

*City of New Richmond
Comprehensive Planning Program
Agricultural, Natural and
Cultural Resource Element*

Contents

Contents

s. 66.1001(2)(e) Wis Stats.	6-1
Introduction	6-2
Agricultural Resources	6-8
Water and Ecology	6-11
Cultural Resources.....	6-17
Historical and Cultural Resource Inventory	6-20
Laws and Statutes – Archaeological Sites.....	6-23
Policies, Goals & Objectives.....	6-25

s. 66.1001(2)(e) Wis Stats

s. 66.1001(2)(e) Wis Stats

The **Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resource Element** is intended to be a compilation of objectives, policies, goals, maps and programs for the conservation and promotion of the effective management of natural resources such as groundwater, forests, productive agricultural areas, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, stream corridors, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, metallic and nonmetallic mineral resources, parks, open spaces, historical and cultural resources, community design, recreational resources and other natural resources.

Introduction

The French were the first white people to step foot on the land which is now St. Croix County. In 1687 Daniel Greysolon du Luth, a French explorer and adventurer, used the Brule-St. Croix waterway as a short route from Lake Superior to the Mississippi River.

A year later, Father Louis Hennepin, a priest

of the Order of St. Francis, was brought into the St. Croix Territory as a prisoner of the Sioux Indians. It was not, however, until 1689 that Nicolas Perrot took possession of the lands of the present Upper Mississippi, St. Croix and St. Peter Valleys in the name of France.

“The scenic beauty of the Willow River has attracted visitors to the New Richmond for many years.”

French rule ended in the Upper Mississippi Valley with the Treaty of Paris of 1763. With the signing of the Peace of Paris in 1783, the land east of the Mississippi became part of the United States. In 1793, Laurient Barth, Jacques Porlier, and Charles Reaume established a fur-trading station on the St. Croix River, land that is now St. Croix County. It was not until peace was fully established with the Indians that this region could be fully settled. In 1837 the Dakota or Sioux Indians ceded to the United States Government all their lands east of the Mississippi River. In the same year a treaty was made at Fort Snelling with the Chippewa or Ojibway Indians whereby they ceded to the United States all their lands east of the Mississippi to near the headwaters of the St. Croix and Chippewa Rivers.

The first settlement was made at the mouth of the Willow River in 1840 by Louis Massey and Peter Bouchea. In the spring of 1839 the steamer Palmyra opened the St. Croix River to trade and travel. The pine forests between the St. Croix River and Minnesota attracted interest in lumbering, and many lumber mills were built in this vicinity in the 1840's. By 1847 frame houses began to appear, and in 1849 Moses Perrin opened a boarding house in what is now the City of Hudson. With the establishment of the United States Land Office at Hudson in 1849, great advances were made in population. As a result the population of St. Croix County, 624 in 1850, had increased to 2,040 by 1855 and 5,388 in 1860. In 1840 the Legislature of Wisconsin created the county of St. Croix, carrying the same name as the bordering river, named from Monsieur St. Croix, an explorer who drowned at the mouth of the river late in the seventeenth century. Another account said Father Hennepin gave this region the French name St. Croix (originally Ste Croix) which means Holy Cross.

The City of New Richmond opened for settlement in 1837. In 1855, B.C.C. Foster led what was to become the first wave of settlers to New Richmond. Foster built a sawmill on the Willow River and a home on the present site of Glover Park. Named for a river ford located on his property, the settlement became known as Foster's Crossing. Like Foster, the earliest settlers came from Maine and other New England states. Irish immigrants quickly followed. Scandinavians and Germans arrived later.

Introduction

In 1869, A.C. Van Meter started publication of the St. Croix Republican. In 1872, the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway arrived, and by 1885 when the Wisconsin Central tracks were laid, four passenger trains ran daily to St. Paul and back. The Bank of New Richmond was founded in 1878; Manufacturers Bank followed nine years later. The City incorporated in 1884. Telephone service began in 1896. Electricity arrived in 1898.

The City of New Richmond and its architecture have always been strongly influenced by nature and natural events. The geographic area that now includes New Richmond contained natural features that lent itself well to the two main industries that developed in the early settlement days of the 1850's and 1860's – lumbering the forests and farming the prairies.



Where downtown New Richmond is now centered along the Willow River was also the edge of prairie to the south and dense forest to the north. The river was shallower then and the loggers on their way south to Clear Lake forded it at the point where the current Knowles Avenue Bridge is located. In 1855, B.C.B.

Foster built a sawmill and a home adjacent to the crossing point on the present site of Glover Park. The area became known as “Foster’s Crossing”. Foster became the first of a wave of settlers to this strategic area.

Soon after Foster’s arrival the settlement boundaries were formalized and more businesses were constructed. In 1856 the original plat of New Richmond was surveyed. A gristmill to grind the wheat from the nearby prairie soon followed. Also known as “Cold Springs” and “Richmond” as well as “Foster’s Crossing” the settlement eventually was named New Richmond after the man who platted it, Richmond Day of Hudson, and the fact that another “Richmond” existed in the territory. In 1863 there were 11 buildings in the settlement. The advent of the railroad coming to the settlement, first in 1872 with the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha and then with the Wisconsin Central line in 1884 spurred additional growth. In 1881 the Willow River Lumber Company was established and the Willow River dammed to provide power. The damming destroyed the natural ford and a bridge was built at its former location.

