



DANE COUNTY

Joe Parisi
County Executive

Unrivaled Investment in Cleaner Lakes, Enhanced Parks and Lands

County Executive Joe Parisi's 2014 Dane County Budget

Expanding the Commitment to Cleaner Waters:

Phosphorus Elimination System for Town of Springfield "Cow Power" - - \$500,000 for water treatment system for new manure digester that will be operational by end of 2013. This new system removes 100% of the pollutant phosphorus, responsible for causing algae growth in the Yahara Chain of Lakes.

Community Manure Storage to Prevent Run-off - - \$500,000 in capital to set up "drop-off" for farmers to bring loads of manure when tanks/pits are full as alternative to spreading during poor run-off conditions. This drop-off could be located off Highway K and pump directly to Dane County's new digester in the Town of Springfield where the manure will be safely converted to green, homegrown energy.

High Concentration Phosphorus Reduction Remediation Program - - the County Executive's 2014 budget includes \$2-million in capital funding to establish a new matching grant program dedicated for acquisition and remediation of lands responsible for the highest percentage of phosphorus run-off in the Yahara System. This program would be matched up to 25% with private monies from groups like the Clean Lakes Alliance and Madison Community Foundation to acquire properties along and directly adjacent to the Yahara River, Six Mile Creek, and other primary feeders of runoff into the lakes. These dollars could be used on acquisition, establishing permanent easements, converting lands in agricultural use to wetlands, or constructing community manure storage facilities to be shared by neighboring farms for the use of storing manure that will then be hauled/trucked out of the watershed to other ag lands deficient in phosphorus.

Language Increasing Fines for Manure Handling Violations - - in consultation with farmers who were part of 2005 Dane County Manure Management task force, the budget will include Ordinance Amendment language and project revenue for doubling the fine for those who repeatedly violate Dane County' manure spreading ordinance.

Permit system for manure storage/spreading - - the budget develops a new permit fee/registration system for farmers with manure storage. The permit would span three years and cost \$50 but the cost would be waived for farmers who agree to attend educational session on conservation/responsible land spreading.

\$750,000 for Yahara Clean - - money that funded this year's conservation and run-off prevention partnerships with agricultural producers in the Mendota Watershed will continue in 2014. These dollars fund basic conservation measures proven to reduce run-off, including buffer strips between farm fields and drainage ditches. \$250,000 is also allocated for urban stormwater controls, partnering with local communities to reduce urban storm sewer runoff.

Warm Water Streambank Easement Acquisition Needs Assessment - - The budget includes \$25,000 to evaluate the county's warm water fishing streams and habitats to assess their health and current species. This work will be focused along BadFish, Koshkonong, and the Maunesa Rivers in the eastern part of Dane County and provide valuable feedback for the county's streambank easement program as to the most effective use of those dollars to create additional public fishing opportunities.

The budget also replaces two fuel trucks and a haul truck for Lake Management for **efficient lake weed removal and clean-up** - - **\$120,000**

Enjoying Our Lakes and Lands: \$1.3 Million in New Trail Development

New North Mendota Trail - - in partnership with the Town of Westport, Village of Waunakee, and City of Middleton the budget will include \$350,000 in county dollars to develop a new off road trail north of Lake Mendota, parallel to Highway M. There have been safety concerns with current on road bike facilities and a cyclist was killed in this stretch of road last summer. Recent land acquisitions in the area, including the prospective T Wall Development off Onken Road and Dane County's purchase of the Holy Wisdom property in conjunction with neighboring public lands have created an off road corridor for this trail. The county's \$350,000 would fund a bridge over Six Mile Creek near the intersection of County Highways K and M and trail design funds.

New Sugar River Natural Resource Area Trail - - in early 2013, the County Executive announced one of the largest land acquisitions in the county's history, more than 450 acres south of Verona along the Sugar River. This property offers enormous promise for regional family outdoor recreation and the budget includes \$300,000 to build a new trail from the north end of the property - - south to Paoli - - winding along 2.5 miles of the Sugar River. Parking and canoe launch areas are being developed on the property this fall. Construction of the new trail and walk bridges over on the river on the property in 2014 will greatly enhance public use of the property.

