

5.0 AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

This element contains information on the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources of the Town of West Point. Items covered in this element include ground water, woodlands, prime agricultural areas, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, stream corridors and surface water, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, mineral resources, open spaces, recreational areas, historical and cultural resources, and community design.

5.1 AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES VISION

Agricultural Resources Vision

- ◆ The Town of West Point's agricultural lands provide food, fiber, open space and a scenic landscape and they contribute to the area's economy. The lands are irreplaceable and are being protected for future generations.

Natural Resource Vision

- ◆ The Town of West Point recognizes the importance of our natural resources and has taken steps to protect these resources for use and enjoyment now and for future generations. The resources include:
 - Wisconsin River, Lake Wisconsin, Crystal Lake and the riparian corridors along these waterways
 - Near shore wetlands, a relict bog, wet/sedge meadows, depressional wetlands
 - Woodlands
 - Hill Prairies
 - Important geologic features including Gibraltar Rock and Scenic Bluffs
 - Fertile soils, clean air, scenic landscapes and dark night skies
 - An abundant quality groundwater supply
 - Important wildlife habitat including but not limited to eagle roosting areas
 - Wildlife and plants native to the region including threatened and endangered species

Cultural Resources Vision

- ◆ The town recognizes that our present culture and interest in preserving our rural and agricultural character is a result of our history. Our policies and plans should recognize, promote and enjoy our historical and cultural heritage.

5.2 AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Agricultural Resources

Goal 1: Preserve productive farmland and farming as a way of life and an important part of the local and regional economy.

Objective 1: Support soil and water conservation practices and recognize good stewardship of the land.

Objective 2: Maintain, modernize and improve infrastructure in support of agricultural activity.

Objective 3: Limit non-farm development in agricultural areas.

Objective 4: Establish land division policies to support existing and new farming operations.

Goal 2: Promote cooperation between farm and non-farm residents to assure strong positive relationships, mutual understanding and respect.

Objective 1: Provide information and education on farming, farm organizations and farm related activities.

Objective 2: Protect farm operations from adjacent land uses that may cause conflicts between farm and non-farm residents.

Objective 3: Preserve the character and identity of the Town of West Point as a rural community.

Goal 3: Support a diverse array of agricultural and/or agricultural related activities including but not limited to:

- **Dairy and dairy specialty**
- **Value added and specialty products**
- **Cash crops**
- **Organic farming**
- **Agricultural tourism**
- **Orchards and vineyards**

Objective 1: Collaborate with others to help promote agricultural in different ways.

Objective 2: Host forums, meetings and presentations related to both conventional and alternative types of agriculture.

Objective 3: Consistently apply land use decisions in support of both conventional and alternative agricultural practices and uses that are sustainable.

Policies and Proposed Programs:

- a) Identify and map prime agricultural soils and lands that are best suited for agriculture and share this information with non-farm residents.
- b) Limit land divisions in agriculturally designated areas to a minimum number of non-farm home sites and consistent with siting criteria to maintain existing farming operations and preserve rural character.
- c) Establish a working relationship with the Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Department (LCWD) and share information on areas of mutual interest.
- d) Act as a liaison with farmers to help secure grants and assistance for conservation practices.
- e) Host an annual meeting between Town officials and the farming community to discuss the status of farming in the town and address conflicts between active farmers and non-farm residents.
- f) Act as a sponsor and/or facilitator to secure funding for permanent protection of farmlands through federal or state funded purchase of development rights (PDR) programs.

Natural Resources

Goal 1: Maintain, preserve and enhance the Town's natural resources, scenic views and unique natural features.

- Objective 1:* Develop and implement land protection tools.
- Objective 2:* Support conservation incentives, such as tax reduction or deferral, cost sharing and partnerships with land owners who participate in conservation programs and strategies.
- Objective 3:* Support environmental education programs in schools and provide information to landowners on conservation practices and programs.
- Objective 4:* Identify, support and partner with organizations who share a mutual interest in protection of the Town's natural resources.
- Objective 5:* Develop long term groundwater use and protection strategy.
- Objective 6:* Partner with conservation organizations and state and federal agencies to protect critical lands and sensitive natural resources from development.
- Objective 7:* Develop a housing density policy to protect open space and natural resources.
- Objective 8:* Protect and preserve night skies as an important natural resource.
- Objective 9:* Minimize the loss or damage of land and river shorelines.
- Objective 10:* Establish appropriate environmental corridors to protect wildlife and plant habitat.
- Objective 11:* Assure that non-metallic mineral resources are utilized without adverse impact to other natural resources such as prime agricultural soils, woodlands, and surface and groundwater.
- Objective 12:* Implement land use policies and decisions that are compatible with the reuse plan for the Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP).
- Objective 13:* Develop surface water protection strategy.
- Objective 14:* Support land management practices that work to minimize and/or eradicate invasive species proliferation in the town, such as garlic mustard, wild parsnip, Queen Anne's lace, etc.

Policies and Proposed Programs:

- a) Consider some form of a Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) or conservation easement program for the Town.
- b) Consider purchasing property as appropriate to protect the Town's natural resources and provide recreational opportunities for residents and others.
- c) Consider a Transfer of Development Right (TDR) program to allow development where it is suitable in exchange for protection of sensitive lands.
- d) Protect groundwater quality with provisions in the Town's ordinances that assure adequate groundwater recharge, wellhead protection, and proper siting and maintenance of onsite waste systems.
- e) Consider impact fees where legally permissible to offset the effects of development on the Town's resources.
- f) Develop an information and education program that utilizes the town website, postings, information mailings and public presentations to keep town residents informed on natural and environmental issues.

- g) Add primary and secondary environmental corridors to land use maps and discourage development in these areas.
- h) Assure the non-metallic mine sites are properly managed and reclaimed in accordance with the Columbia County Code of Ordinances and utilize appropriate financial instruments.
- i) Develop a parks program in cooperation with the county, state and conservation groups.
- j) Utilize available land-use planning tools to prevent the loss, degradation or destruction of the Town's natural resources.
- k) Develop an outdoor recreational plan for the Town with cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- l) Implement land use controls to prevent soil erosion on steep slopes during and after construction.
- m) Discourage and where applicable by State law prevent development in identified wetlands and flood plains and in areas of hydric soils.
- n) Encourage protection within or directly adjacent to areas harboring known potentially endangered or threatened communities of plants or animals.
- o) Encourage protection of areas identified as critical roosting habitat and potential nest sites for bald eagles.
- p) Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with surrounding communities that recognizes the importance of protecting eagle roosting and over wintering areas.
- q) Implement Best Management Practices (BMP) for protection of surface water resources.
- r) Develop directional lighting standards for commercial industrial and residential developments to minimize light pollution of night skies.

Cultural Resources

Goal 1: Recognize and preserve Native American culture.

Objective 1: Identify Native American village sites, campsites, mounds and cemeteries.

Policies and Proposed Programs:

- a) Review maps published by the County and State showing sites
- b) Network with Native American groups and other experts to seek advice on sites.

Objective 2: Preserve Native American artifacts

Policies and Proposed Programs:

- a) Review plans to develop in sites identified as important to Native American culture and establish brief archeological surveys before sites are disturbed by development.

Objective 3: Educate residents on Native American history

Policies and Proposed Programs:

- a) Develop display area for Native American culture and artifacts.

Goal 2: Preserve the unique historical and cultural resource in our town.

Objective 1: Promote the use and preservation of the Merrimac Ferry.

Policies and Proposed Programs:

- a) Advise the Wisconsin DOT of the importance of the Ferry to our Town.
- b) Promote the use of the park area around the Ferry for biking, hiking, shore fishing and concessions.

Objective 2: Preserve the character of the Gibraltar Rock area.

Policies and Proposed Programs:

- a) Review development plans that may affect the character of the scenic view from Gibraltar Rock.
- b) Support a Gibraltar Rock friends group.
- c) Work with Columbia County, Wisconsin DNR and other state agencies as appropriate to preserve and enhance the character of the Gibraltar Rock area.

Objective 3: Encourage the continued development of the Ice Age Trail Corridor.

Policies and Proposed Programs:

- a) Preserve the scenic character of the proposed corridor when considering development plans.
- b) Establish regular contact with the Ice Age Trail foundation and participate in trail planning efforts.

Objective 4: Recognize historical significance of the Prairie du Sac dam.

Policies and Proposed Programs:

- a) Support efforts to develop displays and exhibits that describe the river before and after the dam construction.
- b) Support efforts by the West Point Historical Society to develop displays about the construction of the dam.

Objective 5: Preserve the history of important former historical sites.

Policies and Proposed Programs:

- a) Support efforts by the West Point Historical Society to develop displays and exhibits that describe the history and culture of the town.
- b) Develop signs and historical markers designating the locations of past town halls, schools, homesteads, effigy mounds and cemeteries.
- c) Support efforts by the West Point Historical Society to preserve and display artifacts, documents and maps of former town halls, schools and cemeteries.

Goal 3: Recognize and preserve the agricultural history and culture of our town.

Objective 1: Promote and preserve our rural, agricultural character.

Policies and Proposed Programs:

- a) Consider buffers in new development that provides a natural transition to agricultural areas.
- b) Encourage local farmer's markets.
- c) Establish a design review process for new developments to ensure the character of new developments maintains our rural character.

Objective 2: Educate residents on agricultural and family history.

Policies and Proposed Programs:

- a) Support our West Point Historical Society with facilities and clerical assistance.
- b) Encourage the West Point Historical Society to establish an area for agricultural history displays.
- c) Encourage the West Point Historical Society to establish an inventory of historical structures and areas.
- d) Encourage the West Point Historical Society to develop recommendations for maintaining historic areas and structures including barns and outbuildings.
- e) Encourage the West Point Historical Society to develop recommendations for converting historic structures to other uses.

5.3 EXISTING AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS

5.3.1 Farmland Preservation Program

The Farmland Preservation Program is a State program to provide tax relief to farmers and promote proper soil conservation practices. The program is available through local governments that choose to preserve farmland through local planning and zoning. In the Town of West Point, landowners can participate in the program by obtaining a zoning certificate. A farmer who has property that is covered by a county or town zoning ordinance that is certified by the state as having an exclusive agricultural zoning district can participate in the program. In Columbia County, 19 of the 21 towns, including the Town of West Point, are regulated under the County Zoning Ordinance that includes a state certified exclusive agricultural zoning district. Farmers with at least 35 acres can collect property tax credits through the program if their land is zoned in the agricultural zoning district, located in an Agricultural Area to be Preserved in the County Farmland Preservation Plan, and have an approved soil conservation plan for the land. The farmer must obtain a zoning certificate that certifies the land is properly zoned and that a soil conservation plan has been prepared for the property. In the 2003 tax year, 808 farmers in Columbia County collect property tax credits with the average credit being \$738.

