

## 5.1 AGRICULTURAL, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Climate

The Town of Theresa's climate is characterized by cold, rather long winters with occasional heavy snowfall, short springs, warm, sometimes hot and humid summers, and brilliant autumns. There are four distinct seasons with dramatic contrasts between the warmth, and occasional heat, of the summer and deep cold of the winter. Although there are periods of high heat in the summer, hot and humid spells generally last for but a few days, giving way to cooler weather; even the Fourth of July can be cool. Leaves will begin to turn in some trees as early as the second week in August, but "peak" colors are likely to be in mid-October, with the exception of the shrub Sumac that flames red in the first week of October. In October, the maples, locust, oak, and birch will turn to red, purple, yellow, gold, and brown, and, along with a crystal clear fall day, give this part of Wisconsin its greatest beauty. The date of the first freeze in the fall is around October 1. After the killing freeze, warm days with clear skies may return for an "Indian Summer," providing a last, nostalgic feel of summer before the beginning of winter. Fall may linger on into November, but the change from fall to winter can be abrupt. This is the upper Midwest, and extremes in variation of the weather are the norm.

### Topography

Glacial activity occurring thousands of years ago shaped the surface of the Town of Theresa, and for that matter, the rest of Dodge County. The Town is characterized by poorly formed drumlins, hills that were formed by the Green Bay lobe of the most recent glaciation. Gravel and soil were pushed up and shaped as the glacier passed over the land. In different parts of Dodge County, the drumlins assume their classic shape of long, low, narrow hills. In the Town of Theresa, however, this is generally not the case. Elongated drumlins, characteristic of other towns in southern and central Dodge County, are not present except in the southwestern portion of the Town. There are some moraines in the Town; the gravel pits in Section 24 are the remains of moraines. Map 5-1 shows the topography of the Town of Theresa.

There is generally more hilly and wetland ground in the eastern and southern portions of the Town. STH 175 enters the Town in the southeast and runs through rough ground, accounting for its irregular alignment. The highest point in the town is located in the southern boundary of the Town in Section 33 and is approximately 1,160 feet. The lowest part of the Town is on the East Branch of the Rock River where it exits the Town of Theresa in Section 18. The elevation there is less than 920 feet.

The Theresa Marsh is in the northeastern portion of the Town, in Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, and 13, and there is another large wetland in Section 21, near the exact center of the Town. Wetlands represent a significant landform in the Town of Theresa. They occupy some 3,694 acres of land, approximately one-sixth of the total land area of the Town, the largest portion of which is the Theresa Marsh.

A characteristic human adaptation to the glacial topography of Dodge County is repeated in the Town of Theresa. As in other parts of the county, farmsteads tend to be located up on the drumlins. Generally, soils up on the tops of the drumlins drain better;

although they are not prime farmland, they can be good soils, and many farmers will plant alfalfa in them. Graveyards also tend to be located on the higher ground, as are churches. On the sides of drumlins there are usually highly eroded soils that are poor for agricultural purposes. Furthermore, the steepness of the land there makes tillage difficult and even hazardous. These lands may be left in pasture or even in woodlots. Farther down the drumlin, between those eroded soils and the wetter soils close to the wetlands are the best soils. Soils in this area are often ranked as National Prime Farmlands by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

### Soils

The number and kind of soils in the Town of Theresa vary considerably, but with the exception of the wetland, soils are of the Theresa-Lamartine-Hochheim association. They are deep, nearly level to steep, well-drained and excessively drained soils that have a silty and mild loamy subsoil that were formed in loess and glacial till. The wetland soils, on the other hand are of a Houghton-Pella association, which are deep, nearly level, very poorly drained and poorly drained organic soils and soils that have a silty subsoil that have been formed in decomposed sedges and reeds or in silty material and glacial drift.

