

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the City of Mineral Point 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 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:

<u>Agricultural Resources</u>	<u>Natural Resources</u>	<u>Cultural Resources</u>
Number of Farms	Water Resources	Historic Buildings
Acreage of Farmland	Topography	Museums
Livestock	Geologic Resources	Landmarks
Crop Production	Forest / Woodlands	Churches
Soil Capabilities	Wildlife Habitat	Rural Schools
Farmland Potential	Parks and Open Space	
	Soils	



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 (not in order of priority) for the City of Mineral Point. (Parcel splits and minimum lot sizes are addressed in Section H, Land Use Element.)

- 1. 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 and around their City 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.

- 2. 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 efforts and in turn cut costs.

- 3. 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 including neighbors complaining about noises, smells, chemical sprays, and farm machinery on the roadways.

- 4. Continue the use of local open space areas to protect natural areas and to provide recreational opportunities.**

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

Contamination of local water resources can be devastating and very costly to reverse. Be aware of the recharge areas for wells and also potential contamination sources. Again, education of local residents may be beneficial from the contamination standpoint.

- 6. 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.

- 7. Promote tourism opportunities and pursue efforts to capitalize on local resources in conjunction with walking tour programs, 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 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. A Town web site can be a very useful tool in informing visitors and residents alike about recreational and cultural events and activities.

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

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

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Agricultural resources play an important role in the past and future of southwestern Wisconsin. Even though this plan is being developed for the City of Mineral Point, the importance of agricultural resources in the surrounding area should not be underestimated. Farming is important to the City aesthetically, culturally, economically and educationally.

FARMING CONFLICTS

Since the City of Mineral Point is an active agricultural area, conflicts between agriculture and non-agriculture landowners can sometimes occur. Currently however, there are no such conflicts.

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 City of Mineral Point Plan Commission believes that there should be size and type restrictions on farms in their jurisdiction, particularly within the Extraterritorial Zone.

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 reported that both FFA and Ag related courses in their schools can 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. In order to maintain farming, it is important for the City of Mineral Point to help preserve the farming infrastructure. Mineral Point has businesses like Ross Soil Service, Farmer's Implement, and Schaaf Implement as part of its farming infrastructure.

FARM TYPES

A strong farming infrastructure can support a wide variety of operations such as

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

The City of Mineral Point Plan Commission does not believe that single enterprise farms (i.e. only dairy, only soybeans) should be encouraged, favoring instead multi-enterprise farms (i.e. beef, dairy, and crops). In the next 20 years, the Plan Commission feels that the following types of farming operations should be encouraged, including:

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

The Plan Commission does not encourage hog or beef-finishing operations in or near the City.

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 Mineral Point Plan Commission thinks that by planning development, land values will be kept high. Coupled with education in investment, the Plan Commission believes this approach helps address the issue.

FARMING AND COMMUNITY VISION

It is important to Mineral Point's community vision not only to maintain current farm operations but to also maintain agriculture in general, particularly within the Extraterritorial Zone of the City.

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.)

