

# Section E

## AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As the Town of Arena continues to grow, it is vital that it keep in mind the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources of the area. It can be very challenging for rural communities to allow new low-density development, and at the same time protect the natural environment and preserve the character of the area, including cultural and historic resources. At first, development may have only a limited impact on the natural landscape, but as development continues, the visual and environmental impacts become more apparent. For these reasons, it is crucial to be aware of the existing agricultural, natural, and cultural resources.

There are a number of agricultural, natural, and cultural resources to be aware of as we plan for the future, including the following:

**Agricultural Resources**

**Natural Resources**

**Cultural Resources**

Number of Farms

Water Resources

Historic Buildings

Acreage of Farmland

Topography

Museums

Livestock

Geologic Resources

Landmarks

Crop Production

Forest / Woodlands

Churches

Farmland Potential

Wildlife Habitat

Rural Schools

Soil Capabilities

Parks and Open Space

Cemeteries

Soils

Air and Light



**Wisconsin State Statute 66.1001(2)(e)**

*(e) Agricultural, natural and cultural resources element*

A compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for the conservation, and promotion of the effective management, of natural resources such as groundwater, forests, productive agricultural areas, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, stream corridors, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources, parks, open spaces, historical and cultural resources, community design, recreational resources and other natural resources.

**AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES POLICIES**

The following are the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources policies (not in order of priority) for the Town of Arena. (Parcel splits and minimum lot size issues are addressed in Section H, Land Use Element.)

- **Routinely remind residents of the importance of their agricultural, natural, and cultural resources and the need for continued protection of local open spaces to provide recreational opportunities.**

Tell residents about the agricultural, cultural, and natural resources in their Town and let them know ways they can support and protect them. Flyers included with a tax mailing, articles in the local newspaper, workshops, or other similar education efforts can help inform residents.

Work with the Village of Arena, the Towns of Wyoming, Ridgeway, and Brigham and Iowa and Dane Counties to protect contiguous natural areas that give local residents space to pursue recreational opportunities.

- **Build partnerships with local clubs and organizations in order to protect important natural areas.**

The Town Plan Commission will cooperate and encourage the wise use of the lower Wisconsin Riverway State Recreation Area.

- **Encourage farmland and the preservation of the family farm in Arena.**

The Town will encourage farmland erosion control practices, working with Iowa County Soil Conservation Service Office. Landowners will be encouraged to follow approved farm conservation plans aimed at reducing soil erosion rates.

- **Enforce noxious weed control ordinances.**

At both the national and state level, concern is growing about non-native species that threaten the stability of native or more desirable plant communities. In order to protect the agricultural and natural resources of Iowa County from invasive, noxious weeds, local ordinances designed for the mutual benefit of citizens and the environment should emphasize education, prevention and cooperation between landowners and governmental agencies.

- **Support tree preservation and sustainable forestry practices.**

Trees are important components of a community's green infrastructure. A healthy population of trees offers substantial environmental benefits, including cleaner air and water, quieter streets, cheaper energy bills, cooler temperatures, and wildlife habitat. In addition, trees can provide numerous economic advantages, such as increased property values and lower air and water remediation costs.

- **Maintain proper separation distances between urban and rural land uses to avoid conflicts.**

It is important to maintain separation distances between urban and rural land uses, as issues often arise such as neighbors complaining about noises, smells, chemical sprays, and farm machinery on the roadways.

- **Identify recharge areas for local wells and inventory potential contaminant sources.**

Contamination of local drinking water resources can be devastating and very costly to reverse. Be aware of recharge area locations for wells and potential contamination sources. Again, education of residents on local water resource issues may be beneficial.

- **Restrict development from major drainage areas in order to aid in stormwater runoff and prevent flooding.**

Refrain from developing drainage ways and floodplains that serve as stormwater runoff systems. Drainage basins were established naturally for a reason and should be preserved.
- **Create wellhead protection plans for private Town wells.**
- **Promote tourism opportunities and continue to pursue efforts to capitalize on local resources in conjunction with programs like walking tours, the Wisconsin Historical Markers Program, distributing ATV or bike trail maps, maintaining trails, and preserving the natural beauty of the area.**

Every jurisdiction is unique and can capitalize on its historic or cultural significance and natural beauty. For example, tours can be walking, driving, or biking with certain areas of cultural or environmental significance identified.
- **Consider implementing an historical preservation ordinance, in order to preserve and/or enhance the irreplaceable historic structures and locations and archeological sites in Arena.**
- **Utilize County, State, and Federal programs to conserve, maintain, and protect agricultural, natural, and cultural resources.**

Numerous state and federal programs aim specifically at protecting farmland, wetlands, forests, historic buildings, etc. There are agencies and contact information at the end of this section.

### **AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**

Agriculture plays an important role in the past and future of southwestern Wisconsin. Even though this plan is being developed for the Town of Arena, the importance of agricultural resources in the surrounding area should not be underestimated. Farming is important economically, culturally, and aesthetically to the Town.

### **FARMING CONFLICTS**

Since the Town of Arena is an active agricultural area, there are some conflicts between agriculture and non-agriculture landowners such as absentee landownership and non-agriculture land uses. Conflict also exists between expanding farm operations and increased demand for non-agricultural development.

### **FARM EXPANSION**

As farming becomes more global, the forces driving agricultural change are reflected in the decline of traditional agricultural commodities. One strategy farmers have begun to follow is farm expansion and modernization. Expanding can help farmers maintain their net income and can sometimes also lead to efficiencies and lower production costs. Modernization strategies can also help improve farming operations. However, expansion and modernization bring with them possibilities of greater impacts to the local environment, as well as issues such as modernized farms needing fewer employees, resulting in local agricultural job losses. Larger operations may also require larger manure handling facilities, increasing the chances of more spills or odor complaints. The Plan Commission believes farm expansion should be limited in the Town at this time.

