

DODGE COUNTY  
LAND RESOURCES AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

# ANNUAL REPORT



2022

# Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department

## Annual Report-2022

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March 20, 2023

Honorable Dodge County Board of Supervisors

Dear Members:

The Dodge County Land Resources and Parks (LRP) Department respectfully submits its 2022 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:

Mary Bobholz, Chair  
Benjamin Priesgen, Vice Chair  
Donna Maly, Secretary  
Daniel Siegmann, Dale Macheel

We welcomed three new staff to the Land Resources and Parks Team in 2022. Nicole Streblov transferred from IT Department to become the Parks Support Specialist replacing Lori Hill, who retired after 20 years of customer service excellence to our park visitors. We also welcomed Kristy Frane as the new GIS/Property Analyst replacing Morgan Wisth who transferred within the Department to the Code Division, filling a long open Land Use/Sanitation Specialist position. Filling another vacant Land Use/Sanitation Specialist position was Andy O'Brion. Andy came to us with over ten years of land use and sanitary experience with Columbia County. Training and education in 2022 was emphasized with our new staff to get them up to speed quickly. We are gearing up to expand Community Development efforts with the hiring of a Marketing and Communication Manager in 2023.

The ARPA discussions and requests for projects consumed a lot of staff effort and time in 2022, especially for Parks and Community Development staff. Ultimately, three park projects were submitted and approved for ARPA funding. These projects are generational type projects that will have long-term public benefits. The projects are expected to be in full swing in 2023.

The LRP Department is functionally divided into four major divisions. This report is organized in order of the divisions listed below.

A few highlights from the year are listed below:

- **Code Administration** – The overall number of applications processed by the Code staff in 2022 decreased about 14% from 2021 with the land use, conditional use and sanitary permit applications accounting for the majority of the decrease in numbers. There were 48 permit applications received for new homes in 2022, only six less than the record pace in 2021. There were 69 certified surveys approved for new lots in 2022, representing a 9% increase from 2021 and the total value of construction in 2022 was \$42 million, as compared to \$46 million in 2021, an approximate 5% decrease.
- **Land Information/GIS** – The City of Beaver Dam parcel map update was completed in 2022. The project originally began in 2017 and included the collection of field data and monument locations by survey staff. Mapping staff coordinated this information with research into recorded deeds, plats, surveys and orthophotography allowing them to more accurately place parcel boundaries and update the tax parcel base accordingly. These new procedures have allowed staff to complete more new mapping than has ever been previously achieved, and it is anticipated that unincorporated areas and pockets of development will be the focus of the next phase.
- **Community Development** – Staff began ramping up Community Development efforts in order to take over some of the key rolls previously provided through the ThriveEd partnership. Marketing and Communication Manager position description was established and a plan was set up for a 2023 hiring for the position.
- **Parks & Trails** – A \$1.1 Million Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant was awarded to help design and build Phase 2 of the Gold Star Memorial Trail from Horicon to the Wild Goose Trail.

This report details these and other LRP activities and accomplishments in 2022. *Make sure to follow the links in the online version of this report to access corresponding webpages, videos and other media that help enhance this report.*

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 a behind the scenes tour of the Department (or the parks) and to meet the dedicated LRP staff!

Respectfully,

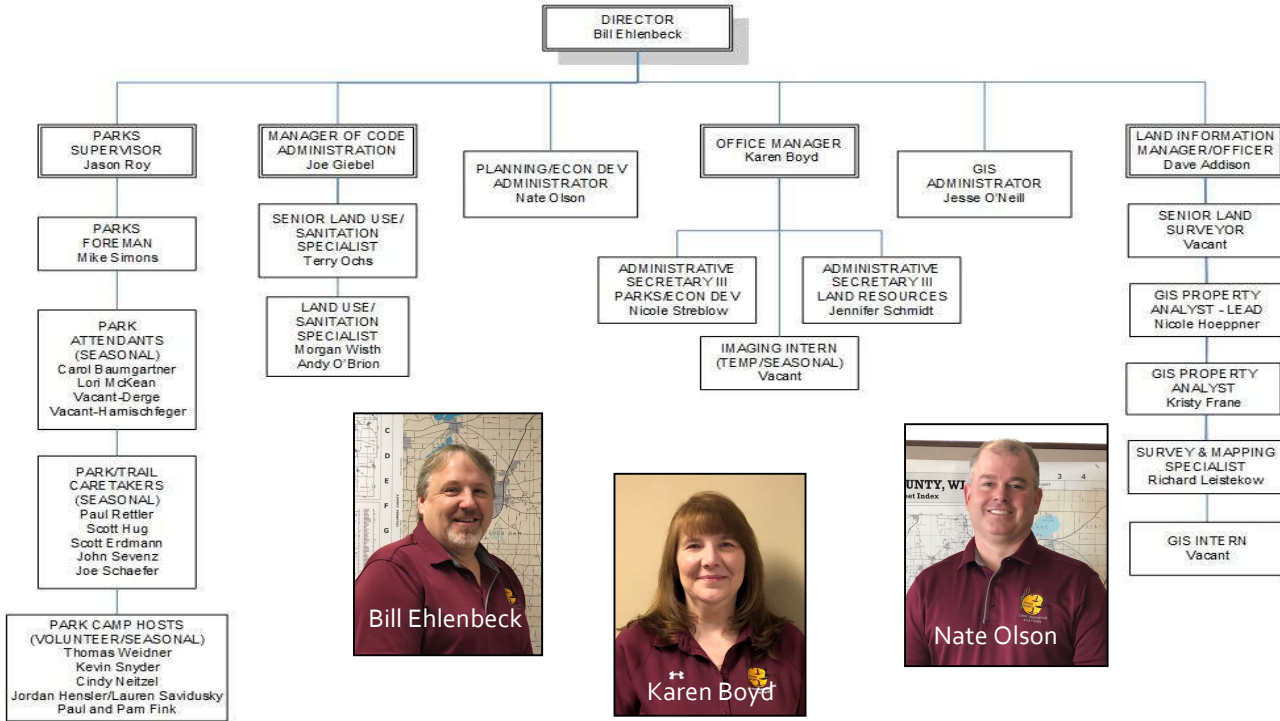


William J. Ehlenbeck  
Director

# Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department Annual Report-2022

## Land Resources and Parks Committee

## Land Resources and Parks Department



# 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 2022 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.

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 decrease of 14% in overall review activity in 2022 from permit applications and other code approval requests. Of the 362 Land Use Permit applications received, 48 were for new homes compared with 54 new home requests in 2021. The value of construction permitted by Land Use Permits under the County Land Use Code was \$41,804,854 in 2022 compared to \$44,015,389 in 2021.

