

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the Town of Wyoming 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:

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 Town of Wyoming. (Minimum lot sizes 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 Towns of Arena, Dodgeville, and Clyde and Iowa County 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. 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 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 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.

- **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.

- **Utilize non-profit land trust organizations that assist with conservation easements and other land conservation programs.**

The Driftless Area Land Conservancy is a land trust for southwestern Wisconsin headquartered in Dodgeville.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Agriculture was important in the past and will continue to be in the future in southwestern Wisconsin. Farming is important aesthetically, culturally, economically, and recreationally to the Town of Wyoming.

FARMING CONFLICTS

Since the Town of Wyoming is an active agricultural area, there are some occasional conflicts between agriculture and non-agriculture landowners. There are some odor problems when pig manure is spread and there have been noise and odor issues with a pig confinement facility.

FARM EXPANSION

As farming becomes more global, the forces driving agricultural change are reflected in the decline of traditional agricultural practices. 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 Wyoming Plan Commission believes that limits should be placed on farm size. Because the Town is a major tourist area, farm operations and confinement facilities need to be structured and sited unobtrusively as possible.

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 did not believe there was anything appropriate at the Town level that could be done to encourage young people to become involved in farming but suggested that tax laws could be structured to encourage more young people to come into farming. Cost share conservation programs could also be promoted as a way to help young farmers.

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 essential to preserve the farming infrastructure. Valley Repair is the only farming infrastructure business in the Town of Wyoming, with many others located in surrounding jurisdictions. Businesses like these are necessary to support all types of farms.

FARM TYPES

The Plan Commission 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 with density and scale considerations:

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

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 sound land use planning in Wyoming has contributed to high real estate values for farms and a strong demand for complete farms if the landowners want to sell out. The 15-acre minimum lot size rule in Wyoming allows for the sale of non-productive land to provide retirement income to farmers and accommodate some rural housing demand while protecting community goals.

FARMING AND COMMUNITY VISION

It is essential to maintain both current farm operations and agriculture in general in Wyoming in order to achieve the community’s vision.

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.)

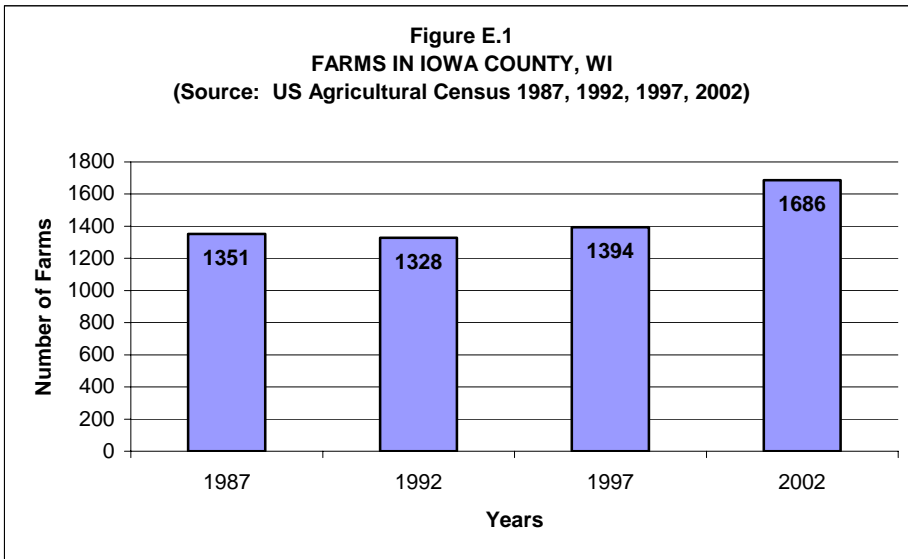


Figure E.2 relates to the number of farms in Iowa County, as it shows the total number of acres in farms. There has been an overall decline in the total number of acres farmed. A contributing factor is the amount of farmland being converted to residential, recreational, or conservation land.

