

# Section E

## AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As the Town of Dodgeville continues to grow, it is vital that it keep in mind the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources of the area. It can be very challenging for rural communities to allow new low-density development and at the same time protect the natural environment and preserve the character of the area, including cultural and historic resources. At first, development may have only a limited impact on the natural landscape, but as development continues, the visual and environmental impacts become more and more apparent. For these reasons, it is crucial to be aware of the existing agricultural, natural, and cultural resources.

There are a number of agricultural, natural, and cultural resources to be aware of as we plan for the future, including the following:

**Agricultural Resources**

- Number of Farms
- Acreage of Farmland
- Livestock
- Crop Production
- Farmland Potential
- Soil Capabilities
- Soils

**Natural Resources**

- Water Resources
- Topography
- Geologic Resources
- Forest / Woodlands
- Wildlife Habitat
- Parks and Open Space
- Air and Light

**Cultural Resources**

- Historic Buildings
- Museums
- Landmarks
- Churches
- Rural Schools
- Cemeteries



**Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(e)**

*(e) Agricultural, natural and cultural resources element*

A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for the conservation, and promotion of the effective management, of natural resources such as groundwater, forests, productive agricultural areas, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, stream corridors, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources, parks, open spaces, historical and cultural resources, community design, recreational resources and other natural resources.

**AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCE POLICIES**

The following are the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources policy recommendations (not in order of priority) for the Town of Dodgeville. (Parcel splits and minimum lot sizes are addressed in Section H, Land Use Element.)

- 1. Routinely remind residents of the importance of their agricultural, natural, and cultural resources and the need for continued protection of local open spaces to provide recreational opportunities.**

Educate 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, newsletters, or other similar education efforts can help inform residents.

Work with the City of Dodgeville, the Towns of Wyoming, Ridgeway, Waldwick, Mineral Point, Linden, Eden, Highland, and Clyde, and Iowa County to protect contiguous natural areas that give local residents space to pursue recreational opportunities.

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

Build partnerships with local agricultural, environmental, and sporting groups.

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

- 4. Enforce noxious weed control ordinances and provide educational resources.**

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.

- 5. Support tree preservation and sustainable forestry practices.**

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.

- 6. Maintain proper separation distances between urban and rural land uses to avoid conflicts.**

- 7. 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 such as abandoned wells, mining boreholes, and mining shafts. Again, education of residents on local water resource issues may be beneficial.

- 8. Protect development from major drainage areas in order to aid in stormwater runoff and prevent flooding.**

Refrain from developing in drainage ways and floodplains that serve as stormwater runoff systems. Drainage basins were established naturally for a reason and should be preserved.

- 9. Create wellhead protection plans for private Town wells.**

- 10. Encourage standards that decrease and prevent light pollution through education.**

- 11. Consider establishing more parks and outdoor recreational amenities.**

12. **Encourage preservation of rock formations.**
13. **Enforce solid waste and recycling ordinances and continue to provide education and clean-up efforts.**
14. **Consider a committee to review creation of a historic preservation ordinance to preserve and enhance the irreplaceable historic structures and locations and archeological sites in the Town.**
15. **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.

16. **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 Town of Dodgeville, the importance of agricultural resources in the surrounding area should not be underestimated. Farming is important economically, culturally, aesthetically, and recreationally to the Town.

### **FARMING CONFLICTS**

Since the Town of Dodgeville is an active agricultural area, there are some conflicts between agriculture and non-agriculture landowners that include:

- New homes on tillable acreage takes current or future agricultural land out of production
- Lack of knowledge of rural homeowners of farm practices leads to incompatibilities
- Concerns about odors, noise, and fence issues
- Pesticide, herbicide, and GMOs concerns
- Residential dogs and feral cats running loose
- Livestock escaping to residential land
- Use and impacts on roads; farm vehicles need wider, bigger roads, not pretty rustic roads
- Groundwater issues including wells impacted by nitrates, E.coli, and pesticide/herbicide runoff from farms and residential lawn care
- Stormwater runoff; runoff from residential lands onto agricultural lands can create erosion issues
- Cultural differences in perspectives and definition of rural life
- Impact of farm size and animal density
- Breaking up of farmland into smaller, less farmable parcels; 35 acre rules for building, makes it difficult for farmers to maneuver home driveways and to deal with various landowners
- Annexation by the City of Dodgeville
- Noxious weed management by landowners
- Timber harvesting practices
- Lighting

### **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. It should be noted that the Town's topography and depth of the topsoil to bedrock will affect the scale of a potential farming operation.

