

Chapter X

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The agricultural, natural, and cultural resources element, together with the land use element seeks to balance long term growth and development in the County with the environmental health, agricultural activities, and cultural history of the County. The preservation of these resources, to the extent possible, will help to maintain the overall quality of the environment of the County, to preserve the County's cultural and natural heritage and natural beauty, and to provide for continued opportunities for agricultural, recreational, and educational pursuits.

The agricultural, natural, and cultural resources element is one of the nine elements of a comprehensive plan required by Section 66.1001 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*. Section 66.1001 (2) (e) of the *Statutes* requires this element to compile goals, objectives, policies, and programs for the conservation and effective management of the following natural resources:

- Groundwater
- Forests
- Productive agricultural area
- Environmentally sensitive areas
- Threatened and endangered species
- Stream corridors
- Surface water
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Wildlife habitat
- Nonmetallic mineral resources
- Parks, open spaces, and recreational resources
- Historical and cultural resources
- Community design¹

¹*Community design recommendations are included in the Land Use Element (Chapter IX).*

In addition, the following comprehensive planning goals related to the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources element are set forth in Section 16.965 of the *Statutes* and must be addressed as part of the planning process:²

- Promotion of the redevelopment of lands with existing infrastructure and public services and the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing residential, commercial, and industrial structures.
- Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces, and groundwater resources.
- Protection of economically productive areas, including farmland and forests.
- Encouragement of land uses, densities, and regulations that promote efficient development patterns and relatively low municipal, state government, and utility costs.
- Preservation of cultural, historic, and archaeological sites.
- Building of community identity by revitalizing main streets and enforcing design standards.
- Planning and development of land uses that create or preserve varied and unique urban and rural communities.

Element Format

This chapter is organized into the following five sections:

- Background Information on Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources in Racine County;
- Public Input—Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Issues;
- Racine County Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Plan;
- Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Conservation Techniques; and
- Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Programs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES IN RACINE COUNTY

This section presents a summary of key background information that was considered in developing the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources element. Specifically, this section presents a summary description of existing agricultural, natural, and cultural resources in Racine County. A detailed description of existing resources in Racine County is presented in Chapter III of this report. As described in Chapter III, Racine County contains significant areas of valuable resources including large blocks of productive farmland, a variety of natural resource features including Lake Michigan, the Fox and Root River corridors, and numerous historic sites and features scattered across the County. A summary of the key resource base features follows:

- The majority of Racine County is covered by soils which are well suited for agricultural use—agricultural capability Class II soils, as identified by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (see Map III-1 in Chapter III).
- The Regional Planning Commission’s land use inventory indicates that agricultural land encompassed about 195.5 square miles, or 57 percent of the Racine County planning area, in 2000 (see Map III-2 in Chapter III).
- The Federal Census of Agriculture indicates that there was a total of 631 farms in Racine County in 2002. The Census further reported that the total value of agricultural products sold in Racine County stood at \$73.2 million in 2002. It is readily apparent from Census statistics that Racine County agriculture is diverse and traditional crops such as corn and vegetables, and specialty agriculture such as nurseries and greenhouses are important for the County’s farm economy.

²Chapter VIII lists all 14 of the comprehensive planning goals included in Section 16.965 of the *Statutes*.

- The physiography, topography, and geology of Racine County have been largely determined by glacial activity. The most substantial glacial deposits are 100 to 300 feet thick, and located in the central portion of the County (see Map III-6 in Chapter III).
- Racine County contains significant nonmetallic mineral resources in the form of crushed stone, building stone, sand, gravel, peat, and clay (see Maps III-10 and III-11 in Chapter III). There were 19 mining sites encompassing about 2,600 acres in Racine County in 2006 (see Map III-9 in Chapter III).
- Surface water resources, consisting of streams and lakes and their associated wetlands, and floodplains, form an important element of the natural resource base. Racine County contains approximately 101 miles of streams, 10 major lakes (lakes 50 acres or larger in size), 41.8 square miles of floodplains and 24.8 square miles of wetlands (see Map III-13 in Chapter III).
- Groundwater resources constitute another key element of the natural resource base. There are three major aquifers within Racine County—the surficial sand and gravel aquifer, the Niagara dolomite aquifer, and the deep aquifer. Groundwater not only sustains lake levels, wetlands, and stream flows, but also comprises a major source of water supply for domestic, municipal, and industrial water users.
- Woodlands, as identified in the Regional Planning Commission’s land use inventory, encompassed about 19.8 square miles, or nearly 6 percent of Racine County, in 2000 (see Map III-15 in Chapter III).
- A comprehensive inventory of “natural areas” and “critical species habitat sites” in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region was completed by the Regional Planning Commission in 1994. The inventory identified the most significant remaining natural areas—essentially, remnants of pre-European settlement landscape. A total of 59 natural areas, encompassing 8.8 square miles, were identified in Racine County as part of the 1994 inventory (see Map III-16 in Chapter III). The 1994 inventory also identified 34 critical species habitat sites encompassing 1.9 square miles (see Map III-17 in Chapter III).
- The most important elements of the natural resource base and features closely related to that base—including wetlands, woodlands, prairies, wildlife habitat, major lakes and streams and associated shorelands and floodlands, and historic, scenic, and recreational sites—when combined result in essentially elongated patterns referred to by the Commission as “environmental corridors” (see Map III-18 in Chapter III). “Primary” environmental corridors, which are the longest and widest type of environmental corridor, are generally located in the Racine County planning area along major stream valleys, around major lakes, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline; they encompassed 35.5 square miles, or about 10.4 percent of the County planning area, in 2000. “Secondary” environmental corridors are generally located along small perennial and intermittent streams; they encompassed 12.0 square miles, or about 3.2 percent of the County planning area, in 2000. In addition to the environmental corridors, “isolated natural resource areas,” consisting of small pockets of natural resource base elements separated physically from the environmental corridor network, have been identified. Widely scattered throughout the County, isolated natural resource areas encompassed about 12.9 square miles, or about 3.5 percent of the County planning area, in 2000.
- A comprehensive inventory park and open space sites was conducted as part of the comprehensive planning process. In 2007, Racine County owned 32 park and open space sites encompassing 2,720 acres; the State of Wisconsin owned 19 park and open space sites encompassing 3,406 acres; local units of government owned 229 park and open space sites encompassing 2,970 acres (see Maps III-19 and III-20 in Chapter III). In addition, there were 108 privately owned outdoor recreation and open space sites, encompassing a total of 2,630 acres, in Racine County in 2007 (see Map III-21 in Chapter III).
- In 2006, 40 individual sites and seven historic districts in Racine County were listed on the National Register of Historic Places (see Map III-23 in Chapter III).

PUBLIC INPUT—AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ISSUES

The comprehensive plan should address key agricultural, natural, and cultural resources issues based upon the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources-related information and public input gathered during the comprehensive planning process. The countywide public opinion survey, and strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analyses—both completed in 2007—resulted in the identification of a number of agricultural, natural, and cultural resources related issues to be addressed in this element. These issues include:

- The plan should strive to preserve rural and small town character.
- The plan should recognize the importance of balancing urban and rural land uses.
- The plan should strive to preserve open space land.
- The plan should strive to slow the loss of productive farmland and natural resources.
- The plan should seek to enable the continuation of farming as an important part of the County economy.
- The plan should encourage the implementation of financial tools and incentives to preserve agricultural and open space lands.
- The plan should seek to balance the preservation of open space lands with property rights.
- The plan should strive to protect wetlands, forest lands, areas of wildlife habitat, Lake Michigan, inland lakes, and park and open space lands.
- The plan should strive to protect surface water and ground water quality and quantity.
- The plan should strive to maintain the environmental health of the County.
- The plan should recognize and take into consideration the impacts of new developments on agricultural and open space lands and uses.
- The plan should strive to preserve cultural resources and historic sites and districts.

RACINE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES PLAN

The agricultural, natural, and cultural resources element is closely related to the land use element presented in the previous chapter. Many of the recommendations contained in the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources element are derived directly from the land use plan. The recommended land use plan for the Racine County planning area is presented graphically on Map IX-1 in Chapter IX and for individual communities in Appendix D. Quantitative data relative to the plan are provided in Table IX-1 in Chapter IX. Specific recommendations of the plan as related to agricultural, natural, and cultural resources are described below. Since natural and cultural resources exist in all areas of the County, plan recommendations related to these resources are applicable to all areas of the County. With respect to agricultural resources however, most agricultural lands, especially large blocks of farmland, are located west of IH 94. Consequently, plan recommendations with respect to agricultural resources have a greater implication on lands in the central and western portions of the County.

Agricultural Resources

The area of the Racine County planning area shown as “prime agricultural land” and “agricultural land, rural residential, and open land” on the County plan map (Map IX-1 in Chapter IX) are recommended to remain in essentially rural use—primarily agricultural use and rural density residential use.

Specifically, the plan recommends the following with respect to agricultural lands within the planning area:

1. The County plan recommends the preservation of prime agricultural lands—land best suited for agricultural use—as identified on the land use plan map in the Village of Mt. Pleasant and the Towns of Burlington and Waterford. Such lands, as shown on Map X-1, should be preserved for agricultural use, with residential development generally limited to no more than one dwelling unit per 20 acres in the Village of Mt. Pleasant and no more than one dwelling unit per 35 acres in the Towns of Burlington and Waterford.

2. The County plan encourages that agricultural lands not identified as “prime agricultural land”, continue in agricultural uses. In particular, the plan seeks to preserve, insofar as practicable, the most productive soils within these areas, namely U.S. Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) capability Class I, Class II, and Class III soils (see Map III-1 in Chapter III). This could be in the form of traditional agricultural use or alternative agricultural uses such as smaller hobby farms or specialty farms including community supported agricultural operations.
3. Agricultural lands in the planning area within planned sanitary sewer service areas would, as market demand dictates, be converted to urban uses during the planning period.
4. Nonprime agricultural lands outside of planned sanitary sewer service areas would continue in agriculture uses as noted above, or could accommodate rural residential development. The density of such developments vary somewhat from community to community and are detailed in the policies section of this chapter. The recommended rural residential densities increase the likelihood that suitable areas, with good soils and level topography, can be provided on each building site for proper location of private sewage disposal systems, wells, building pads, driveways, and other structures related to the basic residential use, without destruction or deterioration of the resource base or creation of other environmental problems. Rural density residential development is intended to reflect the overall density within the identified rural area and could be comprised of varying lot sizes, including existing substandard lots.

In addition to maintaining agricultural resources for future generations and the continued economic viability of working farms in Racine County, the preservation of agricultural land serves a number of other important public purposes. The preservation of farmlands helps prevent the creation of scattered, incomplete urban residential neighborhoods which are difficult to provide with basic public services and facilities, and can thus help to control local public expenditures. The preservation of farmland helps maintain the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the County, and helps avoid creating certain serious and costly development and environmental problems that are often attendant to scattered development.

The preservation of agricultural land, including prime agricultural land, remains a difficult and challenging issue, one that involves the balancing of land use objectives and the economic realities faced by farmers. Historically, efforts to ensure the preservation of farmland within the County have relied on zoning and other land use controls. Mechanisms designed to compensate landowners for committing their land to agricultural use—such as the purchase or transfer of development rights—have not yet been widely embraced within the County and Region. Programs available to help meet the goals and objectives of the plan with respect to agricultural lands are described later in the chapter.

The plan recommendations for nonprime farmland are intended to provide the opportunity for some development, with potential significant economic return, in a manner that is consistent with location in a rural area. Where rural residential development is accommodated, the plan encourages the use of conservation subdivision designs. Conservation subdivision designs are described later in this chapter.

As indicated in Table IX-1 in Chapter IX, agricultural lands, rural residential, and open lands in the Racine County planning area totaled about 214.4 square miles, or about 63 percent of the Racine County planning area, in 2000. By the year 2035, these lands within the planning area are anticipated to decrease by about 49.6 square miles, or about 23 percent, and thus, by the year 2035, these lands would total about 164.7 square miles, or about 48 percent of the planning area. Of the remaining agricultural land, about 31.9 square miles, or 19 percent are identified as prime agricultural land to be preserved.

