



2021

Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department



Annual Report

Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department Annual Report-2021

March 15, 2022

Honorable Dodge County Board of Supervisors
Juneau, WI

Dear Members:

The Dodge County Land Resources and Parks (LRP) Department respectfully submits its 2021 Annual Report.

The LRP Department, operating under the direction of the Land Resources and Parks Committee, extends special thanks to the members of this committee for their interest in, support of, and commitment to the Department's missions and activities.

Land Resources and Parks Committee:

Travis Schultz, Chair
Mary Bobholz, Vice Chair
Allen Behl, Secretary
Thomas Schaefer, Former Chair / Daniel Siegmann
Benjamin Priesgen

Many of the challenges from the COVID pandemic continued into 2021; however, the resilient and creative LRP Department staff continued their commitment to excellent customer service and dedication to successful operations. Unable to fill the vacant Land Use/Sanitation Specialist position and a couple seasonal park positions due to mid-season departures, Code and Park staff especially rose to the occasion. They took on double duty to fill in and move around where and when needed to keep up operations during another extremely heavy permitting year and a record camping year. Kudos to my entire staff for their unselfish teamwork and assistance not only within the Department but also to other County departments when needed, leading to another productive and successful year.

Virtual meetings and trainings continued to be commonplace, email permitting and surveys continued to be utilized and online camping reservations soared during 2021. Technology continued to increase operational efficiencies and did so without significant customer dissatisfaction. Most of these operational changes will likely continue after the pandemic because of their overall benefits.

The LRP Department is functionally divided into four major divisions and this report is organized by the order of the divisions listed below.

A few highlights from the year are listed below.

- **Code Administration** – The number of Land Use and Conditional Use Permits processed exceeded the amount in 2020, the previous 10+ year high. 54 permit applications for new homes were received – the 3rd highest total in 14 years. County Land Use Permits were issued for construction values that increased from almost \$31 million in 2020 to over \$44 million in 2021 (43% increase).
- **Land Information/GIS** – Played a critical role in the Redistricting process which was accomplished in an extremely condensed timeframe.
- **Community Development** – Led the Broadband Study and updated Farmland Preservation Plan.
- **Parks & Trails** – Experienced a record number of camping night reservations leading to record park revenues (26% higher than the previous record in 2019).

This report details these and other LRP activities and accomplishments in 2021.

Please feel free to stop by the Department or give us a call should you ever have questions, comments, recommendations, need more information or would like to tour the Department and meet the talented LRP staff!

Respectfully,

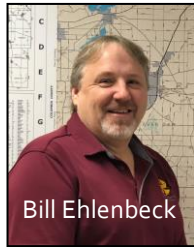
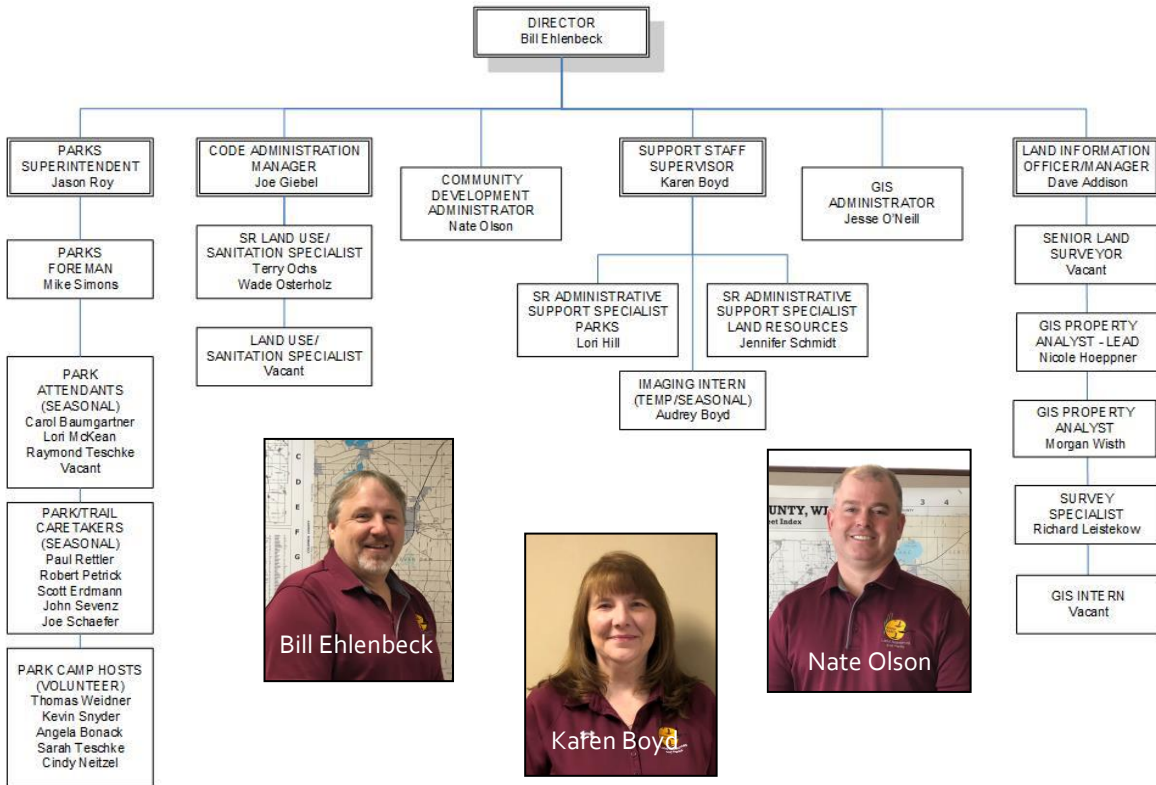


William J. Ehlenbeck
Director

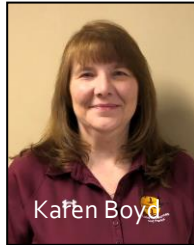
Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department Annual Report-2021

Land Resources and Parks Committee

Land Resources and Parks Department



Bill Ehlenbeck



Karen Boyd



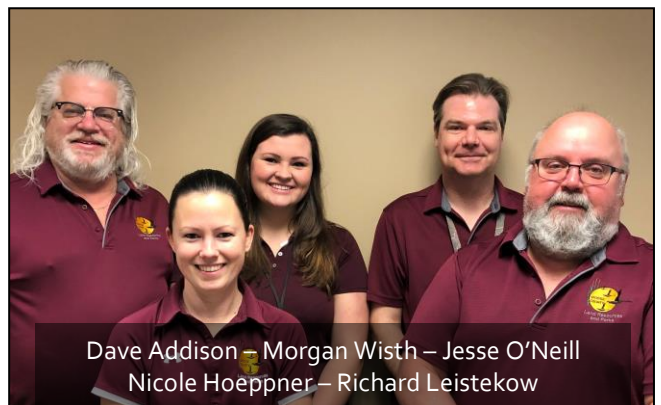
Nate Olson



Mike Simons – Lori Hill – Jason Roy



Terry Ochs – Wade Osterholz
Jennifer Schmidt – Joe Giebel



Dave Addison – Morgan Wisth – Jesse O'Neill
Nicole Hoepfner – Richard Leistekow

Code Administration Division

Code Administration manages the County Land Use Code which includes the zoning district regulations and standards, the Environmental Protection, Highway Setback, Planned Unit Development and Land Spreading of Petroleum Contaminated Soil regulations. This unit also enforces the County Airport Zoning Ordinance, Floodplain Ordinance, Shoreland Protection Ordinance, Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance and the Sanitary Ordinance regulations and standards. The Board of Adjustment administration and clerical assistance is also a responsibility of this unit.

ZONING

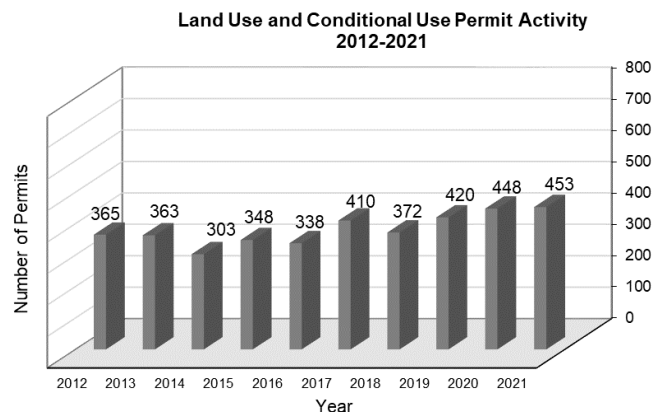
The zoning provisions of the County Land Use Code promote the health, safety, morals, prosperity, aesthetics and general welfare of the citizens of Dodge County by dividing the County into districts and regulating the use of structures, land and water within each district. Districts reflect the objectives of adopted plans of the County and its municipalities. Zoning provisions are based on ss. 59.69 which calls for county zoning to be in effect in towns which approve it. The Towns of Ashippun, Calamus, Elba, Fox Lake, Hustisford, Lebanon, Leroy, Lomira, Oak Grove, Rubicon, Shields and Trenton have approved the County Land Use Code. Shoreland-Wetland zoning, required by ss. 59.692, requires counties to regulate development within 1,000 feet of lakes, ponds and flowages and 300 feet of rivers and streams.

The Towns of Beaver Dam, Burnett, Chester, Clyman, Emmet, Herman, Hubbard, Lowell, Portland and Theresa have enacted town zoning ordinances, approved by the County Board of Supervisors. During 2021 the staff assisted most towns having town zoning ordinances. The Town of Westford does not have any zoning regulations except within the shoreland and floodplain areas and the majority of the Town of Williamstown was incorporated within the Village of Kekoskee and is no longer under the County’s jurisdiction.

The Land Use Code requires that a permit be obtained before changing the use of any structure, land or water, or locating or structurally altering any structure or sign. A land use permit is required for permitted uses or structures. A conditional use permit may be granted by the Land Resources and Parks Committee after a public hearing for conditionally allowed uses specified in each zoning district, to which conditions may be attached.

The Code Administration staff experienced a slight decrease of 4.6% in overall review activity in 2021 from permit applications and other code approval requests. Sanitary Permits and Soil Evaluation activity accounted for the decrease in permit activity in 2021 while the remaining zoning activities increased. Of the 420 Land Use Permit applications received, 54 were for new homes compared with 49 new home requests in 2020. The value of construction permitted by Land Use Permits under the County Land Use Code was \$44,015,389 in 2021 compared to \$30,775,969 in 2020.

