

# Redwood County Connection

Vol. 4, No. 1

The Official Newsletter of Redwood County

Spring Edition 2021

## REDWOOD COUNTY LICENSE CENTER OFFERS DRIVE THRU WINDOW

Redwood County continues to remain committed to mitigating the transmission of COVID and providing efficient services when the public visits county buildings. In addition to the current safety measures, the Redwood County License Center recently installed a drive thru window to provide contactless transactions.

At this time, only vehicle tab renewals will be processed via the drive thru, with additional services added at a later date. The window is on the south side of the Government Center located at 403 South Mill Street, in Redwood Falls. To make your visit efficient, be sure to have your renewal notice, driver's license, and current vehicle insurance card with you. All other license services will continue to be completed inside the Government Center.



The installation of the window was funded through the Federal CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund the County received the summer of 2020. County Administrator, Vicki Knobloch Kletscher shared, "we felt this was a responsible way to utilize funds to serve the residents of the County for many years."

"The License Center has remained extremely busy since we reopened after the onset of COVID. While many other License Centers were closed longer than us, or had limited appointment spots or only served residents within their County, we experienced a significant uptick in the number of customers served as we did not have any limitations," said Amy Serbus, License Center Supervisor. "We are excited to offer an alternative way to provide services, but ask the public to be patient as we make the transition."

The Redwood County License Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit [redwoodcounty-mn.us](http://redwoodcounty-mn.us)



### HOURS

MONDAY 8:30 a.m.  
through to  
FRIDAY 4:30 p.m.

### COME PREPARED

to provide timely & efficient service, make sure you have the required documents with you

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/real-id/Pages/required-documents.aspx>

### REAL ID

- Used for domestic air travel
- Access federal facilities such as military bases and nuclear power plants
- Issued to both U.S. and non-U.S. citizens
- Cannot be used as border crossing documents
- Valid for identification purposes
- Valid for lawful driving privileges

### STANDARD

- Used for federal purposes
- Boarding domestic flights until Oct. 1, 2021
- After October 2021, it will no longer be acceptable forms of identification for domestic air travel or federal use
- Valid for identification purposes
- Valid for lawful driving privileges

### ENHANCED

- Use for domestic air travel
- Access federal facilities now and acceptable forms of identification for federal purposes even after October 2021.
- Can be used as U.S. border crossing documents.
- Only issued to U.S. citizens.
- Valid for identification purposes.
- Valid for lawful driving privileges.

