

## 9.0 Purpose

The Town of Woodland's landscape features a blend of wetlands, woodlands, agricultural fields, rivers and streams, and Dutch Hollow Lake. This landscape provides numerous with recreational opportunities including a biking, hiking and lake-related activities such as fishing, boating and swimming. Public participation efforts reveal that preserving these natural features and while making available these low impact recreational land uses to all town residents is critical to maintaining the desired lifestyle of current residents. Additionally, public input has emphasized that protecting the rural feel and view of the landscape is crucial and should be considered a key planning issue. This section of Woodland's plan highlights these and other important natural resource issues in the Town and provides a platform for the establishment and implementation of programs that ensure proper use and protection of these resources into the future.



## 9.1 General Soils Information

Soil suitability is a key factor in determining the best and most cost-effective locations for new development. Problems that limit development and the placement of Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (septic systems) on certain soils may include poor drainage, erosion, steep slopes or high water tables. Soil suitability is also a key factor in determining agricultural productivity and suitability. Three major soil types dominate the Town of Woodland: La Farge series, Valton series, and Norden/Eleva/Rock outcrop series, with some large areas of Norden series. General soils information can also be noted on *Map 9-2 General Soils Map*.

- **La Farge Silt Loam** soils in Woodland are moderately steep sloping, well drained and located on convex ridgetops and side slopes on unglaciated sandstone uplands. This soil is roughly 33% of the soil in the Town. Most areas are oblong and range from 3-225 acres. Permeability and available water capacity are moderate, however root penetration is limited by underlying bedrock. With a shallow depth to bedrock and a moderately low organic matter content, this soil has a moderate to low productivity rating. Although this soil can be cultivated, the soil is better suited for hay, pasture, trees and wildlife habitat. Due to the slope and depth to bedrock of this soil, engineering practices such as septic system placement, dwelling and road construction are poorly suited without large land reshaping projects.
- **Valton Silt Loam** soil is a deep, well-drained soil series formed in loess and limestone parent material. Typically found on the unglaciated uplands in the Town of Woodland, this soil has slopes ranging 2-30%. Permeability is generally moderate in the upper portion and slow in the lower portion. Surface runoff is medium. Natural fertility is moderate. Most areas with this soil type are fair for cultivated crop production and good for hay production. Depending on slope, there is a chance for erosion in cultivated areas. This soil is poorly suited for most engineering practices including residential home development, commercial development and roads because low strength and stability of the soil.
- **Norden and Eleva and Rock outcrop series** soil are distributed evenly throughout the town's uplands. This soil series is typically well-drained and moderately permeable on unglaciated sandstone uplands. This soil series is steep or moderately steep with slopes ranging from 12 to 60

percent. This soil is primarily in native woodland vegetation and some moderately steep areas are used for pasture, hay or corn fields. This soil is poorly suited for septic tank absorption fields and building sites due to a shallow bedrock layer and slope. These limitations are difficult to overcome may be, by reshaping the landscape.

- **Norden** soils are distributed evenly throughout the town's unglaciated sandstone uplands. This soil is typically well-drained, moderately permeable and steep. Available water capacity and natural fertility are moderate. These soils are suited better for hay, pasture and woodland forests, due to the severe erosion hazard if under cultivation. In Woodland, the Norden soil is generally poorly suited for septic tank absorption fields, dwellings, roads and commercial buildings, due to the slope and a shallow depth to bedrock.

## 9.2 Topography and Slope

The topography in the Town of Woodland consists primarily of rolling farm fields with wooded hillsides. This unglaciated area is a landscape deeply cut by ancient streams into narrow, twisting valleys and million-year-old ridges. Close examination of topography is necessary to determine areas where development should be avoided and where potential geological or hydrological constraints may exist. Soil type determines the placement of building foundations, water well and septic systems.

## 9.3 Environmentally Sensitive and Significant Resources

The Town of Woodland has identified environmentally sensitive areas as areas of land having slopes greater than 12%, lands along the Little Baraboo River, surface waters, floodplains, wetlands, hydric soils, and areas that contribute water recharge to Dutch Hollow Lake. The Town has further recognized that any land use proposed will have an impact on these areas and should be minimized as much as possible utilizing a combination of site evaluations by the Town's Plan Commission as well as the objectives and policies in this Plan. *Map 9-1 Environmentally Sensitive Areas* shows the location of the aforementioned components of this subsection with the exception of floodplain, which is shown on *Map 9-2 General Floodplain Areas*.