Natural Resources

Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

The most important elements of the natural resource base of the Region, including the best remaining woodlands, wetlands, prairies, wildlife habitat, surface water and associated shorelands and floodlands, and related features, including existing park and open space sites, scenic views, and natural areas and critical species habitat sites,

occur in linear patterns in the landscape, termed “environmental corridors.” The most important of these have been identified as “primary environmental corridors,” which are by definition at least two miles long, 200 feet wide, and 400 acres in area. As shown on Map IX-1 in Chapter IX, primary environmental corridors in the Racine County planning area are generally located along major stream valleys, around major lakes, and along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The County plan recommends the preservation of primary environmental corridors in essentially natural, open use. The preservation of these corridors is considered essential to the overall environmental quality of the County and the maintenance of its unique cultural and natural heritage and natural beauty. Because these corridors are generally poorly suited for urban development owing to soil limitations, steep slopes, or flooding potential, their preservation will also help to avoid the creation of new environmental and developmental problems.

In addition to primary environmental corridors, other concentrations of natural resources—referred to as “secondary environmental corridors” and “isolated natural resource areas”—have been identified as warranting strong consideration for preservation (see Map IX-1 in Chapter IX). Secondary environmental corridors contain a variety of resource features and are by definition at least one mile long and 100 acres in area. Isolated natural resource areas are concentrations of natural resources of at least five acres in size that have been separated from the environmental corridor network by urban or agricultural use. The County plan recommends that these areas be considered for preservation as the process of urban and rural development proceeds based upon local needs and concerns. While secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas may serve as an attractive setting for well-planned rural residential developments, they also can provide cost effective sites for drainageways, and stormwater detention basins, and can provide needed open space in developing urban areas.

The plan recognizes that certain development may be accommodated in such areas without jeopardizing their overall integrity. Guidelines pertaining to such development within environmental corridors are presented in Table X-1. The guidelines recognize that certain transportation and utility uses may of necessity have to be located within such areas and that limited residential and recreational uses may be accommodated in such areas. Under these guidelines, residential development in environmental corridors would be limited to upland environmental corridors at an overall density of no more than one dwelling unit per five acres of upland resources. Conservation subdivision designs are strongly encouraged where such rural density residential development is accommodated. Under the guidelines, in lieu of rural density residential development, up to 10 percent of the upland corridor area may be disturbed in order to accommodate urban-density residential, commercial, industrial, or other urban development.

Under the County plan, the existing (year 2000) configuration of environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas would be modified slightly. These modifications include minor deletions attendant to prior local commitments to development, along with certain additions. The additions include currently farmed floodplains adjacent to existing environmental corridors within planned urban service areas that may be expected to revert to more natural conditions over time and become part of the corridor. The additions also include certain other open lands that are envisioned to revert to more natural conditions and become part of the environmental corridor as proposed in the Racine County park and open space plan.

As indicated in Table IX-1 in Chapter IX, under the County plan, primary environmental corridors in the Racine County planning area would encompass about 36.7 square miles, or 11 percent of the planning area, in 2035. This represents a net increase of 1.6 square miles, or 5 percent, over the existing 2000 area. Secondary environmental corridors would encompass 11.2 square miles in 2035, a net increase of about one square mile, or 8 percent, over 2000. Isolated natural resource areas would encompass about 12 square miles in 2035, about the same as in 2000.

The County plan supports carefully planned efforts to restore farmland and open space to more natural conditions, resulting in the re-establishment of wetlands, woodlands, prairies, grasslands, and forest interiors. Such efforts could expand the environmental corridor network in the County. The results of such restoration efforts would be reflected in future generations of the County plan.

Park and Open Space Sites

The plan recommends the following with respect to park and open space sites within the planning area:

1. The County plan recommends that all remaining natural areas and critical species habitat sites identified in the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan be preserved. Natural areas are tracts of land or water that contain plant and animal communities believed to be representative of the pre-European-settlement landscape; critical species habitat sites are other areas that support endangered, threatened, or rare plant or animal species. The location of these sites within the Racine County is shown on Maps III-16 and III-17 in Chapter III of this report. Almost all of the natural area and critical species habitat sites are located within environmental corridors or isolated natural resource areas.
2. It is advised that the recommendations of the Racine County park and open space plan be taken into consideration during the planning period. The County park and open space plan contains recommendations for County park facilities as well as recommendations for the long term preservation of environmentally sensitive lands and adjacent open space lands. The recommended open space element of the County plan is shown on Map X-2. As shown on Map X-2, the plan contains specific recommendations for the preservation and protection of open space lands through public ownership, private conservation organization ownership, and through the use of public land use regulation.
3. The County plan recommends that new community and neighborhood parks be provided as necessary in developing areas as identified in local park and open space plans.

Stormwater Drainage

Stormwater drainage in Racine County is provided by natural drainage ways; agricultural drainage ditches; farm drain tiles; and engineered stormwater management systems, which may include detention basins, infiltration facilities, storm sewers, culverts, and roadside ditches and swales. The preservation and protection of environmental corridors and isolated natural resources associated with rivers, streams, and lakes will facilitate the maintenance of the natural drainage ways in Racine County. As noted above, stormwater drainage in rural parts of the County is also provided through agricultural drainage ditches and farm drain tiles. As identified by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, about 150.8 square miles, or 44 percent of Racine County, consists of soils that are considered somewhat poorly, poorly, or very poorly drained. These are areas where water infiltrates so slowly that it may remain at or near the ground surface for long periods of time. In many areas of Racine County these naturally poorly drained areas have had the drainage improved through agricultural drainage ways and farm drain tiles. This has allowed such land to be used for productive agricultural purposes. Over time, the long term maintenance of these manmade drainage ways has become an increasing concern. Agricultural drainage ways that are not properly maintained and farm drain tiles that have accidentally or intentionally broken can have a negative impact on areas long established for agricultural uses.

For the long term protection of existing natural resources and urban and agricultural land uses, local units of government should consider the development of stormwater management plans and the creation of stormwater utility districts or farmland drainage districts, as appropriate. These districts have the authority to carry out tasks necessary for the maintenance of stormwater drainage systems. Implementation of these recommendations should include the following key elements:

- Significant public input-Input from members of the community and adjacent communities is crucial to ensure the benefits to the area are understood and that the needs and desires of the community(s) are considered.
- Existing flood/drainage problems-Specific problem areas should be identified and solution strategies developed.
- Technical data and staff-Detailed data with respect to soils, the existing drainage system, floodlands, rainfall, and runoff should be taken into consideration along with the assistance of experts in the field, including planners, engineers, and hydrologists.
- Watershed/subwatershed/subbasin approach-The area studied should be based on logical surface water runoff units such as subbasins, subwatersheds, or watersheds (in order of increasing relative size) to ensure community wide or multi-jurisdictional long term benefits.

- Regulations-Ordinances associated with stormwater management should be adopted by the County or local unit of government. These should include ordinances based on State regulations and standards with respect to stormwater management.

The implementation of these recommendations should result in a stormwater management system which reduces the exposure of people to drainage-related inconvenience and to health and safety hazards and which reduces the exposure of real and personal property damage through inundation resulting from flooding and inadequate stormwater drainage.

Groundwater Resources

Like surface water, groundwater is susceptible to depletion in quantity and to deterioration in quality as a result of contamination and over-usage. The vulnerability of groundwater to contamination is a combination of several factors, including soil type, subsurface material characteristics, and depth to groundwater levels. Thus, land use planning must appropriately consider the potential impacts of urban and rural development on this important resource.

Recharge of the aquifers underlying Racine County is derived largely by precipitation. Areas of groundwater recharge are shown on Map X-3. The map identifies areas based upon the rate of annual groundwater recharge from precipitation in the planning area. The protection of recharge areas classified as having a high or very high recharge potential is particularly important in the long term protection and preservation of groundwater resources in Racine County. The protection of these areas may be expected to be largely achieved through the implementation of the County 2035 land use plan since that plan recommends preservation of the environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, and prime and other agricultural and open areas of the County planning area. About 74 percent of the highly rated groundwater recharge areas and about 64 percent of the very highly rated recharge areas may be expected to be maintained by inclusion in the environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, prime agricultural, and agricultural, rural residential and open land areas of the County land use plan. In addition, the use of low impact development designs, cluster developments, and other sustainable development designs have the potential to effectively maintain infiltration capabilities in urban areas.

Nonmetallic Mineral Resources

Nonmetallic minerals, including sand, gravel, stone, peat, and clay, have significant commercial value and are an important economic source of construction materials needed for the continued development of Racine County and the Region and for the maintenance of the existing infrastructure. Permitting urban or rural development of lands overlying these resources, or in close proximity to these resources may make it impossible to utilize such resources economically in the future. This could result in shortages and concomitant increases in the costs of those materials.

The plan recommends the following with respect to nonmetallic mineral resources within the planning area:

1. There are several existing mining operations located in the County planning area (see Map III-9 in Chapter III). The plan recognizes the continued operation of these facilities, as well as the possible expansion of such facilities to adjacent lands subject to appropriate zoning and State and County regulations.
2. Racine County has significant potential for commercially workable sources of nonmetallic mineral resources, as described in Chapter III of this report. It must be recognized that there will continue to be a need for sand, gravel, stone, and clay for public works and development projects in the urbanizing County and Region. Decisions regarding future land development should take into consideration the location of mineral resources. Much of the area underlain by such deposits has been identified on Map IX-1 in Chapter IX as agricultural land. Maintenance of these agricultural lands in open uses would ensure the availability of lands for future mineral extraction purposes.

While extractive operations may cover increased acreage, on-going restoration of areas mined is expected to keep the active mining area from increasing significantly from its present level and land which has been mined is expected to be returned to useable open space.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources provide the County and each of its communities with a sense of heritage, identity, and civic pride. These resources include historic buildings, structures, sites, and districts, archaeological sites and museums. These resources are described in Chapter III of this report. The protection, development, and enhancement of cultural opportunities and activities are important to Racine County, and are viewed as a way to enhance tourism as well as maintain and improve the overall quality of life in Racine County.

The plan recommends the following with respect to cultural resources within the planning area:

1. Preserve, protect, and maintain historic sites and districts in Racine County. This includes sites and districts listed on the National and State Registers, local historic markers, and sites listed on the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory.
2. Continue efforts that serve to archive important information and materials related to County and local history. This includes the continuation and creation of local landmarks and historic preservation committees and local historical societies and museums.
3. Preserve, protect, and maintain archaeological sites in Racine County. Like historic sites and districts, these sites increase the understanding and awareness of the past and provide for economic opportunities through tourism if properly identified and preserved.
4. Preserve, protect, and maintain older agricultural structures that reflect the historic rural character and farming heritage of Racine County and its communities. This could include features such as farmsteads, barns, silos, fences, and rock walls.

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES

While it is expected that Federal, State, County, and local public land use regulations will serve as an important tool in achieving plan recommendations with respect to the preservation and protection of agricultural, natural and cultural resources, other conservation techniques that have proven successful in other communities in Wisconsin and across the nation experiencing development pressures may have relevance for Racine County communities. These include, but are not limited to conservation easements, conservation subdivision design, lot averaging, purchase of development rights, and transfer of development rights. Other resource conservation techniques are discussed in Chapters IX and XIII of this report.

Conservation Easements

A conservation easement is a legally recorded agreement of deed restrictions that landowners voluntarily place on their property to protect agricultural, natural, or cultural resources, such as farmland, water resources, open space, wildlife habitat, or historic sites, by prohibiting specified uses. For example, most agricultural easements restrict uses other than those associated with agricultural practices, such as residential, commercial, or industrial uses. Lands remain on the tax rolls, sometimes at a reduced rate. Easements can be acquired through less-than-fee-simple interest or through donations to either a governmental unit or a qualified conservation organization such as a land trust (i.e. the Racine/Kenosha Land Trust) to monitor and enforce the restrictions set forth in the easement. In return, landowners can receive tax benefits for granting easements.

Usually, the terms of an easement are specific and include instructions on allowable uses on the property and the time period set for the easement. Although most conservation easements are permanent, some impose restrictions for a specified number of years. The easement also legally binds future landowners to the terms set forth in the legally recorded easement attached to the land.

Conservation Subdivisions

Conservation subdivision design, sometimes referred to as cluster development design, involves the grouping of dwellings on a portion of a development parcel in order to preserve the remainder of the parcel in open space. Management options for the open space areas include, among others, preservation of existing natural features, restoration of natural conditions, and continued agricultural use. The open space may be owned by a homeowners association, the local municipality or County, the State, a land trust or other private conservation organization, or the original landowner. Conservation easements and attendant deed restrictions should be used to protect the common open space from future conversion to more intensive uses.