Federal programs do not always do the best to maximize the efficient use and management of farmlands so until these programs are revamped the Town is hampered when dealing with issues caused by farm expansion. If a farm has a legal right to expand under federal law, the Town cannot stop them. If limiting farm expansion were an option, the Town of Dodgeville would want to have a voice in planning for proper location. Being involved in the review of farm expansion proposals and evaluation of their accompanying issues would be essential. Enforcement and implementation are issues that would need to be dealt with as well. Educating potential and existing non-farming rural residents regarding the practices and realities of farming and current management practices would be helpful.

### **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.

Some suggested ways of encouraging young farmers in the Town include:

- Support pricing for products (beef-grain-dairy) to assure a fair living
- Continue to support public school agriculture education, FFA programs, 4-H educational programs, Iowa County Fair and Farmers Appreciation Day
- Keep an open mind in exploring regulations to allow flexibility in consideration of alternative agricultural opportunities
- Allow direct selling of farm products (need to correct zoning for this to occur)
- Use value assessments should be tied to schedule F filing so people really trying to make a living farming are the ones getting the tax breaks
- Allow adaptive re-use of existing farm buildings
- The definition of home occupation is anticipated to be redefined and updated in the Iowa County Zoning Ordinance upon adoption of Plans in 2005.

### **FARMING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Farming infrastructure includes businesses and services such as a feed mill, equipment vendor, or veterinarian supply. Farm supply businesses and food processing facilities represent important resources to area farmers as well as the broader local economy. Farming infrastructure in the Town of Dodgeville includes businesses such as Mueller Implement, Gollon Fish Farms, Farm and Fleet retailers, Quality Liquid Feeds, and Farm Credit Services, among others. These businesses are necessary to support all types of farms, both single and multi-enterprise operations.

### **FARM TYPES**

A strong farming infrastructure can support a wide variety of operations. The Town encourages the following types of farming operations:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| • Dairy           | • Farm Produce Markets                  |
| • Hogs            | • Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) |
| • Sheep           | • Orchards                              |
| • Organic Farming | • Fish Farming                          |
| • Beef-Cow/Calf   | • Wineries                              |
| • Beef-Finishing  |   |
| • Cash Crops      |   |

**FARMER RETIREMENT**

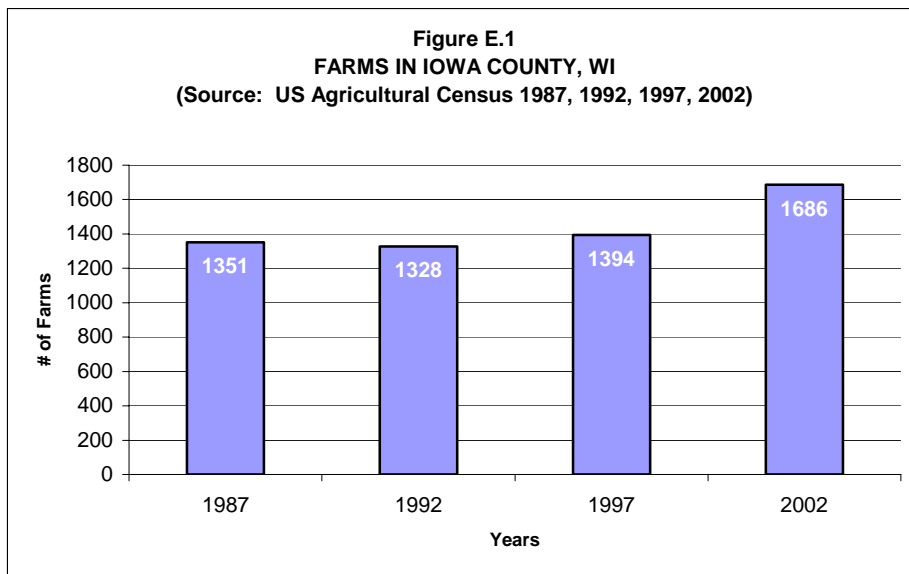
Land has inherent value but it is also valuable for what it produces and as it provides the farmer with a source of retirement funds. Trying to find a middle path of conserving farmland while enabling farmers to retire by profiting from their land is a statewide issue. The Plan Commission is sensitive to the farmer’s dilemma of finding a balance between agricultural preservation and funding retirement.

