



Zoning & Permitting



Land Development



Mapping & GIS



Conservation



Septic Systems



Housing Programs

COMPASS POINTS

SEPTIC SYSTEM PROGRAM (POWTS)

Kenosha County residents who have a private on-site wastewater treatment system, (POWTS), aka, septic systems, will now be able to access their POWTS service maintenance records using a new tool available online. The site is called the Kenosha County Sanitary Maintenance Portal, (KCSMP), and can be found at the following website address: <https://septic.kenoshacounty.org/live/>.

Property owners that receive POWTS maintenance notices can view current and past maintenance history online as well as see some other detailed information regarding the type of septic system, treatment tank information as well as some other pertinent data regarding that POWTS.

When POWTS maintenance notices are sent to property owners of record, there are maintenance report forms that have specific information about the existing septic system that is requiring service. The sanitary permit number, property address, or the tax parcel number can be used to look up the existing online data for the POWTS in question.



Screen shot of POWTS portal

After a POWTS is serviced, the service provider will enter the service event findings and event date into the sanitary maintenance portal online. Once the service event data is entered into the portal, the maintenance reporting requirement is met by the owner and a paper report submittal to Kenosha County is no longer needed.

Property owners should always verify that the maintenance record is updated by going to the sanitary maintenance portal and reviewing their service event record for completeness and accuracy as they are ultimately responsible for maintenance reporting compliance.

If you have questions about the sanitary maintenance portal you can contact Alex Priesgen at (262)857-1910 or the Kenosha County Health Department at (262) 605-6700.

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Planning & Development Calendar 2017

May

18	Zoning Board of Adjustments, Hearing Room A, 6 pm
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June

14	Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee, Public Hearing Room, 6 pm
18	Zoning Board of Adjustments, Hearing Room A, 6 pm

July

12	Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee, Public Hearing Room, 6 pm
20	Zoning Board of Adjustments, Hearing Room A, 6 pm

August

9	Planning, Development & Extension Education Committee, Public Hearing Room, 6 pm
17	Zoning Board of Adjustments, Hearing Room A, 6 pm

SUBDIVISION ASSOCIATIONS AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

In the past, many subdivision developments lacked the stormwater management practices designed to reduce non-point source pollution and post-development discharge rates. As a result, instead of water taking days or weeks to reach the stream, larger volumes of surface runoff reach the stream in a matter of hours. In many older neighborhoods, this lack of stormwater management planning has caused drainage issues that can linger for decades.



Today, local ordinances are in place that are designed to adequately accommodate stormwater runoff through the design and implementation of dedicated best management practices and infrastructure, usually including stormwater ponds, infiltration basins, storm sewers and drainage swales. In addition, many local communities have also implemented individual stormwater management plans to help mitigate known existing issues – one good example being the [Village of Salem Lakes Stormwater Management Plan](#).

Over the past few decades, a growing number of cities and counties have delegated the responsibility for long-term maintenance of common infrastructure associated with new residential development to subdivision associations. This often includes maintenance of common open space and may include maintenance of private streets and sidewalks, landscaped cul-de-sac islands, stormwater facilities, or other infrastructure that plays a role in stormwater management. If the association fails to adhere to maintenance requirements, the local government has the authority to perform the maintenance itself and bill the owners (often by creating property liens).

In reality, though, every subdivision association has a limited “service” life because it is not self-sustaining over time. Planning decisions involving community associations are usually based on three assumptions: (1) The association will have an infinite life; (2) During that period the owners will assess themselves as necessary to properly maintain critical facilities; and (3) The owners and their managers have the expertise to maintain critical facilities or know how to get it. Each of these assumptions will eventually prove false. Most subdivision associations will eventually become obsolete because funding for normal and extraordinary maintenance is not planned for, leading to increasing deferred maintenance until the property becomes uninhabitable or no longer serves its purpose. This is why active and knowledgeable subdivision associations are important. An association’s knowledge of its stormwater management infrastructure and the maintenance responsibilities that come with it can extend the lifetime of these shared infrastructure improvements and thereby give the community more time to set aside funds for their eventual replacement.



A dry detention basin serving a residential subdivision in Greendale, WI.

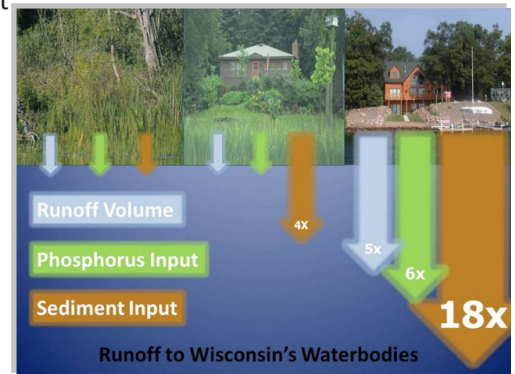
SHORELAND ZONING CHANGES

Major changes were recently adopted to the Kenosha County shoreland zoning ordinance in five key areas: Building Setbacks, Vegetation, Impervious Surface Standards, Non-conforming Uses and Structures, and Mitigation.

Building Setbacks: The 75' setback from the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) has not changed. The new rules allow reduced setback from required 75' setback using existing principal structures within 250' of requesting lot.

