



RACINE COUNTY

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

FACT SHEET

Inventory of Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources (Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Preliminary Draft Chapter III)

Agricultural Resources

Farm Facts

- In 2000, agricultural land encompassed about 125,100 acres (or 57%) of Racine County.
- There were 631 farms in Racine County in 2002.
- 53% of the farms in Racine County were less than 50 acres. (This compares with a Statewide percentage of 28%.)
- The total value of agricultural products sold in Racine was \$73.2 million in 2002.
- Over 56% of farms reported agricultural sales of less than \$10,000.
- Grain crops were the predominant source of agricultural revenue, accounting for almost 23% of all agricultural revenue for Racine County. This was followed by vegetables (11%) and nursery and greenhouse (12%).

State and Federal Preservation Programs

A number of government programs have been created to help protect farmland and other rural lands.

The Racine County farmland preservation plan and exclusive agricultural zoning were certified by the State in 1982, enabling many farmland owners to participate in the *Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program*. In 2005, a total of 39 farmland owners in the County claimed a Farmland Preservation Program tax credit, with an average credit amount of \$648.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's *Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)* and *Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)* encourage farmers to voluntarily convert environmentally sensitive land (e.g., highly erodible land) to permanent vegetative cover. In 2006, a total of 2,570 acres of Racine County were enrolled in the CRP in 2006, and an additional 240 acres were enrolled in CREP.

The USDA Wetland Reserve Program provides financial incentives to landowners to restore and enhance wetlands. In 2006, a total of 27 acres were enrolled in this program in Racine County.

AGRICULTURAL LAND IN THE RACINE COUNTY PLANNING AREA BY
COMMUNITY: 2000

COMMUNITY	AGRICULTURAL LAND (ACRES)	PERCENT OF COMMUNITY AREA
CITIES		
Burlington	732	16.0
Racine	25	0.2
VILLAGES		
Caledonia	15,727	53.9
Elmwood Park	0	0.0
Mt. Pleasant	12,043	55.5
North Bay	0	0.0
Rochester ^a	49	14.3
Sturtevant	1,131	42.0
Union Grove	371	28.9
Waterford	352	21.8
Wind Point	11	1.3
TOWNS		
Burlington	11,381	51.0
Dover	17,501	75.6
Norway	14,267	62.5
Raymond	16,876	73.8
Rochester ^a	5,707	52.0
Waterford	12,127	56.3
Yorkville	16,888	77.1
TOTAL ^b	125,188	57.4

^a The Town and Village of Rochester were consolidated as the Village of Rochester in December 2008.

^b Total does not include the portions of the Towns of Lyons and Spring Prairie located in the planning area.

