



Zoning & Permitting



Land Development



Mapping & GIS



Conservation



Septic Systems



Housing Programs

COMPASS POINTS

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER: VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2011

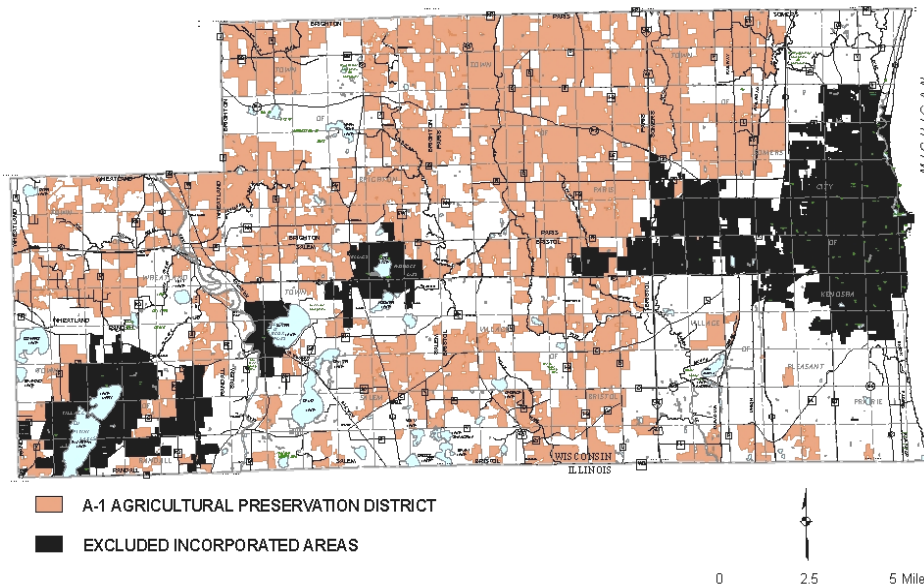
NEW FARMLAND PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS

The new farmland preservation tax credit available for farmers to claim on their 2010 income tax return is generating a number of questions from farmers and tax preparers.

"Farmers are eligible for Wisconsin income tax credits in exchange for keeping land in agricultural use and complying with state soil and water conservation requirements," explained Keith Foye, land management section chief, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). "The farmland preservation tax credit has been around for many years. The Working Lands Initiative passed by the Legislature in 2009, simplifies the credit formula to a per-acre credit significantly increases on-average tax credits for farmers."

(Continued on page 2)

A-1 AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION DISTRICTS IN KENOSHA COUNTY: 2010



Source: Kenosha County Planning & Development.

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

KENOSHA COUNTY TREE PICK-UP: TENTATIVE DATES: APRIL 20 & 21, 2011

If you ordered trees this year, a receipt will be sent to your home indicating your tree pick-up day. The tentative dates to pick up this year are Wednesday or Thursday, April 20th and 21st, based on your order number. If you have any questions about the program, please call our office at (262) 857-1895.

"GREENING UP YOUR YARD" WORKSHOP: SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2011

On April 23, Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network and Pringle Nature Center will offer a free workshop to improve water quality, 1pm - 4pm at Pringle Nature Center. It will include presentations on the causes of polluted storm water runoff and the role of rain gardens, rain barrels, composting and other practices to reduce polluted runoff to streams, river and lakes. For more information, please visit: <http://www.rootpikewin.org>

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION: SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011

Do you have hazardous waste at home that you don't know how to get rid of? Waste is hazardous if it is ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or contains certain toxic chemicals. On May 7, Kenosha County will conduct a collection of these materials at the County Center, 8am - 1pm. For more, please visit: <http://kenosha.uwex.edu>

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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR 2011

MARCH

- 3 Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
- 9 Land Use Committee, Public Hearing Room, 7 pm
- 12 Spring into Gardening (*Central High School*), 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
- 17 Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm

APRIL

- 7 Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
- 13 Land Use Committee, Public Hearing Room, 7 pm
- 21 Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
- 23 Greening Up Your Yard (*Pringle Nature Center*), 1 pm - 4 pm

MAY

- 5 Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
- 7 Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 8am - 1pm
- 11 Land Use Committee, Public Hearing Room, 7 pm
- 19 Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm

Unless otherwise indicated, all events are at the Kenosha County Center (19600 75th Street, Bristol)

NEW FARMLAND PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS (cont.)

