



### 3. UNITS OF GOVERNMENT

In Sauk County, there are 3 cities, 14 villages, and 22 towns. A portion of both the City of Wisconsin Dells and the Village of Cazenovia are also in other counties. The civil divisions are listed in Table 2-1.

**Table 2-1. Civil Divisions; Sauk County**

| Town           | Village        | City                |
|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Baraboo        | Cazenovia [1]  | Baraboo             |
| Bear Creek     | Ironton        | Reedsburg           |
| Dellona        | La Valle       | Wisconsin Dells [1] |
| Delton         | Lake Delton    |                     |
| Excelsior      | Lime Ridge     |                     |
| Fairfield      | Loganville     |                     |
| Franklin       | Merrimac       |                     |
| Freedom        | North Freedom  |                     |
| Greenfield     | Plain          |                     |
| Honey Creek    | Prairie du Sac |                     |
| Ironton        | Rock Springs   |                     |
| La Valle       | Sauk City      |                     |
| Merrimac       | Spring Green   |                     |
| Prairie du Sac | West Baraboo   |                     |
| Reedsburg      |                |                     |
| Spring Green   |                |                     |
| Sumpter        |                |                     |
| Troy           |                |                     |
| Washington     |                |                     |
| Westfield      |                |                     |
| Winfield       |                |                     |
| Woodland       |                |                     |

Notes:

1. Municipality located in Sauk County and another county

### 4. POPULATION

In 2010, the resident population in the county was 61,976 and six years later it had grown to an estimated 63,317 persons, representing a 2.3 percent increase during that time period, and a 34.8% increase since 1990 (Table 2-2). The city of Baraboo is the most populous municipality in the county, accounting for almost 19 percent of the countywide population. In 2016, approximately 37 percent of the population lived in towns, with 34 percent and 28 percent living in cities and villages, respectively.

Based on projections prepared by the Demographic Service Center, Wisconsin Department of Administration, the county’s population is expected to increase to 77,815 residents by 2040 (Table 2-3). While most of the municipalities are expected to gain population over this period, the towns of Franklin and Westfield, along with the Villages of Ironton, La Valle, Lake Delton, Lime Ridge, and Rock Springs are expected to lose residents. The City of Reedsburg is expected to experience the largest numerical gain (3,600 residents) and the Village of Cazenovia the largest percent change (166.67%).

