

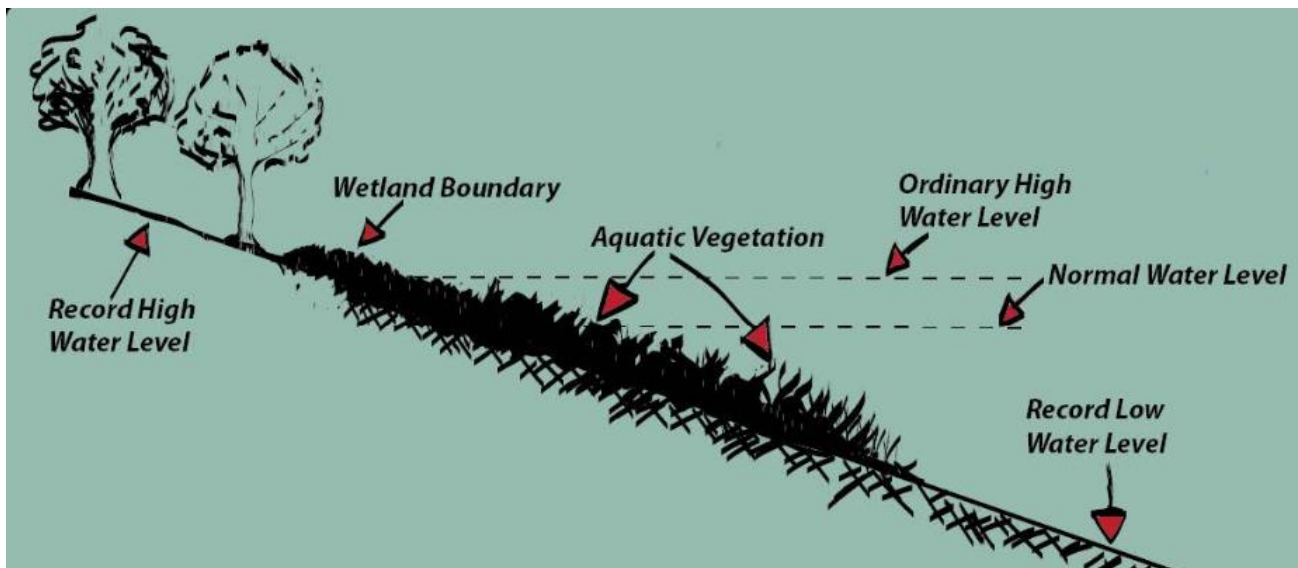


Soil and Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT

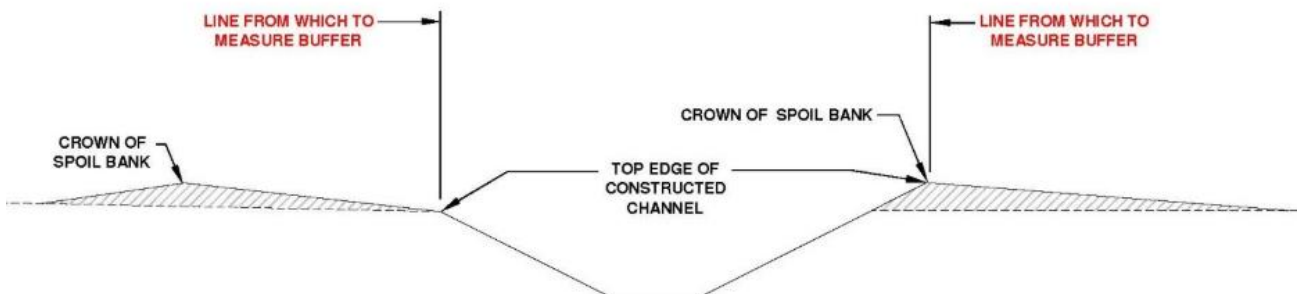
Are your Buffers Complaint with Minnesota's Buffer Law?

The State of Minnesota with oversight from the Board of Water and Soil Resources requires the Lyon Soil and Water Conservation District to determine buffer compliance. Minnesota's Buffer Law requires permanent vegetation (grass) be maintained a distance of 50 feet next to our lakes, rivers, and streams and 16.5 feet adjacent to public drainage ditches. The Buffer Law Compliance Plan requires the Lyon Soil and Water Conservation District to review all parcels subject to the buffers once every 3. The buffer begins at the normal water level from lakes, rivers, and streams, and for public ditches the measurement begins at the top edge of the constructed channel. Overtime, it is not uncommon that farming practices encroach onto the buffer. If the encroachment is just a few feet, often cessation of farming in that area will allow the buffer to re-establish. In other cases, it may require site prep and actual seeding. For assistance, the Lyon Soil and Water Conservation District can determine compliance and offer solutions to re-establish buffer compliance.