In comparison to conventional subdivision designs, conservation subdivisions afford greater opportunity for preserving open space and maintaining the natural resources of the parcel being developed as illustrated in Figures X-1 and X-2. When properly designed, the visual impact of new residential development from surrounding streets and adjoining parcels can be minimized and significant natural features and agricultural lands can be protected from development. Infrastructure installation and maintenance costs may be reduced due to shortened street and utility lengths.

Lot Averaging

In some cases it may be determined that a cluster development is not appropriate for a particular parcel. In other cases, the community may be uncomfortable with the idea of joint ownership of common open space. In such cases, the community concerned could consider allowing lot averaging as a means of preserving rural areas, as illustrated in Figure X-3. Maintaining an overall rural density, the lot sizes would be permitted to vary as long as the lot area that is taken from one lot is transferred to one or more other lots, so that a minimum “average” lot size required by the zoning ordinance is maintained within the development site concerned. Lots within the development larger than the minimum lot size required by the zoning ordinance would be deed restricted to prevent further division. Although no common open space is created, the advantage of lot averaging is flexibility of site design and the ability to concentrate some of the permitted dwellings on smaller lots in certain areas of the development parcel while the remaining dwellings would be located on a few larger lots. Alternatively, a large parcel could be maintained in agricultural use with smaller lots developed with homes. Features of the rural landscape or environmentally sensitive areas can be preserved, albeit on private lots.

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)

Purchase-of-development-rights programs, or “PDR” programs, represent another potential means to ensure the preservation of agricultural lands as well as other natural areas and open space. Under a PDR program, landowners are compensated for permanently committing their land to agricultural and open space use. Deed restrictions or easements are used to ensure that the lands concerned remain in agricultural or other open space use. Such restrictions are attached to the land and remain in effect regardless of future sale or other transfer of the land.

PDR programs may be administered and funded by State, county, or local units of government, land trusts and other private organizations, or combinations of these. The amounts paid to farmland owners under PDR programs may be calculated on the basis of the number of dwelling units permitted under existing zoning, on the basis of the difference between the market value of the land and its value solely for agricultural purposes, or on some other basis.

PDR programs provide assurance that farmland will be permanently retained in open use. Landowners receive a potentially substantial cash payment while retaining all other rights to the land, including the right to continue farming. The money paid to the landowner may be used for any purpose, such as debt reduction, capital improvement to the farm, or retirement income. Lands included in a PDR program remain on the tax roll and continue to generate property taxes. Since the land remains in private ownership, the public sector does not incur any land management responsibilities.

PDR programs have not been widely embraced within the Region to this point. The primary drawback of PDR programs is the potentially high cost. Given the attendant costs, PDR programs should be strategically targeted

toward agricultural lands where long-term preservation is particularly important. A PDR program could, for example, be directed at existing farmland surrounding a public nature preserve or major park in order to ensure a permanent open space buffer around the park or nature preserve.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)

Under transfer-of-development-rights programs, or “TDR” programs, the right to develop a specified number of dwelling units under existing zoning may be transferred from one parcel, which would be maintained in open space use, to a different parcel, where the number of dwelling units permitted would be correspondingly increased. When the parcels are held by the same owner, the development rights are, in effect, simply transferred from one parcel to the other by the owner; when the parcels are held by different landowners, the transfer of development rights involves a sale of rights from one owner to another, at fair market value. In either case, the result is a shift in density away from areas proposed to be maintained in farming or other open use toward areas recommended for development. The transfer of development rights may be permanent or may be for a specific period of time or set of conditions.

The transfer of development rights may be implemented only if authorized under county or local zoning. To enable the transfer of development rights, the zoning ordinance must establish procedures by which the TDR technique will be administered, including the formula for calculating the number of residential dwelling units which may be transferred from the “sending” area to the “receiving” area. The zoning district map must identify the sending and receiving areas, or at least identify the districts within which development rights can be transferred from one parcel to another.

While the creation and administration of a TDR program is somewhat complicated, the technique remains a potentially effective means for preserving open space and maintaining rural densities, while directing development to areas where it may best be accommodated.

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

The agricultural, natural, and cultural resources element goals and objectives, along with the implementing policies and programs were developed based upon consideration of the recommendations of regional, County, and local plans, the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources data inventoried in Chapter III, meetings with local officials, and the results of the public participation process including input from the advisory committee, public opinion survey and SWOT analyses.

The following County agricultural, natural, and cultural resources related goals were developed under the comprehensive planning program and previously presented in Chapter VIII.

Racine County Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Goals

- Goal X-1:** Maintain the agricultural base, preserving productive farmland and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Goal X-2:** Maintain the environmental assets of the community and develop methods to protect and preserve valuable natural features, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes, woodlands, open spaces, groundwater resources, and floodplains.
- Goal X-3:** Preserve open space to enhance the total quality of the environment, maximize essential natural resource availability, give form and structure to urban development, and provide opportunities for a full range of outdoor recreation activities.
- Goal X-4:** Protect and enhance cultural structures, historic sites and districts, and archaeological sites.
- Goal X-5:** Encourage a public participation process that provides equity and fairness to landowners and other stakeholders, balanced with responsible land use.
- Goal X-6:** Guide future growth in a manner that preserves and enhances the quality of life and character of urban and rural communities.

Racine County Agricultural Resources Objectives

- Preserve the most productive farmlands within Racine County—lands covered by NRCS capability Class I, Class II, and Class III soils—to provide an agricultural reserve for future generations, to protect the agricultural economy of Racine County, and to preserve the rural character of its farming areas.
- Preserve areas of prime agricultural soils—NRCS capability Class I, Class II, and Class III soils—in Racine County.
- Retain, identify, and encourage desirable and sustainable agri-businesses.
- Reduce farmland erosion and sustain and increase farmland productivity through the utilization of soil conservation practices.

Racine County Natural Resources Objectives

- Preserve the remaining primary environmental corridor lands in Racine County and, to the extent practicable, preserve the remaining secondary environmental corridor lands and isolated natural resource areas in Racine County in order to maintain the overall quality of the environment; to provide opportunities for recreational and educational activities; and to avoid serious environmental and developmental problems.
- Preserve the remaining natural areas and critical species habitat sites in Racine County.
- Preserve surface and groundwater quality and quantity in Racine County.
- Protect floodplains from incompatible land uses.
- Protect natural and manmade/engineered drainage ways in the County to minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff on existing natural resources and urban and agricultural land uses.
- Protect Lake Michigan's water quality and shoreline, including Lake Michigan bluffs.
- Preserve habitat for native plants and wildlife thereby preserving the biodiversity of Racine County.
- Preserve significant geological sites in Racine County.
- Preserve the natural character and vistas in Racine County.
- Preserve open spaces and natural resources as part of future development proposals in the County.
- Provide a comprehensive system of parks and open spaces within Racine County to enhance the quality of the environment and life.
- Provide County residents adequate opportunities to participate in resource and nonresource-oriented outdoor recreation activities, including water-based outdoor recreation activities.
- Ensure an adequate supply of nonmetallic resources at a reasonable cost for new construction and maintenance of existing infrastructure in the future through wise management of such resources in Racine County.

Racine County Cultural Resources Objectives

- Preserve and enhance the archaeological, historic and cultural resources and character of Racine County.
- Preserve archaeological and historical resources that contribute to Racine County's heritage.
- Preserve archaeological and historical resources that contribute to Racine County's distinct urban, rural, and small town characteristics.
- Preserve archaeological, historical, and cultural resources that contribute to tourism and educational opportunities in Racine County.

Racine County Agricultural Resources Policies and Programs

- Protect farmland identified as prime agricultural land on Map IX-1 in Chapter IX. Such land should be preserved for agriculture use, with residential development generally limited to no more than one dwelling unit per 20 acres in the Village of Mt. Pleasant and no more than one dwelling unit per 35 acres in the Towns of Burlington and Waterford.
- For agricultural lands not identified as “prime agricultural land”, encourage the continuation of agricultural uses. In particular, the plan seeks to preserve, insofar as practicable, the most productive soils within these areas, namely NRCS capability Class I, Class II, and Class III soils. This could be in the form of traditional agricultural use or alternative agricultural uses such as smaller hobby farms or specialty farms including community supported agricultural operations.
- Where feasible, require new homes and other buildings to be located in areas that would have minimal impacts on the natural, scenic, and cultural resources of the site, to minimize impacts on adjacent agriculture land and avoid conflicts with agricultural practices, and that would not adversely impact the surface water drainage of the area.
- In areas of nonprime agriculture land outside of planned sanitary sewer service areas, where it is determined by the County and local unit of government that residential development could be accommodated, such development should be limited to rural residential development. Rural residential development at a density of no more than one dwelling unit per five acres would be allowed in the Village of Caledonia and the Towns of Burlington, Raymond (one dwelling unit per six acres if a conservation subdivision design is utilized) and Waterford. Rural residential development at a density of no more than one dwelling unit per three acres would be allowed in the Towns of Dover, Norway, Rochester and Yorkville.
- Encourage the use of conservation subdivision designs for new rural residential developments with an emphasis on clustering home sites not covered by NRCS capability Class I, Class II, and Class III soils.
- For rural developments that utilize conservation subdivision designs, consider a minimum of 50 percent of the development parcel to be permanently maintained in open space or agricultural uses. Racine County and its’ communities should be encouraged to exceed the minimum open space requirements where feasible. An ordinance for conservation subdivision design should include the minimum open space requirements and define specific lands that can be counted toward the open space requirements. Generally, open space should be defined as undeveloped land consisting of agricultural land, woodlands, wetlands, waterways, floodlands, wildlife habitat, environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, significant historic or archaeological sites, and areas of steep slopes.
- Farmlands in planned sanitary sewer service areas should be encouraged to remain in agricultural use until public sewer service is extended to the parcel.
- Protect agricultural infrastructure in Racine County to support farm operations.
- Encourage niche farming operations in Racine County, such as organic farms, orchards, and landscape nurseries, and other community supported agriculture.
- Support local government efforts to preserve farmlands, such Community Effort to Save Agricultural and Environmental Land (CETSAEL) established by the Town of Rochester.
- Support implementation of the Working Lands Initiative recommendation to establish working land enterprise areas outside of planned sewer service areas. As proposed in the Working Lands Initiative Final Report (August 2006), Working Lands Enterprise Areas would cluster active farms and slow farmland conversion by preventing annexations within enterprise areas and targeting funding and other resources, such as a recommended State Purchase of Development Rights program, to farms within enterprise areas.
- Encourage the use of development transitions between urban development (served with sanitary sewer) and agricultural areas using, where practicable, open space development concepts such as cluster development as the transition development.

- Encourage the development of boundary agreements between towns and adjacent cities and villages to limit the conversion of farmland to urban uses.
- Encourage denser, more compact development within urban service areas to minimize the development of farmland.
- Consider developing growth control ordinances in rural areas to ensure a growth rate compatible with local services and long term land use objectives.
- Encourage development of streets, highways, and utilities in a manner that minimizes disruption of productive farmlands.
- Discourage development that is incompatible with agricultural uses.
- Implement strategies regarding soil sustainability and sedimentation as recommended in SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 259, *A Land and Water Resource Management Plan for Racine County: 2008-2012* and subsequent updates.
- Continue to update the County's land and water resource management plan every five years.
- Encourage wise soil management practices to protect farmland for continued agricultural use.
- Encourage the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) by farmers.
- Continue to support the Racine County Land Conservation Division (LCD) in its efforts to protect and improve land and water resources, implement recommendations set forth in the County land and water resource management plan, providing technical assistance on controlling soil erosion and water pollution, and implementing and administering County and State soil and water conservation programs.
- Support educational programs that distribute educational materials regarding farming techniques that support soil conservation such as no till and zone tilling farming, contour stripping, grass waterways, terracing, crop rotation, and nutrient management through soil sampling. The educational programs should include UW-Extension, local governments and individual farmers and should include information and application assistance for Federal and State programs to implement farming practices that promote soil conservation.
- Review County and local regulatory tools, such as zoning and land division ordinances and zoning maps, to identify any necessary revisions to protect the agricultural uses identified on Map IX-1.
- Zoning ordinances should be reviewed, and if necessary, revised to allow produce stands, bed-and-breakfast establishments, and other types of home occupations or "home-based" businesses on farms to help supplement farming incomes. Incentives for activities such as produce stands and farmers markets through an expedited permitting process and reduced permitting fees should also be considered.
- County and local governments should continue to participate in and support the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program which provides income tax credits to eligible farmland owners.
- Study and develop a TDR program and/or a PDR program for local and County government use that focuses on the protection of agricultural areas.
- Explore other approaches to preserve agricultural and open space land that would reduce the financial burden of preserving such lands on landowners.
- Work with the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust (K/RLT) and other land trusts to protect productive agricultural lands through PDR, easements, and/or land purchases.
- Update the Racine County Farmland Preservation Plan and any changes to the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program approved by the State Legislature in response to the Working Lands Initiative report. Encourage local governments to participate in developing and implementing the updated County Farmland Preservation Plan.