Three soil related problems should be considered in planning for land use. These are the malfunction of on-site sewage systems, wet basements, and unstable building foundations. Generally, organic soils and other poorly drained soils, and soils where bedrock is close to the surface have severe limitation for on-site sewage disposal systems. Organic and poorly drained soils should not be used for structures because of their wetness and flood potential. The Town of Theresa does have soils that have high organic matter content, and are subject to the restrictions suggested above. Traditional and more recent placement of housing, however, has generally located construction on soils that drain better and offer elevation above the soils that tend to be heavier and wetter.

Certain soil conditions, including wetness, slope, percent organic matter, nutrient content, stoniness, and so on, determine the suitability of soils for agriculture. The best soils for agriculture have been designated National Prime Farmland, and are listed in Appendix III. In the Town of Theresa, as noted above, the general tendency is for the best soils to be found between the sides of the drumlins and the uphill edge of the wetlands. Map 5-2 shows Prime Agricultural Soils in the Town of Theresa. For a more detailed view of the various soils in the Town, look at the Dodge County Soil Survey maps for the Town of Theresa in Appendix IV.

### Woodlands

Woodlands, exclusive of wetlands, cover about 2,152.5 acres of the Town of Theresa, or about 9.4 percent. Some woodlands are contained within wetland areas, but many are on higher ground. The land use survey shows significant woodlots in most sections of the Town. Woodlots in the Town are shown on Map 5-3.

Some timber may have commercial value, but the primary economic advantage of the remaining woodlots in the Town of Theresa may be as a setting for residential development. Recreational areas are also desirable in wooded areas. Much of the timber in the town was cleared to make the land available for agriculture. Woodlots 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.

### Surface Water

Including surface water within the Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area, approximately 150 acres are covered with water. The East Branch of the Rock River represents the greatest extent of surface water in the Town of Theresa, although there is a fairly large pond in the Theresa Marsh that may cover 30 acres or more. This pond is an impoundment resulting from a small dam located east of the Village of Theresa. The level of the impoundment in the Theresa Marsh is regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources according to procedures developed over the years intended to retain between three and five feet of open water in parts of the Theresa Marsh, depending on the season. Map 5-4 shows surface water in the Town of Theresa.

The East Branch of the Rock River is a substantial stream that has its origins in Washington County to the east. All of the surface water of the Town of Theresa is associated with this drainage system. Although a small stream in the southeast portion of the Town exits the Town heading east, it eventually joins the East Branch of the Rock River in the Town of Wayne. The river enters Dodge County and the Town of Theresa through the Theresa Marsh. It leaves the marsh and enters the Village of Theresa, and then meanders in a generally southwesterly direction before exiting the town just to the east of the City of Mayville.

The East Branch of the Rock River carries a heavy load of non-point source pollution. That is, pollution that is not originating from an outlet from a factory or sewage treatment facility. The term refers to pollutants that are carried off the land broadly and into the watershed. Pollutants in this case would be the materials, such as fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides that are applied on agricultural land in Washington County and in the Town of Theresa. The East Branch of the Rock River also carries a heavy load of sediment. Because of these factors, the river does not support high quality fish, although there are reports of Northern Pike being taken from the river. Generally, however, the fish in the river are carp and other "rough" fish.

The East Branch of the Rock River became a "Priority Watershed" in September of 1997. It became part of the Non-point Source Water Pollution Abatement Program in 1998. This program was created by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1978. Watersheds in the State of Wisconsin have been designated as priority watersheds if their waters are either in danger of becoming polluted, or already are showing signs of pollution. Technical and financial assistance will be rendered through this voluntary program that is designed to help landowners to install land management practices that will protect and clean up water sources. The purpose of the program in the East Branch of the

Rock River watershed is to reduce the amounts of sediment, nutrients (organic matter) and other pollutants entering the river from farming and homeowner land use activities, from eroding cropland and streambanks, runoff from barnyards, improper manure spreading, improper urban homeowner yard practices and possibly construction sites.

### Wetlands

Dodge County is rich in the number and quality of its wetlands, and the Town of Theresa is representative of this characteristic. Although not as large as the Horicon Marsh, which is one of the largest marshes in Wisconsin, Theresa Marsh is a substantial wetland. There are 3,694.05 acres of wetlands in the Town of Theresa, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Wetlands are present in every section of the Town, with the exception of Sections 29 and 31 in the southwestern portion of the Town. Map 5-4 shows the location of wetlands in the Town of Theresa.

