

I. Agricultural Resources Proposed Goals and Objectives

~~GOAL 1: Protect Dane County's prime agricultural lands for the benefit and use of current and future generations. Identify areas of Dane County suitable for long-term preservation and viability of diverse agricultural enterprises and resources.~~

Supporting objectives:

- a. Minimize the amount of land converted from agricultural use to accommodate permitted non-farm development.**
- b. Expand the Dane County Farmland Trust Fund for the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE).**
- c. Establish a countywide transfer of development rights (TDR) framework for towns, villages and cities that wish to join.²
- d. Assist town adoption of local transfer of development rights (TDR) programs.**
- e. Enforce tax credit penalties under state law for land rezoned out of exclusive agricultural zoning.**

GOAL 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.²

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.⁴
- c. Develop marketing tools to promote Dane County grown goods.**
- d. Continue and strengthen efforts to educate farmers about cost-saving measures.**
- e. Educate the general public on the value that agriculture production/Agri-Business adds to the Dane County economy.**
- f. Help entrepreneurs plan, start and grow new enterprises that capture value from agriculture.**
- g. Provide information about modern agriculture production to foster understanding and tolerance between farmers and their residential neighbors.**
- h. Establish a County Agriculture Enterprise Development Center.**
- i. Market Badger Care to rural farm families needing health ins.**
- j. New commercial or industrial land uses that directly serve the local or regional agricultural community shall be encouraged to locate in areas where they can most economically and efficiently serve that farm community.

GOAL 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.³
- b. Encourage future urban development to be compact, adjacent to existing development and consistent with town planning policies.***
- c. Commercial and industrial uses which 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. Provide for conservation subdivisions as a means of clustering development and as part of a town farmland preservation strategy.

II. Land Resources Proposed Goals and Objectives (DRAFT 4/22/2004)

Goal 1: Develop and promote a county-wide system of open space corridors as a framework to protect 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. Use TDR/PDR county-wide to protect natural corridors and other natural areas & open space²
- b. Minimize adverse impacts of necessary encroachment of utilities and transportation facilities into open space corridors.***
- c. Environmental corridors which are identified in county and town plans and are part of an operating farm should be zoned either for agriculture or conservancy use.**

Goal 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 & Open Space Plan***
- b. Conduct regular surveys of Dane County residents on a periodic basis to find out if all recreational needs are met.¹

Goal 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 space around the central urban area of the county by _____.~~***

Goal 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 natural vegetation along local roadsides should be encouraged when practical.**~~
- ~~b. Define and map define viewsheds and drainage areas that might impact protected open space.***~~

Goal 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 & Open Space Plan* ***
- b. Complete the 10-year Conservation Fund acquisition program described in the *Parks & Open Space Plan* by year 8.²
- ~~c. Renew the Conservation Fund for 10 years by 2008, and increase the amount to 50 million dollars (\$5 million per year).²~~
- ~~d. Identify and map key natural resources, including those outside the scope of the *Parks & Open Space Plan*.***~~

Goal 6. Promote a holistic, ecosystem-based 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 of upland prairies, woodlands and wetlands.~~

III. Water Resources Proposed Goals and Objectives (DRAFT 2/25/2004)

GOAL 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. New urban and rural development will be in areas that minimize potential adverse impacts on the quality of ground and surface waters.***~~
- ~~b.a.~~ Encourage land use patterns and practices which preserve the integrity of the natural hydrologic system, including the balance between ground and surface waters.**
- ~~e.b.~~ Partner with and involve citizens on soil and water conservation initiatives in rural and urban areas.***
- ~~d.c.~~ Support educational initiatives through public schools, the University of Wisconsin and UWEX relating to land and water conservation.**
- ~~e.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 of the environment are minimized.**

GOAL 2: Decrease flooding and flood-related problems within Dane County and in areas affected by Dane County drainage.**

Supporting objectives:

- a. Prevent development that would increase the potential for flood-related problems.***
- b. Fully implement the Dane County Flood Mitigation Plan.** (tentative pending ANCR review of plan implementation)

GOAL 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. Implement a policy of no-net-loss of groundwater recharge, compared to the infiltration rate of native ecosystems, for all new development.³~~
- ~~b.a.~~ Reverse the current trend of regional water table draw-down by 2045.¹
- ~~e.b.~~ Map areas of high infiltration, soils, known recharge areas & areas suitable for wetland restoration.¹
- ~~d.c.~~ Improve monitoring of land-spreading septage to protect groundwater and surface-water quality.²
- ~~e.d.~~ Promote public awareness of the need for water conservation.²
- ~~f.e.~~ Implement water conservation through development of standards for new development and incentives for existing development.²
- ~~g.f.~~ Recommend groundwater protection strategies to 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 development to maintain or improve groundwater recharge.**
- i. Explore innovative methods of improving water quality and waste disposal by design of development together with applications of new technology.
- j. Support public sewer service limited to those areas designated as urban service areas or limited service areas.

