



# PLANCON CHRONICLE

PLANNING & CONSERVATION



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**SHEBOYGAN COUNTY**  
PLANNING & CONSERVATION DEPT.

508 New York Ave.  
Sheboygan WI 53081

## ROCKY KNOLL TRAILS

Provided the necessary permits are granted a new and exciting amenity will be coming to the 62-acre Rocky Knoll Health Care Center property this summer. The Planning & Conservation Department was successful in obtaining a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant to help develop a 5-mile single-track mountain biking and hiking trail system on the property.

Single-track mountain biking/hiking trails are 2-3' in width and are very low-impact in regards to their footprint and the surrounding environment. There are two local examples of similar types of trails in Sheboygan County. One example exists in the Kettle Moraine State Forest (9 miles). The other example exists in the City of Sheboygan's Evergreen/Jaycee Quarry Parks (6 miles). The trail will be constructed by a crew from WisCorps starting in late July. WisCorp's mission is to develop leadership, self-confidence, and a strong work ethic in youth and young adults through the active stewardship of Wisconsin's communities and natural resources. The crew will be on-site for about a month and will primarily utilize hand tools to complete their work.



Mountain biking and hiking are growing, silent, low-impact sports in the United States and Wisconsin. According to the latest Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan survey responses, two of the top five activities most needed in counties are more hiking and biking trails. In fact, 68% survey respondents noted that within the last 12 months they participated in hiking while 50% noted that they participated in some form of cycling which included mountain biking as an option (for comparison, hunting sees 27% participation rate and snowmobiling/ATV/UTVing sees a rate of 25%). Hiking and mountain biking are two of the most popular nature-based activities in the millennial generation as well.

# WHY IS STORMWATER IMPORTANT?

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Rain and snow melt becomes stormwater when it travels over our roads, sidewalks, and yards. Stormwater flows to storm drains and ditches, which empty into our streams, rivers, and Lake Michigan, often without any kind of filtering or treatment. When stormwater picks up fertilizer, soap, pesticides, manure, and bacteria from pet waste, water can become polluted. Stormwater not only carries harmful pollutants into Sheboygan County's waterways, but can also result in flooding and erosion which leads to sedimentation.



**Sheboygan County**  
Stormwater Coalition

Individual households and farms contribute to water quality too. However, small-scale changes, when made collectively by a number of people, can lead to larger-scale results. Many people consider rain barrels an obvious solution in residential areas. While they are a wonderful feature that certainly has an impact on stormwater health, other options simply involve modifying practices we are already doing. For instance, composting yard waste, not overwatering the lawn, using organic mulch, and applying fertilizers and pesticides sparingly are all solutions. Regular septic inspection maintenance helps, as does cleaning up after pets and taking vehicles to a car wash instead of washing them in the driveway. Diverting rainwater that comes from rooftop downspouts to a rain garden or grassy swale is another landscaping alternative.

The Sheboygan County Planning & Conservation Department has, for years, invested in preventing stormwater pollution, such as with its voluntary agricultural buffer strip program. Financial incentives are provided in exchange for landowners to plant and maintain a strip of vegetation adjacent to waterways on their properties. The strip acts as a filter, keeping sediment and agriculturally-related nutrients out of the waters. Since the inception of the buffer strip program, the County has helped install nearly 16 miles and 92 acres of buffers.

Lastly, the Department is part of a consortium with several other communities to promote stormwater education. More information on these initiatives can be found on the group's website, [www.sheboyganwaters.com](http://www.sheboyganwaters.com).

## PACE WISCONSIN

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PACE Wisconsin, a statewide program which enables property owners to obtain low-cost, long-term financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation building improvements, has been available for Sheboygan County commercial and industrial new developments and redevelopments (including those in the agricultural industry) since late 2016.

PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) is an innovative program utilized in communities across the United States to drive economic development by authorizing municipalities and counties to work with private sector lenders to provide upfront financing—usually for 100 percent of the cost of energy-saving improvements—to property owners for qualified projects. PACE helps communities:

- Stimulate job creation and investment in goods and services.  
Lower the cost of doing business by reducing the cost of capital to fund improvements, which in turn save building owners money on operating expenses.
- Revitalize aging buildings, thus improving the local building stock—and raising the value of property and the potential tax base.
- Achieve sustainability goals by fostering the completion of energy and water conservation projects.

