

to agricultural and natural resources that included:

- Farmland Preservation Plan – adopted in 1983 and scheduled to be revised in 2015
- Soil Erosion Control Plan – approved by the DATCP in 2000
- Rusk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Several Rusk County Ordinances also guide land management practices that impact the Town of Marshall including:

- Shoreland Zoning – requirements applying to areas within 1000 feet of a lake and 300 feet of a navigable stream. Structure setbacks and sizes are regulated under the Shoreland Ordinance. Wetlands five acres or more have restricted uses within the shoreland zone. The ordinance applies to all unincorporated areas.
- Comprehensive Zoning – of which the Town of Marshall is one of nine townships that come under County zoning regulations. While initially adopted during the 1960's and updated several times since then, the most recent revision was in 2006.
- Animal Waste – a countywide animal waste management ordinance adopted in 1985 and effective in all townships. The ordinance required a permit from the Land & Water Conservation Department for animal waste storage structures. Structures must be constructed according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service Standards and Specifications.

In addition to these the Department of Natural Resources has established state minimum performance standards and prohibitions

for farms under NR 151, which were designed to achieve water quality standards by limiting non-point source water pollution. It is the landowner's responsibility to meet the agriculture performance standards and prohibitions.

Findings from the surveys

Town of Marshall survey. Town of Marshall residents/landowners were asked their opinions about issues concerning water resources in the Township. Table 4.2 is a summary of the results.

Table 4.2 Perceptions Concerning Water Quality			
Item	A/SA	D/SD	Not sure
Preservation of groundwater quality is important	96%	2%	2%
I am satisfied with the quality of my well water	91%	9%	
More enforcement, restrictive usage and development standards are needed concerning shoreline vegetative buffer zones	35%	39%	24%
More enforcement, restrictive usage and development standards are needed concerning septic system regulations	27%	56%	16%
Rivers and streams need to have more public access	36%	44%	19%

When residents/landowners were asked what involvement the Town government should have in protecting groundwater quality and

drinking water supplies, 14% said no involvement, 48% said to provide information only, and 38% said that the town government should develop water quality standards. Additional comments that were made concerning this question included “*Town level is too small – this should be a county project.*” A couple of individuals responded that the best way to protect groundwater quality was to “*prevent large farms,*” or “*put more limitations on large corporate farms*” and one person commented, “*keep residential construction away from river and lake frontage.*”

Town of Marshall responses on Rusk County survey. When asked to rate the importance of lakes and rivers contributing to quality of life in Rusk County, 89% responded it was either very important or important and 8% indicated otherwise. When asked to rate the condition of the rivers and streams 69% indicated excellent/good and 31% average/fair. In rating the condition of groundwater and wetlands, 73% responded excellent/good, 19% said average and 8% said fair. When asked their perceptions if rivers and streams were being protected, the responses were: 81% very adequately/adequately, 12% inadequately, and 8% had no opinion. When asked the same question concerning protection of groundwater and wetlands, 93% responded very adequately/adequately, 4% inadequately and 4% had no opinion.

Discussion of the findings

Several of the recommendations under this element are also covered under the Land Use section in this document. While the vast majority (68%) indicated the current regulatory efforts to control runoff from existing livestock facilities and farm fields was adequate and that natural resources were being adequately protected in the Township (69%), a sizeable number of Town of Marshall residents/landowners

believed that preserving the groundwater is important. An even larger majority do not want more enforcement and restrictive usage and development standards (71%). While Town resident/landowners seem to believe that current restrictions are sufficient, nearly 50% indicated that Town government should have a role in protecting groundwater quality through providing information and another 38% said that the Town government should “develop water quality standards.” But as one person commented, “*Between the DNR, SCS, county, state, federal, and township – we have an abundance of regulations already,*” and another person who said, “*town level is too small – this should be a county project,*” these comments are precisely correct as standards have been developed and a plan at the county level is in place to ensure enforcement of these standards.

The Rusk County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (see page 33) has established four goals and objectives which are applicable to preserving natural resources in the Town of Marshall. These goals include:

- Halt and reverse the depletion of Rusk County’s soil.
- Halt and reverse the pollution of Rusk County’s waters.
- Protect and improve Rusk County’s fish and wildlife habitat.
- Continue to implement the natural resource conservation information and education strategy outlined in the Plan.

