



Redwood County Connection



The Official Newsletter of Redwood County

Spring Edition 2026

PLUM CREEK PARK BEACHFRONT UPDATES

Spring is in the air, and we are ready to embark on another camping season. We are extremely excited to unveil our new beachfront updates. We can't wait for everyone to be able to check out all that we have done! We have just a few items left to finish up this Spring, and then the beach area will be ready for everyone to explore and enjoy. I hope everyone takes some time to come down to Plum Creek Park to check out the upgrades.



The winter provided limited opportunities for people to ski and sled around the park. There were a few weekends when people tried their luck at ice fishing. During the mid-

February warm up quite a few people took to the trails or tried their hand at frisbee golf. The park and STS crews kept busy this winter with some brush clearing, tree cutting and fixing picnic tables. We did some selective cutting to remove some ash trees and are getting ready to plant a few new species to get ahead of Emerald Ash Borer. Thankfully we haven't found any exposed trees yet, but we know it will make its appearance soon. As a reminder, please help slow the spread and buy your firewood where you burn it.

Reservations opened in mid-January. We had over 130 reservations on the first day alone! So if you are planning a getaway, reserve your site now! There are still a few weekends with availability. We are looking forward to the start of spring with baseball and softball games in the lower park. We have trees to plant and bathrooms to get ready. Weather permitting everything in the park will be up and running by April 15. Please take some time to come explore our one and only county park this summer!

just a reminder
PROPERTY TAXES

**FIRST HALF PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE
MAY 15, 2026**

- Payments sent in by mail must be POSTMARKED no later than May 15, 2026
- Payments made online must be DATED no later than May 15, 2026
- Payments made at the Dropbox must be RECEIVED no later than May 15, 2026

Those paying by ACH will receive a property tax statement in the Spring of each year, which will show "TAXES PAID BY ACH" on the payment stub. This will be your only reminder. If your bank account does not have the proper funds to make payment on the due date, a penalty will be charged.

Questions? Contact Redwood County Auditor/Treasurer Office at (507) 637-4013 Monday - Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm

REDWOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE LAUNCHES CO-RESPONDER PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WESTERN MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

The Redwood County Sheriff's Office has launched a new Co-Responder Program in partnership with Western Mental Health Center (WMHC) to improve responses to mental health-related calls in the community and within the Redwood County Jail.

The program pairs licensed mental health professionals with sheriff's deputies to respond to situations where mental health support is a primary need. The goal is to provide immediate assessment, de-escalation, and connections to appropriate services, while reducing unnecessary use of force and emergency hospitalizations.

"This program allows us to address the underlying factors that often lead people into the criminal justice system," said Sheriff Jason Jacobson. "By providing mental health support at the point of contact, we can improve outcomes and reduce recidivism."

In addition to community-based responses, WMHC provides ongoing medical and mental health services within the Redwood County Jail. Services include individual therapy, mental health support, and substance use groups aimed at helping incarcerated individuals build coping skills, regulate emotions, and prepare for successful reentry into the community.



The partnership has also improved continuity of care, including timely access to prescribed medications for individuals in custody. "Mental health concerns in county jails have been a long-standing challenge across Minnesota," Jacobson said. "Working collaboratively with WMHC, we're making meaningful progress."

The community-based portion of the Co-Responder Program is grant-funded through Western Mental Health Center and is provided at no cost to Redwood County.

Sheriff's Office
ANNUAL REPORT
the Sheriff's Office compiles an annual report to inform the public on statistics and current trends being observed by the department

view the report: redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/sheriffs-office

VETERAN SERVICE OUTREACH

Schedule an appointment today!

<p style="text-align: center;">Lamberton Library 101 2nd Ave. East 9:30 am - 12 pm 1st three Wednesdays of the month</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wabasso Library 1248 Oak Street 1 pm - 3 pm 1st three Wednesdays of the month</p>
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Please note appointments are required 1 week prior to meeting

Contact the Redwood County Veterans Service Office to schedule your appointment at **(507) 637-4034**

** Service Officer will only be present for schedule appointments **

PROGRAM FOR ENHANCING ACTIVE REWARDING LIVES



A.C.E. is that volunteer program, right?!?! Yes, and MORE. A.C.E. of Southwest MN – Redwood County provides an array of services/supports for seniors and their caregivers. Two of those programs are Caregiver Consultation and, our newest program, PEARLS (Program for Enhancing Active Rewarding Lives). Sometimes it helps to have someone in our corner to work with on a one-on-one basis. To meet this need, the Minnesota Board on Aging provides training and makes Caregiver Consultants available across the state. The University of Washington developed the curriculum for PEARLS coaches. Professionals trained in either program can help you on an individual basis with problem-solving, information, skills, resources,

and emotional support. Your consultant or coach can help develop strategies for you to achieve a balanced lifestyle allowing you to provide good care or define and create your own well-being. The A.C.E. Program Manager, Susann, is certified as both a Caregiver Consultant and PEARLS coach. Additional caregiver services offered by A.C.E. include a caregiver support group, respite care and educational opportunities. For more information on all of A.C.E.'s services and supports for the citizen's of Redwood County, contact Susann Zeug-Hoese at 507.627.1016

MAY is *National* FOSTER CARE MONTH



Making a Positive Difference for a Child in Need

Foster children will have had difficult or even traumatic experiences. Getting proper attention and care can alter the entire course of their lives. The positive impact for these children comes not only from having a safe environment but also from being exposed to a healthy family dynamic and being able to live a productive life. The greatest reward of being a foster parent is the opportunity to provide vulnerable children with the support and stability they need to thrive.

