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.