

2010 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.

2010 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 2010 continued to focus on working with the Town of Liberty Grove, Village of Egg Harbor, and the City of Sturgeon Bay to complete their implementation/construction of best management practices to reduce contamination at their beaches. Additionally, in 2010 the SWCD began the process of working with three additional municipalities to implement their BMP's through funding the SWCD received through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

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, has been developed to provide an online public access 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. Partnerships now include the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Geology & Geophysics, and the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey (WGNHS).

Farmland Preservation - Eligible landowners receive income tax credits for maintaining land in farming activities and meeting conservation standards required by the county. 2010 was the first year of implementation for the new Working Lands Initiative. Conservation standards remain the same for existing participants, but new contracts will be required to meet new guidelines to be eligible for tax credits.

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 adequacy. There are currently 52 sites permitted through the Door County Code Chapter 36. A total of 4 sites have been reclaimed since the adoption of the program.

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.

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 2010

Aggressive Invasive Non-indigenous Species Initiative - Goals achieved in 2010 were the result of the implementation of a DNR Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), a Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) terrestrial invasive species grant, a Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) community grant, and a grant from Legacy Bogs LLC. These grants supported both educational and control activities. As part of the AIS grant the LTE inspected 391 boats with 1,035 boaters regarding Clean Boats Clean Water. Volunteer hours totaled over 2,134 for both aquatic and terrestrial work. Grants/donations totaling \$58,043.61 were received in 2010. The LNRP and Legacy Bogs LLC grants were mainly for control work on *Phragmites* on the shorelines of Detroit, Washington, and Chambers Islands. A total of 8.2 acres of *Phragmites* over 33 miles of shoreline were treated by aquatic approved herbicide applicators. Additional inventories in the fall of 2010 have identified another 7 acres of *Phragmites* along approximate 3.5 miles of Door County shoreline. This inventory with volunteers utilizing GPS units will continue into 2011. Additional funding was also received from the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) for the control of non native terrestrial and aquatic invasive plant species. This grant will be implemented in 2011 and 2012 for control of Wild Parsnip and *Phragmites*.

Agricultural Performance Standards Ordinance – This past year 58 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-complainant status. Eighty-six follow up letters were sent with compliance achieved from a previous notification. Two enforcement efforts were advanced in 2010 concerning landowners/operators who declined to achieve compliance.

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

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 2010 continued to focus on implementation and construction of best management practices to reduce contamination of beach water at municipalities throughout the county. Implementation was completed in Fall 2010 at three beaches: Ellison Bay Town Park Beach, Village of Egg Harbor Beach, and City of Sturgeon Bay's Sunset Park Beach. The SWCD was awarded \$250,000 in funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The SWCD will continue to work with municipalities throughout the county to implement their best management plans at beaches. It is anticipated that in 2011-2012 three additional beaches will participate. In 2010 the SWCD received \$500 in donations.

Buffer Programs- In 2010 project status reviews resulted in efforts to have a previously cost-shared buffer installation restored. Restoration of the loss buffer will be obtained in 2011.

Door County Greenprint Project - The website was completed and training and I&E efforts commenced in 2010, http://tplgis.org/DoorCounty_Greenprint/. Updates to the data layers and several improvements were made during 2010; updates will continue in future years.

Dunes Lake Watershed Study- The SWCD along with the Department of Natural Resources, and The Nature Conservancy have worked together to form the Dunes Lake Partnership (DLP) to investigate the cause of the accelerated eutrophication occurring in Dunes Lake, located in the Town of Sevastopol. Partnerships now include the University of Wisconsin Madison- Department of Geology & Geophysics, and the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey (WGNHS). 2010 focused on the groundwater flow throughout the Dunes Lake Watershed. The investigation is on-going. Currently, the partnership is in Phase IV of the project. In 2010 we received \$500 in donations. To date SWCD has received \$10,000 in Lake Management grant funding from the WDNR.

Farmland Preservation - In 2010, 70 participants were under contract or under Exclusive Agriculture zoning in Door County. In 2010, 70 participants were under contract or under Exclusive Agriculture zoning in Door County. Self-certification forms were sent to all participants and the SWCD will be verifying compliance for participants to remain eligible for tax credits. Those determined to be non compliant have the option to work with the SWCD to achieve compliance and remain eligible.

Gypsy Moth Suppression Program - There were no spray blocks eligible for treatment in 2010 and there were no spray blocks scheduled in Door County for 2011. Gypsy moth populations in 2010 appeared to be on the rise; however a late summer die off of the caterpillars significantly reduced the population.

Land & Water Resource Management Plan & Program – A total of \$62,926 in state cost-sharing was encumbered on a cost-share agreement for a barnyard runoff control and manure storage project in 2010. Funding was carried over for 2011 construction.

Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation Ordinance - In 2010 two sites were transferred to new operators. There are currently 52 permitted mines representing 791 acres which are actively mined and/or un-reclaimed. All sites are inspected annually for compliance and adequacy of financial assurance.

Nutrient Management Program - In the spring of 2010, 157 nutrient management plans were submitted to the SWCD, covering 53,407 acres. By the end of 2010, an additional 15 new DATCP Soil & Water Resource Management (SWRM) cost-share agreements and 14 new County cost-share agreements were signed to enroll 1,678 additional acres of nutrient management planning starting in 2011 as well as an additional 2,093 acres where cost-sharing was not accepted by the landowner/operator. Cost-sharing for the 2010 program was provided by a SWRM Grant of \$22,718 and county funding of \$18,076.

Planning Department Referrals - In 2010, the SWCD reviewed 40 projects which included compliance checks for existing projects with operation and maintenance requirements.

