

# NEWS



Land Services Department  
Environmental Services  
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**CROW WING COUNTY**  
BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

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## CROW WING COUNTY 2011 LAND USE REPORT

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department issued 752 building permits in 2011 compared to 772 permits in 2010, which was an overall decrease of 3%. Of those permits, 138 were for new home construction compared to 136 new homes in 2010. 83 shoreland alteration permits were issued in 2011.

Based on recent revisions to the Land Use Ordinance, site specific performance standards to protect our lakes and streams are now reviewed and approved prior to issuing a building permit. Properties that exceed 15% impervious surface coverage (hard surfaces such as driveways or roof tops) are required to submit a stormwater management plan that prevents water from a 1" rain event going directly into a lake or stream. 52 stormwater management plans and 32 shoreline buffers restorations were approved by the Land Services Department in 2011. For those properties with less than 15% impervious coverage, information about stormwater best management practices was provided as part of 267 permit approvals. Cumulatively, this resulted in an approximate reduction of 16 lbs of phosphorous or 8,000 lbs of algae impacting our lakes and streams.

255 new septic systems were permitted in 2011 compared to 240 in 2010. Of the 255 systems, 174 were new installations while 81 were upgrades of existing systems that were not functioning properly. In addition, it is required that an existing septic system be inspected prior to issuing any permits on the property. 647 existing septic systems were inspected by MPCA licensed septic inspectors in 2011. 616 of those inspected systems were approved and met both local and state requirements, which is a 95% approval rate. Those systems that are non-compliant are required to be replaced within 10 months.

113 land use enforcement cases were reported to the Land Services Department in 2011. Of those 113 cases, 88 were resolved, which was an overall closure rate of 78%. Work will continue into 2012 on the remaining 25 open cases. Examples of land use enforcement cases include building without a permit, dirt moving within the shoreland district (1,000 feet of a lake or 300 feet of a river or stream) and unlicensed vehicles / junk on a property.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect the extraordinary natural resources Crow Wing County is blessed with. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 or [environmental.services@co.crow-wing.mn.us](mailto:environmental.services@co.crow-wing.mn.us) to discuss land use questions before starting building projects. Information about land use in Crow Wing County can be found at [www.co.crow-wing.mn.us](http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us).

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