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 2022 for the Towns of Burnett, Chester, Emmet, Lowell, Portland, and Theresa.

<b>Permits and Reviews</b>		
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Land Use Permit	420	362
Sanitary Permit	166	134
Rezoning	17	18
Conditional Use Permit	33	17
Minor Land Division	97	94
Certified Survey Maps	60	69
Driveway Permit	82	41
Town Rezoning	17	11
Sanitary Compliance Reviews	0	3
Soil Evaluation Reviews	153	137
Violations	24	24
Plats	1	3
Variations	12	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>1082</b>	<b>932</b>

## 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.

# Code Administration Division

## 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. Sixteen 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.

### *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 2022, 94 Letters of Intent were processed and 69 certified survey maps were approved. In 2021, 97 Letters of Intent were processed and 60 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 and two city plats were reviewed in 2022.

<b>2022 Submitted Land Use and Conditional Use Permits</b>			
Town	Land Use Permits	Conditional Use Permits	New Homes
ASHIPPUN	32	4	5
BEAVER DAM	7	0	3
BURNETT	3	0	0
CALAMUS	32	1	1
CHESTER	1	0	0
CLYMAN	4	0	0
ELBA	7	2	0
EMMET	14	0	3
FOX LAKE	43	1	4
HERMAN	5	0	2
HUBBARD	28	0	3
HUSTISFORD	15	2	1
LEBANON	11	0	1
LEROY	12	1	1
LOMIRA	14	2	1
LOWELL	7	0	0
OAK GROVE	28	1	4
Juneau (C)	9	0	6
Horicon (C)	0	0	0
PORTLAND	3	0	0
RUBICON	29	2	9
SHIELDS	7	0	0
THERESA	5	0	0
TRENTON	16	1	1
WESTFORD	30	0	3
<b>2022 TOTALS</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>2021 TOTALS</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>54</b>

# Code Administration Division

## **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.

### *Sanitary Permits*

During 2022, 134 sanitary permits were processed compared to 166 in 2021. There were 137 soil test reviews completed in 2022 in comparison to 153 in 2021. 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 6462 notices sent out in 2022 as compared to 4,292 notices in 2021.



### *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 2022, one application was approved by the Department for grant assistance in the amount of \$6240.00. State Funding for the Wisconsin Fund Grant Program has been discontinued and therefore, 2022 will be the last finding cycle for this program.

## **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 2022, there were 15 mine operators and 26 mine sites in the County with approximately 864 acres being actively mined. The mines range in size from 1.3-acres to 144.7-acres. One mine site was fully reclaimed in 2022.



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 \$2,311,230.00 in financial assurances. This program is funded with annual fees that are charged to mine operators.

# Code Administration 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 2022 as well as comparison figures for 2017 through 2021 were as follows:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Meetings Held	14	12	14	13	10	17
Total Public Hearings Held	14	12	13	20	9	19
Variance Requests						
Zoning Ordinance	9	5	5	11	7	13
Shoreland Ordinance	1	3	6	5	2	3
Floodplain Ordinance	0	0	0	0	0	
Highway Setback Overlay	2	2	3	5	1	2
Airport Ordinance	0	0	0	0	0	
Sanitary Ordinance	1	3	0	0	0	1
Subdivision	1	0	0	1	0	
Totals	14	12	14	22	10	19
Board Decisions on Variance Requests						
Granted as proposed	5	1	0	2	1	3
Granted with conditions	7	9	10	13	7	12
Partially Granted / Partially Denied	0	1	0	1	0	1
Denied	2	1	4	4	1	3
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	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	1

# Land Information Division

The [Land Information Office](#) is 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 online 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 – Jeff Breselow, Michael Butler and Randall Vande Zande; 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 2022, Dodge County retained \$105,000 from recording fees. Dodge County was also awarded \$61,000 in WLIP Grants. The total received from WLIP from 1990 through 2022 is \$3,965,263 with \$3,279,344 from retained fees and \$685,919 from grants.

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)
2022	13,125	105,000	NA	1,000	60,000	Approved \$60,000 - culvert inventory and mobile data collectors
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>583,841</b>	<b>2,906,778</b>	<b>372,566</b>	<b>326,684</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>343,735</b>
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)					
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3,965,263</b>	<b>3,279,344 from retained fees</b>				
	<b>from WLIP</b>	<b>685,919 from grants</b>				



# 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 \$350,612 carried over to the 2023 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, online and telephone requests are filled daily. The availability of geospatial data online 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 FUNCTIONAL AREA

*Much of the work is collaborative between the various areas and staff members in the division.*

### LAND INFORMATION

**Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP)** - In order to participate in the WLIP, Counties must meet certain requirements. Any grants received and fees retained for Land Information through the WLIP must be spent consistent with the County Land Information Plan. Requirements include: updating the County's Land Information Plan every three years; meeting of the Land Information Council at least once per year to review expenditures, policies and priorities; Grant Report on expenditures each year; submit detailed grant applications each year; complete WLIP annual survey; subscribe to DOA's land information listserv; coordinate the sharing of parcel data with DOA in a searchable format.

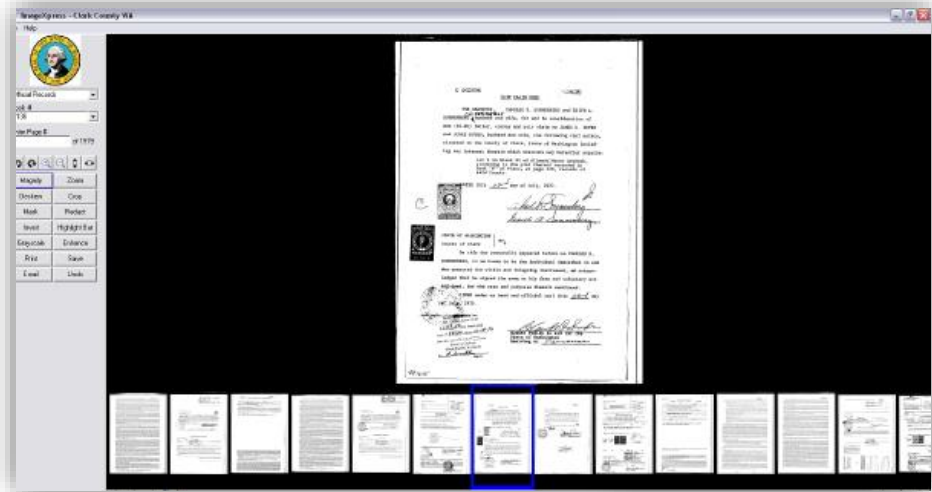


### **Culvert Inventory and Closed Depression Mapping –**

The Highway Department wanted to establish an inventory of culverts for more accurate assessment and for hydrological data. The Land and Water Conservation Department also had a need for watershed planning, erosion modeling and closed depression mapping. To reduce staff time the Land Information Office contracted with Ayres and Associates to develop an inventory of all culverts in the county using existing LiDAR data collected in 2017. The project was funded using 2022 WLIP Grants.

