

1. Introduction

1.0 Introduction

Sauk County, located in south central Wisconsin, is one of the fastest growing counties in the State. Home to more than 60,000 people, the County is expected to exceed a population of 70,000 by 2030. Since 1999, the County has grown by an estimated 11%. Growth at this level for a Wisconsin county is not incidental. Sauk County's diversified economy, transportation connections, high quality schools, plentiful public lands and parks, and historic downtowns please current inhabitants while attracting new residents and businesses. This growth has inspired Sauk County to reexamine its role within the context of providing a sustainable and premier location in which to settle new families and a progressive business environment.

Sauk County's growth and prosperity make planning for the County's future critically important. In fact, the need for good planning from the County to the municipal level has never been greater, as Sauk County and its municipalities address the evolution of socially, environmentally and economically sustainable communities. Success in Sauk County's future is not guaranteed and will require the allocation of human and financial resources to realize a position of leadership.

The mission of the Sauk County Comprehensive Plan is to "Position Sauk County for the Future." To accomplish this mission, the following questions must be asked: How do we accommodate and encourage growth while building a high quality of life and retaining the assets that make Sauk County unique and special? How do we create communities that attract young families while accommodating businesses that seek to employ these families? How do we sustain the environment for the present and renew it for the future? How do we build upon our educational opportunities to produce well-rounded individuals? How do we develop and promote the arts and recognize their contribution to our community's social and economic fabric? How can we collaborate with neighboring

counties to build the strength of our region? How do we position Sauk County to become competitive with a strong economy?

The answer to these questions will require solutions from forward-thinking individual and political support from the County and each municipality.

The Sauk County Comprehensive Plan is the key strategic document that will help make Sauk County a workable, livable and prosperous community well into the 21st Century and beyond. The Plan provides an integrated approach to Sauk County's physical development and related economic and social potential, with an emphasis on moving Sauk County toward economic, social and environmental sustainability; enhancing our educational and health systems, transportation coordination, business development, supporting agriculture, and developing attractive and prosperous places to live. The Comprehensive Plan seeks to:

- Inspire the community with bold ideas to shape and re-shape the communities we live in;
- Provide a sustainability framework to implement the plan's strategies;
- Facilitate continued and active discussion among the public to further strategy implementation;
- Build on ideas and guidance from the many participants in the Sauk County Comprehensive Planning Process.

1.1 Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan

Wisconsin Statutes require that any program or action of a local governmental unit that affects land use shall be consistent with their comprehensive plan. This Plan consciously refers to locally adopted municipal comprehensive plans for guidance as to whether proposed changes in land use are appropriate and seeks to identify and address interjurisdictional conflicts.

Sauk County has a long history of using planning to establish Programs and policies that respond to the needs and aspirations of County residents, and accordingly influence social, economic, and physical development. This Plan will promote sustainability through the implementation of objectives which address facets of viable community development, such as land use, educational opportunities, and transportation.



Source: Sauk County Development Corporation



Source: Baraboo School District

1.2 Planning Steering Committee

Developing a comprehensive plan that recognizes divergent interests and brings people together to a common understanding is critical to the implementation and success of the Plan. To this purpose, Sauk County appointed a Steering Committee of community members with a variety of perspectives and experiences to identify opportunities for Sauk County in the future and solutions to challenges facing the County. Specifically, the role of the Committee was to:

- Evaluate and provide guidance to the planning process and product, including, but not limited to, public participation opportunities, a planning website, and final comprehensive plan;
- Study the benefits, consequences and trade-offs of various objectives that will guide the County's future;
- Propose changes to these objectives to reflect on-going contributions from the public and elected officials, while developing successful and far-reaching ideas for implementation.



Source: Sauk County Planning and Zoning Department

1.3 History of Planning in Sauk County

Sauk County has a history of developing plans, dating back to 1979 with the adoption of the *Sauk County Agricultural Preservation Plan*, which was subsequently amended in 2006. This plan was a “first step” in the preservation of agricultural lands. Since 1990, the County's emphasis has been on the preservation of agricultural and natural resource lands and economic development. While important, this approach neglected to recognize the importance of other assets that make a community vibrant and attractive, such as transportation, health care, education, the arts, energy, technology, and transportation.

The County's latest comprehensive plan, the *Sauk County 20/20 Development Plan*, was adopted in 1999. To a large extent, its policy recommendations have been implemented. Much has changed in the last decade, most significantly an increasing emphasis on combining community assets to make them attractive and competitive.

The *Sauk County Comprehensive Plan* strives to ensure that recognized community assets are emphasized in the context of sustainability including the development of public places, improved transit and transportation options, better coordinated land use and infrastructure development, redevelopment of downtown areas, and a continued emphasis on the importance of agricultural and natural resources.

1.4 How the Comprehensive Plan is to be Used

This document has been designed for use by elected and appointed officials, County government administration and staff, City and Village administration, businesses, developers, non-governmental organizations, and others with an interest in the future of Sauk County. Sauk County government will not be the only entity responsible for plan implementation. Depending on the objective, County government may play a primary or ancillary implementation role.

The Plan will be used to:

- Articulate a vision for what Sauk County can aspire to achieve by 2030;
- Identify short- to long-term objectives for the County or other group to undertake. These actions will be monitored annually to ensure accountability and implementation;
- Guide long-term and day-to-day decision making that reflects the implementation of the plan;
- Act as a catalyst to bring together the interests of Sauk County residents, each municipality and other government agencies within the County and groups outside of County with the goal of creating an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable region.

This Plan is easy to read and accessible to all. Graphics, maps and photos are used to illustrate conceptual ideas. Objectives are written to encourage free thought and creativity during implementation and are supplemented with features emphasizing forward-thinking approaches and implementation suggestions.

As the County's primary planning document, this Plan should be of particular interest to appointed officials and County department leaders to guide discretionary decisions. Additionally, as implementation requires a community-wide effort, this Plan will also be of interest to non-governmental entities.

The Plan is also an important source of information and guidance to private sector actors involved in the business and physical development of communities.

The Plan will help the private sector anticipate the direction Sauk County will go, and provides a framework that Sauk County can use to develop livable communities. The Plan will also help the

private sector anticipate future public investment priorities, whether physical or programmatic, to implement the Plan's objectives.

Finally, the Plan is a resource for those who seek general information on how the County may change over the next 20 years and on how the County may respond to issues and problems. The Plan provides ideas for new programs drawing upon the success of other communities. The Plan suggests that Sauk County as a whole adopt sophisticated and innovative programs to compete and thrive in a larger regional context. It will take resources and dedication to move forward in this positive direction.

1.5 Organization of the Plan

At the heart of the Comprehensive Plan are seven **Themes**: Economy, Agricultural and Natural Resources, Transportation, Education, Arts and Innovation, Quality of Life, Government, and Energy. These seven **themes** provided a framework to establish goals, objectives and ideas.

Advancing the seven **themes** are the Plan's **Goals**. All **goals** respond to and advance one or more of the **themes**. Each **goal** contains one or more **Objectives** that provide general direction to policy makers and the community to help direct actions towards achieving **goals**. The **objectives** offer broad guidance thereby allowing for flexibility, creativity and innovation during implementation.

Features are specific ideas that Sauk County may consider or build on when working towards **goals** and **objectives**. **Features** highlight programs or policies proven to be successful in other communities and which may advance Sauk County's **objectives** and are meant to be used as a starting point of discussion.

The **objectives** contained within the Plan have implications for capital and operating budgets of various County departments, and therefore are subject to the same budgetary constraints as any

other long range plan. The number and type of programs and policies implemented in any given year will be determined by budget considerations in addition to the priorities set forth Part III.

The Sauk County Comprehensive Plan consists of three parts:

Part I sets the basic understanding of the Plan's purpose and provides a summary of Sauk County's statistics. Tables, text boxes, maps, and interest items supplement narrative content. Part I also describes the County's Vision.

Part II includes the Plan's Themes, Objectives, Features and implementation ideas. Described in more detail, the Plan's themes are:

- **Economy:** The Economy theme includes objectives to enhance Sauk County's competitive advantage with an emphasis on regional collaboration. It addresses ways to assure an educated workforce and, provide opportunities for new business start-up and relocations.
- **Agricultural and Natural Resources:** The Agricultural and Natural Resources theme guides the development of programs that maintain agriculture as a key component of the local economy and natural resources as critical to the ecology, economy, and health of the County's communities.
- **Transportation:** The Transportation theme includes strategies that promote an efficient, effective and safe transportation system that emphasizes a variety of forms of transportation. This theme also examines the need to maintain existing infrastructure and specifically suggests that development along the US Highway 12 Corridor contribute environmentally, socially and economically to the County.

- **Education, Arts, and Innovation:** The Education, Arts, and Innovation theme recognizes the importance of an educated society and the contributions it makes to the community. This theme recognizes that without out a high level of creativity in the community, innovation stagnates.
- **Quality of Life:** The Quality of Life theme aims to make Sauk County a healthy place to live and emphasizes healthy lifestyles and access to critical community services. This theme also reflects strategies that address the need for affordable housing and creative approaches for new managed housing developments that emphasize sustainability and community connections.
- **Government:** The Government theme recognizes the importance of preparedness for natural disasters from an emergency management perspective. This theme also emphasizes opportunities for greater public/government interactions, transparency in government operations and opportunities for civic engagement.
- **Energy:** The Energy theme focuses on encouraging energy efficiency while taking advantage of the County's potential for renewable, alternative energy sources. It addresses energy usage at the governmental, organizational, and individual levels and makes an effort to further the discussion on this topic within Sauk County.

Part III details suggestions for implementation of the Plan. The Plan should be implemented by incorporating its suggestions into County decisions. The goals and objectives laid out in the Plan should be taken into consideration during implementation of County programs. Additionally, success should be measured on a regular basis to ensure the Plan is

being put into action. For more information about implementation efforts, please see Part III.

1.6 Public Participation Process

Public participation is the central component of the comprehensive planning process. The Department of Planning & Zoning and UW-Extension have been the lead agencies for the development of the Sauk County Comprehensive Plan, providing a wide variety of public engagement opportunities, including workshops, open houses, a survey, vision session, and stakeholder and expert meetings. The centerpiece of the public outreach effort has been an interactive planning website.

The principle goal of the planning website was to allow for meaningful ways for the public to engage in the planning process. Traditional methods of public participation in past planning processes, while important, failed to provide opportunities for the public to provide input to the planning process, especially for those with mobility issues or conflicting schedules. Additionally, the website engaged younger generation who typically seek information and communicate via the Internet.

The main components of the website included:

- A Discussion Forum with ten subforums ranging from community design, space and place to planning ideas from communities regionally and globally;
- A planning blog of ideas, questions and proposed Plan language and an opportunity for the public to post comments;
- Links to other planning resources, example plans, research and education opportunities;
- A Youth Planning Projects page that correlating to planning charettes conducted at local high schools;

- A County profile highlighting data and trends that depict where the County stands in measurable terms and helped reveal fundamental issues facing the County's future;
- Biographies and pictures of the appointed Steering Committee and County staff involved with the project, putting a human face to the planning process;
- Online information and registration for planning events such as community workshops and vision sessions;
- An e-mail link to send comments, questions or concerns directly to planning staff;
- A link to Flickr (a public photo sharing website) and YouTube (a public video sharing website), sharing photos and videos of past planning events.

The planning website set a new standard for public participation opportunities related to community plan development and represents a first in Wisconsin. Sauk County received a 2009 National Association of Counties Achievement Award for this innovative website.

The Comprehensive Planning website was offered in conjunction with a number of other public participation opportunities:

- In the Fall of 2008, a **Planning Workshop** was held at the University of Wisconsin – Baraboo/Sauk County to determine the focus of the Comprehensive Plan. The Workshop revealed some of the more pressing issues that, if not addressed, will hinder Sauk County's ability to position itself for a successful future. The workshop also began to identify the major themes that became the focus of the Plan.

- A **Vision Session** was held in March 2009 at the Reedsburg High School CAL Center. Approximately 250 people attended and listened to a presentation by Richard Longworth, author of *Caught in the Middle*, a book about globalization's impact on the Midwest. Longworth's presentation addressed shortcomings with the region and offered a prescription on how it must change- politically and economically- if it is to survive and prosper in an increasingly competitive world. The Vision Session also included break-out sessions, allowing participants to brainstorm strategies to position Sauk County for a successful future. Throughout the evening, participants had the opportunity to take part in a collaborative activity to draft a future Vision for Sauk County.

Facing Our Future
A Sauk County Community Conversation
MONDAY 30TH MARCH 2009

Imagine **OUR** future: **businesses** **lives**
jobs **hopes**
families **COMMUNITY**

Guest Speaker
Richard Longworth - author of *Caught in the Middle*, a book about the impact of globalization on the Midwest. Longworth will address what's right and wrong with the region and offers a prescription of how it must change - politically as well as economically- if it is to survive and prosper.

"Longworth captures the flavor of the Midwest today, the nuovo Midwest - replete with immigrants, urban suburban/rural ghettos, hollowed-out cities, abandoned small towns, failing schools and feckless politicians."
—Peter Coclanis, associate provost for international affairs & Albert Newsome, professor of history at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Share Your Ideas
An opportunity for the community to envision our future transportation, economy, energy, quality of life, natural resources, agriculture and governance- and develop strategies for solving pressing problems and improving our lives. Your ideas will help Sauk County prepare for the future.

Join Your Community
Monday, March 30, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the CAL Center located at the Reedsburg High School, 1100 S Albert Avenue. Doors open at 5:30. This is a **FREE** event.

Register
At www.saukplan.org or phone (608) 355-3250. For the latest information and to join the on-line discussion visit www.saukplan.org

Source: Sauk County Planning and Zoning Department

- A **Discussion on Sustainability** was held in June 2009 at the Sauk Prairie River Arts Center. Dr. Kelly Cain, a professor in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences at the University of Wisconsin River Falls and Director for the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development led a discussion on sustainable community development with examples from communities that have implemented sustainability initiatives. The last part of the discussion focused on how Sauk County can incorporate sustainability principles in the Plan.
- The planning process included **Youth Participation** in conjunction with the Baraboo and Reedsburg High Schools. The Baraboo class, *Natural Resources and Me*, examined an land east of the City of Baraboo that is part of a boundary agreement between the City and Town of Greenfield. The students prepared a poster presentation describing potential development scenarios from a form and function perspective with an emphasis on preservation of natural resources, safe communities, mixed uses, and incorporation of a high-tech office park. The project culminated with a student presentation to the Baraboo City Council.

The Reedsburg class focused on developing alternative land use plans for the old Sauk County Health Care Center. Students analyzed various types of development and became more familiar with what makes an attractive and well-designed community. The class visited the Health Care Center site and conducted soil samples, reviewed topographical maps to understand the slope and drainage characteristics, and studied aerial photos of the region surrounding the property. After analyzing a wide range of possibilities for the site, a final suite of possibilities emerged, including a recreational hiking trail, an equestrian trail, a community garden, continued

agricultural uses, and a dirt-bike trail. Students prepared presentations of their plans and presented them to the Town of Reedsburg Planning Commission, where they were met with enthusiasm.

- In the summer of 2009, a **Survey** was sent to a random selection of households. The survey presented the seven themes, plan goals, and asked respondents to rate the importance of the plan objectives. The survey was used as a tool to gauge public support for the goals and objectives.
- Throughout the process, **Workgroups** consisting of Steering Committee members and knowledgeable community people met to develop plan goals and objectives and to identify plan features that may be of consideration as part of the Plan's implementation.
- In the Fall of 2009, a **Survey** was sent to randomly selected households with a forty-two percent return rate. The survey presented the seven themes, plan goals, and asked respondents to rate the importance of the plan objectives. The survey was used as a tool to gauge public support for plan goals and objectives. The survey and responses are available at the Sauk County Department of Planning & Zoning.
- The Steering Committee sponsored two **Open Houses** in the Fall of 2009 to present the draft plan and gather additional input for plan content.

Many residents, governmental agencies, business institutions, students, and leaders have helped shape this Plan. Their continued commitment is essential to carrying the Plan forward in the coming years to create a more prosperous and sustainable County and region.



The Planning Workshop at UW Baraboo helped to shape the Plan. Source: Sauk County Planning and Zoning Department

1.7 Comprehensive Plan Survey

Survey Purpose. The purpose of the survey was to gather opinions regarding issues to be considered in the development of the Sauk County Comprehensive Plan. The County chose to work with the Survey Research Center (SRC) at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

The County Planning & Zoning Department and UW-Extension Office requested that three groups be included in the survey. The first group was a random sample of residents of Sauk County, and throughout the report, this group will be referred to as the “public.” The second group was the 31 members of the Sauk County Board of Supervisors. The third group consisted of elected and appointed officials from the local units of government within Sauk County and is referred to throughout the report as “local officials.” This group included city mayors and councilpersons, village presidents and trustees, and town chairs and supervisors. The group of local officials also included members of plan commissions in those jurisdictions that have chosen to create a plan commission.

Survey Methods. In August 2009, the Survey Research Center (SRC) at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls mailed surveys to a random sample of 1,134 County residences, 31 Sauk County Board Supervisors and 295 local officials. The survey mailings were followed by reminder postcards and a second mailing to non-respondents.

The overall response rate from the public was 42 percent (471 completed questionnaires). Based on the estimated number of adults in the population of the County (46,713)¹, the results provided in this report from the public respondents are expected to be accurate to within plus or minus 4.5 percent with 95 percent confidence.

Twenty-five of the 31 County Board members returned their surveys (81%), resulting in a confidence interval of plus/minus 8.8 percent with 95 percent confidence.

The response rate from local officials was 60 percent (176 completed questionnaires). The data are expected to be accurate within plus or minus 4.7 percent with 95 percent confidence.

Executive Summary. In August 2009, the Survey Research Center (SRC) at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls mailed surveys to a random sample of 1,134 Sauk County residences. The same survey questionnaire was also mailed to all 31 members of the Sauk County Board of Supervisors and to 295 local officials of the cities, villages and towns within Sauk County. The surveys were followed by reminder postcards and a second mailing to non-respondents. The overall response rate from the public was 42 percent (471 completed questionnaires), resulting in confidence interval of plus/minus 4.5 percent. The response rate from the County Board was 81 percent (25 completed questionnaires), resulting a confidence interval of plus/minus 8.8 percent. The response rate from local officials was 60 percent (176 completed questionnaires), resulting a confidence interval of plus/minus 4.7 percent. Statistical tests do not indicate that “non-response bias” is a problem in the sample from the public and local officials. The small number of County Board supervisors precluded meaningful testing for non-response bias.

The demographic profile of the public sample contains fewer women, young people, and more persons with higher education than would be expected. However, there are few differences in the opinions among the demographic groups. The percentage of public respondents who live in a city/village and those who live in an unincorporated town match the Census data.

Survey respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with 65 action statements related to comprehensive planning in Sauk County. Each item had a rating scale ranging from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree” plus a “no opinion” option. The 65 actions were divided into seven topical groups, including Sauk County Economy, Sauk County Agriculture and Natural Resources, Sauk County Transportation, Sauk County Education, Arts and Innovation, Sauk County Quality of Life, and Sauk County Government.

Overall, a majority of respondents from all three groups (public, County Board, and local officials) said they agreed or strongly agreed with most action items listed among the survey questions.

Three of the five economic self-sufficiency actions were supported by three-fourths of all respondents. Large majorities also supported all economic sustainability action items such as attracting high wage employers, supporting new and existing businesses, and collaboration to promote the Sauk County region. Energy conservation was also supported more than 80 percent of respondents.

When asked about various actions related to agriculture and natural resources, a majority of Sauk County respondents favored maintaining agriculture as a key economic sector, promoting local food production and marketing, protecting important rural forest lands, preserving open space and the area’s rural character, and intergovernmental cooperation to manage orderly growth and development.

Majorities of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the transportation action items, such as ensuring an adequate supply of construction aggregate for local projects, use of life-cycle cost analysis, and capturing federal, state, and private funding for transportation projects.

Some items were more strongly favored by the County Board than by the public, which had a higher percentage of “no opinion” responses for the promotion of mix-mode transportation hubs in existing cities/villages. This latter response likely indicates a need for dissemination of additional information in order for the public to have an informed opinion. All groups favored regulations for the orderly development of the existing Highway 12 corridor and the new Highway 12 by-pass.

Two of the three education actions (identification of community assets to retain top-level educators and administrators and research to communicate the value of post-high school education) were supported by two-thirds of the public and local officials, and support among the County Board was stronger for these items.

Support for the arts and humanities was stronger among County Board respondents than among the public and local officials. Public respondents tended to have a significant portion of “no opinion” responses to questions about arts initiatives.

Very large majorities of all groups agreed or strongly agreed with actions to improve healthcare in Sauk County: identify and address health issues that affect the overall well-being of County residents, develop strategies to ensure an adequate supply of health care workers, and promote healthier lifestyles.

More than half of the public respondents and local officials disagreed or strongly disagreed with a proposal to adapt current programs and processes to better serve non-English speaking populations. This was the only item on the survey that was opposed by a majority of the public and local officials. However, more than 60 percent of the County Board said they support this initiative.

Regarding housing, large majorities favored the promotion of energy efficiency and alternative heating/power generation, the use of locally produced building materials and affordable housing. The public respondents were more cautious regarding the development of mixed-use buildings, with a relatively high percentage of “no opinion” responses.

Large majorities of all three groups said they would like to see the public be better informed about local government processes and activities and would like to see more opportunities for the public to provide feedback to governmental officials. Most respondents said they favored a process to address inconsistencies and conflicts caused by overlap of governmental jurisdictions.

When asked about emergency management, large majorities of all groups favored additional emergency management training and development of information/maps to identify areas prone to disasters in which development could be restricted.

2. Sustainability and Vision

2.0 Sustainability: Meaning and Application

Sauk County seeks to assure its residents a safe, healthy, inviting, and affordable environment in which to live and work, and demonstrate that it can do so over time. This intentional long-term community functionality can be referred to as “sustainability.” Increasingly, the term “sustainable” has been used to describe a community’s ability to uphold its commitments, responsibilities, and choices. A sustainable community makes choices and commitments that it can reasonably expect to maintain through current and future generations for as long as its commitments are considered relevant.

“Sustainability” became a popular global movement even before the term was formally defined. In 1987 the Brundtland Commission Report defined the term “sustainable development” as development that succeeds in *“meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”* This definition has become the most frequently and universally quoted expression of sustainability. However, it is not the only definition.

One aspect of sustainability is concerned with a community’s ability to establish, maintain, and access local or regional supplies of critical resources and capabilities. This includes everything from locally sourced foods to renewable energy supplies. Dr. Kelly Cain, director of Wisconsin’s St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development, argues that “Sustainability ultimately comes down to a community’s ability to be as self-sufficient as it can be in providing the energy, water, food, employment, and other resources necessary for citizens to collectively and equitably contribute to the well-being of each other and future generations.”¹

Although the federal government is a relative newcomer to the sustainability debate, President Theodore Roosevelt set the bar for the federal approach when he declared in 1916 that “The ‘greatest good for the greatest number’ applies to the [number of] people within the womb of time, compared to which those now alive form but an insignificant fraction. Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations.” More recently, the President’s Council on Sustainable Development issued this statement recognizing the essential economic role of the natural environment: “A sustainable United States will have a growing economy that provides equitable opportunities for satisfying livelihoods and a safe, healthy, high quality of life for current and future generations. Our nation will protect its environment, its natural resource base, and the functions and viability of natural systems on which all life depends.”

Today’s U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. E.P.A.), mobilizing its resources to address the issue of sustainability, organizes its discussion into four categories: Urban Sustainability and the Built Environment, Water and Ecosystem Services, Energy, Biofuels and Climate Change; and Materials Management and Human Health.³ The E.P.A.’s Pacific Northwest Region 10 has incorporated systems analysis into its description of sustainability, as “a long term approach to environmental protection and process improvements. Sustainable design prevents pollution from the start and calls for systems thinking, which acknowledges the connections between the economy, the environment and social responsibility.”⁴

Seven Generation Sustainability

People have been thinking about the long-term impacts of current decisions for many years. One of the earliest expressions of sustainability is attributed to ancient Haudenosaunee Iroquois spiritual leaders by contemporary Haudenosaunee Chief Oren Lyons, who asks “What about the seventh generation? Where are you taking them? What will they have?... We say that the faces of coming generations are looking up from the earth. So when you put your feet down, you put them down very carefully - because there are generations coming one after the other. If you think in these terms, then you’ll walk a lot more carefully, be more respectful of this earth.”

Citizen planners in Seattle, Washington invoked this theme of intergenerational equity in more prosaic language:

“Sustainability is a new way of thinking about an age-old concern: ensuring that our children and grandchildren inherit a tomorrow that is at least as good as today, preferably better. We want to make sure that the way we live our lives is sustainable - that it can continue and keep improving for a long, long time.”²

The private sector has also adopted sustainability principles as a forward-thinking approach to doing business. The World Business Council emphasizes the multiple, interrelated facets of sustainability: "Sustainable development involves the simultaneous pursuit of economic prosperity, environmental quality and social equity. Companies aiming for sustainability need to perform not against a single financial bottom line but against the triple bottom line."⁵ Even Wall Street has a stake in sustainability now. The Dow Jones Sustainability Index declares that "Corporate sustainability performance is an investable concept. This is crucial in driving interest and investments in sustainability to the mutual benefit of companies and investors. As this benefit circle strengthens, it will have a positive effect on the societies and economies of both the developed and developing world."⁶

The sustainability movement is partly an outgrowth of 1970s environmentalism, but its roots lie more deeply in the natural sciences and in moral philosophy, in the understanding that, as we live, work, recreate and build, we must demonstrate an awareness and sensitivity to the fundamental laws of nature, to the natural cycles of birth, life and death, and to the principles of justice and fairness embodied in our nation's founding documents and in the best of our literary and cultural traditions. The late Dana Meadows, the scientist and academic who founded the Sustainability Institute, once wrote that "Our rational minds tell us that a sustainable world has to be one in which renewable resources are used no faster than they regenerate; in which pollution is emitted no faster than it can be recycled or rendered harmless; in which population is at least stable, maybe decreasing; in which prices internalize all real costs; in which there is no hunger or poverty; in which there is true, enduring

democracy."⁷ Instead we have needlessly squandered much of what former Wisconsin Governor and U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson famously referred to as the "principle" of our human endowment – the vast, though surely limited, natural bounty of earth, sea and sky. Future generations inhabiting the most vulnerable and exposed environments on earth, those with the least ability to prepare for and survive the impacts of global climate change and related environmental catastrophes, will bear the greatest burden for our reckless waste. Only now, at the last minute, through observation, experimentation and plain luck, have we learned to do things better.

Although causes and effects are complex and often beyond our current understanding, many individuals, neighborhoods, communities and businesses are responding to the urgency in the breakdown of the natural systems and social agreements that our health, security and prosperity depend upon.

Today Sauk County takes on the challenge of building a sustainable future, in collaboration with its schools and colleges, its health care, social and community development institutions, conservation groups, businesses, service organizations and churches, and with its many well-informed and enthusiastic private citizens. We do this for ourselves and for those who follow us.

Sustainability in Sauk County: Aldo Leopold and the Land Ethic

Through the 1930s and 1940s, Aldo Leopold restored and observed the natural communities of his Sauk County farm. Leopold pointed out that human ethics have evolved over the centuries, at first including only those of the immediate family unit and clan as deserving of decent regard. Then as individual self-interest eventually yielded to recognition of the community interest, people of differing races, religions, classes and gender were progressively included. Only recently animals joined the list of worthies.

Leopold explained that "All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. His instincts prompt him to compete for his place in that community, but his ethics prompt him to cooperate....A land ethic, then, reflects ... a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land." Aldo Leopold anticipated the movement toward sustainability forty years before the Brundtland Commission, declaring "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

For more information about Aldo Leopold and the land ethic, please see www.aldoleopold.org

2.1 Sustainability Methods

Sustainability is an approach founded not only upon a coherent set of principles, but upon workable methodologies. Sonoma County, California is incorporating several practices in its sustainability effort, Sustainable Sonoma County. Among those are the “Ecological Footprint”, developed by Mathis Wackernagel and William Rees, which “measures our use of earth’s resources in terms of water and land area (i.e. acres or hectares). The Ecological Footprint is a measure of the bioproductive area required to produce the resources we consume and assimilate the wastes we generate wherever in the world they may be located.”

Another commonly used methodology is The Natural Step. Developed by Swedish oncologist Dr. Karl Henrik Robert in 1989, The Natural Step (TNS) provides a set of scientifically-based criteria, the “System Conditions”, for evaluating the sustainability of community strategies. In the Natural Step process, participants identify strategies that will enable their community to navigate an ever smaller “funnel” of environmental, economic, and social constraints in order to achieve an ultimately sustainable vision of the future.⁸ The Natural Step framework has been adopted by numerous Wisconsin communities participating in the eco-municipality effort. Residents of several Sauk County communities have begun to conduct Natural Step Study Circles to define the sustainability opportunities in their villages and cities. Sustain Sauk County, a non-profit organization promoting sustainability in Sauk County, provides training to individuals and communities in the Natural Step process.

2.2 Visioning

Vision, goals, strategies and measures of success sound like familiar concepts to citizens who have engaged in as many planning processes as Sauk County residents have. There are multiple themes shared between the sustainability approach and Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning. Sustainability approaches combine standard planning tools with a compelling scientific and ethical recognition that we are now faced with a steadily diminishing opportunity to succeed; that choices are increasingly limited; and that the results of decisions will be felt permanently by future generations. As has been said many times in the past, “If not us, then who? If not now, when?”

Visioning as a Policy-Making Tool

Many people in American communities are not comfortable with “visionary” approaches to life and work, considering them to be frivolous at best and potentially dangerous in their power to raise unrealistic expectations. For some of us, the act of “Visioning” might even be painful, revealing the unbridgeable gap between what we long for and what we know or expect. But, as Dana Meadows wrote in the preface to *Envisioning a Sustainable World*, “Vision is the most vital step in the policy process.” The power, she says, in creating a shared vision for the future lies in the discovery of our common dreams: “I have noticed, going around the world, that in different disciplines, languages, nations, and cultures, our information may differ, our models disagree, our preferred modes of implementation are widely diverse, but our visions, when we are willing to admit them, are astonishingly alike.”

Expressing a sustainable vision is part of “The Work That Reconnects,” an “approach to learning that integrates information, vision, and feelings. It helps reveal our intrinsic role in the web of life.” “The Work That Reconnects” was developed from the teachings of Joanna Macy, an author and systems theorist, and Molly Brown, teacher and author. The goals of this work are as follows: to provide people the opportunity to experience and share with others their innermost responses to the present condition of our world; to reframe their pain for the world as evidence of their interconnectedness in the web of life, and hence of their power to take part in its healing; and to provide people with concepts from systems science, deep ecology, or spiritual traditions which illuminate this power, along with exercises which reveal its play in their own lives.

2.3 Sauk County 2020 Vision

Sauk County adopted its 2020 Comprehensive Development Plan in 1999, after a two-year public participation process. The following statements are abridged versions of the vision statements issued in the adopted 2020 Plan.

Housing

Sauk County will meet changing needs of citizens by developing the technological and industrial sectors of its economy. Sauk County will allow provision of diverse housing options while maintaining unique community character. Attention will be paid to protecting landmarks, sensitive natural or historical areas, and areas of exceptional beauty. Growth will be directed toward existing development. Local governments and the private sector will provide logical growth patterns for future development.

Transportation

Sauk County boasts a modern, safe, and well-maintained transportation network that provides residents and visitors efficient movement within and through the county. The County's recognition of the importance of investing in traditional transportation corridors while encouraging alternative modes of transportation will allow the County to experience continued population growth and economic vitality, yet remain a leader in preserving agricultural lands, promoting recreational opportunities, and maintaining natural resource areas.

Natural Resources

Sauk County will remain one of the nation's most beautiful and significant natural resource areas. Efforts to coordinate future conservation practices among public and private landowners and government and private conservation agencies will enrich the land and water resources and recreational and educational opportunities for the present and future.

Economic Development

Sauk County's commitment of education and training opportunities will provide a source of motivated and skilled workers to work in environmentally responsible "family friendly" work places and a stable climate for economic development. Sauk County will be known for its ability to attract sources of economic development vital to the County's growth.

