

Drainage District Overview and Implications for Tile Drainage



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&

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What is a drainage district?

- A defined area where landowners have organized to drain lands for agricultural or other purposes
- A legal framework for managing drains and related facilities to ensure reliable drainage
- A financing mechanism to assess landowners based on the benefits they receive



The majority of the existing drainage districts in the state were formed in the early 1900s.

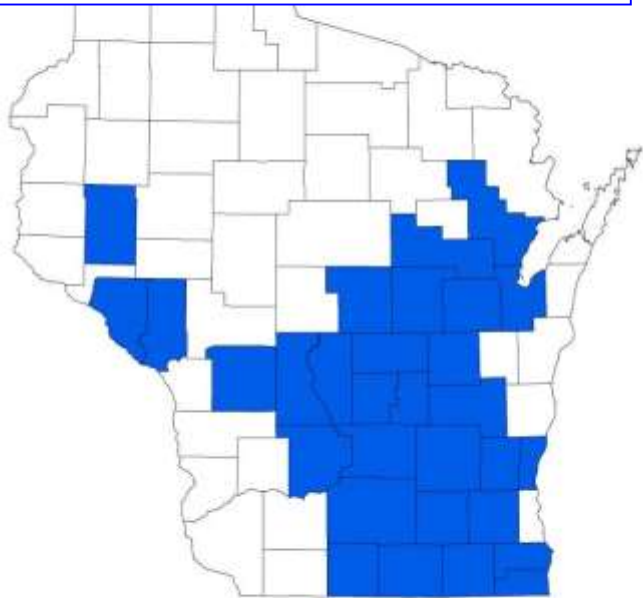
The advantages of drainage district over private drainage



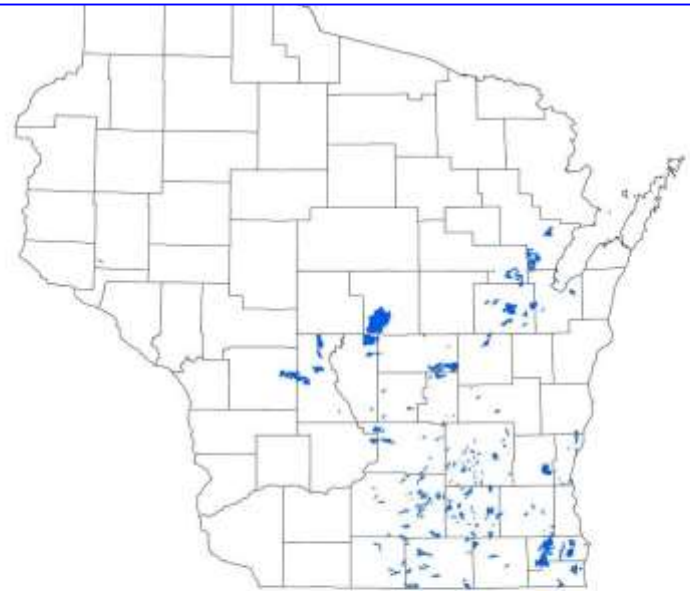
- Pool resources and share responsibilities to achieve common good
- Support an engineered system that provides reliable drainage
- Provide an organized framework for effective management
- Avoid and resolve landowner conflicts related to water management

Drainage districts in Wisconsin

30 of 72 counties have one or more active drainage districts



179 drainage districts covering about 405,400 acres



Extensive landowner involvement



- Petition
 - Create, maintain, and dissolve districts
 - Seek relief (e.g., remove obstruction, reduce assessment)
- Participate in assessments & annual inspections
- Request permission
 - Connect or disconnect private drains
 - Obstruct or alter district drains
 - Grow crops in corridor

Court and board oversight



Circuit Court

- Create boards & appoint members
- Approve new drainage districts
- Dissolve districts
- Review and enforce board decisions



Drainage Board

- Oversee county drainage districts
- Design and construct drains
- Determine landowner benefits and assess costs based on benefits
- Inspect and maintain drains

When are you part of a district?