Targeted Runoff Management Program - Nine grants totaling \$873,703 in state cost-sharing were applied for and awarded in 2010. Two projects were installed in 2010 with cost-share funds provided to the landowners through the TRM program.

Tree and Shrub Program - 1,790 trees and shrubs and 13 pounds of seed mix were sold and delivered through the Door County SWCD program in 2010. The joint DNR/SWCD program sold and delivered 71,000 trees. Four tree customers also rented the County's tree planters.

Wildlife Damage and Abatement Claims Program – Enrolled 24 landowners for deer and turkey damage abatement. No damage appraisal were conducted 2010. Complaints continue to decrease, which may indicate a smaller deer population and/or that prescribed abatement is effective. In 2010 there were four shooting permits issued to control excessive deer damage; a preliminary count indicates that 4 deer were shot by 3 permitted landowners. The Deer Donation Program for Door County is also administered by the SWCD and in 2010 there were 58 deer donated to local food pantries, compared to 70 deer in 2009 and 253 deer donated in 2008.

2010 Knowledge Sharing

Beaches

- Meetings are on-going at municipalities throughout the county to discuss the implementation of their best management plans at beaches to minimize beach water contamination.
- Presentations continue for local and statewide audiences regarding the SWCD's beach projects.

Invasive Species

- The DCIST website continues to be updated and is a useful resource for many with all of its features including: alerts, video links, printable color publications, online resources and contacts, identification and control 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.
- Clean Boats Clean Waters LTE conducted educational contacts to 1,035 boaters during boat inspections at several boat launches in the county.

Other

- Greenprint exhibit at the Door County Sustainability Fair.
- Presented to the Door County Leadership class, school and other groups on various conservation practices.
- Field trips and presentations for The Ridges.
- Presentation illustrating the results of the Plum Bottom Closed Depression Dye Tracer Project was given to the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees.
- Beach source identification and beach contamination reduction presentations to the Sturgeon Bay Noon Rotary Club.

SWCD Budget Status

Approved 2010 Budget	\$1,992,517	Actual 2010 Budget	\$1,072,627
2010 budgeted revenue	\$1,581,686	2010 Actual Revenue	\$676,291
2009 Levy appropriation	\$434,461	2010 Levy appropriation	\$410,831
2009 Actual Levy appropriation	\$410,027	2010 Actual Levy appropriation	\$396,336

Grants Received for 2010:

Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant (Beach)	\$46,000.00
Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association Intern Grant	\$2,000.00
DNR Lake Planning Grant (Dunes Lake)	\$1,472.00
DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Grant	\$32,443.28
DNR Targeted Runoff Management Grant	\$232,370.52
DATCP Soil & Water Resource Management Grant	\$158,836.00

DATCP Land & Water Resource Management Grant	\$28,021.00
DNR Wildlife Damage Claims Program	\$35,209.85
Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership	\$5,000.00
Wisconsin Coastal Management Grant (Invasive Species)	\$7,407.28

Revenue from Self-funding Accounts:

Waste Permits	\$12,214.49
TRM Technical Support	\$7,701.16
S & W Fund	\$9,138.77
Tree & Shrub Program	\$7,160.65
Nonmetallic Mine Program	\$49,498.40

Donations Utilized in 2010:

Dunes Lake Donations	\$2,136.48
Invasive Species Donations	\$7,685.72
Greenprint Donations	\$27,646.60

Other Accomplishments

- 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 and City of Sturgeon Bay on stormwater detention ponds.
- Conducted compliance inspections on stormwater runoff construction projects and construction site erosion practices.
- Conducted approximately 75 site reviews of cost-share projects with contractual operation and maintenance periods.
- Assisted NRCS with EQIP sign-up and implementation.
- Conservation planning with farmers for proper resource management.
- Installation of stream identification signs across the County.
- Installation of monitoring wells within the watershed of the Dunes Lake Watershed.
- Successful update of the Land and Water Resource Management Plan.

2010 Conservation Practice Summary

2,279	Volunteer Hours of Invasive Species Control work throughout Door County
8	New nutrient management plans submitted/3771 acres new cropland acres enrolled in the nutrient management program
52	Nonmetallic Mine Reclamation Plan Review/Permits
24	Topographic/PS/Laser Surveys
32	Planning/Design with Landowners
3	Animal Waste Storage Systems
1	Milkhouse Waste Collection Systems
157	Nutrient Management plans/53,407 acres
1	Barnyard Runoff Control Systems
40	Stormwater Management/Erosion Control Reviews
7	Well Abandonment
7	Deer harvested on three of seven shooting permits issued in the WDACP
58	Deer donated in Door County through Deer Donation Program

391	Boats inspected by <i>Clean Boats Clean Waters</i> LTE
1,035	Boaters contacted during <i>Clean Boats Clean Waters</i> inspections
130	Landowners authorized for Phragmites treatment
8.2	Acres or 33 miles of shoreline Phragmites treated

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 2011:

1. Maintain existing natural resource protection programs implementation during challenging fiscal year.
2. Locate and/or develop new program support revenue streams.
3. Continued implementation of agricultural nonpoint water quality performance standards.
4. Continued funding and support to efficiently and effectively draft a Lake Management Plan for the Dunes Lake Watershed Study.
5. Obtain additional funding for aquatic and terrestrial invasive species control work for DCIST.
6. Secure additional grant funding for implementation of final design plans for the beach contamination reduction project.
7. Conduct additional acres of nutrient management implementation compliance reviews.
8. Continue Greenprint training to agencies, staff and public. Increase awareness of the model.
9. Advancement of the designation of the Northeast Wisconsin Karst/Carbonate Bedrock Management Zone
10. Increase the number of wells abandoned through the Well Abandonment Cost-share Program.