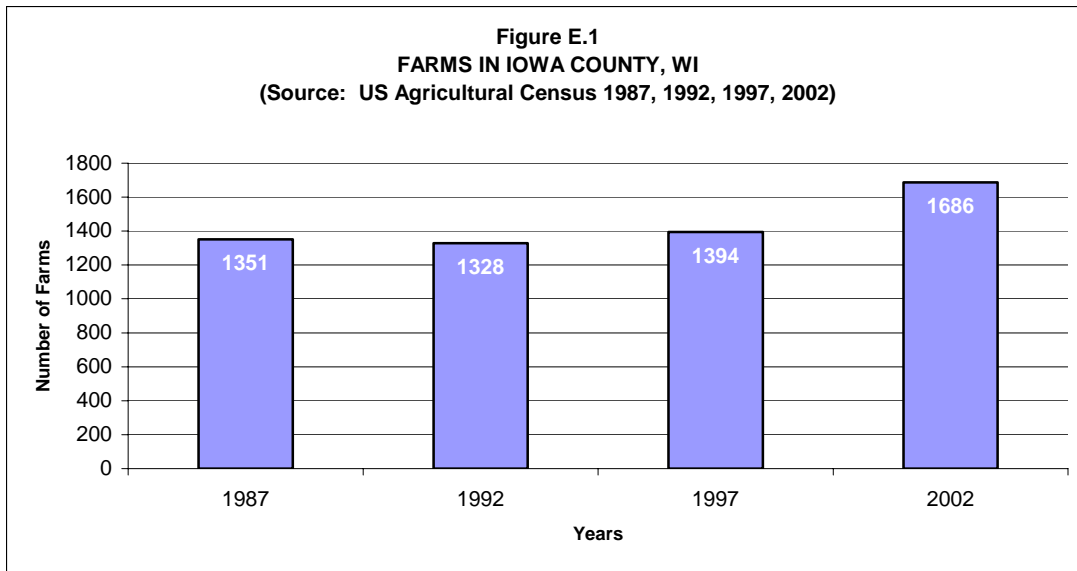


Figure E.2 relates to the number of farms in Iowa County, as it shows the total number of acres in farms. There has been an overall decline in the total number of acres farmed. A contributing factor is the amount of farmland being converted to residential, recreational, or conservation land.

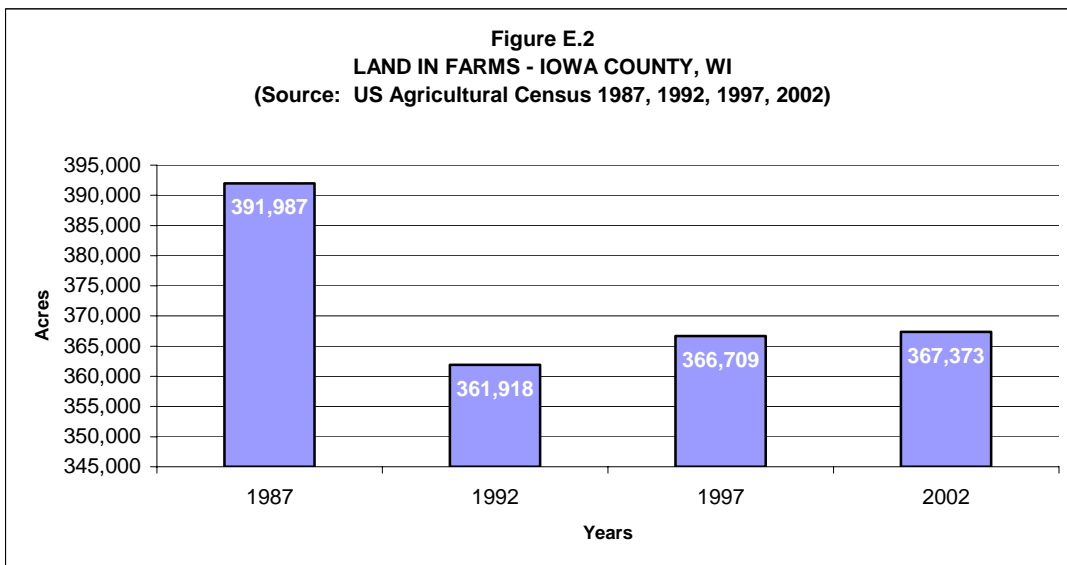


Figure E.3 shows the number of farmland sales and conversion in Iowa County. All towns show changes in sales and conversion but the Town of Eden is the lowest.

