

# Chapter 5: Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

## Introduction

Dane County enjoys a diverse and complex landscape, carved ten thousand years ago by retreating glaciers. The county contains: 37 lakes, 489 miles of warmwater and coldwater streams, underground aquifers that supply 48 million gallons of drinking water a day, over 50,000 acres of wetlands, hundreds of thousands of acres of productive farm soils and significant remnants of native prairie, woodland, savanna, wetland and aquatic ecosystems. Continued urban growth, declining farm economies and habitat fragmentation pose severe challenges for preservation, conservation and management of county natural resources.

## Purpose

To conserve and effectively manage Dane County's irreplaceable agricultural, natural and cultural resources, including:

- Groundwater;
- Forests;
- Productive agriculture areas;
- Environmentally sensitive areas;

- Threatened or endangered species;
- Stream corridors;
- Surface water;
- Floodplains;
- Wetlands;
- Wildlife habitat;
- Metallic/non-metallic mineral resources;
- Parks and open space;
- Historic and cultural resources;
- Recreational resources, and;
- Other resources.

This chapter includes recommendations related to:

- County public education and technical assistance programs;
- County capital investment, public infrastructure and financial incentive programs;
- County real estate and easement acquisition programs, and;
- County planning and administrative programs.

### Key Issues

**Each year, Dane County absorbs the largest population increase in Wisconsin. Given such rapid growth, how can Dane County:**

- Continue to provide safe drinking water to half a million people, even as municipal wells draw the regional groundwater table lower and lower?
- Protect the county's 21 Outstanding and Exceptional Resource waterways, while also improving the county's 20 impaired waterways?
- Maintain its status as the state's most economically productive agricultural county?
- Protect unique natural landscapes (including habitat for 60 endangered or threatened species) at the intersection of four statewide ecological zones and a terminal glacial moraine?
- Preserve the archaeological and architectural heritage of a land that has been continuously settled since 600 A.D.?
- Provide an adequate supply of sand, gravel and other mineral resources to build our homes, buildings and roads, while protecting public safety and the environment?

In addition, the ANCR workgroup made a number of recommendations related to amendments to the county land use and environmental protection ordinances and regulations. These recommendations, together with similar proposed ordinance changes recommended by the other two work groups, have been included in the Land Use chapter of this plan.

## Stakeholders

The Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources work group (ANCR) developed and approved all goals, objectives and policies using a consensus model. ANCR included broad and diverse representation from a variety of stakeholders, including mineral extraction industries, environmental groups, traditional and organic farmers, outdoor recreation organizations, town, city and village officials, historic preservation experts, state conservation agencies and water resources professionals. Other contributors to this chapter included representatives from regional and water quality planning entities, county and state resource management agencies, the Wisconsin Historical Society and the University of Wisconsin.

## Survey Results

Resource protection issues rank very highly among the concerns of Dane County residents. Eighty-six percent of respondents to the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan Survey* said the county should pay either “somewhat more” or “considerably more” attention to managing water resources. A majority of respondents also said the county should pay more attention to managing both wildlife and agricultural resources. Respondents said that the county should generally take an active role in resource protection issues, with a focus on steering development away from sensitive resources and using regulation where necessary to limit impacts.

## Background and Orientation

Dane County has a long history of planning for resource protection. Many natural resource planning activities are ongoing, to meet various state or federal requirements. The *Dane County Comprehensive Plan* incorporates by reference, and builds on, the most current version of the following county or regional natural resource plans:

- *Dane County Land Use and Transportation Plan*;
- *Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan*;
- *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*;
- *Dane County Water Quality Plan*;
- *Dane County Land and Water Conservation Plan, and*;
- *Dane County Flood Mitigation Plan*.

In general, state law grants county governments considerable authority with respect to natural resource management. Like other Wisconsin counties, Dane County administers state-mandated shoreland, wetland and floodplain zoning ordinances in unincorporated areas. All unincorporated areas in Dane County also fall under the county’s general zoning and land division ordinances, and the county is the largest participant in the state farmland preservation program.

## Goals, Objectives, Policies and Programs

### Agricultural and Mineral Resources

#### Agricultural Resources

##### Goals

1. *Identify areas of Dane County suitable for long-term preservation and viability of diverse agricultural enterprises and resources. Protect or encourage protection of those areas for the benefit and use of current and future generations.*

##### Supporting objectives

- A. Minimize the amount of land converted from agricultural use to accommodate permitted non-farm development.
- B. Develop and implement new tools, such as Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE), Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and conservation subdivisions to meet agricultural resource goals.
- C. Implement fees and other financial mechanisms to support agricultural preservation

efforts and create a disincentive for unnecessary conversion of agricultural land.

2. *Maintain Dane County's status as one of the nation's most productive and economically viable agricultural areas. Keep farming economically viable in Dane County through the 21st century.*

#### Supporting objectives

- A. Ordinances and regulations, which restrict noise, odors, keeping of animals or other activities that could inhibit typical farm operations, should not apply in locally designated agricultural areas.
- B. Actively promote and develop direct-marketing alternatives for all agricultural foods and products.
- C. Develop marketing tools to promote use of Dane County grown goods in local, regional and wider markets.
- D. Continue and strengthen efforts to educate farmers about cost-saving measures.
- E. Educate the general public on the value that agricultural production/agri-business adds to the Dane County economy.
  - (1) Help entrepreneurs plan, start and grow new enterprises that capture value from agriculture.
  - (2) Provide information about modern agricultural production to foster understanding and tolerance between farmers and their residential neighbors.
  - (3) Consider whether any new county regulations would put Dane County farmers at a

competitive disadvantage to farmers in adjoining counties.

3. *Maintain Dane County's rural character and preserve the distinct character and physical separation of Dane County communities.*

#### Supporting objectives

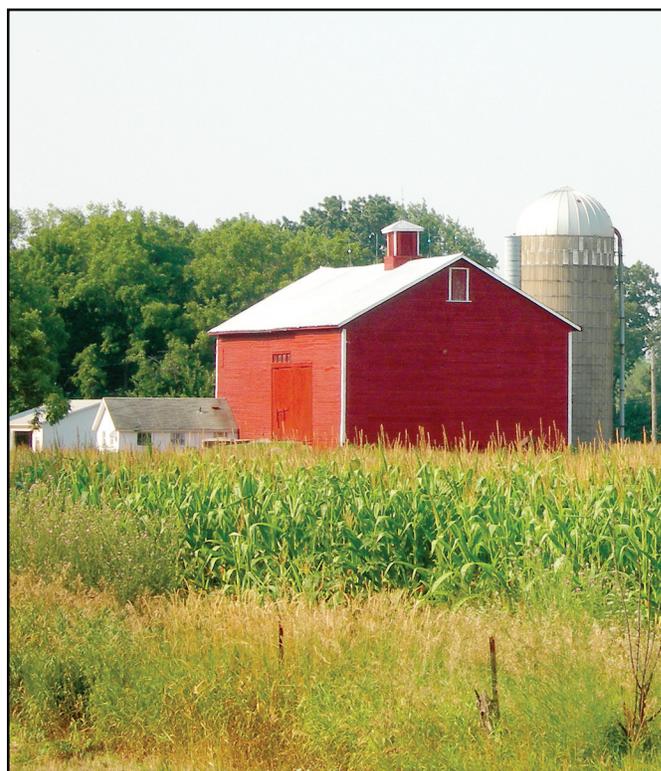
- A. Encourage separation of incompatible uses in rural areas.
- B. Encourage future urban development to be compact, adjacent to existing development and consistent with town planning policies.
- C. Commercial and industrial uses that are not agriculturally related should be located in areas identified for such use and where the full range of public services (sewer, water, fire protection and police protection) can be economically provided.
- D. Reduce scattered rural nonfarm development by encouraging clustering of rural development as part of a town farmland preservation strategy. Provide tools such as conservation subdivisions to accomplish this objective.

