

# Department of Natural Resources Impact in Columbia County

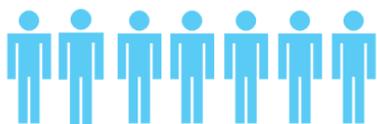
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources aims to excel at working and partnering with the public to protect and manage the state's natural resources while supporting the economy and the well-being of our citizenry.



## Did you know?

In 2011, Wisconsin had

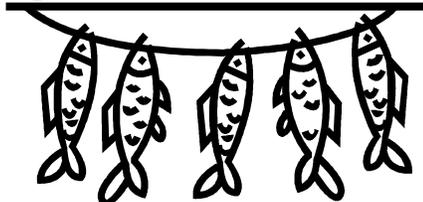
**763,384**



**RESIDENT HUNTERS**

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

**\$1.4 billion**



In Columbia County, **27,066** licenses were sold in 2013-14.

## Contact Information

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[Facebook.com/widnr/](https://www.facebook.com/widnr/)

## Investments in Recreation

**4,943 extended growth walleye** were stocked in **Park Lake** under the **Wisconsin Walleye Initiative**. The initiative aims to strengthen Wisconsin walleye waters.

DNR granted a total of **\$8,647** to the **Columbia County Sheriff Department** for boat patrol activities.

**\$453,396** was invested back into the infrastructure of Columbia County's state properties.

DNR offers a variety of safety classes around the state annually. In 2013, a total of **373 citizens** became **hunter, ATV, boating and snowmobile** certified in Columbia County.

## Community Partnerships

The **DNR** partnered with **Madison Gas and Electric** and **WI Public Service Corp.** to implement a major air quality improvement project at the Columbia Energy Center in Pardeeville.

The **MacKenzie Center** is one of the most diverse environmental education and outdoor skills facilities in Wisconsin. Since DNR resumed management of the center in January 2014, we have **added 31 new schools, 11 new courses and served over 5,000 youth and school groups hailing from 16 counties**. **MacKenzie** also hosted three large events to promote outdoor skills and environmental education in **Columbia County**. **Maple Festival, Outdoor Skills Day and the Haunted Hayride served over 3,700 members of the public**. In addition, the hiking trails, wildlife area and fire tower attract countless visitors each year.

## Snapshot of grants in Columbia County

**DNR awarded \$285,744 in grants for outdoor recreation improvements** including a conservation easement, boat launch, snowmobile maintenance and ice age trail materials.

**DNR granted \$1,471,071 towards water quality**. Projects included: aquatic invasive inventory, cost share installation of manure management systems and the improvement of the Aldo Leopold Foundation Pine Island Important Bird Area.

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

## Forestry Activities

Since June 2010, **DNR has provided over \$69,283 to private forest owners in the county to assist them in protecting and enhancing their forested lands, prairies and waters** through management plan development, tree planting, practices that improve forest health and soil and water protection.

**DNR granted \$36,639 to local Fire Departments** in Columbia County to purchase equipment and supplies that improve their capability and safety on fires.

Since 2011, **Columbia County has received \$37,056 in Urban Forestry grants to support new, innovative projects that will develop sustainable urban and community forestry programs** such as tree inventories and assessments, management plans, emerald ash borer (EAB) preparedness plans, urban forest restoration projects, staff training and public education.

Since 2005, **over 7,713 cord equivalents of timber products have been harvested from state-owned land** in Columbia County. The harvests provided over **\$106,611 in revenue** to the state and contributed employment opportunities and raw materials to the local economy.

**Columbia County has 101 acres of private land open for public access for recreation as a result of 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.

## Environmental Cleanup Efforts

DNR has approved **cleanups at 155 contaminated properties resulting in 19 acres being made available for reuse**. DNR staff assures these cleanups provide **long-term protection of public health and environment**.

DNR responded to **38 spills of hazardous materials** over the past three years.

DNR provided **\$208,133 in reimbursements** over the past three years for expenses relating to the **investigation and cleanup of petroleum contamination**.

## Deer management in Columbia County

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

DNR worked with one landowner who has over 40 acres enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program to improve wildlife habitat on their property.

In 2013, a total of 6,118 deer were registered in Columbia County with 1,584 harvested during archery deer season and 4,534 harvested during the gun deer season.