GOAL 4: Protect and rehabilitate the water quality of the surface waters of Dane County. 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.¹
- c. Implement strict regulations, education programs and cleaning procedures at public and private boat landings, starting by 2010, to eliminate the spread of invasive aquatic plants and animal species in Dane County lakes and rivers.¹
- d. Preserve the role of wetlands ~~and~~ woodlands and streambank buffers as essential components of the hydrologic system as well as valuable wildlife habitat. and to restore degraded wetland resources and streambank buffers where possible.***
- e. Increase vegetative cover within urban areas.
- e.f. Manage crop nutrients in an economic and environmentally sound manner.***
- f.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.**
- g.h. Protect shoreland and floodplain areas throughout the County, in both incorporated and unincorporated areas. and to emphasize their value to the community as potential focal points of natural beauty and recreation. **
- h.i. Wastewater facilities planning and improvements should be conducted in the context of comprehensive areawide and watershed plans for pollution control and resource protection.**
- i.j. Coordinate water quality monitoring.**
- k. Mitigate and encourage new technologies to improve quality and reduce quantity of urban stormwater runoff.**

GOAL 5: Develop and promote a county-wide 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 & Open Space Plan** (tentative pending ANCR review of plan implementation)

GOAL 6: Provide adequate public access to the county's water resources.¹

- a. Provide access to lakes and streams and water-based recreation trails. These water-based trails would be designed for use by canoes, kayaks, and similar watercraft.***

IV. Wildlife Resources Proposed Goals and Objectives (DRAFT 4/22/2004)

Goal 1. Preserve for posterity the nature and diversity of Dane County's natural and cultural heritage by identifying and protecting lands and waters critical in conserving:

- native, endangered, threatened & unique plants & animals;
- wildlife habitats and;
- native ecological communities.***

Supporting objectives:

- a. Fully implement the *Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan*.***
- b. Incorporate natural resource areas in plans for parks and open space.***
- c. Adopt effective local ordinances to protect steep slopes, hillsides, bluffs and grassland communities.***
- d. Seek state, federal and other funding to protect steep slopes, hillsides, bluffs, grassland communities and wildlife habitat. ***
- e. Before approving any changes in land use, consider the impact on wildlife habitat, potential locations of rare plant and animal species and archeological sites.**
- f. Promote public and agency education so that grasslands gain equal footing with forests and wetlands in the public's perception of important natural habitats.**
- g. 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.**
- h. Protect cliff communities as they become identified, by discouraging development or removal of native vegetation that would subject them to erosion or destruction.**
- ~~i. In the absence of natural area corridors such as riverways, establish at least one open space corridor, such as farmland, connecting each significant natural area to the nearest other significant natural area.²~~

Goal 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. Study lands under county ownership for the purpose of evaluating controlled hunting.***~~

Goal 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.***

Goal 4. Maintain or improve the biodiversity of Dane County land & water resources by:

- protecting and enhancing in-stream, riparian, wetland, and upland habitat, and;
- maintaining and restoring diverse, high quality biological communities that occurred naturally in southern Wisconsin (woods, savannas, prairies, wetlands).***

Supporting objectives:

- a. Encourage the use of native plants in landscaping, where appropriate.***
- b. Manage for large tracts of grassland habitat as the best strategy for supporting viable populations.***
- ~~c. Keep larger blocks of woods connected. Such protection will buffer the interior from drying winds and sunlight and from woodland edge birds that prey on forest nesting birds.**~~
- ~~d.c.~~ Maintain large, intact areas of native vegetation. ***
- ~~e.d.~~ Establish program priorities for species and habitat protection. ***
- ~~f.e.~~ Protect rare landscapes.***
- ~~g.f.~~ Maintain connections among wildlife habitat areas.***
- ~~h.g.~~ Maintain significant ecological processes.***
- ~~i.h.~~ Contribute to the regional persistence of rare species.***
- ~~j.i.~~ Develop within the constraints of natural features.***
- ~~k.j.~~ Maintain and develop buffers between public lands and human development.***

Goal 5. Balance public and private needs with wildlife habitat 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.¹
- c. Establish countywide PDR/TDR to fairly compensate landowners for additional wildlife habitat and open space protection.²
- 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.***