Are you willing to accept this challenge? Southwest Health and Human Services is actively seeking Foster Parents.

Give us a call. We can meet with you and discuss the Licensing process.

We will be with you every step of the way.

Karyn @ 507-532-1217

Karyn.groenewold@swhhsmn.gov

Check out our website: SWMHHS.com / Licensing



SENTENCE TO SERVICE PROGRAM

Hello! My name is Tom Hazuka, and I am the STS Crew Leader here in Redwood County. I took over this position in July after Jay Baune retired, and I am excited to be here. Before coming here, I served as an STS Crew Leader in Brown County for five years. I believe strongly in the STS program because it helps all parties involved. The work we do is important not only to the nonprofit organizations, counties, and individuals we work with, but also to the communities we serve.

The Sentence to Service (STS) program is a collaboration between the Redwood County District Court, the Redwood County Sheriff's Office, and the Minnesota Department of Corrections. This highly successful program provides individuals who have gone through the court system—and who have received court-ordered hours, fines, and/or fees—the opportunity to perform physical labor in place of monetary obligations.

One major benefit of this program is that it allows low-risk, nonviolent individuals to complete supervised service projects throughout the community and county. The STS program works with a variety of locations and organizations, including maintaining public spaces such as Plum Creek Park and the Redwood County Historical Society sites, including the Redwood County Museum and the Gilfillan Estate.

The STS program also provides added benefits to the State of Minnesota by cleaning up litter along eight ditch miles for the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (DOT) Adopt-a-Highway program. In addition, crews assist the DNR with various projects, help at clothing centers, and support other nonprofit and local organizations within the community.

Please contact the STS Coordinator at 507-430-7430 or by email at Thomas_h@redwoodcounty-mn.gov with any questions or concerns.

Join the Redwood County Extension Committee

- Learn about Extension Programming (4-H, Master Gardeners and so much more)
- Identify community needs where Extension could be of service
- Advocate for Extension programs and funding

We are looking for a community member to join the committee for a 3 year term beginning in 2026.

Contact the Extension Office for more information at mnext-redwood@umn.edu or 507-637-4025



Gilfillan Estate



- Gardens
- Pavilion
- RV Camping
- Weddings
- Reunions
- Farmfest



28273 Highway 67, Redwood Falls

(507) 430-2686

redwoodcountyhistoricalsociety.com



Don't be scammed by third-party passport sites! When applying for a U.S. passport, always go to the official source, travel.state.gov (NOT .com or .org). Some third-party sites try to pose as the official government passport website and charge you extra fees just to pass your information to the us - or worse, they pocket your money and never submit your paperwork at all.

DID YOU KNOW THE U.S. HAS TWO TYPES OF PASSPORTS?

Passport Book

Valid for ALL international travel (air, sea, or land)
 Cost: \$130 adults / \$100 (under 16)
 Valid: 10 years (5 years for kids under 16)
 Must-have if you're flying abroad

Passport Card

Looks like a driver's license/credit card
 NOT valid for international flights
 Works for land or sea crossings (Canada, Mexico, Caribbean, Bermuda)
 Cost: \$30 adults / \$15 (under 16)
 Handy as a backup ID or for quick border trips

Bottom Line:

If you plan to FLY internationally get the passport book.
 If you only cruise or drive to nearby destinations the passport card can be a cheaper, convenient option.

 <p>PASSPORT BOOK</p> <p>Can be used for international travel by air, sea, or land</p> <p>Frequent travelers may choose to select "Large Book" on their passport application to receive a passport book with extra pages at no extra charge</p> <p>Serves as a Real ID</p>	 <p>PASSPORT CARD</p> <p>The passport card CANNOT be used for international air travel</p> <p>Can be used for entering the United States at land border crossings and sea ports-of-entry from Canada, Mexico, some Caribbean countries, and Bermuda</p> <p>Serves as a Real ID</p>
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TIPS FROM THE LICENSE CENTER

REAL ID is in FULL effect

TSA will NOT accept a temp license to board an airplane.
 Get your new license in plenty of time for your travel needs. Cards may take up to 3-4 weeks to come back in the mail

**Only certain documents are accepted for the upgraded license. Check out our website or stop in for a list of acceptable documents.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENT

Continuing from Jan 1, 2016
 Proof of Insurance is required on purchase of tabs and all title transfers (exception is for trailers)

Motorcycle title transfers

When transferring a title for a motorcycle, you will ALWAYS need to bring in engine number off of the bike to transfer.

License Center is open for Driver's License from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 pm.
 Enhanced ends at 3:45 pm

NEW FEDERAL REGULATIONS FOR CDL HOLDERS:



EVERY TIME you come in and are renewing your license or you lost it and we are applying for a duplicate; you will need to bring in (1) Proof of Domicile Presence and (1) Proof of residence.