- Work cooperatively with appropriate State and Federal agencies to identify programs, grants, and tax credits that are available to help fund the implementation of the agricultural resources element of the comprehensive plan.
- Support economic initiatives to ensure farming remains viable in Racine County, including agri-tourism and direct marketing of farm products.

Racine County Natural Resources Policies and Programs

- Encourage development to occur in areas outside of environmental corridors, isolated natural resource areas, natural areas, floodplains, wetlands, and critical species habitat sites in Racine County. Uses considered compatible with environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, and guidelines for such uses, are provided in Table X-1. Figures X-4 and X-5 illustrate and recommend use of open space and conservation designs concepts if development is allowed on lands containing environmentally sensitive features.
- Review County and local regulatory tools, such as zoning and land division ordinances and zoning maps, to identify any necessary revisions to protect the primary environmental corridors identified on Map IX-1.
- Based on local needs and concerns, review County and local regulatory tools, such as zoning and land division ordinances and zoning maps, to identify any necessary revisions to protect the secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resources identified on Map IX-1.
- Encourage the protection of environmental corridors, natural areas, and critical species habitat sites through public and non-profit conservation organization (NCOs) fee simple purchase and conservation easements.
- Implement strategies regarding the preservation and protection of environmental corridors, natural areas, and critical species habitat sites recommended in the County land and water resource management plan, and the Racine County park and open space plan, including updates to the plans.
- Continue to support the Racine County Land Conservation Division (LCD) in its efforts to: protect and improve land and water resources; implement recommendations set forth in the County land and water resource management plan; provide technical assistance on controlling soil erosion and water pollution; and implementing and administering County and State soil and water conservation programs.
- Implement strategies regarding the protection and restoration of wetlands, stream corridors, floodplain areas, the Lake Michigan shoreline and bluff, and protection of natural systems, pollution reduction and control, and protection of public safety and public recreation and access recommended in the County land and water resource management plan.
- Implement the recommendations for acquisition and management of natural areas, critical species habitat sites, and significant geological areas as set forth in the regional natural areas plan.
- Encourage the preservation of natural resources outside the environmental corridor network.
- Amend the Town of Raymond land division ordinance to protect drainage way buffers as identified on the land use plan map for the Town.
- Develop and implement programs to control and reduce the spread of invasive species in Racine County.
- Consider the development of local ordinances that protect existing trees in urban areas, especially along streets.
- Continue to administer and enforce existing Federal, State, County, and local regulations that protect wetlands, woodlands, floodlands, surface water, and groundwater resources.
- Implement the recommendations of the Racine County park and open space plan and any subsequent updates.
- Consider the preparation and implementation of local park and open space plans.

- Update County and local park and open space plans as necessary to maintain eligibility for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stewardship funding.
- Support, and, where applicable, implement sanitary sewer and stormwater management standards recommended in the regional water quality management plan update and subsequent amendments.
- Continue to partner with appropriate Federal, State, and NCOs to promote natural resource enhancements and restorations in Racine County.
- Support carefully planned efforts to restore open space lands to more natural conditions that could result in the expansion of the environmental corridor network. This should include linkages between existing environmental corridors and isolated natural resources, especially those areas that are identified in local and neighborhood land use plans.
- Develop an incentive program to promote the use of BMPs and new technologies to improve water quality and to reduce stormwater runoff, such as rain gardens and permeable pavement.
- Support educational programs that distribute educational materials regarding techniques that promote land use patterns that are sensitive to natural resource conservation such as overlay zoning, planned unit developments, conservation subdivision designs, and PDR/TDR programs, and promote the benefits of natural resources and the need to protect them from degradation. The educational programs should include UW-Extension, local governments, NCOs, and individual landowners, and should include information and application assistance for Federal and State programs to implement natural resource management and conservation activity.
- Study and develop a TDR program and/or a PDR program for local and County government use that focuses on the protection of natural resource areas. This program may be implemented in association with an agricultural TDR/PDR program.
- Explore other approaches to preserve agricultural and open space land that would reduce the financial burden of preserving such lands on landowners.
- Study the potential to establish a development-funded open space preservation program.
- Work with the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust and other NCOs to protect environmental corridors, natural areas, and critical species habitat sites through PDR, easements, and/or land purchases.
- Support local government efforts to preserve farmlands, such as Community Effort to Save Agricultural and Environmental Land (CETSAEL) established by the Town of Rochester.
- Work cooperatively with appropriate State and Federal agencies to identify programs, grants, and tax credits that are available to help fund the implementation of the natural resources element of the comprehensive plan.
- Support and, where applicable, implement the objectives, principles, and standards recommended by the regional water supply plan.
- Support the development of land use patterns that minimize potential adverse impacts on surface and groundwater resources and that are sustainable relative to the long term water supply needs of the County.
- Retain areas shown on Map X-3 as having high or very high potential for groundwater recharge in rural land uses in order to preserve the recharge potential.
- Consider the development of a Countywide mapping program to identify and map existing farm drain tiles as recommended in the *Racine County Updated Land Records Modernization Plan: 1999*, dated August 1999.
- Encourage the expansion, creation, and maintenance of stormwater utility districts and farmland drainage districts in the County and utilize the authority granted to them to maintain drainage systems and control flooding.

- Establish ordinances associated with stormwater utility districts and farmland drainage districts.
- Develop local ordinances that require landowners to maintain drainage systems on individual properties and that in lieu of landowner compliance with the ordinance, grant the local municipality the authority to repair and maintain drainage systems at the landowners expense.
- Prepare, update, and implement comprehensive stormwater management plans on a watershed, or subwatershed, basis to facilitate the implementation of the Racine County land and water resource management plan and the regional water quality management plan.
- Encourage the preparation of multi-jurisdictional stormwater management plans, including communities in counties adjacent to Racine County.
- Capitalize on natural and recreational tourism amenities.
- Support the development of land use patterns and regulations to effectively meet the nonmetallic needs of the county while limiting the effects of extractive operations (dust, noise, and truck traffic) on County residents and without adversely impacting or destroying environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.
- Encourage full exploitation of existing and future mining sites, in accordance with approved reclamation plans without adversely impacting or destroying environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.
- For future sites or the expansion of existing mining sites, promote the expansion as close as possible or adjacent to existing sites. Where a new site is not adjacent to an existing site, allow for the transportation of raw material to an existing site for processing where possible.
- Continue to enforce the County nonmetallic mining reclamation ordinance.
- The County and local governments should work cooperatively with aggregate producers to identify suitable areas with commercially viable sources of nonmetallic resources. Ideally, suitable areas should be located in sparsely populated areas and not have significant impacts on environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

Racine County Cultural Resources Policies and Programs

- Preserve historic structures, sites, and districts that have been listed on the National and/or State Registers of Historic Places.
- Encourage the preservation of local landmarks.
- Encourage the preservation of historical resources that contribute to the heritage and economy of Racine County, but have not yet been recognized or designated by a Federal, State, or local unit of government.
- Preserve known archaeological sites in Racine County, as well as any new sites that may be discovered in the future.
- Encourage development and redevelopment that is sensitive to the preservation of archaeological, historic, and cultural features, and is compatible with such uses.
- Encourage new development and redevelopment that is compatible with the existing historic and cultural character of neighborhoods and downtowns.
- Encourage the development of site and architectural design guidelines that preserve the aesthetics that contribute to the County's rural and small town character.
- Encourage the preservation and reuse of older structures that reflect the historic rural character of Racine County such as farmsteads, barns, silos, fences, rock walls, and similar structures.
- Consider the development of model archaeological and historic preservation ordinances to help guide the County and its communities in their efforts to protect and preserve such areas.

- Continue to support the institutional framework for historic preservation, such as local landmark commissions, historical societies, and museums.
- Review County and local regulatory tools, such as zoning and land division ordinances and zoning maps, to identify any necessary revisions to promote the protection, reuse, and rehabilitation of historic structures.
- As appropriate, Racine County, local units of government, chambers of commerce, local historical societies, and private organizations should work cooperatively to promote archaeological, historic, and cultural resources with respect to tourism and educational opportunities.
- Work cooperatively with appropriate State and Federal agencies to identify programs, grants, and tax credits that are available to help fund the implementation of the cultural resources element of the comprehensive plan.

Racine County Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Financial and Technical Assistance Programs

Various types of financial and technical assistance programs are available from Federal, State, and County agencies to protect agricultural, natural, and cultural resources. Although there are numerous programs offered by a wide variety of public agencies, the most significant agencies that provide the majority of conservation and preservation programs include the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP); the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR); the National Parks Service (NPS); and the Wisconsin State Historical Society (WSHS). As noted earlier in this chapter, the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources element is closely related to the land use element. Consequently, many of the programs described in this section are also applicable to the implementation of the land use element recommendations.

Programs that focus on agricultural and natural resources include the Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program, Soil and Water Resource Management Program (SWRM), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Federal and State programs are also available to help County and local governments and nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs) acquire park and open space lands, and to help County and local governments provide recreational facilities, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Most programs that assist in cultural preservation primarily provide assistance for the restoration of historic buildings, districts, and landmarks through preservation tax credits, grants, loans, or restoration guidance. In Wisconsin, the WSHS provides assistance for properties designated as either State or Federal historic places, such as those listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places. Also, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a private non-profit organization, provides funding through tax credits and matching grants, and provides the Main Street Program that focuses on the historic preservation and revitalization of traditional commercial districts.

Programs applicable to Racine County to assist in the implementation of the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources element are summarized in Table X-2. More detailed information on each program is available through the websites of the agency that administers the program.

MAP X-1

PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN THE RACINE COUNTY PLANNING AREA AS IDENTIFIED IN THE RACINE COUNTY
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

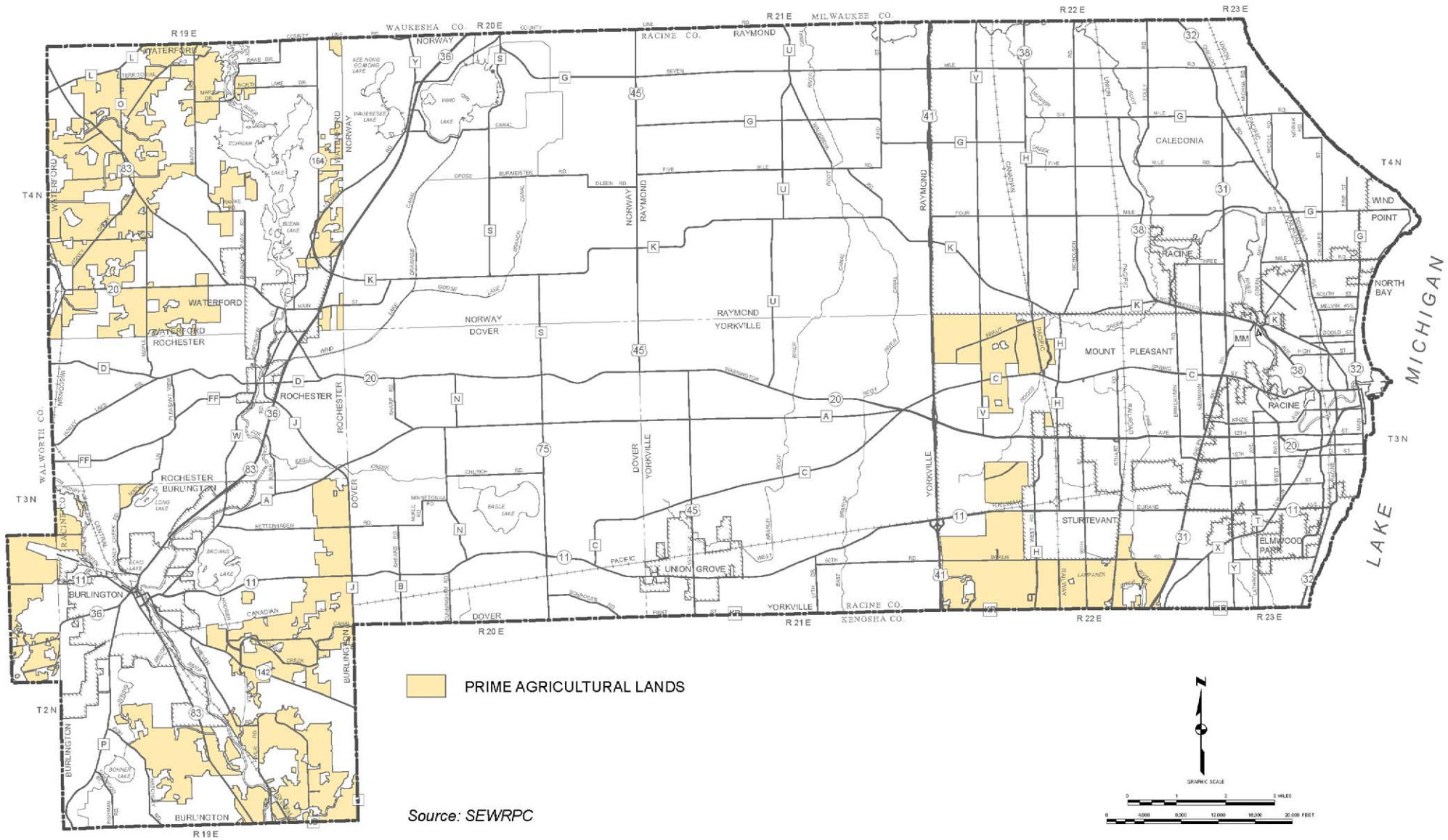


Table X-1

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERED COMPATIBLE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS AND ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS

Component Natural Resource and Related Features within Environmental Corridors	Permitted Development																
	Transportation and Utility Facilities (see General Development Guidelines below)				Recreational Facilities (see General Development Guidelines below)											Rural Density Residential Development (see General Development Guidelines below)	Other Development (See General Development Guidelines below)
	Streets and Highways	Utility Lines and Related Facilities	Engineered Stormwater Management Facilities	Engineered Flood Control Facilities ^b	Trails ^c	Picnic Areas	Family Camping ^d	Swimming Beaches	Boat Access	Ski Hills	Golf	Playfields	Hard-Surface Courts	Parking	Buildings		
Lakes, Rivers, and Streams	-- ^e	-- ^{f,g}	--	-- ^h	-- ⁱ	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Shoreland.....	X	X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	--	X	--	--	X	X ^j	--	--
Floodplain	-- ^k	X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	--	X	X	--	X	X ^j	--	--
Wetland ^m	-- ^k	X	--	--	X ⁿ	--	--	--	X	--	-- ^o	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wet Soils.....	X	X	X	X	X	--	--	X	X	--	X	--	--	X	--	--	--
Woodland.....	X	X	X ^p	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X ^q	X	X
Wildlife Habitat.....	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Steep Slope	X	X	--	--	-- ^r	--	--	--	--	X ^s	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prairie.....	--	-- ^g	--	--	-- ^r	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Park.....	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	--	--
Historic Site.....	--	-- ^g	--	--	-- ^r	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--
Scenic Viewpoint.....	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	X
Natural Area or Critical Species Habitat Site	--	--	--	--	-- ^q	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

NOTE: An "X" indicates that facility development is permitted within the specified natural resource feature. In those portions of the environmental corridors having more than one of the listed natural resource features, the natural resource feature with the most restrictive development limitation should take precedence.

APPLICABILITY

These guidelines indicate the types of development that can be accommodated within primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas while maintaining the basic integrity of those areas. Throughout this table, the term "environmental corridors" refers to primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

Under the regional plan:

- As regionally significant resource areas, primary environmental corridors should be preserved in essentially natural, open use—in accordance with the guidelines in this table.
- Secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas warrant consideration for preservation in essentially natural open use, as determined in county and local plans and in a manner consistent with State and Federal regulations. County and local units of government may choose to apply the guidelines in this table to secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

Transportation and Utility Facilities: All transportation and utility facilities proposed to be located within the important natural resources should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to consider alternative locations for such facilities. If it is determined that such facilities should be located within natural resources, development activities should be sensitive to, and minimize disturbance of, these resources, and, to the extent possible following construction, such resources should be restored to preconstruction conditions.

The above table presents development guidelines for major transportation and utility facilities. These guidelines may be extended to other similar facilities not specifically listed in the table.

Recreational Facilities: In general, no more than 20 percent of the total environmental corridor area should be developed for recreational facilities. Furthermore, no more than 20 percent of the environmental corridor area consisting of upland wildlife habitat and woodlands should be developed for recreational facilities. It is recognized, however, that in certain cases these percentages may be exceeded in efforts to accommodate needed public recreational and game and fish management facilities within appropriate natural settings.

The above table presents development guidelines for major recreational facilities. These guidelines may be extended to other similar facilities not specifically listed in the table.

Table X-1 (continued)

Rural Density Residential Development: Rural density residential development may be accommodated in upland environmental corridors, provided that buildings are kept off steep slopes. The maximum number of housing units accommodated at a proposed development site within the environmental corridor should be limited to the number determined by dividing the total corridor acreage within the site, less the acreage covered by surface water and wetlands, by five. The permitted housing units may be in single-family or multi-family structures. When rural residential development is accommodated, conservation subdivision designs are strongly encouraged.

- **Other Development:** In lieu of recreational or rural density residential development, up to 10 percent of the upland corridor area in a parcel may be disturbed in order to accommodate urban-density residential development and certain commercial and other urban development under all of the following conditions: 1) the area to be disturbed is compact rather than scattered in nature; 2) the disturbance area is located on the edge of a corridor or on marginal resources within a corridor; 3) the development is compatible with and does not threaten the integrity of the remaining corridor; 4) the development does not result in significant adverse water quality impacts; and 5) development of the remaining corridor lands is prohibited by a conservation easement or deed restriction. Each such proposal must be reviewed on a site-by-site basis.

Under this arrangement, while the developed area would no longer be part of the environmental corridor, the entirety of the remaining corridor would be permanently preserved from disturbance. From a resource protection point of view, preserving a minimum of 90 percent of the environmental corridor in this manner may be preferable over accommodating scattered homesites and attendant access roads at an overall density of one dwelling unit per five acres throughout the upland corridor areas.

- **Pre-Existing Lots:** Single-family development on existing lots of record should be permitted as provided for under county or local zoning at the time of adoption of the land use plan.
- All permitted development presumes that sound land and water management practices are utilized.

FOOTNOTES

^aThe natural resource and related features are defined as follows:

Lakes, Rivers, and Streams: Includes all lakes greater than five acres in area and all perennial and intermittent streams as shown on U. S. Geological Survey quadrangle maps.

Shoreland: Includes a band 50 feet in depth along both sides of intermittent streams; a band 75 feet in depth along both sides of perennial streams; a band 75 feet in depth around lakes; and a band 200 feet in depth along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Floodplain: Includes areas, excluding stream channels and lake beds, subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event.

Wetlands: Includes areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency, and with a duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Wet Soils: Includes areas covered by wet, poorly drained, and organic soils.

Woodlands: Includes areas one acre or more in size having 17 or more deciduous trees per acre with at least a 50 percent canopy cover as well as coniferous tree plantations and reforestation projects; excludes lowland woodlands, such as tamarack swamps, which are classified as wetlands.

Wildlife Habitat: Includes areas devoted to natural open uses of a size and with a vegetative cover capable of supporting a balanced diversity of wildlife.

Steep Slope: Includes areas with land slopes of 12 percent or greater.

Prairies: Includes open, generally treeless areas which are dominated by native grasses; also includes savannas.

Park: Includes public and nonpublic park and open space sites.

Historic Site: Includes sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Most historic sites located within environmental corridors are archaeological features such as American Indian settlements and effigy mounds and cultural features such as small, old cemeteries. On a limited basis, small historic buildings may also be encompassed within delineated corridors.

Scenic Viewpoint: Includes vantage points from which a diversity of natural features such as surface waters, wetlands, woodlands, and agricultural lands can be observed.

Natural Area and Critical Species Habitat Sites: Includes natural areas and critical species habitat sites as identified in the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan.

^bIncludes such improvements as stream channel modifications and such facilities as dams.

^cIncludes trails for such activities as hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, nature study, and horseback riding, and excludes all motorized trail activities. It should be recognized that trails for motorized activities such as snowmobiling that are located outside the environmental corridors may of necessity have to cross environmental corridor lands. Proposals for such crossings should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and if it is determined that they are necessary, such trail crossings should be designed to ensure minimum disturbance of the natural resources.

^dIncludes areas intended to accommodate camping in tents, trailers, or recreational vehicles which remain at the site for short periods of time, typically ranging from an overnight stay to a two-week stay.

^eCertain transportation facilities such as bridges may be constructed over such resources.

^fUtility facilities such as sanitary sewers may be located in or under such resources.

^gElectric power transmission lines and similar lines may be suspended over such resources.

^hCertain flood control facilities such as dams and channel modifications may need to be provided in such resources to reduce or eliminate flood damage to existing development.

ⁱBridges for trail facilities may be constructed over such resources.

^jConsistent with Chapter NR 115 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

^kStreets and highways may cross such resources. Where this occurs, there should be no net loss of flood storage capacity or wetlands. Guidelines for mitigation of impacts on wetlands by Wisconsin Department of Transportation facility projects are set forth in Chapter Trans 400 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

^lConsistent with Chapter NR 116 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

^mAny development affecting wetlands must adhere to the water quality standards for wetlands established under Chapter NR 103 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

ⁿOnly an appropriately designed boardwalk/trail should be permitted.

^oWetlands may be incorporated as part of a golf course, provided there is no disturbance of the wetlands.

^pGenerally excludes detention, retention, and infiltration basins. Such facilities should be permitted only if no reasonable alternative is available.

^qOnly if no alternative is available.

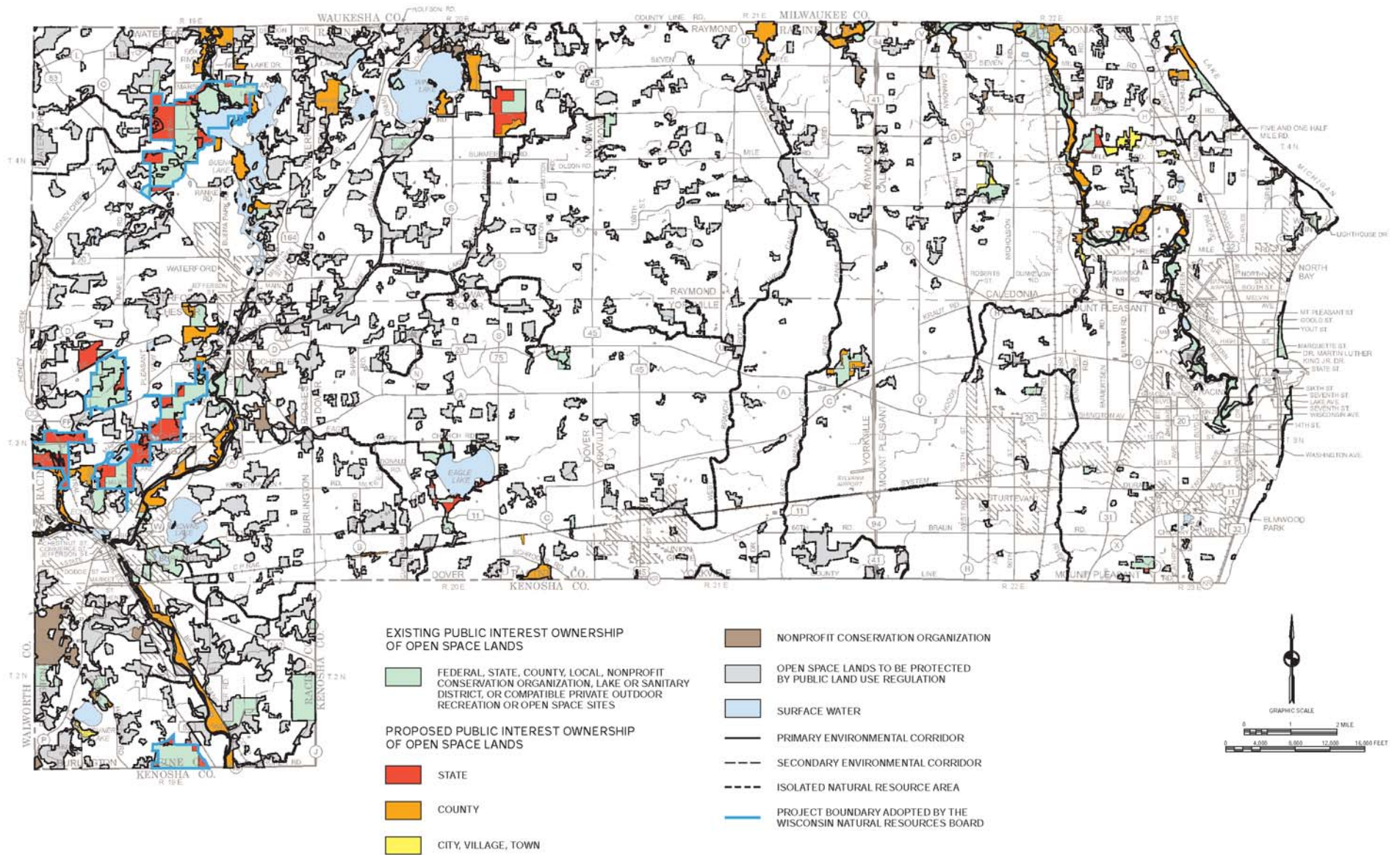
^rOnly appropriately designed and located hiking and cross-country ski trails should be permitted.