Permits and Reviews		
	2020	2021
Land Use Permit	415	420
Sanitary Permit	204	166
Rezoning	22	17
Conditional Use Permit	33	33
Minor Land Division	77	97
Certified Survey Maps	57	60
Driveway Permit	73	82
Town Rezoning	14	17
Sanitary Compliance Reviews	0	0
Soil Evaluation Reviews	194	153
Violations	24	24
Plats	1	1
Variations	19	12
Total	1,133	1,082



Code Administration Division

Staff also conducted site inspections, developed staff reports, drafted resolutions and made recommendations to the Land Resources and Parks Committee concerning rezoning and conditional use permits. The staff also prepared minutes, decisions, hearing notices and agendas for each meeting. Town rezoning and text amendments were reviewed in 2021 for the Towns of Beaver Dam, Chester, Emmet, Hubbard, Lowell, Portland, and Theresa.

FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE

The floodplain ordinance contains the minimum regulatory standards required in Ch. NR 116, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and those of the National Floodplain Insurance Program. Activities such as dredging, filling, excavating and construction of buildings within the floodplain are generally allowed, but may be restricted according to which flood zone the property is located in. The adoption and enforcement of the ordinance allow the County to continue to participate in the FEMA Flood Insurance Program.

AIRPORT ZONING ORDINANCE

The Airport Zoning Ordinance was approved by the County Board in 2011. This ordinance regulates the height of structures near the Dodge County Airport. The ordinance also imposes additional “overlay zoning” regulations, which are in addition to those “underlying zoning” regulations that will maintain a compatible relationship between airport operations and existing and future land uses within the three mile jurisdictional boundary. Permits are required for all construction within three miles of the airport.

HIGHWAY SETBACK OVERLAY DISTRICT

Dodge County adopted a Highway Setback Ordinance in 1952. The Overlay District establishes setback distances and requires permits for construction within 200 feet of a public road. Seventeen of the County's 23 towns have approved these district regulations.

SHORELAND PROTECTION ORDINANCE

The Shoreland Protection Ordinance applies to all land in unincorporated areas that are located within 1,000 feet of a lake, pond or flowage, within 300 feet of a navigable river or stream, within a wetland and within the floodplain of a river or stream. The ordinance establishes minimum standards governing lot size, lot coverage, structure height, impervious surface area and water setback regulations for all development within a shoreland area. The ordinance also contains mitigation standards which allow the owner to make certain improvements to a parcel located within the shoreland area that may be nonconforming to the setback, impervious surface area or the height standards in the code without a variance, in exchange for agreeing to certain mitigation requirements listed in the ordinance.

SUBDIVISION OVERLAY DISTRICT

The Land Use Code contains subdivision design and improvement regulations which apply to the division of land in unincorporated areas of Dodge County. County approval is required for most land divisions.

2021 Submitted Land Use and Conditional Use Permits			
Town	Land Use Permits	Conditional Use Permits	New Homes
ASHIPPUN	45	5	8
BEAVER DAM	8	0	2
BURNETT	7	0	0
CALAMUS	31	1	1
CHESTER	2	0	0
CLYMAN	14	0	0
ELBA	11	2	2
EMMET	18	0	4
FOX LAKE	40	2	6
HERMAN	2	0	0
HUBBARD	26	0	4
HUSTISFORD	26	4	3
LEBANON	27	1	1
LEROY	13	2	2
LOMIRA	26	4	1
LOWELL	4	0	0
OAK GROVE	27	1	4
Juneau (C)	6	0	1
Horicon (C)	1	0	0
PORTLAND	3	0	1
RUBICON	26	3	5
SHIELDS	6	4	2
THERESA	5	0	0
TRENTON	23	4	3
WESTFORD	23	0	4
2021 TOTALS	420	33	54
2020 TOTALS	415	33	49

Code Administration Division

Certified Survey Maps

A property division of four parcels or less requires the submission of a Letter of Intent. The town board and affected County agencies may comment regarding compliance with regulations and plans. The subdivider may then proceed with soil tests and a certified survey. In 2021, 97 Letters of Intent were submitted and 60 certified survey maps were approved. In 2020, 77 Letters of Intent were submitted and 57 certified survey maps were approved.

Plat Review

Proposed subdivisions of five or more parcels in unincorporated areas require the submission of preliminary and final plats. Plats in cities and villages are reviewed by the Department, but the County Land Use Code does not apply. One condominium plat was reviewed in 2021.

SANITARY ORDINANCE

The County Sanitary Ordinance protects the public health by regulating the location, construction, installation, alteration, design and use of private sewage disposal systems. Permits are required for the installation of holding tanks, septic tanks and absorption areas and systems. Sanitary regulations apply in all areas of Dodge County, including cities and villages. Administration of this Ordinance consists of site investigations, review of applications, permit issuing, installation inspections and compliance investigations. The Sanitary Ordinance was amended in 2020 to authorize the use of citations by the Department for certain violations of the Sanitary Ordinance. No citations were issued in 2021.



Sanitary Permits

During 2021, 166 sanitary permits were issued compared to 204 in 2020. There were 153 soil test reviews completed in 2021 in comparison to 194 in 2019. State sanitary code mandates that every POWTS (septic system) in the County is serviced and inspected once every three (3) years. As part of the mandate, the County is required to maintain a database of these systems and is required to send out notices to those property owners with POWTS located within the County needing the three-year maintenance inspection. There were 4,292 initial notices sent out in 2021 as compared to 4,385 notices in 2020.

Wisconsin Fund

In 1980, the Board of Supervisors authorized County participation in the Wisconsin Fund Grant Assistance Program. Implementation of a waste disposal system maintenance program allows owners of failing sewage systems to be eligible for state grant assistance. In 2021, one application was received by the Department for grant assistance. A request for a maximum grant of \$5,506.00 was submitted to the State.

Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Program

Chapter 295 of Wisconsin Statutes mandated that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources create regulations to ensure non-metallic mines are properly reclaimed. In 2001, Dodge County was mandated to administer NR 135. Each mine is required to have a reclamation plan that outlines the process to fully reclaim mine sites, as well as maintain financial assurance to guarantee the mine site will be reclaimed. Mines are located within 15 of the 23 towns in Dodge County. In 2021, there were 15 mine operators and 26 mine sites in the County with approximately 823 acres being actively mined. The mines range in size from 1.3-acres to 144.7-acres. One mine site was fully reclaimed in 2021.

In addition to working with mine operators, the staff works with financial institutions to maintain financial assurance for each site. Various methods are used to maintain financial assurance, letters of credit and bonds being the most popular. Currently there is approximately \$2,217,395 in financial assurances. This program is funded with annual fees that are charged to mine operators.

Land Information Division

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Dodge County Board of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial body charged with the responsibility of deciding appeals and applications filed with it under the terms of the Zoning Codes. The Board of Adjustment acts somewhat like a court, therefore, it is vitally important that the Board follows accepted procedures and fairly evaluates the relevant facts in each case that comes before them. In order to allow for meaningful certiorari review by a circuit court, the board is required to explain the “grounds” it relied upon to make its decisions – or the reasons the application does or does not fit the legal criteria for granting a variance. The Board must, therefore, carefully document whether the requirements for granting a variance are present or not in each request. Each decision of the Board must be made on the basis of facts available and be in accordance with guidelines found in the County Codes and Ordinances, the Wisconsin State Statutes and Court decisions interpreting the Statutes. Every person who appeals to the Board of Adjustment and who is aggrieved by the Board’s decision may appeal such decision to circuit court. Cases have become more complex over the years and many decisions are being challenged in the courts. The Department staff assists the Board of Adjustment by conducting site inspections, developing staff reports and making recommendations to the Board of Adjustment concerning variance requests and appeals. The staff also prepared minutes, hearing notices and agendas for each meeting. Legal advice from the Corporation Counsel is also required at times to arrive at judicious and legal decisions. The activities of the Board of Adjustment during the calendar year 2021 as well as comparison figures for 2014 through 2020 were as follows:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Meetings Held	14	12	14	13	10
Total Public Hearings Held	14	12	13	20	9
Variance Requests					
Zoning Ordinance	9	5	5	11	7
Shoreland Ordinance	1	3	6	5	2
Floodplain Ordinance	0	0	0	0	0
Highway Setback Overlay	2	2	3	5	1
Airport Ordinance	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Ordinance	1	3	0	0	0
Subdivision	1	0	0	1	0
Totals	14	12	14	22	10
Board Decisions on Variance Requests					
Granted as proposed	5	1	0	2	1
Granted with conditions	7	9	10	13	7
Partially Granted / Partially Denied	0	1	0	1	0
Denied	2	1	4	4	1
Decision Pending	0	0	0	0	0
Withdrawn	0	0	0	2	1
Appeals of a decision of the Land Resources and Parks Committee and / or the Land Use Administrator	0	0	2	0	0
Board Decisions on Appeals					
Upheld	0	0	2	0	0
Reversed	0	0	0	0	0
Partially Upheld / Partially Reversed	0	0	0	0	0
Pending	0	0	0	0	0
Appeal of a decision of the Board of Adjustment	0	0	1	0	0
Upheld	0	0	0	0	0
Reversed	0	0	0	0	0
Pending	0	0	1	0	0

Land Information Division

The Land Information staff are responsible for the County’s Land Information Program including tax parcel mapping, survey services, and real estate description functions. The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data administration and management, mapping services and maintenance of addressing system are also identified under this division, although many functions and services are provided independent of this Division and support all areas of the Land Resources and Parks Department and other County Departments. Additionally, Spillman GIS Support is provided to the Sheriff’s Office.

This division administers all Land Information System/Geographic Information Systems (LIS/GIS) data and software management and mapping for the Department. Other functions include maintenance and administration of on-line GIS mapping tool and Land Information Search Tool (LIST), and property assessment functions supporting the Dodge County Land Information Management System (LIMS).

The Division is a great resource available to all County Departments (including Land Resources and Parks, Land and Water Conservation, Treasurer, Register of Deeds (ROD), Highway, Emergency Management, County Clerk, Corporation Counsel, and Dodge County Sheriff’s Office and Communications Center), local, regional, state and federal units of government, the private sector and the general public.