V. Historic & Archaeological Resources Proposed Goals and Objectives (DRAFT 2/25/2004)

Goal 1: Provide permanent protection, interpretation and maintenance for all currently identified and currently unidentified Dane County archaeological sites.***

Supporting objectives:

- ~~a. Require the preservation of Indian Mounds and other archaeological resources on both public and private lands.**~~
- b.a. Include archaeological significance among the criteria for acquiring and managing lands under all county real estate programs, such as the *Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan* or Purchase of Development Rights programs. **
- e.b. Plan for the greatest protection and appreciation of the resources of each publicly-accessible property that contains archaeological sites.**
- d.c. Provide county & 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.¹

Goal 2: Protect, preserve and restore 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.
- b.c. Include historic and cultural significance among the criteria for acquiring and managing lands under all county real estate programs, such as the *Dane County Parks & Open Space Plan* or Purchase of Development Rights programs.**
- e.d. Proactively designate historic districts and structures, and seek to incorporate the following principles into redevelopment of historic sites:***
 - ~~—Protect historic and architectural integrity, including both interior and exterior elements.**~~
 - Promote adaptive reuse of historic structures that is consistent with local land use plans.***
 - Respect property rights of private landowners with historic resources on their lands.***
- d.e. Develop a stronger institutional framework for historic preservation, and improve the tools available for the county to use in protecting significant resources, by:**
 - Establishing a system of designation priorities and a coordinated preservation program.***
 - Making the County a Certified Local Government and allow the county to apply for and use historic preservation grants.***
 - Developing and using TDR programs, PDR programs and historic district overlay zoning, as appropriate, to preserve historic and archaeological sites.¹
 - Creating a new conditional use in the zoning code to encourage re-use of farm buildings from past centuries.³
 - Providing county & state assistance to local governments to identify, register and document architectural resources and sponsor nomination of eligible resources to the National Register of Historic Places.¹
- e.f. Preserve the historic visual character of state-designated rustic roads.¹

Goal 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 historical sites.³
- d. Utilize school curricula to emphasize and educate students about local historical sites.³
- e. Utilize seniors in identifying and educating about historical and cultural sites.³
- f. Utilize Native American tribal leaders in identifying and educating about archaeological sites.
- g. Interpret the significance of historic and archaeological sites to educate visitors about their significance, add greater interest, and preserve area history.***

Goal 4: Identify, record and evaluate archaeological, historical and cultural resources and sites.³

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, which should include maps, photos, architectural plans, historical information, such as property records and a searchable index, while taking precautions to protect sites from damage or vandalism.
- c. Utilize seniors in identifying and educating about historical and cultural sites.
- d. Utilize Native American tribal leaders in identifying and educating about archaeological sites.

VI. Mineral Resources Proposed Goals and Objectives (DRAFT 5/27/2004)

Goal 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.³
- 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.**

Goal 2: Minimize or mitigate negative environmental, neighborhood, traffic and other impacts of all active mineral extraction operations. Establish consistent, measurable standards for permitting and operation of mineral extraction sites.***

Supporting objectives:

- a. Encourage the continuation of compatible land uses such as agriculture or forestry on lands with identified significant mineral resources.**
- ~~b. Convert all non-conforming mineral extraction sites to permitted sites.³~~
- ~~e.b.~~ Develop and implement county-wide standards for:
 - adequate separation between existing land uses and new mineral extractions or expansions;**
 - safe hauling routes;**
 - screening, planting and setbacks for mineral extraction operations;**
 - noise, dust and runoff control;
 - blasting, including safe operation, notification and scheduling;
 - on-site recycling or processing operations
 - public input and consideration of neighbor concerns
- ~~d.c.~~ Prohibit new land uses that will interfere with existing mineral extraction operations.**

Goal 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.¹

Goal 4: Encourage and assist the reclamation of identified non-operating mineral extraction sites.³

Supporting objectives:

- a. Establish a funding source based on active mineral extraction operations to assist in the reclamation of non-operating sites.³

Goal 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:
 - the need for mineral resources,
 - the need for, and ways to reuse or recycle mineral resources
 - potential impacts, and mitigation or management techniques;
 - the temporary nature of mineral extraction operations
 - current permitting and reclamation requirements
 - the presence of existing or proposed mineral extraction sites
 - opportunities for public and local government input into permitting decisions.**
- b. Require deed restrictions informing potential buyers of the proximity of existing mineral extraction sites and identified potential mineral resources.³

Goal 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.¹
- b. Focus on resources that can be recycled and reused.²
- c. Include operation of recycling facilities into mineral extraction operation permit standards

Goal 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.³
- b. Strongly encourage local units of government to incorporate mineral extraction resource and operation information and standards into their comprehensive plans.**