#### Policies and Programs

1. Continue and expand assistance and incentive programs as identified in the *Land and Water Resources Plan*, including those related to:
  - A. education;
  - B. conservation planning;
  - C. technical assistance;
  - D. cost-share;



- E. financial incentives, and;
  - F. facility design.
2. Continue and expand direct services, marketing assistance and on-demand technical assistance provided to farmers through Dane County University of Wisconsin Extension (UWEX) programs to:
    - A. Educate farmers about new ways they can improve their incomes;
    - B. Provide loans, referrals and business counseling to farmers in a farm-specific program;
    - C. Educate farmers about conservation easements as an alternative to development and a way to pass farms on to future generations;
    - D. Hold farming community sharing meetings where farmers can talk to each other about what they do to save costs, etc.;
    - E. Provide technical assistance to Dane County agricultural producers in the development of marketing cooperatives, and;
    - F. Support and help promote new “how to” farmer training programs and initiatives for beginning farmers in Dane County.
  3. Design and implement education workshops and distribute materials for farmers, developers, landowners and the general public, including:
    - A. Educate landowners on their options and alternatives to development (ask non-profits and others to help) – TDR, PDR, etc.;
    - B. Publicize benefits/drawbacks of conservation subdivisions;
    - C. Develop a publication giving notice to rural home/property owners of potential impacts of agricultural practices such as road traffic (tractors, etc) and manure odor; require distribution to all new rural property buyers;
    - D. Notify rural residential landowners of farming practices by notices recorded with deeds, surveys or other legal documents, and;
    - E. Develop and distribute a map of Dane County that illustrates the types and location of agriculture in the county.
  4. Develop and implement a comprehensive economic development program to support, expand and enhance agriculture as a viable economic activity in Dane County. (*See Chapter 6: Economic Development.*)
  5. Make sure county-funded highway and other transportation improvements and plans take into account the needs of farmers. (*See Chapter 3: Transportation.*)
  6. Work to develop viable, affordable options for rural farm families needing health insurance.
  7. Continue to support the Dane County Food Council to:
    - A. help capitalize on Dane County’s exceptional assets;
    - B. coordinate efforts to build a stronger local food system;
    - C. advise county government to address food system issues, particularly aimed at strengthening the capacity of the local and regional food system;



- D. assist in food-related education;
  - E. gather relevant data and information;
  - F. play a coordinating role among groups in the local food system, and;
  - G. develop policies to address food system issues.
8. Continue to consider a permanent, countywide Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program to protect large areas of agricultural land. *(See Chapter 8: Land Use.)*
  9. Continue to develop a permanent, countywide Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program to preserve agricultural lands. *(See Chapter 8: Land Use.)*
  10. Revise county zoning and land division ordinances and county and town plans to establish design guidelines that minimize conversion of agricultural land, and support farm operations and agriculture-related businesses. *(See Chapter 8: Land Use.)*
  11. Enforce existing penalties under state law for land converted from agricultural use.
    - A. The County Treasurer should collect penalties and distribute to local municipalities.
    - B. Dane County's share of penalties should go to the Dane County Conservation Fund to fund purchase of agricultural easements from interested landowners.
  12. Work with the DNR and Capital Area Regional Planning Commission to establish objective standards for Urban Service Area approvals that take into account potential agricultural impacts.



## Mineral Resources

### Goals

1. *Identify and protect as much of the county's non-metallic mineral resources as is practicable, in the context of environmental, residential and other land use planning objectives, to supply local and regional needs.*

### Supporting objectives

- A. Develop an inventory to identify potential non-metallic mineral resources of significance.
- B. Estimate the volume of currently permitted non-metallic mineral reserves in Dane County. Project the 20-year demand for such resources.
- C. Consider implementation steps such as development of mineral resource districts, mineral resource protection policies or other appropriate measures to protect the resource and to balance mineral extraction with other land uses.
- D. Allow nonfarm development within 1000 feet of identified significant mineral resources only after it has been demonstrated that the proposed land use or development would not significantly preclude or hinder future non-metallic mineral extraction.

2. *Minimize or mitigate negative environmental, neighborhood, traffic and other impacts of all active mineral extraction operations.*

#### Supporting objectives

- A. Encourage the continuation of compatible land uses such as agriculture or forestry on lands with identified significant mineral resources.
  - B. Establish consistent, measurable standards for permitting and operation of mineral extraction sites, so that public benefits are maximized, while detrimental effects to the environment are minimized.
  - C. Prohibit new land uses that will interfere with existing mineral extraction operations.
3. *Require environmentally sound reclamation of all active mineral extraction sites using the best techniques and practices currently available.*

#### Supporting objectives

- A. Provide adequate implementation, administration and enforcement of Chapter 74 of the Dane County Code.
  - B. Make reclamation plans and final uses of reclaimed lands compatible with farmland preservation goals and local and county land use plans.
4. *Encourage and assist the reclamation of identified non-operating mineral extraction sites.*

#### Supporting objectives

- A. Establish a funding source based on active mineral extraction operations to assist in the reclamation of non-operating sites.
5. *Increase public awareness and appreciation of mineral resource extraction needs, operations, impacts and permitting requirements.*

#### Supporting objectives

- A. Develop and distribute public information materials on mineral extraction issues.
- B. Develop methods to notify future landowners of the presence or possibility of nearby mineral extraction operations.

6. *Encourage the recycling and reuse of products of mineral extraction, such as concrete and asphalt.*

#### Supporting objectives

- A. Create incentives to substitute recycled products (i.e., concrete and asphalt) for virgin aggregate.
  - B. Focus on resources that can be recycled and reused.
7. *Expand the role of local government in final decisions of site permitting.*

#### Supporting objectives

- A. Increase the role of town government in county approval of mineral extraction operations.
- B. Strongly encourage local units of government to incorporate mineral extraction resource and operation information and standards into their comprehensive plans.

#### Policies and Programs

1. Amend the county zoning ordinance to improve standards and adopt objective criteria for siting, operation and expansion of mineral extraction sites. Provide mechanisms to increase public awareness and improve coordination between town and county government. (*See Chapter 8: Land Use.*)
2. Map all locations of best mineral extraction sites in coordination with private mineral companies. Consider these locations when doing acquisitions or easements for other purposes.
3. Consider allowing minerals to be extracted from publicly owned land, except for parcels purchased for parks or open space use, where consistent with other public objectives. Reinvest revenues to improve, restore or develop county parks, lakes, forests, tree planting and other high-priority natural resources.
4. Work with towns to identify areas where limited or no rezones to allow residential development would be permitted until mineral extraction and reclamation is complete, in order to protect significant, undeveloped mineral resources. Consider leases of

development rights and temporary easements to compensate landowners affected by such restrictions.

