

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the Village of Avoca continues to grow, 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 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

Number of Farms

Acreage of Farmland

Livestock

Crop Production

Farmland Potential

Soil Capabilities

Soils

Natural Resources

Water Resources

Topography

Geologic Resources

Forest / Woodlands

Wildlife Habitat

Parks and Open Space

Air and Light

Cultural Resources

Historic Buildings

Museums

Landmarks

Churches

Rural Schools

Cemeteries

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 the 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 Village of Avoca. (Parcel splits and minimum lot sizes are addressed in Section H, Land Use Element.)

Numerous state and federal programs aim specifically at protecting farmland, wetlands, forests, historic buildings, etc. There are agencies, program descriptions, and contact information at the end of this section.

- **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 jurisdiction 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.

It is important to implement all aspects of Avoca's comprehensive plan in combination with open-space preservation efforts. Without them, conservation efforts can push new demand into adjacent areas by simply shifting land conversion to other communities. Working together with the Town of Pulaski, the Village of Avoca will help protect contiguous natural areas while fostering better intergovernmental relationships with its neighbor.

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

By working with local group chapters like Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Trout Unlimited, and local sportsman's clubs, the Village of Avoca can reduce duplication of effort and in turn cut costs by cooperating with those who have a common interest in protecting the local environment.

- **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.

- **Support tree preservation, municipal tree-planting programs, and sustainable forestry practices in and near the village.**

Trees are important components of a community's green infrastructure. A healthy population of trees offers substantial environmental benefits, including cleaner air and water, quieter streets, cheaper energy bills, cooler temperatures, and wildlife habitat. In addition, trees can provide numerous economic advantages, such as increased property values and lower air and water remediation costs.

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

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. Preserving open space upstream can help protect drinking water resources by filtering out contaminants and chemical pollutants before they enter the community's water system. Critical areas for water-quality protection include wetlands, buffer zones, riparian corridors, and floodplains.

- **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.
- **Establish standards to decrease and prevent light pollution.**

A lighting ordinance which recognizes the benefits of outdoor lighting and provides clear guidelines for its installation can help maintain and compliment Avoca's character.
- **Establish more parks and outdoor recreational amenities including camping and other recreation space.**
- **Continue to implement the Village of Avoca Historic Preservation Ordinance.**

Historic sites and buildings play a valuable role in educating new generations about our nation's culture and heritage. Many of these places are unique and revered features in their communities, such as the Effigy Mounds, located in the Lakeside Park.
- **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, and maintaining trails.**

Every jurisdiction is unique and can capitalize on its 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.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

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

FARMING CONFLICTS

Since the Village of Avoca is an active agricultural area, there is the possibility that conflicts could occur between agriculture and non-agriculture landowners. Currently, one such conflict exists over odors coming into the village from nearby farms.

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 Plan Commission believes that some limits, through joint extraterritorial zoning, should be placed on farm size.

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.

The Plan Commission does not believe there are ways appropriate at the village level to encourage young people to become involved in farming.

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. The Village of Avoca does not have a farming infrastructure.

FARM TYPES

The Village Plan Commission believes both multi-enterprise (e.g. beef, dairy, and crops) and single enterprise farms (e.g. only dairy, only soybeans) should be encouraged.

The Plan Commission encourages the following types of farming operations near the village:

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

The Plan Commission does not encourage hog, sheep, or beef-finishing farming operations near Avoca.

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 did not offer any possible solutions to the predicament of farmers trying to fund their retirement while preserving farmland.

FARMING AND COMMUNITY VISION

It is important to the Village of Avoca's community vision to maintain both current farm operations and agriculture in general.

FARMING DATA

As indicated by Figure E.1, between 1987 and 2002 there was an overall increase of 335 farms in the 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.)