STATE OF WISCONSIN

DODGE COUNTY

IN RE THE MATTER OF:

DRAINAGE DISTRICT 88

PETITION TO ORGANIZE
DRAINAGE DISTRICT PURSUANT
TO SECTION 88.27

To: Dodge County Circuit Court

The undersigned owners hereby petition the Court, above-named, to form a drainage district to be known as Drainage District 88 in accordance with Chapter 88 of Wisconsin Statutes.

That annexed hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit A is a list of the names and addresses of the owners and mortgagees of all lands within the proposed district so far as known to the petitioners and a

That the undersigned understand and acknowledge that in the event the organization of said drainage district is stopped at any time prior to the entry of the order organizing said drainage district, the undersigned shall be obligated to pay all expenses incurred to the date of stoppage in connection with the proceedings to organize said drainage district. Said expenses shall be apportioned amongst the undersigned equally.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned petitioners pray that said proposed drain be organized into a drainage district pursuant to Chapter 88 of Wisconsin Statutes; that upon receipt of this Petition by the Court, pursuant to Section 88.29, the Court shall refer this matter to the Dodge County Drainage Board for report thereon and that pursuant to Section 88.32, said Board, within 30 days after the final adjournment of the hearing required pursuant to Section 88.29, shall report to the Court in writing; and that the Court hold a hearing on the Board's report pursuant to Section 88.34 for the organization of said drainage district.

DATED LANDOWNER ADDRESS MORTGAGEE ADDRESS

7-2-09 John Dutzbach 715 Hillcrest Ct Brown Deer - NONE

- Your land is included in a petition to:
 - Create a district with court approval
 - Annex land with board or court approval
- Your land has not been removed from the district
- The district has not been dissolved

How do you know if your land is in the district?

- Google “DATCP GIS drainage maps”

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection – Working

Wisconsin Drainage Districts

Wisconsin Drainage Districts

This map shows the approximate boundaries and status of drainage districts in Wisconsin. It is intended for general reference, rather than site-specific uses. Drainage district boundary data was obtained and compiled from multiple county and Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) sources. If available, spatial data from counties was provided in various formats, coordinate systems, and scales, and was of varying ages. To the extent possible, county data was verified against official DATCP records and discrepancies resolved. Drainage district boundaries and status are updated on an "as needed" basis.

Questions regarding a specific drainage district, the location of a land parcel within a drainage district, or fees assessed for specific parcels should be directed to the appropriate local drainage board or county department. Where drainage district boundaries cross county lines, the county in which the majority of the drainage district exists has jurisdiction over the entire drainage district. General technical or legal questions regarding drainage districts or this data layer should be directed to the [State Drainage Engineer](#).

This dataset is not an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership, parcel boundaries, or public access. DATCP does not guarantee the accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of data provided by other sources. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding the accuracy or utility of this data. Additional information can be found on the [DATCP Legal Notice](#) page

How do you know if your land is in the district?

➤ Notice

➤ Direct notification from board

➤ Assessment information

Parcel Number - 225/0609-014-8550-3 Current Summary Report

[Parcel Parents](#)

Parcel Summary [More](#)

Municipality Name	CITY OF FITCHBURG
Parcel Description	SEC 1-6-9 PRT W1/2 E1/2 COM SEC CTR TH RL...
Owner Name	DAVID R BING f
Primary Address	4861 E CLAYTON RD
Billing Address	4861 E CLAYTON RD FITCHBURG WI 53711

Assessment Summary [More](#)

Assessment Year	2016
Valuation Classification	G1
Assessment Acres	0.000
Land Value	\$127,500.00
Improved Value	\$375,200.00
Total Value	\$502,700.00

[Show Valuation Breakout](#)

Zoning Information

Contact your local city or village office for municipal zoning information.

