

Annual Report



2015

LA CROSSE COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF
LAND CONSERVATION

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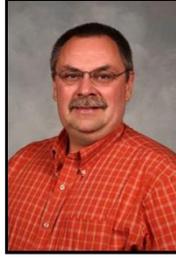
PLANNING, RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



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DLC Responsibilities

The Department of Land Conservation is charged with protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural resources of the county. Through direction and supervision from the Planning, Resources and Development (PR&D) Committee, the DLC implements programs that promote wise land use decisions that conserve and protect our soil and water resources. The Department is the local delivery mechanism for many Federal and State sponsored conservation related initiatives.

The Department consists of trained and experienced staff that provides a wide range of planning and technical assistance in both agricultural and urban environmental protection strategies. The diverse landscape and varied land uses in La Crosse County presents complex challenges for natural resource managers. The Department of Land Conservation staff has the expertise to provide solutions to those problems.

Programs

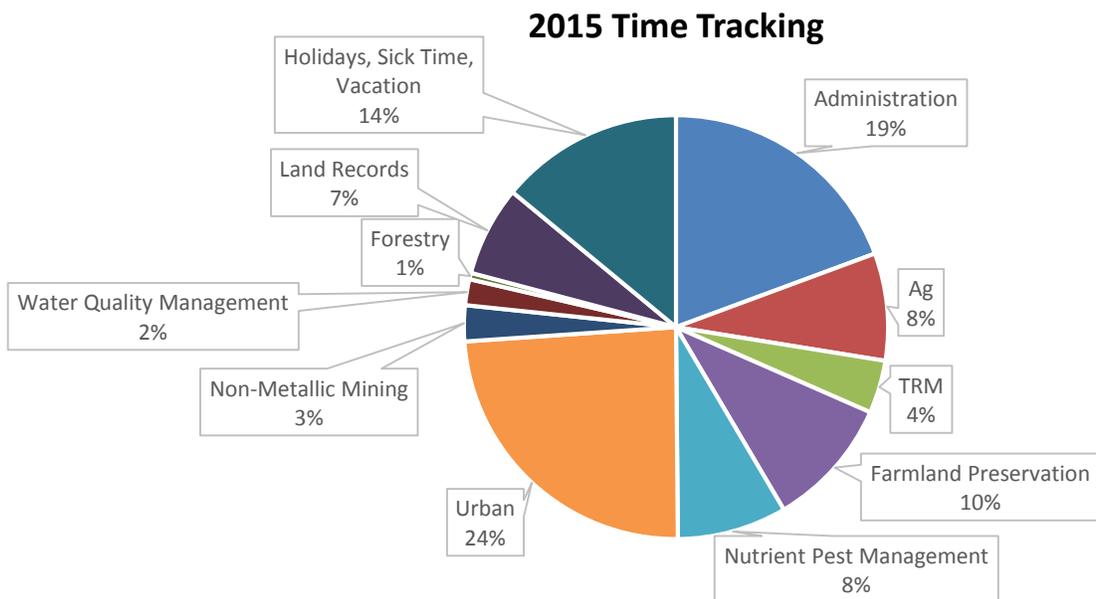
Rural

1. Administer the La Crosse County Animal Waste Management Ordinance
2. Administer the Conservation Requirements of the Farmland Preservation Program
3. Administer the State Agriculture Performance Standard Requirements
4. Provide Nutrient Management Planning Services
5. Administer a County Wide Water Quality Monitoring Program
6. Provide the Technical Assistance for the Installation of Best Management Practices
7. Administer the Timber Harvest Program in the County Forest System
8. Administer the State Livestock Facility Siting Rule
9. Provide conservation compliance requirements for the State's Working Lands Initiative.
10. Administer the Land and Water Resource Management Plan
11. Provide mapping, GIS, and LiDAR related services
12. Provide cost-share assistance for installation of Best Management Practices
13. Aquatic Invasive Species Cooperation
14. Soil Testing and Animal Waste Nutrient Analysis
15. Non-metallic Mining Ordinance
16. Maintain PL-566 Flood Control Structures

Urban

1. Administer the Erosion Control Land Disturbance Ordinance
2. Administer the Erosion Control Provision of the Uniform Dwelling Code
3. Provide Site Evaluations for Urban and Rural Landowners
4. Provide Site Evaluations for PR&D Committee Review and Approval
5. Administer the Technical Requirements of the Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance
6. Administer the Storm Water Management Ordinance
7. Implement the Storm Water Management Public Outreach and Education Program

Staff Time 2015



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2015

Land and Water Resource Management Plan

The Land and Water Resource Management plan is a requirement of ATCP 50.12 and is revised every five to ten years. It provides goals and objectives that the Department of Land Conservation proposes to implement as a means of reducing both urban and agricultural nonpoint sources of pollution from degrading our surface and groundwater resources and protecting our soils from erosion.

The Planning, Resources and Development Committee, through the LWRM plan, has set the following water quality goals for La Crosse County:

Total Phosphorus: 0.05 mg/L or less. To prevent excessively high phosphorus levels that may lead to eutrophic conditions and low dissolved oxygen levels in lakes and streams. Phosphorus in surface waters promotes excessive weed growth that interferes with water based recreational activities and can cause fish kills when conditions cause oxygen levels in the water to plummet.

Fecal Coliform Bacteria: Less than 1,000 colonies per 100ml. High bacteria counts in water resources can cause skin rashes and gastro-intestinal illnesses when people come in contact with such conditions and indicate that more harmful bacteria and viruses are likely present.

Dissolved Oxygen: No less than 5 mg/L at any time; no less than 6 mg/L for trout waters; and no less than 7 mg/L during spawning season. Dissolved oxygen levels in trout streams are critical for their survival. Levels below 5 mg/L for extended periods often kill native trout or force them to move to other segments of the stream where conditions are more suitable. The loss of local trout populations reduces the recreational value of the water resource and diminishes fishing opportunities for sportsmen.

That surface waters attain their fishery potential as indicated in the DNR Black River Basin Water Quality Management Plan, and Bad Axe-La Crosse Rivers Water Quality Management Plan.

Through the Land and Water Resource Management planning process, the Department of Land Conservation has established the following objectives to achieve the County's water quality goals:

1. Implement the State's Agricultural Conservation Performance Standards
2. Implement the State's Urban Conservation Performance Standards.
3. Conduct public information and education activities
4. Maintain the Department's water quality monitoring and data collection program.

Accomplishments

The Department of Land Conservation is primarily responsible for providing planning, technical and financial assistance to county farmers to assist them in meeting the State's agricultural conservation performance standards. The Department accomplishes this through implementation of the State's Farmland Preservation Program, the Soil and Water Resource Management Program, the Livestock Facility Siting Rule and the County's Animal Waste Management Ordinance.

1. Implement the State's Agricultural Conservation Performance Standards

Soil and Water Resource Management Program

The Soil and Water Resource Management Program provides financial assistance, usually in the form of cost-share dollars, to landowners who install conservation measures that meet the requirements of the County's Land and Water Resource Management Plan. The Land and Water Resource Management Plan lists goals and objectives that the Department of Land Conservation proposes to implement as a means of reducing both urban and agricultural nonpoint sources of pollution from degrading our surface and groundwater resources and protecting our soils from erosion. The program is also intended to help farmers achieve the State's agricultural conservation performance standards. In 2015, \$236,249.22 was allocated to county farmers to help them install conservation measures that meet the State's Soil and Water Conservation Standards. Please refer to Table 1.

