

**AGRICULTURAL,
NATURAL, AND
CULTURAL
RESOURCES
ELEMENT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the Town of Linden continues to change, it is vital that it keep in mind the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources of the area. It can be very challenging for rural communities to allow new low-density development and at the same time protect the natural environment and preserve the character of the area, including cultural and historic resources. At first, development may have only a limited impact on the natural landscape, but as development continues, the visual and environmental impacts become more and more apparent. For these reasons, it is crucial to be aware of the existing agricultural, natural, and cultural resources.

There are a number of agricultural, natural, and cultural resources to be aware of as we plan for the future, including the following:

Agricultural Resources

Natural Resources

Cultural Resources

Number of Farms

Water Resources

Historic Buildings

Acreage of Farmland

Topography

Museums

Livestock

Geologic Resources

Landmarks

Crop Production

Forest / Woodlands

Churches

Farmland Potential

Wildlife Habitat

Rural Schools

Soil Capabilities

Parks and Open Space

Cemeteries

Soils

Air and Light



Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(e)

(e) Agricultural, natural and cultural resources element

A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for the conservation, and promotion of effective management, of natural resources such as groundwater, forests, productive agricultural areas, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, stream corridors, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources, parks, open spaces, historical and cultural resources, community design, recreational resources and other natural resources.

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES POLICIES

The following are the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources policies for the Town of Linden. (Parcel splits and minimum lot size issues are addressed in Section H, Land Use Element.)

- **Routinely remind residents of the importance of their agricultural, natural, and cultural resources and the need for continued protection of local open spaces to provide recreational opportunities.**

Tell residents about the agricultural, cultural, and natural resources in their Town and let them know ways they can support and protect them. Flyers included with a tax mailing, articles in the local newspaper, workshops, or other similar education efforts can help inform residents.

Work with the Village of Linden, the Towns of Eden, Dodgeville, Mineral Point and Mifflin, and Iowa, Grant, and Lafayette Counties to protect contiguous natural areas that give local residents space to pursue recreational opportunities.

- **Build partnerships with local clubs and organizations in order to protect important natural areas.**

Work with local chapters of groups like Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Trout Unlimited, and local sportsman's clubs that all have a common interest of protecting the environment. Joint cooperation can reduce duplication of effort and in turn cut costs.

- **Enforce noxious weed control ordinances.**

At both the national and state level, concern is growing about non-native species that threaten the stability of native or more desirable plant communities. In order to protect the agricultural and natural resources of Iowa County from invasive, noxious weeds, local ordinances designed for the mutual benefit of citizens and the environment should emphasize education, prevention and cooperation between landowners and governmental agencies.

- **Maintain proper separation distances between urban and rural land uses to avoid conflicts.**

It is important to maintain separation distances between urban and rural land uses, as issues often arise such as neighbors complaining about noises, smells, chemical sprays, and farm machinery on the roadways.

- **Identify recharge areas for local wells and inventory potential contaminant sources.**

Contamination of local drinking water resources can be devastating and very costly to reverse. Be aware of recharge area locations for wells and potential contamination sources. Again, education of residents on local water resource issues may be beneficial.

- **Restrict development from major drainage areas in order to aid in stormwater runoff and prevent flooding.**

Refrain from developing drainage ways and floodplains that serve as stormwater runoff systems. Drainage basins were established naturally for a reason and should be preserved.

- **Promote tourism opportunities and continue to pursue efforts to capitalize on local resources in conjunction with programs like walking tours, the Wisconsin Historical Markers Program, distributing ATV or bike trail maps, maintaining trails, and preserving the natural beauty of the area.**

Every jurisdiction is unique and can capitalize on its natural beauty and historic or cultural significance and natural beauty. For example, tours can be walking, driving, or biking with certain areas of cultural or environmental significance identified.

- **Utilize County, State, and Federal programs to conserve, maintain, and protect agricultural, natural, and cultural resources.**

There are numerous state and federal programs that are aimed specifically at protecting farmland, wetlands, forests, historic buildings, etc. There are agencies and contact information at the end of this section.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Agriculture plays an important role in the past and future of southwestern Wisconsin. Even though this plan is being developed for Linden, the importance of agricultural resources in the surrounding area should not be underestimated. Farming is important economically, culturally, aesthetically, and recreationally to the Town.

FARM CONFLICTS

Since the Town of Linden is an active agricultural area, there are some conflicts between agriculture and non-agriculture landowners that include:

- Airport noise affecting farm animals
- Slow moving farm machinery on roads
- Hunters trespassing on property and hounds chasing cattle
- Odors and possible groundwater pollution from spraying manure on fields
- Fertilizers causing nitrate pollution in well water
- Planting prairie species on county and private lands introducing native invasive plants which are very aggressive and can invade neighboring farmers fields
- Children harassing cattle for fun

FARM EXPANSION

As farming becomes more global, the forces driving agricultural change are reflected in the decline of traditional agricultural commodities. One strategy farmers have begun to follow is farm expansion and modernization. Expanding can help farmers maintain their net income and can sometimes also lead to efficiencies and lower production costs. Modernization strategies can also help improve farming operations. However, expansion and modernization bring with them possibilities of greater impacts to the local environment, as well as issues such as modernized farms needing fewer employees, resulting in local agricultural job losses. Larger operations may also require larger manure handling facilities, increasing the chances of more spills or odor complaints.

The Town of Linden believes that some limits should be placed on farming operations in the jurisdiction. For instance, very large farms that do not follow good conservation practices should not be allowed. Also, the Plan Commission believes farms should not have more animals – and the waste they produce - than the farmland can support for purposes of manure management/spreading. Although no numbers have been agreed on, the Plan Commission suggests a possible limit on the number of animal units on any one farm or number of acres per owner. Large farm operations should also practice conservation tillage techniques.

YOUNG FARMERS

One challenge facing farming in southwest Wisconsin is the lack of young people to replace a generation of older farmers. While farmers are retiring at the same rate, fewer young people are getting into farming. Communities seeking to retain their local agricultural economy and way of life need to consider strategies that will bring new or young people into farming.