Introduction

The river and bridge divided the City into two sections. To the north, the milling industries and small worker's home arose. To the south, businesses and larger residences were constructed. The area developed from a convenient stop over point to a source of industry and commerce. By the mid 1880's the commercial district was well developed centered around Main Street (Knowles Avenue)



between First and Fourth Streets south of the river. It also extended one block west to Minnesota Avenue and one block east to Arch Avenue. This area has remained fairly constant throughout the history of the City. By 1885 New Richmond was officially incorporated as a City and reported a population of 1,200.

Two major catastrophes before the turn of the century tested the resolve of the City and strongly influenced the style and character of the downtown. In 1891 a fire destroyed about half of the structures on Main Street (Knowles Avenue). Rebuilding took a couple years with many being replaced in brick or brick veneer. The population neared 2,000 by 1899. But the City was to meet disaster again.

Shortly after a central power company was started and electricity arrived in the City in 1898 the most destructive storm in Wisconsin history struck New Richmond. On June 12, 1899 a tornado razed the entire business district and a substantial portion of the rest of the City in seven minutes. Depending on the account the storm killed approximately 117, injured 200, and destroyed 230 buildings. Many stories exist describing the selflessness and heroism of the citizenry immediately after the storm, but most telling were the results. Within six months, much of the business district was rebuilt along with 75 new homes. Thirty-nine of the new buildings downtown were constructed of brick, and five more were wood. Andrew Brown was a local contractor who rebuilt much of Main Street (Knowles Avenue). Most of the buildings downtown today date from the 1900 to 1910 era.

However, some elements of the downtown took longer to regain. Prior to the tornado the City had been nicknamed the "Garden City of Northern Wisconsin". After the destruction, few trees remained. Trees were replanted but the effect was obviously not the same (mostly American Elms were planted as they were fast growing and many grew and developed over the years only to succumb to Dutch Elm's Disease in the 1960's and 1970's).

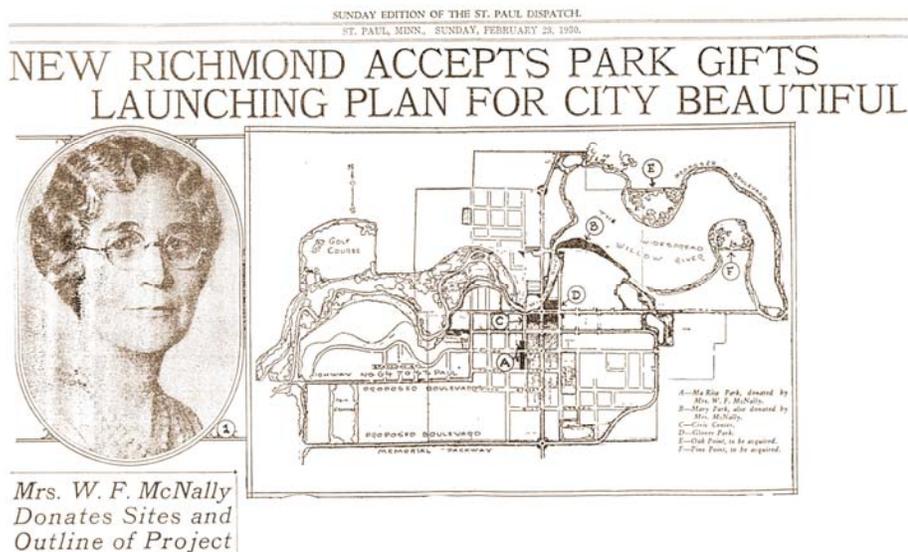
Despite these potentially devastating setbacks, New Richmond continued to prosper and grow. By 1912 the population was 2,500. Businesses and professions, as well as farming and industry must have prospered since much of the grand residential building south and west of the downtown occurred in this period. A.T. Andreas, in *The History of Northern Wisconsin*, wrote in 1909 that "It is said that the city contains more wealth in proportion to the population than any other city in the northwest, and this claim has never been

Introduction

successfully disputed . . . The people are so progressive and public spirited that they have accomplished all that would be expected of a population three times this size . . .”. The grand residences of these progressive citizens were also said to have “velvety” lawns “graced” with red and white clover that “perfumed the air”. This gave the City the nickname “The Clover City” replacing the “Garden City” up through the 1920’s.

The streets were paved in 1927 and some of the first concrete sidewalks were installed shortly thereafter. It was also at this time that the City was reaching a crossroads. Discussions on the future development of the City revolved around the premise that New Richmond’s position as a center of a now primarily farming district was at its maximum point of development (the lumber mill burned in 1913 and was not re-built). Many felt they had only two choices to continue prospering. One was to attract new and small-scale industry to the area. The second choice was to develop into a residential area for the Twin Cities.

It was in this context that Mrs. Stella McNally provided a comprehensive master park plan to the City in February of 1930. Its premise was that whether the City was to develop for local industry or as a “bedroom community”, the establishment of parks, playgrounds, and street trees would make the area more attractive. This had a profound effect on the City that continues to this day. Mary Park and MaRita Park named after Mrs. McNally’s daughters came from this plan and also became the impetus for the City’s current nickname.



Introduction

It was also in 1930 that the City entered into a magazine contest called “More Beautiful America”. The City Beautiful Club of New Richmond lead by Mrs. McNally spearheaded the effort to make improvements to the City that were “civic in nature, permanent, and a benefit to the entire community”. Volunteers cleaned up and planted the two new parks. The City won second prize and the nickname “The City Beautiful” has been widely used to promote the City since.