**Table 2-2. Population; Sauk County and Civil Divisions: 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2016**

|                     | 1990          | 2000          | 2010          | 2016          | Percent Change |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|                     | Count         | Count         | Count         | Estimate      | 1990-2017      |
| <b>Town</b>         |               |               |               |               |                |
| Baraboo             | 1,503         | 1,828         | 1,672         | 1,802         | 19.9           |
| Bear Creek          | 521           | 497           | 595           | 583           | 11.9           |
| Dellona             | 768           | 1,199         | 1,552         | 1,395         | 81.6           |
| Delton              | 1,599         | 2,024         | 2,391         | 2,381         | 48.9           |
| Excelsior           | 1,194         | 1,410         | 1,575         | 1,654         | 38.5           |
| Fairfield           | 826           | 1,023         | 1,077         | 931           | 12.7           |
| Franklin            | 668           | 696           | 652           | 702           | 5.1            |
| Freedom             | 422           | 416           | 447           | 431           | 2.1            |
| Greenfield          | 758           | 911           | 932           | 989           | 30.5           |
| Honey Creek         | 725           | 736           | 733           | 795           | 9.7            |
| Ironton             | 585           | 650           | 491           | 660           | 12.8           |
| La Valle            | 1,005         | 1,203         | 660           | 491           | -51.1          |
| Merrimac            | 737           | 868           | 942           | 889           | 20.6           |
| Prairie du Sac      | 1,105         | 1,138         | 1,144         | 1,202         | 8.8            |
| Reedsburg           | 1,367         | 1,236         | 1,293         | 1,268         | -7.2           |
| Spring Green        | 1,329         | 1,585         | 1,697         | 1,660         | 24.9           |
| Sumpter             | 747           | 1,021         | 1,191         | 1,211         | 62.1           |
| Troy                | 867           | 773           | 794           | 775           | -10.6          |
| Washington          | 798           | 904           | 1,007         | 1,033         | 29.4           |
| Westfield           | 578           | 611           | 571           | 639           | 10.6           |
| Winfield            | 649           | 752           | 856           | 916           | 41.1           |
| Woodland            | 584           | 783           | 790           | 1,054         | 80.5           |
| <b>Village</b>      |               |               |               |               |                |
| Cazenovia [1]       | 0             | 0             | 12            | 4             | N/A            |
| Ironton             | 200           | 250           | 660           | 491           | 145.5          |
| Lake Delton         | 1,466         | 1,982         | 2,914         | 2,961         | 102.0          |
| La Valle            | 446           | 326           | 367           | 356           | -20.2          |
| Lime Ridge          | 152           | 169           | 162           | 181           | 19.1           |
| Loganville          | 228           | 276           | 300           | 258           | 13.2           |
| Merrimac            | 392           | 416           | 420           | 552           | 40.8           |
| North Freedom       | 591           | 649           | 701           | 665           | 12.5           |
| Plain               | 691           | 792           | 773           | 788           | 14.0           |
| Prairie du Sac      | 2,546         | 3,231         | 3,972         | 4,218         | 65.7           |
| Rock Springs        | 432           | 425           | 362           | 385           | -10.9          |
| Sauk City           | 3,019         | 3,109         | 3,410         | 3,467         | 14.8           |
| Spring Green        | 1,283         | 1,444         | 1,628         | 1,662         | 29.5           |
| West Baraboo        | 1,021         | 1,248         | 1,414         | 1,771         | 73.5           |
| <b>City</b>         |               |               |               |               |                |
| Baraboo             | 9,203         | 10,711        | 12,048        | 12,067        | 31.1           |
| Reedsburg           | 5,834         | 7,827         | 9,200         | 9,515         | 63.1           |
| Wisconsin Dells [1] | 136           | 106           | 233           | 124           | -8.8           |
| <b>Sauk County</b>  | <b>46,975</b> | <b>55,225</b> | <b>61,976</b> | <b>63,317</b> | <b>34.8</b>    |

Source: US Census Bureau (1990, 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census and 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)