^sOnly appropriately designed, vegetated, and maintained ski hills should be permitted.

Source: SEWRPC.

Map X-2

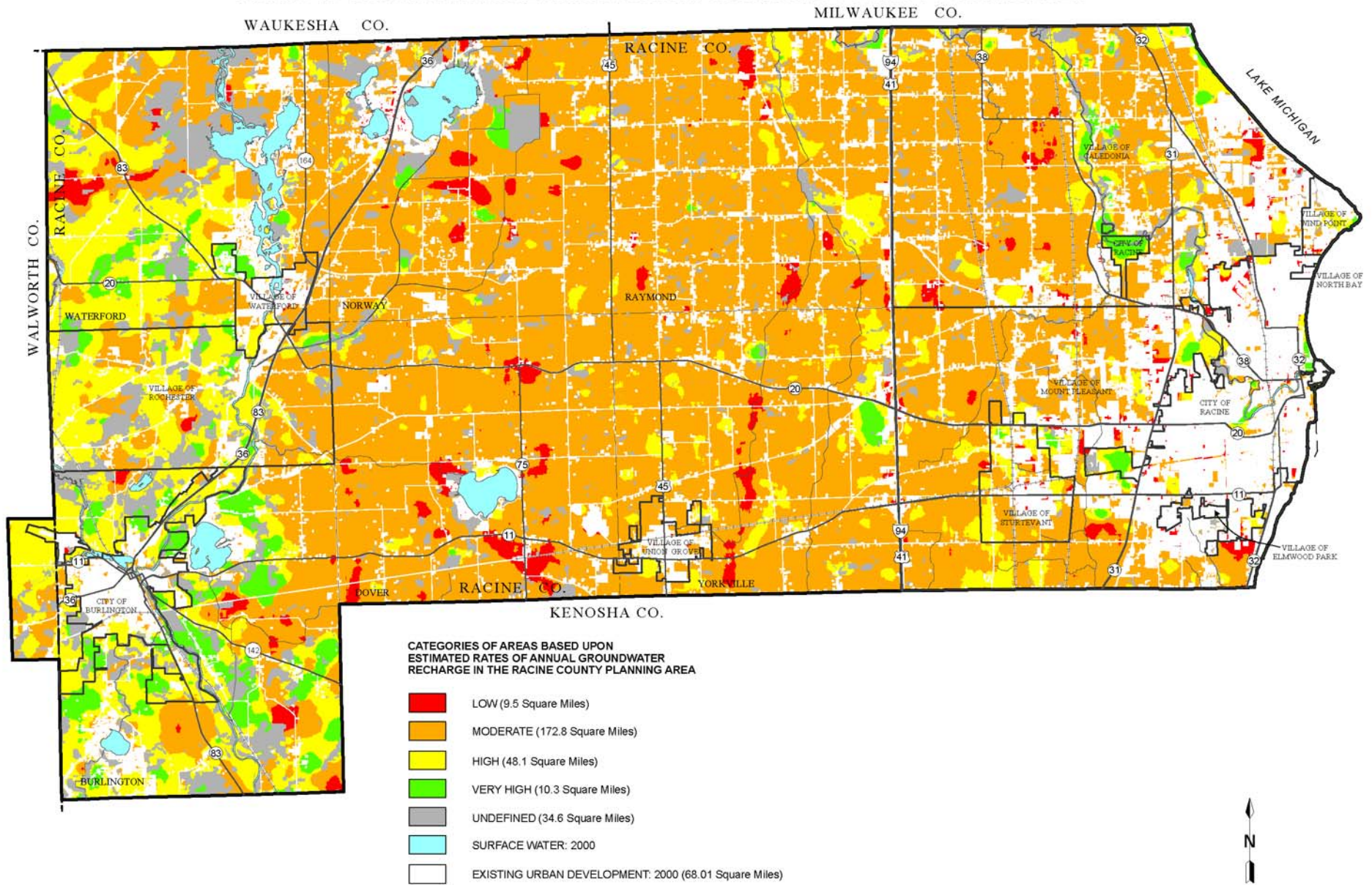
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ELEMENT OF THE RACINE COUNTY PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN: 2020



Source: SEWRPC.

Map X-3

AREAS OF GROUNDWATER RECHARGE WITHIN THE RACINE COUNTY PLANNING AREA



Source: Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and SEWRPC.

Figure X-1

COMPARISON OF CONVENTIONAL AND CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION DESIGNS

C-1. CONVENTIONAL SUBDIVISION DESIGN



C-2. CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION DESIGN



Source: SEWRPC.

Figure X-2

CONSERVATION SUBDIVISION DESIGNS WITHIN AGRICULTURAL AREAS

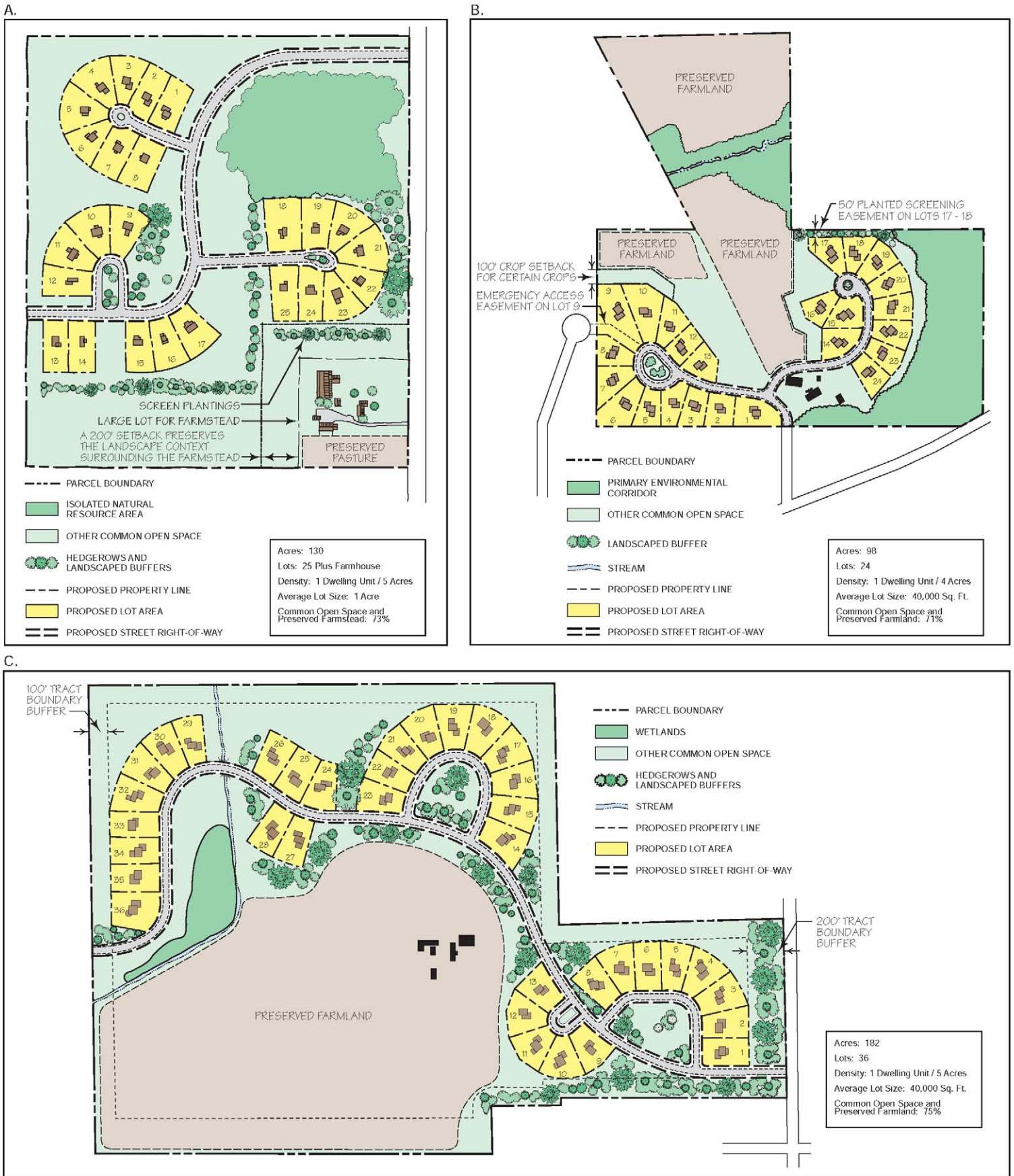
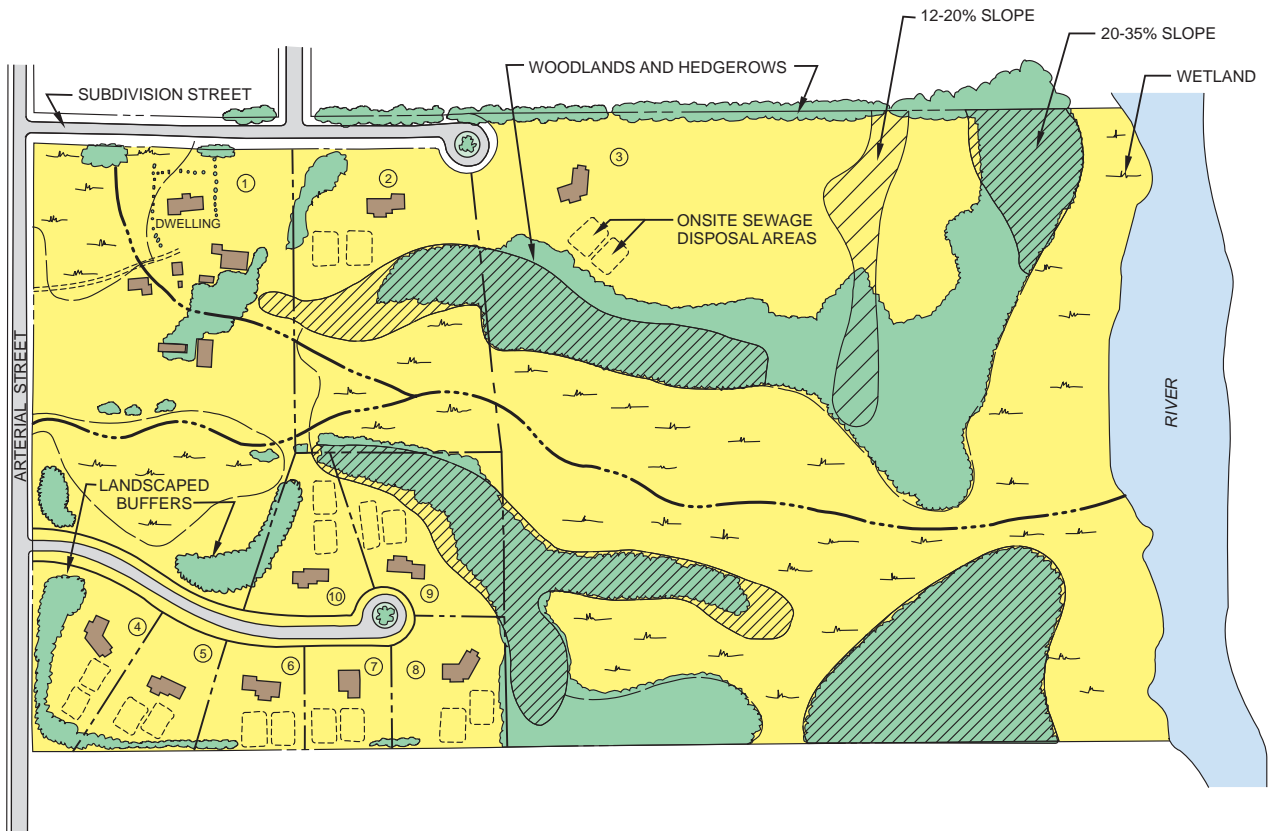