If you are considering upgrades to your existing commercial (including apartment rental complexes) or industrial building, or if you are considering building a new structure, consider PACE funding as an option to your financing structure. More information can be found on the Planning & Conservation Department's website, or by visiting [www.pacewi.org](http://www.pacewi.org).

## MEET BRETT ZEMBA

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My name is Brett Zemba. I have been working for Sheboygan County for 27 years. I graduated from Lakeshore Technical College 1993 with an Associate Degree in Mechanical Design. I was hired by Sheboygan County in 1992 as a Draftsman-Trainee for the Real Property Listing Department. In 1994 I became a Mapping Technician with Real Property Listing and in 2005 I transferred to the Planning & Conservation Department to fill the GIS Specialist position.

My work consists of creating and maintaining many of the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers, such as addresses, roads, & shoreland zoning. These layers are used by County Dispatch for mapping in 911 and on some of the online applications available on the County website. I am responsible for assigning new addresses in the County, outside of the cities & villages. I also assist in the review of new Certified Subdivision Maps and Subdivision Plats that are brought to our office for approval.

I enjoy working with residents of the County when they contact our office.



## MEET TYLER BETRY

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Hello, my name is Tyler Betry and I am the new Planning Analyst for the Department. I was brought aboard at the beginning of the year and so far I have been loving the challenges and successes that this role has to offer. I received my bachelors in Land Use Planning and a minor in Water Resources at UW Stevens Point. After I graduated from college I worked as an LTE for several northern County's until I landed a permanent role for Washington County as a Planning and Parks Analyst which brought me to this area. I later accepted this new role for Sheboygan County in hopes of growing within my career field and to plant some roots of my own.

I grew up in a small town in central Wisconsin so it was only fitting that my wife and I would buy a house and end up moving to the booming metropolis of Hingham. People caught on right away that we were not from the area by the way we pronounced the Village of Adell and the Town of Lima. After settling in and getting used to the area we could not be happier with the choices that brought us here.

In the fall you can typically find me out in the woods chasing whitetails and in the spring/summer months I am usually playing baseball or softball. I am excited to be a part of the Planning and Conservation Department and I look forward to assisting Sheboygan County's residents.

"When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

— Aldo Leopold

## MEET SAMANTHA LAMMERS

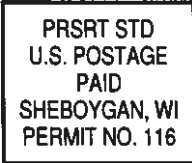
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Samantha Lammers has accepted the position of AIS Coordinator for Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties. Samantha has come from the Wisconsin DNR where she worked as a Natural Resource Specialist and a Deputy Conservation Warden for the last 5 years. She has extensive training in aquatic invasive species programming and led the Water Guard team that oversaw education and enforcement of invasive species throughout the state. She trained and supported 12 Water Guards (Wardens) across the state and DNR Wardens on invasive species identification, education, and enforcement tactics.

Samantha has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Policy and Planning from the University of Wisconsin- Green Bay as well as an Associate's Degree in Applied Science-Criminal Justice from Lakeshore Technical College, completing a 520 hour Police Academy as part of her degree.


Outside of work, Sam enjoys spending time with her husband and family, spending as much time outdoors as possible and teaching yoga at her own yoga studio. Samantha is grateful for this opportunity and is excited to get to work for Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties.





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If you wish to remove your address from this mailing list, please contact Karsen at (920) 459-1370

Since 2001, Sheboygan County has held one of, if not the, largest tree sales in the State. Well over 1.5 million trees have been sold in the program's history. For those who have ordered in the past, you know that you can pay with cash or check and that you have to manually fill out the order form. Entering and processing these orders is a very timely undertaking on the back end. A number of counties have moved strictly to a web-based ordering system via credit card and the feedback from their users has been quite positive. Sheboygan County set up a trial website this year and a few frequent tree sale attendees were asked to use it and provide feedback. It is our intent to move to a full or partial web-based system for the 2020 tree sale orders. We estimate that by moving to a fully automated inventory and ordering system, we will save two weeks or more staff time in processing the orders. We also hope that this makes ordering easier and more convenient for the end-user. If you have any feedback in this regard, please contact Karsen Gosh in the Planning & Conservation Office. Karsen can best be reached via email at [karsen.gosh@sheboygancounty.com](mailto:karsen.gosh@sheboygancounty.com).



**TREE SALE**