

Department of Natural Resources Impact in Richland County

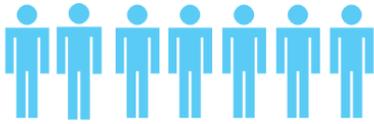
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources aims to excel at working and partnering with the public to protect and manage the state's natural resources while supporting the economy and the well-being of our citizenry.



Did you know?

In 2011, Wisconsin had

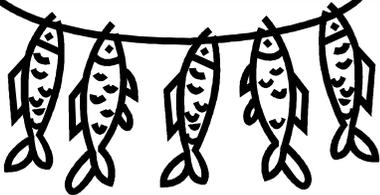
763,384



RESIDENT HUNTERS

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

\$1.4 billion



In Richland County, **15,109** licenses were sold in 2013-14.

Investments in Recreation

DNR offers a variety of safety classes around the state annually. In 2013, a total of **162 citizens became hunter, ATV, boating and snowmobile certified** in Richland County.

In 2014, DNR stocked **300 pheasants** in Richland County. Stocking results in increased hunting opportunities, which helps the local economy.

Richland County has over **12,550 acres of state owned lands** open for public hunting and outdoor recreation.

Community Partnerships

Richland County has **57 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.

The DNR has strong relationships with Richland County groups through its **Citizen-Based Monitoring Program**, an initiative that connects citizens and scientists together to monitor and evaluate Wisconsin's natural resources. Recent partnerships in Richland County included support to the **Southwest Badger Resource Conservation and Development** to engage county citizens in the identification, location and cataloging of invasive plant species. The **Valley Stewardship Network** to provide scholarships to Wisconsin Master Naturalist participants in the Kickapoo River watershed.

Contact Information

Secretary's Director: Mark Aquino
(608) 275-3262

Mark.Aquino@wisconsin.gov

General Information: 1-888-936-7463

Website: dnr.wi.gov



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Snapshot of grants in Richland County

A total of **\$989,384** was awarded in Richland 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, cost sharing to address runoff issues, Oak Savanna restoration and habitat enhancement project and the Port Andrews Boat Landing Rehabilitation Project.

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

Forestry Activities

Since June 2010, **DNR has provided over \$458,000 to private forest owners in the county to assist them in protecting and enhancing their forested lands, prairies and waters.**

Through the Forest Tax Law programs (Forest Crop and MFL), **64,965 acres** of private land in Richland County are being properly managed for timber, wildlife, water quality and a healthy environment. Additionally, **3,161 acres** of those privately owned lands are open for public access for hunting and recreation.

Since 2011, **Richland County has received \$19,370 in Urban Forestry Grants** to support new, innovative projects that will develop sustainable urban and community forestry programs.

DNR granted \$19,325 to local Fire Departments in Richland County to purchase equipment and supplies that improve their capability and safety in handling wild land fires.

Three communities in Richland County have received technical assistance from the DNR between 2011 and 2014, which helped them to develop or improve their urban forest management programs.

Environmental Cleanup Efforts

DNR approved **cleanups at 115 contaminated properties** resulting in **2 acres** being made available for reuse. DNR staff assures these cleanups provide **long-term protection of public health and environment.**

DNR responded to 17 spills of hazardous materials over the past three years. DNR works with local fire departments and regional hazardous materials teams to coordinate response and clean-up activities.

DNR provided **\$129,619 in reimbursements** over the past three years for expenses related to the **investigation and cleanup of petroleum contamination** from product storage systems.

Legislature authorized funding for the **Wisconsin Air Resource Program**, which created **improvements to the air permitting process.** This initiative resulted in more timely, consistent and transparent reviews of permits.

Deer Management in Richland County

In 2014, Richland 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 11 landowners who have over 1,800 acres of land enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program to improve wildlife habitat on their property.

In 2013, a total of 5,726 deer were registered in Richland County with 1,156 harvested during archery deer season and 4,570 harvested during the gun deer season.