



IOWA COUNTY OFFICE OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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Scott.Godfrey@iowacounty.org

Annual Report for 2023

Staff

Scott A. Godfrey.....Planning & Development Director/Land Information Officer
(Date of Hire – September, 26, 1994)
Shaun Wood.....GIS Coordinator
(Date of Hire – November 21, 2005)
Terry Loeffelholz.....Sanitarian/Asst. Zoning Administrator
(Date of Hire – March 30, 2022)

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Mission of the Iowa County Office of Planning & Development

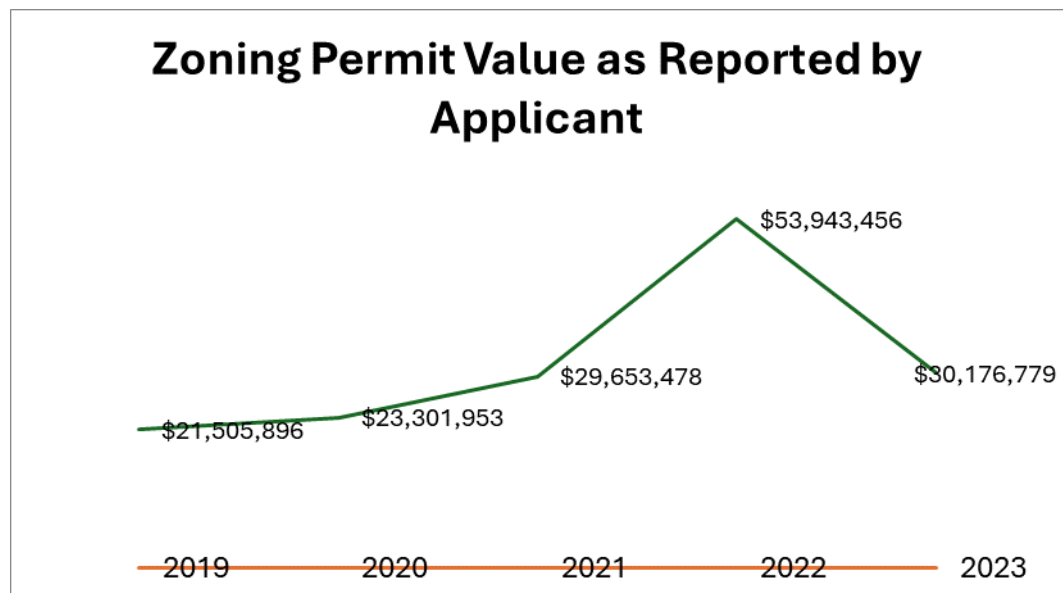
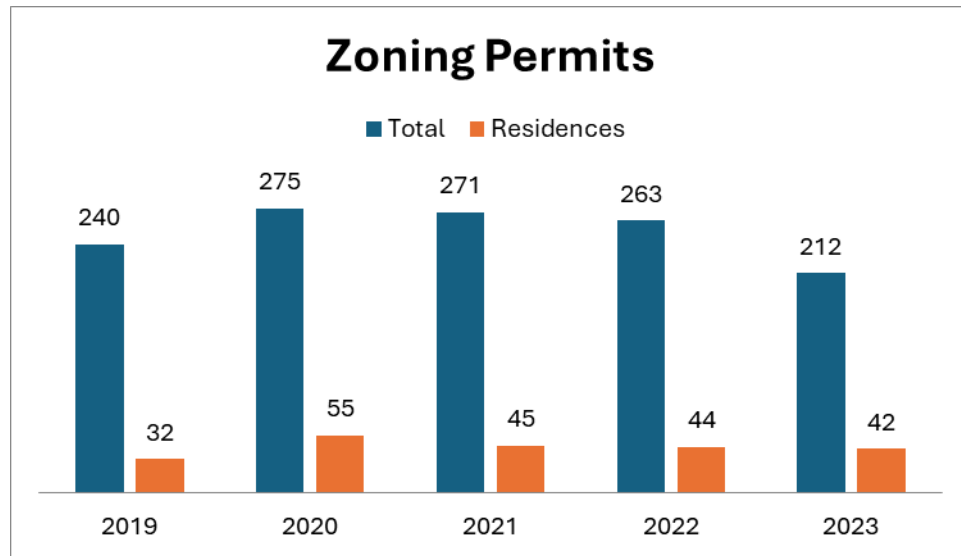
Protect: The Office of Planning & Development commits to protecting the health, safety and general welfare of Iowa County’s citizens and to protect the county’s natural resources through the equitable enforcement and administration of land use codes and ordinances.