1. Municipality located in Sauk County and another county; data is for Sauk County only

**Table 2-3. Population Projections; Sauk County and Civil Divisions: 2020-2040**

|                     | 2010<br>Census | 2020<br>Projection | 2025<br>Projection | 2030<br>Projection | 2035<br>Projection | 2040<br>Projection | Percent Change<br>2016-2040 |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Town</b>         |                |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                             |
| Baraboo             | 1,672          | 1,760              | 1,815              | 1,850              | 1,835              | 1,800              | 7.66                        |
| Bear Creek          | 595            | 655                | 695                | 730                | 750                | 755                | 26.89                       |
| Dellona             | 1,552          | 1,815              | 1,995              | 2,150              | 2,260              | 2,335              | 50.45                       |
| Delton              | 2,391          | 2,725              | 2,940              | 3,130              | 3,250              | 3,320              | 38.85                       |
| Excelsior           | 1,575          | 1,730              | 1,840              | 1,920              | 1,960              | 1,975              | 25.40                       |
| Fairfield           | 1,077          | 1,145              | 1,195              | 1,235              | 1,245              | 1,240              | 15.13                       |
| Franklin            | 652            | 665                | 675                | 680                | 665                | 640                | -1.84                       |
| Freedom             | 447            | 490                | 515                | 535                | 545                | 545                | 21.92                       |
| Greenfield          | 932            | 1,025              | 1,085              | 1,135              | 1,155              | 1,160              | 24.46                       |
| Honey Creek         | 733            | 765                | 780                | 795                | 785                | 765                | 4.37                        |
| Ironton             | 491            | 700                | 725                | 745                | 745                | 735                | 49.69                       |
| La Valle            | 660            | 1,450              | 1,540              | 1,620              | 1,655              | 1,670              | 153.03                      |
| Merrimac            | 942            | 1,045              | 1,110              | 1,170              | 1,195              | 1,205              | 27.92                       |
| Prairie du Sac      | 1,144          | 1,185              | 1,215              | 1,235              | 1,220              | 1,195              | 4.46                        |
| Reedsburg           | 1,293          | 1,345              | 1,380              | 1,400              | 1,385              | 1,355              | 4.80                        |
| Spring Green        | 1,697          | 1,855              | 1,955              | 2,035              | 2,070              | 2,075              | 22.27                       |
| Sumpter             | 1,191          | 1,320              | 1,410              | 1,495              | 1,535              | 1,560              | 30.98                       |
| Troy                | 794            | 840                | 865                | 885                | 880                | 860                | 8.31                        |
| Washington          | 1,007          | 1,095              | 1,150              | 1,200              | 1,220              | 1,225              | 21.65                       |
| Westfield           | 571            | 575                | 580                | 580                | 560                | 540                | -5.43                       |
| Winfield            | 856            | 950                | 1,015              | 1,065              | 1,095              | 1,105              | 29.09                       |
| Woodland            | 790            | 870                | 920                | 960                | 980                | 985                | 24.68                       |
| <b>Village</b>      |                |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                             |
| Cazenovia [1]       | 12             | 15                 | 15                 | 20                 | 20                 | 20                 | 166.67                      |
| Ironton             | 660            | 270                | 280                | 290                | 290                | 285                | -56.82                      |
| Lake Delton         | 2914           | 3,375              | 3,695              | 3,985              | 4,185              | 4,320              | 48.25                       |
| La Valle            | 367            | 365                | 370                | 370                | 360                | 345                | -5.99                       |
| Lime Ridge          | 162            | 165                | 165                | 170                | 165                | 160                | -1.23                       |
| Loganville          | 300            | 325                | 340                | 355                | 360                | 360                | 20.00                       |
| Merrimac            | 420            | 450                | 465                | 480                | 480                | 475                | 13.10                       |
| North Freedom       | 701            | 725                | 750                | 770                | 765                | 755                | 7.70                        |
| Plain               | 773            | 805                | 830                | 845                | 840                | 825                | 6.73                        |
| Prairie du Sac      | 3,972          | 4,545              | 4,910              | 5,245              | 5,445              | 5,570              | 40.23                       |
| Rock Springs        | 362            | 305                | 300                | 285                | 270                | 245                | -32.32                      |
| Sauk City           | 3,410          | 3,715              | 3,910              | 4,060              | 4,115              | 4,115              | 20.67                       |
| Spring Green        | 1,628          | 1,790              | 1,905              | 1,990              | 2,030              | 2,045              | 25.61                       |
| West Baraboo        | 1,414          | 1,545              | 1,640              | 1,715              | 1,750              | 1,765              | 24.82                       |
| <b>City</b>         |                |                    |                    |                    |                    |                    |                             |
| Baraboo             | 12,048         | 12,980             | 13,660             | 14,230             | 14,440             | 14,450             | 19.94                       |
| Reedsburg           | 9,200          | 10,500             | 11,330             | 12,080             | 12,530             | 12,800             | 39.13                       |
| Wisconsin Dells [1] | 233            | 195                | 210                | 220                | 230                | 235                | 0.85                        |
| <b>Sauk County</b>  | <b>61,976</b>  | <b>68,075</b>      | <b>n/a</b>         | <b>75,660</b>      | <b>n/a</b>         | <b>77,815</b>      | <b>25.56</b>                |

Source: US Census Bureau (2010 U.S. Census and Wisconsin DOA Population Projections)

Notes:

1. Municipality located in Sauk County and another county; data is for Sauk County only

According to the 2016 U.S. Census American Community Survey estimates, the overwhelming majority of people in Sauk County reported that they were white. About 95 percent of the residents in Sauk County reported to be white, not of Hispanic origins. This compares to 86 percent statewide.

