

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 17-20**

**North Lakeland  
Discovery Center**  
Manitowish Waters, WI

**Calling all high school students interested in the outdoors!**  
Join conservation professionals as they teach about natural resources through unique hands-on activities, such as lake research, fishing, canoeing, hiking, and team building exercises. Our camp is an excellent opportunity to learn more about careers in natural resources.

**FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 9-12**

[wisconsinlandwater.org/camps](http://wisconsinlandwater.org/camps)

Watch your mailbox  
for your Tree Sale  
Order Pick up letter.

Your order will be ready for pick up on April 25-27 at the ADRC Building in Sheboygan Falls.

Thanks in advance for making this annual event a success since 1999!

### Summer Camp Announcements:

**JUNE 9-12**

**UPHAM WOODS**  
WISCONSIN DELLS, WI

**CANOEING. ARCHERY. HIKES. CRAFTS.**

Join us for a fun-filled adventure in the Wisconsin Dells! Conservation professionals will teach campers about the natural world as they participate in unique hands-on activities. From conservation projects to campfires, our camp provides an opportunity to experience the great outdoors!

**FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 6-8**

[wisconsinlandwater.org/camps](http://wisconsinlandwater.org/camps)



**Come visit our booth at the Random Lake Conservation Fair on April 20th!** We will have a chance for individuals to see and hold preserved examples of the aquatic invasive species that we are battling in Sheboygan County as well as educational materials and handouts for both adults and children! Look for our sign up sheets and/or information for our summer programs, such as Project Riverine Early Detection (RED), the Great Lakes Regional Landing Blitz, Snapshot Day, and the Drain Campaign! Be sure to keep an eye out for us at Sheboygan County boat launches this summer!

## **➤➤➤ SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL**

This winter we witnessed warmer than average temperatures and a lack of ice and snow cover. With this, invasive aquatic plants, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, could potentially have a greater impact on native aquatic vegetation this season.

Eurasian watermilfoil is a submerged aquatic plant that grows in still or slow-moving water. It has a feather-like appearance, with groups of leaves arranged around the stem in groups of 4. This invasive can be distinguished from our native milfoil by counting the number of leaflets on each leaf; Eurasian watermilfoil typically has 12 or more leaflets per leaf, while its native lookalike has 10 or fewer. It can quickly form mats that inhibit recreational activities such as boating and swimming.

This species is capable of fast and impressive rates of growth during the growing season, often overtaking native vegetation. However, unlike our native aquatic plants, Eurasian watermilfoil does not die back during winter, giving it a jumpstart over natives as soon as it receives enough sunlight in spring. Because a majority of our native aquatic plants are dormant or have died back significantly by this time of year, it provides a great opportunity for spotting potential growths of aquatic invasives. Remember, everyone on the water has the ability to control the spread of invasives!

### **Help us preserve our precious lakes and rivers! What you can do:**

- Learn to recognize Eurasian watermilfoil.
- Inspect & remove visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boats, motors, trailers, and vehicles before transport.
- Drain lake or river water from bilge, livewell, and motor before leaving access.
- Rinse boat and equipment with high pressure, hot water (140 degrees for 10 seconds) OR
- Dry everything for five days before reuse.