Parcel Maps

[DCIMap](#) [Google Map](#) [Bing Map](#)

Tax Summary (2015) [More](#)

[E-Statement](#) [E-Bill](#) [E-Receipt](#)

Assessed Land Value	Assessed Improvement Value	Total Assessed Value
\$127,500.00	\$375,200.00	\$502,700.00
Taxes:		\$11,351.11
Lottery Credit(-):		\$0.00
First Dollar Credit(-):		\$78.71
Specials(+):		\$158.67
Amount:		\$11,431.07

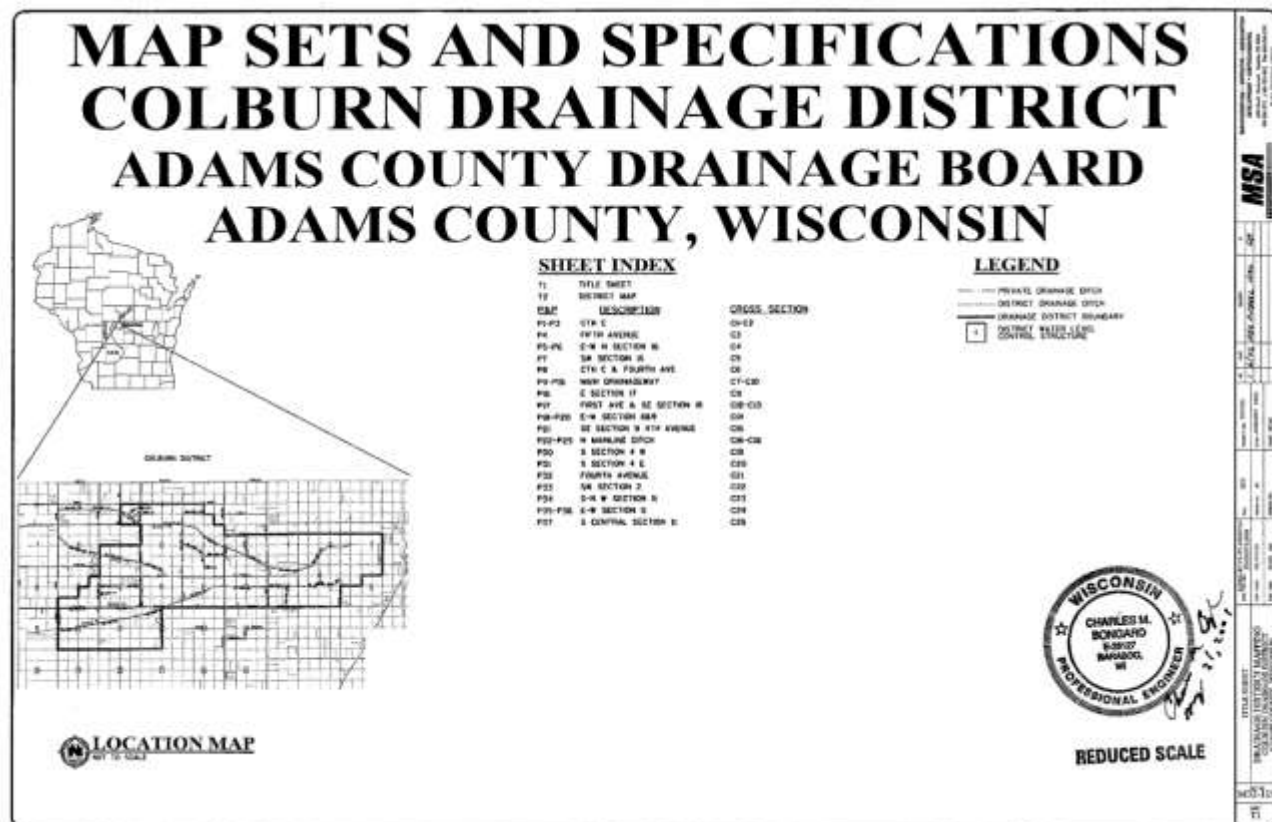
District Information

Type	State Code	Description
REGULAR SCHOOL	4144	OREGON SCHOOL DIST
TECHNICAL COLLEGE	0400	MADISON TECH COLLEGE
WASTEWATER	5150	MAD METRO SWR DIST
DRAINAGE DISTRICT	0095	NINE SPRINGS DRAINAGE DIS
OTHER SERVICE	1506	FITCHBURG DIST

How do you know if your land is in the district?

