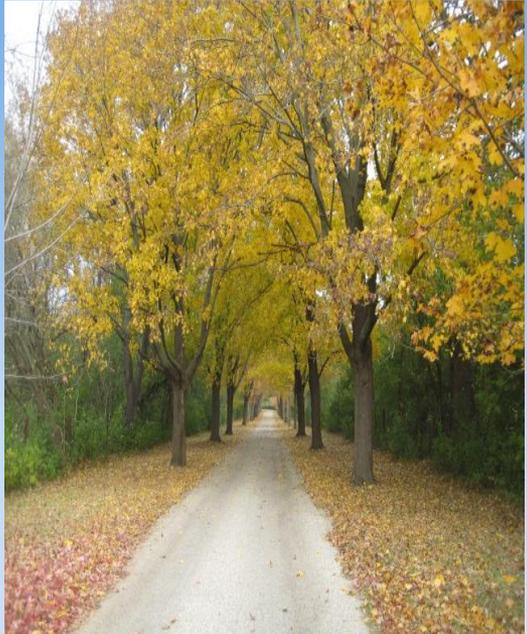
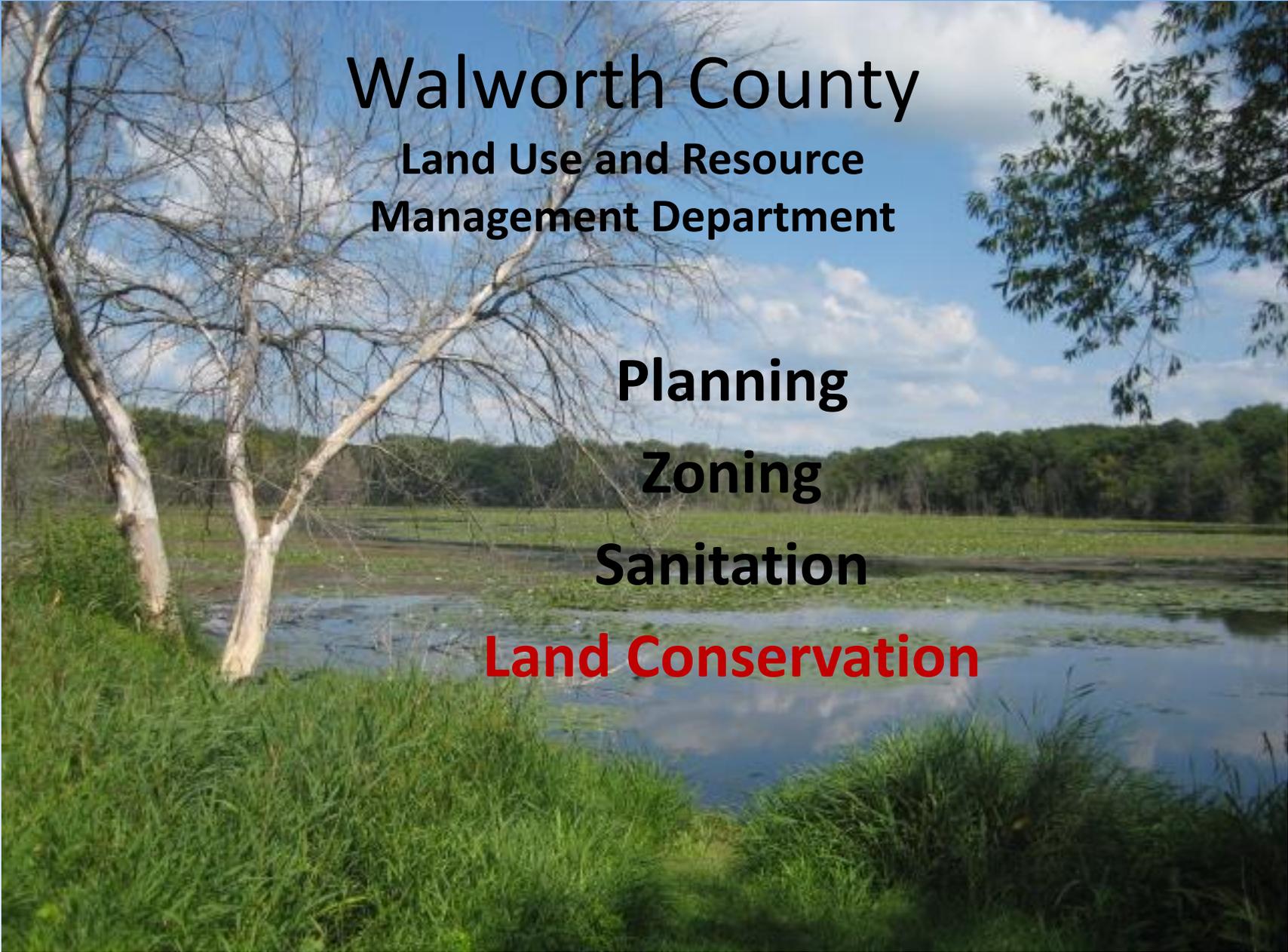