### **YOUNG FARMERS**

One challenge facing farming in southwest Wisconsin is the lack of young people to replace a generation of older farmers. While farmers are retiring at the same rate, fewer young people are getting into farming. Communities seeking to retain their local agricultural economy and way of life need to consider strategies that will bring new or young people into farming. The Plan Commission did not feel there was anything appropriate at the Town level that could be done to encourage young people to become involved in farming.

### **FARMING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Farming infrastructure includes businesses and services such as a feed mill, equipment vendor, or veterinarian might supply. Farm supply businesses and food processing facilities represent important resources to area farmers as well as the broader local economy. Arena has such an infrastructure in place and believes it important to maintaining a viable farm environment.

**FARM TYPES**

A strong farming infrastructure can support a wide variety of operations in the Town of Arena. The Town encourages the following types of farming operations:

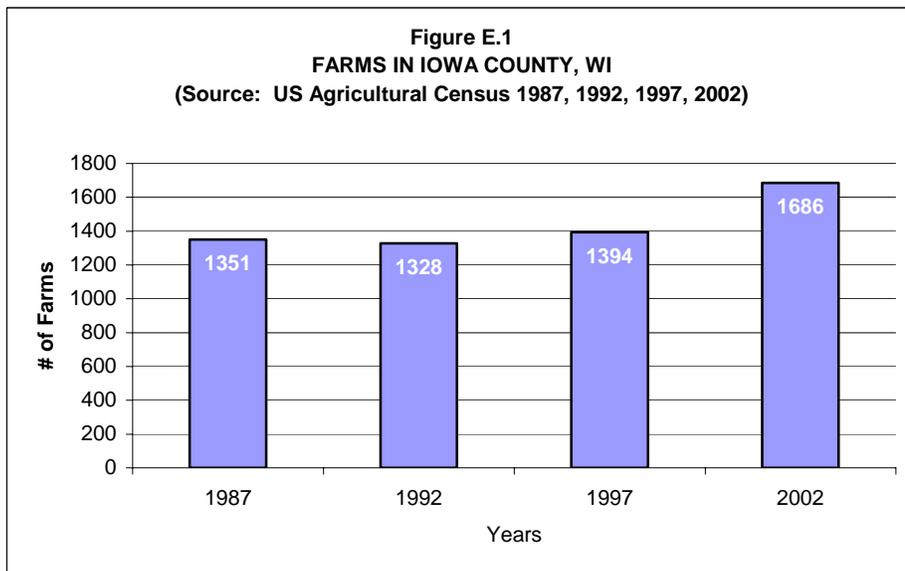
- Dairy Operations
- Hog Operations
- Sheep Operations
- Organic Farming
- Beef-Cow/Calf Operations
- Beef-Finishing Operations
- Cash Crop Operations
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

**FARMER RETIREMENT**

Land has inherent value but it is also valuable for what it produces and as it provides the farmer with a source of retirement funds. Trying to find a middle path of conserving farmland while enabling farmers to retire by profiting from their land is a statewide issue. The Plan Commission suggested purchase of development rights (PDR's), rather than outright sales of the land, as an alternative for Town of Arena farmers to provide funds for retirement.

**FARMING AND COMMUNITY VISION**

It is essential to maintain both current farm operations and agriculture in general in order for the Town of Arena to achieve its community's vision.



**FARMING DATA**

As indicated by Figure E.1, between 1987 and 2002 there was an overall increase of 335 farms in the county. (The US Agricultural Census defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold during the census year.)

Figure E.2 relates to the number of farms in Iowa County, as it shows the total number of acres in farms. There has been an overall decline in the total number of acres farmed. A contributing factor is the amount of farmland being converted to residential, recreational, or conservation land.

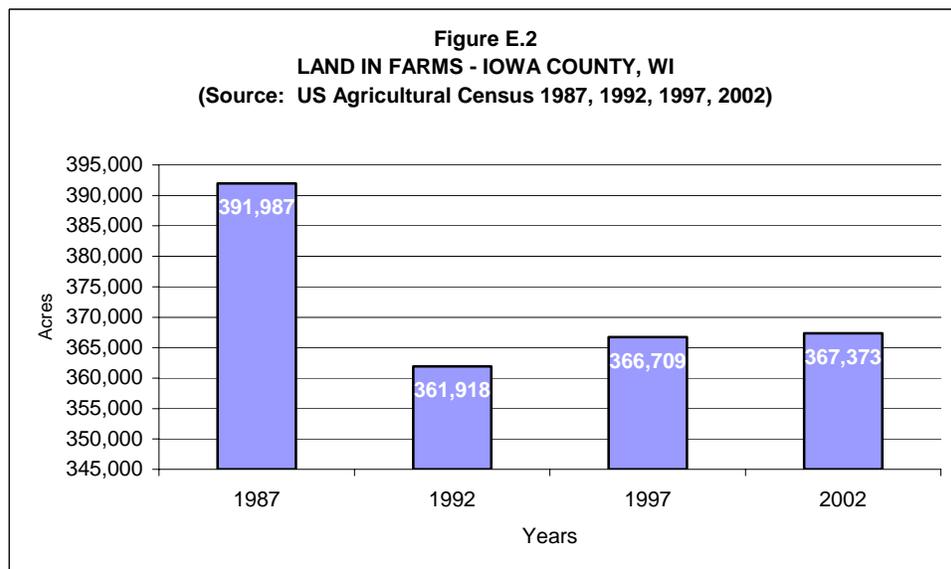


Figure E.3 shows the number of farmland sales and conversion in Iowa County. All towns show changes in sales and conversion but the Town of Eden is the lowest.