While those who are farming in the township are most likely aware of NR 151 concerning runoff management, perhaps the responses to questions on the Town survey concerning water quality indicates that goal four above – *implementing natural resource conservation information and education* – needs additional dissemination strategies to ensure that all Township residents/landowners are aware of the

law and how to preserve water quality. Preserving water quality and informing Township residents/landowners of the Rusk County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, could perhaps be the focus of an article in a future newsletter sent by the Town. As protecting groundwater is critical to the future of Marshall, perhaps the Town board has a role to play in assisting in this education process.

One question on the survey concerned public access to rivers and streams. Forty-eight percent indicated yes, 33% said no and 17% responded not sure. While this question was asked primarily in relation to emergency response access, the committee queried whether or not there should also be more public access to the Jump River in the Township for fishing and other recreational purposes as well. A suggestion was that perhaps the Town Board should address this question and discuss strategies on how to secure more public access, such as buying easements from landowners with property bordering the Jump River or other such arrangements made as a “right-of-way” for others in the Township.

Cultural resources

A cultural resource is a broad term that can encompass much of a community’s heritage. Cultural resources may include archaeological sites and cemeteries, historic buildings and landscapes, historic transportation routes, ethnic traditions and community festivals. Cultural resources are those elements around us that signify our heritage and help to evoke the sense of place that makes an area different or distinctive.

Our lives are influenced by what we learn from our own experiences and by the events that have shaped the communities we live in and the institutions and organizations we encounter. Our history gives us

a sense of place and a framework to understand the world. It provides continuity and meaning in our lives and it can be a basis for economic development through preservation programs and Heritage Tourism.

Archaeological sites includes places where people lived, where they worked, and where they worshiped. These sites were made by the people who lived at the village, farm, or logging camps that once dotted the landscape in the Township. Archaeological sites occur figuratively and literally under our feet and are non-renewable resources and once a site is destroyed, either by natural or human related activities, it cannot be reclaimed.

National register of historic places. The Wisconsin Historical Society maintains a list of archaeological sites and cemeteries referred to as the Archaeological Site Inventory (ASI) and is the most comprehensive list of archaeological sites, mounds, unmarked cemeteries, marked cemeteries, and cultural sites available. Since very little of the Town has been surveyed for the presence of archaeological sites and cemeteries, the sites listed in the inventory represent only a tiny fraction of the sites that are actually present. Local residents and American Indian communities who have, and do live and work in the area possess much additional information on other archaeological sites and cemeteries. Steps should be taken to have this information incorporated into the land use plan. Up to this point in time, two (2) archaeological sites and cemeteries have been reported for the Town in the ASI. The following types of sites have been identified:

- One (1) Euro-American Cemetery – the Woodlawn Cemetery (ASI # 16630)
- One (1) pre-Contact (before AD 1650) Native American

campsite/village of unknown age. (ASI #69224)

Clearly this sample of sites does not reflect the rich history of the area. Many more sites are present in the area, but have not been reported to the Wisconsin Historical Society and thus are not included above. These “missing” sites include farmsteads, homesteads, and grave sites associated with the earliest settlers, post-Contact Native American sites and cemeteries, and pre-Contact Native American living and burial sites. While no sites are listed on the National and State Register of Historical Places, many sites in the Town certainly may be eligible and are important. The following high priority areas have been designated as potential sites:

- Higher, dryer areas adjacent to rivers, streams, creeks, lakes, wetlands;
- Higher, dryer areas adjacent to older, abandoned rivers, streams, creeks, lakes, wetland;
- Areas adjacent to rock outcrops; and
- Areas adjacent to older historic features such as trails, early roads, rail corridors, and earlier communities.

Given that the Jump River flows through the southern part of the Township, there are remnants of early logging roads and evidence of early American Indian inhabitants along the river where numerous arrowheads and other early relics have been found.

As a historic and cultural site, the Woodlawn Cemetery (in the center of the township) was established in 1903 with the oldest grave belonging to a Mrs. Elemendorf, who was buried in 1903. And to the present time, there are more than 200 veterans buried in the cemetery with the oldest veteran having served in the Spanish

American War in 1898. Following Wisconsin State Statutes, 157.70, the Cemetery has been surveyed, and is in the process of having all the plots with names and locations recorded so that visitors to the Cemetery will be able to quickly locate their loved ones and family members.