# Highway Dept 2021 Projects

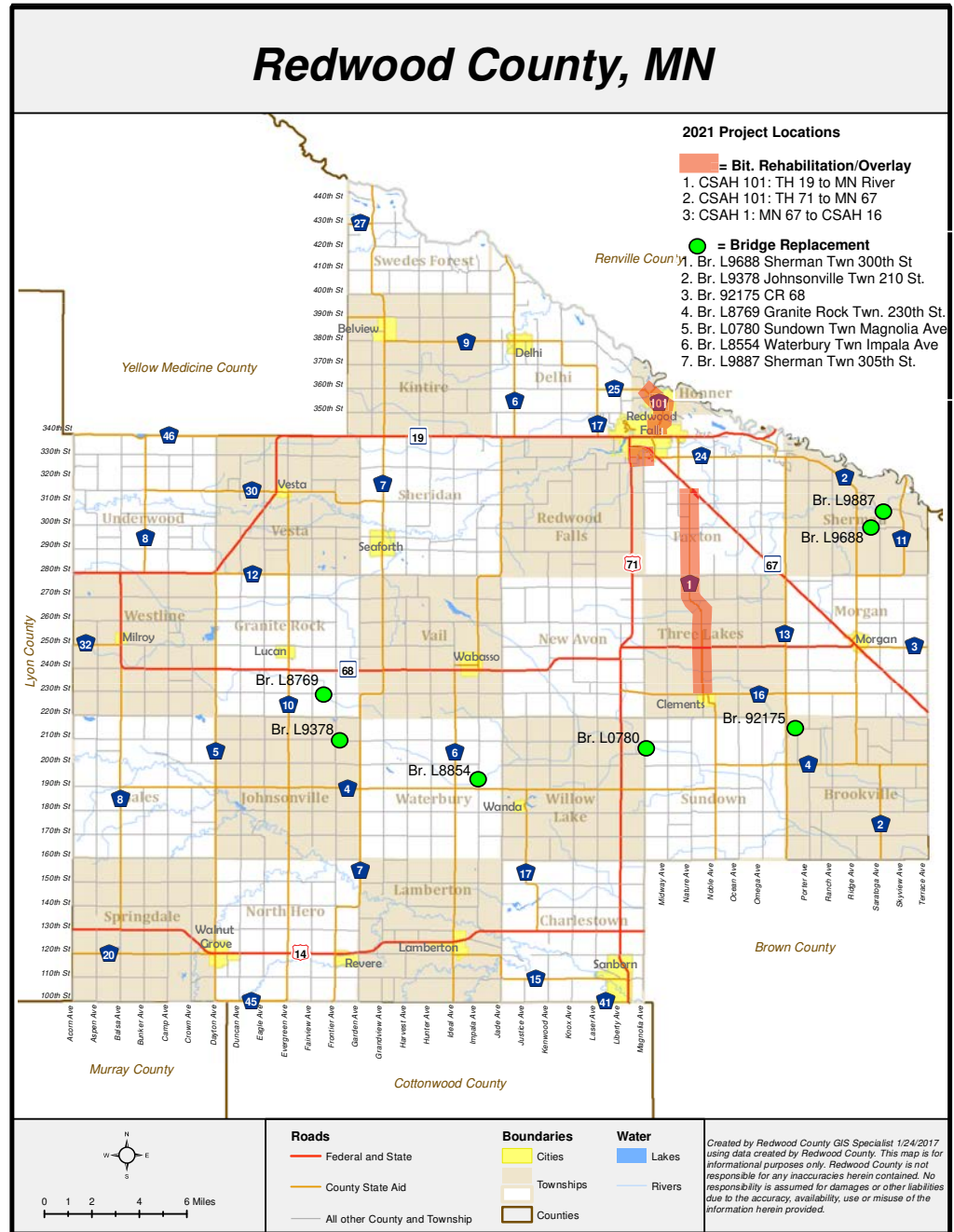
by Anthony Sellner, P.E.  
County Highway Engineer

**2021 Road and Bridge Projects:** The Highway Department has several road and bridge projects planned for the upcoming season, shown in the map. The CSAH 101 (County State Aid Highway 101) Bridge over the Minnesota River is progressing. All piers and abutments are completed and crews are preparing for installation of bridge beams and the concrete deck. A pavement rehabilitation project will also occur on CSAH 101 that spans from Trunk Highway 19 to the Minnesota River. During this pavement project, only local resident traffic will be permitted along this segment of CSAH 101. Both projects are scheduled for completion in June.

CSAH 1 from Clements to Minnesota Highway 67, and CSAH 101 from Trunk Highway 71 to Minnesota Highway 67 will also receive a bituminous overlay this year. Several township bridge projects and a County Road 68 bridge will be reconstructed this year. Township roads will be posted closed, and county roads will have detours posted. Bridge closure dates will be through the summer and fall. We will avoid closing bridges during harvest season to the maximum extent possible, however exact timelines will be dictated by contractor schedules and concrete box culvert availability.

**2021 Maintenance Projects:** The maintenance crews are very busy patching our bituminous roads and maintaining our gravel roadways. A number of roads have rapidly deteriorated this spring, which will affect which roadways are planned for new pavement in the coming years. The maintenance department has started a five year initiative to re-gravel all of our county roads and re-shoulder our paved roads. We plan to use 50,000 tons of gravel per year over the next five years to accomplish this work, and will source the gravel locally to the maximum extent possible. This year our gravel and shouldering project will focus on the southwest portion of the County. Seal coats will also be completed on various county roads this year, helping to protect our paved road surfaces from the oxidizing effects of sunlight. Regular seal coats protect the asphalt binder and prevent pavement from becoming brittle.