One way in which the Town can attempt to preserve its rural character and agricultural heritage is to encourage more farmers to participate in the Farmland Preservation Program. Map 5-1 in Appendix I shows the lands in the Town of West Point that are enrolled in the Farmland Preservation Program.

5.3.2 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is the Federal Government's largest environmental improvement program in existence. Administered by the U.S.D.A., the purpose of the program is to reduce erosion, increase wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and increase forestland. CRP is a voluntary approach to improving the environment using partnerships between government and private landowners. The program provides incentives to farmers (and ranchers) for establishing conservation practices which benefit resources both on and off the farm. Incentives are in the form of annual rental payments and cost-share assistance in return for establishing long-term resource-conserving cover on eligible lands. Rental payments are based on the agricultural rental value of the land, and cost-share assistance is provided in an amount up to 50 percent of the participant's costs to establish approved practices. The contract duration is from ten years up to 15 years (if planting hardwood trees, restoring cropped wetlands, etc.), and is transferable with a change in ownership.

To be eligible, land must:

- have been planted or considered to be planted for two years of the five most recent crop years,
- be marginal pasture land that is either enrolled in the Water Bank Program or is suitable for use as a riparian buffer to be planted to trees.

In addition, the cropland must meet at least one of the following conditions:

- be highly erodible
- cropped wetland
- subject to scour erosion
- located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area (all of Columbia County)
- cropland associated with non-cropped wetlands.

5.3.3 Managed Forest Law and Forest Crop Law

The Wisconsin Managed Forest Law was created in 1985 from the combination of two previous laws, the Forest Crop Law and the Woodland Tax Law. The Managed Forest Law is designed to give tax credit to owners of forestlands at least ten acres in size to prevent premature cutting of timber for short run economic gain. In exchange for the tax credit, the landowner agrees not to burn or graze the land and to only harvest the timber under the direction of a trained forester. The landowner can also agree to open the land to public hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation in exchange for a larger tax credit. The idea behind the Managed Forest Law is to encourage the growth of future commercial crops through sound forestry practices. At the same time, the program takes into account the individual property owners' objectives and society's needs for compatible recreational activities, forest aesthetics, wildlife habitat, erosion control, and protection of endangered resources.

The Forest Crop Law, enacted in 1927, was the precursor to the Managed Forest Law. The guidelines of the two programs are very similar to one another except that the Forest Crop Law was directed toward landowners with large forested parcels. The Forest Crop Law Program is no longer open to new participants, except through purchase of land which is currently under contract. As the contracts expire landowners may switch over to the Managed Forest Law Program.

In Columbia County, 292 landowners with approximately 19,148 acres of woodlands are enrolled in the Managed Forest Law Program including 20 landowners with approximately 1,098 acres of woodlands in the Town of West Point. Encouragement of the Managed Forest Law program is another way the Town of West Point can help to preserve its rural character. Map 5-10 in Appendix I illustrates the locations of the parcels with woodlands enrolled under these programs in the Town of West Point.

5.3.4 Wetlands Reserve Program

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) 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 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to restore and protect wetlands. The landowner voluntarily limits future use of the land, yet retains private ownership. The landowner and Natural Resources Conservation Service (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. The Town of West Point does not currently have any properties enrolled in the WRP. The Town of West Point has several properties enrolled in the WRP. However, encouragement of the Wetlands Reserve Program is yet another way for the Town of West Point to help preserve its rural character.

5.3.5 National and State Registers of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official national list of historic properties in America worthy of preservation and is maintained by the National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior. The State Register of Historic Places is Wisconsin's official listing of state properties determined to be significant to Wisconsin's heritage and is maintained by the Division of Historic Preservation at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Both listings include sites, buildings, structures, objects and districts that are significant in national, state or local history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture.

These programs give honorary recognition to properties that retain their historic character and are important to understanding local, state, or federal history. Listing provides tangible benefits to private property owners and helps assist them in preserving their properties. The principal benefit to the property owner is the knowledge that they are helping to preserve local, state and national heritage. To assist the property owner, the state and federal governments also provide a number of more tangible benefits as listed below:

- eligibility for state and federal income tax credits for rehabilitating historic properties.
- eligibility for federal grants, when available.
- consideration in the planning of federally assisted and state assisted projects, as well as projects of local governments and school boards, when those projects affect the property.
- eligibility to use the state's Historic Building Code, which may facilitate rehabilitation.
- qualification for state and federal charitable income tax deductions for the donation of historic preservation easements.
- eligibility for official State Register of Historic Places plaques.

Listing a property in the registers does not impose restrictions on the private property owner. The private owner is free to sell, alter or demolish the property. However, if the property owner is utilizing any public federal or state funding or assistance, the proposed projects are reviewed to ensure that historic values of the property are taken into consideration.

5.3.6 Wisconsin Historical Society - Division of Historic Preservation Subgrant Program

The Division of Historic Preservation within the State Historical Society offers grants to local units of government and non-profit organizations to conduct detailed architecture and history surveys. Funds are provided for surveys to identify and evaluate historical, architectural and archaeological resources, nominating properties and districts to the National Register of Historic Places, and carrying out a program of comprehensive historic preservation planning and education. The results for these surveys form the

foundation for community historic preservation programs. Before a community can work to preserve historic resources it must know about these resources and why they are important. The surveys typically look at all of the historic properties in a community and then identify which ones are significant and potentially eligible for listing in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Additional grants are available to communities that have a historic preservation program that is certified by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

5.3.7 Historic Preservation Tax Credits for Income-Producing Historic Buildings

Owners of historic income-producing properties in Wisconsin may be eligible for two income tax credits that can help pay for their building's rehabilitation. The Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation administers both programs in conjunction with the National Park Service. The two programs are:

Federal Historic Preservation Credit. This program returns 20 percent of the cost of rehabilitating historic buildings to owners as a direct reduction in their federal income taxes.

Wisconsin Supplemental Historic Preservation Credit. This program returns an additional five percent of the cost of rehabilitation to owners as a discount on their Wisconsin state income taxes. Owners that qualify for the Federal Historic Preservation Credit automatically qualify for the Wisconsin supplement if they get NPS approval before they begin any work.

To qualify for the Federal Historic Preservation Credit, a property owner must:

- Own a historic building. A building is considered "historic" if it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places or if the NPS determines that it contributes to the character of a National Register historic district. A building can also receive a preliminary determination of eligibility for the Register from the NPS through the tax credit application process. The owner must later formally list the property on the National Register.
- Use the building for income-producing purposes. Income-producing buildings are those used in a trade or business or for the production of rental income.
- Formally apply to the Division of Historic Preservation. Application materials can be obtained through the DHP or through the NPS Web site.
- Rehabilitate the building in accordance with program standards. Program standards are the Secretary of Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation". The NPS, in conjunction with the Division of Historic Preservation, determines if a project meets the "Standards".
- Spend a minimum amount of money on the rehabilitation. An owner must spend at least an amount equal to the building's depreciated value or \$5,000, whichever is greater. This amount of money must be spent in a two-year period. Phased projects are allowed a five-year period.
- Claim the credit for only eligible expenses. The cost of all work on the historic buildings, inside and out, is eligible for the credit. The cost of site work, such as landscaping or paving, and the cost of work on non-historic additions are not eligible expenses.
- Maintain ownership of the building and maintain the building's historic character for five years. The tax credit must be repaid to the IRS and to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) if the building is sold or altered in a way that diminishes its historic character. Repayment is pro-rated over the five-year period after the building is placed in service.

5.3.8 Historic Home Owner's Tax Credits

The Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation (DHP) administers a program of 25-percent state income tax credits for repair and rehabilitation of historic homes in Wisconsin. To qualify, your personal residence must be one of the following:

- Listed in the State or National Register;
- Contributing to a state or national register historic district; or
- Be determined through the tax credit application process to be eligible for individual listing in the state register.
- And you must spend at least \$10,000 on the following types of eligible work within a two-year period (a five-year expenditure period can be requested):
 - Work on the exterior of your house, such as roof replacement and painting, but not including site work such as driveways and landscaping;
 - Electrical wiring, not including electrical fixtures;
 - Plumbing, not including plumbing fixtures;
 - Mechanical systems, such as furnaces, air conditioning, and water heaters; and
 - Structural work, such as jacking up floors.

5.3.9 Archeological Sites Property Tax Exemption Program

The State of Wisconsin's Archeological Sites Property Tax Exemption Program was created in 1989 and is administered through the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The program provides property tax exemption for owners of archeological sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places or the State Register of Historic Places. A site not included on one of these lists can be evaluated for inclusion on a list at the owner's request.

The purpose of the program is to provide an incentive for landowners to protect significant archeological sites on their land. In exchange for the tax exemption, the landowners must agree to place a permanent protective covenant on the area of land that contains the archeological site. The covenant does not discourage all uses of the land containing the archeological site, but rather encourages the landowner to plan the use of the land to avoid disturbing the site area. No landowners in the Town of West Point currently participate in the program. Encouragement of this program can help to preserve open spaces and the cultural heritage of the Town by preventing development on these lands.

5.4 AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCE AREAS

5.4.1 Ground Water and Aquifers

The Town of West Point has a large untapped supply of good quality groundwater found in layers of porous subsoil and bedrock known as aquifers. The water in an aquifer travels underground from its source to a discharge point such as a well, wetland, spring or lake. These aquifers supply the water to Town residents through private and municipal wells.

Land use decisions can have impacts on ground water, as anything that is spilled or spread on the ground can impact the quality of the ground water. As a result, pollution of the ground water aquifers is a very real threat to the Town's water supplies. Listed below are some potential sources of ground water pollution found in the Town:

- Over concentration of septic tanks.
- Poor site location of concentrated feedlots.
- Water supplies are obtained from shallow wells screened just below the water table.
- High water table close to the land surface.
- The soil is permeable and the pollutant moves downward readily into the aquifer.
- Aquifers that consist of highly permeable sand and gravel or fractured rock.
- Shallow aquifers underlain by impermeable clay or crystalline rocks.
- Excessive and improper application of chemical fertilizers.