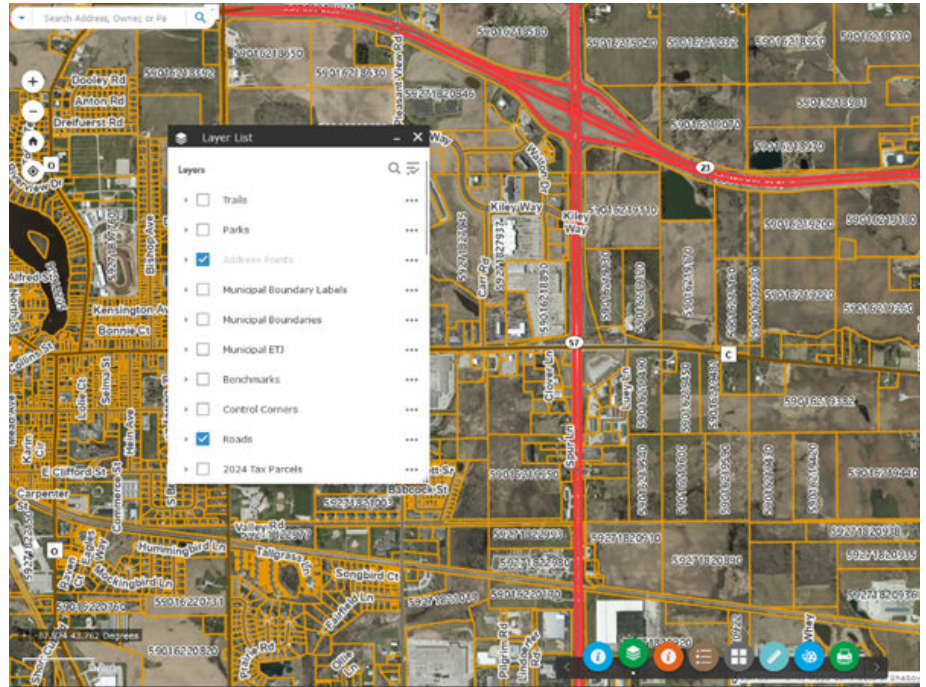
**Report new sightings** - note the exact location, wrap a specimen in a wet paper towel and seal in a plastic bag, and then call the WI DNR at (608) 267-3531.

**Contact Sheboygan County's Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Katie Hanson, at (920)459-1375, [katie.hanson@sheboygancounty.com](mailto:katie.hanson@sheboygancounty.com)**



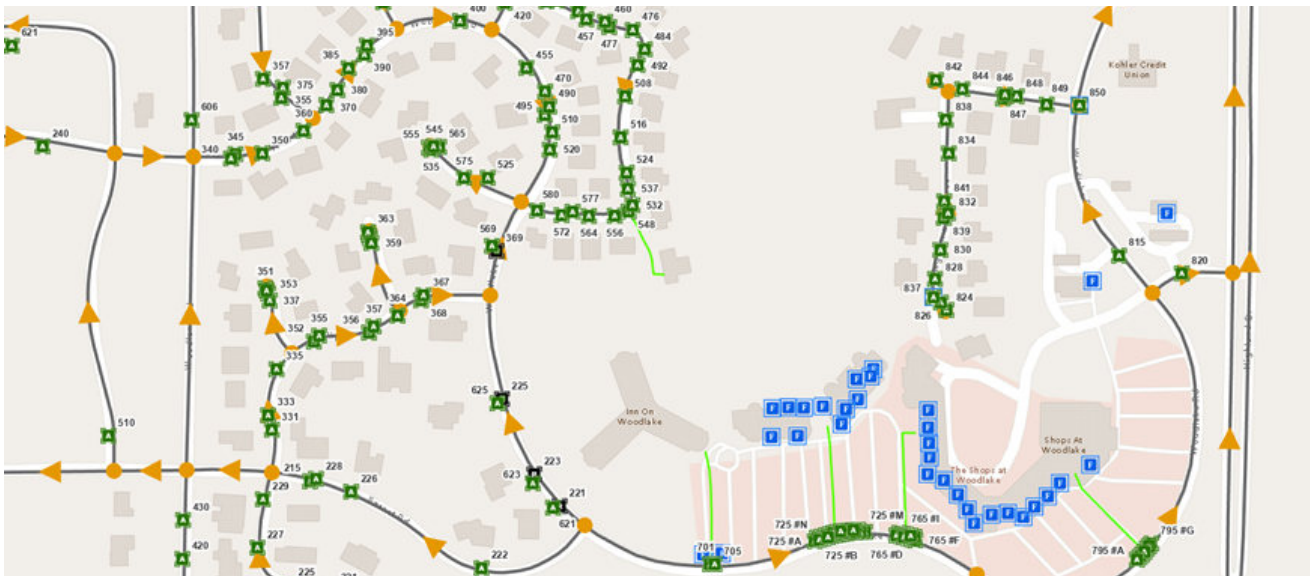
## ➤➤➤ SHEBOYGAN COUNTY'S INTERACTIVE MAPPING

Did you know you can find a great deal of mapping information for Sheboygan County online? The County has many interactive online GIS applications available for free to the public. The primary web app is called I-Map (short for Interactive-Map). I-Map has all the main GIS layers used at the County – tax parcels, roads, addresses, subdivisions, local zoning, shoreland zoning, wetlands, elevation data, aerial imagery, and more. If you need information about your property, looking to build on a property, or are just generally curious and like maps, I-Map has a ton of information to explore.