Lower Yahara Trail - - The County Executive's budget includes \$600,000 for the county's share of the next steps to developing this exciting new trail linking the southeast side of Madison to McFarland and Stoughton. Federal and state support for this project mean construction can start in 2014.

Dane County Parks: Enhancing the Experience

Dane County Youth Conservation Corps - - Under a partnership with Operation Fresh Start, the County Executive's 2014 budget creates the "Dane County Youth Conservation Corps" to improve employment skills of young people while improving operations and maintenance of Dane County's parks. The budget includes \$64,000 in county dollars (matched with nearly \$180,000 investment by OFS) to establish this new year road work team and help it acquire the tools needed for a variety of projects including picnic table repairs, removal of invasive species, etc.

Partnerships/Outreach Coordinator - - Consistent with other public/private funding models, Dane County has an enormous opportunity to enhance its parks through private fundraising. A recently created endowment between the County and the Madison Community Foundation creates the perfect channel to funnel in private dollars with the sole intended purpose of enhancing parks maintenance and amenities. These dollars would not supplant existing resources but instead – similar to the county's

partnership with the “Friends of the Zoo” be used to improve the parks and outdoor recreation experiences for all families who enjoy our parks. The budget includes \$80,000 to hire a fundraising and partnerships management coordinator to oversee this work and better connect existing parks friends groups.

Improved Maintenance and Upkeep of Dane County Parks - - the budget includes a \$39,000 increase for staff to help manage and maintain our parks, both day and night. These valuable dollars will support the work of our county rangers.

Silverwood Development – the budget includes \$150,000 for the next phase of the county’s efforts to develop its newest park - - Silverwood in the Town of Albion.

New Park Shelters and Park Patron Accommodations - - \$358,400 is included for construction of a new shelter and restrooms at Indian Lake County Park in the Town of Berry and there’s \$270,000 for shelters and an overlook at Festge County Park and \$35,000 for new bathrooms at Schumacher Farm County Park near Waunakee.

Track Driven Tree Remover for Parks - - the budget includes \$100,000 for the acquisition of special equipment to help remove and trim trees in our county parks system. The new equipment would be driven on tracks - - allowing it to access all types of terrain.

Blizzard Buster System for Parks Trucks - - new technology is available to provide better access for Dane County vehicles in all types of terrains and weather conditions. Using existing four-wheel drive vehicles, these track systems once installed will allow Dane County’s CNG fueled parks trucks to access roads and trails buried in several feet of snow or lowland areas where even the most rugged four wheel drive vehicles will get stuck. This will greatly enhance search and rescue during blizzard events in which county parks resources are utilized and better year round service to low lying areas of our parks. The budget includes \$60,000 for the acquisition of three systems.

Dane County Parks on DaneCom - - the budget includes \$40,000 to acquire radios for Dane County Parks Vehicles to allow them access to Dane County’s new “DaneCom” interoperable emergency communications system. This will allow seamless communications between parks rangers and law enforcement during events requiring a multi-jurisdictional response.

Stewart Lake Beach Enhancement - - Dane County invested millions in restoring and dredging Stewart Lake near Mount Horeb. The project included development of a brand new beach and swimming area that has become a regional destination for families during the summer months. This past summer the beach experienced problems with algae and geese - - reducing beach activity. \$2,500 is included in this budget to enhance the beach experience for families visiting Stewart Lake and Park.

New Large Patrol Boat for Dane County Sheriff’s Marine and Trail Division - - requested by Sheriff and Lakes and Watershed Commission, this new \$250,000 patrol boat will be largely offset in future years by reimbursements from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The County Executive's budget also continues Dane County's commitment to Conservation and existing Lake clean-up efforts. The Conservation Fund includes \$2-million, the Lake Preservation and Renewal Fund is at \$2-million, the Partners for Recreation and Conservation (PARC) Program is funded at \$750,000 with new language targeting these dollars for shovel-ready recreational investments.