

CHAPTER 5 Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element

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

Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources element. 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, parks, open spaces, historical and cultural resources, community design, recreational resources and other natural resources.

Section 5.1 Agricultural Resources

A. Agricultural lands

As of the end of 2005, Stevens Point does not have any agricultural land within the City limits. It is assumed that any agricultural land annexed into Stevens Point in the future will ultimately be converted to “urban” uses, and would therefore be considered a holding area for future development both during and beyond the planning period.

B. Farm numbers, types, and size

Stevens Point has no farms located within the City limits.

C. Farm Economy and Infrastructure

The City has several businesses in the community directly related to the agricultural economy of the surrounding area. They include: Spud City Sales, and Allen Supply Company. Other City businesses that deal in part with agricultural users are Mill’s Fleet Farm, Schierl Tire, Frank’s Hardware, and various welders and machine shops across the area.

Section 5.2 Natural Resources Inventory

A. Geology and Bed Rock

The City of Stevens Point is located on the boundary line between the two geological provinces of the “northern highlands” and the “central sand plain”. The former area is characterized by high bedrock, low available groundwater supply, clay type soils, poor land drainage and northern climate vegetation. The northern third of the City, in general, lies within this geological province. The southern two-thirds of the City and the area along the Plover River is generally characterized by sand plain features, including extensive well drained sandy soils, flat topography and ample groundwater supply.

Most of the City’s recent growth has been in the southern and eastern sandy soils areas where development is less costly and free of serious development problems. Notable exceptions have been in the area of the senior high school, the Sentry Insurance building, and much of the university campus which are on the north side of the City.

The surface geology of this region along the Wisconsin River is characterized as an “outwash plain” formed from materials deposited in the area from melt water flowing to the Wisconsin River from the edges of the glacial ice sheets to the east. The landscape in the area of the City was not shaped directly by glacial action as was the case with the lands a few miles east of the City where glacial “drift” has formed a hilly landscape.

The City's location at the head of a series of rapids (now inundated) on the Wisconsin River is evidence of the presence of bedrock near the surface of the ground throughout much of the area. The northern and western areas of the City and the Whiting Avenue area lie over this high bedrock which includes granite and sandstone.

B. Topography

The glacial outwash formed a relatively flat topography in the City, which averages about 1,100 feet above sea level. The flat topography contributes to some drainage problems when there are hard surfaced areas due to urban development. There are no hills or steep grades that present significant problems to development. The shore land area along the Plover River presents the sharpest changes in the topography, but yet remain relatively gentle grades (see Map 5.1).

C. Soils

The most prevalent soil type in the City is Plainfield loamy sand that occurs throughout that part of the City generally south of the State Highway 66 corridor (see Map 5.2). Soils in other areas of the City are denser soils formed from residual bedrock material that is close to the ground surface. These soils are subject to heaving and swelling due to frost action, thereby presenting potential problems to urban development. Further complications can be expected by the presence of bedrock in the same area.

D. Climate

1. Temperature - The annual average temperature for Stevens Point is 45.1 degrees. Temperature extremes vary from a July average of 72 degrees to a January average of +16 degrees.
2. Precipitation - The average annual precipitation is 31.5 inches, of which about six inches (rainfall equivalent) is from snowmelt. The average annual snowfall is about 48 inches.
3. Growing Season - The average dates from last frost to first frost are May 11th to October 1st. The average length of the growing season is 142 days.

E. Groundwater

Groundwater resources are vital to the health and prosperity of Portage County. One hundred percent of domestic water use and greater than ninety percent of all water use in the County is from groundwater resources. Maintaining the quality and quantity of groundwater is vital to the maintenance of the quality of life in Portage County and the health of its residents.

In September 1984, the Portage County Board of Supervisors created a Groundwater Council, charged with the primary task of developing a strategy and policy for addressing public concerns on groundwater protection and management for recommendation to the County Board. The Council was composed of local public officials representing various units of government from throughout the County.

The Portage County Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) was originally adopted in 1988, and revised in March of 2004. The goals of the revised plan effort remain the same as the original – to identify the major problems facing Portage County with respect to groundwater resources, and to provide a technical basis and justification for these recommendations based on the best available information.

