

CHAPTER 5: Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources

66.1001 (2)(e) Wis. Stat.:

The Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources element is a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps, and programs of the conservation, and promotion of the effective management of natural resources such as groundwater, forests, productive agricultural area, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, stream corridors, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, metallic and non-metallic mineral resources consistent with zoning limitations under s. 295.20 (2), parks, open spaces, historical and cultural resources, community design, recreational resources and other natural resources.

Section 5.1 Agricultural Resources Inventory

The Village of Park Ridge has no agricultural land, farms, or farm-related businesses located within the Village limits.

Section 5.2 Natural Resources Inventory

This section will describe the existing conditions of natural resources in the Village of Park Ridge and surrounding area. Natural resources include: soils, watersheds, lakes, rivers, groundwater, shore land, floodplains, wetlands, forests, vegetation and wildlife.

A. Geology and Bed Rock

The Village of Park Ridge is located in the central sand plain. The central sand plain is characterized by flat topography, ample groundwater supply and sand plain features, including sandy soils that are extensively well drained. Within the Village the geology consists of 30 to 50 feet of sand and gravel over granite bedrock

B. Soils

The most prevalent soil type in the Village is Plainfield loamy sand, which occurs throughout the majority of the Village. This soil consists of deep, nearly level, excessively drained soils. (Map 5.1)

C. Groundwater

Groundwater for the Village is generally low in nitrates. Groundwater flows from the northwest to southeast and is generally good in both quantity and quality.

D. Surface Water

The Village is located in the Plover and Little Plover Rivers Watershed (Map 5.2),

Surface water features and natural forest land are important recreational and scenic resources for the Village of Park Ridge, although the Plover River is not located within the Village.

Map 5.1 - Soils

Map 5.2 - Ground Water and Surface Water Flow

Plover River – The Plover River is the only significant stream in the vicinity of Park Ridge which is located along the Village’s east side. The Plover River corridor has many environmental and recreational qualities, which have been a strong factor in shaping urban development in the area.

E. Wetlands

There are no wetlands located within the Village. (Map 5.3)

F. Shore Lands

There are no shore lands located within the Village.

G. Floodplains

The Village of Park Ridge has no floodplains located within the Village limits, although the Plover River lies just outside of the Village limits (Map 5.4).

H. Vegetation/Forest Area

The residential lots within the Village of Park Ridge are heavily wooded. There are no parks or public forest lands in the Village.

I. Wildlife

Fish and wildlife habitat is concentrated in the Plover River corridors. Scattered woodlands exist throughout the Village, which provide habitat for various wildlife species, including white tailed deer.

J. Endangered Species

Fifteen known rare and endangered species have been identified by the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) located within Township 42408 (Map 5.5); and some or all may be found in the Village of Park Ridge, they include: *Red-Shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Northern Sedge Meadow, Stream- -Fast; Hard; Cold, Least Darter, Redfin Shiner, Pugnose Minnow, Splendid Clubtail, Barrens Snaketail, Prairie Vole, Woodland Jumping Mouse, Franklin’s Ground Squirrel, Arctic Shrew, Pigmy Shrew, Water Shrew*

Due to the way the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources identifies endangered species, it is difficult to determine their location within the Village of Park Ridge, if at all.

Map 5.3 - Wetlands

Map 5.4 - Floodplain and Slope

Map 5.5 - Endangered Species Location Township 42408

Section 5.3 Cultural Resources Inventory

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.

This section will provide goals and policies that promote the effective management of historic and cultural resources.

A. Cultural Resource and Traditions

1. The Silver Coach

The Silver Coach is the last remaining original business left from the time of incorporation of the Village of Park Ridge (1938). In the mid 1930's, John and Fred Bablitch bought the vintage 1905 Minneapolis-St. Paul-Sault Ste., Marie railroad car from the Soo Line Railroad and moved it to its present location where it was converted into a bar. They sold it to Pat "Coach" Boland, a one-time coach of the Chicago Rockets football team, who operated it until April 1, 1955 when he sold it to Pete Redfield.

