



NEIGHBORS

Newsletter of the Walworth County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC)



Photo courtesy of Walworth County Public Works Dept.

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County Updates Park and Open Space Plan

Walworth County is in the process of updating its adopted Park and Open Space Plan. Four separate regional information meetings will be held in different locations. The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) will host the meetings for the purpose of presenting the Plan and receiving public comment. The meetings will be held on:

- ◆ Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 4:30 PM in the City of Delavan Municipal Building located at 123 S. Second Street.
- ◆ Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 7:00 PM at Lake

Geneva City Hall, 626 Geneva Street, in the 2nd floor Senior Center Room.

- ◆ Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 4:30 PM in the City of Whitewater in the UW-Whitewater Irvin Young Memorial Library located at 431 W. Center Street in Whitewater.
- ◆ Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Village of East Troy at the Village Hall, 2015 Energy Drive in East Troy.

The county's plan impacts all residents. Please share this information with people in your communities.

Mark Your Calendars

Our March 2013 ICC meeting was well attended and featured information on a variety of topics, including WHEDA, Walworth County Park & Open Space Plan update, Hotel & Lodging room taxes, and Urban Stormwater Management Plan. Our summer 2013 meeting will be held on June 25 at 6 PM at the Government Center. If any member has a topic they would like included on that agenda, contact Dave Bretl at (262) 741.4357 or by email at : dbretl@co.walworth.wi.us

County Board Set To Consider New Park

Speaking of parks, the Walworth County Board is poised to consider the acquisition of property to develop a new park in the Town of Lyons. The property consists of 194.5 acres of land situated along the White River, and the park would serve the entire county. A DNR Stewardship Grant would help fund up to approximately half of the price tag. It is anticipated, at least for the foreseeable future, that the park would be designated for passive uses, such as hiking and canoe launching. Under the terms of the Stewardship Grant, five uses must be permitted, including walking trails, cross-country skiing, hunting, fishing and trapping. To maintain a safe

environment, however, the county would retain the right to regulate these activities.

If you are interested in this issue, make your views known at the next County Board meeting, which will be held at the Government Center located at 100 W. Walworth in Elkhorn on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 6:00 PM.

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- ⇒ *Delavan & Darien Lead the Way - Municipal Cooperative Agreements*
- ⇒ *Water Quality & Stormwater Management*
- ⇒ *WHEDA Affordable Housing Financing*

Delavan and Darien Lead the Way in Intergovernmental Cooperation

The City of Delavan and Village of Darien have been working closely on a number of cooperative efforts. Starting in January 2013, the Village began contracting police services from the City. Additionally, the two communities are cooperating concerning recreational programs and activities. The goal of these cooperative ventures is to save money and enhance services for all residents.

One of the purposes of the ICC when it was created was to develop a database of documents concerning cooperative arrangements throughout the County. The County ICC web page contains examples of cooperative agreements that exist in Walworth County, including the Delavan and Darien contracts. Check out the following link to view these documents.

<http://www.co.walworth.wi.us/IntergovCooperationCouncil/CooperativeAgreementsPage.aspx>



Photo courtesy of Walworth County Land Conservation Department

Water Quality Is in Everyone's Interest

Our March 2013 ICC meeting included a presentation by Fay Amerson, Walworth County's Urban Conservation Specialist, concerning stormwater pollution prevention. Larger communities are being required by the DNR to obtain stormwater discharge permits. This can be an expensive and complicated task for local government. One of Fay's goals is to assist communities in implementing best practices regarding stormwater management. Some communities may be able to avoid the

permitting process by implementing these best practices. The County Land Use and Resource Management Department recently obtained a DNR grant to assist communities and businesses in preventing stormwater pollution. If you would be interested in providing Fay with input in developing this program or if you would be interested in having her make a presentation to your community or business, contact her via email at famerson@co.walworth.wi.us or give her a call at (262) 741.7909.

WHEDA DOES SO YOU CAN

Kim Plache, Community Development Officer for WHEDA (Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority) presented information in March about WHEDA programs that help to provide low, fixed-interest rate mortgages to low and moderate-income people and families to assist them to purchase homes. WHEDA offers favorable rates and terms to owners and developers for the construction, acquisition, rehabilitation or preservation of

affordable rental housing for families, seniors and people with special needs. WHEDA, created in 1972 by the Wisconsin Legislature, also supports business and agricultural development through its variety of financing programs.

If you are interested in learning more about the programs WHEDA offers, contact Kim via email at Kim.plache@wheda.com or call her at (414) 550.3116.