Environmental Fund

The Department of Land Conservation maintains an account in its annual budget called the Environmental Fund. The Fund is used to provide financial assistance for soil sampling crop fields for County landowners who develop nutrient management plans on their farming operations. The soil samples provide information regarding the macro nutrient level (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) of the sampled fields so that nutrient management planners can recommend the appropriate applications of animal manures and commercial fertilizers.

The Environmental Fund also provides cost-share assistance to landowners for conservation practice installation that may not be covered under other conservation programs. In 2015, the Department of Land Conservation provided \$29,141.92 for soil testing, manure testing, nutrient management workshops, and conservation practice installation. See Table 1. In 2015, department staff provided services for the installation of the following conservation practices:

TABLE 1

Farmer	Type of Project	TRM	SWRM	Environmental Fund	Landowner Funds	Total Cost of Project	
#01	Barnyard Runoff Control System		\$ 4,200.00		\$ 1,800.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 11,981.60
	Animal Trails		\$ 4,187.12	\$ 598.16	\$ 1,196.32	\$ 5,981.60	
#02	Barnyard Runoff Control System		\$ 1,897.00	\$ 542.00	\$ 271.00	\$ 2,710.00	\$ 32,449.27
			\$ 20,817.49	\$ 5,947.85	\$ 2,973.93	\$ 29,739.27	
#03	Streambank		\$ 10,568.60	\$ 3,019.60	\$ 1,509.80	\$ 15,098.00	\$ 15,098.00
#04	Well Decommissioning		\$ 5,600.00		\$ 2,400.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
#05	Diversion		\$ 2,477.51		\$ 1,061.79	\$ 3,539.30	\$ 3,539.30
#06	Critical Area		\$ 2,915.50	\$ 833.00	\$ 416.50	\$ 4,165.00	\$ 4,165.00
#07	Roof		\$ 56,000.00		\$122,474.62	\$178,474.62	\$178,474.62
#08	Grade Stabilization			\$ 522.91	\$ 224.22	\$ 747.13	\$ 747.13
#09	Structure Repair			\$ 585.00	\$ 585.00	\$ 1,170.00	\$ 1,170.00
#10	Manure Storage Facility	\$ 78,680.00			\$ 74,370.00	\$153,050.00	\$153,050.00
Misc	Nutrient Mgt Grant		\$127,586.00			\$127,586.00	\$127,586.00
Misc	Nutrient Mgt Workshops			\$ 435.20		\$ 435.20	\$ 17,093.40
	Soil Tests			\$ 16,428.20		\$ 16,428.20	
	Manure Tests			\$ 110.00		\$ 110.00	
	Recording Fees			\$ 120.00		\$ 120.00	
Total		\$78,680.00	\$236,249.22	\$29,141.92	\$209,283.18		\$553,354.32

Nutrient Management Planning

As of January 1, 2008 all landowners in Wisconsin who apply manure or commercial fertilizer must develop a nutrient management plan (N.R. 151). These plans identify optimal fertilizer rates and determine if landowners have sufficient acres for spreading. Landowners can develop their plan through the Department or through a private consultant.

The Department is actively promoting nutrient management by providing cost-sharing and annual planning workshops. The workshops, held in conjunction with UW-Extension and NRCS, are offered to all landowners who apply animal manure or commercial fertilizer. Priority is given to those landowners who need a manure storage or feedlot permit, who receive cost share monies through the Federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) or Organic Incentive, or who are enrolled in the State's Farmland Preservation Program.

Landowners with existing nutrient management plans are encouraged to complete an annual update to remain in compliance with state rules. Landowners can attend an update workshop, update on their own and provide us a copy, or may update digitally.

In 2015, sixteen farmers who operate 29 farms developed nutrient management plans on 3,366 acres of cropland. Staff also assisted 144 operators in updating 34,792 cropland acres. Total cropland acres enrolled in the program are now 47,533 (or 64% of an estimated 74,500). Based on survey scores beginning in 2000, nutrient management implementation in La Crosse County has improved by 38%.



Nutrient Management Summary, La Crosse County (1999 - 2015)

TABLE 2

Crop Year	New Farms Planned	Soil Sample \$\$\$\$	New Cropland Acres Planned	Cropland Acres Updated	Total Cropland Acres in NPM	Total Farm Acres in NPM
1999	9	\$ 1,584	1,139		1,139	2,569
2000	31	\$ 3,279	2,339	312	3,478	7,565
2001	23	\$ 2,807	4,326	673	7,804	13,513
2002	36	\$ 3,860	3,293	2,331	11,097	20,563
2003	17	\$ 2,825	2,061	6,588	13,158	24,735
2004	33	\$ 2,807	2,585	6,774	15,743	29,127
2005	26	\$ 2,778	2,097	8,146	17,840	33,264
2006	18	\$ 2,211	1,477	10,023	19,317	36,516
2007	19	\$ 3,472	1,270	9,463	20,587	39,788
2008	29	\$ 9,106	2,647	11,373	23,234	45,443
2009	22	\$ 5,456	2,270	12,425	25,504	50,711
2010	41	\$ 12,000	3,164	13,460	28,668	58,483
2011	41	\$ 9,033	3,067	19,785	31,735	65,281
2012	61	\$ 14,816	5,357	21,623	37,092	77,967
2013	63	\$ 17,296	4,798	26,437	41,890	89,337
2014	34	\$ 8,907	2,277	29,295	44,167	94,167
2015	29	\$ 6,028	3,366	34,762	47,533	101,168

Nutrient Management Farmer Education Program

In 2015, the Department of Land Conservation received a grant from DATCP for \$10,625 to conduct farmer training programs that educate them regarding nutrient management planning. The grant was used to develop a soil sampling training workshop that instructed farmers how to conduct their own soil sampling, which is a key component of a nutrient management plan.



One field workshop was conducted in April. There were 9 farmers in attendance at the April workshop. In all, 1,657 soil samples were taken on 3,366 acres of cropland in La Crosse County. The soil samples show farmers what their nutrient levels are in their fields so that they do not over apply manure or commercial fertilizers. This keeps our rivers and streams clean and also saves the farmer money.

Animal Waste Management Ordinance

The Department of Land Conservation is primarily responsible for implementing the County's Animal Waste Management Ordinance, Chapter 23, La Crosse County Code of Ordinances. The Animal Waste Management Ordinance requires that landowners apply for and receive a permit from the Department of Land Conservation for the construction of any new or substantially altered manure storage facility and/or animal feedlot. The Department of Land Conservation staff assist landowners by reviewing the soils foundation investigation report, engineering designs and monitoring construction compliance to ensure that established practice standards and specifications are followed.

