Bluebird Ridge Recycling and Disposal Facility is Wisconsin’s first licensed landfill of the 21st century. To celebrate the opening of Bluebird Ridge, a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house was held in May 2014. The event was attended by elected officials, community leaders, state regulators and landfill neighbors.

The unique name of the new facility comes from the Ringle Glacial Bluebird Nestbox Trail, located on the department’s 532 acre property. The trail’s 54 nest boxes provide shelter, along a preferred habitat for Eastern Bluebirds. The nest box program has fledged over 800 Bluebirds in the past 12 years.

The construction project, paid for without tax dollars, fed nearly $4 million back into the local and regional economy by employing Marathon County and Wisconsin-based companies for a wide variety of goods and services. General contractor River View Construction (Wausau) and principle engineering firm Cornerstone Environmental (Plymouth/Madison) helped the project come in on-time and in-budget.

Newly promoted Solid Waste Manager, Dave Hagenbucher, will take operational lead, after serving as quality control staff during the construction of Bluebird Ridge. “We are proud of the new facility and look forward to providing our customers with convenient, affordable disposal services.”

Solid Waste Department Director, Meleesa Johnson wants customers to continually think about ways to reduce wastes and recycle more. However, she states that, “What can’t be recycled or reused, we will make sure to properly manage it to protect public health and the environment.”

Bluebird Ridge will serve central and north-central Wisconsin from 2014 until 2029. Along with landfill disposal services, the department provides the residents, businesses and organizations of the region with programming and consulting services related to waste reduction, recycling, composting and hazardous waste management.