Measuring buffer from normal water level on lakes, rivers, and streams



Measuring buffer from public drainage system



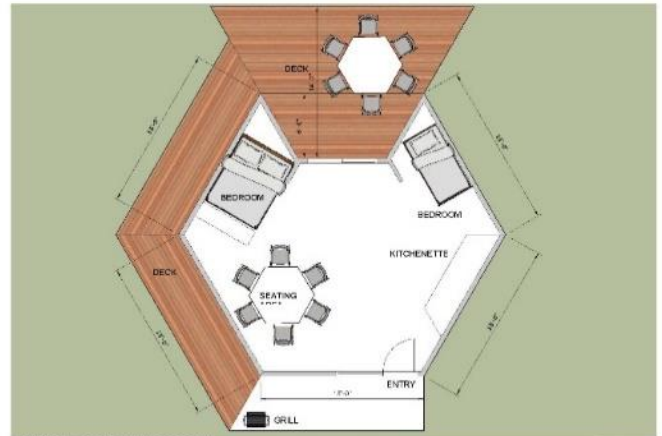
2026 Construction:

Garvin Park was awarded two grants from Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission for upgrades. Garvin Park Phase II grant for \$926,809 will provide the addition of four camper cabins to be placed in the old Primitive Campground, with the addition of a restroom and shelter. Garvin Park Phase III grant for \$517,167 will upgrade all electrical pedestals in both the Upper and Lower Campground providing both 30 and 50 amp hook-ups, this also includes new picnic shelters in both the Upper Campground and Ball Park area. Construction for these grants will begin in Spring of 2026.



GARVIN PARK - CAMPER CABINS - DECK VIEW

WIDSETH



GARVIN PARK - CAMPER CABINS - FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

WIDSETH

HORSE CAMPGROUND UPGRADES:

Thanks to the Minnesota Horse Council for funding and volunteers for installation of \$4,886.53 worth of horse paddocks in the Horse Campground at Garvin Park.

CAMPSITE BOOKING:

New in 2026 all sites will require pre-payment through the county reservation system. www.lyonco.org/parks

Users must follow the Campsite Reservations and Info tab. Booking is allowed one year in advance from reservation date. If there are questions or difficulties booking please call the park office at 507-532-8214 for questions or assistance. Monday – Friday 8:00-4:30PM

MAIN PLAYGROUND RESERVATIONS:

New in 2026 the Main Picnic Shelter will be available for reservations. There will be a \$50 rental fee and refundable damage deposit. Shelter reservations are bookable for two different time slots: 10AM-2PM or 4PM-8PM each day. Users must call the park office for reservations and rental agreement at 507-532-8214. Monday – Friday 8:00- 4:30PM

Do I need a Building Permit from Lyon County?

This article pertains to land in the rural areas of Lyon County. A building permit is required to construct or alter, in respect to height or area, of any structure. Obtaining a building permit ensures compliance with zoning ordinance regulations such as setbacks and lot size requirements. Fees are collected when a building permit is obtained. Building before obtaining a permit is an enforceable offense and has the potential to create a nonconformity.

Building Permits are needed for:

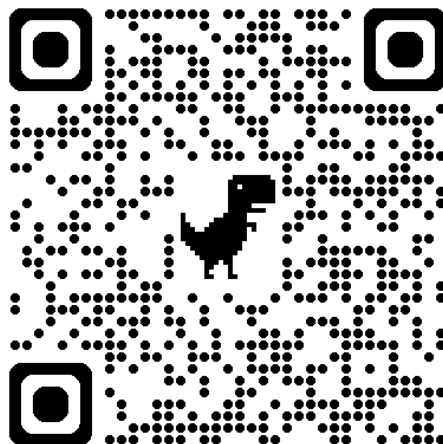
- New Construction (structures such as dwellings, garages, machine sheds, or grain bins)
- Expansions of or additions to existing structures (such as decks, porches, or leans)
- Accessory Structures (gazebos and garden sheds and other structures 66 sq. ft. and up)
- Moving or relocating of structures

Building Permits are NOT needed for:

- Non-Structural Construction (re-shingling, residing, window replacement, internal remodeling)
- Buildings within City Limits are regulated by that municipality.

When increasing the number of bedrooms, building a new home or during the transfer or sale of property the septic system must be reviewed. For the septic system to be considered compliant the system must be installed within the past five years, or a certificate of compliance issued within the last three years. The status of septic system compliance must be disclosed by the seller during property transfers or the sale of property. This includes sales between family members. Fortunately, Lyon County has many licensed septic service providers that are able to help.

Feel free to contact the office with any questions. The Planning and Zoning Office is located in the Market Street Office Complex (east end of the mall). The phone number is 507-532-8207 x 3.



2026 Hwy 14 Tour - CLASIC

Crop, Livestock, and Soil Innovation
Conferences

"Strip-Till Makes Dollars & Sense"

Agenda

- 9:00-9:30: Registration
- 9:30-10:30: Debunking Soil Health Myths
"that won't work here" - Pat
- 11:00-12:00: Strip-till Perspectives - Randy
- 12:00-1:00: Lunch
- 1:00-2:30: Table talks (featuring strip-till
equipment displays)



Pat Duncanson

Pat is a 5th generation farmer who owns and manages Highland Family Farms near Mapleton, MN, producing commodity, food grade, and organic corn, soybeans, rye, and hogs, using no-till, strip-till, and cover crops. Highland Family Farms' practices of increasing soil organic matter for long-term productivity and maintaining near-term cash flow can meet the needs of current and future generations.