Some suggestions for encouraging young farmers in the Town include:

- Make farming more profitable
- Provide some sort of health insurance
- Encourage farmers to pool their resources in an investment fund
- Encourage schools to keep their Agriculture Programs

FARMING INFRASTRUCTURE

Farming infrastructure includes businesses and services such as a feed mill, equipment vendor, or veterinarian might supply. Farm supply businesses and food processing facilities represent important resources to area farmers as well as the broader local economy. Linden has some farming infrastructure and considers its maintenance essential.

FARM TYPES

Linden believes multi-enterprise (e.g. beef, dairy, and crops) should be encouraged, rather than single enterprise farms (e.g. only dairy, only soybeans).

The Plan Commission encourages the following types of farming operations:

- Dairy Operations
- Hog Operations
- Sheep Operations
- Organic Farming
- Beef-Cow/Calf Operations
- Beef-Finishing Operations
- Cash Crop Operations
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

The Plan Commission believes that all kinds of family farming should be encouraged, especially organic farming, but that limits should be placed on the number of animals allowed, particularly hogs and poultry.

FARMER RETIREMENT

Land has inherent value but it is also valuable for what it produces and as it provides the farmer with a source of retirement funds. Trying to find a middle path of conserving farmland while enabling farmers to retire by profiting from their land is a statewide issue. The Plan Commission believes that possible solutions to farmers retirement needs are probably outside the scope of the Town, but offers some possible solutions for the problem by suggesting:

- Purchase of development rights of farmland
- Forming investment pools. For example, a small percent of the sale of milk, crops, or cattle could be put into an investment fund.

FARMING AND COMMUNITY VISION

Maintaining the current style of farming (family-owned farms with good conservation practices) is essential to the Town of Linden's vision. Maintaining agriculture in general is important, but with limits so as not to sacrifice other community values like clean air and water.

FARMING DATA

As indicated by Figure E.1, between 1987 and 2002 there was an overall increase of 335 farms in Iowa County. (The US Agricultural Census defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold during the census year.)

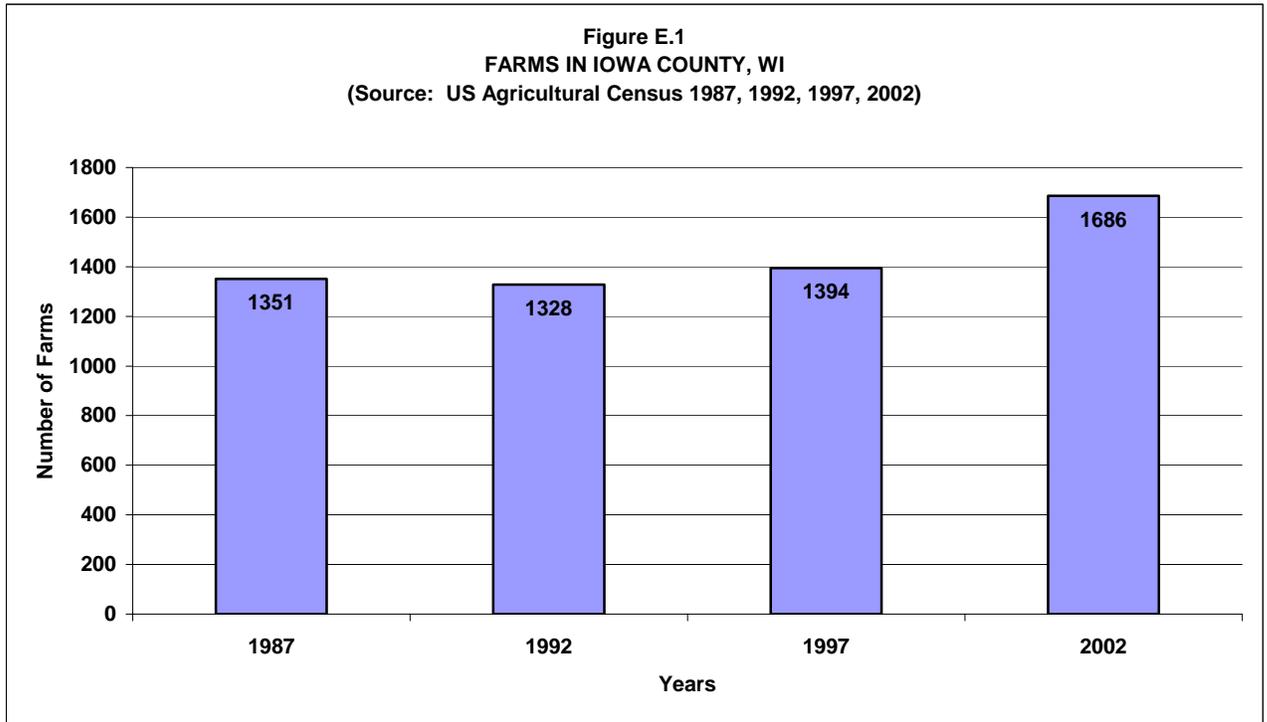


Figure E.2 relates to the number of farms in Iowa County, as it shows the total number of acres in farms. There has been an overall decline in the total number of acres farmed. A contributing factor is the amount of farmland being converted to residential, recreational, or conservation land.