Vegetation: The first 35' from the OHWM is the most critical. This buffer area is to remain vegetated to reduce runoff. No vegetation removal apart from an access/viewing corridor. Shoreline restoration activities & invasive species control is encouraged along with the removal of dead, dying or diseased species, subsequently replaced with native vegetation.

Impervious Surface Standards: Virtually any form of shoreland development leads to more impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces are hard, manmade surfaces such as roof tops, driveways (including gravel surfaces), parking areas and patios that change the amount of water that can be penetrated the subsurface. New rules allow you to keep what you have and/or add up to 30% total impervious surface before a permit is needed. Between 30-40% needs a permit and mitigation. No more than 40% is allowed. The percentage of impervious surface is calculated by dividing the surface area of the existing and proposed impervious surfaces on the portion of a lot that is within 300 feet of the OHWM by the total surface area of that lot, and multiplied by 100.



Non-conforming Uses and Structures: A non-conforming structure is one which was legally constructed prior to the effective date of the ordinance or subsequent amendment, which would not be permitted as a new structure under the current ordinance because the structure is not in conformance with the yards, height, coverage, or floor area ratio requirements of the district in which it is located. New rules allow some flexibility for shoreland nonconforming structures in exchange for mitigation: vertical expansion, horizontal and/or vertical expansion beyond the shoreline setback, replacement or relocation.

New boathouses rules require that the boathouse is located entirely above the OHWM and entirely within the access and viewing corridor. A boathouse must be a non-habitable structure that is designed and used exclusively for the storage of marine equipment, can not to be closer than three (3) feet to any side lot line with the main opening must be directed toward the lake, can not to exceed four hundred and fifty (450) square feet measured outside wall to outside wall and cannot exceed one story, with a minimum wall height of 10 feet and maximum height of twelve (12) feet above the existing shoreline grade. A boathouse shall have no fireplaces, patio doors, plumbing, heating, air conditioning, cooking facilities or other features inconsistent with the use of the structure exclusively as a boathouse.

Mitigation: Is the balancing of measures that are designed, implemented and function to restore natural functions and values that are otherwise lost through development and human activities. There are numerous possibilities for mitigation including: vegetative buffer creation/restoration, rain gardens, retention/detention basins, eave troughs, french drains, removal or relocation of legal pre-existing accessory buildings, elimination or reduction of impervious surfaces or any other mitigation deemed appropriate by the Division of Planning & Development.

Treated impervious surfaces that can demonstrate they meet either of the following standards shall be excluded from the impervious surface calculations; (1) The impervious surface is treated by devices such as stormwater ponds, constructed wetlands, infiltration basins, rain gardens, bio-swales or other engineered systems. (2) The runoff from the impervious surface discharges to an internally drained pervious area that retains the runoff on or off the parcel and allows infiltration into the soil, such as pervious pavement.

KENOSHA COUNTY CENTER (KCC) PRAIRIE RESTORATION & WALKING PATH

The Kenosha County Center (KCC) Prairie Restoration project is well under way this year. This project was accomplished with the assistance from grant support through the US Fish and Wildlife Service as well as the study performed by interns through Carthage Collage. The aim of this project was to establish a native, tall grassland prairie from the agricultural field site already located to the north of KCC. Restoration of this tallgrass will provide a safe habitat for local bird and insect species while also providing recreational and education opportunities for the Kenosha County community.



Figure 1. The preexisting pathway with the addition of two transecting pathways that divides the restoration site into thirds.

The total time for establishment of the prairie is approximately three years. The site was seeded back in the fall and will continue this spring. Thirty-one species have been selected to be planted in this future prairie zone. This restoration effort will attract pollinators like bees and butterflies, as well as a wide range of birds native to the region.

There is currently an approximately one-mile walking path that curves around the open field area. Once the prairie has been established, additional pathways will be created that will transect the prairie, allowing visitors to enjoy the area from a variety of angles.

FAQ: IS A FENCE REQUIRED AROUND MY SWIMMING POOL?

Yes. A safety fence is required when constructing a new in-ground, above-ground or temporary inflatable/metal frame soft sided swimming pool. In the case of an in-ground pool, there shall be erected and maintained a good quality safety fence not less than four feet in height completely surrounding the pool or surrounding the yard in which the pool is located.

In the case of an above-ground pool or temporary inflatable/metal frame soft sided pool, either a good quality safety fence of not less than four feet in height shall completely surround the pool or surrounding yard in which the pool is located or the total wall height of the pool and surrounding deck/railing must be at least six feet above yard grade. Latching/locking gates shall be installed on all fences/gates in order to prevent unauthorized entry.

In the case of a spa/hot tub, a locked safety cover meeting American Society for Testing Materials Specifications may be used, or a spa must be completely enclosed in a structure with locking windows and doors.

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It is the mission of the Kenosha County Planning and Development Division to provide professional, customer-centered services to residents and organizations pursuing individual and community development goals while ensuring the balance of our community's economic advancement with protection of the natural environment. The Division provides services that; encourage the use of natural resources in a planned and orderly manner, utilize technology to ensure the efficient/accurate communication of technical land-use information, improve our local economy and advance the common good of the citizens of Kenosha County.