Plan: The Office of Planning & Development commits to providing professional planning techniques and services, including the integration of mapping with multiple layers of data (visit the GIS website), and to assist local jurisdictions in creating, supplementing and updating comprehensive plans that outline the vision, goals and values of Iowa County’s citizens.

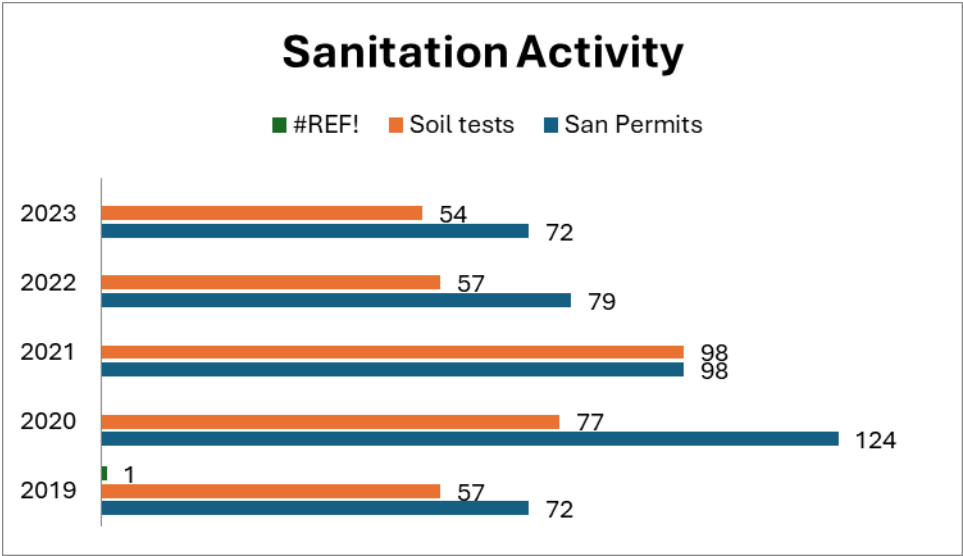
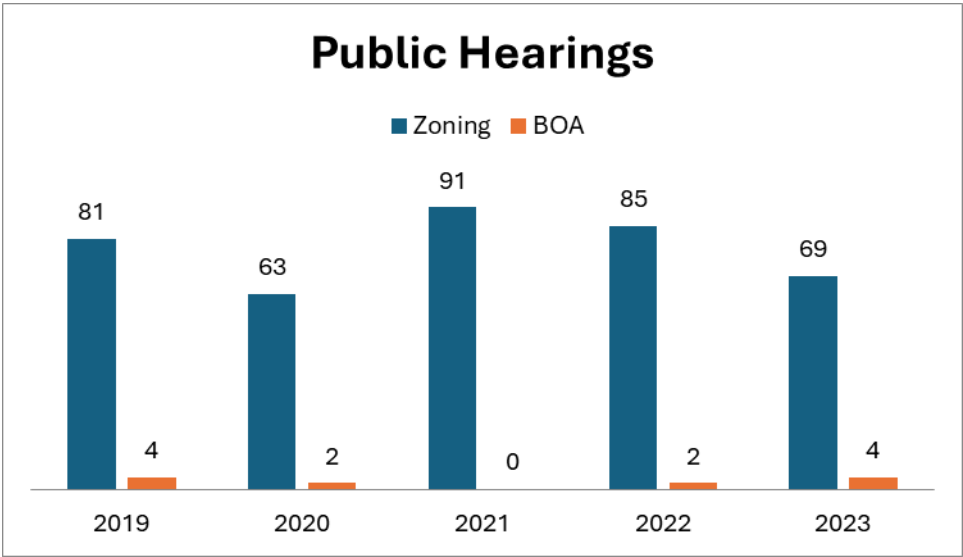
Educate: The Office of Planning & Development commits to providing opportunities for the public to become aware, understanding of and involved in solutions to all land use related issues that may impact Iowa County’s physical environment and the quality of life of its citizens.