Walworth County Land and Water Resource Management Plan



Walworth County
Land Use and Resource Management
Department





Walworth County

**Land Use and Resource
Management Department**

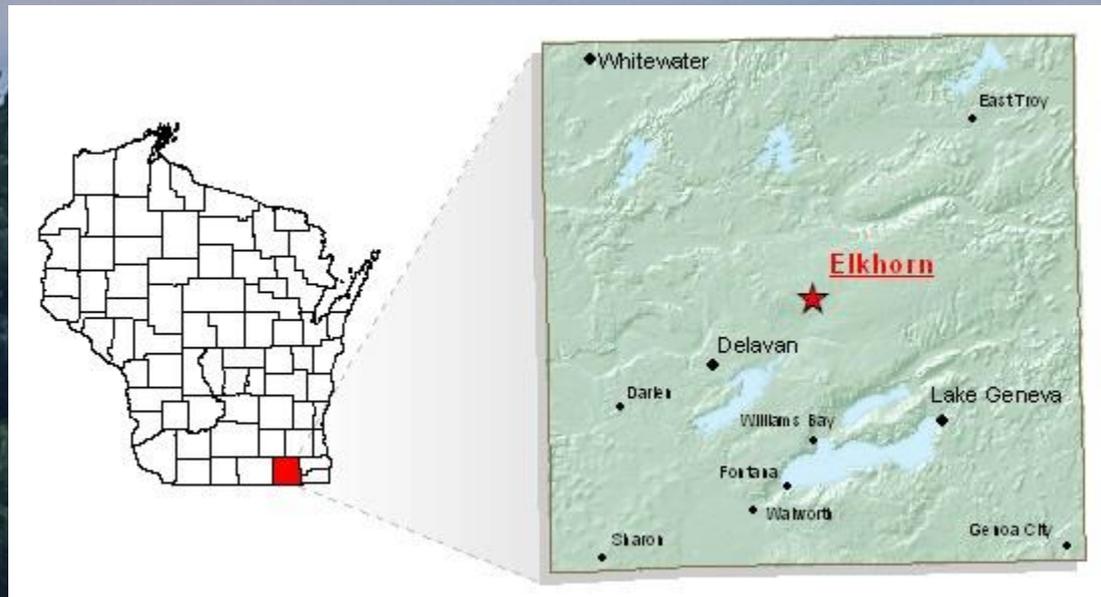
Planning

Zoning

Sanitation

Land Conservation

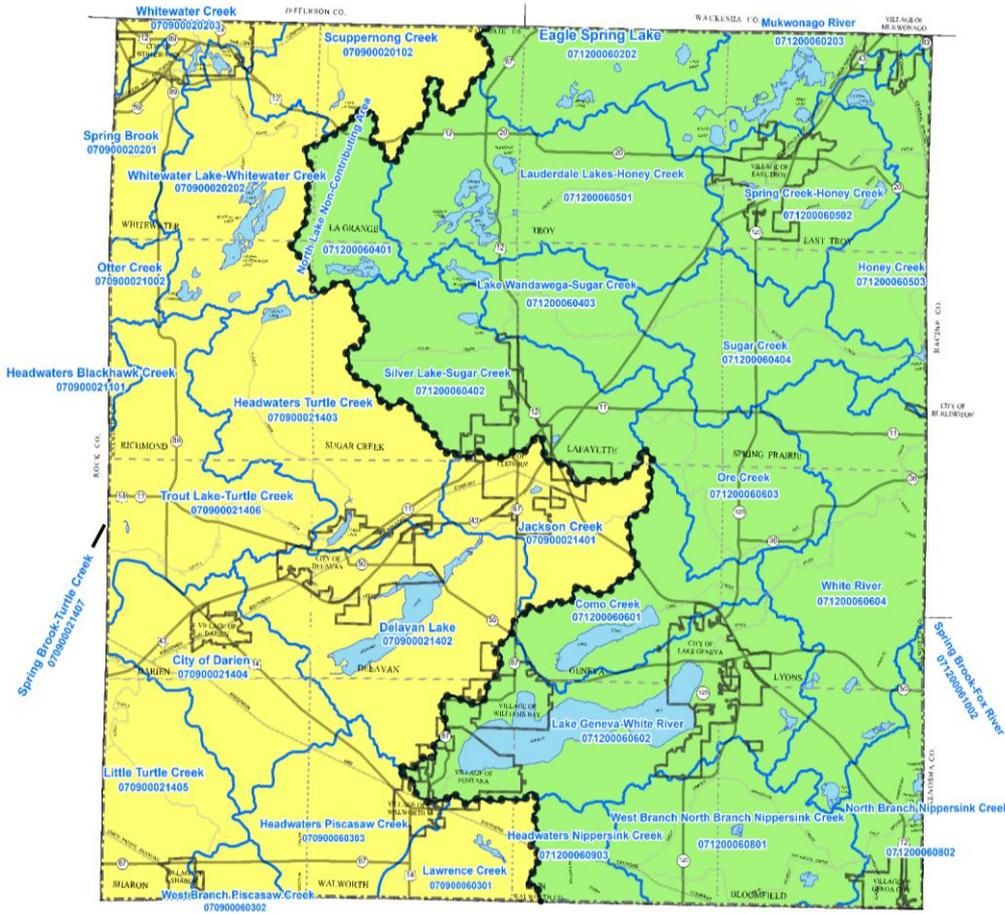
Walworth County occupies 576 square miles or 368,946 acres. The city of Elkhorn is the county seat. There are 16 townships in the county. Walworth County is midway between Chicago and Milwaukee and is bounded on the south by the rapidly expanding northern Illinois metropolitan region and on the east by the Milwaukee metropolitan region. Despite its location, the county has seen very low new growth in the last decade.