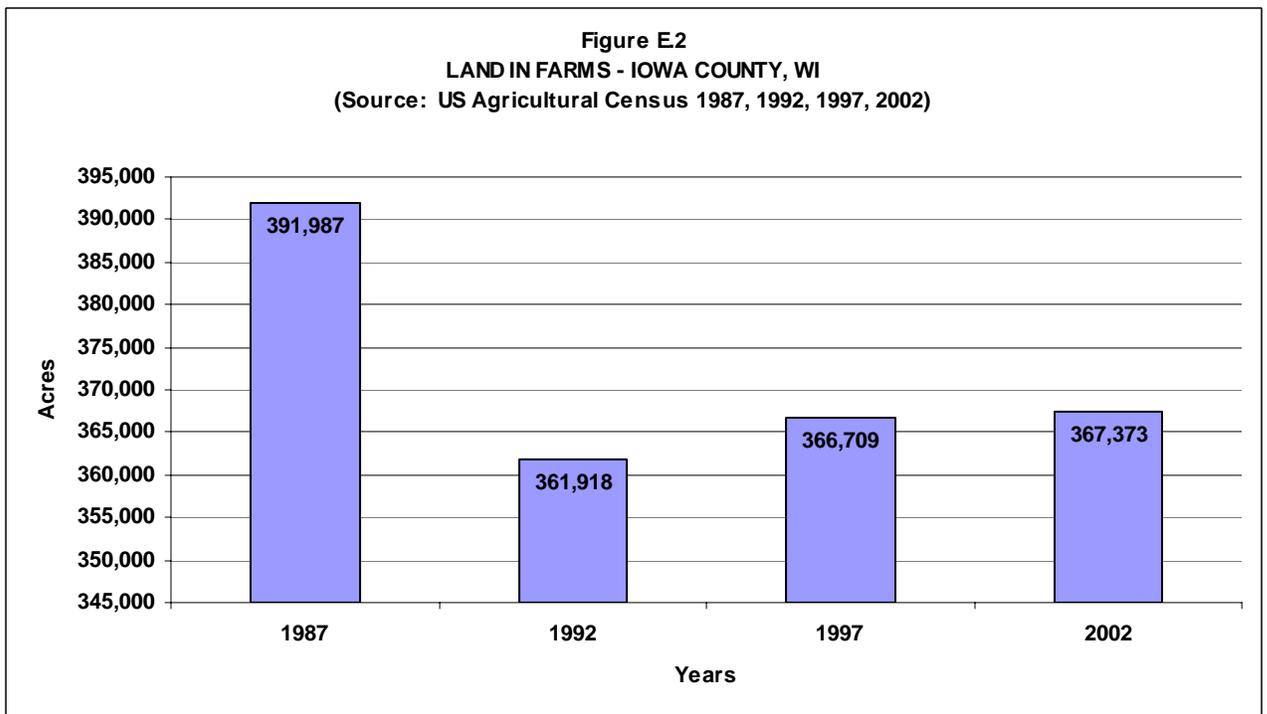


Figure E.3 shows the number of farmland sales and conversion in Iowa County. All towns show changes in sales and conversion; the Town of Eden is the lowest.

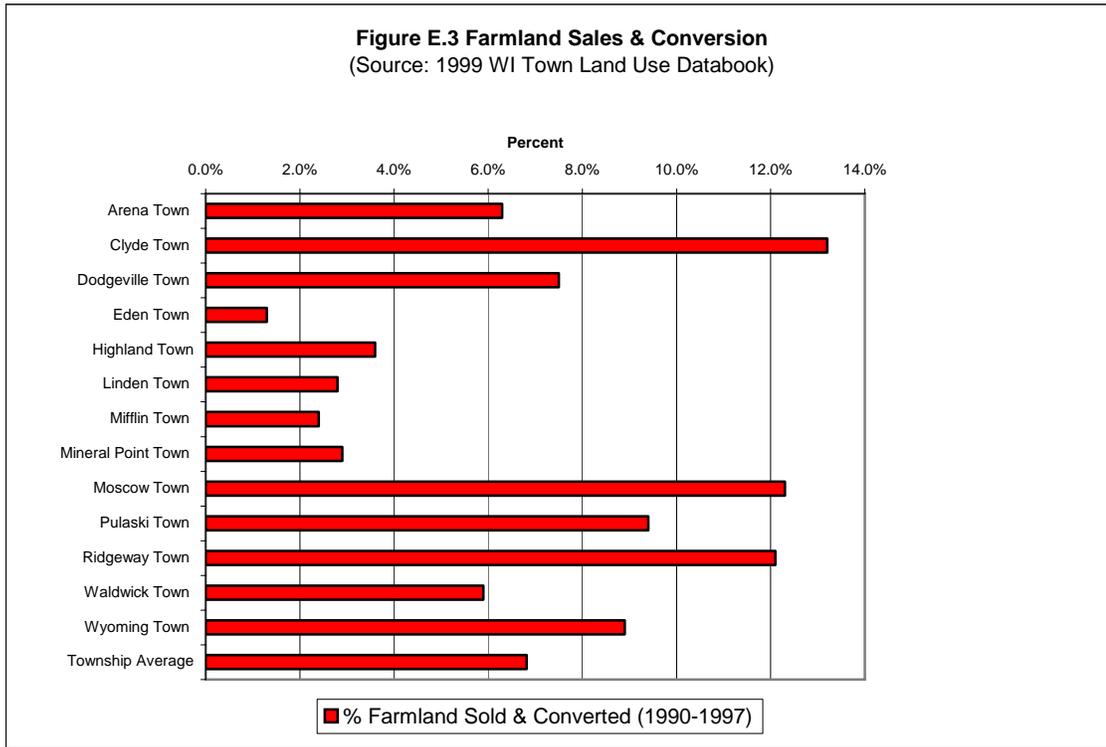


Figure E. 4 shows the average value of sale per acre of land. Most towns are roughly \$950 per acre with the Town of Wyoming an obvious exception.

