

## **CHAPTER 5      Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element**

### **Section 5.1      Introduction**

The agricultural, natural and cultural resources of the Town of Belmont are likely the single most important reason why people choose to live here. It is a beautiful place. Rolling hills, substantial woodlands and waterways, varied and abundant wildlife and productive farms and farmland all come together to create a choice landscape found in central Wisconsin.

The residents of the Town of Belmont recognize the value of their unique landscape and understand that it supports and sustains a way of life they are proud of. For those who choose to farm the land here, the community supports their efforts and works to minimize barriers that impede this important industry. The residents also understand that the identification and protection of the historical and cultural resources of the community will help sustain a rich quality of life that is enjoyed by all who settle here.

### **Section 5.2      Agricultural Resources**

#### **A.    Agricultural Potential Based on Land Evaluation Rating (LE-SA)**

Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) is a tool that can be helpful in assisting Town leaders to identify land that has the highest value for agricultural use within the community. The LESA system is a point-based approach that can be used for rating the relative value of agricultural land resources. It does so by defining and measuring two separate sets of factors. The first set, **Land Evaluation**, includes factors that measure the inherent soil-based qualities of land as they relate to agricultural suitability. The second set, **Site Assessment**, includes factors that are intended to measure social, economic, and geographic attributes that also contribute to the overall value of agricultural land.

A Land Evaluation (LE) rating was developed for use across all of Portage County. Three soil property indexes, all published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), were combined to produce the LE rating: prime farmland classification, land capability class – natural condition, and productivity index. LE ratings reflect the productivity potential, as well as the economic and environmental costs of producing a crop. Possible LE ratings range from 0 to 100, with **higher numbers meaning greater value for agriculture**. Many physical and chemical soil properties are considered in the LE rating, either directly or indirectly, including soil texture and rock fragments, slope, wetness and flooding, soil erodibility, climate, available water capacity, pH (alkalinity versus acidity), and permeability.

A Site Assessment (SA) rating was also developed for the Town of Belmont. The site assessment factors are further evaluated in the Land Use element of this plan. As with the LE rating, SA ratings range from 0 to 100, with higher numbers meaning greater value for agriculture. The LE and SA scores are combined to yield a score for each two-acre block of land within the Town ranging between 0 and 200 points, with a score of 200 representing lands that are of the highest value for agriculture (excluding specialty crops such as cranberries). Communities will then determine an appropriate threshold for ranking lands recommended for protection (i.e. areas with a score higher than 150 and greater than 40 contiguous acres in size). Weighting factors can be changed by each community to reflect its own priorities. See Appendix E for a complete explanation of this system.

The Town of Belmont has decided to use the LESA model as an advisory tool to help identify areas in the community that should remain in agricultural use.

## B. Highly Productive Agricultural Soils

Highly productive agricultural soils in the Town of Belmont have been identified, with the assistance of the County Conservationist, based on highest productivity and lowest degree of limitations for farming (Map 5.1 Highly Productive Agricultural Soils). Slopes greater than 6% were excluded from the “highly productive” designation (due to severe hazard for water or wind erosion), along with small parcels and stony, rough, and eroded sites. Highly Productive Soils in Belmont include:

- Billett sandy loam, 0-2% slopes
- Wyocena sandy loam, 2-6% slopes
- Rosholt loam, loamy substratum, 0-2% slopes
- Mecan sandy loam, 2-6% slopes
- Rosholt loam, 2-6% slopes
- Richford loamy sand, 0-2% slopes
- Richford loamy sand, 2-6% slopes
- Oesterle loam, silty subsoil variant

## C. Farming Systems, Demographics, and Land Tenure

The Town is located near one of the major farm regions in Wisconsin. The first, and most prominent is the dairy region. In Wisconsin, dairying is most concentrated in a belt that begins near Hudson (St. Croix County), heads east to Wausau and Green Bay (Brown County), then turns southwest through Fond du Lac, Madison and ends near Dubuque (Iowa County). Wisconsin Department of Agriculture 2002 permit information list six (6) active grade-A dairy farms operating in the Town of Belmont. To the north in Lanark, there were eight (8) farms, and to the west in Almond there were four (4).