**FARMING AND COMMUNITY VISION**

It is essential to maintain both current farm operations and agriculture in general in the Town of Dodgeville in order to achieve the community’s vision. The Town of Dodgeville believes it is essential to preserve agricultural lands and culture while balancing and preparing for the pressures and needs of growth.

**FARMING AND COMMUNITY VISION**

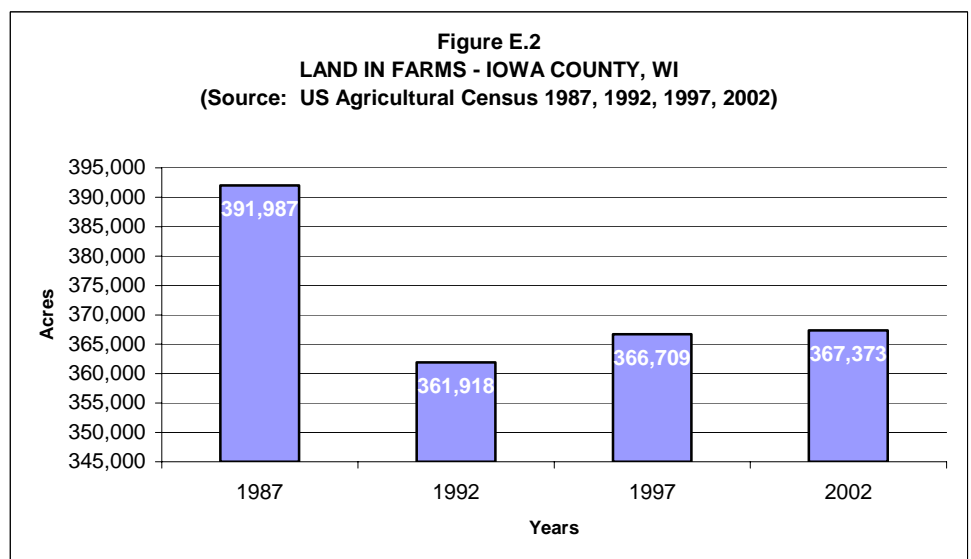
It is essential to maintain both current farm operations and agriculture in general in Wyoming in order to achieve the community’s vision.



**FARMING DATA**

As indicated by Figure E.1, between 1987 and 2002 there was an overall increase of 335 farms in the county. (The US Agricultural Census defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold during the census year.)

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



**FARMLAND POTENTIAL**

In Iowa County, 72 percent of the soils were classified in the 1950's of prime, state, and local importance, but have not yet been updated. Map E.1 is a Town level soil classification map. The classifications are

Prime Farm land – Most Capability Group I and II Soils  
(25 percent of soils in Iowa County)

State Importance – Most Capability Group III Soils  
(20 percent of soils in Iowa County)

Local Importance – Varies but in Southwestern Wisconsin some Capability Group IV, V, and VI Soils. In Iowa County these include land with better moisture holding capacity – valuable locally for pasture and hay production.  
(27 percent of soils in Iowa County)

Other – Soil groups of importance (Capability Group VII, VIII) not noted in the categories above.

**LAND COVER**

Map E.2 shows the amount of agricultural resources in the Town of Dodgeville. 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-point source pollution comes from many diffuse sources resulting from a wide variety of human activities, and directly impacts water resources. The Town of Dodgeville as a government unit works actively to protect its water resources and reduce non-point source pollution in a number of ways, including:

- Well testing program
- Silt fencing
- Building codes
- Ditch management
- State regulated feedlot rules
- Slope restrictions on driveways
- Grass ditches in subdivisions
- State regulated pesticide use and manure management
- Required erosion controls on construction projects
- Encourages conservation practices with NRCS (waterways, diversions, contours)
- Town Road Management such as sand/salt mix and quality road design

The Plan Commission notes that grassy banks on stream headwaters are far more effective in filtering sediments and stabilizing stream banks than trees. There are also instances where federal or state program rules function contrary to effective management.

**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 lakes at Governor Dodge State Park and nearby streams serve recreational needs of area residents. See Map E.3 for surface water resources in the Town of Dodgeville.

See Map E.3 for surface water resources in the Town of Dodgeville and Map E.4 for Town watersheds. Dodgeville is located in four watersheds, the Otter and Morrey Creeks, the Mill and Blue Mounds Creeks, the Mineral Point and Sudan Branches, and the Upper East Branch of the Pecatonica River watersheds.