### 9.3.1 Woodlands

About a quarter of Woodland is covered by forest. Much of this forest is located along the creeks in the Town and on slopes that are generally greater than 10%. This woodland pattern results from historical agricultural land uses that avoided land types that are difficult to place under cultivation. Riparian woodland areas are primarily composed of silver maple, aspen and box elder, while upland forests are primarily composed of red and black oak, hickory and a mixture of upland hardwood forests. These woodlands have been identified as important features that add to the Town's rural character.

### 9.3.2 Rare Species Occurrences

The Wisconsin DNR's Natural Heritage Inventory program maintains information on the general location and status of rare, threatened or endangered plant and animal species. As of June 2024, there was 1 documented occurrence of rare or threatened plant species Town of Woodland.

### 9.3.3 Significant Natural Areas and Resources

There are a number of significant natural areas and resources in the Town of Woodland. The plan calls attention to these natural areas, which, by their nature, connect the present day Town to the landscape that once dominated the area. This material, in part, is from the Natural Area Inventory of Sauk County Wisconsin, 1976, by William E. Tans, Botanist and Kenneth I. Lange, Naturalist.

Locations of each are noted on *Map 6-1 Community Resources*

- The Baraboo River Cliffs are located in the NE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 2 and the NW ¼ of Section 1. This area is more particularly located at the confluence of Plum Creek with the Baraboo River on north facing Cambrian sandstone cliffs along the Baraboo River. These areas are partially wooded with hemlock, yellow birch and pines. Numerous cliff-dwelling plants, some endemic to Wisconsin's driftless area, have been observed. These cliffs support at least one endangered plant species.
- Hemlock Point is located in the N ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 2. This area includes hemlock and pine on north-facing Cambrian sandstone cliffs cut by the Baraboo River
- The Woolever Oak-Maple Forest is located in Section 12 and includes extensive woodland that shows good recovery from past disturbances.

### 9.3.4 Drainage Basins

The Town of Woodland is located entirely in the Lower Wisconsin River Basin, which drains approximately 4,940 square miles of south central and southwestern Wisconsin and is located within the Crossman Creek and Little Baraboo River Watershed. This watershed drains into Dutch Hollow Lake, which can be located on *Map 9-5 Watershed Boundaries*. These boundaries can serve as a starting point for identifying non-point sources of pollution in the Dutch Hollow lake systems.

### 9.3.5 Floodplains

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates floodplain areas. These general floodplain delineations represent the areas adjacent to navigable waters potentially subject to a 100-year flood event (1% chance of occurring in any year). All areas subject to flooding are not necessarily reflected in mapped floodplains. The State requires County regulation of development in floodplains. Development is strongly discouraged in floodplains, to avoid both upstream and downstream property damage as well as reduced governmental costs in relation to disaster relief. Floodplain areas in the Woodland are located along the Baraboo and Little Baraboo Rivers and Plum Creek. The FEMA maps should be referenced for official delineation and elevations of floodplain boundaries. General Floodplain boundaries can be noted on *Map 9-3 General Floodplain*.

### 9.3.6 Wetlands

Wetland areas are important for aquifer recharge, flood control, groundwater and surface water quality improvement, and wildlife habitat. The majority of the Town's wetlands are associated with the Baraboo and Little Baraboo Rivers and Plum Creek. The greatest threat to these wetlands has been drainage for agricultural purposes.

All known wetland areas over 2 acres in size have been mapped and can be referenced on *Map 9-1 Environmentally Sensitive Areas*.

### 9.3.7 Groundwater Resources

As in most of Sauk County, groundwater remains the major source of fresh water. In Woodland, groundwater is supplied by the sandstone and dolomite aquifer prevalent in western Sauk County. This yields a reliable average of 400-500 gallons per minute.

The Town of Woodland is dependent on the host watershed for all of the Town's water supply. Considering there are no municipal water wells in the Town, the zones of contribution can be considered areas where rainwater that falls to the surface will become groundwater and part of a private potable water supply. Identifying zones of contribution is the precursor to the establishment of a wellhead protection program. Wellhead protection aims to encourage or require compatible land uses in the zones of contribution areas to protect contaminates from entering the public water supply and to also ensure continued quantities of water.

The Town participates in a County wide groundwater monitoring program. The program rotates on a 3-year basis through Towns and is voluntary to landowners. Through a partnership with UW Stevens Point, tests are provided at a reduced rate and results are public (locations not provided) to monitor pollutants, such as nitrogen, and phosphorus.