The second farming region, near Belmont, is that of fresh vegetable production. The irrigated sands of the “golden sands” region of Wisconsin lay between Amherst and the Stevens Point area. Although Belmont is east of this large irrigated plain, there are a number of producers who have scattered vegetable operations within the Town. While no exact acreage numbers are available, the presence of pivot irrigation rigs is one key indicator of vegetable production. There were approximately 13 irrigation pivots in Belmont in 2000.

The amount of land dedicated to agricultural production does change regularly from year to year. In 2000, the Portage County Planning and Zoning office analyzed aerial photography for the Town of Belmont to identify active farmland within the community. The land in farms was broken down by presence of irrigation, 1,425 acres; use for row crops or hay, 4,749 acres; and permanent pasture, 390 acres. Total agricultural acres identified for 2000 were 6,564.

There were 37 persons employed in an agriculturally related field in the Town of Belmont in 2000 (Table 1.9, Issues and Opportunities section). This represented 12% of employment for the Town. This is down from the 1980 figure of 57 persons (28.8%). Belmont has a slightly higher percentage of agriculture related employment when compared to the Town average in Portage County of 6.9% for 2000. Decreasing farm employment is not a unique trend by any means.

Farm numbers are down, while acreage per farm is up. Farm consolidation is a common practice in this industry.

## D. Farm Economy and Infrastructure

Because of the lack of farm economy information available at the Town level, a detailed discussion of the farm economy at the town level is not practical. Please see the complete discussion of the Portage County farm economy in the Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resource element of the Portage County Comprehensive Plan.

**Map 5.1 Highly Productive Agricultural Soils**

## E. Other Local Influences on Agriculture

The Belmont area has not experienced the increased pressure for the development of rural residential properties compared to some other communities in Portage County. There is limited residential development, but the Plan Commission predicts that the Town's character will remain rural far into the future. However, even with limited development, there will still be homes coming onto the agricultural landscape, increasing the potential for conflict, increasing the assessed value of non-farm lands, and most importantly, increasing the sale price per acre of land beyond the point of being economically viable for purchase as farmland.

## F. Agricultural Programs

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program, administered through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), is a voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, one can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Participants enroll in CRP for 10 to 15 years.

- Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program. It supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land.

EQIP may pay up to 75 percent of the costs of eligible conservation practices. Incentive payments may be made to encourage a farmer to adopt land management practices, such as nutrient management, manure management, integrated pest management, and wildlife habitat management.

- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program to restore and protect wetlands on private property. It is an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to restore wetlands that have been drained for agriculture.

Landowners who choose to participate in WRP may sell a conservation easement or enter into a cost-share restoration agreement with USDA to restore and protect wetlands. The landowner voluntarily limits future use of the land, yet retains private ownership. The landowner and NRCS develop a plan for the restoration and maintenance of the wetland.

The program offers landowners three options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements of a minimum 10-year duration.

- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on private lands. It provides both technical assistance and cost sharing to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Landowners agree to prepare and implement a wildlife habitat development plan. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to implement the wildlife habitat restoration practices.

- **Managed Forest Law Program (MFL)**

One option open to all private landowners owning ten or more acres of woodlands is the Managed Forest Law Program. The MFL program is intended to foster timber production on private forests while promoting other benefits that forested lands provide. Participants in this program have the option to choose a 25 or 50 year contract period and pay property taxes at a reduced rate on enrolled lands. A portion of the difference in property taxes is recouped by the state at the time of a timber harvest when a yield tax is imposed based on the volume of timber removed. For more information regarding specific requirements and how to enroll in this program, contact the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR).

### **Section 5.3 Agricultural Issues**

- How will Belmont be impacted by the growing number of consolidated farm operations and de-evolution of the family farm – due to economics or lack of desire to farm by upcoming generations?
- There are some small farms being pushed out by residential development.
- The soil is best suited for specific crops. How will Belmont benefit from, or be negatively impacted from this fact?
- The soil is good for some species of trees – may be good for long term economics, aesthetics and wildlife, but not good for short term economic return.
- A limited quantity of good quality agricultural land exists in the Town.
- Would land be classified as ‘productive’ without a high-cap pivot?
- Soil issues include: Most soil needs irrigation for higher output; Nitrogen leaching into groundwater.
- How can the Town continue to assess groundwater quality with regard to atrazine, nitrates, and other chemicals?