District specification

- Most reliable document of the district boundaries and features
- Available from Drainage Board and Zoning



Location of private drains in relation to district drains

➤ Outside of drainage districts

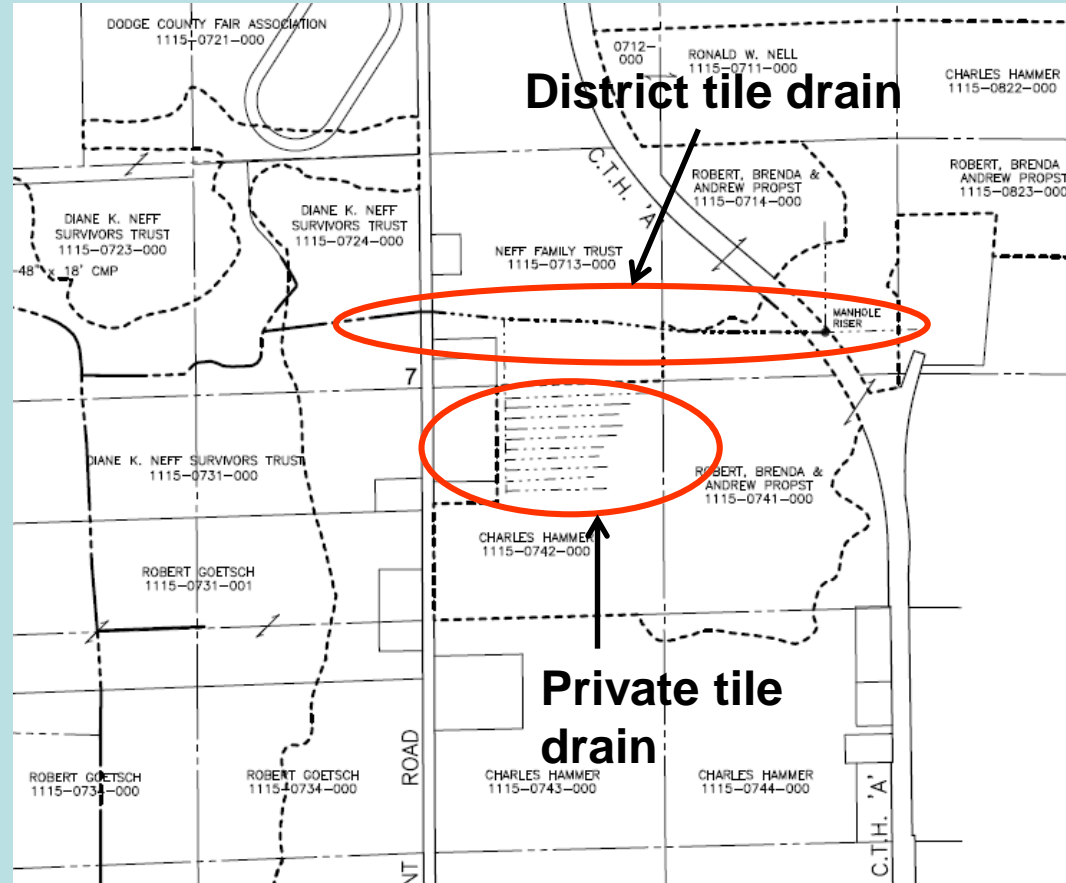
- May be privately managed via agreements with neighboring landowners
- Not subject to laws and rules governing drainage districts