5. Conduct an inventory of inactive, unreclaimed mineral extraction sites in Dane County.
6. Develop educational flyers, website information and other media related to: the need for mineral resources; the need for, and ways to reuse or recycle mineral resources; potential impacts, and mitigation or management techniques; the transitional nature of mineral extraction operations; current permitting and reclamation requirements; the presence of existing or proposed mineral extraction sites, and; opportunities for public and local government input into permitting decisions.

## **Natural Resources**

### **Land Resources**

#### **Goals**

1. *Develop and promote a countywide system of open space corridors as a framework to protect and where possible, restore the natural environment and scenic values, provide outdoor recreation opportunities and preserve for posterity the nature and diversity of our natural heritage.*

#### **Supporting objectives**

- A. Continue to consider a countywide Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) framework for towns, villages and cities that wish to join. (*See Chapter 8: Land Use.*)
- B. Minimize encroachment and adverse impacts of utilities and transportation facilities on land and water resources in Dane County.
- C. Environmental corridors which are identified in a plan adopted by the county and town boards and which are part of an operating farm should be zoned either for agriculture or conservancy use.
- D. Seek to incorporate adopted regional trails within future transportation corridors, public rights-of-way and public easements.

2. *Provide sufficient parks and outdoor recreation areas to meet the needs of the residents of Dane County.*

#### **Supporting objectives**

- A. Fully implement the recreational elements of the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*.
- B. Conduct regular surveys of Dane County residents on a periodic basis to find out if all recreational needs are met.
3. *Use open space to achieve recreational connections, separation of communities and help guide urban growth.*

#### **Supporting objectives**

- A. Cooperate with other units of government in establishing a permanent network of open spaces and resource corridors, linked where possible, adjacent to all parts of the central urban area of the county.
4. *Protect and maximize public enjoyment of the scenic qualities of Dane County by preserving views of landmarks, including high promontories or viewpoints, mitigating the visual impact of proposed developments and facilities, and improving public access to scenic areas and views.*

#### **Supporting objectives**

- A. Maintenance of native vegetation along local roadsides should be encouraged when practical.
- B. Define and map viewsheds and watersheds that might impact Recreation Parks, Natural Resource Sites, Historic Sites, Regional Trails, and Scenic Driving Corridors as identified within the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*.
- C. Develop a scheme to work with willing landowners to protect mapped viewsheds and watersheds.

5. *Preserve, restore and sustain Dane County natural communities and resources, including grasslands, wetlands, woodlands and soils, to protect their benefits for:*

- *economic land use;*
- *wildlife habitat;*
- *erosion control;*
- *preservation of natural beauty;*
- *groundwater recharge;*
- *water quality protection;*
- *flood prevention, and;*
- *ecosystem health.*

Supporting objectives

- A. Fully implement the natural resource protection elements of the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*.
- B. Complete the 10-year Conservation Fund acquisition program described in the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan* by year 8.
- C. Renew the Conservation Fund for 10 years by 2008.
- D. Identify and map key natural resources, including those outside the scope of the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*, prior or concurrently to renewal of another 10 year Conservation Fund program.

6. *Promote a holistic, ecosystem-based and sustainable approach to natural resource protection.*

Supporting objectives

- A. Recognize the inter-relationship of adjacent landscape types, and avoid dividing natural units or breaking important linkages.
- B. Protect the scenic values of the Dane County landscape by preserving and enhancing vegetative cover, particularly on steep, wooded slopes and stream and lake shorelands.
- C. Plan and implement the restoration and management of prairies, woodlands and wetlands on public lands and with willing private property owners.

- D. Increase opportunities for public/private partnerships for protecting natural areas in Dane County.

*Policies and Programs*

1. Continue to consider a permanent, countywide Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program to protect agricultural and natural resources. (*See Chapter 8: Land Use.*)
2. Continue to develop a permanent, countywide Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program to protect agricultural and natural resources. (*See Chapter 8: Land Use.*)
3. Accelerate implementation and enhance the recommendations of the current *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*. Identify lead agencies, local units of government, and non-profits responsible for implementing the natural resource protection and recreation elements, including those outside the scope of the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*.
  - A. Explore the use of a variety of funding mechanisms, including recreational user fees, to fund recreational recommendations of the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*.
  - B. Continue to fully fund and complete project planning, recreational facility development, implementation, trail development, land management and ecological restoration activities.
  - C. Continue to develop and provide access to water-based recreation trails for canoes, kayaks and similar watercraft. Improve separate canoe/kayak access to navigable waterways at all county properties and encourage townships and municipalities to do the same by seeking partnership funding and developing a countywide plan for this access.
  - D. Continue to fully fund and implement the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program.



- E. Increase the Dane County Parks Division's capacity to implement master plans for parks and resource areas in order to bring the public and community into conservation projects.
4. Expand the scope and purpose of the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan* in future updates to adequately meet the natural resource protection and recreation needs of Dane County.
    - A. Expand the range of tools used to protect and restore identified natural resource areas.
    - B. Incorporate regular, periodic surveys on use of parks and recreational facilities in countywide mailings, such as tax bills.
    - C. Include archaeological, historic and cultural significance among the criteria for acquiring and managing lands under relevant county real estate acquisition programs.
    - D. Identify, map and prioritize key natural resources, including those outside the scope of the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*, for possible inclusion in future updates of the plan.
    - E. Identify water bodies with insufficient public access and target lands for acquisition related to public water access in future updates of the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*. Explore incentives for landowners to allow public access to their land (beyond the Ordinary Highwater Mark).
  - F. Develop criteria for and designate a system of water trails connecting streams and lakes. Possible criteria might include: locations for limited or unimproved access, quiet areas or times of day, the quality of viewshed, habitat protection, public ownership and access, and public safety.
  - G. Use computer modeling, site visits, consultations with other partners, including foresters, conservationists, landscape architects, planners and others, to define and map viewsheds, watersheds and buffer areas that might impact current or proposed *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan* lands.
  - H. Develop protection strategies for viewsheds, watersheds, and other buffer areas. Strategies might include: creation of voluntary "friends" groups; inclusion in PDR and TDR programs; eligibility for Conservation Grant funding; site design regulations, and; others.
  - I. Consider methods, such as negotiations for easement acquisition, conservation easements, voluntary stewardship, negotiated subdivision covenants, landowner education, or design standards to create appropriate buffers between public conservation or recreation land and neighboring uses. Charge the Dane County Parks Commission with developing specific implementation policies to this end.
  - J. Include comprehensive planning goals and objectives related to additional priority natural resource areas, watersheds, viewsheds, and open space networks in future updates of the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*.