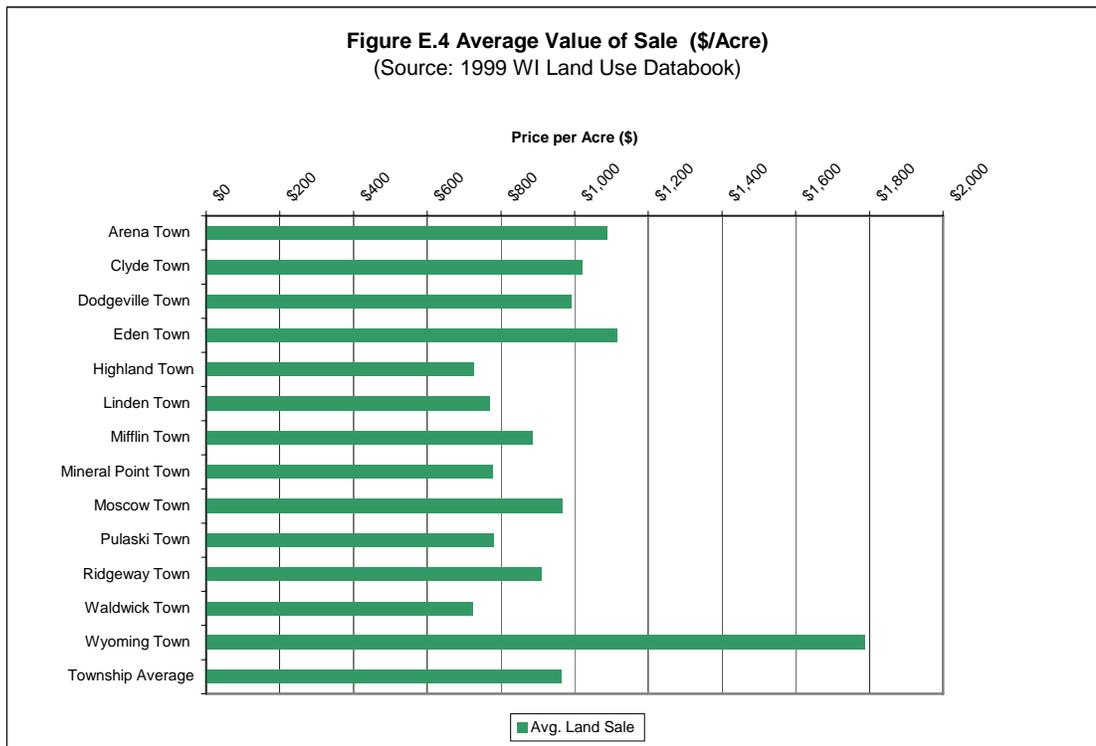
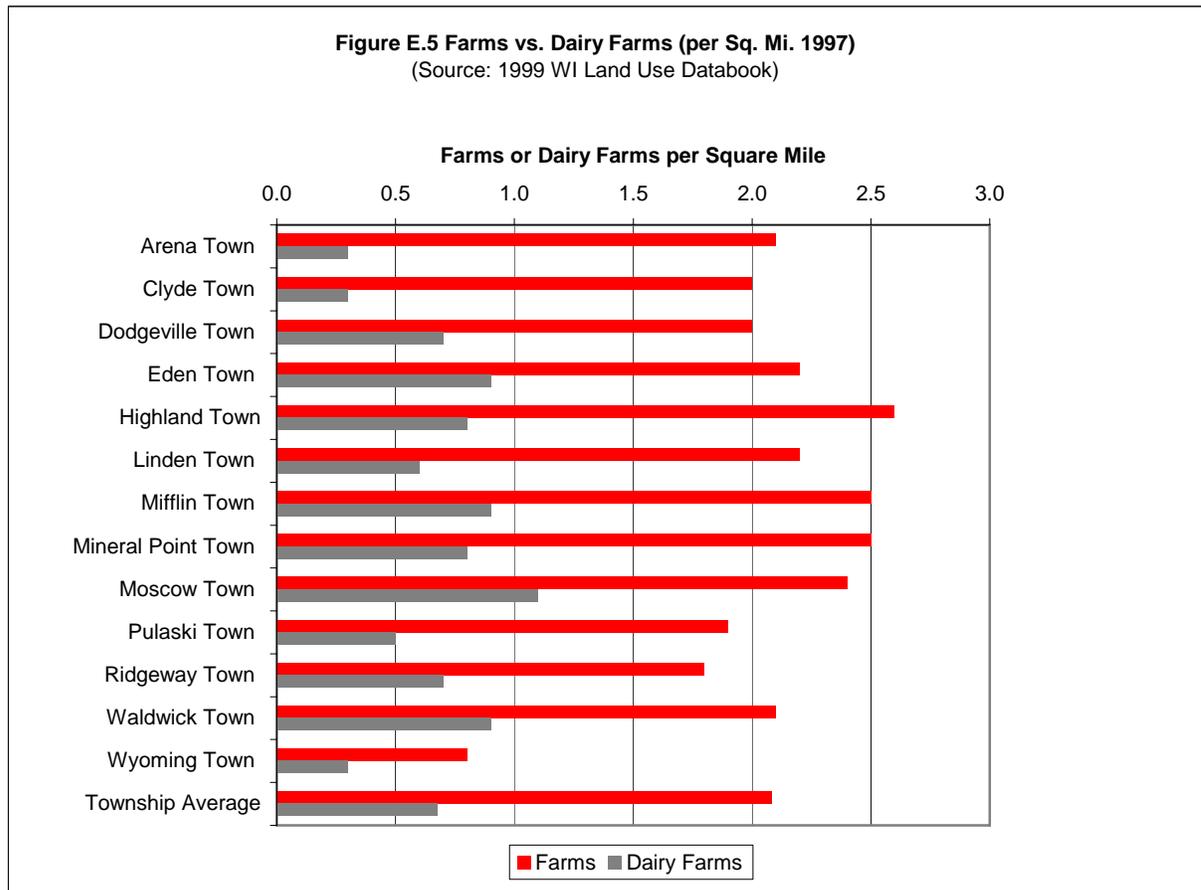


Figure E.5 shows a comparison of farms to dairy farms per square mile in 1997. Non-dairy farms were greater in number than dairy farms in all the towns of Iowa County.



FARMLAND POTENTIAL

In Iowa County, 72 percent of the soils are classified as prime, state, and local importance. Map E.1 indicates areas of farmland potential. The map includes four classifications:

Prime Farmland - Most Capability Group I and II Soil
(25 percent of soils in Iowa County)

State Importance - Most Capability Group III Soils
(20 percent of soils in Iowa County)

Local Importance - Varies but in Southwestern Wisconsin some Capability Group IV, V, and VI Soils. In Iowa County these include land with better moisture holding capacity – valuable locally for pasture and hay production.
(27 percent of soils in Iowa County)

Other - Soil groups of importance (Capability Group VII, VIII) not noted in the categories above.

LAND COVER

Map E.2 shows the amount of agricultural resources in the Town of Linden. It also shows the location of natural resources, including forested lands, open water, and wetlands.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources are the essence of the natural environment. Whether obvious or not, impacts to sensitive environmental communities and resources often have significant adverse impacts on the human community.

