildcards were made available at all meetings, presentations, landowner work groups, and workshops administered by the DCIST coordinator.
- Coordinator presented and administered numerous educational presentations, and hands-on workshops to the general public, organizations, county personnel, landowner groups, and members of DCIST.

- DCIST produced a new color brochure describing the top 15 invasive plants in Door County. This brochure was shared with all of the Conservation offices in the State.

Other

- Groundwater Presentation at the Door County Sustainability Fair.
- Presentation of Chapter 23 Activities to the Door County Farm Bureau.
- Environmental Field Trips for UW Manitowoc and Sevastopol Envirothon Team
- Numerous meetings and presentations illustrating the results of the Plum Bottom Closed Depression Dye Tracer Project.
- Beach source identification and beach contamination reduction presentations to the Sturgeon Bay Noon Rotary Club, and the United Methodist Men’s Club.
- Dunes Lake Watershed Study presentations to the Annual Glidden Drive Property Association Picnic, and to the individuals who donated to the project.
- Presentations were offered and given to seven Town Boards and three private organizations concerning storm water runoff control. The presentation focused on the needs to manage storm water, especially in Door County’s fragile environmental setting. Several individual meetings were also conducted with concerned citizens.
- Nutrient management planning workshop was held for crop consultants.

SWCD Budget Status

Approved 2008 Budget	\$2,186,713	Actual 2008 Budget	\$1,616,174
2008 budgeted revenue	\$1,715,593	2008 Actual Revenue	\$1,184,092
2007 Levy appropriation	\$445,906	2008 Levy appropriation	\$471,120
2007 Actual Levy appropriation	\$384,043	2008 Actual Levy appropriation	\$432,714

Grants Received for 2008:

Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant (Beach)	\$31,850.00
Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association Intern Grant	\$2,000.00
DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Grant	\$19,895.70
DNR Targeted Runoff Management Grant	\$131,370.00
DNR Red River Priority Watershed Grant	\$465,256.43
DATCP Soil & Water Resource Management Grant	\$159,097.00
DATCP Land & Water Resource Management Grant	\$181,032.57
DNR Wildlife Damage Claims Program	\$35,659.14
National Fish & Wildlife Federation (Invasive Species)	\$16,622.00
Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant (Invasive Species)	\$10,400.00

Revenue from Self-funding Accounts:

Waste Permits	\$16,479.04
TRM Technical Support	\$2,177.47
S & W Fund	\$7,790.92
Local Reimbursement - Beach Program	\$18,900.00
Tree & Shrub Program	\$11,821.67
Nonmetallic Mine Program	\$47,211.28

Donations Utilized in 2008:

Envirothon	\$1,316.91
Dunes Lake Donations	\$10,501.51

Other Accomplishments

- Participated in the Door County POWTS Study Committee assembled to examine POWTS systems and processes in the county following the Log Den well contamination.
- Administration of the Plum Bottom Closed Depression Dye Tracer Project.
- Organizational meetings for the Door County Greenprint Project.

- Technical Assistance to the Little Sturgeon Bay Property Owners Association in their development of a Lake Planning Grant.
- Village of Ephraim construction site erosion/stormwater runoff control reviews.
- Individual landowner, local business, and local government drainage problem reviews and conservation planning.
- Lead and arsenic pesticide residue in soils and groundwater information and technical assistance to landowners, potential buyers, real estate agencies, and land developers.
- Individual landowner pond and wetland technical assistance and development.
- Preparation and review of farm operation specific prioritization maps for the winter spreading of animal waste to reduce water quality impacts.
- Surveying design and stormwater runoff control planning assistance to the Door County Parks Dept on improvement projects.
- Conducted compliance inspections on construction projects which included stormwater runoff and construction site erosion practices.
- Conducted 30 site reviews of cost-share projects with contractual operation and maintenance periods.
- Assisted NRCS in an effort for continuous CRP projects EQIP & CREP program.
- Conservation planning with farmers for proper resource management.
- Educational meeting for contractors that install practices designed and cost-shared by the SWCD

2008 Conservation Practice Summary

1,900	Volunteer Hours of Invasive Species Control work throughout Door County
52	Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation Plan Review/Permits
24	Topographic/PS/Laser Surveys
26	Planning/Design with Landowners
15	Animal Waste Storage Systems
2	Milkhouse Waste Collection Systems
7	Barnyard Runoff Control Systems
16	Stormwater Management/Erosion Control Reviews
11	Well Abandonment
42	Deer harvested through shooting permits issued in the WDACP
253	Deer donated in Door County through Deer Donation Program
3	Wildlife Damage Claims
82	Water samples taken for the Dunes Lake Watershed Study.

Issues, Concerns and Restraints:

Program demands and natural resource protection needs are continuing to expand while fiscal and staffing resources are limited or decreasing.

Goals and Objectives for 2009:

1. Maintain existing programs implementation at current level.
2. Locate and/or develop new program support revenue streams.
3. Obtain additional funding to continue the Dunes Lake Watershed Study.
4. Obtain additional funding for terrestrial invasive species control work for DCIST.
5. Secure additional grant funding for implementation of final design plans for the beach contamination reduction project.
6. Improve quality of County nutrient management planning and implementation.
7. Complete Criteria Weighting for Greenprint Model and refine the final product; training will be held in fall.
8. Incorporate Invasive Species Control programming within SWCD.
9. Creation and establishment of the Northeast Wisconsin Carbonate Bedrock Management Zone