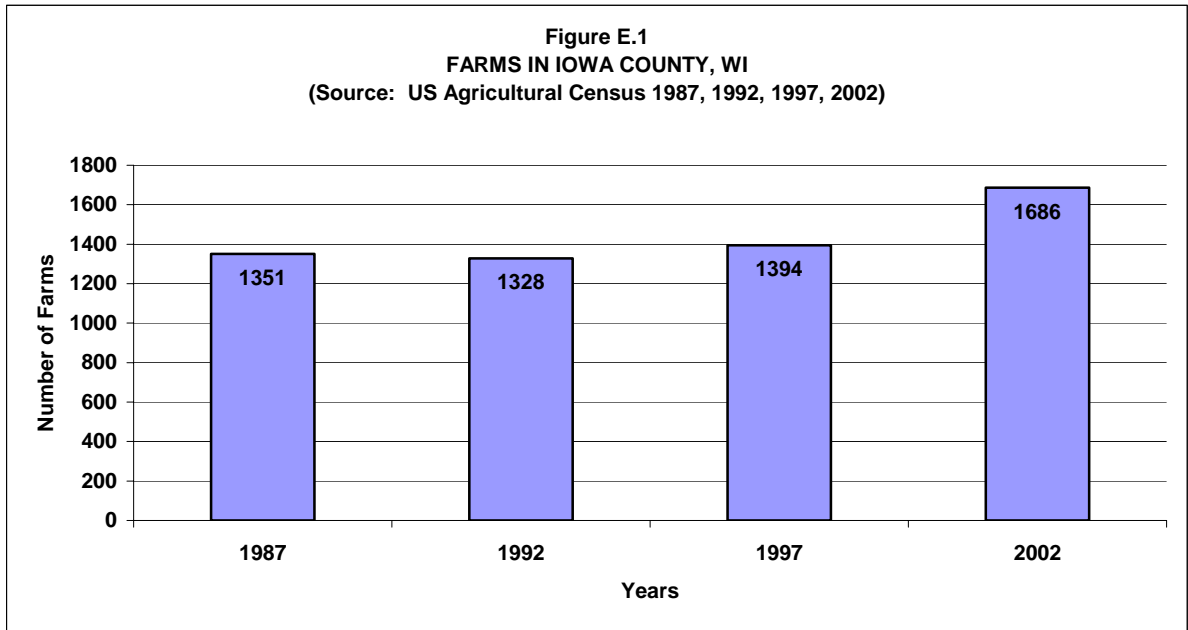


Figure E.2 relates to the number of farms in Iowa County, as it shows the total number of acres in farms. There has been an overall decline in the total number of acres farmed. A contributing factor is the amount of farmland being converted to residential, recreational, or conservation land.

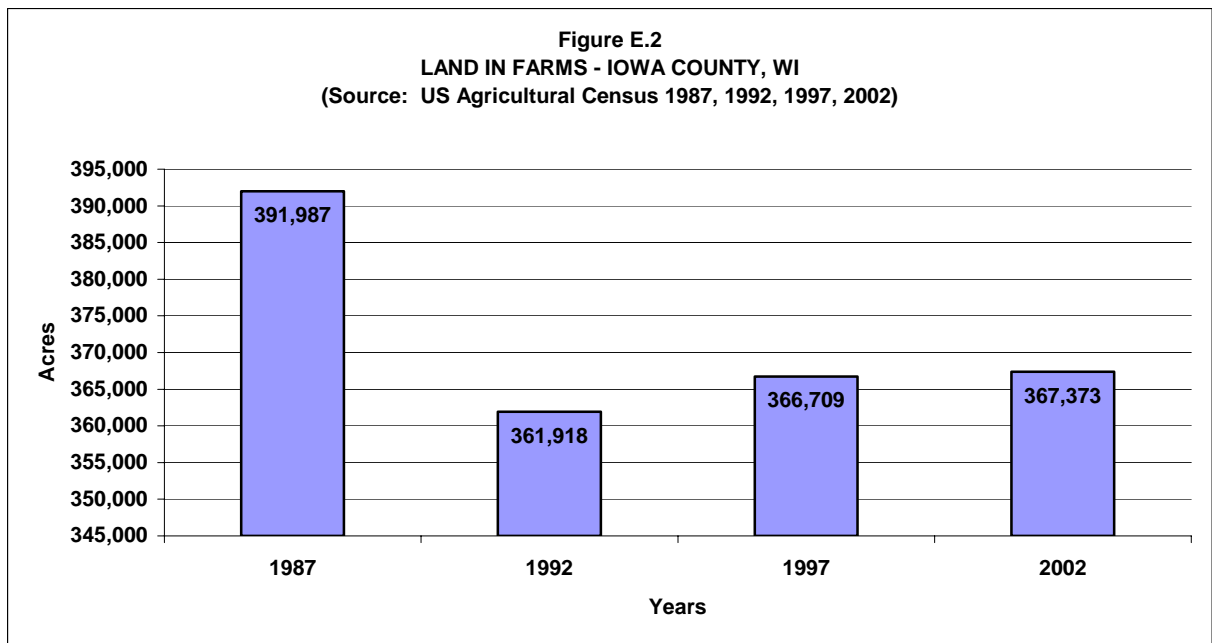


Figure E.3 shows the number of farmland sales and conversion in Iowa County. All towns show changes in sales and conversion but the Town of Eden is the lowest.

