

Cost of Stewardship Q&A:

Is the use of bonding for Stewardship the equivalent of the state using a credit card?

- The use of bonds for the Stewardship Program is more analogous to the state taking out a mortgage to pay for a infrastructure that will benefit generations of Wisconsinites. Just like an average family typically doesn't pay cash to purchase a house that they'll live in for years, Wisconsin uses bonds to pay for long-term capital investments, like Stewardship Program lands.
- The credit card analogy doesn't take into account the fact that interest rates for government bonds are very reasonable compared to credit card interest rates. Its an apples to oranges comparison.

How does the cost of the Stewardship compare to overall debt service in Wisconsin and what impact does it have on the state budget?

- According to the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the debt service cost for the Stewardship Program is *less than 0.5%* of Wisconsin's General Purpose Revenue expenditures.
- That means that debt service on the Stewardship Program costs each Wisconsin resident less than a fishing license or state part sticker each year.

How does the overall investment in the Stewardship Program compare to other priorities, like transportation?

- The overall investment in Stewardship over 3 decades from 1990-2020 would be less than Governor Walker is proposing transportation funding over the next 2 years.