The park master plan also contained recommendations for the beautification of the City as a whole including the downtown business district. Glover Park was slated to be expanded to include a civic center, lush plantings, and a monument at the corner of Main Street (Knowles Avenue) and East First Street. The primary business district along Knowles between First and Fourth Streets south of the civic center was to include attractive street lighting and storefronts but few if any trees. This was considered a practical move to provide an inviting atmosphere without interference from lights or with advertisement signs. Past Sixth Street the main road was to become tree lined again. There was also a connection planned that would directly connect Glover Park along a “bridal path” and scenic road to what was referred to as “Big Island” in the plan, called “Mill Island” today.

New Richmond developed with industry, farming, and as a bedroom community to the Twin Cities simultaneously instead of in just one direction. By 1950 the population was reported at 3,000. By the time the City celebrated its centennial in 1958 the population was around 3,500. The downtown continued to prosper with many of the buildings being remodeled more than once over the years.

Most of the City’s services had been housed in portions of existing buildings throughout its history. The 1960’s witnessed a tremendous amount of consolidation of City services and civic building. The first stand-alone federal post office was built in 1961 on east First Street across from Glover Park. The Friday Memorial Library was erected in Glover Park in 1963 (and expanded in 1991). The Civic Center envisioned in the 1930 “City Beautiful” park master plan was finally constructed in 1966 next to the post office. It still serves the City for most municipal functions including City Hall and police and was recently remodeled.

In 1970 Main Street was officially renamed Knowles Avenue in honor of native son Governor Warren P. Knowles (1964-1970). But the 1970’s also brought economic stress to New Richmond and the downtown. Many businesses did not survive the recession and competition was growing with businesses from the Twin Cities. Many empty storefronts resulted. The downtown area – South Knowles from the Willow River Bridge to Fourth Street was reconstructed in 1989 to provide a fresh face to the downtown area and to bring businesses back. In addition to the street, curb, gutter, and sidewalk, many streetscaping elements were installed including new flower planters, benches, lighting, and street trees.

Introduction

Today, New Richmond continues to prosper with recent street reconstructions and developments to the south part of the City. The population now stands at approximately 7,240 (2003 census). Historically, New Richmond remains an interesting City. It has a number of people and industries that have made significant contributions to the area. Many buildings that remain are associated with these people and industries, thus giving them local or broader historical significance. Many of these buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and have noteworthy architects such as Cass Gilbert, also known for his work on such buildings as the Minnesota State Capital.

Agricultural Resources

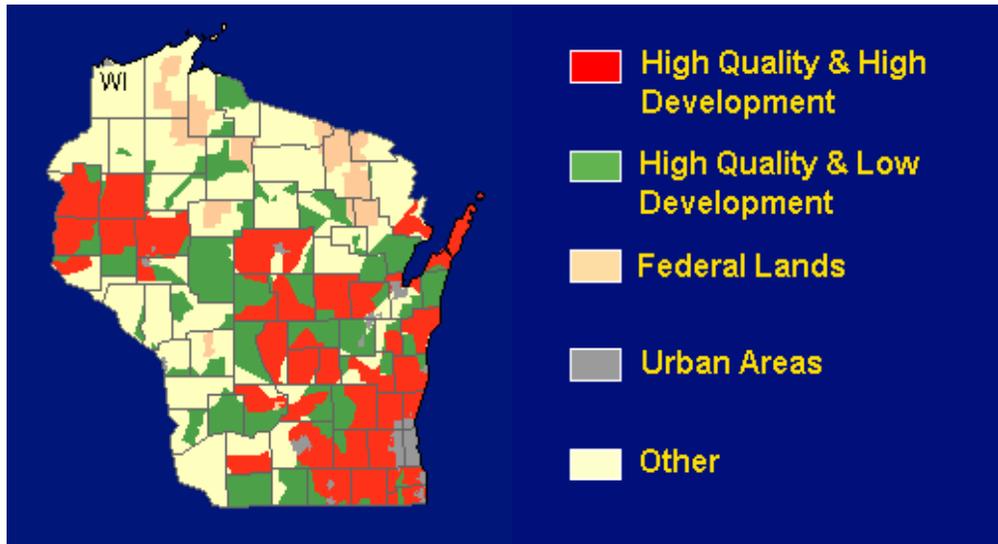
Agricultural Resources

While the State of Wisconsin is home to approximately 13,294,027 acres of prime farmland¹, there is only minimal land within the City of New Richmond that is prime or actively farmed. A count of 26 total parcels, covering 1556.40 acres can be made of active and non-active agricultural lands within the City's limits. These properties serve a variety of purposes, which contribute to the local populations, quality of life and industrial base. Among some of the existing uses on these parcels are active farming, open space and buffering between land use types and waste disposal from processing operations. As such uses are common, the City desires to keep a balance of land proportionate to appropriate use and demand in order to ensure its future. While active agricultural lands do not hold a dominant role in the City's future land use, great value is placed on the conversion and long-term viability of parcels, which serve to maintain a healthy natural resource base and healthy ecosystem in conjunction with serving other base needs within the community.

Land use pressure continues the trend toward a decrease in productive agricultural land across the state and nationally. For this reason, the City should evaluate and consider the extent of new development as well as the value of productive agricultural land as annexation requests occur. It should be noted that to the east and south of the City are lands classified as high quality. Definitions are provided on the following page.

