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; 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 corridor resource protection 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,
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 and to restore degraded wetland resources and streambank buffers wherever 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 corridor resource protection 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 corridor resource protection 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 corridor/resource protection 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;

      (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;
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.
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND COOPERATIVE PLANNING

Goal
1. Where appropriate, Dane County government should develop and enter into, formal intergovernmental agreements with other communities to reduce costs, provide for more efficient delivery of service, protect regional resources, or to further the goals of the Dane County Comprehensive Plan.

Policies and Programs
1. Incorporate all existing intergovernmental agreements, to which Dane County is currently a signatory, into the Dane County Comprehensive Plan (See Volume II for a complete list).
2. Establish a process to automatically amend the comprehensive plan to include new intergovernmental agreements once they are signed by Dane County.
3. Encourage and support cooperative development agreements between Dane County communities that further the goals and objectives of the Dane County Comprehensive Plan.
4. Continue to actively sponsor, and participate in, project-specific multi-jurisdictional planning efforts, like the North Mendota Parkway and Open Space Corridor Resource protection Project, or the Highway 12 Expansion project, that have the potential to affect resources, infrastructure or services at the county or regional level.

OTHER UNITS OF GOVERNMENT

Neighboring County Governments
Policies and Programs
1. Continue to explore new opportunities to work cooperatively with the governments of Columbia, Sauk, Iowa, Green, Rock, Jefferson and Dodge Counties, in order to further the goals of the Dane County Comprehensive Plan.
2. The County will work with towns and other local units to evaluate the impact of Dane County’s development policies on adjacent counties, in order to encourage adjacent communities to adopt appropriate growth management programs.

Regional Entities
Policies and Programs
1. Continue to work with state and local governments to support and maintain the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission as a regional entity, representative of the Dane County area, with the capacity to:
   A. Conduct regional water quality planning services, including the approval of public sewer and water extensions, under NR 121, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and to maintain and update the Dane County Water Quality Plan. In developing the Dane County Water Quality Plan, the CARPC will;
      (1) comply with all requirements of NR 121, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
(2) 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.

(3) 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. Provide information, mapping and protection for environmental and open-space corridors, resource protection corridors, and coordinate water quality monitoring, and hydrological modelling;

C. Provide demographic research, maintain the annual Regional Trends Report, serve as the regional census depository, and provide technical planning and research services to Dane County communities, and;

D. Provide a regional forum for networking, discussion and communication between communities in the Dane County area.

2. Continue to support and work cooperatively to further the goals of the Dane County Comprehensive Plan with other regional entities, including:

   A. Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission (See Chapter 5: Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources)

   B. Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (See Chapter 4: Utilities and Community Facilities);

   C. Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (See Chapter 3: Transportation)

   D. Drainage Districts (See Chapter 5: Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources)

   E. Collaboration Council (See Chapter 6: Economic Development)

### School Districts

**Policies and Programs**

1. Work to expand the county’s relationship with school districts, particularly with respect to residential development planning and opportunities for shared services, amenities or facilities. *(See also Chapter 4: Utilities and Community Facilities)*

### State Government

**Policies and Programs**

1. Continue to use the county legislative agenda process and the county legislative lobbyist to advocate to the Wisconsin Legislature about issues of concern to Dane County, and to review and comment on pending legislation that has the potential to affect the county.

2. Continue to work with State of Wisconsin agencies to meet statutory obligations, share resources and find collaborative ways to further county and state planning goals.
Environmental and Open-Space Corridor Resource protection corridors

Environmental Corridors are contiguous systems of open space in urban and urbanizing areas, that include environmentally sensitive lands and natural resources requiring protection from disturbance and development, and lands needed for open space and recreational use. They are based mainly on drainage ways and stream channels, floodplains, wetlands, steep slopes over 12.5%, and other resource features. Regional Planning Commission staff work with municipalities to delineate and map environmental corridors as part of the process for approving Urban Service Areas.

Open-Space Corridor Resource protection corridors, as shown on the Planned Land Use Map, include areas that are not suitable for structural development due to environmental sensitivity or because of the presence of fragile, irreplaceable resources. Resource Protection Corridors apply to areas outside Urban Service Areas as identified in the Dane County Water Quality Plan. Resource Protection Corridor Overlays include the following categories of lands:

- wetlands, as defined in state statute and including both the shoreland wetland and inland wetland districts under Chapter 11, Dane County Code;
- shoreland setbacks and wetland buffers required under Chapter 11, Dane County Code;
- 1% regional floodplains, including the general floodplain district, floodway district and flood storage district, as described in Chapter 17, Dane County Code;
- slopes greater than 20%, as indicated in current Dane County contour data, or as measured on site, and;
- other areas identified in town, city or village plans adopted as part of the Dane County Comprehensive Plan, as areas specifically planned to protect natural or cultural resources, and where structural development is strictly limited.