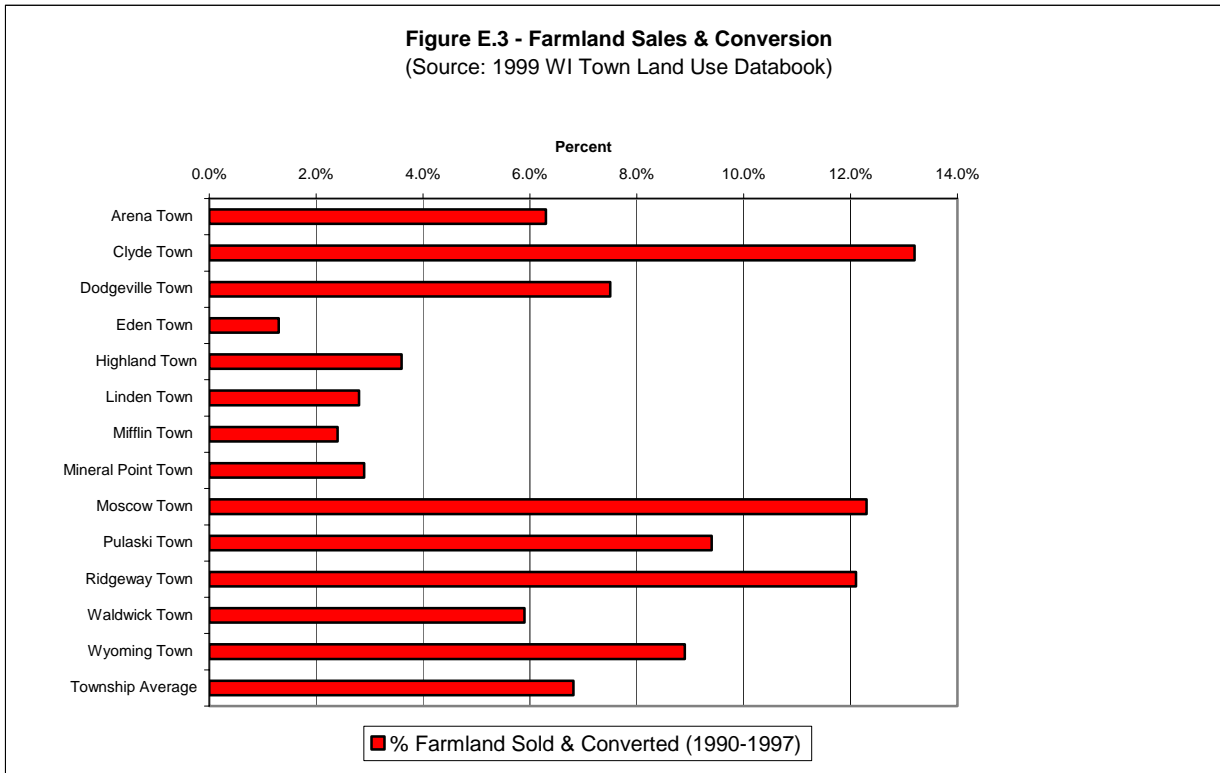


Figure E. 4 shows the average value of sale per acre of land. Most towns are roughly \$950 per acre with the Town of Wyoming an obvious exception.