# Land Information Division

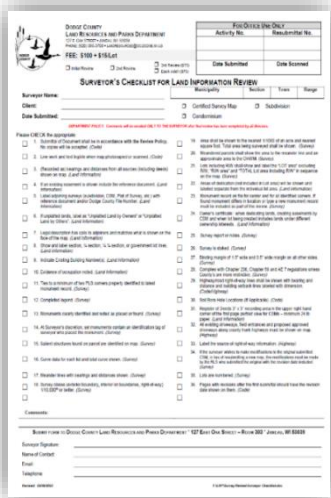
**Grantor/Grantee Index** – The Register of Deeds Office identified a need to develop, index and scan existing index books. The office contracted this work with TriMin. Scanning was delayed until November of 2022 and the indexing is anticipated to be completed in early 2023. This project is being funded using 2021 WLIP Grants.



**Mobile Data Collectors** – The Code Administration staff had a need to reduce data collection, data entry and transcription of handwritten data into the system. After successful testing on a unit for the use of non-metallic mining, the program was expanded and the Land Information Office acquired two additional units for Code staff. It is anticipated that the division will realize greater efficiency in data entry and accessing records. This project is being funded using 2022 WLIP Grants.



## SURVEY



**Survey Review** – Staff reviewed Certified Survey Maps as part of Survey Review policy. All other surveys submitted for filing (Plats of Survey, Subdivisions, Condos and CSM's that are not part of review authority) were reviewed as well. All surveys are hyperlinked into Access Database and filed in section folders. Surveys are also drawn and links to their images provided through the [Survey Finder Tool](#). Updated section corner information is made available on the County website as well as through the State Cartographer's Office (SCO) Control Finder and PLSS Finder internet applications.

**PLSS Maintenance** - 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 Highway Department and townships regarding their annual notification of



planned roadwork that would damage or destroy PLSS monumentation.

**Fieldwork for remapping project** - Finished fieldwork for the 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.

# Land Information Division

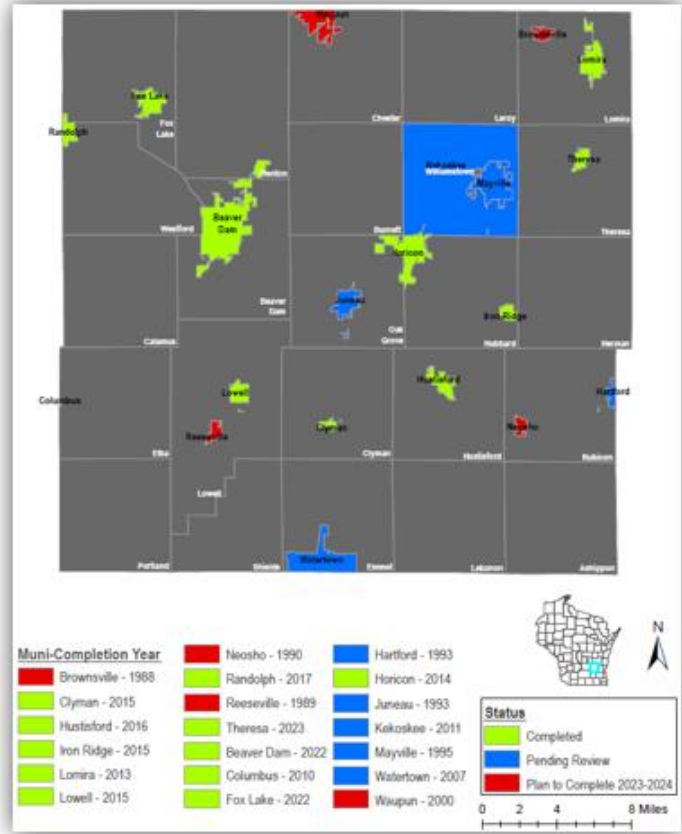
**Technical support and research** - Provided technical support for survey-related questions and assist private surveyors and the public with any questions, corner research, data requests and locating section corners. Performed survey-related fieldwork for County departments and committees upon request.

## TAX MAPPING

**Parcel Mapping Updates** - Updates were made under the Parcel Fabric system. Updated mapping is necessary to show new lots created through the platting process (Subdivisions, Condos and Certified Survey Maps). Mapping updates are also done for existing lots and parcels that may have been changed when deeds are recorded using new legal descriptions (typically from a Plat of Survey). Miscellaneous updates are also made as staff discovers errors or discrepancies in the existing mapping.

**Remapping** – Incredible progress was made in 2022. The City of Beaver Dam high accuracy remapping project started in 2017 was finally completed as well as the City of Fox Lake. Remapping for the Village of Theresa was also substantially completed. It is anticipated that Theresa will be completed in 2023 along with the remaining Villages of Brownsville, Neosho and Reeseville. That will leave the City of Waupun as the remaining municipality to be completed as part of this remapping project. Remapping of the County is an ongoing project to improve boundary accuracy and will continue in the future, concentrating on unincorporated areas and pockets of development.

## HIGH ACCURACY REMAPPING PROJECT



## DRONE PROGRAM

**Licensing** – There are currently five staff members who have received the UAS Pilot license. Licensed staff are generally available to assist when a flight is necessary. The GIS Property Analyst has been designated as the main point of contact.

**Projects** – A number of flights were flown in 2022 to assist in other areas of the department, including Code Administration and Parks.

# Land Information Division

## REAL ESTATE

The assessment cycle runs January 1st through the time tax bills are run in December and is a vital function of the office. Processed assessment roll data for Managed Forest Lands, State Assessed Manufacturing and local assessors in a timely fashion to meet assessors' 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 kept current on processing documents. Documents are downloaded from the Register of Deeds on a daily basis and processed in the LandNav program after comparing names and legal descriptions with the assessment records.

The office assists local assessors and the DOR by verifying Parcel ID numbers on the DOR Electronic Real Estate Transfer Return site.