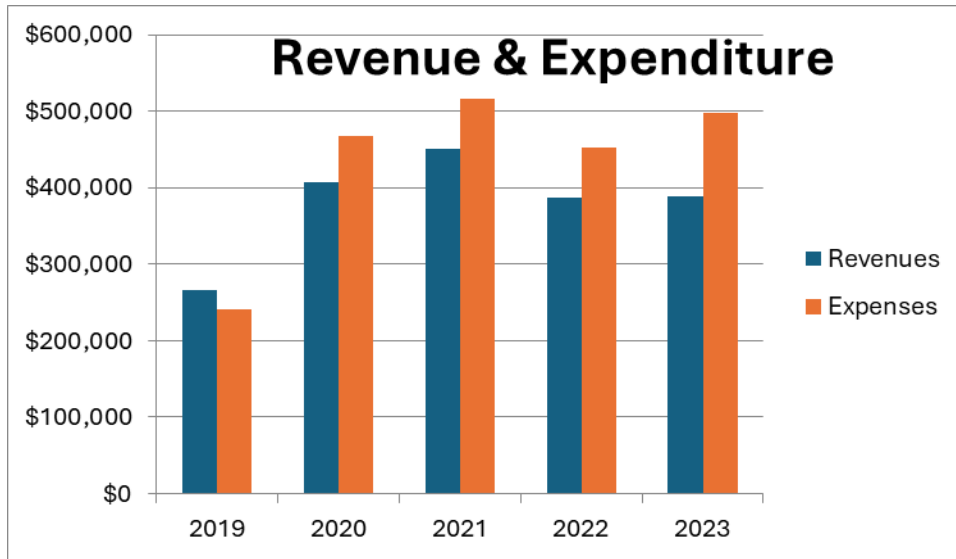
Serve: The Office of Planning & Development commits to maintaining a focus on serving the interests of the Iowa County citizenry through continual staff development and training with the goal of increasing competency, public trust and stewardship of the public trust.