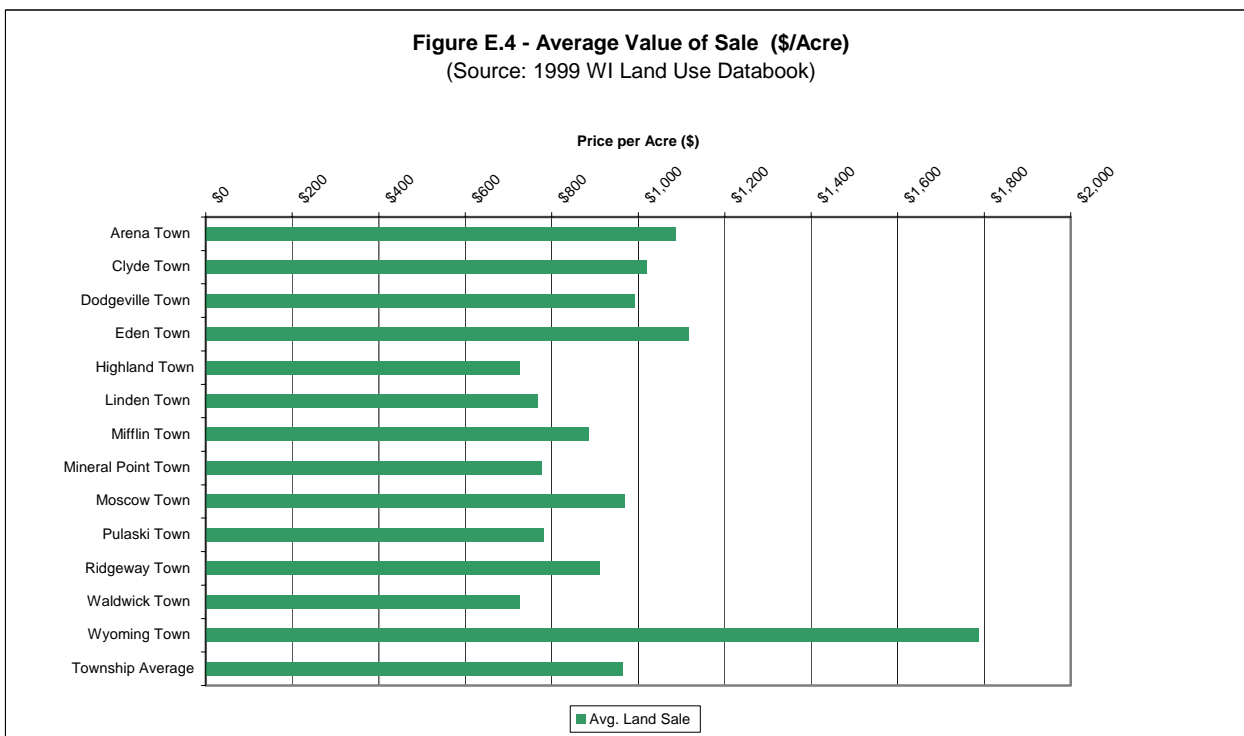
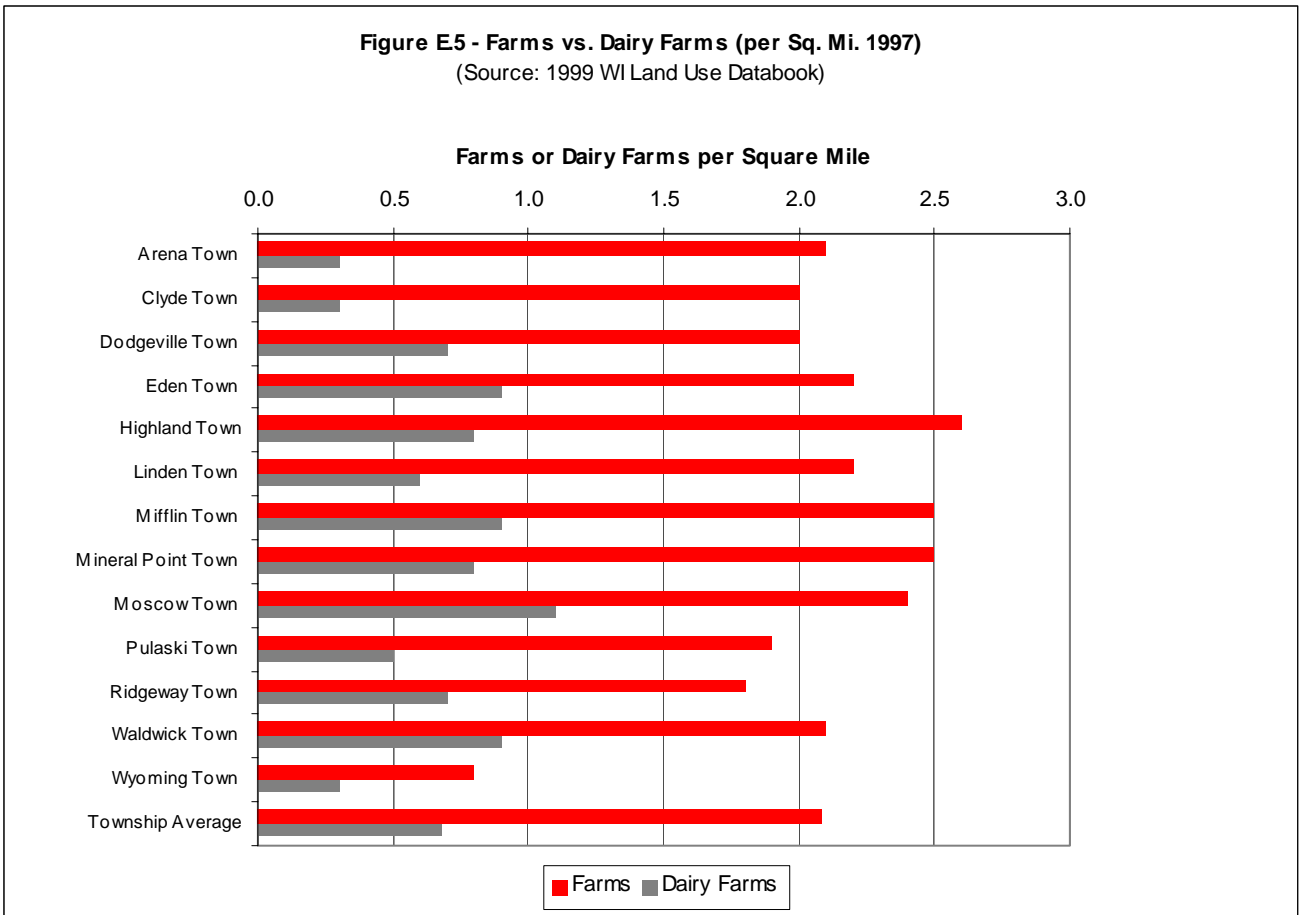