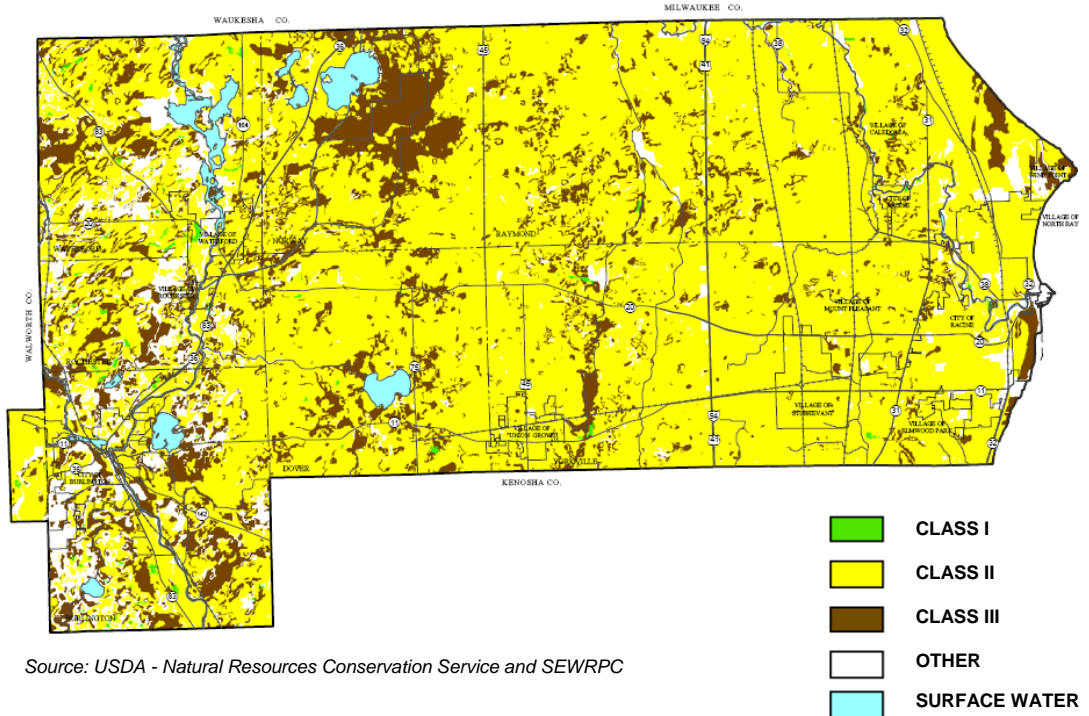
Source: SEWRPC

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Soil Capabilities

- **Class I and II** soils are considered “National Prime Farmlands.”
- **Class III** soils are considered “Farmlands of Statewide Significance.”
- **Class III and IV** soils have severe limitations.
- **Class V, VI, and VII** soils are considered suitable for pasture but not crops.
- **Class VIII** soils are too rough, shallow or other limited to produce worthwhile yields of crops, forage or wood products.

AGRICULTURAL SOIL CAPABILITY IN RACINE COUNTY



The majority of Racine County is covered by soils which are well-suited for agricultural use.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Topology and Geology

Glaciation has determined the physiography and topology, as well as the soils of Racine County. The County varies from gently rolling glacial plains in the eastern half, to steeper hills in the western half.

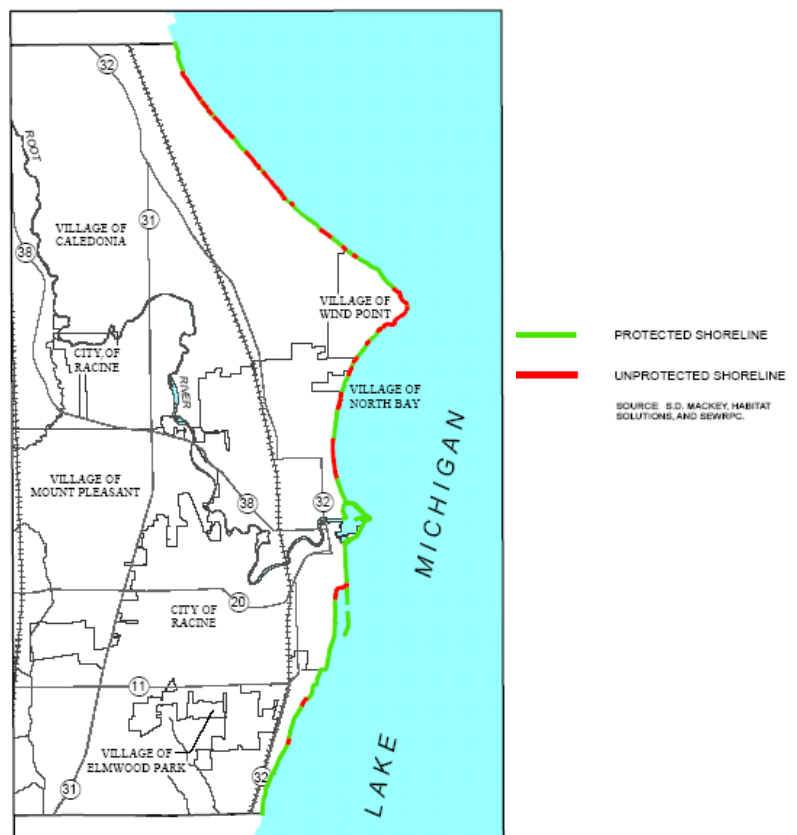
Surface elevations range from 580 feet above sea level at the Lake Michigan shoreline to approximately 950 feet in the western portion of the County.

A total of six sites of geological importance were identified in Racine County, on the basis of scientific importance, significance in industrial history, natural aesthetics, ecological qualities, educational value, and public access potential.

There are approximately 14.8 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline along Racine County, and about 73% of it is designated as protected from erosion.

