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Extension
Sheboygan County
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Extension Sheboygan County

Community Development Education

Kevin Struck, Community Development Educator

Working on the [10-year comprehensive plan updates](#) for the Towns of Mosel and Sheboygan has required Kevin to do substantial research on Lake Michigan water levels and bluff erosion. Fortunately, the UW system has been very involved in this topic, currently assembling a computer model of bluff movement to calculate recession rates and having authored publications such as *Protecting Coastal Investments: Examples of Regulations for Wisconsin's Coastal Communities*.

The current setback for new structures along Lake Michigan in Mosel and the Town of Sheboygan is 100 feet from the top edge of the bluff. This assumes a bluff recession rate of two feet per year and a 50-year useful life of the structure. Although 50 years seems like a short life expectancy for a new house, the County's shoreland ordinance is limited by the state in what it can require for setbacks.

Bluffs and beaches are continually molded by wave action and thus are subjected to ongoing disturbance. Wave action cuts through the slumped material at the base of the bluff, causing undercutting and eventual slumping or slope failure. During periods of low lake levels, the bottoms of bluffs (bluff toe) are subject to less erosion. The zone where waves break and cause greater erosion is further off shore. When higher water levels predominate, the water depth closer to shore becomes deeper. As a result, the wave impact increases along the bluff toe, creating more erosion. Although such erosion can be mitigated by properly placed shore protection, it cannot be completely stopped.

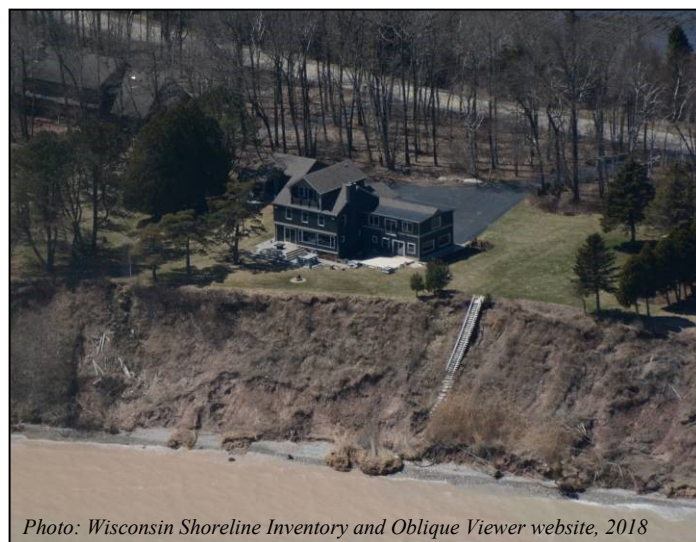


Photo: Wisconsin Shoreline Inventory and Oblique Viewer website, 2018

Lake Michigan's water level is determined primarily by precipitation, evaporation, river, and groundwater flows. After reaching a low point in 2013, the July 2019 lake level was at its highest in 33 years at 581.99 feet. That is 6 feet above its level in 2013.

There are 25 home lots in the Town of Sheboygan bordering Lake Michigan. Together these properties had a 2018 estimated fair market value of \$17.4 million (median value of \$697,784). The average distance from these homes to the top of the bluff is approximately 87 feet. The home closest to the bluff edge is approximately 17 feet away; the furthest is about 260 feet. Clearly, there is much at stake in learning all we can about coastal hazards such as high lake levels and bluff erosion.



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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

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IMPACT
REPORT

Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Farmer to Farmer website links buyers to sellers

Sheboygan County Extension Agent Mike Ballweg provided statewide leadership for the development of the UW-Madison Extension Farmer to Farmer Website.

Wisconsin farmers in various parts of the state experienced severe alfalfa losses this past winter resulting in forage shortages in combination with already low inventories. Additionally, a cooler and wetter than normal 2019 spring season caused delayed plantings for many Wisconsin farmers. As a result there may be an interest in selling or buying agricultural commodities from areas with surplus feed inventories to areas of the state in need of forages.

The Farmer to Farmer Forage and Corn website—probably best thought of as an electronic neighborhood bulletin board—allows local farmers to get in touch with one another. The website facilitates the marketing of feed commodities where livestock producers in need of high moisture corn, corn silage, hay, or straw can easily contact sellers. For example, those late planted acres may serve the dairy and livestock industry well, utilizing late planted acres as silage or high moisture corn, while reducing costs for corn grain growers associated with drying, storage, transportation, and marketing.

The site is developed and supported by UW-Madison Extension and can be found at: <https://farmertofarmer.extension.wisc.edu/>. The website is free of charge for both buyers and sellers. Users can search for, or list for sale, hay, haylage, straw, high moisture corn, corn silage, or corn grain. Buyers can search for farmers in just one Wisconsin county or in any number of counties at once.

The site has been an excellent way for buyers and sellers to get in touch locally. Neighbors often within short distances have been able to buy and sell as a result of the website.

