



# 2025 Annual Report

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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As we reflect on the past year, I'm reminded that meaningful progress in land and water stewardship is rarely a single "finish line." It is steady, incremental work—planning, constructing, maintaining, monitoring, partnering, and adjusting—across seasons and budget cycles. Even so, pausing to look back matters. It helps us recognize what staff accomplished, learn from what didn't go as planned, and stay grounded in the public purpose behind every project and decision.



One theme that stood out this year was the expectation that local government deliver results that are both technically sound and publicly trusted. Dane County continues to experience growth and change, and with that comes more complexity: more demands on infrastructure, more pressure on land and water resources, and more voices in the conversation about how we balance access, protection, and long-term resilience. The work described in this annual report reflects that reality—projects that require engineering, natural resource expertise, regulatory coordination, and sustained public engagement.

I also want to highlight something you may not see fully captured in the pages that follow: the way our department strengthened how we work together and show up for residents and partners. Whether we are implementing shoreline and stormwater improvements, supporting conservation practices, managing county lands, or coordinating with municipalities and state agencies, the quality of our outcomes depends on the strength of our teams. This year, staff continued investing in practices that make a workplace effective—clear communication, respectful debate, consistent project management, and a commitment to safety and professionalism in the field and office. Those efforts are not separate from serving the public; they are central to it.

None of what we do happens in isolation. I'm grateful to our staff for their skill, persistence, and care in navigating complex projects and public expectations. And I thank the many people and organizations who make this work possible: Dane County residents, partner municipalities, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and other agencies, nonprofits, commissions and committees, volunteers, donors, and the elected officials who provide direction and support. Your engagement—especially when issues are challenging—helps us deliver durable, accountable stewardship of Dane County's land and water resources.

Looking ahead, we will keep focusing on practical, measurable improvements while planning for the long term. The work is demanding, but it is also deeply worthwhile. I'm proud of what this department accomplished this year, and I'm honored to serve alongside a team committed to protecting Dane County's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

**LAURA HICKLIN**

Department Director

# A NOTE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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It is a great privilege to serve as your Dane County Executive and to work alongside the dedicated professionals of the Land & Water Resources Department. Their expertise, creativity, and deep commitment to environmental stewardship continue to position Dane County as a national leader in natural resource conservation.



Everyone in Dane County understands the value of our natural areas. Environmental stewardship is woven into the fabric of this community through our lakes and streams, parks and trails, and rural farmlands. This year, our work highlighted the power of collaboration to protect our waterways, support sustainable farming, and advance climate resilience.

That shared commitment was on full display as we celebrated the 90th anniversary of Dane County Parks, marking nine decades of preserving places where residents can reconnect with nature, recreate, and recharge. The partnership between the Land & Water Resources Department and Dane Arts brought conservation and creativity together through the Environmental Fun Fair and a new mural at the Heritage Center.

Our exceptional staff continued to protect water quality and build resilience. Through Dane Demo Farms, farmers across the county demonstrated innovative conservation practices that improve soil health, reduce runoff, and protect our lakes and waterways. We continued progress on Legacy Sediment Removal projects to improve water quality and on Yahara River sediment removal efforts that reduce flood risks.

These initiatives reflect a commitment to practical, science-based solutions that ensure clean water, healthy land, and accessible green space for Dane County residents. I am deeply grateful for the Land & Water Resources team's leadership and for the many community partners who make this work possible. Their passion and dedication inspires me every day, and together, we are protecting Dane County's natural foundation for decades to come.

## MELISSA AGARD

Dane County Executive

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

 If you see this icon next to a story, click to take a deeper dive and learn even more.

# NEW DATA DASHBOARDS TRACK CONSERVATION BENEFITS i

Staff systematically measure the environmental benefits delivered by department conservation and restoration work each year. Examples of these benefits include reductions in phosphorus that fuel harmful algae blooms in local waterways and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. By applying consistent methods and verified data across projects, staff translate on-the-ground practices into measurable outcomes that improve water quality, create wildlife habitat, and mitigate climate change.



To make these results transparent and accessible, the department has launched new interactive, map-based data dashboards. Users can explore annual environmental benefits by watershed, municipality, project area, or countywide. These tools allow residents, partners, and policymakers to see how individual projects contribute to broader community goals.



Youth add native plants seeds to a prairie to increase diversity. Perennial cover, like prairies or trees, have the ability to take carbon out of the atmosphere and store it in plants or in the soil.