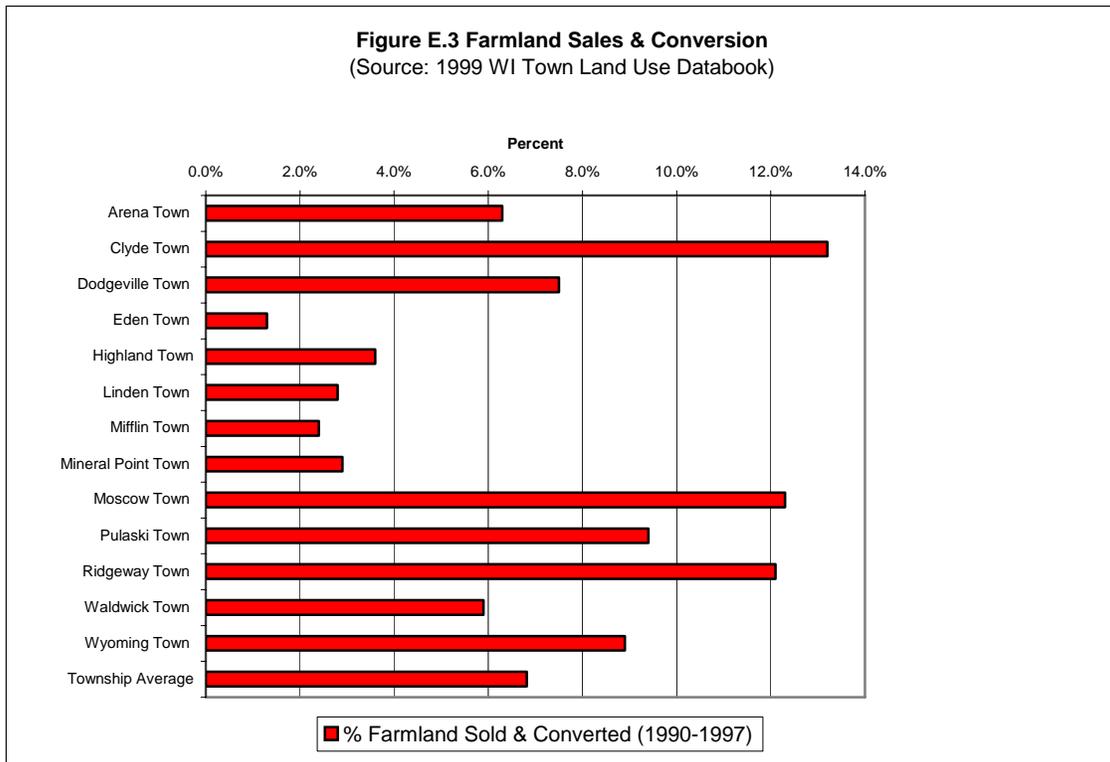


Figure E. 4 shows the average value of sale per acre of land. Most towns are roughly \$950 per acre with the Town of Wyoming an obvious exception.