## 5. HOUSING

In 2016, there were an estimated 29,864 dwelling units in the County. Of this total, 25,263 were occupied (Table 2-4). Approximately 7 out of 10 occupied residences were single family (both attached and detached units) and over 6 percent were mobile homes. In 2016, approximately 29 percent of the dwelling units were built at least 40 years ago (Table 2-5).

## 6. TRANSPORTATION

### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Interstate 90/94 is the only interstate highway in Sauk County (Map 2). It follows the Wisconsin River in the northeast corner of the county and provides access to the east and west. US Highway 12 is a major north south connector through Sauk City, Baraboo, and Wisconsin Dells. US Highway 14 traverses the southernmost part of the county and connects Spring Green to Madison to the east and Richland Center to the west. The other key regional highways include STH 23, STH 33, STH 60, and STH 154. The remaining roads consist of county highways and local roads. Given the varied topography, roadways often follow rivers and streams. There was nearly 1,800 miles of roads in the county (Table 2-6).

### AIR TRANSPORTATION

Commercial passenger service is available at Dane County Regional Airport in Madison, General Mitchell International Airport in the Milwaukee metropolitan area, O'Hare International Airport and Midway International Airport in the Chicago metropolitan area, and Rockford International Airport in Rockford, Illinois.

### RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Amtrak maintains a station in the city of Wisconsin Dells, which provides access to Milwaukee and Minneapolis/St. Paul and points beyond. In 2010, Wisconsin and Southern Railroad operated a line as depicted in Map 1, which served the villages of La Valle, North Freedom, Merrimac, Prairie du Sac, Rock Springs, and Sauk City and the cities of Baraboo and Reedsburg.

**Table 2-4. Occupied Housing Types; Sauk County: 2016**

| Units in Structure  | Number | Percent |
|---------------------|--------|---------|
| 1-unit, detached    | 20,116 | 67.4    |
| 1-unit, attached    | 847    | 2.8     |
| 2 units             | 1,658  | 5.6     |
| 3 or 4 units        | 1,123  | 3.8     |
| 5 to 9 units        | 1,666  | 5.6     |
| 10 to 19 units      | 1,093  | 3.7     |
| 20 or more units    | 1,403  | 4.7     |
| Mobile home         | 1,921  | 6.4     |
| Boat, RV, van, etc. | 37     | 0.1     |
| Total housing units | 29,864 | 100     |
| Occupied units      | 25,263 | 84.6    |

Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

Notes:

1. Total may not add up to 100 due to rounding

**Table 2-5. Age of Occupied Housing Stock; Sauk County: 2000**

| Year Structure Built | Number | Percent   |
|----------------------|--------|-----------|
| 2014 to Dec 2016     | 114    | 0.4       |
| 2010 to 2013         | 448    | 1.5       |
| 2000 to 2009         | 5,181  | 17.3      |
| 1990 to 1999         | 6,411  | 21.5      |
| 1980 to 1989         | 3,272  | 11.0      |
| 1970 to 1979         | 3,825  | 12.8      |
| 1960 to 1969         | 1,749  | 5.9       |
| 1940 to 1959         | 2,701  | 5.1       |
| 1939 or earlier      | 6,163  | 3.9       |
| Total                | 29,864 | 100.0 [1] |

Source: 2016 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, US Census Bureau

Notes:

1. Total may not add up to 100 due to rounding

**Table 2-6. Road Network by Type**

| Type of Road            | Distance in Miles |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Interstate System       | 15                |
| State Highway           | 206               |
| County Highway          | 302               |
| Local Roads and Streets | 1,255             |
| Other                   | 20                |
| Total                   | 1,798             |

## 7. LAND USE

### FARMLAND

Approximately 61 percent of the land area in Sauk County is used for agricultural purposes. In 2012, there were 1,665 farms in the County, a 13 percent decrease since 2007 (Table 2-7). Over that same period, the number of acres in agricultural production decreased about 7 percent from 358,919 acres in 2007 to 332,649 in 2012. The market value of products sold in 2012 reached just over \$207 million, which represents a 15 percent increase over 2007.