¹ USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), 1996.

Agricultural Resources



The map above portrays high quality farmland by highlighting sub-county geographic areas that meet two threshold tests that define the importance and vulnerability of the land they encompass. Land surrounding the City of New Richmond generally falls into the categories of high quality and high development (red) and high quality and low development (green).

High Quality areas that in 1992 had relatively large amounts (greater than their respective statewide averages) of prime or unique farmland.

High Development areas that experienced relatively rapid development (greater than their respective statewide averages and having at least 1,000 acres of urban conversion) between 1982 and 1992.

Other all areas not meeting the above two threshold tests.

Unique farmland areas where unique soil and climate conditions support the growth of specialty crops.²

² The National Resources Inventory of 1992, National Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The urban-built up areas are defined by the Bureau of Census, U.S. Department of Commerce (1991). © 1996 American Farmland Trust

Agricultural Resources

A unique feature of the City is that it is also home to the St. Croix County Farm. At approximately 500 acres, this facility was initially used as a home for the indigent, which has since been converted with a small part of the farm being used for St. Croix County Health & Human Services. It is also used for farm demonstration projects and other active farming. As time has passed the facility has converted more and more into a land asset that has been being held with no real plan for its long-term future. Recently, under a joint effort between representatives of St. Croix County, the City of New Richmond and the adjoining Town, a study of the County Farm property was undertaken. Three long-term alternative development scenarios were arrived at as a result of the study. In addition an assessment of development trends and alternative impacts was also undertaken. While the St. Croix County Board has accepted and discussed the results of this study no decision has yet to be made by the board on how or when it should move forward with any of the three alternative proposals.

It has become increasingly clear that agricultural land performs a number of important functions. Agriculture land and natural areas help shape and sustain entire ecosystems that stretch far beyond municipal borders. Agricultural land and natural areas are an important habitat for all kinds of species and often bring physical shape and form and provide natural edges and boundaries to urban growth.³ For these reasons, the City should strongly consider the impacts of development as it relates to agricultural or other high quality land in and around its borders.

Future conservation of traditional agricultural lands need not be limited to thinking only of traditional farming activities. As the City move forward with development activities, these areas can be preserved and utilized in a variety of ways. Some of these could include small-scale tree farming for City landscaping projects, community gardening for urban residents to utilize, botanical gardens perhaps with the assistance of the County's Master Gardener program and many more like applications. As farming activities enjoy a rich and deep heritage in Wisconsin, utilizing limited but appropriate acres of these lands for the on going purpose of farming related activities will enhance the quality of life for New Richmond and area residents.

Natural Resources

Natural resources are plentiful throughout Wisconsin and the New Richmond area is no exception. Natural resources provide aesthetically pleasing environments for recreation and sightseeing and contribute to the overall quality of life. In addition, the natural resource base is vital to sustaining the diverse plant and animal species and aquatic life present in the area.

³ Adapted from *The Regional City*, 2001 Peter Calthorpe & William Fulton

Water and Ecology

Water and Ecology

New Richmond is home to a combination of water and biological features found in many Wisconsin communities. Lying within what is classified as the western prairie today, the City was founded on the Willow River in St. Croix County and today also encompasses a reach of the Paperjack Creek, which the City relies predominantly upon to handle surface drainage and runoff. The Willow River originates in Polk County near Clam Lake, flows southwesterly across St. Croix County and discharges to the St. Croix River at Hudson. The drainage area above New Richmond is 175 square miles. In a 7.1 mile reach bisecting the City studied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; it was found that the river falls 39.6 feet or 5.6 feet per mile.

Impaired waters, also known as 303(d) listed waters, were compiled in a draft list by the Department of Natural Resources in August 2002. The list, required by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act, identifies water bodies that do not meet water quality standards. The Department of Natural Resources uses the 303(d) list as the basis for establishing strategies to improve water bodies using total maximum daily loads. At that time the Willow River was placed on the 303 (d) list due to it having low dissolved oxygen.

A dam is located on the river in New Richmond, west of Knowles Avenue. Immediately upstream of this is where the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Bridge used to be located at the site of the former Domain Industries Mill. All that remains are a set of piers that has been mentioned are a possible location for a footbridge.

The river corridor is also home to Mill Island. Mill Island is about 11.5 acres, lying within the floodplain of the Willow River, in the City limits of New Richmond. The area is classified, as a palustrian wetland, containing a broad-leaved deciduous coevtype, comprised of black ash, elm, and silver maple. The vegetation on Mill Island is part of the Willow River riparian floodplain woodlands. This habitat is a connecting corridor to other woody habitats located up and down stream. The island provides year-round habitat for local wildlife as well as summer habitat for summer-resident songbirds. Last, the island serves as an important resting area for migrant birds.

Paperjack Creek originates southeast of New Richmond and has a drainage area of 8.4 square miles above the confluence with the Willow River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers studied a 4.9 mile reach of the creek and found that it contains a slope of 9.6 feet per mile. During heavy rainstorms or large discharges from a combination of rainfall and snowmelt, Paperjack Creek serves as a partial relief to New Richmond as water is diverted into the creek from the Willow River east of the City.