➤ Inside of drainage districts

- Subject to rules governing access and land use
- Share financial responsibilities for maintenance and other activities
- Retain individual responsibility for private drains

Some tile drains are district drains

- Most district drains are ditches
- There are notable exceptions (e.g. Dodge County District #74)



Maintain district corridor



- 20-foot on either side, but larger if approved by board
- Landowners need permission to plant crops, and place obstructions
- Drainage board may access for maintenance purposes
 - No notice to mow, apply pesticides and dredge
 - Notice to cut trees, excavate or deposit materials

District drain inspections



- Annual inspection
 - Notify landowners to enable participation
 - Identify needed repairs or maintenance
 - Document results in annual report and present at board hearing
- Within three weeks of a major storm event
- Landowner complaints

Maintenance and repair



- Goal: Ensure drainage at designed capacity
 - Ensure drain access with 20-foot corridors
- Techniques: Dredge, level spoil banks, remove obstructions, control vegetation, manage sediment in runoff
 - No DATCP approval
 - DNR permit for dredging

Paying for maintenance and repair



- Determine landowner benefits and burdens
- Apportion expenses based on benefits
- Raise funds through assessments
 - Cover operation and professional service costs
 - Keep minimum balance for maintenance

Lands subject to benefit assessment



- Ag land
 - includes forests
 - Non-ag land including residential and commercial uses
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- Land not subject to assessment
 - Area in corridor, unless cropped
 - Protected wetlands
 - Non-ag lands owned by the state

Provide notice to drainage board

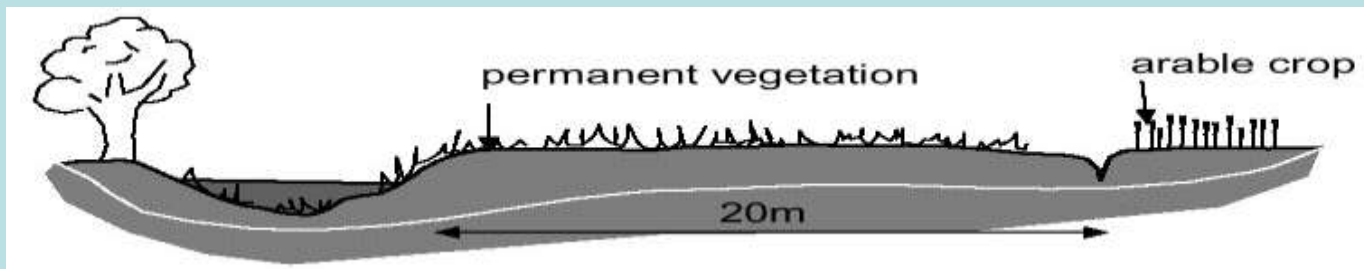
Please Notice This



- When cleaning, extending or enlarging private drains
- When connecting or disconnecting private drains to district drains, including field tiles
- When removing obstructions

Board powers to regulate private drains

- Approve or deny connection to district drains
- Order modification or removal
- Seek landowner agreement to recover connection costs
- Designate a private drain as a district drain
- Require soil erosion measures before and after construction of private drains
 - Buffer strips
 - Pipe inlets or drop spillways
 - Maintenance of field residue



Recovering costs against individuals



- Construction costs can be assessed to an individual:
 - If extending private drains incurs damage and costs to district drains
 - If failure to maintain private drain results in damage and costs to district drains

DATCP role



- Review and approve plans & designs
 - For example, connecting a private drain to a district drain
- Maintain administrative rule ATCP 48
- Maintain drainage website
- Provide education & assistance



Contact Information

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P.O. Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708 – 8911

Drainage Program Website:

http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Drainage_Programs/index.aspx

Drainage Districts Web Map

<https://datcpgis.wi.gov/DrainageDistricts/>