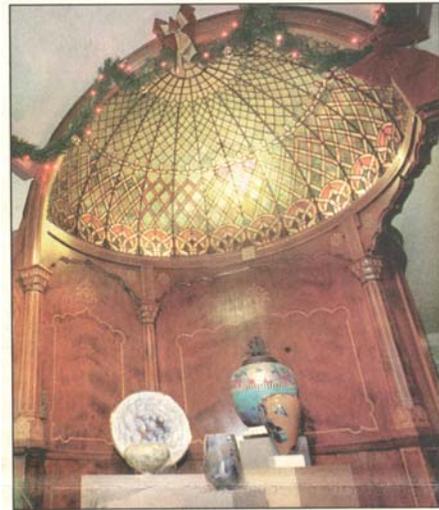


Photo from Stevens Point Journal
by Doug Wojcik

Charles "Pete" Redfield owned and operated the Silver Coach for 32 years and was considered as the community's master of hospitality. Mr. Redfield not only ran the Silver Coach, in the 1970's, he was one of the founders, and eventually

Chairman of the Board, of the Bank of Park Ridge. He was also a director of the First Affiliate Bank Cooperation, president of the Former Silver Dairy, and partner with Joe and Harry Koshnick in an amusement park in Waupaca. From the citation given to Pete by the State of Wisconsin Legislature – "Mr. Redfield played a major role in the development of today's impressive business district in the Village of Park Ridge."

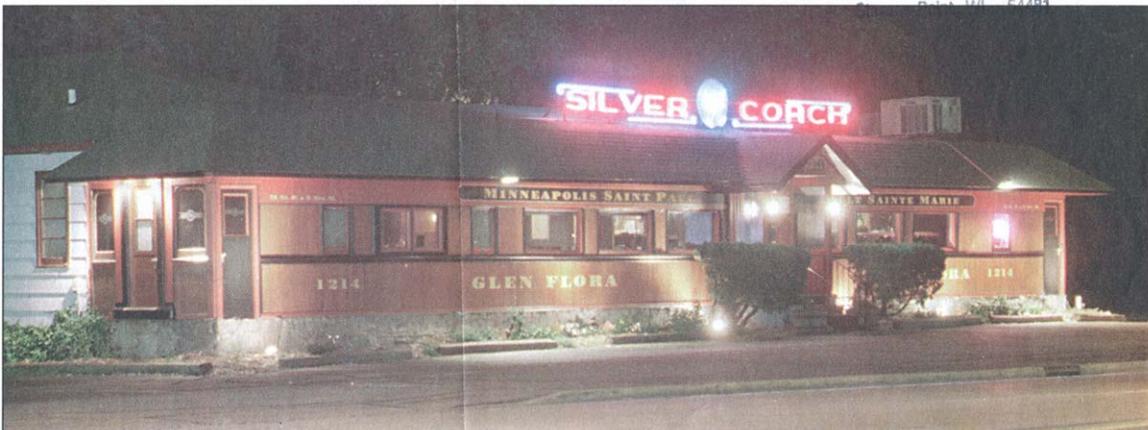


Photo from Stevens Point Journal by Doug Wojcik

Pete retired on March 9, 1987 and the restaurant was sold to Jim Gitter and Judy Barseness. Jim Gitter took several years to restore the interior, and used old rail compartments to create two small private dining rooms, the 2 seat “Barney and Smith” compartment and the 4 seat “Glen For” compartment. Jim also spent 8 weeks restoring the exterior to near original condition. In August 2001, Jim sold the restaurant to Robert and Brenda Tuszka, who own and operate the Silver Coach today.

2. Traditions

In spite of all the changes the Village of Park Ridge has gone through, two things have remained constant in the village (at least since 1940). One tradition is the annual visit from Santa to the children of the village. It began when the Garden Club asked the board if the village would pay for candy for Santa to give to the Children. The First Santa was George Lovejoy, wearing the first suit purchased in 1940 (\$2.15). As the population of the Village increased, there was a need for two Santa’s. In 1953, the second was added. The Garden Club took care of filling the bags of candy until it disbanded, for a few years after former club members made the preparations. In years past, village residents have assisted the Fire Department.



2003 Christmas, Mr. and Mrs. Santa

The second tradition that has remained constant in the village since the 1940’s, among the present and former residents alike, is the feeling that Park Ridge is “A Good Place to Live”.

3. Other Activities/Traditions

The Village Participates in a Village Garage sale, and volunteers work to have a village picnic.

Section 5.4 Issues Identified by the Plan Commission

A. There were no issues identified by the Plan Commission at this time.

Section 5.5 Conclusions

A. Groundwater is generally good in quantity and quality.

Section 5.6 Natural and Cultural Goals, Objectives and Policies

A. Goals

1. Manage the natural resources that support and sustain us.
2. Encourage identification and protection of historic and cultural resources.

B. Objectives

1. Development takes place in ways that protect our natural resources.
2. Participate in local units of government working together to define and develop appropriate public access to natural resources.
3. Support recreational opportunities in the area
4. Develop partnership efforts that result in the preservation and restoration of natural resources.
5. Make the general public more aware of cultural resources

C. Policies

1. Encourage the preservation of existing trees.
2. Encourage the continuation of University Stevens Point forestry classes inventorying and studying Village trees. (Recommend an Urban Forestry Plan done by the forestry department and students).
3. Village right-of-way should be maintained.