Problems such as these will need to be addressed in order to ensure clean drinking water supplies now and into the future.

The University of Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey has conducted statewide surveys of river basins in Wisconsin. This inventory includes an examination of ground water in each basin. Columbia County is situated within three river basins, the Rock-Fox Basin, the Wolf-Fox Basin, and the Wisconsin River Basin. The Town of West Point is located in the Wisconsin River Basin. Below is a summary of the ground water resources for this river basin inventoried by the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. The summary describes the glacial-drift and bedrock aquifers in the river basin and describes the availability and quality of ground water from the aquifer.

The Wisconsin River Basin

Glacial-Drift Aquifer

Properly constructed wells may yield up to 2,000 gallon per minute. Generally, sand and gravel aquifers are from 100 to 250 feet thick. Water is withdrawn readily from the aquifer because of the shallow depth to water and the high permeability of the aquifer. Withdrawing large quantities of water from wells tapping the sand and gravel aquifer lowers water levels in other wells as much as 20 feet and affects water levels to a lesser amount up to a radius of half a mile. Water generally averages about 210 parts per million of dissolved solids. The water is usable for most domestic and industrial needs without treatment. The water is very hard and of the magnesium bicarbonate type.

Bedrock Aquifer

The underlying sandstone aquifer can supply yields ranging from 500 to 1,000 gallons per minute. The sandstone aquifer is composed of a thick sequence of sandstone, shale, siltstone, and dolomites. Generally the lower part of the aquifer is more permeable. Withdrawing large quantities of water from wells tapping the sandstone aquifer lowers water levels in wells as much as 200 feet and affects water levels to a lesser amount up to a radius of 2 miles. The ground water is very hard and is of the calcium magnesium bicarbonate type. The water contains about 280 parts per million of dissolved solids. The water is usable for most domestic and industrial wastes without treatment.

5.4.2 Bedrock Geology

The bedrock of Columbia County contains the following geologic units: Upper Cambrian Sandstone Formations, St. Peter Sandstone, Prairie Du Chien Dolomite Group, Galena-Platteville Dolomite, and Precambrian rocks. Three of these bedrock geological units, Upper Cambrian Sandstone Formations, St. Peter Sandstone, and Prairie Du Chien Dolomite Group are found in the Town of West Point. Map 5-2 in Appendix I illustrates the generalized distribution of these geologic units in the Town of West Point. Below is a brief and generalized description of the bedrock formations found in the Town of West Point.

Upper Cambrian Sandstone Formations (Cambrian Age)

More than 50 percent of Columbia County is underlain by bedrock formations of the Cambrian system. These formations for the most part consist of sandstone. There are four major formations within the Cambrian Systems. They are in descending order as follows:

- Ordan Sandstone
Consists primarily of sandstone which is sometimes cemented with dolomite. The Jordan may be up to 50 feet thick, but commonly less than 30 feet thick.
- St. Lawrence Dolomite
This formation consists predominantly of a dolomitic sandstone. It may be to 80 feet, but is generally less than 40 feet.
- Lone Rock Sandstone
Consists primarily of sandstone. Siltstone is sometimes encountered.
- Elk Mound Group
Sandstone is dominant, but siltstone may also be present.

St. Peter Sandstone (Ordovician Age)

The St. Peter Sandstone occurs in the eastern part of the County beneath the Galena-Platteville Dolomite. Good exposures of the St. Peter Sandstone also occur at the surface in the form of bedrock knolls in the southern part of the Town of Arlington. Other areas where this formation occurs are shown on the bedrock map. They are buried under many feet of glacial drift and the Galena-Platteville Dolomite. The St. Peter Sandstone has been described as being a light-colored buff to reddish, friable, sandstone, which varies in thickness from 0 to 100 feet or more.

Prairie Du Chien Dolomite Group (Ordovician Age)

This Prairie du Chien Dolomite consists of thick bedded, porous dolomite which commonly contains chert. Locally, above the Prairie du Chien there is found a whitish or purplish shale which grades into red sandstone. The Prairie du Chien Dolomite underlies the eastern and southern part of the County with small scattered outliers being found further west and north. In the area west of Lodi, it caps the prominent hills.

5.4.3 Soils

The Town of West Point's soils are a product of the deposits left by the last glacial ice age that ended approximately 12,000 years ago. The Town's soils are composed of varying proportions of sand, gravel, silt, clay, and organic material resulting in soil composition that varies from one location to the next. As a result of these variations, the Soil Conservation Service within the United State Department of Agriculture has classified the soils in the County into groups called "soil associations". A soil association is an area that has a distinct and proportional pattern of soils. The soils in Columbia County have been grouped into 11 broad soil associations, two of which are found within the Town of West Point. Map 5-3 illustrates the locations of the soil associations in Town of West Point. These associations are generalized areas and have three important limitations:

- Each group contains areas of other soils in addition to those named.
- The soils in any one association may have a wide range in properties.
- Soil associations are too general to be used for specific site planning.

The information provided by the soil associations is useful in identifying suitable areas for a particular type of land use and for a general guide in determining suitable community growth areas, locating appropriate areas

for recreational uses, and for the management of natural resources. However, the composition of the soils at a particular site must be evaluated prior to any development due to the varying limitations of each soil type. The characteristics of the two soil associations found in Town of West Point are described briefly as follows:

St. Charles, Ossian, Dodge Association

This association comprises about 15 percent of the County's area. In the Town of West Point, these soils generally occur in the eastern and southwestern portions of the Town. The soils in this association are characterized as well drained, moderately well drained, and poorly well drained silty soils that have a silty subsoil and are underlain by sandy loam glacial till or silty sediment. These soils are well suited for crops. Generally the St. Charles and Dodge soils in this association are suitable for onsite sewage disposal and basements. The Ossian soils in this association are not suitable for onsite sewage disposal and basements because of a high water table.

Mt. Carroll-Seaton-Dresden Association

This association comprises about five percent of the County. In the Town of West Point, these soils generally occur in the western portions of the Town along the Wisconsin River. The soils in this association are characterized as well drained and moderately well drained silty and loamy soils that have a silty or loamy subsoil and are underlain by stratified silt and sand, silty sediment, or stratified sand and gravel. These soils are well suited for crops. Generally the Seaton and Dresden soils in this association are suitable for onsite sewage disposal and basements. The Mt. Carroll soils in this association have limited suitability for onsite sewage disposal and basements because of a high water table.

5.4.4 Productive Agricultural Areas

Soil type is the largest determining factor in the productivity of agricultural areas. The soils in Columbia County including the Town of West Point are classified by the United States Department of Agriculture based upon their suitability for agricultural use. This classification is based upon criteria such as crop production potential, soil conditions, and other basic production related criteria. Soils are rated between Class I and Class VIII, with Class I, II, and III generally being considered good soils for agriculture. Class I, II, and the best soils of Class III are generally recognized as prime agricultural soils, while the remainder of the soils in Class III are generally recognized as unique farmland or farmland of statewide importance. In general, areas of the County that are not classified as Class I, II, and III soils include water bodies, wetlands, areas of steep slopes, and bedrock escarpments.

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is also available for these uses. Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high-quality and/or high yields of a specific crop when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Examples of such crops are citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, fruit, and vegetables. Farmlands of statewide importance include those that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some may produce as high a yield as prime farmlands if conditions are favorable.

Protection of the best remaining farmland for agricultural purposes was shown to be of high importance to County residents in the Public Opinion Survey. However, the development of non-farm uses on agricultural lands continues to threaten the supply of the best agricultural soils in the County and the Town. In an effort to identify and recognize the most productive agricultural soils in the Town, this plan identifies prime farmland as defined by the US Department of Agriculture as productive agricultural areas. Prime farmland generally consists of Class I, II, and the best soils of Class III. Map 5-4 in Appendix I illustrates the prime agricultural soils in Town of West Point.

While soil type is an important component to agriculture, other issues such as the availability of space to farm, the distance from other competing land uses, the availability of adequate transportation, etc. also effect the viability of farming in the Town. Efforts should be made to examine the issues facing agriculture as a comprehensive package that looks at the future viability of farming in the Town including the preservation of the best and most productive soils.

5.4.5 Environmental Corridors

Environmental Corridors are areas that contain unique natural resource components that can be seriously impacted by intense development and should be preserved and protected. The Environmental Corridors include many of the most environmentally sensitive lands and provide a continuous linear system of open space. The protection and preservation of these areas is intended to serve several functions including: the protection of surface and groundwater quality and recharge areas; reducing the potential damage from floods and storm water runoff; the protection of sensitive natural resource areas; and the maintenance of important wildlife habitats or recreational areas. Map 5-5 in Appendix I illustrates the locations of Environmental Corridors in Town of West Point.

The Environmental Corridors include the following areas:

- floodplains
- wetlands
- 35 foot buffers along all lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and drainage ways
- publicly owned lands and parks
- steep slopes over 12%
- shallow soils to bedrock
- woodlots 20 acres or greater

5.4.6 Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species and Natural Communities

Columbia County contains many rare, threatened, and endangered species of plants and animals as well as a number of rare natural communities including some that are located within the Town of West Point. Both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin DNR maintain lists of threatened and endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service classifies a species as “endangered “ when there is a danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A species is “threatened” when they are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. The Wisconsin DNR’s Bureau of Endangered Resources lists species as “endangered” when the continued existence of that species as a viable component of the State’s wild animals or plants is determined to be in jeopardy based on scientific evidence. A species is considered “threatened” when it appears likely, based on scientific information, that the species may become endangered in the foreseeable future. The DNR also lists species of special concern that are suspected to have some problem of abundance or distribution.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not list any endangered or threatened species that are permanent inhabitants of Columbia County or the Town of West Point. However, several threatened and endangered species, including the Bald Eagle and Whooping Crane, may use portions of the County or the Town during part of the year.

The Wisconsin DNR maintains a database on rare, threatened, and endangered species and natural communities throughout the State called the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory. Included in the inventory are 155 rare, threatened, or endangered species and natural communities that are known to exist in Columbia County. This information is not available at the Town level. Table 5-1 lists the rare, threatened, and endangered species and natural communities from the inventory that are known to exist in Columbia County.