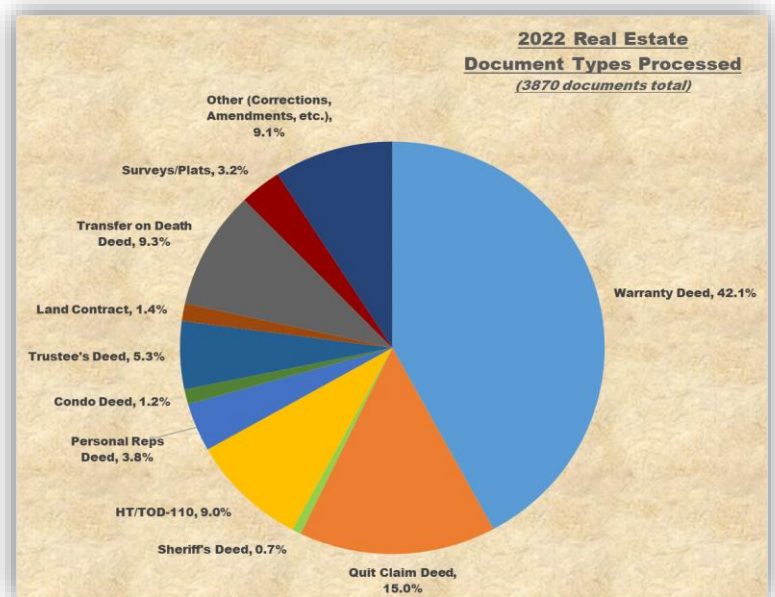
The office works with the Drainage District engineer in developing drainage district maps which helps identify these properties.

The office assists the public with general property questions at the counter, on the phone and through email and consults County Code Administration on possible land division violations.

### General Statistics for 2022

- 47,758 real estate parcels and 2,073 personal property accounts were maintained
- 3,870 real estate recordings from the Register of Deeds Office were processed (approximately 29% of all documents recorded in 2022) affecting 5,798 tax parcels (approximately 12% of the total parcels)
- 3,133 parcels had ownership updates
- 494 tax parcels are showing an error on a recorded document and 25 tax parcels are "on hold" (not yet updated ownership information due to significant errors)
- Staff processed 27 Sheriff's Deeds for 27 tax parcels which accounts for approximately 0.7% of all documents processed by the office in 2022
- There were two Territory Amendments and one new TID district in 2022 (effective for 2023)
- There were six annexations and two detachments (territory returned to township from incorporated municipalities) annexations in 2022 (change effective for 2023)

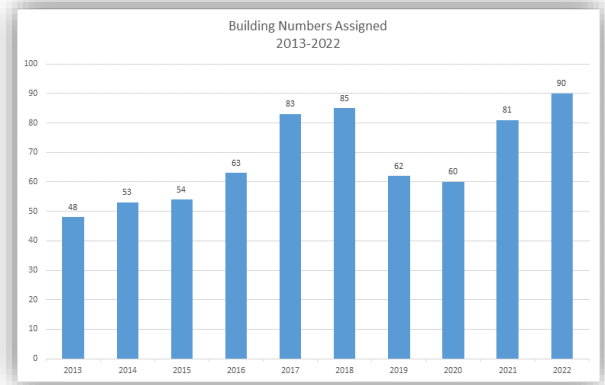
DODGE COUNTY 2022 REAL ESTATE VALUATION SUMMARY GRAND TOTAL							REPORT #:	SRVALSUMST		
							RUN DATE:	01/05/2023		
							RUN TIME:	04:12:15 PM		
							PAGE:	89		
	CODE	-----PARCEL COUNT-----			LAND	IMPROVE	LAND	IMPROVE	TOTAL	TOTAL
		TOTAL	LAND	IMPROVE	VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	VALUE	ACRES	
REAL ESTATE GENERAL PROPERTY TAX:										
RESIDENTIAL	G1	29490	29483	27621	1,062,477,400	4,396,962,380	5,459,439,780	29,603.352		
COMMERCIAL	G2	2771	2766	2292	179,562,100	952,982,700	1,132,444,800	7,373.194		
MANUFACTURING	G3	206	203	182	28,674,800	843,542,400	372,217,200	2,526.442		
AGRICULTURAL	G4	13926	13926	0	97,340,550	0	97,340,550	349,404.664		
UNDEVELOPED LAND	G5	11046	10957	0	60,816,500	0	60,816,500	77,110.195		
AGRICULTURAL FOREST	G5M	3056	3056	0	23,899,400	0	23,899,400	20,276.378		
PRODUCTIVE FOREST LANDS	G6	488	488	0	10,200,000	0	10,200,000	4,325.199		
OTHER	G7	2525	2523	2504	72,796,000	396,122,700	468,909,700	5,052.733		
TOTAL		63408	63302	32599	1,535,757,150	6,089,510,180	7,625,267,330	495,672.057		
WOODLAND:										
PRIVATE FOREST CROP PRE 72	8 # 0.10 W1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000		
PRIVATE FOREST CROP POST 71	8 # 2.52 W2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000		
PRIVATE FOREST CROP SPECIAL	8 # 0.20 W3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000		
COUNTY FOREST CROP	8 # 0.00 W4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000		
MFL OPEN POST 2004	8 # 2.04 W5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000		
MFL CLOSED POST 2004	8 #10.20 W6	45	45	0	2,432,500	0	2,432,500	1,026.052		
MFL OPEN PRE 2005	8 # 0.74 W7	2	2	0	63,800	0	63,800	30.000		
MFL CLOSED PRE 2005	8 # 1.75 W8	89	89	0	3,102,500	0	3,102,500	1,689.095		
MFL CLOSED PRE 2005 MINING	8 # 7.57 W9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000		
TOTAL		136	136	0	5,598,800	0	5,598,800	2,745.147		
EXEMPT:										
FEDERAL	X1	153	0	0	0	0	0	21,716.677		
STATE	X2	574	0	0	0	0	0	26,913.336		
COUNTY	X3	121	0	0	0	0	0	1,721.844		
OTHER	X4	1757	0	0	0	0	0	9,656.944		
TOTAL		2605	0	0	0	0	0	60,008.801		
** FINAL TOTAL **		66149	63438	32599				558,426.005		
ACTUAL PARCEL COUNT		47758								



# Land Information Division

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

Address assignment and the address database maintenance was busy in 2022. A record 90 new addresses (Building Number Permits) were assigned, along with daily updates and changes to existing address records. Two large solar farm projects provided additional challenges in terms of addressing to ensure appropriate emergency response.