Extension Sheboygan County

Human Development and Relationships & FoodWise

Jane Jensen, Human Development and Relationships Educator

The Family Caregiver Education/Support Group is co-facilitated by Jane on a monthly basis with the Sheboygan County Aging and Disability Resource Center. It is the only general family caregiver group in Sheboygan County. Jane shares research-based information with participants. She recently focused on the important topic of searching out resources and accepting help in order to preserve the health and well-being of the family caregiver. Unpaid family caregivers often balance employment with full-time family caregiving responsibilities. It is important for the family caregiver to utilize community resources and accept support in order to continue to care for their loved one and delay placement in expensive long-term care facilities.

Amanda Miller & Janeth Orozco, FoodWise

Amanda recently joined a newly formed group that will address hunger in Sheboygan County. The group is under the umbrella of the Healthy Sheboygan County 2020 and SCAN (Sheboygan Coalition on Activity and Nutrition) coalition. The group is called “Increase Coordination and Collaboration amongst Community Anti-Hunger Efforts” and led by the Sheboygan County Food Bank and will meet regularly to address hunger through a variety of projects.

Amanda leads a group in Fond du Lac County called the Food Providers Group. This group consists of 30+ agency partners in Fond du Lac County, most food pantries, and hot meal programs. The group meets quarterly in-person, as well as having regular email communication. Examples of recent resources shared by Amanda include information about: 1) tools on gleaning produce from local farmers, 2) farmer’s market donation programs, 3) how to address food allergies by pantry clients, and 4) national food recalls.

This group serves a few purposes:

- To be able to build relationships between food pantries in the same county. In some other counties, the food pantries do not work together to address hunger.
- To be able to share local resources among food pantries.
- To be able to share state and national resources, including Extension resources. Amanda serves as a connection to state and national tools to help food pantries serve healthy and safe food.

Amanda is now coordinating information from the Fond du Lac Food Providers Group to go towards the “Increase Coordination and Collaboration amongst Community Anti-Hunger Efforts” in Sheboygan County. Both Fond du Lac and Sheboygan County food pantries will benefit from the information she shares.

Extension Sheboygan County

4-H Youth Development

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator
Linda Robson, 4-H Program Coordinator



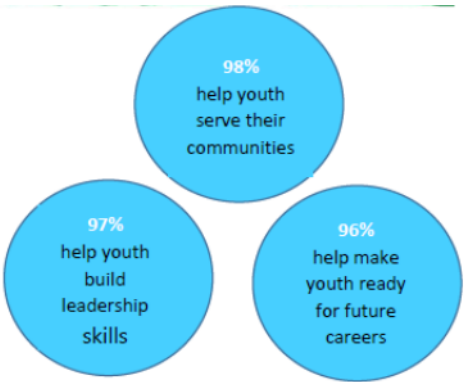
The 2018 North Central Region 4-H Volunteer Impact Study was a 12-state study of volunteers in the 4-H Youth Development Program. These states included IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, SD and WI. An electronic survey was sent to 1,000 randomly selected volunteer in each state and a total of 2,978 volunteers completed the survey (30% response rate). Throughout Wisconsin 255 volunteers participated including 12 from Sheboygan County.

The purpose of the study was to document the impact volunteers have on the 4-H program. Specifically the goals were:
To document what individuals believe they gain from their experiences as a 4-H Volunteer;
To investigate the organizational benefits the 4-H program gains from volunteers; and
To assess volunteers’ beliefs about the public value of volunteering with the 4-H program.

Volunteering in 4-H has taught me to PAUSE and not overreact. Take time to listen and think before speaking or responding to a situation. This has come in handy so many times in my life. – 4-H Volunteer

Individual Benefits: Volunteers personally benefit from their involvement in the 4-H Youth Development Program. Volunteers come into the 4-H Program hoping to support youth and make a difference, but they also gain skills in teaching, leadership and communication. These skills transfer to other environments in which volunteers work and live.

- 96% I was a caring adult for youth.
- 95% I had fun.
- 92% I built new relationships with youth.
- 89% I helped youth develop leadership skills
- 87% I positively impacted the community in which I live.
- 87% I made a difference in the lives of youth.
- 87% I thought about how to include all youth in 4-H.
- 86% I gained skills to use in other volunteering.



Being a leader has helped me be a more confident teacher – 4-H Volunteer

Public Value: Volunteers impact the communities where they live and work. Their value goes beyond the scope of the program and leads to changes in community conditions. Volunteers impact communities in four main ways:

- 92% say volunteering with 4-H makes communities stronger
- 89% say volunteering with 4-H contributes to better connected communities
- 81% say volunteering with 4-H improves the health of communities.
- 78% say volunteering with 4-H increases civic involvement.

Volunteers become more apt to voice their opinions and thoughts about community decisions that make others think about how it may affect other areas/people they may not have thought about before. - 4-H Volunteer