It should be noted that parts of the state including parts of Columbia County have not yet been inventoried and therefore the list is not a complete and comprehensive list. Map 5-6 in Appendix I illustrates the generalized locations to the section level of rare, threatened, or endangered species and natural communities that have been observed in the Town of West Point.

The intent of including information in this plan on rare, threatened, and endangered species and natural communities in Columbia County and the Town of West Point is to raise awareness that these resources are present. Further study on the impacts a particular development may have on rare, threatened, or endangered species and natural communities may be needed in areas known to contain these resources. Consideration should be given to requiring review if developments are taking place in a habitat that might contain one of these species or natural communities.

TABLE 5-1
Known Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species, and Natural Communities,
Columbia County, 2005

PLANTS				
COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	STATUS	YEAR OBSERVED	NUMBER OBSERVED
Yellow Giant Hyssop	<i>Agastache Nepetoides</i>	Threatened	1992	1
Yellow Giant Hyssop	<i>Agastache Nepetoides</i>	Threatened	1967	2
Prairie Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia Frigida</i>	Special Concern	1905	3
Wooly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias Lanuginosa</i>	Threatened	1994	3
Wooly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias Lanuginosa</i>	Threatened	1932	1
Maidenhair Spleenwort	<i>Asplenium Trichomanes</i>	Special Concern	N/A	9
Great Indian-Plantain	<i>Cacalia Muehlenbergii</i>	Special Concern	1973	1
Drooping Sedge	<i>Carex Prasina</i>	Threatened	1992	2
Hill's Thistle	<i>Cirsium Hillii</i>	Threatened	1987	1
Autumn Coral-Root	<i>Corallorrhiza Odontorhiza</i>	Special Concern	1991	1
Glade Fern	<i>Diplazium Pycnocarpon</i>	Special Concern	1992	1
Yellow Gentian	<i>Gentiana Alba</i>	Threatened	1935	2
Yellow Gentian	<i>Gentiana Alba</i>	Threatened	1990	2
Cliff Cudweed	<i>Gnaphalium Obtusifolium Var Saxicola</i>	Threatened	1998	4
Northern Oak Fern	<i>Gymnocarpium Jessoense</i>	Special Concern	N/A	1
Violet Bush-Clover	<i>Lespedeza Violacea</i>	Special Concern	1992	4
Rock Clubmoss	<i>Lycopodium Porophyllum</i>	Special Concern	1992	1
Prairie False-Dandelion	<i>Nothocalais Cuspidata</i>	Special Concern	N/A	17
Brittle Prickly-Pear	<i>Opuntia Fragilis</i>	Threatened	N/A	3
Brittle Prickly-Pear	<i>Opuntia Fragilis</i>	Threatened	1992	10
Wilcox Panic Grass	<i>Panicum Wilcoxianum</i>	Special Concern	1942	1
Purple-Stem Cliff-Brake	<i>Pellaea Atropurpurea</i>	Special Concern	1993	5
Hooker Orchis	<i>Platanthera Hookeri</i>	Special Concern	1908	5
Christmas Fern	<i>Polystichum Acrostichoides</i>	Special Concern	1940	2
Prairie Parsley	<i>Polytaenia Nuttallii</i>	Threatened	1974	1
Prairie Parsley	<i>Polytaenia Nuttallii</i>	Threatened	1927	1
Bird's-Eye Primrose	<i>Primula Mistassinica</i>	Special Concern	1977	2
Lapland Azalea	<i>Rhododendron Lapponicum</i>	Endangered	1991	2
Fragrant Sumac	<i>Rhus Aromatica</i>	Special Concern	1993	3
Shadowy Goldenrod	<i>Solidago Sciaphila</i>	Special Concern	1995	12
Dwarf Huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium Cespitosum</i>	Endangered	1861	3
Yellow Screwstem	<i>Bartonia Virginica</i>	Special Concern	1952	1
Slim-Stem Small-Reedgrass	<i>Calamagrostis Stricta</i>	Special Concern	1927	5
False Hop Sedge	<i>Carex Lupuliformis</i>	Endangered	1990	2
Prickly Hornwort	<i>Ceratophyllum Echinatum</i>	Special Concern	1932	1
Small White Lady's-Slipper	<i>Cypripedium Candidum</i>	Threatened	1986	4
Small White Lady's-Slipper	<i>Cypripedium Candidum</i>	Threatened	1884	3
Small Yellow Lady's-Slipper	<i>Cypripedium Parviflorum</i>	Special Concern	1995	2
Showy Lady's-Slipper	<i>Cypripedium Reginae</i>	Special Concern	1971	4
Slenderleaf Sundew	<i>Drosera Linearis</i>	Threatened	1872	5
Engelmann Spike-Rush	<i>Eleocharis Engelmannii</i>	Special Concern	1975	2
Vasey Rush	<i>Juncus Vaseyi</i>	Special Concern	1959	1
Small Forget-Me-Not	<i>Myosotis Laxa</i>	Special Concern	1993	1
Georgia Bulrush	<i>Scirpus Georgianus</i>	Special Concern	N/A	2
Whip Nutrush	<i>Scleria Triglomerata</i>	Special Concern	1993	6
Sticky False-Asphodel	<i>Tofieldia Glutinosa</i>	Threatened	1964	1
Common Bog Arrow-Grass	<i>Triglochin Maritimum</i>	Special Concern	1934	1

INSECTS				
COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	STATUS	YEAR OBSERVED	NUMBER OBSERVED
A Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela Macra</i>	Special Concern	N/A	2
A Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela Patruela Patruela</i>	Special Concern	N/A	1
A Burrowing Water Beetle	<i>Hydrocanthus Iricolor</i>	Special Concern	1984	2
A Predaceous Diving Beetle	<i>Lioporeus Triangularis</i>	Special Concern	1985	2
Broad-Winged Skipper	<i>Poanes Viator</i>	Special Concern	1991	1
Regal Fritillary	<i>Speyeria Idalia</i>	Endangered	1996	1

Dion Skipper	<i>Euphyes Dion</i>	Special Concern	1989	1
Mulberry Wing	<i>Poanes Massasoit</i>	Special Concern	1990	2
Green-Striped Darter	<i>Aeshna Verticalis</i>	Special Concern	1991	1
Amber-Winged Spreadwing	<i>Lestes Eurinus</i>	Special Concern	1991	1
Elegant Spreadwing	<i>Lestes Inaequalis</i>	Special Concern	1989	1
Royal River Cruiser	<i>Macromia Taeniolata</i>	Special Concern	1995	1
Black Meadowhawk	<i>Sympetrum Danae</i>	Special Concern	1990	1
Newman's Brocade	<i>Meropleon Ambifusca</i>	Special Concern	1994	1
Silphium Borer Moth	<i>Papaipema Silphii</i>	Endangered	1995	1

MAMMALS

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	STATUS	YEAR OBSERVED	NUMBER OBSERVED
Prairie Vole	<i>Microtus Ochrogaster</i>	Special Concern	1974	3
Western Harvest Mouse	<i>Reithrodontomys Megalotis</i>	Special Concern	1969	2
Franklin's Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus Franklinii</i>	Special Concern	1960	1

BIRDS

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	STATUS	YEAR OBSERVED	NUMBER OBSERVED
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus Savannarum</i>	Special Concern	1986	1
Cerulean Warbler	<i>Dendroica Cerulea</i>	Threatened	1987	2
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius Ludovicianus</i>	Endangered	1985	4
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo Bellii</i>	Threatened	1986	2
Red-Shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo Lineatus</i>	Threatened	1987	26
Yellow-Crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa Violacea</i>	Threatened	1987	1
Black-Crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax Nycticorax</i>	Special Concern	N/A	6
Red-Necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps Grisegena</i>	Endangered	1997	2

FISH

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	STATUS	YEAR OBSERVED	NUMBER OBSERVED
Lake Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser Fulvescens</i>	Special Concern	1976	7
Pirate Perch	<i>Aphredoderus Sayanus</i>	Special Concern	1985	14
Blue Sucker	<i>Cycleptus Elongatus</i>	Threatened	1995	7
Lake Chubsucker	<i>Erimyzon Sucetta</i>	Special Concern	1980	3
Western Sand Darter	<i>Etheostoma Clara</i>	Special Concern	1994	7
Banded Killifish	<i>Fundulus Diaphanus</i>	Special Concern	1980	7
Goldeye	<i>Hiodon Alosoides</i>	Endangered	1990	2
Black Buffalo	<i>Ictiobus Niger</i>	Threatened	1980	7
Longear Sunfish	<i>Lepomis Megalotis</i>	Threatened	1925	1
Redfin Shiner	<i>Lythrurus Umbratilis</i>	Threatened	1925	3
Speckled Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis Aestivalis</i>	Threatened	1994	7
Silver Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis Storeriana</i>	Special Concern	1993	7
Greater Redhorse	<i>Moxostoma Valenciennesi</i>	Threatened	1978	1
Pugnose Shiner	<i>Notropis Anogenus</i>	Threatened	1925	3
Weed Shiner	<i>Notropis Texanus</i>	Special Concern	1978	12
Pugnose Minnow	<i>Opsopoeodus Emiliae</i>	Special Concern	1984	4
Paddlefish	<i>Polyodon Spathula</i>	Threatened	N/A	1

REPTILES

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	STATUS	YEAR OBSERVED	NUMBER OBSERVED
Timber Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus Horridus</i>	Special Concern	1936	2
Black Rat Snake	<i>Elaphe Obsoleta</i>	Special Concern	1920	2
Western Slender Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus Attenuatus</i>	Endangered	1985	5
Ornate Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene Ornata</i>	Endangered	1960	2
Wood Turtle	<i>Clemmys Insculpta</i>	Threatened	1958	1
Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake	<i>Sistrurus Catenatus</i>	Endangered	1976	22
Western Ribbon Snake	<i>Thamnophis Proximus</i>	Endangered	1975	2
Northern Ribbon Snake	<i>Thamnophis Sauritus</i>	Endangered	1929	3
Western Slender Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus Attenuatus</i>	Endangered	1999	9