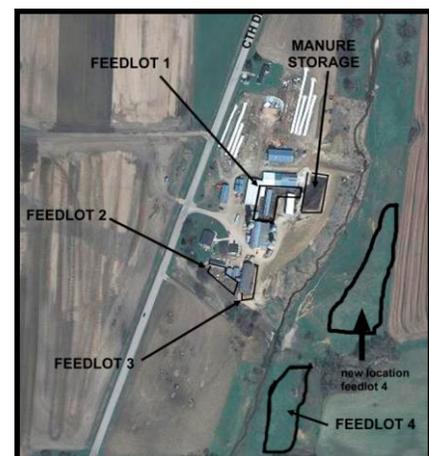
In 2015 department staff issued 0 manure storage permits and 5 animal feedlot permits.

Farmland Preservation Program

The Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program was created to prevent the conversion of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses, primarily caused by urban sprawl. Landowners who met minimum eligibility criteria were given a tax credit by agreeing to keep their land in agricultural production and stay in compliance with the program's soil and water conservation requirements. The Department of Land Conservation provides planning, technical and financial assistance to County farmers to meet those conservation requirements.

In 2015, staff provided the following services to county Farmland Preservation Program participants:

- 5 # of Farm operation assessments
- 710 # of Cropland acres assessed for conservation compliance requirements
- 221 # of Farms spot checked for compliance with program requirements
- 6,500 # of cropped fields that were spot checked for conservation compliance
- 27,793 # of cropland acres that were spot checked for conservation compliance
- 15 # of farms with a newly approved nutrient management plan
- 180 # of farms with approved nutrient management plans
- 17,304 # of cropland acres that were planned under a nutrient management program
- 136 # of Farmers receiving a Certificate of Compliance



2. Implement the State’s Urban Conservation Performance Standards

Urbanized areas have shown to contribute greatly to polluted runoff water in La Crosse County. Because many urban areas include impervious surfaces such as roads, roofs, sidewalks and parking lots, rainfall and snow melt have limited areas in which to soak into the ground. Due to the decreased areas for infiltration in urban areas, more storm water runoff is forced to enter drainage ways, storm drains, streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands. Any pollutants that are on these impervious surfaces - like tire rubber, gas, oil and radiator fluids are often carried with the runoff water as well, polluting our surface water resources.

Construction sites for new homes and commercial buildings, if not protected with conservation measures, can contribute significant amounts of sediment and nutrients into local water ways. Over fertilization of lawns carries excessive nutrients and potentially herbicides to storm sewer inlets that dump into the La Crosse, Black and Mississippi Rivers. Even leaves and grass clippings can lead to degraded surface waters.

The La Crosse County Land Conservation Department implements local programs such as the Erosion Control and Land Disturbance Ordinance, the Post-Construction Storm Water Management Ordinance and the Public Outreach and Education Program to reduce the impacts from urban related pollution on the surface waters of La Crosse County.

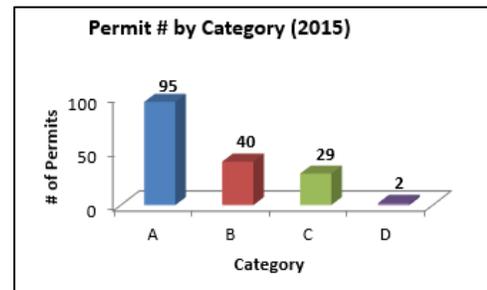
Erosion Control and Land Disturbance Ordinance

In 1992, The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors approved the Erosion Control and Land Disturbance Ordinance for the purpose of minimizing the amount of sediment carried by runoff or discharged from land disturbance activities to perennial waters, wetlands, private properties and public right-of-ways. Department staff assist landowners, developers, contractors and loggers to develop and implement erosion control plans to reduce on-site erosion of soils and prevent sediment delivery to nearby surface water resources.

In 2015, department staff provided the following services:

TABLE 3

Category	% Slope	# of Permits	\$ Amount
A	0 – 12%	95	\$ 18,800
B	13 – 20%	40	\$ 11,000
C	21 – 30%	29	\$ 13,360
D	Logging Roads	2	\$ 200
		166	\$ 43,360



Construction Description 2015

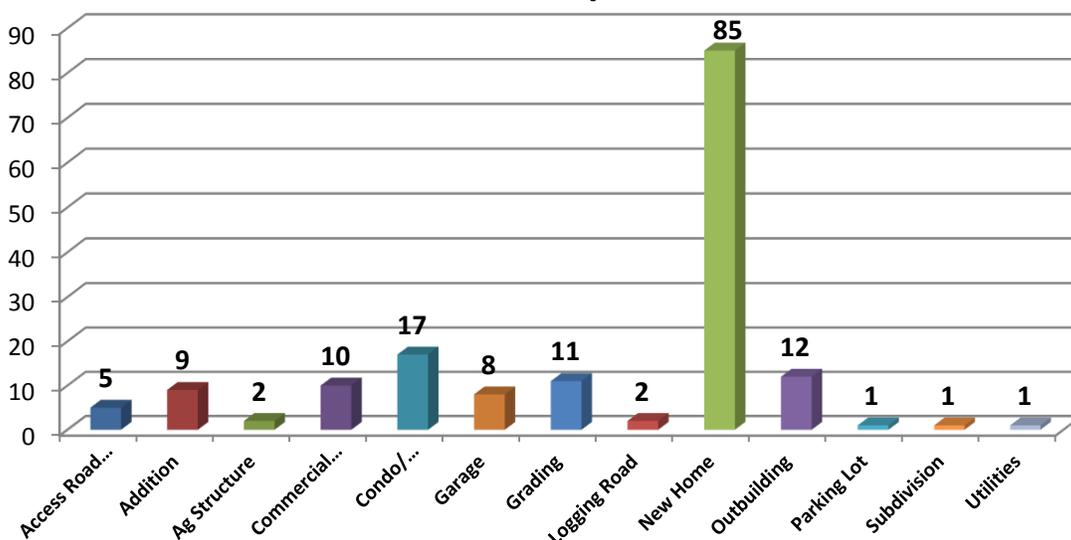
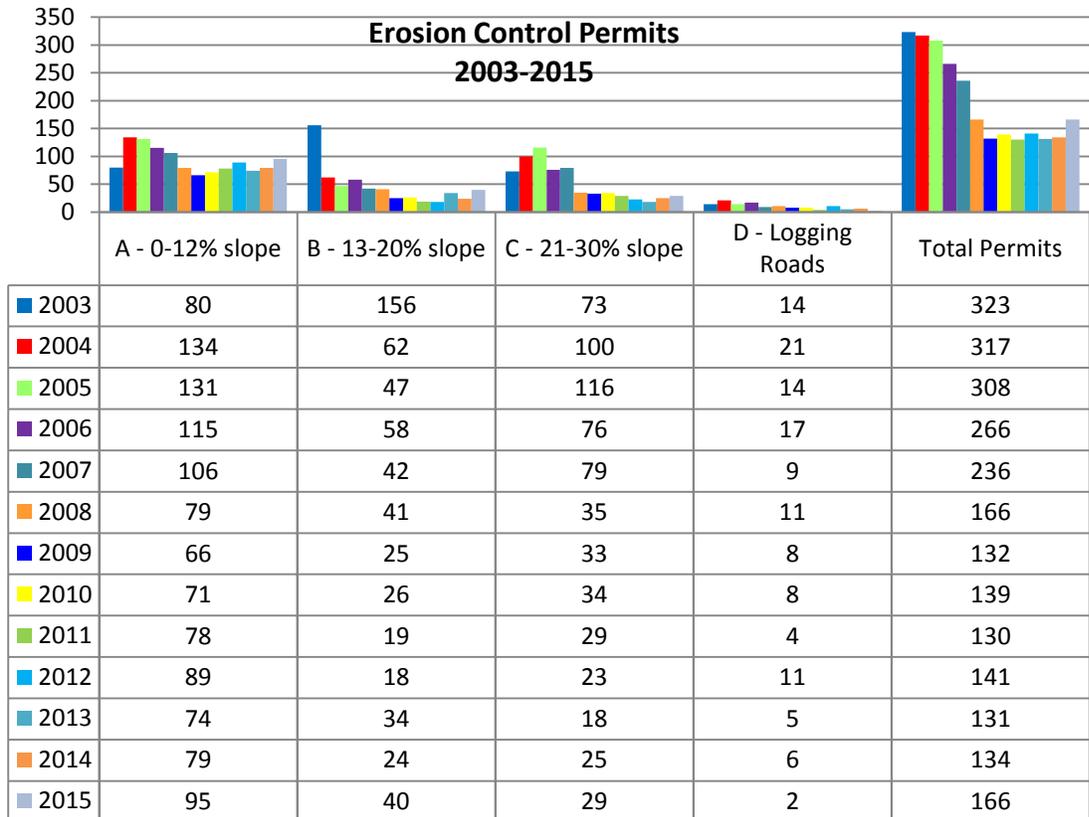