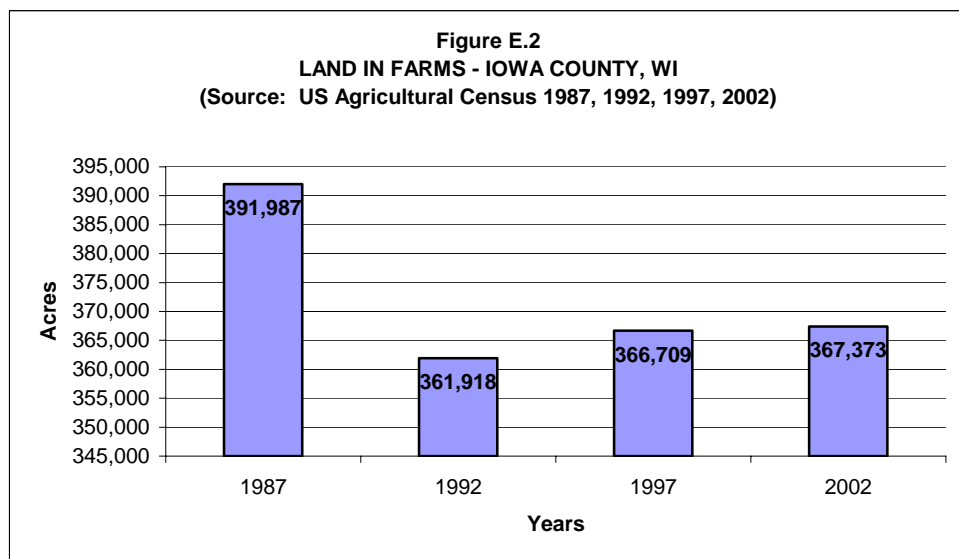


Figure E.3 shows the number of farmland sales and conversion in Iowa County. All towns show changes in sales and conversion but the Town of Eden is the lowest.