Proof of Domicile Presence

U.S. Birth Certificate/U.S. Territory Birth Certificate

U.S. Passport Book/Card

Proof of Residency

Employment Pay Stub

Home Utility Service Bill: Gas, Electric, Garbage, Water

Current Military Orders

MN Property Tax Statement (current year)

MN Vehicle Certificate of Title (within past year)

Mortgage Document/Purchase Agreement

Residential Lease Agreement (current)

W-2 Form (for prior tax year)



County Attorney 2025 Caseload Summary



My name is Shannon Ness and I was appointed by the Redwood County Board of Commissioners in January of 2025 to serve as interim Redwood County Attorney. It is my honor and privilege to serve the residents of Redwood County. As County Attorney, my primary responsibility is to prosecute crimes that occur in our county. However, Minnesota statutes also direct the Redwood County Attorney's Office to represent Redwood County in all legal matters; both civil and criminal.

This office provides the members of our community with a safe place to live by holding the guilty accountable, protecting the innocent, and preserving the dignity of victims and their families. In 2025 a total of 420 criminal cases and 76 juvenile criminal cases were prosecuted. We tried 8 criminal cases to a jury and had 8 court trials. Significantly, all of these jury trials were felony level cases, including criminal sexual conduct, arson, non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images, and domestic assault.

The Redwood County Attorney's Office has three juvenile diversion programs: Juvenile Diversion, Circle Sentencing, and Truancy Diversion. The goal of the Office is to balance public safety while acknowledging the justice system can affect the trajectory of a child's life. These diversion programs aim to keep juvenile offenders out of the judicial system and give them meaningful opportunities for rehabilitation and treatment. As a result of these diversion programs, juvenile delinquency and juvenile criminal activity continues to decline in Redwood County.

The Office manages a wide variety of civil matters. These civil cases include child support, contracts, data practice questions and requests, forfeitures, and expungements. In 2025, our forfeiture, expungements and child support caseload totaled 37 cases.

The Office also represents Southwest Health & Human Services in their work. This past year, the Office handled 9 new adult protection cases and 18 new child protection

cases. Redwood County received a total of 309 child protection reports in 2025, of which this office assisted in screening. We also work on Southwest Health & Human Services appeals.

The Redwood County Attorney's Office serves as Legal Counsel to the Redwood County Board and all departments within the County. Put simply, this means we provide legal advice and draft, review, and negotiate contracts and policies for Redwood County. In 2025, we reviewed 162 legal requests from the various county departments.

2025 was a busy year for the Redwood County Attorney's Office. We were able to

keep afloat regardless of the vacancies in the office throughout the year. The attorneys, legal assistants, and victim witness coordinator worked tirelessly to assure the citizens of Redwood County were represented competently and effectively. We are excited to add a fifth attorney to the team and to be fully staffed in 2026, which will expedite case review and charging decisions. Looking forward to the coming year, the Redwood County Attorney's Office will continue to represent the interests of Redwood County, promote public safety by aggressively and fairly prosecuting crimes, and advocate for and protect those in need.

ARE YOU A WEATHER ENTHUSIAST? VOLUNTEER WEATHER OBSERVERS NEEDED!

Submitted by Susan Terhaar for the Redwood Soil & Water Conservation District

Most Minnesotans have at least a mild interest in following our ever-changing weather conditions. If you are someone who enjoys observing and recording weather conditions, this is an opportunity for you!

MNgage Weather Observation Program:

MNgage is a volunteer-driven precipitation observing program that began in the late 1960's in the Twin Cities and gradually expanded across Minnesota in the 1970's. The program is administered by the Minnesota DNR State Climatology Office. Daily precipitation measurements are reported online and/or by use of hard copy reporting forms. Volunteers working through their local Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) make up the majority of the observers in the MNgage program.

Why is this Program Important?

Nolan Doesken, a former State Climatologist for Colorado, emphasizes that even in today's technology-driven world, simple backyard rain gauges remain essential tools. While radar, satellites, and automated sensors provide broad precipitation estimates, accurate on-the-ground data still depends heavily on volunteer observers. Volunteer observations help support weather and flood forecasting, drought monitoring, crop and yield modeling, storm verification,



snow removal contracting, mosquito prediction, and outdoor recreation planning. Radar and satellite teams also use these local measurements to calibrate and validate their products. Although the gauge may seem low-tech, Nolan stresses that these volunteer measurements are incredibly important and widely used.

What is involved in being a MNgage Volunteer?

Redwood County SWCD will provide you with a standard

4-inch rain gauge (if you don't already have one), instructions, and monthly reporting forms. You simply check your rain gauge daily at the same time, record the precipitation, and write down any other weather observations. The monthly reporting form is then returned via a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the SWCD Office.

Would you consider being a MNgage Volunteer?

Redwood County SWCD is very appreciative of the dozen or so volunteers currently participating in this program. To cover more of Redwood County, we could use volunteers from the following townships: Charlestown, Delhi, Gales, Johnsonville, Kintire, Lambertson, Morgan, New Avon, North Hero, Sheridan, Sundown, Vesta, Westline, and Willow Lake. Please call the Redwood SWCD Office at 507-637-2427, ext. 3 to sign up to be a MNgage Volunteer!