Water and Ecology

The City of New Richmond is also home to Hatfield Lake. Encompassing ninety (90) acres, Hatfield has a maximum depth of nine feet. A significant municipal park and the municipal airport abut the lake. The airport utilizes the lake for seaplane use providing access via a ramp into the water body. Currently a pedestrian trail along much of the lakes shoreline is under consideration. Over all water quality is good with the lakes ecosystem containing a health balance of emergent and submergent vegetation and stands of wetlands.

The urban environment of the City and heavy use of its resources makes preservation and protection of these important resources a challenge. It will be critical for the City to develop solid objectives and policies with respect to natural resource protection and recreational use. Development pressure in the New Richmond area is strong and, therefore, the City will need to be firm in advancing its goal of ensuring protection and preservation of the natural scenery associated with the river corridors. Finally, it is important to recognize that cooperation across adjacent and overlapping units of government is often necessary to conserve and protect community natural and cultural resources.

Woodlands

The primary function of woodlands is to provide wildlife habitat and enhance scenic beauty. Woodlands also serve to protect important water resources, drainage and hydrologic functions, control pollution and provide an inviting recreational setting and educational opportunities to residents and visitors.

In the City of New Richmond trees do more than just beautify parks and front yards. A tree canopy softens the blow of a downpour, allowing rain to soak more slowly into the ground. When runoff is minimized, so are flooding, pollution, and the sedimentation of rivers and lakes. It has been found that trees provide shade in the summer and insulation in the winter, reducing air conditioning bills by up to 25 percent and heating bills by 10 to 20 percent. Trees also increase property values; for instance, people shop longer on streets with abundant foliage, and businesses in wooded developments report higher productivity and reduced rates of absenteeism. Urban forests, like all forests, make tremendous economic, environmental, and aesthetic contributions to the community.⁴

Prior to settlement, the New Richmond area was vegetated by plant communities influenced by frequent fires. As a result, fire-sensitive species such as maples were found only in the most fire-protected sites. Today, most of the forest can be classified as dry-mesic northern forest. Typical species include mixtures of pine, oak, black oak, white oak, jack pine, white pine and red pine. Some sites with more moisture have red and white oak mixed with red maples and black cherry.

⁴ WDNR – Division of Forestry: PUB-FR-243 2003.

Water and Ecology

Wetlands

Until recently, wetlands were often viewed as wastelands, useful only when drained or filled. Now, we know that wetlands benefit people and the natural world in remarkable ways. They provide critical habitat for wildlife, water storage to prevent flooding and protect water quality, and recreational opportunities for wildlife watchers, anglers, hunters, and boaters. These are known as "wetland functional values." Different wetlands perform different functions: even two wetlands that at first may appear similar.

Every wetland is unique. One wetland on the north edge of town may perform different functions than another on the south edge - even though they may appear at first glance to be very similar. A bog in northern Wisconsin may be valued for different reasons than a bog in southeastern Wisconsin. Wetland functional values are determined by a variety of different parameters including physical, chemical and biological components.

Wetlands in Wisconsin were defined by the State Legislature in 1978. According to this definition, a wetland is:

"An area where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic (water-loving) vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions."

Wetlands support aquatic or "water loving" plants and wet soils, and provide habitat for more species of plants and animals than any other type of landscape. Wetlands store water to prevent flooding, protect water quality, and provide opportunities to observe wildlife. Wetlands in New Richmond are primarily associated with its riparian corridors. The City fully recognizes the value and role which wetlands play. To this end environmental corridors and managed preserves have been established in areas throughout the City.

All construction projects involving wetlands should be reviewed according to local, state, and federal regulations before they begin. Particular attention must be given to wetlands within shorelands to ensure protection from development. The St. Croix County shoreland zoning ordinance restricts development of wetlands five acres and greater within the shoreland zone. The federal government and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) restrict development in wetlands through Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and NR103, respectively. DNR has an inventory of wetlands of two acres and larger. However, all wetlands meeting the state definition are subject to DNR regulations. Federal regulations may apply in addition to or instead of state regulations.

Water and Ecology

Nearby Federally-Owned Land

The City of New Richmond lies within the St. Croix Wetland Management District, which is overseen by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife service out of the Region #3 office.

District Facts:

- It was established in 1992
- It contains 7,548 acres on 40 WPA's (waterfowl production areas) and 15 easments in seven Wisconsin counties.
- WPA's range from 22 acres to 485 acres in size.
- The District lies on the eastern edge of the prairie pothole region and covers one of the most important waterfowl breeding areas of Wisconsin.
- Wildlife common to the district include waterfowl, shorebirds, grassland and forest songbirds, deer, otter, mink, muskrat and wild turkey.
- WPA's are a mosaic of wetlands and grassland habitats essential to breeding waterfowl.
- There are six full time staff members.
- WPA's see 10,000 visitors annually.
- The WPA's were purchased with monies from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps.
- The fiscal year 2002 budget was \$507,000.

Objectives

1. Provide high quality habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds with an emphasis on grassland birds.
2. Work cooperatively with all units of government, conservation organizations and private citizens to restore wildlife habitat on City owned public lands, WPA's and private land.

Water and Ecology

Nonmetallic Mining Resources

Nonmetallic mining is a widespread activity in Wisconsin. In the New Richmond area there are currently two operating nonmetallic mining operations.