# PARKS & OPEN SPACE PLAN i

This year staff completed the **2025-2030 Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan**, a comprehensive roadmap that will guide conservation, recreation, and public access priorities over the next five years. The plan identifies key environmental corridors for protection, sets priorities for expanding recreational opportunities, and outlines strategies to partner with local governments and conservation organizations. It also places a strong focus on equity and ensuring park investments benefit all Dane County residents.

The update to the Parks and Open Space Plan began in January of 2024 and included a comprehensive public input process consisting of three public informational meetings that provided the public, stakeholders, and local units of government opportunities to provide input on recommendations found within the plan.

## STAY IN THE LOOP ABOUT LAKES i

This year, the department created a new electronic newsletter to provide timely on topics related to the lakes, including aquatic plant management, pier and buoy schedules, aquatic invasive species prevention, and boat ramp pier removals at county landings. Additionally, the newsletter will announce opportunities for public comment and feedback. Anyone interested can subscribe to this or other newsletters on the department website.



# WETLANDS & WATERWAYS

Over the past year, staff advanced major restoration projects that improve water quality, strengthen wildlife habitat, and build more resilient landscapes. These efforts restore natural stream and wetland systems while expanding public access.

## BLACK EARTH CREEK STREAM RESTORATION

Construction was completed on 4,000 feet of Black Earth Creek, improving water quality, reducing flooding impacts, and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. The project added a new canoe/kayak launch and angler access points, stabilized streambanks, and installed in-stream habitat features. Nearby uplands were restored with 18 acres of prairie, 12 acres of riparian corridor, and eight acres of oak savanna to support native species and long-term ecosystem health.

## FALK WELLS WETLAND RESTORATION

Dane County, in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited, advanced the third phase of wetland restoration at the Falk Wells Sugar River Wildlife Area. Thirteen acres of wetland hydrology are being restored using a berm and water control structure to create and manage a seven-acre wildlife pond. Surrounding areas will be planted to native prairie, improving habitat and increasing water storage.

## DOOR CREEK RESTORATION

More than 15,000 feet of Door Creek was restored to its original alignment, and about 40,000 cubic feet of phosphorus-rich sediment was removed and safely contained on site. An additional 160 acres of former cropland were seeded to prairie to reduce runoff and improve habitat. These changes slow stormwater, filter nutrients before they reach local lakes, and support fish, amphibians, grassland birds, and pollinators.



Door Creek restoration

# LAND RESTORATION & FORESTRY i

Staff, certified land stewards, volunteers, and community partners actively managed nearly **2,700 acres** of priority habitats across the park system this year. These coordinated efforts support habitat restoration, invasive species management, and long-term ecological resilience.

Staff planted nearly **1,000 trees** to help mitigate the loss of park canopy due to Emerald Ash Borer and other tree diseases. In addition, more than **600 saplings** were donated to Friends groups and community partners for planting in both natural areas and developed park spaces.

## Forestry | 1,000 trees planted

A relatively mild storm season allowed forestry staff to dedicate additional time to tree planting initiatives. Nearly 1,000 trees were planted across multiple park properties. Notable projects included shade tree installations at Indian Lake and Capital Springs Dog Parks, as well as replacement plantings at Lake Farm and Mendota campgrounds.



Planting trees at the Heritage Center on Earth Day



### Prescribed Burning | 1,225 acres burned

Many of the ecosystems managed within the park system depend on prescribed fire to maintain diversity and ecological health. This year, staff and partners conducted prescribed burns on 1,225 acres. These efforts play a critical role in controlling invasive species and promoting the diversification of restored prairies and woodlands.

Favorable fall weather conditions allowed staff to expand operations beyond the traditional spring burn window, with nearly 400 acres burned during the fall season.

### 1,700 Pounds of Seed Collected | 450 Acres Planted

Staff, volunteers, and partners collected and processed approximately 1,700 pounds of seed representing **173 native species**. This seed will support the restoration and enhancement of approximately 200 acres of prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats. A portion of the seed was also used to grow free plants for schools and community groups through the department's Free Native Plants program.

It proved to be a challenging year for seed collection due to spring and summer precipitation patterns. Several iconic species, including Compass Plant, Rosinweed, and Common Milkweed, experienced reduced yields. Nonetheless, annual collection goals were met, with notable achievements including the harvest of **seven milkweed species** totaling nearly 50 pounds.

# SUPPORTING DANE COUNTY PARKS

Through the generosity of park supporters, the Foundation for Dane County Parks raised more than \$600,000 to advance programming and improvements across Dane County Parks.