ROAD & BRIDGE PROJECTS



Road and Bridge Five Year Plan:

Redwood County roadways have seen an increase in our average pavement condition in recent years due to the completion of many resurfacing projects. This was made possible mostly in part by bonding to help “catch-up.” The Highway Department is switching gears somewhat in 2026 with a greater emphasis on bridge and culvert

replacements and urban reconstruction projects in Belview and Sanborn. There are no resurfacing projects scheduled for 2026, but CSAH 4 from Lyon County Line to Brown County Line (35 miles) is scheduled for a mill and overlay in 2027.

2026 County Road and Bridge Projects: The Highway Department’s 2026 road and bridge projects and timelines are shown in the map inset. The 2026 construction work will include the following:

- (1) The bridge on CSAH 10 over the Cottonwood River will be completed this spring. CSAH 10 will also get widened shoulders, flattened in-slopes, and new pavement from the new bridge to about ¾ miles north.
- (2) CR 78 southwest of Walnut Grove will see a bank stabilization project this spring near Plum Creek. The project will protect the roadway embankment and repair damage from a previous flood event.
- (3) County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 7 will be reconstructed through Belview in a cooperative project with the City Belview. This project will begin in 2026, but won’t be completed until 2027. The roadway will be closed with a detour in place. The county’s portion of the project is funded through a combination of \$1.5 Million in state bond funding via a Local Road Improvement Grant and through State Aid funding provided by the state gas tax, tabs, vehicle sales tax and a few other sources.
- (4) CSAH 115 (Main Street) in Sanborn will be reconstructed from CSAH 15 to just south of the railroad tracks in a cooperative project with the City of Sanborn. This project is funded mostly through a rural development grant received by the City of Sanborn to replace their sanitary sewer under the roadway. The county will fund a small portion of the project with local levy funds to complete the reconstruction. The CSAH 115 portion of work won’t commence until after the Sanborn Watermelon Days celebration July 26-27, 2026 and is planned to be completed prior to the 2027 celebration.
- (5) 39 miles of chip sealing will be completed on various routes as shown. The seal coat helps to protect our paved road surfaces from the oxidizing effects of sunlight and prevents the asphalt binder and pavement from becoming brittle. This treatment is known to increase the useful life of the road surface. This work is completed in-house by County employees which significantly reduces costs. This project is funded through the local levy and wheelage tax.
- (6) There are 13 bridges planned to be replaced or begin replacement this year (see map). An additional 37 bridges are under design awaiting state bridge funding. Redwood County ranks #1 out of all 87 counties in the number of bridges needing

replacement. Our team is working hard to get bridges replaced as fast as funding is made available. Bridge projects are funded through Township Bridge Funds (state funds), State Bridge Bonds (grants) and State Aid (state gas tax, tabs, vehicle sales tax and a few other sources). Townships also pay \$20,000 for each township bridge that is reconstructed.

Additional Funding Sources and Grant Applications:

The Highway Department has aggressively pursued external funding sources, and will continue to do so.

1. The Highway Department applied for and received \$3.6M in federal funds to mill and overlay CSAH 4, from the west County line to east county line. The Highway Department has applied for an additional \$1.75 Million in state and federal grants for this project. Those applications are still pending review. As previously mentioned, this project will be constructed in 2027. The pavement on this road will be 27 years old by this time.
2. The Highway Department also applied for and received \$2.82M in federal funds and \$1.17M in state bridge bonds to replace the CSAH 17 Goldmine Bridge over the Minnesota River. Construction on the new bridge is scheduled to begin later in 2026 and be completed in 2027. The bridge was originally constructed in 1903 and is offered for sale to be re-used in a new location: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/historicbridges/available-bridges.html>.
3. In early 2025, the Lower Sioux Indian Community was awarded a \$25M Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant from the federal government. This was a joint effort with the Redwood County Highway Department after two previous unsuccessful applications. This grant will fund the reconstruction of CSAH 2 from CSAH 11 to 305th street (last 3.5 miles of CSAH 2 needing widening), replacement of two bridges, resurfacing from 305th street to CSAH 24, and a shared use path.

2026 Maintenance Projects: In addition to the large chip seal project, the maintenance crews are very busy patching our bituminous roads and maintaining our gravel roadways. The amount of patching this year has been significantly reduced thanks to improved pavement conditions, but all roadways (39 miles) planned for chip sealing must be crack filled by early June.

Mild winters in recent years have helped reduce snow and ice removal costs and allowed maintenance crews to get caught up on some other projects, but there is still a large amount of work to do. All concrete bridge decks must be cleaned and washed to remove remaining road salt. This is done to prevent the chlorides from corroding the rebar and delaminating or spalling the concrete. Over the last 5 years, maintenance crews substantially completed an initiative to re-gravel all of our county roads and re-shoulder our paved roads. The gravel roads are in much better shape, so the amount of gravel to haul in 2026 will be focused on maintaining current gravel amounts rather than increasing them. We source the gravel locally to the maximum extent possible, helping minimize our haul cost, haul times and improve efficiency. This year we do plan to continue with reclaiming and/or adding gravel to some roadway shoulders that are low. This fall we will continue spraying our