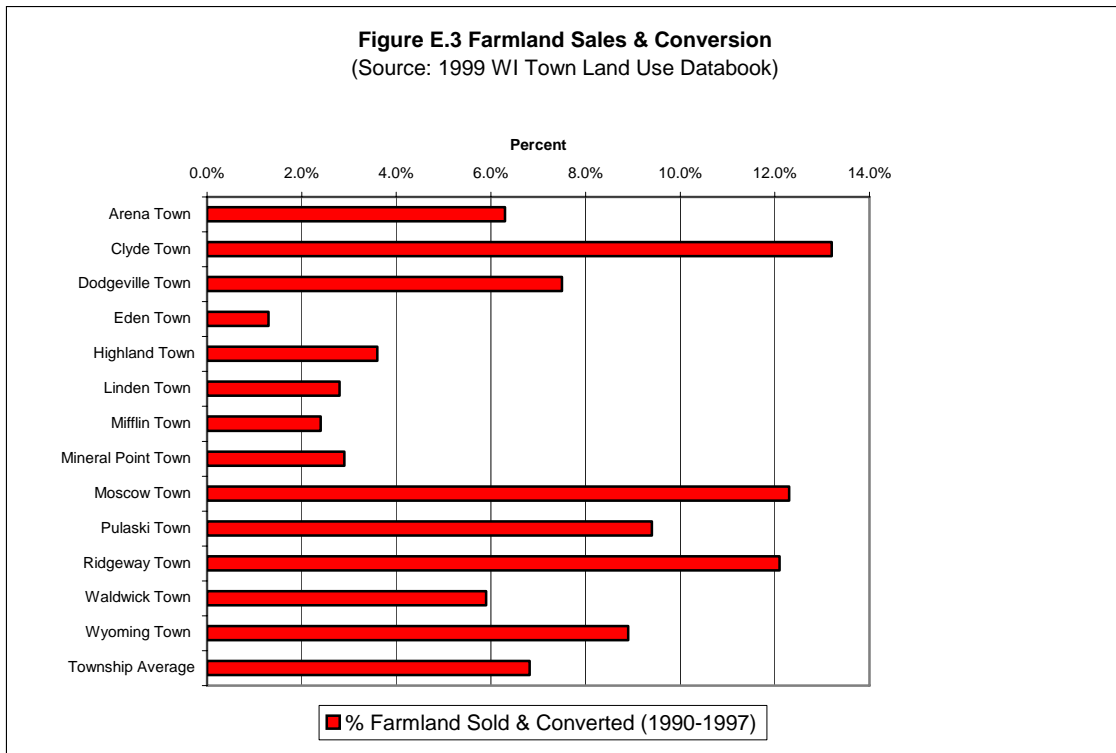


Figure E. 4 shows the average value of sale per acre of land. Most towns are roughly \$950 per acre with the Town of Wyoming an obvious exception.