The Land Information Division is under the jurisdiction of the Land Resources and Parks Committee with significant input from the Dodge County Land Information Council. The Land Information Council is comprised of nine members: Chris Planasch, Register of Deeds; Patti Hilker, Treasurer; David Addison, Land Information Office representative; Sheriff designee Christine Churchill; three members of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors – Benjamin Priesgen, Allen Behl, Jeff Berres; Realtors Association representative, Dianne Bell; registered professional land surveyor within Dodge County, Brad Tisdale. The Land Information Council encourages the Highway Commissioner, Emergency Management Director, Land Conservationist, Land Resources and Parks Director, and any other county or municipal staff or general public with an interest in land records and land records modernization to attend their meetings.

REVENUE SOURCES

The main outside revenue source for the Land Information Office (LIO) (Division 8230) comes from Real Estate Recording Fees collected in the Register of Deeds Office as part of the **Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP)** administered by the Department of Administration (DOA). Document recording fees are retained at the county level and a portion are returned to the DOA and made available to the county thru grants. The program is governed by state statutes 16.967 and 59.72, as well as Administrative Rule Chapter Adm. 47. In 2021, Dodge County retained \$147,440 from recording fees. Dodge County was also awarded \$51,000 in WLIP Grants. The total received from WLIP from 1990 through 2021 is \$3,799,263 with \$3,174,344 from retained fees and \$624,919 from grants.

2016	13,402	107,216	NA	1,000	25,000	50% of 2016 grant rec'd for LiDAR
2017	13,316	106,528	NA	1,000	50,000	50% of 2016 grant and 50% of 2017 grant rec'd for LiDAR
2018	12,427	99,416	NA	1,000	75,000	50% of 2017 grant rec'd for LiDAR + 2018 \$50,000 grant rec'd for Bldg Footprints
2019	13,157	105,256	NA	1,000	25,000	50% of 2019 grant rec'd for Orthos
2020	17,297	138,376	NA	1,000	68,048	\$25,000 remainder of 2019 + \$40,000 2020 (for Orthos/Drone) + \$3048 Base Budget
2021	18,430	147,440	NA	1,000	25,000	Approved \$50,000 - survey equipment & ROD scanning (1st 1/2 rec'd; 2nd at completion)

TOTAL	570,716	2,801,778	372,566	326,684	14,500	283,735
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LIO \$6 for first page of each recorded document for modernization of land records (increased by \$2 June 25, 2010 with Act 314; original establishment October 1, 1990)
 Public Access \$2 for first page of each recorded document for improving public access to housing data (increased by \$1 June 25, 2010 with Act 314; original establishment September 1, 2001)
 Grants \$2 for first page of each recorded document returned to WI-DOA for distribution as grants and program administration (January 1, 2015 increased to \$7)

TOTALS	3,799,263	3,174,344 from retained fees
	from WLIP	624,919 from grants

LIO Fund Balance includes \$19,011 formerly segregated for the C/P/Scanner. \$157,310 budgeted expenses for 2021

Land Information Division

These funds support operations of the Land Information Office, annual maintenance of GIS, CAD and GPS software, new equipment purchases, LTE's to assist with projects, contracting of professional services, and support of various land records-related projects. Funding for Division 8230 is non-lapsing and by statute must be used to support land records modernization activities. It is anticipated there will be approximately \$358,000 carried over to the 2022 budget. Funds not used in a budget year accrue in the Designated Fund Balance for future large cost projects such as orthophotography and LiDAR (elevation data), survey and computer equipment, application development and/or system upgrades. Revenues for Division 8230 are dependent upon the strength of the economy with no funding from the tax levy.

Division 8231 supports the functions of the Real Estate and Survey Office units of the Land Information Division.

There are no significant revenues received in this unit due to a strict interpretation of Wisconsin's Open Records Law. Data is freely shared and exchanged with other units of government and the private and public sectors. Numerous walk-in, email, on-line and telephone requests are filled daily. The availability of geospatial data on-line through the LIST and GIS Web Mapping tool provide 24-7 access for a wide spectrum of users and has helped reduce the work load of staff. Downloadable datasets were added in 2020 and available via the internet, further reducing staff workloads by reducing individual requests.

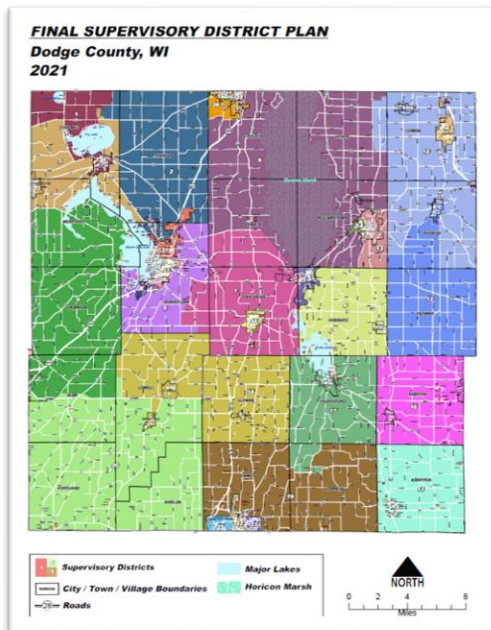
The Division continues to provide information and services to a wide range of users. Efficiencies have increased, duplication of effort has been reduced or eliminated, and additional land related information is made available to more people and organizations on a timely basis resulting in better decision-making.

HIGHLIGHTS AND PROJECTS – SUMMARIZED BELOW BY OFFICE

Much of the work is collaborative between the various offices within the division.

2021 PROJECTS

Training and utilization of the drone was delayed until 2021. A few projects were completed, and we anticipate multiple divisions will use more as we get familiar with the operations and associated applications. Three division staff completed licensure requirements.



County Supervisory District Map

Department staff began redistricting preparation and mapping work behind the scenes in July. However, due to delays in receiving Census data, the kick off to the Redistricting process was delayed until the end of August. The process that typically is done over a six month time period was condensed into just over two months. All hands were on deck including staff from other Departments to successfully meet deadlines of a highly compressed time frame. Division staff led the development of map options meeting the required principles of redistricting and presented three options for consideration. With input from municipal clerks and the Redistricting Committee and after the Public Hearing, staff prepared the Final Plan map that was adopted at the November 9th County Board Meeting. The new County District map is set to be in place for ten years until after then next Federal Census.

Land Information Division

Dodge County Land Information Plan

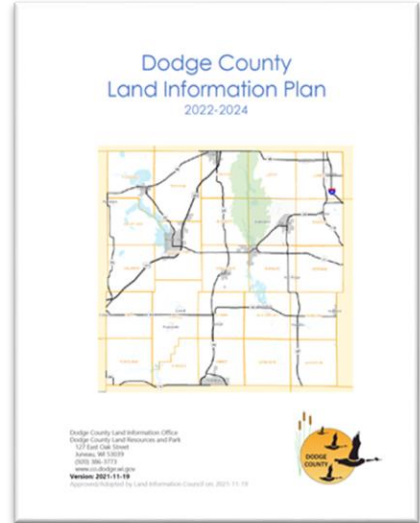
2022-2024 Dodge County Land Information Plan was approved. The plan acts as a guide for the land information program for the next three years and grant application must include items listed in the plan.

SURVEY

Reviewed Certified Survey maps as part of CSM Review policy and all other surveys (CSM's not part of review authority and Plats of Surveys) submitted for filing. Surveys are hyperlinked into Access Database and filed in section folders. Updated survey information in GPS binders in office and updated files available through the State Cartographer's Office (SCO) Control Finder and PLSS Finder internet applications.

Performed on-going Public Land Survey System (PLSS) section corner maintenance through contracted services with MSA Professional Services and performed site visits to check monuments. Checked with Towns regarding their annual notification of planned roadwork that would damage or destroy PLSS

monumentation. Finished fieldwork City of Beaver Dam and City of Fox Lake and began work in the Village of Theresa. Fieldwork is being done as part of our high accuracy remapping project. Data acquired entered into CAD and imported into the Parcel Fabric to assist with the tax mapping. Provided technical support for survey-related questions and assisted private surveyors and public with questions, corner research, data requests and locating section corners. Performed survey-related fieldwork for Department, Other Departments and Committees as well as Local Municipalities and Government Agencies upon request.



In 2021, the Survey Office continued contracting out surveying services that required a Registered Land Surveyor with MSA Professional Services. New survey equipment was acquired as we made the switch from Leica to Trimble brands. The new equipment has already proven to be more efficient.

TAX MAPPING

Parcel Fabric

Updates are now being done under the Parcel Fabric system, improving efficiency of mapping updates.

Remapping

Work continues on the City of Beaver Dam high accuracy remapping project started in 2017. Work was also begun on the City of Fox Lake high accuracy remapping project. It is anticipated both projects will be completed in 2022. Remapping of the County is an ongoing project to improve the mapping and boundary accuracy.

Land Information Division

REAL ESTATE

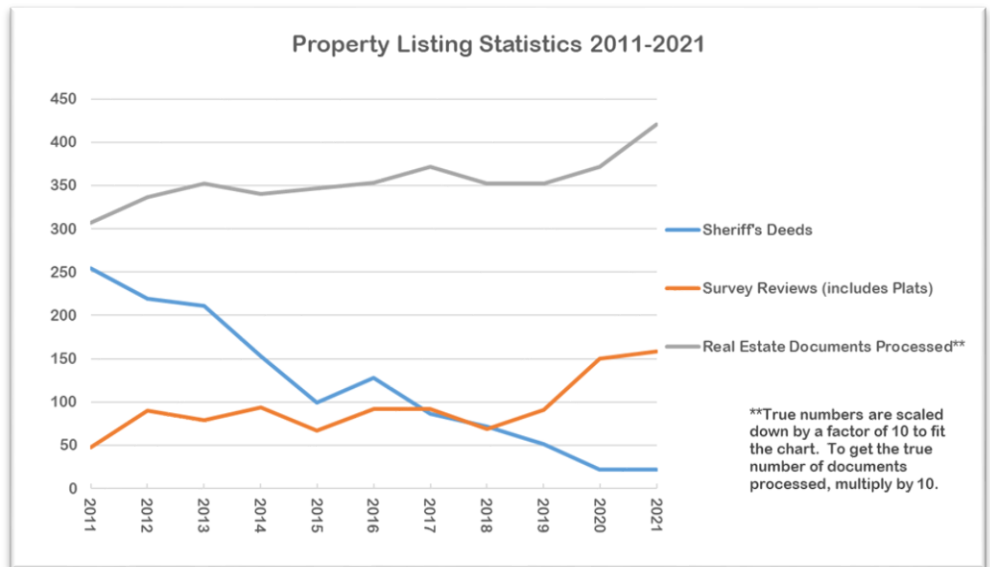
The assessment cycle starts from January 1st through the time tax bills are run in December and is a vital function of the office. The office processed assessment roll data for Managed Forest Lands, State Assessed Manufacturing and local assessors in a timely fashion to meet assessor's deadlines. Worked with local clerks to ensure that reports balanced with assessor data. Ran reports and files for the Department of Revenue (DOR) to assist with the determination of equalized values. Communication and contact with local and state officials ensures the data is accurate prior to running tax bills.