Philanthropic support expanded youth programming, providing more than 10,000 children with meaningful outdoor learning experiences. Increasing access and inclusion also remained a central priority, helping drive a multi-million-dollar improvement project at Mendota County Park in memory of Karen and Tom Ragatz. Foundation support made new accessibility features and other park upgrades possible.

In celebration of the park system's 90th anniversary, the Foundation **raised \$90,000** to restore **90 acres** to native habitat, supporting prairie plantings, seed collection and cleaning, volunteer training, prescribed burns, and invasive species removal. Foundation support also enabled the Dane County Parks to hire a Youth Volunteers for Conservation Coordinator to help launch a new conservation internship program.

Together, these efforts strengthened programs, broadened access, and advanced long-term conservation throughout the Dane County Parks system.



Get Outside! program participants canoe on Lake Waubesa

# STEWARDS OF THE LAND

Volunteers are critical to the health and vibrancy of our parks. This year, more than **2,500 volunteers** contributed over **20,000 hours** of service to Dane County Parks, reflecting the community's deep commitment to conservation and stewardship. In addition to these dedicated volunteers, numerous Friends Groups and partner organizations hosted their own workdays and events in parks across the county (not reflected in this total).

The volunteer program received a Silver Star Award from the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association for its Women & Gender Minorities Chainsaw Trainings and workdays. These events provide safe, inclusive opportunities for women and gender minorities to build hands-on skills and explore pathways into natural resource management and conservation careers.



Sewing seed collection bags



Planting a stormwater basin



Women and Gender Minorities Workday



## PARKS PEOPLE LOVE

In 2025, Dane County Parks welcomed more than **5 million visitors**. Staff worked year-round to ensure parks remained clean, welcoming, and safe, creating positive experiences for campers, anglers, families, and event groups across the system.

*"Big shoutout to your staff, for being so helpful, available & friendly... We heard so many comments about how beautiful & well-maintained our venue was. We are proud to call Dane County home & very grateful for our beautiful outdoor spaces."*



## EROSION CONTROL & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Staff issue erosion control and stormwater management permits and perform site inspections to ensure that these permits are being followed. This year, staff performed **3,971 site inspections** and took **28 enforcement actions**.

### **Urban Water Quality Grant Recipient Profile**

The Village of Mount Horeb received a 2025 grant to build new stormwater facilities along Lake Street near Stewart Lake. The project will remove more than 600 pounds of sediment each year, increase infiltration by over 30,000 cubic feet annually, and reduce sediment and phosphorus entering the lake.

## INTERNATIONAL TRAILS SUMMIT

In April, Dane County hosted the International Trails Summit at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. Organized by American Trails and the Professional TrailBuilders Association, the event brought more than 700 trail professionals from around the world to the region. An offsite field day at Babcock County Park featured trail tours and demonstrations, along with guided trips on the Lower Yahara River Trail and between Babcock and Fish Camp County Park.

Hosting the Summit showcased Dane County's parks and regional trail network while strengthening professional partnerships and advancing best practices in trail development.

# YAHARA RIVER SEDIMENT REMOVAL PROJECT UPDATE i

The county continued implementation of the multiyear Yahara River Sediment Removal Project to improve the river’s capacity to convey water by increasing the depth and width of the channel’s deepest section. These improvements allow for greater flow during periods of high water and help reduce the risk of future flooding in the Yahara chain of lakes. Sediment removal is accomplished using a combination of mechanical and hydraulic dredging methods.

This year, crews removed an additional **28,000 cubic yards** of sediment along approximately 1,700 feet of the Yahara River, from the river mouth at Lake Kegonsa upstream to Highway AB near Fish Camp County Park, as well as farther upstream near Dyreson Road and the Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area. To date, a total of **219,200 cubic yards** of sediment has been removed as part of the project.



Hydraulic dredge in the Yahara River

# EDUCATION AND ACTION PROTECT LOCAL WATERWAYS

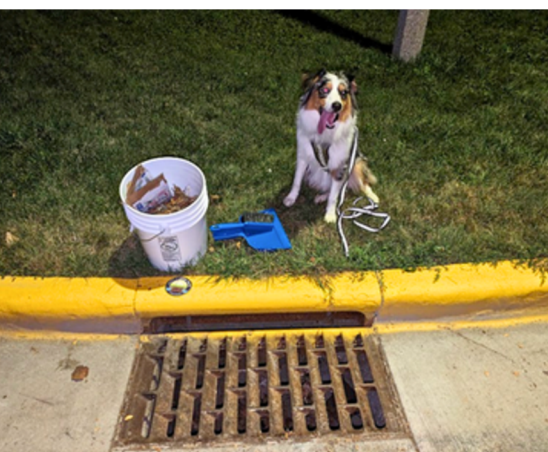
Simple, everyday actions can significantly reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality in local waterways. **Ripple Effects**, a joint program of Dane County and the Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership, educates residents about practical steps they can take to protect local waters. A few project highlights are below.