- K. Review lands recommended for acquisition in the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan* to see if there are any lands already or better protected through regulation or other programs, such as wetlands or floodplains.
5. Provide enhanced planning assistance to towns to support natural resource protection and conservation. (*See Chapter 8: Land Use.*)
  6. Create ordinances that require communities to work together on land use, comprehensive and parks and open space plans. (*See Chapter 8: Land Use.*)
  7. Develop and implement guidelines for vegetation, maintenance and management of county rights-of-way, roadways, utility corridors and grounds to protect scenic, ecological and natural characteristics of county-owned land.
    - A. Work with other jurisdictions to develop similar standards.
    - B. Develop an education program for highway and town road workers to identify and encourage native plants and to identify and eradicate noxious, invasive species.
  8. Fully implement and enhance programs identified in the *Dane County Land and Water Resource Management Plan*.
    - A. Create a central database for all existing cost-sharing and payment programs (such as CRP, CREP, WRP, nutrient management, rain gardens, conservation easements, etc.) available to all landowners.
    - B. Create financial incentives for private owners of woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and other native communities to improve the ecological health and habitat by removing invasives, planting desirable species, and harvesting or managing as appropriate.
    - C. Continue to expand information and education efforts directed at agricultural nonpoint source control. Additional emphasis should be placed on fertilizer management and use, integrated pest management and minimization of pesticide use, and safe handling of pesticides and other hazardous farm materials.
  - D. Expand inventory efforts and develop animal waste management plans for farms where over 25 animal units are kept near water bodies, or where significant pollution potential exists.
  - E. Obtain conservation easements and install fencing, livestock crossings, and other improvements needed to protect stream corridors and reduce streambank erosion.
  9. Amend county zoning, shoreland zoning, land division and other ordinances to minimize impacts to, and promote restoration of, native ecological communities. (*See Chapter 8: Land Use.*)
  10. Expand and enhance educational programs to promote sound environmental stewardship practices among private landowners.
    - A. Hold shoreland restoration demonstrations on public properties.
    - B. Produce and distribute educational materials and websites related to native landscaping, tree care and maintenance and insect/disease control.
    - C. Encourage cities, villages and towns to achieve Tree City USA status.
    - D. Show all public parks, trails, natural resource areas and public fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing lands on all county maps for public distribution.
    - E. Develop and install interpretive signs and develop school tours to publicize examples of good stewardship.



## Water Resources

### Goals

1. *Develop comprehensive water management policies for Dane County, considering the connections between land-use, urban growth, and surface water and groundwater issues.*

### Supporting objectives

- A. Encourage land use patterns and practices that preserve the integrity of the natural hydrologic system, including the balance between ground and surface waters.
  - B. Partner with and involve citizens, businesses, and other units of government on soil and water conservation initiatives in rural and urban areas.
  - C. Support educational initiatives through public schools, the University of Wisconsin and UWEX relating to land and water conservation.
  - D. Require that short-term uses of the land for resource extraction or waste disposal are conducted in such a manner that public benefits are maximized, while detrimental effects to the environment are minimized.
  - E. New urban and rural development will be in areas that minimize potential adverse impacts on the quality of ground and surface waters.
2. *Decrease flooding and flood-related problems within Dane County and in areas affected by Dane County drainage.*

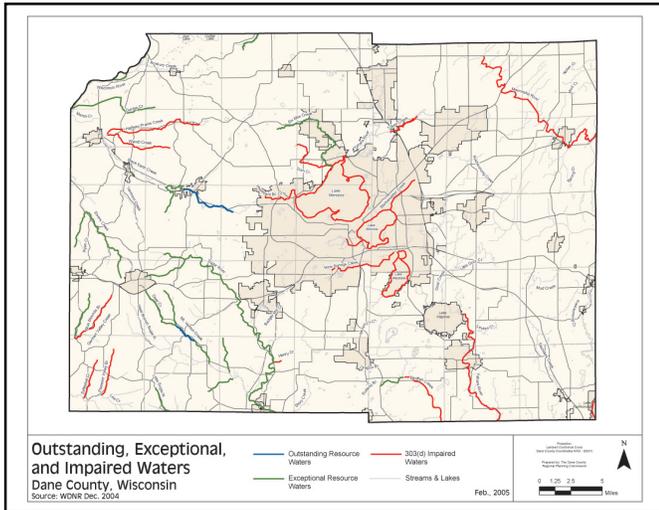
### Supporting objectives

- A. Prevent development from increasing the potential for flood-related problems.
  - B. Mitigate or remove existing flood hazards.
  - C. Minimize runoff and maintain or enhance infiltration from existing and new developments.
3. *Protect, improve and rehabilitate the quality and quantity of groundwater in Dane County. Provide a sustainable supply of drinking water while maintaining the natural hydrologic cycle and groundwater-dependent ecosystems.*

### Supporting objectives

- A. Determine an ideal level for the regional water table, develop a plan of immediate short-term and long-term actions to stabilize the water table at that level, and begin increasing groundwater level as soon as possible.
- B. Map areas of high infiltration, soils, known recharge areas and areas suitable for wetland restoration.
- C. Expand the range of tools available to protect groundwater quality, including municipal wellhead protection ordinances, improved monitoring of land-spreading septage and innovative technologies for private and public wastewater treatment.
- D. Promote public awareness of the need for water conservation.
- E. Implement water conservation and decrease per-capita water consumption through development of standards for new development and incentives for existing development.
- F. Recommend groundwater protection strategies to protect groundwater quality, improve existing management and prevent groundwater pollution.
- G. All major land use and siting decisions in Dane County should include evaluation of potential groundwater and hydrologic impacts.

- H. Incorporate stormwater management practices, such as detention and infiltration, in new urban and rural development to maintain or improve groundwater recharge.
- I. Implement a policy of no net loss of groundwater recharge, compared to presettlement ecosystems, for all new development.



**4. *Protect and rehabilitate the water quality and clarity of the surface water resources of Dane County to support: native fish and aquatic life populations; ecological functions; natural scenic beauty; public health and safety, and; water-based recreation. Surface water resources include rural and urban lakes, rivers, wetlands and watersheds.***

**Supporting objectives**

- A. Maintain or enhance the designation of all current Outstanding Resource Waters, Exceptional Resource Waters, Class I and Class II Trout Streams through 2045.
- B. Improve at least 80% of 303(d) impaired water bodies to the point that they are no longer listed as impaired by 2045 at the rate of at least 20% per decade. Prevent any new water bodies from becoming impaired.
- C. Implement effective regulations, education programs and cleaning procedures at public and private boat landings, starting by no later than 2008, to eliminate the spread of invasive aquatic plants and animal species in Dane County lakes and rivers.

- D. Preserve the role of wetlands, woodlands and streambank buffers as essential components of the hydrologic system as well as valuable wildlife habitat. Restore degraded wetland resources and streambank buffers where possible.
- E. Increase vegetative cover within urban areas.
- F. Manage nutrients in an economic and environmentally sound manner.
- G. New urban and suburban development will incorporate utilization of natural drainage patterns and measures to minimize or entrap pollutants before they enter surface waters.
- H. Protect shoreland and floodplain areas throughout the County, in both incorporated and unincorporated areas, and emphasize their value to the community as potential focal points of natural beauty and recreation.
- I. Coordinate water quality monitoring.
- J. Better manage, mitigate and encourage new technologies to improve quality and reduce quantity of urban stormwater runoff.
- K. Better manage mitigate and encourage new technologies to improve quality and reduce quantity of rural and agricultural stormwater runoff.