Wetlands are the most productive and beneficial habitat for wildlife. In an intensive agricultural area such as Theresa, 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 important for retaining storm water from rain and melting snow moving toward surface waters and floodwater from rising streams. 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 now known too, 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 column. Plants take up certain nutrients from the water. Other substances can be stored or transformed to a less toxic state within wetlands. As a result, our lakes, rivers, and streams are cleaner and our drinking water is safe. Larger wetlands and those that contain dense vegetation are most effective in protecting water quality. If surrounding land uses contribute to soil runoff to introduce manure or other pollutants into a watershed, the value of this function may be especially high. According to these criteria, Theresa Marsh is a valuable resource for the Town of Theresa and the State of Wisconsin.

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 discharged to the surface. 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.

Wetlands also provide open space and are valuable for the preservation of rural beauty and character. Wetlands are great places to study, hike, or just drive by. They provide peaceful open spaces in landscapes that are under development pressure and have rich potential for hunters and anglers, photographers and artists, scientists, students, and bird watchers. Given the priority expressed in the Public Opinion Survey of Theresa for preservation of rural character, Theresa Marsh and other wetlands in the Town are valuable resources and should be preserved.

### 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 Dodge County that show the areas of 100-year flood. A 100-year flood is defined in the Dodge County Floodplain Ordinance as a regional flood "determined to be representative of large floods known to have occurred in Wisconsin or which may be expected to occur on a particular lake, river or stream once in every 100 years" (Dodge County Floodplain Ordinance, 10.1 (40)). Lands within the legal floodplain, as designated by the FEMA maps, are within the regulatory authority of the Dodge County Floodplain Ordinance. There are about 1,987.5 acres in floodplains in the Town of Theresa. The land use survey shows 3,693 acres of floodplain exclusive of wetlands, woodlands, or surface water. This represents about 16% of the surface of the Town. Map 5-5 shows the floodplains in the Town of Theresa.

Structures are undesirable in floodplains because they reduce water storage capacity, retard the flow of floodwater, and can be damaged or destroyed by floods. In a large flood, too, 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.

### Environmental Corridors

Environmental corridors are continuous systems of open space that include environmentally sensitive lands such as woodlands, wetlands and habitat areas, natural and cultural resources requiring protection from disturbance and development, and lands needed for open space and recreational use. Map 5-6 shows Environmental Corridors in the Town of Theresa. Preservation of these corridors will protect and preserve environmentally sensitive lands, natural resource areas, and other areas that would impair habitat and surface or groundwater quality if disturbed or developed.

### The Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area

Land types in the Wildlife Area include grassland, brush-marsh, woodland, agricultural land, seasonally flooded wetlands, and permanent wetlands, all of which are important in the proper management of the area. In 1968, a mile-long dike and a dam were constructed on the west side of the marsh, creating a 1,500 acres main flowage. About three miles of additional dikes and 18 water control structures have been installed since

then, allowing water levels to be raised and lowered to provide ideal waterfowl habitat. Two 1,000 acre waterfowl refuges have been established, one on each end of the marsh, to provide food and resting areas for long distance migrants.

The marsh is a production area for mallards, wood ducks, blue-winged teal and other ducks, and a year-around home to white-tailed deer, raccoon, red fox, gray and fox squirrel, cottontail rabbits, muskrat, mink, river otter, red-tailed hawks, ring-necked pheasants and other species. Other species using the marsh on a seasonal basis include common egrets, great blue herons, and a variety of raptors, shorebirds, and songbirds.

Map 5-7 shows the Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area as it exists in Dodge and Washington Counties. The map indicates roads in the area and the location of the Marsh just on the border, for the most part, between Dodge and Washington Counties. Map 5-8 shows the "acquisition boundary" for the Theresa Marsh Wildlife area in the Town of Theresa. Properties within this boundary and not owned by the Department of Natural Resources will be probably be acquired by the DNR as they become available.