### **FLOODPLAINS**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has designated flood hazard areas along many surface water resources. The importance of respecting floodways and floodplains is critical in terms of planning and development. Ignoring these constraints can cause serious problems relating to property damage and the overall safety of residents. Due to Iowa County being entirely within the Driftless Area, the 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.

The Town of Dodgeville is at risk from flooding and works to mitigate its effects through a variety of ways:

- Dry dams; municipal Otter Creek and Evans Quarry; many area farmers utilize dry dams and were part of a federal program to construct them
- Retention ponds to capture stormwater runoff from subdivisions and building sites
- Grassy waterways
- Seeding banks after road construction
- Restrictions on construction on slopes
- Many area farmers participate in the County Land Conservations Cattle stream bank crossings program

### **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% 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% of the total county acreage, 0.3% 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. As a result there is no reliable qualitative and quantitative data about current rates of wetland loss, only 1978-79 wetland acre totals to go by. (Wisconsin Wetlands: Acreage Fact, <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/wetlands/facts.shtml>.)

The Town of Dodgeville as a government unit actively protects its wetlands by a variety of methods:

- Erosion control
- Driveway slope restrictions
- Well testing programs
- Grass ditches rather than curb and gutter
- Feedlot rules



**GROUNDWATER**

Groundwater is a critical resource, not only because it is used on a daily basis, but also because rivers, streams, and other surface water depends on groundwater for recharge. Groundwater, whether from municipal or private well, supplies all Iowa County residents with drinking water. See Map E.6 for depth to groundwater levels for Dodgeville.

Groundwater can easily become contaminated through non-point source pollution. The Driftless Area is characterized by thin soils over fractured limestone, sandstone, or shale bedrock and it is in this type underlying geology where the potential for groundwater contamination is greatest. See Map E.6 for depth to groundwater levels for the Town of Dodgeville

Thirty households in the Town get municipal water from the City of Dodgeville through a boundary agreement. For the rest of the jurisdiction, the residents have private wells. The Town protects its drinking water by

- Supporting county rules such as two septic sites per residential lot and proper manure storage
- Exploring developing septic technology, maintain recommended distances, and utilize best management practices
- Testing private wells
- Sponsoring clean up days to keep materials (tires, waste oil, appliances) off land and recycling and disposing of materials properly
- Properly removing and/or closing its underground fuel storage tanks
- Participating in a County cost share program for well abandonment

Any potential contaminants to the Town of Dodgeville municipal well should be listed in the City of Dodgeville's Comprehensive Plan and the City of Dodgeville Wellhead Protection Plan.

Water supply is impacted as communities grow, bringing increased demand to supply groundwater to new homes, businesses, and industries. Increased well pumping can reduce the amount of recharge to surface waters, causing streamflow reduction, loss of springs, and changes in wetland vegetative communities. 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)."*

Increasing water supply demand is an issue in the Town of Dodgeville. Currently there are three sanitary districts in the Town (hotels, businesses, and residential) and a boundary agreement with the City of Dodgeville for one subdivision. Construction of dry hydrants for fire protection could also be encouraged. There may be grants available for dry hydrant construction. The Plan Commission is interested in further exploration and education of these and other water resource issues.

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
- Manure Spills

### **WILDLIFE AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES**

Wildlife enriches our lives by providing opportunities for observing or photographing, and hunting animals in their native habitat. Wildlife 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 Town of Dodgeville is in two ecological landscapes, Southwest Savanna in the south and Western Coulee and Ridge in the north. The Southwest Savanna ecological landscape, as defined by the 2002 Land Legacy Report by the WI DNR, is characterized by deeply dissected, unglaciated topography with broad open hilltops, flat fertile river valleys, and steep wooded slopes. Occupying the south-facing slope of the Military Ridge, prairies and savannas were the dominant habitat types in this area prior to Euro-American settlement. Dry prairies covered the hilltops and graded into more mesic prairies, oak savannas, and oak woodlands down slope. The river valleys were often a mix of hardwoods including oak, maple, and elm. This landscape type is home to a wide array of wildlife, particularly birds.