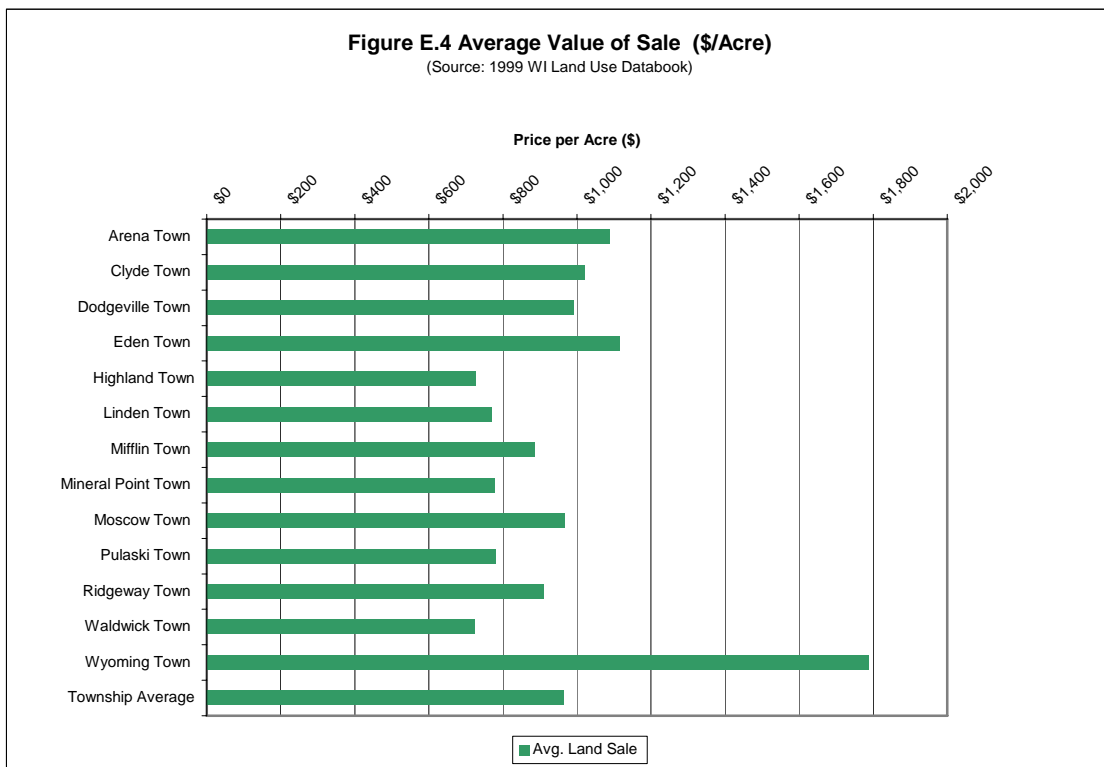
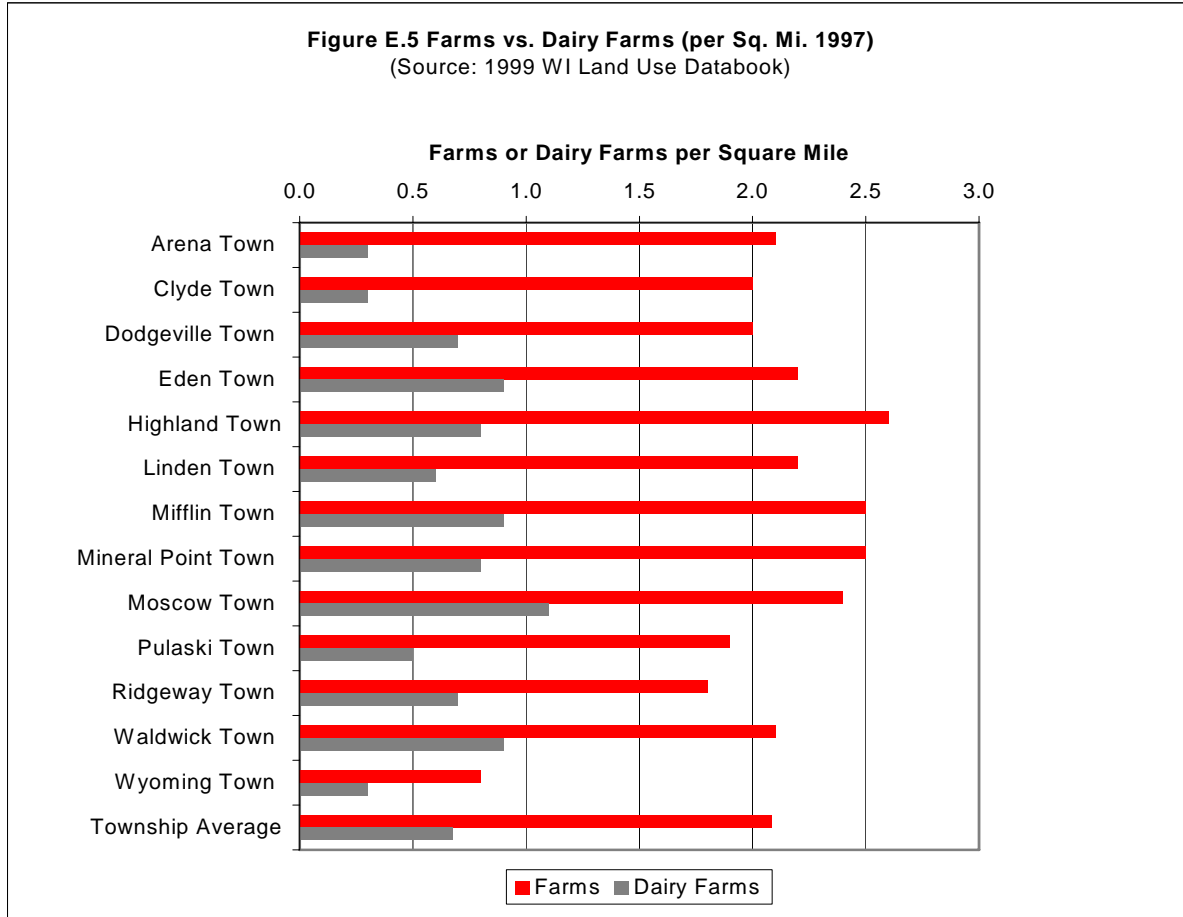


