

CHAPTER 5 Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element

Section 5.1 Introduction

The agricultural, natural and cultural resources of the Town of Pine Grove are some of the main reasons why people choose to live here. The Town's flat topography and abundant groundwater are ideal factors for agricultural production. Abundant wildlife, wetlands and productive farms and farmland all come together to create a cherished living environment.

The residents of the Town of Pine Grove 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 economically viable industry. The residents also understand that the proper management of natural resources within the community will help sustain a rich quality of life that is enjoyed by all who settle here.

Section 5.2 Agricultural Inventory

A. Agricultural Potential Based on Land Evaluation Rating (LESA)

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 Pine Grove. 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 Pine Grove has decided to use the LESA model as an advisory tool to help identify productive agricultural areas in the community.

B. Highly Productive Agricultural Soils

With the assistance of the County Conservationist, highly productive agricultural soils in the Town of Pine Grove have been identified, 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. The soils in Pine Grove that are listed as “Highly Productive” are Billett sandy loam, 0-2% slope, and Richford loamy sand, 0-2% slope.

The Town has very little soil listed as prime. Due to intensive management practices (including drainage, irrigation, fertilizing, and aerial spraying) many areas of the Town have been rendered highly productive. Some of these practices, however, may result in negative consequences to groundwater, such as high nitrate levels.

C. Farming Systems, Demographics, and Land Tenure

The agricultural landscape of the Town of Pine Grove can best be described as a hybrid of the dominant types of Wisconsin farming systems (dairy and vegetable production). 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 (Dane County) and ends near Dubuque (Iowa County). Wisconsin Department of Agriculture 2002 permit information lists three (3) active grade-A dairy farms operating in the Town of Pine Grove. To the west in Town of Grant, there are three (3) farms; Town of Buena Vista to the north had twelve (12) farms; and Town of Almond to the east had four (4) farms.

The second farming region in Portage County is that of fresh vegetable production. The irrigated sands of the “Golden Sands” region of Wisconsin lay between the Town of Amherst, the Stevens Point area, and south into Waushara County. Pine Grove has a number of producers who have 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 41 irrigation pivots in Pine Grove in 2000.

There were 67 Pine Grove residents employed in an agriculture-related field in 2000 (Table 1.9, Issues and Opportunities Element). This represented 18% of employment for the Town, down from the 1980 figure of 75 persons (27.7%). However, Pine Grove had a higher percentage of agriculture-related 2000 employment when compared to the Town average within Portage County (6.9%). Decreasing farm employment is not a unique trend by any means. Farm numbers are down wherever you look, 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 Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resource element of the Portage County Comprehensive Plan.

Map 5.1 Highly Productive Agricultural Soils

Map 5.2 Portage County Drainage District

E. Other Local Influences on Agriculture

The Pine Grove area has not experienced a large increase in the development of rural residential properties. A modest amount of development, however, has brought more homes onto the agricultural landscape, increasing the potential for conflict, possibly increasing the assessed value of non-farm lands, and most importantly, potentially increasing the sale price per acre of land beyond the point of being economically viable for purchase as farmland.

1. Portage County Drainage District (Map 5.2)

The Portage County Drainage District was organized in 1903 to develop and maintain a series of drainage ditches that would make agriculture on and near the Buena Vista Marsh possible. Construction began in 1907 and was completed in 1915. Due to such adverse conditions as acid soil, fire, frost, and the high cost of re-dredging, farming became unprofitable. Increased interest in irrigated agriculture for mint, potatoes, hay and pasture led to the re-dredging of the ditches in the late 1960's. Currently, the Portage County Drainage District is the largest active district in the State (Lake Wazeecha Watershed Inventory Report, 1993).

The Drainage District is approximately 87 square miles in size and contains approximately 93 miles of District operated ditches, 41.5 miles of "private drains" and 5 miles of perennial streams. The construction and maintenance of District operated ditches is regulated by a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) "Maintenance Dredging Agreement" and ATCP 48 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code under DATCP (Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Prototype Management Plan for the Portage County Drainage District, 1994).

The Portage County Drainage District oversees the maintenance of these ditches through statutory authority. A tax is levied against land in the district receiving benefits from the ditches. The taxes are used for maintenance of the ditches. In recent years, the ditches have realized a need for extensive dredging and most ditches require a permit from the Department of Natural Resources. Although some permits have been granted, there have been conflicts between the Drainage District and the DNR concerning authority and jurisdiction over the ditches. The presence of and continued maintenance of the ditches will be necessary to sustain agricultural production.