The northern part of the Town of Dodgeville is in the Western Coulee and Ridge ecological landscape, as defined by the 2002 Land Legacy Report. This landscape is characterized by highly eroded and unglaciated topography. Steep sided hills are heavily forested and often managed for hardwood production. Agricultural activities are typically confined to valley floors and ridge tops. The rugged hills that typify the area have the world's largest concentration of hillside prairies, which often support numerous species of rare plants, insects, and reptiles. Extensive tracts of floodplain forests are found along the larger rivers of this landscape such as the Wisconsin and the Mississippi. These forests are not only valuable for their potential wood harvests, but also for the rich assemblage of reptiles and amphibians they support and the wildlife habitat value they provide for resident and migratory birds. Descriptions of natural communities in Iowa County are listed in Appendix E-1.

The Town works to protect wildlife and is particularly sensitive to zoning and development issues surrounding Governor Dodge State Park. In the majority of the Town, residential development is limited to one residence per 35 acres. The Plan Commission is engaged in further research on the issue of wildlife habitat protection. The Town also actively protects wildlife habitat through its support of wildlife friendly agricultural practices such as:

- County and others cost share programs dedicated to habitat protection;
- Enforcement of noxious weed control ordinance and education;
- Refers residents to proper conservation, forestry, and prairie restoration resources.

The Plan Commission notes that plants (including both native and ornamental plant species) can sometimes have negative impacts on agriculture and is engaging in further research on this issue as well as wildlife impacts.

Upon adoption of this comprehensive plan, the Town of Dodgeville will have a policy protecting its scenic hills and ridge tops through the adopted rural residential siting criteria (see Section I, Implementation Element). Also, the Plan Commission expressed an interest in learning more about supporting prairie/savanna 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. The DNR-NHI maps (Map E.7a and E.7b) have been included at the end of this section for a reference. Refer to Appendix E-2 for a list of the Threatened and Endangered plant, animal, and natural communities in the Town.

Threatened and Endangered plant species are vulnerable to a variety of exotic, invasive plants, such as Bull Thistle and Wild Parsnip. The Town of Dodgeville has a noxious weed ordinance, annually publishes in the local paper which weeds landowners are required to control, and sends letters to landowners who have noxious weed problems to provide them with education and resources. There are also educational materials available at the Town office, and articles on noxious weed identification and management are included in the Town's spring and fall newsletter.

### **FOREST RESOURCES**

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

### **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 Town of Dodgeville supports sustainable forestry programs through the Managed Forest Law. The Town is interested in learning more about sustainable forestry and may design a program for it. And although the Town does not have a municipal tree-planting program, it is interested in one. When the Town must remove trees from road right-of-ways, it may be desirable to approach the adjacent landowner and offer tree replacements outside the right-of-way. Size and quantities of trees would vary depending on location.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

Environmental corridors refer to areas that contain groupings of natural resource features. Areas of concentrated natural resource activity (“rooms”), such as wetlands, woodlands, prairies, lakes, and other features, become even more functional when linked by environmental corridors (“hallways”). If corridor resource features are placed on a map, they can form a linear space.

Fish and wildlife populations, native plant distribution, and even clean water all depend on movement through environmental corridors. For example, wildlife populations isolated in one wooded location can overpopulate, die out, or cause problems for neighbors if there are not adequate corridors to allow the population to move about freely. Over 70 percent of all terrestrial wildlife species use riparian corridors, according to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Map E.8 shows several natural resource features within Dodgeville, which can act as environmental corridors. Preserving environmental corridors can be a highly effective way to protect the natural and cultural resources in an area.

### Environmental Corridor Benefits:

- Reduced Flooding
- Reduced Soil Erosion
- Improved Water Quality
- Improved Water Quantity
- Groundwater Recharge
- Bank Stabilization
- Improved Air Quality
- Improved Wildlife Habitat

### Social Benefits:

- Walking and Hiking
- Cross Country Skiing
- Horseback Riding
- Photography
- Wildlife Viewing

## AIR AND LIGHT

Air quality was not identified as an issue. Light pollution from billboards, Lands’ End, cell towers, parks, and yards does impact the jurisdiction.

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

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

## GEOLOGIC AND SOIL RESOURCES

Soils and geology are also important planning considerations, particularly when thinking about new development. Today, technological advances can overcome many development challenges relating to soil and geology; however, it is important that these resources are not abused, overused, or contaminated. Particular attention must be paid to soils when development is occurring on steeper slopes and for septic systems. Drain-fields must be located to allow adequate infiltration and the sewage treatment provided by soils. A series of maps including slope limitations (Map E.9), septic limitations (Map E.10), and depth to bedrock (Map E.11) have been included.