**Table 2-7. Agriculture at a Glance; Sauk County: 2007 and 2012**

|  | 2012          | 2007          | Percent Change |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Number of farms                                | 1,665         | 1,923         | -13            |
| Land in farms (acres)                          | 332,649 acres | 358,919 acres | -7             |
| Average size of farms                          | 200 acres     | 187 acres     | +7             |
| Market value of products sold                  | \$207,053,000 | \$179,819,000 | + 15           |
| Average market value of products sold per farm | \$124,356     | \$93,510      | + 33           |

Source: 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture

Sales of livestock and livestock products accounted for 66 percent of market value, while crop sales accounted for only 34 percent. The number of dairy herds in Sauk County has been declining while the size of the remaining herds is increasing. Sauk County is the second largest pork-producing county in the state. There are also sizable sales volume of corn, forage land, cow milk, soybeans, grains, seeds, and legumes.

In addition, Sauk County has many agricultural business headquarters including Foremost Farms, Equity Livestock, Accelerated Genetics, and the Wisconsin Holstein Association. The county also has three cheese plants; Cedar Grove Cheese in Plain, Carr Valley Cheese in Ironton, and Saputo Cheese in Reedsburg. Lakeside Foods operates a large vegetable canning and freezing plant in Reedsburg.

### FORESTLAND

The U.S. Forest Service identifies approximately 211,000 acres of the 544,640 acres in Sauk County as wooded land. Approximately 95 percent of the Sauk County forest resource is privately owned. Baraboo Hills is the largest continuous stretch of woodland in Sauk County and is regarded as an excellent resource for ecologists seeking to protect habitat for rarer plants, birds, and animals in the area.

### RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL LAND USES

Cities and villages account for 38.2 square miles, or less than 5 percent of the total land area of the county (Table 2-8). There has been a steady growth in the residential and urban areas of the County. The City of Reedsburg and Village of Prairie du Sac have shown the greatest growth. Numerous mobile home parks are present throughout the county. Small-unincorporated communities are situated throughout the county, especially around some of the larger lakes such as Lake Redstone, Lake Virginia, and Dutch Hollow Lake. Sauk County has a

**Table 2-8. Municipalities Sorted by Land Area**

| Municipality              | Square Miles |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Village of Loganville     | 0.2          |
| Village of Ironton        | 0.3          |
| Village of La Valle       | 0.5          |
| Village of Plain          | 0.7          |
| Village of W. Baraboo     | 0.7          |
| Village of North Freedom  | 0.9          |
| Village of Lime Ridge     | 1.0          |
| Village of Spring Green   | 1.3          |
| Village of Rock Springs   | 1.4          |
| Village of Merrimac       | 1.4          |
| Village of Prairie du Sac | 1.4          |
| City of Wisconsin Dells   | 2.0          |
| Village of Cazenovia      | 2.7          |
| City of Reedsburg         | 5.2          |
| City of Baraboo           | 5.6          |
| Village of Sauk city      | 6.3          |
| Village of Lake Delton    | 6.6          |
| Town of Merrimac          | 26.3         |
| Town of Greenfield        | 29.4         |
| Town of Delton            | 30.3         |
| Town of Prairie du Sac    | 30.3         |
| Town of Reedsburg         | 30.8         |
| Town of Baraboo           | 32.6         |
| Town of Excelsior         | 34.0         |
| Town of Freedom           | 34.7         |
| Town of Dellona           | 35.1         |
| Town of Ironton           | 35.2         |
| Town of La Valle          | 35.3         |
| Town of Winfield          | 35.4         |
| Town of Washington        | 35.6         |
| Town of Fairfield         | 35.6         |
| Town of Westfield         | 35.7         |
| Town of Woodland          | 36.2         |
| Town of Sumpter           | 37.8         |
| Town of Honey Creek       | 44.9         |
| Town of Spring Green      | 46.2         |
| Town of Franklin          | 49.3         |
| Town of Bear Creek        | 49.7         |
| Town of Troy              | 54.3         |
| Sauk County               | 852.9        |