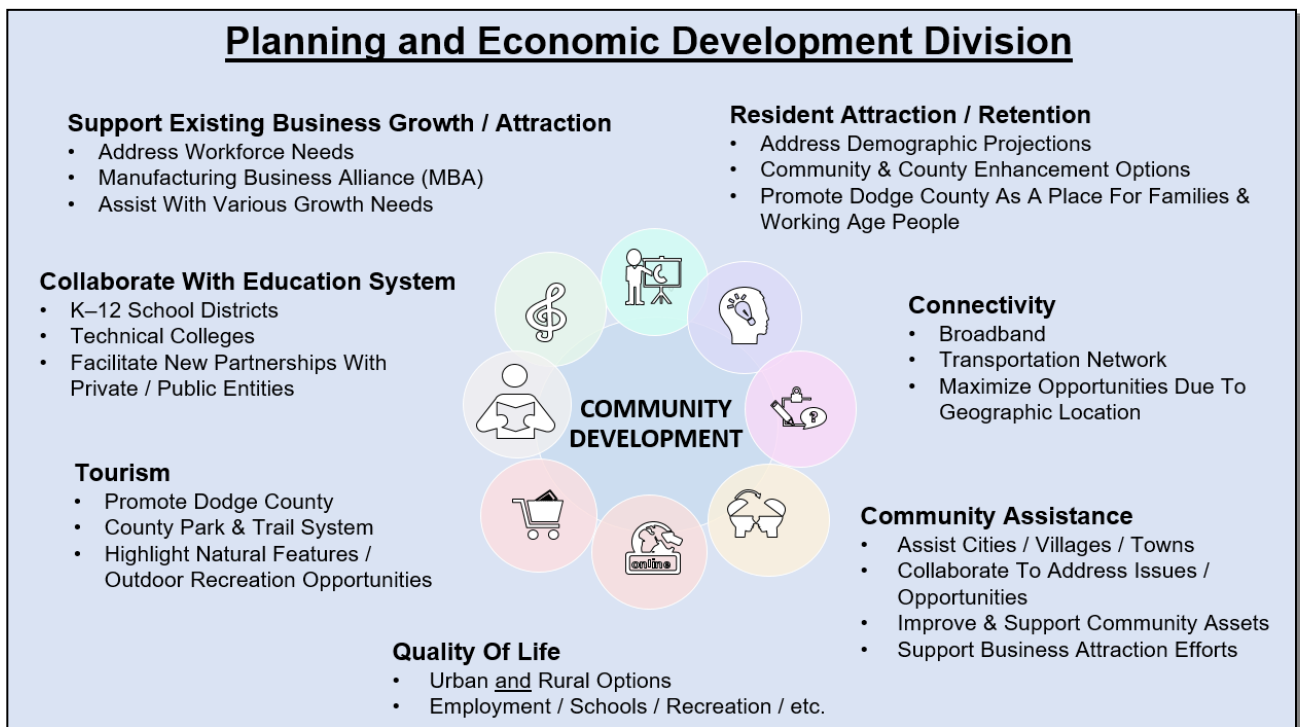
- Implemented a major change to the database schema for County 911 data in order to comply with the statewide NextGen 911 project. With the advent of NextGen 911 in Wisconsin, GIS data layers used in emergency response need to be compatible with both the County's in-house Spillman FLEX system as well as the new statewide NextGen 911 system. Databases affected by this change include address points, street centerlines, emergency response layers, boundary layers, and other mission-critical datasets.
- Supported the Sheriff's Office Spillman FLEX system upgrade by spinning up a new dedicated GIS server, installing and testing all software and workflow updates in a test environment, and then working with Spillman support to make the switch to the production environment during the patch process.
- Worked with IT to set up a new GIS server to facilitate web mapping and field data collection. The new server is running in a test environment while mapping services are being transferred from the existing production server. The new server will be put into production (and the old server taken down) when all services have been rebuilt and tested in the new environment.
- Participated in a week-long FEMA Emergency Management Institute training course which simulated a multi-jurisdictional disaster situation and tested coordinated emergency management practices between Dodge County, Fond du Lac County, and the City of Waupun.
- As always, we continue to provide ad-hoc and project level mapping for many County departments, public agencies, and private citizens & businesses. In 2022, mapping projects were completed to support economic development, emergency management, redistricting/elections, comprehensive plan updates, and many other public and private endeavors.
- Acquired, setup, tested, and trained Code Enforcement staff on use of new field data collection devices. GIS infrastructure was developed on the server side to accommodate live updates to mapping layers while data is being collected in the field. Utilizing new data collectors, Code Staff can capture a polygon of a house and a well point directly and accurately to a property map for permit review. Park staff can plot locations of features and facilities, and can help plan for new facilities such as a proposed new trail segment, saving time and more accurately mapping features.



# 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, 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.



# 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 2022, staff assisted in submitting an application for ARPA funds to develop a middle-mile project.

## ***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. Dodge County continues to have a high usage of its various outdoor recreational opportunities. Additionally, the 2022 Dodge County Visitor Guide continues to provide a marketing option for employers and communities to attract new residents and workforce. The total number of guides printed and distributed were 25,000.

## ***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

**Community Development**

**Workforce**

*"The ability to have future employees on site to educate and bring awareness of what our organization is about is HUGE for me! Sharing with students the resources that they have available to them such as apprenticeships and careers right in their backyard."*

Richelieu Foods, Amber Walker

**Manufacturing Business School Tours**  
240 Students  
Beaver Dam-Central Wisconsin Christian-Dodgeland-Hustisford-Markesan-Randolph-Rio-Waupun

**Business Attraction to Dodge County**

Assisted with 18 Requests of Interest (RFIs) in the Dodge County region

**Community Activities**

**Housing Activities**

**Business Parks**

**Childcare Needs**

**County-wide Activities**

- Manufacturing Business Alliance (MBA) of Dodge County Region
- Co-Hosted Discover MPTC and Business Expo
- Future Business Leader of America (FBLA) Activities
- Business Retention and Expansion Activities (BRE)
- Employer marketing videos for career exploration
- Broadband Activities

**Tourism**

- 25,000 Visitor Distributed
- Four Digital Outreach Campaigns
- Visitors within 1-1.5 Hours of County
- \$153 million spent in total business sales in Dodge County

## Community Development Division

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. In 2022, eight school districts participated in manufacturing business tours. Approximately 240 students participated in the tours. Joe Kutzler of the Beaver Dam School District commented, “Tours are very important to grow connections between the students and the working world. We need more things like this so students can start to prep themselves for life after high school.”

### ***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.

### ***Business Assistance***

The Community Development Administrator assisted with 18 requests of interest (RFIs) in the Dodge County region. The potential investments ranged for \$50,000 to \$200 million. Dodge County also co-hosted an expo, which was Discover Moraine Park Technical College and Business Expo. The Community Development Administrator also assisted with the Hustisford Career Fair, Future Business Leader of America activities and also assisted in preparing employer marketing videos for career exploration and student education.