The office also kept current on processing documents. Documents are downloaded from the Register of Deed on a daily basis. The documents are processed in the LandNav program after comparing names and legal descriptions to the assessment records. The office also assists local assessors and the DOR by verifying Parcel ID numbers on the DOR Electronic Real Estate Transfer Return site.

DODGE COUNTY 2021 REAL ESTATE VALUATION SUMMARY GRAND TOTAL							REPORT #: SRVALSUM1ST RUN DATE: 01/06/2022 RUN TIME: 12:45:10 PM PAGE: 87	
REAL ESTATE GENERAL PROPERTY TAX:	CODE	-----PARCEL COUNT-----			LAND VALUE	IMPROVE VALUE	TOTAL VALUE	TOTAL ACRES
		TOTAL	LAND	IMPROVE				
RESIDENTIAL	G1	29391	29383	27448	956,738,870	3,636,806,547	4,593,545,417	29,531.839
COMMERCIAL	G2	2771	2766	2275	172,219,650	864,358,700	1,036,578,350	7,340.561
MANUFACTURING	G3	213	207	186	28,088,000	324,399,200	352,487,200	2,533.417
AGRICULTURAL	G4	13868	13868	0	91,901,600	0	91,901,600	349,245.670
UNDEVELOPED LAND	G5	11122	11022	0	59,059,600	0	59,059,600	77,251.603
AGRICULTURAL FOREST	G5M	3094	3094	0	22,406,100	0	22,406,100	20,322.397
PRODUCTIVE FOREST LANDS	G6	466	466	0	8,856,800	0	8,856,800	4,089.748
OTHER	G7	2538	2538	2517	70,564,800	375,215,700	445,780,500	5,044.277
TOTAL		63463	63344	32426	1,408,831,420	5,200,780,147	6,609,611,567	495,361.512
WOODLAND:								
PRIVATE FOREST CROP PRE 72	0 0 0.10 W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
PRIVATE FOREST CROP POST 71	0 0 2.52 W2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
PRIVATE FOREST CROP SPECIAL	0 0 0.20 W3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
COUNTY FOREST CROP	0 0 0.00 W4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
MFL OPEN POST 2004	0 0 2.04 W5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
MFL CLOSED POST 2004	0 0 210.20 W6	43	43	0	2,208,600	0	2,208,600	970.052
MFL OPEN PRE 2005	0 0 0.74 W7	2	2	0	63,800	0	63,800	30.000
MFL CLOSED PRE 2005	0 0 1.75 W8	102	102	0	3,175,700	0	3,175,700	1,880.684
MFL CLOSED PRE 2005 MINING	0 0 9.27 W9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
TOTAL		147	147	0	5,448,100	0	5,448,100	2,880.736
EXEMPT:								
FEDERAL	X1	153	0	0	0	0	0	21,716.745
STATE	X2	574	0	0	0	0	0	26,913.289
COUNTY	X3	126	0	0	0	0	0	1,725.207
OTHER	X4	1772	0	0	0	0	0	9,838.763
TOTAL		2625	0	0	0	0	0	60,194.004
** FINAL TOTAL **		66235	63491	32426				558,436.252
ACTUAL PARCEL COUNT		47733						

The office plays a key role in the CSM Review process as well as updating the parcel mapping and adding new surveys to the Survey Finder Tool. The office worked with the Drainage District engineer in developing drainage district maps. It is anticipated this will help us more easily identify these properties. Assisted public with general property questions at the counter, on the phone or through email and consulted with County Code Administration on possible land division violations.

General Statistics for 2021
47,733 Real Estate parcels and 2,108 personal property accounts were maintained in 2021. Approximately 4,203 real estate recordings from the Register of Deeds Office were processed affecting 6,019 tax parcels. 3,711 parcels had ownership updates. 536 tax parcels are showing an error on a recorded document and 29 tax parcels are "on hold" (not yet updated ownership information due to significant errors). Staff processed 22 Sheriff's Deeds for 23 tax parcels. There were three terminated TID districts and one annexation in 2021 (annexations effective for 2022).



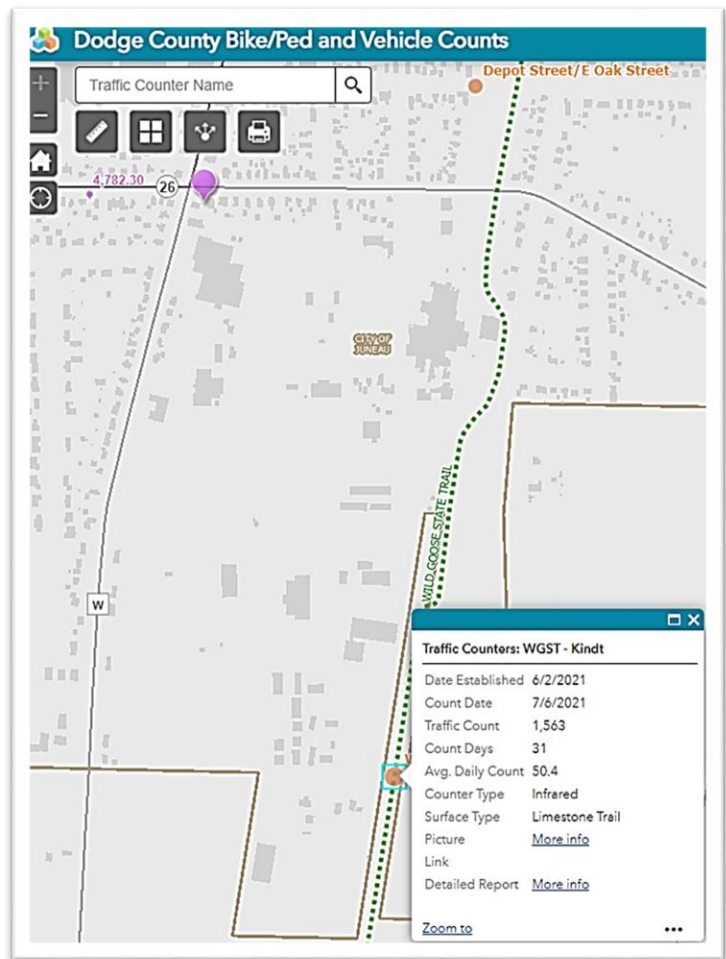
Land Information Division

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

GIS was an integral part of redistricting process in 2021 as the county had to overcome several geospatial challenges springing from how the Census was collected. Before the drawing of the new districts could even begin, GIS staff worked closely with state agencies to adapt Federal boundary data to resolve several complex issues including the Kekoskee-Williamstown merger and correct placement of prison population. Subsequently, GIS was the main tool used in drawing district plans for the county and each municipality, as well as in creating maps for reference after the districts were approved.

As always, we continue to provide ad-hoc and project level mapping and data support for many county departments as needed. Fulfilled maps requests for various entities including local municipalities, EMS, snowmobile clubs. Provided mapping and other information as part of the statewide NextGen 911 and Broadband initiatives. Processed and assigned a record amount of building numbers (81).

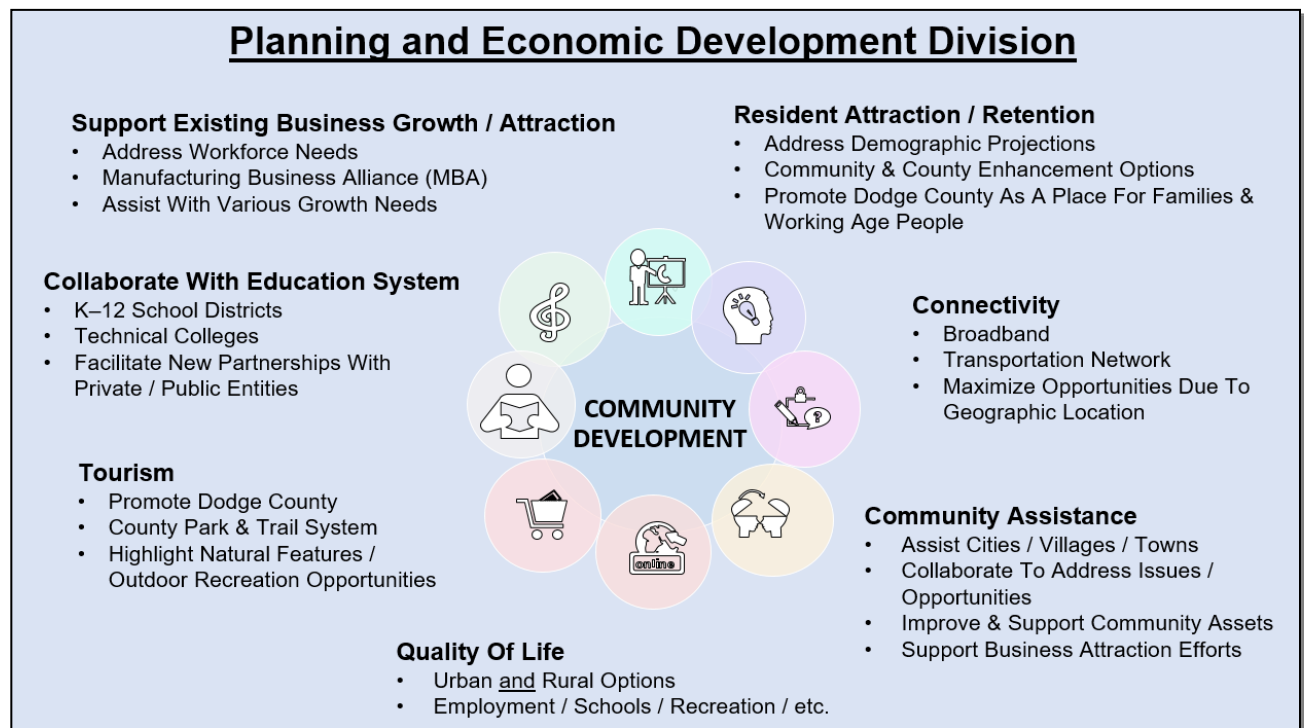
- 1) Created a new interactive trail counter web map in collaboration with the Dodge County Blue Zone project. This public-facing app allows citizens and staff to monitor traffic at various trail counter locations around the County, as well as providing traffic count data for roads.
- 2) Led a pilot project to implement handheld field data collection for Code Enforcement staff. This would allow inspectors to collect high accuracy data on field inspections and automatically integrate it into the larger GIS database for use back at the office.
- 3) Utilized web services to distribute drone-collected aerial photos to end-users, allowing non-GIS users to see and use the highly detailed data we collected via the UAV.
- 4) Updated the Dodge County Farmland Preservation Plan including maps and GIS data for all 24 towns.
- 5) Participated in and supplied data for the Wisconsin Statewide Parcel Map (V7).
- 6) Continued support for Sheriff's Department Spillman FLEX software through GIS data maintenance, software updates, and patch cycle support. A major FLEX upgrade is coming in early 2022 which will require new server configurations and changes to the GIS services running in the background.