DATCP has received a large number of questions about the new farmland preservation tax credits. The answers to commonly asked questions include:

- Farmers participating in the program through farmland preservation zoning must use the new Schedule FC-A for their tax returns. The schedule forms are available from the Department of Revenue (DOR) website:
<http://www.dor.state.wi.us/html/taxind10.html>
- Farmers collecting tax credits under farmland preservation zoning do not need to attach a zoning certificate to their 2010 income tax return.
- Farmers under farmland preservation zoning are eligible for \$7.50 per acre tax credits on all land that is zoned A-1 Agricultural Preservation District.
- Farmers under A-1 Agricultural Preservation Zoning that did not collect a farmland preservation tax credit in the previous year must obtain a Certificate of Compliance from Kenosha County Land & Water Conservation (KLWC) to be eligible to receive the tax credit. This certificate must be included with the tax return to be eligible for the credit.



Farmers must be able to show that they meet the soil and water conservation requirements to receive the certificate.

- Farmers under zoning that did collect a tax credit in the previous year will have to agree on a schedule of compliance to ensure they will meet the soil and water conservation requirements within a specific period of time, but before December 31, 2015.
- The soil and water conservation requirements (agricultural performance standards) include those listed in ATCP 50, Wis. Adm. Code, which includes requirements for soil erosion control, nutrient management plan, clean water diversion, manure storage facilities meeting standards, and the manure management prohibitions.

- Gross farm revenue must come from agricultural use of the land. If land is rented, the owner can claim the tax credits based on gross farm revenue produced by the renter.

To keep Kenosha farmers eligible for farmland preservation tax credits Kenosha County is in the process of updating its existing Farmland Preservation Plan. Your participation is essential, watch for public meeting announcements.

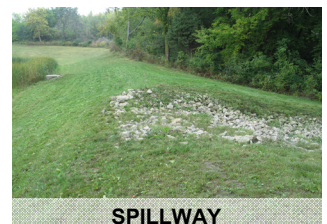
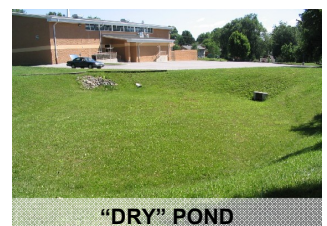
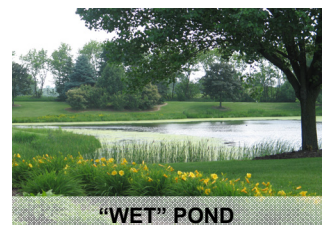
For more information on the Farmland Preservation Tax Credits, contact Sandy Weisensel, DATCP, (608) 224-4633 or Elaine Kroeger, DOR, (608) 266-2442. For zoning information or a certificate of compliance, contact Dan Treloar, KLWC, (262) 857-1895.

DETENTION PONDS 101

A detention pond is a stormwater management facility that is designed to protect against flooding. As land development has risen over the years, so has the amount of impervious surfaces such as rooftops, parking lots, and driveways. Fields, open spaces, and other natural areas are taken up by these impervious surfaces, which decreases the amount of water that can be infiltrated into the ground, often causing flooding downstream.

The installation of a detention pond is one type of stormwater practice that may be used to control the movement of additional stormwater runoff. Detention ponds work by storing stormwater runoff and releasing it at a slower rate than that of pre-development conditions, effectively reducing the risk of flooding. The pond outlet is engineered to allow water to trickle out, raising the water level of the pond. After a large storm, it usually takes several days for the water level in the pond to return to normal. Detention ponds are sized to hold stormwater runoff from a 100-year storm. Any runoff from a larger rain event is discharged safely through an emergency spillway at the top of the pond.

