

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As the Village of Blanchardville continues to grow, it is vital to 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 Blanchardville. (Parcel splits and 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 Moscow and Blanchard, and Iowa, Lafayette, and Green Counties to protect contiguous natural areas that give local residents space to pursue recreational opportunities.

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

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

- **Encourage and support prairie and savanna restoration.**

- **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 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.

- **Create a wellhead protection plan for the Village.**

➤ **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 Blanchardville's character.

➤ **Establish more parks and outdoor recreational amenities including camping and other recreation space.**

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

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

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

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

### **AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

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

### **FARMING CONFLICTS**

Since the Village of Blanchardville is an active agricultural area, there is the possibility that conflicts could occur between agriculture and non-agriculture landowners. The Plan Commission noted that although the physical Village is already developed, the community consists of a number of Towns in four different counties and thus has a variety of issues. Two or three adjoining Towns are considering moratoriums on residential development on smaller acreages. There is quite a bit of resistance to change by regulation and the Village is concerned about the effects of rural residential development and its impact on Fire services and EMS.

### **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 Village of Blanchardville Plan Commission believes that some limits, should be placed on farm size. The Plan Commission did not offer any suggestion as to what types of limitations, but listed some possible outcomes from large farm expansion which included:

- Large farm expansion hurts family farms that are very important to the area;
- Hurts residential development;
- Expansion could come with the possibility of pollution, including odors and groundwater contamination, and visual impacts to the viewscape.

**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 believe that financial incentives, exploring non-traditional and niche products, and continuing Ag related programs in schools will provide ways to encourage young people to become involved in farming. The Plan Commission also recommended farm job shadowing, have farms host non-farm students, and Farmer's Markets.

**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. Blanchardville has such an infrastructure and considers it essential in maintaining a viable farming environment.

**FARM TYPES**

The Blanchardville 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
- Hog Operation
- 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 addressed the issue from a regional (many Towns, four counties) perspective. The Commission acknowledged that it is one of the most difficult situations facing the community. Development does need to be planned, taking into consideration siting in relation to the most productive land and "views", both adjoining properties and the general vista.

**FARMING AND COMMUNITY VISION**

It is important to Blanchardville's community vision to maintain current farm operations. It is very important for the community's vision to maintain 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.)