### ***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). In 2022, the Community Development Administrator focused on developing information for paddling opportunities across Dodge County. Through the Department’s website, pages were created for lake and river information. On the river’s website page a video of Dodge County’s waterways was embedded ([Dodge County Waterway Video](#)).



### ***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.



# Community Development Division

## ***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 **90,269** acres were enrolled in the program. **470** landowners claimed tax credits, totaling **\$673,500**. 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.

## ***Various Planning and Economic Development Activities***

There are a variety of activities the Community 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.

# Community Development Division

- 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.



## Website Analytics

### 2022 Top Ten Pages - Countywide

Page Title	Pageviews	% Pageviews
1. Dodge County, WI   Home	236,027	18.59%
2. Parcel Information   Dodge County, WI	41,334	3.26%
3. Election Results   Dodge County, WI	39,383	3.10%
4. Staff Directory   Dodge County, WI	37,531	2.96%
5. Search Results   Dodge County, WI	36,127	2.85%
6. Welcome to Dodge County Parks and Trails   Dodge County, WI	33,722	2.66%
7. Agenda & Minutes Archiver   Dodge County, WI	32,681	2.57%
8. Sheriff's Office   Dodge County, WI	31,168	2.46%
9. Job Opportunities   Dodge County, WI	27,220	2.14%
10. Dodge County Detention Facility   Dodge County, WI	25,310	1.99%

\*Note – Land Resources and Parks Pages are circle in “red”.

Device Used - 2022	Count	% of Total
263,642 % of Total: 100.00% (263,642)		
1. desktop	138,206	(51.99%)
2. mobile	122,134	(45.95%)
3. tablet	5,482	(2.06%)

### 2022 Top 25 Pages - Department

Page	Pageviews
1 Parks and Trails	33713
2 Ledge Park	20260
3 Astico Park	18232
4 GIS Web Mapping Tool	12292
5 Harnischfeger Park	9859
6 Derge Park	9060
7 Land Information Office	7821
8 Park Information and Rules	7444
9 Land Resources and Parks (Department Page)	5820
10 Assessors	4346
11 Online Reservations	4221
12 Land Information Search Tool	3725
13 Ordinances and Zoning Maps	3157
14 Zoning Permits and Ordinance	2871
15 Wild Goose State Trail	2691
16 Nitschke Mounds Park	2690
17 Snowmobile	1972
18 Snowmobile Trail Maps and Zones	1926
19 Permits and Licenses	1621
20 Land Use Permit	1536
21 Zoning Maps	1452
22 ATV- All-terrain Vehicle	1280
23 Park Fees	1226
24 Parks and Trails Information	1134
25 Gold Star Memorial Trail	1130

# 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. Minimal winter maintenance is currently undertaken. However, multi-use winter trails are groomed to increase 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. Winter camping is not permitted in the parks. 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	Scott Hug	Cindy Neitzel
Harnischfeger	Vacant	John Sevenz	Jordan Hensler/Lauren Savidusky
Nitschke Mounds, Glacial River Trail, Gold Star Memorial Trail and Wild Goose State Trail	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 2022.

## Parks and Trails Division

Amenity / Feature	Harnischfeger	Astico	Ledge	Nitschke Mounds	Derge	Wild Goose State Trail	Glacial River Trail	Gold Star Memorial Trail
<b>Acres</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20 miles</b>	<b>3.5 miles</b>	<b>2.1 miles</b>
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	23	No	25	NA	NA	NA
Campsites - Non electric	4	16	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	No	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	376.5 miles of County trails, mostly located over private property through easements							

### ***Park Entrance Vehicle Counts***

Entrance data has been collected in the parks since 2013 through the use of pneumatic and infrared counters. 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 more accurate year round data. Beginning in 2022 all parks have the new infrared counters installed near the entrances.

The monthly counts by park for 2022 are identified in the table. Some equipment issues were experienced at Astico Park from July to October and Nitschke Mounds Park in March and April. Therefore the average daily traffic (ADT) counts were significantly lower than expected actual visitation. It is estimated that the Astico Park total counts are about 60% lower than actual. Traditionally, Astico and Ledge Parks receive relatively similar traffic volumes.

# Parks and Trails Division

PARKS - Site	INDIVIDUAL VEHICLE COUNTS IDENTIFIED ON INFRARED TRAFX COUNTERS AT PARK ENTRANCES												2022		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT <sup>†</sup> (DAILY)	ADT <sup>†</sup> x365 (YEARLY)	Total Visitor (est)
Astico	199	184	389	819	3,874	5,236	609	0*	0*	2,089*	687	523	43	15,556	32,667
Derge Park	-	-	-	-	-	1,188*	1,544	747	786	768	94	42	24	8,761	19,274
Harn North Barn	206	161	214	275	814	453	400	719	1,280	375	258	240	15	5,393	10,786
Harnischfeger Park	291	317	454	1,184	1,915	1,778	2,238	1,453	2,305	1,343	476	381	39	14,133	31,093
Ledge Park	448	370	235	2,415*	3,520	3,161	3,423	2,869	2,781	4,710	1,044	317	68	24,963	54,918
Nitschke Mounds Park	290	262	0*	655*	2,637	662	506	573	562	562	310	189	22	7,866	15,732
															164,469

ADT<sup>†</sup> = Average Daily Traffic  
 ADT<sup>†</sup>x365 = Total Traffic Counts for the Year  
 \* = based upon that month's ADT indicates months with less than 6 days of data.

## 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 baseline data. Additional counters are placed at various locations for short periods to obtain additional counts that can be evaluated based on the data from the permanent counters.

For 2022, on average, counts at the south end of the Wild Goose Trail (Hwy 60) were about 33% higher than counts on the north end by Hwy 49. As expected, counts are highest in the City of Juneau and in 2022 for comparable months, were 2.8 times higher than the counts at Hwy 60. Trail counts on Gold Star Trail have remained relatively consistent over the past 3 years of counts.