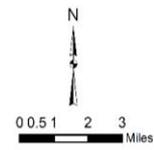
Land Uses in Walworth County- 2015

Land Use Category	Square Miles	Percent of Walworth County
Rural	495	86
Agriculture	330	57
Woodlands	56	10
Non-farmed Wetlands	51	9
Water	24	4
Open Land, Landfills. Extractive	2.3	.5
Other Rural	31	5.5
Urban	81	14





- FOX RIVER WATERSHED
- ROCK RIVER WATERSHED
- MAJOR WATERSHED BOUNDARY
- HUC 12 SUBWATERSHED BOUNDARIES
- SURFACE WATER



Walworth County is generally split with the western one-half of the county draining to the Rock River and the eastern one-half draining to the Illinois-Fox River.

Protecting Walworth County Lakes



Walworth County has 44 named lakes. Geneva Lake is the largest lake in Walworth County and the Region, with a surface area of 5,104 acres.



Animal Waste and Nutrient Management



Walworth County Land Conservation Division staff help farmers:

- Construct diversions to route clean water away from sources of animal waste.
- Establish treatment measures for barnyard and bunker runoff.
- Construct facilities for safely storing animal waste.
- Prepare written plans to insure fertilizers and animal waste are managed and applied to lands according to technical standards. (3R's- right place, right time, right rate)