## Adopt A Storm Drain Program

The Dane County Adopt A Storm Drain Program encourages residents to keep storm drains clear to prevent localized flooding and reduce pollution entering waterways. Since the program began in 2022, more than 150 volunteers have committed to maintaining storm drains across eight Dane County communities. In 2025, volunteers adopted **84 storm drains** and reported more than 500 cleanings. The program is available to residents and groups in the City of Fitchburg, City of Stoughton, City of Sun Prairie, City of Verona, Village of Cross Plains, Village of DeForest, Village of McFarland, and Village of Cottage Grove.

## Dig Into Rain Gardens Coaching Sessions

The third annual Dig Into Rain Gardens: One-on-One Coaching Sessions connected rain garden experts with **26 residents** interested in installing rain gardens or downspout gardens. The 30-minute personalized format allowed participants to address site-specific questions and gain confidence to begin their projects. As an added incentive, participants who installed a rain garden or downspout garden using plants purchased through the Plant Dane Native Plant Sale were eligible for up to \$50 in plant reimbursement.



# SUGAR RIVER WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION i

Dane County Parks significantly expanded the Sugar River Wildlife Area, growing from the original 60 acres acquired in 2018 to more than **900 acres of public land**, along with an additional 108-acre public hunting easement. The expanded area protects over 1.5 miles of the Sugar River and Badger Mill Creek and includes wetlands, prairies, woodlands, and agricultural fields that support diverse wildlife. The site offers opportunities for hunting, fishing, paddling, hiking, and winter recreation, preserves historic stone buildings and a Native American mound, and hosts a Dane Demo Farm edge-of-field monitoring research site focused on soil health and water quality.



## EDGE-OF-FIELD MONITORING i PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The Sugar River Wildlife Area hosts the county's first paired edge-of-field monitoring stations, allowing researchers to compare how different conservation practices affect runoff, soil health, erosion, and water quality under the same conditions. As part of Dane Demo Farms, the project advances farmer-led research and strengthens the link between agricultural practices and clean water outcomes. Follow along with Dane Demo Farms research projects at: [demofarms.danecounty.gov](https://demofarms.danecounty.gov)



Edge of field monitoring station



## FIELD DAY FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

In August, the Sime Farm in Stoughton hosted a tour for elected officials from the Land Conservation Committee, Environment Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, members of the County Board, and the Dane delegation of state representatives and senators. Attendees heard about the importance of conservation practices and programs the Sime Farm has participated in to build soil health, sustainability, and protect water quality.

The tour included a demonstration about soil health, a rainfall simulation, and a tour of Dane Demo Farms research plots. The Sime family has participated in a number of conservation efforts including cover crops, managed grazing, the Continuous Cover Program, and is an active participant in the Dane Demo Farms initiative. This event gave staff the opportunity to showcase the conservation efforts and growing collaboration between the department and local farms.

## LAND CONSERVATION PROGRESS

Staff worked with farmers and landowners with the implementation of agricultural conservation practices to reduce soil erosion and protect water quality. This year, between county and state sources, more than **\$2.9 million** was allocated to landowners to help with these projects. Some highlights this year include:

- Nearly **20 acres** of grassed waterways installed.
- Over **9,900 acres** of cover crops planted.
- **199 cost-share contracts** written with landowners.

## NEW INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND OPENS

Dane County Parks opened a new, inclusive playground at McCarthy Youth & Conservation County Park, advancing a vision first identified in the 2015 Park Master Plan. Located near the timber shelter, the playground supports youth engagement and nature-based recreation for all ages and abilities. It is the first playground in the Dane County Park System to feature a poured-in-place rubber surface to improve accessibility and access throughout the play area.

Playground features include climbing structures, slides, ropes, logs, and smooth pathways. To support long-term comfort and usability, staff planted 25 trees to provide future shade. This project reflects continued investment in equity, accessibility, and meaningful outdoor experiences for families.