**5. *Develop and promote a countywide system of open space corridors based on watersheds as a framework to protect the natural environment and scenic values, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities.***

**Supporting objectives**

- A. Permanently protect key sensitive and critical environmental resources, including, but not limited to: infiltration areas; riparian habitat; in-stream habitat; wetland habitat; wetlands; groundwater recharge areas; open space corridors; spawning grounds; shore cover, and; headwater areas.
- B. Fully implement the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*.



**6. Enhance recreational opportunities associated with water resources.**

**Supporting objectives**

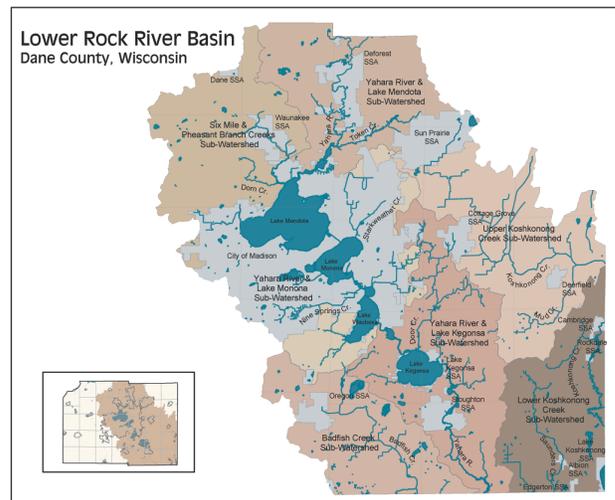
- A. Provide access to lakes and streams and water-based recreation trails.
- B. Encourage use of our lakes and parks as public gathering places.
- C. Add more and improve existing public accesses to water resources, including landings and shoreline parks.
- D. Ensure quality access for a wide variety of water uses while minimizing competition and conflict.
- E. Manage water levels and protect shorelines to preserve scenic beauty.

**7. Use watershed boundaries to inform relevant land use and water resource planning and decision-making.**

**Supporting objectives**

- A. Use watersheds as geographic units of analysis to evaluate the impacts to water bodies of both current land uses and proposed changes in land use.
- B. Encourage integration and coordination of public agencies and local units of government within every watershed to achieve improvement to the quality of all water bodies in Dane County.

- C. Foster partnerships with water resource-oriented citizen's groups to involve them in each stage of watershed planning and decision-making.
- D. Educate local elected officials and members of local planning and zoning commissions about critical water resource issues within their watershed, by having watershed-based training workshops at regular intervals, and other educational efforts as appropriate.
- E. Educate local residents, developers and elected officials about changes in Wisconsin DNR rules and regulations regarding surface water, ground water and conservation.
- F. Direct planning staff to organize information about current land use and anticipated changes in land use by watershed.



**Policies and Programs**

- 1. Continue to implement and update the *Dane County Water Quality Plan*.
  - A. Work with the Wisconsin DNR, cities, villages, towns and municipal sewer districts to continue support for the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, to:
    - (1) Approve public sewer and water extensions under NR 121, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and in a manner consistent with the *Dane County Water Quality Plan*;

- (2) Provide information, mapping and protection for environmental and open space corridors;
  - (3) Approve public wastewater facilities and improvement planning in the context of comprehensive areawide and watershed plans for pollution control and resource protection. Make sure facility expansions meet other regional goals, such as capacity to accept septage;
  - (4) Coordinate water quality monitoring, and hydrological modelling, and;
  - (5) Direct future updates of the *Dane County Water Quality Plan*.
    - a. Give priority to areas of the highest environmental sensitivity and growth pressure, including:
      - (a) all communities within the Central Urban Service Area;
      - (b) all communities within the Northern Urban Service Area;
      - (c) all urban service areas with a year 2000 Census population of 3,000 or more, and;
      - (d) the Black Earth Urban Service Area.
    - b. Consider other factors including the impacts on natural and built systems, the efficient use of land including urban densities, and the ability to efficiently provide services to support the development and farmland preservation planning.
- B. Continue to support extension of public sewer service only within those areas designated as urban service areas or limited service areas in local, county and regional plans. Fully fund and implement the county government action steps identified in the *Dane County Water Quality Plan*.
2. Fully fund, implement and continue to update the *Dane County Land and Water Resource Management Plan*. (See *Land Resources Policy 8*.)
  3. Implement and enhance the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*. (See *Land Resources Policies 4 and 5*.)
  4. By no later than 2008, Dane County staff, working with local units of government and local residents, will develop a schedule and a process to create a plan for each watershed in the county, focusing on issues of infiltration, wetland preservation, recommended development phasing and stream buffers over a 50-year timeline. These watershed plans, when completed, shall become a part of the water resources component in a future update of the *Dane County Comprehensive Plan*. Components of these watershed plans should include the following elements.
    - A. For each watershed, map:
      - (1) permeable soils and land cover that promote infiltration;
      - (2) known recharge areas, including wellhead protection areas for all municipal wells;
      - (3) areas suitable for wetland restoration;
      - (4) all currently protected lands (public lands, DNR easements, NRCS buffers, etc), and;
      - (5) public access points to each waterbody.
    - B. Develop a clearinghouse of information regarding groundwater recharge rates, well locations, draw down rates, etc. in areas to aid planning.
    - C. Complete and implement the Dane County Waterbody Classification system (currently underway) to design programs that take into account the environmental sensitivity and existing development conditions for each water body. Program policies should treat all riparian landowners (including public, private, in incorporated or in unincorporated areas) within a particular waterbody class in a uniform way. Specific programs could include:
      - (1) Waterbody-sensitive shoreland zoning regulations, including standards for vegetative buffer protection and restoration, mitigation of nonconforming uses, slope protection and conservancy overlay districts;

- (2) Cost-share funding, including wetland, lakeshore and streambank restoration, and in-water habitat;
  - (3) acquisition;
  - (4) education, and;
  - (5) other county programs.
- D. Educate local communities about where their key ground and surface water features are (once mapped) so they can incorporate them in land use and comprehensive plans.
  - E. Analyze economic impacts of impaired waters, exceptional resource waters and outstanding resource waters.
  - F. Incorporate existing DNR information related to point-source and nonpoint-source pollutants within each watershed. Consult with DNR to maintain and update as necessary.
  - G. Consider program changes and recommendations to better protect watershed headwaters.
  - H. Work with cities and villages to use development and impact fees to help fund watershed planning efforts; add some levy funds for “all-rural” watersheds.
  - I. Identify funding and hire additional county staff to manage the watershed planning program and implementation.
  - J. Design a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment system (LESA) to specifically identify significant infiltration areas for each watershed.
  - K. Establish criteria and land use practices to promote infiltration on a watershed-wide basis.
  - L. Incorporate detailed, site-specific watershed studies as they become available.
  - M. Develop model watershed plans that introduce the concept of a “groundwater budget” to encourage conservation, recycling and reuse of groundwater, for each watershed.
- 5. Develop and implement an integrated flood prevention and mitigation program.
    - A. Fully implement the *Dane County Flood Mitigation Plan*.