TABLE 4

In 2015, there were a total 166 Erosion Control Permits issued – which is slightly higher than the six prior years.

During a housing surge, there were a total of:
 323 Erosion Control Permits issued in 2003, 317 in 2004, and 308 in 2005.



Post Construction Storm Water Management Ordinance

In 2008, The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors approved the Post Construction Storm Water Management Ordinance for the purpose of setting minimum requirements for storm water management that will diminish the threats to public health, safety, public and private property and the aquatic environment. More specifically, the ordinance will prevent excessive channel erosion, minimize water pollution from storm water runoff, protect cold water stream habitats from thermal pollution, protect natural water courses and wetlands by promoting runoff infiltration and groundwater recharge and protect public and private property from damage resulting from uncontrolled storm water runoff.

In 2015, the Department of Land Conservation provided the following services while implementing the Post Construction Storm Water Management Ordinance:

- ❖ Valley Storage - \$1,001.15 – storage condos
- ❖ Northern Land Holdings - \$1,101.96 – storage condos
- ❖ ALT Investments (Willow Heights) - \$4,124 - subdivision
- ❖ Manke Dairy - \$707.78 – dairy expansion
- ❖ Kwik Trip - \$500 – commercial building
- ❖ Holland Villas - \$770 - subdivision
- ❖ Servais/Verizon - \$542.88 – cell tower

The Department of Land Conservation participates in the La Crosse County Urban Storm Water Group. The group is composed of the City of La Crosse, City of Onalaska, Village of Holmen, Village of West Salem, Town of Onalaska, Town of Shelby, and Town of Holland. The purpose of the Group is to provide a single source information and outreach program for all participating municipalities meeting the requirements of the State’s Storm Water Management Rule and to increase awareness of storm water impacts on waters of the state while avoiding duplication of efforts and saving costs. The Group has contracted services with NewGround, an environmental education company, to implement the information and public outreach program.

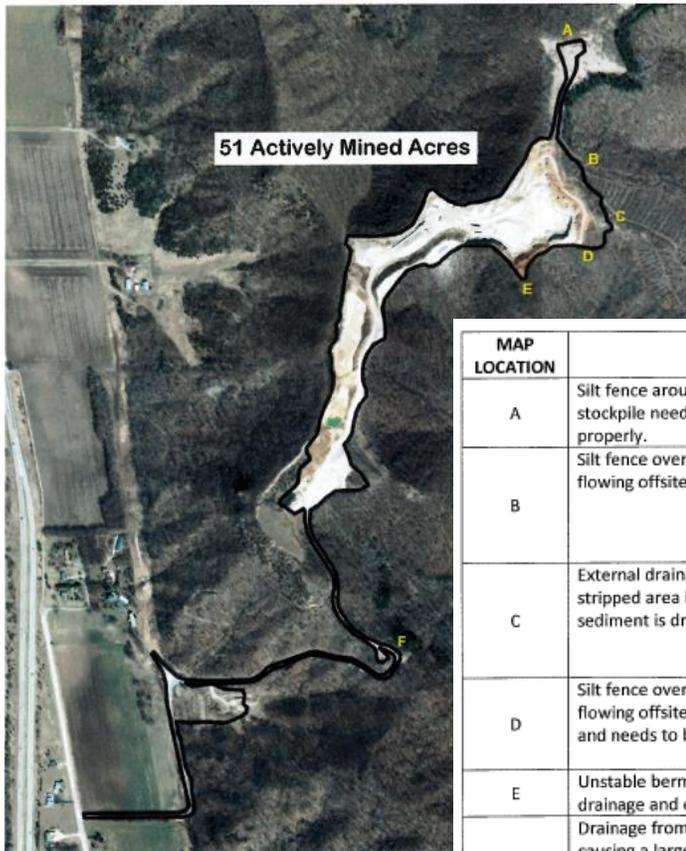
In 2015, the following education and public outreach activities were conducted:

- ✓ *Maintain and expand the La Crosse Waters website*
- ✓ *Continue an outreach program to contractors and developers regarding erosion control*
- ✓ *Work with local Habitat Restore on storm water management plan*
- ✓ *Work with Western Technical College students on developing storm water management construction plans*

3. Non Metallic Mining Ordinance

In June of 2001, the county began administering the state mandated Non-Metallic Mining Program (NMM). A non-metallic mine is an area of one acre or larger where non-metallic minerals are extracted.

The NMM Program is intended to regulate the responsible use and management of mining operations and their properties. In the past, non-metallic mining operations often removed marketable material and left behind a barren landscape of spoil piles and waste products. The ordinance requires the land to be reclaimed to a use consistent with zoning requirements.



Annually, Land Conservation staff visit each permitted mining site to determine how much land is being mined or reclaimed.

The perimeter of the mine and the reclaimed acreage is measured with a hand-held GPS to calculate the amount of actively mined land. These two figures determine the annual fee amount.