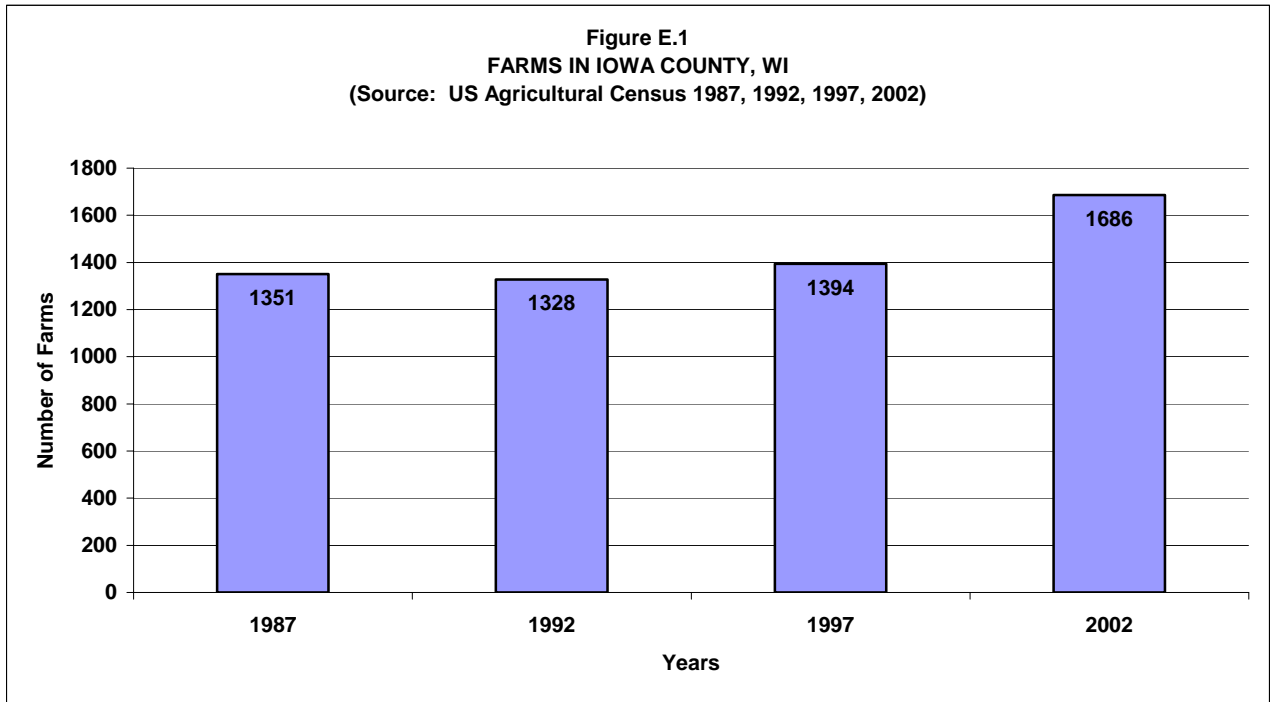


Figure E.2 relates to the number of farms in Iowa County, as it shows the total number of acres in farms. There has been an overall decline in the total number of acres farmed. A contributing factor is the amount of farmland being converted to residential, recreational, or conservation land.

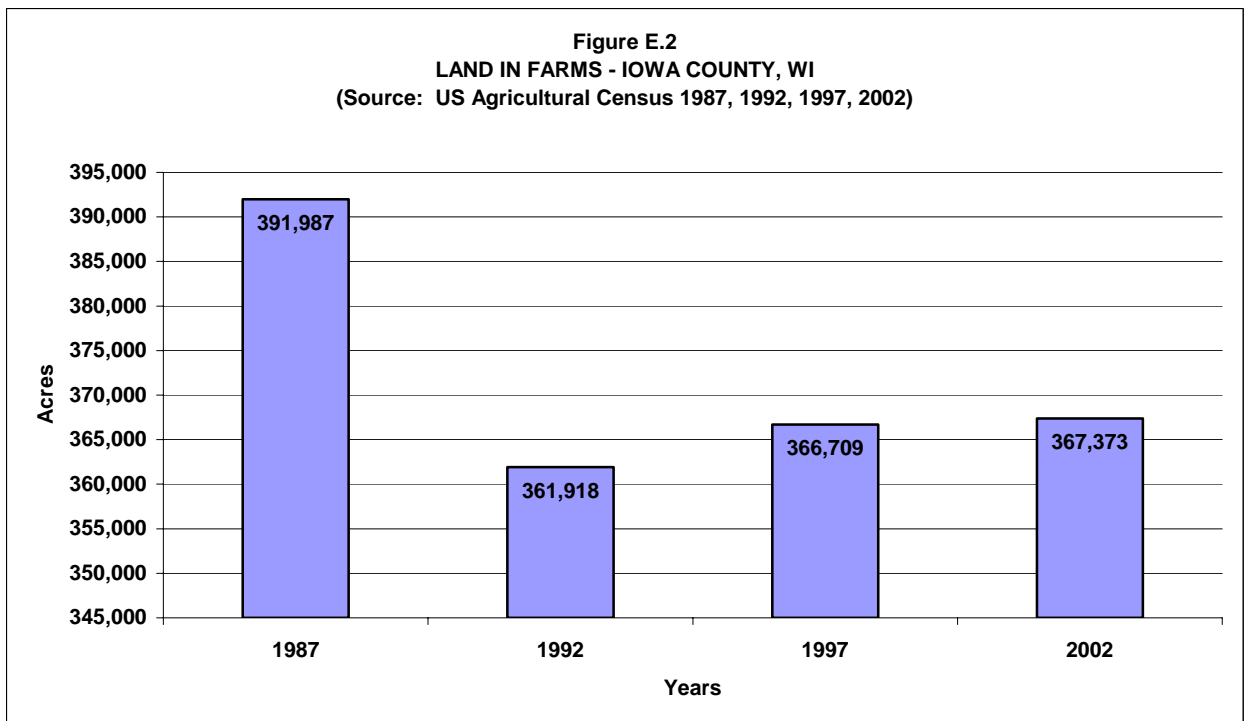


Figure E.3 shows the number of farmland sales and conversion in Iowa County. All towns show changes in sales and conversion but the Town of Eden is the lowest.