Map 5.1: Topography

Map 5.2: Soils

Map 5.3: Groundwater Elevation and Flow

An important instrument for implementing the Groundwater Management Plan is the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC), which consists of representatives appointed by each of the incorporated and unincorporated municipalities. The task of the CAC is to advise the Portage County Planning and Zoning Committee on ways to implement the recommendations of the GMP. A reorganization of the CAC in 1995 added three Subcommittees – Groundwater Management and Implementation, Public Involvement and Education, and Continual Assessment – to play specific roles within the overall groundwater management structure.

Groundwater in the area of Stevens Point, located within the “sand plain region”, is plentiful and of good natural quality. The City's public water supply is drawn from deep wells in the Plover River valley where a deep sand and gravel aquifer provides large quantities of high quality groundwater. The eastern and upper regions of this aquifer are subject to potential groundwater contamination from agricultural activity; the City wells, however, are located on the “west” side of the river, although this may not constitute a guarantee of long-term protection (see Map 5.3). Groundwater is more limited and subject to hardness and other mineral contamination in the northern and western areas of the City where the groundwater aquifer is shallow due to bedrock. Few private water supply wells are located in areas of the City outside the sand plain.

Groundwater quality has deteriorated in the subdivision areas near the City limits north and east of Stevens Point due to the concentrated placement of on-site waste disposal systems and application of lawn and garden chemicals. Because the homes are outside the City, all water supply is via private wells, although some households have been known to bring in drinking water due to poor on-site water. Continued intensive residential development on private wells and on-site waste disposal systems in the State Highway 66, and possibly the USH 10 corridor just east of the City, should be expected to generate significant enough problems in the long run to place Stevens Point in a position of being asked to provide remedial measures including the extension of sewer and water services.

The groundwater protection strategies and citizen education efforts recommended in the Portage County Groundwater Management Plan and this Comprehensive Plan will further reduce contamination within the recharge areas of the City wells. Hopefully these efforts, combined with the projects by the City Water and Sewer Departments, will permanently assure a safe, plentiful water supply for City residents and commercial enterprises.

For a description of groundwater protection regulations in the Stevens Point Urban Area, please see section 4.1(C)(6) of the Utilities & Community Facilities chapter of this Comprehensive Plan.

F. Surface Water (see Map 5.4)

1. Wisconsin River - The Wisconsin River, which runs through the western portion of Stevens Point, is the principal surface water resource in the City. Most of the river is in flowage condition due to the Stora Enso North America paper company dam south of the Clark Street Bridge. For a majority of its history, Stevens Point had only one bridge for vehicular traffic crossing the Wisconsin, Clark Street in the City's downtown. A second bridge was added in 1998 in the southwest corner of Stevens Point with the reconstruction and extension of Riverview Avenue / County Road HH across the river. Much of the river's shoreland within the City is undeveloped and accessible to the public either by way of public parks or open corporate lands. The current development setback standard along the river is 30 feet which is less than that required by Portage County in adjacent unincorporated areas. This setback standard should be studied to see if additional protection is necessary.

2. Plover River - The Plover River is the only other significant stream within Stevens Point. It had historically presented a barrier to the expansion of the City to the east. The bridging of the river at Patch Street in 1981 eliminated much of this barrier and presents few remaining development problems. The Plover River corridor has many environmental and recreational qualities that have been a strong factor in contributing to the quality of life in the area, from fishing, swimming, and canoeing opportunities to its aesthetic beauty.
3. Mosey Creek - Much of the north side of Stevens Point used to be naturally drained by a small stream called Mosey Creek. Portions of Mosey Creek west of Michigan Avenue have been enclosed in a City storm sewer to allow urban development. A retention pond has been constructed east of Michigan Avenue to retain stream water at times of high water flow until it can drain away through the City storm sewer.
4. Lake Joanis - The largest man-made body of water in the City is Lake Joanis in the Schmeeckle Reserve on the University campus. This 27 acre groundwater lake has an emergency connection to Mosey Creek for instances of high volume water flow.

Water quality improved significantly in the Wisconsin River during the late 1970's due principally to the improvements in the waste treatment system of the paper mills and other industries. Recreation activity, particularly fishing, has increased on the river. The water still has low clarity due to the naturally dark color of the water and suspended solids from soil erosion and other non-point pollution sources. This condition depresses the level of swimming at two City beaches on the river.