Figure X-3

EXAMPLE OF LOT AVERAGING



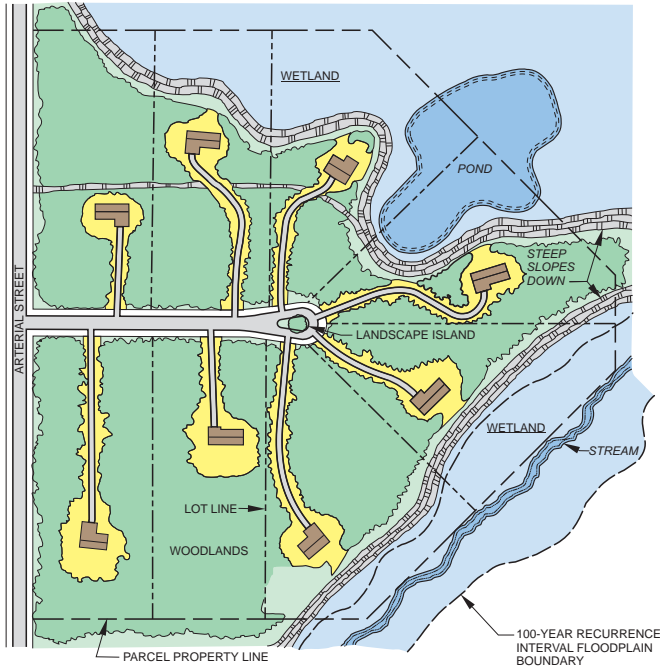
- 10 LOTS
- 1,700 LINEAR FEET OF SUBDIVISION STREETS
- MOST NATURAL FEATURES ARE PRESERVED

Source: SEWRPC.

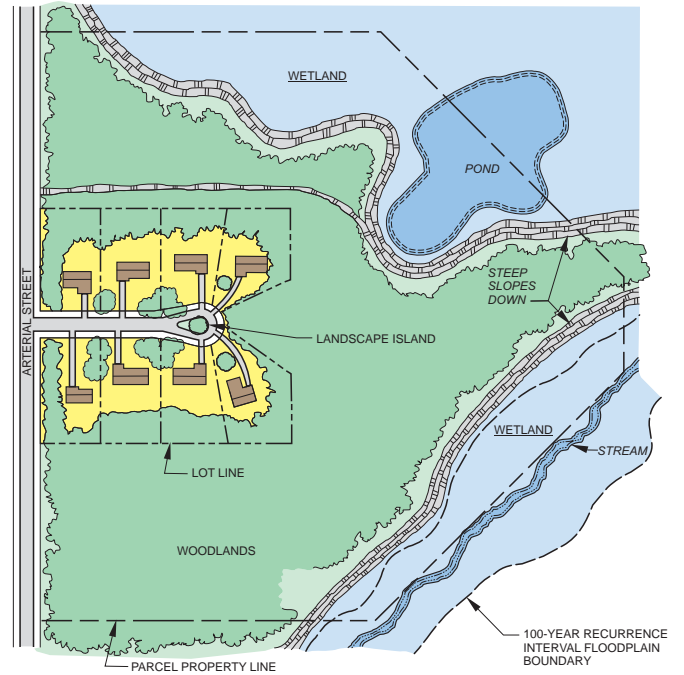
Figure X-4

**ALTERNATIVE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT DESIGNS
COMPATIBLE WITH PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS**

A. CONVENTIONAL FIVE-ACRE LOT DESIGN



B. CLUSTERED ONE-ACRE LOT DESIGN



C. CLUSTERED CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPMENT DESIGN

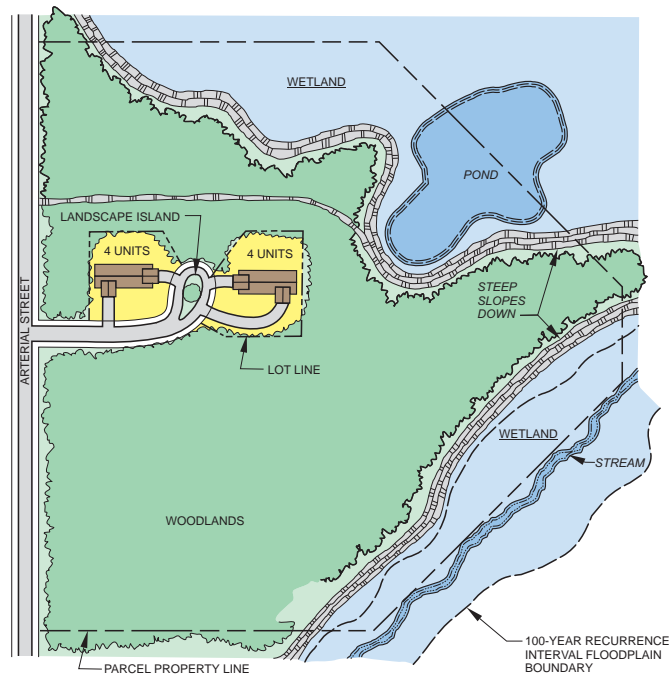
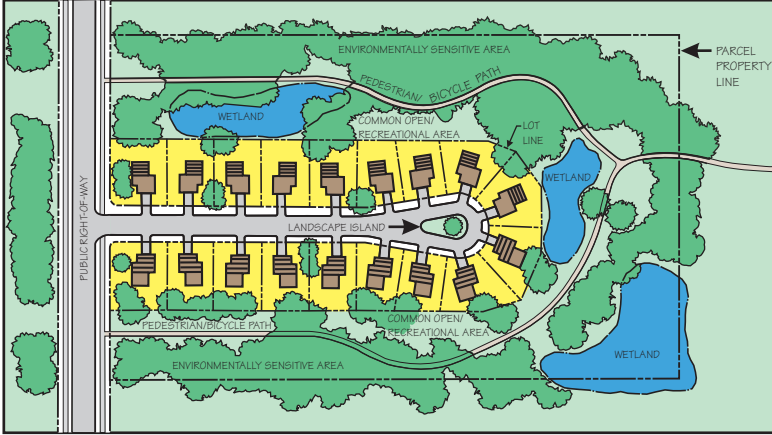


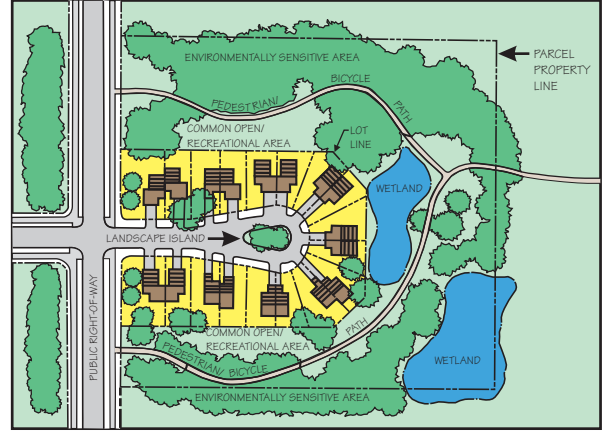
Figure X-5

**ALTERNATIVE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT DESIGNS
COMPATIBLE WITH ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS**

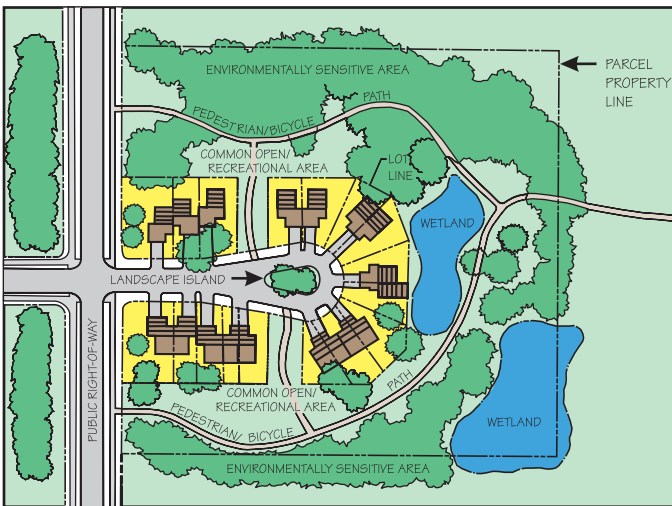
A. CLUSTERED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT



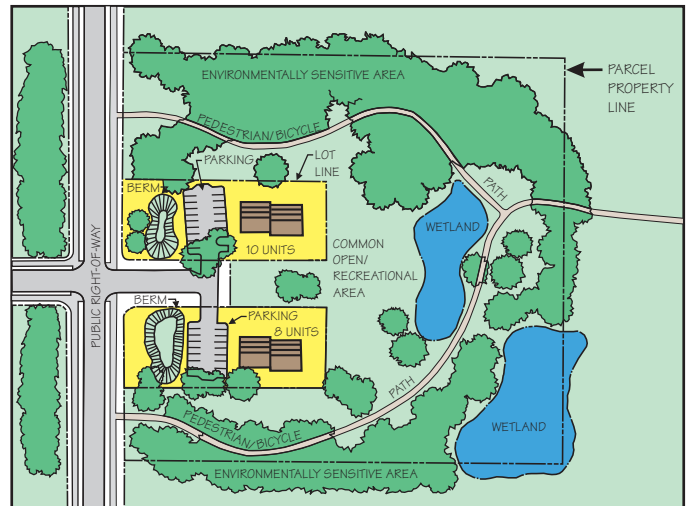
B. CLUSTERED TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT



C. CLUSTERED TOWNHOUSE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT



D. CLUSTERED MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT



Source: SEWRPC.

Table X-2

AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS APPLICABLE TO RACINE COUNTY

Program Type	Program Entity	Program Service and Description	Available Technical or Financial Assistance
Agricultural Resources			
Federal and State	USDA Farm Service Agency	<p>Farm Loan Program (FLP) – The USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) administers the programs of the Federal Farm Bill; these provide grants to rural landowners in partial support of carrying out approved land and water conservation practices. Programs include: Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments (DCP) to producers with established crop bases and payment yields regardless of market prices; and Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC) compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level.</p> <p>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – In partnership with USDA and USDA Farm Service, NRCS, and WI DNR, CREP is an opportunity for Wisconsin landowners to voluntarily enroll agricultural lands into conservation practices, such as riparian buffers, filter strips, wetland restorations, waterways and establishment of native grasslands.</p> <p>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – CRP is a voluntary program that encourages agricultural landowners to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as a prairie-compatible, noninvasive forage mix; wildlife plantings; trees; filter strips; or riparian buffers.</p>	<p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p>
	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	<p>Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program - Wisconsin – This program keeps productive farmland in privately owned agricultural use by assisting States, tribes, and local government or non-profit entities with the purchase of conservation (perpetual) easements or development rights on productive farmland, and on farms containing significant historical or archaeological resources.</p> <p>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – EQIP is a voluntary conservation program to encourage farmers to adopt land management practices such as nutrient management, manure management, integrated pest management, or wildlife habitat management.</p> <p>Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) – Racine County is a member of the Town and Country RC&D Council, which helps to facilitate the sustainable development and coordination of existing and innovative projects regarding agricultural, energy, water quality, and educational projects and programs throughout the Region.</p>	<p>Financial</p> <p>Technical and Financial</p>
State	Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR)	Farmland Preservation Credit Program – This program identifies and protects agricultural areas against unplanned development through tax relief to farmers in the program. In Racine County, only the agricultural owners in the townships of Burlington and Waterford are eligible for this program.	Financial
	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, & Consumer Protection – Wisconsin Farm Center (DATCP)	<p>Agricultural Development and Diversification Grant Program – This grant program supports projects that explore new value-added products, new markets, or new technologies in agriculture.</p> <p>Buy Local Buy Wisconsin Grant Program – This program seeks to stimulate Wisconsin's agricultural economy by increasing the purchase of Wisconsin grown or produced food by local buyers.</p> <p>Clean Sweep Program – Through this program, local governments can collect agricultural, residential, and business hazardous wastes with the aid of grant funds, including prescription drugs and controlled substances. Businesses with agricultural pesticides may be eligible to receive a subsidy.</p>	<p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p>
State and County	Land Conservation Division (LCD) ^a	Wildlife Damage and Abatement Claims Program – This program is a cooperative effort with the County, WI DNR, and USDA Wildlife Services to control damage to agricultural crops caused by deer, goose, turkey and bear.	Technical and Financial