Similar to the entire region, Racine only contains nonmetallic mineral resources in the form of crushed stone, dimension stone, sand and gravel.

LAKE MICHIGAN SHORELINE/EROSION PROTECTION IN RACINE COUNTY: 2005



Water Resources

There are 5 major drainage systems in Racine County. The Root River and Pike River watersheds drain to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River, and encompass about 42% of the County. The Fox River and Des Plaines watersheds drain to the Mississippi River, and encompass about 52% of the County. A fifth watershed drains directly to Lake Michigan, and covers about 6% of the County.

There are approximately 101 miles of major streams (streams that maintain a small continuous flow throughout the year) in Racine County. There are also 10 major lakes (lakes of at least 50 acres in size), and numerous smaller lakes and ponds. Altogether, about 5,200 acres — or just over 2% of the County — were identified as surface water in 2000.

Wetlands encompassed about 7% (15,920 acres) of the County in 2000. Efforts are currently underway to restore and create floodplains and wetlands in Racine County, including sites in the Town of Dover, the Village of Mt Pleasant and the Town of Norway.

Environmental Features

In 2000, woodlands covered approximately 12,700 acres of Racine County (approximately 6% of the County).

59 natural areas (encompassing about 5,600 acres) have been identified in the County. Natural areas are tracts of land or water so little modified by human activity that they contain intact native plant and animal communities.

In 2000, about 22,700 acres (10.4% of the County) were encompassed within primary environmental corridors; 6,940 acres were within secondary environmental corridors. Environmental corridors are areas containing concentrations of natural resources and scenic, recreation and historic resources.

34 sites (1,212 acres) have been identified as critical species habitats, meaning they support rare or threatened plant and animal species. There are also 28 aquatic sites (3,500 acres), supporting rare fish, herptile or mussel species.

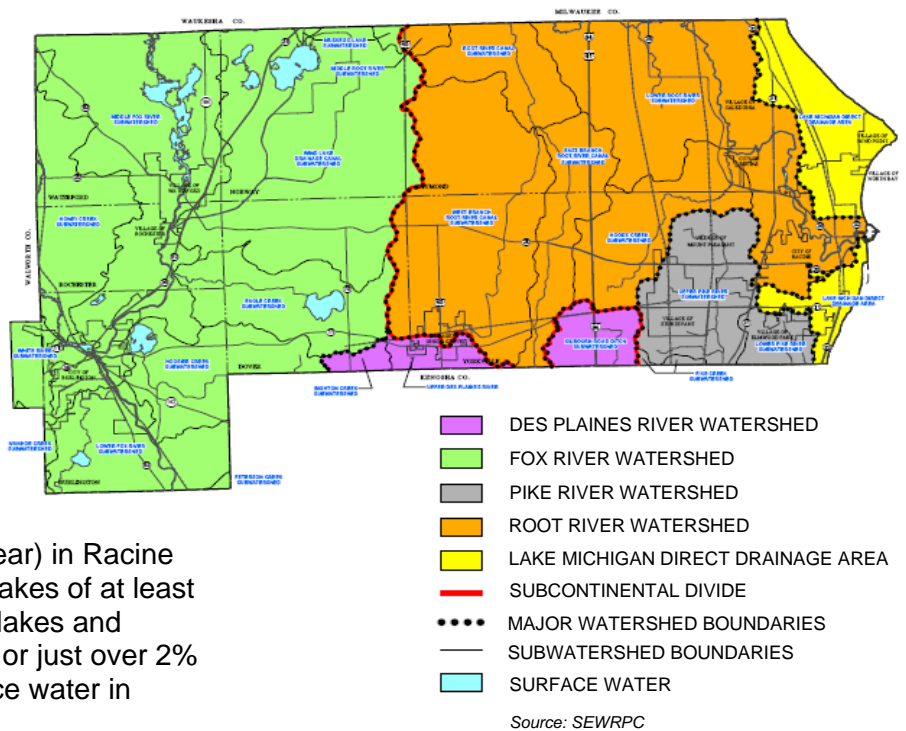
Big Muskego Lake, Bong Grassland, Illinois Fox River and Root River were identified in the *Wisconsin Land Legacy Report: 2006* as places that were critical to meet the State's conservation and recreation needs over the next 50 years.