Community Development Division

The Community Development Division is responsible for a variety of economic and community development services. Economic and community development functions include: supporting business growth and attraction, resident attraction, workforce development, community assistance, managing a revolving loan program, and tourism functions.

Community development in Dodge County is wide ranging, as the needs in the rural and urban communities can be very different. Providing leadership and service to all the businesses and residents in those communities can be extensive. Especially considering there are nearly 90,000 residents residing in one of the 42 cities, towns, and villages in Dodge County, which are spread across almost 900 square miles. Although the scope is large and the needs are diverse between the differing types of communities, they are very much intertwined and dependent on each other to be successful. Additionally, developing and facilitating opportunities between public and private entities is essential for success in Dodge County. The visual below provides an illustration of the different areas that contribute to community development. It should be noted that this is only glimpse of areas to work in; the reality is the scope is bigger.



There are a variety of issues facing Dodge County, they range from resident/workforce attraction needs, stagnate population growth, aging population, supporting primary employer retention/expansion, community preparedness for business/resident attraction, childcare/housing/transportation deficiencies, implementing tools so communities can be sustainable for the future, the digital divide between the rural vs urban areas, plus many more. While there are many issues Dodge County must deal with, there are opportunities to address them and work towards positive outcomes. The Community Development Administrator is in a position to coordinate activities and provide positive leadership to make businesses and residents want to call Dodge County home.

Community Development Division

The following is a summary of the activities worked on in the Community Development Division.

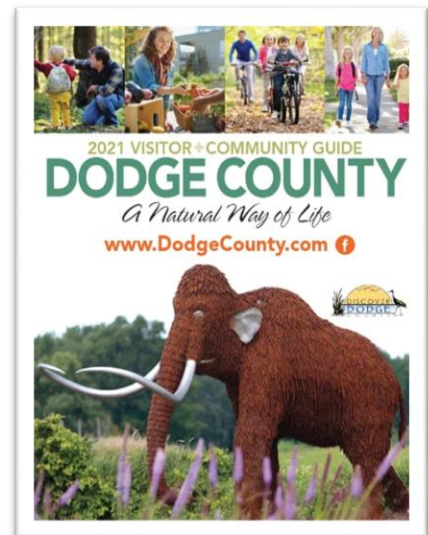
BROADBAND (HIGH SPEED INTERNET) EXPANSION PROJECT

In 2019 the Dodge County Board of Supervisors recognized the need to address the lack of accessibility to high speed internet (broadband) in Dodge County. The Community Development Administrator was tasked with leading an initiative to develop solutions to address the broadband deficiencies in the County. In 2021, the Land Resources and Parks and Information Technology Departments and Committees collaborated on a Dodge County Broadband Assessment Study. Design Nine, Inc. firm was selected to assist county officials with the study. The purpose of the study was to get professional assistance with inventorying and analyzing the current broadband infrastructure throughout the County. Using the inventory analysis, strategies will be created to address the broadband infrastructure deficiencies. Part of the study was a countywide business and residential survey, which provides primary data to assist with the study's recommendations and provide data to obtain grant funding. Besides general oversight of the project, staff helped connect business and community officials to the consultant to meet and discuss needs, challenges and opportunities with broadband.

TOURISM

There are a variety of tourism activities that are coordinated through the Community Development Administrator. Dodge County has a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities, including the Dodge County park system, Gold Star Memorial Trail, Federal and State Horicon Marsh Areas, Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center, recreational trails, and waterways. The extensive amount of outdoor recreational options in Dodge County is within an hour's drive of a large portion of the state's population. Hence, a significant amount of effort is put towards marketing Dodge County's outdoor recreation opportunities to the Fox Valley/Madison/Milwaukee regions.

Digital and print materials were utilized to market the outdoor recreation opportunities in Dodge County. Despite the continuing challenges of the Covid pandemic, Dodge County has experienced high usage of its various outdoor recreational opportunities. Additionally, the 2021 Dodge County Visitor Guide was updated to provide a new marketing option for employers and communities to attract new residents and workforce. The total number of guides printed and distributed were 35,000.



MANUFACTURING BUSINESS ALLIANCE

The Manufacturing Business Alliance (MBA) of the Dodge County Region continues to be a success. The MBA is composed of public and private entities working to maintain the strong local manufacturing sector. Dodge County has a strong manufacturing sector, with approximately 30 percent of its residents employed in that sector. The MBA serves to advocate for manufacturing, with a focus on promoting manufacturing as a positive career choice. The Community Development Administrator represents Dodge County on the MBA and actively works on the steering committee to assist with coordination of activities. There are a variety of activities needed to make the MBA successful with its mission/vision/goals. A primary objective of the Community Development Administrator is to work as a facilitator between K-12 school districts, Moraine Park Technical College, and manufacturing businesses. A significant activity that works on that objective is an annual education/on-site tour opportunity for high school students to learn about careers in the advanced manufacturing industry. The Community Development Administrator works with manufacturers and K-12 School Districts to create the annual tour opportunities. Due to Covid concerns, tours had to be canceled in 2021. However, new digital activities were created and used to help show opportunities at manufacturers. In the future, digital outreach activities and tours will be used in combination to educate high school kids on employment opportunities.

Community Development Division

Once the MBA is able to resume activities, it is anticipated that activities will expand on personal experiences, such as the tours will get more robust. To show the success of the MBA, additional manufacturers are asking to be included in the activities. The Community Development Administrator is facilitating those future opportunities. Also, the feedback from the K-12 School Districts (as well as parents) continues to be very supportive and eager to enhance.



Participating Employers	Participating School Districts
Apache Stainless Steel	Beaver Dam High School
EK Machine	Central Wisconsin Christian
Enerpac	Columbus High School
Federal Mogel	Dodgeland High School
John Deere	Fall River High School
Karavan Trailers	Horicon High School
Lyc0 Manufacturing	Hustisford High School
Mayville Engineering Company (MEC)	Markesan High School
Metalcraft	Mayville High School
Quad Graphics	Rio High School
	Waupun High School



ALLIANT ENERGY

Alliant Energy is a partner of Dodge County on a variety of development opportunities. The Community Development Administrator is charged with being the County representative to work with Alliant Energy and has been actively working on a variety of development projects with Alliant Energy. The first project was the creation of the Beaver Dam Commerce Park, which is a 520 acre industrial park on the north edge of the City of Beaver Dam (currently in the Town of Trenton). Dodge County has targeted this area for industrial development, partnering with Alliant Energy is making that long standing goal a reality.



Community Development Division

MARSHFIELD CLINIC HEALTH SYSTEM

With the Beaver Dam Community Hospital merging with Marshfield Clinic Health System (now known as Marshfield Medical Center – Beaver Dam), has brought on many new opportunities for the Dodge County region. To fully recognize the variety of opportunities, the Community Development Administrator is collaborating with Marshfield Clinic Health System’s administrative staff to identify potential opportunities for business-to-business development. As well as looking at options to increase their footprint in Dodge County and provide more services to businesses and residents. A considerable amount of time has been spent on identifying potential public and/or private entity collaboration opportunities. One such activity being worked on is the broadband expansion project. The Community Development Administrator worked with Marshfield Clinic Health System staff to identify the potential of providing telemedicine services to Dodge County’s rural population, with improved high speed internet.

DODGE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG) REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF)

The federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the State of Wisconsin’s Department of Administration (DOA) made the decision to phase out local RLF programs (CDBG-Close). Due to being funded with federal dollars, specific federal requirements had to be followed. Dodge County staff followed specific rules and guidance to meet the RLF phase out date of January 31, 2021. There is one RLF loan that Dodge County is required to administer, which is in good standing and is current.

THRIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (THRIVEED)

The ThriveED entity is a collaboration between private businesses and public entities that have committed to investing in the organization and supporting economic development activities in the two county region (Dodge and Jefferson Counties). The Dodge County Board voted to end the contract with ThriveED for economic development services, such as marketing building and sites, business retention and expansion and instead increase the staffing efforts internally.

DODGE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG) HOUSING REHABILITATION

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Housing Rehabilitation Program funds loans to eligible households for home repairs. The loans are a 0.0 percent interest deferred payment loan that is not paid back until the homeowner moves or sells their home. The Community Development Administrator manages this program for Dodge County, with assistance from MSA Professional Services, Inc. In 2012 the Department of Administration – Division of Housing (DOH) changed the distribution method for the CDBG housing funds. Local governments and counties are no longer able to apply individually for CDBG housing funds; however, Dodge County must still administer its original CDBG-Housing Rehabilitation program. Dodge County has its individual housing rehabilitation program and is also part of the Southern Housing Region program.