large elderly population with 17% of residents over the age of 65 according to the 2016 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. As a result, there are numerous elderly housing developments and community based residential facilities, both urban and rural.

Sauk County, like similar counties in southern Wisconsin, is in a state of transition regarding land use. The major land use over time has been primarily agricultural in the rural areas with adjoining small communities that relied on the agricultural sector and a small manufacturing base. Unlike some of the other southern counties, Sauk has always had a very strong tourism economy. The Dells of the Wisconsin River, near Wisconsin Dells, and Devil’s Lake, near Baraboo, have been tourist destinations for over 150 years. During this period, tourism has expanded beyond the natural features of these two sites to include numerous attractions constructed by humans. The tourism industry has evolved into a continuous 20-mile long tourist corridor extending from Wisconsin Dells to the city of Baraboo and beyond. The county has become the third highest ranked county in the state for tourism income behind Milwaukee and Dane counties.

This strong tourism economy has led to a low unemployment rate and an increasing wage scale. Such factors make the County a desirable location for the relocation of working families and, which keeps young adults employed in their home communities.

Sauk County has a very diverse employment base. Table 2-9 lists the top 20 employers in Sauk County. With 1,300 employees, Ho-Chunk Casino, Hotel and Convention Center is the largest employer in the county followed by Kalahari Resort and Convention Center with 1,200 employees.

**Table 2-9. Top Employers in Sauk County**

| Company                                    | Product or Service                    | Municipality                        |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Land's End                                 | Clothing/Distribution & Telemarketing | City of Reedsburg                   |
| Grede Foundries, Inc.                      | Ductile Iron Castings                 | City of Reedsburg                   |
| Flambeau Plastic Co.                       | Plastics                              | City of Baraboo                     |
| Sysco Food Services of Baraboo             | Wholesale Food distribution           | City of Baraboo                     |
| Perry Judd's Inc.                          | Commercial Printing                   | City of Baraboo                     |
| Cardinal IG                                | Insulated Glass                       | Village of Spring Green             |
| Milwaukee Valve Co. - PDS Division         | Brass Foundry                         | Village of Prairie du Sac           |
| Cardinal CG                                | Coated Glass                          | Spring Green                        |
| Seats, Inc.                                | Seating                               | City of Reedsburg                   |
| Gerber Products Plastics                   | Baby Supplies                         | City of Reedsburg                   |
| Ho-chunk Casino, Hotel & Convention Center | Gaming, Hotel, Convention Center      | Town of Delton                      |
| Wilderness Lodge                           | Hotel/Resort                          | Village of Lake Delton              |
| Sauk County                                | Government                            | City of Baraboo                     |
| Kalahari Resort & Convention Center        | Hotel/Resort/Convention Center        | Village of Lake Delton              |
| Noah's Ark                                 | Water Park                            | Village of Lake Delton              |
| Sauk Prairie Hospital                      | Health Care                           | Village of Prairie du Sac/Sauk City |
| St. Clare Hospital                         | Health Care                           | City of Baraboo                     |
| Sauk Prairie School District               | Education                             | Village of Prairie du Sac/Sauk City |
| Reedsburg Area Medical Center              | Health Care                           | City of Reedsburg                   |

## 8. CLIMATE

The climate in Sauk County is characteristic of much of southcentral Wisconsin. Temperature and precipitation data from an observation station in Sauk County are presented in Table 2-10.