		TRAIL USER COUNTS 2019 - 2022														
Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT	ADT x 365	
2019	GSMT east end			289	344	509	788	684	987	807	322	145	225	17	6,322	
	WGST Hwy 60			553	620	1,006	899	956	1,095	854	745	452	582	25	9,295	
2020	GSMT east end	37	12	481	1,195	1,367	1,143	962	974	990	698	453	191	23	8,480	
	GSMT Horicon Marsh/Hwy 28				960	1,502	1,685							51	18,541	
	WGST Hwy 60	551	742	798	2,092	2,994	1,907	1,637	357	0	1,321	1,133	707	42	15,327	
	WGST Juneau				3,750	3,416	4,879	3,315	3,373					120	43,760	
2021	GSMT east end	14	1	257	574	754	999	1,740	1,574	1,013	472	281	110	21	7,694	
	WGST Hwy 60	1,440	1,467	1,029	1,230	1,403	1,387	1,774	1,711	1,626	1,129	725	588	42	15,489	
2022	GSMT east end	21	19	214	268	526	888	3,494	1,522	1,062	605	305	117	25	9,041	
	GSMT Horicon Marsh/Hwy 28					420	172	217						9	3,212	
	WGST HWY 49 Path to Marsh				2,680	462	666	1,795	1,014	573	503	170	42	22	8,084	
	WGST Hwy 60	481	432	546	908	1,333	1,489	1,798	1,404	1,316	1,386	636	416	33	12,145	
	WGST Juneau					3,744	4,547	4,861						141	51,642	

ADT<sup>†</sup> = Average Daily Traffic  
 Based upon that month's ADT with less than 6 days of data.  
 ADT x 365 = Extrapolated Annual usage based on ADT for data available

# 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, 15 non-electric, 1 group
- Ledge – 23 electric, 16 non-electric, 2 group
- Derge – 25 electric, 0 non-electric, 0 group
- Harnischfeger – 6 electric, 3 non-electric, 1 group

Campsite Rentals: 2018-2022 (Total Nights)					
Park	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Astico	2,585	2,750	2,768	3,899	4,019
Derge	1,196	1,662	1,101	3,477	1,177
Ledge	2,607	2,567	2,337	1,884	3,120
Harnischfeger	601	611	601	824	949
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,989</b>	<b>7,590</b>	<b>6,807</b>	<b>10,084</b>	<b>9,265</b>

In 2022, camping fees were \$25 for electric sites and \$20 for non-electric sites. High campsite occupancy continued at all parks again in 2022. Overall camping revenues decreased by 3% for 2022. This decrease was primarily due to the rehab project at Derge Park resulting in limited site availability for much of the season. Astico Park saw the largest increase in camping for 2022.

Typically, about 65% - 70% of the overnight campsite rentals in the parks are by visitors from outside of the Dodge County area. Camper visitors come from around the country and in 2022, roughly 10% travelled over 200 miles to stay in one of our County Parks. 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.

## Camping Revenue History By Park

Park	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	%Change
Astico	\$61,984	\$65,921	\$66,405	\$94,796	\$95,802	1%
Derge	\$27,811	\$41,791	\$28,886	\$39,192	\$32,142	(18%)
Ledge	\$58,150	\$64,747	\$60,130	\$83,730	\$79,154	(5%)
Harnischfeger	\$16,839	\$18,580	\$15,804	\$22,332	\$24,758	11%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$164,784</b>	<b>\$191,039</b>	<b>\$171,225</b>	<b>\$240,050</b>	<b>\$231,856</b>	<b>(3%)</b>



# 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 2022, 33% of reservations were made on the weekends and 47% were made outside of regular office hours compared to 34% on weekends and 45% outside of office hours in 2021.

Park	Online Reservations Campsites and Shelters - 2022
Astico	1,451 – 89%
Derge	397 – 86%
Ledge	1,222 – 87%
Harnischfeger	299 – 71%

The fourth full year of operation under the online system was in 2022. In 2022, a total of 3,369 reservations were made online compared with 3,598 in 2021. 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.

## **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. The lifting of the ban resulted in a decrease in firewood demand and sales for 2022. Firewood fees remained at \$5 per bundle in 2022 and were sold by park staff, volunteer camp hosts and on a self-service basis.

Approximately 27,054 pieces of firewood were cut, split and sold in the parks in 2022 resulting in over \$16,909 net firewood revenues (after sales tax removal), a \$1,019 decrease from 2021. 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	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Astico	\$7,397	\$7,334	\$5,426	\$6,747	\$6,436
Derge	\$1,079	\$1,734	\$1,488	\$1,503	\$1,512
Ledge	\$7,542	\$8,449	\$6,380	\$8,138	\$7,545
Harnischfeger	\$2,409	\$1,718	\$ 924	\$1,540	\$1,416
TOTAL	\$18,427	\$19,235	\$14,218	\$17,928	\$16,909

Burke Correctional Center inmates assisted park staff with firewood cutting, splitting, stacking and brushing in 2022.

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.

# Parks and Trails Division

The buildings available for rentals are Astico Park – 1 Open Shelter; Ledge Park – 2 Open Shelters; 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.*

Net Shelter Revenue History By Park					
Park	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Astico	\$711	\$783	\$449	\$1,268	\$ 312
Derge	\$605	\$285	\$ 47	\$246	0
Ledge	\$1,090	\$1,038	\$188	\$654	\$1,232
Harnischfeger	\$1,786	\$2,066	\$531	\$2,715	\$3,554
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,192</b>	<b>\$4,172</b>	<b>\$1,215</b>	<b>\$4,883</b>	<b>\$5,098</b>
Harn Clubhouse	\$5,795	\$5,990	\$1,353	\$3,245	\$5,189

### Watercraft Rentals

Watercraft rentals, which include canoes and kayaks, are available at Astico and Harnischfeger Parks. Watercraft activity levels remain high, however more people continue to bring their own canoes/kayaks rather than rent from the parks. This helped decrease our rental revenues in 2022 at both parks.