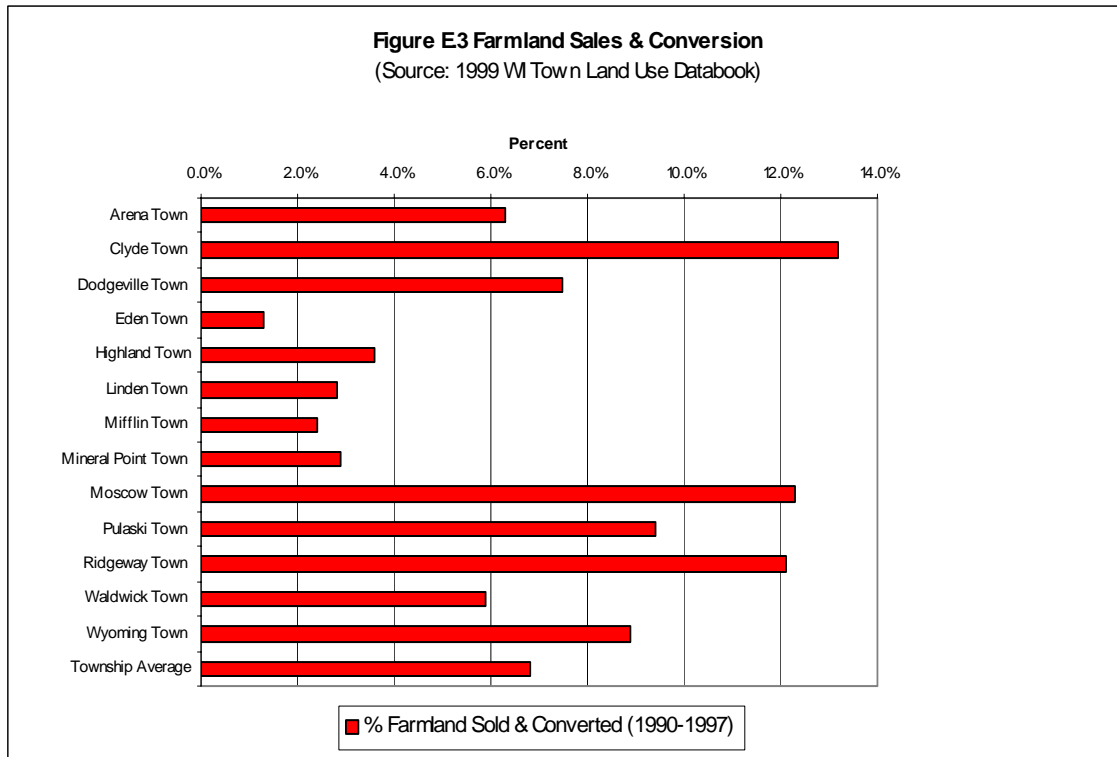


Figure E. 4 shows the average value of sale per acre of land. Most towns are roughly \$950 per acre with the Town of Wyoming an obvious exception.