### **Section 5.4 Agricultural Goals, Objectives and Policies**

**Goal 1:** Preserve lands best suited for agricultural uses

Objectives:

1.1: Maintain farming as a base economy.

1.2: Educate the public about the operations and activities of the agriculture community.

1.3: Use the Land Evaluation Site Assessment System as a tool to help identify productive agricultural lands.

Policies:

1.1(a): Residents of the Town should be aware that they may be subject to certain inconveniences that are part of normal farming practices. Inconveniences, such as aerial spraying, dust, noise, odors, etc. that come from agricultural operations and aren’t a major threat to public health or safety, shall not be considered a nuisance.

1.1(b): Inconveniences, such as equipment traveling on roads, shall not be considered a nuisance.

1.2(a): Discourage residential development near areas of higher intensity agricultural operations.

1.2(b): Work with various agencies and organizations to provide educational materials to residents regarding agricultural issues.

## **Section 5.5 Natural Resources Inventory**

Natural resources in the Town serve as the foundation for resident's physical and economic well being – from groundwater quality to land suitability for agricultural, residential, or commercial development. According to the results of the 2001 Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Survey, Town residents favored managing the natural resources that support and sustain them.

This section will describe the existing natural resources inventory and state the issues, goals, objectives, and policies that were identified and adopted by the Town of Belmont Plan Commission and Town Board.

### **A. Geomorphology**

The present Portage County landscape primarily reflects the last or Wisconsin stage of the pleistocene or glacial epoch (Holt, 1965). The glacial ice transported large amounts of rock debris known as drift. The drift is called till if deposited directly by the ice, and outwash if placed by glacial meltwater.

The Town of Belmont is located in a geologic province known as the drift province. The drift province covers the eastern 1/3 of the County and is comprised of a series of end moraines that represent the accumulation of ice-transported debris that piled up at the forward edge of the ice sheet. The hills and ridges are composed of sandy till.

As the ice melted and the end moraines were formed, large amounts of ice-transported materials were removed by the meltwaters. This glaciofluvial (outwash) material was deposited between and in a large area to the west of the moraines. The deep sand and gravel deposits of the sand plain province were formed in this way. The sand and gravel is well sorted and contains only small amounts of silt and clay. Deeper gravel deposits are found adjacent to the end moraines. The sands are generally finer further from the moraine. The thickness of outwash deposits ranges from less than 30 feet northeast of Stevens Point to over 200 feet near the outer moraine and averages about 100 feet.

The topography of the Town of Belmont is generally rolling and includes a small number of lowland wet areas, lakes, and creeks. Elevation ranges from 1,320 feet to 920 feet above sea level (Map 5.2) while depth to bedrock throughout the Town is greater than 100 feet.

### **B. Soils**

Soils in the Town can be grouped into three soil associations (Map 5.3), as follows:

- **Kranski-Coloma-Mecan Association**: Excessively drained and well-drained, gently sloping to very steep soils that formed in sandy glacial till or in deep sandy deposits. Most of these soils are used for pasture or woodland and are subject to soil blowing and water erosion when cropped.
- **Richford-Rosholt-Billett Association**: Well drained, nearly level to gently sloping soils that formed in sandy and loamy deposits and outwash sand and gravel. These soils can be found in the upper northeast and lower southeast portions of the Town. Corn, small grain, and alfalfa are the principal crops, while some specialty crops are grown in irrigated areas. These soils are subject to wind and water erosion.

- Wyocena-Rosholt Association: Well drained, gently sloping to very steep soils that formed in loamy deposits and sandy glacial till or outwash sand and gravel. These soils are found in the west central part of the Town, south of Pickerel Lake. The lesser sloping areas tend to be used for crops while the steeper areas are used for pasture or woodland. The steeper soils in this association have very severe limitations for septic absorption fields.

Soil testing by a certified soil tester is strongly recommended for more detailed, site specific information.