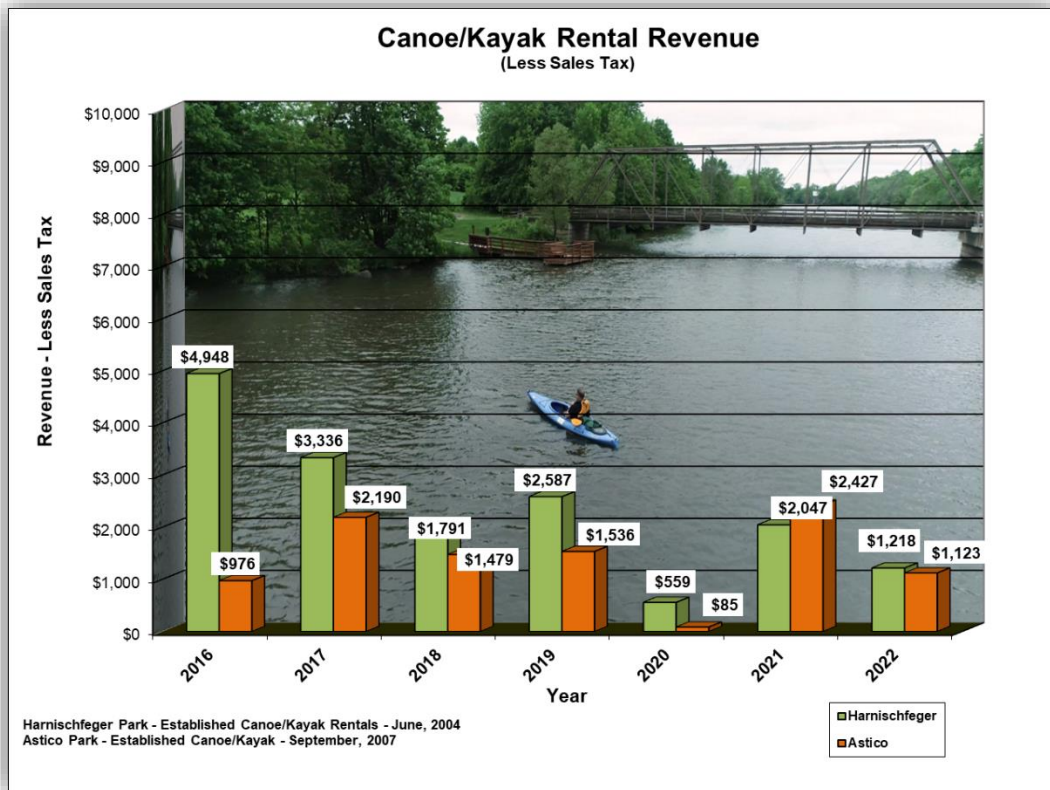
Watercraft available for rentals were:

Harnischfeger Park

- 8 Canoes
- 8 Kayaks (Two – two-person units)

Astico Park

- 4 Canoes
- 4 Kayaks (One – two-person unit)





# Parks and Trails Division

## 2022 DODGE COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS PROJECTS

### *Astico Park*

The interior of the restroom/shower building was updated with new wood trim. Work on the prairie restoration project continued and remains in-progress. The Artesian Well on the Danville side was updated with new fittings to provide a more consistent flow rate for park users and neighbors. The Artesian Wells remain a popular attraction for park users. Improvements to the east side of the park included asphalt millings and grading for the driveway and parking lot and split rail fence was added to the picnic area/island.



### *Derge Park*

Planning and preparations continued for the electrical upgrades which are scheduled to begin in the fall of 2023. Site revamp work was completed by the Highway Department. The sites were realigned to provide easier backing of campers. Some sites were eliminated to allow for increased usable space and a few new sites were added. Water drainage issues were also corrected. Equipment was inventoried.



### *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. Staff assisted with information to get Ledge Park included in a new App called the LEDGE RAMBLER developed through the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN). The App highlights parks, attractions, restaurants, lodging, etc. along the Niagara Escarpment to encourage experiencing the geology and culture of the Escarpment. [www.wiledge.org](http://www.wiledge.org)



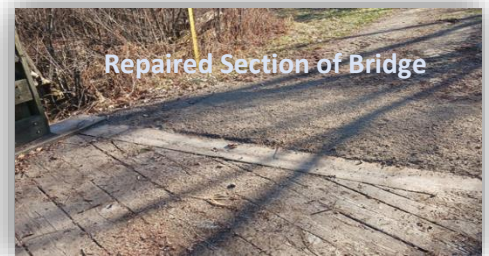
### *Nitschke Mounds*

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)*

Bridge inspections revealed rotted approach sub-structure boards on several bridges. Staff were able to pull up and replace the rotted boards. The replacement boards were from used materials located around the parks, such as from abandoned bleachers and unused guardrails – highlighting the resourcefulness of our Parks staff. Concentrated efforts were again focused in 2022 on clearing and maintenance of



# Parks and Trails Division

the horse trail. Existing benches along the trail were refurbished and painted. The Wild Goose Trail Signs got a makeover in 2022 thanks to our volunteers Paul and Pam Fink. Paul and Pam also gave them a makeover about 11 years ago. Some of these were the original signs installed in the beginning days of the trail in the late 1980s.

## ***Gold Star Memorial Trail***

The Phase 2 project from Horicon to the Wild Goose Trail was awarded a \$1.1 million Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant in 2022. The grant will cover up to 80% of the design and engineering work for this phase. Design work is slated to begin by mid-2023. ARPA funds were awarded to Phase 3 (WGST to Beaver Dam) to undertake preliminary layout design and investigation to provide necessary information to seek a TAP or other grant opportunities for final engineering, design and construction. This work is slated to start in 2023.



**County Snowmobile Trail System**                      **376.5 miles**  
**County ATV Trail (Winter Only)**                      **20 miles**

Snowmobile and ATV program grants are received from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) 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.

## 2021-2022 Season

- Received \$112,950 snowmobile trail grant for maintenance and grooming of snowmobile trail system (\$6,260.34 for program administration and insurance).
- Received \$2,000 ATV trail grant for maintenance of ATV trail on the Wild Goose State Trail (\$551.85 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.
- Due to a lack of snow and poor trail conditions, the snowmobile trails remained closed for the 2021-2022 season, compared to a record 29 consecutive days during the 2020-2021 season. The ATV trail was open 58 days during the 2021-2022 season compared with 53 days during the 2020-2021 season. The trail was open 52 consecutive days and six consecutive days.

# Parks and Trails Division

## 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.

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 decreased by \$1,208 during 2022 to a year end value of \$35,738.**

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. A \$1,000 grant from the Foundation was received in 2022.

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.

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 and helping to lead invasive management efforts along with other committed regular volunteers.

Park staff assist the Friends group in an advisory role and provide some 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 their meetings in which park staff typically attend.

FRIENDS OF DODGE COUNTY PARKS, INC.		
YEAR END FINANCIALS		
FUND ACCOUNTS	2021	2022
Administrative Fund	3	1,179
Astico Fund	7,303	8,100
Derge Fund	6,505	5,952
Ledge Fund	2,283	-247
Wild Goose Trail Fund	4,090	4,019
Nitschke Mounds Fund	2,423	4,476
Harnischfeger Fund	52,534	38,154
Gold Star Mem. Trail Fund	28,366	31,920
Pelican Path Fund	NA	1,047
Future Park Fund	245	245
Endowment Fund – Temp	115	175
Undesignated General Fund	6,504	8,728
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>110,371</b>	<b>103,747</b>
Total Revenues	30,708	36,537
Total Expenses	21,575	43,081
Transfer to Endowment	445	500
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>9,133</b>	<b>-6,544</b>
Endowment Fund (Dec 31 Balance)	36,946	35,738
Beaver Dam Area Comm Foundation Fund (Dec 31 Balance)	1,044	856