## GREAT SAUK/WALKING IRON TRAIL

### PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The final span of the new Great Sauk/Walking Iron Trail bridge over the Wisconsin River was installed at the end of 2025. Phase 1 of the project is anticipated to be completed fall of 2026. Phase 2 is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2026 and extend the trail another almost 3 miles into Dane County.



# LAND ACQUISITIONS

## 256 ACRES PERMANENTLY PROTECTED

### **Morton Forest, Town of Black Earth (1.19 acres)**

A small parcel was acquired to resolve a boundary issue affecting driveway access from Reeve Road.

### **McCarthy Youth & Conservation County Park, Town of Sun Prairie (34.81 acres)**

Land added to the park's southeast side provides panoramic views and supports future expansion of the trail system.



### **Babcock County Park, Town of Dunn (13.1 acres)**

Acquisition of the former Toddle-In Nursery property will protect culturally significant resources and create new trail connections on the east side of the park. The parcel includes frontage along the Yahara River, supporting future lake management efforts.

### **Dane County Conservation Fund Grants:**

#### **The Prairie Enthusiasts, Town of Blue Mounds (77.1 acres)**

This addition to the Erbe Grassland Preserve (within the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area) provides critical nesting and foraging habitat for grassland birds and expands public recreation opportunities. The parcel also has one of the county's highest groundwater recharge rates, supporting the watersheds of two Class II trout streams.

#### **Town of Dunn (49.7 acres)**

This conservation easement protects agricultural land along the Yahara River in the Lower Mud Lake Natural Resource Area. The easement restricts cropping along the river corridor, establishing a wooded buffer to reduce runoff, preserve wetlands, and improve water quality.

#### **Driftless Area Land Conservancy, Town of Primrose (80 acres)**

This acquisition within the Southwest Grasslands Resource Protection Initiative Area and the Southern Driftless Grasslands' Perry-Primrose Bird Conservation Area will conserve grassland and remnant prairie habitat for threatened species while providing new opportunities for public recreation.

# EDUCATION INITIATIVES i

Education is a core part of the department's mission. This year, staff expanded hands-on learning opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities, with many programs based out of the Heritage Center education facility and supported by strong partnerships across the county.

## Junior Naturalist Summer Camp

This year the summer camp program served **701 campers**, a new record! To help ensure access for families facing financial barriers, the Foundation for Dane County Parks provided **\$6,290 in fee assistance** to **27 campers**. This assistance helped more youth access outdoor learning experiences that build confidence, curiosity, and a sense of belonging in nature. A dedicated staff position also helped with program modifications and communication with families for individuals with disabilities.

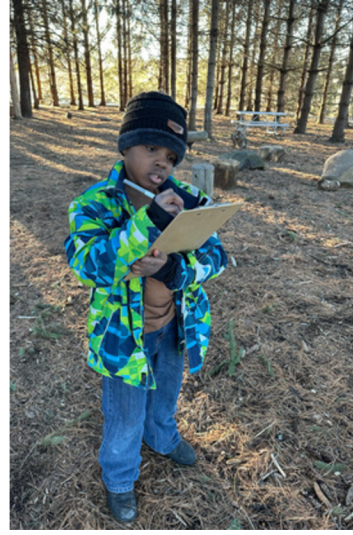
## Explorer Series

Towards the end of 2024, the Explorer Series program launched to support homeschool families in their outdoor adventures and learning during the school year. The group started off with only one a week and now has expanded to reach ages 5 – 16 with 3 separate sessions a week. Each trimester has a unique theme to engage the homeschool community. The program expanded this year based on demand and very very positive participant feedback.



*"We've tried a LOT of different programs and classes, but I've never felt so good about money spent as I have with this class. I'm so grateful that you've developed a truly great program for imparting that knowledge, care, and wisdom. You seem to truly understand homeschoolers and have put the work in to provide a rich and deep educational experience."*

*- Explorer Series Parent*



## Get Outside!

The Get Outside! community center-based program focuses on equitable and inclusive access to nature-based learning and outdoor recreation for youth who may not otherwise participate in parks programming. This year, the program grew to seven community centers and served **834 youth**, strengthening connections between neighborhoods and the county park system.

## Native Garden Learning Hub

The department partnered with the Wild Ones Madison to launch a new community learning and networking opportunity focused on creating, enhancing, and managing native plant gardens. The Native Garden Learning Hub, based at the Heritage Center, brings together practical resources, local expertise, and volunteers to support residents at every experience level. This year, the Hub hosted five events and reached **125 participants**. Notably, nearly half of attendees were brand new to the concept of native gardening, demonstrating a need for these learning spaces.