MAP LOCATION	ISSUE	SOLUTION	COMPLIANCE DEADLINE	ASSOCIATED PHOTOS
A	Silt fence around the topsoil stockpile needs to be trenched in properly.	Stabilize topsoil stockpile. Properly trench silt fence during installation.	Winter 2015 Spring 2016	Photo 1
B	Silt fence overtopped with sediment flowing offsite.	Establish a stable waterway leading to a sediment basin. Sediment basin should be constructed to the WDNR technical standard with a stable outlet for the stormwater.	Winter 2015 Spring 2016	Photo 2 Photo 3 Photo 4
C	External drainage from the recently stripped area is eroding and sediment is draining offsite.	Temporarily clean out and repair the existing silt fence. Establish a berm with a stable outlet to prevent sediment from leaving the site. Seed and mulch all disturbed areas.	Winter 2015 Spring 2016	Photo 5 Photo 6 Photo 7
D	Silt fence overtopped with sediment flowing offsite. Berm is unstable and needs to be shaped.	Repair silt fence and reshape berm. Maintain internal drainage. Seed and mulch the berm and any additional disturbed areas.	Winter 2015 Spring 2016	Photo 8 Photo 9
E	Unstable berms with offsite drainage and erosion.	Reshape berms and maintain internal drainage. Seed and mulch berms.	Winter 2015 Spring 2016	Photo 10 Photo 11
F	Drainage from the haul road is causing a large washout downstream. The washout is eroding a large gully. This drainage system ultimately discharges to Long Coulee Creek which has listed by the WDNR as a 303d impaired stream. Engineered plans to remedy this issue were requested back in 2013.	Engineered plans will be required to remedy this issue. Past fixes have not been successful. Please work with an engineer to design a solution for this problem. The design will need to account for runoff calculations for multiple storm events. This haul road will be here for years to come so a permanent fix is warranted. Please contact me with any questions regarding this issue.	Engineered plans must be submitted to the DLC by January 30, 2016 Plan implementation Spring/Summer 2016	Photo 12 Photo 13 Photo 14

In 2015, there were 16 permits for a total of 205.4 active acres. A total of \$36,198 was collected – \$1,280 for DNR, \$17,459.00 for the Land Conservation Department, and \$17,459.00 for the Zoning, Planning and Land Information Department.

4. Water Quality Monitoring Program

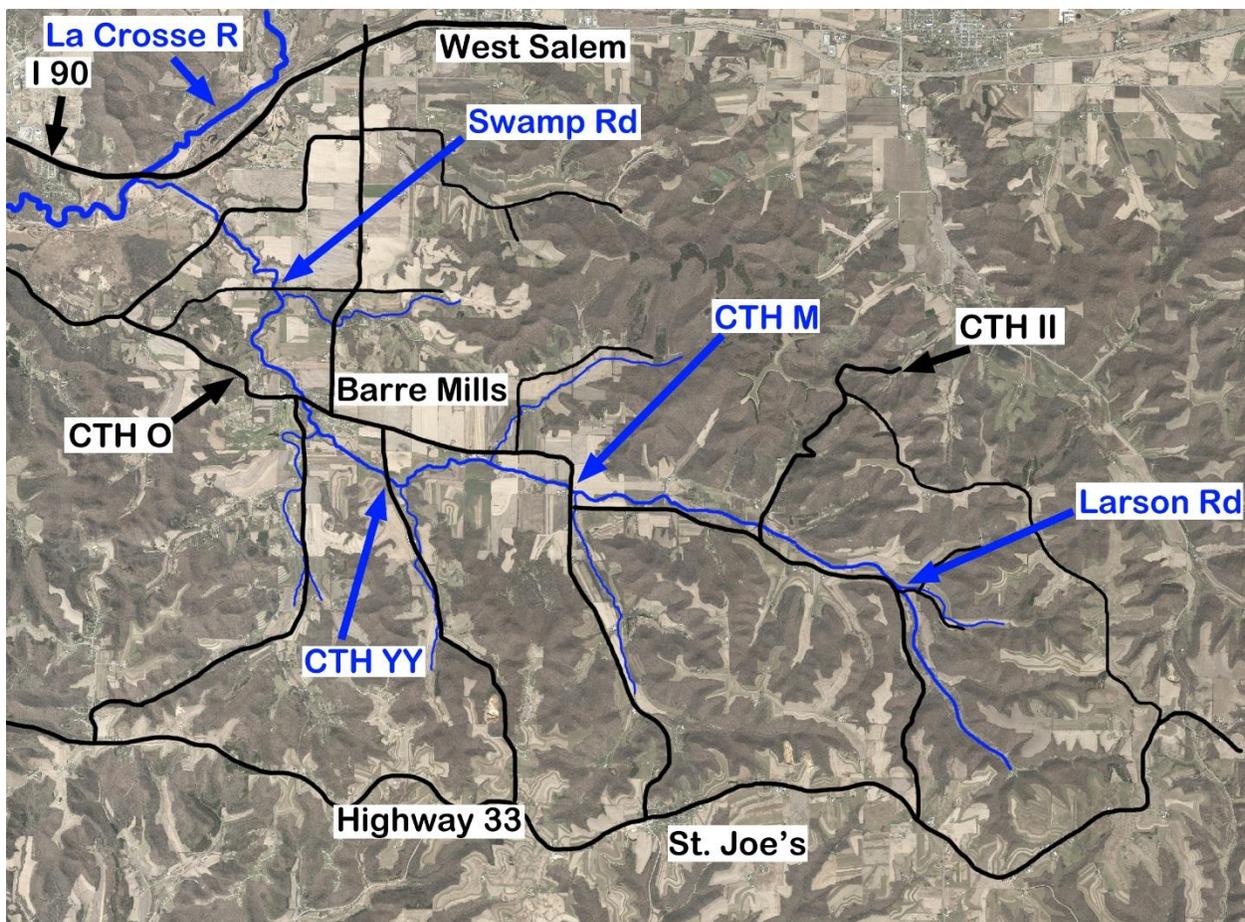
For more than a decade, the Department has implemented a county-wide surface water quality monitoring program. Program intent was to determine the relative health of the streams and to establish base-line data to support long-term monitoring efforts. The data provides natural resources managers with a better understanding of how human activities, primarily land use, affect surface water quality. The data can reveal when a lake or stream is healthy or it can alert us if it is in trouble. Department staff can concentrate their efforts in those watersheds where the water quality problems are extensive. The data is also important in determining where the Department spends its limited financial resources.

The Department's surface water quality monitoring program consists of several sampling methods:

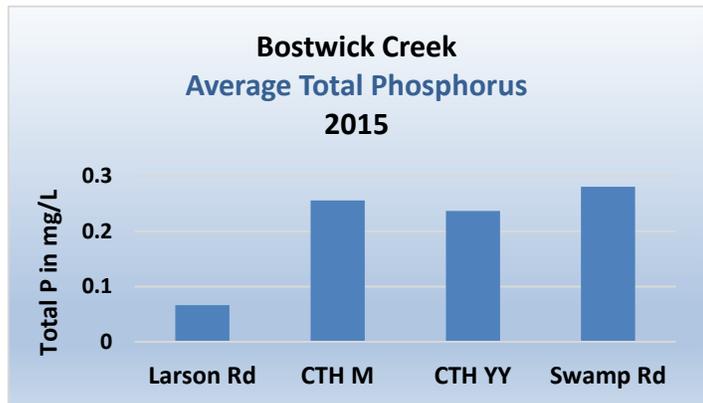
- Weekly collection of water samples on streams where major projects have been completed.
- Dutch Creek Watershed monitoring station monitors water quality on a 24 hour, 7 day-a-week basis.
- Portable optical monitoring sensors capture continuous, long-term data that is not available with the weekly county-wide sampling scheme. The three portable sensors allow the Department the mobility to closely monitor streams that are being impacted by pollution and likely aid in locating the source.
- The Department also conducts a county-wide sample run at 36 locations two times a year.

