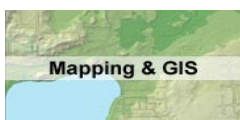


Zoning & Permitting



Land Development



Mapping & GIS



Conservation



Septic Systems



Housing Programs

COMPASS POINTS

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER: VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2014

HIGHWAY ACCESS

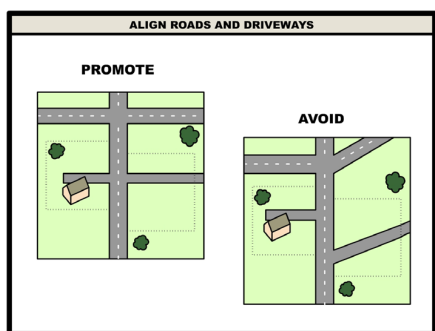
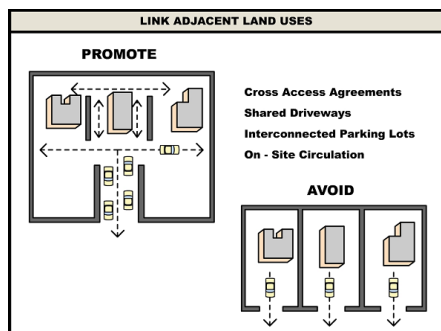
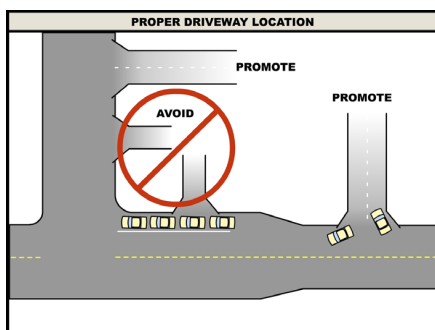
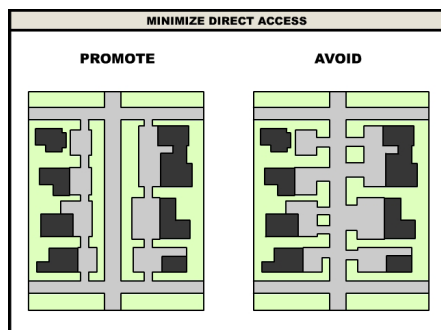
The Kenosha County Division of Highways' mission is to provide the services necessary for a safe and efficient highway system within Kenosha County. Through the implementation of procedural processes and technical practices in highway design and by working closely with local municipalities and developers of highway-adjacent properties the Division of Highways works to provide an acceptable level of public service by the most cost effective means.

One of the primary ways this goal is accomplished is through a practice known as access management - the proactive management of vehicular access points to land parcels adjacent to a roadway. By setting standards for design issues such as the spacing of local collector roads, driveway spacing and location, turning lane requirements, median treatments and right-of-way management practices they are able to ensure safe transit of vehicles and pedestrians over time as the surrounding community grows.

Other design practices such as cross access easements, the removal of excess driveways, driveway consolidation and intersection planning (shown below) can prolong the need for costly upgrades to our highway system.

Without access management, the function of our major roadway corridors can deteriorate leading to adverse impacts such as an increase in vehicular crashes, reduction in roadway efficiency (increased delays), more cut-through traffic in residential areas, and homes and businesses negatively affected by a continuous cycle of widening roads.

Proper access management enables us to maximize our return on investment from both our state and county highway systems, extend the timeline for re-construction and/or expansion of these thoroughfares and promote safe and efficient traffic for both local and through traffic.



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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR 2014

AUGUST

21 Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm

SEPTEMBER

4 Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm

10 Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee Public Hearing Room, 6 pm

16 VISION 2050 Visioning Workshop Kenosha Civil War Museum Freedom Hall (see pg. 3)

16 5th Annual Fundraiser Dinner for the Farm Fresh Atlas (see pg. 4)

18 Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm

OCTOBER

2 Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm

8 Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee Public Hearing Room, 6 pm

16 Zoning Board of Adjustments Hearing Room A, 6 pm

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

MUSKRATS



Musk rats are large rodents with dense thick brown fur. Their bellies are lighter colored, usually a shade of gray. The head and body of adults may be up to 16 inches long and weigh 4 to 5 pounds.

Musk rats are aquatic creatures and prefer slow-moving or still water. They eat primarily aquatic vegetation, but will eat grass or other terrestrial vegetation. A female can have up to 5 litters per year with 5 – 10 young per litter.

The muskrat has a long tail and partially webbed hind feet making them very good swimmers. They can actually swim underwater for about 17 minutes. The muskrat is very well adapted to a wide range of climates. They survive well in cold temperatures because of the two layers of fur on their bodies. Musk rats prefer to live in wet environments and known for protecting their family from cold weather by building nests. Near a streambank you will find them burrowing through an entrance that is underwater. Near ponds, rivers, banks and lakes is where you find their nests which are similar in appearance to a beaver lodge. These nests are built out of aquatic plants such as the cattails.