WATER RESOURCES

Water is one of the most commonly used natural resources, serving an intrinsic function in the community. People utilize groundwater for drinking water, industrial uses, recreational purposes, etc. on a daily basis. Plants and animals rely on water to survive. Water is also one of the most easily contaminated resources. Because of its mobile nature, contaminants can travel far from their source through the ever-moving water cycle. This type of pervasive pollution is commonly known as non-point source pollution (NPSP).

Non-point source pollution comes from many diffuse sources resulting from a wide variety of human activities. NPSP directly impacts water resources. The Town of Linden as a government unit does not have any programs to reduce non-point source pollution specifically, but the Town does enforce slope requirements for new driveways and hires engineers to design road construction controls mandated by the DNR.

SURFACE WATER

Watercourses and water bodies provide various recreational opportunities, including fishing, swimming, boating, and passive recreational opportunities such as bird watching. Streams provide habitat for aquatic species and other wildlife. Nearby lakes and streams serve recreational needs of area residents. See Map E.3 for surface water resources in the Town of Linden and Map E.4 for Town watersheds. Linden is in three watersheds, the Mineral Point and Sudan Branches, the Otter and Murrey Creeks, and the Upper West Branch of the Pecatonica River watersheds.

FLOODPLAINS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has designated flood hazard areas along many surface water resources. The importance of respecting floodways and floodplains is critical in terms of planning and development. Ignoring these constraints can cause serious problems relating to property damage and the overall safety of residents. Due to Iowa County being entirely within the Driftless Area, the flood plains are largely the result of a well-developed dendritic (tree branch-like) drainage pattern draining the fairly rugged topography. This, together with low infiltration rates for most of its soils, combines to make overall flood risk in Iowa County quite high. In Linden, small areas of the Town along creeks are at risk for flooding. To help prevent this problem, the Town of Linden is replacing old culverts with larger ones that can accommodate a 10-year floodwater volume. See Map E.5 for the FEMA map.

WETLANDS

Wetlands serve a variety of functions, including playing an important role in stormwater management and flood control, filtering pollutants, recharging groundwater, providing a habitat for many wildlife species and plants, and offering open space and passive recreational opportunities. Iowa County wetlands include all marshes and swamps and those areas excluded from cultivation or other use because they are intermittently wet. The steep topography of southwest Wisconsin results in most natural wetlands being closely linked to the region's rivers and streams.

The Wisconsin Wetland Inventory (WWI) was completed for the state in 1985. Pre-European settlement wetland figures estimate the state had about 10 million acres of wetlands. Based on aerial photography from 1978-79, the WWI shows approximately 5.3 million acres of wetlands remaining in the state representing a loss of about 47% of original wetland acreage. This figure does not include wetlands less than 2 or 5 acres in size (minimum mapping unit varies by county). In this survey, it was found that Iowa County, out of a total of 488,157 acres, had 16,500 total acres of wetland (minimum mapping unit of 5 acres). This was 3.4% of the total county acreage, 0.3% of the total state acreage. Because the original WWI utilized aerial photographs taken in the summer some wetlands were missed, especially in the northern counties since interpretation was difficult due to leaf cover. Also, wetlands that were farmed as of the date of photography used and then later abandoned due to wet conditions were not captured as part of the WWI.

The Legislature authorized the DNR to update the WWI on a 10-year cycle. Budget constraints and lack of staff have slowed this process to a 24-year cycle at best. Digitizing wetland maps to obtain accurate wetland acreage information is on a rotation almost twice that long. As a result there is no reliable qualitative and quantitative data about current rates of wetland loss, only 1978-79 wetland acre totals to go by. (Wisconsin Wetlands: Acreage Fact, posted 4/16/2003, WI-DNR, accessed 5/19/04, <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/wetlands/facts.shtml>.)

The Town of Linden as a government unit actively protects its wetlands through enforcement of new driveway slope requirements and requiring professional engineers work on Town road projects. Professional engineering work must conform to DNR mandates on soil erosion and slope. Measures like this help prevent wetlands from being “smothered” by soil loads from heavy rains. When functioning properly, wetlands can function as hydrologic filters, storing, cleaning, and slowly releasing runoff to the water table.

GROUNDWATER

Groundwater is a critical resource, not only because it is used on a daily basis, but also because rivers, streams, and other surface water depends on groundwater for recharge. Groundwater, whether from municipal or private well, supplies all Iowa County residents with drinking water. See Map E.6 for depth to groundwater levels for Linden.

Groundwater can easily become contaminated through non-point source pollution. The Driftless Area is characterized by thin soils over fractured limestone, sandstone, or shale bedrock and it is in this type underlying geology where the potential for groundwater contamination is greatest. The hamlet of Edmund has a well with its own water district. The rest of the Town residents have private wells. The Plan Commission feels that existing County, State, and Federal regulations are sufficient to protect its water supply.

Water supply is impacted as communities grow, bringing increased demand to supply groundwater to new homes, businesses, and industries. Increased well pumping can reduce the amount of recharge to surface waters, causing streamflow reduction, loss of springs, and changes in wetland vegetative communities. The Groundwater Bill (2003 Act 310) addresses groundwater quantity issues, requiring approval for siting, fees, and an environmental review. While this legislation is currently more relevant in areas of the state experiencing severe water quantity issues (e.g. the Central Sands region), the principle of controlling groundwater withdrawal in all parts of the state is quite important. By 2006, a groundwater advisory committee will be put together to address groundwater management in

“...Other areas of the state in which the withdrawal of groundwater over the long term adversely affects the availability of water for use or adversely affects water quality due to the effects of drawdown of the groundwater and in which there is a need for a coordinated response among the state, local government units, regional planning commissions, and public and private users of groundwater to address the effects on groundwater availability or quality.” (2003 Wisconsin Act 310, published May 6, 2004).”

Currently, increasing water supply demand is not an issue in the Town of Linden.

It is important to keep the groundwater resource in mind for many areas of comprehensive planning. Ultimately, what takes place above ground directly impacts this resource below the surface. There are a number of activities that directly impact the quality of water resources.