Community Change

Local units of government will form cooperative agreements that promote orderly development, provide efficient services, maintain unique and attractive communities, and acknowledge the importance of agriculture. Local plans will be adopted that balance local needs and County concerns, and local land use decisions will be based on the adopted local plans.

Farmland Preservation

Sauk County will be a leader in agriculture. The County's dedication to the family farm and early recognition of alternative farming practices will create a wide variety of alternative practices. The county will seek to balance the economic needs of landowners with the continuation of family farms and promote successful resource conservation and land use practices, maintain large contiguous blocks of farmland, and develop strong farm educational networks.

2.4 Local Comprehensive Plan Visions

Between 2002 and 2009, twenty one unincorporated rural Sauk County towns, nine incorporated villages and three cities adopted comprehensive plans as required by Wisconsin Statute 66.1001. A review of the individual Vision statements reveals significant commonality. The themes are summarized below. Their content relates to the required plan elements.

Housing

Safe and affordable housing. Growth is managed so that cultural, natural and agricultural resources are preserved, while the variety of housing and housing for aging residents increases.

Transportation

Create and manage transportation systems that are safe, efficient, economical, and environmentally sound, that meet the needs of a variety of users.

Agriculture

Balance the preservation of valuable farmland and development growth. Promote economic opportunities that support farming and encourage future generations to continue farming.

Land Use

Maintain rural character through preserving farmland and open space while managing and promoting development in appropriate cases.

Natural Resources

Protect and enhance natural and cultural resources. Preserve the beauty, diversity and integrity of the ecological community.

Utilities and Community Facilities

Provide affordable and efficient facilities and utilities for residents. Enhance accessibility to resources. Increase recreation opportunities. Provide valuable utilities that accommodate residents and are in accordance with growth objectives.

Economic Development

Encourage economic activities that compliment rural atmosphere and support current residents' way of life.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Improve communication between governmental units to better coordinate planning and decision-making efforts. Increase participation and communication in and between non-governmental entities including law enforcement, WisDOT and others.

Citations

1. St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development www.uwrf.edu/sustain
2. Sustainable Seattle www.sustainableseattle.org
3. US EPA <http://www.epa.gov/sustainability>
4. US EPA <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/OI.NSF/Sustainability/Why>
5. World Business Council for Sustainable Development www.wbcsd.org
6. Down Jones Sustainability Indexes www.sustainability-index.com/07_html/sustainability/corpsustainability.html
7. [Envisioning a Sustainable World \(pdf 124K\)](#), by Donella H. Meadows (1994), 8pp.
8. The Natural Step www.naturalstep.org

A Vision of Sauk County in 2030:

Agriculture and Our Rural Heritage

Agriculture is fundamental to Sauk County and the regional economy, and an essential element of our rural heritage. We grow and process food and farm products that are consumed locally and marketed nationally. Our agricultural policies reflect family farm values and the land ethic. Sauk County's vibrant communities rely on collaborations among talented and dedicated individuals who care about their neighbors. They recognize both the value of tradition and the promise of the future, and welcome a diverse culture.

Transportation and Public Facilities

Sauk County's urban communities are intensively but thoughtfully developed around well-integrated transportation facilities that connect us to the region and the world. Safe and efficient transportation serves a diverse array of recreational, domestic and business users. Budgets for transportation and other major public facilities account for all costs, from resource extraction to processing, system maintenance, operations, repair and disposal.

Sustainable Economic Development and Public Institutions

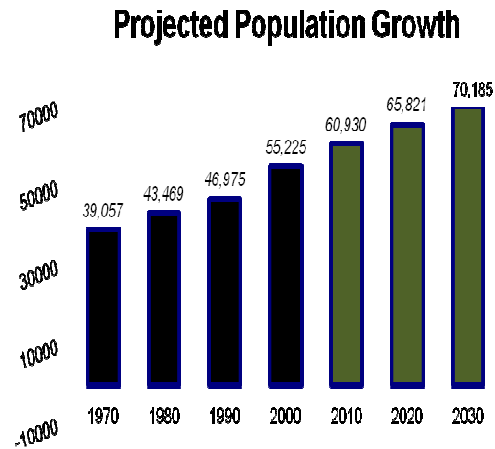
Sauk County's agricultural, tourism and manufacturing economy incorporates new technologies, and its locally-owned enterprises are led by creative entrepreneurs. The region is a global destination, linked to the world by efficient transportation and communications systems. Renewable energy sources supply the County's recreational, transportation, manufacturing and domestic needs. Sauk County's schools, libraries, health care facilities and local government units serve essential public needs, and are well-funded, well-managed, and accountable. Education and the arts are recognized and cultivated as an essential component of Sauk County's quality of life and innovative perspective. Decision-making and oversight of public institutions is transparent and participatory, reflecting the nature of the communities they serve. Sauk County's energy and material resources are procured, processed, used, recovered and renewed in a continuing cycle. Public agencies and private companies both emphasize careful stewardship and a respect for nature's ability to replenish itself.

Natural Resources and Ecological Services

Sauk County's land and water resources are the key to our continued health and prosperity and essential elements of the community in which we live. From the Upper Narrows to the Lower Wisconsin, from Fairfield Marsh to Baaken's Pond, forested bluffs, grasslands, rivers, lakes and wetlands are protected and managed for long-term quality and for the benefit of future generations. We recognize their value in serving ecological and social purposes that we may not yet fully understand. We seek to restore rather than to diminish native biological diversity and productivity.

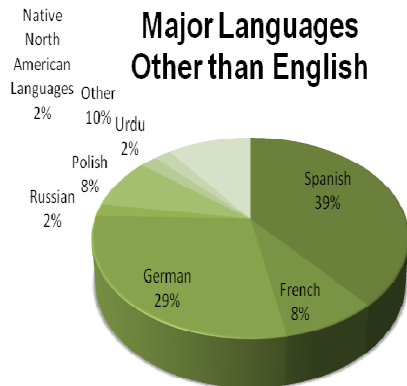
3. Population

Figure 3.0



Source: DOA Population Projections for Wisconsin Counties by Sex: 2000-2030

Figure 3.1



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

3.0 Population Forecasts

Sauk County is one of the top 10 fastest growing counties in Wisconsin. Recognizing that the increasing population directly affects the county's plans for the future, Sauk County has taken population projections into account as it considers the direction it will take in the coming years.

As illustrated in Figure 3.0, Sauk County's population has increased at a relatively consistent rate from 1970 through 2000. In the 1970s the population grew at 1.11% per year, 1.08% per year in the 1980s, and 1.17% per year in the 1990s. Similar rates are anticipated in the coming decades, with a projected 1.10% increase each year between 2000 and 2010, a 1.08% increase each year between 2010 and 2020, and a 1.06% increase each year between 2020 and 2030.

3.1 Demographic Trends

The vast majority of Sauk County's population was born in the US – only 1.9% of the people living in the county are foreign-born. This is loosely reflected in the languages spoken by the Sauk County population, with the exception of the Native North American languages. Only 5% speak a language other than English. Of that 5%, the most commonly spoken languages are Spanish and German.

Effects of an Increasingly Multi-Lingual Community in Sauk County

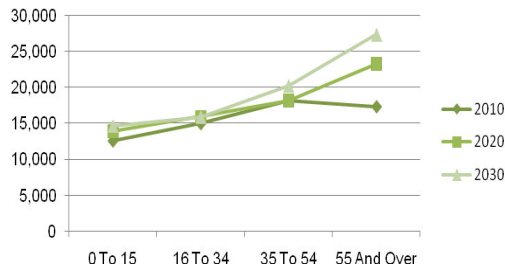
Demographics in Sauk County are changing, and one area in which this is visible is the increase in linguistic diversity. The bilingual portion of the population is increasing, as is the portion of the population that does not speak English. This transformation means that in order to provide services and disseminate information to the entire community in an effective manner, dual-language services will need to be employed. English as a Second Language courses will increase, as will the necessity for more translators.

As these services and courses increase, there will be an increase in the amount of opportunities available to students to learn other languages. This increase in knowledge will allow for a stronger, more competitive workforce. Additionally, due to the cultural differences inherent in languages, the community will be enriched by the variety of new perspectives, ideas, and traditions.

3.2 Age Distribution

In addition to a projected population increase, the median age in Sauk County is anticipated to increase. This follows overall population trends in Wisconsin and in the United States as a whole. According to the US Census, almost 1 out of every 5 Americans will be 65 years or older by 2030.

Figure 3.2
Population Projections by Age



Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services

The increase in Sauk County's elderly population will have an impact on the county's housing and human services needs, as well as the percent of the population in the work force. Also, the percent of the school-age population in the county will decrease, effecting enrollment in Sauk County school districts.

3.3 Household Forecasts

As Sauk County's population ages and the number of children in the county decreases, households have become smaller. In the past 30 years, the average number of people per

household has dropped from 3.1 in 1970 to 2.51 in 2000. Additionally, slightly over 75% of the population is currently married. This has resulted in an increase in the number of housing units in Sauk County.

3.4 Educational Levels

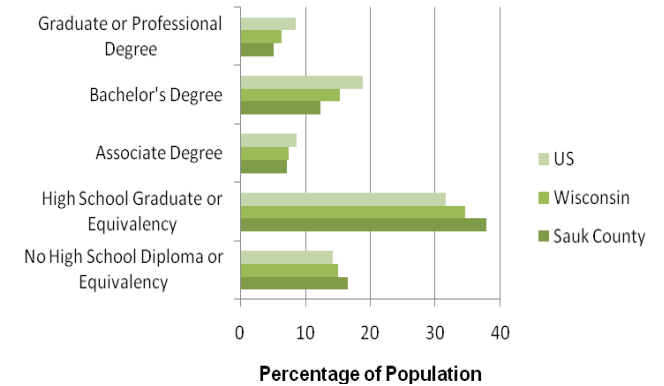
A strong school system and opportunities for additional education benefits communities in a variety of ways. A larger percentage of the population in Sauk County has graduated from high school (or earned an equivalency diploma) than the overall population of either Wisconsin or the US. However, despite being home to both the UW Baraboo/Sauk County and MATC Reedsburg campuses, Sauk County lags behind in post-high school educational attainment.

University of Wisconsin Baraboo/Sauk County serves as a starting point for higher education. MATC Reedsburg provides training for a variety of careers and has collaborated with the University of Wisconsin system to create a transfer program. This allows MATC students to more easily continue their studies at UW colleges and universities if they so desire.

Both institutions are valuable educational assets in the county, strengthening the workforce.

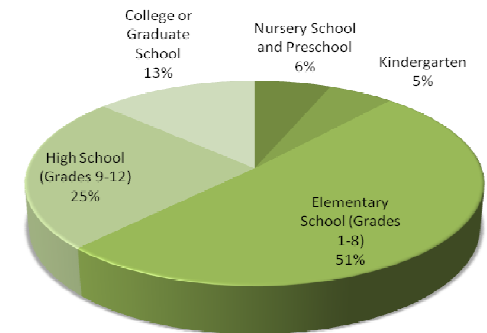
During the 2007-2008 school year 3.94% of students in Sauk County school districts were home schooled.
Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Figure 3.3
Educational Attainment
Population 25 Years and Over



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, U.S. Dept. of Education, and Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction

Figure 3.4
School Enrollment
Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

University of Wisconsin Baraboo/Sauk County



The University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County is a campus of the world class University of Wisconsin System. The UW System consists of two doctoral universities, eleven four-year comprehensive universities, thirteen liberal arts colleges like UW-BSC, and the statewide UW-Extension. UW-Baraboo/Sauk County is a liberal arts campus that serves over 600 students from Sauk County and the surrounding area. All courses are taught by University of Wisconsin faculty and instructors. Students may begin any major offered in the University of Wisconsin System. UW-Baraboo/Sauk County's primary degree is the Associate of Arts and Science degree which satisfies all general education requirements in the University of Wisconsin System. UW-Baraboo/Sauk County also offers a number of UW baccalaureate and graduate degrees in collaboration with other UW System institutions. UW-BSC has more Ph.D. and other terminal degree professors on staff than any other institution in the Sauk County area. Faculty are often engaged in research which enhances their UW teaching. Additionally, the UW-BSC continuing education UW courses, cultural enrichment opportunities, fine arts performances, college athletic events, and access to the entire University of Wisconsin System libraries. For more information, visit www.baraboo.uwc

Source: The University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County

Ho-Chunk Nation



Removal From Wisconsin

In the 1700s, European settlers began to reach Wisconsin, pressuring the United States government to remove the Ho-Chunk to provide more access to land ownership. In 1832, per the Treaty of 1832, the Winnebago gave up the last of the land that they lived on in Wisconsin and Illinois to go and live on land given to them in Iowa, called the Neutral Ground. They were moved to that area to be a buffer between the Sioux and Chippewa. This began the removal period of the Winnebago people. They lived in the Neutral Ground area for about 14 years before another treaty moved them to Long Prairie, Minnesota in 1846.

In 1855, they were moved to Blue Earth, Minnesota and lived there peacefully until the Dakota Sioux Uprising in 1862. This uprising prompted the settlers in Minnesota to press the government to remove all Indians from Minnesota, and in 1863 the Winnebago were removed to Crow Creek, South Dakota. After about three years the Treaty of 1865 moved the Winnebago from South Dakota to Nebraska, where land was purchased by the government from the Omaha tribe.

The Ho-Chunk were continually relocated to less desirable land, in locations where the Nation was attacked from both sides, cheated by the American government, and forced to assimilate.

The Ho-Chunk continues to have a presence in Wisconsin because there were many people who hid in Wisconsin and never left during the removal period. There were also many who continually returned to Wisconsin.

Though the Ho-Chunk were moved many times, they continued to return to Wisconsin, only to be removed. There were at least 11 removals. Eventually the U.S. government allowed the Ho-Chunk to trade their land in South Dakota for some land in Nebraska. The Nation split into two – some went to Nebraska and some returned, once again, to Wisconsin. The group that went to Nebraska are now known as the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska while the group that returned to Wisconsin is known as the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Source: The Ho-Chunk Nation Heritage Preservation Cultural Resources Division and the Bison Project

Pressure to Assimilate

In Wisconsin, the Ho-Chunk Nation was pressured to assimilate. Children were taken from their families at an early age to attend boarding schools in which they were forbidden from speaking their own language and follow their customs and received religious teachings contrary to native beliefs. Students were not allowed to return home until graduation.

Government

The Ho-Chunk nation is a federally recognized sovereign Nation with a constitution, president and four branches of government consisting of the general council, executive, legislative and judicial branches. Prior to changing the name to the Ho-Chunk Nation in 1994, the tribe was known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Business Committee. Nation headquarters are located in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, with branch offices located throughout the state, as well as in Chicago, Illinois and St. Paul, Minnesota. The Ho-Chunk Nation does not have a reservation, but the Bureau of Indian Affairs holds land in trust as reservation status.

Modern Ho-Chunk Culture

The Ho-Chunk still have their traditional practices. They have many artisans who still practice many beautiful arts and crafts, such as fingerweaving, beadwork, and basketmaking. They still have traditional games that continue to be played, such as Moccasin (the men's game) and Kasu (the women's dice game).

Source: The Ho-Chunk Nation Heritage Preservation Cultural Resources Division and the Bison Project

The people now known as Ho-Chunk had been called Ouinepegi ("People of the Stinky Waters") by the Sauk and Fox tribes. European settlers mispronounced this name, changing it to Winnebago. In 1993 the Ho-Chunk Nation officially adopted its original name.

Current Issues Facing The Ho-Chunk Nation:

- The declining blood quantum percentage, which affects the vital statistics of the Nation.
- The death rates of tribal members over the age of 66.
- Lack of access to governmental databases and a lack of an intra-governmental database.
- The rise of obesity and diabetes among tribal members.
- The high student drop-out rate.

Bison Prairie I:

In efforts to reintroduce bison to Wisconsin, the Ho-Chunk Nation owns and operates a bison farm/ranch in Richland County. The farm is organic and is undergoing natural prairie restoration. The farm's location protects effigy mounds on the site from development, while the meat provides a healthy meat source and is eaten at special events. The ranch also provides an opportunity for economic diversification for the Nation.

The Ho-Chunk Nation also owns and operates Whirling Thunder Ranch in Monroe County. The Ho-Chunk raised the land to certified organic level in order to raise organic beef.

The Ho-Chunk Nation plans to manage a similar bison ranch on part of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP) site. For more information about the partition of BAAP lands, please see the Intergovernmental Cooperation section on page 65.

What do Professionals Want?

“You create a community where people want to live...The jobs will go where the people are.”

“The key to success today lies in developing a world-class people climate.”

“Creative workers are looking for cultural, social, and technological amenities/climates in which they feel they can best be themselves.”

“Live first – work second.”

Sources: *Richard Florida, The Rise of the Creative Class. Michigan Economic Development Commission, “Michigan Cool Cities Survey: Summary of Findings.” Rebecca Ryan, Live First, Work Second: Getting Inside the Head of the Next Generation.*

3.5 Place-Based Development

Different age groups and population sectors have varying values and preferences when it comes to community amenities. Increasingly, it appears that workers are moving to places with a larger variety of amenities that allow for many social opportunities and experiences.

It is essential that Sauk County attract younger professionals and professionals so that the County has a strong workforce, vibrant economy, and so communities continue to grow. More educated workers attract businesses offering higher-wage jobs, stimulating the economy.

Figure 3.5 shows the results of focus group interviews conducted in Marshfield and Rice Lake by members from the Center for Land Use Education, UW Barron County, and UW Marshfield/Wood County. These comments help community officials to understand what amenities draw professionals and what various sectors of the population value.



Source: Center for Land Use Education



Source: Center for Land Use Education

Knowledge workers are educated, usually have higher-wage jobs, and can usually work wherever they want. They contribute to a very attractive workforce for businesses and communities.

“When a knowledge worker is deciding to accept a job or deciding between two jobs, being a livable community matters. If you want to keep knowledge workers, being a livable community is critical.”

-Creating Livable Communities: A Place-Based Economic Development Strategy

Figure 3.5

Amenity Preferences and Values by Population Sector

Amenity	Young Professionals and Senior Professionals	Professionals With Children	Seniors
Downtowns	Vibrant with unique trendy social and cultural activities. Places to gather to meet friends.	Safe for children. Activities for families.	Places to meet friends and conduct basic business.
Restaurants	Local restaurants with a variety of cuisines. Fine dining and outdoor dining.	Family-friendly restaurants, national chains, a few dining options.	Traditional coffee shops and supper clubs.
Events	Big events with main headliners.	Event options suitable for children.	Activities for people like us.
Shopping	Savvy shoppers. National brands and unique boutiques.	Quality, budget-friendly shopping with a few adult high-end stores.	Budget-minded stores.
Third Places	Variety of places and hours.	Variety where we all can meet friends.	We have what we need.
Life-Long Learning	Resume builders, advanced degrees, continuing education, and personal enjoyment.	Quality K-12, supplemental learning, and continuing education.	Personal enjoyment.
Services	Available when I need them.	High-speed internet, cell phone coverage, WI-FI access.	Convenient. Can't find a shoe repair store.
Natural Resources	High desirability for water, trees and areas for outdoor recreation. Parks and green spaces.	Recreational opportunities for children and families -- parks, community centers, nature centers, zoos.	Concern for safety and cost to maintain facility.
Transportation	Short commutes, public transit, and a walking/biking network.	Walking/biking to schools and parks.	Convenient parking, walking opportunities, transportation options (cabs)
Affordability and Diversity	A broad choice of places to work and live and an environment that is friendly to entrepreneurs and new ideas.	Variety of housing suitable for families, childcare options and work options -- full time, part time, from home.	Age in place close to family and friends, a variety of affordable housing, reluctance for change.
Healthcare	Quality care 24/7	Quality care 24/7	Care we can trust and support services.

Third Places

Third places are establishments other than homes and workplaces where people can meet friends, such as cafes, bookstores, and bars. They are usually in close walking distance, and allow for opportunities to meet new people. Sociologists say third places are important not only as a draw for new professionals to a community but to allow exposure to new people and ideas. Third places allow for increased socialization opportunities.

Source: "Creating Livable Communities: A Place-Based Economic Development Strategy" by Anna Haines, UWEX, Center for Land Use Education, Linda Stoll, Center for Land Use Education, Tracey Mofle, UW Barron County, Doug Miskowiak, Center for Land Use Education, Will Andresen, UW Extension Iron County, and Laura Lee, UW Marshfield/Wood County.

Development Supporting and Emphasizing Place-Making



Source: Senate Department for Urban Development



Source: Marine Biological Laboratory

Development patterns and infrastructure determine day-to-day decisions and habits that many residents do not consciously think about. The development of a community shapes the area's atmosphere and the lives of its citizens. Above, aerial photos of two cities – Berlin on the left and Albuquerque on the right – illustrate the effects of certain zoning policies and development decisions.

Berlin's development demonstrates the benefits of mixed-use structures that allow for and encourage residential and commercial structures to be in the same area. Blocks are split up into easily walkable distances that promote alternative transportation and active lifestyles. Development is denser, minimizing sprawl and pressure on the land and resources surrounding the city. Additionally, effort has been made to include vegetation and small green spaces within the city.

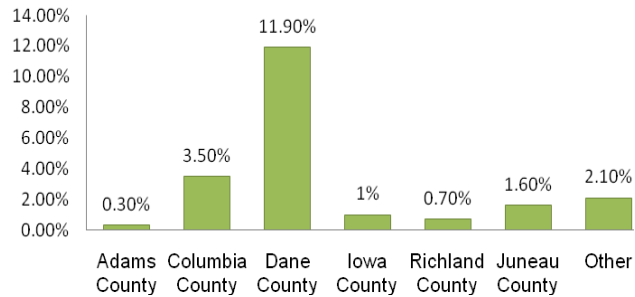
The aerial of Albuquerque shows zoning that distinctly separates residential areas from other areas of the city. Among other things, this decreases accessibility to "third places" and potentially makes it more difficult to create and maintain a sense of community. The segregation of differing areas such as commercial and residential forces residents to Roads and infrastructure are designed in larger blocks, almost forcing a reliance on transportation by car and making pedestrian travel lengthy. Development is much less dense, increasing the city's size laterally and forcing expansions of necessary utilities such as water and sewer.

3.6 Employment Characteristics and Forecasts

The County’s strong economy means that the vast majority of residents work within the county. Even so, the mean travel time to work is about 20 minutes, which is slightly less than the national average commute time of about 24 minutes. Slightly over 75% of commuters drive to work alone, resulting in higher greenhouse gas emissions and more congested roadways.

Figure 3.6
Commuting Outside of Sauk County

79% of Sauk County residents remain in Sauk County for work, while the remainder commute to other counties.

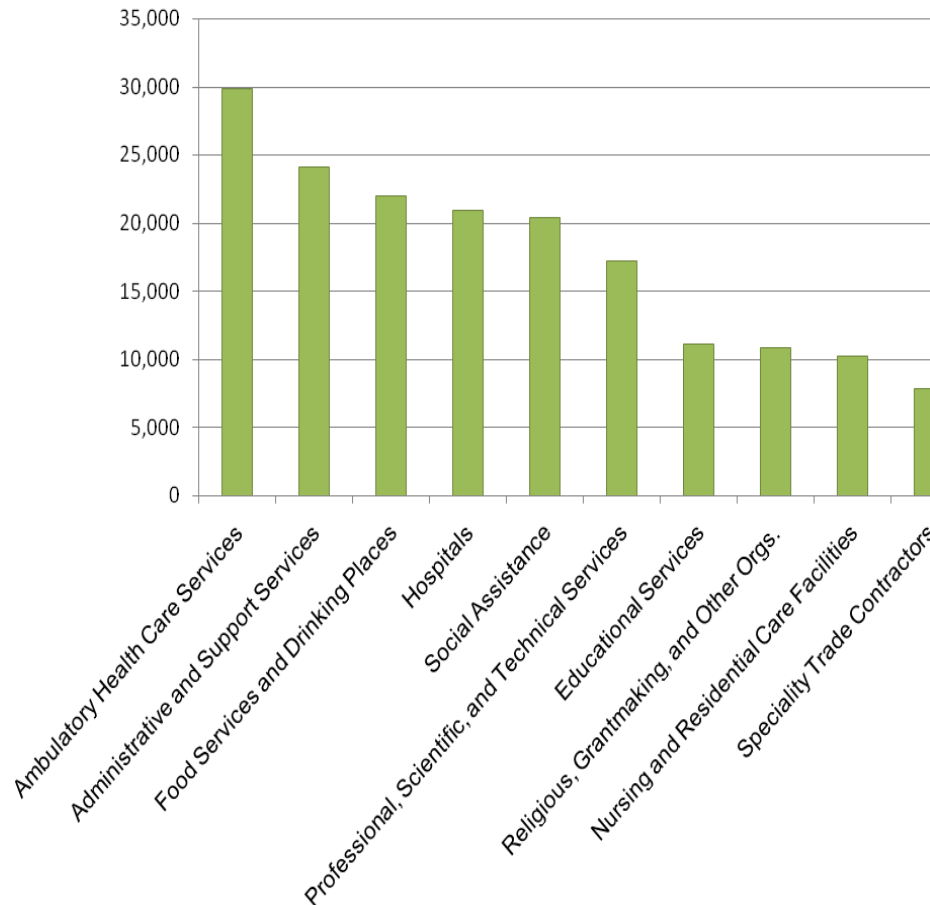


Source: US Census Bureau, County to County Worker Flow Files 2000

There are 13 developed business and industrial parks in Sauk County.

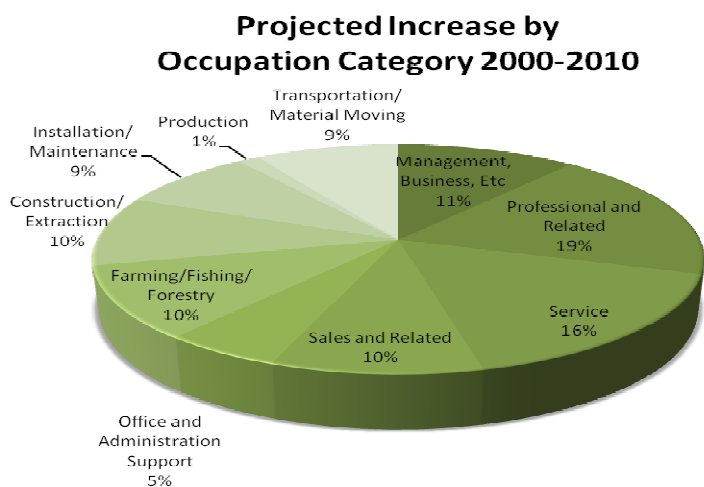
Figure 3.7

Top Ten Industries with the Most New Jobs in Wisconsin 2000-2016



Source: WI Department of Workforce Development, Office of Economic Advisors, WI Projections 2006-2016

Figure 3.8



Source: WI Department of Workforce Development, Local Workforce Planning Section

South Central Wisconsin (here defined as Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Jefferson, Rock, Green, Iowa, and Dane Counties) has a higher level of employer supplements to wages and salaries than in comparable regions in the U.S.

In Sauk County, 90.5% of the population had health insurance coverage to some degree in 2005.

Source: thrive

Figure 3.10

Employment Forecast, South Central Wisconsin, 2000-2010							
Occupational Group	Estimated Employment in 2000	Projected Employment in 2010	Change	Percent Change	New Jobs	Replacements	Total
Management, Business, Financial	35,230	39,310	4,080	11.58%	410	650	1,060
Professional and Related	80,590	96,110	15,520	19.26%	1,570	1,620	3,190
Service	76,240	89,250	13,010	17.06%	1,300	2,420	3,720
Sales and Related	37,200	40,890	3,690	9.92%	370	1,260	1,630
Office and Administration Support	67,340	71,110	3,770	5.60%	380	1,410	1,790
Farming/Fishing/Forestry	940	1,040	100	10.64%	10	30	40
Construction/Extraction	18,230	20,090	1,860	10.20%	190	340	530
Installation/Maintenance/Repair	14,400	15,670	1,270	8.82%	130	300	430
Production	48,410	49,060	650	1.34%	70	1,120	1,190
Transportation/Material Moving	26,930	29,430	2,500	9.28%	250	620	870

Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Local Workforce Planning Section, June 2003

Figure 3.9

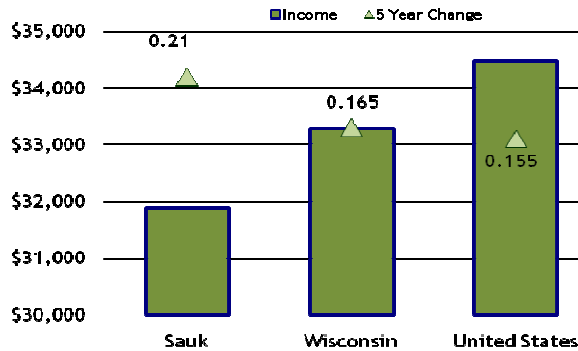
Sauk County Unemployment Rate: 2000-2008

Year	Unemployment Rate
2000	2.9
2001	3.6
2002	4.5
2003	4.7
2004	4.5
2005	4.5
2006	4.5
2007	4.5
2008	4.8

Source: WI Department of Workforce Development

Figure 3.11

Personal Income In Sauk County, 2005
Income includes wages, dividends/interest and personal transfer receipts



Source: Sauk County Planning and Zoning

Figure 3.12

Poverty in Sauk County -- 1999	
With Related Children Under 18 Years	1,230
18 Years and Over	2,635
65 Years and Over	677
Unrelated Individuals 15 Years and Over	1,506

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Although Figure 3.11 shows that Sauk County's per capita personal income is currently below the state and national averages, that gap is closing quickly. Sauk County's average income increased 21% between 2000 and 2005 while both Wisconsin and the national average hovered around a 15% increase.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, high income households often concentrate in urban or suburban areas. Counties similar to Sauk rarely report a substantial number of high income households.

3.7 Income Levels

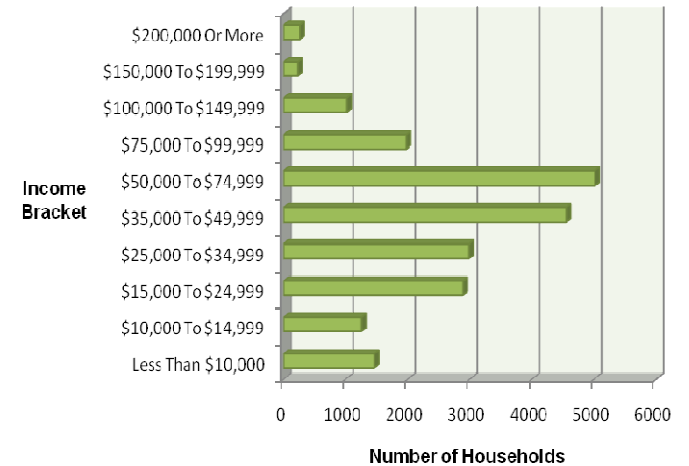
Average annual wages are equal to or below Wisconsin average annual wages. This is due in part to the relative lack of corporate headquarters and higher-level, higher-paying jobs. Additionally, though the county has a diverse tourist industry, jobs in that sector have a tendency to be lower-wage.

Construction is the highest paying job sector. It accounts for 6.4% of total employment and pays \$45,533 per year.