### 9.3.8 Surface Waters of Woodland

The Town of Woodland's surface water resources, including Dutch Hollow Lake, the Little Baraboo River and the Baraboo River and its tributaries, are valued resources that Town residents have identified for priority protection. In particular, landowners near Dutch Hollow Lake identified the importance of maintaining good water quality. Farm fields and construction sites in the watershed have been identified as problem areas that contribute to non-point source pollution. While the Town of Woodland Comprehensive Plan does not seek to research and offer specific solutions to lake management issues and water quality, it does highlight primary threats to water quality and provides general guidelines to protect the quality of the Town's surface water resources.

In 2005 the Dutch Hollow Property Owners Association teamed with the Limnological Institute and Aquatic Engineering, Inc., LaCrosse, Wisconsin to develop a Lake Management Plan. The *Dutch Hollow Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan* was prepared largely on information gathered through two, large scale, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) administered Lake Planning Grants (#LPL-1032-05 and LPL-1029-05), which provided funding for 75% of the plant and water quality monitoring costs. The Plan was approved in 2008 by the WDNR and implementation of the plan has been actively pursued by both the Property Owners Association and Friends of Dutch Hollow Lake group. They actively seek funds for projects for weed management and water quality improvement projects such as planting native species along the shoreline.

### 9.3.9 Storm Water Management

Managing storm water has a significant impact on the surface water resources in the Town of Woodland. Currently, construction site erosion control is regulated by the State of Wisconsin Uniform Dwelling Code and is enforced by the Town's building inspector. *Chapter 22 Sauk County Land Division and Subdivision Regulations Ordinance* requires a storm water management plan for new subdivision and commercial development. Chapter 51 of the Sauk County Code of ordinances, Stormwater and Erosion Control Management pertains to any development greater than 4000 sq. ft. or 400 cubic yards. Both of these ordinances are enforced by and development reviewed by the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department.

### 9.3.10 River and Lake Management Programs

The Town's lake, rivers and related tributaries are important to the economic and environmental landscape in Woodland. Protecting water quality is an objective that must be addressed both within the Town and beyond town boundaries. The Town may choose to cooperate with lake initiatives, Wisconsin DNR, Sauk and Juneau Counties, and neighboring towns to develop and implement strategies to protect Woodland's surface water from degradation. Linked to this effort should be an emphasis on recreational use of these waters and impacts water quality may have on property values and on future tourism-related commercial development.

The Town could work with the Dutch Hollow Property Owner's Association to promote ongoing efforts to protect and improve water quality. Ideas may include sponsoring a lake, river and stream cleanup programs and activities and the sponsorship of information sessions for residents to improve water quality and the Town's natural resources in general. Handout materials relative to the program can be obtained from UW-Extension or Wis-DNR. The Town could also provide cost sharing or in-kind contributions connected to a Lake Planning Grant.

Although there are numerous grants available that address aquatic invasive species control, point and non-point source pollution mitigation, manure management, stream bank restoration, shore landowner education and so forth, the primary grant to be considered is a *Lake Planning Grant*.

#### Lake Planning Grants (small- and large-scale project grants)

*Small-scale projects* are an ideal starting place for lake groups just getting started in management plan development or for enhancing existing planning efforts. There are four targeted sub-categories for small-scale planning grants:

- **Lake trend monitoring projects.** Projects that collect and report chemical, biological and physical data about lake ecosystems to provide long-term baseline information and monitor trends in lake ecosystem health.
- **Lake education projects.** Projects that will assist management units in collecting and disseminating existing information about lakes for the purpose raising awareness of lake use, lake ecosystem conditions and lake management techniques.
- **Organization development projects.** Projects that will assist management units in the formation of goals and objectives and prepare for the management of a lake.
- **Other studies or assessments.** Activities as needed to implement or augment management goals of a plan for a lake or combinations of other activities listed above.

*Large-scale projects* are designed to address more detailed and comprehensive planning needs for lakes. The goal of these grants is to develop local lake management plans. Eligible activities include:

- Gathering and analysis of physical, chemical and biological information on lakes.
- Describing present and potential land uses within lake watersheds and shore lands.
- Reviewing jurisdictional boundaries and evaluating ordinances that relate to zoning, sanitation or pollution control, or surface use.
- Assessments of fish, aquatic life, wildlife and their habitats.
- Gathering and analyzing information from lake property owners, community residents and lake users.
- Developing, evaluating, publishing and distributing alternative courses of action and recommendations in a Lake Management Plan.