Randy Depuydt

Randy manages his family's corn/soybean operation between St. Clair and Mankato, where they started working with strip-till in 2009. Randy also runs a custom strip-tilling business that has helped local producers transition with over 35,000ac. to date. Randy has been a GIS Specialist & Certified Crop Advisor with McPherson Crop Management since 2011, consulting with growers using both reduced till and conventionally tilled cropping systems

February

19

Lake Benton
Community Center

114 Center Street S
Lake Benton, MN

9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

FREE LUNCH!

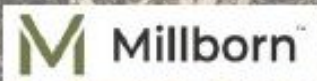
RSVP via QR code or call Noah @
507-694-1644

*RSVP's encouraged not required,
especially for weather related
announcements



CEU's Available!

Thanks to our event sponsors:



What Kind of Programs are within Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)?



RIM Grasslands - Perpetual easement program targeting moderate-level remnant prairie sites. Remnant, unbroken ground required with the option to add cropland acres as desired. Pays RIM township rate for non-cropland. Among other things, prioritization is given to sites:

- Within the MN Prairie Plan priority areas
- At a high risk of conversion
- Near grassland complexes

RIM Wellhead - Perpetual easement program targeting Wellhead Protection Areas. Sites offered must have a majority (greater than 51%) within the high or very high vulnerable area of the Wellhead Protection Area. Standard RIM rates.

RIM Riparian and Floodplain Restoration - Perpetual, 30-year, and/or working land easement options available. Riparian/floodplain areas offered must be adjacent to public waters (rivers/streams, public drainage systems, wetlands, and lakes). 1000-foot average minimum from the ordinary high water level of lake, pond, or flowage. 300-foot average minimum from a river or stream. Rates vary based on program options.

RIM Wetlands - Perpetual easement program targeting drained and altered wetlands. These include farmed/cropped existing, natural wetlands, effectively drained/altered wetlands, partially drained, altered wetlands, and/or previously restored wetlands. Standard RIM rates.

RIM 1W1P - Perpetual easement program targeting priority areas based on One Watershed, One Plan Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans. Rates vary based on program options.



Partner Updates



NRCS Programs

Lyon County NRCS is accepting EQIP, RCPP & CSP applications year round even if deadline has passed. If you have areas of erosion or grazing practices you'd like to implement please stop by or call the office, sooner the better. Spring & Summer are the best times to do field visits and plan your conservation practices. Stop in the office and see Kelly, Hailey, Owen or Jeremy for more information.

Lyon County NRCS Field Office Staff

Kelly Heather, Team Lead/District Conservationist – Manages NRCS staff, resources & programs for Lincoln, Lyon & Yellow Medicine Counties. Cell phone: 507-774-2206 E-mail: kelly.heather@usda.gov

Hailey Bornitz, Soil Conservationist - Recent hire that works full-time with all NRCS conservation programs. Cell Phone: 507-706-3896 E-mail: hailey.bornitz@usda.gov

Owen Colline, Agronomist- Recent Hire that works full time with NRCS conservation programs. Nutrient & Pest Management practices are his specialty. Cell Phone: 507-318-6683 Email: owen.colline@usda.gov

Jeremy Larson, Civil Engineering Technician – Specializes in Ag waste structures and working with the Technical Service Providers. He's your go to for grazing practices and design. Cell phone: 218-457-1815 E-mail: jeremy.larson@usda.gov

Mark Peper, Pheasants Forever – Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist– Assists with programs that provide habitat to upland wildlife such as CRP, CREP and RIM. Office: 507-537-1401 ext. 3 Email: mark.peper@usda.gov or mtpeper@pheasantsforever.org



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ATTENTION: Lyon County Feedlot Owners –

Your checklist for expanding your feedlot:

1. How many head do you currently have compared to how many you are hoping to expand to?
 - a. If **under** 500 animal units (au), stop in our office and fill out our form
 - b. If **over** 500 au
 - i. Stop in our office, and we will help you through the application process
 - ii. Bring an updated four-year nutrient management plan (NMP), contact the county feedlot officer for more details on what belongs in an NMP
 - iii. Fill out an application that can be found online at www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/county-feedlot-officers

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Lyon County Feedlot Officer, Ben at 507-532-8207 x3.

2026 inspections have started. Producers will be asked to be on site.

Staff Spotlight

As of June of 2025, Ben is one of the Soil & Water Conservation District's Conservation Technician's. He was born and raised in Minnesota, MN and he enjoys hunting and fishing in his free time. For the SWCD, he has been working as the county feedlot officer, RIM/CRP Field Checks, Cost-Share inspections and other projects around the office. His favorite part of working for the SWCD is meeting and working with the areas producers.

A fun fact about Ben is he is the oldest of 7 kids!

If you see him around Lyon County don't be afraid to stop him and say hello!

