



COMPASS POINTS

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER: VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3 SPRING 2012

REBUILDING PETRIFYING SPRINGS PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

Petrifying Springs County Park is located in the Pike River watershed in the Town of Somers. In 1936, as part of the “New Deal,” the park’s primary road network was constructed, allowing the public better access within the park. Since the original road improvements, the park has grown to include parking lots, a golf course, picnic shelters, and various playground areas.

Recently, Kenosha County has made it a priority to rebuild the Petrifying Spring Park’s infrastructure. Last summer, the park was updated with a new multi-use trail that snakes through the park. In addition, many of the playground areas have been upgraded with new equipment. The County plans to move forward with two more infrastructure projects beginning this summer, including the reconstruction of the lower park road and the removal of the dam.

The Petrifying Springs lower park road is about 1.5 miles long, starting at CTH “A”, meandering through the park, and ending at CTH “JR”. Over the years, this park road has degraded to a point where the road needs to be completely replaced. The width of the road will be expanded to include an on-road bike lane.

As part of the road reconstruction, the entire storm sewer system will be rebuilt as well. The old storm sewer system not only is undersized, but also discharges directly into the Pike River. The new sewer will discharge into environmental buffers that will filter out oil, sediment, and other pollutants prior to entering the river. The project will utilize “green” storm water control such as bio-filters and infiltration swales to improve overall water quality.

The Petrifying Springs earthen dam, located at the midpoint of the lower park road, was constructed as part of the original road. The dam was designed to pool water used for irrigation on the nearby golf course, but hasn’t been used for that purpose since 1976. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has recommended that the dam be removed because it blocks fish passage to the lower part of the river. Additionally, in larger storm events, the dam can’t handle the flow from the river and overtops onto the road, in which case the road must be closed to traffic.

Petrifying Springs Park improvements will continue in the future, with at least two other projects scheduled for 2013. The Park Hill Road, which connects the lower park road to the golf clubhouse, will be constructed. Additionally, portions of the Pike River will be stabilized to keep the banks from eroding and washing down the river.

Moving forward, Kenosha County expects to continue with projects that sustain Petrifying Springs Park as the flagship of the County Park System.



- NORTH WOODS MULTI-USE TRAIL - COMPLETED 2011
- PARK MULTI-USE TRAIL - COMPLETED 2011
- LOWER PARK RD RECONSTRUCTION - START DATE 2012
- DAM REMOVAL PROJECT - START DATE 2012
- HILL ROAD RECONSTRUCTION - START DATE 2013
- PIKE RIVER STREAMBANK STABILIZATION - START DATE 2013

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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR 2012

MAY

3	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
5	Household Hazardous Waste Collection
9	Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee Public Hearing Room, 7 pm
17	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
19	E-Waste Collection (see page 4)

JUNE

7	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
13	Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee Public Hearing Room, 6 pm
16	DairyAir Community Bike Ride & Kenosha County Dairy Breakfast (see page 4)
21	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm

JULY

5	Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm
11	Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee Public Hearing Room, 6:30 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)

ESTABLISHING A VEGETATIVE COVER OVER POWTS

Dispersal Cells for a Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS), whether it is an in-ground system or a mound system, can be affected by the vegetation planted on and in close proximity of the component. It is mandatory to establish some sort of permanent ground cover over your absorption system to protect the soil surface from erosion and to improve the movement of water and gas exchange in the soils over your system.

The most common permanent ground cover, of course, is grass or sod, which is almost always planted over an in-ground absorption field. However, when mounds are constructed, property owners often wish to do plantings and landscaping in and around the mound to “soften” its appearance on the landscape. If the mound is not on a sloping site where adding fill upslope and to the end slopes can incorporate the dispersal cell in the landscape, woody plantings can be established to conceal and break up the appearance of the mound.

Trees and shrubs should never be planted on top of a mound dispersal cell because of the network of distribution pipes that are located in this component. These PVC pipes can be as close as 12 inches to the soil surface and can easily be destroyed while planting or become clogged with roots over a period of years. Therefore, any woody plant species that are intended to be planted near the mound must be either upslope of the mound or at the base of the end slope.

Avoid choosing any species of woody plants or trees that are considered “water loving” or that are “fast growers.” These species will have extensive root systems that will establish quickly and will find areas of moist soil that exist in the sand fill and soil found in and below a mound system. Trees such as soft maples (silver maple, red maple, box elders), willows, mulberry, Chinese elms, and hybrid poplars should all be avoided as possible species to be planted near a mound system. In fact, if these types of trees exist naturally in the landscape near a mound dispersal cell, it would be wise to remove these trees to avoid future problems.