- B. Revise county flood control and other facility design, maintenance and management policies to reduce flood hazards and better manage high water conditions. Specific issues to address include the following.
    - (1) Evaluate methods such as modification of bridge constrictions, aquatic plant modification, dredging, channel modification, etc. to increase flow conveyance.
    - (2) Provide sufficient resources to actively enforce and administer county floodplain zoning ordinances to strictly limit new development within floodplains. Evaluate county and municipal floodplain zoning standards to see if ordinances adequately protect floodplains and revise as necessary.
- 6. Work with the WI DNR and municipalities to manage water control structures from Lake Mendota to below the Stebbinsville Dam under a unified, coordinated and recordable management strategy based on a Yahara River System management plan. Use the calibrated Yahara Lakes model currently under development to optimize management of the Yahara Lake system.
    - A. Continue to work with the WI DNR to design water level orders to address all four seasons, not just summer maximum and winter minimum.

- B. Continue to work with the WI DNR to coordinate lake levels in the Yahara River system to support fish spawning and survival and support native aquatic vegetation.
  - C. Establish a structure and process for ongoing planning and funding for capital improvement and maintenance of flood control and navigation structures on the Yahara River system (i.e. locks, dams and conveyance channels). Explore the use of user fees to finance operations and maintenance of boat launch facilities and locks.
  - D. Continue to evaluate the need to renovate Tenney, Babcock and LaFollette locks and dams. The evaluation should include the possibility of automating the gates at one or all of the dams.
7. Remove closed pipes/channels and establish natural waterways in their place where possible, with exceptions for active agricultural practices.
8. Continue, enhance and update county erosion control and stormwater management programs.
- A. Ensure there is adequate budget and staff for construction site erosion control and stormwater management to meet plan review and inspection targets as described in Chapter 14, Dane County Code.
  - B. Develop the capacity and funding sources to have the county perform or contract for emergency stabilization work on sites where significant erosion or flood damage is occurring as a result of permit violations.
  - C. Support amendments to state law to permit county or regional stormwater utilities to plan and construct regional stormwater facilities to serve watersheds with a high level of existing development and significant stormwater problems. Identify a permanent source of funding for project development, construction and ongoing maintenance.
  - D. Review county zoning and land division ordinances to see if there are opportunities to modify parking lot, street width and other standards to reduce impervious surface areas of new developments. Encourage permeable paving surfaces in parking lots, overflow parking areas and walkways.
9. Work with local municipalities to adopt minimum standards for shoreland, floodplain and wetland zoning, road salt (or other ice or snow melt material) use, street cleaning, storm sewer maintenance, storm sewer outlet protection, shoreline protection, and construction site erosion control ordinances. Continue to develop standards for stormwater management plans in conjunction with local and state management agencies.
- A. Develop a schedule to monitor installed stormwater management practices to evaluate their maintenance and long-term effectiveness.
  - B. Work with towns, cities and villages to design incentives, such as density-bonuses, cost-share or tax breaks, for development designs and practices that go beyond minimum standards for water quality protection.
  - C. Encourage creation of and improvements to municipal stormwater utilities' rate structures to provide incentives for practices such as permeable pavement, rain garden installation, etc.
  - D. Work with cities and villages to allow developers to meet infiltration requirements by cost-sharing infiltration practices in other locations, e.g., private homes, schools, churches – this could operate like an “infiltration mitigation bank.”
  - E. Adopt model neighborhood and community design standards that encourage stormwater management that exceeds minimum standards. (*See Chapter 8: Land Use.*)

- F. Provide ongoing funding for county urban water quality programs to upgrade and retrofit stormwater outfalls.
10. Expand and enhance the tools available to the county and other communities to promote groundwater protection.
    - A. Develop a countywide program that includes purchase of development rights or acquisition, dedicated to protecting areas of significant infiltration, municipal wellhead areas, and lands contributing to recharge of major aquifers. This could ultimately serve as an “infiltration mitigation bank” to assist in meeting state and county stormwater infiltration requirements on a watershed or regional basis. Develop a funding program that would allow for joint contributions from local, county, state and federal governments and private sources.
    - B. Identify high recharge areas in existing developments and promote demonstration / research projects there to mitigate the impacts of concentrated impervious areas.
    - C. Work with municipalities to develop wellhead protection plans to maximize infiltration and prevent groundwater pollution.
    - D. Amend the county land division ordinance to promote site design that maximizes infiltration.
    - E. Define parameters of “major land use” needing hydrological analysis. Develop a systematic methodology to examine hydrological impacts at the time a rezone request is made.
    - F. Make hydrologic resources (facts, computer modeling, etc) widely available to county staff, towns, cities and villages. Provide training where appropriate to assist in the use of these resources.
    - G. Provide partial funding for a feasibility study and an environmental assessment to explore returning treated wastewater to groundwater in the upper portions of the Yahara River watershed. Such a study should include the following considerations.
      - (1) Build on current work by the UW. Odana Road Co-Generation Plant groundwater infiltration project, and include recommendations to expand similar programs to other watersheds.
      - (2) Identify partners such as the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, the Wisconsin DNR, the University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, the Cities of Madison, Middleton and others for potential supplemental funding and support.
      - (3) Suggest amendments to state, county and local regulations, as well as regional water and sewer utility policies, to allow for such a practice while protecting groundwater and surface water quality.
      - (4) Evaluate the current state of infiltration, effluent treatment, and water conservation technologies. Recommend ways (such as county, state and University –funded research) to stimulate development of any new technologies needed.
  11. Develop a county program to monitor land spreading of septage from private onsite wastewater treatment systems and enforce state requirements.
    - A. Amend the county zoning ordinance, the county sanitary code, or other appropriate ordinances to allow county officials to regulate siting and to enforce requirements for landspreading of septage from private onsite wastewater treatment systems.
    - B. Establish a fee structure sufficient to add dedicated staff to conduct monitoring, inspection and enforcement related to landspreading operations.
  12. Develop a set of educational materials and programs to promote water stewardship, infiltration, and water conservation.
    - A. Continue to hold regular workshops for developers and construction companies to educate them about best management practices, regulatory standards, and to encourage practices that go beyond minimum standards.