PARK AND TRAIL ASSISTANCE

The Community Development Administrator has a history of working alongside the Director of the Land Resources and Parks Department on a variety of Dodge County park system developments and administrative needs. Such activities range from the creation/updating of the Dodge County Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan, local community park plans, and trail development (land and water). Recently, a large focus of effort has been placed on researching and securing grant funds and donations for the development of the Gold Star Memorial Trail (GSMT) project. The GSMT project has required extensive coordination with the project’s citizen group and various fundraising activities.



Staff continually puts forth efforts to apply for federal and state grant dollars to fund the remaining GSMT sections. It is anticipated that funding needed will reach \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000; hence, all funding options will need to be considered.

Community Development Division

DODGE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Community Development division is tasked with maintaining the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan. The Dodge County Year 2030 Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the County Board in March of 2006. A process to amend the Comprehensive Plan has been established, whereby amendments to the Plan can be considered twice each year. A public hearing is held on the amendments and proper notice is given. Since January of 2010, all land division and zoning ordinance amendments are required by state statute to be consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. State statute requires that Comprehensive Plans be completely updated at least every ten years. An amended Dodge County Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors in May of 2015. The Comprehensive Plan and Farmland Preservation Plan must be consistent with each other. Also, the Farmland Preservation Plan is included as an appendix in the Comprehensive Plan.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Farmland Preservation Program provides state income tax credit for landowners who agree to keep their land in agriculture. Dodge County has been participating in the state's Farmland Preservation Program since 1979. The main purpose of the program is to preserve Wisconsin farmland by means of local land use planning and conservation practices. Landowners that participate in the Farmland Preservation Program are eligible to collect Farmland Preservation tax credits. Wisconsin State Statute requires a county to adopt a Farmland Preservation Plan.

The Dodge County Farmland Preservation Plan was due to be updated by the end of 2021. The Community Development Administrator secured a grant of \$4,715.38 to assist with updating the plan. The updated Farmland Preservation Plan was adopted by the County Board on November 9, 2021 and is in an appendix in the Comprehensive Plan (per statute). This Plan was certified by Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and will allow eligible landowners to continue to collect farmland preservation program tax credits as well as the opportunity to participate in other farmland preservation programs.



The Community Development Administrator works to maintain county and town eligibility, as well as educate local government officials and landowners on participation methods. There has been significant outreach efforts in the past, which has resulted in strong participation across Dodge County. As a large amount of program tax credits come to Dodge County landowners. Participating landowners are eligible for tax credits, which are based on participation method. Landowners that enter into an agreement are eligible for a \$5.00 per acre tax credit, landowners that utilize Farmland Preservation Zoning are eligible for \$7.50 per acre tax credit and landowners that utilize both an agreement and zoning are eligible for a \$10.00 per acre tax credit. Recent data shows that approximately **96,315** acres were enrolled in the program. **525** landowners claimed tax credits, totaling **\$732,000**. The Farmland Preservation Program plays a significant role in the Dodge County agricultural community and is a rural economic development tool.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

In collaboration with the Dodge County Administrator, the Community Development Administrator annually creates the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Dodge County. The CIP is a plan that identifies and prioritizes major capital expenditures (over \$50,000) each year over a five year time period. The plan is updated annually to reflect changing needs and priorities, and to extend the plan another year. The CIP is completed with the cooperation of other County department directors and is formally adopted by the County Board.

Community Development Division

VARIOUS PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

There are a variety activities the Planning and Economic Development Administrator works and continually conducts throughout the year, they included:

- Develop and deliver planning and economic development focused presentations to variety of public/private entities, including senior level business leaders, Dodge County Board of Supervisors, Dodge County Committees and Department Heads, local/state officials, and public/private associations.
- Working with the City of Beaver Dam on new and redevelopment sites, including new ways to leverage public/private partnerships. Could result in creative options for the future.
- Facilitating discussions between City of Horicon and a private entity for a new development in the City property along Highway 33 (would be the first development there), as well as incorporating the Gold Star Trail expansion. This could result in other mixed-use developments on Hwy 33.
- Collaborate with Alliant Energy to establish large scale solar field projects and facilitate opportunities to develop private landowner / business solar projects (tariff program); working to create ways to create offshoot developments and programs (enhanced Commerce Park attraction, facilities, future phases, development fund, battery storage, etc).
- Working with National Grid Renewables on a large-scale solar field in northeast Dodge County.
- Working with a developer on housing development options, connecting with public entities.
- Collaborate with public agencies and business groups to support business-focused activities.
- Work with the eight county regional economic development organization Madison Regional Economic Partnership (MadREP) on various activities, including serve on Board of Directors.
- Maintain a working and on-going relationship with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), be the representative for Dodge County.
- Team up with local officials to determine options to address demographic issues specifically reviewing opportunities to attract residents to their community.
- Facilitate business-to-business interactions to coordinate potential options to work together.
- Work with businesses and local officials on methods to address childcare, housing, and transportation issues in Dodge County.
- Provide guidance to communities requesting assistance on a variety of community development activities, such as comprehensive plan development/amendments, farmland preservation program participation methods, review/consider various types of development, addressing land use issues/opportunities, ordinance updates/creation, and educational presentations to local government meetings / association meetings.



Parks and Trails Division

ASTICO * DERGE * LEDGE * HARNISCHFEGER * NITSCHKE MOUNDS
 WILD GOOSE STATE TRAIL * GLACIAL RIVER TRAIL * GOLD STAR MEMORIAL TRAIL * SNOWMOBILE/ATV TRAILS

MISSION

To meet the health and recreation needs and demands of the citizens of Dodge County and its visitors and to further the County’s environmental and land use goals through efficient and cost effective operation and maintenance of a safe and accessible county-wide system of primarily resource oriented parks, trails and open space areas.

SCOPE

The Parks and Trails Division is responsible for planning, development, operation and maintenance of eight current parks and trails facilities, administration of the County Snowmobile and ATV Trail Programs and promotion of regional open space recreational opportunities in Dodge County. The table on the next page identifies the amenities and features of the County Parks and Trails System.

ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION of the park system is carried out primarily by the Parks Superintendent and Parks Foreman and nine (9) seasonal staff assisted by Volunteer Camp Hosts (when available). Department Director provides project management and oversight on select projects and activities. The Administrative Support Specialist manages the reservation system and serves as the primary point of public contact and public relations in the office, providing a key link between staff and customers. Many projects, activities and some routine maintenance require the use of Burke Correctional inmates, scout troops, volunteers, contracted labor and County Highway crews to supplement park staff.



The parks remain open year round for hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding and other day use recreation. Limited self-registration camping is available during the winter months pending snow conditions allowing access to the campsites. Minimal winter maintenance is currently undertaken. However, multi-use winter trails are groomed to increased trail access and use year round. Plowing services are contracted at Astico, Harnischfeger, Ledge and Nitschke Mounds Parks to keep a minimum of roads open to parking areas in order to allow access and use of the park for day use activities. Parking lots along the Wild Goose State Trail are able to be maintained with assistance from the Highway Department as time and resources permit.

Seasonal Staff and Assignments:	Attendants	Caretakers	Volunteer Hosts
Astico	Carol Baumgartner	Paul Rettler	Thomas Weidner
Derge	Vacant	Scott Erdmann	Kevin Snyder
Ledge	Lori McKean	Robert Petrick	Cindy Neitzel
Harnischfeger	Raymond Teschke	John Sevenz	Sarah Teschke
Nitschke Mounds, Glacial River Trail, Gold Star Memorial Trail and Wild Goose	N/A	Joe Schaefer	N/A

The **Volunteer Camp Host** program continues to be a vital component in the parks operation. The camp hosts assist park visitors with information, campsite registrations, firewood sales, watercraft rentals and monitoring of the park when staff are not available. The camp hosts receive a campsite and firewood as their compensation during their stay. The volunteer camp host at Derge Park has provided Attendant like services, so we did not need to fill the vacant Attendant position for 2021.

Parks and Trails Division

Amenity / Feature	Harnischfeger	Astico	Ledge	Nitschke Mounds	Derge	Wild Goose State Trail	Glacial River Trail	Gold Star Memorial Trail
Acres	132	100	83	54	13	20 miles	3.5 miles	2.1 miles
Key Feature	Rock River	Crawfish River	Niagara Escarpment	Effigy Mounds	Beaver Dam Lake	Horicon Marsh Community Connectivity	Connects Wild Goose Trail to Watertown	Connects Mayville to Horicon Marsh
Campsites - Electric	6	45	24	No	25	NA	NA	NA
Campsites - Non electric	3	18	18	No	0	NA	NA	NA
Flush Toilets	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Showers	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Vault /Portable Toilets	1 Portable	4	3	1 Portable	1	1 Portable (Hwy 60)	No	No
Dump Station	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	NA	NA	NA
Canoeing/Kayaking	Rentals/Access	Rentals/Access	No	No	Access	NA	NA	NA
Motor Boat Access	No	No	No	No	Yes	NA	NA	NA
Fishing Access	Pier/Shore	Pier/Shore	No	No	Pier/Shore	No	No	NA
Biking	On Roads/Main Trail	On Roads	On Roads	No	On Roads	20 miles	3.5 miles (6.5 miles on road)	2.1
Hiking	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20 miles	3.5 miles	Yes
Horseback Riding	1.2 miles	No	No	No	No	14 miles	No	No
Enclosed Shelter	Clubhouse	No	No	No	Quonset	No	No	No
Open Air Picnic Shelter	2	1	2	1	0	0	No	No
Picnic Area	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Horseshoe Pits	3	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	NA
Volleyball Courts	1	1	1	0	0	NA	NA	NA
Playground	1	2	2	0	2	NA	NA	NA
Disc Golf	9 holes	No	No	No	No	NA	NA	NA
Miniature Golf	9 holes	No	No	No	No	NA	NA	NA
Boardwalk	800 ft (to river) 100 ft (woods)	50 ft (pier)	130 ft (overlook)	No	No	No	No	No
X-C Ski/ Snowshoe Access	Groomed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ATV Trail (Winter)	No	No	No	No	No	20 miles	No	No
Snowmobile Trail	330.9 miles of County trails, mostly located over private property through easements							

VEHICLE AND TRAIL COUNTS 2021

Entrance data has been collected in the parks since 2013 through the use of pneumatic and infrared counters. The table below shows monthly and summary data for the months of May through October. Pneumatic traffic counters need to be removed for the winter, so actual year round traffic count data has not been possible previously. The pneumatic counters are becoming more unreliable as they age and are being replaced with the infrared counters, providing accurate year round data.