2. Groundwater

Pine Grove is located within the sand and gravel aquifer of the sand plain province of Portage County. Because of this, groundwater is easily accessible and plentiful, with potential pumping yield rates exceeding 1,000 gallons per minute. This large aquifer, combined with lands being drained due to the creation of the Portage County Drainage District, creates the potential for rendering lands highly productive.

F. Agricultural Programs

A number of programs are available to agricultural landowners to help achieve desired outcomes ranging from enhancing wildlife habitat to minimizing soil erosion. The following is a partial list from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). For more information about these and other programs contact the local NRCS office at 715-346-1325 or the Farm Service Agency at 715-346-1313.

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 productive 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 U.S. Department of Agriculture 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 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.

Section 5.3 Agricultural Issues in the Town of Pine Grove

- Clearing of lands for agricultural use when some of these lands could support residential development to support the tax base. How can the Town maintain or expand its tax base when a majority of land is assessed for agriculture?
- There are fewer good paying jobs in the agricultural sector – lost jobs are not being replaced by other employment sectors. To what extent can the Town promote better paying agricultural jobs?
- Road damage by large farm equipment. How can the Town minimize road maintenance costs?
- There are no posted truck routes – how can the Town mitigate damage caused by semi-trailers and other large vehicles?

Section 5.4 Agricultural Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1 - Support and protect agriculture as an important economic activity and land use within the Town.

Objectives:

1. Educate the public about living in agricultural areas.
2. A Land Evaluation Site Assessment system is available to help identify productive agricultural areas.
3. Protect the principal use and purpose of the drainage ditches, namely agriculture.

Policies:

1. Promote the growth of agricultural business and industry that bring job growth and tax base to the area.
2. Promote agricultural practices that are environmentally responsible and protect air, soil, water, and wildlife.
3. Provide information regarding existing agricultural operations and Wisconsin's Right to Farm Law.
4. Continue cooperative working relationships between the Town, the Portage County Drainage District, and the Department of Natural Resources regarding continued ditch maintenance.

Section 5.5 Natural Resources

Natural resources in the Town serve as the foundation for residents 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 Pine Grove Plan Commission and Town Board.

A. Geomorphology

The physical environment and geology of the area traces its origin to the affects of the melting glaciers over 10,000 years ago. The area is part of Wisconsin's "driftless" area, never having glacial deposits or "drift" left behind by glaciers as was the case immediately to the east of the Town where glacial moraine hills were formed by glacial deposits. The surface geology of the Town was formed when the glacial ice sheets started melting and receding, and in the process depositing great depths of out-wash deposits mostly sand, from the melt-water flowing from the glacier westward to what is now the Wisconsin River Valley. The Town owes its flat landscape to these water-born deposits. This sand plain is excessively drained in the northern part and poorly drained in the southern part in an area that was either open swamp or tamarack/alder swamp 100 years ago. There are no lakes in this area and the few streams present have mostly been converted into a series of inter-connected ditches flowing to the west toward the Wisconsin River. Portions of this plain have a characteristic sand dune topography - small rolling sand mounds and sand bow-outs.

These sand deposits extend in excess of 100 feet deep down to bedrock. The Town lies close to or directly over a major bedrock transition zone in the center of the State where deposits of sandstone extending from the south terminates. From this transition point northward, the uppermost bedrock is granite, which also underlies the sandstone to the south. The bedrock slopes from north to south across Portage County resulting in greater depths of sand in the southern part of Pine Grove than in the northern part. The presence of three distinctive sandstone outcroppings are significant geological landmarks since they represent the northern most occurrence in this area of resistant cores of sandstone that withstood destruction from glacial meltwater and from the leveling effect of direct glacial action. These sandstone hills are called Mosquito Bluff, Rocky Ledge, and Lone Rock Bluff. They extend in excess of 100 feet above the surrounding plain.

These deep sand deposits function as an extensive aquifer that provides a ready supply of good quality water to a large Central Wisconsin region known as the “Golden Sands” area. This aquifer has made possible vast land use and economic changes from idle, non-productive land to highly productive and valuable farmland by way of high-capacity irrigation wells, which provide needed moisture to the droughty sandy soils. The groundwater is so plentiful that much of the sand region, including much of Pine Grove, has a higher water table that limits development due mainly to adverse affects on on-site waste disposal systems. This higher water was an historical limitation to crop production until much of the area had its water table lowered by drainage ditches. This wet soils zone extends across many towns in Portage County and has been known as the Buena Vista Marsh or Meadow. The moist zone has diversified potential as a wildlife habitat, livestock production and specialty field crops.