#### Historical, Cultural, Archeological Sites

Century Farm and Home awards are presented by the state to farms that have remained in the same family for over 100 years. Past recipients of Century Farm awards are listed in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1 Town of Theresa - Century Farms

| <u>Name</u>                   | <u>Address</u>       | <u>City</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| John Jacob Bodden             | N8202 Hwy 175        | Theresa     |
| Leonhard M. Budahn            | W1518 Zion Church Rd | Mayville    |
| Herman F. Christian           | R 1                  | Theresa     |
| Larry and Noreen Dogs         | Rt 1 Box 175         | Theresa     |
| Lawrence Enderle              | N9473 Mohawk Rd      | Theresa     |
| Raymond and Norma Erdmann     | R 1                  | Theresa     |
| Roland Jahn                   | Route 1              | Theresa     |
| Edgar Lichtenberg             | RR 1                 | Mayville    |
| Gilbert Macksam               |                      | Theresa     |
| Donna M. and James R. Neitzel | W2129 CTY TW         | Mayville    |
| Lawrence Neitzel              | Route 2              | Mayville    |
| Erich Pluedemann              | RR 1                 | Theresa     |
| Rueben R. Pribnow             | RR 1                 | Theresa     |
| Mr & Mrs Herbert Reklau       | Route 1              | Theresa     |
| Larry and Susan Retzlaff      | N9126 Sunnyview Rd   | Mayville    |
| Henry Schnitzler              | R 1 Box 162          | Theresa     |
| Kenneth Schoebel              | RR 1                 | Theresa     |
| Oswald Schoebel               | RR 1                 | Theresa     |
| Vernon and Catherine Steger   | N8609 Lone Rd        | Theresa     |
| Harvey R. Weigand             | Rt 1                 | Allenton    |
| Erhard E. Zimmerman           | R 2 Box 127          | Theresa     |

Source: Wisconsin Century Farm and Home program

The Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) provided by the Wisconsin Historical Society lists historical and architectural information on properties in Wisconsin. The AHI contains data on buildings, structures, and objects that illustrate Wisconsin's unique history. Table 5-2 is a listing of AHI sites located in the Town of Theresa. Many of the buildings in this list were added during a 1974 survey of the area, so some may no longer exist. More information on these sites is available at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi/](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi/).

Table 5-2 Town of Theresa - Historical Buildings

| <u>historic name</u>                 | <u>location</u>                                 | <u>section</u> | <u>year built</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|-------------------|
| house                                | S side of CTY TW 0.3 mi E of CTY AY             | 4              |                   |
| house and barn                       | N side of STH 28 0.5 mi E of E branch CTY AY    | 9              |                   |
| house                                | S side of West Bend Rd 0.3 mi S of Lone Rd      | 13             |                   |
| house                                | W side of CTY P 0.5 mi N of Allen Rd            | 22             |                   |
| house                                | W side of CTY P 1.0 mi S of STH 175             | 22             |                   |
| house                                | W side of Doyle Rd 0.1 mi N of Allen Rd         | 23             |                   |
| barn                                 | S side of Allen Rd 0.3 mi W of Doyle Rd         | 26             |                   |
| barn                                 | E side of CTY AY 0.1 mi S of CTY Y              | 29             |                   |
| Immanuel Lutheran Church and School  | E side of CTY AY 0.5 mi N of CTY Y              | 29             |                   |
| house, house                         | S side of Zion Church Rd 0.5 mi E of Madison Rd | 31             | 1886, ??          |
| Ludwig and Charlotte Borchardt house | E side of Ferris Rd 0.3 mi S of Zion Church Rd  | 34             | c 1865            |
| Fickert house                        | N7787 STH 175                                   | 25             |                   |
| house                                | N8082 STH 175                                   | 26             |                   |
| School #7                            | N7887 STH 175                                   | 25             |                   |
| house                                | N7850 CTY AY                                    | 29             |                   |
| Elsie A Meimerl farmstead            | unknown   | 35             |                   |
| Frederick Sanborn house              | N9505 STH 175/67                                | 3              | c 1937            |

Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory (AHI)

The National Register of Historic Places recognizes properties of local, state, and national significance. Properties are listed in the National Register because they contain important information about our history or because of their architectural or engineering significance. There are no sites in the Town of Theresa listed on the State or National Register.