INVERTEBRATE

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	STATUS	YEAR OBSERVED	NUMBER OBSERVED
Red-Tailed Prairie Leafhopper	<i>Aflexia Rubranura</i>	Endangered	1963	1
A Flat-Headed Mayfly	<i>Anepeorus Simplex</i>	Endangered	1974	3
Ebony Shell	<i>Fusconaia Ebena</i>	Endangered	1922	3
Cyrano Darner	<i>Nasiaeschna Pentacantha</i>	Special Concern	1988	1
Smoky Shadowfly	<i>Neurocordulia Molesta</i>	Special Concern	1995	10
Stygian Shadowfly	<i>Neurocordulia Yamaskanensis</i>	Special Concern	1995	5
A Small Minnow Mayfly	<i>Paracloeodes Minutus</i>	Special Concern	N/A	9
Bullhead	<i>Plethobasus Cyphus</i>	Endangered	1993	11
Round Pigtoe	<i>Pleurobema Sintoxia</i>	Special Concern	1993	11
Winged Mapleleaf	<i>Quadrula Fragosa</i>	Endangered	1922	6
Monkeyface	<i>Quadrula Metanevra</i>	Threatened	N/A	4
Salamander Mussel	<i>Simpsonia Ambigua</i>	Threatened	1993	4
Elusive Clubtail	<i>Stylurus Notatus</i>	Special Concern	1995	3
Russet-Tipped Clubtail	<i>Stylurus Plagiatus</i>	Special Concern	1995	4
Buckhorn	<i>Tritogonia Verrucosa</i>	Threatened	1994	17
Mussel Bed	<i>Mussel Bed</i>	Special Concern	1988	1

NATURAL COMMUNITIES

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	STATUS	YEAR OBSERVED	NUMBER OBSERVED
Cedar Glade	<i>Cedar Glade</i>	NA	1978	3
Dry Cliff	<i>Dry Cliff</i>	NA	1995	7
Dry Prairie	<i>Dry Prairie</i>	NA	1979	3
Dry-Mesic Prairie	<i>Dry-Mesic Prairie</i>	NA	1979	1
Mesic Prairie	<i>Mesic Prairie</i>	NA	1978	2
Moist Cliff	<i>Moist Cliff</i>	NA	1980	11
Northern Dry Forest	<i>Northern Dry Forest</i>	NA	1980	4
Northern Dry-Mesic Forest	<i>Northern Dry-Mesic Forest</i>	NA	1995	7
Oak Barrens	<i>Oak Barrens</i>	NA	1987	3
Oak Opening	<i>Oak Opening</i>	NA	1995	1
Pine Relict	<i>Pine Relict</i>	NA	1979	1
Sand Barrens	<i>Sand Barrens</i>	NA	1979	1
Sand Meadow	<i>Sand Meadow</i>	NA	1986	1
Southern Dry Forest	<i>Southern Dry Forest</i>	NA	1979	5
Southern Dry-Mesic Forest	<i>Southern Dry-Mesic Forest</i>	NA	1979	13
Southern Mesic Forest	<i>Southern Mesic Forest</i>	NA	1979	6
Alder Thicket	<i>Alder Thicket</i>	NA	1979	3
Calcareous Fen	<i>Calcareous Fen</i>	NA	1985	3
Emergent Aquatic	<i>Emergent Aquatic</i>	NA	1994	20
Floodplain Forest	<i>Floodplain Forest</i>	NA	N/A	10
Lake--Oxbow	<i>Lake--Oxbow</i>	NA	1978	1
Lake--Shallow; Hard; Drainage	<i>Lake--Shallow; Hard; Drainage</i>	NA	1978	1
Lake--Shallow; Hard; Seepage	<i>Lake--Shallow; Hard; Seepage</i>	NA	1985	1
Lake--Shallow; Soft; Seepage	<i>Lake--Shallow; Soft; Seepage</i>	NA	1979	1
Northern Sedge Meadow	<i>Northern Sedge Meadow</i>	NA	1979	1
Northern Wet Forest	<i>Northern Wet Forest</i>	NA	1979	6
Open Bog	<i>Open Bog</i>	NA	1979	2
Shrub-Carr	<i>Shrub-Carr</i>	NA	1979	10
Southern Sedge Meadow	<i>Southern Sedge Meadow</i>	NA	1984	16
Springs And Spring Runs; Hard	<i>Springs And Spring Runs; Hard</i>	NA	1978	1
Stream--Fast; Hard; Cold	<i>Stream--Fast; Hard; Cold</i>	NA	1979	1
Stream--Fast; Soft; Warm	<i>Stream--Fast; Soft; Warm</i>	NA	1978	4
Stream--Slow; Soft; Warm	<i>Stream--Slow; Soft; Warm</i>	NA	1978	1
Wet Prairie	<i>Wet Prairie</i>	NA	1979	1
Wet-Mesic Prairie	<i>Wet-Mesic Prairie</i>	NA	1995	3

Source: WI DNR – Bureau of Endangered Resources

5.4.7 Stream Corridors, Surface Water and Watersheds

Approximately 23,219 acres of stream corridors and surface water cover parts of Columbia County amounting to approximately 4.5 percent of the County's land area. Included in this total are 58 named and unnamed lakes and ponds as well as 23 streams and rivers. These lakes and rivers provide the County with 742 miles of river frontage and 124 miles of lake frontage. The Wisconsin DNR has produced a document titled "Surface Water Resources of Columbia County" that provides information on the lakes and streams in the County including the Town of West Point. The Town of West Point has four named lakes and no named rivers or streams located within the Town. The following section contains descriptions of the lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers in the Town based on information from the Wisconsin DNR. Map 5-7 in Appendix I illustrates the locations of stream corridors and surface water in the Town of West Point.

Also illustrated on Map 5-7 in Appendix I are the watersheds located within the Town. The Town of West Point is located within two watersheds, the Lake Wisconsin Watershed and the Roxbury Creek Watershed. Watersheds are the land area drained by a particular stream and are part of a larger river basin drainage area. Columbia County is situated within three river basins, the Rock-Fox Basin, the Wolf-Fox Basin, and the Wisconsin River Basin.

Lakes and Ponds

Alder Pond

Town of West Point, T10N, R7E, Section 34
Surface Acres = 4.2, Maximum Depth = 26 feet

Alder Pond is a small landlocked kettle lake in the terminal moraine north of Fish Lake in Dane County. The pond has light brown, soft water and is bordered by floating bog fringed with alders. Because of the protection afforded its surface by high surrounding hills and the alder shoreline the lake has a very shallow layer of warm oxygenated water in midsummer. Panfish comprise a limited fishery. Public access is not available. Waterfowl often nest and rest in the Pond.

Lantz Pond

Town of West Point, T10N, R7E, Section 36
Surface Acres = 4.1, Maximum Depth = 7 feet

Lantz Pond is a small landlocked pond remnant of an old glacial lake. The pond has a bog-cattail marsh center and a narrow belt of water on its circumference. Winterkill and fluctuating water levels are use problems. Bluegills and bullheads have been caught here at times. Public access is not available. Farm buildings are quite near its shores; therefore, waterfowl make little use of the pond.

Ryan Pond

Town of West Point, T10N, R7E, Section 21
Surface Acres = 7.8, Maximum Depth = 7 feet

Ryan Pond is a small man-made pond, dug in 1865 for farm purposes. The water is clear and "soft". Algae blooms are a definite recurring problem, coupled with fluctuating water levels and winterkill. At times the pond will support bullheads for several years. Public access is not available, however, a road fill borders the pond and is used on occasion by local anglers.

Lake Wisconsin

Towns of Caledonia, Dekorra, Lodi, and WestPoint, T10, 11N, R7, 8E

Surface Acres = 9,000, Maximum Depth = 24 feet

Lake Wisconsin is a major impoundment of the Wisconsin River in southern Wisconsin created in 1914. The lake is maintained by a 38-foot high dam owned by the Wisconsin Power and Light Company. The water is brown and moderately fertile. Largemouth bass, panfish and walleye are most common in the fishery. Other species contributing to the catch are muskellunge and northern pike and sturgeon. This lake is the most southerly lake in Wisconsin having a sturgeon population, and one of only a few. Use problems are weeds, algae, carp, and pollution. The shallow bays and backwaters are subject to winterkill during severe winters. Public access is provided at many sites, and numerous commercial facilities provide additional use opportunities. Unique access and fishing situations are provided by roads, which cross arms of the impoundment. Also, it is crossed by the one remaining inland ferry. Nearly one thousand acres of lowland marsh adjoin the lake. Waterfowl are numerous, important visitors year-round. In winter Bald Eagles are common below the dam at Prairie du Sac.

Unnamed Lakes

In addition to the larger named lakes and ponds, approximately 34 smaller unnamed lakes also exist throughout Columbia County including the Town of West Point. Unnamed lakes are usually small, less than 20 acres, and may commonly have extensive adjoining wetland. They generally experience severe fluctuations in water level, which hinders any determination of their physical parameters.

5.4.8 Floodplains

Floodplains include streams, rivers, and wetlands, and lands that are adjacent to these water resources that are periodically inundated by floodwater. This is both a real phenomena and a legal standard; the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has produced maps of Columbia County including the Town of West Point that show the areas of the 100-year flood. A 100-year flood is defined in the Columbia County Floodplain Zoning Ordinance as a regional flood "determined to be representative of large floods known to have occurred in Wisconsin and which may be expected to occur on a particular stream because of like physical characteristics. The flood frequency of the regional flood is once in every 100 years" (Columbia County Floodplain Zoning Ordinance, Article K). Lands within the legal floodplain, as designated by the FEMA maps, are within the regulatory authority of the Columbia County Floodplain Zoning Ordinance. There are approximately 2,564 acres of floodplains in the Town of West Point, according to FEMA. This represents approximately 12.3 percent of the surface of the Town. Table 5-2 lists the acres of floodplain by municipality in Columbia County. Among towns, the Town of Caledonia has the largest number of acres of floodplain at 13,900 acres, while the Town of Pacific has largest percentage of land area in floodplains with 56.3 percent being classified as floodplain. The Town of Arlington has the fewest acres in floodplain with 18 acres or 0.1 percent of the Town's land area being classified floodplain. Map 5-8 in Appendix I illustrates the locations of the floodplains in the Town of West Point.

Structures are undesirable in floodplains because they reduce water storage capacity, retard the flow of floodwater, and can be damaged or destroyed by floods. Also, in a large flood, chemicals normally and safely stored in homes and business can escape to cause damage to land and water resources downstream. Floodplains may contain, however, rich agricultural soil and can be valuable as farmland. They can also be used for parks and recreation, and a variety of other uses that do not involve structures.