### C. Surface Water, Floodplain and Wetlands

The major surface water bodies that are present in the Town of Belmont are: Deans Lake, Fountain Lake, Pickerel Lake, Pine Lake, and Pleasant Lake.

Other surface water features in the Town include: Emmons Creek, which originates at Fountain Lake, Murray Creek, and Pearl Creek. According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps, there are no floodplains in the Town. All three of the creeks flow into Waupaca County and are listed as Class 1 trout streams by the WI DNR. The WI DNR defines Class 1 as: high quality trout waters that have sufficient natural reproduction to sustain populations of wild trout, at or near carry capacity. Consequently, streams in this category require no stocking of hatchery trout. These streams or stream sections are often small and may contain small or slow-growing trout, especially in the headwaters.

The entire Town is included in the Tomorrow-Waupaca River Watershed. These waters eventually drain into Lake Michigan. A watershed can be defined as an interconnected area of land draining from surrounding ridge tops to a common point such as a lake or stream confluence with a neighboring watershed (WI DNR).

Wetlands are an important part of the watershed, as they act as a filter system for pollutants, nutrients, and sediments, along with serving as buffers for shorelands and providing essential wildlife habitat, flood control and groundwater recharge. Wetlands within the Town include three general types: forested, scrub or shrub, and emergent/wet meadow (Map 5.4).

- Forested wetlands are the predominant type of wetland in the Town of Belmont. These include bogs and forested floodplain complexes that are characterized by trees 20 feet or more in height such as, tamarack, white cedar, black spruce, elm, black ash, and silver maple. These wetlands are located primarily along the edges of Emmons Creek and its tributaries, Murray Creek and Pearl Creek.
- Emergent/wet meadow, the second most numerous type of wetland within Belmont, consisting of areas that may have saturated soils more often than having standing water. Vegetation includes sedges, grasses and reeds as dominant plants, but may also include blue flag iris, milkweed, sneezeweed, mint and several species of goldenrod and aster. These types of wetlands are found near the headwaters of Pearl Creek and along the southern shore of Pine Lake.
- Scrub/shrub wetlands, the third most abundant type of wetlands include bogs and alder thickets, are characterized by wood shrubs and small trees such as tag aster, bog birch, willow and dogwood. These are also found interspersed along Pearl and Murray Creeks.

**Map 5.2 Topography**

**Map 5.3      General Soil Associations**

**Map 5.4 Wetlands**

#### D. Groundwater

All Town residents water supply comes from groundwater, therefore, protection of this resource is important. Depth to water table, soil texture, and permeability all play a role in diminishing the negative effects pollutants may have on water quality. Depth to groundwater varies greatly in Belmont, ranging from 10 feet in the southeast corner of the Town to 120 feet in the north-central and south-central areas. Although the depth to groundwater here is generally of a nature that is more conducive to intercepting pollutants, the sub-surface soil texture is sandy and coarse, allowing liquids a faster rate of travel through the soil column. Groundwater generally flows in a westerly direction through the Town (Map 5.5).

The aquifer potential is high, with potential pumping yield rates for groundwater at 500-1000 gallons per minute throughout most of the Town. This rate is consistent with rates found throughout the eastern 1/3 of the County and much higher than rates found in the northwest quarter of the County. More information regarding groundwater can be found in the County's Groundwater Management Plan.

##### 1. Atrazine Prohibition Areas

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is researching the health effects of atrazine in water. Drinking water that contains atrazine will not cause an immediate sickness or health problems (acute toxicity). However, consuming low levels of atrazine over time may cause health problems (chronic toxicity). The EPA is also concerned that atrazine may be an endocrine disruptor which can cause unintentional hormone-like activity in the body.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is responsible for protecting Wisconsin's groundwater from contamination by pesticides and fertilizers. Their authority to restrict the use of a pesticide that is contaminating groundwater at levels above health-based standards is found in the Wisconsin Groundwater Law, Chapter 160 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and by department rule in ATCP 31, Groundwater Protection Program.

The rules for restricting the use of atrazine and other pesticides in Wisconsin are part of ATCP 30 - Pesticide Product Restrictions and the county maps showing the location of the prohibition areas can also be found in the rule in ATCP 30 - Appendix A.