The variety of geologic environments provides for a diverse industry. Statewide, an estimated 2,000 mines provide aggregate for construction, sand, gravel and crushed stone (limestone and dolomite) for road building and maintenance as well as for agricultural use as lime. A smaller number of sites provide dimension stone for monuments, volcanic andesite for shingles, peat for horticulture and landscaping, industrial sand for export for the oil industry and a considerable variety of materials for other uses.

“ In the New Richmond area there are currently two operating nonmetallic mining operations.”

Chapter 295, Wisconsin Statutes, enabled the Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to establish rules, such as Chapter NR 135, Wis. Adm. Code, to implement a nonmetallic mining reclamation program. The overall goal of NR 135 is to provide a framework for statewide regulation of nonmetallic mining reclamation. The rule does this by establishing uniform reclamation standards and setting up a locally administered reclamation permit program.

In order to facilitate this process, the Department published a model ordinance for use/adoption by counties and interested municipal governments. The ordinance established a reclamation program that issues reclamation permits in order to ensure compliance with the uniform reclamation standards contained in the rule. All counties were required to adopt an ordinance by June 1, 2001. Cities, towns and villages may choose to adopt an ordinance and administer a program within their jurisdiction at any time.

A reclamation plan must be approved prior to operating a new mine, or no later than September 1, 2004 for existing mines. The purpose of the reclamation plan is to achieve acceptable final site reclamation to an approved post-mining land use in compliance with the uniform reclamation standards. The reclamation standards address environmental protection measures including topsoil salvage and storage, surface and groundwater protection, and contemporaneous reclamation to minimize the acreage exposed to wind and water erosion.

Chapter NR 135 also requires that mine operators submit annual fees, as specified by the local regulatory authority, and an acceptable financial assurance instrument to ensure completion of the reclamation plan.

Water and Ecology

In Summary

Reclamation of nonmetallic mines according to approved plans will achieve approved post-mining land uses. This results in environmental protection, stable non-eroding sites, productive end land uses and potential to enhance habitat and increase land values and tax revenues.

Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources

New Richmond Heritage Center

The New Richmond Preservation Society, Inc. was chartered in 1982 to preserve the history of the City of New Richmond and surrounding area. The Society owns and operates the Heritage Center, which is open for tours, programs and events. Several of the 10 historic buildings can be rented by organizations, individuals and businesses for meetings and small receptions.



Bell-Tierney Farmstead is Hub of Heritage Center

Once a classic farm of the New Richmond area, its land now hosts a housing development, an industrial park, and the sweep of a schoolyard. You can move on from the original Farmstead setting to other historic buildings.

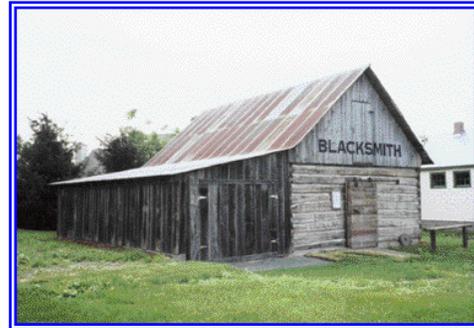
These combine to give a "feel" of turn-of-the-19th century life and more. The farmstead core of Victorian house and granary, both built in 1884, and barn, rebuilt in 1916, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In nearly one hundred years only two families have lived in the house. The original family was that of Marcus and Kathryn Bell, and from 1910, that of Ed and Catherine Tierney. In 1982, after estate settlement, development of the property into a complex of historic buildings began.

Cultural Resources

Log Barn

Now used for the Heritage Center blacksmith and carpenter tool collections, the barn was originally one of the outbuildings of a farm east of New Richmond. Blacksmith and woodworking shops were some of a pioneer village's first businesses.



Camp Nine Schoolhouse

Originally sited near Glenwood City, it was built in 1902 to serve the children of logging Camp Nine. This one-room school is paired with one of its old outhouses.

Ubet Store

Built in 1933, it was the center of the tiny town of Ubet. The wainscoting interior is original, as is the painted shelving, which is stocked with what a general store would have sold to the rural community of the time.



Norwegian Cabin

This small building, built by immigrants in 1887 in Reeve, served other immigrants, too, as lodging until they could build their own.

Pavilion

A "new" building designed to look like an "old" farm machine shed, the Pavilion serves a dual purpose as meeting place and display area. Farm tools and machinery line the walls and there is a permanent display of the June 12, 1899 cyclone that leveled New Richmond (still listed as Wisconsin's worst tornado).

Northside House.

As the family grew, the house grew, too, built in two sections in 1890 and 1894. Hard-working Scandinavians lived on the "northside" of New Richmond and kept the flour and saw mills running. Heritage Center's office is here. Display rooms feature original owner's furnishings.

Cultural Resources

Heritage Church

The Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, built in 1891 in Superior, is a typical rural church. In early pioneer communities, a church and school were the next buildings built after the home cabins and barns. Walk the grounds as you wish; all the buildings have mini-histories posted outside. Or, stop at the Northside House office and ask for a fee-guided tour, which includes inside the buildings. Turn the kids loose to wear off some energy on the 11-acre Paperjack Greenway trails.



Historical and Cultural Resource Inventory

Historical and Cultural Resource Inventory

Historic buildings and places provide educational experiences and contribute to the “sense of place” or identity of the City and its environs. Studies increasingly recognize heritage tourism as a fast-growing segment of the travel industry. Heritage tourism brings together diverse elements of a community such as the environment, history, culture, people and industries to capture the essence or tell the story of a particular place, site, region or other area of interest. Thus, telling the story of Wisconsin’s historic architecture and past events is a way of documenting the experiences of Wisconsin people and places.