- B. Hold annual countywide or basin-wide watershed groups meetings.
  - C. Develop maps, other educational materials and audio-visual media materials that illustrate the “water cycle” for Dane County – where our water comes from, where it goes, how water flows from house to street to stream to land.
  - D. Encourage county and local parks and the University of Wisconsin to model state of the art practices that protect water quantity and quality (i.e., infiltration, less mowing, mulching, re-establishment of native vegetation, etc.).
  - E. Develop a clearinghouse of information regarding groundwater recharge rates, well locations, draw down rates, etc. in areas to aid planning.
  - F. Develop educational programs to build public understanding and acceptance of new wastewater treatment, groundwater restoration and water conservation techniques.
  - G. Provide information and guidelines to promote a culture of respect among shoreline property owners, recreational users, and others.
  - H. Use street signs to educate the public on watershed boundaries.
  - I. Educate landowners in mapped groundwater sensitive areas about ways to voluntarily protect groundwater (areas with shallow aquifers, karst topography, etc).
  - J. Implement an ongoing media campaign to promote water conservation, rain barrels, cessation of lawn watering, leaf collection, native landscaping, mulching and acceptance of the occasional brown lawn.
  - K. Create “Welcome to the Watershed” packet for new homeowners. Seek assistance from developers.
  - L. Coordinate with neighborhood associations, 4-H, and other community groups to implement educational programs.
  - M. Discourage farmers from spreading manure on frozen land and help them establish alternatives such as cooperative manure handling. Implement existing winter manure spreading ordinance under Chapter 14, Dane County Code.
  - N. Provide better public access to recommendations, decisions and information related to Dane County water issues through the Internet, e-mail, brochures, newsletters and other outreach efforts.
  - O. Use public access points as opportunities for education, e.g., indicate what watershed you’re in and its importance; current planning processes, management goals and projects; how-to information on rain gardens, permeable surfaces, etc.
13. Work with municipal water suppliers to adopt rate structures that encourage conservation.
  14. Develop a wildlife management plan that addresses endangered, threatened, native, nuisance, and invasive species, including aquatic and near-shore plants and wildlife. (*See Wildlife Resources Policy 1.*)
  15. As funds and resources permit, explore the feasibility and effectiveness of constructing a phosphorus-removal treatment plant in the Yahara chain of lakes, possibly at the Tenney Locks and Dam.
  16. Work cooperatively with anglers, water recreation, conservation and watershed groups and build on the efforts of the Lakes and Watershed Commission’s “Take a Stake in the Lakes” campaign to maintain an effective countywide pool of water resources volunteers. Train and assist volunteers to:
    - A. Inspect boats for invasive species at boat landings;
    - B. Perform basic water quality and control structure monitoring tasks for all lakes, streams and urban and rural drainageways;
    - C. Work with schools and youth groups to involve youth in watershed clean-up and restoration projects;

- D. Participate in shoreland, wetland and floodplain restoration and demonstration projects, and;
  - E. Educate water users and riparian landowners about water quality, quantity and use issues.
17. Support amendments to state statute to include a watershed organization representative on the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission.



## Wildlife Resources

### Goals

5. *Preserve for posterity the nature and biodiversity of Dane County's natural heritage by protecting and enhancing in-stream, riparian, wetland, and upland habitat, and; protecting, maintaining and restoring diverse, high quality biological communities that occurred naturally in southern Wisconsin (woods, savannas, prairies, wetlands).*

### Supporting objectives

- A. Protect rare landscapes and habitats for endangered, threatened or unique species.
- B. Incorporate natural resource areas in plans for parks and open space.
- C. Maintain and develop buffers between public lands and human development.
- D. Encourage adoption of effective local ordinances to protect native remnants, steep slopes, cliff communities, hillsides, bluffs and grassland communities, by discouraging development or removal of vegetation.

- E. Restore large, intact areas of native vegetation. Encourage the use of native plants in landscaping, where appropriate.
- F. Before approving any changes in zoning, consider the impact on wildlife habitat, potential locations of rare plant and animal species and archeological sites.
- G. Promote public and agency education so that grasslands gain equal footing with forests and wetlands in the public's perception of important natural habitats.
- H. Encourage the management and preservation of existing woodlands as an economic land use, as wildlife habitat, as an erosion control measure, and as a means of preserving the natural beauty of Dane County
- I. In the absence of natural area corridors such as river ways, establish at least one open space corridor, such as farmland, connecting each significant natural area to at least one other significant natural area, where possible.
- J. Preserve and enhance wildlife habitats through cooperation on acquisition and management of wildlife habitat in Dane County, maintaining large areas of open space in the county, and minimizing the disturbance caused by development.

2. *Provide for sustainable, diverse hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and wildlife appreciation opportunities within Dane County.*

### Supporting objectives

- A. Build partnerships with local chapters of conservation organizations and rod and gun clubs to help with wildlife habitat protection.
  - B. Identify lands under County ownership that may be considered for trade or transfer of management to the Wisconsin DNR that would enable public hunting or trapping to occur on them.
3. *Eliminate, reduce or mitigate the effect of exotic and invasive species on Dane County land and water resources.*

## Supporting objectives

- A. Discourage landscaping with ecologically invasive species.
- B. Develop new public/private construction and public facility maintenance guidelines to prevent introduction or translocation of exotic and invasive species.
- C. Promote local government and general public awareness and education about invasive species that may present environmental, economic or social risks.

### 4. *Balance public and private needs with wildlife needs.*

## Supporting objectives

- A. Reward farmers and other landowners as stewards of the whole landscape, including managed resources such as water and wildlife.
- B. Reward landowners who provide habitat for wildlife communities that are significant to the community.
- C. Continue to consider and develop countywide Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs to fairly compensate willing landowners for additional wildlife habitat and open space protection.
- D. Whenever possible, consider and include private lands of willing landowners to ensure the success of statewide, county and regional management goals, because there is not enough publicly owned land to do so.

## *Policies and Programs*

- 1. Develop a wildlife conservation plan for Dane County, which is partially modeled on and coordinated with the *Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan*, to conserve species of concern.
  - A. Work cooperatively with local DNR fisheries, wildlife and forestry managers, University of Wisconsin departments such as wildlife ecology, regional planning and landscape architecture, and non-profit groups to develop a

wildlife conservation plan and a related map, that includes:

- (1) Significant wildlife areas and areas for potential habitat restoration, along with connecting travel corridors;
- (2) Natural resource areas identified in the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan*;
- (3) Land protection and stewardship needs for all rare and endangered wildlife populations in the county;
- (4) Places where overpopulated species are causing nuisance or agricultural economic losses. Use this to help guide choices in the possible creation of additional habitat or improvement of habitat, and;
- (5) Publicly accessible areas for wildlife viewing, including roadways that can be noted as wildlife viewing drives, roadside pull-over space where there are views of natural areas, and hiking and biking trail access for wildlife viewing on county lands.

- B. Develop a strategy to identify and capture state, federal and other ongoing funding for plan development and ongoing wildlife habitat protection and restoration.
- C. Use existing survey data and volunteers to collect survey data.
- D. Seek cooperation of local governments in mapping habitat areas and the connecting corridors on private lands, as well as documenting wildlife nuisance concerns resulting from local wildlife overpopulation.
- E. Where possible, try to include identified land wildlife corridors in exclusive agriculture zoning and as priority areas for protection.
- F. Establish with partners, including volunteers, a long-term program of bird and amphibian diversity monitoring in selected areas to measure changes in diversity over time. Use this along with threatened/endangered species monitoring data as indicators of changing habitat conditions for both common and non-common wildlife.