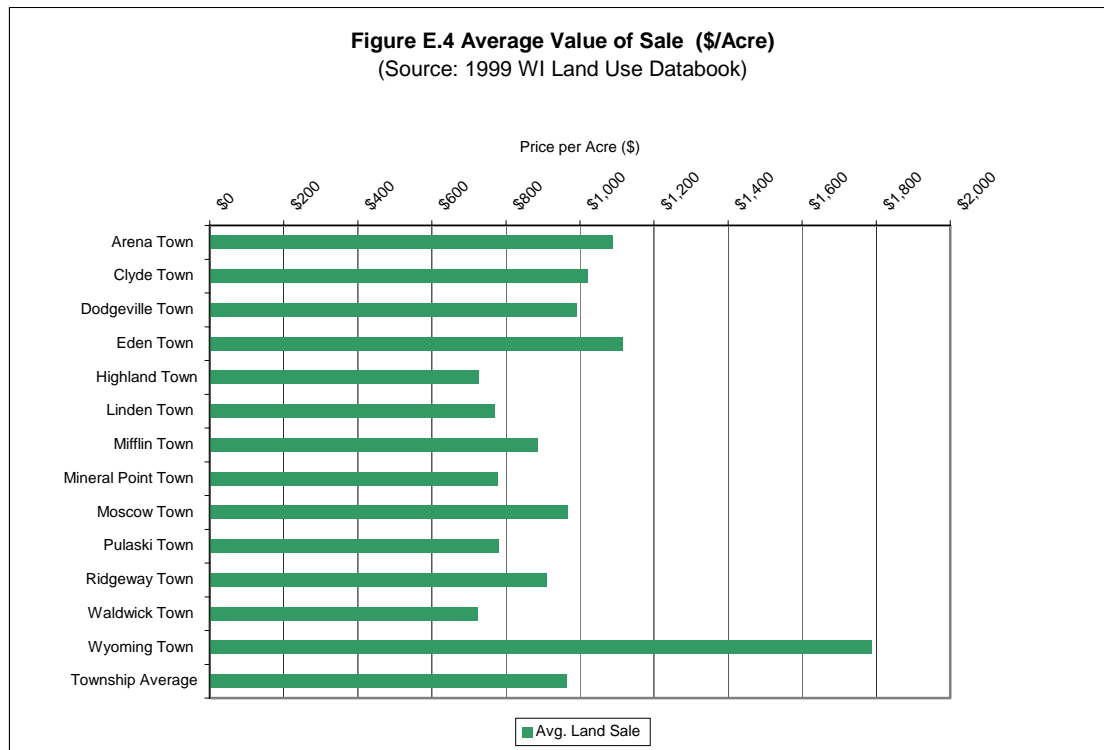
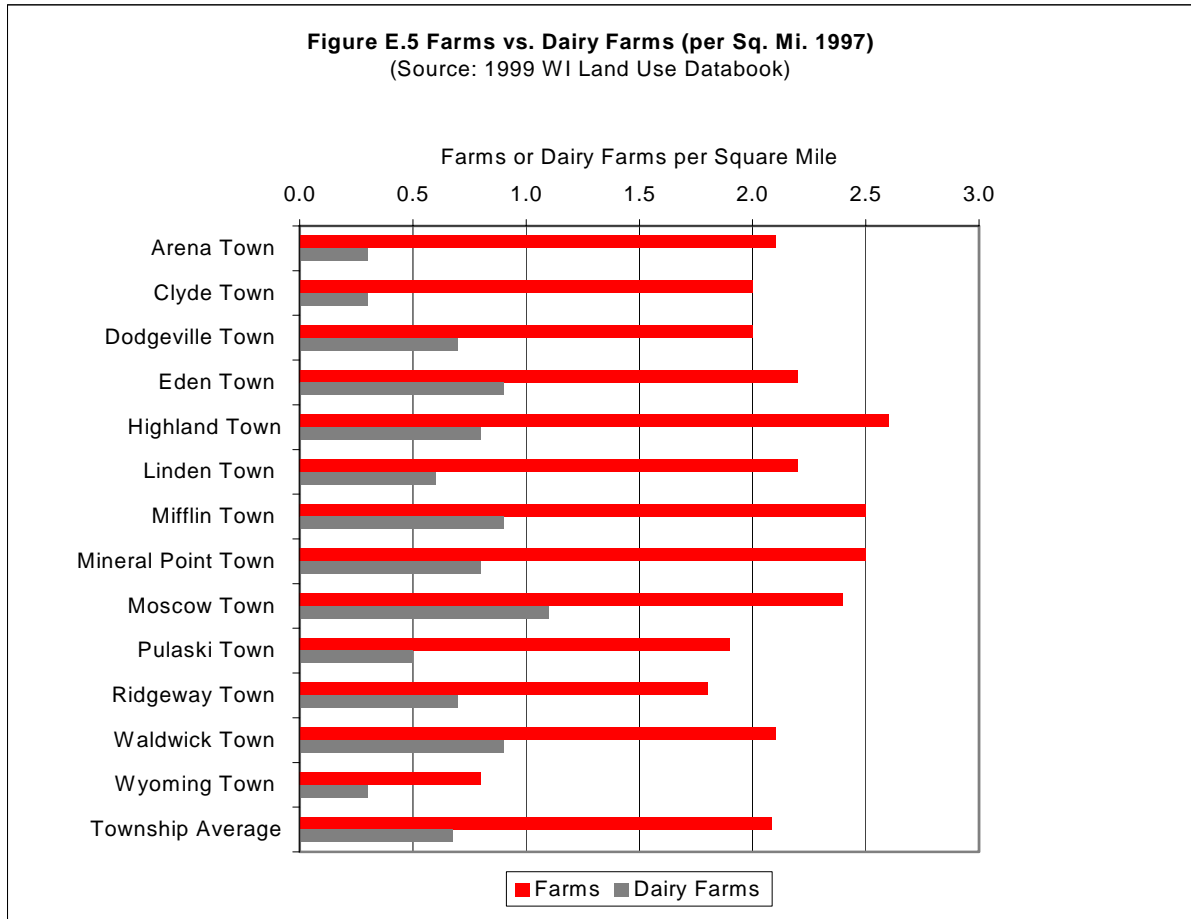


Figure E.5 shows a comparison of farms to dairy farms per square mile in 1997. Non-dairy farms were greater in number than dairy farms in all the towns of Iowa County.