### Sheboygan County NG911 Grant

Efforts to improve Sheboygan County's 911 system are underway. Over the past two years, the County has received several grants to upgrade equipment at the County Dispatch Center. In 2024, a grant from the State of Wisconsin will be used to improve and update GIS data for Next Generation 911 (NG911). Improvements to road centerline data and addressing data will help with the County's transition to NG911.





During summer of 2023, the EPA approved the County's first 9-Key Element Plan for the Pigeon River Watershed

The purpose of the 9-Key Element Plan is to develop a 20-year implementation strategy for reducing phosphorus and sediment in the Fisher Creek and Pigeon River subbasins of the Pigeon River Watershed. The main goal is to improve water quality to eventually meet State and Federal standards and restore mixed beneficial uses of the Pigeon River. This plan identifies potential sources of contamination and potential management approaches to reduce the concern for water quality. The Plan also contains an implementation strategy, including benchmarks for success, estimated costs, landowner cost share incentives, additional funding sources, and agencies responsible for implementing these measures.

**Over the next few years you can expect conservation staff to work on the following items**

- Promoting and hopefully installing conservation better management practices (these activities are voluntary and based on landowner participation) to reduce phosphorus and sediment pollutants and make progress towards meeting reduction goals.
- Promote continued monitoring and assessment of water quality in each subbasin.
- Encourage landowner engagement around land and water stewardship.

**Our Department has cost share opportunities for landowners to implement soil health practices, such as grassed waterways, buffers, or planting cover crops.**

***New this year, our pollinators native planting program!***

**Interested? Please call (920) 459-3060 or email us at [plancon@sheboygancounty.com](mailto:plancon@sheboygancounty.com)**

## ➤➤➤ Getting to know the Farmland Preservation Program

Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation Program helps farmers and local County and Town governments preserve farmland, protect soil and water, and minimize land use conflicts.

Through participation in the program:

- Counties develop farmland preservation plans.
- Local governments can develop farmland preservation zoning districts.
- Landowners & local governments together can form Agricultural Enterprise Areas.
- Landowners meet soil and water conservation standards to become eligible to claim an income tax credit.



### **NEW! Farmland Preservation Program Tax Credits increased per Acre**

On December 6, 2023, Governor Evers signed Assembly Bill 133, now Wisconsin Act 42, which makes changes to farmland preservation agreements minimum term lengths and increasing farmland preservation tax credits for all current participants. These changes went into effect starting on December 8, 2023 and can be applied towards your 2023 taxes.

*Check out our website or click here for links with program information.*

Per DATCP requirements counties need to update their plans every ten years. Our department officially updated our County Farmland Preservation Plan in 2023. Find the link on our website or [click here](#).

**If you have any questions about the Farmland Preservation Program, please call our office at (920) 459-3060 or email at [laura.grunwald@sheboygancounty.com](mailto:laura.grunwald@sheboygancounty.com)**

**The Sheboygan Marsh Dam is nearly complete.** In fact, by the time this newsletter is published, it may already be complete. When winter set in this past January, work on the project ceased for a few weeks. That said, with the overall mild weather, small tasks were still able to continue after the bitter cold spell in January. Provided everything goes as planned, the expectation is that everything will be fully operational in May or even before.

**Highlights of the new structure include:**

- Expanded walkway width and ADA accessibility
- Significantly improved water control
- Public access improvements downstream that include a kayak launch area, updated stairs and general overall grading improvements
- 24/7 water gauges versus having to manually check for record keeping purposes
- Updated lighting, railings and fencing that is much more aesthetically pleasing



**[Go to our website or click here](#) to see drone pictures and videos of this project through the months.**

**A new Gaga Ball Pit** was constructed during the summer of 2023 by a local Eagle Scout named Colin Meiselwitz. Gaga is a rapidly growing fast-paced, high energy sport played in an octagonal pit. The more players the better! Dubbed a kinder, gentler version of dodge ball, the game is played with a soft kick ball, and combines the skills of dodging, striking and jumping, while trying to hit opponents with a ball below the knees. Players need to keep moving to avoid getting hit by the ball. Fun and easy, everyone gets a serious workout.