Five Year General Activity Comparisons

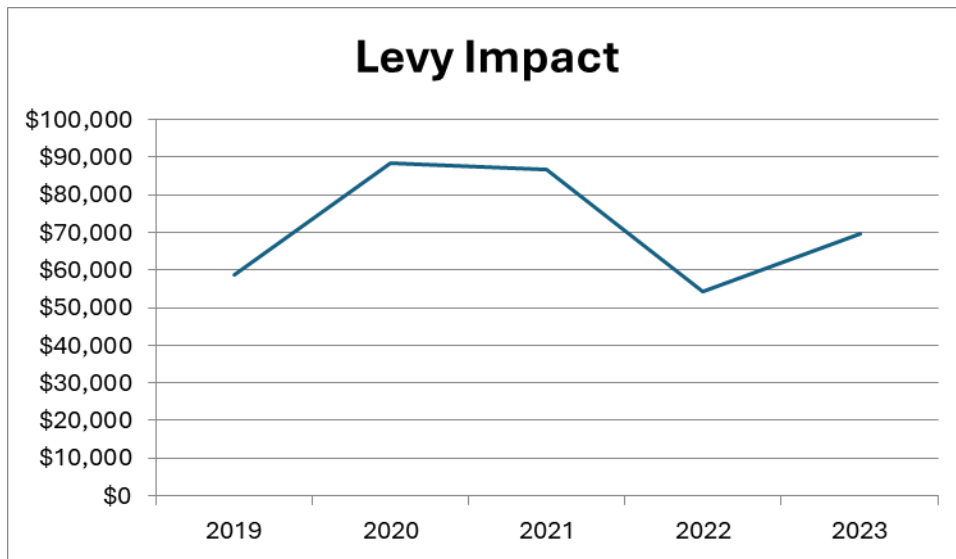


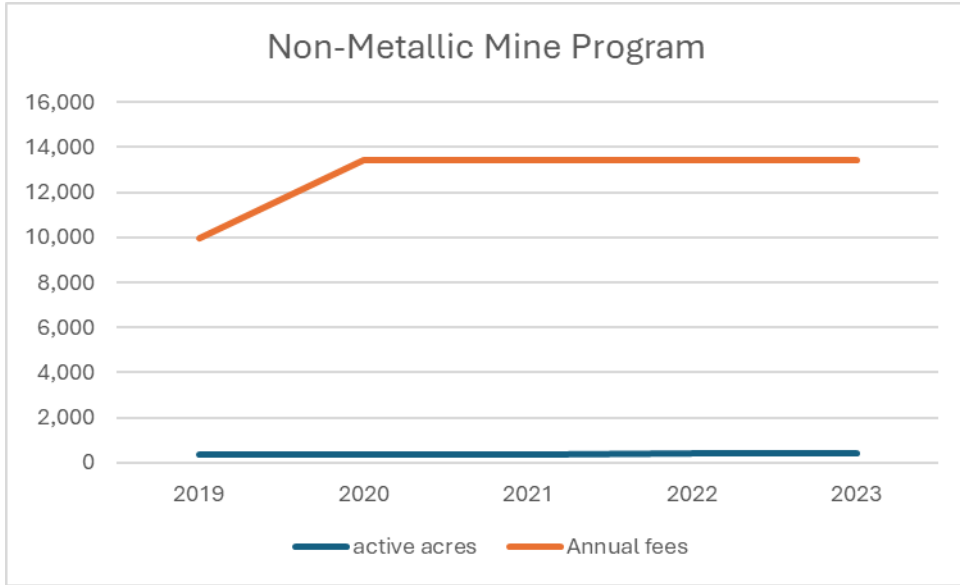
These are self-reported values provided by the applicant on the permit application.



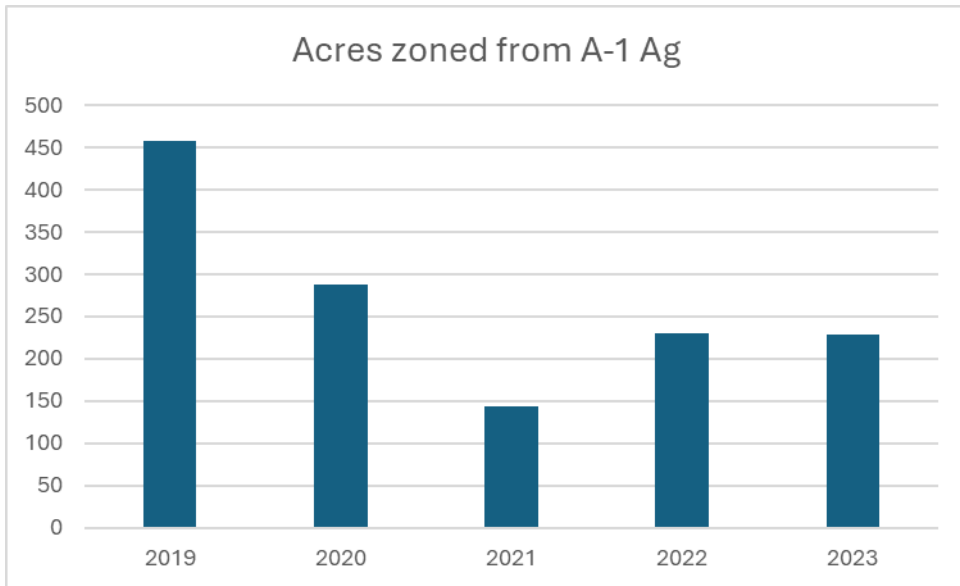


This includes annual Land Information Program grants.





There are 28 permitted active mines in Iowa County.