**Road and Bridge Five Year Plan:** From April through July the Highway Department will host a number of open houses at various



City Council Chambers and at County Board Meetings to obtain input on the Road and Bridge Five Year Plan. Redwood County has \$41.1 million dollars in projects planned between the years 2021 and 2026, which includes 78 miles of roadway improvements and 28 bridge projects. These projects maximize use of Federal, State and local funds. Redwood County needs an additional 65 miles of roadway improvements within the next five years which are not budgeted, with a projected unfunded cost of \$26.9 million dollars. There are an additional 15 County bridges and 4 township bridges that need replacing within the next five years at a cost of \$5.6 million dollars. Redwood County's total unfunded road and bridge reconstruction needs are valued at \$32.6 million dollars. The

highway department will continue to look at ingenuitive ways to maintain our roads and bridges within our Federal, State, and local budgets. We look forward to receiving your feedback throughout this process.



**UCAP Corporate office**  
1400 S Saratoga St  
Marshall MN 56258  
507-537-1416

**Funding is available to residents in the Redwood Falls and Lamberton communities** through the United Community Action Partnership Small Cities Development Program to help with home needed repairs or updates.

**Average grant amount is \$25,000**

Eligibility criteria applies.

**CALL TODAY 507-537-1416 EXT 2134**  
**WWW.UNI.TEDCAPMN.ORG**

EOE/AA/ADA 

## Welcome Commissioner Rick Wakefield to Redwood County

Redwood County welcomes newly elected County Commissioner, Rick Wakefield to the County Board of Commissioners, serving District 1.

Rick grew up on a farm in Lyon County by the small town of Amiret and graduated from High School in 1978, where he worked on the family farm until 1985.

In 1980 Rick married his wife Lori (Mumm) and raised their two daughters, Amy and Jodi. Amy lives in Bloomington working at Wells Fargo as an Administrative Assistant. Jodi and husband Bryan live in Redwood Falls with their two children Daniel and Jayden. Jodi works at the Redwood County Courthouse for Judge Roland as a Court Reporter.

In 1985 Rick and Lori moved to Willmar and where he attended Willmar Community College. He obtained an A.S. degree in Law Enforcement; to include a P.O.S.T. license to work as a Police Officer. While attending College, he worked for the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office as a Jailer.

After graduation, Rick began his 33 year career in Law Enforcement, serving as a Patrol Officer for the City of Renville, and most recently retired after serving as a Deputy Sheriff for Redwood County the past 32 years.

For the last 32 years, Rick and Lori have lived in Walnut Grove. In their spare time, they enjoy spending time with their grandchildren and family, riding motorcycle, building and playing guitars, creating hand crafted items, photography, fishing, and traveling. Additionally, they serve on the Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant committee, along with a number of other community events related to the pageant.

Why Rick chose to run for County Commissioner:

“Working within Redwood County as a Redwood County deputy sheriff for the past



32 years allowed a unique front line view of issues that arise in all government agencies. I was able to view most of the issues from a third party perspective and observed where improvements could and should be made. Old ideas of “that’s the way it’s always been done” doesn’t always work in every situation. I realized I could sit back and complain about my governing body, or I could chose to try to do something about it, and try to make a positive difference.”

Rick is committed to learning all that is needed to positively represent, not only his constituents in District 1, but everyone within the County. He looks forward to working with all the wonderful people in Redwood County! Anyone interested in connecting with Rick are encouraged to call him at (507) 859-2369 or email at [rick\\_w@co.redwood.mn.us](mailto:rick_w@co.redwood.mn.us).

## License Plate Recycling

The Redwood-Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority (RRRSWA) began a program in June 2019 which allows you to recycle your old license plates securely at no charge.