While the Town does not have a local historic preservation committee, Marshall funds supported the 2009 restoration of the Sheldon Depot, as the railroad was instrumental in the early development of the Township. As the Town of Marshall surrounds the Village of Sheldon, many Township residents also participated in planning and supporting the 2009 Sheldon Centennial Celebration. The Marshall Area Homemakers, an active group of women in the Township that have been meeting for nearly 75 continuous years, also participated in developing a historical quilt highlighting

development in the Town and the Village of Sheldon these past 100 years. Another Centennial project was completion of a historical mural depicting early Town of Marshall and Sheldon residents in 1906.



Other historic/architectural sites that have been identified by the Wisconsin Historical Society include:

Table 4.3 Historical Sites in the Town of Marshall (Source: Wisconsin Architecture and Historic Inventory)		
Site	Current Name	Historic Name
19247	Dewey Sprague Farm	–
19248	Dewey Sprague Farm	–
19249	Dewey Sprague Farm	–

19250	Dewey Sprague Farm	–
19251	–	–
19252	Harstvedt House	Marshall Center School House
19253	Tom Huffman House	George Nosser House
19254	Dan Pember House	John Pember House
19255	Gordon McElmurry House	Riverside School

Recommendations

Table 4.4 lists recommendations for goals, objectives and policies concerning agricultural, natural and cultural resources in the township.

Table 4.4 Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Goals and Objectives
Agricultural Goals, Objectives and Policies
Goal 1: Protect productive agricultural lands in the Town.
Objective 1.1 Protect the existing agricultural areas by appropriate zoning or other regulatory or policy techniques so those agricultural activities are encouraged. Objective 1.2 Discourage the conversion or division of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses and parcel sizes.
Goal 2: Future development does not conflict with agricultural operations.

<p>Objective 2.1 Encourage low density, non-farm development in areas away from intensive agricultural activities. Policy 2.1 (a) Recommend new non-farm residences should be built at least 200 feet from lands zoned for A1, due to dust, noise, spreading of animal waste or sludge, aerial or ground spraying, etc.</p>
<p>Goal 3: Utilize agricultural practices that are environmentally sensitive and protect air, soil, water and wildlife resources.</p>
<p>Objective 3.1 Encourage land use practices which protect the quality of surface and groundwater resources, including minimizing the loss of soil or agricultural chemicals to ground and surface water, as well as the proper location and maintenance of on-site sewage systems associated with residential development. Objective 3.2 Encourage soil conservation practices that minimize erosion.</p>
<p>Goal 4: The agricultural community is economically viable for the mutual benefit of the farmers and residents of Marshall.</p>
<p>Objective 4.1 Maintain the agricultural land base and encourage a wide range of agricultural practices. Objective 4.2 Protect the Town of Marshall from potential detrimental effects caused by large farms with livestock. Policy 4.2 (a) Encourage Rusk County to better define and codify the agricultural land uses associated with livestock in the County Zoning Ordinance. Policy 4.2 (b) Review agricultural operations proposing moderate to high density levels of livestock farming in order to protect ground water and surface waters from nitrates and concentrated animal waste byproduct.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Natural Resources Goals, Objectives and Policies</p>
<p>Goal 5: Identify, manage, preserve and protect natural resources throughout the town.</p>

<p>Objective 5.1 Encourage land use practices which protect the quality of surface and groundwater resources, including minimizing the loss of soil or agricultural chemicals to ground and surface water, as well as the proper location and maintenance of on-site sewage systems associated with residential development. Policy 5.1 (a) Promote agricultural practices that are environmentally sensitive and protect air, soil, water and wildlife resources. Policy 5.1 (b) Encourage partnership efforts that result in the preservation and restoration of natural resources.</p>
<p>Goal 6: Natural resources that provide recreational opportunities on public land are managed to ensure their lasting presence.</p>
<p>Objective 6.1 Units of government work together to define and develop appropriate public access to natural resources. Objective 6.2 Explore alternative options for right-of-way to the Jump River.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Cultural Resources Goals, Objectives and Policies</p>
<p>Goal 7: The general public is more aware of cultural resources.</p>
<p>Objective 7.1 Work with Rusk County Historical Society to help identify cultural and historic resources in the town.</p>
<p>Goal 8: Cooperative arrangements with Woodlawn Cemetery are maintained.</p>
<p>Objective 8.1 Share Town of Marshall survey results, pertaining to the Woodlawn Cemetery, with the Cemetery Board. Objective 8.2 Explore alternative interment cemetery options with Woodlawn Cemetery Board.</p>