A mound dispersal cell with spruce trees serving as a backdrop on the upslope side of the mound. The field stone accent wall on the downslope toe of the system provides an area to plant perennial flowers like creeping phlox. The globe yews are actually planted in the downslope toe of the mound, but are well away from the distribution piping network.

Herbaceous landscape plants, such as flowering perennials and ornamental grasses, can be planted on a mound system. However, you must avoid any species that has a tap root, such as a yucca or compass plant. The difficulty with attempting to cover a mound dispersal cell with flowering perennials is the areas between the plants. At the very least these areas must be heavily mulched to protect it from soil erosion and the invasion of weeds.



An early spring photo of a mound dispersal cell planted entirely in flowering perennials and ornamental grasses. Some of the plants on the mound include day lilies, coneflowers, black-eyed susans, and daisies. The sparsely vegetated areas are heavily mulched with wood chips.

Keep in mind while doing these plantings near your POWTS components that no system is permanent and that maintenance is always required and eventually replacement may be needed. This means that components need to remain accessible, and that your landscaping and plantings may need to be removed in order to be replaced.

KENOSHA COUNTY PARK & OPEN SPACE PLAN

Kenosha County has a long history of park and open space planning, going back to the 1970s. Under the guidance of the Highway and Parks Committee, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWPRC) worked with the County Parks Division and Department of Planning and Development to prepare an update of the park and open space plan (POS) adopted in 1988. The plan was adopted by the County Board on April 17, 2012.

The POS plan works within the framework of the county’s comprehensive plan and will serve as a long-range planning guide for decisions on park and open space issues, such as county policies, park and trail development, and funding for parks. Updating the plan is necessary to

ensure the county remains eligible to receive state and federal grant funding for parks and natural resources.

The plan provides an inventory of the existing park system and open space lands, and makes recommendations for park and open space preservation, park improvements, land acquisition and development, and trail and facility projects. It also presents an analysis of park and open space needs in the county based on land use patterns, natural resources, current and projected population levels and distribution, and anticipated growth and development.

The Park and Open Space Plan for Kenosha County is available for review at <http://parks.kenoshacounty.org>.

ACCESSORY BUILDINGS

Detached Accessory Buildings

Some of the most common questions Planning & Development staff receives from property owners involve the placement of detached accessory structures—specifically how many outbuildings can be placed on their property and how large those outbuildings can be.

To answer these questions, property owners are encouraged to first determine the zoning classification of their property. You can do this by using the county's interactive mapping website (http://www.kenoshacounty.org/plandev/mapping/interactive_map.html) or by contacting the Department of Planning & Development directly.



Since the size and number of accessory buildings allowed on a particular property are determined by its zoning classification and its acreage, this should always be the first piece of information to obtain when planning out your proposed accessory building.

Zoning Permit

A zoning permit is required from the Department of Planning & Development for the construction of detached accessory buildings larger than 150 square feet. The zoning permit ensures that the building meets applicable setbacks from property lines, other structures and certain environmental assets, and falls within the size and height limitations for the district.

In addition to the required zoning permit, property owners must decide if they will hire a registered land surveyor to survey the building after it has been constructed or prolong the survey requirement by signing a document called a "Waiver of Liability of Foundation Survey," which is recorded against the property title. If the waiver is

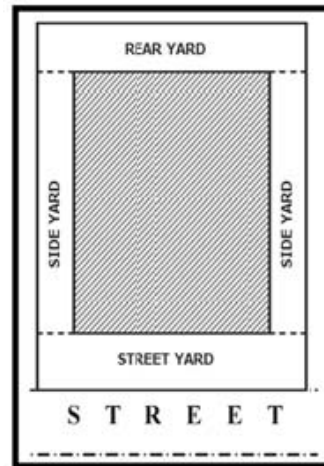
signed, the property owner will eventually need to have a survey done to show that the accessory building was constructed according to the permit requirements.

The cost for an accessory building zoning permit is \$125. If the property owner decides to sign the waiver rather than have an updated survey done, there is a separate fee of \$30 to record the waiver document with the Register of Deeds.