The topography of the Town is generally flat; however, ranges from 1,055 feet above sea level to 1,240 feet due to the presence of Mosquito Bluff (Map 5.3).

B. Soils (Map 5.4)

Soils in the Town can be grouped into three soil associations, as follows:

- Richford-Rosholt-Billett Association: Well-drained, nearly level to gently sloping soils that formed in sandy and loamy deposits, and outwash sand and gravel.
- Leola-Pearl Association: Moderately well drained and somewhat poorly drained, nearly level soils that formed in outwash sand.
- Roscommon-Meehan-Markey association: Somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained, nearly level soils that formed in deep sandy deposits or, in places, in organic deposits that overlie the sand.

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

C. Surface Water, Wetlands, and Watersheds (Map 5.5)

Surface water in the Town is very limited aside from the ditch system. The surface water consists of approximately 1.5 miles of Duck Creek, 6.7 miles of the north and south branches of Tenmile Creek, and 0.5 miles of Fourteenmile Creek. The Town of Pine Grove does not have any mapped floodplains.

Map 5.3 Topography

Map 5.4 General Soils Associations

Map 5.5 Wetlands and Watersheds

Pine Grove is situated within three watersheds: Fourmile and Fivemile Creeks, Sevenmile and Tenmile Creeks, and Fourteenmile Creek. A watershed can be defined as interconnected areas of land draining from surrounding ridge tops to a common point such as a lake or stream junction with a neighboring land area.

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. The Town has a significant amount of wetland areas. The predominance of these wet soils in the Town and in the larger “Buena Vista Marsh” area led to the development of the Portage County Drainage District for the purpose of improving farming in the area, although, much of marshland is used for the pasturing of beef cattle. The wet meadowlands in the area have also proved to be a productive habitat for the prairie chicken, sand hill crane, and other wildlife.

Wetlands within the Town of Pine Grove include three general types: emergent/wet meadow, scrub or shrub, and forested.

- Emergent/wet meadow, the most numerous type of wetland within Pine Grove, consists 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 primarily in the northwest portion of the Town, primarily in the Buena Vista Marsh area.
- Scrub/shrub wetlands are the second most abundant type. These wetlands, which 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 primarily in the northwest part of the Town, interspersed with the wet meadow wetland areas of the Buena Vista Marsh.
- Forested wetlands are the third type – including 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 Tenmile, Fourteenmile, and Duck Creeks.

D. Groundwater

The Town of Pine Grove is located in a geologic province known as the Sand Plain province. The depth to groundwater ranges from 3 to 15 feet throughout the Town. Seasonally, depths to groundwater can fluctuate.

All Town residential water use comes from groundwater sources, therefore, protection of this resource is important. Given the very thin or nonexistent unsaturated zone, there exists little or no second line defense against pollutants regardless of the nature of the subsurface materials. Although some of the soils ranked moderate to good in pollution attenuation, this area of the County should be considered vulnerable overall given the shallow depth to groundwater.

Potential pumping yield rates for groundwater are 1,000 gallons per minute, indicative of a large potential supply. This rate is high when compared to areas west of the Wisconsin River where rates rarely exceed 50 gallons per minute.

Groundwater movement follows subsurface paths or gradients, in much the same way as surface water follows land contours. Map 5.6 illustrates the general direction of groundwater movement in the Town of Pine Grove. As shown, the direction of movement is generally to the west. Knowing

groundwater flow can be a helpful piece of information when determining proper siting of well and on-site waste systems.

In March 2004 the Portage County Board of Supervisors adopted the Portage County Groundwater Management Plan. The Plan outlines goals and specific action recommendations for groundwater protection and management in the County, along with providing a technical basis and justification for the recommendations based on the best available information. Contact the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department for more information about obtaining a copy of the plan.

1. Atrazine Prohibition Areas

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is researching the health effects of atrazine in water. Drinking water that contains atrazine will not cause 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.

Atrazine has not been detected above the Enforcement Standard of 3 micrograms per liter in wells within the Town of Pine Grove; hence, no prohibition area has been defined within the Town.

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.