**FARMLAND POTENTIAL**

In Iowa County, 72 percent of the soils are classified as prime, state, and local importance. Map E.1 is a town level soil classification maps. 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 near the Village of Blanchardville. It also shows the location of natural resources, including forested lands, open water, and wetlands.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

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

### **WATER RESOURCES**

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

Non-source point pollution comes from many diffuse sources resulting from a wide variety of human activities. NPSP directly impacts water resources. Blanchardville is considering a wellhead protection plan in order to identify any water resource issues.

### **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 Pecatonica River and nearby lakes and streams serve recreational needs of area residents. See Map E.3 for surface water resources in or near the Village of Blanchardville. Blanchardville is located in the Upper East Branch of the Pecatonica River watershed. See Map E.4 for the Village 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 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. See Map E.5 for the FEMA map.

Blanchardville is susceptible to flooding and has worked to reduce it by having a levee in place above the dam, west of the downtown area. Also, a Flood Plain ordinance is in effect. Clearing the river downstream is encouraged as further efforts to mitigate flooding.

### **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>.)

Blanchardville actively protects its wetlands by educating residents about stormwater and its effects. They are financially supportive of the Rod and Gun Club and the Sportsman's Club's river clean-up efforts. The Village also follows DNR and PSC regulations for the water system.

### GROUNDWATER

Groundwater is the water resource most depended on, not only because it is used on a daily basis, but also because surface waters depend on groundwater 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 in the Town of Moscow.

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. Blanchardville has a municipal well for which they are considering a wellhead protection plan. The Village has upgraded its water storage and distribution system too. The Plan Commission was unsure what potential contaminants that might be within the municipal well recharge area, but suggested that perhaps agricultural runoff and chemical accidents might occur.

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. However, the establishment of a high capacity well in surrounding towns might impact water supply. 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, the Village of Blanchardville is working on minimizing water loss or unaccounted for in the system.

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 by provoking human curiosity about the natural world.

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

Humans have an environmental responsibility to protect wildlife and the habitat it needs to survive. Since wildlife can cause problems by destroying property, carrying disease, producing unsanitary waste, and conflicting with human activities, it is important to provide natural habitat at a distance from human activities where animals will not be in contact with humans and can live and breed without interference. The Village does not have a policy to protect wildlife habitat, nor have a policy encouraging wildlife friendly agricultural practices. The Plan Commission noted that wildlife protection does not directly apply to the Village but that they do have some riverbank property that is protected from erosion and stormwater runoff.

Savannas, grasslands with a partial canopy of open grown trees, are home to a wide array of wildlife, particularly birds. These grasslands historically covered the hills and ridges of southwest Wisconsin, comprising the ecological landscape known as Southwest Savanna. Today, savannas and grassy ridge tops are rare. Descriptions of natural communities in Iowa County are listed in Appendix E-1. Blanchardville is within the ecological landscape known as the Southwest Savanna type. The Village does not have policies to protect these natural areas and has not been exposed to methods that would do so. However, the Plan Commission wishes to learn more about supporting restoration efforts and groups.

### **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 plant, such as Bull Thistle and Wild Parsnip. Blanchardville controls exotic plants through weed control ordinances. The DNR-NHI maps (Maps E.7a, E.7b, and E.7c) have been included at the end of this section as references. Refer to Appendix E-2 for a town level list of the threatened and endangered plant, animal, and natural communities of the Village of Blanchardville.

### **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 forested lands near Blanchardville.

### **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 threatened and endangered 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.

The Village encourages sustainable forestry and is interested in learning more about it. Blanchardville does not have a municipal tree-planting program but is interested in learning about them as well. As far as future tree plantings in the community are concerned, the Plan Commission recommends tree planting as part of the development of the local 22-acre park. There are currently a minimal number of trees in the camping and picnicking areas. Also, the Commission recommends trees be planted in new subdivisions, taking into account the terrain, sidewalks, and other such concerns.