**Two new boat launch docks** were constructed by staff members Jason Bitter and Nathan Dehne during the fall of 2023. The docks were attached to the existing boat launch ramp just to the west of the Marsh Observation Tower. The ramp was also modified this past summer to make it wider and more boat friendly for those looking to launch wider vessels. The docks are approximately 30 feet long and 4 feet wide. They will be safe platforms for those looking to launch their boat or just spend the afternoon fishing from the shoreline!

**A new 9-hole set of footgolf equipment** was purchased and installed at the existing course. The course layout remains the same, but look for new tee markers, flags and cups in the summer of 2024. Additionally, complimentary footgolf balls will be available for use if you forget yours at home. Look for the ball under the kiosk near the hole 1 tee! This is the only course in the County we are aware of so hopefully you can get out and enjoy!

**Frisbee golf course-** Just as many of the forests in Wisconsin have suffered the loss of the ash tree, so to have the forested areas of our Marsh disc golf course. Many hazardous dead ash trees have been removed throughout the course and additionally invasive species control has also been underway during the fall and winter months of 2023/2024. With the removal of the ash and buckthorn, course fairways have opened up and become much friendlier to our frisbee golf rookies.

**Extra sand** from an onsite project on the property has been added to the playground area. The playground is located just to the South of the 3 Guys and a Grill restaurant. The sand pit will act as a nice substitute for those not ready to explore the other equipment and gaga pit just yet!

**Bird viewing** – A large number of trees and shrubs have been removed along the shoreline of the Marsh just to the west of the restaurant entrance. Thanks to a group of volunteers along with staff members Jason Bitter and Nathan Dehne, the brush was cut and removed. The purple martin house remains and those guests will be sure to appreciate the added space to fly this coming spring when they return home. Camp Y-Koda staff will also be installing many new birdhouses throughout the property near the Kohler Center for Marsh Education, so be on the lookout for those this spring and summer of 2024.



**Hello, my name is Sharon Harvey.** I am excited to join the Planning and Conservation Department as the new Code Technician. Originally from the Plymouth area, I moved to surrounding towns throughout my life but always stayed within the County. I attended Moraine Park Technical College in Fond du Lac and graduated with an Associate's Degree in Business Management and Supervision.

**Prior to** working for Sheboygan County, I was raising my two boys while operating my own little hobby farm. I very much enjoy growing my own food and being able to provide healthy options for my family. Raising chickens for eggs and hatching my own chicks is my favorite! I worked a variety of jobs including working for the school district, real estate, and at a dental office.

**I'm excited** to learn my new role as a Code Technician. In my free time I enjoy most anything outdoors; hiking, swimming, kayaking, gardening, riding dirt bikes or four-wheelers, snowmobiling, car shows, and outdoor concerts. Luckily my home is surrounded by some beautiful state land that I get to visit quite frequently and I love it!



**Hello, my name is Nathan Dehne.** I'm the new Parks & Recreation Technician for the Department. I was born and raised in Manitowoc County where I worked on numerous farms until I was 17. The summer before my senior year in high school, I got a job working for Zurheide Ice Cream Co. Inc. and learned the unique trade of ice cream production from raw ingredients to distribution. I managed to keep employment there part-time while attending Michigan Technological University where I received an AAS in Forest Technology. After MTU I became the plant manager for Zurheide, and later, Three Twins Organic Ice Cream. I was an LTE in Parks and Maintenance for the last two years at Kohler-Andrea State Park.

**My main responsibilities** here will be maintaining the County-owned boat landings, trails, and facilities. I will also help out in other departmental activities and work with volunteers.

**In my spare time** I enjoy bow-hunting, cooking, baking bread, biking, and spending time helping my three children remodel their houses. My wife, Brenda, and I have a goal of visiting all 60 of the Wisconsin state parks and recreation areas.