If you would like to recycle your old license plates, drop boxes are available at:

- Redwood County Government Center (located near the License Center)
- Renville County Courthouse
- Redwood County Household Hazardous Waste Facility
- RRRMRF Officeb (Recycling Facility in Redwood Falls)

To learn more, contact Rachel, RRRSWA Administrative Assistant at (507) 637-1802 or [racheli@rrrswa.com](mailto:racheli@rrrswa.com)



# PULL THE PLUG ON AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

## Actions Required by MN Law

to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

- ✓ **Clean** aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species off watercraft, trailers, and equipment before leaving the water access.
- ✓ **Drain** water from boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, and motor before leaving a water access – and drain bilge, livewell, and baitwell by removing drain plugs. **Keep drain plugs out** while transporting boats.
- ✓ **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into the water, or to dump worms on the ground.



[mndnr.gov/ais](http://mndnr.gov/ais)  
© 2014 MNDNR



STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!



## Septic Loans and Grants

**The weather is warming.....ground is thawing....and sewage is flowing.** This is likely not what you want to think about, but the Redwood County Environmental Office is hoping you do!

A failing septic system requires special attention to ensure it is functioning properly but it may be costly. But, do not despair, as Redwood County has funding that may be able to help you cover new septic construction expenses.

**The Redwood County Low Interest Septic Loan program** provides loans to Redwood County landowners to replace failing septic systems, and septic systems that do not meet the current septic code. The interest rate on the loans is 3.5%, with a choice of a five or ten year term. Payments on the loans are made twice each year, through your property taxes.

To access the loan, complete the one-page application and provide at least one estimate from a licensed septic contractor. The County Auditor and the Environmental Office will confirm you and your septic system are eligible for the program. Fees include \$115 permit fee and \$110 administrative fee.

Once your application is approved, you and your chosen septic contractor will work with the Environmental Office to inspect the soils on the site, produce and review a design for the new septic, and schedule construction inspections. After construction is complete and

approved, the Auditor will have you sign a lien for the loan amount. You will need to record the lien at the County Recorder's Office, and pay the \$46 recording fee.

Lists of licensed septic contractors working in Redwood County and the surrounding area are available from the Environmental Office and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website.

**The Redwood County Septic Grant program is a program** available to County residents whose household income is less than 190% of the federal poverty guidelines. The grant will pay 75% of the cost of replacing a failing or noncompliant septic system, for qualifying landowners. You can also apply for a loan to cover the remaining 25%.

To apply for the grant, complete the one-page grant application, provide your most recent tax return(s) reflecting total household income and size, at least one estimate from a licensed contractor, and a Certificate of Noncompliance prepared by a licensed septic inspector indicating that the system does not meet code. When providing income tax documents, please remember to black-out the social security numbers.

We encourage you to apply early as both the loan and grant programs have limited funds; noting applications are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Reach out to the Redwood County Environmental Office with any questions at (507) 637-4023, or email at [environmental@co.redwood.mn.us](mailto:environmental@co.redwood.mn.us), or in person at the Government Center.



## Redwood County Drainage Authority Receives FEMA Funds

The Redwood County Drainage Authority was recently notified that its request for aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the flooding disaster taking place in the spring of 2019 has been awarded. This award totals over \$8,300,000 and will go directly into the accounts of the drainage systems with documented damages from the 2019 spring floods. Some of these repairs have already taken place, but a large amount of them will be completed in the next couple of years. Each of the thousands of sites that were submitted to FEMA for aid were required to have photos, GPS points, measurements, and damage descriptions. We are grateful to our dedicated and hardworking drainage inspectors who have worked tirelessly to document and catalog the extensive damage so that we could receive federal and state assistance to make these repairs. For more information, contact the Redwood County Environmental Office at (507) 637-4023.

our website has been refreshed

Home Directory News Official Notices Employment

Government - County Departments - Services - Locations

Welcome to Redwood County in MN

Redwood County, Minnesota is committed to stewardship, respect and shared responsibility in providing improved cost-efficient services to all.