Potential pollution sources that can affect the groundwater supply include but are not limited to:

- On-site septic systems
- Sewage Treatment Plants
- Surface Waste Water Discharge
- Sanitary Landfills
- Underground Storage Tanks
- Feedlots
- Junkyards
- Abandoned Quarries
- Abandoned Wells
- Pesticide and Fertilizer Applications
- Road Salt
- Household Cleaners & Detergents
- Unsewered Subdivisions
- Gas Stations
- Chemical Spills
- Leaking Sewer Lines
- Old Mine Openings or Shafts

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Wildlife enriches our lives by providing opportunities for observing or photographing animals in their native habitat. Wildlife serves as an educational stimulus by provoking human curiosity about the natural world.

Habitat is the combination of food, water, shelter, and space necessary to meet the needs of wildlife.

Humans have an environmental responsibility to protect wildlife and the habitat it needs to survive. Since wildlife can cause problems by destroying property, carrying disease, producing unsanitary waste, and conflicting with human activities, it is important to provide natural habitat at a distance from human activities where animals will not be in contact with humans and can live and breed without interference.

The Town of Linden is in two ecological landscapes, Southwest Savanna in the south and Western Coulee and Ridge in the north. The Southwest Savanna ecological landscape, as defined by the 2002 Land Legacy Report by the WI DNR, is characterized by deeply dissected, unglaciated topography with broad open hilltops, flat fertile river valleys, and steep wooded slopes. Occupying the south-facing slope of the Military Ridge, prairies and savannas were the dominant habitat types in this area prior to Euro-American settlement. Dry prairies covered the hilltops and graded into more mesic prairies, oak savannas, and oak woodlands down slope. The river valleys were often a mix of hardwoods including oak, maple, and elm. This landscape type is home to a wide array of wildlife, particularly birds.

The northern part of the Town of Linden is in the Western Coulee and Ridge ecological landscape, as defined by the 2002 Land Legacy Report. This landscape is characterized by highly eroded and unglaciated topography. Steep sided hills are heavily forested and often managed for hardwood production. Agricultural activities are typically confined to valley floors and ridge tops. The rugged hills that typify the area have the world's largest concentration of hillside prairies, which often support numerous species of rare plants, insects, and reptiles. Extensive tracts of floodplain forests are found along the larger rivers of this landscape such as the Wisconsin and the Mississippi. These forests are not only valuable for their potential wood harvests, but also for the rich assemblage of reptiles and amphibians they support and the wildlife habitat value they provide for resident and migratory birds.

Descriptions of natural communities in Iowa County are listed in Appendix E-1.

Wildlife habitat in the Town of Linden is protected through landowner participation in CRP and CREP (to preserve stream banks). Also, wildlife habitat is preserved through wildlife friendly agricultural practices. Every farm that receives federal subsidies must have a conservation plan, which includes contour planting, crop rotation, no-till, etc.; therefore the Town does not sponsor programs of its own.

The Plan Commission believes that grassy ridge tops should be protected from erosion as well as for bird habitat. There is a group of prairie enthusiasts in the Town who have replanted a large area of prairie at the County Farm. The majority of farmers in Linden participate in conservation programs that help protect ridges. These programs are administered through the county and funded by the federal government so the Town does not sponsor programs of its own.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 was enacted to conserve threatened and endangered species of wildlife and plants. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has used the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) to develop maps for all counties in the state providing generalized information about rare, threatened and endangered species. Threatened and Endangered plant species are vulnerable to a variety of exotic, invasive plants, such as Bull Thistle and Wild Parsnip. Linden has a weed ordinance to control non-native invasive plants but it is not enforced anymore, although the Town does mow roadsides to control weeds. DNR-NHI maps (Map E.7a and E.7b) have been included at the end of this section for a reference. Refer to Appendix E.2 for a list of the Threatened and Endangered plant, animal, and natural communities of the Town.

FOREST RESOURCES

Forests provide raw materials for the forest products industry and a venue for hunting, hiking, and fishing. Forests help sustain water resources and provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species. They also help offset global warming effects and air pollution by producing oxygen and storing carbon. Over half the forested lands in Wisconsin (57%) are privately owned. See Map E.2 for forested lands in Linden.

RURAL FORESTS

Forty-six percent of Wisconsin is forested (16 million acres). Forests therefore represent one of Wisconsin's most important land uses and are often times a defining feature of communities or whole regions. Other benefits of forests include:

- Recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and hiking
- Groundwater protection
- Homes for plants and animals, including Threatened and Endangered species
- Cleaning of the air by producing oxygen and storing carbon
- Part of Wisconsin's culture

Some residents of the Town participate in state forest programs but the Town itself has no forestry or municipal tree planting programs or projects. Linden does not foresee a need for these programs or for acquiring land on which to pursue such programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

Environmental corridors refer to areas that contain groupings of natural resource features. Areas of concentrated natural resource activity ("rooms"), such as wetlands, woodlands, prairies, lakes, and other features, become even more functional when linked by environmental corridors ("hallways"). If corridor resource features are placed on a map, they can form a linear space.

Fish and wildlife populations, native plant distribution, and even clean water all depend on movement through environmental corridors. For example, wildlife populations isolated in one wooded location can overpopulate, die out, or cause problems for neighbors if there are not adequate corridors to allow the population to move about freely. Over 70 percent of all terrestrial wildlife species use riparian corridors, according to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Environmental Corridor Benefits:

- Reduced Flooding
- Reduced Soil Erosion
- Improved Water Quality
- Improved Water Quantity
- Groundwater Recharge
- Bank Stabilization
- Improved Air Quality
- Improved Wildlife Habitat

Social Benefits:

- Walking and Hiking
- Cross Country Skiing
- Horseback Riding
- Photography
- Wildlife Viewing

Map E.8 shows several natural resource features within Linden, which can act as environmental corridors. Preserving environmental corridors can be a highly effective way to protect the natural and cultural resources in an area.

AIR AND LIGHT

At this time this plan was written, no air quality issues were identified. Light pollution does occur from the airport but the Town has no authority over the airport.