Managing Storm Water with Infiltration



Community Infiltration Garden

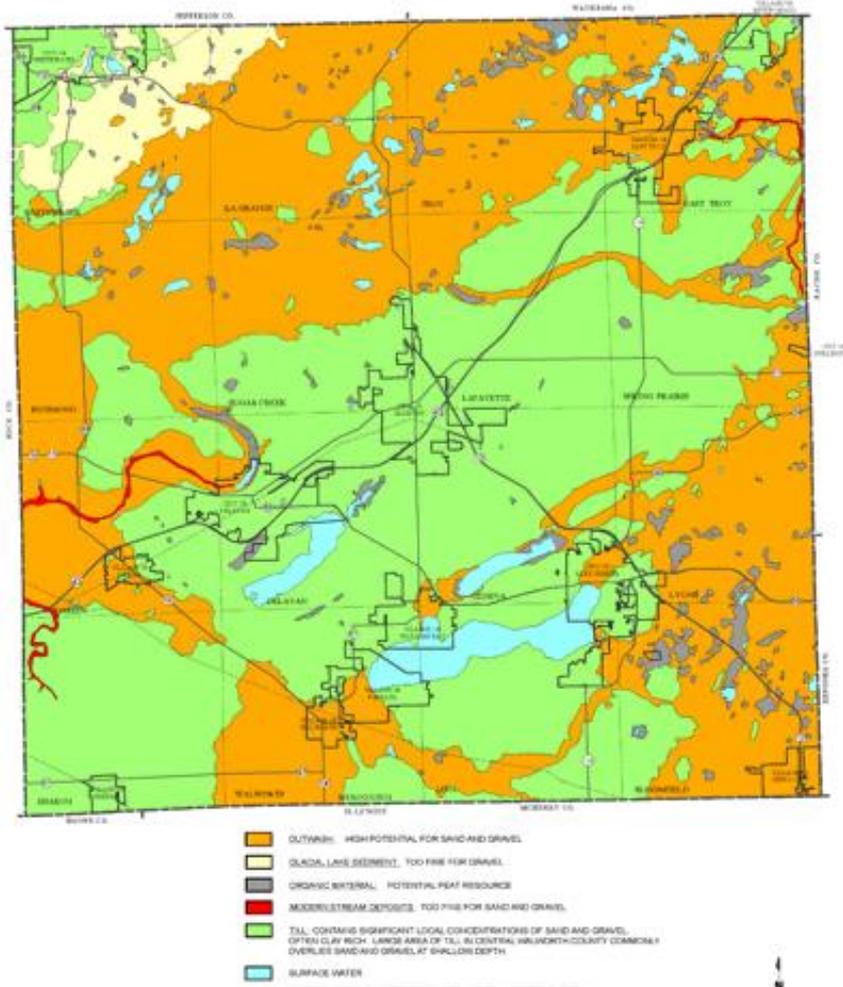


Permeable Pavement Systems

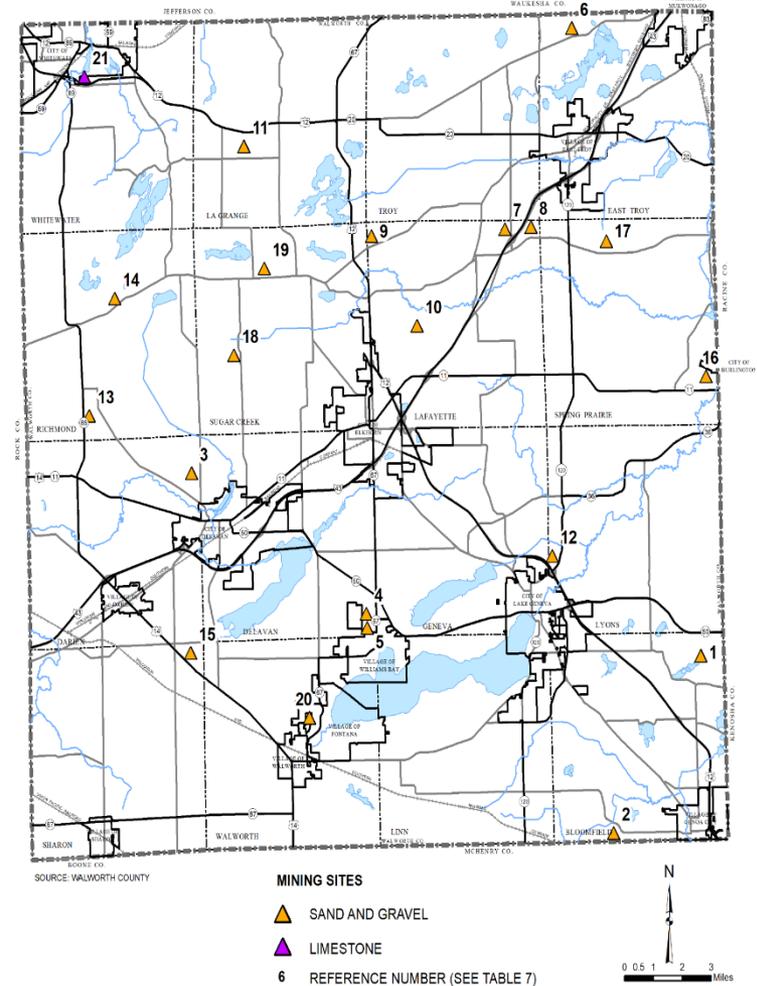


Assembly Park Permeable Paver Project - 2 ½ Miles!!!

PRELIMINARY MAP SHOWING AREAS WITH POTENTIAL FOR SAND AND GRAVEL DEPOSITS



Walworth County has significant sand and gravel resources due to the Kettle Moraine geology. This can place a burden on prime farmland, which is often where these deposits are located.



Reclamation



Twenty-two (22) non-metallic mining sites, covering just over 900 acres are active in the County. There are 1372 acres of land currently subject non-metallic mining reclamation permits.

Protecting Walworth County Farmlands

Agriculture is the foundation of Walworth County's rural character and scenic landscapes. Working farms define the County's identity. The agricultural census report shows there are 941 working farms in Walworth County.



Farmland Preservation Planning



Walworth County Farmland Preservation Plan Update

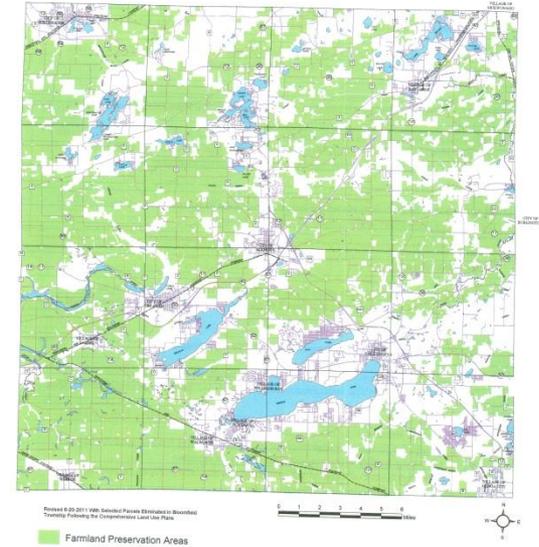
Draft – July, 2012
Amended July, 2015



Dr. Bruno Schiffler Farm - Contour Buffer Strips

The County Farmland Preservation Plan was updated in 2012 and the companion agricultural zoning ordinance was adopted in 2015. This plan is due to be updated by the end of 2022.