All towns in Dane County and the County Board of Supervisors have adopted policies in the Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan to protect Open Space Corridors from development.

Policies throughout this plan seek to maintain and strengthen both Environmental and Open-Space Corridor Resource protection corridors to provide a complete network of protected and interlinked natural resource protection areas throughout the county.

Goals, Objectives, Policies and Programs

Overall Land Use

Goals

1. Promote the redevelopment of lands with existing infrastructure and public services and the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing residential, commercial and industrial structures.
J. Promote a variety of land uses and a range of residential densities and housing types at locations within neighborhoods next to commercial centers and transit.

6. **Encourage neighborhood designs that support a range of transportation choices.**

   Supporting Objectives
   
   A. Coordinate land use and transportation plans and decisions to ensure that transportation facilities are compatible with planned development.
   
   B. Promote more efficient service provision that provides transit options.
   
   C. Promote mobility and accessibility to housing, employment and services via multiple modes of transportation.
   
   D. Identify and promote linkages between housing policies and economic development programs to reduce commuting distance.
   
   E. Promote the location of community-scaled development in urban residential areas and mixed-use settings along major transportation corridors that are, or will be, served by transit; concentrate the largest developments at transit stops and other inter-modal transportation nodes.

7. **Protect natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodland, open spaces and groundwater resources.**

   (See also Chapter 5: Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources)

   Supporting Objectives
   
   A. Develop comprehensive water management policies for Dane County, considering the connections between land-use, urban growth, and surface water and groundwater issues.
   
   B. Promote the creation of compact urban, mixed-use developments in underutilized or vacant sites (infill areas) to avoid the conversion of agricultural or open space areas.
   
   C. Promote housing development that protects designated environmental and open space resource protection corridors.

9.8 **Balance individual property rights with community interests and goals.**

**Regional Planning Framework**

**Policies and Programs**

1. Maintain and enhance the existing regional planning framework in Dane County.

   A. **Urban Service Areas:** Continue to direct urban development requiring a full range of public services to designated Urban Service Areas, as identified in the most current versions of adopted town, village, city and county land use and comprehensive plans, the Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan and the Dane County Water Quality Plan.

      (1) Urban Service Areas as shown in the most current version of the Dane County Water Quality Plan shall serve as “Smart Growth Areas” as defined in s. 16.965(1)(b), Wisconsin Statutes, for the purposes of the Dane County Comprehensive Plan. Limited Services Areas delineated in the Dane County Water Quality Plan may also be approved.
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as “Smart Growth Areas” where appropriate to promote higher density infill development as part of a transfer of development rights program.

(2) Continue to refer to Urban Service Area plans adopted into the Dane County Water Quality Plan to provide detailed land use planning policies within Urban Service Areas.

B. Agricultural Preservation Areas: Within designated Agricultural Preservation Areas, as identified in the Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan and in town plans adopted by the county board (See Chapter 8: Intergovernmental Coordination):

(1) Continue to maintain and support production agriculture, agricultural-related businesses, forestry, open space, and compatible uses.

(2) Limit residential densities according to policies established in town plans adopted by the county board.

(3) Maintain eligibility for farmland preservation tax credits under Chapter 91, Wisconsin Statutes.

(4) Continue to refer to town plans adopted by the county board for detailed land use policies within Agricultural Preservation Areas.

C. Rural Development And Transitional Areas: Within Rural Development or Transitional Areas as identified in town plans adopted by the county board (See Chapter 8: Intergovernmental Coordination):

(1) Continue to promote limited, compact, and efficient development.

(2) Encourage the use of conservation design, Transfer of Development Rights, site planning, design review and other techniques to ensure compatibility with agricultural, natural resource and open space use, and with neighboring communities.

(3) Develop opportunities and guidelines for limited, multi-family senior housing in unincorporated Rural Development and Transitional Areas to serve local aging populations.

(4) Continue to refer to town plans adopted by the county board for detailed land use policies within Rural Development and Transitional Areas.