Source: The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

The Lake Planning Grant Program, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, provides funding to local governments and lake management organizations for the collection and analysis of information needed to manage lakes. The program accomplishes this by encouraging local organizations to obtain information on water quality, water use, land use, fish and aquatic life and other data that considers the broad range of factors that can affect the quality of inland lakes and



their ecosystems. From there, effective watershed management techniques can be implemented to improve or maintain water quality and related ecosystems.

There are two planning grant categories designed to address a lake planning projects needs: small-scale projects and large-scale projects.

### 9.3.11 Basic water quality improvement/protection tools for surface water

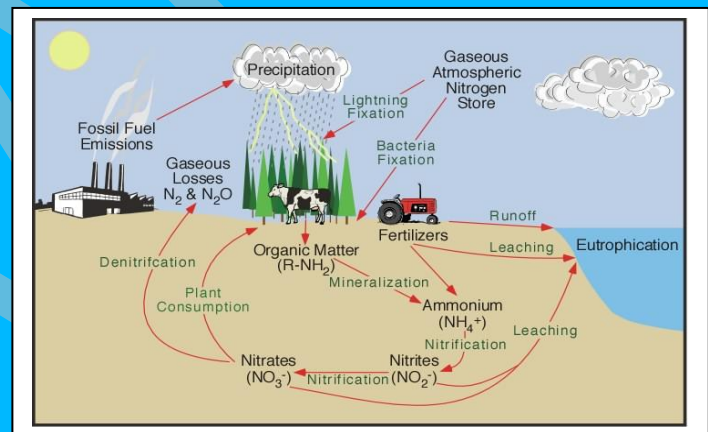
Surface water quality issues are best addressed at a watershed scale, but individual homeowners can significantly contribute to improvements in water quality by planting and maintaining certain types of vegetation on or near lake lots. Nitrogen and phosphorus inputs to lake systems are a substantial threat to water quality, and should be the focus of water quality improvement projects. To better understand the long-term impacts of nitrogen and phosphorus on lakes, it is important to examine the basic characteristics of these chemicals.

#### - Nitrogen (Ammonia, Nitrate)

Nitrogen is water-soluble chemical that typically enters lake systems through surface water runoff from fertilized farm fields and lawns. Nitrogen can also enter lake systems through groundwater that is high in nitrate or by way of improperly operating septic drainage fields. Finally, nitrogen can be

**Figure NR1: Nitrogen Cycle**

deposited directly into lakes from the atmosphere. While nitrogen is important for plant growth, excessive amounts of nitrogen entering aquatic systems can cause eutrophication. A eutrophic, or nutrient-rich, lake or river supports a substantial amount of aquatic plant and algae growth. As dead plant material decomposes, dissolved oxygen levels in the water decrease. The resulting anoxic condition causes fish and other aquatic biota to die.



Source: <http://www.physicalgeography.net/fundamentals/9s.html>

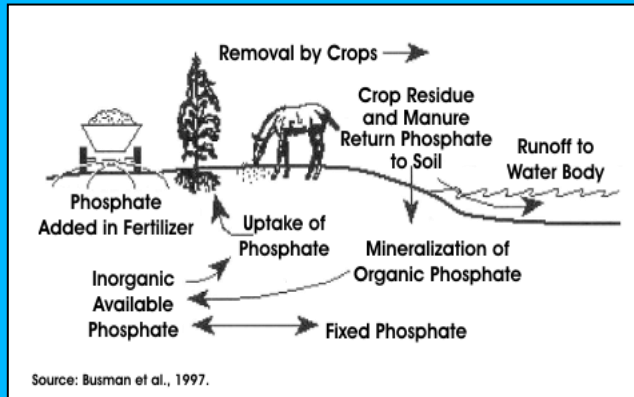
There are many ways in which nitrogen exits lake systems. Bacterial processes can convert nitrate to elemental nitrogen, releasing it into the atmosphere. In lakes, these processes occur at sediment-water interfaces such as shore lands and wetlands at lake edges. Nitrogen can also exit a lake system through ordinary water discharge. Some nitrogen is bound to lake sediment, and a very small amount exits lakes during sediment removal. The figure to the upper right shows an example of the nitrogen cycle near a lake.

#### - Phosphorus

Phosphorus is a water-insoluble chemical that can cause significant water quality problems due to its ability to accumulate and recycle itself in lake systems. The phosphorus cycle does not include an atmospheric component, so it is localized relative to nitrogen and other elements. Phosphorus primarily enters lake systems through surface water runoff and is usually bound to sediment. Once this sediment enters the lake, it eventually settles to the bottom where it collects. The lower right figure shows how human and animal activity can influence the cycle.

