

# NEWS



Land Services Department  
Environmental Services  
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Brainerd, MN 56401

## CROW WING COUNTY

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

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### PERMIT NUMBERS UP IN CROW WING COUNTY

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department issued 991 building permits in 2012 compared to 752 permits in 2011, which was an overall increase of 32%. Of those permits, 189 were for new home construction compared to 133 new homes in 2011, an increase of 42%. 155 shoreland alteration permits were issued in 2012 compared to 82 in 2011, an increase of 89%.

Based on 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. 254 stormwater management plans and 15 shoreline buffers restorations were approved by the Land Services Department in 2012. For those properties with less than 15% impervious coverage, information about stormwater best management practices was provided as part of 459 permit approvals. Stormwater management is one of the most important things that can be done to keep our lakes and rivers clean.

274 new septic systems were permitted in 2012 compared to 255 in 2011. Of the 274 systems, 193 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. 768 existing septic systems were inspected by MPCA licensed septic inspectors in 2012. 739 of those inspected systems were approved and met both local and state requirements, which is a 96% approval rate. Those systems that are non-compliant are required to be replaced within 10 months.

127 land use enforcement cases were reported to the Land Services Department in 2012. Of those 127 cases, 92 were resolved, which was an overall closure rate of 72%. Work will continue into 2013 on the remaining 35 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 Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. 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, applying for an address or with questions regarding the placement or maintenance of your E911 sign. Crow Wing County information and resources can be found at [www.co.crow-wing.mn.us](http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us).

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