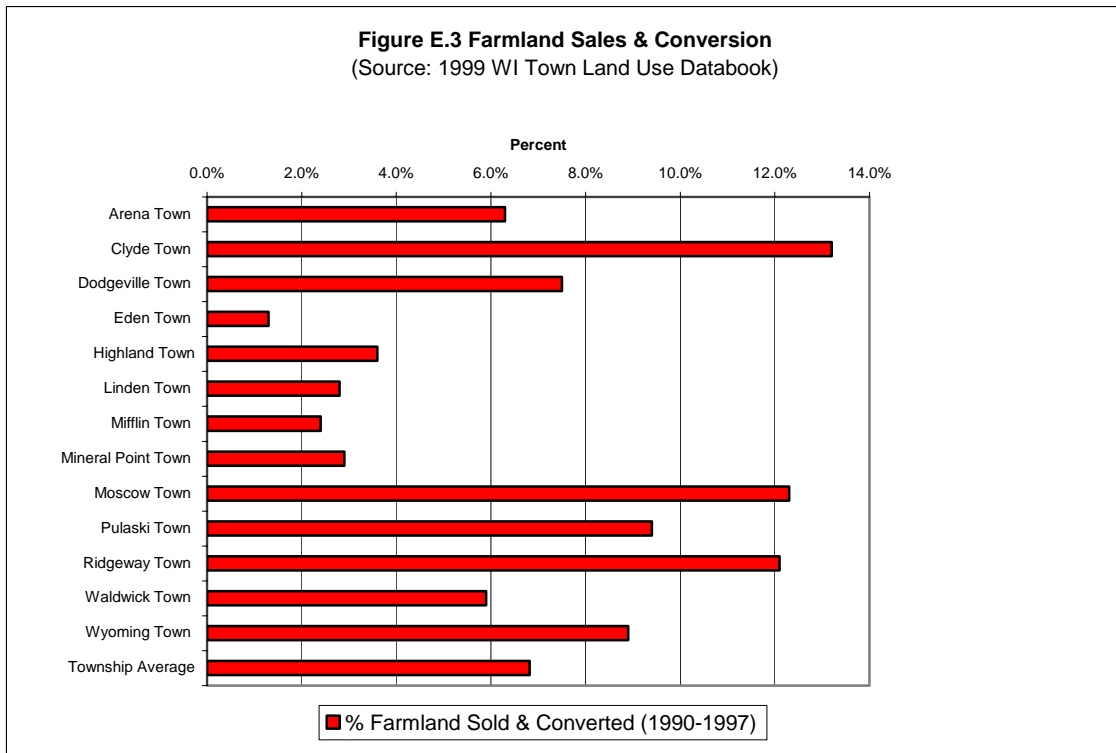


Figure E. 4 shows the average value of sale per acre of land. Most towns are roughly \$950 per