Bostwick Creek

Bostwick Creek is a tributary of the La Crosse River, located in south central La Crosse County. Bostwick flows into the La Crosse River where it intersects Interstate 90 between Onalaska and West Salem. From this point upstream to County Road O, in Barre Mills, the Wisconsin DNR has classified Bostwick as an "Impaired Waterbody" under the Clean Water Act. From Highway O upstream to its headwaters near Newberg Corners on Highway 33, the DNR has the stream listed as "Exceptional", one step shy of its highest ranking of "Outstanding".

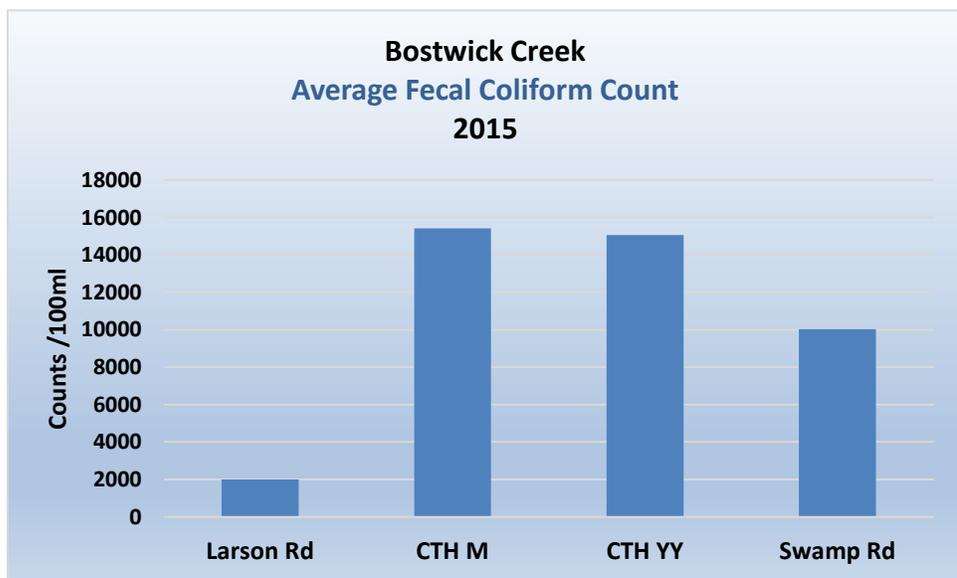
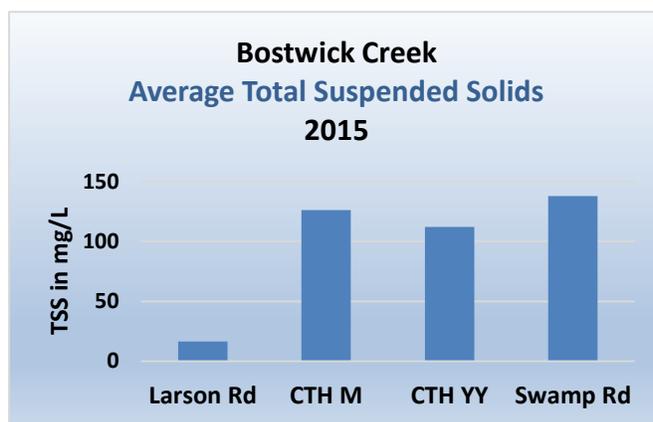


The Department started more intense monitoring of Bostwick Creek, in part, due to DNR's interest in improving this stream's water quality. Weekly water samples were collected at Larson Road, County Road M, County Road YY and Swamp Road. Samples were analyzed at the Health Department lab for total phosphorus, total suspended solids and fecal coliform bacteria. Temperature and dissolved oxygen measurements were also recorded. Probes capable of continuous monitoring of dissolved oxygen and temperature were also installed at County Road YY and Swamp Road. Averages for phosphorus, suspended solids and bacteria are illustrated in the following graphs.



The average phosphorus at Larson road is close to the County goal of 0.05 mg/L, as 17 of 24 samples met the goal. Downstream, Highway M met the goal in 7 of 24, and YY and Swamp Road each met the goal once.

Again, Larson Road had the lowest numbers and levels further downstream were much higher. The county has no official suspended solids goal.



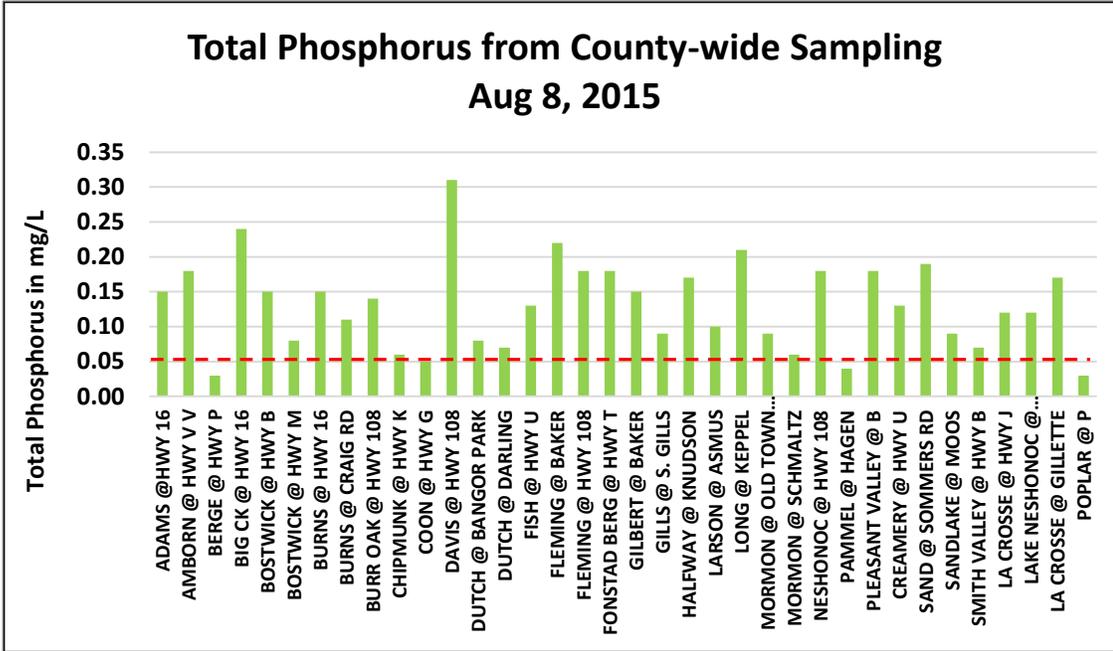
On average, Larson Road was twice as high as the county goal of 1000 counts per 100 ml of water, but 18 of 24 samples met the goal. Downstream Highway M met the goal in 15 of 24 samples, YY in 9 of 24 samples and Swamp Road in 10 of 24 samples.

Dissolved oxygen and temperature data showed good results for a trout fishery throughout the sampling period.

County-wide sampling

Over the last several years, the Department has run 2 county-wide sampling runs, the first in late spring and the second in late summer. We run them at a time when there has been no rainfall events for at least 3 days prior to the sampling run. Due to rain events and timing the sample runs with the Health Department lab, the first sample run wasn't done until August 8th. Since the first run came so late, we decided to skip the second run, but we intend on resuming our 2 per year schedule in 2016.