Map 5-1 Walworth County Planned Farmland Preservation Areas



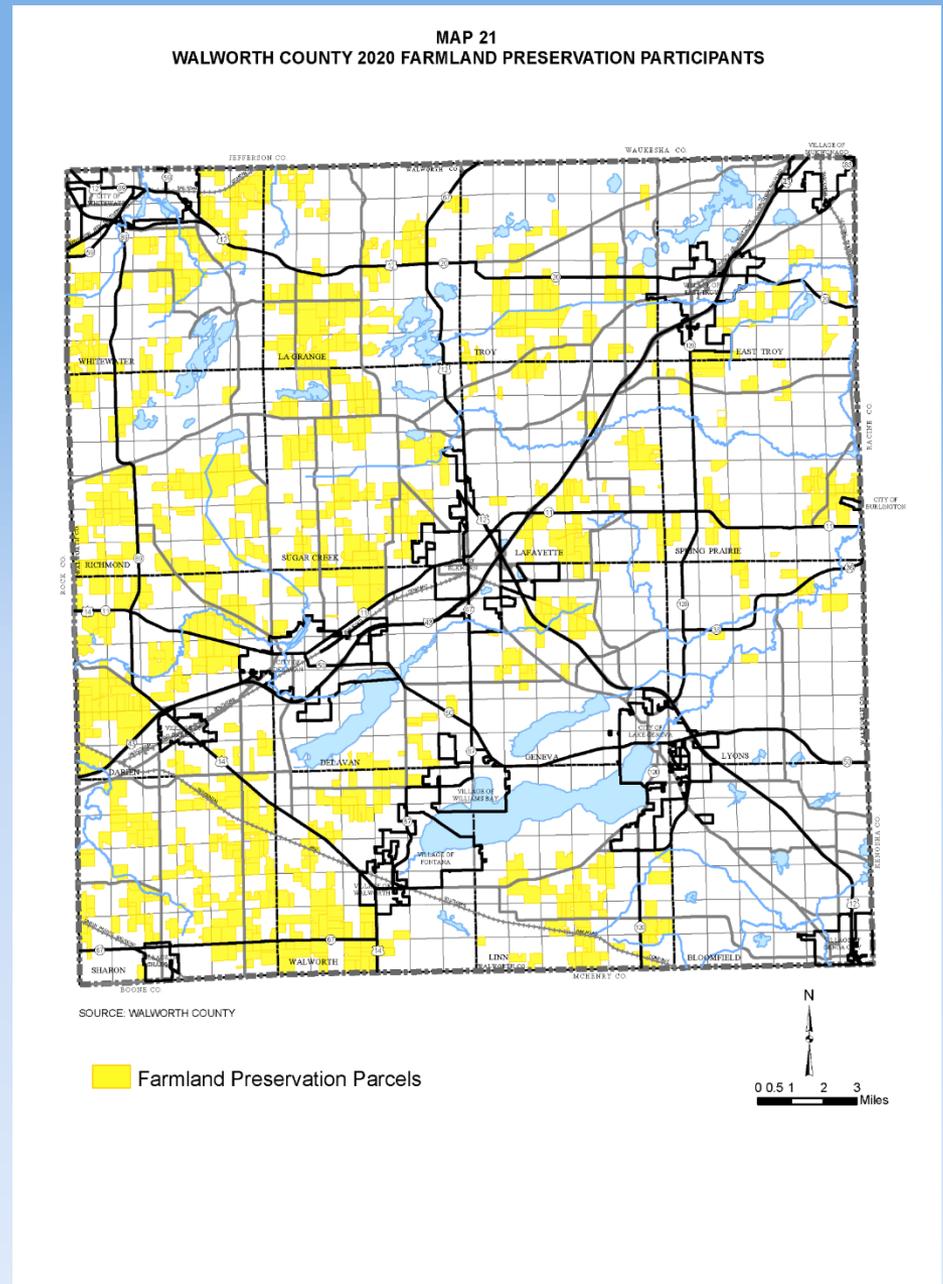
A1-4



Farmland Preservation Program

Over 350 landowners participate in the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Program. Each year the Land Conservation Staff perform over 90 conservation compliance reviews of program participants.