acre with the Town of Wyoming an obvious exception.

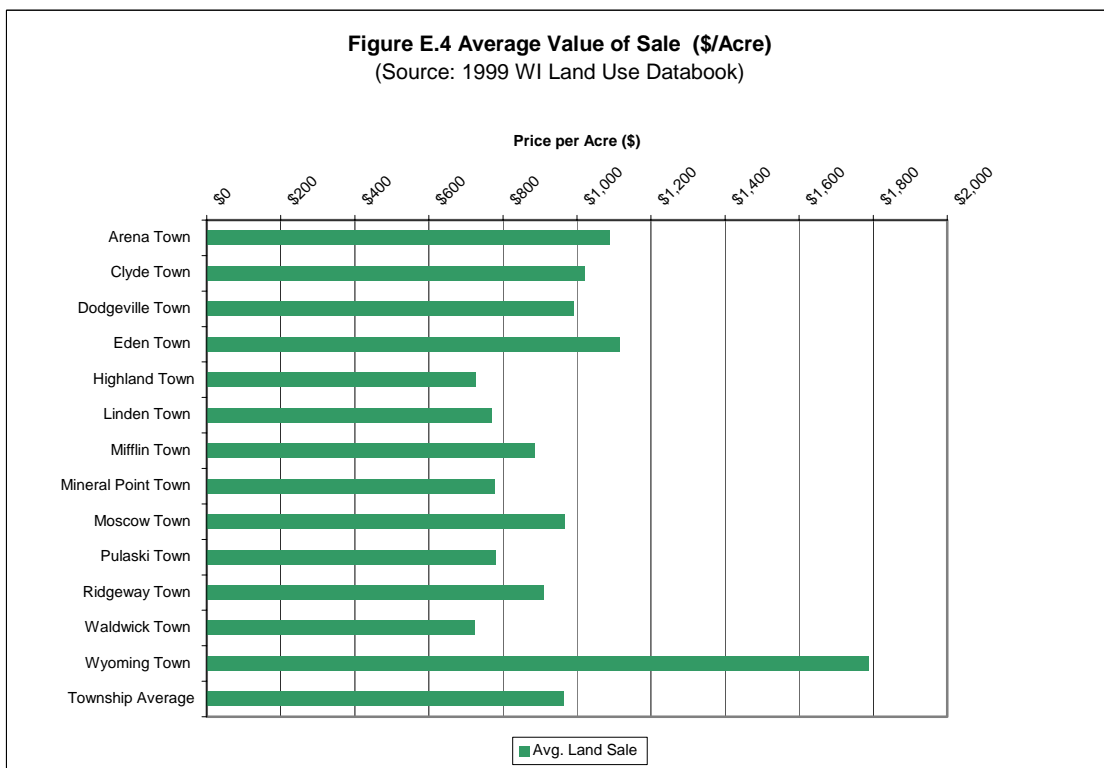
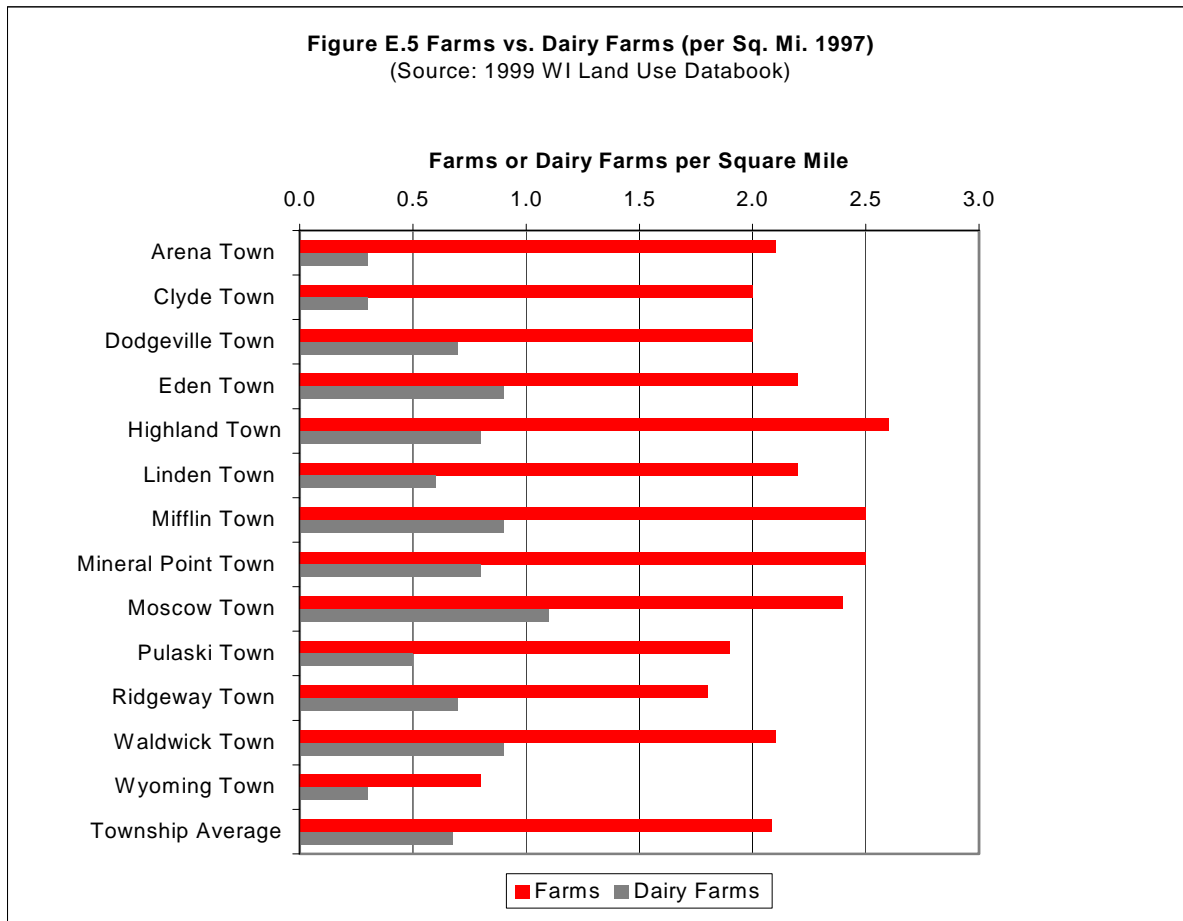