There are two types of detention ponds, dry and wet. A wet pond is a pond that has a permanent pool. Wet ponds add a level of water quality by allowing sediment to settle out before it's allowed to discharge from the pond. Wet ponds need to be dredged periodically to maintain their effectiveness. A dry pond is a grassed depression that stormwater is routed to. These ponds store water for flood protection, but don't have the water quality element found in wet ponds.



WHY DO YOU NEED TO SERVICE YOUR SEPTIC TANK?

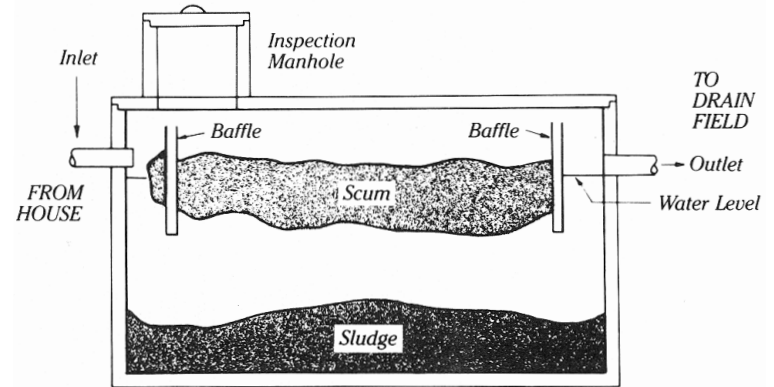
Aside from the fact that servicing your septic tank every three years will be a legal requirement for all septic tanks in Wisconsin by October 1, 2015, there are some very good reasons to have your septic tank serviced on a regular basis.

Septic tanks are nothing more than settling chambers that utilize the anaerobic bacteria found in human waste to decompose the solids that enter the tank. These solids consist of human waste, bathroom paper products, fats, oils and grease from cooking, some raw food waste, detergents, fabric softeners and cleaning products. A septic tank has baffles at the inlet and outlet of the tank that prevent solids from leaving the tank and flowing to the absorption field. Newer systems have a specialized filter that prevents the flow of any suspended particle greater than an eighth of an inch from leaving the septic tank.

It is very important for a healthy septic tank to maintain its bacterial action and its ability to maintain its settling capabilities. However, over time the settling layers that exist in a tank thicken and begin to cause performance problems in the form of increased suspended solids in the tanks' clarification zone, which is the middle layer found between the upper scum and the lower sludge layers.

The scum layer, found on the liquid surface of the tank, consists of floating fats, oils and grease from cooking and some paper products that eventually break up and are partially digested in the tank. Paper and synthetic fibers often contribute to the amount of suspended solids in the clarification zone.

It is from this area that the semi-clarified waste-water



SCHEMATIC OF A TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD SEPTIC TANK

(referred to as effluent or graywater) flows from the tank, out the baffle or filter and to either an absorption field as found with a conventional septic system or to a dose chamber that is connected to a mound system. The effluent consists of mostly water which contains levels of suspended solids that do not break down in the tank, as well as significant levels of fecal coliform bacteria, pathogens and organic chemicals in this wastewater.

The bottom layer, or sludge zone, consists of settled out solids that have gone through further digestion by anaerobic bacteria. This material is high in organic matter, nitrogen, trace minerals and carbon.

The eventual build-up of sludge and scum in a septic tank results in a diminished performance of the septic tank. A homeowner who stays on a consistent maintenance schedule—that is, having the septic tank pumped and inspected by a licensed waste hauler every three years—will ensure good performance and long life of their septic system.

PARKS & OPEN SPACE PLAN

Kenosha County has a long history of park and open space planning, going back to the 1970s. The County parks and open space plan is updated periodically; the current plan was adopted in 1988. Last year, the County requested assistance from the Regional Planning Commission to prepare a new update of the plan, extending the planning horizon to 2035.