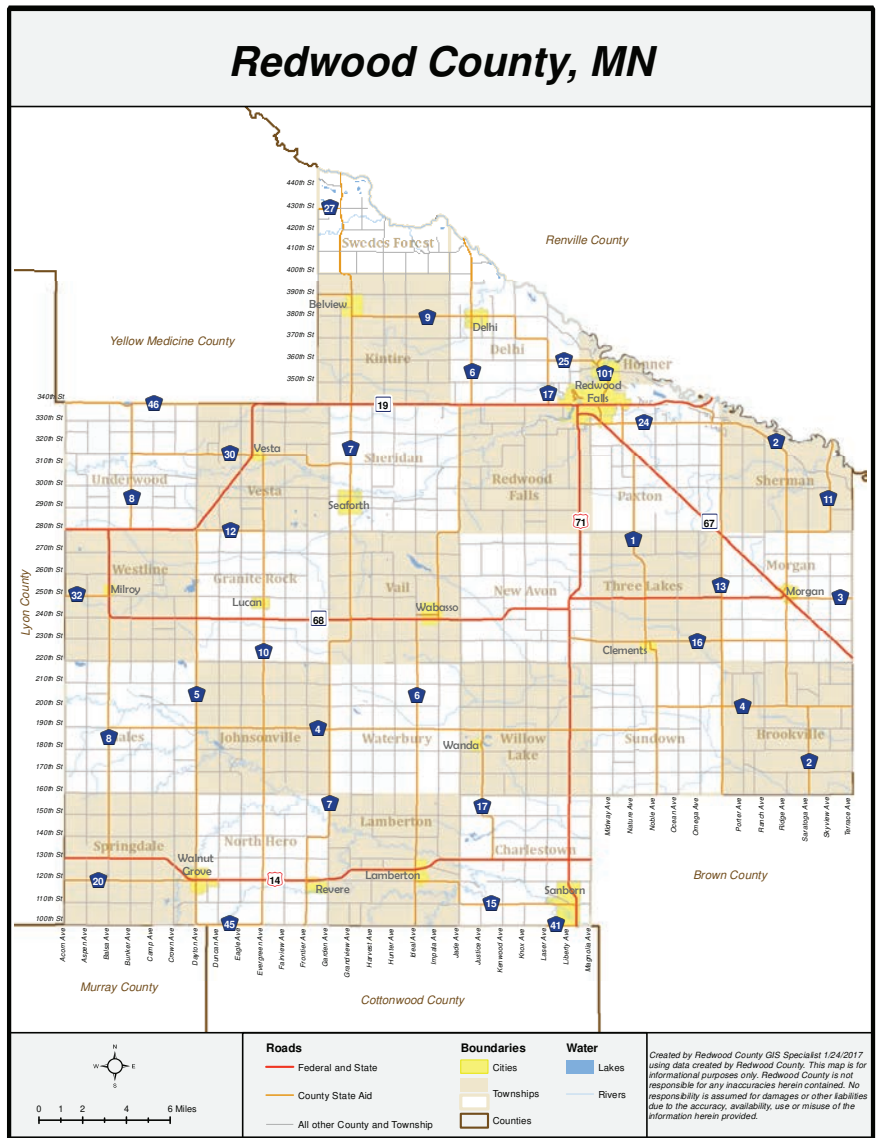
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Road & Bridge Projects continued from page 6

county road ditches for noxious weeds, stockpiling salt and sand for winter, stockpiling chips for 2027 chip sealing, mowing any road ditches that are not made into hay, and perform some ditch cleaning and culvert repairs to improve drainage. Other projects include a new salt shed at our Walnut Grove outshop, railroad crossing replacements on CSAH 25, CSAH 9, and CSAH 7, bridge approach panel repairs on CSAH 6 south of Lamberton, and some tree clearing in road right of way to increase safety and reduce drifting on roadways. Crews will also work to replace hundreds of road signs and hire a contractor to stripe about 100 miles of roadway.

County Equipment Updates: The Highway Department has made significant investments in updating its equipment fleet. Continued investments are needed to maintain the fleet at its current state. Because of an updated fleet, equipment repair and maintenance costs were about \$275,000 under budget in 2025. In addition to these reduced costs, crews were more efficient and productive. Equipment lead times are improving, but we are still waiting for delivery of two plow trucks that were ordered over 2 years ago. Once we receive new equipment in, we usually sell the excess equipment through MnBID, the State of Minnesota’s online auction program: <https://mnbid.mn.gov/>.

Seasonal Help Wanted: All of the above work is possible due to the dedicated work of our 27 person Highway Department team. In addition to our permanent employees, we are always looking for seasonal help, especially college students! If you are interested in working for the highway department please do not hesitate to reach out. We can always use a hand, whether that be blowing snow, mowing, patching, crack filling, flagging



traffic, operating our equipment on various projects or assisting the engineering technicians with construction administration and surveying. This type of seasonal work can be a nice addition to any resume to help many career paths! If you ever have any questions regarding our work at the Highway Dept, please do not hesitate to call our office at 507-637-4056.



ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY NOXIOUS WEEDS & ENCROACHMENT

Rural Redwood County residents are reminded that the Redwood County road rights-of-way spray crew will be spraying from May through October. If you **DO NOT** want your rights-of-way sprayed (due to ditch hay harvesting), please post a sign at the beginning of the property (stop spray) and at the end (start spray). A map of this area should be sent to the Highway Department (rchd@redwoodcounty-mn.gov) or stop and we will note the location. The signs should be in place prior to May 1, 2026 and can be removed after November 1, 2026. Note: Landowners are responsible for control of noxious weeds in the rights-of-way if they choose to post the signs.

