

### 5.3 Resource Management Objectives

General goals and management objectives for land and natural resource management in Chippewa County have been outlined in a series of previous planning efforts conducted by the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources and Chippewa County (Chippewa County, the Present and the Future, 1971; Chippewa County Farmland Preservation Plan, 1985; Chippewa County Erosion Control Plan, 1987; Duncan Creek Clean Water Plan, 1991, and Chippewa County Land and Water Resource Management Plan, 2004).

#### 5.31 Land Management Objectives

Public goals and policies for agricultural land preservation, growth management, and environmental preservation have been previously adopted through the Chippewa County Farmland Preservation Plan, 1985.

To meet the planning requirements of Wisconsin Stats., Chapter 91 and 92, the resource management objectives for land conservation, agriculture, and natural resource management are as follows:

##### Objective 1

**Maintain the physical condition, biodiversity, ecology, and environmental functions of the landscape, including its capacity for flood storage, groundwater recharge, water filtration, plant growth, ecological diversity, wildlife habitat, and carbon sequestration.**

##### Objective 2

**Maintain the capacity of the land to support productive forests and agricultural working lands to sustain food, fiber, and renewable energy production.**

- Manage soil quality to maintain the land's capacity to support sustained production.
  - Measure and monitor soil quality using soil organic matter, carbon content, moisture holding capacity, fertility, and current erosion rates.
  
- Identify and preserve designated blocks of working lands to maintain an adequate landmass to support agricultural and forestry operations that are production-oriented and that contribute to the county's economy.
  - Identify the location, size, and boundaries of working land conservation areas through use of town or county-based planning processes, and landowner registries.

- Limit the fragmentation and urban development of productive forests and agricultural working lands.

- Manage the extent of fragmentation and urban development through the adoption and use of rural density standards and land division ordinances, as established by towns in cooperation with the county.

- Manage the type and location of new development in unincorporated areas through the adoption and use of voluntary land conservation agreements developed with interested landowners; and zoning districts and structural setbacks, as established by towns in cooperation with the county.

- As a priority, seek to protect those productive forest and agricultural lands identified as prime agricultural land, Land Capability Classes I-III.

### **Objective 3**

**Encourage future urban development to occur within incorporated municipalities; or in designated urban service areas where development and associated public services have been planned by a responsible municipality (Note: altered from Chippewa County Farmland Preservation Plan, 1983).**

- Identify the location, size, and boundaries of urban service areas through the use of public planning processes initiated by the towns, cities, or villages.

### **Objective 4**

**Protect areas of special environmental, natural resource, or open space significance, (Wisconsin Stats. 91.57).**

- As a priority, seek to conserve:

- Land located in a planned conservation or land management area, formally designated and adopted by a public agency or municipality.

- Land located immediately adjacent publicly owned forest, park, or recreational land.

- Undisturbed stream corridors, undeveloped lakes, and areas where threatened or endangered species have been inventoried and documented.

- Inventory, monitor, and control terrestrial invasive species to protect and maintain the ecological value of high-value plant communities and natural resource areas.

### **Objective 5**

**Restore the condition, environmental functions, and productive capacity of abandoned or degraded lands.**

- Reclaim and revegetate abandoned farmland, surface mined lands, and brownfields to:

- Produce biomass for energy production.

- Reestablish native plant communities through planting or natural progression.

## **5.32 Surface Water Management Objectives**

General management objectives for surface waters located in Chippewa County have been established in a report published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, titled The State of the Lower Chippewa River Basin Plan, (2001). These state objectives are recognized by Chippewa County as a foundational element of interagency efforts to manage water resources.

For the purpose of this plan, the resource management objectives for surface water in Chippewa County are as follows:

### **Objective 1**

**Manage storm runoff to limit flood peaks and maintain current stream base-flow conditions and lake elevations.**

- Accelerate the use of best management practices (BMP's) to increase soil moisture holding capacity, landscape depressional storage, and groundwater infiltration and recharge.

### **Objective 2**

**Reduce sediment and nutrient loading to surface waters from nonpoint sources to levels necessary to meet:**

- The potential use classification for the waterbody, as designated in the Wisconsin Surface Water Classification System, or
- The planned water resource management objective, or the prescribed Total Maximum Daily Load Limits (TMDLs), as developed through a formal watershed planning process, or
- Instream water quality standards as established for individual lakes, streams, or stream reaches.

### **Objective 3**

**Maintain, improve, and restore the natural condition of the shoreland corridor, littoral zone, and instream habitat of streams and lakes.**

### **Objective 4**

**Inventory, monitor, and control aquatic invasive species (plant and animal).**

### **5.33 Groundwater Management Objectives**

For the purpose of this plan, the resource management objectives for groundwater in Chippewa County are established as follows:

#### **Objective 1**

**Maintain historic groundwater levels and limit impacts to surface waters, wetlands, and well water supplies by managing the depletion of groundwater resources from high and low volume consumptive uses:**

- Monitor the groundwater elevations in aquifers that are used to support municipal water supplies, as measured by the extent of permanent drawdown in wellhead protection zones.
- Monitor the groundwater elevations in rural subdivisions and high density developments, as measured by the extent of drawdown in the affected private wells.
- Institute urban and rural water conservation programs to conserve groundwater supplies.

#### **Objective 2**

**Manage concentrations of contaminants in groundwater aquifers to pursue Preventative Action Limits (PAL), as established in Wisconsin Admin. Code NR140.**

#### **Objective 3**

**Manage concentrations of groundwater contaminants in the zone of influence of municipal water supplies, to within prescribed standards for public and municipal water supplies, as defined in NR140.10 and NR140.12.**

### 5.34 Wetland Management Objectives

For the purpose of this plan, the resource management objectives for wetlands in Chippewa County are established as follows:

#### **Objective 1**

**Seek to achieve a net gain of wetland acres through wetland restoration and creation, as measured through program tracking and wetland inventory monitoring.**

#### **Objective 2**

**Avoid the destruction of existing wetlands, and maintain the environmental functions that these sites provide by seeking development alternatives that will not impact the wetland site.**

When destruction cannot be avoided, minimize the degradation of wetland sites and the loss of environmental functions by incorporating principals of engineering into site design.

When site avoidance and minimization through engineering design are not feasible, compensate for the loss of wetlands through onsite mitigation conducted to reestablish the natural functions, hydrologic values, and plant communities in the immediate watershed of wetland loss.

When inkind, onsite mitigation is not feasible, compensate for wetland losses using the concept of a wetland mitigation bank.