While initial phosphorus inputs to lakes may cause temporary algal blooms and excessive plant growth, a greater threat occurs each fall and spring during lake turnover events. Water is densest (and heaviest) at 39 degrees Fahrenheit. When surface water reaches 39 degrees in the spring, it becomes heavier than the water below it and sinks. The warmer water below moves upward. This action disturbs much of the lake's bottom sediment, causing an upwelling of phosphorus. The same process occurs in the fall, when surface water temperatures drop back to 39 degrees. In most lakes, turnover events are not visually evident, but in lakes with high phosphorus content in the sediment, the process can result in notable algae blooms.

**Figure NR2: Phosphorus Cycle**

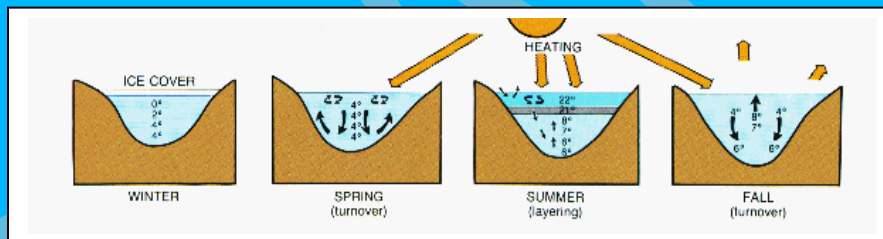


Source:

<http://www.epa.gov/oecaagct/ag101/impactphosphorus.html>

The figure below illustrates lake turnover events in the spring and fall.

**Figure NR3: Lake Turnover**



Unlike nitrogen, phosphorus rarely leaves a lake system and accumulates over time. Depending on the geologic and hydrologic circumstances, attempts at phosphorus removal are not always effective. Some techniques can also be prohibitively expensive. Mechanical removal of phosphorus-laden sediment is possible, but the process may lead to some re-suspension of the nutrient in the lake. Another technique involves siphoning water from the bottom of a lake during periods of turnover. While expensive, this is generally effective for short-term control of phosphorus movement within a lake. Other methods use chemicals such as alum in an attempt to bind phosphorus to the bottom sediments of lakes. Despite the wide variety of methods for phosphorus removal, preventative measures are by far the most efficient and cost-effective way to control phosphorus levels in lake systems.

#### - Vegetative Buffers

Lakes are receiving more and more runoff and non-point source pollution every year from development and human activity in their watersheds. Human development often involves replacing permeable surfaces with impervious materials such as asphalt and cement. Roofs, roads, driveways, parking areas and lawns prevent rain from soaking in and instead allow it to run off into the nearest body of water. As rain passes over impervious areas, it picks up pollutants such as grease, oil, fertilizers, pesticides, detergents, soil, nutrients and organic debris. One of the best ways to prevent this runoff from reaching a lake or other body of water is with a vegetative buffer strip or zone. Dutch

Hollow Lake has significant natural vegetative buffers on nearly two-thirds of its shoreline where the land is owned collectively by the Lake Association. However, buffers on lots with Lake frontage vary.

Vegetative buffers are one of the most effective and inexpensive tools to improve lake water quality. Buffers may consist of native forbs and grasses, shrubs, or trees. In addition to providing increased wildlife habitat, a vegetative buffer can play a key role in the removal of both nitrogen and phosphorus before storm water reaches a lake and, in some cases, has the ability to cleanse storm water runoff to achieve near pre-development water quality. Buffer strips not only prevent excess nutrients from entering a lake, but also provide a barrier against sediment runoff and various other types of pollution.

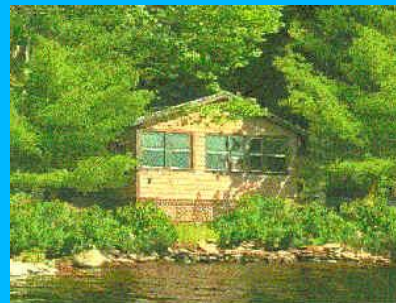
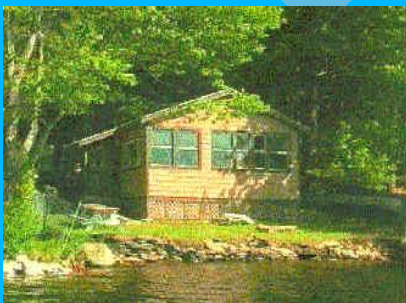
Grasses used in lawn mixes are usually shallow-rooted and do not absorb storm water runoff well. Lawns also require maintenance that vegetative buffers do not. Buffers do not need to be mowed, fertilized, or sprayed with pesticides. Additionally, vegetative buffers provide privacy around a cabin or house if they extend beyond the shoreline.