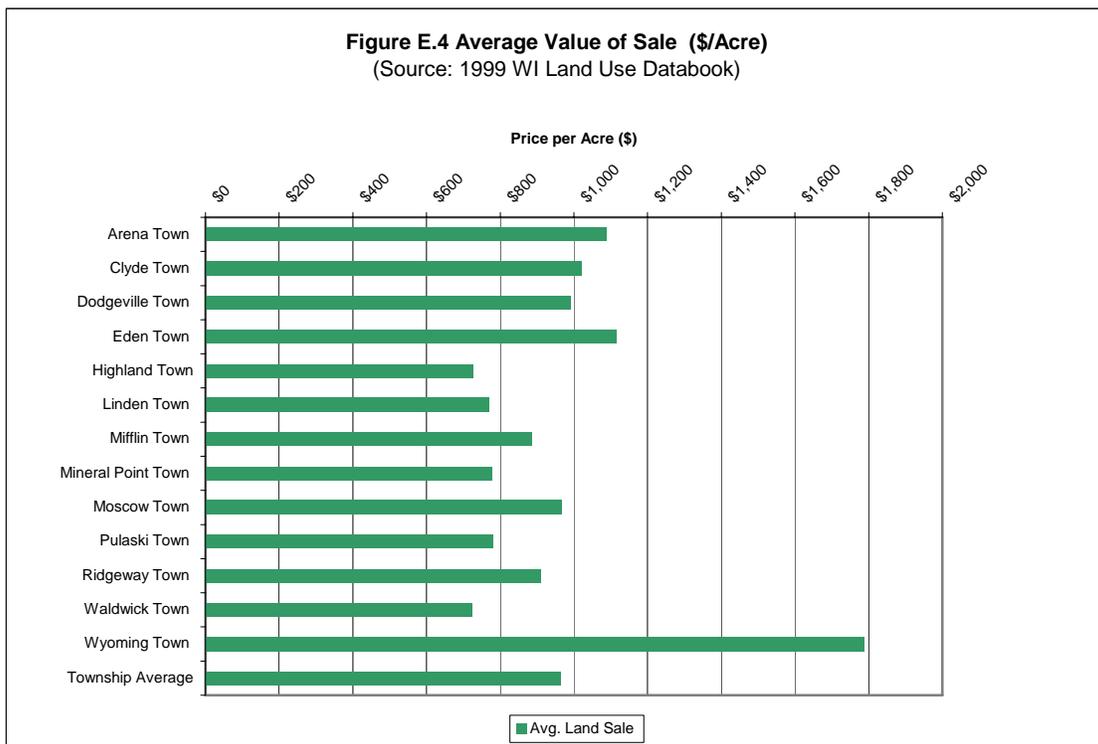
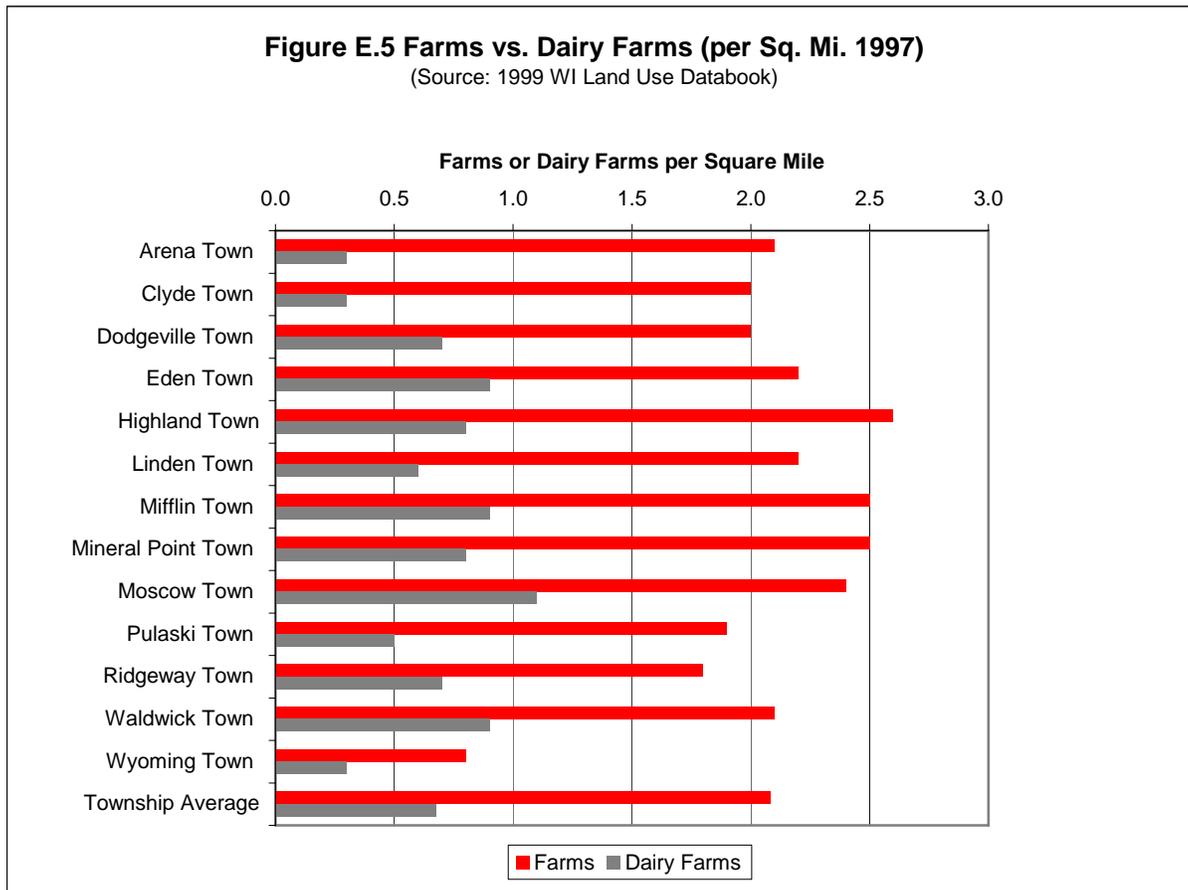


Figure E.5 shows a comparison of farms to dairy farms per square mile in 1997. Non-dairy farms were greater in number than dairy farms in all the towns of Iowa County.



**FARMLAND POTENTIAL**

In Iowa County, 72 percent of the soils are classified as prime, state, and local importance. Map E.1 is a Town level soil classification map. The classifications are

Prime Farmland - Most Capability Group I and II Soils  
(25 percent of soils in Iowa County)

State Importance - Most Capability Group III Soils  
(20 percent of soils in Iowa County)

Local Importance - Varies but in Southwestern Wisconsin some Capability Group IV, V, and VI Soils. In Iowa County these include land with better moisture holding capacity – valuable locally for pasture and hay production.  
(27 percent of soils in Iowa County)

Other - Soil groups of importance (Capability Group VII, VIII) not noted in the categories above.

**LAND COVER**

Map E.2 shows the amount of agricultural resources in the Town of Arena. It also shows the location of natural resources, including forested lands, open water, and wetlands.

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

Natural resources are the essence of the natural environment. Whether obvious or not, impacts to sensitive environmental communities and resources often have significant adverse impacts on the human community.

**WATER RESOURCES**

Water is one of the most commonly used natural resources, serving an intrinsic function in the community. People utilize groundwater for drinking water, industrial uses, recreational purposes, etc. on a daily basis. Plants and animals rely on water to survive. Water is also one of the most easily contaminated resources. Because of its mobile nature, contaminants can travel far from their source through the ever-moving water cycle. This type of pervasive pollution is commonly known as non-point source pollution (NPSP).