Search

REDWOOD COUNTY PANDEMIC BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNET SPEED TEST & SUBMIT YOUR TESTIMONIAL

redwoodcounty-mn.us

Find us on Facebook

Facebook/Redwood County

## Building Permits

With spring upon us, comes the construction season! The Redwood County Environmental Office would like to remind you, before you begin a building project, to obtain your building permit.

Permits for construction are typically required by the city where the property is located, or by the County, if outside of city limits.

For projects outside of city limits that require a County permit, below are a few things to keep in mind:

- Typically, County permits are applied for and obtained by the landowner, rather than the Contractor, as the County permit requires the landowner's signature. This is true even when the Contractor submits the application.
- All buildings and structures larger than 100 square feet in footprint area require a permit.
- Fences, signs, decks and concrete slabs require a permit.
- Particular activities may require a special permit. This includes feedlots, commercial uses, and industrial uses.
- Permits are required to construct a new structure, add onto an existing structure, move a structure, or rebuild a structure in the same location. Permits are not required for internal remodeling, replacement of windows and doors, roofing and siding, or re-facing an existing sign.
- Permit fees are based on project cost, with a base fee of \$35. There are no fees for deck and slab permits.
- Property owners in Paxton Township and within two miles of Redwood Falls, may need to obtain a zoning permit from the County and a building permit from the City or Township.

Construction permits are necessary to verify the proposed structure will meet required building setbacks (from roads, water bodies, County ditches and tile, property lines, septic systems, wells, etc.) and ensure the proposed use is permitted in the zoning district of the construction project.

If your property is located inside any of the 15 incorporated municipalities in the County, Lower Sioux Community, Paxton Township, or within two miles of the city of Redwood Falls, please contact your respective jurisdiction to identify what permitting is required.

To access the County zoning permit applications visit the Redwood County website at [redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/environmental-office](http://redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/environmental-office).

We are happy to assist you with any questions! Give us a call at (507) 637-4023, email at [environmental@co.redwood.mn.us](mailto:environmental@co.redwood.mn.us), or in person at the Redwood County Government Center.



The Redwood County Recorder's Office has installed a Land Notification Alert System. This system warns property owners when documents are recorded against their personal name or business.

Each time an alert is triggered, an email is sent providing an update of any activity. You will need to sign up to receive the notifications at [landnotify.co.redwood.mn.us/Ins.app](http://landnotify.co.redwood.mn.us/Ins.app). Note you must have either a Google or Yahoo email account in order to use the Land Notification Alert System. Give our office a call with any questions at (507) 637-4032.

Learn more by visiting [redwoodcounty-mn.us](http://redwoodcounty-mn.us)

## ONLINE MAPPING



- high resolution aerial imagery
- parcel & boundary info
- zoning
- hydrology
- County ditch & tile maps
- measuring distance & area
- and much more

[redwoodcounty-mn.us](http://redwoodcounty-mn.us)

Redwood County Economic Development Authority

## REVOLVING LOAN FUND



The fund is available to new emerging and existing businesses in Redwood County, to serve as a gap financing tool for eligible projects!

PROGRAM GUIDELINES AVAILABLE ONLINE

[redwoodcounty-mn.us](http://redwoodcounty-mn.us)

Contact Briana Mumme, Redwood County Economic Development Coordinator to learn more or to schedule an appointment  
 Email: [briana\\_m@co.redwood.mn.us](mailto:briana_m@co.redwood.mn.us)  
 Office: (507) 637 - 1122



# Notes from County Assessor, John Thompson



The Redwood County Assessor's Office maintains records on the physical characteristics and uses for all properties in the county. This includes your property's location, amount of land you own, square footage of improvements, and the quality of construction. The Assessor's Office is responsible for recording any changes to your property as required by State Law.

Appraisers from the Assessor's Office verify

classification of properties. For example, they assess whether a property is classified as residential, commercial, or agricultural. The office is also responsible for maintaining Homestead records and receiving and processing Homestead applications.