Figure E.5 shows a comparison of farms to dairy farms per square mile in 1997. Non-dairy farms were greater in number than dairy farms in all the towns of Iowa County.



FARMLAND POTENTIAL

In Iowa County, 72 percent of the soils are classified as prime, state, and local importance. The classifications are

Prime Farmland - Most Capability Group I and II Soils
(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.

See Map E.1 for a town (Pulaski) level soil classification map.

LAND COVER

Map E.2 shows the amount of agricultural resources near the Village of Avoca. 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

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-source point pollution comes from many diffuse sources resulting from a wide variety of human activities. NPSP directly impacts water resources. The Village of Avoca actively protects its water resources by not allowing runoff to enter the village sewer system. However, there is nothing being done at this time to reduce non-point source pollution within the village.

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. The Wisconsin River and nearby lakes and streams serve recreational needs of area residents. Avoca is in the Otter and Morrey Creeks watersheds. See Map E.3 for surface water resources in or near the Village of Avoca and Map E.4 for a town level watershed map.

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. The village is susceptible to flooding and has worked to reduce it through landowners and the railroad company working together to widen the streambed and clear debris from Morrey Creek. 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 percent 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 percent of the total county acreage, 0.3 percent 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. This program is underfunded and understaffed. As a result there is no reliable qualitative and quantitative data about current rates of wetland loss, only the 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>.)

Avoca actively protects its wetland resources but did not explain what protection policies are used.

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. It 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. See Map E.6 for a town level watershed map.

Avoca's municipal well is protected by a wellhead protection plan. The Plan Commission did not report any potential contaminants within the well recharge area. The village also protects its drinking water by sealing off and abandoning private wells within the jurisdiction and by complying with state drinking water regulations.

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 Plan Commission did not identify increasing water demand as an issue.

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. It serves as an educational stimulus, 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 village actively supports and protects wildlife habitat by supporting the efforts of the Avoca Rod and Gun Club, which raises pheasants for release. The village also supports wildlife habitat by encouraging landowners to have wooded areas on their property.