**It has been fun** being able to get back to my roots here at the Planning and Conservation Department and being surrounded by a talented team.





**Well, it is time for me to say good-bye.** I can hardly believe that it has been 38 years since I started out as a rookie soil and water conservationist. The years have slipped by quickly. It has been an honor to be a representative of Sheboygan County to our rural landowners over the years. March 1st was my last day and my coworker, Laura Grunwald will be assuming my duties. I know that she will do a super job and it is a good feeling that I turn the reigns over to her capable hands.

**I have no immediate plans** after retirement other than a 35th wedding anniversary trip to Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks this summer. With a number of hobbies and projects around the house I am sure I won't be bored. I have really enjoyed working with the farmers and other rural landowners of Sheboygan County. Learning from the farmers while assisting them to maintain or improve their land is very satisfying. In working with farmers over the years I have learned that not only do you have to have a strong land ethic but also good business savvy to survive in farming. Kudos to our farmers for being some of the most efficient food and feed producers in the world.

**I have also been blessed** with great coworkers over the years and the current staff is no exception. I appreciate their work ethic, their support, and their dedication to assisting Sheboygan County landowners.

**So, in closing,** it has been a great run! Now it is time to close this chapter of my life and move on to the next. I wish Sheboygan County's landowners and the Planning and Conservation staff many years of health and happiness.

**Sincerely, Christopher Ertman**

**My name is Katie Hanson** and I am a new Conservation Specialist for the Sheboygan County Planning and Conservation Department. I was born in Plymouth and have lived there my whole life, with the exception of the time I spent residing in Oshkosh while I attended the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh. At UWO, I earned my degree in ecological and organismal biology with a minor in environmental studies.

**In my free time,** I enjoy being a probationary handler for Great Lakes Search and Rescue K9 along with horseback riding, trap shooting, gardening, and hiking with my dog. I am excited and honored to start working for the County I call home!



## 2024 HHW / CLEAN SWEEP COLLECTION SITES

**Friday, June 7**  
**1:00 – 4:30 p.m.**



**Maywood Environmental Park**

**3615 Mueller Road, Sheboygan**



**Saturday, June 8**  
**8:00 – 11:00 a.m.**



**Sheboygan County Highway  
Dept - Cascade Shed**

**W6451 State Highway 28, Cascade**



For more information on these collection events, to include the list of accepted items, and fees, please refer to our website or [click here](#).

## Stormwater—the Why's, What's and Who's

Whether you are in a rural or urban area, stormwater filtration and management play a big role in keeping our water resources clean from runoff. If you are in a large enough urban area there are regulations that need to be followed and reported on. More than two hundred municipalities in Wisconsin that include cities, villages, towns and counties within urbanized areas are required to have Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits under NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code.

### **So, what does that then mean locally?**

Our local qualifying urban area has seven jurisdictions that have infrastructure contributing to stormwater discharges to local waterways. As such, the County, Howards Grove, the Town of Sheboygan, the Town of Wilson, Kohler, Sheboygan Falls and Sheboygan all have to administer stormwater programs and complete an annual MS4 permit. The permit requires each jurisdiction to have a stormwater management plan that considers the following requirements.

- Public Education & Outreach
- Public Involvement & Participation
- Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination
- Construction Site Pollutant Control
- Post-Construction Storm Water Management
- Pollution Prevention Practices
- Standards for Total Suspended Solids
- Maintain Maps Identifying Storm Sewer Conveyances



**Each of the seven jurisdictions** annually report on all of the above items as they each regulate things like construction site ordinances and post-construction management separately. However, the seven jurisdictions partner where they can. Public education and outreach and public involvement are the areas where these partnerships are easily achieved and help each jurisdiction avoid duplicating efforts and achieve a more consistent, cost-effective and efficient approach.

**From that idea, the Sheboygan County Stormwater Coalition was born** and has been working hard each year to provide educational activities that ultimately will benefit water quality.

**[Please visit www.sheboyganwaters.com for more information or click here.](http://www.sheboyganwaters.com)**

# PLANKTON CHRONICLE



**ONLY  
RAIN**

**DOWN  
THE  
STORM  
DRAIN**

[sheboyganwaters.com](http://sheboyganwaters.com)



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