Atrazine has been detected above the enforcement standard in wells within the Town of Belmont and because of this, prohibition areas have been defined within the community (Map 5.6). Approximately 2,030 acres of land are within the prohibition area in the Town of Belmont.

#### E. Wildlife Habitat and Forested Areas

When people think about wildlife, birds, fish, and mammals most likely come to mind. It is important, however, to consider all organisms that make up an ecosystem in order for that system to continue providing the maximum benefit to humans and the environment. Town residents recognize the fact that human beings play a role in protecting or restoring, as well as, degrading or destroying wildlife and its habitat. They also recognize that it will be very difficult to preserve all ecosystems in the Town from human encroachment or interaction, therefore, it is the desire of residents to protect wildlife habitat where practicable.

The biggest threats to wildlife are loss of habitat quality and quantity. These threats can be attributed primarily to fragmentation, invasive species, and pollution. Fragmentation refers to the

loss of large, contiguous sections of land through subdivision into smaller parts. These subdivisions can lead to an alteration and possible degradation of the native plant and animal communities. Invasive species, both plant and animal, tend to out compete or prey on native species also altering the native ecosystem. Pollution can lead to habitat degradation and cause birth defects and increased mortality rates in animal species. Habitat areas are important for providing food and cover for nesting, brooding, and sheltering. Farmland is one type of habitat that also provides food, as well as, travel corridors between wetlands and woodlands.

Woodlands or forested lands comprise 50% of the land area in Belmont (Map 5.7) while wetlands make up 3%. Soil conditions in many parts of the Town are well suited for specific types of trees, as evidenced by the many pine plantations that include Christmas tree farms. According to 2001 County survey data, 76% of Town respondents felt that an effort should be made to identify and protect woodlands, and 78% felt the same about wetlands and floodplains. Loss of these habitat types can threaten the viability of certain species. Woodlands are present in many areas primarily due to an inability to sustain successful agricultural practices.

#### F. Threatened and Endangered Species

Known rare and endangered animal species identified by the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) that are located within the Town of Belmont include the Persius Dusky Wing and Karner Blue butterflies, and the Bina Flower Moth. Rare and endangered plant communities include Oak Barrens. These elements should be taken into consideration when development and protection measures are considered. A detailed description of rare and endangered plants and animals can be obtained from the WI DNR.

#### G. Air Quality

The following information comes from the WI DNR and the Environmental Protection Agency:

A few common air pollutants are found all over the United States. These pollutants can injure health, harm the environment and cause property damage. The Environmental Protection Agency calls these pollutants **criteria air pollutants** because the agency has regulated them by first developing health-based **criteria** (science-based guidelines) as the basis for setting permissible levels. These pollutants include: ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and lead. One set of limits (**primary standard**) is designed to protect public health, including the health of "sensitive" populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly; another set of limits (**secondary standard**) is intended to protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility and damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. A geographic area that meets or does better than the primary standard is called an **attainment area**; areas that don't meet the primary standard are called **nonattainment areas**.

All of Portage County, including Belmont, is listed as an attainment area by the WI DNR.

#### H. Non-Metallic Mining

The glacial and geologic history of Portage County has made conditions suitable for certain types of non-metallic mining. Along the moraines in the eastern third of the County, glacial deposits have resulted in some lands that are desirable for sand, gravel and aggregate extraction. This is in contrast with lands west of the Wisconsin River where soils are heavier and have a higher clay content.

Conditions in Belmont are favorable for some types of non-metallic mining as evidenced by the 17 small, intermittently worked sand and gravel pits within the Town. Sub-surface non-metallic materials may be considered an economic development resource to the Town.

**Map 5.5      Groundwater Flow**

**Map 5.6 Atrazine Prohibition Area**

**Map 5.7      Forested Land**

## **Section 5.6 Natural Resource Issues**

The following issues relating to natural resources were identified through the planning process:

### A. Groundwater

1. How will water table fluctuations affect residents?
2. Possibly high nitrates and atrazine in groundwater.

### B. Surface water/wetlands

1. Most is under DNR control.
2. Are we creating mosquito breeding grounds? (West Nile Virus)

### C. Wildlife

1. What will be the impact of an increasing population of turkey and bear?
2. Some residents have a perception that crop damage is increasing as a result of increasing wild life populations or baiting and feeding bans.
3. Gypsy moth population increasing – How will the negative impact be addressed?
4. Hunting is a valuable recreational past time in the Town. How can the Town maintain hunting opportunities in the Town?

