

3

AGRICULTURAL, CULTURAL, & NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN

The Town of Dunn's significant natural, historical and cultural amenities define its identity. Residents value and are dedicated to the preservation of irreplaceable productive agricultural lands, bucolic open spaces and rich natural resources. This dedication is demonstrated by the Town's extensive history of land use planning and the Town continues to be committed to the protection of these resources. Agricultural land, waterways, wetlands and woodlands comprise much of the Town of Dunn's land area. Therefore, the goals, objectives and policies of the Agricultural, Cultural and Natural Resources Plan are critical in determining how Dunn looks, feels and functions in the future.

Goal 1: Protect the Town's open spaces and agricultural areas.

1-1: Preserve the productive farmlands in the Town for long-term farm use and maintain agriculture as a major economic activity and way of life.

Action 1-1a: Utilize the Town's Purchase of Development Rights program to protect high-quality farmland and viable farm operations, and to create substantial clusters or blocks of agricultural land. The PDR program will be used to give farmers and landowners an alternative to splitting lots. By maintaining contiguous blocks of land dedicated solely to agricultural-related uses, the Town desires to eliminate land use conflicts that can hinder efficient agricultural operations.

Action 1-1b: Identify prime agricultural land by using criteria in addition to productive agricultural soils.

1-2: Protect farm operations from incompatible adjacent land uses or activities that will adversely affect the long-term agricultural investment in land and improvements.

Action 1-2a: Require the clustering of rural residential development on individual parcels in order to preserve prime agricultural lands.

Goal 2: Protect the Town's natural resources.

- 2-1:** Increase the amount of protected open space in Dunn by preserving large ecologically significant tracts of wooded areas, wetlands, habitat corridors and water resources.
- Action 2-1a:** Utilize the Town's PDR Program to preserve environmental, archaeological, scenic and historic resources.
 - Action 2-1b:** Encourage the preservation and management of areas needed to support local wildlife.
 - Action 2-1c:** The Town will support all levels of government in acquiring natural features, especially those within identified environmental corridors, for public use and protection consistent with the objectives and policies of the Town.
 - Action 2-1d:** Coordinate with neighboring municipalities to ensure important open space corridors, as designated on the Open Space and Urban Service Area Map, and other important natural resource areas are protected.
- 2-2:** Respect the capacity and quality of Dunn's wetland, surface and groundwater resources and strive to improve these resources.
- Action 2-2a:** Work with other organizations and government agencies to identify disturbed or degraded lakeshore and wetland areas that are important to water quality and support efforts to restore and improve such areas.
 - Action 2-2b:** Require strategies to address the potential impacts of development on water quality and quantity in Dunn's streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and groundwater aquifers. Such strategies could include buffers, setbacks and/or best management practices for erosion control and stormwater management.
 - Action 2-2c:** When possible, promote pervious pavements, bioswales and other techniques to reduce impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff.
 - Action 2-2d:** Work to maintain groundwater levels and quality within the Town by supporting efforts to identify and protect groundwater recharge areas in the Town.
 - Action 2-2e:** Work with the Department of Natural Resources and Dane County to manage lake levels in the Town.
- 2-3:** Prohibit development in areas that possess valuable natural resource characteristics, such as floodplains, wetlands, viewsheds and wildlife habitats.
- Action 2-3a:** Request rezoning of important wetlands and lands unsuitable for development and appropriate buffer areas for conservation and protection. These include the following areas:
 - Alsmo's Addition Yahara Park Plat
 - Fishcamp/DNR area

RESOURCES

- Action 2-3b:** Discourage filling or developing of floodplains and/or wetlands and areas within 100 feet of them for new development.
- Action 2-3c:** Follow Dane County mineral extraction ordinances and reclamation plans.
- Action 2-3d:** Require that agencies responsible for the location of public improvements such as highways, pipelines or power lines, recognize and not violate the intent of the Towns goals and policies for protecting natural resources.

Goal 3: Protect Dunn’s historical, archeological and cultural features.

3-1: Preserve historic farmsteads and properties that contribute to the Town’s history and aesthetic beauty.

- Action 3-1a:** Continue to identify buildings or sites of historic or scenic value and encourage their preservation by considering the creation of a historic preservation ordinance.
- Action 3-1b:** Conduct a local historic preservation inventory, to include buildings of both historical and cultural importance.
- Action 3-1c:** Consider allotting wrecking permits only to those that will not be destroying an important historic or cultural building, as determined by the historic preservation inventory.
- Action 3-1d:** Encourage new developments or redevelopments to incorporate existing farm structures and/or buildings.

3-2: Continue to protect the Town’s important archaeological resources, including the effigy mounds.

- Action 3-2a:** Consider adopting an archaeological zoning ordinance.
- Action 3-2b:** Consider adopting an ordinance to require development be a greater distance from Native American burial mounds than the 25 feet required by Dane County.

3-3: Maintain the rural community culture and character of the Town.

- Action 3-3a:** Protect scenic views in the Town.
- Action 3-3b:** Prohibit new subdivisions in areas planned for agricultural preservation, important natural resource areas and environmental corridors.
- Action 3-3c:** Prohibit new driveways on Rustic Roads if there is an alternative access point available.
- Action 3-3d:** Promote “dark night skies” in the Town by monitoring lighting requirements and design patterns and considering a lighting ordinance.

RESOURCES

Action 3-3e: Prohibit billboards and lighted signs in the Town.

Action 3-3f: Support local festivals, picnics, farm tours, markets and other gatherings that celebrate the Town's farming heritage and rural character.

Goal 4: Maintain the Town's existing parks and recreation areas and look for opportunities to expand these resources.

4-1: Explore opportunities to expand the Town's existing park and recreation system.

Action 4-1a: Work with Dane County on planning for parks and recreation facilities.

Action 4-1b: Promote and encourage the expansion of multi-use trails where appropriate, including bike routes and walking trails.

Action 4-1c: Support Dane County and the DNR in their efforts to maintain public safety and enjoyment on Town lakes while protecting the lake and riparian resources. This may include the numbering of piers, expanding boater training and safety programs and other similar efforts.

Please see Environmentally Sensitive Lands Map

RESOURCES