Housing data reported as a result of the 2000 U.S. Census indicated that about 19% of the housing structures within the City of New Richmond were constructed prior to 1940.

As of 2001, the following thirteen properties or sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Resource	Address	Period of Significance
Bell, Marcus Sears, Farm	1100 Heritage Drive	1875-1899 & 1900-1924
Bernd, William J., Bungalow	210 Second St., E	1925-1949
Bernd, William J., House	143 Arch Ave., N	1900-1924
Epley, Dr. Frank W., Office	137 Third St., E	1875-1899 & 1900-1924
First English Lutheran Church	354 Third St., N	1900-1924 & 1925-1949
Glover, Ezra, Jr., House	415 Second St., E	1900-1924 & 1925-1949
Kell, William H., House	215 Green Ave., S	1875-1899
Mielke, Joseph, House	326 Second St., W	1900-1924
New Richmond News Building	145 Second St., W	1900-1924 & 1925-1944
New Richmond Roller Mills Co.	201 Knowles Ave., N	1900-1924 & 1925-1944
West Side Historic District		1870-1911 & 1929-1930
Soo Line Depot	120 High St.	1900-1924 & 1925-1949
Thompson, Erick J., House	350 Second St., W	1875-1899

The State Historical Society’s Architecture & History Inventory includes 431 properties within the City that have been studied or documented.⁵

⁵ The Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) is a collection of information on historic buildings, structures, sites, objects and historic districts throughout Wisconsin. The AHI is comprised of written text and photographs of each property, which document the property’s architecture and history.

Historical and Cultural Resource Inventory

The State Office of Local History

The State Office of Local History serves more than 300 counties, local and specialized historical organizations that are affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society. The Society established the State Office of Local History in 1960. The primary purpose of the State Office of Local History is to provide organizational and educational services to the affiliated historical societies.

Services provided by the State Office of Local History include local history workshops; regional conventions of historical societies; a statewide convention of historical societies held each year at the Wisconsin Historical Society; publication of the newsletter *Exchange*; and on-site consultations about the organization and operation of historical societies. Published instructional materials prepared by the State Office of Local History address such topics as care of historical collections, planning and producing museum exhibits, local history research, and public programming.

The State Office of Local History works in cooperation with the Wisconsin Council for Local History, which represents more than 50,000 people from all parts of the state who belong to affiliated historical organizations.

The State Office of Local History carries on a tradition dating back to 1899, when the Brown County Historical Society and the Ripon Historical Society affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society. Since then, the more than 300 additional local societies throughout the state have organized and affiliated with the Society. This century-long partnership has received national recognition and it continues to serve as a model for other states.

West Side Historic District

Pioneer community leaders held positions in financial, commercial, government and industrial endeavors throughout New Richmond's early history. Their influence made this City grow and prosper and many of them lived in this neighborhood. This distinctive grouping of gracious, turn-of-the-century houses contains the oldest concentration of City homes to survive the 1899 New Richmond Cyclone. Many of these stately homes were designed by prominent architects. While time has changed the original designs of many of the buildings, the spirit of this prosperous neighborhood remains. Today these sites are overseen and within the City's west side historic district which provides access to the programs of the State and National Historical Society.



Historical and Cultural Resource Inventory

Historic Markers

The Historical Markers Program took root in 1944, when Governor Walter Goodland appointed an advisory committee to study “how best to mark historic sites in Wisconsin”. For almost fifty years, Wisconsin’s Historical Markers Program has been making sense of both important and monumental events that together contribute to the state’s multi-layered past. Perhaps the most important aspect of Wisconsin’s marking program is that it is truly a program of the people. Every new marker subject is initiated by the public. The State Historical Society processes and approves new applications, but individuals and organizations pay for their own markers and choose subjects of their own interest – so long as these are significant on a local, state, or national level. Marker subjects must also address at least one aspect of Wisconsin history in the following categories: archaeology, architecture, culture, events, ethnic associations, geology, legends, natural history, and people⁶. To date, Wisconsin has erected 412 markers. One of these markers can be found within New Richmond.

Marker #359

New Richmond Cyclone. Erected 1997. Campus Drive, Outlot #3, New Richmond.

The New Richmond cyclone of 1899 remains the most disastrous tornado recorded in Wisconsin history. On the hot summer evening of June 12, with little warning and amazing force, a tornado swept through the thriving agricultural community of New Richmond, a City of about 2,000 people. In the tornado’s path lay the entire business district, several Victorian neighborhoods and a visiting circus. The destruction was swift and brutal. Within minutes structures collapsed and fires ignited, leaving 117 people dead, another 150 injured, 230 buildings destroyed and over 400 animals lifeless. The next day volunteers began arriving on relief trains followed by medical teams and the state militia. Many tourists thronged to see the destruction; a few came to loot. Despite the grief and loss, most of the surviving New Richmond residents remained in the City and rebuilt their homes, churches and businesses. Five months later the community had over one hundred new buildings.



⁶ Excerpts from History Just Ahead – A Guide to Wisconsin’s Historical Markers, edited by Sarah Davis McBride, SHS 1999.