### D. Woodlands

1. The acreage of woodlands is increasing, to what extent do increasing woodlands affect the tax burden of other citizens?
2. If the demand for paper products goes down, what will be the value of woodlands?
3. How will the Town deal with the potential demand for gravel/aggregates from the Highway 10 construction?

### E. Air quality

1. A potential conflict exists between residential development and farm practices that include foul odors and aerial spraying.

### F. Brownfields

1. How can the Town address potential brownfield issues with junk/abandoned cars?

### G. Parks

1. Should a portion of land be set aside for parks when a subdivision is built?
2. The Town should look at opportunities for developing parkland as the need arises.

## **Section 5.7 Natural Resource Goals, Objectives and Policies**

**Goal 1:** Identify, manage, preserve, and protect natural resources throughout Belmont.

### Objectives:

1.1: Promote sound soil and water conservation practices to help reduce soil erosion and limit water pollution.

1.2: Promote the preservation of wildlife habitat to ensure a hunting legacy for future residents.

1.3: Explore opportunities for developing a Town park.

Policies:

1.1(a): Work with various agencies and organizations to provide information regarding land management options and monitoring of groundwater quality.

1.1(b): Use Conservancy Zoning in designated areas to protect public green space and water resources in the Town.

1.2(a): Identify and protect unique natural resources including woodlands, wildlife habitat, and water resources.

1.2(b): Encourage the protection of existing public lands that provide recreational opportunities.

## **Section 5.8 Cultural Resources**

How can you know where you're going if you don't know where you've been? Cultural and historic resources often help link the past with the present and can give a community a sense of place or identity. These resources can include historic buildings and structures along with ancient and archeological sites.

Burial sites are one example of a resource that can add to a community's sense of history as well as provide a great deal of genealogical information. Formally catalogued burial sites are protected from disturbance in Wisconsin and are given tax treatment equal to that of operating cemeteries.

Information regarding cultural and historic resources in the Town is constrained to limited financial and human resources. This section will provide goals and policies that promote the effective management of historic and cultural resources.

### **A. Cultural and Historic Resources Inventory**

A wide range of historic properties have been documented that help create Wisconsin's distinct cultural landscape. Descriptions of existing locations are identified on the list of historic places by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Keep in mind many of the properties included in this inventory are privately owned and not necessarily open to the public, so please respect the rights of private property owners. At this time there are two listings in Belmont, which include a barn and a house.

- The barn site is described as the Fred Turner Farm, a side gabled barn constructed in 1903 located at 9424 Cty Rd D.
- The house is listed as Emmons Creek Fishery Area Residence #4042, a balloon frame house constructed in 1940.

Another source of information comes from the National and State Register of Historic Places. There are currently fourteen sites listed throughout Portage County, however, none of them are located in the Town.

There are four cemeteries located in the Town, as identified in the Utilities and Community Facilities chapter of this Comprehensive Plan.

## **B. Cultural Resource Programs**

At the state level, the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board (WHRAB) works in association with the Wisconsin Historical Society. The Board's activity falls primarily into three areas: it provides guidance and assistance to archives and records management programs in Wisconsin, promotes the value of historical records as keys to our cultural heritage and works through partnerships with statewide organizations whose purpose and goals support that end, and to bring federal grant funds to Wisconsin for improving access and preservation of historical records.

### **Section 5.9 Cultural Resource Issues**

The following issues or concerns regarding cultural resources were identified during the planning process:

- How can the farming culture remain strong in the community?
- To what extent should the Grant Church monument be protected?

### **Section 5.10 Cultural Resource Goals, Objectives and Policies**

**Goal 1:** Promote and protect community cultural resources.

**Objective 1.1:** Work with organizations, such as the Portage County Historical Society, to identify historic and cultural resources.