The Redwood County Highway Dept. would like to remind landowners about right-of-way encroachment along County roads. **Anyone disturbing the County’s right-of-way markers or anyone disturbing the County’s right-of-way by tilling or spraying an herbicide that kills the right-of-way vegetation will be subject to misdemeanor prosecution pursuant to statute 160.2715. In addition, the landowner will be required to seed these areas as needed.**

For More Information, Contact the Redwood County Highway Department at (507) 637-4056.

STRENGTHENING CHILD CARE IN REDWOOD COUNTY

Over the past year, Redwood County has taken significant strides toward securing a stronger, more sustainable child care system for families, providers, and employers. A core team of dedicated community members and facilitators from First Children's Finance has worked diligently to gather a wide range of information about the county's child care sector—listening to parents, providers, employers, and local leaders through surveys, focus groups, individual meetings, town hall sessions, and other outreach efforts. We sincerely thank all who have participated in these surveys and outreach efforts; your responses and feedback helped identify the areas of greatest need to focus our efforts moving forward.

This community-driven approach has given us a clearer picture of both the challenges and the opportunities ahead. With the information-gathering phase now complete, the team has identified five strategic goals designed to support the retention, expansion, and long-term sustainability of child care in Redwood County.

1. Within six months, research and develop a list of 4 locations in Redwood County that could be purchased or leased for the use of child care.
2. By September 2026, establish a local fund to support start-ups and retention of child care businesses in the county.
3. Within one year, research and develop a local child care task force that will support child care sustainability throughout the county.
4. Within one year, develop 2 new initiatives that support the early education workforce.
5. Within 12 months, develop and implement a social media-focused awareness campaign that increases community knowledge of the child care industry, available child care resources, and the importance of brain development from birth to age 5.

To move each of these goals forward, dedicated work groups have been assigned to each goal. These groups will meet monthly throughout the coming year to identify actionable steps, track progress, and ensure accountability. Child care is essential infrastructure. It supports working parents, strengthens local businesses, and lays the foundation for children's lifelong success. Achieving these goals will require broad community involvement

- from parents and providers to employers, civic leaders, & residents who care about the future of Redwood County. If you or someone you know is interested in joining this mission, please reach out to team lead Grady Holtberg at grady_h@redwoodcounty-mn.gov or 507-637-1122. **Together, we can build a stronger, more resilient child care system for Redwood County!**

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
redwoodcountyyeda.com

Contact Grady to learn more or to schedule an appointment!
 ✉ grady_h@redwoodcounty-mn.gov
 ☎ (507) 637 - 1122



REDWOOD COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



Pictured left to right: County Commissioner members Jim Salfer & Rick Wakefield, Coordinator Grady Holtberg, President Stacey Heiling, Board members Beth Bjorklund, Shawn Guetter, & Ed Cohrs

The Redwood County EDA continues its ongoing work in business development, housing, child care, and community vitality, supporting our vision to make Redwood County a great place to live and work. Community members who share this vision and are interested in serving on the EDA Board are encouraged to watch for upcoming openings and consider applying when positions become available.

District 1: Beth Bjorklund, District 2: Ed Cohrs, District 3: Shawn Guetter, District 4: Sarah Kuglin, District 5: April Soupir, At Large: Stacey Heiling and Christie Larson, Commissioners: Rick Wakefield & Jim Salfer.

Redwood County Economic Development Authority
HOUSING TRUST FUND

PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE
redwoodcountyyeda.com/community-development/housing

This program is available to homeowners, rental property owners, for-profit and nonprofit housing developers to assist as gap financing for the rehabilitation of existing housing units or the development of new housing units in Redwood County.



Contact Grady to learn more or to schedule an appointment!
 ✉ grady_h@redwoodcounty-mn.gov
 ☎ (507) 637 - 1122





WALNUT GROVE CELEBRATES OPENING OF WORK & GATHER

The Walnut Grove Economic Development Authority marked an exciting milestone on Wednesday, February 11th, with the grand opening of Work & Gather, the community’s newest flexible office, meeting, and event space. Designed to support local entrepreneurs, remote workers, small businesses, and community groups, Work & Gather brings a modern, adaptable workspace option to the heart of Walnut Grove.

These offices vary in size and layout, and are available at daily, weekly, and monthly rental rates, making them suitable for a wide range of business needs—from solo professionals seeking a quiet place to work, to growing enterprises looking for a temporary or semi-permanent base of operations.

The large meeting and event space is designed to accommodate both public and private gatherings, giving organizations, clubs, and families a convenient venue

close to home. Whether hosting a workshop, board meeting, or celebration, the space offers a modern, accessible option for groups of many sizes.

For businesses and individuals interested in renting office space or reserving the event area, contact Beth Bjorklund at the city office for more information on

availability and rental rates at wgamb@walnutgrovemn.org or 507-859-2135.

Work & Gather represents a meaningful investment in Walnut Grove’s future - one that expands opportunities for local entrepreneurship, supports remote and hybrid workers, and provides a welcoming space for community connection.