TABLE 5-2
Floodplains by Municipality
Columbia County, 2005

Municipality	Acres of Floodplains	% of Municipality's Land Area
Town of Arlington	18	0.1%
Town of Caledonia	13,900	34.2%
Town of Columbus	1,339	6.6%
Town of Courtland	1,268	5.6%
Town of Dekorra	5,046	17.5%
Town of Fort Winnebago	6,246	29.1%
Town of Fountain Prairie	1,862	8.3%
Town of Hampden	1,175	5.1%
Town of Leeds	21	0.1%
Town of Lewiston	10,157	28.6%
Town of Lodi	1,648	8.9%
Town of Lowville	451	2.0%
Town of Marcellon	953	4.2%
Town of Newport	2,881	20.3%
Town of Otsego	388	2.0%
Town of Pacific	7,795	56.3%
Town of Randolph	621	2.8%
Town of Scott	1,765	7.7%
Town of Springvale	3,954	15.0%
Town of West Point	2,564	12.3%
Town of Wyocena	4,372	18.4%
Village of Arlington	0	0.0%
Village of Cambria	7	1.1%
Village of Doylestown	0	0.0%
Village of Fall River	6	0.6%
Village of Friesland	0	0.0%
Village of Pardeeville	325	22.5%
Village of Poynette	87	5.6%
Village of Randolph*	0	0.0%
Village of Rio	0	0.0%
Village of Wyocena	173	17.3%
City of Columbus*	146	5.6%
City of Lodi	113	12.6%
City of Portage	2,739	45.2%
City of Wisconsin Dells*	41	2.9%
Columbia County	72,061	14.1%

Source: FEMA and Columbia County Planning and Zoning

5.4.9 Wetlands

Wetlands are areas with sufficient surface moisture to support marshland and aquatic vegetation. These areas are generally associated with wet spongy conditions due to standing water and a high water table. There are approximately 205 acres of wetlands in the Town of West Point, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources representing approximately one percent of the surface of the Town. Table 5-3 lists the acres of wetland by municipality in Columbia County. Among towns, the Town of Lewiston has the largest number of acres of wetlands at 11,119 acres, while the Town of Pacific had the largest percentage of land area in wetlands with 45 percent being classified as wetland. The Town of Arlington had the fewest acres of wetlands at 186 acres and the smallest percentage at 0.8 percent. Map 5-9 in Appendix I illustrates the locations of wetlands in the Town of West Point.

Wetlands are the most productive and beneficial habitat for wildlife. In agricultural areas, wetlands often represent the last remaining stable wildlife cover. They provide areas for hunting, trapping, fishing, biking, bird watching, and other forms of recreation.

Wetlands are also important for retaining storm water from rain and melting snow. Wetlands slow the movement of storm water run-off and can provide storage areas for floodwaters, thus minimizing adverse impacts to downstream areas. Preservation of wetlands can prevent needless expenses for flood and storm water control projects such as dikes, levees, concrete lined channels and detention basins.

It is also known that wetlands help to maintain water quality. Wetland plants and soils have the capacity to store and filter pollutants ranging from pesticides to animal wastes. Calm wetland waters, with their flat surface and flow characteristics, allow particles of toxins and nutrients to settle out of the water.

Some wetlands can provide a valuable service of replenishing groundwater supplies. The filtering capacity of wetland plants and substrates may also help protect groundwater quality. Groundwater discharge is the process by which groundwater is brought to the surface and released to surface water bodies. Groundwater discharge is a more common wetland function and can be important for stabilizing and maintaining stream flow, especially during dry months. This can result in an enhancement of the aquatic life communities in the downstream areas. Groundwater discharged through wetlands can contribute toward high quality water in lakes, rivers, and streams.

In addition to wetlands, several areas of the County including the Town of West Point contain wet soils known as hydric soils. Hydric soils are soils formed in areas where the saturation, flooding, or ponding of water on the soil during the growing season is long enough to reduce oxygen levels in the soil. Because of high water levels, areas with hydric soils have similar characteristics to wetlands but are not considered wetlands and do not receive the same regulatory protections as wetlands. Nonetheless, they are generally not advised for building construction. The locations of areas with hydric soils should be considered when reviewing development proposals. Map 5-9 in Appendix I also illustrates the locations of hydric soils in the Town of West Point.

TABLE 5-3
Wetlands by Municipality
Columbia County, 2005

Municipality	Acres of Wetlands	% of Municipality's Land Area
Town of Arlington	186	0.8%
Town of Caledonia	5,745	14.2%
Town of Columbus	2,046.0	10.1%
Town of Courtland	3,433	15.1%
Town of Dekorra	4,623	16.1%
Town of Fort Winnebago	6,147	28.7%
Town of Fountain Prairie	2,984	13.4%
Town of Hampden	1,978	8.7%
Town of Leeds	983	4.3%
Town of Lewiston	11,119	31.3%
Town of Lodi	1,212	6.6%
Town of Lowville	2,086	9.1%
Town of Marcellon	2,525	11.0%
Town of Newport	2,590	18.2%
Town of Otsego	2,413	12.2%
Town of Pacific	6,234	45.0%
Town of Randolph	1,695	7.5%
Town of Scott	3,500	15.3%
Town of Springvale	5,278	20.1%
Town of West Point	205	1.0%
Town of Wyocena	5,710	24.1%
Village of Arlington	0	0.0%
Village of Cambria	82	12.9%
Village of Doylestown	397	15.5%
Village of Fall River	174	17.0%
Village of Friesland	6	0.9%
Village of Pardeeville	210	14.5%
Village of Poynette	195	12.5%
Village of Randolph*	1	0.7%
Village of Rio	0	0.0%
Village of Wyocena	130	13.0%
City of Columbus*	40	1.5%
City of Lodi	26	2.9%
City of Portage	1,416	23.4%
City of Wisconsin Dells*	39	2.8%
Columbia County	75,408	14.8%

Source: WDNR and Columbia County Planning and Zoning

5.4.10 Woodlands

Woodlands cover 6,625 acres in the Town of West Point, or about 31.8 percent of the total area of the Town. Table 5-4 lists the acres of woodland by municipality in Columbia County. Various sized woodlands are generally scattered around the Town with larger wooded areas located in the northern portion of the Town. Woodlands in the Town generally contain areas that are heavily sloped, located in floodplain or wetland, or on marginal agricultural lands. Among towns, the Town of Caledonia has the largest number of acres of woodlands at 13,377 acres and the largest percentage of land area in woodlands with 33 percent being classified as woodlands. The Town of Columbus had the fewest acres of woodlands at 791 acres and the smallest percentage at 3.9 percent. Woodlands in the Town of West Point are illustrated on Map 5-10 in Appendix I.

Woodlands can provide economic and ecological value as well as a recreational resource. As with surface water, woodlands attract residential and recreational development. Some timber in the Town may have commercial value, but the primary value of the remaining woodlands in the Town may be as open space or wildlife habitat with some limited residential development. Recreational areas are also desirable in wooded areas. Woodlands containing desirable species of trees take a very long time to grow. It would be advantageous to preserve as many of the remaining woodlands as possible.

TABLE 5-4
Woodlands by Municipality
Columbia County, 2005

Municipality	Acres of Woodlands	% of Municipality's Land Area
Town of Arlington	1,916	8.5%
Town of Caledonia	13,377	33.0%
Town of Columbus	791	3.9%
Town of Courtland	1,213	5.3%
Town of Dekorra	8,117	28.2%
Town of Fort Winnebago	4,757	22.2%
Town of Fountain Prairie	1,589	7.1%
Town of Hampden	881	3.9%
Town of Leeds	976	4.2%
Town of Lewiston	7,942	22.3%
Town of Lodi	5,347	29.0%
Town of Lowville	4,035	17.6%
Town of Marcellon	6,253	27.3%
Town of Newport	3,388	23.8%
Town of Otsego	2,283	11.5%
Town of Pacific	2,102	15.2%
Town of Randolph	1,113	4.9%
Town of Scott	4,382	19.1%
Town of Springvale	4,485	17.0%
Town of West Point	6,625	31.8%
Town of Wyocena	5,066	21.3%
Village of Arlington	1	0.1%
Village of Cambria	40	6.3%
Village of Doylestown	306	11.9%
Village of Fall River	24	2.4%
Village of Friesland	8	1.2%
Village of Pardeeville	85	5.9%
Village of Poynette	244	15.6%
Village of Randolph*	3	1.8%
Village of Rio	90	10.8%
Village of Wyocena	106	10.6%
City of Columbus*	31	1.2%
City of Lodi	65	7.2%
City of Portage	649	10.7%
City of Wisconsin Dells*	861	61.4%
Columbia County	89,150	17.5%

Source: USGS and Columbia County Planning and Zoning

5.4.11 Wildlife Habitat and State Natural Areas

Wildlife habitat is made up of various components, many of that have been addressed in other sections of this element. Basically wildlife habitat is an area that has enough food, water, and cover for a species to survive. The woodlands, wetlands, and the shorelines of waterways comprise the largest areas of wildlife habitat in Columbia County and the Town of West Point and often contain the last remaining stable areas of wildlife cover. Upland species often seen in the Town include white tail deer, rabbits, fox, muskrat, wild turkeys, and a variety of songbirds. Waterfowl that are commonly spotted in the Town include ducks, egrets, sand hill cranes, and herons. The Wisconsin DNR owns and manages several public wildlife areas and hunting grounds that provide wildlife habitat. These areas are discussed in more detail in the Outdoor Recreational Resources section of this plan element.

5.4.11.1 State Natural Areas

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources identifies six State Natural Areas within Columbia County, one of which, Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area, is located in the Town of West Point. State natural areas were acquired to protect the state's natural diversity, provide sites for research and environmental education, and serve as benchmarks for assessing and guiding use of other lands in the state. Natural areas are defined as tracts of land or water that have native biotic communities, unique natural features, or significant geological or archeological sites. Generally, natural areas are remnant areas which largely have escaped disturbances since settlement or which exhibit little recent disturbance so that recovery has occurred and pre-settlement conditions are approached. Natural areas provide an important reservoir of our state's genetic or biologic diversity. They act as important reserves for native biotic communities and provide habitat for endangered, threatened, or critical species or other species of special concern to scientists. The Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area located in the Town of West Point is described below. Map 5-6 includes the location of the Gibraltar Rock State Natural Area in the Town of West Point.