This map depicts parcels currently enrolled in the FPP.



Educating Farmers, Residents and Business Owners



Using workshops, community presentations, or just one-on-one, the Land Conservation Division Staff generously provides Information and education to encourage the use of conservation practices to protect Walworth County natural resources.

Educating Farmers, Residents and Business Owners

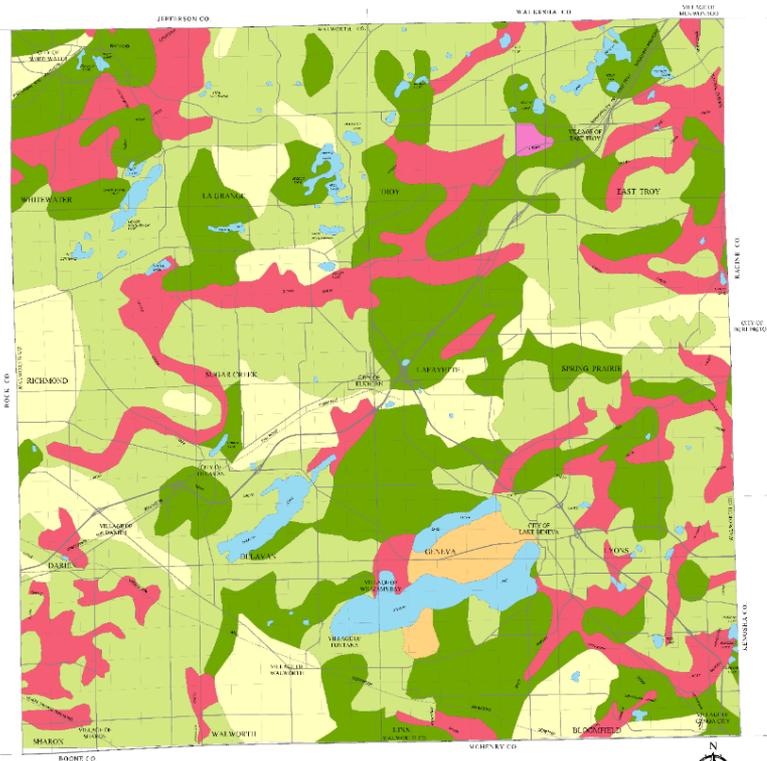


Conservation staff have held a number of soil health field days and are actively engaged in developing a producer-led watershed protection group. The 2021 budget includes funding to hire a part time employee to facilitate and support a producer-led group.

Protecting Special Places in Walworth County

Walworth County has lost 83 percent of its pre-settlement natural vegetation. The pre-settlement natural vegetation included prairie, oak savanna, upland woods and wetlands. Approximately 228 acres or 0.1 percent of Walworth County's original prairie and oak savanna remain. This map shows the distribution of pre-settlement vegetation.

Groups such as the Kettle Moraine Land Trust, Geneva Lake Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy are actively working to save and restore the oak savannahs in the county. These groups have protected more than 4,100 acres of land in Walworth County



Zone16 Original Vegetation

Species

■	Brush
■	Marsh and Sedge Meadow, Wet Prairie, Lowland Shrubs
■	Oak - White Oak, Black Oak, Bur Oak
■	Oak Openings - Bur Oak, White Oak, Black Oak
■	Prairie
■	Sugar Maple, Basswood, Red Oak, White Oak, Black Oak
■	Water

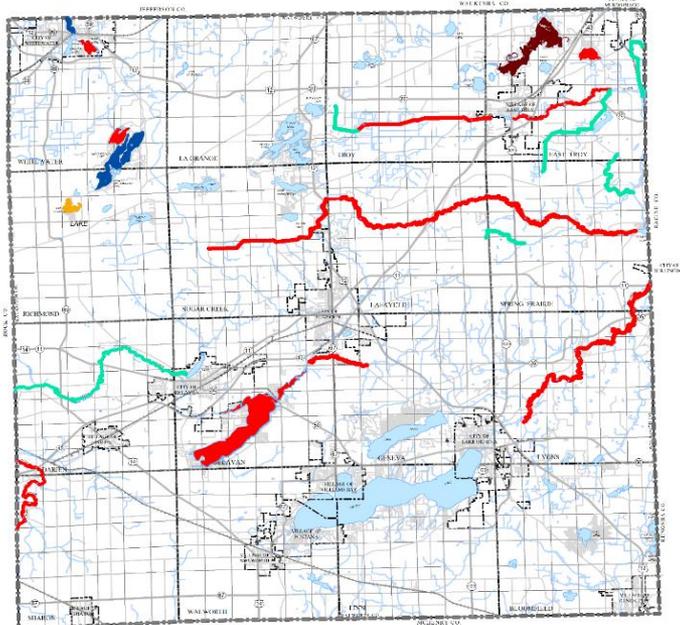
Description

This is a polygon shapefile derived from a 1:500,000-scale map showing the original, pre-settlement vegetation cover in Wisconsin. The original vegetation cover data was digitized from a 1976 map created from land survey notes written in the mid-1800s when Wisconsin was first surveyed. Linework representing lakes and other hydrographic areas in other data sets were subsequently merged with the original vegetation cover data set to more closely match the source map.