HEMPCRETE HOUSING COMING TO REDWOOD COUNTY

Redwood County is taking an innovative step forward in addressing local housing needs through a new partnership focused on sustainable construction. The Redwood County Economic Development Authority (EDA) is collaborating with the Lower Sioux Indian Community, Minnesota Housing Partnership, municipalities across the county, and a network of public and private financial partners to introduce hempcrete housing as a new option for prospective homeowners. This effort reflects a shared commitment to expanding housing choices while supporting environmentally responsible building practices.

This initiative began in the spring of 2024, when Redwood County was selected to participate in the Southwest Housing Institute, a capacity-building program organized by the Minnesota Housing Partnership. Through this program, a cross-sector team representing Redwood County developed a comprehensive project plan to revitalize vacant lots in communities throughout the county. The plan includes constructing new homes using hempcrete - a natural, energy-efficient building material made from hemp fiber and lime. The Lower Sioux Indian Community, which has been advancing its own hemp-based construction capabilities, will lead the construction and is seeking local partners to subcontract with on these housing projects. We welcome local contractors and builders interested in taking part in this groundbreaking work to bring local expertise and regional innovation together.



The introduction of hempcrete housing offers multiple long-term benefits for Redwood County. Hempcrete provides exceptional insulation, reduces energy consumption, and offers a durable, fire, mold, and pest-resistant alternative to traditional building materials. By integrating this approach into local development strategies, the county is not only expanding its housing stock but also supporting a growing regional industry rooted in sustainability and tribal economic leadership. Over the coming months, the EDA and its partners will continue refining site selection, financing strategies, and community engagement efforts as the project moves toward construction. This collaboration represents a forward-looking investment in both housing and local economic vitality - one that positions Redwood County as a leader in innovative rural development.

As planning progresses, Redwood County is committed to keeping residents informed and engaged. Prospective homebuyers and contractors who are interested in learning more about hempcrete construction, available lots, or the development timeline are encouraged to reach out directly to Economic Development Coordinator Grady Holtberg at grady_h@redwoodcounty-mn.gov or 507-637-1122. Early inquiries will help the project team better understand demand and ensure that future housing opportunities align with community needs.

TEXTMYGOV ANNOUNCEMENT

Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority (RRRSWA)

As announced in both the Redwood and Renville County Fall newsletters, the Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority (RRRSWA) is thrilled to introduce TextMyGov, a convenient and smart text messaging service! This service will enable residents to effortlessly receive important notifications and easily find specific information by texting us.

The RRRSWA will officially launch the new text messaging system to the public on 01/28/2026. Residents **may** receive a text message from **80946** from the RRRSWA initiating the service. You can choose to opt-out at any time by texting **STOP**.

If you don't receive the initial message, you can choose to opt-in by texting the keyword **"RRRSWA"** or **"RRRSWASP"** (for our Spanish speaking residents) to the number **80946**. After sending the initial keyword, you will be asked to reply **"YES"** to confirm opt-in. Residents may receive notifications for **Upcoming events, recycling collection updates or delays, landfill closure, etc.**

Also, starting soon, residents will be able to receive on-demand information 24/7 by texting 1-2 keywords to the RRRSWA's TextMyGov number, (507) 637-1984. You'll be able to get quick information about **Recycling, Garbage, Demolition, and other RRRSWA information.**

The RRRSWA's use of this technology is another example of how our community enhances resident services by implementing 21st-century solutions. We're excited about this new way of communicating with residents and look forward to sharing important RRRSWA notifications. Other governmental entities across the country are utilizing this system with great success. Stay informed, stay ahead. For more information about TextMyGov, please visit <https://textmygov.com>. Please call 507-637-1800 or 320-523-8002 if you have questions.

RRRSWA

Text us to find info or report issues!

507.637.1984

No Apps. Just Text Us!

Start texting today,
Text "Hi" To:
507.637.1984

Receive RRRSWA Alerts!



Notifications!

Sign-up to receive text message alerts!

Text "RRRSWA"
To: 80946

View terms and privacy policy info at textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions Msg & Data rates apply. Please visit: <https://textmygov.com/>

TextMyGov
Get Alerts!



Visit <https://textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions> to view terms and privacy policy info. Msg & Data rates apply. Msg frequency varies. Text STOP at any time to opt out. For Questions, please call 507-637-1800 or 320-523-8002



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR REPLACING SEPTIC SYSTEMS

County Loan Program

Redwood County offers a loan to replace prohibited or failing septic systems. Payments on this loan are assessed on your property taxes.

You must have enough equity in your house to cover the cost of the loan and have no outstanding taxes due.

Interest Rate: 4%
Term: 5 or 10 years

Other Loan Fees

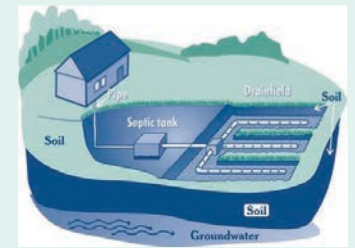
\$115 septic permit
\$110 administration fee
\$46 recording fee

Low Income Grant Program

The Redwood County Environmental Office has a Low-Income Grant program which will cover up to 75% of the cost to replace a prohibited or failing septic system.

Limited funds are available and will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

To Qualify:
Taxable household income must not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.