### 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 natural resource features near and around Blanchardville, which can act as environmental corridors. Preserving environmental corridors can be a highly effective way to protect the natural and cultural resources in an area.

### AIR AND LIGHT

The Plan Commission identified open air burning as an air pollution issue, although the Commission noted that the intensity of such burning is minimal.

Light pollution was also identified as a Blanchardville issue. The Plan Commission is interested in learning more about light pollution reduction and said the Village needs to be aware of emerging concerns and problems relating to light pollution. Education of residents is needed regarding “downlighting” and the balance of light for safety and security vs. light for light's sake.

Good outdoor lighting at night benefits everyone. It increases safety, helps provide security, and enhances a community's nighttime character. 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. 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.

Noise pollution, particularly from vehicles, was also noted as a Village issue. Blanchardville does prohibit loud and unnecessary noises, including amplifiers and compression brakes.

#### 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

## **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 of the Town of Moscow and the Town of Blanchard have been included showing slope limitations (Map E.9), septic limitations (Map E.10), and depth to bedrock (Map E.11).

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 quarries Blanchardville but they are inactive and not protected. There are no mines in the Village.

## **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.

Blanchardville's McKellar Park has a great many recreational amenities including a swimming pool, tennis courts, basketball courts, ball diamonds, a playground, picnic shelter, campground, restrooms, and fishing. The park is next to the Pecatonica River that flows through the Village. In addition, Blanchardville is near the end of the Lafayette County ATV trail and has a canoe put-in and out-take area on the Pecatonica River. The Pecatonica River flows through the Village and McKellar Park, and Yellowstone State Park. Refer to Map E.13 for Iowa County parks.

Yellowstone State Park, a quick drive from Blanchardville, has camping, fishing, and boating opportunities and it is actively promoted to residents and visitors. The Village actively promotes all its natural resources to recreational visitors through brochures that feature the McKellar Park, the park campground, and the Pecatonica River that flows through town. Special events are hosted in the park too.

The Plan Commission sees a need for additional parks, trails, or other outdoor recreation spaces in the Village. Specifically, the Plan Commission would like to develop a .24 mile river walk along the banks of the Pecatonica River. Also, they would like to add ten to fifteen more park camping spaces, adjacent to the current park.

## **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 Plan Commission identified no sites in the Village as listed on the State and/or National Register of Historic Places.

### **CHURCHES**

Churches have had a significant impact on the culture of Blanchardville. Refer to Map E.15 for churches in the Village.

Places of worship in the Village include:

- Blanchardville Lutheran Church
- Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- United Methodist Church

### **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 the Village of Blanchardville.

The following cemeteries serve the Village of Blanchardville:

- Graceland Cemetery
- Immaculate Conception Cemetery (Calvary)

### **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 Moscow.

### **OTHER HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SITES IN THE VILLAGE OF BLANCHARDVILLE**

The Plan Commission identified two other historic sites in the Village. Refer to Map E.15 for other historic buildings and sites in the Village of Blanchardville.

- McKellar Park (est. 1930 along the Pecatonica River)
- Downtown Blanchardville (buildings are mostly pre-1920)

### **CULTURAL RESOURCE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

The Village of Blanchardville does a number of things to support and promote its culture. Longstanding events include the Chicken Barbeque on Father’s Day, the Car Show in July, and the Blanchardville and Pecatonica High School Homecoming (including a large parade and an alumni banquet as well as the football game). “Jamm Fest” is a more recent event, showcasing area and local musicians and bands.

The Blanchardville Historical Society Museum sponsors exhibits and events, such as “Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon”, a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit from April 26 – June 1, 2003. They are also involved in preserving a log cabin replica constructed by local residents about 70 years ago.

Home Talent Baseball, Blanchardville has been home to the Blanchardville Bullets, a member of the Home Talent League. The League, which is perhaps the oldest amateur baseball league in the US, is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> year in 2003. Blanchardville has fielded a team for most of those years.

Blanchardville is home for the Pecatonica High School. The school and the Village work together in sharing facilities. In a small Village like Blanchardville, school sports, music, and drama events are part of general community life.

The Village's most important cultural resources and the threats to them are listed on Table E.1.

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

Cultural Resource	Threats
Downtown buildings built pre-1920	Neglect and conversion
Dam on the Pecatonica River	Restored in 1998, should be ok for many years.
Pecatonica River	Floods, erosion, debris after high water/floods
McKellar Park	Lack of funds to maintain, upgrade pool/pool house/tennis courts & basketball facilities.