Ridge tops are home to a wide array of wildlife, particularly birds. Grassy ridge tops and forest historically covered the hills and ridges of southwest Wisconsin. Today, savannas and grassy ridge tops are rare. Descriptions of natural communities in Iowa County are listed in Appendix E-1. Avoca is within the ecological landscape known as the Western Coulee and Ridge type and does not have a policy to protect any of these types of natural areas within its boundaries. However, the village supports restoration and preservation work done on the Avoca Prairie that is on the east side of the village. The Plan Commission is interested in learning more about supporting prairie and savanna restoration groups and their efforts.

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. The village controls exotic plants through mowing, spraying, and burning weeds. DNR-NHI maps (Maps E.7a and E.7b) have been included at the end of this section for a reference. Refer to Appendix E-2 for a town level list of the threatened and endangered plant, animal, and natural communities of the Village of Avoca.

FOREST RESOURCES

Forests provide raw materials for the forest products industry and a venue for hunting, hiking, and fishing. They help sustain water resources and provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species. They also help balance global warming effects through oxygen production and carbon sequestration. Over half the forested lands in Wisconsin (57 percent) are privately owned. See Map E.2 for a town level map for forested lands near Avoca.

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 frequently the defining feature of communities or whole regions. Other benefits of forests include:

- Recreational opportunities such as hunting, fish, and hiking
- Groundwater protection
- Home for wide variety of plants and animals, including T & E species
- Cleaning the air by producing oxygen and storing carbon
- Part of Wisconsin's culture

The village does not have any rural forest within its jurisdiction.

URBAN FORESTS

One natural resource often forgotten is the urban forest. An urban forest is simply all the trees and vegetation in and around a city or a village, and can include tree lined streets, home landscapes, school yards, parks, riverbanks, cemeteries, vacant lots, right of ways, adjacent woodlands, and any other place that vegetation can grow. The urban forest does not necessarily only relate to trees, but also includes shrubs, flowers, vines, ground cover, grass, and other plants. There are a number of benefits associated with an urban forest which include:

- Slows stormwater flow
- Intercepts and absorbs rainwater
- Alleviates pressure on drainage ways
- Provides wildlife habitat
- Provides relief against wind, heat, and cold

One of the more effective tools used by communities to conserve and improve their urban forests is a tree ordinance. Often they are enacted in response to changes from rapid land development. Tree ordinances range in complexity from simple tree replacement standards to more comprehensive ordinances addressing natural resource issues.

Avoca encourages sustainable forestry through its participation in federal and state forestry programs. The village is interested in learning more about sustainable forestry and municipal tree-planting programs. Currently, they do not have a municipal tree-planting program of their own. The Plan Commission recommends that more trees be planted in Avoca's Campground parks.

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).

Map E.8 shows several natural resource features in the Town of Pulaski that could act as environmental corridors.

Preserving environmental corridors can be a highly effective way to protect the natural and cultural resources in an area.

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

AIR AND LIGHT

The Plan Commission identified air pollution as an issue: an odor problem from a nearby duck farm.

The Plan Commission is interested in learning more about promoting and supporting light pollution reduction strategies, although light pollution was not specifically identified as an issue in the village.

Good outdoor night lighting increases safety, helps provide security, and enhances a community's nighttime character. By improving the quality of night lighting through decreasing glare and reducing light trespass, sky glow is decreased as well. With good lighting, visibility, safety, and security are improved, energy waste is minimized, and there is a much more comfortable nighttime environment.

Unfortunately, new lighting technologies have produced lights that are extremely powerful and when improperly installed, create problems of excessive glare, higher energy use, light trespass, and light pollution (“sky glow”). Excessive glare can be annoying and may cause safety problems, particularly to cars night-driving on roads with intensely lighted businesses along them. Higher energy use from bigger and more powerful lights result in increased costs for everyone. Light trespass reduces everyone's privacy while light pollution negatively impacts people's enjoyment of the night sky and disorients migrating birds and animals. In order to reduce light pollution the town controls billboard illumination.

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 map showing mines and quarries in Iowa County (There are no quarries or mines in the Village of Avoca.)

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

LOCAL PARK 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.