**Table 2-10. Temperature and Precipitation; Sauk County: 1971-2000**

| Month     | Average Daily High Temperature F° [1] | Average Daily Low Temperature F° [1] | Average Total Precipitation (Inches) | Average Snow and Sleet (Inches) |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| January   | 25.1                                  | 3.1                                  | 0.94                                 | 9.8                             |
| February  | 30.2                                  | 6.6                                  | 0.92                                 | 7.2                             |
| March     | 42.1                                  | 20.1                                 | 2.01                                 | 7.3                             |
| April     | 56.7                                  | 33.4                                 | 2.99                                 | 1.8                             |
| May       | 69.2                                  | 44.2                                 | 3.12                                 | 0.0                             |
| June      | 78.2                                  | 53.7                                 | 3.73                                 | 0.0                             |
| July      | 82.6                                  | 58.4                                 | 3.52                                 | 0.0                             |
| August    | 80.0                                  | 55.4                                 | 4.16                                 | 0.0                             |
| September | 71.4                                  | 46.5                                 | 3.91                                 | 0.0                             |
| October   | 59.9                                  | 36.0                                 | 2.36                                 | 0.2                             |
| November  | 44.3                                  | 24.4                                 | 2.16                                 | 3.5                             |
| December  | 30.0                                  | 10.3                                 | 1.34                                 | 10.6                            |

Source: <http://www.wisconline.com/counties/sauk/climate.html>

Notes:

1. The monthly mean temperature is the mean of the average daily maximum temperature and the average daily minimum temperature for each month.

## 9. PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES<sup>1</sup>

The county is composed of varied and unique land features including the plains along the Wisconsin River, the oak forest covered quartzite bluffs, the unglaciated hills and valleys of the county’s western two-thirds and the extensive wetlands in the northeast. Land elevations range from 700 feet to 2,200 feet. The county consists of three major distinctive geological regions.

- ◆ **The Driftless Area** The western four-fifths of Sauk County is part of an area commonly described as the Driftless Area. There is no evidence of this area having been glaciated for at least 750,000 years. Because the western portions of Sauk County are unglaciated, the topography has been sculpted by flowing water for thousands of years, resulting in a dissected bedrock plateau with relatively narrow ridges and steep-sided valleys.
- ◆ **The Glaciated Area** In contrast to the western portion, the landscape of the eastern one-fifth of Sauk County has been modified by the last glaciation, which in Sauk County lasted from about 18,000 to about 15,000 years ago. The glacier came into the County from the east, moving slowly westward covering the landscape with glacial deposits. This eastern one-fifth of Sauk County is described as being rolling with complex slopes.
- ◆ **The Baraboo Bluffs** One of the most significant topographic features in eastern Sauk County are the Baraboo Hills, which are eroded remnants of Precambrian quartzite. The Hills extend for approximately 25 miles east-west across east-central Sauk County into westernmost Columbia

<sup>1</sup> Source: *Sauk County Land and Water Management Plan*



County. The Baraboo Bluffs attain their greatest relief in the Devil's Lake area. Devil's Lake was formed when glacier ice plugged both ends of Devil's Lake gorge and left behind ridges (moraines) composed of till in a portion of the Baraboo Bluffs. These moraines are part of the terminal moraine that extends through eastern Sauk County from the north, a few miles east of the city of Wisconsin Dells and village of Lake Delton, continuing southward towards Sauk Prairie.

## 10. SURFACE WATER

Sauk County is divided into nine watersheds: Seymour Creek, Crossman Creek-Little Baraboo River, Narrows Creek-Baraboo River, Dell Creek, Lower Baraboo, Lake Wisconsin, Plain-Honey Creek, Willow Creek, and Bear Creek.

Sauk County has 19 named lakes<sup>2</sup> covering 10,977 acres (Table 2-11). Lake Wisconsin is the largest lake in the county, with a surface area of 9,000 acres. The majority of lakes are 100 acres or smaller. There were 75 miles of trout streams in the county. There are one or more streams located within the boundary of each of the cities, villages, and towns, with the exception of the villages of Cazenovia and Lime Ridge (Table 2-12).

