

## **Sheboygan County Summary of Recent Environmental Achievements**

2023 – Sheboygan County is awarded another \$500,000 brownfields assessment grant to continue and expand on the work started in previous grant awards.

2022/2023 – Sheboygan County is awarded a total of \$1.5M towards a new Marsh Dam. Total project cost is over \$3M and includes partners from the WDNR, Ducks Unlimited, Sustain Our Great Lakes, and the Sheboygan County Conservation Association.

2022 - \$5K, ATC Grant to plant trees along CTH PP Linear Parkway.

2022 – Fund for Lake Michigan grant in the amount of \$75,000 towards the stream restoration project at Amsterdam Dunes.

2022 – Began a habitat restoration project at Gerber Lake Preservation Area that includes invasive species control, planting trees to combat EAB affects, and a controlled burn. Funded through a \$66,000 WDNR WHPF grant the County's partner, Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership obtained.

2021 – Awarded a \$66,000 grant in a \$132,000 project to update required stormwater modeling/loading in the urbanized area.

2021 – Sheboygan County receives final approval to establish a wetland mitigation bank at Amsterdam Dunes as well as a WDNR In-Lieu Fee wetland mitigation site.

2021 – Sheboygan County is awarded \$200,000 to design a marsh boardwalk/bridge/trail at the Sheboygan Marsh and treat invasive species along the South Ditch.

2021 – The \$2M LEED-Certified Kohler Center for Marsh Education is completed at the Sheboygan Marsh.

2020 – Awarded a combined \$584,000 towards a stream restoration project at Amsterdam Dunes and other enhancements.

2020 – Sheboygan County joins efforts with Ozaukee County, Washington County, and Fond du Lac County on a \$7M regional (Milwaukee River Watershed) water quality improvement project.

2020 – For the third time, one of only a handful of entire counties in the country to be recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Cyclists.

2019 – Installation of what Sheboygan County believes is the State’s first phosphorus reducing filter on a residential septic system installed on a home adjacent to Elkhart Lake.

2019 – Sheboygan County is awarded another \$300,000 brownfield assessment grant to continue the work started in 2014 and 2017. The \$1M in grants received helped spur over \$100M of investment in the community.

2017 – Installation of what Sheboygan County believes is the State’s first phosphorus reducing filter on an agricultural tile line that ultimately flows into Elkhart Lake.

2017 – Sheboygan County is awarded a \$300,000 brownfield assessment grant to continue the great work begun in 2014 (see below). A number of properties had their pollution issues remedied.

2016 - Sheboygan County becomes an early adopter/member of the Wisconsin PACE Commission. PACE, or Property Assessed Clean Energy, financing is a statewide program that empowers building owners to save energy and money, communities to create new jobs, and local economies to flourish—all without any taxpayer assistance.

2015 – Through great collaboration, Sheboygan County acquires the Amsterdam Dunes Preservation Area, a 328-acre parcel on the shores of Lake Michigan. Over \$4.2 million purchase price for a property to now be protected in perpetuity that contains rare and endangered plants, approximately 1,500’ of protected beach shoreline, rare ridge and swale landforms, and many other significant natural features.

2015 – For the second time, one of only a handful of entire counties in the country to be recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Cyclists.

2014 – Sheboygan County is awarded a \$400,000 brownfield assessment grant. The grant helps identify pollution issues on properties slated for redevelopment throughout the County. A number of properties have their pollution issues remedied and nearly \$30 million of redevelopment projects take place.

2013 – Installation of the State’s first de-nitrifying bioreactor on an agricultural tile line running into Otter Creek just north of the City of Plymouth.

2011-2013 – Sheboygan River/Harbor Dredging Project. Through the coalition of many partners, over 400,000 cubic yards of polluted material was removed from the Sheboygan River, a designated Superfund site since 1986. In addition to the sediment removal, a number of habitat restoration projects were completed adjacent to the river, many on County-owned land.

2013 – At the culmination of the Sheboygan River/Harbor Dredging Project, Sheboygan County establishes the Roy Sebald Sheboygan River Natural Area in honor of Roy Sebald who was an instrumental community leader in identifying a pollution problem in the Sheboygan River.

2011 – One of only a handful of entire counties in the country to be recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Cyclists.

2010-2016 – Sheboygan County partners with the Nature Conservancy and the Kohler Trust for Preservation in a public/private partnership on a comparison watershed study. The project targeted conservation practices on those fields and pastures with the greatest potential for contributing nutrients to streams. The test watershed was Otter Creek just north of the City of Plymouth, and a tributary of the Sheboygan River. Fisher Creek near the Village of Howards Grove, a tributary of the Pigeon River, served as the control watershed where no action was taken. The key nutrient targeted was phosphorus.

2007 – Sheboygan County establishes its own Waste Pharmaceutical Program to help protect water quality and to supplement drug take back days offered through other State and Federal programs. There are now anonymous drop boxes in each of the County's different (6) law enforcement offices.

2006 – Sheboygan County is selected as one of only 4 communities in the country to receive over \$28 million in funding to promote bicycling and walking for transportation purposes.

2001-2006 – Sheboygan County partners with numerous organizations, public and private, to complete a restoration project on a degraded portion of the Onion River. The project targets in-stream restoration projects as well as non-point pollution controls in the watershed. The goal is to create a quality self-sustaining wild trout fishery from Blueberry Lane to the headwaters. Sheboygan County obtains funding in excess of \$66,000 to help fund the various non-point projects.

2001 – Sheboygan County establishes a countywide Household Hazardous Waste Program. Sheboygan County believes the program is important and increases the local levy contribution to over \$100,000 to cover funding gaps and continues to do so to this day. Well over 1.5 million pounds of hazardous waste have been collected to date.

2001 – Sheboygan County establishes one of the State's only locally funded stewardship fund programs. The types of projects that the County funding supports include project development, purchase of development rights, land acquisition, and restoration. Program is supported by a referendum and over 70% of the electorate vote in favor. Every community in the County as well as local environmental non-profits (i.e. conservation clubs, etc.) are eligible to apply for funding.

2001 – Sheboygan County acquires what’s locally known as the Helga Rose property adding nearly another 50 acres to the Gerber Lake Wildlife Area with the help of the Sheboygan County Conservation Association and the WDNR.

2000 – New State code requires that private on-site waste treatment systems (septic systems) be inspected every three years to identify failing systems that contribute to poor water quality issues. The requirements are to have the baseline inventory completed by the mid 2010’s and that the subsequent maintenance program is started soon thereafter. Sheboygan County does not wait and is an early adopter, completes its inventory in 2004 and begins its maintenance program in 2005, many years ahead of the deadline.

2000 – Sheboygan County establishes one of the State’s only locally funded water quality improvement programs. The types of projects that the County funding supports include buffer strips, grass waterways, treatment systems and other agriculture related water quality improvement systems. As of the end of 2021, there is a combined 180,237 linear feet and 213.15 acres of buffers installed through this program.

1999- Sheboygan County establishes one of, if not the largest, tree sales in the State. To date, well over 1.5 million trees have been sold to area landowners.

1995 – Sheboygan County establishes an affordable well-testing program for residents. The program targets a Town within the County each year. Program continues to this day.

1980-1994 – Sheboygan County becomes active in participating in the State’s Non-point Priority Watershed Program. The County implemented plans and practices in 5 of the 6 major watersheds in the County helping protect surface and groundwater from non-point source pollution.

***Note: These accomplishments were the result of strong leadership and tremendous collaboration amongst Federal, State, and local government as well as many private sector and non-profit organizations.***