Source: Headwaters Economics Organization's A SocioEconomic Profile: Sauk County, Wisconsin"

Figure 3.13

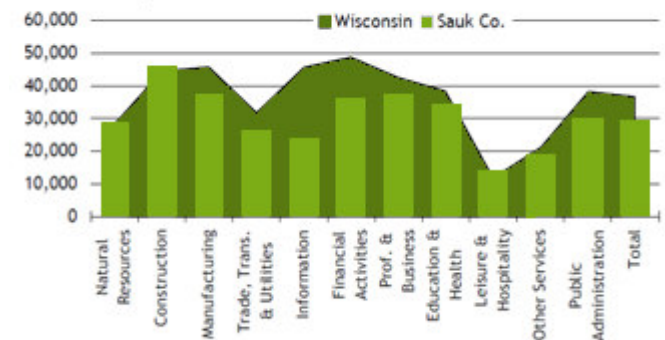
Household Income in 1999



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Figure 3.14

Average Annual Wage by Industry, 2006
Industries defined by Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development



Source: WI Department of Workforce Development

4. Housing

4.0 Housing Stock Characteristics

Structural Characteristics

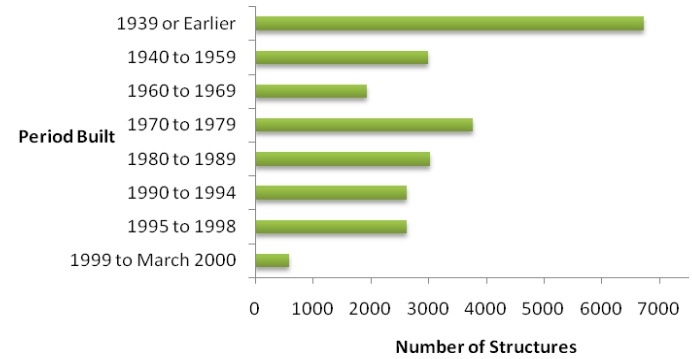
Changing population characteristics have an effect on the county's housing. For example, it helps to explain the dominance of single unit housing structures.

Age Characteristics

The age of the county's housing stock is indicative of the amount of time and money necessary for maintenance and upkeep of the buildings. In general, the older the structure, the more maintenance necessary. A large number of the housing structures in Sauk County were built in 1939 or earlier.

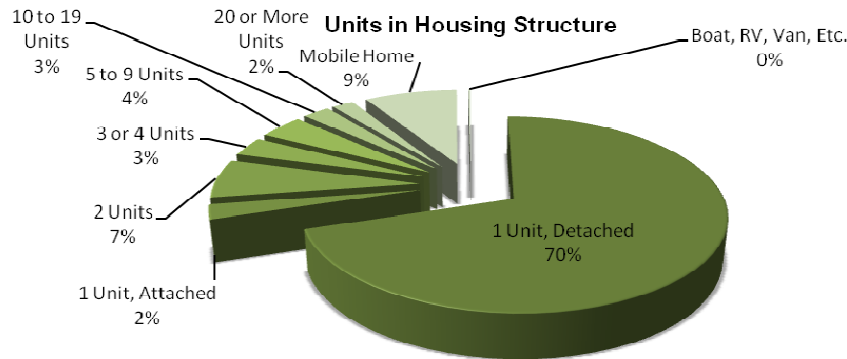
The number of housing units in Sauk County has been continually increasing over the past several decades. In 2000, there were over 24,000 units.

Figure 4.1
Year Housing Structure Built



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

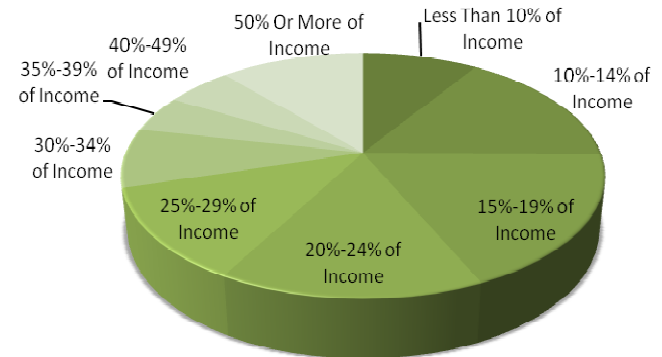
Figure 4.0



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Figure 4.2

Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in 1999



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Value Characteristics

Home sales in Sauk County have soared recently, doubling in the last 10 years. In addition, the cost of homes has increased over 50% in the same time. This may be interpreted as indicative of a strong economy, but it can also be a concern. These prices do not create an affordable housing market, nor do the houses serve as “starter homes” for new families seeking to move to Sauk County. An increasing median sale price of homes may mean a greater strain on retiring seniors on fixed incomes. For these reasons, Sauk County may see a decrease in people moving to or staying in the area.

In addition, those that can't afford home ownership may seek rental properties, creating a shortage of rental availability and increased rent prices. Over approximately 2000 households in Sauk County pay over 25% of their income towards rent. This greatly effects the spending habits and monetary decisions that renters make.

Occupancy Characteristics

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the most desirable vacancy rate is about 3%. This provides a reasonable amount of choice when choosing a place to live. Sauk County's vacancy rate in 2000 was 5.3%, an increase of 1.3% from 1990. During the same time period, the number of seasonal housing units has decreased by 1.7% from 9.4% in 1990 to 7.7% in 2000.

Incorporating Local Comprehensive Plans: Common Themes Regarding Housing

Safe and affordable housing. Growth is managed so that cultural, natural and agricultural resources are preserved. An increase in the variety of housing and housing for aged residents.

Figure 4.3

Function of Housing Units

	1990	2000
Housing Units	20,429	24,297
Occupied	17,703	21,644
Vacant	818	1,075
Seasonal	1,918	1,578
Vacancy Rate	4.00%	5.30%
Seasonal Rate	9.40%	7.70%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Figure 4.4

Home Sales

	Q. 1	Q. 2	Q. 3	Q. 4	Year Total
2008	93	164	161	101	519
2007	147	205	219	125	696
2006	130	265	215	156	766
2005	120	258	217	168	763
2004	129	166	185	162	642
2003	113	198	215	153	679
2002	106	200	169	148	623
2001	101	171	158	103	533
2000	71	137	144	117	469
1999	31	110	129	84	354
1998	47	67	84	52	250

Source: Wisconsin Realtors Association

Figure 4.5

Home Median Sale Price

	Q. 1	Q. 2	Q. 3	Q. 4	Year Total
2008	\$161,100	\$156,900	\$149,200	\$134,700	\$150,900
2007	\$147,100	\$158,200	\$164,000	\$167,300	\$158,500
2006	\$160,000	\$161,800	\$158,300	\$158,300	\$160,000
2005	\$150,000	\$152,500	\$158,200	\$155,000	\$154,300
2004	\$135,600	\$146,200	\$160,000	\$140,000	\$143,600
2003	\$125,500	\$129,300	\$138,500	\$130,000	\$131,400
2002	\$125,300	\$127,100	\$124,000	\$118,900	\$123,700
2001	\$111,200	\$124,300	\$112,600	\$124,400	\$117,500
2000	\$105,400	\$103,700	\$125,600	\$119,600	\$114,800
1999	\$127,500	\$104,700	\$102,000	\$105,600	\$105,900
1998	\$98,800	\$103,800	\$109,300	\$100,000	\$104,700

Source: Wisconsin Realtors Association

4.1 Identification of Programs Promoting the Development of Diverse Housing

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Housing Choice Voucher Program

A federal program to assist low-income families, the elderly and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Participants choose housing that meet program requirements. Vouchers are administered by the Sauk County Housing Authority.

Sauk County Public Housing

Sauk County owns 40 units of public housing. Tenants pay 30% of their adjusted monthly income in rent.

Sauk County Tax Credit Multi-Family Housing

Sauk County owns three tax credit apartment complexes for low-income families. Tenants pay for their electricity usage.

U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development: Elderly/Handicapped/Disabled Apartments

Sauk County owns several apartments run under this program. Tenants pay 30% of their adjusted monthly income besides a utility allowance.

4.2 Identification of Programs Promoting Land Availability for Housing

There are a variety of strategies that are used to ensure a sufficient amount of land is available for housing. Most of the town, village, and city plans for municipalities located within Sauk County have delineated specific areas for housing development.

Boundary Agreements

One option is to form boundary agreements between neighboring municipalities, which allot a specific amount of land for development up through a specific time. By setting a boundary for the development, the agreement encourages well-planned housing construction that conforms to community strategies. For information about the boundary agreement between the City of Baraboo and the Town of Greenfield, please see the special in the Intergovernmental Cooperation section, page 69.

Planned Unit Development (PUD) Programs

PUD programs balance agricultural and development interests by allowing for smaller residential lots and more contiguous development. This helps to decrease pressure on agricultural lands.

General Agricultural Zoning

Traditionally, general agricultural zoning has been the development policy governing development in agricultural areas. This allows for residential areas on small lots, regardless of proximity to other residential areas. Such policies have been found to have increasingly limited benefits, as they put more pressure on agricultural lands.

4.3 Identification of Programs Maintaining and Rehabilitating the Existing Housing Stock

US Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development Repair Loans and Grants

Low interest loans and grants for low income individuals to repair homes or make necessary health and safety changes.

US Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development Housing Preservation Grants

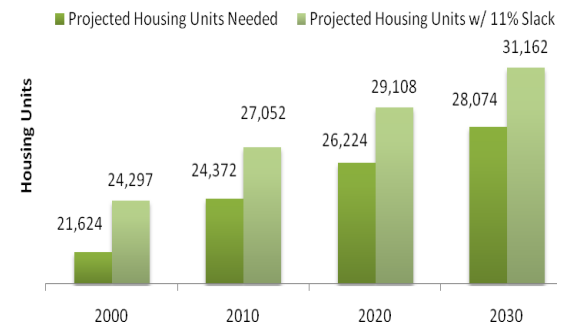
Provide public nonprofit organizations and public agencies with funding to assist in the repair and rehabilitation of rural homes.

Housing Agencies:

- U.S. Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development
- Wisconsin Department of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations – Bureau of Housing
- Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority
- Sauk County Housing Authority

Figure 4.6

Housing Projections for Sauk County



Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration Population Projections and Sauk County Planning and Zoning Department

5. Transportation

5.0 Comparison and Incorporation of State and Regional Transportation Plans

Sauk County Aging and Disability Resource Center Transportation Assistance Programs

The Sauk County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) facilitates several programs that provide transportation assistance for Sauk County citizens who would otherwise have a difficult time doing errands such as grocery shopping and attending medical appointments. The county also runs a "Get Out and Go" Taxi Fare Assistance Program that allows the elderly and disabled to use reduced fare taxi tickets. Additionally, ADRC plans and coordinates recreational trips and provides a Volunteer Driver Escort Service.

Safe Routes to School

Some of the municipalities and school districts in Sauk County have taken advantage of Safe Routes to School, a program that provides federal funds to increase walking and biking options to schools. According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT), 47 Wisconsin communities were given over \$4 million in 2007 through this program.

WI Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020

A plan created by the DOT looking at ways to increase walking and pedestrian safety. The document stresses the importance of both state and local governments working together to reach these goals.

State Rail Plan, WI DOT

WI DOT has completed several reports regarding the possibility of expanding rail service in the state. Though Wisconsin is served by Amtrak's passenger rail service, the emphasis is on creating a service that would be more useful for shorter trips on a potentially more frequent basis.

State Highway Plan 2020

Recognizing that the majority of current transportation takes place on roadways, WI DOT has created a plan designed to increase the safety and efficiency of Wisconsin's highways. The agency also placed a high priority on economic development and environmental protection.

Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2020

A plan designed to encourage the use of bicycles and help planners to accommodate for bikes when roads are built/changed.

Translinks21: A Multimodal Transportation Plan for Wisconsin's 21st Century

A series of publications about WI DOT's planning regarding all modes of transportation, including an environmental impact analysis.

Incorporating Local Comprehensive Plans: Common Themes Regarding Transportation Resources

Create and manage transportation systems that are safe, efficient, economical and environmentally sound that meet the needs of a variety of users.

The Bus: A Deviated Fixed Route Service

The Sauk County Aging and Disability Resource Center has begun a new transportation program serving everyone in Sauk County. The Bus will connect Baraboo, Bluffview,, Prairie du Sac, and Sauk City. Passengers located within a mile of the route will be able to arrange special pick-ups by calling a hotline. Riders can disembark at any place along the route. Fares are very affordable, at \$2 for non-student adults and \$1 for everyone else, with special quantity discounts available

Figure 5.0

Midwest Regional Rail Plan



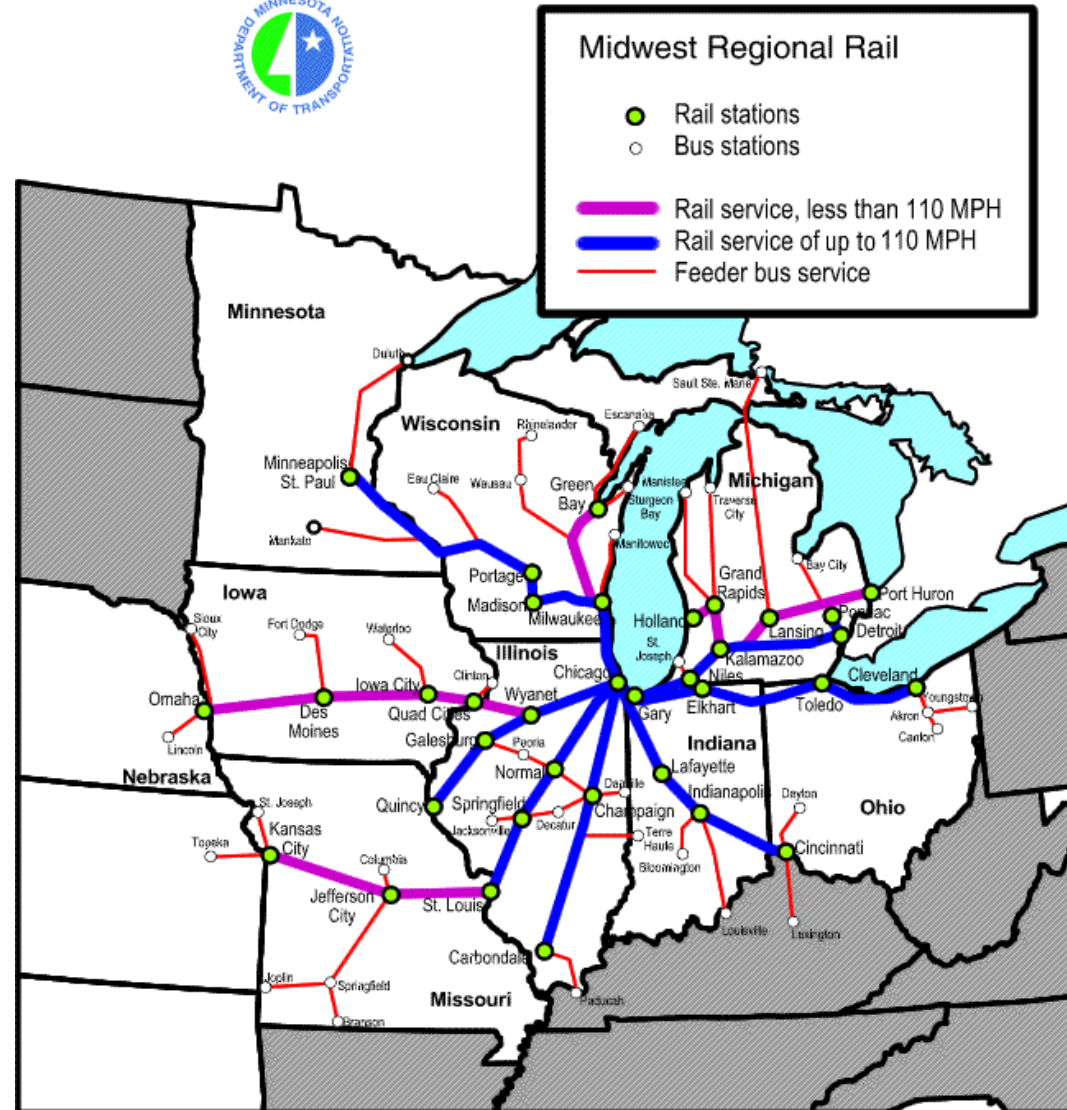
Source: Amtrak

High-Speed Rail in the Midwest

Rail systems, particularly high-speed trains, could be an effective way to bring more people to the area by making it faster and easier for Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis/St. Paul residents to travel to this region. High-speed rail is recognized as more efficient than, and highly competitive with, car and plane travel for trips about 100-400 miles (or approximately 2-3 hours in length). Some proponents argue that rail is competitive for plane trips lasting 4.5 hours due to the length of time needed to go through airport security, collect bags, etc. Additionally, rail passengers can use internet and cell phones and do not hassle with traffic conditions or road maps.

In the Midwest, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin, along with the Federal Railroad Administration, have come together to form the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative. This collaboration is, among other things, to introduce high-speed trains to the region and improve access to the rail system by creating multi-modal connections.

Source: MN DOT and The Progressive Policy Institute



Source: MN DOT and The Progressive Policy Institute

Highway 12 Corridor Vision

The future economic and community health of the Highway 12 corridor communities is directly linked to the preservation of the region's natural and cultural resources. Preservation and enhancement of these assets through comprehensive, coordinated planning and development – along with the implementation of creative and diverse economic development initiatives – will help to maintain and ensure economic health and a high quality of life for future generations.

Source: Sauk County Highway 12 Corridor Growth Management Plan, October 2003

Highway 12 Corridor Growth Management Plan

In order to properly plan for growth along Highway 12, Sauk County convened a group of representatives, the Highway 12 Local Planning Assistance Advisory Committee, from affected communities to prepare a plan that benefits the County and the Highway 12 communities as a whole. The Highway 12 Corridor Growth Management Plan was the result.

The Plan's recommendations are focused on identifying areas for development, preserving natural areas and farms, protecting community appearance and views, promoting appropriate economic development, and making the most of transportation improvements. It also includes potential tools and techniques that may be adopted by local governments to implement the recommendations of the Plan. Instead of detailed recommendations for possible Highway 12 expansion or realignment, the Plan suggests complementary land use, preservation, access, economic development, and community image approaches.

Additionally, the Plan identified several key values important to the effected Sauk County communities. These values are:

- To Preserve the Region's Diverse Natural Resources
- To Grow, Coordinate, and Celebrate the Diverse Tourist Economy
- Capitalize on Emerging Markets for Agriculture
- Preserve and Enhance the Region's Quality of Life for Residents

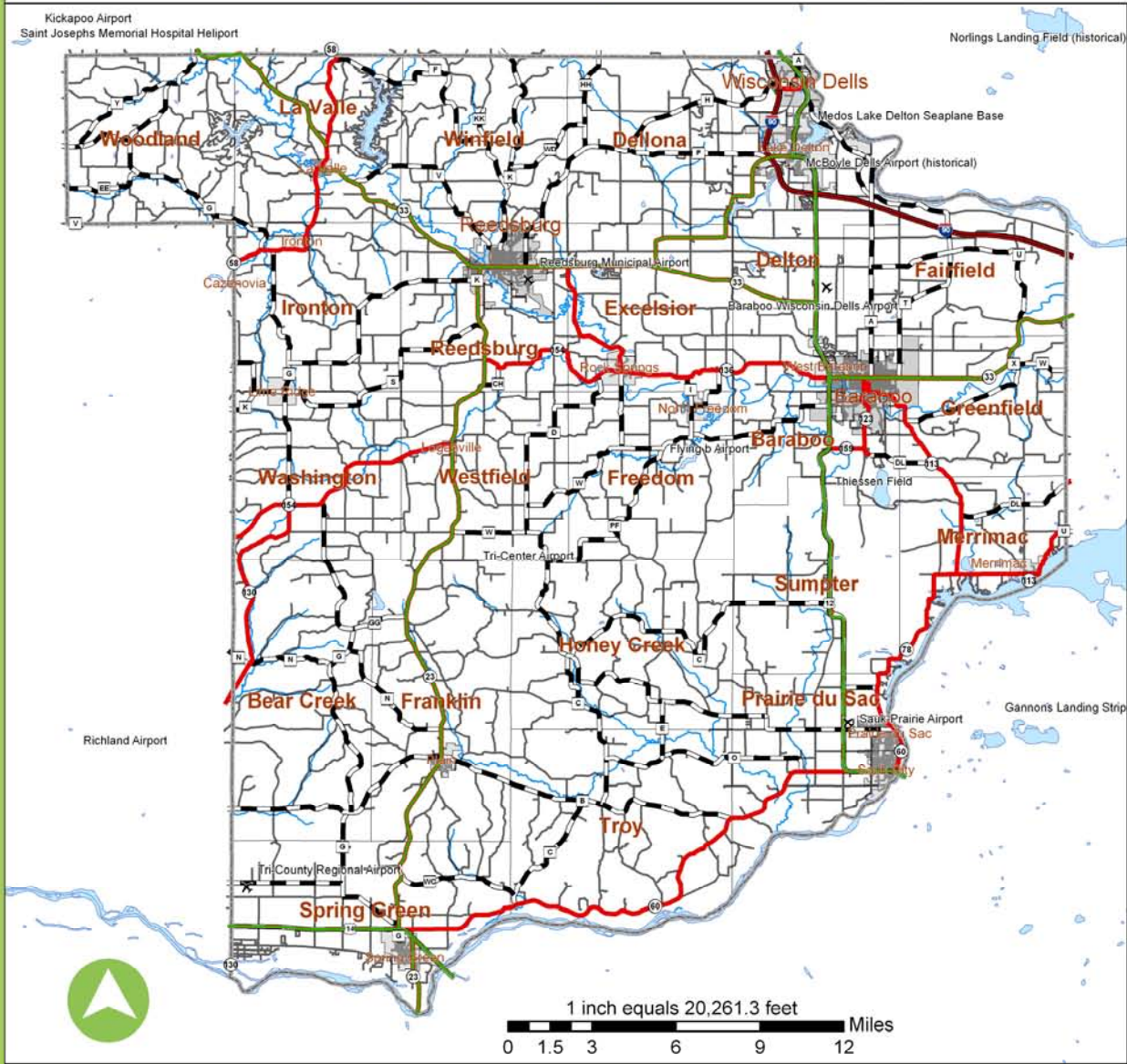
Source: Sauk County Highway 12 Corridor Growth Management Plan, October 2003



Construction between Sauk City and Middleton during the first phase of the Highway 12 improvements.

Source: NCE, www.nceve.com

Sauk County Comprehensive Plan



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- Interstate Highway
- Federal Highway
- State Road
- County Road
- Local Road
- Ramp
- Trucking Routes
- Rail
- Airport

Transportation



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Recreational Transportation

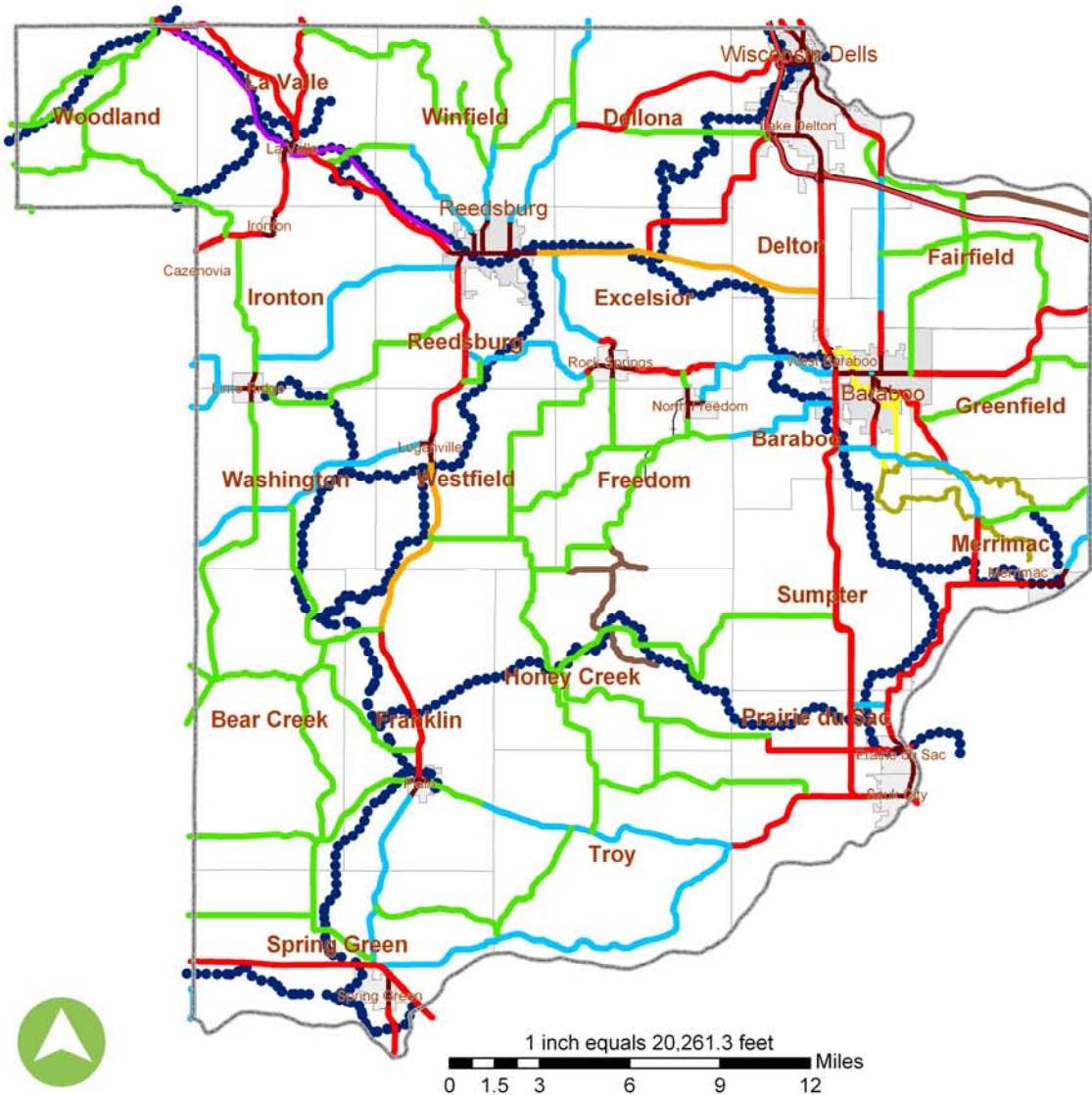
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Recreational Transportation

- Mid-Continent Railway
- Proposed Bike Path
- 400 State Trail
- Future Ice Age Trail
- Current Ice Age Trail
- Snowmobile Trail
- Rustic Road

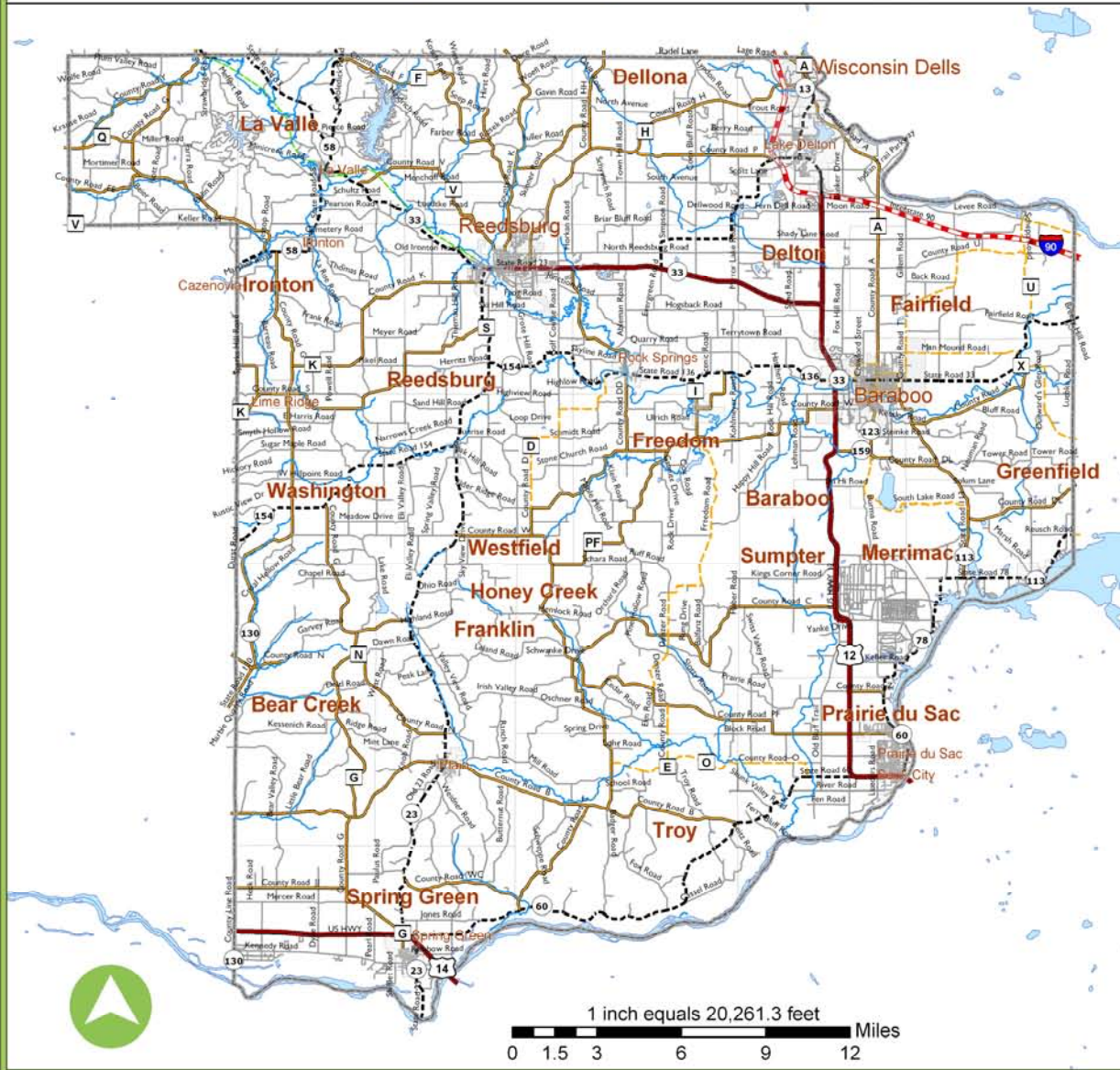
Bicycling Conditions

- Best
- Moderate
- High Volume Highway
- Undesirable
- Bicyclists Prohibited
- Major Urban Streets



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- Principal Arterial
- Interstate
- Principal Arterial
- Other
- Minor Arterial
- Major Collector
- Minor Collectors
- Local Roads
- Recreation Trails
- County Boundary

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Planning & Zoning

6. Utilities and Community Facilities

6.0 Utilities and Facilities Provided by Other Jurisdictions

Sanitary sewer services, storm water management, child care facilities, fire and rescue, libraries, and schools are run by local municipalities, private entities, and school districts.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, 120,000 to 150,000 million gallons of freshwater are used in Wisconsin per day per square mile.

Protecting Water Quality, Preventing Erosion

The Sauk County Land and Water Resource Management Program is designed to reduce soil erosion, protect water quality, and conserve the natural resources as outlined in the Land and Water Resource Management Plan prepared by the Land Conservation Department. The program provides cost-share and technical assistance to land owners who install best management practices of their farm.

Source: Sauk County Land Conservation Department

6.1 Water Supply

All drinking water in Sauk County comes from groundwater, and while groundwater is abundant, water consumption in Sauk County is very high. About 13.86 million gallons of water is used per day. Approximately 41 percent of groundwater used supplies industrial facilities; 23 percent is pumped for domestic use; agricultural use (including irrigation) accounts for 16 percent; and commercial accounts for 9 percent. The remaining 11 percent is utilized by public facilities or are pipe losses.

Additionally, there are certain areas that have concerns about the quality of the groundwater that is consumed. Pesticides have been detected in approximately half of the County's rural domestic wells. Groundwater quality is monitored closely and Sauk County takes this issue very seriously.

6.2 Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Facilities

Solid waste disposal and recycling services are primarily handled by local government units. However, the County does run a Clean Sweep program approximately once a year, providing Sauk County citizens an opportunity to drop off objects not usually accepted in recycling programs, such as electronics, medications, chemicals, etc. This program helps to prevent inappropriate disposal of potentially hazardous materials.

6.3 Transmission Lines

In the past several years, there have been several projects to increase the capacity of transmission lines throughout Sauk County. Several new substations were constructed while several were upgraded, and a new transmission line was

Incorporating Local Comprehensive Plans: Common Themes Regarding Utilities and Community Facilities

Provide affordable and efficient facilities and utilities for residents. Enhance accessibility to resources. Increase recreation opportunities. Provide valuable utilities that accommodate residents and are in accordance with growth.

completed in Sauk City. While these projects assisted in helping meet County needs, anticipated use indicates an increase in demand. For this reason, another transformer is expected to be installed in Spring Green around 2013 while construction of a new line is anticipated in Lake Delton around 2015.