## 11. WETLANDS

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Sauk County has 32,145 acres of wetlands, or about 6 percent of the area of the county. Wetlands are defined by state statute as "an area where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophilic (water-loving) vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions." Wetlands may be seasonal or permanent and are commonly referred to as swamps, marshes, or bogs. Wetland plants and soils have the capacity to store and filter pollutants, replenish groundwater supplies, store floodwaters and maintain stream flows.

**Table 2-11. Lakes in Sauk County  
(10 acres or larger)**

| Lake               | Acres         |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Bakkens Pond       | 14            |
| Blass Lake         | 33            |
| Buckhorn Lake      | 18            |
| Cynthia Slough     | 13            |
| Deacon Thomas Lake | 11            |
| Devil's Lake       | 357           |
| Dutch Hollow       | 210           |
| Hemlock Slough     | 20            |
| Lake of the Dells  | 11            |
| Lake Delton        | 254           |
| Lake Redstone      | 600           |
| Lake Virginia      | 45            |
| Lake Wisconsin     | 9,000         |
| Leland Mill Pond   | 24            |
| Long Lake          | 48            |
| Mirror Lake        | 52            |
| Seeley Lake        | 70            |
| Upper Mirror Lake  | 93            |
| White Mount Lake   | 104           |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>10,977</b> |

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

<sup>2</sup> There are an additional 17 unnamed lakes in the DNR database in Sauk County

**Table 2-12. Surface Water by Location**

| Municipality    | Major Waterways in Boundaries                             |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Town</b>     |   |
| Baraboo         | Baraboo River, Devils Lake                                |
| Bear Creek      | Bear Creek, White Mound                                   |
| Dellona         | Dell Creek  |
| Delton          | Wisconsin River   |
| Excelsior       | Lake Virginia, Baraboo River, Narrows Creek, Copper Creek |
| Fairfield       | Wisconsin River, Baraboo River                            |
| Franklin        | Honey Creek   |
| Freedom         | Seeley Creek, Baraboo River, Pine Creek, Skillet Creek    |
| Greenfield      | Baraboo River, Creek from Devils Lake                     |
| Honey Creek     | Honey Creek   |
| Ironton         | Little Baraboo River                                      |
| La Valle        | Lake Redstone, Baraboo River                              |
| Merrimac        | Wisconsin River   |
| Prairie du Sac  | Otter Creek, Honey Creek, Wisconsin River                 |
| Reedsburg       | Babb Creek, Hay Creek, Narrows Creek, Baraboo River       |
| Spring Green    | Wisconsin River   |
| Sumpter         | Oak Creek   |
| Troy            | Honey Creek   |
| Washington      | Narrows Creek, Bear Creek                                 |
| Westfield       | Narrows Creek, Honey Creek, Seeley Creek                  |
| Winfield        | Twin Creek  |
| Woodland        | Little Baraboo River, Dutch Hollow Lake                   |
| <b>Village</b>  |   |
| Cazenovia       | --  |
| Ironton         | Little Baraboo River                                      |
| La Valle        | Baraboo River   |
| Lake Delton     | Lake Delton   |
| Lime Ridge      | --  |
| Loganville      | Narrows Creek   |
| Merrimac        | Wisconsin River   |
| North Freedom   | Baraboo River   |
| Plain           | Honey Creek   |
| Prairie du Sac  | Wisconsin River   |
| Rock Springs    | Baraboo River, Narrows Creek                              |
| Sauk City       | Wisconsin River   |
| Spring Green    | --  |
| West Baraboo    | Baraboo River   |
| <b>City</b>     |   |
| Baraboo         | Baraboo River   |
| Reedsburg       | Baraboo River, Hay Creek                                  |
| Wisconsin Dells | Wisconsin River   |