Figure E.5 shows a comparison of farms to dairy farms per square mile in 1997. Non-dairy farms were greater in number than dairy farms in all the towns of Iowa County.



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 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.

LAND COVER

Map E.2 shows the amount of agricultural resources in the Town of Wyoming. 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

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 Wyoming protects its water resources via provisions in its current Land Use Plan and Building and Land Division ordinances. (See Section H, Land Use Element for more information.) County and State authorities enforce regulations for which they are responsible. Town road and bridge projects are engineered to comply with run-off regulations.

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 Town of Wyoming.

Wyoming is in two watersheds, mainly the Otter and Murrey Creeks, with a small part in the Mill and Blue Mounds Creeks watersheds. See Map E.4 for Town 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 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 Town is at risk from periodic flooding. In order to lower its flooding risk, Wyoming relies on County regulations prohibiting building and/or building improvements in floodplains. Wyoming's current Land Use Plan and Building and Land Division ordinances also have provisions that are designed reduce flooding potential. 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). 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. Most wetland losses in Iowa County have likely been due to draining for farming.

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. For more information, go to <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/wetlands/facts.shtml>.

Wyoming protects its wetland resources via provisions of the Land Use Plan and Building and Land Division ordinances. Town roads and bridges are engineered to withstand flood events and the Town enforces erosion control measures on private property to prevent erosion materials from flowing over the public right-of-way.

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 Wyoming.

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. All homes in the Town of Wyoming are on private wells. The jurisdiction actively protects its drinking water by promoting the County Extension 2004 well testing program.

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 Wyoming.

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 us, providing opportunities for observing, hunting, or photographing animals in their native habitat. Wildlife provides an educational stimulus, provoking 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.

Grassy ridge tops and forest historically covered the hills and ridges of large parts of southwest Wisconsin, comprising the ecological landscape type known as Western Coulee and Ridge. Ridge tops, home to a wide array of wildlife, particularly birds, are increasingly rare. Descriptions of natural communities in Iowa County are listed in Appendix E-1. The Town of Wyoming is within Western Coulee and Ridge landscape type and protects its ridge tops and viewscapes through provisions in the Building Siting Ordinance, adopted in 2000 and amended in 2003. The DNR protects habitat on its land holdings in the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway adjacent to Wyoming. The Town supports programs, policies, and conservation groups dedicated to prairie and savanna restoration, protection of Town ridge tops, and protection of wildlife habitat, through their Land Use Element (Section H) and Building Siting and Land Division ordinances.

Steep slopes and the highly erodible soils of Town of Wyoming have resulted in much of the land being put into CRP (Conservation Reserve Program). Conservation practices are required on actively farmed land in order to be eligible for farm programs. Much of the Town's woodlands is in the Managed Forest Law program and/or looked after by land stewards.

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 to provide 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 Weed Commissioner of Wyoming enforces the Town's noxious weed regulations. Production agriculture and land stewards work to control weeds as well. Refer to Appendix E-2 for a list of the threatened and endangered plant, animal, and natural communities of the Town of Wyoming. DNR-NHI maps (Map E.7a and E.7b) have also been included at the end of this section as a reference.

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 Wyoming.

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

The Town of Wyoming supports sustainable forestry practices. 5,203 acres of Town forestland is enrolled in the Managed Forest Law, which is 21 percent of the Town's total acreage and 33 percent of the total "Forest" and "Undeveloped" acreage. An additional 400 acres are being applied for enrollment in MFL this year. Some Town land is enrolled in Sustainable Forest programs.

URBAN FORESTS

One natural resource often forgotten is the urban forest. The urban forest does not necessarily only relate to trees, but also includes shrubs, flowers, vines, ground cover, grass, and other plants within an urban area.

The Town of Wyoming does not have any Urban Forest.

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 within Wyoming, 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.

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 did not identify air pollution as an issue.

Light pollution is an issue. 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 and siting via provisions in the Sign and Building Siting ordinances.

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.

Restricting access to abandoned mines or quarries helps protect these areas from becoming source points for groundwater contamination.

There are a few inactive quarries in the Town but there are no protection measures for them. There are no mine pits or diggings in the jurisdiction.

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.

There are a variety of recreational amenities available in the Town of Wyoming including:

- Tower Hill State Park (with picnic shelters, camp sites, and historical Shot Tower)
- Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, Helena Marsh Unit (boat landing on Hwy 14 and wildlife and natural areas)
- Bike trail along Highway 23
- Self-guided nature trail on American Players Theater grounds
- Endless Valley Stables
- Rush Creek Sportsman Club
- Hiking and cross-country skiing trails at House on the Rock Resort
- Snowmobile trails on private land maintained by local snowmobile club

Wyoming residents are also near Governor Dodge State Park. Refer to Map E.13 for Iowa County parks.

The Town actively promotes its natural resources to recreational visitors through tourist entities located in Wyoming. Town government gives financial support to the Spring Green Area Visitors Guide.

Although the Plan Commission believes there are enough outdoor recreation spaces, there is a need for handicap accessible facilities associated with the Town's current recreation amenities.