◆ Gibraltar Rock - Town of West Point, 35 acres

Gibraltar Rock is a sandstone bluff, an outlier of the Black River escarpment. Located near the Wisconsin River the bluff rises 400 feet above Lake Wisconsin to the north and contains cliff and cedar glade communities. On the south is a sheer 200-foot cliff overlooking a large leather-leaf bog and scenic valley. Gibraltar Rock is owned by Columbia County and is part of the County Park System.

5.4.11.2 Wisconsin's Land Legacy Report

The WDNR has prepared the Wisconsin Land Legacy Report to identify places in the State believed to be most important in meeting Wisconsin's conservation and recreation needs over the next 50 years. The report identifies 228 Legacy Places in the State that consist of places that are the most important for conserving critical natural resources and providing outdoor recreation opportunities. Seven Legacy Places have been identified in Columbia County. Two of these places, the Arlington Prairie and the Middle Wisconsin River, potentially include portions of the Town of West Point.

The seven Legacy Places identified in Columbia County are as follows:

- Arlington Prairie
- Baraboo Hills
- Baraboo River
- Glacial Habitat Restoration Area

- Lewiston Marsh
- Middle Wisconsin River
- Portage to Buffalo Lake Corridor

No specific boundaries or levels of protection have been proposed for these Legacy Places due mainly to a lack of information as to what land or water features are the most appropriate to protect. The determination of where protection efforts should be focused, which protection strategies would be most effective, and who should be involved will require a more detailed, locally-led evaluation involving local landowners, citizens, organizations, businesses, and government.

5.4.12 Metallic and Nonmetallic Mineral Resources

Metallic minerals are important sources for metals such as zinc, lead, copper, iron, and gold. No metallic mineral deposits exist in the Town of West Point and no metals are currently being mined in the State of Wisconsin.

Nonmetallic minerals are important sources of building stone, lime, industrial sand, and construction aggregates. Like ground water, forests, and agricultural land, non-metallic minerals resources exists where nature put them, not always where they are needed. Planning for these resources is needed in order to ensure abundant supplies of inexpensive aggregate in the future. Reclamation of nonmetallic mines are regulated by the Columbia County Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance within the Columbia County Code of Ordinances. The ordinance requires all operating nonmetallic mines to obtain an annual reclamation permit and to prepare a reclamation plan for the mine site. The reclamation plan is to describe how the mine site will be restored once mining is complete and what the post-mining land use will be for the property. The annual permit provides a means to track progress on the reclamation of the mine site. There are currently four nonmetallic mining sites in the Town of West Point. Map 5-2 includes the locations of nonmetallic mining sites in the Town.

5.4.13 Parks, Open Spaces, and Outdoor Recreational Resources

Parks, open spaces, and outdoor recreational resources are provided by a variety of governmental entities and organizations. Parks and developed recreational areas that serve the Town of West Point are addressed in detail in the Utilities and Community Facilities Element of this plan and therefore will not be addressed here. This section will focus mainly on open space areas and outdoor recreational resources such as hunting grounds, wildlife areas, waterfowl production areas. Over 28,000 acres of land in Columbia County are in public ownership and available for open space and outdoor recreational uses. These outdoor recreation areas include land owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for hunting grounds and wildlife areas, lands owned by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Madison Audubon Society for waterfowl production areas, and lands along the Wisconsin River owned by Wisconsin Power and Light that are open to public hunting. Table 5-4 below lists many of the outdoor recreational lands available for public use in Columbia County. The table provides information on the owner, acreage, and general uses of these lands. While none of these sites are located directly in the Town of West Point, they do provide outdoor recreational opportunities to Town residents. Open spaces and outdoor recreational areas are important resources for providing recreational opportunities for Town residents and should be supported whenever possible.

TABLE 5-4
Outdoor Recreational Lands
Columbia County, 2005

Owner	Site Name	Acres	Purpose / Uses
Wisconsin DNR	Columbus Wetland	240	Hunting/Canoeing/Bird Watching/Fishing
	Dekorra Public Hunting Grounds	242	Hunting/Bird Watching/Berry Picking
	Duck Creek Public Hunting Grounds	159	Hunting/Bird Watching/Hiking
	French Creek Wildlife Area	3,176	Hunting/Fishing/ Bird Watching/Berry Picking
	Grassy Lake Wildlife Area	695	Hunting/Bird Watching/Berry Picking
	Hampden Wetland Public Hunting Grounds	227	Hunting/Bird Watching
	Hinkson Creek Fishery Area	160	Hunting/Trout Fishing
	Jennings Creek Wildlife Area	530	Hunting/Trout Fishing
	Lodi Marsh Wildlife Area	1,207	Hunting/Hiking/ Berry Picking/Bird Watching/
	Mackenzie Environmental Center	267	Live Animal Exhibits/Nature Center Education/Hiking/ Bird Watching/ Cross-Country Skiing
	Mud Lake Wildlife Area	2,139	Hunting/Canoeing/Bird Watching
	Paradise Marsh Wildlife Area	1,496	Hunting/Bird Watching/Hiking
	Peter Helland Wildlife Area	2,997	Hunting/Bird Watching/Berry Picking/Canoeing
	Pine Island Wildlife Area	5,043	Hunting/Canoeing/Dog Training/Hiking/Fishing
	Rocky Run Creek Fishery Area	710	Hunting/Trout Fishing/Bird Watching
	Rowan Creek Fishery Area	629	Hunting/ Bird Watching/Hiking/Cross-Country Skiing/Trout Fishing
Swan Lake Wildlife Area	1,799	Hunting/Bird Watching	
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Anderson Waterfowl Production Area	20	Waterfowl Production Area
	Baraboo River Waterfowl Production Area	846	Waterfowl Production Area
	Becker Waterfowl Production Area	279	Waterfowl Production Area
	Doylestown Waterfowl Production Area	52	Waterfowl Production Area
	Ludwig Waterfowl Production Area	35	Waterfowl Production Area
	Manthey Waterfowl Production Area	422	Waterfowl Production Area
	Rowe Waterfowl Production Area	336	Waterfowl Production Area
	Schoenberg Marsh Waterfowl Production Area (part)	605	Waterfowl Production Area
	Severson Waterfowl Production Area	250	Waterfowl Production Area
	Vangen Waterfowl Production Area	81	Waterfowl Production Area
Madison Audubon Society	Goose Pond	569	Waterfowl Production Area/Bird Watching
	Schoenberg Marsh Waterfowl Production Area (part)	60	Waterfowl Production Area
Wisconsin Power and Light	Wisconsin River Area	3,100+	Hunting

Source: WDNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service, & Columbia County

5.4.14 Historic and Cultural Resources

Columbia County and the Town of West Point have a vibrant history consisting of both Native American and European settlement periods. Historic Native American sites such as mounds, campsites, or villages are located throughout the County including some in the Town of West Point. Likewise, many settlements in the County date back to the mid-1800's and contain historic homes and buildings from the early European settlement. In an effort to retain the historic character of the County and the Town and encourage tourism in the area, the integrity of historic structures and cultural sites should be preserved and enhanced whenever possible. The preservation of historic and cultural resources is an important tool to allow people to experience and learn from the past. Historic places, objects, and documents provide important evidence about historical trends and events, provide insight into how people lived, provide examples of distinctive architectural and engineering designs, and help to tell the story of the history of Columbia County and the Town of West Point. Information about the historic and cultural resources is described below.

5.4.14.1 National and State Register of Historic Places

Identifying and preserving historical structures and cultural areas within the Town of West Point are important considerations in developing a comprehensive plan for the Town. These features help to define the Town's historic character and cultural heritage. The National Register of Historic Places recognizes properties of local, state, and national significance. The Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places also recognizes significant historic sites and most properties on the National Register are also included on the State Register. However, the State register allows for state-level preservation efforts outside of the National Register. Properties are listed in the National and State Register because of their associations with significant persons or events, because they contain important information about our history or prehistory, or because of their architectural or engineering significance. The National and State Registers also list important groupings of properties as historic districts. Details about the National and State Register of Historic Places program are provided in section 5.3.6 of this element. A total of 36 sites in Columbia County have been placed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. None of the listed sites are located in the Town of West Point, however eligible sites likely exist within the Town. Table 5-5 lists the properties listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places in Columbia County by the community in which they are located. The impacts on sites eligible for listing in the National and State Registers of Historic Places should be considered when evaluating development proposals in the Town.

TABLE 5-5
Sites Listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places,
Columbia County, 2005

Town/Village/City	Historic Site Name	Address
Town of Caledonia	Durward's Glen	NE of Merrimac off STH 78
Town of Columbus	Holsten Family Farmstead	W1391 Weiner Rd.
Town of Fort Winnebago	Fort Winnebago Site	Address Restricted
Town of Fountain Prairie	Nashold 20-sided Barn	CTH Z, 0.4 mi. E of STH 146
Town of Newport	Kingsley Bend Mound Group	Hwy 16 wayside, 3 miles south of Dells
	Upham, Horace A.J., (Camp Wabeek) House	N9888 STH 13
Town of Pacific	Fort Winnebago Surgeon's Quarters	0.1 mi. E of Portage city limits on STH 33
Village of Pardeeville	Bellmont Hotel	120 N. Main St.
	Cox, Angie Williams, Library	129 N. Main St.
	Pardeeville Presbyterian Church	105 S. Main St.
City of Columbus	Chadbourn, F. A., House	314 S. Charles St.
	Columbus City Hall	105 N. Dickason St.
	Columbus Downtown Historic District	Roughly bounded by Mill, Water and Harrison Sts. and Dickason Blvd.
	Columbus Fireman's Park Complex	1049 Park Avenue
	Columbus Post Office	211 South Dickason Blvd.
	Columbus Public Library	112 S. Dickason Blvd.
	Farmers and Merchants Union Bank	159 W. James St.
	Kurth, John H., and Company Office Building	729--733 Park Ave.
	Lewis, Gov. James T., House	711 W. James St.
	Prairie Street Historic District	Roughly along W. Prairie St., including parts of S. Lewis St. and S. Charles St.
	South Dickason Boulevard Residential Historic District	Roughly along S. Dickason Blvd., from W. School St. to W. Harrison, also along S. Ludington St.
City of Lodi	Lodi Street - Prairie Street Historic District	Roughly Prairie St. from Second St. to Mill St.
	Portage Street Historic District	Roughly along Portage St. from Spring to Parr Sts.
City of Portage	Church Hill Historic District	Roughly bounded by Adams, Pleasant, Lock, and Franklin Sts.
	Fox-Wisconsin Portage Site	Address Restricted
	Gale, Zona, House	506 W. Edgewater St.
	Merrell, Henry, House	505 E. Cook St.
	Old Indian Agency House	NE end of old Agency House Rd.
	Portage Canal	Between Fox and Wisconsin Rivers
	Portage Industrial Waterfront Historic District	Jct. of E. Mullet and Dodge Sts.
	Portage Retail Historic District	Roughly, Cook from Wisconsin to Main, Wisconsin from Cook to Edgewater and DeWitt from Conant to Edgewater
Society Hill Historic District	Roughly bounded by W. Wisconsin, Cass and W. Emmett Sts. and MacFarlane Rd.	
City of Wisconsin Dells	Bennett, H. H., Studio	215 Broadway
	Bowman House	714 Broadway St.
	Kilbourn Public Library	631 Cedar Street
	Weber, Jacob, House	825 Oak St.