Indicators your septic system is failing:

- Backup of sewage in the home
- Decreased drain flow
- Unpleasant odors in the home
- High solids accumulation in tank
- Water accumulating in drain field
- Extremely vibrant patches of green vegetation on your drain field
- Sewage smell outside the house

**IF YOU HAVE NOT PUMPED
YOUR SEPTIC TANK IN THE LAST
10 YEARS, CHANCES ARE HIGH
THAT YOUR SYSTEM IS FAILING.**





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

COUNTY CONTACTS

Department	Duties	Phone
Administration	Budgets, personnel management, passports, notary	(507) 637-4016
Assessor	Value property, tax classification	(507) 637-4008
Auditor/Treasurer	Property taxes, elections	(507) 637-4013
Probation	Supervises adult, juvenile offenders	(507) 637-4047
County Attorney	Prosecutes crimes; victim services	(507) 637-4040
Court Administration	Fees, fines; jury duty; court dates	(507) 616-4800
Economic Development	Business loan programs, housing, childcare	(507) 637-1122
Emergency Management	Emergency Operations Planning, FEMA	(507) 637-4035
Environmental	Planning & Zoning, building permits & zoning ordinances, septic systems, Plum Creek Park	(507) 637-4023
Health & Human Services	Public assistance, crisis and disability services, financial assistance, WIC, foster care	(507) 637-4050
Highway Department	Road, bridge & highway maintenance	(507) 637-4056
License Center (DMV)	Driver's License, REAL ID, DNR, tab renewal, driver's tests	(507) 637-4029
RRRSWA	Solid Waste & Recycling services	(507) 637-1800
Recorder	Birth certificates, vital records, marriage license	(507) 637-4032
Restorative Justice	Facilitated peacemaking circles for victims & offenders	(507) 637-1139
Sheriff	Law enforcement, jail, gun permits	(507) 637-4036
Soil & Water	Manage Soil & Water resources of the County	(507) 637-2427
Technology/IT	Manages County technology infrastructure	(507) 637-4017
U of M Extension	4-H Extension office	(507) 637-4025
Veterans Services	Veterans benefits	(507) 637-4034

INTERESTED IN STAYING UP TO DATE WITH REDWOOD COUNTY NEWS?
SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NOTICES
redwoodcounty-mn.us

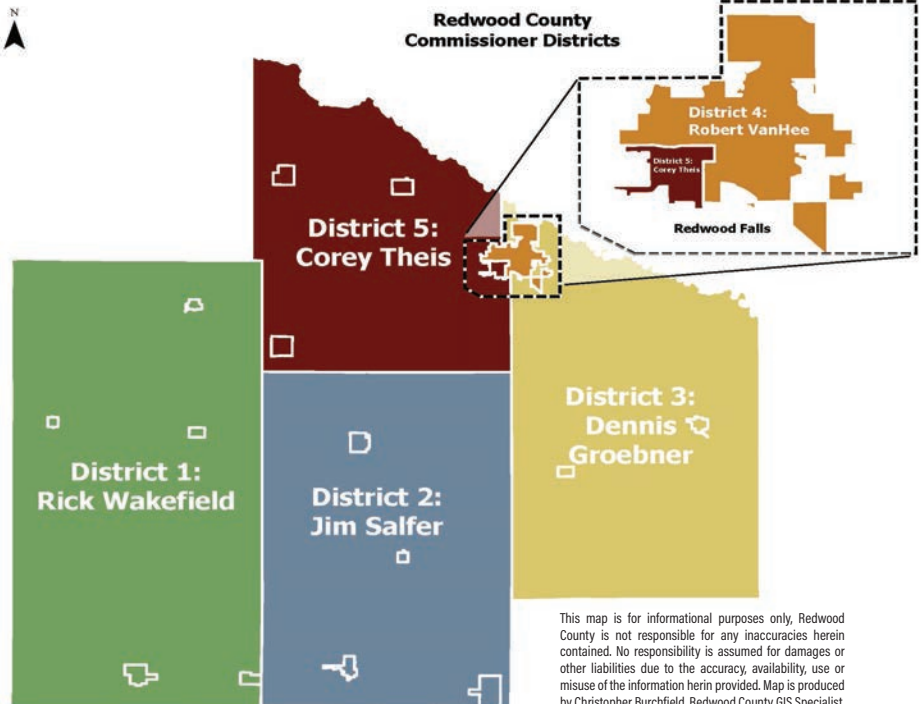
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Follow us on social media!

redwoodcounty-mn.us
redwoodcountyyeda.com
plumcreekpark.com
redwoodswcd.org



	Rick Wakefield - District 1 Phone: (507) 859-2369 Email: rick_w@redwoodcounty-MN.gov Term: 2025-2028
	Jim Salfer - District 2 Phone: (507) 829-8029 Email: jim_s@redwoodcounty-MN.gov Term: 2023-2026
	Dennis Groebner - District 3 Phone: (507) 692-2235 Email: dennis_g@redwoodcounty-MN.gov Term: 2023-2026
	Bob Van Hee - District 4 Phone: (507) 616-1000 Email: bob_v@redwoodcounty-MN.gov Term: 2025-2028
	Corey Theis - District 5 Phone: (507) 430-4150 Email: corey_t@redwoodcounty-MN.gov Term: 2025-2028



This map is for informational purposes only, Redwood County is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained. No responsibility is assumed for damages or other liabilities due to the accuracy, availability, use or misuse of the information herein provided. Map is produced by Christopher Burchfield, Redwood County GIS Specialist.