In 2000, woodlands or forested lands accounted for 16% of the land area in Pine Grove (Map 5.7). One option open to all private landowners owning ten or more acres of woodlands is the Managed Forest Law Program (MFL). The MFL program is intended to foster timber production in 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 WI Department of Natural Resources.

Map 5.6 Groundwater Flow

Map 5.7 Forested Areas and Wildlife Habitat

1. Prairie Chicken Habitat Management Area

Approximately 1,977 acres of prairie chicken lands are located within Pine Grove. These lands are part of the larger Buena Vista Marsh Wildlife Area. Approximately one-third of these acres (677) are managed by the DNR under a long-term lease agreement with the Dane County Conservation League, while the remainder is owned outright by the DNR (Map 5.7). The prairie chicken is a threatened Wisconsin species, which survives in significant numbers in only a few areas within the central part of the State. Management of these lands consists primarily of maintaining the unique grassland habitat. Some of these lands are also potentially productive for agriculture, if cleared, drained, and irrigated.

2. 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 Pine Grove (42108) areas include: Greater Prairie Chicken and Western Harvest Mouse. These elements should be taken into consideration when development and protection measures are considered.

Greater Prairie Chicken

Slightly larger than the sharp-tailed grouse; plumage is olive-brown to pale clove brown with cross-bars of buffy brown and white on back, wings, breast, belly, and tail. Tail is short and rounded. Prefer prairie-openings interspersed among oak woodland and oak savanna. Dense grassland is necessary for roosting, loafing, and nesting. Good habitat may include some shrubbery, aspen and birch for budding, weeds, berries, cultivated grains, and oaks.

Western Harvest Mouse

The Western Harvest Mouse has a long tail and flesh colored ears. Upperparts are brownish and underparts whitish. This species prefers dry and dry-mesic prairies, more or less open grassy places and neglected fields overgrown with grasses or sedges.

F. 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**.

The Town of Pine Grove and all of Portage County are listed as attainment areas by WI DNR.

Section 5.6 Natural Resource Issues

The following issues were identified during the planning process:

- Nitrate levels in groundwater in some areas of the Town are high. To what extent can the Town protect the groundwater resource?
- Existing recreational facilities add value to the Bancroft area. How should the Town continue to maintain or enhance these facilities?
- Some residents think that walking or hiking trails are needed to help ensure safe pedestrian travel, especially in the Bancroft area. To what extent does the Town want to promote the creation of walking or hiking trails in appropriate areas?
- Remaining forests are being cleared or thinned out. To what extent can the Town promote the benefits and retention of wooded areas?

Section 5.7 Natural Resource Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1 - Manage, preserve and protect natural resources throughout the Town.

Objectives:

1. Promote agricultural practices that are environmentally sensitive and protect air, soil, water and wildlife resources.
2. Development takes into consideration the protection of our natural resources.
3. Develop partnership efforts that result in the preservation and restoration of natural resources.
4. Recognize metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources for their extraction potential.

Policies:

1. Encourage the preservation of existing woodlots.
2. Encourage the use of open space or conservation subdivision design for residential development to preserve remaining woodlots.
3. Encourage the use of package or cluster on-site waste systems to help protect groundwater quality.
4. Encourage the preservation of valued natural features in the Town, including Lone Rock, Mosquito Bluff, and The Ledge.
5. Protect the area's scenic beauty, including the avoidance of unnecessary signs, billboards, and structural blight.
6. Maintain and promote recreational facilities.

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 by 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 no listings in Pine Grove.

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 two cemeteries located in the Town: Pine Grove Cemetery, located on Harding Road; and Beggs Cemetery, a private cemetery, located on the northeast side of the east bluff.

The Bancroft Depot, now located in the Heritage Park in the Village of Plover, is a reminder of the importance that rail service played to the Bancroft area in the early 1900's. More information regarding the depot and how it was moved to the Village of Plover can be found on the Portage County Historical society's website.

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 primary issue relating to cultural and historic resources was the desire of some residents to maintain the integrity (relatively undeveloped state) of valued natural features such as Lone Rock, Mosquito Bluff, and The Ledge.

Section 5.10 Cultural Resource Goals, Objectives and Policies

Goal 1 - Develop a means to preserve cultural and historic resources in the Town.

Objective 1 - Work with organizations such as the Portage County Historical Society to help identify and preserve cultural resources.

Policy - Designate a location within the Town to serve as a repository of cultural or historic resources and artifacts.