GEOLOGIC AND SOIL RESOURCES

Soils and geology are also important planning considerations, particularly when thinking about new development. Today, technological advances can overcome many development challenges relating to soil and geology; however, it is important that these resources are not abused, overused, or contaminated. Particular attention must be paid to soils when development is occurring on steeper slopes and for septic systems. Drain-fields must be located to allow adequate infiltration and the sewage treatment provided by soils. A series of maps including slope limitations (Map E.9), septic limitations (Map E.10), and depth to bedrock (Map E.11) have been included.

Southwest Wisconsin is part of the unglaciated region known as the Driftless Area. Most of the bedrock in this region is sedimentary rock, consisting of sandstone and shale or limestone, containing mineral resources. Mineral resources are divided into two categories, metallic and non-metallic. Metallic resources in the region include lead and zinc. Non-metallic resources include sand, gravel, and limestone, with limestone as one of the most significant geologic resources in the area, used frequently for road building. Refer to Map E-12 for a Town level map showing mines and quarries.

Linden has active quarries that are subject to strict federal regulations, but the Town has no protection programs of its own. There are also mine pits in the Town of Linden, but neither the Town nor any other government or non-government unit does anything to restrict access to them. The Plan Commission felt that access should be restricted but did not know who would be willing to take on the responsibility. Restricting access to abandoned mines or quarries helps protect these areas from becoming source points for groundwater contamination.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Open space serves many important functions. It protects ecologically sensitive areas including wetlands and water resources, important wildlife habitat, and sensitive soils. Open space plays an important role in shaping the character of the community, as nothing can replace the visual impact of vast open space, whether it is agricultural land or woodlands. Preserving open spaces not only directly protects resources, but the space becomes a vital buffer zone. Open space can take the form of parks, cropland and pastures, greenbelts, wetlands or floodplains. Open space can also serve many functions for a community other than recreation, such as the following:

- Flood management
- Preserving prime agricultural land
- Limiting development that may occur
- Buffering incompatible land uses
- Structuring community environment

PARKS AND RECREATION RESOURCES

Parks can serve a limited neighborhood area, a portion of the community, or the entire community or region and provide area and facilities for outdoor recreation for residents and visitors.

Town residents have access to the pond on the County Farm for canoeing, swimming, and fishing. Residents can also fish the creeks of the Town but there is no public access to these streams. There are also private snowmobile and horse trails. In addition, the Town is near the Yellowstone and Governor Dodge State Parks. Refer to Map E.13 for Iowa County parks.

The Town of Linden does not actively promote its natural resources to recreational visitors, and although the Plan Commission feels there is a need for more outdoor recreation spaces in the Town, it is not feasible to develop more due to lack of land and financial resources.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Many communities often ignore cultural and historic resources in order to deal with the “real” issues facing their community. However, the proper appreciation of these assets is vital to the long-term success of a community. Respecting and utilizing these available resources increases the overall quality of life and provides opportunities for tourism.

Determining what are cultural and historic resources has been left open to some interpretation. For the purpose of this report, historic resources include historic buildings and sites (as identified by the national register of historic places), museums, churches, cemeteries, old country schools, and other buildings deemed appropriate by the community. The information presented here is to serve as a guide to cultural and historic resources but is not inclusive.

HISTORIC PLACES

The Town of Linden has no sites listed on the State and/or National Register of Historic Places.

CHURCHES

Churches have had a significant impact on the culture of the Town of Linden area. Refer to Map E.15 for churches in the Town.

Places of worship in the Town include:

- Bethlehem (Lutheran) Church
- Evangelical Free Church
- Bloomfield Church

CEMETERIES

Cemeteries are identified as prominent historic and cultural resources. They can provide an historic perspective of an area, giving names and ethnicities of previous residents. Refer to Map E.15 for cemeteries in the Town of Linden.

The following cemeteries serve the Town of Linden:

- Peddler’s Creek
- Goldthorp
- Salome – Powell
- Spring Valley
- Vickerman Farm
- Iowa County Home
- East Bethlehem (Lutheran)
- Bloomfield
- Laxey (Manx)

RURAL SCHOOLS

The old time, one room schoolhouse once dotted the landscape, providing public education for mainly rural communities. Over time, these buildings were utilized less and less, as larger, more centrally located schools were built and students were bused in from the country. Nevertheless, the one room schoolhouse remains an icon of American rural culture, representing the opportunity for all children to learn “the three R’s”: reading, ‘riting, and ‘rithmetic. A publication entitled “Schools of Iowa County” documents these schools in greater detail, listing the rural schools that were in Linden. Some school buildings may still remain; others have disappeared over time. Refer to Map E.14 for more information.

The following rural school buildings were in the Town of Linden:

- Sunny Slope
- Keo Springs
- Diamond Grove
- Whitson View
- Pine Grove
- Willow Grove
- Bloomfield
- Peddler’s Creek
- Burr Oak
- Lost Grove
- Lincoln

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SITES IN THE TOWN OF LINDEN

The State Register and National Register listing recognizes properties that physically embody important aspects of local, state, and national history. Eligible properties must retain their essential physical appearance from the period in which they were important and meet one of the four criteria for listing:

- Be a good local example of an architectural style. To be individually eligible in the area of architecture, a property must retain the majority of its original architectural features and be a good example of the style and period.
- Be associated with a person important in our past. The property must be the resource most closely related to the person's period and area of importance.
- Represent an important period, movement or trend in local, state or national history.
- Have the potential to yield information; these types of properties are primarily archaeological sites.

The Plan Commission did not identify any historic buildings or sites other than rural schools. However, the Plan Commission does wish to provide protection for the historic buildings that may exist in the Town of which they are unaware. Typical historic structures in Linden might include rural schools, churches and similar places of worship, single-family residential buildings, accessory structures, meeting halls, public official offices, and informational centers. Historic status will be considered in development issues.

CULTURAL RESOURCE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The Town of Linden does not have any cultural/historic preservation programs. Their most important cultural resources and the threats to them are listed on Table E.1.