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 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. The information presented here is to serve as a guide to cultural and historic resources, but it is not inclusive.

HISTORIC PLACES

The Town of Wyoming has three sites listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places. Refer to Map E.14 for historic places in the Town of Wyoming.

Table E.1: National Register of Historic Places

Name and Type of Place	Location	Date Added to State Register	Date Added to National Register
Shot Tower	Tower Hill State Park	1/1/89	4/3/73
Taliesin	2mi. South of Spring Green		4/14/73
Unity Chapel	2mi. South of Spring Green	1/1/89	7/18/74

CHURCHES

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

Places of worship in the Town area include:

- Wyoming Valley Methodist Church
- Unity Chapel

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. Refer to Map E.15 for cemeteries in Wyoming.

The following cemeteries serve the Town:

- Lloyd – Jones
- Wyoming (Fans Hill)
- Old Helena

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. Refer to Map E.14 for rural school buildings and their (sometime multiple) locations in the Town.

The following rural school buildings (some of which have not only been converted to other uses but operated in more than one place) are in Wyoming:

- Highpoint
- Hillside Home aka Frank Lloyd Wright*
- Knobs
- Kritz
- Lower Wyoming (3 locations)
- Upper Wyoming (now Town Hall – 2 locations)
- Sneed Creek (2 locations)
- Wyoming Valley/River Valley

(*Currently the Taliesin School of Architecture.)

OTHER HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SITES IN THE TOWN OF WYOMING

The Plan Commission identified two other historic sites in the Town. Refer to Map E.14 for other historic buildings and sites in the Town of Wyoming.

- Jonesdale Village (thriving village in the 1860’s, later abandoned)
- Hilltop (retreat and meeting center – includes former school relocated to the center)

CULTURAL RESOURCE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Wyoming supports the Taliesin restoration and owns and maintains two historic cemeteries (Wyoming and Old Helena). The Town celebrated the Wyoming Valley Methodist Church 2002 Centennial and the seven Century Farms (farms that have been owned by the same family for 100 years or more) that are in Town.

Wyoming'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
Wyoming School	Has been restored but is not currently in use
Taliesin	Is in need of restoration
Barns, outbuildings, and cheese factories	These are threatened with neglect due to high maintenance costs or removed because of tax burdens.

RESPONSE TO THREATS TO CULTURAL RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

There has been a Land Use Policy Plan in effect in Wyoming since 1989. The Sign (1991), Land Division (1992), and Building Siting (2000) ordinances offer additional protection to the Town's cultural resources.

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 list 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 been reported to the State Historical Society.

Table E.3 - Archeological Sites In Your Community*

Site/Code Name	Site Type	Cultural Significance
Tower Hill Bluff Shelter	Cave/rockshelter	Woodland
THSP -1	Workshop site	Unknown Prehistoric
THSP-2	Workshop site, Campsite/village	Archaic, Historic Euro/American
THSP-3	Workshop site, Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
THSP-4	Other	Historic Euro/American
Wright I	Campsite/village	Woodland
Wright II	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Wright III	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Wright IV	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American
Wyoming Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Unity Chapel and Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Old Helena Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American

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

Site/Code Name	Site Type	Cultural Significance
Deer Shelter Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Unnamed Cemetery/Single Grave?	Cemetery/burial	
Bluff Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Early Woodland, Late Archaic, Late Woodland
IA-0092	Campsite/village	Woodland
Shot Tower Shaft	Mill/sawmill	Historic Euro/American

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

The Town of Wyoming Plan Commission identified local cultural resource contacts in Table E.4.

Table E.4 - Cultural Resource Contacts In The Town Of Wyoming

Name	Program/Affiliation	Area of Historical Expertise
Town Board and Plan Commission	Town of Wyoming	
Taliesin Preservation, Inc	Taliesin	
Lower Wisconsin Riverway Board	Lower Wisconsin Riverway	

HISTORIC ORDINANCE

Wyoming does not have an historic preservation ordinance and is not planning on creating one.

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 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 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 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>