The Plover River has experienced high coliform bacteria counts resulting in the closure of the public beach at Iverson Park at some point during most swimming seasons. This contamination is thought to originate from upstream livestock farms. The avoidance of urban storm water runoff with contaminants is an important City concern, particularly for the protection of McDill Pond.

G. Floodplains and Drainage (see Map 5.4)

1. Stream Flooding - The Wisconsin River presents little flooding potential affecting developed lands due mainly to the control afforded by the numerous dams and flowages in the area.

No significant flooding potential exists along the Plover River within Stevens Point affecting developed lands, although there have been isolated instances of water in basements along McDill Pond; such lands front on McDill Pond where flooding is controlled by a dam in the Village of Whiting. Iverson Park in the City is regularly inundated by floodwaters from the Plover River.

2. Surface Drainage - The northwestern area of the City is subject to localized drainage problems due to a combination of flat topography and heavy soils underlain by bedrock close to the surface. Since there is lower density development in much of this area, and with development pressures being minimal, no drainage problems are anticipated. See Chapter 4 of this Comprehensive Plan for detailed information on surface drainage facilities.

Map 5.4: Surface Waters, Floodplain and Drainage

Map 5.5: Wetlands

Map 5.5a: Wetlands with aerial

Map 5.6 Wooded areas within Stevens Point

H. Wetlands

Stevens Point has a number of wetland zones located mostly along the Wisconsin River and on the City's north side (Map 5.5). Part of the University campus and Sentry Insurance expansions were constructed over wetland areas. However, some remaining wetland zones are being preserved on both premises, most notably within the University's Schmeckle Reserve. Though it is difficult to determine with precision, it is estimated that due to development pressures, less than 50% of the wetlands that existed prior to European settlement remain. In addition, the several dams on the rivers created wetlands where there were none before European settlement.

I. Primary Environmental Resource Zones and Green spaces

The City of Stevens Point is situated in a "V" shape zone between the two major natural resource corridors, the Wisconsin and Plover Rivers (Map 5.5a). Schmeckle Reserve on the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point campus is a valuable natural environmental area located in the center of this zone between the two rivers. These environmental resources have important present-day value and further potential for public education, recreation and other leisure time activities. The areas have importance for the preservation and appreciation of the natural environment.

Natural areas and green space provide Stevens Point with both resource protection and aesthetic beauty, and are an important part of the City's identity. Stevens Point has consistently been awarded designation as a "Tree City USA" community, and has also achieved the "Growth Award" associated with that program. To qualify for Tree City USA, a town or city must meet four standards established by The National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. These standards (creation of a Tree Board or Department; creation of a Tree Care Ordinance; presence of a Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita; and an Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation) were established to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management plan and program. The Tree City USA Growth Award is provided by The National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service, to recognize environmental improvement and encourage higher levels of tree care throughout America. This award is designed not only to recognize achievement, but also to communicate new ideas and help the leaders of all Tree City USA communities plan for improving community tree care.

In 2003, Stevens Point was one of 523 Tree Cities nation-wide that earned the Growth Award by completing activities to strengthen their local tree care programs. The four categories for eligibility are: Education and Public Relations; Partnerships; Planning and Management; and Tree Planting and Maintenance. As of 2003 Stevens Point has received 23 Tree City USA designations (4th or 5th most in the state), and 5 Growth Awards. The Mission of the Stevens Point Forestry Division is "to enhance the economic, aesthetic, and environmental benefits of public green space in the urban environment through proper planting and maintenance of trees and other landscape plants." See the Stevens Point Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2004 - 2009 for a complete listing of City parks and open spaces.

J. Wildlife

Fish and wildlife habitat is concentrated in the Wisconsin and Plover River corridors and Schmeckle Reserve. The Jordan Marsh and Mosey Creek corridors also provide important wildlife areas. In addition, the City and UW-Stevens Point have over time purchased various parcels of land for habitat protection. Scattered woodlands also exist elsewhere throughout the City (Map 5.6), which provide habitat for various wildlife species, including several species of hawks and white-tailed deer. These woodlands are slowly being threatened by development.