6.4 Parks

Sauk County is home to Devil's Lake, Natural Bridge, Rocky Arbor, and Mirror Lake State Parks, which draw a large number of visitors each year. Devil's Lake is the most popular of all the state parks in Wisconsin, attracting 1.2 to 1.4 million visitors annually. It is famous for its unique geologic features.

In addition to the state parks, Sauk County has four parks – White Mound, Redstone, Hemlock, and Yellow Thunder Park. There are also a variety of recreational trails and municipal parks.

Sauk County Health Care Center



Source: Sauk County Health Care Center

The old Sauk County Health Care Center, located in rural Reedsburg, was located on land purchased by Sauk County in 1871. Throughout its history, it has been serving residents with necessary health care needs, such as managing a small pox epidemic in 1904, providing treatment for the mentally ill in the 1960s, and as a nursing home with an Alzheimer's unit in the 1990s and early 2000s. This facility is the located on a site sharing county's only on-site wastewater treatment facility and only county cemetery.

The new Sauk County Health Care Center is scheduled to open in fall 2009, after which the old center will most likely be torn down. There are no current arrangements or agreements on the future use of the land surrounding the health care center.

The Sauk County Health Care Center Mission:

We hold as our Mission, a duty to provide Sauk County area citizens with high quality, skilled, professional, compassionate and individualized nursing, rehabilitative and supportive care and services in a modern, safe, comfortable and pleasant environment that stresses maximizing personal independence, observing and respecting the rights of individuals served, encouraging participation of family and friends and striving for achieving progressive methods and economic efficiency.

Source: Sauk County Health Care Center, July 2009

6.5 Police and Telecommunications Facilities

While municipalities have a lot of responsibility regarding the availability of services, the County works to ensure certain services are provided in the most efficient, coordinated manner possible. For example, while police departments and fire and rescue agencies are managed locally, the Sauk County Sherriff's Department handles law enforcement issues at the county level. Additionally, Sauk County owns eight communications towers with fiber-optics. These are primarily to ensure that responders are guaranteed reliable communication services during emergency situations.

Roles of the Sheriff's Department:

Patrol, Investigations, Jail, Prisoner Conveyances and Extradition, Warrant and Civil Process Service, Court Bailiff and Security, Clerical Support Services, and Lake and Snowmobile Patrol

Source: Sauk County Sheriff's Department

Specialty Teams:

Emergency Response Team, Critical Incident Negotiations Team, Drug Enforcement, K-9 Unit, Scuba Dive and Rescue Team, and Honor Guard

Source: Sauk County Sheriff's Department

6.6 Other Governmental Facilities

Sauk County Law Enforcement Center

The Sauk County Law Enforcement Center in Baraboo includes the jail, Huber facility, administration offices, and a garage for law enforcement vehicles. As the center is relatively new, no expansion is anticipated in the near future. The County's shooting range for law enforcement officials, currently located at the old Sauk County Landfill, may be relocated to a different part of that site, as the condition of the facility has deteriorated.

Sauk County Highway Department Facilities

The Sauk County Highway Department headquarters are located in West Baraboo. While there is a possibility that the facility may be upgraded in the next ten years, there are no current plans to do so. The Highway Department also has a facility in Reedsburg and some satellite storage for equipment.

Administrative Buildings

Even though the West Square Building in Baraboo is full, there are no anticipated changes to the facility. Many of the clerical staff could work from home via phone and internet, a solution that is potentially advantageous for both the county and its employees. Though the courthouse had been partially remodeled, there is still space available in that building for further changes if necessary.

Contamination and Power Generation at the Old Sauk County Landfill



Source: *Sauk County Planning & Zoning*

The old Sauk County Landfill was closed in 2005, having reached full waste disposal capacity. The site was examined by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the mid-1980s, when it was determined that groundwater had been contaminated due to unintentionally released toxic substances. The EPA designated the landfill as a Superfund site and placed it on the National Priorities List (NPL). Since then the federal, state, and local governments have been working to ensure that the site is contained, monitored, and controlled. After several successful reviews, Sauk County is currently going through the process of having the landfill removed from the NPL. This is anticipated to happen in the relatively near future.

Sauk County has been converting the methane produced at the landfill into energy and selling it to Alliant Energy for profit. The landfill was the first in the Midwest to have such a system for profit. The operating costs have been more than paid for by the profits, and the system produces enough energy to power 100 average homes.

Sauk County Animal Shelter

While the Sauk County Humane Society operates the Animal Shelter, the County owns the building. The facility needs to be expanded, which will probably happen in the next 2-5 years.

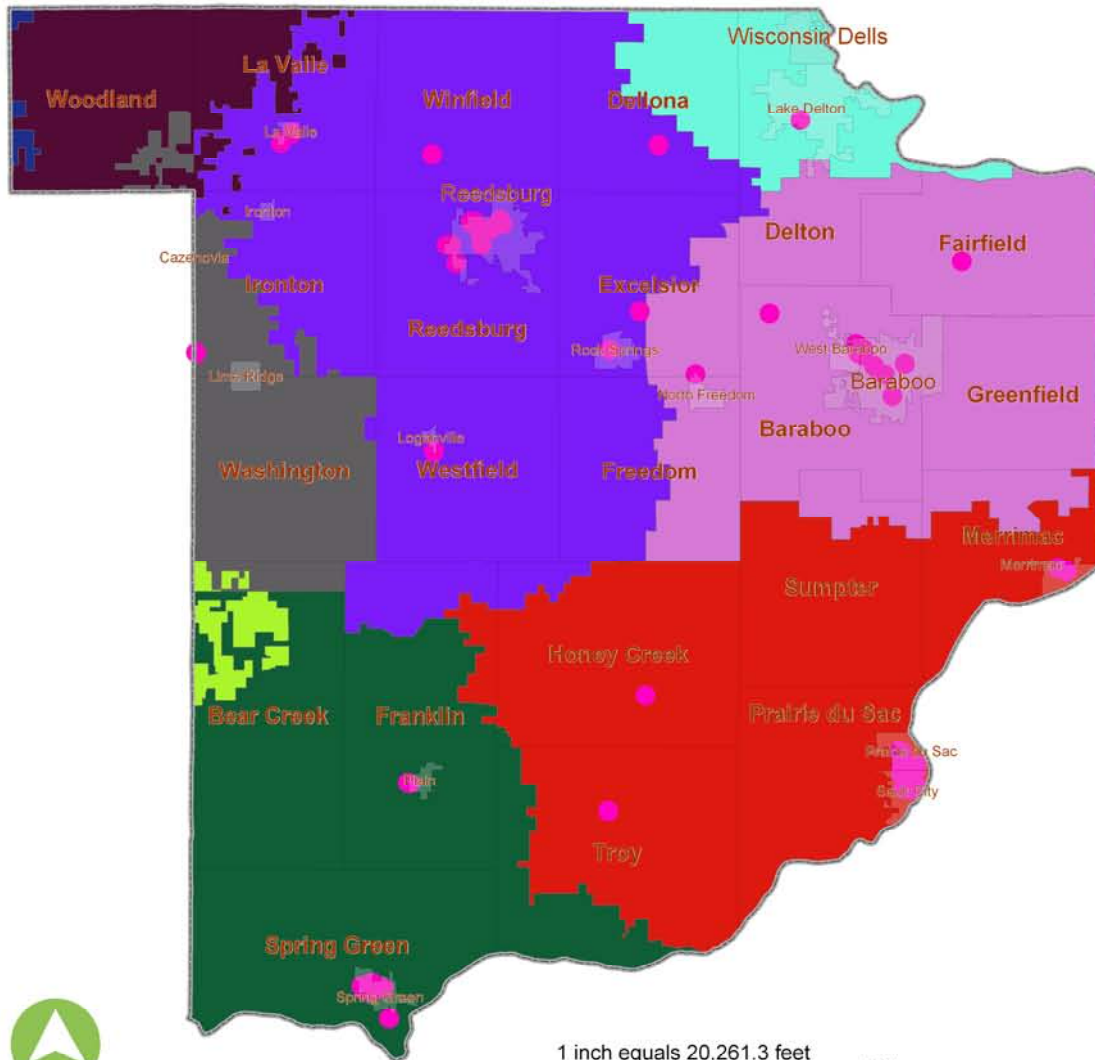
Sauk County Shelter Care

Sauk County currently owns a house for juvenile runaways. Due to a decrease in the need for the facility, the program closed in January 2009. Though the County still owns the house, it is anticipated to be sold.

Sauk County Sheltered Workshop

Sauk County owns the facility the Vernon Area Rehabilitation Center (VARC) operates in. This facility was recently expanded and further expansions are not anticipated in the near future. VARC runs rehabilitative work and adult day care programs.

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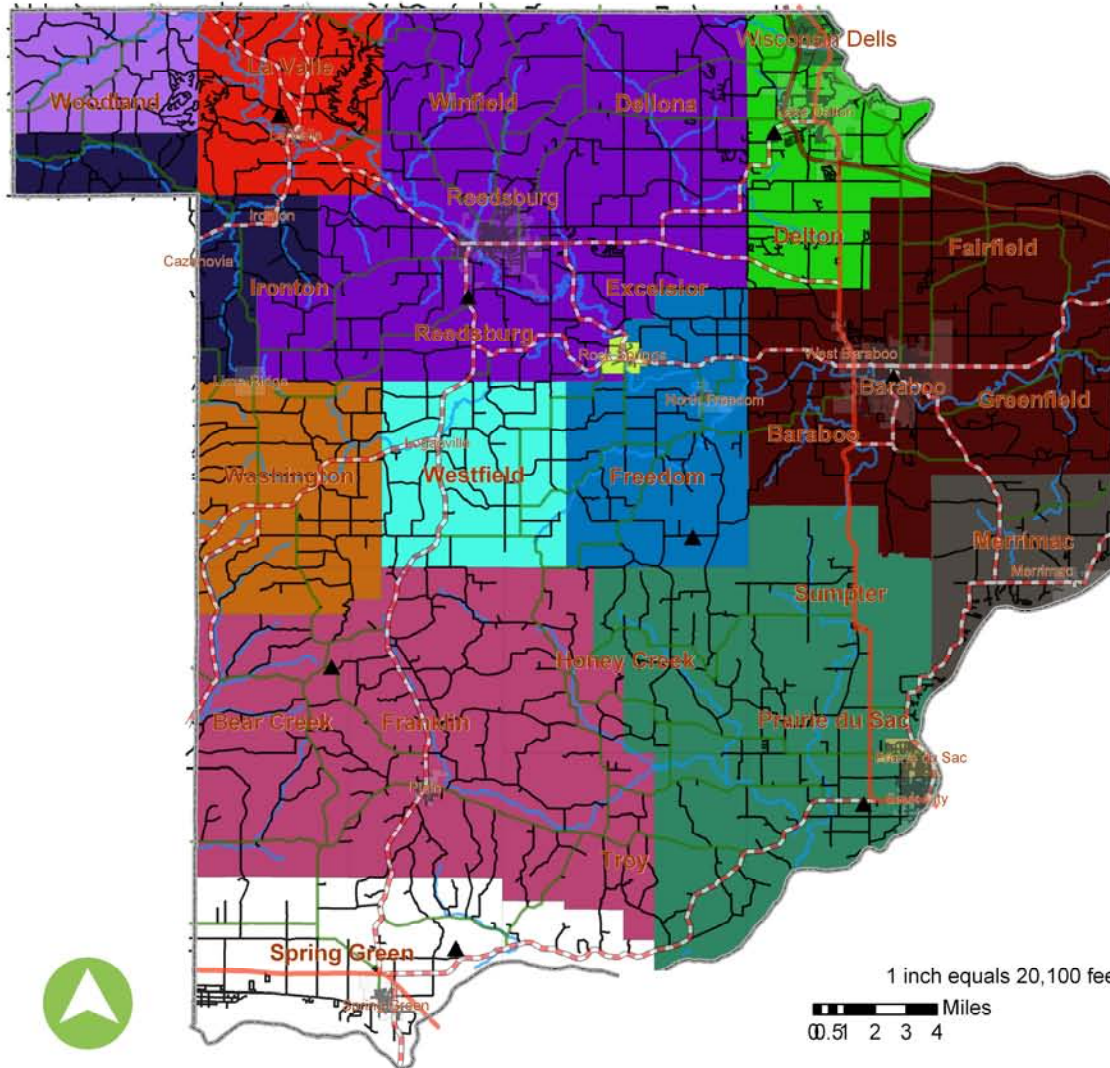
Legend

- School
- School Districts**
- Baraboo
- Hillsboro
- Ithaca
- Lodi
- Portage Community
- Reedsburg
- River Valley
- Sauk Prairie
- Weston
- Wisconsin Dells
- Wisconsin Heights
- Wonewoc-Union Center



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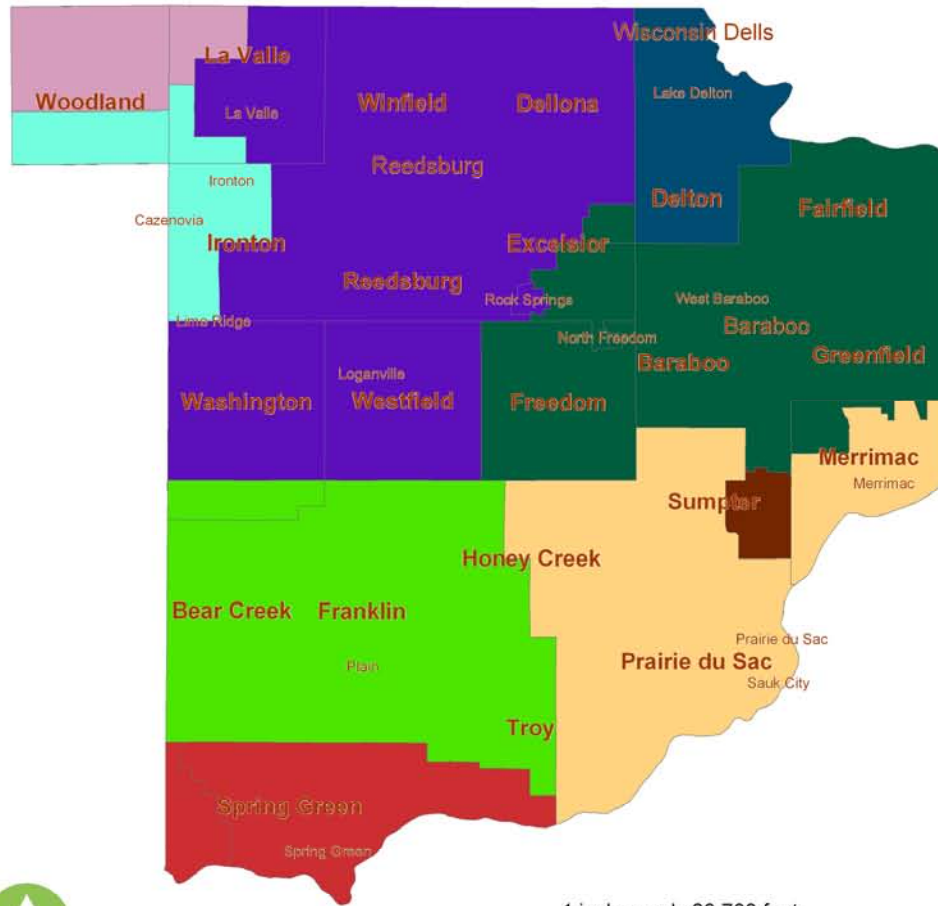
Fire Districts

- Baraboo
- Cazenovia
- Delton
- Hillpoint
- Kilbourne
- La Valle
- Loganville
- Merrimac
- North Freedom
- Plain
- Prairie du Sac
- Reedsburg
- Rock Springs
- Sauk City
- Spring Green
- Wonewoc



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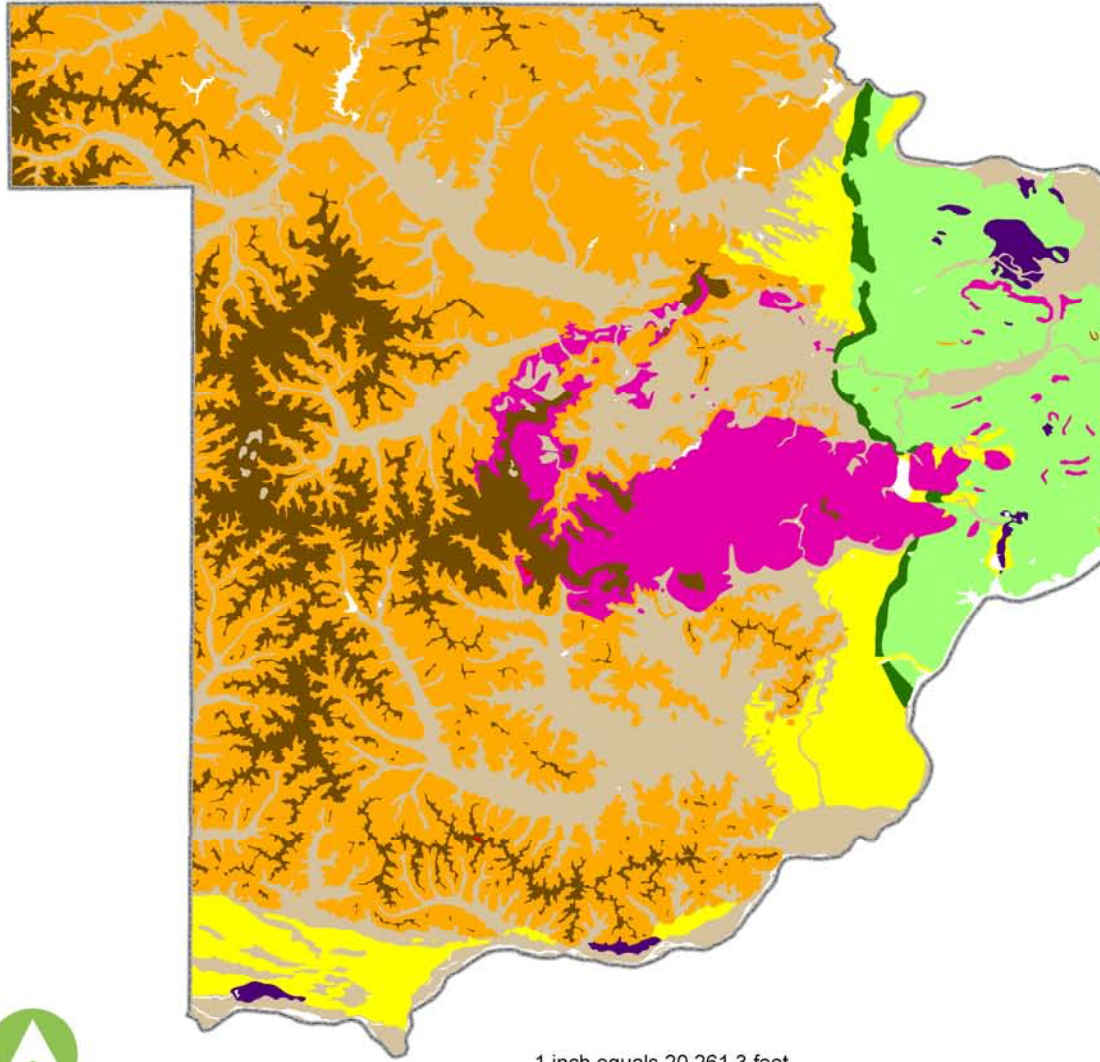
EMS Districts

- Badger
- Baraboo
- Cazenovia
- Delton
- Plain
- Reedsburg
- Sauk Prairie
- Spring Green
- Wonewoc



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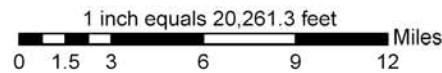
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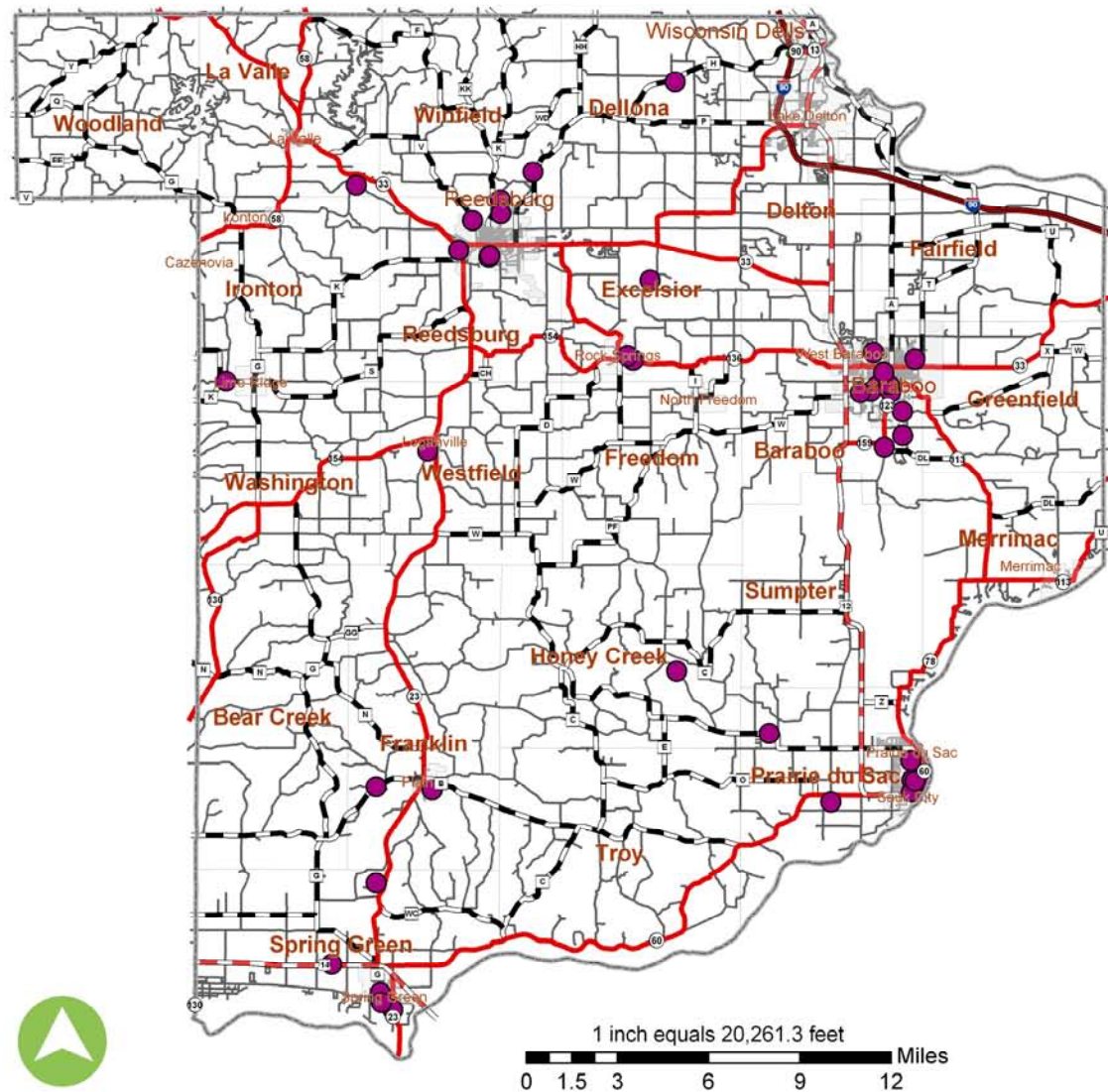
Legend

- Bottom Land and River Terrace
- Baraboo Quartzite
- Cambrian Sandstone
- Organic
- Outwash
- Prairie du Chien Dolomite
- St. Peter Sandstone
- Till
- Terminal Moraine



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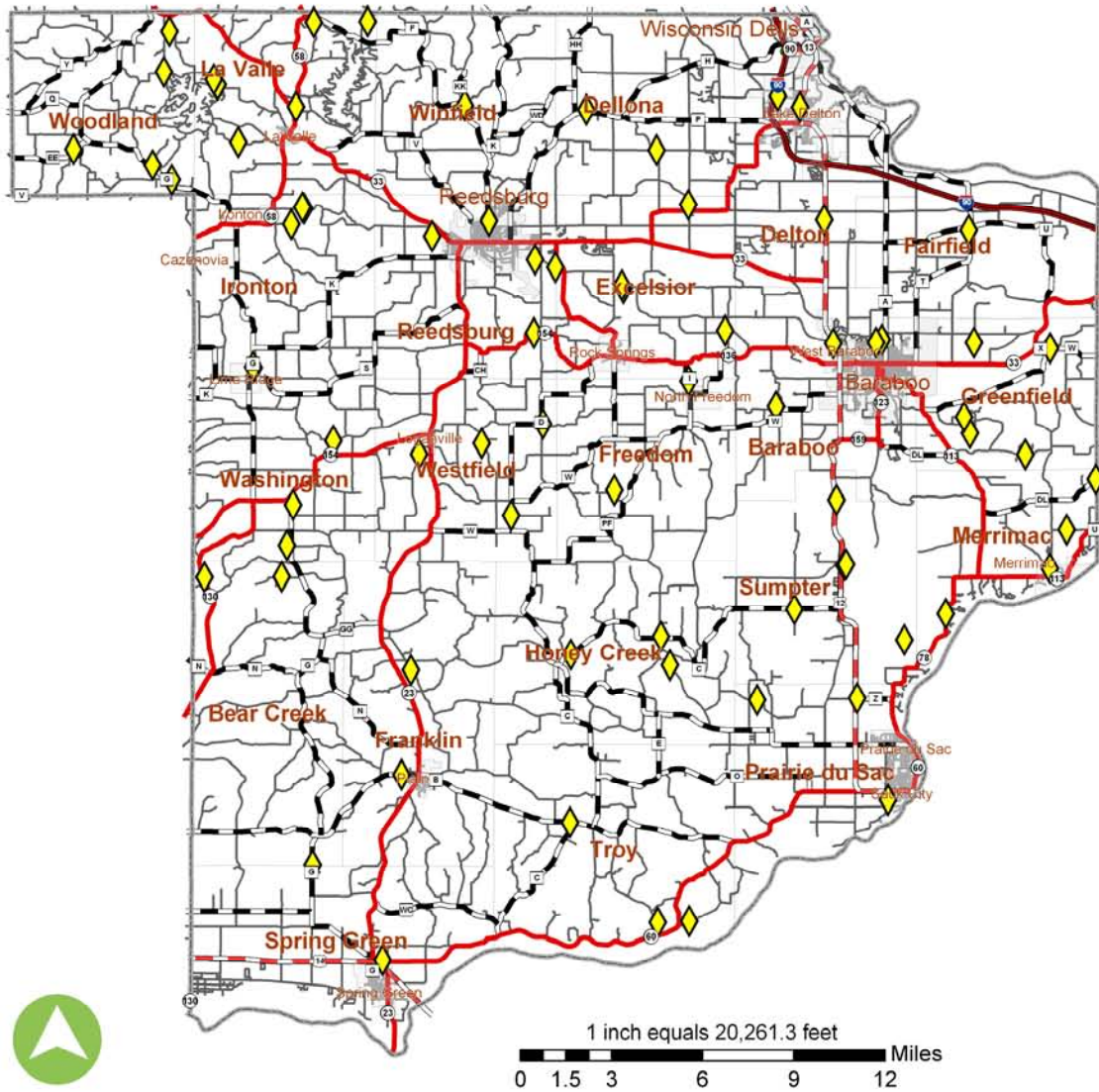
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● Child care Facility



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◆ Cemetery



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Cemeteries

7. Energy and Emissions

7.0 Importance and Influence of Energy

Energy affects many of the issues and topics addressed in other sections of the Plan. For example, the population Sauk County can support is dictated by the amount of energy that can be put into food production and transportation. Energy directly impacts transportation decisions, and the cost of utilities and facilities is determined by energy efficiency, and, consumption. Quality of life is affected by emissions, by-products, and waste of various aspects of communities such as industry and transportation.

Sauk County's economy can be strengthened and made more efficient – or weakened and wasteful – depending on energy usage. For this reason, it's imperative that the County recognize energy as an underlying factor to take into account as it examines the direction it wants to take in the next decades. Energy usage and energy efficiency opportunities – along with potential financial savings and the ability to become a recognized leader on the issue – should be considered.

In 2007, the City of Baraboo passed a resolution to become an eco-municipality and to use The Natural Step process to achieve sustainability goals.

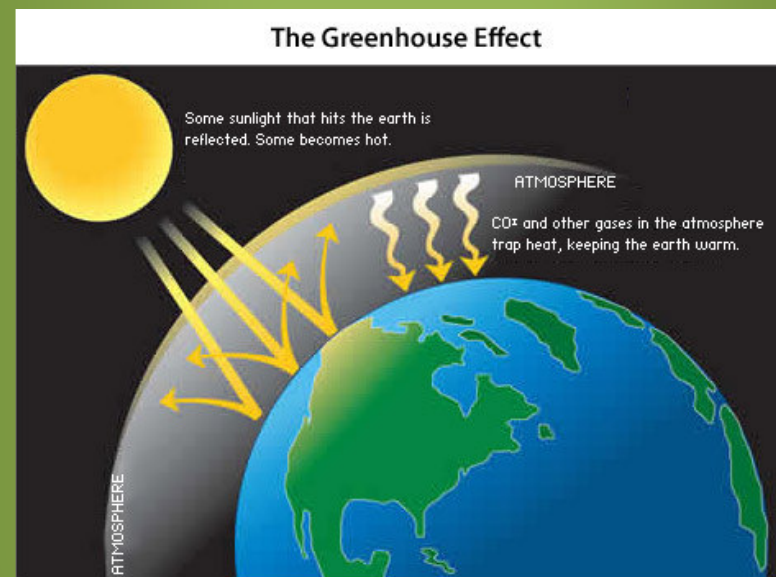
There are currently 22 Towns, Villages, Cities, and Counties in Wisconsin with eco-municipality status.

The Effects of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

During the past century humans have substantially added to the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, oil and gasoline to power cars, factories, utilities and appliances. The added gases — primarily carbon dioxide and methane — are enhancing the earth's natural greenhouse effect, contributing to an increase in global average temperature and related climate changes.

Global climate change creates extreme weather patterns which disrupt, among other things, food production and water supply. These changes contribute to an increase in food, energy, and commodity prices worldwide and place additional stress on economies. The problems surrounding this issue are urgent and must be dealt with immediately, not only at the international and federal level but at local and individual levels as well.

Figure 7.0



For more information please see the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts website at www.wicci.wisc.edu.

7.1 Increasing Energy Costs

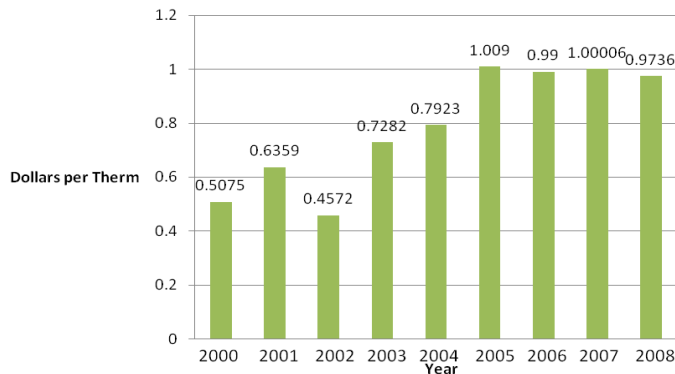
Figure 7.1 shows the steadily increasing cost of natural gas. Decreasing the County’s consumption saves taxpayer money. Over the past several years consumption has decreased. However, temperature trends also play a factor in the heating and cooling of buildings.

There’s been a 45.3% reduction in average therms used between 2000 and 2005, resulting in a 15.3% reduction in cost.

Source: Sauk County Emergency Management, Buildings and Safety Department

Figure 7.1

Cost Per Therm of Natural Gas



Source: Sauk County Emergency Management, Buildings and Safety Department

Alternative Energy

The vast majority of energy consumed in Wisconsin is currently provided from fossil fuels. Not only are these resources limited and becoming increasingly scarce, but they release greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change. Alternative energy is becoming easier and cheaper to use as technologies improve, knowledge increases, and incentive programs expand. Renewable energy is generated from resources that are naturally replenished, providing a clean, sustainable source of energy.