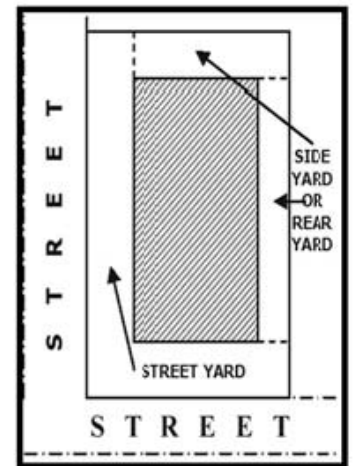
Location

The Kenosha County General Zoning and Shoreland/Floodplain Zoning Ordinance requires that accessory buildings on lots in residential zoning districts of less than 10 acres in size be constructed in either a **side or rear yard**. In other words, the building cannot be placed in the area between the street and the front of the house.

The following illustrations show two types of common lot configurations:



Interior Lot



Corner Lot

If your particular lot is not similar to the above examples or you need clarification on where your proposed accessory building could be placed, you may contact Planning & Development staff for assistance.

Building Permit

Once Planning & Development has issued the zoning permit, the property owner may proceed to their Town's building inspector for the required building permit. The building inspector will make sure that the building is built to proper building code (footings, framing, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, etc.) and will handle any on-site inspection of the building.

COUNTY SPOTLIGHT: INFORMATION SERVICES WIRELESS BROADBAND COMING TO KENOSHA COUNTY



This summer will see the roll-out of a new broadband internet service to under-served parts of Kenosha County. Over the next two years nearly every home and business in the County will have access to true broadband speeds.

A wireless system means that the internet signal is transmitted from poles placed so that all areas are covered. Each customer leases a small receiver to be mounted on the wall or roof of their building. A cable runs from that to a modem inside the house like any hard-wired system. You can use it with a desktop or laptop computer, a smartphone, or a tablet computer like the iPad. In rare cases, properties will not be able to receive the service due to topography, large buildings, or vegetation that block the signal.

Broadband service is up to 50 times faster than the residential dial-up service that many people have. Broadband users will be able to watch and download videos and movies, upload photographs almost instantly, use the internet for phone services like Skype, and transmit large amounts of data. The system is being built by Kenosha County for better integration of its law enforcement, fire, and emergency management functions. Part of the system is being leased to a private company, HierComm Networks, Inc. of Hartland, Wisconsin, to market internet service to the public. They will offer packages for residential and business customer and provide technical assistance.

The Village of Bristol will be the first area to be served, with additional areas coming on-line over the next year or so.

FAQ: SANITATION

Do mound systems really work?

For some reason, there appears to be a myth that exists about mound systems not working. You should know that mound systems work every bit as well as an inground (conventional) POWTS. The primary difference between the two systems is that mound systems are pressurized above-ground systems and the conventional inground system is below ground and typically not pressurized.

As far as system performance is concerned, a pressurized system typically will perform better than one that is not, because the wastewater is dosed over the entire absorption area versus being distributed over a small area as in the conventional gravity system.

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

COUNTYWIDE E-WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT: SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2012 - 9 AM TO 2 PM

Don't know what to do with your old computer or rabbit-eared television set? Have you been stockpiling outdated cell phones in your closet? Want to recycle your obsolete gadgets safely and properly? Bring your e-waste to the Village of Paddock Lake's free drop-off event in parking lot of the Paddock Lake Village Hall located at 6969 - 236th Ave, Paddock Lake. For more information, including a list of acceptable items, please contact the Village at 262-843-2713.

DAIRYAIR COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE AND KENOSHA COUNTY DAIRY BREAKFAST: SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2012 - 7 AM

Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser is inviting county residents to join him on a free community bike ride from Mars' Cheese Castle (2800 West Frontage Rd, Kenosha) to the Kenosha County Dairy Breakfast, starting at 7am. The ride is 7.5-miles each way. Riders are asked to begin the ride together at 7 am, but riding back will be at your own leisure. This year's breakfast is hosted by Mighty Grand Dairy Farm, located at 22811 18th St., Union Grove. Admission to the farm is free. Breakfast costs \$6; children ages 6 and under eat free. For more information on this event and other summer events in the county parks, visit Kenosha County Parks: <http://parks.kenoshacounty.org>

KENOSHA COUNTY FARMERS MARKETS: ONGOING

Enjoy locally grown food and support local farmers! For a full list of market locations and hours, visit the Farm Fresh Atlas of Southeastern Wisconsin: <http://www.farmfreshatlas.org/southeast/>



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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.