

Regional Flood Resilience

STREAM CROSSING INVENTORY

Many of our road-stream crossings aren't ready for future increases in rain and flooding.

To help town governments prioritize bridge and culvert replacement, a team of stakeholders led by the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission is building an inventory of structures that cross local and county roads in rural Dane County.

About the Project

Purpose

Heavy rains and flooding events are happening more often in our region. Bridges and culverts that are undersized, designed based on past conditions, or built with outdated practices may not be able to handle increased water flow, making these crossings and the watersheds they serve more vulnerable to flood damage.

Process

Between spring 2025 and fall 2026, CARPC and its partners are collecting information on structure condition, flood vulnerability, and aquatic passability at road-stream crossings across Dane County.

Products

The inventory will give us valuable information on safety and stream connectivity to use in future watershed planning. Each town will receive a report highlighting which bridges and culverts should be replaced first.



Did You Know?

Warmer, Wetter Conditions

Annual precipitation in southern Wisconsin increased 20% between 1950 and 2020. This trend is expected to continue.

Flooding

Floods are Wisconsin's most costly natural disaster. Dane County experienced 89 floods between 1844 and 2020.

2018 Floods in Dane County

The 2018 flood caused an estimated \$154 million dollars in damage and one fatality. The Highway 14 bridge over Black Earth Creek washed out, cutting off a major route to western communities.



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