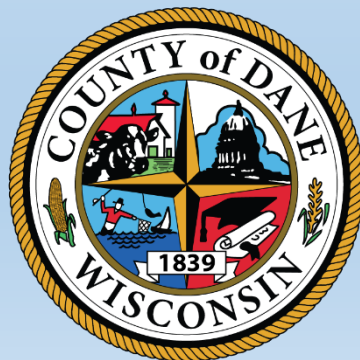


Land & Water Resources Department

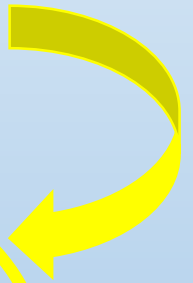
2021 Budget Request



Goal: ~ \$335,600 operating budget reduction

- Eliminate vacant positions (\$297,900)
 - Water Quality Specialist
 - Youth Coordinator
 - Conservation Technician
- Reduce Admin. Support LTE (\$11,300)
- Eliminate “phosphorus mass balance” UW study (\$12,500)
- Reduce Bayview Foundation youth funding (\$1,700)
- Reduce OFS purchase of services (\$12,400)
- Reduce chloride funding (\$5,000)

We have resources to ensure that all of these programs will continue!



2021 Noteworthy Operating Adjustments

- New and vastly improved online park reservation and permit sales
- Park permit credit card stations located in parks



2021 Noteworthy Capital Requests

- PARC & Ride Grant Program \$500,000
- Urban Water Quality Grant Program \$750,000
- Trail Restoration \$100,000
- Yahara River Flow Enhancement \$2.5 million
- Yahara CLEAN Implementation \$750,000
- Flood Reduction Acquisitions \$1,000,000
- Legacy Sediment Removal \$500,000
- Conservation Fund \$4,000,000

Pandemic Impact

- Challenges:
 - Opening and maintaining park facilities
 - Decentralized staff
 - Managing expectations
- Accomplishments:
 - Dane County Parks have been heavily used and loved!
 - Customer service



Birdwatching at the Lewis Nine Springs E-Way. Credit: Elizabeth Felton

SIMPSON STREET FREE PRESS

This is the fourth summer that we have been able to host student writers from the Simpson Street Free Press, a nonprofit newspaper and youth center that teaches critical thinking and writing skills in hopes of bridging Madison's achievement gap.

Simpson Street Free Press works to cover a variety of environmental topics, and has a special series focused on stories about Dane County. Read the articles they have written by clicking the link below.



LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Anti-racism in National Parks Webinar

On August 25th, 2020 The Joy Trip Project hosted a distinguished panel of experts who shared their thoughts and lived experiences and explored the long history and future of Black people as stewards of our public lands.

A recording of the webinar is now available online and offers an excellent opportunity to learn and grow as we think about our parks and natural spaces.



GET OUTSIDE!

[Learn More](#)

The Get Outside! Program at our Lussier Family Heritage Center facility has been busy exploring this summer. Participants ages 5-14 from local community/neighborhood centers learned how to fish at the Jenni & Kyle Preserve, biked along the Lower Yahara River Trail and practiced disc golf skills. Our young observers watched hawks swoop down for a meal, investigated tracks and discovered bird nests. It has been a true adventure exploring Dane County Parks this summer.



BIKE COLLECTION

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone that donated bikes for our summer youth **Get Outside** program and to our amazing interns, Jenny and Starr, who cleaned up the bikes and got them ready to ride. The bikes are helping youth (ages 7-14) from local community centers get around and explore our parks this summer.



Youth Environmental Leadership Experience

The Dane County Youth Environmental Leadership Experience engages high school students throughout the school year in monthly outdoor recreation and stewardship activities. In addition, the program offers a seven-week summer internship where students explore environmental issues through a series of hands-on education and service activities in Dane County Parks with environmental professionals and community leaders.

Youth who participate in this program will have unique opportunities to build leadership and job skills, learn about the environment through field experiences, make new friends, participate in outdoor adventures, and undertake community stewardship projects.

Student Benefits:

- Participate in outdoor adventures with your friends and make new ones
- Learn about environmental issues in our community
- Gain leadership and job skills
- Fulfill volunteer service hours
- Learn about careers in natural resources
- Opportunity to apply for the summer seven-week YELE intensive





Top of the hill at Pheasant Branch Conservancy. Photo credit to Shan Bartus