Southwest Wisconsin is part of the unglaciated region known as the Driftless Area. Most of the bedrock in this region is sedimentary rock, consisting of sandstone and shale or limestone, containing mineral resources. Mineral resources are divided into two categories, metallic and non-metallic. Metallic resources in the region include lead and zinc. Non-metallic resources include sand, gravel, and limestone, with limestone as one of the most significant geologic resources in the area, used frequently for road building. Refer to Map E-12 for a map showing mines and quarries in Iowa County.

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

The Town has five active quarries and a number of non-active quarries and mine pits. In order to protect its quarry resources, the Town considers time limited conditional use permits for temporary onsite black top plants. Residential development is limited near existing quarries and new quarry locations are considered in conjunction with the Town's road infrastructure. The Plan Commission suggests that in the future, any residential developments near an existing quarry be required to place a discloser agreement on deeds completed prior to Town approval.

### **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.

The Town of Dodgeville has numerous natural resources and open space which attract recreational users such as private (Hideaway Acres) and public (Governor Dodge State Park) camping. Refer to Map E.13 for Iowa County parks.

There are two Youth camps in the Town, Bethel Horizons, and Friendship Center. Governor Dodge State Park provides a host of recreational opportunities, including camping, fishing, hiking, bird watching, swimming, sun bathing, horseback riding, etc. There is a riding stable in the Town, Dolby Stables. For bicyclists there are the Military Ridge State trail and Town roads. The Town of Dodgeville is rich in trout streams and offers fishery tours. With scenic drives, historic sites, a mineral museum, hunting opportunities, snowmobile trails, Bed and Breakfasts and a number of motels, Dodgeville does indeed actively promote its natural resources to recreational visitors. Currently, the Town is planning a website with tourism links and is a member and has a seat on the local Chamber of Commerce. The Town office provides promotional literature for local recreation opportunities and it allows and encourages the development of recreational based businesses. Table E.1 lists the amenities of area parks.

**Table E.1 – Area Park Amenities**

<b>Governor Dodge State Park</b>	<b>Blackhawk County Park</b>	<b>County Farm</b>	<b>Military Ridge Bike Trail</b>	<b>Dodgeville City Parks</b>
Camping	Camping	Hiking	Biking	Swimming pool
Swimming	Swimming	Hunting	Hiking	Playgrounds
Fishing	Fishing	Prairie Restoration	Snowmobiling	Hockey
Nature Trails	Boating			Baseball diamonds
Cycling				Soccer
Cross-country skiing				Walking Trails
Snowmobiling				Shelters
Boating				
Horse Trails				

The Town should consider additional parks, trails, and other outdoor recreation amenities to meet the future needs of residents and visitors. Suggested ideas for future recreational opportunities include ATV trails in the country (which could connect with other locations), a golf course, biking and walking trails, wider road shoulders to permit safe bicycling, and an outdoor recreation outfitter business.

### **CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES**

Many communities often overlook cultural and historic resources when dealing with modern and pressing issues facing their community. However, the proper appreciation of these assets is vital to the long-term success of a community. Respecting and utilizing these available resources increases the overall quality of life and provides opportunities for tourism. The Town of Dodgeville Plan Commission indicated it is interested in establishing a historic committee and a possible ordinance to help meet these objectives.

Determining what cultural and historic resources are 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 Town of Dodgeville has one site listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

**Table E.2 - National Register of Historic Places**

<b>Name and Type of Place</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date Added to State Register</b>	<b>Date Added to National Register</b>
Mayland Cave	Not released	NA	12/22/78

### **CHURCHES**

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

Places of worship in the Town include:

- St. Johns Church
- Ryalls – Standart Church
- North Dodgeville
- Rock Church
- Pleasant Valley Church
- Simpson Chapel
- Jehovah’s Witness Kingdom Hall
- Sts. Peter and Paul Church

### **CEMETERIES**

Also identified as a prominent historic and cultural resource are the area cemeteries. Cemeteries can provide an historic perspective of the area, giving names and ethnicities of previous residents. Refer to Map E.15 for cemeteries in the Town of Dodgeville.