Though the initial cost of installing renewable energy systems such as wind turbines and solar panels can be intimidating, it is comparable to the cost of buying traditional systems such as furnaces and hot water heaters. The difference is when the money is paid – traditional systems require the same amount of money spread over a longer amount of time while the cost of alternative options is entirely at the time of purchase and installation.

Wind generated electricity is one of the least expensive forms of renewable energy, and it has the fastest time payback time frame. The best spots for turbines are across the center of Sauk County. Currently the most viable option is smaller scale turbines to generate electricity at homes, farms, and businesses. Several factors must be considered when installing a turbine, such as average wind speed and direction, as well as seasonal wind patterns.

Photovoltaic panels allow solar energy to be turned into energy. Active solar is still expensive and has a longer payoff period, but is a less obtrusive option than wind turbines. Solar panels can be installed on rooftops or monopoles in a subtle manner. Passive solar, in which rooms or water are heated by being exposed to sunlight, is less expensive and can be a great money saving option.

Geothermal can be used for heating, cooling, and ventilation. Air or water is pumped through tubes that circulate through structure’s flooring and the subsurface of the earth, using the earth’s ambient temperature to either heat or cool the building.

Wisconsin is one of the largest producers of ethanol in the nation and has millions of tons of excess biomass – agriculture and wood residues, municipal discards, and crops harvested for electrical energy. Some are concerned with the amount of water and energy used to grow and process biomass for energy.

Many of these systems cannot take care of all the needs of the user. It is often best to combine multiple systems and techniques. By combining the use of energy efficiency technology and renewable energy, Sauk County and its residents can lower energy costs while creating a clean, sustainable future.

7.2 Benefits of Local Production

Sauk County has a strong interest in producing its energy locally. The money and resources spent on necessary commodities remains and circulates throughout the county and region's communities, strengthening the economy. Jobs are created and kept in the region, providing employment for county residents and creating an attractive environment for people looking for work.

Additionally, less energy is lost in transportation when, for example, electricity has a shorter distance to travel. The system becomes more efficient. Furthermore, the ability to produce goods that are a necessity for a community to function allows the community to be independent and self-sustaining. There is decreased dependence – or even independence -- on foreign sources.



Wind and solar power are just two ways to create a sustainable, local source of energy.



Part of the increasing movement to “buy local” has been seen in growing farmers markets around Wisconsin. Sauk County can take advantage of the same benefits of buying locally produced food as buying locally produced energy.

Incentives Encouraging Individuals to Make Environmentally Friendly Changes

As energy consumption concerns increase, the government and various businesses and organizations are actively providing support and incentives to people looking for ways to live more environmentally-friendly lifestyles. The federal government offers tax credits for renovations that make buildings more energy efficient, such as increased insulation and energy efficient windows and doors. Municipalities across the country are implementing policies, such as rebate programs, encouraging citizens to install renewable energy systems. Additionally, citizens who have installed renewable energy systems may be able to sell surplus energy produced to the local energy company, allowing such investments to become financially profitable.

Incentives are not limited to renewable energy or energy efficiency. In an effort to encourage residents to consume locally produced food, several area health insurance companies provide \$100 to \$300 rebates for members who purchase a food share from a community supported agriculture (CSA)* farm. This makes CSA membership feasible for a larger number of people.

*CSA is a system in which members buy a share of the foods produced by a farm and receive fresh food throughout the growing season. Members usually pay at the start of the season.

For more information about federal incentives please visit www.energystar.gov

In 2007, Governor Jim Doyle created a Task Force on Global Warming. The Task Force set several goals for Wisconsin, among them:

- A reduction to 2005 greenhouse gas emission levels by 2014
- A reduction of 22% below 2005 greenhouse gas emission levels by 2022
- A reduction of 75% below 2005 greenhouse gas emission levels by 2050

The Task Force also created many policy recommendations, documented in its *Wisconsin's Strategy for Reducing Global Warming* report, to achieve these goals.

Wisconsin leadership is working to encourage the reduction of greenhouse gases. Governor Doyle has set several strategic goals to assist Wisconsin to secure a future in clean energy. These goals are:

25 by 25 – Generate 25 percent of our electricity and 25 percent of transportation fuel from renewable fuels by 2025. This goal will be accomplished through increasing production of renewable fuels and power, and improving the deployment for energy-efficient technologies.

10% of Renewals Market – Capture 10% of the market share for the production of renewable energy and bioproducts.

Research Leadership – Become a national leader in groundbreaking research that will make alternative energies more affordable and available to all – and to turn those discoveries into new, high paying jobs for Wisconsin workers.

Potential Obstacles in Becoming More Energy Efficient

There are several potential obstacles entities confront when making the switch to more energy-efficient systems and practices. One is the sometimes large cost of installation for new systems. Even though in the long run, the system frequently leads to sizable savings, it can be difficult to look past the upfront cost.

Another issue can be a lack of proper infrastructure. For example, houses may not be oriented in a way to take the best advantage of solar panels. While there are a variety of options and systems available, existing infrastructure can limit these opportunities or make changes more challenging. One way to make it easier to avoid these problems is to create zoning regulations that take future desires to implement renewable energy systems into account. For example, if a home or building is not built with a solar system installed, the orientation of the structure may be arranged with potential solar uses in mind, allowing an easier retrofit in the future. Another example of this is urban development patterns. For more information, please see the special on Development Supporting and Emphasizing Place Making in the Population Section.



Potential Partners in Energy Efficiency Efforts

Sauk County is fortunate to have both UW Baraboo/Sauk County and MATC Reedsburg. Both institutions educate and strengthen the county's workforce, potentially creating an increase in the number of workers with knowledge about energy usage and efficiency and alternative, renewable energy sources in the county. Additionally, there are a number of organizations and businesses working on these issues.

Beddington Zero Energy Development: A Carbon Neutral Community

The Beddington Zero Energy Development (BedZED) is the United Kingdom's largest eco-village. A carefully planned mixed-use development built on reclaimed land, BedZED focuses on using sunlight as the primary source of lighting, renewable energy, waste water recycling, and appliances that use a reduced amount of energy. The community's design focuses on pedestrian and bike traffic while organizers run car sharing programs to reduce the dependence on automobiles. BedZED is served by a combined heat and energy plant which allows community use of the heat created during normal energy production.

For more information, please see www.bioregional.com



BedZED makes use of natural lighting, solar energy, and roof gardens, along with wind power harnessed by colorful roof-mounted cowls.

Source: Ventura County Air Pollution Control District Monthly Report, July 2007

Alternative Building Styles: Earthships and Straw Bale Homes

Earthships are residences made primarily out of recycled materials and are "off the grid." Energy is produced on-site using renewable energy sources. Water is collected and waste water treated on-site. The structures are built with several aspects taken into consideration:

- Thermal/Solar Heating and Cooling
- Solar and Wind Electricity
- Contained Sewage Treatment
- Building with Natural and Recycled Materials
- Water Harvesting
- Food Production

Strawbale homes are constructed by using bales of straw as insulation. Such buildings are much more energy efficient than homes constructed conventionally and, when properly constructed, are just as safe as other homes.



Though the idea of building a house out of "junk" conjures up thoughts of run-down, unattractive structures, each earthship is unique and designed artistically. While the largest earthship community is outside of Taos, New Mexico, this building style is suitable for a variety of climates.

For more information about alternative building styles please see www.earthship.org and www.strawbale.com

8. Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources

8.0 Conservation Programs

Animal Waste Management Program *Administered by Sauk County Land Conservation Department*

To regulate animal waste storage facilities in order to protect water supplies and Sauk County residents. Requires permits for such facilities.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program *Administered by USDA Farm Service Agency*

Allows landowners to implement certain conservation practices such as stream buffers, filter strips, wetland restorations, and grass waterways to protect water quality and create wildlife habitat. Landowners are paid by the USDA based on the number of acres enrolled in the program

Conservation Reserve Program *Administered by USDA Farm Service Agency*

Encourages to land owners to plant permanent areas of grass and trees to protect soils from erosion, improve natural resource quality, and provide wildlife habitat. Farmers receive financial incentives.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program *Administered by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Assists farmers financially and technically to adopt environmentally friendly land management practices.

Grassland Reserve Program *Administered by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Offers incentives to maintain hayland and pastures.

Land and Water Management Program *Administered by Sauk County Land Conservation Department*

Designed to prevent erosion and protect water quality, provides financial and technical assistance to land owners who install environmentally friendly management practices on their farm.

Managed Forest Law *Administered by Wisconsin's DNR*

Provides incentives to landowners to practice sustainable forestry on private woodlands.

Tree and Prairie Seed Sale Program *Administered by Sauk County Land Conservation Department*

Encourages planting native species by providing low-priced seeds and trees to interested residents.

Wetland Reserve Program *Administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Provides financial incentives to restore and maintain wetlands that have been drained.

Wildlife Damage Claim Program *Administered by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service*

Assists in the prevention of crop damage due to specific animals, such as deer and turkeys. Emphasis is based on prevention.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program *Administered by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Financial assistance to establish and improve wildlife habitat for fish and/or grasslands.

Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program *Administered by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

Financially assists private landowners in protecting and enhancing their forested land, prairies, and waters.

Incorporating Local Comprehensive Plans: Common Themes Regarding Natural Resources

Protect and enhance natural and cultural resources. Preserve the beauty, diversity and integrity of the ecological community.

8.1 Selected Art Resources

Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center at Taliesin ***Located Outside of Spring Green in Iowa County***

Taliesin, home of famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright, is open to the public and the summer residence of the Taliesin Fellowship, an architectural and artistic community. Taliesin is widely recognized to be the place from which Wright developed his appreciation of nature and the “source” of many of his beliefs and ideas.

Fall Art Tour

Located in Baraboo, Spring Green, Dodgeville, and Mineral Point

Area artists collectively open their studios to the public for one weekend a year. Event coordinators provide maps to the studios; the drive is usually during the height of fall color.

The Wormfarm Institute

Located Outside of Reedsburg

Combining art and agriculture, The Wormfarm Institute provides housing for artists, art events, and locally produced food.



Artist-in-residence Ramon Lopez.
Photo: The Wormfarm Institute.

American Player’s Theatre

Located Outside of Spring Green in Iowa County

An outdoor theater featuring Shakespearean plays with a smattering of more modern comedic productions. It is one of the most popular outdoor theaters in the United States.

8.2 Selected Historical Resources

Mid-Continent Railway Museum

Located in North Freedom

A living museum, the Mid-Continent Railway Museum offers historic train rides and educational exhibits about railroads in the late 1800s.

Circus World Museum

Located in Baraboo

Sited on the original winter quarters of the Ringling Bros. Circus, Circus World Museum is a National Historic Landmark Site dedicated to preserving circus life. Features modern circus acts and original wagons and vehicles.

H.H. Bennett Studio

Location in Wisconsin Dells

By documenting and popularizing the natural beauty of Wisconsin Dells in the late 1800s, Bennett’s photography made the Dells a popular tourist destination. His influence is still felt today as tourism remains a successful industry in the area.

8.3 Selected Eco-Tourism Resources

International Crane Foundation

Located Outside of Baraboo

Open to visitors in the summer, the International Crane Foundation is the only place in the world with all 15 crane species. Dedicated to studying and protecting cranes, the foundation educates the

public and coordinates programs around the world to protect the threatened species.



A Whooping Crane at the International Crane Foundation. Source: Cliff Nieuwenhuis, www.citrusbirdingtrail.com



American Player’s Theatre evening production. Source: Terry Teachout, Laura Demanski, and Carrie Frye www.artsjournal.com

The Aldo Leopold Foundation

Located Outside of Baraboo

Dedicated to preserving the famous conservationist's shack, inspiration for Leopold's [A Sand County Almanac](#), The Aldo Leopold Foundation also promotes responsible land management. The recently constructed Leopold Legacy Center was awarded Platinum LEED Certification from the Green Building Council and is the first carbon neutral, LEED certified building.

Devils Lake State Park

Located Outside of Baraboo

The most popular state park in Wisconsin, Devils Lake State Park attracts 1.2 to 1.4 million visitors annually. It is famous for its unique geologic features.



*Aldo Leopold in front of his shack on Levy Road.
Source: University of Wisconsin Digital Collections,
The Aldo Leopold Archives*

8.4 Selected Recreational Resources

Wisconsin 400 State Trail

Located Between Reedsburg and Elroy

The 400 State Bike Trail was built on an abandoned railroad track from Reedsburg to Elroy, passing through La Valle, Wonewoc, and Union Center on the way. Riders enjoy beautiful scenery from the trail, which also includes a section for horses. The 400 State Trail is part of the 101 State Trail, which runs from Reedsburg to Trempealeau.

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail

Located Throughout Wisconsin

A 1,000 mile Wisconsin hiking trail with a portion running through Sauk County. The trail is designed to highlight the remarkable geographic features sculpted by the glaciers that covered the majority of Wisconsin some 12,000 years ago.



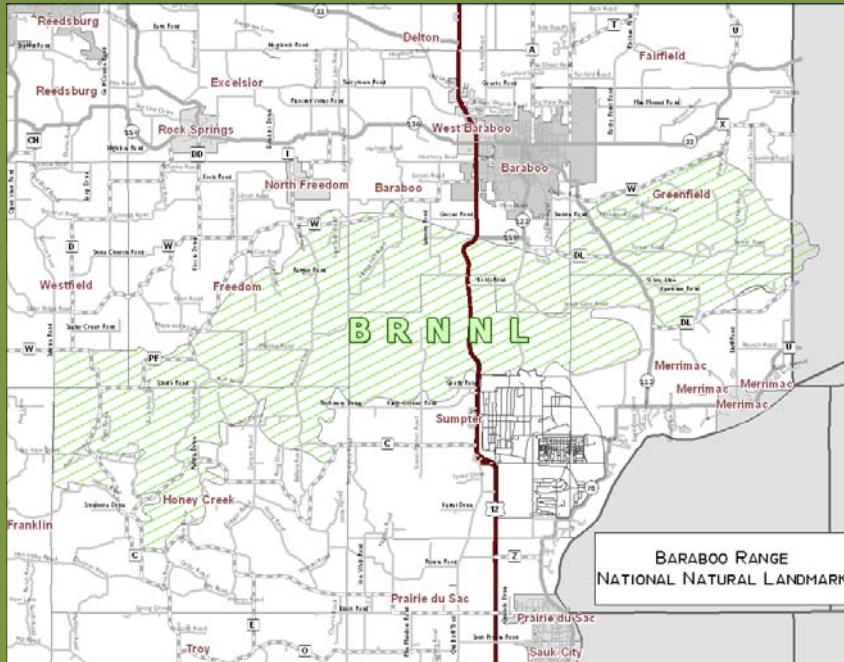
Devil's Lake State Park

*Source: Devil's Lake State Park Visitor's Guide,
www.devilslakewisconsin.com*



*The 400 State Trail, one of the most scenic in Wisconsin.
Source: www.elroybiketrails.org*

Efforts to Protect and Preserve the Baraboo Range



A portion of the Baraboo Hills, after being designated as the Baraboo Range National Natural Landmark, has been formally protected through a collaboration between local, state, and federal partners. Source: Sauk County Planning and Zoning

The Baraboo Range, located in Sauk and Columbia Counties, is nationally recognized for its unique geology and diverse ecological resources. It's the largest block of mostly unfragmented deciduous forest remaining in the upper Midwest and is home to at least 28 different natural communities that have been identified, harboring 23 federal or state listed threatened or endangered species.

Stemming from an agreement made in 1999, prior to the expansion of USH 12, the Baraboo Range Protection Program was created by Sauk County in order to permanently protect land within the Baraboo Range, preserving natural beauty and essential wildlife habitat. The Baraboo Range Protection Program works by purchasing development rights from willing landowners. To qualify for the program, land must be forest or buffer land adjacent to the forested areas within the Baraboo Range National Natural Landmark. So far 3,513.37 total acres have been protected from additional development at an average cost of \$1,362.33 per acre.

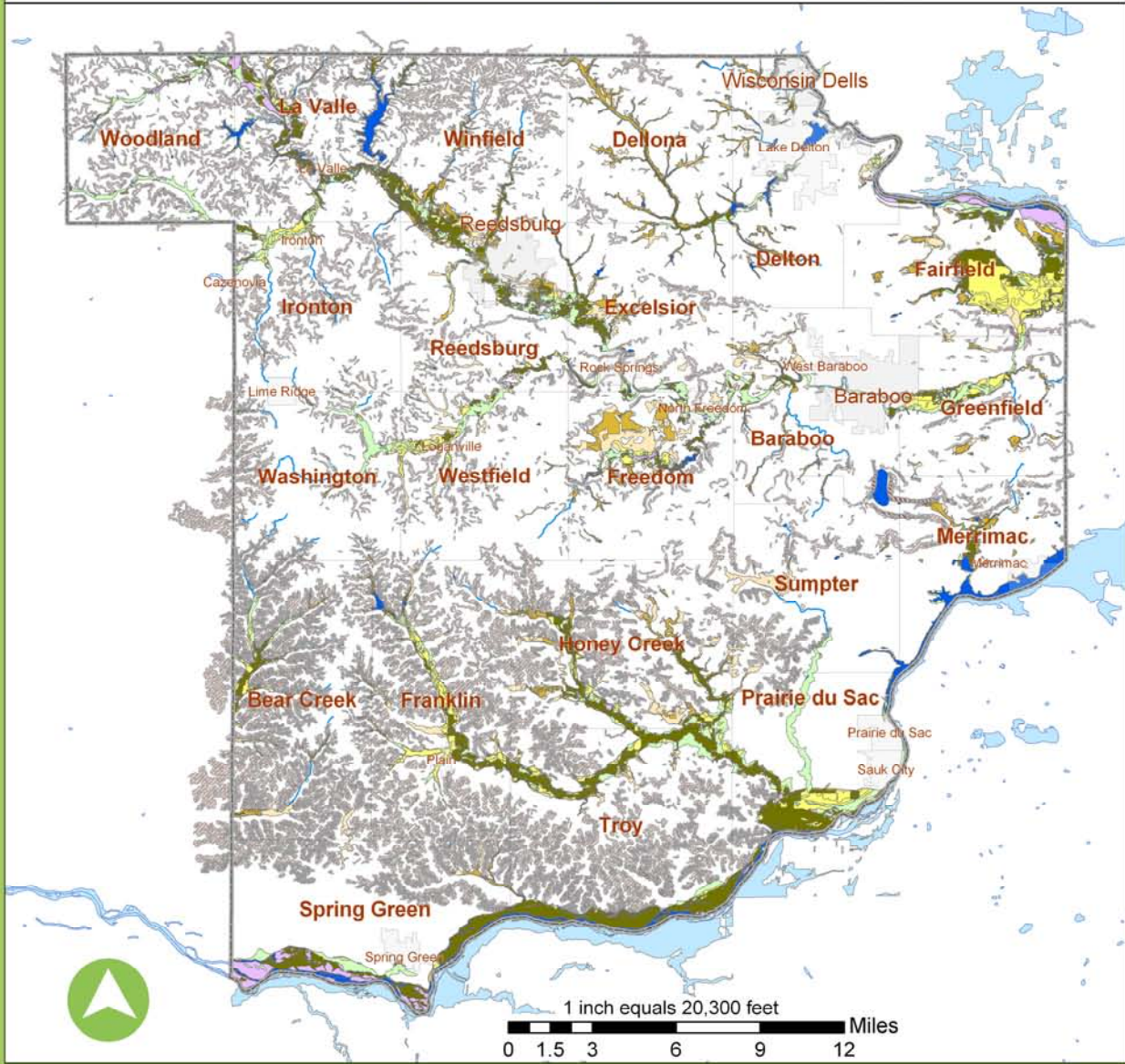


*Otter Creek in Baxter's Hollow, Baraboo Hills.
Courtesy of WI DNR*

Protecting the Baraboo Range has been a collaborative effort between a variety of conservation partners, including:

- U.S. National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. D.A.'s Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program
- WI Department of Natural Resources
- Sauk County
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Baraboo Range Preservation Association, a private local land trust

Sauk County Comprehensive Plan



Sauk County Planning & Zoning Department
 West Square Building, Room 248,
 505 Broadway, Baraboo, WI 53913
 PHONE: (608) 355-3285, FAX: (608) 355-4440

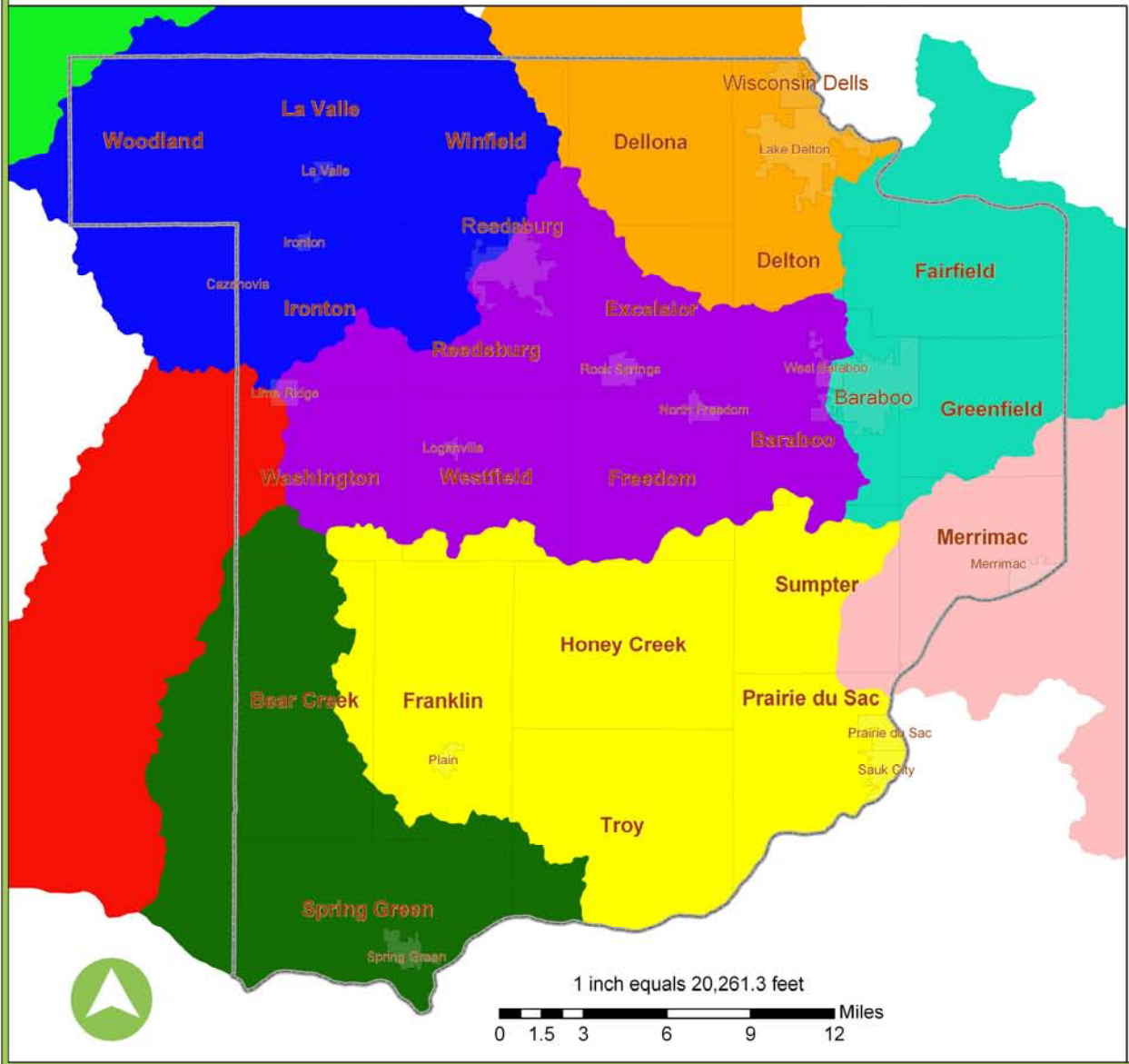
Environmental Corridors

- Surface Water
- Wetlands Only
- Floodplains Only
- Hydric Soils Only
- Floodplains & Hydric Soils
- Wetlands & Floodplains
- Wetlands & Hydric Soils
- Wetlands & Hydric Soils & Floodplains
- Slopes > 12%
- Slopes > 20%
- Open Water
- Rivers / Streams



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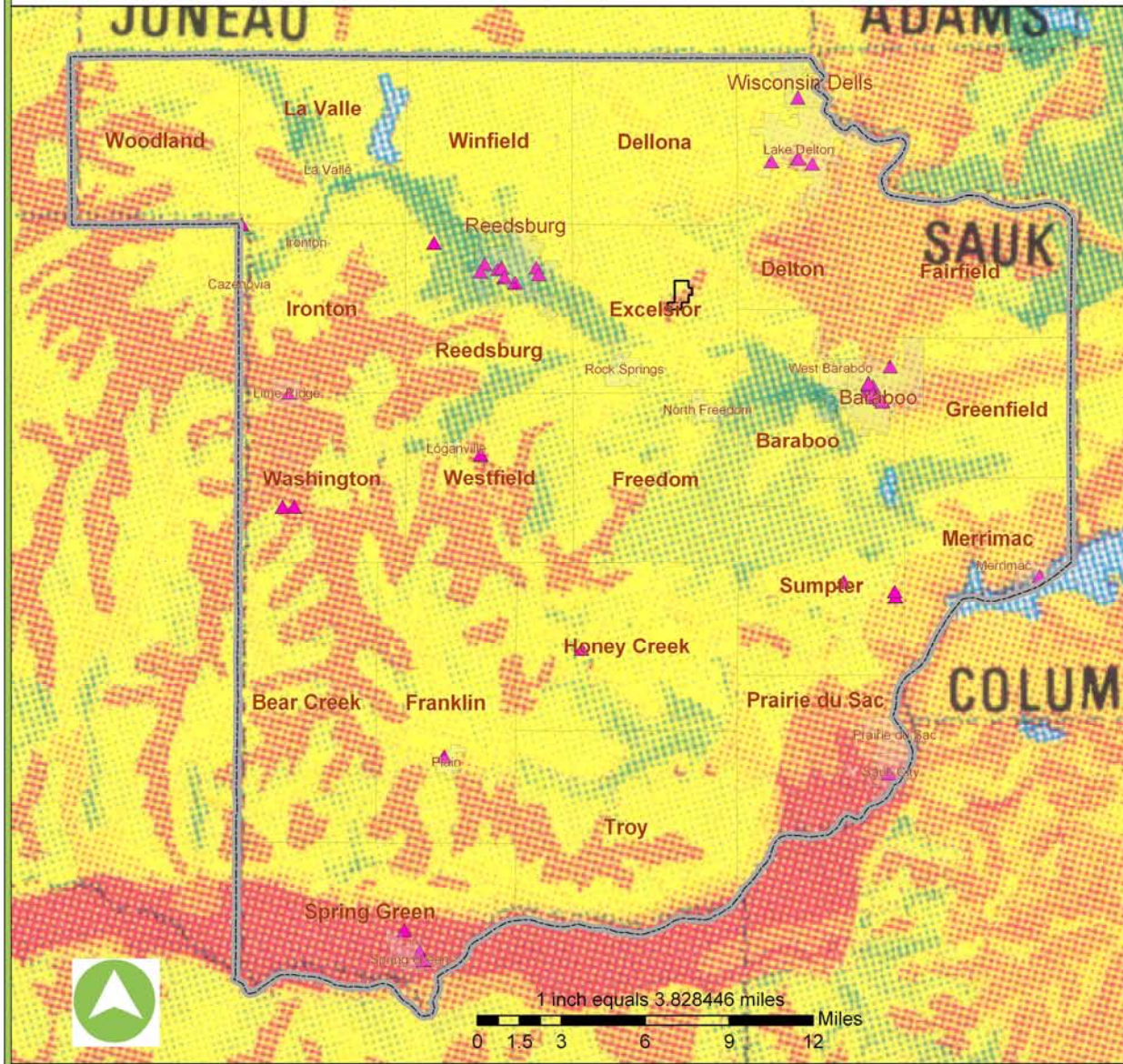
Watersheds

- Bear Creek
- Crossman Creek and Little Baraboo River
- Dell Creek
- Honey Creek
- Lake Wisconsin
- Lower Baraboo River
- Narrows Creek and Baraboo River
- Seymour Creek and Upper Baraboo River
- Willow Creek



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 www.saukplan.org

Groundwater Contamination Susceptibility

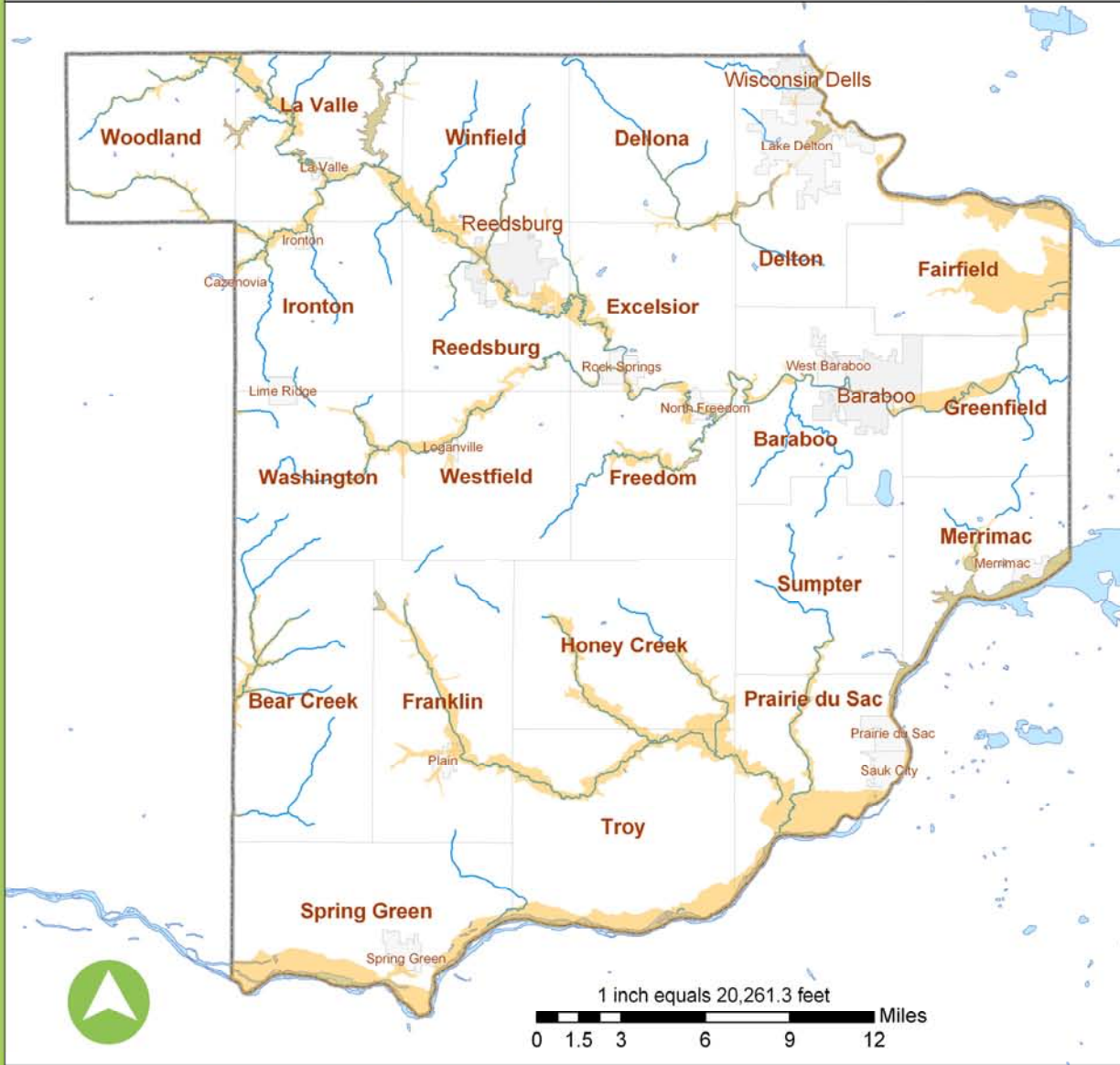
Most susceptible to contamination
 Moderately susceptible to contamination
 Least susceptible to contamination

▲ Open Contamination Site
 □ Sauk County Landfill



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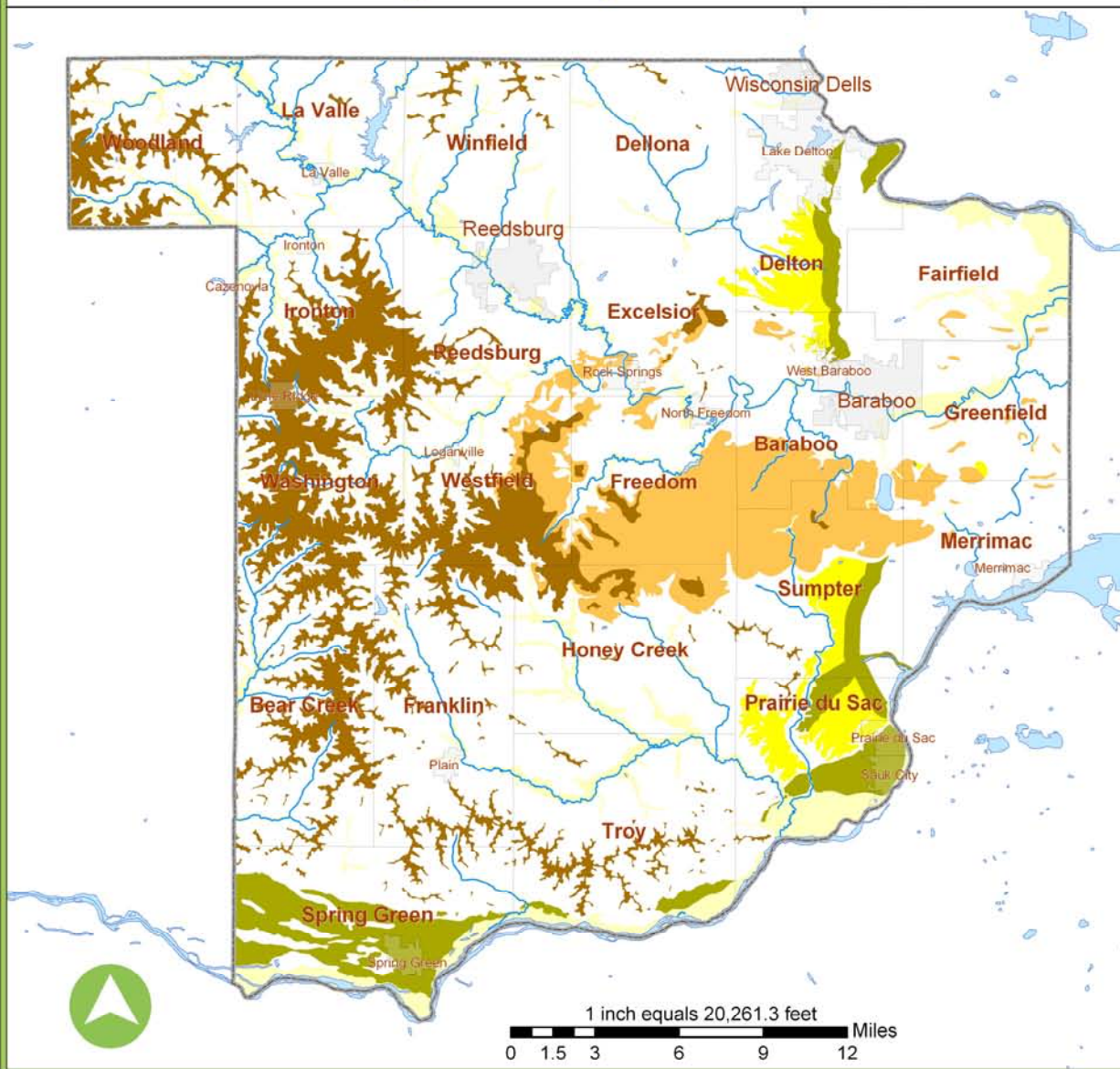
 FEMA 100 Year Floodplain

Note:
 100-Year Floodplain information was scanned in
 from a hardcopy FEMA map. The scanning process will produce
 errors and distortions. This map is not approved by FEMA.
 To make a floodplain determination, consult an official FEMA map.