Map 5-9 shows the Historical, Cultural and Archeological Resources in Dodge County. The only registered historical site in the area is the Solomon Juneau Homestead Museum located in the Village of Theresa.

## 5.2 Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Recommendations

**Goal:** Maintain, preserve and enhance the Town's agricultural resources.

**Policy:** Preserve productive farmlands for continued agricultural use.

**Policy:** Follow state regulations (Statute §823.08) concerning a citizen's right to farm.

**Recommendation:** Encourage that land continues to be farmed.

**Objective:** Discourage subdivision and non-farm development on those lands characterized as valuable agricultural land according to the following criteria:

- quality soils as identified by soil maps and the list of National Prime Farmland soils
- accessibility
- slope
- size and shape that can be worked economically
- ability to produce in wet and dry years
- well-drained soil

**Objectives:**

1. Discourage rezoning of prime agricultural land, as determined by the above criteria, from A-I Prime Agricultural.
2. Discourage the placement of dwellings on prime agricultural land.

**Objective:** Prevent isolated commercial and industrial uses in agricultural, residential and open space areas.

**Objective:** Retain property assessments of farmland consistent with their intended use.

**Objective:** Encourage participation in the Farmland Preservation Program for the best farmland.

**Recommendation:** Consider the use of a purchase of conservation easements through a land trust to protect prime agricultural land.

**Objective:** Direct development to lands that are not of prime agricultural character. Encourage placement of General Agricultural and Rural Development Districts on lands that possess a combination of the following characteristics:

- are too steep to farm;
- are on or close to local roads that are regularly maintained;
- have appropriate soils and appropriately shaped lots for septic systems, or are on lands adjacent to sewer systems;
- have poor agricultural soils;
- are areas of at least 2 acres;
- relate residential development to the natural resources of the Town – its woodlots, wetlands, hills or drumlins;
- are not participating in a Farmland Preservation Program;
- are buffered naturally from agricultural lands by wetlands, conservancies, streams, hills, etc.;
- are not reserved for open space, conservancies, parks, or for other historical, cultural, or aesthetic reasons.



**Objective:** Identify information resources and programs available to make farms more profitable.

Resources: 1. Center for Dairy Profitability, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
2. Crops/Soils Agent, Dodge County UW-Extension, Juneau

**Goal:** Maintain, preserve and enhance the Town's natural resources.

**Objective:** Discourage the clear-cutting of any existing woodlands.

**Policy:** Direct growth away from environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands and floodplains.

**Objectives:**

1. Protect the remaining wetlands in their natural state.
2. Forbid further draining of wetlands.
3. Discourage agriculture in wetlands.
4. Provide conservancy zoning for wetlands.
5. Protect wetlands from siltation and runoff.

Resources: 1. Land Conservation Department, Dodge County  
2. Non-Point Source Water Pollution Abatement Program  
(Priority Watershed Program) for East Branch of the Rock River

**Policy:** Protect groundwater resources.

**Objective:** Abandon unused existing private wells in accordance with state regulations.

**Recommendations:**

1. Encourage reforestation on slopes of 18 percent or more.
2. Encourage farmers to leave wider natural areas near water courses, and to avoid the application of agricultural chemicals near them.
3. Discourage cultivation of wetlands.
4. Protect and enhance the Theresa Marsh.

**Objective:** Restrict industrial, commercial, and residential development within the "acquisition boundary" established by the DNR around the Theresa Marsh.

**Objective:** Allow commercial and residential development only within specified areas in the vicinity of Theresa Marsh.

**Policy:** Allow the right to hunt and to lease land for hunting and other recreational activities.

**Objective:** Cooperate with nonprofit organizations to obtain funding for the purchase of lands or easements on lands with unique natural characteristics.