Figure E.5 shows a comparison of farms to dairy farms per square mile in 1997. Non-dairy farms were greater in number than dairy farms in all the towns of Iowa County.



FARMLAND POTENTIAL

In Iowa County, 72 percent of the soils are classified as prime, state, and local importance. Map E.1 is a Town level soil classification map. The classifications are

Prime Farm land - 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.

LAND COVER

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

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources are the essence and the building blocks of nature. Whether obvious or not, impacts to natural 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-point source pollution comes from many diffuse sources resulting from a wide variety of human activities. NPSP directly impacts water resources. The City of Mineral Point has worked hard to reduce NPSP by updating its sanitary system, cleaning up mine tailing piles that still remain from the City's mining heyday, and existing ordinances designed to reduce pollution.

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. See Map E.3 for surface water resources in the City of Mineral Point and Map E.4 for City watersheds. Mineral Point is located in the Mineral Point and Sudan Branches watershed.

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 floodplains are largely the result of a well-developed dendritic (tree branch-like) drainage pattern draining the fairly rugged topography. This, together with low soil infiltration rates, combines to make overall flood risk in Iowa County quite high. The City of Mineral Point is susceptible to flooding and works to prevent it by keeping the storm sewers and culverts cleaned out and requiring retention ponds in subdivisions. 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. 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 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>.)

The City actively protects its area wetlands from pollution by managing itself as an existing floodplain district.

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. 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. See Map E.6 for depth to groundwater levels for the Town of Mineral Point.

Drinking water is constantly monitored in the City. Fortunately, there appear to be no potential contaminants in the City's two wells recharge areas. The City actively protect its waters from non-point source pollution by daily testing and treatment of its water, although the Plan Commission notes that it is not doing enough to protect water resources. The Commission expressed interest in developing a wellhead protection plan.

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. Currently, increasing groundwater demand is occurring in Mineral Point but the Plan Commission has not yet developed a strategy to address the problem.

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)."

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 and 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 City of Mineral Point is within the Southwest Savanna ecological landscape, as defined by the 2002 Land Legacy Report put out by the WI DNR. That document describes this landscape as 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. Today, savannas and grassy ridge tops are rare. Descriptions of natural communities in Iowa County are listed in Appendix E-1.

The City has an existing Conservancy Zoning District that helps protect surrounding savannas and grasslands. Mineral Point also has a tree ordinance committee at work and the local school district is working on a savanna restoration project. The Plan Commission expressed interest in further information on prairies, savannas, and the required restoration efforts necessary.

Mineral Point protects wildlife and wildlife habitat within its jurisdiction through existing City ordinances and development that encourages open green space. The WI-DNR is cited as a City resource in its efforts to actively support agriculture that preserves wildlife habitat, such as no-till cropping and rotational grazing.

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 City of Mineral Point controls exotic plants through State controlled burns, existing ordinances, and weed, non-native, invasive plant controls. WI 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 town level list of the Threatened and Endangered plant, animal, and natural communities of the City of Mineral Point.

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%) are privately owned. See Map E.2 for forested lands in the Town of Mineral Point.