Damage caused by muskrats is primarily due to their burrowing activity, causing severe erosion. Burrowing may not be readily evident until serious damage has occurred. One way to observe early

burrowing on a lake or stream is to walk along the shoreline when the water is clear and look for “runs” or trails from just below the normal water surface to as deep as 3 feet. If no burrow entrances are observed, look for droppings along the bank or on logs or structures a muskrat can easily climb

upon. Any burrows found should be filled, tamped in, and covered with rock to avoid possible washout or, if livestock are using the pond, to prevent injury to a foot or leg.

Musk rats have plenty of natural predators including snakes, snapping turtles, bullfrogs, red foxes,, largemouth basses, people, dogs, bald eagles, owls, hawks, raccoons and cats, but your population may need more management. If you are trying to get rid of muskrats in a lake then you are looking at quite a challenge. It is not that it is difficult to trap a single muskrat, but the problem is that the lake habitat is so big that you never know how many muskrats you are dealing with. Getting them out of a particular area in the lake is a bit easier although there is a chance that more will come. Start by changing the area's habitat removing any incentives for muskrats to live there. You could start with removing any access to food that the muskrat has. Decreasing the amount of water vegetation will make it less likely that muskrats will be in the area. You can attempt to trap the muskrats but it can quickly become a never ending job unless you remove the source of food. Once the food is not in the area anymore then the trapping will be a lot more successful.

Although it's best left to a professional to remove muskrats, trapping them is one of the most effective and humane ways to get rid of muskrats. Considering that muskrats live in groups, you will need a trap that can catch several of them in one day. This is called a colony live trap and it can be up to 24 inches with double doors. Once you've caught the muskrat, it's best to relocate them to another area. The relocation of muskrats that have been live captured may not be relocated to County or WDNR controlled lands. Persons must have permission from the landowner when relocating muskrats to private property. According to Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Control Statue; a landowner, occupant, and/or agent may without a permit trap or shoot muskrats that are causing damage to dikes, dams, shoreline or roadways. NR 12.10(1)(b)1(d)

Always check with the WDNR for nuisance wildlife guidelines, trapping season dates and application deadlines visit their website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/trap/dates.html> or call the WDNR Bureau of Wildlife Management at 608-261-6452.

VISION 2050

What is VISION 2050?

VISION 2050 is an effort of the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, which has been the official areawide planning agency for Southeastern Wisconsin since its creation in 1960. The counties served include Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha.

VISION 2050 is a way for you to influence the future of your community and Southeastern Wisconsin by helping us answer two questions:

- How do you want your community and the Region to develop?
- How do you want to be connected to the different places in your community and the Region where you live, work, and play?

Continued on Page 3

GET INVOLVED!

Throughout the VISION 2050 effort, there will be many opportunities to be involved and have your voice heard, including Visioning Workshops that will take place in each of the counties served by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. The Kenosha County workshop will take place on Tuesday, September 16th at the Civil War Museum. The workshop is about 1.5 hours long and will guide participants through an exploration of several different sketch land use and transportation scenarios. The purpose is to let you decide for yourself what type of future you think the Region should try to move toward. Commission staff will consider your feedback and use the sketch scenarios as a basis for developing more detailed alternative land use and transportation plans.



For additional information on the Visioning Workshops please visit <http://vision2050sewis.org/Vision2050/Workshops>

To register for a Visioning Workshop please visit <http://vision2050sewis.org/Vision2050/WorkshopRegistration>

For informational brochures and newsletters regarding VISION 2050 please visit www.vision2050sewis.org



WEB-BASED POWTS MAINTENANCE REPORTING BEGINS IN KENOSHA COUNTY

In February of 2014, the Kenosha County Division of Health and the Division of Planning Operations began a web-based reporting portal to the existing TRAKiT program. The County Division of Information Technology provided the technical development and implemented the launching of the web portal. The portal is being utilized by the service providers that pump septic and holding tanks throughout Kenosha County. This method of reporting has streamlined the task of reporting the pumping occurrences and the performance inspections required by the Wisconsin Administrative Code and the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

In January of 2014, all the local POWTS service providers as well as POWTS Installers and Maintainers were invited to a presentation and demonstration of the web portal. The electronic reporting eliminated the service companies from completing the paper report and mailing or delivering them to the Division of Health. The service provider's report is often viewable the same day of data entry by the County or the property owner.

This new method of reporting has been widely accepted by the service providers. They should be commended for their cooperation and willingness to make this program a success. Also, congratulations to Jonathan Kressin of the Kenosha County Division of Information Technology and Alex Priesgen of the Division of Health for their dedication and effort in developing the web portal.

FAQ'S REGARDING THE WEB-BASED REPORTING OF POWTS MAINTENANCE

1. Do owners still get notified by mail of when they are due to pump/service their septic tank?

Yes. They are still required to call a service provider of their choice and make an appointment.

2. Do I still receive a report form?

Yes. It is printed on the back of the letter you receive. You must give this report form to your pumper.

