

Crow Wing County Water Plan News

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To Protect, Preserve, & Improve Water Resources in Crow Wing County



Crow Wing County Completes Soil Survey

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Crow Wing County Land Services has announced the completion of a comprehensive survey of the soils in the county. The expansive project of sampling and cataloging the soils for all parts of the county began in 2005 and was completed one year ahead of schedule. Information obtained during the survey will serve as a resource to landowners, builders, agricultural producers and natural resource managers in planning projects and managing our natural resources.

The soil survey was completed by the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The soil survey is an inventory of all the soil resources in the county. The inventory includes soil maps and descriptions, use and management information and valua-

ble information on soil properties such as physical, chemical and engineering characteristics. Prior to completion of this survey, the most recent soil information in the County dated to 1965.

Homeowners, contractors and developers can now use this information to better identify sites for construction, septic systems and stormwater best management practices. Foresters can use this soil data to assist in determining proper tree species to plant based on soil data. Agricultural producers can use the soil survey to evaluate the potential of the soil and the management needed for economically and environmentally wise food production. The soil survey can also be used for transportation purposes to provide more data to better design local roadways.



Local Comprehensive Water Plan



2013 - 2023



The New 2013—2023 Crow Wing Water Plan is available to view online at:

www.crowwing.us/index.aspx?nid=241



Web Soil Survey

The NRCS no longer produces hard copies of the County Soil Surveys. Instead, they have created an interactive website where you can go to get soil maps and data for any geographic area of interest. The Crow Wing County Data is currently being uploaded to this website. Much is already available with the rest to follow in the weeks to come.

<http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov>

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
D49D	Graycalm loamy sand, 12 to 25 percent slopes	18.3	22.2%
D53B	Lougee-Barber-Guida complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes	26.2	31.7%
D69B	Zimmerman-Urban land complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes	38.2	46.1%
Totals for Area of Interest		82.7	100.0%

AIS Update

Friday, January 23 marked the end of the comment period for the County’s proposed 2015 AIS Plan. A decision on the Plan will be made by the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners at their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 10 on the 3rd floor of the historic courthouse. The Board Packet/Agenda, which includes the comments received, will be available online several days prior at: <http://meetings.co.crow-wing.mn.us/sirepub/meetresults.aspx>

Upon approval, more detailed information regarding the plan will be emailed out. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Mitch Brinks at 218-824-1128 or mitch.brinks@crowwing.us

Crow Wing County Website Updated!

Crow Wing County has created a new responsive design website, with viewing capability for all platforms and devices, to not only view but also to interact with the site. With 30% of visits now originating from mobile devices, this was a priority. The goal is to provide information to residents, summer residents, visitors, and business, all with the ability to find information on the website simply and quickly. Information is now categorized by how the taxpayers would search rather than by how the County would organize it. Restructuring of the Search Tool has made it easier to use and more powerful than in the past. Future efforts include creating a Crow Wing County Mobile App to provide an even higher level of service 24/7, and adding a LiveChat application to the website, giving you Click to Chat capability with County staff. The URL still remains: www.crowwing.us with the water and wetland information found at: <http://www.crowwing.us/241/Water-Wetlands> Look for the 2014 Water Protection Report to be posted soon!



Above: New Homepage at www.crowwing.us

Crow Wing County News

Crow Wing County Land Services Received Grant to Enhance County Forests

Crow Wing County Land Services has received a \$43,860.00 grant from the Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Expedited Grant Program. This grant will allow the County to enhance over 200 acres of white pine, jack pine, and oak habitat. The CPL grant program is funded through the Outdoor Heritage Fund, part of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Constitutional Amendment. CPL grants focus on work to restore, enhance and protect forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat for wildlife in Minnesota. The County also received a CPL grant in 2010 to restore over 200 acres on eight separate sites of white and jack pine habitat. This latest grant will be used to enhance many of those same sites through the use of mechanical brushing, aerially seeding of jack pine, and protection of existing plantings of jack and white pine. This project will result in enhanced wildlife habitat for many species, while also achieving the goal of increasing conifer forests on the landscape.

National Radon Action Month: Radon Test Kits Available

Crow Wing County and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommend that all homes in Minnesota be tested for radon. It's the only way to know if your home has an elevated level of radon, which can cause lung cancer. Radon is an odorless, colorless and tasteless radioactive gas that occurs naturally in Minnesota soils and can enter homes through cracks and openings in basement or foundation floors and walls. Fortunately, the risk is preventable. MDH estimates that one in three existing Minnesota homes have radon levels that pose a large health risk over many years of exposure. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and more than 21,000 deaths are attributed to radon each year. A limited number of kits remain. To obtain a test kit, contact the Land Services Department at 218-824-1125 or environmental.services@crowwing.us or stop by 322 Laurel Street Suite 14 Brainerd MN 56401.