- G. Develop a voluntary landowner program for land conservation and stewardship within wildlife corridors identified by this plan, and use voluntary PDR/TDR to permanently protect lands in these corridors as well as to create or expand habitat areas.
2. Expand outreach and education programs related to wildlife concerns.
    - A. Include public fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing grounds on publicly distributed county maps. (*See Land Resources Policies and Programs.*)
    - B. Create a comprehensive wildlife viewing guide that includes maps of publicly accessible wildlife areas, for Dane County in cooperation with agencies such as the DNR and non-profit partners.
    - C. Work with school districts and such environmental organizations as the Aldo Leopold Center, UW-Madison Arboretum, watershed organizations, Friends groups and school forests to educate students about ecological value of native grasslands and woodlands.
    - D. Work with neighborhood associations, garden clubs and other local groups to adopt a natural area and promote native plant landscaping.
    - E. Incorporate wildlife habitat concerns into forestry management plans for woodlands on private lands.
    - F. Broadly distribute existing invasive plant identification/control publications to urban and rural landowners, landscapers, plant nurseries and horticulture operations. Discourage sale and use of invasive species.
  3. Seek partnership with the DNR and willing landowners to purchase hunting access easements or leases on private lands in a comprehensive county program. Promote use of public access provisions under the state Managed Forest Law to make more private land available for hunting.
  4. Manage public facilities and lands to restore and maintain terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat and remove invasive species.
    - A. Include a wildlife management plan for all existing and new park lands.
    - B. Replace lawn areas in parkland and other county property with native vegetation where feasible. Reduce mowing in areas where native plant restoration is not feasible.
    - C. Explore active removal, physical barriers such as barrier dams, and biological controls to reduce non-native aquatic species in Dane County waters. Seek to create conditions that will favor eventually restoring native species such as wild rice and other wetland species.
    - D. Continue to conduct controlled burns on a regular basis on county-owned lands.
  5. Develop a county invasive species ordinance banning the sale and planting of a county-developed list of most troublesome species, with focus on non-natives and species that invade croplands.
  6. Develop a county land and wildlife steward award program modeled after the Lakes and Watershed Commission's "Water Champions" program. Reward by recognition landowners, farmers and other citizens who have made outstanding contributions to wildlife habitat and natural resources conservation.



## Cultural Resources

### Historic and Archaeological Resources

#### Goals

1. *Encourage permanent protection, interpretation and maintenance for all identified Dane County archaeological sites of significance.*

#### Supporting objectives

- A. Include archaeological significance among the criteria for acquiring and managing lands under all county real estate programs.
  - B. Plan for the greatest protection and appreciation of the resources of each publicly accessible property that contains archaeological sites.
  - C. Provide county and state assistance to local governments to identify, register and document archaeological resources and sponsor nomination of eligible resources to the National Register of Historic Places.
  - D. Require the preservation of Indian Mounds and other archaeological resources on both public and private lands.
2. *Protect, preserve and restore buildings, structures, sites, landscapes, natural features and districts which represent or reflect elements of Dane County's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history.*

#### Supporting objectives

- A. Encourage the preservation of historically and architecturally significant structures and districts in Dane County whenever specific sites are proposed for development or redevelopment.
  - B. Encourage preservation of significant, historic farm structures.
  - C. Proactively designate historic districts and structures, and seek to incorporate the following principles into redevelopment of historic sites:
    - (1) Protect historic and architectural integrity;
    - (2) Promote adaptive reuse of historic structures that is consistent with local land use plans, and;
    - (3) Respect property rights of private landowners with historic resources on their lands.
  - D. Develop a stronger institutional framework for historic preservation, and improve the tools available for the county to use in protecting significant resources.
  - E. Preserve the historic visual character of state-designated rustic roads.
3. *Increase public awareness and appreciation of historic and archaeological resources.*

#### Supporting objectives

- A. Mobilize public opinion to place a higher value on historic resources.
  - B. Promote the use of historic resources for the education, pleasure, and welfare of the people.
  - C. Conduct local meetings to emphasize local historic sites.
  - D. Utilize school curricula to emphasize and educate students about local historic sites.
  - E. Interpret the significance of historic and archaeological sites to educate visitors about their significance, add greater interest, and preserve area history.
4. *Identify, record and evaluate archaeological, historic and cultural resources and sites.*

## Supporting Objectives

- A. Document, through photography and collection of archival information, all archaeological and historic sites in Dane County before their demolition, protection or restoration.
- B. Create a publicly accessible register of all historic and archaeological places countywide in both online and published forms. Specific locations for archaeological resources will not be provided, except where such resources are, or will be protected from vandalism. Sites on private property will only be listed with the express consent of the owner.
- C. Utilize long-term residents in identifying and educating about historic and cultural sites.
- D. Utilize Native American tribal leaders in identifying and educating about archaeological sites.

## Policies and Programs

1. Work with the Wisconsin Historical Society and the National Park Service to designate Dane County as a Certified Local Government for historic preservation.
  - A. Establish a Dane County Historic Preservation Commission that includes Dane County residents with expertise in history, architectural history, architecture, and archaeology, to oversee the Historic Preservation program.
  - B. Develop a source of funding and permanent staffing resources to effectively administer a county historic preservation program.
  - C. Establish a system of designation priorities and a coordinated preservation program.
  - D. Working with the Dane County Historic Preservation Commission, the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, local historical societies, town government and the Wisconsin Historical Society, identify and map properties and districts for inclusion in historic preservation programs.
  - E. Provide county, state, local and federal assistance to identify, register and document architectural resources and sponsor nomination of eligible resources to the National Register of Historic Places.
2. Explore the availability and use of grant money to rehabilitate, restore or relocate historic structures threatened by demolition or disrepair.
  - A. Review existing state and federal tax credits, and other resources, for historic structure rehabilitation and analyze applicability and effectiveness for Dane County historic resources.
  - B. Explore the creation of new incentives, such as historic preservation Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts, grants, and revolving loan funds or other tools, to encourage historic preservation.
  - C. Report results of study to the county board and the proposed Dane County Historic Preservation Commission.
3. Amend county zoning and land division ordinances to promote better protection, adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of historic resources. (*See Chapter 8: Land Use.*)
4. Implement and enhance the *Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan* to acquire and manage lands of historic or archaeological significance. Include historic, cultural and archaeological significance among the criteria for acquiring and managing lands under relevant county real estate programs, including parks, public facilities, PDR and TDR programs. (*See Land Resources Policies 4 and 5.*)
5. Work with the Wisconsin Historical Society, UW Extension, local historical societies, the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission and the proposed Dane County Historic Preservation Commission to develop and implement an ongoing public participation and education program related to historic and archaeological resources.
- F. Conduct periodic surveys of the county on an ongoing basis to update designated lists of historically significant properties.
- G. Amend the county historic and archaeological overlay zoning district, or develop and adopt a new ordinance, to meet Wisconsin Historical Society standards for historic preservation.

- A. Maximize public involvement throughout historic preservation program design, planning, property and district designation and implementation.
- B. Disseminate information about the state and federal tax credits for historic buildings and rehabilitation.
- C. Seek grant funding to hire a temporary project coordinator to establish the program and develop recommendations for ongoing funding and support.
- D. Solicit input and participation from and maintain contacts with interested groups such as local governments, local historical societies, long-term stakeholders, schools and Native American tribal leaders.
- E. Develop collaborative projects, such as producing or updating interpretive guides to, or updating Wisconsin Historical Society information about, historic resources in Dane County.
- F. Build on and expand use of existing resources, such as the Wisconsin Historical Society's online Architecture and History Inventory (<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi>).
- G. Distribute map illustrating Dane County historic sites, districts and resources that can be shown to the public.