3. Does the maintenance report form have to be mailed or dropped off to a County Office?

No. The pumping company enters the results of your maintenance pumping and the system inspection through the web portal.

4. I haven't received my notice to have my septic tank pumped but I would like to have it done now. Can I get a report form for the service provider?

Yes. You can contact the Kenosha County Division of Health—POWTS Sanitarian or you can download a form from the Kenosha County website by going to <http://kenoshacounty.rg/index.aspx?nid=740>

5. Can I check when I am due to pump my tank or make sure that my service provider entered my service data and date?

Yes. You can access some permit and maintenance data for your property by going to <https://septic/kenoshacounty.org/>. You can search for your property by address, pin number or sanitary permit number (SANT-xxxxxx).

6. I have a holding tank, or maybe I have an aerobic treatment device that is serviced twice a year. Are my services dates on the web portal and can I get a report form?

Yes, you can view the services dates. No, you cannot obtain a form since your holding tank is serviced multiple times during the year and each aerobic treatment device has its own specialized report form. If your holding tank was not serviced within the calendar year for some reason you can obtain a report of form, or if you aerobic treatment unit had a supplemental treatment device that had to be replaced. Both of those report forms can be obtained at the web address stated in FAQ #4.



We all can recognize the strength of agriculture in Wisconsin. Our state ranks in the top 10 agriculture producing states. We stand out from other states in our production of specialty products and crops like cheese, cranberries, and ginseng. Interestingly, Wisconsin has the second highest number of certified organic operations, second only to California! Agriculture in Kenosha County is no exception to the vibrancy of the industry throughout Wisconsin. Considering Kenosha County's relatively small size, agriculture here generates nearly \$69 million in annual sales and ranks 7th in the state for nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod operations. The County is also seeing more and more farmers pursue direct sales of their products through farm stands, CSAs, local farmers' markets, and restaurants.

The agriculture industry as a whole and here in Kenosha County does, however, face a few threats. Farmland in the County has decreased by 9% since 2007. Fortunately, residents and local government have been actively committed to preserving farmland, especially in the western part of the County, where thousands of acres have been protected from development. Kenosha County also has an aging farmer population and some farm operations without a successor in line or no plan for farm transfer to a younger generation.

This year, the Cooperative Extension System celebrates 100 years of extending science-based university research to the people of the United States. One hundred years ago, a primary focus of initial Cooperative Extension efforts was outreach to agricultural producers.

Although Extension has broadened its focus over the years to serve more of the population through community, natural resources, and nutrition programs, agriculture education remains a pillar of Cooperative Extension in Wisconsin. As a new member of the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension system in Kenosha County, Leigh Presley seeks to serve the County's residents through projects that address emerging trends in agriculture as well as some of the threats faced by the industry. Specific projects that Presley will help support include the upcoming Rural Landowner Conference, which provides educational opportunities for anyone interested in a small farm enterprise. She'll be engaged in a farm succession planning workshop this fall and is also working to support the Farm Fresh Atlas™ of Southeastern Wisconsin, a marketing tool for many local farms, farmer's markets and local food businesses.

Presley began serving in a part time capacity as the Interim Agriculture Educator in July 2014, dividing her time between Kenosha and Racine Counties. Leigh values the opportunity to work in both counties and the ability to optimize resources and synergize with other organizations and departments across county lines to create and promote programs and events that benefit a wide population. Leigh can be reached at the Kenosha County UW-Extension office in Bristol at 262-857-1948 or via email at leigh.presley@ces.uwex.edu.



UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

5TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER DINNER FOR THE FARM FRESH ATLAS OF SOUTHEASTERN WI: SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

Tickets are not available for the 5th Annual Farm Fresh Atlas Fundraiser Dinner, to be held at Milwaukee's acclaimed restaurant La Merenda. The event will feature a silent auction and "grazing" style meals, featuring small plates and hors d'oeuvres created by renowned chefs with locally produced ingredients. Tickets are \$65 each. For more information, visit <http://www.farmfreshsewi.org/fundraiser.htm>.

8TH ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN RURAL LANDOWNER CONFERENCE: NOVEMBER 1, 2014, 8 AM - 3 PM

This conference is an educational opportunity for rural landowners, small farmers, and individuals considering the farm enterprise. Participants will be able to choose presentation and workshops covering a variety of topics like dairy goats, beekeeping, and business planning. The program registration fee is \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth ages 14-18, which includes lunch. For more information contact Leigh Presley at 262-857-1948 or leigh.presley@ces.uwex.edu.



Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development
19600 75th Street, Suite 185-3, Bristol, Wisconsin, 53104-9772
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<http://www.kenoshacounty.org/index.aspx?nid=656>

The mission of the Division of Planning Operations is to provide high quality, professional assistance utilizing the best available technologies to aid the general public, in their desires to improve their property; land developers, in achieving a sound development; and businesses, in attracting and guiding their economic development. The Division also guides and implements the Smart Growth comprehensive planning initiative and future long range planning efforts through cooperative efforts with local municipalities while ensuring the conservation of land and water resources.