303(d) impaired waters

In 2009, 7 water bodies were designated on the impaired water bodies list for not meeting water quality standards and occur on the List of Impaired Waters, (WDNR, 2003). Today, that number has increased to 16. Efforts will be made with the County's work plan to identify other waterways that are likely to meet impairment criteria in the near future and focus conservation efforts in those watersheds.

MAP 11
WALWORTH COUNTY IMPAIRED WATERS STATUS



SOURCE: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Surface Water Data Viewer

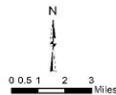
WALWORTH COUNTY IMPAIRED WATERS

LAKE STATUS

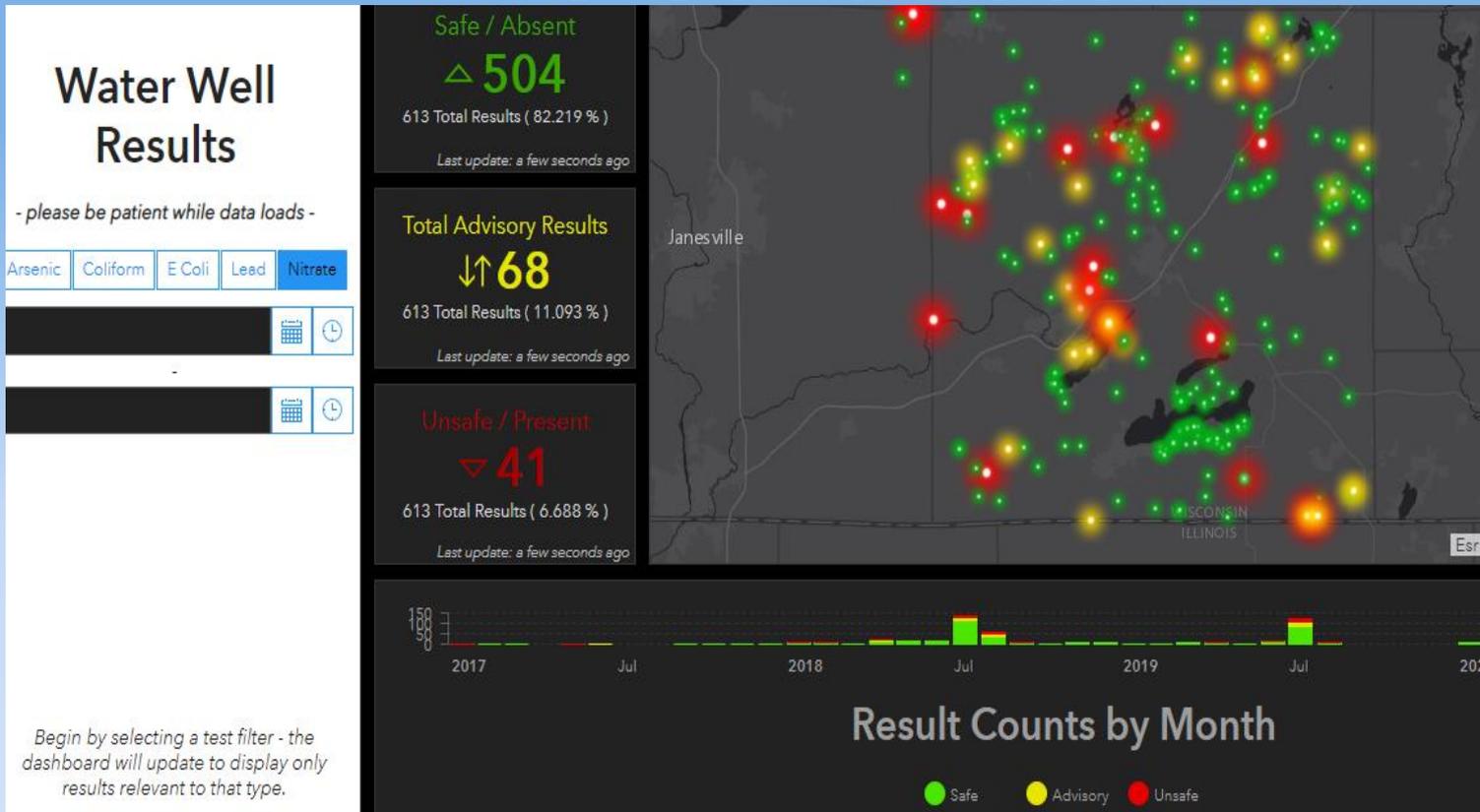
- 303(d) Listed
- Proposed for List
- Water Delisted
- Other or Multiple TMDLs

RIVER STATUS

- 303(d) Listed
- Water Delisted
- TMDL Approved



Groundwater



Some parts of the county, primarily in the SW area, are seeing increasing trends of nitrate levels in wells.