### RESPONSE TO THREATS TO CULTURAL RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Blanchardville Area Improvement Corporation is primarily an economic development organization, but since the downtown is made up of older buildings, loans from BAIC do preserve buildings. BCPI (Blanchardville Community Pride) is a combination of a Main Street/Chamber organization. Blanchardville is a Wisconsin Main Street Community with major focus in historical preservation.

The Blanchardville Historical Society has been formed and is collecting items unique to Blanchardville. The Village provides the museum building, a former Wisconsin Power and Light facility which once also housed the Village library.

In response to flooding and erosion damage, dam repair and cement bleacher restoration in McKellar Park was accomplished through volunteer fundraising.

### ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

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

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

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

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

The table below gives archeological sites documented in the Town of Moscow. It 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.2 - Archeological Sites In Or Near Your Community\***

Site/Code Name	Site Type	Cultural Significance
McCoy Rockshelter	Rock art, Cave/rockshelter	Late Woodland, Unknown
Across the River Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown
McKenna Farm	Campsite/village	Unknown
Peterson		
IA-0063	Campsite/village	Unknown
Railroad Grade Campsite	Campsite/village	Woodland
Cyclone Bridge Site	Campsite/village	Archaic, Woodland
Massey	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0250	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Steppes	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Horse Shoe Bend	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0247	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Elmer	Workshop site	Unknown Prehistoric
Moscow Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Unnamed Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Long Valley Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Swiggum Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Across the River Campsite	Campsite/village	Early Woodland, L. Wldd, Mid Archaic
Big Bottom Knoll Site	Campsite/village	E. Wldnd, L. Arch., L. Wldd., Middle Archaic, Mid. Wldd.
Grubbers Campsite	Campsite/village	E. Wldnd, L. Arch., Middle Archaic
Between the Farms Campsite	Campsite/village	E. Arch., E. Wldnd, L. Arch., L. Paleo-Indian, L. Wldd., Mid. Arch, Mid. Wldd
Twin Oaks Campsite	Campsite/village	Late Archaic, L. Woodland, Mid. Arch.
Slough Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Cattle Run Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Glenn Valley Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Whitford Campsite	Campsite/village	Early Archaic, Late Paleo-Indian, Middle Archaic
Chrostowski	Campsite/village	Middle Archaic
Erickson Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
High Point Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Star Valley Campsite	Campsite/village	Late Archaic
Lone Oak Campsite	Campsite/village	Middle Archaic
Old Grade Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
McKenna Campsite	Campsite/village	Late Woodland
Riverside Campsite	Campsite/village	Early Woodland
Sunnyslope Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Oozy Earth	Campsite/village	Late Archaic, Late Woodland, Middle Archaic, Middle Woodland
In-Drive Campsite	Campsite/village	Early Woodland
Morel Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Old I.C. Train Grade Campsite	Campsite/village	Late Paleo-Indian
West of the Buildings Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Wytttenbach Outcrop Campsite	Campsite/village	Late Archaic, Woodland
Flat Campsite	Campsite/village	Middle Archaic
Wytttenbach Spring Campsite	Campsite/village	Late Woodland
Swiggum West Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Tri-owned Campsite	Campsite/village	Middle Woodland
Thundering Deer	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Crumb Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Hendrickson Worksite	Workshop site	Unknown Prehistoric
Poverty Know Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Late Woodland
Gruenenfelder	Lithic scatter	Early Archaic
Baker's Bonanza	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric
Strommen	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric
Bird Perch	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric
Ericksons Corn	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric
Silty Parrot	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric
Ponderosa Pasture	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric
Syse Quarry	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric
Nelson Scatter	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric
Road to Moscow	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric
Cattle Pass	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric
South End Site	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric

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

The Plan Commission identified local cultural resource contacts in Table E.3.

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

Name	Program/Affiliation	Area of Historical Expertise
BCPI (Blanchardville Community Pride)	Main St/Chamber combination	
Blanchardville Historical Society	Volunteer board of directors, membership organization	
Blanchardville Village government through the Village Board		

### **HISTORIC ORDINANCE**

The Village does not have an historic preservation ordinance and although there are a few people interested, the Commission noted that keeping existing organizations, boards, and committees maintained was hard enough, so did not think it worthwhile to form an historic preservation commission at this time.

### **AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCE AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS**

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

#### **WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WI-DNR)**

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 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 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 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 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**

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>