The following graphs are the results of the August 8 sample run.



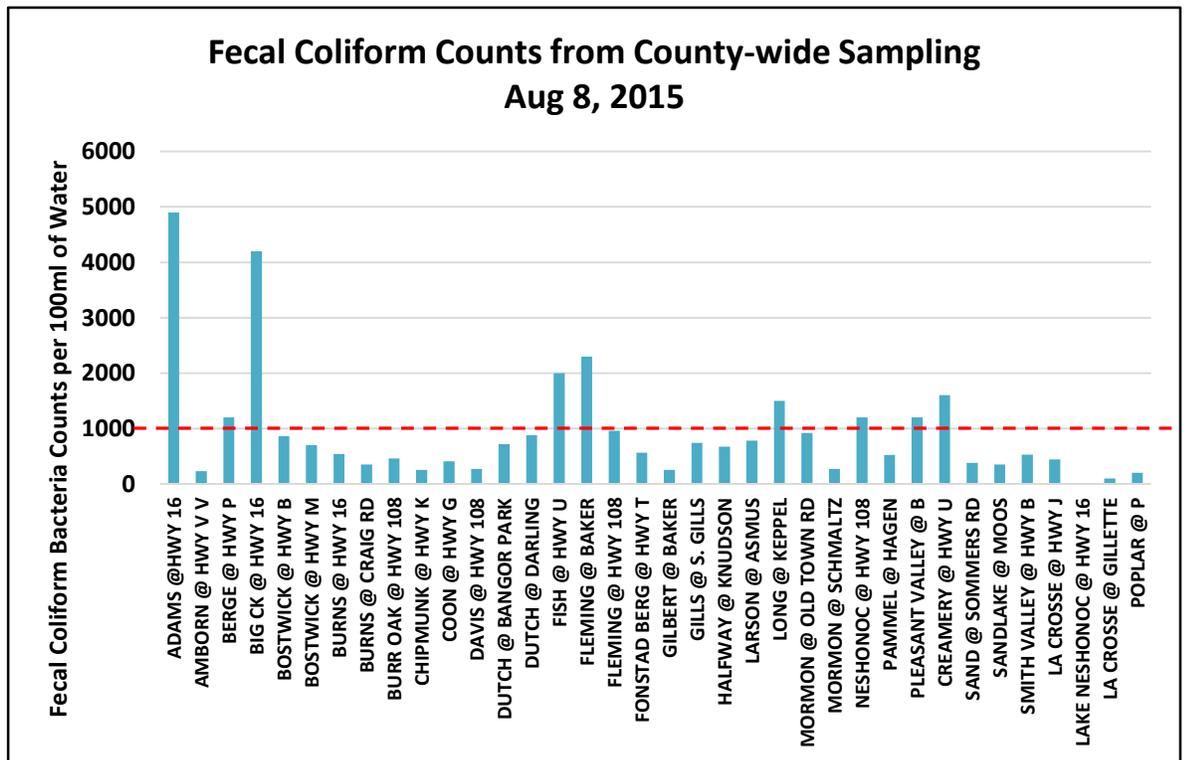
Berge, Coon, Pammel and Poplar all met the goal of 0.05 mg/L.

Chipmunk and Mormon at Schmaltz were just slightly over it. All of these streams are in the southern part of the county.

Davis Creek, near the Jackson County line, had the highest level. This stream has been consistently high for many years, but with low bacteria counts.

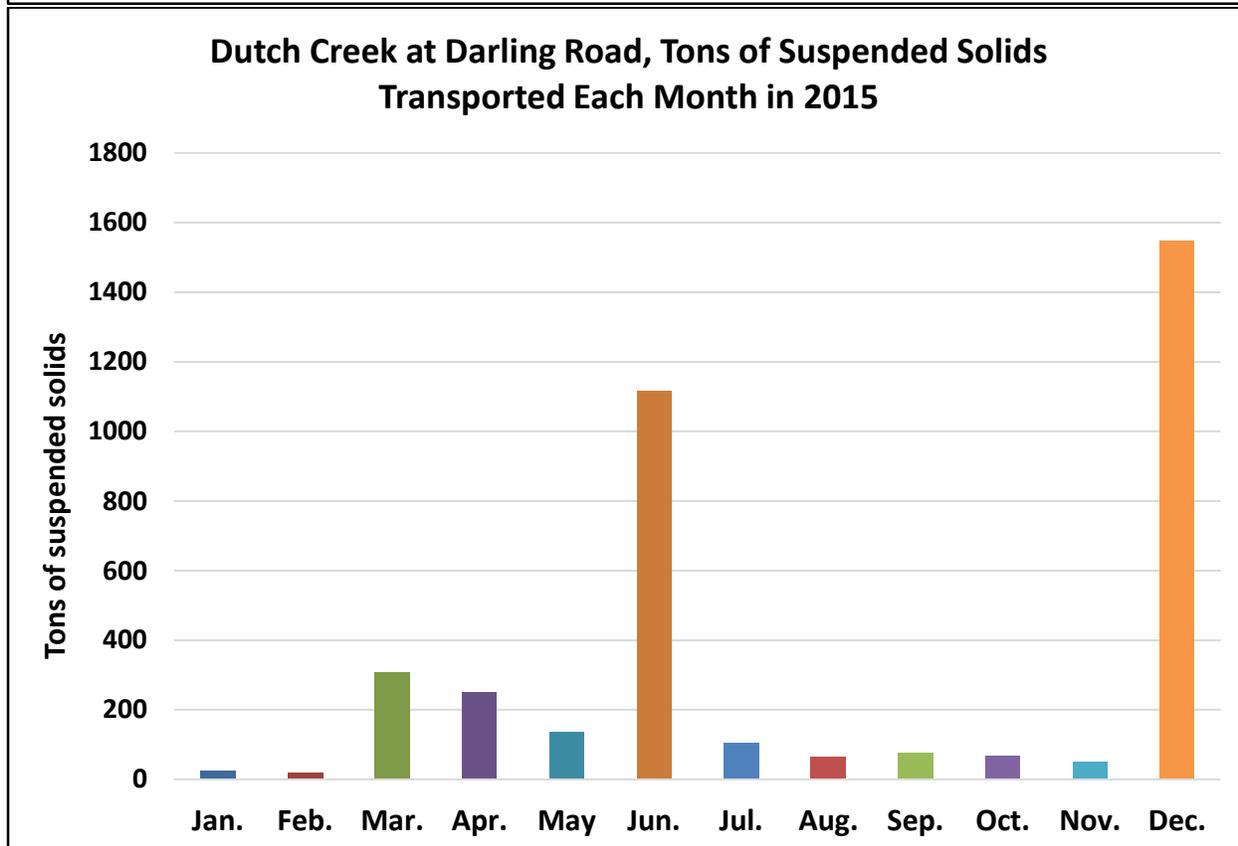
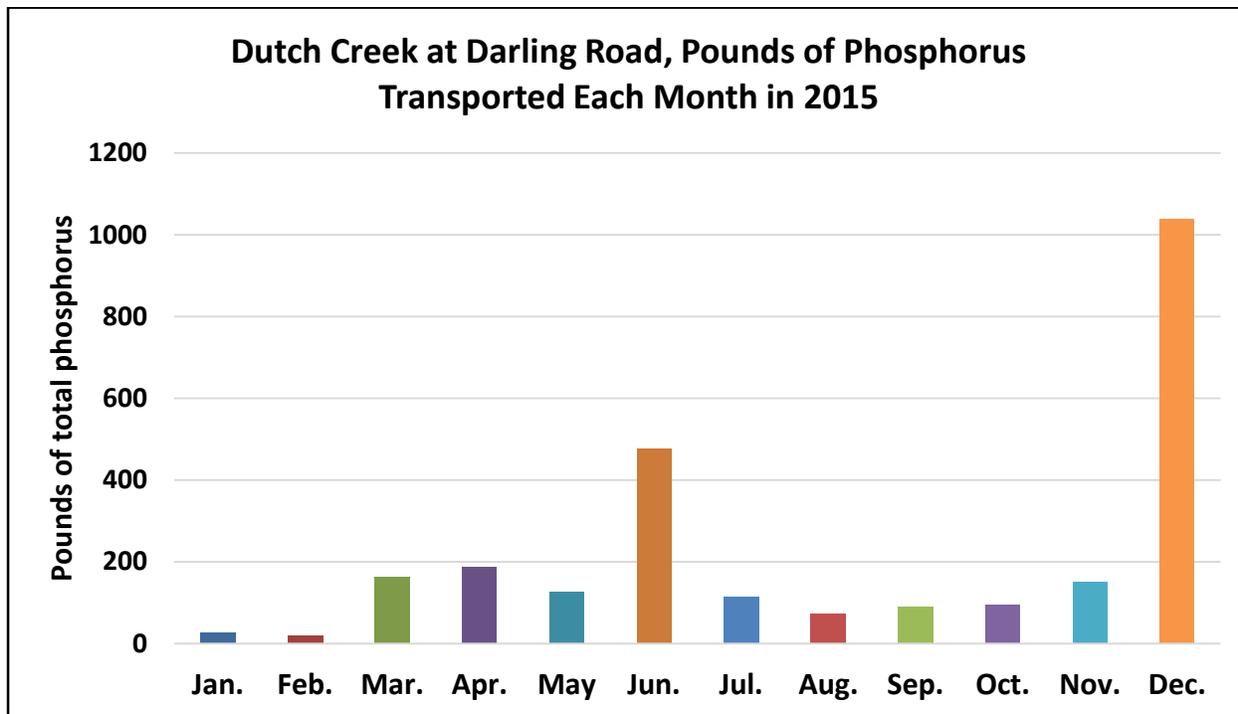
Many streams were below the 1000 colonies per 100 ml of water goal, with the sample from Lake Neshonoc leading the way.