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Sand and Gravel Potential

- Best
- Moderate
- Low

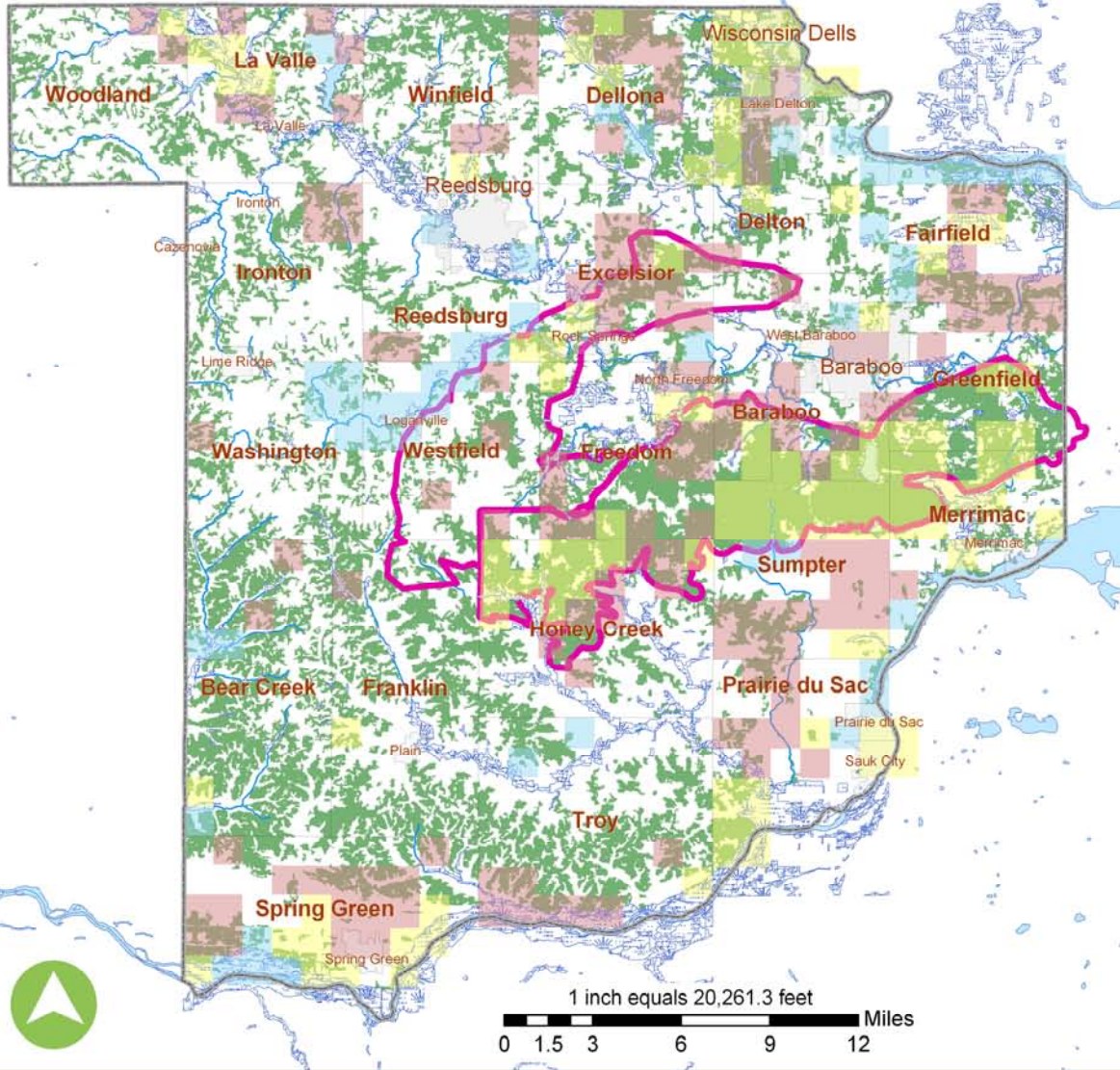
Aggregate Potential

- Best
- Moderate



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Endangered Species

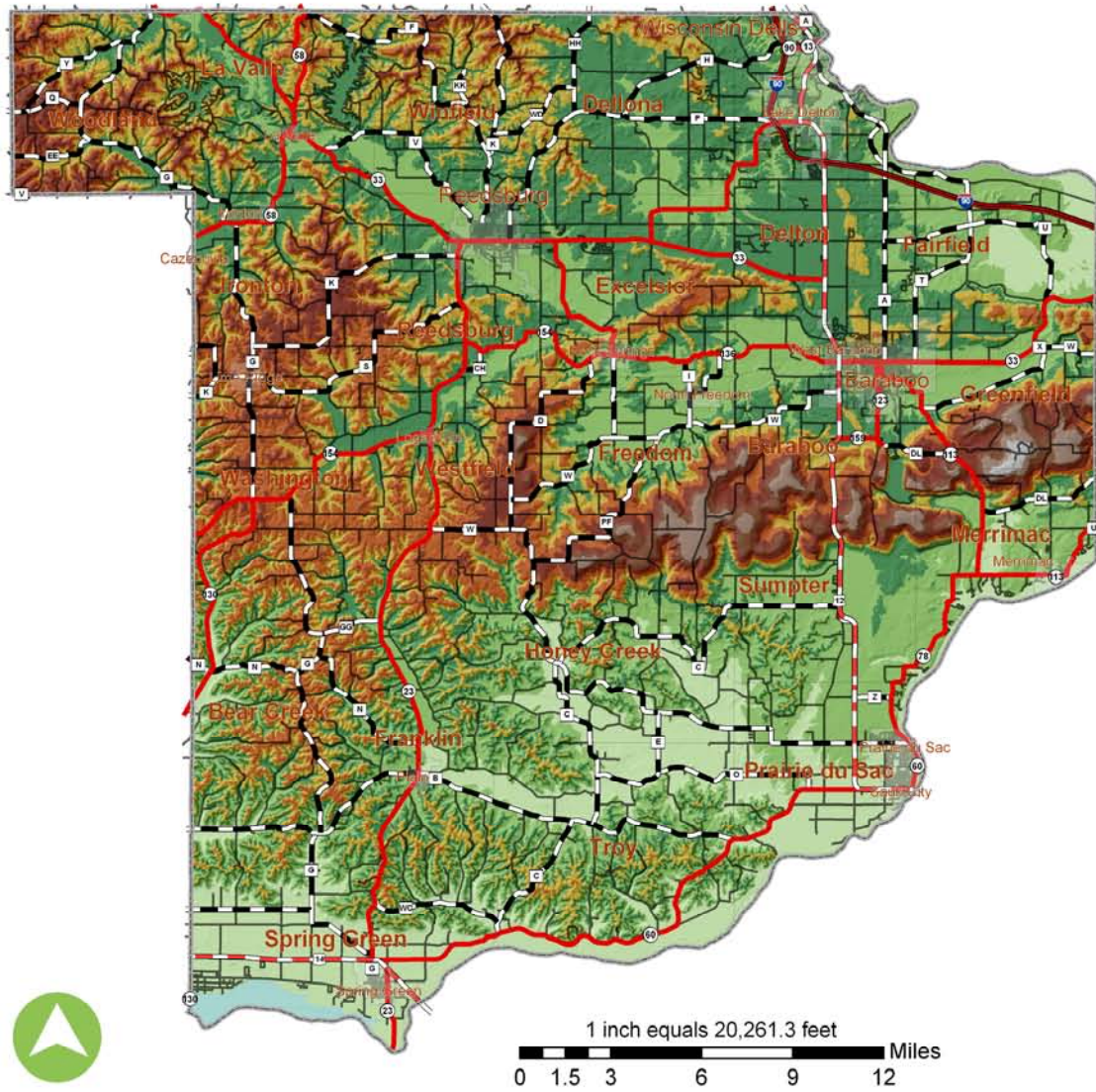
- Aquatic
- Both
- Terrestrial
- DNR Wetlands
- Baraboo Range
- Sauk County Forest



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Wildlife Habitat

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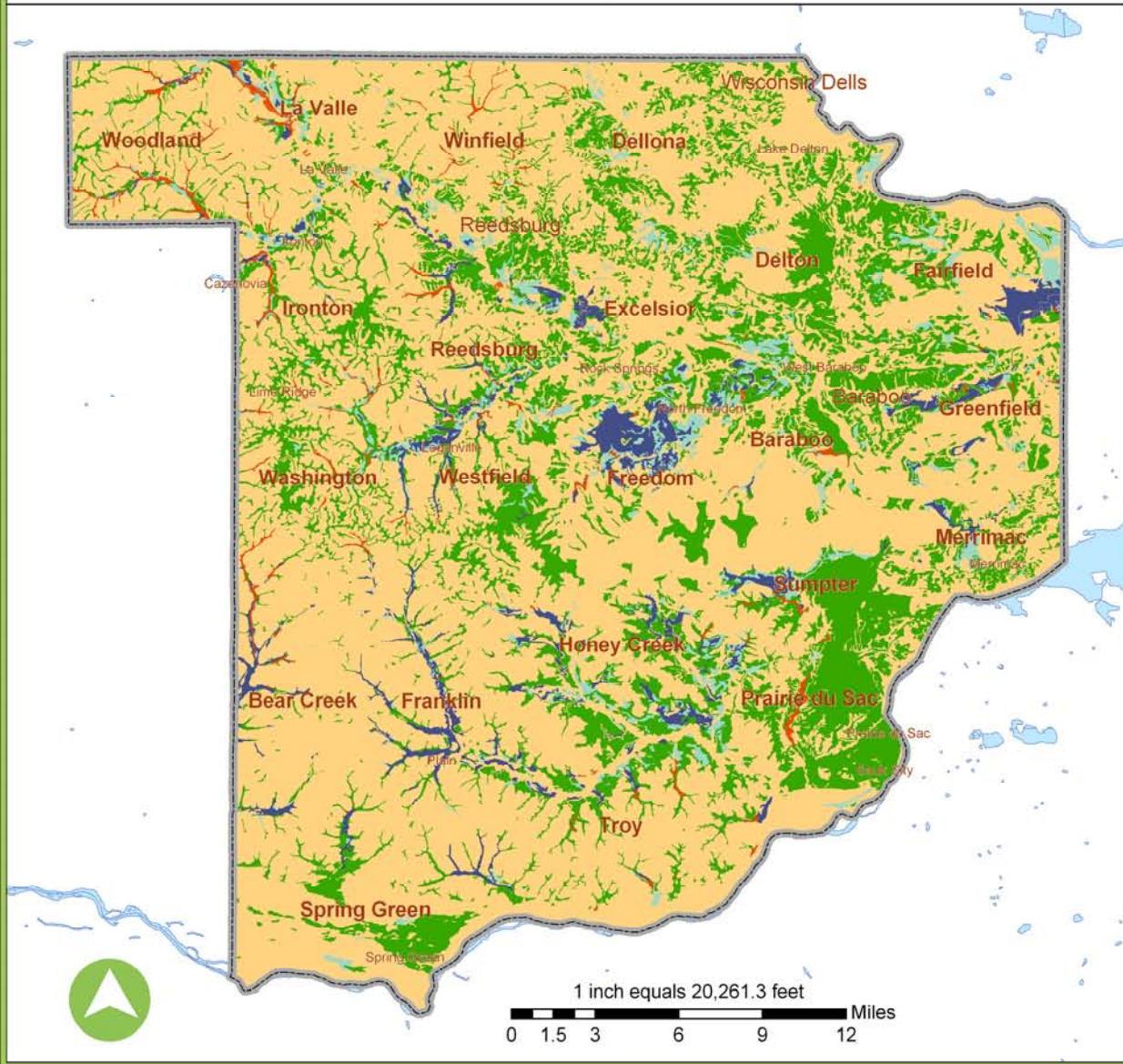
Elevation in Feet



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Elevation

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- Not prime farmland
- Prime farmland
- Prime if drained
- Prime if drained and not flooded
- Prime if not flooded



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Prime Farmland

9. Economic Development

9.0 Analysis of Labor Force

As mentioned in the Population section, Sauk County is one of the fastest growing counties in Wisconsin. A larger population translates to a larger workforce serving an increased demand for goods and services.

Sauk County's population is not only growing, -- it is also aging. The baby boom generation is increasingly leaving the workforce. An older population not only means changing labor force demographics but also an increase in demand for certain services.

While a larger percentage of the Sauk County population has graduated from high school than the Wisconsin or US population, Sauk County lags behind when it comes to higher education. This affects the quality of the labor force and wages. For more information, please see the Population section on page 13.

Figure 9.0

Amount of Time Spent Working*		
Weeks Worked in 1999	Male	Female
1 To 13	4.50%	5.40%
14 To 26	5.80%	7.20%
27 To 39	5.40%	8.10%
40 To 47	6.70%	8.80%
48 And 49	3.50%	3.80%
50 To 52 Weeks	74.10%	66.70%
Hours Worked Per Week		
35 or More	86.20%	66.90%
15 To 34	10.10%	27.10%
1 To 14	3.70%	6%

*Statistics from full-time, year-round workers.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Sauk County has a very high labor force participation rate. Even so, fewer women are employed than men. This is true of all age groups and may be due to the continued dominance of women as primary child care givers.

The vast majority of Sauk County workers work 35 hours or more per week. A larger percentage of women than men have part-time jobs.

Incorporating Local Comprehensive Plans: Common Themes Regarding Economic Development

Encourage economic activities that compliment the rural atmosphere and support current residents' way of life.

Figure 9.1

Sauk County Civilian Labor Force Data					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Labor Force	34,726	34,165	34,313	34,896	35,742
Employed	33,082	32,633	32,769	33,320	34,080
Unemployed	1,644	1,532	1,544	1,576	1,662
Unemployment Rate	4.70%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.60%

Source: WI DWD, Bureau Of Workforce Training,

Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2008

Figure 9.2

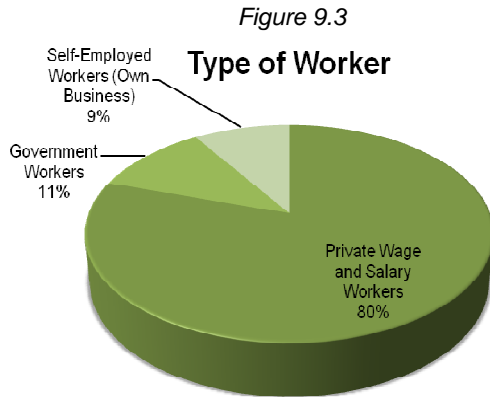
Labor Force Projections for Sauk County				
Age Group:	16-34	35-54	55+	Total Labor Force
Years	Labor Force			
2010	12,433	15,920	7,995	36,348
2020	13,071	16,010	10,893	39,973
2030	13,056	17,810	10,124	40,990
Distribution of Labor Force				
2010	34.20%	43.80%	22.00%	
2020	32.70%	40.10%	27.20%	
2030	31.90%	43.40%	24.70%	

Source: WI DWD, OEA

9.1 Analysis of Economic Base

Wages in Sauk County are, on average, approximately 20% less than Wisconsin wages. This is partly due to a low number of unions in the county and to the large tourism industry, which tends to have lower wage jobs. A relative lack of company headquarters contributes to the problem, which is why County officials are interested in attracting higher-level manufacturing facilities that require higher-end jobs. Additionally, education levels in Sauk County are lower than state averages, which have an impact on wages.

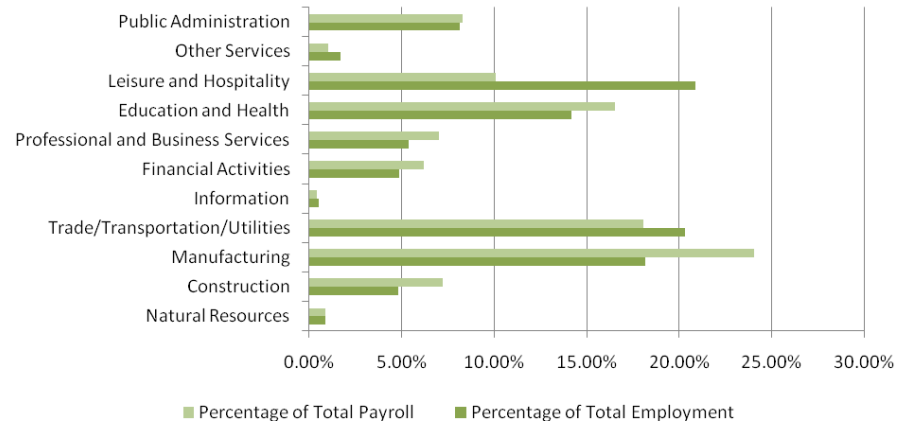
Sauk County workers receive more benefits, in general, than workers in comparable regions across the US. This contributes to a high quality of life and makes Sauk County a more enjoyable place to live and work.



Source: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Figure 9.4

2007 Employment and Wage Distribution by Industry in Sauk County



Source: WI DWD, Bureau of Workforce Training, Quarterly Census Employment and Wages

Figure 9.5

2007 Employment and Wage Distribution by Industry in Sauk County

	Employment		Total Payroll
	Annual Average	5-Year Change	
Natural Resources	340	-143	\$10,084,949
Construction	1,800	-57	\$79,782,669
Manufacturing	6,729	201	\$264,901,693
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	7,521	-72	\$199,205,680
Information	213	Not Avail.	\$5,310,089
Financial Activities	1,811	464	\$68,686,239
Professional & Business Services	2,006	-109	\$77,692,043
Education & Health	5,255	447	\$182,190,502
Leisure & Hospitality	7,743	1,117	\$111,589,624
Other Services	634	122	\$12,075,245
Public Administration	3,016	1,616	\$91,717,853
Not Assigned	0	Not Avail.	\$0
All Industries	37,070	3,332	\$1,103,236,586

Source: WI DWD, Bureau of Workforce Training, Quarterly Census Employment and Wages, June 2008

9.2 Assessment of Desirable Business and Industrial Categories

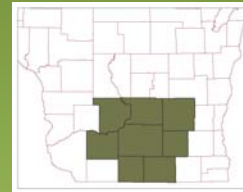
Sauk County places a high value on having a diverse, non-depleting economy. It is important that residents have the ability to buy basic, locally produced goods such as food and energy. Importance is also placed on a high-level manufacturing jobs that provide desirable wages and benefits to workers, along with agricultural jobs that contribute to Sauk County's rural farm culture.

Sauk County Development Corporation's Strategic Directions

- Grow existing businesses, nurture entrepreneurs and recruit compatible new businesses
- Promote an innovative economy – drive changes to regional educational systems
- Facilitate the retention and recruitment of a quality workforce
- Foster regional economic development through countywide leadership, communication and collaboration
- Encourage the necessary balance between critical resource sustainability and desired economic growth

Key Regional Opportunities Based on Assets

Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Rock, and Sauk Counties



- **Grow Regional Food Production and Processing Industry** by scaling up the regional food system and growing large scale specialty production and processing export industry
- **Position to Build the Bioeconomy and Green Economy** by strengthening the region's role in advancing the bioeconomy and emerging strengths in biofuels, bioenergy, biomaterials and biopharma.
- **Integrate Biomedical, Healthcare and Wellness** by collaborating to improve the region's health, grow new health-tech businesses, and become the Midwest Biomedical and Wellness Region
- **Package Place-Based Tourism Experiences for the Region** by developing regional "experiences " for visitors and residents by packaging, coordinating and marketing the unique and diverse tourism destinations
- **Build a 21st Century Transportation System** by creating the vision to take the region's existing network and propel us towards rapid transit systems that include high speed rail, regional express transit, and enhance our rural-urban connections
- **Realize the Potential as the North American Bike Capital** by expanding the regions' bicycle system, infrastructure, industry and culture to gain this recognition and enhance economic and recreational opportunities
- **Advance the Region as a Wellspring Innovation System** by becoming a global knowledge and convening center connecting, translating and integrating ideas to help regional businesses compete globally
- **Become a Regional Leader in Sustainable Solutions** by leading the development of global environmental and natural resources solutions and exporting new technology applications, policy, system approaches, products, and services to the world

Source: thrive

9.3 Assessment of Strengths and Weaknesses in Attracting and Retaining Businesses and Industries

Transportation

The quality of infrastructure is highly important to the efficiency and effectiveness of business and industry. Interstate 90/94 runs through the northern section of the County. A number of highways, railroads, and airports serve the County as well. Also, as was previously mentioned, work is being done to improve USH 12, making Sauk County even more accessible to other regions. For more information about transportation in Sauk County and the region, please see the Transportation section.

Communications

The county is currently making efforts to ensure high-speed internet is available in rural areas. Reedsburg is one of the most wired communities in Wisconsin, with a fiber-optic connection to every door. However, there are still residents that lack phone and internet service, and there is still work to be done to improve this issue.

Between 2000 and 2006 there has been a 10.90% increase in the number of business establishments in Sauk County.

Source: thrive

Education

A strong educational system benefits the economy by creating a competitive workforce. Sauk County is home to multiple school districts, a two year liberal arts college, and a technical college. Both colleges have made increasing efforts to make stronger connections with the University of Wisconsin System in order to provide additional educational opportunities.

Entrepreneur Support

Sauk County currently has a variety of programs in place to support entrepreneurs, such as prevention counseling and loan programs as well as classes and workshops. The Sauk and Columbia Entrepreneurs and Inventors' Club meets monthly.

In 2000, there were 373 housing units without telephone service and 1,255 housing units without a vehicle available to the occupants.

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Sauk County Commuting Impact

In 2006, over \$91 million of money earned in Sauk County left the county due to commuting patterns.

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, April 2007

Quality of Life Indicators for Sauk County

Sauk County residents are served by three hospitals/medical centers. The vast majority of residents have at least some sort of health insurance coverage. There were nine health club establishments in 2006, assisting in the promotion of healthy living.

In 2007 there were three days with bad air quality. Sauk County has a wide variety of recreational opportunities. For information about "third places" – areas to spend time other than at work or at home – please see the Population section.

Sauk County is a safe place to live, with a low crime rate and few violent crimes.



Source: thrive, Sauk County Historical Society, and www.fedstats.gov

9.4 Evaluation of the Use of Environmentally Contaminated Sites for Commercial and Industrial Uses

There are a number of redevelopment and reuse programs going on throughout Sauk County in which contaminated sites are being cleaned up, contained, and transformed. These programs are important for a number of reasons. Not only do they control potentially dangerous contaminants, but they allow for the reuse of existing buildings and facilities. This reuse helps communities to avoid or reduce outward sprawl as it improves and increases the value of existing neighborhoods.

One example of this is the clean-up of contaminants at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP) site by the federal government. After the clean-up is complete, ownership will be transferred to other entities who have created reuse plans. For more information about BAAP clean-up and reuse, please see the Reuse of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant special in the Intergovernmental Section.

Another instance of this sort of initiative is the clean-up of the old Sauk County Landfill. Though it is currently a Superfund site, contaminants are closely monitored and controlled, and the County has formed a partnership with Alliant Energy to produce energy from the site. Methane gas, created by the decomposition of waste, is captured, burned, and converted into energy. Enough energy is produced from the site to power about 100 average homes. For more information about the old Sauk County landfill, please see the Contamination and Power Generation at the Old Sauk County Landfill special in the Utilities and Community Facilities Section.

Baraboo's Ringling River Corridor Redevelopment Plan: Cleaning Up and Redeveloping Brownfield Sites For Economic Development

As with many older cities, Baraboo's industrial area was built around the river. This arrangement often created a variety of environmental issues. Several brownfield sites have been identified along the Baraboo River. As the City of Baraboo has made it a priority to redevelop the riverfront and target it as an area of economic development, these contaminated sites have begun the process of being cleaned up and are becoming a model for similar sites across the country.

The redevelopment includes environmental clean-up and construction of mixed-use residential and commercial development, along with construction of trails along the river and restoration of natural vegetation. The goal is to make the area more accessible to the public and increase economic opportunities.



An aerial of the Baraboo Riverfront before redevelopment.



A sketch of what the riverfront might look like after the redevelopment is complete.

Source: City of Baraboo, June 2009

9.5 Identification of Applicable County, Regional, and State Economic Development Programs

**Sauk County Development Corporation
www.scdc.com**

Works to encourage and maintain economic vitality and success in Sauk County.

University of Wisconsin Extension Programs

Provides life-long learning and professional development opportunities to residents, allowing for a higher quality of life and more competitive workforce.

**Workforce Advancement Training Grants
*Administered by the Wisconsin Technical College System***

Provides grants to members currently in the workforce for job training in order to keep skills competitive.

Alliant Energy Economic and Community Development

Locates and advertises business-friendly buildings and potential development sites in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

**Customized Labor Training Program
*Administered by Wisconsin Department of Commerce***

Designed to keep Wisconsin's workforce competitive, this program helps companies invest in new technologies or processes by providing grants to assist with the cost of training employees about the new technology.

**Wisconsin's Main Street Program
*Administered by Wisconsin Department of Commerce***

Economic and historic revitalization program for communities' downtowns.

**Community Development Block Grant
*Administered by Wisconsin Department of Commerce***

Provides funds for programs to support economic opportunities, primarily low to middle income people.

**Neighborhood Business Revitalization Guarantee
*Administered by Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority***

Helps to retain or expand businesses or develop/rehabilitate sections of urban areas using low-interest rate loans.

**Brownfield Green Space and Public Facilities Grants
*Administered by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources***

Provides funds for the clean up of brownfield sites for public benefit.

Wisconsin Department of Tourism Programs
Offers marketing, advertising, and growth planning assistance for attractions.

**Wisconsin Rural Development Programs
*Administered by US Department of Agriculture***
Manages a variety of programs supporting businesses, community development, utilities and housing.

**Economic Development Administration Programs
*Administered by US Department of Commerce***
Oversees, among other things, programs to assist businesses and communities with economic development efforts.

US Small Business Association
Provides a variety of services, resources, and advice to small business owners and potential small business owners.

Business Assistance Centers:

Wisconsin Innovation Service Center
www.wisconsinsbdc.org

Wisconsin Small Business Development Center
www.wisc.uww.edu

Information about Wisconsin's Workforce and Labor Market:

www.worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet

Databases Connecting Employers with Job Seekers:

South Central Wisconsin Job Center
www.comherefirst.org

Job Center of Wisconsin
www.wisconsinjobcenter.org

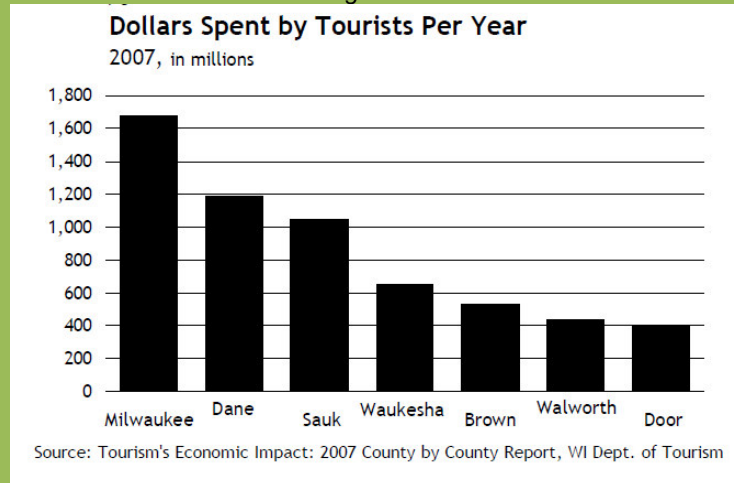
Career One Stop
www.jobbankinfo.org

USA Jobs
www.usajobs.gov

Jobs for Students with the Federal Government
www.studentjobs.gov

Sauk County's Tourism Industry

Figure 9.6



Tourism is one of the strongest industries in Sauk County. Many county residents work in sales and leisure occupations, as tourism supports over 24,000 jobs across the county and about \$650.7 million in wages. Travelers spent about \$1.05 billion in Sauk County in 2008 according to the Wisconsin Department of Tourism.