There are four parks in Avoca: Avoca Lakeside Park which has two picnic shelters, a playground, campground, swimming area, boat landing, and effigy mounds. Legion Park has a gazebo, caboose, benches, and the Old Depot. The Village Hall Park has a playground, basketball court, and a ball field. There is also Ball Diamond Park. In addition, Avoca also offers recreational opportunities such as

Ball Diamond Park

- Campgrounds
- Avoca Lake
- Avoca Prairieland

Avoca is also quite near the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway and the village actively promotes its natural resources to recreational visitors through its web page and by articles in camper magazines. There is signage in Avoca that directs tourists to recreational locations and activities. See Map E-13 showing Iowa County parks.

The Plan Commission sees a need for additional parks, trails, or other outdoor recreation spaces in the village. Specifically, the village would like to develop an ATV trail that would run along Highway 133 and within village limits. A two-mile bike and walking trail from the Avoca Park to Avoca Prairieland (at Hay Lane Road) is also desired.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Many communities often ignore cultural and historic resources in order to deal with “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 Village of Avoca 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 village. Refer to Map E.15 for churches in the Village of Avoca.

Places of worship in the village include:

- St. John Lutheran
- St. Joseph's Catholic
- United Methodist
- Avoca Bible

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 Avoca.

The following cemeteries serve the village:

- Avoca Cemetery
- St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery

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. 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. The Plan Commission identified no historic one-room schools in the village but Map E.14 shows one-room schoolhouse locations in the Town of Pulaski.

OTHER HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SITES IN THE VILLAGE OF AVOCA

The Village of Avoca Plan Commission identified one other historic building in the village, the Avoca Village Hall that was the former Avoca School. See Map E.15.

CULTURAL RESOURCE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The Village of Avoca promotes and supports Avoca Prairieland, the Avoca Village Hall, the Effigy Mounds, and Lakeside Park.

The Plan Commission identified in Table E.1 the cultural resources most important to the community and the threats to them.

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

Cultural Resource	Threats
Effigy Mounds, Lakeside Park	Preservation
Environmental surroundings	Cutting trees and extension of residential development
Small town atmosphere	Urban sprawl

RESPONSE TO THREATS TO CULTURAL RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Village of Avoca has responded to threats to its cultural resources by enacting municipal codes, zoning, subdivision ordinances, and by participation by the village residents.

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**.

Table E.2 below gives archeological sites documented in the Village of Avoca. It is not a complete list because some sites disappear due to development or agriculture and some may not have yet been reported to the State Historical Society.

Table E.2 - Archeological Sites In Your Community*

Site/Code Name	Site Type	Cultural Significance
IA-0013	Mound(s) – Other/unknown	Unknown
Lakeside Park Mounds	Mound(s) – Conical, Mound(s) Linear, Cemetery/burial	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0257	Campsite/village	Woodland
IA-0059	Mound(s) – Other/unknown, Enclosure/earthworks	Unknown
Avoca Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
St. Josephs Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Unnamed Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Fairview Church and Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Pulaski Church and Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Tri-Valley Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Late Woodland
Schaefer Gravesite	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
WPL Mounds	Mound(s) – Linear, Cemetery/bur.	Late Woodland
Siamese Birds	Mound(s) – Effigy, Cemetery/burial	Late Woodland
Whatsit Mound	Mound(s) – Conical, Mound(s) – Effigy, Mound(s) – Linear, Cemt.	Late Woodland, Middle Woodland
Wolf Trap Mound Group	Mound(s) – Conical, Mound(s) – Effigy, Mound(s) – Linear, Cemetery/burial	Late Woodland, Middle Woodland
Hach I.F.	Isolated Finds	Middle Woodland

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

Table E.3 lists the local cultural resource contacts identified by the Village Plan Commission.

Table E.3 - Cultural Resource Contacts In The Village Of Avoca

Name	Program/Affiliation	Area of Historical Expertise
Village Board		
Historical Preservation Committee		
Village employees		

HISTORIC ORDINANCE

The Village of Avoca has an historic preservation ordinance.

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)

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.

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>

The Bureau of Community Financial Assistance (CFA) administers grant and loan programs, under the WI-DNR. Financial program staff work 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)

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 of DATCP focuses on insects, land and water, as well as plants and animals. The Agricultural Division of DATCP focuses on animals, crops, agricultural resources, and land and water resources.

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 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 and was formerly called the Soil Conservation Service or "SCS".

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 NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

6515 Watts Road,
Suite 200
Madison, WI 53719

Phone (608) 276-USDA

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

WISCONSIN STATE 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.

**WISCONSIN STATE
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>