Laws and Statutes – Archaeological Sites

Laws and Statutes – Archaeological Sites

Federal Projects: Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, requires federal agencies to insure that their actions (grants, funding, permits, activities such as highway building, etc.) do not adversely affect archaeological sites on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Local development efforts that are in any way making use of federal funding or that require federal permits, must evaluate project activities on known historic or archaeological sites, and may be required to investigate the potential for such resources prior to the approval of federal funding or permits.

State Projects: Archaeological sites can be protected during the course of state agency activities (funding, permits, ground-disturbing projects) if the sites have been recorded with the Office of the State Archaeologist. See Section 44.40 Wisconsin Statutes.

Political Subdivision Projects: Archaeological sites may be protected during the course of village, city, county and other political subdivision projects (e.g. building, road construction, etc.) but only if the site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. See Section 44.43 Wisconsin Statutes.

Burial Sites: All human burial sites, including cemeteries and Indian mounds, are protected under State law Section 157.70 Wisconsin Statutes. The law applies to both public and private lands. Owners of burial sites may receive property tax exemptions. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin Burial Sites Program administers the law.

Rock Art Sites: Destruction and vandalism of ancient rock art sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places without landowner permission is a felony under Section 943.01 Wisconsin Statutes.

State Lands: It is illegal to remove artifacts or otherwise disturb archaeological sites on state or political subdivision (village, city, county) lands without a permit under the Field Archaeology Act - Section 44.47 Wisconsin Statutes. The law applies to both archaeological sites on public lands and submerged sites such as shipwrecks on publicly owned bottomlands under lakes and rivers. The Office of the State Archaeologist administers permits, which typically are only given to professional archaeologists.

Tax Incentives: Most types of archaeological sites are **NOT** protected from destruction by private landowner activity on privately owned lands. Exceptions are covered above. As an incentive for private landowners to protect archaeological sites on their lands, the state offers a property tax exemption if the landowner formally agrees to protect the site.

Native American Tribal Preservation Programs: The eleven Wisconsin Indian tribes are very active in the preservation of archaeological sites and sacred areas. Most have historic preservation programs or contacts.

Laws and Statutes – Archaeological Sites

Archaeological Consultants: The Office of the State Archaeologist maintains a list of archaeological consultants qualified to conduct archaeological studies to identify and evaluate sites under various federal and state historic preservation laws and statutes.

As is the case with natural resource protection, historical and cultural resource protection will require the City to enhance its efforts to promote an understanding for the area's historic and cultural landscape and discourage development that is incompatible. The City should coordinate to the extent possible with adjacent jurisdictions and Sovereign Nations to ensure protection of important cultural resources as well as collaborate with local, county and state agencies working to protect historic and cultural resources and enhance opportunities for cultural awareness.

Policies, Goals and Objectives

Policies, Goals and Objectives

The following policies, goals and objectives were developed as part of the Issues and Opportunities Element and were used to establish objectives specific to this Plan Element.

- **Policy** – As appropriate continue to work with local and regional groups and citizens as well as with state and federal partners to maintain the balanced health of the regions ecosystem and natural resource base.
- **Policy** – Continue to maintain a balanced mix of active and passive recreational lands and facilities for use by local residents and visitors, contributing to everyone’s quality of life.
- **Policy** – Maintain an ample supply of specialized open space in the form of squares, greens and parks whose frequent use is encouraged through placement and design.
- **Policy** – Wherever possible, the natural terrain, drainage and vegetation of the City should be preserved with superior examples contained within parks and greenbelts.
- **Policy** – Continue to always maintain the intent, spirit and soul of “The City Beautiful”!

1. Goal - Increase nature-based recreation and cultural awareness opportunities for residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- Develop nature-based recreational trails, such as the proposed trail along Hatfield Lake, to complement the development of a city/region-wide bicycle trail system and enhance connections to natural and recreational areas.
- Work with the State Historical Society, the New Richmond Preservation Society, the West Side Historic District and other local partners to actively preserve and promote area attractions of historical significance.

2. Goal - Support the protection, preservation and enhancement of the natural scenery associated with the area.

Objectives:

- Review all City land development-related Ordinances and amend, if necessary, to ensure the long-term protection of the Willow River and Paperjack Creek and their surrounding areas.
- Guide development to identified “smart growth” areas as land use and development decisions are being made.

Policies, Goals and Objectives

- Establish and support an urban forestry program.
- Continue to work with private landowners and others to protect the haven that is the Mill Island to be a Managed Preserve.
- Capitalize on existing non-metallic mine sites by investigating reclamation plans and timelines. Work with the existing ownership to develop reclamation programs that will result in win-win developments.
- Continue to implement the conservancy-zoning program within the City to preserve and protect natural resource and open space amenities.
- Reach out to St. Croix County and surrounding towns encouraging them to also preserve and protect critical resource areas and habitats.

3. Goal - Capitalize on the area's rich heritage and pedestrian friendliness by expanding opportunities.

Objectives:

- Establish the “Foster Crossing” zoning overlay district to encourage the redevelopment as detailed within the City of New Richmond Downtown Design Guidelines.
- Supplement the City's Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan by engaging in and actively pursuing a “Safe Routes to School” effort.
- Expand heritage tourism opportunities by identifying important historic resources, promoting their significance, and providing incentives for the preservation and rehabilitation of these structures, sites, or districts.

W:\word\CD\New Richmond City of\09027 - City of New Richmond\Comprehensive Plan\Final Draft Elements\NR Ag-Cult-Nat Resources Element.doc

Agricultural, Cultural & Natural Resources