Working within the framework of the multi-jurisdictional comprehensive plan for Kenosha County, the new parks and open space plan will be based on updated information related to: land use; population levels and distribution; anticipated growth and development; natural resources; and park and open space acquisition and development activities. Updating the plan will also maintain the County's eligibility for Federal and State aid to support the acquisition and development of park and open space sites and facilities.

The plan will include information about Kenosha County pertinent to park and open space planning, such as:

- Existing resident population, land use patterns, and natural resource base

- Existing park sites and facilities and open space lands
- Park and open space preservation, acquisition, and development objectives and principles
- Analysis of park and open space needs

- Park and open space recommendations
- Actions required to carry out these recommendations

The new parks and open space plan will be prepared under the guidance of the Kenosha County Highway and Parks Committee, which meets the first Monday of every month at the Kenosha County Center starting at 6:30 pm. These meetings are open to the public.



COUNTY SPOTLIGHT: DIVISION OF PARKS NEW RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



The Kenosha County Division of Parks provides over 1,500 acres of managed recreational land at six parks located throughout the County, and maintains 14 miles of cycling trails. Last year saw the establishment of new recreational opportunities for county residents at the parks, including:

Off-Leash Dog Parks: Is one or more of your family members of the four-legged, tail-wagging persuasion? There are now three off-leash dog parks for them to meet and greet their fellow canine citizens.



Located in Petrifying Springs Park (Carlisle Family Dog Park), the KD Park (Warren Close Bark Park), and Old Settler's Park, these parks are a great place to socialize and exercise your dogs, and to get to know other pet-lovers in the community.



Disc Golf: The Grey Fox Course is a new championship 18-hole Disc Golf Course that was created at Fox River Park in Salem. This course joins the nine-hole intermediate course, called the Red Fox Course, which has been

available at Fox River Park for about seven years.

If you've never heard of disc golf, the object of the game is for players to throw a flying disc into a basket or at a target. In a group outing, the player who gets through the course with the fewest number of throws is the winner.

Play at the Red Fox Course is free; donations are encouraged for play at the Championship Grey Fox Course. You are asked to bring your own discs to the courses.

The dog parks and disc golf courses are open daily during regular park hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The dog parks may be closed due to muddy conditions, so please check the website before heading out on wet days:

<http://www.kenoshacounty.org/publicworks/parks/>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: SANITATION

What kind of substances should I be careful of flushing down my drains?

A septic system will be affected by the materials you flush into it and the amount of water you pass through it.

Think of your septic system as a "living" system and consider not disposing any bleach, disinfectant, cleansers with organic compounds, feminine paper products, medications, paints, solvents, fats, grease, oils and food waste down your drains.

Avoiding high wastewater flows or peak flows is also important to maintain a healthy septic system. For

example, spacing out laundry over the course of a week is a much better choice than doing non-stop loads on Saturday morning.

I've never pumped my septic tank before. How do I go about finding where it is located?

Start by calling Kenosha County Planning & Development. If a sanitary permit was issued for your septic system, the office has a site plan showing the location of the septic tank. On older systems, the septic tank lid is buried and will have to be located by digging or probing.

If the County does not have a site plan showing the septic tank location, then you will need to do some searching. If you have a basement or a crawl space, you should be able to find where the building drain leaves the house. Once you find this, look for any depressions, concrete slabs at or near the ground surface or even a landscape feature that may mark the tank's location. Use a shovel or tile probe to "feel" for the lid.

If all else fails, you will need to hire a professional such as a septic system installer or service provider to locate the tank.



Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development

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<http://kenoshacounty.org/plandev>

The mission of the Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development is to encourage the use of land, water resources and structures in a planned and orderly manner through technology, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and its base mapping and various ordinances, which promotes sound planning and land use management, environmental awareness and public participation to protect the overall public health, safety, morals, prosperity, aesthetics, comfort, convenience and general welfare of the citizens of Kenosha County as well as providing professional planning assistance to other departments within Kenosha County government.