Similar to nationwide findings, people continued to discover outdoor recreation in Dodge County in 2021. All parks saw an increase in use with an emphasis of heavy day use activity.

Parks and Trails Division

PARK ENTRANCE COUNTS – 2021						
MONTH	TOTAL VEHICLE COUNTS - 2021				TOTAL VEHICLES	ESTIMATED VISITORS (2 Per Vehicle)
	ASTICO	LEDGE	HARN	DERGE		
MAY	3,002	2,904	*	1,224	7,130	14,260
JUNE	2,928	2,477	*	1,231	6,636	13,272
JULY	3,162	2,584	*	1,763	7,509	15,018
AUG	3,370	3,094	*	1,026	7,490	14,980
SEPT	*	2,397	*	*	2,397 (1 Park)	4,794 (1 Park)
OCT	*	*	*	*	*	*
TOTALS	12,462	13,456	*	5,244	31,162	62,324

Average/Day (2021)	101	88	*	43
Average/Day (2020)	101	95	*	11

**Counter Not Operational*

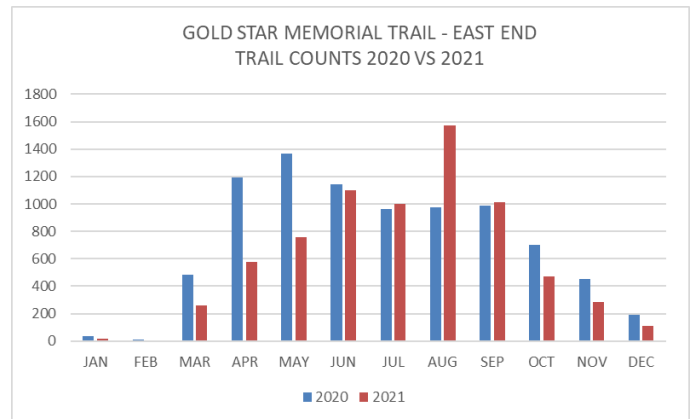
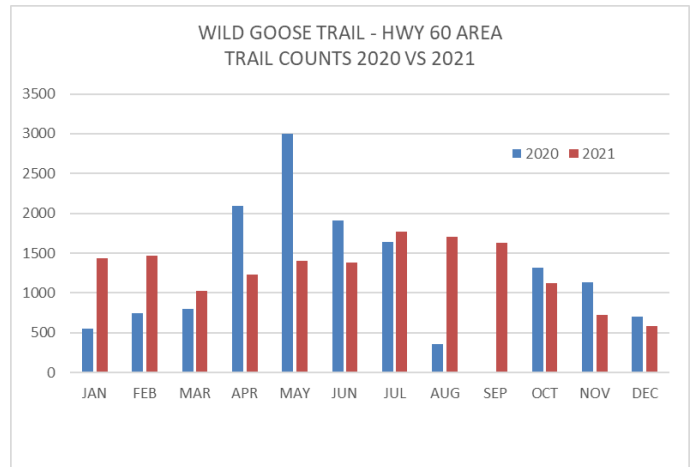
Estimate Number Visitors - 2021	24,924	26,912	*	10,488
Estimated Number Visitors - 2020	38,580	35,064	*	3,798

TRAIL COUNTS

Recognizing that trail counts are important for planning, maintenance, trail advocacy and helping to obtain grants and funding, we have made efforts over the years to identify and develop good trail user count data. Until 2019 when we purchased some new counters, we had limited success. In March of 2019, a new counter was placed on the Gold Star Memorial Trail toward the east end of the trail just after construction of the first phase of the trail was completed. A new counter was also placed on the Wild Goose State Trail near the south end of the trail just north of State Road 60. These counters have provided reliable trail counts since installation and are building important data.

Similar to reports around the country, increased use of trails in 2021 continues since the onset of the pandemic in 2020. High trail counts were experienced and documented through our counters.

The Wild Goose State Trail and Gold Star Memorial Trail continued to see an increase in use.



Parks and Trails Division

CAMPSITE RENTALS

A variety of campsite types are available throughout the Dodge County Parks system. Standard electric and non-electric sites with camping pads, picnic tables and fire rings are most common and available at Astico, Derge, Ledge and Harnischfeger Parks. A group sites are also available at Astico, Harnischfeger and Ledge Parks. The group sites primarily serve scout campouts, but are also popular for large family gatherings and organization outings.

The campsites available for rentals are:

- Astico – 45 electric, 17 non-electric, 1 group
- Ledge – 24 electric, 16 non-electric, 2 group
- Derge – 25 electric, 0 non-electric, 0 group
- Harnischfeger – 6 electric, 3 non-electric, 1 group

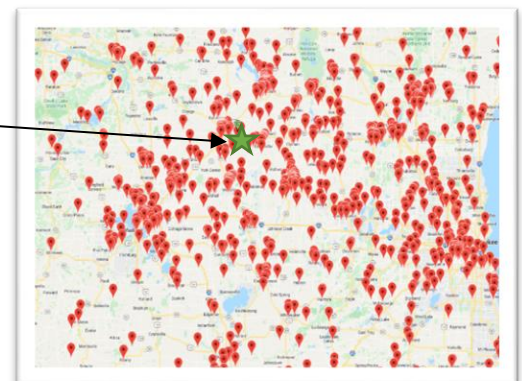
Campsite Rentals: 2017-2021 (Total Nights)					
Park	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Astico	2,848	2,585	2,750	2,768	3,899
Derge	1,386	1,196	1,662	1,101	3,477
Ledge	2,772	2,607	2,567	2,337	1,884
Harnischfeger	585	601	611	601	824
TOTALS	7,591	6,989	7,590	6,807	10,084

In 2021, camping fees were \$25 for electric sites and \$20 for non-electric sites. Even though the pandemic continued, high campsite occupancy was experienced at all parks throughout the season. Overall camping revenues increased by 40% for 2021. Astico Park saw the largest increase in camping for 2021.

Typically, about 65% - 70% of the overnight campsite rentals in the parks are by visitors from outside of the Dodge County area. County residents, generally within a 15-25 minute drive of a park, are the primary users of the day use facilities such as the trails, fishing areas, playgrounds and picnic areas. However, since the pandemic there has been more day use traffic from further away, particularly from the Madison and Milwaukee areas as people were seeking new and more rural open spaces.

Camping Revenue History By Park

Park	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	%Change
Astico	\$67,709	\$61,984	\$65,921	\$66,405	\$94,796	42%
Derge	\$32,174	\$27,811	\$41,791	\$28,886	\$39,192	36%
Ledge	\$60,545	\$58,150	\$64,747	\$60,130	\$83,730	39%
Harnischfeger	\$14,402	\$16,839	\$18,580	\$15,804	\$22,332	41%
TOTALS	\$174,830	\$164,784	\$191,039	\$171,225	\$240,050	40%



Wisconsin Area Campers

Parks and Trails Division

ONLINE RESERVATION SYSTEM

A new reservation system was first implemented mid-year 2018 to better meet the needs of our park customers by providing 24/7, real time - online camping and shelter reservations. In 2021, 34% of reservations were made on the weekends and 45% were made outside of regular office hours compared to 28% on weekends and 45% outside of office hours in 2020.

The third full year of operation under the online system was in 2021. In 2021, a total of 3,598 reservations were made online compared with 1,726 in 2020. A \$5 fee is charged per reservation in addition to the campsite fee. This fee is segregated into a future Parks Development account to cover credit card use fees with the balance of revenue remaining for future park development.

Park	Online Reservations Campsites and Shelters - 2021
Astico	1,410 – 83%
Derge	567 – 78%
Ledge	1,343 – 84%
Harnischfeger	278 – 71%

FIREWOOD

Firewood continues to be a major task for the park staff, both in keeping up with sales and supplies. The firewood ban first instituted in 2008 was lifted for the 2020 camping season, mostly due to the pandemic. Even though the firewood ban was lifted, firewood sales increased for the 2021 season. Firewood fees remained at \$5 per bundle in 2021 and were sold by park staff, volunteer camp hosts and on a self-service basis.

Approximately 28,685 pieces of firewood were cut, split and sold in the parks in 2021 resulting in over \$17,928 net firewood revenues (after sales tax removal), a \$3,710 increase from 2020. All the firewood sold was generated from the parks utilizing dead and downed wood from throughout the park system as well as removal of undesirable and hazard trees.

Firewood Revenue History					
Park	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Astico	\$10,402	\$7,397	\$7,334	\$5,426	\$6,747
Derge	\$1,472	\$1,079	\$1,734	\$1,488	\$1,503
Ledge	\$8,219	\$7,542	\$8,449	\$6,380	\$8,138
Harnischfeger	\$1,639	\$2,409	\$1,718	\$ 924	\$1,540
TOTAL	\$21,732	\$18,427	\$19,235	\$14,218	\$17,928

Burke Correctional Center inmates assisted park staff with firewood cutting, splitting, stacking and brushing in 2021.

Continual efforts have been taken by parks staff to inventory and remove hazardous trees in the parks and on the trails and also replanting of various tree species.

SHELTER AND CLUBHOUSE RENTALS

The shelters and clubhouse rentals available in the County Parks provide a valuable service to Dodge County residents and visitors. The buildings are used for scout activities, organization outings, company picnics and family parties; such as reunions, graduations, weddings, birthdays and more. Additionally, the clubhouse serves as the hub of activities for the annual Fallfest public fundraising event at Harnischfeger Park held by Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc.

The buildings available for rentals are:

- Astico Park – 1 open shelter
- Ledge Park – 2 open shelters
- Derge Park – 1 Quonset shelter
- Harnischfeger Park – 2 open shelters and the clubhouse

Nitschke Mounds Park contains a large shelter that functions primarily for park programming and educational functions and is not currently available for rental.