The white-tailed deer population within the City limits has grown in recent years to a point where it is considered a nuisance for Stevens Point and other Urban Area residents. The City conducted a trial deer culling project in 2003 and 2004. The project was coordinated with the State Department of Natural Resources and Natural Resources Department of the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. The culling occurred from mid-November 2003 through February 9, 2004. The total number of deer culled was 60: 8 from the north side in the proximity of the Schmeekle Reserve, 13 around East Maria Drive, 22 around the Cty Rd HH/River View Avenue area, and 17 around the Leahy Avenue/Patch Street/Channel Drive area. The City will continue to monitor the size of the herd.

Section 5.3 Cultural Resources

Cultural and historic resources help link the past with the present and can give a community a sense of place or identity. These resources include structures and places with historic significance as well as cultural contributions from a diverse resident population.

A. Historic Resources Inventory

Historic preservation has been a long-standing concern within the City of Stevens Point. Specific studies on the subject were performed in October, 1980 (Architectural Survey and Historic Preservation Potential Analysis of Central Stevens Point by Pfaller, Herbst Associates) and April 1983 (Architectural and Historic Building Survey, Howard Needles Tammen & Bergendoff - HNTB).

The City's 1983 Development Guide contained the following language:

- *Explore Historic District Designation - To work with the State Historical Society and local businesses in determining the desirability and feasibility of establishing a historic District along Main Street and the square as recommended in the Pfaller-Herbst Historic Study of 1980.*
- *Utilize Historic Preservation Financial Aid Programs - To assist downtown merchants in utilizing loan and tax programs available from historic preservation and restoration investments. Such programs would include: the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, the Wisconsin Consecutive Easement Act of 1982, and the Federal Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980.*
- *Identify Properties of Architectural and Historic Significance - To identify and support measures to preserve, restore, and adapt all properties of architectural and historical significance.*
 - *To highlight these properties as key contributors of the downtown theme.*
 - *A list of such properties would include, at a minimum: Fox Theater, Kuhl-Gurath House, Sentry Insurance Building, Chilla Building, Grubba Jewelers, the Point Surplus Building, and the Citizens National Bank.*
 - *To use the Pfaller-Herbst Study and/or any subsequent historic studies as a key resource(s) in dealing with this policy statement.*
 - *To support the identification / placement of eligible properties on the National Register of Historic Places.*
- *Historic Markers and Monuments - To develop a plan for the location of markers, interpretative features, displays, and monuments in the downtown and riverfront zone which are relevant to the heritage of the area. This plan would include arrangements for financing such improvements from sources other than local tax levy.*

- *Landmarks Ordinance and Commission - To pursue the creation of a Landmarks Ordinance which would be a formal vehicle for dealing with historic preservation programs in the City. A Landmarks Ordinance and Commission is necessary to be eligible for certain financial incentives. The representation of downtown business interests should be a major factor in selecting the membership of such a commission.*

Many of these recommendations have been accomplished. The Landmarks Ordinance and Commission were established in 1983, and the Main Street historic district designation followed in 1986. Work on historic markers and monuments is ongoing. In the late 1980's the City published "Gateway To The Pineries, an Architectural & Historical Guide to Downtown Stevens Point".

In June 2004, the Stevens Point was awarded a "Main Street Community" designation by the State of Wisconsin. "Main Street" is a program that provides advice, expertise and direction to assist a community in rejuvenating the physical appearance and economic vitality of the downtown area. As a part of this process the City will be using Theme Promotion to utilize all historic preservation measures as a means of promoting and enhancing the downtown theme. The following projects are underway in support of this effort:

