



# Racine County Wisconsin

Since 1836

## Racine County Board of Drainage Commissioners Drainage Districts Information

Racine County Board of Drainage Commissioners (RCBDC) currently has five districts under its jurisdiction. There are approximately 6,325 parcels of land within the five districts. All of the Districts were formed in the early 1900s as autonomous Districts and Boards. In 1993, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted a Statute which phased out autonomous drainage districts and Boards, and all districts within Racine County came under the jurisdiction of the RCBDC. The Districts are:

- Farm#1/Waterford Drainage District – Portions of Town of Norway, Town of Waterford & Village of Waterford
- Farm#4/Eagle Creek Drainage District – Portions of Town of Burlington, Town of Dover, Village of Rochester, Eagle Lake Sewer Utility District
- Farm#5/Hoosier Creek Drainage District – Portions of Town of Burlington, Town of Dover, Town of Brighton (Kenosha County)
- Norway/Dover Farm Drainage District – Portions of Town of Norway, Town of Dover, Town of Waterford, Village of Rochester, Norway Sanitary District
- Yorkville/Raymond Farm Drainage District – Portions of Town of Yorkville, Town of Raymond, Union Grove Sanitary District, Raymond Storm Water Management District

The RCBDC appreciates being notified by landowners when a problem area has been discovered.

Per ATCP 48.24, a county drainage board shall establish and maintain a district corridor around every district ditch. A district corridor shall extend for 20 feet from the top of the ditch bank on each side of a district ditch. No person may engage in row cropping, or any building or other obstruction that interferes with the county drainage board's ability to inspect, restore and maintain the district ditch and corridor. A member of a county drainage board or an employee or other authorized agent of a county drainage board may, without prior notice to a landowner, enter a district corridor, and bring vehicles and equipment into a district corridor, for the purpose of inspecting, surveying, maintaining, repairing, restoring or improving a district drain or corridor and perform operations in a district corridor related to the maintenance, repair,

restoration or improvement of a district drain or corridor, including cutting, mowing, pesticide application, dredging, excavation and other operations. Please help us to keep our corridors and ditch banks stable.

Grass rather than trees, brush, or weeds is essential in keeping erosion under control. Please do not plant trees or bushes in our corridors and ditch banks or spray them with grass killers such as Round Up. Let's be good stewards of the land and keep erosion to a minimum.

Under ATCP 48.24(1) the District has a 20 ft. corridor extending from the top of the ditch on each side of a drainage canal. This corridor is used to provide access to or to perform maintenance, repairs, restoration and inspections including, cutting, mowing, pesticide application, dredging and excavation. A county drainage board may, by giving specific notice to landowners, establish a wider corridor if necessary to permit vehicle access or to protect water quality in the district ditch. Although the Board is not required to provide notice to nor obtain permission from landowners, they make it a priority to notify the landowner in advance of the commencement of work of any type.

No row cropping within the corridor is permitted by any landowner without prior written permission from the Board. The Board encourages landowners to explore the CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) or CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhanced Program, unique to Racine County) with the FSA (US Dept. of Agriculture Farm Service Agency). The program is voluntary for agricultural landowners. Through the program, landowners may be eligible to participate and receive annual rental payments and cost share assistance to establish long term resource conserving covers on agricultural land. Participation in the program allows the District corridor to be seeded with grass, which helps maintain the ditch structure and hopefully prevents erosion and wash out of the ditch banks over time.

For additional information regarding enrollment into the CRP or CREP programs, please contact Chad Sampson, Racine County Conservationist at (262) 886-8479 or the FSA directly at (262) 878-3353.