Park and Open Space Sites

In 2007, of the identified park and open space sites:

- 32 sites (2,720 acres) were owned by Racine County
- 19 sites (3,406 acres) were owned by the State
- 229 sites (2,970 acres) were owned by cities, villages, towns and school districts
- 108 sites (2,630 acres) were privately owned outdoor recreation and open spaces (including golf courses, hunting clubs and campgrounds, as well as land held for preservation purposes by private nonprofit conservation organizations, such as the Caledonia Conservancy).

WATERSHED FEATURES IN THE RACINE COUNTY PLANNING AREA



CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources provide the County and each of its communities with a sense of heritage, identity and civic pride. In 2006, there were 47 listings for Racine County in the National Register of Historic Places, including 41 historic buildings or structures and 6 historic districts.

A total of 2,889 properties in Racine County are included in the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory, an inventory of buildings, structures, and objects that are historically significant to the State of Wisconsin. The inventory is accessible through the Wisconsin Historical Society's website: www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi/.

Racine County is also home to 12 Wisconsin State Historical Markers, including the Bohemian Schoolhouse in Caledonia, the Lincoln Monument in the City of Burlington, Old Muskego in the Town of Norway, and the Wind Point Lighthouse in the Village of Wind Point.

As of 2006, there were 335 known prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in Racine County listed in the State Archaeological Site Inventory.

There are five local historical societies in Racine County:

- Burlington Historical Society
- Caledonia Historical Society
- Friends of Wind Point Lighthouse
- Racine County Historical Society and Heritage Museum
- Rochester Area Historical Society

For a copy of the Multi-Jurisdictional Comprehensive Plan Draft Chapter III, please visit the Racine County Smart Growth website:

<http://racine.uwex.edu/cnred/SmartGrowth.html>

NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTERS OF HISTORIC SITES AND DISTRICTS IN RACINE COUNTY: 2006

NAME	LOCATION	YEAR LISTED
First Presbyterian Church	City of Racine	1973
Eli R Cooley House	City of Racine	1973
John Collins House	Village of Caledonia	1974
Thomas P. Hardy House	City of Racine	1974
S.C. Johnson & Son Inc.	City of Racine	1974
Franklyn Hazelo House	Town of Rochester	1974
Herbert F. Johnson House (Wingspread)	Village of Wind Point	1975
Racine Harbor Lighthouse & Life Saving Station	City of Racine	1975
Chauncey Hall House	City of Racine	1976
Racine College	City of Racine	1976
McClurg Building	City of Racine	1977
Southside Historic District	City of Racine	1977
Shoop Building	City of Racine	1978
Hansen House	City of Racine	1979
George Murray House	City of Racine	1979
No. 4 Engine House	City of Racine	1979
St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church	City of Racine	1979
St Luke's Episcopal Church	City of Racine	1979
Whitman-Belden House	Village of Rochester	1980
Memorial Hall	City of Racine	1980
Norwegian Buildings at Heg Park	Town of Norway	1980
Racine County Courthouse	City of Racine	1980
Chauncey Hall Building	City of Racine	1980
Racine Depot	City of Racine	1980
Kaiser's	City of Racine	1980
Badger Building	City of Racine	1980
Racine Public Library	City of Racine	1981
Karel Jonas House	City of Racine	1982
Rickeman Grocery Building	City of Racine	1982
Uptown (Majestic Theater)	City of Racine	1982
YMCA Building	City of Racine	1982
Beardsley-Elam Farmhouse	Town of Waterford	1982
United Laymen Bible Student Tabernacle	City of Racine	1983
Wind Point Light Station	Village of Wind Point	1984
Racine Elks Club	City of Racine	1984
Racine Post Office	City of Racine	1985
Peter Johnson House	City of Racine	1986
Old Main Street Historic District	City of Racine	1987
Historic 6th Street Business District	City of Racine	1988
Southern Wisconsin Home Historic District	Town of Dover	1991
Northside Historic District of Cream Brick Workers Cottages	City of Racine	1994
Wilmanor Apartments	City of Racine	1994
Lincoln School	City of Racine	1994
Burlington Downtown Historic District	City of Burlington	2000
Thomas Driver and Sons Manufacturing Company	City of Racine	2004
Mitchell Lewis Building	City of Racine	2005
Racine Rubber Company	City of Racine	2006

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society and SEWRPC