Non-point source pollution comes from many diffuse sources resulting from a wide variety of human activities. NPSP directly impacts water resources. The Town of Arena as a government unit actively protects its water resources by enforcing driveway ordinances and reduces non-point source pollution by limiting animal densities and commercial development.

**SURFACE WATER**

Watercourses and water bodies provide various recreational opportunities, including fishing, swimming, boating, and passive recreational opportunities such as bird watching. Streams provide habitat for aquatic species and other wildlife. The Wisconsin River and nearby lakes and streams serve recreational needs of area residents. See Map E.3 for surface water resources in the Town. Arena is in three watersheds, mainly the Mill and Blue Mound Creek watersheds with small parts in the Black Earth Creek and Roxbury Creek watersheds. See Map E.4 for Town watersheds.

**FLOODPLAINS**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has designated flood hazard areas along many surface water resources. The importance of respecting floodways and floodplains is critical in terms of planning and development. Ignoring these constraints can cause serious problems relating to property damage and the overall safety of residents. Due to Iowa County being entirely within the Driftless Area, the flood plains are largely the result of a well-developed dendritic (tree branch-like) drainage pattern draining the fairly rugged topography. This, together with low infiltration rates for most of its soils, combines to make overall flood risk in Iowa County quite high. See Map E.5 for the FEMA map. The Town of Arena is susceptible to periodic flooding. In order to lower flooding risk, the Town posts "Roads Closed" signs during flood events to prevent injuries.

**WETLANDS**

Wetlands serve a variety of functions, including playing an important role in stormwater management and flood control, filtering pollutants, recharging groundwater, providing a habitat for many wildlife species and plants, and offering open space and passive recreational opportunities. Iowa County wetlands include all marshes and swamps and those areas excluded from cultivation or other use because they are intermittently wet. The steep topography of southwest Wisconsin results in most natural wetlands being closely linked to the region's rivers and streams.

The Wisconsin Wetland Inventory (WWI) was completed for the state in 1985. Pre-European settlement wetland figures estimate the state had about 10 million acres of wetlands. Based on aerial photography from 1978-79, the WWI shows approximately 5.3 million acres of wetlands remaining in the state representing a loss of about 47 percent of original wetland acreage. This figure does not include wetlands less than 2 or 5 acres in size (minimum mapping unit varies by county). In this survey, it was found that Iowa County, out of a total of 488,157 acres, had 16,500 total acres of wetland (minimum mapping unit of 5 acres). This was 3.4 percent of the total county acreage, 0.3 percent of the total state acreage. Because the original WWI utilized aerial photographs taken in the summer some wetlands were missed, especially in the northern counties since interpretation was difficult due to leaf cover. Also, wetlands that were farmed as of the date of photography used and then later abandoned due to wet conditions were not captured as part of the WWI.

The Legislature authorized the DNR to update the WWI on a 10-year cycle. Budget constraints and lack of staff have slowed this process to a 24-year cycle at best. Digitizing wetland maps to obtain accurate wetland acreage information is on a rotation almost twice that long. As a result there is no reliable qualitative and quantitative data about current rates of wetland loss, only the

1978-79 wetland acre totals to go by (<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/wetlands/facts.shtml>).

The Town of Arena protects wetland resources through driveway ordinance enforcement.

## GROUNDWATER

Groundwater is the water resource most depended on, not only because it is used on a daily basis, but also because surface waters depend on groundwater for recharge. Groundwater, whether from municipal or private well, supplies all Iowa County residents with drinkingwater. See Map E.6 for depth to groundwater levels for the Town of Arena.

Groundwater can easily become contaminated through non-point source pollution. The Driftless Area is characterized by thin soils over fractured limestone, sandstone, or shale bedrock and it is in this type underlying geology where the potential for groundwater contamination is greatest.

The Town has no municipal well; all wells are individual. The jurisdiction does not currently act to protect drinking water but the Plan Commission expressed interest in developing wellhead protection plans for private wells.

Water supply is impacted as communities grow, bringing increased demand to supply groundwater to new homes, businesses, and industries. Increased well pumping can reduce the amount of recharge to surface waters, causing streamflow reduction, loss of springs, and changes in wetland vegetative communities. However, the establishment of a high capacity well in the Town might impact water supply. The Groundwater Bill (2003 Act 310) addresses groundwater quantity issues, requiring approval for siting, fees, and an environmental review. While this legislation is currently more relevant in areas of the state experiencing severe water quantity issues (e.g. the Central Sands region), the principle of controlling groundwater withdrawal in all parts of the state is quite important. By 2006, a groundwater advisory committee will be put together to address groundwater management in

*“...other areas of the state in which the withdrawal of groundwater over the long term adversely affects the availability of water for use or adversely affects water quality due to the effects of drawdown of the groundwater and in which there is a need for a coordinated response among the state, local government units, regional planning commissions, and public and private users of groundwater to address the effects on groundwater availability or quality.” (2003 Wisconsin Act 310, published May 6, 2004).”*

Currently, increasing water supply demand is not an issue in the Town of Arena.

It is important to keep the groundwater resource in mind for many areas of comprehensive planning. Ultimately, what takes place above ground directly impacts this resource below the surface. There are a number of activities that directly impact the quality of water resources.

Potential pollution sources that can affect the groundwater supply include but are not limited to:

- On-site septic systems
- Sewage Treatment Plants
- Surface Waste Water Discharge
- Sanitary Landfills
- Underground Storage Tanks
- Feedlots
- Junkyards
- Abandoned Quarries
- Abandoned Wells
- Pesticide and Fertilizer Applications
- Road Salt
- Household Cleaners & Detergents
- Unsewered Subdivisions
- Gas Stations
- Chemical Spills
- Leaking Sewer Lines
- Old Mine Shafts or Openings

## WILDLIFE AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Wildlife enriches our lives by providing opportunities for observing or photographing animals in their native habitat. Wildlife serves as an educational stimulus by provoking human curiosity about the natural world.