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, fish, and hiking
- Groundwater protection
- Home for wide variety of plants and animals, including T & E species
- Cleans air by producing oxygen and storing carbon
- Part of Wisconsin's culture

There is no rural forest in the City.

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. The City has a tree

The City relies on the WI DNR for forestry related programs and policies. It has also recently formed a tree ordinance committee, working to make Mineral Point a Tree City, USA. The Plan Commission expressed interest in learning more about other municipal tree planting 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
- 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 at the Town of Mineral Point level, which can act as environmental corridors. (Town level maps are more useful in providing a scaled perspective for cities and villages. Preserving environmental corridors can be a highly effective way to protect the natural and cultural resources in an area.

AIR AND LIGHT

Although the Plan Commission did not identify air pollution as an issue, it did report that light pollution does impact the City and while the City tries to discourage light pollution, efforts have not been enough to correct the problem. The Plan Commission is interested in promoting and supporting light pollution reduction programs.

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. Quarries in the City of Mineral Point are protected by existing ordinances. The Plan Commission was unsure whether or not there were mines within their jurisdiction.

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 the 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.

The City of Mineral Point offers recreational users both campgrounds and access to the Cheese Country Trail. Refer to Map E.13 for Iowa County parks.

The City actively promotes its natural resources and parks and recreation resources to visitors through functions like sponsoring and hosting bike trips and through other efforts on the part of the Chamber of Commerce.

The City of Mineral Point has a great deal of parks and recreational equipment available to the public, including

- Water Tower Park – Picnic shelter, play equipment
- Jerusalem Park – Playground, basketball court
- Galle Park – shelter, basketball court, play lot
- Soldier's Memorial – Tennis court, baseball diamond, swimming pool, shelters
- Opera House Plaza – Gazebo, benches
- Library Park – Park benches, tables
- Whitford/Skidmore – Shelter/tables

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.

The City of Mineral Point has been very proactive in identifying and protecting their historical heritage, having had an Historic District listed in the National Register since 1971, and using an historic preservation ordinance (revised) since 1987. For the purpose of this plan, 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. In Mineral Point, historic resources include buildings, structures, and objects. The information presented here is to serve as a guide to cultural and historic resources, but it is not inclusive.

HISTORIC PLACES

Table E.1 lists the City of Mineral Point three sites listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

Table E.1: National Register of Historic Places

Name and Type of Place	Location	Date Added to State Register	Date Added to National Register
Mineral Point Hill	Roughly bounded by STH 23, Copper, Dodge, and Shake Rag Streets	1972	1972
Mineral Point Historic District	Roughly bounded by Ross, Shake Rag, 9 th , and Bend Streets	1971	1971
Pendarvis	114 Shake Rag Street	1971	1971

See Appendix E-3 and E-4 for the City of Mineral Point's Driving (E-3) and Walking (E-4) tours that highlight the various buildings, structures, and sites contained within Mineral Point Hill, Mineral Point Historic District, and Pendarvis. See Map E.16 for locations of these Nationally Registered Historic Places. A visitor's guide to the City is also available from their Chamber of Commerce, 225 High Street, Mineral Point, WI 53565 or visit www.mineralpoint.com.

CHURCHES

Churches have had a significant impact on the culture of the City of Mineral Point. Places of worship include:

- Point Baptist Church
- Faith Lutheran Church
- Parish of the Hills – First United Methodist Church
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- Hope Lutheran Church
- Congregational United Church of Christ
- St. Mary's – St. Paul's Catholic Church

See Map E.15 for locations.

CEMETERIES

Cemeteries have been identified as prominent historic and cultural resources. They can provide a historic perspective of the area, giving names and ethnicities of previous residents. The following cemeteries serve the City of Mineral Point:

- St. Mary's Cemetery
- St. Paul's Cemetery
- Graceland Cemetery
- Old City Burying Ground

See Map E.15 for locations.