The following cemeteries serve the Town of Dodgeville:

- Garrison Grove
- Griffiths
- Rock Church
- Rockwell Mills
- Ryalls or Standart
- St. Johns
- St. Josephs
- St. Peter and Paul’s
- Valley View
- Cholera – (Near Z and ZZ)

## 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 from the country. Nevertheless, the one room schoolhouse remains an icon of American rural culture, representing the opportunity for all children to learn “the three R’s”: reading, ‘riting, and ‘rithmetic. The publication “*Schools of Iowa County*” by Metcalf, Williams, and Pustina (1976), documents these schools in greater detail; Map E.14 at the end of this Section shows locations.

The following rural school buildings are or were in the Town of Dodgeville:

- Hollyhead
- Jamesville
- North Survey
- Union Ridge
- Smith
- Gold Mine
- Bunker Hill
- Oaklawn
- Dickinson
- Five Point
- Floyd
- Pleasant Valley
- Rockwell Mills
- West Pleasant Ridge
- East Pleasant Ridge
- Garrison Grove
- Furnace Ridge
- Sunny Ridge
- Wayside
- Highpoint
- Four Corners

## OTHER HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SITES IN THE TOWN OF DODGEVILLE

The Town of Dodgeville Plan Commission identified two other historic sites significant to the Town: Governor Dodge State Park and Military Ridge Bike Trail. Refer to Map E.14 for locations.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES, HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The Town of Dodgeville supports the mowing and upkeep of three historic cemeteries (Pleasant Valley, Garrison Grove, and Rockwell Mills).

The Town of Dodgeville’s most important cultural resources and the threats to them are listed on Table E.3.

**Table E.3 - Cultural Resources Most Important To Your Community**

Cultural Resource	Threats
Churches and Cemeteries in general	Vandalism, theft, neglect, and development
Archeological sites	Vandalism, theft, and development
Barns, historic homes, cheese factories, other historic buildings.	Neglect, weak farm economy, and development

## RESPONSE TO THREATS TO CULTURAL RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Town took over the Town’s cemetery’s upkeep and record keeping. Also, by preserving a variety of land, tax, and other historic records, the Town of Dodgeville has a written record of its land and building use.

## 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 your community. This is not a complete list because some sites disappear due to development or agriculture and some may not yet been reported to the State Historical Society.

**Table E.4 - Archeological Sites in Your Community\***

Site/Code Name	Site Type	Cultural Significance
Ley I	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American
Governor Dodge Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Archaic/Middle Woodland
Runddell	Mounds (conical)	Unknown
IA-0077	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Gomer's	Other	Historic Euro/American
Cattle Gap	Campsite/village	Historic Euro/American, Unknown Prehistoric
Mayland Cave	Cave/rockshelter	Late Woodland, Middle Mississippian, Oneota
Bauchner Springs	Campsite/village	Early Woodland
Bethel Horizons Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Highway "Y" Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
North Face Rockshelter	Rock art, Cave/rockshelter	Unknown
Enee Point Rockshelter	Campsite/village, Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Horse Trail Rockshelter	Campsite/village, Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Box Canyon Rockshelter	Campsite/village, Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
South Waterfall Rockshelter	Campsite/village, Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Peterson Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Ihm Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Sand Cave Rockshelter	Campsite/village, Cave/rockshelter	Late Woodland
St. Johns Church and Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Unnamed Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
St. Joseph Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
East Side Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Garrison Grove Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Unnamed Cemetery (#2)	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Pleasant Valley Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
St. Peter & Paul Church & Cem.	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Cholera Cemetery	Cemetery/burial	Historic Euro/American
Ballantyne-Merrill Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	
Horse Trail Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown
Culter Creek Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Late Woodland
Hickory Ridge Rockshelter	Campsite/village, Cave/rockshelter	Unknown
Rooffall Rockshelter	Campsite/village, Cave/rockshelter	Unknown
Park Petroglyph Rockshelter	Rock art, Cave/rockshelter	Unknown
White Pine Rockshelter	Campsite/village, Cave/rockshelter	Middle Woodland
Cassidy Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown
Red Band Rockshelter	Campsite/village, Cave/rockshelter	Unknown
Tepee Rockshelter	Rock art, Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Terrace Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Bottomland Campsite	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Windsong Rockshelter	Rock art, Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Blacktop Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Bunker Hill Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Dearing Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Turkey Cave	Rock art, Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Dodge Site	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American
Lost Canyon Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Historic Lead Diggings	Other	Historic Euro/American
Oakwood Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Woodland
Falling Water Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Late Woodland
James Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Miess Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Late Woodland
Edwards Rockshelter	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
Hunters Point	Transportation site, Cave/rockshelter	Archaic
Dodgeville Smelter	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
WISDOT Williams Diggings	Quarry/mine	Unknown Historic, Unknown Prehistoric