Habitat is the combination of food, water, shelter, and space necessary to meet the needs of wildlife.

Humans have an environmental responsibility to protect wildlife and the habitat it needs to survive. Since wildlife can cause problems by destroying property, carrying disease, producing unsanitary waste, and conflicting with human activities, it is important to provide natural habitat at a distance from human activities where animals will not be in contact with humans and can live and breed without interference.

The Town of Arena is in the Western Coulee and Ridge ecological landscape as defined in the 2002 Land Legacy Report, released by the WI DNR. This landscape is characterized by highly eroded and unglaciated topography. Steep sided hills are heavily forested and often managed for hardwood production. Agricultural activities are typically confined to valley floors and ridge tops. The rugged hills that typify the area have the world's largest concentration of hillside prairies, which often support numerous species of rare plants, insects, and reptiles. These forests are not only valuable for their potential wood harvests, but also for the rich assemblage of reptiles and amphibians they support and the wildlife habitat value they provide for resident and migratory birds. Descriptions of natural communities in Iowa County are listed in Appendix E-1.

The Town of Arena protects wildlife by limiting density and by being part of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. The Riverway Board protects some town areas through their standards and policies. Private individuals also manage and protect habitat for wildlife. As a government unit, Arena does not have a prairie/savanna restoration policy. Arena actively supports wildlife friendly agricultural practices.

### **THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

The Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 was enacted to conserve threatened and endangered species of wildlife and plants. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has used the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) to develop maps for all counties in the state providing generalized information about rare, threatened and endangered species. Threatened and Endangered plant species are vulnerable to a variety of exotic, invasive plants, such as Bull Thistle and Wild Parsnip. The Town of Arena does not try to control non-native, invasive plant species. The DNR-NHI maps (Map E.7a and E.7b) have been included at the end of this Section as a reference. Refer also to Appendix E-2 for a list of the Threatened and Endangered plant, animal, and natural communities of the Town of Arena.

### **FOREST RESOURCES**

Forests provide raw materials for the forest products industry and a venue for hunting, hiking, and fishing. They help sustain water resources and provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species. They also help balance global warming effects through oxygen production and carbon sequestration. Over half the forested lands in Wisconsin (57 percent) are privately owned. See Map E.2 for forested lands in Arena.

### **RURAL FORESTS**

Forty-six percent of Wisconsin is forested (16 million acres). Forests therefore represent one of Wisconsin's most important land uses and are often times a defining feature of communities or whole regions. Other benefits of forests include:

- Recreational opportunities such as hunting, fish, and hiking
- Groundwater protection
- Home for wide variety of plants and animals, including Threatened and Endangered species
- Cleaning the air by producing oxygen and storing carbon
- Part of Wisconsin's culture

The Town supports sustainable forestry programs by having a school forest and by participating in the Managed Forest Law program, but does not see a need for a municipal tree-planting program. The jurisdiction is interested in learning more about sustainable forestry.

### **URBAN FORESTS**

One natural resource often forgotten is the urban forest. The urban forest does not necessarily only relate to trees, but also includes shrubs, flowers, vines, ground cover, grass, and other plants within an urban area.

There is no Urban Forest in the Town of Arena.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

Environmental corridors refer to areas that contain groupings of natural resource features. Areas of concentrated natural resource activity ("rooms"), such as wetlands, woodlands, prairies, lakes, and other features, become even more functional when linked by environmental corridors ("hallways"). If corridor resource features are placed on a map, they can form a linear space.

Fish and wildlife populations, native plant distribution, and even clean water all depend on movement through environmental corridors. For example, wildlife populations isolated in one wooded location can overpopulate, die out, or cause problems for neighbors if there are not adequate corridors to allow the population to move about freely. Over 70 percent of all terrestrial wildlife species use riparian corridors, according to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

### Environmental Corridor Benefits:

- Reduced Flooding
- Reduced Soil Erosion
- Improved Water Quality
- Improved Water Quantity
- Groundwater Recharge
- Bank Stabilization
- Improved Air Quality
- Improved Wildlife Habitat

### Social Benefits:

- Walking and Hiking
- Cross Country Skiing
- Horseback Riding
- Photography
- Wildlife Viewing

Map E.8 shows several natural resource features within Arena, which can act as environmental corridors. Preserving environmental corridors can be a highly effective way to protect the natural and cultural resources in an area.

## AIR AND LIGHT

The Town of Arena Plan Commission identified pollutants in soil erosion as an air pollution issue.

Arena is impacted by light pollution but there are no means to address the issue and the Plan Commission does not recommend involvement in a light pollution reduction program.

## GEOLOGIC AND SOIL RESOURCES

Soils and geology are also important planning considerations, particularly when thinking about new development. Today, technological advances can overcome many development challenges relating to soil and geology; however, it is important that these resources are not abused, overused, or contaminated. Particular attention must be paid to soils when development is occurring on steeper slopes and for septic systems. Drain-fields must be located to allow adequate infiltration and the sewage treatment provided by soils. A series of maps including slope limitations (Map E.9), septic limitations (Map E.10), and depth to bedrock (Map E.11) have been included.