The County Conservation office has been working closely with the public health department to tackle concerns related to Nitrates in drinking water.

Additional testing will help the County identify true trends and help focus their activities. The Health Department has developed a well water dashboard that helps with this effort.

Accomplished!

2011-2019

Activity	Unit	2011-2015	2016-2019	Total
Grassed Waterways	acres	95	41	136
Water & Sediment Control Basin	No.	3	13	16
Diversions	feet	4967	3590	8,557
Manure Storage/Barn runoff	No.	8	6	14
Terraces	feet	800	3800	4,600
Nutrient Management Planning	acres	62,350	14,144	76,494
Erosion Control/Stormwater Permits.	No.	1678	1937	3,615
Clean Water Diversions	Feet	Not tracked	3875	3875
NMM Reclamation Plans Monitored	No.	30	22	NA

Walworth County Investment in Conservation

DATCP/DNR Staffing Grants \$1,460,319

County Cost \$4,733,407

Revenues/Other Grants \$1,597,446

Total County Investment \$1,675,642

DATCP/DNR Cost Share Projects

Paid Directly to Producers \$770,638



Plan Development

Citizen's Advisory Committee, Met May 6, 2020 and August 27, 2020

Adam Lasch	Owner, Lasch Livestock and Land Solutions
Greg Rajskey	Director, Kettle Moraine Land Trust
Jen McMannamy	Village of Williams Bay Board of Trustees
JR Reesman	Operator, Non-Metallic Mining Facility
Karen Yancey	Director, Geneva Lake Conservancy
Mary Pat O'Connor	President, Delavan Lake Improvement Association
Perry Brown	Director, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute
Larry Meyer	Landowner, Volunteer Water Quality Monitor

Plan Development

Technical Advisory Committee, Met May 7, 2020 and August 26, 2020

Andrew Craig	Watershed Planning, WDNR
Becca Dymzarov	Stream Monitoring Coordinator, Rock River Coalition
Ted Peters	Director, Geneva Lake Environmental Agency
Heidi Bunk	Lakes Specialist, WDNR
Jesse Bennett	NR 151 Coordinator, WDNR
Justin Poinsette	Senior Specialist- Biologist, SEWRPC
Lisa Trumble	Agricultural Resources Management, DATCP
Michelle Scarpace	Natural Resources Educator, UW Division of Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
Neal Kolb	Administrator, Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District
Rachel Sabre	Biologist, WDNR
Jim Versweyveld	Agriculture Agent, UW Division of Extension of the University of Wisconsin- Madison

What's New for Next Ten Years??

- Producer Led Watershed Program
- Cover Crops/Soil Health
- Nitrate in groundwater/wells
- Greater Involvement with Lake Management and Aquatic Invasive Species (New/different funding opportunities)
- Terrestrial Invasive Species
- Greater involvement with programs such as the Healthy Lakes Initiative and riparian landowner programs.
- Volunteer Monitoring
- Update of Regional Natural Areas and Critical Species Habitat Management Plan
- Monitor and document localized flooding and drainage
- Stakeholder groups participating in conservation efforts (e.g.- Delavan Lake Improvement Association cost-share program, Geneva Lake Conservancy's Geneva Lake Task Force)
- Vegetation management in Environmental Corridors
- Prioritizing Multi-Discharger Variance (MDV) Funds/
- Working with WWTP
- Chloride Study by SEWRPC



Walworth County



Land and Water Resource Management Plan Goals

1. Protect Walworth County lakes, streams and wetlands from agricultural runoff.
2. Protect Walworth County streams, lakes, wetlands and groundwater from the adverse impact of urban development.
3. Balance natural resources protection with the need for aggregate resources and the high abundance of these resources throughout Walworth County.
4. Prevent the introduction and dispersal of invasive species in Walworth County lakes, streams, wetlands and upland landscapes.
5. Protect Walworth County's productive agricultural land.
6. Preserve and restore Walworth County's environmental corridors, natural areas, critical species habitat sites, wetlands, floodplains and groundwater.
7. Protect Walworth County's watersheds by seeking collaboration and supporting partnerships.
8. Initiate a solution-based information and education outreach programs to land users, youth, residents, businesses, visitors and elected officials to encourage the support and use of sustainable conservation practices.

Questions?