City of Crosslake Seeks Comment on Commercial Land Use Ordinance Revisions

The Crosslake City Council, at their meeting on December 8, 2014, authorized the Planning and Zoning Department to begin the public comment period regarding proposed revisions to the commercial sections of Chapter 26, the City Land Use Ordinance. The information regarding revisions to the ordinance will be available on the Crosslake Website at www.cityofcrosslake.org. The Planning and Zoning Department will be accepting comments on the proposed revisions until January 31, 2015. Please submit comments to crosslakepz@crosslake.net or mail them to Crosslake City Hall - 37028 County Road 66 Crosslake, MN 56442. Paper copies of the revised ordinance will also be available at the Crosslake City Hall for review. Questions can be directed to (218) 692-2689. The following is a timeline of the ordinance review and approval process:

December 8, 2014: Begin public comment period
 January 31, 2015: Close public comment period
 March 27, 2015: Planning Commission Meeting and Public Hearing
 April 13, 2015: City Council Meeting

Upcoming Events

SWCD Tree Sale Open House = Friday, February 6

Think Spring, and join the SWCD for the 15th annual SWCD Tree Sale Pre-Order Open House on Friday, February 6, 2014 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Open House is at the Crow Wing SWCD office located in the Crow Wing County Land Services Building, 322 Laurel Street, Suite 13, Brainerd. Residents will save \$10 off every \$100 spent before or on February 6th. NEW: Septic Mound seed mix available. This seed mix is safe for your septic mound. Check out their new website, complete with pictures and description of all the trees, plants and seed mixes. www.crowwingswcd.org. Deadline for ordering is February 27th, 2015. SWCD accepts Cash, Check, and credit card payments for orders.

Crow Wing County & the City of Crosslake Announce Spring Contractor Workshop Dates

Crow Wing County & the City of Crosslake have announced the following dates for their annual contractor workshop. The workshop is intended for builders, excavators, septic professionals, and others to receive updates related to local regulations. Registration information will be sent out via email in February.

March 20 = Crow Wing County Workshop: Shoreland, Stormwater, Septic, and Wetlands
 April 16 = Crosslake Workshop: Shoreland, Stormwater, Septic, and Wetlands



Local Grant Opportunities for Landowners

Forestry Grants

An opportunity is available for landowners in Crow Wing County with forested parcels greater than 20 acres in size to receive cost-share funds to write forest stewardship plans and implement forestry practices in order to protect lakes with populations of tullibee, which is a type of whitefish also known as Cisco. Good forest management can protect these lakes and the quality of these important fisheries for generations to come. Target lakesheds include: Bertha, Big Trout, Borden, Cedar, Clear, Crooked, Island/Loon, Kenney, Kimball, Long/Tame Fish, Lower Hay, Ossawinnamakee, Pelican, Pig, Portage, Round, Roosevelt, Star, and Whitefish. Cost-share funding is available to cover up to 50% of the cost of forest management practices for each landowner who has a current forest stewardship plan for his or her property. Examples of eligible practices include tree planting, selected harvest, and wildlife openings. For landowners without forest stewardship plans, funds are available to receive a plan at a flat rate of \$200. Interested landowners should contact Darren Mayers, District Technician with the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District, at 218-828-6197. A number of property tax-incentive programs are also available for property owners in Crow Wing County. See www.crowwing.us/index.aspx?NID=258 for more information.

Conservation Easement Grant: Wild Rice Lakes

The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District has funds available for private landowners who own land adjacent to shallow wild rice lakes. Funding is available to enroll private land into voluntary land preservation agreements called conservation easements. Conservation easements protect land from future development while keeping land in private ownership and on the local tax rolls. Landowners can be paid up to 60% of the estimated market value of the tract for enrolling into the program. Wild rice provides great habitat for ducks and birds and also is the Minnesota State Grain. The following Crow Wing County lakes are eligible : Arrowhead, Dahler, Dog, Garden, Goggle, Hole-in-the-Day, Little Pine, Lizzie, Lower Dean, Lows, Mud (18-137), Mud (18-326), Nelson, Rice (Blomberg's), Rice (Clark Lake), Rice (Deerwood), Rice (Hesitation WMA), Rice (Pratt's), Rice Bed, Terry, Twin Island, Unnamed (Lost Rice), and Unnamed (Nokasippi R.). To apply contact Crow Wing SWCD via e-mail: melissa.barrick@crowwingswcd.org or by phone: 218-828-6197.

Shoreline Restoration / Stabilization & Stormwater Management

Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources, has grants available to help offset the cost of shoreline buffer projects, which can also include stormwater management. For more information, please contact Crow Wing SWCD @ 218-828-6197.

Serpent Lake Grant Update

The Serpent Lake Association, the City of Deerwood, the City of Crosby, Deerwood and Irondale Townships, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, MN DNR, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Crow Wing County, Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District, and local citizens are partnering to implement these clean water actions:

- Reduce Cranberry Lake phosphorous load inputs
- Filter urban polluted runoff before it reaches the lake
- Create community polices for people and water quality
- Plant native plants to absorb runoff and stop erosion.

This four year campaign is based off the 2013 Crow Wing County (CWC) Water Plan and 2011 hot spot pollution study. For more information on how to get involved, please contact the Crow Wing SWCD @ 218-828-6197.

Groundwater Related Grants

Low-Income Septic System Upgrades

Crow Wing County and the Region Five Development Commission also have remaining funds to assist with replacement or repair of septic systems for low and very low income landowners in order to improve and protect groundwater quality in Crow Wing County. For more information or to have an application mailed to you, please contact Melissa Radermacher at Region 5: 218-894-3233. Funding for this grant is from the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment.

As the LGU responsible for the development and implementation of the Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan, the Crow Wing County Land Services Department is committed to protecting, preserving & improving water resources in Crow Wing County by being proactive, efficient, customer focused, organized, and innovative while being good stewards of the County's resources.