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society

5.4.14.2 The Architecture and History Inventory (AHI)

In addition to the National and State Registers of Historic Places, the Wisconsin Historical Society maintains a collection of information on historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and historic districts throughout the Wisconsin called the Architecture and History Inventory (AHI). The AHI is housed at the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison and is a permanent record maintained by the Society's Division of Historic Preservation. The AHI contains data on buildings, structures and objects that illustrate Wisconsin's unique history. The AHI documents a wide range of historic properties such as the round barns, log houses, metal truss bridges, small town commercial buildings, and Queen Anne houses that create Wisconsin's distinct cultural landscape. The AHI is comprised of written text and photographs of each property, which document the property's architecture and history.

Most properties become part of the AHI as a result of a systematic architectural and historical survey. The inventory is not a comprehensive list of all old Wisconsin buildings and structures. The inventory has been assembled over a period of more than 25 years from a wide variety of sources. From its beginning in the mid-1970s until 1980, reconnaissance surveys were conducted by summer students. Starting in 1980, intensive surveys were funded by sub-grants and conducted by professional historic preservation consultants. In many cases, the information is dated. Some properties may be altered or no longer exist. The majority of properties included in this inventory are privately owned and not open to the public. Inclusion in this inventory conveys no special status, rights or benefits to owners of these properties. In the Town of West Point 15 properties are listed in the inventory.

5.4.14.3 Archaeological Sites Inventory (ASI)

Archaeological sites are places that provide archeologists with clues about past human behavior. These sites are often located where people lived, worked, or worshipped. Examples of archaeological sites include the remains of Indian campsites, areas where lead was mined by either Native Americans or early European settlers, the remains of a farmstead, a limestone quarry, a pottery factory, a shipwreck, or a railroad depot. Archaeological sites also include burial sites such as Native American burial mounds and historic European-American cemeteries.

The Office of the State Archaeologist, Historic Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society maintains a list of archaeological sites, mounds, unmarked cemeteries, marked cemeteries, and cultural sites known as the Archaeological Site Inventory (ASI). The ASI does not include all of the archaeological sites, mounds, unmarked cemeteries, marked cemeteries, and cultural sites that are present in the state. It includes only those sites that have been reported to the Wisconsin Historical Society. It is estimated that less than one percent of the archaeological sites in the state have been identified. The ASI is a compilation of information derived from a variety of sources over the last 150 years. The information available for each entry varies widely and not all of the information has been verified. Few of the sites have been evaluated for their importance and additional archaeological fieldwork may need to be completed. Sites listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places are also identified in the ASI. Under Wisconsin law, Native American burial mounds, unmarked burials, and all marked and unmarked cemeteries are protected from intentional disturbance. The discovery of any suspected Native American burial mounds or an unmarked or marked burials are required to be reported to the Burial Sites Preservation Office at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

In Columbia County, approximately 442 archaeological sites are included in the Wisconsin State Historical Society's ASI. Of these 442 sites, 198 are cemeteries or burials and 79 are Native American mounds. Several of these sites are located in the Town of West Point and it is highly likely that additional undocumented sites exist within the Town. Therefore, when evaluating development proposals it is important to consider the likelihood that an archaeological site may exist within the development site. It

is estimated that nearly 80 percent of the archaeological sites that once existed in the state have been destroyed or severely damaged, primarily by modern land practices such as development and farming. Many sites have also been damaged by looting. These archaeological sites represent some of the last remaining links to local history. Archaeological sites are non-renewable resources. If an archaeological site is destroyed, it is lost forever. Map 5-11 in Appendix I illustrates the generalized locations of archeological sites in the Town of West Point.

5.4.14.4 Museums, Historical Markers, and Historical Societies

Columbia County has a number of museums, historical markers, and historical societies that provide insight into the historical and cultural resources of the County. Table 5-6 lists the museums, historical markers, and historical societies located within Columbia County by community. One historical marker, Merrimac Ferry, is located within the Town of West Point. The museums included on the list consist mainly of non-profit organizations that focus on a particular aspect of the County's history. The historical markers listed in the table document an important event in history and include markers installed by the State as well as those installed by local historical societies. The County's historical societies often maintain important historical records and objects and are often involved with local museums. Many of these facilities and organizations are open year round, however some require appointments. The locations of museums, historical markers, and historical societies in the Town of West Point are included on Map 5-11 in Appendix I.

TABLE 5-6
Museums, Historical Markers, and Historical Societies by Community
Columbia County, 2005

Location	Resource	Description
Town of Arlington	John Muir View	Historical Marker
Town of Fort Winnebago	Potters' Emigration Society	Historical Marker
Town of Dekorra	Aliens and Oddities of Nature	Museum
	The Circus	Historical Marker
	Logging History Museum	Museum
	Rest Areas on the I-Roads	Historical Marker
	Wisconsin Conservation Wardens Museum	Museum
Town of Leeds	Leeds Center Cemetery Civil War Memorial	Historical Marker
	Empire Prairie Historical Marker	Historical Marker
Town of Pacific	Fort Winnebago	Historical Marker
	Marquette	Historical Marker
	Surgeon's Quarters of Fort Winnebago	Museum
Town of Newport	Kingsley Bend Indian Mounds	Historical Marker
Town of West Point	Merrimac Ferry	Historical Marker
Town of Wyocena	Wyona Park	Historical Marker
Village of Cambria	Cambria-Friesland Historical Society	Historical Society
Village of Pardeeville	Columbia County Historical Society	Historical Society
	Belmont Hotel	Historical Marker
	Columbia County Museum	Museum
	Historic Pardeeville	Historical Marker
Village of Poynette	Poynette Area Historical Society	Historical Society
	Poynette Museum	Museum
Village of Wyocena	Major Elbert Dickason	Historical Marker
	Dickason's "Hotel"	Historical Marker
City of Columbus	Christopher Columbus Museum	Museum
	Governor James Taylor Lewis	Historical Marker
City of Lodi	Lodi Valley Historical Society	Historical Society
City of Portage	Frederick Jackson Turner	Historical Marker
	Ketchum's Point	Historical Marker
	Indian Agency House	Museum
	Museum at the Portage	Museum
	Portage Historical Society	Historical Society
	Society Hill Historic District	Historical Marker
	Zona Gale Center for the Arts	Museum
City of Wisconsin Dells	Dells Country Historical Society	Historical Society
	HH Bennett Studio and History Center	Museum
	Stroud Bank	Historical Marker

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society and Columbia County Planning and Zoning

5.4.14.5 Cultural Events

A number of cultural events are held annually in communities throughout Columbia County although none are directly located within the Town of West Point. These events encourage residential development, attract local tourism, and boost local economies. Many of these events have a component that celebrates local history and helps to increase the sense of community in the area. These events are often sponsored by local chambers of commerce or other community groups. July and August are the most active months for community events in Columbia County. Table 5-7 lists the major cultural events by community in Columbia County.

TABLE 5-7
Cultural Events in Columbia County

Location	Event	Date of Event (month)
Village of Fall River	Fall River Chamber of Commerce Musical Extravaganza	October
Village of Pardeeville	Band Concerts and Pie Social	June thru August
	Pardeeville's 4 th of July Celebration	July
	Pardeeville Watermelon Festival	September
Village of Randolph	Randolph Alumni FFA Toy Show and Sale	April
	Randolph Kiwanis Korn Karnival	September
	Randolph Christian Holiday Craft Sale	November
	Randolph Craft Show and Sale	November
Village of Rio	Rio Street Dance	August
City of Columbus	Redbud Festival	May
	Columbus Carriage Classic	June
	Classic Night	June
	4 th of July Celebration	July
	Columbus Chamber Harvest Days	October
	Columbus Christmas Parade	November
	Holiday Home Tour	December
City of Lodi	Lodi Art Club's Annual Art in the Park	July
	Lodi Agricultural Fair	July
	Susie the Duck Day Celebration	August
	Rotary Summer Parade	August
	Holiday Open House Weekend	November
City of Portage	Portage's Festival of Flowers	April
	Portage Canal Days	June
	Downtown Art Walk	July
	Concert in the Park	July
	YesterFest	August
	Friendship Village Celebrates Zona Gale	August
	Taste of Portage Market Fair	August
	Pumpkinfest	October
	Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting	November
	Citywide Cookie Walk	December
	Living Windows	December
	Historic Home Tour	December
City of Wisconsin Dells	Flake Out Festival	January
	Automotion	May
	Wo-Zha-Wa Days Fall Festival	September
	Autumn Harvest Fest	October
Columbia County	Columbia County Fair	July

Source: Columbia County Tourism Committee

5.4.15 Community Design

The Town of West Point is a Civil Town in Columbia County, Wisconsin. Civil Towns are local units of government in rural areas of the State of Wisconsin. Such Towns have elected representatives and the power to tax and regulate within their borders. The Town of West Point is 32.6 square miles in area and approximately seven miles wide and five miles long. The 'community design' of the Town of West Point can be characterized as rural in nature with generally scattered low-density residential development related to agricultural operations. The Town does not have a downtown commercial district. Most commercial businesses that serve the Town are located in Sauk City and the City of Lodi.