The following points explain how vegetative buffers work:

- The leaf canopy reduces the impact of raindrops on the soil, preventing excessive erosion.
- Leaf surfaces collect rain and allow for evaporation.
- Low herbaceous plants and the duff layer filter sediment and pollutants from runoff.
- Root systems hold soil in place and absorb water and nutrients.
- An uneven soil surface allows rain and snowmelt to puddle and infiltrate, recharging groundwater instead of running into surface waters.

The figure to the lower left depicts a typical lake cabin with no vegetative buffer. Grass requiring mowing and fertilization runs all the way to the lake edge. The figure to the right illustrates how this same property would look with a vegetative buffer. Shrubs, trees, and other landscaping surround the sides of the cabin and run along the shoreline. Only a small-grassed path connects the cabin to the lake.

**Figure: NR4 Lake Vegetative Buffers**



Source: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docwatershed/bufb.htm>



### 9.3.12 Dutch Hollow Lake (Dutch Hollow Property Owners Association)

Impounding Dutch Hollow Creek in the early 1970's for real estate interests created the 210-acre Dutch Hollow Lake, located in the Towns of Woodland and La Valle. The lake's maximum depth is 40 feet, although the lake's basin leaks and groundwater must be pumped into the lake to maintain water levels. The sport fishery in Dutch Hollow includes largemouth bass, northern pike, stocked walleye, and panfish such as bluegill, black crappie, pumpkinseed and yellow perch.

### 9.3.13 Baraboo and Little Baraboo Rivers

The Baraboo River flows southeast from Juneau County through the far northeastern part of the Town. The headwaters of the Little Baraboo River occur in two forks that are located north and south of Valton. Both the Little Baraboo and Baraboo Rivers support a warm water fishery and is a major tributary to the Wisconsin River.

### 9.3.14 Hilltops and Ridges

Hilltops and ridges are important natural features that define the horizon of the Town. Large structures at the top of these features tend to be visually prominent—especially when these structures do not blend into the overall landscape in terms of color, material or style.

## 9.4 Mineral Resources

Currently, the Town of Woodland has one active mineral extraction site: the Charlie Miller quarry located in the Eastern ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 17 and parts of the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 18 off of County Road Q. The Charlie Miller quarry produces limestone and will have a final reclamation to natural grassland.

Preserving mineral deposits for future generations is important, as more development demands these raw materials. As a general reference, potential gravel deposits or areas that may support future mineral extraction operations are noted under *Map 9-4 Potential Gravel Deposits*.

## 9.5 Programs, Partnerships and Resources

Below are some examples of programs, partnerships and resources that provide assistance to landowners in the Town of Woodland relative to land preservation and stewardship options.

- **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** first came to the Baraboo Bluffs in the early 1960s at the request of local residents and university professors who knew how ecologically unique the area was and who wanted the Conservancy's help in protecting the area. Today the Conservancy has 900 members in the Baraboo Hills area and is staffed out of a Baraboo Office. The Conservancy protects lands through education programs and work activities, Land/Forest Management Programs, voluntary agreements, acquisition of lands and through purchase of development rights.
- **Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department** coordinates natural resource management and environmental enhancement activities within county boundaries and administers a variety of county, state, and federal initiatives. The Department places particular emphasis on soil conservation, water quality improvement, groundwater protection, flood control, nonpoint water pollution abatement, erosion control, wildlife habitat improvement, farmland preservation and animal waste management and further strives to promote the awareness of natural resources

and their value to the citizens of Sauk County. The Department is also responsible for the administration of programs such as the administration of Earth Day activities, and coordinates with school districts to teach children about natural resources and conservation.