- Artists were retained to paint a wall mural in the downtown depicting a river-logging scene. The intent of this project is to enliven a blank wall at the entrance to the downtown, to create interest in the history of the community, and to stimulate other murals. The long-term goal is to create a mural-walk of several murals around the downtown depicting historic scenes or events, to create interest in the downtown and stimulate interest in the history of the community. The Design Committee is working with the Portage County Historic Society to select appropriate scenes. As of fall 2004, creation of the first mural at the southeast corner of Water and Clark Streets was complete.
- Development of a user guide to the City-mandated design guidelines. The intent is to update the language to make the guidelines easier for lay people to understand. Leadership - Portage County will facilitate the user guide.
- Building façade renovations. Three rehabilitation projects were undertaken in 2003 on contributing buildings in the Mitchell Square area of the Main Street Historic District. These projects included exterior as well as interior renovations. Two of these projects have undergone significant revision as a result of review by the Historic Preservation/Design Review Commission. The State Historic Society architect was called upon to provide assistance with design review. The projects have all been implemented resulting in newly reconstructed facades that enhance the historic character of the blocks. As of mid-2004 a fourth building was in the approval stage. This project would renovate the exterior and interior of two building facades. New windows would be installed and a new restaurant/tavern constructed in the remodeled interior. An architectural and historical walking tour of over 60 downtown buildings, an additional 20 buildings throughout the city and numerous landmarks/prominent buildings ("Main Street Historic District & Landmarks") has been created to increase interest and knowledge of local heritage.

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: provide guidance and assistance to archives and records management programs in Wisconsin, promote the value of historical records as keys to our cultural heritage and works through partnerships with statewide organizations who support that end, and to bring federal grant funds to Wisconsin for improving access and preservation of historical records.

B. Cultural Resources and Traditions

The City of Stevens Point has long been home to a large and diverse number of cultural activities. As the City has grown, so has the sophistication of its cultural offerings, which now include theater, symphony, and musical offerings too numerous to list, special annual events such as the Special Olympics and the “Worlds Largest Trivia Contest” at the University, and national gatherings such as the National Wellness Conference. There are also benefits and fundraising activities throughout the year for such organizations as United Way, Operation Bootstrap, and others. A listing of some of the many cultural events is included in Appendix F.

Stevens Point’s location at the “Gateway to the Pineries” has also instilled a love of outdoors and physical activity into the local culture. As described in detail in the Stevens Point Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2004 - 2009, the City has an extensive inventory of sports facilities, from indoor and outdoor tennis courts, to golf courses, softball/baseball diamonds, two indoor hockey arenas and several outdoor ice skating locations, a large soccer complex, public running/track facilities, and numerous hiking/biking/roller blading options, etc. Emerging sports such as disc golf are also included.

The Stevens Point Common Council has supported and contributed to cultural resources and traditions for many years. The type of support has taken several forms, from allocating money from the Room Tax Fund for different projects, to supporting the Arts Council, to partnering with and/or encouraging the University and private organizations to maintain their efforts. Support for cultural events will continue in Stevens Point.

Section 5.4 Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Conclusions

A. Agriculture

1. There is considerable prime agricultural cropland east of the Interstate Highway 39 beltline, annexation of which may be necessary for long-range contiguous urban expansion.
2. The City has no Agricultural Zoning District in its zoning ordinance. Such a district may be needed for future annexations to allow the land to be held in its undeveloped state prior to approval of the detailed plans for the lands’ development, and its rezoning to accommodate the development.

B. Natural Resources

1. High bedrock, dense soils and poor drainage can be expected to continue to retard development in the northern and western part of the City. Development that does occur will be more costly than in other parts of the City and will present extra costs for maintenance and replacement of public streets and utilities as well as extra cost for private development.
2. The City’s greatest development capabilities and trends lie in the areas east of the Plover River and in the State Highway 66 corridor where sandy soils present the least development limitations. These are the areas that contain the greatest potential for the City’s future expansion with the corresponding need for the extension of services required to support urban development.

3. The City is fortunate to have an excellent water supply. It is ample to serve City development needs and perhaps those of the larger urban area. One of the most important development related needs of the City is to assure the long-range protection of the quality of this water source. This should include the development and implementation of all appropriate measures for avoiding potential contamination of the well field's aquifer extending throughout much of the Plover River basin in the County.
4. The City has lost wetland zones to development and there is increasing recognition to keep those that are left. Most existing City wetlands are zoned Conservancy and are reasonably well protected. There will be a continuing need for good enforcement of City and State regulations prohibiting the filling of wetlands. Department of Natural Resources wetland maps provide a good inventory of the minimum amounts of wetland that could be preserved. Most of these wetlands inside the City and adjacent to the City are zoned Conservancy.
5. The Mosey Creek corridor northward of Maria Drive and extending out into a large wetland zone just outside the City is an important conservancy corridor. Keeping this corridor in a conservancy condition will provide long term financial and aesthetic benefits to the City because of its ability to minimize costly storm water flows into the City through preservation of associated wetlands and the ability to retain storm water from adjacent developments within the undeveloped lands within the creek corridor.