Resource: Wisconsin Stewardship Program

**Goal:** Maintain, preserve and enhance the Town's cultural, historical and archeological resources.

**Recommendation:** Review and update the Town's Nuisance Ordinance:

- To determine standards for "public eyesores".
- To identify "public eyesores" within the Town of Theresa.
- To adopt fair measures to eradicate public eyesores.

### 5.3 Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Programs

The following programs are currently utilized by the community or are available for use by the community to implement the goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations identified.

#### Wisconsin Act 307 - Notification to Nonmetallic Resource Owners

This Act amends portions of the Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Law to increase communication and notification of local planning with owners of nonmetallic mineral sites. Public participation procedures must now include written procedures describing the methods the local government will use to distribute proposed, alternative, or amended elements of a plan to owners of property, or to persons who have a leasehold interest in property, which may extract nonmetallic mineral resources on the property. This is only required if the Comprehensive Plan changes the allowable use or intensity of use of the given property. Wisconsin Act 307 also added provisions to the Comprehensive Planning Law detailing that prior to a public hearing written notice shall be provided to property owners or operators with an interest in nonmetallic mineral resources.

#### Wisconsin Farmland Preservation Program

The purpose of this program is to help preserve farmland through local planning and zoning, promote soil and water conservation, and provide tax relief to participating farmers. Farmers qualify if their land is zoned exclusively for agricultural purposes. Contact: County Land Conservation Department, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, or Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department.

#### Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The purpose of the CRP is to reduce erosion, increase wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and increase forest land. A landowner sets aside cropland with annual rental payments based on the amount bid. Practices include tree planting, grass cover, small wetland restoration, prairie and oak savannah restoration, and others. Eligibility varies by soil type and crop history. Land is accepted into the program if the bid qualifies. Continuous sign up is open for buffers, waterways, and environmental practices. Periodic sign ups are announced throughout the year for other practices. Landowners receive 10 or 15 year contracts if planting hardwood trees. Contracts are transferable with change in ownership. Public access is not required. Contact: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service or Farm Service Agency, or County Land Conservation Department.

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The purpose of EQIP is to provide technical and financial help to landowners for conservation practices that protect soil and water quality. Nutrient management and prescribed grazing are eligible for cost-sharing statewide. Agricultural producers on agricultural land are eligible for the program. Projects are based on environmental value, which have five to ten year contracts. Agricultural producers may be eligible for up to 75% cost share, up to \$10,000 per year and \$50,000 life of contract on agricultural land. Public access is not required. Contact: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service or Farm Service Agency, or County Land Conservation Department.

### Wisconsin Glacial Habitat Program

This program focuses on establishing a patchwork of restored wetlands and grasslands in combination with croplands to provide all of the elements necessary for the life cycle of waterfowl, wild pheasants and non-game songbirds. The goals of the program are to establish 38,600 acres of permanent grassland nesting cover and restore 11,000 acres of wetlands within Columbia, Dodge, Fond du Lac and Winnebago Counties. In order to achieve these goals, the DNR is purchasing, as well as securing perpetual easements, on properties ranging in size from 10 acres up to a few hundred acres. Only those properties purchased by the state become public property and are open to public hunting.

### Wisconsin's Historical Markers Program

For almost fifty years, Wisconsin's State Historical Markers program has been interpreting both important small incidents and monumental events from the State's past. Placed on the very site where significant events occurred, markers evoke an immediacy of the past that no history book can provide. Applications are required for all official State of Wisconsin historical markers and plaques and are available at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/markers/](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/markers/).

### Rural Heritage Program

Part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Rural Heritage Program is dedicated to the recognition and protection of rural historic and cultural resources. Through educational programs, publications and technical assistance, the Rural Heritage Program supports the efforts of rural communities across the country to both preserve and live with their heritage. The Rural Heritage Program works with communities on topics as diverse as farmland preservation, scenic byways, heritage areas and parks, historic roads, and sprawl. Program information is available at [www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org).