- **County Land & Water Resource Management (LWRM) Plan Implementation** is a cost share and technical assistance program to landowners installing best management practices. These programs help to reduce soil erosion, protect water quality and conserve county-identified natural resources. Landowners can contact Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) for more information.
- **Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program** is a State program administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, which provides assistance to private landowners to protect and enhance their forested lands, prairies and waters. Landowners must receive written approval from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and be identified as the landowner in a Forest Stewardship Plan or in the process of applying for plan development. Qualified landowners may be reimbursed up to 50% of cost of eligible practices.
- **Community Financial Assistance (CFA)** is a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources program that administers grants and loans to local governments and interested groups to develop and support projects that protect health and the environment and provide recreational opportunities.
- **Partnership for Fish and Wildlife Management**, a US Fish and Wildlife Services program, assists with the restoration of wetlands, grasslands, and threatened and endangered species habitat through a cost share program. Any privately owned land is potentially eligible for restoration under this program.
- **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)** is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal land from agriculture. The program offers three options inclusive of a permanent easement, 30-Year Easement or a Restoration Cost share Agreement.
- **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** is a voluntary program that encourages the creation of high-quality wildlife habitat to support wildlife populations of national, state, tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, the NRCS provides technical assistance to landowners and others to restore and maintain upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitats on their property.
- **Managed Forest Law Property Tax Program** is a DNR program that provides tax incentives for approved forest management plans. The MFL can ease the burden of property taxes for forest landowners with at least 10 acres of woods that meet specific requirements. The program is intended to foster timber production on private forests while recognizing other values of forests.
- **Forestry Incentive Program** provides cost sharing for landowners with no more than 1000 acres for tree planting, site preparation, timber stand improvements, and related practices on non-industrial private forest lands. This is a federal NRCS program administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

- **National Wildlife Turkey Federation** has a variety of programs to benefit wild turkey habitat, management, conservation and education.
- **Pheasants Forever** provides assistance with habitat restoration through five major programs: food plots, nesting cover, woody cover, land purchase and wetland restoration projects.
- **Prairie Enthusiasts** is a private nonprofit organization committed to the protection and management of native prairie and savanna in the Upper Midwest, providing educational activities and opportunities to aid landowners in the identification and management of prairie remnants. Work parties assist with brush clearing and removal of invasive species.
- **Aldo Leopold Foundation** strives to promote the protection of natural resources and to foster an ethical relationship between people and land. Programs involve restoration and land protection through partnerships with more than 30 organizations and educational programs for private landowners and public land managers.

### **Conservation Programs**

The following is a list of the active conservation programs available in Sauk County. These programs are administered through the cooperative effort of various federal, state, and local agencies. Interested individuals can contact the listed agencies or the Land Conservation Department for additional eligibility criteria. Further details on each program can be found in the **Sauk County Land and Water Resource Management Plan**.

### **USDA-NRCS Programs**

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**—Purpose: to reduce erosion, increase wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and increase forestland.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**—Purpose: to provide technical and financial help to landowners for conservation practices to protect soil and water quality.

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** – Purpose: to conserve and enhance soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land. CSP is available on private agricultural lands, as well as for nonindustrial private forest lands.

**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)** - provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and restore wetlands.

### **Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department**

**Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program (FPP)**—Purpose: to preserve farmland through local planning and zoning or agreements and to provide tax relief to participating farmers.

**Sauk County Conservation Cost-share Program (CCP)**—Purpose: to protect the forestland, cropland, groundwater, and surface water resources in Sauk County.

**Baraboo River Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** – Purpose: promotes coordination between USDA-NRCS and its partners to provide technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and forest landowners to help implement

conservation practices that improve soil health, water quality, restore wildlife habitat, and will also improve agricultural productivity.

**Lake Management Grant Program** – Purpose: for enhancing, restoring, or protecting lakes in Sauk County.

**Lake Shore Assistance Program** – Purpose: to provide cost share assistance to lake shore owners to address erosion and runoff concerns on their property.

**Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)**—Purpose to obtain the maximum return from on-farm and off-farm fertilizer resources in a manner that protects the quality of nearby water resources.

**Animal Waste Ordinance (AWO)**—Purpose: to provide a permitting process that will reduce the groundwater and surface water pollution from animal waste.

**Sauk County Transect Survey (SCTS)**—A county-wide soil loss evaluation using statistical sampling of numerous cropland and stream sites.

#### **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

**Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)**—Purpose: to restore drained wetland and protect them with a 30-year or perpetual easement.

**Wisconsin Nonpoint Source Priority Watershed Program (NPS)**—Purpose: to improve and protect water quality.

**Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program** – Purpose: provides financial incentives to private landowners who open their property to public hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife observation.

**Managed Forest Law (MFL)**—Purpose: to reduce property tax and promote good forest management.

**Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP)**—Purpose: is designed to assist woodland owners in protecting and enhancing their woodlands.