Continued development in the Mosey Creek/University area has potential for aggravating City drainage problems if on-site storm water retention measures do not accompany future development as recommended in the City's North Side Drainage Plan and Comprehensive Plan.

6. The University's Schmeckle Reserve is a valuable conservancy land use within the City. There will be a continuing need for good land use planning and enforcement to protect the boundaries of the Reserve in all directions from possible incompatible land activity. A current problem is the drainage of existing and future commercial lands into the wetlands of the Reserve, in addition to possible adverse effects from wetland drainage through City storm sewers.
7. The former City landfill property which extended into the Wisconsin River floodplain contains a considerable remaining acreage of undisturbed shore land and wetland which constitutes a valuable parcel of natural lands having public access and limited use potential by virtue of its public ownership.
8. Problems of developments in the Wisconsin River flood plain are very limited, with most of the 100-year flood plain located on undeveloped lands on the west side of the river. Parts of West River Drive and Cty Rd P on the west side are occasionally flooded, thereby causing traffic problems.
9. No developable lands along the Plover River in the City are affected by Plover River flooding, which is minimized by the McDill Pond flowage and lack of upstream urban areas. The annual flooding of Iverson Park is the most notable flooding phenomenon in the City associated with the Plover River.
10. The reoccurring bacteria contamination of the Plover River which forces closure of the Iverson Park beach is an environmental problem detracting from the quality of recreation in the City. Also, the protection and improvement of McDill Pond regarding siltation and

weed problems is an issue which likely is caused by non-point pollution as is probably the case with the bacteria contamination identified above. Much of the cause of the problem relates to nearby urban and more distant agricultural land use activities in the Plover River Basin. There is a need to deal with this problem on a long term, area-wide basis.

11. The Plover River, Wisconsin River, Mosey Creek and Jordan Marsh corridors have been identified, and are being increasingly valued locally as a very important environmental corridor because of their inter-urban location and easy access for diverse recreational use. The preservation and enhancement of these resources is a recognized local need.
12. The Wisconsin and Plover River corridors, along with the Mosey Creek and Jordan Marsh areas, have considerable potential for meeting demands for new leisure time activities and nature appreciation. These potentials are mostly individualized activities such as walking, bicycling, jogging, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, nature study, and photography.
13. The largely undeveloped shore land of the Wisconsin River constitutes a corridor of conservancy lands which enhance the City's natural environmental setting and its attendant benefits. The public, institutional, and corporate lands along the river have potential for accommodating increasing outdoor recreation demands through better access, and trails.
14. There is potential for the City's airport fringe lands and Water Department lands to accommodate future City leisure time demands through a carefully developed and supervised "mixed-use" activity plan for some of these lands. Certain limited leisure time uses are currently allowed.

C. Cultural Resources

1. So as to enrich the lives of residents, the City should endeavor to provide financial and staff support to cultural events and activities.
2. The City should continue to encourage private businesses and associations in the community to maintain or increase their financial and staff support for cultural events and activities.

Section 5.5 Agricultural, Natural, Cultural Resources Goals, Objectives and Policies

A. Agricultural Goals/Objectives/Policies

Goal 1. Work with surrounding municipalities to cooperate on land use issues.

Objective 1.1 Approach the annexation of agricultural land in the best interest of the City while sensitive to neighbors concerns.

Policy 1.1a Develop an Agricultural Zoning District to apply to future annexations, where appropriate, to allow the land to be held in its undeveloped state prior to approval of the detailed plans for the lands' development, and its rezoning to accommodate the development.

B. Natural Resources Goals/Objectives/Policies

Goal 1. Identify, manage, preserve and protect natural resources throughout Stevens Point and adjacent unincorporated land.

Objective 1.1 Maintain, and enhance whenever possible, safeguards for the City's water supply.

Policy 1.1a Continue to update and enforce the Stevens Point Well Head Protection ordinance.

Policy 1.1b Continue to work with nearby municipalities to support actions and local regulations that protect the Stevens Point water supply.