Summer tourism-related jobs have often attracted workers from outside Sauk County, including those from overseas. In past years the majority of workers came from Eastern Europe. However, companies are now recruiting in regions all around the world.

The most well-known tourist destinations in Sauk County are Devil's Lake State Park outside of Baraboo and the water parks, resorts, and attractions in Wisconsin Dells. However, the rest of the county has a lot to appeal to visitors as well. Sauk County is strengthening and developing increasingly place-based tourism, emphasizing that communities across the county have a variety of attractive experiences to offer. The rural culture and natural beauty that defines Sauk County is also being stressed by highlighting the county's historic downtowns, Amish businesses, and agricultural products.

This increase in place-based tourism marketing is a coordinated effort with several other counties in the region so that the region can pool its resources, strengthen its marketing, increase the number of travelers to the region, and benefit economically as a whole.

Manufacturing in Sauk County

Approximately 19% of Sauk County residents are employed in manufacturing related jobs, and the industry is very important to the County's economy. Even after the recession that began at the end of 2008 and continued into 2009, Sauk County has a strong, diverse manufacturing industry.

The recession affected the automotive industry particularly hard, negatively influencing manufacturing in Sauk County. However, manufacturing will continue to play a strong part in the County's economy. There is hope that the area's industry is moving towards a higher level of manufacturing, with higher-end jobs that potentially pay more and have more benefits.

Figure 9.7

Sauk County's Largest Employers		
Company	City	Emp.
Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort	Lake Delton	850-2,000*
Lands' End	Reedsburg	1,000-1,200*
Kalahari Resort & Convention Center	Lake Delton	1,400*
Ho-Chunk Casino	Lake Delton	1,300
Cardinal Glass Companies	Spring Green	772
R. R. Donnelley Baraboo Div.	Baraboo	700
Walmart	Baraboo & Lake Delton	675
Sauk County	Sauk County	664
Noah's Ark	Lake Delton	550
Sysco Food Services of Baraboo	Baraboo	546
Baraboo School District	Baraboo	520
Grede Foundries, Inc.	Reedsburg	504
Treasure Island/Mt. Olympus	Lake Delton	250-500*

* Indicates the range in employee numbers between regular and peak seasons.
Source: Sauk County Development Corporation August 2009

10. Intergovernmental Cooperation

10.0 Analysis of Relationship with School Districts, Adjacent Local Governmental Units, Regional, State, and Other Governmental Units

Sauk County is composed of 22 townships, 14 villages, and 3 cities. Additionally, it borders Juneau, Vernon, Richland, Iowa, Dane, and Columbia counties. Sauk County is home to the Badger Army Ammunition Plant, currently owned by the federal government, and to a portion of trust land owned by the Ho-Chunk nation. These characteristics make it imperative that Sauk County put every possible effort into coordinating efforts with other levels of government to ensure that its citizens receive quality services.

There are 5 school districts in Sauk County, as well as the University of Wisconsin- Baraboo/Sauk County and the Madison Area Technical College in Reedsburg. The county works with school districts to provide a variety of educational opportunities and programs to students, such as Youth Conservation Days and environmental stewardship projects. Additionally, each year the county provides scholarships for students to attend Youth Conservation Camps.

In current efforts to make services more efficient, it is essential to collaborate with neighboring regional governments to coordinate programs. For example, to design and build the most innovative and effective transportation system, it's necessary for the counties to work together. This is also true when creating an easily accessible regional food market. In order for the south-western and south-central regions of Wisconsin to thrive, the county and municipal governments need to communicate clearly and frequently to reach collective goals.

10.01 Incorporation of Plans/Agreements Under s. 66.0301, 66.0307 or 66.0309

Seven Towns and one Village hire the Sauk County Highway Department to do general maintenance on their road systems and snowplow their jurisdictions in winter. Sauk County is not part of a regional planning commission.

10.2 Identification of Existing/Potential Conflicts Between Governmental Units

There are currently a number of conflicts between various governmental units, and there are a significant number of potential disagreements. Many of these conflicts involve land use and resource allocation. The County makes every effort to ensure communication with municipalities, state, federal, and tribal governments is as clear and open as possible.

Additionally, it is important that citizens are aware of and engaged in community decision-making so that leaders and representatives can make well-informed decisions. Sauk County actively invites citizens to share their opinions and ideas and plans to increase smooth, effective intergovernmental cooperation. For more information, please see the Government section of Part II of this Plan.

Incorporating Local Comprehensive Plans: Common Themes Regarding Intergovernmental Cooperation

Improve communication between governmental units to better coordinate planning and decision-making efforts. Increase participation and communication in and between non-governmental entities including law enforcement, Wisconsin Department of Transportation and others.

Potential Shared Regional Assets: Things Sauk County Is – Or Could Be – Known For

Source: thrive

- Agriculture, dairy, and food science expertise and infrastructure.
- Natural resources quality and landscape diversity and expertise.
- Variety of economic driver industries and corporate presence.
- Proximity and connection to Chicago, Milwaukee and the Twin Cities.
- Urban-rural balance with Madison alongside a region of individual communities.
- Strong public and private continuing higher education and training infrastructure.
- Leading research and land grant history with the University of Wisconsin System.
- Anchored by the State Capital and State Government.

Reuse of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant



*The Badger Army Ammunition Plant.
Source: Jill Metcoff Photography*

In 1941, as the U.S. prepared to enter World War II, the federal government decided that the northern stretch of the prairie between Baraboo and Sauk City was the ideal location to build an ammunition plant. That fall, land was acquired from area farmers. Their families were removed, oftentimes forcibly, and the farms destroyed by February of 1942. Within ten months of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the plant was built and operating. At the time, it was the largest ammunition plant in the world.

For the next several decades, Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP) supplied smokeless gun powder and rocket propellant for American forces in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Over those decades BAAP came to symbolize all things good and bad about America's commitment to military strength. Thousands of Wisconsin residents claim a connection to the BAAP lands, either as descendants of the region's native people, of the European settlers that farmed the prairie, or as workers supporting America's war efforts at the munitions factory. Their stories have been carefully documented for historical purposes by the Badger History Group.

In the mid-1970s, following the end of hostilities in Vietnam, the Army deactivated the plant, keeping it in reserve. At the same time, BAAP staff began a conservation and ecological restoration program that is still underway today. In the early 1990s, following a series of alarming domestic well-water tests, the Army announced the discovery of contaminated groundwater, likely resulting from BAAP production operations that had migrated to residential properties. This discovery increased public interest and participation, and a local grass-roots environmental movement began under the leadership of Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger, an organization that monitors cleanup efforts. Ultimately, as the U.S. Army's munitions production strategies evolved and technology changed, the Department of Defense decided that BAAP's production capabilities were no longer needed. In 1997, the Army declared the property "excess" to its production needs, opening the possibility of disposition of BAAP's 7,354 acres.

To make the best possible decisions regarding BAAP's future, the Badger Reuse Committee (BRC) was created in the summer of 2000. The BRC was composed of 21 members, representing local governments and communities, state, federal, and tribal governments. It was carefully designed to include all interested parties and allow for maximum public participation. That committee was charged with identifying a community consensus regarding future land uses at BAAP. Land use decisions were highly complex due to the involvement of local, state, national, and tribal interests.



*An escape chute from a structure at BAAP.
Source: Jill Metcoff Photography*

The Final Report of the Badger Reuse Committee, completed in March of 2001, emphasizes shared community values and specific criteria by which future land uses and operations would be evaluated. The Reuse Plan calls for managing the entire property as a whole, regardless of eventual ownership, and the implementation of an integrated collection of complimentary land uses, including sustainable agriculture, low-impact recreation, education, scientific research and the ecological restoration of the historic prairie landscape. One critical area of consensus is that any necessary environmental cleanup, current and future, is the responsibility of the federal government. Environmental remediation is required prior to transfer of ownership. Taken together, these will be long-term undertakings. As lands are certified ready to transfer by the Army and environmental regulators, the designated recipients are prepared to engage the public once again in planning efforts to determine specific land use, management and development programs to integrate public access and recreational uses with other management priorities.

Distribution of BAAP lands will occur among three primary entities: the State of Wisconsin, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (for the Dairy Forage Research Center), and the U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs (for the Ho-Chunk Nation). The lands allotted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture were transferred to the Dairy Forage Research Center in 2005. Lands going to the U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Ho-Chunk Nation will be transferred in the coming years following completion of environmental cleanup.

Management of the environmental remediation project is monitored by an Army-sponsored board of local community representatives and environmental agency staff. This Badger Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meets periodically to review recent cleanup efforts and plans for additional remediation projects. A complete cleanup of the overall BAAP landscape may take another decade, depending on groundwater flows and the severity of contamination.

The Badger Reuse Plan anticipates the need for an ongoing forum for public input and discussion regarding day-to-day land use and operational decision-making by the owners and managers of the BAAP property. The Reuse Plan calls for the creation of an Oversight and Management Board to provide an opportunity for public review and comment on issues of mutual concern in an effort to assure implementation of the values and criteria of the Badger Reuse Plan. In 2005, through a Cooperative Intergovernmental Agreement negotiated between Sauk County, the local Towns of Sumpter and Merrimac, the State of Wisconsin, and the Ho-Chunk Nation, the Interim Badger Oversight and Management Commission (IOMC) was formed. The BAAP IOMC meets bimonthly to conduct discussions about issues ranging from public access and special events to the conveyance of a permanent rail transportation corridor across the BAAP property. Ultimately, following the completion of environmental remediation projects and the work of the Badger Restoration Advisory Board, IOMC will remain as the only regular community forum for BAAP land use.

Summary of Key Values Used to Determine Future Use

- The Badger property is managed as a single unit.
- The U.S. Army and/or the federal government complete the highest quality cleanup of the Badger property's contaminated land, water, building, and infrastructure in a timely manner. Unwanted buildings and infrastructure are removed. Any land transfers do not entail the transfer of unforeseen cleanup responsibilities or liabilities to any party other than the federal government.
- Buildings and infrastructure needed to support cleanup activities and other approved uses are maintained. Historically significant buildings and infrastructure are adequately preserved and protected.
- Use and activities at the Badger property contribute to the reconciliation and resolution of past conflicts involving the loss and contamination of the natural environment, the displacement of Native Americans and Euro-American farmers, and the effects of war.
- Educational, research, and recreational opportunities afforded by the Badger property's unique natural, agricultural, historical, and cultural resources are developed and made available to the public.
- Compatible agricultural opportunities at the Badger property contribute to our community. Research involving sustainable agriculture, history, and the social and natural sciences continue to be an important activity at Badger.
- Uses of the Badger property will protect and enhance the natural landscape, geological features, biological communities, plant and animal populations, and ecological processes of the property and surrounding properties.
- The Badger property's open space is a valuable part of our community's current and future character.
- Uses and activities at the Badger property contribute to the area's economic stability and sustainability and have a positive impact on local municipalities.

Source: Values, Criteria, and Concept Plan Map For the Reuse of The Badger Army Ammunition Plant Property March 28, 2001 by the Badger Reuse Committee

The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance

The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance was formed to support and encourage conservation of natural resources at the site of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant and the surrounding prairie. It focuses on education, research, ecological restoration, and community participation and continues to work on conservation issues.

The Alliance's goals are to:

- Ensure implementation of the Badger Reuse Plan.
- Advocate for and participate in implementation of all major provisions of the Badger Reuse Plan through active collaboration with all parties to the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Catalyze broad community involvement in Badger's future.
- Develop and share a coordinated set of outreach and education programs that inform, inspire, and draw in a wide diversity of organizations and individuals.
- Facilitate conservation of the broader Sauk Prairie landscape.
- Collaborate with other organizations, government agencies, and the private sector to promote and support protection of Sauk Prairie's rural character, landscapes and livelihoods.
- Create a stable, viable, financially sound organization.
- Generate the resources, build the support, and develop the skills necessary to ensure the Alliance's long-term success.

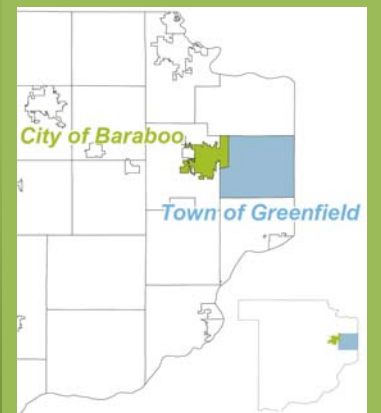
For more information, please see the Alliance's website at www.saukprairievision.org

Cooperative Boundary Agreement Between The City of Baraboo and Town of Greenfield

In 2008, the City of Baraboo and the Town of Greenfield signed a cooperative boundary agreement to guide their development and growth throughout the next decade. Cooperative boundary agreements are formal contracts between municipalities and/or towns setting ultimate boundaries and other provisions related to shared municipal services. These are legal, binding contracts for a period of 10 or more years. Such agreements can be useful because they limit sprawl and encourage higher-density development in towns and municipalities. This puts less stress on agricultural lands and other natural resources.

Both the City of Baraboo and the Town of Greenfield governments had set their priorities in their individual comprehensive plans and found the boundary agreement to be a useful tool in reaching their goals. While Baraboo anticipates a dramatic increase in the number of available housing, and Greenfield determined to protect its agricultural land and natural resources, both wanted to develop responsibly and orderly.

The agreement between Baraboo and Greenfield allows for three phases of boundary changes, occurring, at a minimum, at least ten years between the first and second phase, and at least seven years between the second and third phase. Each phase allows for a slightly expanded boundary from the phase before.



Source: Sauk County Planning and Zoning

Tribal Trust Lands

“Trust land” means that the federal government holds the title to tribal lands, the tribal government has legal authority over the land, and that the land is taken off local tax rolls.

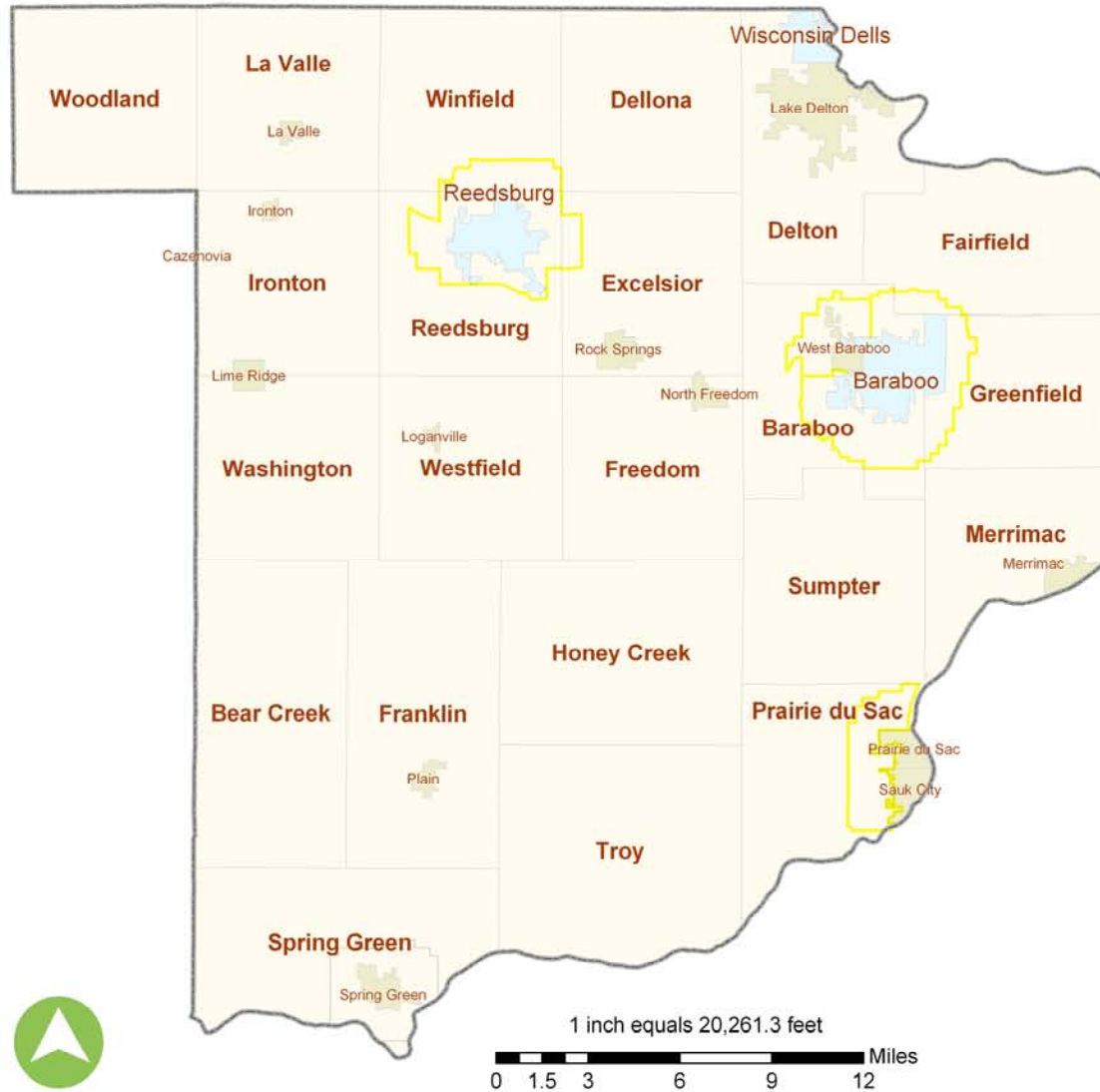
Use of the land is limited and land use changes usually require federal approval. The decision to designate an area – usually reservation land – as trust land is very carefully made and takes many factors into account.

In Sauk County, the Ho-Chunk Casino, built on tribal land, is the second largest employer in the county, employing approximately 1,300 people and contributing greatly to the local economy.



Source: Ho-Chunk Nation

Sauk County Comprehensive Plan



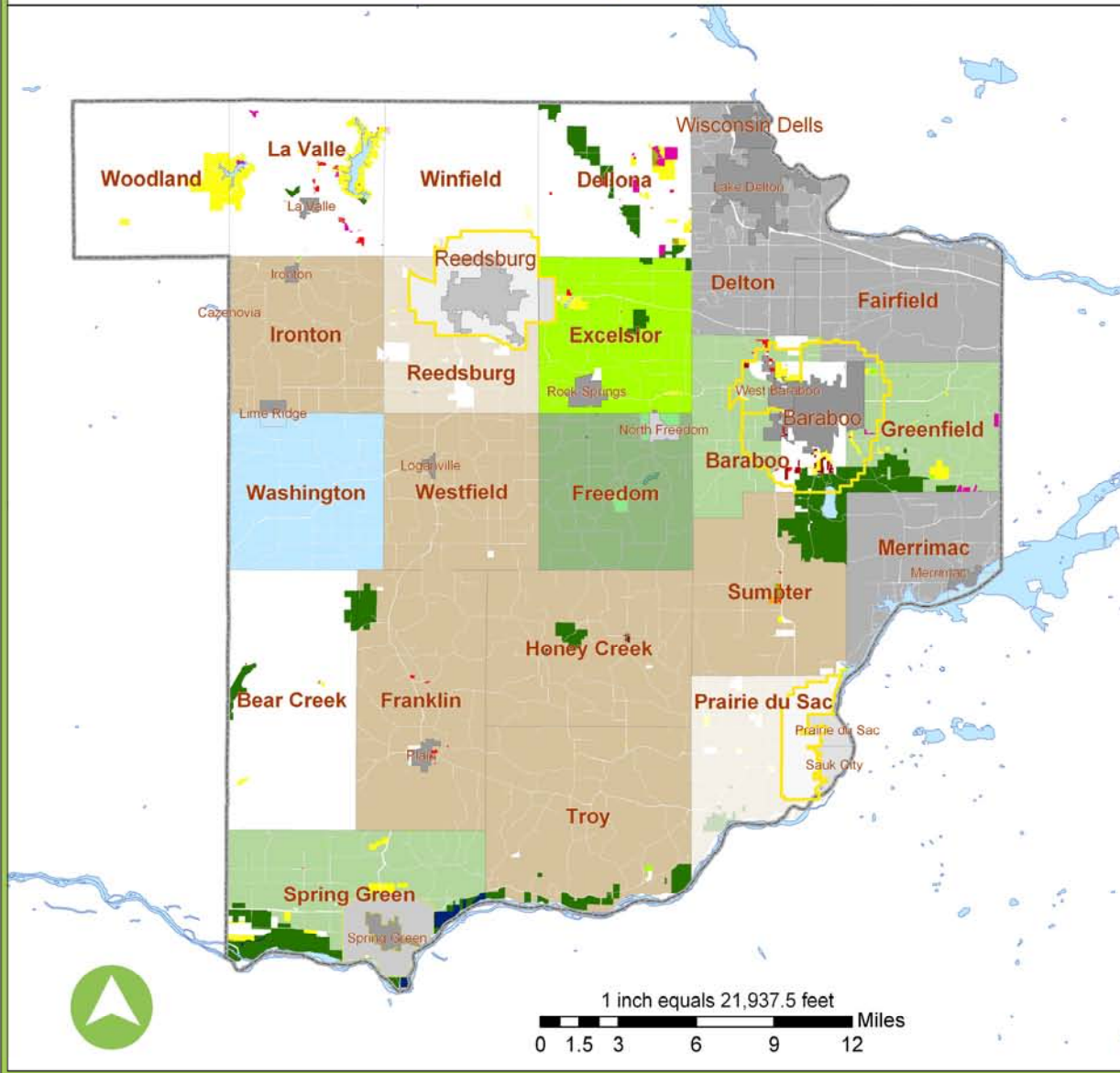
Sauk County Planning & Zoning Department
 West Square Building, Room 248,
 505 Broadway, Baraboo, WI 53913
 PHONE: (608) 355-3285, FAX: (608) 355-4440

- Sauk County
- Municipal Boundaries**
- City
- Town
- Village
- Extraterritorial Zoning



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Sauk County Comprehensive Plan



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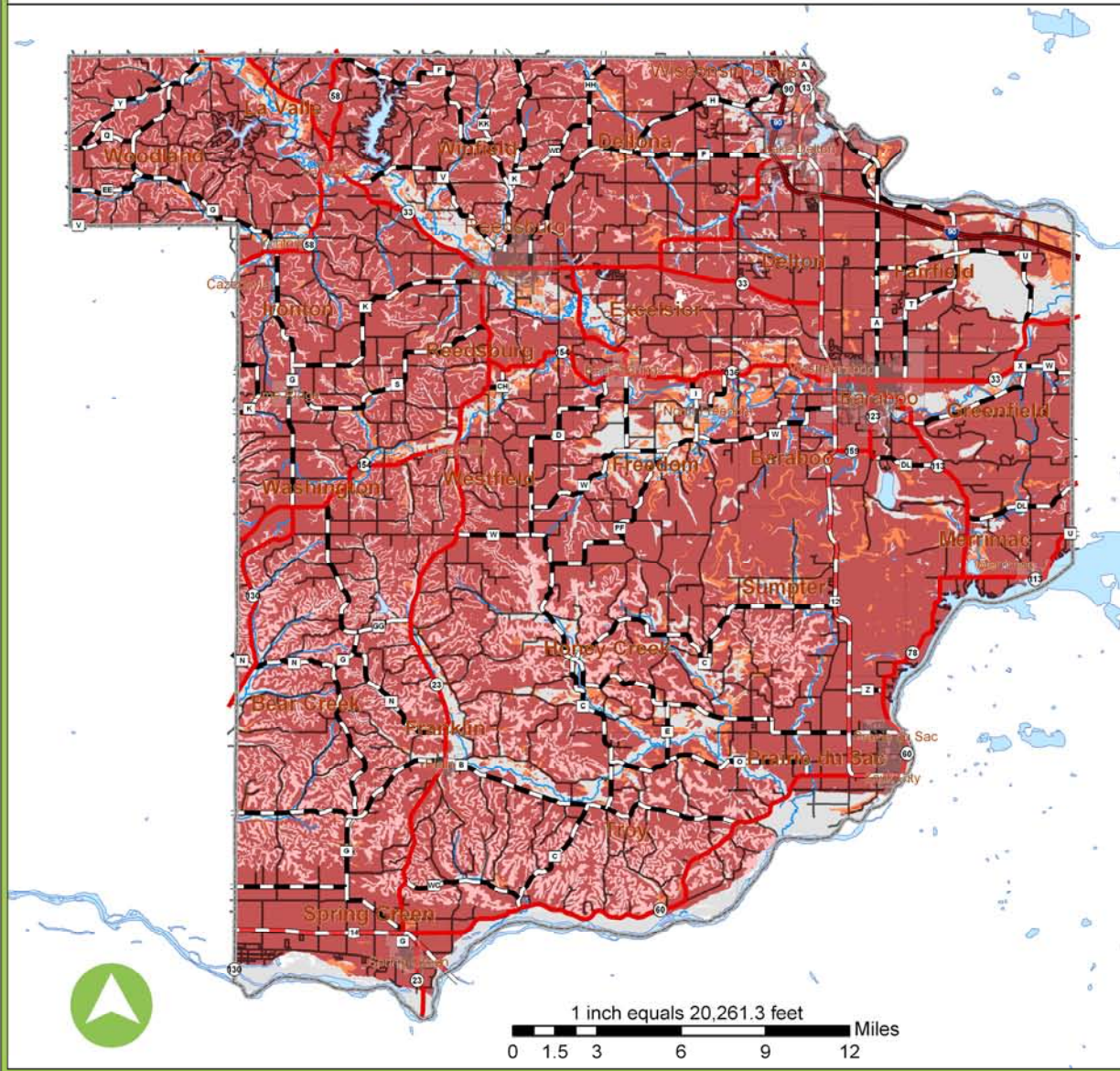
Zoning

- Agricultural District
- Exclusive Agricultural District
- Resource Conservancy District - 35
- Resource Conservancy District - 5
- Single-Family Residential District
- Multiple-Family District
- Commercial District
- Recreational - Commercial District
- Industrial District
- Wetland District
- Rural Community District
- State / County Owned Property
- Extraterritorial Zoning District
- Town Zoned
- Municipal Zoned
- Unzoned
- Extra Territorial Zoning



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New Technology Septic Probability (post 2000)

- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low

This map shows expanded septic suitability for "new technology" systems (A+4 mound) permitted in a change to state code-COMM 83 in 2000.



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Septic Suitability

11. Land Use

11.0 Amount, Type, Intensity and Net Density of Existing Land Uses

Land development in the county is closely related to the structure of Sauk County land use ordinances or township ordinances, and many times both. Figures 11.0 and 11.1 show the dominance of agricultural land use, which, when combined with agricultural forest and forest, accounts for 75% of land use in the county. However, rezoning into commercial and subdivision and residential is increasing. A strong and flexible zoning ordinance is important to both preserve farmland and encourage development in appropriate cases.

Development density increases in areas with ordinances allowing for construction on smaller lots. In Sauk County, these areas tend to be in the northern part of the county.

11.1 Analysis of Trends in Supply, Demand, and Price of Land

Sauk County is careful to ensure that county zoning allows for an adequate supply of land for various land uses in the county. Additionally, redevelopment helps to guarantee that the land is used effectively and efficiently, meeting communities' needs.

In general, when the economy is strong, the demand for land is greater and when the economy is weak the demand decreases. Land prices have been steadily increasing over the past decade.

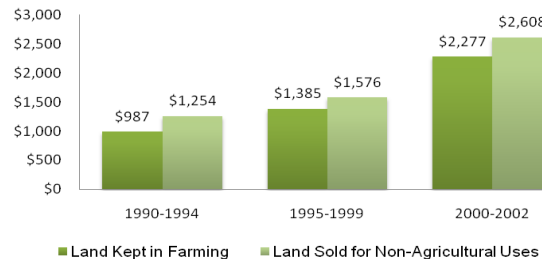
Figure 11.0

	Trends in Land Prices Per Acre			
	Residential	Commercial and Manufacturing	Agricultural and Forest	Undeveloped and Other
2003	\$25,750.21	\$29,706.50	\$598.14	\$1,332.26
2004	\$30,214.22	\$36,497.52	\$667.41	\$1,147.06
2005	\$32,306.14	\$37,275.96	\$579.82	\$1,328.99
2006	\$35,604.92	\$43,534.36	\$580.94	\$1,307.57
2007	\$37,980.46	\$44,644.91	\$615.18	\$1,367.25
2008	\$39,990.82	\$45,910.55	\$690.73	\$1,487.40

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Bureau of Equalization Statistical Report of Property Values

Figure 11.1

Average Value of Land: Comparing Ag Lands to Non-Ag Lands



Source: PATS

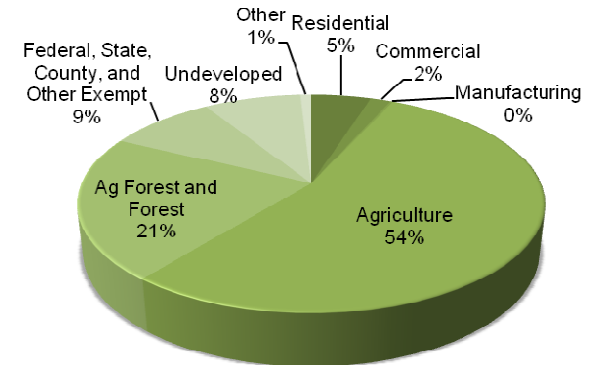
Figure 11.2

Sauk County Land Cover	
Land Cover	Acres
Urban/Developed	8,227
Agriculture	220,847
Grassland	75,661
Coniferous Forest	7,029
Deciduous Forest	187,865
Open Water	6,578
Wetlands	31,460
Barren	5,221

Source: Sauk County Planning and Zoning

Figure 11.3

Sauk County Land Use



Source: Sauk County Planning and Zoning

11.2 Opportunities for Redevelopment

There are several ongoing redevelopment plans throughout the county. These efforts are extremely beneficial. Not only are there numerous economic benefits, but redevelopment helps stop the spread of deterioration. Additionally, reuse of existing buildings helps to slow urban sprawl, which puts a strain on agricultural lands and natural resources.

11.3 Existing and Potential Land Use Conflicts

There are multiple current land use conflicts, and it is certain that there will be in the future. However, public participation and input during the planning process is very helpful in creating compromise between opposing viewpoints. Additionally, carefully considered zoning and land use policies help to ensure land is used in a responsible manner that benefits the community and its desires.

11.4 Projections of Future Land Uses

Figure 11.4 shows projected land use and the amount of acres needed for each use. It is clear that residential, commercial, manufacturing, undeveloped, and “other” uses will increase, while agriculture will decrease. Though it seems contradictory that the amount of undeveloped land would increase while residential, commercial, and manufacturing uses would also increase, this is due primarily to an anticipated increase in the amount of land classified as wasteland or swamp.

Figures 11.6 and 11.7 show the projected population change by municipality from 2000 to 2025. The majority of municipalities anticipate an increase in population, which will translate into an increase in demand for housing and residential land use. If land use is properly and carefully planned, the growth in residential land will not have a negative impact on agricultural or other uses.

In 2000, Sauk County had a population density of 65.9 people per square mile. That has increased to 71 people per square mile.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration

Sauk County is one of the top ten fastest growing counties in Wisconsin.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration

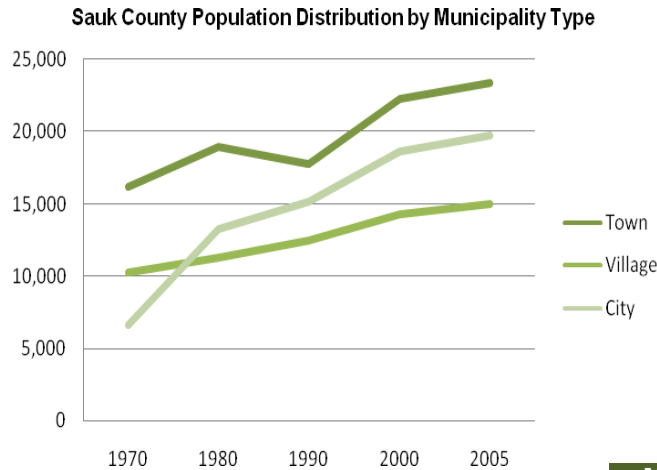
The majority of land in Sauk County is used for agriculture, an industry that accounts for \$587.4 million in total economic activity and provides about 5,600 jobs. Sauk County residents value many aspects of the agricultural industry. Clearly, agriculture is an important socio-economic activity in Sauk County. Even so, the number of acres used for agricultural purposes or classified as forest is projected to decrease in the coming years.