### **9.6 Natural Resources Goal, Objectives and Policies:**

**Natural Resources Goal:** Promote and enhance the town’s natural and cultural resources that exist in the town with deserved attention to Dutch Hollow Lake and Baraboo River Valley.

#### **Natural Resources Objectives/Policies:**

NRO-1 Preserve and protect the Town of Woodland’s natural resources.

- NRP-1A Recommend that the Town of Woodland and Sauk County consider purchasing lands for the development of new parks and to pursue private land donations and grants for land purchases to achieve this policy.
- NRO-2 Preserve the natural character and immediate surrounding areas of the 400 bike trail to ensure a continued high quality and rural residential experience for biking, snowmobiling and hiking the Town of Woodland.
- NRP-2A In order to ensure the continuance of the rural landscape, views of forests, farm fields and farmsteads, utilize topography and existing vegetation to minimize the visibility of new development from the 400 trail.
- NRO-3 Preserve the natural character of the Baraboo River Valley to ensure a continued rural recreational experience for canoeists, kayakers and rafters.
- NRP-3A In order to ensure the continuance of the rural landscape, views of forests, farm fields and farmsteads, utilize topography and existing vegetation to minimize the visibility of new development the Baraboo River (for canoeists, kayakers, rafters).
- NRP-3B Improve the utility of the Baraboo River for recreation by encouraging volunteer groups and businesses/government sponsors to develop a river cleanup day that will involve the community in river cleanup activities and removal of obstructions to allow unimpeded boating.
- NRO-4 Preserve and improve water quality of all surface and groundwater including Dutch Hollow lake, the Baraboo River and streams throughout the Town of Woodland.
- NRP-4A Collaborate with Sauk County on manure handling and livestock housing prohibitions. Encourage nutrient management planning.
- NRP-4B The Town of Woodland recommends that the Dutch Hollow Lake Property Owners Association to collaborate with the Sauk County Land Conservation Department, to work with landowners to improve surface water runoff quality by identification of those land uses within the watershed delineated on *Map 9-5 Watershed Boundaries* that are or have the potential to contribute to surface water runoff.
- NRO-5 Promote responsible stewardship of forestlands.
- NRP-5A Encourage the following woodland management practices that promote healthy forests:
- Use the Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines (Department of Natural Resources, PUB-FR-226-2003) when developing forest management plans for wildlife and aesthetics and when planning a timber harvest;
  - Implement forest management plans that result in timber stand and wildlife habitat improvement;
  - Employ the services of a certified forester to develop timber harvest plans;
  - Avoid unsustainable cutting methods: Diameter Limit Cutting, Economic Clearcutting, and High Grading (also known as “Selective Logging”), and;
  - Avoid cutting oaks between April 15 and July 1, in order to minimize the spread of oak wilt disease.



NRO-6 Enhance the natural beauty of public lands.

NRP-6A The Town of Woodland will work with Sauk County Parks and Recreation to encourage Sauk County to develop long-range plans for park use, development, expansion and designation of new park lands in the Town of Woodland. Include future park plans, goals and implementation strategies in an updated Sauk County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

NRP-6B The Town of Woodland will work with Sauk County Parks and Recreation, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on strategies to maintain and enhance recreational opportunities related to the Baraboo River and 400 Trail.

NRO-7 Identify, control and when appropriate or feasible, eliminate exotic invasive plants and animal species.

NRP-7A Encourage landowner cooperation with public and private conservation organizations to help eradicate invasive exotic species.

NRP-7B The Town of Woodland should work with the Dutch Hollow Lake Properties Owners Association to establish boat wash areas and related signage to reduce the potential of introducing non-native invasive species such as Eurasian Milfoil, Purple Loosestrife and curly-leaf pondweed.

NRO-8 Control scale, design (e.g. lighting) and location of outdoor signage to fit within the rural character of the area. Protect and maintain the scenic heritage and landscape vistas.

NRP-8A Collaborate with Sauk County on guidelines for all new signage in the Town of Woodland to ensure that signage best reflects the rural and recreational character of the Town and does not detract from the scenic landscape. These prohibitions should address size, location, integration of signs into building facades and lighting standards to protect the 'dark sky'.

NRO-9 In areas of new residential development require that areas of significant natural or historical features be preserved for the enjoyment of current residents and future generations.

NRP-9A The Town of Woodland will continue to work cooperatively with the Sauk County Historical Society, and other appropriate organizations to identify, record, and protect lands, sites and structures that have historical or archeological significance.

NRO-10 Reduce nuisance issues such as noise, trash, air pollution, soil contamination, and protect ground and surface water.