D. Environmental and Open Space Corridor Resource protection corridors: Continue to redirect development away from, and limit encroachment into, designated Environmental and Open Space Corridor Resource protection corridors, as identified in the most current version of adopted town, village, city and county land use and comprehensive plans, the Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan and the Dane County Water Quality Plan.

   a) Generally prohibit new structures, buildings or urban development and limit impervious surfaces. Continue to redirect non farm development away from, and limit encroachment into, designated Resource Protection Corridors.

   b) Minimize encroachment and adverse impacts of utilities and transportation facilities on land and water resources in Dane County.

   c) Maintain in agricultural, conservation or open space use.
d) Require erosion control and soil and water conservation practices for all land disturbing activities.

e) Provided all applicable county and state erosion control, stormwater, shoreland, wetland, floodplain and stream crossing regulations are met, the following may be permitted in the Resource Protection Corridor:

(1) New structures specifically permitted within setback areas or below regional flood elevations under Chapter 11, Dane County Code, and Chapter 17, Dane County Code, provided all conditions, standards or mitigation requirements are met.

(2) Expansion or improvement of existing accesses or driveways, if necessary to meet current local driveway standards.

(3) Replacement of existing structures, unless prohibited by Dane County ordinance, or by state or federal law.

f) Continue to enforce county or municipal ordinances that meet minimum standards for water quality established by the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission and the Dane County Board of Supervisors under Section 33.45, Wis. Stats.

g) Support programs to restore natural vegetation, remove invasive species and improve habitat.

(1) Where there are disputes over mapped wetlands, floodplains, soil or slope conditions, the county board, village board or common council may refer to detailed studies derived from onsite field conditions to determine actual Resource Protection Corridor boundaries. Any such study must be reviewed and approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, county or municipal zoning authorities, the Dane County Surveyor, the Dane County Land Conservation Division, or the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, as appropriate. Developers bear the burden of proof that mapped Resource Protection Corridors are in error.

(2) Continue to apply the provisions of the Dane County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 11, Dane County Code), Dane County Floodplain Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 17, Dane County Code) and the Dane County Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Ordinance (Chapter 14, Dane County Code) within Environmental and Open Space Corridors.

(2)h) Continue to refer to town plans adopted by the county board (See Chapter 8: Intergovernmental Coordination) for additional land use policies within Environmental and Open Space Corridors.

E. Natural Resource and Recreation Areas: Continue to protect significant natural resources and recreational lands identified in priority setting documents, such as the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan and the Land and Water Resources Conservation Plan, through county and collaborative, voluntary acquisition and incentive programs.
b. Create rural development design and siting guidelines and regulations to minimize rural nonfarm, development on agriculture.

c. Develop options and tools for mitigation of potential impacts of proposed developments on woodlands, grasslands, wetlands or wildlife habitat.

(4) Designate "rural development areas" by planning for eventual residential and commercial development.

a. Seek to maintain or increase housing density, in accordance with local plans

b. Promote development clustered based upon historical patterns such as existing hamlets, cross roads communities, subdivisions, and conservation subdivisions, as well as environmental factors such as soils, slopes, and viewsheds.

c. Develop rural commercial development design and siting guidelines to minimize adverse impacts on rural agricultural operations, to preserve scenic views, and to facilitate the efficient provision of services.

(5) Encourage communities to direct new dwelling units to the Outlying Urban Service Areas (OUSAs) and to the Central Urban Service Areas (CUSAs) as appropriate in order to ensure that development occurs in locations with a range of urban services, and where those services can be provided most efficiently.

(6) Develop a coordination process to compare plans of adjoining communities to minimize incompatible uses, promote interconnection of planned transportation routes, recreational trails and paths, and to encourage creation of large natural resource and agricultural areas that cross community borders.

C. Make computer modeling programs available so towns, cities and villages can play with different development / build-out scenarios to see how it affects their community. (See also Chapter 2: Housing.)

D. Work with towns to develop zoning changes, land division ordinances, conservation subdivision, building codes, driveway codes, intergovernmental agreements and other tools, based on county models where appropriate, to implement local and county planning goals.

(1) Work with towns to amend local building, nuisance and other codes to accommodate agricultural practices. (See also Chapter 5: Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources.)

(2) Assist towns to complete “blanket rezones” of mapped open space corridor/ protection corridors to the CO-1 or A-1(ex) zoning district, where appropriate. (See also Chapter 5: Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources.)

(3) Encourage communities to adopt ordinances to require land for schools be set side for development of a given size or when a critical number of home sites are approved. (See also Chapter 4: Utilities and Community Facilities.)

E. Establish a “best practices” sourcebook for use by town plan commissions and town boards that would include model plan language, ordinances and intergovernmental agreements, as well as policy guidelines for programs like TDR or PDR, density caps, etc. (See also Chapter 5: Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources.)