Table X-2 (continued)

Program Type	Program Entity	Program Service and Description	Available Technical or Financial Assistance
Natural Resources			
Federal	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	<p>Five-Star Restoration Program – This program provides challenge grants for restoration projects (i.e. environmental education and training through projects that restore wetlands and streams) that involve multiple and diverse partners to contribute funding, land, technical assistance, workforce support or other in-kind services that match the program's funding assistance.</p> <p>Great Lakes Protection Fund – The fund supports projects that enhance the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem.</p> <p>Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants – These are formula grants to the States and tribes to implement nonpoint source projects and programs that protect source water areas and the general quality of water resources in a watershed, in accordance with Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.</p> <p>Watershed Assistance Grants – Wisconsin River Alliance administers this EPA program to provide small grants to local watershed partnerships to support their organizational development and long term effectiveness.</p>	<p>Technical and Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p>
	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	<p>Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) – LIP helps private landowners to manage and restore habitat for at-risk (rare) species on their land. It is funded by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and administered by the WI DNR.</p> <p>National Fish Passage Program – This program helps to restore natural flows and fish migration by removing or by-passing barriers.</p> <p>North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) – This act supports projects to conserve wetlands, restore grasslands and associated habitats for the benefit of migratory waterfowl and other birds.</p> <p>Partners for Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Program – This program provides technical assistance to private landowners interested in voluntarily restoring or otherwise improving native habitats for fish and wildlife on their lands.</p> <p>Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) – Through this program, WPAs preserve wetlands and grasslands as Federally owned lands that are critical to waterfowl and other associated wildlife.</p> <p>Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) – WRP is a voluntary program designed to restore and protect wetlands on private property.</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) – WHIP is a voluntary program to develop or improve wildlife habitat on private lands.</p>	<p>Technical and Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Technical</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Technical and Financial</p> <p>Technical and Financial</p>
	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	<p>Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (Section 206) Program – This program provides grants to plan design and construct aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection grants.</p> <p>Beneficial Use of Dredged Material – This program provides grants to protect, restore and enhance aquatic habitat using dredged material from Federal navigation projects.</p> <p>Estuary Habitat Restoration Program – Eligible habitat restoration activities under this program include the re-establishment of chemical, physical, hydrologic, and biological features and components with the estuary.</p> <p>Flood Hazard Mitigation and Riverine Ecosystem Restoration Program – Informally known as Challenge 21, this watershed-based program focuses on identifying sustainable solutions to flooding problems by examining nonstructural solutions in flood-prone areas, while retaining traditional measures where appropriate.</p> <p>Planning Assistance to States (Section 22) Program – This program provides assistance to develop plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources.</p> <p>Support for Others Program – This program provides technical support for projects including those related to environmental protection and restoration.</p>	<p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Technical</p>

Table X-2 (continued)

Program Type	Program Entity	Program Service and Description	Available Technical or Financial Assistance
Natural Resources (continued)			
Federal and State	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) – CTA provides support to plan and implement conservation systems to reduce erosion, as well as to improve soil and water quality, wetlands, pasture, and woodlands.	Technical
		Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – EQIP is a voluntary program to encourage the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.	Financial
State	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, & Consumer Protection (DATCP)	Soil and Water Resource Management Program (SWRM) – The SWRM grant program was developed to support locally-led conservation efforts such as soil and water conservation on farms, as well as county soil and water programs, including: land and water resource management plans, grants to counties to support county conservation staff, cost-share grants to landowners for implementation of conservation practices, design certifications by soil and water professionals, local regulations and ordinances, and cost-share practice eligibility and design, construction, and maintenance.	Technical and Financial
	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR)	<p>Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grants – Priorities for funding projects include projects that have any of the following characteristics: involve multiple water bodies, prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species through education and planning, control pioneer infestations of aquatic invasive species, and control established infestations of aquatic invasive species and restore native aquatic species communities.</p> <p>Beach Act Grants – In 2005, WI DNR began the implementation of the Wisconsin Beach Monitoring Program, a collaborative effort between State and local environmental and health agencies to monitor recreational waters for health risks. The WI DNR coordinates the program, but the local health departments have authority over public beaches within their jurisdictions.</p> <p>Dam Maintenance Repair, Modification, Abandonment and Removal Grants – These grants address dam-related issues.</p> <p>Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program – The main goals of the program are to preserve natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. In particular, there are four major components of the program: land acquisition, local assistance, property development on state lands, and conservation of hardwood forests. Some grant programs include: Urban and Community Forestry Program, Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks, Acquisition of Development Rights, Urban Green Space Program, and Urban Rivers Grant Program.</p> <p>Lake Management and Planning Grants – These support the preparation of lake management plans for the collection and analysis of lake-related information.</p> <p>Lake Protection Grants – These grants are intended to protect or restore lakes and their ecosystems.</p> <p>Managed Forest Law (MFL) Lands – This is an incentive program intended to encourage sustainable forestry on private woodlands in Wisconsin. The MFL Public Access Grant Program awards grants to local units of government, the WI DNR, and nonprofit conservation organizations for acquiring easements or purchasing land for public access to offset the impact of closed acreage under the MFL program.</p> <p>Recreational Boating and Facilities (RBF) – RBF is a State program intended to encourage the development of recreational motorized boating facilities. The Wisconsin Waterways Commission awards RBF grants.</p> <p>River Planning and Protection Grant Program – These grants help river management organizations form, and to increase their capacity to protect rivers, as well as implement river protection and restoration projects.</p>	<p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial – private funds, general obligation bonds, and matching grants</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p>

Table X-2 (continued)

Program Type	Program Entity	Program Service and Description	Available Technical or Financial Assistance
Natural Resources (continued)			
State	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) (continued)	<p>Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFR) – This Federal program, administered by WI DNR, is intended to support restoration of sport fishing habitats and to provide facilities for public access to sport fishing areas, including piers and boat landings.</p> <p>Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water (UNPS&SW) Planning Program – UNPS&SW grant funds are used to control polluted runoff in urban construction project areas, to purchase conservation easements on land within a floodway, or to flood proof structures within the 100-year floodplain.</p> <p>WI DNR Conservation Easement – This is a State easement program aimed at enhancing the conservation of privately owned lands that are open to the public. The purchase of certain rights may include development rights, vegetation management rights, water management rights, and other conservation related efforts.</p> <p>WI DNR Ownership – This program allows the State to purchase lands for conservation benefits and public recreation.</p>	<p>Financial</p> <p>Technical and Financial</p> <p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p>
	Wisconsin Department of Administration – Coastal Management Program	Great Lakes Coastal Management Program – This program aims to protect and enhance access to the Great Lakes and their coasts.	Financial
State and County	Land Conservation Division (LCD)	<p>Targeted Runoff Management Program – This nonpoint source abatement program aims to improve surface water quality (lakes and rivers) by abating pollution caused by stormwater runoff. TRM grants also help to control polluted runoff from both agricultural and urban sites, which address high priority resource problems for various (urban or rural) best management practices (BMPs). In addition to the assistance provided by DATCP, the WI DNR may provide grants to governmental units and special purpose districts to assist the implementation of nonpoint source pollution abatement practices and projects, where pollution abatement cannot be achieved through the implementation of county soil and water resources activities.</p> <p>Sugar/Honey Creeks Watershed Program – This program provides cost sharing for those eligible individuals within this watershed located in western Racine County. These landowners can participate with conservation practices such as conservation tillage or nutrient management, as well as construction projects which include grassed waterways, barnyards, waste management systems, and wetland restorations.</p> <p>Tree, Shrub & Native Prairie Grass/Wildflower Program – This program offers a variety of pines, hardwoods, shrubs, wildflowers, and native prairie plants to encourage area residents to plant native trees, shrubs and prairies for the purpose of conservation and wildlife enhancement. Each year, the Racine County LCD department gives landowners the opportunity to purchase these items at a minimal cost.</p>	<p>Financial</p> <p>Financial – closed, but some limited funds may be awarded for repair of BMPs</p> <p>Financial</p>
Cultural Resources			
Federal	National Park Service (NPS)	<p>Federal Historic Preservation Credit – The NPS provides a tax credit for rehabilitating a historic property on Federal and state income taxes. This program applies to income producing properties, generally working farms.</p> <p>National Register of Historic Places – In addition to an honor recognition, inclusion in the National Register provides consideration in planning for Federal, Federally licensed, and Federally assisted projects, eligibility for certain tax provisions, and qualification for grants for historic preservation.</p>	<p>Financial</p> <p>Financial</p>
Federal and State	National Trust for Historic Preservation – Midwest Office	The Midwest Office – This office supports preservation by providing the region with information, guidance, organizational development, advocacy and financial assistance. They administer programs such as the National Trust Preservation Funds, Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors, and Preservation Development Initiative (PDI).	Financial

Table X-2 (continued)

Program Type	Program Entity	Program Service and Description	Available Technical or Financial Assistance
Cultural Resources (continued)			
State	Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS)	Home Owner's (Supplemental) Historic Preservation Credit– WHS provides a tax credit for the repair and rehabilitation of historic homes and their significant outbuildings on state income taxes.	Financial
	Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation	Agricultural Buildings Preservation Initiative – Inspired by the National Trust's Barn Again! Program, this initiative provides information and forums to help owners of historic agricultural buildings to determine how to maintain and reuse their buildings.	Technical
		Heritage Tourism Initiative – This initiative helps develop grassroots heritage tourism organizations by encouraging Wisconsin communities to use their unique features to protect historic resources and natural resources, as well as to promote the arts communities and recreational services.	Technical
		Main Street Program – Main Street is a comprehensive program designed to revitalize designated downtowns and give new life to historic business districts.	Technical
	Wisconsin Department of Transportation	Rustic Roads Program – This program is used to help citizens and local governments preserve the remaining scenic country roads designated for the leisurely enjoyment of hikers, bikers, and motorists.	Financial
Additional Preservation- and Conservation-Related Organizations and Programs			
State, County, and Local	Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)	Community-based Project Grants – WIN awards grants and offers advisement to organizations for projects that preserve, promote, and protect land and water resources in the Root-Pike Watershed.	Financial
County	Kenosha/Racine Land Trust	Land Trusts – Land trusts work to protect and manage lands with scenic, recreational, agricultural, cultural or historic value. This can involve purchasing or obtaining conservation easements for environmentally valuable lands through member contributions, land or easement donations, and grants obtained from other sources; land trusts may also monitor conservation easements to ensure restrictions are being followed.	Financial
	Southeast Fox River Partnership	This organization represents a wide range of Federal, State, county and local agencies, nonprofit organizations and private sector interests that collaborate on priority issues such as protecting groundwater quality and quantity, preventing the loss of wetlands and wildlife habitat, and encouraging good land use planning.	
Other – Private Organizations	Joyce Foundation	The foundation supports the development, testing, and implementation of policy-based, prevention-oriented solutions to environmental challenges.	Financial
	McKnight Foundation	The foundation supports the maintenance and restoration of a healthy, sustainable environment in the Mississippi River Basin.	Financial
	Runzheimer International	This organization provides grants to assist local stormwater abatement conservation projects.	Financial
	Trout Unlimited	Embrace-A-Stream Program (EAS) – EAS is Trout Unlimited's flagship grant program for hands-on fishery resource, research, and education work by its chapters and councils.	Financial
	Turner Foundation	The foundation supports defending biodiversity by protecting habitats.	Financial
	Wildlife Forever	These grants are targeted for research management, acquisition, and educational purposes.	Financial

NOTE: It is important to note that there are numerous competitive grant programs available for academic research on agriculture, natural resources, and cultural preservation. In addition, financial assistance is available from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and The Nature Conservancy.

^aThe Racine County Land Conservation Division (LCD) implements and administers the County and State of Wisconsin Soil and Water Conservation Programs. In particular, the LCD Department oversees the Racine County Land and Water Resource Management Program (LWRMP), which provides technical and financial assistance annually for the installation of agricultural- and natural resource-based conservation practices throughout Racine County. In most cases, this program funds 70 percent of the cost of a construction project for qualifying landowners. The LCD Department also sponsors a variety of information and education activities for youth and provides information to the public and other interested organizations as requested.

Source: SEWRPC.