Parks and Trails Division

Net Shelter Revenue History By Park					
Park	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Astico	\$473	\$711	\$783	\$449	\$1,268
Derge	\$285	\$605	\$285	\$ 47	\$246
Ledge	\$900	\$1,090	\$1,038	\$188	\$654
Harnischfeger	\$2,980	\$1,786	\$2,066	\$531	\$2,715
TOTALS	\$4,638	\$4,192	\$4,172	\$1,215	\$4,883
Harn Clubhouse	\$7,231	\$5,795	\$5,990	\$1,353	\$3,245

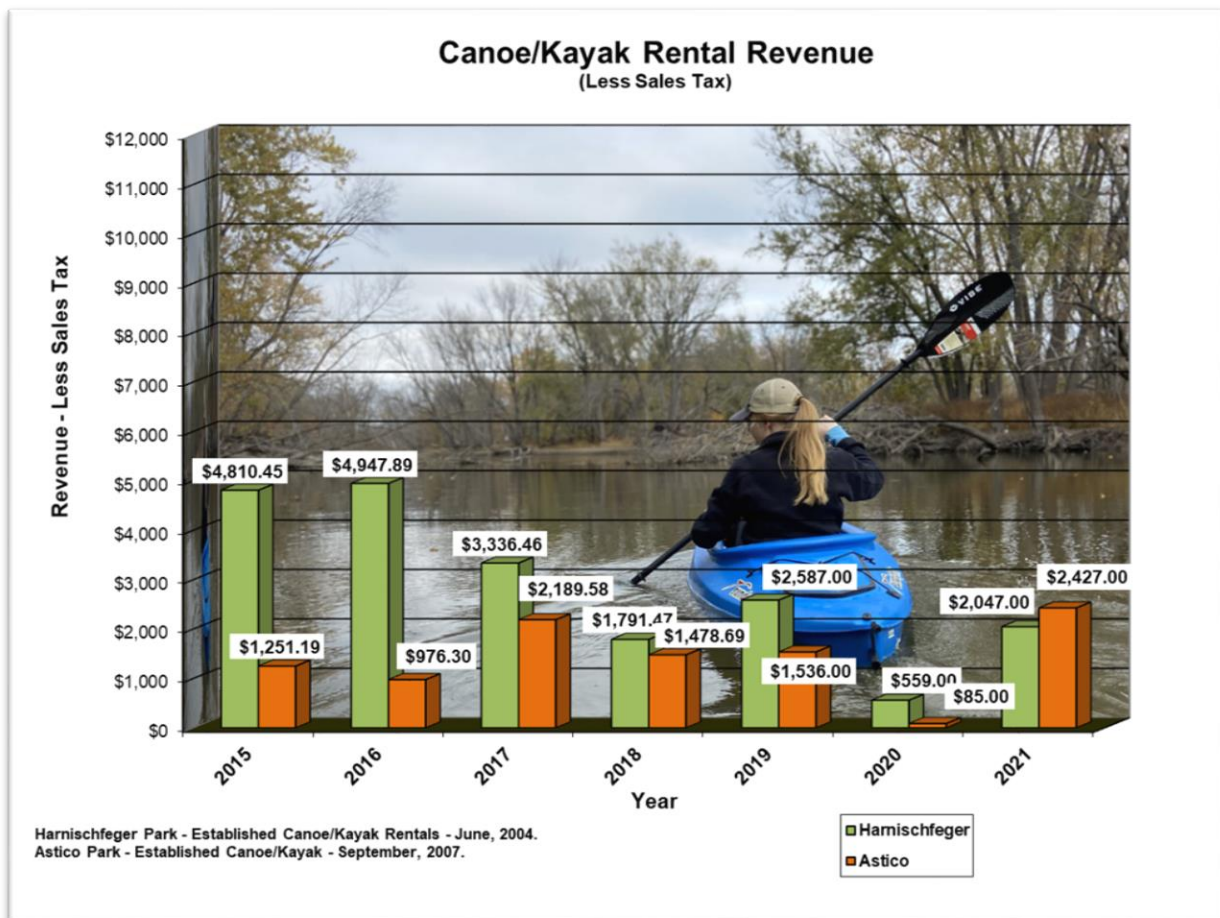
WATERCRAFT RENTALS

Watercraft rentals, which include canoes and kayaks, are available at Astico and Harnischfeger Parks. Even though more people continue to bring their own canoes/kayaks, rental revenues saw a dramatic increase in 2021 at both parks. The increase can be contributed to the increase in outdoor activities and the actual number of paddlers on the rivers.

Watercraft available for rentals were:

Harnischfeger Park: 8 canoes, 8 kayaks (2, 2-person units)

Astico Park: 4 canoes, 4 kayaks (1, 2-person unit)



Parks and Trails Division

2021 DODGE COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS PROJECTS

Astico Park

The interior of the restroom/shower building was sandblasted in December for the initial phase of the interior restoration and updates. A prairie restoration project was initiated to return a portion of the park back to native plants and vegetation.



Derge Park

A new commercial water heater was added for the restroom/shower building. Planning and preparations began for the revamping and electrical upgrades scheduled to begin in early 2022.

Harnischfeger Park

The pathways to the Old Homestead were completed in December. The retaining wall by the Clubhouse was also improved and updated. Repairs began on the boardwalk in December and will continue in 2022. Split rail fence was installed by the Morton pole building on the north end of the park.



Ledge Park

Trees were removed by the scenic overlook to extend and enhance the view from the overlook. A new water line was installed to serve the north portion of the campground area.



Nitschke Mounds

A volunteer Mounds Care group headed by Kurt Sampson of the Dodge County Historical Society provided many hours of labor clearing vegetation and debris from the northernmost mounds. Some of the mounds were seeded with no mow grass to help restrict unwanted vegetation and allow better visibility of the mounds. Burke Correctional inmates also assisted with this. The prairie area on the west side of the park has been cleaned up and returned to a more natural state. Dodge County Highway Department also assisted with brushing in areas of the park.



Wild Goose State Trail (WGST)

Concentrated efforts were focused on clearing and maintenance of the horse trail. Additional benches were added along the trail to complete an Eagle Scout project for a local youth.

County Snowmobile Trail System
County ATV Trail (Winter Only)

330.9 miles
20 miles

Snowmobile and ATV program grants are received from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and distributed as needed to operate, maintain, rehabilitate and develop the trail systems. Dodge County receives \$300 per mile for the snowmobile trails and \$100 per mile for the ATV trail. Funding for the programs comes from snowmobile and ATV registration fees, trail pass fees and gas tax.

Parks and Trails Division

2020-2021 Season

- Received \$99,270.00 snowmobile trail grant for maintenance and grooming of snowmobile trail system (\$4,700.74 for program administration and insurance). Received \$69,456.38 in supplemental maintenance fees.
- Received \$2,000 ATV trail grant for maintenance of ATV trail on the Wild Goose State Trail (\$693.52 for program administration and insurance).
- Maintained trail reports on hotline, email, Facebook, website and state snow conditions website to keep local media, law enforcement, the public and others informed of trail status changes.
- The snowmobile trails were open for 29 consecutive days, tying a record, for the 2020-2021 season compared to an average of 23 days during the 2019-2020 season. The ATV trail was open 53 days, non-consecutive days during the 2020-2021 season compared with 41 days during the 2019-2020 season.

THE FRIENDS OF DODGE COUNTY PARKS

The Friends of Dodge County Parks is a 501c3 non-profit organization working closely with the Parks and Trails division to encourage and assist Dodge County in providing and upgrading park and recreation facilities to meet the needs and demands of County’s residents and visitors into the future. The Friends group also provides recommendations for new or updated park and recreational facilities or initiatives. The most visible aspect of the Friends group is in fundraising to provide a source of funds to the County to supplement public funds for park projects. The typical sources of funds for the group comes from the annual Fallfest event at Harnischfeger Park as well as memberships and general donations. The Friends group has several designated funds for specific parks (and projects) allowing donors to contribute to parks or projects that especially appeal to them.

Fallfest at Harnischfeger Park typically raises about \$6,000 each year for Harnischfeger Park improvements.

The Friends group continued their support by installing electric outlets and lighting to the Morton pole building at Harnischfeger Park. This building is utilized for historical agricultural education emphasis displays and storage for the parks equipment in the

winter. The building is intended to primarily house donated vintage farm tools and equipment for public display.

A permanent **Endowment Fund** with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin was created in 2010 to provide perpetual funding support for the Friends group mission. The goal is to increase the Endowment Fund value to a level that provides significant annual funding. **The Endowment Fund value increased by \$3,868 during 2021 to a year end value of \$36,946.**

In 2021, the Board established a Gold Star Memorial Trail Fund through the Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation to open another avenue for fundraising for the trail project.

The group maintains a **Facebook** page (since 2012) to provide and promote park project and event updates, to solicit feedback, to promote parks and trails use and to encourage donations. In 2020, a new Board Member took over management of the Friends group page and significantly ramped up the number of posts and public engagement.

The Officers and Board of Directors of the organization promote and oversee membership, fundraising and organizational operations which includes directing the project funding where requested and needed. Currently Harnischfeger Park, the Gold Star Trail and Nitschke Mounds Park have active fundraising committees. One of the Board members

conducts a field trip tour of Nitschke Mounds Park through the Natural Resources Foundation and one of the Board members is a registered naturalist providing education opportunities to the public and parks staff.

Park staff attend the meetings of the Friends of Dodge County Parks Board of Directors serving as advisor and providing administrative assistance, as well as making funding requests and recommendations for park projects. Input on projects and park needs are also sought from the Board during these meetings.

FRIENDS OF DODGE COUNTY PARKS, INC.		
YEAR END FINANCIALS		
FUND ACCOUNTS	2020	2021
Administrative Fund	193	3
Astico Fund	6,045	7,303
Derge Fund	6,082	6,505
Ledge Fund	1,927	2,283
Wild Goose Trail Fund	4,448	4,090
Nitschke Mounds Fund	4,087	2,423
Harnischfeger Fund	45,405	52,534
Gold Star Mem. Trail Fund	29,573	28,366
Future Park Fund	245	245
Endowment Fund – Temp	145	115
Undesignated General Fund	4,534	6,504
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$102,683	\$110,372
Total Revenues	165,091	30,708
Total Expenses	180,230	21,575
Transfer to Endowment	780	445
NET REVENUE	-\$15,139	\$9,133
Endowment Fund (Dec 31 Balance)	\$33,078	\$36,946
Beaver Dam Area Comm Foundation Fund (Dec 31 Balance)	\$1,044	NA