This is not a total loss of farmland as other districts than A-1 Agricultural allow for cropping and limited pasturing.

Project & Program Accomplishments

Ordinance Revisions

- The process of reviewing the Iowa County Zoning Ordinance for revisions continued from 2022 and is ongoing.
- Staff began review of new model floodplain zoning and shoreland zoning ordinances which the county will be required to revise its ordinances to be consistent with.

Nonmetallic Mining

- There were no new mines proposed in 2023.
- Two existing permitted mines were expanded by adding adjacent acreage.
- Onsite inspections were made for each of the 28 permitted mines for the required annual reporting. This is an opportunity for staff to work with mine operators in determining active mining acres, reclamation status and anticipated expansions.
- There are currently 1415 acres permitted for mining in the county of which about 412 acres are actively being mined (2-acre increase from 2022).
- Completed annual inspections and reports on the 28 mines by the end of year deadline

Sanitation

- Of the 1632 private septic system maintenance notices sent for this year's cycle, 79 citations had to be issued with only 11 not dismissed prior to the court date.
- To date, 7,346 sanitary permits have been issued since the program started and there are about 5,000 active private systems in the county.
- Inspections were made on the installation of 66 septic systems and 63 soil tests reviewed for filing.
- Staff participates in weekly State-sponsored 3-hour training sessions by Zoom.

Complaints & Violations

- There were 54 new zoning-related violation allegations investigated in 2023. Of these, 36 or 67% have been resolved by staff assisting property owners to achieve compliance versus issuing citations.
- Issues included: structures without permits; short-term rental without zoning approval; conversion to residential use; junk/garbage/junked vehicles; nonmetallic mining; shoreland/floodplain development; excessive animals, etc.
- An additional 25 violations were closed dating back to 2019.

GIS/Mapping

- 994 edits were made to the E-911 database (782 in 2022)
- 3,148 tax parcels were mapped (3,406 parcels mapped in 2022)
- Updated the Public Land Survey System and parcel layers with 303 contracted section corner coordinates (210 in 2022)
- Administering 2 grants totaling \$107,592 for obtaining new orthophotos (aerial photos), section corner coordinates, and replacement plotter/scanner
- Migrated septic data from the AS/400 to the Microsoft Access and created hyperlinks for the septic plans to the septic records
- Started editing GIS data for inclusion in the Statewide NG-E-911 database
- Administering 1 grant totaling \$124,776 for section corner coordinate maintenance
- Collaborated with the Land Conservation Department and Highway Department on mapping and data needs.

Comprehensive Plan

- Staff worked with the towns of Brigham, Dodgeville and Wyoming on revisions to their plans.

Other Accomplishments

- Ordered/processed/delivered 111 address signs
- Reviewed 53 certified survey maps
- Staffed 4 Board of Adjustment hearings
- Staff participated in training relating to:
 - Private septic system program
 - Large solar and wind project regulation
 - Waterway navigability determination
 - Drone operation and application
 - Well code
 - Floodplain zoning
 - Nonmetallic mining regulation
 - New finance software
 - Public records law
- Staff helped plan a statewide training workshop for new staff in zoning and code enforcement
- Collaborated with the WDNR Water Management Specialist, WDNR Wardens, WDOT, Sheriff Department and Land Conservation Department staff on joint-jurisdiction projects involving onsite investigations
- Staff served on the DATCP Livestock Siting Facility Siting Board and on the PSC Wind Siting Council
- Staff represents Iowa County on the Southern Region Community Development Block Grant-Housing Committee

- Staff hosted a regional Board of Adjustment training workshop with UWEX Center of Land Use Education
- Staff participates on the Iowa County Volunteer Leave Donation Group
- Staff participates on the Bloomfield Property Planning Group including making presentations
- Staff assisted in economic development in-fill project

Organizations and Affiliations

- WI County Planning & Zoning Directors
- WI County Code Administrators
- WI Land Information Association
- WI Land Information Officer Network
- Public Service Commission Wind Siting Council
- DATCP Livestock Facility Siting Review Board
- New Landowner Advisory Board

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Godfrey, Director
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