### Learning Hub Participant

*"I am an avid gardener and now I have a place to refer all of my friends who ask me to plan a native garden area for them—this is PERFECT!"*

# COMMUNITY EVENTS PROMOTE INCLUSION, & STEWARDSHIP

Throughout the year, the department hosted large-scale events that connected residents with nature through hands-on learning and inclusive outdoor experiences. Some of these big events are highlighted below.

## Environmental Fun Fair

The fourth annual Environmental Fun Fair brought together county departments and community organizations for a hands-on celebration of science, nature, and art. Dane County Departments including Dane Arts, Waste & Renewables, Human Services, and Civil Rights, joined the event to host interactive stations. More than **350 community members** participated in over 20 different activity stations, demonstrating how cross-department collaboration can create accessible and meaningful learning experiences for families.



## Birdability

Staff partnered with the Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance to host a Birdability event at Fish Camp County Park during national Birdability Week. Birdability events are designed to make birding and the outdoors welcoming, inclusive, safe, and accessible for all. Participants selected from sit, stroll, bike, or walk options.

Despite rainy conditions, the event welcomed participants of all ages and abilities and successfully created an inclusive and accessible birding experience. Attendees observed a wide variety of species, including Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles, coots, and several types of sparrows.



## Earth Day

Earth Day activities engaged more than 90 public volunteers that planted 30 trees, transplanted nearly 2,000 native plant seedlings, and spread mulch and prairie seed. Five Get Outside community center groups also participated. Participants also explored educational activities, including making native seed balls, using microscopes to examine tree specimens, and distributing free Heritage Oak seedlings provided by the Dane County Tree Board.

## Arbor Day

Staff hosted **250 sixth-grade students** from the Middleton Cross Plains School District at Indian Lake County Park for a forestry field day. Students explored natural resource management through hands-on activities including aerial lift rides, heavy equipment demonstrations, tree identification, dendrochronology, arborist tools, air spading, throwline practice, nature walks, and fisheries and lake ecology education.

Students planted more than 600 hardwood saplings in restoration areas and observed wood milling and splitting demonstrations, with lumber repurposed for park trailer decking and side boards. The event was supported by department staff, DNR Urban Forestry, the Office of Energy and Climate Change, the Dane County Tree Board, and Arbor Systems.

The Arbor Day program received the **ISA Gold Leaf Award** from the Wisconsin Arborist Association. The event will rotate to a new school each year, expanding opportunities for students to explore forestry and natural resource careers.



# AWARDS & RECOGNITION

This year, we were honored to receive three major awards recognizing excellence and community impact. These achievements reflect the dedication of our staff, whose hard work often happens out of the limelight.

Day after day, our team goes above and beyond on projects that strengthen the health, wellbeing, and recreational opportunities in our community. Their commitment, professionalism, and passion make a lasting difference – and these awards belong to them.



**Dane County Parks** received two awards from Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association. The “Park Design Award” for the new playground at McCarthy Youth and Conservation Park and the “Silver Star Award” for the women and gender minorities chainsaw trainings and workdays.



**The Land & Water Resources Department** received the “ISA Gold Leaf Award” from the Wisconsin Arborist Association for an Arbor Day event hosted at Indian Lake County Park with 300 sixth grade students from the Middleton Cross Plains School District.



**The Land & Water Resources Department** received the “Outstanding Contribution to the Stormwater and Erosion Control Industry of Wisconsin Award” from the North American Stormwater Control Association of Wisconsin (NASECA-WI). This award goes to an individual or organization that has made a positive impact on the erosion control and stormwater management practices in Wisconsin.

# NEW FULL-TIME STAFF!



**Andrew Paulios**  
Natural Resource Manager

## RETIREMENTS

- Curt Diehl, Conservation Specialist II
- Jon Ninnemann, Lakes Management Crew Leader
- Pete Jopke, Environmental Planner
- Steve Ottelein, Conservation Specialist Advanced
- Bob Rundle, Mechanic
- Mike Bernards, Park Crew Leader

*Thank you for your many years of service!*



## IN MEMORIAM AL JENSEN

Al served the county for 15 years. He was a Park Laborer, working on the mow crews throughout the park system. Al was consistent, hardworking, and put value to everything he did which was reflected in the parks he took care of. He loved the outdoors, his cats and was always up for sharing a story or two.