Southwest Wisconsin is part of the unglaciated region known as the Driftless Area. Most of the bedrock in this region is sedimentary rock, consisting of sandstone and shale or limestone, containing mineral resources. Mineral resources are divided into two categories, metallic and non-metallic. Metallic resources in the region include lead and zinc. Non-metallic resources include sand, gravel, and limestone, with limestone as one of the most significant geologic resources in the area, used frequently for road building. Refer to Map E-12 for a map showing mines and quarries in Iowa County.

Restricting access to abandoned mines or quarries helps protect these areas from becoming source points for groundwater contamination.

The Town of Arena protects its quarry resources by requiring permits to activate new quarries. There are no mine pits or diggings in the jurisdiction.

## PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Open space serves many important functions. It protects ecologically sensitive areas including wetlands and water resources, important wildlife habitat, and sensitive soils. Open space plays an important role in shaping the character of the community, as nothing can replace the visual impact of vast open space, whether it is agricultural land or woodlands. Preserving open spaces not only directly protects resources, but the space becomes a vital buffer zone. Open space can take the form of parks, cropland and pastures, greenbelts, wetlands or floodplains. Open space can also serve many functions for a community other than recreation, such as the following:

- Flood management
- Preserving prime agricultural land
- Limiting development that may occur
- Buffering incompatible land uses
- Structuring community environment

### **LOCAL PARK AND RECREATION RESOURCES**

Parks can serve a limited neighborhood area, a portion of the community, or the entire community or region and provide area and facilities for outdoor recreation for residents and visitors.

The Town of Arena does not offer any amenities to recreational users and visitors nor does it actively promote its natural resources to recreational visitors, although residents and visitors to the Town are welcome to recreate at Tower Hill State Park and on the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. The Plan Commission sees no need for additional parks, trails, or other outdoor recreation spaces in the Town. Refer to Map E.13 for local, county, and state parks.

### **CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES**

Many communities often ignore cultural and historic resources in order to deal with “real” issues facing their community. However, the proper appreciation of these assets is vital to the long-term success of a community. Respecting and utilizing these available resources increases the overall quality of life and provides opportunities for tourism.

Determining what cultural and historic resources are has been left open to some interpretation. For the purpose of this report, historic resources include historic buildings and sites (as identified by the national register of historic places), museums, churches, cemeteries, old country schools, and other buildings deemed appropriate by the community. The information presented here is to serve as a guide to cultural and historic resources but is not inclusive.

### **HISTORIC PLACES**

The Town has one site listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places. Refer to Map E.14 for its location.

**Table E.1 - National Register of Historic Places**

<b>Name and Type of Place</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date Added to State Register</b>	<b>Date Added to National Register</b>
William Henry Brisbane House	Reimann Rd.	7/31/96	9/13/90

### **CHURCHES**

Churches have had a significant impact on the culture of the Town of Arena area. Refer to Map E.15 for churches in the Town of Arena.

Places of worship in the Town include:

- Arena Bible Church
- Arena Congregational Church
- Mounds Creek Church
- Congregational (also known as Primitive Methodist) Church
- St. Johns Church
- Chapel in the Pines

### **CEMETERIES**

Cemeteries are identified as prominent historic and cultural resources. They provide an historic perspective of an area, giving names and ethnicities of previous residents. Refer to Map E-15 for cemeteries in the Town of Arena.

The following cemeteries serve the Town of Arena:

- Dover – Culver
- Arena
- Hatches – Davis
- Unidentified
- Hillside

## RURAL SCHOOLS

The old time, one room schoolhouse once dotted the landscape, providing public education for mainly rural communities. Over time, these buildings were utilized less and less, as larger, more centrally located schools were built and students were bused in from the country. Nevertheless, the one room schoolhouse remains an icon of American rural culture, representing the opportunity for all children to learn “the three R’s”: reading, ‘riting, and ‘rithmetic. The publication “*Schools of Iowa County*” by Metcalf, Williams, and Pustina (1976), documents these schools in greater detail; Map E.14 at the end of this Section shows locations.

The following rural school buildings were in the Town of Arena:

- Mill Creek
- Mounds Creek
- Pleasant Point
- Dover
- Coon Rock
- Hogan
- Helena
- Meadow Vale
- Bawden
- Ray Hollow
- McCutchin
- Blue Ridge

## OTHER HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SITES IN THE TOWN OF ARENA

The Plan Commission did not identify any other historic buildings or sites.

## CULTURAL RESOURCE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The Commission did not identify any cultural resource and historic preservation programs or special events.

The Lower Wisconsin Riverway and farmland are Arena’s most important cultural resources. The Plan Commission gave no indication as to what threatens these resources.

## RESPONSE TO THREATS TO CULTURAL RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Plan Commission did not identify what they would recommend to respond to threats of their local cultural resources.

## ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

About 10,000 years ago, **Paleo-Indians** entered Wisconsin as they hunted woolly mammoth, mastodon, and bison. These large mammals lived on the abundant vegetation beginning to grow as the glaciers retreated northward.

Around 8,000 years ago, during the **Archaic Period**, the climate became warmer and dryer. Animals found in the state today replaced the large Ice Age mammals. People lived in smaller family groups in caves, rockshelters, along rivers, and around lakes and wetlands. They harvested wild plants, nuts, and acorns. They hunted animals such as deer and elk.

About 3,000 years ago, during the **Woodland Period**, people lived in large villages and began to use bows and arrows to hunt. It was during this period that many mounds, including effigies, or mounds built in the shape of turtles, birds, bears and other animals, were built throughout Wisconsin. These people were Wisconsin’s first potters and gardeners.