Table E.1 - Cultural Resources Most Important To Your Community

Cultural Resource	Threats
Churches, Schools, Cemeteries, etc.	Neglect, conversion, ignorance of purpose, value, and location

RESPONSE TO THREATS TO CULTURAL RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Town has taken over the maintenance of cemeteries that have no funds for upkeep and pays for them to be mowed.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

About 10,000 years ago, **Paleo-Indians** entered Wisconsin as they hunted woolly mammoth, mastodon, and bison. These large mammals lived on the abundant vegetation beginning to grow as the glaciers retreated northward.

Around 8,000 years ago, during the **Archaic Period**, the climate became warmer and dryer. Animals found in the state today replaced the large Ice Age mammals. People lived in smaller family groups in caves, rockshelters, along rivers, and around lakes and wetlands. They harvested wild plants, nuts, and acorns. They hunted animals such as deer and elk.

About 3,000 years ago, during the **Woodland Period**, people lived in large villages and began to use bows and arrows to hunt. It was during this period that many mounds, including effigies, or mounds built in the shape of turtles, birds, bears and other animals, were built throughout Wisconsin. These people were Wisconsin's first potters and gardeners.

The **Mississippian Period** began about 1,000 years ago. In Wisconsin these people are called **Oneota**. They lived in villages and planted gardens to grow crops such as corn, beans, and squash. They had a complex trade network that extended to both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Jean Nicolet, a French explorer, arrived in Wisconsin in 1634. At that time, the Indian tribes present in the state included the Ho Chunk (Winnebago), Potawatomi, Menominee, and Ojibwa (Chippewa) Indians. This marked the beginning of the **Historic Period**.

The table below gives archeological sites documented in your community. This is not a complete list because some sites disappear due to development or agriculture and some may not yet have been reported to the State Historical Society.

Table E.2 - Archeological Sites In Your Community*

Site/Code Name	Site Type	Cultural Significance
Cox	Mounds(s) –Linear, Mounds (Other/Unknown)	Unknown
IA-0105	Campsite/village	Late Paleo-Indian
IA-0104	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Deb Camardo	Campsite/village	Early Woodland, Late Archaic, Late Woodland Mid Mississippian, Mid Woodland
Palzkill I	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Palzkill II	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Palzkill III	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Palzkill IV	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Schelkopf	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Smith	Mound(s) – Conical	Unknown
IA-0078	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown
IA-0074	Mound(s) – Other/Unknown	Unknown
May	Mound(s) – Conical	Unknown
IA-0011	Mound(s) – Other/Unknown, Campsite/village	Unknown
Holzmilller Cave	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown
IA-0130	Workshop site	
East Bethlehem Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Unnamed Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Iowa County Cemetery (lost)	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Bloomfield Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Laxey Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Peddler's Creek Cemetery (aka Pioneer; Linden Grove)	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Linden Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Unnamed Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Powell Cemetery (aka Salome Baptist Cemetery)	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Young Spurley	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Graber Mine	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American

Table E.2 (cont.) - Archeological Sites In Your Community*

Site/Code Name	Site Type	Cultural Significance
Dietzman Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Baker Lead Pits	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American

*Due to the delicate nature of archeological sites, the Wisconsin State Historical Society does not release specific locations.

CULTURAL RESOURCE CONTACTS IN THE TOWN OF LINDEN

The Plan Commission did not identify any local cultural resource contacts.

HISTORIC ORDINANCE

Linden does not have an historic preservation ordinance and does not wish to create one at this time.

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCE AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS

There are a number of available state and federal programs to assist with agricultural, natural, and cultural resource planning and protection. Below are brief descriptions of various agencies and programs. Contact information has been provided for each agency. To find out more specific information or which program best fits your needs, contact them directly.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WI-DNR)

101 S Webster St
Madison WI 53703

Phone: 608-266-2621
Fax: 608-261-4380

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us>

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WI-DNR)

The Department of Natural Resources is dedicated to the preservation, protection, effective management, and maintenance of Wisconsin's natural resources. It is responsible for implementing the laws of the state and, where applicable, the laws of the federal government that protect and enhance the natural resources of our state. It is the one agency charged with full responsibility for coordinating the many disciplines and programs necessary to provide a clean environment and a full range of outdoor recreational opportunities for Wisconsin citizens and visitors. The Wisconsin

DNR has a number of programs available ranging from threatened and endangered species to water quality to parks and open space to wetlands.

The Bureau of Community Financial Assistance (CFA) administers grant and loan programs, under the WI-DNR. Financial program staff works closely with local governments and interested groups to develop and support projects that protect public health and the environment, and provide recreational opportunities.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (DATCP)

2811 Agriculture Drive
PO Box 8911
Madison WI 53708

Phone: 608-224-4960

<http://www.datcp.state.wi.us>

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (DATCP)

The Wisconsin Department of Trade and Consumer Protection inspects and licenses more than 100,000 businesses and individuals, analyzes millions of laboratory samples, conducts hundreds of hearings and investigations, educates businesses and consumers about best practices, adopts rules that have the force of law, and promotes Wisconsin agriculture at home and abroad.

Specifically DATCP has two divisions that relate directly to the agriculture and natural resource section of the comprehensive plan. The Environmental Division focuses on insects, land and water, as well as plants and animals. The Agricultural Division focuses on animals, crops, agricultural resources, and land and water resources.

**WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**

6515 Watts Road,
Suite 200
Madison, WI 53719

Phone (608) 276-USDA

<http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov>

**WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION
SERVICE (NRCS)**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is the federal agency that works with landowners on private lands to conserve natural resources. NRCS is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, formerly the Soil Conservation Service.

Nearly three-fourths of the technical assistance provided by the agency goes to helping farmers and ranchers develop conservation systems uniquely suited to their land and individual ways of doing business. The agency

also provides assistance to other private landowners and rural and urban communities to reduce erosion, conserve and protect water, and solve other resource problems.

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Office of Preservation Planning
Division of Historic Preservation

Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Phone: 608-264-6500

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org>

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society serves as the archives of the State of Wisconsin. It collects books, periodicals, maps, manuscripts, relics, newspapers, and audio and graphic materials as they relate to North America. It maintains a museum, library, and research facility in Madison, as well as a statewide system of historic sites, school services, area research centers, administering a broad program of historic preservation and publishing a wide variety of historical materials, both scholarly and popular. The historical society can also provide assistance for various state and federal programs.