Figure 11.4

	Projected Land Use in Acres			
	Residential	Commercial and Manufacturing	Agricultural and Forest	Undeveloped and Other
2005	23,274	8,876	373,911	78,384
2010	25,005	9,542	348,682	82,163
2015	26,736	10,208	323,453	85,942
2020	28,467	10,874	298,224	89,721
2025	30,198	11,540	272,995	93,500
2030	31,929	12,206	247,766	97,279

Source: Wisconsin Department of Revenue Statement of Assessments

Figure 11.5



Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration

After close examination of housing and utility usage, it has been recognized that the 2000 census data for the Village of La Valle and City of Wisconsin Dells is inaccurate, distorting projections. The populations for both municipalities are actually anticipated to increase slightly.

Incorporating Local Comprehensive Plans: Common Themes Regarding Land Use

Maintain rural character through preserving farmland and open space while managing and promoting development in appropriate cases.

Figure 11.6

Municipal Population Projections 2000-2025

Municipalities with Decreasing Populations

Municipality	Percentage Change
Town of Bear Creek	-2.80%
Town of Franklin	-6.60%
Town of Freedom	-3.80%
Town of Honey Creek	-4.20%
Town of Reedsburg	-11.90%
Town of Troy	-15.50%
Town of Westfield	-11.60%
Village of La Valle	-36.50%
Village of North Freedom	-0.20%
Village of Rock Springs	-10.10%
City of Wisconsin Dells	-36.80%

Source: DOA Population Projections for Wisconsin Municipalities 2000-2025

Figure 11.7

Municipal Population Projections 2000-2025

Municipalities with Increasing Populations

Municipality	Percentage Change
Town of Baraboo	24.60%
Town of Dellona	79.00%
Town of Delton	42.70%
Town of Excelsior	18.90%
Town of Fairfield	20.30%
Town of Greenfield	27.10%
Town of Ironton	15.80%
Town of La Valle	32.50%
Town of Merrimac	22.10%
Town of Prairie du Sac	1.10%
Town of Spring Green	38.30%
Town of Sumpter	29.80%
Town of Washington	15.80%
Town of Winfield	22.70%
Town of Woodland	58.10%
Village of Cazenovia	0%
Town of Ironton	5.20%
Village of Lake Delton	77.40%
Village of Lime Ridge	0.60%
Village of Loganville	12.30%
Village of Merrimac	8.40%
Village of Plain	6.80%
Village of Prairie du Sac	31.50%
Village of Sauk City	5.30%
Village of Spring Green	4.60%
Village of West Baraboo	21.90%
City of Baraboo	17.30%
City of Reedsburg	40.90%

Source: DOA Population Projections for Wisconsin Municipalities 2000-2025

Incorporating Local Comprehensive Plans: Common Themes Regarding Agricultural Resources

Balance the preservation of valuable farmland and development growth. Promote economic opportunities that support farming and encourage future generations to continue farming.

Farmland Preservation

Sauk County has a strong farmland preservation strategies, employing many different techniques to help keep Sauk County's farmland. One of these is the Planned Unit Development (PUD) program that allows for smaller lots and more contiguous development. Figure 11.8 shows the impact that both the PUD program and the Farmland Preservation program have had on land use. In just the first few years of the PUD program, nearly 1,000 acres have been preserved.

Agriculture in Sauk County

Sauk County has a strong agricultural heritage. With some of the best soil resources in the United States, Sauk County residents have long valued the prime farmland and rural landscape they've known for decades. Changing socio-economic conditions have tested these values but agriculture still remains one of Sauk County's strongest assets and defining characteristics.

Sauk County offers a diverse array of agricultural products including corn, alfalfa, soybeans, alfalfa, soybeans, beef, poultry and fruit. Over 65% of Sauk County's acres are in agricultural use, or approximately 353,104 acres. This includes pasture, cropland and tree farms. In 2002, there were 1,673 farms in the county. While the number of 180 to 499 acre farms is dropping, the number of small farms under 180 acres is increasing. The average size of a farm in Sauk County was 211 acres with total farm employment reaching 44,962 in 2002. This does not include farm proprietors.

According to the Sauk County Development Corporation, agricultural production accounted for \$116.64 million in market value in 2002. Crop sales accounted for only 17% while livestock products made up the rest. The number of dairy herds in the county is decreasing, while the average size of the herds has increased. Sauk County is also home to large farming companies such as Foremost. There are farmer's markets, cheese factories and canning facilities throughout the county.

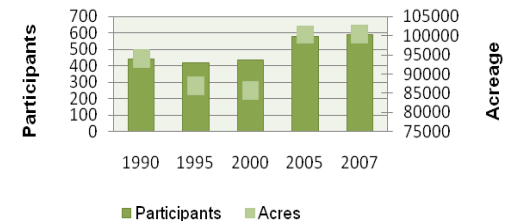
Figure 11.8

Sauk County Planned Unit Development			
Cluster Lot Program			
	2006	2007	Total
Number of Lots	19	10	29
Acres for Lots	65	45	110
Acres Preserved	650	320	970
Acres "Developed" Under 35-Acre Rule	665	350	1,015

Source: Sauk County Planning and Zoning

Figure 11.9

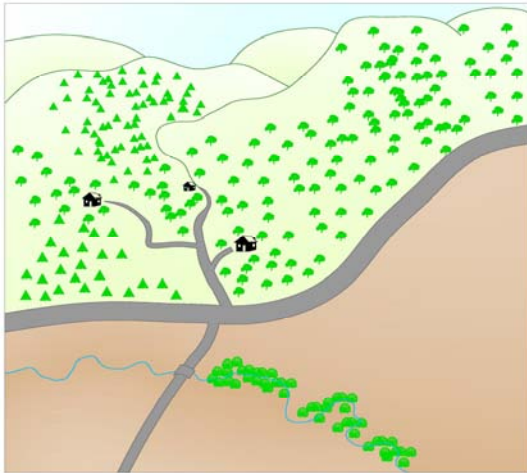
Farmland Preservation Participation and Acreage 1990-2007



Source: Sauk County Planning and Zoning

Smart Development

Growth in Sauk County does not mean that it is necessary to put pressure on agricultural or natural resources. Following are different development styles are compared, showing what is desirable and less desirable when it comes to preserving agricultural land and natural resources while allowing for development.



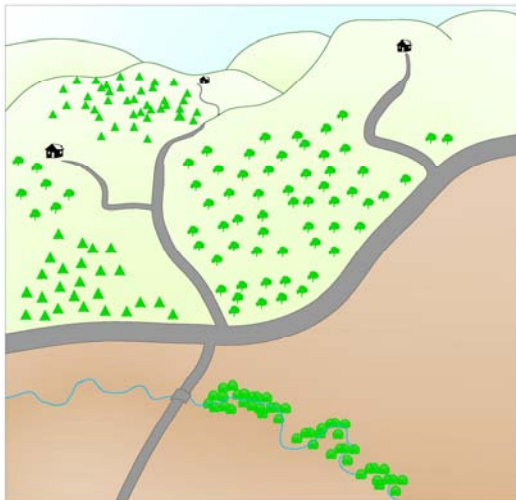
Desired

- Homes built in natural valley
- Existing vegetation maintained or replaced
- Driveways shared by residences
- Homes placed outside the forest core
- Reduction in road access points



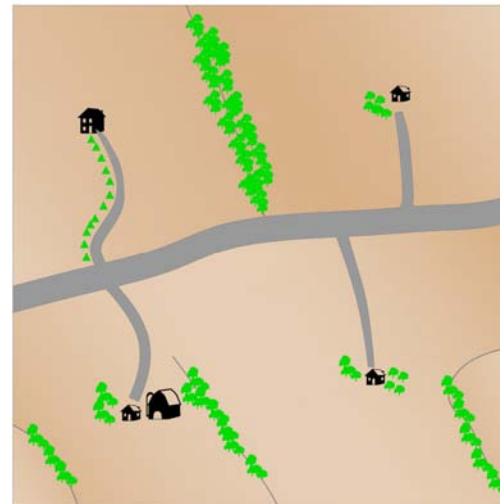
Desired

- Homes clustered along existing fence row
- Minimal land taken out of agriculture production
- Driveways shared by residences
- Some screening provided
- Homes placed away from farm lot/barnyard
- Reduction in road access points
- Cohesive agricultural fields



Less Desired

- Homes built on bluff tops
- Driveways placed on slopes greater than 12%
- Multiple driveways serving homes
- Homes visible from public right-of-way
- Excessive clearing for driveways
- Homes placed within the forest core



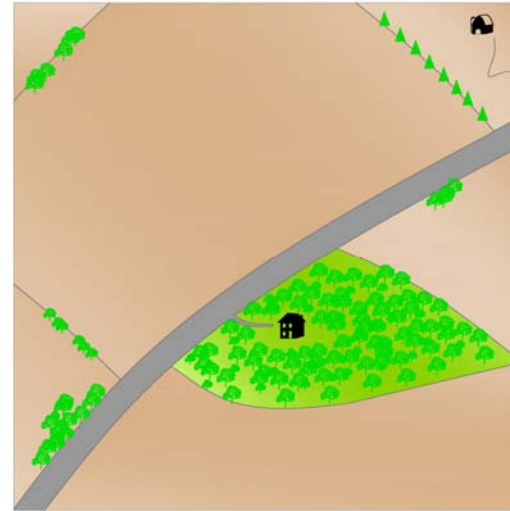
Less Desired

- Homes placed in the middle of agricultural fields
- Multiple driveways serving homes
- Homes visible from public right-of-way
- No screening for new development



Desired

- Homes clustered in woodlot, providing natural screening
- Minimal land taken out of agricultural production
- Driveways shared by residences
- Existing vegetation maintained or replaced
- Cohesive agricultural fields



Desired

- Home built on existing woodlot
- Minimal land taken out of agriculture production
- Existing vegetation maintained or replaced
- Cohesive agricultural fields



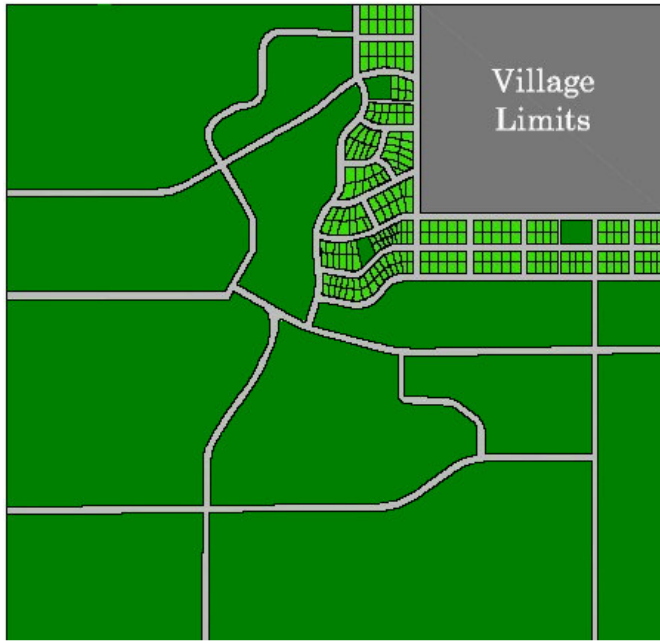
Less Desired

- Homes placed in the middle of agricultural fields
- Multiple driveways serving homes
- Homes visible from the public right-of-way
- No screening for new development



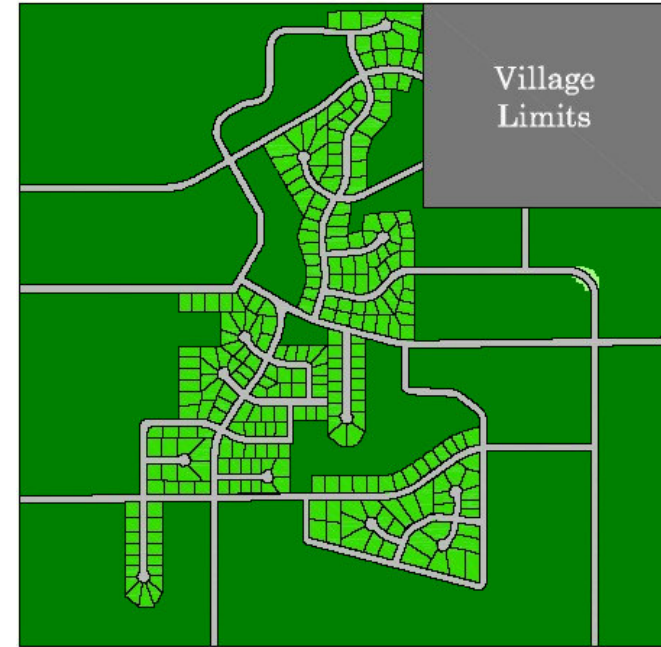
Less Desired

- Home built on agricultural field
- No screening for new development



Desired

- Interconnected road enhancing mobility
- Inclusion of sidewalks connected to the Village
- Dedicated park space
- Development directly adjacent to the Village thereby avoiding the “leap frog” effect
- Village sanitary sewer service provided or a community septic system that can be ‘hooked’ into the Village at a later date
- Smaller lots typical of the average lot size in the Village



Less Desired

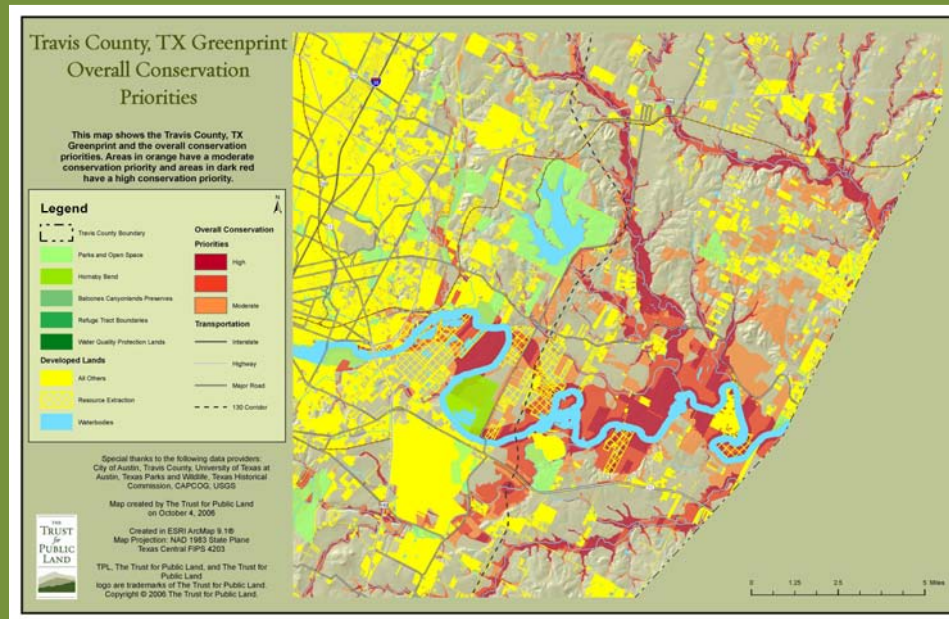
- Lack of interconnected roads, limiting mobility
- No sidewalks
- Road separation from the Village road system
- Use of County roads to gain access to the Village and downtown
- Little or no recreational space/parks
- Development not contiguous to the Village
- Septic systems on each individual lot
- Excessively large lots not typical of urban development

Greenprinting: Using Technology to Coordinate Land Use Priorities

Greenprinting is a growing trend in land use planning that uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with citizen input to identify conservation priorities. This technique helps to increase efficiency and promotes the responsible use of resources, coordinating conservation efforts and ensuring that various programs are not duplicating efforts. Not only are conservation goals and actions clarified, but valuable time and money are spent effectively. Additionally, the geographic relationship between resources is emphasized in ways that are more difficult to clearly express using other methods of conveying information. For example, by mapping out current trails and recreational areas, it is possible to quickly and easily determine whether there are areas of the county that are underserved or places where trails could be connected, etc. The same holds true for conservation maps, such as the Travis County map below, which show important habitats for threatened species and emphasize potential areas that could be enhanced or serve as a habitat corridor.

By discussing objectives with community leaders, GIS specialists are able to map out locations that meet the most number of goals. This coordinates efforts, allowing program leaders to target those locations, making them a conservation priority.

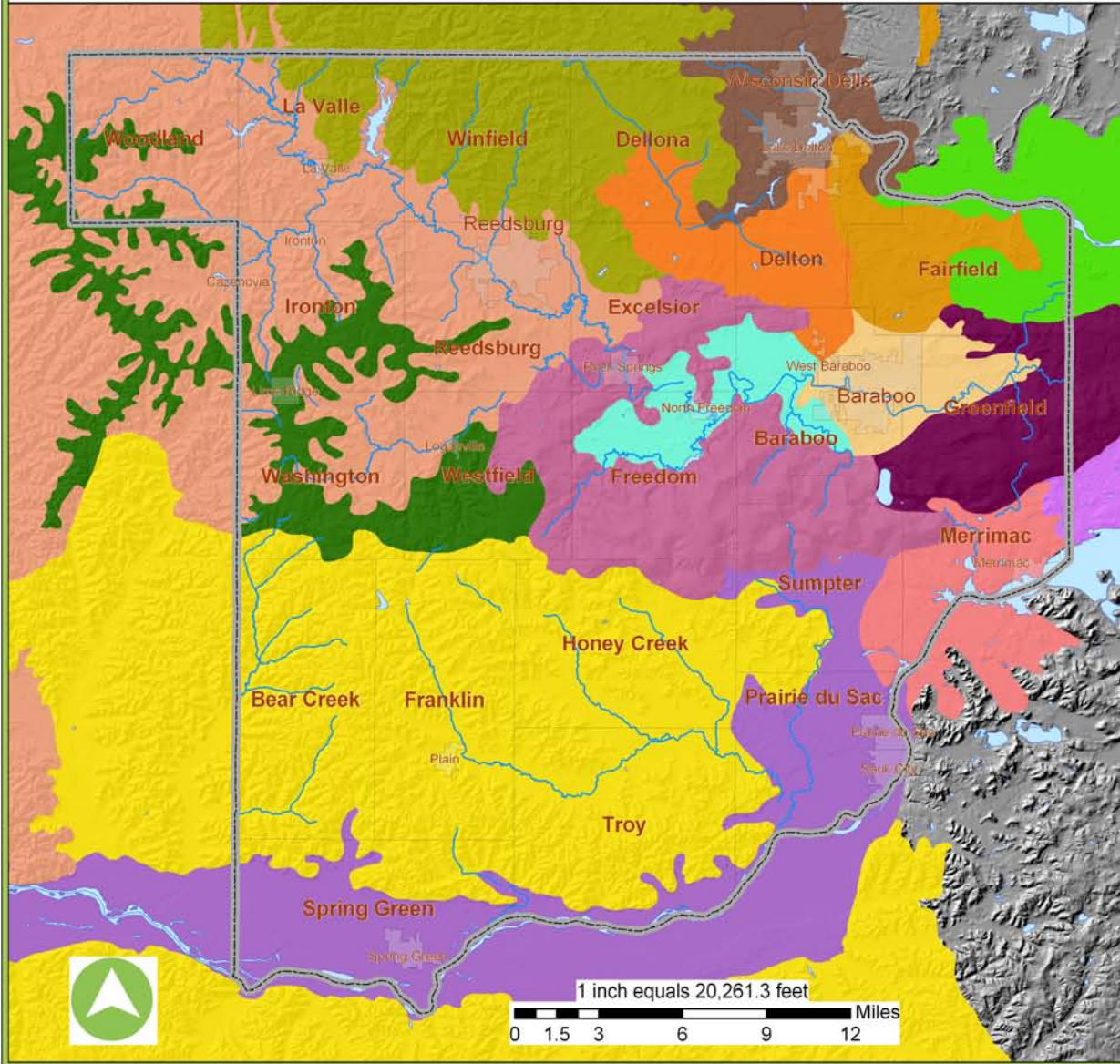
Technology also allows the maps to be manipulated to reflect weighted goals. For example, if a community places the greatest value on improving water quality, parcels most vital to achieving this goal are given greater importance. Other possible goals include wildlife or resource conservation and trail connectivity. By identifying and clearly mapping these weighted objectives and relevant parcels, limited finances are used in the most effective way.



Source: The Trust for Public Land

Sauk County Comprehensive Plan

11-1

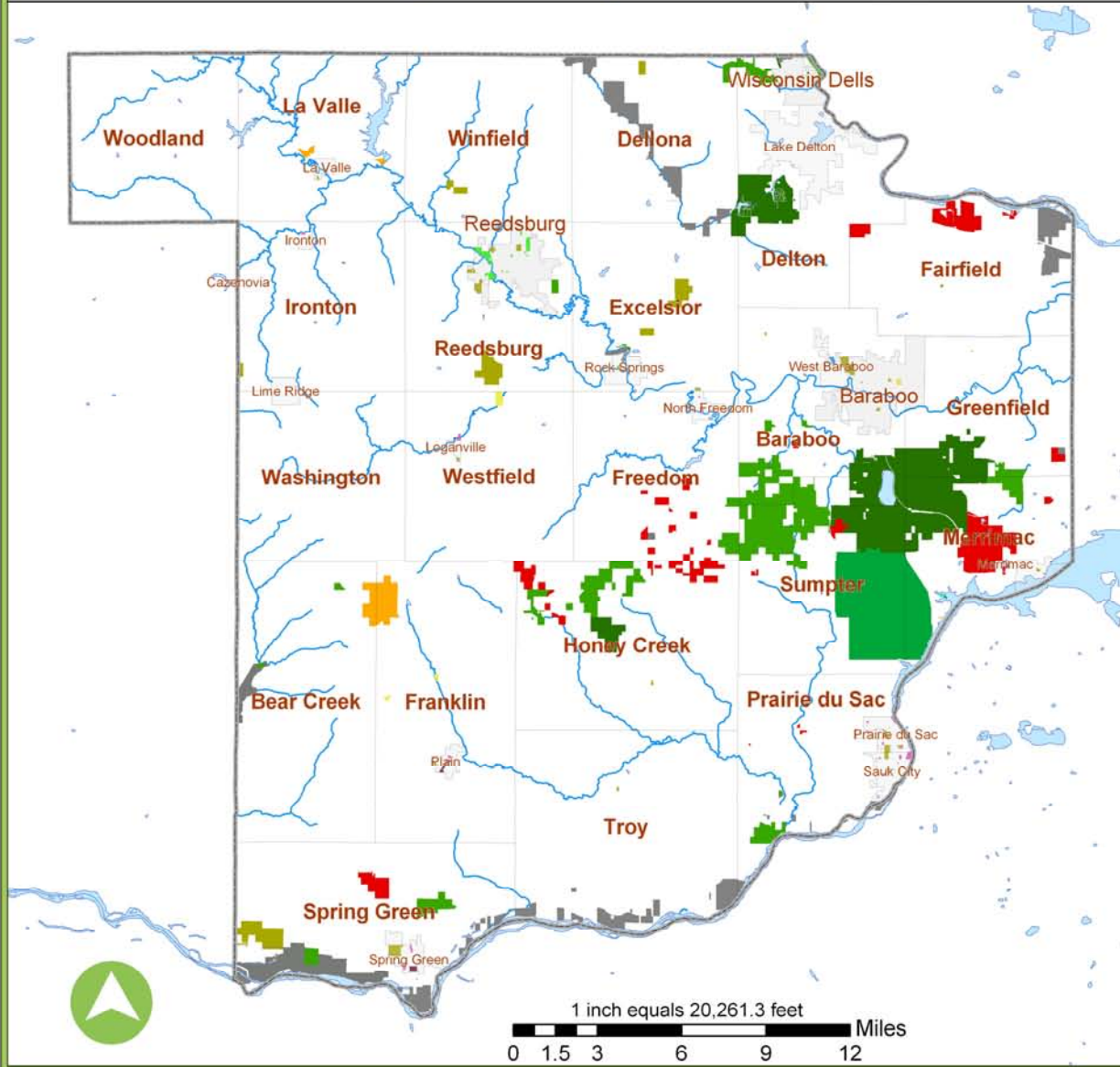


Land Type



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 West Square Building, Room 248,
 505 Broadway, Baraboo, WI 53913
 PHONE: (608) 355-3285, FAX: (608) 355-4440

- County Open Space
- Federal Open Space
- Private Open Space
- State Natural Area
- State Open Space
- SchoolLands
- State Park
- County Park
- Rivers / Streams
- Open Water

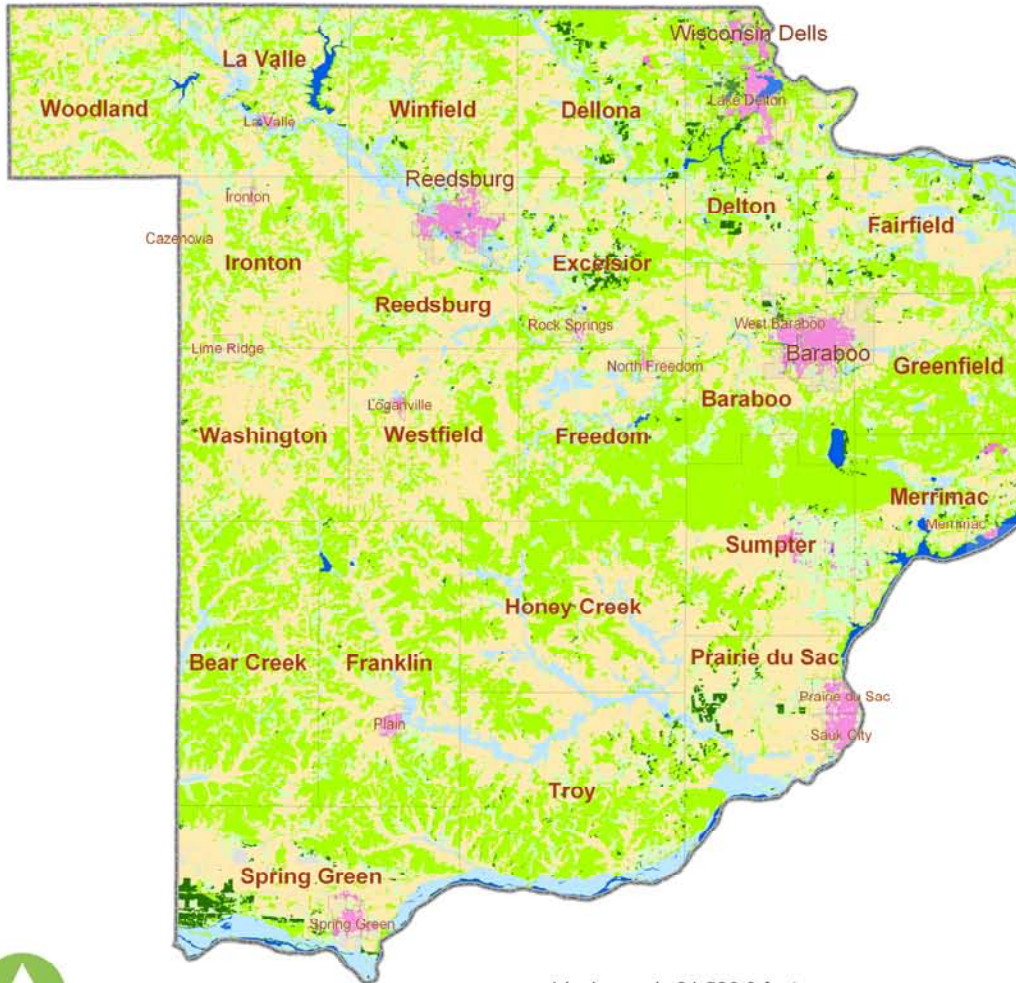


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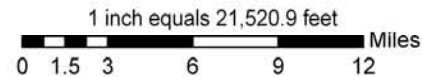
Public Lands

Sauk County Comprehensive Plan



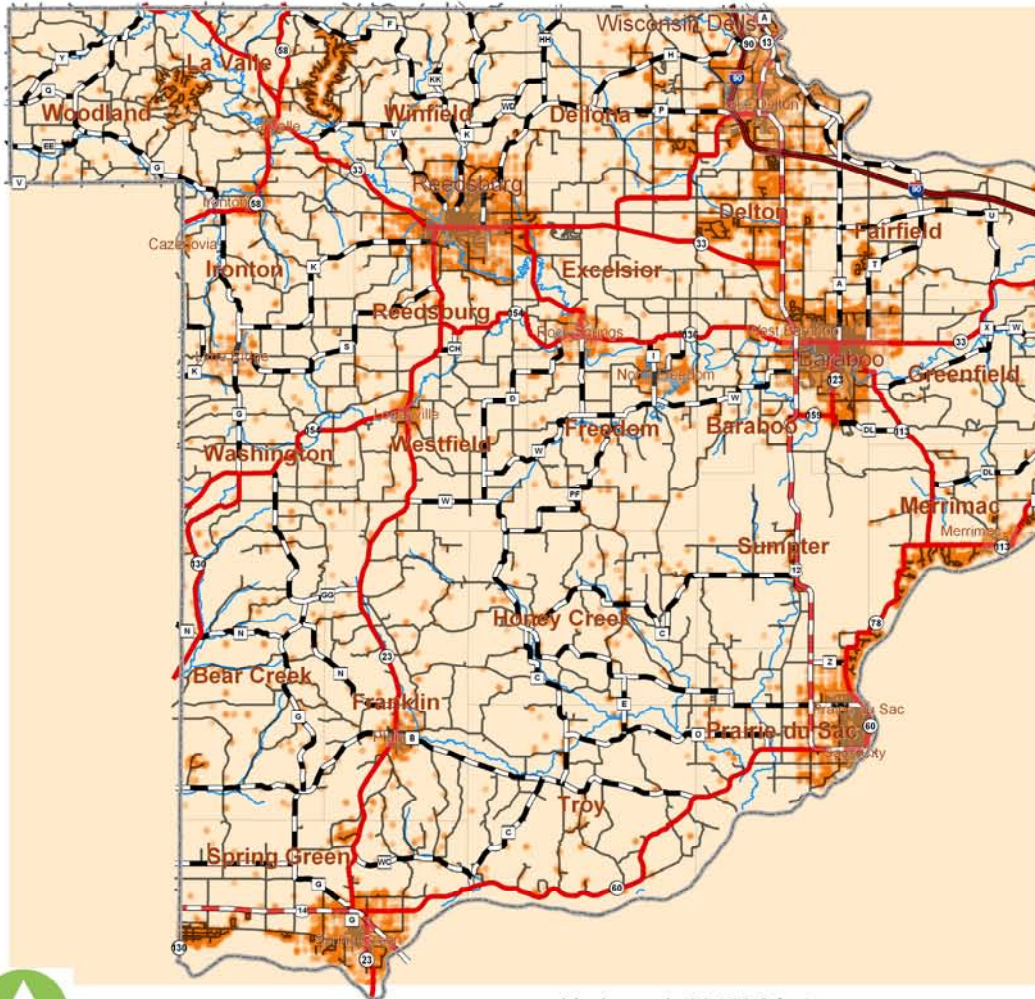
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- Urban / Developed
- Agriculture
- Grassland
- Coniferous Forest
- Deciduous Forest
- Open Water
- Wetlands
- Barren



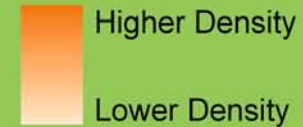
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Development Value



This map illustrates development density in Sauk County, WI since 1987. A darker shade of orange indicates a higher concentration of developed parcels, likewise, a lighter shade of orange indicates a lower concentration of developed parcels. Based upon future land use designations in locally adopted comprehensive plans, it is anticipated that these development patterns may continue and that areas of a darker shade of orange may continue develop at a denser rate.

Incorporated areas such as cities and villages will generally continue to redevelop lands within and expand outward. Specific areas designated for outward expansion are expressed in each locally adopted comprehensive plan.

This map is not intended to designate specific future land uses. Rather it recognizes the general location of future development and anticipated increases in density. Specific information about future land use types such as residential, commercial, industrial etc. can be found in the locally adopted comprehensive plan.

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