**Table E.4 - Archeological Sites in Your Community\***

Site/Code Name	Site Type	Cultural Significance
Highpoint Rockshelter	Rock art	Unknown Prehistoric
Potterton	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Powell Site	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Dodge Mining Camp Cabin	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American
Davies Kiln	Other	
Governor Dodge Pictographs	Rock art, Cave/rockshelter	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, which includes the Iowa County Historical Society, the Public Library, and the Town of Dodgeville Plan Commission and Board.

### **HISTORIC ORDINANCE**

The Town does not have an historic preservation ordinance but may be interested in developing one.

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

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

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

The Department of Natural Resources is dedicated to the preservation, protection, effective management, and maintenance of Wisconsin's natural resources. It is responsible for implementing the laws of the state and, where applicable, the laws of the federal government that protect and enhance the natural resources of our state. It is the one agency charged with full responsibility for coordinating the many disciplines and programs necessary to provide a clean environment and a full range of outdoor recreational opportunities for Wisconsin citizens and visitors. The Wisconsin DNR has a number of programs available ranging from threatened and endangered species to water quality to parks and open space to wetlands.

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

101 S Webster St  
Madison WI 53703

Phone: 608-266-2621  
Fax: 608-261-4380

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us>

The Bureau of Community Financial Assistance (CFA) administers grants and loan programs, under the WI-DNR. Financial program staff works closely with local governments and interested groups to develop and support projects that protect public health and the environment, and provide recreational opportunities.

The following DNR documents are available to the public from the Local DNR Office or the Town of Dodgeville Office:

- The State of the Lower Wisconsin River Basin – report
- Upper East Branch Pecatonica River Overview
- Mineral Point and Sudan Branches Watershed Overview
- Surface and Groundwater Overview and Partnership efforts in the Sugar-Pecatonica River Basin

#### **FARM BUREAU**

Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization governed by and representing farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, county, state, national, and international in its scope and influence and is non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-secret in character. Farm Bureau is the voice of agricultural producers at all levels.

#### **FARM BUREAU SERVICE CENTER**

401 N Union Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Phone: 608-935-2769

<http://www.fb.org/> - American Farm Bureau

<http://www.wfbf.com/> - Wisconsin Farm

**FARM CREDIT SERVICES**

Farm Credit Services (FCS) is a network of independently owned and operated credit and financial services institutions that serve farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses of every size and income range across the country as well as those that desire country living. FCS focuses expressly on agriculture and is committed to helping farmers achieve unique financial goals.

**FARM CREDIT SERVICES**

3448 STH 23  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Phone: 608-935-3396

**WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is the federal agency that works with landowners on private lands to conserve natural resources. NRCS is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, formerly the Soil Conservation Service.

Nearly three-fourths of the technical assistance provided by the agency goes to helping farmers and ranchers develop conservation systems uniquely suited to their land and individual ways of doing business. The agency also provides assistance to other private landowners and rural and urban communities to reduce erosion, conserve and protect water, and solve other resource problems.

**WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**

6515 Watts Road,  
Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53719

Phone (608) 276-USDA

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

**WISCONSIN 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 HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Society serves as the archives of the State of Wisconsin. It collects books, periodicals, maps, manuscripts, relics, newspapers, and audio and graphic materials as they relate to North America. It maintains a museum, library, and research facility in Madison, as well as a statewide system of historic sites, school services, area research centers, administering a broad program of historic preservation and publishing a wide variety of historical materials, both scholarly and popular. The historical society can also provide assistance for various state and federal programs.

**WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Office of Preservation Planning  
Division of Historic Preservation  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

Phone: 608-264-6500

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org>

**DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY (DALC)****DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY**

338 N Iowa Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533  
608-930-3252

Email: [driftless@mhtc.net](mailto:driftless@mhtc.net)  
[www.driftlesslandtrust.org](http://www.driftlesslandtrust.org)

DALC's mission is to provide a means to protect the unique natural resources and preserve the rural landscape and quality of life in southwestern Wisconsin. We will accomplish this mission through traditional land trust techniques such as accepting donations or purchasing of land and development rights on significant lands in an area generally defined as Richland, Sauk, Iowa, and Lafayette counties.