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 publication "*Schools of Iowa County*" by Metcalf, Williams, and Pustina (1976), documents these schools in greater detail. No historic one-room schools were identified in the City of Mineral Point, although for locations of rural, one-room schools in the Town of Mineral Point refer to Map E.14 at the end of this Section.

CULTURAL RESOURCES, HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Below is the list of cultural resource programs, special events, and groups sponsored by and/or hosted by the City of Mineral Point.

- Cornish Festival
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Twinning Association
- Fall Art Tour
- Gallery Nights
- Fourth of July festivities
- Winter Carnival
- Opera House
- Orchard Lawn
- Odd Fellows museum
- Pendarvis
- Film Society
- RR Depot
- Mineral Point Railroad Society
- Mineral Point Room
- Rest-O-Rama
- Farmer's Market
- Masonic Temple
- Historic District
- City Band
- Seasonal parades
- Driftless Area Land Conservancy

The City's most important cultural resources and the threats to them are listed in Table E.2

Table E.2: Cultural Resources Most Important To Your Community

Cultural Resource	Threats
Historic Preservation Commission	Non-compliance
Artistic Community	1. Dying breed 2. Affordable studio space
Historic Architecture	1. Neglect 2. Lack of funds 3. Lack of interest
Mineral Point Room	Lack of funds to update
Cheese Country Trail	Misuse and neglect

RESPONSE TO THREATS TO CULTURAL RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

In order to address the threats to Mineral Point's most important cultural resources, the City works in a number of ways to protect and promote their culture. Below are groups and activities listed by the Plan Commission that work to preserve the City's cultural identity.

- Form committees
- Raise funds
- Private citizen involvement
- Support by City Council for projects
- Active Chamber of Commerce
- Enforcement of existing ordinances
- Enact Extraterritorial Zoning

The Plan Commission identified key, local cultural resource contacts and programs involved in cultural resource protection in Mineral Point.

- Mineral Point Historical Society
- RR Society
- Opera House Restoration Committee
- Point Forward
- Chamber of Commerce
- City Planning Commission

HISTORIC ORDINANCE

The City has been using an historic preservation ordinance since 1987.

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.3 gives archeological sites documented in the Town of Mineral Point (sites are not documented below the town level). 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.3: Archeological Sites In Your Community*

Site/Code Name	Site Type	Cultural Significance
Wedig	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0114	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0115	Workshop site	Unknown Prehistoric
Stoner	Mounds (conical), Mounds (linear)	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0102	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Finkelmeyer I	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Finkelmeyer II	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Finkelmeyer III	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Finkelmeyer IV	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0107	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0108	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0109	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0110	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0111	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0106	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0098	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0099	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0100	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0103	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0112	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0113	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Cothren	Other	Historic Euro-American
IA-0072	Campsite/village	Unknown
Lindeman	Campsite/village	Early Woodland
Holzmilller	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown
Ruined Farmstead	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American
Feed Mill	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American
Wayside	Campsite/village	1. Archaic 2. Late Woodland
Mineral Site	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American
Cody Site	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Moreland Mine	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Moreland Tailings	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Carl Cenite Mine	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
South Barreltown Road Mines	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Lillian	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Goldthorpe	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Fallen Oak	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Lindhauer Mine	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Carey Tailing Site	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Wedig Tailing Site	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
R.C. Tailings Site	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Wild Plum	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Knapp Site	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American
Rooster Site	Isolated finds	Unknown Prehistoric
Blaze Site	Campsite/village	Late Paleo-Indian
Blank Angus	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Suthers Site	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American

Table E.3 (cont.): Archeological Sites In Your Community*

Site/Code Name	Site Type	Cultural Significance
Parsnip Site	Workshop site/Campsite/Village	Unknown Prehistoric
Carey Site	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Sleeping Cow Site	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Bogoshwava Site	Isolated finds	Unknown Prehistoric
Carey III Site	Campsite/village	Early Archaic
Mineral Point Hill	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Ingraham House	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American

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

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 grants 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)

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 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, 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 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 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>