The Assessor's Office uses sales data from October 1st to September 30th of each year to estimate the market value of properties using the date of January 2nd as the assessment

date. Each spring you will be mailed a Notice of Valuation and Classification. This notice will inform you of the market value and classification of your property for tax purposes for the following year.

If you have any questions regarding your property's value, classification, or homestead status, please contact the Assessor's Office at (507) 637-4008.

## Veteran Cemetery Update

*By Dustin Hunter*

*Redwood County Veteran Service Officer*

Many of you may have heard that Redwood County has been awarded a grant to build a Veteran Cemetery in Southwest Minnesota (located near Redwood Falls) by the Department of Veterans Affairs "Veterans Cemetery Grants Program" in October 2020. The Project is expected to begin in November 2021.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Cemetery Grants Program was established in 1978 to complement the VA's National Cemetery Administration. The program assists states, territories and federally recognized tribal governments in providing gravesites for Veterans in those areas where VA's national cemeteries cannot fully satisfy their burial needs. Grants may be used only for the purpose of establishing, expanding or improving Veterans cemeteries that are owned and operated by a state, federally recognized tribal government, or U.S. territory. The VA cannot provide grants to private organizations, counties, cities or other government agencies.



## State Veteran Cemeteries

**Eligibility:** Burial is open to all Veterans discharged from active military service under conditions other than dishonorable. Burial is also open to Veteran spouses, minor children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children are also eligible for burial. Eligible spouses may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran. Also eligible for burial are members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, the Army and National Guard, and the Reserve Officer Training Corps who die while on active duty for training or performing service, or who have 20 years of service in reserve components of the Armed Forces creditable for retired pay.

**Locations:** The Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs currently operates three State Veterans Cemeteries in Minnesota.

- Little Falls
- Preston
- Duluth (opened in late 2018)

**Services Provided:**

- Gravesite or Columbarium Niche
- Pre-placed Grave liner (Standard Size)
- Headstone/Niche Cover

**Costs:**

Veteran  
\$0 (all burial options)  
Spouse/Eligible Dependent\*  
\$745 (all burial options)

\*Fees for spouse/eligible dependents cannot be prepaid and are subject to change.

**Pre-Registration:** Pre-registration ensures your eligibility in advance and eliminates delays in providing military documents to the cemetery. Pre-registration applications for Little Falls, Preston and Duluth are available at any local County Veterans Service Office (CVSO).

**\*\*NOTE\*\***

At this time the Pre-registration has not been updated to show the Redwood Falls Location.

Pre-registration will not be accepted until the cemetery is getting close to completion. Once the Pre-Registration form is updated, the public will be informed through the local media outlets.

Please contact the

**Redwood County Veteran Service Office at (507) 637-4034**

and talk to one of our caring staff members with any questions about any Federal or State VA Benefits.

INTERESTED IN STAYING UP  
TO DATE WITH REDWOOD  
COUNTY NEWS?

**SIGN UP FOR  
EMAIL NOTICES**

[redwoodcounty-mn.us](http://redwoodcounty-mn.us)

Environmental Office

## NOXIOUS WEED NOTICE

Just a reminder per MN Statutes, property owners are required to control or eradicate noxious weeds



## QUESTIONS?

Contact Redwood County Ag Inspectors,  
Brent or Matt at (507) 637-4023

## Camper Cabins Available for Rent at Plum Creek Park

**Plum Creek Park is proud to announce the addition of camper cabins for the 2021 camping season.**

Plum Creek Park has experienced great growth in its use over the past few years. In 2016 a Master Plan for Plum Creek Park was developed through the partnership with Redwood County Environmental Director, Scott Wold, Plum Creek Park Ranger, Adam Kletscher, and the Redwood County Parks and Trails Committee. The Master Plan resulted in the park being deemed "Regionally Significant" in the eyes of the Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Commission. The Commission was established to provide recommendations to the State legislature to disburse grant awards funded by the State Legacy parks and trails fund to greater Minnesota. The Regional Significance status was necessary to apply for grant funding to the Commission. Grant applications were submitted in 2017 and 2018, both of which were successful in the amounts of \$317,300 and \$30,000 respectfully. This funding allowed the County to move forward with a variety of improvements and additions.