Adams Creek and Big Creek had the highest levels. Even at close to 5,000 counts, Adams Creek still shows great improvement from the earliest sampling done in the 1990's and early 2000's.



Dutch Creek

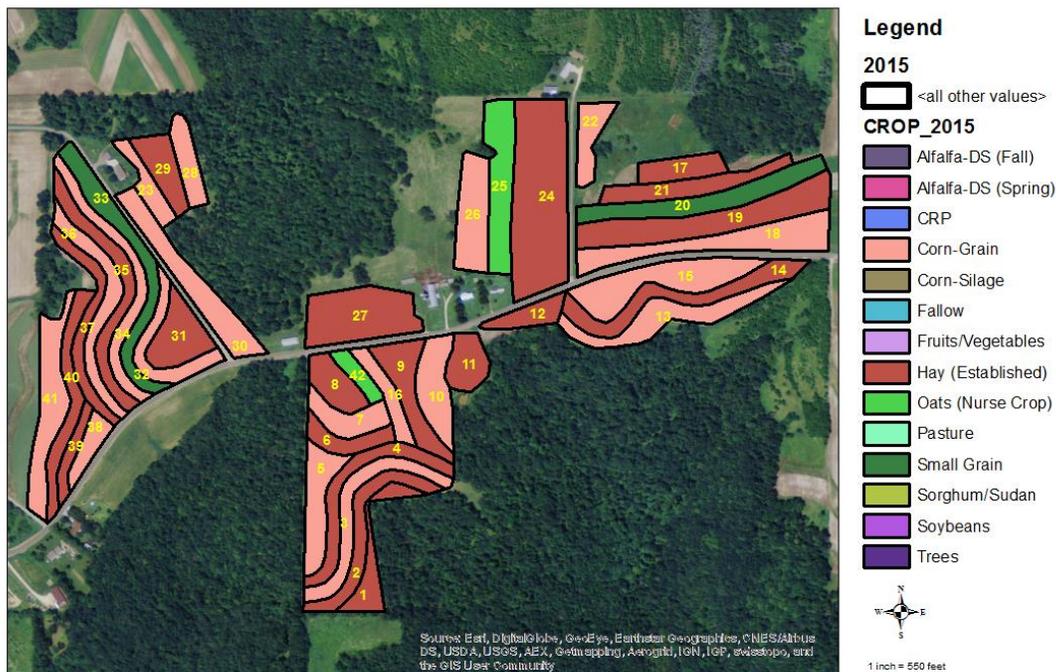
For the first time, runoff events in December made it the leading month for the year in delivery of phosphorus and sediment downstream. On average the December totals come to 81 pounds of phosphorus and 53 tons of suspended solids. Overall, the yearly total are well below average. The totals for the entire year were 2554 pounds of phosphorus and 3763 tons of suspended solids versus the averages of 4397 pounds and 7916 tons, respectively.



OTHER COUNTY ACTIVITIES

Geographic Information System

The Department of Land Conservation utilizes a computer based land information data base known as a Geographic Information System (GIS) to track and record land use in La Crosse County. GIS is used by all department staff to develop air photos, elevation and land cover maps as well as determining land ownership and property boundaries. In 2015, department staff committed 988.5 hours to develop a conservation compliance tracking system for landowners who participate in the State's Farmland Preservation Program. The Farmland Preservation Program tracking system is a requirement by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.



Coon Creek PL-566 Flood Protection Structure

La Crosse County owns and operates two flood control dams that were built over 50 years ago to reduce frequent flooding in the Coon Creek Watershed. The structures are located off of Korn Coulee Road and County Hwy G in the Town of Washington. The flood control structures are inspected annually and occasionally need maintenance to preserve their integrity and prevent the possibility of a dam failure.

Both Structures were mowed in 2015 to control weedy vegetation.

Hoeth Forest Timber Harvest

The Department of Land Conservation is charged with managing the County Forest System which is made up of 439 acres in Hoeth Forest and 455 acres in Bice Forest. There are also two outlying parcels in the Town of Burns which adds another 62 acres of forest land.

A 29 acre timber harvest was conducted in Hoeth Forest during 2015. The harvest produced 651 cords of quality Red Pine and 13.5 cords of White Pine. The total sale amounted to \$50,879.92. The timber harvest funds are used to provide cost share assistance to landowners who install soil and water conservation measures under the County's Environmental Fund. Some of the funds from the 2015 harvest was used to replace a 2000 Ford Explorer in the Department's fleet.