The **Mississippian Period** began about 1,000 years ago. In Wisconsin these people are called **Oneota**. They lived in villages and planted gardens to grow crops such as corn, beans, and squash. They had a complex trade network that extended to both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Jean Nicolet, a French explorer, arrived in Wisconsin in 1634. At that time, the Indian tribes present in the state included the Ho Chunk (Winnebago), Potawatomi, Menominee, and Ojibwa (Chippewa) Indians. This marked the beginning of the **Historic Period**.

The list below gives archeological sites documented in your community. This is not a complete list because some sites disappear due to development or agriculture and some may not yet have been reported to the State Historical Society.

**Table E.2 - Archeological Sites In Your Community\***

Site/Code Name	Site Type	Cultural Significance
Wedig	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0114	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0115	Workshop site	Unknown Prehistoric
Stoner	Mounds (conical), Mounds (linear)	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0102	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Finkelmeyer I	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Finkelmeyer II	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Finkelmeyer III	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Finkelmeyer IV	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0107	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0108	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0109	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0110	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0111	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0106	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0098	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0099	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0100	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0103	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0112	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
IA-0113	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Cothren	Other	Historic Euro/American
IA-0072	Campsite/village	Unknown
Lindeman	Campsite/village	Early Woodland
Holzmilller	Cave/rockshelter	Unknown
Ruined Farmstead	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American
Feed Mill	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American
Wayside	Campsite/village	1. Archaic 2. Late Woodland
Mineral Site	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American
Cody Site	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Moreland Mine	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Moreland Tailings	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Carl Cenite Mine	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
South Barreltown Road Mines	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Lillian	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Goldthorpe	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Fallen Oak	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Lindhauer Mine	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Carey Tailing Site	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Wedig Tailing Site	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
R.C. Tailings Site	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Wild Plum	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Knapp Site	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American
Rooster Site	Isolated finds	Unknown Prehistoric
Blaze Site	Campsite/village	Late Paleo-Indian
Blank Angus	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Suthers Site	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American
Parsnip Site	Workshop site/Campsite/Village	Unknown Prehistoric
Carey Site	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Sleeping Cow Site	Campsite/village	Unknown Prehistoric
Bogoshwava Site	Isolated finds	Unknown Prehistoric
Carey III Site	Campsite/village	Early Archaic
Mineral Point Hill	Quarry/mine	Historic Euro/American
Ingraham House	Cabin/homestead	Historic Euro/American

\*Due to the delicate nature of archeological sites, the Wisconsin State Historical Society does not release specific locations.

The Town of Arena Plan Commission identified the Town Board as the local cultural resource contact.

### **HISTORIC ORDINANCE**

The Town of Arena does not have an historic preservation ordinance.

**AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCE AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS**

There are a number of available state and federal programs to assist with agricultural, natural, and cultural resource planning and protection. Below are brief descriptions of various agencies and programs. Contact information has been provided for each agency. To find out more specific information or which program best fits your needs contact them directly.

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WI-DNR)**

The Department of Natural Resources is dedicated to the preservation, protection, effective management, and maintenance of Wisconsin's natural resources. It is responsible for implementing the laws of the state and, where applicable, the laws of the federal government that protect and enhance the natural resources of our state. It is the one agency charged with full responsibility for coordinating the many disciplines and programs necessary to provide a clean environment and a full range of outdoor recreational opportunities for Wisconsin citizens and visitors. The Wisconsin DNR has a number of programs available ranging from threatened and endangered species to water quality to parks and open space to wetlands.

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WI-DNR)**

101 S Webster St  
Madison WI 53703

Phone: 608-266-2621  
Fax: 608-261-4380

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us>

The Bureau of Community Financial Assistance (CFA) administers grant and loan programs, under the WI-DNR. Financial program staff works closely with local governments and interested groups to develop and support projects that protect public health and the environment, and provide recreational opportunities.

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (DATCP)**

The Wisconsin Department of Trade and Consumer Protection inspects and licenses more than 100,000 businesses and individuals, analyzes millions of laboratory samples, conducts hundreds of hearings and investigations, educates businesses and consumers about best practices, adopts rules that have the force of law, and promotes Wisconsin agriculture at home and abroad.

Specifically DATCP has two divisions that relate directly to the agriculture and natural resource section of the comprehensive plan. The Environmental Division focuses on insects, land and water, as well as plants and animals. The Agricultural Division focuses on animals, crops, agricultural resources, and land and water resources.

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (DATCP)**

2811 Agriculture Drive  
PO Box 8911  
Madison WI 53708

Phone: 608-224-4960

<http://www.datcp.state.wi.us>

**WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is the federal agency that works with landowners on private lands to conserve natural resources. NRCS is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, formerly the Soil Conservation Service.

Nearly three-fourths of the technical assistance provided by the agency goes to helping farmers and ranchers develop conservation systems uniquely suited to their land and individual ways of doing business. The agency also provides assistance to other private landowners and rural and urban communities to reduce erosion, conserve and protect water, and solve other resource problems.

**WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**

6515 Watts Road,  
Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53719

Phone (608) 276-USDA

<http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov>

**WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Society serves as the archives of the State of Wisconsin. It collects books, periodicals, maps, manuscripts, relics, newspapers, and audio and graphic materials as they relate to North America. It maintains a museum, library, and research facility in Madison, as well as a statewide system of historic sites, school services, area research centers, administering a broad program of historic preservation and publishing a wide variety of historical materials, both scholarly and popular. The historical society can also provide assistance for various state and federal programs.

**WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Office of Preservation Planning  
Division of Historic Preservation  
Wisconsin Historical Society  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706**

**Phone: 608-264-6500**

**<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org>**