The addition of six new camper cabins have been installed, renting at only \$70 per night. Each cabin is 14'x26' and features twin over full bunk beds, mattresses, kitchen table and chairs, and counter space. They also have air conditioning for those hot summer days and heat for the early and late camping season.

Other recent grant funded improvements include 50-amp service for all overnight RV campsites, two new bathrooms, a self-rental kayak station, additional primitive camping sites, and a new trail connecting the upper and the lower park. One additional new bathroom is planned for the spring of 2021.

To learn more about the Park amenities or to make a reservation, visit the Plum Creek Park website at [www.plumcreekpark.com](http://www.plumcreekpark.com).

## Groundbreaking Ceremony

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on March 31, 2021, signifying the beginning of the County Court Security Project. The project is anticipated for completion the Fall of 2022. The County is partnering with Wold Architects and Engineers and Contegrity Group Inc. as the project manager.



*Pictured from left to right: Senator Gary Dahms, Melissa Stein (Wold Architects), Lon Walling (former County Commissioner), Patti Amberg (Court Administrator), Judge Patrick Rohland, Jim Salfer (Commissioner), John McNamara (Wold Architects), Dennis Groebner (Commissioner), Larry Filippi (Contegrity Group), Dave Forkrud (Commissioner), Rick Wakefield (Commissioner), Jim Theurer (Contegrity), Caleb Jasmer (Contegrity Group), Vicki Knobloch Kletscher (County Administrator).*



RV Camping



Kayak & Paddle Board Rental



6 Camper Cabins



Primitive Camping



Take in all that Plum Creek Park has to offer!

[plumcreekpark.com](http://plumcreekpark.com)



## Redwood County Connection

Redwood County Government Center  
403 S Mill St  
PO Box 130  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

PRST STD  
ECRWSS  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #20

# Local Postal Customer

## Contacts

Administration	637-4016
Assessor	637-4008
Attorney Office	637-4010
Auditor/Treasurer	637-4013
Court Administration	637-4018
Economic Dev.	637-1122
Emergency Mgmt.	637-4035
Environmental	637-4023
Extension	637-4025
Highway Dept.	637-4056
Human Services	637-4050
License Center	637-4029
Public Health	637-4041
Probation Office	637-4047
Recorder	637-4032
Recycling Facility	637-1800
Restorative Justice	637-1139
Sheriff's Office	637-4036
Veteran's Office	637-4034



### Commissioners

Jim Salfer	342-2431
Dennis Groebner	692-2235
Bob VanHee	616-1000
Dave Forkrud	938-4269
Rick Wakefield	859-2369

## Redwood County Recycling

### Curbside Recycling:

A detailed recycling schedule can be found on the website at:  
<http://www.renvillecountymn.com/services/RRMRF>

### Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):

Household products that can present a hazard to our health and our environment when not properly used, stored, and disposed of, are considered Household Hazardous Waste. The Redwood County HHW Facility accepts hazardous materials from both Redwood and Renville County residents for NO CHARGE. For more information about acceptable items and drop off schedule, go to:

<http://www.renvillecountymn.com/services/RRMRF/resources.php>

## E-Waste & Appliance Collections

First Wednesday of each month from April through October from 2-6pm  
located behind the Redwood County Museum.

Collection is for Redwood and Renville County residents only.

Free Electronics: CPU's, computer mouse, cell phones, radios, keyboards, VCR's, Speakers, iPods, cameras, GPS units, CD Players, etc.

Free Appliances: Washers, Dryers, Dehumidifiers, Grills, Water Softeners, Stoves, household refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, etc.

There is a cost of:

\$25.00 for TV's, laptops or anything with a screen.

\$10.00 for scanners, printers, copiers, and fax machines, DVD players, VCR's

\$75.00 for RV Refrigerators

\*\*Prices MAY be subject to change.

Questions? Call S.W. Recycling at 1-800-366-8665