Policy 1.1c Encourage the owners of neighboring agricultural land to use good agricultural practices so as to minimize any adverse effects of agricultural activities on the City's water supply.

Objective 1.2 Recognize the value of conserving environmentally significant natural lands and all water areas because of their irreplaceable qualities and their priceless contributions to the "quality of life" for City residents. Included in this is recognition of the following basic values: maintaining wildlife habitat, open space recreation, environmental education, environmental health, clean air, clean water, fishing and swimming, and maintenance of the City's existing natural and aesthetic setting.

Policy 1.2a Restrict the development of lands posing natural hazard potential such as floodplain and lands with high ground-waters, and also land ordinarily requiring significant public development and maintenance costs for which a more appropriate use would be some form of conservancy use.

Policy 1.2b Conservancy Zoning - Maintain and strengthen if necessary the protective provisions of the City's Conservancy Zoning District. Add and/or maintain Conservancy zoning on all conservancy-type lands having significant development limitations due to natural conditions and also on other appropriate public, private, and institutional lands intended for open space and natural resource purposes.

Policy 1.2c Wetlands - Maintain all local wetlands in Conservancy zoning in support of local conservancy goals and State wetlands requirements.

Policy 1.2d Boundary Compatibility - Plan for and regulate land development on the boundaries of conservancy uses so as to be compatible with the conservancy use and any sensitive environmental conditions in the area. This includes land development support activities such as road locations, utility locations, storm water drainage, plant material management, any actions affecting groundwater adversely with respect to the conservancy use, and other similar examples.

Policy 1.2e Environmental Corridor Strategy - To recognize and preserve naturally-occurring open space corridors containing multiple environmental assets. Such assets include natural lands, waters, timber, fish and wildlife habitat, and good farmland. If environmental and agricultural assets are preserved where they already are, then it will be less necessary for the public and their units of government to create or re-establish such uses later on for the public good, but at greater cost. Such open spaces include the Wisconsin River Corridor, Plover River/Airport Corridor, Rocky Run Corridor, Jordan Marsh Corridor, and University/Mosey Creek Corridor.

- To focus the priorities of public and private open space preservation programs in these corridors.
- To encourage and plan for the location of conservancy related activities in these corridors.
- To support ownership patterns which will serve to preserve important conservancy and prime agricultural lands. This includes public ownership when necessary and feasible.
- To provide incentives for the preservation and enhancement of such areas by the private sector.
- To study the shoreland setback requirement along the Wisconsin River to determine the efficacy of the current (30 foot) standard, and whether or not it should be changed.

Policy 1.2f McDill Pond Rehabilitation – Continue to abate the siltation and weed problem and any other water quality problems of McDill Pond in cooperation with the appropriate units of government. Emphasize the analysis of the interrelationships between land use activities in the City and any resulting problem effects on the pond.

Policy 1.2g Develop an educational program for municipal boards and the public related to natural resources issues.

C. Cultural Resources Goals/Objectives/Policies

Guiding Principle for Cultural and Historic: Encourage identification, appreciation and protection of historic and cultural resources.

Goal 1. Develop guidelines for identifying and protecting cultural and historic resources.

Objective 1.1 Create and maintain an inventory of cultural and historic resources.

Policy 1.1a City support of cultural activities should be maintained or increased if budgetary considerations allow such support.

Policy 1.1b Encourage private businesses in the community to maintain or increase their financial and staff support for cultural events and activities.

Policy 1.1c The City should continue to appoint members to and support the Historical Preservation/Design Review Commission.

Policy 1.1d If additional organizations or other entities propose to add cultural opportunities in the area, the City should seriously consider such proposals and should endeavor to offer financial and/or staff support.

Objective 1.2 Use Room Tax revenues or other sources of funds to maintain City support of the Arts.

Policy 1.2a Encourage the Room Tax Allocation Commission to include allocations to support the Arts.

Objective 1.3 Increase public awareness of cultural and historic resources.

Policy 1.3a At intervals, the City should update and republish guides listing cultural opportunities in the community.

Policy 1.3b At intervals, the City should update and republish guides showing the Historic District and significant historic structures both within the Districts and outside them.

Policy 1.3c The City should maintain a supply of guides to cultural and historic features in the County-City Building and Charles White Library, at the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and at area hotels and motels.