

Department of Natural Resources Impact in Sauk County

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources aims to excel at working and partnering with the public to protect and manage the state's natural resources while supporting the economy and the well-being of our citizenry.



Did you know?

In 2011, Wisconsin had

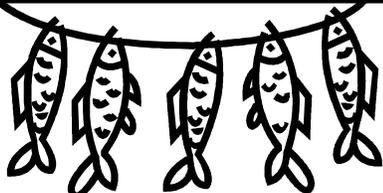
763,384



RESIDENT HUNTERS

In 2011, fishing in Wisconsin had an economic impact of over

\$1.4 billion



In Sauk County, **60,829** licenses were sold in 2013-14.

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Investments in Recreation

3,804 extended growth walleye were stocked in **Delton, Dutch Hollow and White Mound Lakes** under the **Wisconsin Walleye Initiative** in the fall of 2014. The initiative aims to strengthen Wisconsin walleye waters.

DNR offers a variety of safety classes around the state annually. In 2013, a total of **513 citizens became hunter, ATV, boating and snowmobile certified** in Sauk County.

In fiscal year 2014, **Devil's Lake State Park** had close to **2,011,004 visitors** making an **estimated local impact of \$83,838,757**.

The DNR has recently invested **\$4,208,619 in capital development funds** to improve state managed lands in Sauk County, including over \$3.5 million for improvements at Devils Lake State Park.

Sauk County has over **35,837 acres of state owned lands** open to public hunting and outdoor recreation.

In fiscal year 2014, **400 State Trail, Mirror Lake State Park and Natural Bridge State Park** had close to **327,960 visitors** making an **estimated local impact of \$19,348,860**.

Community Partnerships

Baraboo Public Library in Sauk County was one of **17 libraries** chosen to test pilot **Outdoor Explorer Backpacks**. The backpacks encourage kids and families to get outdoors and explore Wisconsin's natural resources.

DNR granted a total of **\$54,557** to the **Sauk County Sheriff Department, Lake Delton Police Department and Town of LaValle** for boat patrol activities.

Sauk County has **198 public water systems** that the DNR oversees to ensure they deliver safe water. Wisconsin has more public water systems than any other state in the nation.

Snapshot of grants in Sauk County

A total of **\$4,324,577** was awarded in Sauk County for **water quality, outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, public health and safety and forestry activities**. A snapshot of projects include: grants to individuals to plan and develop private forests, Prairie du Sac Wisconsin River launch improvements, the Mirror Lake planning project and the Village of Lake Delton Newport Park Boat Launch.

**Numbers reflect the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 time period.

Forestry Activities

Since June 2010, **DNR has provided over \$357,000 to private forest owners in the county to assist them in protecting and enhancing their forested lands, prairies and waters.**

Sauk County has **2,294 acres of private land open for public access** as a result of the tax law programs (Forest Crop and MFL). The Tax Law Programs encourage proper management of timber, wildlife, water quality and the environment through written management plans for a landowner's property.

Since 2011, **Sauk County has received \$36,086 in Urban Forestry Grants** to support new, innovative projects that will develop sustainable urban and community forestry programs.

DNR granted \$42,092 to local Fire Departments in Sauk County to purchase equipment and supplies that improve their capability and safety in handling wild land fires.

Since 2005, **over 6,657 cord equivalents of timber products have been harvested from state-owned land** in Sauk County. The harvests provided more than **\$150,403 in revenue** to the state and contributed employment opportunities and raw materials to the local economy.

Environmental Cleanup Efforts

DNR approved **cleanups at 218 contaminated properties** resulting in **five acres** being made available for reuse. DNR staff assures these cleanups provide **long-term protection of public health and environment.**

DNR responded to 33 spills of hazardous materials over the past three years.

DNR provided **\$83,728 in reimbursements** over the past three years for expenses related to the **investigation and cleanup of petroleum contamination** from product storage systems.

DNR continues remediation efforts at the former **Badger Army Ammunition Plant**. The groundwater contamination cleanup is wrapping up, with one treatment system already offline and another in process of wrapping up.

Deer Management in Sauk County

In 2014, Sauk County established a County Deer Advisory Council. One council per county, they provide input and recommendations to the DNR on deer management.

DNR is working with seven landowners who have over 500 acres of land enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program to improve wildlife habitat on their property.

In 2013, a total of 7,113 deer were registered in Sauk County with 1,604 harvested during archery deer season and 5,509 harvested during the gun deer season.